



## NAMHO Conference 2017

The NAMHO 2017 Conference will be held in the South East of England, based around Godstone in Surrey over the weekend of 23-26th June 2017, hosted by the Wealden Cave & Mine Society (WCMS)

The booking system went live in early January and we have nearly 70 delegates booked already. Trips are filling up fast and more will be laid on if there is sufficient demand.

WCMS 50th celebrations to be held on the Saturday night to compliment the normal conference dinner, with a free bar all evening!

Moore Books, IA recordings and Starless River all confirmed as attending.

Further details can be found at  
[www.namho2017.info](http://www.namho2017.info) or our Facebook page at  
namho2017 (14/02/2017)  
*Matt Clark, Chairman NAMHO 2017*



*Carthorse Mine Godstone.  
Photograph courtesy of Nick Catford*

## NAMHO AGM 2017

The AGM and subsequent Council Meeting will be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

**We are still looking for nominations for the post of Treasurer.** George Price, the current treasurer has done a sterling job over the past 11 years but will be stepping down at this year's AGM.

If we fail to attract a willing volunteer, we will find it very difficult to function as an effective organisation. If you know someone who might be willing to take over this job, please email or phone the Secretary. Email is [secretary@namho.org](mailto:secretary@namho.org) and the phone number is 01388 527532.

If you are interested in this post, the secretary can provide further information and contacts for the current officer. 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.

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## A Word from the Editor

Since I took on the role as NAMHO Editor back in March 2011, I have endeavoured to produce four issues per year, and apart from one slight hiccup I have managed to achieve this. Over that time I have edited a total of 24 editions, including this one.

However, due to personal circumstances, this year may prove to be different, with the possibility of a reduced number of issues. Hopefully this will only be for this year and normal service will be resumed as soon as I am able.

*Roy Meldrum NAMHO Editor*

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## **HSE Sector Plans Consultation**

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) are consulting about a Sector plan for health and safety in mines.

This sector covers underground coal mines, mines producing other minerals, tourist mines, mines used for adventure or educational activities and storage mines. This draft plan covers the current position, priorities and what HSE will do to help Great Britain work well.

Become a member of the Helping Great Britain work well LinkedIn discussion group and network. You can comment on the strategies and plans, share ideas and tell HSE what you are doing to help improve Britain's record on work-related health.

Follow the conversation on social media #HelpGBWorkWell.

Here is a link to the HSE pages: [MINES](#)

## **Volunteer Opportunity- Archaeological Survey of Low Bonsor Mill**

Would you like to find out more about the mining heritage of the Coniston Copper mines? Would you like to learn techniques of archaeological survey, assisted by professional archaeologists?

Come and join us in March 2017 and help us to survey the nineteenth century remains of Low Bonsor Mill and dressing floors.

We are holding an Introductory Day from 10.30am - 2.30pm on Sunday 12th March. We will explain all about the project and how to get involved. We will be surveying on site from 14th-17th March, 20th – 24th March and 27th – 31st March.

If you would like to book your place on the Introductory Day or survey or want to find out more please email us on [archvol@lakedistrict.gov.uk](mailto:archvol@lakedistrict.gov.uk) or telephone 01524 65206. (07/02/2017)

*Pete Jackson*

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## **UNEXMIN – Underwater Explorer for Flooded Mines**

UNEXMIN is an EU-funded project that is currently developing a new robotic system for the autonomous exploration and mapping of Europe's flooded mines, using a system that will use non-invasive methods to acquire geological, archaeological, and mineralogical data that cannot be obtained in any other way.

In order to achieve its objectives the UNEXMIN consortium (13 participating organisations from 7 countries) has been awarded a total budget of EUR 4 862 865 for this 45-months project, under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 690008. UNEXMIN's main objectives can be stated as:

- Design and build a multi-platform Robotic Explorer for autonomous 3D mapping of flooded mines
- Demonstrate the operation of the prototype at a set of representative pilot sites
- Develop an open access platform for technology transfer and further development between stakeholders
- Develop a research roadmap in support of further technology development

Work is currently ongoing with component validation and testing to understand the behavior of the technology and scientific instruments in the special environment of a flooded mine: confined space, low visibility, difficulty to access. The next step will be the construction of the prototype – UX-1. Post processing and data analysis tools are being developed and will be followed by pre-operational trials in 4 mine sites in Europe: Kaatiala Mine (Finland), Urgeiriça Mine (Portugal), Idrija Mine (Slovenia) and Ecton Mine (UK). The last and most ambitious demonstration will take place at Ecton, with the purpose of an entire resurvey of the flooded sections, which nobody has seen for over 150 years.

Compilation of an inventory of flooded mines, one of the most important tasks within the project, will create a tool to analyse potential target mines for UNEXMIN's technology in Europe. A series of criteria are being developed to establish this inventory. Later, existing databases such as PROMINE and Minerals4EU will be reviewed. Additional data will be collected from at least 24 European countries. The main focus will be on

mines that cannot be surveyed by any other means due to complex topology or inaccessibility to conventional human divers. The inventory will be an online, open access database that can be used by anyone for academic and/or research purposes.

If you can supply data on flooded mines to include in the Inventory, we would very much like to hear from you. Please email [vanja.bisevac@eurogeologists.eu](mailto:vanja.bisevac@eurogeologists.eu)

Further general information about the project: <http://www.unexmin.eu> (07/02/2017)

Steve Henley



*UNEXMIN partners studying the conditions at Ecton Mine*

## Requests for help

### **Pulsometer Pump research help**

The imagination Factory is responding to a Department for International Development (DFID) competition. The aim of the competition is to develop an affordable solar-powered irrigation pump that can be deployed to developing regions around the world, particularly Sub-Saharan Africa. We have successfully completed Phase 1- Feasibility Study and are beginning Phase 2.

We are using the same principles as Savery/ Vacuum /Pulsometer steam pumps and are trying to improve our understanding of this style of pump to inform our development work.

We would welcome ANY research leads or sources such as:

- Physical pump locations or pictures
- Diagrams or drawings of cross sections

- Contemporary literature, reports, articles, references or test data

Please contact: [matt@imaginationfactory.co.uk](mailto:matt@imaginationfactory.co.uk)

So far we have gratefully received help from: SPP Pumps, London Museum of Water & Steam The Patent Office, Newcomen Society. (13/01/2017)

For information on the DFID competition see:- [https://sbri.innovateuk.org/competition-display-page/-/asset\\_publisher/E809e7RZ5ZTz/content/solar-powered-irrigation-pump/1524978](https://sbri.innovateuk.org/competition-display-page/-/asset_publisher/E809e7RZ5ZTz/content/solar-powered-irrigation-pump/1524978)

*Courtesy of Steve Grudgings, International Early Engines Conference 2017*

### **Do you know this man?**



The following request for help was received via the NAMHO website:

*I am researching an 18th century oil portrait of a gentleman standing in a landscape next to rocky escarpment, in his hand he is holding a piece of ore, which looks gold in colour with his other hand he is pointing to this piece of ore. On the relined canvas there is the word "Tissington" written in modern ink, probably by the reliner (taken from the original canvas)*

*I was wondering if you knew of any academics who I could contact who have a good knowledge of the key*

players of mineralogy and geology in the 18th century, and might be able to help me identify the sitter in the portrait. The portrait itself is 50 x 40 inches, so grand and imposing, so I would suggest that the sitter could be a significant personality in the field of mineralogy or geology.

