



Presidents Jottings

A Happy New Year to all our members and a special "thank you" to all who have renewed so promptly. Those who have paid up will find their **membership card** enclosed. If it is not there it is a gentle reminder that future Newsletters and Publications for 2015 will not come your way until membership is renewed! We are especially grateful to the donations we receive both financial and in the form of books. It all helps Northern Mine Research Society to carry out all the work we are so proud of.

Please check our website and future Newsletters for extra meets arranged throughout the year and for confirmation of dates not yet confirmed.

New for 2015 is our presence on **Facebook**. This new venture actually started back in October but too late for the last Newsletter of the year. Hopefully we will meet more people with shared interests through this medium which is completely new to me! If you are a fan of Facebook please like and share our pages, adding comments if appropriate. We can be found at www.facebook.com/pages/Northern-Mine-Research-Society/737974059589167 Suggestions for suitable links are also welcome. I would like to give a

special "thank you" to Alastair Lings who has been so helpful and to Mike Gill who gave me suggestion to start me off. Our aims are to not only provide news to interested individuals and groups but also to make more people aware of what we do, the benefits of membership, and the publications which we are so proud of.

Our **2015 AGM** has been arranged for **Saturday April 11th** returning to **Meal Bank Hall, Ingleton, Yorkshire (SD 6949 7394)** No booking form is enclosed (to save both paper and money) but there is a reminder on the back page. Bookings should be made to me by e-mail at mansemims@btopenworld.com or by phone on 01282 614615 by March 28th in order to give time to arrange our excellent buffet. When booking, if you a vegetarian please let me know. Book sales will start at 11.30 with lunch at 12.00 followed by the AGM. After that Bernard Bond will be leading a short walk in the area. If you wish to bring some of your own books to sell please let me know in advance and we would appreciate 10% of sales donated to NMRS please. As usual I will be bringing a selection of our s/h publications to sell and there will

Editor

Rob Needham

Pike House, George Lane, Littledean, Glos.

GL14 3LL

tel:- 01594 823487

email:- rob.needham2@hotmail.co.uk

Would you please note that the deadline for inclusion with the May 2015 Newsletter is the 30th April 2015.

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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be a further selection of donated books and maps so remember to bring your cheque book or wallet with you! If there are any specific books you would like please let me know so I can bring them along and so save on postage. Before commencement of the AGM copies of the Treasurer's Report and Minutes of our Autumn Meeting will be available so please look at these prior to the start.

Bernard's Post AGM walk will be to Ingleton Granite Quarry (Hanson's) which is about a mile away. Parking has been arranged and the site will be viewed by short field walks. Please bring walking boots and waterproofs. This is a first visit to this location for NMRS, which we are very grateful for. Members will be able to view the entire quarry buildings at the viewing platforms along with display boards. Bookings are necessary. Please see the AGM advert at the back of this Newsletter.

LIBRARY NEWS

We continue to benefit from many generous donors. Thank you to you all. If I have not mentioned your gift, or have mis-attributed it to someone else; I apologise, please tell me about it and I will correct matters.

Ian Spensley has given a copy of his superb book on Wensleydale – see page 5 of the November NMRS Newsletter for a review. Ivor Brown's recent donations include modern mining journals, some Geevor Annual Reports, Peter Naylor's "Cromford – A History", a 900-plus page "Study in Industrial and Social History" by J.E. Williams on Derbyshire miners, English Nature magazines, Ironbridge Newsletters, HMSO's 1955 report on an explosion at Horden Colliery, NCB's 1984 "Procedures in Coal Mining Geology" and Kenneth Wood's "Rich Seams: Manchester Geological and Mining Society 1838-1988". Mike Gill has given sixteen reports by Roy Lawrence on coal mines in Wales: the majority are more than one hundred pages in length, so these are a comprehensive resource. Ian Thomas has donated a copy of his latest book, "Quarrying Industry in Wales – a History": this has colour photographs on almost every page; but specifically excludes slate and building stone. NMRS has bought a copy of Ian Tyler's six-pounds-in-weight "Cross Fell and Mines of the Cumbrian Pennines".

Sallie Bassham (Honorary Librarian)

sbassham@chipmail.co.uk or 015 2424 1851

MEETS PROGRAMME FOR 2015

Saturday 28 March 2015. Constant Mary/Dunkirk Colliery

Meet 10.30 a.m. at NGR SD 759 339, Bridge Hey Caravan Site/Farm off A671. Bring sandwiches and

Special Offers continue on the **Publications Page** of our website. These do change so please continue to look and remember members are entitled to 25% discount on our publications.

We extend warm welcome to the following **new members**

Ms Anita Butell	- Whitby
Mr Brian Chandler	- Hexham
Mr Peter Connor	- Dewsbury
Mr Mark Hardy	- Rookhope
Dr JL Knight	- Collingham
Helen Wilkinson	- Daddry Shield
Mr Steve Woodward	- Stockton-on-Tees
Fenella Bashiri	- Tyne and Wear
Stephen Dewhurst	- Broseley

And finally why not **book your place at the AGM now** while it is fresh in your mind!

Barbara Sutcliffe

a flask. This mine was worked in the 18th and 19th centuries and the meet will be an expanded surface trip of the one in 2014. Followed by a visit to Woodend Coal Mining Museum by 1.30 p.m. The museum has expanded since last year's visit and has more artifacts.

The leaders for Dunkirk Colliery and Woodend Museum are Richard Matthews and Bernard Bond 015242 41857 (Answer phone)

Saturday 11 April 2015

The AGM will be held at Mealbank Hall, Ingleton, SD 6949 7394, with book sales from 11.30am and a buffet lunch (pre-booking essential) at 12 noon followed by the AGM. Lunch bookings to Barbara Sutcliffe (01282614615 or mansemins@btopenworld.com). Following the AGM, there will be a visit to the New Ingleton Granite Quarry on the Hawes Road. Numbers limited to 15. The leader is Bernard Bond 015242 41857 (Answer phone)

Saturday 9 May 2015

Hemingfield Colliery. There will be archaeological work going on, so bring working clothes if you wish to join in. The leader is Steve Grudgings (steve.grudgings@btinternet.com)

22-25 May 2015. NAMHO Conference

The conference venue is The Village Hall at Nenthead, Cumbria. There will be underground and surface trips; and the themes for the lectures are (a) the relationships between the UK mining industry and World War I and (b) mining industries of the North Pennines. Details on www.namhoconference.org.uk

Saturday 13 June 2015 Cliviger Coal Mines

Meet at 9.30 am at Mount Zion Church, Burnley Road, Walk Mill, Cliviger, Lancashire, BB10 4SN, Longitude 2.2043185234069°W , Latitude 53.76532001897°N .

A surface walk of 5 to 6 hours, walking boots and waterproofs needed. Bring a packed lunch. The leader is Graham Topping (Mobile 07973905883 or email Glt2top@aol.com.)

Sunday 12th July 2015 Milwr Tunnel

Meet at 10.45 a.m. in the lay-by outside the gates of the Hendre quarry. Leaving Rhydymwyn on the A541, heading toward Denbigh, the quarry entrance is the first turning on the right after the bowling club. Turn left at the small island and the lay-by is on the right just before the gates. The nearest postcode is CH7 5QD. Expect to be underground for around 6-7 hours, so bring a packed lunch. SRT gear is not needed, there is no deep water and only a couple of easy crawls.

The trip will take in the limestone workings, the Milwr tunnel and the lake in Powell's lode cavern. There will be a 400ft descent to tunnel level, mostly on fixed ladders, a 4 mile round trip to the lake and then ascent back up the ladders to the surface. Visitors must have load-bearing belts, cows-tails and Petzel shunt, or equivalent, to enable them to self-lifeline on the steeper ladders. Note that the ladderway in Olwyn Goch shaft is no longer used, the current entrance is a new route opened up by GCC over the past few years.

