NAMHO National Association of Mining History Organisations

Newsletter No. 90, December 2019

NAMHO Conference 2020

The annual NAMHO conference is being held in Cornwall, with some field trips in Devon, at the start of April 2020. The date is early to keep clear of the peak summer season in the peninsular. The conference is based in Redruth, Cornwall. The venue for the lectures will be Redruth School and the social events, including the conference dinner will be in the Penventon Park Hotel. These venues are with a few minutes' walk of each other. Camping will be available in the grounds of Redruth School. The conference will be held over a long weekend from Friday, 3rd April to Wednesday, 8th April 2020.

Access issues in Cornwall mean that officially organised trips will not be available to the many abandoned mines there but instead trips to key mining features are being arranged for Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. These will be taken by coach from the conference venue. Details of trips will be made available on the website: www.namhoconference.org.uk.

This conference is being extended to foreign delegates as the theme is "Copper, tin and gold". The link between these topics is provided by the Nebra Sky Disc which is pictured on the website. Details of the disc may be found on Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nebra_sky_disk) but in brief it was found in 1999 in Germany and eventually deposited in the State Museum of Prehistory at Halle. The link with the conference lies in the fact that recent analysis found that the gold used in the first phase was from the river Carnon in Cornwall, United Kingdom. The tin present in the bronze was also of Cornish origin.

The booking website is due to be brought live in December but before that, the site will be available providing general information about the conference.

Nigel Dibben

NAMHO Bibliography

A few years ago, David Williams of Derbyshire provided NAMHO with a copy of his extensive bibliography of mining publications. This has been on-line on the NAMHO website (https://namho.org/bibliography.php - members need to log in to view it) since then.

However, after a bit of editing by David in the early days, the bibliography has not been edited recently and his untimely death in 2018 means that NAMHO need someone to maintain it and add to it. If any member of a member organisation is interested in taking on this role, please contact the Webmaster. I can add that the bibliography currently contains 9,585 entries.

Nigel Dibben, webmaster@namho.org

NAMHO GUIDELINES

The key guidelines for leisure use of mines have been in print now for nearly twenty years so they are currently being revised to take account of recent legislation and other changes. The HSE (Mines Inspectorate) are involved along with representatives and officers of NAMHO. It is hoped that they will be re-issued early in 2020.

Other guidelines are also being reviewed and drafts of two of these are now on the NAMHO website: Mineral Collecting at Disused Mines, Removal of Artefacts. Comments and corrections are welcomed to the Webmaster. The guidelines on Archival Research and Recording Underground Archaeology will be revised soon, the latter in light of recent publications by NAMHO and Historic England.

Nigel Dibben, webmaster@namho.org

Acknowledgements

I would like to convey my appreciation to all those that have contributed towards this edition of the NAMHO Newsletter. Items are credited to the contributor, unless written/supplied by myself as Editor.

Roy Meldrum, NAMHO Editor

NAMHO Guidelines for the Recreational Use of Mines

Warren Allison, Steve Holding and Pete Jackson have produced a revised version of the Guidelines for the Leisure Use of Mines. This new document is available from the NAMHO website. We hope that everyone will take a look at the document because it includes the latest guidance about mine exploration. The HSE Mines Inspectorate have been consulted about the content of the document but it is not intended to represent the views of the HSE. The HSE have made useful comments and suggestions about the Guidelines, but the document represents NAMHO's opinion about the exploration of disused and abandoned mines.

The first change is that we have a new title. Our previous document was about the Leisure use of mines whereas the new version is about the Recreational use of mines. We adopted the new title because we wanted to emphasise that the document does not cover the use of mines by Museums and tourism enterprises. These locations are governed by the Mining Regulations 2014 and are treated as working mines.

The document now includes large font sections which emphasise the potential dangers of disused and abandoned mines. We thought it is vital to tell novices that mines can be risky places.

All the references to legislation have been checked and updated, with appropriate references to sources of on-line information. We have attempted to future-proof the Guidelines by directing the reader to the home page of websites. Paragraphs about Access arrangements have been updated and we have covered all mining areas of Great Britain and all types of mines where there are significant differences and laws about Access.

Paragraphs covering general principles of safety have been rewritten and we have included additional information about potential underground hazards. It would take many pages of text to cover the details of all hazards and we have therefore summarised the features of mines that will present the main hazards to visitors. We have adopted the same topics as used for working mines.

NAMHO recommends that a Risk Assessment should be documented before any visit to a mine. Some of our premier Mining Clubs already have suggested template documents for their members. We are planning to publish some sample template documents on the NAMHO website, which will be on-line during February 2020.

As always, we welcome feedback on the document. We hope that all NAMHO members will recommend this document to their members.

Pete Jackson (07/12/2019)

News from around the NAMHO Groups and Museum Members

31st Annual Miners' Reunion at Radstock Museum

The 31st Annual Miners' Reunion at Radstock Museum took place on Monday, 2nd September 2019 with 53 former colliery workers joining their colleagues for lunch and a catch up. The oldest miner to attend this year was Mr John Harris at almost 98 years old. The last Somerset coal mine, Kilmersdon Colliery, closed in 1974.

