



Newsletter

www.nmrs.org.uk

August 2017

www.nmrs.org.uk

Contents

Page 1	Presidents Jottings
Page 2	Library News
Page 3	The Lancashire Mining Museum Christopher J Williams
Page 4	Kiruna Wagon. / Woodhouse Colliery
Page 5	British Mining BM103 2017 Meets List
Page 6	Druridge Bay. / Big Pit Apprentices
Page 7	Glensanda Quarry
Page 8	Draeth Developments Ltd Tunnelling News Cross Rail
Page 9	The Townley Fringe Collieries
Page 10	The Welsh Industrial Archive
Page 11	The Oaks Colliery Memorial West Beam Tin Mine
Page 12	Yorkshire Mineral & Fossil fair
Page 13	Hemingfield Update
Page 14	Mossdale Memorial Service
Page 15	Wrexham Mines Rescue Station
Page 16	Box Mines Wiltshire
Page 17	New report/ Pits & Quarries Reserves 200 million pound Coal Mine Plymouth Tungstone Mine
Page 18	Lithium found in Cornwall
Page 19	Galantas Gold Corp
Page 20	Ivor John Brown
Page 21	Hansons Padeswood plant upgrade 706 carat Diamond found
Page 22	"The Tredgar Company" Book review The Early Engines conference
Page 23	Anglesey Copper Mine St. Patrick Mine
Page 24	India builds new Coal Fired power stations / For Sale

Editor

Graham Topping
Chapel lodge.Chapel
Lane. West Bradford.
Clitheroe. Lancs.
BB74SN. Tel:-
07973905883. Email:-
glt2top@aol.com

Would you please note that the deadline for inclusion in the **Nov. 2017 Newsletter is the 24th Oct. 2017**. Submissions are welcome that would be of interest to members of the NMRS. Please support your society.

Presidents Jottings.

Summer holidays, time to be out and about in hopefully good weather! This is the last newsletter before our Autumn meeting and time to book for the event at Gisburn Festival Hall, SD 82 48 on Saturday 21st October. Further details are on your membership card and on our website. The day will follow our tried and tested format – book sales and catching up with friends at 11.30 with lunch at 12.00 prior to the formal part of the meeting and short presentations.

Please send me your offers of these – I am pleased to say I already have two. All I need is a title but please remember each one should last no more than 15 minutes. I am always aware of the constraints of time and the need to tidy up, wash up and clear the hall before the agreed time. More people are using the hall now and we need to keep to our agreements. Please book your lunch with me stating if you need a vegetarian option. As we use outside caterers with other commitments we need your booking by October 10th please. It was fortunate I took some spare plates to the AGM as several turned up without booking first. The meeting is always a good opportunity for arranging meets for 2018 so if you would like to lead one please have a chat with Mick Cooke, our new meet co-ordinator.

Those of you who receive paper newsletters should find our latest BM enclosed. John Taylor & Sons and their three "Drops of Comfort" – their lead mines at Linares, Southern Spain was written by one of our members, Rob Vernon and we must thank him for all the research and hard work he has put into it, and also our Editor, Richard Smith for his involvement. **Please read the editors comments on page five.** We must also thank Graham Topping on producing this, his first newsletter. Please support him by continuing to send material and information.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to welcome the following new members to our Society:

Stephen Bush	Rotherham.
John Cunningham....	Welshpool.
David & June Evans	Darlington.
D Evans	Bushey.
David Hudson	Ross on Wye.
David McAnelly	Gosforth.
Jude Maxwell	Dunblain.
Amanda Prabavalker	Australia.
Craig Rudman	Tyne & Wear.
Brian Hankin	Selston Notts
Meg & Philip Stewart,	
Sandy and Mark	York.

As mentioned elsewhere, at the Leyburn event we received another generous donation of some out of print A4 publications. If like me, you prefer physical books as opposed to downloads please contact me if there are any you would like. A full list of our publications is on our website. An article in the "Craven Herald" back in June had the headline "Memorial Service to lost cavers 50 years ago." This reminded me that our Society, founded in January 1960 had the title "Northern Cavern & Mine Research Society". One of the founder members is still a member and the word "Cavern" was not dropped until 1975. The article went on to explain the dreadful accident involved six cavers who lost their lives in 1967 in Mossdale Caverns on Conistone Moor near Grassington. Hundreds of people were involved in the rescue over several days to no avail. Having contacted our Recorder, Mike Gill, he informed me that none of our members were involved. The Happy Wanderers Caving Club had been involved in the rescue and organised the memorial service at St Mary's Church in Conistone village.

If you wish to find out more about this incident Mick Melvin has produced a definitive account of the incident "The Mossdale Tragedy 1967" as an e-publication which is downloadable from the Happy Wanderers Cave and Pothole Club website www.happywanderers.org.uk. It is very interesting and a tribute to all concerned. For our newer members, some time ago Martin Stolworthy gave our members permission to download an e-book "Project Gorland – the Re-digging" by the late Dave Smith. This well known locality in Cornwall is known by many mining/mineral enthusiasts and if you are interested in this free account please contact me.

We are very fortunate to have many generous members and I have recently been sent photocopies

of Section V, on Minerals from the 1810 book, "General View of the Agriculture of the County of Durham with observations by John Bailey" Thank you Bryan Dixon. These will eventually find their way to our library.

Reminders!

- 1. Book for the Autumn meeting.**
- 2. Consider offering a presentation.**
- 3. Consider offering to lead a meet in 2018**

Barbara Sutcliffe.

Thank you to Lynne Mayers for copies of her newer books. "A Hazardous Occupation", "Voices from the Dressing Floors" and "A Dangerous Place to Work".

The first is about women and girls of the Cornish explosives industries, the other two are about Cornish mines and quarries. Lynne has also given us an updated edition of her famous book, "Bal Maidens".

An excellent journal, of which the library has a complete set, is "Archive". Although it is described as a "Journal for British Industrial and Transport History", there are always mining related articles and the photographs are invariably of superb quality. The latest issue includes an article by Steve Grudgings about explosives in coal mines in 1931. The third article on horse haulage in South Wales coal mines, an article about Buxton limeworks (which includes photographs I have not seen before) and, in an article about Garston docks, details of coal hoists.

Sallie Bassham{Honorary Librarian}

NAMHO Council Meeting Date, 4th November 2017.

NEXT NAMHO COUNCIL MEETING is the 4th November 2017. At Parkend, Dean Forest. Please note that 4th November is the correct date ignore the reference to 4th October.

Please note the date change.



Name change for Astley Green Colliery. The Lancashire mining Museum.

Astley Green houses the last surviving Headgear and winding house and engine in the whole Lancashire coalfield. Rescued in 1970 when the pit was closed, these magnificent structures are Grade 2 listed but the Headgear is currently on the AT RISK register and is in need of serious repair before it is lost forever.



The Winding Engine is a 3300Hp engine, known to be the largest of its kind in Europe if not the world, which the Red Rose Steam Society have spent over 30 years restoring and finally got running in 2013. The

site is also currently working on expanding and getting the half mile of narrow gauge railway track passed to allow transportation of the general public, which will allow some of the mining locomotives in the museum's collection to run again.

Within the last six months the society has put forward an ambitious plan for the future of the museum and with

the support of new and existing volunteers plus support from the corporate and national funding bodies will hopefully see the site transformed into a major cultural Heritage site.

The site is open at present on Tuesday/ Thursday / Saturday & Sunday 1.30 - 5pm but eventually we would like to open 7 days a week during the future summer seasons.

Stephen Eckersley.

Christopher J. Williams

We are sorry to report the death of Christopher Williams, another long-standing member, in early July. A former county archivist for Flintshire and a significant local and mining historian, he published numerous books and papers on history and mining in North Wales. His monographs on the Llandudno and Great Orme Mines were published in the British Mining series, as was his paper on 'Accidents in the Flintshire and Denbighshire Lead Mines 1873-1914'. Those of us who knew him will miss his quiet, gentlemanly personality and readiness to answer questions about mining in North Wales.

Mike Gill.

Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes.

The museum is preparing to display 860 lead mining relics from a nationally important collection which were moved there when the Yorkshire Dales Mining Museum, at Earby, closed in 2015. This has been made possible by a grant of £90,600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. One wonders what became of the Eric Olthwaite Shovel Collection.