There is a limit of 6 visitors and all visitors must have BCA insurance.

Leader is George Harvey (01352 781 406 or fr30@dial.pipex.com)

July or August 2015 Rogerly Mine, Weardale

When known, the date will be put in the Newsletter. Easy underground: Maximum 12 people.

Leader: Barbara Sutcliffe (01282 614 615 or mansemins@btopenworld.com.)

Saturday 1 August 2015

An underground trip in the Yorkshire Dales. More details in the May Newsletter.

Saturday 24 October 2015

Autumn Meeting at Gisburn Festival Hall SD 82 48. Book sales from 11.30am. Buffet lunch (pre-booking essential) at 12 noon, followed by meeting and presentations.

Bookings and presentation details to Barbara Sutcliffe (01282 614 615 or

mansemins@btopenworld.com)

Sallie Bassham

Cliviger Coal Mines meet, 13 June 2015

Before the age of the computer and mobile devices, You Tube and Twitter, the letterhead of a

company was a primary source of getting your name known in the market. This one is circa 1970, it lets the reader know at a glance every thing about the company. The art work is very representative of what the company's business is. At a glance you see the pit head gear, a large smoking chimney which says to the reader we are ready for business.



The company name is done in a font that look like lumps of coal that have been hewn out of a coal face. A locomotive in steam tells the reader we are ready to take your order and delivery is no problem. Large stockpiles of coal imply any quantity and grades of coal are ready and waiting. The whole scene is reminiscent of when " King Coal " was truly great and fuelled the nations wealth.

" Proprietor " - when was the last time you saw that on an advertisement? It gives the reader the idea that you are dealing with someone who has authority and who will treat you as a customer and not just a number. Address and telephone number are displayed proudly, letting you know how to contact them with a query or complaint.

Yes the company is truly proud of its identity. There's a longevity about it, British Coal mined by local men who rely on your custom for their jobs. Pleasing to eye, warming to the soul and most of all very effective in getting its message across. Would you not agree?

Graham Topping

Post AGM walk, 11 April 2015

Looking at possible venues for a short group walk after the A.G.M. and off Hawes Road going out of Ingleton there's a path for a field walk to the New Ingleton Granite Quarry, Hawes Road. From the path the quarry is visible - on the edge looking down into it's full depth, the descending roads and the floor are impressive. The walk is from the car parking area, along a path going through woodland, fields and to a metal display board over looking the FULL working quarry, an excellent platform. Production of sedimentary rock, a feldspathic gritstone and also mudstone from the quarry continues in high demand for both road construction and rail ballast. Its present depth is 130 metres. First started in 1955 by XL Granite Company, by 1972 production was averaging 1000 tons per day. In c2008 the present quarry area had been given

further working life by moving land spoil carried out and taken to infill the nearby Old Ingleton Quarry beyond White Scar show cave, both on Hawes Road. The old quarry's closing date was September 1957, originally having been started by John Scott and Company in 1886.



Having been given the original surveyors quarry drawing (15' x 43") in February 2006, the drawing is now at the County Records Office, Northallerton. Ownership of the new quarry ground area was by XL Company. This area is immediately north of the Ingleborough mountain and near to the once Skirwirth show cave.



By 1965 the quarry was sold to ARC and then to the present owners, Hanson. Photograph No 1 shows the north and west faces, No 2 shows the west face and the roadway descending into the quarry, and No 3 shows an excellent high view of



the entire quarry production site, viewed from an excellent vantage point on high ground.

The easy short level walk gives fantastic high views of the main quarry and buildings (unfortunately nothing will be working due to it being a weekend) and then to a high viewing platform for all to see down into the c. 400 ft deep quarry beginning some c. 60 years ago.

It is with great thanks to Dave Carlisle Gilmondby for all of his help and assistance with this information.

Bernard Bond

JOURNALS FOR SALE

I have just sold my house here in Wales and will be moving to a much smaller home in Hastings. It means that I will have to dispose of most of my mining books and journals; ideally before I go. So here is a chance, at little cost, for you to add to your own Library. I will make an appropriate donation to the society on all sales. Books are mostly Wales and Northern England.

The main lot is a complete set, in excellent condition, of NCMRS/NMRS publications including all Newsletters, Transactions, ISS, Memoirs and British Mining etc. 1960 – 2015 an incredible 55 years of material!

Please contact me to have a list (with prices and postage) of all Books and Journals emailed to you direct. Many thanks.

Further info available from David R Neal
01974 821213 or dgmail22-act@mybtinternet.com
Lluest Fach
Llwyn y Groes
Tregaron
Ceredigion
SY25 6PY

BOOK REVIEWS

An apology from the editor - in the last issue of the newsletter, there was a review of the book 'Doctor Griffiths Tramroad and Canal'. Unfortunately, it was a review of an earlier edition of the book. Below is the correct review for the current edition (but the cover illustrated was the correct one for this edition and so is not repeated here)

DOCTOR GRIFFITH'S TRAMROAD AND CANAL by Robert Large 2010 52 pp, 19 photos, many in colour, map, SB. Published by Pontypridd Museum, £5.50.

This work first appeared in 1996 as a dissertation in part fulfilment of the requirements of the Diploma in Continuing Education (Industrial Archaeology) Uni-

versity of Wales, Cardiff 1996 43 pp, SB. Copy in Pontypridd Reference Library,

A two-fold difficulty exists in reviewing this thesis. It falls between coal mining and railway history. As no separate parliamentary authority was need for the construction of the tramroad, very few potential sources do not exist. Robert Large is therefore to be congratulated on the wealth of information he has uncovered.

In the early 19th century the products of the Rhondda Valley, coal, iron, tin, timber etc needed to be transported to the nearest port at Cardiff, hence the construction of the Glamorgan canal. Many smaller collieries also need to be connected to the Glamorgan canal. This is where Dr Richard Griffith steps in. He realised that a tramway was cheaper and quicker to construct than a canal. He is generally credited with the opening, at Gyfeillon in 1790, one of the first coal level in the lower Rhondda valley.

The tramroad was built to a gauge of three feet and was constructed in the then-fashionable plateway manner, that is, the flangeless wheels of the trams were guided by the vertical component of the L-shaped tramway plates.

No account of Griffith's tramroad would be complete without mention of its extension to Dinas by Walter Coffin. Coffin realised that transport was required to get his coal to market. He decided to construct a tramroad of his own from his coal level at Dinas to connect with Griffith's tramroad at Gyfeillon. Coffin was often seen to be travelling on the tramroad, seated in a little tram, hardly more than a box with a seat which he had made himself.

With the closure of the Newbridge Rhondda colliery in 1876 the tramroad served only the Lan level and the Pwllgwaun colliery, neither of which had an alternative means of shipping their output. In 1873 Dan Thomas had opened the Pwllgwaun colliery, known locally as Dan's Muck Hole due to the large amount of clay associated with the coal, which became the main source of traffic for the rest of its existence.

