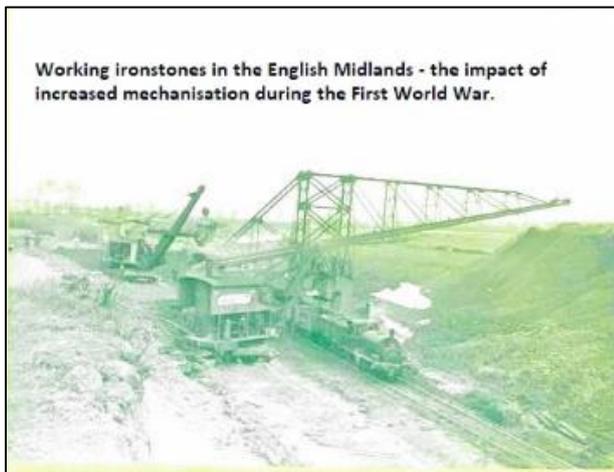




## NAMHO Seminar 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018



### **United Kingdom Mines, Minerals and Miners: their impact on the First World War and following decades.**

A NAMHO seminar to be held at the **Carnforth Station Heritage Centre, Lancashire**, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 11:00-16:00.

The event, a hundred years after the armistice which ended the First World War, will cover all aspects of mining, and quarrying, in relation to the prosecution of the war. It will consider how the war affected the miners and other workers in the industries, including the employment of women and prisoners of war, and the work of miners under the Western Front.

A fee of £12 will include lunch (please let us know if you have any dietary requirements)

**Booking** - please contact Peter Cloughton (NAMHO Conservation Officer) - P.F.Cloughton@exeter.ac.uk - or 07831 427599 (preferably by text)

The location and further details of the Carnforth Station Heritage Centre are available [here](#)

## News from around the NAMHO Groups and Museum Members

### **Nenthead Mines Conservation Society**

If you've visited the NMCS website recently, you'll have seen a new main menu item, "Mineral display collection"? The menu link takes you to a new public page showing some ninety selected mineral samples. Besides basic information about what each sample is and where it came from, there are new low and high-resolution photographic images so that web site visitors can see the kinds of samples we have and exactly what they look like. This is what we're calling the 'visitor display collection' and we have drawn from it in setting up the 2018 display cabinets in the Barracks building.

We haven't done it yet, but we can do a similar page for the remaining 200+ samples in the 'display back-up and research collection' and we can make a version of our new master 'mineral catalogue' spreadsheet publicly available on the website too.

<https://www.nentheadmines.com/>

*NMCS Newsletter No.20*

### **AditNow 2019 Calendar**

As in previous years, AditNow are producing a calendar with a different mine per month, with a main photo, a smaller detail photo plus a brief description. The proceeds for the sale of the calendar go to either a cave rescue organisation and/or a preservation group, and to date have raised over £7,000.

<https://www.aditnow.co.uk/>

### **Somerset Coalfield Life at Radstock Museum**

The *Kilmersdon Gravity Incline and Colliery* talk is a "then and now" talk, based around Norman Andrew's childhood memories and his recent re-visit to the area.

It will be an illustrated PowerPoint presentation about the operation of the coal wagon incline and the basic workings of the pit taken in the context of the Somerset coalfields back in the day.

As a train spotting youth in the sixties Norman spent every summer holiday with his grandma Marshall in

Radstock. His uncle Bill worked down Kilmersdon pit at Haydon, and Norman played on the railway!  
The talk takes place at The Somer Centre, Midsomer Norton, 7.30pm Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018, £4.  
<http://radstockmuseum.co.uk/our-talks-programme/>

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## **NAMHO 2018 Conference Delegates Visit to Lea Bailey Light Railway Society**

This year the annual conference of NAMHO was held in the Forest of Dean. Among the activities arranged around the conference were visits to various sites of interest in the Forest, one of which was to see the gold mine at Lea Bailey.

Two groups, each of 6 members, visited the mine (and railway) where they were given a guided tour by Richard and Ben. Photo above shows one of the groups with guides.

Note the freshly painted steel tank with the railway's name applied.

*Lea Bailey Light railway Society Newsletter, No.21, August 2018*



## **A Word from the Editor**

Having been the NAMHO Editor since 2011 I have decided it's time to hand over the baton to someone else. I shall be standing down at the NAMHO AGM next year, by which time I will have produced 32 editions of this newsletter. If you would like to take on the role let myself or the Secretary know please.

