



NAMHO Conference 2017

The NAMHO Conference 2017, will be held in the South East of England, based around Godstone in Surrey, over the weekend of 23rd-26th June 2017.

The conference will be hosted by the Wealden Cave & Mine Society and the theme for 2017 will be "Mining History Organisations - achievements and challenges"

A varied and exciting programme of field trips and lectures are already taking shape and we have a great venue with ample space for camping on site or a good selection of hotels/pubs/B&B's nearby if you would prefer!

2017 also coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Wealden group and there will be the chance to join with our members both past and present over the weekend, to help celebrate our first 50 years! There will be plenty of food and drink on offer and even a band on Saturday night to keep us all entertained.

Bookings will open early in 2017, but watch for further updates on our website at: www.namho2017.info or for Facebook or Twitter followers search: namho2017

Hope to see you there.

Matt Clark, Chairman NAMHO 2017



Godstone Main Series Mine. Photograph courtesy of Don Wood

NAMHO Officers

We need nominations for willing volunteers for the posts of Chairman and Treasurer. The current officers in those posts have stated that they do not wish to continue after the AGM.

If we fail to persuade volunteers, we will find it very difficult to function as an effective organisation. If you know someone who might be willing to take over these jobs, please email or phone the Secretary. Email is secretary@namho.org and the phone number is 01388 527532.

The other officer posts also require willing volunteers. Nominations will be required for the posts of Deputy Chairman, Secretary, and Editor.

If you are interested in any of these posts, the secretary can provide information and provide contacts for the current officers. They can provide helpful information about how much time is required and the reality of supporting NAMHO.

Please think about either volunteering yourself or asking someone that you know.

NAMHO AGM 2017 & Council Meeting

The AGM and Council Meeting will be held on Saturday 25th March 2017 at the Peak District Mining Museum in Matlock Bath, commencing at 10.45 for 11.00am. A buffet lunch will be provided at a cost of £7.00 per head.

Peter Jackson, NAMHO Secretary

NAMHO Guidelines for the Leisure use of Mines

NAMHO Council has set up a working group to review and update the Guidelines. Members of the group met with HM Chief Inspector of Mines, Bob Leeming, and HM Inspector of Mines, Keith Williams, on 14th November 2017.

The Working Group accepted the offer of help with the review from the Chief Inspector of Mines. The Group will now produce a draft document.

Pete Jackson, NAMHO Secretary

BCA Insurance relating to Access Controlling Bodies and Winching

The broker for BCA's insurance has raised several points with BCA in recent discussions. The first involves the adequacy of Access Controlling Bodies (ACBs) in taking "reasonable steps to prevent accidents".

The broker has sought reassurances that Access Controlling Bodies are doing so and are recording their steps in writing. This interest has arisen from a recent insurance claim made through another sporting body where a successful defence was mounted on the basis of the club had been taking steps to prevent the accident and was able to demonstrate this through records. The broker has accepted that an ACB can deploy the defence of a participant 'willing accepting risks' which forms a major part of the defence against claims. But there are limitations to this defence, notably that the risk has to have been reasonably foreseeable.

Formulating this and other points into information and advice to ACBs is proving difficult. What has been recognised is that BCA's knowledge of who are ACBs is not entirely certain due to a small deficiency in the application form. So would clubs who consider that they have insurance via BCA to cover their role in controlling access to an underground location (be it mine, cave or otherwise) please contact either BCA's Legal & Insurance Officer, Bob Mehew on legal@british-caving.org.uk or BCA's Insurance Manager, Nick Williams on insurance.manager@british-caving.org.uk.

The second point relates to winch meets. BCA realises that it has not got a good awareness of all those who are conducting winch meets or the standards of safety that those meets are achieving.

Bob Mehew and Nick Williams are now in discussions with Paul Thorne over the adequacy of safety. The current idea is that following these discussions, a weekend meeting would be organised of interested parties sometime in the spring of next year to discuss the topic. The aim of the meeting would be to provide and exchange information on suitable levels of safety for winch meets.

Would clubs who do conduct winch meets or who are actively planning to do so, please make contact with

either Bob Mehew or Nick Williams, so they can be kept informed of developments on this front.

More information will be found in the minutes of the last NAMHO Council meeting where both topics were discussed. (11/11/2016)

Robert Mehew, BCA Legal & Insurance Officer

Around the NAMHO Groups

South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group

After having a year off in 2015, the SGMRG once again provided access to Oldwood pits, near Rangeworthy for the Heritage Open Days. A total of 145 visitors took the opportunity to see the remains of this 19th century colliery, including the pit shaft, drift and mine office, over the weekend 10th-11th September 2016.

There was a wide range of artefacts to see, including the recently recovered Celestine kibble, plus the 'handling table' proved popular as usual. The SGMRG are grateful to Jenny Humphris, the site owner, for access for the Open Days.



Oldwood Pits, Heritage Open Days 2016

In the fourth such collaboration the SGMRG and the Yate and District Heritage Centre organised an exhibition at the Heritage Centre telling the story of mining in Yate and South Gloucestershire.

'Mining around Yate and South Gloucestershire' charted the history of coal, celestine, stone and clay extraction in the area and ran from 11th October to 26th November 2016. Members of SGMRG provided text and photographs for the display panels, as well as a range of artefacts, including the recently recovered Celestine kibble, which is hopefully to be restored and put on permanent display outside the heritage centre.

Roy Meldrum, SGMRG Secretary



*HOD Visitors viewing the Hesketh Headstocks.
Photograph courtesy of Steve Dalgleish*

Heritage Open Weekend at Chatterley Whitfield

When did it all start.....?

Well in April as Secretary I got an email from English Heritage reminding organisations, groups etc of the forthcoming Heritage Open Days from Thursday 8th September 2016 to Sunday 11th September 2016. The Friends of Chatterley Whitfield took a bold decision and decided to make the Chatterley Whitfield site available to the public on two days this year instead of the one day which had been done in previous years. The reasoning behind this was in 2015 we organised ten tours catering for 250 people. To be honest it was frantic with the small group of guides being kept busy all day. So in 2016 the thoughts were to do two days, Saturday and Sunday, reduce the number of tours to six per day but still cater for 240 people. This would take the pressure off the guides and allow visitors more time on site after the tours. We would have flexibility. There were a lot of unknowns, would the people come, could we get volunteers for both days and would the City Council agree to it.

