

**NAMHO**

**National Association  
of Mining History  
Organisations**



## **NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023**

### **NAMHO 2024 Conference**

The conference is being held between the 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
at Heartlands, Pool, Redruth, Cornwall.



Photo- The Cornwall Guide

The venue is part of a 19-acre Cornish Mining World Heritage Site. The conference will be of an international flavour with the lectures and trips both surface and underground being progressed. There will be an extension of the conference into Monday.

**The booking website will go live in early New Year.**

## **2023 Conference summary organised by CATMHS**

The annual conference titled “5000 years of Mining and Quarrying in the Lake District” was held from Friday 7<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July at Grasmere Village Hall.

We had hoped to have the camping and car parking in the field opposite the village hall and although the National Trust as landowner had waived the part of the tenancy agreement with the farmer which did not allow camping, they had consulted with the Grasmere Village Society who objected and so camping was moved to White Moss at a significant cost to the society.

The hall was set up during Friday ready for the registration of delegates and the evening meal along with a geology walk at Buttermere and SRT training being organised. Each delegate had a pack containing all the information they would require for the weekend even down to a brief history of the site they would visit and recommended directions how to get there. It was a hive of activity with the tables and chairs for over 80 people to set up, trade stands, sound equipment, Celia Burbrush’s art certainly brightened up the hall and most importantly the bar. Alternative visits had been suggested for people coming to the conference who had little interest in mining and the Wordsworth Trust in Grasmere were very kind to offer a reduced rate on visits for conference delegates to Dove Cottage.

Friday night came and the hall filled up and was alive with chatter as people met up many for the first time since the last conference. Very short introductions were made by Warren Allison and Chris Cowdrey as this is a social event and people did not want to hear long speeches and the bar was open with a guarantee that it would not run dry. Following a lovely meal served by the caterers with military precision the hall was buzzing with conversation. Around 10.30pm the Mountain Goat minibus arrived to start transporting people back to White Moss camp site with Michael Oddie in charge of herding people on to it.

Saturday arrived with people either going on the trips or starting to arrive for the conference lectures with over 40 attending in total. The lectures were very well received as was the cake during the breaks, and it was clear that having Les Williams from Hidden Earth bringing his sound equipment made a huge difference. COMRU brought one of their vehicles and what a fine sight it was outside the hall.

People from the trips started to arrive back ready for the evening meal and once again the hall was alive with the sound of chatter. The three-course meal was once again served superbly, and the conversation carried on right to the end of the evening, when the minibus arrived again. Sunday came and the hall started to fill with delegates coming for the lectures with others having already departed for the various trips. The lectures finished at 5pm and the hall was immediately being cleaned up with many people helping.

Trips had also been arranged for Monday to working sites and on Tuesday to mines further afield.

The conference has been a great success judging by the comments many people have made which is due to the input of so many people and organisations behind the scenes who are listed in the “Thank you” banner at the entrance to the hall and 70 thank you letters were sent from the society.



Total delegates: 181  
 Helpers (total): 51  
 Speakers: 14  
 Trip leaders / helpers: 32  
 Total surface trips: 15  
 Total underground trips: 22

A special thank you needs to go to Chris Cowdery who initiated the idea of hosting the conference and John Aird being the main organisers without who the conference would not have been the success it was and had guaranteed that the bar would not run out of beer.

The committee decided that the society should put on the best possible conference, and it fitted in with its charitable aims for the public good. It has reinforced some of the partnerships the society has with the National Trust, LDNPA, British Geological Survey, Newlands Trust, and landowners, but also forged new links with local farmers, the Wordsworth Trust, local quarries and mines, other groups, acquired new members and our profile has been raised locally and nationally.

The legacy of the conference is the effort (considerable by many) that has gone in has made the society stronger, more active, and more widely known and the engagement with Grasmere primary school in geology as part of the school curriculum currently being planned when hopefully members of the society will visit the school.

Warren Allison

### **Spanish Mines in the south east – accommodation**

Following a very successful club trip earlier this year, Shropshire Caving and Mining Club are pleased to recommend **Casa Perez** as ideal accommodation in a superb location for exploring the mines of South East Spain. <https://www.casa-perez.net/>

Andy Wood, Hon Sec  
 Shropshire Caving and Mining Club

## Scowles Story

Scowles are a geological feature unique to the Forest of Dean. We find them as clefts on the surface, normally a few meters deep, creating passages between walls of rock that branch and join so as to sometimes form a maze. Often they are set in woodlands with the rocks themselves thickly covered in moss (Fig. 1). It was long thought that they were entirely man-made: the result of man's attempts to win iron ore from the earth. George Wyrall, for example, writing about Dean iron mining in 1780 (Nicholls 1966) says this:

