Northern Mine Research Society

Newsletter

Society established 1960

www.nmrs.org.uk **August 2015** www.nmrs.org.uk

Presidents jottings

As I write this we have been enjoying a period of mostly settled weather which has benefitted some of our meets, although the first of the year was a case of dodging showers! We are very appreciative of all who lead our **meets** which have been very varied this year. Hopefully there should be reports of them elsewhere in our Newsletter. Regarding Rogerley, the Americans have confirmed that subject to their return next year, they will be very pleased to see our members again so I am already taking provisional bookings for this event. If you would like to lead a meet in 2016 please contact Sallie Bassham

Our Autumn meeting takes place on 24th October at Gisburn Festival Hall, 5 Burnley Road, Gisburn , Lancs BB7 4T, NGR SD 828 487**. Book sales** commence at 11.30 followed by a **buffet lunch** at 12.00 after which our general business meeting and presentations will take place. Please note pre-booking is essential for lunch and please let us know if a vegetarian option is required. It would help our caterer if bookings are made by October 10th.These can be made by e-mailing me at mansemins@btopenworld.com or by phoning 01282 614615 (before 9pm please) where a message can be left should we be out. Members` presentations are an integral part of our Autumn meeting so please let me know if you are prepared to offer one. Don`t forget they should be no more than 15 minutes long. We will have a computer and projector available. Regarding book sales we will also have some 1" maps available and some large rolled up 6" OS maps, thanks to a donation. As usual I will be bringing some second hand BMs along. If there are any in particular you are after please let me know and if they are available I will bring them along for you. There will also be a good assortment of other mining related books as well as PDHMS bulletins. Don`t forget to bring your wallets and cheque books!

At a recent event in **Ingleton** Bernard Bond`s display of artefacts associated with the Ingeleton Coalfield was very popular as was to a lesser extent our NMRS display! However it was to Bernard that people flocked and he sold quite a few of the popu-

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Would you please note that the deadline for inclusion with the November 2015 Newsletter is the 31st October 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.

Contents

lar BM 76 as well as collecting donations for our Society. Thank you, Bernard.

Behind the scenes, and mostly thanks to Malcolm Street, **our website** is undergoing a makeover and should result in a more modern, viewer friendly site. The extensive content will still be there but in a more accessible format.

On the **publication**s front we have some copies of "Archive, the Quarterly Journal for British Industrial and Transport History" available. These are in excellent condition and if anyone is interested in obtaining any please contact me.

Our **Facebook page** continues to be a success and I would like to thank Alastair Lings for his continuing help and to the following members who have provided information and "posts" – Mike Gill, Mick Hall, Jean Thornley, Helen Wilkinson and in particular Graham Topping who has sent so much information and photos. One of his most popular "posts" attracted over 900 views! I hope if you are on Facebook you will continue to "like" and "share" us so we can attract an even wider audience. We are such an active Society we should spread the word!

On behalf of the Society I would like to welcome the following **new members**,

Richard Barker - Ingleton
Jim Coxon - Durham
Chris Curry - Richmond
Steven Millar - Ellesmere Port
Ian Shield - Newcastle upon Tyne
Dr Ru Smith -Houston, USA
Col Suddick - Durham
David Twist - St Peter Port, Guernsey

Also **congratulations** are due to two of our members who have recently become engaged – Richard Bell and Jeanette Inkin. We wish them a long and happy life together.

On **a more sombre note** we are sad to hear of the death of Lawrence Barker. Elsewhere you find an obituary. Also we were sad to hear of the death of Hilary Bird. Her husband, Dickie was our editor form 1976 to 1992 and Hilary dealt with our books sales over that period which was when our British Mining series was established. Also the Royal Society of Chemistry has reported the death of Trevor Bridges who many of you would have known. His widow very kindly donated her collection of NMRS publications when they down-sized a few years ago. Another loss to the mining fraternity was that of Pete Blezard, a long time CATMHS member. There was a fantastic turnout at his funeral and we were pleased to see other NMRS members there, including one all the way from Somerset.

On a brighter note and looking forward to the future, our **BM 100** is in the pipeline – what an achievement and **our 2016 AGM** has been booked for Saturday April 16th at Mealbank, Ingleton so please make a note of this.

Finally why not book your lunch at our Autumn Meeting now, before you forget. We always have a good turn out with a chance to catch up with like-minded members, to purchase some bargain books, have an excellent lunch and hear about the progress of our Society as our Committee members present their reports.

Barbara Sutcliffe

Hilary Bird

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Hilary Bird on June 19th. While many of today's members will probably not know her, Hilary made a great contribution by dealing with publications sales from 1976 to 1992. At the same time Dickie, her husband, was editor and he established our ethos of high quality publications. Between them, they built up book sales, brought in many new members and took British Mining to the prominence it deserves. We owe them both a great debt of gratitude for all their hard work which contributed so much to the society's success.

John Lawrence Barker 1927-2015

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of John Lawrence Barker, of Swaledale, a long-standing member who joined the society in 1966. Lawrence was born in Healaugh on July 3rd 1927 and left school at the age of 14. He trained as a motor mechanic and became a partner in a local garage, but in 1972 he sold his interest and became a warden for the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Lawrence's family's involvement in Yorkshire lead mining dates from the 1660s, when Robert Barker came from Derbyshire to manage mines at Kettlewell. Robert's brother, Adam, soon followed, but lived in Swaledale where he managed mines in the Old Gang area.

Aided by a large number of documents collected both by his antecedents and himself, Lawrence had an abiding interest in Swaledale's history, especially its mines. He was an active member of the W.E.A. team whose work made a major contribution to Fieldhouse & Jenning's 'History of Richmond & Swaledale'. His job with the National Park allowed Lawrence to promote the conservation of mining sites as well as introducing people to Dales' history and the lead industry. Lawrence contributed papers on 17th century lead mining to the society's Memoirs in the 1960s, and in 1978 the society published his pioneering study of bale smelting sites in Swaledale, a paper which also gave the first radio-carbon date for a bale on Calver Hill.

As well as writing further papers for British Mining, Lawrence was generous in making his collection available to those of us studying aspects of Swaledale's mines. He supported the Swaledale Museum by making his artefacts available for display, and he also gave enthusiastic support to an enhanced project to advance his own work by locating further bales and obtaining a wider spread of radio-carbon dates from them. I, for one, found him a good critic of one's work. If Lawrence could be convinced of an argument's strength then it was more likely to survive.

As well as having a deep interest in Swaledale's past, Lawrence also played an active role in Swaledale's current affairs.

The society was represented at Lawrence's funeral, at Grinton church on Saturday 27th June, by Mike Gill and Hazel Martell.

LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you to everyone who gives so generously to the library. Bill Heyes brought me a box of CAT Newsletters, dating from 1983 to 2015. As well as describing CAT/CATMHS' hard work in their area, there are also accounts of trips elsewhere. Newsletters are of particular value because of the small snippets of mining information which do not make it into large books.

While at the NAMHO Conference in Nenthead, I took the opportunity to buy books from Mike Moore without incurring postage costs. Following a talk by Alastair Robertson, I bought "The Foreigners in the Hills" which is a history of the Belgian Vieille Montagne Zinc Company in the Alston area. "The Hatchett Diary: a tour through the counties of England and Scotland in 1796 visiting Mines and Manufacturies", edited by Arthur Raistrick, is a standard text for mining historians which includes descriptions of smelting in Cornwall, Boulton and Watt's works in Soho, ironworks at Coalbrookdale, Sheffield steel works and chemical works on Tyneside; as well as visits to Leadhills, Tyndrum and Edinburgh. "Coal from Camerton", by Neil Macmillen and Mike Chapman, includes the start and finish of the Somerset Canal, the coming of the railway and the formation of the Somerset Miners' Union, as well as detailed descriptions of the mines and mining. Salt working is described in "Barrow Salt" by Brian Cubbon. There is a lot of researched detail about the Barrow Salt Company Ltd; but this is set in the wider historical and geographical context. (Brian Cubbon has also contributed an article to the CAT Newsletter of November 2013.) To complete the variety of minerals covered, the final purchase was "Lead Manufacturing in Britain: a history" by D J Rowe: published in 1983, this also contributes to a range of times from a tour in 1796 through to books published in very recently. Something for everyone.

