



# Newsletter

[nmrs.org.uk](http://nmrs.org.uk)

**February 2010**

[nmrs.org.uk](http://nmrs.org.uk)



**2010**

## **Celebrating 50 years of NMRS**

Congratulations! You are a member of a fifty year old Society! Whether you have belonged for decades or have joined the Northern Mine Research Society recently, you are part of an organisation which not only researches mining history, but is now a highly regarded part of it.

You should receive your souvenir badge with this Newsletter – thank you Barbara; we are using our special Anniversary logo – thank you Ron; and we are planning a celebration in Reeth on the first weekend

in October – thank you Richard, Helen and many others.

The Society Minute Book records our beginnings very soberly. *“The Northern Cavern and Mine Research Society was formed on Sunday 24th January 1960 in the building used as a café at Stump Cross Caverns near Greenhow Village in the West Riding of Yorkshire. Those present were – George Gill (President), Michael Dickinson (Recorder), Caleb Wade (Secretary), Leonard Cook, J E Freeman, John Ross, Alan Butterfield, Roger Harker, Fred Walker. Bernard Jennings was not present but was spoken for by George Gill.”* There is a brief reference to a constitution and a footnote records that *“Douglas T Richardson (Treasurer), Arthur Raistrick became members upon invitation.”* The next page of the Minute Book records a General Meeting held on 13 March 1960. Thirteen people were present and others sent apologies. The new names are L Huff, W J Keay, D Platt, Mrs L Ross, Miss M Ross, Mrs M Wood, J O Myers, A J Sutcliffe and Miss E Travers. The



*Gwynfynnedd Mine closed a few years ago but NMRS carries on to celebrate its Golden Anniversary*

Society was already growing.

Publications started early in our history, and after a variety of formats has been settled on the current, popular A5 page size with a ‘proper’ spine which



displays well in book shops. You are receiving British Mining 89 with this Newsletter – thank you to all our editors over the years. Not only are we celebrating with a colour front page for this Newsletter; but it is a bumper 16 pages – and some items are held over for the next issue. Thank you to all our Newsletter editors over the decades.

A meeting, to finalise plans for the Jubilee Conference on 1st to 3rd October, had to be cancelled because committee members were snowed-in in various parts of the kingdom. See the next Newsletter and the website for Conference details. If you would like to present a paper or provide a poster, please contact Richard Smith (rsmith6@btinternet.com). To help us book the right size hotel for the Jubilee Dinner on Saturday 2nd October, please contact Sallie (sbassham@nildram.co.uk or 015 2424 1851) during February. If you don't let her know you want to come, we cannot guarantee there will be enough room!



### 1960-2010 *The NMRS Badge*

To celebrate 50 years of NMRS please find enclosed our specially commissioned NMRS badges to those who expressed an interest.

Thanks are due to Bernie Bond for letting us have an earlier badge on which to base this one. Please wear these badges with pride, advertising to all the achievements of our society over the last fifty years, perhaps even encouraging more to join.

To attach the badge just gently squeeze the butterfly wings together at the back and pull the pin away from the badge. After positioning the badge, squeeze the butterfly wings together, fasten to the back of the badge and then release. *Happy Badging!*

Barbara Sutcliffe



*Amber Fluorite from Hilton Mine, Scordale.*

### My Story

In 1984 I offered to help David Heaton to lead a NMRS meet at the Murton Mines in Scordale. His report in the September 1984 Newsletter records that on a beautiful morning of the 7th July 40 members, 4

non and two dogs in twenty cars made their way up the cart track and parked near the spoil heaps before making the 700 foot climb to the mine entrance.



Once underground I explored amongst the passages and chambers and soon found myself on my own. This was not a problem until my lamp packed up. I waited where I was for 30 mins, calling out, but no one heard

I started crawling along the passage, throwing stones ahead of me to locate any shafts. Eventually, I came to a hole in the floor and heard people way below. I called down and made contact. With a bit of effort the shaft was climbed by my rescuers and they led me to safety outside. Seems that a wire had become detached from the battery post. I don't know who my rescuers were but a very belated thanks.

This is my little un-reported story and I would very much like to hear about yours to be included with the next Newsletter(s).

Whenever I have gone underground with a group of like minded souls, it has always been our tradition to light a candle for "T'owd Man". So, it seems fitting to me, as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, to leave a picture of a burning candle in memory of all our Members who are no longer with us

David R Neal.





## 2010 AGM

This year's AGM will be held on Saturday 6 March at the Village Institute in Gisburn, starting with a buffet at 12 noon. *There is a booking form with this Newsletter:* please let us know if you plan to come, so that we have numbers for catering.

Gisburn is situated at the junction of the A59 (Skipton/Clitheroe) and A682 (Burnley/Long Preston) roads. Coming along the A59, turn south at the west end of Gisburn, drive along the A682 for a few yards and turn left into a car park. Coming north from Burnley, the Village Institute is on your right before you get to the T-junction.

As well as the road-side car park, there is also space for a few cars at the back of the Institute where the main door is.

### AGM Agenda

Minutes of the 2009 AGM, Matters Arising from the minutes, Reports (Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Secretary, Editor, Sales Manager, Newsletter Editor, Website Manager, Recorder, Librarian, NAMHO, President), proposed Constitution change (see November Newsletter), Election of Officers, Any Other Business.

Sallie Bassham



*Truck found in the flats at  
Brownley Hill Mine, Nenthead  
in the early 1980s*

## Meets for 2010

(See also your Membership Card)

### Saturday, 10 April Beldi Hill.

10.30am at Keld car park, NY 89 01.

If we can get permission, we will visit Plate level and the dressing floors; otherwise we will visit Landy level and New level (if people want to go underground) or the smelt mill and the workings behind Crackpot Hall (if people prefer a surface walk). Contact Sallie ([sbassham@nildram.co.uk](mailto:sbassham@nildram.co.uk) or 015 2424 1851) if you want to come.

### Wednesday, 12 May Boulby Potash Mine.

Thank you to Neil Rowley for offering the chance to go down this working mine. There is a upper limit of 8 people; but a reserve list will be held and a second date booked if there is enough demand. Please let Sallie know soon ([sbassham@nildram.co.uk](mailto:sbassham@nildram.co.uk) or 015 2424 1851) if you want to come, so that the necessary details can be arranged with Boulby mine.

### Saturday, 22 May Skelton Park Pit.

1pm at Skelton Green Community Centre, NZ 656 183.

Thank you to Chris Twigg and Simon Chapman for organising this. Subject to land-owner permission, we will see a combined winding/pumping house which had a twin cylinder horizontal winder, a Schiel fan house, an 1880s engine house which is still roofed, workshops, provender house for horse feed and much more – see page 5 for a more detailed description.

Please let Chris Twigg ([chris.twigg@ntlworld.com](mailto:chris.twigg@ntlworld.com)) know if you are coming.

### Saturday 12 June Coniston Copper Mines.

11am at the copper mines, SD 28 98.

