



Presidents jottings

The last newsletter of the year and I would like to start with a big “thank you” – to all our committee members, to all our meet leaders, to all who help to spread the word and help to sell our publications, to all who donate books and maps to us, and to all our members. We all play an important part in the success of our Society and long may it continue. We have had a busy year with interesting field trips, two informative meetings which have been well attended and given us a chance to catch up with each other. Some members make long journeys to attend our indoor meetings – perhaps it is the lure of tray bakes that attract them! The committee have spent a considerable time discussing our proposed website and we must thank Malcolm for all his efforts with this. Once up and running his life should be made easier as others will be able to help.

Our recent **Autumn meeting** at Gisburn was another success. As usual the Committee members provided reports which Malcolm will be placing on the member's area on our website. If you have forgotten your password please ask for another. Malcolm was able to demonstrate and compare the present website with the proposed one as it is at the moment and appealed for more photos. It is lovely to hear from people after the event and one email the following day on behalf of three

new attendees to one of our meetings quoted the words they were impressed with that keep cropping up “financially secure, progressive, informative and the most important of all to a newcomer FRIENDLY.” I would like to thank Aurthur Baldwin and Keith Turner for providing us with some more books to sell on behalf of our Society. We were fortunate to have four interesting presentations.

One of committee members, Len Morris, talked about Dr Josiah Court and the disease nystagmus which resulted in headaches, dizziness and possible loss of vision. Josiah's work looked at the disease prevalent in miners and found it to be caused by defective illumination from flame safety lamps. In the absence of Graham Topping, his brother Gary, showed a “Down to Earth” early Granada programme about farming in the Cliviger area and the Cliviger Coal Company. Mike Gill gave a very interesting presentation on “Dales Mining – a different View” showing aerial photos of various mining sites on Grassington Moor, Threshfield Colliery, Wharfedale Mines, and West Grooves to name just a few. At the end were a few photos from the very early days of NMRS to celebrate our British Mining 100. David Kitching informed us about a recent visit

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Would you please note that the deadline for inclusion with the February 2016 Newsletter is the 31st January 2016.

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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to Pretoria Mine, Bakewell with some interesting photos and finally David Lewis gave a presentation on "The Coal Mines of Winter Hill". All in all a very enjoyable day.

Enclosed is our latest 2015 Memoir **BM 100**. We are very proud to have reached another milestone in our history. The authors, members, and readers are far too many to list and thank as without them we would not have reached this stage. However I thought this would be an ideal time to thank all our **editors** who have played such an important part. Of course publications started much earlier, when we were NC&MRS so I will list those as well.

NC&MRS –Transactions, Memoirs and Monographs

Robert T Clough	1960-1961
Douglas T Richardson	1961-1969
J. Michael Dickinson	1970

NMRS – British Mining

Michael Gill	1975 (BM 1)
Richard Bird	1976-1992
Hazel M. Martell	1993-2001
John Hunter	2002-2005
Richard Smith	2006 –

Thanks to Mike Gill who compiled the list for me. Interestingly he has had an article in both BM1 and now BM100, as well as many in between. As a special offer to mark our BM100 we are offering **free postage on all British Mining publications to the UK** received during the month of November. Please quote **congrats100** to receive free postage.

Now we look forward to 2016. The **membership renewal form for 2016** should be included with this. It is of great help to Malcolm if these can be returned as soon as possible. You will notice we have again been able to maintain our membership fees at the same level for several years giving you excellent value for money. Thank you to those who gift aid their membership. If you still do not but pay income tax please consider filling in this part of the form. If you have a friend who you feel could benefit from being a NMRS member please tell them about us. A membership form can be found on our website. Thank you to those of you who have joined after seeing us on Facebook. Looking at our "likes" we have followers from not only Great Britain but Norway, Mongolia, South Africa, USA, Pakistan, Iran, and Australia. I must say I was very surprised at this.

BM99 ERRATUM

A minor correction is needed for memoir 99, "The Lead Mines of Tyndrum". On page 47, in table 2, the year 1785 is missing, and data for the years 1786 & 1787 are missing. The figures for those latter two years are £1210 6 10 and £1002 16 5 respectively.

Also enclosed is a **Committee Nomination Form** for 2016. If you have any nominations they need to be sent to the Honorary Secretary at least 28 days before the actual AGM. The present Officers are

President	Barbara Sutcliffe
Vice President	Malcolm Street
Junior Vice-President	<i>vacant</i>
Secretary	Mick Cooke
Treasurer	Tim Cook
Publications editor	Richard Smith
Librarian & meets leader	Sallie Bassham
Newsletter Editor	Rob Needham
NAMHO Representative	Sallie Bassham
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Street
Website Administrator	Malcolm Street
Committee Member	Peter Pearson
Committee Members	Len Morris

We would like to welcome the following new member

John Hewitt	Stoke on Trent
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We were sorry to hear of the death of John Lawson from Tyne and Wear who many of you would have met on meets. A card was sent to his family.

Many of you will be aware of Heritage days usually held in September. The dates for your diary for 2016 are September 8th -11th. On those days many heritage establishments open their doors for free. The website makes it easy (nearer the time) to type in counties or localities to find what is available, giving details such as time. This year I was in Cornwall when the three day event was on and was able to visit Geevor Mine, East Pool, and Godolphin House and gardens all free of charge. Please put the dates in your diaries. Sallie has tried to avoid that weekend when arranging meets.

On behalf of the Committee members I would like to wish you all **Season's Greetings** for Christmas and the New Year, thank you again for your support in 2015 and remind you that the **2016 AGM** will again be held at Mealbank Hall, Ingleton on **Saturday 16th April**. Please make a note of that in your diary and I look forward to seeing those who can make it there.

Barbara Sutcliffe

In the text below, second last line on the page, it should read "six years, for which the figures are conflicting for four of those years." Not seven and five. Please amend your copies accordingly.

Stephen Moreton

LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you to Steve Grudgings for a copy of his book "The History & Industrial Archaeology of the Steam Engines of the Coalpit Heath Colliery Company". This book was reviewed on pages 9 and 10 of the August 2015 Newsletter. It is 152 pages of meticulously researched material with scores of photographs and maps. Thank you to David Allen of the Kelly Mine Preservation Society for a copy of their recently published "Kelly Mine". This is an A4 guide to the site and its equipment with lots of colour photographs and information on the history of the mine. Thank you to Barbara Sutcliffe for recent copies of "Down to Earth".

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

VISIT REPORTS

Hemmingfield Colliery Meet – 9th May 2015

I arrived early at the site just when Steve Grudgings was about to open up.

After greeting me, the first thing he did was to walk around the site in order to unlock and open the 4 roller shutters and a steel plate door to provide access to the mining artefacts in the remaining buildings. He told me that the Friends of Hemmingfield Colliery have had serious security issues, and by the generous donation from NMRS members they have now prevented more break-ins into these exterior buildings.

This is a 'little gem' of a small and relatively complete colliery and was well worth the visit. It is not my intention to write a description or provide photographs of the site, as Steve has already done a sterling job in his regular updates in the NMRS newsletters. However, I think that the Hemmingfield team are doing a great job in preserving this interesting and important colliery and that the Grant paid in 2014 was vital in securing the site's future.

Richard Platt

Haig Pit Museum, Whitehaven

Recently, I re-visited Haig Pit Museum for the first time since its refurbishment. Over two million pounds of grant funding has been well spent on old buildings, new buildings, displays of old artefacts, computer graphics and an excellent café.

One engine hall is not open to visitors – actually, they would probably have let me in if I had asked – and still contains lots of the machinery that I remem-

ber from previous visits. In another engine hall, the Bever Dorling winders are in place and connected to the headgear: at the moment these are a static display. New museum areas are spacious and well-laid out with original artefacts, models, explanation panels and special exhibitions. Inevitably, much is aimed at children; but there is plenty for others. A free museums' newspaper headline states "Community spirit brought to life in new Cumbrian museum" and it was the community feel of the visitors, those working in the museum and some of the displays which made the deepest impression. When I arrived, a dozen or so people were enjoying tea and cake and looking as if this were a regular meeting place for them. As I left, a group of pensioners was being shown round by an ex-miner. I had been asked if I wanted someone to show me round, and booked group visits are guaranteed an ex-miner guide.