Decision was made - Open two days, so the event was registered before the first of May with Heritage Open Days and almost immediately requests were being received for tickets. In previous years Stoke on Trent City Council had organised the booking system but due to cut backs they could not help this year. So we organised everything ourselves and used the excellent web site Eventbrite. Once you have sorted out the tour times, Eventbrite does the rest with people using that site to book places.

In addition to Eventbrite we used our well established website and Facebook to promote the event and from April onwards Facebook was particularly busy with requests regarding the open days. The Eventbrite website went 'live' on the first of August and within twelve hours all 240 places for the tours were allocated and when the booking closed at the end of August there was a big waiting list.

So with six weeks to go before the open days, it looked as if we, 'The Friends' were going to get a good turn out, but like every event there were a few issues which may have had a massive effect on the event even going ahead. The one thing we could not predict was the weather, heavy rain and most importantly wind speeds over thirty miles per hour (wind speed indicator on site). The other factor was would the City Council allow the visit - Health and Safety.....

As we are all aware the Chatterley Whitfield site closed in 1992 and little or no money has been spent on the site, so every year it becomes a challenge to see if it is safe enough to allow members of the public access. 'The Friends' have formed a very good working relationship with Alan Smith, Programme Manager, Directorate of Place, Growth and Prosperity. Working in liaison with his team and especially Stephanie Burkinshaw we were able to establish a safe route around the site and gain access to a few buildings. A comprehensive report was compiled by Stephanie and on the run up to the event weekend, we kept in contact. THE EVENT WAS GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT.

On the weeks leading up to the event Facebook played a major part, with people posting requests for tour places and also in the days before the weekend informing us of any cancellations. With the use of Eventbrite we were able to reallocate tour places off the reserve list. We also used Facebook and Eventbrite to update people on the weather forecast, with daily reports on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Another big plus for Facebook was we were able to let our members know what was happening and ask for volunteers. This also generated interest from examiners, who were asked to come long and help as well.

In the week running up to the Heritage Weekend 'The Friends' were kept busy on site, arranging displays in the Deployment Centre and adopting the recommendations made by the Council regarding access to some of the building and clearing some areas of the safe route.

The Weekend arrived.....

Arriving on site, 'The Friends' welcomed all the volunteers, both regulars and newcomers and following a briefing at nine in the morning we were ready for the first tour starting at ten. This was going to be led by Jim Worgan, and due to last about ninety minutes, but knowing Jim you never know, once he gets going.

The tour this year started in the Enterprise Centre (Tour reception and registration) before heading into the Lamp House. After that walk past the remains of the Boiler House before going into the Area Shaft Building. Then onto what could be described as the 'working area' of the former mine, the pit heads, starting at the Winstanley and heading west towards the Hesketh, via the 1986 Winding House, Institute and Platt shafts. We were very lucky again this year to be allowed access to the rear of the Hesketh complex, which enabled visitors to see the tub halls and a view down the remains of the sidings. The tour ended in the Deployment Centre, part of the pit head baths, where 'The Friends' had put on a display of artefacts, maps and books.

Tour one done, only another five more to do on the Saturday and the six more on the Sunday.

We managed to conduct the tours with three tour guides who were supported by members of 'The Friends of Chatterley Whitfield' and volunteers.

The weather was kind to us - The weekend was a great success..... We had a total of 214 visitors, some from as far as London, signed up 14 new members and made new contacts. Positive feedback from the visitors, hundreds of photographs taken and respective websites and Facebook updated.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who made it possible.....Plans already in hand for 2017.....

Web site links:

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

<https://blog.mechanicallandscapes.com/2016/09/26/460-chatterley-whitfield-revisited-1/>

<https://blog.mechanicallandscapes.com/2016/09/29/461-chatterley-whitfield-revisited-2/>

Nigel Bowers, FoCW Secretary



*HOD Visitors in the Lamp house, Chatterley Whitfield
Photograph courtesy of Steve Dalgleish*

Coniston Copper Mines HLF Grant update

The project has continued at a pace during the summer. The contractors have carried out repair work to the Old Engine Shaft (more to do at a later date), have taken down and re-built a large section of the Thriddle Incline, which now looks superb, re-built the tumble-down walls at the wheel pit for the Bonsor East Shaft, which is one of the only virtually complete remains of an 18th century mining structure in the Lake District. They are now working at the Paddy End dressing floors and will continue as long as the weather stays good, before returning next year.

The project has also included various ecological surveys, which fits in well with the ethos of the HLF, and also ensured that the conservation work would not be impacted. A Bat and Reptile survey has been carried out which did not show anything out of the ordinary. The Lichen and Bryophytes survey was very interesting (I have not known anything about this subject before) and has confirmed that the site is of national importance in this field. The number of Lichens found was 123, with six being rare and 21 scarce; the number of Bryophytes found was 167, with seven being rare and three scarce. These species are known as Metallophytes, which can tolerate high levels of heavy metals and commonly exist as specialised flora found on mine spoil heaps. A report will be published in due course.

On the 3rd September there was a mining day held at the Coniston Institute where Eleanor Kingston (LDNPA) and Lisa Keys (Coniston Copper Project Coordinator) explained to nearly 50 people what the project was about. There were photographs of the underground workings taken by CATMHS members over many years on show, along with the CAT DVD and the programme

that Mike Mitchell and Ian Matheson did for the Jane Foal exhibition of the mines. There were examples of the social history from the exhibitions on Patterdale which I did some years ago, to show what could be replicated in the parish of Coniston. In the afternoon, along with help from Mark Hatton, Sue Lund and Charlie Fowler (who were going to be married at the mines in five weeks' time), we led a walk from the Institute to the Copper Mines as far as the Youth Hostel, which was attended by 18 people who turned up in the rain. After explaining the site with the aid of photographs and plans we had tea and a buffet at the YHA before returning back to the Institute where Ian Matheson did a talk on the history of the mines.

On the 24th September, a volunteer's day was held at the Coniston Sports and Social Club where 22 people turned up to hear about the volunteering opportunities, which included archaeology, helping to record the remains, conservation, in helping to repair and protect the remains in the future, guiding for different audiences, and archive and social history research to uncover information about the mining operations and the people involved.

