



# NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 36

APRIL 2007

Iontaobhas Oidhreachta Mianadóireachta na hÉireann

Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland

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## MHTI PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2007

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

### **Slieveardagh Field Trip – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2007 Jointly with the IHAI**

Programme for this trip led by Phelim Lally is inside.

### **10<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2007**

**18.00 hours/6pm Glendalough Hotel, Glendalough, Co.**

#### **Wicklow**

A full field visit programme for the weekend will be circulated.

#### Irish Geology Week 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2007

For further details of events all around Ireland see the website [<http://www.habitas.org.uk/es2k/>]

The NAMHO 2007 conference is being held in Devon on 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> June. For details see

<http://www.tamarmining.co.uk/>

#### **Sat 1<sup>st</sup> – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2007**

#### **Sea, sand and soapstone in Co Donegal**

Fieldtrip led by Alastair Lings. See outline programme inside.

#### **Sat 15<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

**Historical Metallurgy Society Annual Conference**, National Museum of Ireland Dublin, jointly with MHTI.

## EDITORIAL

This newsletter should be accompanied by your copy of the 2006 Journal of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland (no. 6). The journal is a benefit of your membership, but unfortunately unforeseen delays meant that it was delayed. MHTI apologises for this. If you have any interest in getting involved in writing for the Journal or helping with editing, production or distribution we will be very glad to hear from you!

The AGM at Glendalough, and several traditional style field visits are on offer this year and we hope to see as many members as possible at these events.

Matthew Parkes

Please continue to send Newsletter items to the Editor:

Des Cowman, “Knockane”, Annestown, Co. Waterford. ☎ (051) 396157 ✉ [dcowman@iol.ie](mailto:dcowman@iol.ie)

**WWW.MHTI.COM**

## FINANCE MATTERS

Can I take this opportunity to thank all members you have paid their subs for 2007 (and a big thank you to those who settled 2006 arrears simultaneously!). However, a number of issues have come to light during the renewal process which complicate the financial/administrative affairs of the Trust.

### 1. Insurance.

All members must be insured under the BCA (British Caving Association) insurance scheme (subscribers are not members and therefore do not pay for/have insurance). There are three categories of individual membership. Caver and Non Caver membership will be the options for most members, depending on whether not the member is interested in underground access.

The third category, "Insured Member", only applies to those members who are paying BCA insurance through another club and it is a requirement to notify MHTI on the membership renewal form of the club through which BCA insurance is paid.

BCA cards will be issued to all Caving/Non Caving members and you may be asked to produce these at any meeting/event organised by the Trust (including the AGM). In such cases, 'Insured Members' will need to produce the BCA card issued by the club that they are insured through.

### 2. Cheques/Postal Orders

All cheques/postal orders must be made payable to "Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland" or "MHTI". Cheques/Postal Orders should not be made payable to any director of the company, both for audit purposes and potential difficulties in cashing same. In addition, euro cheques must be drawn on Ireland. For members in the eurozone outside Ireland, contact the Treasurer for BIC/IBAN details to enable a eurozone bank transfer to be made. Sterling cheques drawn on a UK bank can also be accepted at the subscription rates advised.

Ewan Duffy, Treasurer.

## MHTI PUBLICATIONS

A new revised list is available of all MHTI publications and others on Irish mining heritage available for sale from MHTI. All postage rates quoted are for single copies so please enquire if you wish to buy more than one title as the total cost should be less. Special discounts may be available for members or for larger purchases. Trade rates also apply for retailers.

Copies are available by post or by email – contact Matthew Parkes (087-122 1967 or [mparkes@museum.ie](mailto:mparkes@museum.ie)).

## PUBLICATIONS AND DONATIONS

*Bonanzas and Jacobites: the Story of the Silver Glen* by MHTI member, Stephen Moreton, has been recently published. This is his first book after many articles. Based on wonderful primary sources (fully referenced), it is the story of Scotland's richest silver mine near Alva, Clackmannanshire. Its discovery coincided with the Jacobite rebellion in 1715. The extraordinary sequence of events, involving fortunes made and lost, intrigue and betrayal, a loving wife and greedy servants, and a cast ranging from the Old Pretender to Sir Isaac Newton, is told here for the first time."

Nicely illustrated, its 94 pages fall into four chapters – "The Discovery of the Mine and the 1715 Rebellion"; The Government steps in; A Second Bonanza – the Discovery of Cobalt; Description of the Mine and Minerals.

