



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

I should begin by establishing some credentials. My two earliest memories of a growing interest in the extractive industries come from tales about my great grandfather's Parliament Quarry on Vale Road, Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire, so named, as before his time, it had supplied stone for the lower courses of the rebuilding of the Palace of Westminster after the fire of 1834. Secondly, at the other end of 'Wuddus' during family walks, to our great delight, we once encountered an abandoned sand pit, complete with jubilee wagons. Meanwhile at primary school, our playground was perpetually showered with dust from buckets dropping waste onto Sherwood Colliery tip. In 1957 we returned to our family roots near Aberystwyth and a year later were out on another walk in torrential rain around Elerch, Talybont, when we were puzzled by parallel lines marking out the contours around hills. Back in the town library, I discovered these were leats supplying lead mines – prompting me to copy out in long hand, large chunks of O T Jones' memoir on the Mid Wales Orefield. A small gang of us would go out with our bike lamps and compressed board helmets exploring mines underground from Cwm Ystwyth to Dylife or the engineering works of the Rheidol hydroelectric scheme. At Ardwyn Grammar School, I persuaded a Geography teacher to teach 'O' level Geology, but he left after a year and I had special permission to teach myself Geology 'A' Level (thanks to rock boxes from the National Museum) the following year. After four years at the University of Swansea, reading Geology, Geography, Physics, Biology and a Diploma Cartography course, I gained a Geology degree, before joining the Institute of Geological Sciences (now part of the BGS). I was assigned to the Mineral Intelligence Unit (literally a hangover from the Cold War) where my portfolio included carbonate minerals, refractories, abrasives, aggregates and strontium minerals. I was heavily involved with the production of the Minerals Dossiers – part of Wilson's drive to boost the internal economy by reducing imports. We also responded with

desk-based advice to queries from Trinidad to Fiji but unfortunately I only ever got as far afield as North Devon and Worksop!

To get closer to real geology, I took a post as a Strategic Minerals Planner with Derbyshire Planning Dept. in 1972 and in addition, in the following year was asked to set up the first of ten Regional Aggregate Working Parties (RAWPs) – for which I have continued as Technical Secretary until RAWPs were mothballed last year.

In the early 1980s I cajoled my boss and others to set up a working group. After some years of increasing days of secondment, I became director of the National Stone Centre in 1988 and opened the Centre to the public in 1990. However visitors only see 10-20% of our efforts, most of our activities to date focus on commissioned research and latterly, craft skills training, but there will be more of that in a later Newsletter.

At the recent NAMHO Council meeting I indicated a number of areas for consideration which included:

- a) The possibility of holding joint conferences and initiatives with other like-minded bodies, including those relating to geology, caving and other aspects of industrial archaeology (especially transport)
- b) Inspiring members to find other local organisations, such as museums, in their own areas or fields of interest to join or work with NAMHO
- c) Holding brief (say half-minute) news and information exchange period during each council meeting, where attendees can raise an item of interest or development
- d) Taking measures to recognise more fully, the inclusion of the Republic of Ireland in NAMHO including questioning the use of 'National' in the Association's name.

At the Research Framework Steering group meeting a week or so later, I also suggested that a future conference could focus upon the application of scientific techniques to extractive industry archaeology and a gap which could be filled by a handbook on

related skills. This could be a by-product of the Research Framework and improve on the scant coverage in the new CBA Handbook.

Finally I'd like to thank Kevin Baker and Nigel Dibben for their work and support and to welcome warmly, Kevin's offer to reinstate the position of Museums Officer.

Ian Thomas, NAMHO Chair

EDITORIAL

At this year's NAMHO AGM in March, Kevin Baker stepped down as NAMHO Chairman after three years at the helm, but has enthusiastically agreed to take up the position of NAMHO Museums Officer. Ian Thomas (National Stone Centre) was duly elected as Kevin's replacement, Sallie Bassham (NMRS) as Vice-Chair, with Nigel Dibben, George Price and Peter Claughton remaining as Secretary, Treasurer and Conservation Officer respectively. As for the position of Newsletter Editor, I'd just like to say thanks for the enthusiastic response of the delegates as I offered to continue in this position, which obviously had nothing to do with the lack of an alternative candidate!

