



SOCIETY NEWS

I hope you regularly check our website to peruse the events coming up and look at the photographs from previous events. It is all thanks to Malcolm Street. You will notice that the **Autumn Meeting** is fast approaching and some of you might have wondered where the booking form is which usually accompanies the August Newsletter. With very few being used the postal booking form is now at the back of this Newsletter. The **Autumn Meeting** is to be held at the Festival Hall, Gisburn again, on Saturday 20th October. Gisburn is at NGR SD8248, near the junction of the A682 (Burnley/Long Preston) and A682 road to Burnley. From the A59, turn south on the A682 by the deli/café shop and then after a few yards, left into the free car park near a playground. From the north on the A682 turn right at the round-about near the Church and then left after the deli/café shop and left into the car park. From the south on the A682, turn right into the car park by the children's playground. After a free lunch there will be a short business meeting. **Booking is essential for the lunch** - please e-mail me on mansemins@btopenworld.com or phone 01282 614615. Bookings are needed by October 6th so that the catering arrangements can be made. An integral part of our Autumn meetings include **member's presentations**

and this is where we need your help. It is always interesting to hear what other members are doing or about their related interests so if you are prepared to help with these please let me know. The length is up to you, with a maximum of fifteen minutes. As mentioned in a previous Newsletter we now have a projector for use with a computer. Also at the meeting will be some "bargain" NMRS publications and a few other mining books that have been kindly donated to us. For those travelling with a partner there is plenty of walking in the area and the Boundary Mill experience for enthusiastic shoppers. The postcode for this is BB8 9NW.

We were recently fortunate to receive **donations** from Steve Grudgings, Mike Breakspear and South Gloucester Mines Research Group of some of our Publications. We appreciate these very much. Please continue to send me your "wants." With our generous member's discounts these are real bargains, especially if they are out of print. Most members ask for A4 out of print publications but we have some of the newer A5 BMs available. The Memoirs for instance, include some interesting articles. Again the website will provide details of the contents of these.

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Would you please note that the deadline for inclusion in the November 2012 Newsletter is the 20th October 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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Thanks have been sent to Cal Graeber of UK Mining Ventures who are presently mining for fluorite specimens at Rogerley Mine, Stanhope, Co Durham, who has donated some northern mine plans to our Society. Purchased by Cal at an English auction and then shipped over to the States these "spares" have now been repatriated.

Since the last newsletter we welcome the following **new member**.
Gordon Hudson of Burnley

We are sorry to hear of the death of Tony Jubb, one of our members. His wife, Tricia informed us that he didn't have time to visit any of the places we have researched in our publications as he was always so busy as an amateur historian and archaeologist, but he did follow the Newsletters closely. He died suddenly aged 76 in Rabat while on a walking holiday in Morocco. Having lived and studied in Yorkshire he moved to Norfolk in 1975 to join the family firm specialising in the manufacture of printed circuit boards.

Condolences also to the family of Frank Harris who died in April. He was one of the first to respond to

my requests for out of print BM "wants" and always sent me lovely e-mails asking about my family, sharing our love of Cornwall and telling me of his wife's poor health, his two daughters and families and a lovely surprise card he had had last year from Buckingham Palace to celebrate his special Wedding Anniversary. He was fortunate to have had such a loving family and it was a pleasure to communicate with him.

A member, having read some early NMRS newsletters would like to know what happened to the "Golden Chicken" award presented for an act of ineptitude: the "President's" cup awarded to a member for outstanding work; and the President's Piton given to the most meritorious performance during the last year. Can anyone help please?

A recent retail outlet for our publications is the Wordsworth Bookshop and Coffee House at 8 St Andrew's Churchyard, Penrith. CA11 7YE Open Monday to Saturday 9.30am - 4.30pm Cosy log fires, comfy chairs and warm welcome await visitors.

Barbara Sutcliffe

LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you to Rob Needham for "Welsh Coal Mines" (60 pages of well-captioned photographs) and for CDs of Northern United Colliery (Forest of Dean) pit head buildings, and Forest of Dean Miners Roll of Honour and Index of Freeminers; to Tony Oldham for "Geoloski Vjesnik" Volume 43 which has several papers in Croatian with English summaries and four papers in English - on Dalmatian bauxite, siderite-baritepolysulfide in Dinarides, iron ore in Croatia and gold-bearing copper deposits in Indonesia; to Barbara Sutcliffe for books on Trevithick, Coal 1917-1947, "Geology and Scenery in England and Wales" and "Down to Earth" Issue 79, the Ravensbourne Review for 2001 and two 1992 copies of the Geological Curators' Group publication "Coprolites"; and to Richard Smith for "Coal Mining in Lancashire & Cheshire", "The Pretoria Pit Disaster" and "Nuneaton & Bedworth: Coal, Stone, Clay & Iron".

Thank you to Steve Grudgings, Mike Breakspeare, Roger Gosling and the South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group for two boxes of British Mining. Barbara has these and those that match requests will be sent out. If you are trying to fill gaps in your collection of NMRS publications, please contact Barbara.

Sallie Bassham

DONATIONS TO RECORDS

During the last year three sets of original plans and sections of Yorkshire lead mines have been donated to the NMRS Records. In June 2011, seven original plans and sections of Cononley lead mine were given to the NMRS Records. They had been part of the collection held by the now defunct Mining Department at the University of Leeds. In January 2012 the Countryside Council for Wales donated an original plan and section of the East Craven Moor Mine, at Appletreewick. Then the Yorkshire Archaeological Society kindly passed on a collection of plans and sections of mines at Appletreewick, Bewerley, Grassington, Cononley and Glusburn to the Records.

In accordance with society policy, they have all been donated to the North Yorkshire Record Office, which has a large collection of mining plans for other parts of the Dales. Because some of the plans (especially those for Cononley, which dated from the 1840s) were in very poor condition the Friends of Cononley Mine, which was being wound-up, donated £2154.75 to the Record Office for their repair and conservation.

Copies of plans and sections covering mines in Weardale and at Boulby, have also been donated by members and these have been added to the society Records.

Mike Gill, Recorder

VACANCY ON THE COMMITTEE

The President has asked me to announce my departure from the committee so as to draw attention to the opportunity for someone to take part in “running the society”. Because NMRS has been around for over fifty years, the day-to-day business runs very smoothly ... and efficiently. The Secretary’s workload is not great but the primary task is to prepare for meetings, take notes at meetings and then prepare minutes, which become part of the official record of the society.

Guidelines which summarise the duties of the Honorary Secretary (and the committee members) are available and these also serve as a useful prompt for the additional jobs that have to be done. Because I am anxious to facilitate an effortless handover, I will be pleased to answer questions and encourage anyone who contacts me for more detail.

My intention is to relinquish responsibility at the conclusion of the AGM 2013.

