

Newsletter



Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland

No. 74 Autumn 2016

SPECIAL FEATURE

Kiruna, an Arctic mining town
on the move

UPDATE

Remediation Works at the Avoca Mines

GLENMALURE LEAD MINES

Consolidation Works Begin on New Crusher House

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Iontaobhas Oidhreacht Mianadóireachta na hÉireann

Dates for your Diary

2017

20 January, The Mining History and Heritage of Glenmalure, illustrated talk by Sharron Schwartz and Martin Critchley (MHTI) in conjunction with the Glenmalure Pure Mile Group

19 Feb, Vegetation clearance at Ballycorus, Co. Wicklow (details to follow).

10 March, lunchtime talk (1-2pm) by John Hussey on the 'Mineral-Railway and Transport Heritage serving the Granite Quarries of the Mourne, Wicklow and Cornwall. Public Records Office, Belfast. <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/monuments-and-buildings-record-lecture-series#toc-1>

29 April, Spring Clean in Glenmalure, Co. Wicklow (details to follow).

11-13 May, International Early Engines Conference, Elsecar, South Yorkshire, GB. <http://www.earlyengines.org/>

27-28 May, GOLD! AGM weekend in Co. Wicklow on the theme of gold mining, past, present and future (details to follow).

15-19 June, Mining History Association Annual Conference, Alaska, USA. <http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/>

23-26 June, NAMHO Conference, *Mining History Organisations - achievements and challenges*, organised by the Wealden Cave and Mine Society, at Godstone, Surrey. <http://namho2017.info/>

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 field trips please register your interest, without commitment, so the organiser can keep you informed.

MHTI Members' Business

HELP WANTED

Rubbish clearance

Sadly mines and quarries are often seen as handy places to dump rubbish. An Taisce and the Live Here Love Here partnership in Northern Ireland organise spring cleans in April each year. Taking part in the clean-ups would help MHTI in its aim to promote "awareness, appreciation and conservation of the mining heritage". We will need to concentrate our efforts on sites where there has been rubbish dumped by the public, which government bodies will not tidy up. If you know of sites that need attention, please contact any director.

Vegetation clearance

At some mines and quarries vegetation is hiding features of interest, and damaging historic buildings. To preserve our heritage, we must take steps to control the vegetation and protect the structures. In the future we will be organising work parties to clear undergrowth, ivy, etc, outwith the bird nesting season (1st March-31st August). The work may be combined with surveying the buildings. If you know of sites that need attention, please contact any director.

Newtownards Mines, Northern Ireland

Martin Critchley and Sharron Schwartz recently met with a representative of the Strategic Investment Board Northern Ireland (SIBNI). SIBNI helps the government to plan infrastructure, deliver major projects and manage assets, and their recent projects include the hugely successful Titanic Belfast. They have been tasked with producing a Pre-Feasibility Study for the Newtownards Mine Site.

SIBNI were impressed at the MHTI's understanding of mining heritage in its complete form - combining both 'hardware' (i.e. the geology and buildings and shafts and technologies and tailings/spoil heaps) and the 'software' (i.e. the social history).

We look forward to working closely with SIBNI as they seek to develop the Newtownards Mine Site into a local and regional amenity. At the very least, we are hopeful that the iconic industrial structures will be offered some degree of consolidation to prevent them from further falling into disrepair.

Notices

Change in MHTI Status

Members should be aware that there are changes required under new Irish company law that mean that MHTI is now in a category of company known as a 'Company Limited by Guarantee' rather than a 'Limited' company and our official title is now 'Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland CLG'. While there is no significant change, we now have a 'Constitution' rather than 'Memorandum of Association' and 'Articles of Association'.

The Constitution is an exact transcript of the previous two documents, apart from containing references to the new legislation under which we now operate. The one change in our procedures as agreed by the members present at the AGM on 18 June 2016, was to avail of 'audit exemption' for annual accounts to save on expenses of having a formal audit for such a low turnover. Any queries can be addressed to Nigel Monaghan info@mhti.com

Copper Coast Geopark

Copper Coast Geopark Ltd. was incorporated in 2004 as a company limited by guarantee, under the guidance of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland, to manage the UNESCO Copper Coast Geopark. Enabling funding came from an initial InterReg 3B project. The MHTI, along with the Geological Survey of Ireland, University College Cork and Waterford County Council were equal shareholders in the company and nominated directors to its board. The company

brought assets at Tankardstown mine (engine houses and surrounding land) and at Bunmahon (disused church which has been converted to a heritage/community facility).

In more recent years operational management of the company has been undertaken by local community volunteers and a limited number of paid staff with the founding organisations (along with community representatives) supplying directors to the board.

