



NEWSLETTER

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Iontaobhas Oidhreacht Mianadóireachta na hEireann

Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland

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MHTI PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2008/9

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

52nd Irish Geological Research Meeting
20-22 Feb 2009 Trinity College Dublin

4th International Symposium on Archaeological Mining History – 29th May – 1st June, Rohrbach, Odenwald, Germany (*see inside*)

8th International Mining History Congress – 12-15 June 2009, based on the Penventon Park Hotel, Redruth, Cornwall, and organised under the auspices of the University of Exeter in Cornwall and Geevor Mining Museum – details
[Hhttp://www.huss.ex.ac.uk/history/imhc/index.php](http://www.huss.ex.ac.uk/history/imhc/index.php)

NAMHO 2009 Conference, Matlock
– 19-22 June 2009

[Hhttp://www.pdmhs.com/MeetsList.asp](http://www.pdmhs.com/MeetsList.asp)
<http://www.namhoconference.org.uk/>

EDITORIAL

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THIS MAILING

In this mailing every member should receive a copy of Newsletter 42 (the one you are reading now). There will also be a copy of an invoice for your membership subscription for 2009. As Ewan Duffy explains below it is important to MHTI to get the numbers right and the payments made promptly for our BCA insurance scheme. I can only reiterate how important it is for an early response to the invoice. Please don't leave it to January – get your pen and cheque book out now and send it back straight away.

You should also find a copy of a new book published by Wicklow County Council, with support from the Heritage Council, on *Exploring the mining heritage of County Wicklow*. Largely written and compiled by our own Chairman, Martin Critchley this is a fine work which will do much to explain and popularize the county's rich mining heritage. In addition, there should be two new leaflets with trails around some of the mining heritage of Avoca. Again Martin Critchley has had a major role in the development of these and we hope they appeal to a wide audience as well as enthusiasts.

Matthew Parkes

FINANCE MATTERS

It is that time of the year again when your Board have to ask for the annual subscription. As I have been reporting at the AGMs of the MHTI in recent years, the financial position of the Trust has stabilised over the last few years. Therefore, despite the ever rising costs of running the MHTI and mindful of the general downturn in the respective Irish and UK economies, the Board have decided to not increase the subscriptions to the Trust for 2009.

Your annual subscription notice is enclosed with this newsletter and the Board of MHTI would appreciate early payment of this, as this will enable us to correctly ascertain the correct insurance category for each member (there is a significant difference in the BCA insurance charge between a caving member and a non caving member). Therefore getting our annual BCA insurance numbers correct is vital for the finances of the MHTI. Your co-operation in this regard is greatly appreciated.

If you are one of the small number of members who have overlooked payment of your 2008 subscription, payment for both 2008 and 2009 subscriptions would be appreciated.

Ewan Duffy
Treasurer.

LISHEEN MINE VISIT

On Friday the 10th of October two groups of MHTI members visited the Lisheen Mine. We were welcomed by Brian Keady who is mine manager. We had coffee in the conference room and he explained the discovery, development and production stages of the operation. After a safety induction we got ready for our tour, one group to under-ground and the other to the mill. Our driver was Owen O'Brien and our mill guide was Fernando Acosta.

After an excellent lunch in the staff canteen the mill group went into the mine and the other went to the mill and load out. The mine is very well operated with a strict emphasis on safety. You must wear your ear muffs and safety glasses. No excuses!! All the workings we visited were in ship shape condition. Pumping is impressive, 80,000 tons of water per day!. Development and production mining is by a variety of methods: room and pillar method, drift & fill and long-hole stoping. Ground conditions can be difficult and shotcrete & cablebolts are widely used to supplement standard rock-bolting. Crushing and conveying in very good order with no spillages and a steady flow of ore. They hoist 1.6 m TPA which is very good for the number of miners. Our thanks to Brian who was very helpful and courteous and hands on to all activities.
Mick Carragher

FOSSIL FORESTS IN US MINES

Ewan Duffy has noted an interesting item on a website concerning major areas of fossil forest identified in Illinois coal mines in the USA. For more details check out the BBC website address below.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7604721.stm>

MONARD SPADE MILL, near BLARNEY, Co. CORK

Not directly connected with mining, but an interesting historical industrial site. During a holiday in Ireland in 1992 pursuing our mining and IA interests, and having earlier come across the cryptic entry "Monard: spade mill, W6476" in the gazetteer of Ref. 1, we successfully located Monard Glen and photographed the extensive but decaying remains of water wheels, trip hammers, shears and forges. Also in evidence were three substantial stone weirs and several workers' houses, some of which were being restored. The whole complex stretches down the Glen on the Blarney River for some 450 m southwards from the railway viaduct on the main Mallow to Cork railway line.

On revisiting County Cork in Summer 2008, we went back to Monard Glen, paradoxically harder to find *with* a GPS because the new N20 dual carriageway road has cut through the landscape. Deterioration due to vegetation growth, rusting, and probably scrap recovery was in evidence; however the workers' houses had all been sympathetically restored and were in occupation and some workshops were in use.

