



50 Years of Mining History

To celebrate the 50-Year Anniversary of its founding, the Northern Mine Research Society is holding a conference at Reeth, Swaledale, Yorkshire from 1-3rd October 2010 and based at Reeth Memorial Hall. The programme includes papers on all aspects of mining history, a reception at the Swaledale Museum, a Conference Dinner and a full day of field trips. It is intended to publish the papers in a special issue of British Mining. The programme, which is subject to final additions and alteration, includes:

Friday 1st October, 2010

Registration and assembly at Reeth Memorial Hall, coffee & buffet

Members contributions and short papers including contributions:

President's welcome – Sallie Bassham.

Mining Heritage in the Yorkshire Dales National Park – Robert White.

The Lead Industry of Bordley Township – Janis Heward.

Photographic recollections of a Past President – John Hopkins.

Poor Law in the Dales agricultural and mining communities – Alan Mills.

Saturday 2nd October

Mining in Teesdale in the 17th and early 18th Century - William Heyes.

Mining and Smelting in Dacre and Darley, the work of the Iron Age Nidderdale Project - Gillian Hovell.

Coal Mining at Garforth - Alison Hennesey.

Excavations at Silvergill Mine, Cumbria - Warren Allinson.

The NE extremity of the Central Wales Orefield, Cwm Nant Ddu to Cwm Bychan, and the geological controls on the orefield extent - David M. D. James

Hathorn Davey and Co Ltd, Leeds: Manufacturers of mine engines and pumps - Rob Vernon

The wrong end of the telescope? Mining law and the working of silver-bearing ores in England and Wales - Peter Claughton

Editor

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

11th July, 2010

Submissions are welcomed that would be of interest to members of the NMRS. These can be forwarded to me as text/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.

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The papers will be followed by a wine reception at the Reeth Museum and later by a Conference Dinner at the Bridge Inn, Grinton.

Sunday 3 October

Field trips with packed lunch:

To take full advantage of the opportunity to meet and socialise, those attending are advised to book accommodation early as possible. Please make your own arrangements for this, a list of hotels, B&B's etc is attached.

Richard Smith

Members' Book Sale

As those of you know who have attended recent NMRS meetings, Barbara Sutcliffe, our Publications Officer usually takes along a selection of second-hand NMRS books and damaged copies for sale to our attendees.

We plan to extend this idea at our 50th Anniversary weekend. Not only will we have NMRS second-hand copies available but new NMRS publications that some of you might have missed. We extend an invitation to people planning to come, to bring along any copies of mining and related books which others might be interested in buying. This does not include NMRS books which we hope you will continue to donate back to us!!

Those books, brought to the weekend will be marketed by Barbara with 10% of the sales donated to our society and 90% going back to the seller.

Anyone interested in this please email Barbara at mansemains@btopenworld.com or 01282 614615. She will then send you a form to complete for your list of the books and prices you intend to bring along, a reference number for you to PENCIL inside the book. All details will be on the form. Members will have to register before the event and Barbara will man (sic) the stall while it is open.

We hope you take this opportunity for some late "spring cleaning" of your book shelves for the benefit of our other members.

Get access to OS Map Data

Ordnance Survey has launched a web site providing FREE and unrestricted access to a large range of mapping and geographic information.

The OS Opendata portal allows users to download and view maps and boundary information for the whole country and develop online mapping applications.

With the new availability of OS mapping data developers can create maps to give people information about their local area, such as which council is responsible for fixing a particular lamp post, where they can build public footpaths and the location of

their nearest polling station. More details can be found at www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/opendata

Computer Active No 317 (April 2010)

NMRS Publications

Celebrating 50 years of progress!

Reading some old NMRS newsletters I came across how the packaging of newsletters and BMs was done over twenty years ago.

"Hands up those who got a newsletter. Next those who only got a Memoirs; now those who've had nowt or at least an empty envelope. Hopefully there is someone with a smug look and a full set."

It goes on, *"We bought some envelopes with 'proper' stick. Once the flap was stuck, it stayed stuck; the only snag was the time taken holding it down until then. In the first hour I'd done nearly twenty, only another four hundred and thirty to go!"*

Plan B was unveiled. Lick flap ... stick down ... drop onto floor ... stand on it with foot. Lick ... stick ... drop ... under other foot. lick ... stick ... hold Have you ever tried folding a newsletter and putting it together with the Memoirs into an envelope one handed? Not easy I can assure you. The outcome was to send them out unsealed and hope for the best"

2010 some progress has been made and this is how it is done now!

- * Clear large coffee table of yesterday's detritus, mostly the *Daily Telegraph*, Sudoku sheets and any floating post waiting for a home.
- * Label envelope, pass contents to go in - book, newsletter, forms etc to Rex.
- * He folds, stuffs and sticks, dropping the adhesive cover strips on the floor.
- * Drop envelope on floor
- * Coffee breaks when backs begin to ache
- * Appropriate stamps stuck and licked-urg
- * Put in PO mailing sacks
- * Paper strips collected off floor and place in fire for burning that evening.
- * When car full take to sorting office.
- * Job done - for this time.
- * A glass of wine as a reward!

