



NAMHO Conference 2019

A few words from the organiser

This year's event was hosted by Cambrian Mines Trust and centred at Llanafan, Ceredigion, over five days from the 4th to 8th July 2019. It was generally considered a great success; however, this was in great part due to the fine weather.

The theme of the conference was "Mine exploration as a research tool - applications in mining history, geology and archaeology". Dr Peter Cloughton ran the lecture program over the Saturday and Sunday which took place at the Lisburne Hall and it was well attended. This hall was also used for the Saturday evening meal and bar.

The choice of location was considered important in that the venue for the evening meals and bar is within walking distance of the camp site. If a convenient location can be found whereby a suitable building that can be economically hired is close to an existing camp site the organiser of such an event will have it made. This is seldom the case and was not possible at Llanafan, so a local sports field was rented. Extra facilities had to be rented which increased costs and this was offset by organising a 5 day event with 4 nights camping charged by the head rather than by the tent to reflect the use of the hired facilities. This proved to be a lot more successful than anticipated and easily covered costs.

A local Church Hall was also hired for a modest cost and was used for displays by South and Mid Wales Cave Rescue Team, IA Recordings, Natural Resources Wales, Cave Access Ltd, and Welsh Mines Society. Trade stands at Lisburne Hall were Moorebooks and Starless River. Catering for the meals and the running of the bar was by Hafod Hotel at Devils Bridge who provided a very professional service and excellent food.

The field trips on offer were very varied from easy walk-ins to advanced SRT and were very well received by the delegates. Central to the program were the four main sites of Cwmystwyth, Frongoch, Henfwlch, and

Alltycrib (Talybont). The last had secluded off road parking available as it was permitted to open up the Forestry barrier for vehicle access to the site.

Several underground sites on offer where under the Cave Access Ltd remit and had risk assessments filed. This system was extended to all the other sites.

The event was also a financial success generating a surplus of about £2400 to spend on the work of the trust.

Roy Fellows, Cambrian Mines Trust

NAMHO response to the Conference

As you will read elsewhere, we had a successful Conference in Wales. We had excellent weather, a programme of interesting trips, and a warm welcome from the people living in that area.

I noticed that the underground trip leaders came from a wide variety of backgrounds and places in the UK. They worked together with members of the Cambrian Mines Trust in order to deliver the programme. We experienced a great team effort, when many people gave time and knowledge to make the Conference run well. The Admin and Facilities requirements were delivered by people, often working alone, who gave much time and expertise before and during the event.

Without this joint effort, we would not be able to enjoy our annual Conference. NAMHO thanks all those people who worked to deliver the event.

I hope to meet you all again in 2020.

Peter Jackson, on behalf of NAMHO

Future NAMHO Conferences

NAMHO 2020 will be in Cornwall and is aimed at an international audience, as was INTER-NAMHO 2000. Planned dates are 3rd-6th April 2020 with Kevin Baker as coordinator and the organisation will involve a working group drawn from a number of member organisations. **NAMHO 2021** is planned for Shropshire to coincide with the 60th anniversary of SCMC and planned dates are 1st-5th July 2021.

Mining History and Archaeology in Scotland: Towards a Research Strategy

**Hopetoun Arms Hotel,
Leadhills, South Lanarkshire.
Saturday 19th October 2019, 10:30—3:30**

A survey of visitors to Leadhills Miners Library has shown relatively little knowledge of the history of lead mining in the area. It seems important to address this issue and raise awareness of the importance of lead mining in Scottish history. The conference aims are therefore: **to identify areas of needed expertise; identify individuals and groups who can take the agenda forward; to contribute to the development of an action plan; and to develop networking in lead mining history research in Scotland.** This is the first conference of its type and will hopefully stimulate future activity.

Attending the conference

There is no charge for attending this conference. Coffee/tea and a sandwich lunch will be provided. Anyone wishing to attend is required to register in advance. Registration forms can be requested from the organiser at: leadhillsconf@outlook.com or at www.leadhillslibrary.co.uk/events/

Completed registration forms should be returned to the conference organiser no later than 5th October 2019.

Getting There

The conference venue is on the B797 in the centre of Leadhills village. It is not readily accessible by public transport. Leadhills is approximately 1 hours' drive from Dumfries, Edinburgh, or Glasgow. For satnavs use postcode ML12 6XP.

