



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 60

APRIL 2013

Iontaobhas Oidhreacht Mianadóireachta na hEireann

Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland

DIARY DATES 2013

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

2013

May 9-10

ArcLand Conference on remote sensing of landscapes, Dublin
<http://www.archaeolandscapes.eu/>

May 18

Our Mining Heritage, Metal Links seminar at the Copper Coast Geopark <https://www.facebook.com/MetalLinksProject>

May 23-30

Vale of Avoca Welcome Home Week (Part of The Gathering)

24-26 May, Fri-Sun

European Minerals Day, <http://www.mineralsday.eu/>

25-26 May Sat-Sun

MHTI AGM, Silvermines

8-9 June, Sat-Sun

Avoca fieldtrip, led by Nick Coy

June 13

The Building stones of Newtownards, Belfast Geologist's Society fieldtrip <http://belfastgeologists.org.uk/index.htm>

14-16 June 2013

Historical Metallurgy Society 50th Anniversary Conference.
<http://hist-met.org/agm2013.html>

June 15-16

Mine heritage of Avoca mine district, Open University Geological Society event <http://ougs.org/events/index.php?branchcode=ire>

28 June-1 July 2013

NAMHO Conference 2013. Aberystwyth University.

July 26-28

Ballingarry Parish Gathering, exhibition in local museum

Aug 2-5

Dig Deep Castlecomer Underground (Part of The Gathering)

8 August, Thurs

MHTI Board meeting TBC

10-11 August, Sat-Sun

Wexford and Waterford fieldtrip, led by Des Cowman

17-25 August 2013,

Heritage Week in Ireland. Search this website for mining events
<http://www.heritageweek.ie/>

Aug 18

A visit to the Mountcharles Sandstone Mines, Co. Donegal TBC (Heritage Week)

20-24 August 2013

"Stories written in stone": international symposium on chert and other knappable materials. (Romania) <http://arheoinvestsymposium.uaic.ro/stone>

Sept 12-15

Allihies Connects (Part of The Gathering)

14-15 September,

European Heritage Open Days (NI)

28 Sept-5 Oct 2013

19th Australian Mining History Association Annual Conference
<http://www.mininghistory.asn.au/conference/>

September date TBC

Parys Mountain & Great Ormes Head, Martin Critchley

17-19 October 2013

"The forgotten state of industry: Irish industrial landscapes and heritage in a global context". See inside for details

8 November

MHTI Board meeting TBC

Various dates,

The Gathering Ireland 2013. Search this website for mining events
<http://www.thegatheringireland.com/>

Check with organisers of meetings before making any travel bookings in case of change of dates or arrangements. MHTI lists events in good faith but is not responsible for errors or changes made. For MHTI fieldtrips please register your interest, without commitment, so the organiser can keep you informed.

WWW.MHTI.COM

MHTI MEMBERS' BUSINESS

If you have any contributions for Newsletter 61 to issue in June, please contact the Editor. Thank you.

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

Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that an Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held at the **Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary** on Saturday 25th May 2013 at 14.30.

Agenda

- 1) Minutes of the last AGM
- 2) Directors Report
- 3) Annual Accounts and Auditors Report
- 4) Appointment of Auditors and to fix the auditors' remuneration
- 5) Election of Directors
- 6) Any Other Business

By order of the Board

Nigel Monaghan, Company Secretary
Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland Ltd
Dated the 1st day of May 2013

Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland AGM

This year's AGM (to be held 25th and 26th May 2013), centred around the Silvermines District in Co. Tipperary, promises to be a memorable weekend. In addition to the business aspects of the meeting we have planned an exciting series of events around the theme of Medieval Silver mining. Silver and lead mining during this period is well documented in many parts of Europe (including Norway, Saxony, the Tirol, the Czech and Slovak Republics, the Balkans, and in the UK). In Ireland documentary evidence points to the antiquity of silver mining during the medieval period at Silvermines and at Barrystown (in Wexford), and recent scientific analysis of a peat core sample at Glendalough in Co. Wicklow has determined the presence of lead, indicating the intriguing possibility of silver-lead mining from the C11th onwards. In light of the growing awareness of Medieval mining in Ireland we are delighted to announce that leading expert, Dr. Peter Claughton of Exeter University, will give a keynote talk at the AGM (Saturday 26th) on Medieval silver mining and smelting in Europe. Peter will set in context the known Medieval silver workings in Ireland and give us some clues of the types of features we should be looking for in the field that give