Thank you to Peter Fleming for agreeing to lead a combined underground and surface meet at Coniston.

A harness or web belt and cow tails will be needed; so please let Peter know well in advance if you don't have these, as he has some spares. He can also lend a hard hat and light to anyone who doesn't have these.

Underground insurance is essential; but Peter can arrange for day membership of CATMHS if you don't have it. Please give plenty of notice if you want to come, so Peter can make all the arrangements. Contact is Sallie Bassham ([sbassham@nildram.co.uk](mailto:sbassham@nildram.co.uk) or 015 2424 1851).

### Saturday 24 July Gambleside and other East Lancashire coal mines.

10am on the lane north of Clow Bridge Reservoir, SD 8328.

Thank you to Clive Seal for agreeing to lead this, 'phone him on 01768 885 969 if you want to come.

### Saturday 14 August Rampgill Level, Nenthead.

11am in the Heritage Centre car park, NY7843.

Thank you to Paul Dollery for volunteering to lead this meet, 'phone him on 01937 580579 if you want to come. Rampgill is a famous level – if you are new to the Society, this is an easy underground trip with many fascinating features and not to be missed.

### Friday 1st-3rd October 50th Celebrations.

6.30pm at the Reeth Memorial Hall. More details will be published later on the website and in the May edition of the Newsletter

### Saturday 23rd October Autumn Meeting

Free buffet lunch at 12 noon and pre-booking is essential with Sallie ([sbassham@nildram.co.uk](mailto:sbassham@nildram.co.uk) or 015 2424 1851). Venue to be confirmed.



## LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you to Lynne Mayers for a complimentary copy of her latest book "Voices from the Dressing Floors" – see page ? for a review. Many thanks to Bernie Millington who has donated papers from the 1980s relating to Cornish mining: many relate to the Hemerdon Project. There are reports and committee minutes, including some for the Cornish Tin Mines Accident Prevention Committee with Accident Notification Reports. These make fascinating reading and paint vivid pictures of miners and their work: I am glad to say that (so far) all accidents are non-fatal.

Thank you to Janis Heward for a report on "Kilns: Chopwood or Potash", Ivor Brown for an article on Madeley Court Colliery, the January 2000 copy of The Cornwall Review, the World Heritage Site Management Plan 2005-2010 for the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape, Mining Magazine for December 2009, Poldark Mine Plan 1982 and English Nature Research Report 328 on "Bryophyte Interest and Conservation Importance of Former Metalliferous Mine Sites in Cornwall" and to Alan Dyer for another set of papers about plants - "The Conservation Value of Metalliferous Mine Sites in Cornwall".

Sallie Bassham

## NAMHO NEWS

This year's conference will be at Coalpit Heath in South Gloucestershire from 4 to 6 June. The conference theme is "Fuelling the Industrial Revolution": there will be visits to local coal mining sites, to stone quarries and farther afield trips to Mendip mines and the Forest of Dean. See <http://www.namhoconference.org.uk> for details and booking forms.

There will be three seminars in connection with the Research Framework for the Archaeology of the Extractive Industries – see earlier Newsletters for information about the project. The venues have not been settled at the time of going to press, but the dates are 20 February in south-west England, 10 April in the midlands and 24 April in northern England. Please check the NAMHO website for details.

Sallie Bassham

## Membership Secretary

Thank you to all who have paid their 2010 subscription. This is very much appreciated by the Society as are the generous donations. Those of you who have elected to pay by STO will have, by now, realised that the account number of the Society was wrong - having escaped everyone's attention. This should read 05606168.

Some of you have yet to pay and your cheque would be most welcomed, especially after receiving this

bumper issue of the Newsletter in colour, a badge and BM89. We are optimistic that BM90 and Memoirs 2010 will be produced during this year. If you have mislaid the paper work then please send your details and cheque for £17.00 to the Newsletter address on Page 16.

Membership Cards are enclosed for those who have paid up by cheque and, hopefully, those who have arranged renewal by STO. The latter will depend on how quick Lloyds Bank is at sending out their statements for me to check before we have to post the Newsletter.

David Neal

## Lynda Dollery

We are sorry to have to tell members of Lynda's death on November 14th, after an 11 month long fight with cancer.

Lynda joined the society in 1975 and served as Secretary in 1976 and 1977. She was Vice President from 1978 to 1979 and, in recognition of her contribution, she was elected President in 1980. Conscious of the society's image and its growing importance, she was instrumental in raising standards by moving the society's meetings from the (somewhat basic!) Scout Dump at Skipton to the rather more accommodating Village Hall at Sicklinghall, near Wetherby, the village where she grew up. Lynda rarely went underground, but she attended many meets in Yorkshire and beyond, often camping and in later years in a campervan. She was good company, outgoing and liked a good laugh. For example, at the Chimney Shaft dig she would happily wind the hand-powered winch – and laughingly referred to herself as "the winch winding wench". She was also a good cook and her delicious scones are still fondly remembered!

Although not as active in recent years, Lynda kept her interest in the society and its members, many of whom, we are sure, will have happy memories of her.

Lynda leaves a husband Paul, to whom we send our sincere condolences.

Mike Gill and Hazel Martell.

## Email List of Members

On the 1st December, 2009 I circulated a list to 55 names with their respective email addresses so that contact could be made with nearby members or when visiting in the neighbourhood. If you want your name on this list then please let me know.

In addition, those of you without email might consider including your telephone number; if so, then please contact me with your details as per the following example:-

David Neal TREGARON 01974 821213

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## C.I.A.S. VISIT to SKELTON PARK PIT.

On Sunday, 17th May, 2009 a total of 26 members and others met at Skelton Green for a walk to Skelton Park Ironstone Mine on an overcast and breezy day but not too cool. Armed with written permission from the landowner we proceeded through an estate of very recent houses built on the site of Park Street infamous in its time for its steep descent down the hillside. Heading along Back Lane which was the main route to the mine for men living in Skelton we had the by now usual encounter with the local farmer pointing out that we were on private land. Suitably overcoming his resistance we proceeded along this old trackway enjoying the scenery and the bird song.

Messrs. Bell Brothers commenced mining in this area with the opening of their Skelton Shaft mine in 1861, low down on the slope of Airy Hill facing towards Guisborough. Judging by the provisions of the lease from the landowner dated 1858 this was an initial working to generate income for both firm and landowner while the true extent and quality of the ironstone seam was determined. The lease required the completion of a larger mine within a few years and this was accomplished by the sinking of two shafts and the erection of the necessary surface buildings in 1872. Mining requirements determined the location; the seam lay in a shallow syncline so by sinking in the centre water would naturally flow to that point from where it could be conveniently pumped to surface.