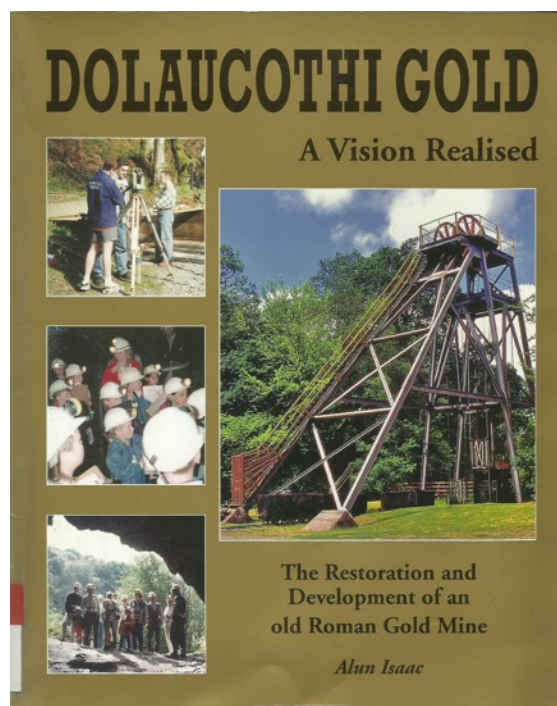
For over a quarter of a century the tramroad enjoyed a monopoly on the carriage of coal out of the lower Rhondda valley. The first and most serious, threat to this monopoly appeared in 1836 with the incorporation of the Taff Vale Railway Company, which was empowered to construct its main line from Cardiff to Merthyr Tydfil.

How often have we all come across remains of something related to Industrial Archaeology, and wondered about its history. Robert Large in this publication casts a fascinating light on a construction which was ahead of its time, and is a significant aid to our interpretation of the past.

Tony Oldham

Dolaucothi Gold / A Vision Realised by Dr Alun Isaac 2012 200 pp, many colour photos, SB ISBN 978-0-9563965-1-8 APECS Press, Caerleon. £14.99

Another book, news of which has only just reached Cwm Park. The first thing that endeared me to this book were the many colour photos, two or more to a page, with minimal text. Dolaucothi Gold takes us back to Neolithic and Roman times when gold was mined at Pumpsaint in Carmarthenshire. There is then a gap until 1871-1939 when modern mining took place without much success. Too little gold - too much rock, about 1.5 grams gold to 1 ton of waste. Success came in 1978 when the Universities of Cardiff and Lampeter took charge. They restored the abandoned gold mine and turned it into a University Field Centre for students of mining and geology. I was amused by the photos, it looked as if you needed a PhD to cut the grass and many academics from the Dean downwards are photographed doing manual work. The end of mining education courses in 1991/1992 encouraged co-operation with the National Trust. In 2012 it was estimated that visitor numbers were about 25,000. The Trust also provided employment for 13 to 17 local people as guides or in the tea room.



Today the Dolaucothi Gold Mine provides a unique example of Wales's Industrial Heritage, not just through the underground visits but also with displays on the surface of the headgear and mining equipment from the Olwyn Goch Mine in North Wales and equipment from closed coalmines in south Wales.

Luckily, another facet of our heritage has been preserved, hopefully for all time.

Tony Oldham

Sink Hole at Cowshill

Having seen the piece in November's NMRS Newsletter, I finally got round to looking at some YouTube footage of the collapse at Cowshill this morning. hilariously, the Daily Telegraph's video is preceded by an advertisement for Colgate toothpaste which tells me that "a world without cavities may be possible" and that I can look forward to "a cavity-free future"!

Or is this a case of website algorithms running amok?

Tim Jeffcoat

Ingleton Miner's Tag No.460

I was recently given New Ingleton Colliery Ltd. miner's tag No.460. In December 2014 it was found in a gravel path 5 metres from the sealed upcast shaft of the New Ingleton Colliery, which closed in 1940. Employment at the colliery from 1917 to 1920 rose to 500, so I have dated the tag as c1919.



Bernard Bond

PRESS RELEASE

The Seam: Song writing residency at the Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers

This autumn the Library at the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers has been home to Singer/songwriter Gareth Davies-Jones who has revelled in creating new work from the stories contained in this world renowned library.

The world of mining and mechanical engineering is no stranger to song, and there is a rich legacy of music in the industry, which any visit to a mining Gala will confirm. However, this residency is not a historical 'round-up' of mining ballads, but a new

approach to telling the story of the library collections through song.

The North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers in Newcastle is a cathedral to this country's mining wealth. Art is no stranger to the industry and even a brief visit to the Library in Neville Hall will confirm that 'Art' was acclaimed by the founding fathers of the industry and echoed in their founding statement 'for art and science'

Gareth has been a professional musician for 10 years, and has toured extensively throughout the UK. His songwriting has been described as *masterful* and *thought-provoking*, and this was recognised when he was asked to perform his work PQ17 at the Arctic Convoy Commemoration week in Wester Ross.

Gareth's first piece from The Seam is *Practical Coal Mining* based on the engineering manual of the same name. 'Looking through the volumes of the 1951 2nd edition, the flow and eloquence of the writing in what was principally a very technical tome really struck me. It was so very lyrical. The introduction and contents pages in particular appeared to have a rhythm and metre all of their own. *Practical Coal Mining* is a real celebration of the knowledge and skills required to mine in the mid- 20th Century' said Gareth.

Other themes which have emerged from his research and from chatting to the volunteers who are passionate about the Library's collections include: stories of the subterranean dance halls, the lyricism of adverts of the first edition of *The Mining Journal* in 1836, the debate around the 1883 parliamentary select committee report on a proposed channel tunnel, the 50 year retrospective memoirs of a former colliery manager in County Durham, musings on a fabulous collection of glass plate photographs and much more.

The Institute's Librarian, Jennifer Hillyard is excited about the project. 'As a singer myself, presenting our unique collections through song and music is a terrific way to tell the story of our collections.'

The Seam has been funded by The Arts Council England. Carl Clayton, Relationship Manager, Libraries, Arts Council England said, 'I am pleased that we have been able to support The Seam through our National Lottery funded Grants for the arts programme. The event is an excellent example of how libraries can work with artists to act as a venue while providing a source of inspiration for new creative work. It will also enable new audiences to enjoy the music of Gareth Davies-Jones and to discover the resources of the Mining Institute Library.'

Early in the New Year, Gareth with Foundry Music Lab will begin to record Gareth's work in the Institute's Library and Edwardian, Cuban red mahogany

lined lecture theatre. This CD will be available to purchase following the launch performance of The Seam at the Mining Institute on Saturday 7th February 2015. There will be a further five performances at a variety of venues around the North East. Cultural Spring based at the Customs House have assisted with marketing.

Steve Davidson, President of the Institute said 'Here in the North East, we have led the world in our scientific and technical knowledge of mining. Our Library collections here bear record to that. Our collections are of world importance – and that's something to sing about.'

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Seam will tour at:
Woodhorn Experience 13 Feb 7.30pm
(www.wegottickets.com/event/301854)
Palace Green Library Café 18 Feb 7.30pm
(www.wegottickets.com/event/301855)
Baldon Community Centre 21 Feb 7.30pm
(www.wegottickets.com/event/301856)
Fenham Public Library 25 Feb 7.30pm
(www.wegottickets.com/event/301857)
Stocksfield Community Centre 24 April 7.30pm
(www.wegottickets.com/event/301859)

The launch event will be at the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineering, Newcastle 7 Feb 7.30pm
(www.wegottickets.com/event/301838)

2. North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers website at
www.mininginstitute.org.uk/about-us/who-we-are

3. More biographical information on Gareth at www.garethdavies-jones.com/

4. Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2010 and 2015, we will invest £1.9 billion of public money from government and an estimated £1.1 billion from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.
www.artscouncil.org.uk

5. Press contact at Arts Council England is Fiona Davidson.
Fiona.Davidson@artscouncil.org.uk

FURTHER INFORMATION

Fiona Forsythe from [Fionn Consultancy](http://www.fionnconsultancy.co.uk) on 07810 885 223 fiona@fionnconsultancy.co.uk is co-ordinating press calls/photographs. Please contact for interview arrangements.

MINING AND MINING HISTORY NEWS, November 2014 – January 2015

Curraghinalt Gold Project, Gortin, Co. Tyrone (30/10/2014)

A new Preliminary Economic Assessment for the Curraghinalt Gold Project in Co. Tyrone proposes the extraction of 2.9 million ounces (90 tonnes) of gold over a period of 18 years.