The portrait was purchased from a sale in Manchester, and been in a private collection for about 50 odd years.

If you have any information, please contact Greg via email- [greg@woodhayes.co.uk](mailto:greg@woodhayes.co.uk) or 07958 699645

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## **Around the NAMHO Groups**

### **CATMHS given recognition**

In September 2016, the Society was mentioned in an award scheme called the "Brownfield Briefing Awards 2016: Best Public Participation, Force Crag Mine Water Treatment Scheme". This was submitted by the various bodies who built the new water treatment plant at the mine.

The Brownfield Briefing Awards have become the flagship event for the brownfield community, and is one of the highest industry accolades that a company can receive. The annual awards recognise technical and conceptual excellence in projects that have been underway over the past 12 months.

Quoting various extracts from the submission:  
A partnership consisting of the Coal Authority, Environment Agency, National Trust and Newcastle University supported by Atkins (consultant) and JN Bentley Ltd (contractors) worked together for over three years to design, gain required permissions and construct an innovative mine water treatment scheme within the picture perfect location of Force Crag Mine in the Lake District, Cumbria. The works were funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

This scheme is one of two pilots which are informing a national programme to treat the metal rich discharges from historic metal mines in England. It is the first of its kind in Europe and the blueprint for future systems to address the most serious form of freshwater metal pollution in England and Wales.

The submission covers the background to the project, introduces the key stakeholders, the approach to engaging interested parties and how public participation informed the design and construction of the Force Crag Mine Water Treatment Scheme.

Interested parties included residents and local interest groups including the Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society, Federation of Cumbria Commoners, Derwent Owners Association, Derwent Rivers Trust, Keswick Angling Association and Parish of Above Derwent.

*CAT, The Newsletter of the Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Trust, No.126, February 2017*

### **The Friends of Hemingfield Colliery**

As the Friends and volunteers returned to site at the end of January, they discussed their plans, passions and other pass times. With Friends Director and Site Manager Glen on hand, Friends Chair Steve, Director Ian and Friends' Director of Volunteering Christine, this weekend was a great time to celebrate the many volunteer voices at Hemingfield; sharing personal passions, insights and enthusiasms. Volunteers John, Iain, Glenda, Keith, Chris and Phil were on hand during the day to lend a hand, and share the research and discoveries they had made.

Admiring the continuing work on the 1840s winding engine house roof, the group continued one of the the working party tasks, ongoing brick recovery along the Wath Road boundary wall. They also took time out to discuss the whole programme of work for the year ahead. There's plenty to be getting on with and some very exciting plans! (25/01/2017)

<https://hemingfieldcolliery.wordpress.com/2017/01/25/open-day-and-working-party-21st-january-2017/>

[https://www.facebook.com/Hemingfield.Colliery/?hc\\_ref=SEARCH&fref=nf](https://www.facebook.com/Hemingfield.Colliery/?hc_ref=SEARCH&fref=nf)

### **PDMHS Magpie Mine Chimney Repairs**

The repairs to the Square Chimney, the associated ground level flue and the small building at the base of the chimney at Magpie Mine have now been completed. The object has been to preserve the appearance of the chimney whilst making sure that it will remain standing for many years to come. The repair work to the Square Chimney, the associated ground level flue and the small building at the base of the chimney at Magpie Mine (that were reported in our [previous article](#)), have now been completed. The

casual observer might comment: "I can't see what you've done!" And so it should be. The object has been to preserve the appearance of the chimney whilst making sure that it will remain standing for many years to come.

<http://pdmhs.com/news-and-events/pdmhs-news/2016/08/28/magpie-mine-square-chimney-repairs-completed>

### **Friends of Williamson's Tunnels**

Our amazing year has been rounded off by yet another video feature on the Williamson's Tunnels. This film was made and produced by the American News Channel, CNN who visited recently to make a short film for their "[Great Big Story](#)" feature. Filming took place in the amazing empty Chambers of Paddington.

(31/12/2017)

[The video can be found in HD here:](#)

### **South Derbyshire Mining Preservation Group**

The SDMPG are desperately seeking new volunteers to help preserve and record their vast collection of mining artefacts. Currently the members of the group are in their 60's to 80's, and are looking for younger members to assist with the collection of lamps, picks, shovels and photographs.

The majority of the collection is held at Gresley Old Hall, in Church Gresley, with some items on loan to Conkers as part of a mining exhibition. The agreement with the National Forest (Conkers) expires next year. The group are concerned that without more help they will be forced to ask the National Coal Mining Museum for England to take the artefacts.

If you or someone you know are able to help, can call Morris West on 01283 218651 or Keith Moore on 01530 412116. (28/02/2017)

<http://www.burtonmail.co.uk/south-derbyshire-mining-group-in-desperate-need-of-younger-members/story-30158200-detail/story.html>

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## **Obituaries**

### **John Goodchild**

John Goodchild died after a short illness on 6th January 2017, aged 81 years.

Born in 1935, he was educated at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield before starting work at the West Riding Records Office at County Hall. He was the founding curator of Cusworth Hall Museum near Doncaster before becoming Wakefield District Archivist and principal local studies officer.

Just before the Nationalisation of the Coal Industry in 1947, the young John Goodchild was given a guided tour of the Low Shops engineering facility of J & J Charlesworth Ltd at Rothwell. Of particular interest there were two beam pumping engines which fired John's interest in local history and coal mining in particular. From then on he began collecting maps, plans, books and manuscripts, often given as presents by his family.

After retiring he formed the John Goodchild Collection which contains many thousands of items acquired as gifts, purchases or finds from industrialists, institutions, solicitors, accountants, surveyors, individuals, auctions and derelict buildings. The Collection contains a wealth of information from the 12th century onwards and is particularly detailed on the 18th and 19th centuries. For some reason, John was not interested in coal mining after 1914, I think to him it lacked the romance of the Victorian and Edwardian Eras.

