



End of an era with the closure of Kellingley Colliery



© Ian Castledine

Sunrise on the last day of production at Kellingley Colliery, courtesy of Ian Castledine

The 18th December 2015 and the final production shift at Kellingley Colliery brings to an end centuries of deep coal mining in Britain. The 'Big K', the last deep coal mine left in the UK, was acclaimed as the new generation in coal mining, but with unfavourable market forces its closure was inevitable.

Sinking of Kellingley's two shafts began in 1960, with production starting in 1965 and at its peak employed around 2,000 men. With its closure 450 men were made redundant, whilst UK Coal, the mine's owner, are overseeing the process of filling and capping the shafts prior to demolition of the surface buildings and structures in readiness for any redevelopment of the site.

As a fitting tribute to the end of King Coal's reign and a final farewell to the last deep coal mine, over 3,000 people united in a march from Knottingley Town Hall to the Kellingley Miners Welfare Club on 19th December 2016. The march was attended by miners and their families from around the country.

Ian Castledine has made an impressive photographic record of Kellingley Colliery post closure but pre-demolition, and also the Knottingley march, which he has made available at:

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

*******Press Release*******

The Archaeology of Mining and Quarrying in England: A Research Framework

After six years of detailed enquiry, assessing and categorising the archaeological evidence for mining and quarrying in England, we are about to publish the results. A limited number of printed copies will be available to our constituent groups, and to those organisations and individuals who can use the materials to highlight the value of the archaeology and promote further investigation. The publication will also be freely available in portable document format (PDF) on the NAMHO website (www.namho.org). A launch conference is planned for later in the year - details on the NAMHO website.

Mining and quarrying in Britain dates back over 6000 years into the Mesolithic period, when selected materials, stone, flints, clay and pigments, were dug out of the ground for use as tools, as cultural symbols and, from at least the early Neolithic period onwards in England, for the production of ceramics. The impact of the products from mining and quarrying have defined phases in human development from the Neolithic and Bronze Ages to the Industrial Revolution of the late 18th and early 19th century, and the urban lifestyle of today.

The economic and cultural importance of the extractive industries in England was immense, with the early coal and metal mining industries making significant contributions to the process of industrialisation, which culminated in the rapid changes of the late 18th century.

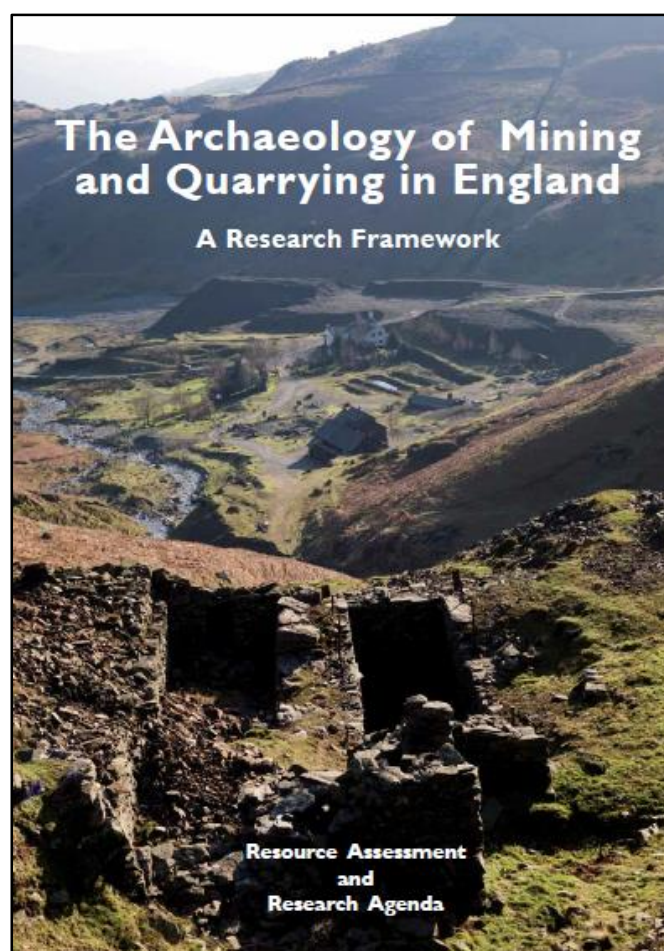
At its peak, in the first years of the 20th century, the coal industry alone employed up to ten percent of the working population.

Physical evidence for mining and quarrying is to be found in every part of the country from the lowlands of the Southeast to the uplands of the North and West, in city centres and amongst their suburban sprawl, as well as on remote hillsides and cliff tops. Mining and quarrying continue to be active industries, sometimes destroying the evidence of earlier working and at other times exposing it for closer investigation. There is an ongoing need to recognise the value of the evidence and be aware of its potential.

This publication presents the results of an in-depth assessment of available historical and archaeological resources for all minerals, from copper through to building stone, drawing primarily on expertise within the voluntary sector. It provides background information on the geology, applied technology and the historic impact on infrastructure such as transport and settlement.

The potential for further study is identified and presented as a Research Agenda, to be used to develop priorities for future investigation. It also provides information that will assist in forming conservation and research strategies; highlighting the significance of the extractive industries as a cultural resource. (17/02/2016)

Peter Cloughton



Jon Humble: A Tribute

Jon Humble was integral to the instigation and development of this Research Framework. As explained below he was the initial contact between NAMHO and English Heritage, and he was closely involved with the project until illness caused his withdrawal early in 2015. Regrettably he died suddenly on 31 November 2015, at the age of 57.

He played a strategic role in mine conservation as English Heritage's, now Historic England's, Senior National Minerals Officer. Using his ability to bring together the various elements in the minerals industry and heritage interests, and his long-standing connections with the voluntary sector, mining history and mine exploration, he provided essential guidance as a member of our project steering group. Jon was a unique archaeologist.

All those who knew Jon recall a common theme - variously described as his 'modest eccentricities', 'often wickedly non-corporate', his 'joviality' and his sense of humour - he was fun to work with, be it on underground exploration, excavation, or in a project planning meeting. His involvement in the gestation of this Framework publication was always with a light touch.

