



2017 NAMHO AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting and following Council Meeting, was held at the Peak District Lead Mining Museum, Matlock Bath on 25/05/2017. The following Officers were elected/re-elected:

Chair- Nigel Dibben

Deputy Chair- Warren Allison

Secretary- Peter Jackson

Treasurer- Steve Holding

Editor- Roy Meldrum

Conservation Officer- Peter Cloughton

Assistant Conservation Officers- Janis Heward & Robert Waterhouse

BCA Conservation & Access Committee

Representatives- Peter Cloughton & John Hine

BCA Training & Equipment Committee Representative- Vacant

Webmaster- Nigel Dibben

The Committee expressed their appreciation to Sallie Bassham and George Price for their commitment as Chair and Treasurer respectively over the past years.

A word from the new Chair

Following my election as NAMHO Chair at the March AGM, I am looking forward to continuing the good work done by my predecessors in the post.

Of particular importance at present is the development of new guidelines for leisure use of mines following the introduction of new Mining Regulations in 2014. This has highlighted the difficulty of defining an abandoned mine and how abandoned mines should be managed for access and conservation.

Another issue that I see as important to the future of NAMHO is maintaining the number of members, especially those from organisations outside the mainstream of mine exploration and conservation. A number of these organisations have lapsed

membership because of cost-saving exercises but their contribution is potentially important to the aims of NAMHO.

Anyone with views on these matters or with an issue that he or she thinks the Chair should pursue can contact Nigel through the email address chairman@namho.org or by telephone on 01270 842767. (11-05-2017)

Nigel Dibben, NAMHO Chair

Iron and steel production during the First World War and its impact on the Home Front

This is a project looking at the demand on ore resources, iron and the steel alloy minerals, and on the manpower required to maintain steel production for the war effort. The objective is to present a paper to the Home Front conference at the University of St Andrews in July 2017 and contribute to the conference publications.

At the outbreak of the war in 1914 the British iron and steel industry was heavily reliant on imported iron ores which became increasingly vulnerable as the war progressed. It was also tied in to a specification for the production of shell steel using hematite pig iron and not able to quickly move towards exploiting home iron ore resources which were predominantly high in phosphorus. Imports of steel alloy minerals such as wolfram and manganese were also vulnerable and maximum use had to be made of home resources. The demands of the war also meant that many skilled men from mining and steel production were drawn into military service, initially as volunteers and later through conscription, and this put a severe strain on home production from 1916 onwards.

This project will look at how the production of home ores changed over the period of the war and how the industry addressed the shortages in manpower, with increased mechanisation and the limited employment of women in some sectors. It will also examine the changes in attitude to the employment of prisoners of

war, particularly in areas essential to iron and steel production.

The overall statistical evidence is available from archives across Britain and Ireland, and I am indebted to the Northern Mine Research Society for providing funds to access those archives. These can provide us with the underlying and official interpretation of the struggle to maintain production - but what of the local impact?

If you have any knowledge of the impact of iron ore production (particularly the increased mechanisation of ironstone quarrying in the English Midland counties), the demand for alloy minerals (particularly manganese and tungsten), the quarrying (and mining) of fluxes (limestone and fluorspar), and refractory materials such as ganister, I would like to hear from you. Local accounts of the employment of women and of prisoners of war, photographs of mining activity at the period - all will add to our knowledge of the struggle to maintain wartime supplies and its impact on the home population of the UK.

Peter Cloughton
Contact details - tel. 01437 532578 or e-mail
P.F.Cloughton@exeter.ac.uk

Key Archaeological Sites in Wales - the under-representation of mining and quarrying.

The Welsh archaeological groups are currently carrying out a second review of the Research Framework for the Archaeology in Wales - <http://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/intro.html> which will reconsider the lists of key sites, something which was not done in the first review in 2009. A listing of sites can be found for each period and region of Wales - go to the web sites (above), Documents, then go to the link to Original Documents. It is a feature not included in the Research Framework for England and can provide a means of highlighting the archaeology of the extractive industries in Wales, something which is currently under-represented.