The new Companies Act of 2014 required that the original Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association are combined into a new single Constitution and that the company name change to Copper Coast Geopark CLG, which was completed in 2016. At the same time it was decided by the shareholders to change the ownership of the company and to remove the right of the four founding members to nominate directors. Copper Coast Geopark CLG is now 'owned' by members from the community who elect directors and the MHTI nominated directors have resigned.

This brings an end to the formal support of the Copper Coast Geopark by the MHTI, but we hope that we can continue to help them where and when we can.

Thanks to the following MHTI members who acted as MHTI nominated directors to Copper Coast Geopark over the last 12 years: John Morris, Des Cowman, Martin Critchley, Matthew Parkes and Nigel Monaghan.

The Avoca Mines Remediation Works, County Wicklow: An Update



The ore bins at Tigroney have now been removed for conservation purposes
Image: Martin Critchley

Local group petition Wicklow County Council to prevent adverse changes to the protection of the Avoca Mine Site in the Draft County Development Plan 2016-2022, writes Martin Critchley

Followers of the MHTI newsletter will be aware that the board has sought to protect the extant mining remains at the Avoca Mines, County Wicklow, which are threatened by on-going 'remediation' works and the reduction in statutory protection by delisting parts of the mine site from the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) in the new Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022.

The board has had some success in mitigating certain aspects of the remediation works, including for example conservation of the ore bins at Tigroney and enhanced archaeological supervision of the works. However, to date, we have not been able to prevent the delisting of mine spoil and open pits from the RPS. These features are an integral part of the Avoca mining landscape which is valued by the local community, film directors, the Irish Diaspora and industrial archaeologists. These are a vital part of the Avoca mining landscape and their physical removal will severely devalue the integrity of this historic mining landscape.

The first drafts of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022 excluded the spoil heaps and disturbed ground that surround the surviving buildings. Following a GIS-based survey of the mine site, the MHTI submitted recommendations, for the most important areas of spoil and associated disturbed lands, for retention in the RPS. Initially Wicklow County Council accepted most of our submission, and the councillors voted on an amendment to the Plan to include the majority of the areas defined in the MHTI submission.

However, the land owner (in this case the State through its agency, The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs), objected to the amendment, arguing

that Wicklow County Council had not followed the correct procedure in nominating new features for inclusion in the RPS. The Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council had little choice but to recommend removing all amendments related to the Avoca Mines because of the concern of legal action by the landowner (the State) over the procedure adopted in the defining new features on the RPS.

In order to put pressure on Wicklow County Council and local councillors to prevent this from happening, a petition was instituted by the Avoca Heritage Committee. This resulted in over 600 signatures from the Avoca area (a significant number of the local population), and an additional 128 people signed the on-line version in support of protecting the mine site. The petition was presented jointly by the Avoca Mining Heritage Committee and the MHTI to the Chairman of Wicklow County Council.

The on-line petition comments remind us of the *international* significance and value of this historic mine site to the Irish Diaspora. They also highlight the depth of concern about what many deem to be 'inappropriate development' not based on best practice in the remediation of mining landscapes elsewhere:

Removal of the protected status afforded to the Avoca mine site will almost certainly lead to the destruction of a heritage asset of the highest importance to the history of metalliferous mining in Ireland. The preservation of historic mine sites, their structures, shafts and related waste tips is essential if the contribution of metal mining to Irish industrialisation is to be fully understood. The

preservation of similar heritage assets is enshrined within the policies of the Management Plan for the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site, and I urge that similar consideration be afforded to the historic mine-scape of Avoca for the benefit of current and future generations (Respondent from Cornwall).

This sentiment was echoed by another Cornish respondent:

There is much experience in Cornwall regarding the preservation and scheduling of metal mine sites as part of the UNESCO Cornwall & West Devon World Mining Heritage landscape. It is as important to retain spoil tips for their mineralogy and impact on the landscape as to preserve built structures such as engine houses. Avoca has important links with the Cornish mining diaspora as well as being an important site in Ireland's mining heritage.

Yet another Cornishman added:

I am a retired mining engineer, having trained at the Camborne School of Mines in the 1950s, and had the privilege of being employed at the St. Patrick's Copper Mine, Avoca as part of my practical training in 1958. For over 50 years I have researched Cornish Mining and Mineralogy and have appreciated the benefits to the County of Cornwall of being designated a UNESCO World Mining Heritage Site. Historically, I was surprised to note that the early-19th century workings at Avoca involved the Williams mining dynasty family of Cornwall for which I am currently the curator of their Mineral Collection at Caerhays Castle. Seeing the ruins of the Cornish-style engine house on Williams shaft on my arrival brought home the long history of mining in the Vale of Avoca. The uniqueness of the mineralization and the setting at Avoca would be a tremendous loss to the County of Wicklow, scientifically, historically and economically were it to be lost.

