



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 57

AUGUST 2012

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 Sep, Thurs

MHTI Board Meeting

15-16 Sept, Sat-Sun

Metal mines of Donegal, Fieldtrip leader Alastair Lings

15 Sept, Sat

Water power from ice to hydro- one day meeting at the Copper Coast Geopark Centre, Co Waterford [Metallinks project – booking essential – metallinksoffice@gmail.com]

20-23 September 2012

13th International Meeting on Geological and Mining Heritage (Spain, 20-23 September 2012 <https://patgeomine.epsem.upc.edu/>)

21-24 Sept (extended date)

Forest of Dean, Gloucester (Welsh Mines Society)

27 Oct, Saturday

Into the Earth: the archaeology of darkness conference Institute of Technology, Sligo. Includes mining talks

<http://www.archaeologyofdarkness.com/>

05-11 November 2012.

Australasian Mining History Association Annual Conference,

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

7-10 November

2nd Mining in European History Conference (Austria,)

<http://www.uibk.ac.at/himat/meh/>

9 November, Friday

MHTI Board Meeting

10 November Sat

NAMHO Board Meeting, Shropshire

30 Nov, Fri (TBC)

Irish Geological Association fieldtrip to Tara Mine, Co. Meath.

<http://www.geology.ie/category/programme/>

2013

16 March, Sat

NAMHO Council meeting, English Midlands

20-21 April 2013.

BCRA Cave Technology Symposium, South Wales.

<http://www.bcra.org.uk/>

28 June-1 July 2013

NAMHO Conference 2013. Aberystwyth University,.

20-24 August 2013

"Stories written in stone": international symposium on chert and other knappable materials. (Romania)

<http://arheoinvestsymposium.uaic.ro/stone>

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WWW.MHTI.COM

MHTI MEMBERS' BUSINESS

We plan to issue the next Newsletter in mid-November. If you have any contributions, please contact the Editor before the 1st November. Thank you.

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

Adit Now photo competition

If you have taken pictures of mine sites, both above and below ground, you may be interested in entering them in a prize competition in 2012.

<http://www.aditnow.co.uk/static/mine-photographs-competition-2012.aspx>

Allihies Copper Mine Museum, Call for volunteers

Allihies Copper Mine Museum, a charitable community museum on the Beara peninsula, has been granted funding from the Heritage Council of Ireland to carry out a Survey of Mining and Industrial Heritage in Allihies. The relatively untouched, authentic post-industrial landscape around Allihies will be explored and documented. Fieldwork will be carried out to identify and flag the remains of the copper mining industry in Allihies that spanned more than 140 years. ACMM will not only be recording large structures like engine houses and dressing floors, but every piece of evidence of mining industry and miners' everyday lives during that period. When added together these will give a clear picture of how people in the parish of Allihies lived, and what were their experiences of the industrial revolution coming to this remote part of Ireland. The work will be supervised by Allihies Copper Mine Museum and the consultancy firm, John Cronin and Associates.

Volunteers are required to help with the fieldwork and desktop elements of this worthwhile project. This is an exciting opportunity to traverse the hills and fields in this beautiful part of the country, while learning about

the industrial forces that shaped it. Full training will be given by conservation professionals. Useful skills include computer skills for data entry, using a handheld GPS (for example for geocaching), literacy skills and photography skills. However, the main thing is that volunteers are reasonably fit and very enthusiastic. Volunteers must be over eighteen. The fieldwork will take place between 10th and 24th of September and data entry at a later date. Volunteers must commit to a minimum of three days. All volunteers will receive a Certificate of Participation from ACMM.

Copper Coast Café

Copper Coast Geopark's Centre has now opened its new Coffee dock! Open from Monday to Friday 9.30am-4.00 pm. Serving Teas, Coffee, Cold Drinks, Snacks & Sandwiches, Fresh Scones.

2012 Journal – last chance to submit articles

You still have time to submit articles for the 2012 Journal. The end of September is the deadline. As with previous issues a broad range of articles covering a diverse range of mining heritage topics will be published. Contact the editor if you have any potential contribution: mparkes@museum.ie or 087-1221967.

2013 field trips and programme

We are in the process of planning the field and other events programme for 2013 and any offers or suggestions will be gratefully received by the Board (see contacts on back page). Under consideration at the moment are trips to Parys Mountain/Great Orme, Silvermines, Slieveardagh, Co. Londonderry/Derry).