"The mine plan developed by Micon uses mechanized longhole mining with ramp access and truck haulage, at a production rate of 1,700 tpd. Ramp access was chosen over shaft access due to the long lateral extent and relatively shallow depths of the deposit. As the deposit is open at depth a shaft may be required in future to access levels below the current mine plan."
<http://www.dalradian.com/news-and-events/news-releases/default.aspx>

Offshore tin exploration, Cornwall (18/11/2014 – 21/01/2015)

Marine Minerals Ltd hope to recover tin from 22 MT of mine wastes lying off the north coast of Cornwall, near St Ives, Perranporth, Portreath and St Agnes. The company hope to be in production by 2017 and expect to employ over 100 people during the 10 year lifetime of the project.

Elsewhere, Treliver Minerals are hoping to start exploration in St Austell Bay, on the south coast of the county. The Crown Estate are considering issuing an exploration licence for an area between Dodman Point and Lansallos. You can register a comment on tin exploration on the Crown Estate website, until 25th February.

<http://www.westernmorningnews.co.uk/tin-poised-rival-tourism-major-Cornish-wealth/story-24545587-detail/story.html>
http://www.mininginnovationnews.com/2015/01/21/treliver-minerals-aiming-to-restart-cornish-tin/?utm_source=FB&utm_medium=post&utm_campaign=FB_3dit
<http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/news-and-media/news/2014/rights-sought-to-explore-tin-deposits-off-cornish-coast/>

Gresford Colliery, Wrexham, North Wales (27/11/2014)

Dart Energy has planning permission to drill an exploratory borehole for coal bed methane 1.5 km from the site of the Gresford Colliery Disaster. The Colliery was worked between 1908 and 1973. In 1934 an explosion at the mine killed 266 men and boys.

<http://www.dartenergyscotland.co.uk/news/49-dart-energy-statement-on-daily-mirror-story.html>

Bolkar Mountains, Nigde, Turkey (25/12/2014)

A 2800 year old inscribed rock from the late Hittite period in Turkey will be preserved. The inscription is believed to be the worlds oldest mining licence, and part of it translates as “King Warpalavas gave the administration of the Bolkar Mountains to Prince Tarhunzas and wishes for the mountain to be productive”. The area is rich in silver, gold, iron, copper and tin, and there are many hundreds of ancient mines in the area.

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/hittite-rock-inscription-in-bolkar-mountain-to-be-taken-under-protection.aspx?PageID=238&NID=76045&NewsCatID=375>

South Wales Miners Federation

Swansea University has received a grant of £18 456 to clean, conserve and digitise the records of the South Wales Miners Federation from 1899 to 1934. The Universitys Archivist, Elisabeth Bennett, said “We were fascinated by the wide range of subjects these documents cover, from the effect of the First World War on coalminers to protests about the use of Chinese slave labour in the Transvaal”. Wayne Thomas of the National Union of Mineworkers said ““We are very pleased that this conservation work at Swansea University will now increase people’s access to these documents and that it will ensure their long-term preservation for the future”.

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/welsh-miners-history-made-public-8367342>

Hatfield Colliery, South Yorkshire (08/01/2015)

The Colliery will receive a £8 million loan from the Government, to allow it to close in May 2016. The Colliery received a £4 million loan from the National Union of Mineworkers in September 2014, and approached the Government for additional funds in November.

<http://www.worldcoal.com/coal/08012015/Hatfield-coal-mine-receives-government-loan-1728/>

Proposed barite mine, Aberfeldy, Perthshire (12/01/2015)

Perth & Kinross Council have received proposals for the development of a barite mine at Duntanlich, approximately 7.5 km west of Pitlochry. M-I Swaco, operators of the nearby Foss Mine, intend to submit a planning application in the spring, with production starting in 2017.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-30778716>

Scott’s Pit, Birchgrove, West Glamorgan (18/01/2015)

Swansea Council are planning conservation work at the engine house at Scott’s Pit. The building dates back to 1817, and it was last used in 1930. It is a listed building and scheduled ancient monument.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-west-wales-30853806>

Miners Library, Leadhills, Lanarkshire (20/01/2015)

The Library has received funding for building repairs and improvements from the National Lottery and a wind farm community fund. The work will be carried out before the library reopens in May.

<http://leadhillsestate.co.uk/leadhills-miners-library-funding-boost/>

Elms Colliery, Nailsea, Somerset (26/01/2015)

English Heritage has written to North Somerset Council about the condition of Middle Engine Pit, a scheduled monument. The letter says “Since the council took on ownership of the site in 1996 its condition has significantly deteriorated and it has now reached a critical point. The site has been subject to vandalism and arson, has become overgrown with vegetation, and the surviving buildings are in danger of collapse.” English Heritage will work with North Somerset Council and Nailsea Town Council to preserve the site, which is “reputed to be the only complete example of an early 19th century coal mine complex in the country”.

http://www.thewestonmercury.co.uk/news/collapse_fears_at_mine_works_1_3924387

Wolf Minerals Limited, Plymouth, Devon (23/01/2015)

During the last quarter of 2014 the company spent A\$50.3 million (£26 M) developing the Drakelands Mine. Work described in the Quarterly Report includes:

- Continued progress on the Mine Waste Facility;
- All structural concrete pours are now complete;
- Structural steel erection is well underway and is 44% complete;
- All plant equipment has been delivered to site or is in transit to site;
- Administration, laboratory and amenities buildings have been completed;
- Development of the open pit continued;
- Over 100,000 tonnes of ore have been stockpiled at the mine;
- Recruitment of key professional staff has continued;
- Tree planting and stone wall reconstruction activities commenced.

<http://wolfminerals.com.au/>

Ballachulish Quarry, Argyll (29/01/2015)

The Heritage Lottery Fund, Highland Council and Historic Scotland are funding a £277 000 project at Ballachulish. The project will consolidate a stone arch under the Tom Beag inclined plane, as well as researching the history of the quarry, improving access and on-site interpretation. The conservation work will start in July and is due for completion by December.

http://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/8339/historic_ballachulish_slate_arch_project_gets_underway

Snibston Discovery Museum, Coalville, Leicestershire (30/01/2015)

The Museum will probably close to the public on Friday 31st July. It was costing Leicestershire County Council £900 000 per year to run. The mine buildings, a scheduled ancient monument will be maintained.

<http://www.leics.gov.uk/pressrelease.htm?id=302476>

Alastair Lings

CONISTON COPPER MINES HERITAGE LOTTERY APPLICATION

A partnership between the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA), Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society (CATMHS), Ruskin Museum, and Rydal Estates and Mr P Johnston as land-owners submitted an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for over £400,000 to carry out conservation work to various structures at Coniston Copper Mines (scheduled ancient monument) and the Penny Rigg crushing mill at Tilberthwaite mine. The application also includes encouraging people to find out more about these important mining sites as well as engaging the local community and volunteers to help protect the sites in the future.



Looking across from the waterwheel pit/laundry at the Old Engine shaft to the Thriddle Incline in the background at Coniston Copper Mines.

The application has got through the first stage which means the project meets the HLF criteria for funding and only 35% of applications are getting through this stage, so HLF believes the project has potential to deliver high-quality benefits and value for lottery money. This has allowed funding of £16,000 to be released to engage Minerva Heritage to produce the detailed action plans to demonstrate how the project will be delivered for the second stage application which will be submitted shortly.



The waterwheel pit at the Penny Rigg Crushing Mill.