*There are, deep in the earth, vast caverns scooped out by men's hands, and large as the aisles of churches; and on its surface are extensive labyrinths worked among the rocks, and now long since overgrown with woods, which whomsoever traces them must see with astonishment, and incline to think them to have been the work of armies rather than private labourers. They certainly were the toil of many centuries, and this before they thought of searching in the bowels of the earth for their ore – whither, however, they at length naturally pursued the veins, as they found them to be exhausted near the surface.*

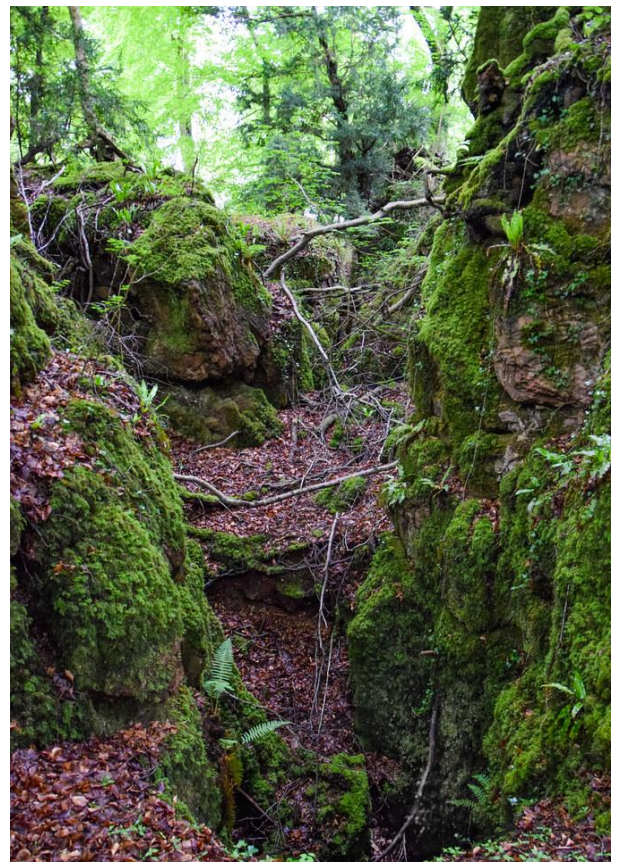


Fig. 1 The Devil's Chapel near Bream

More recent interpretation has it that scowles formed naturally by erosion but that man has much enlarged and modified them since – mainly by extracting iron ore. Well known examples occur at Puzzle Wood - re-imagined in the nineteenth century as a folly and now open to the public for a modest fee for which one gets car parking and nicely laid out paths - and the Devil's Chapel, a SSSI near Bream, for a free and slightly wilder experience.

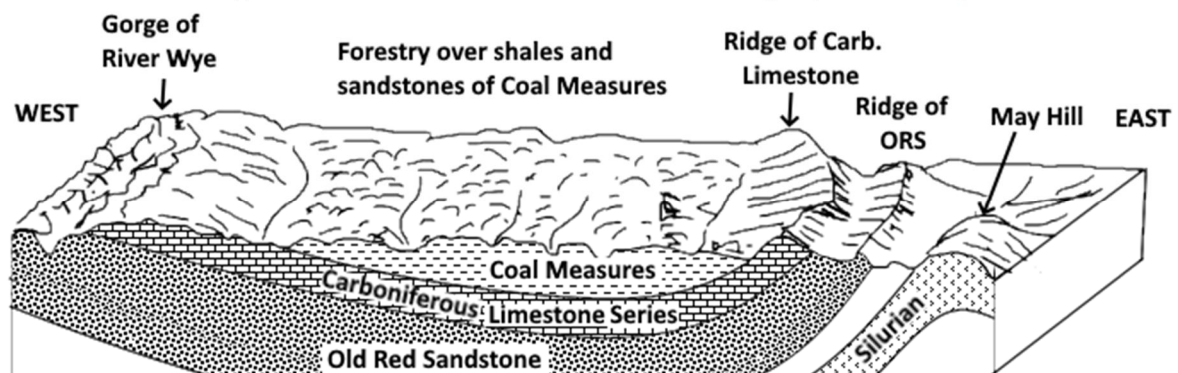


Fig. 2 Block diagram showing a simplified west-east section across the Forest of Dean Coalfield (after Dreghorn, 1968)

The rocks of the Forest of Dean mostly date to Carboniferous times at the end of which they probably existed as a simple layer cake structure. Subsequently, according to the standard

account (BGS 1992), water containing iron salts in solution flowed down from the overlying Coal Measures into previously formed fissures and voids in the limestones, especially the Crease Limestone (now re-named the Gully Oolite), where the iron salts precipitated out as solid haematite and similar hydrated iron compounds. Earth movements later deformed the rocks so that they took on the form of a dish (a syncline) after which uplift and erosion caused the rim of this dish to be exposed at the surface (Fig. 2). Thus, geographically, the limestones are exposed in a kind of broken circle (actually more of a shield shape) that stretches from Mitcheldean in the north-east to Bream in the south-west (Fig.3). The softer ore erodes more quickly than the limestone and it is this, coupled with the later actions of miners, that created the scowles.