indications of additional lead mining and smelting sites from this period. In addition, there will be supporting talks by Dr John Morris who oversaw the recent conservation works to the nineteenth century engine houses at Silvermines, and by the local historical group which has just published a history of Silvermines. On the Sunday there will be a surface walk around Silvermines guided by Peter with the aim of seeking any visual remains which might be related to Medieval mining. We will also have the opportunity to examine the restoration work to the nineteenth century mining remains and John will be on hand to answer any questions in the field. Subject to State permission, we will be organising an underground tour of the Shallee mine workings led by Dr Martin Critchley.

Saturday 25th May - Venue Abbey Court Hotel Nenagh (<http://www.abbeycourthotelnenagh.com>)

14:30 to 15:30 AGM Business meeting
15:30 to 16:00 Coffee
16:00 to 17:00 Dr. Peter Claughton "Medieval Silver Mining and Smelting in Europe"
17:00 to 17:30 Dr. John Morris "Conservation works at Silvermines"
17:00 to 18:00 Silvermines Historical Society "A Millennium of Mining"
Dinner at 19:00

Sunday 26th May - Meeting in Silvermines Village outside the Church at 10:30 AM

10:30 to 12:30 Visit to Silvermines to view conservation works and the Sulphur Ramp workings
12:30 to 13:30 Lunch in Silvermines
13:30 to 15:30 Visit to Shallee to view conservation works and open cut workings
Late afternoon: Underground visit to be confirmed

If you are planning to be at the meeting could you let Martin Critchley know at your earliest convenience so that we know numbers for catering etc. (email mcritchley@era.ie Tel. 086-8146956)

Mario Francis

Members will have been saddened to hear about the death of Mario Francis at Lisheen Mine on the 4th April. On behalf of MHTI members the Board extends its deepest sympathy to the family, friend and colleagues of Mr Francis.

EVENTS: NOTICES AND REPORTS

Report of Slieveardagh Fieldtrip Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 March 2013

MHTI last visited the Slieveardagh Coalfield in April 2007, jointly with the Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland. Since then we have visited coalfields in Ulster, Leinster and Connacht, and we were eagerly awaiting a return visit to this area of Munster. Once again our guide for the weekend was Phelim Lally, who works with the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI).

On a wintry morning we were welcomed, with a cup of tea, to the Old School in Commons village in the Slieveardagh Hills. The school was built in 1877 by the Mining Company of Ireland (MCI), and it is now a vibrant community centre with a display of mining artefacts and memorabilia on the first floor (See Newsletter 56, June 2012).

Our first visit was to Commons Colliery a short walk away through a picturesque arch into a yard area. Nearby was the managers house, an open shaft and an engine house with a collapsing roof. The latter building probably housed an engine with a horizontal cylinder that drove horizontal rods to transmit power to two nearby shafts. This mine last worked in 1897.

The next visit was to Gorteen Mine which worked until about 1980. The mine was on a very different scale, with a large spoil heap and a large concrete gantry which had housed a coal screening and washing plant, stores, workshops and baths. Members and guests were able to see the entrance to the decline tunnel, and evidence of the spontaneous combustion of coal fines (duff) in the spoil.

After an excellent lunch of soup, sandwiches and home-baking at the Old School, we visited Mardyke Colliery, developed by the MCI after 1825. The company built engine houses, offices and housing to form the first mine village in Ireland. Sadly time has taken its toll on the village, but the offices survive along with an engine house and chimney.

Our next visit was to Maingans Road at Broomhill, which had just been opened for us. The 150m long tunnel followed by stooping and crawling sections gave many of us a feeling for what life was like for the local coal miners.

