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**Please note that the
deadline for inclusion in
the November 2018
newsletter is 26th Oct.
2018.**

President's Jottings

Many thanks to all our members who attended our Spring Meeting in Ingleton and to those who were unable to attend but sent their apologies. The meeting was followed by a most interesting walk led by Matthew Hatton around two intact lime kilns; a fascinating Hoffman Kiln, three bottle kilns and the scant remains of a later stainless steel kiln, all of which are next door to the good transport offered by the Settle-Carlisle railway.

Regrettably, this will be my first and last Jotting. The reason being that, although I am nominally retired, I am kept very busy by a series of corrosion consultancies the solving of which leaves me insufficient free time to devote proper attention to the NMRS. Fortunately, Barbara is will to act as President until the next election for which I am very thankful.

Those of us who attended the underground meet at Rampgill mine enjoyed a most interesting day and we must thank Mick Cooke for having arranged it.

As you may know, Mick is our Secretary but wishes to stand-down at the Spring Meeting in 2019. Anyone who wishes to volunteer please contact Barbara.

Please remember the surface walk to Skelton Park Pit and Shaft Mine on Saturday August 18th the underground trip on Saturday 22nd September to Coate Moor Mine, Kildale and the AGM at Gisburn Festival Hall on Saturday 20th October, for which pre-booking for the buffet lunch is essential. Regarding the Coate Moor Mine trip, I am advised that a BCA Red Card is as acceptable as a BCA Green Card.

Quite a few of us attended the NAMHO Conference at Parkend in the Forest of Dean. The weather was excellent for those who surface walked and the underground trips were very interesting. An interesting point is that there is no fire-damp in any of the Forest Collieries. Another point is that if you are not really fit do not go down the Whigpool Iron Mine!

I would like to welcome the following new members and wish them a long and happy membership of the NMRS:

Mr. Chris Hunter
Mr. David Gibson
Mr. David Sperry
Mr. Charlie Fowler
Mr. Owen Lokuciejewski-Taylor
Mr. Daniel Whiteford
Mr. Tony Wright
Mr Frank Saunders

Arnside
Hull
Shipton Bellinger
Ennerdale
Leeds
Ormiston
Doddington
Spennymoor

Sadly, after Easter we heard of the death of a long-term member Alan Suddes.

I must thank all the members of the committee for their input and time since the last Newsletter.

Finally, it is our custom to have short presentations (limited to 15 minutes) at our AGM. Notice of presentations should be sent to Barbara with a title, and please remember to pre-book for the buffet lunch with Barbara giving any dietary options.

James Cleland.

Society News.

Library news.

Thank you to many generous donors of material for the library. In particular, thank you to Matthew Hatton for a dozen books on coal mining, including personal stories from mining families ("The Wheels Turn" by A M Grayson, "After the Dust has Settled" by T Ellis, "A Chronicle of Easington Colliery" by M N Bell, "Tower of Strength" by T O'Sullivan, "Bowers Row" by J Bullock and "From Coal Mine Upwards" by J Dunn) and on mining railways at Denaby, Backworth and Hickleton Main. Thank you to Tony Oldham for a gazetteer of Scottish mines, Irene Hughson's "The Auchenharvie Colliery" and Steve Jones' account of filming in Irian Jaya's underground river. Thank you to Rob Needham for Simon Chapman's excellent "A History of Iron Working at Glaisdale" and for "Mining in Cornwall Today". Thank you to Richard Smith for Les Turnbull's "The Early Railways of the Derwent Valley", "Kingswood Coal" about South Gloucestershire mining sites and Steve Grudgings' "Jarrit Smith's 1751 Newcomen Engine". Thank you to Rex Cook for recent copies of "Down to Earth"; thanks to Rex's generosity we now have almost a complete set of "Down to Earth" going back to 2008. Thank you to John Cordingley for more material which belonged to the late Jack Myers, including L St L Pendred's "The Order Book of the New Wire Company, Cheadle, 1788-1831; Jack's "Tracing the Boundary of the Concealed Coalfield of Yorkshire using the Gravity Method"; J McFarlane's "Radon Investigations at Gilfield Mine" and "Gilfield Mine" published by LUMA; The Moorland Ramblers' Club "Swaledale Mine Investigations" of 1961; H J L Bruff's "A Glossary of Mining Terms in Common Use among the Miners of Greenhow Hill in Yorkshire"; and Nellie Kirkham's "Derbyshire Lead Mining Glossary" published by the Cave Research Group.

Sally Bassham {Honorary Librarian}

An Appeal To Readers

In his excellent book on the Gold Mines of Merionethshire, T A Morrison states that the Cefn Coch gold mine was once named The New California Mine. He gives a reference to a journal ... but searches in two archive offices prove that the journal does not exist.

I would love to have help in tracing a primary source to confirm the Californian connection. Any reader who helps me to solve the riddle will receive a copy of my booklet, Goldminer's Diary.

Ron Callender : finlaggan@hotmail.com

Honorary Secretary.

As those of you who attended the AGM in April will know, I announced my intention to resign from my post as Honorary Secretary from the date of the 2019 AGM. I hope that by placing this short paragraph in the Newsletter, a volunteer to take my place will be found before that date. If anyone is interested in this interesting post, please will you get in touch with me. **Email, mecooke@tiscali.co.uk**

Mick Cooke {Honorary Secretary}

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 18th August, Skelton Park Pit and Shaft Mine: Surface walk over good ground. Bring hard hat, boots and lunch. Meet 10.30am at GR NZ 64387 18051, off the A173 twist Guisborough and Skelton, take track off the double bend to Park House.

Leader – Colin Keighley, 07442173889 or

Saturday 22nd September, Coate Moor Mine, Killdale Meet 10.30am, GR, NZ 60360 10027. Mod underground trip. Bring lunch, hard hat with lamp and boots. As with all NMRS underground trips, BCA insurance is a requirement for this trip.

Leader - Colin Keighley, 07442173889 or

A Book Donation



Recently as a result of seeing our "Books for Sale" article in our newsletters we had a very generous donation from one of our members, Rob Roberts. We really appreciate these donations. Some books have gone to our library, some are going to a member to help him in his PhD research, some were sold at our recent garage book sale and some will be listed in future newsletters. Members going to our Autumn meeting will also see some. Thank you Mr Roberts - you have spread so much pleasure to the book lovers amongst us and also helped our society financially.

Barbara Sutcliffe

Please Note. Change of Email Address for the editor. Please use this one below for the submission of articles to the Newsletter.

glt2top@gmail.com

Study on the impact of fracking near former mine works

A BRITISH geologist is due to launch a report which will look at the impact of fracking in areas of former mine works in the UK.

Professor Peter Styles gave a recent presentation to the Yorkshire Society of Geologists on his work, which looks at the impact of hydraulic fracturing on underlying faults from historic mining works. Prof Styles grew up in Northumberland and, after graduating from Oxford, completed a doctorate in plate tectonics at Newcastle University. The former President of the Geological Society of London also advised the UK government on underground storage of nuclear waste.

He told the website "Drill Or Drop" that fracking could lead to seismic activity by stimulating faults in geology already stressed by mining.



A Geologist has studied the potential impact of Fracking near fault lines in mines.

The retired academic said he thinks fracking should not be carried out within 850m of a fault in any area and says the risk in mining regions could be greater. He said: "We have already changed the stress in these areas by removing the coal and allowing the ground above to subside. "We have already preconditioned the faults. Even when mining stops it is still possible to have seismicity, as we have seen recently around Ollerton and Thoresby in Nottinghamshire." He said some faults were too small to be identified on geological maps or seismic surveys but were still big enough to cause the 0.5 magnitude earthquakes that under UK regulations would stop fracking.

The Northern Echo. May 2018.