Funding To Protect Industrial Heritage

Projects aimed at preserving and improving Victorian-era ironstone heritage of the North York Moors National Park can apply for a share of £3.8m in grant funding put forward by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Land of Iron Project will see funds awarded for educational initiatives, research assignments and community and volunteering schemes.

Yorkshire Post May 2017.

Kiruna Wagon wins Swedish Steel Prize 2017

This year's winner of the international Swedish Steel Prize is Kiruna Wagon from Sweden. The prize is awarded for the company's innovative wagon solution, the Helix Dumper. Kiruna Wagon has used high-strength steel to develop a highly durable and far more efficient wagon solution than other ore wagons on the market. "Kiruna Wagon has successfully updated a good idea and used high-strength steels to turn it into a brand new, superior wagon solution," says Eva Petursson, Chairman of the Swedish Steel Prize jury and head of SSAB's Strategic R&D.



Kiruna Wagon's Helix Dumper is a dumper wagon system for long-haul rail transport and efficient unloading of minerals. Use of advanced high-strength structural and wear-resistant steels made it possible to design lightweight wagons combined with a stationary Helix terminal for on-the-fly rotary unloading. The ingenious solution has an unloading speed of 25,000 tons per hour, which is twice that of other systems. For the final design, both Strenx structural steel and Har-dox wear-resistant steel were used in the wagon solution.

When comparing with other systems, a complete unloading system for the Helix costs 1/7th of what a rotational wagon costs. Furthermore, the Helix uses parts of the potential energy of the ore to push the wagon forward as it unloads. This means no extra energy is required and there is much less dust with almost no noise. The Swedish Steel Prize is now awarded for the 18th time, and the winner will receive a statuette by the sculptor Jörg Jeschke and a cash prize of SEK 100,000. The other finalists, Fermel from South Africa, JMG Cranes from Italy and Wabash national from the USA, were runners-up in the Swedish Steel Prize 2017.

INS Stockholm. Supplied by Rob Needham.

Woodhouse Colliery Planning Application Successfully Submitted

The planning application documents, which include the Environmental Impact Assessment and extensive details of the project designs, were hand-delivered to the CCC offices in Kendal by Caroline Leatherdale, Head of Environment and Planning and Kevin Murphy, Head of Project Delivery. The planning application has subsequently been validated by CCC and allocated the reference number 4/17/9007.



Formal notices have been hand delivered to neighbours of the site whilst planning notices are being displayed in the Marchon and Pow Beck locations.

A full copy of the planning application is available to view on the CCC planning website, or at WCM's Haig offices up until the 10th July 2017. A full copy of the planning documents can also be obtained on a memory stick or CD from the WCM Haig office for £5. WCM will be hosting public update events on the 23rd, 24th and 25th June (10am-4pm) at their Haig offices, where full details of the planning application will be presented and the WCM team will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Helen Davies, Communications Manager, commented, "This is a significant milestone for the project and the local area. We do hope that people will take up the opportunity to voice their support or concern to ensure that the Project progresses in a way which best suits the majority. We are looking forward to our open days at the end of June and hearing people's thoughts – they have previously been overwhelmingly positive and we hope that this support is translated into supporting our planning application." WCM will also be holding a

Suppliers Open Day on the 12th July from 10am-4pm at the Haig offices, with an open invitation to representatives of local companies who may be interested in future construction and operational contract and supply opportunities to learn more about our procurement process and to meet the project team.

Cumbria Crack. June 2017. internet.

British Mining BM103 – John Taylor and his ‘Three Drops of Comfort’ by Rob Vernon

The current BM monograph is being distributed to members but will take some time to do so for the reasons given below. Because BM103 was bigger than usual we decided to try a Print on Demand printer, who was able to do the job for about half the price of our current printers. It was felt that the book might have a limited appeal and so a shorter print run was ordered. However, if this turned out not to be the case, then additional copies could be produced for a reasonable cost.

Ever cautious, we used a printer whom we had tried out with a print run of 80 copies of an A4 100 pp. booklet for the International Early Engines Conference 2017 – for which NMRS had been a sponsor. The product was delivered on time, in full and of good quality. We then placed an order with the printer for BM103. Unfortunately, they have taken a long time to fulfil the order, deliveries have been erratic and so far we have received about half of our copies but they do keep arriving so please bear with us. The printers have not replied to phone calls or most of our e-mails and for this reason alone we will not be doing business with them again.

On the whole the print quality has been as promised, although we have had a couple of reports of covers being upside down and one report of loose pages. Complaints of this type do occur from time to time even with the best printers and readers are requested to inspect their copies. Barbara Sutcliffe can supply replacement copies if necessary but please contact Barbara first before the end of August. There is no need to return any defective copies.

Sharp-eyed readers will note that the ISBN number for BM103 should end in –9 and not –09, they will

also note that BM101 had an extra digit and should have ended in –2 and not –02. The oversight was an editorial error for which we sincerely apologise.

Richard Smith. {Editor of British Mining}

Remaining Meets and Events for 2017

Saturday 12th August

10.30am to 12.30pm, Garage Book Sale at The Old Manse, 93 Halifax Rd, Nelson, Lancashire, BB9 0EQ, 01282 614 615 or mansemins@btopenworld.com. Followed at 12.30pm by a surface walk to look at the archaeology at Fox Clough Colliery, Colne, led by Graham and Garry Topping, 07973905883. Glt2top@aol.com. Meet at 93 Halifax Road, Nelson.

Saturday 2nd September

Guisborough Jet Mines. Meet at 11.00am at Hutton Lowcross nr Guisborough. Not a trip suitable for everyone – its 100% stooping and crawling in 7km maze of low, loose shale passages with some slippery slopes to access and a couple of squeezes. Requires a good level of physical fitness and not suitable for anyone with a hint of claustrophobia, nervous about the roof coming down or getting lost. Max group size, 8. More information from Chris Twigg @ chris.twigg90@gmail.com

Saturday and Sunday, 9th and 10th September

Heritage Weekend – see their website for details of local events

Saturday 21st October

Autumn Meeting at Gisburn Festival Hall SD 82 48 Book Sales from 11.30am. Buffet lunch (pre-booking essential) at 12 noon followed by meeting and presentation offers to Barbara Sutcliffe (01282 614 615) or mansemins@btopenworld.com

Meets Co-ordinator – Plea

Having recently taken over from Sallie, I am at the moment compiling a list of meets for 2018. I have received help from both Sallie and Barbara in this respect. However, I would like to ask members who would be willing to lead a meet (underground or surface) next year and in future years to contact me so that I can compile a list of volunteers.

Mecooke@tiscali. Or 01282427428.

DEMO AGAINST PLANS FOR OPENCAST MINE NEAR DRU- RIDGE BAY.

Campaigners against plans for an opencast mine near a Northumberland beauty spot claimed “coal is not the future” as a long-awaited public inquiry got under way. The Banks Group wants to extract three million tonnes of coal, sandstone and fireclay from a site at Highthorn near Druridge Bay. An inquiry was called after the scheme was unanimously approved by Northumberland County Council in July last year.

The opening day of the inquiry held at Newcastle Falcons’ Kingston Park stadium on Wednesday heard the Save Druridge action group claim there is “no justification for the destruction of the rural landscape adjacent to Druridge Bay”. Dr Paul Stookes, representing the group, said: “The development will result in considerable and unnecessary displacement of wildlife. “It will disrupt the biodiversity of the land affected and will risk significant ecological and environmental harm.” Friends of the earth campaigners, who also oppose the scheme, claimed going ahead with the plans would “undermine” the Government’s pledge to phase out coal by 2025.



A map of how the Highthorn site would look. Correct as of 2015. (Photo: Banks Mining)

Paul Brown QC, representing them, said: “The application was made on the basis to meet the need for coal but we have no need for the Highthorn mine.

“The demand for coal has fallen off a cliff. The world has moved on. Coal is not the future.”

Green Party leader Natalie Bennett backs Save Druridge campaign on D-Day for opencast mine plans. However, the Banks Group says the scheme would create at least 100 jobs and boost the Northumberland economy by £87m. Nathalie Lieven QC, representing the company, said: “The clear conclusion is that the development has an acceptable impact during operation and a beneficial effect after restoration. “This is a very carefully designed scheme, both during operation to minimise effects both on landscape and human receptors, and then in its ultimate restoration. “Banks is very experienced in this type of operation and in ensuring minimal landscape impact.” Northumberland County Council also spoke in favour of the scheme, saying the proposal would be “environmentally acceptable in national planning policy terms”.