Ron Callender, NMRS Secretary :
finlaggan@hotmail.com

KESWICK MINING MUSEUM

After failing to find a buyer for the Keswick Mining Museum collection, Ian Tyler has decided to liquidate the contents, including his own private collection. He is offering NMRS members the opportunity to see if they wish to purchase anything in these collections prior to their being offered to the general public. The offer is on a ‘first come, first served’ basis. Telephone (017687 80055 or 01228 561883) or email coppermaidkes@aol.com for an appointment. Sales to the public start on 21st August for books and ephemera, 15th September for minerals and fossils, and 6th October for lamps and instruments, and the museum closes on 27th October 2012.

Ian Tyler via Barbara Sutcliffe

VISIT REPORT

Ayton Monument Ironstone Mine

5th May 2012

Following an excellent turn out at Great Ayton railway station, the group first passed the mines early 1920s electric substation before ascending the 1:4 incline up to the mine which was operated by Pease and Partners between 1908 and 1931, haul was starting to fall as we arrived at the site, so we quickly got ourselves underground via the fan drift behind the 1919 Sirocco Fan House.



Group at the Furnace - photo by Pat Wills

First port of call underground was the large 1914 ventilation furnace, originally at the base of a shaft to surface, this provided the mine with ventilation before the installation of the Sirocco fan, artefacts such as a miners shoe and oil-can were observed in this area.

We then crossed into No.2 drift, which contains utility pipes for compressed air, fresh water and waste water. The fresh water pipe is actually travelling out-by being served by a borehole to surface 3000ft in-by. A few hardy souls explored the No.2 drift although they were soon driven back by the poor air conditions.



No 2 drift - photo by Malcolm Street

Going out-by along No.2 drift we came to the original small ventilation furnace which dates from the opening of the mine around 1908, from here it's possible to cross over into No.1 drift the main haulage way, where remains of the haulage and signalling cables can be found. The group pushed in-by to pay a very brief visit to the first return wheel for the main and tail haulage system, where the air quality was again poor.

After a hasty retreat into more pleasant conditions, the next destination was across into No.3 drift, where there are remains of another haulage system with cables and guides. The haulage cable in No.3 drift pulled wagons from 3640 yards in-by to a siding 760 yards in-by where they were transferred onto the haulage cable we had previously seen in

No.1 drift, this took them out of the mine and to the top of the incline.



No1 Drift - photo by Chris Twigg

In this drift the group spent some time picking over a pile of ironstone which had never been left in the mine, this contained numerous fossil remain of Pecten shells and rotary drill marks from its extraction.

Returned to daylight in sunshine, we investigated the various surface remains including the 1919 fanhouse, foundations of the winding drum at the head of the incline and hauler foundations with their 1921 date stone still to be found on the ground.



Group deep in thought - photo by Malcolm Street
Geoff Sharp a recently joined NMRS member sent me these interesting observations comparing the trip to one he made 40 years ago :-

Things change over 40 years. The incline was a grassy track, no fishing lake, no trees, powder store apparently in fair condition and clearly seen, the little bit of the abandoned drainage drift was not a stagnant pool but quite dry, although I seem to remember a small (probably modern) pipe less than 6" emerging from the hillside. We were there in a very dry period. In-bye the arched drift from the fan house was clean and dry and the small furnace remains were much as it is now. There were large roots growing through from the surface at the blocked entrance to one of the drifts, which in poor light resembled electric cables! The main change at the large furnace was the total disappearance of the seat at the furnaceman's refuge. When I was

there with members of YGS and John Owen it was in fair condition and even had rags and tatters of some kind of screen, probably to protect the sitter from draught, which must have been gale force. Then, we didn't get very far in-bye, John's safety lamp didn't shout at us like your modern electronic device, but it gave warning of poor air early and with what was perceived as a degree of finality so we took notice. I'm glad of new technology because I saw a great deal more and had the privilege of some very good conversation. The crowning glory was to see John Owen's photo on the cover of Richard Pepper's book.

As the weather was much improved, rather than return back to the cars immediately the group traversed the hillside and inspected a number of jet mining tips on this horizon, the only one currently accessible being Hunter Scar which was converted into a water supply for local houses around the time of the First World War, hence it has a modern concrete shaft and access tunnel which has prevented it from collapsing like everything else on the hillside.

Finally we descended through the site of the smaller Ayton Banks Ironstone Mine (1909 – 1929) where the scant remains of the fan house, and footings of the aerial ropeway were inspected.

Further Reading :-

Glimpses of Monument Mine Great Ayton 1908 – 1931 by Richard Pepper

Mineral Tramways of Great Ayton by R. Pepper & R.J. Stewart

RON CALLENDER'S CONONISH DIARY

August 2012



Photo: Chris Sangster is the CEO of Scotgold Resources and handles the day-to-day business of the Cononish gold mine from a well-equipped office situated on the railway platform of Upper Tyndrum station.

Britain's only active gold mine, which is situated in the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park, enters a new phase in its operations. After two attempts, the management has achieved the required approvals

to mine for gold, as well as the Crown Lease, which was granted in May. The current concern is the need to secure more funding. In short, mining can be a costly business.

The man on the spot is Chris Sangster, CEO of Scotgold Resources, and five years ago he said, "Gold miners need a lot of patience." His patience is now being tested as he addresses a host of administrative and financial matters, as well as making informed decisions on where to conduct further explorations.

In spite of losses announced in March, the company's share price has begun to rise. The improvement was linked to new discoveries within the licenced area, but outside the jurisdiction of the national park and during explorations, deposits of gold, platinum, copper, zinc and cobalt were found five kilometres north-east of Cononish, on a 'Munroe' known as Sron Garbh.



Photo: An adit was driven by the previous owners to assess the value of the gold deposits and this location is likely to be the starting point when production begins next year.

On the financial side, two agreements were announced on the 3rd July. Rand Merchant Bank structured "a secured corporate loan facility with share options" valued at £1.18 million, and in addition Scotgold mandated LN Metals International Ltd to market its gold-in-pyrite concentrate "to end consumers". Up until now, LN Metals (which is part owned by RMB) has dealt in base metals but enters the 'noble metal' market at a significant time.

Photo: Interior view of the shed holding the company's core samples – old and new. Those in the wooden trays are part of the assets transferred to



Scotgold Resources, but the contents of the new trays are from recent explorations.

Using a cut-off of 3.5g per ton, the Cononish mine hopes to produce 163,000 ounces of gold and 596,000 ounces of silver. Exploration is expected to continue until October, so that a final decision on production can be made in January 2013. Development will start two months later.

