



## NAMHO AGM 2013

This year's Annual General Meeting and Spring Council Meeting were held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at Caphouse Colliery, with 17 attending, including a couple of observers. At the AGM the existing officers were re-elected, with their positions being: Chairman- Ian Thomas, Deputy Chair- Sallie Bassham, Secretary- Nigel Dibben, Treasurer- George Price and Newsletter Editor- Roy Meldrum.

Regarding the election of additional Officers, Conservation Officer- Peter Cloughton, Museum Officer- Kevin Baker and BCA Representative- Steve Holding, were asked to continue in post. Steve Henley has handed over the website management to Nigel Dibben and our thanks go to the retiring webmaster.

Following lunch in the Museum cafeteria, there was chance for representatives to have a look around the museum and also undertake the *Go Mining!* Underground Tour, part of the Museum's recent £2.7million *Making Sense of Mining* development project.



Noon shift at Caphouse Colliery-  
NAMHO Representatives preparing to go underground.

## NAMHO Conference 2013

This year's NAMHO Conference *Mining Legacies* is being held at Aberystwyth University, 28<sup>th</sup> June-1<sup>st</sup> July 2013. There is a full programme of lectures, surface and underground visits arranged, with details and booking forms available at:

<http://www.stir.ac.uk/cehp/newsandevents/namho-2013/>

## Latest NAMHO Members

We welcome Leicestershire County Council and Snibston Discovery Museum as a new member of NAMHO. Their membership is provisional until confirmed by a full Council meeting which is planned to be held at the Aberystwyth conference in June.

## NAMHO Bibliography now on-line

A bibliography of mining-related articles, books and theses has now been made available from the Research page on NAMHO website. The bibliography contains nearly 8000 items and can be sorted or searched by various criteria.

<http://www.namho.org/bibliography.php>

## News from NAMHO Member Groups

Since taking office as Chairman, Ian Thomas has instigated a Representatives news round-up at the Council meetings, where a brief account of any matters of interest can be presented. Here is the reports presented at the March Council meeting, plus a couple received via email by the Secretary.

**Peak District Mines Historical Society** -The Pavillion and Museum now appear to be going strong, with PDMHS currently engaged in excavations at Watergrove.

**Combe Martin Silver Mines Research Group**-Slow progress underground. The area being excavated is unstable, but there are property boundary issues preventing alternative methods of clearing the old workings.

**North Wales Caving Club** – Currently working on an 18th/19th century mine project.

**Friends of Chatterley Whitfield** – The new website is still being developed in association with students from Staffordshire University. Representatives from the FoCW have visited the Stafford campus to view progress; although there is a number of interesting design concepts, none are ready for going 'live' yet. It is hoped that the successful design will be on-line after Easter. The FoCW now have a Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/ChatterlyWhitfield](http://www.facebook.com/ChatterlyWhitfield)) and a twitter page too.

**Cambrian Mines Trust** – In March 2012 Cambrian Mines Trust was registered as a private company limited by guarantee with no share capital and Objects of Association drawn in compliance with Charity Commission guidelines for a Trust. On 20th May 2013 the whole of the Cwmystwyth Mines, an area of approximately 138 hectares was acquired by the Trust from Crown Estate. The Trust is now the absolute owner of this site in soil, mineral, and sporting rights. The Trust also acquired additional sporting and mineral rights to the south. The Trust is indebted to Crown Estate who have acted in exemplary manner in helping to preserve this important site for posterity. Their actions are highly commendable and deserve our best thanks. Work is on-going to restore underground access in time for this year's NAMHO Conference underground field trips. A website has now been set up at: <http://www.cambrianmines.co.uk/>

**Friends of the St Aidan's BE1150 Walking Dragline** – The next open weekend is 15<sup>th</sup> June. The site is likely to be taken over by the RSPB.

**Nenthead Mines Conservation Society** – The landowner is now the county council. A licence has been applied for on the same lines as the licence held by Shropshire CMC. Preservation work is in hand on a smelt mill at Dukefield.

