



PRESIDENTS JOTTINGS

Many thanks to those of you who attended our recent **Autumn meeting**. It was reassuring to meet a selection of regulars, first time attendees and new members. The book sales prior to the actual meeting attracted interest with donated books and some from members being available. We are extremely grateful for the books Barry Hunt donated to the Library after the meeting. As usual our second-hand publications were well received. The buffet lunch was of the usual high standard with the tray bakes being very popular. We must thank Sallie for organising this.

The business meeting focused on the strong position our Society is in with the Committee members presenting reports. A proposal to digitalize out of print publications was proposed by Mike Gill, seconded by Malcolm Street and was accepted with three abstentions.

We were fortunate to have some interesting **presentations** provided by our members. Before rushing off on his holidays Bernard Bond gave a short update on Claughton Brick works and Woodend Museum. Our Society projector came into its own with Keith Turner's photos of the NAMHO 2013 Conference. This should

encourage more of our members to participate. Mike Richards provided some interesting underground photos of his and Andy's exploits and places visited. Andy unfortunately was ill and unable to help him. David Lewis had digitalised some slides taken in 1973 when he visited the ore processing plants at South Crofty & Wheal Jane. Richard Platt provided photos of our recent visit to Woodend Museum and the area around it. Bernard Bond is organising a meet including a visit to this new museum on April 5th 2013 so anyone interested should contact him on 01524241857.

2013 has seen another interesting meet programme which culminated in our Autumn meeting. Thanks to all who have led meets, organized them, written reports and taken photos which add interest to our website. Please contact Sallie if you have ideas for next year. Our special thanks go to her for her efforts.

The **membership renewal form for 2014** is enclosed with his Newsletter. Please attend to it while it is fresh in your mind. Also enclosed is a **Committee Nomination Form** for 2014 which needs to be sent to the Honorary Secretary at least

Editor

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Would you please note that the deadline for inclusion with the February 2014 Newsletter is the 24th January 2014.

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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28 days before the actual AGM. The present Officers are

President	Barbara Sutcliffe
Vice-President	Malcolm Street
Junior Vice-President	<i>Vacant</i>
Secretary	<i>Vacant from the 2014 AGM</i>

Treasurer	Tim Cook
Publications Editor	Richard Smith
Librarian and Meets Organiser	Sallie Bassham
NAMHO Representative	Sallie Bassham
Newsletter Editor	Rob Needham
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Street
Webmaster Administrator	Malcolm Street
Committee Member	Peter Pearson

We **urgently need a volunteer** to step forward to replace Ron Callender when he retires at the 2014 AGM in April. He will be missed due to his enthusiasm and promptness of duties. He must be thanked for all he has done to help the smooth running of our Society. There are guidelines available to help anyone interested in the post and Ron will offer help, too. Please contact myself or Ron if you are interested. All other officers have indicated a willingness to continue in post. Although our Constitution has to satisfy the Charity Commission, we have always tried to keep it as flexible as possible. For example, in addition to the Officers of the Society, there is space on the committee for "up to three other Committee members". The idea is that new people can join the Committee and people can assist in the running of the Society without having to commit to a named Officer position. If YOU feel you can help in the way please contact Ron or myself.

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Peter Andrews	- Lancaster
John Barber	- Leeds
John Davis	- London
James Firth	- Chorley
Mark Wright	- Prestwich
Rick Cavaney	- Gloucester

On a sad note we were sorry to hear, in early August, that John Chaffe had died during treatment for his terminal cancer. Our condolences were sent to his family.

A thank you goes to Dr Stephen Moreton and Authur Baldwin who recently donated some NMRS publications to us.

BM 95 will be with this newsletter if all goes to plan. Please contact our Editor, Richard Smith, if you feel you could write an article for the 2014 Memoirs or even a Monograph. Guidance is available.

The **2014 AGM** has been arranged for Saturday April 26th at Mealbank Hall, Ingleton so please put this date in your diary. Further details will be in our February Newsletter. Perhaps you could spend some of the short days before then looking for any surplus books to bring to sell. If so please let me know.

Finally on behalf of all the Committee members who do so much for our Society, I would like to wish all our members Season's Greeting for Christmas and the New Year and thank you all for your support in 2013.

Barbara Sutcliffe

SOCIETY NEWS

Meets for 2014

Thank you to everyone who organised, and led, meets this year and thank you to everyone who has offered meets for next year. There will be two more (Weardale and North Yorkshire coast) for which dates are not yet fixed.

Saturday 5 April

Dunkirk Colliery surface walk, followed by visit to Woodend Coal Mining Museum.

Leader Bernard Bond (01524 241 857)

Saturday 26 April

Spring Meeting (AGM)

Ingleton Scout Hut, Meal Bank, Yorkshire, SD 6949 7394

Bookings to Barbara Sutcliffe (01282 614 615 or mansemins@btopenworld.com)

Saturday 17 May

Hard level. Challenging underground.

Leader Mike Richards (01904 413 845)

Saturday 21 June

Carrock Fell Mine

Leader David Young (01833 631 609 or dave.young@homecall.co.uk)

25 to 27 July

NAMHO Conference, Bangor.

www.namhoconference.org.uk

Saturday 9 August

Rampgill Mine. Moderate underground.

Leader: Paul Dollery (01937 580 579 or paul.dollery56@ntlworld.com)

Saturday 13 September

Brownley Hill Mine. Moderate underground.

Leader David Young (01833 631 609 or dave.young@homecall.co.uk)

Sallie Bassham

Mine Mapping Project

Further to the announcement about maps showing collieries in the British Isles in the August Newsletter, maps covering miscellaneous mines, should be available on the Society website when you receive this Newsletter. This category will be split into non-ferrous metals, iron, stone, oil and gas, and other mines.

To find them go to the 'Mining in the British Isles' section of the main website by clicking on 'Information' (penultimate entry on the option bar) and select 'Mines Information'. Click on the required category, and at the foot of the map choose the 'Online Mapping' option.

Mike Gill

VISIT REPORTS

Smallcleugh Mine, Nenthead Underground

Meet - 10th August 2013.

