



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 51

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Iontaobhas Oidhreacht Mianadóireachta na hEireann

Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland

MHTI PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2011

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

7 May, Saturday	<i>Industrial Heritage Association outing Wicklow</i>
12 May, Thurs	MHTI Board Meeting
14 May Saturday	MHTI AGM, Dublin + Fieldtrip to Lough Dan
19 June Sunday	Fieldtrip: The peripheral mines of Avoca, Des Cowman
20 May	<i>IMQS Field Trip to the Castlecomer Discovery Park</i>
14 July, Thurs	MHTI Board Meeting
15 July, Friday	Fieldtrip Kingscourt Gypsum Mine, including underground
16-17 July, Sat-Sun	Fieldtrip (Monaghan/Armagh mines, John Morris johnmorris(at)iol.ie)
29th July – 1 st August 2011	<i>NAMHO 2011 Shrewsbury, UK.</i>
	http://www.namhoconference.org.uk/2011/
20-28 August, Heritage Week	<i>(If groups in Cork, Waterford and Wicklow will be running events we will probably run a meeting in the Benbulbin or Connaught Coalfield area)</i>
8 Sept, Thurs	MHTI Board Meeting
10-11 Sept,	Fieldtrip (Cavan and Fermanagh, Alastair Lings)
10 Nov, Thurs	MHTI Board Meeting
12 Nov	<i>NAMHO Council, Cleveland, UK + informal field trips</i>

EDITORIAL

Organising MHTI field visits to old mine sites and other meetings can be difficult for people, especially if they are already busy. Not knowing whether anyone will come along is always a frustrating risk for an event organizer. Consequently, we normally ask people to express their interest in attending an event to the organizer in advance. This is not a definite commitment, just an expression of interest, especially in the case of an event where final details of timing, transport arrangements, eating venues etc can be determined by the numbers and who is actually coming along. When bad weather or some worse problem occurs, the organizer can contact those who have expressed interest and know they have covered the situation. This occurred in the winter when a trip to Lough Dan in Wicklow had to be cancelled due to heavy snow. So, please continue to assist organizers by letting them know you are interested in an event and wish to be kept in the loop as arrangements are finalized. Where an old mine is in State minerals ownership we seek access permission from the Exploration and Mining Division for any underground visits. This requires reasonable advance notice and so it is even more important to know how many people are attending.

Matthew

Contact Matthew Parkes for information 087-122 1967 or mparkes@museum.ie

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WWW.MHTI.COM

MHTI AGM

See separate notice circulated with this newsletter:

Date: Saturday 14th May, at 5pm
Venue: Audio visual lecture room, National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin 7

LOUGH DAN MINE VISIT

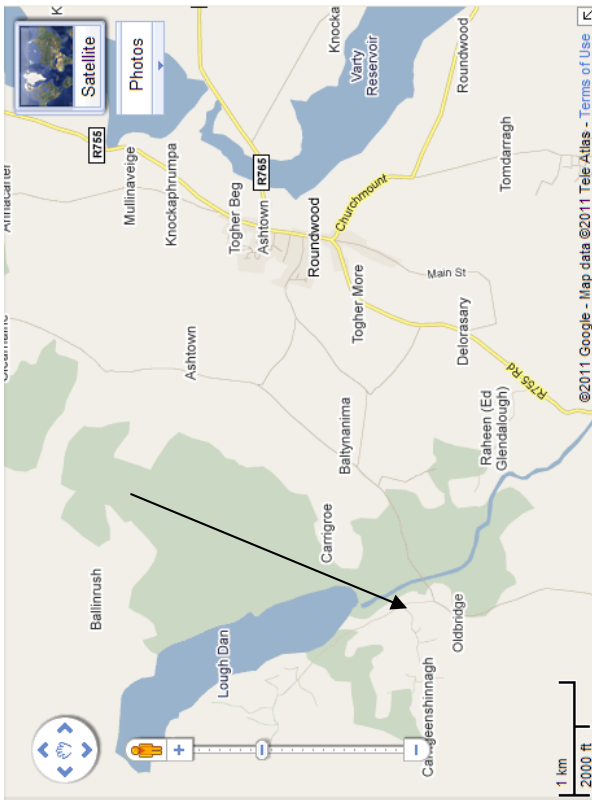
Lough Dan is an old mine which does not appear in Cole's Memoir of Localities of Minerals and Metalliferous Mines. It was probably worked around the early or mid 1800s. It is barely mentioned in most documentary sources and yet there clearly remains of a mine and workings and spoil of some size. It is intended to fully explore the site and document, measure and photograph any remains that can be identified in the course of the day.