After lunch, I walked south along the cliff and down to Saltom Pit engine house. The first shaft was hand-dug here in 1725, and Saltom Pit was the first under-sea coal mine in England.

A free leaflet from Haig Pit refers to Barrowmouth alabaster/gypsum mine a little further south. A path follows a former incline down towards the beach – with a handy rope to enable one to descend the last few yards, and also get back up again. The vegetation on the path has been cut, so it can be followed easily; but plants are overwhelming the ruins of buildings.

On returning to Haig Pit, I found someone who could answer all my questions. Amongst other things, he says that Barrowmouth mine is now not safe because of high methane levels.

So, thank you to Jeff Clegg for alerting me to Saltom Pit remains on a Whitehaven Meet a couple of years ago; and thank you to Haig Pit for its leaflet featuring Barrowmouth mine, and for its helpful staff. Normally, I have a prejudice against museums which are aimed at children; but that is an unfair prejudice – after all, no museum can run at a profit on visits from me every other year. So, I recommend visits to Haig Pit and its café; but remember that there are lots of other mining remains to be found in the Whitehaven area.

Sallie Bassham

Woodend Mining Museum

An Open Day celebration took place on 13th September 2015 at Woodend. There were an estimated 80-100 in attendance at the event, which saw the opening of the building's extension to create a re-

search room for local schools, colleges and visiting groups to use. The extension also had room for the café.



At 12.45pm an introduction by the owners, Harry and Carole Johnson, began with thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund for their help with the project. Everyone can now see the coal-mining history of the Burnley area. Past miners and their families attended.

Also attending, Andrew Stephenson MP referred to the importance of the museum and unveiled a plaque to mark the day and thanked Harry and Carole for all of their work organising the event.



With the recent closure of the nearby Earby Mining Museum, their collection of local artifacts has been passed on to Woodend by Richard Matthews, who was present to see that the results of his hard work have been saved. With the expanded collection, this new building will help local schools and colleges and visitors to appreciate the work of men, boys and ponies in difficult conditions under-



ground to supply the Burnley area with much-needed coal.

Bernard Bond

Cornwall, September 2015

With two colleagues from Lea Bailey, the editor paid a four day visit to Cornwall to look for rockershovels and battery mining locos. Starting at the King Edward Mine museum, we found two ex South Crofty Eimco 21s on display together with one ex South Crofty battery loco.



Photo:- ex South Crofty Eimco 21 at King Edward Mine museum

Then to Geevor, where we met Kevin Matthews of the Muckers & Locos Restoration Group to see the progress being made in the restoration to working order of Eimco 12B no B1218. The airmotors were found to be damaged and severely corroded but a better motor was found on one of the 12Bs in store. We were then shown the store where six Eimcos and seven battery locos were stored. They had been rescued from underground before the mine flooded, and had received no attention since rescue, but the first motor looked at appeared almost as new! So Kevin is hopeful that restoration of an Eimco will be completed soon.



Photo:- Eimco in store with 'new' motor removed
We visited the Mosely Museum at Tolgus Mount, where Colin Saxton has laid out a small 2ft gauge railway on his land on which he can run locos from his

collection which includes a dozen ex mines battery locos. He also has two rockershovels (one Eimco, one Atlas Copco) in the museum, as well as the 'only coal mine in Cornwall'! No coal unfortunately. The editor enjoyed particularly the opportunity to drive an ex-Geevor battery loco.



Photo:- Eimco 622 in Drillserve yard

While in the area we dropped in to Drillserve where Peter Sheppard showed us two Eimco 21s and two crawler Eimco 622s that he had in stock.



Photo:- Rosevale Deep Adit

A late afternoon visit to the Rosevale Mine was interesting as it was twenty years since my last visit. We

walked up the hillside to the entrance to the upper (No 1) Level. After exploring that level, descent to No 2 Level is via a fixed 100 ft ladderway. As well as the two Levels, there is now access via 30 ft vertical ladder in a shaft dug by Society members down to the 18th Century Deep Adit, along which it is possible to walk over 500 ft. The Deep Adit is thought to be part of Wheal Chance, but it does not run in the expected direction. By the time we emerged it was evening. The only slight disappointment was that their loco was not working, as it needed a new battery (similar to that on a fork-lift truck) and the Eimco was dismantled.

However, the disappointment was more than compensated for by the next visit, to the Holman Test Mine.



Photo:- Test holes drilled by Holmans

Originally dug for Holmans to test their rock drills, this was a mine that was never intended to produce any output. It is now run as prt of the Camborne School of Mining (part of Exeter University) and the Mine Captain (Gus Williams) had agreed to show us around.



Photo:- Demonstrating use of rock drill

He has five rockershovels to use to teach the students how to muck out. One, an Eimco 21, is retired. The other four (one each of Eimco 21, Eimco 824, Atlas Copco LM36, Atlas Copco

LM56) all appear to be complete and in working order. However, he expects the rockershovels to be replaced soon by FSVs as that is the future in mining.



Photo:- Eimco 824 with Mine Captain (is this the last remaining 824 in the UK?)

Much to our surprise and delight, he started the large 4 wheeled compressor that was parked outside the mine entrance, and then showed us how the LM56 works.



Photo:- Demonstration of swivelling LM56

He demonstrated the advance over the Eimco in that the LM56 had the ability to swivel the body left or right under power so that it could muck out beyond the width of the rails. On the Eimco the body can only be swivelled manually. Then he offered each of us a chance to operate it.

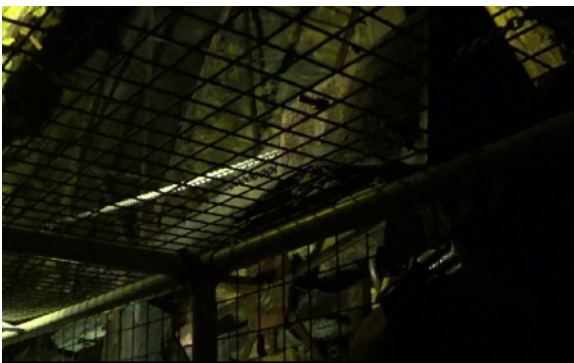
After that experience, everything else was an anticlimax.

On the way back to Gloucestershire, we stopped off at Morwellham for a tourist ride on the George & Charlotte Mine Tramway.



Photo:- battery loco 'George' with miner driver

For me the most impressive memory of Morwellham is of the waterwheel working underground.



Flash photography is forbidden underground, as after a flash the loco driver has to stop for 5 minutes to regain his night vision. However, I found that

there was enough light to film the trip, and here is a still of the waterwheel from my video of the trip.

Unfortunately the steel mesh protective roof is unavoidable. But I've never been this close to a wheel of this size working underground before.

Rob Needham

Ashbrittle, Devon 29th October 2015

With a colleague from Lea Bailey, the editor paid a visit to a private railway near Wellington to see an Eimco 24 rockershovel. I had first seen this Eimco in 1995 at an Open Day at Alan Keefs (light railway engineers at Ross-on-Wye). It had been sold (as I recently found out) to Charles Doble at Ashbrittle.

As well as his own private railway, on his land there is an old mine adit. He told me that he knows nothing of the mine, except that it appears on OS maps as shaft, disused. But there is no shaft. Charles has cleared and timbered c100 ft of the adit, but then it is blocked by a fall where it enters the carboniferous shale from the limestone.



Photo:- Mine adit at Ashbrittle

I think that he had bought the Eimco to use in the mine, but it is much too large. Even the smallest Eimco would not fit - the 12B requires some 7 ft headroom to operate safely, and the 24 is two sizes larger (3½ tons against the 2 tons of the 12B). Hence it has stood unused for 20 years.



Photo:- Eimco 24 at Ashbrittle

Rob Needham

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

11th INTERNATIONAL MINING HISTORY CONGRESS

will be held at Linares, Jaen (Andalucia), Spain 6th to 11th September 2016



Full details on the Congress website

Linares and La Carolina contains the largest collection of Cornish type engine houses outside the United Kingdom. There will be a full programme of presentations and daily field trips to some of the most significant mine sites in the area.

