



NAMHO Conference 2015

Conference was held at Nenthead, near Alston in Cumbria from 22nd to 26th May. 168 people were involved in several roles including speakers, trip leaders, receptionists and delegates. There were four surface trips, 40 underground trips and two days of winch trips to Brewery Shaft. Twelve speakers delivered talks on the Saturday and Sunday at Nenthead Village Hall, which was also the venue for the Saturday evening meal. The Opening event on Friday evening was addressed by the Director of the North Pennines AONB Partnership, Chris Woodley Stewart in the warmth of the Village Hall. The Sunday evening meal was collected from a wood-fired pizza oven - welcome heat on a cold evening. The weather was otherwise generally kind to us - a good High Pennines spring weekend. The budget turnout was as we planned and we have funds to enable publication of the speaker's papers from the weekend.

Paul Thorne deserves a special mention for spending the weekend with his team providing winch access to Brewery Shaft and then leading a strenuous trip into the far reaches of Smallcleugh Mine on the Monday.

An amazing number of volunteers helped to cover all the tasks that are essential to run a Conference - without them we would not have delivered the weekend. I hope that we have thanked all those who joined the team - thanks to everyone. Feedback received shows that we had a lot of happy people.
(11/08/2015)

Pete Jackson, Nenthead Mines Conservation Society



Brewery Shaft top, Dave Cushing (L) & Pete Wagstaff (R). Photograph courtesy of Peter Jackson



Brewery Shaft top, Nick Green in the chair. Photograph courtesy of Peter Jackson.

Thank you to the Conference Team

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's conference such a success. It was based at Nenthead and provided an excellent lecture programme along with surface walks and underground trips.

The 'Conference Team' is to be congratulated for a thoroughly enjoyable weekend with efficient organisation, and impressive persuasive powers in cajoling interesting speakers and knowledgeable meet leaders to entertain us all. Thank you to all concerned.

Sallie Bassham, NAMHO Chair



Conference dinner delegates. Photograph courtesy of Peter Jackson

NAMHO Conference 2016

Next year's NAMHO Conference is being hosted by the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland on the 17th-19th June 2016. The meeting will be based at Dublin City University, which is handy for the airport in the north of the city. On the Saturday there will be lectures with the theme "Mining and Social change". The following day there will be fieldtrips to the copper and lead mines of County Wicklow, where recent research and survey work has made major new discoveries. On Monday 20th there may be visits organised to working mines, but there will be a very limited number of spaces available.

The organisers are looking for presentations on the theme "Mining and Social change" covering matters like regional identities, migration, urbanisation, industrial housing, education, gender issues, self-improvement, societies, industrial action, mines and quarries during the Troubles, and changing attitudes in favour or against mining. For more information about the conference, please contact Alastair Lings on 01896 757861 / 07763 850087 or e-mail alastairlings@yahoo.co.uk

Accommodation will be available at Dublin City University: <http://dcusummeraccommodation.ie/>
Alastair Lings, MHTI (18/08/2105)

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 Peter Jackson, NAMHO Secretary, for distributing the newsletter and forwarding correspondence.

In the December 2014 edition of the NAMHO Newsletter I made a request for copies of Constituent Group Newsletters to be forwarded to me as a source of information, news, etc. I would like to thank those that have cooperated and look forward to receiving future copies and ask that other newsletter editors forward theirs too.

Roy Meldrum, Editor

Around the NAMHO Groups

Current and Proposed Works, Avoca Mines, County Wicklow: An Update

In autumn 2014, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR), in conjunction with Irish Rail, undertook safety works at Tigroney without planning permission. The MHTI made observations to Wicklow County Council in relation to these works and wrote to the DCENR raising our concerns and offering our help and collective expertise. Our observations noted damage to archaeological and geological heritage remains; lack of supervision during the works by an industrial archaeologist experienced in mining heritage and disturbance of waste tips which are listed in the Record of Protected Structures of the Wicklow County Development Plan. We also advised that the adit entrances should be reinstated in a manner commensurate with their contemporary form - this has not been done. We received no reply to our letter from the DCENR and Wicklow County Council was sufficiently concerned to place an enforcement order on DCENR and Irish Rail to stop the works.

