



NAMHO Conference 2015

NENTHEAD, Alston, Cumbria

22nd - 25th May 2015

Organised by the Nenthead Mines Conservation Society (NMCS).

The Conference Themes will be:

1. *Mining Industries of the North Pennines and adjacent areas*
2. *The Relationship between the UK Mining Industry and War*

The conference venue will be The Village Hall at Nenthead, near Alston in Cumbria. The Village Hall does not have overnight accommodation. The Conference Website will include a list of accommodation providers and campsites in the North Pennines.

NMCS hope that the NAMHO conference website will go live in December 2014. We are still looking for speakers and papers for the Conference. Phone Peter Jackson if you want to discuss a possible paper. 01642564100 or admin@nentheadmines.com

We also will welcome offers of surface and underground trips and any offers of help with the Conference weekend.

*Pete Jackson,
Nenthead Mines Conservation Society*

NAMHO Conference 2016

The conference will be arranged by Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland (MHTI) and it is likely to be in late June 2016. For ease of access the MHTI intend to hold the conference in Dublin. The programme of events is likely to include visits to working mines, a series of lectures and workshops, and field trips to mines in County Wicklow.

More information will be published as it becomes available. www.mhti.com

NAMHO Conference 2017

The Conference-Finder General will shortly be prowling the land, seeking venues and groups for the 2017 Conference. If you do not want to be the group that is persuaded(?) to organise this event, now is the time to get your Society or Group to volunteer.....otherwise it may be your Secretary who gets the phone call that will be hard to refuse.

Peter Jackson, NAMHO Secretary

BCA Representative

Our current representative, Steve Holding, is stepping down from this role at our AGM in March 2015. NAMHO needs new people to replace Steve.

At our last Council Meeting on 15th November 2014, a suggestion was made that the post might be better split into four separate roles. These might be as follows:

- Main BCA Council representative
- Conservation & Access Committee representative
- Training Committee representative
- Equipment Committee representative

Steve has been covering all four roles for some time. This does not have to be the definitive list and is not necessarily the way that we might agree to split the tasks. Any suggestions, offers of help and volunteers will be most welcome! I suggest that if you are interested, that you first read the material on the BCA website <http://british-caving.org.uk>. Then either email me or phone me - secretary@namho.org or 01642564100. I will be happy to help with questions and will be able to arrange for Steve to phone you to provide more information.

Peter Jackson, NAMHO Secretary

What's in a name?

At a recent meeting of the NAMHO Council, the relevance of the word 'National' in our title was debated – the consensus (amongst the almost entirely English participants present) was in favour of retaining the status quo. That was before the Scottish referendum and groundswell of support for greater powers in Wales and of course, one of our constituent member areas has not been a part of the UK for approaching a century.

In another context, the term 'History' was briefly mulled over in the preamble talks around the Research Framework – with some historians and archaeologists at variance – in reality, one can hardly engage in archaeology without historical context – the question is surely, in the interests of objectivity, at what points and to what degree should historical material be introduced? Effectively, history – as the study of the past, embraces archaeology as an important verifying, contributory tool. So 'history' is indeed an all-embracing term, appropriate for inclusion in NAMHO's title.

'Association' goes without challenge but the range of 'organisations' eligible for membership has been discussed recently at length.

On the face of it 'mining' is sufficiently descriptive as to be taken as read – but is it? It was recently put to me that quarrying and mining were quite separate activities, in which circumstances, quarrying was outside NAMHO's remit - without a name change. Rule of thumb usage restricts mining to underground activities and quarrying, to surface operations. If only life was so simple!

One is immediately confronted by a number of usually well-founded exceptions, indeed so many as to question the validity of this two-fold division – where to start?

The extraction of Bath stone, originally from surface diggings – ie. 'quarries', had by the mid-nineteenth century migrated by following the appropriate beds below increasing overburden, to largely underground extraction; the workers involved brought with them, not only their tools but also clung to the notion that they were still 'quarrying' rather than 'mining'. Conversely, when coal began to be exploited on a large scale from 1942 onwards by opencast methods, the situation was reversed – the workings were described as 'mines' – not quarries. Large scale Mesozoic iron ore

winning, although of similar vintage was carried out in 'quarries' (open cuts), not mines.

The roots of both words have long histories – the earlier forms of 'quarry', being associated in Roman eyes with the extraction of cuboid stone blocks whereas 'mine' is thought to have had a Celtic derivation. Mining was also a military activity and as such, gave rise to another usage, ie a mine as an explosive charge. A further once widely applied usage of the term mine, which now might appear to us to be both odd and indeed confusing, was in describing a deposit or resource, whether or not it was being or had ever been exploited. So, a mine of say lead or alabaster referred to a prospect or accumulation of the mineral. Clearly such a practice was not only open to accidental misinterpretation but sometimes to outright criminal abuse.

From the 1870s, quarries were officially differentiated from mines but, until 1938, the term did not include excavations less than twenty feet deep, thus excluding many sand, gravel and clay workings. This last clutch of shallow diggings, generally for unconsolidated materials were usually referred to as 'pits', to distinguish them from 'quarries' which of course exclusively produced stone from rock deposits (let us leave aside defining rock and stone!). Incidentally this practice was echoed in the respective symbols employed on OS maps. On closer examination, this did not hold true in parts of the Midlands and North. It has been suggested that the wholesale switch, from 'pits' to rebranding sites as quarries was driven by a concern to dissociate activities from the coal miners' strikes of the 1970s and 1984-5, but Hoveringham Gravels had designated its units as quarries at least by 1951, long before the initial unrest in collieries of late 1969. However such events probably accelerated the name switches.

Surely one thing is clear – caves are natural and mines are the product of human intervention – again, not necessarily so. Caves and caverns often provide the entree to mining activity and in many circumstances, as soon as mining begins, in the view of the Mine Inspectors, a cave becomes a mine and will always remain so. So, Clearwell Caves are officially mines; as confusingly, Beer Quarry Caves are not natural caves, nor were they a conventional quarry (Beer Quarry was nearby but 'outside').

Another approach might relate to the common affiliation between higher value minerals – metallic ores, coal, etc., being 'mined', whereas more plentiful

ie. bulk commodities – rock, sand and gravel are thought of as being derived from quarries. As an extension to this line of thinking, if ‘minerals are won from mines’, what is the definition of a ‘mineral’? – suffice to say, in my direct experience, barristers have attracted fees well above my pay-grade to argue this through the courts and continue to do so!

Putting some of these pro and cons to the test, how could they apply say to Parys Mountain? The complex presumably began back in the early Bronze Age as surface scratchings following tell-tale brightly stained green and blue outcrops – these embryo quarries soon became a mines as ores were traced down; in the late eighteenth century, the extensive underground workings lost their cover, becoming a vast quarry (but as far as I know, never called as such). Extraction continued as mines, at depth and so does modern exploration, which could culminate in either more deep or open workings. The current pamphlet however describes the site variously, including – ‘open-pit mining (opencasts)’ which is of course a Worldwide convention – but, if the initial definition of a mine is accepted, is a contradiction in terms.

The word ‘colliery’ probably stands alone in this linguistic minefield in being totally reserved for coal mines.

So, what can we conclude? Firstly there appears to be no consistency in the use of ‘mine’ and ‘quarry’, or for that matter, most related terms. In that ‘mining’ tends to be used generically to apply to extraction in general, ‘NAMHO’ properly reflects it’s brief.