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

*Roy Meldrum, NAMHO Editor*

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# **Mining and Heritage News**

## **England**



## **Mining Exhibition Celebrates Clipstone's Teenage Talent**

Stunning photographs of Clipstone Colliery headstocks taken by local children are the centrepiece of an exhibition at Mansfield Central Library.

Teenagers snapped the Grade II-Listed winding towers before editing and mounting the images in a scheme organised by the Clipstone Colliery Regeneration Group and made possible by money raised by National Lottery players.

The kids were supported by Neil Pledger of Nottingham-based ART DK, a photographer and local youth worker who taught them digital photography and editing skills.

The photos celebrating Clipstone's mining heritage will remain on display alongside paintings and memorabilia –including the colliery's NACODS branch banner – at the library in the Four Seasons Shopping Centre until September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Denise Barraclough, Clipstone Colliery Regeneration Group project manager, said: "We have really enjoyed working on this project with the young people of Clipstone who have produced some stunning images thanks to support from Heritage Lottery Fund."

Jonathan Platt, Head of HLF East Midlands, said: "The Clipstone Colliery headstocks are a distinctive feature of the North Nottinghamshire skyline, and a reminder of the region's proud mining past. It is great to see young people exploring this heritage and engaging in it in such a creative way."

The teenagers are also creating a soundtrack for a [1967 video of Clipstone mining families on a day out to Cleethorpes](#) which will be shown in Mansfield's Odeon cinema and other venues later this year.

Clipstone Colliery closed in 2003 after 80 years of operation. The exhibition is part of a wider National Lottery funded project to investigate future uses for the buildings, which was awarded £142,800 by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

*Courtesy of Denise Barraclough MRICS  
Project Manager*

For information on the Clipstone Colliery Regeneration Group see their Facebook page [here](#)

### **Second winding tower at Kellingley demolished**

Following from the demolition of the first winding tower at the former Kellingley Colliery site, the second tower has been brought down with explosives. The North Yorkshire mine closed in 2015, with redevelopment expected to begin in 2019. (02/07/2018) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-44690306/kellingley-colliery-second-winding-tower-demolished>

### **Progress at the Lancashire Mining Museum at Astley Green**

We received the contract from Blackett-Ord today, who are Historic England's approved contractor, along with the working schedule for the inspection and structural survey of the headgear. This should be completed week commencing the 17th September and the final written report should be completed by the end of October. We should then know the extent of repairs needed to make the structure safe and we can then start the process of trying to raise the further funds needed for its long term preservation.

We must thank Historic England in providing the grant to allow us to carry out this first phase and Ian James and Howard Beaver, two of our new volunteers, who have driven this project for the past 7 months and lead it to such a successful conclusion. Thanks to all our volunteers for the help they have given to show the funding bodies this site has a long term future and hopefully we are now taking the first steps towards saving, for future generations, the last remaining headgear in the whole Lancashire Coalfield. (30/08/2018)

*Lancashire Mining Museum at Astley Green*  
[Facebook page](#)

### **Engineering Heritage Award for Levant**

2018 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Levant Cornish Beam Engine being restored by volunteers and as a fitting tribute the Institute of Mechanical Engineers awarded their 119<sup>th</sup> Heritage Engineering Award to Levant Mine.

The mine closed in 1930, but in its heyday was known as 'the queen of Cornwall's submarine mines' and is part of the [Tin Coast](#) in the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Heritage Landscape UNESCO World Heritage Site. (13/06/2018)

<https://www.cornish-mining.org.uk/news/levant-receive-prestigious-engineering-heritage-award>

## **Scotland**

### **Landscape Legacies of Coal**

Staff from the Centre for Environment Heritage and Policy at Stirling University in collaboration with the Macrobert Arts Centre are exploring the landscape histories of abandoned collieries in Clackmannan and Stirlingshire. How the old coal mine sites have been repurposed and redeveloped and how the pits have been remembered or commemorated from closure to present day.

If you have memories that you are willing to share, such as watching the demolition and/or landscaping of the bings; involvement in decisions on their redevelopment; playing on the sites as a youngster or still visiting today or you simply miss the headstock in the landscape we would love to hear from you.

The aim of the project is to create a 'free to download' smart phone app of local heritage walks that both celebrate local memories and provide a lasting legacy of an industry that not so long ago dominated the landscape.