Earlier this year DCENR applied for planning permission for shaft capping works at Ballygahan Mine and the MHTI made a submission to Wicklow County Council in relation to this planning application. Some of our observations included the lack of a detailed archaeological impact survey; a lack of a detailed ecological survey (including a bat survey); no industrial archaeologist experienced in mining heritage on site during the works and unsympathetic approach to shaft capping which does not follow best practice in mining heritage areas as adopted in other countries. The planning department of Wicklow County Council agreed with many of the MHTI's observations and suspended the planning application pending additional information from the Department in relation to industrial heritage, ecology and the design of the shaft capping.

Meanwhile, local concerns about the scale and scope of recent and proposed works at Avoca and the lack of transparency and community consultation by the DCENR, resulted in a well-attended community meeting organised by the Avoca Heritage Committee in conjunction with Andrew Doyle T.D. in April. After being conducted around the mine sites by DCENR officers, Joe McHugh T.D., Minister of State at the

Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs and the DCENR heard, first hand, the concerns of interested parties and local/parliamentary representatives.

Marie Merrigan (Avoca Heritage Committee), who called the meeting, spoke passionately about the work that her group has undertaken in seeking conservation for the mine sites over the last 20 years. MHTI directors Sharron Schwartz and Martin Critchley made presentations at the meeting. Sharron spoke about the heritage value of the Avoca mines in a global context, the need to consolidate and preserve the historic mining landscape and the importance of potential future links with the UNESCO Cornish Mining World Heritage Site. Martin expressed the views of the MHTI regarding the works on the deep adit at Tigroney and the dearth of consultation by DCENR. He also raised concerns about the lack of relevant archaeological and ecological surveys and the design of future works. The MHTI sought a reallocation of funds for works at Avoca so that 50% of the funds are diverted to the conservation and protection of the mining remains.

Additional speakers included the Wicklow County Heritage Officer, and delegates from the Wicklow Uplands Council, Wicklow Partnership, Wicklow IFA, Wicklow Tourism and several local Councillors and TDs. The speakers unanimously supported the conservation of the mining heritage, the future development of its tourism potential and sought assurances that the remediation of the historic mining landscape and its industrial monuments would be dealt with in a sympathetic manner in the future. The Minister of and said that he would consult with colleagues in other relevant Government Departments, but gave no promises on the protection of the site or the future conduct of his officials and consultants.

A new planning application for works at Tigroney was submitted by the DCENR in May 2015. This application includes works on the 850 adit (to rebuild the adit entrance to the bedrock, installation of piping to channel water, gating the entrance), conservation of the ore bins and 'landscaping'. In addition the Department seeks retrospective planning permission for the works undertaken in autumn 2014 which are currently subject to an enforcement order.

We are presently reviewing the new planning application and expect to make a submission to Wicklow County Council in relation to this. The MHTI

wishes to see that the adit entrances are restored to their historic form and human access (with relevant permission) is retained for scientific research. We are also concerned about the proposed installation of the pipe in the 850 adit, as this could interfere with industrial heritage and the fragile secondary minerals whilst at the same time hinder any future tourist development. The twentieth century ore bins are iconic features of the site and although we welcome the fact that the DCENR now propose to conserve these (having previously suggested their removal from the site with no assurances regarding their future conservation), we are still concerned about the methodology of the proposed works.

*Martin Critchly, Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland
Newsletter No.68 Spring 2015*

CATMHS Archive Development

As part of last year's review of the medium term development of CATMHS it was recognised that we needed to consider how to handle our book and archive materials in the longer term. It may be necessary to change our current arrangement with the John Ruskin Museum as we move forward over a period of about two years. We are also obliged to make ourselves more publically accessible since we are a charity and the charity rules have changed in this respect. It was recognised that our material, as it is housed in the Ruskin is not very accessible to either CATMHS members or members of the public.

