



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 9

DECEMBER 1998

Cumann Oireacht na Mianadóireachta

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MHSI PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 1998-2000

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

1998

From now until 31st Jan. 1999: ENFO, Dublin: Meteorite "HITS"

1999

20th January: *Public Lecture: "Making an impact at the end of an era" (meteorite impact and the extinction of the dinosaurs). Irish Geological Association. 8pm, Davis Lecture Theatre, Trinity College, Dublin 2. Repeated at 7:30pm on Jan 21st at the Dept of Geology, UCG.*

23rd-24th January: Visit to the steam Museum Kew. Further details will be sent.

29th-31st January: *9th Irish Environmental Researchers' Colloquium: "Focus on Rural and Urban Environment into the New Millennium". Contact TEAGASC (Ms. E. Spillane), Johnstown Castle, Wexford (053-42888).*

13th February: AGM of MHSI in GSI Beggars Bush (details enclosed with this Newsletter).

26th-28th February. *41st Annual Irish Geological Research Meeting. Contact Dept of Geology, Trinity College, Dublin 2.*

13th-14th March: Workshop in Silvermines to conduct survey of mining remains.

May/June (see enclosure with alternatives): Visit to the Isle of Man, visiting Laxey, Foxdale, Bradda Head and possibly other sites.

8th - 9th May: *(Irish Geology Week) Bunmahon, Co. Waterford. "Copper Coast" launch. (Further information page 8 within: full programme in next issue).*

Early June: Field Meet in Donegal.

24th-27th June: *NAMHO conference in the Forest of Dean..*

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

10th November: Mine Tourism conference in GSI, Beggars Bush.

2000

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

Mining Heritage Society of Ireland

MHSI

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

EDITORIAL

The main issues concerning the Society are dealt with in the accompanying Chairperson's Statement. The rather unpredictable appearances of 1998's *Newsletters* have been explained in circulars to members. The benevolence of Computheo (the god who presides over computers) is invoked for 1999 to ensure that numbers 10, 11 and 12 will appear by April, September and December. Their pages are open to you. Contact-
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It seems only like yesterday that the MHSI was established in 1996, and though we have come far in that time and learnt much, the time has now come for us to move up a gear in the range of actions and initiatives undertaken by the Society. At the outset, we realised that, however interested we were in mine heritage, many of us knew precious little about the subject in detail, its diversity or even the scale of the problems confronting us on a number of fronts. Three years on and we are much wiser! The Fieldmeet programme has achieved its objectives of developing awareness of the sheer scale and diversity of mine heritage in Ireland: even if we still might not know much about the details of any given site. The Society is thriving, it has organised a variety of events, published a semi-regular newsletter and has now embarked on a publications programme.

But this is not the time for complacency and hence we are initiating a series of new pro-active initiatives to move the Society forward: developing its technical advisory role; introducing a re-focused field programme; and initiating conservation actions. In our advisory role, the following actions have been taken:

- * A written and oral submission has been made to include mine heritage features in County Wicklow in the County Development Plan (October). This item is described further under "News from around the Country".
- * As noted in the same place a Conservation grant has also been sought for Tankardstown engine houses in County Waterford.
- * A written submission has been made to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and The Islands in connection with the National Heritage Plan (November 16). A copy of our submission appears elsewhere in this newsletter;
- * Discussions have been initiated with the Architectural Heritage Section of Duchas-the Heritage Service on heritage mine building conservation and other issues. During a far ranging and most productive meeting on November 8th, agreement was reached in principle for MHSI to be recognised as the expert body on Mine Heritage in Ireland, and to contribute information to the National Architectural Inventory while acting as the custodian of the main databases. We look forward to a rewarding and productive relationship with the Heritage Service in the years to come.
- * In October we responded to requests for advice from Duchas.

We are introducing a new range of Field programmes, including "Inventory Weekends" and General and Specialist field meets, all of which are described elsewhere in this newsletter. We also include a provisional programme up to the end of 1999 which incorporates all these activities, albeit some of them have still to be confirmed. Nonetheless, you now have a range of dates to pencil into your long range planning diary.