If you want to contact a member of the project team directly please email Catherine c.j.mills@stir.ac.uk For more information see: [Landscape Legacies of Coal](#) Also on [Facebook](#)

## **Wales**

### **Innovative plans for former opencast site**

The former opencast mine Nant Helen near Abercraft, has been revealed as the preferred site of a proposed £100m centre of rail excellence. Plans for the site, which was mothballed in 2016, include maintenance,

testing, decommissioning and storage facilities for the rail industry.

Ken Skates, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport, National Assembly for Wales, said "This area, at the top of the Dulais Valley, has been reliant on the coal industry for generations. With this era drawing to a close, there is great potential for investment drawing on existing and new skills." (26/06/2018) [Insider Media- Wales](#)

## **Ireland**

*The following news from Ireland was provided by Alastair Lings, MHTI*

### **Cavanacaw Mine, Omagh, Co. Tyrone**

A crosscut driven from the decline at the mine has intersected the main Kearney Vein, about 15 metres below the level of the Kearney openpit. At this point the vein is about 2.8 m wide and channel samples have been taken to check the grade of gold mineralisation. Levels will be extended north and south along the vein, producing some ore for the mill. The decline will be extended to give access to the vein at a lower level, so that stoping can start in late 2018 or early 2019. An escapeway will be constructed to provide a second method of egress. (25/06/2018) <http://www.galantas.com/news/>

### **Primitive mine found on the Lambs Head peninsula, near Caherdaniel, Co. Kerry**

Aoibheann Lambe of Rock Art Kerry has identified another primitive mine on the Lamb's Head peninsula. The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) number for the mine is KE106-157----, and it is described as follows.

*In rough boggy pasture used for cattle grazing, located in the NW face of a rock outcrop. This primitive copper mine is found at an elevation of c. 80m OD on the upper E side of a gully at the SW extent of a level ridge of outcropping which runs for 190m NE/SW along the NW facing slopes of Eagle Hill on Lamb's Head. It consists of a wide shallow opening c. 2.5m wide x 2.5m high which narrows and decreases in height towards the rear. Within 1m of the rear, the sides and the overhang steadily decrease from a width of c. 1.6m and a height of 1m to eventually converge at ground level. To the left of the opening, copper mineralisation is present on the rock face and on a number of small loose boulders at ground level. A spoil heap composed of blue/grey coloured sandstone rocks, some of which*

*have quartz veins, occur c. 8m downslope to N from the opening on the N side of this low drystone wall area and occupies an area c. 4m x 4m which is largely devoid of vegetation save for sterocaulon, a metallophyte lichen. A rock surface at the same elevation which is located on the far side of the rear of the mine on the exposed N face of the outcrop also appears to have been worked although no copper mineralisation is present. This rock surface overlooks Derrynane Harbour and is accessible at N via loose steps composed of flag stones which run from a largely level area (possibly created by the workings) N of the rock surface towards the low drystone wall below. Identified as a copper mine by Aoibheann Lambe (2018).*

<http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/?SMRS=KE106-157---->

### **Tullybuck Mine, Clontibret, Co. Monaghan**

Drilling by Conroy Gold And Natural Resources has discovered an extensive gold bearing zone 30 metres south of the former antimony mine. In the first four boreholes of a 1000 metre drilling program the highest grade found was 21.6 grams/tonne gold, with the best intersection being 3.9 metres at 9.2 g/t. Professor Richard Conroy (Chairman) said "Our technical work on the deposit has identified Tullybuck antimony mine area as a key target and these results confirm the effectiveness of our team's pre-drilling technical review". On 14 June the company announced an expansion of the drill program to 1700 m. (30/04/2018)

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

### **Ballyhickey Mine, Ennis, Co. Clare**

Hannan Metals are preparing to drill near the former Ballyhickey Mine as part of their Clare zinc project. There has been extensive recent exploration 2 km away, around the former Kilbricken Mine in Monanoe townland.