Barbara Sutcliffe

Whenever I send out a newsletter (like this one) same routine except it's Gillian not Rex and they sell self-adhesive stamps at my PO - saves on the licking!

Editor

NMRS - Newsletter May 2010

Field Guide to Stiperstones Mines

This handy, pocket-sized (A5), sixty page guide edited by Adrian Pearce, is a must if you intend visiting these once-thriving Shropshire lead mines. The map on page 4 gives the reader a useful guide to the mines' locations, their relationships to each other and to the Stiperstones Inn and the Snailbeach visitor centre (snailbeachmine.org.uk). Twelve of the largest mines are described, giving the NGR of each, along with advice on any access restrictions the visitor may face. There is also a potted history of each site, with photographs and notes about the surviving remains.

The guide is published on behalf of the Shropshire Mines Trust (shropshiremines.org.uk) which will receive all monies from sales. At £6.00 inc P&P it is excellent value. Please make cheques payable to SMTL and send to Mike Moore, 53 Vineyard Drive, Newport, Shropshire TF10 7DF, Tel. 01952 405105 or <http://www.moorebooks.co.uk>

Mike Gill

AGM 6th March, 2010

Our Annual Meeting was held at the Festival Hall, Gisburn. Thank you to Mike Gill for suggesting this venue with excellent facilities, plenty of space, good parking, an ideal location for our members and last but not least for that time of year – lovely and warm! Sallie Bassham, as President, hosted an appreciated buffet, courtesy of Eileen Beresford. With the space available, members were able to circulate more, re-new old friendships and make new ones.

After this, and thanks to Keith Turner and David Kitching for washing up, members moved to the larger hall for the formal part of the meeting. The minutes of the 2009 AGM were accepted as being accurate and reports were given by the officers, with relevant questions being asked about their work. The election of officers were proposed and seconded. Continuing as President is Sallie Bassham; Vice-President, Barbara Sutcliffe; Junior Vice-President, Les Tyson; Secretary, Ron Callender; Treasurer, Tim Cook; Recorder, Mike Gill; Librarian, Sallie Bassham; David Neal is continuing as Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor but is also looking for a volunteer to relieve him of the latter. *Anyone interested please contact David.* Malcolm Street kindly volunteered to take on the position of Webmaster. Everyone was thanked for all their help during the year.

The proposed constitution change was accepted so that now the end of paragraph 13 reads "*The Society Officers shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Recorder, Librarian, Public Relations Officer and up to THREE OTHER*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS". We can now co-opt members to help when the need arises, for specific purposes.

Sallie went on to talk about our 50th Anniversary. The year had started on a high with the badges, the special logo and the colour Newsletter. Richard Smith is organising the Conference up in Reeth with a Friday evening get together and Saturday's presentations. Walks were being arranged for the Sunday with Ian Spensley, Tim Laurie and Helen Bainbridge volunteering their services. Barbara Sutcliffe had brought along lists of accommodation for anyone interested and she was also organising a facility for members to sell their excess books at the event. Peter Pearson kindly offered his help with the 50th organization.

After the formal part of the meeting Ken Geddes gave five presentations which were very well received by our Members.

*Piper's Cove Mine, Galloway
Tyndrum Gold Mine, Scotland
Water supply system at Marton
Steam's last Stand
Mining in China*

The meeting then closed at 4.05 with Sallie's sincere thanks to all. After a quick cup of tea or coffee with more delicious cakes everyone went their separate way after a very enjoyable afternoon.

Barbara Sutcliffe

nmrs.org.uk

At the recent AGM Malcolm Street offered to take on the task of running our web site. Admittedly the current site still looks the same but behind the scenes things have been happening. Notably, Malcolm has been successful, on behalf of the Society, in taking control of the old sites and these are now linked to our nmrs.org.uk. This we now hope will bring to an end, an unsavoury matter, and we can go forward with a site providing benefits to all mining historians.

Malcolm is also planning on converting the existing site to a more versatile software package and if you have any new ideas or comments on the web site then please email Malcolm at greenhow302@aol.com

David R Neal



LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you for recent donations to the library. Ray Fairbairn has donated "Thalers and Technology", an article from Seaby Coin and Medal Bulletin about mining scenes on coins. Les Tyson has donated "Mining in a Medieval Landscape: The Royal Silver Mines of the Tamar Valley" by Stephen Rippon, Peter Cloughton and Chris Smart. Barbara Sutcliffe has donated "Down to Earth" issues 69 and 70, The American Geological Institute's "Dictionary of Geological Terms", and two Wartime Pamphlets from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research on "Determination of Tin" and "Glauconite Sands of Bracklesham Beds, London Basin".