The number of miners still here to tell their amazing, terrifying and sometimes tragic stories of their time underground, are fewer in number every year, but the smiles and laughter, tales and friendships are as vibrant as ever. One former miner, of Midsomer Norton, attending the reunion was John Paget. John was an electrician underground. He told of how on one of his shifts he took a break to eat his lunch and sat down on the dusty uneven rocky floor to unwrap his sandwiches from a sheet of newspaper. That day he was working beside the "gob". The "gob is the vast cavern of empty space from where coal has previously been removed- and where the pit props which held up the roof have been removed to be reused at the next coal face; the weight of the hundreds of feet of rock bearing down on the roof of the "gob" eventually means it will collapse and no one knows when this will happen, though there can be groaning noises leading up to such a roof fall. When the "gob" does collapse, it causes a terrific gush of air, dust and smaller rocks to rush through the tunnels. It was on this particular day, just at the very moment that John had unwrapped his sandwiches that the "gob" collapsed and John's sandwiches flew into the air disappearing in clouds of dust and rocks never to be found again. John - the brave and fearless miner was not a bit concerned about the danger he had just experienced, but he was rather upset about losing his lunch!

The reunion was organised by the Somerset Miners Welfare Trust and Radstock Museum Volunteer Julie Dexter along with a team of museum volunteers. The miners enjoyed a delicious ploughman's lunch and a beer, sponsored by Radstock Co-operative Society with cheese courtesy of Lye Cross Cheese and meat courtesy of Radstock butchers, Paul Loader. It was followed by tea and cake while the miners watched a slide show looking back on 30 years of sharing memories at the annual reunion seeing photos of many of their fellow miners who have now passed.

The new committee of the Somerset Miners' Welfare Trust include former coal mine employees: Chairman, Bryn Hawkins, Treasurer, Mo Durery, Secretary, Tony Salvidge and Trustees Dennis Chedgy and Selwyn Rees with President Michael Eavis (founder of Glastonbury Festival and miner at New Rock Colliery in Chilcompton). They extend their gratitude and warmest wishes to the former committee members who have now stepped down: Francis Hillier, Bill Morris and Clive Norman.

The Somerset Miners' Welfare Trust is hoping to organise other events for former employees of the Somerset coal mines - if you know of any former mine-worker who might be interested in such events, you can get in touch with Chairman Bryn Hawkins at msflrefsec@gmail.com. And finally, advance notice: the 2020 Annual Reunion will be on Monday, 7th September 2020.

Courtesy of Lucy Tudor, Publicity and Education Volunteer, Somerset Coalfield Life at Radstock Museum

AditNow Mine Exploration Calendar 2020

The 2020 calendar is now available to buy and as usual contains a good mixture of high quality photographs from mines around the country and further afield, all accompanied by some historical and factual information about the featured mine. Profits from the sale of the calendar will benefit the following organisations:

CATMHS: The Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society (CATMHS) is a society interested in historical industrial sites with an emphasis on mining remains, and has been responsible for a great deal of exploration and understaking conservation work. For

more information, please see the Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society web site.

COMRU: The Cumbria Ore Mines Rescue Unit (COMRU) is a cave rescue organisation dealing exclusively with mines rescue incidents covering Cumbria (including the Lake District), Southern Scotland, Teesdale, Weardale, North Lancashire border and the North Yorkshire border. For more information, please see the Cumbria Ore Mines Rescue Unit web site.

Full details of how to purchase your copy and choice of beneficiaries see here

Northern Mines Research Society Website

The website has grown somewhat over the past year with the addition of some 1700 obituaries of mining engineers who were members of the Institute of Mining & Metallurgy. Obituary sounds a bit morbid, but these are actually brief stories of their working lives and range from a couple of lines to a couple of pages. It is interesting to note that few died as a result of a mining accident (<1%). Many of those who didn't reach old age died from illness (17%), as a result of war (10%), vehicle accident (6%) or from tropical diseases (3%)The website page count currently stands at just over 4,100 pages, all of which are indexed and fully searchable by our website's search engine, and have been optimised for Google searches.

NMRS Newsletter November 2019

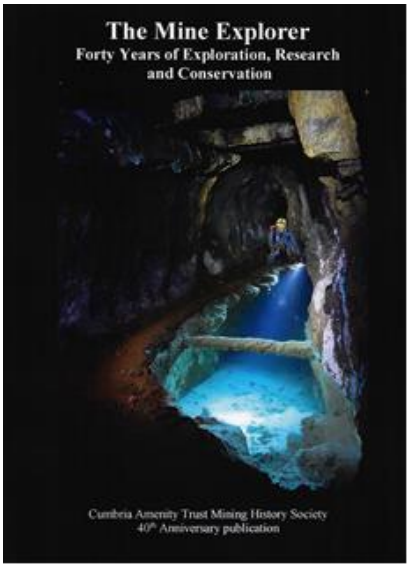
Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society 40th Anniversary

The society has its origins as far back as the 1960's, when Eric Holland persuaded some members of the Red Rose Cave & Pothole Club to come to Coniston and explore the old copper mines. In 1974 six people who had come together as a result of meeting Eric digging out Hospital Level at Coniston copper mines became involved in digging out the Glencoyne Level at Greenside Mine and made the first trip to the Lucy Tongue Level.

As a result, a group called the Furness Amenity Trust was set up to try and purchase land rich mining remains at Henning Valley in South Cumbria at an auction, where they were unfortunately outbid. But on the 9th October 1979, the inaugural meeting of the Cumbria Amenity Trust took place at Stainton Old Hall, Eric Holland's house, where a working committee was set up consisting of Peter Fleming, Chairman, Alan Westall, Treasurer, Maureen Stone, Membership Secretary, and Eric Holland, Secretary. The other two present were Alen McFadzean and Pete Dawes.
Over the subsequent years the society has become well known for exploration, conservation, producing publications, talks, supporting other organisations such as the Newland's Furnace Trust who rescued an iron furnace which was a scheduled monument. It has undertaken many surface and underground digs some of which took five to seven years of continuous work to complete such as the re-opening of the Lucy Tongue Level at Greenside Mine and the Horse Crag Level at Tilberthwaite Mine near Coniston.

