

Northern Mine Research Society

Newsletter



Society established 1960

www.nmrs.org.uk

May 2012

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PRESIDENTS JOTTINGS

Thank you to the 34 members who attended our recent Spring Meeting. This despite the panic buying of fuel and shortages in some areas. After the usual excellent home-made buffet including the popular tray bakes, our AGM took place followed by Bernard Bond's "Brief Encounter" which is documented elsewhere in this issue and was appreciated by all. Thank you to Bernard for all the effort he put into this and the help given by John Bentley, another expert on the area.

At the meeting reports were presented and officers questioned about aspects of their work. We were told how our Society is in a satisfactory financial position despite membership being slightly down. However book sales are much improved. Thanks were given to David Neal who has now stepped down from his two positions. The Editor was pleased the way our BMs were taking shape for 2012 but requested a few more papers for the Memoirs later this year. The Recorder, as usual, continues to be very busy. Sallie Bassham has been elected Vice Chairman of NAMHO and should be congratulated on that. Anyone who was not at the AGM and would like copies of any of the written reports please contact me

stating which you would like. A stamped addressed envelope would be appreciated.

The elected Committee for 2012 consists of

President –	Barbara Sutcliffe
Vice-President –	Malcolm Street
Treasurer –	Tim Cook
Secretary –	Ron Callender
Librarian –	Sallie Bassham
Recorder –	Mike Gill
Publications Editor –	Richard Smith
Newsletter Editor and P.R.O. –	Rob Needham
Committee Member –	Peter Pearson

The non-voting appointments are

Publication Officer –	Barbara Sutcliffe
Membership Secretary –	Malcolm Street
Webmaster –	Malcolm Street

NAHMO Representative – Sallie Bassham.

This will be Rob's first Newsletter and I would like to thank those who have sent in articles and for him taking on this important role, wishing him every success in the future. Behind the scenes we are working on improvements to our website www.nmrs.org.uk with much input from Malcolm and Mike. If you are on the internet please keep

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Would you please note that the deadline for inclusion with the August 2012 Newsletter is the 20th July 2012.

Submissions are welcome 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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checking to see what is happening and if your change your e-mail address please let Malcolm know. We intend to try and attract new members by offering Paypal as a means of payment when all the appropriate paperwork is in place.

Our Autumn meeting has been arranged for Saturday October 20th 2012 at Gisburn Festival Hall. After a free lunch for those members who have booked there will be business meeting and presentations. Further details will be in the August Newslet-

ter. Please put the date in your diary now and let me know if you can offer a presentation.

On a sad note we have been informed of the death of one of our members, Alan Mucket. He became ill last year and died at Laurel Bank Nursing Home in Lancaster on 10th December 2011. Condolences were sent.

Barbara Sutcliffe

PUBLICATION NEWS

Thanks go to Peter Jackson who passed on to us some back copies of our A4 Publications from Killhope. Remember to send in your "wants" list. I will be taking some to the Ingleton Book Fair so please let me know of any you need before they go elsewhere. All outstanding "wants" have already been checked against our latest donation. Also donated is a publication from 1969 "The Metalliferous Mines of the Arnside-Carnforth Districts of Lancashire & Westmorland", Publication no 3 of the Individual Survey Series. These are rare and I suspect some of our members may not be aware of their existence.

As mentioned at the AGM sales of our books in 2011 were considerably up compared to 2010 and this year is also proving to be successful. This despite the doom and gloom we continually hear about!

Thanks to John Bentley, Bernard Bond and Mike Gill, the co-authors of the ever-popular BM "Ingleton Coalfield" we now have a few copies available signed by all three. These are available at the usual price less members' discount.

Due to the popularity of back copies of our publications if no one in your family is interested in mining history please consider bequeathing them to our Society where you know they will be appreciated, find good homes and at the same time help the Society's funds.

Barbara Sutcliffe

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". See page 5 for a review.

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.

Recently, I have been over-whelmed with donations to the library. My thanks to everyone - and apologies to anyone forgotten. There have been gifts from Friends of Killhope, Steve Mitchell, Barbara Sutcliffe, Rob Needham, Mike Gill and David Neal; and they include standard texts on geology and on chemistry, a couple of books on copper, Transactions of the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, the latest issue of Down to Earth and a CD produced by the Forest of Dean Local History Society.

Sallie Bassham (Honorary Librarian)

From the editor

As the new editor it has been a pleasure to produce a bumper 16 page newsletter, necessary because of the volume of contributions received, while hopefully maintaining the standard set by David Neal. Even so, some items have had to be held over for the August newsletter. But this is not a complaint, please keep the contributions coming in. My first issue has coincided with a hefty rise in postal charges. As an alternative to the printed version, there-

fore, an electronic version of this newsletter will be available to all members as a pdf file via the NMRS website. The electronic version has colour illustrations while the printed version will remain black and white. Would any member who is happy to forgo the printed version please so advise the Membership Secretary.

Rob Needham

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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 john.barnatt@btinternet.com

Saturday 21 July

Underground meet at Rogerley Mine, Weardale. Meet at 11am at the Durham Dales Centre, DL13 2FJ. Maximum 12 people. See page 3 of the November 2011 Newsletter for an account of last year's visit to this working mine. Pre-booking essential with Barbara Sutcliffe - 01282 614615 or mansemins@btopenworld.com

Saturday 4 August

Underground visit to Williamson's Tunnels in Liverpool courtesy of the Friends of Williamson's Tunnels. Maximum 20 people. See page 7 for further information. Visit will include "Paddington", "Banqueting Hall" and the Wine Bins" - not the Heritage Centre, which is a tourist attraction. There is basic lighting in the tunnels, but your own light will help. Wear old clothes and stout shoes or boots. Descent to the "Banqueting Hall" is via a 16 foot fixed ladder. Grid reference will be sent out when it is known. 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 flatts 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.

Saturday 20 October

Autumn Meeting at Gisburn Festival Hall, 5 Gisburn Rd., Gisburn, Lancs, BB7 4ET. 12.30pm start for buffet lunch (booking essential), business meet-

ing and members' presentations. Offers of presentations to Barbara Sutcliffe please.

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.

Keswick Mining Museum Walks 2012

All walks are guided by Ian Tyler, mine historian, author of 11.5 books on Cumbrian Mining and the curator of the Keswick Mining Museum, that's me on the right. Come and have a great day out in the fells off the beaten track whilst learning something about the industrial past of Cumbria, its not always been fluffy bunnies, Wainwright & pencils.