On the 29th September, as part of the school curriculum on Geography, Lisa and myself along with three people from the Cumbria Geo Conservation Group, which is a voluntary geological conservation group working to record and look after important geological sites and is an affiliated member of UK RIGGS (Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites), took 28 year nine pupils and three teachers from the John Ruskin School in Coniston to the mines, looking at the geology of the area. We started at the school and walked towards the mines looking at the rocks which had built the village before stopping at the Ruskin Museum where the geology of the area was explained. Continuing towards the mines we stopped at various points on the way looking at the geology/rocks, arriving at the intake for the hydro scheme, where I explained a little about the history of the mines and how they were worked, before arriving at Warsop's smelter where the children decided it was time for lunch. It was at this point that I managed to lock my car keys in the car (having taken it to the mine earlier in the morning) and after borrowing Lisa's mobile managed to send for the fourth emergency service known as 'mother' with the spare set.

We then walked onto the area around the Paddy End dressing floors where you get a good view of the veins

at Simon's Nick and the method of mining was explained before walking back to the school. The children had had a good insight into the geology of the area which could not be got from a book (including myself who had not realised that the intake for the hydro scheme was the joint between hard and soft rock, and that the Copper Mines valley is actually a hanging valley). The children and teachers said that they had had a superb day which included comments such as 'awesome', 'cool'. There are another two modules in the school curriculum which can be based on the mines - the Industrial Revolution (history) and Copper Smelting (science) which the project will cover. I have to say that this was a brilliant day, the children were a credit to the school and on a personal level I learned so much more about the geology of the area with people who understood it.

On the 2nd October, Eleanor gave a brief update on the project at the LDNPA archaeological conference where Penny Middleton from Northern Archaeological Associates gave a talk on the survey work at Penny Rigg Mill which was recently undertaken by volunteers. Much has already been done this summer, which is more remarkable after a late start, which bodes well for next year. It must be said that this project of some £500,000 is in a way a testament to the tenacity of our Society, who for close to 40 years has campaigned to preserve the remains. It is also bringing the history of the mines to the wider public, which can be seen by the interest of the volunteers, members of the public and even the school children.

Warren Allison

CAT, CATMHS Newsletter No.125, November 2016

Celebrations at Williamson's Tunnels, Liverpool

On the 20th November 2016, almost four years to the day that the Friends of Williamson's Tunnels (FoWT) started work at the Paddington site, the final buckets of spoil were removed. This is not to be the end of their labours though, the FoWT have announced that they have been given the Lease for the Williamson's House site in Mason Street and hope to commence work there soon.

<https://williamsontunnels.com/>

Friends of Hemingfield Colliery secure funding

The Friends of Hemingfield Colliery (FOHC) have announced that they have received commitments of the funds needed to reconstruct the roof of the historically important 1846 Vertical Winding Engine House. The survival of the stone built vertical

winding engine house, constructed around 1845, is unusual given the previous approach to demolishing end of life colliery buildings and structures.

The allocation of funds secured from the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership, The Association for Industrial Archaeology and Subterranea Britannica, will allow the building to be made safe and weatherproof, as well as protecting the two winding engines contained within. It will also enable the FoHC to start planning for wider public access in the future. (14/09/2016)

<https://hemingfieldcolliery.wordpress.com/2016/09/14/friends-secure-funding-for-reconstruction-of-historic-winding-engine-house/>

Vielle Montagne Zinc Company of Belgium Information Request

After the successful weekend held at Nenthead in August to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the Vielle Montagne Zinc Company (VM) coming to England, Alastair Robertson has started researching into other mines that VM worked.

It is known that they operated some mines in Wales and so Alastair initially made a request to members of the Welsh Mines Society who may have information/plans/ documents to get in touch with him.

His request reads:

"I am currently researching the involvement of the Vielle Montagne Zinc Company of Belgium in mines in Wales from 1896 to 1900. The company operated at Nenthead in Cumbria from 1896 to 1949. I have photocopies of some company documents in French, but I'd like to find correspondence or other source information from the Welsh end. Can anyone help? The mines concerned are Hafna, Talargoch, Holway, Llangynog, Craig-y-Mwn, Cwm Orog, Cwm Glan-Afon and Craig-Ddhu.

Yours sincerely,
Alastair Robertson

Can you help Alastair with his research? If so he would be grateful if you could get in touch:
alastair.f.robertson (at) gmail.com

For more information on the 120th anniversary celebrations at Nenthead see:
<http://vieillemontagnehistory.com/anniversary/>

Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers Project Update

The Friends of the North Pennines Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers project has been comprehensively reported in these newsletters since the first mention in June 2012. A successful HLF Grant application, site archaeology, research, reports, leaflets and interpretation concluding in June 2015 and followed by the publication of Images of Industry (see newsletter 74). **Less prominent but no less important** is the work done in parallel (*and still continuing*) by the Transcription Group.

Their Dukesfield Documents website- www.dukesfield.org.uk/documents now has transcriptions of over 7,500 letters and other items, centred on (but certainly not restricted to) the lead mining business of the Blackett and then Beaumont family between the late 17th and early 19th century. This means there are about 1.7m words of searchable text available to researchers. Since the overall website went live 18 months ago there have been some 56,000 page views. It was the subject of an article Greg Finch wrote for The Local Historian journal (April 2016). A good sense of the range of material available can be had by browsing the pages which describe the material transcribed from more than a dozen different archival sources: <http://www.dukesfield.org.uk/research/dukesfield-documents/archive-sources/>

The following examples give a flavour of what may be found there:

An item encountered by chance in an edition of seventeenth-century source records led to the identification of two office copy letter books from the 1670s, kept by Michael Blackett, second son of William Blackett (the founder of the business), and now in Cambridge University Library. These are also in the process of being added to the collection and reveal a great deal about commercial life in Newcastle and its links to London and northern European ports during the seventeenth century trade boom. Letters sent by Michael Blackett to his father also show us something of the structure and scale of the lead business and reveal fascinating details about family relations and features of the local landscape. For example, we find that in the mid-1670s the most important source of lead ore smelted at Dukesfield Mill was the rich mine at Fallowfield near Acomb, north of Hexham, and that over 100 tons was carried from there each month, on horseback. From the 1730s there is much from Sir