Staggering clean-up of river polluted by metal mine

A pilot scheme to clean rivers polluted by abandoned metal mines has delivered "staggering" results, environment officials have claimed. The new technology - thought to be a world-first - removed up to 99.5% of metals which impact water quality.

The electrochemical technique separated a metallic sludge from mine discharges leaving clean water behind.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) said it marked a potential "step change" in how the problem is handled. Metal mining in the UK peaked in the 18th and 19th centuries and though they have now all closed, their effect on the environment is still obvious.

Wales has more than 1,300 abandoned metal mines, impacting more than 67 water bodies and in excess of 370 miles (600 km) of



Orange Metallic Sludge to Clean river water

river. Nine of the 10 worst affected catchments in the UK are in Wales. The innovative treatment plant has been tested on a stretch of the river Rheidol near Aberystwyth in Ceredigion. The area is popular with tourists for its scenic reservoir, steam train and red kites, but it was once home to mines producing lead and zinc which now discharge highly acidic, orange water into the river.

It is thought eight tonnes of metal, including zinc, chromium and cadmium, enter the Rheidol every year, spreading out over 11 miles (18 km) of river, killing fish and other wildlife. Since the 1960's the polluted water has been collected in large pools in an attempt to filter out the metals, with limited success.



Potable Extraction Unit.

More recently, treating it using a combination of compost, limestone and cockle shells has been more effective. However, scaling up this technique would require much more land than is available in the narrow, steep-sided valley, so NRW asked technology companies to come up with an innovative solution. A portable treatment plant - the size of a car - is attached to a small generator. The system sucks in the dirty water discharged and uses a combination of electrolysis and ultrasound to clean it and correct its acidity.

Swansea-based Power and Water is the company behind the technology. "What we are able to do is to add a small amount of power on to an anode and cathode which slowly dissolve into the [contaminated water]. That allows for a chemical reaction where any contaminants are removed and the clean water can safely be discharged," said chief executive Gareth Morgan.

The metallic sludge which sinks to the bottom of the tank can then also be removed safely. In future it is hoped the sludge could potentially be sold and the metals extracted and re-used.

BBC Wales News. May 2018.

Quarry plan can resume for next three decades despite over 170 objections



Quarry plan for land of St Giles Rd, Brighouse.

Quarrying at a spot above Brighouse has been given the green light to resume, despite over 170 objections. Marshalls Mono Ltd, a former Huddersfield firm now based in Elland, has been told by Calderdale councillors it can resume quarrying at Crow Nest Quarries, St Giles Road, Lightcliffe. And Marshalls can quarry the land until February 2047.

It was despite 174 letters of objection to the planning bid, with residents citing concerns about dust, noise, highway safety and ecological issues.

Marshalls Mono Ltd saw members of Calderdale Council's Planning Committee back planning officers' recommendation to approve a set of conditions under which it can operate.

Councillors were reminded that they could only decide on the conditions, not the principle of quarrying itself, which was long established.

They heard the quarry had been active since the early 1900s, but residents and ward councillor George Robinson (Con, Hipperholme and Lightcliffe) argued conditions had changed since then and there were now around 400 homes close by. A spokesman for objectors said he accepted it was an application limited under mineral rights legislation but still thought that was wrong and "vehemently opposed" it.

Conditions had changed significantly from previous decades and large vehicle movement was completely unacceptable. Marshalls' application was "beyond comprehension" he said, outlining concerns including noise pollution, the effect of sulphur dust, wear and tear on road potholes and general disruption to everyday life.

Ecologically, "it's at least 1,000 trees that would be in peril on the site, allied to noxious diesel issues and having a long-term harmful effect on local people," he said. Councillor Robinson said conditions on operating the quarry came in 1951 when Hove Edge did not exist. Now there were hundreds of homes, three schools – and another three in the area – whose pupils used associated routes like Grassy Lane to get to school.

Sports clubs also used routes associated with the quarry and close attention should be paid to suitable conditions. An agent for Marshalls said the site, formerly home to Hipperholme Concrete Works, had been temporarily restored in 2006 by the company who had used trees for screening while concrete tipping operations were carried out. He estimated between two and four wagons a day would take stone from the site. The 43 conditions provide controls on the site's use and restoration when operations cease at a date not later than February 21, 2047.

The Huddersfield Examiner. May 2018.



Written by Lorraine Luescher.

The Louisa Mine Project

Living and working in the Meggat Valley, it's impossible not to be intrigued by the traces left behind by past inhabitants of the valley. It's well-known that the hills of Upper Eskdale in Southern Scotland have been inhabited for thousands of years, and the low level of cultivation in the area has allowed evidence of human activity to be preserved down the centuries.

The Louisa Antimony Mine is an important part of the more recent industrial heritage of the area. It is registered by Historic Scotland in the Schedule of Monuments as a monument of national importance. The mine was first worked from 1793-1798 and again from 1888-1891. It was opened again briefly from 1919-1921. During these periods upwards of 40 miners and their families lived in the Meggat valley where a school was built to educate the miners' children. The earliest miners formed a book society at Jamestown and some of the books collected by the miners can still be seen in The Westerkirk Library. Documentary

evidence on the mine is scarce and, at times, at variance with field evidence, and there are many gaps in the story. The Louisa Mine publication is a collation of existing historical records and geological data, supported by photographs of the site, remains of the workings and structures associated with the mine. It is available from the Lorraine Luescher for £3.50 plus postage and packaging at glendinningfarms@btopenworld.com.

Supplied by Len Morris.

Police investigate Gold panning in Welsh river

Individuals thought to be finding flecks of gold at Afon Wen but police say there is no gold rush. An investigation has been launched into gold panning at a Welsh river and police have asked local people to contact them if any suspicious activity is spotted in the area.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW), supported by North Wales police, is monitoring activity at the Afon Wen near Dolgellau in north Wales. They are worried that gold panning at the river, a site of special scientific interest, risks damaging the riverbed, its banks and precious flora and fauna.



Panning For Gold, Wales.

NRW declined to talk in detail about the situation for fear it would inspire more people to look for gold in north Wales and potentially cause more damage. But a spokesperson made it clear there was no “gold rush” taking place in the area and urged people to

stay away. Panning and mining for gold has been taking place in the area for centuries. The last commercial mine closed 20 years ago but there are plans to restart an operation near Dolgellau.

Welsh gold is still very much in demand and Meghan Markle is expected to wear a Welsh gold ring when she marries Prince Harry, following in a royal tradition begun by the Queen Mother in 1923.

The panning believed to be going on is on a very modest level. It is understood to centre on one or two individuals who are understood to finding just a few flecks of gold.

DC Eryl Lloyd, who is on secondment to NRW from North Wales police, said: “We are investigating the legality of gold panning activity on NRW-managed land in the Afon Wen at Hermon, near Dolgellau. Rivers and their wildlife are protected by law to safeguard them from damaging activities. “Our aim is always to work with others to protect the environment. However, if this is not possible we will take legal action. In this instance, our investigations are ongoing.”

In 2010 signs were installed at the Afon Wen and a second river warning that gold panners could face legal action if they were judged to be damaging the rivers during their activities. Panners have insisted they are doing no wrong but simply following an age-old custom and some have called for a licensing scheme to be introduced. The Afon Wen is designated as a protected site because of rare lichen, otters and salmon.

According to the jewellery company Clogau, Welsh gold is the rarest gold on earth and worth up to 30 times more than “standard world gold”.

The Guardian. May 2018.

Grassington Moor Photos

On the back page of February Newsletter were four photos that I had found whilst sorting through a box of old photographs. I had taken these at Beevers Mine dressing floor on Grassington Moor around 1983, the photos showed machine plant in what was the former Beever Mine wheelhouse. My memories of the visit and my conversation with the man who was operating the plant were a little bit hazy after the passing of so many years. I received several emails from members filling in some details about the operation that was taking place on this site at the time.

There is a page of information in BM No 46, The Grassington Mines.

Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd, has written an at present unfinished and incomplete archaeological report at regarding Beevers Mine Wheelhouse and the small part time business that was taking place on this site.

The plant for reworking mine spoil was owned and run by a plumber, Edwin Drake and William Tailor, who was a stonemason who worked for Bradford City Council. Both men lived in Baildon, West Yorkshire. This partnership were working the mine waste heaps on the moor at weekends for Barytes, which was then taken by trailer to Horace Taylor of Whitstandwell, Derbyshire who ground the material for various uses including car underbody paints. The partnership was said to have worked intermittently from the early, 1960s to the late 1970s, I can confirm that one of the partners was working until at least 1983.

Colin Keighley.

Former Coal Mine to become £100m Centre for rail excellence

A former coal mine on the border between Powys and Neath Port Talbot is in line to become a £100m global centre of rail excellence. The open cast mine at Nant Helen near Abercraf, which was mothballed in 2016, is emerging as the preferred option for the centre of those currently being researched by Welsh Government.

The centre would offer a bespoke innovation accelerator, rolling stock and infrastructure testing, storage, decommissioning, maintenance and servicing asset to the industry and the wider supply-chain. Transport secretary Ken Skates said: “From a standing start a few years ago, Wales is now developing as a home for our domestic rail industry. There is more we can do. I want our country recognised across the UK and Europe as a major hub. Our Economic Action Plan signalled a new approach to creating opportunities for developing our economy. I’m now signalling the next chapter of implementation of that plan. “This area, at the top of the Dulais Valley, has been reliant on the coal industry for generations. With this era drawing to a close, there is great potential for investment drawing on existing and new skills.

“This is also a project that could make an important contribution to the work of the Valleys Taskforce, providing good quality jobs and the skills to do them. “I have therefore instructed Welsh Government officials to move to the next stage of business case development, which will involve continued and close partnership to deliver, and it is not a project that can proceed without local support, private sector investment and the commitment of manu-

facturers, rolling stock companies, network operators and a range of other stakeholders to back it now and into the future.

"I'm not in the business of over-promising and under-delivering. But I am saying that if we can consolidate the very considerable levels of enthusiasm communicated to us, we will commit our best endeavours to the next stages of this project – working towards the completion of this exciting, integrated global centre of rail excellence."

Insider Media Ltd.

Ivor Brown Memorial Day 27th October 2018 - Schedule

A day of talks and films in memory of Dr Ivor Brown, Saturday 27th October 2018 in The Glass Classroom, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Offices, Coalbrookdale, Telford TF7 8DQ.

09:00 Registration

09 30 Dave Adams (Shropshire Caving and Mining Club - President and founder member) to welcome everyone give a short anecdote re Ivor

09:40 Kelvin Lake presentation on Ivor's life

10:25 Neil Clarke – Ivor and the Coalport Dodger

11.00 David Poyner – God and the Miners (Methodist influence on mining communities)

11.30 Tea Break

11.45 Sam Wood - Ivor Brown and the St Aidan's Opencast Site. Saving of the dragline

12:20 Andrew Wood – SCMC / Shropshire Mines Trust Nigel Dibben NAHMO

12:50 Buffet Lunch (will play draglines DVD)

13:40 John Challen – The Great Rock Sandwich (geology of the local area)

14: 20 David Hardwick – South Gloucs Celestine Mineral

15:00 Tea and Coffee

15:20 Rob Vernon - The adventures of a Coal Mining Geologist - Lea Hall, Rugeley, and Yorkshire

16:00 Eddie Downes - Yorkshire Coalfield

16:40 National Coalmining Museum – including a sound recording of Ivor talking to the curator about opening of the Museum

17:20 Summary of the day, and Thank you - Neal Rushton Chairman SCMC and David De Haan Chairman of Friends of IGMT

Evening option SCMC Annual Dinner – speaker Nigel Dibben on Alderley Edge Mines

Sunday walks

Jackfield Stabilisation and Mining remains in the Gorge - Leader Neal Rushton

Coalbrookdale - Leader David De Haan

Ivor Brown Memorial Day booking form
Cost £10, with sandwich buffet, £5 without

Name _____

Email Address _____

Telephone no. _____

No. of tickets at £10 _____

Vegetarian Yes / No.

No. of Tickets at £5 _____

Please send this booking form and cheque's to, Verity Jones, friends Administrator, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, Coach Road, Coalbrookdale, Telford TF7 8DQ. Alternatively Email verity.jones@ironbridge.org.uk to book your place, and transfer the fee to:

Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum Activities a/c ,
Lloyds Bank: Sort code 30-18-55 Account code 01767912
Do you wish to attend the SCMC Dinner in the evening (approx £25?)- speaker Nigel Dibben on the Alderley Edge Mines
Yes/ No

On Sunday 28th, there will be a guided walks of about 2 hours (details tbc later)

Jackfield stabilisation works and mining in the Gorge - Neal Rushton (max 20) **Yes / No**

A walk around Coalbrookdale – David De Haan
Yes / No

Mike@moorebooks.co.uk

(See Friends,SCMC and NAHMO website for programme details-advanced booking is required)

Cleveland Ironstone Mining Museum launches £250,000 repair appeal

A Teesside mining museum has launched a public appeal to raise £250,000 to repair a historic building. The roof of the 1910 upcast at Cleveland Ironstone Museum in Skinningrove collapsed during extreme weather in March, damaging the tunnel. Extensive structural checks found about £250,000 would be needed for repairs and to ensure it was safe for visitors. Director Graham Banwell, said it was "important" to continue to celebrate ironstone workings in the North East. The museum is to undergo a £1.6m revamp later this year, but the upcast is not covered in the grant. A registered charity and predominately run by volunteers, the site opened in 1983 to celebrate the iron excavation carried out in the Cleveland Hills since the 19th Century. It is hoped the entire museum will reopen in the summer. The upcast was a type of chimney used to ventilate the mine workings.

BBC News. May 2018.

7 mm maximum movement in Albion Stone's Mine

Here at Albion Stone our mines are managed by a professionally qualified engineering geologist who is backed up by a team of experienced mine supervisors and staff.

We undertake weekly roof convergence monitoring and have over 130 survey stations in Jordan's Mine and currently around 30 in Bowers Mine. We use specialist equipment to detect the smallest of movements (down to 100th of a millimetre) of the mine's roof beam and pillars. We have unbroken records detailing the results of this monitoring dating back to 2008 when mining at Jordan's began. Detecting deflection of the roof beam to such a high resolution would give us time to react to and correct any issues long before such movement became a cause for concern.

The maximum movement ever recorded anywhere in either mine is less than 7.5 mm and in most cases roof-beam deflection is very much less than this. Wardell Armstrong, a world class mining consultancy, has been continuously engaged by Albion Stone for the last 15 years to undertake independent geotechnical audits of our mines and to assist with any mining related issues as necessary.

The lateral extent of the mine is determined by weekly in-house surveys which results in an updated CAD plan that is issued to the mining team to ensure that we never stray beyond our planning boundaries. The weekly in-house surveys are supplemented by annual surveys undertaken by an independent, professionally qualified mine surveyor.

Albion Stone is inspected and accredited by the BSI (9001, 14001, 6001 & 18001) which clearly demonstrates our commitment to excellence. We are also regularly inspected by both the HSE and also by specialist officers from Dorset's Mineral Planning Authority. Such external oversight helps to ensure that our operational standards remain as high as possible at all times.



Roof bolting At the Albion Stone Mine.

We will be hosting an open day at Jordan's Mine on Saturday 2 June. Local residents are invited to make an appointment via our office (telephone 01305 860369) when they will have the opportunity see Albion Stone's mining operations with the mine manager and members of his team.

The Albion Stone Mine. April 2018.

Breedon scoops up Borders quarry Blinkbonny

A QUARRY near Kelso in the Borders has been acquired by a subsidiary of UK and Ireland construction materials group, Breedon, for an undisclosed sum.