May 6th Sunday

MINES OF DUFTON & THRELKELDSIDE

Meet in Silverband opposite shop

NY 674 276 7 miles

June 3rd Sunday

SCORDALE/HILTON & WHITE MINE

(New for 2012)

Park in Murton village

NY 729 219 8 miles rough ground

June 24th Sunday

COBALT MINE via FORCE CRAG

(New for 2012) Park near Braithwaite NY 227 237 8 miles

July 1st Sunday

MELMERBY COPPER MINE & BEYOND

Park end of the road at Rake Beck Wood

NY 62427 36983 8 miles rough ground

July 22nd Sunday

WILD BOAR FELL & CLOUDS

Park near Cold Keld Limekilns, just past Fat Lamb Inn on A683

NY 739 022 8 miles rough ground

August 5th Sunday

TILBERTHWAITE MINES & QUARRIES

(New for 2012)

Park Tilberthwaite Car Park

NY 306 010 7 miles

August 19th Sunday

CARROCK AND THE MINES OF ROUGH-TEN GILL (New for 2012)

Meet Carrock Mine Mosedale

NY 729 219 8 miles rough ground

September 9th Sunday

CROSS FELL & KATELOCK MINE

(Variation for 2012)

Park in Kirkland Village

NY 64654 32479 11 Tough Miles

September 30th Sunday

HARTLEY BIRKETT & NINE STANDARDS MINES (New for 2012)

Park Ladthwaite road above Hartley Quarry NY

792 085 9 miles rough ground

October 14th Sunday

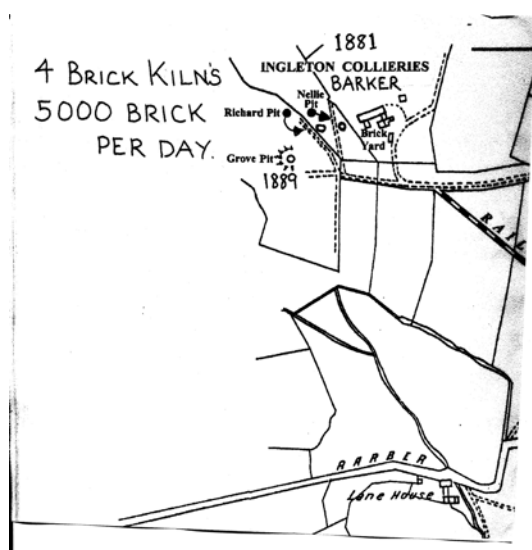
GOLDSCOPE & YEWTHWAITE MINES

Park Littleton Bridge

NY 23160 19387 6 Miles

BRIEF ENCOUNTER

Old & New Ingleton Collieries and Barker Brickworks



A very enthusiastic gathering of 20 members assembled at the Coal Memorial stand on Laundry Lane, Ingleton, which was constructed on 4th June 2004. With the kind assistance of John Bentley, co-author of BM76, at the starting point we gave a brief talk on the coalfield. We moved to the next standpoint on the A65 where we viewed the New Ingleton Colliery Weighbridge Office and the Horse and Cart Sheds. At this point below us was the tunnel (formerly with double rail tracks) which

came from the Upcast shaft behind the high fencing and onwards to the Screening Plant next to the Ingleton railway line. My photograph of this tunnel was taken in August 2004.

Our visit then led us to the rear of the brick-built New Colliery yard buildings – seen nearby was the First Aid Office door which still has its Red Cross sign. Moving out of the yard we passed the site of Lumbs Shop as seen on page 96 of BM76. We gathered at the entrance to the colliery on Enter Lane, the two photographic display boards giving a further insight to the colliery yard and buildings and the layout. The nearby once pooled open ground on the right hand side had previously given us two sets of 13 inch wheels and axles plus a tangled mass of haulage cable.

Advancing beyond Enter Farm, following the overgrown coal road brought us to the fields of Dolands and Great Kilner. Before passing Barkers Tramway site, a flooded bell pit area was discussed. Our late local man, Henry Fretwell, once explained how a coal wagon and horse, tipping, lost control and slid into the pond. Following the visible grass road and reaching its junction, we then followed it to the overgrown site of the four brick kilns, in use after 1881; they eventually produced 5000 bricks per day. As well as local use in Ingleton, they were also used in the coastal town of Morecambe.



Photo:- John Bentley and group with bricks

Our groups interest reached a further peak at the Grove Pit capping, 20 yards deep, this being sunk on 19th May 1889. As shown on the handout sheets, we could see the areas of Richards Pit, 24 yards deep, and Nellie Pit, 28 yards deep, James Barker having given the mid-1850s workings family names. We then returned back along the coal road to the A65.

During the discussion at the Barker Brickworks, our visit to Claughton on 19th April 2008 was mentioned. An update on Claughton is the scheduled maintenance of the entire “Cable running and wheels on the Stanchions” was seen to be running in February this year

from the roadside factory, on the A368, by delighted passing motorists.

Future visits and introduction to the first of the three brickworks, the Lunesdale Brick and Tile Co, 1875/91, will be coming along. On my first visit here it showed the theory of a full length tunnel from the kilns to the quarry, proved now the tunnel was only in sections. My request to members is:- The tunnel size was c3' 6" height and c4' 0" width. Can anyone provide info on a suitable wagon shape and size that may have been used?

Bernie Bond

NMRS TURF MOOR MEET - APRIL 2012

Andy and I arrived at the Moulds Tips meeting point just after 10am on Sunday 8th April 2012 to find most of the crew had already arrived and were raring to go ! For once it was not raining, I have to mention this as our underground visits seem to be synonymous with rain.



The crew consisted of Paul Dollery, Peter Pearson, John Lawson, Nick Longley & Joe (Craven Caving & Potholing Club), David Harper (Midnight Photography), Ray Vant, Andy & Mike Richards – a total of nine.

The entrance is quite low, however everyone entered with the upmost enthusiasm and at full speed ahead. We pushed on with wet craws through digs, through shale falls, and a few other “normal type crawls”. After a while we came to a old four way junction. Off to the left there is an old SRT rope hanging vertically from above, the passage continuing past this into the darkness, however we did not venture here on this visit.

Straight on under a bit of a “dodgy” archway we continued, eventually coming to a shaft descending down on our right hand side. This shaft is very, very deep – reputed to be around 300ft down into Moulds. Through a crawl/climb again and eventually we reached our resting point or for some, the dinner time stop – see picture in next column.



Andy and a few other ventured forward from here to the head of the mine. This involves some tight crawls and lots of mud and water so everyone did not go the last few hundred meters or so. Those that did enjoyed themselves and said they were glad they had done so ! These explorers then joined the main group for drinks and after a few photos we all started the journey back to the entrance.

We stopped at various points for photos, and discussions on mining aspects, and various geological interests.