Walter Blckett's chief agent, Joseph Richmond, on Newcastle politics and negotiating the renewal of mining rights in Weardale with the bishop of Durham, as well as letters to the mine and smelting mill agents. The bishop's side of this negotiation is illustrated by transcripts of letters from his agent now held in Durham University Library, and the database allows both sides of the correspondence to be read together in sequence. One of the project volunteers has also tabulated eighty years of lead mining, smelting, refining, ore and lead carriage accounts, from which various aspects of the development of the lead trade can be plotted during the period when the North Pennines came to dominate the industry nationally. Students of eighteenth century business practice are provided with much more evidence as to how a large and geographically-dispersed mineral business and estate were managed, and on the perennial problems of juggling cash flow through bills of exchange. A whole series of reports from the agents at the lead mines in Allendale and Weardale, and from the smelting mills in the early 1800s, offer potential insights into technical change and labour relations during a turbulent period of change nationally. The collection includes the entire set of office copy letters from the Blckett and Beaumont chief agents between 1755 and 1830.

The detail above was kindly provided by Greg Finch, if additional information is required he can be contacted either using the contact page of the Dukesfield web site or via the NAMHO secretary.

Don Borthwick, Librarian/Archivist CATMHS

International Early Engines Conference **Elsecar Ironworks, 11-13th May 2017**

The IEEC Committee are delighted to be able to confirm final details of the conference and to remind everyone interested in early steam engines that we will be accepting bookings by post and electronically from the end of October 2016.

All of us are pleased with the quality and variety of papers submitted and whilst we have been oversubscribed with materials, believe we have found suitable outlets in the wider programme to satisfy individuals whose papers are not part of the core programme.

Whilst you may be familiar with Elsecar's recently restored Newcomen engine (the subject of the conference's first paper) the survival of much its Ironworks complex and of the nearby Hemingfield Colliery may not be as well known. In addition to the attractions of the Heritage Centre and Railway, the immediate area also includes the remains of two ironworks, three collieries, an 1850 engineering workshops and other associated industrial archaeology.

The programme lists the running orders of the papers as well as the other activities included in the conference and is available at:

<https://www.earlyengines.org/conference-programme/>

Information on full tickets, individual day and partner's tickets, with the option to buy on-line is available at:

<http://shop.barnsley-museums.com/event/international-early-engines-conference/>

Or alternatively by post, with cheques made payable to *Early Engines*, to IEEC Bookings, 31 Laverstoke Lane, Laverstoke, Whitchurch, Hants., RG28 7NY.

(For any questions contact the Heritage Centre on 01226 740203)

In addition to the conference proceedings, purchasers of the full ticket will receive a welcome pack that includes the conference compendium, a series of papers on early engines previously published at a regional level that may not have enjoyed the wider attention they warrant.

Whilst we do not have a preferred hotel to serve as a focal point outside the conference times, we believe we have organised a healthy balance of outings and social gatherings to ensure everyone gets a chance to meet up with old acquaintances and make new ones. Local rail and bus transport services are frequent and convenient and there is an excellent choice of local taxis.

We are all looking forward to welcoming delegates to Elsecar and want to ensure that everyone with any interest in early engines and engineering is made to feel welcome. (09/11/2016)

IEEC Committee - Steve Grudgings, Chris Jones, Peter King, David Perrett, Richard Smith, John Tanner

A Word from the Editor

With the demise of deep coal mining at the end 2015, marked by the closure of the UK's last colliery, it's good to be able to report on a couple of successful projects which are preserving our coal mining heritage. The headframes at the Cefn Coed Colliery museum are to be restored, whilst the Great Western Colliery Preservation Trust have been granted the lease for the Hetty Pit Winding House. We wish them luck and look forward to more success stories in the coming year

As usual I would like to convey my appreciation to those that have contributed to this and previous editions of the NAMHO Newsletter over the past year. Items are credited to the contributor, unless written/supplied by myself as Editor.

Roy Meldrum, NAMHO Editor

Mining News

England

Groverake Fluorspar Mine, Rookhope, County Durham

Demolition of the modern buildings has been completed. Older buildings, which are listed, are not to be demolished. One of the main shafts on site now has a concrete cover and materials are on site to cover the other shaft.

On 23rd September 2016, The Friends of Groverake delivered a draft Business Plan to the landowner with the aim of showing that an established charity could successfully own and manage the headgear on site. No positive response has been received. (13/11/2016)

Peter Jackson

Update - We're told that the structure (ie. the headgear) will be demolished within days despite our having submitted a business plan for its preservation.

The reason why this is happening, we're told by the agent, is to satisfy a requirement of the Coal Authority for unobstructed access to the shaft under the head frame. However, we have approached the Coal Authority directly and obtained (15th November 2016) a joint statement from them and the Environment Agency that makes plain that:

"We are at such an early stage in the feasibility study that we would not want this technical perspective to override any archaeological or cultural considerations relating to the fate of the heritage at Grove Rake Mine.

There may be other technically feasible ways of obtaining access to the mine water that will allow us to investigate if pumping from the shaft is a viable way to capture and treat the mine water and clean up the longstanding pollution of Rookhope Burn."

We're now asking for a stay of execution and an urgent meeting with the landowner's agent to discuss the implications of the new statement. (15/11/2106)
<https://www.facebook.com/Friendsofgroverake/?fref=nf>

Good News- BBC Look North highlighted the campaign to save the headgear, with a crowd of people braving the cold weather to demonstrate the strength of their feelings. This appears to have prompted the landowner's agents to enter into negotiations to safeguard the future of the headgear. (17/11/2016)
<https://www.facebook.com/Friendsofgroverake/>

Barneycraig Mine, West Allendale, Hexham, Northumberland

The Coal Authority has contracted work to improve drainage and stabilise slime dumps on the site. There are plans to repair the retaining walls adjacent to the river bank.

The North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Allen Valleys project is fund raising for the conservation and repair of the mine shop. This building has suffered collapses in the last twelve months.