Ballyhickey Mine produced lead from 1834 until 1846. In 1852 Harvey's of Hayle in Cornwall (UK) supplied the mine with a 20" winding engine, wrought iron boiler, cage work and pumping apparatus. This early phase of exploration probably continued until 1865. (07/08/2018)

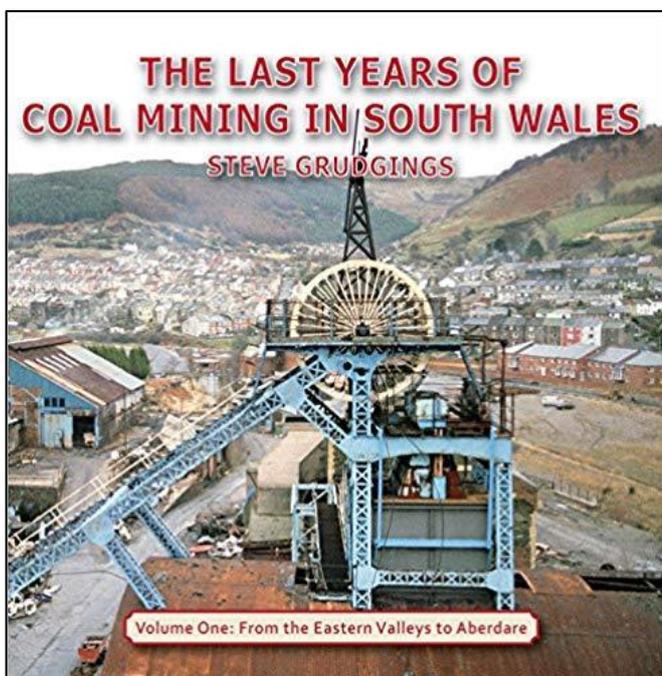
<https://www.hannanmetals.com/news/2018/>

**Abbeytown Mines, Ballysodare, Co. Sligo** Erris Resources have opened entries to the former Abbeytown Mine, Co. Sligo, and are planning an underground mine exploration programme including 3D laser surveying, systematic channel sampling followed by underground diamond drilling. A surface drilling programme continues in the area south of the old mine. (21/06/2018)

<https://www.errisresources.com/news>

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## Publications



### **The Last Years of Coal Mining in South Wales, Volume One: From the Eastern Valleys to Aberdare**

*Steve Grudgings*, Folly Books, hardback, 323 pages, colour and b&w photographs, 250x250mm, £24.99, ISBN 978 0 9928554 82

As time passes, our understanding of the scale and importance of the UK's coal industry fades. In the 1950s and 60s, most homes had coal fires, and electricity and gas were both produced from coal. In our grandparents' childhood, more than a million men were directly employed in the industry world's railway and UK coal powered most of the world's shipping fleets as well as our own massive industrial base. This country's coal reserves were a major factor in our

leadership in the industrial and commercial spheres and it can be said that Britain's success was 'built on coal.' The success of the coal industry also bought a high toll of deaths and injury, dangerous levels of atmospheric pollution and acute industrial unrest. In 2015 the UK's last deep coal mines closed and the country's residual requirements for coal will be met by imports from places such as Poland, Columbia and China.

For those of us born in the 1950s, the South Wales valleys conjure up images of colliery headgear, spoil heaps and coal trains. In reality however this is an anachronism and few such features survive in the modern valleys. The surface structures have been swept away and the underground workings are flooded and collapsed.

In many ways much of South Wales really was 'built on coal' and the photographs in this book record most aspects of the valley pits. The images are, with few exceptions, 'historic' for all traces of the past which they record have gone. In many ways these images are a celebration of a way of life that, for better or worse, has now passed. I hope you enjoy seeing them as much as I enjoyed taking them.

#### **Key Features:**

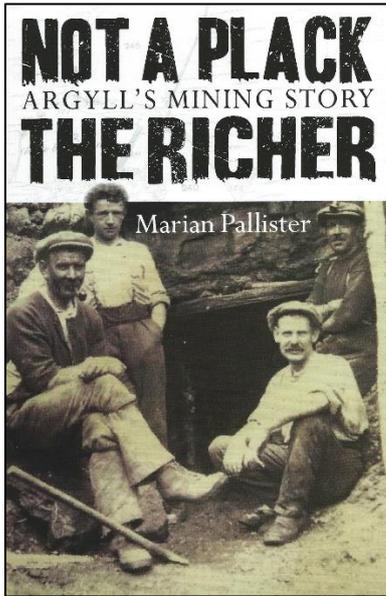
- A unique pictorial record of the fast few years of coal mining in the eastern valleys of South Wales with over 350 images of large and small collieries across the district.
- Choice of photographs was made on the basis of their breadth of coverage and well historic and aesthetic merit.

