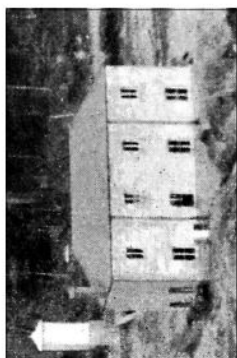


PONT CEUNANT GENERATING STATION 'A shining light of Ceredigion's mining history'



The Generating Station at Pont Ceunant was built in 1899, at a cost of £11,400, by the Belgian company "Societe Anonyme Metallurgique" shortly after they took over Frongoch Mine. They modernised the mine by introducing electrical power to replace the various water wheels and steam engines previously used around the site. Electricity was generated at the station using waterpower to drive a 400hp Pelton Wheel supplemented during drought and frost by a 360hp Williams & Robinson six cylinder compound steam engine. It was designed by an Italian Engineer Bernardino Nogara (later to become the head of the Vatican Bank). The whole venture was short lived, by 1904 the mine had closed and all the equipment sold.



The magnificent building had been neglected for many years and was used as an "unofficial" local refuse dump. In 2006 the Welsh Mines Preservation Trust, with encouragement from Ceredigion County Council's Spirit of the Miners Project, decided to clean up the site and to try to deter further dumping.



Before



After

With financial assistance from Spirit of the Miners, the Environment Agency and the landowners Mr & Mrs Henry Williams, the interior of the building was cleared of rubbish. A decorative grille depicting the change from water to electric power was installed, along with an Interpretation Board describing the history of the building.

Pont Ceunant is located in the valley of Cwmnewyddon at Grid Reference SN 706 737, it is on the southern side of the minor road from Abernagwr (on the B4340) to Pontrhydygroes (on the B4343). Alongside are the remains of the old Graiggoch Mine. Continue half a mile east and you will find the remains of the 'Belgian Mill', take the next turning on the left and you will be able to see the remains of the Frongoch mine.

The Welsh Mines Preservation Trust is conducting a program of archaeological investigations, to piece together the internal layout of the equipment installed in the building. The results will be published on the Spirit of the Miners website.



Please note that the building and other sites referred to are on private land. For your own safety please do not attempt to cross fences or enter the buildings, as there is danger from falling stone blocks, and other hazards.

For further information visit:-
www.spirit-of-the-miners.org.uk/pontceunant.php
or contact:- Graham Levins,
Secretary, Welsh Mines Preservation Trust
☎ 01293-510567



NAMHO
National Association
of Mining History
Organisations



Newsletter June 2009

The 30th Anniversary Issue

Contents –	
Chairman's Comments	2
News and Reviews	3
A Regional Round-Up -	
South-West England	16
Scotland	27
Future Meetings and Events	28
Underground Access	28
The Heritage Bill	31

Cover illustrations -

Front: the surviving head-frame at Grove Rake, co. Durham

Back: a recently published leaflet by the Welsh Mines Preservation Trust

Copy for the next Newsletter to P.F.Claughton@exeter.ac.uk

This year it is not only thirty years since NAMHO was formed it is also the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of one of our leading constituent organisations, the Peak District Mines Historical Society (PDMHS), and it is a real pleasure to publish this special issue of the newsletter to coincide with the annual conference in Matlock hosted by PDMHS.

There is no getting away from the fact that this issue of the Newsletter has a distinct bias towards the south-west of England and that is due to the efforts of our new chairman, Kevin Baker. It is countered to some degree by significant contributions from Don Borthwick in the north but we would like to see the balance redressed. Kevin has encouraged constituent groups to provide short accounts of recent work; that is something I would also encourage for future issues. Our thanks to all for their contributions. (PFC)

Chairman's Comments and Ramblings

I feel it is an honour to take on the chair of NAMHO this its 30th years from Steve Holding, thank you, and following on after such a long list of willing volunteers!

Originally the majority of NAMHO have come from the mid to north of England hence it's natural that the Chairman has come from one of those areas organisations. But over the last few years the post has moved south and now it's reached the far southwest – Cornwall & Carn Brea Mining Society.

The Chair is arguably the least taxing of the leadership posts and I thank the real workers:-the Secretary (Nigel Dibben) and Treasurer (George Price) and all their predecessors, without whom the organisation would not function. However, Steve did in his first year of chairman cover the secretary job whilst a replacement could be persuaded. I wonder if the first Chairman, Dave Carlisle would have thought the organisation would have continued and grown for 30 years, happy birthday Dave!

NAMHO through those years has witnessed many changes, founded in the late resurgence and boom time of the UK's Mining and Extractive Industries, history. We have witnessed the desperate times through the Coal closure regime and more closely to home the closure of the last Tin Mine (or was it?). The China Clay industry and its associated minerals extracted have also plummeted to a trickle of its former productions in Cornwall.

As we all know the whole world culture has changed dramatically beyond our parents and even our own childhood's comprehension. Whilst I think we all wish to buy as cheap as possible without any reduction in quality or

The Heritage Bill

The draft bill for England and Wales was published in April 2009 after a long, drawn out consultation process during which much of the necessary heritage protection appears to have stalled. Scheduling of archaeological sites in England has been considered only in what would appear to be emergency situations. Existing legislation is consolidated in the Bill with the responsibility for implementation of protection passing to local authorities rather than central bodies such as English Heritage. There is a greater profile for the Register of historic landscapes in Wales, including many areas of mining interest, but no plans to introduce similar designations in England.

Details, including an impact assessment, are available on the Internet at http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5075.aspx/ The Historic Environment Record (HER) and the use of the planning system are at the core of the proposed legislation and it is imperative that all mining historians and archaeologists feed information into that system if mining heritage is to be protected.



**Conservation work underway at Trewavas Mine in Cornwall - photo:
Kevin Baker**

MINING CONFERENCE

23rd - 24th June 1979

at

BEAMISH

North of England Open Air Museum,
Stanley, County Durham

PROGRAMME

Saturday 23rd June 1979

- 10.00-10.30 Opening address by Dr. Arthur Raistrick.
10.30-10.45 Coffee.
10.45-11.15 Beamish Open Air Museum - an introductory talk by Frank Atkinson, Museum Director.
11.15- 1.00 Tour around the museum.
1.00- 2.00 Lunch.
2.00- 2.55 Northern Mines Research Society - a contribution by members of the group.
2.55- 3.50 Matlock Mining Museum - talk by Lyn Willis on the development of the museum.
3.50- 4.05 Coffee.
4.05- 5.00 North and South Cardiganshire Mining Clubs - talk by Simon Hughes.
5.00- 6.00 Spare time for other contributions.