Programme

10:30 Registration opens
11:00 Welcome and introduction-Dr. John Crawford, Leadhills Heritage Trust.
11:15 Overview of Scottish mining history issues-Dr. Miles Oglethorpe, Historic Environment Scotland.
11:50 Lead and other forms of mining in Britain-Dr. Peter Cloughton, NAMHO.
12:25 An overview of the Landscape Legacies Project-Dr Catherine Mills, University of Stirling.
13:00 Lunch.

13:45 Mining archaeology in Dumfries and Galloway- John Pickin, Independent Researcher.

14:20 Leadhills mines-Ken Ledger, Leadhills Heritage Trust.

14:55 Discussion: Taking the research agenda forward.

15:15 Closing remarks. There will be an opportunity for a short visit to the Wanlockhead lead mine after the conference.

Organised by Leadhills Heritage Trust, with financial support from Historic Environment Scotland



The Second International Early Engines Conference (IEEC2)

Conference Details and Call for Papers

Building on the success of IEEC1, we are pleased to confirm that the second International Early Engines Conference (IEEC2) will be at the Black Country Living Museum (BCLM) on 15th-17th May 2020.

DATES, TIMES AND VISITS?

The event will run from noon on Friday 15th until noon on Sunday 17th May 2020 and we intend that it coincides with the BCLMs 2020 "Red by Night" evening of Saturday 16th when many of their engines will be working into the night. This date is still to be finalised by the BCLM and if confirmed, will incur an additional entry charge

On the Friday evening delegates travel by coach to Sandfields pumping station for a buffet dinner and

access to and talks about the 1873 Cornish engine and house being conserved by our hosts the Litchfield Waterworks Trust. Additional excursions and visits may be arranged.

FORMAT, CULTURE AND WHAT ABOUT PAPERS?

We are determined that the culture of the event will again be inclusive, co-operative and non-elitist and the format will be similar to that of IEEC1 including publication of the Conference Transactions.

We already have papers offered on topics such as John Curr's Attercliffe Engines, the oldest B&W Engine House, Early Engines around Swansea, Boiler Making and Water Management. We seek additional proposals for papers no later than the end of September 2019.

WHAT IS DIFFERENT FROM IEEC1?

1. No partners tickets as logistics of site entry preclude such arrangements
2. 10% early bird discount for all bookings paid for before end November 2019

COSTS

Full Ticket £135, Day Tickets £40/£45 and £30 (see separate booking form for details – noting 10% early bird discount)

CONTACTS AND QUESTIONS

Web Site, including full details, early bird discounts and booking information – <https://www.earlyengines.org/>

E Mail - Admin@earlyengines.org

Facebook –

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

IEEC is sponsored by The Newcomen Society for the History of Engineering & Technology, The Association for Industrial Archaeology, The Northern Mine Research Society and The South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group.

Acknowledgements

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

Roy Meldrum, NAMHO Editor

News from around the NAMHO Groups and Museum Members

Chatterley Whitfield Friends

Well where do we start? As you know, we mentioned the fact we have become a registered charity, a CIO and in July had a new Chair Nigel Bowers and Secretary, Daniel Bowers elected.

Our new Heritage Centre continues to develop with our Thursday Club now extending its opening hours from 9am to 2pm and the opening on the first Saturdays of the month continuing. Our next big event is the Heritage Open Days in September, with the tickets for the first tour weekend going in thirty minutes. The second weekend went live the day after and took only eight hours for the tickets to be allocated, so we will hopefully have six hundred people coming to see us. We are still in the hands of Stoke-on-Trent City Council as to what route we can take around the site and what buildings we can enter. It is very frustrating as we the Friends want to start looking into the feasibility of restoring some buildings..... Can this be done? Well why not. We have started with developing new networks with other non-council organisations and have a couple of conferences lined up.

Our new memorial has been given the green light by the council and funding secured. Construction has already started.

That is a brief update so now I would like to share a subject which may be familiar with some of you. Unwanted visitors and vandalism caused to our historic buildings.

In January 2018 Stoke-on-Trent City Council withdrew the twenty four hour security for the Chatterley Whitfield site and replaced it with CCTV cameras. At the same time the 'Friends' were in effect banned from the site, but eventually given restricted access to get to a building on site we used. Since January 2018 there has been a marked increase of unauthorised visitors on site, some doing untold damage, for instance using an

internal crane in the Hesketh Power House to remove one of the metal windows, ripping it out of the wall, not picked up via CCTV.

The other visitors we have are the Urban Explorers..... So do we condone their actions or praise them for getting photographs of the site that we as Friends could never get. Only last month they managed to go underground and photograph the remains of the Underground Experience which we thought was demolished in 2006. It appears it was only sealed off and exhibits and artefacts were left in situ.