Published by National Museums of Scotland (NMS) Enterprises Ltd., it is available at a very reasonable £9.99 in U.K. and £10.99 outside from NMS Enterprises (Publishing), Chambers St., Edinburgh. EH1 1JF. Tel. +131 247 4026. While there is no associated web-site, type "Bonanzas and Jacobites" into a search engine to find more! The same publisher has also provided notice of *Hugh Miller: Stonemason, Geologist, Writer of the 19<sup>th</sup> century*.

As notified separately, the most recent MHTI book, *The Making and Breaking of a Mining Community: The Copper Coast County Waterford 1825-1875+* by Des Cowman is available through MHTI and through the author. As a social history of the mines around Bunmahon, it traces the growth in employment as the mines developed under the extraordinary manager, John Petherick. Aspects of mining society are explored such as the drinking culture, the religious tensions revolving around the Rev. Doudney, the strike and lock-out of 1860 and the consequences of the gradual but sporadic decline of the mines from 1865.

John Morris has donated a copy of the May 2006 magazine/journal *Scripophily* to the MHTI Archive, containing a paper he wrote entitled: "Cornish Engine House Vignettes". For those who don't have a dictionary to hand scripophily is the collecting and study of share certificates! There is also an article on Geology and Scripophily by John Simpson in the same issue.

John Morris has also supplied a copy of a recent *New Scientist* magazine (27<sup>th</sup> January 2007, pp 48-49) with an article on alluvial gold that he and others in MHTI provided material for. The article - "The hunt for the Wicklow gold" by Gail Vines addressed both historical aspects of the 1795/8 gold rush in Wicklow and the

very modern work done by one of our own members, Norman Moles, and his colleague Rob Chapman on fingerprinting the source of the gold. You'll have to borrow it to find out their conclusion. Or else read: "Microchemical characterisation of natural gold and artefact gold as a tool for provenancing prehistoric gold artefacts: a case study in Ireland", by Chapman *et al.* in *Applied Geochemistry*, vol. 21, p904.

As with all items in the MHTI Archive, they are available for consultation by members, or can be loaned by post or pages photocopied on request for reasonable volumes.

Petra Coffey has now very kindly catalogued almost all the books in the MHTI archive. It is intended to make the catalogue of MHTI books, and then later documents, available online at [www.mhti.com](http://www.mhti.com) as soon as is practical. Any volunteers for helping with this task please contact Matthew Parkes. You would be most welcome.

### MORE ON THE MODEL STEAM ENGINE

Ken Brown writes: "Re the Perran Foundry 100-inch Cornish Engine at Harris' Deep Navigation Colliery in South Wales, I was interested to read of the model in Newsletter No 35. Members might like to know that this was the only engine of this size ever built by Perran though the company is credited with casting bigger (air) cylinders for blowing engines.

"In 1902 there was a nasty accident in the shaft caused by failure of the pitwork of this engine which resulted in five miners being killed. In Cornwall the height of each pump lift was generally of the order of 30 fathoms, not much more, being limited by the hydrostatic pressure at the lower end of the rising main. At Harris' the heights of lift ranged from a staggering 45-50 fathoms. On 11 November a chunk of the 3rd pipe from the bottom of one of the 45 fm lifts blew out, and in falling down the shaft collided with a double deck cage carrying 31 men coming up. The five killed were all on the upper deck, one of them actually falling down the shaft. The piece that blew out was 6 feet long and included part of a flange. It was reported that the rising main had been in use 28 years and that it was composed of cast iron pipes 9 ft long and 26 inches diameter where the failure occurred. Metal thickness was one and three-quarter inches.

"It would seem that the company had taken a big risk in order to economise in the number of lifts. The shaft itself was one of the deepest in Wales at 380 fathoms."

### SLIEVEARDAGH FIELDVISIT OUTLINE PROGRAMME

**This field trip, held jointly with the Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland (IHAI) will be led by Phelim Lally**, of the Irish Historic Minesite Characterization Project, Geological Survey of Ireland Ph. 01 6782763  
E-mail [phelim.lally@gsi.ie](mailto:phelim.lally@gsi.ie)

If you are interested in attending please contact Matthew Parkes to keep up to date.