It was involved in the Time Team dig at Coniston Copper Mines in 2012 and was a major participant in the Coniston Copper project, a £450,000 Heritage Lottery Grant to conserve some 150 structures, which removed the copper mines from Historic England's "at risk register". CATMHS was also a founder member of NAMHO and is having a celebration weekend in December where a resume of its rich history will be launched in its latest publication.

Warren Allison, CATMHS Chairman



Nenthead Mines Conservation Society

Cumbria County Council have formally decided to transfer the freehold of the Nenthead Mines site to Nenthead Mines Conservation Society (NMCS). Discussions are continuing.

NMCS have constructed a Drying Room within The Barracks building. This is available to all visitors staying at the Assay House bunkhouse. The Power of Water structure is being dismantled and the materials incorporated into the Smelting Mill boundary fencing.

Peter Jackson NMCS

Mining and Heritage News

England

National recognition for the Coniston Copper Project

The Coniston Copper Project has been recognised by "The Association for Industrial Archaeology". Summarised from the organisation's web site: Britain was the first industrial nation and for the last three centuries industry has had a major influence on the society, environment and landscape in which we live; it shaped the country and its remains provide a link with the past that can also serve the future. The AIA is the national organisation for people who share an interest in Britain's industrial past. It brings together groups and individuals with an interest and expertise in identifying, recording, preserving and presenting the remains of the industrial past.

AIA Award Winners 2019-

AIA presented seven awards for various achievements in the field of industrial archaeology and heritage at its conference in Bridgwater in August 2019. Most were presented to the winners by the President, Professor Marilyn Palmer MBE, and the Dorothea Award by Geoff Wallis of Dorothea Restorations, also an AIA Council Member.

The Professional Publications Award went to Peter Brown for his comprehensive work *The Shropshire Union Canal – from the Mersey to the Midlands and Mid-Wales*, published by the Railway and Canal Historical Society.

Highly commended in this category was *Mine and Mill: The History and Archaeology of Tilberthwaite Mine, Coniston*.

The Archaeological Report Award was shared between two entries, both from Northern Archaeological Associates: *Low Bonsor Dressing Mill: Archaeological Community Landscape & Building Survey*, and *Penny Rigg Copper Mill: Archaeological Community Landscape & Building Survey*.

These, together with the publication, *The People of Coniston Copper: Life and Death in a Mining Village*, demonstrated the value of community archaeology projects encouraged and supervised by professional archaeological contract units.

This is a huge accolade for CATMHS, landowners, LDNPA and the Ruskin Museum who put so much effort into the project and which members of the society should be rightly proud.

Warren Allison, CATMHS

The following mining news from the North Pennines has been provided by Peter Jackson

Coalcleugh Mine, Allendale

The Environment Agency (EA) & Coal Authority (CA) have almost completed works on building a new channel for the surface water flows in order to reduce the amounts of silt being washed into the river.

Nentsberry Haggs Level water treatment, South Tynedale

Full approval for the construction of a water treatment plant has been obtained. Start of works has been delayed because EA are proposing to route the water pipe away from the main road, to run via roadside fields.

Caplecleugh Low Level water treatment, Nenthead

EA & CA have completed ground investigations about possible routes for the water pipe to the proposed water treatment site. An Ecology survey has been completed.

Cambo Keels Level, Weardale

EA & CA have started work on a water treatment plant. This will process the water flowing from the 20th century Incline.

North Pennines AONB Partnership

The management team have applied to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for funding for a new project, titled "Mining our Past'. This project will focus on North Pennines mining heritage, developing and embedding the skills required to conserve and maintain this heritage, recording and interpreting its historical, ecological and geological significance, and establishing its sustainable future.

Barneycraig Level, Allendale

The mine shop has been conserved and rebuilt as part camping barn.
https://www.carrshieldcampingbarn.co.uk
The mill slimes dumps have been capped and the river retaining wall rebuilt.

Barnsley Main Heritage Group

The group has two big projects underway: one, the Pop-up Museum, is really taking shape thanks to volunteers and staff from Engie who donated materials, their skills and hard work to help us fit out the cabin.

Visitors to the site on Heritage Open Day were able to have a preview. We hope to have an official opening next year so watch our Facebook page and local media for further information.

One of our volunteers is a retired mining engineer who is organising the museum exhibits. If anyone has any artefacts they wish to donate to the museum, please get in touch with us.

The Timber Yard is our second project: volunteers hope to create a family learning area with paths named after the coal seams of the collieries. There will be information boards and interactive packs offering children a chance to engage and learn about the industrial and mining heritage of Barnsley.

This area is called The Timber Yard because the area involved was the old wood yard for the colliery, so it is only fitting that this name should be carried on. The boards will offer information about the muck stack, wildflower bed, the old canal, woodland and of course the amazing headgear and mining history.

Barnsley Main Heritage Group November Newsletter

For more information on the work of the group checkout their website here or Facebook

New Coal Mine for West Cumbria

An October report by financial think tank Carbon Tracker says four in five EU coal businesses are losing money with a total loss of €6.6Bn forecast for 2019. Investors and policy makers should, they say, prepare themselves for a complete phase-out of coal in the next ten years. The driver for this change is "sustained competition from ever lower cost wind and solar power and temporarily cheap gas". In this respect the UK seems to be ahead of the curve with its last coal mine, Kellingley in North Yorkshire, closing in 2015

What to make, then, of West Cumbria Mining's application to build a new colliery – the Woodhouse Mine – at the former Marchon chemical works site near Whitehaven? In March this year Cumbria County Council unanimously approved this application but Tim Farron, then Liberal Democrat MP for Westmoreland and Lonsdale, called for the Government to "call in" the application; this was refused prompting Mr Farron to say this was a "kick in the teeth" for climate change. Whatever the truth of this, the mine can now go ahead.