How do we deal with them? Obviously Civil Trespass is not an arrestable offence, unless associated with criminal damage, so what can we do? Well it has taken the council twenty months to arrange a liaison meeting with us and now we have a point of contact at the council with regard to anti-social behaviour. We the Friends have suggested that an alternative to Civil Trespass is taking out an Injunction on the site, so if anyone is found on the site for any unlawful means, they breach the injunction. Something needs to be done, as it will be only a matter of time when we have a serious incident and the site will be out of bounds for good. (18/08/2019)

*Nigel Bowers,
Chair of Trustees Chatterley Whitfield Friends*

Somerset Coalfield Life at Radstock Museum

The Somerset Miners' Welfare and Radstock Museum once again invited all former employees of the Somerset coal mines to the Annual Miners' Reunion on 2nd September 2019. This year's event, the 31st, was held at the Radstock Museum.

[Radstock Museum](#)

Mining and Heritage News

England

Florence Mine near Egremont in Cumbria.

The following is taken from Historic England's web site for the scheduling of the mine complex in October 2018;

Reasons for Designation

Florence iron mining pit head, which opened in 1947, is listed at Grade II for the following principal reasons;

Architectural interest: as a remarkably intact mining pit head complex including a full suite of buildings retaining most of its machinery and equipment in situ: one of the best surviving mining sites of any type nationally, certainly the best surviving example of an iron mining pit head in the country.

Historic interest: iron mining from the mid-C19 fundamentally altered western Cumbria, but has left very little direct evidence in the form of surviving structures. Florence marks the culmination of the iron industry in the region, built just before peak production, and was worked through the decline of the industry through the second half of the C20, being the last mine to close.

Details

Iron mining pit head, 1940s for the Millom and Askam Hematite Company.

Layout: the head frame rises from the heapstead building which encloses the head of the shaft. The winding engine house lies immediately to the south-east; ore processing plant, connected via belt conveyors, extends to the north-east; the fan house lies to the south-west. To the east of the winding engine house there is the compressor house and a larger workshop.

Head Frame: this is of steel girder construction, rising from the heapstead, the backstays extending from the engine house to the south-east. The western backstay supports a stepped access to the platforms at the top of the frame. The frame carries a pair of spoked winding wheels. The run for the lift cages between the roof of the heapstead and the platform above is enclosed with corrugated iron sheeting.

Heapstead: is of three storeys, being steel-framed with brick infill panels and a flat concrete roof. The top floor, accessed via an external staircase, is lit by picture windows divided into twelve panes. On the north-east side a large door gives access to the head of an ore conveyor. Just below this there is a single storey flat roofed projection forming part of the ore processing plant. On the north-west side there are a pair of ore chutes extending out at second floor level, originating from the top floor. On the south-east side there is a single storey lean-to which provided access to the ground floor of the heapstead, this being used by miners entering the mine via the shaft. This remains uncapped and the interior of the heapstead retains much of its original equipment and fittings, most obviously the cages, guides, railings and gates forming the working parts of the headframe and shaft.

Winding Engine House: this has a concrete and brick basement supporting a large, but light-weight steel-framed shed that is clad and roofed with corrugated-iron, the roof being low-pitched, supported by fink trusses. The building retains most of its original equipment and control gear including the electric powered winding engine with its electrical equipment and operator's cabin. The winding engine is thought to be the earliest electrical winding engine nationally to still survive in situ. The building also includes a travelling crane which was used to facilitate maintenance work. Many smaller details such as signage also survive in situ.

Ore Processing Plant: this extends north eastwards from the heapstead and includes a first stage jaw crusher, vibrating screens, trommel, secondary crusher, ball mill and final stage screens, all being belt driven. Some of the equipment is housed within a single storey projection on the north east side of the heapstead, with some housed within small sheds clad with corrugated iron that lie to the north east, linked to the heapstead by two conveyor belts, one being enclosed.

Fan House: this includes the concrete walled fan drift which descends at an incline north-eastwards to join the shaft below the heapstead. A short, square-section, brick-built chimney rises from the head of this drift, this being the *evasée* for the fan. Attached on the north side of the drift is a small, single storey brick building with a corrugated iron roof retaining a ridge ventilator. This houses the electrical motor for the fan and associated electrical equipment.

Compressor House: this lies immediately to the east of the winding engine house and is a low, single-storey corrugated iron shed lit with square windows. This retains its equipment; The air reservoir tank being sited immediately outside the building.