The final visit on the Saturday was to the Ballynulty Adit and nearby air-shaft. The adit drains a large area of the coalfield up to Lickfinn and Foilacamin Mines. Members explored the adit for a short distance.

More wintry weather awaited us on the Sunday morning. Our first visit was to the Decline at Lickfinn Mine. The entrance portal had been backfilled but access to the tunnel was possible through a manhole and short shaft.

Equipped with a gas monitor people descended towards the workings for several hundred meters. Unfortunately there was a low oxygen level in the mine (19%), the gas monitor alarmed, and we had to retreat to surface. On a future visit it would be best to ventilate the mine for longer before the visit, and have a much smaller group entering the mine.

Next we visited Earlshill Colliery which shut in 1881. The site includes a chimney, managers house and a very picturesque magazine.

After another lovely lunch we visited the engine house and chimney at Lisnamrock Mine. The mine ceased working in 1894. Possibly the most impressive structure of the weekend was the chimney or “Steeple” at Copper Mine, Ballingarry. This was built for ventilation purposes, but was never connected to any workings. It may have been a folly, built to create employment.

The final visit of the weekend was to Foilacamin Mine, where there is a stone-built shaft head, on which, originally, a winder was mounted. This shaft was used for pumping until the 1980s.

During lunch on Sunday, we had watched a short, locally produced, animated film about mining, called “T’was a terrible hard work”. After lunch we were privileged to see where and how the animations were made. The film won Best Animation at the 2010 Fastnet Short Film Festival.

In spite of the weather, this was a fantastic weekend. The mine sites were interesting and impressive, our guide was very knowledgeable and organised, our handouts informative, the catering was excellent, the welcome from the local community was wonderful, and the good company a credit to County Tipperary.

A big thank-you to everyone involved!
Alastair Lings

A joint EPA/GSI report of Slieveardagh is available at: http://gis.epa.ie/ENVisionMines/reports/MinesPg1_app5Index.htm

“T’was a terrible hard work” can be viewed at: <http://www.thisisirishfilm.ie/shorts/t-was-a-terrible-hard-work>



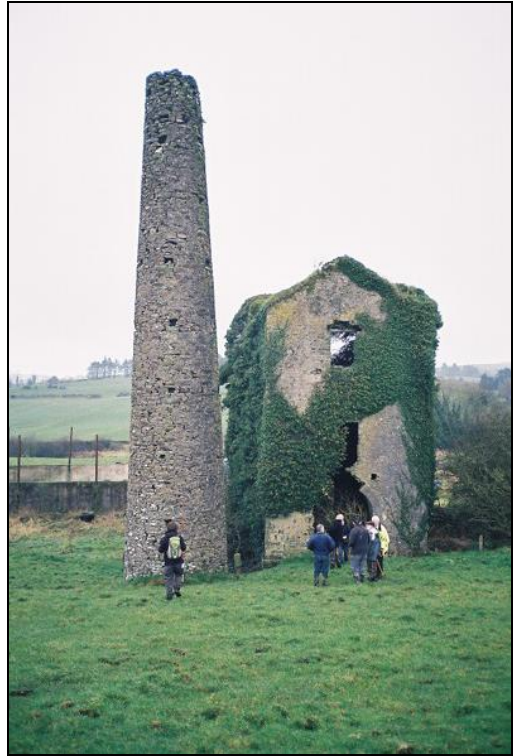
MHTI Members and guests at Gorteen Colliery



The gantry and decline at Gorteen Colliery



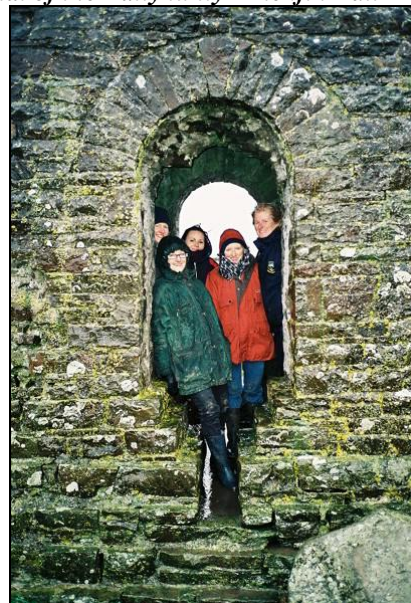
Phelim Lally addresses the group at Mardyke



The best preserved engine house at Mardyke



The portal of the Ballynunty - Lickfin Adit



Sheltering in the chimney at Copper Mine, Ballingarry

MHTI Avoca Fieldtrip Sat/Sun 8-9 June 2013

This fieldtrip is primarily aimed at completing the Avoca Mines site inventory which we started in March 2012 under the able direction of Alastair Lings.