At 11.00am 12 persons, 9 members and 3 guests, set off from outside the closed North Pennines Heritage Trust Centre up to the mine's portal. Here the obligatory team photograph was taken. The weather was kind to us being warm and dry. We then proceeded on the standard circular route to Ballroom Flat.



We went up the 130 yd entrance adit to Waterblast Shaft which sits on the first junction. Here in September 1983 an explorer fell down the shaft to his death. At this point we carried on along Hard Crosscut for approximately 250 yds, over a slippery roof fall, to the start of Smallcleugh Flats. Climbing up right to the roof level, the passage starts to get a bit complicated as it proceeds through a boulder strewn area which eventually drops back down into the main level. The horse level continues on through the Smallcleugh Main Flats passing in turn a wooden ventilation door and a series of wooden hoppers all in excellent condition.

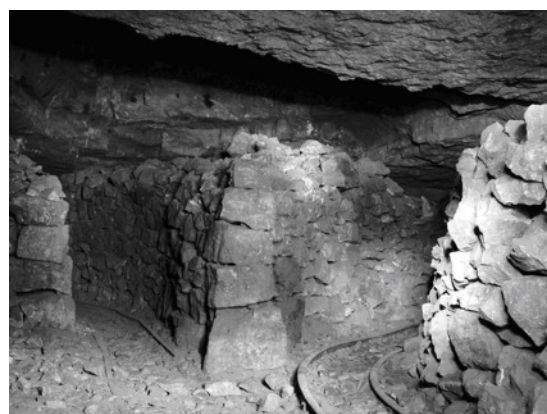
When we reached Gulleyback Crosscut, some members of the party went up the steep incline to look at the flats above. Re-assembling at the incline bottom, we all set off to Wheel Flats where we stopped for lunch.



After a bite to eat, we continued to the far end of the flats, through the low stooping and occasionally hands and knees crawl of Heathering's Crosscut to emerge into Middlecleugh 1st Sun Vein. After a short distance we turned off left over a pile of shale to enter Smallcleugh Cross Vein which reached the Ballroom Flat after firstly passing under a series of stopes.



Arriving at Ballroom Flat was the main objective of the trip. This place is a very large chamber cut out of the stone, all the more amazing that such a large open space was never back-filled. In the 30 years I have been visiting this location, the amount of graffiti on the walls has increased considerably. But what was surprising to see and totally out of place was a small shrine dedicated to the memory of someone, probably a deceased fellow mine explorer, located at chest-height in a small vertical recess in one of the walls. Remembrance of death is a person-



al feeling and should not be displayed in areas where other people visit, definitely not the Ballroom Flat!

We then returned back through Wheel Flats to the Old Flat Crosscut junction, where the start of the circular route begins.

Carefully crossing the side of Luke Hall's Sump we joined the Smallcleugh Great Cross Vein. This main level takes the explorer about 600yds back to the junction of Waterblast Shaft again. The route passes through water with areas of poor ground and a series of sumps. Just before the junction there is a small passage to the Whimsey Sump and next to it a short incline passage, presumably for horses, leading to the Whim Chamber. Then back down the entrance adit to the portal and daylight.

I would like to thank Malcolm Street for providing the photographs, and to the team's illustrious leader, Paul Dollery, who gave me every encouragement to compile this newsletter report.

Richard Platt

Trollers Gill & Burhill Meet 14th September Joint meet with the Geological Society

On a lovely warm sunny morning, 9 NMRS members met on the roadside where the Appletreewick & Gillheads tramway crosses. We were joined, or rather we joined 9 members of the Geological Society of London, Yorkshire Branch, who had been told to be there from 9.30 – they had been told to come earlier.

After inspecting the tram rails that are still embedded in the tarmac, we walked to the engine beds overlooking Gill Heads mine. From here a very steeply angled incline descended to the valley floor. The geologist spent time discussing the different Limestone beds (they all look the same to me). From here we walked over Gill Heads vein and across Middle Hill to Hopewell Level at the foot of Newcastle Rake. The "miners" got there only to find the "geologists" examining a fossil strewn boulder a few hundred yards behind. After everyone had caught up we looked at the blocked Hopewell Level before walking around to Sun Level, driven by our founder, Mike Dickinson who worked for the Clay Cross Co in 1966. I last went down here in the 1980s and the timberwork was ropery then; it is now totally collapsed. Following North Vein and the Newcastle Rake, we climbed to the top of the hill.

After walking up onto Craven Moor to a point where Wright Vein intersects a wall, a call was made for lunch. Calls were made for shelter – there we were on the top of the moor – there is no shelter, apart from the odd hillock. After lunch walking down Wright Vein a large boulder was found in a

hole. The geologists pounced on this as it was the only rock visible and spent a while discussing it. I would not have given it a second thought, but they were able to deduce that the rock had fallen in here as the bedding was wrong.

We walked down Wright Vein to the entrance of the old No 3 Incline, driven in 1967 towards the end of Clay Cross's working. This had stood open for many years but had now fallen in – or was it pushed? There has been a concerted attempt over the years to obliterate all traces of Wright Vein.

Dropping back down to Hopewell Level we walked down Trollers Gill, a fine deep and narrow Limestone gorge. Luckily all the water flows underground at this point or it would be a very wet walk. From here it was a simple walk back up the dry valley to Gill Heads. Here the rabbits, miners and geologists alike disappeared into the Middle Level and down the incline of this old Lead mine that was reworked for Fluorspar from 1919 until the last works in 1982. If you are prepared to scramble and climb you can get further than the flooded section on the incline.

A short walk from here led us back to the cars where the official part of the meet ended, however Paul, Tom and myself decided to explore the Craven Arms in Appletreewick on the way home.

Malcolm Street

The following report is of a Society meet at the same place 52 years before...

September 3rd 1961 GILLHEADS mine, Appletreewick

This meet was well supported, but the result of the expedition was generally disappointing as exploration terminated after a short distance out of the sight of daylight. However, this lack of distance under the ground was compensated for by several exciting incidents. One such incident was when with great dexterity a projecting railway line was lassoed as it protruded from a stack of deads. Once roped and dragged across the hole, the rail was traversed tight-rope fashion by members of the party (with one exception), and the ladder belayed to about three feet of projecting rail beyond the bridge. This traverse, when life lined was more hair-raising than dangerous, until surveyor J.M. Dickinson encumbered with his paraphernalia, and not realising the existence of the life line, or that someone was still on the ladder, which caused the "whole affair" to vibrate in a fearsome manner.