A final reminder that this year's NAMHO Conference is being held at Quarry Bank Mill, near Wilmslow, Cheshire from Friday the 29th June to Sunday the 1st July. Following the welcome evening on the Friday, there is a programme of lectures planned for the Saturday and Sunday, and an extensive schedule of complementary surface and underground trips. Full information and booking details can be found at: <http://www.derbysc.org.uk/namhoconference2012/index.php>

Roy Meldrum

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.

Copy Date for the next newsletter is 31st August, with publication due mid-September. 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

NEWS AND EVENTS

The West Country

The 34th International Mining Games

As reported in the March edition of the NAMHO Newsletter, the 2012 International Mining Games were being hosted by the Camborne School of Mines and took place at the King Edward Mine Museum near Camborne on the 31st March-1st April. Over 30 teams, representing Australia, Germany, Netherlands, USA and the UK, competed over the weekend, with the overall winners being Western Australian School of Mines A (men), Missouri School of Science and Technology B (women) and Colorado School of Mines (co-ed).

Full results and photographs available at

<http://kingedwardmine.co.uk/mining-games-2012/>

Theft from Poldark Mine

One of two Cornish Stamps at Poldark Mining Museum has been stolen. Richard Williams, Chief Executive, said "We've had thefts of scrap metal, which are in fact quite important historical artefacts, from the site. The sad factor is that some of these items are quite unique." Security has now been improved at the site.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-17324902> (10/03/2012)

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Northern United Colliery buildings at risk

In February of this year it was brought to the attention of NAMHO that a proposal to demolish the buildings at Northern United Colliery, near Cinderford, Gloucestershire had been lodged with the Planning Department of the Forest of Dean District Council (ref: P0154/12/DEM). In 2003 NAMHO provided a statement on the then proposed demolition of the buildings on this site, emphasising the gap created in local cultural heritage assets by the clearance of colliery buildings and the need for an independent archaeological assessment. Since that date the loss of colliery buildings has continued, leaving Northern United as one of a small number of representative groups of 20th Century colliery buildings, unique in the Forest of Dean, if not England south of the Midland Coalfields.

An archaeological assessment carried out as part of the Gloucestershire County Council Cinderford Northern Quarter, Heritage and Archaeological Assessment, September 2009, recommended that "retention and re-use of all the surviving buildings is

highly desirable”, modifying the original proposals to allow the retention of the colliery buildings. However, these modifications have been reversed, proposing the demolition of the buildings, including one of the few remaining NCB pithead baths, to allow the construction of a new road.

Along with members of the Forest of Dean Local History Society, Peter Claughton, NAMHO Conservation Officer, visited the site in February and compiled a report supporting the retention of all the colliery buildings on behalf of NAMHO, which has been submitted to the Forest of Dean District Council, we await the decision.

The Historical Metallurgy Society 2012 Conference: Not so much Gold, Silver, Bronze - more Copper, Zinc and Brass (SS Great Britain, Bristol, England - 6th October 2012)

In this Olympic year the Historical Metallurgy Society would like to invite you to join us for a one-day conference on the real story behind non-ferrous metals - not just gold, silver and bronze, but copper, zinc, brass and others.

This conference offers an opportunity to explore themes relating to the history and archaeology of all non-ferrous metals. With the SS Great Britain as a backdrop there will be a focus on the broad theme of communication; communication of ideas, metals as communication tools and the role of non-ferrous metallurgy in the slave trade.

The conference on the 6th of October will be hosted in the stunning Victorian surrounds of the SS Great Britain, the world's first great ocean liner. Registration for the conference will include access to the ship, refreshments, a light lunch and afternoon tea. The Bristol area is rich with non-ferrous archaeological sites, and on Sunday 7th October there will be an opportunity to explore Roman lead workings and post-medieval copper works with expert guides. Offers of papers are welcome on any of these themes.

