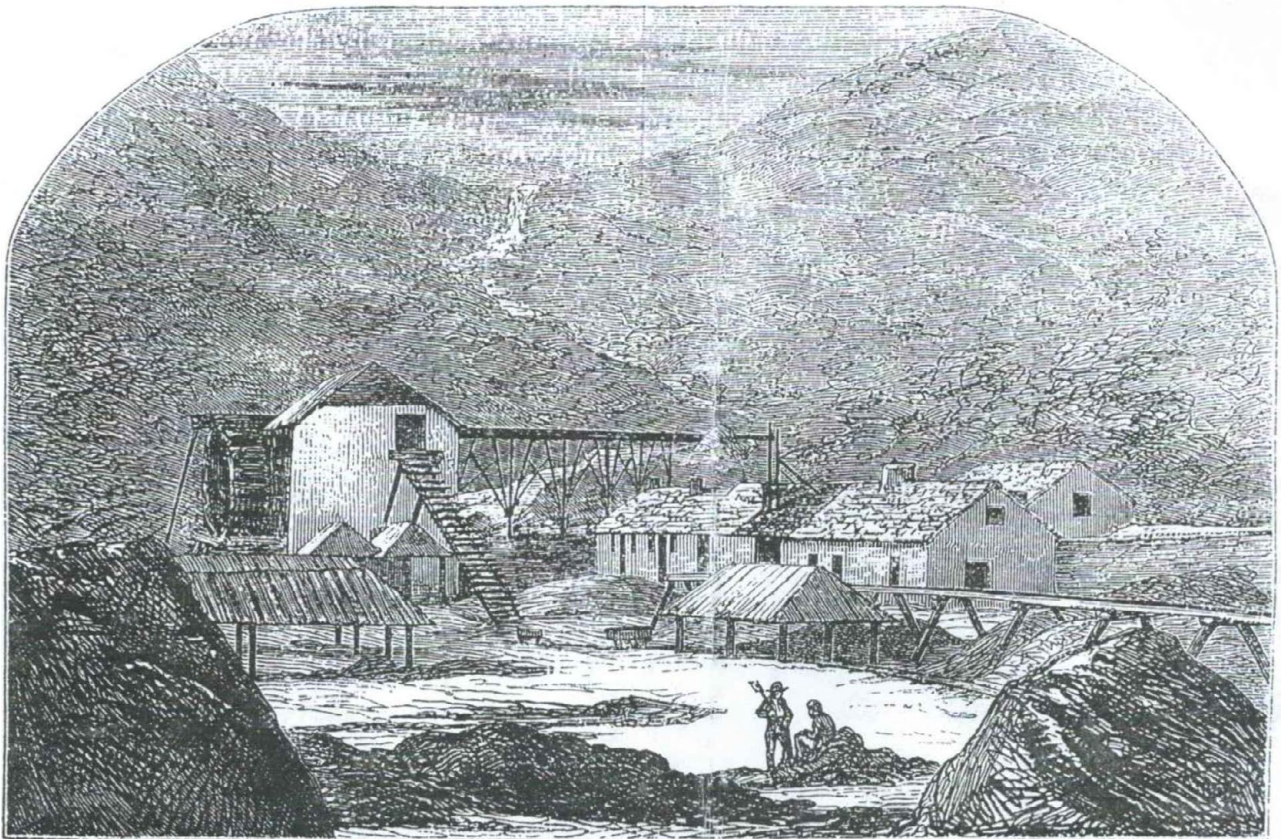


Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland

Newsletter

No. 78, December 2018

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Luganure Lead Mine, County Wicklow, Ireland.

Iontaobhas Oidhreachta Mianadóireachta na hEireann

MHTI Members' Business

Resolution for Extraordinary General Meeting

The Directors have met to discuss the future of MHTI as outlined at the AGM and in the recent Journal. As has been made clear to the members, the continuation of MHTI clg is not viable due to falling membership, lack of engagement, and reduction in members being prepared to play an active role on the Board. The Directors wish to put the following resolution to the Membership at the upcoming EGM.

“The membership wishes the Board of Directors of MHTI clg to work in 2019 towards the dissolution of the Company”

Dissolution involves a voluntary winding up costing about €750 which our accountants could help us process, and provide advice along the way over a three month period or so. This route has advantages of not requiring all of our funds to achieve (as opposed to Liquidation, which is a more expensive process). The process would involve us writing to the CRO once we are down to about €100 in assets, this means that before that stage in the process we would have to pay any bills and allocate our financial assets of approximately €12,000 which is available to do with as we wish. The Directors are proposing that this would go towards ensuring care and transfer of our tangible assets (archives, library, equipment) to appropriate organisations, with the bulk of the funding going towards engagement of someone to populate the new website with the data from over 21 years of work by MHTI. We have filed accounts for 2017, so we would not have to pay for professional accounts for the 2018 financial year as long as we started the process of dissolution in the next few months, and have it completed before September 2019.

