



'Mining and Social Change'

NAMHO Conference, 17th-19th June 2016, Dublin

Next year's NAMHO Conference is being hosted by the MHTI on the 17th-19th June 2016 to coincide with our 20th anniversary and the 1916 centenary celebrations. The meeting will be based at Dublin City University, which is handy for the airport in the north of the city.

As this coincides with our 20th anniversary, we hope that MHTI members will wholeheartedly support this conference which will be an opportunity to showcase the good work undertaken by the MHTI over the last two decades.

Registration will open late Friday afternoon. In the evening the conference will be formally opened and there will be two lectures by keynote speakers on mining in Ireland and 20 years of the MHTI, followed by a buffet dinner.

On Saturday there will be a day of lectures with the theme *Mining and Social Change*. The conference dinner will be in the evening, followed by musical entertainment.

On Sunday we have organised field trips to the copper mines of Avoca, Wicklow, which have been much in the news lately due to consolidations works, and the silver-lead mines of the Wicklow Uplands, where recent research and survey work has made major new discoveries.

Post conference (Monday 20th) we hope to be able to offer visits organised to working mines, but there will be a very limited number of spaces available. Information will be made available for those wishing to travel to and explore, other mining areas in Ireland.

Abstracts for papers (300 words) are sought on the theme of *Mining and Social Change* which include the following topics:

- Regional identities
- Migration
- Urbanisation
- Industrial housing
- Education
- Gender and the mining industry

- Self-improvement societies/social philanthropy
- Sport and leisure
- Industrial action
- Mines and quarries during the Troubles
- Changing attitudes in favour or against mining

The deadline for abstracts is Friday 26 February 2016.

Please send these to Sharron Schwartz:
sschwartz@era.ie.

Details of how to register for the conference will be made available online in due course. You are responsible for booking your own accommodation. We recommend that available at Dublin City University:

<http://dcusummeraccommodation.ie/>

MHTI Newsletter No.69, Summer 2015

"Mines: history and influence in industrial and social development of mining communities"

The 11th International Mining History Congress, Linares, Jaen (Andalucia), Spain 6th-11th September 2016

Mining, as one of the most ancient industries, has shaped the cultural landscapes and influenced the evolution of the civilisations in any part of the world. Human settlements, traditions, cultures, beliefs, economic and social systems were characterised by the impact of mining throughout history. Papers are welcome on all aspects of mining history and will be included in follow Themed groups:

- Growing and decline of mining activity. Impacts of the mining history on the past, recent and future generations.
- Relationship between the development of mining, and mining related, industry and technology.
- Gender topics in mining activity along the centuries.
- Mining heritage as resource for cultural, social and economic development (including tourism).
- Mining history in the light of human, landscape and industrial aspects.
- The evolution of Health and Safety legislation with respect to mining.
- Mining personalities.

- Labour issues and its bearing on the success of mining operations.
- The relevance of foreign investment and the introduction of new technology for mining development.
- Mining – a linkage between the cultures.

Linares and La Carolina was probably one of the most significant lead producers in Western Europe in the 19th century and contains the largest collection of Cornish type engine houses outside the United Kingdom.

There will be a full programme of presentations and daily field trips to some of the most significant mine sites in the area. Full details on the Congress website <http://www.mining2016linares.com/>

NAMHO 2014 Proceedings

The proceedings of the 2014 NAMHO Conference, *Mining Technology: Technical Innovation in the Extractive Industries*, are still available from Dave Linton, Hendre Coed Uchaf, Llanaber, Barmouth LL42 1Aj. Cost £12.50 (but free to the 2014 conference delegates) plus £2.50 p&p. Cheques should be made payable to Welsh Mines Society.

Details of the publication can be found at http://www.welshmines.org/wms/publ/04_flier.pdf
Dave Linton, WMS, 04/11/2015

Latest NAMHO Member

Recently the Friends of Hemingfield Colliery (FoHC) applied to become members of NAMHO. At the NAMHO Council Meeting held on 14th November 2015 Steve Grudgings, representing the FoHC, gave a presentation and answered questions put forward by those present. It was unanimously agreed to accept the FoHC as full members of NAMHO. We wish them luck with their project and look forward to hearing about progress.

For more information:
<https://hemingfieldcolliery.wordpress.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/Hemingfield.Colliery/>

NAMHO Conference 2017

The NAMHO Council have accepted an offer from the Wealden Cave and Mine Society to host the 2017 Conference. Details will be released when available.

NAMHO Treasurer's Position

After 12 years as NAMHO Treasurer I feel it is time to hand the job on to someone else and wish to stand down at the AGM in 2016. The treasurer's role is to manage the day to day finances, send out the invoices for the subscription and at meetings report on the financial position of NAMHO.

You will also be a trustee (along with the Chairman and Secretary) and the main contact with the Charity Commission. I also maintain and update the data base of all the members details. You may have to submit a return to HMRC, I have done two since I have been treasurer. NAMHO is not in a position to pay tax and it is a box ticking exercise, now done online. You will need to be the NAMHO representative for your group. Anyone interested in the role please contact me and I can give you further details. Telephone: 01531821743. E-mail east.lodge@yahoo.co.uk

George Price NAMHO Treasurer

British Caving Association Report

1. INTERPRETATION OF CRoW ACT

BCA have appointed Tim Allen as "CRoW Liaison Officer" (Tim is also owner of the UK Caving Website). Tim's role will be to campaign for DEFRA and Natural England to change their interpretation of the CRoW Act to include access to caves on open access land. Tim has been clear that this is the limit of his brief – should it be felt that a change in the law is required then this is something that needs to come back to the BCA Council.

Following the discussion, Tim has sent the following communication to NAMHO:

Letter to NAMHO

I appreciate that caves and mines are different and that cavers and mine explorers may hold different interests in the underground spaces we enter. We also share a lot of common interests where cavers visit old mines and mine explorers go caving. This is notably demonstrated with NAMHO being a constituent body of the British Caving Association.