The answer to the apparent change in attitude to coal mining lies in the quality of the West Cumbria deposit – it's not just any old coal but metallurgical grade coking coal - met coal. And while thermal coal for electricity generation is quickly being outpriced and displaced by renewables, met coal is classed by the European Commission as a critical raw material. A typical price premium for top quality met coal being about 50%. Demand has increased following a more than doubling, since 2000, of world steel production; and it is expected to keep on increasing. About three quarters of steel is derived from cast iron produced by blast furnaces. And if you want high quality steel then you need both blast furnaces and high quality coke to fuel them – almost 800kg of it for every tonne of iron produced. High quality means high volatile content in the original coal together with low phosphorous, low sulphur and low ash.

The new Woodhouse mine is expected to extract and process up to 2.45 Mt of met coal per year from two offshore seams, Bannock and Main Band, formerly worked at Haig Colliery. This started production in 1916 and closed in 1986 with the loss of 3,500 jobs. Both target seams are around 2.4m in thickness and West Cumbria Mining reckons there is enough coal for at least 40 years using conventional methods. The rank

of coking coal in the Cumbria coalfield broadly increases from north to south and with greater depth; on that basis the proposed workings look to be in an ideal location. All the tunnels and infrastructure will be new apart from two 2500m long access drifts which were formerly part of the Sandwith Anhydrite Mine. At full production, a directly-employed workforce of 500 will be needed and recruitment will start next year, taking people from within a 20 mile radius of the mine. Site works are expected to commence in spring 2020, with coal production commencing around 24-months later.

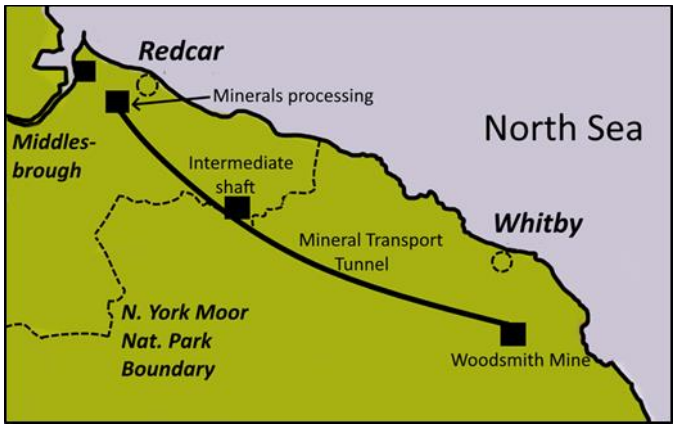
Ian Crossland

Woodsmith Woes

The Woodsmith Mine of Sirius Minerals is mired in money troubles. Site work started in May 2017 and the Company was aiming for first production by the end of 2021 followed by full production in 2024. But in 2018, just over a year into the project, the so-called Stage 2 funding – needed to achieve first production - could not be raised. Brexit and market conditions were blamed but it is arguable that an escalation in the cost of construction was a more important factor. Some relief was obtained in the form of an investment of US$250 from Hancock Prospecting Company owned by Gina Rinehart, Australia's richest woman. The cost of this was a 5% (dropping to 1%) royalty on any ore extracted. Even so, 300 people - a quarter of the workforce – has been laid off and progress has slowed. As a result the share price dropped from a high of 37p in August 2018 to less than one tenth of that figure today; investors are concerned and not a little disgruntled.

The mine is named after the two geologists – Peter Woods and Frederick Smith - who discovered the lode of polyhalite, a hydrated potassium, calcium and magnesium sulphate evaporite mineral of late Permian age. It's the world's largest and highest grade deposit of this valuable agricultural fertilizer, meaning that it requires little processing other than drying and granulation. Located at 1500m depth and with a seam up to 70m thick, there should be enough raw material to sustain operations for at least 100 years. The monetary value of the deposit is difficult to estimate – not least because a large producer coming into a small market will inevitably cause the price to fall – but it is likely to be hundreds of billions of dollars; this compares with an estimated project cost of up to US$13Bn (net present value).

The project had a great beginning, quickly raising cash and persuading the North York Moors National Park Authority that the social benefits - large export earnings and hundreds of well-paid jobs - would outweigh the environmental impact. But mitigating the latter came at a price: to avoid extensive surface development and lorry traffic, the extracted material must be transported underground. This will require a 37km long tunnel to be constructed to connect the mine with a new materials processing facility near Redcar that will prepare the ore for shipping from nearby Teeside. The tunnel will be located at 250m depth in the Redcar Mudstone that, happily, is relatively dry and suitable for operating a tunnel boring machine. When completed, it will contain a high-speed conveyor and be the longest in the UK. The current position with respect to construction is that tunnel boring for the mineral transport system has achieved a distance of 2,250m; the service shaft has been sunk to 199m ready for the vertical shaft boring machine which has been delivered to site. Progress has also been made on other shafts and the minerals processing (granulation) plant although development of the main (production) shaft has been put on hold.