As suggested by George Wyrall (above), the miners will have first attacked the ore exposed at the surface and, as this depleted, went deeper and deeper into the underlying rocks. Fig.2 shows the syncline to be tilted causing the limestone to dip more sharply in the east than in the west. As a result, mine passages in the east of the Forest descend more steeply than those in the west.

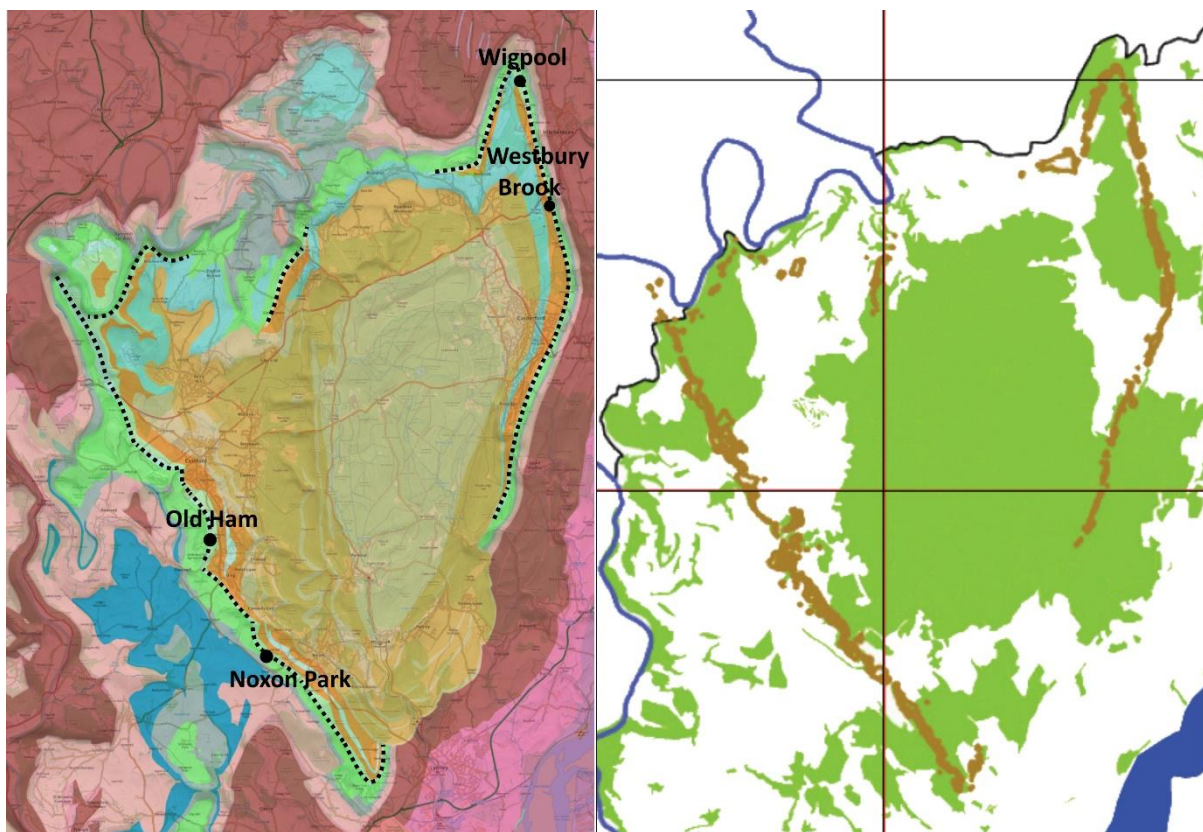


Figure 3: BGS map of bedrock geology on the left with the Crease Limestone picked out by dotted lines and the locations of four large former iron mines indicated. On the right is the map of existing and former scowles (shown in brown) from a project funded by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC 2007). The green colour shows forest while the rivers Wye and Severn are shown blue at top & left and bottom right respectively. It is clear that scowles occur when the Crease Limestone is exposed at the surface. Note that the scowles tend to be wider in the west – a result of the tilt in the syncline.

## References

- BGS 1992: British Geological Survey, British Regional Geology, Bristol and Gloucester region, Third edition, HMSO London
- Dreghorn 1968: William Dreghorn, Geology Explained in the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley, Pub. David and Charles.
- GCC, 2007: Gloucestershire County Council, The Forest of Dean Gloucestershire, The Scowles and Associated Iron Industry Survey: Project Number 3342, Project Report.
- Nicholls, 1966: Rev HG Nicholls, Nicholls's Forest of Dean, Pub. David and Charles.

Ian Crossland

## **Advances in Mining Technology & Mineral Supply**

As you may be aware we recently announced the upcoming Advances in Mining Technology & Mineral Supply Conference, set to take place in Spring 2025.