Unfortunately the chosen site is on the south side of a broad valley still highly scenic; a former hunting park of the landowner's ancestors. Whilst the site was hidden from Skelton Castle, home of the owner, John Thomas Wharton, it was directly opposite a country residence of the Earl of Zetland at Upleatham Hall, albeit at a mile distance. This must surely account for the high quality of the design, finish and layout of the mine buildings, initially completed in locally quarried sandstone. After a few years further buildings were added, of brick and concrete, but rather adding to the attractiveness of the site as a whole. The necessary brick chimney, octagonal in plan, for the boiler plant cannot have been anything but functional, like the wooden headgear and heapstead, and now most of these buildings remain whilst Upleatham Hall was demolished in the 1890's.

Most prominent on the site is the huge combined winding and pumping house, probably now unique in the North of England. Taking up the rear half of the building was a twin cylinder horizontal winding engine. Occupying only half of the front half was a single cylinder horizontal engine which operated

pumps in the bottom of the downcast shaft, 384 feet deep, through surface bell cranks. The remaining quarter of this huge building was empty except for a stairway up from the ground floor; the design, and the positioning of the shaft, indicate that a second pumping engine was not intended. The pumping engine extended through an archway in the end wall of the building to reach the shaft and did so until 1931, although by then only used occasionally as pumping was done by underground electric pumps. By that date the wooden headgear was showing its age but with the mine having a limited life expectancy it was decided to prop it up by steel backstays instead of replacing it. Installation of these required scrapping of the steam pump and the cutting of a huge opening in the end wall of the building, still a significant feature almost 80 years later.

Near the downcast shaft is another stone engine house dating from the opening of the mine. Several framed openings in the wall facing the shaft reveal its original use for powering a continuously running underground endless rope haulage, the ropes for which ran up and down in the shaft. In addition, a small crab engine was housed here, for heavy lifting in the shaft during maintenance work. On the opposite side of the shaft two circular platforms can be discerned where horse-gins for lighter lifting work were located.

All these features indicate, in spite of a designed surface layout, the single-shaft mentality of coal mining at that time. Many collieries were worked via a single shaft until the dreadful disaster at Hartley Colliery, Northumberland, in 1862 when 204 died through the breaking of the pumping engine beam which completely closed the shaft. A few were killed in the incident but the greater majority suffocated through lack of a second exit, which became compulsory by law within two years. When Skelton Park Pit was sunk in 1872 the second shaft was only used for ventilation, all 'traffic' used the main shaft.

Around the second shaft, also about 380 feet deep, remains a complex series of structures built of concrete, easily mistaken for being of quite modern construction. When first sunk, the strong shaft lining of brick and stone was simply extended several feet above ground level to make a chimney reaching about 400 feet above the ironstone seam. A fire kept burning near the base caused warm air to ascend the shaft inducing cooler air to descend the other and so ventilate the workings. During the 1880's, to ventilate the gradually expanding workings more efficiently, a Schiele fan in a concrete structure was erected on the surface to replace the fire. Driven by a steam engine, it exhausted the air from the mine and the chimney over the shaft was modified slightly to achieve this.



After further mine disasters, it became a requirement of the Coal Mines Act 1911 that airflow had to be reversible, a problem with such a fan as reversing its direction does not achieve that effect. Instead the building had to be extensively modified to allow the airflow from the fan to be blown into the shaft if necessary. Further complications were necessary to change the drive from steam to electric, then the shaft itself had to be made usable for man-riding. More extensive modifications were required; new openings into the shaft top were made and a new building erected around it to form an airlock. The shaft top was also heightened to incorporate a winding pulley for the cage introduced into the shaft, its winding gear being installed in the small engine house near the other shaft which was no longer needed for the rope haulage system.

Another major change during the 1880's was the requirement for an air compressor driven by a large horizontal steam engine, and this was installed inside a large most attractive building of red brick but with stone quoins and other detailing. This is the only building on the site now with a roof anything like intact, but is boarded up to prevent any further squatters moving in.

Maintenance and repair of the varied equipment used in any mine requires extensive workshops which at Park are built of stone with the brick additions of sawmill and cartshed hidden behind largely out of sight. The blacksmiths' shop has a central doorway flanked each side by two windows. Inside there is a fire at each end, and four more across the back wall. The fitters' shop has been roofless for years and has been altered internally during its life. Located between these two big workshops is a small room with a large doorway; this was the engine room for a semi-portable engine which drove the line shafting running into the workshops to drive drilling and other machines.

Standing by itself at the far end of the pit yard is a large two-storey building, the provender house. Here was prepared the feed for the horses, not just for Park Pit but for other mines of the company, including Dorman Long who finally absorbed Bell Brothers in 1923. Park Pit closed in 1938 as the workings had become exhausted so a new provender house was built to replace this one at North Skelton mine where the modified building still remains.

After closure the headgear and heapstead were scrapped, the chimney demolished, and whatever could be was either scrapped, sold or reused elsewhere. The site was next used as a supply base for the electricity company installing supplies in East Cleveland, then for the Bremner Well Drilling Co. prospecting for natural gas. Afterwards the site

became a farmstead until 1986 when the last tenant moved out and the manager's and engineer's houses were sold off.

Now the whole site is becoming overgrown, masking the sites of the boilers and chimney base and filling the insides of the roofless buildings. In recent years the huge roof of the winding and pumping house collapsed, endangering the rest of the building. Other buildings have suffered from vandalism and theft, and all are steadily decaying, a sad sight for a group of buildings of national importance and mostly Listed as of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

And yet when inspecting the magazine, a detached building hidden away in a small quarry and surrounded by bricks from the original boiler plant, a magnificent barn owl flew out, proving that human beings treat the place with little respect yet natural history finds a use for it.

Outside the confines of the derelict mine are the manager's house, engineer's house and office; all modernised and sold off in recent years to become a pair of residences with much of their mining character lost.

Simon Chapman

*The following report should have been included with the November Newsletter but was overlooked. My apologies, Editor.*

## **The Clowders of Littondale Saturday 19 September 2009**

The purpose of this walk was for Yvonne to introduce the Society to one of the areas of Britain where the name Clowder occurs. She noticed some time ago that wherever the name Clowder or its derivations occur, there is invariably evidence of lead mining, which is invariably ancient. The whole subject is lucidly explained in British Mining No. 78 (Memoirs 2005).



*Coal or cinders on Dressing Floor*



I have been to several NMRS field trips in recent years, but little did I expect to be the only man amongst select female company.

We started on a lovely autumn day, climbing steeply out of Arncliffe. Looking back was like an aerial photo and we identified the village mill and its header pond, strange shaped thin fields, and building platforms of unknown age, most of which we passed without realising down at the level of Arncliffe village.

Then after more climbing to the general moor top, we came across these small veins of worked out lead. Evidently they nearly all pinched out at a fairly shallow depth, hence they were not reworked in the 19th century heyday of lead mining. These workings can therefore be considered medieval.

At the coffee stop on the dressing floors, the hunt was on for any sight of coal on the dressing floors, believed to be circumstantial evidence for fire-setting, & indeed some small pieces were duly found. Later in the day we actually saw an example of a shaft which had been excavated by fire-setting.

