



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 49

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Iontaobhas Oidhreacht Mianadóireachta na hEireann

Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland

MHTI PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2010/2011

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

Wednesday 10th November: Extraordinary General Meeting to approve the 2009 accounts – see editorial and attached file. At the Geological Survey of Ireland, 10.00 am

Monday 29th November: Holding on to your history – MHTI archives and records
This meeting will be an opportunity to explore the archival collections MHTI has, and a chance to determine their future. Venue: Geological Survey of Ireland, Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin 4. **More details inside. If there is sufficient interest we will run a visit to Lough Dan mine in Co Wicklow on the Sunday 28th November**

NAMHO 2011 Shrewsbury, UK. 29th July – 1st August 2011

<http://www.namhoconference.org.uk/2011/>

EDITORIAL

As members may recall we have had a vacancy for a Treasurer on the Board for many months on and off in the last year or more. While that post was vacant a number of administrative oversights have resulted in the accounts for 2009 being considerably delayed. Without going into exhaustive details and apportioning of blame, the essential issue is that some members made payments for their 2009 membership, and their cheques were not cashed. Other members had their payments processed but not all the necessary payments for insurance, through the BCA scheme, were sent on. We have now identified the problems and individual members concerned will shortly receive a letter with either a refund for unpaid insurance or their unlodged cheque returned. The Directors of MHTI apologise wholeheartedly for these errors and have now taken many steps to improve procedures and protocols to make sure this does not happen again.

As a result the audit of and submission of annual accounts for 2009 to the Companies Registration Office has been delayed. We now require an EGM to approve these accounts, prior to submission on the final date allowed for this. We would hope that if you are able to attend the EGM (10 am on Wednesday 10th November at the Geological Survey of Ireland, Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin 4) we will see you there. A set of draft accounts are included here, with our thanks to Ewan Duffy for his work in preparing these prior to his resignation as Treasurer in August 2010. Due to the oversights, mentioned above, the resources expended on insurance and the subscription income both show unusual patterns, and may vary once final audit figures are clarified.

Matthew

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WWW.MHTI.COM

Review of: The Metal Mines of West Cork
by Diane Hodnett
With photographs and Field Surveys
by Paddy o'Sullivan

Mining Journals provide the main source for 26 mine studies here. Their intimidating bound volumes, large pages, narrow columns and dizzying small print make it impossible to get all references and often it is a matter of chance on what one's eye falls. D. Hodnett has been most diligent and has got many I missed in the 1980s, as well as vice versa. Therefore we tell quite different stories about mines like Ballydehob. Similarly for Boulusalach but the sources found here are mainly the claims of the directors without the outrageous contexts of these apparently having been found. The likelihood of the Mining Journal (MJ) being digitised over the next two years means that seconds on the keyboard will call up all references to any mine.

Balteen mine, for instance, got a single mention in the 1988 book based on a single MJ reference. She has 2 ½ pages based on a different reference, plus one from a Cornish journal, a map and a photo of Paddy O'Sullivan surveying the mine in 2006. Horse Island got only a passing mention: now we have 11 pages of detailed research linked to a survey of remains on the ground. Six maps and twelve photos provide a unique record of this hitherto obscure and normally inaccessible island mine. While Crookhaven has been expanded from three quarters of a page to sixteen, surprisingly Paddy O'Sullivan's own survey in *MHTI Journal 4* (2004) is not included nor referenced, nor is another in the same journal by Critchley and Shaw. The same applies to the intrepid rope-swinging surveys that Paddy did of the mines of Mizen and Sheeps Heads providing four sketched underground plans for *MHTI Journal 6* (2006) only one of which is used here.

However, there is a great deal of new material in this book and one of the unique strengths the author bring to it is her knowledge of Cornish mining families and the interrelationships of those who went to west Cork. For instance the young mining captain of Glenalin/Carravilleen, anonymously disparaged in the Mining Journal is now reported as 24 year old (in 1853) John Thomas, son of William and therefore nephew of Charles and Henry with vast collective mining experience in west Cork. The source of the hostility was probably another Cornishman, William Tonkins, and the farcical likely reason for the rancour is given.

Another strength of the book is that grid references are given so that each mine can now be located – indeed one can be guided there by GPS although her foreword urges caution and that most sites are on private land. A generous list of Acknowledgements follows and an Introduction for those unfamiliar with 19th mining technology with apposite Irish examples. Each of the 26 mines (including a summary of Allihies based on Alan Williams book) follows the same pattern – the

appropriate 6" OS map, a history of the mine based mainly on new MJ research, surface remains, underground remains and references with b & w photos throughout plus some historic mine sections and sketches. Then follows eighteen pages of colour photos and reproductions and there is a good index (something sadly lacking in the 1988 predecessor book). This new study is to be welcomed and while, as suggested above, it is not a comprehensive amalgam of all research to date, it is a work of its own and an essential for the bookshelves of MHTI members well worth the €18 or so [Ed. Note: this price is a special offer to members, it will cost you at least 25 euro in bookshops]

Diane, Paddy and the publishers, the Trevithick Society, are to be congratulated and thanked.

