

NAMHO Newsletter March 2011

A word from a new Editor

Looking back at previous editions of the NAMHO Newsletter, there is a recurring theme over the years, namely the request for an editor. So after the latest meeting I made a few discreet enquiries, with the result being that I am now in the “hot seat” and you are reading my “first” edition!

For those that don't know me, I have been involved with the Friends of Chatterley Whitfield since 2003 and was instrumental in getting the Friends to join NAMHO in 2007, which is particularly fitting as the Chatterley Whitfield Mining Museum was amongst the early NAMHO line up.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Cloughton and Don Borthwick for their hard work in producing previous newsletters, thank them for their input in to this one and ask that they continue with contributions. We anticipate that the newsletter will be produced on a quarterly basis, but remember that this is your newsletter and so I would like to remind NAMHO representatives and their organisation's newsletter editors to provide contributions for inclusion. Contact details will be at the end of the newsletter.

Roy Meldrum

NAMHO Chairman's Ramblings 2010

Living in Cornwall which is, the far southwest, the rest of the UK is a long distance away. “You are all in the North to me – it's just a case of how far north” – remembering the Scottish NAMHO!

This usually means I do not often travel outside the county. NAMHO Conferences and Meetings are therefore a great excuse to visit “old” friends, Industrial and Mining sites at locations not on the usual tourist route. This brings me to this year's Conference: - held over the weekend of 4th to 6th June at Coalpit Heath, South Gloucestershire (north of Bristol). Hosted jointly by South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group (SGMRG), Hades Caving Club and Friends of Ram Hill Colliery led by Steve Grudgings and supported by The Royal Forest of Dean Caving Club. Thank you to all involved with a very good meeting, with an interesting and diverse Lecture programme and some rare, hence popular, Field trips on offer. So for those who thought “there's not much there so I'll not bother” –you missed out!

One spin off from this year's Conference was a request by Paul Sowen the representative for Subterranea Britannica (Sub Brit) one of NAMHO's oldest member Organisations asking if I would assist with their:- Annual Weekend Field visits, planned for this autumn in Cornwall – being a glutton for punishment I accepted.

The weekend of 3rd to 6th September saw 45 Sub Brit delegates travelling around Cornwall in a coach encompassing most of the places on their “wish list” including Halligye Fogou, (Iron Age? stone chamber) King Edward Mine Museum, RAF Treleaver and Levant Engine in steam –only one slight hiccup they forgot to bring good weather.

This summer we at King Edward Mine suffered a sad loss that of our “mentor” Willie Uren –who was a Camborne gentle-man and the last real link with traditional Cornish tin processing. Having worked in South Crofty Mine Mill for over 40years and retiring as their Foreman. He wanted to pass on these life learnt skills, so joined us at KEM and for 20yrs has shared this knowledge, which has enabled us to rebuild some rare equipment that we now have running and can demonstrate to our visitors –This character will be sadly missed.

Cornwall's rich mining tradition is still being lit by a glimmer of hope from South Crofty Mine (now owned by Western United Mines, WUM). The latest planning applications have been submitted for a complete new Complex and the relocation of mining activities to be based around the Tuckingmill Decline at Pool. – The old site to be redeveloped leaving only the iconic pair of Head frames.

Quote from WUM's Chief Executive:-

“Submitting these plans is an exciting milestone and one which the South Crofty team have been working doggedly towards since purchasing the mine in 2001 – there have been lots of challenges to overcome along the way and with excellent results from exploration activities and a real sense of common purpose means we are now much closer to securing the mining future for Cornwall” –watch this space!

Note: Public visits underground have not been possible for a couple of years and it's unlikely to change for the near future.

HRH the Duke of Kent visited Geevor Tin Mine on 26th July where he met “the great and the good” and unveiled a plaque made of Tin to commemorate the conferral of Cornish Mining World Heritage Site “Key Centre” status.

Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape –World Heritage Site, is complex, being made up of 10 Areas across the region, (mostly west of Truro). These Areas encompass the landscape, effects and great riches generated from metalliferous mining.

The Trevithick Society Hosted the Association for Industrial Archaeology (AIA) Annual Conference this Autumn (3rd to 9th September) based at Tremough (Exeter University Campus), Penryn, Cornwall.

The Conference which includes their AGM was attended by sum 120 delegates. Spread over 6 days of activities with 1 full day of Lectures and an evening lecture programme.

The Field trips on offer included Falmouth Docks, Rosevale Mine, Porthcurno's Submarine Telegraphy Museum and tours of the China Clay processing sites and harbours.