Last year the BCA ran a poll of its entire membership asking whether it should campaign for the Countryside and Rights of Way Act to apply to going underground. This was returned with a clear majority for it to do so and I am now spearheading that campaign.

NAMHO members will understand that the CROW Act only applies to entrances on 'access land'. They will also know that the Mines and Quarries Act and the Mines Regulations 2014 place a duty on the owners to prevent accidental entry into mines by members of the public.

The CROW Act, "*does not entitle a person to enter or be on any land, or do anything on any land, in contravention of any prohibition contained in or having effect under any enactment, other than an enactment contained in a local or private Act.*"

Neither the Mines and Quarries Act nor the Mines Regulations are local or private acts. Thus CROW does not 'override' either. In addition CROW provides that restrictions may be put in place where there are specific concerns over conservation or public safety issues.

The BCA wishes to establish the broad principle that the CROW Act applies to caving. There will undoubtedly be some grey areas, such as where mines intersect caves and where caves intersect mines. The finer detail can be debated once the broad principle is agreed. I hope that NAMHO members, and mining enthusiasts in general, will be able to support the BCA campaign. Thank you.

Tim Allen
BCA CROW Liason officer
October 2015

2. BCA INSURANCE FOR MINE SITES

A number of NAMHO member organisations look for BCA insurance to give them cover for public liability for general public access to mine sites as well as expecting cover for going underground and other activities.

There is clearly insurance cover for land owned, or leased, by BCA member clubs* but the club should be declaring this ownership/lease arrangements to BCA to avoid any ambiguity.

(*The corporate cover offered to BCA member clubs expects, and requires, that all voting members of that club/organisation are insured members of BCA.

Different arrangements may be in place for bodies that are declared as "Access Controlling Bodies" rather than being membership based organisations.)

The BCA Insurance Manager has indicated that it will be helpful to him to have a better idea of what land ownership/leasing exists. Providing detail of the land ownership/land leased by BCA member clubs to the insurers will also reduce any potential for future misunderstanding.

A high proportion of these BCA member land owned/leased sites will be NAMHO member organisations and it is requested that these clubs do provide detail to the BCA Insurance Manager (Nick Williams). Brief details of the site, or a survey with a couple of photo's of the site would be sufficient – these should be sent to insurance.manager@british-caving.org.uk.

Steve Holding, NAMHO BCA Representative
(03/11/2015)

Quarry Heritage and Heritage Quarries

Ian Thomas, who recently retired as Director of the National Stone Centre, is running two courses 'Delving into Quarry Heritage'.

The first comprises a set of sessions over four years examining quarries and mines in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and the tributary Via Gellia valley. Over eighty Sandstone and limestone quarries are almost equally divided in making up most of the eighty or so sites which also include few clay and coal pits plus igneous rock units. Lead mining, already well covered elsewhere, is generally outside the scope of the study.

The project is part of the DerwentWISE Landscape Partnership programme funded by HLF. It engages about a dozen students, totally new to the subject in a variety of field and archival research tasks. Ian, in drafting the 'Bulk Minerals' section of NAMHO's Extractive Industries Research Framework, highlighted the comparatively impoverished coverage of the sandstone working in comparison with limestone and igneous rock. Through these sessions, he hopes to identify the pitfalls assumed to be associated with sandstone and means of addressing them. The scheme, now in its second year, is already producing some fascinating results. Apart from writing up an account of this specific area, it is hoped to produce a comprehensive 'do it yourself' guide to researching quarry history in general.

The second course involves two one-day workshops tackling the same subject areas for a Landscape Partnership in Mid- Cheshire.

In a broader context, he produced papers last year for conferences in Turin and Teruel [Spain] respectively proposing systems for safeguarding important building stone deposits from potentially prejudicial development and secondly, advocating the concept of 'Heritage Quarries'. Just as battlefields, ancient woodland and historic parks and gardens can all be officially designated and thereby acquire a level of statutory protection, it is argued that quarries which have been associated with say particularly historic buildings or structures, or can claim exceptionally long histories, should be similarly protected. Old quarries of course share many of the threats faced by other conservation interests but some, such as landfill and building development [quarries are frequently considered to be 'brownfield sites] are especially pertinent. Geological conservation may also be regarded as a factor.

However in two respects they are probably unique and concerning which, special protocols will need to be invoked. Probably the most insidious 'loss' of possible Heritage Quarries has been the result of sites being overrun by vegetation which may then given statutory and effectively, absolute protection, sometimes at European level. The two most notorious cases [of many] are the Medieval quarries at Barnack, Cambridgeshire and Linshaws roofing sandstone quarries West Yorkshire. In the latter case, reopening of this minute site for conservation needs was refused as it was situated on the very edge of a 6000 ha. biologically protected area. It is therefore suggested that, within any designated Heritage Quarry, 'biological takeover' should be classed as 'development' and as such necessitate specific consent! The second feature not experienced in any other conservation category (although there may be parallels in woodland management), concerns the possible need to reopen sites to provide stone for building conservation purposes. This activity has to be integrated were appropriate.

In order to introduce an element of objectivity into the designation of Heritage Quarries, a scoring system has been proposed which enables a hierarchy of sites to be developed and the strength of case to be compared with that for other conservation interests. The intention is now to encourage Historic England to take

on 'Heritage Quarries' as official policy. Ian Thomas may be contacted through ian@nationalstonecentre.org.uk

Ian Thomas (15/11/2015)

International Early Engines Conference – Strategy and Event Outline

Synopsis – The inaugural International Early Engines Conference (IEEC hereafter) will be held at the Ironworks Centre, Elsecar, South Yorkshire 11th-13th May 2017. The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum for presentation and discussion of new research into heat engines prior to 1810.