Ian A Thomas, NAMHO Chair

Lower Balls Green Mine

Peter Cloughton, NAMHO Conservation Officer, wrote to Narrow Gauge News (NGN) and to the Moseley Railway Trust regarding the incident at Lower Balls Green when a jubilee wagon was cut up for parts. A copy of the letter follows:

DAMAGE TO V-TIPPER WAGON IN THE LOWER BALLS GREEN STONE WORKINGS

It has come to the notice of NAMHO that, late in 2012, narrow gauge industrial railway enthusiasts, acting under the banner of ‘narrow gauge archaeology’, caused irreparable damage to a Hudson V-tipper wagon located underground in the stone workings at Lower Balls Green, near Nailsworth in Gloucestershire. Whilst the damage was caused in the course of removing components for copies to be made in

constructing a replica wagon, such action is to be deplored when other methods were available to record their exact form and dimensions in situ.

Laser scanning and photogrammetry are now frequently used as a means of accurately recording subterranean features and could have been used in this case. Unfortunately the perpetrators of the damage did not stop to consider their best course of action and proceeded in a destructive manner which has left this, the last intact example, in a degraded condition.

It is essential that all subterranean features and artefacts are left in situ where possible and recorded using non-destructive methods. The NAMHO guidelines on the removal of artefacts can be found at http://www.namho.org/guidelines_rem.php and, should you be uncertain as to how to proceed, advice is readily available from this Association.

Peter Cloughton, NAMHO Conservation officer

Contributing to the NAMHO Newsletter

As part of a discussion held at the November NAMHO Council Meeting it was decided that in order for this newsletter to become a record of major and important events and activities in the mining heritage world, that NAMHO Constituent Member Organisations provide copies of their Newsletters to the NAMHO Newsletter Editor. This was common practice in the past, but recently only a few organisations provide the Editor with copies of their newsletter.

The Council, and particularly myself as the Editor, would appreciate your cooperation, with newsletters either being forwarded by email or as hard copies. Contact details are provided at the end of this newsletter, and a postal address will be provided if requested.

Roy Meldrum, Editor

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude to those who have provided contributions for this newsletter and particularly Sir Neil Cossons for taking the time to write the report on Clipstone Colliery. Items are credited to the contributor, unless written/supplied by myself as Editor. Thanks also to Peter Jackson, NAMHO Secretary, for distributing the newsletter and forwarding correspondence.

Roy Meldrum, Editor

CRAZY FOR CLIPSTONE

The future of the great headstocks at Clipstone has been an open wound in the mining heritage world for years. If Clipstone is to be saved then tough action is needed now – focussed and forthright.

Listed Grade II in April 2000, before closure of the colliery in 2003, the site has the tallest pair of headstocks in England and, at the time of their construction, in Europe. They are the most visible surviving evidence of the post-war and post-nationalisation pit modernisation programme, representing the state-of-the-art technology that lay at the heart of the coal industry in the 1950s. An application to de-List the headstocks was not taken forward in light of an application to demolish, filed with the local authority – Newark and Sherwood District Council – in 2003 but has still not been determined. The Council has remained reticent in the face of repeated requests by English Heritage that the application should be decided. Meanwhile the owners, Welbeck Estates and the Coal Authority, fail to meet promises to negotiate with potential preservation interests, national and local.



Clipstone Colliery (March 2010)

History

Clipstone Colliery, east of Mansfield in Nottinghamshire, dates from the early twentieth century when a new excavation was begun by the Bolsover Colliery Company to exploit the Top Hard coal seam. The company was originally established in 1889 by Emerson Muschamp Bainbridge (1845-1911), mining engineer and, later, well known philanthropist and Liberal politician, in order to extract coal from land owned by the Duke of Portland in Creswell and Bolsover. It was very profitable and by the turn of the century featured in the *Financial Times* top thirty share index. In 1912 the company leased 800 hectares

around Vicar Pond at Clipstone where test boreholes located the 2m thick Top Hard coal seam at a depth of 585m.

The sinking of the shaft was interrupted by the First World War but construction work on the surface buildings continued. Sinking resumed in 1919 and by 1922, two 6.4m diameter shafts were complete. The new colliery was operational by 1922, and went on to become one of the most productive in Britain, delivering four thousand tonnes of coal per day by the 1940s. Mining of the Top Hard seam began in 1927 but by the end of World War II the seam was almost exhausted and plans were made for extracting coal from much deeper levels. In the post-war period, the colliery underwent further development to access the Low Main Seam, a deeper seam of coal located almost 240m below the Top Hard.

Clipstone village was built in 1926 by the Bolsover Colliery Company on the former site of Clipstone Army Camp. The company followed Emerson Bainbridge's benevolent philosophy as evidenced by the construction of model villages like Clipstone that were designed to cater for residential and recreational needs of the workforce. Other Nottinghamshire pits founded by the group included Rufford (1911 – 1993) and Thoresby (1925 – date). The formation of the National Coal Board (NCB) in 1947-48 heralded a period of mechanisation and modernisation in order to fulfil the UK's increasing demand for coal. At this time the Bolsover Company was the third largest in Britain and its Clipstone shafts were among the deepest in the country.

In common with many pits sunk during the 1920s, Clipstone's steam-winding gear was upgraded in the 1950s. In order to exploit the rich new reserves of coal the 'Koepe' friction-winding system was adopted. Invented in Germany in 1877 by Frederick Koepe, these winders were installed throughout the German and Dutch coalfields from the late nineteenth century onwards. There were a small number in England, but the Koepe system was not widely used until the post-war re-investment in and re-structuring of the mining industry after 1945. After nationalisation of the coal industry in 1947, the advantages of Koepe winders became more apparent. Government funding for colliery expansion meant that sites such as Clipstone could invest in improved systems and increase production by working deeper seams more effectively. Clipstone became a state-of-the-art colliery, employing over thirteen hundred men at its peak, and produced almost a million tonnes of coal in 1986.

Technology

The Koepe friction hoist system uses a single loop of wire and a powered pulley rather than the more-common winding-drum. Friction hoists are mounted on the ground above the mine shaft or at the top of the headframe. Tail ropes and counterweights are used but are not fixed to the wheel, instead passing around it. The tailropes and weights offset the need for the motor to overcome the weight of the conveyance and hoisting rope, thereby reducing the required horsepower of the hoisting motor by up to 30 per cent. Friction hoists, unlike drum hoists, can and normally do use multiple ropes giving them a larger payload capacity. Friction hoists are also less expensive than drum hoists.

The first British Koepe installation was at Bestwood Colliery, also in Nottinghamshire, but the system proved unsatisfactory and was later removed. Koepe winders were tried with mixed success in several other pits during the 1930s but with the modernisation of Clipstone Colliery in the 1950s the system was perfected. Two headstocks, linked by a central powerhouse were completed in 1953 to the designs of architects Young and Purves of Manchester. The headstocks were constructed by Head Wrightson Colliery Engineering of Thornaby-on-Tees and Sheffield, whilst the winding engines were manufactured by Markham and Company in Chesterfield.