All Directors welcome any opinions on the proposals above.

Resignation of director

Ewan Duffy has resigned as a director of MHTI. He first joined the Board at the formation of MHTI on 10 February 2001, serving until his resignation on 02 February 2009. He was re-elected as a director on 17 April 2010 and resigned on 05 August 2010. He was co-opted to the Board on 07 November 2013, endorsed as a director on 26 April 2014 and resigned on 13 September 2018. MHTI are very grateful for his financial help and advice since 2001.

MHTI Journal 17

The Editorial in Journal 16 says “If this journal continues to be published, it will only be when sufficient material is available to justify it”. We have one article ready for publication, and others promised. If you want to have an article published in Journal 17, please contact Paul Rondelez before the end of January (contact details are on the back page). If the resolution to wind up MHTI proceeds as planned this will be your last opportunity to publish in an MHTI Journal so please advise us if you have a potential paper, even if it won't be finalised until the deadline for submissions of the end of April.

Extraordinary General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the company will be held at 2pm on Saturday 12 January 2019 in the AV Lecture Theatre at the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Benburb Street, Dublin 7 (D07 XKV4).

Nigel Monaghan, Company Secretary

Agenda

1. Minutes of the AGM held on 07 July 2018
2. Annual Accounts for 2018
3. Resolution to wind up the company
4. Work plan for 2019
5. Transfer of non-financial assets
6. Any other business

Proxy Form

Proxy forms are available from Nigel Monaghan if you are unable to attend the meeting in person. This will allow your vote to be cast on the resolution. Completed forms must be returned to him prior to the meeting. Contact details are on the back page.

National Association of Mining History Organisations Conference 2019: Call for papers

The NAMHO Conference is being held on 04-08 July at Llanafan, Ceredigion, in Mid Wales. The theme of the conference is "Mine exploration as a research tool – applications in mining history, geology and archaeology". Mine exploration, using caving techniques, takes the researcher into new and potentially rewarding aspects of mining history and archaeology. It also provides a very different view of the geology and mineralogy to that seen at surface. The lecture programme seeks to provide an insight into the research potential for mine exploration and those who use their caving skills to access abandoned mines. Offers of papers should be sent to Peter Cloughton: P.F.Claughton@exeter.ac.uk or phone +44 (0) 1437 532578.

NAMHO Newsletters

The Newsletters of NAMHO contain mining heritage news, events and publications. On the webpage it is now possible to subscribe to receive the Newsletter directly. <https://namho.org/newsletters.php>

We plan to issue our next Newsletter in March, 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 (contact details on back page).

Dates for your diary

12 January: Extraordinary General Meeting of MHTI. For more details see Members' Business.

30 January: Lecture on "The Irish blast furnace" by Paul Rondelez (UCC). <http://geology.ie/>

04-05 April: Health down the mine conference, Lewarde, France. <https://www.chm-lewarde.com/en/>

30 May-02 June: Institute Europa Subterranea Symposium, Bad Munster am Stein-Ebernburg, Germany. <http://europa-subterranea.eu/>

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

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

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

17-25 August: National Heritage Week. <https://www.heritageweek.ie/>

14-15 September: European Heritage Open Days (NI). <https://discovernorthernireland.com/events/European-Heritage-Open-Days/>

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

10-12 October: International conference for the history of mining and metallurgy. Jihlava, Czechia. Contact Petr Hruby, PetrSilberbergbau@seznam.cz

2020

18-22 June 2020: International Mining History Conference, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. <https://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/>

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.

Cover image

The image shows the mineral processing works at Glendalough Mine, Co. Wicklow. It is reproduced from Draper, H.N., 1860. Lead in two parts. Part 1 – the mouth of the mine. *Recreative Science: a record and remembrance of intellectual observation*, volume 1, p.289-292.

For an analysis of the image see: Schwartz, S.P., and Critchley, M.F., 2012. The lead ore dressing floors at Glendalough and Glendasan, County Wicklow 1825-1923: a history, survey and interpretation of extant remains. *Journal of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland*, No.12, p.5-52.