A Canadian resident who had also worked at Avoca added:

Having attended the Camborne School of Mines, my first job was in the mill at the Avoca Mines Ltd.. I felt at home, the scenery was all but Cornish, the area must be preserved to add to the Cornish mining influence so well preserved in that UNESCO site.

A respondent from the UK noted: 'As a scientist I see the mining remains as interesting from the chemical, mineralogical, botanical and microbiological points of view. They should not be destroyed!'. Another from California agreed: 'Geology students need exposures for study. Turning all old mines into green fields and forests is just not necessary!'

The importance of understanding the past in order to inform our future also featured heavily: 'I believe in the importance of preserving historically significant aspects of the world's industrial past, so that we and future generations

“My ancestors worked in these mines as I did before emigrating. I continue to work in mines that use mining methods pioneered at Avoca - imagine my pride in that. My daughter is the next generation of the mining industry - she is part of that heritage and takes it with her proudly around the globe. This is living history - would the Hill of Tara be treated in such a manner? Avoca Mines attracts visitors and students of the mining industry from around the world. Keep this priceless site protected PLEASE”

can appreciate and remember the sacrifices our ancestors, distant and recent, made in their search for a better life' (respondent from Massachusetts); 'Important we preserve the past. Without a past, we have no future', (respondent from Cambridgeshire); 'to loose history means to loose the roots of culture' (respondent from Germany).

'While the government is the landowner, the heritage belongs to the community,' opined one signatory, while others stated: 'Great for tourism and preservation of our heritage'; 'I have visited sites like this in many parts of England, Wales, Scotland and Spain I think that they are at least as important as places of religious worship, architecture, Stately Homes or palaces' (respondent from Yorkshire). A couple of Wicklow residents also drew attention to the use of the site as a film set which brings significant economic benefits to the county.

For many people the mines were all about 'family history'. A man from Yorkshire commented: 'My father was killed as a result of an underground accident whilst working in the Avoca Mines and I will always consider the existing structures as a personal memorial to him and quite a few of his workmates that I knew, now long gone but never to be forgotten', while a man from Pennsylvania noted, 'my uncles all worked in the mines'. But one of the most poignant responses came from an Irishman whose ancestors worked at Avoca, as he also did before leaving Ireland for Canada. For him the mining landscape is 'living history' intimately bound up with his ancestry and encapsulating his pride of place (see quote top right).

Despite the petition, in a vote on the final draft of the development plan (in early November 2016), the councillors voted to remove the inclusion of mine spoil and disturbed ground from the RPS. The removal of these areas could allow the landowner to severely degrade the integrity of this historic mining landscape, and adversely affect the future economic and social benefits it could bring to the local community and the wider county. The one saving grace is that the councillors asked that the Council officials re-assess the RPS listings at Avoca in conformity with the law. The MHTI hopes that this takes places quickly so that the most valuable features continue to be protected from inappropriate development.

A New Lease of Life for the New Crusher House, Baravore



Aerial view of the consolidation works to the New Crusher House, Baravore Mine, October 2016
Image: Martin Critchley

At last some good news about Wicklow's Mining Heritage: Conservation works to the New Crusher House in Baravore have been undertaken, write Martin Critchley and Sharron Schwartz

A weak sun is casting thin lances of light through broken cloud, bringing out the rich autumnal shades of the deciduous trees lining the slopes of Glenmalure. This majestic glacial landscape looks truly beautiful at this time of year: 'All this literally on my doorstep, and I hadn't even been here before', comments one of the builders from Arklow who is working on the consolidation of the New Crusher House at Barvore Mine. Beautiful indeed, but for us the sight of the long awaited conservation works to this historic mine building truly steals the show.

A cement mixer is steaming in the cool autumnal air, caused by the heat emanating from the lime mortar which is being mixed inside. Sounds of hammering and trowel on stone can be heard from the building, inside which scaffolding has been erected by Summit Conservation and Restoration, a Dublin-based company with a long track record in undertaking the restoration of historic buildings. The works are being overseen by Kevin Carrigan, a brick and stone conservation expert.

The missing stone lintels below the two windows in the upper storey have been replaced and the front gable end which, as one of the workmen noted, 'was being held up by little more than fresh air', is in the process of being repaired. The tree saplings have been removed from the roofline which is now being capped with lime mortar to prevent future water ingress.

The impetus to undertake these works came initially from the MHTI's survey of the Baravore Mine site and its extant buildings, complimented by a desktop study of the history of the valley's mines under the aegis of the Interreg IVA *Metal Links* Project, which was published in our 2014 Journal.

Consequently, the heritage value of the building, constructed in 1859-60 which is the finest extant example of a multiple rolls crusher house in Ireland, was finally understood. As a result of our 2014 Journal article, the local Pure Mile Group made a strong case for the New Crusher House to be a worthy candidate site in the Adopt a Monument Scheme, a pioneering community project of the Heritage Council. The New Crusher House, the only industrial heritage site, was one of six sites chosen nationwide by this scheme.

