



# NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 33

APRIL 2006

Iontaobhas Oidhreachta Mianadóireachta na hEireann

Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland

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## MHTI PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2006

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

### **MHTI AGM and Field meeting 28-30 April 2006**

**Bantry Co Cork. AGM 6.30pm Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>, Westlodge Hotel, Bantry.** On the Saturday and Sunday, we will visit a

range of sites on the Sheep's Head Peninsula, led by Paddy O'Sullivan. Anyone intending to attend is asked to email Matthew Parkes on [mparkes@museum.ie](mailto:mparkes@museum.ie) or phone 087-122 1967 to register their interest and to get further details in due course.

*Please register your interest with M Parkes for up to date info.*

### ***NAMHO Conference 2006 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2006***

***Mining in the Landscape, The Royal Pavilion, Llangollen,***

***Wales. more details on website [www.namhoconference.org.uk](http://www.namhoconference.org.uk)***

MHTI Board meeting normally on second Thursday of each month in GSI, Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin 4 at 6pm  
Next one 16<sup>th</sup> February 2006.

**Galway's Mining Heritage Seminar 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> August** in Maam Community Centre. Maam Bridge. Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> will comprise a series of talks and on Sunday there will be a field trip (see provisional programme inside)

## EDITORIAL

The main business of the Trust at present is the AGM, documentation of which is in this Newsletter. After that the main focus will be on the weekend on the mines of County Galway on which little research has been done up to now. Arising from this will be a publication, which will be at least a start in rectifying this situation.

But where, I hear you ask, is the 2005 Journal? Most of it is in existence but being a specialized issue we could not proceed until we got all the articles. It will comprise a detailed study of the Tankardstown complex in county Waterford – mineralogy, archaeology, conservation, history as well as special features. These included a scientific analysis of the mineral railway and a series of specially commissioned drawings recreating the present mining landscape as it was in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. It will be worth waiting for!

Almost every issue of these Newsletters has a section entitled *Items Received* as there is within. There is a great deal of relevance to Irish mining history and MHTI has it all in safe keeping with a view to making it available to members into the future. Up to now we have only acknowledged receipt with a brief description. Everything received is appreciated as will anything sent into the future.

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WWW.MHTI.COM

## MHTI SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you receive an invoice for your 2006 membership with this newsletter, it means we have as yet not received your payment. Please pay this as promptly as possible to allow for the proper running of the Trust, particularly regarding insurance cover. If you have recently sent your subscription, then it may be worth checking with Wayne Cox that it has been received. We could make further savings if you accept the Newsletter and other mail by email. Please advise with your payment if you can accept MHTI email newsletters etc instead of postal copies.

## ITEMS RECEIVED

1. Nick Southwick sent photocopies of a very interesting series of articles describing in detail the mining operation at Silvermines in the early 1950s. These include historic photographs and plans which add an extra dimension to the survey undertaken by MHTI there. The full references are

Griffith, S. V., "The Silvermines Operation, Co. Tipperary, Eire. (an account of mining and treatment operations compiled in 1952)", *The Mining Magazine* 1955, March, pp137-150; April, pp 206-215; June, pp 332-337. ()

2. Diane Hodnett has come up with the adjoining photograph of an ex-Bunmahon miner, William Barkla. She provides the following information about him.

He was over forty when he left St. Agnes for Bunmahon about 1837 along with his wife and at least four children aged eleven to one year. At least four more children were born during his stay here. In 1852, aged 57, he made the dramatic decision to move his family to Australia. He spent the rest of his life at

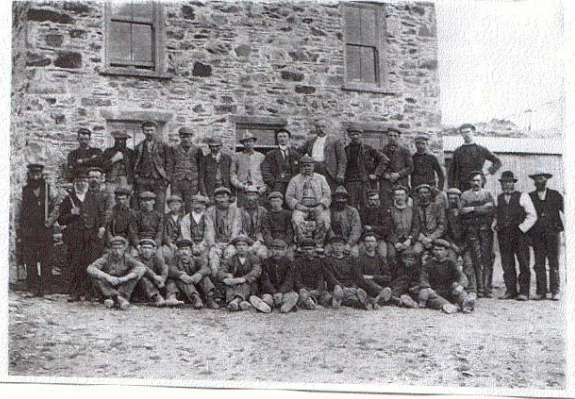


*William Barkla in Australia*

Kapunda mine in south Australia and at least one child was born there. His wife died in 1863 and William in

1874. From his photograph he looks quite an exceptional person!

3. Diane Hodnett also received this unique photograph (below) of Horse Island (West Carbery, County Cork) miners from Catherine Flannery. Her grandfather is fifth from right, middle row. He was born in 1870 and left Horse Island in 1900. His name was James Newman. The captains were Captain Myles and Captain Sinnott - from memory (the spelling may be incorrect).