If you are interested in contributing to this review of key mining and quarrying sites in Wales please contact the NAMHO Conservation Officer, Peter Cloughton, on 01437 532578 or at P.F.Cloughton@exeter.ac.uk

Ivor Brown (1937-2017)

Sadly last month we heard of the death of Ivor Brown, a long standing NMRS member, who was the author of numerous books, articles and papers on mining history. He regularly gave talks on mining and mining history and had been involved with NAMHO since its founding. His expertise will be missed.

Barbara Sutcliffe,
NMRS Newsletter, May 2017

Around the NAMHO Groups

Friends of Hemingfield Colliery

In October 2016 work began to restore the roof of the 1840's winding house. The funds for the roof were provided by the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership, The Association for Industrial Archaeology and Subterranea. Due to its extensive damage in places, the group believed that making the winding house roof water tight was a high priority.

Many of the original slates were reused for the roof, the restoration needed to be as sympathetic as possible, unfortunately much of the original timber had to be replaced. As part of the repair work, a new owl space was created in the roof to house the resident Barn Owl. By February 2017 the roof was completed, marking the first major restoration objective completed onsite.



The next project for the Friends of Hemingfield Colliery is the collaboration with Elsecar Heritage Railway, to build the new railway halfway halt, adjacent to Hemingfield Colliery. On 8th April 2017, the Friends of Hemingfield Colliery and Elsecar Heritage Railway

signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The goal of the MOU is to work together, planning the new halt behind the colliery, as a half way stop for when the railway completes its plan to complete its destination to the site of the former Cortonwood Colliery. This will aid visitor access to Hemingfield and give travellers chance to disembark at Hemingfield and look around the colliery site.



A further part of the of this collaboration is the chance to combine volunteer resources. Through this, our organisation had the opportunity to welcome junior soldiers from the Army College Harrogate to site. The soldiers, taking part in their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, did a wonderful job assisting in the day's tasks. We look forward to the students visiting is again in June.



March 2017 saw Elsecar being put on the heritage map, as Historic England made it only one of ten heritage Action Zones in England. Hemingfield Colliery also formerly known as Elsecar Low Colliery, as a major stakeholder in the endeavour will hopefully be an integral part of the development of this project.

- Improve understanding of the village's heritage, which is largely hidden, extending the visitor experience to include important archaeological sites.
- Bring historic buildings back into use, providing offices and retail units.
- Identify suitable sites for new housing.
- Encourage local people and community groups to get involved in the village's development - to help them forge new skills, provide rewarding experiences, and raise awareness and pride in Elsecar's heritage.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/heritage-action-zones/elsecar/> (24/05/2017)

*Christine Cameron,
Friends of Hemingfield Colliery*

Black Horse at Chatterley Whitfield Colliery

The Friends of Chatterley Whitfield (FoCW) are used to requests from Staffordshire University students to access the site for using in their respective films. However, the FoCW are currently liasing with the City Council for the BBC to use the site as a location for a current programme, and some scenes for a Lloyds Bank television advert were shot there too.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAoZQjagOy8>

Holidaying or Researching in the Lake District?

The CATMHS library and archive has moved to a new home at the Armitth Museum and Library at Ambleside. The book collection offers comprehensive coverage of extractive industries in the Lake District, it is accessible for study purposes during the Armitth's opening hours. Access to archive material requires 2 days notice by phone or email, a list of what is held is available on the Armitth's web site. There is no charge for the use of the Armitth library or to access our archive but the library would be grateful for a donation.

In addition to the forgoing there is much Lake District and Cumbrian mining information in the Archive section of the CATMHS web site www.catmhs.org.uk. There you can find maps, plans, documents, collections of various group's newsletters, etc., much of which is downloadable. (23-05-2017)

*Don Borthwick,
Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society*

Mining and Heritage News

England

Funding for Dales Countryside Museum

The Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes has won support from National Lottery players to re-house and exhibit one of the country's most fascinating lead mining collections.