Meet at the roadside cottage of Anne Byrne third house (timber construction) on the left hand side of the road after Oldbridge, approaching Lough Dan from Roundwood. Anne Byrne has kindly offered some parking space and there may be some additional spots close by where the road is wider. It is then a walk from here to the mine site. See map courtesy of Google Maps, below for location.

Meeting time 10.30 am

Bring a packed lunch and drinks. Be prepared for rough ground and some investigation.

**Contact: Matthew Parkes 087-1221967
mparkes@museum.ie**



FIELDTRIP: KINGSCOURT GYPSUM MINES

Date: Friday 15th July
Time: 12.00 noon
Venue: Gypsum Industries mine at Knocknacran, Between Kingscourt (Co. Cavan) and Carrickmacross (Co. Monaghan). Meet at mine gate (arrowed below)
Contact: Mick Carragher, 086-3665423
Email: michaelcarragher11@eircom.net



FIELDTRIP: THE PERIPHERAL MINES OF WEST AVOCA

**Ballymoneen; Knocknamohill; Ballycooge;
Moneyteighe.**

Rendezvous 2.00 in car park opposite "Meetings" hotel, Avoca
Sunday 19th June 2011

It will be necessary to pool cars as the roads to most sites are extremely narrow.

Led by Des Cowman
"Knockane", Annestown, Co. Waterford.
051-396157
Email: descowman@gmail.com

FIELDTRIP: MONAGHAN/ARMAGH MINES

Provisional programme, subject to changes and amendments, access permissions, etc. All sites are on surface only (i.e. no underground visits); and unless otherwise indicated, all are lead mines and all are located in Co. Monaghan:

July 15 : Friday :

Lunch : Kingscourt?

Afternoon (if possible, after visit to Kingscourt):

Hope Mine, south of Castleblayney

Overnight: either Castleblayney or Monaghan town

July 16 : Saturday:

Tassan, Annaglogh, Lisdrumgormley, Lemgare, Coolartra (Bond Mine)

Lunch: Probably packed lunch, as sites are remote from convenient towns/pubs

Overnight: either Castleblayney or Monaghan town

July 17 : Sunday :

Clontibret (Sb-Au-As),

College Mine (Co. Armagh).

Expressions of interest please to:

johnmorris(at)iol.ie

mobile 087-929-4615).

2011 NAMHO Conference

NAMHO
National Association
of Mining History
Organisations



The 2011 NAMHO conference (<http://www.namhoconference.org.uk/>) will be held from 29th July-1st August at Preston Montford Field Centre, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury. Activities will continue around Shropshire through the following week.

(<http://www.field-studiescouncil.org/prestonmontford/>)

This delightful Queen Anne country house lies by the river Severn to the west of Shrewsbury and is set in 12 hectares of grassland and woodland. It is close to the A5 and the Welsh and Shropshire Hills. Ironbridge, 'Birthplace of the Industrial Revolution', is a short distance away.

On-site, there is accommodation for 120 with two drying rooms, dining facilities, plus camping and bar. Space will be available for those staying on during the following week. The conference lecture programme will run on the Saturday and Sunday with a series of surface and underground trips from the Friday lunchtime until at least the Wednesday of the following

week, for those wishing to extend their stay. Some of the field trips will be rerun in the week to allow attendance at lectures without missing underground trips. It is intended that there will be a set of conference proceedings.

A conference dinner will be held on the Saturday evening and a special event on the Sunday evening is to be hosted by the Shropshire Caving and Mining Club in celebration of its 50th anniversary; the evening meal is free to delegates.

The theme of the conference is '50 Years of Mine Exploration'. Fifty years ago, there was little interest in industrial archaeology and many important mine sites were lost to neglect or the bulldozer. Many more would have been permanently lost but for the efforts of mine explorers. Following the welcome evening on Friday, a full programme of lectures is planned on Saturday and Sunday with parallel threads in separate rooms. Particular emphasis will be given to practical mine exploration over the years and subjects range from local to international. Speakers include George Hall, who reminisces about his early explorations with David Bick, Rob Vernon on Mines of Spain, Dave Linton, Ivor Brown and many more.



There will be facilities for posters, club stands and trade stands, including Starless River's mobile showroom. There will be an extensive programme of complementary surface and underground trips to lesser-known parts of Shropshire's mining history as well as some longer trips further afield. Underground trips will include a winch trip at Snailbeach and range from simple walk-in mines to some serious through or round trips with SRT.