LETTERS

A contact in Stirling drew my attention to an ancient gold mine in Perthshire and suggested, "You ought to have a look at it, when you are next in Scotland." This took some time. I had never heard of Letters and it did not take long for the World Wide Web to confirm that it had no knowledge about the gold mine either. I was intrigued and looked forward to receiving credit for making a "new" discovery of gold in Scotland. Some time later, however, I came on archaeological notes by the Royal Commission for Ancient & Historical Monuments in Scotland. The sparse entry confirmed there was "a disused gold mine on the north west slopes of Meall Nam Uamph, and which was adjacent to the Leitters farmstead."



With difficulty, I made a start on my quest. I knew the mine was somewhere in Perthshire – possibly with an affinity to the gold deposits at Aberfeldy and Cononish mines. I was able to envisage what the mine might look like if it was deserted, or dilapidated or even filled in, but my luck changed when I traced a map in the National Library of Scotland. Dated 1862, the first edition of the six-inch Ordnance Survey maps of Scotland identified a "Gold Mine (Dis-

used)" near Lochearnhead station. The station had long gone, of course, but the map showed the roads, and featured the word "Leitters".



The scant information was easy to transfer to a modern map and locate the site in and around Balquidder, which is not far from Callander and the Trossachs. Detouring from my usual route home from the Highlands, I recently carried out an investigation by starting at the reception office of a caravan park, which was evidently situated beside a one-time railway line. The youth in charge knew of no gold mine, but good-naturedly, he lifted the telephone and dialled his father. To my surprise, "Dad" substantiated my story about gold in the locality but could only say the mine was somewhere in the nearby Strathyre Forest. By good fortune, the trees were being harvested and I scanned the denuded acres with binoculars. Dominating the felled trees was one ruined structure that



might have been associated with a gold mine, or it might have fulfilled a more-likely agricultural use.

It was worth a try and I trekked up the path to the building, and found that the remaining stone walls incorporated much quartz. Encouraged, I studied my surroundings from the new vantage point, and



used the ancient map to establish where the mine might be.

Where forestry men were actively felling trees, I spotted one feature which suggested an adit. It was in the far distance and may have been wishful thinking. It was in the correct place, but regrettably, my time was short and it was necessary to depart. Another visit is already on the cards but in the meantime, I would be pleased to hear from any reader who can verify my own observations and expand on the ancient gold mine at Leitters in Perthshire.

Ron Callender



This Ingleton miners safety lamp was given to me as a donation to the Ingleton Coalfield Collection. The lamp was manufactured by Richard Johnson - Clapham Morris in Manchester; the company was founded in 1773, be-

came a public company in 1891, and was still in business in 1961 (information from Mike Gill).

The area in which this artefact was found is near to the site of a deep coal mine which was started in 1853 and then restarted production in the early 1870's.

A pit pony shoe (70mm long/wide) was also donated to the collection.

Bernie Bond

I have received a request for any information on the Garsdale Coal Pits, NGR SD 784 897. This area can be found by leaving Dent railway station on the Settle & Carlisle line. The Coal Road can be seen and by following the track becomes the Galloway Gate. After 2¼ miles the coal area can be found.

Bernie Bond

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

via Alastair Lings

13th International Meeting on Geological and Mining Heritage

Spain, 20-23 September 2012

<https://patgeomine.epsem.upc.edu/>

2nd Mining in European History Conference

Austria, 7-10 November

<http://www.uibk.ac.at/himat/meh/>

NAMHO Conference 2013. Aberystwyth University, 28 June-1 July 2013

"Stories written in stone": international symposium on chert and other knappable materials.

Romania, 20-24 August 2013

<http://arheoinvestsymposium.uaic.ro/stone>

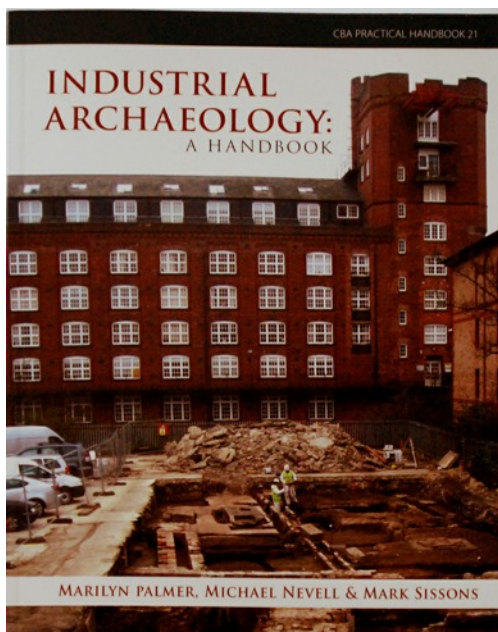
BOOK REVIEWS

Industrial Archaeology : A Handbook

Council for British Archaeology

Marilyn Palmer, Michael Nevell & Mark Sissons

24.5cm x 19cm : 326 pages : £20



For a handbook, this volume is hefty and is the 21st publication in a series which the Council for British Archaeology has been producing since 1987. Because of the Council's commitment to industrial activity in Britain, the book embraces a very wide spectrum of interests in great detail. This might be a distraction. If an extractive industry is your enthusiasm, you may need to plod through (or skip), for example, chapters on sewage disposal, hosiery & lace, and dovecots.

The book grew out of specialised fact-sheets prepared for a series of day schools offering training to volunteers on identifying the significant features of industrial buildings. The initial plan was soon augmented by sections on excavation, and with justification, the book claims to be "the most recent assessment of the origins, scope and impact of industrial archaeology in Britain". Each of the ten chapters is sub-divided into sections that deal with specific subjects and chapter three (on power for industry) covers, for example, the use of animal-powered machines, as well as water, wind, steam and hydraulic forms of power. Discussion on types of machines and the landscape precede notes on key sites and advice on further reading. Such formatting helps to locate new and existing sites and, for fun, I tracked down information on the Telford Bridge at Craigellachie, Moray, ... having just returned from a holiday in the Spey Valley. I soon found a colour picture and words on its context in 'Bridges' in Chapter 7's 'Moving Around'.

Lead mining absorbs five pages; 'buddle' is NOT in the index but page 137 features an illustration and a mention. NMRS merits a few entries, such as Monograph 22, which was written by the prime author and published in 1983.

And finally ... if you are going to study archaeology, buy this book; otherwise borrow it from the library and enjoy the informative captions adjoining the intriguing 100 illustrations that pepper the pages.

Ron Callender

Gold : power and allure

Helen Clifford (Ed)

The Goldsmiths' Company

25cm x 17cm : 168 pages : £10

It has to be said, and without delay, this is a great book at a good price.