Sunday 24th June 1979

- 10.00-10.55 Wanlockhead Museum - talk by Bill Harvey.
10.55-11.05 Coffee.
11.05-12.00 North Wales Caving Club - Mining in Snowdonia by S. Scheltinga.
Mining in the Carboniferous Limestone of Flintshire by Chris Williams.
12.00- 1.00 Lunch.
1.00- 1.55 Mid Wales Mining Museum - talk by *SJS4 Stand in.* ~~Peter Harvey~~ on setting up the museum.
1.55- 2.50 Shropshire Mining Club - Coalmining around the Ironbridge complex by Ivor Brown.
The South Shropshire mines - talk by another member.
2.50- 3.05 Coffee.

How it was 30 years ago - the opening page of the programme for the first NAMHO conference - Dave Carlisle and Harry Parkin were to speak after coffee on the Sunday (NAMHO archive)

quantity "the buy it today and throw it tomorrow" mentality can-not truly continue either. Where are the minerals and finished materials actually going to come from?

NAMHO currently has some 84 groups making up its membership. From its launch of 10 organisations more than half still survive and are active in supporting NAMHO. It has also seen the coming and going of about 50 other organisations throughout those 30 years. Therefore the overall numbers of people involved supporting /making/recording Mining History was vast. And it could be said that because the industries have all but gone the task we have today in catching the ruminants is critical.

The Annual Event for the last 11 years has been The NAMHO Conference this remains the main activity of the Organisation. However periodically "we" collaborate in a project of national significance currently there is a Project supported by English Heritage Historic Environment and driven by Peter Cloughton called "Research framework for the archaeology of the extractive industries". The Membership has been invited to contribute and or participate in this exercise.

What of the future? Well I do know that, this year and in fact the next 2 years (2010 & 2011) The Annual Conferences have been earmarked by NAMHO Membership Organisations wishing to celebrate their significant Anniversaries with you ---come along, participate and see another area of the UK with local guides, speakers and friends to share in your interest.

Kevin Baker - Carn Brea Mining Society / King Edward Mine

A research framework for the archaeology of the extractive industries

Following the decision to proceed with the framework, taken at the NAMHO council meeting at Caphouse Colliery on 15 November last year, a Project Design has been written and submitted to English Heritage with a bid for funding for the first two stages of the framework. A decision is expected in July. An outline was published in the Newsletter last August and is available on the NAMHO website (www.namho.org). A copy of the Project Design will also be posted to the website in the near future. If you would like more details or you wish to help with this comprehensive study on the current state of mining and quarrying archaeology, please contact me on P.F.Claughton@exeter.ac.uk or at the address below.

Peter Cloughton, Conservation Officer

Miner-Farmer Landscapes of the North Pennines

A joint project involving English Heritage and the North Pennines AONB to examine the mining / agricultural landscapes of Alston Moor and the adjoining South Tyne and Nent valleys over five years, this started in late 2008. An introductory report has just been published in the latest Newsletter of the English Heritage Research Department, Research News 11 (Spring 2009) – go to <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.8336> and download a copy in pdf format.

Rare mining equipment restored in Cornwall

Volunteers at the King Edward Mine Museum near Camborne have completed the restoration of a unique and historic piece of mining equipment. The Frue Vanner is believed to be the only survivor in the world.



Frue Vanner, King Edward Mine - photo. Peter Claughton

Invented in the 1870s by Ulsterman, William Bell Frue, when working in the Michigan copper mines, the vanner was a successful attempt to mechanise the process of separating ore particles from the generally lighter waste material after the ore was crushed. Pulped ore was fed onto the upper surface of an endless rubber belt. The working surface some 12ft long and 4ft or 6ft wide is turned by rollers and slopes gently upwards to the end where ore is fed. Eccentric cranks also give a lateral shaking motion. The ore pulp runs under a gentle water spray and the metal particles, tin in this

Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. EMD are responsible for the majority of abandoned mines and allow MHTI members permission based on having full BCA insurance for our members, BCA insurance for the landowner (the Minister) indemnifying him from MHTI members claims. We also have a safety policy (following NAMHO models). Each underground visit must be requested in advance with EMD and permission secured separately for each occasion.

Consequently each member must abide by these rules to ensure continued access. If you are considering undertaking any underground visits outside of organized MHTI planned activities you will need to request permission from EMD in advance (unless the mineral rights are privately held, in which case the landowner controls access, not EMD).

If you need advice on any aspect of this, please contact Martin Critchley or Matthew Parkes or any director of MHTI, also for the contact details of EMD.

Surface visits are at the discretion of the landowner, which in some sites, such as Avoca, is also EMD.



The recently conserved engine houses at Tankardstown, Knockmahon Copper Mines, County Waterford – photo: Peter Claughton

Assynt, Skye, Schiehallion, the Southern Highlands, Raasay, Appin and Kishorn & Applecross. It is an ambition of the Group to become a 'One-stop' source for all information on Scotland's underground world, and records kept in a comprehensive and very large library are constantly being expanded.

Alan Jeffreys May 2009

Future meetings and events

12/13 Sept 2009 – Open Days - Friends of St Aidan' BE1150 Walking Dragline – 0113 2 892650 for details

14 Nov 2009 – next NAMHO Council meeting – Nenthead, Cumbria

Dec 2009 to Feb 2010 – a series of three regional seminars on the archaeology of mining and quarrying, part of the research framework programme – dates and locations to be advised (subject to receipt of funding from English Heritage)

13 Mar 2010 – NAMHO Council meeting – location to be advised

Early June 2010 – NAMHO conference – to be organised by the South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group

Underground access on the Isle of Man and in the Republic of Ireland

Extracted from the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland (MHTI) Newsletter 43

For anyone visiting the Isle of Man independently, please note that there is new Manx legislation which prohibits access to underground mines, even for the Laxey Mines Group, who hosted the MHTI visit some years ago. It is essential that no one breaks this rule, as it would compromise the efforts of the mining heritage specialists in the Isle of Man to restore their previously negotiated access.

It is a timely reminder that in the Republic of Ireland the MHTI have negotiated permission to access underground abandoned mine workings with the Exploration and Mining Division (EMD) of the Department of

case, are heavy enough to be carried over the top roller into a trough. The lighter waste is washed down the belt against the direction of travel and discharged at the bottom end.

The first Frue Vanners in Cornwall were installed at Dolcoath Mine in 1898 and were soon in widespread use. The remains of large vanner houses survive at the neighbouring Grenville United and Basset mines. A few were employed at South Crofty and Geevor mines as late as the 1960s. The King Edward example, built by British licencees Fraser & Chalmers, has taken the museum team 12 years to restore.