In the latter half of the 19th Century, the Linares - La Carolina metal mining fields in Spain were one of the world's major producers of lead. It is with pleasure that the Colectivo Proyecto Arrayanes in conjunction with the Linares town council, and others have arranged for the 11th International Mining History Congress to take place there, from the 6th to 11th September 2016.

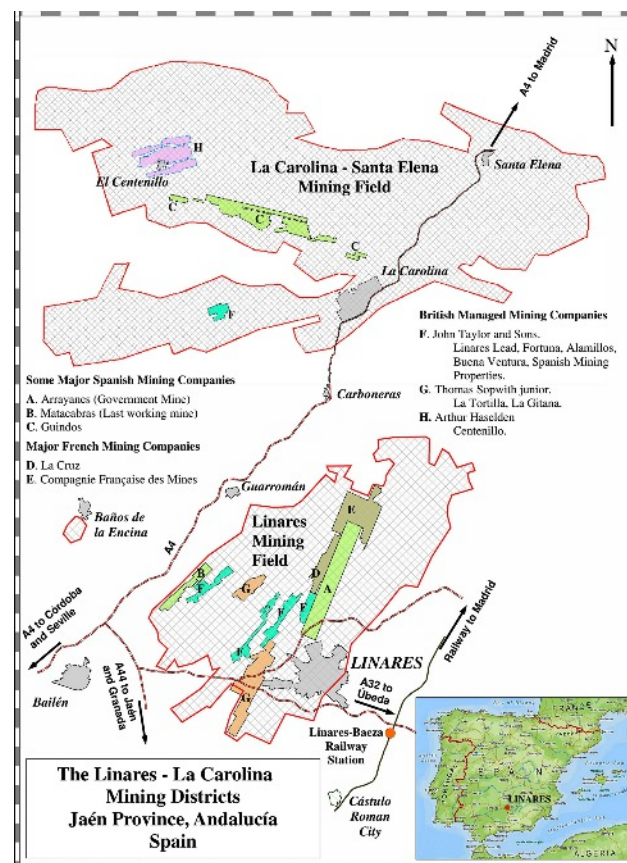
In 1875 the Reverend Hugh James Rose, Chaplain to the English, French and German Mining Companies of Linares described the ambience of the area. *'From morning until night you hear nothing, see nothing but lead: lead at the railway station, lead-smoke (from the smelting works) in the air, lead on the donkeys' backs: plomo en gahipagos, plomo en plancha, plomo primero o segundo (lead in pigs, in sheets, lead of the first or second quality). Lead and money, varied by money and lead, it is depressing alike to soul and body; and, gentle reader, remember there is a proverb among us, "Andar con pies de plomo" (to proceed with leaden feet); and a disease among us which is called "being leaded," and makes a man's eye dull and his brain sleepy.'*

Linares has changed since then. The lead industry has long ceased, but it has left a rich and extensive cultural heritage that can be seen today in the surrounding countryside, and will be visited during the Congress.

The location of the Linares - La Carolina mining district

The Linares - La Carolina mining district is located in the north of the Province of Jaén, in the Autonomous Region of Andalucía. Linares lies about 265 kilometers south of the Spanish Capital, Madrid. The mining fields extends for about 40 kilometres south of Despeñaperros (in the Sierra Morena mountain range) and about 30 kilometres from west to east.

The A4 Motorway that runs south of Madrid lies just to the west of Linares



Papers on mining communities and their spread world-wide would be of particular interest which is the main Conference theme, but other topics would also be considered -- and as you will see Speakers get a discount. I attach a link to the website.

<http://www.mining2016linares.com/>

Robert W. Vernon - August 2015

DARTMOOR TINWORKING CONFERENCE 6-11 MAY 2016 - BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN

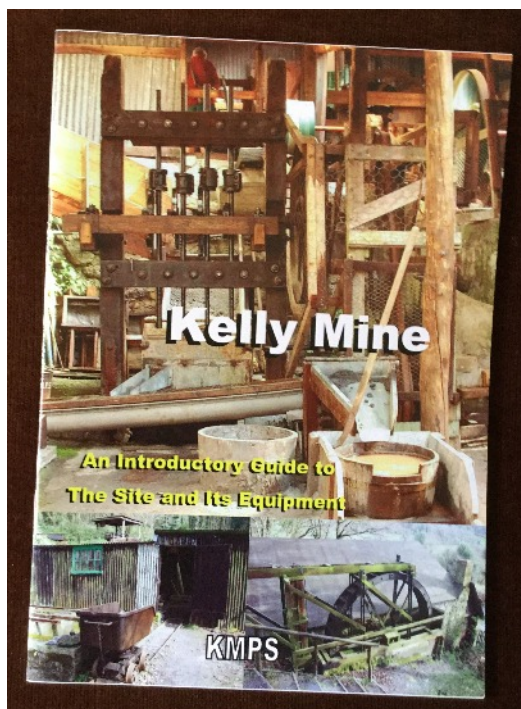
The full programme and booking/payment details are now available for the international conference 'Celebrating the Tinworking Landscape of Dartmoor in its European Context: Prehistory to 20th Century' which is to be held in Tavistock, Devon UK from 6-11 May 2016. Please visit www.dtrg.org.uk and go to 'Notice of Conference' on the home page for details. This conference (Reception, 12 lectures including speakers from Czech Republic, France, Germany and Spain, with 3 full days of field trips, plus 3 evening events) marks the 25th anniversary of the Dartmoor Tinworking Research Group and the 10th anniversary of the UNESCO World Heritage designation of the Cornwall & West Devon Mining Landscape. The discounted cost is £175 per person for the full six days. Delegates will receive a Conference Booklet and a special medallion crafted in tin.

All bookings must be received by 30 April 2016. The full Conference Programme and details about booking are now available on the DTRG website: www.dtrg.org.uk

Tom Greeves MA PhD
(greeves.tinconference@dtrg.org.uk)
Dartmoor Tinworking Research Group

BOOK REVIEWS

Kelly Mine, An Introductory Guide to the Site and its Equipment

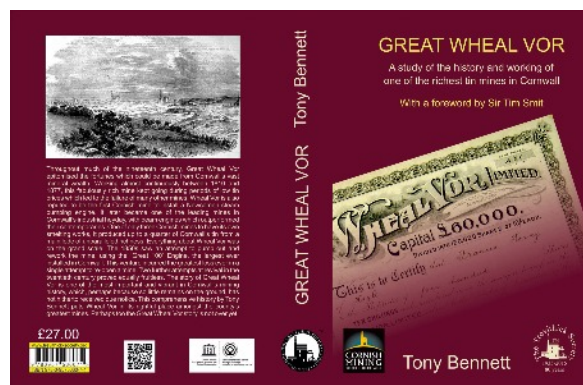


The Kelly Mine Preservation Society have recently produced an A4 20page booklet to serve as a guide to record the progress made by the KMPS at this former micaceous hematite mine at Lustleigh in Devon. Their hard work has resulted in the site now representing, as closely as possible, the mine when it was operated in its last phase of its working, in the period leading up to the Second World War. There are lots of colour photos as well as numerous diagrams and the Guide hopes to encourage more visitors to the site. A copy of this guide has been passed to me for our library by KMPS who felt there was a need for the work of their Society to be recorded elsewhere. We very much appreciate this gesture. If any of our members would like their own copy they can be obtained by sending a cheque for £6 made out to KMPS to David W. Allen, 3 Coombe Way, Bishopsteignton, Teignmouth, Devon, TQ14 9QB

Barbara Sutcliffe

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Great Wheal Vor



The Trevithick Society is pleased to announce its major autumn publication, the definitive history, long awaited, of Great Wheal Vor. This was Cornwall's greatest tin producer at one time, renowned way beyond the county and yet it is relatively unknown today. Wheal Vor was so productive that it justified the smelting its own tin. The book runs to 600 pages and is written by Tony Bennett, who has great knowledge and experience of Cornish Mining, not least through his involvement in the Rosevale Mine at Zennor. It contains a detailed history of the mine, including a prolonged court case which may have inspired Charles Dickens, as well as information on the way the mine was worked, its geology and what remains on the ground. Sir Tim Smit of the Eden Project has contributed an Introduction.

Great Wheal Vor will be available from October as a large format paperback at £27.00, ISBN 978-0 9575660-7-1 with a limited edition of 100 hardback copies at £47.00, 978-0-9575660-6-4. The book has been generously sponsored by the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Office.