Peter Jackson

Nenthead Mine Water Remediation Scheme

The Environment Agency (EA) and the Coal Authority (CA) have held a public meeting to start consultation about the siting of water treatment operations. The proposal is to treat water from Caplecleugh Low Level and Rampgill Level.

Nentsberry Mine Water Remediation Scheme

EA and CA have held a public meeting to relaunch the consultation for a similar scheme at Nentsberry. Earlier proposals were criticised by the nearby community and EA have now stated that they have decided to start afresh with site proposals.

Information about both of these sites is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/haggs-mine-water-treatment-scheme>.

Peter Jackson

Allen Valleys Landscape Partnership Scheme

As part of the wide-ranging Allen Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme being carried out by the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty buildings and structures have been uncovered at the Allen Smelt Mill.

The mill dates from the 17th century and closed in 1896, but the site continued in a variety of uses until the 1970's. With Heritage Lottery funding the five year scheme, which started in 2014, includes working with a number of organisations on a multitude of initiatives, which includes the conservation of historic buildings. Volunteers have removed trees and vegetation allowing the site to be fully explored. The current owner of the site has already renovated a large building for use by several businesses and it hoped that this scheme will boost the site's heritage appeal, with the possibility of recreating the waterwheel that was on site. To ensure that the scheme has a lasting legacy more volunteers are required, particularly those with specialist skills such as legal knowledge, fund raising and finance, to ensure that things continue to move forward after the scheme has finished.

(24/10/2016)

<http://www.hexham-courant.co.uk/news/allendale/Centuries-of-history-uncovered-at-Allendale-smelt-mill-3dc5b0ed-90e1-43f2-893b-b8eb6e4096d2-ds>

Thanks to Sallie Bassham for providing the link

Allendale Mine, Allendale, Hexham

The North Pennines AONB Allen Valleys project has contracted conservation work on the dressing floors at Allenheads Mine. Some tree and rubbish clearance has been completed. Masonry repair work is expected to start in the spring of 2017. (13/11/2016)

Peter Jackson

North Pennines AONB OREsome Project - Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland

Detailed information is on the AONB website at <http://www.northpennines.org.uk/Pages/OREsomeNorthPennines.aspx>.

This project is recording information about eight mine sites in the North Pennines and objectives include collecting, archaeological, botanical, and geological information for a gazetteer of North Pennines mine sites. Volunteers are now being trained on the inspection and recording processes.

See the website if you want to join the project.

Peter Jackson

Forest of Dean gas exploration licences rejected

Gas exploration licences for the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley have been rejected by South Western Energy much to the delight of environmental campaign group 'Frack Off Our Forest'.

A spokesperson for the Oil and Gas Authority said: "The OGA can confirm that some blocks offered under the 14th Onshore Licensing Round have not been accepted by those to whom they were offered.

"This means that the licences pertaining to these blocks will not be awarded.

"The blocks concerned include SO50a, SO51a, SO60a, SO60b, SO61, ST84, ST85, ST94 and ST95, which are near the Forest of Dean and near Wiltshire."

(15-09-2016)

<http://www.theforester.co.uk/article.cfm?id=101621&headline=Fracking%20firm%20rejects%20Forest%20of%20Dean%20gas%20exploration%20licences§ion1s=news&searchyear=2016>

<https://www.ogauthority.co.uk/exploration-production/onshore/>

Thanks to John Hine for providing the links

Derbyshire Memorial targeted by thieves

A memorial to remember the miners who lost their lives at Markham Colliery has been targeted by thieves. 'Walking Together' consists of life-sized figures stretching between Duckmanton, Chesterfield and the site of the former Markham Colliery, symbolising the miner's journey to the pit and back home again. Each of the 106 steel figures features a name tag of one of the miners who lost their life at the colliery, with criminals stealing the tags from three of the figures.

(12/10/2016)

<http://www.derbyshiretimes.co.uk/news/mindless-scumbags-criminals-target-markham-vale-miners-memorial-1-8176229>

Ex-miners sought for Silverdale's 'Our Story'

Groundwork West Midlands, an environmental regeneration charity working with disadvantage communities, has received Heritage Lottery funding for a project based on Silverdale Country Park, the site of the former Silverdale Colliery, near Newcastle under Lyme, around which the village was built.

The project 'Silverdale Our Story' will include local volunteers, school, the Parish Council and other partners creating a story that represents the village's past. This will then form a history trail around the

country park, linking the past with ongoing conservation and habitat improvement works.

Former miners from the pit are being sought as part of the project to provide their memories and stories. Silverdale Colliery dated from the 1830's and finally closed in 1998. (02/11/2016)

<http://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/westmidlands/news/bbc-midlands-today-live-coverage-of-our-silverdale-heritage-project>

Wales

Lewis Merthyr Colliery Disaster Anniversary

A programme of events were held at the Rhondda Heritage Park to mark the 60th anniversary of the Lewis Merthyr Colliery Disaster. On 22nd November 1956 nine miners were killed in a methane explosion at the colliery, which is now the Rhondda Heritage Park. A plaque marking the deaths was unveiled at the museum on 22nd November 2011, the 55th anniversary of the tragedy. (08/11/2016)

<https://www.facebook.com/rhonddaheritagepark/?fref=ts>

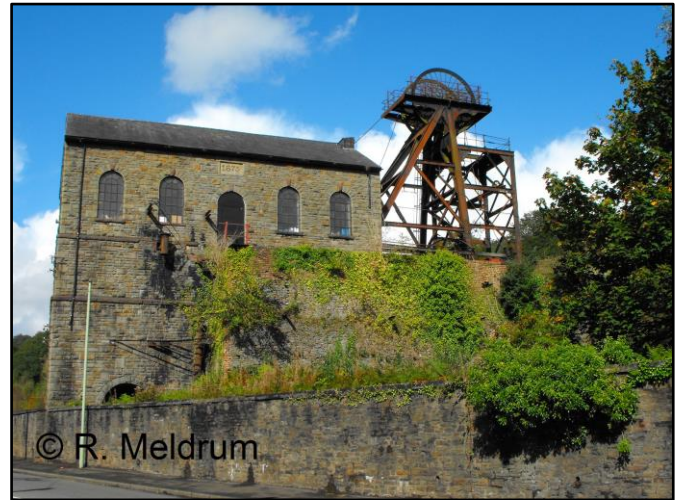
Trust granted lease to colliery winding house

Rhondda Cynon Taf Borough Council are to grant the lease of the Hetty Pit Winding House at the former Great Western Colliery at Hopkinstown to the Great Western Colliery Preservation Trust.