Full information and booking details are available at <http://www.namhoconference.org.uk/>

Andy Wood

Tel: 01743 718668. Mob: 07802 873230

see <http://www.pulverbatch.org.uk> for village info.

see <http://www.shropshirecmc.org.uk/> for the

Shropshire Caving and Mining Club

and <http://shropshiremines.org.uk/> for the Shropshire Mines Trust

MHTI DIRECTORS NEEDED

The present MHTI Directors have all served for extended periods. Brian Jones has decided not put his name forward for re-election as a Director. He has diligently kept membership records going for many years, for which grateful thanks is due. We have been without an official Treasurer for 2 years, and Nigel Monaghan has stepped into the breach to keep things running, but for how long can he continue that along with Secretarial duties and probably also combining membership records along with payments?

The active responsibilities of running the business of MHTI are resting on fewer and fewer shoulders. If the MHTI is to continue as a functioning organization, we really need some new blood to invigorate things. A critical mass of active Directors is needed to keep things healthy, and others who are willing to stand up and be counted for specific tasks in their local areas, or for one-off projects, or to respond to immediate situations where mining heritage needs a champion.

I personally fear that unless we get some willing volunteers coming forward to be Directors in the immediate future, that we are at risk of folding as a viable organization. We could revert to being a Society, with none of the overblown bureaucratic demands placed on us by regulators, due to the fraudulent excesses of certain companies over recent years. This is one option. There are others, but we need YOU the members to participate in the discussion. Please come to the AGM and consider putting yourself forward to be elected as a Director. All assistance, advice and support will be provided if you are interested.

Matthew Parkes

2011 subscriptions

If you have not received an invoice or have not paid your subs for 2011 please contact Brian Jones or Nigel Monaghan to bring your membership up to date.

Curryglass Quarry – family history enquiry

Not sure if you can help me, or if not, if you have any interest in the info contained in this note.

My great great great grandfather, a John Casey, owned and operated a small quarry and lime kiln in the little village of Curryglass. Casey use of the quarry would go back to at least around 1825 or so, but I know the family history there goes back quite a bit further. The village is located about 28 miles east/northeast of Cork. With the help of some very kind people associated with an Irish Mining/Trade group, I was able to find what I

think is the site using the Ordnance survey/map. The quarry stayed in the family at least until 1871, when my great grandfather, Thomas Winn Casey, set off for America at the age of 17. He arrived in NY on the "City of Limerick" on July 4, 1871. Applying his skills learned as a boy in Curryglass, Tom eventually did quite well here, being one of two partners in a granite concern, which at its peak employed 450 men.

I've recently been doing some research on Tom, his U.S. quarry business, and links back to the homeland. This summer I hope to visit a quarry Tom owned in Deer Isle, Maine, apparently one of only two remaining operational quarries left on that island. Product from Tom's company (Casey & Sherwood) went into government buildings, monuments, harbor and port defense facilities, infrastructure, and of course, provided headstones for many Catholic graves. One of my favorites is a civil war veteran memorial his firm did for the Providence Archdiocese. It is located in Saint Francis Cemetery in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. At one point, close to half the population of Rhode Island was Irish, and many of them fought in the American Civil War.

I'm sure the Curryglass operation was pretty small and only for local use. I've just started gathering sources and reading up on the Curryglass area, the industry, the importance of lime kilns, and Casey genealogy.

I'm not sure if your organization would have relevant information, sources I could follow up on, contacts to look up, or other info, especially if there would be any way to confirm that what I've discovered on the 6" Ordnance map is indeed the old Casey quarry.

Perhaps there are local contacts down in the area who could hook me up with an "old timer" or two. Perhaps there is a way of tracking the "business" records or property ownership records. I'm pretty adept at doing archival research over here in the States, but I'm not at all familiar how such records are organized and managed over there, or even, what exists. Ideally, I hope to be able to bring the family over for a visit and a look, when time, health and resources permit.

Anyhow, that's it. If you're interested, I'd be more than happy to share information with you concerning Tom's U.S. operations as I develop it. At present what I have is pretty basic, but with a little more digging, I hope to have more information on specific contracts, clients, product, get some pictures of monuments, etc.

Thanks for taking the time to indulge my obsession with Tom and his Casey Quarry! Best wishes and God Bless.