Exploration ended shortly afterwards and the party then transferred activities to the other side of the

valley. Gillheads mine was most successfully worked for fluorspar in the early 1920's when we understand it even went as far as America from this mine. There have been other and much more recent ventures at this mine all having a varied success.

On the other side of the valley from the above mine an interesting old fissure in the form of a stoped out working was descended. This vein working was descended in two 45 foot pitches and from the point of view features has very little to commend it. The three men who made the descent "were a tight fit" at the junction of the pitches, so John Brown a member of the group who loaned the society the narrow metal ladder for this descent; returned to grass. As he reached the head of the pitch the piton securing the ladder pulled out, (the vice president suggested that this might happen even as the party was descending) Brown rapidly descended to where Caleb Wade was vainly attempting to hide under his helmet. Fortunately John Brown was well held on the lifeline and fell in an upright position, so that he was able to jam, back and foot, in the fissure, from which position he was retrieved unhurt.

NMRS/SWAAG excavation of a lead bale site at Hagg Farm, Fremington, Swaledale

The excavation of an early lead smelting site by NMRS and the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group provided an interesting and enjoyable week and more of work for about 20 of the people who took part. The site at SE 05946 99141 was identified as an early lead smelting site in early 2013 after being reported by Tim Laurie, the President of SWAAG. After some fieldwork and preliminary visits, a geophysics survey was carried out by NMRS member Rob Vernon on 24th July 2013 and an excavation was carried out during the whole of the week of 19th August 2013. This was directed by Richard Smith of NMRS and Tim Laurie of SWAAG with the assistance of a professional archaeologist, Tony Liddell who carried out the recording. The project was funded by a grant from NMRS



Figure 1. Rob Vernon carries out a geophysics survey with a fluxgate gradiometer. For this he has to wear clothing with no magnetic components whatsoever and still remain decent. Others keep well out of the way.

The object of the excavation was to identify the area which had been used for smelting and, if possible, to determine the type of technology which was used. The main smelting area was unlike the rest of the site in that it had a 150 cm deep patch of slag/soil mixture above a very thin layer of charcoal with apparently unchanged clay beneath. Some fire-cracked and reddened stones were in the vicinity, some of which had baked clay adhering to them. There were slags in most of the areas of the site which were uncovered, however, in some places these were tightly packed and appeared as if they had been placed deliberately as hard standing. A deep deposit of charcoal was found immediately adjacent to the smelting area and clearly was the remains of a charcoal heap rather than the residue from a fire. The absence of a burnt clay substrate was initially disappointing and suggested that the main smelting site had been elsewhere. However, subsequent tests showed that the original turf on which the fire would have been laid turns to a crumbly friable soil/clay on strong heating and that subsequent wetting does not cause it to return to clay. Underlying compacted clay which had been heated to lower temperatures was shown to break down to the same material on repeated freezing and soaking. This evidence together with the presence of the abundance of charcoal nearby and the sheltered lowland location, suggests that this was a site used for reworking slags from other bales and was not a primary lead smelting site. It would have been encircled by a small stone wall, present but largely destroyed and would have been blown by either bellows or wind.



Figure 2. A team work on the excavation of the main location of smelting activity. Fortunately the weather was good and no time was lost to rain.

Twelve pieces of charcoal were sent to Durham University and eleven were identified as hazel, the remaining sample was 'maloideae', a sub-family which includes rowan, hawthorn, whitebeam and several fruit trees. Three samples of charcoal were sent for

radiocarbon dating and returned dates of Cal AD 1410, Cal AD 1430 and Cal AD 1330, 1340 or 1400 (this last result occurred because of a peculiarity in the calibration graph which is explained in Smith R., British Mining, 2006). These dates are similar to those recorded for other sites where the remains of large charcoal dumps have been found.



Figure 3. We really could have done with a JCB, like Time Team. Richard Smith does the hard work, Alan Mills the tricky stuff while Dave Williams looks on.

Work is progressing to relate the site to mines and bales in the area and to possible routes connecting these with the settlements below. The obvious source of lead ore in the area is the Copperthwaite Vein, which outcrops on Fremington Edge but recent field-walking has shown the presence of shallow shafts and openworks immediately adjacent to a line of bales on the lip of Fremington Edge and immediately above this site. Some of these bales are shown as such on the Marrick maps of 1592 reported by A. Raistrick and later by L. Tyson.



Figure 4. Back home Alex Smith helps with some of the slag density measurements.

There is an opportunity to undertake further excavations at the site to explore the patches of slag which are spread over a considerable area to see if primary smelting has been carried out here or if these are the remains of slag collection areas. Additional work could be done on the rather 'sketchy mine' remains above the site to see if these are prospecting trenches or something more serious. Medieval lead mining and smelting is a rather

neglected area where archaeology will probably tell us more than historical research in the future.

Richard Smith

NEWS

New coal-mining museum opens Woodend, Smithson Farm, Reedley Hallows, Burnley BB12 9DR

A unanimous vote was given by the Pendle Planning Committee on the 6th August to the opening of the Woodend Coal Mining Museum at Reedley Hallows.



With a café and two display rooms they exhibit many artefacts that give a deep insight into the local Burnley coalfield. Artefacts for this display have been added to over the last few weeks, having been given by mining family gatherings and weekend visitors. With an invitation from the owners, Harry and Carole Johnson, a small group of NMRS members visited the site on Wednesday 2nd October. Our mission was to identify any of the artefacts on display. Quickly some of this was achieved. In the second room stood a dummy figure dressed in a full Proto breathing apparatus from the 1950s, in one of the many display cabinets there was a self-rescue MSA container, the photo below shows one opened.



It was explained that each miner would be given one at the beginning of his shift underground – note that this would be given the same number as his lamp and

token. A further list with photos was put together for the meeting at Gisburn on 26th October. A re-visit for NMRS members has been added to next years meets list for 26th April. I would like to thank those who came along for their help with the identifications on 2nd October.

