



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 10
APRIL 1999
Cumann Oireacht na Mianadóireachta

Mining Heritage Society of Ireland

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EDITORIAL

What is most relevant to say about the society at present is contained in the report of the AGM. This includes news of the Society's first publication, Cole's *Memoir*, a second under way "50 years of Irish Mining, 1950-200" and discussion about issuing a Journal.

Earlier Newsletters carried a variety of research items. Such, however has been the sheer volume of recent activity generating news about mining heritage that research items have been accumulating. Hitherto these had sometimes been used as fillers in the absence of news. Now, happily, there is plenty of news so the option of a journal is certainly worth considering. But that raises other questions -----!

MHSI PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 1999-2000

(**Bold print** indicates finalised programmes; further details will be sent to members of events in ordinary print; *italics* indicates non-MHSI activities)

1999

27th-28th March: *Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland, "Power to the People" conference in Ennis.*

22nd-25th April: *Minet conference in Linares, Spain.*

29th April- 3rd May: Visit to the Isle of Man, visiting Laxey, Foxdale, Bradda Head and possibly other sites.

1st May: "Swords Candles and Old Boots: The ghost of NAMHO '98" at 7.00 pm in Nenthead Village Hall, Alston, Cumbria. (*Booking necessary*)

7th May: *Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland, "Irish Mills and Milling", Enniskillin College of Agriculture, county Fermanagh.*

13-16th May: *Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland, Tour of Dublin and District.*

23th May: The Bunmahon Initiative, Co. Waterford. "Copper Coast" launches. (Further information page 6).

Early June: Field Meet in Donegal.

24th-27th September (*not June as stated in Newsletter 9*): *NAMHO conference in the Forest of Dean.*

9th - 10th October: Field Meet in Connemara visiting Sheffry and other local lead mines.

2nd-7th November: MINET conference (possible venue Silvermines)

2000

12th February: AGM of MHSI in GSI Beggars Bush:

MHSI

NEWS

REPORT AGM

Minutes of the 1998 AGM, Saturday 13th February 1999, Geological Survey of Ireland, Dublin.

Present: Nick Coy, Martin Critchley, John Davies, Errol Delaney, Ruth Delaney, Peter Eggleston, Loreto Farrell, Keith Geoghegan, Rob Goodbody, Gareth Ll. Jones, Tom Kelly, Nigel Monaghan, Mike Moore, Stephen Moreton, John Morris, Michelle Murray, Dave Naylor, Kevin O'Hagan, Matthew Parkes, Adrian Pearce, Joe Rynn, Eamonn de Stafort, Tom Sheedy, Edwin Thorpe, Charles Tyrrell, Richard Unitt.

Apologies: Ken Brown, Nigel Burns, Stuart Chester, Des Cowman, Pat Geoghegan, Paddy Geoghegan, Tara Geoghegan, Roger Gosling, Marie Merrigan, Norman Moles, Charles Morley, John and Susan Pyne, Mike Simms, Nick Southwick, Patrick Wyse Jackson.

Minutes of the 1997 AGM were adopted. Prop. Dave Naylor, Sec. E. de Stafort

Matters arising: The only item not elsewhere on the agenda was the proposed book project led by Dave Naylor, on personal recollections of recent (last 50 years) mining developments in Ireland. Dave Naylor gave an update of progress, and received full support of the meeting to proceed further.

Chairperson's report: 1998 was a further year of successful activities and development.

- Fieldmeets were held in Cornwall, Heritage Day events, Sligo-Leitrim, Tipperary-Clare.
- 3 Newsletters were produced despite the sometimes malevolent influence of Computheo.
- Meetings were held with the Archaeological and Architectural divisions of Dúchas to discuss and develop our relationship.
- Application was made for a Conservation Grant for the Tankardstown mine site*. Unfortunately a similar application for the Man Engine House at Allihies was thwarted over access permission problems.
- John Morris expressed the admiration, congratulations and support of the Society to the Geoghegan's for their persistence in opening Ireland's first tourist mine.
- The award of the £1.7million from Government/Industry to develop Shallee as the

National Mine Heritage Centre is one of the major developments of 1998. The achievement is a tribute to efforts of John Feehan and Martin Critchley in the late 1980's, carried through to this stage by Eamonn de Stafort, Tom Sheedy and Shannon Heritage.

- Publication of Cole's Memoir is a watershed for Society. Thanks to Patrick Wyse Jackson, Matthew Parkes and the Heritage Council.
- Finally, John personally thanked all those who had helped set up the Society and nurtured it. He thanked all who had served on committees, volunteered to run activities and supported the Society. *"We have come far in a short time and I have no doubt that the enthusiasm and commitment of so many will carry this Society forward to ever greater achievements. It has been a pleasure to serve as Chairperson and I wish every success to my successor."*

Secretary's Report:

- Our AGM last year was completed by a day trip to Glendasan where Rob Goodbody led us to the parts that other societies don't reach, except for the Shropshire CMC who later in May last year came back to explore them.
- Ron Callender delivered an interesting talk entitled Gold in the Hills on the 8th April, and showed some of his own photographic techniques for mine heritage photography.
- Late in April John Morris gave a presentation at a conference in the Ulster Museum on 'Tourism in Geological Landscapes'. He presented a brief overview of developments in Ireland at Glengowla, Shallee, and other areas, and showed some comparative examples on video from Canada, as examples of the potential.
- The Cornish trip at the end of May gave participants a much greater understanding of Cornish engine house technology.
- Thanks are due to those who led walks for Heritage Day: Nick Coy, Des Cowman, Rob Goodbody, Martin Critchley and Eamonn de Stafort.
- We had an excellent packed trip in Sligo and Leitrim led by Eamon Grennan, which has left us hungry for a return visit to Arigna, and Creevelea iron furnace shown to us by Pat Hughes.

* This has since been granted -ED.