Matthew Davis

South Windsor, CT

[If anyone can help with information or suggestions please use this email address: dvmkac@cox.net]

17th AMHA CONFERENCE Hahndorf, South Australia September 12-18, 2011



The German township of Hahndorf is located just 30 mins from the centre of Adelaide in the beautiful Adelaide Hills which will be at their best in September. Surrounding Hahndorf is the site of some of Australia's earliest mining activity and includes historic gold, copper and silver-lead mines, and mining townships. In addition there are historic brickworks, an operating metal mine and one of Australia's largest mine rehabilitation projects. The main conference runs from Sept 14-17 with pre and post conference tours on Sept 12, 13 and 18.

Conference Theme

The conference theme is *Australia's Earliest Mining Era* which refers to the first era of metal mining in Australia which took place in the Mount Lofty Ranges of South Australia in the period 1841-1851. This is the decade prior to the discovery of gold in the eastern States when South Australia possessed most of Australia's metal mines. Papers on any aspect related to this theme are encouraged, but papers on all topics related to mining history are welcome.

Hahndorf Information

Weather:

Weather at this time of year is beginning to warm up with days in the mid 20s and cool evenings so bring light clothing plus a jacket.

Getting there:

Buses run from the airport to Adelaide city where connections can be made to Hahndorf.

The Venue:

Presentations and a social event will be held in the historic Hahndorf Institute. A Welcome Reception, Social Evening and AMHA dinner will be held in the Hahndorf area.

Accommodation:

Within a short walk to the conference venue is a range of accommodation including motel units, self-contained units and hotel rooms. Two km west of venue is a resort which has motel units, suites and chalets, cabins and powered camp sites. Boutique B&B accommodation is a feature of the surrounding Adelaide Hills. For further information on accommodation in Hahndorf contact the Adelaide Hills Visitor Information Centre. Ph: 1800 353 323

Email: vic@adelaidehillsinfo.asn.au

Website:

<http://www.southaustralia.com/AdelaideHillsAttractions.aspx>

For those travelling by car accommodation is also available in the McLaren Vale wine district about 40 mins by car from Hahndorf. Their website is <http://www.mclarenvale.info/>

Further Information:

AMHA

website

<http://www.mininghistory.asn.au/conference/>

Greg Drew, Conference Coordinator
gldrew@internode.on.net

Short Tours

Callington Township and Bremer Mine

The Bremer Mine was the largest mine in the Kanmantoo district up to 1900, producing over 30,000t of copper ore from 1849-1875. The township of Callington was laid out adjacent to the mine in 1850 and a number of buildings of the mining era survive, including the 1881 Police Station and cells

Jupiter Creek Diggings

Gold was discovered near Echunga, 16km from Adelaide, in 1852, but could not halt a general exodus to the Victorian Goldfields. In 1868, a small rush took place at Jupiter Creek and mining was carried out periodically until the 1960s. A self-guided walking trail was established in 1984.

Littlehampton Brickworks

The brickworks were established in 1892 to produce high quality firebricks for use in smelting works and foundries from white clay mined from an adjacent quarry. Today it produces specialty bricks and pavers and two of the original kilns survive.

Brukung Mine

The mine was worked for pyrite from 1955 to 1972 which was used in the production of sulphuric acid and superphosphate fertiliser. A lime neutralisation plant was commissioned in 1980 to treat acid water seeping from the open cut and tailings dump.

Full Day Tours

Willunga Township and Slate Quarries

Slate was discovered in the hills near Willunga in 1840 and led to the development of a thriving industry. It was quarried by Cornish miners and carted to Port Willunga, where it was shipped for use in the building industry. The industry declined after the 1890s but many historic buildings within Willunga featuring the use of slate still stand. The tour includes the Slate Museum and Trail and a visit to the historic Bangor Quarry.

Mylor to Hallett Cove

The discovery of silver near Mylor in 1868 sparked a small rush which led to the commencement of Almanda Mine. A self-guided trail explores the mine ruins and workings. The Worthing Mine at Hallett Cove was worked briefly in the early 1850s and its Cornish enginehouse is the oldest remaining in Australia. Nearby in the steep valley are several historic stone quarries.

Kanmantoo-Strathalbyn Mining District

Copper was discovered by two Cornish miners near Kanmantoo in 1845 and two groups jointly purchased the Mt Barker Special Mineral Survey of 20,000 acres. Mining commenced at Kanmantoo in 1846 and by 1850 numerous mines had been established in the area most named after famous Cornish mines. The most important mines were Kanmantoo, Paringa and Bremer. The Kanmantoo Mine was reworked from 1970-1976 and a new mining operation is expected to commence in 2011. Silver-lead ore was discovered south of the Kanmantoo area in the late 1850s resulting in numerous prospects and small mines the most significant of which were Wheal Ellen and the Aclare Mine. The Angas Mine commenced operations on a newly discovered zinc deposit in 2008.