At the first vein workings which were 10 or more feet deep, we saw strange things like low level circular bouse teams for containing the ore, once the ore had been broken. The dressing floors were also served by the occasional spring, which could have flowed more strongly several centuries ago.



*Group at Dressing Floor*

After lunch we disturbed a herd of Old English Park cattle (similar to Chillingham), which my farming friend says are being re-established in areas such as this with grant aid, in order to continue their survival as a species. Our next venture was along a vein containing the remains of several coes. Each building appeared to be individually constructed, suggesting that different gangs of miners had operated at each shaft.

By now the day was deteriorating to misty windy & gloomy weather so we headed to the Monk's road (a path of monastic origins), but not before speculating on the remains of a building – was it a recent shepherd's bothy, or an ancient lead mining feature?

– we could not determine.

Descending the hill, we returned to civilization, and with Arncliffe not having any out of season facilities, we all departed, much the wiser from this peep into mediaeval mining, and grateful for Yvonne's first guided walk for the Society.

Neil Dyson

### ***Help Wanted*** **Copper mine on the island of Smola,** **Norway**

As part of a possible geophysical survey project with the Norwegian national University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, I am seeking information and advice on the mining and possible mineral processing operations carried out.

There is little documentary or mapping evidence on the operations carried out. The island lies some 125km west of Trondheim; mining was started around 1718 and is reputed to have been partly financed from England.

It appears that there were three ovens on the island which could have been used to roast the ore. There is mention of the name William Gabb or Cobb associated with the operations.

Coal is supposed to have been shipped from England perhaps 50 to 100 years before it came into regular use in Norway. It could be that coal was shipped in and roasted ore was shipped out.

Any information or advice will be greatly appreciated.

**Kevin Barton**

Landscape & Geophysical Services  
Claremorris, Co. Mayo.  
kevin.barton@lgs.ie

### **From the Archives**

We often forget that in the early times of our Society, we were also involved with caving and it was 26 years ago in 1974 that the word "Cavern" was dropped from our name to become Northern Mine Research Society

On the 9<sup>th</sup> August, 1963 W. Emmott the Caving Officer, reported that

*"members who found themselves at Ingleton were called out at 10.30pm to assist in the rescue of two youths from Marble Steps Pot. The youths who were exhausted, were finally brought to the surface at about 2.30am."*

Can any member recall a mine/cave rescue that hit the headlines? Were you involved with a rescue or perhaps even being rescued!. Share your experiences by contacting the Editor.



## The Research Framework for the Archaeology of the Extractive Industries in England (Mining and Quarrying)

NAMHO has embarked on a project which will benefit mining history and help with the making of decisions about future archaeological research and the heritage of mining landscapes in England. Crucial to its success will be the support of NAMHO members, who it is hoped will wish to become involved.

*The Research Framework* is a two-year project, jointly funded with English Heritage, which will enable NAMHO groups and individual members to contribute towards and help influence research priorities. It will also provide guidance towards conservation and education strategies, and raise awareness of historic extractive industries as part of the wider heritage agenda. At its core will be a coordinated effort to collate the results of previous archaeological research, which will provide the information needed to achieve these wider aims. NAMHO members can support this project by helping with the supply of this information and by contributing to discussions at the series of regional seminars planned for next Spring and Winter/Spring of 2011. Members with regional or specialist expertise, who are willing to provide contacts and advise on less well-known sources of information, are particularly encouraged to attend these seminars.

The first task will be to undertake a comprehensive review of existing archaeological data. Initially this will involve exploring county historic environment records (HERs) and collating bibliographical sources but also vital to the success of this project will be the expertise and knowledge contributed by NAMHO members.

The scope of the project will include all archaeological data associated with mining and quarrying under the following general headings:

**Energy Minerals:** coal, oil shale, lignite etc

**Metals:** ferrous and non-ferrous

**Bulk Minerals:** building stone, aggregates, lime, sand, gravel etc

**Other Industrial Minerals:** evaporites, clays etc

**Miscellaneous minerals:** graphite, arsenic, talc, abrasives, pigments etc

The assessment will include surface and underground archaeology of all periods of extractive activity, from prehistoric flint mines to 20th century gravel pits. Infrastructures, such as mineral railways, water supplies and aspects of smelting will also be covered, as well as the social impact on the landscape of

extraction, including housing and other material evidence of mining communities.

Once the resources have been collated the next process will be to evaluate the data and the results will be used to inform discussions on a range of issues. Mainly however, we hope to identify:

- Strengths and weaknesses in the existing record for the archaeology of mining and quarrying, in particular any conspicuous gaps in our knowledge
- Skill shortages in areas needed to further the study of the topic
- Common themes in the study of the different extractive industries, including cultural impact, underground archaeology, conservation and education

After the evaluation, the focus will turn to how these issues may be addressed through targeting future research and establishing where priorities for investigation and the allocation of resources may best lie. Through this process the research framework, informed by the results of the resource assessment, will incorporate the views and aspirations of a wide community of researchers.

If you wish to assist the steering group please contact the Project Director, Dr Peter Cloughton at [P.F.Claughton@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:P.F.Claughton@exeter.ac.uk). If you have data or expertise to offer or would like to contribute to the seminars please contact the Project Officer Phil Newman at [projectofficer@namho.org](mailto:projectofficer@namho.org)

As part of the first stage of that project NAMHO will be holding a series of seminar/workshops across England; the first of which will be held at the **Tamar Valley Centre, in Gunnislake, on 20 February**. The purpose of the seminar is to discuss the current state of knowledge for mining and quarrying archaeology in the South West of England. There will be three presentations on aspects of the archaeology over the course of the day with ample time for discussion and contributions from the floor. Would those interested in attending please contact the:-

Project Director - Dr Peter Cloughton - by e-mail [P.F.Claughton@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:P.F.Claughton@exeter.ac.uk) or by 'phone 01437 532578.

Keep up to date with arrangements by visiting the  
Official NMRS Website

**[nmrs.org.uk](http://nmrs.org.uk)**



## Mining in the Appalachians

According to a report in The Guardian of 5 August 2009, coal is being mined by 'mountaintop removal'. First forests are cut and then up to 1000 vertical feet of mountain peaks are removed. This exposes thin seams of coal that cannot easily be reached by underground tunnels. "Some 500 mountain tops across West Virginia, Virginia and Kentucky have already been replaced by dry flat plateau, and 1200 mountain streams have been buried beneath dumped rock and dirt. By 2012, the Environment Protection Agency estimates that more than 2200 square miles of Appalachian forest will disappear." Coal mining now accounts for 7% of the economy of West Virginia; and now employs 12,000 people where it used to employ 150,000.

Sallie Bassham

## Mining in Northumberland

According to the Hexham Courant of 4 September 2009, UK Coal intends to submit a planning application for surface coal mining at Hoodsclouse near Whittonstall in Tynedale. The National Coal Board carried out a drilling programme in the 1970s and plans for extraction were submitted in 1978 and in 1984.