Workshop: lying immediately to the east of the compressor house is a larger brick-built building with two large openings in its northern gable end. This retains a simple forge along with some pumping equipment.

Warren Allison

Force Crag Mine near Keswick, Cumbria

The National Trust who own the land on which the mine a scheduled monument is part of has asked the Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society, Environment Agency, Lake District National Park Authority, NAMHO (Peter Cloughton attended) and the Coal Authority to help in updating its management plan for the area which was first published 15 years ago.

A site meeting was held in June at the last metal mine to work in the Lake District, has one of the few remaining processing mills in the country and is the site of a unique passive mine water treatment plant installed by the Environment Agency and managed by the Coal Authority. Several subjects were discussed under the following headings:

- What is there at Force Crag you feel is unique and ought to be cared for and conserved?
- Issues of long-term care of the mill buildings and how much effort to put into conserving them.
- Key things the public ought to be told about as part of their tour.
- Identification of artefacts, collections or archives from/regarding the site, location and access.
- Research; what still needs researching, exploring, locating or excavating?
- Vandalism and security issues.
- Underground access; balancing amenity, management and legal responsibilities
- Water quality; monitoring and management



Treatment plant using the old settling ponds

Following the meeting a draft document is being prepared by Archaeo-Environmental Ltd (consultants for the National Trust) for discussion later in the year.

Warren Allison

Coniston 'Copper (in our) Veins' Trail

A trail, designed to highlight the industrial heritage of the Coniston Copper Mines Valley, has been created by artists Jessica Ellery and Siobhan Miles-Moore. The temporary art installation is a series of stones and sculpture gilded in copper placed across the landscape. The trail runs from the Ruskin Museum up the track to the heart of the copper mines valley and consists of copper leaf gilded boulders of various sizes, the largest being approximately 20 tonnes. The route of the trail passes key mining features and artefacts.

An exhibition of paintings, sculptures and a film is being hosted by the Ruskin Museum until 5th October 2019, and all items apart from the gilded stones will be removed. Members of CAMHTS provided their support and knowledge, as well as granting the artists access to mines in their care. [Cumbria Crack](#)

Funding for visitor centre at Pleasley Pit

The Land Trust have announced that a grant of £164,160 from the Rural Development Programme for England has been awarded to Pleasley Pit and will be used to create a visitor centre and café. The Trust took ownership of the site in 2008 and have been working in partnership with the Pleasley Pit Trust, Friends of Pleasley Pit and Pleasley Pit Nature Study Group to restore the site.

The former colliery, on the Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire border, closed in 1986 and most of the surface buildings were demolished. However, the remaining two headstocks and connecting winding engine house were given Grade II

listing and the site scheduled as an Ancient Monument but remained in limbo until 1995 when a volunteer group, the Friends of Pleasley Pit, was formed to preserve their mining heritage. (10/07/2019)

[Land Trust News](#)

Gargoyle pays homage to miners

As part of the ongoing restoration project at Gloucester Cathedral, a new gargoyle is being carved to pay homage to the rich mining heritage of the Forest of Dean region of Gloucestershire. The 'Freeminer' gargoyle will be a modern twist on the mediaeval carved stone spout designed to direct rainwater off the building. A clay model of the gargoyle shows a freeminer with his pickaxe and over the next six months the Cathedral's Master Mason will carve the design into stone. (15/08/2019)

[Christian Today](#)

Wales

Increase in Projected Cost of Mine Water heating Project

A project to extract the heat from mine water from the flooded workings of the former Caerau Colliery is projected to cost over a million pounds more than originally planned. The scheme, one of several by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) as part of its role as a 'pioneer of renewable energy projects', is looking to supply heating to 300 homes, community buildings and a school in the first phase of development.

The mine water would have its heat extracted and transferred to a clean water network, which then takes the water to local energy centres where the temperature would be boosted via ground source heat pumps and then on to residents homes. As an alternative to the heat pumps being connected to the national grid, a connection to a local wind farm is being assessed.

A report put before the BCBC in July said the due to the findings of work to date, plus structural changes within the local authority, meant that a revised proposal needs to be submitted to the Welsh European Funding Office to increase the grant to £7.3m. (29/07/2019) [barry today.co.uk](#)

Public Consultation on UNESCO World Heritage status plans

Gwynedd Council have published a plan outlining how the proposed nomination for UNESCO World Heritage Site status for the slate industry of the area could help regenerate communities and create new business opportunities. The bid includes seven sites within Gwynedd and the Snowdonia National Park, including Penrhyn slate quarry, Dinorwig slate quarry mountain landscape, Ffestiniog's slate mines, quarries, 'city of slate' and the railway to Porthmadog. (18/08/2019)
[BBC News Wales](#)

Ireland

'Tunnel Tigers' Memorial unveiled

A memorial in honour of the Donegal emigrant workers who died digging tunnels overseas has been unveiled in Dungloe.

