

Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland

Newsletter

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NEW GOLD MINES.

From Mr and Mrs S.C. Hall (1853) Dublin and Wicklow. Virtue Hall and Virtue, London.

Iontaobhas Oidhreachta Mianadóireachta na hEireann

MHTI Members' Business

Chairmans Report for 2017

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2016 was held on the 27th May 2017 at the National Museum, Collins Barracks. Stephen Callaghan, Martin Critchley and Sharron Schwartz resigned as directors. MHTI are very grateful to them for their work over the years. At the AGM we had a useful discussion on the future of MHTI, followed by an enjoyable meal in the Nancy Hands Bar & Restaurant.

I was appointed as Chairman at a meeting of directors just before our Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on the 9th September. At the EGM we considered the accounts and further discussed the future of MHTI.

During the year we produced one Newsletter (No.75), a total of 14 pages. Many thanks to Sharron Schwartz for producing the newsletter, and to everyone who contributed towards it. We have not published a Journal since No. 15, in Spring 2016. We now have enough articles from the papers presented at the NAMHO Conference in 2016, and expect to publish Journal No. 16 in the next few months.

Our Facebook page is still popular. At the end of 2017 it had 887 "Likes", up from 709 the year before. In May 2017 we started a page on VKontakte as an alternative to Facebook. It contains much of the same news as Facebook, but is much easier to view. Both pages can be viewed without signing up to social media. In September we set up an e-mail account and 83 Google Alerts to advise us of news items relating to mining and quarrying in Ireland. The Alerts provided very useful information for our Facebook and VK pages.

In 2017 we responded to the Public Consultation on Ireland's National Biodiversity Action plan 2017-2021. Our response was "We suggest that detailed surveys of lichens are made at old mine sites in western Ireland, including Ross Island and Muckross, Co. Kerry; Allihies, Co. Cork; and Silvermines, Co. Tipperary. These sites were recommended by Howard Fox in 1999".

During the year we responded to eleven enquiries including:

- Photos of mines in Northern Ireland from the late 19th century until World War 2;
- Mining at the Fox & Geese and Clondalkin;
- Mining activities in Co. Down in the early 1700s;
- Coordinates of adits and shafts in Glendasan, Glendalough and Glenmalure;
- Disused mines to visit on a tour of Ireland;
- Cornish miners at Avoca.

For their efforts and support during 2017 I would like to thank our directors, members, corporate supporters, and contributors to our publications. I must note special thanks to Alastair Lings for his outstanding help in preparing me for this meeting, and to Nigel Monaghan for keeping the functional operation going with membership, administration and treasurer roles. Thank you all.

Matthew Parkes

07 July 2018

We plan to issue our next Newsletter in October, but we need your help. If you have information on forthcoming events, come across news items, or want to contribute a report or article, please contact the Newsletter Editor (details on back page).

2017 AGM Report, 07 July 2018

The short AGM was held immediately after the joint field meeting of MHTI with the Open University Geological Society and the Irish Geological Association to the National Museum's Collections Resource Centre in Swords, County Fingal, Dublin. The minutes of the AGM (for 2016) held in 2017 and the EGM held in Collins Barracks on 09 September 2017 were approved by the meeting after the Chairman's Report was received (see above).

Accounts for 2017 were presented:

Income	916
Expenditure	1,932
Reserves (cash in bank)	14,322

It was noted that it was an exceptional year due to accountancy. The requirement for commercial accountancy has now been dropped and there should be very significant savings in this area.

Governance was addressed as the next agenda item and Nigel Monaghan reported on this. Our current legal status is as MHTI clg – Company Limited by Guarantee as of 2016. We are no longer a registered charity. We no longer require annual audit to satisfy company or charity requirements. Like every other organisation we have had to address the question of General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) that has been quite burdensome for many. With our new limited operation we do not need to keep significant amounts of personal data about members and in compliance will require members to elect into how they are contacted by us.