MORE LIBRARY NEWS

We are very grateful to the archivists of Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society and Cleveland Industrial Archaeology Society for the following additions to the library.

Recently, I joined the Cleveland Industrial Archaeology Society (CIAS) and bought some of their publications for myself. Following a conversation with the CIAS archivist; in exchange for a donation, CIAS has given the following Newsletters to the library – No.14 (1978); No.25 (1982); Nos. 28-35 (1983-1985); Nos.37-40 (1986-1987) and Nos.42-107 (1987-2014).

After receiving the generous donation of CATMHS Newsletters from Bill Heyes (see elsewhere in this Newsletter), I spoke with CATMHS archivist Don Borthwick about completing our collection. Early Newsletters are out of print, but Don has very kindly copied all the missing copies onto a CD for us. I do not intend to print out all of these; but if you are interested in looking at particular articles for your researches, please let me know and I will 'print on demand'.

I apologise if I have omitted to acknowledge recent donations; please let me know and I will list your gift in the next Newsletter.

Sallie Bassham (Honorary Librarian)
sbassham@chipmail.co.uk or 015 2424 1851

VISIT REPORTS

Cliviger Coal Mines - 13th June

Photo:- Railway Pit ginney enginehouse & office with walkers - Sallie Bassham is hiding

Nine members attended this fascinating day which was led by Graham Topping, ably assisted by his brother Gary.

The rain had stopped y the time we met at Walk Mill, south-east of Burnley and one time heart of the operations of the Cliviger Coal Company which worked several pits in the Cliviger Valley including, Copy, Railway, Cliviger Drift, and Union. A few steps led us to the offices and ginney enginehouse of the Railway Mine which stand against the main road. Opened in the 1840s it worked the Arley Mine via a drift which ran for over 4,000 yards towards Hurstwood. The workings ran uphill and the loaded tubs ran out under gravity on a rope whilst pulling the empties into the mine. A lintel over the drift entrance could just be seen behind the vegetation adjacent to the office. Up the hill behind we saw the remains of the ventilation chimney for the workings which were closed in 1938.

Photo:- Railway Pit coke ovens structure

Next we followed the route of the ginney line across the main road and up to the site of the coke ovens, screens, and sidings alongside the Burnley to Todmorden railway. Here there are substantial remains associated with the ginney line and also a large stone structure associated with the extensive coke ovens that ran parallel to the railway. A steep standard gauge incline also ran from here down to the Union Pit. This would have been operated by a stationary engine as the loaded wagons had to run uphill. Stonework associated with this was evident amongst the trees that have been planted on the site.

Next down the incline a short way and on to reach the heapstead of the Union Pit which is next to the main road. The owners will not allow access to the site which was the headquarters of the Colliery Company, but the listed staircase and the bank where carts loaded from tipplers can all be seen from the road. The shaft here was sunk 150 yards to the Arley Mine in 1853. Production ended here in 1943. The upcast shaft was close to the rover on the other side of the road and the current landowner told us of his rediscovering when building a garage on the site.

Photo:- Site of Copy Pit

A short drive from Walk Mill then took us to Copy Pit from where the walk recommenced at the site of the last pit in the valley to be operated by the National Coal Board. First driven as a drift into the Dandy seam it was later sunk to the Arley Mine with two 96ft shafts completed in the 1860s. Another drift was driven into the Dandy coal in 1937 as the Arley became exhausted. Coal was taken across the road to the sidings on a ginney track until the Coal Board replaced this with a conveyor which operated until the colliery closed in 1966. Although much of the site has been landscaped the entrance to the roadside tunnel to access a steam pumping engine can still be seen along with a house that served as offices and possibly workshops, the small reservoir, and the remains of the ventilation shaft.

Photo:- Copy Pit c1905

Photo:- Copy Pit airshaft remains

From here the focus of the walk turned to the small private mines that had been opened in the area from the 1970s to the 1990s and also the wartime opencast workings in the Arley seam. First up was Royd Wood Drift, driven in 1985 by the Chadwick brothers and a mine surveyor named F Cannon. This mine was seeking the Union Mine which potentially had large reserves in the area, although it was divided by a dirt band close to the Thieveley Fault. The coal proved hard to find at first and then there were problems with old workings and also geological difficulties that meant that the mine was never very productive and it had closed by the end of the 1980s.

Photo:- Site of Royd Wood drift

We next headed towards Merrills Head Farm which was the headquarters of the Cliviger Coal Company which was run by Simpson Little and worked various drifts in the area from the early 1960s until 2006. The last of these we soon came to at Green Clough where Graham had been involved in setting out the drift in 1989/90 as well as driving the proving adit, which became the airway, in 1986. Water was a significant problem here as the Dandy mine lies only a short distance below the brook. It was this same water that had finally led to the closure of Copy Pit in 1966. Output seems to have reached around 10,000 tons a year at the peak of production at Green Clough.

Photo:- Simpson Little's No.9 drift entrance at Middle Pasture - photo Richard Platt

On the way up to Merrills Head we saw the remains of a couple of shafts to the China Seam that probably dated back to the 1700s. Also seen were the locations of Nos 1, 2 & 6 drifts into the Arley coal, all worked in the 1960s. The latter workings butted into ancient levels arched in the coal which could date to the 1600s.

Concrete fenceposts marked the wartime opencast workings that had left a band of coal running south-west to north-east and bounded by the old workings of Stump Cross Colliery. To reach this Simpson Little drove a series of drifts through the opencast infill to reach the Arley coal. Although not much is now visible at the surface, Graham was able to explain how the airway would eventually become the new drawing drift and another airway would be driven each time that the workings moved a few hundred yards north-east. The farm buildings have now been converted into modern housing and the yard from which the coal was distributed has been landscaped.

The most profitable and productive of Simpson Little's mines was at Middle Pasture where he drove Nos 7, 8, & 9 drifts into a large area of Arley coal that had been missed by the opencast and earlier underground workings from Stump Cross Colliery and Railway Drift. No.8 Drift commenced in 1975 and 140,000 tons of coal were extracted up to 1989. No.9 Drift was driven through old workings for several hundred yards before being abandoned and we were able to see where it had been sunk.

Photo:- Railway drift mouth when working

The final part of the walk took us to the Railway Drift air shaft close to the river at Cant Clough. The coal here was only 16ft below the river which was diverted into a trunk to prevent it getting into the workings. This was almost the end of the 4000 yard tunnel from where we had started the walk at Walk Mill. On the way back to where we had left some of the cars we passed the site of Salterforth No.2 Drift that had been worked by the NCB in the 1950s.

After nearly eight hours walking it was a weary but happy group that headed home, our heads filled with a vast amount of facts, figures, and anecdotes that Graham had imparted. We also now know where there is 10,000 tons of Arley Coal just waiting for

someone to to dig it out. If anyone is interested, just ask Graham!
David Kitching

Rogerley Mine visit, 27th June 2015

Coming from the Forest of Dean for this visit, I started out the day before and only made it thanks to a very helpful RAC patrolman who got my car working after the clutch failed near Wakefield. After spending the night in Wolsingham, I had plenty of time on the Saturday to get to the meeting point by 11am, so paid a quick visit to see what remained of the Frazers Grove fluorspar mine complex which I had last seen in 1999 just before closure. It was a pleasant surprise to see the Grove Rake headframe still standing (as the result of a Building Preservation Notice).

Photo:- group photo in car park

Back to Stanhope, the party met in the Durham Dales visitors car park and proceeded in convoy towards Frosterley, turning off up a steep rough track to the mine site, which was a few hundred yards from the main road. A spectacular sight (site) when seen for the first time.