Clipstone No2 Shaft Koepe winder (March 2010)

The headstocks when built were the tallest structures of their type in England, and remain today as a highly visible presence in the former mining landscape. Each is comprised of a latticework steel tower which rises from the side of the central powerhouse building. The upper part of each of the headstocks incorporates twin headgear sheaves – 7.3 metres in diameter - mounted

in an 'under and over' arrangement to support the continuous winding rope. The brick buildings below and between the headstocks are functionally-detailed Modernist designs, the stepped powerhouse with extensive areas of glazing to its upper level. The complex was designed to operate two shafts, the No. 1 Service Shaft to the north for colliery workers and the lowering of materials, and No.2 Winding Shaft to the south, designed to raise the coal skips. The two outer heapstead or pit bank buildings enclosed the shaft heads and the surface car circuits which were linked to underground coal and dirt conveyors. When the site was first listed in April 2000, the colliery was still operational, and the component structures - buildings and headstocks - were structurally complete. Since that time they have suffered vandalism and some deterioration.



Clipstone No1 Shaft Headstocks (March 2010)

The building was designed to house large items of machinery and the electrical equipment needed to power them. The front section of the powerhouse contains two Koepe winding engines, each powered by two direct-coupled electric motors linked to motor generator sets to convert the public AC supply to DC. Adjacent to each winder is a control cabin from which the winding in both shafts could be monitored. The generator sets and switch gear are located on two levels in the rear section of the powerhouse. On each side of the power house are pit bank buildings located above the shafts, into which the winding ropes extend via the headstocks. The shafts are now sealed, but much of the associated equipment including the rails on which the colliery cars ran, and the turntables which allowed them to be manoeuvred, remain *in-situ*. Both parts of the powerhouse are equipped with travelling cranes and running beams carried on lattice metal piers that facilitated the installation and maintenance of the winders and generators.

Although Clipstone never made a loss, the pit was mothballed in 1993, but temporarily reprieved in 1994 by RJB Mining (latterly UK Coal) who operated the colliery profitably for a further nine years, during which it produced nearly four million tonnes of coal. In later years miners struggled to overcome adverse geological conditions and the colliery experienced a decline in the quality of its coal. The pit finally closed in 2003.

On 19 April 2000, whilst the colliery was still operational, Clipstone headstocks and winding house were Listed Grade II by the Secretary of State on the advice of English Heritage under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 giving timely and clear recognition of 'special architectural or historic interest' and the desirability of preservation.

Nottinghamshire's existing preserved headstocks at Brinsley (not in their original location) and Bestwood, and neighbouring Pleasley in Derbyshire pre-date Clipstone and represent a much earlier form of industrialization, characterised by horse and steam power. By contrast, Clipstone presents the best surviving example of post-war, twentieth century coal mining technology.

Clipstone colliery provided employment for miners who had migrated from exhausted coalfields in Scotland and the North East of England. Coal output from the so-called Dukeries coalfield (which included Clipstone) fuelled not only power stations and homes but made a significant contribution to the local economy and the nation as a whole. However, these achievements were eclipsed by the political and union conflict of the 1984 strike and the history of coal production in the post-war era remains largely untold. Today, Clipstone's headstocks and attendant winding house stand as a memorial to the men who toiled and in some cases gave their lives in the pursuit of coal production.

Following pit closure and after consultation with the Coal Authority, most of the surface structures at Clipstone, including the pithead baths and coal hoppers, were cleared. The former pit tips (supported in part by funding from RJB Mining) returned to nature and form the basis of Vicar Water Country Park, a popular destination for cyclists, anglers and walkers.

In April 2014 Thoresby; Nottinghamshire's last remaining colliery, together with Kellingley in South Yorkshire, were scheduled for closure. With the end of deep mining in Britain, the preservation and

celebration of our industrial heritage and mining culture through sites like Clipstone becomes even more important for future generations.

Preservation

Efforts by Clipstone Colliery Regeneration Group to save the Grade II listed headstocks, whilst sympathetic to industrial heritage and historic preservation are very much focussed on community engagement and the creation of new opportunities. One idea involves adapting the twin headstocks as a zip-line launch-station and visitor observation platform, offering spectacular views across Sherwood Forest. [Former mineworkers from Clipstone claim that on a clear day the view extends as far as Lincoln Cathedral]. The magnificent winding-house could be developed as a multi-use extreme sports and leisure facility, with indoor climbing wall, skate park, heritage centre and training suite. The surrounding site could accommodate both affordable housing and business units for start-up enterprises.

In 2013, Nottingham-based architects Maber Associates Ltd produced initial design concepts for the Clipstone Colliery Regeneration Group in order to help visualise the restored site and stimulate debate about the future of Clipstone Colliery headstocks amongst key stakeholders including Local Government, landowners and the wider community. Like many former mining areas, Clipstone suffers from structural unemployment. Establishing the area as a World-Class Sport and Leisure Hub would complement established tourist destinations such as, Center Parcs Holiday Village, Forest Holidays' Log Cabins, Sustrans and Byways cycle trails, Amen Corner Karting, Rufford Country Park and others.

Through regeneration of the site, the group plan to address the social, economic and recreational needs of the local community, stimulating growth through tourism and leisure, whilst reinforcing cultural identity and civic pride. Indeed, a report commissioned by jointly by English Heritage and Newark and Sherwood District Council has concluded that there are no obvious commercially viable alternative uses for the site and, with the benefit of financial support for heritage, the Listed structures may yet hold the key for inward investment in Clipstone's future. These ambitions can only be achieved through public support, political will and the continued efforts of volunteer organisations and advocates. But time is running out.

The application for consent to demolish the building and headstocks made in 2003 to Newark and Sherwood District Council has yet to be determined, but it is hard to conceive that a convincing case for demolition could be sustained within the National Planning Policy Framework. The request to English Heritage for de-listing the building and headstocks, has not been taken forward because the application to demolish remains under consideration by the Local Planning Authority. The List description was, however, revised in 2012 to reflect the unquestionable significance of these structures.

Selected sources

<http://www.healeyhero.co.uk/rescue/menu/individuals.htm>

Comprehensive resource covering the history of Mining in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire.

www.miningheritage.co.uk

A History of Coal Mining in 10 Objects – Digital Humanities project produced in 2013 by Dr David Amos and Paul Fillingham, supported by Dr Sarah Badcock, and the University of Nottingham Centre for Advanced Studies. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. An illustrated eBook is available from the website.

Sir Neil Cossons, on behalf of the Clipstone Colliery Regeneration Group

The Clipstone Colliery Regeneration Group

The CCRG are in the process of submitting a HLF Young Roots application in conjunction with Garibaldi College and YMCA.

A video was prepared entirely by young entrepreneurs who have recently left college and very much in line with our philosophy of supporting young people into apprenticeships and business. The video was entered in a Short Film Competition recently run by *locality: communities ambitious for change*.