The Frue Vanner now joins King Edward's unique and fully operational collection of ore processing equipment. This includes a Californian stamps unique in Europe, one of only two round frames in Cornwall, and the only known rag frames. Nowhere else can such a range of processes be demonstrated. King Edward Mine held its Open Day on 26th April 2009.

The museum will be open from May to September. See www.kingedwardmine.co.uk for details.

(From AIA Newsletter 145 with the kind permission of the author Graham Thorne and the editor, Peter Stanier. Graham further informs us that the Friends of King Edward have also started to publish a series of Fact Sheets about items at the mine; the first - on the Holman Table came out in February.)

Bristol and South Gloucestershire Coalfield – book review

Kingswood Coal

Edited by South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group

2008, 36 pages with b&w photographs and illustrations. ISBN: 978-0-9553464-2-2; £6.00

This is a compilation of previously published articles with more recent photographs. There are four different sections covering different parts of the Bristol Coal Field – three, by Matt Southway, initially published in the 1970's and the fourth, by David Hardwick, published in 2002 – all originally published in the journal of the Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society. All of the sections are written in a similar manner, essentially cataloguing the history and location of colliery sites – complete with lots of technical detail of the engines used etc and with map references; the added photographs giving some feel for the surface features that still exist. The text includes various references to mine accidents and there are the usual stories of attempted commercial skulduggery. There is an added catalogue of

colliery related sites that still have significant remains. The maps in each section and the comprehensive index of sites, with map references should assist anybody trying to locate a site or make sense of colliery remains that they may encounter.

Steve Holding

Available from: SGMRG Treasurer (KC), Roger Gosling, 51 Greenhill Road, Alveston, Bristol, BS35 3NA Price £7 including P&P. See www.sgmrg.co.uk/kc for more details.

A New Archive for North East Coal Mining History Research

The North East England Mining Archive and Research Centre (**NEEMARC**) is a partnership between key institutions of the coal industry, Durham Miners Association (formerly National Union of Mineworkers, Durham Area), North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers, Durham Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shotfirers (Retired Members Group) and the University of Sunderland.

Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund the centre has a physical presence at the University of Sunderland's Murray Library and an active online presence at www.neemarc.com (I am indebted to Mining History News – newsletter of the MHA for first bringing this to my attention, DB)

Reminder

Another very valuable internet source of mining information in the NE is the Durham Mining Museum web site www.dmm.org.uk All mines, not just Durham as it also occasionally strays into Northumberland and Yorkshire.

Mines of Scotland

Members attending the NAMHO conference at Newtongrange received a copy of '**Mines in Scotland**': a Revised Re-Publication of the Glasgow Speleological Society Journal Vol. 1 Part 4 (1968) edited by Alan L. Jeffreys as part of their conference pack. A few additional copies were printed (24 were available in August 2008), if some still remain they are available from Alan Jeffreys, 8 Scone Gardens, Edinburgh EH8 7DQ Price £4 plus £1.50 P&P

This has been a real success story. Whilst there have been tough times the site now attracts more visitors and has more volunteers than ever before

And now to Scotland – The Grampian Speleological Group

In 2011 the Grampian Speleological Group (GSG) will celebrate 50 years of caving in the UK, for much of that time the only, and at all times the premier, such club in Scotland. Now one of the largest caving clubs in Britain, the GSG have, from the outset, dedicated much of their time to original exploration of caves in the Highlands and to seeking out and exploring abandoned mines in the central belt and the Borders. Members also spend many hours descending potholes and caves in major English and Welsh areas and indeed have made new discoveries in the Yorkshire Dales and Mendip Hills. Expeditions have been mounted to several foreign countries, especially Meghalaya in north-east India, where the Grampian have had a continuous presence since 1996. (The current total of new cave explored there is 330 kilometres).

In Scotland, the Group have lately concentrated on systems in Assynt, N.W. Sutherland where a prolonged clearance project at Rana Hole, creating a 30 metre deep shaft by removing glacial moraine, has allowed non cave-divers to enter huge fossil passages in Uamh an Claonaite and pursue new explorations in this, Scotland's longest and deepest cave. Because the objects of the Group require an engagement with scientific speleology, it has been heartening to work with Scottish Natural Heritage by providing base line surveys of several caving regions, including Assynt and the island of Staffa. Within Uamh an Claonaite, a tripartite agreement with SNH, Historic Scotland and the National Museum of Scotland has witnessed the successful removal for study the skeleton of an almost complete brown bear (*Ursus Arctos*) which is probably over 18,000 years old.

Around Edinburgh and Glasgow a plethora of old limestone, lead and shale mines still provide sport and interest for the industrial archaeologist. Sadly, many of these workings are, or have been, landscaped shut by local authorities. This is especially true at Wanlockhead and Leadhills where only a handful of mines are now accessible.

All this activity is published in a bi-annual 'Bulletin' running to some 60 pages per issue, and in regional guides. At present there are publications on

In 1921 the underground mine had to be abandoned when the deeper mine alongside closed – underground operations being transferred to the far smaller Great Condurrow mine to the north (see above). In 1974 a new School of Mines was built in Pool and much of the work from the original college in Camborne and from KEM was relocated there. The mill complex, rear centre in the picture, was no longer needed.

In 1987 The KEM Preservation Group was formed with a view to conserving those buildings (now listed Grade II*), restoring the largely empty mill, establishing a small museum and opening the site to the public. Over the years as the last of the Cornish mines closed the team have been given, collected or rescued much historic machinery and artefacts that otherwise would have been lost. With the help of a European grant, obtained off the back of the much bigger Mineral Tramways Project, the Museum opened in 2002. King Edward is the oldest complete mine site in Cornwall and a key part of Cornwall's Mining World Heritage Site

Quality conservation does not make money and the site would not be open were it not for a grant that we get from the Local Authority.

It is, in effect, a happy marriage between the

public sector and the private volunteer sector that manages the museum. In 2006 the School of Mines, having moved from Pool to the Combined Universities site at Penryn, vacated the rest of the mine. The mine is leasehold and, for complex legal and financial reasons that cannot be covered here, The Local Authority is in the process of purchasing the site.