Copperworks site link-up for Council with university

[editorial note: Although the Copper Day described at the end of this press release has since passed, we include the whole text for information]

January 20, 2011

REGENERATION of Swansea's historic Hafod Copperworks site could be a step closer to fruition. Swansea Council's Cabinet has now agreed that the Authority will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Swansea University to explore regeneration opportunities for the site.

The Hafod Copperworks site is of international importance in terms of its industrial heritage and Swansea's development over the past 200 years. The site contains 12 Grade II listed buildings and structures.

Swansea Council adopted the Tawe Riverside Corridor Strategy at the end of 2006 that includes the Hafod Copperworks Site.

It identified a mixed-use development that would preserve and protect heritage structures and capitalise on proximity to the Liberty Stadium by introducing a hotel and restaurant or bar uses that would bring economic vitality back to the riverfront.

The site was then put out to the marketplace and Swansea Council is now entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Swansea University and will work with them as a preferred development partner for the site initially for the next 12 months.

The Council and the University will work on a feasibility study to jointly explore the potential to preserve and develop the historic buildings on the site, to review the masterplan for the site and to investigate sources of funding. Swansea University also sees potential to develop some of the historic buildings on site into a significant educational and research facility.

Cllr Gareth Sullivan, Swansea Council's Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Planning, said: "It's long been our aspiration to regenerate the historic Hafod Copperworks site but economic conditions have made it difficult to attract a partner that will meet our aspirations for the site.

"Entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Swansea University gives an opportunity to explore the feasibility of our aspirations for the site with the University. It could also lead to a phased regeneration of the site with the University potentially occupying one of the buildings as an educational facility.

"A Swansea 2020 Strategy has been devised to guide the regeneration of the economy over the next 10 years. One of its key aims is to develop the knowledge economy and this could add to it."

Professor Huw Bowen, who is leading the project team on behalf of Swansea University, said: "Exploring ways of developing the Hafod Copperworks site for the benefit of future generations offers us the chance – perhaps the last chance - of ensuring that visible signs of Swansea's immensely important industrial achievements are not lost forever.

"It's especially appropriate that the Memorandum of Understanding will be signed during the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Lower Swansea Valley Project. That path-breaking regeneration project showed what can be achieved when universities and local authorities work in close partnership with one another.

"It's now hoped that the heritage-led feasibility study can find ways of maximising the economic, social, and educational potential offered by the Hafod site." Swansea Council is also working with Swansea University to mark the 200th anniversary of the first copper ingot rolling out of the Hafod Copperworks.

A festival of talks, tours, activities and information is planned for Saturday March 5 to raise awareness of the significance of the Welsh copper industry, its heritage and the place of copper in our lives today.

Events will last from 10am to 4pm and are free to attend. The National Waterfront Museum, Swansea Museum, the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea Central Library, Landore Social Club and Swansea Museum's Collections Centre in Landore are among the venues where events will be held. Riverside walks will also be led by expert guides and other events will be held at Swansea University in Singleton Abbey, the Egypt Centre, the School of Engineering and the University Library.

Have a look at www.copperday.org.uk for more information on Swansea Copper Day.

Real Scams or paranoid Historians ?

The dictionary definition of the word scam describes it as “scheme for obtaining money dishonestly”. While this is a fairly broad definition, the underlying principle implies that a scam is deliberate and intentional.

In his fine publication “The abandoned mines of west Carbery” published in 1988, Des Cowman attempts to analyse the motives of some of the mining promoters and adventurers who were involved in that area during the 19th century. While it is almost impossible to conclusively establish the motives of anyone involved in any activity, any conclusion one arrives at, should be based on empirical evidence. I believe that Des has at least impugned, if not completely tarnished, the reputations, (and that is all some of them were left with) of some miners and adventurers who may not be deserving of such treatment.

Des bases his analysis entirely on written records. My opinions on the matter are not just based on historical records, but also, and more significantly, from my personal experience in the mining and mineral exploration industry. I feel that I have to defend those men, many of whose sincere and genuine efforts in the industry can be tarnished by suggesting that they were somehow complicit in organised “scams”.