Immediately I could spot the out-of-use Eimco 12B rocker shovel with a couple of tippers beyond the mine office containers. There was another out-of-use Eimco in the undergrowth, found on closer examination to be a tracked 622 (as used at Hapton Valley Colliery, Burnley, see May newsletter).
To visit the mine (in groups of three) meant first climbing some 30 steps up to the entrance to the level. On the 2ft gauge track outside the entrance were a generator wagon and a compressor wagon.

The working Eimco 12B (used for mucking out after blasting) was in the mine being used to carry timber. It did not have any identification.
In places the fluorspar crystals were visible.
Also obvious were the plentiful timber supports. Where the Eimco had been working near the face the simple but effective method of laying rails to allow for forward advance as muck was cleared could be seen (a pair of rails laid on their side between the fixed rails). On the way out a tipper wagon and the Clayton loco were seen.

Outside, we were given the choice of some recently mined mineral examples. Then while the next group was shown the mine, we were free to look for specimens on the waste tips or to examine the out-of-use equipment. Minerals were lowered from the level

using a basic ropeway, of which the carrier looked as though it had seen better days.
Nearby gradually getting lost in the undergrowth was the Eimco 622 tracked rocker shovel, a type more often seen in coal mines. According to John Hill (the last general manager at Eimco (GB) at their Gateshead works), it was probably made in Italy. I could see no identification on it. Also lying around were three out-of-use U tipper wagons.

It was well worth the journey to visit the mine, and I've got a specimen of fluorspar crystal as a souvenir. I've already put my name down for next years visit. Many thanks to Cal and the rest of the UK Mining Ventures team for showing us around their mine.

Rob Needham

Surrender/Old Gang meet, 1st August

Unfortunately, the underground meet advertised for 1 August could not take place, so a surface walk was offered as an alternative.

Starting from Surrender Bridge, we looked at the remains of the Surrender smelt mills and at the peat store, and then walked up the flue to examine the 'old chimney'. Despite deep discussion, there was no overall agreement about why the flue should loop round the chimney/condenser to approach from the far side. Throughout the walk, debate was intense, widely informed and stimulating. Various features of levels, bale sites, mills, peat stores and flues are no longer as clear as they were twenty years ago and it was helpful to have good memories from everyone's previous visits to the area.

One member of the group had good ideas about one of the 'mined' sections of this flue referred to in BM50, and it is hoped that these will appear in a future Newsletter. Some twenty years ago, when the area was investigated for the BM50 article, there were significant bare areas downwind from the final, terminal chimney: these are now re-vegetating. Similarly, it looks as if some bale sites are reducing in observable area because of encroaching plants. How much have I missed in places where the poisoning effect of heavy metals was less and the areas of interest re-vegetated decades ago!

We then walked across to the Old Gang flue and contrasted the flue and peat store with those at Surrender. Thanks to the annotated plan in Mike Gill's book "Swaledale: its Mines and Smelt Mills", we were able to identify various parts of the mills on the site and the phases of work.

Although there had been floods a few days earlier and a little rain on the morning of the meet, we had fine, sunny weather for a leisurely and interesting walk while others hauled climbing mats up to Healaugh Crag, struggled with the large back-packs required for a Duke of Edinburgh Award challenge, checked on the grouse which tried to fly into our hands or used a stock transporter to return clipped sheep to the moorland.

Thank you to all who contributed to an interesting day – even if they were concerned at a meet leader whose ideas about where she was going seemed vague, who led people through deep heather and splodged across Barney Beck a couple of times with no regard for those who wished to remain dry-shod.

Sallie Bassham

Overground Underground Festival, Ingleton

The festival is now in its fifth year. As a result of local interest, the Ingleton Coalfield Exhibition was displayed in the iCentre. This building used to be the Old Middle School which was opened on 11th January 1930, but with changing times the school closed in July 2012 and the building now holds local businesses and has been renamed the iCentre.

With several display boards showing many local mining views and drawings much interest was created in the steady flow of visitors.

With the other activities in the main hall visitor numbers reached 70 plus family children. Bonus to the local coal mining interest came in two ways. In the afternoon there was much discussion revealing local knowledge of various metal and wooden artefacts from the New Ingleton Colliery.

The photograph shows the early stage of digging the Upcast Shaft for the New Ingleton Colliery in June/July 1913. In the photograph, 2nd from left is Charles Horne of Ingleton, on the right is Oscar Greenwood of Ingleton who was a shareholder in the New Ingleton Colliery Co Ltd, formed in 1909.
The other photographs show the Coalfield displays, including Barker bricks from the Old Ingleton Colliery and Claughton Brickworks (Caton, Lancaster). The Hanson works at Caton has in 2015 been bought by the 'Lone Star' Company from Texas, USA. The bricks produced at Caton are in high demand, with staffing levels having reached the mid 50s to help keep up with the demand for quality building bricks.

Bernard Bond

NAMHO Conference 2015

This year's NAMHO Conference was based at Nenthead and provided an excellent lecture programme along with surface walks and underground trips.

The 'Conference Team' is to be congratulated for a thoroughly enjoyable conference with efficient organisation, and impressive persuasive powers in cajoling interesting speakers and knowledgeable meet leaders to entertain us all. Thank you to everyone concerned.

I spent a fascinating day looking at extraction and processing sites around Tynehead. In a small group and with a very well-informed and enthusiastic leader, I learned more facts about sites with which I was familiar, and was shown new sites which I hope to re-visit. Graham Brooks has given me a CD with information about mining sites around the head-waters of the South Tyne and I have put this in the Society's library.

One of the themes for the lecture programme was "Mines and Warfare". On the Sunday afternoon, there were three fascinating (but very different) talks on this theme. Peter Claughton had facts and figures to show clearly the importance of access to metalliferous resources in war-time. Mia McCabe spoke with passion, and very impressively without any notes or even visual aids, about north-eastern mining engineer John Buddle and his collieries during the Napoleonic Wars. My knowledge of military history and John Buddle was negligible before these lectures. However, the Cold War I do remember: but not as Ivor Brown does because of his practical involvement in English coalmines at the time. Ivor made the realities come alive – the distances he would have to walk underground to implement 'safety' measures if the bomb fell, the difficulties of telling his colleagues to let him know if hostilities commenced when he had to keep all his training secret and the change in thinking required when dealing with an explosion outside the mine rather inside. After Ivor's talk, there were a number of us going "Yes, I remember … " while others listened to us and said "I was not even born then". Something for everyone!

Fortunately, if you missed the lectures because you were being winched down Brewery Shaft, investigating Calaminarian grassland or were not able to attend the Conference, the lectures will be available in Proceedings.

Sallie Bassham

Books & Book Reviews

BARROW SALT by B D Cubbon, 2015, hardback, 140 pages. £18.00

A couple of years ago I read Landless' British Mining account of Preesall salt mines, and consequently spent a happy afternoon splashing through Lancashire floods finding abandoned pipes and valves. So, when at the NAMHO Conference, Mike Moore's book stall had a copy of "Barrow Salt" by Brian Cubbon, I did not hesitate to buy it.

This book is that perfect combination of well researched history, which keeps one reading, combined with maps and photographs to make one want to visit and see the sites.

The author bases his account around the diaries of Edward Wadham, who was the Duke of Buccleugh's Furness Mineral Agent from 1851 to 1912; but has added his own extensive researches in the Barrow Records Office and elsewhere. References are care-

fully listed, so those interested can find further details.

General historical and geological information is given before the author concentrates on the salt discovery at Walney in the late 1880s. There is careful analysis of the finances and management of the various salt companies formed. The companies' directors have been researched and the relationships between them make for interesting reading.