EVENTS: NOTICES AND REPORTS

The Mines of South Donegal Saturday 15 – Sunday 16 September 2012

This fieldtrip will examine mines and trials in the southern part of County Donegal. The earliest mining in the area was for sandstone. Assaroe Abbey near Ballyshannon incorporates sandstone from Drumkeelan. The Abbey was founded by cistercian monks in 1180, so quarrying started around that time. Lead was worked at Mullantiboyle near Glenties, about 1750 and at Welchtown in 1775. In the 1850s and 1860s lead, copper and barite was worked near Ballyshannon, and some iron produced from Carricknahorna Mine in 1884. Feldspar-bearing pegmatite veins were worked at Cashelard before 1918, and during 1943.

Coordinator

Alastair Lings

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Mobile: +44 7763 850087

Mobile during the weekend: +353 862 505 026

In case of any changes to the programme, please let the coordinator know if you are interested in attending.

Programme

Saturday 15 September

10:00 meet outside the Discover Ireland Centre (Tourist Information), The Quay, Donegal. Grid reference G 928 782. A 60 mile tour to the north of Donegal town, via Glenties, Fintown and Ballybofey: including underground sandstone workings at Drumkeelan, the workshops of McMonagle Stone (Mountcharles), followed by Kilrean, Glenaboghil and Welchtown Mines (lead). We will try to find the workings at Loughnambraddan, and may visit other trials if time permits. Kilrean is on Discovery Sheet 10, all other sites are on sheet 11. Refreshments are available en-route.



Backfilled workings at Drumkeelan Lower Quarry



Looking along the vein at Glenaboghil Mine

Sunday 16 September

10:00 meet as above. We tour southwards to Bundoran, calling at Carricknahorna Mine (lead/iron), Cashelard Quarry (Feldspar), Abbey Island Mine (lead), and Bundoran Mine (lead). We will try to find the lead and copper trials at Finner, subject to permission from the Defence Forces. Carricknahorna is on Discovery sheet 11, all other sites are on sheet 16. Refreshments will be available at the Abbey Mill Coffee Shop, Ballyshannon (at your own expense).



Bundoran Mine

Equipment

Members are requested to bring warm clothing, waterproofs and hillwalking boots or wellies. If going

underground, helmets, electric lamps and an oversuit are recommended.

Bibliography

Cole, G.A.J. 1922. Memoir and map of localities of minerals of economic importance and metalliferous mines in Ireland. Memoir of the Geological Survey of Ireland. The Stationery Office, Dublin. 155pp. (Reprinted by the Mining Heritage Society of Ireland in 1998) (p92-93, p62)

Eyles, V.A., 1943. Feldspar occurrences near Belleek and Castle Caldwell, Co. Fermanagh (Northern Ireland and Donegal (Eire)). Open File Report No. 19. Geological Survey of Northern Ireland. 6pp.

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Wright, W.B., 1918. The pegmatite deposits of Belleek, Co. Fermanagh. p111-113 in Boswell, P.G.H. 1918. A memoir on British resources of sands and rocks used in glass-making. 2nd edition. Longmans, Green and Co., London. 183pp. (p111-113, p160)

Accomodation in Donegal town.

(These premises are within about 1km of the town centre)

Abbey Hotel, The Diamond, 074 9721014.

Central hotel, The Diamond, 074 9721027.

Mill Park Hotel, The Mullans, 074 9722880.

The Atlantic Guesthouse, Main Street, 074 9721187.

Donegal House, Old Golf Course Road, 074 9721159.

Haywoods B&B, Old Laghey Road, 074 9721236.

Island View House, Sligo Road, 074 9722411.

Ocean Breeze, Old Golf Links Road, 074 9723827.

Rosearl, The Glebe, 074 9721462.

The Water's Edge, The Glebe, 074 9721523.

Donegal Town Independent Hostel, Killybegs Road, 074 9722805.

Report on the NAMHO Conference 2012

This year's conference was held at Quarry Bank Mill, an old water-driven cotton mill founded in 1784 and owned by the National Trust. The mill is about 10 miles south of Manchester, and is an excellent venue with meeting rooms, a restaurant, a bar and a camping field.

The conference was attended by 130 people and comprised a weekend of presentations, with surface and underground fieldtrips before, during and after the weekend.