Warren Allison
(Chairman of CATMHS)

LATEST NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF HEMINGFIELD COLLIERY

SECURITY DOORS - Thanks to NMRS from everyone involved with Hemingfield Colliery for funding the security doors that were fitted on January 8th – it has made a big difference already and we are extremely grateful. These new doors (4 roller shutters and a steel plate door) will help reduce and hopefully completely stop incursions of unwelcome visitors into our two buildings.



Photo:- John Hunter testing our new posh back door
2015 WORKING PARTIES - Given the colder weather and shorter days we have reduced the frequen-

cy of working parties to one a month until March. The revised dates for the first six months of 2015 are:

February 21/22

March 21

April 12/13 and 25/26

May 9/10 and 30/31

June 13/14 and 27/28

Please check our web site for details nearer the date and mail us to check we will be there. Saturdays tend to be the main days with a reduced activity on Sundays)

SITE CLEARANCE - Recent work has concentrated on clearing and logging the remaining trees (with full consultation and approval from the local council) from the site to enable access and to limit damage to buildings. Everyone locally seems to have a woodburning stove and so we have no problems disposing of the resulting timber. The site was bare until around 1980 and its surprising how high trees can grow in the intervening 35 years (at least a foot per year). Our next priorities are clearing the accumulations of materials around both buildings to enable access and prepare for both archaeology and rebuilding.

RESTORATION AND THE FUTURE- We have made good progress with future plans and potential funding since our last update and some of the recent highlights have been:

1. The Sheffield University School of Architecture Students completed their "Live Project" on the Hemingfield Colliery site and their report and presentation on November 7th was outstandingly good. So much so that I commented that they have significantly "raised the bar" on our behalf in terms of aspirations and expectations for the future of the site. Don't take my word for it, look at our web site for the details-note the picture of the illuminated head-gear!
2. We continue to receive excellent support from Richard King and his team on the Dearne Valley Landscape Project (DVLP) and they have been instrumental in securing a major funding contribution towards the restoration of one of the two buildings. FOHC still need to apply for matched funding but having a commitment already in place should make this easier.
3. On our behalf the DVLP team have also tendered and let the contract for producing a conservation plan, an essential prerequisite for major grant applications. Rance Booth Architects were the successful bidders and their report is planned to be delivered

at the end of March. The work of the Sheffield University students has given some excellent inputs for this work.

This leaves us in a position where we hope to be able to have one of the buildings complete and usable during 2016 – dangerous to say these things I know, but please keep your fingers crossed for us! You may recall that we are aiming to have some revenue generating activities on site to offset our future running and operational costs, all of course within our not for profit status (Friends of Hemingfield Colliery is constituted as a company limited by guarantee – the form widely used for not for profit and charitable organisations).

Anyone who has been involved in restoring a mining site will have some idea of the range of tasks we need to cover and given our intentions for the site, this mean lots of consultation with local councils and statutory bodies, a new area for all of us. Whilst this can be a bit daunting, the positive reaction and enthusiasm of everyone that visits the site encourages us all.

ARTEFACTS AND ARCHAEOLOGY - In the spring we expect to organise a formal programme of archaeological work in anticipation of the building work. This holds great promise as we believe we have the largely undisturbed subsurface footprint of a typical mid Victorian Colliery to uncover. We will need to get some on site "facilities" before this starts so if any members know of a spare or cheap site welfare unit /portaloo can you please let us know quickly.



Photo:- Location Location Location - the overnight residence of our Chairman

We are still finding interesting "stuff" every time we clear a new area and are disappointed if we don't find a new brick at least once a month. Talking of bricks, the number of people interested in bricks and brick-making always surprises me and our impromptu display of the bricks we have turned up always attracts interest and comment. Because of the buildings age, most brickwork was built with lime mortar which is easier to remove and so we are able to recover a high proportion of the brick for reuse. We have found more than 20 different types of brick so far and have cleaned a useful stockpile of over 1000 of the early handmade bricks ready for rebuilding, in addition to

these we have a number of EFW (Earl Fitzwilliam) and Skiers Spring variations, plus lots of Hoyland, Manvers, Stairfoot and Kilnhurst stamped bricks. For the brick collectors amongst you, a small donation to our restoration fun will secure the brick(s) of your choice!



Photo:- Our volunteers worked hard to produce this stack of reusable old bricks

We also have a number of items to be returned to the site once it is ready and secure. With the appropriate permissions, in 2006 I was able to rescue the original cast iron sheave and winding indicator mechanism on behalf of SGMRG who have agreed in principle to their return. Caphouse Mining museum have restored and displayed the small inspection cage from the pumping shaft which we would love to see back on site in due course. There are also a number of smaller items that FOHC have removed from site for safekeeping.



Photo:- two more cast iron plates for us to find a home for

By various means we have also managed to amass a large number SYMDC time cards, lorry diaries and suchlike for the 1930-1950 period that give a very detailed insight into the day to day activities of

the men who worked for the committee at Hemingfield and elsewhere.

RESEARCH - We have been very fortunate in attracting some highly knowledgeable individuals to focus on specific research topics including:

- John Hunter is leading the project to map and correlate all subsurface drainage infrastructure from the Tankersley ridge through Elsecar to the Hemingfield Fault.
- Alan Hill is leading the work on ventilation of the Fitzwilliam Collieries. In addition to surface and underground fans and a possible Pelton wheel powered fan at Hemingfield there was also a dedicated ventilation pit and engine in between Hemingfield and Simonwood Pits
- Chris Jones, our resident web master and archivist is leading the research of the Wentworth Muniments and the process of formation of the South Yorkshire Mines Drainage Committee (SYMDC) in particular as well as working with Alan on fan and engine matters. Chris has also uncovered a lot of data relating to the work of CE Rhodes, local consulting mining engineers whose recommendations to Earl Fitzwilliam appear to have led to the foundation of SYMDC, Whilst Chris is also researching the work of Ben and Joshua Biram, Earl Fitzwilliams Colliery managers in the mid C19.
- Christine Cameron and Phil Lofts are covering the social and genealogical aspects and initial findings are fascinating and horrifying in equal measure.



Photo:- 250kg of stone engine bed - but for which engine

Do please contact us if you can help with information or materials relating to any of the above, we are keen to share our knowledge and put the results in the public domain.

CONSERVATION – We have a large and small winding engine on site, the former appears to be an earlier steam winder converted to electric drive in the 1920s (believed to be) by Worsley Mesnes of Wigan and the latter a later drift or underground haulage engine. Both have been heavily vandalised since I first visited the site 20 years ago but are probably restorable, as is the Blacks overwind controller. Work on these is not planned to start for a year or so until the main building and roof is repaired but please put your name down now if you want to work on these.

The basement of the vertical winding engine house contains what appear to be a full set of ironwork for retaining and operating the engine and in the fullness of time these will need attention and recording too.

Are there any experts out there on concrete structures? We have two concrete headgears on site, both apparently constructed using different methods and both starting to show sign of age. I realise that not everyone is a devotee of concrete headgears but apart from examples at Westfield, Foxfield and Lochore our two are the last in the UK and need our TLC.

THE PLEASURES OF SITE WORK - For those not familiar with the site, the Elsecar Steam Railway runs directly beside the Colliery and it's a pleasure being able to work outside and enjoy the sights and smells of working steam engines. The railways intends to build a station or halt adjacent to our site which we expect will be mutually beneficial.



Photo:- going past hemingfield

The canal loading basin, built in massive stone blocks is directly opposite the pit too, albeit somewhat overgrown and there is considerable enthusiasm for an integrated approach to restoring them all (see again the Sheffield University Students work) The newly restored Newcomen Engine at Elsecar is less than a mile away from us and for southern-

ers like me, the attractions of decent bitter at less than £3 a pint and good fish and chips for not much more are an additional attraction. So do come and join us during 2015, you are all welcome.

