



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 25

FEBRUARY 2004

Iontaobhas Oidhreacht Mianadóireachta na hEireann

Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland

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MHTI PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2004

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

Friday April 2nd 2004

10.30 Visit to Irish Salt Mine, nr Belfast

Saturday April 3rd 2004

a.m. Visit to Conlig/Whitespots lead mine

14.00 AGM for 2003 of MHTI

Venue: Lecture Hall, The Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast, BT5 5AB

Sunday April 4th 2004

Visit to Iron mines of Mid Antrim

Dates: 17-24 April 2004

Field Visit to Linares, Spain

Date: 24/25th July 2004

NAMHO Annual Meeting

Venue: Coniston, Lake District, England

12/13th June 2004 Proposed trip to Arigna district

EDITORIAL

Accompanying this slim issue of the Newsletter is a great deal of other paper. There is, of course the Journal carrying a wide range of material so hopefully there will be something of primary interest to every member. Its editorial invites all members to contribute to it. More immediately crucial, however, is the material for the AGM to be held for the first time in Belfast. Apart from routine issues, there is the major question of insurance which has caused a radical review of different types of membership. We would all like to ignore insurance, but ---.

The last Newsletter reported on the MHTI trip to the mines of Harz Mountains; the next will carry a report of our trip to the mines of Linares in Spain - a place dotted with Cornish engine houses amongst the olive groves. A busy schedule has been arranged for the fifteen participants.

A number of items have been held over until the next issue including news of a revived and renamed MINET (attractive as the suggestions of mine-networks were in that title, it had unfortunate connotations in several European languages!). Plans for Tankardstown engine house complex in Waterford will also be revealed, now that Interreg funding has been approved. If there are any other issues that anybody would like to raise, please e-mail - dcowman@iol.ie

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WWW.MHTI.IE

APOLOGIES

A number of errors crept into the last newsletter and I apologise for them, as the items were written at different times and I did not spot the discrepancies and correct them, as in for example the editorial and the Linares Trip notice. This issue has also been delayed considerably, which is regretted.

Matthew Parkes

NEWS AND REPORTS

Subscriptions for 2004 and Insurance

We have changed the subscription categories of members of MHTI (subject to ratification at the AGM on 3rd April 2004). The reason for these changes is the high increase in insurance costs. We have previously been insured through a scheme provide by the British Cave Research Association and a new scheme is now being provided by its successor (British Caving Association). The insurance rate has risen dramatically in the last few years from stg£1.50 to stg£5 last year. The new basic insurance cost is stg£6 for all active members and stg£18 for 'caving' members. It is a condition of the BCA insurance that all full members of MHTI will have to pay for insurance.

The insurance covers for third party liability and member-to-member liability. It also provides an extension to cover landowners. Insurance is vital for MHTI; especially as we are undertaking conservation activities as well as field trips and underground exploration. All 'active' members who go on field trips or underground and all committee/board members will be required to have the BCA insurance.

We recognise that many members of MHTI are not 'active' members, but wish to support the organisation and receive publications. These persons do not require insurance and thus we have introduced a new class of **Subscriber Member**. A subscriber will pay a **reduced** subscription fee, but will not be covered by insurance (and will not be able to attend any field trips). In addition, such a subscribing member will not be classes as a full member of MHTI and will have not voting rights.

The new membership classes are

Subscriber. Are not members of MHTI (if they were they would have to be insured and take out Individual membership). There will be one copy of the Journal and Newsletter sent to each Subscriber. This does not allow attendance or voting at meetings or on any trips. Aimed at libraries/armchair followers. Subscription rate €23 (stg£16)

Normal member. The standard personal membership. Each member will be covered by basic member's

insurance at the lower rate. This allows attendance and voting at meetings and surface trips. Subscription rate €30 (stg£21)

Caving member. The standard personal membership with additional insurance for underground activities. Each member will be covered by member's insurance at the higher rate. This allows attendance and voting at meetings, surface trips and underground activities. Subscription rate €48 (stg£33)

Family/Group. Aimed at a small number of families and voluntary groups. Standard membership for several adults sharing one postal address. Two members will be covered by basic member's insurance at the lower rate. This allows attendance and voting at meetings and surface trips. There will be one copy of the Journal and Newsletter sent to each family. If individuals in a group want to take part in underground activities they will have to pay a supplement. Subscription rate €48 (stg£33)

Corporate. Aimed at a number of minor sponsors. They may nominate one full MHTI member who will be covered by basic member's insurance at the lower rate. This allows attendance and voting at meetings and surface trips. They also get certain privileges. Subscription rate €200 (stg£140)