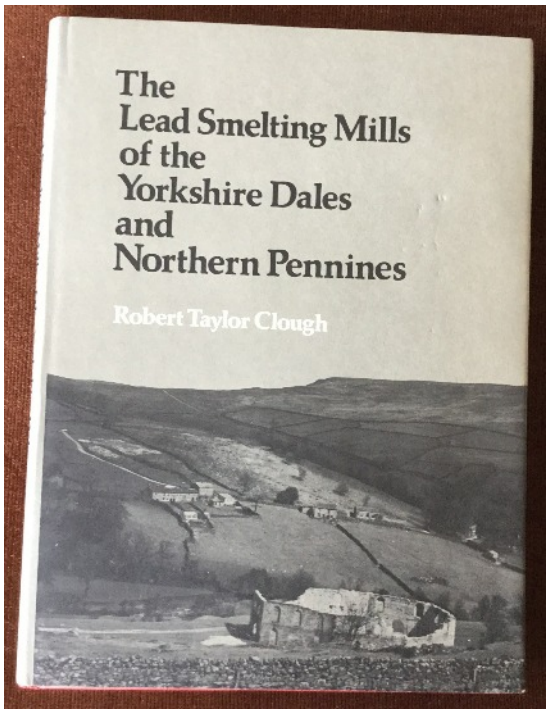
The book includes early twentieth century maps and several photographs of salt works, brine wells and transport. 1988 aerial photographs show 'ghosts' of features and suggest that remains may be difficult to detect on the ground now.

This book is heartily recommended. It is easy to read, but full of carefully researched detail on people and places. The finances and development of the Barrow Salt Company Ltd make the directors' hopes, disappointments, successes and disagreements come alive.

However, if, like me, you want to visit Walney Island to look for remains of the salt industry, then go in the middle of the day. I arrived at South Walney at 5.30pm to discover that the gate across the narrow road is padlocked at 5pm every day.

Sallie Bassham

The Lead Smelting Mills of the Yorkshire Dales & Northern Pennines by Robert Taylor Clough



We have recently acquired a few new copies of this well- known book. They are second editions with additional material from the original and published by the author in 1980. 322pp with 192 photographs and 75 figures, diagrams, plans etc. A hard back with dust cover 250 copies were printed. We are selling these for £50 each with a discount to members of £10. Orders can be taken to our Autumn meeting. Being a heavy book – 1345 gms p&p would be £5.50 for 1st class or £2.90 for 2nd class.

We will also have available at our Autumn meeting some of the original printing plates from this book. These make unusual decorative items or excellent paper-weights for the mining enthusiast.
Orders for the book to mansemins@btopenworld.com please.

Barbara Sutcliffe

The History & Industrial Archaeology of the Steam Engines of the Coalpit Heath Colliery Company by Steve Grudgings

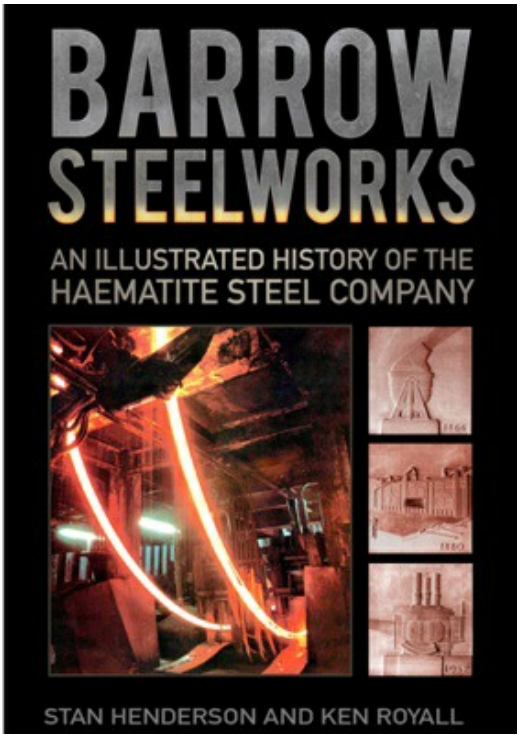
Written by one our members the aim of this book is to tell the technical, social, historical and archaeological stories of the stationary steam engines used by the Coalpit Heath Colliery Company between 1800 and 1949. This has been achieved by utilizing a wide range of archival sources, including oral histories, maps and images. A map of the Coalpit Heath Coalfield sits prominently at the beginning of the book which is easy to navigate due to the excellent contents pages – broken up into individual collieries with further page referencing to various aspects of information & questions on each colliery. Towards the end of the book is a chapter on the industrial archaeology of the steam engine, some personal views and related obser-

vations. Each chapter is fully referenced and for those readers struggling with technical terms there is a glossary towards the back and needless to say the index is comprehensive.
Throughout the A4 paperback of 152pp there are numerous b&w photos, plans and illustrations. In fact there are hardly any pages that are just type.
Well thought out and well researched the title conveys the varied audience to whom the book is directed – those with an interest in the particular colliery company, in industrial archaeology, in steam engines and their operational context, and to tell the stories not just of the engines but the men who drove and maintained them.
Produced by the South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group with support from the South Gloucestershire Council the well presented book is priced at £15. Orders can be collected from Steve on Hemingfield working party weekends or from SGMTG Publications, 51 Greenhill Rd., Alveston, Bristol BS35 3NA. The post and packing charge is £2.90

Barbara Sutcliffe

Book Launch and Exhibition
Wednesday 6.30pm, 12 August 2015

Archive and Local Studies Centre, Barrow
An exhibition will be on display from 3 - 31 August in Barrow Library. Visitors can look at two albums of photographs of the Steel Works taken by Ken Royall.

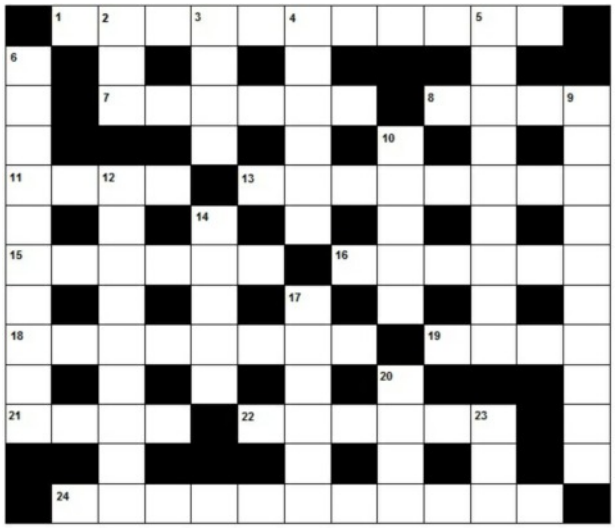


The authors, Stan Henderson and Ken Royall, will give a short presentation and then documents from the archive collection will be on display

For further details contact:
Cumbria Archive and Local Studies Centre,
Ramsden Square, Barrow-in-Furness
Tel: 01229 407377

Email: barrow.archives @cumbria.gov.uk

And now for something completely different



ACROSS
1. Outer layer of our planet
7. Dark coarse grained igneous rock
8. Crystal habit
11. Fine powdery particles
13. Hit this type of calcite with a hammer perhaps!
15. Part of earth between crust and core
16. Wearily making a tunnel or mine shaft
18. Buried gems perhaps
19. Flat, low-lying area of E. England
21. Elongated strip of sand or shingle projecting from the shore
22. Smoky variety of quartz
24. Solid figure with four plane faces

DOWN
2. Month abbreviation with sardonyx or carnelian as birthstone
3. Small load carrying vehicles on rails in mine
4. Distinguishing mark made by mineral when scratched on hard surface
5. Calcium auminosilicate hydrate of zeolite family
6. Workers in Au
9. Island famed for beautiful blue celestite
10. Mixture of two or more metals
12. Sounds like an evil doing mineral!
14. Fused mixture of oxides
17. Ornament worn fastened to clothing
20. Cover with gold
23. _____ lithic. Cultural period characterised by use of polished stone, flint tools and weapons

Answers to crossword on last page.

Snow-covered Iron Mine

Ron Callender's article on 'The snow-covered iron mine' in the February newsletter brought back happy memories of the trip my wife and I did to the North Cape of Norway. It sounds like the same cruise that we did in the summer of 2008.