However, as John Barnatt notes, Jon of course could be astutely professional. For example, he was instrumental, as one of the key partners, in setting up the restorations of Batemans's House and the Mandale Engine House in Lathkill Dale, Derbyshire, and for the commissioning of an archaeological survey of the dale. Similarly, he helped Peak National Park staff bring 'The Lead Legacy' assessment to fruition, again as a key player on the steering group that arranged the publication of the results and that worked behind the scenes to foster conservation of individual sites. Similarly, he took a lead role in Historic England's commissioning of the 2015 detailed report on the nature of underground mining remains and the scope for designation. At his death Jon was part way to arranging for Historic England to curate Paul Deakin's photographic archive and publish a book of Paul's images; his friends will now take this up and hopefully make it happen. Jon also worked with people from the mineral industry on heritage matters and was well respected because of his passion for the subject.

Ian Thomas speaks for many when he says that Jon was unique in bridging to gap between the minerals

industry and heritage interests. In this particular respect Jon was a long-standing member of the UK Minerals Forum, a large liaison group engaging government and its agencies with all sectors of the extractive industry and environmental bodies. Jon assumed the task of collating and tabling regular environmental updates on behalf of all in that sector, to each Forum meeting. Similarly he was active in the English Stone Forum, again combining industry [extraction, specifying and processing], academia, professionals and conservation interests. He was always constructive and could be relied upon to lighten up proceedings [but still retaining professionalism], when matters were heading to 'nerdism'.

He was instrumental in organising the highly popular annual Derbyshire Archaeology Day and was a most welcome supporter of the National Stone Centre. Almost single-handedly he pulled together a previously disparate range of EH/HE policy stances involving minerals and heritage aspects [see Mineral Extraction and the Historic Environment: EH Jan 2008] and, as a result was highly respected by many potential or hitherto conflicting groups. This was strongly reflected in the broad cross section of interests represented at high level at Jon's funeral. Despite his high profile, he was always modest in his actions.

Others, like Dave Williams, will recall his personal, non-corporate side - being involved in expeditions to various places around the country to look at mining sites and to sample the beer. One of his eccentricities was a dislike of driving on motorways, so that on occasion it took a great deal of time to arrive at the destination. His use of a gadget given to him by English Heritage to locate monuments also caused some 'interesting' routes to be followed. On these trips there was usually some new gadget or toy, most of which seemed to be in lurid colours. Probably the most interesting of these trips was one to the Forest of Dean to look at iron mines, and in particular, fire-setting remains in Bow Iron Mine. This was guided by local expertise (who should perhaps remain nameless), and the incredulity with which Jon regarded him and his foibles was entertaining.

Over the years, Jon has been instrumental in bringing to fruition a number of important projects within mining and quarrying heritage, and he sowed the seeds of some yet to be completed, such as the protective designation for 'Heritage Quarries' and 'The Subterranean Industrial Legacy'. It is sad that Jon did

not live to see this particular project 'The Research Framework for the Archaeology of the Extractive Industries in England' through to publication. What you will read in the pages of that publication will nevertheless stand as a memorial to his work in guiding us over the last decade and, given the time it has taken, we are left to speculate on the jokes he may have made at the launch. But we can all imagine the smile on his, and our faces as we do so. (16/02/2016)

Peter Cloughton, with substantial contributions by John Barnatt, Ian Thomas, Robert Waterhouse and Dave Williams.



Jon Humble at Parys Mountain (Jon Humble Collection)

A word from the Editor

I make no apologies if this edition is somewhat biased towards the coal industry, but with a background in coal I find it hard to believe that I have seen the closure of the last deep coal mine in my lifetime. With the decimation of the coal industry in the 1990's and subsequent rush to reclaim colliery sites, we have lost many important and unique surface features. Subsequently any remaining remnants have greater significance and we must fight to save them for future generations.

Roy Meldrum, NAMHO Editor

NAMHO Conference, 17th -19th June 2016

The 2016 NAMHO Conference is being hosted by the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland to coincide with their 20th anniversary and the centenary of the Easter Rising. The meeting will be based at Dublin City University, which is handy for the airport in the north of the city, and for ferries to Dublin Port. The theme of the conference is mining and social change.

Provisional Programme:

Friday 17th. Registration will open late in the afternoon. In the evening the conference will be formally opened and there will be two lectures by keynote speakers on mining in Ireland and 20 years of the MHTI. Buffet meal.

Saturday 18th. A day of lectures. Conference dinner followed by musical entertainment.

Sunday 19th. Field trips to the copper mines of Avoca, Wicklow, which have been much in the news lately due to consolidation works; and the silver-lead mines of the Wicklow Uplands where recent research and survey work has made major new discoveries.

Monday 20th. Visits to working mines across Ireland. There are a limited number of spaces available, and early booking is advised.

Tuesday 21st - Friday 24th. Visits to disused mines in the region around Sligo in NW Ireland. These will include Arigna Mining Experience (visitor mine, coal), Bencroy Mine (coal), and Drumkeelan Mine (sandstone). Other possibilities include Abbeystown Mine (zinc-lead), Benbulbin Mine (barite), iron mines in the Connaught Coalfield and Creevelea Blast Furnace.

Information will be made available for those wishing to travel to and explore other mining areas in Ireland.

Bookings

Booking forms will be available from Nigel Monaghan, nmonaghan@museum.ie or phone 087 798 5570 (mobile). **Bookings will be taken from Monday 14th March.**

Transport

The organisers will try to arrange car sharing and will provide a bus for the field trips in County Wicklow if required.

Accommodation

Delegates will need to book their own accommodation. We suggest:

Dublin City University, from €60/person/night:

<http://dcusummeraccommodation.ie/>

YEATS Village, Sligo, €30/person/night,

info@thevillageclarion.com , phone +353 (0) 71 91 29 002.

When booking, if you mention that you are part of the NAMHO Conference, we will be accommodated together.

Further information

The full programme for the conference will be made available on Monday 14th March on the Facebook page of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland, and subsequently on the NAMHO website. For further information and updates please contact Nigel Monaghan, nmonaghan@museum.ie (23/02/2016)

Alastair Lings, MHTI

*****Call for Papers*****

1st International Early Engines Conference, 11th-14th May 2017, The Ironworks, Elsecar

Researchers into the history and archaeology of early engines (defined as heat engines constructed before 1812) who would like to present their findings are invited to indicate their intention to the organising committee by the **end of May 2016**. This needs to be followed by submission of a 300-word synopsis for consideration by the **end of October 2016**.