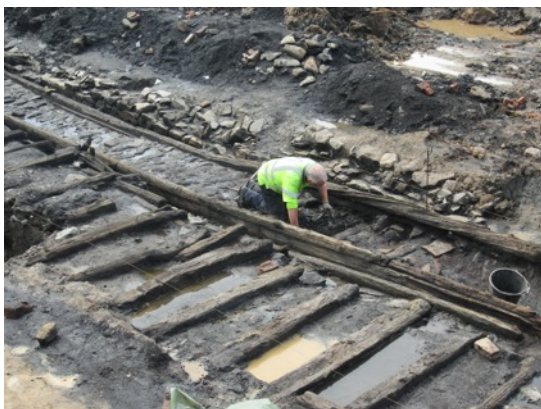
By following the A678 road from Padham to Barrowford you will pass Higham on the left. Continue to the fence and at the next junction turn right to Burnley and Reedley Hallows. This descending road leads to a river bridge. Do not cross, but turn onto the small lane. Follow this lane and after Woodend Farm at the next gate you will see the museum sign.

Tel 07809274910

info@woodendminingmuseum.co.uk
www.woodendminingmuseum.co.uk

Bernie Bond

Old Waggonway ,Wallsend, Tyneside



Redevelopment work at the old Neptune Ship Yard by Shepherd Offshore has uncovered remains of the Willington Waggonway adjacent to the Roman Fort at Wallsend. The 25metre section is thought to date from around 1795 and was used to cart coal from the nearby pits at Bigges Main and Willington Quay to staiths on the River Tyne. Archaeologists are looking at ways in preserving the remains as a previous timber waggonway excavated at Lambton



Co Durham has now rotted away after exposure to the air.

Malcolm Charlton

Ed note. This discovery is also reported in Bulletin 930 (November 2013) of the Industrial Railway Society with the comment that the waggonway has revealed features known previously only through 18th century engineers' notebooks. I suggest that the archaeologists talk to the Mary Rose team in Portsmouth who have preserved the formerly-waterlogged timbers of the Tudor warship.

Claughton Manor Brickworks – Re-start of brick production this year

A long-awaited announcement from Claughton Brickworks is the re-start of brick production. Company spokesman Mr David Weekes explained to news reporter Mr Steven Bell of the Lancaster Guardian on 1st August '..... we are totally demand-led and it looks like right across the country demand for bricks is rising again. Our plan was always to bring it back into service when the market improves.'



Photo 1. Works display area, showing customers the choice of brick types available.

Full site maintenance has continued since April 2010, with a new roof structure for the building in photo 2, maintenance to the mechanical trackways and work carried out at the kilns. Further to this a new hauling cable to the quarry fitted.



Photo 2. View of the building next to the A683 Hornby to Lancaster road. Seen in April 2008, this year the building has been totally re-roofed, this being the start and return of the newly-painted buckets.



Photo 3. Proudly re-painted, these buckets stand ready for their return from the quarry, each holding 290kg of quarry waste.

Bernie Bond

On the same subject

The Westmorland Gazette, 31 October 2013, page 47

"BRICKWORDS BUILDS ON RECOVERY

The mothballed Claughton Manor brickworks near Hornby will begin production again next year. Hanson Building Products closed the plant four years ago after the housing market was hit by recession. But this is now reviving, fuelling demand for bricks. Hanson spokesman David Weeks said the kilns would be fired up again in mid-December after a £500,000 upgrade of the plants. "

Sallie Bassham

Exhibition of Mining Art at Bradford Industrial Museum from 5th October 2013 until January 2014 by the artist Derek Slater

Profile - Derek was born in Chilton, a small village in County Durham. His father was a miner and when he left school he became a miner at Mainsforth Colliery. When he went to work underground he did various jobs, one of which was timber leading with a pony. This involved taking equipment to various parts of the pit to be used in development work.

Shortly before he was due to start work at the pit face he was offered the chance of an engineering apprenticeship at a factory which he decided to accept. After several years he returned to work for the coal industry in 1973 at Tursdale Workshops as a mechanical fitter. It was after this period that he started to paint and won the Sir Derek Ezra Art Trophy in 1982 and also had a design accepted for the North East Area NUM banner. He was made redundant from British Coal in 1994 and was accepted on a BA (Hons) Fine Arts Course at the University of Sunderland.

Since completing the course he has been teaching art on a part-time basis and continuing to paint using oils. From memories and various other sources he has endeavoured to paint mining scenes as well as ecological art which he is also interested in.

Over the number of years he has been painting he has had several exhibitions in various galleries. The prints for sale in the display are taken from Derek's original oil paintings which can be viewed at www.derekslater.co.uk.

Check out his website it is well worth a look, or better still if you are in Bradford go and visit the Exhibition. I have seen some of the originals, they document in a very realist way an industry that has now been sadly consigned to history.

Richard Platt

Newbottle Waggonway Map

In Bulletin 930 (November 2013) of the Industrial Railway Society there is a report by Colin Mountford of a new exhibition at the Monkwearmouth Station Museum, Sunderland, which includes a recently-acquired map of the Newbottle Waggonway. The waggonway ran from collieries at Newbottle to staiths on the River Wear, and was opened in 1812. The map fills almost all of one wall of the room, and is dated 1817. Entry to the museum is free and opening hours can be found on the internet.

Rob Needham

CONONISH DIARY

13th Oct 2013

Bad news continues to trickle out of Scotland about the fortunes of the gold mine near Tyndrum in Perthshire. The 2013 annual report was, however, confident and upbeat. "The Cononish gold and silver

project, although small by international standards, has the ability to provide a post-tax 23% rate of return at \$1,300/oz,” said chairman John Bentley, who gave assurance that the undertaking had “all the consents necessary to allow it to be in production within 18 months of development financing being secured.”

Glasgow’s *Herald*, however, reported on the “funding challenges” caused by the global economic recovery that had reduced the appeal of gold as an investment. When the gold price dropped by \$300 an ounce, investors vanished overnight. The auditors referred to a “material uncertainty ... that may cast significant doubt about the company’s ability to continue as a going concern.” That is, the loan of £1.5M due to be paid, at the very latest, by 31st December.

