



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 54

DECEMBER 2011

Iontaobhas Oidhreacht Mianadóireachta na hEireann

Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland

MHTI PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2012

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

2012

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 13 Jan, Friday | MHTI Board Meeting |
| <i>18 Jan, Wednesday</i> | <i>IGA New Year Lecture by Dr John Ashton
Anatomy of a Giant – The Navan Orebody., Tara Boliden.
Venue: Arts Block, Trinity College Dublin, at 8pm</i> |
| 2nd March, Friday | MHTI Board Meeting |
| 4th March, Sunday | Review of heritage aspects of the Avoca Mines
Leader Nick Coy (see more inside) |
| <i>17th March</i> | <i>NAMHO AGM and Spring Meeting, Astley Green,
Manchester.</i> |
| <i>17-20 April, Tues-Fri.</i> | <i>International Mining History Congress. Johannesburg,
South Africa. http://www.imhc.co.za/
[M Critchley & S Schwartz are presenting a paper here]</i> |
| 19 May, Saturday | MHTI Board Meeting (short one before AGM) |
| 19-20 May, Sat-Sun | MHTI AGM and fieldtrips around Castlecomer
Discovery Centre. Leader Seamus Walsh |
| <i>25-28th May</i> | <i>Symposium Europa Subterranea 2012 (see inside)</i> |
| <i>9-10 June (tbc)</i> | <i>Britannia Mine, Snowdonia (Welsh Mines Society)</i> |
| <i>29 Jun -1 Jul Fri-Sun</i> | <i>NAMHO Annual Conference, Alderley Edge</i> |
| 12 July, Thurs | MHTI Board Meeting |
| 14-15 July, Sat/Sun | Allihies. Leader Theo Dahlke |
| 13 Sep, Thurs | MHTI Board Meeting |
| 15-16 Sept, Sat-Sun | Metal mines of Donegal, Fieldtrip leader Alastair Lings |
| <i>15-16 Sept (tbc)</i> | <i>Forest of Dean, Gloucester (Welsh Mines Society)</i> |
| 9 November, Friday | MHTI Board Meeting |
| <i>17 November Sat</i> | <i>NAMHO Board Meeting</i> |

CONTENTS

Page 2	MHTI Members Business
Page 4	Events: Notices and reports
Page 6	News: Irish news/issues/books
Page 7	Other news

MHTI CONTACT DETAILS

WWW.MHTI.COM

MHTI MEMBERS' BUSINESS

EDITORIAL

By the time you read this you should also have received a copy of the 2011 Journal. **Please check that you also received a second envelope inside the main envelope. It contained an invoice and a BCA insurance card as relevant.** Please pay your subs as soon as you are able to do so.

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

MEMBERSHIP RATES FOR 2012

Rates for 2012 were set by the MHTI Board as outlined below. This is for standard individual Membership (without insurance) and has been reduced to encourage renewal or new memberships.

For those availing of BCA insurance the additional amount in Sterling will be added at cost. All members will be invoiced for a membership and insurance to commence in January."

Category	Euro	Sterling
Full member	€25	£22
Full member (concession)	€15	£13
Publication Subscription	€20	£18

For those availing of BCA insurance the additional amount in Sterling will be added at cost. All members will be invoiced for a membership and insurance to commence in January. BCA has reduced rates for part year insurance that may be applied to new MHTI members as appropriate. Sterling is calculated based on 2011 exchange rates.

Category	Euro	Sterling
Caver	€21	£17
Non-Caver	€7	£6
Full-time student/Under 18 Caver	€10	£8

Combining the amounts above, rates for 2012 are:

Category	Euro	Sterling
Full member (caver)	€46	£39
Full member (non-caver)	€32	£28
Full member (caver, concession)	€36	£30
Full member (non-caver, concession)	€22	£19
Full member (caver, student)	€25	£21
Full member (non-caver, student)	€22	£19
Publication Subscription	€20	£18

Please send payment to Nigel Monaghan, Natural History Museum, Merrion Street, Dublin 2
Email: nmonaghan@museum.ie

GALMOY MINE VISIT

Dear All

I can arrange a visit to Galmoey in the New Year possibly February . A good opportunity to take last pictures. A party of 6 or 7 is the norm , Names to Myself. michaelcarragher11@eircom.net

Mick Carragher.

Review of heritage aspects of the Avoca Mines Sunday 4th March 2012

Further to my appeal to the MHTI at the EGM, I would like to lead a field trip to Avoca in March 2012. I propose that we start around 11am as there is considerable ground to cover over east and west Avoca.