Under governance membership rates were noted

Full Member	€25	£22
Concession Member	€15	£13
Publications	€20	£18

However as communicated to members we are operating a waiver for 2018.

We no longer offer insurance through the British Caving Association.

The next agenda item was the appointment of Directors. Nigel Monaghan and Matthew Parkes stepped down by rotation but were reappointed by the meeting. In addition the nomination of Theo Dahlke as a Director was approved.

At the end of the meeting a brief discussion was held on the areas where we plan to continue activity. To re-develop the website is first priority and some progress was reported with a draft version having been reviewed. Thanks were given to Ewelina Rondelez for her work on this. A further action planned is to develop social media/news, on the MHTI Facebook page and via Email news (this Newsletter). As previously discussed in communications the reduced services are due to reduced engagement by members.

Acknowledgement and correction

Newsletter 75 (Summer 2017) contained an obituary for Ken Brown. MHTI is very grateful to Vince Bevan for the use of his photo of Mr Brown. The obituary for Dave Fitzgerald in Newsletter 76 (June 2018) was written by Nick Coy, not by Vince Bevan. MHTI apologise for any confusion.

Dates for your diary

25 July - 01 September: Wolfhill Coalmine Project exhibition at Dunamais Art Centre, Portlaoise. (22 August, official opening and talk / tour) <https://www.facebook.com/wolfhillcoalmine/>

18-26 August: Heritage Week, <https://www.heritageweek.ie/>

25 August: From fire and soil – iron production in ancient and medieval Europe (talk). Loughrea, Co. Galway. <http://loughreamedievalfestival.com/events/>

25-26 August: Sliabh Aughty Furnace Festival, Woodford, Co. Galway. <http://www.furnaceproject.org/>

05 September: The building stones of Carrickfergus evening walk. <http://www.belfastgeologists.org.uk/>

06 September: IMQS field trip to Kellymount Quarry, Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny. <https://www.imqs.ie/>

08-09 September: European Heritage Open Days (Northern Ireland). <https://discovernorthernireland.com/events/European-Heritage-Open-Days/>

07-13 October: Australasian Mining History Association Conference, Otago, New Zealand. <http://www.mininghistory.asn.au/>

23 October: Networking of Industrial Heritage Sites conference. <http://ihai.ie/>

18 November: UK Mines, Minerals and Miners: their impact on the prosecution of the First World War. NAMHO seminar in Carnforth, Lancashire. <https://www.namho.org/index.php>

19-22 November: International conference of mining and underground museums, Poland. <http://www.icmum.pl/>

2019

05-09 June 2019: Mining History Association Annual Conference, Michigan, USA. <https://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/>

19-21 June 2019: Archaeometallurgy in Europe 2019 conference, Miskolc, Hungary. <http://aie2019.argum.hu/index.php>

04-08 July 2019: NAMHO Conference, Llanafan, Ceredigion, Wales. <https://www.namho.org/>

19-21 September 2019: European Labour History Network conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands. <https://socialhistoryportal.org/elhn/wg-mining>

Please 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.

Events, notices and reports

Mining and quarrying related events during Heritage Week, 18-26 August

Information on the following events is available at: <https://www.heritageweek.ie/>

18 August

-Wicklow Mining Heritage Hill Walk (Co. Wicklow)

21 August

-Mines of Bygone Days (Co. Cork)

-Tour of the Deerpark Colliery (Co. Kilkenny)

-Evening Tour Gleniff Mining Valley (Co. Sligo)

-Copper Coast Geopark Visitor Centre Open Day and workshop (Co. Waterford)

22 August

-A geological tour of UCC (Cork City)

-The Wolfhill Coalmine Project (Co. Laois)

24 August

-Geological Survey of Ireland Open Day (Dublin City)

-Meet the Flint Knapper (Co. Meath)

25 August

-The Puxley Papers by Mr Paul Curtis (Co. Cork)

-The geology of Allihies (Co. Cork)

-A geological extravaganza (Co. Meath)

-Slieveardagh Mining Tour (Co. Tipperary)

26 August

-Exploring Kilmacreehy's secrets (Co. Clare)

-A picnic in Beaumont Quarry (Cork City)

-Alchemy of sound, Umha Aois smelting and casting (Co. Kerry)

-A neolithic afternoon (Co. Meath)

-Visit to Geology Museum (Galway City)

-Galway in stone: guided walk (Galway City)

25-26 August

Furnace Festival 2018, smelting of bog iron ore (Co. Galway)

18-26 August

-Industrial underground heritage at Arigna Mining Experience (Co. Roscommon). 20% discount on all admissions during Heritage Week at reception.