Headline Theme – “Thomas Newcomen and colleagues achievements untainted by the smokescreen of Watt”

Background – A wide range and significant volume of new field and desk research into early engines lacks an obvious outlet, forum or focus and this is the underpinning rationale for IEEC. The event design is based heavily on the successful International Early Railways Conference (IERC) and a similar cycle of repeat conferences is anticipated every 4-5 years. It is expected that the conference venue will alternate between suitable locations associated with early engines and these may include (but are not limited to):

- The Black Country Living Museum
- Beamish Museum
- Ironbridge Gorge

Conference Details – Whilst details have to be finalised, the conference is planned to open at midday on Thursday May 11, 2017 and close at 16.00 on Saturday May 13. Around 20 papers, each of thirty minutes duration are scheduled, together with visits to local engine houses and related locations. Full catering will be provided for delegates and there will be a choice of relevant publications and periodicals on sale by the sponsoring/supporting organisations. Delegate costs are likely to be just below £100/person for the 2.5 days and we intend to offer some options for partners and day tickets. The conference transactions will be published as a themed edition of the International Journal for the History of Engineering and Technology (formerly Transactions of the Newcomen Society)

Hotel and accommodation arrangements will not be handled by the conference.

Sponsorship – The Newcomen Society has kindly agreed to be lead sponsor and the Northern Mines Research Society (NMRS) and the South Gloucestershire Mine Research Group (SGMRG) have also kindly agreed to provide sponsorship. Funds and credit facilities provided by sponsors are intended to meet initial costs and any surplus may be put towards the cost of future conferences. Other engineering and mining history groups have been approached for sponsorship and additional sponsors are expected to be confirmed. In addition to the resulting publicity, sponsors will be entitled use the conference venue to sell publications and publicise their activities. A commercial sponsor may also be approached

Organisation – IEEC will be organised and managed by a standing committee, whose members will be drawn from sponsors, venue providers and other stakeholders. Event administration, specifically bookings and publicity will be managed by a combination of the lead sponsor and the host venue.

Milestones:

- Confirmation of sponsors, appointment of committee and initial publicity – December 2015
- Initial Publicity and call for papers– January 2016
- Confirmation of acceptance of papers – July 2016
- Bookings arrangements go live – September 2016
- Delegate packs issued – February 2017
- Conference runs - May 2017
- Transaction published and distributed – May 2018 onwards

Ideas for papers already proposed (to be confirmed):

- An account of Newcomens engines that preceded the 1712 Dudley Engine
- Excavation and research conclusions from the 1791 Watergrove Engine House
- Surveying and researching the UKs oldest complete Engine House at Brislington
- William Brown, Tynesides Master Engine Builder 1745-1770
- Building the early boilers, trials and errors

- Was the 1712 Dudley Engine moved there from somewhere else?
- Mortons Travels, an account of Henry Ford's engine purchases
- Revisiting the history of the Pentrich Engine
- Excavating, conserving and interpreting the 1791 Serridge Engine site

Steve Grudgings (24/11/2015)



Celebrating the Tinworking Landscape of Dartmoor in its European Context - Prehistory to 20th Century

Tavistock, Devon UK, 6th-11th May 2016

The first international conference exploring the tinworking landscape of Dartmoor in a European context, is to be held in Tavistock from 6th-11th May 2016. It marks 25 years of the Dartmoor Tinworking Research Group, and 10 years of the UNESCO World Heritage designation of the Cornwall & West Devon Mining Landscape.

Twelve lectures (including speakers from Czech Republic, France, Germany and Iberia, as well as Britain), four evening events and three full days of field trips, will make this a truly memorable and important occasion for anyone interested in Dartmoor's history and archaeology. Delegates will receive a Conference Booklet and a special medallion crafted in tin. All bookings must be received by 30th April 2016. The full Conference Programme and details about booking are now available on the DTRG website:

www.dtrg.org.uk

*Tom Greeves MA PhD,
Dartmoor Tinworking Research Group*

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

South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group

Our archaeological excavations at the Serridge Engine site are continuing on the surface and also under the 'box' (concrete blocks and T beam roof), so more like a caving dig. We are now concentrating on clearing the area on the surface in accordance with the landowner's requirements. We have hosted a visit to the site for members of Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society and are intending to invite local councilors for a visit as South Gloucestershire Council has given us grants towards the project.

Several SGMRG members are also helping with the Avon Industrial Buildings Trust work at Brandy Bottom coal mine. See <http://www.aibt.org/project2.html>

We've recently had "The History and Industrial Archaeology of the Steam Engines of the Coalpit Heath Colliery Company" (SECH for short!) by Steve Grudgings published. We held a very successful book launch and sales of the book are encouraging (for all our books see www.sgmrg.co.uk/publications) We are hoping to publish a revised version of "Killed in a Coalpit" by Doreen Lindegaard before Christmas.

As well as the book launch, we've so far had three talks this year, also two walks. Next talk is in December. We've had three newsletters so far this year and the next one is due out in December.

Oldwood Pits Coal Mine site was not open for Heritage Open Days this year as the landowner wanted to "have a year off".

We are assisting in an online mapping project "Know your Place West Country", see <http://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/> This project originally only covered the City of Bristol, but is being extended to cover other areas including South Gloucestershire. The work is being funded partly by the HLF; there are currently no plans to extend it to cover other areas.

Membership of the group is steadily increasing, we now have over 120 members.

Roger Gosling, SGMRG Chairman (28/10/2015)

Nenthead Mines Conservation Society

- There is to be a Public Consultation on Thursday 21st January 2016 (10.00 to 2000) at Nenthead Village Hall, regarding proposals for the mine water treatment schemes at Nenthead and Nentsberry. It is an open event and NMCS will be there with a historical display.
- The Coal Authority would like to install a flow meter in the Hags adit at Nentsberry. There has been something in there previously, but it was not fit for purpose (i.e not providing accurate readings). The best option would be a 90 degree V notch weir plate of overall height 300mm. There should be plenty of space for a person to step over. Total depth of water behind the plate would be 205mm (5l/s), 240mm (10l/s), and 284mm (20l/s). This option would give a maximum measurable flow rate of 24.7l/s.
- The Wear and Tees Diffuse Metals project will be undertaking a desk-based and field survey of potential diffuse metal sites in the upper Wear catchment (Killhope Burn, Wellhope Burn, Sedling Burn and Middlehope Burn) and upper Tees (Egglestone Burn and Hudeshope Burn). The final project output (by end of March 2016) will be a costed action plan for intervention works.