Steve Grudgings

THE SNOW COVERED IRON MINE

At the end of last year, my wife and I enjoyed a voyage to the North Cape of Norway. Our ship then continued to Kirkenes and from here, we took a bus to the Russian border. The experience was a disappointment, but whilst passing through a community by the name of Bjørnevatn, I could not help but notice vast heaps of mining waste, almost obliterated in the deep snow.



Fig 1 (above) Not a familiar destination, but the bus signboard helps tourists and visitors.

Fig 2 (below) The two memorial stones with an enlargement sketching the mine's interior



On the return to Kirkenes we stopped in the village. Time was short but just long enough to absorb the importance of what the internet states is “one of the biggest open cast mines in Northern Europe.” Wikipedia claims there are “reserves of 565 million tonnes of ore grading 31% iron” here, and I can believe it.

Two memorial stones took my attention straight away. The first was a dual-language tribute to Russian soldiers who had rescued over two thousand Norwegians taking refuge from German bombing in 1944. Precariously and for eight weeks, the local people had survived by living in the mine interiors, during which time, ten women gave birth to babies. The slab of black polished material incorporated an underground sketch featuring a railway track, the mine entrance, handshakes all round and a coloured Norwegian flag. The text on the adjacent stone explained, “... the picture on the monument shows the populations and the Redeemers when they met at the tunnel heart. The monument symbolises the joy of freedom and the desire to preserve the peace.”



Fig 3 A statue raised to commemorate the first mine workers of 1906

With this mark of respect in mind, I searched for other items of interest and came upon a bus shelter nearby. This was no ordinary bus shelter ... it was a huge bucket from the mine, but when tipped on its side, it projected red-painted, snow-covered claws that formed an unusual entrance.



Fig 4 (bottom of previous column) A bus shelter – utilised from a huge bucket previously used at the local iron mine

Further up the street, there was a conventional statue of a miner holding the tools of his trade. The mining company, AS Sydvaranger, had erected it in memory of the first workers of 1906. The light was fading but I was able to capture a silhouette against the grey sky. Approaching the entrance to the mine site, it was clear I could go no further, but I was able to make out the centre of operations in the distance ... and wave to a lorry driver as he departed the scene ! On the bus journey back to the ship, I recognised the single-track railway line that connected the mine at Bjørnevattn with the processing plant in Kirkenes, as well as providing port access to the outside world via the Barents Sea.



Fig 5 The main approach road to the mining company's offices

I also heard more about the mine's history from a man who had survived in the mine during wartime. Explaining to him that I might write a story for the Northern Mine Research Society, he produced some specimens of iron ore for me to photograph. Not having access to a studio, I just dropped them in the snow and found the layout was very attractive.



Fig 6 A few samples of the iron ore set against a convenient white background of snow
Back on board ship, my fellow passengers concentrated on viewing the local supermarket, which

advertised its goods in Russian, but my preference was to scan the town and, with a long-focus lens, attempt a decent photograph of the concentrator works of the mining company, AS Sydvaranger. During World War II, the allies had believed a similar facility to be of strategic importance to the German war effort and had destroyed it, but the Norwegian Government re-built the present layout early in the 1950s.



Fig 7 A view of the concentrating plant in the town of Kirkenes

Back home, I scoured the internet to fill in more detail and learned that a mine inspector, Telief Dahil, had first reported the deposits in 1866 but it took forty years before Christian Anker received authority to start mining in 1906. Production ceased during the two world wars but afterwards, the mine benefited from world-wide demands for iron and throughout three decades, output had been profitable. By the 1980s, however, the Norwegian Government owned the mine and as the costs of iron ore became too expensive, the mine closed in 1996. It opened again when newcomers purchased the by-now complicated mining rights and assets in 2006 and, as far as I can tell, the current company, Sydvaranger Gruve AS, is doing well. The company reports that production of iron ore concentrate increases by approximately two million tonnes every year and the quality of the iron content has improved to 68%, with silica at 4.8%.



Fig 8 Adjacent to the roadway for many miles, the huge dumps of waste emphasise the size of the Bjørnevatn open cast mine

In view of its wartime role, the iron ore mine at Bjørnevatn deserves its prosperity and has more than justified a place in history.

Ron Callender

FROM HERE TO TIMBUCTOO

During another visit to California's Gold Country, Ron Callender took the chance to carry out a practical exploration of a story that had captured his imagination many years previously.

Part 1 : A brief bit of history

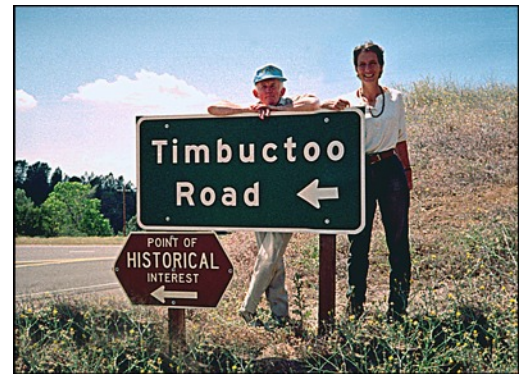


Fig 01 The quest began over ten years ago when my host and I found nothing other than a sign board on California's Highway 20

I have to confess it was the name that first attracted me to think about Timbuctoo. More than ten years ago, my host at the World Goldpanning Championships in California indulged my urge to look for traces of the 19th century gold mining township. Apart from a road sign, there was nothing to see. We asked a youth loafing by a bridge and with a wave of his hand, he said, "This is Timbuctoo."



Fig 02 In 1997, my hosts aroused my interest by showing me the Malakoff Diggings, which still display the ravages of hydraulic mining. The Diggings are located about twelve miles from Timbuctoo

During the championships I qualified for a library of books on gold matters so when I returned Cheshire, I continued my search for information about the elusive Timbuctoo. The history of the area emerged as a familiar one. The discovery of gold

in the Yuba River caused a gold rush to the area and tented communities sprang up along the river bank. As the hundreds of miners increased to thousands, townships such as Timbuctoo emerged to accommodate merchants, shop-keepers, prostitutes, hoteliers and barmen.



Fig 03 A contemporary print showing the main street of Timbuctoo, which gives a good impression of its size in the 1860s

The name continued to intrigue me. Some sources said it was so hot that early arrivals likened it to “that place in Africa”. Others mentioned a former slave who worked a nearby creek; claiming he came from Africa, he and the emerging settlement took the name Timbuctoo. But as my desk-based research continued, I unearthed Timbuctoo’s real claim to fame. The nearby Yuba River favoured hydraulic mining or “hydraulicking”.



Fig 04 The first prospectors to arrive found a runaway slave panning for gold in a small creek, and very soon the name for the settlement evolved as Timbuctoo

The Marysville Express for 31st March 1858 explained the geological profile:

... the village [of Timbuctoo] is situated between two high hills, one of which is called Sand Hill, and is that upon which so many claims are located, valued at high price. Streaks of white and blue cement and gravel varying from five to twenty feet run through it, extremely rich.

The *Daily Alta California* (19th January 1860) described how a large vein of deposited gold was found in the “gently-rounded gravel hill, about one mile long and perhaps not over fifteen hundred feet wide.” The snag was that this gold seam was three

hundred feet above the river; for the gold miner this was inconvenient.



Fig 05 A sketch shows the important details of a ‘monitor’; that is, the counterweight, the powerful stream of water and the handle for aiming while loosening auriferous gravel.

Part 2 : The new form of mining



Fig 06 A photograph taken at the height of the gold rush on the Yuba River, showing prospectors firing powerful streams of water at the gold-bearing hillside. Note the metal pipe in the foreground, which brought water many miles across country to meet the huge demands for water.