The present proposal would create at least 50 jobs for around seven years. As part of an environmental assessment, archaeologists from Durham University have started digging a series of shallow trenches to determine whether evidence exists of "culturally important history".

Sallie Bassham

## Mining in Britain

Figures from the Department for Energy and Climate Change show that coal production grew markedly this year. Dozens of open-cast mines have been authorised, reversing a decade-long decline in production. Since 2005, fifty-four open-cast mines have been approved and four rejected. Mining companies are sitting on 71m tonnes of coal in licensed open-cast mines, compared with 55m tonnes in 2007. Further permissions are expected. Open-cast mines now produce more coal than underground mines.

This information is taken from an article in The Guardian and an accompanying map shows 2008 coal production of 5,678,067 tonnes in Scotland (3,218,310 tonnes from East Ayrshire), 1,632,739 tonnes in Wales and 2,138,568 tonnes in England (from 1,223,333 tonnes in Northumberland to 917 tonnes in Lancashire).

Sallie Bassham

## The Archaeology of Industrial Wales

Current Archaeology describes itself as "The UK's Best Selling Archaeology Magazine"; but it rarely features articles on mining. However, the September 2009 issue has a six-page article "Greening the Valleys: The Archaeology of Industrial Wales" which is well illustrated with colour photographs, one of which appears on the magazine's cover. Frank Olding, the Heritage Officer for Blaenau Gwent Council, writes about Sirhowy and Tredegar Ironworks and the links with Ebbw Vale steelworks.

At Sirhowy, there are impressive eighteenth century remains, including two stone-built blast furnaces, waterwheel housing and a large iron-clad blast furnace with a revolutionary pneumatic lift. The article includes a photograph of Tredegar ironworks in about 1880 and a watercolour of Nantyglo blast furnaces when working.

The article sets the ironworks in the context of their geology and their related industries such as lime and coal. The mining history is also set in its social context, and there is a photograph of cholera victims' gravestones at Cefn Golau.

Sallie Bassham

## Tokens for Pit Head Baths

Regarding this item in the November 2009 Newsletter (Page 9) it is not often appreciated how many pit head baths were not controlled by the mining company but by the miners themselves. At Madeley Wood Colliery, where I worked, the baths were run by a Committee and were not taken over by the National Coal Board until 1953.

In the late 1930s the land was given to the miners by a local farmer and the mining company promised half the costs of running the baths (fuel, water and caretaker) but the miners had to find the other half, hence the token.

In the 1940s it was 1/6d (7 1/2p) per week at Madeley Wood. The cost of construction was paid for by the Miner's Welfare Fund set up in the 1920s into which money was paid out of mineral royalty, profits and employees wages.

I have a copy of the arrangements made to disperse the Baths and Canteen Fund at Madeley Wood Colliery when the NCB took over in 1953; £2773 remained - £1576 went to the Colliery Benevolent Fund, £350 for Relief of Aged Miners on retirement and the rest on fittings for the canteen, fittings for the Miners Welfare Hall (and for structural improvements) and sufficient money for a "radiogram". Similar arrangements applied to schools in some mining areas.

For further information on Madeley Wood Colliery Baths see "*The Pit Head Baths at Kemberton Colliery*" by I.J.Brown, Bulletin of PDMHS Vol 13 No 1 (Summer 1996)

Ivor J. Brown

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## Hemerdon

Wolf Minerals Ltd, the Australian-based owners of the Hemerdon tungsten and tin project, has announced that the company has successfully raised £2.1 million which will enable the completion of a bankable feasibility study on the deposit.

The new investment comes from financing and financial services group Traxys and international private equity manager Resource Capital Fund and, subject to shareholder approval, a total of 9.8 million new shares will be issued. As part of the deal Wolf Minerals has also signed an agreement for Traxys Europe to market 100 per cent of the wolframite concentrates and 100 per cent of the tin concentrates at spot market prices.

The Hemerdon tungsten and tin deposit, located in Devon, will be developed by open pit mining and has valid planning permission from Devon County Council until June 2021. The pit could supply four per cent of the world's tungsten supply by 2011, according to the owners, and is the largest tungsten and tin reserve in the western world.

Roy Starkey

## Scotgold

Additional high-grade gold mineralisation has been identified in areas adjacent to the Cononish gold resource, near Tyndrum, according to the project owners, Scotgold Ltd. The Australian-based company has announced gold mineralisation with grades up to 73.1 grams per tonne of gold from mineralised veins from interpretation of historic exploration data.

The veins are directly east of the Cononish deposit, occur over 300 metres in strike length, and run sub-parallel with the existing mine adit. The mineralisation was found in grab samples, trenches, diamond drilling and samples taken from the existing adit.

Scotgold now plans to conduct further drilling to confirm the newly identified mineralisation and hopes to add these additional resources to the company's existing JORC compliant resource of 154,000 ounces of gold and 580,000 ounces of silver.

Roy Starkey

## Congratulations on the *Mining Magazine's Centenary*

This monthly magazine was started in 1909 by T.A. Rickard, the first editor, at the invitation of Herbert Hoover, a mining engineer who went on to become US President. Their intention was to give the London-based mining community a truly technical magazine.

Probably because of its relative youth, it is much less used by mining historians than its famous rival, and now sister publication, the Mining Journal.

Nevertheless, the magazine has proved to be a

Page 10

considerable resource of material on British, especially Cornish, mining in the early twentieth century. It is more so for anyone with international interests.

Mike Gill

## South Crofty Mine

The October 2009 Newsletter of The Trevithick Society brings news of South Crofty Mine. It is eleven years since the mine closed, but it has often been in the news. There are now plans to re-open the mine within the next two years.

The owners, Western Union Mines (WUM), with the SW Regional Development Agency, Cornwall Council and the Camborne Pool & Redruth Urban Generation Company are to put forward for Planning Approval a jointly agreed plan. WUM have invested £12 million pounds already and intend to invest more.

Their drillings alongside previous workings have revealed workable quantities of tin, copper, silver, zinc and indium. It is believed that this will be Europe's only polymetallic mine. The present headgear will remain and become part of a Heritage Centre, with the mining operations on another part of the site.

Sallie Basham

## Cape Cornwall

Those who were members in 2006 will know of Cape Cornwall Mine from British Mining 79. According to the October 2009 Newsletter of The Trevithick Society, the stack at Cape Cornwall has been damaged by lightning. The National Trust is faced with a repair bill of £25,000.

Sallie Basham

## Parys Mountain

Parys Mountain remains on a care and maintenance basis and no active programmes have been undertaken in the period under review. The continued improvement in the prices of copper, zinc and lead, the major products to be produced from Parys Mountain, has led to renewed interest in the project from a number of external companies and these are being followed and encouraged.