During the lunch break, members of Save Druridge and Friends of the Earth gathered outside the rugby club for a rally. Speaker John Ashton, from Newcastle, told the crowd that Banks Group founder, Harry Banks, “can’t stop digging”. He added: “He wants to dig his meanest hole yet that will disfigure our beautiful, precious, jewel of Northumberland Druridge Bay. I don’t think we should let him get away with it.”

The inquiry is expected to last for two weeks and a final decision on the plans will be made in the autumn.

Chronicle live. 31st may 2017. Internet.

NEW APPRENTICES KEEP MIN- ING MEMORIES ALIVE AT BIG PIT.

A former coal mine that is now a national museum has taken on two new apprentices to help keep underground memories alive. It is more than 30 years since the last coal was dug at Big Pit in Torfaen, after which it became the National Coal Museum. It hired the pit’s former miners to maintain the underground workings and act as tour guides. But many are now retiring - and fresh blood was needed. David Powell from Treharris and Ben Monro from Caerphilly were among 52 who applied for the new jobs as mining craft apprentices. “I am

extremely excited at the prospect of becoming a part of Welsh industrial heritage and to contribute to the aims and objectives as a world class museum," said Mr Powell. Ben Monro added: "I feel passionate about encouraging individuals and families from all



Big Pit. South Wales.

backgrounds to visit our national museums and look forward to increasing understanding and appreciation of our history and culture."

The pair will now undergo vocational training, with hands-on experience working next to members of the maintenance team, as well as becoming part-time members of the local Mines Rescue Team. It is hoped after six months of training they will become underground guides at the pit. Mine manager Huw Jones said: "The apprenticeships are an important part of the succession plan at Big Pit and will help to ensure that the public can continue to enjoy the underground experience at the museum and learn about the history of the mining industry in Wales".

BBC News {Wales} May 2017.

Half the jobs under threat, at granite quarry near Oban

Up to 25 jobs are under threat at Europe's biggest granite quarry in Argyll, according to union leaders. The GMB claim half of the staff working at the Glensanda Quarry, north of Oban, face the sack from a new contractor.



Glensanda Quarry

The union fears Spanish-owned Oban Earth Works will cut 50% of staff when it takes over excavation and haulage operations at the quarry. That work had been carried out by the Hargreaves company on behalf of Aggregate Industries.

A spokeswoman for Hargreaves said their contract ended in May, but they would remain during a hand-over period until the end of July. They say staff have been transferred across to the new company. A spokesman for Aggregate Industries said: "As with any commercial operation, it's important for Aggregate Industries to review and renew our partnerships, to ensure we can offer the best service available." We are switching load and haul provider at our plant in Glensanda and as part of that process there are individuals who will be transferred from our current provider Hargreaves, to our new one (FERPI). Unfortunately, due to increasing production efficiencies on site, there are some employees at risk of being made redundant by FERPI.

"We understand and appreciate that this is a potentially difficult time for those individuals affected and have been in close contact with FERPI to ensure employees are offered all the support they need throughout the consultation process." The BBC has been unable to speak to anyone from Oban Earth or Aggreg.

BBC News Scotland. July 2017.

Draeth Developments Limited have plans for a surface anthracite mine

Below is a map showing the plans submitted by Draeth Developments Limited's plans for a Carnawllon Fawr Surface Anthracite Mine.



Controversial mining plans which were refused three years ago after a long fought campaign have resurfaced. Draft plans have emerged of Draeth Developments Limited's plans for a Carnawllon Fawr Surface Anthracite Mine. It specifies the proposed surface mining of anthracite with the restoration of the site to woodland, agriculture, ponds and wetlands with improved public access. The proposal is a revised version of the Ponthenri/ Pentremawr scheme which was submitted to Carmarthenshire Council in 2008 and refused on March 27, 2014 after a long-running local campaign against it. It is proposed to extract 210,000 tonnes of anthracite over four and a half years. This includes two and a half months of site establishment and initial stripping and 46 months mining operations and phased restoration.

The new scheme includes an access road from the south direct onto the B4317 road - designed to accommodate the required visibility splays. The application states restoration would be a mix of woodland, pasture, ponds and wetlands with a new east-west multi user public access route looping southwards thereby creating a circular route together with the existing route alongside the old railway and enabling extensive

views northwards across the Gwendraeth Fawr Valley from an area which is not currently accessible to the public. Addressing the environmental impact, the plans state it would be "substantially less" than the refused scheme given the reduced area.

In terms of landscape and visual impact, it states the retention of large areas of woodland and scrub in the now excluded areas to the west and east will substantially reduce impact. The impact on residential areas would be reduced substantially as the distance of site operations will be substantially increased, Draeth has stated. It adds that socio-economic impacts are now even more positive than when the original application was considered with employment and economic benefits being relatively more important "in the uncertain times the country now faces and the shortage of UK produced anthracite for both UK and European industrial requirements in the steel, foundry, water purification and other industries requiring a high quality carbon product."

Wales Online. June 2017

CROSSRAIL'S 26 MILE TUNNELLING MARATHON COMPLETE

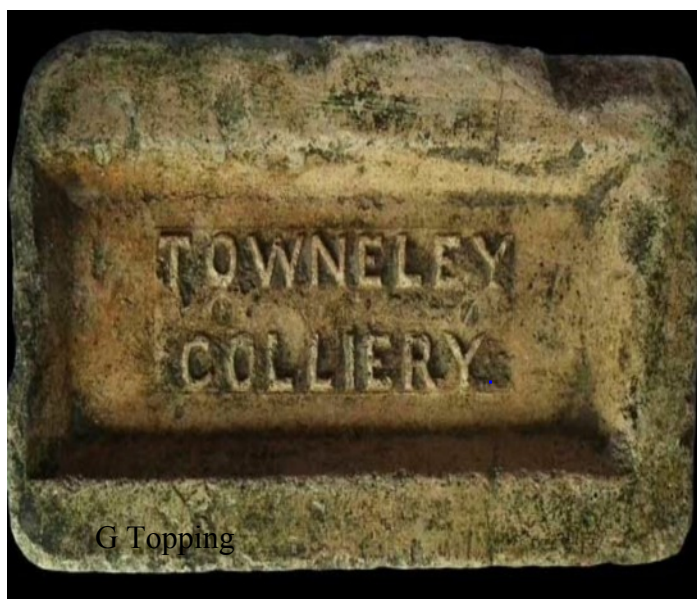
The Tube, the world's first underground railway, Sir Joseph Bazalgette's sewers, the now disused Post Office Railway and other essential services have all helped to make London one of the most excavated cities on earth. Cross Rail is Europe's biggest underground construction project. The project is building a new east-west railway for London and the South East. The Cross-Rail route will link existing Network Rail services from Reading and Heathrow in the west, and Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east. This railway is only made possible through the construction of 42 kilometres of new railway tunnels and a further 14 kilometres of station and interchange tunnels.

Building a new railway, up to 40 metres deep through the heart of the capital, is an incredible engineering achievement. The tunnels weave their way through the city's underground landscape, within touching distance of existing railways as well as beneath some of the most historic buildings in London.

Cont, on page 12.

The Fringe Collieries Of the Townley Coal Company. Field Trip. Saturday 22nd of April 2017.

After our recent AGM at Cliviger Village Hall. Sixteen members joined me on a archaeological field trip to the former Dyneley and Cuckoo colliery sites in Cliviger. The weather was glorious sunshine, a perfect day for digging up the past. Both of these collieries are situated just off the A671 Burnley to Bacup Rd.



A brick found at the cuckoo pit site.

Dyneley Colliery, was opened by the Townley Coal Company in the late 1800s. It mined the Upper Mountain Seam and was closed in 1947 prior to Nationalization. Although being opened by the Townleys it was sold to and operated by the Deerplay Colliery Company for most of its life.

In 1984 the mine was reopened by a private venture called Teak Flow Ltd. They drove a new drift into the remaining pillars of coal in the Upper Mountain Seam. This was soon abandoned due to geological problems and inexperience.

They then reopened the original drift entrance with the intention of extending it down into the rich Union seam below. However due to lack of experience and financial constraints the whole project was abandoned in 1987.



The original entrance to Dyneley Colliery.