The areas covered over the two days will include Ballymoneen in West Avoca with its Engine House and shaft. In East Avoca the area around Connary with its shafts, mine buildings and surviving chimney stack, Old workings at Kilmacoo will also be looked at. The Shroughmore ropeway line and its supports from the Avonmore River to Connary will also be covered, including a short pause at the adit where Avoca's lost Swedish Miners are buried. Depending on weather conditions and progress over the two days, there may be time for some discussion on the possibility of finding evidence of ancient mining activity in the valley. This aspect has never been addressed at Avoca in spite of 19th century references to ancient tools etc being discovered in old workings and the presence of several bronze age sites in the area.

Meet at the Meeting of the Waters pub at 10.30 am on Saturday morning

Contacts : Nick Coy Tel.087 7375452 email.
Nickcoy@eircom.net

Our Mining Heritage 18th May 2013

The Metal Links Project is sponsoring a daylong seminar to discuss research methods appropriate to genealogical and migration studies in and from former metal mining communities of Waterford and Wicklow. Speakers will discuss current and evolving research methods and the unique challenges encountered in their studies.

Metal Links project partners, The Copper Coast Geopark and The Glendalough Mining Heritage Project will co-host this event at The Copper Coast Geopark Centre, Bunmahon Co. Waterford on May 18th. 2013.

9.00 Registration

9.30 Welcome

9.45 Introduction: Genealogical research in Ireland by J. Kavanagh

10.30 On line Genealogical research methods: benefits and limitations by T. Hennessy

11.30 Researching Copper Coast families by D. Cowman

12.30 Lunch

1.30 Exploration of the role of commercial shipping in migration patterns from Mining Communities derived from shipping archives at the UK National Archive by J. Morris

2.30 Beyond Surname Analysis for Migrant Irish

Mineworkers? The Saint Kevin's School Register and the Mineworkers' database by S.Schwartz
3.30 The Miners' Memory Project by J. Kavanagh
4.30 Mining memories- The Games we used to play by T. Keating
5.00 Conclusions
Booking by email to: metallinksoffice@gmail.com
Admission: Free
(From: <https://www.facebook.com/MetalLinksProject>)

Vale of Avoca Welcome Home Week 23rd – 30th May 2013

The week is a festival celebrating poet Thomas Moore along with the mining heritage of Avoca. Throughout the week there will be guided mining walks and on Tuesday 28 there will be a mining re-enactment celebrating 200 years of mining heritage.
<http://www.thegatheringireland.com/>

Mine heritage of Avoca mine district 15th – 16th June 2013

On Saturday a day trip to the historic Avoca Mines district to look at the old mines and some of the remedial work that has been done on them. Meet at the entrance to the old Avoca Mine Site, 10.30am. Sunday is a half-day of gold panning in Gold Mines River. More details from Susan Pyne Ireland@ougs.org or Maire O'Brien mobrien@gmail.com
<http://ougs.org/events/index.php?branchcode=ire>

Mining Gala at Apedale Heritage Centre, Staffordshire 15-16 June 2013,

Mining Gala at Apedale Heritage Centre, Staffordshire. Currently 10 mining organisations are taking part including the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation, Mines Rescue Service and Winsford Salt Mine. <http://www.apedale.co.uk/index.php/gala>

Ballingarry Parish Gathering 26th – 28th July 2013

This includes an exhibition in the local coal mining museum. For more information e-mail ballingarryparishgathering@gmail.com
<http://www.thegatheringireland.com/>