Although no money was available for conservation purposes through the Adopt a Monument Scheme, this gave added weight to the application of the landowner, Coillte, for funds from the Department of Arts Heritage Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs under the BHIS and SRF schemes administered through Wicklow County Council. Coillte's application was successful, and the New Crusher House is one of several building conservation projects made possible in County Wicklow this year. Additional funds were made available by Coillte to adequately finance the necessary works.



Capping the roofline of the building with lime mortar
Image: Martin Critchley

SPECIAL FEATURE

Kiruna, an Arctic mining town on the move



The Kiruna Iron Ore Mine towers over the town which has to move
Image: Martin Critchley

The largest underground iron ore mine in the world, and a town on the move. Martin Critchley and Sharron Schwartz visit Kiruna in Swedish Lapland

Located 145 km inside the Arctic circle in Norrbotten County, Lapland, Sweden, is the world's largest underground iron ore mine. Owned by Luossavaara-Kiirunavaara Aktiebolag (LKAB), a state-run mining company, it has an annual production capacity of over 26 million tonnes of iron ore.

The Kiruna orebody was formed following intense volcanic activity. Iron-rich solutions precipitated the iron on to a syenite porphyry footwall. Then the ore bed was covered by further volcanic deposits, quartz porphyry, and sedimentary rocks. Later the whole body was tilted to its current dip of 50 to 60°. Having a grading of more than 60 per cent iron and an average of 0,9 per cent phosphorus, the ore contains a very pure magnetite-apatite mix.

The Kiruna ore body is 4 kilometres long, 80 metres to 120 metres thick and reaches a depth of up to 2 kilometres.

Since mining began at the site in 1898, the mine has produced over 950 million tonnes of ore. Driven by the insatiable global appetite for construction, the mine currently produces 90 per cent of all the iron in Europe, enough to build more than six Eiffel Towers a day.

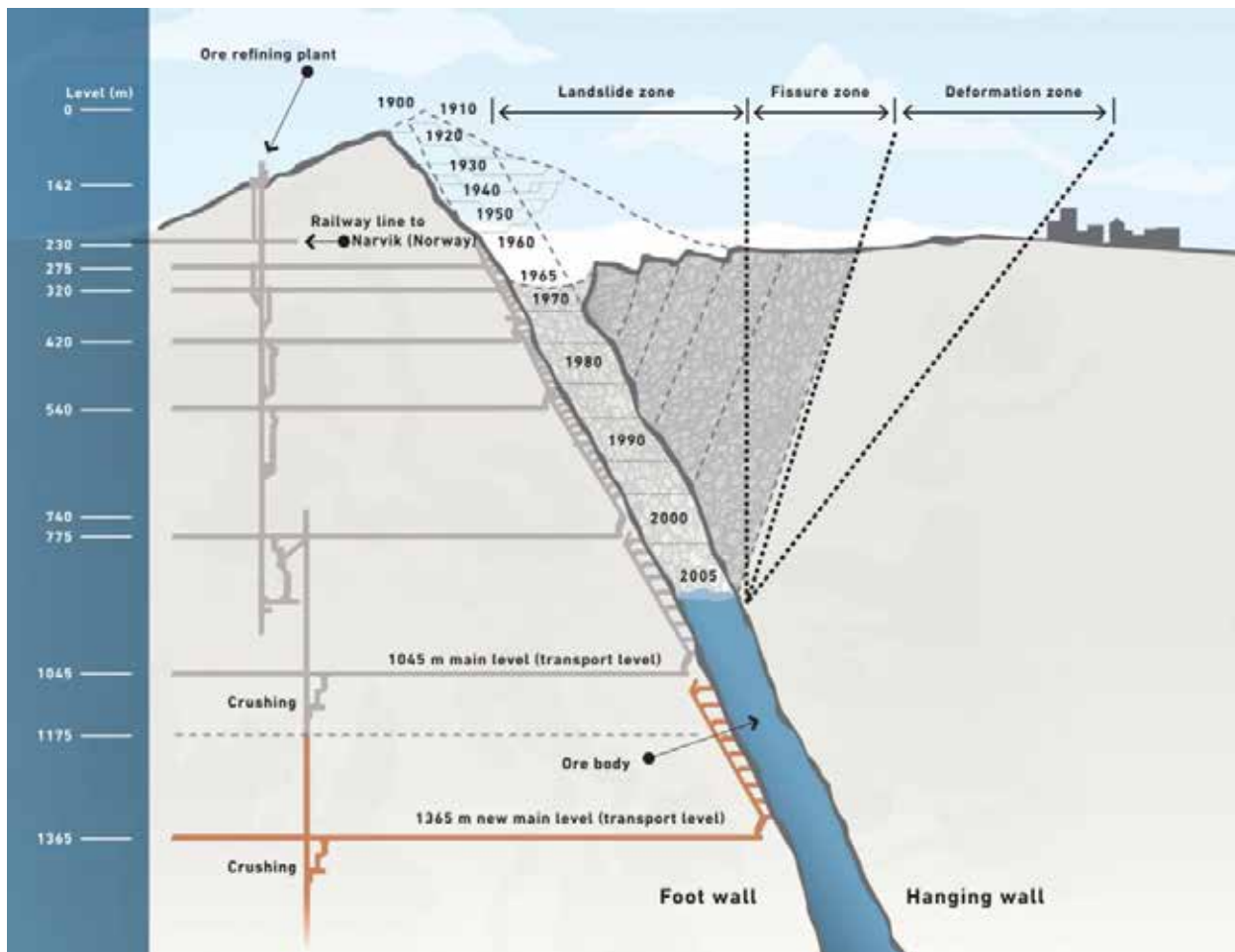
In the early days of mining, the ore body was exploited by opencast methods, but since the 1960s, deep lode mining has been employed. In 2008 the mining company announced plans to commence mining at a new level, reaching a depth of 1,365 metres.

