



NAMHO CONFERENCE 2013

The NAMHO conference in 2013 will be at the University of Aberystwyth, over a long weekend 28th June to 1st July and is being organised centrally by NAMHO with the support of the RCAHMW's Metal Links project. A lecture programme on the theme of 'Mining Legacies' will be co-ordinated by Peter Cloughton (University of Exeter) and Catherine Mills (University of Stirling), and a call for papers will be found below.

This conference provides the opportunity for NAMHO constituent groups, particularly those based in Wales, to provide information on their activities. These might be as oral presentations within the lecture programme and/or as posters for display in the main rooms of the conference centre.

There will also be the usual facilities for club and trade displays within the conference centre, with the stands located so they are readily accessible to delegates during the social events planned over the duration of the conference. Those interested should contact Geoff Newton- geoffnewton@keme.co.uk or the conference co-ordinator - Peter Cloughton- P.F.Cloughton@exeter.ac.uk

Further information will be available on the usual web address - www.namhoconference.org.uk - which is expected to go fully live, with booking forms etc., in the autumn but the basic details are already up there and will be amended as necessary.

Any questions or offers of help should be directed to Peter Cloughton on 01437 532578 or by e-mail - P.F.Cloughton@exeter.ac.uk

Copy Date for the next newsletter is 30th November, with publication due mid-December. Contributions via: Email, (with Newsletter as the subject), to secretary@namho.org or by post, c/o NAMHO Secretary, Peak District Mining Museum, The Pavilion, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire, DE4 3NR

ADVANCED NOTICE AND CALL FOR PAPERS

NAMHO Conference to be held at Aberystwyth University 28th June to 1st July 2013

Mining Legacies: examining the impact of historic mineral working and ore processing on land, landscapes and perceptions of place

A three to four day conference looking at the multiple legacies of historic mineral extraction with the opportunity for field visits to relevant mining sites in the Ceredigion uplands.

Over the last four thousand years mining has left a footprint on the environment, leaving both visible and hidden legacies for today and the future. Evidence of past mineral extraction can be prominent in the landscape as spoil heaps, discharges, dressing floors, mine entrances, derelict buildings, rusting machinery, transport infrastructure and settlements. Other remains are less visible, such as earthworks indicating sub-surface remains and subterranean workings, heavy metal residues, sometimes dating back thousands of years captured in polar ice caps or peat deposits. Less tangible still are the socio-economic, political and cultural impacts of mining, such as in the sense of place and identity, the development of heritage and alternative economic pathways, and the moral dilemmas of current and future mineral exploitation that these historic sites have often provoked and represented over time. Papers are invited on all aspects of the mining legacy.

Investigating, in some cases, rectifying and also promoting the post-industrial landscape can inform our knowledge of mining over the last four millennia. This conference aims to bring practitioners from a variety of academic disciplines, industry, the public sector, heritage charities, and independent researchers together and provide a stimulating platform for the transfer of knowledge and expertise.

For further information contact: Dr Peter Cloughton:
p.f.cloughton@exeter.ac.uk (01437 532578) or Dr
Catherine Mills: c.j.mills@stir.ac.uk (01786 467583)

NAMHO CONFERENCE 2012

The conference was hosted by the Derbyshire Caving Club (DCC) and held at Quarry Bank Mill, near Wilmslow, Cheshire. The venue was an 18th century cotton mill with an associated mill village set in the Cheshire countryside but near Manchester Airport. Lectures were held at the Mill on Saturday and Sunday following an introductory slideshow on the Friday night.

The main theme of the conference was to describe the mining heritage of Cheshire and by extension other areas where the ratio of mining to agriculture may historically have been quite low. However, talks extended to current and even future mining of other non-metalliferous minerals such as Cheshire salt, Northumberland potash and Staffordshire copper and coal.

Most of the field trips were focused on Alderley Edge, only a few miles from the conference venue. However, trips were also held further afield in the Cheshire salt mines, Apedale colliery, Ecton copper mine, Goodluck lead mine and Hanging Flat fluorite mine. Surface visits included guided tours at Poynton (coal), Pott Shrigley (coal and fireclay) and Chatterley Whitfield (coal).

Feedback from the delegates has been positive and, despite the relatively late start planning the conference, the National Trust – the owners of Quarry Bank Mill – made it a success by providing not just the rooms but also camping and catering for the weekend.