On the financial front, a non-executive director, Mr Shane Sadleir, sold nearly four million of his shares in August, and ten million ordinary Scotgold shares have been placed to Zio Holdings Ltd in return for £118,000.

When I was given a VIP underground tour in November 2010, the company was poised to overcome planning objections and start mining. As a Scot, I am disappointed that such a novel enterprise may be mothballed in the early part of next year. If nothing else, however, Scotgold’s activities have demonstrated that there is still gold up in them hills of the Loch Lomond National Park.



The Cononish River as it meanders through the national park famed for its scenery ... and the gold deposits in the mountains.

Ron Callender

MINING & MINING HISTORY NEWS
July-September 2013

Haig Colliery, Whitehaven, Cumbria (29/07/2013)

Haig Pit Mining and Colliery Museum has been awarded a grant of £2.4M by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The money will be used to refurbish existing buildings and to construct a new visitor centre. The museum will be closed for about 18 months during this work. Mining stopped at Haig Pit in 1986.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cumbria-23487153>

<http://haigpit.wordpress.com/the-powerhouse-and-visitors-centre-development/>

Boulby Mine, Saltburn-by-the-Sea, North Yorkshire (05/08/2013)

The 50 metre high, 2700 tonne Rockshaft Tower at Boulby Mine, which was built in 1969, has been detached from the upcast shaft, relocated and demolished. The tower is being replaced by headgear weighing 560 T, at a cost of £15M. This development will allow an extra million tonnes of potash to be raised each year, and create 270 jobs.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tees-23476602>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9F2VMzb0vs>
(13 minute video)

Markham Colliery, Staveley, Derbyshire (30/07/2013)

On the 40th anniversary of a tragedy in which 18 men died, a plaque has been unveiled to commemorate all the 106 men who lost their lives in the Colliery. Accompanying the plaque are the first of 106 sculpted metal plates that symbolise the men “Walking Together”. Each figure has a tag attached which gives the man’s name, age and occupation. The tag will enable visitors to access relevant historical information on the internet. The Colliery was worked from 1885 to 1994. Alkane Energy PLC currently extract Coal Mine Methane from the mine, for electricity generation.

http://www.chesterfieldpost.co.uk/news/local/localnews_00000526.html

Glensanda Quarry, Argyllshire (12/08/2013)

QME are currently developing a new glory hole and a new main conveyor chamber at Glensanda, for Aggregate Industries. The new facilities will be lower than existing facilities, allowing greater access to reserves, and reducing transport costs. When completed the glory hole will be 210 metres vertically, with a diameter of 4 m. The Quarry has produced granite since 1986.

<http://www.geoscience.ie/project-highlander/>

Dart Energy Coal Bed Methane Project, Central Scotland (21/08/2013)

In August 2012 Dart Energy submitted a planning application to Falkirk and Stirling Councils for their Airth Natural Gas Production Project. The project involves 14 new wellsites, a gas delivery and water treatment plant and associated pipelines. The company

expect to spend £120M on the development. The deadline for a local decision on the application was extended by four months, and the application is now “deemed to have been refused”. On the 5th June the company lodged an appeal with the Scottish Government. In August the company submitted to the Governments Reporter a 78 page rebuttal of the objection made to their proposals. Many of the objections were in a standard form, under the auspices of a group called Falkirk Against Unconventional Gas.

<http://www.dartenergyscotland.co.uk/news.html>
<http://eplanning.falkirk.gov.uk/online/> (Planning Application P/12/0521/FUL)

Unity Mine, Cwmgwrach, West Glamorgan (23/08/2013)

A drop in coal prices and problems with planning permission has forced Walter Energy to seek to reduce the workforce at the colliery from 220 down to 66 people. The employees have agreed, in principle, to cut their working hours, so that the remaining work can be shared out between them all. The mine opened in 2007.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-west-wales-23801992>

Avoca Mine, Co. Wicklow (26/08/2013)

On the 23rd August the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources published a “Request for Tenders for Technical, Design, Procurement and Project Management for Remediation works at the Avoca Mine Site via a Single Supplier Framework Agreement”. The aim of the remediation works is to reduce the onsite risks to health and safety. The proposed works are outlined in the document, and include sealing of shafts and adits, regrading and covering spoil heaps, and removal of the ore bins. The closing date for responses was the 8th October.

http://irl.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/publicpurchase_frameset.asp?PID=69444&B=&PS=1&PP=

Moselden Height Quarry, Scammonden, West Yorkshire (28/08/2013)

Marshalls PLC have applied for planning permission to extend their Moselden Quarry. The sandstone quarry produces paving slabs and building stone. Examples of the former can be seen at the Cenotaph and outside 10 Downing Street, London. Applications 2013/92690 and 2013/92691.

http://www2.kirklees.gov.uk/business/planning/application_search/default.aspx
<http://www.naturalstonespecialist.com/currentissue/unlockednewsarticle.php?id=6177>

Canonbie Coalfield, Dumfriesshire (29/08/2013)

A campaign group has been formed in Canonbie to oppose three potential developments in the area. The Buccleugh Estate are proposing a surface coal mine in conjunction with the Kier Group. New Age Exploration are looking to establish a deep mine producing coking coal, and Dart Energy are proposing to extract coal bed methane. Coal was mined in the area from before 1805 and with a limited production after Rowanburn Colliery closed in 1922. British Coal estimated that there was potentially workable coal over an area of 70 km², with reserves in excess of 400 MT (Source G.S. Picken, 1988. Scottish Journal of Geology)

<http://www.cumberlandnews.co.uk/campaigners-vow-to-fight-mine-plans-1.1081197>

Glyn Rhonwy Quarry, Llanberis, Gwynedd (02/09/2013)

The planning application by the Quarry Battery Company to build a pumped storage hydro-electric scheme in old slate quarries west of Llanberis has been approved. They plan to use the Chwarel Fawr Quarry as an upper reservoir and the Glyn Rhonwy Quarry as a lower reservoir. The pumping and generating plant will be located at the site of an old underground munitions store. Application C12/1451/15/LL.

http://www.gwynedd.gov.uk/swifftlg/apas/run/wphap_pcriteria.display?langid=1
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-west-wales-23920312>