We may be a long way from the UK centre however NAMHO members have been busy in Cornwall this year.

Kevin Baker

2011 NAMHO Conference

The 2011 NAMHO conference (<http://www.namhoconference.org.uk/>) will be held from 29th July-1st August at Preston Montford Field Centre, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury. Activities will continue around Shropshire through the following week. (<http://www.field-studies-council.org/prestonmontford/>)

This delightful Queen Anne country house lies by the river Severn to the west of Shrewsbury and is set in 12 hectares of grassland and woodland. It is close to the A5 and the Welsh and Shropshire Hills. Ironbridge, ‘Birthplace of the Industrial Revolution’, is a short distance away.

On-site, there is accommodation for 120 with two drying rooms, dining facilities, plus camping and bar. Space will be available for those staying on during the following week.

The conference lecture programme will run on the Saturday and Sunday with a series of surface and underground trips from the Friday lunchtime until at least the Wednesday of the following week, for those wishing to extend their stay. Some of the field trips will be re-run in the week to allow attendance at lectures without missing underground trips. It is intended that there will be a set of conference proceedings.

A conference dinner will be held on the Saturday evening and a special event on the Sunday evening is to be hosted by the Shropshire Caving and Mining Club in celebration of its 50th anniversary; the evening meal is free to delegates.

The theme of the conference is ‘50 Years of Mine Exploration’. Fifty years ago, there was little interest in industrial archaeology and many important mine sites were lost to neglect or the bulldozer. Many more would have been permanently lost but for the efforts of mine explorers.

Following the welcome evening on Friday, a full programme of lectures is planned on Saturday and Sunday with parallel threads in separate rooms. Particular emphasis will be given to practical mine exploration over the years and subjects range from local to international. Speakers include George Hall, who reminisces about his early explorations with David Bick, Rob Vernon on Mines of Spain, Dave Linton, Ivor Brown and many more.

There will be facilities for posters, club stands and trade stands, including Starless River's mobile showroom.

There will be an extensive programme of complementary surface and underground trips to lesser-known parts of Shropshire's mining history as well as some longer trips further afield. Underground trips will include a winch trip at Snailbeach and range from simple walk-in mines to some serious through or round trips with SRT.

Full information and booking details are available at <http://www.namhoconference.org.uk/>

Alternatively write to: Andrew Wood,
Home Farm,
Castle Pulverbatch,
Shrewsbury,
SY5 8DS
Or telephone: 01743 718668

Publications

From Derbyshire

The third volume of what is now to be a four volume set: Lead Mining in Derbyshire: History, Development & Drainage 3. Elton to the Via Gellia by J. H. Rieuwerts Landmark Collector's Library published the Horizon Press 2010 ISBN 978 1 84306 345 2....£25

From PDMHS

PDMHS Mining History - Volume 17, No. 4

Papers from the NAMHO Conference, Matlock

Contents:

The Lead Legacy – Recent Archaeological Research and Conservation Initiatives at Peak District Mines – John Barnatt

An Introduction to the Ecology of Lead Mining Remains in the Peak District – Rebecca Penny

Archaeology of Mining Landscapes in Germany – Martin Straßburger

Mining, Quarrying, Archaeology and the Historic Environment: The Evidence for the Early Part of the Medieval Period up to 1200 – Peter Claughton

The Development of Colliery Haulage and Winding Systems – G. Hayes

Linares, Spain – The British Contribution to the Landscape - Dr. Rob Vernon

The Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company in the 1850s Australian Gold Rush –John Woodland

Early Mining and Metallurgy in Zimbabwe's Eastern Highlands – Ann Kritzinger

Pen-Pushers with Pans: 20th-Century Tasmanian Osmiridium Mining – Dr. Nic Haygarth

NAMHO so far – what has it achieved? – Ivor Brown

National Coal Mining Museums – Fossilised Monuments or Leaders of our Future? –Margaret Faull

PDMHS Mining History - Volume 17, No. 5

Contents:

The Geological Setting of the Lead Mines in the Northern Part of the White Peak, Derbyshire – Trevor D. Ford

Saxon Miners in Serbian Medieval Laws and Written Texts – Milan D. Stojković

A History and Gazetteer of the Lead Mines within Bradwell Liberty, Derbyshire: 1216 – 1890 – Chris Heathcote

From NMRS

50 Years of Mining History

British Mining No.90 Proceedings of the NMRS 50-Year Anniversary Conference, Reeth, 1-3rd October 2010