The main reasons for the trip are:

- (1) To review the condition and status of the many mining features both natural and man-made
- (2) To evaluate the threats that those features currently face or are likely to face in the future
- (3) To decide if these features are worth saving
- (4) To decide if the MHTI will take an active part in following up any matters arising from the trip
- (5) To show anyone not yet familiar with the area, the wealth of unique features, many not visible to the casual visitor.

Hopefully the area will suffer no further downgrading or destruction in the interim.

Meet at White Bridge Tigroney (Just below William's Engine House) which is about half way between the Meeting of the Waters and Avoca village. Contact Nick Coy at 086 3706731 or nickcoy@eircom.net

NEWS FROM COPPER COAST GEOPARK, CO. WATERFORD

A number of developments have taken place over the past few months –

- We have been revalidated as a European and Global Geopark under the auspices of UNESCO and praised for our community dimension. Every Geopark is reassessed every four years.
- After a long struggle we have got Leader funding so can begin refurbishment of Monksland (ex-church) and building an extension to be completed by April 2012.
- To match-fund for this and towards cash-flow we have arranged credit from the social bank Clann Credo.
- We have also successfully applied for two Interreg projects – 4A, MetalLinks (with Welsh partners) and 4B, Atlanterra (partners Spain, Portugal, Brittany and Wales). These will provide some resources for an exhibition once building work at Monksland is completed.
- One of our constituent members, Dunhill, has also, independently achieved two Interreg projects centred on rural development.
- A combination of GSI initiative and local interaction prepares the way for an application to

the European Geopark Network for an extension of the Copper Coast Geopark into the Comeragh mountains (Quaternalist Wille Warren is preparing for this) and out under the sea to former shorelines (a first, probably, in the world).

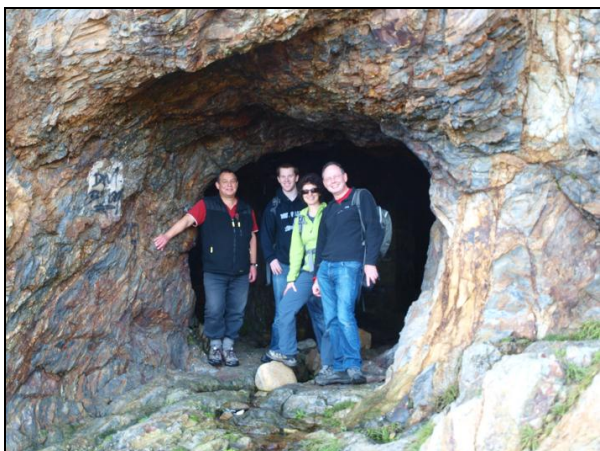
- The Copper Coast has recently hosted meetings of MetalLinks and the all-Ireland Geopark Forum.

GOLD FRENZY

A review of this new book on the story of Wicklow's gold by former MHTI member, Dr Peadar McArdle, will appear in the next newsletter

EVENTS: NOTICES AND REPORTS

EGM FIELDTRIP TO BALLYCORUS AND KILLINEY



With a good attendance of MHTI members, we made our way from the meeting place at Killiney Dart station towards the beach and onwards towards the adit. Towards White Rocks it was clear that the tide was in and we would have to wait several hours for the tide to recede, so we could get access to the old workings

With time to spare, we made our way in convoy to the old lead workings at Ballycorus. Rob Goodbody gave a very informative history of the lead workings and mine site. It was interesting to note the old mine managers house, which is still lived in was called "Ledville". Many of the other old mine building also survive and are being residentially used. The works here had been in use right up to the start of the 20th century with ore being supplied from Wicklow and Donegal as well as from the open cast and underground workings, although mining stopped at Ballycorus in 1860.

After learning about the history of the workings we walked towards the opencast and the iconic chimney on the hill top. Following the remains of the smelter flue we saw many interesting features, such as the small doors to allow the flue to be cooled and for access. It is curious to note at one point where the road crosses over the flue, it is only being held up by a stone outer casing of the flue! Every so often, when the mine was working the flue would be allowed to cool and children would sweep the inside for lead that had deposited on the inside of the flue, in May 1860 the sweepings from inside the flue was reported to be worth over £1000!

At the open cast some of us examined the spoil and rooted out some examples of galena and barite. Mining had started here in about 1805, the Mining Company of Ireland took over the operations in 1826. The chimney itself was quite an interesting structure, having been built in 1858, the whole thing is only standing under its

own weight as the stones used to make the chimney were dry set.