Sallie Bassham

Publications News

Thank you to Lynne Mayers for donating some more NMRS Publications back to us. This is really appreciated and the society is most grateful. If you are like me, late with "Spring Cleaning" and you come across some NMRS Publications you no longer need, please consider donating them back to us. Perhaps you have some gathering dust somewhere or your book shelves are getting crowded.

I still have some new signed copies of *Mashamshire Collieries* available at £12 each. Also available are a few new copies of BM65, *Allendale, Tynedale & Derwent Lead Mines* which have a small nick at the bottom of the spine so instead of being £10 these are now £7. Also available as good second hand copies are BM 62 *Miners & Farmers* at £3, BM 64 *Coal Mines around Accrington & Blackburn* at £6 and BM81 at £6. Normal discounts apply in all instances.

Either phone 01282 614615 or e-mail Barbara at mansemins@btopenworld.com with your requirements and I will mail them to you enclosing an invoice for payment.

Thank you to those of you who attended the AGM and who purchased some more damaged copies of our publications.

Barbara Sutcliffe

May Madness- A special Offer

We are being very generous in this, our 50th Anniversary year. Any member, placing an order in the month of May, including specials mentioned elsewhere in this issue, will receive a FREE copy of BM66 "Adventures in Coal".

This monograph documents the family of Henry Briggs and their coal mining concern and associated businesses between Pontefract and Leeds. Order from Barbara by email mansemins@btopenworld.com or on 01282 614615

Beldi Hill Meet

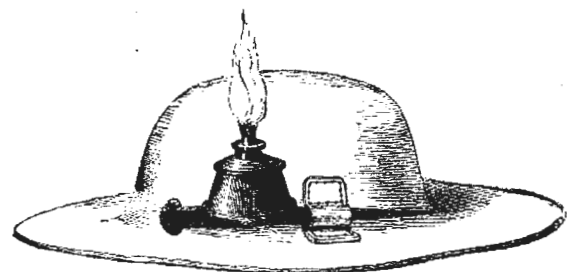
Saturday, April 10th, 2010

Two groups met at Keld car park in fine spring weather. One enjoyed a challenging underground visit to Swinnergill. The other had permission to visit the Low Level dressing floor and was very fortunate to be joined by Lawrence Barker who was responsible for the survey and restoration work carried out there in the early 1980s. It was a real pleasure to have Lawrence describe how the site looked before the rubble was cleared and explain how the ore was moved down the steep hillside through the various dressing processes. He remembered problems with restoration when shale beds behind a wall started to move and work on that wall had to be done very quickly. This seems to confirm the theory that various features, such as the "wash kilns" were built much higher than their dressing function required because they were also needed to hold back the ground behind.

We returned to the main track, noted Landy Level, and visited Beldi Hill smelt mill. We examined the flue and hypothesised about the various features at the mill itself. Two resting walkers listened to our conversation with interest, but a large group were eating lunch and showing neither interest in, nor appreciation of, their surroundings. Having reprised the story of Parkes Level as described in Mike Gill's book '*Swaledale: its Mines and Smelt Mills*', we reminisced on Crackpot Hall's former glories, became building detectives at the smithy and looked at Crackpot Hall Level, its bouse teams and crushing mill. Walking along a leat brought us to Jammy Milner's level. This has been cleared within the last few days and access is now easier – unlike Watty/Katy Will Level which is over a foot deep in water.

A brief look at the hush was enough, but Raistrick's account of the hush reservoirs and the necessary signalling system was explained. A fine level in the limestone above New Level was explored. Quite short, with clear short marks, it was dry, wide, high and showed no sign of a vein. On a hot day, refreshments at Rukin's in Keld were much appreciated. My thanks to all for a very enjoyable meet and for all their theories and contributions to the various discussions about What? How? and Why?

Sallie Bassham



Mining in Germany

The New Statesman of 3 August 2009 had an almost full-page article on coal mining in eastern Germany. Low-grade brown coal has been mined here for many years. Lignite was a GDR staple and modern Germany is still the world's largest producer of the fuel. Some villages re-locate as open-cast mining expands: others stay and endure the noise and dust because of the promise of future tourism, water sports and service industry developments. Already, some of eastern Germany's old opencast mines have been turned into new lakes with beaches and wooded areas around them.

At Lichterfeld, the residents bought a large, F60, excavator and it is now a major tourist attraction with day-time tours of the structure and night-time son et lumieres displays. However, there have also been landslips. Three people died in one at Nachterstedt where an area the size of six football pitches slid into old mine workings. Some villages are relocated, while others stay put and not only benefit from the mining jobs now, but also wait for the tourist benefits to come.