Winder on the KEM site – photo. Kevin Baker

New publications from Northern Mines Research Society

British Mining No. 85, **Geology of the Lune and Upper Ribble Coalfields**
- Michael Kelly, 84pp illus, £10

British Mining No. 86, **Memoirs 2008** Contents include:

Alfred Williams, Leo Daft and 'The Electrical Ore-Finding Company limited'. - Robert W. Vernon

Excavation of a seventeenth-century lime kiln at Kilnsey, North Yorkshire - David Johnson

Lead smelting mill at Scargill, Co. Durham - Richard Smith

Photography underground - R.M. Callender

The Great Dales Coalfield, eastern areas - M.C. Gill

The East Van Failure, Powys, Wales: A new look at the geology and the archival record - David M.D. James

The Newcomen Engine and the account book of Edward Short: a detailed reappraisal - Richard P.H. Lamb

148 pp illus, £10

Coals from Newcastle

Coals from Newcastle: An introduction to the Northumberland and Durham coalfield. by Les Turnbull. The book covers all aspects of mining in Northumberland and Durham with chapters introducing the underlying geology, mining villages, accidents, forgotten railways and an in-depth study of the Heaton area. Chapman Research Publishing, ISBN 978-0-9561248—0-7 RRP £10.95

Source The North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineering, Neville Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1SE www.mininginstitute.org.uk

It can be obtained from 'the Mining Institute', P&P is an additional £2

Mining on Alston Moor

The Mines of Alston Moor by Raymond A. Fairbairn. For many people the first edition of this book will be an old well used friend, fifteen years on there is now an updated version.

To quote Ray, "The 2nd Edition is a considerable improvement on the first which was issued by Northern Mines Research Society as *British Mining* No 47, the format has been changed from 10 point to 11 point and the size of the book increased to 22 x 18 cm. Most of the text has been revised with

additions including silver values for many of the veins. It includes 20 photographs and 50 computer generated illustrations of mine plans and location maps. Including the vein index the book is 278 pages long. It has to be admitted that it is not a pocket book but it is much more readable than the original”.

Privately published but available from specialist mining book dealers, price £19.99

Mine Rescue

Some mine exploration and research involves the use of advanced caving techniques. Self-sufficiency is particularly important for small groups venturing into distant and often difficult parts of mine systems. Life on a Line: The Underground Rope Rescue Manual 2nd Ed. By Dr Dave Merchant ISBN 978-1-84753-281-7 over 200 pages. Available as a downloadable eBook, or as Print On Demand price £14.95 or £34.94 for full colour. See www.lifeonaline.com for further information. Thanks to CATMHS NL 92 Aug 2008 for this reference.

From I. A. Recordings

‘Mongst More Mines – Compilation 52 – Exploration of Southwestern mines above & below ground. Includes: Morwellham Quay, Kelly Mine, Blue Hills tin streams, King Edward dressing mill, Cambourne School of Mines test mine, Botallack, Geevor and Wheal Trewavas Running time 2 hours 6 minutes RRP £14.10

Note - compilations have no commentary and are not fully edited or dubbed, but sites are identified by captions.

‘Mongst Mines and Mine Explorers: Exploration of Cornish mines above & below ground There are 22 separate documentary essays on three DVD-R discs

Disk 1 “Underground” mine tours – South Crofty, Cligga Head and Rosevale.

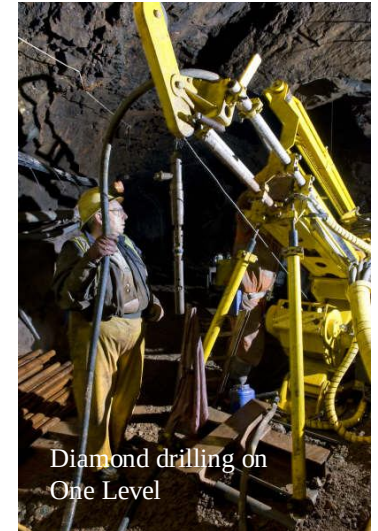
Disk 2 “Machinery” mine equipment – pumping, winding, tin streaming, dressing, including Geevor while it was still working in 1987

Disk 3 “Buildings” Red River, Kennal Vale gunpowder works plus views from the NAMHO flight around Cornwall

Total running time 4 hours 34 minutes RRP £16.95 Further information at www.iarecordings.org

workings of Dolcoath Mine to its left and of South Roskear Mine to its right. The workings of South Crofty which were active until 1998 are at a substantial depth beneath it.

The current operations are focused on mine development and resource exploration. Mining is carried out using a modern electric hydraulic tunnel drilling rig for drilling the shot holes for blasting and support. “Mucking” – tunnel cleaning, uses a modern free steer diesel scooptram (front end loader) to clear the blasted rock in rapid time. The tunnelling is enabling the trackless infrastructure to be established ready for future full scale tin extraction. In tandem with the mine development an exploratory diamond drill programme is underway in the Western Decline. The diamond drilling will continue as the mine develops, drilling into targets between Dolcoath and South Roskear. Options for further drilling into targets to the south of Dolcoath are being considered, one possible drilling site being King Edward Mine at Troon.



Diamond drilling on
One Level

King Edward Mine (KEM)

Whilst not a sole Carn Brea Mining Society project, the Society has played the lead role in the work here and more than half of the Society’s committee are volunteers at KEM.

In 1897 the world famous Camborne School of Mines redeveloped the old South Condurow mine (renamed King Edward) as training mine. This was no model mine working tin lodes down to 400 feet; the tin produced going towards covering the mine’s operating costs.



South Crofty Mine – information briefing; April 2009

South Crofty mine was reopened in 2001 by Baseresult Holdings Limited (now a shareholder of Western United Mines Limited). Mining operations recommenced in 2004 with a crosscut north driven at a horizon called One Level, which is mined at just above the water table, from the Tuckingmill Decline to connect to New Cooks Kitchen Shaft and Old Engine Shaft. The former shaft is now used as a service shaft and the latter is the statutory secondary egress, where an electric 'Alimak' lift is installed. The Tuckingmill Decline is currently the main access into the mine.

Operations accelerated in 2007 with further development on One Level. A ventilation waste drive was commenced in a south westerly direction to connect into Middle Engine Shaft, a concrete lined shaft that continues to the adit system. A further waste drive was established at One Level, being mined on strike in a westerly direction. This drive is the main access tunnel from the Tuckingmill Decline mined through the geological feature known as the Great Crosscourse, which is a substantial wrench fault zone. The weak ground of the Great Crosscourse was traversed cautiously and by the end of autumn 2008 ground conditions improved.



