



## **NAMHO Conference, 25-27<sup>th</sup> July 2014, Bangor, Gwynedd. Mining Technology: Technical Innovation in the Extractive Industries**

Preparations for this year's conference at Bangor University in North Wales are well in hand with a full programme of lectures and field trips arranged together with an informal reception for delegates on the Friday evening with two short films and short presentations on current mining history activities.

The conference theme is Mining Technology and the lecture programme includes a number of speakers who will be new to attendees of previous conferences. There will be exhibition and trade stands including RCAHMW, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Moore Books, IA Recordings, Starless River plus a number of North Wales caving clubs. The conference lecture theatre, meeting hall and reception/information desk are all close together under one roof on the ground floor of the main university building.

Unfortunately, the Cambrian Caving Council have not been able to reach agreement with Natural Resources Wales on access to underground sites on Forestry Commission land, consequently we have had to withdraw planned trips to mines in the Gwydyr Forest. However, additional trips to other sites have been organised and are proving popular. Would-be delegates should note that bookings for accommodation and the conference dinner must have been received, with payment made, by 15th July. Booked delegates should receive a newsletter by email early in July which will give them details of where to register and any last minute changes.

The conference is being organised by AditNow Mining History Society and full details including the lecture and field trip programme and the online booking system can be found at:

<http://www.namho.org/bangor2014>

*AditNow.co.uk (29/05/2014)*

## **NAMHO Conference 2015**

The 2015 Conference will be at Nenthead, Alston, Cumbria and will be hosted by the Nenthead Mines Conservation Society. The conference will have two themes:

1. Mining Industries of the North Pennines and adjacent areas
2. The Relationship between the UK Mining Industry and War

The organisers welcome any offers of papers. If you want to discuss a possible paper, you are welcome to phone Pete Jackson on 01642564100 or 07718385646, or you might be able to waylay him at the NAMHO 2014 Conference at Bangor.

We also need volunteers to lead surface and underground events. Again, we are open for discussion. As always, mine owners permissions will be required for any underground events. If you have a suggestion for a trip, we want to hear from you.

*Pete Jackson,*

*Nenthead Mines Conservation Society*

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## **The Future of NAMHO - A Review**

NAMHO wants to hear your views on the future of the organisation. There will be a formal consultation process within the next twelve months but you do not have to wait for that process to start. We welcome any opinions and comments at any time. You can write to the NAMHO secretary via our postal address - NAMHO Secretary, c/o Peak District Mining Museum, The Pavilion, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire, DE4 3NR or via email [secretary@namho.org.uk](mailto:secretary@namho.org.uk). You can also speak to any NAMHO Officer. We will be at the Bangor Conference in July.

*Peter Jackson,*  
*NAMHO Secretary*

## News and Events

### The Midlands

#### Clipstone Colliery Headstocks Petition

An e-petition has been launched to save the Grade II listed Clipstone Colliery headstocks and associated winding engine house in Nottinghamshire. A planning application has been submitted to de-list and demolish these structures.

The petition can be found at:

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/61497>

There is also a Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/saveclipstonepithheadstocks/>



Photograph- Roy Meldrum

#### Snibston Colliery, Coalville, Leicestershire

Due to funding constraints Leicestershire County Council have put forward proposals to make major changes at Snibston Museum. The current museum focuses on science, industry, mining and fashion connected with the county, but the new proposals concentrate solely on Snibston's mining heritage.

The new look mining museum will include a new building, as well as the existing pithead buildings and the mineral railway. The existing museum building will be demolished under these plans, with the land being "released" for redevelopment.

The Friends of Snibston group are leading a campaign against the Council's proposals, and are considering taking legal action to save the current museum.