**Saturday 14<sup>April</sup>** - meet at crossroads in Ballingarry at 10 a.m.

Copper Chimney (1957) - spectacular, high, stone draught chimney

Lisnamrock Colliery engine house and chimney (1894)  
Gorteen (late 1980's) - largest recent colliery in the coalfield: waste mountain, spontaneously combusted duff, washing and screening gantry, specialized flora, plugged adit

Ballynulty Drainage Level - arched tunnel from which mine waters still flow  
(Optional industrial archaeological interest: Ballynulty Grain Mill - family restoring mill with fine furnace draught chimney, flues and gears)

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

Mardyke Colliery (19th C) mine house, Cornish engine house and chimney  
Knockanglass Opencast (1970-80's) - steep rockface showing strata, pit lake, walkabout observing effects of mining on landscape

Commons Colliery picturesque mine buildings (1897) and shaft

Earlshill Colliery (1881) quaint mine manager's house, and chimney. The dates above are abandonment dates.

### SLIEVEARDAGH FIELDVISIT ACCOMMODATION

Please make your own arrangements.

"Sacre Coeur" Bed & Breakfast (Proprietor Mrs. Colette Gleeson)  
Ballingarry,  
Thurles,  
Co. Tipperary. Tel: (052) 54510

It's in the village of Ballingarry itself.

Hawthorn View B & B. Half-way between Thurles and Horse & Jockey. €45 single per night. Tel. (504) 21710.

Horse & Jockey Inn, 3-star, on main Cork-Dublin road. Approx. €75 single per night. Currently undergoing

expansion, i.e. building work in progress. Evening meal possible here for party. Tel. (504) 44192; e-mail horseandjockeyinn@tinet.ie

Ardagh House Hotel, 1-star, Killenaule. Functioning as B & B and pub only; no evening meal available. €35 single; old decor. Tel. (052) 56224.

## MHTI JOURNAL 2007

As you will learn from the editorial in the enclosed copy of your 2006 Journal, Des Cowman has reluctantly retired from editing the Journal. The Board of Directors, and I am sure all of the members, would like to offer our sincere thanks to Des for all his hard work for six years, and six journals, of which the MHTI can be proud. When the Journal of the MHTI was initiated by the Board in 2000, it was with some uncertainty that there would be enough material to sustain it, and an attitude that we may as well give it a go, but without any great expectations. That it has developed, during only six fast years, into a mature, authoritative and well rounded journal is in large part due to Des and his dedicated efforts. It has attracted a wide range of important mining heritage and history contributions and looks like it will continue to do so.

By default, unless an enthusiastic new editor steps up from amongst our membership, I will be producing the 2007 volume. Although we have some papers in hand and some promised, **now** is the time to be thinking about writing up some topic of potential interest to all the membership. If you have been working away researching a mine site, an old quarrying or extractive operation, some genealogical and mining trail, an ecological project at an old mine site, a social history theme, mineralogy, industrial archaeology or other relevant topic – then start thinking of a Journal paper now! If you want advice or practical assistance with a potential contribution then please ask. *Your Journal Needs You!*

The target for 2007 is to actually publish the Journal in late November and so the end of September 2007 is the deadline for contributions but the earlier they are received the better. They can be edited, laid out and proofed as they are received and then the actual production work is more manageable than if every paper comes at once at the deadline.

I will be aiming to continue the excellent standard set by Des Cowman, and to maintain a diversity of interest in the Journal. However that depends on the papers that are submitted. They can be short items of importance for the documentary record, as well as major research projects. Please get in touch with any proposed items. Equally if you have any interest in becoming more involved in the Journal in an editorial or production capacity please let me know. Lastly, a late decision was made to print the 2006 Journal 6 substantially in

colour. Whilst this costs more than black and white, the quality and attractiveness of the Journal are significantly improved. What do you think? Please let us know your views as we now expect to continue with colour if well illustrated papers continue to be submitted.

Matthew Parkes ([mparkes@museum.ie](mailto:mparkes@museum.ie) or 087-122 1967)

## DONEGAL FIELDTRIP SEPTEMBER OUTLINE PROGRAMME

Alastair Lings has kindly offered to lead a fieldtrip to Donegal on the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> September 2007:

My proposed field trip is detailed below. The mornings could be interchanged, but I think it best to avoid disturbing too many people on the Sunday morning, hence the Muckish trip then. I have spoken to May McClintock (Newsletter Sept 2005), and hopefully she will show us the Warrentown and Ardaturr sites: they're not extensive, and they're en-route.