Blinkbonny Quarry (Borders), a quarry and ready-mixed concrete plant, employs 14 people and joins the Breedon Northern stable. It gives Breedon its first quarry in the area and has 2.8 million tonnes of high-quality basalt hard rock reserves plus a fleet of ready-mixed concrete mixers and tippers. Alan Mackenzie, managing director of Breedon Northern, said: "Blinkbonny gives us a great opportunity to establish a presence in the Scottish Borders through a business with long-term mineral reserves and resources.

"It is well invested with modern plant and machinery, and has established an excellent reputation for quality and service among its customers in the area."

Breedon Group operates two cement plants and around 70 quarries, 40 asphalt plants, 200 ready-mixed concrete and mortar plants, nine concrete and clay products plants, four contract surfacing businesses, six import/export terminals and two slate production facilities.

It employs nearly 3,000 people and has around 870 million tonnes of mineral reserves and resources. Breedon's strategy is to continue growing organically and through the acquisition of businesses in the heavy side construction materials market.

The Sunday Herald. June 2018.

Wheal Trewavas by Peter Joseph & Alasdair Neill

Recently published by the Trevithick Society this book is partly as a tribute to the late Ali Neill who worked tirelessly on mining research both above and below ground. He was happy to share it with others. In fact our society has benefited from his research experiences culminating in the new extensive wide ranging mining database added to our website in May.

Wheal Trewavas, like Botallack, is perched on the cliffs 3km to the west of Helston and appears to be part of the landscape as you look towards it. However it has not had the publicity of the former mine. There are many references to Trewavas, mostly on the web, but little printed information is available. The book's aim is to collate the history and information of the mine in one publication.

Although I've visited the site, I did not know much about the mine and I am pleased that having read this very readable book I am much more aware of its history. The restoration work looks very hazardous as demonstrated by the colour photos. A useful map places Wheal Trewavas (operating from 1836-46 in the search for copper) in context of other mines in the area as does the colour aerial view photo.

All the information is fully referenced and I particularly like the adverts from suppliers and newspapers from the times the mine was operational. There is even a photo of a Lancashire boiler being transported. Towards the end of the book there is a section on

archaeology which has mostly been gleaned from Cornwall's Archaeological Unit.

This 93 page paperback with both colour and b&w photos is excellent value at £10 plus postage if necessary. Being impressed with it and also having a fondness for Cornwall I have purchased some copies for resale. Please contact me if interested. Orders could be taken to our Autumn meeting. There is also a copy going to our library.

mansemins@btopenworld.com

Barbara Sutcliffe.

Duplicate NMRS book Donations for sale.

Here are few more books that have been kindly donated to us with permission to sell them on if they are duplicates to copies in our NMRS library. Payment via cheque made out to NMRS.

The Alderley Edge Mines by Chris J. Carlon
P/b 1st edition 1979. Small volume 144pp with b&w photos and plans. £5, P&p £1.50

To be a Gypsum Miner by Carl Rogers
P/b 1st edition 1994. Pentland Press Ltd. 184pp with b&w diagrams. £6, p&p £1.80

Life in the Yorkshire Coalfield compiled by David Joy (one of our members)
P/b 1st edition Dalesman Publishing Co Ltd. 1989. 64pp with numerous bw photos. £4.00, p&p £1.50

Postlethwaite's Mines and Mining in the English Lake District. H/b with unclipped d/j. Michael Moon edition 1975 with additional biographical sketch of Postlethwaite. 164pp plus old adverts. With b/w photos plus pull out maps and diagrams. One of "the books" for the Lake District. £10, p&p £3.10

Industrial Archaeology of north east England by Frank Atkinson Vol 1
H/b with unclipped d/j. David Charles 1974. 216pp with b/w photos and diagrams. Details of the various industries in the north east. £7 p&p £3.10

Industrial Archaeology of the North East vol 2, The Sites
H/b with unclipped d/j David Charles 1974. 368pp with b/w diagrams. The sites in the counties of Northumberland & Durham and the Cleveland district of Yorkshire. £7, p&p £3.10

If interested in any of the above please contact Barbara Sutcliffe
email mansemins@btopenworld.com

Remember we also have an extremely good selection of out of print BMs available both the very early A4 ones and the newer A5 ones. Why get a download when you can have a physical copy. Orders can be taken to the autumn meeting if required so saving on postage.

Barbara Sutcliffe

How Britain's black miners are reclaiming their place in history

Thousands of black miners worked in Britain's pits from the 1950s onward – and a new project has discovered that while racism was accepted above ground, deep underground there was no divide. One of the things that attracted Fitzalbert Taylor to becoming a coal miner was the warmth. “It was like I'd emigrated to a different country down there,” says the 88-year-old. “It was so warm.

When I was in the building trade, I couldn't feel my arms or my legs – donkey jacket, two pairs of trousers and you were still cold.”

Taylor moved to the UK from Jamaica in 1954 when he was 26, and spent 25 years working as a miner. Now he has joined about 20 men who are involved in a project that aims to record the experiences of black miners in the UK – Coal Miners of African Heritage: Narratives from Nottinghamshire.

The project will produce a collection of audio recordings and oral histories, along with a booklet to help preserve and share the miners' stories. The initiative's founder, historian Norma Gregory, says the role black miners played in the history of British mining industry has been badly neglected. “I've searched through so many books, films and archives, with the help of volunteers, and I've found very few mentions of miners of other nationalities,” she says. Gregory is also working with the BBC to produce a programme about the history of black miners, due to be broadcast later this year.

Depictions of Britain's industrial history tend to focus on white working-class communities, but Gregory's research into Nottinghamshire's mining industry has revealed communities of miners from Italy, Lithuania and Poland, as well as the Caribbean islands.



Mines to mind Education.

The Union banner for Gedling Colliery, where men from 15 countries worked together.

It's important to recognise that “this country wasn't built by one set of people”, says Gregory. There are no reliable records of how many non-white miners worked in British mines but Gregory estimates that between the early 50's and the late 80s there were nearly 1,000 men of African-Caribbean origin working in Nottinghamshire mines at any one time. Collieries did not keep records of workers' ethnicity, and when pits started closing in the 1980s personnel documents were often destroyed, leaving researchers like Gregory to rely on former miners to suggest possible interviewees.

Garrey Mitchell started working at Gedling colliery in Nottingham in 1975, aged 17, and worked there until 1986, when he left to start his own business. He got the job because the manager had known his father, who was also a miner, and who had emigrated from Jamaica in the early 50's. “We were very united down there. You had to be,” says Mitchell. “You had to watch each others' backs. Colour didn't come into it. We were all on one level.” Lincoln Cole, 83, father of the ex-England footballer Andy Cole, worked at Gedling from 1965-87, after he left Jamaica in 1957. “I enjoyed mining, because you got to make friends,” he says. “If a finger got crushed, there would be somebody there to come and give you a helping hand.”



Lincoln Cole. Gedling miner 1965-1987. Father of ex England Footballer Andy Cole. Photograph Nottingham News Centre.

Cont.



Gedling Miners. Photograph Nottingham Post.

the city saw a 1,000-person-strong race riot, a precursor to the violence that erupted in London's Notting Hill a week later. Eight people were hospitalised and the Nottingham Evening Post wrote that Nottingham had become like "a slaughterhouse".

Cole says his introduction to the city in the early 60's wasn't particularly pleasant. "There were teddy boys with bicycle chains," he says. "From six o'clock you couldn't go out, because they would kick you left, right and centre." While racial tension was simmering over on the streets, it does not feature much in the accounts from below ground. When a colleague used a racial slur against Cole, the

colliery manager told the offender to apologise immediately and threatened to sack him. The men report that opportunities for promotion were limited because of their skin colour, and Mitchell says black miners generally brushed off racist comments by colleagues: "There was no use having friction, because it would give a bad atmosphere and [that was] the last thing you wanted."