The presentations varied between slide-shows and talks, mainly covering coal, salt or metalliferous mining in the area, but also more specialised subjects like the use of laser imaging in mine survey work. One lecture covered the challenges of recording recently exposed deep lignite mines, during strip-mining operations in Germany.

The fieldtrips visited local mines and museums, including Winsford Salt Mine (Salt Union Ltd), the Alderley Edge Mines, and Ecton, Goodluck and Hanging Flats mines in the Peak District.

I joined the geological tour of Wood Mine, one of the Alderley Edge Mines that worked a copper-bearing sandstone. The leaders were Dr Chris Carlon and Peter Johnson of the Derbyshire Caving Club. In all my years of exploring old mines I have never learned as much as I did in those two hours.

The conference was organised by Nigel Dibben and the Derbyshire Caving Club with the help of other people. Between them, they did a fantastic job: well done, and a big thank-you!

Alastair Lings

(Editors note: the next NAMHO Conference is in Aberystwyth, mid-Wales, 28 June-1 July 2013)



Some of the MHTI members who attended the NAMHO 2012 Conference

Report on fieldtrip to Allihies and the Beara Peninsula 14th to 15th July 2012

A small band of MHTI members (augmented by several locals, members of the museum staff, and two geology students from Cardiff University) met at the Museum promptly at 10:00 am on the Saturday. After being welcomed to the Allihies Copper Mine Museum (ACMM) and to the area by Mr Tadhg O'Sullivan, Vice Chairman of the Museum Trust, we set off westwards under the leadership of Theo Dahlke to park as near as practicable to our first port of call, the bronze age copper workings at Reentrusk. It was a tough walk over very rough ground for 15 minutes to reach the site, which Barbara and Theo Dahlke discovered in 2009. The main working is now hidden behind a stone-built hut or barn, probably associated with the summer pasturing of animals. A stone hammer or maul was photographed and then returned to its resting place. This site has not, as yet, been carbon-dated or archaeologically investigated.



Theo Dahlke points out features at the Reentrusk bronze-age working near Allihies.

A walk back to the tarmac, and then west for a kilometre or so got us to the volcanic trachyte formations at the tip of the Cod's Head peninsula. Not a mining site, but an interesting photogenic geological formation.

Continuing on the Saturday, and with the good weather holding, we crossed over to the north (Kenmare River) side of the Beara and made our way up increasingly narrow lanes towards Urhin copper mine (Grid Ref V61 47), where those so inclined donned hard hats and lamps and ventured into the west adit. There is an unguarded winze some 20 metres in, which we did not cross; on coming out we contoured east for a few hundred metres to the group of fenced shafts above what was the collapsed main adit; immediately below this was the start of the horse tramway to the coast, some 3 km distant.

Back now to the cafe at the ACMM for a late lunch, then on at 4pm to the gated adit into Mountain Mine (having first been shown the intended route by Theo on



At Urhin Mine

the excellent 3-D perspex model in the Museum). The underground tour was in no way strenuous, all being at the same (adit) level, with little water until the main flooded stope is reached. To cross this, a boat would be needed. A boat trip may be included in the proposed underground public tours. We saw the flooded man-engine shaft and the remains of whitewashed walls where an underground horse whim had been situated, and of course the vast stopes where occasional glimpses of sunlight penetrated the workings, giving scale to them.

For those still with stamina, an uphill walk to the iconic Man Engine House itself followed, and an hour was spent in the area prior to repairing back to the village for pre-dinner liquid refreshment at "The Lighthouse". The Museum Cafe laid on an excellent evening meal for nine of us, so rounding off a super day.

On Sunday, we were not so lucky with the weather, and so Theo suggested that rather than attempt to reach the Canshanavoe bronze age mine up in the mountains and get very wet in the process, we bring forward the optional afternoon visit to Puxley's mansion, at Dunboy near Castletown Bere. We had a good look at the unfinished (and now bankrupt) rebuilding work of the mansion, and then explored the quay areas including the boathouse, and (presumed) copper store. These two buildings are not adjacent, and each is well-hidden in dense rhododendron bushes. Even down at sea-level we were by now pretty wet; all agreed that Theo's variation of the plan had been prudent, and so wiser and wetter we repaired to a hostelry for a hot lunch before setting off back for home.

