

Internet & WWW

Several major developments (in terms of the Club's presence on the Internet and World Wide Web) have happened since the last issue of 'Below'.

In April Joep Orbons, President of the UIS, kindly donated some space on his computer system in the Netherlands to allow me to create some SCMC World Wide Web pages. I have used this space to create a few pages that provide a background to the Club, its publications and history. They are linked into Joep's Souterrains pages and if you have a web browser you will find the Club information at:

<http://www.xs4all.nl/~jorbons/scmc.html>

while Joep's Souterrain pages start at:
<http://www.xs4all.nl/~jorbons/home.html>

Shortly after creating the pages in the Netherlands, I was successful in obtaining 1Mb of free web space on a computer system in San Diego (USA) run by Volant Turnpike

(<http://metro.turnpike.net/>).

On this system I am creating a series of pages covering the Club's activities. I am, with Pete Eggleston's help, including as many pictures and graphics as possible to make the pages look interesting (we have already had quite a few complements). The Club 'activity' pages can be found at:-

<http://metro.turnpike.net/S/salop/index.html>

The following sites have created links to our pages:-

Cornelia Klumper's Munich Speleo server, (Germany's first Speleo server)
<http://www.usm.uni-muenchen.de:8001/cave/server.html>

Sherry Mayo's Web Page's,
<http://rschp2.anu.edu.au:8080/cave/cave.html>

There are links to both these sites and a few others from our 'activities' pages - so start there first!

Kelvin

Hit-Rate

As this issue of 'Below' was being put to bed, I received the first access report from Volant Turnpike, detailing the number of 'visits' to our web pages on their machine.

The report covers the first 15 days of June and it appears that, on average, some one looks at our pages everyday!

An interesting statistic is that most of the visits occur on weekdays, and the visitors look at typically half the pages.

'Mining Men'

Sorting through old papers, Ivor Brown has assembled biographies of some "Shropshire" mining men, 2 of these on Oldfield (p4) and Le Neve Foster (p10), are included in this issue, others will follow at intervals.

New Book

After several months of hectic activity the latest book written by Club members "Mining in Shropshire" is out. Aimed at a general audience, with a 'chatty' style in mind, I think the final layout and presentation of the book is quite good, and its interesting enough to make people look twice.

The pictures have reproduced quite well (there is a nice mix of old and contemporary photos), the text is well laid out and Malcom's drawings are as impressive as ever. Ivor Brown has written a short review (see page 8), although Edwin is going to produce a more thorough review for us to send out to other organisations.

At £7.95, the price is not too high. Copies are available from Mike Moore.

Spot the Thorpe

No prizes for this, but you might like to work-out how many pictures in the book contain Edwin!

Tankerville

Some concern has been raised about the future of the engine house at Watson's Shaft, Tankerville, with a potential demolition threat hanging over it, see page 7 for more details.

Do Not Forget

15-16 July: NAMHO Conference, National Sports Centre, Lilleshall, and at sites around Shropshire.



News Round-up 1 by Ivor Brown

Minsterley School

Minsterley School is celebrating its 150th Anniversary. It was built at the joint expense of the "Marquis of Bath and other Gentlemen of the Snailbeach Company.

The Company endowed the School with £40 yearly and ordered that every miner should pay to the Schoolmaster the sum of sixpence per quarter. (Some reports however make the school older than 1845, e.g.: E.C.Wadlow in the Metal Industry, July 1934 gives the date 1843 as does the trade Directory of 1851).

Bog Renamed?

While preparing for a talk on the 'Ghost Towns of the Bog' IJB noted the attempts to make it more attractive about 1902 by changing its name!

The local MP suggested 'The Three Peers' because the Community was owned by such. Historians suggested Tamer or Tamerstones as it was in the Forest of Tamerstones in former days. A Mr. J.F.T.Potclaze of London suggested that all that was needed was more "development capital" for the mine. The name was not changed, but more capital was found for the mine.