Ball Clay, Bovey Basin, South Devon (16/09/2013)

The B3193 road between Chudleigh and Kingsteignton is being realigned at a cost of £10M to allow for the extraction of ball clay. Sibelco hope that the work will give them access to 24 MT of premium clay, sufficient for 50 years production at present rates. Clay has been quarried in the area since around 1650.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-24107067>

Scottish Government Consultation (17/09/2013)

Scotlands Energy Minister, Fergus Ewing MSP, has announced that the Scottish Government will publish a consultation on improving the regulation of open-cast coal mining. (On 13/10/2013 the consultation was not yet published, nor listed as forthcoming)

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Improving-the-coal-industry-42c.aspx>

Minco Mining Ltd, Nenthead, Cumbria (26/09/2013)

Since the start of the year Minco has completed eight exploratory boreholes near Nenthead. Three of the holes producing encouraging results and the company believe that there is the potential for significant zinc-lead mineralisation over an area about 4.25 km².

The company's Chairman said "We believe these results confirm our initial opinion of the potential of the Northern Pennine Orefield for the discovery of new mineralisation, both extending laterally around and at depth below historic workings. A third phase of drilling is planned for next year, with the planned addition of a second drill machine to further explore this exciting project for Minco". Mining in the area started around the year 1100, ending about 1963.

<http://www.minco.ie/news.htm>

Snibston Discovery Museum, Coalville, Leicestershire (26/09/2013)

Leicester County Council wants to reduce the £740 000 annual subsidy that it makes to Snibston Museum. The subsidy amounts to £8 per visitor. Council Leader Nick Rushton said "we will be looking to members of the public to come forward and volunteer to run things, form charities to run things, give donations and their time." In 2012 a group was formed called the Friends of Snibston. They have Facebook Page and are seeking the public's views on the museum, via a survey, and have launched an online and paper petition.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-24281406>

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QNP9PSM>

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?Id=33> (Closes 15/11/2013)

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfSnibston>

Hermitage Quarry, Maidstone Kent (26/09/2013)

On the 18th September opponents of an extension to Hermitage Quarry withdrew their objections at the High Court of Justice. The Gallagher Group can now quarry 14% of Oaken Wood, which is mainly a 19th century plantation of coppiced sweet chestnut. The quarry works Kentish Ragstone (limestone), producing crushed aggregates and block stone. It has been in operation since 1990, directly employing 60 people.

<http://www.gallagher-group.co.uk/news/2013/09/26/go-ahead-for-hermitage-quarry-extension>

Talke Miners Memorial, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire (02/10/2013)

The Friends of Talke have received planning permission for the erection of a memorial to the 325 miners who died between 1860 and 1901 at Bunker's Hill, Talke O' Th' Hill and Jamage Collieries. The Friends now need to raise £20 000 to build the memorial.

<http://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/ahead-Talke-disasters-memorial/story-19872536-detail/story.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheFriendsOfTalke>

Land Registration Act 2002 (12/10/2013)

The Land Registration Act 2002 requires people who have manorial rights in England and Wales to register them with the Land Registry before the 13th October 2013, or risk losing the rights. The aim of the legislation is to clarify the ownership of land.

When Tim Shorland registered his interest as Lord of the Manor of Patchway in Bristol, the Land Registry sent out 4000 notices to residents, informing them of Mr Shorland's right to mine. Understandably this caused anxiety to the local people, and Mr Shorland has since withdrawn his registration.

The Church of England has mineral rights over in excess of 500 000 acres of land in England, and they have been researching these rights and registering them.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-24179879>

<http://www.landregistry.gov.uk/public/guides/public-guide-25>

New publications

Anon, 2013. Metal Mine Strategy for Wales Newsletter, Summer 2013. Natural Resources Wales, 4pp. <http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/our-work/news/newsletters/?lang=en#.UILpGVO0NJ0>

Barnatt, John, 2013. Delving ever deeper: the Ecton Mines through time. Peak District National Park Authority, Bakewell. 382pp. Available for £21.00, plus £5.60 P&P, from the Peak District Mining Museum, 01629 583 834.

<http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/news/current-news/digging-deep-new-book-explores-the-depths-of-internationally-important-ecton-mines>

Corin, John and Joseph, Peter, 2013. Levant: a champion Cornish mine. The Trevithick Society, Camborne. 120pp. £10.99. (A new and completely revised edition of the book first published in 1992) <http://www.trevithick-society.org.uk/>

Hannavy, John., 2013. Edwardian mining in old postcards. Halsgrove Publishing, Wellington. 144pp. £9.99.

<http://www.halsgrove.com/proddetail.php?prod=9780857100740>

Indecon International Economic Consultants, 2013. Assessment of economic contribution of mineral exploration and mining in Ireland: Report submitted to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. 61pp. <http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/Natural/Exploration+and+Mining+Division/Assessment+of+Economic+Contribution.htm>

Rieuwerts, Jim, 2013. Adventurers in the lead trade: being an account of the mining interests of the Thornhill family of Stanton Hall near Bakewell, Derbyshire. Hucklow Publishing. 160pp.
<http://www.pwhole.com/adventurers.htm>

Six Townships Community History Group, 2013. Easington, a journey through time. DVD, runtime approx 60 minutes. Available for £5.99 (+£2 VAT, P&P) from
<http://www.sixtownships.org.uk/>

Events

Bronze Age Forum 2013, 9 -10 November 2013

This Forum at Queens University Belfast includes the following presentations in the first session on the Sunday morning.

Simon Timberlake: The Bronze Age mines dating project and some new ideas on ore extraction and smelting,

William O'Brien: Late Bronze Age copper mining in Ireland,

R. Alan Williams: Ore to Metal – Geochemical opportunities at the Great Orme Bronze Age copper mine to define a metal group and trace the metal supply,

Peter Bray & Catriona Gibson: Mapping and interpreting the flow of metal in Bronze Age Atlantic Europe: new chemical and archaeological approaches.

Online registration cost £45, or for students and unwaged people £25.