The organisers would like to thank all those who attended – about 130 including speakers – and all the members of the DCC who gave up their time over the weekend to lead trips into the Alderley mines. Thanks must also go to members of other organisations who volunteered to lead surface and underground trips over the weekend.

Nigel Dibben, DCC

NEWS AND EVENTS

The North of England

Maltby Colliery, South Yorkshire

Unusual geological conditions have been encountered in developing a new production panel, with increased inflows of water, oil, gas and other hydrocarbons in the tailgate section. Further development on the tailgate has been abandoned, and the new face will be developed at a safe point. There is likely to be a gap in production of 12 to 16 weeks, costing the company (Hargreaves Services PLC) between £12m and £16m. Gerry Huitson, Production Division Director, said "This is a very unusual situation and to our knowledge this has never happened before in Maltby's long 100 year history. No one on the mining team, including our independent expert geologist with 32 years' experience at many different UK mines, has come across these conditions before. We will revise the mining plans to avoid this locality and it is highly unlikely that these conditions will be found again in any subsequent panels." (28/05/2012)

<http://www.hargreavesservices.co.uk/default.aspx>

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

UK Coal fined over Kellingley miners death

UK Coal pleaded guilty to health and safety breaches which resulted in the death of Ian Cameron at the North Yorkshire colliery in 2009 and were fined £200,000 with a further £218,000 in costs. Mr Cameron died as a result of injuries sustained when a powered roof support (PRS) lowered spontaneously, crushing him. The PRS was supplied by Joy Mining Machinery Ltd., but they had failed to notify UK Coal of a similar malfunction in Australia in 2008. Joy Mining admitted breaches to health and safety rules at an earlier hearing and was fined £50,000.

[BBC News - UK Coal fined over miner Ian Cameron's death](#) (18/07/2012)

Hatfield Colliery 'Clean Coal' Power Station

The planned 650MW Don Valley Power Project near Hatfield Colliery has received a major boost with technology giant Samsung and BOC Ltd (a division of German gas and engineering company Linde AG) signing up for the scheme. Planning permission for the power plant had already been granted, but with Powerfuel Power Ltd going into administration in 2010 the future of the largest carbon capture project in Europe was in doubt. In May 2011 2Co Energy Ltd acquired Powerfuel Power Ltd and the Hatfield Carbon

Capture & Storage (CCS) project, which has now been renamed the Don Valley Power Project (DVPP).

The project aims to use coal from the nearby colliery, now operated by Hatfield Colliery Ltd, which will be pulverised and then gasified. After further processing the hydrogen-rich gas will be burnt in two gas turbines to generate 650MW of electricity that will be fed into the National Grid. The process captures CO₂ which will be compressed and transported to the North Sea oilfields via pipelines, and injected into the wells. This process provides an effective storage solution for the CO₂ and also boosts oil production, potentially extending the life of the British North Sea oil industry by 20 years.

The project was granted its Section 36 Planning Permission in February 2009, but the final investment decision will only be made once the necessary funding is made available from the EU and the British Government.

http://www.2coenergy.com/don_valley_power_project.html

Keswick Mining Museum, Cumbria

Ian Tyler is selling the contents of the Keswick Mining Museum, almost 5000 artefacts, which he describes as "the finest collection of mining memorabilia in the whole of the north of England". The contents will be sold on a "first come, first served" basis with books and ephemera being sold from 21st August, minerals and fossils from 15th September, and lamps and instruments from 6th October. The Museum will close on 1st October 2012. For more details phone 01228 561883 or 017687 80055, or e-mail coppermaidkes@aol.com

<http://www.keswickminingmuseum.co.uk/index.htm>

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Coniston Copper Mines, Cumbria

Channel 4s Time Team have been excavating and filming at Levers Water and Cobblers Level mines. They are hoping to link 16th century documentary evidence of mining to artefacts in the ground. The Team were assisted by members of Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society. Series 20 will be broadcast early in 2013. For a flavour of the programme, check out the Time Team Digital website. (30/07/2012)

<http://www.timeteamdigital.com/digs/copper-mine.html>

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

National Coal Mining Museum for England

Conservation work on a 140 metre deep ventilation shaft at the former Caphouse Colliery has finished. The project cost £870,000, and received funding of £150,000 from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, and a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The shaft now has a glass cover so that visitors can look down it.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/9162.aspx

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

The Midlands

Holditch Colliery Explosion Memorial Service

A memorial service was held at the Holy Trinity Church, Chesterton to mark the 75th anniversary of the fire and subsequent explosion at Holditch Colliery, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, which claimed the lives of 30 men and injured many more on the 2nd July 1937.