John Goodchild was a leading authority on the West Riding of Yorkshire and the author of over 140 books and manuscripts, as well as being a prolific lecturer and speaker to a diverse range of groups. He was given an honorary Masters Degree by the Open University for his work in local studies and on the West Riding. The John Goodchild Collection is now preserved and held at the new West Yorkshire History Centre, Kirkgate, Wakefield.

*Eddie Downes  
Northern Mines Research Society  
Newsletter February 2017*

### **Ken Brown**

It is with sadness that the World Heritage Site team learnt of the recent death of Ken Brown, an expert on the Cornish type beam engine whose research over the

years has done much to interpret the design and importance of this industrial icon of Cornwall. Ken was a gentleman, always approachable and more than ready to share his extensive knowledge with those interested in the subject. Ken is perhaps best known to the public through his series of popular walking volumes 'Exploring Cornish Mines', co-authored with Bob Acton and published between 1994 and 2001.

Ken kindly lent his support to the World Heritage Site bid in the early 2000s through making available his extensive lists of engine house sites and engine sales, and his knowledge will be much missed. (12/01/2017)

*Cornish Mining World Heritage*

<http://cornish-mining.org.uk/fr/news/ken-brown>

### **Dr Trevor Ford**

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the death of one of our founder members, Dr Trevor Ford. Trevor was held in the highest esteem in the fields of geology, caving and mining history and also served as a Barmote court juryman. (24/02/2017)

*Adam Russell,*

*Peak District Mines Historical Society*

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## **Mining News**

### **North Pennines**

#### **North Pennines AONB Oresome project**

"OREsome North Pennines" is a two-year project, funded mainly by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The object is to aid better understanding and improved management of eight 'at-risk' structures relating to the area's mining heritage. Starting in September 2016, the project is looking at SAMs throughout the North Pennines. The sites are Brandon Walls, Cashwell and Slatesyke, Coldberry, Middle Greenlaws, Middlehope Shield and Slitt, Nenthead, Pike Law, Whitesyke and Bentyfield.

Volunteer teams are recording the main archaeology, botany and geology features on each site using templates developed by experts from those fields.

A longer term objective is to build a gazetteer of mining sites throughout the North Pennines which might then be a reference source for future work. The project is looking for new volunteers. The website is at <http://www.northpennines.org.uk/our-work/oresome/>.

### **North Pennines AONB Allen Valleys Project**

<http://www.northpennines.org.uk/our-work/allen-valleys-landscape-partnership/allen-valleys-built-heritage/>

#### **Allen Smelting Mill-**

The AONB team are working with the owners of Allen Mill to excavate, conserve and interpret the remains of the Allen Smelting Mill at Allendale. A small volunteer team has carried out conservation work on the waterwheel leat, cut down trees and vegetation on the SAM and surrounding features, lime mortared the bingstead walls, and excavated the foundations of the ore hearths. Stone masons have also worked on repairing the network of flues, ore hearths and reveratory furnace remains. The site is now in a much improved condition and well worth a visit.

See also <http://www.allenmill.co.uk/here-and-now>

#### **Barneycraig Mine Shop-**

The Allen valleys project is also hoping to conserve the remains of Barneycraig Mine Shop. The search for funding is continuing.

#### **Allenheads Mine dressing floors-**

Part of the bouseteams\* (which is a SAM) has been conserved and rebuilt - this work is continuing.

\*Bouseteams are stone bunkers where the undressed ore from the mines was dumped prior to the washing operations. It appears to be a Derbyshire/ Yorkshire/Durham/Cumberland term.

#### **Environment Agency Mine Water Treatment Schemes**

Consultation about sites in the Nent Valley was restarted in late 2016. Treatment is proposed for water from Nentsberry, Caplecleugh Low, and Rampgill Levels. Public meetings and consultations are planned for 13 March 2017 at Nenthead Village Hall and 14 March 2017 at the Nent Hall Hotel.

More detailed information will be published on the Nenthead Mines website, when it becomes available. [www.nentheadmines.com](http://www.nentheadmines.com)

Work has also continued at Barneycraig Mine. The slimes dump at the north end of the site has had a drainage system installed. A project manager has been appointed for the Coalcleugh Mine site.

*The above News supplied by Peter Jackson*

## Friends of Groverake Update

One year on, the second public meeting at the Rookhope Inn on 31st January 2-017 was sparsely attended compared to the first. Nevertheless those that were there had a good chew over events through 2016 and progress to date.

We've not saved the headgear yet but want to carry on and try to overcome the barriers to progress. The next steps are: (1) to email an update to the attendees at the January 2016 public meeting and who contributed letters of support for the outline business case; (2) to update the Facebook community (via this posting); (3) to continue to negotiate with the estate owner's agent, and; (4) to also write directly to the estate owner who, we understand, is now the owner of the headgear.

Progress may be slow but, most importantly, the headgear still stands after several deadlines came and went, so remain optimistic.

The fund raising appeal continues so that if/when a workable agreement is achieved we will be able to act to secure it.

The appeal had raised £11,478 from 152 donations averaging £73.59 each as of 28 January 2017. The appeal is to cover anticipated costs: £10,000 bond requested by the estate to secure an agreement – exact purpose is unclear – to be clarified in negotiation; £6,900 for their agent's legal costs and fees inclusive of VAT; £500 legal fees for Friends of Killhope (probably now be nearer £1000 – the Friends of Killhope are so far committed to paying only the first £500); £606 quotation for annual public liability insurance if an agreement is reached with the estate. (07/02/2017)

<https://www.facebook.com/Friendsofgroverake/posts/1769244333394463>

## North East England

### Funding for further work to Dunston Staiths

Historic England have awarded £37,199 towards further restoration to the Dunston Staiths. A programme of repairs in 2015 allowed public access to part of the staiths situated on the River Tyne at Gateshead. This new funding will allow condition survey to be undertaken and produce a costed schedule of works needed to secure further funding for repairs.

Constructed in 1893 by the North Eastern Railway to allow coal from the area's collieries to be loaded directly onto ships bound for London and further afield. At its peak in the 1930's, over four million tons of coal was loaded onto ships from the staiths. The 526m long structure is believed to be the largest timber structure in Europe and has Scheduled Ancient Monument status and finally closed in 1982. It is currently on the Historic England 'At Risk' register.