When we emerged, another surprise, it was not raining. After lots of talking, the clean-up time arrived. Andy and a couple of others jumped into a nearby stream, the rest of the crew used the more orthodox approach. Following the clean up most of the team set off on their way home, whilst Andy, myself and three others decided to re-explore Moulds – however this is another story.

A great thanks to all who supported the visit –

Mike and Andy Richards.

BOOK REVIEWS

Mining Perspectives: Proceedings of the 8th International Mining History Congress 2009. Peter Claughton and Catherine Mills (Eds.). Published by Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site, Cornwall Council, Truro (2011). ISBN 978 1 903798 77 5. £12.50. Softback, A4, 228 pages.

Why might you buy Conference Proceedings? Perhaps because you attended and want a reminder of lectures heard? Perhaps because you did not attend, and the paper copy enables you to read about the topics in which you are already interested? Perhaps you want to look beyond your usual areas of interest and read about areas of which you know little?

The Proceedings of the 8th International Mining History Congress certainly provide variety – the locations include Yorkshire, Cornwall, Berkshire, Wales, Scotland, France, Portugal, Poland, Canada, America, Cuba, Argentina, Australia, Tasmania and the Arctic. The papers are grouped in six sections plus a forward and an introduction; but since one section

contains a single paper, this suggests searching for themes after receiving the contributions, rather than a conference with a pre-conceived focus. So there is likely to be something of new interest for most of us. However, if you read mining journals regularly, you will find yourself re-reading familiar material.

Although a softback, the volume folds out almost flat making reading easy. The main type-face is clear, but unfortunately the footnotes are in a small, pale grey type and impossible to decipher. There are many excellent, clear, black-and-white photographs. Going for black-and-white has not compromised quality, but a couple of the figures have explanations referring to non-existent colour features. Unfortunately, some of the maps are without a scale. The tables are printed with backgrounds in shades of grey; and this works well, making for clearer reading along lines or high-lighting particular areas of interest.

The wide-ranging nature of the contents makes any overall review impossible; so I will follow a thought from the introduction and comment favourably on the inclusion of papers on archaeological techniques applied to underground features. However, since neither my vocabulary, nor my dictionary include the word "Foucaudian" (page 7), I will use different examples. French and a Cornish papers analyse ways of underground exploration and extraction and develop ideas on phases and typologies of the sort that make us think of familiar mines and say, "Of course, why hadn't I thought of things in that way!" Then a paper in the Labour Relations section, about a nineteenth century disaster in an American anthracite mine, analyses the archaeological remains to conduct a detective-story-style analysis of the cause of the disaster.

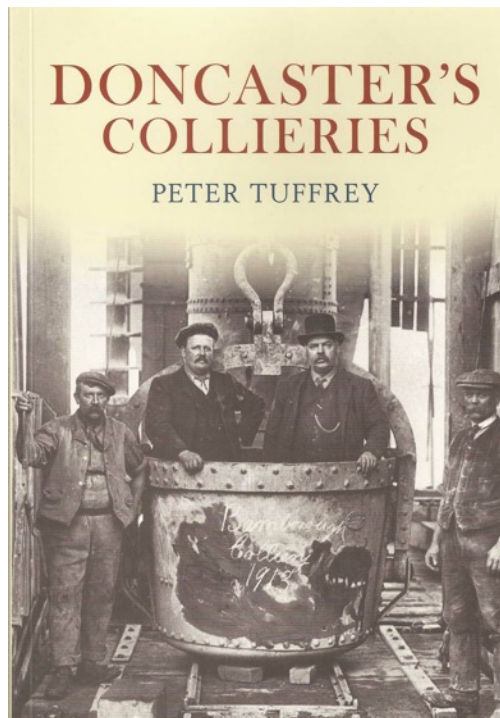
Should you buy it? The longer sections are entitled: Technology; Conflict & Labour Relations; Mining Archaeology, Heritage & Interpretation; Mining Exploitation – Success & Failure and Mining Society. So, if you have a particular interest in one, or more, of these and would welcome accounts from more than one country – then "Yes". However, if you are not sure, why not borrow the Society's copy from the library and then make up your mind.

Sallie Bassham

Doncaster's Collieries

Tuffrey P., 2011, *Doncaster's Collieries*, Amberley Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire, pp. 128, 248 x 172mm, paperback, ISBN 978-1-4456-0126-7. (£14.99).

Peter Tuffrey has compiled a collection of photographs of collieries in the Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council area (not the Doncaster area designated by the NCB). Specific chapters are devoted to Armthorpe/Markham Main, Askern, Barnbrugh, Bentley, Brodsworth, Bullcroft, Cadeby, Denaby Main, Edlington/Yorkshire Main, Hatfield, Hickleton, Rossington, Thorne and the Doncaster Coal Board offices. Only Hatfield continues working today. As with other Amberley books, there is useful information in the captions but the main value of the book lies in the photographs and the stories behind them.



The photographs have been taken from the author's own collection as well as that of others and also from local newspapers. Unfortunately, there are only about half a dozen or so underground scenes but these are generally rare because of the restrictions on taking photographs within a coal mine. Nevertheless, they convey a good impression of the working environment towards the end of the collieries concerned. The photographs have been selected to cover a range of topics and times, so there is a good variety covering all aspects of colliery life. The content and appearance fit well with other Amberley books and provide a good record of coal mining in this area.

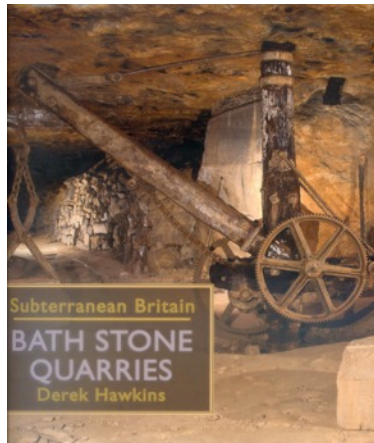
Richard Smith

Bath Stone Quarries

by Derek Hawkins ('Mr Bath stone'), Folly Books, Monkton Farleigh, BA15, 216pp+viii, hardback, 10¼"x10¼" (25.8cmx25.8cm). ISBN 978-0-9564405-4-9. A largely photographic survey of over 30 quarries* in the Bath area, this book has been written by a former quarryman and mine manager who is now employed as a Quarry Safety Officer in government-controlled quarries at Corsham. So he

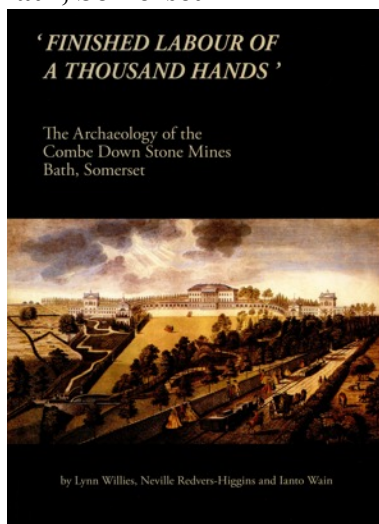
knows his subject thoroughly. The book is lavishly illustrated with many colour photographs taken underground, the author also being a keen photographer. Several of the quarries are still easy to enter to explore (but some are very extensive and are easy to get lost in). This book makes me want to find and explore some of the less well known quarries. If you are interested in underground mining for stone, get this book!

