

1. Field Meeting at Pont Cilcain 27 June 1982 Led by Chris Williams, this was blessed with the only fine day in a long and wet spell, and much enjoyed by about 50 members. We walked Taylors leaf to its source and saw various mine workings. Our thanks are due to Chris for his excellent guidance.
2. Field Meeting at Frongoch 12 September 1982 Though less clement, the weather on this occasion, hardly interfered with events. I showed about 35 members over Frongoch and Wemyss mines, and the 1900s electric power generation building. Of particular concern was the desperate state of the Frongoch buildings, particularly the bob wall of the 60 inch enginehouse which was on the verge of collapse. It has since been shored up with concrete blocks and is thus hopefully secured for another few years. The question of this site is discussed later.
3. Business arising from both meetings
 - 3.1 New Member Secretary/Treasurer As from 1st January 1983 Dr. David Roe, 29 Somers Road, Barbourne, Worcester ('phone 20248) has kindly volunteered to take over this post from Alan Golding and will also attend to Newsletter publication.
 - 3.2 Penrhyn Slate Quarries 50ft Waterwheel A member asked if the W.M.S. could approach McAlpines regarding preservation. I volunteered to follow this up on receipt of details. (The offer still stands).
 - 3.3 National Mining Magazine The Peak District Mines Society is considering such a venture and sought a charge of £1.25 per head from other Mining Societies. It was however felt the price was too high, apart from problems of multiple membership.
 - 3.4 Forestry Commission and NAMHO A meeting with the senior Land Agent in Edinburgh was arranged for 24 September and Alan Williams kindly offered to represent the WMS - see below.
 - 3.5 WMS Archivist We have to thank Simon Hughes for volunteering as WMS archivist, compiling a record of meetings, newsletters, photographs, etc.
 - 3.6 Logo for WMS Mr. Eric Gray-Thomas suggested the WMCS could use a logo suitable for letter-heading etc. and the idea was welcomed. No designs yet forthcoming however.
4. Forestry Com-mission Meeting in Edinburgh As result of this meeting, a dialogue is to be established to advise NAMHO and WHS of long term plans for planting and to provide an opportunity of making recommendations regarding sites of value. This is a big step forward. For further information etc. contact Alan Williams.
5. Botallack Appeal The Cam Brea Mining Society has launched an appeal to save these famous enginehouses from collapse. The WMS collected £11.90 at Frongoch and this sum has been forwarded to the fund secretary.
6. Future Policy for WMS Several members have been active recently concerning actual or potential damage to mine sites and the question has arisen as to whether we should play a positive role in attempting to draw the whole matter before official bodies such as the Ancient Monuments Commission, Welsh Development Agency etc. Certainly if action is not taken very promptly sites of first importance such as Frongoch will have crumbled beyond repair.
In this context Rob Vernon is already very busy with the authorities in Gwynedd concerning Llanrwst and Hafna mines and has prepared a detailed report. The Society's grateful thanks are due. I believe our efforts could not be devoted to more worthy causes than these.
7. Sites of I.A. Importance I have just compiled a bit for DYFED running to over 40 sites, and also available are lists for POWIS & GWYNEDD (updated). Acknowledgment to the North Wales Caving Club is due regarding to original Gwynedd list. Copies, price 50p including postage.
8. Constitution of WMS Up to now, the Society has no formal constitution largely because of practical difficulties arising from such a scattered membership. Our 'modus operandi' whereby all can have a say at meetings in effect installs everyone on the committee - a democratic if somewhat unconventional arrangement. Comments would be welcome.
9. WMS Dinner Somebody has suggested the idea of a dinner, not necessarily an annual event however. Comments please, especially from volunteers to organize it.
10. Pumpsaint Gold Mine Jim Groucott is investigating the possibility of a conducted tour to this ancient site next Autumn, probably 4th September. There is controversy as to whether it has medieval, Roman or Pre-Roman origins. On 24th October I visited the mine with a party organized by the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy in conjunction with Cardiff University, to the surface and underground. The trip proved most interesting, several levels having been re-opened as a training centre for students. The gold nowadays appears mainly confined to deposits of Arsenical Pyrites, but since not much of this has been located, future commercial prospects seem rather gloomy. However, there is little doubt that there will be further developments in educational and archaeological directions.

11. Gwnfynydd Gold Mine Work is still actively in hand and considerable development done without it is regretted, worthwhile gold materialising as yet. As result of re-opening workings, one is astonished at the skill of the 'old men' in bleeding the place white before abandonment

12. Clogau Gold Mine According to a newspaper cutting supplied by Ifor Higgon, two former directors of this mine were due to appear at Barmouth Magistrates Court on July 20, on charges of theft and obtaining £81,000 of mining equipment by deception. It appears The Carnarvon Mining Co. controlled by Australian interests, now holds the lease. Very rich gold ore is said to have been raised here in recent years.

13. The Ball family of miners Michael Ball, whose ancestor Thomas Ball was John Taylor's Agent at the Lisburne Mines, is interested to hear further details of the family. His address is 352 Ormond Drive, OSHAWA, ONTARIO, Canada.

14. The History of the British Coal Industry 30/31 October. Several members including myself attended this weekend course at Birmingham University organised by the University and the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. The standard varied enormously, the better ones including a fascinating talk by Ivor Brown on the discovery of old workings in the Telford area and Hugh Torrens on prospecting. One lecture was frankly worthless, and even the author expressed repeated doubts as to its value.