The project started in October 2015 and will hold its first workshop on 7th December. The objectives include stabilising river banks alongside mine dumps and washing floors. NMCS have

agreed to join the Workshop. There are likely to be opportunities for interested volunteers to work alongside the staff in understanding the archaeological features connected with mining.

- Proposals for a water treatment scheme at Nentsberry Mine, Nenthead, assume that the outflow from the mine will include water from Gudhamgill and Scaleburn veins. Recent archaeology work in Brownley Hill mine has diverted some of the water flow so that the outlet to surface is at Bloomsberry Level. There are no plans to capture or treat this water. Until the diversion took place, the flow from Bloomsberry Level was minimal. It seems likely that mine archaeologists must have regard to water treatment schemes in future. The effect of this diversion (if a treatment plant is installed at Nentsberry Mine) will be that some mine water will continue to cause pollution in the river.
- *Friends of Killhope and NMCS joint Conference:* A one day North Pennines Mining Conference will be held on Saturday 14th May 2016 at St John's Chapel Town Hall, Market Place, St John's Chapel, Bishop Auckland, DL13 1QF. Any one is invited to attend and offer short or long talks or presentations about recent research about mining in the North Pennines.

If you are interest in offering a talk, please contact either Margaret Manchester (FOK Chair) 01388 731131 mmanchester@hotmail.com or Peter Jackson (NMCS Chair) 01388 527532 petesmine@gmail.com.

- *120 Years of the Vielle Montagne Zinc Company in the North Pennines:* A two day event is proposed for the 6th and 7th August 2016, based on Nenthead, Alston. One day will include displays and short lectures about the work of the VMZ and the other day will include guided visits underground with a VMZ theme. It is hoped to have speakers from the successor company to

VMZ and from other operating sites in mainland Europe.

Offers of help, papers and talks about the work of the VMNZ are invited.

Peter Jackson, NMCS (20/11/2015)

Another successful Heritage Open Day at Chatterley Whitfield

On Saturday 13th September 2015 'The Friends of Chatterley Whitfield' organised the annual Heritage Open Day.

The Chatterley Whitfield Colliery site is acknowledged to be the most comprehensive survival of a deep coal mine site in England, with a range of surviving structures and buildings unequalled in any other former or surviving coalfield site in Britain. Not usually open to the public, the FREE guided tour by the Friends of Chatterley Whitfield allowed access to the site so the public could appreciate the splendid array of buildings on site, which makes Chatterley Whitfield so unique. All tours had to be pre-booked in advance.

This year was a challenge as the City Council had been a great help in previous years by organising advertising and the pre-booking arrangements. However this year due to financial cut backs and staff being made redundant they could not help. So the 'Friends', made a decision to organise the event itself, which this year consisted of 10 tours, catering for 250 people during the day.



*Chatterley Whitfield HOD Tour.
Photograph courtesy of Lee Millward*

We made use of our social media sites and the website 'Eventbrite' for booking the tickets. The ticket allocation was oversubscribed with all the tours being booked within 12 hours of the website going 'live'. During the next six weeks we had numerous requests for tickets and had a reserve list. Two members

administered the bookings, the social media site (Facebook and Website) as well as organising the tours, guides and helpers, etc. We were kept very busy answering queries and reallocating tickets right up to the Friday night before the day.

On the day the weather was not kind to us, after a damp start and a few showers, the tours guides were kept busy and we managed to do all the 10 tours. We managed to get our heads around the booking system, and even welcomed some 'walk-ins' on the day. The Enterprise Centre (former colliery main offices) was used as our administration centre and canteen before going around the site. We were allowed access to the Lamp House, the Area Shaft Building and the rear of the Hesketh complex, before ending up in the Deployment Centre where we had a few displays, artefacts etc.

It was nice to families with young children taking an interest, as well as seeing some former miners who were able to share some stories. This year I was again joined by my young helper John Cope, now in his mid-nineties and in the Deployment Centre a new member, Roy Kirkham, who started at Chatterley in 1950 at the age of 15, greeted all the tours.

The day was a great success made possible by the 'The Friends', (Some travelling from Southport and Stroud), local councillors, and support from, helpers and friends. It is hoped that we will be allowed to arrange the event next, subject to the condition of the site

*Nigel Bowers, Secretary FoCW
(18/11/2015)*

Northern Mines Research Society

The NMRS have recently published the 100th Edition of the British Mining Publication, and as can be expected they are extremely proud of reaching another milestone in their history. Full details are available in the Publications section of this Newsletter.

Radstock Museum

The 27th Annual Miners' Reunion was held at Radstock Museum on 7th September 2015. This event is open to all former workers in the Somerset Coalfield when a light lunch is served and there are a few speeches and a chance to chat to old friends and colleagues. This year we welcomed Michael Eavis of Glastonbury Festival fame, who is the President of the Somerset Miners Welfare Trust and a former miner himself, and around 50 former employees to the event.

In the recent issue (no. 82) of Five Arches, the History Journal of the Radstock, Midsomer Norton & District Museum Society, we featured an account from 1826 of a visit to Clandown Colliery by a reporter who had been visiting Bath. He had heard of the local mines and wanted to go down one. It is a fascinating account of early mining methods. This came from a pamphlet which was recently found and purchased by the Society and added to our archive. (27/10/2015)

*Nick Turner,
Manager/Curator Radstock Museum*



Miners Reunion at Radstock Museum.
Photograph courtesy of Nick Turner

Mining News

England

New Guidelines Target Heritage Thieves

The importance of heritage thefts will be recognised in the sentencing process for the first time with new theft guidelines announced by the Sentencing Council. Historic England see it as an endorsement of their work to combat and prevent heritage crime. The new guidelines will come into force in all courts in England and Wales in February 2016. (06/10/2015)

<http://historicengland.org.uk/news-and-features/news/new-guidelines-target-heritage-thieves>

2015 Historic England Angel Awards

The winners of this year's Angel Awards were announced at a ceremony in London on 7th September 2015. Within the 'Best Rescue of a Historic Industrial Building or Site' there were two mining related nominees, the Tyne and Wear Buildings Preservation Trust (TWBPT) for the rescue of Blackfell Hauler House and the Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers Project Steering Group for the rescue of Dukesfield Arches.