Dig Deep Castlecomer Underground 2nd – 5th August 2013

A community celebration of the unique history of Castlecomer, its Coal Mining heritage and the many community groups and clubs which make Castlecomer what it is. The event will start with a community

barbeque, where former miners and their families from overseas will be the guests of honour, a variety of sporting and cultural events, including tours of the former mines and local bog, mass of remembrance at the old Pit Head, unveiling of plaque to those who lost their lives in the mines, ceile in the community hall and a unique exhibition of colum dancing are organised to take place over the period of the festival with a gala event to close. For more information phone 087 697 9264. <http://www.thegatheringireland.com/>

Allihies Connects 12th – 15th September 2013

Allihies is welcoming the copper-mining diaspora home! We are calling these people to come to Allihies and celebrate our connections and Heritage. To breathe life back into the mines themselves by having a grand opening with the illumination of the main mine building, lighting of the engine-house chimney (12th) and Main Choir musical event in the underground mine (13th).

Over the course of our celebrations there will be copper smelting and casting taking place.. and the un-veiling of a plaque for the mines museum memorial garden.

Amongst other activities there will be: Genealogy Research and Clan Gathering, Fire-blowers and Theatrics, Childrens re-enactment performance/play, Irish dancing, Bodhran players, Story-telling, Guided tours of the mines, Harvest market... and much more. For more information phone 027 73218. <http://www.thegatheringireland.com/>

Industrial Landscapes Heritage Conference 17th – 19th October 2013

The Forgotten State of Industry? Irish Industrial Landscapes and Heritage in a Global Context, is an exciting 2-day International Conference taking place in Glendalough from 17-19 October. Gathering together speakers and audiences from across Europe and beyond, it will be an opportunity to share experiences of managing and presenting our historical industrial landscapes which are often poorly understood and vulnerable as a result.

The remains of mines, factories, mills, shipyards, canals and railways are scattered across Ireland, a living archive of the workplaces and lives of the Irish people and descendants of the C19th Irish Diaspora and are important heritage assets. It behoves us to protect them for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

Organised by the Glens of Lead, a community initiative working to improve understanding and protection of Ireland's most important historic lead mining centre in the Wicklow Mountains, this unique event will be held at the Glendalough Hotel and is guaranteed to inform, educate and entertain.

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

Contact Heritage Officer: dburns@wicklowcoco.ie

Medieval copper, bronze and brass – Dinant-Namur 2014:

History, archaeology and archaeometry of the production of brass, bronze and other copper alloy objects in medieval Europe (12th-16th centuries)
15, 16 and 17 May 2014 - Dinant and Namur (Belgium) : Call for papers

The circular of the conference can be also downloaded from the website www.laitonmosan.org via this link: http://www.laitonmosan.org/symposium_2014.pdf

The proposals should be sent to this address, as soon as possible and before September 30th: laiton.mosan@gmail.com

Best regards,

Jean PLUMIER and Nicolas THOMAS

For the local organising committee

NEWS: IRISH NEWS/ISSUES/BOOKS

Lisheen Mine, Co. Tipperary

A man was killed on the afternoon of the 4th April. He had been driving a loader when it was hit by falling rock. Paramedics pronounced him dead at the scene, but due to the locally unstable condition of the mine, the body could not be recovered for 55 hours. Mario Francis, 49, from the Philippines had worked in the mine for 12 years and lived in Urlingford. He leaves a wife, My-Ann, their sons Jomar and Jolrem, and children from a previous marriage Julemar and Mario (Junior). A Health & Safety Authority enquiry is underway. <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/body-of-killed-mine-worker-to-be-repatriated-to-the-philippines-1.1351750>

Mine rescue in Sligo

A woman had a lucky escape after she plunged 10 metres down an abandoned mine shaft. The drama unfolded on Sligo's iconic Ben Bulbin when the 53-year-old woman – a holidaymaker out hiking with friends – entered an abandoned Barytes mineral mine in the Glencarbury area at the top of the mountain. The mine entrance was formerly boarded up but the hoarding had recently been removed by vandals.