For further information, please contact:
Graham Thorne, Publications Secretary, The Trevithick Society 01621 892896

The Mercian Geologist (ISSN 0025 990X) is the journal of the East Midlands Geological Society and is published annually. The latest issue (volume 18, part 4: October 2015) contains an article on 'Old mines and sink holes along the Hucklow Edge vein, Derbyshire' by John Hunter (pp.213-226). There are also short notes on 'Ironstone working in Norfolk' (Richard Hamblin, pp.253-255), 'Lost (Under)Worlds' in Cornwall, Derbyshire, the West Midlands and the Czech Republic (Geoff Warrington, pp.256-257) and 'Wad deposits in the White Peak' (Vanessa Banks, pp.258-259).

For information about the Society and its publications contact the Secretary, 100 Main Street, Long Whaddon, Loughborough LE12 5DG; secretary@emgs.org.uk.

Dr Geoff Warrington, DSc., CGeol., FGS.,
Honorary Visiting Fellow, Department of Geology, University of Leicester.

Alderley Edge mines, Cheshire

The copper-dominated polymetallic mineralisation at Alderley Edge occurs in a Geological Site of Special Scientific Importance and is the only one of its kind to be included in the Geological Conservation Review (Warrington, 2010). An important aspect of the site is that the mines afford access to unweathered three-dimensional sections in the sedimentary host rocks. Two recent articles illustrate the value of the site for the application of such studies. Seers, T.D. & Hodgetts, D. 2014. Comparison of digital outcrop and conventional data collection approaches for the characterization of naturally fractured reservoir analogues. *Geological Society, London, Special Publications*, **374**, 51-77.

An account of a study of fracture systems in high-porosity sandstones carried out using LIDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) equipment in the Mid-Triassic aeolian West Mine Sandstone in West Mine at Alderley Edge. The article is illustrated with 17 figures and seven tables. The mine workings provide access to an analogue for hydrocarbon reservoirs in rocks of similar age in the East Irish Sea that is superior to what is available from surface outcrops.

Warrington, G. 2014. *Inside* Mid-Triassic fluvial deposits: a legacy of mining sediment-hosted ore bodies in Cheshire, UK. *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*, **125** (5-6), 548-559.

A legacy of mining at Alderley Edge is that unweathered sections in the disused workings show details of the sedimentary host rocks that may be only poorly seen in weathered surface outcrops. The article focuses principally on the Wood Mine in which the host rocks are the deposits of a c. 245 million year-old low-sinuosity river system; it is illustrated with 19 figures including maps, sections and photographs. The mines at this site provide an opportunity to view, from a unique internal perspective, situations analogous to those of hydrocarbon reservoirs found in rocks of the same age in the East Irish Sea.

Reference: Warrington, G. 2010. Alderley Edge district, Cheshire. Pp.182-190 in: Bevens, R.E., Young, B., Mason, J.S., Manning, D.A.C. & Symes, R.F. (eds). *Mineralization of England and Wales*. Geological Conservation Review Series, **36**. Peterborough: Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

One to look out fordue early 2016 !

Prag, A.J.N.W. (ed.). *The Story of Alderley. Living with the Edge*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

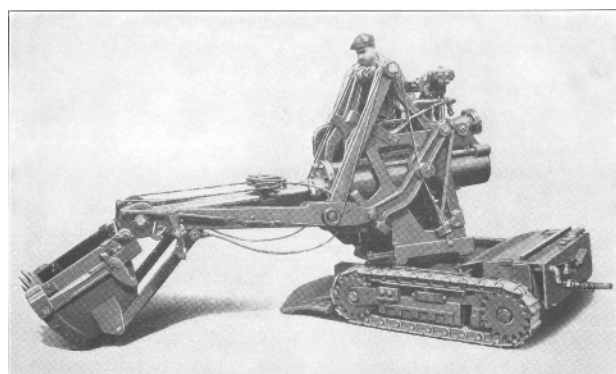
This volume includes contributions on the geology, mineralization, mines, history of mining and many other aspects of the Alderley Edge district (for contents and other information visit: www.manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk).

Dr Geoff Warrington, DSc., CGeol., FGS.,
Honorary Visiting Fellow, Department of Geology, University of Leicester

If anyone shares my enthusiasm for rockershovels, there are two recent magazines that might be of interest. In the September 2015 issue (No 222) of *Industrial Railway Record* (published by the Industrial Railway Society) there is a 14 page article of mine on Eimco rockershovels.

In the October 2015 issue (No 104) of the *Narrow Gauge & Industrial Railway Modelling Review* there is a 4 page article on Loading Shovels, with considerable detail on the Nordberg-Butler Model 110 Shovel Loader. This was completely new to me. It was a predecessor of the Eimco and was advertised for sale in Great Britain in the late 1920s. Trying to find out more led me via the internet to a 1940 US publication, Bureau of Mines Bulletin 423, 'Mechanical Shovelling in Underground Metal Mines'. Fascinating. To whet your appetite, below is a crawler Nordberg-Butler loader. Were any ever sold for use in the UK?

Rob Needham



Ingleton Aerial Ropeway, 1926 to mid 1950s

Further information has come to light since the report in the August 2015 newsletter on the Ingleton



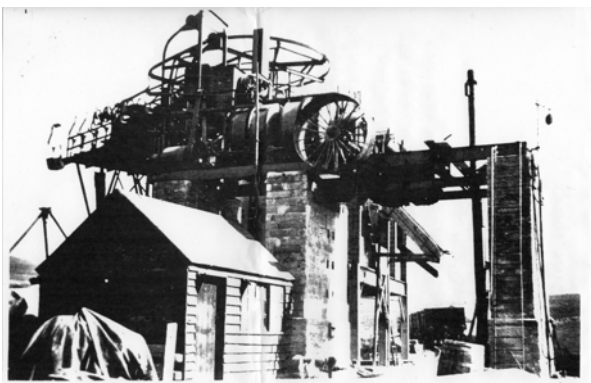
Overground/Underground Exhibition. Brian Richardson showed me the 'Mystery Machine piece' which was part of the machinery in the building. Due to its extreme weight and moorland location it had been there since c1970. The aerial buckets from the Old Granite Quarry, Hawes Road, Chapel le Dale, travelled to this building and engine house where the loaded buckets were emptied via chutes into waiting open railway wagons.

First seen in June 2015, and then uncovered in September, this drive shaft helped to power a 4 mile long aerial ropeway opened on 18th September 1926 from the Old XL Granite Quarry. The aerial ropeway increased the quarry's output of Feldspathic Gritstone and Mudstone, producing ¾" clean, ½"/3/8"/¼" to dust, railway ballast, road dressing, replacing an 1887 endless rope haulage from Drum Top.



The Old XL Granite Quarry, as it was known by the locals, was begun in 1887 by John Scott. In 1905, run by the engineer and contractor John Hewitson of Ingleton, it gave employment to 30 men and boys.

Conveyed from the screening building on Hawes Road (a short distance from the White Scar Show Cave at Ingleton), a Manning Wardle Class F 0-6-0 locomotive would haul the loaded wagons on standard gauge track to the hillside position of Drum Top (SD 709378). Here the rock was transferred to the buckets of the ropeway. Then they descended to the second building, at the rear of New Village.



In this photograph on the left hand side can be seen a 6cwt bucket arriving at the building to be emptied into the waiting rail wagons to be taken to Ingleton Goods Yard for onward despatch. The building has been demolished, although the three pillars stood until c1970.

After the dig was completed on 2nd October further photographs were taken and a full set of measurements.

Thanks to Mr Brian Richardson of Ingleton for bringing to my attention the almost completely grass-hidden drive shaft and also to the local landowner for allowing the work to be carried out.

Note. On 7th June 2013 the original Old XL Granite Quarry drawing was donated to the North Yorks County Records Office, Northallerton. It is drawing no Z1176. A visit to the quarry is described in the NMRS newsletter, 2007.