Sustaining. Aimed at a small number of major sponsors who may nominate up to three full MHTI members who will be covered by basic member's insurance at the lower rate. This allows attendance and voting at meetings and surface trips. They also get certain privileges. Subscription rate €1,000 (stg£700)

TRIP TO LINARES, JAEN PROVINCE, ANDALUCIA, SPAIN: SPRING 2004

A field trip to the lead mining district of Linares in Spain has been organised for the 17th to 24th April 2004. The Linares district contains a wealth of mining remains; including perhaps the largest collection of beam engine houses outside Cornwall. This trip will build upon the brief visit to the area in 1999 as part of the MINET project. The aim of the visit will be record and compare the remains with those elsewhere and to forge closure links with our Spanish colleagues. For further details contact Martin Critchley (mcritchley@era.ie, phone +353-1-6330516).

MHTI AGM – April 3rd 2004 And Weekend Programme

There is included with this newsletter a formal notice and accompanying documentation (nomination forms, special resolution and proxy forms) for the 2003 **AGM of the Trust to be held in the Ulster Museum, Belfast on Saturday 3rd April 2004 at 2pm.**

A field programme has been arranged for the weekend including the following:

Friday 2nd April 10.30 am Visit to Irish Salt Mine and Exploration Company, including underground.

This trip has been kindly provided by the company, and is strictly limited to 8 people in total. It is intended to have a lottery if more people wish to participate than there are places. **It is essential that you make contact with Matthew Parkes to express definite interest before the 11th March** to allow arrangements to be made, and ensure people with difficult travel arrangements e.g. from England, can be certain of their place or not.

matthewparkes@gsi.ie or +353 1 6782858

Saturday 3rd April morning

A visit to Conlig and Whitespots lead mine will be lead by Dermot Smyth.

It is asked that you make contact with Matthew Parkes if you intend to come, so that meeting arrangements can be confirmed. Probably we will meet at the mine site at 10.30.

matthewparkes@gsi.ie or +353 1 6782858

After the AGM, we will endeavour to find a good place close by the Museum for an evening meal, with all members welcome.

Sunday 4th April

Kevin O'Hagan will lead a visit to the iron mines of mid Antrim. Final arrangements TBC

It is asked that you make contact with Matthew Parkes if you intend to come, so that meeting arrangements can be confirmed.

matthewparkes@gsi.ie or +353 1 6782858

In all cases members will need to have appropriate insurance cover, for their intended level of activity. The mid Antrim iron mines trip will include some underground exploration (subject to securing current permissions where necessary). For those travelling by air etc, spare lamps/helmets may be provided – again please inform Matthew Parkes of any requests.

Notice

It is with very deep regret that we have to record the death of John Morris' wife Karen in January this year. John Morris, as all members will know, has been the dynamic force behind very many MHTI activities since the formation of the Mining Heritage Society of Ireland in 1996. Karen stood beside him all along, and some members will have met her on field excursions. The condolences of all members of the Trust are offered to John and his children Billy, Emma and James, at this very difficult time. John is understandably resigning as a Director for this year, and we wish to note our grateful thanks for all the hard work that John has put into many projects, but especially for the conservation of the Man Engine House, Allihies over the last 3 years. Our best wishes and support are with him.

New leaflet: “Mining in Wicklow Mountains National Park”

An excellent little leaflet on the mining heritage of the Wicklow Mountains National Park has recently been produced by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (formerly Dúchas) and is well illustrated in colour. It should help generate interest amongst general visitors to the Park on the mining remains in Glendalough and Glendasan.

MHTI have a stock of this for sale and it costs 50cent each plus postage and packing. Total cost of €1 for Ireland, or 80p sterling for 1 copy or post free with another publication.

Orders for this or any other MHTI publication should be sent to Matthew Parkes
Geological Survey of Ireland
Beggars Bush
Haddington Road
Dublin 4. Or email: matthewparkes@gsi.ie

Email distribution of newsletter

Due to rising costs on all fronts, the Directors are looking at ways of saving money, including on postage, and the next newsletter should be available to members as a digital file (pdf). **If you have provided us with an email address we will send the newsletter to you by email, unless you have definitely indicated a preference to receive the newsletter in a traditional paper copy. If you would prefer it sent by email as a Word file rather than a pdf, please email to let us know now:**
matthewparkes@gsi.ie

Calling All Builders, Scaffolders, Stone Masons etc.