Photo:- Vandal-proof bus shelter

When we went, however, the mine was not being worked and after driving past the 'vandal-proof bus shelter', as the driver called it, we drove up to the mine through the gates and up to a viewing platform overlooking the workshops at the north end of the mine with the rest of the mine spread out to the south. What we could see of it was but a small fraction of the whole.

The mine is so vast that the only way to see it all is to view it on Google map – enter Bjornevatn.

Photo:- Sample of iron ore held up by magnet

When on the site we were able to walk about to get a good view and pick up small pieces of 'rock' – in fact pieces of mineral. I brought back a sample about the same size as the one in the photograph. It weighs about 1lb and can be held up by a small strong magnet.

(Editors Note :-The panoramic view below was produced by 'stitching' together several of Mason's photographs, which still cannot convey the sheer size of the mine.)

Mason Scarr

The Wanlockhead Nuggets

Last Sunday (14th June 2015) I was in Wanlockhead. The previous day, my landlady in nearby Sanquhar told me all about an excitement in the neighbourhood. That is, a few days earlier, a man had found a large nugget while washing for gold in one of the streams. To underline the importance of the occasion, she added, "Wanlockhead was even mentioned on the BBC News. They say it is worth ten thousand pounds." I knew that some finds have an added value due to their provenance, but using the current bullion rate, a quick calculation suggested that the nugget would have to weigh over 13 ounces.

When we reached Wanlockhead the next morning, there were signs of a modest gold rush in the offing and to my amusement, people were not only buying gold-washing equipment in the museum shop, but one man was asking advice on how to use his recently-purchased sluice.

It was not difficult to glean more details of the find. The museum trustees knew it would be good for the museum and one trustee expressed delight at the news, because the village always welcomed responsible panners. For my part, I was able to establish the nugget weighed 18.1 grams and a scribble on the back of an envelope suggested the bullion value would be nearer £449. Of course, I accept the intrinsic value will be much higher … but hardly ten thousand.

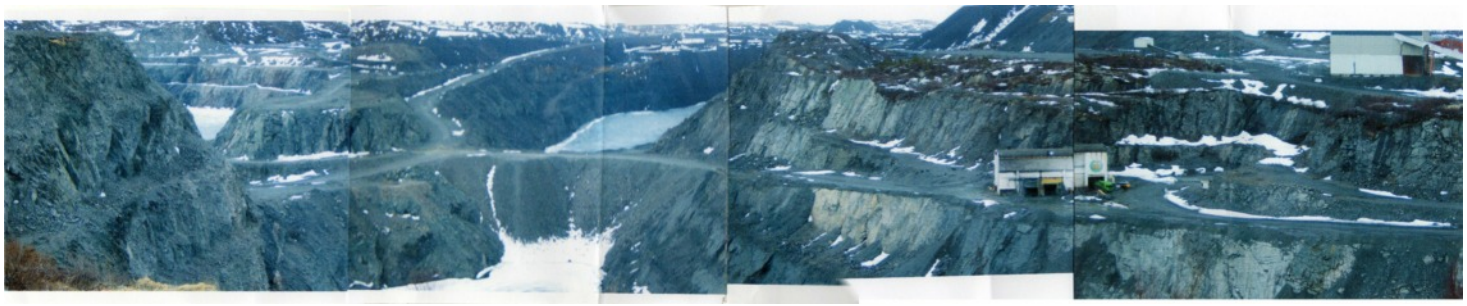
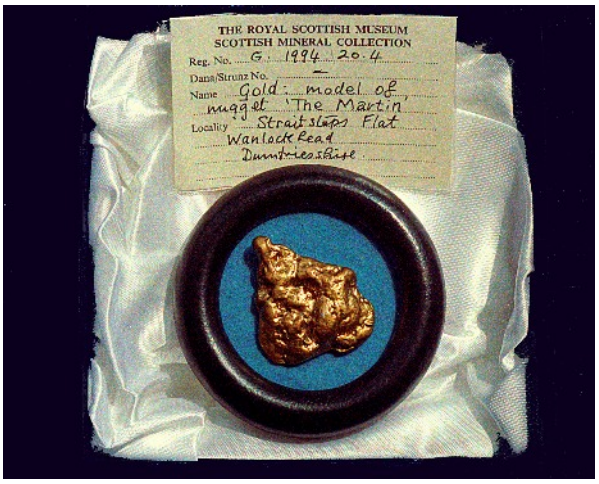
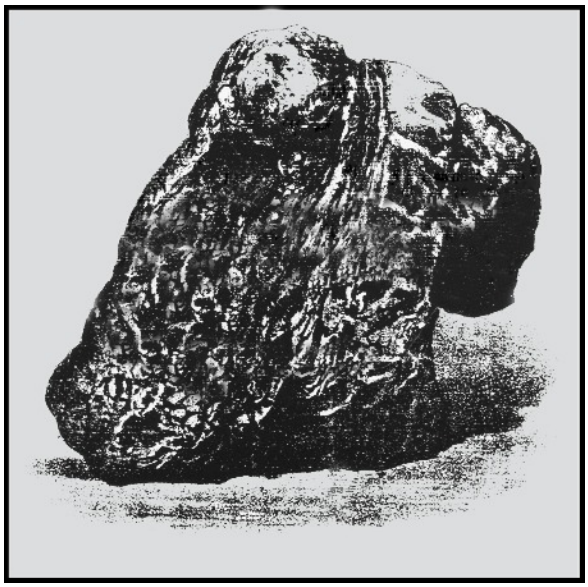


Photo:- Panoramic view of Bjornevatn iron mine

As we continued our journey, we discussed the topic but had no answer to the question, who now owns the nugget ? In England, HM The Queen has first call on all gold discoveries, but the perogative varies in Scotland because some landowners have ancient privileges to all the mineral wealth recovered on their land. In the end, I decided if I ever find a substantial nugget, I will maintain a silence … just in case !



As a rule, worthy nuggets generally receive a proper name. Scotland's national museum holds the Martin nugget, and when the Gold Museum in Northern Lapland opened its international gallery a few years ago, the Scottish museum prepared and donated a lovely facsimile of the famous Martin nugget. I carried it to Finland and, once I had secured a decent photograph, I completed the presentation to the delighted museum curator.



When Andrew Gemmell found his nugget in 1872, his find immediately provoked controversy because the gold occurred in quartz. Contemporary experts claimed it had been "imported" from Australia. I do not know where the specimen is now, but some years ago I traced the cover of a pamphlet that Patrick Dudgeon prepared as a fundraiser for a good cause - Miss Clugston's Home for Incurables in Glasgow. The cover features an illustration of the nugget but the caption is cautious in stating it is "auriferous quartz".

I now look forward to a name for the latest Wanlockhead nugget and suggest "Canadian John" as an acknowledgement to its finder ... but I hope it stays in Scotland.

Ron Callender

Further to our May Newsletter and the question "Genuine news item or April Fool"

I can confirm that the obituary in the "Daily Telegraph" regarding Gary Dahl and his idea of collectable "pet rocks" is true. The pet rocks were a smooth stone from Mexico`s Rosarito beach. They were marketed like live pets, in custom cardboard boxes, complete with straw and breathing holes for the "animal". An official training manual was included which was full of gags, puns and jokes. In our early days of exhibiting at UK shows these pets were in evidence on some stands –not ours I hasten to add!
Rosebud Entertainment currently holds the US Trademark rights to the Pet Rock, selling them at $19.95 with a 100% rock solid guarantee.
Enough of this trivia!

Barbara Sutcliffe

Working Party Weekend, 25th-26th July by The Friends of Hemingfield Colliery

Digging deeper

The Friends assembled for another working party weekend, bringing tools, talent and talk of recent research, together with a hint of excitement at the prospect of uncovering more features of the industrial archaeology of the site. Site Manager Glen, and

Chair of the Friends Steve opened the gates to welcome volunteers Alan, John, Keith and Phil to the pit for what would be a fascinating day.