The Trust has spent more than a decade restoring the steam powered winding engine dating from 1875. Originally used for winding coal, the Hetty Pit continued in use long after the Great Western Colliery ceased production, being used for ventilation and as an emergency exit for the nearby Ty Mawr and Lewis Merthyr Collieries. The Great Western Colliery finally closed in 1983, with the shaft sealed and buildings demolished, but the Hetty Pit Winding House survived, complete with the original, although altered, steam engine.

The Winding House was granted Listed Building Status in 1984, as one of the last remaining engine houses and headgear left in Wales. The engine house and surrounding area was later Scheduled as an Ancient Monument in 1994. (12-10-2016)

<http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Newsroom/PressReleases/2016/October/NewLeaseOfLifeForFormerCollierySite.aspx>



Hetty Pit, Hopkinstown, South Wales

Renovation of Cefn Coed Colliery Museum headframes underway

The Cefn Coed Colliery, dating from the 1920's, was during its working life the deepest anthracite mine in the world. Production ceased in 1968, although one of the two shafts was kept open as a means of egress from the nearby Blaenant drift mine until 1990.

The museum was established in 1978 and the site includes the original boiler house, chimney, compressor house, electrical generating house, two sets of headframes and the winding house of the No.2 shaft, complete with the original 1927 steam winding engine.

Due to the poor condition of the two headframes, which are both Grade II* listed, the museum has been closed temporarily. However, work is now underway to dismantled, repair and re-erect the structure. Due to this work the museum will be closed until spring 2017.

Keith Davies, the museum manager, has informed me that 2018 is the 50th anniversary of the deep mine closing, and the volunteers are planning a memorial garden on site for all that sadly lost their lives, and they openly invite any family members or friends to come along and plant a flower or place a plaque on our memorial stall. (03/11/2016)

<http://www.itv.com/news/wales/2016-10-28/work-will-soon-begin-to-save-the-headframes-of-cefn-coed-colliery/>

<https://www.facebook.com/CefnCoedColliery/?fref=ts>



Work underway on Cefn Ceod Colliery headframes.
Photograph courtesy of Keith Davies, Museum Manager

‘Keeper of the Collieries’ sculpture unveiled

A nine foot tall oak sculpture of a miner has been unveiled on the site of the former Coegnant Colliery and Maesteg Washery. Natural Wales are working in partnership with the communities of the Upper Llynfi Valley, north of Bridgend, to develop the former industrial site into a community space, the Spirit of Llynfi Woodland. Eventually over 60,000 trees will be planted across the 75 hectares, along with a series of walking and cycling trails, offering local residents the opportunity to exercise and relax within a woodland setting. (15/11/2016)

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/striking-9ft-tall-oak-sculpture-12180659>

Scotland

Plans to redevelop former Westfield opencast coal mine submitted

The former Westfield opencast coal mine near Kinglassie, Fife could be transformed into an industrial and energy-producing site if permission is granted to Hargreaves Services, the site owners. The plans include proposals for manufacturing and industrial units alongside business and leisure opportunities.

As part of its planning application, Hargreaves states: “The proposed development would provide a significant source of renewable energy, be capable of providing energy and heat for a range of commercial developments, create local job opportunities, and provide for significant ongoing environmental enhancement and management of the undeveloped

parts of the site, including enhanced public access provision. (16/11/2016)

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/local/fife/314406/quarry-redevelopment-could-bring-fife-jobs-bonanza/>

Duntanlich Barite Mine given go-ahead

The proposal by oilfield services company M-I SWACO to develop a new barite mine at Duntanlich, near Aberfeldy, Perthshire, has been given approval subject to conditions. The company, which is the leading supplier of drilling fluid for the oil and gas exploration industries, currently operated a nearby mine at Foss.

Unlike the barite mine at Foss, the new mine has a simple geological structure that will be economic to work and allowing the UK to become self-sufficient in the mineral. (14/09/2016)

<http://www.orbit-comms.co.uk/green-light-for-barite-mine-in-scotland-delivering-vital-resource-for-the-north-sea-oil-and-gas-industry/>

<http://duntanlich.com/>

Thanks to Alastair Lings for providing the links

Ireland

Curraghinalt Gold Project, Gortin, Co. Tyrone

Dalradian Resources report “Completion of 558 days working underground, 244 blasts, approximately 960 metres of underground development, the completion of three test stopes, all with zero non-compliance with regulations and zero lost-time injuries; Results from the testing of the first two long-hole test stopes recovered 54% more gold than predicted in the resource model and demonstrated that mechanized long-hole mining can be used as the primary mining method; The Feasibility Study (FS) is near finalization, with metallurgy/flow sheet planning and the geotechnical program, test stoping and paste backfill tests completed and mine development and production sequencing nearing completion “. More information, including photos, is available in the company's latest investor presentation (08/11/2016).

<http://www.dalradian.com/news-and-events/news-releases/default.aspx>

Alastair Lings, MHTI

Glentogher Mine, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal

Connemara Mining Company have been exploring in and around the former Glentogher Mine in Co. Donegal. Their Interim Statement for the period ended 30 June 2016 says "sampling around an old mine on the licence produced good grades of base metals and silver. A team have worked to clear the old adits and shafts and make access safe. They then sampled the area. Visual observation suggests veins up to 2 metres wide but laboratory results are awaited on contained grades". (29/09/2016)

<http://www.connemaramc.com/investors/regulatory-news>

Alastair Lings, MHTI



Glentogher Mine Adit.