As we look towards the future of the mining sector, this conference aims to explore innovative advancements and ensure a sustainable supply of minerals. The conference will focus on advances in technology, including artificial intelligence (AI), at every step of the mining lifecycle and examine their interactions with strategic mineral supply to meet future demands for downstream materials.

In order to create the most relevant and rewarding event experience, we value your input. We are reaching out to you prior to issuing a formal call for papers, as we believe in the importance of gathering feedback and expressions of interest from industry experts like yourself.

### **Colin Comberbach CEng CEnv MIMMM**

Chair, IOM3 Mining Technology Group

Roger Gosling

## **Museums and underground heritage, the role of NAMHO.**

In May of this year, I represented NAMHO at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of Mining and Underground Museums in Poland. The conference venue, near Cracow, included two sites – the first a deep salt mine at Wieliczka, where there was a series of presentations, meals and drinks, over two days at a depth of over 300 metres below surface. From there we moved on to a coal mine at Zabrze and, again, there were presentations and entertainment provided deep underground over a further two days.

As a result of what I had researched in order to provide a presentation on the role played by NAMHO in the museum sector in the UK and Ireland, set against the information provided on a wide range of international mining and underground museums, has prompted me to review that role. There are currently seven mining museums within NAMHO, three of which provide an underground experience – including the National Coal Mining Museum for England which is one of only two in the UK allowing visitors to go underground in a coal mine. A number of our constituent mining history organisations also run museums, some of which have an associated underground experience. In addition, there are links to around 40 mining museums across the UK and Ireland on our website at < [https://www.namho.org/members\\_othmus.php](https://www.namho.org/members_othmus.php)>. Whilst the primary focus of most of the organisations within NAMHO is underground exploration and research into the history and archaeology of mining, there is a clear need for continued support for the museum sector. There is no doubt that museums have the potential

to attract younger generations to mining history and archaeology, and that is something we need to focus on as the average age of members in our organisations steadily increases; some having already been forced to close as no younger members were forthcoming.

The development of the new museum at Wirksworth, with the Peak District Mining Museum working in cooperation with the National Stone Centre, will open up the history and archaeology of mining and quarrying to a wider audience. Visitors will have the opportunity to visit the extensive range of Carboniferous Limestone quarries in the area and see evidence for the extraction and processing of the stone. The main challenge will be maintaining access underground for visitors at Temple Mine, some distance from the location of the new museum. There is the opportunity to build on the contacts made with the wider museum sector in Europe and the wider world through the International Conference of Mining and Underground Museums, with a view to expanding those contacts at future conferences. It is therefore essential that NAMHO maintains its presence within the International Conference.

It is unlikely that the UK will develop underground museums on the scale of those seen in Poland, at the Wieliczka Salt Mine and the Coal Mining Museum in Zabrze, although there is some potential in the slate mines of North Wales and, to a lesser extent, in underground limestone quarries in southern England. We can, however, look to broadening the appeal of museums by introducing alternative activities as has been done in Poland.

It is therefore essential that NAMHO develops a greater focus on the mining and quarrying museum sector. The association has, within its constituent organisations, considerable expertise in accessing underground workings and researching the history and archaeology of the industries. That expertise can be used to improve the value of the museum sector, as it will in the new museum being developed at Wirksworth.

I would therefore appreciate constructive comments from individuals and organisations on how NAMHO might improve its commitment to the museum sector. With a view to perhaps holding a museums workshop within the next year or two.

### **Knowledge is Power: 50 Years of the South Wales Miners' Library.**

The South Wales Miners' Library in Swansea was opened in October 1973 and *Llafur*, the Welsh People's History Society (which Hywel Francis once referred to as 'the political wing of the Miners' Library'), organised a conference in the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October to celebrate the event. Presentations covered the early history of the library and looked to the future of the institution, and how it might address the changing nature of interest in the coalfield and its history.

A recording of the event will be uploaded to the *Llafur* website - <https://www.llafur.org/online-llafur-event-recordings/> and further information on the library can be found at <https://www.swansea.ac.uk/library/south-wales-miners-library/>

Dr Peter Claughton  
NAMHO Conservation Officer  
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## **Cornwall developments**

A number of positive developments have been notified since the issue of the March 2023 News Sheet.

**Imerys** - the foremost miner in the St. Austell china clay area, has announced the acquisition of an 80o/o stake in British Lithium, the transaction being approved by the UK government under the National Security Investment Act protocol. Since 20L1, British Lithium has been exploring and drilling on Imerys-owned land in Cornwall and has developed a unique process and pilot plant at Roche to produce high-purity battery-grade lithium carbonate equivalent. Drilling has defined a resource of 161Mt @ 05% lithium oxide, sufficient to target a mine life exceeding thirty years - at a production rate of 20,000tpa of lithium carbonate equivalent. This is roughly two thirds of Britain's estimated demand by 2030 when all UK car manufacturers convert to electric vehicles. The partnership will benefit from Imerys' existing mining footprint in Cornwall with experienced teams and solid infrastructure, plus Imerys' own lithium expertise through its EMILI project in France. It is planned to be in full scale 20,000tpa lithium production by 2028, roughly half of the likely requirement of the new battery gigafactory approved for construction by JaguarLand Rover (Tata) near Bridgwater in Somerset. The combination of British Lithium and EMILI in France would make Imerys the largest integrated lithium producer in Europe, representing 20% of announced European lithium output by 2030.