For over two years, NMRS member, Helen Clifford of Swaledale Museum has been curating an exhibition for The Goldsmith's Company at Goldsmiths' Hall in London. The book is the lasting legacy of the exhibition that features over 500 items having a relationship to gold and Britain. It covers the ground in a series of contributed chapters which concentrate on different aspects of gold – the sources, its properties, prehistoric gold, the London gold market, hallmarking, gold coinage, commissioned work, and the use of gold in contemporary art. Such a book demands illustrations and these occur in quantity and in quality. Nuggets from Cornwall, torques from the Iron Age, phials from Kildonan, gold mines in Wales, the ampulla used at Charles I's coronation, hallmarks, signet rings, chalices, cutlery, trophies, the leopard coin, ducats,

angels, and sovereigns dominate the pages and coax you to read on ... and on ... and on.



Photo: The 19th century Gold Rush Township in Kildonan, which was used to good effect in the exhibition

This book is written by specialist authors but it has a rare quality – it is possible to open at any page and start reading. This makes it a unique and stylish present, and anticipating a rush of purchases, I intend to obtain a few more copies for a rainy day. The first will go to the International Gold Museum in Northern Finland with a few smug comments to emphasise Britain's place in the gold business. All the items described in the book can, of course, be seen for free in the exhibition (which is staged thematically in the grand hall of the Goldsmiths' Company), but this book is a unique souvenir of the event and must surely emerge as a publishing milestone in years to come. After all, what do you do for an encore.

Goldsmiths' Company has also published "Twenty-five gold facts" in a handy pocket size, which costs £5. A single illustration fills each page, and has an informative caption and explanation facing it. My advice is to buy both – without delay !

Ron Callender

Wheal Jane – The Final Mining Years, by John Peck
Hardback, 144pp, including 150 photographs, 214 x 230mm, £16.99

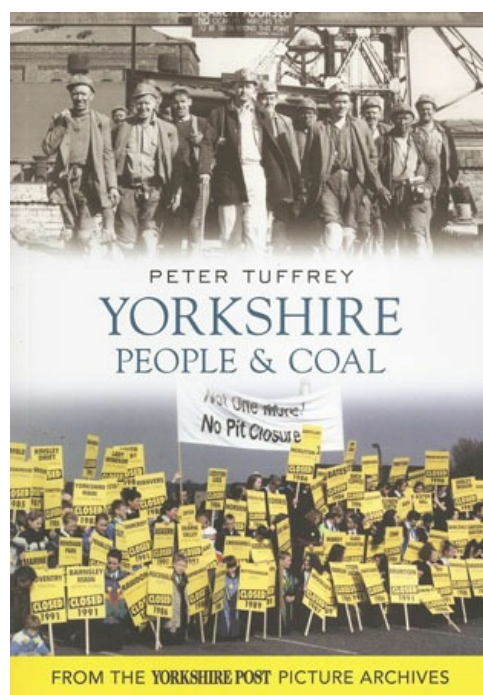
Due to be published in July 2012 by Halsgrove Publishing, this book follows on from the author's previous book, 'Painting a Mine with Light', which he published privately. The reopening of Wheal Jane in 1969 coincided with the arrival in the area of photographer John Peck. While on an assignment for the mine an accident occurred and John was asked to record the site for evidence. From this time on he became the 'official' photographer to Wheal Jane, recording all aspects of the work there. It is these unique photographs that appear in this book. The high regard in which he was held by the

miners is evidenced by his photographs of their meetings and demonstrations, angrily protesting the proposed closure of the mine – events at which photographers from the media were not welcome! In 1992 pumps at Wheal Jane were switched off once again and all that remains are the memories of those who once worked there and these remarkable photographs, vital documents recording its last years and its mining legacy.

Barbara Sutcliffe

(who has a few copies available, email mansemims@btopenworld.com)

Tuffrey P., 'Yorkshire People and Coal', Amberley Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire, pp. 128, 235 x 165mm, ISBN 978-1-4456-0516-6. (£12.99).



This volume follows on from Peter Tuffrey's earlier works on 'Railways' and 'People at Work', featuring 230 photographs from the archives of the Yorkshire Post. Most of the pictures are from the past 40-50 years and the dominating themes have been determined, on the whole, by their newsworthiness. Most aspects of colliery life are depicted but especially strikes, pit closures, disasters, record breaking achievements and events of different sorts. Early postcard views of some collieries are particularly valuable for the historian. The photographs have been carefully selected to include as many pits as possible and to cover different aspects of the industry. Each illustration is accompanied by a lengthy caption which tells its own story and this is the only text in the book, other than the short introduction.

Some of the photos are truly impressive such as the view of the opencast at Temple Newsam dwarfing the

mansion; the demolition in 1993 of the Woolley washery which overlooked the M1 near Barnsley and the sheer scale of the Glasshoughton by-products plant and marshalling yard taken in 1938. There are plenty of underground scenes of which the damage after the inrush of water at Lofthouse Colliery in 1973 and an inspection of a doomed face at Kinsley Drift show clearly the dangers and working conditions which could be encountered.

The book clearly shows the immense importance of coal in the communities of South and Central Yorkshire, the tragedy of the pit closures and even more so the dashed hopes of the later 'super-pits'. The subject matter is well-presented in a factual and non-partisan way and the volume is a worthwhile depiction of a way of life which had continued for over a century and which disappeared over the space of a very few years.

Richard Smith

'The Great Trial': a Swaledale Lead Mining Dispute in the Court of Exchequer, 1705–1708, by Tim Gates
Woodbridge: Yorkshire Archaeological Society (in association with the Boydell Press), Record Series, Vol. CLXII, 2012, lvi + 429 pp., (£50)

When he bought an old map of Grinton, Tim Gates never thought that it would lead to some serious research in the records of the Court of Exchequer in the National Archives.

Although on the old map, West Grinton, one of the places involved in the dispute, does not appear on modern maps, but in 1705 it and Harkerside were two hamlets of scattered houses on the south side of the Swale. They were (and still are) part of the manor of Grinton, where the Crown owned the mineral rights. The manor of Healaugh, across the river, was owned by the Whartons who, with the Pomfrets who succeeded them, thrived on litigation with their neighbours – or, at least, their lawyers did! No doubt prompted by Marriott, the lessee of Grinton How Mine, finding a rich oreshoot, Lord Wharton sent miners to sink a shaft and build a smithy on the line of the vein on the pretence that West Grinton was in Healaugh. This malfeasance provoked the 1708 trial 'Attorney General ex relatione Reginald Marriott v Wharton' and, fortunately for historians, the mass of evidence, maps and other court papers prepared for it have survived to form an invaluable source for the history of upper Swaledale.