A memorial was unveiled in 2007 at the nearby Apedale Heritage Centre to mark the 70th anniversary.

Scotland

Leadhills Library, South Lanarkshire

Leadhills Library was set up by miners in November 1741. It was the first subscription library in the UK and it was visited by William and Dorothy Wordsworth. The library includes a museum of local heritage. The building urgently needs rewiring and investment in environmental controls to reduce humidity. (14/05/2012)

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/editors-choice/2012/05/14/miners-library-in-leadhills-founded-in-1741-is-still-functioning-86908-23859055/>

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Inner Forth Industrial History Project

RSPB Scotland has received nearly £2m in funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative (IFLI), a partnership between local government, charities and agencies working with local communities to conserve and enhance the landscape of the Inner Forth. With evidence of ancient harbours, salt pans, limekilns, whisky production and mining, the money will be spent restoring and conserving the area's heritage and improving visitor access.

[BBC News - Cash boost for Inner Forth industrial history project](#) (23/07/2012)

Leadhills, South Lanarkshire

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency commissioned the Coal Authority to investigate water pollution in the Glengonnar Water, to see if improvements in water quality could be made. The study found significant levels of pollution by lead, zinc and cadmium. There is a build-up of water in the Gripps Level, with a head of over 50 metres in the workings, which could cause a "blow-out". Some work was also done in the headwaters of the Wanlock Water in Dumfriesshire. NHS Scotland has published a human health risk assessment which is available, with other guidance, on the NHS Dumfries & Galloway website. (19/07/2012)

http://www.sepa.org.uk/about_us/news/2012/fund_helps_study_effects_of_le.aspx

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Rubislaw Quarry, Aberdeen

Work has started to pump water from this quarry in the suburbs of "The Granite City". The 150m deep flooded working was bought in 2010 by Hugh Black and Sandy Whyte who plan to create a heritage centre. The quarry was first opened in 1740, finally shutting in 1971. (17/08/2012)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-19296757>
<http://rubislawquarry.co.uk/new/>

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Ireland

Allihies Copper Mine Museum, County Cork

The Heritage Council has offered ACMM a grant of €8000 for a survey of the local mining and heritage landscape. The project will initially define the boundaries of the landscape, and liaise with landowners. This will be followed by survey work and production of a GIS map of mining related features.

<http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/> (14/04/2012)

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Derryginach Mine, County Cork,

Work has now commenced on a technical and economic scoping study for the Derryginach barite project. The study will be carried out by Nicholas Hardie, who has managed a number of mining operations in the UK and served as Inspector of Mines and Quarries for the Health and Safety Authority in Ireland. The scoping study should be completed towards the end of the year. (30/05/2012)

<http://www.sunriseresourcesplc.com/about.html>

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Curraghinalt Gold Project, County Tyrone

Dalradian Resources has announced the findings of a Preliminary Economic Assessment into its proposed underground mine. The study suggests a mine with a 15 year life, producing a total of 2223000 ounces of gold (69 tonnes). The average grade of ore is 8.1 g/t, and 1700 tonnes of ore would be processed each day by crushing, grinding and cyanidation. (25/07/2012)

<http://www.dalradian.com/about-us/default.aspx>

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Volunteers required for Allihies Heritage Project

The Heritage Council of Ireland has granted funding to the Allihies Copper Mine Museum (ACMM) to enable surveying and documentation of the mining and industrial heritage of Allihies. Fieldwork is to take place from 10th-24th September, with data entry taking place at a later date. The work is to be supervised by ACMM and consultants, John Cronin & Associates, with full training being given to volunteers by conservation professionals. Volunteers must be over 18 years of age and commit to a minimum of three days. (17/08/12)

Contact Aileen- 027 73218 or

aileen.oconnor@acmm.ie.