Until the early years of the 20th century, eyesight and intuition were the primary exploration tools when looking for minerals. When mineralisation was discovered, either in float or outcrop, one had no idea as to the quality and more importantly – the extent, of what one was looking at. To investigate the matter further the only option was to dig. This could be a short term activity if the mineralisation on an outcrop came completely away after the first clout of a hammer. If the mineralisation was in a boulder found on the land or turned up by an activity like ploughing, then it was necessary to dig down to the bedrock to try to find the source.

Once the “explorer” had established that the mineral went further into the bedrock or outcrop, his only option was to physically follow the mineralisation. While starting out to as a prospector he was now becoming a “miner”. This was the most physically difficult part of the operation which of course could lead to boom or bust, generally the latter. Cornish miners had figured this first principle of exploration out a long time ago when their saying of “where it is, there it is” was first voiced. Every time that a hammer struck a drill steel, every time the miner went to look at the rock face after the charge went off he was filled with anticipation. Even though it was a hard and generally miserable life, with no guarantee of success from one day to the next, those who worked in

mineral exploration and pre 20th century mining had a higher level of hope and expectation that one seldom finds in other forms of industrial activity.

Modern underground miners don't have the same level of expectation as their forefathers had. Geochemistry, Geophysics, surface and underground drilling and drill core analysis, tells the mine geologist in advance almost exactly what he can expect the next blast to bring down in terms of ore quality. The old timers did not have such technical luxuries, and this is where we get back to the argument we started out with. All mineral exploration is speculative and no matter how good the initial indications might be or seem to be, the end result, like horseracing, is a gamble.

We take this this argument back to the 19th century and as an example to one of Des' favourite targets - Ballymoneen Mine in County Wicklow, and it's long suffering Captain, William Barkla. Ballymoneen lies along the southern end of the Avoca mineral belt, along strike from the Ballymurtagh Mine, the most successful of the 19th century Avoca mines. Ballymoneen is a good example of what is called a mine, but which should probably be more accurately described as a prospect. (however that is an argument for another day)

Then, as now, the most likely place to look for new ore was along strike or in the general proximity of an existing ore body. When the Irish mining revival of the mid 20th century began, companies like Northgate, who were at the forefront of the industry, headed straight for all the old known deposits like Allihies, Ballyvergin, Ballyhickey, Milltown etc, using Grenville Cole's memoir as a guide book. Using the same logic, back in 1854, an exploration effort was started under Captain Backhouse to re-open some old exploratory workings in Ballymoneen and continue to drive along the strike of the lodes in the hope, if not the expectation, of striking another ore body equal to that at Ballymurtagh, which lay just across the fields to the north. By September of that year, Captain Backhouse had a disagreement with the Company Board members in London over a number of issues, not least being that he felt that the board was making exaggerated claims about the mines prospects. Perhaps Backhouse might share the same opinions as Des, or maybe he was more conservative or less optimistic in his outlook than some of his contemporaries.

Much of what Des bases his analysis of scams on arises from this aspect of mining i.e. promotion and speculation. To raise funds for exploration, a company had, and indeed still has, to tell a good story. Where one draws the line between reality and fantasy is sometimes hard to tell. This aspect of Mining and Mineral exploration is no less true today, nearly two centuries later, than it was in 1854. Anyone who follows the annual reports of modern mineral exploration companies in Ireland or elsewhere, could

be forgiven for thinking the promoters are always just a hairsbreadth away from the big discovery. Next year will be better or so they tell shareholders. One long established and reputable Irish company has been following its "mother lode" across county Monaghan and Armagh for many years, and will no doubt continue to do until they run into the sea on the west coast or as long as shareholders and investors have faith and belief in what they are being told by the company.

Coming back to the Ballymoneen story. After Backhouses departure, the job of Captain passed to William Barkla who continued to drive east along the lodes. His regular reports in the Mining Journal give us a real sense of the hopes and disappointment that were the daily reality of almost all 19th century mines. He appears to give an honest, if perhaps sometimes overoptimistic view of the mine's prospects.

On and on he went, some days producing good looking mineral, but generally followed by disappointment when the vein narrowed or disappeared or the ingress of water overtook them. When one considers the process of hand drilling and blasting, and forward progress of only three to six feet a day it was a slow and arduous process which required not only huge physical effort but a hope if not a belief that better things lay ahead.