### Sea, sand and soapstone in Co. Donegal

This field trip will examine talc mines around Loch Gartan and Crohy Head, and the silica sand quarry on Muckish Mountain. Lead mines and trials will be visited if time permits. All the sites are mentioned in Legg I.C. et al, 1985, Mineral localities in the Dalradian and associated igneous rocks of Co. Donegal, Republic of Ireland and of Northern Ireland. Geological Survey of Ireland, 87 pp, 4 maps.

#### Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007 am

Meet at 10:00 near the Post Office in Church Hill (C 070 158), Discovery sheet 6.

-Carrowtrasna Talc Mine, 1860-1940s. Mill, millstones and very limited access to workings. (C 065 189)

-Warrentown Lead Mine, and Ardaturr trial.

-Inniskill Talc Mine. Flooded levels, subsidence, old mill (?). (C 020 125)

-Carrickatimpan trial. Open adit (unexplored). (C 012 118)

#### Saturday pm

Meet in the Supa Valu supermarket carpark, in Dunglow at 14:15 (B 774 116), Discovery sheet 1.

-Crohy Talc Mine, pre 1863-1940s. Mill (B 710 075), very limited access to workings (B 707 078), but spectacular views. A hand line will be provided to facilitate access to the beach. Adventurous (insured caving) members may try to access some of the workings by sea, using wet-suits, helmets, safety lines etc. Low tide is at 15:34.

#### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2007 am

Meet at 10:00 at the small quarry (parking area) near the head of the tarred road on the north side of Muckish Mountain (B 999 293, 290m AOD), Discovery sheet 2.



-Gortnaleck / Carrownmaddy / Muckisk Mountain Silica Sand Quarry, 1940s-1950s. Remains of washing plant (B 999 291, 350 m AOD), quarry with fixed and mobile plant (C 001 287, 585 m AOD). A hand line will be provided to facilitate access to some of the machinery. Members may wish to continue up to the summit of Muckisk Mountain (666 m AOD).

-Keeldrum Lead Mine, 1826-1860s. Engine House and other surface remains. (B 904 263), Discovery sheet 1.

#### Coordinator

Alastair Lings

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## NEWS FROM CASTLECOMER

The visitor centre at the newly branded “**Castlecomer Discovery Park**”, with its distinctive logo, is progressing well. Due to open in May the project is set to make its mark locally as well as nationally and internationally. Images of the work in progress show that completion of the visitor centre, housing the “Footprints in Coal” exhibition, is fast approaching. Seamus Walsh (pictured at the front of the building with new General Manager, Sandra McGrath) is delighted with the progress being made and is looking forward to the arrival of lots and lots of visitors over the summer months and beyond.

Joining the Discovery Park fold quite recently are Sandra McGrath (mentioned above) and Una Patterson, Education Officer. These two ladies are enthusiastically working away to develop and promote the Discovery Park as best they possibly can in advance of the opening date.

#### “Footprints in Coal” Exhibition

**Discover a world where prehistoric amphibians swim and walk through enormous swamp forests, where giant insects fly through the treetops and giant millipedes crawl through ferns and mosses. Discover the coal formed from those forests and the skeletons of those early animals preserved for 300 million years. Discover the men who worked the coal seams and those who brought the fossils to light.**

Watch out for further information on the exhibition in the next issue of the MHTI newsletter.

## CASTLECOMER ‘BUY a BRICK’ CAMPAIGN

Why get involved at Castlecomer Discovery Park and join our ‘Buy-a-Brick’ campaign. The campaign’s aim is to build a memorial filled with the names of all those who have purchased a brick. The cost for a brick is only €100 and all funds raised will assist the fit out of the new Interpretative Centre. To secure your brick complete the enclosed form. It’s as simple as that!

Kind regards

Sandra

Sandra McGrath, General Manager, Castlecomer Discovery Park, The Estate Yard, Castlecomer, Co Kilkenny. Mobile 087 6796253



Seamus Walsh and Sandra McGrath outside the Castlecomer new building.



## GREEN MINES

The Green Mines project is funded under the InterReg3B (Atlantic Region) programme of the European Union. The project brings together partners from Spain (The County Council of Huelva – Lead Partner), Portugal (Regional Development Agency of Alentejo), Ireland (Geological Survey of Ireland, Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland and Tipperary County Council) and UK (Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and Cadwyn Clwyd Rural Development Agency). The project has a duration of 18 months up to end June 2008.