Anglesey remains very well placed to take advantage of the current resurgence of interest in commodities, in particular iron ore and base metals. There are considerable grounds for optimism about the likely level of iron ore prices next year when Labrador is scheduled to begin commercial production. Continuing strength in base metals will also presage well for the advancement of Parys Mountain.

We confidently expect that 2010 will be a very exciting year for Anglesey Mining.

John F Kearney(Chairman)

25 November 2009

NMRS - Newsletter February 2010



## Voices from the Dressing Floors



of the  
Cornish  
mines  
and  
quarries

1773-1950

compiled  
by  
Lynne Mayers



Because it was a delight to have reviewed Lynne Mayers' book on the bal maidens of Cornwall and Devon, I was pleased to have the chance to read her current production ... and my delight was renewed. It is a good book and, in appearance, it matches the shape and size of the NMRS British Mining series, even although it is

a product of the the self-publishing industry.

In my time, I have seen some self-published shockers, but this is a credit to all concerned ... even although I can grumble at the print quality of the illustrations due to the choice of paper. The purpose of the book is to gather together first-hand accounts of life, circumstances and experiences of the folk who worked in the mines and quarries of Cornwall. Over eight chapters and 23 illustrations, Lynne Mayers presents biographies of a wide range of people - from 18th century to 20th century - but, wherever possible, she uses her subjects' own words.

Lynne explains that working at the surface was "common place" and the professional writers preferred to write about technical developments, or mining machinery, or visits underground. She realised that information did exist about many of the people who did the "everyday, repetitive tasks" but, until now, no one had brought it all together. The book begins with accounts of two men from "impoverished mining families" who later emerged to greatness in philosophy and poetry. When Patty Tremelling wrote her own story in 1841, it appeared as a very small booklet and not only is it reprinted verbatim, complete with a cover picture, Lynne Mayers has augmented the text with additional biographical details, which sets it all in context.

In 1842, a Royal Commission on Employment interviewed boys and girls to report on working & living conditions, ages, wages, and attempted to assess personal fitness. Forty of these accounts are reproduced - with judicious editing to enhance the narrative. Here is a sprinkling of extracts: "I came to the floors and found the tables covered with snow ...", "She feels pain in her limbs ... She gets up at half past

five ... a strong ruddy girl", "For supper, baked potatoes, with pork sometimes ...", "She finds it difficult to keep her feet dry and always catches cold ...", "It was fine weather, but all the boys caught a cold, ten of them."

In a miscellany, Surface Captains have been allocated space to set out their versions of life, which included slate dressing and work in the sawmill, and three good photographs accompany the text. No surprise that Lynne Mayers devotes chapter five and six to Bal Maidens, but she enhances the accounts with her own informed commentary, and more contemporary photographs.



**The South Saw House at Delabole**

*(By courtesy of Cornwall Record Office)*

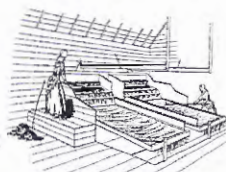
To my satisfaction, the last chapter concentrated on workers who were able to describe work during World War II, and bring the social history up to date. For example, Mrs Phyllis Lockett explained - "During the war, seven of us worked on the picking belt at Gevor Tin Mine, while the men were away. Our job was to remove as much of the waste from the tin-bearing ore, before it went to the crusher."

I liked this book and enjoyed the two glossaries, but am miffed that I still don't know what the tozer did. In a delicate set of line drawings, he is shown holding a pole and, with his other hand in pocket, he gazes into a vat, whilst around him, his colleagues are hard at work spalling, packing, racking, cobbing, bucking, picking and jigging. Perhaps the tozer is reflecting on a snappy title for his own autobiography.

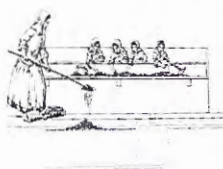
Dr R M Callender



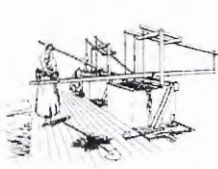
Spalling



Racking



Washing and Picking



Jigging



Packing



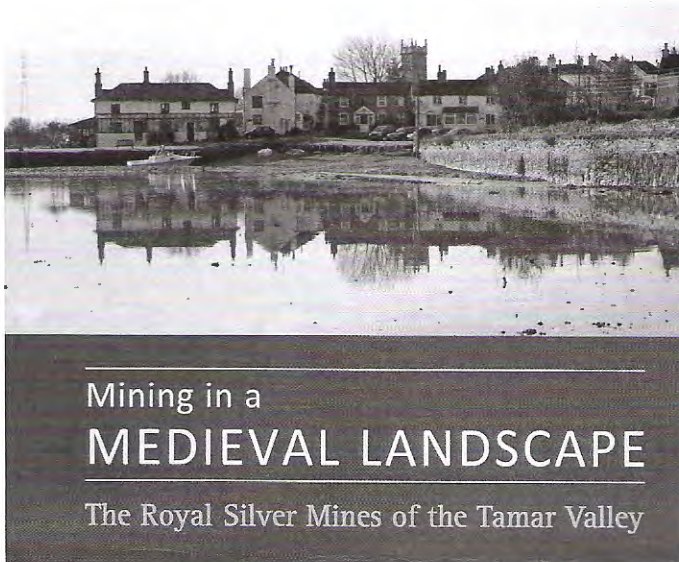
Tozing



# Mining in a Medieval Landscape – The Royal Silver Mines of the Tamar Valley

By Stephen Rippon, Peter Cloughton and Chris Smart

This book explores the late-medieval royal silver mines of the Tamar Valley on the border of Cornwall and Devon, an industry that was of profound importance both in terms of the local economy and the history of mining nationally. In it the results of a two-year study of the Bere Ferrers landscape is described and represents collaboration between a mining historian (PC) and two landscape archaeologists (SR and CS).



By way of introduction, the metal resources of Devon are described in a national context and there are sections on silver production elsewhere during the twelfth century, particularly the 'Mine of Carlisle' and sites in continental Europe.

The story of mining starts with the Crown taking possession of a silver/copper/gold mine at 'la Hole' in North Devon in 1262 and follows with the immigration of German miners in 1264. When the Bere Ferrers and Combe Martin mines were opened up in 1292, miners from other parts of England and Wales were recruited, or impressed, into Devon.

The mining, dressing and smelting methods are described in detail, based on documentary and archaeological evidence relevant to this part of the country. However, the real strength of the work lies in the way that the whole of the surrounding economy has been incorporated into the study. The ways in which woodland and water resources have been managed and how the mining community lived and interacted with the other inhabitants are covered in detail. The book traces the development of the landscape and shows how this has been influenced by the mining industry. This holistic approach could well be mirrored by authors whose interests lie in other parts of the country and the book provides a useful profile for doing this.

Not only is the book profoundly interesting and readable, it is well-illustrated and produced with a good index, an adequate glossary and an extensive bibliography. It is written to the highest academic standards in that original texts are quoted verbatim, where appropriate and all the statements which are made are referenced back to original sources – other authors please take note. As such it will be found to be a useful starting point for others wishing to study medieval mining.