The standard length of papers is 30 minutes, with shorter presentations and papers welcome.

Proposals for papers are encouraged on a wide range of topics such as technical developments, operations, financing and of course industrial archaeology, should be sent to: admin@earlyengines.org. It is intended to publish the proceedings as a dedicated volume of the Newcomen Society Journal.

Further details of the Conference can be found at: <http://www.earlyengines.org/> and these will be added to over time.

Conference facilities, support and sponsors include:

- Barnsley Museum Service
- Newcomen Society
- Historical Metallurgy Society
- Northern Mines Research Society
- South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group

Mine Headframes in the UK and Eire

The search for evidence to support the argument to protect the Groverake Mine headgear prompted a review of lists of surviving mine headframes. The current list is published on the aditnow website as a Headframe document. I welcome any information that will improve the validity of this list.

Please reply either direct to me at:

petesmine@gmail.com or via the aditnow website (<http://www.aditnow.co.uk/>). It has been suggested that this might be a NAMHO project with the information published on the NAMHO website. I will suggest this approach at the Council Meeting on 19th March 2016.

Peter Jackson, NAMHO Secretary

Around the NAMHO Groups

Peak District Mines Historical Society

In the last three months PDMHS has taken in the mining history archives (courtesy of Jenny Potts and Mary Wilde at the British Caving Library) belonging to Doug Nash of Op. Mole and Eyam.

Doug was the literary executor of Nellie Kirkham and came into possession of some 60 boxes of Nellie's field notes and other archive material. It was immediately obvious that this material was unique and needed to be lodged in the County Record Office at Matlock to ensure its survival in a proper environment.

Accordingly, I have, over the last few weeks, been transferring this material to Matlock, and the last part of the collection was delivered just before Christmas. This has been celebrated in a blog from Mark Smith at the Record Office -

<https://recordoffice.wordpress.com/2015/12/30/nellie-kirkham-archives-of-busy-local-historian/>

As mentioned in the blog a catalogue can be found at - http://calmview.derbyshire.gov.uk/calmview/overview.aspx?src=calmview.catalog&q=refno:D5675*

Some of the material had previously been scanned and this can be seen at -

<http://www.pdmhs.com/resources/kirkham>

As Mark says in the blog this material is roughly sorted

but needs a great deal of work to make it more understandable. It has to be said that Nellie's handwriting does not make this easy. I am hoping to make this a project for Winter 2016/17! (30/12/2016)

Dave Williams - PDMHS Recorder
www.pdmhs.com

CATMHS Archives

Some of the Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society (CATMHS) archive has been transferred to the Armitage Museum in Ambleside, where it will be accessible to the general public whenever the Museum is open. Curator is Deborah Walsh. Museum is at Rydal Road, Ambleside LA22 9BL, 015394 31212.

http://armitt.com/armitt_website/

The draft agreement with the Armitage Museum to hold some of our archive material has been signed. The majority of our book collection has been deposited and is now being catalogued. All CATMHS newsletters and selected newsletters of Cumbrian related societies are also deposited. All scanned mine plans are also deposited. Newsletter and mine plan images are on our website and the level of metadata to provide effective searches is now improving. Any suggestions please send me details. As time progresses we will add the Armitage catalogue reference to website images to allow users to correlate collections quickly.

All archive material has been uplifted from the J Ruskin Museum in Conistone and is currently being scanned, sorted and a permanent home found for prime documents.

A selection of surplus books, physical and geological maps are now offered to members.

CAT, No122, February 2016,
The Newsletter of the Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society,

South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group

Members of the SGMRG have had considerable involvement with the 'Know Your Place West of England', a digital heritage mapping project to help you to explore your neighbourhood online through historic maps, images and linked information. The launch of the 'Know Your Place South Gloucestershire' has recently been released.

The following 'blog' by Ken Kemp, SGMRG Secretary is available on the KYP website:

"The South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group (SGMRG) has about a hundred members who research, publicise and would like to conserve the rich industrial heritage of coal mining in the area. Many people are not aware of how important our area and Bristol were in the early development of coal mining and its contribution to the industrial revolution. Owing to adverse geological conditions, most mine sites had been abandoned by the beginning of the 20th century and were left to fall into ruins or their buildings converted to another use. There is probably a greater density of Victorian mining remains in our area, than any other part of our country.

Part of our research involves the study of old maps and plans. Many of these are to be found in the record offices at Bristol and Gloucester. The earliest Ordnance Survey large scale maps date from about 1880, but there are earlier maps such as Tithe and Apportionment maps which also show mining sites. These maps are at various scales which makes the detailed comparison of changes over time more difficult.

With the extension of *Know Your Place* to South Gloucestershire, SGMRG has access to high quality images of all these maps. This has a number of advantages for us. The maps are available all the time to study in our own homes. Any 2 maps can be overlaid so that common features are located on top of each other as if both maps were drawn to the same scale, making it simple to compare changes over time. It is easy to see where a mine site is located on a modern map, even if the original site has been completely cleared. This makes it easier to see if any traces of the original site still exist above ground.

For the record offices it has the advantage that old, fragile maps do not have to be handled to examine them by the public, and can be better conserved.

Know Your Place also has facilities for recording information submitted by the public. SGMRG can now have their findings "pinned" on the maps showing a photo and a short description. This enables our heritage to become more widely known and makes our researches available to the public."

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

Parys Underground Group on TV

Members of the Parys Underground Group played host to a film crew from a new ITV show, 'It's not Rocket Science'. The theme of the segment being filmed was extremophiles- organisms that survive in extreme environments such as the dark, highly acidic conditions found in the mine.

The prime-time show aims to show science in an entertaining way, with the series being broadcast in late February and March 2016.

Reported in 'Wales Underground', Cambrian Caving Council Newsletter, Issue 48, January 2016.

Nenthead Mines Conservation Society

Nentsberry Hags Mine Water Treatment Scheme, Nenthead, Alston, Cumbria

This scheme is to be funded by the Environment Agency with the Coal Authority providing their expertise and management.

There was a Public Consultation on Thursday 11th February 2016 regarding the proposals. It was an open event and NMCS was there with a historical display.

