

Northern Mine Research Society



Society established 1960

Newsletter

nmrs.org.uk

February 2012

nmrs.org.uk

President's Jottings

First of all a big thank you to David Neal for all his hard work in producing our newsletter since August 2009. He has put in a great deal of time and effort, each quarter, for every edition and must be congratulated. Under his guidance we produced our very first colour issue to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. Photographs are now a regular feature. Thanks, too, to all the contributors who contacted David with news, articles and items of interest. This is his last issue and fortunately we have Rob Needham taking over from him.

Those of you who came to the Autumn meeting at Gisburn will already have met Rob. David and Rob have worked together for the last couple of issues, David providing lots of advice and encouragement. Our Society is very grateful to those of you who volunteer to help us, so please keep the items flowing to Rob. His contact details are:-

Robert Needham

Pike House, George Lane, Littledean. GL14 3LL

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E-mail robert.needham@live.co.uk

Our A.G.M. this year is to be held on Saturday 31st March 2012 at Mealbank Hall, Ingleton, LA6 3ER. The grid reference is 695735. There is parking at the venue. After a free buffet at 12.00 noon, available to all who have pre-booked by 17th March (a booking form is enclosed) we will hold our AGM with reports from our current officers. As usual there will be some of our publications for sale.

After that Bernard Bond is leading a short walk around the Ingleton Coalfield entitled "Brief Encounter" This will involve a short drive to the Ingleton Coalfield Memorial at the road junction of Laundry Lane – New Rd (A65) – position across from the Co-op fuel station. From there members will be able to view the building positions of the New Ingleton Colliery, 1912-1940. Continuing a one mile walk will take us back to the Barker Brickworks of 1889 next to the site of the Old Ingleton Colliery 1854-1914. After viewing Nellie, Richard and Grove Pits a return trip will take us back to the parked vehicles on/near Laundry Lane. Our thanks to Bernard for this information and his offer to show us some of the Ingleton Coalfield remains. BM76 "Ingleton Coalfield" is devoted to this area. If you need a copy please contact me!

As previously mentioned, Peter Pearson is now the

Editor

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Would you please note that the deadline for inclusion with the November Newsletter is the
20th April, 2012

Submissions are welcomed that would be of interest to members of the NMRS. These can be forwarded to the Editor 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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Printed by *The University of Wales, Lampeter*

custodian of our Garmins. Unfortunately a mistake was made in his e-mail address given in the last Newsletter. It should be peterpearson@aol.com. Please note the "n" in the middle.

Regarding Publication News readers will be pleased to know our sales were up last year, partly helped by very kind donations of our publications and other mining related books. These are really welcome so if you have any books to donate to us please let me know – it is spring cleaning time! Likewise please keep sending in your "wants" list. This includes any still in print but second hand copies of our BMs. As a Special Offer we are offering BM66 "Adventures in Coal" free with any order until the end of March. Please remember members receive a 25% discount on our publications with invoice orders over £60 post free. Orders can be made by phone, post or e-mail and if you quote your membership number and address, payment can be made on receipt of order. Your invoice will be with your book(s). We also have available some back copies of our Newsletters so if there are any of these you are after please contact me.

Thanks go to Sheila Barker who arranged a donation from Killhope Mining Museum of some A4 Publications back to us.

It is with regret we have to announce the death of Mr S.J. Punchard on 14/10/11 which was his 93rd birthday. Condolence from all at NMRS were sent to his family.

Barbara Sutcliffe

Membership Secretary

Thank you to all of those who have paid their 2012 subscription and you should find enclosed your Membership Card. Please keep this safe and carry it with you whenever on NMRS business. If you have chosen to pay by STO your Membership Card may be missing because of the lateness of our bank statements. Any such cards will be posted out as soon as possible.

Some of you have yet to pay (you know who you are!) and your cheque would be most welcomed. We are planning on sending out BM93 and a Memoirs, all being well this year, but if we don't get your money by the end of April, you'll miss out! If you have mislaid the paper work, then please send your details and a cheque for £17 to me at the address below.

David R Neal

NMRS Membership Secretary

Lluest Fach, Llwyn y Groes, Tregaron, SY25 6PY

Nature's Treasures 4

Oxford University Museum of Natural History

3rd March 2012 at 10.00am



Nature's Treasures 4 is the fourth in a series of co-hosted events aimed at the general public particularly young people. The meeting is a collaborative venture between The Russell Society, the Mineralogical Society and the Gemological Association of Great Britain.

The event has typically attracted well over one hundred delegates and we are hoping to attract even more people to Oxford, with the highly popular Oxford Mineral Show being the following day on Sunday 4th March – why not stay over and make a weekend of it?

Speakers for NT4 include Derek Siveter – Re-creating 3D models of fossils; Richard Pattrick – Nuclear Waste, we have a problem; Bill Perkins – Minerals, mining and mess – cleaning up after mining for metals and coal; David Palmer from CrystalMaker Software Ltd.– Exploring minerals at the nano-scale, Courtenay Smale on the Williams Caerhays Mineral Collection; Jack Ogden – The Lore and the profits: Gems and the Jewellery Trade and David Pyle from Oxford University on volcanoes.