Teak Flow new drift entrance. Upper Mountain Mine.

The explosives magazine from this venture is still on the site. This created an interesting discussion as to its age. The magazine pre-dates the Teak Flow operations as the following features help date it. Upon investigation it is evident that the magazine had been updated in the mid 1970s as it has externally retrofitted anti-drill lock plates on the doors. All magazines built after 1976 approximately, would have had this modification fitted to the inside of the doors. Also the rear mounted detonator store is completely attached to the main magazine on all sides with welded plates. Lifting hooks have also been fitted and the magazine is bolted down to a concrete base. All of these modifications were done to existing magazines still in use prior to 1975-1976 to comply with new anti-terrorism legislation. So this magazine could be in excess of

50yrs old. It has been on this site for at least 35yrs.



Ken Geddies

Teak Flow Ltd. Explosives Magazine

Cuckoo Pit. This colliery was opened by the Townley Coal Company in the 1800s and is situated on the other side of the road to Dyneley. This worked the Upper Mountain Seam which was out of reach of Dyneley because of geological problems. There is evidence of a steam engine being used for both winding tubs up the drift and along the ginny track. This mine had a relatively short life and was closed in the 1920s.



Ken Geddies

Members looking for artifacts at Cuckoo Pit.

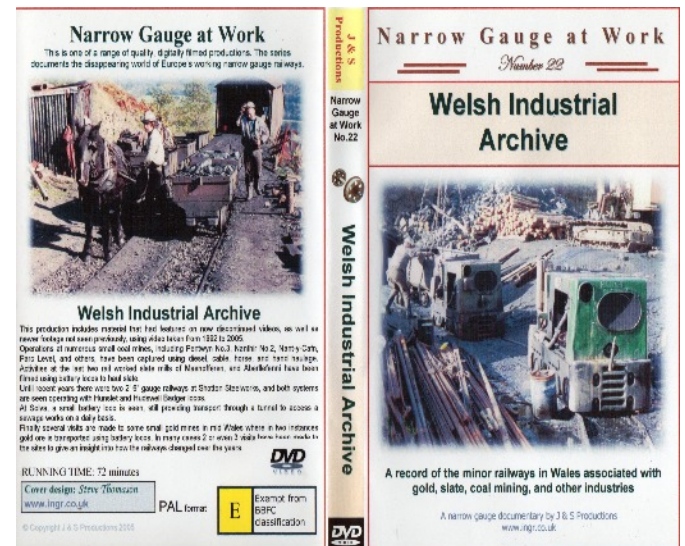
In summary it was a good days field archeology with plenty to see. Both collieries had remnants of engine beds and buildings as was evidenced by the brick.



Ken Geddies

The remains of the air shaft at Cuckoo Pit

Graham Topping



Welsh Industrial Archive

This DVD originates from 2005 but one of our members has just recently found it. It is available from the, Industrial Narrow Gauge Railways Society at a price of £14.00. There are 15 industrial sites visited on the DVD, 13 were mines, 7 coal, 2 slate and 4 gold. It includes what must be some of the last recordings of working pit ponies.

Supplied by Rob Needham.

Remembering the Oaks Colliery Disaster – unveiling the memorial.

On Sunday 7th May, the Friends of Hemingfield Colliery were present at the ceremony to mark the public unveiling of the memorial statue to the victims of the Oaks Colliery Disaster. The Oaks Colliery Disaster Memorial which was installed at Church Street in Barnsley was designed and sculpted by Graham Ibbeson (RCA). Friends Directors Christine and Glen were proud to attend the event, and form part of the public parade, which assembled at Regent Street South and Mandela Gardens at noon. There, the Dodworth Colliery Miners Welfare Band and the City of Sheffield Pipe Band formed a procession, with banners being carried by Trades Unions groups. Members of the public swelled the numbers as they marched up Church St to the unveiling.



Christine Cameron

Unveiling of the memorial statue.

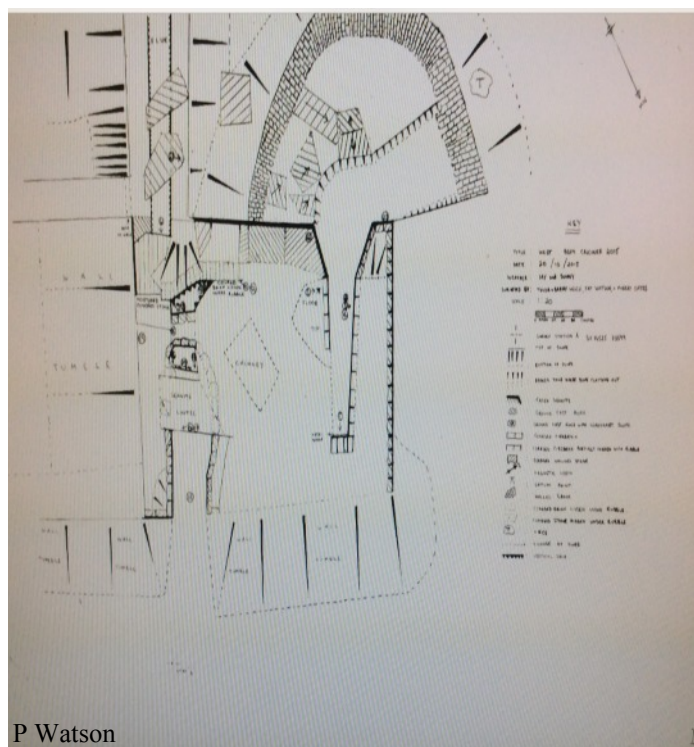


Graham Ibbe

Close up view of the statue.

West Beam tin mine near Ashburton.

We have recently carried out a 'dig' at the site of the West Beam tin mine near, Ashburton. The site includes the 'remains' of a small reverberatory furnace used for calcining tin concentrates to remove the arsenic and improve recoveries. The furnace was built around 1840. As far as we know no furnace of this type has survived in its original condition in Cornwall or Devon and this one may be one of the best preserved. I was wondering if any of your members has some specialist knowledge about the construction of small reverberatory furnaces widely used in the lead industry.



P Watson

I am appending the survey drawing for you to pass on and I can send photographs of the 'excavated' remains, one particular mystery is the presence of small chimney in the middle of the furnace, not its original position we are sure. I assume this small chimney was used during the drying stage of the process when gentle heat was applied. The main chimney was located at the top of the hill, the flue remains intact.

I would appreciate the assistance of your members in helping us gain a better understanding of the construction of this rare survivor of small scale calcining in the tin industry. Plenty of examples of later continuous calciners!!

Patrick Watson

The Yorkshire Mineral & Fossil Fair.

This event was held in the Garden Rooms at Tennant's, Leyburn, over the late May bank holiday weekend. NMRS were given a free stand as were the Russell Society. In a lovely spacious room I was able to set up our stand with some donated books and with many of our own publications, mostly relevant to the area, each small pile with an "Inspection Copy" on the top so people could browse at their leisure with no fears of grubby finger marks, curled up pages etc. I was very pleased that quite a few of our members were either exhibiting or called in to have a look and as I had requested in the last newsletter several new (to me) members introduced themselves which was very pleasing.



One of our members at the fair.

We sold quite a few books, and were able to attract two new members. I must say Ron Callender's display boards looked very good and attracted people. Just a pity we did not have room for more. Another result of this excellent PR opportunity was the generous donations of Russell Journals for our library and of some O.O.P NMRS publications from Pete Briscoe. If you, like me, prefer physical books rather than downloads, please contact me for any you are searching for. Remember your 25% members' discount still applies.

As Tennant's themselves say their complex is "A perfect venue in an area of outstanding natural beauty." With free entry and free parking, a cafe & restaurant,

free wi-fi and excellent wheelchair access, Tennant's is ideal. It is just a shame more people did not visit - the Sunday was extremely quiet. This is probably due to a lack of advertising (we certainly spread the word via our Newsletters and Facebook page), the event being on a Bank Holiday when people often go away (not many locals visited) and the fact there was a mineral auction on the Friday and several faces we recognised then did not attend the Fair on the Saturday. However from NMRS point of view it was a beneficial event for which we must thank Don Edwards, the Organiser, for our stand which has also been offered for 2018. Please note for anyone who picked up a flyer for the 2018 event the dates have now been changed to avoid the Bank Holiday and will be held on 19-20 May 2018. Nearer the time I will put the new flyers in the Newsletter.