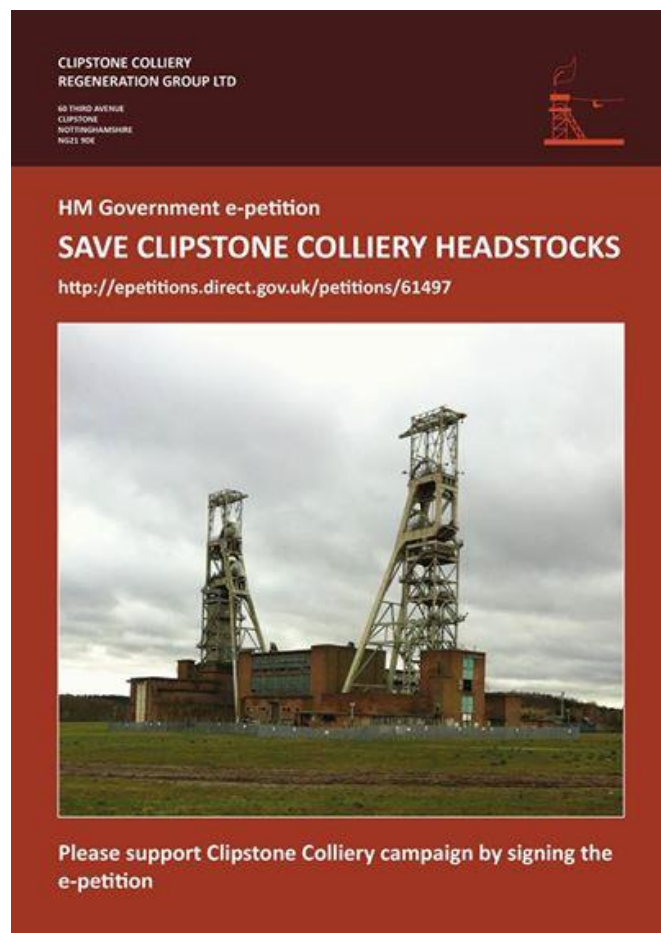
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sp5AeYq0C1E>

<http://locality.org.uk/projects/power-change/film-comp/>

<http://www.clipstoneheadstocks.co.uk/>

There is an e-petition to save Clipstone Colliery headstocks, which can be found at:

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/61497>



CLIPSTONE COLLIERY
REGENERATION GROUP LTD
45 THIRD AVENUE
CLIPSTONE
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
NG25 5DE

HM Government e-petition
SAVE CLIPSTONE COLLIERY HEADSTOCKS
<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/61497>

Please support Clipstone Colliery campaign by signing the e-petition

There is also a Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Save-Clipstone-Colliery-Headstocks/106659108993>

Denise Barraclough, CCRG (17/11/2014)

Nenthead Mines Conservation Plan, Nenthead, Alston, Cumbria

This is a project funded by Natural England via Cumbria County Council. Work has included repair work to Nenthead Smelting Mill spine wall and the mill flue, rebuilding Smallcleugh culvert, heightening Rampgill Burn retaining walls, Stagg wheel pit fencing, and rebuilding of the North explosives Store.

Apart from the Explosives Store, this work has been completed by contractors. The Explosives Store work is being carried out by volunteers. You can read more about this on the Nenthead Mines Conservation Society website at www.nentheadmines.com.

Peter Jackson (20/11/2014)

Friends of the North Pennines, Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers project.

The archaeology programme at Dukesfield smelting mill has now been completed. The site has been backfilled, with the foot-print of the wheel pit and the leat being left exposed. Some further conservation

work has been completed on the stonework of these two sections.

The transcription team have continued to work on transcribing documents from the Bywell Hall collection. These and other materials will be available on a new website which is under construction.

The project also facilitated the production of Ore'some Ale by the Hexhamshire Brewery - the name was chosen following a public competition. A comedy play is currently touring the Tyne Valley - "Carry on Mining.....Ore" - which uses material derived from the transcription project.

Peter Jackson (20/11/2014)

Ritual marks in mines?

In the mine known as Brynlow Mine at Alderley Edge, Cheshire, there is a set of carved initials close to a date of 1764. The initials are JW in the 18th century style with the J appearing as a crossed I. Recent research elsewhere in caves in England appears to throw some fresh light on the initials in Brynlow.

Based on the history of Charles Roe's mining, we had assumed they stood for Josiah Wagstaff, Roe's foreman, although an alternative view was Jonathan Wright as the same initials appear on Topps Farm, about 250m from the entrance to Brynlow Mine.

However, research into the graffiti in buildings and caves has suggested a strong link with so-called 'apotropaic' or more commonly 'ritual' marks. These are inscriptions intended to ward off evil spirits.



Brynlow Mine

The belief of researchers is that the two letters J and W represent Jesus and the Virgin Mary (V V: sometimes crossed) and their discovery in places such

as Wookey Hole and Goatchurch Cave in Somerset and in Ease Gill Kirk Cave in Yorkshire support this.

Why mark them in Brynlow? It might have been JW's vanity but could it have been that the miners had reached a point in the excavation where they intersected the Bronze Age pits and were worried about the 'natural' void they had met? It is particularly interesting that in Wookey Hole, the marks are often found below natural chimneys (avens) in the cave. The articles consulted (see below) also suggest that the marks are common on buildings, often mistaken as mason's marks.

Illustration from Binding & Wilson (2010)

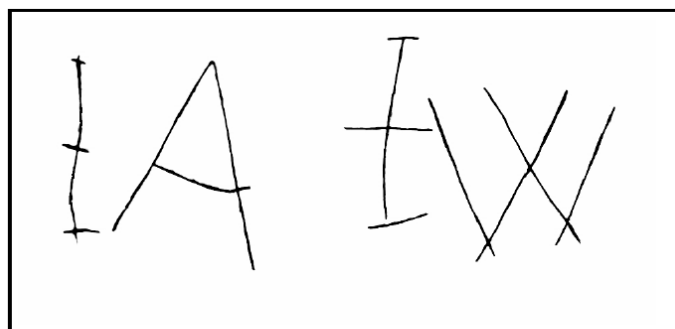


Figure 22. *J* symbols possibly read together as a single panel. Witch's Chimney, Wookey Hole.

The purpose of this article is partly to ask whether mine explorers have seen marks such as these in any other mines and if so (a) whether they are linked with voids or shafts and (b) if there is any evidence of dating such as the date we have at Alderley Edge.

Anyone having anything to offer is welcome to contact me at nigel@dibben.org.uk.

References:

C.J. Binding and L.J. Wilson, *Ritual Protection Marks in Wookey Hole and Long Hole, Somerset*, Proc. Univ. Bristol Spelaeol. Soc., 2010, 25(1), 47-73

T. Lord and J. Howard, *Cave Archaeology* in A. Waltham and D. Lowe (eds.) *Caves and Karst of the Yorkshire Dales (Volume 1)*. 2013 Buxton: British Cave Research Association.

Nigel Dibben, DCC (19/11/2014)

THE FRIENDS OF HEMINGFIELD COLLIERY

We have had a superb turnout at our working parties (six so far), the nature of the site and the good weather have helped but nonetheless we have been delighted that so many people have come to help! What is even pleasing is that everyone seems to have

found a specialised area that they can focus on. Main points are as follows:

- NMRS Committee have kindly confirmed a grant for security doors on both buildings, a real boon for us all. So a big thank you to the NMRS Committee and Members for this, installation should be complete before Christmas

- The on-site finds and discoveries are too long to list here, but some highlights include the original banksman's control box, the location and size (24") of the original cylinder (Thanks to Nigel Chapman and Alan Hill), a semi-circular cast iron plate that looks to be part of the original 1860s Biram Fan, a quarter skid plate for tubs, etc.