Fig 07 Whilst driving along the rough track towards the ghost town, we looked for signs of occupation in days gone by. Occasionally we caught sight of abandoned homesteads in the woods

The solution was hydraulic mining. In 1853, Edward Matteson carved a wooden nozzle for a hose made from rawhide and by forcing water through this “monitor”, he was able to wash the high banks

and dislodge the gold-bearing gravel. It worked successfully in that the gravel now came to the miner, and in quantity. Soon metal nozzles (of diameters up to eight inches) replaced the wooden ones and canvas (or even iron piping) was used for the hoses. An eight-inch water cannon could be pushed to deliver 185,000 cubic feet of water in one hour and a few accident reports state that men were killed at a distance of 200 feet from the monitor.



Fig 08 A long-focus lens helped to reveal the Yuba River's bare and barren hillsides that followed the 19th century 'hydraulicking'.

There was an increased demand for water and proprietors used different techniques to build up pressure. Rivers were dammed or diverted to channel water to the monitor by way of sluices or flumes, which straddled gorges and gullies. Anticipating an ever-increasing need for water, many companies purchased rights on rivers and lakes, and conveyed the water over great distances to the mining claims.



Fig 09 A good omen was to come on the mail box for the Hapgood House. Cheerfully, the owners passed on their local knowledge



Fig 10 A photograph in the author's collection, which shows the Wells Fargo office, taken in the 1960s

In spite of the immediate success of monitors and hoses, improvements followed. The dislodged gravel, rocks, gold, sand and water mixture (known as "the runoff") gushed into sluice boxes, where the dense gold dust, grains and nuggets separated from the detritus; that is, the tailings.



Fig 11 In a photograph by Margaret Callender, Ron finally secures his photograph of the disintegrating Wells Fargo office as proof of the former township Hydraulic mining was far from elegant, but the technique was successful for gold recovery in this part of California and boosted the prosperity of Smartsville, Timbuctoo and Marysville; the latter town developed into a river port and provided a boat service to and from San Francisco.



Fig 12 And finally ! A photograph of the fast disappearing remains of the 19th century Wells Fargo office in Timbuctoo

River levels rose and the town of Marysville (eighteen miles from the Yuba River operations) had to build embankments to prevent the town from flooding. Further downstream on prosperous farmlands, the detritus created flood plains, and consequently deposited tons of sand and gravel, which obliterated fields, fences, orchards, homesteads and roads.

When the American journalist, Samuel Bowles, visited the area in 1868, he described the devastation caused by "the thick yellow mud", which was colloquially called 'slickens':

Many of the streams are turned out of their original channels ... in consequence of the great masses of soil and gravel that come down

from the gold washing above ... they are truly a terrible blot upon the face of Nature. There were protests. Hydraulic mining had begun in 1853 but protests came to a head in 1882 when a Marysville businessman filed a law suit against the mines along the Yuba River. The circuit judge, Lorenzo Sawyer, examined the rivers, the farmlands and mines and in 1884 passed the Sawyer Ruling; that is, hydraulic mining was “a public and private nuisance” and must end immediately.



Fig 13 The many heaps of carefully assembled piles of rocks and stones provided further evidence of the heyday of hydraulic mining
Although Congress granted a reprieve in 1893, it was a failure; the water-conveying systems had all been dismantled or destroyed.

Part 3 : Timbuctoo revisited



Fig 14 Scouting in the nearby woodland, we came on channels that directed surplus water (the run-off) into tributaries of the Yuba River
In 2013, while staying in the gold country, my host proposed a return to the Yuba River. I jumped at

the chance and my memories flooded back. We drove west on State Highway 20, turned at the sign for Timbuctoo Road, crossed a bridge over a small creek and continued along a dirt-track at a very slow pace. We consulted a detailed aerial photograph, maps and compared notes.



Fig 15 We discontinued our woodland explorations on reading the signboard seeking trespassers for ‘underground medical experiments’

Two huge piles of large boulders took our attention, and through the trees, we had repeated glimpses of the water-washed high banks of the Yuba River. In time, the views improved and whilst taking photographs, we pinpointed our positions on the aerial photograph.

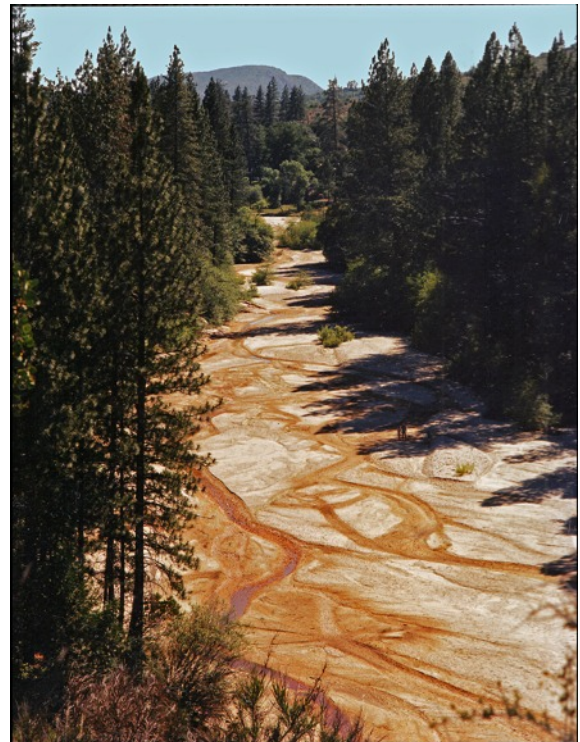


Fig 16 The ‘slickens’ was the amalgam of soil, stones, and clay dumped in the rivers running to the Pacific ocean and which caused the outcry leading to a legal judgement, called the Sawyer Ruling
A survivor from the gold rush days, the Hapgood House, bordered the roadway and its owners confirmed we were in the one-time main street of a bustling

Timbuctoo. All that remained was a dilapidated Wells Fargo building, protected by a steel fence and ominous signs to keep away. At the perimeter of the fencing, we searched for more evidence. In dense woods, dotted with shrubs of poisonous oak, we identified distinct water channels that ran in the direction of nearby Sanford Creek, spanned by a broken bridge.



Fig 17 Just to the west of Timbuctoo, the Yuba River comes into view; sand banks and river bars replace the former slopes of the hillsides
With caution, it was easy to cross the damaged bridge to catch sight of the Yuba River; by now, the high banking had given way to gently sloping sides of sand. From this vantage point, the day's photography ended with striking vistas of the Yuba River as it twisted around a series of bends in the far distance.

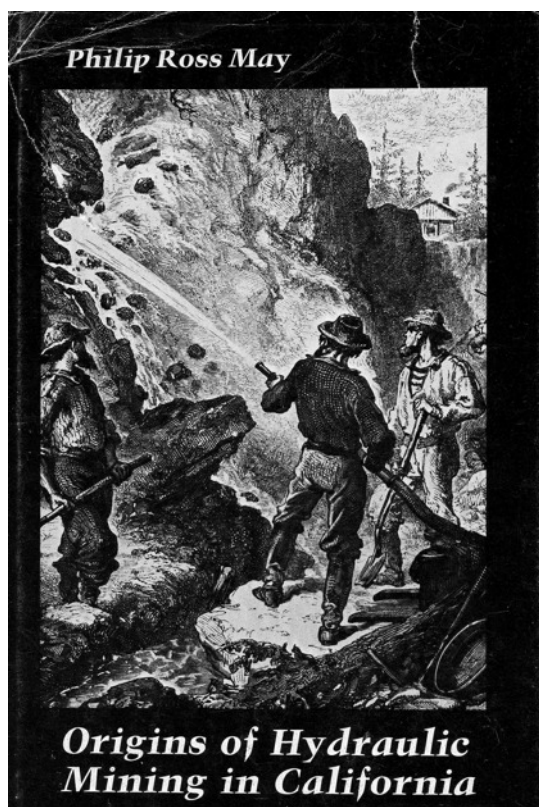


Fig 18 A book cover in the author's library incorporates a drawing of three men cutting into river-banking with a hand-held nozzle and hose

Acknowledgements: It was a great advantage to have friends who were interested in California's history and I would not have achieved anything without the support of Rosanne and Vernon McHenry of Auburn. One of the authors of *Smartsville and Timbuctoo*, Lane Parker of San Francisco, not only provided advice, a good map, and clear directions, but he encouraged me to locate and enjoy the ghost town of Timbuctoo. (Already he has published a follow-up volume *The Sage of Smartsville* (Parker, L, Smith, K, Comstock Bonanza Press, Santa Rosa, California), which is available from Amazon.