That weekend there will probably be more people around. Tennant's hope to have an ordinary auction on the Saturday morning and there are always interesting displays in the large display cases at the venue. This time they featured amongst other things Victorian dresses and shoes and tennis related memorabilia not to mention vintage cars in the grounds awaiting their auction. All in all an enjoyable weekend, good company, and an excellent place where, Rex and I stayed for the second year running.

Barbara Sutcliffe.

Crossrail cont,

Crossrail's tunnelling marathon under London is now complete. Crossrail tunnelling began in May 2012 and ended at Farringdon with the arrival of tunnelling machine Victoria. Over the last three years, eight 1,000 tonne tunnelling machines have bored 42km or 26 miles of new 6.2 diameter rail tunnels under London.

Teams of dedicated workers have been working 24 hours a day to complete the tunnels for Europe's largest civil engineering project with thousands of others employed to upgrade the existing rail network and build major new stations in central London and Dock-lands. Crossrail's deep, large-scale route under London comprised three distinct underground spaces:

1. Railway tunnels:
2. Station tunnels & caverns:
3. Refurbishing the Connaught tunnel:

www.crossrail.co.uk

Open Day and EHR Beer Festival, 29th April 2017 by The Friends of Hemingfield Colliery

The May Day bank holiday weekend saw a busy day down at Hemingfield Colliery, as the Friends and a good crew of volunteers arrived on site, thankfully blessed with a bright and pleasant day.

Site manager Glen, together with Friends Chair Steve welcomed a host of familiar faces to site, John, John, Chris, Keith, Alan, Nigel to name but a few. Tackled up to continue the fencing of the site, half the crew made for the boundary to clear a line for fenceposts and panels. Meanwhile the industrial archaeologists in the group headed down to the lower terrace to dig more of the surface which is revealing original colliery stonework and - you've guessed it - more bricks.



On the fence. To the pallisades:

Blocking the way was, as you might expect, a recalcitrant Hawthorn stump, so John and Alan had at it, whilst others measured up the fence posts and panels ready to fill the gap. Extending the fence. Heavy duty posts and panels in place. Teamwork was the order of the day as digging, lifting, cement mixing and final adjustments all come into play when erecting a fence to

follow the lie of the land. The panels are, it must be conceded, large, cumbersome, and very heavy, so careful handling and concentration was required.



Shovel mix and concreting the fence panels



Pleasantly surprised.

With shovels, trowels and buckets at the ready, and with many years of industrial archaeology under their belts, the lower terrace diggers got to work revealing more of the stonework surface, and some as yet undetermined brick structures.

At the end of the day the lower level was looking much neater and we continue to make progress on exploring

and recording the archaeology on site. At the end of the day, as the volunteers headed home, a late visitor decided to make an appearance. The female pheasant explored the site at length, and appeared to take particular interest in our 1939 concrete headgear, before heading down to the canalside to enjoy the Trans Pennine Trail, no doubt.



Inspecting the head gear.

Elsecar Heritage Railway Beer Festival

A representative contingent from the Friends, Directors and volunteers alike, attended as the reader would expect, and sampled the produce, coming as it did in thirds, halves and pints. Enjoying good company, live music, food, and the sight of a working steam railway in the heart of our green and pleasant valley.

How do coal and beer come together, you might ask? Well both certainly played some part in fuelling industry, and it's always good to honour tradition. Failing that, and if you prefer a modern spin: Festival glassware atop a piece of Hemingfield. Meanwhile, off-site, artist Iain Nichols continues his excellent work on developing a virtual reality model of the pit top and part of the underground roads of Hemingfield Colliery as it was when working coal at the turn of twentieth century. In some further sneak peaks at the striking visuals and (trust us) atmospheric sounds, we're very much looking forward to experiencing the pit in VR and sharing it with others in the months ahead.

Friends of Hemingfield.

Field Trip. The Collieries Of West Calderdale Cancelled.



Foul Clough Lived up to its name on Saturday the 10th of June. As a result the field trip had to be cancelled due to atrocious weather. However the dedication of some of our members has to be admired with eight turning up at the meeting point. Hopefully this one could be added to next years list.

Graham Topping.

Memorial service to lost cavers 50 years ago

POTHOLERS who helped in the Mossdale Caverns rescue bid on Conistone Moor, near Grassington, 50 years ago and others are to attend a memorial service at St Mary's church Conistone, at 6.30pm on the Sunday, June 25. Six men died in the labyrinth of passages on June 24, 1967, when it was engulfed by flood water. It was to become the worse caving disaster in the history of potholing. The hundreds of people involved in the rescue bid battled through several nights, digging frantically to stem the rising water only to find all six men had perished. Their bodies were not removed and eventually they were entombed together in a place which was named Sanctuary.



Ron Bliss 1967

The scene of Mossdale Caverns.

The men were William Frakes, 19, of Eldwick, Colin Vickers, 23, of Kenley Mount, Moore Avenue, Bradford, David Adamson, 26, of York Road, Harworth, Jeffrey Boireau, 24, of Fearnlea Crescent, Swinton, John Ogden 21, of Cuerden Street, Colne and Michael Ryan, 17, of Dean Close, Rhodesway, Bradford.

The memorial service has been organised by Mick Melvin, a member of the Happy Wanderers Caving Club, who was involved in the rescue operation. Mr Melvin said: "Every year on the anniversary a number

old friends of the deceased cavers have walked up to the cave entrance to remember them and lay flowers. This year we are holding a memorial service at St. Mary's church in Conistone village." We're offering people who were around at the time of the tragedy and were affected by it to join us at the cave before the service and from where we can transport them by Land Rover."

The service will be attended by Rachel Taylor, the daughter of Colin Vickers, who was two-years-old when her father died. She is to read one of her own poems in his memory. The evening before the church service a private dinner is to be held at the Tennants Arms in Kilnsey, which is close to the cave. Mr Melvin has produced a definitive account of the incident "The Mossdale Tragedy 1967" as an e-publication which is downloadable from the Happy Wanderers Cave and Pothole Club website www.happywanderers.org.uk

Craven Herald & Pioneer. June 2017

"Last Chance Saloon" For Historic Mines Rescue Centre As Councillors Set To Decide On Building's Future.

The old Mines Rescue Station in Wrexham was opened in 1913 to train men in helping find survivors of mining accidents. Amongst those who trained here were men who took part in the mission to rescue miners from the 1934 Gresford disaster, when an explosion claimed the lives of 266 people.



The centre closed in the 1980s and was handed to the fire service and subsequently entered private ownership. Most recently it has

been a derelict building, almost subject to total illegal demolition in 2010 after its listing. George Powell, known for his involvement with Wrexham Warehouse Project, told us "We have met up with ex-miners to discuss what is the best option for the building and worked with the architects to put a plan together. "The ultimate thing at the end of it is it will be a training centre again and it will continue for what it was originally built for". **Wrexham.com.News**



(Left to right) Dave Brook, Mick Melvin, Rachel Taylor, together with Dave Nelson and Peter Huff of UWFRA who took her to Mossdale in 2014.

Following two recent rescues from Box Mines, Wiltshire. Quarry owners Hanson UK are proceeding with the fencing of all entrances.

One of the recent rescues was caused when a party who had entered the disused stone mines via the entrance known as Back Door were unable to exit through Jack's Working due to a grill installed after their last visit to the mine a couple of weeks earlier. They were unable to return to Back Door as they were only using mobile phone flashlights and their batteries were running low. Fortunately they had sufficient charge to be able to call for help from inside the mine.

Since then, quarry owners Hanson UK, have been working to install grills on other entrances to the mines. Darkness Below approached Hanson for comment and received the following information from David Weeks, PR and communications manager: "We are replacing grills at two entrances (Jack's and Back Door) which were damaged, and are planning to install a new grill at a third entrance (Lady Hamilton's) subject to consultation with Natural England regarding the bat population. The mines are a designated site of special scientific interest due to the population of greater and lesser horseshoe bats, which are a protected species.



Mark Jenkinson

Lady Hamilton's Hole.

We are also improving fencing on adjoining farmland and carrying out an awareness campaign locally to keep people out of the mines due to the danger posed by falling rocks and collapsing chambers. Last year we ceased all underground inspections on safety grounds." In response to a further question as to



Chris Smart

Bat Grill Entrance. Now welded shut.