**Shropshire Caving and Mining Club** – Proceedings of the 2011 Conference are near to completion. Suggestions for suitable printers to carry out the work would be appreciated.

**Shropshire Mines Trust** – Conservation plans are in hand for Tankerville mine. This will be a major project and the SMT is hoping to raise some grants towards the work which is hoped to be started in the summer.

**IA Recordings** – Sales are now very low. There is a new DVD on Polish mines.

**CATMHS** – Continuing with the reopening of Tilberthwaite Horse Crag Level and are co-operating with the LDNPA regarding the consolidation of the nearby Pennyrigg Copper Mill. CATMHS are also carrying out maintenance work in Lucy Level, Greenside Mine, with further exploration of the Smith Shaft area.

**Subterranea Britannica** – Membership is holding steady at around 1,100 members. After successful registration as a charity, HMRC has given approval to our registration for Gift Aid. This gave a useful boost to our funds and we are now accepting applications to help fund underground related projects with an element of public benefit. These could include fieldwork, research, publication or educational projects. Sub Brit's website has been enhanced to include sections on our image archive and a shop for publications. We also reach a growing number of non-members through social media (Twitter and Facebook). As well as the usual visits to individual sites, study weekends are planned for May (Sweden) and September (Devon). Devon in particular is likely to include a number of mining sites. Day Conferences are planned for April and October, both at the Royal School of Mines in London. The programme and booking form for the former is at:

<http://www.subbrit.org.uk/events/autumn-meeting-2013>

Non-members are always very welcome at Sub Brit meetings.

**Masson Caving Group** – Active in Derbyshire.

**Derbyshire Caving Club** – Still exploring. Maintaining good relations with local National Trust. Hoping to involve other NT mining sites in our Open Weekend 27/28 April.

**South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group** – Our archaeological excavations at Serridge Engine have continued and we have built a 'box' (concrete blocks) around the below ground level part and put a roof on it (concrete 'T' beams and concrete blocks). There is a report about the roofing of the box in our next newsletter due out on 6th March. We have published another book, this one being about Celestine mining in South Glos. See

<http://www.sgmrg.co.uk/graphics/publications/celestine.pdf> for brief details. A full list of all our books are on [www.sgmrg.co.uk/publications](http://www.sgmrg.co.uk/publications).

We will be opening Oldwood Pits Coal Mine site again this year for 'Heritage Open Days' on 14th & 15th

September. Also the friends of Ram Hill Colliery will be opening their site on 26th May and 15th September.

**National Stone Centre** – Situation improving on a voluntary basis and about to publish a book on non-slate quarries in Wales, a distribution network in Wales is being sought. The Stone Centre has a large run on American quarrying journals if anyone is interested in some doorstops.

#### **National Mining Museum Scotland -**

*'Memories in your Hands'* -The Museum received Esmee Fairbairn Effective Collections grant funding to develop an outreach provision for people living with dementia. The project began in 2010 and has been an on-going success. The provision consists of four reminiscence boxes containing artefacts, photographs and other supporting material from the museum collection. We also commissioned a bespoke display case which looks like a coal hutch for users to borrow to create their own displays. From 2012-13, 921 outreach visitors accessed the resource across 11 different organisations. This continues to be a popular resource and has enhanced the Museum's profile within the community, particularly within ex-mining areas.

*Mining Memorial Space*- NMMS is creating Scotland's first National Mining Memorial in the Old Washer area of the building. Funding has been secured from Biffa, and Purcell has been appointed as the architect-led design team. The space will comprise of two or three floors (subject to design) that will include a quiet space for reflection and contemplation, a representation of existing mining memorials in Scotland and an exhibition area. Research is under way to identify existing memorials and a photographic survey will be conducted to provide high quality images of these for display in the memorial space. The memorial space is due to open on 7th September 2013, the anniversary of the Knockshinnoch disaster of 1950, recognised as one of the country's worst mining disasters. The Museum's Friends group has been instrumental in identifying survivors of this disaster who we hope will be involved in the opening.