Des Cowman ((Des was co-author with Tom Reilly of *The Abandoned Mines of West Carbery*, GSI 1988)

News from Castlecomer

<http://www.discoverypark.ie/index.html>

See the Castlecomer Discovery park website to sign up for occasional newsletters. Their third newsletter has just been distributed outlining events and fun activities at Comer, especially for Halloween and at Christmas time. Please note the main Footprints in the Coal exhibition will be closed for brief periods during some of these events.

Treasurer Vacancy

Ewan Duffy resigned as a Director of MHTI and as Treasurer with effect from 2 February 2009 He acted as Treasurer again for the first part of 2010. The Board would like to thank Ewan for his long service and support of MHTI over many years. We are now actively seeking a replacement Director who would be prepared to carry out the duties of Treasurer. If you feel you could fulfil this position or know of someone else who could, please let us know.

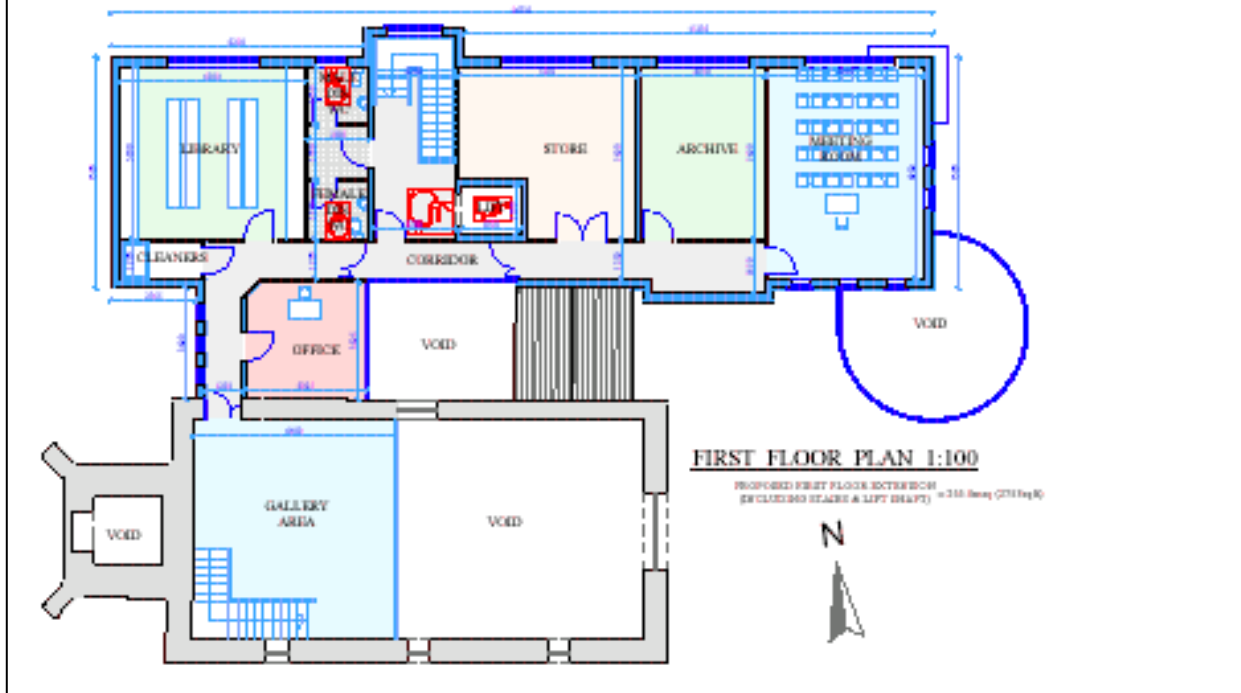
Area Contacts

At the last MHTI directors meeting it was decided to establish a system of Area Contacts. The minutes explain: "These would be local activists who would be a point of information about their mining region, a champion for MHTI in their district and a source of information from their local network that could feed into the Newsletter."

If you have a keen interest in your local area, or want to provide local assistance in organising MHTI events, or want to act as the "eyes and ears" of the MHTI, please get in touch with any director. (For Matthew Parkes, see Editorial. For Alastair Lings, e-mail: alastairlings@yahoo.co.uk
Home: (Scotland +44) 01896 757861
Mobile: +44 7763 850087

NEWS FROM THE COPPER COAST

Plan for the Copper Coast Centre at Monksland.