Scooptram in the Tuckingmill Decline

At this point the One Level drive ended with the commencement of the Western Decline. This is a strike ramp tunnel currently being mined at a gradient of 1 in 6 in a westerly direction. It is mined with the historic

Mining History in Cumbria

The 12th Book in Ian Tyler's Cumbrian Mining Series

ROUGHTON GILL & THE MINES OF THE CALDBECK FELS

The content reveals the mining history of the Caldbeck Fells from the coming of the German miners in c1564, through to the hard bitten baryte miners of the Potts Gill mine which closed in 1966, resulting in a mining history covering a period of over 400 years. All the mines of the Northern Fells such as Driggeth, Sandbeds, Silver Gill, Mexico, Ruthwaite, Longlands and Red Gill plus many more are explained in detail. Besides the mining history Ian has woven a tapestry of social and local history through the pages, along with many anecdotes, which makes this more than just a mining history.

Hard back, size B5 and contains 320 pages, displaying over 160 photographs and plans, many of which have not been seen before in print. Price £20.00 P&P £2.50 www.keswickminingmuseum.co.uk

Mine Explorer Vol. 6

This was promised as coming shortly in the last newsletter. Sadly the untimely death of Dave Sewart was to delay its publication until late 2008.

The Mine Explorer – Volume 6

Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society (CATMHS)

Contents:

Rail Inclines in Cumbria - *Peter Holmes*

A Few Memories of Coal Mining in Cumbria - *Ron Calvin RM*

Relics of Migration from Cumbria into Cardiganshire - *Simon Hughes*

The Knotts of Rydal and Coniston - *Ian Matheson*

Structural Conservation of Cumbrian Metal Mines - *Colin and Andrew Woollard*

The Reopening and Exploration of Kernal Level - *John Brown*

The Geology of the Kernal Level Workings - *Dave Bridge*

Paddy End Underground Survey Revisited - *Mark Simpson*

German Mines of Caldbeck and the Discovery of the Earliest Primitive Railway - *Warren Allison*

Yellow Earthworms, Arsenic and Mine-spoil - *Caroline Langdon*

Ulverston Harbour Records, 1862-1946 - *Peter Sandbach*

Harrison Ainslie & Co., Gunpowder Merchants – *Peter Sandbach*

Middlecleugh Mine, Nenthead - *Sheila Barker*

The Penrhyn Slate Quarry Underground Features - *Jon Knowles*

Bideford Black - *Brian Cubbon*

The Gold Mines of Tierra del Fuego - *Dave Bridge*

A Discussion and Observations of Support Methods Encountered in Old Workings - *Richard Hewer*

£9.95 + £1.50 P&P from The Secretary CATMHS, The Rise, Alston, CUMBRIA, CA9 3DB or specialist book agents and Heritage Sites.

Bickfest Proceedings

In 2007 Welsh Mines organised a conference to 'celebrate the late David Bick's distinguished, highly individual, and influential contribution to British mining history.

The Lode of History, Proceedings of the Welsh Mines Society Conference 2007. This is the first issue of Welsh Mines and Mining, an occasional publication which will cover all aspects of Welsh mining. This volume constitutes the proceedings of the Lode of History conference

The publication contains an appreciation of David Bick's work as a mining historian (by Rob Vernon) together with papers on the origins of metal mining in Britain (Simon Timberlake), lead bale smelting in the north of England (Richard Smith and Sam Murphy), Waller's Cwmystwyth (Roger Bird), a bibliography of publications relating to The Company of Mine Adventurers (Robert Protheroe Jones), aspects of mining life in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Wales (Simon Hughes), the Bryntail and Glyn mines (Roger Bird), the Penclyn Mine (Steve Oliver and Christine Smith), the early history of geophysical prospecting in England and Wales (Rob Vernon), the use of historical records in the evaluation of goldfields (Simon Dominy), lode remapping at Dylife (David James), the presentation of mining history in England and Wales (Peter Claughton) and mining history publication in the digital age (Dave Linton).

The Lode of History (Welsh Mines and Mining No. 1), Ed. D J Linton, Welsh Mines Society 2009, PB, 120pp., £9.75 + £1.15 p&p, ISBN 978-0-9561377-0-8.

Enquiries to D J Linton, 01341 280901, editor@welshmines.org

Tamar Mining Group.

Although remaining small (membership remaining at around five members) the Tamar Mining Group have continued to be active both in the Tamar Valley and beyond.

On the digging front the group has run two major digs in the George and Charlotte. The first dig in Shallow Adit involved the successful driving of a ten metre long spile through loose fluccan. Unfortunately we were ultimately defeated in a very loose crosscourse which defied our best efforts to pass. From Shallow we moved onto Middle Adit where we spent a number of years attempting and failing to drive through a back filled 18th century openwork intersected by 19th century workings. Following a major collapse the dig was abandoned, the level being shorter than when we started!

The major event in the group's life has been organising and hosting the 2007 NAMHO conference at Morwellham. We were ably supported in this by the Plymouth Caving Group and the Devon Mining Club. From our point of view the conference was fraught with interest, not least the sudden and unexpected death of the caterer who was providing the Saturday evening hog roast. This gave rise to Robert Waterhouse's panic stricken lament: "Rick, Rick, the pig mans dead"!

Since the conference we have maintained close links with our friends in the Plymouth Caving Group enjoying a number of trips in each others company.

The Group also support the Devon Cave Rescue Organisation, recently having run a mine familiarisation evening for them.

Group members have, on occasion, travelled beyond the boundaries of the Tamar Valley, even going east of Exeter. Apart from being regular attendees at NAMHO conferences our most ambitious trip to date was a visit by two group members to the Harz in September 2007. In addition to visiting many of the excellent show mines in the area we were made very welcome by the local mine exploration group in St. Andreasburg who were kind enough to show us the mines in their care.

Rick Stewart - Tamar Mining Group

There is a wide range of special events and activities throughout the year.

Geevor is the largest conserved tin mining site in the world and needs a full day visit to see everything.

Morwellham & Tamar Valley Trust.

Probably the most important event in Morwellham's recent history has been its inclusion in the Cornwall and West Devon Mining World Heritage Site in 2006. In addition to the international recognition this has brought it has opened up a number of new funding streams. Most important, in terms of funding, has been the Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project, overseen by the Tamar Valley AONB. Increased funding has allowed us to regenerate Morwellham with extensive work being carried out on the quays and in the village. This money has also allowed various major projects to be undertaken at the George & Charlotte Mine, these include: revamping underground interpretation, rebuilding the station area, replacing the time expired electrical system throughout the mine and the construction of new undercover workshop facilities at the Newquay end of the railway.

Although primarily a visitor attraction Morwellham has been carrying out an ongoing programme of archaeological research under the auspices archaeologist Robert Waterhouse and with the support of the volunteer Morwellham Archaeological Group. Digs have included limekilns, docks and early railway systems. The most spectacular finds to date have been a pair of pre 1820 wooden turntables in a remarkable state of preservation; these are believed to be the earliest surviving railway turntables anywhere in the world.