There will be a wide range of displays and stands for delegates to enjoy at coffee break and over lunchtime, including Richard Tayler Minerals, The Virtual Microscope Team from the Open University, stands from the organising societies and others still to be confirmed.

For full programme details and registration information please go to:-

<http://www.minersoc.org/pages/meetings/nature4/nature4.html>

Registration costs £20 per person, £10 for those under sixteen years of age. For Rockwatch delegates, including parents, the cost is £10 each. These prices are inclusive of all talks, displays, refreshments and a buffet lunch.

This promises to be a great day out and will offer an excellent opportunity to meet other like-minded folk who share your passion for earth science. We look forward to seeing you there!

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 31 March

Spring Meeting (AGM) at Ingleton Scout Hut aka Mealbank Hall, Meal Bank Quarry, Yorkshire, SD 694 737. The road to Mealbank runs north beside a river: further north the road is known as Oddie's Lane, but in Ingleton is labelled Mill Lane (although the sign is almost illegible). Turn onto Mill Lane at Bridge End Guest House and then, just after the derestricted sign, turn right into Mealbank.

There is a FREE buffet at 12 Noon (booking is essential) and the AGM follows afterwards. In the afternoon there will be a surface walk, led by Bernard Bond, looking at Ingleton coal sites.

Bookings to barbara Sutcliffe, 01282 614615 or email mansemins@btopenworld.com

Sunday 8 April

Underground meet at Turf Moor lead mine. Easy trip with only a couple of easy crawls.

Meet at 10-30am at NY 99720 02405 (Moulds Level Car Park – near tip) which is about half a mile out of Langthwaite, near Reeth. There is plenty of parking available. Please ring Mike or Andy on 01904 – 413845 to arrange; or, to contact on morning of meet, or on the day before, on 07837 – 834475.

Saturday 5 May

Underground meet at Ayton Monument Ironstone Mine. A brisk 1 mile walk in up the incline to the mine, which worked 1908-1931. Underground is large but progress is now limited by the poor air quality (we will have an electronic gas meter). We will still be able to see two underground furnaces and the remains of the rope haulage system.

Meet at 11am at Great Ayton railway station, NZ 57 10. Leader Chris Twigg – 07974596985 or chris.twigg@ntlworld.com.

Saturday 16 June

Surface walk to Burbage, Thatch Marsh and Goyts Moss coal mines, above Buxton.

Meet at 11.00am for 11.15am start, at the Derbyshire Bridge ranger centre car park SK 019 716.

Leader John Barnatt, 01298 77923 or email at: john.barnatt@btinternet.com

July

Underground meet at Rogerley Mine, Weardale. Maximum 12 people. See page 3 of the November 2011 Newsletter for an account of last year's visit to this working mine. The date will be fixed when the mine-owners have decided when exactly they will be visiting England. When available, details will be printed in the Newsletter. Leader Barbara Sutcliffe - 01282 614615 or mansemins@btopenworld.com



August

Underground visit to Williamson's Tunnels in Liverpool, courtesy of the Friends of Williamson's Tunnels. Maximum 20 people. Information on these underground sites can be found on:-

www.williamsonstunnels.com.

When the exact date is decided, details will be given in the Newsletter. To book a place, contact Sallie Bassham - 015242 41851 or sbassham@nildram.co.uk

Saturday 22 September

Underground meet at Tynebottom mine, Garrigill. Easy trip of 2-3 hours. There are a couple of short crawls and one wet section on the way out (no deeper than knee high). Interesting flats and workings with very unusual mineralisation. Meet at 11am in the Nenthead Heritage Centre car park, NY781435. Leader Paul Dollery, 01937 580579 or:-

paul.dollery@ntlworld.com.

October

Autumn Meeting. See Newsletter for venue and time, or contact Barbara Sutcliffe.

Please remember that you should **ALWAYS** contact the appropriate meet leader if you intend going on a meet – if no-one has booked, the leader will not be there either! Dogs are not allowed on some sites: please check with the meet leader before bringing a dog.

Library News

Thank you to Peter Claughton for giving to the library a copy of "Mining Perspectives: Proceedings of the 8th International Mining History Congress 2009".

As usual, I have to refer some of my queries to Mike and the Society Records. However, recently I was pleased to be able to pass on the offer of a gift. The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) had found an East Craven Moor Lead Mine plan and thought it would be more appropriately kept in Yorkshire than Wales. So, thank you to CCW.

Sallie Bassham

Golden Opportunity

Over the last five years gold has taken an increasingly prominent position in the public eye. Rarely a week goes by without this very special precious metal being mentioned in the Press. The rising price of gold has been translated into renewed prospecting in Britain, most recently at Cononish and Loch Lomond in the Highlands. Where more appropriate to stage an exhibition on the story of Britain and gold, than the Goldsmiths' Company in London?

'*Gold: Power and Allure*' is the largest exhibition the Goldsmiths' Company has organised. For two months in June and July 2012, the Goldsmiths' Hall will be home to an astonishing array of over 500 golden treasures, from Cornish gold nuggets to the most recent craftsmanship, via a range of thematic displays which explore the role of gold in arenas such as antiquity, dining, finance and church and state. The challenge has been to draw together the many threads that make a single precious metal so special and central to human society, revealing the story of Britain's involvement in its exploitation and appreciation.