**Cornish Metals Inc.** report substantial progress at South Crofty. The water treatment plant has been completed and two submersible pumps have been lowered down New Cook's Kitchen shaft to the old 190 fathom level (360m below surface). The pumps are suspended from 120 three-metre-long pipes to form a temporary rising main. Commissioning of the pumps' Variable Speed Drives has begun, and commissioning of the water treatment plant is scheduled to begin in August. The planned pumping rate is 25,000 m3 per day. A discharge pipeline has been laid from the water treatment plant down into the Dolcoath Deep Adit, the treated water entering the Red River at Roscroghan. The Phase One dewatering of the mine down to the 190-fathom level is expected to take eighteen months. Drilling results on No.4, No.8 and Roskear lodes confirm the Mineral Resource Estimate. Results from metallurgical test work studies for these areas, including diluted head grades, ore sorting amenability, gravity release and paste backfill studies, are expected by eed3Q2023.

**Cornish Lithium Ltd. (CLL)** has announced the securing of further funding of some L54.6 million for its lithium exploration activities. This comprises f24.0 million from the UK Infrastructure Bank, L24.0 million from US-based private equity fund EMG, and a further f5.6 million from TechMet. TechMet has hitherto been CLL's largest institutional shareholder, and has the US Government's Development Finance Corporation as a major backer. The funding will progress the Trelavour hard rock lithium project to a "construction-ready" status, as well as completing the engineering design work required to build a demonstration-scale geothermal waters lithium extraction facility. A further f168.0 million of "potential secondstage financing" will be necessary to achieve commercial production. The new funding package will require formal approval at a forthcoming general meeting.

Kevin Baker  
Carn Brea Mining Society

## **King gives start-up permission to mine gold and silver in Cornwall**

*26 Former tin and copper-producing mines near Breage that Cornish Tin says may have 'significant' untapped resources.*

By Matt Oliver

A BRITISH mining start-up has secured permission from the King's Crown Estate to explore gold and silver deposits across swathes of Cornwall.

Truro-based Cornish Tin said yesterday it had secured a six-year lease option agreement with the monarch's £15bn land and property portfolio to prospect over roughly 123,000 acres of land. This will fuel the company's pursuit of precious metals in Cornwall, as well as a string of other ores needed to power the switch to renewable energy and electric vehicles.

The company is currently focused on obtaining high-grade tin and hard-rock lithium at its flagship project, Great Wheal Vor, near Breage.

Sally Norcross-Webb, Cornish Tin's founder and chief executive, said the lease option from the Crown Estate, first reported by the *Financial Times*, will open the door to further mining opportunities in Cornwall. She said: "This is a significant win. We are not expecting it to have an immediate impact on the valuation of the company - but it is a long-term, strategic move for us."

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, most natural deposits of gold and silver - known as "Mines Royal" - automatically fall under the ownership of the Crown Estate.

This means anyone who wants to prospect for and extract deposits must secure permission from the Crown Estate. Cornish Tin's lease option grants exploration rights for gold and silver in Cornwall, with a lease option to mine any minerals discovered for up to 42 years. The company has separately secured rights to explore and extract which other minerals including tin, lithium, copper and tungsten across 3,900 acres within the same area, as part of work related to the Great Wheal Vor project.

Great Wheal Vor is a collection of 26 former tin and copper-producing mines near Breage that were originally closed in the 1870s.

Cornish Tin believes they have "significant" untapped resources.

The company is one of several firms racing to revive mining in the region, which was portrayed in BBC One's Poldark television series and novels by Winston Graham.

It is hoped Cornwall will be reinvented as a source of critical minerals needed for the green revolution.

Other businesses racing to extract resources include Cornish Lithium and British Lithium, which are both looking to produce battery-grade lithium at various sites.

The Crown Estate declined to comment.

Transcribed from Daily Telegraph Business section (page 20) – 17 October 2023 by Roger Gosling

## Shropshire Caving & Mining Club

Tuesday 25th July - Tixall Gatehouse, Water System 'recce'.

Earlier this year the Club was approached by Shane Kelleher (Staffordshire County Archaeologist) to see if we would be interested in helping with an archaeological survey at Tixall Gatehouse, Staffordshire. It seems that there are some underground features associated with a water system that he thought the Club might like to help survey.