*Iconic Artists in Iconic Places* – a collaborative project by Creative Scotland and Museums Galleries Scotland as part of 2012's Year of Creative Scotland celebrations. As part of the project, National Mining Museum Scotland obtained funding to engage Scottish Bafta-nominated artist Claire Lamond to create an animated film in response to the Lady Victoria Colliery and the Museum's collections and people. The result was *Seams and Embers*, which can currently be seen in

the Black Diamond Theatre at the Museum, along with the Seams in the Dark exhibition, which explores Claire's creative process. The exhibition opened in December 2012 in the Museum's new Special Exhibition Gallery, which is situated in the former Operations Centre and was built with funding from Tyne Esk Leader.

*Interactive Zone* -NMMS gained funding from the Scottish Government and the Peoples' Postcode Lottery to redevelop the Cement Shed, situated near the entrance to the museum, and create a new interactive area for younger visitors. This consists of "Mining Mechanics," which explores the fundamentals of coal mining engineering and geology through a suite of interactive exhibits. These had previously been situated in the Operations Centre and have been reconditioned and reinterpreted to bring them up to date and make them more appealing to today's audiences. There is also an area for much younger visitors, the "Mini Miners" soft play area, designed and installed by House of Play and providing an exciting play area for babies and small children, as well as seating and catering for their supervisors. Together these two elements constitute the "Interactive Zone" which was officially opened on the 1st October 2012 by Cabinet Secretary for Cultural and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop. It has already contributed to a substantial increase in visitor numbers.

*The Energy Lab* –the Museum's new space aimed at engaging primary age children with engineering was also officially opened on the 1st October 2012 by the Cabinet Secretary. The Energy Lab is housed in a portacabin once home to the Edinburgh Wavepower Group at the University of Edinburgh. Led by Professor Stephen Salter, the creative group of engineers worked on a range of innovative ideas in the field of renewable energy. The portacabin has been converted to a classroom space containing interactive displays. The facility was developed with funding from the Royal Academy of Engineers, Mitsubishi Power Systems, Artemis Intelligent Design Ltd, Pelamis, and other private donors. The museum will be running a fortnight of workshops in the Energy Lab for Edinburgh International Science Festival from the 25th of March.

**Russell Society** – 2012 was the 40th anniversary of the Society, we currently have around 400 members. Field research by members of the Wales & West Branch has identified that Mona Mine is the more probable type locality source of fine anglesite rather than Parys Mine, recently found specimens compare closely with historic material.

Field research has also identified samples of type locality species (banalsite, pennantite and cymrite) at Benallt Mine in Wales. First reports of bismutite and russellite from Ireland (Mourne Mountains) and a new occurrence of chalcoalumnite has been found at Wheal Charlotte in Cornwall have also been reported in the annual Journal of the Russell Society.

Roy Starkey has published a comprehensive article on the mineralogy of Herodsfoot Mine in the highly respected publication Mineralogical Record.

Members continue to assist with conservation work on museum mineral collections across the country including at the Natural History Museum, BGS Keyworth, Caerhays Castle (Williams Collection) in Cornwall, Botanic Gardens Museum in Southport, Oxford University Museum and Lapworth Museum at the University of Birmingham (helping with museum redevelopment following a successful HLF bid in 2012).

Radon – note that the Greenhow Local History Club monitor radon readings in the Gillfield Level, would results from this be of any help to anybody?

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### The Midlands

#### Bevin Boys Memorial Official Dedication

In the presence of HRH The Countess of Wessex, the Bevin Boys Memorial at the National Arboretum in Alrewas, was officially dedicated on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013. The memorial, designed by Harry Parkes a former Bevin Boy, is sculpted out of three blocks of Kilkenny limestone and includes the words 'We also served 1943-1948'.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-22440248>