## SEMINAR ON THE MINING AND HERITAGE OF CO. GALWAY

Provisional programme is as follows:

### **Saturday 26th August 2006**

Venue: Maam Community Centre, Maam Bridge, Co. Galway. Registration 0930 Fee €30 for 2 days, €20 for one day

Talks Programme - titles to be confirmed

Paul Duffy - overview of mining heritage of Galway

Martin Feely - Galway Rocks

Keith Geoghegan - Development of Glengowla Mine

Matthew Parkes - The Derrylea Mine and works

Ambrose Joyce - The Connemara Marble - a world famous industry (may cover soapstone from Inishshark

Eamonn Grennan - Tynagh Mine

Michael Gibbons - Settlement of Connemara related to mining

Paul Duffy - Mines and people in Galway

### **Sunday 27th August Provisional Field Programme**

Transport in small coaches starting from Maam.

1) Clements Mine

2) Glengowla

3) Derrylea

Prebooked Lunch in Clifden

4) Streamstown marble quarry

Further details in next newsletter

## CASTLECOMER NEWS

Seamus Walsh reports that at long last after various trials, work has begun on building the mining museum at Castlecomer, in an estate yard kindly donated by Errol Delaney. More news to follow in Newsletter 34.

## CELTIC COPPER HERITAGE

Celtic Copper Heritage is a three partner project which involves collaborative work on the Avoca Mines (Ireland) and Parys Mountain Mines (Anglesey, North Wales). The project is funded under the InterReg IIIA programme of the European Union and is lead by the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board (Ireland) and the Amlwch Industrial Heritage Trust ('AIHT') Ymddiriedolaeth Ddiwydiannol Amlwch (Wales).

The aim of 'Celtic Copper Heritage' (in both Ireland and Wales) is "to harness the historical copper mining heritage in both areas as a means of generating positive economic, social, cultural, and environmental impacts in deprived rural communities".

To ensure this aim is achieved, the associated objectives of 'Celtic Copper Heritage' are to:

- Develop new educational and research facilities/opportunities;
- Conserve and preserve the internationally important industrial heritage;
- Raise the profiles of Amlwch and Avoca as visitor destinations;
- Enhance and protect the natural rivers at both locations;
- Facilitate the transfer and sharing of expertise and knowledge; and
- Develop further partnership and working arrangements between both applicant organisations.

Common features of the two mine areas, which creates the basis for collaboration through the 'Celtic Copper Heritage' project can be summarised as:

- Similar ore deposits and associated 200 years of mining history;
- Comparable geology with the host rocks being 'Lower Palaeozoic' in age and comprising of volcano-sedimentary piles;
- Development of both mines was started in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century by the same company which transferred from Amlwch, at the end of its lease, to Avoca;
- Pollution poses problems at both sites in the form of 'acid mine drainage' ('AMD'), thus inhibiting future development planning.

Joint areas for collaboration, facilitated through the 'Celtic Copper Heritage' project, and the associated positive outcomes are:

- Joint working initiatives to reduce the adverse environmental impacts of abandoned metal mines;

- Enhanced marketing of both natural visitor attractions to raise overall visitor numbers and generate enhanced economic benefits;
- Improved interpretation and understanding of the two areas' history and heritage amongst the local populations;
- Adding value and raising the quality of historical local features and the natural environment as drivers for rural development;
- Stimulate interest and opportunities for local people to develop associated businesses to exploit the history, heritage, and generate economic benefits;
- Greater utilisation of both sites for educational purposes (as part of the National Curriculum and Further/Higher education).

The Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland is a partner in this project. Activities to date include

1. Commissioning of pilot plant at Avoca to treat water from two adits (Jan-April 2006)
2. Appointment of full-time manager (Wales) and part-time co-ordinator (Ireland)
3. Partner and public meetings
4. Development of a web site



*Pilot plant for treatment of Avoca acid mine drainage*

For further details, contact the Project Manager – Ms. Josie Mahon, Eastern Regional Fisheries Board. Email [josie.mahon@erfb.ie](mailto:josie.mahon@erfb.ie)

### **NAMHO Conference 2006 Mining in the Landscape**

**The Royal Pavilion, Llangollen, Wales  
9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

for more details visit the conference website

[www.namhoconference.org.uk](http://www.namhoconference.org.uk)

or contact conference organizer:

Andrew Wood, Home Farm, Castle Pulverbatch

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Tel +44 (01743) 718668

Email: [andrewgbwood@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewgbwood@hotmail.com)



Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland / Iontaobhas Oidhreacht Mianadóirechta  
36 Dame Street, Dublin 2

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

**Notice is hereby given that an Annual General Meeting of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland Ltd. will be held at the Westlodge Hotel, Bantry, Co. Cork on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2006 at 6:30 pm.**

### Agenda

1. To receive the accounts of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland Ltd. for 2005
2. To elect up to 3 new directors

**Signed,**

**Nigel Monaghan,  
Company Secretary**

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### **MINING HERITAGE TRUST OF IRELAND Ltd.**

Proxy Form

I/We....., of ..... in the County of  
..... being a member/members of the above named Company, hereby  
appoint ..... or failing him of..... as my/our proxy to  
vote for me/us on my/our behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held on  
29<sup>th</sup> April 2006 and at any adjournment thereof.

Signed .....

Dated .....

This form must be with the Secretary (Mr Nigel Monaghan, National Museum of Ireland, Merrion Street, Dublin 2) at least 48 hours before the AGM (29<sup>th</sup> April 2006). Proxies do not need to be members of MHTI.