After entering the mine area, the woman stumbled and plunged down the mine shaft, falling around 10 metres into waist-high icy water. The accident happened at around 2.30pm yesterday, Sunday. The *Irish Independent* reported that the woman was uninjured in the fall but was extremely shocked and was unable to swim. One of her walking companions managed to get down into the shaft and pull her on to a ledge. The group of hikers did not have any ropes with them but telephoned the emergency services for immediate assistance. Luckily, a local walking club with several former rescue workers and a doctor among them was in the vicinity and, working quickly, managed to help. A coastguard helicopter operating out of Malin Head returning from an earlier rescue was dispatched to the scene.

The Sligo Leitrim Mountain Rescue team was contacted and they sent out a rapid-response team. With the aid of two local farmers who ferried vital

equipment to the top of Ben Bulbin using quad bikes over a very steep and precarious track, the rescue workers were able to get to the location quickly. "It was a very urgent rescue and time was of the essence," said Mountain Rescue team leader Conal Sexton. With the Sligo Sikorsky helicopter, Rescue 118, on stand-by at the scene, the rescue workers managed to get the woman out of the mine shaft using a rope-harness system. The entire operation lasted for around one

hour. The woman was found to be suffering serious injuries to her leg, severe hypothermia and shock was lifted to safety and flown directly to Sligo Regional Hospital at around 3pm. The rescue workers remained at the scene until 7pm to ensure that all those helping had safely reached the bottom of Ben Bulbin.

Taken from:

<http://www.sligotoday.ie/details.php?id=25668>

Dalradian Gold Ltd, Co. Tyrone (19/03/2013)

Dalradian are planning to extend the exploration tunnel at their Curraghinalt deposit near Gortin. The tunnel was driven in the 1980s by Dublin based Ennex International. Figure 1 in the Environmental Monitoring Plan gives the best overview in planning application K/2013/0072/F http://epicpublic.planningni.gov.uk/PublicAccess/zd/zd/Application/application_searchform.aspx <http://www.dalradian.com/investor-centre/news-releases/>

Mining Records in the Guildhall Library, London (part 2)

Newsletter 58 (November 2012) included a list of prospectuses held by the Guildhall Library that were issued from 1824-1901, by companies mining or quarrying in Ireland. The list below is derived from the Library's "Loan & Company Prospectuses Index 1902 - 1939/40", which may exclude the years 1916, 1917, 1918 and 1932 due to conservation work. Again, I have listed companies that I thought had an Irish connection. Companies became more international in outlook, and it is harder to spot the connections. For example the Eileen Alannah Mining Company Limited (1911) operated in Rhodesia (Zambia / Zimbabwe), while the North British Aluminium Company had a works in Larne, Co. Antrim. There may be omissions from the list, perhaps the Liverpool Barytes Company Ltd.

Good luck with your research,

Alastair Lings

Mining Company Prospectuses, 1901-1939/1940

Bonmahon Copper Mines Development Syndicate Ltd, 1905

Browhead Copper Mines Ltd, 1906

Connemara Green Marble Quarries Ltd, 1911

Derry and Antrim Ore Company Ltd, 1907

North British Aluminium Company Ltd, 1925

Wolfhill Collieries Ltd, 1921.

Valuation Revision Books

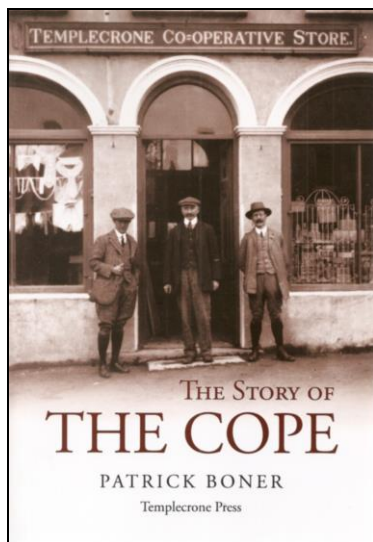
The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland have now digitised 440 000 images from almost all the Valuation Revision Books that it holds. The revisions recorded changes in the property, land, occupier or immediate lessors from 1864 until the 1930s. http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/val12b.htm

Additions to Bibliography:

Dillon, Michael, 1968. Coalisland: the evolution of an industrial landscape. *Studia Hibernica* No.8, p79-95. The article includes the impact of coal, clay and sand extraction on the development of this town in Co. Tyrone.