It can be bought direct from the publishers website for £25 post-free if you have trouble getting it elsewhere.



*Almost all of the quarries covered were underground workings which nowadays would be classed as mines. But the workers apparently always thought of themselves as quarrymen who were a cut above mere miners!

'Finished Labour of a Thousand Hands, the archaeology of the Combe Down Stone Mines, Bath, Somerset



by Lynn Willies, Neville Redvers-Higgins and Ianto Wain, published for Oxford Archaeology, 2011, approx 350 pages, A4 size, £25.00, ISBN 978-0-904220-60-5.

This book describes the investigation undertaken by Oxford Archaeology into the Combe Down Quarries over nearly nine years before and during the Combe Down Quarry Stabilisation project. Originally estimated at £30 million, the project final cost was over £160 million and resulted in

over 80% of the quarries being infilled with foam concrete to protect the village of Combe Down, which in places was supported by less than 2 metres of rock above the quarried areas. So this is a report describing quarries (now classed as mines) that are no longer accessible. It is a unique record of an in-depth investigation of an underground limestone quarry. If this subject interests you, rush out and buy it before it goes out of print!

Rob Needham

WILLIAMSON'S TUNNELS – Some background information

(See page 3, Forthcoming Events, 4th August)

Joseph Williamson was born on March 10th 1769, probably in Warrington. At the age of 11 he left his family home and went to Liverpool, looking for work. At some point he began employment with the tobacco and snuff firm of Richard Tate. He rose up through the ranks of the company and as a sideline he set up as a merchant in partnership with Joseph Leigh while still working for Tate's.

In 1802 he married into the Tate family and a year later bought the tobacco business and incorporated the Leigh Williamson merchants company into Tate's. In the early 1800's Edge Hill was largely undeveloped. The sandstone had previously been quarried and several abandoned pits are marked on contemporary maps. Around 1805 Mr & Mrs Williamson moved into a Mason Street house in the area which was to be their home for the rest of their lives. Williamson quickly set about building more properties, all with cellars and with large gardens behind them. There was plenty of labour available in Liverpool.

At the back of each house was a certain amount of space but then the sandstone bed rock dropped about twenty feet to Smithdown Lane. To accommodate the gardens Williamson had his men build brick arches that they could extend onto. In this way the gardens and orchards were built on and so the first part of the tunnels had been put into place.

There is much speculation as to why the tunnels were continued and extended. Many believe his men continued to dig and tunnel as a response to the poverty which surrounded the neighbourhood. Williamson was very secretive about his tunnels, never stating their purpose. Another suggestion is that he subscribed to an extremist religious sect which claimed the world faced Armageddon. Williamson therefore built the tunnels as a place into which he and his fellow believers could escape to avoid the catastrophe and emerge later to build a new city. He certainly was very secretive about them only allowing certain people inside to see the hidden parts. There are also numerous gothic, chapel-like features that have survived in many parts of the tunnels.

By 1816 the Napoleonic Wars were almost over and there was much unemployment. Williamson had re-

attention was given over to expanding the tunnels. He was known as "The King of Edge Hill" and the local unemployed turned to him. More and more men were taken on. Probably some would have been killed in the dangerous conditions, others injured but they may have been kept on as men were needed as storemen, handing out food and wages etc. It is told that he had his men perform apparently pointless duties. In part of the tunnels accessible today there is evidence of tunnels being built and immediately bricked up again, alongside fine arches that lead nowhere. This supports the idea of keeping men busy simply to keep them in a job but it also keeps alive the mystery of keeping parts of the labyrinth secret.

In 1822 Williamson's wife died, aged 56. He turned his attention even more to his tunnels. By 1830 the railways had arrived. Some of his men had become highly skilled working on his tunnels and probably some of them were recruited by the rail engineers.

Williams died, aged 70 on May 1st 1840. The tunnelling stopped and was never continued.

With thanks to Friends of Williamson's Tunnels,

Barbara Sutcliffe

LETTERS

From Buckley to Broadwood

It was while watching a Time Team excavation of an early copper smelter in the Lower Swansea Valley which got me excited by the first artefact that was uncovered. It was a furnace brick manufactured by Charles Davidson of Buckley in North Wales'

I'd just retired from Aberdeen City Council and moved to Bearpark near Durham with plans to visit all the sites again of the Northern Pennine Orefield again.

I had been to visit the Harehope Gill mine site and Bishopley Lime Kilns when coming back through Broadwood Quarry on route to Frosterly I encountered a large pile of bulldozed rubble next to the path. This included several bricks some of which had the fascinating brick stamp 'Hysilyn' and other text which I could not make out.

I found a carrier bag in my rucksack and wrapped one of the bricks up to clean when I got home. The brick came up as shown in the photograph.

The question is when and why were bricks of this nature (all the way from North Wales) which are much heavier and denser than engineering bricks and could be both heat and acid resistant, lying around an old quarry in Weardale. I would have thought that there were plenty of brick manufacturers in the North East that could handle most of the industrial processes.



So is there anybody out there who may have some more detailed information on the working history of Broadwood Quarry which could explain the need for this special type of brick.

Gordon Hull
Bearpark

Some information on the quarry:-

Broadwood Quarry (NZ 03413640), Frosterley County Durham, Great Britain

Opened sometime between 1847 (when Weardale Railway to Frosterley was opened) and 1871. Probably operated by Stockton & Darlington Railway to supply limestone to various iron companies. Prior to 1882 it was taken over by J.W.Pease & Co., who operated several ironstone mines in the North Riding. The quarry was connected to the Weardale Railway by a ¼ mile branch line. In 1882 J.W.Pease & Co amalgated with colliery owners Joseph Pease & Partners to form Pease & Partners Ltd. The quarry was closed about 1921, and then was taken over about 1926 by the Broadwood Limestone Co., a trading name for the Witton Park Slag Co (formed in 1912 to process the slag heaps of the former Witton Park Ironworks). When the firm had exhausted the slag heaps, limestone was brought from Broadwood Quarry to a new works (called Broadwood Works) built to the east of the Auckland RDC slag processing and tarmacadam plant. The tarmac plant closed in 1952. The company also operated as limeburners, for which limekilns were constructed. After closure of the tarmac plant, part of the quarry was leased to Swiss Aluminium Mining (UK) Ltd for the construction of a plant to process fluorspar. This was the site of Durham Industrial Minerals processing plant for fluorite from Groverake Mine near Rookhope until it closed in 1999. The Broadwood Limestone Co. still owned the quarry in 2006 and sub-let the quarrying of stone, which resumed in 2001. It is worked by Sherburn Stone Company which still produces some of the ornamental fossil-bearing limestone known as Frosterley Marble.