Iron ore mining in the Swedish Arctic is big business, bringing much needed revenue and employment to a sparsely populated part of the country. Kiruna is subject to a brutal climate, enduring winters with no sunlight for several weeks, and average temperatures below -15C. But the deep deposit of magnetite has proved a strong enough magnet to entice, and keep, people there. However, the proven ore reserves at Kiruna have become something of a double-edged sword for the 18,000 residents, because the gigantic iron ore mine is rapidly devouring the very ground beneath their town.

In 2004, the mining company informed Kiruna that its days were numbered: the ore body dips at an angle of around 60 degrees straight toward the city, and residents were warned that the future exploitation of the levels would lead to subsidence, with the resultant structural damage to buildings and town streets in the form of cracks and fissures.

Fissures soon began to appear in the ground, indeed, one ran straight across the floor of a downtown shoe store overnight. The inhabitants found themselves on the horns of a dilemma: there is no town without the mine, and no mine without the town. The solution to the problem was on a grand scale. But then, everything in Kiruna seems to be. The town would have to move to permit further expansion of the mine which was, after all, its *raison d'être*.

The project to move the town has been allocated a whopping 3.74bn Swedish kronor (over 355 million euro) by the mining



company, which includes building a new high school, fire station, community centre, Town Hall, library, swimming pool and even an artificial lake.

Unsurprisingly, the project is not without its detractors. The residents were given a vote on the location of the new town centre, and they resoundingly wanted this to be sited to the northwest of the present settlement. Yet the authorities overruled their wishes, and decided that the new Kiruna would be located 3 km to the east, nearer to pre-existing water supply pipes and other utilities.

Work has already started, the beginning of a process that could take up to 17 years; the railway station has closed while a new one is being built, and en route to Kiruna Airport we pass the new circular Town Hall which is currently under construction and due to open in 2018.

Several of the most important historic buildings are earmarked for relocation, including the impressive wooden church built in 1912 in the style of a Sami house and once voted the most popular pre-1950 building in Sweden. It will be dismantled and carefully moved like a gigantic Ikea flat-pack to be reassembled at a new site safe from subsidence.

The bizarre cast-iron bell tower which currently soars above the brick-built Town Hall, will also be moved to the new site when its present building is razed to the ground. But what of

the people's homes?

Most of these will simply be demolished. Although stated to be 'the most democratic move in history', there is considerable disquiet and even anger about the plans for the town. The mining company has agreed to compensate residents to the value of their homes plus 25 per cent. Alternatively they can skip the transaction and simply accept a new, free home in the new location.

But many locals argue that the compensation package is not enough to afford a new-build house to replace their old one at market rates. The current town has many detached wooden homes with gardens dating from around the turn of the twentieth century which are full of character. Designed to be more green and sustainable, the new Kiruna incorporates a much higher-density arrangement of multi-storey apartment blocks around shared courtyards, lining straight axial boulevards down which the icy winds of winter will howl.

The choice for some residents, especially those who have lived for two or more generations in Kiruna, must be heartbreaking. As one disgruntled resident tells us: 'I don't really want to swap my nice old wooden house for a concrete apartment block'. However, everyone we speak to seems grudgingly resigned to the project, as they understand that the mine isn't going anywhere for the foreseeable future, and the town's fate is inevitable.

“It’s a dystopian choice. Either the mine must stop digging, creating mass unemployment, or the city has to move – or else face certain destruction. It’s an existential predicament.”