15. New Books and Publications

- A Dr. Shephard Prehistoric Mining and Allied Industries 1980 £15. I regret precise details are mislaid, but I can recommend this volume although it mainly concerns non-British evidence. The first book wholly devoted to the subject.
- B British Metal Mining Technology Two volumes by Roger Burt, £9, paperback, or £12 bound together, concerning the history of the subject in the 18th and 19th centuries. Further details from Dr. Roger Burt, Department of Economic History, University of Exeter.
- C The old copper Mines of Snowdonia by David Bick £3.95 paperback, £7.95 hardback, from The Pound House, Newent, Glos. 128 pages fully illustrated, based on original research and fieldwork. Please add 10% for postage. Copies will be available at the Welsh Mining Conference in May.
- D Welsh Minerals 28 pages in colour published by the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff £1.80. The 32 minerals include gold - Gwynfynydd and Fridd Goch, Bornite - Dylife Malachite - Old Radnor, Azurite - Llandudno and Parys Mountain, Galena - Van, splendid Pyromorphite from Eisteddfa Gurig (which mine?) and magnificent hair-like Millerite from Treharris. Also present is a new zinc and copper sulphate called, of all things - NAMUWITE, after the National Museum of Wales. Clearly no cult of personality there !
I am proposing to reserve the name WELMINSITE in case we should ever need it. Seriously though, a booklet worth buying.
- E Industrial Archaeology published by Graphmitre Ltd, Newton Abbot, contains papers by Simon Hughes as follows: Vol 15 No.3 Pumping engines at Fairchance and Ystrad Einion, Vol 16 No. 2 Bwlchglas mine, No. 3 Talybont mines to 1660. No. 4 Talybont Mines after 1660
- F The Richest in All Wales Marilyn Palmer's report on Esgair Hir to be published by NMRS in 1983.
- G Old Metal Mines of Mid Wales, Part 2 David Bick. After being out of print for some time, I hope to bring out a revised edition in the spring, with new illustrative material and an appendix on drawing machines.
- H Paper on the Llanrwst area in 18th Century by John Bennett, to be published by NMRS in 1983 Memoirs.

16. Underground Waterwheel drawing machine, Pelton Wheel, etc. discovered recently by NMRS members at Brewery Shaft, Nenthead. It resembles the well-known Ystrad Einion example. I am indebted to Richard Bird for this information. There is little doubt many more such relics will be found, including, perhaps, a 24ft wheel at Glog-Fach in the 88 fathom level (above adit) west of Skinners Shaft. According to an old plan it was there about 1880.

17. Lead Mine on Cardigan Bay According to Geraint Jenkins writing in Ceredigion Vol IX No 2 1981 page 119, in 1852 a lead mine on a headland at Trwyn Croy (332557) north-east of Llangranog was exporting ore by sea in 1852. Does any member have historical details, or information as to the IA of the site ?

18. Old Books I have for sale Glossary of Mineralogy, Bristow £10, Coalfields of Gt. Britain, Hull (lacks map) £8. Institution of Mining & Metallurgy 1908-69, 70 volumes £50 - apply Roy Shambrook.

19. Drilling on Gogerthan Estate According to Simon Hughes, planning permission is granted for 12 diamond drill holes to locate base metals between the rivers Dyfi and Rheidol.
20. Gathering on Metal Mining at Dartington Hall, Devon This was organized last April by Roger Burt. Several members attended and the weekend proved very successful. Let us hope it is not the last.
21. Glan Alyn Mine Gareth Bryan reports that the footway into this mine has recently been discovered, also the pumping gear is in situ. As a result the NWCC is in his words 'all going round grinning like Cheshire Cats' !
22. Russell Society I was pleased to receive a gratuitous copy of this society's first Journal, and it is a splendid production with a fine colour photo on the cover of copper pyrites on Dolomite from Ty Gwyn, Llandudno. It also contains articles on Dylife and its minerals by Nigel Moreton, and Nickeloan Hydrozincite from Parc, Llanrwst. Editor, Dr. R.J.King, Dept. of Geology, University of Leicester.
23. Dolfrwynog Copper Mine. Our member Gareth Edwards appealed for information on the site of the adit in a recent NMRS Newsletter. I don't know if he got a reply, but if he sends me an SAE I will supply the notes I made many years ago when I explored it. Try the WMS first next time!
24. Members Addresses and Interests If you have not received this list, please advise David Roe, - see item 3.1
25. Mr. & Mrs. W.R.Evason I am sorry to report that due to ill-health they have moved from Brynford near Holywell to live near a daughter in Newton Stewart. We wish them well in their new home.
26. Welsh Mining & Slate Conference This will take place on 27-29 May 1983, organized by the Dolgellau Youth Hostel and WMS. Details should be included with this Newsletter. Please give your best support and book promptly. If any queries arise, contact Graham Hall, (0341)422392.
27. Deadline for next Newsletter 1st May, 1983.
28. Correspondents requiring a reply Please enclose SAE.
29. 1983 Subscriptions now due (£1) Please pay promptly to David Roe (see item 3.1) If a red cross appears here, you are also in arrears for 1982. Some members may prefer to forward £2 to cover 1983\$4, thus saving work for themselves and our treasurer also.
30. A Merry Christmas to all our readers

Below Detail from the Company of Mine
Adventurers Share Certificate 1709.

David Bick,
Pound House,
Newent, Glos.
1/12/'82.