The book is an absolute 'must' for those interested in the West Country and will find a well-earned place on the bookshelves of anyone interested in this little-understood period and its integration with the wider local economy.

*Rippon S., Cloughton P. and Smart C., 2009, 'Mining in a Medieval Landscape - the royal silver mines of the Tamar Valley', University of Exeter Press, ISBN 978 0 85989 828 7, pp.207+xiii.*

Richard Smith

[nmrs.org.uk](http://nmrs.org.uk)



## Keswick Mining Museum

Ian Tyler (NMRS Member), curator, historian and author is delighted to invite you to the Keswick Museum's twenty second annual Open Day. Any "Friends of Keswick Mining Museum" are welcomed to a special weekend of activities that includes M.O.L.E.S AGM and Social.

Things kick off on Saturday 6th March from 10.30am at Force Crag (park at Braithwaite) and the AGM and Social at the Queens Hotel, Keswick 7.30pm prompt. Reservations can be made on 01768 73333 and rooms will be at a reduced rate if you mention MOLES. Buffet is £12.50 and is to be booked with Bill Walker, 10 Leonard Street, Keswick. Cheque made payable to M.O.L.E.S.

On the Sunday there will be a guided walk at the Glenderatterra Mine that starts at 10.15am (park at LDNP near Blencathra centre).

## Mine Heritage Walks 2010

All walks are led by Ian Tyler, historian and author of twelve books on Lake District mining and curator of the Kewswick Mining Museum. Every "Friend of Keswick Mining Museum" is entitled to one of the guided walks listed below; as you can see we have introduced some new walks for your season's enjoyment and entertainment.

March 7th	Glenderatterra Mines
March 28th	Force Crag Mine 6 Miles
April 11th	Wad Mine/Honister 5 Miles
April 25th	Threlkeld Mine/Glenderatterra
May 16th	Greenside Mine 7 Miles (Hard)
June 6th	Eagle Crag Mine 7 miles (Hard)
June 27th	Silverband Mine 8 Miles (Hard)
July 11th	Dufton Mines 7 Miles (Hard)
August 15th	Katelock Mine 8 Miles (Hard)
September 5th	Elterwater quarries 6 Miles
September 26th	Hartsop Hall Mines 6 Miles
October 10th	Goldscope & Yewthwaite Mine

**All walks start at 10.30am.** Boots or strong walking shoes must be worn! Waterproofs and spare clothing should be carried, also a packed lunch and drink. Most walks last for a minimum of five hours. Not suitable for unfit persons or young children. Well behaved dogs are fine and remain the responsibility of the owner. **Charge £6.00 per Person.**

If you wish to attend any of the above events or want more information, then please contact Ian Tyler at the Keswick Museum on 01768 780055 or visit the website [www.keswickminingmuseum.co.uk](http://www.keswickminingmuseum.co.uk)

## Storrs Quarry Tar Boiler Ingleton

Earlier this year I was drawn to check out a large "cast" box which could be seen in woodland near to Clarrick Terrace, Bentham Road, Ingleton- useful having a dog!!



Photo 1

The tar boiler measures 48" wide x 36" deep and 43" in height. It was found minus its door but still holding its back boiler, support frames and, thankfully, still having its manufacture plate. The plate reads "Collier & Sons A88 Derby".



Photo 2

Storrs Limestone Quarry, Ingleton, opened 1925 and positioned at NGR SD 701735, manufactured various limestone cobbles and dust for local rural road construction – e.g. the extension of the Kingsdale Head to Dent road.



In the good times, 30 tons of tar daily were transported away by 5/6 lorries.



I would like to express my thanks to Mr W Woodburn of Clarrick Terrace for all his help. In the 1950s Mr Woodburn worked on site and for Settle Rural District Council. The Storrs Quarry wagon was a Dennis flat backed type with the registration number of UG 371. The driver was a local man, Mr Bob Lambert of Burton in Lonsdale. Tar production ceased in the late 1950s. Tar also came from other local sites – the nearby town Gas Works and Mealbank Quarry. With the clearing of the site at Storrs the tar boiler was moved to its present position; the land being owned by the Council. The NGR is SD 687726, this being woodland on the right hand side of the Bentham road heading towards Bentham and 300 yards from the junction of the A65 and the former Bridge Hotel site.

It was the intention of the rural highways at this time to cut out a number of narrow road corners from this point to Parkfoot and the nearby collieries. (Reference page 53 B.M. No 76). Moving the tar boiler to its present site tar production could continue and also the re-surfacing of the alterations at Parkfoot could be done

With reference to photo 2, the tar house is the lean-to building on the left hand side with the timber fencing above it. Note also the number of oak barrels on the working platform. These oak barrels were filled at the time by another local man, Bob Gott of Low Street, Burton in Lonsdale.

I would like to thank Mr Dave Riley of Nottingham who helped with my original enquiry. No records seem to have been found of a Collier & Sons Boiler Makers at Derby.

Referring to photo 2, on the top working platform near to the Tar House, a quarry wagon chassis is now positioned. This was placed in December 2003, the chassis having been retrieved from the river – thanks to the local council and can be seen in Northern Mine Newsletters of 2004.

Finally, another wagon chassis, complete with wheels, has been found which we do know came from Storrs Quarry and next year attempts will be made to lift this from the river.

Bernie Bond

## Newfield Pits

With reference to British Mining No76, page 77 (Newfield Pits) my special thanks go to Mr.A. Hinde of Newfield Farm, Ingleton. He has given me a small miners pick and two hammer heads that were found during trench work in the area of the colliery building site of 1872.

Bernie Bond



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## The first 250 years

For thirty years, I have lived in the borough of Ellesmere Port & Neston on the attractive Wirral peninsula, with the Dee estuary & the Welsh coast on the west side, and the river Mersey & Liverpool on the other bank.

In time, I learned that Neston once had open-air swimming baths and that coal was mined here at some stage. I have to admit I took my visitors to see the now-preserved remains of the pool, but overlooked the possibility of ever discovering a mining interest - until now. To my surprise and embarrassment, Neston is currently celebrating the 250th anniversary of coal mining with an exhibition in our public library, called "Blood, Sweat and Toil".



A group of local people "scavenging at Muddy Tip"  
But note the neat appearance of the boys including their headgear, and cheerful expressions of the women. The now vanished railway line is in the background.

On a rainy Monday afternoon, I paid a visit and applauded the enterprise of Burton & Neston Historical Society. The members had coaxed the library staff to clear space for a table surrounded by eight display panels featuring different themes, such as working conditions, the owners, the workers, the railway and equipment. Two miners' lamps and an oilcan provided some local colour and "the separate



The Wirral Colliery at Neston, Cheshire in the early part of the 20th century



table by the window" held a collection of colliers' names, maps, plans, coal returns, census figures for 1841 and documents loaned by local people. I spent more than an hour catching up on my last thirty years ... and came away with a renewed interest in Neston and its shoreline at Parkgate.