Location of the Woodsmith mine and the associated transport tunnel and processing plant

To help resolve the situation, Sirius Minerals announced a six month long strategic review starting in September 2019. This has the twin aims of optimising the project while exploring alternative sources of finance. It was always part of the plan that the service shaft would be used to demonstrate early (but limited) extraction of polyhalite and a statement in November confirmed that this was still the best way of reducing commercial risk. Halting the sinking of the main shaft puts back the date for full scale production but, more importantly, reduces the immediate demand for funding. The current estimate is that early

production could be achieved by 2021 if current cash reserves were boosted by around US$600 million. Whether someone willing to provide that funding can be found will determine the future of the project but, if they do come forward, it could be at the expense of existing investors.

Ian Crossland

Ireland

The following mining news from Ireland has been provided by Alastair Lings

Rinville Mine, Oranmore, Co. Galway

The Mid-Year Operational Update by Erris Resources reports "A number of rock samples were collected at the site of small, historic underground workings on the coast at Oranmore ...One sample from weathered massive pyrite returned 76 g/t Ag, 1.85% Pb and 3.58% Zn". The mine was probably worked by Mr Chamber and Company before 1815. In 1824 Thomas Weaver wrote a report on the mine for the Hibernian Mining Company. The mine was abandoned about 1849. (27/06/2019) https://www.errisresources.com/news

Knockmahon Mines, Bunmahon, Co. Waterford

The Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment has authorised exploration drilling by Unicorn Mineral Resources Ltd on Prospecting Licence 405. The companys Project Review in February 2019 described the Bunmahon target as: "Epigenetic shear hosted copper mineralisation within steeply dipping vein systems. Quartz veining with chalcopyrite and minor bornite. The two main lodes, the Tankardstown and Stage lodes dip towards each other in what could be a synclinal structure. This setting opens the possibility that there is the potential for saddle reef structures at the closure of the fold axis, with thicker and higher grade mineralisation". The Review shows a proposed borehole intersecting the Stage Lode below the limit of old workings (c.180 m). (20/09/2019) http://unicornmineralresources.com/

Cavanacaw Mine, Omagh, Co. Tyrone

The Police Service of Northern Ireland supervise blasting operations at the gold mine. Blasting has been suspended until approval has been received for the increased blasting required for mining operations. Some underground work will continue, but Galantas want to reduce their workforce. About 2 km of underground driving has been completed. The 4.5 m x 4.5 m decline tunnel has intersected the Kearney Vein at the 1096 (upper), 1084, 1072 and 1060 levels and is approaching its fifth intersection. Basic plans of the workings are available on the company's website, under Operations Documents. (29/10/2019) http://www.galantas.com/news/

Scotland

Plans to light-up Barony A Frame

A local councillor has put forward plans to illuminate the iconic Barony A Frame, in East Ayrshire. The last remaining example of its type in Britain was built in 1954 as part of the modernisation of the Barony Colliery, situated near Auchinleck, and was restored in 2007 by the Barony A Frame Trust. The project is part of a £113,000 coalfield industrial heritage hub plan. (12/11/2019)
Daily Record/Ayreshire

Plans to restore Comrie Colliery site

The first phase of the restoration of the bing at Comrie Colliery, west Fife, has been approval along with planning permission for a recycling plant of the derelict site. Although the bing has been reduced in size, the approval of both planning applications means that material from the bing can be processed at the recycling plant, with revenue generated being used to fund the restoration project. (22/11/2019)
The Courier- restoration of Fife colliery site

Wales

Mystery over photographs of Wales' Coalfields

Glamorgan Archives are looking for information on a collection of 79 photographs, taken before, during and after the 1984-85 Miners Strike, which were received from staff Fife Archives in Scotland. Little is known about the photographs or who took them, although names of some of the men captured have been recorded.

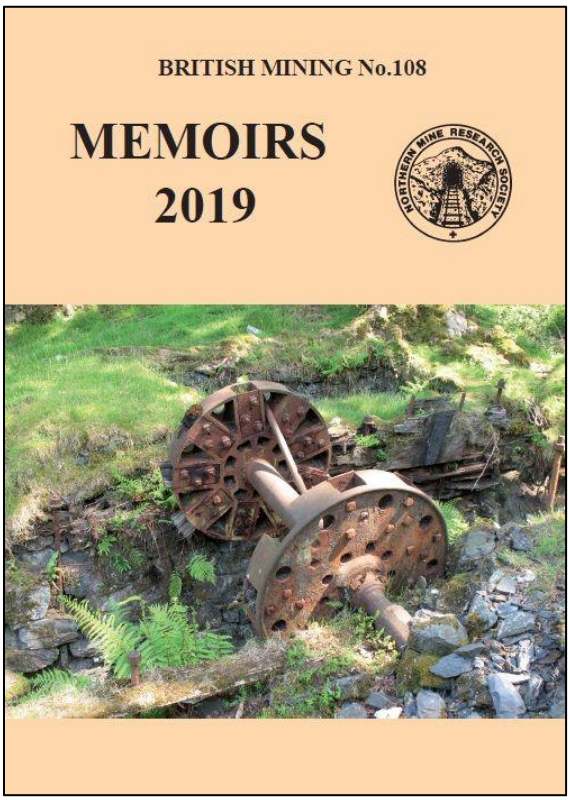
The collection can be viewed at Glamorgan Archives search room, with digital images being accessible via their Canfod catalogue. (27/09/2019)
Wales online- Wales Coalfield photographs

Publications

British Mining No. 108, Memoirs 2019
Editor: Richard Smith, Northern Mines Research Society, paperback, A5, illustrated with photographs, plans and maps, £10-00, ISSN 0308 2199

Contents:

- Bale Intake, Langthwaite, Arkengarthdale, Yorkshire- *Richard Smith and Alan Mills*
- The Bron-floyd lead mines, near Aberystwyth- *Nigel A. Chapman*
- Huw y Ffitar : a biography of Hugh Pugh- *R M Callender*
- An interpretation at Crow Trees Colliery site, Co. Durham- *Simon Chapman*
- The potential for Bronze Age copper mining in the Northern Pennine Orefield- *Brian Young*
- Coal mining in and around Trawden Forest, Lancashire- *Phillip J. Murphy and Michael C. Gill*
- The gold mines of Cwmheisian- *R.M. Callender*
- A tale of two boreholes – drilling for water and oil on Boulsworth Hill- *Phillip J. Murphy*
- Geltsdale and Croglin Collieries in the early nineteenth century- *Graham Brooks*
- James Harold Clay (1884-1962) – Yorkshire Mining Promoter- *M.C. Gill and P. Marsden*



Mining History Volume 20, No. 5, Autumn 2019
Editor Richard Shaw, Peak District Mines Historical Society Ltd., paperback, A4, 51 pages, illustrated with photographs, maps and plans, ISSN 1366 2511

Contents:
Longcliffe Mine, Castleton- *Phil Wolstenhome with a contribution by John Gunn*
Longcliffe Mine, Castleton Liberty the Recorded History- *James H Rieuwets*
Maps and Sections of a Silver-Lead Mine at Combe Martin, Devon- *Martin Ebdon*
Excavations at Watts Shaft, Old Mill Close Mine, 1973-1981- *Dr Andrew Warren*

The Granite Men: A History of the Granite Industries of Aberdeen and North East Scotland
Jim Fiddles, The History Press, paperback, 18.4x24.1x1.9cm, £14.00, ISBN: 9780750990011

The great granite quarries of the North East are silent now, as are virtually all of the 100 granite yards that existed in Aberdeen around the year 1900. Yet in its time, the granite industry of north-east Scotland was the engine that built civilisations.

As early as the sixteenth century, granite from Aberdeen and its vicinities was building castles. In the heyday of the mid-nineteenth century, the granite men of the North East hewed this material from the bowels of the earth and used it to fashion the iconic structures that defined the age. It paved the streets and embankments of London. It was used to build bridges over the Thames. It was carved into monuments for kings and commoners not only in Britain but all over the world.

None of it possible without the men that toiled in those quarries and yards. This is the story of those granite men and their industry.

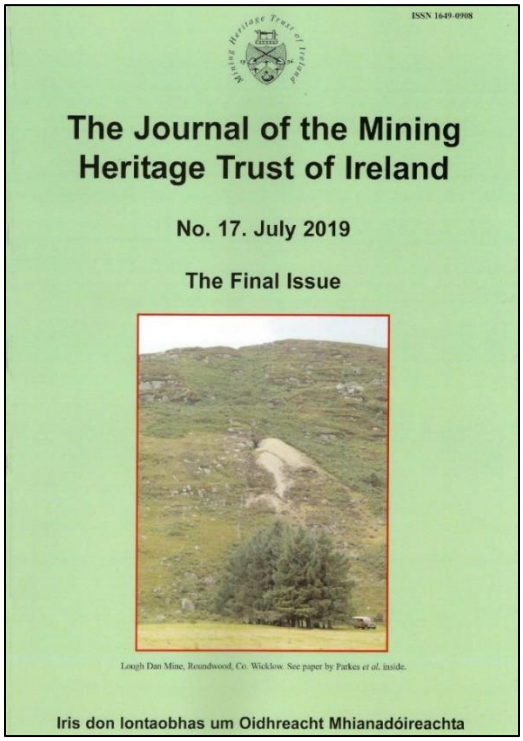
(Publishers synopsis)

Journal of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland
The final Journal of the MHTI (no. 17) was published in July. It contains the following articles:

- Glengowla: From lead mine to show mine; Lough Dan Mine, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow;
- A sociological perspective on the local impact of Tynagh;

- The Millstone Quarry of Lough Eske, Co. Donegal;
- Avoca – The life and death of an Irish mine; Mining Corporations in Western Europe – A response;
- Land clearance at Caherglassaun silver mine, Co. Galway.

All the articles in the Journals are available online, as are most of the Newsletters.
https://www.mhti.org/publications.html



The Neston Collieries, 1759–1855: An Industrial Revolution in Rural Cheshire
Anthony Annakin-Smith, University of Chester Press, paperback, 24.4x18.8x2cm, £19.99,
ISBN 978-1-908258-04-5

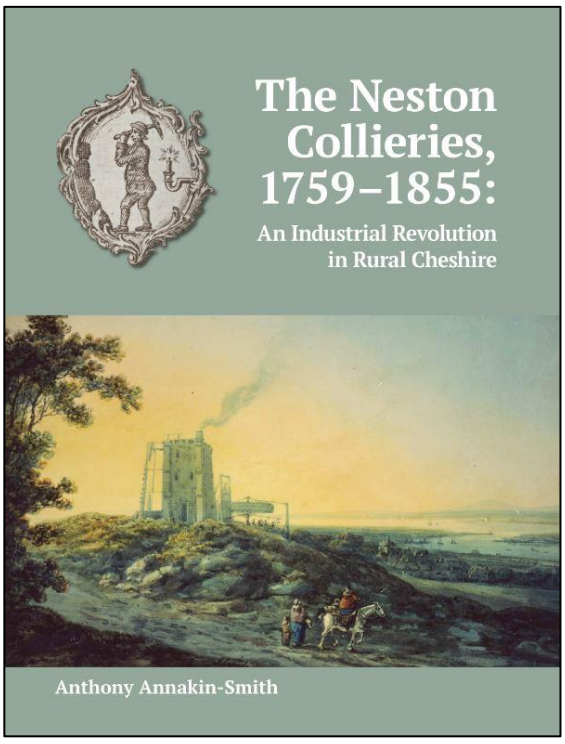
The extraordinary story of the two early collieries at Neston, in west Cheshire, has been largely overlooked by historians. Yet, for a time the main coal mine, Ness Colliery, was more successful than most of its contemporaries in nearby south-west Lancashire and North Wales. It was the first large industrial site in west Cheshire and introduced the area's earliest steam engine.