The general aim of the project is to favour environmental recovery and sustainable management of natural resources and socio-economic activities in areas damaged by mining activity in the European Atlantic Area. This aim is structured into four objectives:

- To assess the mining resources both from the point of view of plants and of their geological value – mining and environmental
- To improve the rehabilitation methods for ecosystems harmed by mining activity
- To promote the socio-economic progress of municipalities whose spaces have been damaged and/or polluted by mining
- To define strategies for the construction of a community heritage which on a local level will compensate for the negative effects of mining

These aims are put into practice in four lines of action and their corresponding activities:

### 1. Valuation of the environmental mining heritage

- Carrying out of viability studies for the setting up of facilities for educative, playful or scientific use, as well as for tourism, museums or various other uses in different areas of the European Atlantic Area
- Production of a promotional video on mining sites of tourist interest in the Atlantic Area
- Inclusion of itineraries of visits to mining sites in a wider range of tourist products
- Visits to see specific experiences of tourist use of mining sites

### 2. Promotion of the recovery of the natural environment damaged by mining

- Putting into practice of small demonstration pilot projects by converting abandoned mining sites into sites which are attractive for selective (geological, archaeological) tourism, or general tourism interested in other questions such as the interaction between human activity and the environment. Use will be made of small infrastructures which make

possible visits, improvement of the landscape, waste and pollution treatment, etc. for this activity.

- Publication of an illustrative guide to good practices in the environmental recovery of natural spaces affected by mining

### 3. Momentum for the sustainable development of communities which once depended on the monoculture of mining

- Training of tourist guides who specialise in the mining areas and their environmental features – geological, mineral, archaeological, landscape, etc.
- Designing tourist routes based on the environmental mining heritage (caves, geological formations, landscapes, etc.)

### 4. Development of plans contingent on mining to minimise its adverse environmental repercussions

- Exchange of experience in good practices in the use of mining land, protection of environmental mining heritage and rehabilitation of damaged ecosystems through seminars and a conference which is international in character

## HISTORICAL METALLURGY SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This UK group will be holding their first conference outside Britain at the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin on the 15/16<sup>th</sup> September 2007. It is being organized in conjunction with MHTI and we expect that some familiar names will speak at the meeting. Subject to demand MHTI will run some short field visits to sites such as Ballycorus, Glendalough, Glendasan or Avoca on the Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and possibly during the conference visit sessions. A full programme should be available soon and will be circulated to members at first opportunity.

For further information or to register your interest in getting involved, speaking or leading a trip please contact Matthew Parkes (see elsewhere for details).

## INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION of IRELAND

We are pleased to note that following their recent AGM, although Ewan Duffy is no longer on the Council of the IHAI (after a long spell contributing equally actively to their activities) that he will act as MHTI's representative and so continue to promote good working relationships between the two groups.

**Directors of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland Ltd.**

The following are Directors of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland; as elected at the 2005 AGM held in Bantry in 2006.

- M.F. Critchley
- M. Parkes
- D. Cowman
- N. Monaghan
- E. De Stafort \*
- B. Jones \*
- S. Walsh \*
- E. Duffy

\* Resigning Director, eligible for re-election and willing to offer for re-election

We would welcome any other nominations for Directors. A person nominated as a Director can only be an existing member and they should be proposed by two other members using the form below:

.....

**MINING HERITAGE TRUST OF IRELAND Ltd.**

**Directors Proposal Form**

Name of Proposed Director	Proposed Signature	Date
Name of Proposer	Proposer's Signature	Date
Name of Seconder	Seconder's Signature	Date

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 (12<sup>th</sup> May 2007).

[Please photocopy this form or request a duplicate copy if you want to keep Newsletter intact]



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 Glendalough Hotel on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at 6 pm.**

### Agenda

- 1. To receive the accounts of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland Ltd. for 2006**
- 2. To appoint auditors**
- 3. To elect up to 3 new directors**

**Signed,**

**Nigel Monaghan,  
Company Secretary**

.....

### **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  
12<sup>th</sup> May 2007 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 (12<sup>th</sup> May 2007). Proxies do not need to be members of MHTI.

**Directors:** D. Cowman, M. Critchley (UK), E. De Stafort, E. Duffy, B. Jones (NZ), N. Monaghan, M. Parkes (UK), S. Walsh.  
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