One of the primary aims of the Tyne and Wear Buildings Preservation Trust (TWBPT), owners of the staiths, was to get public access restored and work with the public and local communities to find a new role for the structure. The use of the structure as a food market, as an arts venue and as a filming location have all been explored. (01/02/2017)

<http://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/hopes-high-for-dunston-staiths-12538263>

*Dunston Staiths on the River Tyne  
Photograph courtesy of Stephen Tully*



### **Newcastle's Mining Institute secures HLF support**

A project to secure the future of the North of England Mining and Mechanical Engineers has obtained £4.7million in Heritage Lottery Funding. Located in Neville Hall, in Newcastle upon Tyne, the project will involve restoration of the Grade II\* listed building, as well as showcasing the Institute's industrial and engineering heritage, digitising archives and promote engineering careers. (25/11/2016)

<https://www.hlf.org.uk/about-us/news-features/digging-deep-secure-future-newcastle%E2%80%99s-mining-institute>

### **Trimdon Banner to return to Durham Gala**

The Trimdon Colliery banner is to make a historic return to the Durham Miners' Gala this year around a century since its last appearance.

Using a fragment of the 125-year old original banner, a new banner has been painstakingly created. The Trimdon Colliery Banner Group raised almost £9,000 to fund the new banner, which took 11 weeks to make. A newspaper cutting records the unfurling of the original banner in July 1892. The replica will be housed in the Trimdon Colliery and Deaf Hill Working Men's Club, hopefully to be joined by the fragment of the original. (09/02/2017)

[http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/15082568.Trimdon\\_A\\_century\\_on\\_one\\_of\\_oldest\\_pit\\_banners\\_set\\_for\\_historic\\_return\\_to\\_Durham\\_Miners\\_Gala/](http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/15082568.Trimdon_A_century_on_one_of_oldest_pit_banners_set_for_historic_return_to_Durham_Miners_Gala/)

### **Lynemouth reconnects with its mining heritage**

The Northumberland village of Lynemouth now has a permanent reminder of its mining heritage after being offered a pit wheel from the former Daw Mill Colliery in Warwickshire. Lynemouth Parish Council were successful in obtaining a grant from the Bank's Group Community Fund, which allowed the pit wheel to be transported and erected in the centre of the village. The Lynemouth Colliery operated from 1934, closing in 1994. (23/11/2016)

<http://www.chroniclive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/pit-wheel-given-pride-place-12216306>

### **George Stephenson's birthplace to close**

The National Trust (NT) announced that the birthplace of George Stephenson at Wylam, near Newcastle upon Tyne, will be closed for 2017. The NT say "Having been faced with rising costs and a decline in visitor numbers, we regret that the birthplace, café and garden closed on 29 January 2017 for the remainder of the year".

The cottage, situated on the banks of the river Tyne and the Wylam Waggonway, has been open to the public for the past 68 years. Although the NT say that the closure is temporary, local residents have set up a petition, whilst the local MP has written to the NT in a bid to keep it open. (04/02/2017)

<http://www.chroniclive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/george-stephensons-birthplace-closed-national-12556133>

## **The Midlands**

### **New Plans for Snibston Colliery**

Two years after the closure of the Snibston Discovery Centre, based on the Snibston Colliery site, Leicestershire County Council is staging a public consultation on future plans. The £1.4 million proposal aims to celebrate the historic colliery buildings, creating a history trail and improving the surrounding country park.

A public event is to be held at Snibston's Century Theatre on 1<sup>st</sup> March. There are also full details and an online form is available at:

<http://www.tep.uk.com/project/snibston-discovery-park-coalville-consultation/>

The closing date for the consultation is 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/have-your-say-on-%C2%A314m-suibston-revamp>

### **Possible funding for Clipstone**

The Clipstone Colliery Regeneration Group (CCRG) will be applying for Heritage Lottery Fund grant for surveys, possible options and feasibility studies. Also guidance on governance and structure for a possible new company delivering the scheme and community engagement.

The current position is that CCRG have a letter of comfort from Welbeck Estates (site owners) which will allow us to apply for surveys to establish an accurate view of the size of structures and condition with costs of repair. It will allow us to consider options for future use and their feasibility.

We have recently had a specialist in metal conservation and structures inspect the site and confirm their inherent stability. The CCRG are moving forward a strategy for surveying the headstocks and planning a range of community engagement events.

Also the Coal Authority have finally agreed to remove the rubble from the base of the headstocks and trees from the structures and powerhouse.

The group invites anyone interested in assisting the group to come forward as a volunteer to join the project team.

*Denise Barraclough MRICS  
Clipstone Colliery Regeneration Group*

Note: If you would like to volunteer your assistance in anyway please contact me at [editor@namho.org](mailto:editor@namho.org) and I will forward your details to the group. CCRG also have a Facebook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/Save-Clipstone-Colliery-Headstocks-106659108993/?hc\\_ref=PAGES\\_TIMELINE&fref=nf](https://www.facebook.com/Save-Clipstone-Colliery-Headstocks-106659108993/?hc_ref=PAGES_TIMELINE&fref=nf)



*Clipstone Colliery downcast headstocks 2010*

### **New Mining Monument for Ansley**

Ex-miners and members of the local community witnessed the official unveiling of newly created mining monument in Ansley, Warwickshire. The monument was created using one half of a sheave wheel from the nearby Daw Mill Colliery. Daw Mill Colliery was closed following an underground fire in 2013. Two of the sheave wheels from the

colliery had been split into four halves and donated to local heritage projects. One of the other halves was given to the nearby parish of Arley, another mining community.

Nuneaton MP Marcus Jones (Conservative) was due to cut the ribbon, but he stepped down following protests from local miners. Everard Emery, who had worked in the coal mining industry for 57 years and a former Daw Mill miner did the honours. The monument is situated on the Ansley roundabout.

(24/02/2017)

<http://www.nuneaton-news.co.uk/daw-mill-colliery-wheel-monument-is-fitting-tribute-to-mining-heritage/story-30151366-detail/story.html>

## **The South-West**

### **Plans for lithium extraction in Cornwall**

It has been announced that there are plans to extract lithium in Cornwall. The presence of lithium in underground hot springs in Cornwall has long been known; but, until now, the water was regarded as a nuisance as it flooded tin mines. Lithium is increasingly being used in electric car batteries and for power storage; so the lithium-rich water has become a potentially valuable commodity that could boost the Cornish economy and create new jobs.

A company called Cornish Lithium has been formed, and has secured rights to look for and exploit the metal. The Chief Executive of Cornish Lithium, Jeremy Wrathall, is a graduate of Camborne School of Mines.

The exploration area is about 300 sq km and is centred on Camborne, Redruth and St Day. The exploration costs are estimated at about five million pounds. Drill holes at least 400 metres deep will be drilled; and, if enough lithium is found to make the project economically viable, then processing plants will be built and the metal extracted. Cornish Lithium has also secured rights to geothermal energy contained in the hot lithium-rich springs. It is anticipated that this energy will be utilised to generate power for processing, and any surplus can be used to power local industries.