It was to be the TWBPT's night as they were announced winner within their category. Further information on the 2015 awards is available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/news-and-features/angel-awards/winners-2015/>

Further details of the Blackfell Hauler House project and the other nominees at: <http://historicengland.org.uk/news-and-features/angel-awards/winners-2015/shortlist-2015/best-rescue-industrial/>

Plus a film about the nominees at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Cmey12VB_U

Know Your Place West of England

Heritage Lottery Funding has been granted to extend the Bristol Know Your Place web site to include the old Avon Unitary Authorities and Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. A Lottery spokesperson has said this extension is a significant development in community mapping projects.

Users will be able to see together various historic maps and a current day map of a selected area at various scales. In addition picture information such as old post card collections, ancient monuments and WW2 bomb damage can be viewed. Users are encouraged to submit their own information about places of interest for others to see.

All this information is being made available on PCs, laptops, tablets and smart phones, which enables the user to either work at home to study an area, or with a mobile device to visit places of interest to them and be able to see the historic information that is available and compare it with the actual place.

Anne Lovejoy, a leading member of the project team responsible for extending Know Your Place, gave us an illustrated talk on the features available and how these will be added over the coming months for the new

parts of the region. She also described how volunteers can help with this project and how anyone can submit information which they believe will be of interest to others.

When this project is complete, it will provide a very valuable entry into all sorts of local historic information.

Roger Gosling, SGMRG (28/10/2015)

'Weeping Window' brings 120,000 visitors to Woodhorn Museum

'Weeping Window', an art installation created from thousands of hand-made ceramic poppies which formed part of the 'Blood-Swept Lands and Seas of Red' at the Tower of London last year, drew huge crowds during its seven weeks at Woodhorn Museum, Ashington.

The poppies cascaded down from the No1 shaft headstocks, representing British and Colonial soldiers killed during the First World War. Museum Director Keith Merrin said "We wanted to create something that really spoke to local people. The fact it cascades from a pit wheel has given it a whole new meaning. It looks spectacular, but also really resonates with people who see the pit head as a symbol of the North East". (01/11/2015)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-34688086>



Woodhorn Colliery No1 headstocks, Photograph Courtesy of Ron Dobson

Fight continues to save Hatfield Main Headstocks



*Hatfield Main No1 & No2 headstocks,
Photograph courtesy of Mick Lanaghan*

As reported in the last NAMHO Newsletter a campaign is underway to save the headstocks at recently closed Hatfield Main Colliery. The Hatfield Main Community Heritage Association (HMCHA) were aiming to save the No1 headstock as a memorial to the devastated Doncaster Area Coalfield and a fitting National monument to the Coal Mining Industry.

The Coal Authority reported that once the shafts were capped they would leave the site, with no plans to carry out any further work. Advice given to Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (DMBC) was that both headstocks were in a dilapidated state and as such posed a real danger to the public. In meetings with the Council, HMCHA disputed this point and asked to see the reports as winding of men was being undertaken with these headstocks up until the closure of the colliery in June.

The Council stated that demolition would begin in November, but in a managed way, giving HMCHA the opportunity to put forward suitable proposals to make the steel lattice framed headstock safe and secure. The HMCHA put together a suitable plan at a fraction of the cost of demolition.

The day before the No2 headstock was due to be demolished the campaign was given an unexpected boost. On the 10th November 2015, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport agreed to the move on advice from Historic England and gave both headstocks Grade II listing.

“Headstocks like those at Hatfield with their distinctive silhouettes are the most recognisable feature of the nationally important coal industry. Once a very common feature in mining areas, these structures are now rare nationally, making this example a special survival and the last remaining in the once important Doncaster coalfield. These structures are also interesting technologically as although built at the same time, they are of contrasting designs and made of lattice steel and reinforced concrete which replaced timber at the end of the 19th Century because they were much stronger materials. Our local team in Yorkshire is in discussion with the Council over proposed works to the site.”

– *Historic England*

Whilst the HMCHA are pleased with the listing of both headstocks, they aren't complacent, recognising that they still have hurdles to overcome in securing these iconic structures as a permanent reminder of the industry for future generations.

Keep up to date with progress with the HMCHA Facebook page:

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

Add your support by signing the e-petition:

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

Historic England List Entry Summary:

<http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1430590>

Council to fund repairs to Elms Colliery

Middle Engine Pit, also known as Elms Colliery, in Nailsea, Somerset, is reputed to be the only complete example of an early 19th century mine complex in the country. English Heritage (now Historic England) placed the site on its 'At Risk Register' and have been working with North Somerset Council and Nailsea Town Council on a restoration programme.

At a meeting on 2nd September 2015 Nailsea Town Council allocated funding towards repairs to the boundary walls and future improvement works. Historic England are also providing funds, with the ultimate aim to make the site accessible to the public and history enthusiasts. (15/09/2015)

<http://www.northsometertimes.co.uk/news/council-to-fund-repair-work-to-historic-asset-1-4225901>

(See also NAMHO Newsletter No.71, March 2015)

'Marra' unveiled at Horden, County Durham

A nine foot high metal sculpture of a miner by local artist Ray Lonsdale was unveiled on 21st November 2015 in the former coal mining community of Horden. The statue depicts a miner with his heart torn out, illustrating ravages that mining communities suffered during the 1980's. A former miner at Horden Colliery, which was closed in 1987, unveiled the sculpture.

http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/14095727.Pride_of_place_for_miner_statue_showing_how_pit_closures_ripped_the_heart_out_of_coalfield_communities/ (22/11/2015)

'A Light in the Darkness- 200 years of the Flame-Safety Lamp' a special exhibition at the National Coal Mining Museum for England

2015 is the bicentenary of the invention of Sir Humphry Davy's flame-safety lamp, an icon and emblem of the coal mining industry.