Wolfhill Coalmine Project Exhibition, 25 July – 01 September

The Wolfhill Coalmine project is a social history and art project collecting the memories and histories from the Wolfhill Mines, Co. Laois. The exhibition is at the Dunamais Arts Centre, Church Street, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, and includes photography, art, video and the spoken word. As part of Heritage Week on Wednesday 22 August at 7pm there will be an exhibition reception and documentary screening. Booking is essential for the screening. <http://www.dunamais.ie/index.php>

Dublin Mountains Walks, 26 August & 02 September

The Dublin Mountain Partnership have organised walks near Ballycorus Mine on Sunday 26 August and Sunday 02 September. The guided walk will take in the Scalp view-point, the Lead Mines Chimney and Carrickgollogan summit. It is a moderate walk on forest roads and trails, a small section of County road and a gravel track leading to Carrickgollogan summit. Dogs are not allowed on the walk. Prior booking is essential. https://www.dublinmountains.ie/news/upcoming_events/?no_cache=1

European Heritage Open Days (Northern Ireland), 08-09 September

An exhibition at Carnlough Town Hall, Co. Antrim, includes the history of 19th century iron mining, limestone quarrying and maritime trade with England and Scotland (booking required). In Co. Tyrone there is the opportunity to visit the recently restored limekiln at Rylagh near Omagh. Near Cookstown is Lissan House, the home of the Staples family for nearly 400 years. The family were engaged in local coal and iron mining. <https://discovernorthernireland.com/events/European-Heritage-Open-Days/>

Irish News

Drowning in disused quarry, Co. Clare (01/06/2018)

On 31 May Jack Kenneally and Shay Moloney drowned in an abandoned quarry near Knockanean on the outskirts of Ennis. The 15 year olds were swimming with other teenagers when they got into difficulty. The emergency response included the swift water rescue unit of the fire brigade, the Irish Coast Guard Rescue 115 helicopter and Clare Civil Defence. A local diver recovered the boys, after they had been underwater for about 30 minutes: they could not be resuscitated. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/teenage-boys-who-drowned-in-clare-quarry-named-locally-1.3515328>

Tullybuck Mine, Clontibret, Co. Monaghan (30/04/2018)

Drilling by Conroy Gold And Natural Resources has discovered an extensive gold bearing zone 30 metres south of the former antimony mine. In the first four boreholes of a 1000 metre drilling program the highest grade found was 21.6 grams/tonne gold, with the best intersection being 3.9 metres at 9.2 g/t. Professor Richard Conroy (Chairman) said "Our technical work on the deposit has identified Tullybuck antimony mine area as a key target and these results confirm the effectiveness of our team's pre-drilling technical review". On 14 June the company announced an expansion of the drill program to 1700 m.

More information on the mine is available on pages 46-54 in Morris, J.H. (1984). The metallic mineral deposits of the lower Palaeozoic Longford-Down Inlier, in the Republic of Ireland. Geological Survey of Ireland, 72pp. <http://www.conroygoldandnaturalresources.com/>

Primitive mine found on the Lambs Head peninsula, near Caherdaniel, Co. Kerry (20/06/2018)

Aoibheann Lambe of Rock Art Kerry has identified a primitive mine on the Lamb's Head peninsula. The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) number for the mine is KE106-157----, and it is described as follows.