Elsewhere in the world, lithium has been extracted through evaporation in ponds thousands of acres in area. However, Cornish Lithium will use new technology which is more compact and more environmentally friendly. The Cornish exploration is

economically worthwhile because of the new technology and the increasing demand for lithium.

It is thought that the presence of high levels of lithium in the Cornish springs is due to the interaction between highly saline water from a nearby sedimentary basin and the granite under Cornwall. Some of the granite rocks in Cornwall are rich in lithium and, over millions of years; this lithium appears to have become dissolved in the waters that have interacted with the granite.

Professor Kip Jeffrey, the Head of the Camborne School of Mines, said “Although this project is still at an early stage, it is very exciting news. He explained that the Cornish miners had long known about the lithium-rich waters that seeped into the tin mines. “If successful, it will be good for the whole of Cornwall and I believe will also have wider potential implications for the whole for the UK”

George Eustice, MP for Camborne, Redruth and Hayle, said it was exciting news and could create a new industry and jobs. He said, “The recognition of lithium in waters beneath areas of Cornwall represents an opportunity of a new mineral extraction industry in Britain. Lithium is a strategic mineral given its importance in modern technologies. If the team at Cornish Lithium is successful in developing this opportunity, the UK may not have to rely on imports of this vital mineral in the future.

Canadian mineral exploration company Strongbow Exploration, which is involved in the lithium scheme, recently bought the South Crofty tin mine in Pool, which it is looking to re-open. Landowners Tregothnan Estates will also be working with Cornish Lithium. Another player in the scheme is the Cornish company Mineral Exploration Ltd, owned by ‘born and bred’ Cornishman Simon Ward who said, “There’s a danger that soon we will have a generation who don’t even know anyone who has worked in a mine. Hopefully lithium will be the new gold in them there hills.” (The Guardian, 19/01/2017)

*Provided by Sallie Bassham, NMRS*

### **Water treatment trials at South Crofty Mine**

A trial to demonstrate the feasibility of treating mine water from South Crofty tin mine with the view to dewatering and reopening the mine. Siltbusters Process Solutions will treat 18m<sup>3</sup> of minewater an hour in the initial trial lasting two to three months. If

successful it is envisaged that 25,000m<sup>3</sup> of minewater a day will be treated and discharged into the nearby Red River, dewatering the mine over an 18-24 month period.

The mine closed in 1985, but was acquired by Strongbow Exploration last year with the aim of reopening it. (10/01/2017)

<http://www.mining-technology.com/news/newssiltbuster-process-solutions-starts-water-treatment-trials-in-south-crofty-tin-mine-5712864>

## **Wales**

### **New owner for Minera Quarry**

The disused Minera limestone quarry, near Wrexham, is set to be transferred into new ownership. The North Wales Wildlife Trust (NWWT) have been in talks with the current owners, Tarmac, to develop the site into a community facility.

The quarry closed in 1994 and is home to a varied habitats and parts have also been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The site is also has significant industrial archaeology remains, including a Hoffman kiln and older designs of lime burning kilns, ad shafts and mining building remains from earlier lead mining activity.

The Minera Quarry Trust (NQT) was formed in 2005 by local individuals and members of the North Wales Caving Club with the intention of gaining ownership and developing public access. The NWWT have been working with the MQT recently. From the caving and mine-exploring perspective, this area has lots of potential for new discoveries and it is hoped that the Cambrian Caving Council, local caving groups and NWWT can work together to provide safe access for cavers and mine-explorers while safeguarding the general public and protecting wildlife. Once the land transfer has been completed we hope NWWT will convene a meeting of interested parties to plan future developments.

<http://www.cambriancavingcouncil.org.uk/pdf/newsletters/2017/jan2017a.pdf>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-37879270>

## **Black Gold Experience**

The Rhondda Heritage Park, situated at the former Lewis Merthyr Colliery, Trehafod, has announced a new visitor experience. Visitors will follow in the footsteps of the miners at the pit, led by retired miners. To enhance the experience a new simulator ride is to open this year too. (30/01/2017)  
<http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Newsroom/PressReleases/2017/January/BlackGoldExperience2017.aspx>

## **Scotland**

### **Glenmuckloch Surface Coal Mine, Kirkcubrecht, Dumfriesshire**

The Scottish Government has approved the construction of a pumped-storage hydroelectric scheme at the former mine. The project will cost £300M and generate up to 400 MW of electricity. The mine commenced operations in 2006 with coal being transported by conveyor 13 km to the railway at New Cumnock. At the time it was probably the longest conveyor in Europe. (29/11/2016)  
<http://www.buccleuch.com/energy/glenmuckloch-pumped-storage-hydro/>

*Alastair Lings, MHTI*

### **Kilbowie Road, Clydebank, West Dunbartonshire**

Part of Kilbowie Road has collapsed into a previously unrecorded mineshaft 62 metres deep. The Coal Authority has taken responsibility for the site and is filling and capping the shaft. Their work is expected to take six to eight weeks and cost about £250 000. Burying the shaft, relaying the utilities and repairing the road may take a further 16 weeks. (06/02/2017)  
<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/council/newsroom/news-and-press-releases/2017/january/work-underway-to-repair-clydebank-sinkhole/>

*Alastair Lings, MHTI*

### **Craigpark Quarry, Ratho, Edinburgh**

Tartan Leisure Ltd plan to convert the pit at Craigpark Quarry into an artificial surfing lake. The Wavegarden Scotland project includes self-catering accommodation, a cafe, shops and a country park, and it is expected to create over 80 jobs. The quarry worked until 1990, and plans to turn it into a landfill site were rejected in 1996. (21/02/2017)  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-39028348>

*Alastair Lings, MHTI*

## **Gold Panning Courses at Wanlockhead**

The Museum of Lead Mining, situated at Wanlock Village, Dumfries & Galloway, run a number of gold panning courses ranging from taster sessions to two day courses.