After an intriguing time at Ballycorus we returned to our cars and made our way back to Killiney in the hope of the tide being out. Upon arrival we again made our way to White Rocks and to some joy the tide had gone out somewhat. Those interested made their way precariously to see the mine entrance. The mine here was first worked in the latter half of the 18th Century for lead. The geology and the mineral deposit being somewhat similar to that at Ballycorus.

Stephen Callaghan





Alongside the flue at Ballycorus

NAMHO CONFERENCE 2012

The 2012 conference will be held around **Alderley Edge in Cheshire**. The main venue will be the National Trust property at **Quarry Bank Mill** near Wilmslow and the conference will be held from **29th June - 1st July**. Copies of the notice can be downloaded as a PDF from the website www.namho.org where a full programme for each seminar will also be made available.

SYMPOSIUM EUROPA SUBTERRANEA 2012 JIHLAVA – CZECH REPUBLIC 25-28th of May 2012

Main Subject: Mining and the Development of the Landscape:

The technological-, planning-, social-, economical- and ecological processes, interaction and consequences of ancient mining on the landscape and environment will be discussed. Settlement structures and settlement development will be a subject of discussion as well. Just like the use and influence of forest, water and fields. The emphasis will lie on the development during the hey days of mining and the time after it has resolved. This is illustrated by the examples of large regions at one side and concrete mining enterprises or mining towns at the other. The symposium wants to make a conscious effort to establish a comparison between individual historical timeframes without the limitation of chronology. From the flint mining of the Neolithicum to the ore mining of the 17th and 18th centuries. Aspects of this interdisciplinary perception concern technical history, archaeology, ecology, economy, ethnography and social science as a whole.

Place: Jihlava, Hörsal im Landkreisamt, Zizkova Str. 57, CZ-586 01 Jihlava, Czech Republic

Registration (before the 1st of April 2012):

Petrsilbergbau@seznam.cz, or
archaiajihlava@volny.cz

Paper to be printed in the IES Yearbook: before the 1st of March 2012 to europa.subterranea@gmail.com
Photos and tables to be transferred via www.wetransfer.com or on CD to: IES, Van Peltstraat 20, 6301 JT Valkenburg lb., the Netherlands (www.europa-subterranea.com)

Language of the oral presentations: English (no translation), German (translated in English) and Czech (only as an exception and only translated in English)

Please be informed that for presentations there is only a laptop and beamer at your disposal.

Therefore, all presentation will have to be composed in a Powerpoint (PPT) format.

Symposium fee is EUR 100,- and can be transferred to IBAN: DE56390500001070137623 BIC:

AACSDE33XXX (Institute Europa Subterranea, Van Peltstraat 20, 6301 JT Valkenburg lb.) or when paying from Germany: 1070137623 BLZ: 390 500 00

Sparkasse Aachen (payment should be received before the **1st of March 2012**;

NEWS: IRISH NEWS/ISSUES/BOOKS

Snippets from History: The London Lead Company in Ireland 1722-1741

In 1692 the "Governour and Company for Smelting downe of Lead with Pitcoale and Seacoale" was incorporated by royal charter. This monopoly was taken over by Quaker businessmen in 1704 and became commonly known as the London Lead Company. The Minute books of the company are held by the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers, in Newcastle upon Tyne:

<http://www.mininginstitute.org.uk/library/LLC/6.htm>

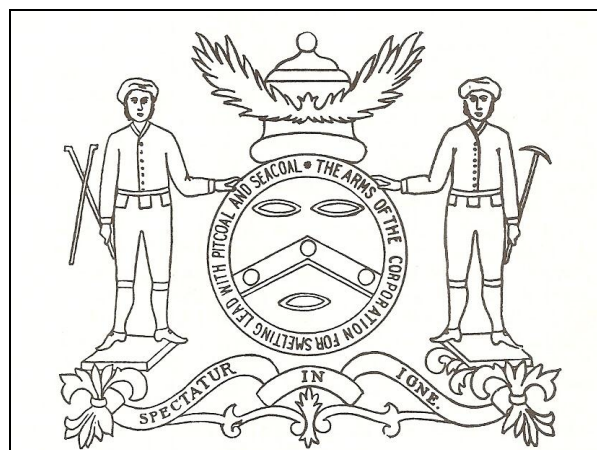
According to Arthur Raistrick (1988): 'In 1722 the search for silver-rich ore which could be purchased to be refined in Wales, had led the Company's agents to Dublin, where they heard of and investigated a number of mines in south Ireland, in counties Cork and Tipperary, and eventually took a lease of them along with a smelt mill and sheet lead plant, in partnership with Richard Champion of Bristol two-sixteenths, James Griffiths of Swansea two-sixteenths and Edward Fenn of Cork one-sixteenth, the Company retaining eleven-sixteenths. The smelt mill was redesigned, the plant for sheet and pipe lead put in better order, and the site at Kilbooy made the Irish headquarters. The venture proved a source of trouble from its remoteness and the difficulty of supervision. An early report says:-

"Irish mines suffer under a weak manager who has allowed a Tippling House keeper to get control and give absurd wages for poor work.... All improvements are opposed except in shot making. The mines are not so good as represented but still have good prospects."