The flame safety lamp was invented to provide adequate and safe light to enable miners to work underground, where they frequently risked their lives due to exposure to explosive mixtures of methane gas in the mine atmosphere.

Not only did the safety lamp provide safer lighting than a naked flame, the lamp could also be used to warn of the presence of gas, which meant it became a vital safety device saving countless lives.

This year's autumn exhibition commemorates the 200th anniversary of the safety lamp and will look at Davy, the development of the safety lamp and the huge influence it had on the industry.

Families can try out the lamp game, explore the exciting new interactive workshop and even leave their own stories for other people to read. Runs from October 2015 to 24th January 2016.

<https://www.ncm.org.uk/whats-on/special-exhibition-a-light-in-the-darkness>

Concern over future of Grove Rake Mine

Following a recent fire at Grove Rake Mine, near Rookhope in Weardale, there is growing concern over the future of remaining buildings and structures, including the last headstock in the North Pennines ore field. The current owners say that negotiations on the future of the mine are ongoing. (25/11/2105)

http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/14101375.Concerns_mounting_over_future_of_Weardale_s_Grove_Rake_mine/

Wales

Point of Ayr Colliery Memorial unveiled

A fitting tribute to the men and boys who worked at the last deep coal mine in North Wales was unveiled on 24th September 2015. Created from the upper section of the No2 headstocks the memorial is situated on the A548, the coast road between Penyffordd and Holywell, and is the culmination of three year's hard work by the Ffynnongroyw Mining and Heritage Group to secure the necessary funding.

<http://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/memorial-honour-point-ayr-colliery-10101488>

Possible new use for Penallta Colliery Buildings

The Power Hall and Pithead Baths at the Penallta Colliery, Hengoed, both of which are Grade II listed are up for auction. The 1906 Power Hall and 1938 Pithead Baths both have planning permission for conversion to apartments and flats. Development land to the rear of the Power Hall is also being auctioned with permission for further properties. The auction is to take place in Cardiff on 29th October 2015.

<http://gaukauctionnews.co.uk/auction-news/historic-south-wales-colliery-buildings-could-be-converted-into-luxury-apartments-after-sale-at-auction/>

Update: The Pithead Baths and the parcel of land were withdrawn prior to the auction. The Power Hall was unsold, but still available at £250,000. (29/10/2015)

<http://auctioneertemplates.eigroup.co.uk/Results.aspx?a=177&c=pfa&au=23368>

Engineering Exposed at Big Pit

Big Pit is offering something different to the usual visitor experience this winter. As the underground closes every year in January to carry out essential maintenance, (with the exception of some weekends), this means that Big Pit can offer something quite unique to visitors during this period.

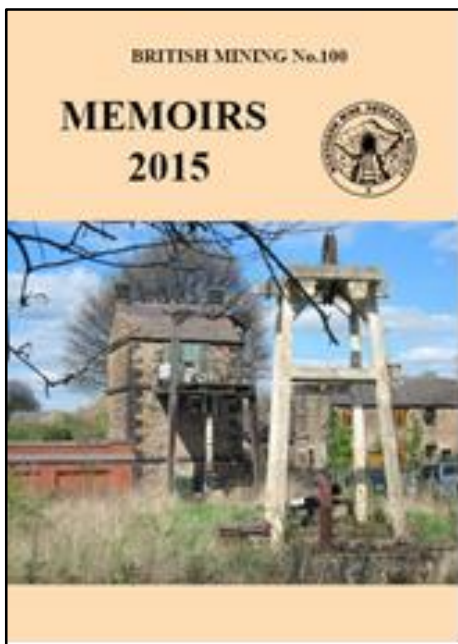
The Engineering Exposed Tour is an opportunity for staff to show and explain the type of work that goes on in keeping Big Pit open as one the UK's leading tourist attractions.

The Working Machine Demonstration, in the Conservation Stores, shows some of the smaller items of compressed air operated machinery used underground, and is also a chance to ask the Conservation Engineer questions about how machinery is conserved today for display at Big Pit.

The free Mining Galleries and Pithead Baths Exhibition are also open throughout January.

The tour and demonstration are free of charge, last 20-30 minutes each and are available Tuesdays-Thursdays throughout January (5th-7th, 12th-14th, 19th-21st and 26th-28th). Engineering Exposed: 10.15am, 11.15am, and 12.15am. Working Machine Demonstration: 1.30pm-2.30pm. Places are limited, so early pre-booking is advised. To book places or for more information, please contact 029 2057 3650 or e-mail kathryn.jenkins@museumwales.ac.uk
<http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/bigpit/whatson/8692/Engineering-Exposed---FREE-Exclusive-Tour-and-Demonstration/>

Publications and Reviews



British Mining No.100, Memoirs 2015

Editor Richard Smith, Northern Mines Research Society, softbound, 108 pages, illustrated with b&w photographs, plans and maps, A5, £10.00 plus £2.00 p&p (NMRS Members discount £2.50 per copy) ISSN 0308-2199

Contents:

History of Coventry Colliery, Warwickshire- *N.Chapman*
Old Roundwood and Manor Haigh Moor Collieries, Ossett near Wakefield-*J.Goodchild*

A post-war jig, S.E of Moor Intake Farmstaed, Arkengarthdale, North Yorkshire- *S.Richardson and R.Lamb*

Smallcleugh Mine- exploration history- *J.Lawson*
Parkfields coal and ironworks, Wolverhampton- *N.Chapman*

Eshott Colliery, Northumberland- an unsuccessful venture of the late 18th century- *J.Goodchild*