Sallie Bassham

An Alston Man in Greece in the 1850s

Ever since I could remember I was attracted to a little book in my father's bookshelf. It was different to the others. For a start its brown cloth cover was stamped on the front with a mysterious "Eight Years in Thessaly", which expanded inside on the title page to read "Eight Years' Residence of an Englishman in the Ottoman Empire; more particularly descriptive of the mountainous districts, and the manners and customs of the people of Thessaly in European Turkey". It appeared to be by someone called "H.Y.", and had been published in Newcastle in 1871. The inside front cover was inscribed with William Yeats, Wylam, and since this was the name of my great-grandfather and Wylam was where he lived, I was pretty sure that H.Y. must have been a member of the Yeats family.

Eight Years in Thessaly is an account by a man who travels to the Pelion peninsula of Thessaly in 1855 and spends eight years there, working for an anonymous Company engaged in the production of lead. Pelion is on the Aegean side of the Greek mainland, roughly halfway between Thessalonika and Athens.

The peninsula is mountainous, and even today is heavily forested, particularly on the Aegean side. Thessaly was then part of the Ottoman Empire, though the Turks seem to have left the local inhabitants to their own devices much of the time. There are various descriptions of the antics of bandits, some quite gruesome. In the opening chapter H.Y. describes

his journey there in the form of a diary, and subsequent chapters are devoted to the natural world and the social customs of the people. There is not a great deal about the mining operation, though H.Y. refers to the smelting works. He also mentions some of his colleagues by name (the cashier for the company, Charles Lafontaine Esq.; Mr Thomas Stobbs, who later resided at the High Felling; Mr J. Barnes, who died in Thessaly in 1856; Mr Alfred Barkas, who worked for an Ottoman bank in Smyrna;) and the numbers of miners employed and what their nationalities were. He does not say how the ore was transported out of the area.

About twenty years ago I began to do some research on H.Y. and found that Henry Yeats, my great-great-great-uncle, born in Alston in 1806, fitted the bill. This was confirmed when Newcastle Library sent me a photocopy of the title page of the copy in their possession on which is written in ink, "Rev. Henry Yeats, Newcastle". And the "Rev." also fits, because he is clearly a committed Christian, describing himself as a dissenter.

Henry Yeats married Elizabeth Craig from Whitehaven, and by the 1841 census the family was living in Villa Place in Newcastle, though Henry was absent. In 1851, they were in Stanhope. He died in 1878 in Newcastle. So far, I've not been able to discover anything further.

In September 2009, my partner Robin and I finally made it to Pelion. Like Henry, we arrived in Volos, but by aeroplane, via Skiathos, after a journey of a few hours, unlike Henry who had arrived on a Turkish man'o'war, which he'd boarded in Thessalonika, after a journey of several weeks from Liverpool. We had large-scale walking maps of the area (1:25000) and tried to work out where Henry's mines were from his descriptions. But in the end it was the people who we were able to make contact with who helped us.

These included Stavroula, an English teacher living in the village where Henry had lived. We gave her a photocopy of the book and she was delighted that she could tell her pupils about the Englishman who had lived in the village a hundred and fifty years previously. She and her husband took us to the site of a lead mine not mentioned by Henry, which may not have been in operation when he was there. This one had been worked by monks, who lived in a nearby monastery. The monastery is now deserted and half-ruined, though the church is still used occasionally. Here there had been a series of buckets like a paternoster lift which took the extracted ore down to the sea at Horefto, but it had all been washed away in massive floods in 1912.

We also met the foremost local historian, Mr Kostas

Liapis, who was extremely interested since only two other contemporary accounts of life in the region exist, one by a Frenchman, one by another Englishman. He was also interested to learn that there had been lead-mining in Pelion as early as 1855, since his researches showed it starting in the 1880s. (However, he said that Henry got the date of introduction of potatoes to Pelion wrong – he was out by two years!) But the best came last. We knew that Henry's mines were near the villages of Mavroutsas and Kissos and just as we were leaving Mr Liapis, his face lit up. He had remembered where the mines were – twenty metres from the church of St Spiridon outside Mavroutsas.



We went there the following afternoon and, scrambling in the undergrowth in likely places, Robin found a stone wall holding up an embankment leading to a blocked-up entrance. And as a bonus, just below this one further down the track, there was another mine entrance, one which had been worked more recently, for it showed evidence of the blue rocks which Henry described in his book.

Mr Liapis has now given a copy of the book to the twice-yearly journal *Thessaliko imerologio*, and they are planning to translate it into Greek. The Greeks



will know a little more about themselves through Henry, but he himself still remains a bit of a mystery.

Diana Hirst

Grimes Caves

The latest edition of English Heritage's Membership magazine, *Heritage Today*, has a rare article for this magazine on a mine, with an article on Grimes Caves. From a quick look through the archives, NMRS has not covered Grimes Caves since a short article in the NCMRS Memoirs way back in 1966.

The article comments on both the history and the natural history of these Neolithic flint mines in the Breckland landscape of Norfolk. One comment made in passing is that these are "by far the best preserved" of England's 10 known Neolithic flint mines, without listing the others. How many can the readers of the NMRS Newsletter name I wonder?