The committee discussed our options during the review and decided we should move to a wholly electronic medium for our archive material. We also agreed that we would not continue to hold a library of books ourselves but would seek an arrangement where a third party would hold our books and control public access to them. It was agreed that our archive should be focussed on the Cumbrian mining area with a little discretion on overlapping relevant items.

Discussions are ongoing with our webmaster to upgrade the website to accommodate the archive material as it is converted. To do this some development work may be necessary and we will need to learn as we go forward. We propose to place open documents on our website in the public domain with sensitive or copy restricted documents placed in the member's area. Documents will be watermarked on access with arrangements through the web to obtain a full quality copy.

Newsletters will be available to members within the members' area and newsletters older than 3 years will be available in the public area. An annually updated index will also be available to the public and arrangements for recent copies to be purchased will be in place.

We have taken the view that most material is "copy left" and would therefore ask any user to acknowledge CATMHS as source. Where necessary copyright items will be removed from display upon request.

We have an agreement with the British Geological Society for all our mine plans to be scanned. They will shortly make them available to the public through their system. Our mine plans have now been scanned and returned to us in accordance with this agreement.

Our current archive and library holdings amount to around 1500 items and take up significant space. We propose that items that can be categorised as "out of county" or "of national interest" are offered to relevant societies who may wish to supplement their archives or represent a better repository for the material. Upon digitisation the prime physical document will be catalogued and offered to the Cumbria County Record Office in the first instance. This is part of a disposal process that seeks to find a best home for the document by looking at the record office, other relevant societies, member's requests etc. or ultimately destruction. The few original documents we hold will be carefully managed on an individual basis. It should be noted that most of our archive material is photocopied material from libraries etc. and is often incomplete or of poor quality. Many key documents are now available on the internet and can be downloaded. Logistically, poor quality copied material will need to be destroyed at the earliest opportunity to reduce the volume of our holdings.

The committee are of the view that material donated to the CATMHS archive over time has been freely given and the society are free to use it as they think fit. If particular donors feel this is inappropriate and would like their material returned to them please make a request to the CATMHS secretary so that your wishes can be recognised and accommodated.

*Colin Woollard,
CAT-The Newsletter of the Cumbria Amenity Trust
Mining History Society, No.120 August 2015*

SGMRG Book Launch

The latest publication from the South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group was launched on 25/06/2015 at the Miners Institute, Coalpit Heath. Steve Grudgings, the author of *The History & Industrial Archaeology of the Steam Engines of the Coalpit Heath Colliery Company*, gave an insight into the stories behind the pictures featured in the book, many of which haven't been published before. The event was well attended, with some of the local audience providing names to faces and adding their personal input. Full details of the book appear in the Publications section of this Newsletter.



Steve Grudgings with a receptive audience

Nenthead Mines

Contractor work on the Nenthead Mines Conservation Plan was concluded at the end of 2014, leaving volunteers to complete the rebuild of the North Explosives Store. Cold night time temperatures prevented the team from starting lime mortar work until June of this year. Since then we have completed the outer walls, reinstated the roof and almost finished the interior walls. We learnt a lot about walling and roofing this year - which we hope to apply to other buildings on site.

We have the timber in stock to reinstate a typical explosives store interior and to produce the outer door - the door frame has been machined by a contractor and installed by volunteers. Our archaeology work has revealed that the interior of the store may have included joists on each side of the building which could have been racking for gunpowder barrels. We are now searching for suitable barrels - does anyone reading this have any spare gunpowder barrels? You can contact me by phone 01388 527532 or email via admin@nentheadmines.com

Peter Jackson, Chair, NMCS (11/08/2015)

Mining News

Death of King Coal

2015 marked the thirtieth anniversary of what has been called "the most bitter industrial dispute in British history", the Miners' Strike 1984/85, but it will be remembered in history as the year that British deep coal mining ended.

On the 29th June it was announced that the closure of Hatfield Colliery, South Yorkshire, had been brought forward. With no market for the coal, the employee-owned pit was to close by the end of June as opposed to August 2016. The company was officially wound up at the High Court in London on 17th August 2015. The last lump of coal mined at Hatfield was presented to the Mayor of Doncaster at a ceremony held at the pit to mark the end of mining in region.