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/BronzeAgeForum/>

Historical Metallurgy Society Spring Meeting, 12 – 13 April 2014

The HMS Spring Meeting is being organised by Paul Rondelez, and it will be based at Blarney, Co. Cork. On the Saturday the group will visit East Clare to look at exceptionally well preserved charcoal fuelled blast furnaces dating from the 17th and early 18th centuries. The visit on the Sunday morning will be to the East Indias Companys ironworks near Bandon, which date back to the 1610s. The afternoon will be spent at University College Cork, with a talk on early irish iron technology, and an exhibition of the remains of early iron working, including a preserved slag pit bloomer furnace, tuyeres and early blooms. More information will be put on the HMS website in due course: <http://hist-met.org/>

July 6-13 International Mining History Congress & Australasian Mining History Association Conference, Queensland.

<http://www.ct2014miningcongress.com/programme.html>

July 25-27 NAMHO Conference. Bangor, North Wales. <http://www.namho.org/news.php#26>

Alastair Lings

THE GREAT REPUBLIC OF ROUGH & READY

To my surprise, in 1997 I received an invitation to visit California. The agreed plan was for me to give advice on how to organise contests in gold panning and to convince the Director of National Parks that it would be “a good thing” for his department to host the 1998 World Championships.



Once the consultations were over, I had time to immerse myself in aspects of California's history of the gold rush of 1849 ... and, one year later, I participated in the successful World Gold Panning Championships being held in Coloma, El Dorado County.

Route 49 through the state has been deliberately planned so as to simplify access to the gold country and as a consequence, there is much to see and investigate. The distances in California are vast when compared to the UK and my ten days passed in a blur of photographs. I viewed the Malakoff Diggings, where powerful hoses had demolished gold bearing mountains, walked around Donner Camp, where the Donner party had been trapped by a snowstorm in the winter of 1846 and enjoyed an underground tour of a new gold mine at Sutter Creek. I relished opportunities to pan in the American River, and jumped at the chance to visit some former mining townships of the Gold Rush.

One afternoon, my host and I tried to find a few surviving traces of Timbuctoo, but failed. How-

ever, we did stop in the unambiguous township of



Photo: Rough & Ready road sign

Rough & Ready in Nevada County and which retains an unusual place in California's history.



Photo: Rough & Ready Post Office

The township, with a population of just over 900 people, is about sixty miles north of Sacramento and evolved from a community that was established in 1849 by a gold mining company from Wisconsin. The "captain" (that is, the leader) named it after the 12th President of the United States, whose nickname was "Old Rough and Ready". The majority of residents were from Wisconsin, and they resented the law that taxed gold mining claims. An unwelcome state law prohibiting alcohol also fuelled discontent, but when the Post Office insisted that the correct name of the thriving township should either be "Rough" *or* "Ready", but not both, the citizens rebelled. At a stroke, they agreed to be



Photo: Rough & Ready fire station

come a republic and break away from the Union. However, when the inhabitants realized that they could not celebrate Independence Day, they rejoined the Union, although the title remains in use today in a promotion of aspects of the town's history.

On my first visit, I developed a soft spot for The Great Republic of Rough & Ready and fitted another visit into my itinerary this year. I wondered what had changed and noted the brand new fire station as we parked the car. The blacksmith's shop (c 1850) and the old toll house of 1859 still survived, but the carving of a life-sized gold prospector was showing his age. The Rough & Ready Country Store was still going strong and stocked everything you would need to shoe a horse or prospect for gold. The No 95975 Post Office was open for business but having no customers, the postman enjoyed answering our questions. Our digital cameras had been working overtime and as we were about to depart, we espied another figure mounted on a plinth by the old toll house. It was no more than 200 yards along the road, and seemed to be worth investigating.



As we approached, a host of intriguing artefacts came into view and we found that one side of the road featured a mining complex, complete with buckets, wagons, bogies, track rails and an office,



Photo: Mine office

which displayed authentic posters and notices. On the other side of the road was the old toll house overlooking a reconstruction of 19th century "Blue Creek Road", complete with the blacksmith's shop, a saw mill, the fire bell, (which was - and is - an essential in an area where most houses are wood-built), Jake's dance hall & saloon, the Post Office and the Wells Fargo staging post.



Photo: Old toll house

We had enjoyed the visit to Rough & Ready but this was a bonus. It was well done, and gave an excellent impression of the former days without any unwelcome 21st century intrusions. In its heyday and when it was much bigger, Rough & Ready had suffered from many fires but this open air exposition was an admirable attempt to recreate the past history. The place was deserted; we were free to ramble around the items on display and it is no surprise that the visit ended with yet another burst of photographic activity.



Photo: General view of mine site

Since returning to Cheshire, I have compiled a brief narrative from some of the available sources:

The leader of the Rough & Ready Company was Captain AA Taylor, who had served in the Mexican War, but in 1849 had recruited a band of men from Wisconsin to seek gold in the West. Once they had negotiated the Sierra Nevada mountain range by aiming for today's Truckee, in September they arrived at Deer Creek, where they successfully mined the creek bed for gold. During a hunting expedition for meat, a miner came upon a river with even more gold and the camp was moved to the new location. Townsend went back east to recruit more workers but on his return, he found the news had leaked out and his encampment had expanded. Hard rock mining was now as popular as the alluvial methods used on the rivers.

Over five hundred adventurers had created an embryo township of tents and wooden shanties, which took on the name of Rough & Ready. The gold

mining helped the town to develop until 1853 when a massive fire swept through the community and destroyed hotels, houses and stores. From the disaster a substantial new town emerged with a population of three thousand, only to succumb to another fire six years later, from which it never recovered. Many people had to depart but the profitable claims continued to produce gold and this was sufficient to maintain a store, saloon, post office and the Wells Fargo express office.