- The archival research has been led by Chris Jones and already has produced all sorts of discoveries, including the original specifications for the Biram Fans as well as some very detailed descriptions of the end of coaling in 1920

- Alan Hill has kindly shared copies of his slides of the site from the late 1970s showing both cages in situ as well as records of building that have been demolished

- We have a group of Sheffield University Architecture Students working with us until November on developing ideas and plans for the site – in addition to being a nice bunch of folks they have produced some excellent work already – look at:
<http://thehemingfieldcolliery.wordpress.com/>

- In terms of progress on site, we have now cleared most of the vegetation and started to get back into the undergrowth and small trees and slowly the site is starting to look tidier. Our initial focus was to make the site safe, removing hazards. We have now cleaned and reclaimed more than 1000 original handmade bricks, essential for when reconstruction starts.

- In addition to approval of the NMRS grant, we are hopeful of securing funding for the repair of at least one of the two buildings before too long.

Do come and join us, we are working hard and determined to be friendly, inclusive and non-hierarchical. Facilities on site are non-existent so until that is resolved it's very much a "self-service" environment. There is both heavy and light work to suit your inclinations and after Christmas we expect to be starting some formalised Archaeological Investigation and Recording which will bring a whole new dimension of understanding of this unique site –

the last complete undisturbed C 19 collier site (a controversial claim I know).

Working party dates for 2014 are 20th/21st December. During 2015 we plan to be on site roughly every second weekend – see below for dates – it's a good idea to check with us before travelling a long way but there will always be someone there!

Use our Facebook page to get in touch with Christine Cameron, our Director of Volunteering

January 3rd & 4th, 17th & 18th, 31st.

February 1st, 21st & 22nd

March 7th & 8th, 21st & 22nd

April 4th & 5th, 18th & 19th

June 2nd & 3rd, 16th & 17th, 30th & 31st

*Steve Grudgings FoHC,
NMRS Newsletter November 2014*

Revised Designation for Chatterley Whitfield Colliery

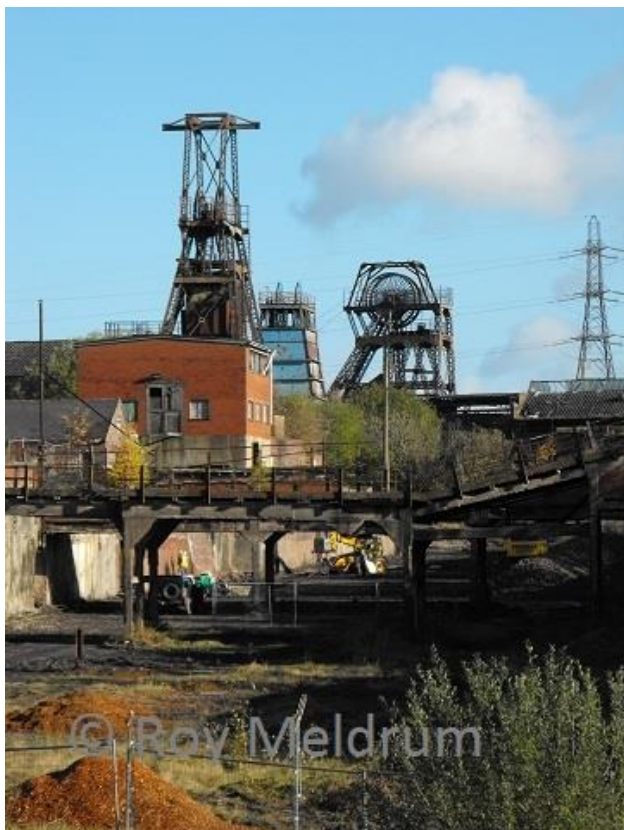
On 1st April 2014 English Heritage revised the designation of parts of the Chatterley Whitfield Colliery site. Having been involved over a number of years with both the Friends of Chatterley Whitfield and the Chatterley Whitfield Community Group, this news somewhat concerned me. I contacted Bill Klemperer, Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments, to get clarification on why this decision was made and it's possible implications for the future of some of the buildings/structures.

His response was:

"The whole site was scheduled in 1993 in recognition of the significance of the site as a whole, and also partly to prevent asset stripping, and this has been largely achieved. Various ideas have been promoted over the years, including a recent City Council project to investigate the viability of ground water heat source production as an energy source. The extensive scheduling, however, has been seen in some quarters as a barrier to regeneration of the site and so English Heritage has revised the designations this year as part of our approach of encouraging reuse. There is still an extensive scheduled area and the most significant structures are all still listed or scheduled. Fewer structures are scheduled than before, because listing of standing structures offers a greater flexibility of approach and is the more appropriate designation regime for most buildings. We are still encouraging Stoke to undertake maintenance and prepare the site for market interest, and will be continuing discussions,

especially on the back of the soon to be finalised 'Heritage Commission' paper that we understand the City Council is soon to finalise. It would be wrong to say, however, that a long term solution presently appears close, and so I am sorry that we cannot be sure what the future holds for the site.

Six structures have been de-scheduled in favour of listing, namely the Hesketh Winding House and Power house 1913-14 (no 7 on the EH Plan); Hesketh Heapstead 1915-17 inc. Tub Hall (no 6); Power House 1895 (no 4) / Boiler House 1937 (no 16) / Chimney 1891 (no 3); Walker Fan House and Drift c.1960 (no 27); Old Fan House c.1930 (no 11); Weighbridge c.1950 (no 22). They are all Grade II apart from the Hesketh Heapstead which is II*. The Ostler's Store 1915-17 (no 8) is now not listed or scheduled. The other listings are unchanged. The detached conveyor tower on the lower left of the plan is listed II* as part of the tub hall complex."



Chatterley Whitfield Colliery, Stoke on Trent

So, the de-scheduling of part of the site provides greater flexibility regarding repairs, restoration and re-use. However, my personal view (especially considering options that have previously been put forward by Stoke on Trent City Council) is that certain buildings/structures may 'conveniently' no longer fit in with future plans due to the current state of disrepair and limited re-use value. Only time will tell!

Further information, including the site plan, at:

<http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1015947>

Roy Meldrum (25/11/2014)

Cambrian Mines Trust

At the recent November NAMHO Council Meeting Roy Fellows presented a belated annual report from the Trust, with future annual reports being issued around the end of the financial year. Here is an outline of what the report stated:

General Matters: Based on the document '*Cwmystwyth, the way forward*' by Roy Fellows, an initiative to fund an independently authored document for stakeholder information was organised by Peter Austin, Ceredigion County Council, using funds obtained from Cynnal y Cardi. The report, '*Cwmystwyth Mines, Management and Protection Plan*', was written by James Meek of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust and published 30/04/2014 (available via the CMT website). It will form the basis for ongoing stakeholder involvement and planning of the Trust activities.

In conjunction with Cynnal y Cardi the Trust organised a community event in Cwmystwyth Village Hall to give a presentation on the status and objectives of the Trust, and to seek community feedback/support with special reference to the Cwmystwyth site.

Cwmystwyth: The directors are concerned that the temporary signs placed in reopened adits were nearing the end of their useful life. Accordingly they have approved designs and likely costs of 25 new underground and 10 new surface warning signs in durable plastic.

A proper assessment of required underground safety and other desirable work is to be prepared for SAM approval. This will include a permanent solution to the sagging timber above the skipway in Lefel Fawr, and driving of a road through the fall in the main level that prevents direct access to the area of the skipway.