The proposals may go to the Local Planning Authority in April 2016. The current suggestion is that the water from Hags Mine will be captured at the level entrance and piped under the adjacent road to a treatment plant beyond Nentsberry. The scheme envisages four reed beds and a small stone building.

NMCS had useful informal discussions with the Environment Agency and Coal Authority representatives at the meeting.

Tees-Wear Diffuse Metals project

The Wear and Tees Diffuse Metals project has started field survey work of potential diffuse metal sites in the upper Wear catchment (Killhope Burn, Wellhope Burn, Sedling Burn and Middlehope Burn) and upper Tees (Egglestone Burn and Hudeshope Burn). Volunteers from NMCS have accompanied the staff on some of the field days. The final project output (by end of March 2016) will be a costed action plan for intervention works.

Field work has emphasised the vast amount of unrecorded archaeology on mine sites in these catchments. Scheme proposals would help to protect sites from river erosion including washing floors and mine dumps. The integrated approach is aiming to also take account of geology, mineralogy and flora and

lichens. Cooperation with relevant experts is an essential part of this scheme. (22/02/2016)

Peter Jackson on behalf of NMCS

Friends of Killhope and NMCS Joint Conference

"Forgotten Minerals"-A one day North Pennines Mining Conference will be held on Saturday 14th May 2016 at St John's Chapel Town Hall, Market Place, St John's Chapel, Bishop Auckland, DL13 1QF.

Anyone is invited to attend and offer short or long talks or presentations about recent research about mining in the North Pennines. If you are interest in offering a talk, please contact either Margaret Manchester (FoK Chair) 01388

731131 mmanchester@hotmail.com or Peter Jackson (NMCS Chair) 01388527532 petesmine@gmail.com.

We have some excellent speakers already arranged but welcome offers of more talks. There will be a delegate fee for the event, which will include lunch.

You can now make a booking for the event. The booking contact is Ian Forbes via email: ianpeathill@gmail.com.

Peter Jackson, NMCS

Mining News

England

Haig Mining Museum Closes

The recently revamped Haig Mining Museum in Whitehaven, Cumbria, has announced its closure due to financial difficulties. The museum received £2.4million funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Copeland Community Fund (CCF) to build a new visitor centre and create a new museum experience. Administrators have since been brought in after a meeting of the Board of Trustees, when it was decided to wind up the museum and place the organisation into creditors' voluntary liquidation.

<http://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/Shock-closure-of-24m-Cumbrian-mining-museum-1a519236-67d0-46ab-a024-527c517938fd-ds> (07/01/2016)

<http://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/Cumbrian-mining-museum-in-liquidation-02df0eb2-9d56-4fe8-b06b-e5bcf2eef9a6-ds> (21/01/2016)

Commemorations to mark Heaton Pit Disaster

School children took part in a lantern parade in Newcastle-upon-Tyne to remember the children, one aged seven, who died in the Heaton Main Colliery Disaster.

On 3rd May 1815, 110 men and boys were working underground when an inrush of water from old workings engulfed the pit. A total of 75 miners were trapped and despite the efforts of rescuers they were unable to be reached. The first body wasn't discovered until 6th January 1816, with another 55 bodies were found five weeks later. It wasn't until 6th March 1816 that the final bodies were located.

A full account of the disaster is included in a new book 'A Celebration of Our Mining Heritage' by Les Turnbull and published by Chapman Research in conjunction with the Heaton History Group and the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers.

This year also marks the bicentenary of the Davy safety lamp, which was used for the first time in the rescue attempt. (10/02/2106)

<http://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/newcastle-pupils-mark-200-year-10871583>

<http://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/events-mark-200th-anniversary-newcastle-8624783>

Honour for Bevin Boys Memorial Campaigner

Harry Parkes, who campaigned for a memorial to the 'forgotten' conscripts who worked in the coal mines during World War Two, was recognized in the New Year Honours. On receiving the Empire Medal Mr. Parkes said it was an honour for him, and the 48,000 other Bevin Boys conscripted to work in the mines. The memorial, which Mr. Parkes designed, was officially dedicated at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire in September 2013. (30/12/2015)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-35199522?ns_mchannel=social&ns_campaign=bbc_radio_nottingham&ns_source=facebook&ns_linkname=english_regions

Oldest Freeminers dies

Robin Morgan was thought to be the oldest freeminer still mining in the Forest of Dean. Mr. Morgan was still working at Hopewell colliery up to the day before he died aged 80. He was passionate about preserving the

Forest's mining heritage and opened part of Hopewell Colliery as a museum in order to keep the freeminer alive. (29/01/2106)

<http://www.westerndailynews.co.uk/Freemining-legend-Robin-dies-aged-80/story-28626538-detail/story.html>

The funeral of Robin Morgan took place at Holy Trinity church, Drybrook. His coffin, along with his pit helmet, boots and pick, were carried to the service on his own coal truck. (17/02/2016)

[http://www.forest-and-wye-today.co.uk/article.cfm?id=101822&headline=Farewell%20to%20a%20%20%20gentle%20giant%E2%80%99§ionls=news&searchyear=2016](http://www.forest-and-wye-today.co.uk/article.cfm?id=101822&headline=Farewell%20to%20a%20%20%20%20gentle%20giant%E2%80%99§ionls=news&searchyear=2016)

Project to capture memories of North Staffordshire Miners

A £10,000 lottery funded social history project will capture the memories of North Staffordshire miners. Age UK North Staffordshire will spend the next year gathering testimonies from local miners and their families. The project is likely to culminate in a DVD and exhibition. (15/01/2106)

<http://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/Heritage-project-capture-memories-North/story-20443108-detail/story.html>

Former NCB Chairman dies age 96

On 22nd December 2015 it was announced that Lord Derek Ezra, former Chairman of the National Coal Board, had died. He joined the newly nationalised Coal Board in the marketing department in 1947, working his way through the ranks to become director general of marketing at the NCB in 1960. After a spell as deputy chairman, Lord Ezra was appointed as chairman in 1971 by the then Prime Minister Edward Heath.

After decades of decline and the miners' strikes of 1972 and 1974, and in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis, Lord Ezra masterminded a strategy which provided a boost for investment, research and development, along with collaboration between the coal industry and its suppliers, outlined in Plan for Coal in 1974.