English Heritage have a new Exhibition for 2010 at Grimes Caves, seemingly mainly around flint knapping and flint tools, and on the fauna and flora around the mines, rather than the history of the mines themselves. Nevertheless any members in the Norfolk area, these ancient mines are worth a stop-off.

Tim Cook

February 2010 Newsletter

Following on from Ron Callendar's review of Lynne Mayer's Book "Voices from the Dressing Floors", a **tozer** is someone who separates the tin ore from the gangue (rough ore) by stirring the slimes in a kieve (large tub) and allowing the heavier particles to settle. (Shorter Oxford English Dictionary definition)

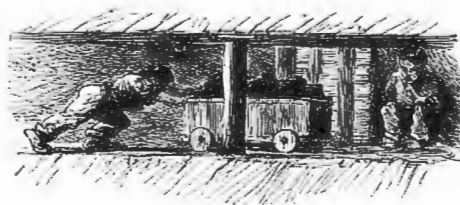
Barbara Sutcliffe

MHTI Journal.

The Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland publishes an annual journal, the latest issue being No.8. This 46 page, A4 size, colour journal contain four articles: The leases, trials and developments of the Mining Company of Ireland, Silica sand quarrying on Muckish Mountain (Co. Donegal), An introduction to the historic mines of Glenmalur (Co. Wicklow), and two Kerry lead-silver mines: Kenmare and Castlemaine.

Copies are available direct from the editor, Matthew Parkes, mparkes@museum.ie.

They can also be obtained from Alastair Lings, 01896 757861, alastairlings@yahoo.co.uk for £9 + £1 P&P.



The Museum of Scottish Lead Mining

A memoir by one of its founders

Under an appropriate leaden sky, I detoured into the Leadhills of my native Lanarkshire. It was 1976 and I was on my way to London. I did not have a lot of time, but I was anxious to view a temporary display of artefacts that the villagers had assembled in the Miners' Library at Wanlockhead for the summer season. "Some summer," I thought, trudging into the mist that enveloped what appeared to be a deserted village. The village notice board informed that the Library did not open until two o'clock, but I jotted down an address and continued on my way.

I wrote to the Administrator and to my surprise received an enthusiastic response. Geoff Downs-Rose would be delighted to be my host the next time I was in Scotland and to compare notes. I told him of my interests in Lanarkshire but we met up in Dumfriesshire. Soon I was to learn that one mile of roadway, two local authorities and a bitter feud of obscure origins in the 1920s separates the two villages, of Leadhills and Wanlockhead. Undaunted, Geoff anticipated the future. The temporary displays were proving successful; it would not be difficult to create a permanent museum. Would I join him in such a venture, he asked?



A view of the Museum that opened in 1976 in the old Post Office, Goldscaur Row, Wanlockhead, after a frantic refurbishment

At a stroke, I became archivist, graphic designer and in charge of exhibitions. For his part, Geoff obtained permission to occupy the ruined, former Post Office on Goldscaur Row. His friend from Leadhills village, Bill Harvey, took little persuading and over Easter, three of us made the premises ship-shape so as open for summer visitors. It was not easy planning layouts and creating expositions from my home in Buckinghamshire but Geoff's never ending encourage-

ment, and ability to surmount all logistical problems, was a valuable asset. Whenever I priced a job, Geoff found the money and in this way, we progressed like a house on fire.

When Geoff established the Museum Trust, he made sure that villagers filled the roles of Trustees, even although it was understood the advisors were there to do the work. The village ladies organised a rota of volunteers who assisted by opening and closing the Museum daily. When everyone realised Geoff's initiative was working well, donations of more and more artefacts poured in. The locals produced old photographs and documents, and as archivist, my task was to make a good copy and return them unharmed, but when the owners saw the quality of the copies, we benefited by an exchange and retained the originals.



An important aspect of the lead miner's leisure time was membership of the Miner's Library, which was confirmed by a certificate granting specific rights.

In the museum, we exhibited the life and achievements of Wanlockhead in a series of themed panels, which included curling, lead mining, the railway, bandsmen and social occasions. Geoff set aside one panel for renewal each year, and some visitors came with regularity, because they appreciated "there is always something new to see". We sold post-



Panels were arranged on themes relating to the life and times of the village of Wanlockhead

cards reproducing 19th century photographs and Geoff delighted in "selling our own advertising material". When we found that three designs out of nine were not popular, Geoff bundled them all together to sell as an exclusive set. We sold out quickly. He proposed a series of booklets on different subjects, and we realised we had the basis of a research programme as well as creating a publication policy.



Wanlockhead is fortunate in having a 19th century beam engine located in the village, which is under the care and protection of Historic Scotland

Geoff annexed three cottages at Straitsteps and converted the interiors to represent the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The famous beam engine stood nearby, mercifully kept in good condition by a Scottish agency, but a highlight of any village walk. Nearby, the spoil heap and dilapidated buildings of the Glencrief Mine dominated the local landscape and Geoff confessed he wished they had the protection of a preservation order. Further along the valley, at a location known as Whyte's Cleuch, the structure of another beam engine inspired serious research from Bill Harvey and Geoff, and they were delighted when Northern Mine Research Society published their findings as BM No 2 (Note 1).