'The mining was carried on unwisely and by old and inefficient methods, and finally, lead manufacturers increasingly objected to the Company's activity in making sheet lead and pipes, as being outside the terms of their charter. This accumulation of difficulties led the Company to sell all their Irish ventures in 1741.'

Des Cowman (2011) adds: 'Kilbooy was the home of the Pritty familie who owned Silvermines which were leased from 1724 by the "The Company for the smelting down of lead with pit coal and sea coal". Associated with this was manager R. Spencer and refiner W. Gilltrap. This might have lasted up to 1745. (Lease 1724 and 1731 in Pritty Papers, Reg. of Deeds).'

Extract (p118-9) and image (p107) from: Arthur Raistrick, 1988. Two centuries of industrial welfare: the London (Quaker) Lead Company 1692-1905 (2nd edition). Kensall & Davis. 172pp.



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GENEALOGY ENQUIRY

I am a genealogist who has undertaken research for a Bill Leeson living in LA , and I wonder if you would very kindly provide some advice in finding 'a sinker of mines'. Bill's ancestor Samuel Leeson sailed with children and grandchildren to Canada in 1832, probably from New Ross. Bill thinks that Samuel moved around in Ireland before leaving for Canada, and we know he spent time in Co Wexford and probably Co Wicklow.

In the Registry of Deeds I found an 1813 reference to 'Samuel Leeson of Balls Lane, city of Dublin, 'a sinker of mines,' and I wonder if the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland might have some information on this man. The one definite reference we have to the correct Samuel Leeson is the 1809 baptism of his son Bryce in Enniscorthy, which would of course have been close to the mines at Caim. (Bryce is a name used by the Leesons of Russborough House, Earls of Milltown, but a family connection has not been found.) I have studied in detail the wonderful manuscripts in the National Library on the Avoca Mines, particularly Mss 16,304 to 16,308 1787-1812, and found mentions of various Leesons but none as 'a sinker of mines'. A Samuel Leeson is mentioned from 1800 to 1802 as a Volunteer.

I have been in touch with the museum at Allihies as one of his children may have been born in Cork or Co Cork, but I understand that the very early records are too fragile to peruse. I also checked the Church of Ireland registers for Berehaven without finding any Leeson, although familiar names like Puxley are there. I see the Ballycorus leadmine opened around 1807 which would have been a date when Samuel Leeson might have been active. If you have any suggestions or even information on Samuel Leeson, 'the sinker of mines', I would be very grateful.

Please send any responses direct to
Pamela Bradley. pamelabradley52@gmail.com

OTHER NEWS

Research Framework for the Archaeology of the Extractive Industries (Mining and Quarrying) in England

The work on a **Research Framework for the Archaeology of the Extractive Industries (Mining and Quarrying) in England** is now entering its second phase - the development of a Research Agenda. We are arranging seminars to present a summary of the findings from the Resource Assessment (phase one) and discuss the results. We want to hear your comments and we need to hear your opinions about the directions for future research.

The seminars are free to anyone wishing to attend and the dates are as follows:

Saturday 21st January 2012 at the National Coal Mining Museum, Caphouse Colliery, Wakefield, WF4 4RH. Starting at 1030 for 1100.

Saturday 11th February 2012 at Sidcot School, Winscombe, North Somerset, BS25 1PD. Starting at 1030 for 1100.

At each seminar, Jon Humble, Senior National Minerals Adviser & Inspector of Ancient Monuments at English Heritage will speak about the National context of the legacy of mineral extraction. We will also include presentations about some of the work on the Assessments. Following a buffet lunch, we will facilitate group discussions about the results of the assessments and the possible directions for future research.

WE NEED YOUR COMMENTS AND OPINIONS!

We need you to read the assessments, which are being posted to the National Association of Mining History Organisations (NAMHO) web-site www.namho.org, comment on their content and express opinions in advance of seminars. Please send any comments to Phil Newman, the Project Officer. You can also send comments by post (address in signature below). We welcome any comments, criticism, corrections and additional information.