Events, notices and reports

Wicklow Mining Heritage Hill Walk (18 August 2018)

Myles Buchanan reported on this Heritage Week Event for the Wicklow People-

Heritage tour takes in number of mining sites

Visitors had the special and unique experience of being guided through the former mining sites of the Wicklow Uplands while hearing the stories and first hand experiences of Glendasan miner, Robert Carter.

The overall route was researched by Glenmalure PURE Mile committee member and mountain guide Charles O'Byrne, who was assisted on the day by mountain leader Graham Connolly at the event which ran as part of Heritage Week. Local photographer Joe Haughton kindly assisted with taking photographs to capture and record proceedings, while medical backup was provided by Jim Nolan of Glen of Imaal Mountain Rescue.

Several interested bodies are presently in collaboration with the Glenmalure PURE Mile group to have this 20km scenic route, which passes through some of Ireland's most spectacular upland scenery and links five former mining sites, recognised as an official walking trail.

Under glorious sunshine, the walkers assembled at the Glendasan mine site near Turlough Hill where Dave Shepherd of the local voluntary group 'Glens of Lead' gave an interesting and detailed introduction to the history of lead mining in the valleys of Wicklow and identified the various buildings and dressing floor in the old nineteenth century Glendasan mine site.

Former miner Robert Carter led the group through the Glendasan mine site which reopened during the war years and where he started work at 16. He captivated the group as he shared his recollections of what it was like to work in the mines in Glendasan. A minute's silence was observed at the memorial to the late James Mernagh, who sadly lost his life while working alongside Robert Carter in the Glendasan Mines on January 22 1957.

Two poems written by the late Charles McCoy, 'Glendalough Mines' and 'Fiddlers Row', were also recited as Robert identified the ruins of miners dwellings, which is said to have got its name because a musician lived in every house.

The group continued to the Miners Village in Glendalough and then on to Van Diemen's Mines high above the Upper Lake. At both sites Dave Shepherd gave a comprehensive account of mining in the area and identified all the remaining landmarks on the landscape which date from this industrial period in the mountains.

The walkers followed the old donkey mining trail down the hillside to reach the mine site at Ballinafunshoge, where Carmel O'Toole gave an account of the history of the mining operations there and also the story of the tragic landslide in March 1867.

<https://www.independent.ie/regionals/wicklowpeople/localnotes/heritage-tour-takes-in-number-of-mining-sites-37283096.html>

Irish News

Abbeytown Mines, Ballysodare, Co. Sligo (12/09/2018)

Surface drilling by Erris Resources has shown that mineralisation extends over 500 m south of the old mine. In June old entrances to the mine were opened. Merlin Marr-Johnson said “Recent work included re-accessing the underground workings, ensuring that the portal entrances to the underground mine were safe, scaling down the main drives, installing radio systems, reconditioning access and working areas, improving ventilation, and taking face channel samples from eight pillars in the main Index Bed Workings. In parallel with this, underground mapping, surveying and 3D modelling has been ongoing”. The company will develop two underground drill pads to explore the ground between the old mine and the surface drilling.

<https://www.errisresources.com/news>

Wicklow Lead Mining Heritage Trail (18/09/2018)

Michael Ring TD, the Minister for Rural and Community Development has announced funding for 128 projects under the 2018 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. €8 600 was awarded to the County Wicklow Partnership for the Wicklow Lead Mining Heritage Trail. The proposed 20 km trail will link up the six main lead mining sites in Wicklow: Glendasan, Glendalough, Van Diemen's Land, Ballinafunshoge, Ballinagoneen , and Baravore.

<http://wicklownews.net/2018/09/rural-recreation-projects-to-provide-boost-to-wicklow-tourism/>

Emergency planning exercise (21/09/2018)

On 21 September a multi-agency emergency planning exercise was held at the Marble Arch Caves in County Fermanagh. The event was organised by the Police Service of Northern Ireland and attended by statutory and voluntary organisations including the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland, the Irish Cave Rescue Organisation and the Irish Mine Rescue Committee (IMRC). Representatives of the IMRC included members of the Dalradian and Tara mines rescue teams. The event focussed on underground rescues, with scenarios including rescue from a sink hole, a mine and from water.

<https://www.fermanaghmagh.com/article/marble-arch-caves-hosts-emergency-planning-exercise/>

Social, environmental and economic analysis of the effects of Galmoy and Lisheen Mines (01/11/2018)

The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment has requested tenders for a social, environmental and economic analysis of the effects of Galmoy & Lisheen mines on their communities. The results of the study will be used to improve the regulation of the mining industry.