Full details and booking forms available at: <http://hist-met.org/conf2012.html>

The North of England

Washington Miners' Memorial damaged by thieves

Only days after being unveiled on Saturday 31st March 2012, a statue of a miner with his wife and son was targeted and damaged by metal thieves. The

monument to the region's mining heritage was the product of years of planning by the Washington's Miners and Community Group, Sunderland Council and other community groups.



Photograph courtesy of Dave Witham

<http://www.journallive.co.uk/north-east-news/todays-news/2012/04/04/washington-miners-heritage-memorial-targeted-by-thieves-61634-30688115/>
(04/04/2012)

Whiteskye and Bentyfield Mine, Alston

The North Pennines AONB has organised conservation work at this mine site, mainly funded by the HLF. The site is a SAM and a part is also a SSSI. Work has included rebuilding some of the river retaining walls, repairs to dressing floor walls, rebuilding shaft capping and conserving the ruins of Bentyfield mine shop. (You can read more about this on the aditnow website).

Volunteers have carried out excavation work at Whiteskye mine shop, have cleared and strengthened the entrance to Bentyfield Low Level, and have carried out clearance and drainage work at Bentyfield High Level. The funded work is likely to end soon. Approaches are now being made to the landowner to agree a continuation by volunteers of work at the High Level. It is proposed to complete the clearance of the entrance to the level and carry out other conservation work. Details of this project will be announced on the aditnow website.

Peter Jackson

Part of Allenheads history revealed again

The Allenheads 'Horse Track' was an inclined passage along which horses could be walked into the mine. It started close to the village centre and descended in a corkscrew fashion into the workings. The entrance was sealed when the mine was reworked, subsequently it was filled and the rail around its edge damaged, after which it became overgrown and difficult to locate. It is an interesting and historically important feature of this famous mining village and recently there have been moves by The Friends of Killhope and the Allenheads Trust, along with the Bywell Estate, to clear the vegetation and dig out the entrance section. In due course the Friends of Killhope and Allenheads Trust intend to install an interpretation panel explaining the site.



Don Borthwick

Nenthead Mines Conservation Society

The inaugural meeting of the Nenthead Mines Conservation Society was held on Sunday 13th May 2012 at Nenthead. Around 80 people came to the meeting and the new society was launched. Peter Jackson was nominated as the Chair and Sheila Barker was unanimously elected as Membership Secretary.

Peter asked for volunteers for the five other committee positions. Nick Green, Alistair Myers, Ray Hall, Ben Jackson and Peter Wilkinson stepped forward and became the committee. The committee met on the same day and agreed to review the draft

constitution. The constitution was agreed by the committee on 30th May and will be published on the society website. Donations of money have been received and volunteer help is also being offered.

The membership form will shortly be available on the website. It can also be requested by post from Sheila Barker, Membership Secretary, NMCS, The Rise, Alston, Cumbria, CA9 3DB. Please include a stamped addressed envelope.

News and information will be added to the society website: www.nentheadmines.com.

Peter Jackson (31/05/2012)

Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers Project

It is reported that this project aims to "reveal, preserve and celebrate the lead industry heritage centred on Dukesfield in Hexhamshire, lying between the mining district of the high Pennine dales and the Tyne Valley. This includes:

- The physical remains of a once hugely important lead smelting mill by the Devil's Water,
- The routes which connected mines, mills and markets between the hills and Tyneside,
- The life and work of the smelters and the carriers.

The project is currently applying for funding and there should be more news later this year.

Peter Jackson

Transfer of sponsorship for National Coal Mining Museum for England

With the revelation of a possible reduction in direct Government funding, the NCMME has been holding discussions with the Department for Culture, Media & Sport and the National Museum of Science and Industry (NMSI) over the last year to formulate a solution. On 23rd March 2012 it was announced that from April 2012 the NCMME will receive an annual grant towards running costs from the NMSI. "NCMME will remain legally as a separate independent charity, still with its own Board of Trustees responsible for the running of the Museum, under the Chair, Baroness Morris of Yardley, and the Director, Dr Margaret Faull OBE."

(NCMME website news 23/03/2012) and also: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-17495710> (23/03/2012)

Lake District mineral collection

The Bill Shaw mineral collection has been bought from Keswick Mining Museum by Kendal Museum, with the help of private donors, and grants from Arts Council England and Hanson Heidelberg Cement. Kendal Museum, in Cumbria, is open Wednesday to Saturday 10:30am to 5pm.