One of the key sections will centre on the raw material. Here I would like to thank your very own Ron Callender for early advice on this, and his warm hospitality in taking me to some of the most important Welsh gold mining areas. He has been a font of knowledge. Professor Richard Herrington from the Natural History Museum in London has drawn up a gold map of Britain and is preparing the text panels for us for this part of the show which looks at Scotland, Wales, Ireland and Devon and Cornwall.

Scotland has a continuous history of gold mining stretching back for nine centuries. The earliest records of Scottish gold date back to 1125 and the reign of David I of Scotland (1082-1153) who granted a title to the Holy Trinity Church of Dunfermline 'for a tenth of all the gold found in Fife and Fothrif'. We have some spectacular mineral samples from the National Museum of Scotland, some rare objects including a casket made from gold from Leadhills, and a feature on the Kildonan Gold Rush, thanks to Ron.

From the National Museum of Wales we have samples from the Lady Henrietta Herbert of Powis Collection, an unusual example of an eighteenth century lady mineral collector. We are thrilled to have the Castell Carn Dochan Cup (1867) believed to be the largest object ever made from Welsh gold, from the National Museum of Wales, after a Tudor design.

We have some rock bores from Ireland (and in the antiquities section some Bronze Age lunulae believed to have made from Irish gold). From the Royal

Cornwall Museum we have the largest nugget of Cornish gold from Perranarworthal, and a necklace made from river found gold grains. We are currently 'chasing' the papers of John Stewart MacArthur a chemist from Glasgow who is credited with the development of the MacArthur-Forrest Cyanidation Process in 1887, used to extract gold in South Africa.

These examples can only give a glimpse of a much more comprehensive exhibition which I hope will be of interest on many levels to members of the NMRS. The exhibition will reach beyond the capital, via a countrywide 'Gold Trail' which will chart publically accessible collections and sites of interest connected with gold. Together with the book of the exhibition the Goldsmiths' Company hope this event will raise awareness of the rich history and future potential of this remarkable metal, and its special relationship with Britain.

www.thegoldsmiths.co.uk

www.whoswhoingoldandsilver.com

Dates	1 st June to 28 th July Closed 4-5 th June (Bank Hols)
Opening Times:	Monday to Saturday 10.00am to 5.00pm
Admission:	FREE
Group Visits:	By prior arrangement with the Promotions Department promotion@thegoldsmiths.co.uk

Underground: St Paul's Mansion House, Barbican, Blackfriars. Bus Routes: 8,11,25,100,242,521,56,172.

Helen Clifford

The Castell Carn Dochan Cup



This cup was made from solid Welsh gold dated 1867. The Cup and cover are of 22 carat gold and was hallmarked by R & S Garrard & Co, London.

Height: 39.8 cm

Delisting of Irish heritage. Places after 1700 AD

This disturbing news has been doing the rounds but I have not seen it posted to these lists. Apologies if you have seen it elsewhere. Below the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland outlines the threat to post 1700 archaeology and heritage if their statutory protection is removed. Considering in particular Ireland's mining heritage which had a global reach, it is something that we should individually and collectively respond to.

The issue

It is proposed by the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht that monuments dating to the period post- AD1700 will be delisted from the Record of Monuments & Places (RMP), thus removing their statutory protection, and their conditioning within the planning system. These monuments have been highlighted in green on the Department's website www.archaeology.ie

The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) has been locating, recording and describing the archaeological monuments of this country for several decades. The criteria for selection, of monuments to be recorded in each county have, however, been variable. Significant numbers of post-AD 1700 monuments have been included in the RMPs for Cork, Galway and Dublin, but not in a consistent manner. In 1982, guidelines were provided the Cork Archaeological Survey advising them to survey "everything up to 1700 and selectively afterwards". A detailed and systematic survey was undertaken by the Cork Archaeological Survey in order to make an informed selection of post-AD 1700 monuments.

The ASI is currently preparing a revision of the RMP. The ASI is obliged under government policy (2005 White Paper, 'Regulating Better') to ensure that there is consistency across the recorded monument listings for each county. Primarily due to limited resources, as well as a back-log in processing the previously collected datasets, the ASI is proposing that any post-AD 1700 monuments previously recorded on the RMP should be de-listed.

The National Inventory for Architectural Heritage (NIAH) whose work 'involves identifying and recording the architectural heritage of Ireland from 1700 to the present day' does not currently record many of the smaller scale or more industrial monuments that are integral to development of Irish history and society during this period.

Position of Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI)

The AD 1700 date, although used as a cut-off point, has no basis in legislation in defining whether a monument is or is not archaeological. By stating that all pre-AD 1700 monuments are archaeological, it does not preclude monuments of post-AD 1700 as being defined as archaeological; 'date is not in itself a determinant of archaeological significance or interest. Any material remains which can contribute to understanding past societies may be considered to have an element of archaeological significance.

Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Dúchas 1999).

Sites currently being scheduled for delisting - such as vernacular buildings, lime kilns, holy wells, bridges, milestones, industrial sites etc. - will not qualify for inclusion in the Record of Protected Structures of each county and will therefore be left without any form of protection.

Any removal of protection from post-AD 1700 sites on land would be at odds with the legislation for shipwrecks, resulting in different protections for sea and land.