Photo:- The area of investigation

Work began alongside the switchgear building. The last working party weekend has extended the area being cleared away from the building. This time the focus was at the northern end, closest to the headgear and winding engine house - a spot which helpfully included a number of recalcitrant tree stumps.

Photo:- Looking back into the yard from the Wath Road boundary wall, showing the area of investigation.

Getting started under sunny skies, the volunteers encountered yet more roots clearing away the top layers of bracken, grass and weeds. Under this layer were a number of iron plates - their age and original purpose as yet unclear - but they certainly took some shifting during the morning!

Photo:- Iron plates recovered from the surface

This new area also started to reveal lots of coal; little pieces perhaps, but a distinct concentration, and a feature of the ground at that end of the strip. The casual reader may well think: ***coal*** in a ***colliery***, surely not!? but in fact these 'black diamonds' are rather more scarce than you would imagine.

Coal working on a commercial scale at Hemingfield ended over 95 years ago, in May 1920. At this point an abandonment plan was drawn up from the surveyed working plans and submitted to the Home Secretary - a practice which first became a legal obligation under §42 of *The Coal Mines Regulation Act and Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act* of 1872. The abandonment plans are now held by the Coal Authority at its headquarters in Mansfield, on behalf of the Health and Safety Executive whose Inspectorate of Mines, covering active workings, is still based in Sheffield.

Snap time

The Friends and volunteers paused for lunch and to catch up on mutual research interests. Lunchtime

also saw the arrival of the 'afternoon shift' in the form of volunteer Chris who commented on the visible progress being made since his last visit to site. Over lunch he caught up with the morning's work and listened to the recent work our education lead Phil, together with Glenda - one of our most active historical investigators - have made in tracing the families of former Hemingfield colliery workers, as well as the wonderful stories emerging from discussions with local Hemingfield residents. These insights make an invaluable contribution to understanding the site's history, its people and their working lives.

Earlier, a small contingent had made a rewarding visit to one of Hemingfield pumping station's older siblings - Elsecar pumping station - the brick-built substation by the side of the remarkable 1795 Newcomen type engine. Dr John Tanner, Museum and Heritage Project Manager at Barnsley kindly showed the sub-station building which the South Yorkshire Mines Drainage Committee constructed, probably in 1944, replacing a much older building which used to store electrical equipment powering underground pumps. Elsecar and Hemingfield were both part of the same pumping scheme, first established in 1918 under the aegis of the South Yorkshire Mines Pumping Association. Hemingfield's other surviving sibling is the Westfield pumping site - now an industrial unit in Rawmarsh. Future posts will no doubt cover the fascinating and colourful history of these 3 sites - each of them former collieries of the Earls Fitzwilliam, and possessing important remains of a now-vanished 19th Century industry.

Winch away!

The afternoon session saw the Friends and volunteers hard at it once more - digging, shoveling, sieving for small finds (and coal!) and pondering the apparently immovable tree stumps blocking progress.

Photo:- Stumped! Digging up to/around tree stumps

Cue: the practical engineers. The group is fortunate to count a number of very handy folk amongst its number: engineers, surveyors, geologists, mechanically-minded and ready to provide solutions when problems arise. In this instance, the obstacle was a series of tree stumps, the solution was to bring out the winch.

Photos:- Before *After*

It was impressive to see the 3 ton loaded winch and chains bite and slowly raise the stubborn stumps and enable the clearing and dig investigation to continue. All this toil and slog was definitely worthwhile, as the removal of the final stumps revealed a distinct edge of stonework.

With an air of excitement, the Friends and volunteers cleared away the surface layers and roots to reveal the archaeology and to help resolve what the sandstone feature might actually be.

Stumps removed; dressed stone alignment revealed

With trowels and brushes to hand, the archaeological focus returned, tracing the line of stones, all marked with the familiar horizontal tooling marks

seen throughout Elsecar and Earl Fitzwilliam's buildings. Gently the top covering of grass and earth was removed.

Photo:- Revealing the edge of the sandstone alignment

Following the line of the stones, the diggers eventually found a return in the stone: a corner to the stonework.

Photo:- Troweling along the sandstones to find the extent

At this juncture, as if by magic - (after professional engagements elsewhere) - volunteer and archaeologist Nigel appeared and guided efforts as the end of the working party was fast approaching.

Photo:- Corner of the wall - dressed outer stone with thin rubble inner.

More sweeping and clearing later and the diggers revealed a well-worn red brick floor. The stonework wall was quite thin, which suggests a single story building of some sort, the external wall was dressed, but had rubble stone fill in the walls.

Photo:- Corner of building with redbrick floor and sandstone wall with local mason horizontal tooling

Searching the site for cues and clues to what the newly-revealed corner could be, the flashing line in the winding engine house jumps out immediately. On the ground by the corner of the house is a line of sandstones, partly buried. This line appears to end at a point parallel with the corner return just revealed. It seems we have indeed uncovered the first indications of a lost building on site.

Photo:- Context of the archaeological feature - exposed floor surface, corner of winding house building, flashing marks on side of winding.

Continuing right-hand exposed wall indicates line of building for further investigation.

With the day coming to a pleasing conclusion, the friends and volunteers tided the site and packed away tools and finds. Hopes were high that some work would be able to take place the following day, though the forecast was not promising.

On Sunday site manager Glen once again opened the colliery gates and volunteer Keith arrived to continue work. However the rain gods were against us, and a hasty retreat was sounded - back to old Ordnance Survey maps to try and understand the buildings on site - a great find on a very enjoyable weekend.

Friends of Hemingfield Colliery

From Ingleton to South Africa: coal mining travels

What follows is an interesting example of the requests for information that come to the Recorder. In late February an email from Dr Stephen Craven, in Cape Town, asked for information on the Bedworth Charity Colliery because a friend had a 225 x 75 mm brass plaque, inscribed as follows:-

"*Presented to Mr George Barker M.E. General Manager of the Bedworth Coal & Iron Co. by the Officials and Workmen of The Bedworth Charity Collieries. And a wide circle of Friends as Momento of the Regards and Esteem in which he is held by them. December 23rd 1882.*"

The plaque, which had been unscrewed from a larger object, was found by Coral Epton while clearing cupboards and drawers prior to moving house. Coral, who has now given it to Stephen Craven, inherited the plaque from her mother, but she had no knowledge of Barker.

Bedworth Charity, later simply Charity, Colliery was at Collycroft in Warwickshire. It was sunk on land owned by the Rev. Nicholas Chamberlaine Charity in Bedworth in 1830, a time of depression in the silk trade, to provide work for local ribbon weavers. It worked the: Two Yard, Ryder, Slate, Seven Feet seams, and closed on September 13th 1924. The income from leasing the colliery allowed the charity to build a school and almshouses in the town. The owners were:-

Bedworth Charity

1830-1836	McTaggart & Williams
1837-1848	Caroline Williams & Sons
1848-1860	Williams & Co.
1861	Bedworth Charity Colliery & Ironstone Works
1865-1870	Addenbrooks & Pidock

Charity

1871-1898	Bedworth Coal & Iron Co. Ltd
1899-1924	Stanley Brothers Ltd

George Barker was the manager between 1876 and 1886.

Stephen Craven then found that there had also been a Bedworth Colliery in South Africa, and so we began looking for possible links. The New Vaal coalfield was discovered by George William Stow in 1879. It had three main coals: the Top, Middle, and Bottom seams, though most work was done in the six feet thick Middle seam. Stow sought finance and found it in Kimberley, where he met Samuel (Sammy) Marks, a Lithuanian millionaire entrepreneur, who had success in the diamond industry. The latter needed coal to drive pumping engines. They formed the "*De Zuid Afrikaansche en Oranje Vrijstaatsche Kolen en Mineralen Vereeniging*".