#### **About the author:**

An outsider to both South Wales and to Coal Mining, Steve Grudgings has had great pleasure becoming familiar with both over the past 40 years, some of the results of which fill these pages.

Increasingly active in researching, conserving and documenting the remains of the UK's coal industry now there are no active pits left to photograph, he has become something of an 'accidental expert' on many facets of an industry that has nearly vanished from this country.

*(Publisher's synopsis)*



### **Not a plack the richer- Argyll's mining story**

*Marian Pallister*, Birlinn Ltd., paperback, 240 pages, illustrated, 130x195mm, £10.99, ISBN 978 1780275048

Argyll is well known for its magnificent scenery, breathtaking coastline and picturesque villages. But hidden among its beautiful hills and glens and on its islands is evidence of an extraordinary industrial past. Minerals have been mined in Argyll for millennia, and from the 1700s lead, copper, zinc, silver, nickel and gold were sought by landowners as a way to exploit their estates, as well as by entrepreneurs and prospectors wanting to make a quick buck or, preferably, a considerable fortune. Mining spurred the development of the county's infrastructure, bringing bursts of prosperity to remote communities and a 'frontier spirit' redolent of the American West.

In this book, Marian Pallister tells the story of Argyll's mining past. Her research into official records, letters and other documentary material is set beside the personal experience of those involved at all levels in the industry itself and the local communities whose lives it changed forever.

*Publisher's synopsis*

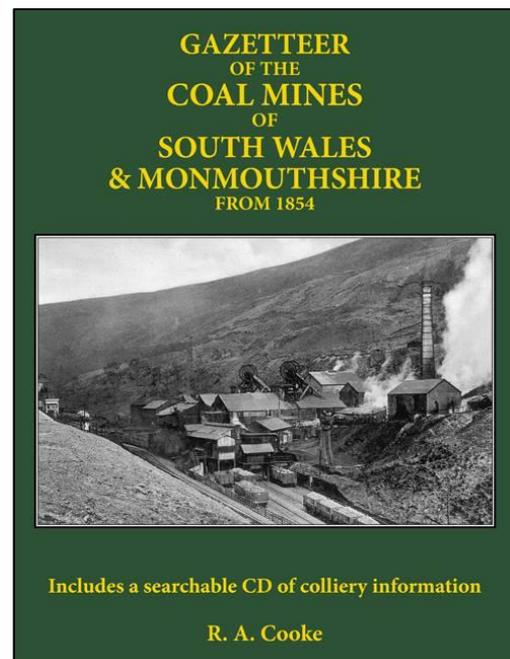
### **Gazetteer of the Coal Mines of South Wales & Monmouthshire**

*R A Cooke*, Lightmoor Press, hardback, 192 pages, 215x275mm, £30.00, ISBN-13: 978-1911038375

This ground-breaking Gazetteer gives details of all known South Wales collieries on a fully searchable CD included with the book. The book itself contains a

series of maps that locate each colliery and a selection of photographs to give a flavour of the coalfield. The book has been a mammoth under-taking by the author, requiring visits to many reference sources to enable all of the information to be collated together for the first time across an entire coalfield. The information given includes all relevant dates, ownership details and changes, selected output figures and manpower, together with site maps where possible. This is a vital resource that should be useful to both mining and local historians as well as those with a wider interest in South Wales.

*(Publisher's synopsis)*



### **Honister Slate Mine**

*Alastair Cameron & Liz Withey*, Amberley Publishing, paperback, 96 pages, colour and b&w photographs, 160x232mm, £14.99, ISBN-13: 978-1445671994

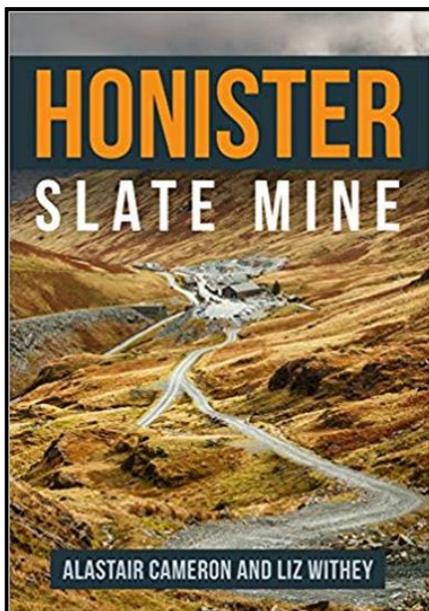
Utilising a wealth of rare and unpublished images from official archives, authors Alastair Cameron and Liz Withey tell the story behind the development of the Honister Slate Mine in the Lake District.