Richard Smith and Rob Needham

and the brick:-

The name 'Hysilyn' may be a Welsh name but I think it is more likely to be a trade name indicating a high-

silica refractory. The website description suggests this is so. It would not be unusual for a 20th

Century smelting works to purchase bricks from far afield if the brick did whatever job was required. If GR Stein took over the company they could have brought these to the NE even though equivalent bricks were available from nearby.

Silica bricks will work at high temperatures say 1200-1300 degC and are used for applications such as the firing compartments of coal and oil-fired furnaces such as one would find in boilers, metallurgical furnace or high temperature kilns. They are resistant to acidic or neutral slags but not good against basic oxides such as litharge. However, it is possible that the quarry was used as a waste dump when the site using the bricks was pulled down.

Richard Smith

which still leaves Gordon's question unanswered

I was looking at the Newsletter for February 2012 and would like to take issue with the item on page 10, "Shildon Engine House Blanchland Northumberland." The engine of 64 inch diameter was manufactured in 1808 by Messrs. Boulton and Watt and erected in the engine house now standing at the Shildon lead Mines. It was a standard Watt type pumping engine lifting water from a depth of 57 fathoms, but proved to be an expensive item, so was stopped. By 1820 it had probably been sold and removed probably to the Backworth Colliery. The Cornish engine was developed from the Watt engine by 1830 by Richard Trevithick and it probably took until 1840 - 50 before the engine could be found on most pumping shafts. At some point after the engine left Shildon Mine the engine house was converted into a dwelling, the beam opening was bricked up and the cylinder bed removed. A study of the building suggested that only one engine was ever in the building, this was the 64 inch engine.

During last year the engine house was consolidated, trees removed and the shaft which had been open, was covered and the beam wall of the house repointed. A viewing point was established and an information panel is to be erected. For further information the history along with drawings of the engine is to be found in British Mining No. 28 Memoirs for 1985 page 30 to 36.

Regards,

Nigel A. Chapman.

RON CALLENDER'S CONONISH DIARY : May 2012



The story so far ... For over 250 years, metalliferous mining has been carried out around Tyndrum in the Stirling Council area, just 50 miles north of Glasgow.

Gold has attracted attention for over forty years; in the 1970s, my wife and I successfully panned in the Cononish River.

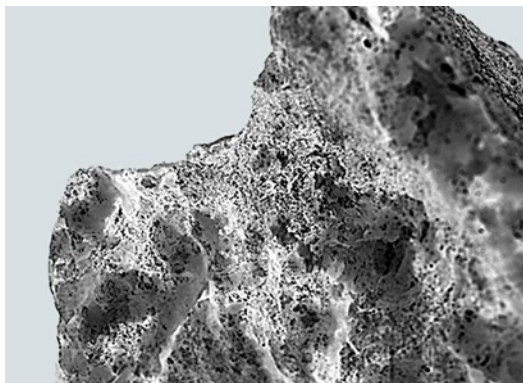


The recent initiatives ... Fynegold Exploration Company completed extensive gold prospecting in the 1980s but stopped when the price fell. In 2007, Scotgold Resources purchased the assets and submitted a mining application, but the submission failed – the mine was in a national park and five conservation bodies objected.

The clever bit ... Rather than challenge the verdict, Scotgold Resources submitted a new application, which addressed the objections and in October 2011, the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park gave unanimous approval. Jobs and economic considerations outweighed the concern for the environment

A few statistics ... The mine should operate for eight to ten years ... it could generate £80M for the Scottish economy ... the tourist industry will revive ... the local people are enthusiastic ... 50 jobs will be created ... £15M is now needed to get the mine 'up and

running' ... 320,000 ounces of gold might exist within a few kilometres.



The current priorities ... Following evidence of a platinum deposit close to its Cononish Mine, Scotgold is urgently examining ways of raising £12.5M and will set aside £2M for site restoration.

Watch this space ... The Chief Executive Officer states mining will commence this summer.

NAHMO newsletter, March 2012

Nenthead Mines Conservation Society

At a meeting of the North Pennines Heritage Trust (NPHT) on 28th September 2011 an administrator was appointed and the site was closed. On the same day an ad-hoc meeting took place of people interested in continuing the work of conservation at Nenthead Mines. Some of the ex-Trustees of the NPHT want to continue the conservation and education work at Nenthead, and believe that it is important that there is an active group managing the site and continuing the conservation work. To this end, Joyce Jackson, Sheila Barker and Pete Jackson have agreed to be the founder members of a company limited by guarantee and to fund the start-up costs.

Draft articles of association for a company limited by guarantee have been produced by Pete Jackson and edited by a company formation agent. Taking account of company registration rules, the proposed company title is to be 'Nenthead Mines Conservation Society Ltd.' The draft objectives are "*to preserve the remains of mining and associated industries and to conserve the geological features associated with mining in Great Britain, but particularly in Cumbria and at Nenthead, and to educate the public about mining and geology.*" A strategic business case is now being written and we hope that we shall shortly be holding discussions with Cumbria County Council and the administrator.

The new Society believes that Nenthead Mines must be managed in a different way to the past. We envisage a volunteer operation in the early years,

focussing on conservation and education. It will be vital to consider whether the existing properties on site are required for the new Society. We see that the buildings around the smelt mill could be used as a base for conservation and education, but are not yet sure whether the other buildings around the Wood yard and Café Courtyard can be supported by a new society. The cottage and bunkhouse are currently on the market because NPHT had a mortgage secured on these two buildings. It will also be important to have a working relationship with Nenthead Hydro Ltd who operates the power station at Mill Cottage.

Support and encouragement from people living nearby should be an important part of future arrangements. We must also look to prospective partners who are already working in heritage, conservation, geology, and recreation in the North Pennines area. There will be significant impact from environmental legislation about water pollution and derelict land, which will require someone to speak up for the preservation of the mines. There may be opportunities to get help to manage the moorland and woodland on the site. Any new operation on the site will require start-up funds, working capital and regular income. We believe that everyone who understands the importance of this site needs to consider how those funds might be obtained.