Aerial Photos

An exhibition of aerial photographs of the Shropshire Hills area has been prepared by the Parish Councils. It has been on display in Walcot Hall but is to go on tour. Consultants have been appointed for a study into the need for a visitor centre in South Shropshire (Planning Magazine 7.4.95)

Coal Mines

The following Shropshire sites are licensed for the extraction of coal (as at January 1995):-

Candles, (Clay Colliery Co. Ltd., Ketley): 246,000 tonnes total

Lodge Coppice, (Coal Contractors Ltd.): 170,000 tonnes

Lodge Lane South, (Coal Contractors Ltd.): under restoration

Caughley, (Ibstock Brick Ltd.)

CO₂ Deaths

Following the asphyxiation of a man and his dog in an accumulation of carbon dioxide gas from an old mine in Northumberland, senior consultants of Aspinwalls of Shrewsbury have sent an open letter to the press. It states that their research indicates that more deaths have occurred in mining areas from carbon dioxide than from methane (firedamp). Also, with the closure of so many mines there is a strong likelihood that CO₂ emissions from old mines will pose real risks to life (see 'Waste Management Journal', March 1995, p7.).

While the writer agrees with the last statement, he would like to see the research for the former.

Bellpits Found

Shropshire Archaeological Society members report that they have discovered approximately 12 bottle or bellpits, on Ash Coppice Piece, Triangle and Thisley Leasows/Pear tree Leasow sites between Lythwood Hall and Hookagate, near Shrewsbury. Further work is being carried out by excavation to confirm this!

Life at the Bog

Information has come to light which gives considerable information on life at the Bog in the last century (see "The Johnson Family and The Bog" on page 11).

IJB has been booked to give a talk on 'Mining ghost towns', including The Bog and The Lloyds at Ironbridge, Friday 13th. October 1995 - all welcome.

Highley Ropeway

With regards to the aerial ropeway at Highley Colliery (Below, 95.1 Spring issue) it seems that the opening ceremony was about August 1960 but the reason why the press failed to arrive has not been determined.

Grateful thanks to David Poyner for drawing attention to this date.

Iron Age Brass

In a paper '**Llanymynech Hillfort**' published in "The Montgomeryshire Collections" 1989, Vol.77 pp 15-26 C.R.Musson and J.P.Northover discuss the possibility of Iron Age brass production at Llanymynech using local copper and zinc ores. This is based mainly on the analysis of excavated process residues found there. A copy of this paper could be a useful acquisition for the Club Library.

Where we can get hold of a copy?

Largest UK Sapphire

The largest gem sapphire found in the British Isles has been discovered on a remote roadside on the Island of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides.

The 9.6ct green-blue stone, a 1 cm cube, was found by a member of a group from the Edinburgh Gemmological Group. A piece of rock was cracked open to reveal the sapphires, which have a combined value of around £200,000. Amongst them was a heavily fractured 242 ct sapphire, and a 39.5 ct fragment which was cut to provide the 9.6 ct barrion cushion-cut gem.

Large single crystals of blue sapphire were first discovered on the island in 1984, and the area was subsequently classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Mr. Brian Jackson of the National Museum of Scotland said: "This is the largest faceted sapphire ever found in Britain. Sapphires are not rare in Scotland, but most of them are not of gem quality or gem size."

A fate for the sapphire has not been decided.

(Mining Journal, 5 May 1995)

Who is joining the 'Rush' ?

STOP PRESS

9 people (including 5 rescuers) killed by carbon monoxide fumes in caves near Rouen. 3 teenagers started a fire during an annual fete. The father of 2 of the youths died in an initial rescue.

More next issue.



Project Round-up by Adrian Pearce

South Shropshire Project Update

The members who have attended most frequently are Colin Armfield, Liz Armfield, Eileen Bowen, John Davies, Mike Moore, Adrian Pearce, Julie Pearce, Nick Southwick, Rob Southwick, Steve Southwick, Stuart Tomlins, Mike Worsfold, Andy Yapp.

Since January the following work has been carried out:-

Boat Level - Dug top of shaft believed to lead to boat Level but not uncovered.

Cothercott Mine - Surveyed surface remains and checked accessible underground remains.

Far Gatten Mine - Surveyed surface remains and checked accessible underground remains.