Long standing members are well used to us seeking volunteers to assist with various activities, but this call is definitely a new departure. It appears likely that a significant quantity of scaffolding will be donated to the MHTI at the end of the current phase of conservation works on the Man Engine House in Allihies. Should this proceed as now being suggested, then this will provide us with a great opportunity to engage in further conservation works, both in Allihies as well as elsewhere in Ireland. While we will continue to fund raise and use specialist contractors for such work, our capability would be significantly enhanced if members with suitable skills would be willing to volunteer their skills towards such efforts.

A number of us can donate the brute force and ignorance dimension, but there are certain skills which are vital: scaffolders and stone masons in particular. If any of you [or friends etc] might be interested in helping with this initiative please contact me as soon as possible:

john.morris@dcmnr.ie or (00353) – (0)1-678-2871.

New Books

Pits – A Mining Pictorial History

A flier received from Pen and Sword Books Limited tells of a newly available reprint of this highly illustrated hardback book at £16.99 sterling, covering a century of history of the coal miners and communities in the Yorkshire area. Written by John Threlkeld, this imprint combines both volumes of Pits 1 and 2. For more information contact www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/localbooks
enquiries@pen-and-sword.co.uk
+44 (1226) 734222/ 734555

Yorkshire's Flying Pickets in the 1984-85 Miner's Strike Based on the diary of Silverwood Miner Bruce Wilson, Edited by Brian Elliott.

We have just received a flyer for this new book, also from Pen and Sword Books (details above).

Exploring Cornish Mines

We now have a very limited number of copies for sale of an excellent series of guides to the mining heritage of Cornwall. There are 5 volumes of *Exploring Cornish Mines* covering different areas, and published by Landfall Publications. They cost only €1.50 each. **Contact Matthew Parkes for further information if you wish to buy these.**

Castlecomer News

Great News from Castlecomer in two respects:-

Seamus Walsh was recently awarded Kilkenny Person of the Year in the Heritage category for 2003, for his contribution to mining heritage. Congratulations to Seamus (on the right in the photo) on the award.



The whole Deerpark Baths Museum Project is progressing well with funding in place and just recently a Project Manager has been appointed for the project. His name is Harry Everard, and we wish him well with the work ahead.

Land of Poets, Scholars and Mines

Those who attended the NAMHO Meeting last June may have had the chance to view Peter Eggleston's fine new film, introducing the mines of Ireland. This fully finished film production is now available direct from Peter, for which information can be found at the website:

<http://www.iarecordings.org/> or contact by email: peter@iarecordings.org
Peter Eggleston, I.A.Recordings (PO Box 476, Telford, Shropshire, TF7 4RB, UK)
Putting Industry on Video - an Archive for the Future

They are available on video to MHTI Members at a special price of £10 or €15 (Normal price £12.95)

Peter is also making them available on DVD to MHTI members at a special price of £12, or €18 (Usual price £14.95 or €21.60). If you wish to order one through MHTI at a special price you must do so before the AGM, when we will receive stock. Please contact Matthew Parkes with your requests.

REPORT OF VISIT TO HOLLYWOOD MINE, CO. WICKLOW 19-06-2002

PREAMBLE

The site was visited by the undersigned, in the company of Julian Boyle, Minerals Section, Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), and Mr. Chris Corlett of the National Monuments and Architectural Protection Division of Dúchas – The Heritage Service. The visit came about as a result of a query Chris had regarding the antiquity of the workings, and the possible relation of metal mining with the Bronze Age and later archaeological features which abound in the area. No data had previously been recorded for the site by GSI, and therefore the visit was thought useful as a means of adding the locality to the GSI Mine Records inventory, and at the same time making it known to members of MHTI through the Newsletter.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Cole (1922) mentions the site under “Lead”, citing Richard Griffith’s 1828 “Metallic Mines of the Province of Leinster”. The original O.S. Sheet 15 for Wicklow, printed in 1840, shows no mining activity at the location, although supposedly it had been worked prior to that date. Geological mapping by the GSI, finalized in 1901, includes the annotation “Mine Level”; the annotation is apparently by GSI itself. Finally, the Revised Edition of Wicklow O.S. Sheet 15 bears the annotation “Spa Hole / (Iron Mine) / (Disused)”. To reconcile this latter with the history of the mine as a trial for *lead* is difficult.