All who took part on one or both days are very grateful for the organisation and planning put in by Theo (and others) and to the Museum and Cafe staff for being so accommodating, and to the owners of the localities visited. There are still many sites on Beara which we did not see this time round, so what better excuse for a return visit?

by John Hopkinson, MHTI Member, North Wales

NEWS: IRISH NEWS/ISSUES/BOOKS

Snippets from History: Thomas Oswin in Russia

The Snippet in Newsletter 56 mentioned some of Thomas Oswin's mining activities in Ireland and England in 1709. One of his descendants, Johnathan Oswin from Northumberland has contacted us with more information:

"I have known of 'Mining Thomas' since I was a wee lad, but had next to no detail of him other than his nickname within the family, as some sort of Mineral-Finder General. Also, according to my father, he was originally apprenticed as an annealer/anneater of metal, an early form of metallurgist etc. I believe he also lived and worked in London for some years, lodging with members of the London branch of our family.

I believe Thomas was born in Leicestershire, possibly Sibley. The problem being: 'Thomas' was a popular name within the Oswin family and several others exist from around that period. However, if he is the Thomas that I think he is; then there's something of a mystery to him. He spent some time living and working in Russia before returning home, with a son, but no wife! I had thought that he might have had something to do with Russia's burgeoning industrialisation, under Peter the Great; the Czar contracted many British specialists to help improve his navy, ordnance and manufacturing processes.

His son, also a 'Thomas' had been born in Russia, in 1690, and baptised back home (?) in Sibley, 4th February, 1691.

Thomas the father, was uncle, or even possibly the father, of Pickril Oswin, the pirate! Pickril turned 'pirate' after escaping the tedium of his apprenticeship, for a life of adventure. It is reputed that he 'found' a portion of the treasure hoard of the Privateer/pirate Captain Arthur Catt, a contemporary of Edward Teach (Blackbeard). Eventually becoming 'respectable' again, he died a wealthy man, in Jamaica: and yes, he owned slaves!

I believe that another 'Thomas' existed, born Coventry, around the same period; in which case they would have been cousins etc."

Submitted by Johnathan Oswin,
(whose branch of the family specialised in engineering/metal-working/hot-forging)

Curraghinalt Gold Project, County Tyrone, 25/07/2012

Dalradian Resources has announced the findings of a Preliminary Economic Assessment into its proposed underground mine. The study suggests a mine with a 15 year life, producing a total of 2223000 ounces of gold (69 tonnes). The average grade of ore is 8.1 g/t, and 1700 tonnes of ore would be processed each day by crushing, grinding and cyanidation.

<http://www.dalradian.com/about-us/default.aspx>

The 2012 Mine Rescue Competition, 13/08/2012

Irish Salt Mining & Exploration Company Ltd were the hosts for this year's contests. Teams from Cleveland Potash Mine, Winsford Salt Mine, and Lisheen and Tara Mines competed with the host team at Kilroot Mine, County Antrim. Representatives were present from Turkey, Portugal, Spain and elsewhere in Ireland. The events included a test of mine rescue knowledge, a fitness and initiative test in breathing apparatus, a first aid exercise and an underground search and rescue. The Best Overall Mine Rescue Team award was won by Lisheen Mine. Tara Mine is hosting next year's competition in May 2013.

<http://www.imqs.ie/Home.aspx>

New exhibition: From Rocky Shores to the Rocky Mountains: The Irish in Montana

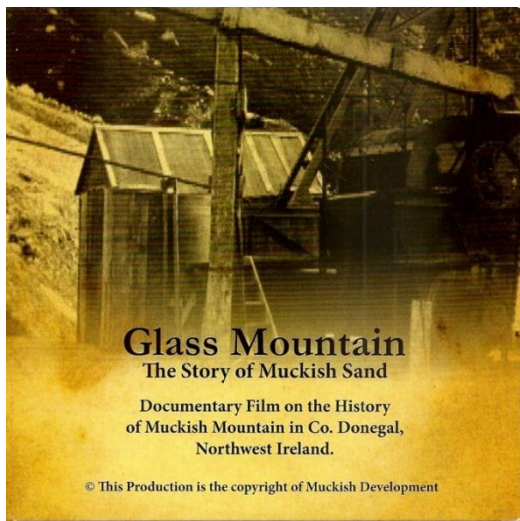
By The Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives, Montana. The exhibition was launched in UCC Library on Tuesday 10 July 2012. It is a retrospective glimpse into the lives of the Irish in Montana from their initial arrival to the present. It reflects the uniqueness of the Irish experience in America, telling the story of Irish Immigration to America, westward to the lush and mineral rich mountains and prairies of Montana. The exhibition will include excerpts from the manuscript collection of the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives, and oral histories from *The Gathering: Collected Oral Histories of the Irish in Montana*. The exhibition launch was followed by a public presentation, by Ellen Crain, Director Butte-Silver Bow Archives, Bernadette Sweeney, *The Gathering Project* and Ciara Ryan, UCC, introducing the exhibition and elaborating on the Montana Ireland Connection. For further information please contact: Crónán Ó Doibhlin, c.odoibhlin@ucc.ie. or Tel: 0863199417.