The records of the Court of Exchequer are little used by historians and Tim Gates is to be congratulated

on using them to present a good summary of the causes and course of the dispute and the trial. He then leaves the reader to sift through verbatim transcriptions of 175 depositions for Marriott and 142 for Wharton, which are repetitive and somewhat perjurious in places, but which still give a useful insight into the way Swaledale life was organised and show that, even between neighbouring villages, this was not homogenous

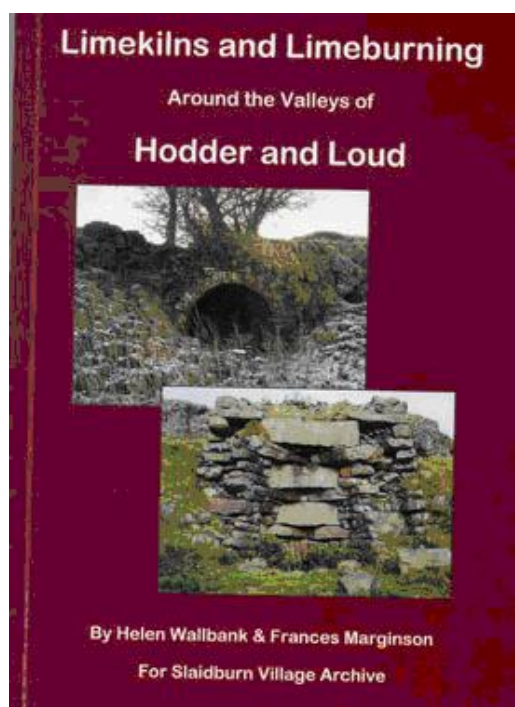
As well as outlining early C18th legal processes, the book has appendices giving a calendar of the case, a list of witnesses detailing which questions they answered, biographical notes of lawyers and of those who claimed a right to mine lead or coal on Grinton Moor, a list of the document classes searched, and translations of Tushingham's (Marriott's proxy) 1696 Crown lease and the judgement, which were both in Latin.

'The Great Trial' is a major tool to have available on one's bookshelves – and not simply for mining historians.

Mike Gill

(Editor: See flier with this newsletter for special offer)

Limekilns and Limeburning around the Valleys of Hodder and Loud, by Helen Wallbank and Frances Marginson, 2012.
148 pages, A5 size paperback, £8 plus £2 p&p from Slaidburn Village Archive or selected bookshops, no ISBN.



This book presents the results of a detailed field survey by a small and dedicated band of local residents undertaken between 2008 and 2011. Lime kiln sites were surveyed across fifteen parishes within the Forest of Bowland with over 180 individual sites having been recorded, of which the majority have inevitably been demolished or have collapsed.

The book clearly shows this survey was a labour of love, and it was clearly written with the general interested reader in mind. It is comprehensive in its coverage though space (and cost?) constraints have led to entries being in many cases brief – though this is not meant as a criticism. The first part of the book usefully discusses how lime kilns were operated and how they were made up, and it considers the history of lime burning within Bowland. The bulk of the book (about 95 pages) consists of a full gazetteer of all surveyed sites, with more than fifty full colour photographs plus archival photos. My only (small) gripe would be the lack of captions to many of the photos.

It is a most useful addition to the relatively small number of books on lime kilns in Britain, and for those with an interest in lime burning or agricultural liming it is to be recommended.

David Johnson

MINING & MINING HISTORY NEWS

Washington Miners Heritage Memorial, 04/06/2012

On Saturday 31 March a memorial depicting a miner with his wife and son was unveiled in Washington, Tyne & Wear. Sometime early on the following Tuesday, thieves sawed through part of one of the metal statues in an attempted theft. Northumbria Police are appealing for information.

<http://www.journallive.co.uk/>

UNESCO listing sought for Ore Mountains, 06/04/2012

The Czech Culture Ministry has recommended that the Montanregion Krushnohori project in cooperation with the German state of Saxony tries to join the list of UNESCO world cultural heritage sites. The area includes exceptional landscape and mining history localities. Detailed documentation will be completed by Autumn 2013, and passed to Germany for submission to UNESCO.

<http://praguemonitor.com/2012/04/06/czech-german-ore-mountain-mining-localities-seek-unesco-listing>

Hanging flume, Colorado, 14/04/2012

In the late 1880s a 10 mile long hanging flume was constructed to provide water for gold-washing

equipment near Uravan, Colorado. It took 25 men three years to build, and ran along the sheer sides of the gorges above the Dolores and San Miguel rivers. Over the years wood from the flume has been robbed. Recently a 48' long section of the 6' wide by 4' deep flume was restored using modern roped-access techniques. Better road-signage is planned, along with two books and a video about this amazing structure.

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_20393944/121-year-old-western-colorado-mining-flume-clings

Gold Mines of Wales, 18/04/2012

A report by Snowden Mining Consultants for Gold Mines of Wales (GMOW) says there could be gold worth £125 million in the Dolgellau area. Ed McDermott of GMOW claims "There could be another Clogau. If that were the case, we could be looking at significant gold production." GMOW have an option from the Crown estate to explore for gold over an area of 120 km². They hope to start exploration drilling within six months.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-west-wales-17756325>

<http://www.goldminesofwales.com/>

Lake District mineral collection, 25/04/2012

The Bill Shaw mineral collection has been bought from Keswick Mining Museum by Kendal Museum, with the help of private donors, and grants from Arts Council England and Hanson Heidelberg Cement. Kendal Museum, in Cumbria, is open Wednesday to Saturday 10:30am to 5pm.

<http://www.thewestmorlandgazette.co.uk/news/>

Derryginagh Barite Project, 26/04/2012

Sunrise Resources PLC have reviewed the results of recent drilling around the former Derryginagh Mine in County Cork. They believe that a preliminary economic evaluation of the project is justified. They expect to award a contract for a scoping study shortly.

<http://www.sunriseresourcesplc.com/news.html>

UK Coal PLC, 27/04/2012

The latest Annual Report gives the coal production of Daw Mill (2.1 million tonnes), Kellingley (2.3 MT), and Thoresby Colliery (1.3 MT), with a further 1.8 MT from five surface mines. Haworth Colliery remains mothballed but a decision on its future will be taken in 2012.

<http://www.ukcoal.com/investors/reports-and-presentations>

Alkane Energy PLC, 30/04/2012

Alkane has 13 power stations using coal mine methane (CMM) to generate 41 MW of electricity. They will open two new sites in 2012, at Pontycwmmer in South Wales and at Gedling in Nottinghamshire.

<http://www.alkane.co.uk/ourcompany/alkane-news>

Sirius Minerals PLC, 30/04/2012

A detailed scoping study of the York Potash Project has confirmed its technical and economic viability. The company want to start mining poly-halite in North Yorkshire from early 2017, at an initial rate of 5 million tonnes/year. The next stage for the company is to carryout feasibility studies.
<http://siriusminerals.com/index.html>

Rosia Montana, Romania, 03/05/2012

A “transparent review” of the Rosia Montana gold project in Romania has been ordered by the countrys prime minister-designate. Since 1999 Gabriel Resources has spent \$500 million on exploring one of the largest gold deposits in Europe, containing 314 tonnes. Proposed openpit mining would remove the tops of four mountains and require the demolition of three villages in Transylvania. Mining in the area dates back to the first century AD. Most of the underground development was during the period of the Austria-Hungarian Empire, 1700s-1918. According to UNESCO the area contains “a unique archaeological complex of Roman mine galleries.” Gabriel Resources proposes to spend \$35 million on rescue archaeology in the area of the roman workings.