The dates for this year's five hour gold panning courses have been announced, and are available at:  
<http://www.leadminingmuseum.co.uk/goldpanningdates2017/>

For more details about the museum see:  
<http://www.leadminingmuseum.co.uk/>

## **Ireland**

### **Tara Zinc Mine expansion**

Successful exploration has identified new mineral reserves at the Tara Mine in Co. Meath. The Swedish mining group Boliden are to invest €44m, extending the lifespan of the mine. The new reserves located up to 1.9km below the surface will also make the mine one of the world's deepest. A planning application to extend the tailings dam was approved by Meath County Council, but locals have launched an appeal against the decision. (12/01/2017)  
<http://www.independent.ie/business/irish/tara-mines-will-be-one-of-worlds-deepest-as-owner-boliden-plans-44m-investment-35360458.html>

### **Gortletteragh Quarry, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal**

Two shots were fired from a shotgun during an early morning dispute about machinery at a quarry in Gortletteragh townland northeast of Stranorlar, Co. Donegal. Men from Inishowen were involved in the dispute. Gardai seized a shotgun. (30/12/2016)  
<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/gun-seized-after-shots-fired-at-quarry-in-standoff-over-machinery-35330098.html>

*Alastair Lings, MHTI*

### **Coalisland Clay Pits, Co. Tyrone**

Amazing plans to transform abandoned clay pits in Coalisland into a state-of-the-art racing track is already a winner for Mid Ulster businesses. The man behind the plan, David Henderson, has not only brought Dungannon Estate Agents Niall Maneely & Co on board, but has also used a Toome based architect and engineer, Graham6, to help draw up designs for the circuit. Phase one of the Lake Torrent Centre of Excellence has been submitted to Mid Ulster Council for full planning and is said to include an international tarmac racing circuit that stretches 4km. "We feel this

circuit has the potential to be amongst the global favourites, incorporating a tunnel section, corkscrew, heavily banked bends and a mix of fast, flowing and slower technical aspects," the firm said.

"We have worked tirelessly to draw the best possible design from the site, designing to maintain the aggressive elevation changes and incorporating the stunning features which currently exist". Read more at: <http://www.midulstermail.co.uk/news/plans-now-submitted-for-world-class-race-track-at-abandoned-coalisland-clay-pits-1-7566298> (07/09/2016)

*MHTI Newsletter No.74 Autumn 2016*

### **Irish Cave Rescue Organisation exercise in Co. Wicklow**

More than 40 members of the Irish Cave Rescue Organisation (ICRO) travelled to Glendalough, Co Wicklow last weekend for the team's first major rescue exercise of 2017. The focus of the exercise was abandoned mine rescue. As well as its cave rescue remit, ICRO also carries out abandoned mine rescue on the island of Ireland. This two-day mine rescue exercise was based in the Irish Mountaineering Club's (IMC) hut located in the picturesque Glendasan valley.

Day one comprised a lecture given by Dr Matthew Parkes of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland (MHTI) on abandoned mines, mine history and hazards, followed by an open discussion. The afternoon comprised several field trips to local mines, as well as a visit to ESB's impressive Turlough Hill pumped storage power station located inside the mountain.

Day two comprised a full rescue exercise in a mine located in the Glendasan valley. A simulated mine rescue scenario put into practice ICRO's expertise and knowledge in several core areas: communications; casualty search and comfort; first aid; rescue rigging; and stretcher handling.

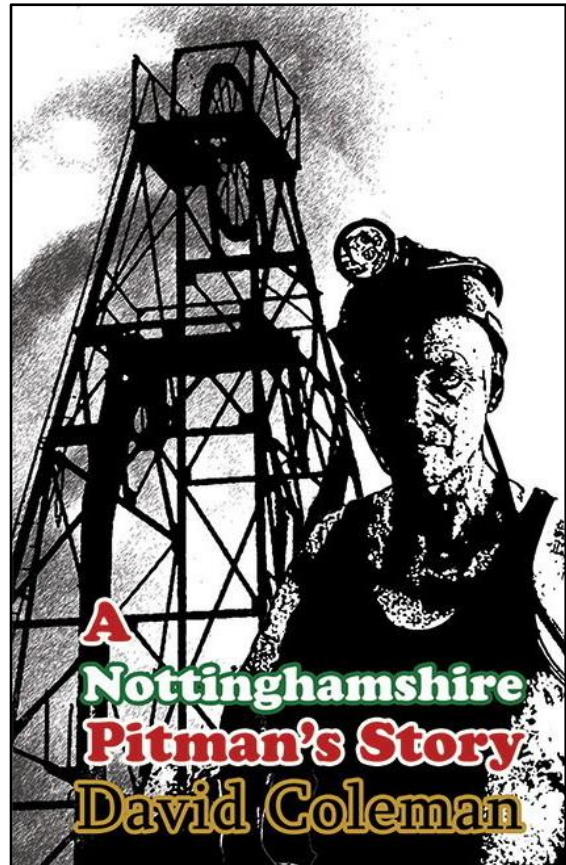
The exercise lasted approximately seven hours and involved ICRO teams working on the surface and underground in the mine itself. ICRO was joined on the day by Ann Fitzpatrick, conservation officer, Wicklow Parks and Wildlife Service; mountain rescue personnel, Brendan Beirne and Aaron Byrne of the Glen of Imaal Red Cross Mountain Rescue Team; and Peter Kelly, station officer, Rathdrum Fire Brigade.

(28-29/01/2017)

<https://www.facebook.com/Irish-Cave-Rescue-Organisation-ICRO-333729380140491/>

*Alastair Lings, MHTI*

## **Publications**



### **A Nottinghamshire Pitman's Story**

*Davis Coleman*, Dayglo Books Ltd, (Published 10/04/2017), illustrated with photographs, £8.99, ISBN 978-1-911425-65-6

The author went to work at the local pit from leaving school. Later he worked underground in mines ventilation, principally at Moorgreen and Thoresby Collieries. He was a member of the Mines Rescue Service and was himself involved in a near-fatal accident which involved a difficult rescue.

David Coleman performs a live entertainment show, dressed in pit gear and smeared with coal dust, in which he demonstrates small pieces of mining equipment and tells stories of pit life. This book is based upon that show, with additional material provided by the author.

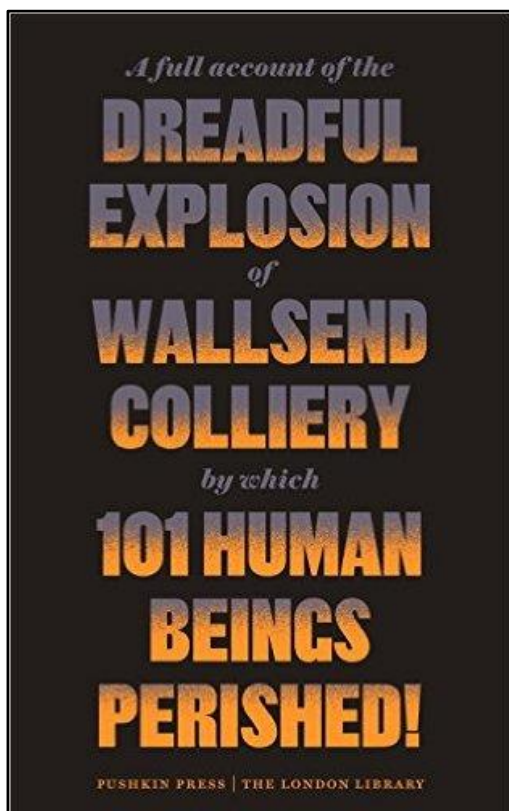
As deep coal mining has now ended as an industry in the UK, this book is part of an enduring record of mining life over a long period in the East Midlands. This is an authentic mining voice. There are stories, poems and anecdotes, some tragic, some tender, some funny, all based on a career spent in the pits. For

those who know nothing about coal mining there will be much of interest to discover, and for those who have experienced pit life, there will be a great feeling of nostalgia.