Bernard Bond

Lion Salt Works, Northwich

According to the July 2015 edition of "Current Archaeology", the Lion Salt Works Museum has re-opened after refurbishment. The works closed in 1986 after being run by the same family for 130 years. After extraction, salt was processed here by the open-pan method. When Lion Salt Works closed there were no open-pan works left in Cheshire and no-one wanted the equipment, so it was left on site and is now incorporated into museum displays. The Museum is close to the canal and so a visit can be combined with looking at the extraction landscape and other sites close by, such as the Anderson Boat Lift.

Sallie Bassham

Forterra (Claughton) Brickworks, formerly Hansons



On Saturday 3rd October 2015 the Claughton Manor Brickworks had a name and ownership change. It is no longer Hansons, having been bought by an Amer-

ican (Texas) company, Forterra. At the invitation of the management, Janet and I with others attended the event. The guests were split into smaller groups of c30 for a walk around the 'In demand production' areas. We then returned to the canteen for lunch and drinks.

With staff levels having now reached over 50, many of the previous staff returned to their skilled jobs to keep up the weekly production of bricks.



Bernard Bond

The Magical Thinking

A few years ago, I was with Swiss recreational gold-panners who were discussing a news item that claimed sea water contained traces of gold. The process required a lot of sea water and the statement appeared on April Fool's day. The discussion, however, concentrated on a recent announcement that a University had produced some gold from sea water.

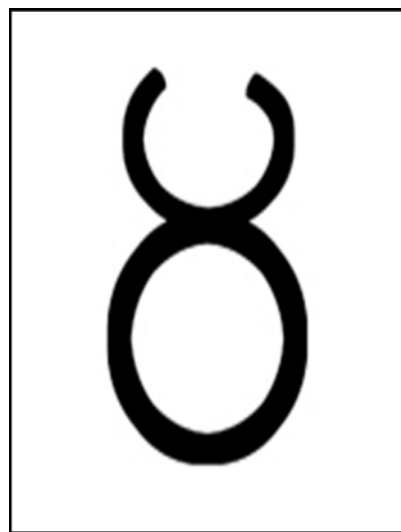


Dr Hurter
The Swiss chemist Dr Hurter in a photograph when appointed Chief Scientist to the United Alkali Company in 1890

I thought no more about the matter but by coincidence, I was studying the life and times of a Swiss scientist who had excelled at Heidelberg University in the 1850s. Dr Ferdinand Hurter of Schaffhausen had settled in England to take part in the industrial revolution. His archived papers proved to be heavy

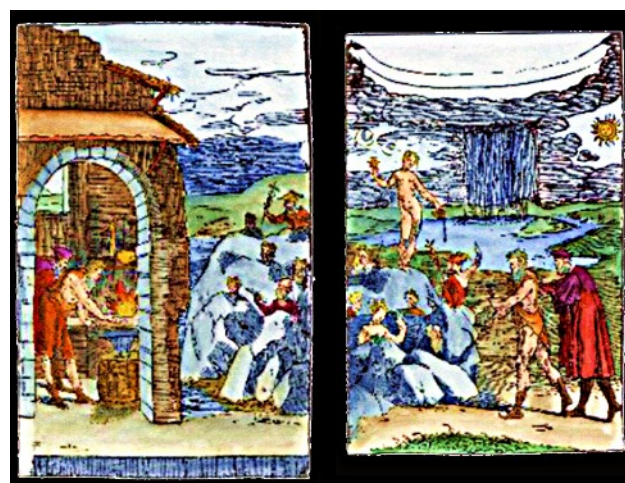
reading but a document known as *HMss-27 : The Philosopher's Stone* grabbed my attention. It was a lecture delivered by Hurter in 1888 but his frequent references to gold coaxed me to make a photocopy of the 28 pages for reading at a later date.

In the past week, I came on the document once again. Having completed my original research, Dr Hurter's 19th century narrative proved interesting. He summarised the medieval searches for the elusive Philosopher's Stone, which would turn common metals into gold by the process called 'transmutation'. One alchemist had experimented with salt but others used tin, iron, mercury, bismuth and a lead oxide called litharge.



Bismuth
The medieval alchemist's symbol for bismuth

Hurter claimed the term 'alchemy' originated from Cheni, which was the name used by the earliest inhabitants of Egypt to describe their country. The Greeks, however, called Egyptian-science 'Cheni' or Chenna, (which eventually became 'chemistry'). In turn, the Arabs added 'al' and alchemy evolved as the art of making gold or silver.



Workshop

An alchemist's workshop, from Coloured Alchemical Sequences and published with the permission of Adam McLean of www.alchemywebsite.com

Hurter's manuscript is difficult to transcribe but he provides short biographies of people who gained acceptance as successful alchemists. Some refused to divulge their secrets of transmutation and were tortured in prison, and the secret died with them.

According to Hurter, early philosophers believed metals were actually different proportions of two or three materials and the correct combination formed gold. One experimenter, Paracelsus, worked with arsenic, mercury, lead and sulphur, which he applied with "scrupulous care and thus gained a great name for himself".

Alchemists probably "believed their assertions in good faith," recorded Hurter, "but they had no systematic analysis." The qualitative work of Robert Boyle carried out in the 17th century laid the foundation for modern day chemistry and "the belief in alchemy gradually died away."

My interest in Scottish history came to mind and I recalled that King James IV dabbled in alchemy with tin, 'quick-silver' and golden litharge. He built a furnace and laboratory within Stirling Castle for his alchemists, one of whom jumped from the castle wall, believing he could fly.

But the Philosopher's Stone lives on. The first Harry Potter book attracted criticism because its references to alchemy promoted witchcraft. At this stage, I consulted Google and it was no surprise to find that 'chrysopeia' is the name for "the artificial production of gold". A nuclear physicist at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory produced gold from bismuth in 1980; previous attempts in 1924 and 1941 produced radioactive versions.



RMC on Elvan Water

The author displays gold grains recovered from Lanarkshire's Elvan Water in the Lowther Hills.

A warning that the process is "far too expensive" for commercial exploitation, persuades me to continue panning the gravels of Elvan Water.

Ron Callender

A brief memoir on the Scottish Crown

15th October 2015

When I try very hard, I can recall my high-school history lessons in war-time Lanarkshire. Enlistment took away the good teachers and retirees returned to teaching "to help the war effort". In 1945, "Wee Bobbie" was one of the radicals who later founded the Scottish National Party; his version of history lessons tended to be dogmatic, but I perked up on the day he said the Scottish Crown contained Lanarkshire gold.

I always associated Lanarkshire with coal mines, unsightly 'bing's' and 'clabber-da' (a slurry of coal dust for making briquettes) ... and dirty pavements when it rained. To think there was gold in the hills stayed with me for the next nine years. With my military service behind me and now owning an Austin 1100, I explored Leadhills and the Lowther Hills. Time and again, I drew a blank but villagers often told me the former lead miners recovered gold from the local burns.



Composite NLS stairway
The stairwell of the National Library of Scotland displays insignia which include the Scottish Crown, shown in inset.

After marrying, we bought a house in Buckinghamshire but my enquiries continued by encyclopaedic reading and writing to museums, libraries, agencies and authorities. My file grew thicker but I had no confirmation about the gold used for the Scottish Crown on display in Edinburgh Castle.

The Scottish Development Department in Edinburgh provided encouragement – "... we have no objection to you sketching the regalia providing this is for a period of not more than two hours" ... "and carried out before 1st April ...". In addition, I received a copy of the 'Inventory of Monuments' and learned of Sir Walter Scott's 1817 initiative in securing a Royal Warrant to search for the by-then

missing Scottish Crown and other Honours of Scotland. (Following the Union of the Parliaments in 1707 they fell out of use and were placed in a chest, which was sealed behind a wall in Edinburgh Castle.)



**Composite
KG IV**
When King George IV visited Edinburgh in 1822 the Scottish Crown (shown in inset) paraded on horseback on his arrival at Leith

When I wrote to the Member of Parliament for the Outer Hebrides, he helped by asking the Scottish Office in Whitehall. The reply was informative but said nothing about the possible source of the gold for the Scottish Crown and my research continued. I established there had been a circlet of gold hastily prepared to crown Robert the Bruce in 1306, but it disappeared into the mists of time. A groat produced in 1484 shows King James III wearing a crown with four arches. The arches apparently qualify the description of an 'imperial' crown.