This primitive copper mine is found at an elevation of c. 80m OD on the upper E side of a gully at the SW extent of a level ridge of outcropping which runs for 190m NE/SW along the NW facing slopes of Eagle Hill on Lamb's Head. It consists of a wide shallow opening c. 2.5m wide x 2.5m high which narrows and decreases in height towards the rear. Within 1m of the rear, the sides and the overhang steadily decrease from a width of c. 1.6m and a height of 1m to eventually converge at ground level. To the left of the opening, copper mineralisation is present on the rock face and on a number of small loose boulders at ground level. A spoil heap composed of blue/grey coloured sandstone rocks, some of which have quartz veins, occur c. 8m downslope to N from the opening on the N side of this low drystone wall area and occupies an area c. 4m x 4m which is largely devoid of vegetation save for sterocaulon, a metallophyte lichen. A rock surface at the same elevation which is located on the far side of the rear of the mine on the exposed N face of the outcrop also appears to have been worked although no copper mineralisation is present. This rock surface overlooks Derrynane Harbour and is accessible at N via loose steps composed of flag stones which run from a largely level area (possibly created by the workings) N of the rock surface towards the low drystone wall below.

<http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/?SMRS=KE106-157---->



Photo by Aoibheann Lambe

Cavanacaw Mine, Omagh, Co. Tyrone (25/06/2018)

A crosscut driven from the decline at the mine has intersected the main Kearney Vein, about 15 metres below the level of the Kearney openpit. At this point the vein is about 2.8 m wide and channel samples have been taken to check the grade of gold mineralisation. Levels will be extended north and south along the vein, producing some ore for the mill. The decline will be extended to give access to the vein at a lower level, so that stoping can start in late 2018 or early 2019. An escapeway will be constructed to provide a second method of egress. <http://www.galantas.com/news/>

Abbeystown Mine, Ballysodare, Co. Sligo (21/06/2018)

Erris Resources have opened entries to the former Abbeystown Mine, Co. Sligo, and are planning an underground mine exploration programme including 3D laser surveying, systematic channel sampling followed by underground diamond drilling. A surface drilling programme continues in the area south of the old mine. <https://www.errisresources.com/news>

Ballyhickey Mine, Ennis, Co. Clare (07/08/2018)

Hannan Metals are preparing to drill near the former Ballyhickey Mine as part of their Clare zinc project. The mine produced lead from 1834 until 1846. In 1852 Harvey's of Hayle in Cornwall (UK) supplied the mine with a 20" winding engine, wrought iron boiler, cage work and pumping apparatus. This early phase of exploration probably continued until 1865. There has been extensive recent exploration 2 km away, around the former Kilbricken Mine in Monanoe townland. <https://www.hannanmetals.com/news/2018/>

Clonwilliam Slate Quarry, Woodenbridge, Co. Wicklow (15/06/2018)

The former stables for the quarry, now a detached house called Little Earth, are for sale by private treaty. The land extends to 1.73 acres (0.70 hectares) and includes a small mine working. The quarry was probably worked in the period around 1860-1880: from 1875 by the Clonwilliam Quarry and School Slate Manufacturing Company of Liverpool. <https://www.myhome.ie/priceregister/little-earth-clonwilliam-woodenbridge-co-wicklow-856744>

MHTI CONTACT DETAILS

Registered Address : c/o Natural History Museum, Merrion Street, Dublin , D02 F627, Ireland
Registered in Ireland as Company 340387.

Chairman (matters of policy): Matthew Parkes, mparkes@museum.ie, mobile 087 1221967

Secretary (corporate matters, membership): Nigel Monaghan, c/o Natural History Museum, Merrion Street, Dublin D02 F627,Ireland, email: nmonaghan@museum.ie, mobile 087 7985570

Journal Editor, Bibliographer: Paul Rondelez, prondelez@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: Alastair Lings, alastairlings@yahoo.co.uk , mobile +44 7763 850087

Director: Theo Dahlke

Director: Ewan Duffy

Country code for Ireland is +353, and the first zero of the area code or mobile number is omitted