[Editor's note: the exhibition closes end of September]

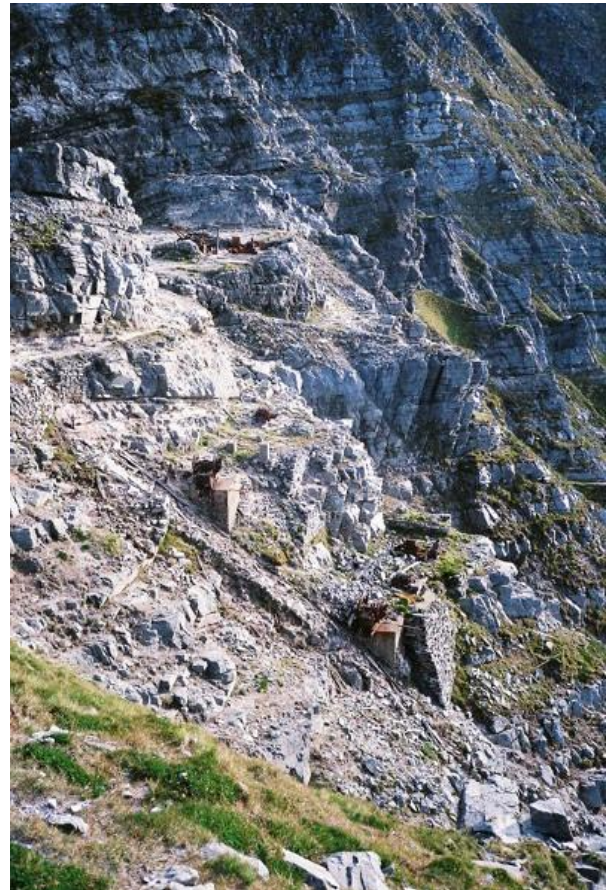
Glass Mountain: The Story of Muckish Sand

This film tells the story of a silica sand quarry in a spectacular location near the summit of Muckish Mountain in the north-west of Ireland. The quarry was worked intermittently from about 1798 until 1954. The 38 minute documentary was produced by a local community group, and includes rare colour footage of work in the quarry, and recent interviews with four of the men who worked on Muckish. The film is available for €10 plus p&p from Gerald Duffy, Creeslough View, Carrownamaddy, Dunfanaghy, County Donegal, Ireland. Mobile +353 87 610 9331.

The cost of P&P is 3 Euros in Ireland, and Gerry's e-mail is creesloughview@gmail.com.



Loading shovel at Muckish Quarry



Equipment at Muckish Quarry. Top to bottom: mobile equipment at edge of quarry, upper crusher, chute, lower crusher.

Additions to Bibliography

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The miner's hostel on Ben Bulbin

OTHER NEWS

Rossington Colliery, South Yorkshire, 18/04/2012

RecyCoal has received planning approval for a coal recovery scheme at the former Rossington Colliery. Over 13 million tonnes of spoil will be reprocessed to produce 950 000 tonnes of coal. During the five year project the 112.5 hectare site will be restored to grassland, woodland and wetland. The scheme will create 70 jobs. <http://www.recycoal.com/home>

Lochaline Mine, Argyllshire, 11/06/2012

Highlands & Islands Enterprise has approved financial assistance of £155 000 towards the establishment of a £1.6M production facility for Lochaline Quartz Sand Ltd. The mine is a joint venture between Pilkington Glass (NSG Group) and Gruppo Minerali Maffei, an Italian mining company.