In July 2015 UK Coal announced that Thoresby Colliery, the last remaining deep coal mine in Nottinghamshire would close. The closure was originally announced in 2014 when UK Coal fell into financial difficulties brought about by falling coal prices and the fire which resulted in the closure of Daw Mill Colliery in Warwickshire.

The last remaining deep coal mine, Kellingley Colliery near Castleford, Yorkshire, is set to close in December 2015 marking the end of an era.



The sun sets on Thoresby Colliery, Nottinghamshire

England

Tributes paid to Clearwell Caves Founder

Tributes have been paid to Ray Wright who passed away aged 85. The visitor attraction near to Coleford in the Forest of Dean was reopened as a working museum in 1968 after being closed as a working mine in 1945. (10/08/2015)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-33848906?SThisFB>

Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers Project, North Pennines

This three year project of the Friends of the North Pennines reached its conclusions in June. The smelting site has been excavated and conserved and interpretation panels have been installed. The project also produced a range of leaflets about mining across the North Pennines. The work of the project will continue via the Transcription Group which is continuing to transcribe archive material relating to this site and other smelting and mining sites.

This material, and the leaflets, is now accessible via the Dukesfield website

at <http://www.dukesfield.org.uk>. The research section of the website will have new material added as more documents are transcribed. The archaeology reports on the Mill site are also accessible from the website.

One of the leaflets is a guide to lead mining sites across the North Pennines - a useful resource for helping visitors to learn more about the history of mining in the orefield.

There have been suggestions that a new project should be established to investigate some of the early smelting mill sites in Hexhamshire.....watch this space.

Peter Jackson (11/08/2015)

Maltby Explosion Memorial

A granite and marble memorial has been unveiled on the site of the Maltby Colliery explosion. On the 28th July 1923 twenty seven men were killed, but only the bodies' two victims were recovered after the explosion. The colliery closed in 2007. (28/07/2015)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-33693934>

Historic England Angel Awards

Two mining related projects have been shortlisted in the 'Best Rescue of Historic Industrial Building or Site' category in this year's Angel Awards. They are the Tyne & Wear Building Preservation Trust (TWBPT) for the rescue of Blackfell Hauler House and Dukesfield Smelters & Carriers Project Steering Group for the rescue of Dukesfield Arches.

The Blackfell Hauler House was part of the rope haulage system taking coal from the collieries to the River Tyne. The railway was taken out of service in the 1970's, with the buildings and machinery simply abandoned. The project to restore the building began in May 2014, but the whole Bowes Railway project has taken decades from its inception.

The Dukesfield Arches are the last remains of one of the earliest lead and silver smelting sites. A collaboration between the Friends of the North Pennines and two local councils lead to the development of the Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers Project. Over five years the project volunteers have undertaken excavations, conservation and interpretation of the site.

Full details of both projects and the Angel Awards at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/news-and-features/angel-awards/shortlist-2015/>

Allen Valleys Landscape Partnership, North Pennines

The Allen Valleys Landscape Partnership Scheme will run until 2018 and will conserve and restore some of the area's natural and cultural heritage, making the most of these heritage assets for the benefit of the local economy and the community. The Partnership plan to conserve three historic mining structures in the Allen Valleys as part of the Scheme.

They are Allen Smelting Mill near Catton, Allenheads Bouse teams and washing floors, and Barney Craig mineshop at Carrshield. At Allenheads, trees and shrubs have been cleared from the washing floors to allow access by the team which will suggest the conservation plan. At Allen Smelting Mill, the Partnership has funded vegetation clearance by volunteers to allow Historic England and the architect to gain access to the scheduled area, which includes flues, bingsteads and buildings. Volunteers have also been working outside the scheduled area to excavate

the foundations of the building which once housed roasting furnaces. Some conservation work has been started on the flues which connected two reverberatory furnaces to the main chimney flue.