Glencrief Mine is situated within the village and dominates the landscape.

Encouraged by the sales of postcards and booklets, we considered selling posters - one on railways and the other on curling - but the financial outlay was a stumbling block. Two major companies, unaware of their historical association with Wanlockhead, came to the rescue and the posters evolved as a new source of income (Note 2). One year, we worked hard to prepare an adit of the Loch Nell mine for Easter visitors and everything was going to plan, until there was a collapse at the entrance - just hours before the grand opening. We gritted our teeth, crossed our fingers, removed the spoil and made a note to improve the timbers, which were positioned directly underneath the roadway.



A rare photograph featuring the lead miners of Wanlockhead gathered outside the Loch Nell Mine, accompanied by the mine "captain", Mr Paul in the regulation bowler hat.

It was time to expand and Geoff provided support when I applied for a Kodak Bursary to "document the remaining traces of Scotland's ancient lead mining industry". In doing so, Wanlockhead stepped up to a national role and my photographic coverage of lead mines in Loch Fyne, Galloway, Carsphairn, Strontian, and the Isle of Islay led to further ventures. We produced a travelling exhibition and Northern Mine Research Society published BM 24 (Note 3).

The Museum was developing at a pace and the time was right to engage a manager to look after the day-to-day activities. Soon Geoff pulled off another challenge and was able to relocate the Museum of Lead Mining in the former blacksmith's forge. Welcome grants aided the refurbishment of the old building and the assembly and construction of displays. The days of the three advisors had come to a dignified end, but when the Trustees built an extension for a tearoom and shop, it was appropriate it should carry the name of Geoff Downs-Rose. My involvement was at an end and I turned to my first love of gold prospecting, the interest that had taken me to the Leadhills in the first place. In 1992, when

Great Britain hosted the World Gold panning Championships, Leadhills and Wanlockhead stepped forward as the ideal partners for the venture and the tradition continues to this day because, every May Bank holiday, the museum sponsors the British and Scottish championships.

My memories of the cold, the rain, the snowstorms, the heat waves, the catastrophes, the achievements and the companionship of the two stalwarts, William S Harvey and Geoff Downs-Rose began to fade.



Bill Harvey, from nearby Leadhills, was an enthusiastic advisor to the Museum Trust and specialised in knowing how the companies operated.

Out of the blue in November 2004, Margaret and I received an invitation to attend a Reception celebrating the Trust's first thirty years. It was the perfect way to mark a successful milestone and revisit the three decades.

Sadly, Geoff and Bill are now dead but their contributions came at the right time. Their motivation was a rare blend of enthusiasm, excitement, and endeavour, along with an ability to overcome a range of difficult tasks.

R M Callender

Archivist, Gold Miner & Exhibition Design

Note 1

Harvey, W, Downs-Rose, G, The Bay Mine, British Mining No 2, Northern Mine Research Society, (1976)

Note 2

The first railway venture of the civil engineers, MacAlpine, was the construction of the branch line from Elvanfoot to Wanlockhead, whereas Sir Thomas R Dewar of the whisky company had presented the silver challenge shield awarded annually for curling ... until the ponds no longer froze

Note 3

Callender, RM, Macaulay, J, "The ancient metal mines of the Isle of Islay, Argyll", Northern Mine Research Society, (1984)

Cornish Rocks and Minerals

by Simon Camm

For those of you interested in mining in Cornwall this recent little book will be of interest to you. The contents include geology and mineralisation; rocks; precious metals and semi-precious stones and what to expect to see in 11 areas of Cornwall. All accompanied by colour photos. The end of the book comprises a glossary, a mineral gallery of many of the classic Cornish specimens provided by private collectors, dealers and the Royal Cornwall Museum in Truro. Finally there is a short list of where to see mineral specimens in the county.

It is priced at £5.95 and published by Alison Hodge, www.alison-hodge.co.uk. I have a few copies available and postage is £1. Please phone or e-mail me.

Barbara Sutcliffe

The Riches Beneath our feet, How Mining Shaped Britain,

by Geoff Coyle

- * Tells the story of mining in Britain dating back over 4000 years
- * Looks at the history of a wide range of minerals including copper, China clay, tin, zinc, slate, granite, limestone, coal, iron etc
- * Includes tales about mining disasters such as the Britannia mine in Cornwall, Easington Colliery, Aberfan and looking at why the disasters occurred, what ensured and the heroism of the rescuers.
- * Focuses on the people involved, their work, the conditions in the mines and the impact mining had on their lives.
- * Considers how mining has affected the landscape of Britain, transforming parts of the countryside.

Oxford University Press is pleased to offer Northern Mines Research Society members a special price of £16 plus £3 p&p (UK addresses only) on the new book by Geoff Coyle.