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

<http://www.lochaber-news.co.uk/Home/>

Mulberry, Florida, USA, 24/06/2012

Mosaic Mining has uncovered a Manchester 4-4-0 locomotive at the former Mulberry Potash mine. The loco probably dates back to the 1880s and was used at the mine from 1913, being abandoned before 1935. The base of the loco is intact, but the water pump, sand dome, smoke box, cow catcher and anything made of brass is missing. <http://www.newschief.com/>

National Coal Mining Museum for England, West Yorkshire, 28/06/2012

Conservation work on a 140 metre deep ventilation shaft at the former Caphouse Colliery has finished. The project cost £870 000, and received funding of £150 000 from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, and a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The shaft now has a glass cover so that visitors can look down it.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-18611701>

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/9162.aspx

Welsh National Mining Memorial appeal, 28/06/2012

First Minister Carwyn Jones has launched an appeal for a Welsh National Mining Memorial at Senghenydd in South Wales. In 1913 an accident at the Universal Colliery in the village was the worst in British mining history, killing 439 miners. For more information, or to donate, please contact the Aber Valley Heritage Group

on 029 2083 0445/0444 or e-mail senghen.heritage@btconnect.com
<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-18611342> (2.5 min video)

Nord-Pas de Calais Mining Basin, France, 30/06/2012

Coal was dug in this area from the 1700s. The area has now joined the 962 sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The designation covers mineshaft headgear, spoil heaps, transport infrastructure, housing, places of worship, and other buildings. Other World Heritage sites in France include the decorated caves of the Vézère Valley and the Great Saltworks of Salinles-Bains and the Royal Saltworks of Arc-et-Senans .

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1360/>

Almaden (Spain) and Idrija (Slovenia), 30/06/2012

These two mercury mining areas have been jointly inscribed by UNESCO on the World Heritage List. Almaden was first worked around 415 BCE, and Idrija was discovered in 1490.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1313/>

Guidance on managing the risk of hazardous gases when drilling or piling near coal

The Coal Authority, and others, have produced this guidance for drilling operations which are investigating and treating old coal workings. It contains some useful information on the characteristics and toxic effects of gases. 59pp. <http://coal.decc.gov.uk/publications/>

Health and Safety Alerts HSE Health and safety bulletin, 13/06/2012

There is a risk of MSA SavOx self rescuer units catching fire if the user does not follow the correct start-up procedure. It is important that the starter mechanism is initiated by stretching the flexible breathing tube, prior to inserting the mouthpiece.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/index.htm>

Geothermal energy in Glasgow, 19/04/2012

The British Geological Survey believe that the water contained in old mine workings beneath Glasgow could

provide nearly 40% of the city's heat, using heat pumps. A small scheme in Shettleston has heated 17 houses for over ten years. The BGS has used over 50 000 borehole records and old mine plans dating back to 1839 to generate a 3D computer model of the geology and mines. This model will be used to identify promising locations where new boreholes could exploit the minewaters. The Leader of Glasgow City Council has requested "We want developers and local communities to come forward in the future with projects which could use this new source of heating and help ensure that everyone in Glasgow is able to benefit from the new green energy revolution."

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/research/energy/geothermal/heatEnergyGlasgow.html>

Keswick Mining Museum, Cumbria, 05/06/2012

Ian Tyler is selling the contents of the Keswick Mining Museum, almost 5000 artefacts, which he describes as "the finest collection of mining memorabilia in the whole of the north of England". The contents will be sold on a "first come, first served" basis with books and ephemera being sold from 21st August, minerals and fossils from 15th September, and lamps and instruments from 6th October. The Museum will close on 27th October. For more details phone 01228 561883 or 017687 80055, or e-mail coppermaidkes@aol.com
<http://www.keswickminingmuseum.co.uk/index.htm>

Wallonia, Belgium, 01/07/2012

UNESCO has added four coal mining areas to its World Heritage List: at Grand-Hornu, Bois-du-Luc, Bois du Cazier and Blegny-Mine. One of Europe's earliest collieries is at Bois-du-Luc, dating to the late 17th century. The Neolithic flint mines at Spiennes are also a World Heritage site.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1344/>