<http://westcorktimes.com/home/?p=10887>

Wales

Royal Television Society Award

An explosion at the Universal Colliery in Senghenydd in 1913 killed 439 people and it was the worst disaster in British history. A 15minute documentary on the disaster produced by students at the University of Wales (Newport) has won the RTS prize for Undergraduate Entertainment. The film called "The Mourning of the Valley" can be seen on You Tube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bgc--gT6xPA>

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Welsh National Mining Memorial appeal

First Minister Carwyn Jones has launched an appeal for a Welsh National Mining Memorial at Senghenydd in South Wales. In 1913 an accident at the Universal Colliery in the village was the worst in British mining history, killing 439 miners. For more information, or to donate, please contact the Aber Valley Heritage Group on 029 2083 0445/0444 or e-mail

senghen.heritage@btconnect.com

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-18611342>

(28/06/2012)

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Mines pollution fear after Ceredigion floods

Severe flooding experienced in parts of Ceredigion in early June this year have raised fears that farming land could have been contaminated by heavy metals from the area's abandoned mines. A team from Aberystwyth University are to survey river flood plains to establish if toxic metals have been washed out of river banks, potentially posing a risk to livestock and crops.

[BBC News - Wales floods: Mines pollution fear investigated](#) (12/06/2012)

Gresford Colliery Disaster Memorial Window

A stained glass window, commissioned as a reminder of the 1934 disaster at Gresford Colliery, has been unveiled at Llay Miners' Heritage Centre. The Gresford Window depicts colliery scenes, and also includes the names of the 266 miners who perished.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-18193497> (25/05/2012)

Proposed merger of RCAHMW with Cadw

The Welsh Government has set-up an inquiry into the way that heritage services are organised in Wales. One of the proposals before the inquiry is that the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW) be merged with Cadw. At present the RCAHMW is independent of the Welsh Government and can work pro-actively to investigate and record all aspects of the historic environment, and its activities are monitored by the commissioners who understand the objectives. If the merger was to take place the work currently done by RCAHMW would be curtailed or controlled by civil servants at the bidding of government. It would be, to my mind and that of many involved in the

field of archaeology and the historic environment, a retrograde step. In Wales the RCAHMW has been at the forefront of investigating and recording mining and quarrying sites, and has attracted significant funding towards that objective- funding which would be threatened, if not impossible to attain under Welsh Government control.

I have made a submission to the enquiry with the backing of NAMHO. Further information is available at:

<http://www.rcahmw.gov.uk/HI/ENG/About+Us/>

Dr. Peter Cloughton

Isle of Man

Beckwith's Mine Chimney collapse

The top section of the 70 foot high chimney at the Beckwith's lead mine in Glen Rushen was reduced to rubble as gale force winds battered the island in early May this year. The landmark chimney had stood for over 170 years, but had developed a noticeable lean to the East and was in a poor state of repair.

[Demise of Mann's leaning tower - Isle of Man News - Isle of Man Today](#) (06/05/2012)

Around the World

Latest additions to the UNESCO World Heritage List (Provided by Alastair Lings, MHTI):

Nord-Pas de Calais Mining Basin, France

Coal was dug in this area from the 1700s. The area has now joined the 962 sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The designation covers mineshaft headgear, spoil heaps, transport infrastructure, housing, places of worship, and other buildings. Other World Heritage sites in France include the decorated caves of the Vézère Valley and the Great Saltworks of Salins-les-Bains and the Royal Saltworks of Arc-et-Senans.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1360/> (30/06/2012)

Almaden (Spain) and Idrija (Slovenia)

These two mercury mining areas have been jointly inscribed by UNESCO on the World Heritage List. Almaden was first worked around 415 BCE, and Idrija was discovered in 1490.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1313/> (30/06/2012)

Wallonia, Belgium

UNESCO has added four coal mining areas to its World Heritage List: at Grand-Hornu, Bois-du-Luc, Bois du Cazier and Blegny-Mine. One of Europe's earliest collieries is at Bois-du-Luc, dating to the late 17th century. The Neolithic flint mines at Spiennes are also a World Heritage site.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1344/> (01/07/2012)

PUBLICATIONS

The History of Mining: The events, technology & people involved in the industry that forged the modern world

Michael Coulson, Harriman House Publishing, hardback, £67.99 (internet price), ISBN: 978-0857040954

Throughout history metals and raw materials have underpinned human activity. So it is that the industry responsible for extracting these materials from the ground - mining - has been ever present throughout the history of civilisation, from the ancient world of the Egyptians and Romans, to the industrial revolution and the British Empire, and through to the present day, with mining firms well represented on the world's most important stock indexes including the FTSE100.