<https://irl.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/rfqview.asp?PID=137585>

Drumgoosat Mine, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan (24/09/2018)

In the early hours of Monday 24 September the playing fields and buildings at Magheraclone GAA Club were affected by subsidence, with major fissures in the ground. There were no casualties. From 1956 to 1989 the former Drumgoosat Mine had extracted gypsum from the area, with its workings extending underneath the R179 regional road into the Knocknacran Open Pit. The area has been monitored for subsidence for over a decade by Gyproc.

Monaghan County Council closed the R179, the LP4900 local road and Drumgossatt National School. Families were evacuated from five houses. On 25 September the school reopened, and the area was visited by Sean Kyne, Minister of State, and senior geologists from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAIE).

On 26 September a preliminary assessment identified a disturbance zone near the Club, with a radius of 120 metres. The probable cause of the subsidence was because “recent mining operations involving the transport and storage of water in an old part of the mine, previously unused for water storage, resulted in the collapse of some mining pillars” (Gyproc, 26/09/2018).

On 03 October an aerial survey found further subsidence about 600 metres NNW of the disturbance zone. Both areas were fenced. On 10 October Gyproc and their consultants, SRK, presented a preliminary geological assessment report to representatives of the County Council, DCCAIE and the Environmental Protection Agency. Surveys, technical assessments and monitoring of ground conditions continued. After a further review of geological and hydrological information and more testing, the R179 was reopened on 26 October, the LP4900 reopened on 31 October and Gyproc resumed mining operations.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-45747293>

Ballyhickey Mine, Ennis, Co. Clare (15/11/2018)

Hannan Metals has completed 735 metres of a planned 2000m programme of exploration drilling near the former Ballyhickey Mine. The drill target was at a depth of 100-250m on the south side of a fault, which was associated with significant levels of zinc, lead, arsenic and cadmium in the soils. No visible mineralisation was seen in the three boreholes. The company will now test other targets in Co. Clare.

<https://www.hannanmetals.com/news/2018/>

Horse Island, Schull, Co. Cork

Horse Island in Roaringwater Bay is for sale at €6 750 000. On the 63.4 hectare island are old copper mines. The earliest recorded mining on the island was by Colonel Robert Hall in 1814. In 1835 ancient workings were re-excavated by the West Cork Mining Company and found to contain a stone hammer, oak shovel and tub. By tradition these old workings were ascribed to “The Danes”. The last mining was in 1901-2. More information is available in: Hodnett, Diane, 2010. The metal mines of West Cork. Trevithick Society. 288pp.

<https://www.engelvoelkers.com/en-ie/properties/buy-house/>

Publications

Journal of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland, No.16

MHTI Journal 16 has been published and sent to everyone who was a member in 2016. It contains articles from the NAMHO Conference in Dublin, which had the theme "Mining and social change".

Jeannette Graulau - Mining corporations of Western Europe: a succinct survey of business models of the medieval world (p.3-20)

Sharon J. Carter & Peter Claughton - Mining, Memory and the Mountain: iron mining on the Canigou massif (Pyrenees-Orientales, France) (p.21-32)

Terry Dunne - "Wolf Hill I dread you": Threatening letters and other alternative documentary sources for the Leinster Colliery District (p.33-37)

Anne Boran - Nixie Boran, mining and social change in Castlecomer (p.39-45)