Though the exact date that mining at the site began is unknown, it was undoubtedly in operation shortly after the Norman Conquest. Slate was initially won from the surface of Honister Crag. Later, during Elizabethan times, skilled immigrant miners from the Tyrol taught native slate workers how to drive tunnels into the Crag to obtain slate from deeper

underground. By the Victorian era operations had expanded considerably with large-scale underground mining under way. The many miles of rail track made the transport of slate much easier and processing sheds were constructed at the head of Honister Pass.

In the 1980s the Honister Mine had closed down. The large-scale operation was uneconomic. Honister was much more suited to small-scale slate working with a greater environmental concern. But no one seemed to be prepared to take on such an undertaking. However, in 1997 news broke that the lease had been taken up by Mark Weir, the son of a local hill-farmer, with the intention of working slate again. The extraordinary story of Weir's development of Honister Slate Mine is given in full in this book.

*(Publisher's synopsis)*



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**Copy Date** for the next Newsletter is **10<sup>th</sup> November** with publication due December 2018.

**Contributions:** Email the Newsletter Editor- [editor@namho.org](mailto: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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## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Until 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018:** 'Pitmen Painters Unseen'- An exhibition bringing together work by members of the Ashington Group on loan from private collections and items held in Woodhorn Museum's collection not on permanent display. Woodhorn Museum, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 9YF  
<https://museumsnorthumberland.org.uk/woodhorn-museum/whats-on/>

**6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> September 2018:** Heritage Open Days (England) <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

**8<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> September 2018:** 'By the People, For the People'- Nationalisation Exhibition, Nottinghamshire Mining Museum, East Unit, Mansfield Railway Station, NG18 1LP. Open Fridays & Saturdays 10an-4pm. Nottinghamshire Mining museum on Facebook [here](#)

**15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> September 2018:** Dragline Open Day, Friends of St. Aidans BE 1150 Walking Dragline, St. Aidans Opencast Coal Site, Swillington, Leeds, LS26 8AL  
<http://www.walkingdragline.org/>

**2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018:** *Kilmersdon Gravity Incline and Colliery* an illustrated talk by Norman Andrew. A Bygone Days Talk organised by Somerset Coalfield Life at Radstock Museum. 7.30pm at the Somer Centre, Midsomer Norton. Details of this and other talks available [here](#)

**7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> October 2018:** Australasian Mining History Association Conference, Otago, New Zealand  
<http://www.mininghistory.asn.au/>

**27<sup>th</sup> October 2018:** Ivor Brown Memorial Day, Coalbrookdale, Shropshire. For details, you can download a [programme for the day](#) and a [booking form](#)

**17<sup>th</sup> November 2018:** NAMHO Autumn Council Meeting, Heritage Centre, Carnforth Station, Warton Road, Carnforth, LA5 9TR. Details to follow.

**18<sup>th</sup> November 2018:** NAMHO Seminar- United Kingdom Mines, Minerals and Miners: their impact on the First World War and following decades. Carnforth Station Heritage Centre, Carnforth Station, Warton Road, Carnforth, LA5 9TR.

**19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018:** International conference of mining and underground museums. Poland.  
<http://www.icmum.pl/>

**23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> November 2018:** The 2018 Congress of the French Society of Underground Studies, Senlis, France  
<https://www.subterranea.fr>

**27<sup>th</sup> April 2019:** Subterranea Britannica Spring Meeting and AGM

**20<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May 2019:** HYPOGEA 2019, 3<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Speleology in Artificial Cavities, Dobrich, Bulgaria. <http://www.hypogea2019.org/>

**5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> June 2019:** Mining History Association Annual Conference, Michigan, USA.  
<https://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/>

**19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> June 2019:** The Archaeometallurgy in Europe 2019 conference. <http://aie2019.argum.hu/index.php>

**4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> July 2019:** NAMHO Conference 2019- 'Mine exploration as a research tool - applications in mining history, geology and archaeology', Llanafan, Credigion.

**19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Septemeber 2019:** European Labour History Network conference.  
<https://socialhistoryportal.org/elhn/wg-mining>

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