But it was battered and damaged when King James V asked an Edinburgh goldsmith to repair his crown in 1540. John Mosman received the gold crown weighing 16 ounces, plus forty one ounces of gold from the Mint; that is, forty-two thousand pounds worth. The Ross Herald of Arms is confident the gold was Scottish gold from Clydesdale in Lanarkshire. Mosman dismantled the old crown and saved the pearls and precious stones before melting it along with the provided native gold.

Eventually the final and present design took shape. Away back in 1984, I made sketches in the Castle and since then I have noticed uses of the crown in different places. When King George IV visited Scotland, a picture in Manchester Art Gallery shows the crown paraded on horseback when he landed at Leith. Etched windows in the National Library of Scotland display the symbol, carved versions decorate a stair-rail in a new visitor centre at Edinburgh Castle and the crown makes a wel-

come appearance when HM The Queen opens the



Scottish Parliament.
Opening of Parliament
On 1st July 1999, when HM The Queen re-opened Parliament in Edinburgh, the Scottish Crown preceded her

Nowadays, I watch the ceremony confident that the gold probably came from a stream where I have washed for gold in Lanarkshire.

Ron Callender

Below is a letter from the September 2015 issue of the Dalesman, sent in by Mason Scarr

Yorkshire Nationality

I recently went to the local archives depot to research some interesting people. I found the death notice of Mrs. Annie Elizabeth Baines, nee Barker, who passed away in Cape Town on 12 June 1937, and was proud to note that her nationality was recorded as 'Yorkshire, British'. Mike Gill of the Northern Mine Research Society has ascertained that her father, George Barker, was a coal mining engineer of Ingleton.

Stephen Craven, Cape Town

Sent in by Martin Green is this item

In this month's edition of Modern Railways magazine (June 2015 page 77), there's a paragraph that might interest Newsletter readers. It's one of the entries in the "The Railway Industry Innovation Awards 2015". The "new innovation" sounds suspiciously familiar. Presumably the "traditional methods" involve a windy pick.

BURST FORWARD FOR TUBE TRACK RENEWAL

Concrete bursting to break out existing areas of concrete track base on deep tube track renewal sites has brought significant benefits in productivity, site safety, customer satisfaction and project planning. The process involves specialised equipment drilling a core hole into which a wedge is driven hydraulically, and has been subject to compressive force tests to assure safety. The equivalent of up to 2hr of work using traditional methods takes up to 30min, and dust, noise and vibration are greatly reduced.

Owner John Killeen has now closed the Book Shop "The Contented Reader" Main Street, Ingleton this month, October 2015. I wish to thank John for all his effort's in helping the sale of the Ingleton Coalfield Book (BM76) and his contribution to bring the book to both visitor's and locals attention. Note - On the Society's Most Sold Book List the Ingleton Coalfield book was top having sold 49 since January, 2015

Bernard Bond

The Friends of Hemingfield Colliery working party weekend 5th-6th September 2015



Lighting up the past - Bright sunshine on the pumping engine house

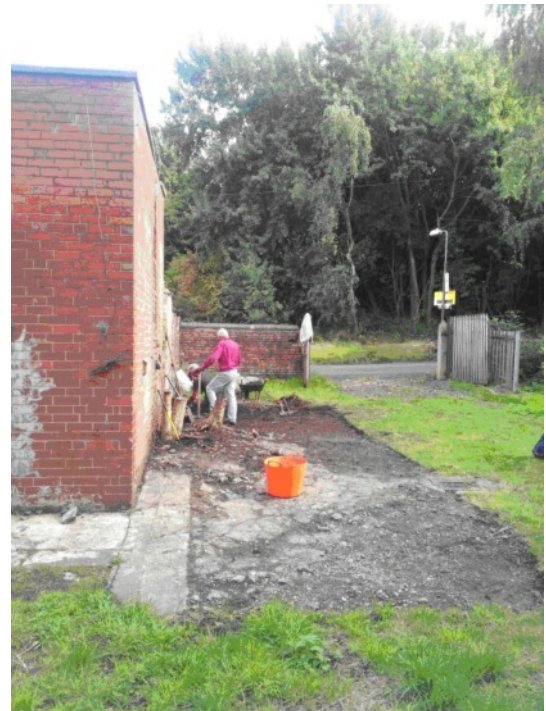
As reported elsewhere, the weekend of the 5th-6th September 2015 was the occasion of 'Elsecar by the Sea' - a celebration of all things Elsecar and a chance for the Friends to get out and about and meet local people and visitors to raise awareness of the site; however the work on site must go on, and a working party gathered on Saturday to continue the clearance activity.

Friends Chair Steve opened the site and volunteers Alan and John were on hand to assist. Seeking shade was the order of the day; the sunshine certainly hit Hemingfield this weekend.



Blazing sunlight.

Maintaining a most exemplary straight line of clearance, the team made more progress in clearing around the side of the switchgear building.



Looking at clearance progress and gates open for another working party



Photo:-The doorstep/standing. Building has older (reused?) brick on the left and newer brick on the right.

Uprooting and clearing revealed a doorstep/concrete covered plinth to the damaged side-rooms of the switchgear building. Roots and stumps were dutifully hacked back.

Following the kind donation of the Beedan Collection, the Friends have begun to make a number of useful observations about the changing uses of the colliery sites, especially the development of the pit as a pumping station following the demolition of the screening infrastructure and the Dearne and Dove canal basin gantry. One snippet relevant to this weekend's work was the rough dating of the front extension to the switchgear building.



Previously this clean-bricked frontage onto the older 1890s engine house was assumed to be 1920s, at the very beginning of the transition from Earl Fitzwilliam to the South Yorkshire Pumping Association. However early site photographs now make it clear that the frontage did not exist until after 1940. This is a useful *terminus a quo* (a limit from which) we can date it and understand its active use on the site.



Side-view of post-1940 frontage.

On Sunday work continued for a time, with the sun shining once more. The Friends were pleased to welcome a visitor on site, a curious passer-by intrigued to photograph the buildings, as they are now. It is our hope that such visitors will be able to return and see quite a transformation.

Elliott Brothers



Whilst wondering around the site, visitors can see glimpses of what now seem like slightly alien worlds. Odd machinery, with a maker's name hidden away, each holding its own backstory which could be of interest. One such case of this is the Elliott Brothers electrical instrumentation, including an Ammeter (now sadly burnt following the cable theft and fire which damaged one building around 2008.). A little digging shows that Elliott Brothers were a major instrumentation supplier for such purposes. Their surviving records have been preserved and acquired by the Museum of the History of Science in Oxford which has an [interesting online exhibition of Elliott Brothers instrumentation](#).

BBC News 10 August 2015

Millions of gallons of waste turn Colorado river yellow

A toxic leak of wastewater that has turned a Colorado river mustard yellow is three times larger than US officials had originally estimated.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) now says that three million gallons of wastewater spilled from an abandoned mine last week.

The EPA does not believe wildlife is in significant danger because the sludge moved so quickly downstream.

Local authorities took steps to protect drinking water supplies and farms.

The spill began on 5 August when EPA workers, who were cleaning up the closed Gold King Mine, accidentally sent the toxic water flowing into a tributary of the Animas River.

The Animas River has been closed and local officials have advised people to stay out of the water.

Media caption Millions of gallons of water polluted with heavy metals has poured into the Animas River Authorities are still investigating the health effects of the spill The EPA originally thought only one million gallons of waste spilled

The EPA is meeting with Colorado residents this week and testing local wells for contamination. More than 1,000 wells may have been contaminated.

"We're going to continue to work until this is cleaned up and hold ourselves to the same standards that we would anyone that would have created this situation." Shaun McGrath, an EPA official, told residents at one of the community meetings, according the New York Times.

Some residents derided the agency, calling it the "Environmental Pollution Agency".

The EPA is still investigating the health effects of the leak, which included heavy metals including lead and arsenic.

The discoloured water, which is now beginning to dissipate, stretched more than 100 miles into neighbouring New Mexico.

Lead and arsenic have been found in the toxic sludge

Rob Needham

Oaks Colliery Disaster 1866-2016

Old Oaks Colliery c. 1897



December 2016 will mark 150 years since the Oaks Disaster in which over 360 miners died.