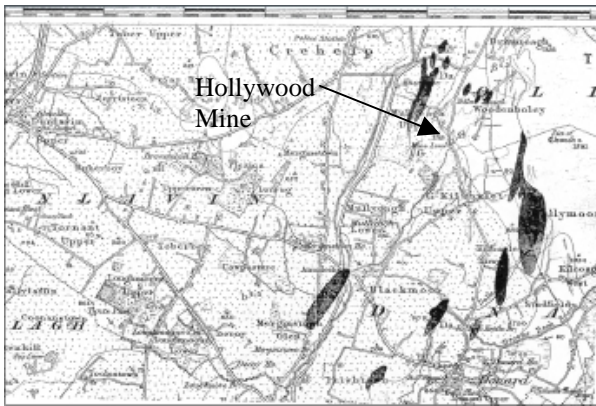


Figure 1 Location of Hollywood Mine, Co Wicklow

DESCRIPTION OF SITE

(See Figs. 1, 2)

Hollywood Mine lies at a right-angled bend in the road 2¼ miles north of the village of Donard. It lies in fact at the head of Hollywood Glen, a narrow leafy valley at the base of Church Mountain, which rises to the east. The locality can be accessed by car from the main Blessington-Baltinglass road. The mining remains consist of a flooded adit at the roadside, a platform on the side of the road in the Donard direction which

looks possibly man-made, and two openings some 30m up the steep hillside above the adit.

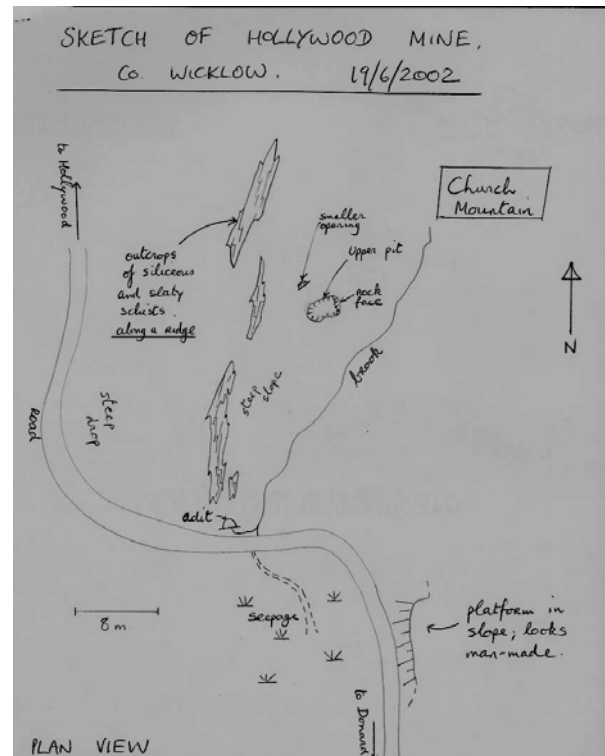


Figure 2 Sketch of minesite by author.



Figure 3 View of roadside adit. Photo: Phelim Lally

ADIT

(See Figs. 3,4)

The lower adit opens just behind the bank on the northern side of the road, at about a metre and a half

from the tarmacadam. The road seems to have partly blocked the flow of the brook which comes down from the woods above. On the low ground on the southern side of the road there is seepage of water, indicating some flow through the base of the road; water has also been diverted into the adit mouth, and probably drains through the mine workings to the underlying rock. Presently the adit roof is about level with the surface of the modern road, and the water comes to within a foot of the roof. There is no possibility of entering without

norkeling equipment, therefore. The photo taken at the mouth (Fig. 4) shows a surprisingly smooth, rounded interior; it appears wide and looks more modern in design than the early 1800's. Christopher Darby, who took the photo, reported a possible widening at the far end, though this was not clear due to the poor light.



Figure 4 Interior of adit. Photo: Christopher Darby.

GEOLOGY

The rock around the portal is of mica-schist. No quartz was noted, though vein quartz is to be found on the roadside and now and again as a component of the wall bounding the road. On climbing up the hill, one notes a ridge of craggy rock. Small pods and stretchings of quartz occur occasionally (10cm x 5cm being a typical pod size); no mineralization was seen. The quartz is massive and vitreous, and slightly yellowed due to staining by iron on the cracks that cross it.

UPPER PIT

At a height of perhaps 30m above the adit, there is a shallow pit of dimensions 5 x 2.5m x 1.5m deep, the bottom of which is now filled with forest litter (clay, dead pine needles and fern). It is solid enough to stand on (See Fig. 5). At the eastern end of the pit there is a shaft wall i.e. quartzitic rock cut vertically downwards. At the base of the cutting the soil appears to fall in and there is a small cavity; this might well lead down into a shaft. The problem resides in the pit itself being offset from the direction of foliation in the surrounding rocks, lying as it does some 8m to the east of the crest of hard schist in which the adit below is developed. Secondly, the direction of caving towards the shaft opening is

east-northeasterly, or at right angles to the direction of foliation.