Close links have been maintained with the Tamar Mining Group, who have been actively digging in George & Charlotte Middle and Shallow Adits. Morwellham was of course the venue for the 2007 NAMHO conference hosted by the Tamar Mining group in conjunction with the Plymouth Caving Group and the Devon Mining Club.

Rick Stewart
Mine Manager, Morwellham and Tamar Valley Trust.

Metals and Metalworking

Historical Metallurgy Society Occasional Publication No. 6 Metals and Metalworking: A research framework for archaeometallurgy. Valuable as a scholarly overview of the interrelation between geology, mining and processing, metallurgy and the metallurgical processes. Additionally as a model to help NAMHO construct their own research framework for mining history.

There are four Parts: The resource, Methods in historical metallurgy, Knowledge and understanding, Conclusions and agenda, also a very comprehensive bibliography. Compiled and edited by: Justine Bayley, David Crossley and Matthew Poning, HMS 2008 96 pp illus many in colour. ISBN 978-0-9560225-0-9 £6.50 (post free in UK), order form on <http://hist-met.org/frameworkorder.pdf> www.hist-met.org

Change of name for a major journal

Transactions of the Newcomen Society becomes the *International Journal for the History of Engineering & Technology*

Transactions of the Newcomen Society, the leading journal on all aspects of the history of engineering and technology, is being re-launched as the *International Journal for the History of Engineering & Technology* in a new agreement between the Newcomen Society and Maney Publishing. Source Historical metallurgy Newsletter 70 Winter 2008/9

For more information please visit www.maney.co.uk/journals/het

Nottinghamshire Coal

Memories of the Nottinghamshire Coalfields by David Bell Published by Countryside Books at £8.99 ISBN10: 1846741017 & 13: 9781846741012

A nostalgic look back at the county's coalfields. Includes the miners' recollections and anecdotes, the events, both happy and tragic and the pit jobs and what they entailed. Profusely illustrated with both old and recent photographs.

Thanks to Mike Moore for notice of this item.

Leicestershire Slate

Early slate quarries North West Leicestershire (Bulletin N0. 18), by David Ramsey. Leicester: Leicestershire Industrial History Society, 2007. 80 pp, illus. ISBN 978 0 556445 0 4. Source IA Review Vol. XXX November 2008 p. 156

Welsh Coal Miners in America

Welsh Americans: A History of Assimilation in the Coalfields by Ronald L. Lewis

In 1890, more than 100,000 Welsh-born immigrants resided in the United States. A majority of them were skilled labourers from the coal mines of Wales who had been recruited by American mining companies. Readily accepted by American society, Welsh immigrants experienced a unique process of acculturation. In the first history of this exceptional community, Ronald Lewis explores how Welsh immigrants made a significant contribution to the development of the American coal industry and how their rapid and successful assimilation affected Welsh American culture.

Lewis describes how Welsh immigrants brought their national churches, fraternal orders and societies, love of literature and music, and, most important, their own language. Yet unlike eastern and southern Europeans and the Irish, the Welsh--even with their "foreign" ways--encountered no apparent hostility from the Americans. Often within a single generation, Welsh cultural institutions would begin to fade and a new "Welsh American" identity developed.

The University of North Carolina Press, 408 pp., 61/8 x 91/4, 24 illus., 4 tables, 6 maps, notes, bibl., index Cloth ISBN 978-0-8078-3220-2, \$49.95 2008 www.uncpress.unc.edu

Source - Mining History Journal v15 (2008), Recent Publications on the History of Mining

The Fruits of sometimes being Controversial

The Mining History Association (North America) annually acknowledges the contributions made by its members to mining history. The 2008 John Townley Award for best article in the previous year's Mining History Journal, went to Roger Burt for '**Technological Backwardness in the Western American Mining Industry in the Nineteenth Century**'.

Source MHA Newsletter September 2008

Coal and Whinstone from the Haltwhistle Burn

Haltwhistle Burn is a scenic gorge and valley running north from Haltwhistle in Northumberland. It was also the setting collieries, a cokeworks, quarries for local stone and a railway to a whinstone quarry at its upper reaches. **Cawfields Quarry and Railway** by John Parker is essentially local history, but a valuable contribution to the recording of

The objectives of the charity are:

- the conservation of the internationally significant heritage of the site;
- the use of the site for all forms of education;
- the creation of sustainable employment.

Until 1991 Geevor was one of the last working tin mines in Cornwall. Today, it is the largest mining heritage site in Britain and is one of the most significant parts of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site. The site is open throughout the year – please contact us for details. Here you can discover the fascinating history of how tin was mined and produced for over six thousand years.

A new museum called 'Hard Rock' opened in October 2008. A large collection, film presentations, photographs and interactives bring mining history to life. 'Hard Rock' is the focal point of a £3.8m. project which also preserved 20 buildings. These can be explored some of them preserved exactly as they were left on the day mining finally ended.

Expert guides – some of them former miners – will take you underground in the old 'Wheal Mexico' mine and see how miners of the past worked. We hope to have an extended underground tour next year.

Geevor has a café serving fine Cornish food – it has the best view in Cornwall! The Mine Shop has a huge range of locally produced giftware, books, minerals and other mining related items. On line and mail order shopping is a speciality – see the website

Geevor's spectacular setting makes it the ideal base to explore the area. New for this year is our 'Biodiversity Trail' which gives a real insight into the unique wild life of the clifftop area between Geevor and Levant.

Geevor's Learning Team has won a national award for the museum education. The team can structure activities for all learners and regularly works with learners from pre-school to undergraduate level.

PCH has had an Oral History project under way for the past five years. A wide range of recordings about the mine and the local area are available and some of them can be heard in 'Hard Rock'.

Many of the Society's activities over the last few years have been associated with the bicentenaries of various of Richard Trevithick's inventions. For 2001 the Society built a full-scale working replica of the 1801 Camborne road locomotive, the Puffing Devil, the world's first successful self-propelled road vehicle. In 2003 the Society was involved in commemorating Trevithick's London taxi (the replica of which was built by Tom Brogden), in 2004 in the railway bicentenary celebrations at Penydarren and in 2008 we were invited to take part in the celebrations at Bridgnorth, Shropshire, where Trevithick's Catch-Me-Who-Can engine was built. This engine carried the world's first fare paying passengers on board a train.