#### Daw Mill Colliery to close

UK Coal announced that Daw Mill Colliery in Warwickshire, which was already facing an uncertain future, will close after an underground fire started at the pit on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013. The majority of the 650 workforce will be made redundant, although some staff may be transferred to other mines. The closure brings to an end 47 years of mining at the site, and leaves UK Coal with only Kellingley Colliery, Yorkshire and Thoresby Colliery, Nottinghamshire, along with its opencast mines to supply coal to UK power stations. (07/03/2013)

[http://www.ukcoal.com/latest-news/news/Daw\\_Mill\\_update](http://www.ukcoal.com/latest-news/news/Daw_Mill_update)



*Daw Mill No 1 & 2 shafts 02/03/2013*

## The North of England

### Dukesfield Smelters Project

On behalf of the Friends of the North Pennines' Dukesfield Steering Group I am delighted to announce that we have been successful with our Heritage Lottery Fund grant application. This means we can conserve the physical remains of the Dukesfield mill arches, and involve people in learning new skills in a range of conservation, research and heritage activities. There are already nearly 100 of you on our mailing list, living at all points from the North Pennines down to Blaydon, and we hope you will want to join us in finding out about those who worked at the mill and along the lead routes. It will all help stimulate the exploration and understanding of our area and its industrial past. It's excellent news!

Some preparatory work now needs to take place before we are authorised by the HLF to start the project. We hope to be able to start on our two year project towards the end of May. Although spread over two years the timetable has some close connections between different activities so we will start by selecting a suitably qualified project manager to lead the work, whose first task will be to organise a launch meeting which we hope as many people will come to as possible. As a reminder for those who want it, and for the benefit of those who recently signed up to the mailing list, the highlights of our plan are set out below.

#### Our Plans:

We plan a two year project, starting in May. The chimney stacks at the head of the arches will be cleared as another piece of archaeological work, so

that they can be included in the conservation of the entire structure, along with the end of the millrace opposite, exposed during October's 'dig'. An art club activity will take place in early summer to record the arches before the building work begins. Documentary research will get going again. There will be Dukesfield related craft classes in Slaley Show, starting this August. The autumn of will see the laying of a footpath to the consolidated mill race, and taking part in a regional walking festival, marking the 75th anniversary of Alfred Wainwright's Pennine Journey. This is to be commemorated by a long distance footpath, which runs right past the arches, so it will be great if the conservation work has been completed in time. All we need is a summer of good weather beforehand. There will be walking related events elsewhere on the lead routes from Allenheads to Blaydon, as well as at Dukesfield.

During next winter there will be a number of activities for first school children in the area, and a "Heritage cook-off" at one of our parish halls, and the chance to get involved in a local version of 'Who Do You Think You Are?' to find out if you might be descended from a lead smelter or carrier. Work will also start on a website to store the great quantity of content we will be collecting through our various activities.

We plan to produce some leaflets with new self-guided walking and cycling routes with professional design support by the spring of 2014 in time for the summer season, and build a willow sculpture at Whitley Chapel of a carrier with a lead-ore carrying horse heading in the direction of Dukesfield, to mark the importance of the lead traffic along this road. On a similar theme there will be an organised walk and horse ride from Sinderhope in Allendale, up over the lead road and down into the Shire, following the path taken by the carriers and their trains of laden ponies. In the summer there will be another major archaeological excavation in front of the arches at Dukesfield to reveal more of the substantive wall not marked on the earliest known map of the site. We might therefore find out a great deal more about the early history of the lead industry at the site.

Into the autumn school year we aim to have material available to support middle schools history topic on the industrial revolution with information and resources on the importance of the regional lead industry, and a call will go out to people who want to act to join in rehearsals for a community play about the lead routes that will then tour various venues into the following spring. A highly illustrated book of

contemporary images of the lead industry will be produced in time for the Christmas market. The winter of 2014-5 will also see the gathering together of material from all our events, research, digs and activities into displays for a touring exhibition, and the preparation of material for fixed display board to give information on the industry at Blaydon and at Dukesfield.