The archaeology of the post-AD 1700 and industrial period is the archaeology of the Diaspora and the immediate ancestors of the Irish people. By delisting the post-1700 monuments, access to a valuable resource will be removed.

In contrast to the ASI's proposed removal of the industrial heritage record of Cork and other counties, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) continues to build on their interest in structures dating to this period. The NIEA's Industrial Heritage Record lists more than 16,000 features. Although many entries are somewhat limited in the information provided, a systematic second survey of historic buildings in Northern Ireland is underway, and results are accessible through the Industrial Heritage Database in the Monuments and Buildings Record.

There is increasing recognition of the value of our industrial heritage at regional and local level. Projects such as the Industrial Heritage Survey of Fingal led by Mary McMahon, are systematically examining the documentary and cartographic sources (Phase 1) and have uncovered hundreds of new sites. Funded by the Heritage Council through Fingal County Council it is ridiculous to believe these sites would have no legal protection. Similarly the numerous sites excavated under archaeological planning conditions would not have taken place if the current proposal had been in place.

IAI proposals

The IAI proposes that the ASI internal policy of removing post-AD 1700 monuments from the RMP has to change, and that the ASI needs to better acknowledge the post-AD 1700 archaeological resource.

The NIAH should record all post-AD 1700 monuments on a comprehensive rather than selective basis, thereby fulfilling its remit as a national inventory.

IAI contends that there is an opportunity to tap into LEADER funding and the Jobbridge national internship scheme to assist in the recording of all post-AD 1700 monuments. Such an initiative could also provide training opportunities for unemployed persons, particularly those in the archaeological profession.

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Birch Hill gale - Some iron mines in the old red sandstone

Most of the Forest iron mines were associated with the crease limestone, but is a small group of at least four iron mines in the Pennant sandstone in Birch Hill gale. At least three are in Bixslade and there are one or more in the adjacent Howlers Slade, across the road from Hopewell Colliery. Birch Hill gale was granted to three freeminers in 1858, but there is no evidence of any mining in the gale until the 20th century.

One mine is in Minetrain Quarry, which is not accessible but there is a survey in Oldham (The Mines of the Forest of Dean, 2002) which indicates that this was the most extensive of the group. I was a member of a group from the RFDCC which visited the mine with the tacit permission of the quarry owner.

One mine is on the hillside further up the valley in Bixslade and is accessible. There are two levels in this mine, the main one being the lower of maybe a hundred yards length. There are clear impressions of sleepers along the floor of this level for a tramway which can have been of no more than two foot gauge and must have relied on manpower. The tramway

stretched for the full accessible length of this level, but there are no physical remains except for the sleeper impressions. The main level is blocked by falls of rock in both directions. One of the blockages occurs at a point where the level splits into two and work is in progress to clear this blockage in the hope that it might reveal a shaft and further workings. A plan held by the Deputy Gaveller indicates that there is more of this mine to be found, also that it overlays the coal workings of Gwilliams Level.

The third mine in Bixslade is known apparently as Parry's Pit. It is now run in and all that remains are depressions in the ground tracing out the route of the level, plus a heap of iron ore beside a spoil heap on which, for some unknown reason, there is a tramroad rail (assumed from the Bixslade tramroad although some distance from it).

In Howlers Slade there is one accessible level of approximately 25 yards length plus two more possible run in entrances. There are also two piles of iron ore and spoil heaps.

The mineral statistics for Gloucestershire indicate that between 1906 and 1932 some 3500 tons of haematite were produced from Birch Hill gales by T. Stopford of Macclesfield.

Rob Needham

Forest of Dean

I've just visited one of the free mines to be told that they have been told to stop work. The Mines Inspectorate has said that they must get a mine surveyor to do a survey and the plans must then be approved by the Mines Inspector before they can resume work. Apparently this is as a result of the Gleison Colliery disaster in South Wales and is designed to ensure that the mine is not in danger of breaking into old workings. A very good idea, except that there are many old workings in the Forest of Dean which are totally unrecorded (most pre-c1830 mines! one unknown working recently caused a hole to open up in the cricket pitch at Parkend, and it had to be filled in by the Coal Authority). And the mine I visited (Prospector) is about 15 yards in, still in the sandstone, not yet reached the coal; and the nearest known workings are some 300 yards or more off to one side!

However, the Haywood Drift Mine has also been stopped, more reasonably as there is an old shaft in front of their working and they did break into an old drain last year (and got flooded!) They also are now required to get survey done and approved before they can resume work. I don't yet know whether any other of the few remaining free mines are similarly stopped.

Rob Needham

Windrush - a typical local underground quarry for Cotswold stone

Jurassic limestone occurs at or near the surface in a broad belt stretching diagonally across England from Lincolnshire to Dorset and has long been in great demand for building, so hundreds of quarries were dug for this stone. Initially open cast, as demand increased some quarries started going underground to find suitable stone.

Most of the quarries were small local enterprises which each developed in isolation with very little information ever recorded about them. Little information survives about the methods of working the quarries. With the coming of the railway age, some quarries were modernised with the use of an internal railway system to move the stone to an interchange with a mainline railway.