Ezra left the industry in 1982 and took his seat in the House of Lords, where he consistently supported the cause of manufacturing industries. (22/12/2015)

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/dec/22/lord-ezra>

Concerns raised over diagnosis of lung disease in ex-miners

Concerns about the effectiveness of the coal industries four-yearly chest x-rays to detect pneumoconiosis have been raised by the Union of Democratic Mineworkers (UDM). This follows two former Thoresby Colliery workers being diagnosed with the disease after undergoing CT scans paid for by the union.

Mansfield MP Sir Alan Meale, is to meet with the National Clinical Director for Respiratory Services in England to discuss the union's concerns, with the UDM saying that all former mineworkers, including surface and coal preparation workers, should receive a CT scan. (20/01/2016)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-35367582>

A petition for the UK Government to provide CT scans for all ex-miners has been started:

https://www.change.org/p/the-uk-government-ctscans-for-all-x-miners?recruiter=90706383&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=autopublish&utm_term=mob-xs-share_petition-no_msg&fb_ref=Default

Cultural Celebration of Cornish Mining World Heritage Status

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Cornwall and West Devon mining landscape being given UNESCO World Heritage status in 2006, a series of events are planned to take place. The most spectacular will see the largest puppet made in the UK walk the length of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site. The 'Man Engine', a 12 metre high steam powered giant Cornish Miner, will make the journey from Tavistock to Land's End from 25th July to 6th August 2016. (07/01/2016)

<http://www.cornishguardian.co.uk/UK-s-tallest-puppet-feature-Cornish-world/story-28479430-detail/story.html>

Groverake Mine, Rookhope, Bishop Auckland

This mine closed in 1999 and the mine owner is required to clear the site by September 2016. English Heritage/Historic England refused a request to protect the whole site and its immediate landscape.

An Open Meeting at Rookhope on 13th January created an ad-hoc committee for the *Friends of Groverake*, chaired by Mark Hardy. Peter Cloughton attended as NAMHO Conservation officer and Peter

Jackson facilitated the meeting. A Facebook Community page titled "Friends of Groverake" (<https://www.facebook.com/Friendsofgroverake/>) has been set up by the committee, which aims to provide factual information about the progress of negotiations to safeguard the site.

It is thought that the main shaft headframe is the last fluorspar headframe on its original site in the UK. The committee has been in communications with the owner and the landowner's agent. (22/02/2106)

Peter Jackson on behalf of the Friends.

Wales

Miners' Treatment Centre Mural restored

A tiled mural created as a tribute to the work undertaken by medical staff at Llandough Hospital to eliminate pneumoconiosis has been moved and restored. Originally unveiled in 1956 and donated by the South Wales Branch of the National Union of Mineworkers, the mural has been moved from the Medical Research Unit to the entrance of the University Hospital Llandough. Work carried out by the team, founded in 1945, led to the UK Coal Dust Standard, and they went on to lead research in asbestosis.

(04/01/2016)

http://www.penarthtimes.co.uk/news/14180226.Mural_restored_at_entrance_to_hospital_to_commemorate_work_of_miners_treatment_centre/

Gold Mining to re-start in Wales?

An application to re-start mining at Gwynedd Mine, near Dolgellau, has been submitted to the Crown Estate by the mine's new owners Clogau. The Welsh jewelry company have recently bought the mine with the intention of opening it to produce gold for their own use. The plan also needs approval by Natural Resources Wales. (20/01/2016)

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/business/business-news/clogau-looks-re-start-gold-10760642>

Scotland

End of Fife Opencast Coal Mine

With the imminent closure of the Longannet Power Station, near Kincardine, Hargreaves Services have announced the end of coal extraction at their Muir Dean site. Work at the site will concentrate on restoration of the site. Longannet is due to close in March 2016. (13/02/2106)

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/local/fife/longann-et-closure-means-end-of-fife-opencast-coal-mine-1.924133>

Update: (16/02/2016) Hargreaves Services have announced that they are to halt production at all but one of their Scottish opencast coal sites. The fall in international coal prices, plus the changes in carbon taxes in 2015 and a fall in gas prices has significantly reduced the demand for coal.

The Scottish Opencast Communities Alliance has called for action to restore any abandoned opencast sites.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-35587858>

Application to demolish Highhouse Colliery Engine House

East Ayrshire Council received an application to demolish the engine house and headframe and removal of the steam engine and winding gear of the former Highhouse Colliery, Auchinleck. The proposal by the landowner, Highhouse Estates Limited, was supported by Police Scotland on the grounds that the site had become a haven for anti-social behaviour.

The application, submitted in May 2015, was met with a host of objections from the local community against the possible loss of such a mining landmark, which is a listed building.

Listed building consent was refused on 5th November 2015 by the Council, but an Appeal was lodged on 21st January 2016.

The application (15/0338/LB) can be viewed at:
<http://eplanning.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/online/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=NNVR0HGFFNC00>

Ireland

Prehistoric prospecting on Achill Island, Co. Mayo

The autumn 2015 issue of Archaeology Ireland includes an article about possible prehistoric prospecting on Achill Island. The author, Eoin Halpin, believes that four short gullies are similar to earthworks in the Mourne Mountains, identified by Richard Warner as gold-mining pits (see MHTI Journal 10, 2010). Copper ore occurs in the area and there is a substantial bronze-age settlement nearby, so it is possible that these gullies are the result of prehistoric prospecting for copper.

Alastair Lings, MHTI

Curraghinalt Gold Project, Gortin, Co. Tyrone

Following public consultations by Dalradian Gold Ltd (<https://www.facebook.com/dalradiangold/?fref=ts>) there's been concern about cyanide:
<http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/02/05/news/tyrone-residents-voice-fears-over-cyanide-gold-mine-plan-407011/>
and policing activity:
<http://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2016/02/06/news/psni-blame-republicans-for-refusal-to-explain-mine-costs-408409/> (05/02/2016)

Alastair Lings, MHTI

Publications

Beam Engines and Cornish Mining in USA

Damian R. Nance, Distinguished Professor, Department of Geological Science, Ohio University, has contributed quite a few articles to the Trevithick Society Newsletters and the International Stationary Steam Engine Society Bulletins over the years. He has recently uploaded them to Researchgate.com (https://www.researchgate.net/profile/R_Nance/publications), from whence they can be downloaded free of charge once you sign up (also free).