While suffering from the problems which, sadly, affect virtually all such organisations, particularly the lack of young members, the Trevithick Society still works vigorously in Cornwall and the rest of the UK to promote Cornish industrial heritage. We attend a number of events and publish books on various Cornish industrial topics. Since 1973 we have published an annual journal which is professionally produced and contains a wide range of Cornish industrial subjects, although there tends to be a (not unnatural) bias towards mining. The Society is also involved in the survey and recording of industrial sites both within and outside the county; present project areas range from Lancashire to Sark.

2010 is our 75th birthday year and as well as hosting the AIA AGM in September we hope to organise a number of events for our members before and after our own AGM in May. There will also be a celebration at Levant Mine in August to mark our official birthday.

Geevor Tin Mine, Pendeen

Geevor is owned by Cornwall Council and is managed for them on a long term contract by Pendeen Community Heritage [PCH], registered charity no. 1087755. The postal address is Geevor Tin Mine, Boscawell, Pendeen, Penzance, Cornwall TR197EW. The telephone number is 01736 788662 and email contact is bookings@geevor.com. Our website is at www.geevor.com. The mine is on the B3306 road between Lands End and St Ives. The nearest railway station is at Penzance, with a good bus service to the gate. Combined bus and entry tickets can be bought on the bus.

extractive industries. ISBN 1-901237-35-4 published by TUPS Books (0191 548 7283) pp 90 illus, price £9 also available from local bookshops.

West Durham Mining

West Durham: The Archaeology of Industry by Andy Guy and Frank Atkinson, 2008 Published by Phillimore, Hardcover, 248x172, Pages 304, 183 colour illustrations, ISBN 978-1-86077-447-8, £25

As would be expected in an IA book about W. Durham there is a significant coverage (half of the book) on mining, quarrying and associated industries. Chapters: The Lead Industry and Associated Minerals, Coal and Coke, Iron and Steel Industries, Quarrying, Road System, Railway System, Utilities: Gas, Electricity and Water, Other Industries, Industry and Community.

A Mining Railway in Spain

An important factor in the success of Tharsis & Rio Tinto mines in Iberian Pyrite Region, was their railway connections to Huelva. An article in the summer 2008 AIA News (page 11) titled '**Ill-fated British industrial heritage in Andalusia**' by Manuel Muriel discusses the uncertain future of the railway since its closure.

A Mining History Calendar?

Well there is one that has been on sale each year for over a decade. Excellently produced, featuring a different mining theme each year. A small problem though, it is German, which makes the text difficult without some fluency in the language, even with this caveat it is rather nice. If you are interested follow the link from www.bergbaukalender.de

Wicklow Mining Heritage

Exploring the Mining Heritage of County Wicklow edited by Martin Critchley and published by Wicklow County Council. 64 pp illus (many in colour). There are sections on geology, Avoca Mines, Glenasan and Glendalough Mines, Glenmalur, Ballinfunshogue Mine and Baravore mine. The details of the book and how to obtain a copy can be accessed via the Glendalough Mining Heritage Project website – glendaloughmines.com by looking under News. The email address is info@glendaloughmines.com

Lead Mining in Derbyshire

The second volume of a three volume set: **Lead Mining in Derbyshire: History, Development & Drainage 2. Millers Dale to Alport and Dovedale** by J. H. Rieuworts published by Landmark Publishing 2008 ISBN 978-1-84306-344-5 £25

Roman Coal

Coal in Roman Britain by John Robert Travis

Coal has often been considered unimportant to the economy of Roman Britain, and not something that was deliberately mined. This study, based on growing archaeological evidence aims to overturn this view. Travis centres his research on Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Lancashire, tracing coal from these coalfields further afield, and finding that, in the case of Yorkshire and Derbyshire it was transported much further than has often been assumed. Lancashire presents a different case, and Travis posits that the coal was used primarily locally in industry controlled by the military. 270p b/w and col figs

(BAR BS 468, Hedges 2008) ISBN-13: 978-1-4073-0228-7

ISBN-10: 1-4073-0228-0 £50.00 Source www.oxbow.com

RIP

Pip, one of the UK's last surviving pit ponies, has died after 23 years of service at Beamish Museum, where he was one of the stars of the Colliery Village.

Source - Mining Journal

British Coal

Daw Mill in north Warwickshire is the UK's largest underground coal mine. An expansion is planned and the mine is making the most of modern technology.

Materials World Magazine, 01 Mar 2009

Mining village pit plan approved

Controversial plans to opencast 2m tonnes of coal at a former pit village in Northumberland have been approved.

UK Coal wants to open the mine in Ashington creating 60 jobs, but protesters believe it will spoil the environment and be noisy and dusty. Despite the protests, Northumberland County Council agreed to the

Great Condurrow Mine

The School of Mines used part of the underground workings here from the early 1920's up until 2006. The surface building date from the 1930's and the working here offer one of the best underground experiences left in Cornwall.

The mine had no future and there was a real danger that the shafts would be sealed and the surface redeveloped for housing. To prevent this, at the end of 2008, the Carn Brea Mining Society, in the shape of the Botallack Trust, purchased the buildings and freehold of the mine.

The building and head frame are in reasonable condition and the underground working need little work beyond replacing a couple of ladders in the man way shaft. A number of issues have yet to be resolved - not least insurance.

The Trevithick Society – probably our oldest constituent organisation

In 1935 a group of men from the Cornish mining and engineering industries got together to prevent the 1835 beam winding engine at Levant from being scrapped. This group called itself the Cornish Engines Preservation Committee; by 1948 it had become a registered charity and the Committee became a Society, usually shortened to CEPS. In 1971 the CEPS combined with the fledgling Cornish Waterwheels Preservation Society and the Trevithick Society came into being.

The writer has been heavily involved in the Society, having been Honorary Curator since 1999. The Society was fortunate to have been present at the closure of three large Cornish Companies – CompAir, the Redruth Brewery and Ash and Lacy (formerly J. & F. Pool) – and managed to save a number of artefacts. At the present time the Society owns over 9,000 photographs, 7,500 35mm colour slides and over 22,000 black and white negatives, the majority recovered from CompAir; a large number of colour negatives have yet to be counted. This material has enabled the Society to put on a number of exhibitions, not only in Cornwall but elsewhere in the country.

geographical interest with reference to the mining industry in the south west of England. The Trustees can hold monies and land and grant funds to further the above objectives. They may make donations for projects whether organised by the CBMS or not. Since carrying out the Crowns project the BT has funded the Wheal Edward/Owles project, East Wheal Rose plaque project and done considerable work on the discontinued Tywarnhayle project.