Lode continuity and controls at the Eaglebrook and Camdwrbach Mines, Ceredigion- *D.James*

Not fit for purpose? Two examples of levels being re-driven- *M.Gill*

South Yorkshires Mine Drainage Committee Activities in November 1939- *S.Grudgings*

A Tudor lead mine at Ashnott, Lancashire- *D.Went*

Enquiries and orders should be sent to:

Northern Mine Research Society Publications,
Barbara Sutcliffe, The Old Manse, 93 Halifax Rd.,
Nelson, Lancashire, BB9 0EQ

Tel/Fax 01282 614615. mansemins@btopenworld.com

Mill Close; the Last Great Derbyshire Lead Mine

Jim Rieuwerts, softback, 73 pages, illustrated with colour photographs, plans and diagrams, 230x210mm, £15.00, ISBN 978-0956347381

The successful publication in 2013 of 'Adventurers in the Lead Trade' and the rapid sale of 300 copies has prompted Mr Nicholas Davie-Thornhill of Stanton Hall to commission a second book, this time concerning the Mill Close Mine, Darley Dale. The archive held at Stanton Hall revealed much previously unseen archival information consisting of detailed plans and sections of the mine dating from the 1890's and the 1920's and 1930's, correspondence and company reports. Photographs include historical examples and modern pictures by Harry Parker, Paul Deakin and Phil Wolstenholme. A glossary of mining terms and a bibliography are included.

Four hundred copies of the book, which consists of 76 pages and endpapers with photographic reproductions of two late 19th century plans and sections of the mine in original colour, with covers in 250 gsm 'Soft Art', text pages on 150 gsm 'Soft Art'.

The book is priced at £15.00 + p&p, available from:-
Jim Rieuwerts, 2 Torwood Drive, Greenhill, Sheffield, S8 7QZ.

PDMHS Newsletter No.156, October 2015

Mining History Volume 19, No.3, Summer 2015- Mining Legacies: History, Archaeology and Environmental Impact. The proceedings of the NAMHO Conference held at Aberystwyth University 28th June-1st July 2013
Edited by Peter Cloughton and Catherine Mills, Peak District Mines Historical Society Ltd, paperback, 96 pages, illustrated with photographs, plans and maps, A4, ISSN 1366-2511

Contents:

Managing the Environmental Legacies of Frongoch Lead and Zinc Mine- *P.Edwards and F.Murphy*

The Monks Who Mined?- *D.Sables*

New Investigations and New Ideas on Prehistoric-Roman Metal Mining- *S.Timberlake*

Silver in Queensland: The Problem of Ore Processing- *P.Cloughton and L.Anguillano*

Lead Mining Landscapes of Southern Spain- *R.Vernon*

Medieval Mining in Saxony- Selected Results from Excavations of High Medieval Silver Mines in Dippoldiswalde and Niederpöbel- *C.Hemker and I.Burghardt (with S.Matson)*

Excavations at Pitchcroft Limestone Mine, Church Aston- *D.Poyner*

Penmaenmawr Quarries- *T.Brewis*

Lead and Zinc Mining in Flintshire- the Engineering Legacy for new Development- *K.Nicholls and J.Hutchinson*

The Neston Coalfield- *P.Pritchard*

Management of the Mining Heritage on Mynydd Parys- *D.Jenkins*

Mining Legacies and Cultural Landscapes: The Case of the Sicilian Sulphur Mines and the so-called "Yellow Gold" in the XIX Century (Poster)- *G.Tabita*

Images of Industry: North Pennine Lead Miners in the Regency Period

Ian Forbes, Friends of the North Pennines, hardback, 172 pages, 71 full page illustrations, £24.00, ISBN 978-0993411700

Unique watercolours and pen-and-ink sketches of early-nineteenth century lead mining scenes, some previously unseen, published in lavish colour as a complete collection for the first time. Introduced and

described in detail by Ian Forbes, for many years the director of Killhope Lead Mining Museum. Essential for anyone interested in lead mining or regional heritage. Available from various local independent bookshops and for £24.00 + p&p via email to ianpeathill@gmail.com. All proceeds from sales will support the future maintenance of the Dukesfield Arches.

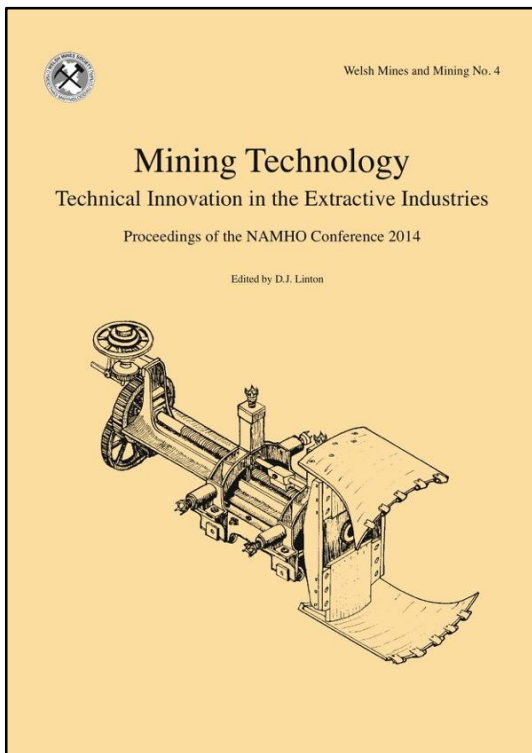
www.dukesfield.org.uk

Great Wheal Vor: A Study of the History and Working of One of the Richest Tin Mines in Cornwall

Tony Bennett, The Trevithick Society, 603 pages, hardback £47.00 ISBN 978-0957566064, softback £27.00 ISBN 978-0957566071