We welcome any offers of help, funds, and ideas. We would love to hear from anyone who might see themselves playing a leading role in the new NMCS. We have learnt lessons from NPHT operations at Nenthead and we know that new thinking is required to sustain work on site. If you consider that you can contribute in some way, please get in touch with us. Speak to Pete on 01642564100 or via the newsletter email address. We will continue to send out an occasional newsletter. You can join our mailing list by emailing p.jackson@ntlworld.com.

Pete Jackson

Reproduced from the FoDLHS Newsletter, April 2012, with permission of the editor and the author

Northern United – an update from Simon Moore (FoDLHS Conservation Officer)

As you will have seen in the local press, Forest of Dean District Council have formally adopted their plan for the development of land between Steam Mills and Cinderford, which includes the former Northern United Colliery site. Averil Kear, my predecessor on the Committee, has been involved with the Regeneration Board since it's formation nearly a decade ago, representing your views, and up to July last year broadly supporting the plan. However, following a proposed change of route for the new spine road (initially alongside the Colliery buildings, and then at the end of last year through the centre of the

site), we have been objecting on your behalf ever since.

Northern United Colliery was one of the last 'deep' mines to be established in the Forest. It was sunk by the Crawshay Family in 1933, and was the last to close, on Christmas Eve 1965, bringing to an end commercial coal mining in the Forest and a way of life for many families. This is not a beautiful collection of buildings, they are not in good condition and they are not perfectly complete. However, they are the most complete set of pit top buildings we have left in the Forest and we should make every effort to retain, repair and use them, to preserve for future generations an important part of our recent past.

Maurice Bent, one of our members and former employee at the site, has been campaigning hard to get the plight of Northern United noticed by as many people as possible. It is a rare opportunity for the History Society to be able to tap into Maurice's memories of life at the colliery, as all too often we are left to speculate what the various structures might have been used for.



Photo:- Northern United bathhouse (Rob Needham)

Of the buildings left, we have the main office block, the canteen, the bathhouse, the workshops for the blacksmith and carpenters, the chain store, the electricians shop, the foreman's office, explosive store and fire station. All are in need of complete refurbishment, having received little maintenance since the site shut 46 years ago. The pit head frame, winding house and the screen sheds were taken down shortly after the site closed, and the shaft capped.

The only reason that these buildings have not been cleared is that they are occupied but an important colony of bats. A recent notice by the Homes and Community Agency, who now own the buildings, to take down the workshops and other smaller buildings, has been stalled pending further work to convince the Local Authority that the Bats are safeguarded. Which gives us, the Forest of Dean Local History Society, more time to spread the word about

this site and its importance in heritage terms. It is not the quality of the physical remains but what they represent that is important. We are not asking for them to be preserved in aspic, but that the owners revert to their original route for the spine road, and make a concerted effort to find a new use for these buildings.

Access to Gwydyr Forest Mines

The inaugural meeting of the Snowdonia Mines Access and Conservation Group was held on 29 February 2012 following a discussion between the Cambrian Caving Council and the Forestry Commission regarding access to mines on Forestry Land, it was proposed that an access and conservation body be set up with a view to providing permits to mine explorers in Snowdonia for access to mines on FC land. This change applies to the Gwydyr Forest Mines in the first instance, so one action agreed at the meeting was to change the name of the group to Gwydyr Mines Access and Conservation Group. There is a hope that mine explorers (non professionals) may be exempted on condition they can provide evidence of BCA insurance. NAMHO had tried for years to obtain access and all clubs belonging to NAMHO had been requested to cease activity during those negotiations which eventually came to nothing and ended up with the most interesting sites being blocked off with metal grills.

Minutes of the meeting are accessible on the internet for anyone interested. I suggest searching for 'Snowdonia Mines access'. If anyone has trouble finding the minutes, please let me know and I'll email them the pdf file.

Rob Needham

Cumbrian mining legend's mineral collection bought by Kendal Museum

12:00pm Wednesday 25th April 2012

By Adrian Mullen , Arts correspondent, Westmoreland Gazette

KENDAL Museum has pulled off a real coup and landed one of the finest collections of mining minerals in the UK.

The important Bill Shaw mineral collection has been bought by the forward-thinking Kendal Museum from the Keswick Mining Museum, through private donations, an Arts Council England grant of £3,000 (match funded) and sponsorship from Hanson Heidelberg cement group.

The collection contains numerous specimens that are local to Cumbria. It includes important copper

minerals from Coniston Copper Mine, specimens from Force Crag Lead/Barite Mine, near Braithwaite and rare minerals from Fleetwith Mine, close to Buttermere, that include Azurite and Hornblende. Kendal Museum - these days managed by Kendal College - has the most comprehensive mineral mining collection in the north of the UK and researchers, educational centres and the general public travel from far and wide to see its geology displays and collections.

The museum's Natural History curator Carol Davies said they were thrilled to acquire the collection. "Bill Shaw was a remarkable man, and his collection represents a time of mineral collecting that will never be seen again," explained Carol.

"It is a rare privilege to acquire a complete historic collection such as this, and in such beautiful condition. I can't wait to share these treasures with our museum visitors."

Carol pointed out that Bill's collection was an ideal addition to the museum's John Hamer Cumbrian mineral collection, acquired in 2004.

Bill Shaw was regarded as the most important mining engineer in Cumbria during the 20th Century and descended from five generations of miners. He hailed from Rollinson Ground, Coniston, and worked first, as a boy, in his father's quarry at Hall Garth. Later, when a young man, he worked in the copper at Coniston alongside the Hellens family where he learned his craft at the face. He studied at the Glasgow Mining Office for four years before going to Greenside Mine as an apprentice; leaving as a qualified mining engineer.

He then went to Halkyn in North Wales and on to Levant in Cornwall.

Prior to the war he worked at Hartsop Hall Lead Mine. In 1940 he worked with his father again at Caudale Quarries. He then applied to rework the Newlands Mine at Longwork in 1942. This venture failed on planning grounds after which, in 1946, he took an interest in the Barlocco Baryte Mine in Dumfriesshire. In 1954 Bill returned to Coniston Copper Mines where he drove the Shaw's Crosscut. Later he went back to work in North Wales at the Halkyn mines.