A total of 860 objects, including mining wagons and tools, were given to the DCM by the Yorkshire Dales Mining Museum in Earby when it closed in 2015.

A grant of £90,600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) means that the artefacts can now be re-examined and displayed, while the stories of miners and of the members of Earby Mine Research Group who assembled the objects over 50 years can be told.

The project is being called, "A Rich Seam: Lead Mining and Textile Heritage in the Yorkshire Dales".

As well as bringing the lead mining collection back to life, new exhibitions will be created from the DCM's extensive textile holdings. The lead mining and textile industries were once vital to the Dales, especially in the 19th century. They went hand-in-hand, with miners often knitting on the way to work to supplement their income. (11/04/2017)
<http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/living-and-working/other-services/press-office/news/recent/rich-seam-project-receives-lottery-cash>

Oakes Colliery Disaster Memorial unveiled

The memorial to England's worse mining disaster was unveiled in Barnsley on 7th March 2017. The fitting tribute, by Barnsley born sculptor Graham Ibbeson, is a permanent reminder to the 361 men and boys who lost their lives when two separate explosions ripped through the pit on 12th and 13th December 1866.

There are two other memorials to this disaster. The first was erected in 1879 at Christ Church, Ardsley by public subscription. The memorial is to the deaths of 354 people not 361. The second memorial was erected

in 1913 to Parkin Jeffcock and the rescuers who died and commemorate the rescuers John Edward Mammatt and Thomas William Embleton who rescued the sole survivor of the second fateful explosion.

<http://www.itv.com/news/calendar/2017-05-07/hundreds-gather-for-unveiling-of-oaks-colliery-mining-disaster-memorial/> (07/05/2017)

Groverake Headstock Saved

Joint statement from Friends of Groverake and Friends of Killhope, agreed by GSC Grays:

The future of the iconic headframe on the Groverake mine at Rookhope is now safe. The threat of demolition which has hung over the last remaining headframe in County Durham for more than a year has been lifted.

The Friends of Groverake were formed to secure the future of this much loved landmark and have been working hard with interested parties to reach a positive outcome. The Friends, working with the Friends of Killhope, set up an appeal in a bid to take over the headframe and money poured in from all over the country and from as far afield as Ireland and the United States. The Friends rapidly reached the target set.

But now the landowner has agreed to take on the headframe rather than it being demolished in accordance with the original planning permission, now that the mining lease has come to an end. Margaret Manchester, chair of the Friends of Killhope, says "We are all delighted with the landowner's positive response. This is an excellent outcome for a historic structure which is dear to the hearts of local people. My father worked at the mine and I know how happy he will be at this news. We would like to say a massive "thank you" to all those members of the local community and the wider public who supported us and our appeal. Without such huge public interest we would probably have lost this vital part of our heritage for ever. All those who gave money will now receive a full refund and we wish the landowner all the best for the future of Groverake. We have offered him any help he might need in the coming months and years." (07-03-2017)

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/Friendsofgroverake/posts/>

Future Plans for Astley Green Mining Museum

Ambitious plans have been put forward to save the iconic headgear and develop the mining museum based at the former Astley Green Colliery in Greater Manchester.

With the closure of the colliery in 1970 it looked like the pit was to suffer the same fate as many others. Although some of the site was demolished, the uniqueness of the twin tandem compound steam winding engine, which served the NO.1 shaft, was recognised and demolition stopped. With the No.1 Engine House with associated headgear and a few ancillary buildings remaining, the Red Rose Steam Society (RRSS) was formed and acquired a 25 year lease of the site in 1983.

With five years remaining on the lease the RRSS are currently negotiating with Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council, owners of the site, to renew the lease for a further 25 years. This will ensure long term viability of the museum site and provide access to large scale funding options.