Articles include "The President: North America's largest beam engine", "Beam engines of North America" and "Wheal Druid and the engine houses of South Devon: a need to preserve a record".

'A Complete Guide to the Engine Houses of West Cornwall' (ISBN 978 1899889853) by Damian Nance and Kenneth Brown was published in 2104, with a possible second engine house book to follow in a few years' time.

(Information kindly provided by Damian Nance)

South West Stone Quarries: Building Stone Quarries in the West of England

Peter Stanier, Twelveheads Press, softback, 216 pages, 241 illustrations, full colour, £18.00.
ISBN 978 0 906294 833

The South West of England has provided quality building stone for many of Britain's finest buildings over many centuries, and continues to do so. Locally the stone contributes to the distinctive character of many of the region's prettiest villages.

Where is the stone found and how is it quarried? Famous names are here, such as Bath, Delabole, Ham Hill, Portland or Purbeck, and top quality stone, obtained in large blocks for building, monuments or engineering work, is quarried as 'dimension stone' or 'freestone'; sandstones, limestones, granite and slate. This traditional industry has seen dramatic changes in methods of extraction, processing, transport and uses over the past 120 years. We follow in the footsteps of the Victorian geologist George Harris, visiting the same quarries he saw and described (with diversions on the way) in Cornwall, Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire and the Forest of Dean, comparing how they work today in a highly mechanised world.

Whether looking at vernacular architecture or the capital's grandest buildings, these stone quarries, large and small, make a major contribution to the character of the landscape and environment around us.

(Publishers synopsis)

Silhouette against the Sky: Mining in South West Durham from the 1800's to 1960's, a hard life

Di Mellor, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, paperback, 128 pages, 152x229mm, £6.00
ISBN 978 152339034

A History of the true kings of coal, the miners and their families. Mining in the Bishop Auckland area was a hard life from the early 1800s to the 1960s, and there is hardly a trace of it left, except in the character of the people.

The Last Years of Coal Mining in Yorkshire

Steve Grudgings, Folly Books Ltd, hardback with dust jacket, 314 pages, 250mm x 250mm, £24.99
ISBN: 978 0 9928554 5 1

As time passes, our understanding of the scale and importance of the UK's coal industry fades. In the 1950s and 60s, most homes had coal fires, and electricity and gas were both produced from coal. In our grandparents' childhood, more than a million men were directly employed in the industry world's railway and UK coal powered most of the world's shipping fleets as well as our own massive industrial base. This country's coal reserves were a major factor in our leadership in the industrial and commercial spheres and it can be said that Britain's success was 'built on coal.' The success of the coal industry also bought a high toll of deaths and injury, dangerous levels of atmospheric pollution and acute industrial unrest. In

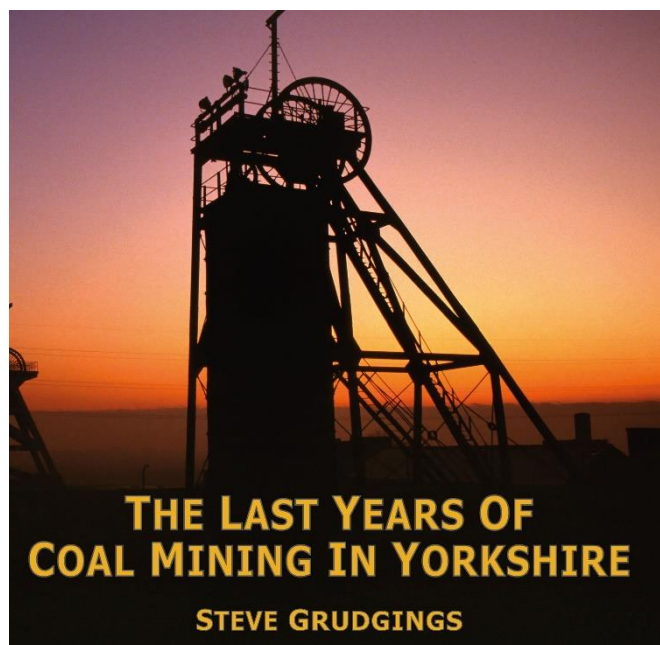
2015, as this book goes to press, the UK's last deep coal mines will close and the country's residual requirements for coal will be met by imports from places such as Poland, Columbia and China.

The Yorkshire coalfield produced a greater output than any other single area in the UK since the First World War, and until the 1990s was still host to a number of large and highly efficient mines. The pits themselves, the communities that housed the miners, and the related industrial and transport infrastructure had their own distinctive atmosphere and ethos, most of which has now passed by. Spoil heaps and headgear, the obvious markers of the industry, and are now notable by their absence.

Key Features:

- A unique pictorial record of the fast few years of coal mining in Yorkshire and contains over 400 images of large and small collieries across the district.
- Choice of photographs was made on the basis of their breadth of coverage and well historic and aesthetic merit.

(Publishers synopsis)