Figure 5 Upper Pit. Photo: Phelim Lally

In conclusion, this upper pit may be either
 -an inclined adit directed away from the ridge in a perpendicular direction, following a cross-structure, or
 -the result of a raise from the adit below that veered to the east to come out downslope of the main ridge, following a stringer of quartz which is not evident on the surface.

Phelim Lally

Journal 3, 2003

The new Journal will be distributed within a couple of weeks, but only to fully paid up members for 2003. It is a benefit of membership which we hope will encourage all members to renew for 2004, and encourage others to join. Please bear in mind that if you have any paper that you would like to see published in the Journal, it is never too soon to start preparing it or submitting it to Des Cowman. If you wish for any help or advice on writing, illustrating, or otherwise getting the article into Journal 4 in 2004 please contact the Editor, Des Cowman or any member of the Committee.

GSNI provides geological expertise to government, industry and the public as well as maintaining a number of databases including:

- Mineral and hydrocarbon exploration licence database and open-file reports
- Mineral occurrence database
- Regional geochemical and geophysical databases
- Boreholes database
- Abandoned mines database
- Quarries database

Recent publications include the new Geology of Northern Ireland.

Ongoing projects in the Minerals and Hydrocarbon sector include:

- Fluid chemistry of gold in Northern Ireland
- Nickel and Platinum Group Metal potential of Northern Ireland
- Midland Valley Terrane Seismic Investigation
- Geophysical Testing Study
- Sand and Gravel Assessment of Northern Ireland

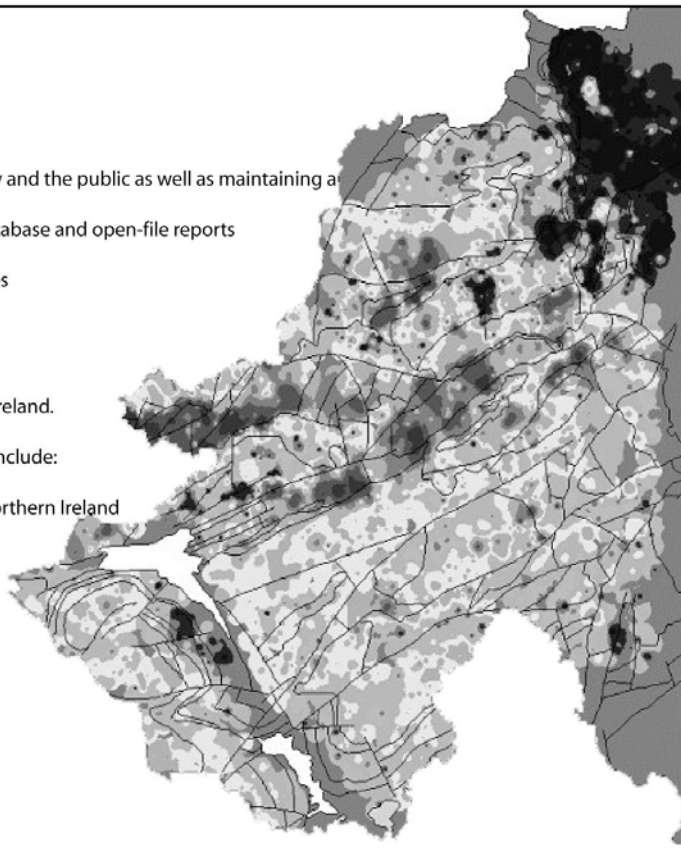
Further information can be found on the website at www.bgs.ac.uk/gsni or by contacting Miller O'Prey.

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Department of
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Regional geochemistry of western Northern Ireland

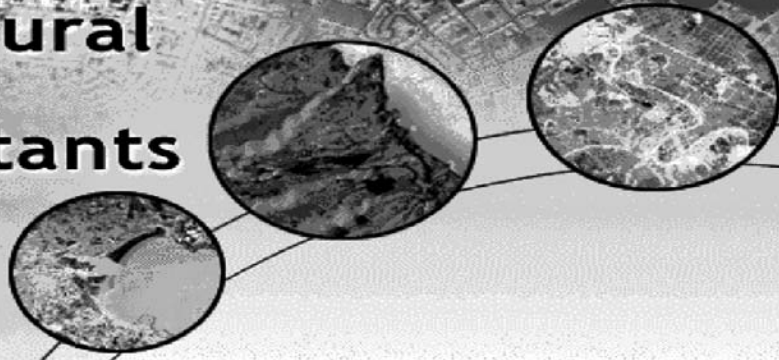
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including quarry & landfill monitoring.



A selection of pictures taken by Kelvin Lake during the NAMHO 2003 visit to Tara Mines. Our grateful thanks go to Tara Mines for providing this opportunity for MHTI to visit.