The Trust has reopened several adits, making gates from existing grilles and posting temporary warning notices within. Underground trips at the NAMHO 2014 Conference were successfully coordinated by the Trust. A new geological survey of Herbert's and Alderson's levels has begun as these adits are potentially well suited for possible future educational trips; ie. Not requiring caving skills.

Future site improvement: The Protection and Management Plan summarised the Trust's wish list and gave guidance on the likely permissions needed. Most would require substantial new funding/ co-sponsorship to be implemented. Improvement of the parking arrangements will require Local Authority approval and a draft plan will be prepared as a basis for discussion with the Highway Department.

The proposed hydro-electric project is currently awaiting response from Scottish Power from whom confirmation is required that a connection will be possible.

Frongoch: In line with the Trust's objectives in preservation of key sites, considerable new access and safety work has been accomplished at Frongoch and the results published via Aditnow.

Goginan: The Trust has made an informal arrangement with the landowner to act as Access Controlling Body, thereby extending the benefit of its BCA insurance and indemnity to landowners.

Finance: The Trust's financial affairs are satisfactory, with income at this time derived from grazing rights and voluntary contributions. The Trust extends its thanks to the Welsh Mines Society who made a £250 donation.

Roy Fellows, CMT

AditNow Mining Calendar

The annual calendar of mining photographs produced by AditNow is on sale now. The proceeds this year will go to the Shropshire Mines Trust or Swaledale Mines Rescue Team. AditNow made a substantial contribution to the organisation and success of the 2014 NAMHO Conference in Bangor. Calendars can be ordered from the AditNow website at [this link](#). (14/11/2014)

Obituaries

Tribute to Paul Deakin

The well-known cave and mine photographer Paul Deakin died on the 3rd September 2014, aged 69. He was a fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, and a Chartered Mine Surveyor. He served as a Controller of the Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation from 1974 to 1978. He was an Honorary Member of the Derbyshire

Caving Club, and the designated mine surveyor for the mines at Alderley Edge, Cheshire. He leaves a wife and two daughters.

Alastair Lings, MHTI

W J Taylor, 1936-2014

Wes, as he was always known, was born in Tamworth, Staffordshire. After an uneventful schooling he started work at Dunlop, but soon moved to the pits, of which there were still several in the 1950's. This exempted him from National Service but he had to undertake further education. He qualified as Mining Engineer at Stoke College.

He met Val in the late 1950s, and they married in 1961. They had two children, Helen and Ian, and two grandchildren.

He then changed careers and moved to Allied Breweries, where he worked for over thirty years. The work involved much travel for considerable periods to places like Kenya, where the family were able to go out to visit during their holidays.

Wes was a practical fellow, building two houses, the first in Atherstone and the second in Walton on Trent, where Wes and Val lived for forty years.

He had many hobbies: model aeroplane flying, real aeroplane flying and bee keeping, and he was a member of the Royal Observer Corps, of which he remained a member until the end of the Cold War.

His continuing interest was the Peak District Mines Historical Society. He took part in both underground and surface meets, accompanied by the family. Ian tells of a very cold Easter, camping in Nenthead, when they almost froze. He was involved in the restoration work at Magpie Mine and Temple Mine.

His major contribution to the Society was as a member of the Committee, where he held many positions including an Ordinary Member, Deputy Chairman, Chairman, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Membership Secretary; each role having been conducted with great skill and dedication. He is unique in having held more Committee posts than any other member. He also represented the Society at NAHMO for many years.

Another big passion was Steam Trains and Engines, with visits to the Great Dorset Steam Fair being a favourite. He also shared in the building of a model steam train.

He and Val both enjoyed travel, visiting every continent including places like Nepal and China before these places became commercialised. They also visited Germany and Cyprus many times, as their children were based there as members of the British Army.

He had a passion for life and helped others on their journeys.

Mave and Mike Luff, PDMHS

Other Mining News

England

International recognition for Yorkshire's Industrial Heritage Attractions

Elsecar Heritage Centre, Barnsley, the National Coal Mining Museum, Wakefield and Sheffield's Kelham Island Museum have been unveiled as part of a new 'European Route of Industrial Heritage' entitled Makers, Miners and Money. These sites, along with several others in the region, reflect the wealth, power and enterprise of the industrial age of coal, iron and steel. (22/08/2014)

<http://yorkshiretimes.co.uk/article/Yorkshire-Industrial-Heritage-Attractions-Win-International-Recognition>

Transformation of former Betteshanger Colliery Site

A £40million project to regenerate the former Betteshanger Colliery Site has finally got underway. The redevelopment will include the Kent Mining Heritage Museum, a visitor centre, office and business units. Betteshanger was the last of the Kent collieries to close in 1989. (30/10/2014)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-29833501>

Hatfield Colliery, Stainforth, South Yorkshire

The National Union of Mineworkers is lending the Hatfield Colliery Employee Benefit Partnership £4 million for one year, on commercial terms. The money will be used to develop a new face, and safeguard the mine for a further 18 months. The Chairman of the Partnership, John Grogan, said "The National Union of Mineworkers has given us a future. It's hard for the deep mining sector to get money from banks." The first shaft at Hatfield Colliery was completed in 1916.

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/sep/16/mining-union-4-million-loan-hatfield-colliery-num>

Alastair Lings, MHTI (16/09/2014)

UK Coal

UK Coal has received a loan of £4 million from the Government, and £16 million from other sources, which will allow the company to manage the closure of Kellingley Colliery in North Yorkshire and Thoresby Colliery in Nottinghamshire. The collieries will shut in 2015 with the loss of 1300 jobs. Andrew Mackintosh, Communications Director, said "it was critical that we managed to avoid insolvency, and the immediate collapse of the business. We are very grateful for the support we have been given". Work started at Thoresby Colliery in 1925, and Kellingley Colliery has been in production in 1965. (26/09/2014)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-29373765>

Alastair Lings, MHTI (26/09/2014)

Drakelands Mine, Plymouth, Devon

The Annual Financial Report of Wolf Minerals Ltd mentions site preparation and construction activities. The Report states that "The original concrete processing plant built in World War 1 has gradually been demolished, with resident bats relocated and the resultant concrete being crushed for use as road base in the future". Work is underway with the new processing plant, with over 150 employees and contractors on site. An area has been cleared of topsoil for a mine waste facility (MWF), and construction of the main retaining wall has started. (10/09/2014)

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

Alastair Lings, MHTI

Scotland

Greenburn Surface Mine, New Cumnock, Ayrshire

Kier Mining has been awarded two Scottish Green Apples for environmental work. They received a bronze award for a 500 metre long diversion of the River Nith, which will facilitate the mining of 1.2 MT of coal. The company received a gold award for the construction of a reduced-width bentonite wall between the new river and the surface mine.