**Krister Lindstedt
White Architects, Stockholm**

We’d heard a lot about this mine so naturally we want to see it for ourselves. You can’t really miss it, as the enormous grey waste tips literally glower over the whole town, below which lies a tremendous gash in the ground where the ore has been ripped from the earth. At 2.00am every night, the ground is shaken by blasting. And the resultant cracks and fissures spread their malevolent tentacles further towards the town and its buildings.

But we want to do more than merely view the mine from the surface, and are delighted to discover that the LKAB runs daily mine tours from the Tourist Information Center downtown. To join one of these is by no means cheap - about 35 euro each - but it lasts three hours and includes a fully guided tour and refreshments.

We set off in a top of the range 40-seater coach with well over thirty other people and a tour guide who beams ear to ear when we tell her we are from Ireland, for she is half Irish and speaks flawless English, the language of our tour. The number of fellow tourists surprises us, but Kiruna is one of the main gateways to the mountains of Swedish Lapland and the Laponia World Heritage Site. Indeed, in summer (July-August) LKAB runs four trips per day, so around 200 people pass through the mine daily at that time of year.

We drive alongside railway sidings holding empty train wagons for as far as the eye can see. Each wagon can carry 100 tons of ore and there are 10-12 trains per day each hauling 68 wagons conveying iron ore pellets to Narvik in Norway for export. The mine employs 2,300 workers, including 800 underground, 70 of which are female, which represents about one sixth of the town’s population.

We are suddenly plunged into pitch darkness. It’s the first time either of us has been driven down a mine incline by coach, and the experience is somewhat surreal! In the dull light of the coach’s headlamps, we initially descend along a 1km straight section of tarmac road with a 1:10 gradient complete with road signs. This is just one small section of the staggering 500 km of roadway in the mine. After several kilometres, we arrive at the bright cavernous entrance to the the LKAB’s Visitor Centre on the 540 level, which looks as if it has been lifted straight from the pages of a sci-fi magazine.

Donning helmets we begin the tour with an explanation



One of the mining machines used 30 odd years ago when the 540 Level was active
Image: Martin Critchley

about the geology of the ore body in front of an already out-of-date interpretation panel: mining happens rapidly in Kiruna. The 540 level that now houses the Visitor Centre was being mined when Michael Jackson’s *Thriller* was topping the album charts. This doesn’t seem all that long ago, but the machinery that exploited this level is now archaic by modern standards, and has been left in situ to give visitors a sense of the scale of everything down here, which is gigantic!

The air is suffused with the smell of engine oil, grease and mineral dust as we peruse the equipment, the function of each piece explained in full by our well-informed guide. Unfortunately, many of the explanation panels are in Swedish only, but we understand enough to get the gist of what they are saying. Several of the fully operative miniature mine train models on display in the exhibition area are superb, and apparently people visit Kiruna just to see them.

We are shown a short promotional film explaining how the ore is crushed, raised to the surface, concentrated, and agglomerated into iron ore pellets, with an emphasis on how environmentally friendly the process is, before we move into the museum. This is a veritable smorgasbord of artefacts, historic photographs, static displays and didactic panels, some of which are in English as well as Swedish. Thematically it is all over the place and jumps from geology, to working conditions, and social history at random. However, the turn of the century miner’s cabin depicting how families braved the Arctic climate, is very informative. Fifteen minutes is nowhere near long enough here.

After coffee and biscuits in the former miners’ cafeteria which have authentic miners’ safety lamps on each table, it’s time to return to the surface. We don’t get to see any active mining or processing, and the tour is rather sanitised for people like us who are used to visiting working mines.

Our guide, who is employed by LKAB, certainly hasn’t shied away from the controversy surrounding the mine’s expansion. Her historic wooden house is one that is earmarked for demolition. She does not want to move, but knows it is impossible to remain, as the widening cracks in her home remind her. Many people on the tour seemed astounded by the decision that has been made to move the town wholesale to its new location. But as we have discovered, in this mining town, everything seems off the scale.

Irish News and Publications

Tunnel Vision: Curraghinalt Gold Project

The Curraghinalt Gold Project in Co. Tyrone, have been holding consultation events consisting of a series of exhibition stands covering aspects of the proposed mine, with staff available to answer any questions. Also they are offering Tunnel Tours to individuals and groups. 18+ years, 16-17 years must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Underground transport can be provided for people who can't walk far. Maximum group size is 10 people. The tour lasts about 3 hours (including safety briefing, etc). More information on the project can be found on their website: www.dalradianni.com

Dalradian Resources report "Completion of 558 days working underground, 244 blasts, approximately 960 metres of underground development, the completion of three test stopes, all with zero non-compliance with regulations and zero lost-time injuries; Results from the testing of the first two long-hole test stopes recovered 54% more gold than predicted in the resource model and demonstrated that mechanized long-hole mining can be used as the primary mining method."