We looked at the 1829/1841 and 1897/1913 maps on the OSI osimaps.ie website in Mallow Library and they show the three weirs each with their own millpond, and the text "Monard Iron Works & Dyewood Mill" and "Monard & Coolowen Iron Works". Searches on the web indicate that the Quaker James(?) Beale was behind the enterprise, and Ref. 2 (p437) gives Thomas Beale as the founder. Colin Rynne also makes special mention of the workers' housing. Any MHTI members who were Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland members back in the late 1990's may recall a trip to the Monard Glen complex in April 1997.

John and Sue Hopkinson, North Wales.

Ref. 1 John Butt & Ian Donnachie : Industrial Archaeology in the British Isles, London, 1979

Ref. 2 Colin Rynne : Industrial Ireland 1750-1930 An Archaeology, Cork, 2006



Water-driven shears at Monard Spade Mill 1992



Waterwheel shaft at Monard Spade Mill 1992



One of the weirs at Monard Spade Mill 1992



Worker's housing at Monard Spade Mill 1992



Sluice, weir and viaduct at Monard Spade Mill 2008

NB. John has provided a range of other photos of the site for MHTI records.

MINING IN THE LANDSCAPE NAMHO 2006 PROCEEDINGS

John Hopkinson has very kindly donated a copy of these to MHTI. They are published by Shropshire Caving and Mining Club, ISBN: 978-0-9553019-2-6. The 16 contributions cover a very wide range of topics with the emphasis, as you might expect since the meeting was held in Llangollen, on North Wales and the Welsh Borders. However there are also papers covering sites in Cornwall, Leicestershire, Spain, Poland and topical treatments of coal mining, geophysical methods, quarries and so on. In all, a very good read, and a useful record. The copy can be loaned on request to Matthew Parkes for MHTI members, but you can possibly also get your own copy from SCMC: www.serve.com/scmc

FUTURE TRIPS IN THE PIPELINE

The following trips are in discussion for 2009. Whilst no dates are fixed yet, please contact Martin Critchley or another Director if you are interested in any of them so that they can be better planned to suit members.

- 1) Parys Mountain and Great Orme, North Wales in October 2009 – Contact Martin Critchley urgently
- 2) a visit to Co. Antrim, looking at the Porcellanite and flint mines/quarries/sites at Belfast, Ballygalley, Tievebulliagh and Rathlin. Probably for Aug/Sept 2009. Contact Alastair Lings
- 3) A joint trip to the Isle of Man in conjunction with the Irish Geological Association – Spring time 2009. Contact John Morris.
- 4) Pyrite Belt of Iberia, Rio Tinto etc in summer 2009. Contact Martin Critchley.
- 5) Trip to smelters in Swansea and lead mines of Central Wales
- 6) Newfoundland – Copper Coast linked trip

It is intended to have some more detailed consultation about fieldtrips and what other activities MHTI members actually want in the next newsletter early in 2009.

GRAIGUENAMANAGH BOOK

Geraldine Carville, who will be a familiar name to readers of the journal over past years, has recently presented a copy of her book – Graiguenamanagh a historical legacy to MHTI. ISBN: 978-1-900505-03-1.

Published by KB Publishing in Ashford, Co Wicklow, this book, this book tells the story of the monastic heritage of the town and Duiske Abbey. One section deals with the King of Duiske Abbey – “the finest effigy in Ireland”. She presents arguments for the limestone source of this statue being the quarries at Bannagole, near Old Leighlin.

INSTITUTO EUROPA SUBTERRANEA

Earlier in the year an exchange was set up with the Institute Europa Subterranea (Foundation for the Study and Preservation of ancient Mining Heritage). The exchange was prompted by contact and a visit from Jacquo Silvertant, who is a prime organizer behind their International Symposium on Archaeological Mining History. The group is focused on the stone mines of Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

A copy of *What lies beneath* - the Proceedings of the 3rd Symposium held in 2008 has been received (ISBN 978-90-79491-02-5). This is a very fine hardback book with very high production values, including many colour pictures, and 180 pages all in English. There is not room here for a detailed review, but I would recommend a read of it for any member with an interest in stone mining or mining archaeology. It is available for loan by MHTI members from Matthew Parkes.

4TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL MINING HISTORY

The “Arbeitsgemeinschaft Altbergbau Odenwald” and the “Institute Europa Subterranea” would like to invite you to attend the 4th International Symposium on archaeological Mining History from the 29th of May until the 1st of June 2009 at Rohrbach near Reichelsheim in Odenwald, Germany. The motto of this years symposium is „Recognition, Investigation and Preservation”, which contains, next to the historical research and project presentations, trading and discussing new research methods for surface and underground fieldwork, but also the presentation and development of new strategies in public affairs and geo-tourism and their role in the protection and preservation of mining heritage. For further information, see First Circular and website www.bergbau-odenwald.de

Glück auf, Jochen Babist