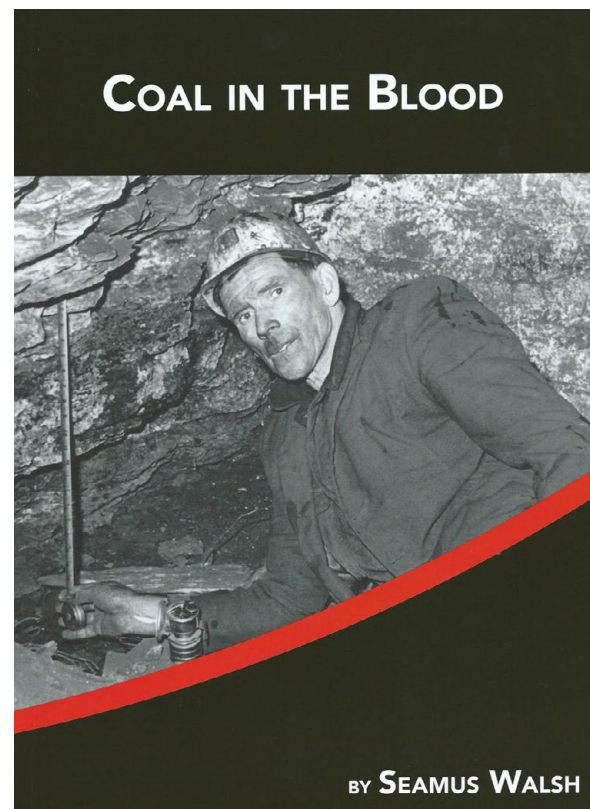
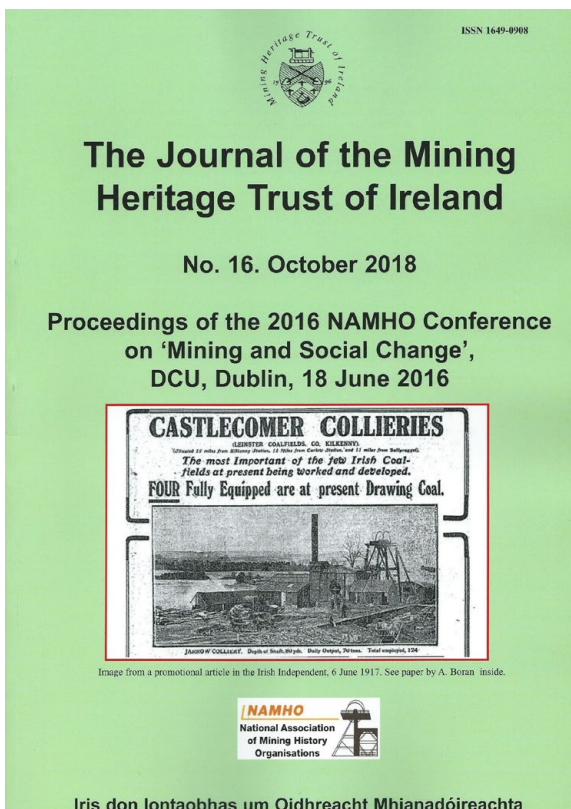
Robert P. Wolensky & Kenneth C. Wolensky - The Knox Mine Disaster, January 22, 1959, Port Griffith, Pennsylvania, USA (p.47-50)

Alan J. M. Noonan - 'The struggle you have here is the same you knew in Ireland': Butte's rising during the First World War (p.51-54)

Matthew Parkes - Andy Irvine's new songs for old miners (p.55-56)

Anon - Sites visited before and after the conference (p.57-58).

The Journal is available from Matthew Parkes (contact details are on the back page).



Coal in the Blood, by Seamus Walsh

From the Foreword by Dr Michael Conway: “Coal in the Blood provides insight, history and social awareness concerning a topic that risks being forgotten about. If it were not for Seamus Walsh many of the details would have been lost by now. This book is a fitting monument to the miners of Kilkenny and beyond ... Enjoy the read and the wonderfully evocative images of a unique part not only of Kilkenny and Ireland, but of the world itself”.

15 x 21.4 x 1.2 cm, 240 pages. Black & white photos. Available for €12 from Castlecomer Discovery Park, or from Matthew Parkes (contact details are on the back page).

Wolfhill Coalmine Project DVD

This DVD set consists of two discs, each with two parts. The set is available for €12 (P&P not included) from Stephen Murphy Video, phone 087 751 7987 or e-mail stephen@stephenmurphyvideo.ie

Disc 1:

Wolfhill Coalmine Project (36 minutes) - the documentary shown at the exhibition,
Above and below ground (29 m) - interviews with miners.

Disc 2:

Coal mine family owners (18 m) - interview with Jim Fleming,
Coal mine office (42 m) - interviews with Bridget Rowan and Mary Wheatly.



The Open Door - Wolfhill Mines

On 03 September Midlands 103 Radio broadcast an episode of their Open Door programme about the Wolfhill Mines, with Ann-Marie Kelly. The 27 minute episode is available to listen here- <http://www.midlands103.com/amkelly/wolfhill-mines/>

Additions to bibliography

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(includes photographs of unidentified marble quarry in Galway, possibly Lissoughter)

Clutterbuck, Richard, 2018. Gazetteer of sites and features relating to coal mining heritage in Slieveardagh, Co. Tipperary. Report 1 for the Slieveardagh Mining Group. 136pp.

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Traynor, Derek, 2016. Pottery Road clay pit. Dun Laoghaire Journal No.25, p18-19. (Kill of the Grange, Co. Dublin)

Wood, Richard, 2014. John A. Wood, his life. Times Past: Journal of the Muskerry Local History Society, vol. 11, p60-65. <https://muskerryhistory.org/journal-2014-15/> (Founder of quarrying companies now part of CRH plc)

If you come across any articles or books on Irish mining and quarrying that are not listed in the bibliography in Journal No.9, or on Facebook, please let our Bibliographer know.

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

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