These quarries, such as some in the Bath area, were then able to put the smaller ones in the surrounding area, such as many in the Cotswolds which had not modernised, out of business. Some of the smaller ones struggled on, often on a part-time basis, still using the old methods. These older quarries reveal the methods used to extract and transport the stone.

What remains in the Windrush quarry is the system of tracks or rutways together with stone processing areas and loading platforms, plus marks made by the carts used under-ground.

Windrush is situated west of Burford on the north side of the Oxford to Cheltenham section of the A40 road. It is a typical underground quarry, thought to have been run, at least in its later years, as a family business opened as and when there was a need for building stone. Last use is thought to have been late in the 19th century.

In recent years it has been explored by members of the Gloucester Speleological Society with the support of the landowner, a local farmer. There are thought to be still undiscovered parts of the quarry as the surveyed remains pose unanswered questions, such as how was it intended to remove the incomplete trough on completion. Digging continues as does recording of the so far discovered remains.

I first visited the quarry in December 2010 when taking part in an exercise with Gloucestershire Cave Rescue Group, and found the site so interesting that I have made a further ten visits with members of GSS.

Rob Needham

John McNeil's Seat

We see in the photo John's parents, Doris and Reg (sadly Reg is no longer with us) on Sunday 18 July 1993 at the "official opening" of the teak seat situated at the junction of paths at Flintergill and the Occupation

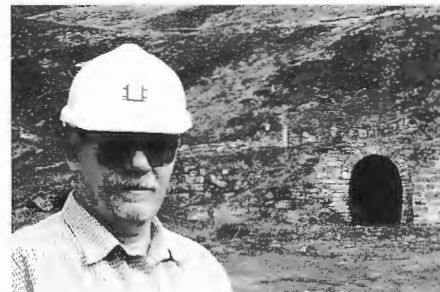


*The parents of John
Doris and the late Reg McNeil*

Road above the village of Dent-NGR Ref: SD 698859. Sixty four of John's friends, relatives and colleagues attended on the day. John's contribution to Northern Mines can only be described as "vast".

On Sunday 15 January Janet and I made the short trek up Flintergill from Dent to the seat. On our way we began to count how long it has been there- in July of this year it will be 19 years. We would like to thank all those friends who have come along – sometimes three times in one year- to check and maintain the seat. For a seat to be fixed in such an open and exposed place and to stay looking as good as it does is a credit to all those who have patiently applied the teak oil and to the local joiner who designed and manufactured the seat. I am pleased to say that it is in "fine fettle"

Bernie Bond



**Thank
You**

This will be my last Newsletter as your Editor, a post that I have had the honour of serving for the past three years. In that time I have produced eleven issues with 136 pages of text and pictures including four in colour.

Of course the Newsletter could not exist if a few Members didn't make their contributions and I am very grateful to them for making my job so much easier. A Society such as ours only survives by the volunteers who come forward and give their skills and time to ensure that we meet our objectives. A big thank you then to Rob Needham for taking over from me and I hope that you will continue giving him the support that you have given to me.

David R Neal

Publications

New for 2011 in the Pocket Cornwall series from Alison Hodge publishers. For further details see www.alisonhodgepublishers.co.uk

Cornish Mines: Gwennap to the Tamar by *Barry Gamble*, Paperback, 112 pages, 139 colour photographs, 150 x 153 mm, ISBN: 9780906720820, priced £5.95

Cornish Mines: St Just to Redruth by *Barry Gamble*, Paperback, 104 pages, 132 colour photographs, 150 x 153 mm, ISBN: 9780906720813, priced £5.95

Cornish Rocks and Minerals by *Simon Camm*, Paperback, 112 pages, 274 colour photographs, 1 map, 2 diagrams, 150 x 153 mm, ISBN: 9780906720714, £5.95

A History of Iron Mining in Cornwall by *Tony Brooks*, Cornish Hillside Publications, PB & HB, 250pp, prices £11.99 & £15.99. ISBN 9781900147514 and ISBN 9781900147521. Thanks to Mike Moore for notice of this item.

Neither here nor there? The mining and transport of iron ore from the Brendon Hills to South Wales 1825 – 1925, Volume I & II by *Mike Jones and John Hamilton* Published by the Exmoor National Park Authority in 2010, ISBN 978-0-9563674-0-2 priced at £55. For further details see www.nationalparks.gov.uk/exshop Thanks to Roger Burt for this lead.

Gone but not Forgotten: A brief insight into the Yorkshire Dales Mining Industries by *David and Margaret Carlisle*, published by the Yorkshire Dales Mining Museum, Earby, in 2010, thought to be available at the museum and local TICs, A5 52pp, c£4/£5

Eyewitness Accounts of Lead Mining in the Pennines: Extracts from: *Notes on a Visit to the North* by Thomas Greenbury (1855) and *Lead Mining in the Allendales and Weardale* by J. Whaley (1849) Edited by *Ian Forbes*, a Friends of Killhope publication, 40pp, £4.99 ISBN 978-0-9518939-4-4

These two pieces give a splendid account of lead mining and ore dressing in the North Pennines. Greenbury's tale of his visit to Slitt Mine paints a vivid picture of the underground labyrinth of a lead mine, whilst Whaley's description of ore dressing is a particularly clear and concise account.

Both articles contain insights to, the lives and characters of lead miners.