<http://www.thewestmorlandgazette.co.uk/news/>

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Elsecar Beam Engine to be restored

A £400,000 grant has been awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the 18th century Newcomen beam engine and engine house at the Elsecar Heritage Centre near Barnsley. The engine, built in 1795, was used to pump water out of the colliery at Elsecar until 1923. In 2010 the engine, believed to be the only remaining example in situ, was put on the English Heritage 'At Risk' register.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-17389120> (16/03/2012)

The Midlands

Dedication of Hednesford Miners' Memorial

On Saturday 28th April 2012 a dedication service was held to celebrate the completion of the second and final phase of the memorial in Hednesford to the miners of the Cannock Chase Coalfield. The initial memorial, comprising an 8' tall miner's lamp and wall containing the names of 1,200 miners from the Cannock pits, was dedicated in July 2006. With a huge response from the public, Chase Arts for Public Spaces (CHAPS) proposed an extension, with the necessary approval being granted in 2011. The names of an additional 1,450 miners, engraved on bricks at a cost of £20 each, have been placed around the Town Centre Garden, with individual pits commemorated in blocks set into the paving too.

<http://chasewaterstuff.wordpress.com/2012/04/29/the-dedication-of-the-mining-memorial-hednesford-28th-april-2012/>

Daw Mill Colliery

Following another period of production difficulties at the end of 2011, linked with the failure to achieve planned development targets, UK Coal announced in March that it would close Daw Mill Colliery in Arley,

Warwickshire, in 2014. However, along with a new shift system and a two-year pay freeze already agreed, UK Coal has proposed cutting up to 200 jobs in an attempt to reduce costs and regulate production at 1.7m tonnes a year (currently 2m tonnes a year). Discussions are on-going between the unions and UK Coal.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-17938183> (03/05/2012)

Peak District Mining Museum

The Matlock Bath Pavilion Group has taken on a three year lease of the building that is home to the Peak District Mining Museum, in Derbyshire, England. The Group hope to renovate the Pavilion with grants of £2M, and have an option to buy the building at the end of the lease.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-17013814> <http://www.peakmines.co.uk/>

Scotland

Galston Mine Incident (26th July 2008) Report

The Scottish Government has published a report in to the 2008 Galston Mine Incident, in which Alison Hume tragically died. HM Chief Inspector of Fire and Rescue Authorities makes four recommendations, three of which are linked to the Fire and Rescue Framework published by Scottish Ministers, and one relates to operational command. According to the Coal Authority there are 23000 mine entries in Scotland, with 14 collapses of shafts notified since 2004.

Report:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/03/3230>

Annex:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/03/5545>

Rusha opencast coal mine

Banks Mining has started preparatory work for a new surface coal mine near Breich in West Lothian. Up to 50 jobs may be created at the mine, which has permission to operate for seven years.

<http://www.banksgroup.co.uk/work-starting-at-rusha-surface-mine-site/>

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Ireland

Derryginagh Barite Project

Sunrise Resources PLC has reviewed the results of recent drilling around the former Derryginagh Mine in County Cork. They believe that a preliminary economic evaluation of the project is justified. They expect to award a contract for a scoping study shortly.

<http://www.sunriseresourcesplc.com/news.html>
(26/04/2012)

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Wales

Clive Engine House to be restored

Funding has been secured to repair the 19th Century Clive Engine House in Denbighshire which has stood unused since the closure of the Talargoch Mine in 1884. The Clive shaft was originally drained by means of an underground hydraulic pumping engine, but in 1862 the Clive Engine House was built to house a steam pumping engine. The engine was subsequently sold to the Westminster Colliery near Wrexham, and the engine house left to the elements.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-17491623> (23/03/2012)