Finally, in the spring of 2015 our exhibition will go around the region to promote our heritage and what we've found taking in libraries up and down the Tyne Valley, the Killhope Museum, Path Head Water Mill at Blaydon, and possibly at the Metro Centre if they have a suitable unit empty at the time. The community play will be performed at various venues and history talks given summarising what we've learned. And we will have a big party to celebrate the end of what should be a fascinating two years!

#### Joining In:

This is just a summary of what we plan to do. It does all mean there will be great chances to join in and learn a lot of new skills, from building and environmental conservation to archaeological surveying and digging, from planning walking routes to improving photographic and printmaking skills, from cooking to acting and learning how to use old documents. In all we reckon there will be 14 training events reaching over 130 people, around 850 days of volunteer involvement by (we hope) nearly 100 people, helping to put on upwards of 70 events and create over a dozen different leaflets, books and other artefacts. These have the potential to reach thousands of people in the coming years. So there will definitely be no shortage of things to get involved with! If you have a friend who isn't on this list but who might be interested please feel free to forward this one for now and ask them to send a message to [dukesfield@hexhamhistorian.org](mailto:dukesfield@hexhamhistorian.org) and we'll add them on. Do let us know if there is anything in particular you'd like to get involved with. (29/03/2013)

*Greg Finch for the Dukesfield Steering Group*

#### **Proposed surface mine, Northumberland,**

Northumberland County Council has granted planning permission for the proposed Ferneybeds Surface Mine. Banks Mining will extract 752 000 t of coal over a three year period creating 40 jobs. The company also hopes to extend their surface mines at Shotton (SE Northumberland) and Brenkley Lane (Newcastle). <http://www.banksgroup.co.uk/news/> (12/04/2013)

*Alastair Lings MHTI*

## Haig Colliery Mining Museum

A £2.4million restoration project at the former Haig Colliery, near Whitehaven, can officially begin with the majority of the funding being secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Work will include restoration of the colliery buildings, the retention and enhancement of the museum's collection and creation of a new visitor centre. A space for exhibitions, events and entertainment is to be created within the central power house. (14/05/2013)

<http://haigpit.wordpress.com/news-page/>

## Funding bid for Durham Miners' Hall

The Durham Miners' Association are looking to transform the Durham Miners' Hall into a heritage centre and interactive archive. A £600,000 Heritage Lottery Fund bid is being put together for the project. (07/03/2013)

[http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/10274845.Funding\\_bid\\_to\\_transform\\_Durham\\_miners\\_hall\\_into\\_industrial\\_museum/](http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/10274845.Funding_bid_to_transform_Durham_miners_hall_into_industrial_museum/)

## Elsecar 'Coalfield' Heritage Railway

The Elsecar Heritage Railway is planning to extend the current line to the site of the former Cortonwood Colliery. Once completed the 2.5 mile route will be rebranded as the 'Coalfield Line'. (19/04/2013)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-22218677>

## Funding awarded to Dunston Staithes

English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund have awarded funding to the Tyne and Wear Building Preservation Trust, owners of Dunston Staithes, Gateshead. The staithes were opened in 1893 and at 520m long is believed to be the largest wooden structure in Northern Europe. It played an important role in the transportation of coal from the North East, but after suffering two major fires its condition is steadily deteriorating. The funding will allow investigation works and repairs to part of the structure, and to develop future plans to bring the staithes into public use. (09/04/2013)

<http://www.chroniclive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/funding-help-save-dunston-staithes-2573381>

## Wales

### Bryn Village, Afan Valley, South Wales

Bryn Residents Action Group and Bryn Historical Society have been awarded a £4600 grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The groups will work with the Bryn Primary School to research the local coal and iron

ore mines, and the metal industry. They have set up a website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/bryncoal/home>  
<http://www.thisissouthwales.co.uk/Grant-offers-chance-dig-mining-history/story-18381182-detail/story.html#axzz2SB7Hba5o>

*Alastair Lings MHTI*

### Western Carbons Ltd, South Wales

In 2012 Western Carbons submitted a planning application for an exploratory driveage and associated works to investigate a coal seam. A recent landslide has prompted people to object to the development, and eight protestors demonstrated outside the offices of Neath Port Talbot Council. (11/02/2013)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-west-wales-21409439>  
<https://planning.npt.gov.uk/welcome.asp>

*Alastair Lings MHTI*

## Cornwall

In February the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site announced that it had secured £270,000 to safeguard engine houses, once part of 'the richest square mile on earth'. The money, from Natural England, would be used to consolidate buildings at the Taylor's and Davey's sites at Wheal Maid Valley, Crofthandy. The buildings include some of the oldest engine houses anywhere in the WHS designated area.