Photograph courtesy of Alastair Lings

Consolidation works start at Baravore New Crusher House, Glenmalure

The long-awaited works to consolidate the New Crusher House at Baravore, Glenmalure, Co. Wicklow have commenced. This follows an extensive history and survey of the buildings by members of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland, which has campaigned vociferously for this historic building to be made safe and preserved for future generations. We also acknowledge the tireless work of the Glenmalure Pure Mile group, local people who shared our concern for the future of the building, and who made it the centrepiece of their successful Adopt a Monument Scheme, a flagship community project of the Heritage Council. It is very encouraging to see the engagement of Coillte, the landowner, in progressing these works, and the way in which the Pure Mile Group, the MHTI, the Heritage Council and Wicklow's Heritage Officer have all worked together to bring about the

preservation of a vital piece of Wicklow's mining heritage. (27/10/2016)

Glens of Lead Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/GlensOfLead/posts/992799837509089>

Publications

British Mining No.102- Memoirs 2016

Richard Smith: Editor, Northern Mines Research Society, softback, 86 pages, illustrated with plans, maps & diagrams, A5, ISSN 0308-2199

Contents:

Sinkings over the Eastern Boundary Fault of the South Staffordshire Coalfield, *Nigel A Chapman*

Mineral working near Penistone, Yorkshire Part 1 Coal, *John Goodchild*

Mineral working near Penistone, Yorkshire Part 2- fireclay, ganister & other minerals, *John Goodchild*

Thomas & George Lee: mine managers in the Cleveland ironstone industry, *John Goodchild*

The discovery of iron ore at Skinningrove in 1847, *John Goodchild*

Lode geometries & productivities around Pont Erwyd, Ceredigion, Nantyrarian to Brynglas via Llywernog, *David M. D. James*

Whitham's Engine, Blakethwaite, Gunnerside, Swaledale, *Mike Gill & Ian Spensley*

The waste dressers of Grassington Moor, *Mike Gill*

Mining History Volume 19, No.5, Autumn 2016

Richard Shaw: Editor, Peak District Mines Historical Society Ltd., paperback, 77 pages, illustrated with photographs, plans, maps & tables, A4, ISSN 1366 2511

Contents:

A History and Gazetteer of the Lead Mines within the Private Liberty or Lordship of Hazlebadge, Derbyshire: 1292-1947, *Chris Heathcote*

The 1788 Boulton and watt Engine House at Ecton: Archaeological Excavations 2012-4, *John Barnatt*

Fayles Tramways: Clay Mining in Purbeck- Two Hundred Years, six different gauges

Chris Legg, Twelveheads Press, softback, 168 pages, 225 illustrations, £16.00, ISBN 978 0 906294 888

For much of the twentieth century a small train periodically stopped the traffic on the main road from Wareham to Swanage and for many people this was

the only manifestation of an important local industry. Ball clay had been extracted from Purbeck since the sixteenth century but it was the beginning of the nineteenth that saw the start of serious exploitation. Benjamin Fayle built Dorset's first railway in 1806 to get his clay to the coast and over the years the needs of transport saw a number of very individual railways until the 1990s.

This book is the result of the author's lifelong interest in the industry and his detailed personal knowledge of the mines and railways. It tells of the many aspects of clay extraction and mining, processing and weathering, tramways, horses, locomotives and rolling stock, family connections and personalities, merchants and miners, accidents and rescues, education and the school train, shipping and the effects of war. The author's friendship with the miners, managers and their families makes this a very people orientated story. The railway story is taken from the historic plateway of 1806 through the variety of lines, using six different gauges, that saw use for nearly two centuries; including the Middlebere Tramway, the Goathorn Tramway and the Norden and Goathorn Railway. It includes an account of the famous Russell's time in Dorset, before its return home to Wales. Many photographs and drawings are published for the first time.

(Publishers synopsis)

The Furzebrook Railway of Pike Brothers' Dorset Clay Works

Chris Legg, Twelveheads Press, hardback, 208 pages, 287 illustrations, £28.00, ISBN 978 0906294895

For over one hundred years Pike Bros' railway served their clay mines in the Isle of Purbeck, transporting the clay to the works and to tidal water on the river Frome, and later to their siding on the Swanage branch. Initially worked by gravity, locomotives were introduced in 1866 and an eclectic collection followed. An intricate network of branch lines ran across the heath to serve mines and open-cast pits while a lengthy branch headed westwards to serve new workings. Steam working survived until 1956 but rail use in the mines continued until 1999.

The Pike family had been mining ball clay on Purbeck since 1760 and, although the family interest is no longer, there is still an active industry today. The author's lifelong interest in the industry and his intimate knowledge of it, together with his friendship

of miners and managers, make this a very detailed and close story. It is as much about the people and personalities as about machinery and methods. Pikes also ran steam tugs and barges on the river and across Poole harbour, building many themselves at their wharf. This aspect of their operations is not neglected and some fascinating tales are to be told. This book is a companion to the author's *Fayles Tramways*, published in 2014, and which told of the other major railway network on Purbeck. It proved very popular and the initial hardback edition is now sought after.

(Publishers synopsis)

Earthmovers in Scotland: Mining, Quarrying, Roads & Forestry

David Wylie, Old Pond Publishing, hardback, 440 pages, illustrated, £34.95, ISBN 978 1910456569

As Scottish Correspondent for *Earthmovers Magazine*, David Wylie has enjoyed privileged access to the mines, quarries, road projects and forestry sites across Scotland. On his visits he has seen some of the biggest and arguably the best, earthmoving machinery in the world, in action.

Earthmovers in Scotland brings together 32 of David's reports from these visits to tell the story of the highly skilled, experienced owners, drivers and managers that work with earthmoving equipment and explains why they select, maintain and operate these machines. The book features some of the largest earthmovers in the UK, such as Caterpillar's D11R bulldozer, Liebherr's massive 320 tonne R9350s and the mighty 520 tonne Q&K RH200 at Banks Mining Shotton surface mine in Northumberland, a short hop over the Scottish border. It also takes a look at a 1.5 tonne mini digger, special trailers that can lift and transport 1800 tonne bridges into position, and covers Demag's H485 record breaking mining shovel amongst others.

Taking pride of place in the book are over 400 stunning photographs, many of which have not been seen before and many of which feature machines that were the first of their kind. Each high quality photo has been carefully composed to capture each machine in all its power and brilliance with the spectacular Scottish scenery as a backdrop and 80 of the most important and detailed images are presented as double pages to help you get close to the action.