[http://www.leics.gov.uk/future\\_snibston\\_consultation\\_document.pdf](http://www.leics.gov.uk/future_snibston_consultation_document.pdf)

[http://www.leics.gov.uk/snibston\\_survey.htm](http://www.leics.gov.uk/snibston_survey.htm)

<http://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/Campaigners-ready-High-Court-battle-Snibston/story-21011492-detail/story.html>



Photograph- Roy Meldrum

### The North of England

#### Nenthead Mines, Nenthead, Alston, Cumbria.

Natural England have funded a conservation management plan for Cumbria County Council, who are the site owners. Work is expected to start on 16th June. The major part of the plan will be to stabilise, repair and cap the spine wall within the smelting mill site. The river culvert adjacent to Smallcleugh Level entrance is to have two sections repaired. Stabilisation work will also take place on the remains of the smelting mill flue and chimney base. This programme is expected to run for 16 weeks.

The programme also includes the rebuilding of the North Powder Store. Materials and supervision will be provided as part of the plan. Volunteers will then carry out the repair and reconstruction of the building. If you would like to volunteer to work on this programme, please watch the NMCS website for further information [www.nentheadmines.com](http://www.nentheadmines.com).

As part of the project, Nenthead Mines Conservation Society have obtained funding for a replacement safety gate for Rampgill Level entrance. The gate has been manufactured and delivered to site.

NMCS are also starting programme this year to conserve Middlecleugh Compressor House, to enhance Carrs Mine, and to start a full Archaeological study of Middlecleugh Level. More information will be posted on the website.

Peter Jackson (06/06/2014)

### **Dukesfield Smelting Mill, near Slaley, Hexham, Northumberland.**

The Friends of the North Pennines are continuing their Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers project. During May 2014, more holes have been dug on the site of Dukesfield Smelting Mill. On the east end of the site there are remains of building foundations. The main leat has had more attention and we can now see a leat floored with pieces of iron - presumably from old ore hearths. A large excavation at the north end of The Arches structure has revealed complex building foundations and layers, including a probable waterwheel case, which has collapsed inwards. One small structure within the building, about 1.5 meters square, has foundations incorporating more furnace iron, including one block which may be a tuyere piece.

The project steering group are discussing the possibility of conserving the structures and leaving some sections visible when excavation has been completed.

*Peter Jackson (06/06/2014)*

### **Marsden Lodge Banner Goes on Display**

After being in storage for over two decades, the Marsden Lodge Banner, from Whitburn Colliery (also known as Marsden Colliery) has been restored by volunteers. The banner was last on display in 1983 when it was carried as part of the centenary celebrations of the Durham Miner's Gala. It is now been put on permanent display at the Whitburn Library, South Tyneside. (08/04/2014)

<http://www.southtyneside.info/article/21371/villages-mining-heritage-goes-on-display>

### **Museum Plan for the former Hemingfield Colliery**

Plans have been put forward for a museum and visitor centre at the former Hemingfield Colliery, also known as Elsecar Low Pit, near Elsecar, Yorkshire. The site is currently in the hands of the receivers after UK Coal went into liquidation, but Steve Grudgings, the man behind the plans, is looking to purchase the site and hand it over to the Friends of Hemingfield Colliery.

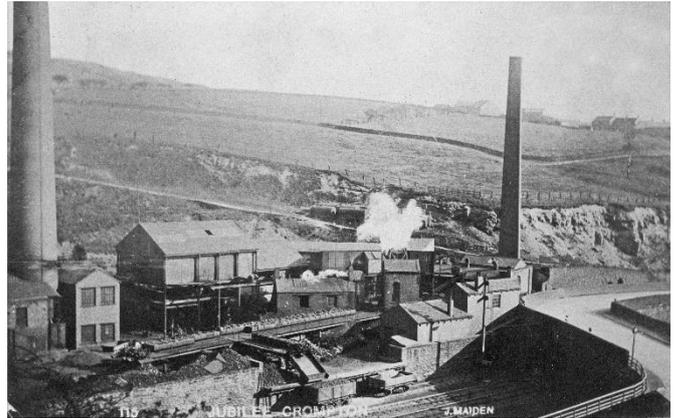
<http://www.barnsley-chronicle.co.uk/news/article/8141/museum-plan-for-coliery-site> (30/05/2014)

### **Plans to demolish Lynemouth Colliery Baths**

An application was submitted to Northumberland County Council by Harworth Estates to demolish the Grade II\* listed pithead baths of the former Lynemouth Colliery. NAMHO, along with a number of other organisations, including English Heritage and Northern Mines Research Society, objected to the

proposals. The application has since been refused by the County Council.