Remarkable events included devastating acts of sabotage committed by Ness Colliery's owners on the neighbouring works, and the introduction of underground canals to haul coals deep under the Dee Estuary where most of the mining occurred. Figures as diverse as the engineer George Stephenson and Nelson's future mistress Emma, Lady Hamilton are part of the mines' story.

The book explores the appalling conditions in which the men and child miners worked – including 100-hour weeks and the constant danger which led to many fatal accidents. Other topics covered include the living conditions and health of the miners and their families, the operation of the land and sea trades which saw Neston's coal shipped as far as the Americas, and the network of links to Chester, Wales, Lancashire and beyond which were vital to the mines' operation. Events are placed in the context of the profound changes which were affecting Britain during the Industrial Revolution.

Extensive research means that this is one of the most comprehensive accounts of rural British collieries in this period. It will particularly appeal to those with an interest in Britain's industrial or social history, or in the story of Chester, Cheshire and adjoining counties in England and Wales. In addition, many family historians will find particular appeal in the detailed investigation into the lives of individual miners and their families.
(Publishers synopsis)

For more information on ordering and purchasing ebook version, see www.chester.ac.uk/university-press



Rossington Main Colliery: The Development of a Mining Community

Dave Fordham, Fedj El Adoum Publishing, paperback, 92 pages, £5.95, ISBN 9781916109704

Rossington is reputed to be one of the largest villages in the country but, at the time of the 1911 census, it only had 371 inhabitants. However, the following year a group of industrialists and dignitaries assembled in a field near Holmes Carr Wood where the wife of Maurice Deacon, (the Managing Director of the newly formed Rossington Main Colliery Company Ltd) cut the first sod of turf, prior to the sinking of the shafts for the new colliery. Under the guidance of Maurice Deacon and Lord Aberconway, within 20 years, a new purpose-built planned settlement of over 1,500 colliery-owned houses was constructed to accommodate the 3,000 employees at the pit which was expected to produce 1,000,000 tons of coal per year. Thus, a new chapter in Rossington's history commenced as people from all over the country moved to the area to undertake a new life dominated by coal.

This book is presented in three parts: Part 1 features 16 pages of colour illustrations, Part 2 details the development of the colliery from 1912 to its closure in 2006, and Part 3 documents the development of the village of New Rossington.

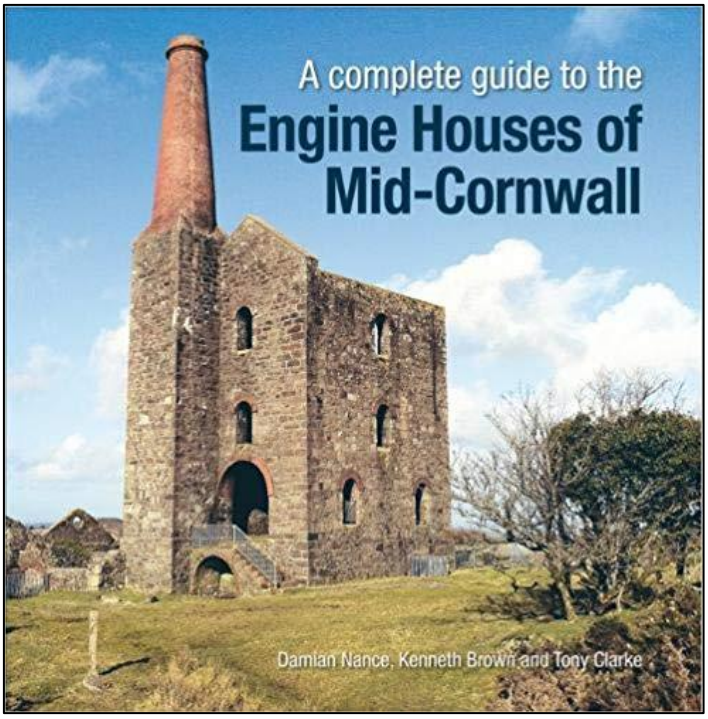
(Publishers synopsis)

A Complete Guide to the Engine Houses of Mid-Cornwall

Damian Nance, Kenneth Brown and Tony Clarke, Lightmoor Press, 172 pages, printed in full colour throughout on gloss art paper, 72 pages, 21x21cm, £18.00, ISBN13 : 9781911038610