We now know that Ballymoneen mine never made it in to the big time. If Captain Barkla had been more fortunate and happened to cut across a great lode of high grade copper we would now look back in time and marvel at the great intuition and determination of the Captain and the promoters, who had the foresight and perseverance, against all the odds, to find such a deposit. So let us not be so quick to rush to judgement on people who's motives may have been perfectly honourable. Mineral exploration is a speculative activity not far removed from gambling and it attracts all sorts of individuals. The history of many of Irelands finest mines shows that other companies followed the same processes and have published prospectuses and reports not too dissimilar to that produced by Ballymoneen's promoters. Many of the "greats" of the mining industry whom we now deem to have been farseeing, innovative, ground breakers etc, were mostly just lucky. As history shows, poor old Captain Barkla was not lucky, unfortunately for him and Ballymoneen. In conclusion, we should probably read everything, old or new, whether it be in a prospectus, newspaper or indeed a learned journal, "with a grain of salt"

Nick Coy
3 March 2011

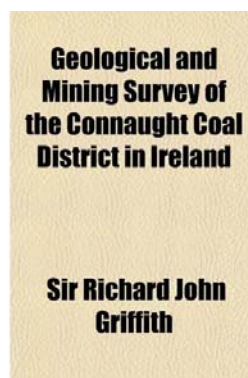
Book Review: Geological and Mining Survey of the Connaught Coal District in Ireland

The original of this book was written by Richard Griffith and published in Dublin in 1818, running to 108 pages.

This edition was published by General Books in 2009. It is created by scanning the original book, and then automatically typed, proof-read and laid-out using optical character recognition software. Because the software cannot accommodate illustrations, the new book does not contain copies of the original map and section. The book is printed on demand, and available from Amazon at £14.50.

When the font and layout of the original text is simple, the software adequately transplants the text in to the new 52 page edition. However when the original text is divided in to columns, the new text becomes unintelligible. The publishers have subdivided the book in to three sections. The final section is sub-titled "OF THE CONNAUGHT COAL DISTRICT," which is a very poor reading of "OF THE NORTHERN DIVISION OF THE CONNAUGHT COAL DISTRICT."

Until the publishers sort out the mess created by the optical character recognition software, I cannot recommend purchase of this book. I suggest that people download scans of the original book from <http://books.google.com/books>
Alastair Lings



This is Radio Mick

MHTI director Michael Carragher has twice been interviewed by Western Waves FM for their Making History series. His first programme about his experiences at Benbulbin Mine was broadcast in December. You can "Listen again online" to the two programmes at: <http://media.westernwavesfm.org/Making%20History>

Ballyhighland (Caim) Genealogy enquiry

If anyone can help Mr Brendan Kelly with his research into his family history, and possible connections to mining at Ballyhighland/Caim mine in Wexford, please contact him directly with information:

kelly.brendan@rocketmail.com

Hello Matthew,

Thank you for getting back to me, all I have is Francis Jur Appricentice Document, his Indentine with James Martin. It shows Francis lived in Ballyhighland and his Father was Francis, on a visit to Ballyhighland a old man told me that the houses were built for the miners. I have checked the parish records and G.R.O and have found only Francis Jur Death cert, not sure if he was born in Ballyhighland, if his Father was a miner he could have moved from mine to mine.

Again Thanks and if you can give me any leads it would be appreciated.

Brendan Kelly.

To: Parkes, Matthew

Subject: Mining Company of Ireland.-
Ballyhighland(Caim) Wexford.

Hello Matthew,

My name is Brendan Kelly I'm working on my Family Tree and found out that my Great-grand Father Francis lived in Ballyhighland Wexford in 1865 and his Father was also Francis. I was talking to Richard Unitt from Mindat and he was saying that you might have staff records of people who worked in the mine in Ballyhighland (Caim) Wexford or could you tell me where to look for them.

Many Thanks,

Brendan Kelly.

Medieval iron working article in *Seanda*

A paper on the topic of medieval iron working appeared in the 2010 Issue 5 of *Seanda*, the Archaeology magazine of the National Roads Authority (NRA). The paper describes a site at Cappadine Bog in north County Tipperary, with a wealth of finds including charcoal pits, smithing hearths and dumps of both bog iron ore and furnace base fragments. The article is by Patricia Long, who directed the excavation on part of the route of the M7 Nenagh to Limerick motorway.