### **Preserving the Past at Jubilee Colliery in Oldham**



The Jubilee Colliery near Newhey (in the Borough of Rochdale, Lancashire) was built in 1845 and closed in 1932. The site is one of the last few remaining examples of Oldham's industrial mining heritage and is the most accessible one in the area. Since the colliery closed, nature has moved back into the site. Trees, ferns, mosses, fungi and flowers have colonised the colliery remains and rubble, in turn attracting local wildlife to the area.

Its location is ideal in order to explore and share the story of Oldham's industrial past. In recent years, Groundwork has used the site to carry out volunteer-based work, making it more usable and accessible for the public.

*Jubilee Colliery: Unearthing the Past* was a project that saw a group of volunteer heritage trainees help to create a local heritage legacy. The group worked with experts to rediscover Jubilee Colliery and inform others of their findings through community events and activities. The volunteers developed new skills and a greater understanding of their local heritage.

*Jubilee Colliery: Preserving the Past* is a brand new project that will be delivered by [Groundwork](#) and Oxford Archaeology North funded by the [Heritage Lottery Fund](#). The volunteer led project will run from April to October 2014.

#### **Events:**

The site will be open to visitors from 1-3 pm on Saturday 12th July, 9th August, and 13th September 2014. Visitors will take a guided tour and see the excavations taking place.

More details can be found on the project blog <http://jubileecolliery.wordpress.com>

The project is progressing well - we have a group of volunteers and so far have uncovered the base of the chimney which has an interesting construction pattern. The plan is to leave some of the structures we find uncovered so people can come and see what is there after the dig is finished! (13/06/2014)

*Joanna Fullman, Education & Communities Project Officer, Groundwork- Changing Places and Changing Lives in Bolton, Bury, Oldham & Rochdale*

## Cornwall

### Poldark Mine in Administration

With a downturn in visitor numbers, the Poldark Mine and Heritage Centre near Helston, has gone into administration and will be put on to the market. It is anticipated that the sale will attract a high level of interest. (24/03/2014)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-26723074>

### Cook's Kitchen and South Crofty Conservation Works

Due to possible redevelopment of the former mining area around the South Crofty site, Cornwall Council have leased the South Crofty site and the area containing the Cook's Kitchen engine houses. Conservation works have been carried out, including grit blasting and painting the New Cook's shaft headframe, repointing the pumping and whim engine houses and associated chimneys. (25/03/2014)

<http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/historic-environment/projects-and-programmes/industrial-heritage-projects/cooks-kitchen-and-south-crofty-conservation-works/>

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## Publications

### How Black Were Our Valleys: A 30 Year Commemoration of the 1984/85 Miners' Strike

*Deborah Price and Natalie Butts-Thompson, BBTS Publishers, softback, 179 pages, b&w photographs, 23x15cm, ISBN: 978-1495399497*

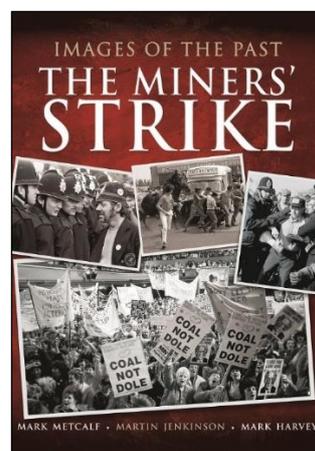
All profits from the sale of this book go to "The South Wales Area - Miners' Beneficiary Fund" which helps ex-miners and their families both socially and medically. To commemorate 30 years since the 1984/85 miners' strike, we have collected a variety of memories, stories, poems and events that happened during that time. A law professor who helped the miners with free legal advice, and also set up the Rhymney Valley

Miners' Support Group. An inspirational speech that led to the making of this publication. Stories of hardship, solidarity, overcoming prejudices and adversity add to the diversity of this collection. Women who changed their outlook on life completely. The government tactics used against the striking miners. Those who were just children at the time and the impact it had on them when they were growing up. The generosity of all those that came out in support of the striking miners. What happened after the strike? Why did all those mines have to close? The memories and accounts are personal, these are the stories that didn't get to the mainstream media, but are extremely important regardless, not just to the South Wales Mining Community, but also to all those communities that were involved.