<http://www.agg-net.com/news/two-scottish-green-apples-for-kier> (12/08/2014)

Alastair Lings, MHTI

Valley Pit Disaster Commemorated

An explosion at the Valley Pit near Dunfermline, Fife, which claimed the lives of 35 men, was commemorated on the 75th anniversary of the disaster. (28/10/2014)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-29789779>

Wales

Navigation Colliery, Crumlin, Gwent

The Victorian Society has included the buildings of the Navigation Colliery on their list of the Top Ten Most Endangered Victorian and Edwardian Buildings in England & Wales 2014. The buildings are brick-built and Grade 2 listed. The Colliery was in production from 1911-1967. (08/10/2014)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-29546628> (1½ minute video clip)

Alastair Lings, MHTI

Service marks Aberfan Disaster

A private service was held to mark the 48th anniversary of the Aberfan Disaster, in which 144 people were killed. At 9.15am on 21st October 1966, the pit waste tip above the village slid down engulfing a farm, houses and part of the school. Of those killed, 116 were children. (22/10/2014)

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/local-news/aberfan-disaster-poignant-service-marks-7978834>

The Coal Exchange, Cardiff

The Cardiff South and Penarth MP, Stephen Doughty, is calling for support in saving one of Cardiff's most historic buildings. Fears over the state and future of the building have heightened since the most recent owners went into liquidation. Once an important trading centre in Cardiff Bay, and the place where the first £1million cheque was signed. (23/09/2014)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-29326185>

Commercial Gold Mining to return to Snowdonia?

It has been announced that "significant gold assay results" have been found in the latest underground sampling undertaken in a section of Clogau St David's Gold Mine. The Welsh jewellery company, Clogau Gold, has said that recommencement of gold mining could help save their business, which used to source its gold from St David's mine. (21/11/2014)

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/resturn-gold-mining-snowdonia-step-8149889>

Ireland

Curraghinalt Gold Project, Gortin, Co.Tyrone

On the 2nd December 2013 Dalradian Resources received planning permission to extend the 1980s exploratory adit at Curraghinalt (Planning application K/2013/0072/F). They have appointed contractors for the surface and underground works. F.P. McCann Ltd will be constructing the surface operations area, water treatment plant, waste rock storage area, internal access roads and installing services. The underground

contract has been awarded to QME Ltd and consists of "Preparation of the existing 700 metre adit, including scaling and removal of train tracks and timber supports; Additional development of approximately 1,000 metres; Construction of underground drill bays; Testing of appropriate mining techniques; and Removal of a large sample for metallurgical and other testing." Surface works have started at the site.

<http://www.dalradian.com/news-and-events/news-releases/default.aspx> (02/10/2014)

Valentia Slate, Valentia Island, Co. Kerry

Valentia Slate Ltd has received another order from the Palace of Westminster, London. They will be supplying bar counter tops for the Pugin Room and Members Smoking Room. The first commercial production of slate on Valentia Island was in 1816. The slate was used in many prominent buildings and railway stations in London. (03/09/2014)

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

Alastair Lings, MHTI

Publications

The Coal Mining Industry of Barnsley, Rotherham and Worksop

Ken Wain, Amberley Publishing (09/09/2014), paperback, 192 pages, 172x248mm, £15.90
ISBN: 978 1445639659

Barnsley, Rotherham and Worksop sit on top of the Midland coalfield, stretching from Nottingham into Yorkshire and the mining industry in this area once supported tens of thousands of jobs in collieries dotted across the landscape. In this book, the culmination of some forty years of research, author Ken Wain tells the story of the mining industry in the area from the primitive mines of the medieval period to the rundown of the industry and the end of deep mining in Britain. The Coal Mining Industry of Barnsley, Rotherham and Worksop tells the life stories of the many collieries in this part of England. From the large towns to small villages built around their local pit, Ken gives an insight into the growth of coal mining in the area as well as some of the human stories of disaster and of the working and living conditions for the miners and their families.

The Coal Mining Industry of Sheffield and North East Derbyshire

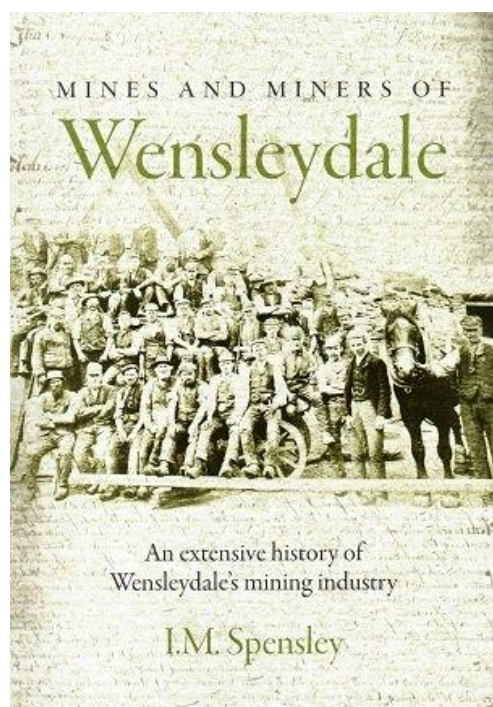
Ken Wain, Amberley Publishing (30/06/2014), paperback, 192 pages, 172x248m, £17.99
ISBN: 978 1445639635

The culmination of some forty years of research sees Ken Wain tell the story of the mining industry in this part of South Yorkshire. He tells the life stories of the many collieries from Chesterfield to Sheffield. With some 900 shafts in Chesterfield alone, and hundreds in the Sheffield area, Ken gives an insight into the growth of coal and ironstone mining in the region, as well as some of the human stories of disaster, and of working and living conditions for the miners and their families. He covers the period from the medieval times to the bitter miners' strike of 1984/85 and its damaging aftermath, which effectively killed Britain's deep mining industry.

Mines and Miners of Wensleydale: an extensive history of Wensleydale's mining industry.

Ian M Spensley, softback, 330 pages, 178 illustrations, 173 x 246 mm. Available from the author.

In the introduction, the author writes "*How much of the book you read depends on your knowledge of mining and interest.*" He is too modest. This book is easy to read and logically structured; so it simply, and pleasantly, draws the reader on. The information in the social history chapter is not an add-on, but is relevant to mining; and the technical details are brought together in the working method chapter before the information on the individual mines. The ordering makes everything easy to follow; and the contents section is so detailed that it covers more than five pages and makes referring back easy. The comprehensive indexes make it simple to look up specific details, and a glossary defines technical terms



The illustrations are impressive: there are 178 of them (mostly photographs, but also maps and plans). Some photographs are composites, bringing recent photographs to life with superimposed water-wheel, head gear or jack rollers.

The second thing to strike the reader is the large number of references. Like the photographs these come from a wide variety of sources. According to the book's back cover, well over 90% of the references are used for the first time. Some of the illustrations are new to me, and the author has obviously researched long and carefully. His sub-title "an extensive history of Wensleydale's mining industry" is certainly justified.

There are separate chapters on stone quarrying and on lead and coal mining: first history chapters and then details of the quarries and mines.

All in all, this is a valuable addition to the shelves of everyone interested in mining history. It adds to our knowledge of Wensleydale. The text gives us a desire to go and see for ourselves, and the appendix of grid references enables us to do so.

Review by Sallie Basham, NMRS

Quarrying Industry in Wales- a history

Ian A Thomas, The National Stone Centre, paperback, 224pages, illustrated with colour, b&w photographs and maps, 296x210mm, ISBN: 978 1871827385

This book is a UK first- It illustrates for a broad readership, the development of an industry vital to us all, but largely overlooked- in a key producing area. Coal, iron, steel and slate are the key commodities which most people probably associate with Wales and these have certainly had a profound historical influence. But in terms of tonnage, since 1945, these goods begin to pale into the distance when compared with that every day, taken-for-granted material, stone.

This account summarises the development of the 'stone' industry and its trade in Wales from earliest times, but it can only describe the 'tip of the iceberg'. It is therefore intended as a general framework for further research. It concentrates particularly on commercial activity over the last two centuries. Following a general introduction, more detail is given for each area of Wales.