This book traces the history of mining from those early moments when man first started using tools to the present day where metals continue to underpin economic activity in the post industrial age. In doing so, the history of mining methods, important events, technological developments, the important firms and the sparkling personalities that built the industry are examined in detail. At every stage, as the history of mining is traced from 40,000BC to the present day, the level of detail increases in accordance with the greater social and industrial developments that have played out as time has progressed. This means that a particular focus is given to the period since the industrial revolution and especially the 20th century. A look is also taken into the future in an effort to chart the direction this great industry might take in years to come.

Many books have been written about mining; the majority have focused on a particular metal, geographical area, mining event or mining personality, but 'The History of Mining' has a broader scope and covers all of these essential and fascinating areas in one definitive volume.

(Publishers synopsis)

Wheal Jane: The Final Mining Years

John Peck, Hasgrove Publishing, hardback, 144 pages, illustrated, 214x230mm, £16.99, ISBN: 978-0857040954

Wheal Jane was one of the greatest mines of the huge complex of workings in the Chacewater area in West Cornwall. Worked from the mid eighteenth century principally for tin – arsenic, copper, silver and zinc were also extracted. As with many of Cornwall's mines, Wheal Jane suffered the vagaries of the rise and fall in world commodity prices, closing and re-opening at various times. But throughout the centuries it had witnessed the Cornish hard rock miner at work, forging their place in what has become a cornerstone of Cornwall's historic legacy: mining.

A re-opening of Wheal Jane in 1969 coincided with the arrival in the area of photographer John Peck who was asked to take photographs of the mine for an exhibition to include images taken of both underground and surface workings. While on this assignment an accident occurred at the mine and John was asked to record the site for evidence. From this time on he became the 'official' photographer to Wheal Jane, recording all aspects of the work there. It is these unique photographs that appear in this book. Taking photographs in such extreme conditions requires patience, skill and a breadth of experience born only of actually working underground. Equally important is gaining the trust of the miners themselves, not only in their co-operation in effecting the best images, but in their confidence that the photographer will record, with honesty, the exceptional challenges of their work.

That John Peck fulfilled all these requirements is witnessed in the superb photographs appearing in this book. The high regard in which he was held by the miners is evidenced by his photographs of their meetings and demonstrations, angrily protesting the proposed closure of the mine; events at which photographers from the media were not welcome! In 1992 pumps at Wheal Jane were switched off once again and all that remains are the memories of those who once worked there and these remarkable photographs, vital documents recording its last years and its mining legacy.

John Peck is a professional photographer (now retired) based near Chacewater in Cornwall.

(Publishers synopsis)

Mining History Volume 18, No. 3, summer 2012

The Geological Setting of the Hucklow, Eyam, Stoney Middleton and Longstone Edge Area Mines, *Trevor D. Ford* and The Lead Mines within Hartington Liberty, *Chris Heathcote*.

Peak District Historical Mines Society Ltd., Softback, 63pages, illustrated, A4, ISSN 1366-2511

Lead Mining in Derbyshire: History, Development & Drainage, Volume 4

J.H.Rieuwerts, Peak District Mines Historical Society, hardbound, 150 pages, illustrated, £25.00 plus £4.00 p&p (UK) from Peak District Mining Museum.

The final volume of this series, covering the area south of Via Gellia, published by PDMHS.

Bath Stone Quarries

Derek Hawkins, Folly Books Ltd., hardbound, 224pages, illustrated, 250x250mm, £24.99, ISBN 978-0956440549

Bath Stone Quarries is the first of a series of heavily illustrated, authoritative histories of underground industrial and military workings in the British Isles, published in the 'Subterranean Britain' series.

Jarrit Smiths 1751 Newcomen Engine

Steve Grudgings, South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group, A4, £9.99, ISBN: 978-0957233119

This book details the building of Jarrit Smith's 1751 Newcomen Engine at Coalpit Heath, South Gloucestershire. Previously unreported, a full set of Suppliers' bills have been researched to give the basis for this book which is over 60 pages, including photographs and diagrams. This book is a fascinating insight into a very early "atmospheric" pumping engine and, as such, it should appeal to everyone interested in stationary engines.

(SGMRG)

On the Safety Lamp for Preventing Explosions in Mines, Houses Lighted by Gas, Spirit Warehouses, or Magazines in Ships, etc.

Humphry Davy, Cambridge University Press, paperback, 170 pages, 216x140mm, £15.99 ISBN: 9781108052139

Contents: Preface, General views of the progress of the researches on the safety lamp; Extracts from papers on the fire-damp, the safety lamp, and on flame; Some extracts from communications on the applications of the safety lamp; Conclusion; Appendices.