McFetridge, Stewart, 1999. *The Cavehill Waggon Line, Belfast's forgotten railway*. Published by the author, Newtonabbey. 59pp. The book focuses on the railway that ran down what is now Cavehill Road and Limestone Road, but includes information on the quarry which it served.

Boner, Patrick, 2009. *The story of The Cope*. Templecrone Press, Dungloe. 604pp. Chapter 10 (p401-427) describes the efforts made by the Templecrone Co-operative Society to work granite and soapstone in Co. Donegal.



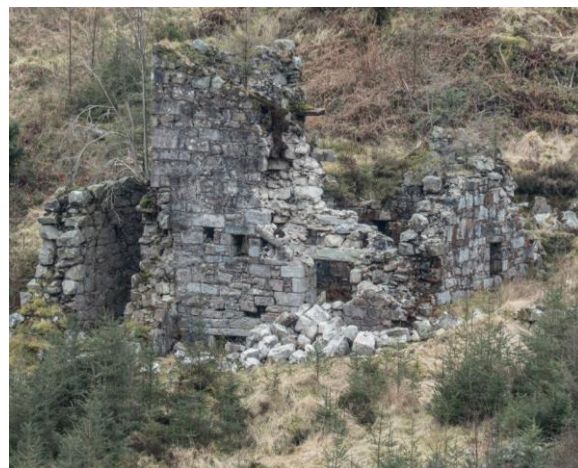
If you come across any articles on Irish mining and quarrying heritage that are not listed in the Bibliography in Journal 9, please let the Editor and Bibliographer know.

Old Crusher House, Glenmalure

Members who visited this building during the 2007 AGM Weekend may recall that one of the lintels above the doorway was unsupported on one side. Sadly the lintel has now collapsed, along with much of the stonework above it. The building is a protected structure and discussions about repairs are taking place between Wicklow County Council and the owners, Coillte.



(Before photo, May 2007, from Alastair Lings.



After photo from Glens of Lead Facebook page)

OTHER NEWS

Llan Colliery, Cardiff, South Wales (06/12/2012)

Villagers in Gwaelod-y-Garth have made a plaque to commemorate the lives of the 16 men and boys who lost their lives in an explosion in the local colliery in 1875. A subsequent enquiry recommended that coal dust was watered down, to reduce the risk of explosion: a practice that continues to this day. Plans are being made to repair the arched brick entrance to the mine.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-20635238>

Aberpergwn Mine, South Wales (08/01/2013)

Production has been halted at the colliery, and 290 people have lost their jobs. 20 staff will remain to carry out maintenance and development work.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-west-wales-20944454>

Treffry Viaduct, Cornwall (09/01/2013)

The Treffry Viaduct was built between 1839 and 1842 to carry china clay, copper, and granite on a tramway over the River Par. The viaduct is 89 feet high and 650 feet long with 10 arches. A specialist contractor will remove vegetation from the structure.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-20952648>

Winsford Mine, Cheshire (16/01/2013)

The Salt Union, owners of the Winsford Mine, are worried that methane from a nearby underground gas storage facility could seep into the mine and pose a danger to employees. The facility is being developed by Storengy just 800 metres from the mine. There are currently 7 UK underground gas storage sites.

http://www.winsfordguardian.co.uk/news/10164278.Cavern_plans_could_be_disastrous_warns_Salt_Union/

Sirius Minerals PLC, North Yorkshire (31/01/2013)

The company has submitted a planning application for a potash mine in the North York Moors National Park. The mine will be located south of Whitby, with potash transferred to Teeside by a 27 km long pipeline. It is expected that the National Park Authority will determine the application in May 2013. Full information will be made available on the Authority's website. <http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/home>

Proposed surface mine, Co. Durham (Winter 2012-13)

Hargreaves Services are hoping to develop a surface mine near West Rainton in Co. Durham. They hope to extract 500 000 t of coal over a 2-3 year period. The proposal may create 40 jobs.