To order your copy visit www.oup.com/uk add this title to your shopping basket and enter promo code **webmines 10**.

Alternatively telephone 01536 741 727 or e-mail bookorders.uk@oup.com. Please quote promotion code **webmines10** in all correspondence.

Published April 2010, hardback 288pp Price £20

Offer end 31st July 2010



Claughton Manor Brickworks SD 563664

An excellent opportunity was given to the NMRS members on the 19th April, 2008 to visit the brick making area and the serving quarry above the Kirby Gill Wood. Claughton Manor produces a first class brick for the entire construction industry in the U.K. and beyond. With reference to BM76, pages 86 - 88, Claughton tapering brick was used to build the 80ft. chimney at the New Ingleton Colliery and standard brick for the Weigh bridge Office - this building being demolished in April 2008.

With all three sites being on the A683 Hornby to Lancaster road, the first Lunesdale Brick and Tube Company opened circa 1874. All the nearby works were served with railway sidings from the Wennington to Lancaster railway built by the North Western Railway Company.



We see loaded standard buckets travelling on the down loop to the Manor Brickworks. This area is at an altitude of 750 feet, the building is the crusher house and beyond the working quarry – this area being nicknamed the “shiver hole”.

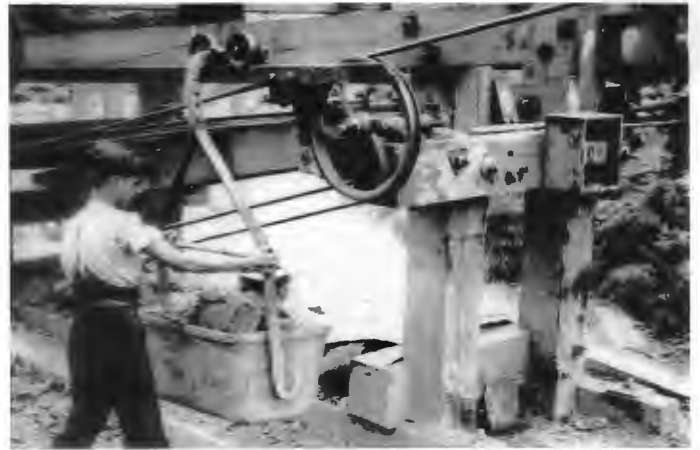


Manager Graham Longhorn seen here with Northern Mines members describing the ropeway operation carried out with the Guy landrover, this vehicle being a World War 2 gun tractor. Further reference may be found in NMRS Newsletter of May 2008 page 5.

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A complete historical update on this vehicle is as follows:

Whilst at our Northern Mines meet in November 2008 at Gayle, near Hawes there had been nearby a Ministry of Defence area. The gun tractor, petrol and with side valve engine, was moved on to the scrapyard of Bill and Brian Huck at New Road, Ingleton. In the mid 1960s it was purchased by Claughton brickworks and with further alteration to the bodywork it now continues to replace the 1” steel cables to the 26 gantries- this being a requirement every five to seven years.



This shows an operative guiding a standard pattern bucket in June 1925. The capacity of the bucket is 290kg of shale with a travelling speed over the ropeway of 5mph.

Many motorists enjoy seeing the aerial ropeway and its busy buckets passing over the A683 – long may this continue and be protected.

Bernie Bond



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Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society

The Society was founded in 1866 and today has a strong local, national and international membership. Its distinguished officers and committees (see the website's COMMITTEES page) are consulted on heritage matters of the widest kind. The *Industrial Archaeology Committee* includes members very much involved in mining history and archaeology. NMRS members are probably aware of the exciting medieval mining discoveries of recent years made in Cumbria and will be pleased to know that exploratory work continues.

Our Publications Programme, handled by the Society's *Publications Committee*, forms a very strong part of our activity and reputation.

The annual *Transactions* volume, available to members as part of their annual subscription, last appeared in November 2009, and its contents list can be viewed on our web site. A full index of the Society's three series of *Transactions* volumes published during its life (details for many years are already available) is a current major project (information available on our website).

Members also receive three substantial issues of *Newsletter* each year (Spring, Summer and Autumn). These contain in-house news and up-to-date information sent in by the county's heritage institutions. They also offer archaeologists an outlet for short reports and illustrations of current work, invaluable while full publication is in preparation - a lengthy business. Director Frank Giocco and his colleagues of *North Pennines Archaeology Ltd.*, doubtless known to many NMRS members, are regular contributors. The contents of the Autumn issue can be viewed on our website.

Our publications list can also easily be explored via the PUBLICATIONS page of our web site; 2009 saw the issue of four books whose subjects related to important and very different historical and archaeological aspects of Cumbria's heritage. Members, of course, enjoy the benefit of generous discounts.

Details of publications brought out in more distant years may be had by contacting our Librarian, who is also our Stockholder (via CONTACTS on our web site).