Overnight, I decided to make up for lost time and returned to the library, picked up an attractive leaflet - The Neston Collieries Trail - and made for the Harp Inn on the marshes, and facing the Welsh coast of Flint. The Harp Inn existed in 1817, when it was known as "The Welch Harp", and catered for the needs of the coal miners, who enjoyed drinking, cock-fights and horse racing. Nowadays old framed photographs decorate the walls of the small bar. The good-natured landlord agreed I could photograph any that took my fancy, but he was loathe to remove the associated Christmas decorations.

I rose to the challenge and, with difficulty, retrieved my own free-of-copyright versions of his pictures. I now have photographs that show 19th century views



The *Harp Inn* by the edge of the marshes that was a favourite haunt of the coal miners in the 19th century

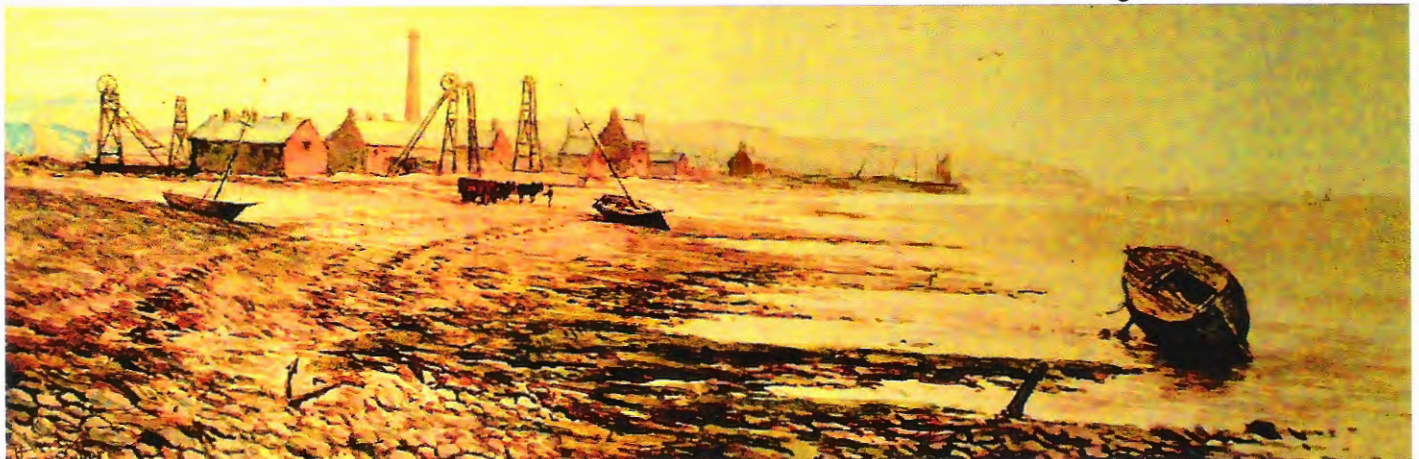
of the collieries, another features a chimney and circular walls denoting the position of shafts. I also managed to capture an image of men, women and boys "scavenging for coal at Muddy's Tip : probably around 1916".

My next port of call was Denhall Quay, which I knew very well. Huge blocks of sandstone establish the line and position of a quayside that the colliery companies built in 1791 to ship coal to North Wales and Ireland. As a historical landmark, the local authority now cares for it, and it provides tangible evidence of the industrial past. Nearby, New Street had also featured in the library exhibition and by this stage, I knew its development in the 1870s had been to house the colliery workers.



A few of the huge blocks of sandstone that remain from Denhall Quay, with the *Harp Inn* in the background (left)

Modern houses on the corner of the street conceal two attractive rows of 19th century terrace houses. The windows and doors have been modernised in places, but the overall appearance is authentic and, except for the parked cars and satellite dishes, there was a wealth of photographs to be taken. One row of houses each displayed signs saying "Smith's Cottages" and another house made a feature of the original brickwork ... and



The foreshore on the Wirral coast at Parkgate. In a section taken from a painting of 1875 to show the workings of the Neston Colliery Company



prompted me to recall that a by-product of the collieries had been brickworks, using local coal to fire the furnaces.

A second visit to Neston Library now made sense. I scrutinised the 19th century photographs on view, deciphered the elaborate certificate issued to Peter

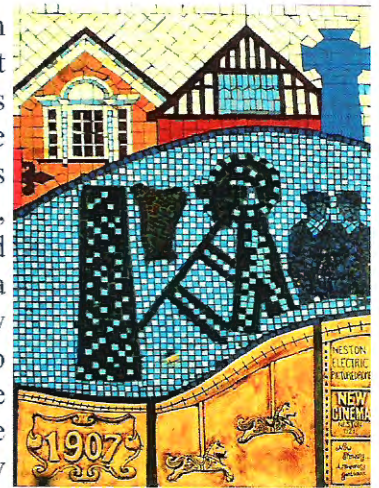


*One of the 1870s houses built for the coal miners in New Street, Neston, Cheshire*

Robinson, "a poor child of the parish", when he was apprenticed to Hugh Maddison of Ness Colliery on 13th May 1775.

Another document was the hand-written chitty that confirmed "E Roberts" had received eight days wages of £3 3/6 [£3.175] on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1926, its value enhanced by the official heading of "Wirral Colliery (1915) Ltd". A share certificate verified another company name - "The Neston Colliery Company Ltd.," - and proved Samuel Stitt of Water Street, Liverpool had purchased twenty

shares at £10 each in 1879. Browsing brought to light the technicalities of mining in the Dee estuary. The coal seams ran below the riverbed, and two underground canals relied of a specially shaped narrow boat the "starvationer" to transport the coal to the shafts for raising to the surface. A poor quality



photograph completes the story. It showed a dozen miners, with the colliery in the background, leaving work as the last shift on 12th March 1927. Irrespective of the quality, it is a valuable record and complements the very modern mural that summarises Neston's history in a colourful set of mosaic panels positioned near the library.

Ron Callender

**Note:** As I put the finishing touches to my 19th century sojourn, my wife Margaret said, "Have you seen this?", and passed me "Neston : 1840-1940" from our bookcase. It did not spoil my enthusiasm but corroborated much of what I had learned in the past few days. The book, ISBN 0 9509145 17, is published by The Burton & South Wirral Local History Society.

### Disclaimer

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 content 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.

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Members are reminded that the NMRS maintains a list of their names and addresses solely for the purposes 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 have been notified, or after it has been determined that an overdue subscription has not been paid for several months.

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Would you please note that the deadline for inclusion with the May Newsletter is the

**11th April, 2010**

Submissions are welcomed that would be of interest to members of the NMRS. These can be forwarded to me as text or disc by post or you can email or telephone. If you require anything returning, please ask. Photographs, plans and drawings are acceptable as long as they can be reproduced in black and white.