Ian Forbes

Tin Mining in Malaysia, 1800-2000 - The Osborne & Chappel Story by David Palmer & Michael Joll, Hardcover, 222mm x 140mm, 352 pages, ISBN: 978-967-10295-0-3 Price: £20

The Malay Peninsular was the principal source of the world's tin throughout the 20th century. The book contains a short history of the mining industry in that country with particular reference to the firm of Osborne & Chappel.

"O&C" was one of the earliest of the European pioneers and played an important part throughout the history of tin mining in Malaya and in the Kinta Valley tin field in particular. The book emphasizes the foresight, astuteness and involvement of the Cornish investors who, from the early days, acted as a catalyst for establishing the tin mining industry in Malaya; an industry which, together with rubber, formed the mainstay of that country's economy for so long. A section of the book describes the various alluvial mining techniques used over the years. For further details please see:-

www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=MINING-HISTORY

Don Borthwick

Chinese miners trapped in flooded coalmine

On 23rd August 2011 water flooded into a coal mine in North East China's Heilongjiang Province after workers mistakenly drilled into a neighbouring abandoned mine. At the time 45 miners were underground in this small mine which was operating illegally despite the Government's attempts to close such small, out-dated operations.

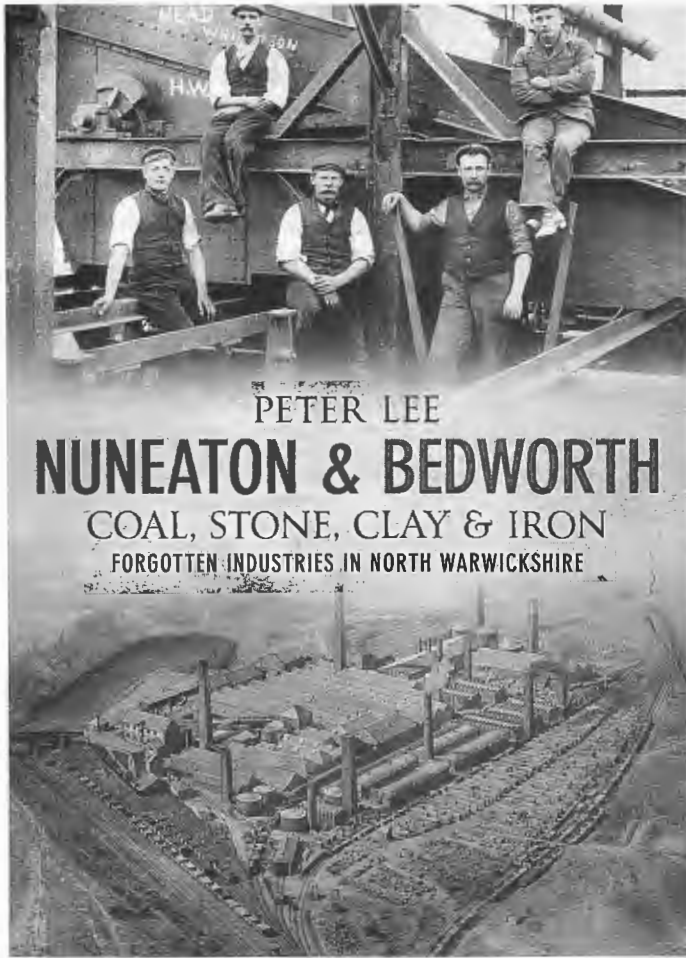
Of those working, 19 managed to escape, with a further three being rescued on the 27th August and the body of one other retrieved the next day. Rescue efforts continued, including pumping water from the mine and drilling down from the surface to locate further survivors. On the 30th August 19 more miners were rescued, but the odds of the remaining three trapped miners surviving are slim, with large quantities of water and silt hampering rescue operations.

NAHMO Newsletter September 2011

New Members

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

Archaeology Team	Durham
R. Laurente-Taylor & Family	Hounslow
D. Sharp	Northallerton
G. Usher	Guisborough
R. Vant	Howden



Coal has been mined in the Stockingford and Griff area of Chilvers Cotton, near Nuneaton for five centuries and new capital, mining methods and the building of railways brought about an expansion of production in this area of Warwickshire. Industrial expansion at this time generated a need for good stone and clay for brick and tile making. Entrepreneurs took over old brick kilns, modernised them and created the opportunity for their products to be shipped countrywide.

This history is arranged in alphabetical order of the companies involved and as such is a useful reference book to the businesses concerned. It lacks an overall history of the area or background description of industrial development other than the very skimpy introduction. There are no geological description, maps or history of land ownership, although to be fair to the author he does state that his intention is to limit the book to the histories of the businesses themselves.

It is very copiously illustrated with many photographs (particularly of locomotives) and a few plans of colliery surface features. The content and appearance fit well with other Amberley books on this area and these industries.

Lee P., 2011, 'Nuneaton & Bedworth Coal, Stone, Clay & Iron - Forgotten Industries in North Warwickshire', Amberley Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire, pp. 128, 235 x 165mm, ISBN 978-1-84868-970-1. (£10.99).

Richard Smith

Young Hearts Run Free

I received the following as an email where I take it NMRS was involved, in one way or another. Editor.