Penrhyn Quarry, Gwynedd

A half a million ton rock fall at the Penrhyn slate quarry in Bethesda on 27th April has put jobs under threat. With parts of the quarry now closed, nearly half of the 200 workforce are on short-time working, whilst others have been redeployed to other parts of the business. A statement from Welsh Slate said "A rock fall that took place overnight between April 26th and 27th has reduced the amount of material currently available for processing at Penrhyn Quarry. This has had an impact on our roofing slate output." The Health and Safety Executive are investigating the incident.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-18071354> (15/05/2012)

Gold Mines of Wales

A report by Snowden Mining Consultants for Gold Mines of Wales (GMOW) says there could be gold worth £125 million in the Dolgellau area. Ed McDermott of GMOW claims "There could be another Clogau. If that were the case, we could be looking at significant gold production." GMOW have an option from the Crown estate to explore for gold over an area of 120 km². They hope to start exploration drilling within six months.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-west-wales-17756325>

<http://www.goldminesofwales.com/> (18/04/2012)

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Alkane Energy PLC

Alkane has 13 power stations using coal mine methane (CMM) to generate 41 MW of electricity. They will open two new sites in 2012, one at Pontycwmmer in South Wales and another at Gedling, Nottinghamshire.

<http://www.alkane.co.uk/ourcompany/alkane-news>

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Around the World

Rosia Montana, Romania

A "transparent review" of the Rosia Montana gold project in Romania has been ordered by the country's Prime Minister-designate. Since 1999 Gabriel Resources has spent \$500 million on exploring one of the largest gold deposits in Europe, containing 314 tonnes. Proposed open pit mining would remove the tops of four mountains and require the demolition of three villages in Transylvania. Mining in the area dates back to the first century AD, with most of the underground development being during the period of the Austria-Hungarian Empire, 1700s-1918. According to UNESCO the area contains "a unique archaeological complex of Roman mine galleries." Gabriel Resources proposes to spend \$35 million on rescue archaeology in the area of the roman workings.

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

<http://www.gabrielresources.com/site/projects.aspx>

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Czech-German Ore Mountain Mining Localities seek UNESCO Listing

The Czech Culture Ministry has recommended that the Montanregion Krushnohori project, in co-operation with the German state of Saxony, tries to join the list of UNESCO world cultural heritage sites. The area includes exceptional landscape and mining history localities. Detailed documentation will be completed by autumn 2013, and passed to Germany for submission to UNESCO.

<http://praguemonitor.com/2012/04/06/czech-german-ore-mountain-mining-localities-seek-unesco-listing> (06/04/2012)

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Hanging Flume, Colorado

In the late 1880s a 10 mile long hanging flume was constructed to provide water for gold-washing equipment near Uravan, Colorado. It took 25 men three years to build, and ran along the sheer sides of the gorges above the Dolores and San Miguel rivers. Over the years wood from the flume has been robbed. Recently a 48' long section of the 6' wide by 4' deep flume was restored using modern roped-access techniques. Better road-signage is planned, along with two books and a video about this amazing structure.

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_20393944/121-year-old-western-colorado-mining-flume-clings

(14/04/2012)

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

PUBLICATIONS

The Foreigner in the Hills: The Vieille Montagne Company of Belgium on Alston Moor

Alastair F. Robertson, Hundy Publications, Softback, 110 pages, map & 25 b&w photographs, A5, £9.95
ISBN: 978 0 9547339 6 4

The Vieille Montagne Zinc Company of Belgium came to the north Pennines in 1896 to extract zinc and lead ore for shipment to Belgium. Before the First World War the 'VM' employed many foreigners. The international workforce came from Belgium, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, France and Hungary, with some men marrying local girls and their children being born and schooled here. The VM survived two World Wars and the interwar economic depression. Then, after fifty-two years in operation, it sold up to the Anglo Austral Company in 1949.

Obtainable from the author at Hundy Publications, Ashleigh House, Nenthead Road, Alston, Cumbria, CA93SN please add £1.20 for P&P

History and Progress of Mining in the Liskeard and Caradon District (1863)

William Webb and Edward Geach, The Trevithick Society, paperback, 158 pages, 150 x 210 mm, £11.99, ISBN: 978 0 904040 88 3

A reprint of a survey of this great copper area at its zenith, this new edition has additional notes by Trevithick Society member, John Manley, including what remains today and new photographs.