Read more at:

<http://www.northpennines.org.uk/Pages/AllenValleysLandscapePartnership.aspx>

Peter Jackson (15/08/2015)



Inside Allen Smelting Mill Flues- Helen Wilkinson & Joyce Jackson. Photograph courtesy of Peter Jackson

From Historic England in 2014

Each year Historic England (English Heritage as was) produces a series of reports, a few of which are directly relevant to the mining history community. They are available to download free from the Historic England web site:

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/research/research-results/>

Research Report Series 42-2014

Tankerville Lead Mine, Tankerville, Worthen with Shelve, Shropshire
Geochemical survey
David Dungworth
NGR: SO 355 299

SUMMARY

This report explores the use of portable X-Ray Fluorescence (pXRF) spectroscopy as a means to characterise the degree and nature of contamination at a historical lead mine. It was possible to take 40 in situ readings within a period of less than 2.5 hours. Lead (and other elements, including zinc, barium and arsenic) were detected at levels of as much as 100 times above normal background levels. The limited nature of the survey prevents a detailed exploration of spatial variation in heavy metal contamination and

how this might be related to specific mining and ore processing activities. The collection of data from exposed deposits within two excavated trenches shows that the degree of contamination varies with depth and that this variation is not predictable. This situation is likely to be related to the variety of different activities that took place and the complex site formation processes which give rise to the deposits of mining waste.

Research Report Series 74- 2014

Ashnott Lead Mine, Ribble Valley, Lancashire
An archaeological survey of the landscape evidence
David Went
NGR: SD 6929 4812

SUMMARY

Ashnott lead mine is located in the Newton Fells in the southern part of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The mine is of particular interest for the evidence it contains of complex and successive phases of mining, potentially originating in the medieval period, and clearly documented in the early post-medieval period. From the early 16th century, if not before, miners created an intricate pattern of interconnected workings by chasing the erratic lead deposits present within a small limestone knoll at Ashnott. Exploration appears to have begun with open-cuts and shafts mined from above, and to have culminated in levels driven into the hillside to exploit deeper deposits and to facilitate underground transport and drainage. A major collapse in the price of lead, perhaps combined with the difficulties of extraction at Ashnott, seems to have brought an end to these operations in the 1830s.

A broad sequence of development can be determined within the complex pattern of shafts, level entrances, open-cuts, spoil mounds and dressing floors which remain visible across the surface of the knoll. The area presently designated as a scheduled monument encompasses the greater part of these remains, with the principal exceptions of two dams (and related watercourses) to the east and two former level entrances to the west. The scheduled area also appears to include, based on records of exploration in 1961, the majority of the known underground workings, with the exception of the greater part of a deep drainage level extending to the north.
(25/08/2015)

Don Borthwick, CATHMS

Poppies: Weeping Window at Woodhorn

As part of a UK-wide tour of the two iconic poppy sculptures by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper, 'Weeping Window' is to be installed at Woodhorn Museum, Ashington, Northumberland. The original installation was at the Tower of London in the autumn of 2014 marking the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War.

The exhibition will open from 12/09/2015 to 01/11/2015 and comprise of around 3000 ceramic poppies cascading 55ft from the winding wheel of No1 Heapstead. Full details on the Woodhorn website and Facebook page.

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

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Woodhorn/356997311725?ref=br_rs



Woodhorn No1 heapstead & 1916 Explosion Memorial

New Blue John Vein discovered

A new vein of the rare mineral Blue John, has been found in Treak Cliff Cavern, Derbyshire, 150 years after the last such discovery. The vein has been named the Ridley Vein after Gary Ridley who made the discovery. Each vein has its own distinctive colours and banding, with the Ridley Vein making variant number 15 in the books. (19/08/2015)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-33984792>

New Exhibition of Lead Mining Photographs

The Yoredale Offices of the Yorkshire Dales National Park in Bainbridge are hosting an exhibition of photographs, which form part of the Yorkshire Dales Historic Environment Record. Taken as part of the conservation work by the authority's historic environment team and highlight the impact of lead mining in the Dales and the work needed to conserve the remains. 'The Hills Afford Great Store of Lead' is open until 25/09/2015, 8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday. (23/07/2015)

http://www.cravenherald.co.uk/daleslife/13495641.images_bring_Dales_lead_mining_story_to_life/?ref=fbs_hr

Haig Pit Museum, Whitehaven

Recently, I re-visited Haig Pit Museum for the first time since its refurbishment. Over two million pounds of grant funding has been well spent on old buildings, new buildings, displays of old artefacts, computer graphics and an excellent café.