Of particular concern is the condition of the headgear, constructed of wrought iron and riveted plates, and the last surviving colliery headgear in Lancashire. Constructed in 1912, the headgear was placed on the English Heritage 'At risk Register' in 2010. Since then it has suffered further deterioration and is in need of significant repair, requiring significant funding. With the 50th anniversary of the colliery's closure in three years, the trustees have set this as a timescale to try and preserve the structure for the future.

In order to try and secure the future of the site it has been decided to form a new working group, to help take the site forward. This pilot group has been working for the past few months getting ready to launch this plan to the general public to enlist their help to make the plan a success. A draft plan for the development of the museum has been made available, plus plans are underway to launch an online donation site.

Full details, including the development plan is available at:
<https://lancashireminingmuseum.org/>



Astley Green Headgear, March 2012

Wales

Scoping Study on Parys Mountain continues

Anglesey Mining Plc reported that work on the Scoping Study is continuing on the Parys Mountain copper-lead-zinc project in North Wales. The Company is carrying out development and exploration work at the site, with the study being based on resource estimates made in 2012. The original approach was to mine the resources at 500 tonnes per day, but a new option is to increase the daily production rate, thus shortening the mine's life but would be more economically attractive. (12-05-2017)

<http://angleseymining.co.uk/news/?p=631>

Scotland

Volunteers required at Lead Mining Museum

Wanlockhead Museum of Lead Mining, Dumfries and Galloway, is looking to recruit more volunteers to help out with day to day tasks. If you have some spare time and would like to assist you can contact the museum via their website or Facebook page. (22/04/2017)

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

<https://www.facebook.com/MuseumofLeadMining/>

Publications

Mining History, Volume 19, No.6 Spring 2017

Richard Shaw-Editor, Peak District Mines Historical Society Ltd., paperback, 130 pages, illustrated with maps, plans and photographs, ISSN 1366-2511

Contents:

- Quarrying Chert at Bakewell: A detailed Archaeological Survey of Pretoria Mine and Observations on Holme Bank, Holme Hall and Endcliffe Mines- *J Barnatt and T Worthington*
- Index to Volume 19- *D Williams and R Shaw*

Mine Pumping Engines in Eighteen Century Cornwall

RJ Stewart, Trevithick Society, paperback, 176 pages, £17.50, ISBN 978 0993502125

Whilst the development and deployment of the Cornish Engine in the nineteenth century has been extensively documented, the background and context for its development in the preceding century has not received the same level of attention. Rick Stewart's new book, published to coincide with the International Early Engines Conference in May 2017, goes some way to filling this gap.

Rick has done an excellent job in setting out the development of mine pumping in Cornwall during the eighteenth century, this broad account starts with adits, water wheels and rag and chain pumps and so is not concerned with steam power only. The sequential technical development of different engine types are clearly described as are the challenges associated with copper mining in hard rock. I found the section describing the influences of the Coster family during the early part of the century of particular interest. Rick's account sets out the key external influences on the economics of Cornish mining which help the reader understand the somewhat stop-start deployment of both Newcomen and Boulton and Watt engines during the century.

The book is well written and clear with a logical chapter layout and with the bonus of an inventory of engines of the Newcomen, Boulton and Watt, Hornblower and Bull types included in their respective chapters. There are sufficient illustrations to support the text, many sourced from the Boulton and Watt

archives and Rick has addressed an issue of interest to this reviewer by providing details of the known erectors of local engines. Whilst an account of a period and topic of this scale cannot include all the available detail Rick has managed to include enough to support his account. I wonder if there is scope for a follow up giving more insight into some of my areas of interest such as the development of engine building skills and boiler plate manufacture locally? Highly recommended
Steve Grudgings

The Snailbeach District Railways

Andy Cuckson, Twelveheads Press, hardback, 218 pages, 273 illustrations, £30.00, ISBN 978 0906294901

The Snailbeach District Railways was one of Britain's lesser known public narrow gauge railways. Never carrying passengers, its history and workings have never before been fully explored but after many years research Andy Cuckson is able to reveal a fascinating story, not just about the railway but also about the mines and minerals the line supported and the people who built and worked it, including Henry Dennis, the entrepreneurial civil engineer and mine manager.