The Early Mining Photographs: 1920-1933

H G Ordish, The Trevithick Society, paperback & hardback, 250pages, illustrated, 145x210mm, PB £16.00, HB £25.00, ISBN: 978 0 904040 90 6

Over 200 photographs covering Cornwall from this noted recorder of Cornish mines, most never before published. Covers large well known mines and some small workings of which these photos are the only record.

The Oblivion of Trevithick

Philip M Hosken, The Trevithick Society, hardback, 350 pages, 176 x 250 mm, £30.00 ISBN 978 0 904040 89 0
A new look at the career of the great Cornish engineer seeking to discover the reasons why Trevithick never received the credit he was due.

Aerial Investigation and Mapping Report

Miner-Farmer Landscapes of the North Pennines AONB NMP – Aerial Investigation and Mapping Report, Research Report Series No.4-2012

'This report describes the specification and methodology for the mapping and recording followed by an overview of selected results from the North Pennines desk-based aerial survey mapping. This work fulfils Module 1 of the 'Miner-Farmer Landscapes of the North Pennines AONB' project and forms part of the National Mapping Programme'.

http://services.english-heritage.org.uk/ResearchReportsPdfs/004_2012WEB.pdf

It is probably the use of airborne LIDAR (light detection and ranging) that has the greatest relevance to our mining history community. Mining is only a small part of the discussion 7 pages of the 99 page report, as the extent of undamaged remains from other earlier periods in history significantly exceeded English Heritage's expectations.

All above courtesy of Don Borthwick

Walking with Giants: Europe's Massive Earthmovers

Steven Vale, Old Pond Publishing Ltd, hardback, illustrated, 286x222mm, £29.95, ISBN: 9781906853839

This book looks at massive machines at work in the surface mines of 14 European countries, describing the regions in which the mining takes place and providing information about the industries they serve. Famous names include Caterpillar, Komatsu, Terex, Demag and Bucyrus, with photographs and detailed text.

Coal Mining

T.C. Cantrill, Cambridge University Press, paperback, 203x127mm, £12.99, ISBN: 9781107605817

Contents: Preface; Introduction and historical review; Varieties, geological age and origin of coal; The coal measures and the coal-seam; Coalfields, folds and faults; Prospecting and boring; Winning the coal; Working the coal; Ventilation, draining and lighting; Underground haulage, winding, and surface arrangements; Leases and royalties, administration, and state regulations; Bibliography; Index.

Originally published during the early part of the twentieth century, the Cambridge Manuals of Science and Literature were designed to provide concise introductions to a broad range of topics. They were written by experts for the general reader and combined a comprehensive approach to knowledge with an emphasis on accessibility. Coal Mining by T.C. Cantrill was first published in 1914. The text contains an account of the key principles involved in coal mining, together with information regarding its historical development.

Mine Drainage: Being a Complete and Practical Treatise on Direct-Acting Underground Steam Pumping Machinery

Stephen Michell, Cambridge University Press, Paperback, 370pages, illustrated, 216 x 140 mm, £19.99, ISBN: 9781108026659

Contents: Preface; Introductory; Classification of underground steam-pumping engines; Horizontal Pumping Engines: rotary horizontal engines; Non-rotary engines; Vertical Pumping Engines: rotary vertical engines; Non-rotary vertical engines; Appendix; Index.

Stephen Michell's 1881 work covers the full range of engines and steam-pumps available for draining mines in the nineteenth century. An expert on contemporary mining technology, Michell co-authored the essays 'The Best Mining Machinery' and 'The Cornish System of Mine Drainage' prior to writing this comprehensive survey. Mine Drainage represents the first attempt to gather in one book information previously located in various journals (and therefore difficult to find), and documentation about engines by their (possibly biased) manufacturers. The book also contains almost 140 illustrations of the diverse pumps and engines discussed. After a short introduction, the material is organised into two main sections, focusing on horizontal and vertical engines. Within those categories it discusses rotary and non-rotary engines, and simple and compound steam-pumps. The book

will interest historians of technology, science, engineering, and mining in the Victorian period.