The Foreword has been contributed by Dr David Amos, Research Assistant in Coal and Dialect, School of Arts and Humanities, Nottingham Trent University.

"A Nottinghamshire Pitman's Story" will be published by Dayglo Books Ltd, 20 James Street, Kimberley, Nottingham, NG16 2LP on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at £8.99. Dayglo Books Ltd specialise in books tailored for dyslexic readers, but fluent readers will also find this book easy to read and enjoy.

Gloria Morgan,  
Managing Director Dayglo Books Ltd  
<http://www.dayglobooks.com/>



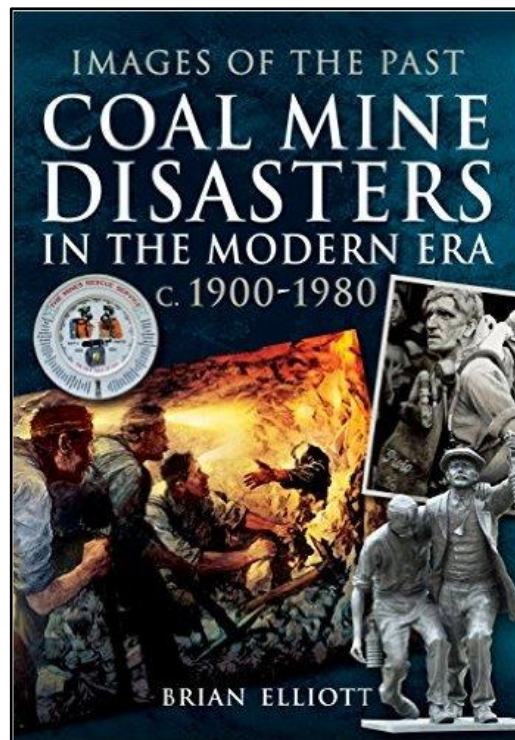
**A Full Account of the Dreadful Explosion of Wallsend Colliery by Which 101 Human Beings Perished!**

Various Authors, The London Library/Pushkin Press, paperback, 64 pages, 11.2x17.8 cm, £4.99  
ISBN 978-1782273257

*A colliery explosion, more disastrous than any that can be remembered, took place on Thursday afternoon, the 18th June, 1835*

*An Account of the Dreadful Explosion in Wallsend Colliery by which 101 Humans Being Perished!* is part of 'Found on the Shelves', published with The London Library. The books in this series have been chosen to give a fascinating insight into the treasures that can be found while browsing in The London Library. Now celebrating its 175th anniversary, with over 17 miles of shelving and more than a million books, The London Library has become an unrivalled archive of the modes, manners and thoughts of each generation which has helped to form it.

(Publishers synopsis)



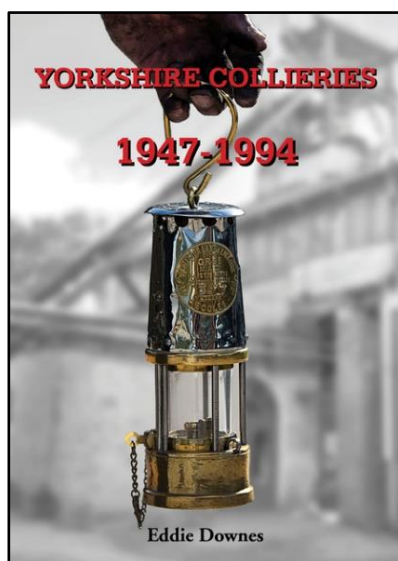
**Images of the Past: Coal Mine Disasters in the Modern Era c. 1900-1980**

Brian Elliott, Pen & Sword History, paperback, illustrated, 176 pages, 24.5x19.1cm, £13.48  
ISBN 978-1473858848

Mining disasters attracted the attention of the public and the press during the twentieth century, just as they had done a few generations earlier. This interest was made even more immediate and certainly more graphic through the increasing use of photographic images and film; and the impact of broadcasting via radio and, eventually, television was immense. The disasters also demonstrated and underlined the tremendous courage that miners had for their comrades, self-less heroism evident on countless occasions. Although everyday fatalities in mines was far greater, it was the disasters that encouraged those

in power to reform the way in which miners had to work underground, especially with regard to safety. And it would be no exaggeration to say that it was the disasters that greatly contributed to bringing the coal industry into national control. Sadly, for bereaved individuals and families, nothing could really compensate for the loss of one or more of a loved one. The impact of the big disasters, where hundreds of men and boys - one or two generations - were lost, immediately, the impact was massive, and continued to be felt many years afterwards. New and restored disaster memorials bear testimony to the great respect that former mining communities continue to have for their 'lost miners'. Using many previously unpublished images, and a carefully supportive text, the author provides a detailed overview of mining disasters in the modern era, from the early 1900s to the 1980s. It is the first book of its kind to attempt such a large project in pictorial form - with a Foreword by Ceri Thompson, curator of the Big Pit, the Welsh national mining museum. The book is published at a particularly poignant time, after the recent closure of Britain's last deep coal mine.

*(Publishers synopsis)*



### **Yorkshire Collieries 1947-1994**

*Eddie Downes*, Think Pit Publications, paperback, 700 pages, 650 black and white images, 210x297 cm, £25 ISBN 978-0995570900

This recently published book, which took 9 years to research and write, contains 440,000 words on 680pp and includes around 700 illustrations. It has a comprehensive history, including social history, of 137 Pits across the whole of Yorkshire (from sinking to closure). These Pits came under the stewardship of the

NCB and British Coal Corporation. A lot of pit sites can be traced back to the Domesday Survey and before, so site histories are also included. There are also chapters on Yorkshire Disasters, Mines Rescue, the NUM, Yorkshire Coal Seams and the NCB. The librarian at the National Coal Mining Museum has stated that this book is now the go-to reference for Yorkshire Coal Mining history.

The author, Eddie Downes is a qualified mining engineer with a degree from the University of Leeds. He worked as an undermanager in the NCB Doncaster Area before specialising in the treatment and prevention of underground fires and large falls of ground at pits in the UK, USA, Canada, Germany and Spain, while working for a couple of private Mining Companies.