Mark Jenkinson

Jack's entrance. Now fenced off.

whether Hanson would be willing to discuss negotiating access to the mines for experienced cavers and mine explorers. David Weeks responded: "No, there is no prospect of us entertaining access for anyone, I'm afraid. Nor should any experienced caver consider entering the mine."

From recent photographs received from local cavers and further information from Hanson, we can confirm that the work referred to above has now been carried out, and cavers and mine explorers should be aware of the fact that all access to Box Mines now appears to have been lost.

Darkness Below.com.uk July 2017.

New report on pits and quarries reserves.

There is a generally held view that the aggregates industry in Great Britain struggles to replenish mineral reserves, and that the problem relates primarily to sand and gravel in the south east. Whilst it is true that up to 40 sand and gravel pits in the south east and east of England could close in the next five years, this is only part of the problem. Other regions, such as Yorkshire & Humberside for example, also have similar difficulties in securing reserves. To fully understand the issues regarding aggregates reserves replenishment it needs a detailed analysis of mineral plans and planning documents, knowledge of planning decisions and discussion within the industry, to identify where the issues are.



Sand Quarry South East England.

BDS Marketing Research has published a report based on such analysis that estimates the reserves and reserves life at all active and inactive pits and quarries in Great Britain. The report includes figures for tonnages and years of life remaining by individual location and company. The statistical data is

supported by commentary at national and regional level. This is the only site-specific document available on reserves. Some of the conclusions of the BDS report are: the current sand and gravel landbank in Great Britain is estimated at 14.5 years. Tarmac has the largest volume of sand and gravel reserves, Lafarge Holcim has the most crushed rock reserves. All major companies will have to re-open mothballed sites or activate consented reserves at new sites to fulfil their reserves potential.

As a separate activity, BDS monitors all of the 400+ planning authorities in Great Britain on an ongoing basis. In order to identify all mines with less than 10 years life. All companies should be planning ahead.

Agg-Net 2017.

A future for coal in the UK: £200m coal mine edges closer to production.

The British coal mining industry looks set for revival, following a strong 2016 commodity cycle and a £200m coking coal project. West Cumbria Mining (WCM) plans to extract high value thermal coal to be used for steelmaking rather than coal used predominantly in power stations. The mine looks set for a 2019 open date and Mark Kirkbride, Chief Executive, believes that the mine project will revive the industry following a great 12 months. "Metallurgical coal was the best performing commodity in 2016," he said. "There is no source of it in Europe."

Coal (Metallurgical/Coking coal) saw an 8 percent rise in price in 2016, its most successful year following five consecutive years of decline. The plan for the mine will see the development of a coking coal mine just off the West Coast of England that will supply the European steel making coal market, which currently imports around 45 million tonnes per annum. WCM already has commitments from European steelmakers to take 500,000 tonnes a year. They rely on imports mainly from Australia and the US.

Kirkbride said: "The mine will have a life of at least 50 years. We have to get over our hangover in this country. There is a future for coal."

Mining Global. June 2017.

Plymouth's tungsten mine has been given a £10m loan to save it from potential disaster

The firm developing Plymouth's vast open-pit tungsten mine has hammered out a deal to receive an additional £10 million safety-blanket loan – and could increase this further after the open-cast pit was hit with production delays and low ore prices.

Wolf Minerals Ltd has stretched its existing bridge facility from £30 million to £40 million to support its short-term working capital whilst additional funding is found for "long term self-sustainable operations" at the £130 million Drakelands mine, at Hemerdon. The Australian-owned firm reached an agreement with



Aerial view of Drakelands Mine.

Resource Capital Fund VI LP (RCF VI) to amend an existing bridging deal, put in place in 2016. The additional bridge facility cash will provide funds for the advancement of this plan and will enable the company to continue to progress discussions with third parties as part of a previously announced strategic review of the financial alternatives available while tungsten prices are so low. Richard Lucas, who took over from Russell Clark as Wolf's interim managing director in April 2017, said: "The company has identified additional resources and expertise to drive improvements in operating performance and build a long term sustainable business. "Despite the low-price environment for tungsten and commodities in general, the continued support of RCF VI is testament to their confidence in Drake-lands and the Wolf management team."

The Herald. June 29th 2017. {Edited}

Mining firm hopes to extract lithium from Cornwall's hot springs

Plans by Cornish Lithium to explore metal deposits in saline waters raises hopes of mining revival in English county. It is known across the world for its proud tin mining tradition but plans have

been announced to try to extract a different metal from beneath Cornwall's craggy landscape – lithium.

The presence of lithium in underground hot salty springs in Cornwall has long been known but until now the water was regarded as a nuisance because it flooded tin mines, rather than as a business opportunity. Now that lithium is increasingly being used in batteries for electric cars and for power storage, the salty water is potentially a hugely valuable commodity that could boost the Cornish economy and create much-needed new jobs. A company, Cornish Lithium, has been formed and has secured rights to what it believes is the largest unified mineral exploration programme in the history of Poldark country. Jeremy Wrathall, the chief executive of Cornish Lithium, said on Thursday: "We believe the potential benefits of developing a lithium industry in Cornwall will be significant for the county and for the UK as a whole."



Cornish Lithium chief Jeremy Wrathall (left) with the president of Strongbow Exploration, Richard Williams. Photograph: Cornish Lithium/PA.

Wrathall, a graduate of the Camborne School of Mines in Cornwall, said the company would explore an area of about 300 sq km centred on the traditional mining areas of Camborne, Redruth and St Day. It puts the cost of this exploration phase at £5m and is looking for investors. Negotiations are ongoing with other owners of mineral rights within Cornwall.

The idea is to drill boreholes at least 400 metres deep to access "brines" carrying lithium-rich hot water. If enough lithium is found to make the project economically viable, processing plants will be built and the metal will be extracted.

Agg-net May 2017. {Edited}

Gold mining in Northern Ireland is to get started after the police agreed to guard explosives used in the operation.

Galantas Gold Corporation, based outside Omagh, Co Tyrone, had been in dispute with the police over the security provided for materials needed for their deep mining operation. It had been reported previously that plans to dig for gold were in jeopardy due to the disagreement over the level of security the PSNI were willing to offer. However, in a statement issued yesterday, Galantas said they were “pleased to advise that underground mine development operations are shortly expected to commence at the Omagh Gold Mine”. It is understood, however, that talks are ongoing over the longer term commitment the police are willing to provide to the firm. Asked about the Galantas statement, Chief Superintendent Kevin Dunwoody said: “The PSNI will continue to work with companies such as Omagh Minerals and will endeavour to support their requests, as and when circumstances permit. “We have continued to work with Galantas and are currently discussing their revised proposal.”



Omagh Gold Mine.

In their statement, the company said plans to start mining “follows notification that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has been able to increase availability of its required anti-terrorism cover in regard to blasting operations, sufficient for underground mine development to start”. They added: “As reported, on

24th April 2017, the PSNI requires that it supervises transportation and use of certain rock breaking materials and explosives in Northern Ireland. “The Company is advised that the PSNI has agreed to cover blasting operations at the mine for 3 days per week, 2 hours per day. Whilst insufficient to sustain the development or operation of the Omagh Gold Mine on more than a short term basis, it will form the basis for the PSNI and the Company to review matters after a period of operation.

Gold mining in Northern Ireland is to get started after the police agreed to guard explosives used in the operation. Galantas Gold Corporation, based outside Omagh, Co Tyrone, had been in dispute with the police over the security provided for materials needed for their deep mining operation. It had been reported previously that plans to dig for gold were in jeopardy due to the disagreement over the level of security the PSNI were willing to offer. However, in a statement issued yesterday, Galantas said they were “pleased to advise that underground mine development operations are shortly expected to commence at the Omagh Gold Mine”. It is understood, however, that talks are ongoing over the a short term basis, it will form the basis for the PSNI longer term commitment the police are willing to provide to the firm. Asked about the Galantas statement, Chief Superintendent Kevin Dunwoody said: “The PSNI will continue to work with companies such as Omagh Minerals and will endeavour to support their requests, as and when circumstances permit. “We have continued to work with Galantas and are currently discussing their revised proposal.” In their statement, the company said plans to start mining “follows notification that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has been able to increase availability of its required anti-terrorism cover in regard to blasting operations, sufficient for underground mine development to start”.