Gatten Mine - Surveyed surface remains.

Hollies Trials - Found level partly open. Explored for about 60ft. to infill from above. Collapsed shaft found on surface corresponding to blockage. Level was stone arched for 10ft. Then in shale. About 6ft. high by 4ft. wide. Another level found to south with much smaller tip. Entrance completely collapsed.

Ladywell Mine - Engine house checked with officers from Shropshire County Council and South Shropshire District Council with view to preservation.

Rorrington Mine - Shafts and adits checked with Forestry Commission with view to fencing.

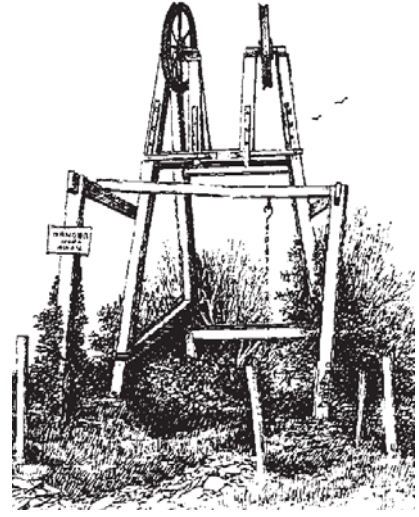
Tankerville Mine - Engine house checked with officers from Shropshire County Council and South Shropshire District Council with view to preservation. Met with English Heritage and SSSC officers to discuss ways of stabilising Watsons Shaft.

West Grit Mine - Engine house checked with officers from Shropshire County Council and South Shropshire District Council with view to preservation.

White Grit Mine - Engine house checked with officers from Shropshire County Council and South Shropshire District Council with view to preservation.

Wilderley Mine - Surveyed surface remains of upper mine plus lower railway track and drainage adit. Found extension of line with a loop through cutting and embankment. Found old truck by line.

Wrentnall Mine - Surveyed surface remains and surveyed level from open works (took landowner in). Checked fenced shaft 3.8m diameter and 5.8m deep to water.



Snailbeach Project Update

The members who have attended most frequently are Colin Armfield, Liz Armfield, Eileen Bowen, John Davies, Mike Moore, Adrian Pearce, Julie Pearce, Nick Southwick, Stuart Tomlins, Mike Worsfold.

Since January, the following work has been carried out:-

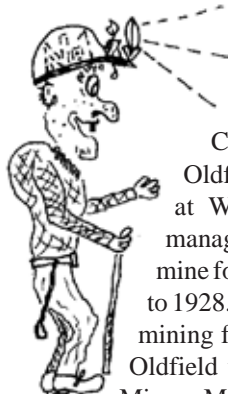
1. The reservoir next to George's Shaft winding engine has been cleared of trees and undergrowth.
2. The artefacts in the Blacksmiths Shop have been sorted and anything not worthy of retention disposed of.
3. The artefacts in the Loco Shed have been sorted. The rotten wooden parts of Black Tom headgear have been removed.
4. Parties of the public were led around Day Level over the weekend to commemorate the centenary of the Snailbeach Disaster.

5. The railway line from the magazine towards Lordshill was cleared of trees and undergrowth, revealing some points.
6. The reservoir valve house and exit leat were partly cleared of trees and undergrowth.
7. The track along the reservoir to the upper processing area was cleared of trees and undergrowth.
8. The upper processing area was partly cleared of trees and undergrowth.
9. Part of Black Tom engine shed that had been vandalised was repaired (the Club replaced the walls and roof last year).
10. An open trial level was found at SJ3882 0219. It goes for 150ft. to a right angled turn to the right, then a further 50ft. to a heading. There is waist deep water at the end.

A break has been called over the Summer and the project will resume in September.



Mining Characters



Captain Oldfield and the Shropshire Mines

Captain William Oldfield born 1851 at Wrexham was a manager at Snailbeach mine for 38 years, 1890 to 1928. He came from a mining family (a Robert Oldfield was manager at Minera Mine, 1875-1881)

and he himself worked at Minera Mines from the age of 15 to 39. The Minera Company was owned by Henry Dennis of Ruabon and Mr. Dennis transferred Oldfield to Snailbeach Mine as underground manager/Captain in 1889 (probably to replace Captain James Mitchell - born Tavistock, 1837).