"The Feasibility Study (FS) is near finalisation, with metallurgy/flow sheet planning and the geotechnical programme, test stoping and paste backfill tests completed and mine development and production sequencing nearing completion". More information, including photos, is available in the company's latest investor presentation (08/11/2016). <http://www.dalradian.com/news-and-events/news-releases/default.aspx>

Ballinclare Quarry, Kilbride, Co. Wicklow (01/08/2016)

30 000 tons of rock blasted at Ballinclare Quarry on the 18th April was found to contain asbestos. By the time the hazard was identified, 2 739 tons of rock had been supplied to around 18 sites in south Dublin and north Wicklow. In June Wicklow County Council served a notice on Kilsaran under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act 1996. The rock will be excavated and returned to the quarry, where it will be buried. <http://trueviralnews.com/?p=298988>

Coalisland Clay Pits, Co. Tyrone (07/09/2016)

Amazing plans to transform abandoned clay pits in Coalisland into a state-of-the-art racing track is already a winner for Mid Ulster businesses. The man behind the plan, David Henderson, has not only brought Dungannon Estate Agents Niall Maneely & Co on board, but has also used a Toome based architect and engineer, Graham6, to help draw up designs for the circuit. Phase one of the Lake Torrent Centre of Excellence has been submitted to Mid Ulster Council for

full planning and is said to include an international tarmac racing circuit that stretches 4km. "We feel this circuit has the potential to be amongst the global favourites, incorporating a tunnel section, corkscrew, heavily banked bends and a mix of fast, flowing and slower technical aspects," the firm said. "We have worked tirelessly to draw the best possible design from the site, designing to maintain the aggressive elevation changes and incorporating the stunning features which currently exist". Read more at: <http://www.midulstermail.co.uk/news/plans-now-submitted-for-world-class-race-track-at-abandoned-coalisland-clay-pits-1-7566298>

Lisheen Mine, Thurles, Co. Tipperary (28/07/2016)

The High Court has dismissed a Tipperary farmer's claim that the mining activities of a nearby company had caused settlement to the surface of some of his 18-acre farmland and damage to adjacent buildings.

Relying on the tort of nuisance, the farmer sought damages in excess of €3 million which the Court indicated was a blatant exaggeration in any event.

Since the 1960s, Mr Martin Dunne successfully farmed lands jointly owned by him and his wife in Killoran, County Tipperary. He claimed that the mining activities of Vedanta Lisheen Mining Limited since 2012, caused settlement of lands and damage to buildings.

In addition to a claim of nuisance, Mr Dunne claimed that Vedanta breached its duties under their mining lease pursuant to the Minerals Development Acts, 1940-1995. For more see:

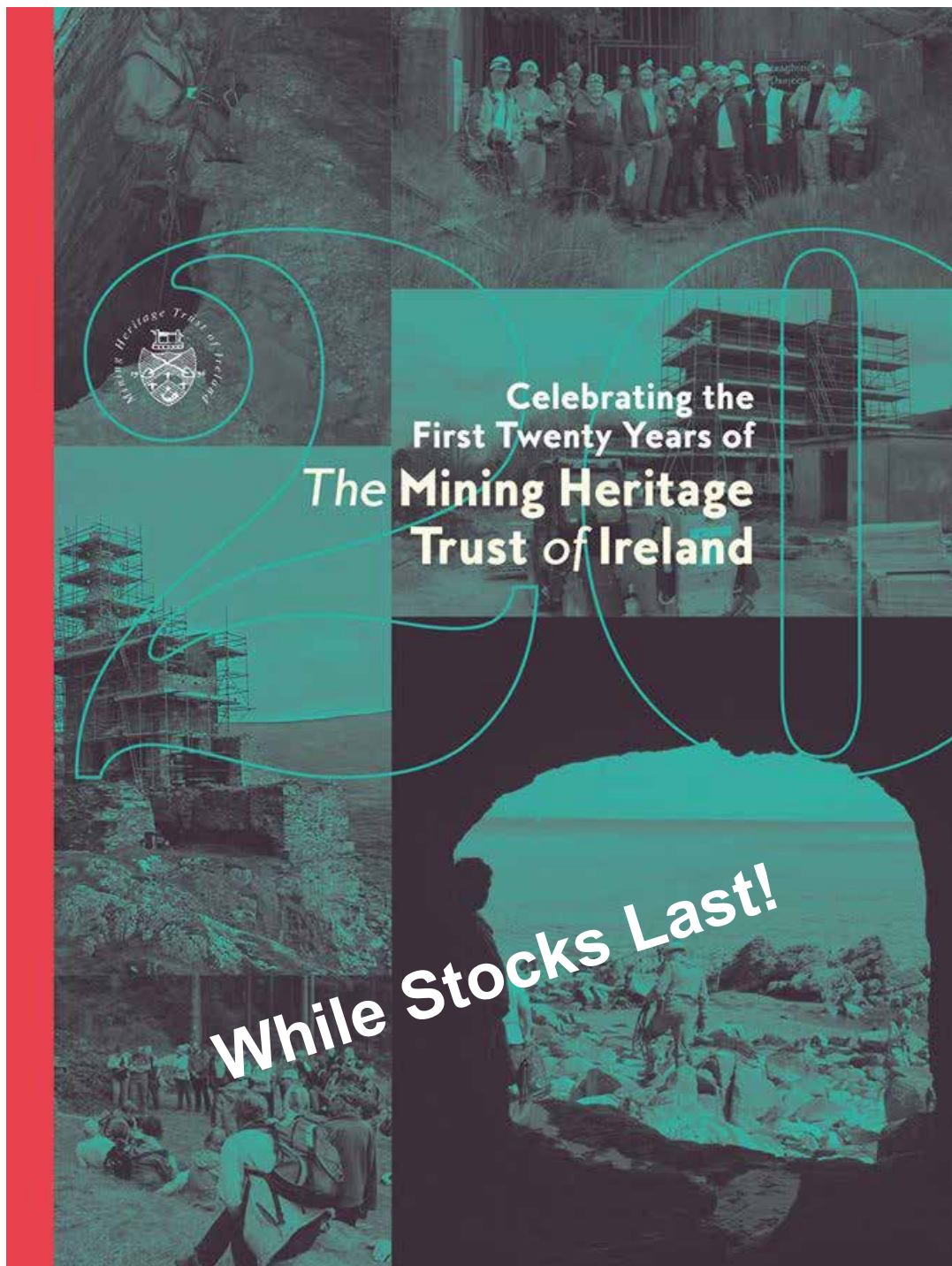
<http://www.irishlegal.com/5143/tipperary-farmer-loses-nuisance-claim-against-nearby-mining-company/>

Glentogher Mine, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal (29/09/2016)

Connemara Mining Company have been exploring in and around the former Glentogher Mine in Co. Donegal. Their Interim Statement for the period ended 30 June 2016 says "sampling around an old mine on the licence produced good grades of base metals and silver. A team have worked to clear the old adits and shafts and make access safe. They then sampled the area. Visual observation suggests veins up to 2 metres wide but laboratory results are awaited on contained grades". <http://www.connemaramc.com/investors/regulatory-news>

Additions to bibliography

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Matthew Parkes

Reflections

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Other News

Fight to save iconic Weardale mining headframe (Northern Echo 29/11/2016)

Campaigners fighting to retain County Durham's last mining headframe. Mounting concerns over the future of Groverake mine near Rookhope, County Durham, came to a head earlier this month when a demolition order was served on the iconic headgear.

The fluorspar headgear at Groverake is the last of its kind in County Durham and is regarded by many as a "fixed symbol of a vanished industry."

Fears for its future arose when the mine owner Sherburn Stone's lease came to an end, meaning it was duty-bound to clear the site. The company said it would donate the headgear to a preservation group, prompting the newly founded Friends of Groverake to submit a business plan to the landowner.

Earlier this month, the campaigners hopes were dashed when they were told the demolition had to go ahead as the Coal Authority planned to construct a water treatment scheme on the site. However, when contacted, the Authority said the scheme was at such an early stage it "should not override any archaeological or cultural considerations" relating to the mine.

Saddened by the news, the preservation group, The Friends

of Groverake, organised a protest at the site and urged the landowner's agent, GSC Grays, to resume negotiations. The request was granted and on Friday group members, including nearby residents and mining enthusiasts, were offered a 25-year lease to conserve the headgear in situ.

But before they can accept the offer, the Friends must raise £18,000 to cover the bond and fees, and they have weeks if not days to do so.

As the Friends of Groverake is not a registered charity, The Friends of Killhope, a charity connected to Killhope Lead Mining Museum near Cowshill, is running the appeal. A website to accept donations has been set up and more than £2,500 has been pledged already.

Chairwoman Margaret Manchester said: "We can't pursue the normal funding avenues because the process can take months and we just don't have the time. We are still hopeful the money can be raised. We only launched the appeal a few days ago and already have £2,500, which is a good start."

Mrs Manchester said the campaigners had fought so tirelessly as they cared deeply about Groverake's fate. "It means so much to so many people," she said. "I was brought up in Rookhope. My dad worked at Groverake and his uncle and my granddad. It's part of our identity." If the appeal is unsuccessful all of the money will be returned to the donors.

To donate, visit groverake.com

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