Mining heritage and the Yorkshire Dales National Park – Robert White

The lead industry of Bordley Township – Janis Heward

Lead mines and miners in the 19th century: correspondence of the Reeth Poor Law Union – Alan Mills

Lesser-known smelting mills of the West Pennines – Richard Smith and Sam Murphy

A History of mining in Teesdale in the 16th and 17th centuries – William F. Heyes

The Iron-Age (Nidderdale) Project – mining and smelting in Dacre and Darley – Jim Brophy and Gillian Hovell

The Gascoignes and the Garforth miners in the nineteenth century – Alison Henesey

Discoveries at Silver Gill Mine, Caldbeck – Warren Allison

The NE extremity of the Central Wales Orefield; Cwm Nant Ddu to Cwm Bychan – David M.D. James

Chert quarrying in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale – Kay Jackson

Hathorn Davey and Company, Limited, Leeds: manufacturers of mine engines and pumps – Rob Vernon

Mining law in England and Wales: defining boundaries in the landscape – Peter Claughton

The historical development of lead mining in the Wensleydale area to 1830 – Ian M. Spensley

Sources at the Swaledale Museum, Reeth for the study of mining and associated industries – Helen Bainbridge

Decades in Minutes: snapshots of NMRS history from the minutes of General Meetings -Sallie Bassham, NMRS President

Mining in Ireland

Gypsum mining and the Shirley estate in south Monaghan, 1800-1936 by Micheál McDermott
Published by Four Courts Press – ISBN 978-1-84682-059-5, Paperback 64pp, €9.95 or €8.95 Web price.

For fuller details see: www.fourcourtspress.ie

Barytes Mining in Benbulbin 1859 – 1979 An Industrial Heritage by Gerald Foley

Privately published by Gerald Foley €10 PP included A5, 48 pages full colour with lots of illustrations and pictures. Written to put this much neglected story back into the public domain, this little book has been very popular locally in Sligo. Contact Gerry Foley direct for information on ordering: geraldfoley@eircom.net. It along with 'A History of the Dylife Mines' (see below) they are excellent examples of what can be achieved in writing and self-publishing. (Perhaps Moore Books will get copies of this item and thus simplify currency issues.)

The Metal mines of West Cork by Diane Hodnett with Photographs and Field Surveys by Paddy O'Sullivan. Published by the Trevithick Society at £16.99 ISBN 978 0 904040 83 8, soft covers, 170mm x 240mm 284pp.

I am indebted to the MHTI newsletter for first bringing these 3 items to my attention DB

And Much More from the Trevithick Society

Dolcoath Mine: A History by Allen Buckley – Trevithick Society at £25.99 soft cover ISBN 978 0 904040 86 9 and hard cover £36.99 ISBN 978 0 904040 85 2, 170mm x 240mm (SC), 478pp

Hard Graft: Botallack Mine in the Twentieth Century by Peter Joseph – Trevithick Society at £16.99 soft cover ISBN 978 0 904040 8 21

The Mechanical Methods of Dressing Tin Ore Etc by Leon Moissenet – Trevithick Society at £18.99 in Hard Covers ISBN 978 0 904040 8 45

I am indebted to moorebooks.co.uk (Mike Moore) for bringing the first 2 items to my attention and Blackwells.co.uk for the 3rd item. A new web site for Trevithick Society is promised for sometime in January, probably fuller details then.

New books from Wales an West Cumbria

A History of the Dylife Mines and surrounding area by Michael Brown. Published in 2010 by Michael Brown at £19.95, ISBN 978-0-9565360-0-6, 444pp and many illustrations, 170mm x 245mm hardcover. It includes chapters on geology by David James and Historical Metallurgy by Simon Hughes. Again I am indebted to MM's web site for this item.

The Story of Iron Ore Mining in West Cumbria by Mervyn Dodd (With a contribution By Maureen Fisher). Published by The Cumberland Geological Society in 2010 at £7.50 ISBN 978-0-9558453-1-4 92pp, many Illustrations colour & B&W, A5 softcover

More books

Riches Beneath our Feet by Geoff Coyle – Published in 2010 by Oxford University Press at £20 978-0-19-955129-3 288 Pages, Hardcover 156mm x 234mm

Limestone Industries of the Yorkshire Dales 2nd Ed. by David Johnson. Published in 2010 by Amberley Publishing at £18.99, ISBN 978-1-4456-0060-4, 320 pp, 173 illustrations incl. 47 in colour, 248 x 172mm Paperback

Tungsten in Peace and War, 1918–1946 by Ronald H. Limbaugh – Published in 2010 by University of Nevada Press, at \$44.95 ISBN: 978-0-87417-820-3, 312 Pages , Hardcover

This is the first comprehensive study of the use of tungsten and its role in modern technology, politics, and international trade. The book combines a detailed general overview of tungsten's uses in science and technology with a history of tungsten mining in the U.S. and elsewhere; international competition for tungsten supplies, especially between the two world wars of the twentieth century...