Ron Callender

FOR SALE

I need to free up some shelf space and I have available the following:-

Peak District Mines Historical Society

Newsletter: Nos 12, 14 – 148 Complete

Journals: Vol 3 Nos 3,4,5
Vol 4 Nos 1,2,6
Vol 5 Nos 1,2,3,5,6
Vol 6 to 17 Nos 1 – 6 Complete
Vol 18 Nos 1 – 5

Publications: Ecton Copper 1967
Lead Mining in Derbyshire 1973
History of Magpie 1980
Lead Mining in Derbyshire 1996
Author Index (Vol 1 – 9)
A Guide for visitors to Magpie Mine
British Mining History Bibliography
Nos 1 – 6 (1990-95)
Magpie Mine Engine House Appeal (1993)

£295.00 the Lot or Best Offer (P&P Free)

NB: This Lot weighs about 32kgs and will be sent by Courier

Shropshire Mining Club Publications

Year Books 1961/62 – 1965/66 (5 Issues)
Accounts Nos 1 – 6 1960 – 1967 (6 Issues)
All bound in one volume with gold lettering on spine. Approx 21 x 27cms 500pp

Shropshire Mining Club Publications

Year Books 1966/67 (1 Issue)
Accounts Nos 7 – 10 1970 – 1972 (4 Issues)
All bound in one volume with gold lettering on spine. Approx 21 x 30cms 250pp

Journals 1979 and 1980
Account No 12 (1979)
Library Catalogue 1974

£70.00 the Lot P&P Free

UK Journal of Mines and Minerals

Nos 15, 17, 18, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30

£5.75 each P&P Free

BMS Newsletters

Complete set Nos 1 – 90 plus Directories, Membership Lists and Reference Collection (1 – 2000)
£25 the Lot P&P Free

Moldywarps Speleological Group Journal

Nos 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 (1970 – 1976)

£12.00 the Lot P&P Free

Chelsea Speleological Society

Nos 3, 7, 8, and 9 (1963 – 1979)

£8.00 the Lot P&P Free

Cotham Speleological Society

Nos 7 and 8 (1972 – 73)

£3.00 the Lot P&P Free

Cumberland Geological Society Proceedings

Nos 1 & 2 (1962), 1 & 2 (1963), 1 & 2 (1964), 1 & 2 (1965), 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4 (1968-70)

£22 the Lot P&P Free

Cleveland Industrial Archaeologist

Nos 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11 (1975 – 79) plus Reports 1979 and 1980

£18.00 the lot P&P Free

Further info available from David R Neal

01974 821213 or dgmail22-nmrs@yahoo.co.uk

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NOW I KNOW WHAT IT IS

In the May newsletter I put on the last page 'An Appeal For Information'. I had two responses:-

The equipment in question is a 'Gate End Switch-box' or as we called them in North Staffordshire a 'panel'.

Basically its the electrical switchgear situated on one of the roadways (usually but not always the intake or main) leading to the coal face. A trailing cable would lead from the switchgear to relevant equipment, in this case a '50hp coal cutter'.

The switchbox provided a means of isolating power to the machine, the means to 'reverse' the motors if required, as well as safety devices such as Earth Continuity, Earth Leakage & Overload protection.

The FLP on the lower plate indicates that the switchbox is certified Flameproof, a requirement for British Coal Mines.

As for its age? I would suggest 1960's

Whether to preserve it? Well you certainly don't see many of this type around, so I would suggest keeping it at least.

Roy Meldrum

It is called a gate end box. Normally there would be 3 or 4 coupled together fed by permanent cable and they were the isolator contactor boxes for machines in the heading or on the coal face The box shown here probably fed an Anderton Boyes 50 HP long-wall coal cutter by 150 yd long flexible cable approximately 2-5 ins diameter.

David Taylor

Thank you both for the information. I will make sure it is not scrapped.

And for my next question, please can anyone enlighten me as to the origin of two wagons that we have on our railway at Lea Bailey in the Forest of Dean?

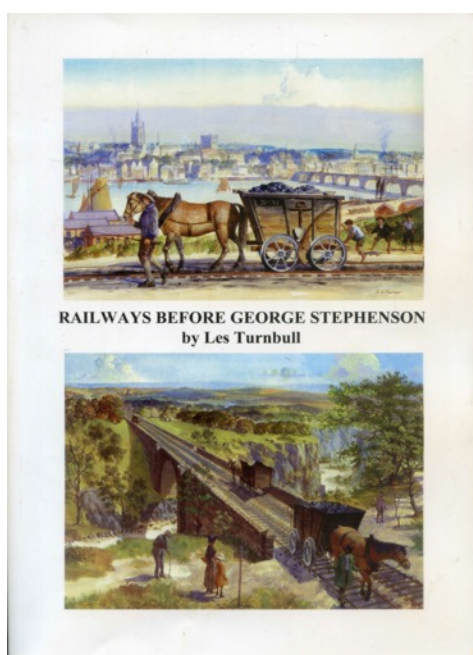


They were about 2' 2" gauge (we have re-gauged them to 2'), have NCB cast in the back of each wheel, stand about 5ft tall, but are only about 2ft wide, so appear to be designed for use underground in narrow passages. There were two opening doors each side but at some time these have been welded up, so it appears that they were emptied by being

lifted bodily off the track as there are holes at each corner for them to be lifted. The couplings are only simple hook and link, so the wagons cannot be safely pushed in multiple (as we found out, and they are heavy so re-railing is hard work!) Were they designed for colliery use? If so, why are the side doors relatively small? I have had one suggestion that they could have originally come from a Northants iron mine. I think that they came from a colliery in Yorkshire, but where did the colliery get them from? And what were they used for?

Rob Needham

NEW PUBLICATION



Railways before George Stephenson, a study of the waggonways in the Great Northern Coalfield 1605-1830, by Les Turnbull, 2012. Pub Chapman Research Publishing, Oxford. ISBN 978-0-9561248-1-4. 200pp, £17.50 S/B

This is a superb book on waggonways in the North East, illustrated with many colour reproductions of original maps. Until I read it, I had not realised that there were underground waggonways with the waggons drawn by horses. The index of waggonways lists 89 (plus many more branches), each of which is identified in one or more of the 9 detailed maps. If you are interested in the Great Northern Coalfield, go and buy this book. It is published in conjunction with the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers. I bought my copy from Mike Moore, and it was supplied direct from the Institute.

Rob Needham

That's it for another quarter. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter as much as I've enjoyed putting it together. If you've got any comments, whether positive or negative, please let me know. And also please keep the articles coming. I hate leaving white spaces, and I'm relying on you, the members, to help me fill them.

In conclusion

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

from the Editor

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