(Publishers synopsis)

Rocket Man with Cousin Jacks: Robert Stephenson in Columbia 1824-1817

Bob Longridge, £11.99, ISBN 9780 953516247

Available from the Robert Stephenson Trust, £13.50 including p&p to UK addresses, at:

<http://www.robertstephensontrust.com/RMwCJOrder.pdf>

This book reveals for the first time in nearly 200 years the details of Robert Stephenson's great Colombian adventure. It sets out the reasons behind his decision to abandon his father George, his friends and the management of the embryonic locomotive factory in Forth Street, Newcastle upon Tyne which bore his name and of which he was the Managing Director, for a speculative venture in South America in which he would be responsible for finding and extracting silver from mines first started during the Spanish occupation. The year was 1824 and he had yet to reach 21 years of age.

Robert did not return to England until 1827, but that event triggered a burst of creative energy and flair for a series of ground-breaking locomotive designs, starting with the 'Rocket' in 1829 for the competitive trials for the choice of engine for the Liverpool & Manchester Railway which his father had engineered and constructed in his absence.

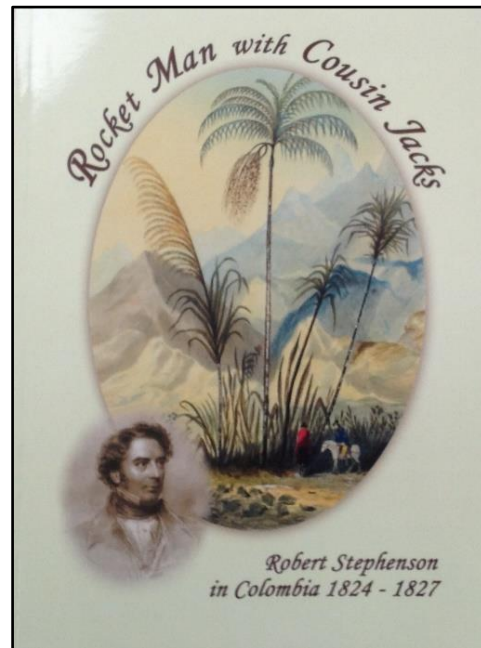
The narrative uses many extracts from Robert's original letters to his boss Richard Illingworth, who was based in Bogotá, courtesy of the University of Indiana, whose Lilly Library holds the originals. They describe vividly the difficulties he encountered, the anxiety he felt about what was happening in England in his absence, the problems of managing some of the workmen all of whom were from Cornwall, the lack of materials, the regular bouts of illness, and the frustration with the Mining Company in London who questioned his judgements. On the journey home he was shipwrecked and very nearly drowned.

The character of one of England's greatest mechanical and civil engineers cannot be fully understood without appreciating the impact his three years in Colombia had on him. In his lifetime he played down the trials and tribulations, but this new insight is essential reading for anyone who wishes to understand how great men use adversity to advance their creative brilliance.

The book is illustrated with the water colour paintings of Charles Empson, who accompanied Robert as an

interpreter and companion. His own anecdotes have been included as a counter-point to Robert's more formal correspondence. Most of the mineworkers were from Cornwall, and there are many references to them, not always flattering. The book describes their circumstances in the 1820's and explains what attracted them to sign up for 3 years and embark on a voyage to a far-away country. Anyone who might have had Cornish ancestors in Colombia should read this.

J Michael Taylor MBE CEng MICE FCIHT



The Cornish in Latin America: 'Cousin Jack' and the New World

Dr. Sharron P. Schwartz, Cornubian Press, softback, 640 pages, illustrated with maps & photographs, 155x233mm, £28.00 plus p&p, ISBN 978 1873489505

This exhaustively researched but thoroughly readable work recounts in detail how the Latin American mining fields of Peru, Mexico, Chile, Cuba, Brazil, Colombia and elsewhere became established, or were reshaped through the application of Cornish skills and technology, allied with British capital. In the mines of Latin America the Cornish crafted their cult of 'Cousin Jack', hard rock miners *par excellence*, and thus established their worldwide dominance of the metalliferous mining industry. Not content with documenting the impacts of the Cornish in communities throughout Latin America, Dr Schwartz also addresses the effects that this migration had on the many towns and villages across Cornwall whence the migrants came.

This publication addresses a glaring gap in the literature covering Cornish-related migration studies. But more importantly, it demonstrates the significant *Cornish* contribution to the British development of nineteenth century Latin American mining resources, thus ensuring that the labour migrants from this small and remarkable region of Britain are finally recognised for their involvement in this process.

This year, 2016, marks the tenth anniversary of the inscription of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape onto the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage Site List; it is also the 200th anniversary of Richard Trevithick's arrival in Peru. This event heralded the introduction of Cornish high-pressure steam engine technology to South America and the dawn of the Industrial Revolution in Latin America.

It is therefore particularly timely that this important new work is being published at this juncture in association with the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site. Comprising over 600 pages with many maps and photographs - the vast majority of which have not been published previously - *The Cornish in Latin America* is sure to be the standard work on this subject for many years to come.

(Publishers synopsis)

How to Order- "The Cornish in Latin America: 'Cousin Jack' and the New World" is limited to an edition of 200, and will be available exclusively online from the Cornubian Press.

<http://www.cornubianpress.com/Publications/>

Digging through Hell

Ralph Jones, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, paperback, 21.6 x 0.4 x 27.9 cm, £4.25, ISBN 978-1537356389

Digging through Hell is a collection of coal mining poems, and other true life stories. The book is written by a former coal miner, and deals, sometime in graphic detail of the perils, injuries and illnesses of the coal mining industry.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

25rd March 2017: NAMHO AGM and Spring Council Meeting. Pump Room, Peak District Lead Mining Museum, the Grand Pavilion, South Parade, Matlock Bath, DE4 3NR.

4th-7th April 2017: Meeting of Historians in Latin American Mining, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

<https://13reunionmineria.wordpress.com/>

11th-13th May 2017: Inaugural International Early Engines Conference, The Ironworks, Elsecar, South Yorkshire. <http://www.earlyengines.org/>

15th-19th June 2017: Mining History Association Annual Conference, Alaska, USA.

<http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/>

23rd-26th June 2017: NAMHO Conference 2017, East Surrey. Full details to be announced

7th-10th September 2017: Heritage Open Days, England

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

Copy Date for the next Newsletter is **10th February**, with publication due March 2017.

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

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