Visitors

There was an interesting visit by the great grandson of Rev. Doudney, the controversial rector of the area 1847-1859. In August about 800 Italian students were relayed to various sites where they were met by local guides. A conference involving our Interreg 4B, Atlanterra, partners took place in October with field trips and exchanges on mining techniques and technology. Field trips were also provided for the Cork Geological Association, students from Utrecht University and the Hydrology Association of Ireland while the German ambassador to Ireland, at his request, was given a private tour.

Events (see www.coppercoastgeopark.com)

In summary, apart from the usual market-type activities (flower shows, art and photographic exhibitions, etc.), schools out-reach (including “jig-saw earth” on plate tectonics, hunt for dinosaur eggs and beach mosaics), courses (e.g. landscape sketching, jewellery workshop, gem identification, basket making, lime plastering) and guided walks, some unusual activities attracted a lot of interest. “Games we used to play” and accompanying booklet was a gamble that worked. Likewise a commemorative floating of lanterns on the Mahon river at Hallow E’en should create a spectacle to be enjoyed and appreciated. A film of 1958 based on a novel by local writer Una Troy which had never been publically shown in Ireland, because of censorship, needed three showings locally to meet demand.

Future Plans

A report by consultants suggested that Tankardstown be opened as a show mine, but that has to be a distant aspiration. More immediate is the prospect of getting Leader money for an extension of Monksland ex-church to provide the usual facilities plus an archive centre. Also applied for is an exhibition based on geology and mining in the body of the main building.

Work is on-going to extend the Geopark to the Comeragh Mountains in association with Waterford County Council and the Comeragh Development Group. Application has been made for an Interreg 4A project, “Metalinks” with partners in the mining districts of Wales. Word on that is expected in December.

Uncertainty faces the staff; Paula, the office manager has been subsidised for 2010 by Waterford County but only for two days per week (she generously does about 8 days per week!) and similarly for geologist Tina’s two day week from GSI and her generous commitment of time. Without them, little of the summary above could be reported and, unless their enhanced employment can be secured, the status of the Copper Coast as the Republic’s sole European and Global Geopark under the auspices of UNESCO is in jeopardy pending revalidation in 2011.

Des Cowman.

"Knockane", Annestown, Co. Waterford.
051-396157

**“Holding on to your history”
MHTI Archives Day
Monday 29th November 2010 Geological Survey of Ireland, Beggars Bush, Haddington
Road, Dublin 4**

The Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland was formed in 1996 (as the Mining History Society of Ireland). Since the beginning, MHTI has conducted numerous field excursions, exploring and surveying historic mine sites in Ireland, and abroad. It has conducted serious conservation work on iconic mine buildings, often funded by multi-million Interreg projects which MHTI has led. It has advised official bodies on mine heritage matters and published technical and popular books and a regular journal.

In addition we have been seen as a repository for a range of books, documents, mine plans, maps, photos, films, and other related objects. The object of this meeting is to take serious stock of what has been accumulated and to begin defining a sustainable strategy for its long term care. A range of experts will report on ideal scenarios, and we will explore a range of possible options for a full open discussion of what best to do with the collection. It is likely to be of interest to other voluntary groups facing similar issues with their own specialist collections, outside of standard museum and archive repositories.

Programme

10.00 coffee and registration

10.30 Session 1: Archives, best practice and reality

Including short tours of GSI’s Historic Mine Records and tours of the Collections Storage Facility of the Natural History Museum in Beggars Bush (split groups for max 30 minutes each)

Session 2: Archives for small voluntary organisations

Including a chance to view MHTI’s archival records and collections on display at the meeting

Session 3: Where do we go from here?

Including an OPEN FORUM discussion and possible decision making

Meeting will close at 17.00

Registration charge will include lunch and tea/coffee

A FULL PROGRAMME IS ALMOST COMPLETE AND WILL BE CIRCULATED SEPARATELY

Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland Ltd. will be held at Geological Survey of Ireland, Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin 4 on Wednesday 10th November 2010 at 10.00

- 1. To receive the accounts of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland Ltd. for 2009**

Nigel Monaghan, Company Secretary

E.G.M. PROXY FORM

I/We....., of in the County of
being a member/members of the above named Company, hereby appoint or
failing him/her of..... as my/our proxy to vote for me/us on my/our behalf at the
Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company to be held on 20th October 2010 and at any
adjournment thereof.

Signed

Dated

This form must be with the Secretary (Mr Nigel Monaghan, c/o National Museum of Ireland, Merrion Street, Dublin 2) at least 48 hours before the EGM (20th October 2010). Proxies do not need to be members of MHTI.

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