Returning to the Lakes in 1958, he became mining superintendent with McKechnies of Widnes where he managed Sandbeds and Potts Gill Baryte Mines on the Caldbeck Fells. He went on to Force Crag and when the McKechnies left, Bill took up the lease - and his last mining venture. He lived at Chestnut Hill in Keswick and during his retirement, wrote *Mining in the Lake Counties*. He died in 1977. However, some of his papers are held in Carlisle Archive - other items have simply disappeared.

Kendal Museum is open Wednesday to day, 10.30am-5pm.

Alastair Lings

The Turf Mine

In November 1988, NMRS member Eric Gray-Thomas organised a visit to The Turf Mine, near Dolfrwynog, between Dolgellau and Trawsfynedd, North Wales. When we mustered at the Tyn-y-Groes Hotel, Eric delivered a language lesson - "dol" meant a meadow or wet ground, and "frwynog" identified a place where the rushes were growing. We scrutinised his Ordnance Survey map, which indicated two routes; along the west bank of the Afon Wen, or the east. We took the west and followed a track, a road and a path, then passed three farm gates, until we came to a road junction. We turned left and left again, so as to park on a hill slope. With justification, the authority George W Hall described this as West Dolfrwynog ... but spread out ahead of us was the Turf Mine.



The 19th century story goes that a geologist advised some local residents to spread the ashes from their peat-burning fires on the vegetable garden. They declined his advice. To do so would kill their plants, they claimed, and this assertion prompted the geologist to have a sample assayed in London. The ash deposited from the turfs was rich in copper and the Turf Mine became a reality. In the heyday (*circa* 1810), the impregnated peat stretched over 70 acres and it was systematically collected, dried and burned, before the ash was sold in Swansea for the recovery of copper. In 1975, another respected writer, T A Morrison, stated "a specimen of Dolfrwynog ore is exhibited at the Geological Museum in London". Although the stories sounded far-fetched, there was convincing evidence of early activity.



Eric showed us small “settling ponds”, and then a ruined building with a substantial fireplace; a huge



stone set in the meadow setting might have been a boundary marker, but best of all was a small adit, reputedly opened in a search for gold. The adjacent spoil heaps provided tantalising specimens of defi-



nite copper, but dubious gold. As the winter light was fading, we documented the occasion in a burst of film-based photography, and made a promise, “We must come back soon and explore that adit.”



Twenty-three years passed before I suggested to Paul, my accomplice, that we should investigate the Turf Mine and its small adit. When we reached Dolfrwynog, we turned left at the road junction ... but omitted to turn left again. After five miles, a sign stated there was “no through road” and we reviewed our predicament, knowing it was necessary to turn around and retrace our last five miles. A local man walking a dog had never heard of the Turf Mine, and our maps and direction-finders indicated there were many trials in dense forest or up

steep, rocky cliffs. Back and forth we searched for inspiration and then, very slowly, followed the Afon Wen back to our starting point. It was only when our so-called “east route” joined a more-substantial track that I realised the Forestry Commission had inserted a new road during the past two decades. Convinced we could NOT go wrong, we repeated the circular trip once more but again drew a blank. We had lunch in the very auriferous Percy’s Canyon on Afon Wen and grumbled that gold-panning was now illegal in North Wales. A quick revision of our day’s programme took us to the now-derelict Clogau Mine and its sealed adits of Llechfraith and Ty’n y Cornel. By poking our cameras through a peep-hole, we secured decent photographs of the interiors and comforted ourselves that the day was not a lost cause.

During the next three months a search ensued on the internet, in books, *via* contacts and included re-appraisal of my original, scanty notes. The Forestry Commission provided a pamphlet that described a “demanding walking trail”, which embraced the Turf Mine. One Wednesday in March, I rose at daybreak and drove to the starting point of the Volcano Trail, mindful of the “third time lucky” principle. This time, I crossed the river Mawdach on a footbridge and steadily climbed and climbed in what I knew was in the direction of Dolfrwynog.

The second feature on my route was “the Turf Mine”, augmented by an information board which repeated the familiar story but explained the adja-



cent, large building was the furnace for burning the peat. So far, so good, I thought, but where are the other features ? I continued the walk, but on a



hunch, switched to a path skirting a wall enclosing a forest. Slowly, Eric's "meadow of wet ground", (but free of rushes growing), materialised and, with binoculars, I spotted a standing stone. It took ages



to reach this obvious landmark, but in the process, I inspected spoil heaps, collected specimens of quartz, and confirmed that a ruined building was one which Eric Gray-Thomas had described many years ago. A drainage system now cut through the landscape but the ground was still very damp. It did not hinder photography and by relying on electronic imaging, rather than film, I completed a copious documentation of the site. The so-called settling ponds had gone and there was no trace of the small adit, in spite of strong evidence of its one-time existence.



There was a spring in the step as I returned to the car-park, and decided once more to drive to the road junction at Dolfrwynog. I turned left and left again, drove part-way down a hill and came on a familiar view ... the Turf Mine as I had first seen it twenty three years ago. Not only was I satisfied, my photographs confirmed the outing had been a success.

Ron Callender

From the "Western Morning News"
March 16th 2012

Cornwall's Mining heritage will play its part in the world's greatest sporting event. Tin, mined and smelted in the county is being used to create the

bronze medals for this summer's Olympic Games in London.

The tin was mined at South Crofty 14 years ago and smelted at Wheal Jane near Redruth. It has been stored at Wheal Jane since the South Crofty mine closure in 1998 and was thought to be the only candidate to match the incredibly high levels of purity needed for medals that will grace the necks of the world's finest athletes. It took an almost Olympian effort to get the tin to the required purity of more than 99.9%, with it being smelted again and again to eliminate any impurities.

A spokesman from the London Organising Committee said the bronze medal was made up of 97% copper, 2.5% zinc and 0.5% tin. He said "The precious ore for the medals is supplied by London 2012 sponsor Rio Tinto's Kennecott Utah Copper Mine near Salt Lake City in America, as well as from the Oyu Tolgoi project in Mongolia. For the small amount of non-precious elements that make up the bronze medals, the zinc has been sourced from a mine in Australia as well as from recycled stock, while the tin originates from a mine in Cornwall"

Barbara Sutcliffe

Mining History News,
1 January - 1 April 2012

Peak District Mining Museum

The Matlock Bath Pavilion Group has taken on a three year lease of the building that is home to the Peak District Mining Museum, in Derbyshire, England. The Group hope to renovate the Pavilion with grants of £2M, and have an option to buy the building at the end of the lease.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derby-shire-17013814> <http://www.peakmines.co.uk/>

Cononish Mine

The mine received planning permission from Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority in October 2011. A financial package totalling £2M has now been agreed between the Authority and the developer, Scotgold Resources Ltd. As part of the package Scotgold will give Strathfillan Community Development Trust £200 000 towards the development of a mining exhibition and interpretative facility. Development work at the mine in central Scotland is expected to start in the second half of 2012.