In July 1891 Oldfield took over from Captain James Coates (born Greenhow Hill, 1825) as Senior Mine Captain and in 1895 was appointed mine agent alongside John Job (born Tavistock, 1832) who was then also the Mines Accountant. In 1895 Captain Oldfield played an important part in the recovery operations after the Snailbeach Disaster.

After the mine was sold in 1912 Oldfield became manager of the Halvans Lime, Spar and Concentrating Works which took over the Snailbeach operations, and remained in this position until his death aged 77. Oldfield was also manager of the Snailbeach District Railway Company and for a while the Bog Barytes Mine.

He also acted as a private consultant on mining matters and between 1906 and 1907 became a partner with A.D. Balmain of Cyffty Mine near Llanwrwst. The mine employed only about 15 men and closed in 1908 after producing 70 tons of lead ore.

Captain Oldfield's obituary in the Shrewsbury Chronicle states that he was a qualified mining engineer, a member of the Institution of Mining Engineers and an expert mineralogist and that his services were in great

demand in an advisory capacity and as a lecturer. His collection of specimens of "British and Foreign Minerals" was most comprehensive, one large collection he gave to Birmingham University, a second one at his residence at the time of his death, was bequeathed to the British Museum.

He was a local Councillor from 1895 to 1928, a life long Liberal and Congregationalist (at one time a Deacon) and his interests outside mining included football and bowling. He was married 3 times.

His Family

The 1891 census shows he had at that time 4 children living with him, being looked after by his other Ruth (born Flintshire, 1821). The children were all still at school, Robert 16, Oliver 10, Elizabeth 13, Sarah 7. At the time of his death he was survived by 2 sons (Robert & Oliver), 3 daughters and his third wife who provided a fine headstone (depicting something like a timber mine arch-support on his grave in Pontsbury Congregational Church, next to the Railway Inn car park).

Throughout his management at Snailbeach he lived at West View House (a Company residence) next door to another Company residence called Prospect House (home of John Job).

Oldfield also represented the Snailbeach Company as a Trustee of Minsterley National School for many years under the arrangement described on page 2.

Thanks

The writer would like to thank Captain Oldfield's grandson David who in August 1963, during a casual meeting in the Crows Nest Dingle, ignited the spark which set-off the research that produced this article.

Ivor Brown

Sites to Visit

Lea Bailey Mine

Newtown, Gloucestershire

This site is operated by the owners of the Clearwell Caves and is due to become a 'tourist attraction', but is not yet open to the public. The site is an old gold mine which was closed at the turn of the century.

Hopewell Colliery

Forest of Dean, Glos. SO 602 114

This was one of two pits worked by 4 Free Miners, which has had to close as they cannot compete with cheap coal imports. It is hoped to establish a mining museum in redundant surface buildings and to open parts of the workings for visitors to see traditional working methods.

Birkhill Fireclay Mine

Bo'ness, Lothian

Restored by Bo'ness Heritage and the local Council. Tours underground are available at weekends, daily from July to September.

It is claimed there are 10 miles of tunnels, of which the tour takes in $\frac{3}{4}$ mile! Although to be fair the lower levels are under water.

Cononish Goldmine

Tyndrum, Stirling, Perth

A picture in the 24/9/93 issue of the "Scotsman" shows this mine already to start working, using railway based mining machinery.

Egremont Mining Co.

Florence Mine,

Egremont, Cumbria

This mine produces 'peacock ore' and also will provide tours for interested parties. In the week they like a party of 4 minimum, while at weekends individual visitors can be accommodated at £6 per head.

This is an unusual tourist mine, in that it has not been 'sanitized' - it is **NOT** the place to visit in your Sunday best!

Brian Tildesley



Caphouse Colliery

As a result of a recent review by the Museums and Galleries Commission Caphouse Colliery is to become the National Coal Mining Museum of England.