The workers from west Donegal travelled overseas to tunnelling projects, including the Channel Tunnel, the London Underground and Scottish hydro-electric schemes. Many died or suffered life-changing injuries or illnesses due to the working conditions.

The nickname 'Tunnel Tigers' was earned because they were so aggressive in their work, particularly during the digging of tunnels in northern Scotland for the hydro-electric projects. The monument names the 77 men from the area who died whilst digging tunnels. (08/08/2019)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-49275881>

Scotland

Potential of Glasgow's former coal mines to provide domestic heating

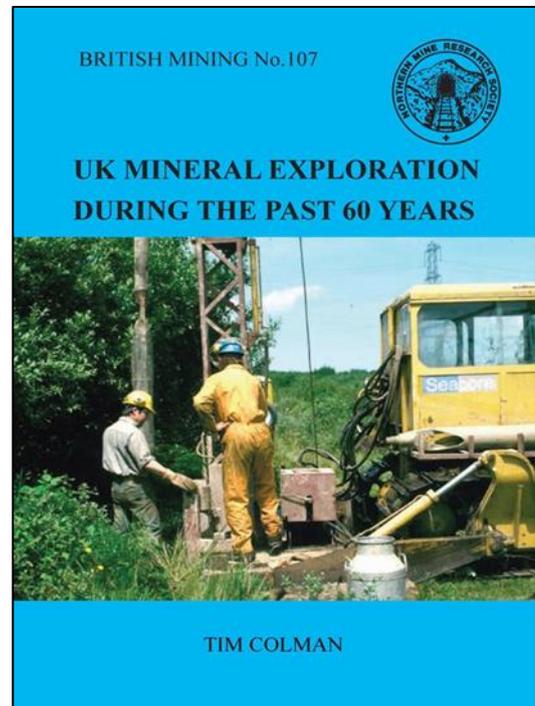
A project to investigate the potential to use mine water from Glasgow's former coal mines to be harnessed as a source of geothermal energy is underway. A series of 12 boreholes will be drilled to explore the underground workings in a project funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the British Geological Survey (BGS) as part of the £31 million UK Geoenergy Observatories Project.

To date four boreholes have been drilled, with the remaining eight to be completed by autumn this year. The research into the geology, underground water systems and the potential to provide heat from former mine workings is expected to provide data that could

help the UK and other countries low-cost, low-carbon heating. (23/08/2019)

[The Herald, Scotland](#)

Publications



British Mining No.107, UK Mineral Exploration during the past 60 Years

Tim Coleman, Northern Mines Research Society, paperback, A5, 240 pages, illustrated with maps, plans and photographs, ISBN: 978 901450753

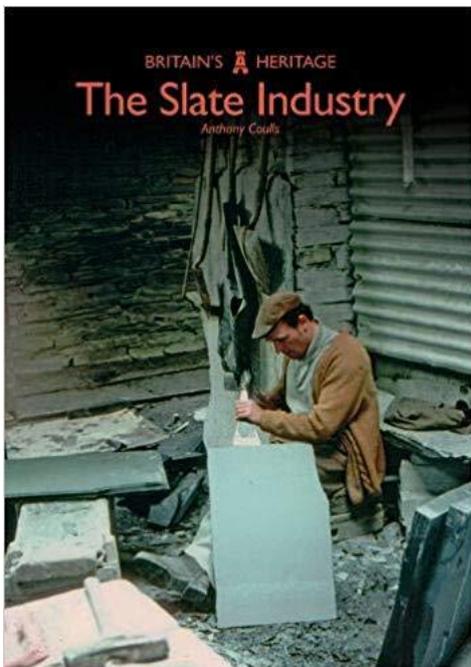
Recent mineral exploration in the UK has been a combination of efforts on the part of mining and exploration companies, encouraged in many cases by UK Government programmes and aided by the British Geological Survey. The author worked for the BGS for 35 years and has access to many sources of information of difficult access to the average researcher.