Hesley Wood spoil heap, S Yorkshire

This spoil heap in Chapeltown near Sheffield was produced by the former Smithy Wood Colliery. RecyCoal has submitted a planning application for coal recovery and restoration of the site. The company hopes to process 3.3 million m³ of spoil, to recover 395 000 tonnes of coal. The 50 hectare site will become a public open space with 22 hectares of woodland, and grassland and wetland. The scheme will create 35 jobs.
<http://www.recycoal.com/home>

Leadhills, South Lanarkshire, 19/07/2012

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency commissioned the Coal Authority to investigate water pollution in the Glengonnar Water, to see if

improvements in water quality could be made. The study found significant levels of pollution by lead, zinc and cadmium. There is a build up of water in the Gripps Level, with a head of over 50 metres in the workings, which could cause a "blow-out". Some work was also done in the headwaters of the Wanlock Water in Dumfriesshire. NHS Scotland has published a human health risk assessment which is available, with other guidance, on the NHS Dumfries & Galloway website.

http://www.sepa.org.uk/about_us/news/2012/fund_helps_study_effects_of_lead.aspx
<http://www.nhsdg.scot.nhs.uk/dumfries/5346.html>

Parys Mountain, Anglesey, 30/07/2012

Anglesey Mining PLC has completed the drilling programme that it started in January 2012. Results indicate that mineralisation extends upwards from the Engine Zone, but not as far as the surface. Two holes on the edge of the Great Open Cast indicate the area has potential. The first results available for drilling in the New Pearl Engine House area were "very encouraging".

<http://angleseymining.co.uk/news/?p=306>

Coniston Copper Mines, Cumbria, 30/07/2012

Channel 4s Time Team have been excavating and filming at Levers Water and Cobblers Level mines. They are hoping to link 16th century documentary evidence of mining to artifacts in the ground. The Team were assisted by members of Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society. Series 20 will be broadcast early in 2013. For a flavour of the programme check out the Time Team Digital website.

<http://www.timeteamdigital.com/digs/copper-mine.html>
<http://www.nwemail.co.uk/home>

Rubislaw Quarry, Aberdeen, 17/08/2012

Work has started to pump water from this quarry in the suburbs of "The Granite City". The 150m deep flooded working was bought in 2010 by Hugh Black and Sandy Whyte who plan to create a heritage centre. The quarry was first opened in 1740, finally shutting in 1971.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-19296757>
<http://rubislawquarry.co.uk/new/>

Burnston Surface Mine, East Ayrshire, 19/08/2012

Scottish Coal has received planning permission for mining at this site, which adjoins its House of Water Complex at the head of the Nith Valley. 2.6Mt of coal

will be extracted during a period of five years, and 65 jobs will be safeguarded.

http://www.dcservices.co.uk/go/mineral_planning_home/

Coal Authority Map Viewer, 21/08/2012

The authority has made more of its data available on an interactive map viewer. One can now zoom in to an area of interest, at 1:25000 scale, and get basic information on the features displayed. EG one shaft (289903-001) in the Brora Coalfield was “capped at rockhead by the National Coal Board in the late 1970’s to an unknown specification”.

<http://coal.decc.gov.uk/en/coal/cms/publications/data/map/map.aspx>

The Underground Journey

In the 1960s a group called Operation Mole made a film showing the link between Meerbrook and Cromford soughs in Derbyshire. This 40 minute classic is now available as a DVD for £12 plus £1.50 p&p, from Dave Webb: davidwebb12@ntlworld.com. The story of how the film was made will appear in a future issue of the magazine Descent.

New Books

Miners against fascism: Wales and the Spanish civil war

Dr Hywel Francis MP describes the politics of South Wales in the 1920s and 30s that encouraged many miners to volunteers for the International Brigade. First published in 1984, this third edition contains a list of all Welsh volunteers. Published by Lawrence & Wishart Ltd. 320pp. £18.99.

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

Pit lasses: women and girls in coalmining c. 1800-1914

This book by Denise Bates is based on original research and new unpublished material. It is published by Warncliffe Books (2012) and runs to 192 pages. £14.99.

<http://writingwomenshistory.blogspot.co.uk/2012/06/pi-t-lasses-truth-about-britains-female.html>

Bristol’s forgotten coalfield: Bedminster

This book by Mike Taylor and Maggie Shapland is published by the South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group and costs £15 (£2.50 P&P). Contact Roger Gosling on 01454 883607 or Steve Grudgings on 01256 896715. The area was worked for coal from the 1720s until the 1920s. <http://sgmrg.co.uk/>

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