Self-taught chemist and inventor Sir Humphry Davy (1778–1829) was one of the first professional scientists

of his age. President of the Royal Society from 1820 to 1827, he was also a brilliant lecturer whose popularising of science made him famous. He also pioneered electrochemistry, isolating potassium, sodium and calcium. But Davy is best known for creating the safety lamp when he was asked to address the frequent occurrence of explosions in coal mines. He realised that firedamp - flammable gases such as methane - was ignited at high temperature by the open flames of miners' lamps. In 1815, he devised a lamp with a mesh screen that prevented ignition of firedamp; this application of science allowed miners to work in greater safety. First published in 1818 and revised in 1825, this work details the invention that cemented Davy's position as a national hero and earned him the Royal Society's Rumford Medal.

(Publishers synopsis)

The Great Trial: a Swaledale Lead Mining Dispute in the Court of the Exchequer, 1705-1708

Tim Gates (Editor), Yorkshire Archaeological Society, hardbound, 486 pages, 238x158mm, £50.00 ISBN: 978-1903564561

From 1705 to 1709, a legal battle was fought out in the Court of Exchequer between Thomas, Lord Wharton, and Reginald Marriott Esq. over the lead mines on Grinton moor in Swaledale. In its day this was a cause célèbre due to the high political office occupied by Lord Wharton and because of the vast sums of money that were at stake. Large numbers of local people were drawn in as witnesses on both sides and their testimony provides a fascinating insight into the life of this remote Yorkshire valley in the opening years of the eighteenth century. The book follows the course of the action, step by step, and contains full transcriptions of all the substantive documents in the case, most of which appear here for the first time; it also raises important questions about the truthfulness of witnesses, the process of taking oral evidence, and the likelihood of jury tampering. The result will be of great value not only to historians of the law but to anyone interested in the history of the Yorkshire Dales. Tim Gates works as a field archaeologist and aerial photographer; he has a long-standing interest in cartography and map-making.

(Publishers synopsis)

Yorkshire People and Coal

Peter Tuffrey, Amberley Publishing, paperback, 128 pages, 230 black & white photographs, 235x165mm, £12.99, ISBN: 978-1445605163

Yorkshire People & Coal is the third title in Peter Tuffrey's Yorkshire People series, featuring

photographs from the Yorkshire Post's picture archives. This volume makes use of the wealth of pictures and information held in the Yorkshire Post's archives on the county's long association with coal. Peter believes there has never been a period in coal mining's long history as eventful as the previous forty to fifty years and many of the pictures contained here are from that time. Images have been carefully selected to show how coal has had a wide-ranging effect on Yorkshire life. Most aspects of colliery life are depicted and not surprisingly several themes dominate throughout: disasters, strikes and pit closures. It might be that coal is becoming a fading memory to those who lived through the trials and tribulations of the past fifty or more years and present generations might find it hard to imagine a time when it was relied upon to provide heating, energy and a means of travel. However it cannot be denied that coal has left an indelible mark on Yorkshire's long industrial history and its final glory years are aptly portrayed in *Yorkshire People & Coal*.

(Publishers synopsis)

Working Lives: The forgotten voices of Britain's Post-War Working Class

David Hall, Bantam Press, hardback, 400 pages, 236x164mm, £25.00, ISBN: 978-0593065327

In the early 1950s Britain was still the most urbanized and industrialized nation in the world, a global power in shipbuilding and the leading European producer of coal, steel, cars and textiles. For the many millions of men and women hard at work during that time, an infernal landscape of smoke-blackened factories, towering slag heaps and fiery furnaces dominated their lives. From the deep docks and towering cranes of the Tyneside shipyards to the mills and chimneys of Lancashire and beyond, *Working Lives* takes us right to the heart of those industrial centres through the words of those who were there.

Drawn together from hundreds of hours of first-hand interviews, *Working Lives* is a unique collection of oral testimonies from workers whose stories might not otherwise have been told: mill girls who risked life and limb in dusty, noisy weaving sheds; steel workers who wrestled sheets of white-hot metal in the blistering heat of the foundries; and miners who hewed coal by hand on filthy, cramped, claustrophobic coalfaces.

Local industries shaped these workers' entire lives but also gave them a sense of pride, identity and belonging. As they look back on the dangers and hardships of their jobs, and the place of industry in their close-knit communities, these fascinating voices

paint a vivid and moving portrait of working life in Britain not to be forgotten.