MHTI JOURNAL 2011

Work is underway on the journal for 2011, and it will be published during the autumn. There is still time for contributions. Please contact the Editor:

Matthew Parkes, mparkes@museum.ie, 087-122 1967

Association for Industrial Archaeology Conference 26 August - 1 September 2011

This year's conference is based at University College Cork. The confirmed programme includes talks by Flor Hurley (Excavations on the 19th - century copper mines at Bunmahon, County Waterford) and Professor William O'Brien (Ross Island copper mines, Co. Kerry), with fieldtrips to the Allihies copper mines and Ballincollig gunpowder mills. Many other presentations and visits are likely to be of interest to MHTI members. Full details are available at:

<http://industrial-archaeology.org/aconf.htm>

Heritage Week 2011

This week is from 20th to 28th August in 2011. Please let us know if you are organizing any mining related events such as guided walks, open days, talks, films, music, art exhibitions etc so that we can publicise them to our members and to the wider community.

Miners walk

Not sure if you've heard about a walk that is taking place this August from Allihies Mines in West Cork to Bunmahon Mines in Waterford. 140 miles! A reenactment of the walk that miners made during the famine in search of a livelihood. We'd love it if you could put the word out, we're looking for a few more teams. Here is the website with all the details. www.WalkfromAtoB.wordpress.com

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The Sixth Annual Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland Awards Presented

The restoration of the Dublin Royal Canal and the preservation of a train used in the West Clare narrow gauge railway featured amongst the winners at the Sixth Annual Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland Awards. The Awards which recognise individuals and organisations that have contributed to the preservation of Ireland's industrial heritage, were presented at ESB Head Office last night.

ESB Executive Director, Brid Horan, presented the Awards at the event to representatives of the winning projects. The projects aimed to promote and safeguard

a number of important industrial heritage sites including the restoration of the Dublin Royal Canal; the preservation of the Cork Lifetime Lab Museum, the conservation of Slieve Callan a steam engine associated with the west Clare three foot narrow gauge railway and documenting the history of mining industry in Cork are all important contributions to recording and celebrating industrial achievements.

ESB's Executive Director, Brid Horan said, "The Industrial Heritage Association is playing a very important role in developing greater awareness of the importance of our industrial heritage and the need to safeguard and celebrate it"

The President of the Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland, Colin Rynne said, "The Association aims to provide a greater understanding and awareness of the significance of our industrial heritage and past.

We are particularly pleased to acknowledge the effort and commitment of the winning projects who have worked tirelessly to restore and document local industrial heritage sites, some of which are now important tourist and education attractions".

The recipients of this year's Awards are:

Best Museum/Industrial Heritage Site: Lifetime Lab (Waterworks Museum), Cork is widely acclaimed as one of the best preserved industrial heritage sites in Ireland and the Britain. The Waterworks supplied water to the city of Cork since the 1760s and the buildings which stand at the site today date from the 1800s and 1900s. The water pumping technology from that time remains on site and includes huge coal-fired boilers, steam engines and water turbines.

Best Publication: was awarded to Diane Hodnett for her book *The Metal Mines of West Cork* which traces mining history in the greater Cork area.

Lifetime Award: was awarded to Ian Bath, Founder of the Royal Canal Amenity Group (1974) and tireless promoter of the restoration of the Royal Canal which was reopened in 2010. He is co-author, with Ruth Delany, of *Ireland's Royal Canal* (2009).

Best restoration category went to: the 'Slieve Callan', the west Clare 3foot narrow gauge locomotive which was restored by Alan Keefe Ltd. in England. The restoration project was funded by local businessman Jackie Whelan, who invested €1 million in the project over a decade.



**IHAI May outing Saturday,
7 May 2011**

Using private transport (shared where possible), we will meet at 10.30 at the Dublin Waterworks near Roundwood, Co. Wicklow, where we will be met by the Waterworks Engineer, Ned Fleming, who will lead a tour of the works, reservoirs, and other aspects of the Vartry Scheme, which supplies water to Dublin and the coastal towns down as far as Wicklow. *The waterworks are located below the Lough Vartry dam and are best approached from the southern end of Roundwood village via the R764. (O.S. Discovery Series May Sheet 56). The gates will be open and you should drive in and park as directed beside the main water treatment buildings.*

We will have a pub lunch around 13.00 in Kavanagh's in Roundwood before setting off for Laragh (arr.14.30), where we will be met by mining heritage expert, Martin Critchley, who will introduce us to the history of mining activity in the Glendalough/Glendasan area and lead a tour of some of the sites. We plan to complete the tour no later than 17.00. Charge of €10 to cover lunch. Please book lunch or further information: Ron Cox on 01 8962544 or Email rcox@ted.ie Mobile: 086 839 3297

<http://www.ihai.ie/events.htm>