<http://www.mining.com/>
<http://www.gabrielresources.com/site/projects.aspx>

Into the Mouth of Hell, 03/05/2012

The Segedunum Roman Fort and Museum in Wallsend, Tyne & Wear, is hosting an exhibition on mining disasters until the 9th September. The museum is next to the site of Wallsend Colliery where 102 miners were killed in 1835. Other disasters represented in the exhibition are Hartley Pit (204 lives, 1865), John Pit, Felling (92 lives, 1812) and Heaton Main Colliery (75 lives, 1815).

<http://www.journallive.co.uk/>
<http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/segedunum/>

Wheal Martyn Museum, Cornwall, 20/03/2012

The UKs only china clay museum has received a grant of £48 000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and additional funding from the Clay Country Local Action Group. The museum will improve its displays and recruit a part-time curator and part-time education officer.

<http://www.wheal-martyn.com/>

Allihies Copper Mine Museum, County Cork, 19/04/2012

The Heritage Council has offered ACMM a grant of €8000 for a survey of the local mining and heritage landscape. The project will initially define the boundaries of the landscape, and liaise with land-owners. This will be followed by survey work and production of a GIS map of mining related features.
<http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/>

South Crofty Mine, Cornwall, 11/05/2012

Agreement has been reached with Cornwall Council for the former surface mine buildings at Dudnace Lane to be demolished. This will make way for a new mill building, miners’ dry, workshops and offices next to the Tuckingmill Decline. Western United Mines hope to start production in early 2015, employing over 200 people.

<http://www.westernunitedmines.com/home>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-18069157> (2.5 minute video, includes shots of Hemerdon)

Leadhills Library, South Lanarkshire, 14/05/2012

Leadhills Library was set up by miners in November 1741. It was the first subscription library in the UK and it was visited by William and Dorothy Wordsworth. The library includes a museum of local heritage. The building urgently needs rewiring and investment in environmental controls to reduce humidity.

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/editors-choice/2012/05/14/miners-library-in-leadhills-founded-in-1741-is-still-functioning-86908-23859055/>

Tower Colliery, South Wales, 22/05/2012

Tower Colliery shut in 2008 and was the last deep mine in Wales. Work has started at the site to develop an 80 hectare surface mine which will extract six million tonnes of coal over a six year period. The site will employ 140 people.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-18156830> (1.5 minute video)

Royal Television Society award, 25/05/2012

An explosion at the Universal Colliery in Senghenydd in 1913 killed 439 people and it was the worst disaster in British history. A 15 minute documentary on the disaster produced by students at the University of Wales (Newport) has won the RTS prize for Undergraduate Entertainment. The film called “The mourning of the valley” can be seen on You Tube at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bgc--gT6xPA>

East Pit, Amman Valley and Margam Mine, Port Talbot, South Wales, 28/05/2012

Celtic Energy and Oak Regeneration have appointed SLR Consulting to manage the restoration of two surface mining sites. The East Pit site will become an international tourism and leisure destination, and the former Margam site will become an eco-village.

<http://www.slrconsulting.com/>
<http://www.coal.com/>

Maltby Colliery, South Yorkshire, 28/05/2012

Unusual geological conditions have been encountered in developing a new production panel, with increased inflows of water, oil, gas and other hydrocarbons in the tailgate section. Further development

on the tailgate has been abandoned, and the new face will be developed at a safe point. There is likely to be a gap in production of 12 to 16 weeks, costing the company (Hargreaves Services PLC) between £12m and £16m. Gerry Huitson, Production Division Director, said "This is a very unusual situation and to our knowledge this has never happened before in Maltby's long 100 year history. No one on the mining team, including our independent expert geologist with 32 years experience at many different UK mines, has come across these conditions before. We will revise the mining plans to avoid this locality and it is highly unlikely that these conditions will be found again in any subsequent panels."

<http://www.hargreavesservices.co.uk/default.aspx>

The Coal Authority, 28/05/2012

The Coal Authority are looking for a new Chair Person to start work in March 2013, for an initial four year period. The salary is £27 000 for about five days work per month. Closing date 29/06/2012.

<http://coal.decc.gov.uk/>

Derryginach Mine, County Cork, 30/05/2012

Work has now commenced on a technical and economic scoping study for the Derryginach barite project. The study will be carried out by Nicholas Hardie, who has managed a number of mining operations in the UK and served as Inspector of Mines and Quarries for the Health and Safety Authority in Ireland. The scoping study should be completed towards the end of the year.

<http://www.sunriseresourcesplc.com/about.html>

Allihies Copper Mine Museum, County Cork, 10/06/2012

In 2011 members of The Association for Industrial Archaeology visited the museum during their annual conference in Cork. On Sunday 10th June Mark Sissons, Chairman of AIA, presented the museum with the Associations prestigious President's Prize and Initiative Award, in recognition of their work to recognise, research, preserve and celebrate the mining heritage of the area.

Mine search and rescue dog, 01/06/2012

Alpha Natural Resources Inc. in the USA has a Dutch Shepherd dog trained to search underground and surface mines. The dog is equipped with an infrared camera and a gas detector, and wears a protective vest. Two year old Ginny can leap over six-foot from a standing start, and detect a scent up to a mile away. Kevin Crutchfield, Alphas Chief Executive, said the dog was a "tremendous new asset for mine search and rescue, both for our company and the industry."

<http://www.alphanr.com/Pages/Default.aspx>

Rossington Colliery, South Yorkshire, 18/04/2012

RecyCoal has received planning approval for a coal recovery scheme at the former Rossington Colliery. Over 13 million tonnes of spoil will be reprocessed to produce 950 000 tonnes of coal. During the five year project the 112.5 hectare site will be restored to grassland, woodland and wetland. The scheme will create 70 jobs.

<http://www.recycoal.com/home>

Lochaline Mine, Argyllshire, 11/06/2012

Highlands & Islands Enterprise has approved financial assistance of £155 000 towards the establishment of a £1.6M production facility for Lochaline Quartz Sand Ltd. The mine is a joint venture between Pilkington Glass (NSG Group) and Gruppo Minerali Maffei, an Italian mining company.

<http://www.hie.co.uk/>

<http://www.lochaber-news.co.uk/Home/>

Mulberry, Florida, USA, 24/06/2012

Mosaic Mining has uncovered a Manchester 4-4-0 locomotive at the former Mulberry Potash mine. The loco probably dates back to the 1880s and was used at the mine from 1913, being abandoned before 1935. The base of the loco is intact, but the water pump, sand dome, smoke box, cow catcher and anything made of brass is missing.