They added: “As reported, on 24th April 2017, the PSNI requires that it supervises transportation and use of certain rock breaking materials and explosives in Northern Ireland. “The Company is advised that the PSNI has agreed to cover blasting operations at the mine for 3 days per week, 2 hours per day. Whilst insufficient to sustain the development or operation of the Omagh Gold Mine on more than and the Company to review matters after a period of operation.

Belfast Live news:16th May 2017.

Ivor John Brown

It is with deep regret that we advise members of the death of Ivor John Brown (1937 to 2017) about whom to say he was passionate about mining would be an understatement. It was in his DNA. Ivor grew up in Madeley, Shropshire, and his father was chief clerk at Kemberton, later Madeley Wood, Colliery. Other family members also worked there and at 15 he too became a pitman, but on the NCB's seven year training course which led to the award of a Diploma in Mining Engineering at North Staffordshire Technical College (now University) in 1959. In 1962 he got his Colliery Manager's Certificate (No.8435 1962), only to be told that the NCB was closing its Shropshire pits. Undeterred, he got a Teaching Certificate in 1963 and taught general mining courses and others specifically for ironstone mining and quarrying. He became a Chartered Engineer (Mining) in 1966, and a Fellow of the Institution of Materials, Minerals and Mining and of the Institute of Quarrying.

Ivor returned to Shropshire, in 1972, as Senior Engineer, overseeing the Telford Development Corporation's land reclamation programme and opencast sites, in preparation for Telford New Town. He published two papers on this work in British Mining No.11 as well as using it as the basis for his Doctorate from Leicester University in "Aspects of Engineering Geology in Land Reclamation" awarded in 1974. Ivor moved into mineral and waste disposal planning in 1977, leading teams in West Yorkshire, Leeds, and Staffordshire Minerals Planning Authorities, drawing up policies at a local, regional and national level. He was also Chair of the Yorkshire Quarrying Association. In the early 1990s Ivor examined potential coal concessions in Indonesia and Borneo under the British Executive Services Overseas programme. From 1993 he spent 12 years of his "retirement" acting as an independent consultant in the UK and abroad, advising on mining and museum projects. In recent years he acted as a consultant with international consultants on the re-appraisal of mineral development policies for Scotland, codes for stability in the development of mined and quarried sites, the regeneration of former industrial sites, the reclamation of derelict land and the industrial archaeological assessment of sites.

He was an industrial archaeological consultant to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT) from 1968, and was involved with proposals for a Yorkshire Mining Museum, which opened at Caphouse Colliery and is now the National Coal Mining Museum for England.

He kept an active interest in Caphouse, working as a volunteer in its Library, having been at a museum function on the day of his death. He was also involved in the development of heritage projects at Minera, Aberfan and the Shropshire Lead Mines.

Ivor was a prolific writer, especially for the Shropshire Caving & Mining Club, of which he was an Honorary Member, but other papers are to be found in British Mining and Mining History. I was honoured to know Ivor from the early days (1979) of NAMHO when he was Treasurer and I was Secretary. Like others, I always found Ivor a warm and helpful person with a wide wealth of knowledge and meticulous attention to detail. My visits to Caphouse will not be the same now. I looked forward to relaxed chats, sharing details of our researches and just sharing tittle tattle. Our thoughts are with Ivor's wife, Iris, his two daughters and his grandchildren. Many thanks go to Kelvin Lake for sharing details of Ivor's extensive C.V. and legacy.

Mike Gill

Gaping Gill, Summer 2017 with CPC

The Craven Pothole Club welcomes fellow cavers to join us at our Summer meet. For the duration of the meet, the Estate delegates supervision of access to the system to CPC. All we ask is that you let us (at the Booking Tent) know your plans and call out details (whether using our ropes or your own).

We will be setting up on the weekend of the 12th and will be on the Fell for that week. You are welcome to visit us then (the winch only runs for CPC members / guests). The Public Week with regular winching will run in the second week, from 19th August to Sunday 23rd August (NOT on the Bank Holiday Monday, when access to the system is restricted). The winch down to the main chamber provides a good starting point for trips not needing SRT, and a great way to start exploring the system. If you wish to cross Mud Hall bring cows tails.

During the meet some of the other entrances to the system will be rigged for SRT (We'll start with Bar & Dihedral) . If you need advice about routes, entrances etc ask! You are welcome to rig other entrances with your own ropes if you wish, but let us know your plans. Only competent cavers with appropriate experience and equipment may access the alternative entrances to the system. You are required to have BCA insurance (or equivalent).

UKCaving.com

Hanson Cement planning £20 million Padeswood upgrade

Plans for new vertical roller mill to improve efficiency, reduce energy consumption and boost output. Hanson's Cement are planning a £20 million upgrade project at their Padeswood cement works, in Flintshire, which will guarantee the long-term future of the plant and its 96 employees. At the heart of the project will be the installation of a new vertical roller mill for cement grinding, which will improve efficiency, reduce energy consumption and increase output.



Hanson's Padeswood Plant

Hanson are also planning to invest in new rail-loading facilities, to allow more cement to be delivered by train, thereby reducing lorry movements. A planning application will be submitted to Flintshire, County Council in the summer. If approved, construction work will begin later this year with the new mill fully operational by early 2019. The Padeswood plant currently has four operational mills that are old and inefficient. In addition, they do not have the capacity to grind the volume of clinker made by the kiln, creating a production imbalance and resulting in some of the clinker being transported elsewhere for grinding.

Plant manager Steve Hall said: 'The plan is to mothball three of the old mills and install a new vertical roller mill capable of grinding up to 650,000 tonnes of clinker a year. The new mill will be fully enclosed in a building, minimizing noise and reducing the potential for escape of cement dust.' The project also includes the construction of new cement silos alongside the existing railway line to load trains for delivery. At present the rail link is used to bring in coal to fire the kilns. In future, three trains a week will be dispatched to Hanson's depots in London, Bristol and Scotland – around 15% of the plant's total cement production.

Agg-net. May 2017.

Pastor unearths a 706-carat giant diamond in Sierra Leone

A Pastor working in the mines of eastern Sierra Leone has unearthed a 706-carat diamond. The large stone was discovered by Emmanuel Momoh, one of thousands who work in the informal mining sector dominating the diamond-rich Kono region, the Government said.

The Government plans to hold a transparent auction for the gem in a country once tainted by so-called blood diamonds. "The 706-carat diamond was presented to President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma yesterday evening," the president's office said on Thursday. "Receiving the diamond, President Koroma thanked the chief and his people for not smuggling the diamond out of the country," he added, referring to the Tankoro chiefdom where Momoh uncovered the gem. It would be sold in Sierra Leone with a "transparent" bidding process to the benefit of the community and country, the government said. The sale of blood diamonds helped finance civil wars across Africa in the 1990's, and often funded military dictatorships.



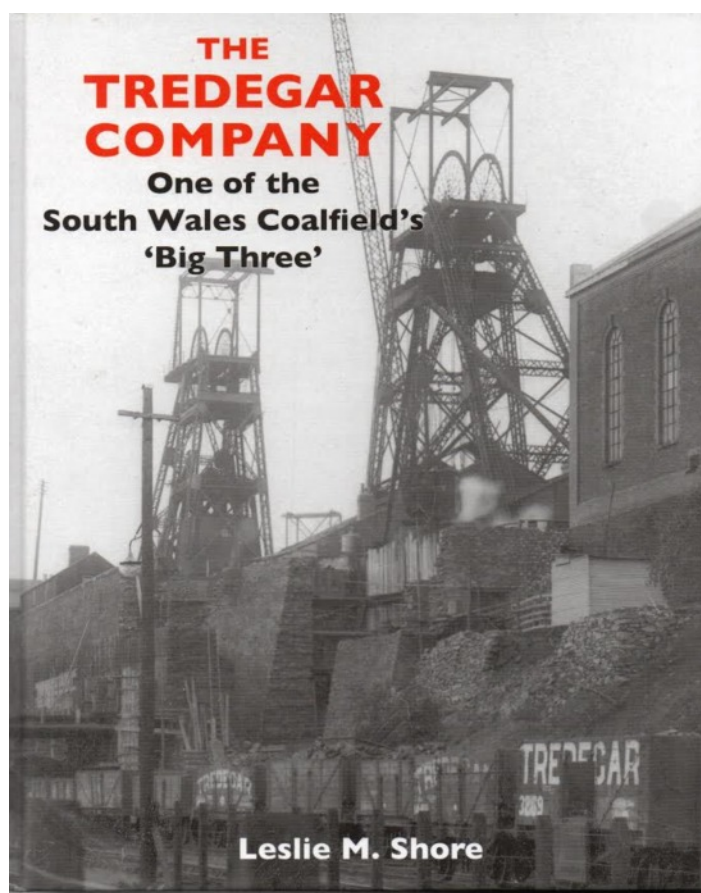
The uncut Cullinan stone. 3,106 carats.