Throughout much of the nineteenth century Great Wheal Vor epitomised the fortunes which could be made from Cornwall's vast mineral wealth. Working almost continuously between 1810 and 1877, this fabulously rich mine kept going during periods of low tin prices which led to the failure of many lesser mines. Wheal Vor is also reputed to be the first Cornish mine to install a Newcomen steam pumping engine. It later became one of the leading mines in Cornwall's industrial heyday with beam engines which outperformed their contemporaries. One of only three Cornish mines to have its own smelting works it produced up to a quarter of Cornwall's tin from a main lode of unparalleled richness. Everything about Wheal Vor was on the grand scale. The 1850s saw an attempt to pump out and rework the mine using the "Great 100-inch Engine", the largest ever installed in Cornwall. This venture incurred the largest ever loss in a single attempt to reopen a mine. Two further attempts at revival in the twentieth century proved equally fruitless. The story of Great Wheal Vor is one of the most important and vibrant in Cornwall's mining history, which, perhaps because so little remains on the ground, has not hitherto received due notice. This comprehensive history by Tony Bennett puts Wheal Vor in its rightful place among the county's mines. Perhaps too the Great Wheal Vor story is not over yet.

Trevithick Society website



Mining Technology: Technical Innovation in the Extractive Industries (Proceedings of the NAMHO Conference 2014)

Edited by D.J. Linton, The Welsh Mines Society, paperback, 175 pages, illustrated with b&w photographs, plans, maps and diagrams, A4, £12.50 ISBN 978 0956137739

The 2014 conference of the National Association of Mining History Organisations was held at Bangor University, Gwynedd, Wales. Titled 'Mining Technology', the conference theme was technical innovation in the extractive industries. This volume presents the conference proceedings and includes work on metalliferous mining, slate quarrying and stone extraction.

The papers cover prehistoric mining technology, the introduction of deep mining in Devon and Cornwall, the technological background of the Newcomen engine, the German mine managers at Tyndrum, a history of boreholes for geological investigation and other purposes, mine drainage and copper precipitation at Parys Mountain, Anglesey, metalliferous exploration in north Wales since 1964, technological and social change in the extractive industries of north-west Wales, the stone cutting and tunnelling machines of James and George Hunter, the electrification of the north Wales slate quarries and technology adoption in stone quarrying in Wales.

This is the fourth volume in the series Welsh Mines and Mining, an occasional publication which covers all aspects of Welsh mining and related subjects.

Welsh Mines Society

The Fauld Disaster- 27 November 1944

Nick McCamley, Folly Books Ltd, hardback, 250 pages, illustrated, £24.99, ISBN 978-0992855437

On the morning of Monday 27th November 1944 an enormous explosion rocked the Staffordshire countryside. Near the village of Fauld a whole hilltop, an estimated two million tons of rock and debris, was blasted two thousand feet into the air leaving a crater a quarter of a mile in diameter and one hundred feet in depth. Deep below the surface some 4,000 tons of bombs stored in the RAF's largest underground ammunition depot had exploded en-masse, destroying much of the depot, devastating the local landscape and claiming seventy lives. This is the definitive history of the RAF's ill-fated excursion into underground storage during the Second World War, culminating in the disaster at Fauld.

The book includes:

- A detailed overview of RAF ammunition storage policy through the inter-war years.
- Illustrated history of the development, construction (and often the subsequent destruction) of the RAF's five huge, architecturally breathtaking underground bomb storage depots, built in preparation for the Second World War.
- The second half of the book explains the chain of events that led up to the disaster at Fauld, describes the moments before and immediately after the explosion in graphic detail and goes on to give a definitive account of the cause of the catastrophe based upon a forensic examination of the Air Ministry Court of Inquiry records and the subsequent civilian Coroner's Inquiry.

Publisher's synopsis

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Until 24th January 2016: 'A Light in the Darkness- 200 years of the Flame-Safety Lamp' at the National Coal Mining Museum for England, Caphouse Colliery, New Road, Overton, Wakefield, WF4 4RH

<https://www.ncm.org.uk/whats-on/special-exhibition-a-light-in-the-darkness>

5th-7th, 12th-14th, 19th-21st and 26th-28th January 2016: 'Engineering Exposed' at Big Pit National Coal Mining Museum, Blaenafon, Torfaen, NP4 9XP.

<http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/bigpit/whatson/8692/Engineering-Exposed---FREE-Exclusive-Tour-and-Demonstration/>

21st January 2016: Public Consultation regarding proposed water treatment schemes at Nenthead and Nentsbury mines, Nenthead Village Hall, Nenthead, Alston

20th March 2016: NAMHO AGM and Spring Meeting. Peak District Lead Mining Museum, The Grand Pavilion, South Parade, Matlock Bath, DE4 3NR. Doors open at 10.30am, meeting to commence at 11.00am.
****Please note change of date/day for this meeting****

6th-11th May 2016: Celebrating the Tinworking Landscape of Dartmoor in its European Context- Prehistory to 20th Century, Tavistock, Devon.
www.dtrg.org.uk

14th May 2016: North Pennines Mining History Conference, St. Johns Chapel Town Hall, Market Place, St. John's Chapel, Bishop Auckland. A one day conference organised by the Friends of Killhope and the Nenthead Mines Conservation Society.

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

6th-7th August 2016: 120 years of the Vielle Montagne Zinc Company in the North Pennines. A two day event including displays, lectures and underground visits organised by the Nenthead Mines Conservation Society. More details to follow.

13th-20th August 2016: EuroSpeleo 2016- 5th European Speleological Congress, Dalesbridge Centre, Yorkshire Dales. The Pre/post Congress Camps include the Mines of Alston Moor- Nenthead and the Caves and Mines of the Peak District National Park. Full details:
<http://eurospeleo.uk/>

6th-11th September 2016: International Mining History Congress, Linares, Jaen, Spain.
<http://www.mining2016linares.com/>

11th-13th May 2017: International Early Engines Conference. Full details to follow

Copy Date for the next Newsletter is **10th February**, with publication due March 2016.

Contributions: Email the Newsletter Editor-
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Or by post-

NAMHO Editor, c/o Peak District Mining Museum,
The Pavilion, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire, DE4 3NR

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