The book tells of the early railways in the area and the many plans to bring rail access to this part of Shropshire, and of the development and impact of the mines. Of the railway all aspects are described; a variety of steam locomotives, rolling stock, engineering, operation and people. The rundown of the mines brought problems but despite all the line survived finding a new role hauling roadstone, and became part of the Colonel Stephens light railway empire. After all the steam locomotives were condemned an agricultural tractor kept traffic moving. After 82 years, from 1877, the line finally closed in 1959 but, surprisingly, the company still exists, on paper.

As well as a great deal of work in archives and historic records Andy got to know many of the older residents of the area who told him much about how the railway worked and ran in its later years.

Many photographs have never been published before and many of the maps and drawings have been specially commissioned. This is the fullest account possible of the Snailbeach District Railways and will become the standard work on the line.

(Publishers synopsis)

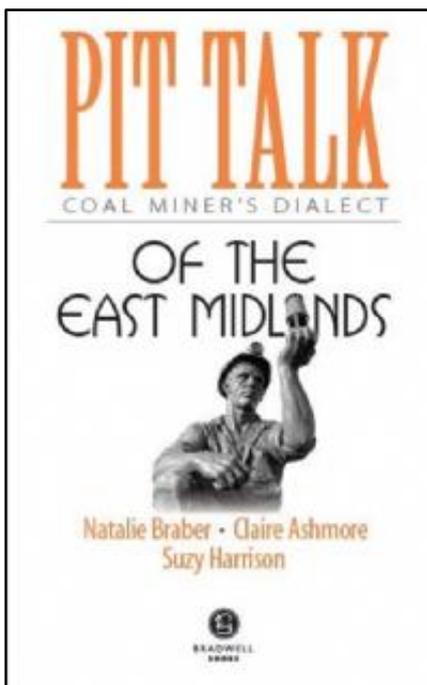
Pit Talk of the East Midlands

Natalie Braber, Claire Ashmore and Suzy Harrison,
Bradwell Books, paperback, 80 pages, 180x120mm,
£3.99, ISBN 978 1910551806

Although coal mining in the East Midlands has ceased, the legacy of how the miners worked and communicated must live on. The language used by miners in their daily lives cemented the relationship between them and reinforced the strong friendships of these men.

Here for some to discover and for others to bring back memories of those times spent underground are a selection of Pit Talk words and phrases accompanied by definitions in the form of a glossary.

The authors also recorded many miners' recollections of times both above and below ground and some of their work is included to give the reader a flavour of what it was like to be a miner.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

15th-19th June 2017: Mining History Association Annual Conference, Alaska, USA.

<http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/>

23rd-26th June 2017: NAMHO Conference 2017, East Surrey. <http://namho2017.info/>

19th-27th August 2017: Heritage Week (Ireland)
<http://www.heritageweek.ie/>

7th-10th September 2017: Heritage Open Days, England
<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

20th-22nd September 2017: ERIH Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark. Topic of this year's conference is "Industrial Tourism: Linking the past with the present and future".

29th September-1st October 2017: Hidden Earth, UK's National Caving Conference and Exhibition, Churchill Academy, Churchill, North Somerset, B25 5QN
<https://hidden-earth.org.uk/>

25th-29th September 2017: Australasian Mining History Association Conference at Taralgon, Victoria.
<http://www.mininghistory.asn.au/>

4th October 2017: NAMHO Autumn Council Meeting, Dean Field Study Centre, Parkend, Forest of Dean

Copy date for the next newsletter is **10th August 2017**

With publication due September 2017

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

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