One engine hall is not open to visitors – actually, they would probably have let me in if I had asked – and still contains lots of the machinery that I remember from previous visits. In another engine hall, the Bever Dorling winders are in place and connected to the headgear: at the moment these are a static display. New museum areas are spacious and well-laid out with original artefacts, models, explanation panels and special exhibitions. Inevitably, much is aimed at children; but there is plenty for others. A free museums' newspaper headline states "Community spirit brought to life in new Cumbrian museum" and it was the community feel of the visitors, those working in the museum and some of the displays which made the deepest impression. When I arrived, a dozen or so people were enjoying tea and cake and looking as if this were a regular meeting place for them. As I left, a group of pensioners was being shown round by an ex-miner. I had been asked if I wanted someone to show me round, and booked group visits are guaranteed an ex-miner guide.

After lunch, I walked south along the cliff and down to Saltom Pit engine house. The first shaft was hand-dug here in 1725, and Saltom Pit was the first under-sea coal mine in England.

A free leaflet from Haig Pit refers to Barrowmouth alabaster/gypsum mine a little further south. A path follows a former incline down towards the beach –

with a handy rope to enable one to descend the last few yards, and also get back up again. The vegetation on the path has been cut, so it can be followed easily; but plants are overwhelming the ruins of buildings.

On returning to Haig Pit, I found someone who could answer all my questions. Amongst other things, he says that Barrowmouth mine is now not safe because of high methane levels.

So, thank you to Jeff Clegg for alerting me to Saltom Pit remains on a Whitehaven Meet a couple of years ago; and thank you to Haig Pit for its leaflet featuring Barrowmouth mine, and for its helpful staff. Normally, I have a prejudice against museums which are aimed at children; but that is an unfair prejudice – after all, no museum can run at a profit on visits from me every other year. So, I recommend visits to Haig Pit and its café; but remember that there are lots of other mining remains to be found in the Whitehaven area.

Sallie Bassham, NMRS (20/06/2015)

Campaign to save Hatfield Colliery Headgear

Days after the decision to close Hatfield Colliery a campaign was launched to save the headgear as a nationally recognised monument to the coal mining industry. Since the employee-owned company which ran Hatfield Colliery was wound-up representatives from the Coal Authority (CA) have been on site. Work began on 17/08/2015 to fill the shafts. Recognising that there is local interest in saving the headgear, the CA will fit temporary covers rather than permanent concrete caps which would require the headgear to be demolished first.

Campaigners have set-up a Facebook page and launched an e-petition.

<https://www.facebook.com/shmhg2015>

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/105550>

Somerset Batch vandalised

Vandals have defaced the Old Mill Colliery batch near Paulton with spray paint. The batch or waste tip was created by the waste from Old Mills Colliery which operated from 1860 to 1966 and is seen by locals as the most evocative reminder of the area's industrial heritage. (23/08/2015)

<http://www.somersetguardian.co.uk/Anger-graffiti-vandals-deface-old-colliery-batch/story-27639223-detail/story.html>

Wales

Award for Senghenydd Memorial Volunteers

The Aber Valley Heritage Group have been given the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services, the highest award for volunteering in the UK. The group keeps the history of the Aber Valley alive, and help realise the National Mining Memorial in Senghenydd. The memorial was unveiled in 2013, the centenary of the Universal Colliery disaster in the village in which 440 men & boys were killed. (27/07/2015)

<http://www.caerphillyobserver.co.uk/news/952745/senghenydd-memorial-volunteers-presented-with-prestigious-queens-award-for-voluntary-service/>



Welsh Miners' National Memorial, Senghenydd

Extension given for removal of Bersham Colliery waste tip

Bersham Glenside Ltd have been granted a five year extension to remove spoilt tip from the former Bersham Colliery, near to Wrexham. The initial plans to remove the mound, selling the red and black shale for construction use, were rejected by the local authority. However, the proposals were granted on appeal by the Welsh Government in 2010.