Marks' involvement made the discovery commercially viable, and Stow, who was made manager and given a 10 per cent shareholding, began to buy up promising farms in the Vaal coalfield area. He acquired around 95,000 acres of farmland, two-thirds of which proved to be underlain with coal. They began sinking Bedworth Colliery (later known as the Central Mine) in 1880 and in 1883 it produced 360 tons, with 720 tons in 1884. Most of the production went south-west to the diamond fields. Later the area was linked by railway to Johannesburg. The colliery was at what became Bedworthpark, which is a SE suburb of Vereeniging in the former Transvaal, immediately north of the Vaal River.

George William Stow, died in March 1882, and Bedworth colliery is said to have closed in December that year because demand had fallen, but it was certainly working again soon afterwards. Stow at least provides a link to Warwickshire, because he was born at Nuneaton, about 4 kms north of Bedworth Charity Colliery, in 1822. He studied medicine under a Doctor Lattey, but five years later, at the age of 21, he abandoned the profession without having received a diploma and migrated to South Africa, landing at Port Elizabeth in 1843.

Vereeniging's second industry followed R.W. Buchanan's 1890 report that there was enough clay under the coal seam on the company's Bedworth property to warrant a fire clay industry. In consequence the first South Africa firebricks to be made on a commercial scale were produced there in 1894.

A death notice in the Cape Archives showed that George Barker was born in Yorkshire and had died in Cape Town on February 27th 1905, but more importantly it also named his parents, wife and children. This knowledge allowed us to find George Barker on the 1851 census when, aged seven, was living with his parents, Andrew and Elizabeth Barker, at Burton in Lonsdale, near Ingleton. He'd been baptised at Thornton in Lonsdale church on September 24th 1843.

George's father, Andrew, was a collier, but during the night of Sunday, October 21st 1866, water entered Wilson Wood Colliery in such quantities that the two engines could not clear it, and the mine was closed. Andrew Barker, along with other Ingleton colliers, moved to Barnsley and found work at the Oaks Colliery where two explosions, on December 12th and 13th 1866, killed 334 men and boys plus 27

rescue workers. Andrew, aged 46, and his son, Richard, aged 15, were killed. He left a widow and seven children.

George stayed in Barnsley, where he married Sarah Ann, a local woman, and they had a son, Frederick, in 1869. By 1871, however, they had moved to Attercliffe at Sheffield, and George was described as a Colliery Viewer. The census of 1881 found George, now a Mining Engineer, and Frederick visiting Charles Widcombe, a Coal Merchant, at Datchet, near Windsor. Widcombe came from High Littleton, a coal mining village in Somerset.

William Bracewell, a Barnoldswick mill owner, bought the mining rights at Ingleton in 1872, and recovered Wilson Wood Colliery. He died in 1885, however, and his trustees ran the mine until the spring of 1887, when they closed it. George Barker wrote to the *Lancaster Guardian* in early August 1887, pointing out that "T*he coal trade of the country was never worse than now. Collieries in Yorkshire are only working two or three days a week, and in some counties I know well, men are only working one and a half or two days out of six.*" He urged the people of Ingleton to form a company for working Wilson Wood because it could supply coal in the area cheaper than it could be brought in on the railway. He gave his address as the "C*olliery Offices Nunheaton*". The colliery plant was sold on August 11th, however, and the pumps were stopped a few days later. The workings flooded and have never been opened.

George Barker's entire family was living at 78 Regent Street in Lancaster for the 1891 census, and he still described himself as a mining engineer. He cannot be found in the 1901 census, however, presumably having moved to Cape Town, where he died in 1905. Unfortunately, we have not had the opportunity to study passenger lists, so we cannot date that move, nor have we established any links between Barker and Vereeniging, but Sammy Marks made business trips to Britain and "*never failed to visit Birmingham and Sheffield to observe at first hand and to buy equipment*". The two men may have met while Barker worked at Sheffield, or Marks may have visited Nuneaton to see Stow's family.

We have, nevertheless, traced the descent of Barker's brass plaque. A death notice for Barker's daugher, Annie Elizabeth Baines (née Barker), for June 12th 1937, shows that Coral Epton is his great-granddaughter.

I would like to thank Dr Stephen Craven for his endeavours in finding sources of information in South Africa, and Hazel Martell for tracking the Barker family's early years.

Mike Gill, Recorder

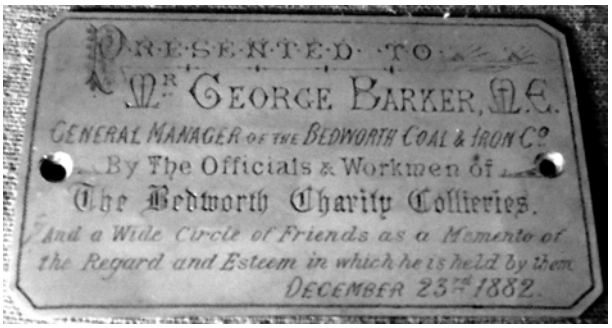


Photo: Barker's Plaque (Prof. J-P. van Belle, 2015).

NMRS Records, Gazetteer of British Collieries.
National Archives: BT31/1670/5916 (1871) Bedworth Coal & Iron Co. Ltd
http://www.nuneatonhistory.com/brickyards-quarries--collieries-extractive-industries.html
Laybourne, R.A. & Watts, R. "The development and application of strip mining to previously mined underground coal workings" J.S. Afr. Inst. Min. Metall., Vol.90, No.8, Aug. 1990, pp.187-197.
Young R.B. *The life and times of George William Stow: South African geologist and ethnologist* (London: Longman, 1908).
Kernot, C. *The Coal Industry* (Cambridge: Woodhead Publishing Co., 2000)
Cape Archives MOOC 6/9/614 609 – Death Notice for George Barker, 27/02/1905. His parents were Andrew and Elizabeth Barker.
Bentley, J.I., Bond, B.R. & Gill, M.C. *Ingleton Coalfield 1600-1940* (British Mining No.76, 2005).
Cape Archives MOOC 6/9/4925 54976 - Death Notice for Annie Elizabeth Baines née Barker, 12/06/1937. Her parents were George and Sarah Ann Barker.
Arkin, M. *Dictionary of South African Biography* Vol. 1, Marks, Samuel pp.515–518 (Pretoria: National Council for Social Research, 1968)

Disused mines could heat UK homes

Abandoned coal mines could help to produce renewable district heating for tens of thousands of UK homes, according to a new study from researchers from Nottingham Trent University.
A two year study conducted at Alkane Energy's control centre at the abandoned Markham Colliery in Derbyshire looked to prove that ground source heat pump (GSHP) technology can be used to extract the heat from lukewarm water that builds up in disused mines.

The pilot project pumps water out of a mineshaft to the surface, where a heat exchanger extracts its thermal energy. A heat pump is used to produce a much higher temperature than the original mine water by condensing the energy and circulating it in a separate central heating type system to heat an industrial building owned by Alkane Energy. The cooler groundwater is then returned to the mine where the ground warms it up again.
The researchers say that redundant mines in the area could produce enough heat for around 45,000 homes. Compared with a modern boiler with 90% efficiency, the GSHP produces as much as 433% more energy for the same consumed energy. If solar or wind energy is used to power the GSHP the heating would be truly renewable, the researchers claim.
'In a way we may never have previously envisaged, coal mines could once again be used to provide warmth to thousands of homes across the UK,' says study author Amin Al-Habaibeh.
Alkane Energy currently produces gas from disused coal mines to produce electricity. The technology developed in the project will allow the company to diversify its business.
While there are projects around the world extracting heat from mine water, Alkane's is the first that extracts the water and returns it using a single shaft system, and so avoids the need and cost of treating the water before it's discharged back into the environment.
Al-Habaibeh tells ***tce*** that the system is now ready for full-scale application.
The research was presented at the *Applied Energy Conference* in Abu Dhabi in March.