Things went quiet for a few months, until July when we received an invite to attend a 'recce' of the water tunnels by the Gatehouse, along with representatives from the local archaeological group, 'Young Archaeologists' and the team that were going to be doing the 'geophys'. The project will probably start later in the year, but it was thought important for the Club to be represented, so Peter Eggleston and Kelvin Lake went along.

Nothing remains of the Elizabethan Hall (c1550s, reputed to have housed Mary Queen of Scots for 2 weeks) or the Georgian Hall (c1700s) other than the large gatehouse, stable block and forge. All converted to dwellings, with the gatehouse being a Land Mark Trust holiday 'apartment'.

The surviving underground features and remains were more extensive than imagined, so it would be nice for the Club to help with the surveying project that Shane is putting together.



Tixall Gatehouse, Staffordshire. (Kelvin Lake)



Remains of an underground iron overshot waterwheel at Tixall. (Kelvin Lake)



The surviving ram pump.



Feed pipes for the ram pump.

## Snailbeach Weekend - June 10th & 11th, 2023

Involving a lot of members of the Club along with the Shropshire Mines Trust and Shropshire Bat Group, numerous members of the public were welcomed to Snailbeach over the two days. The weekend saw the first outing for the Trust's newly refurbished electric loco Red Dwarf with Stuart Tomlins operating it on the dressing floor. Andy Harris has done an amazing job on the restoration. Due to the vegetation that now covers the dressing floor it was a little out of sight, so signs had to be quickly fashioned and returning Perkins Level tours brought past it.



Stuart Tomlins and Mike Boyd unloading Red Dwarf.



Red Dwarf ready for the weekend's activities.

Alan Cureton volunteered to work in the Blacksmiths' shop for the weekend. Although, he began to regret it towards the end of a very hot Saturday! It has been a long time since the Blacksmith's forge has been used in anger and luckily the squirrels that were living above the chimney had moved out a couple of weeks before the event.



Alan Cureton spent a hot time at the blacksmiths forge.



He made some items for visitors and a few lead ingots!



The Shropshire Wildlife Trust display on Saturday.



Everyone, poised waiting for the food at the social!

On Saturday the Shropshire Wildlife Trust put up their display outside the visitor centre. Their animal bone exhibits elicited a lot of interest from the younger visitors! Unfortunately, they were too able to be at the site on the Sunday.

On the Saturday, Julian Bromhead lead the last tour of the day to the Snailbeach smelter, just as the sky went very dark and thunder started rumbling around the hills. We escaped the worst of the rain - Shrewsbury and all points east seemed to have been subjected to very heavy downpours. It has been a few years since I visited the smelter site, and the amount of vegetation now makes it almost impossible to see the remains of the reverberatory hearths and flues.

The Saturday evening social in Snailbeach Village Hall for members of all three organisations was well attended. The food was very good - there were even seconds and thirds (of the desserts) for some!

On Sunday, the underground trips and surface tours started all over again. The cottages at Blakemore Gate were also open, so visitors were able to combine their visit to the mine site with the cottages.

One of the highlights of the weekend was Gareth's steam locomotive display. This was set-up on large sheets of chipboard outside the Snailbeach District Railway locomotive shed. The SDR hopper wagon was also wheeled out of the loco shed and the railway display panels brought outside for people to look at, without disturbing the bats inside the loco shed.

Gareth was eventually persuaded to get his double-Fairlie out of it's box and put it into steam for the first time. It is a very impressive piece of engineering, complete with 2 working boilers.



The BIG reveal - Gareth carefully removing the Fairlie from it's shipping box!



The Fairlie locomotive in steam, surrounded by slate wagons, just like it would have been for the real engine.



Gareth and Ben by the layout, outside the loco shed.



Neal Rushton about to lead a trip into Landing Level.

## Thanks

The very hectic weekend seems to have been enjoyed by all the visitors that came over the two days. Some only came for the morning, but ended up staying for the whole day!

Thank you to everyone who helped out in all the various roles, hopefully you found it enjoyable too.

Finally, special thanks to Julian for organising the 'schedule' of events and who was doing what, so that those on support duties weren't stuck doing the same thing for the whole weekend.