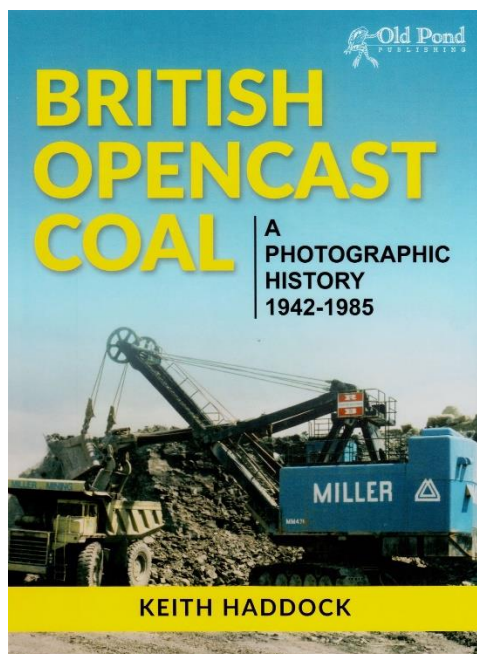


British Opencast Coal: A Photographic History 1942-1985

Keith Haddock, hardcover, 248 pages, 229x292mm, £29.95. ISBN 978 1910456071

British Opencast Coal is an illustrated history of coal mining by surface methods from 1942 to 1985. Written by Keith Haddock, a leading authority on the subject, this book details the origins of the industry and documents the types of earthmoving machines employed during the first 40 years. The book highlights the importance of surface coal mining operations and site restoration and their necessity for the British economy. Meticulously researched, the facts, figures and data covered are taken from Keith's extensive collection of magazine articles, newspaper cuttings and manufacturers' machine brochures and specifications. They are also drawn from publications by the National Coal Board Opencast Executive and Keith's own research conducted on numerous site visits. The sites included represent a cross section of geologically different locations in England, Scotland and Wales, and those employing the most interesting variety of earthmoving machines, such as Maesgwyn in South Wales, Newman Spinney in Derbyshire, Radar North in Northumberland and Ox-Bow in Yorkshire. The book's 364 historical photographs, many taken for the National Coal Board or British Coal Opencast, provide a nostalgic look at obsolete earthmoving and heavy construction equipment, and form an excellent historical resource for the student, researcher or enthusiast.

(Publishers synopsis)



Slate Mining in the Lake District- an illustrated history

Alastair Cameron, Amberley Publishing (available 15th March 2016), paperback, 96 pages, 165x235mm, £14.99
ISBN 978 1445651309

The remnants of slate mining and quarrying form as much a part of the Lakeland historic landscape as the stone walls, heathered moorlands and Lakeland farms do. A significant number of local families currently living in Lake District villages has had some connections with the slate industry in the past, and a few are still involved in the industry today.

Although many believe that slate was worked during the Roman era, the present 'style' of slate-working started shortly after the Norman Conquest to help build the Norman castles, abbeys and priories in Britain. The Normans were familiar with slate; it had been worked for centuries earlier at sites in the Ardennes and in the Loire valley. By 1280 there are references to slate being worked at Longsleddale and by the fifteenth century the industry was well established throughout the district.

Using historic detail, photographs and captions, *Slate Mining in the Lake District: An Illustrated History* explores the history of the industry in the Lake District. Considering slate mining's key role in the heritage of this iconic national park, Alastair Cameron also details its present-day operations. - See more at:

<https://www.amberley-books.com/coming-soon/slate-mining-in-the-lake-district.html#sthash.FW4dbReW.dpuf>

(Publisher synopsis)

Men of Lead: Miners of the Yorkshire Dales

David Joy, Galena Books, 128 pages, illustrated with b&w and colour photographs, 245x170mm, £12.50
ISBN 978 0993492303

One of the NMRS members, David Joy, has just written this interesting book. The inspiration came from the late Arthur Raistrick who had commented to him that there were plenty of books on lead mining but it was rare to find any direct reference to the conditions in which men worked or to the effect of their health and their life. In my opinion this "complaint" has now been overturned.

A very readable social history account looks at how the gradual development of mining affected all involved and this is followed by the actual life of these men and also women, who previously have tended to be ignored. Key mining communities in the Dales are also studied. Towards the end of the book numerous sources and further reading suggestions encourage those who want to delve deeper. Also impressive is the index which also includes various headings for those who have a particular interest eg. canals, companies, occupations, places and people etc. This book should appeal to many, from local history enthusiasts to those who live or visit the area wanting to know what and how this interesting area was shaped.

Barbara Sutcliffe
NMRS Newsletter, February 2016

Bergbuchlein, The Little Book on Ores: The first mining book ever printed

Ulrich Von Kalbe, compiled by Mary Ross, translated by Annelise Sisco with notes by Cyril Stanley Smith, Oxshott Press, paperback & hardback, 70 pages, £15.00 HB, £5.00 PB, ISBN 978 0956832238

"Bergbuchlein, The Little Book on Ores" is an English translation of the first mining text printed, published between 1505 and 1518 in Germany. This historic text with its original woodcut illustrations and references to alchemy and astrology is a charming account of the early views on mining, metallurgy, and ore origination.

Reviews

The following reviews have been provided by Don Borthwick, Librarian/Archivist CATHMS.

Two North Pennine Classics Revisited- A Re-interpretation of a work published by William Wallace in 1861 by Trevor F Bridges, UK Journal of Mines and Minerals No 33, pages 25-28. Less well known than Wallace's *Alston Moor: Its Pastoral People: Its Mines and Miners of 1890. The Laws which regulate the deposition of lead ore in veins*, attempted to explain where lead ore could be found in veins based on extensive observational research in the Alston Moor area, much of it no longer accessible. His observations are still relevant today, even though his interpretation is now known to be wrong. The paper reinterprets his findings in a modern context.

Westgarth Forster's Strata – a reappraisal of a geological pioneer by I. Forbes, Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society, 2015, pygs2015-333v1, p157-177

In 1809, Westgarth Forster, an agent in the Northern Pennine lead mines, published his only book. Entitled 'A Treatise on a Section of the Strata...etc.', it is more usually known simply as his 'Section of Strata'. Although some contemporaries doubted its originality, the reputation of this work has grown since its publication and Forster is now widely regarded as one of the pioneers of northern England geology. This paper gives an overview of Forster's life and unsuccessful career before closely examining the text of his work. It shows how most of Forster's text was copied without acknowledgement from earlier authors and was not drawn from observations made in the Northern Pennine Orefield. Reference is made to earlier sections of strata from mines in the north of England, and Forster's 'Strata' is shown to be drawn mainly from these. Westgarth Forster should not be seen as a pioneer of the geology of northern England, but as an author who pieced together his book very largely from the work of others.

Early Underground Mine Lighting- Underground Electric Lighting in the 1880s: Clayton Mine, Ecton, Staffordshire by John Barnatt. Industrial Archaeology Review Volume 37 Number 1 May 2015, p20-32, Maney Publishing

In 2008 evidence was first identified for 1880s use of electrical lighting deep underground in Clayton Mine at Ecton; further data was gathered in 2014 when archaeological excavations were undertaken. This illuminated the main chamber, where there was a steam engine for winding and pumping, and also an adjacent side chamber where there was a further engine used to produce compressed air. Both engines are documented as installed in 1883/4. In a second side chamber a stone bed remains for another small steam engine, which are now known powered a DC dynamo set on a timber floor that kept the equipment free from the puddles of water that collected on the bedrock below. All three chambers were whitewashed to make lighting more effective. Archaeological finds include a commutator brush, a mica separator from the commutator, copper wiring and pieces of drive belt. Clayton Mine was abandoned in 1889/90; hence this is a demonstrable important example with archaeological evidence for the early use of electricity.