<http://www.hargreavesservices.co.uk/uploads/movingmountainsissue19.pdf>

Princes of Wales Colliery, Pontefract, West Yorkshire (Winter 2012-13)

In 2009 UK Coal received permission to recover up to 1 Mt of coal fines from the spoil of this former colliery which shut in 2002. The company are now working with Hargreaves Surface Mining Ltd on a planning application to almost double output from the scheme.

<http://www.hargreavesservices.co.uk/uploads/movingmountainsissue19.pdf>

Western Carbons Ltd, South Wales (11/02/2013)

In 2012 Western Carbons submitted a planning application for an exploratory driveage and associated works to investigate a coal seam. A recent landslide has prompted people to object to the development, and eight protestors demonstrated outside the offices of Neath Port Talbot Council. The Council are still considering the application, number P2012/0759.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-west-wales-21409439>
<https://planning.npt.gov.uk/welcome.asp>

Loch Fitty, Fife (12/02/2013)

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency has approved Scottish Coals application to drain Loch Fitty. The company wants to extend the existing St Ninians Surface Mine to extract 3.4 Mt of coal over a period of six years, from below the loch. The development is expected to safeguard 89 jobs and create another 52 jobs.

http://www.sepa.org.uk/about_us/news/2013/sepa_grants_licence_for_loch_f.aspx

Daw Mill Colliery, Warwickshire (07/03/2013)

On 22 February a major fire broke out at the colliery, the largest experienced in a UK mine in more than 30 years. UK Coal Mine Holdings have closed the mine, bringing to an end its 47 years of production. The mine employed 650 people, 400 underground.

http://www.ukcoal.com/latest-news/news/Daw_Mill_update

Diglake Colliery, Staffordshire (07/03/2013)

UK Coal hopes to develop a surface mine near Bignall End, producing 450 000 t of coal from an 80 hectare site over a period of 2½ years. In 1895 about 80 miners died at Diglake Colliery and most of the bodies were never recovered. The proposed opencast will be only 20m deep, with the site of the disaster some 145m below that. The development may create up to 60 jobs.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-stoke-staffordshire-21693859>

Wheal Watkins Mine, City of Burnside, S Australia (18/03/2013)

Burnside Historical Society want Burnside Council to fund a third study into restoring access to the old Wheal Watkins Mine in Glen Osmond. The mine was the first metal mine in Australia, producing silver and lead from 1843-1851. Tours of the mine started in 1986, but the mine was closed by a rockfall in 2005.
<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/burnside-historical-society-push-to-have-glen-osmonds-wheal-watkins-mine-opened-to-the-public/story-e6frea83-1226599643931>

Scottish Coal (19/04/2013)

The Court of Session in Edinburgh has appointed accountancy firm KPMG as liquidator of Scottish Coal. The company operated six surface mines in East Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire and Fife. 590 people have lost their jobs. <http://www.heraldscotland.com/>

New publications

Merrick, Barry, 2013. Discovery to production: a mining history of Mount Isa Mines 1923-1931. ISBN 9781922109729 (hardback).

Smith, K. & Yellowley, T., 2013. Remembering the miners – lest we forget. Tup books. 176 photographs. Available from <http://durhamminers.org/Shop.html> for £9.50 + £1.50 P&P.
<http://www.journallive.co.uk/lifestyle-news/newcastle-features/2013/02/25/mining-a-rich-seam-of-history-61634-32872244/>

Trinder, B. 2013. Britain's Industrial Revolution. Carnegie Publishing, Lancaster 676pp, ISBN 978-1-85936-175-7 HB, ISBN 978-1-85936-219-8 SB
This whopping work, subtitled *The making of a manufacturing people, 1700-1870* is naturally weighted towards mining and subsequent processing of metals and minerals, and the mining of coal to power the industrial revolution. Ireland is included. A review may follow in a later newsletter.

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