<http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/>
<http://www.scotgoldresources.com.au/>

Chalk mines in Hatfield

Welwyn Hatfield Council in Hertfordshire (England) has received £1.9M from the UK Government to investigate and repair old chalk mines in Chantry Lane, Hatfield. At Briars Lane £4M was spent

stabilising mines between 2003 and 2008. Chalk was worked at depths of five to ten metres in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, ending in about 1920.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-16960432>

The York Potash Project

Sirius Minerals Ltd have planning permission to drill deep boreholes at 13 sites in North Yorkshire (England). They hope to develop a mine which would become one of the worlds largest producers of sulphate of potash. It is likely that the mine will be situated within the North York Moors National Park.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-16635060>

<http://siriusminerals.com/york-potash-project>

Rusha opencast coal mine

Banks Mining have started preparatory work for a new surface coal mine near Breich in West Lothian (Scotland). Up to 50 jobs may be created at the mine, which has permission to operate for seven years.

<http://www.banksgroup.co.uk/work-starting-at-rusha-surface-mine-site/>

Parys Mountain

Anglesey Mining PLC are in the middle of a programme of drilling four boreholes to trace the Engine Zone mineralisation to shallower depths. Near the bottom of the Morris Shaft the Zone is an important mineral bearing structure.

<http://angleseymining.co.uk/news/?p=227>

Derryginagh Barite Project

Sunrise Resources PLC are hoping to develop a mine east of Bantry in West Cork (Ireland), producing filler-grade barite. A drilling programme has recently been completed and Patrick Cheetham , Executive Chairman, said "these results confirm that high-grade extensions to the Derryginagh barite vein system exist well below the old mine workings, and below the level of previous drilling carried out in the 1980s." Photographs of recent underground exploration, and a section of the mine are at:

<http://www.sunriseresourcesplc.com/derryginagh-project.html>

Cavanacaw Mine, County Tyrone, 23/02/2012

Omagh Minerals Ltd has received planning permission to export surplus rock from its open pit gold mine. The rock will be used locally as aggregate. The company hopes to develop an underground mine.

Roland Phelps (of parent company Galantas Gold Corporation) said "Recently OML applied to construct a 'cut and cover' type adit within back-fill of the worked section of the open pit and a determina-

tion is awaited. The adit will allow potential access to gold mineralisation below the Kearney open-pit, subject to a successful planning application for an underground mine. The underground mine application is being finalised with a pre-consultation exercise in place and Environmental Impact Assessment being completed."

<http://www.galantas.com/news/galantas-announces-planning-permits/>

New book

"The Drift" by Ian Macmillan describes the small Hay Royds colliery in West Yorkshire from 1908 to the present day. It includes photographs by Ian Beesley and it is published by the National Coal Mining Museum for England. It costs £18 and is available from Ian Beesley at Hawthorn House, 1 Arthurs Lane, Greenfield, Saddleworth, OL3 7BD. <http://www.shieldsgazette.com/lifestyle/entertainment/digging-through-coal-mine-s-past-1-4251546>

New Journal

The latest Journal of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland (No.11) was issued in January. It includes the following articles: A survey of bryophytes and metallophyte vegetation of metalliferous spoil in Ireland; The Cappagh Mine share certificate vignette; Copper mining near Belderrig, County Mayo, with a note on Martin Boundy; Ballymurtagh Mine, Avoca - a history; Unearthing the past – the rediscovery of Blundell's Mine(s), Edenderry, County Offaly; Philip Henry Argall (1854-1922) – the remarkable life and career of a Cornish-Irish mining manager, engineer and metallurgist; Mining and mineral working in the Belleek area, in County Fermanagh; Ringing the blews – the Avoca "mine bell"; Conservation of the 19th Century mine heritage buildings at Silvermines, Co. Tipperary. The Journal is available from the editor Matthew Parkes (mparkes@museum.ie), or in Great Britain from Alastair Lings (alastairlings@yahoo.co.uk).

Brightling Mine, East Sussex, 01/03/2012

British Gypsums Brightling Mine featured in the third (South Downs) episode of the BBC1 series The Great British Countryside. A four minute clip can be seen at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00pfdsy>

Park Lane Quarry, Wiltshire, 09/03/2012

Ham & Doulting Stone Ltd want to reopen the underground mine near Neston Village, to extract Bath Stone. The mine was last worked in the 1960s. At present there are three mines working Bath Stone.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-wiltshire-17271407>

Poldark Mine, Cornwall, 10/03/2012

One of two Cornish Stamps at Poldark Mining Museum have been stolen. Richard Williams, Chief Executive, said "We've had thefts of scrap metal, which are in fact quite important historical artefacts, from the site. The sad factor is that some of these items are quite unique." Security has now been improved at the site.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-17324902>

Cleveland Ironstone Mining Museum, North Yorkshire, 22/03/2012

This mine featured in the Hartlepool to Whitby episode of the BBC2 series Britain's First Photo Album. At present only a very short clip is available to view at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00q4wnf>

National Coal Mining Museum, Yorkshire, 23/03/2012

The museum was faced with a reduction in direct government funding, but it has now received a grant for £2.6M from the National Museum of Science and Industry, based in London.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-17495710>

Prince Edward Mine, 30/03/2012

Over the last weekend of March the mine hosted the 34th International Mining Games, organised by the Camborne School of Mines. 36 teams of students from across the world competed in seven contests including hand mucking, hand drilling, and machine drilling with an air-leg.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-17569510>

Galston Mine, Ayrshire, 30/03/2012

The Scottish Government has published a report in to the 2008 Galston Mine Incident, in which Alison Hume tragically died. HM Chief Inspector of Fire and Rescue Authorities makes four recommendations, three of which are linked to the Fire and Rescue Framework published by Scottish Ministers, and one relates to operational command. According to the Coal Authority there are 23000 mine entries in Scotland, with 14 collapses of shafts notified since 2004. Report:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/03/3230>

Annex:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/03/5545>

Upcoming event

From Friday 1 June until Saturday 28 July (excluding Sundays and Bank Holidays) the Goldsmiths' Company in London is holding an exhibition called "Gold, Power and Allure". The exhibition includes mineral specimens from Scotland and Cornwall and many gold artefacts. Also on display will be borehole core from Ireland and some bronze-age lunulae, probably made from Irish gold. A book is being produced, based on the theme of the exhibition. On the 19 June a series of talks will consider aspects of the exhibition and its historical and cultural relevance. <http://thegoldsmiths.co.uk/>

Alastair Lings

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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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