<http://www.wakefieldhistoricalsociety.org.uk/News.htm>

*(Publishers synopsis)*

### **Coal Mining in Britain**

*Richard Hayman*, Bloomsbury Shire Publications, paperback, 64 pages, 14.9x20.1 cm, £7.99 ISBN 978-1784421205

Coal heated the homes, fuelled the furnaces and powered the engines of the Industrial Revolution. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries the coalfields - distinct landscapes of colliery winding frames, slag heaps and mining villages - made up Britain's industrial heartlands. Coal was known as 'black gold' but it was only brought to the surface with skill and at considerable risk, with flooding, rock falls and gas explosions a constant danger. Coal miners became a recognised force in British political life, forming a vociferous and often militant lobby for better working conditions and a decent standard of living. This beautifully illustrated guide to Britain's industrial heritage covers not just the mines, but the lives of the workers away from the pits, with a focus on the cultural and religious life of mining communities.

*(Publishers synopsis)*

### **The Mountains of Iron: A History of the Iron Mining Industry in Mid-Antrim**

*Kevin J. O'Hagan*, Shanway Press, paperback, 140 pages, 21x21cm, £12.99, ISBN 978-1910044124

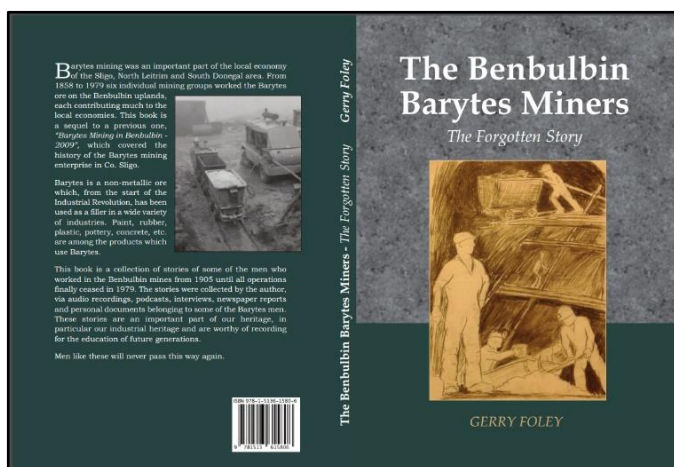
This book tells how iron ore mining began in Co. Antrim 150 years ago, how the mines were worked and how small farmers became skilled miners, toiling

in cramped conditions beneath the Antrim hills. The industry gave birth to the Irish Narrow Gauge railway system.

The mines transformed the bleak hills of the Antrim Plateau into a hive of industry. Today the red spoil heaps, disused railway cuttings and the Drum Brae are reminders of a once thriving industry – a story that had to be told.

Author Kevin J O’Hagan is a retired civil servant who was born in the heart of the mining area. His father and grandfather were iron ore miners. Educated St MacNissi’s College, Garron Tower and St Joseph’s Training College, Trench House, he took up caving in 1970 and was part of Irish Speleological Expedition to the French Alps in 1975. From that experience he became interested in mines in Mid-Antrim and has been researching their history and recording and exploring them since. He is a former chairperson Glens of Antrim Historical Society, a founding member of Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland (1996) and Glenravel Historical Society (2010). Kevin has also given talks about the mines to many groups, societies and universities and contributed articles to various history-based journals.

(Publishers synopsis)



### The Benbulbin Barytes Miners: the forgotten story

Gerry Foley, published by the author, paperback, full colour covers, 90 pages, b/w images and text, €12 ISBN 9781513615806

This book records the experience of eleven men who mined on Benbulbin (Kings Mountain), Co. Sligo, from Folliot Barton (1867-1875) to Michael Carragher (1974-1979). The book is available locally in Sligo / Leitrim for €12, from the Geological Survey of Ireland or direct from the author, sligomine(at)eircom.net.

## Television Broadcast

**BBC1 Northern Ireland: Home Ground (20/03/2017, 7:30pm)**

Below The Radar TV have been filming in the former Lyle’s Hill iron mine, near Templepatrick, Co, Antrim, for BBC Northern Ireland. The film will probably be used in the first episode of the new series of Home Ground, to be broadcast on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March, and available on the BBC website afterwards. Home Ground is a series that celebrates the richness of rural life in Northern Ireland.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b079d0yw>

Alastair Lings MHTI

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**17<sup>th</sup> March 2017:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Cornish Industrial Heritage Conference, Wheal Martyn, St. Austell, PL26 8XG <http://www.wheal-martyn.com/event/cornish-mining-world/>

**24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> March 2017:** Mining Heritage Weekend, Kelty, Fife. The weekend will include a showing of the film “The Happy Lands” (2012) in the Moray Institute at 7:30pm on Friday 24 March, with an exhibition of pictures, paintings and artefacts on the Sunday and Monday in the Kelty Community Centre. [http://www.centrafiftimes.com/news/15099710.Village\\_39\\_s\\_mining\\_history\\_to\\_be\\_remembered/](http://www.centrafiftimes.com/news/15099710.Village_39_s_mining_history_to_be_remembered/)

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

**4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> April 2017:** Meeting of Historians in Latin American Mining, Buenos Aires, Argentina. <https://13reunionmineria.wordpress.com/>

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

**15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June 2017:** Mining History Association Annual Conference, Alaska, USA. <http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/>

**23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> June 2017:** NAMHO Conference 2017, East Surrey. <http://namho2017.info/>

**19th-27th August 2017:** Heritage Week (Ireland)

<http://www.heritageweek.ie/>

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

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

**20th-22nd September 2017:** ERIH Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark. Topic of this year's conference is "Industrial Tourism: Linking the past with the present and future". Call for papers is now open, with deadline for submissions being 31st March 2017.

<http://www.erih.net/what-is-new/detail/news/detail/News/erih-conference-2017-call-for-papers-352/>

**21st-24th September 2017:** XVII International Congress on Geological and Mineral Heritage, School of Mining and Industrial Engineering of Almadén (Ciudad Real, Spain)

**25th-29th September 2017:** Australasian Mining History Association Conference at Taralgon, Victoria.

<http://www.mininghistory.asn.au/>

## **Acknowledgements**

As usual I would like to convey my appreciation to those that have contributed to this edition of the NAMHO Newsletter, particularly Peter Jackson and Alastair Lings who always manage to 'pull something out of the bag', even if it is at the last minute. I would also like to express my gratitude to Stephen Tully for permitting the use of his photograph of Dunston Staiths.

Items are credited to the contributor, unless written/supplied by myself as Editor.

*Roy Meldrum, NAMHO Editor*

**Contributions:** Email the Newsletter Editor-  
[editor@namho.org](mailto:editor@namho.org)

Or by post-

NAMHO Editor, c/o Peak District Mining Museum,  
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