When the National Union of Mineworkers went on strike in 1972 and 1974, black miners in Nottingham joined their colleagues on the picket line. However, along with 73% of their fellow Nottinghamshire miners, most did not strike during the 1984-85 strike.

"I stood side by side with the miners who were on strike," says Mitchell, who did strike in the 80s. "You had to stand with your colleagues, you couldn't let them down. Taylor recalls being



Project lead. Norma Gregory. Photograph David Siltoe The Guardian.

asked to stand at the front of the picket line during a strike in the 70's. "If the policemen had seen me at the front, [a black man], you can just imagine how they would have hit me," he says. "I'd been in this country too long not to know what was going off."

In an interview with Gregory, Taylor said that the experience persuaded him that industrial action was not for "us black men". "After the 1972 strike, I said I was never going on a picket line again," he said. Many of the ex-miners now suffer from long-term health issues such as emphysema, pneumoconiosis, or "black lung" (coal dust in the lungs), and chronic bronchitis. "It was hard work, because you had to be on your hands and knees," says Cole, who fractured his hip bone in an accident. "My body was knackered, but it was worth it, because it was secure [work]." Taylor was forced to take seven months off work after an accident left him with a broken helmet, a "bust head" and a broken jaw. "I didn't know how bad it was until I resumed work and one of the men said to me: 'Albert, when you came up that day and I looked at you, I thought you were dead.'"

The project seeks to redress a historical oversight. "I went on the internet to find out about black miners in Britain and there was nothing at all. I was very surprised. We've just been left out," says Mitchell. "I feel hurt by it all, because black people contributed a lot to the mining industry."

"Once you came back on to the surface and had a shower, then the white folks would stick to themselves and the black folks would stick to themselves," says Mitchell. "But when you were down there, you were automatically united, because you knew you were all in the same boat."

Gedling colliery – where many of Gregory's interview subjects worked – employed men from 15 countries and was described as the "pit of nations" in a 1967 Daily Mirror report. In the 60's, 10% of the pit's 1,400-strong workforce was thought to have hailed from the Caribbean, and the colliery's union banner showed a black miner alongside two white colleagues above the words "Brothers beneath the surface".

The harmony depicted on the banner, however, did not represent race relations in Nottinghamshire. On 23 August 1958,



Garrey Mitchell. Worked at Gedling Colliery 1974-1985. Nottingham News |Centre.



World Coal Carrying Championship

Ladies and gentleman: Think you can beat 1000 meters with 45 or 110 pounds on your back (respectively) in less than four and a half minutes? Then there might be hundreds of dollars with your name on it in waiting for you in merry old England.

The Gawthorpe Coal Carrying Championships are held every year on Easter Monday. The profits go toward providing social support and activities for the village's elderly population, and the entry fee is just fifteen pounds for men under forty and ten pounds for women and "veterans". You can sign up here – or you could always start your own tradition of coal carrying. Drunkenness optional. You can always rely on drunk men to come up with new ways to test their fitness.

"It was an idea that was started fifty-four years ago in a pub with a bit of banter between two men in the village who thought he was fitter than the other," Duncan Smith tells BarBend in a thick Yorkshire accent. "One was a coal man and the other was a farmer. So they had a little wager between themselves. 'Tell you what, get a big bag of coal on your back and I'll have you race from the local pub up to the village green.' And that's where it started. Two drunk men having a bit of a banter."

These humble, booze-soaked origins are what led to the World Coal Carrying Championships, an annual event that Smith holds every Easter Monday in the tiny village of Gawthorpe in northern England. Sponsored by a local funeral director (and why not), the event has welcomed competitors from every corner of the planet, and Smith is expecting over two hundred competitors in 2018. Think you're coal miner strong?

Its no walk In the Park

The rules are simple: run a thousand meters with a sack of coal on your back. Men carry bags of 110 pounds and women 45 pounds, and it's split into three divisions: men, women, and "veterans," comprised of men over

forty. Men stand to make 750 British pounds (USD919) and women 500 pounds (USD613) if they win, and that jumps to 1,000 pounds (USD1,225) or 625 pounds (USD765) if one manages to break the current record of four minutes and six seconds, or four minutes and twenty-five seconds for ladies.

Maybe you've been working on your work capacity, or maybe you've increased your loaded carry work, and you don't think that sounds all that tough. That mentality is exactly what you need to completely fail at the course. "It's a sheer blast of exertion, you'll never do anything as hard," says John Hunter, a ten-time race champion who makes a hobby of running military-style endurance races around the country. "Gawthorpe is one of the fastest races out there. From the gun, you have to go flat out. People collapse, their legs go to jelly, they drop the bag and they just cannot pick it back up. Every year, I get nervous because you just don't know what's gonna happen. It's such a shock to the system."

Get Carried Away

Coal carrying has some similarities with the increasingly popular sport of rucking, which involves marching or running with a loaded backpack. It's been studied a little more closely than the Gawthorpe coal carriers, and has been shown to burn up to three times more calories than a regular walk, improve hip and postural stability, increase work capacity, and boost injury resilience in a safer and more effective manner than your average jogging habit.

The obvious difference with coal carrying is that the weight isn't held in place with secure straps – it's an unstable sack that the runner holds in place by grabbing the corners by his or her shoulders. It's really important to point out how much more difficult this makes the exercise. With the coal shifting around the bag and the body's stabilizing muscles working that much harder to keep it from falling to the ground, the 110-pound bag feels far heavier than it sounds.

How to Train

Hunter spends a solid three months training for the Gawthorpe Coal Carrying Championship, working out six or seven days per week. Here's what his training looks like.

Weighted Hill Sprints, 3 x /week

With eighty pounds in a bag around his neck, Hunter runs a hill that's five hundred meters from bottom to top and ascends at a one-to-four gradient, or about fourteen degrees. It takes him three minutes to reach the top, then he jogs back to the bottom and starts all over again, for five total runs.

Tire Drags, 2 x /week

Cont.



The Converted Trophy.

He eats 4,000 calories a day. He is 52 years old.

Hunter cautions that a lot of athletes don't train to tolerate a lactic acid buildup and that after the first five hundred meters, many runners seize up. "The course also has a gradient start so you can't get into a set pattern," he says. "After a couple hundred meters it flattens, then it goes up again, so it plays tricks on your legs. It flattens off again toward the end, so people sprint to the finish and their legs give way. That happens to quite a few people at the top of that hill. I did it once and I was like Bambi, my legs just went out from under me. If I'd kept at a set pace, I'd have won it."

Note. Application details supplied upon request to the editor.

Bar Bend. Oct 2016. {Edited}.

A Busy Weekend for our Society

The weekend of 14th & 15th July was a busy one for our Society. Enrico Rinaldi, the organiser of the North Pennines Mineral Expo at St Johns Chapel, Weardale, had kindly offered NMRS a free stand at this event to showcase our publications and use some of our publicity boards, made by Ron Callender. Barbara kindly agreed and also took along some activities for the children and provided small prizes for them. In conjunction with this event our Meets Organiser, Mick Cooke had arranged an outing for the Sunday to Rampgill Mine, Nenthead. This was led from the Heritage Centre and prior to that day Peter Jackson had been a great help to Mick.