The current project with which the BT is concerned is the acquisition of the land at Great Condurrow and the obtaining of an underground lease on the former mine used by the Camborne School of Mines.

The Trustees of the BT have not changed significantly over the 24 years since formation. Frank Kneebone became a trustee in 1989 following the death of Percy Bonds and Bill North joined at the same time. Kevin Baker became a trustee in 1997 and the Trust lost a trustee when Justin Brooke died in 2005. Current Trustees are Lawrence Holmes, Tony Brooks, Frank Kneebone, Bill North and Kevin Baker. The Trust document allows for a minimum of three trustees and not more than seven, all of whom shall be paid up members of the CBMS. New Trustees are appointed by the existing trustees who normally act in accordance with the direction of the general committee of the CBMS. A BT trustee can serve as long as he wishes but normally this would be at the discretion of the CBMS committee. The chairman of trustees is appointed by the other trustees.

The BT in effect is the funding arm of the CBMS, it is a registered charity, and can manipulate monies and assets more effectively than the CBMS. Over 24 years, the trustees have only funded projects formulated and agreed in the general committee of the CBMS. In general, the trustees do not carry out work on projects themselves, other than as part of the work effort carried out by the committee or members of the CBMS. It is to be noted that all the plaques installed on projects carried out by the BT have always stated 'the work has been carried out by the CBMS'. Similarly external publications always refer to the work being done by the CBMS not the BT.

In summary, the BT was formed at the request of the CBMS to help carry out projects more effectively. Trustees are appointed with the agreement of the general committee of the CBMS. The CBMS and the BT are complimentary and simply different parts of one team.

planning application on Tuesday. UK Coal wants to mine at the site in Potland Burn, which is mainly woodland and grassland, over six years. The company first submitted plans for the pit in 2005. Last year the government overruled the refusal of plans to have an opencast mine in Shotton, near Cramlington, and the county council did not want to face a similar challenge by turning down the proposals for Ashington. David Nicholson, chairman of the Wansbeck Initiative, is against the mine. He said: "The mine's total working life is going to be six years, but it doesn't bring new jobs. "What it does is get in the way of attracting jobs and creating industry."

Source: newsgroups.derkeiler.com/Archive

And again

UK Coal, proposes to extract more than one million tonnes of coal and 200,000 tonnes of fireclay at the current site of Butterwell Disposal Point, near Linton, NW of Ashington. The site would be operational for four-and-a-half years, with coaling taking place for just over three years. Northumberland County Council's planning and environment committee are to go on a site visit prior to making a decision, due to the "substantial local interest".

Source: www.newspostleader.co.uk/latest 07/05/09

Men and Mining on the Quantocks by John Hamilton

This book, originally published in the 1970s, has been unavailable for many years: it describes the somewhat ill-fated attempts to mine copper in the late eighteenth/early nineteenth centuries in the region of Dodington near Nether Stowey (Somerset). The original author has continued to research the subject and the new edition is much enlarged, and includes other mining ventures in the region.

A4, card covers, wirebound, 170 pages, maps and illustrations

The book is available from Geoff Fitton at Giles Cottage, Hill Lane, Brent Knoll, TA9 4DF with a cheque to 'SIAS' for £12-50 to cover postage.

NAMHO NL July 2008 — A response from Mike Gill

"much of the interest in mines represented by NAMHO arises from mine exploration and the exploration of coal mines is strictly off limits."

As someone who was actively involved in the formation and establishment of NAMHO, having served as secretary and chairman, I was concerned at

the implications of the above comments which were reported in the item on The Coal Mining Collections Group. I was not at the March council meeting and appreciate that the report may not accurately reflect the context in which the comments were made. Nevertheless, they should either be challenged or corrected.

It is true to say that matters relating to exploration of mines have always tended to dominate the Association's agenda, and that exploration of coal mines is not to be encouraged. That is not the sole purpose of NAMHO, however, and it was never intended that coal mining should in any other way be somehow relegated in its coverage. The leading mining history journals have always carried articles on coal mining, and the last ten years have seen an explosion of interest in the subject. The signs are that this will continue and NAMHO should reflect what its members are doing.

Mike Gill

A regional round-up – NAMHO constituent groups in the south-west of England and in Scotland

A Close Relationship by Lawrence Holmes - Chairman Botallack Trust – extracted from the Carn Brea Mining Society Newsletter 60 (June 2008)

Recently in committee, questions were asked about the relationship between the Carn Brea Mining Society (CBMS) and the Botallack Trust (BT) and it was clear that some confusion existed about this subject. Most people are familiar with the forming of the CBMS and I hope that this article goes some way in explaining when and how the BT was formed, why the Trust



The Crowns engine houses were preserved by the Botallack Trust as the funding and project arm of the Carn Brea Mining Society in 1984/85. Since then the Trust has been used to carry out other mining heritage projects.

was formed, how it works and the relationship both elements of the Society have with each other.

The CBMS was formed in September 1974 and a constitution was adopted which contains a very standard type of Club Rules including the establishment of a general committee. The aims of the Society are to encourage the study of all aspects of mining, geology and mineralogy in the South West of England. The Society encourages the furtherance of projects relating to a number of mining subjects including the preservation and conservation of Cornwall's old mining heritage.

Early in 1981 member Tony Bennett (of Rosevale Mine fame) reported to the CBMS committee that the two engine houses at the Crowns at Botallack were falling down and needed urgent repair work. In those days Local Authorities showed little interest in mine preservation and indeed the Cornwall Archaeological Unit had only just been formed. The general committee of CBMS became very concerned at the dilapidated state of the Crowns engine houses that they felt it necessary to set up a small sub committee to look into what became the Botallack Preservation Project. The Chairman of the sub committee was Lawrence Holmes and the only other two members were Tony Brooks and Percy Bonds. This small sub committee developed the Botallack project and it finally became the largest mine building preservation project ever carried out by a private body in Cornwall.

Fund raising commenced in 1982 and by 1983 a 21 year lease was agreed with Lord Falmouth. The sub committee were advised that grants could be obtained more easily if a Charitable Trust was formed. In June 1983 the BT was formed and the first Trustees were Lawrence Holmes, Tony Brooks, Percy Bonds and Justin Brooke. The Trust was not formally signed until 1984 and the Crowns project was successfully completed in 1985. It is of interest to note that Trustees and a few other members of the CBMS donated £100 of their own money to get the Botallack project off the ground at a time when there was no guarantee that their money would ever be repaid. Luckily their money was repaid in full.

The prime object of the BT was to preserve the engine houses at the Crowns, Botallack. A second object is to promote, maintain, improve, encourage and advance public education in all matters of historical and