Contacts:

Project Director Peter Claughton
P.F.Claughton@exeter.ac.uk

Project Officer Phil Newman
projectofficer@namho.org

Scottish Fatal Accident Inquiry

In 2008 Margaret Allison Hume fell 14 metres down a disused mine shaft that had very recently appeared. She was located about 2 hours later by her daughter, but not brought to surface for another 5-6 hours. Tragically she died in hospital.

Sheriff D.J. Leslie conducted a Fatal Accident Inquiry, and concluded that the rescue was impeded by:

- "(1) A lack of awareness within the rescue services of the range of potential rescue services which could assist and inadequate knowledge, communication and co-ordination between those services;
- (2) Restrictive and proscriptive policies adopted by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service which combined with an inadequate appraisal of the equipment available and their training in the use of that equipment;
- (3) Over reliance by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service on the delegation of certain rescue functions.
- (4) The failure by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Services to engage in preplanning for an occurrence such as the collapse of a mine shaft."

A summary, and the full determination is available at: <http://www.scotland-judiciary.org.uk/1/0/Home>

Rescue at Snailbeach Lead Mine

On 17 November a 24 year old woman was rescued from the Snailbeach Lead Mine, Shropshire, England. She had been exploring the mine with friends when she became ill, and injured her back.

Over 50 people from the Midlands Cave Rescue Organisation took part in the rescue, along with West Midlands Ambulance Service personnel. The rescue took six hours, and involved winching the casualty 300 feet up the Chapel Shaft to surface. The woman received treatment in the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

More information is at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-shropshire-15771101>

Bersham Colliery

The North Wales Miners Trust want Bersham Colliery in Wrexham to be turned in to a museum. The Trust says that the site contains the most original remains from mining in the area, with the headgear and winding engine still extant. The mine was worked from 1870 until 1986, at its peak employing 1011 people in 1958.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-16214803>

<http://www.northwalesminers.com/index.htm>

Snibston Discovery Museum

In 1992 this museum was developed at the former Snibston Colliery, in Coalville, Leicestershire (England). Some of the original colliery buildings are of national importance, and a £4M grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund could have safeguarded the buildings. The local council have shelved the £5.7M "Mining Lives" project, and are reviewing their museum services. The mine was developed by George Stephenson and was worked from 1833 until 1983.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-16205674>

http://www.leics.gov.uk/snibston_museum

Accidents in mines and quarries.

The Coalmining History Resources Centre website includes copies of the Royal Commission Reports on Children in the Mines (1842) and a useful database on mining and quarrying accidents. Entering "Ireland" as a search term brings up 395 records, although a few relate to the Ireland and Ireland Green Collieries in England. WARNING: A few of the accidents are gruesome.

<http://www.cmhrc.co.uk/site/home/index.html>

Hemerdon Mine

Wolf Minerals are starting work on an access road, prior to redeveloping the former tungsten mine near Plympton in Devon (England). The mine will cost £100m to develop, with mining expected to start in 2014, and lasting 10 years. It is hoped that 230 people will be employed. The area was worked for tin from 1867 and for tin and tungsten from 1918-19 and 1941-44.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-14759946>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hemerdon_Mine

<http://www.wolfminerals.com.au/projects-and-exploration/hemerdon-mine>

New book - Mining Perspectives

This A4 soft-back 190 page book contains some of the papers presented at the 8th International Mining History Congress in 2009. The 22 articles cover technological, economic and social history, archaeology and heritage from Cuba to Poland, and Spitzbergen to Tasmania. More details are available at:

<http://people.exeter.ac.uk/pfclaugh/mhinf/Webflyer.pdf>

The book is available for £12.50 (excluding postage) from its joint editor Peter Claughton

p.f.claughton@exeter.ac.uk

MHTI CONTACT DETAILS

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Avoca & 20thC mines/exploration : Nick Coy, homephone 045 866400, mobile 086 3706731

nickcoy@eircom.net, 16 Lakeside Park Naas Co Kildare. For Guided walks around Avoca contact me as above .

Castlecomer : Seamus Walsh, swalshminer@eircom.net, 14 Maryville, Castlecomer Co. Kilkenny, 056-4441504 mobile 087-9619793

Waterford & Wexford : Des Cowman, see above

Allihies : Theo Dahlke, ACMM Allihies Copper Mine Museum, 027-73218, theo.dahlke@acmm.ie

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[COUNTRY CODE FOR IRELAND IS +353, AND THE FIRST ZERO OF AREA/MOBILE CODE IS OMITTED]