The diamond presented on Thursday, once confirmed by experts, is expected to rank among the largest. A 1,111-carat diamond was discovered at a mine in Botswana in 2015, the biggest find for more than a century. That gem is second in size only to the Cullinan diamond, which was unearthed in South Africa in 1905. It weighed 3,106 carats uncut, according to the Cape Town Diamond Museum. The Cullinan was cut into several gems, including two set into the sceptre and crown of the British crown jewels.

The Guardian. March 2017. {Edited}

THE TREDEGAR COMPANY. BOOK REVIEW.

Following the author's 2012 history of Powell Duffryn, this book covers another of the 'Big Three' of the South Wales coalfield. In two hundred pages, the history of the Tredegar Company is covered in depth from the early days leading up to the founding of the Tredegar ironworks to the final colliery closure some two centuries later. I was pleased to find that it's a good solid read, not one of those books with lots of blank white paper. I had a few minor niggles on typos that had been missed and occasions where I felt the wrong word had been used.



But if you're interested in the history of coal-mining, buy this book. My only question is - if this is the author's second book on South Wales coalfield companies, can we expect a third to complete the 'Big Three'?

The Tredegar Company: One of the South Wales Coalfield Big Three. Leslie M. Shore. 208 pages. Printed on gloss art paper with colour laminated board covers. ISBN: 9781911038207. Also available on-line from Lightmoor Press. £25.00.

Reviewed by. Rob Needham.

THE INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL EARLY ENGINES CONFERENCE.

Over three days, from Thursday 11th until Saturday 13th May, the inaugural IEEC saw over 80 delegates from the UK, Germany, China and New Zealand travelling to Elsecar in South Yorkshire to hear an extensive programme of papers on the history and developments of early heat engines.



Conference delegates. Photograph NMRS. Face book page.

The Centre is home to the preserved 1795 'Great Engine' – the only Newcomen-type atmospheric beam engine in the world to have remained in its original location. The conference was attended by 75 delegates and followed the theme of "Thomas Newcomen and colleagues' achievements untainted by the smokescreens of Watt". The delegates were treated to a full, varied and stimulating programme of talks, site visits and guided walks.

The conference sponsors were: the Newcomen Society, Historical Metallurgy Society, Northern Mine Research Society, and the South Gloucestershire Mine Research Group. Barnsley Museums and Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council provided Site facilities, bookings and support. It is intended to publish the Transactions around May 2018, and further conferences are planned. Steve Grudgings and his team are to be congratulated for organising such a successful event.

Mike Gill

Multi-million pound value of Anglesey copper mine's hidden deposits revealed

A study on the potential deposits of an Anglesey mine has been released. The scoping study on Parys Mountain, near Amlwch, claims there are deposits of copper, lead, zinc, gold and silver worth up to \$270m (around £210m). Anglesey Mining's multi-million pound deal to re-start work at Parys Mountain near Amlwch after 100 years collapsed in 2009 when the economic crisis sent metal prices tumbling. Since then a mineral resource estimate confirmed additional finds of copper, zinc and lead and Anglesey Mining commissioned a full scoping report before deciding what to do next.

Now that the report prepared by Micon International Limited (Micon) and Fairport Engineering Ltd (Fairport) has come back. It has increased hopes that mining could one day return to the site - once the world's biggest copper producer - but there have been several previous false dawns at Parys. The report envisages a mining rate of 1,000 tonnes per day over an initial mine life of eight years.



Parys Mountain Anglesey

The overall net smelter return (NSR) for the three concentrates (zinc, copper, lead) and the silver and gold precious metals contributions, is expected to total more than \$270 million at the forecast metal prices used for the base case models. The pre-production capital cost of the preferred option base case is estimated at \$53 million (£40m). Operating costs were estimated at \$47 (£36) per tonne of ore treated. Bill Hooley, Anglesey Mining chief executive, said: "We are very pleased with the results of the Scoping Study which demonstrate a viable mine development at Parys Mountain and a healthy financial internal

rate of return. "The base case economic model at 1,000 tonnes per day indicates a robust project at consensus forecasts for the long-term prices of zinc and copper. "This is the first detailed economic study of the Parys Mountain project for a number of years and, based on the current availability of reconditioned process plant, the estimated pre-production capital cost for the project is at a level that could be financeable."

Both Micon and Fairport have recommended that further work be carried out, including more detailed mine and stope design and underground geo-technical studies. John Kearney, Anglesey Mining chairman, said: "I have been involved with this company and the Parys Mountain project for many years, and I am encouraged that many of the variables and moving parts, including metal prices, treatment charges and used plant availability, have now moved in our favour and present a real and realisable opportunity for Parys Mountain.

Daily Post July 2017.

St. Patrick's Mine Avoca 1956-62

This collection of slides and photographs that were taken by Ross Corey between 1956 and 1962 while he worked at the St. Patrick's Mine, Avoca. He started out as the Metallurgical Manager in charge of the building of the concentrator; including documentation. He then moved on to Mill Manager. The slides and photos in this collection include not only the mine, residences, and surrounding area, but also social events. Ross and his wife Alice moved from Canada to Ireland in 1956. They loved Ireland, travelling extensively throughout the south and into western Europe. While in Ireland they adopted a son, Neil in 1962. That same year they returned to Canada where they adopted a daughter, Kathleen in 1963, and another son Christopher in 1968. Alice, Neil and Christopher were killed in a tragic car accident in 1971. Ross passed away in 2001. This collection has been donated by Ross daughter Kathleen Corey Hamilton who lives in Canada with her husband. They have three adult children who have the family passion for adventure. to a country that held such a special place in my parent's hearts.

"Our Wicklow Heritage"

India to invest \$10 billion in new coal power stations.

India's state-run power utility has revealed plans to invest \$10 billion in new coal-fired power stations over the next five years. ., also the country's largest power producer, plans to build three new supercritical plants with a combined capacity of more than 5 GW during the first phase of investment. Two 660 MW units are planned for Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh, central India, and another two units for Talcher in Odisha in the east, with a 2.4 GW plant in the eastern state of Jharkhand.

Once completed, the new plants would be 2-3 per cent more efficient and nearly double the capacity of the plants currently being phased out around the country. Despite a number of active coal-fired stations not currently operating at full capacity due to unexpectedly weaker demand, the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) – a government advisory panel – believes that the country's per-capita power consumption could jump around a third to up to 2,924 kilowatt-hours by 2040 from 2012 levels due to an untapped market of around 300 million people not currently connected to the electricity grid.

NTPC insiders are therefore confident that power consumption will quickly pick up to justify the investment.

The Energy Advocate. July 2017.

For sale. Reproduction 1800s slate mining cart industrial solid pine version 2 ft, gauge coffee table.



This reproduction coffee table was recently for sale on EBay for £500.00. It comes with solid iron rails and is roughly 900cm/600cm in size. Not my cup of tea but if you are into mining memorabilia then perhaps this is for you?. It did not sell so perhaps there's room for negotiations?. It is still on there so look it up if you are interested.

Graham Topping.

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of its correspondents and are not necessarily agreed with or shared by the Northern Mine Research Society, its Officers or the Newsletter Editor. The accuracy of statements made in articles submitted for publication will not normally be checked for validity by the Newsletter Editor. The responsibility for the content of articles submitted by individual members or groups remains with the authors and cannot be accepted by the Society, its Officers or the Newsletter Editor.

Data Protection Act

Members are reminded that the NMRS maintains a list of their names and addresses solely for the purposes of printing labels for Membership Cards and posting newsletters and publications. Such details are deleted from the database for any member who leaves the Society, either after the committee have been notified or after it has been determined that an overdue subscription has not been paid for several months.

The Northern Mine Research Society is a
Registered Charity

No. 326704

Visit our Website

www.nmrs.org.uk