Nowhere in the world has metal mining been of greater importance than it has in Cornwall, and it is in recogni7on of this extraordinary heritage and the global influence of the pioneering technology developed here that the county's mining landscape was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2006 on a par with the Pyramids of Giza and the Great Wall of China. During the 19th century, Cornwall produced most of the world's copper and 7n, as well as substan7al quan77es of lead, silver, arsenic, tungsten, zinc, iron and uranium. What made this unparalleled produc7vity possible was the development, pioneered by Cornishman Richard Trevithick, of the Cornish beam engine, a reciproca7ng steam engine capable of driving pumps that could keep the ever--deepening mines free of water. Although few of these great engines survive, many of the buildings in which they were once housed remain to this day, forming characteris7c features of the Cornish landscape that have come to symbolize the county's rich mining heritage and now stand as silent monuments to the mining industry for which the county was once justly famous. This book introduces these remarkable engine houses by providing an illustrated guide to those in Mid--Cornwall using contemporary and archival photographs supplemented with brief descrip7ons of the engines the buildings once contained, simple interpreta7ons of some of their key features, and short histories of the mines of which they were part. It is not an exhaus7ve treatment, nor is it meant solely for the enthusiast, but rather, it provides an overview intended for all those interested in these historically important structures. Together, the authors bring over a century and a half of exper7se to this fascina7ng guide. Damian Nance is a St. Ives--born geologist with a lifelong interest and knowledge of Cornish engine houses, the late Kenneth Brown was a leading expert on Cornish mining history and Tony Clarke is an authority on Cornish mineral processing.

(Publishers synopsis)



Book Review-

Delving along the Derwent - a history of 200 quarries and the people who worked them

Various authors, DerwentWISE- Lower Derwent Valley Partnership 2019, card covers, 191 pages, plus maps on end papers, 24x16cm,
ISBN 978-1-871827-43-9

This book was researched by a small team of volunteers who were all non-specialists interested in industrial history. They were coordinated by Ian Thomas, the retired Director of the National Stone centre. The work was largely funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

This is a wonderful book. The area described is the Derwent Valley from Darley Abbey upstream to Matlock and Parwich. Each quarry description includes maps, photos, diagrams and a historical summary. Despite the small page size, every page is packed with information. There are also chapters about people who owned and managed the quarries, site location maps, the geological setting, research and information sources, and sections on pre-industrial history.

I cannot comment on the factual accuracy of the book, but I can say that it is a pleasure to pick up this book and dip into the stories about each quarry. The style and content shows how it is possible to provide factual information about historic sites in a small format book.

Peter Jackson

The book was produced from the HLF project funding and is made available free of charge. It is suggested that the NSC would welcome funding that would enable a reprint. For further information or to order a copy of the book, please contact Delving Project Co ordinator Ian Thomas on telephone (01332) 833385 or email: ianathomas2@ gmail.com, or alternatively Lisa Witham at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust by telephoning (01773) 881188 or email: lwitham@derbyshirewt.co.uk.

Whilst the Heritage Lottery Fund met the cost of a limited initial print run of 'Delving along the Derwent', the production and distribution of further copies was not covered, so recipients are invited to donate £15.00–20.00 per copy payable to the National Stone Centre and, [on reverse or advice note] add the word 'Delving' ".

Book Review-

The Railway Revolution – A study of the Early Railways of the Great Northern Coalfield

Les Turnbull, North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers in association with the Newcastle upon Tyne Centre of the Stephenson Locomotive Society, ISBN978-0-9931151-5-8

Les Turnbull's latest publication provides a compelling account of the regional and commercial context for the development of the railway networks that served the Great Northern Coalfield and laid the foundations for the "railway revolution".
Whilst some aspects of this topic have been ably documented by Les and others, this account covers new ground, specifically:
· A detailed study of the costs and challenges of hauling coal by road from Whitley Colliery a mile or so to the River Tyne at Cullercoats in 1678/9 and the resulting economic case for the introduction of a waggonway in the 1680s
· In depth descriptions of the development of the railway network connecting the Duke of Northumberland's royalty at Hedley with the coal staithes on the Tyne at Stella
· Analysis of the development of rail transport (with some previously unrecorded systems) in what is now urban Newcastle from the records of eighteenth century engineers.
· The evidence for the coexistence of steam traction, iron rails and passenger transport in 1813 that predates George Stephenson's similar endeavours
And if this is not enough Les provides a sixty page illustrated gazetteer of all the railways in the Great Northern Coalfield from 1605 to 1830.

As with his previous work on Early Railways in the Derwent Valley and William Browns Engine's, this 170 page account is copiously illustrated with maps and related documents. I was particularly drawn to the drawing and engravings of Thomas Bewick and John his lesser known brother, whose family worked a small colliery near Prudhoe from 1700 onwards.

I heartily recommend this to anyone interested in early railways 172 pages and the cost is £15 plus £3-50 pp. The book is available from Melissa Forster at the Common Room tel.0191 2509717 Email Melissa.Forster@thecommonroom.org.uk

Steve Grudgings, 24/10/2019

Copy Date for the next Newsletter is **10th February** with publication due March 2020.

Contributions: Email the Newsletter Editor- editor@namho.org
Or by post-
NAMHO Editor, c/o Peak District Mining Museum, The Pavilion, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire, DE4 3NR

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

28th March 2020: NAMHO AGM & Spring Council Meeting, . 11am, The Peak District Lead Mining Museum, South Parade, Matlock Bath, DE4 3NR. Full details will be distributed to NAMHO representatives nearer the event.

3rd-6th April 2020: NAMHO Conference 2020, Cornwall. Details available at- https://namho.org/conf2020/confpages/conf_home.php

15th-17th May 2020: The Second International Early Engines Conference, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley. https://www.earlyengines.org/

18th-22nd June 2020: International Mining History Conference, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. https://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/

11th-20th September 2020: Heritage Open Days-England. https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/

1st-5th July 2021: NAMHO Conference 2021, Shropshire. Details to be confirmed.

Please check with organisers of meetings before making any travel bookings in case of change of dates or arrangements. NAMHO lists events in good faith but is not responsible for errors or changes made.