An important recent project has been the revision of our web site, carried out in preparation for the launching of a new site in the late summer of this year. In the meantime, browsers will find a lot of information about our Society and its members, including its activities and support for research, as well as how to join, on www.cumbriapast.com.

Margaret Edwards
Communications Officer

New Members

The Society extends a warm welcome to the following who have joined our ranks this year:-

D. Emptage	Northwich
T. Haldon	Alston
K. Hitchins	Leeds
G. Hull	Durham
R. Marsh	Chesterfield
J. Scaife	Sheffield
M. Scarffe	Keighley
G. Topping & Family (2)	Clitheroe
R. White	Carlisle



Memorial to a Mining Disaster

A statue, erected in Moodiesburn, pays tribute to the 47 men who died in one of Scotland's worst mining disasters has been unveiled by the First Minister (Alex Salmond) to mark the 50th anniversary of the tragedy.

A total of 41 women were widowed and 76 children lost their fathers as a result of the accident.



On the 18th September, 1959 at the Auchengeich Colliery in North Lanarkshire, a tragic fire that was caused by an electrical fault, occurred at 1000 feet below ground. The smoke from the blaze quickly overcame the men working at the coal face. When rescue attempts failed, the decision was taken to flood the pit in order to extinguish the flames. Only one miner, working on that shift, survived the fire.

Just two months following the anniversary ceremony the £35,000 six foot bronze statue was stolen. Superintendent Henry Campbell, of Cumbernauld Police office, said "This crime has outraged the local community and we will do everything possible to trace those responsible and return the statue to its rightful place." So far, the statue has not been recovered.

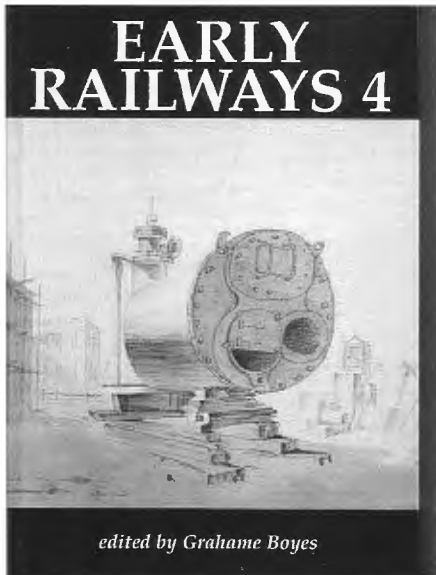
David R Neal

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Early Railways 4

Edited by Graham Boyes

The book describes the proceedings of the *Fourth International Early Railways Conference* held at University College, London on 12-15 June 2008. The early development of railways was very much associated with the needs of the mining and quarrying industries and this is reflected very much in the content of this volume. Leaving aside the fascinating accounts of early railways in their own right, the mining enthusiast will find interest in the following papers.



Chris Down's paper on the Late Bronze Age or Classical Age Maltese cart rut-ways appear to have been associated with ancient mining and his discourse on the mode of formation of the ruts and the different types will be of relevance to rutways in Yorkshire and Cornwall. This is followed by a paper on rut-ways in Cornwall by Geoff Smith-Grogan, some of which he attributes to Burchard Cranich's search for silver and Ulrich Frosse's search for lead (I thought he was interested in copper?). Warren Allinson, Sam Murphy and Richard Smith describe the remains of the 15th century railway left behind by the German miners at Silver Gill in the Caldbeck Fells of Cumbria and Peter King deals with the 'First Shropshire Railways' used for transporting coal in the early seventeenth century. John Wilkinson's Railway at Willey, used in the mid-eighteenth century ironmaking industry near Broseley, Shropshire, is covered by Neil Clarke and Michel Messenger's 'Early Railways in the South West' has a fine sketching of Dolcauth tin mine. David Gwyn's paper on railways in Wales has a superb photograph of the St David locomotive taken in 1854 and Sheila Bye describes several aspects of the Middleton Colliery

waggonway and later railway in Leeds. Michael Bailey and John Glithero give an account of the 'Braddyll' built by Timothy Hackworth in 1837 for the South and East Hetton Collieries and named after Lt Col Thomas Braddyll (he of the expensive 60-Fathom Level at Driggeth lead mine near Caldbeck). Colin Mountford's paper is on the Bank Top stationary engine at Burnhope Colliery, Co. Durham. Finally Helen Gomersall and Andy Guy give a 23-page 'Research Agenda for the Early British Railway which covers all aspects of railway technology.

There are of course, other papers dealing with early railways and having less emphasis on mining and heavy industries. This is not a book I would have considered reading but having received a copy I found it interesting and well worth reading from cover to cover. If you are interested in the wider aspects of the minerals industries this is one for you – it is certainly worth buying for the NMRS library.

Boyes G., 2010, 'Early Railways 4', Six Martlets Publishing, Sudbury, Suffolk, ISBN: none allocated, pp. 365+xvii, hardback.

Richard Smith

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Data Protection Act

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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