A series of historical research and commemorative projects will be taking place as we approach the date:

• **The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership** is working with **Barnsley Archives and Local Studies** to research the names of those killed and to try and compile a complete biographical list. Everyone is invited to contribute.

Contact Stephen Miller on 01226 773110 or stephenmiller@barnsley.gov.uk

• Thanks go to the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership the following logo is available to users free for non-commercial use in materials relating to the disaster.



Meanwhile a voluntary group has been established by a group of ex miners to press the case for a fitting memorial to the dead

From a post by the Friends of Hemingfield Colliery

Ray Wright 1930-2015

Ray Wright, the man who opened up Clearwell Caves as a public attraction, died at home on Friday (7th August) after a long illness – he was 85.

He was a very active figure in Forest affairs, including serving as Secretary of the Forest of Dean Freemaners Association for more than 30 years and as one of the four Forest Verderers for 23 years.

Ray was a founder member of the Royal Forest of Dean Caving Club in 1964 and, having explored the mysterious abandoned iron ore mines in the area, saw their potential.

In 1968 Clearwell Caves opened with just one cavern with more being opened until the present nine impressive caverns could be visited by the public.

The caves attract about 50,000 visitors a year and are famous for their Christmas Grotto. In 1984 Ray was joined in the business by his son Jonathan and they have operated the mine together since.

Since his death tributes have poured in.

Local Forest of Dean District Councillor Terry Hale said: 'Ray was one of the original Verderers and was a great authority on all things to do with the Forest.'

Senior Verderer Bob Jenkins said: 'Ray and I were made verderers at the same time in 1992. He was very knowledgeable especially about the underground workings and that was a great asset to us as verderers.'

Ian Standing, also a verderer, said: 'We are very sad to lose Ray who had a long and active life.'

'His great achievement of course was to open up the Clearwell caves system with well-lit safe pathways so that the public could also enjoy them. He did this with great imagination.'

From The Forester mnewspaper, 12 August 2015

Neighbours face an even bigger sinkhole in their lives

By Sophie Jamieson



Residents of a street that collapsed into a sinkhole have been warned that a cavity three times as large is at risk of opening up.

A geophysical survey of the St Albans road where a 60ft (20m) wide and 33ft (10m) deep chasm developed overnight shows 'significant anomalies' in the surrounding ground. Five families evacuated from their homes in the Hertfordshire town nearly four weeks ago have been told they will not be back before Christmas.

The county council survey revealed that houses in Fontmell Close and Bridle Close were built above a clay pit that had been filled with waste – but underneath the pit there may be an old chalk mine, and excavation was the most likely cause of the collapse. One 'anomaly' is significantly similar to the first hole; scientific modelling indicates it could be three times larger.

Richard Hadrell, 69, who has lived on the street for 34 years, said: 'There's a great deal of anxiety because people simply don't know what's under-

neath their house and the major problem for that is that the value of the house is going to be considerably less.'

He said one neighbour had moved in the day before the sinkhole appeared – and the anomaly is beside their house. A carpenter with a new baby was frustrated at being kept from his workshop at home: 'There are some people here who are in a very fraught state.'

Forty-eight lorry loads of foamed concrete were used to fill the first sinkhole but 58 properties are temporarily without gas, electricity and water.

Rob Smith, the council's deputy director of environment, said: 'Since we received the report we have met with residents to discuss its findings. We appreciate this is upsetting news and are continuing to work together.'

From the Daily Telegraph, 27 October 2015

When I was in Cornwall in September I heard that work was in progress underground at South Crofty as someone who lived near the mine had heard noises under his house indicating miners at work. However, checking the internet for the latest news, it doesn't sound very hopeful.

The Western Morning News reported:-

Big money foreign investors have visited a moth-balled Cornish tin mine in a move which has fuelled speculation that operations could resume.

South Crofty mine, near Redruth, shut after tin prices plummeted at the end of the 1990s and, despite underground mineral resources valued at £3-4billion, has never garnered the financial backing to reopen.

Local councillors have now revealed that they met with "serious" investors about the possibility of mining South Crofty once more.

Malcolm Moyle, Labour Cornwall councillor for Pool and Tehidy, admitted there had been a lot of false dawns, but he was the "most optimistic" he had ever been about mining return to the area.

"The question is about getting it out as cheaply and efficiently as possible and that is the issue at the moment."

South Crofty shut in 1998 and hopes were high that it could become a viable operation again after tin prices increased and the site was bought by Western United Mines (WUM).

In 2011, the Canadian company Celeste Copper Corporation acquired an 18% stake as part of works to exploit untapped reserves of copper, tin, zinc and other minerals.

However, two years later it pulled out due to unforeseen costs of "operational complexities" and WUM subsequently went into administration. Around a dozen people are currently em-

ployed at the mine as part of a care and maintenance regime.

The West Briton reported:-

A LANDMARK deal to reopen Europe's last working tin mine could be struck in the coming months, it is claimed.

A number of companies are said to have expressed an interest in reopening South Crofty Tin Mine in Pool, which wound up operations in 1998.

Since then, numerous attempts to restart operations at the mine were made before owner Western United Mines placed South Crofty in administration in 2013.

Cornwall councillor for Pool and Tehidy Malcolm Moyle, who has been in conversation with the mine's owners, welcomed the news.

"There has definitely been some interest and I anticipate that an agreement could be struck in the coming months," he said.

"We are closer than we have been for a long time and it would be fantastic news for the local area.

"Reopening the mine would create lots of well paid jobs which would feed back into the local economy.

"Camborne and Redruth are sitting on a valuable piece of real estate with phenomenal amounts of tin underground."

Experts have noted an increase in the demand of tin since it was announced that San Rafael mine in Peru, one of the world's biggest producers of the

metal, is set to close in 2017 resulting in a potentially massive supply shortage.

Companies have since turned their attentions to the South West and last year the £130 million Drake-lands tungsten and tin mine was opened by Wolf Minerals near Hemerdon, Devon, the first new metal mine to be opened in the UK for 45 years.

Western United Mines refused to comment on the speculation.

Construction Clearance

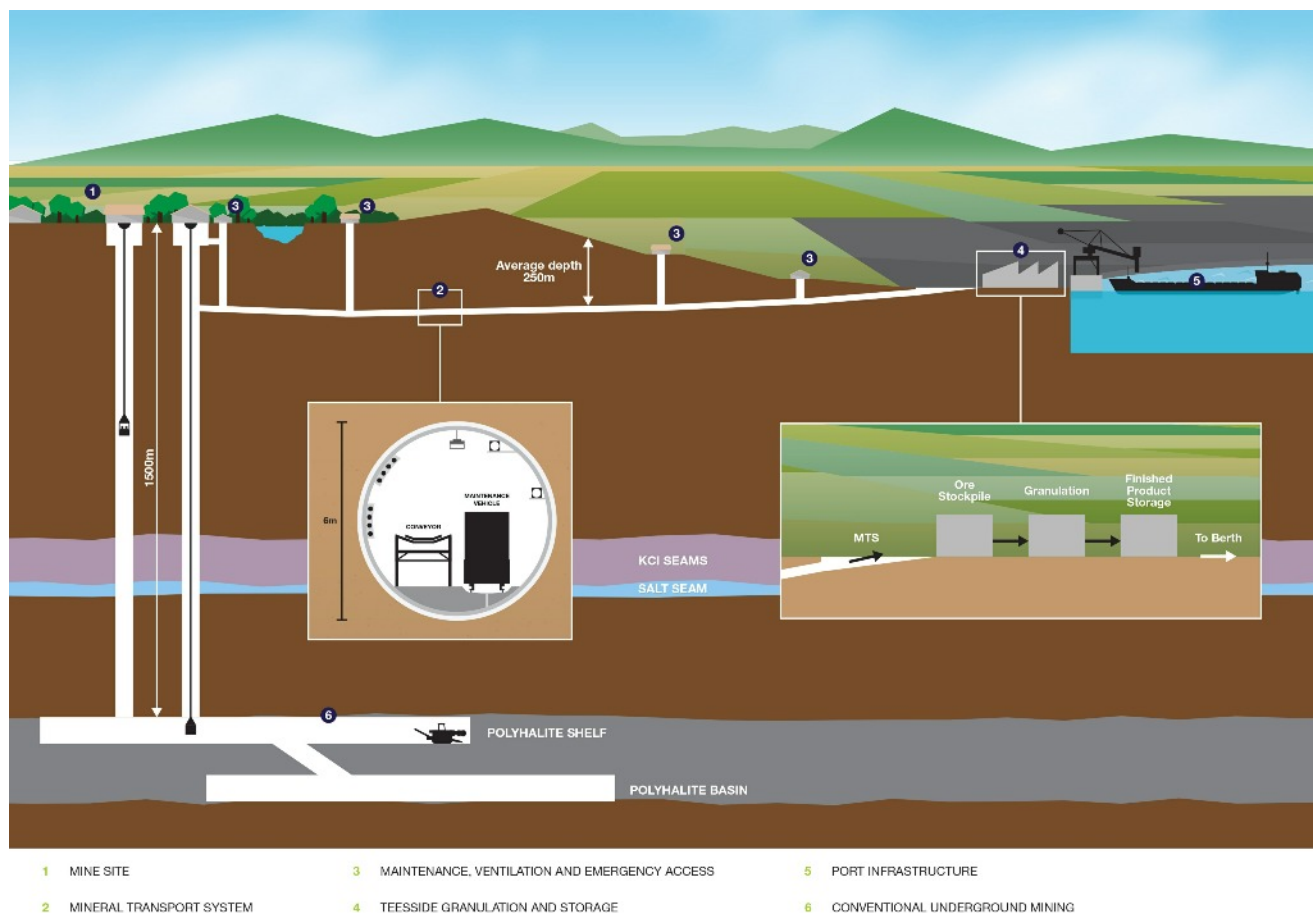
Sirius Minerals has said the York Potash Project now has all the planning approvals it needs from the national park authorities for the North York Moors to start construction. The company wants to develop the first new potash mine in the UK for 40 years near Whitby.