Slate is specifically excluded and building stone, although a necessary historical introduction, is largely outside the present brief.

One of the main intentions of the present project is to stimulate a greater interest in and awareness of stone in Wales- there is plenty more to discover. The author welcomes comment or additional information from readers and to hear of research by others into quarry history.

The compilation of the book was substantially funded by the Aggregates Levy Fund (Wales), which, unlike the English counterpart, the more enlightened Welsh Government have opted to maintain. Part of the funding agreement involves the free distribution of copies to Welsh schools, colleges, libraries, interest groups and decision-makers etc. This is now in hand. It is proposed that copies remaining after this process, will be sold by the National Stone Centre and the resulting income directed to meet the costs of reprinting. If you would like to add your name to the lists in either category to be kept informed of releases, please email: ian@nationalstonecentre.org.uk - specifically using the subject title "Quarry industry in Wales - distribution".

Ian Thomas, National Stone Centre

Fayles Tramways: Clay Mining in Purbeck, Two Hundred Years, Six different Gauges.

Chris Legg, Twelveheads Press, hardback, 168 pages, 225 illustrations, 220x27mm, £28.00
ISBN: 978 0906294796

For much of the twentieth century a small train periodically stopped the traffic on the main road from Wareham to Swanage and for many people this was the only manifestation of an important local industry. Ball clay had been extracted from Purbeck since the sixteenth century but it was the beginning of the nineteenth that saw the start of serious exploitation. Benjamin Fayle built Dorset's first railway in 1806 to get his clay to the coast and over the years the needs of transport saw a number of very individual railways until the 1990s.

This book is the result of the author's lifelong interest in the industry and his detailed personal knowledge of the mines and railways. It tells of the many aspects of clay extraction and mining, processing and weathering, tramways, horses, locomotives and rolling stock, family connections and personalities, merchants and miners, accidents and rescues, education and the school train, shipping and the effects of war. The author's friendship with the miners, managers and their families makes this a very people orientated story.

The railway story is taken from the historic plateway of 1806 through the variety of lines, using six different gauges that saw use for nearly two centuries; including the Middlebere Tramway, the Goathorn Tramway and the Norden and Goathorn Railway. It includes an account of the famous Russell's time in Dorset, before its return home to Wales. Many photographs and drawings are published for the first time.

Publisher's synopsis

The Mineralogy of Derbyshire, with a description of the most interesting mines in the North of England, in Scotland, and in Wales.

John Mawe, Cambridge University Press, (Publication planned for November 2014), paperback, 238 pages, 3 b/w illustrations, 1 map, 216x140mm, £17.99
ISBN: 978 1108076180

Born in Derby, John Mawe (1766–1829) established a successful mineral-dealing business in London and became a significant figure in the development of British commercial mineralogy in the early nineteenth century. He travelled widely, advising on mineral exploration, and gathering specimens for clients such as Charles IV of Spain. This illustrated 1802 work gives an overview of the geological features and strata of Mawe's home county. He discusses the various mineral deposits to be found in Derbyshire, and describes some of the county's mines. Drawing on observations made on his travels, he gives descriptions of important mines in northern England, Scotland and Wales, alongside remarks on geological features of interest. The book closes with a glossary of terms used by miners in Derbyshire. Mawe's well-received *Travels in the Interior of Brazil* (revised edition, 1821) is also reissued in the Cambridge Library Collection.

Publisher's synopsis

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Until 18th January 2015: Special Exhibition: The Craft of the Miner, Agricola's Masterpiece, National Coal Mining Museum for England, Wakefield.
<https://www.ncm.org.uk/whats-on/special-exhibition-the-craft-of-the-miner-agricola-s-masterpiece>

Friends of St Aidans BE1150 Walking Dragline Open Days: 16th April, 13th June, 12th-13th September, 2pm-4pm. Swillington, Leeds LS26 8AL

21st March 2015: NAMHO AGM & Spring Meeting, the Pump Room, Peak District Mining Museum, Matlock Bath. Further details and agendas will be distributed nearer the time.

22nd-25th May 2015: NAMHO Conference, Nenthead, Alston, Cumbria

6th-11th May 2016: 'A Celebration of the Tinworking Landscape of Dartmoor in its European Context- Prehistory to the 20th Century', hosted by the Dartmoor Tinworking Research Group, Tavistock, Devon.

Preliminary Notice of Conference

'A Celebration of the Tinworking Landscape of Dartmoor in its European Context - Prehistory to the 20th Century'

Tavistock, Devon, 6th-11th May 2016

The tinworking landscape of Dartmoor is arguably the finest in the world for its extent, completeness, chronological range and accessibility. Most of it falls within Dartmoor National Park and much is on open moorland to which there is unrestricted public access. Although always closely connected historically to the Cornish tin industry, Dartmoor's tinworking landscape is quite distinct, as it lacked the deep tin deposits of its neighbour and also had an abundance of water resources. In the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries Dartmoor tinworking was on a relatively small scale. Consequently, archaeological remains of these and earlier periods (especially AD 1300-1700) are still of outstanding extent and quality.

Historically, the industry generated significant wealth for the county of Devon, being ranked as more important than seafaring in about AD 1600. Much tin was exported to Europe and beyond.

Hundreds of hectares of streamworks and openworks survive, served by numerous reservoirs and miles of leats. Ore was crushed and smelted in water powered mills, of which at least 100 survive archaeologically.

Some 200 accommodation 'lodges' have been identified on open moorland. In the 19th century shafts reached a depth of 500ft (152m), often drained by pumping waterwheels up to 60ft (18m) in diameter, with horse-powered 'whims' used for hauling. The largest mine employed up to 200 men, women and children. The moorland industry survived until 1930 and its last decades included innovative use of water-powered turbines generating electricity. From the 1860s onwards, much was documented photographically. Superb archives also exist.

To mark the 25th anniversary of the **Dartmoor Tinworking Research Group** (www.dtrg.org.uk), and to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the **UNESCO World Heritage** designation of the **Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape** (www.cornish-mining.org.uk) this conference, based in the stannary town and World Heritage Site area of Tavistock, from 6-11 May 2016, will comprise lectures and full day field excursions.

The conference will celebrate the diversity of Dartmoor's unrivalled industrial landscape, and will compare its features and technologies with those of contemporary tinworking areas of continental Europe – Czech Republic, Germany, France and Spain, as well as that of Cornwall. Lecturers already confirmed include Dr Tom Greeves, Dr Peter Herring, Dr Phil Newman, Henrietta Quinell, and Dr Petr Rojik (Czech Republic). To be confirmed are Thomas Helm and Rainer Sennewald from Germany and Michael Rund from the Czech Republic, and others from France and Spain. Exhibitions and publications are being planned.

A detailed programme for the conference, and costings, will be available at (www.dtrg.org.uk) from the early summer of 2015. To register an interest in this conference, or for further information, please email Dr Tom Greeves -tomgreeves@btconnect.com.

Copy Date for the next newsletter is 10th February, with publication due March 2015.

Contributions: Email to Newsletter Editor via the NAMHO website-
<http://www.namho.org/contacts.php> or by post, c/o NAMHO Secretary, Peak District Mining Museum, The Pavilion, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire, DE4 3NR

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