<http://www.newschief.com/>

National Coal Mining Museum for England, West Yorkshire, 28/06/2012

Conservation work on a 140 metre deep ventilation shaft at the former Caphouse Colliery has finished. The project cost £870 000, and received funding of £150 000 from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, and a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The shaft now has a glass cover so that visitors can look down it.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-18611701>

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/9162.aspx

Welsh National Mining Memorial appeal, 28/06/2012

First Minister Carwyn Jones has launched an appeal for a Welsh National Mining Memorial at Senghenydd in South Wales. In 1913 an accident at the Universal Colliery in the village was the worst in British mining history, killing 439 miners. For more information, or to donate, please contact the Aber Valley Heritage Group on 029 2083 0445/0444 or e-mail senghen.heritage@btconnect.com

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-18611342> (2.5 min video)

Nord-Pas de Calais Mining Basin, France, 30/06/2012

Coal was dug in this area from the 1700s. The area has now joined the 962 sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The designation covers mine-shaft headgear, spoil heaps, transport infrastructure, housing, places of worship, and other buildings. Other World Heritage sites in France include the decorated caves of the Vézère Valley and the Great Saltworks of Salins-les-Bains and the Royal Saltworks of Arc-et-Senans.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1360/>

Almaden (Spain) and Idrija (Slovenia), 30/06/2012

These two mercury mining areas have been jointly inscribed by UNESCO on the World Heritage List. Almaden was first worked around 415 BCE, and Idrija was discovered in 1490.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1313/>

NEW BOOKS

Still the sea rolls on: the Hartley Pit calamity of 1862.

Keith Armstrong and Peter Dixon have compiled and edited poems, stories, drawings and photographs contributed by local people. The book is published by the Northern Voices Community Project with assistance from North Tyneside Council, and is available for £7.99 from the North of England Institute of Mining & Mechanical Engineers.

Spinning the wheel of fortune

Adam Luke has written a history of the Durham Coalfield. For every sale a donation will be made to the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation. The book is available for £4.99 at:

<http://trimdontimes.co.uk/>

Miners against fascism: Wales and the Spanish civil war

Dr Hywel Francis MP describes the politics of South Wales in the 1920s and 30s that encouraged many miners to volunteers for the International Brigade. First published in 1984, this third edition contains a list of all welsh volunteers. Published by Lawrence & Wishart Ltd. 320pp. £18.99.

<http://www.lwbooks.co.uk/>

Pit lasses: women and girls in coalmining c. 1800-1914

This book by Denise Bates is based on original research and new unpublished material. It is published by Warncliffe Books (2012) and runs to 192 pages. £14.99.

<http://writingwomenshistory.blogspot.co.uk/2012/06/pit-lasses-truth-about-britains-female.html>

Bristol's forgotten coalfield: Bedminster

This book by Mike Taylor and Maggie Shapland is published by the South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group and costs £15 (£2.50 P&P). Contact Roger Gosling on 01454 883607 or Steve Grudgings on 01256 896715. The area was worked for coal from the 1720s until the 1920s.

<http://sgmrg.co.uk/>

Guidance on managing the risk of hazardous gases when drilling or piling near coal

The Coal Authority, and others, have produced this guidance for drilling operations which are investigating and treating old coal workings. It contains some useful information on the characteristics and toxic effects of gases. 59pp.

<http://coal.decc.gov.uk/publications/>

DIARY DATES

Australasian Mining History Association Annual Conference, 05-11 November 2012.

<http://www.mininghistory.asn.au/>

HEALTH AND SAFETY ALERTS

HSE Health and safety bulletin, 13/06/2012

There is a risk of MSA SavOx self rescuer units catching fire if the user does not follow the correct start-up procedure. It is important that the starter mechanism is initiated by stretching the flexible breathing tube, prior to inserting the mouthpiece.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/index.htm>

Alastair Lings

NEWS ROUND UP

BBC News website

French firm Imerys has revealed work has begun at its first new china clay pit in Cornwall for almost 30 years. The Higher Moor Pit, near St Austell, will cover 17 hectares (42 acres), and is 70m (230ft) deep in places. Over the next few years four million tonnes of raw material will be taken from the ground - the source of the china clay.

Imerys said the new project was a "short life pit", and will be worked on until 2018.

In May this year the first tonnes of china clay were extracted from the Higher Moor New Pit. The pit will be worked on for about six years.

Ed Buscombe, central area mines manager at Imerys, said: "Higher Moor Pit will provide good quality material for our higher quality clays and will help Imerys maximise its available clay reserves."

Andrew Bloodworth, from the British Geological Survey, said: "The deposits in Cornwall are world class. They are significant on a global scale. This is a vote of confidence in the deposits and in Cornwall."

Ivor Bowditch, former communications manager for Imerys said: "I would predict that china clay will still be important for many decades to come. We still have a large reserve of china clay."

The china clay industry in Cornwall was started nearly 300 years ago by English China Clays, which was taken over by Imerys in 1999 for £756m.

John Seaman

EduMine

The InfoMine website <http://www.infomine.com/> includes EduMine which gives access to 130 online mining courses in the English language. Many of the courses are grouped in to structured learning programmes. If you register with the InfoMine site you can get free trial access to 10 pages of the courses. When you have used up your allocation, wait for 21 days and the free trial access will be restored. Also hosted by the InfoMine website is the eStore where you can buy books, maps, videos and software.

Alastair Lings

BBC News website

Pollution fear following floods - Scientists are to investigate whether severe flooding near Aberystwyth has contaminated land with harmful metals from abandoned mines.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/news/uk-wales-18391758>

John Seaman

From the Daily Telegraph May 1st 2012

£3.6bn plan to mine potash in Yorkshire

Plans for a £3.6bn investment programme to develop a potash mining venture in North Yorkshire and create up to 1,100 were announced yesterday after studies showed the ambitious development was viable.

Sirius Minerals is confident it can raise the money to finance what will be Britain's biggest mining venture since the days of coal. Talks are under way to start in 2017 at the rate of 1.4 tonnes a year.

Chris Fraser, chief executive, is seeking a mixture of debt and equity to help fund the development but is also considering bringing in potential customers and other potash producers. He hopes the second phase of the project to raise output to 4.1m tonnes by 2024 financed from cash flow generated by the business.

The studies showed the mine, between Whitby and Scarborough, might also produce gypsum and epsomite. It may also hold the world's biggest reserve of polyhalite, a key fertiliser ingredient.

Sirius estimated production costs will be running at about \$70 a tonne and has used the current market price of around \$550 a tonne to model the project.