From the Daily Telegraph, 21 October 2015

Reading this news item led me to try to find out a bit more about the York Potash Project. The Sirius Minerals website has the following:-

The project will be the first new deep mine in the UK for forty years, creating thousands of jobs and a significant boost to the national economy.

The polyhalite will be extracted via the mine shafts and transported to Teesside on an underground conveyor belt system in a tunnel that has an average



depth of 250m. It will then be granulated at the materials handling facility, with the majority being exported from the nearby harbour to supply a growing global market. The Project will have an initial production capacity of up to 10 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa), with a full production potential of up to 20 Mtpa.

Polyhalite is a type of potash, an essential ingredient in plant fertilizer, which contains a unique combination of four of the six nutrients plants need to grow

– potassium, magnesium, sulphur and calcium. It can be used directly on crops or combined with other nutrients to create other commonly used NPK fertilizer products.

There is a lot more about the project on the website, covering the mine site, the transport system, processing facilities, and shipping. One important point is that the life of the mine could be over 100 years.

Rob Needham

17 September 2015 Official Opening of Hemerdon Tungsten and Tin Project



Over 200 guests including Australian High Commissioner to the UK, The Hon Alexander Downer AC, joined Wolf Minerals to celebrate the official opening of its Drake-lands Mine at the Hemerdon Tungsten and Tin Project, in Devon, by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Devon – David Fursdon Esq. Drake-lands Mine's arrival heralds a globally significant new source of tungsten and the first new metal mine in Great Britain for 45 years. The official opening ceremony, held on site at Drake-lands, was attended by over 200 local and international guests and dignitaries, including representatives from the local community, UK Government, regulators, customers and shareholders, all of whom have played key roles in the successful delivery of the Project. David Fursdon Esq, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Devon, and John Hopkins OAM, Chairman of Wolf Minerals, unveiled a plaque to officially open the Project.

23 September 2015 Commissioning Complete at Hemerdon

Tungsten and Tin Project

Specialty metals development company, Wolf Minerals Limited is pleased to announce the completion of commissioning of the processing plant at the Drake-lands open pit mine constructed at the Company's world class Hemerdon tungsten and tin project in Devon, southwest England

.Construction of the processing plant started on site in March 2014 and wet commissioning of the plant commenced in June 2015. The entire processing plant, and all the equipment within it, has now run successfully satisfying the requirements for handover to Wolf. As a result of this success, Wolf has taken full operational control of the plant from the Project's EPC contractor, GR Engineering Services. The inaugural shipment of tungsten concentrate has also been dispatched from Drake-lands for delivery to a long term customer, marking the Company's first generation of revenue and operating cash flow

Wolf Managing Director, Russell Clark, commented: "The conclusion of commissioning activities represents another major milestone in the development of the Project, and I congratulate the Wolf team, GR Engineering Services and their sub-contractors, who have worked together to safely achieve this landmark."

"With the inaugural shipment, Wolf has now realised its ambition of becoming a tungsten producer and we expect to supply high quality concentrate to our customers for many years into the future."

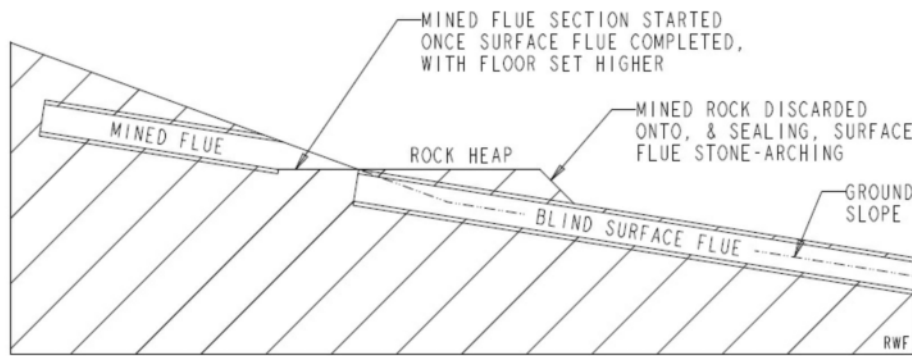
Following completion of commissioning, the Company has commenced the 'ramp-up' of the processing plant towards full production. Design throughput of the plant is expected to be achieved in early 2016. The Drake-lands mine and processing plant are now operating on a seven days a week basis under a six month trial which will run through to February 2016. If the trial is successful Wolf will apply to make the arrangement permanent. A permanent change would increase available operating time by more than 27% in comparison to the original permission for a 5½ day working week and provide the opportunity to produce additional volumes of tungsten and tin concentrates with no further capital expenditure. It also provides the opportunity to lower operating costs, pushing the operation further down the tungsten concentrate production cost curve as well as generate additional employment opportunities

From the Wolf Minerals website

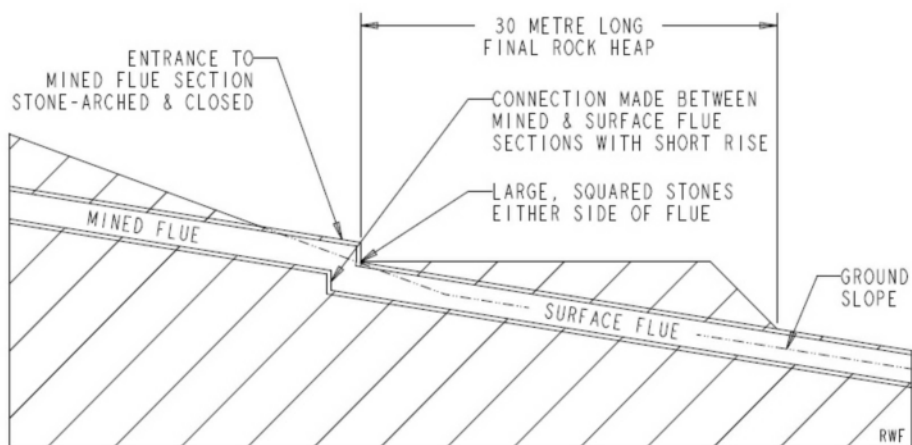
Whoops!

This is the editors red-face page. I found these two drawings in my file for the November newsletter, but I can find no associated text to explain them. They appear to be connected with the visit report in the August newsletter for the Surrender/Old Gang meet on 1st August. I can only apologise for having mislaid any accompanying message and hope that someone can supply a description for inclusion in the February newsletter.

Rob Needham



MINED FLUE SECTION STARTED



MINED FLUE SECTION COMPLETED

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