Dear all at the Northern Mine Research Society,

From all at independent film *Young Hearts Run Free* we would like to say a big thank you to everyone we've been in touch with this year and everyone who has supported us. I would also like to invite you to add your views and opinions on our new website.

Could you please take a look and see if you know anyone who might be interested in it?

www.youngheartsrunfreefilm.com

We have now built a website which has lots of links and videos and details about life in mining communities and memories of people who took part in the miners' strikes including an interview with former NUM Chairman Ian Lavery MP. We are also encouraging everyone else to get in touch and share your memories of life in the pit villages. You can also suggest links to other sites that we can add.

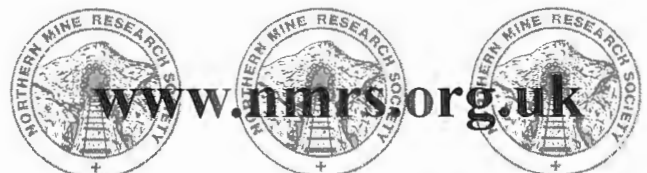
The site also has more information about the film I made *Young Hearts Run Free*, it's a coming of age story set in the 1974 Miners' Strike. It was made on a tiny budget in the former coalfield areas of the North East but has had good reviews from the national press (**Total Film, 'Heartfelt' The Guardian) and we've had lots of encouragement from the great people we've met around the country. If you're interested in seeing the film go to the site above where there is a trailer you can download the film or buy a DVD.

The site also explains ways you can use the film to raise money for your group - by arranging a screening or selling the video download from your own website. We want groups to benefit from it and more people to enjoy it so the more it is shared around the better.

I really would love to get more opinions and memories on the site so please pass the word around to anyone who might be interested. Thanks again for your support.

Andy Mark Simpson
Director *Young Hearts Run Free*

andy@youngheartsrunfreefilm.com
Twitter follow @YoungHeartsFilm and @AndyMarkSimpson



Bersham Colliery

The North Wales Miners Trust want Bersham Colliery in Wrexham to be turned in to a museum. The Trust says that the site contains the most original remains from mining in the area, with the headgear and winding engine still extant. The mine was worked from 1870 until 1986, at its peak employing 1011 people in 1958.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-16214803>

<http://www.northwalesminers.com/index.htm>

Snibston Discovery Museum

In 1992 this museum was developed at the former Snibston Colliery, in Coalville, Leicestershire (England). Some of the original colliery buildings are of national importance, and a £4M grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund could have safeguarded the buildings. The local council have shelved the £5.7M "Mining Lives" project, and are reviewing their museum services. The mine was developed by George Stephenson and was worked from 1833 until 1983.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-16205674>

http://www.leics.gov.uk/snibston_museum

Hemerdon Mine

Wolf Minerals are starting work on an access road, prior to redeveloping the former tungsten mine near Plympton in Devon (England). The mine will cost £100m to develop, with mining expected to start in 2014, and lasting 10 years. It is hoped that 230 people will be employed. The area was worked for tin from 1867 and for tin and tungsten from 1918-19 and 1941-44.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-14759946>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hemerdon_Mine

<http://www.wolfminerals.com.au/projects-and-exploration/hemerdon-mine>

DVD's from I. A. Recordings

Glengowla – A Tour of Ireland's First Show Mine. Completely new DVD production about the Glengowla lead mine near Oughterard, County Galway. £12.95 Running time 36 mins.

Nenthead '97 & '98 - Remote exploration of eleven mine-shafts now available on a two disc compilation with a total running time of 179 minutes (their longest compilation), £16.45

All prices include worldwide delivery.

Visit www.iarecordings.org for details of ordering

Wellbeck Colliery

End of an era

The last coal was taken off 243's retreat face in the Deep Soft Seam at Wellbeck Colliery, Nottinghamshire, on 10th May 2010.

Owned by UK Coal this colliery dates back to 1912 and was producing around 1.4 million tons per year with a workforce of 320 men. After a period of salvaging, which included face tackle being taken to nearby Thoresby Colliery, clearing of the site got underway earlier this year. The majority of the buildings have been demolished and the shafts filled, with the headsticks expected to be brought down by the end of March.

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Shildon Engine House Blanchland, Northumberland.

This was built around 1805 to house a Cornish pumping engine. Towards the end of its industrial life in the 1840s, an enormous steam engine was installed in a final attempt to keep the mines dry enough to work. Following decommissioning, the engine house was converted to flats for mining families. It was finally abandoned around 100 years ago and has been derelict ever since. Vegetation has been cleared, loose stonework consolidated, the mine-shaft capped and on-site interpretation will be provided. An AONB 'Places to Live, Places to Work' Project.

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Lincoln Mine

Gold mining is returning to California as the price of precious metals soars. The Sutter Gold Mining Co is to reopen the Lincoln Mine near Highway 49, until recently a tourist attraction. It is expected to extract 1,800 ounces of gold a month and create a hundred jobs. Another company plans to re-open a site sixty miles to the north, and the Briggs Mine on the western border of Death Valley reopened in 2009. Mining for gold in California largely dried up after the Second World War.

Environmentalists have raised concerns about a resumption of mining, saying it could lead to pollution. They believe the area should concentrate instead on attracting tourists.