The UK is perceived as a difficult country in which to carry out exploration, with little obvious potential. This is partly due to the fragmented pattern of land ownership, large population and small land area which makes it difficult to carry out development without attracting attention. However, new mining, concentration and exploration techniques, together with interests in minerals which have hitherto been

regarded as of little value have stimulated considerable activity. This has been encouraged by the large suite of minerals present in the UK and its long history of mining.

The subject is an unusual one for NMRS and will be of interest to researchers interested in recent aspects of the mining fields of the UK and to anyone who wishes to learn about the many difficulties encountered in exploring this difficult and sensitive area.

<https://www.nmrs.org.uk/publication-category/published-by-nmrs/>



The Slate Industry

Anthony Coulis, Amberley Publishing, paperback, 234x165mm, 64 page, 80 illustrations, £8.99
ISBN: 978 1445691053

Slate from British quarries roofed the world. For a period in the nineteenth century, ships exported thousands of tons of roofing slate from the UK to an international market. The development of slate as a roofing material drove the business of extraction, but many other slate products have been made as well, including writing slates, electrical installations and even snooker tables.

Slate is synonymous with North Wales, where a bid for World Heritage Site status is being made for the landscape formed by quarrying, but there was also a slate industry in Leicestershire, Cornwall and Cumbria. The enormous physical remains of the quarries

themselves have sometimes developed as tourist attractions and at other times have been left as landscape features ripe for exploration and discovery.

This book is part of the Britain's Heritage series, which provides definitive introductions to the riches of Britain's past, and is the perfect way to get acquainted with the slate industry in all its variety.

(Publishers synopsis)

Copy Date for the next Newsletter is **10th November** with publication due December 2019.

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

13th-22nd September 2019: Heritage Open Days (England)
<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

14th-15th September 2019: European Heritage Open Days (Northern Ireland).
<https://discovernorthernireland.com/events/European-Heritage-Open-Days/>

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

21st-22nd September 2019: Vintage Excavator Trust Working (demonstration) Weekend, Threlkeld, Cumbria.
<https://www.threlkeldquarryandminingmuseum.co.uk/vintage-excavator-trust/>

26th September 2019: Cefn Coed Colliery Museum- a talk on the conservation of the headframes by Sian Brake from Pen y Brym Engineering, 7pm at Cefn coed Colliery Museum, Neath Road, Crynant, Port Talbot, SA10 8FN. To book a place contact the museum via [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/cefncoedcolliery), email colliery@npt.gov.uk or 01639 750556

2nd-4th October 2019: 'Painting at the Pub' - The Stories behind the Miners' Lamp by Holly Haywood and People and Places by Jon Young, an exhibition which includes paintings and drawings with connections to Bersham, Ifton and Black Park coal mines. Daily 12-8pm, with free admission at The Keys, Overton Road, St. Martins, Oswestry, SY11 3AR

15th October 2019: Archaeology of Underground Mines and Quarries, a talk by author John Barnatt at the Peak District Lead Mining Museum, Matlock Bath

The Archaeology of Underground Mines and Quarries in England.
A talk by John Barnatt



Based around John Barnatt's book 'The Archaeology of Underground Mines and Quarries in England'.
Winner of the AIA Peter Neaverson Award for Outstanding Scholarship 2019.



Tuesday 15th October 7.30pm at
The Peak District Lead Mining Museum, Matlock Bath.

Tickets: £6 (£5 for PDMHS & AIA members)
Price includes tea and cake

We strongly advise buying tickets in advance!

Tickets can be bought in advance or on the day (if not sold out) from the museum or, for purchases of £6 and over card payment can be taken over the 'phone - 01629 583834
01629 583834 for any additional information. Wheelchair accessible.



Charity No 1034812

19th October 2019: Mining History and Archaeology in Scotland: Towards a Research Strategy, a one day conference on Scottish Mining, Hopetoun Arms Hotel, Leadhills, South Lanarkshire. Full details and booking information at www.leadhillslibrary.co.uk/events/

14th November 2019: NAMHO Autumn Council Meeting, Somer Centre, Midsomer Norton, Somerset. Full details will be distributed nearer the time.

3rd-6th April 2020: NAMHO Conference 2020, Cornwall. Details to be confirmed.

18th-22nd June 2020: International Mining History Conference, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.
<https://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/>

15th-17th May 2020: The Second International Early Engines Conference, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley.
<https://www.earlyengines.org/>

1st-5th July 2021: NAMHO Conference 2021, Shropshire. Details to be confirmed.

Please check with organisers of meetings before making any travel bookings in case of change of dates or arrangements. NAMHO lists events in good faith but is not responsible for errors or changes made.

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