Researching Mining History as a Business

The following review was first published in the Industrial Archaeology Review Vol XXXII May 2010 Number 1. It is reprinted here with the kind permission of its author Dr Trinder Author & Consultant, David Gwyn Editor and the Review's Publisher Maney Publishing.

A Guide to Tracing the History of a Business, by John Orbell. Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd, 2009. 178 pp., illus. ISBN 978-1-86077-575-8. £19.00.

John Orbell's first guide to business history was published in 1987, and its completely rewritten successor is evidence of the enormous changes that have taken place in the world of archives, in means of communication and in historical scholarship over the past two decades. It is a work that should be useful to every reader of this review who has ambitions to unravel the history of a machine, factory or an industrial landscape. The tone of the Guide is constructively helpful. John Orbell intends it to be used by researchers other than those who hope to write traditional 'business histories', who may need to investigate particular companies while engaged on differently focused studies, and whose

aims may be quite limited. It provides historians with a route map which can be used to locate business archives collections, and with a description of the main categories of sources available for research.

The first section, on the formation and dissolution of companies, concerns an area in which most historians of industry will probably need to venture only occasionally and is rich in advice on the problems that may arise. It is followed by a section that discusses the location business archives that might have been improved by an outline of the nature of different classes of records, accounts, minute books, documents relating to employees, etc. John Orbell shows throughout the book how questions may be answered by indirect approaches, how, for example, if a company has left no records, its activities can be traced by looking at the archives of its suppliers and customers, or its bank, accountant or architect, the local authority in which its premises were situated, or of the trades unions whose members were its employees. This is not just a listing of sources, but an informed guide to the ways in which they may be useful.

Those sources that can broadly be regarded as archaeological are well covered. A section on Industrial Archaeology recommends this Review and its predecessor, some key articles on methodology, and lists some standard but rather dated introductions to the subject. There are very useful sections on visual sources, on printed ephemera and on maps.

In a concise work of less than 200 pages it is not difficult to find points where a little more information might have been appropriate. It would have been pertinent to point out that census returns after 1851 should (but sometimes do not) show how many workers were employed by individual businessmen. The quality of tithe maps and of the information provided in apportionments varies enormously. One surveyor may provide large-scale linen backed maps of a high cartographic standard, while another may provide a blotchy sketch on paper. The value of railway and canal deposited plans for studying urban development generally, and for identifying factories which just happened to be near the line of proposed schemes could have been brought out more clearly. Information technology has been transformed since 1987, and many of the sources discussed here are now available on line but it is surprising that there seems to be no reference in the section on trade directories to <http://historicaldirectories.org>.

These are minor quibbles about a book that will open up new territories for many who are concerned with the industrial past. Most readers of this Review will find some areas here with which they are familiar, but all will find some topics discussed which will be largely unknown, and which may help to approach particular problems. John Orbell has written a handbook that is astonishingly useful, and the most seasoned scholar will find that his or her horizons are vastly enlarged. Barrie Trinder, Olney, Buckinghamshire.

An online version of this Journal is available at www.maney.co.uk/journals/iar and www.ingentaconnect.com/content/maney/iar

DVD's from I. A. Recordings

Glengowla – A Tour of Ireland's First Show Mine. Completely new DVD production about the Glengowla lead mine near Oughterard, County Galway. £12.95 Running time 36 mins.

Nenthead '97 & '98 MineCam Compilation- Remote exploration of 11 mineshafts now available on DVD. It is a two disc compilation with a total running time of 179 minutes (their longest compilation), £16.45

All prices include worldwide delivery.

Next release will be 'Historic Mines of Spain' vol. 2, the fascinating mines in the Sierra Minera region visited by MHTI in 2008.

Visit www.iarecordings.org for details for ordering details etc.

News and events

Mining Conservation Projects in the North Pennine AONB

Shildon Engine House, Blanchland, Northumberland, was built around 1805 to house a Cornish pumping engine. Towards the end of its industrial life in the 1840s, an enormous steam engine was installed in a final attempt to keep the mines dry enough to work. Following decommissioning, the engine house was converted to flats for mining families. It was finally abandoned around 100 years ago and has been derelict ever since. Vegetation has been cleared, loose stonework consolidated, the mineshaft capped and on-site interpretation will be provided. An AONB 'Places to Live, Places to Work' Project.