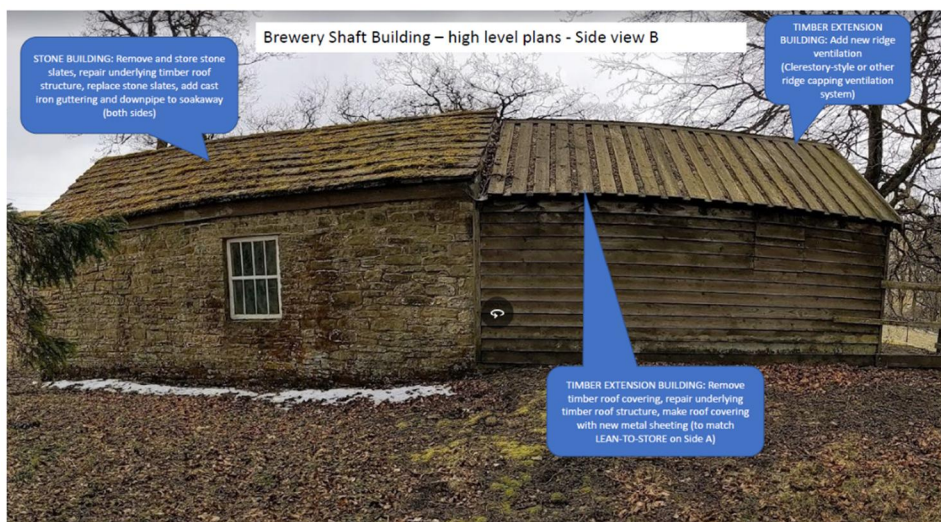
## Kelvin Lake

### Nenthead Mines

Brewery Shaft at Nenthead Mines Conservation Society (NMCS) is a 300f foot deep hole, which along with the 100' high tower above it, used to provide compressed air to drive the power tools, for not just the Nenthead Mines, but also others in the vicinity. The tower is long gone, but the shaft remains. As you can see from the picture below, the buildings which cover it are in 2 sections. The wooden section covers the shaft itself; the stone building housed some of the machinery associated with the production of compressed air.

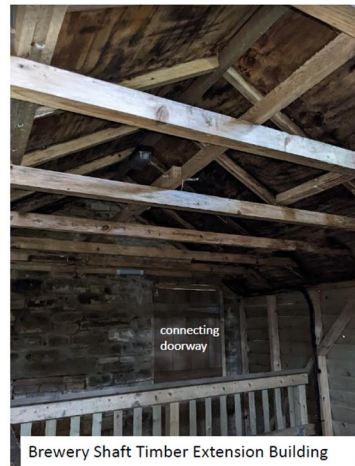
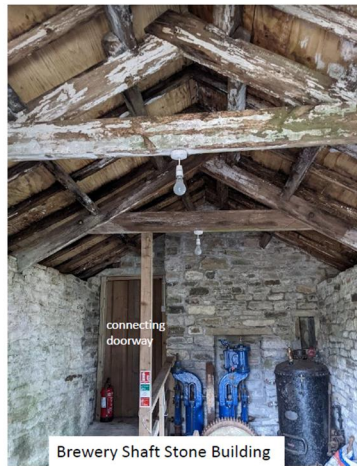
The buildings were renovated by NPHT in the 1990s, but 30 years later are badly in need of another renovation. This is largely due to the fact that the bottom of the shaft is flooded, so there is a constant supply of relatively warm moist air rising up the shaft and being largely trapped under the roof.

The photograph shows the buildings before we started work.



You can see the effect of this in the photographs below. The rafters were so rotten that we put Acro props into the stone building last year in case there was a heavy snowfall. If the roof had collapsed, the stone slates would have been smashed, so we decided to err on the side of caution.

Brewery Shaft Building – high level plans  
- interior views of roof undersides showing mold (white and black) + condensation water damage



We applied for a grant from FiPL (Farming in Protected Landscapes), a DEFRA funded scheme which also covers heritage projects and was managed by the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NP AONB). We received full funding for the building works. We also had to get Scheduled Monument Consent for Historic England and Planning Consent from Eden District Council. Then we were ready to start. The Conservation Architects who drew up the plans are Doonans, based in Hexham and the contractor who was awarded the job is Heritage Consolidation Ltd, based near Brampton – I have to say I'm delighted with the work they have done.

The first task was to remove and store the stone slates for later use – these slates are huge.



The shaft itself had a tarpaulin covering the steel grid, to minimize the risk of anything falling down the shaft & warning signs were placed underground.



Needless to say, the weather at Nenthead didn't cooperate – this was taken on 23 July! It rained a bit that day!!!!



But work continued and, in this picture, you can see the new trusses are in on the stone building and the new steel beam (designed in conjunction with our architect by Nick Green) is in location. This is to provide a strong anchor point for any excursions down Brewery Shaft – for maintenance or training purposes.



Stone slates going back on – some even have their original moss!!



This next picture shows the wooden structure for the roof above the shaft. The previous renovations had covered the trusses with plywood, which had trapped too much of the warm moist air coming up the shaft. The thinking this time was to leave the roofs as ventilated as possible, giving the air an easy way out. The wooden roof over the shaft would be replaced by an insulated cross-sectional metal roof which would reduce condensation on the underside of the metal and encourage the air to leave via the louvres in the new raised section.



It's not yet finished. The edges of the roofs have to be completed, guttering has to be added and a soak away dug for the rainwater drainage.

Part of the SMC was that the soak away must be dug under archaeological supervision – this will be done by our member Malcolm Craik who is a trained archaeologist.

When the scaffolding comes down and the drainage is underway, attention will turn to roof of the lean-to building. It will be given a new roof of insulated metalwork to match the one over the shaft.