A fascinating but poignant Cornish mining memorial has found a new home at King Edward Mine. The plaque commemorates Captain Thomas Jenkin, killed by a fall of ground at the Basset Mines in 1906. Captain Jenkin, along with young surveyor Cecil Thomas, had descended Marriott's Shaft to 230 fathoms and then climbed to the 200 level. Here they met Captain William James Jr., son of the mines' general manager. All three died instantly when part of the roof collapsed. Cecil Thomas, aged 20, was on his first underground assignment. The Jenkin plaque came from Mithian Church, now closed, and was presented to KEM by the family. They felt KEM, from which Basset Mines may be seen, to be a fitting location. King Edward Mine Limited, the operating company at KEM, has now become a registered charity and has signed a 30 year lease for the site with Cornwall Council. This includes not only the buildings and land leased by the Camborne School of Mines but also land around Fortescue's Shaft, Wheal Grenville to the south. The additional land contains two engine houses for pumping and winding and other significant archaeology.

At the time of writing, work was about to begin on refurbishing mining structures at South Crofty. The headframe at New Cook's Kitchen Shaft, due to be retained in lonesome splendour when that part of the site is cleared, was to be scaffolded, grit blasted and repainted, with replacement of some steelwork. The project, led by Cornwall Council, will also see the conservation of two listed engine houses at Chapple's Shaft on the original Cook's Kitchen Mine.

*Robert Carr, Industrial Archaeology News 165*

## Scotland

### Loch Fitty, Fife

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency has approved Scottish Coals application to drain Loch Fitty. The company wants to extend the existing St Ninians Surface Mine to extract 3.4 Mt of coal over a period of six years, from below the loch. The development is expected to safeguard 89 jobs and create another 52 jobs. (12/02/2013)

[http://www.sepa.org.uk/about\\_us/news/2013/sepa\\_grants\\_licence\\_for\\_loch\\_f.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/about_us/news/2013/sepa_grants_licence_for_loch_f.aspx)

*Alastair Lings MHTI*

### Scottish Coal

The Court of Session in Edinburgh has appointed accountancy firm KPMG as liquidator of Scottish Coal. The company operated six surface mines in East Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire and Fife. 590 people have lost their jobs. (19/04/2013)

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

*Alastair Lings MHTI*

## Northern Ireland

### Dalradian Gold Ltd, Co. Tyrone

Dalradian are planning to extend the exploration tunnel at their Curraghinalt deposit near Gortin. The tunnel was driven in the 1980s by Dublin based Ennex International. Figure 1 in the Environmental Monitoring Plan gives the best overview in planning application K/2013/0072/F

[http://epicpublic.planningni.gov.uk/PublicAccess/zd/zdApplication/application\\_searchform.aspx](http://epicpublic.planningni.gov.uk/PublicAccess/zd/zdApplication/application_searchform.aspx)

<http://www.dalradian.com/investor-centre/news-releases/> (19/03/2013)

*Alastair Lings MHTI*

## Institute of Historical Research: Online Research Training

The Institute of Historical Research offers a wide-ranging programme of training in research skills on the History SPOT website. The courses are designed for established researchers, postgraduates, independent scholars, members of the public and all who are interested in research in history.

The majority of courses are free (provided under a Creative Commons licence) but we do also offer more extensive training for a small cost. To access these courses you will need to register for a free account on the History SPOT website. Much of this provision is new. It will prove to be indispensable to historical researchers, given the unique and specialised nature of the resources.