Barbara Sutcliffe

Proposal to merge the RCAHMW with Cadw

The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) has set up an Inquiry into the way that heritage services are organised in Wales. One of the proposals before the inquiry is that the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW) be merged with Cadw. At present the RCAHMW is independent of WAG and can work pro-actively to investigate and record all aspects of the historic environment, and its activities are monitored by the commissioners who understand the objectives. If the merger was to take place the work currently done by the RCAHMW would be curtailed or controlled by civil servants at the bidding of government. It would be, to my mind and that of many involved in the field of archaeology and the historic environment, a retrograde step. In Wales, the RCAHMW has been at the forefront of investigating and recording mining and quarrying sites, and has attracted significant funding towards that objective - funding which would be threatened, if not impossible to attain, under WAG control.

I am going to make a submission to the inquiry and like it to have the strength of NAMHO behind that submission. Unfortunately the deadline is 29 June.

Dr Peter Cloughton

Wiltshire Conservation Service

Commendably, Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre is promoting the conservation facilities which it has available for interested parties. The current brochure concentrates on four aspects – consultancy, air-abrasion & corrosion removal, training in conservation & storage, and a range of investigative techniques, which include CT scanning, DNA analysis and thermoluminescence dating.

Whilst use of the service may not be envisaged on a regular basis, it is useful to remember that exploration of mines sometimes reveals items and artefacts requiring "a second opinion". A good starting point could be the website of Wiltshire Conservation Service at www.wshc.eu.

Ron Callender



A tribute to the mining communities of Padiham and Burnley is set to become a feature of the award-winning Greenway.

Ex-colliers from as far afield as Hapton Valley, Bank Hall and Deerplay will be remembered at the monument near the southern end of the £1.5 million Padiham Greenway.

And the stone arc, which will be decorated with forged plates depicting key mining tools, has come together courtesy of a team effort. Tim Norris drew up the designs for Mid Pennine Arts, Padiham stonemason Alan Parkinson has been enlisted for the project and blacksmith John Conlon will craft the decorations.

An 11th hour funding effort has finally brought the project on track. An initial £4,000 was earmarked by Padiham schools and another £1,000 found by Mid Pennine Arts.

But another £2,000 from Lancashire County Council's environment section will see plans fully realised.

Town councillors have also approved a £250 grant towards a £500 contingency fund for the monument. Councillor Bob Clark, Padiham's town mayor and an ex-miner, said: 'The people involved in this have really worked their socks off and it was a bit touch and go.

'It would still have gone ahead but it would have been a poor effort for what could be a great thing for Padiham.'

Note. The Padiham Greenway Project is part of the former 9 mile long railway line from Rose Grove to Blackburn, all track being removed by 1968. The Greenway is a combined footpath and cycleway.

Bernie Bond

The ISSIN SID Project, or The recreation of a Lishman & Young compressed air mines locomotive, 130 years after they were first introduced to the Durham coalfield



I first saw Issin Sid at the September 2008 open day at the Statfold Barn Railway (the Staffordshire home of the Hunslet Engine Company, since it's acquisition by the LH Group) when 'he' was still under construction. Since then I've seen it operating at SBR open days in September 2010 and June and September 2011. The photo shows it at Statfold in 2010 with it's originator, Roy Etherington, president of the Industrial Railway Society.

For anyone interested in more details, it is worth getting a copy of the December 2011 issue of Industrial Railway Record, which has a 3 page article by Roy. There is information on the original locomotives in The Industrial Railways & Locomotives of County Durham Part 1, by Colin E. Mountford & Dave Holroyde, published by the IRS in 2006, ISBN 1 901556 38 7, which is now I think out-of-print. The authors conclude that some 35 to 40 locos were probably built, by the Grange Iron Company of Durham, for use in the Earl of Durham's collieries from at least 1878 to 1892. But there are apparently no photographs of any of the locos.

Rob Needham

The Forester, 26 July 2012

By Janet Hughes, Chief Reporter

Rich Daniels is taking over the helm at the freeminers as the ancient tradition faces twin challenges to its future. Forest freeminers face shelling out hundreds of pounds extra because of changes in how health and safety inspections and mines rescue are funded. Small mine owners say the extra costs could make all the difference as they struggle to make a living out of low tonnages.

But Rich said: 'Freemining is always under threat and it's just another issue we have to deal with. In the tradition of freemining we will get stuck in and do what needs to be done. Other people who carried the baton before me have had to deal with similar challenges.'

Rich, 52, who mines at Monument was voted in as chairman of the Forest of Dean Freeminers' Association during a meeting at the Speech House Hotel.

‘I am humbled and honoured, especially as I am following Don Johns, who was in office for such a long time and was so well known and respected,’ he said.

But Mr. Daniels took over the helm in the week funding problems highlighted at the Greison Colliery disaster, which claimed the lives of four Welsh miners, came to the fore.

Last week, the Mines Rescue Service in Wales, which covers the Forest, warned it is facing closure because the £15,000 levy on miners and the £1 million raised from running courses does not cover its costs. There are fears that if a large mine in the Midlands, which is under threat, closes it will take the Welsh rescue service with it.

Freeminers support Neath MP Peter Hain who wants the commercial company funded as an extra emergency service and have met with Forest MP Mark Harper.

Already freeminers are faced with extra costs because the cash-strapped service has started charging per man rather than by tonnage and they are exploring a separate rescue service for the Forest should the need arise.

‘The charges have gone up by hundreds of pounds already, which is a huge increase for Forest miners who are scratching a living,’ said Rich. ‘We are talking to the Mines Rescue Service about the charges and looking at various options.’

The association is also in talks about plans to make freeminers pay for compulsory health and safety inspections if they are found to have fallen foul of the regulations. The freeminers are concerned because they will have to pay £157 an hour from when the inspector arrives on the premises to when he finds the fault.

‘Our talks with the mines inspectorate have been very useful and positive,’ said Rich.

Longstanding president (of the association) Eric Morris believes the HOOF (Hands Off Our Forest) experience will help the new chairman. He said: ‘Rich Daniels will be replacing Don Johns and I am sure he will do an excellent job.’

Rob Needham

FINALLY, WHAT IS THIS?



When I visited the closed (and now not accessible) Chilmark stone mine in Wiltshire in February 2011, I came across this tracked machine that appeared to be fitted with a chain saw on a rotating arm for cutting the stone in the mine. I could not find any identification markings. Can anyone tell me more about it, please?

Rob Needham

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No. 326704

Visit our Website
www.nmrs.org.uk

NMRS Autumn Meeting - 20th October 2012
The Festival Hall, Gisburn

12.30pm Free buffet - for all who have booked in advance

1.00pm Meeting

Followed by Members` Presentations

I will be attending the Autumn Meeting

Name (BLOCK CAPITALS).....

E-mail

I would/would not like a free buffet

dietary requirements

I would/would not like to give a presentation

Please post to :-

Barbara Sutcliffe
The Old Manse,
93 Halifax Rd.,
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