The Chemical Engineer, Issue 887, May 2015, sent in by Geoff Usher

Also of general interest may be, for those who have not found it yet, last year British Pathe made their archive available on youtube. There is as much modern history as you could wish for, including a number of mine related items such as this link to an education film on Cornish tin mining https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CtvhMVQxLo (even includes footage of a rocker shovel in action !).

Geoff Usher

Horace Lister (tunnel vision)

How's this for a curriculum vita

Started work at fifteen for the NCB. Worked in several mines in Lancashire. The holder of a deputy's ticket and class one mine managers ticket. Specialising in tunnelling and ripping through all types of strata. Worked for "ATC" (Associated Tunnelling Company) as well as "Cementation" as a project leader and "ganger". Holder of many tunnelling records. Over 30yrs experience.

Further to the last news letter in which the above tunnelling certificate was posted. I have recently spoken to the nearly 80yr old Mr Horace Lister about his tunnelling exploits. He informed me that this was the the first of many records he was involved in setting over his thirty year career. He also holds a class one mine managers ticket and was acting manager on the day of the explosion at Hapton Valley Colliery. On the morning of March 23rd 1962 he was underground on the No2 district dealing with a problem when the explosion took place he survived with only superficial injuries but he still has deep emotional wounds. His career started at Huncoat Pit near Burnley but also worked at Hapton Valley, Bank Hall and Copy pit. He also worked in several Collieries in South Wales and was involved in the Aberfan school disaster rescue in 1966. He has informed me that most of his tunnelling records were set in the Selby Complex Yorkshire. I am looking forward to interviewing this charismatic individual who has pioneered many and varied tunnelling techniques as well as having a few tales to tell.
Eimco rocker shovel loading on to a conveyor at the surface drift at Hapton Valley Colliery in 1961during the record breaking week. Operator Mr Horace Lister.

Also notice the "Horse Heads" which have the safety lamp hanging them. Theses were used to support the exposed roof section while the dirt was being loaded and the steel arch could be set. As this drift was dipping at approximately 1 in 4 and was about 1260yds long water would be a problem so pumps would be running almost constantly. Another problem they encountered was vandalism with the project being stopped for several weeks on one occasion.

He has also wrote a book entitled "Tunnel Vision" which highlights some of his exploits and he has informed me that there is also a second book on its way.

Graham Topping

Issing Sid at Lea Bailey

The Lea Bailey was opened in 1906 as a gold mine! Only 6 grains of gold per ton were found, but this was enough to float a company with £49,000 [about £2.3M today] in £1 shares. Although it sounds like

a scam the theory is impeccable. Gold is a ubiquitous element and had long been known in the area in small amounts. The pebbly conglomerates near Micheldean are said to resemble the Banket or gold bearing conglomerates of the Transvaal, Rhodesia and West Africa. There the similarity ends. In the Bailey Level the amount was a lot, lot smaller! In 1921 the level was extended to a total of 580 yards to the Wigpool Iron Mines. Two headings, at a distance of 530 yards and 574 yards from the entrance of the adit were abandoned at 19 yards and 44 yards respectively. Work was suspended in 1924, in all only 3000 tons of iron were found. In 1996 speculation was rife that the mine was due to be re-worked for gold! However, this was not to be as gold belongs to the crown and Free Miners rights do not apply.

Photo:- Tony Oldham and Issing Sid

However, to bring things up to date. I was not here to visit a mine, but the Lea Bailey Light Railway and their Open Day on Saturday 9th May 2015. The highlight of the open day was a unique visiting loco - Issing Sid, (Hunslet 9902/2009) a compressed air loco, which is a recreation of a type of loco built in the 1870s for use underground in the Earl of Durham's collieries. It operates at 13 bar, but being very cautious they only run it at 10 bar. This was enough to run it up and down 200 m of track a couple of times. I thought the charging from a compressor was the most exciting part of the visit. Other goodies include the compressed air Eimco rocker shovel and a WR5 battery operated Loco. In 2014 they took delivery of four more battery powered locos. The batteries are massive, weighing 600 kg and difficult to charge on a site with no mains electricity, although hydro electric power is being looked into. This means that the batteries can be charged during the week. A cheaper source of power would be 4 car batteries (as used on the WR5).

I have to take my hat off to whoever has done the restoration etc. What a group of enthusiasts, and how fortunate it is that legacy of the old miners will live on through their dedication.

Tony Oldham

Mytholm Brickworks

In response to the item in the May Newsletter, can I first correct the original item that you copied. It is Mytholm Brickworks not Mytholmes; the track was called Breakneck (one word), though Calderdale MBC have erected a road sign at the top labelling it Break Neck Lane, which it has never been known as; and Mytholm Bridge over which the line passed was over the Red Beck as Shibden Beck ended when it was joined by Chelsea Beck just before the bridge. The 1849/54 6in, OSM introduced the 'e' on the end of Mytholm.
I am the person who has lived in Mytholm the longest, nearly 70 years, so can remember the mine and brickworks, known locally as the brickyard to distinguish it from Leeds Fireclay Co.Ltd.'s Hipperholme Works, formerly Shibden Hall Brickworks, which was known as the brickworks. Notwithstanding that I am a history of heavy ceramic (brickmaking, pipemaking, refractories etc.) so have researched Mytholm Brickworks and associated mine. For your information the first draft of my research note for this, which hopefully will give you the additional information you requested. I have similar information on all the brickworks in Calderdale and for many associated works. I am currently writing up the first draft for Leeds Fireclays' Leeds mines. So if you need similar information the other works I can probably help. When I've completed the first draft I will try and fill in the gaps, so that I will then be in a position to write them all up in a legible manner.
All the best,

Chris Bateman

Chris sent six pages of informtion on the brickworks and mines, of which the list below is just a small fraction.

MYTHOLM BRICKWORKS, Shibden Hall Road, Mytholm, Southowram
SE 114 255 – Yorks. (W.R.) c1874-c1956

c1874-1898	**Joseph Morton** Halifax 36yd. Band fireclay
1898-1902	**Joseph Morton (branch of Leeds Fireclay Co. Ltd.)**
1902-c1956	**Joseph Morton Ltd.**
c1956-c1963	Joseph Morton Ltd. (Storage)

MYTHOLM NEW MINE, Halifax Old Road, Mytholm, Hipperholme
SE 115 256 – Yorks. (W.R) 1902-1962

1902-c1956	**Joseph Morton Ltd.** Halifax 36yd. Band fireclay & manufacturing coal
c1956-c1957	standing
c1957-1962	**Joseph Morton Ltd.**

MYTHOLM OLD MINE, off Shibden Hall Road, Mytholm, Southowram
SE 114 254 – Yorks. (W.R.) 1873-1905

1873-1898	**Joseph Morton Ltd.** Halifax 36yd. Band fireclay
1898-1902	**Joseph Morton (branch of Leeds Fireclay Co. Ltd.)**
1902-1905	**Joseph Morton Ltd.**

Crossword answers

ACROSS	DOWN
1. Earthscrust	2. Aug
7. Gabbro	3. Tubs
8. Form	4. Streak
11. Dust	5. Scolecite
13. Nailhead	6. Goldsmiths
15. Mantle	9. Madagascar
16. Boring	10. Alloy
18. Treasure	12. Sinnerite
19. Fens	14. Glass
21. Spit	17. Brooch
22. Morion	20. Gild
24. Tetrahedron	23. Neo

From the editor

Thanks to everyone who has sent in a contribution for the newsletter. I have tried to include as much as possible, but if your piece does not appear, don't worry - I still have some in hand for the next issue. But please keep the contributions flowing and also let me know what you want to see in the newsletter. This issue I have included a crossword that was sent to me. Does this meet with members approval? If so, please send me more. If not, what would you rather see in its place?

Rob Needham

Reminder. Please don`t forget to book for our Autumn Meeting on 24th October at Gisburn Festival Hall.

Bookings to Barbara, e-mail: mansemins@btopenworld.com by October 10th. Offers of presentations are welcome

Disclaimer

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