With lovely weather and competition from the Miners's picnic and other events local to the area not to mention football and tennis, I was expecting the expo to be quiet. Far from it. Apart from less children to take part in Barbara's prepared activities, the hall was busy most of the time. No doubt free admission helped. There were visitors from the UK, USA, Germany, France and of course Italy (Enrico). Our Society was strategically placed in the middle of the room and could not be missed. Quite a few people stopped not only to browse our books but to read our information boards. Business was brisk and Barbara did a great deal of talking! We have



a loyal band of members in the area and beyond who enjoy this chance to catch up with others. A few mineral dealers had stands as well as the Russell Society. On the stage were specimens from private collections showcasing what historically the North Pennines orefield is famous for. One of the larger exhibits was a huge fluorite, collected recently by one of our members, Mark T. Hardy, from a mine that closed in 1941. There were also a couple of spar boxes – a modern one and one from the era when originally made and a popular pastime for the mining families. On the Sunday morning to add to the atmosphere the Stanhope Silver Band performed outside the venue. Later in the day the results of the photography competition were announced with two of our members, Jean Thornley and Chris Bell, being awarded prizes. With plenty of free parking around we are looking forward to the 2019 event as the organiser has already offered Barbara a free stand to promote our Society. No doubt she will let you know when it is.

Since the event Mary Gore has sent details of another website to aid research. It is <http://www.railmaponline.comKIEMap.php> And finally the most popular publication sold – BM91 "Mines of the West Pennines" Very appropriate. **Rex Cook.**



Nutbourne Brickworks

Having grown up in a brick making family in the early 1900s, Nutbourne Brickworks brought back a lot of memories for me. These were tough times for the industry and many brickworks fell victim to reduced demand and cheaper competition from more modern plants. Those that did survive often operated on three-day weeks as they struggled to sell the vast surpluses left over from more profitable times.

Nutbourne didn't make it out of the housing slump: outdated, unprofitable and isolated, it closed in 1990. Although now partially demolished, it remains as an unusually complete example of a pre-war brickworks, retaining many of its original features and machinery. Nutbourne Brickworks was built in the Summer of 1932 in the backwoods of the Surrey Weald and comprised workshops, narrow gauge railways, factory buildings and two Hoffman kilns. Unusually, despite later ownership by the Redland building materials conglomerate, the layout changed very little over the years. Unsurprisingly, the works were considered old fashioned and outdated by the 1980s, and Redland proposed an ambitious rebuild for which permission was granted in 1990. Unfortunately this came in the middle of the housing slump; rebuilding was postponed, never to be resumed and the works never re-opened.

For many years the site lay abandoned and was left to decay until a developer purchased it in 2000. A planning application for housing on the site was submitted in September 2008 but plans were rejected by the County and District Councils. Further efforts to redevelop were hindered by the recession of 2008 and concerns over the impact of any redevelopment on roads and wildlife.

Now, there are some signs that Nutbourne's days might be numbered: No 1 kiln shed has been pushed over and a demolition crane waits by the gate to finish the job. Nonetheless, the pace of change is slow. Wildlife has taken over and has mostly been left to get on with it. Bats live in the old factory, foxes make their earths on the edge of the old quarry and a large barn owl haunts the sand tower. Long may it continue.

Epilogue

I revisited this site in March 2012 to find that all of the former brickworks buildings had been demolished. At the time of writing, landscaping works were underway in preparation for the construction of a vast neo-Georgian mansion.

Reproduced with kind permission, D.A. Gregory. 2004/2018.

The Collieries & Geology Of West Calderdale Field Trip

On Saturday the 9th July the above field trip finally took place. It was originally planned for June 2017 but had to be cancelled because of severe weather conditions. However this year was a perfect day and 11 members turned up to enjoy the pleasures of Foul Clough, Todmorden.



Two of our members were local to the area, Ken Makin and Rodney Mitchell and thus had many childhood memories to relay about their exploits playing in and around the abandoned workings. Our President made his usual four hundred mile round trip to be there. One member came from Chesterfield, another from Cheshire and one from the Yorkshire Dales as well as a few more local members.

The walk started with a drive up to the site via Inch Field Rd which is very steep and eventually turns into a private road. We parked our cars in a pre arranged place and proceeded up the track to the first point of interest. A former tram track terminus and Coal staithe of the Foul Clough No 4 Colliery. Various pieces of pit rail and landing plates are to be found and the underground tram track terminus can be clearly identified.

Ken Geddes.

11 members including Ken who took the photograph.



Ken Geddes.

A sample of pit rail found.



Ken Geddes

The tram way terminus.

After much debate and story telling we preceded to the site of Foul Clough No 4 Drift. Upon arriving you are greeted by an array of collapsed buildings and disturbed engine beds. There is also a well preserved coal staithe staging wall which has been there for well over 150 years. This drift was the last of the collieries mines and was abandoned in the early 1900s. The site is quite large with evidence of a shaft being present which was verified by the recollections of one of the local members of the group. The scattered remains of



Engine Beds with large holes.



Shaft spoil heap.



The Lower Mountain Seam outcrop.

some large engine bed stones were of great interest as were the number and size of the holes in them. Among the building stones were a large number of hand made bricks which were predominantly fire bricks probably from the former engine house chimney. Dave Kitching our brick expert identified the initials in the frog as belonging to the former Blackshaw Edge Brick Works.

Local Geology.

The next stop on the walk was a deep ravine about 500 meters West were 3 coal seams outcrops. They are the Lower Mountain seam, The Upper Foot and the Upper Mountain seam. These could clearly be seen. The Upper Foot seam did contain some of the Coal Balls which it is famous for but no fossils could be seen. There was also a thick band of Fire clay beneath the coal seam which was also mined at the next colliery on our walk. Our resident Geologist, Arthur Baldwin said that "he had never seen all three outcrops of coal in this area before".

Temperlays Pipe Works Drift.

Our next stop after the Geology was to visit the site of Temperlays Pipe Works Drift. This was worked in the 1960s and closed in the mid 1970s. They were working the Upper Mountain seam and mined approximately 50,000 tons during the life of the mine. They also mined thousands of tons of high grade Fireclay for making pipes at the local works. One of our members who had been in this mine as a young boy said that the drift was about eight feet high. The coal seam is only 2 ft 3 ins in height so they mined vast amounts of fire clay to achieve this height. At this site there was lots of spoil which had various lumps of iron which our resident Metallurgist took away with him for further investigation.



The remains of the Temperlays site.

Foul Clough No 2 Colliery site.

After the Temperlays site we stopped for lunch and much banter and discussion took place about what we had seen that morning. Our two members who are local to the area were relaying stories and experiences about how they had on many occasions visited all of these sites while it was still possible to get into the workings. We then set off in a Eastwards direction toward another site which was about 500 meters away. This was the site of Foul Clough No 2 colliery which was worked in the mid 18th century. The remaining archaeology present was very interesting. With the original approach road being clearly visible. There was also a very impressive stone pit bank which was still virtually intact. Also clearly visible was the top of a stone lined shaft which was



The remains of an old shaft.



The very impressive stone pit bank.

After much discussion it was agreed that there had been a steam engine on this site. The evidence supporting this was a large area of boiler rakings consisting of coke remnants. There was also the remains of a water reservoir very close to the pit top. This was obviously man made and would have been used to feed the boiler.

About 50 meters to the East was the remnants of a stone lined level. This was about 8ft wide and possibly 6 ft high. Some of the members managed to remove some stones and get a camera inside and the result was truly impressive. At this point it was decided to

terminate the walk as time was pressing. However we spent ten minutes scanning the immediate field from a vantage point and at least four other spoil heaps could be clearly identified. These would probably be older than the sites we had visited but would have been working the same coal seams.

In summary all the members thoroughly enjoyed the walk. There was lots of impressive archaeology to see. The weather was dry and pleasant. It was very encouraging to see the effort some of our well-travelled members had put in to be there. The two local members who had a wealth of personal knowledge of all the sites and the area put a different perspective on everything. Foul Clough is a site of interest in many ways, coal mining, geology and history. Its coal mining history ranges from approximately the 1780s down to the 1960s. Due to its remoteness and access issues



The stone lined level.



Remnants of Templeys Pipe Works

I would say the archeology is secure for the immediate future. Our last photograph sums the day up. Perhaps one day we will return.



Ken Geddes.

Our President left enjoying light hearted discussion with two of our senior members at Foul Clough.