Vandalism?

Graffiti in Peak District (England) caves and mines: historic record or mindless vandalism?

By John Barnatt With contributions by Geoff Peppit and Dave Web, Cave and Karst Science, Vol.42, No.3, (2015) 133-143 Transactions of the British Cave Research Association.

Adding graffiti to the walls of caves and mines is a long-standing tradition. Today, where it is not obviously ancient, it is often cleaned from walls of caves and mines by conservation-minded explorers but are they right to do so? In some cases graffiti can have significant but not always obvious meaning and Peak District examples are used to illustrate this. Graffiti in Speedwell Cavern range from that of the 1780s made by miners, to later speleologists' visits from the late 19th century onwards, documenting a long history of exploration and new discovery. At another example, inscriptions in Cumberland Cavern tell of 19th century visitors to this former show cave and of inhabitation by a counter-culture group after it closed to the public. Rookery Black Marble Mine had graffiti added by teenage boys in a 'den' during the decades around 1900, many years after the mine closed; one of them returned during the 1914-18 War to add a poignant inscription for those local boys who had died. Miners' graffiti, at a variety of workings, provide valuable records, which add a social dimension to ore extraction from the 16th century onwards. With such examples in mind, various conservation issues related to adding and removing graffiti are reviewed.

A History of the Slusher and Slushing-Staying Alive: The introduction of Slushing in Michigan's Underground Iron Mines

by Terry S. Reynolds, The Mining History Association Journal 2015 (USA) p51-78.

This tells the story of how developments in slushing allowed Michigan's underground iron mines to compete with Minnesota's Mesabi Range open-pit mines. From periods of largely unsuccessful experimentation, scraper designs suitable for moving the differing types of ore found across the region were developed. The powered return of the scraper and increased labour costs heralded a wider usage; size increases followed the development of more powerful air and later electrically powered winch motors. Later as slushing became widespread, previous mining practices were adapted to make fuller use of its benefits.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

9th February-8th May 2016: 'In Our Own Words'- The Language of Coal Mining, National Coal Mining Museum for England, Overton, Wakefield, WF4 4RH. A new special exhibition exploring the weird and wonderful world of mining language! Find out the everyday words for people, the jobs they did and the tools and items they used in pits across Britain.
<https://www.ncm.org.uk/whats-on/special-exhibition-in-our-own-words>

18th March 2016: 'Making it Work: Industrial Heritage in the South West'. A one day conference showcasing the industrial heritage of the south west, with guest speakers, workshops and local museums.
<http://www.wheal-martyn.com/news.php?url=southwestindustrialheritageconference18march>

19th March 2016: NAMHO AGM and Spring Meeting. Dean Studies Centre, Parkend, Lydney, GL15 4JA
****Please note change of date and venue for this meeting from that published in the last Newsletter****

20th March 2016: Family Science Day, National Coal Mining Museum for England. Includes 'Machinery in Action', a chance to the steam winder, Ace Coal Cutter, Dosco Roadheader and Eimco Rocker Shovel in action.
<https://www.ncm.org.uk/whats-on/family-science-day>

23rd April 2016: Subterranea Britannica Spring Meeting, Imperial College, London
<https://my.subbrit.org.uk/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=35>

6th-11th May 2016: Celebrating the Tinworking Landscape of Dartmoor in its European Context- Prehistory to 20th Century, Tavistock, Devon.
www.dtrg.org.uk

14th May 2016: 'Forgotten Minerals of the North Pennines'-North Pennines Mining History Conference, St. Johns Chapel Town Hall, Market Place, St. John's Chapel, Bishop Auckland. A one day conference organised by the Friends of Killhope and the Nenthead Mines Conservation Society.

11th June 2016: The Big Meet 9- Miners Lamp Collectors Fair, Pleasley Colliery, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG19 7PH

17-19th June 2016: NAMHO Conference, Dublin. Full details to follow.

17th-19th June 2016: 3rd International Congress on Industrial Heritage- 'Reuse of Industrial Sites: A Challenge for Heritage Conservation', Lisbon.
<http://www.lis.ulsiada.pt/pt-pt/eventos/iiiinternacionalcongressonindustrialheritage-reuseofindustrialsitesachallengeforheritageconservation.aspx#Lisbon>

6th-7th August 2016: 120 years of the Vielle Montagne Zinc Company in the North Pennines. A two day event including displays, lectures and underground visits organised by the Nenthead Mines Conservation Society. More details to follow.

13th-20th August 2016: EuroSpeleo 2016- 5th European Speleological Congress, Dalesbridge Centre, Yorkshire Dales. The Pre/post Congress Camps include the Mines of Alston Moor- Nenthead and the Caves and Mines of the Peak District National Park. Full details:
<http://eurospeleo.uk/>

20th-28th August 2016: Heritage Week, Ireland.
<http://www.heritageweek.ie/>

6th-11th September 2016: International Mining History Congress, Linares, Jaen, Spain.
<http://www.mining2016linares.com/>

8th-11th September 2016: Heritage Open Days England
<http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

9th-14th September 2016: Association for Industrial Archaeology Annual Conference, Telford. Visits will include Grange Colliery, Lilleshall limestone sites, Snailbeach and Tankerville mines in Shropshire.
<http://industrial-archaeology.org/conferences/annual-conference/>

10th-11th September 2016: European Heritage Open Days (Northern Ireland).
<http://www.discovernorthernireland.com/niea/ehod.aspx>

26th-28th October 2016: ERIH Annual Conference "European industrial heritage - how to tell the international story". <http://www.erih.net/>

11th-13th May 2017: Inaugural International Early Engines Conference, The Ironworks, Elsecar, South Yorkshire. <http://www.earlyengines.org/>

Copy Date for the next Newsletter is **10th May**, with publication due June 2016.

Contributions: Email the Newsletter Editor-
editor@namho.org

Or by post-

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