Daily Telegraph, 15 September 2011, p 20.



In Safe Hands

Andy and his Father Mike Richards are keen NMRS Members who enjoy trips underground, exploring, taking pictures and sending in articles for inclusion with our Newsletter. They are leading a Meet to The Turf Mor Lead Mine in April.

Aspiring to be a Doctor Andy first joined the St John Ambulance in September 2010. Almost immediately he was selected to go on a trainer course in November 2010 and has since attended many, most being residential weekend events from Friday night to late Sunday afternoon.

These normally being held at Carlton Outdoor Centre in Cleveland or Osmotherley Youth Hostel in North Yorkshire. He has also attended many First Aid duties, at various events throughout the summer and at Bonfire Night last year.



In October 2011 Andy attended the first of two leadership courses, it was passing these that entitled him to his first promotion. In July 2011 Andy was selected, and awarded the cadet of the year for his unit in York. Following this he competed in the County Cadet of the Year competition for North Yorkshire and Teeside. This competition involved uniform inspections, advanced first aid exams, interviews and a presentation on a subject of his choice.

Against stern competition from fourteen others Andy won, and has now been awarded Cadet of the Year award for North Yorkshire and Teeside. Early next year Andy will be competing for the National Cadet of the Year in London.

He must now undertake many duties within the organisation, including representing the County at all events and attending regular meetings and other events in London. This finally culminates with a visit to Buckingham Palace to meet Princess Anne next October. Andy has also recently been promoted to Sergeant, and is now the leading NCO for the York cadet unit.

Mike Richards

ALAN DAVIES THE PRETORIA PIT DISASTER A Centenary Account

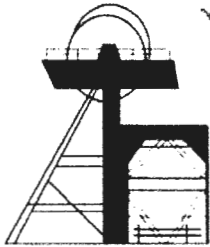


Sunk in 1900, Hulton No. 3 Bank (Pretoria) Colliery was plagued with emissions of gas, particularly after roof falls. On the morning of Wednesday 21 December 1910, 889 men and boys were underground when an explosion of methane was followed by a much more powerful coal-dust ignition. In the main section of the mine, 342 men and boys died, one in the deeper workings. Three survived from the main area of the explosion, one of whom died in hospital. A rescuer also died in the subsequent recovery operation. The disaster was the third largest in British coal-mining history and as 2010 is the centenary, a new monument is to be erected at Westhoughton, the small town which lost 145 men and boys.

The book is thoroughly researched and illustrated with many hitherto unpublished photographs and maps. The history of coal mining at Hulton is covered from 1556 to the closure of Pretoria Pit in 1934. The style is objective, authoritative and avoids the pseudo-sentimentality so often associated with accounts of national disasters. The book is well presented and is an object lesson in providing a very readable account of a distressing subject.

Davies A., 2010, *The Pretoria Pit Disaster – A Centenary Account*, Amberley Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire, pp. 128, 248 x 172mm, ISBN 978-1-84868-924-4. (£14.99).

Richard Smith



National Association of Mining
History Organisations
NAMHO

Annual Conference

29th June to 1st July, 2012

Quarry Bank Mill, near Wilmslow,

Quarry Bank Mill is the water drive cotton mill founded by Samuel Greg in 1784. The estate includes the mill itself, housing for mill workers, apprentices and the proprietors. The site is of interest in its own right with water driven machinery as well as a steam engine. On-site, there are two large lecture and display rooms together with bars and catering facilities. There is a large car park and we have been promised camping space from Friday through to Monday. There is plenty of other accommodation within easy reach including Premier Inns, bed and breakfast and all the hotels at Manchester Airport. Transport links are good with easy air, bus, road and rail access.

The conference lecture programme will run on the Saturday and Sunday with a series of surface and underground trips from the Friday lunchtime until at least the Monday of the following week for those wishing to extend their stay. Some of the field trips may be re-run later in the week to allow attendance at lectures without missing underground trips. It is intended that there will be a set of conference proceedings. A conference dinner will be held on the Saturday evening.

The theme of the conference is 'Copper, lead, cobalt, salt, coal, fireclay, limestone – Cheshire's mining history'. Cheshire may appear as a green and fertile county with cheese and milk as the major industries up to the end of the 19th century but, beneath the county, there are still massive reserves of salt which fostered the chemical industry in the north west of England. There are also metal ores in a form not worked to a great extent anywhere else in the UK. To support these industries, the county also provided coal from its eastern margin, limestone from the southeast as well as fireclay and ganister for furnace bricks.

The conference will focus on the variety of minerals found in Cheshire and neighbouring Staffordshire as well as providing an opportunity for the exploration of the Alderley Edge mines in particular. Following the welcome evening on Friday, a full programme of lectures is planned on Saturday and Sunday with two parallel sessions in the afternoons. Detailed plans for speakers and talks are available on the website but any offers to speak or lead trips would be most welcome. There will be facilities for posters, club stands and trade stands at no additional cost.

There will be an extensive programme of complementary surface and underground trips to lesser-known parts of Cheshire and North Staffordshire's mining history as well as some longer trips further afield. Underground trips will largely be at Alderley Edge and will range from simple walk-in mines to some serious through or round trips with SRT. Full information and booking details at <http://www.namhoconference.org.uk>

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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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