Graham Topping.

An Amble Up Coal Pit Lane, Colne



Adit remains from Trawden Colliery.

From Waterside Bridge adjacent to the Admiral Lord Rodney Pub where the recent NMRS Fox Clough walk started, there is a riverside footpath running alongside Colne Water in an easterly direction. On the right are the remains of an adit from the Trawden Colliery, although filled and now very little remains. Walking on the path there is soon much more evidence of the industrial past of this area. A large pipe on the right simply ends with a cap. A red stained stream passes under the footpath, probably from the upper adit of Trawden Mine. Further on there seems to be some remains of curb stones on the river side of the path.

As the path nears Carry Bridge there are the remains of a small mill on the right. The end reached first has collapsed but the farther end is still occupied. At the bridge, turn right up Coal Pit Lane, passing almost immediately a paved packhorse ginnel on the right. Walk up the hill, passing Coal Pit Lane Farm on your left, now gentrified as "Pine Garth Cottage". At the sharp right turn in the road, go straight forward on a good quality, level, unpaved track. This is still Coal Pit Lane. Note the remains of a shaft on the left. The very small amount of spoil around it would suggest that it was a ventilation shaft or possibly a way of reaching the workings aside from the engine shaft.

The engine shaft is not visible being in the garden of the kennels,



Trawden colliery upper adit. water and capped pipe.

totally covered with just a couple of pipes or bars sticking out. There appears to be no spoil. The sign says, "Please do not disturb" the owners as there is nothing at all to see. This building is the old engine winding house. Again, nothing to see and a sign clearly indicates it's private.



Current use.



Coal Pit Lane Farm, now known as Pine Garth Cottage.



Shaft remains off Coal Pit Lane.



Remains of a small mill near Carry Bridge



Shaft remains at old winding engine house.



Paved Pack hoarse ginnel

Just opposite there is a farm road. On the map, to the right, near the farm and on a public footpath, the map says “rings”. The lady at the farmhouse believes these were early coal workings, probably bell pits.

At this point, just return the way you came or take one of the other paths on the map, leading back.

Time! Approximately a couple of hours at a very slow amble, fairly level and good under foot.

Ken Geddes.

Note. *Graham Topping the editor recently did some commercial work at, Higher Carry Hey's Farm, {see Map}. This involved digging in the garden of the above property. At about 6 ft in depth, I struck a coal seam which was approximately 18 inches thick and thinning towards its outcrop. This was most likely the seam worked by these collieries.*



Photograph Wingy

One of the last small, privately owed coal mines, Eckington, Derbyshire.

Two Working Coal Mines in Britain

It has recently been confirmed to me that both of these collieries are presently working and are in production.

Eckington Drift Mine Derbyshire.

Its good to know that this mine is still operating as I visited it along with, Gary Topping, Simpson Little, David Chadwick and Gavin Cunningham back in 1995?. When we went down with the then owner of { Moreside Mining } whose name escapes me. They were producing



coal but developing the drift by driving it further into the coal seam. Moreside Mining also had a business buying and selling mining equipment for export. I remember well the large collection of head gear wheels head frames awaiting new owners.

Ayle Colliery Co Ltd. Alston Cumbria.

This AB 12 coal cutter {photograph} is waiting to be overhauled before going into production under ground. This mine is producing Anthracite and it looks like good stuff with the size of some of the pieces. It can be seen from all of these photographs that licensed mines have upped there game in relation to the adoption of mechanisation. While not being up to date with very modern equipment things have certainly moved on a lot . It will be interesting to see if theses two mines and maybe other small private ones can survive. With the adoption of mechanisation and the current price of household quality coal the future looks bright. All of these photographs are of very recent origin.



Sourced by Graham Topping. July 2018.

Dr. Samuel Murphy.

Known to all as Sam, was a native Lakeland with a lifelong interest in mining, metallurgy and things mechanical – especially motor cycles. He was educated at Windermere Grammar School, where one of his teachers was Mike Davies-Shiel. He then went to Sheffield University where he read Metallurgy and obtained BMet, MMet and PhD degrees. This was followed by two years at the University of Zambia, working for the RST mining company, which operated some of the rich mines of the Zambian Copperbelt. On returning to England, he joined the Metallurgy Department of Aston University in Birmingham, later incorporated into the Department of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. His mainstream research interest was in zinc alloy metallurgy for which he became an internationally recognised expert and later in archaeometallurgy when he included several notable archaeologists on his courses.

He was passionately interested in non-ferrous metal mining in the North of England and in early smelting techniques and is best known for his outstanding history of the Greenside mine and smelting works in Patterdale, Cumbria (Murphy, S., 1996, 'Grey Gold', Moiety, Tanworth in Arden, 481 pp., ISBN 0 9526360 7 7). An addendum, 'Grey Gold 2' on CD-ROM, followed in 2005 (ISBN 0 9526360 1 8). Sam was also known for his research into medieval lead smelting and for his published work on the Elizabethan mines of Silver Gill, Cumbria and the mines of the West Pennines (British Mining No. 91). He was a Council Member of the Historical Metallurgy Society, Editor of Historical Metallurgy and a member of NMRS for several years.

In life, he was an easy-going character with whom it was a joy to spend time. He could converse on a very wide range of subjects, was enthusiastic, encouraging and shared his knowledge freely. He carried out many of his field visits with a casual disregard for inclement weather and terrain; he expressed the firm belief that 'the human being was waterproof – it was only clothing which got wet'.

Sent in by Richard Smith.

Further News from Queen Street Mill, Harle Skye, Burnley

Earlier this year an inspection revealed the 115ft chimney structure needed strengthening. This was after it was announced it would be reopening its museum weekends until the end of October and then from Easter to October 2019.

Structural engineers were called in who believe the chimney towering over the neighbourhood since 1894 and a Grade 1 listed building has suffered damage from a century's exposure to the elements. The County Council own the mill museum and the contract negotiated is believed to be worth more than £200,000. Queen Street Mill is the only surviving operational steam-powered weaving mill in the world. Because of this necessary renovation the initial number of opening days has been restricted and part of the premises cordoned off for entry. However entry will be free. The first opening was on July 7th to coincide with the revived Briercliffe Festival (a great success). I visited that day and it was pleasing to see other NMRS members there.

Further open days are planned for 11th August, 8th and 15th September (as part of the Heritage Open Days) and 13th October. On each occasion there will be free access to the museum. Despite part being cordoned off, the weaving shed will be accessible. Obviously due to the work on strengthening the chimney the historic steam engine "Peace" will not run on those days. Neither will visitors be able to view it or enter through the original side doorway so bypassing some of the original exhibits. The Lancashire boilers will also out of bounds.

What are they doing to the chimney and why? The first sign something was wrong with the chimney was when a brick fell from the top of the chimney. Steeplejacks attempted to repair the top of the chimney but when they got above 66ft they could not safely secure the ladders into the chimney. Further tests show the mortar is in a poor condition. The existing weakened mortar joints will have new hard mortar inserted. Every fourth layer will also have a steel reinforcing bar fixed into it to provide additional strength.

Steeplejacks intend to strengthen the area currently covered in scaffolding first and then continuing to erect scaffolding up to the top of the chimney, strengthening as they go. How long this takes depends on what they find and the weather but it will be at least several months.

Specialist structural engineers have advised installing temporary horizontal straps to take up any pressure in the chimney and then removing the existing horizontal metal bands, one at a time, and refurbishing them. Additional vertical metal straps are being installed to connect the horizontal bands to create a "corset" effect. Further work will involve further investigations on the outside of the chimney identifying areas needing repointing and repairing the cracks. They may also consider inspecting the inside of the chimney.



This photo shows the view of the chimney when I went to visit.