Opinions on the tip are divided. To some it's an eyesore, to others it's part of the landscape and a monument to the area's mining heritage. (27/07/2015)

<http://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/wrexhams-bersham-mound-given-five-9739214>

France

New uses for slag heaps

As well as being a relics of the coal mining industry of Northern France, the slag heap or "terrils" have some unexpected uses. Rather than being desolate mounds

of dirt, nature is reclaiming them and this makes them surprisingly useful.

In one village one enterprising farmer has exploited the biodiversity by grazing his flock of goats. France's most northerly vineyard was planted on a terril in 2011, and has since produced several harvests. The wine is labelled Charbonny, a play of the word meaning coal, *charbon*.

Across the region other terrils have been put to use as nature trails, heritage sites and an artificial ski-slope. Some are also included in UNESCO World Heritage List as part of the Pas-de-Calais mining region.

(04/08/2015)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-33758918>

Publications and Reviews

Barrow Salt

Brian Cubbon, hardback, 139 pages, illustrated, £18.00

A couple of years ago I read Landless' British Mining account of Preesall salt mines, and consequently spent a happy afternoon splashing through Lancashire floods finding abandoned pipes and valves. So, when at the NAMHO Conference, Mike Moore's book stall had a copy of "Barrow Salt" by Brian Cubbon, I did not hesitate to buy it.

This book is that perfect combination of well researched history, which keeps one reading, combined with maps and photographs to make one want to visit and see the sites.

The author bases his account around the diaries of Edward Wadham, who was the Duke of Buccleugh's Furness Mineral Agent from 1851 to 1912; but has added his own extensive researches in the Barrow Records Office and elsewhere. References are carefully listed, so those interested can find further details.

General historical and geological information is given before the author concentrates on the salt discovery at Walney in the late 1880s. There is careful analysis of the finances and management of the various salt companies formed. The companies' directors have been researched and the relationships between them make for interesting reading.

The book includes early twentieth century maps and several photographs of salt works, brine wells and transport. 1988 aerial photographs show 'ghosts' of features and suggest that remains may be difficult to detect on the ground now.

This book is heartily recommended. It is easy to read, but full of carefully researched detail on people and places. The finances and development of the Barrow Salt Company Ltd make the directors' hopes, disappointments, successes and disagreements come alive.

However, if, like me, you want to visit Walney Island to look for remains of the salt industry, then go in the middle of the day. I arrived at South Walney at 5.30pm to discover that the gate across the narrow road is padlocked at 5pm every day.

Sallie Bassham, NMRS Newsletter, August 2015

The History & Industrial Archaeology of the Steam Engines of the Coalpit Heath Colliery Company

Steve Grudgings, South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group (with support from South Gloucestershire Council), softback, 152 pages, extensively illustrated with b&w photographs, maps and plans, A4, £15.00, ISBN: 978-0957233140

This book tells the story of the engines and the men that drove and maintained them. It sets out to tell the technical, social, historical and archaeological stories of the stationary engines used by the Coalpit Heath Colliery Company between 1800 and 1949.

Chapter headings –

Frog Lane Colliery, May's Hill Colliery, Nibley Colliery, Ram Hill Colliery, Engines at other CHCC Pits, Bitterwells Famous Water Tank, The Industrial Archaeology of the Steam Engine, some personal views and related observations. Appendices cover the work of George Watkins, Acraman, T&E Bush and J&D Leigh.

The book draws on a wide range of archival sources, including oral histories, maps and images collated by the author over a number of years. It is hoped that this account provides the reader with an interesting insight into the engines themselves and their operational context.

SGMRS

Moses Kellow: The Autobiography of the Croesor Quarry Manager

Delfryn Publications, paperback, 204 pages, 19 b&w photographs and 2 maps, A5, £10.00
ISBN: 987-0956146991

Moses Kellow (1862 – 1943) was the Manager of Croesor Quarry from the mid-1890s until its closure in 1930. He is famous for his remarkable engineering achievements including the hydraulic Kellow drill, and introducing three-phase hydro-generated electricity into the quarry works. After going blind at the age of 80, he dictated his autobiography giving a unique insight into this very strong-minded individual and his views on many topics.