Ron Callender

Author's note: The miner's inch is an interesting, but imprecise method for measuring the quantity of water ducted to a mining claim, and especially a claim

relying on the hydraulic hose. The technology was crude but serviceable. The amount of water that flowed through a hole measuring one square inch determined the pressure. Maintaining the water level six inches above the hole provided the 'head' or the force of the water. Such an arrangement delivered about 1.5 cubic feet of water per minute, which is around 11 gallons. During a twelve-hour day, at this rate, one miner's inch passed eight thousand gallons.

The specification for the miner's inch varied from state to state (and from country to country) until it was standardised by the US Bureau of Standards in 1905. In 19th century California, however, the vague unit measured the flow of water coming from a particular supply system, or more to the point, the amount of water supplied by a water company, for which there was a charge. Nowadays, the measure of pressure is the kilopascal, which converts to pounds per square inch. There is much more on the internet.

It makes even more sense to learn that there were inspectors who kept an eye on the head of water; that is, to ensure it maintained the agreed six inches.

That's used all of the material sent in so now the editor will try and fill the remaining page and a bit (as the newsletter has to have a number of pages that is divisible by 4 as long as we have a printed version) with some oddments plus a late item.

A small news item which I almost missed:-

Daily Telegraph 21 November 2014

By John Ficenec

The Queen's gold mine, which nestles in the Welsh valleys and produced the metal for the Duchess of Cambridge's wedding ring, has struck it rich once again.

The co-owners of the Clogau St David mine, which closed in 1998, said yesterday that 'encouraging' gold content had been found in rocks from abandoned areas.

The mine has produced the pure Welsh gold used in royal wedding rings since 1923.

The tradition was established by the Queen Mother, then Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon on her marriage to the Duke of York on April 26, 1923. The wedding rings of the Queen in 1947, Princess Margaret in 1960, the Princess Royal in 1973 and Diana, Princess of Wales in 1981, were all made from the same nugget from the mine.

Clogau gold has a unique pink tinge as it is stained by copper ore also found in the mine, making it particularly rare.

Stellar Resources, a small company listed on the London Stock Exchange, owns a 49% stake in gold mines of Wales Ltd, which operates the mine on a lease granted by the Queen's Crown Mineral Estates. David Lenigas, a mining consultant to the board at Stellar, said that if the potential can be realised it will be a boost for jobs in the area of Bontddu, north Wales.

Yet only two weeks earlier :-

Daily Telegraph 7 November 2014

Gold faces 'bloodbath'

The chief of the largest London-listed gold miner, Randgold Resources, said his industry faces a 'bloodbath' if the price of the metal sinks to \$1000 (£630) an ounce. Mark Bristow said: 'The (gold mining) industry is clearly stuffed at \$1140 and it will be a bloodbath at \$1000.' The company's third quarter pre-tax profits were down to \$79.6m from \$126.6m in the same period last year.

British Cave Research Association

26th Cave Science Symposium

Symposium - Saturday 31st October, 2015

Field trip - Sunday 1st November, 2015

The British Cave Research Association is pleased to give preliminary details of its annual Cave Science Symposium and associated field trip. The Symposium, which will be hosted by Andrew Chamberlain and Graham Proudlove of the University of Manchester, will take place in the Kanaris Lecture Theatre at the Manchester Museum on Saturday 31st October 2015. Whether you are an academic, an amateur scientist or a caver wanting to find out more about the underground environment, you will find something of interest at the Symposium. A programme of presentations is being assembled and details will follow in later circulars, as well as being publicised on the BCRA news Forum and in our Facebook group.

At the Saturday symposium there will be a set of themed talks on maze caves, together with a variety

of talks on other aspects of cave science, with emphasis on BCRA's principal areas of interest: speleogenesis, cave archaeology and subterranean biology. Following the symposium, an informal early-evening meal will be arranged for those interested, details to be decided.

For the optional field trip on Sunday 1st November, 2015, we have booked the Alderley Edge Mines for a field visit; this event will be hosted by Nigel Dibben and the Derbyshire Caving Club. Full protective caving clothing including helmet, boots and lights will be required for trips into the mines but normal clothes, with walking boots, will be fine for exploring the surface. A maximum of 14 people can attend the field trip (although DCC can make arrangements if more than 14 want to attend) so if you are interested please contact Graham Proudlove so that we can manage the numbers.

Information about the Alderley Edge copper mines:

http://derbysc.org.uk/alderley/mines_list.php

Meeting Organisers

Andrew Chamberlain:

andrew.chamberlain@manchester.ac.uk

Graham Proudlove:

g.proudlove@manchester.ac.uk

Gina Moseley (BCRA lecture secretary):

gina.moseley@uibk.ac.at

Please contact Graham Proudlove for general enquiries and for details of the venue and local facilities in Manchester. Contact Gina Moseley for details of the programme and for enquiries concerning oral or poster presentations. All are welcome, and we look forward to seeing you at the Symposium.

PostScript books

I've recently found several interesting books on mining subjects in the PostScript books catalogue. It's easily found at www.psbooks.co.uk and in the latest (February 2015) issue, there are

Pits: a pictorial history of mining, by John Threlkeld. Actually a history of coal mining in the Barnsley area. Published price £16.99, PS price £6.99

Northumberland and Cumberland Mining Disasters, by Maureen Anderson. Published price £10.99, PS price £4.99

South Staffordshire Coalfield, by Nigel Chapman. Old and new photographs. Published price £14.99, PS price £4.99

A Pitman's Anthology, by William Maurice. Published price £25.00, PS price £7.99 (H/B, c300pp)

I've bought the last two and they look good value, but it's too early to write a review, I'm still reading them

Finally, At Lea Bailey in the Forest we've got our Eimco rockershovel restored to full working order. We decided to bite the bullet and remove one of the airmotors to get it working - and it came off easily and we got it unseized in a few minutes! So I'll finish with a photograph of Nick, the engineer who got it working.

Rob Needham



N.M.R.S. 2015 AGM Saturday April 11th

Meal Bank Hall, Ingleton Yorkshire. SD 6949 7394

For catering reasons please book your place by March 28th

Email: mansemins@btopenworld

Postal Bookings to The Old Manse, 93 Halifax Rd., Nelson, BB9 0EQ

Programme

- | | | |
|-------|------------|--|
| 11.30 | Book sales | |
| 12.00 | Lunch – | When booking please let us know if you are a vegetarian. |
| 12.45 | AGM | |
| 2.15 | approx | A short meet to the New Ingleton Granite Quarry led by Bernard Bond. Please bring walking boots and waterproofs. Hard hats will be provided. This is a first visit to this location for NMRS and numbers are limited to 15. Bookings to 015242 41857(answer phone) |

See pages 3 & 4 for more information on post AGM walk

Disclaimer

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Data Protection Act

Members are reminded that the NMRS maintains a list of their names and addresses solely for the purposes of printing labels for Membership Cards and posting newsletters and publications. Such details are deleted from the database for any member who leaves the Society, either after the committee have been notified or after it has been determined that an overdue subscription has not been paid for several months.

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