Barbara Sutcliffe

NMRS - Newsletter Aug. 2018

N.M.R.S. Spring A.G.M. Walk

After the morning book sales, lunch and the AGM, I took any interested members for a short stroll around the Hoffman Kilns at Langcliffe and the remains of its surrounding landscape. We met up in the large car park then walked down to the yard in front of the Hoffman Kiln that was known as the Craven Lime Works. I gave a brief description of the uses of lime and the process of extracting it from the raw material (limestone) which was quarried on a massive scale at the back of the site.



Mathew giving us a brief description of the sites history.

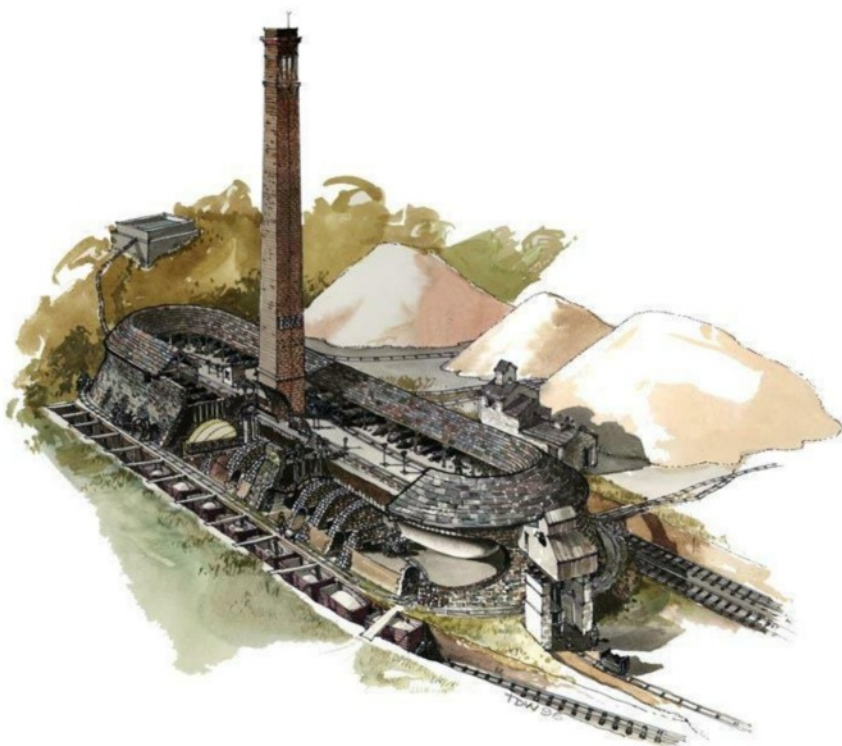
& coal would be packed into each chamber, when you consider how many chambers there are this was quite something. Coal was also supplied from above the kiln to keep the fire burning for days from the initial ignition. The group then had a look at the outside of the kiln, walked around the edge where once there had been a tramway to a tunnel entrance (now sadly gated) that was constructed at the turn of the 20th century when spoil from the quarry began to encroach on the tramway.

Then we went to look at the other half of the site. Up some steps and over a stile, with a good view back over the top of the Hoffman, and the remains of the chimney (which fell down in 1951 the night before its scheduled demolition!). This side of the wall was once a separate lime works, owned by The North Ribblesdale Limestone and Limeworks Company, commonly known as Murgatroyd's. They built their own incline plane to haul coal up from the railway, which still has the remains of the drum house at the top, dug their own quarry (which was later used by the Craven Limeworks to dump waste rubble) and a tramway to the top of the kilns. They built three large bottle kilns, two of which are dug into the rock face and are brick lined, in 1872. Unfortunately, due to the old-fashioned methods they were using in comparison to the Craven Limeworks next door, they were doomed to make a loss, and stopped trading after 10 years. Their only advantage of the site was that because they were next to the main line, lime could simply be barrowed out of the kiln straight into waiting trucks.

As a group we then went back over the stile, past the Hoffmann kiln, through the yard and along to the

A plant was established on this site in 1873, the main reason for choosing this site was its close proximity to the railway (the Settle to Carlisle Line being completed in 1875) and the huge reserves of limestone in Stainforth Scar. The limekiln was linked not only to the main line via two sidings but the whole site once contained a network of rails and tramways, from the base of the cliff where the breakers and fillers worked, to the kiln to process the limestone, and out again with the lime. There were also rails on the top of the kiln so coal could be added for the cooking of the limestone. Each truck went first to a weigh bridge before being taken into the kiln so that the man who had loaded it would get the right amount of pay.

We then walked on into the kiln, briefly pausing to look at the position of the water hoist which lifted the limestone into the kiln and the lime out. I think everyone was impressed with the structure, I certainly was the first time I saw it. Inside the brick lined structure signs of heat could be seen on the face of the melted bricks, thus running repairs must have been carried out annually. The floor is quite uneven, but if you walk in the centre there was plenty of headroom. It was said that 200 tonnes of limestone





G Topping

Tramway tunnel entrance.



G Topping

The remains of the Ginny wheel return Housing.



G Topping

A description of the Spencer kilns

base of the final evolution of kiln that was used on the site, a Spencer Kiln. Of this, there is now very little left to see as it was mostly made from steel, and it was scrapped in 1942. The brick and stone revetments and a few roofless buildings are all that remain, but the access to them up their own incline plane is still good, and various bits of rail and old iron stick out of the ground hereabouts. Afterwards we made our way back to the car park.

There are various information boards with diagrams and pictures around the site so if anyone is interested in visiting they can learn about the site at their leisure. It is said to be "one of the best kept secrets of the Dales." If you have the time, there is access to the quarry face, but most of the base of the quarry has been lost due to its former use as a landfill site by Craven District Council.

NB: A lot of my information came from the Guided Walk notes of the YDNPA and their credited sources were as follows:

Dr David Johnson: "Limestone Industries of the Yorkshire Dales" 2010
Yorkshire Dales National Park: "Lime Burning" Out of Oblivion Website
Yorkshire Dales National Park: "Hoffmann Kiln, Craven Limeworks"
Out of Oblivion Website (record) Arthur Raistrick: "The Pennine Dales" 1968



G Topping

Small kiln part hewn out of the rock



G Topping

The remains of the weighbridge office.

Mathew Hatton.

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Editors Notes.

1. I would like to apologize for the mistake in the May Newsletter page 4. The book review by Richard Smith had a wrong photograph attached to it. I don't know how this happened I can only presume that it was an attack of the gremlins.
2. Please take note of my new email address on page 2.
3. Have you noticed that a few members have made appeals for information in the last few issues? These have met with a very good response. So if you have something puzzling you that's mining related why not ask the membership for information?

Disclaimer

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Living the high life... as low down as possible: Chinese five-star hotel is being built INSIDE a quarry 100 yards beneath ground level

China has long been winning the world's construction race - building skyscrapers, houses and even whole cities at a rapid pace that has impressed the globe. And it seems the country's construction projects are becoming more inventive by the year, as this concept of a five star hotel in an abandoned quarry proves. Work is under way to build the InterContinental Shimao quarry hotel at the foot of Tianmenshan Mountain in the Songjiang District of Shanghai, east China.

The £345 million complex has been designed by British-based firm Atkins and will have 370 guest rooms across its 19 floors to be enjoyed by the Chinese elite. Two of the floors will be above ground and 17 below, but the two bottom floors will be underwater and boast a glass-walled aquarium, a restaurant and guest rooms. A swimming pool and a sports centre will also be built inside the hotel as well as several restaurants, a banqueting hall and conference rooms for business meetings. Atkins has even designed the structure to blend in with the landscape using an eco-friendly green roof that will have various trees planted on top.

The hotel, which is estimated to be completed in 2017, will have an exact altitude of minus 87 yards and guest rooms will start at around £200 per night.



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Before construction started in 2013.



© HAP/Quirky China News / Rex Feat
Artists impression of finished hotel.

Mail Online. April 2016.

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