Low Slitt Mine at Westgate (Weardale) is designated as a Scheduled Monument, and among its interesting features are the stone base for one of Armstrong's hydraulic engines (which served as a winding engine for the shaft), a row of impressive bouseteams and an ore washing and dressing floor. As well as being a nationally important industrial heritage site, the mine is also part of a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), partly for the botanical interest of the lead-tolerant plants that grow on the old washing floor. Natural England and English Heritage stepped in to conserve the site after concerns were raised in 2007. English Heritage immediately funded some of the more urgent work required, a full conservation project, funded through Natural England's agri-environment schemes, began in the summer of 2009.

The AONB Partnership has produced a new 20-page colour booklet for a self-guided geology and mining-themed trail around Slitt Wood in Weardale. Price £2 for further details email info@northpenninesaonb.org.uk

Text from AONB North Pennines News.

New Manager of Killhope, The North of England Lead Mining Museum

The Friends of Killhope have great pleasure in introducing to NAMHO members our new Manager at Killhope, Mike Boase. He was born in Devon in 1961 where he developed an early interest in mining and industrial archaeology, mainly through the local caving club and frequent trips down old tin and copper mines. This interest led him to study archaeology at Southampton University, followed by post-graduate qualifications in agricultural planning, forestry and management.

He has worked for a range of voluntary and public sector environmental organisations at home and abroad, including a period as an outdoor pursuits instructor in the Brecon Beacons, the manager of a wildlife trust and on rural development projects both in Kenya and the Outer Hebrides. He has also had two periods in local government, six years in Leeds and latterly eight years in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, where he was in charge of the countryside service, historic environment team and sustainability team.

His love of the northern landscapes has drawn him ever northwards over the years and he now lives in Weardale with his wife and two young children.

Mike has settled in well at Killhope and we all find him a very friendly, interesting and enthusiastic person to associate with. We wish him every success at Killhope and hope he will be with us for a long time. If you are ever up in the North Pennines, please come and visit Killhope and make yourselves known to Mike as members of NAMHO. I am sure he would be delighted to meet you.

Shelagh Bridges

Friends of Killhope

End of an era at Welbeck Colliery

The last coal was taken off 243's retreat face in the Deep Soft Seam at Welbeck Colliery, Nottinghamshire, on 10th May 2010. Owned by UK Coal this colliery dates back to 1912 and was producing around 1.4 million tons per year with a workforce of 320 men. After a period of salvaging,

which included face tackle being taken to nearby Thoresby Colliery, clearing of the site got underway earlier this year. The majority of the buildings have been demolished and the shafts filled, with the headsticks expected to be brought down by the end of March.

Queensland coal mines affected by floods

The devastating floods which hit Queensland, Australia in January 2011, as well as having an enormous effect on the State's residents, could also have an impact on a global scale. With Australia accounting for 66% of the global coking trade and Queensland supplying around 90% of Australia's coking coal output, the floods have severely affected both the opencast coal mines and the railways used for transportation.

Reuters reported on 18th January that only 15% of Queensland's coal mines were fully operational, with 60% operating under restrictions and 25% yet to resume work. Environmental regulations mean that any "mine water" has to be treated before being removed from mines, but exemptions were being sought to allow water to be pumped into creeks and rivers. Large quantities of coking coal from the affected area are used to fire the steel plant at Scunthorpe, so there could be an impact on steel production, with probable increases in both the price of coal and steel to come.

American Gold Mine Model Exhibited in Britain – an update

Last newsletter had an item about an automated model of the Saratoga Gold Mine in California, built by Cornishman, William Keest. It was exhibited in London, Cardiff and Glasgow and after being exhibited in Paris nothing was known of its fate. Since then Mark & Karen Vendl have been able to track the model's story further. Its last known display was in 1904, in St. Louis Missouri. In 1903, Keest moved to Portsmouth, having made enough money from the model that he was able to buy a business here. Keest remained in the area until his death in 1936 in the village of Horndean, eight miles north of Portsmouth. Current information is that the model was burned in a house fire, Keest built another, taking five years, it seems that this one also burned in 1936. As before If anyone has additional information and would like to help Karen with this research please contact her at: mkvendl@gmail.com (changed since last time) (a cc to don.borthwick@cybermoor.org.uk would be appreciated).

Contact details

Any contributions to future editions of the NAMHO Newsletter:

Email, with Newsletter as the subject please, to secretary@namho.org

Or by post,

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

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