(Publishers synopsis)

Gold: Power and Allure

Helen Clifford (Editor), Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, paperback, 168 pages, 100 colour illustrations, 242x168mm, £20.00, ISBN: 978-0907814863

Few realize that gold can be found in Great Britain, and that attempts to exploit native sources have drawn prospectors from ancient Rome to Elizabethan adventurers and current commercial projects in Ireland, Scotland and Wales. In *Gold: Power and Allure*, 11 essays by distinguished specialists tell of the rich and previously untold story of Britain and its relationship with gold, demonstrating the country's unique golden heritage. Essays include: 'The Gold of Antiquity' by Kevin Leahy from the Portable Antiquities Scheme; 'London the World's Gold Market' by Timothy Green; and 'Gold, golden, gilded: precious metal on the dining table' by Philippa Glanville.

(Publishers synopsis)

Pit Lasses: Women and Girls in Coal mining c1880-1914

Denise Bates, Wharnccliffe Books, hardback, 192 pages, 232x170mm, £14.99, ISBN: 978-1845631550

Women have long been recognised as the backbone of coalmining communities, supporting their men. Less well known is the role which they played as the industry developed, working underground alongside their husband or father, moving the coal which he had cut. The year 2012 is significant as it is the 170th anniversary of the publication of the Report of the Commission into the Employment of Children and Young People in Coal Mines (May 1842). The report findings included the revelation that in some mines half-dressed women worked alongside naked men. The resulting outrage led to the banning of females working underground three months later. The Report of the Commission has been neglected as a source for many decades with the same few quotations regularly being used to illustrate the same headline points. And yet about 500 women and girls gave statements about what mining was like in 184; and in earlier years in different parts of the country. In conjunction with the 1841 census it paints a comprehensive, though previously unexplored picture of the work of a female miner, how she lived when not at work, how she was regarded by the wider community and what she could achieve. Although banned from working underground, women were still allowed to work above ground after

1842. In the second half of the nineteenth century around 3,000 women continued to be employed at the pit head though this was increasingly confined to the pit brow lasses of Lancashire. This book examines the life of the female miner in the nineteenth century through to the outbreak of the Great War, both at work and away from it, drawing out the largely untapped evidence within contemporary sources - and challenging received wisdoms.

(Publishers synopsis)

NEW FILMS

The Underground Journey

In the 1960s a group called *Operation Mole* made a film showing the link between Meerbrook and Cromford soughs in Derbyshire. This 40 minute classic is now available as a DVD for £12 plus £1.50 p&p, from Dave Webb: davidwebb12@ntlworld.com. The story of how the film was made will appear in a future issue of the magazine Descent.

Glass Mountain: The Story of Muckish Sand

This film tells the story of a silica sand quarry in a spectacular location near the summit of Muckish Mountain in the north-west of Ireland. The quarry was worked intermittently from about 1798 until 1954. The 38 minute documentary was produced by a local community group, and includes rare colour footage of work in the quarry, and recent interviews with four of the men who worked on Muckish. The film is available for €10 plus p&p from Gerald Duffy, Creeslough View, Carrownamaddy, Dunfanaghy, County Donegal, Ireland. Mobile +353 87 610 9331.

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

3rd September-1st October 2012: Discover Welsh Mining History- A free family day out including rides on the mini mining train, slate and painting activities, quarrymen at work and slate-splitting demonstrations at the National Slate Museum, Caernarfon.

<http://www.list.co.uk/place/20006823-national-slate-museum/>

10th-24th September 2012: Allihies Heritage Project to survey the mining heritage in Allihies, County Cork

15th September 2012: Washington Heritage Festival, Washington 'F' Pit, Albany Way, Washington, NE37 1BJ

<http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/washington/latest/news/washington-heritage-festival.html>

10th November 2012: NAMHO Autumn Meeting, venue to be confirmed

30th November 2012 (to be confirmed): Irish Geological Association fieldtrip to Tara Mine, Co. Meath. <http://www.geology.ie/category/programme/>

20-21 April 2013: BCRA Cave Technology Symposium, South Wales. <http://www.bcra.org.uk/>

28th June-1st July 2013: NAMHO Conference, Aberystwyth University

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude to those who have provided contributions for this newsletter. Items are credited to the contributor, unless written/supplied by myself as Editor. Thanks also to Nigel Dibben, NAMHO Secretary, for distributing the newsletter and forwarding correspondence.

Roy Meldrum, Editor

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