Natalie and Deborah are 2nd year history students at University of South Wales, in Treforest. The book was written as part of their work placement with the NUM in Pontypridd. Natalie comes from a family of miners, with her dad and grandad both working in the pits, her own story is included in the book. Debbie writes short stories and poetry.

### Images of the Past: The Miners' Strike

*Martin Metcalf, Martin Jenkinson & Mark Harvey, Pen & Sword Books Ltd., softback, 218 pages, b&w photographs, £14.99. ISBN- 978 1783463664*

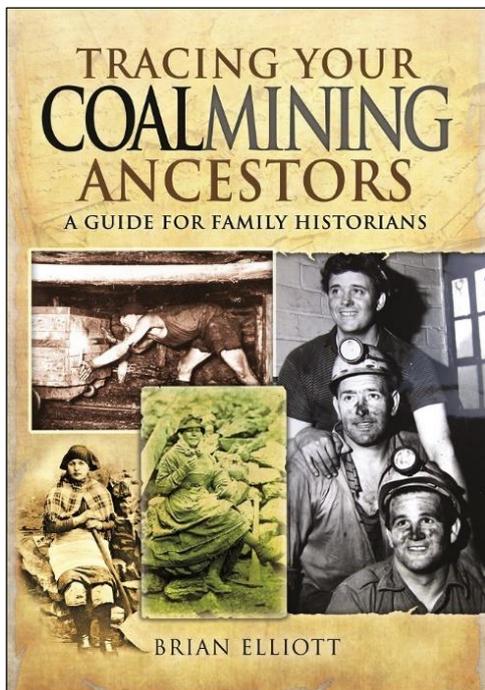


Thirty years after the one of the bitterest industrial disputes this country has ever seen, this book looks at the Yorkshire region, the heart of the dispute. The text and photographs not only tell the story of the miners' strike, but show the effect it had on the communities, the role of "Women against Pit Closure" and the dramatic change in policing methods. The images, captured by the official Yorkshire National Union of Mineworkers area photographer, the late Martin Jenkinson, record not only action from the picket lines

and daily life during the strike, but the fight to against pit closures in the 1990's. An interesting and informative look at a strike with effects that still resonate today.

### **Tracing Your Coalmining Ancestors**

*Brian Elliot*, Pen & Sword Books Ltd., softback, 266 pages, b&w photographs, 23.1x15.5cm, £14.99, ISBN: 978-1848842397



As the title suggests, this book is primarily aimed family historians researching their mining forebears. For those who have little or no knowledge of the coal mining industry, this book will prove an invaluable asset. The author, who is from a coal mining family, provides an excellent overview of the industry. He uses case studies and research tips to explain the working life of the miner, accidents, disasters and diseases, plus women and children in the mines. As well as the useful glossary of mining terms, there is an excellent directory of regional and national sources available to not only the family historian, but to anyone with an interest in coal mining.

Note: I would like to say thank you to Heather Williams, Marketing Executive at Pen & Sword Books, for providing copies of the two above books.  
<http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/>

### **Mining in Cornwall and Devon: Mines and Men**

*Roger Burt, Raymond Burnley, Michael Gill and Alastair Neill*, University of Exeter Press, softback plus CD, 272 pages plus CD, b&w photographs, 22.7x15.0cm, £25.00 ISBN- 978 0859898898

*Mining in Cornwall and Devon* is an economic history of mines, mineral ownership, and mine management in the South West of England.