Once the building works are complete, there will be new information panels put inside the stone building, explaining the purpose of the shaft & its machinery. These panels will be funded entirely by NMCS – our small contribution to the overall project.

Photographs have been taken by Andy Hopkirk & Nick Green – my thanks to them! I don't do heights and the ground level pictures are nowhere near as good as these ones.

Anne Hopkins

### **Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society (CATMHS)**

Tullie House Museum in Carlisle apparently has the finest mineral collection outside of London which is not on display. The museum has recently had the collection re-catalogued with the intention to put some of the 3000 specimens on display as part of the revamp of the museum. The Society is to become involved by providing photographs of the mines and quarries that the minerals have come from, along with information about the collectors some of whom are or were known to some of its members as well as photographing the whole collection. The museum has around 800 photographs which are not of particularly good quality, so we are starting from scratch, and this is a long-term project.



Photo- Warren Allison



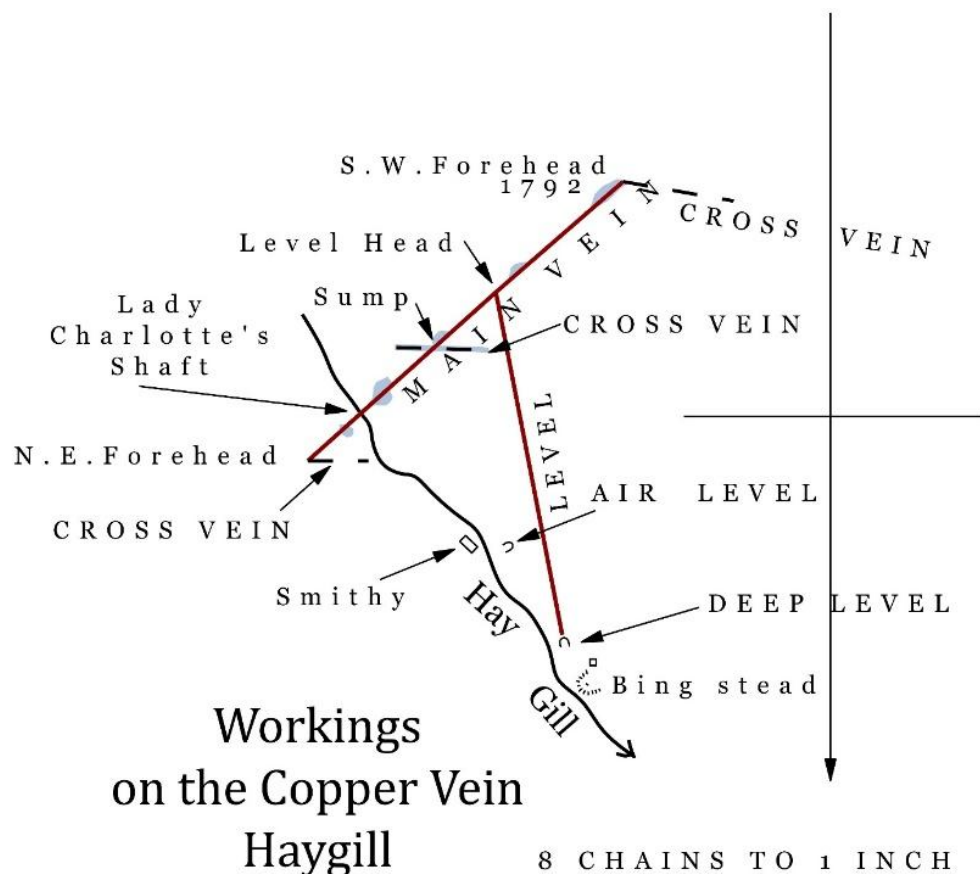
Photo- Liz Withey

## William Smith (1769 - 1839), 'the father of English geology'

The Society received an enquiry from Dr Kevin Privett regarding William Smith, who was born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1769 at the Forge, Churchill, Oxfordshire, the son of John Smith the village blacksmith.

*"I am a volunteer at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History involved in a project to transcribe the archive of letters of William Smith. You may of heard of him, he was the person who produced the first geological map of England & Wales. He was also a mineral surveyor and his letters refer to the Caldbeck Pb/Cu mine, in particular, a survey carried out in 1823 for Thomas Richmond Gale Braddyll, who was considering purchasing a mining lease. I recently visited Oxford (I live in S Wales and have been working remotely) and discovered a copy of Smith's report (OUMNH Archive WSD23008), which gives details of his investigations mentioned in the letters. I have not seen this document referenced in any of the publications I have read and when I came across CATMHS I wondered if you might like a copy. Accordingly, I attach a PDF of the document for your interest".*

The document has been transcribed by two of its members and the associated maps have been redrawn. We have also met with Kevin to discuss the document which is providing much new information on the mines of the Caldbeck Fells and has provided evidence which collaborates some of our field research. The intention is to transcribe further documents held by the University.



One of the redrawn plans.

Warren Allison