



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 20

MAY 2002

Iontaobhas

Oidhreacht Mianadóireachta na hEireann

Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland

CONTENTS

- 1 Programme
- 2 News and Correspondence
- 3 Share Certificate Vignettes, Field trip reports
- 7 Historic documents
- 10 Contact addresses and details
- 12 Glandore/West Carbery, Co Cork - field trip details.

PROGRAMME

- Ongoing till the end of June: *Mining through the Millennia* Exhibition in the Geological Survey of Ireland during working hours.
- 24-26 May – MHTI field excursion to Glandore mine and other sites in West Carbery. A weekend field visit to a new area for the MHTI. Paddy O'Sullivan has been researching the Glandore manganese/iron mine and will show us this interesting site. Further details on the back page but anyone who is likely to attend should notify Matthew Parkes as soon as possible. Phone 01-6041493/ 8301850 or email matthewparkes@gsi.ie
- MHTI AGM and Coalmining Seminar Sunday 23rd June, Castlecomer. The AGM will be held at 12.00 in the Community Hall, in Castlecomer. Full programme details will be circulated later, but AGM business enclosures included with this newsletter
- NAMHO 2002, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Wales 5-8th July. The application of water power in mining.
- NAMHO 2003, Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow. 7-8th June 2003 Following last year's unfortunate cancellation of the annual NAMHO meeting due to Foot and Mouth disease, NAMHO have accepted our offer to host the meeting in 2003, and it will follow our original plans with the meeting at Avondale House, with many field visits around the Wicklow/Avoca area, including underground trips.
- Provisional Spring 2003 Conference: Mining and the Environment: the historical legacy

WWW.MHTI.IE

NEWS

65, Ekaterinburg B-109, Russia.
logunov@online.ural.ru

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

MHTI would like to gratefully acknowledge the support of its sustaining members who are again supporting the Trust in 2002

- **Tara Mines**
- **Geological Survey of Ireland**
- **ERA-Maptec**
- **Conroy Diamonds and Gold Plc**
- **Irish Marine Oil**
- **Shannon Heritage**
- **Lisheen Mine**

CASTLECOMER

Seamus Walsh has reported that things are looking very good for a mining museum in Castlecomer, with work commencing at the former baths at Deerpark Mine. The two groups locally involved in mining heritage have combined their strengths and progress is now happening with a vibrant community. Further news in the next newsletter. **THE AGM WILL NOW BE HELD AT CASTLECOMER ON THE 23rd JUNE.**

NAMHO

British cavers have proposed a new organisation 'Underground Britain' to act as a coordinating body for caving and mining interests. A discussion document has been developed and may be viewed online at www.nca.org.uk and www.bcra.org.uk

DÚCHAS PANEL SUCCESS

The MHTI has been successful in its application to be placed on a panel of consultants to assist in the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. The panel has been established by Dúchas as part of a selection process for awarding contracts for fields surveys, inventories, maps and editing of mining archaeology reports.

CONFERENCES

TICCIH XII International Congress "Preservation of industrial heritage and rehabilitation of old industrial centres" (official language of the conference is English). 10-14 July 2003 in Moscow and 14-18 July post-congress tour to Urals. Further details from Eugene Logunov, Institute of Material Culture, PO Box

Souterrain2K2 is the fifth International Congress on Souterrains to be held in Liverpool from 8-12 August 2002. The conference covers anything relating to underground excavation and includes papers on railway tunnels, salt mines and road tunnels under the Mersey. Look up www.souterrain2k2.co.uk for details or contact Chris Iles at 0044-7976-848-458

CORRESPONDENCE

Richard Leader, 17th century ironmaster.

Bruce Scott of Cambridge, MA, USA (s.a.bruce@verizon.net) is researching Richard Leader (1609-61), a New England Iron Master, metallurgist and merchant who built and operated the Hammersmith Iron Works north of Boston, Massachusetts (now the Saugus Iron Works). Born in Speldhurst, Kent, Leader was hired by John Becx/Beex & Company in 1645 to construct and manage the Hammersmith blast furnace because of his considerable experience in making iron. Where he got that experience remains a mystery, however.

Leader was known to have lived in Limerick before the 1641 uprising. Has any reader ever come across his name, or that of his brother George, in relation to any 17th Century iron works in Ireland or iron works at other UK locations such as the Forest of Dean? In addition, did Becx/Beex & Co. have any 17th C. Irish operations?

KINGSCOURT GYPSUM WORKS

Ted Heeran of Ballyellis House, Mallow has forwarded two typescript items relating to the gypsum works near Kingscourt, County Cavan and these have now been put into the MHTI archive. One is a carbon copy of an undated description "written by Peter Quinn at the request of Fr. M. Marry P.P.". To judge from references, including strong nationalistic bias, it was written in the 1950s. The other is the transcript of an interview with local man Hughie McManus conducted by Liam Cosgrave (or Cosgrove) and dated February 1978. The following is collated from both.

In the immediate post-war boom in 1919 a company was set up by three local men to rework the gypsum showing at Drumgill and Lisnambo. Most of the finance to set up the Farney Development Company (Farney is the barony name) came also from local sources. Machinery was bought, including a steam