The work brings together material from a variety of hard-to-find sources on the thousands of mines that operated in Cornwall and Devon from the late 1790s to the present day. It presents information on what they produced and when they produced it; who the owners and managers were and how many men, women and children were employed. For the mine owners, managers and engineers, it also offers a guide to their careers outside of the South West, in other mining districts across Britain and the world, and is an invaluable guide for family historians and those interested in biographical history.

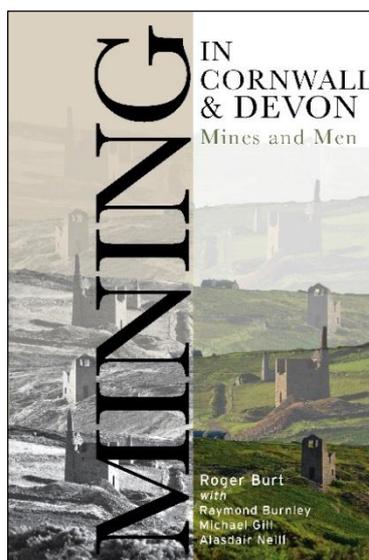
The printed book provides a guide to the sources, their interpretation and how they illustrate the long-term development and decline of the industry. The composite mine-by-mine tables are presented on an interactive CD included free with the book.

*Roger Burt* is Professor Emeritus of Economic History at the University of Exeter. He has been a consultant to mining companies and government departments and contributes to radio programmes on mining related issues.

*Raymond Burnley* is the software developer for the project, and is a former IT Systems Developer at the University of Exeter.

*Michael Gill* was a Research Fellow in the University of Exeter Economic History Department. He has also worked as a surveyor in the Mining and Civil Engineering industries.

*Alasdair Neill* is a freelance researcher on mining in the Southwest.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**1<sup>st</sup> April-1<sup>st</sup> July 2014:** Through My Eyes: The Miners' Strike 1984/85, Big Pit, Blaenafon, Torfaen, NP4 9XP. See this remarkable exhibition of photographs taken during the Miners' Strike of 1984/85.

**14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> June 2014:** Mining Gala, Apedale Heritage Centre, Chesterton, Newcastle under Lyme, ST5 7JS. <http://www.apedale.co.uk/gala/>

**14<sup>th</sup> June 2014:** St. Aidans BE1150 Walking Dragline Open Day (2.00pm- 4.00pm), Swillington, Leeds LS26 8AL

**22<sup>nd</sup> June 2014:** Miners' Gala, National Coal Mining Museum for England, Caphose Colliery, near Wakefield, Yorkshire. Full details at: <http://www.ncm.org.uk/what%27son/2013/04/03/miners%27-gala---sunday-22nd-june>

6th-13<sup>th</sup> July 2014: International Mining History Congress & Australasian Mining History Association Conference, Queensland. <http://www.ct2014miningcongress.com/programme.html>

**12<sup>th</sup> July 2014:** Jubilee Colliery Open Day, Newhey, Rochdale, Lancashire, 1-3pm. Guided tours of the excavations. More details at: <http://jubileecolliery.wordpress.com>

**25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> July 2014:** NAMHO Conference, Bangor, Gwyned: Full details and booking form at <http://www.namho.org/bangor2014>

**26<sup>th</sup> July 2014:** Big Pit's Gala Day, Blaenafon, Torfaen, NP4 9XP.

[http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/whatson/?event\\_id=7451](http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/whatson/?event_id=7451)

**9<sup>th</sup> August 2014:** Jubilee Colliery Open Day, Newhey, Rochdale, Lancashire, 1-3pm. Guided tours of the excavations. For details see above.

**13<sup>th</sup> September 2014:** Jubilee Colliery Open Day, Newhey, Rochdale, Lancashire, 1-3pm. Guided tours of the excavations. For details see above.

**15<sup>th</sup> November 2014:** NAMHO Council Meeting, 10.30am at Rising Sun Inn, Mosely Green, Parkend, GL15 4HN

**21<sup>st</sup> March 2015:** NAMHO AGM & Spring Meeting, venue to be confirmed.

Copy Date for the next newsletter is 20<sup>th</sup> August, with publication due September 2014.

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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