No Redemption

Keith Pattison and David Peace, Flambard Press, paperback, illustrated, 104 pages, 238x238mm, £20.00, ISBN 978 1 906601 20 1

Keith Pattison spent six months at the height of the Miners' Strike of 1984–85 living in the Durham coastal village of Easington Colliery and photographing the people there as events took shape. With the increasing determination of the government to break the strike and force miners back to work, he witnessed from the inside a community laid siege by the state.

Twenty-five years later, on Election Day 2010, Pattison took the writer David Peace to Easington to interview three of the people caught up in the strike – Alan Cummings, Marilyn Johnson and her husband Jimmy. Their memories, still freshly felt, make explicit the anger, pain, resilience and warmth captured in the photographs.

CORRESPONDENCE

Can you help?

Nigel Dibben as NAMHO Secretary has recently received a request for help from Alex Johnstone, a caver/miner who is interested in finding out more about mine inspections. He wrote: "I am writing to you with a view to arranging to shadow someone on routine mine inspections. My aim is to advance my understanding of structural and environmental hazards one may experience whilst underground in areas to which one may perhaps not usually be granted access. I am currently working towards level one of the Local Cave and Mine Leader Award and the Mines Module for the Cave Instructor's Certificate. For this reason I feel that such an opportunity would be beneficial in terms of identifying hazards and ensuring I can make safe judgements. I have over three years personal caving and mine exploration experience." By way of clarification he later added that: "I do mean both abandoned and working mines and ideally I would be looking to follow on safety inspections."

Nigel has informed Alex about the role of organisations such as PICA covering the Peak District. If anyone thinks they could help Alex, please contact him direct at: alex_2300@hotmail.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

4th May-9th September: Into the Mouth of Hell. The Segedunum Roman Fort and Museum, Wallsend, Tyne & Wear, is hosting an exhibition on mining disasters until the 9th September. The museum is next to the site of Wallsend Colliery where 102 miners were killed in 1835. Other disasters represented in the exhibition are Hartley Pit (204 lives, 1865), John Pit, Felling (92 lives, 1812) and Heaton Main Colliery (75 lives, 1815).
<http://www.journallive.co.uk/>
<http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/segedunum/>

1st June-28th July (excluding Sundays and Bank Holidays): the Goldsmiths' Company in London is holding an exhibition called "Gold, Power and Allure". The exhibition includes mineral specimens from Scotland and Cornwall and many gold artefacts. Also on display will be borehole core from Ireland and some bronze-age lunulae, probably made from Irish gold. A book is being produced, based on the theme of the exhibition. On the 19 June a series of talks will consider aspects of the exhibition and its historical and cultural relevance. <http://thegoldsmiths.co.uk/>

16th June: St Aidans BE1150 Walking Dragline Open Day, Swillington, Leeds, LS26 8AL

29th June-1st July: NAMHO Conference, Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, near Wilmslow, Cheshire.

8th & 9th July: Cadeby Main Colliery Disaster Memorial Day, including parade, open air service and dedication of memorial at Denaby Main Cemetery (11.20am Sunday 8th July) and dedication of memorial and open air service at Conisbrough Cemetery (11.30am Monday 9th July). Full details available at:

<http://sites.google.com/site/conisbroughlocalhistory/denaby-and-cadeby-colleries/1912-cadeby-collery-disaster/cadeby-main-collery-memorial-group-1/activities-1/commemoration-day---july-8th>

27th August: Kent Miner's Festival, 10am-7pm, The Village Greens of Aylesham. A free family day out with Mining Exhibitions, Brass Bands, Charity Tents, stalls, farmers market, beer tent and food court, singers dancers & acrobats, fun fair rides and stunt bikes.
<http://www.kentminersfestival.org/index.shtml>

6th-9th September: Heritage Open Days. Full details at <http://www.heritageopendays.org/>

8th & 9th September: St Aidans BE1150 Walking Dragline Open Day, Swillington, Leeds

21st-23rd September: Hidden Earth 2012, Burnley, Lancashire. The annual conference hosted by the British Cave Research Association and the British Caving Association.
<http://hidden-earth.org.uk/index2.html>

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