Updates and further details of all courses may be found at: <http://www.history.ac.uk/research-training/browse/online>. Updates and news relating to IHR online training can also be found on the History SPOT website: <http://historyspot.org.uk>.

Courses include 'Designing databases for historical research' and 'Data Preservation'.

*Don Borthwick*

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## PUBLICATIONS

### The Journal of the Trevithick Society, No.39, 2012

*Editor Owen Baker*, The Trevithick Society, softback, 139 pages, illustrated with photographs, plans & diagrams, 170x240mm, ISBN 978 0904040883

Contents: Editorial; Tolgus Tin, a Brief History -*Richard Williams*; Bosworthen Mine -*Gerald Williams*; Description of the Man-Engines used in Cornwall -*Leon Moissenet, 1859, translated and edited by Tony Clarke*; Bridging the Gap: From Hayle to Camborne on the West Cornwall Railway -*Roger Langley*; The Cornish Copper Agent's Story Continued: The Colliers and Carriers -*Penny Watts-Russell*; The Penlee Quarry Railway: A Postscript -*Michael Messenger*.

### British Mining No.95, Thomas Sopwith Jnr: La Tortilla and his other mining ventures at Llares, Spain

*Robert W. Vernon*, Northern Mine Research Society, softback, 88 pages, illustrated with maps, plans and b&w photographs, £10.00, ISBN 978 0901450692

Thomas Sopwith senior is famous for his overseeing of the W.B. lead mines in the North Pennines. His son Tom followed very much in his father's footsteps but at a time when the UK mines were about to decline.

Tom became the manager of the Spanish Lead Co., a UK company formed in 1864 to work the La Tortilla Mine to the north west of Linares, Spain. The company was later refinanced as T. Sopwith and Company Ltd. The area was exploited by a series of UK companies and generated consistent profits even at times when lead prices were low.

This volume traces Tom's professional career from his visits to other European mines to his tragic and untimely death in 1898. It has a detailed history of the lead mines at La Tortilla together with their associated workings is richly illustrated with many photographs and drawings from the archives at Linares, including several of the smelting works.

*(NMRS website)*

**Peerless Powell Duffryn of the South Wales Coalfield**  
*Leslie M. Shore*, Lightmoor Press, 240 pages, illustrated, 275x215mm, £24.99, ISBN 978 1899889679

Powell Duffryn's growth as Britain's foremost coal company is a remarkable aspect of the nation's mining heritage. After 1935, Powell Duffryn Associated Collieries employed over 30,000 miners, operated around sixty collieries, and produced nearly forty per cent of the South Wales Coalfield's output. Sir George Elliot founded Powell Duffryn Steam Coal Company in 1864 by raising capital to buy steam coal collieries from the sons of Thomas Powell. PD then mined coal that was the first choice in quality for fuelling steam ships. Sir George ran the company in a style that gave rise to controversy amongst the company's shareholders. Providently, in 1883 Elliot put Edmund Mills Hann, a County Durham mining engineer, in charge of the company's collieries. Hann helped steer the company away from the edge of bankruptcy by harnessing engineering to ensure that the company's collieries in the Cynon and Rhymney Valleys became models of efficiency. Progress was impeded at times by industrial conflict and natural disasters.

Nevertheless, by 1914, PD was a byword for Welsh steam coal around the globe. Then, in 1935, Edmund Lawrence Hann led the merger of PD with Welsh Associated Collieries to create the most powerful company in British coal mining. Leslie Shore offers this first full history about Powell Duffryn as a coal company. His previous publication, *Vickers' Master Shipbuilder: Sir Leonard Redshaw*, was highly

acclaimed, in ship and marine engineering magazines, as a book to 'treasure'.