This publication is entirely due to the huge amounts of research that have been undertaken by a Croesor Quarry enthusiast, Adrian Barrell, and it represents a fraction of the material that Adrian has amassed on the quarries. Adrian has kindly provided an Introduction to the book and the eight appendices. The autobiography was originally published in twenty-four editions of the Quarry Managers' Journal in 1944/5. Publication date 03/10/2015.

Publisher's synopsis

The book launch will take place at Porthmadog Maritime Museum on Saturday 3rd October 2015 at 3pm, everyone welcome.

Books can be pre-ordered at:

http://www.delfrynpublications.co.uk/moses_kellow.html

British Mining No.99, The Lead Mines of Tyndrum

Stephen Moreton, Northern Mines Research Society, paperback, 136 pages, b&w photographs, maps, plans and tables, A5, £12.00, ISBN: 978-0901450715

The Tyndrum lead mine has been worked from 1730 until 1926 by a succession of operators starting with Sir Robert Clifton (1730-1747) and followed by the Mine Adventurers of England (1747-1760), a group of investors from Ripon in Yorkshire (1760-1762), the Scots Mining Company (1768-1791), the Caledonia Mining Company (1803-1807), The Earl of Bredalbane (1837-1862) and Tyndrum Lead & Zinc Mines Ltd (1918-1926); this last a subsidiary of Kinta Tine Mines. In addition to the history of these phases, the monograph describes some of the colourful characters who were involved and some of the personality clashes which abounded.

The monograph also includes a record and interpretation of the workings and remains which exist today, along with a description of the outlying mines and trials at Cononish, Beinn Bheag, Benn Odhar, Cromm Allt and Arrivain.

Comprehensive production statistics are given together with a short history of the Earls of Breadalane and an index.

NMRS

The Unseen Underground: Deep Mine Railway Exclusive

Nick Pigott, The Railway Magazine August 2015- Issue 1373, Mortons Media Group

An exclusive tour underground at Thoresby Colliery, just before its closure, examining the extensive railway network normally unseen by the public. Includes both surface and underground photographs, plans and descriptions of locomotives and rolling stock

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

6th-11th September 2015: The International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage (TICCIH) International Congress, Lille, France.
<http://ticcih.org/>

5th, 12th, 19th & 26th September 2015: Free Guided Tours, including the 'underground' visit, at Rhondda Heritage Park, Trehafod, Rhondda Cynon, CF37 2NP. Based at the former Lewis Merthyr Colliery, now a museum and heritage attraction, the tours, which usually incurs a charge, are led by former miners with two tours each Saturday at 11.30am & 1.30pm.
<http://cadw.gov.wales/events/allevents/open-doors-rhondda-heritage-park-5-12-16-and-26-september-2015/?lang=en>

10th-13th September 2015: Heritage Open Days, the once a year chance to visit hidden or forgotten gems free of charge. Search what's on in your area at:
<http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

25th-27th September 2015: Hidden Earth 2015, Churchill Academy, Churchill, Winscombe, BS25 5QN. The UK's annual caving conference hosted by the British Cave Research Association and the British Caving Association. Full details about the venue, programme, booking, etc, available at:
<http://www.hidden-earth.org.uk/index2.html>

14th November 2015: NAMHO Autumn Meeting, 11.00am at Apedale Heritage Centre, Loomer Road, Chesterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, ST5 7LB

19th March 2016: NAMHO AGM and Spring Meeting, tbc

17-19th June 2016: NAMHO Conference, Dublin. Full details to follow.

Copy Date for the next Newsletter is **10th November**, with publication due December 2015.

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

Please note that the opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributor and do not necessarily reflect the policy or opinions of NAMHO or its Officers. It is the responsibility of contributors to ensure that all necessary permissions, particularly for the reproduction of illustrations, are obtained. Copy submitted for publication is not checked by the Editor for accuracy.

Registered Charity No. 297301