*(Publishers synopsis)*

**The Ferndale Colliery Disaster of 1867 and 1869**  
*Gareth Harris*, Coalopolis Publishing, softback, 297 pages, illustrated, £13.99, ISBN 978 0956471130

This book tells of the tragedies themselves, but also the living conditions in Ferndale and Blaenllechau at this period. It is compiled through various newspaper reports of the time, the official inquest, and the story of the funds that were raised nationally for those left behind when their chief 'breadwinner' be it husband, brother, or son were one of the many victims. Ferndale, obviously had a terrible name at the time and after the second explosion many left for America, never to return, but strangely, the owners appear to have been well respected by their workmen.

For information on purchasing a copy of this paperback please contact the author, Gareth Harris, at:

[garethharriscoal@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:garethharriscoal@yahoo.co.uk)

**The Scottish Shale Oil Industry and Mineral Railways**  
*Harry Knox*, Lightmoor Press, hardback, 232 pages, illustrated, 215x275mm, £25.00, ISBN 978 1899889730

The Scottish Shale Oil Industry was to prove a world first, where mineral oils were produced for the first time, from the oil-bearing shale lying below the county of West Lothian, and in an operation on an industrial scale. This enterprise, from the early beginnings in 1851, expanded into an extensive oil producing and refining industry which competed successfully against the increasing tide of imported petroleum and continued in operation until 1962. The history is stunning, involving tales of enterprise, invention, triumph and even failure, but all resulting in innovative progress and a core of Scottish know-how which was to contribute significantly towards the development of the modern oil industry, worldwide. It remains today a source of great pride with an ongoing legacy. This is the story.

*(Publishers synopsis)*

**Mine Water Treatment Schemes – Code of Practice**  
Jointly written and published by the Planning Officers Society & the Coal Authority, 2012. This 18 page publication aims to develop the relationship between planners and the Authority in regards to treatment schemes.  
<http://coal.decc.gov.uk/publications/DirectoryListing.aspx?tags=61>



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**June 2013:** Festival of the North East- a celebration of all that's great about the North East region, various dates and venues throughout the month, including:

**4<sup>th</sup> June:** Mining the Institute: The Sinking; a concert of mining songs launching a 20 month project celebrating the contribution made by mining to the region's cultural renaissance, Neville Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne.

**8<sup>th</sup> June:** Northumberland Miners' Picnic, Woodhorn Museum & Archives, Ashington, Northumberland.

**15<sup>th</sup> June:** A celebration of the mining heritage of the Washington area through poetry & music, Washington F Pit, Albany Way, Washington.

Full details at: <http://www.festivalne.com/>

**14th-16th June 2013:** Historical Metallurgy Society 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference. This international conference in London has four themes: origins of metallurgy; innovation and change; society and metalworkers; and the future of historical and archaeological metallurgy. More details are available at <http://hist-met.org/index.html> or from Eleanor Blakelock: [Eleanor.Blakelock@archaeomaterials.co.uk](mailto:Eleanor.Blakelock@archaeomaterials.co.uk)

**15<sup>th</sup> June 2013:** St. Aidans BE1150 Walking Dragline Open day, Swillington, Leeds, LS26 8AL

**15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> June 2013:** Mining Gala, Apedale Heritage Centre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire. The first Gala at this mining museum, with details available at: <http://www.apedale.co.uk/>

**28<sup>th</sup> June-1<sup>st</sup> July 2013:** NAMHO Conference, Aberystwyth University

**17th-25th August 2013:** National Heritage Week, Ireland. Search this website for mining events <http://www.heritageweek.ie/>

**12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> September 2013:** Heritage Open Days, England. Listings will be available on-line from mid-July at [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

**28th September-5th October, 2013:** 19<sup>th</sup> Australian Mining History Association Annual Conference <http://www.mininghistory.asn.au/conference/>

**17th-19th October 2013:** "The forgotten state of industry: Irish industrial landscapes and heritage in a global context". Conference hosted by Glens of Lead at the Glendalough Hotel, County Wicklow, Ireland. More details will be available on the Glens of Lead Facebook Page and their website [www.glensoflead.com](http://www.glensoflead.com) (being developed).

### 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*

**Copy Date** for the next newsletter is 24<sup>th</sup> August, with publication due September 2013. 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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