The British Coal Collection, which was once kept at Chatterley Whitfield will now be permanently housed at Caphouse. There were fears by some mining historians that the British Coal Collection (currently about 1,500 items ranging from coalface equipment to old documents) would be broken up and sold off.

Cornish Mines

Work at Taylor's Shaft and engine house is now almost complete. The chimney has been rebuilt, the buildings stabilised, and the area generally cleaned-up. The present owners of the site, Kerrier District Council, plan to transfer ownership to the National Trust - who also own East Pool, Levant, Robinson's Engine house, Trevithick's Cottage plus other sites around Cornwall.

In a separate arrangement The National Trust have handed over management (on a short term basis) of Robinson's Engine & engine house, Trevithick's Cottage, East Pool and now Taylor's Shaft to the Trevithick Trust.

Welsh Gold

To finance developments at Gwynfynydd Gold Mine, near Dolgellau, the "Welsh Gold" Company is to be floated on the London stock market. At the moment the price of gold produced at Gwynfynydd is about 3 times that of the London gold price.

In their flotation prospectus Welsh Gold have not given any profit forecasts, but they suggest that output from the mine could increase from the current 980 troy ounces per year to 2,450 troy ounces per year.

In recent years the mine had been transformed into a major tourist attraction and is well worth a visit, if you want a leisurely underground trip.

Shillingstone Lime & Stone Co.

This small limeworks at the end of Shillingstone Hill over looking the Stour Valley is threatened with closure because of new Health & Safety Executive requirements. The works has 3 seventy-year old lime kilns, which burn chalk from its own quarry. It's lime is prized for its malleability and colour. This is the only traditional small scale limeworks left in the UK.

James Watt Archives

The James Watt archives, which hold some 4,500 letters to the inventor and over 2,500 copies of his own letters, have been bought by Birmingham City Archives for over £1,000,000. The archives were described as "the most important collection of scientific manuscripts to come onto the market in Britain."

Killhope Wheel

Five trainees from Rolls Royce's Industrial Power Group Training Centre, have built an 18ft. diameter water wheel underground at Killhope Lead Mine, Weardale.

The wheel should be in operation for the summer season, when visitors to the site will be able to go underground and see it working. Killhope are claiming this to be the only working underground water wheel in Britain - *does anyone know if the underground water wheel at Morwellham (Devon) actually works?*

Hilo

A thin vein of ore, from the Spanish 'hilo' - a thread, an adaptation of the latin 'filum' - a thread:

"Hilo" is a small vein or thread of ore in a lode.

"Hilo de la veta" - line or direction of the vein.

"Hilos altos" - threads or small veins of ores falling into or proceeding from the upper or hangin wall of a lode.

"Hilos baxos" - threads or small veins of ore proceeding from or falling into the lower wall of a lode.

Re: Copper Mining with a Difference

(‘Below’ 95.1)

While I have not seen mention of the electrolytic method of deposit in Canada, in recent years, I do know they are now very keen on environmental studies and control. Some recent opencast mine permits require the putting back of overburden and waste in the stratigraphical position from which they were taken. While others require colour blending between materials on heaps (no whites next to blacks etc.) and of heaps and neighbouring fields/forests.

British operators would not countenance such conditions of control (although the Clay Colliery Co. have had to replace the overburden in the correct sequence at Newdale). One mine in Canada recently had its permit refused because they proposed tipping all their mine waste onto a passing glacier (for transportation and spreading over a wide area)!

On the subject of copper precipitation, does anyone remember Dyffryn Adda Mine, Anglesey, about 1960? Water flowing from the adit was controlled so that its level could leach higher older workings but up to 200 gallons per minute was allowed to flow into large lagoons in rotation. Old cars and fridges were thrown in, the iron replaced copper in solution, this then overflowed a weir, oxygen replaced the iron which was deposited as ochre, and the copper precipitates and ochre precipitates then sold.

It is interesting to note that even when working 100 years before, about 10% of the mines copper content was in the form of precipitate. In 1960 the writer was told that techniques using bacterial action were being developed to increase production at Dyffryn "like those used in North America". I wonder what happened to this project?

Ivor Brown



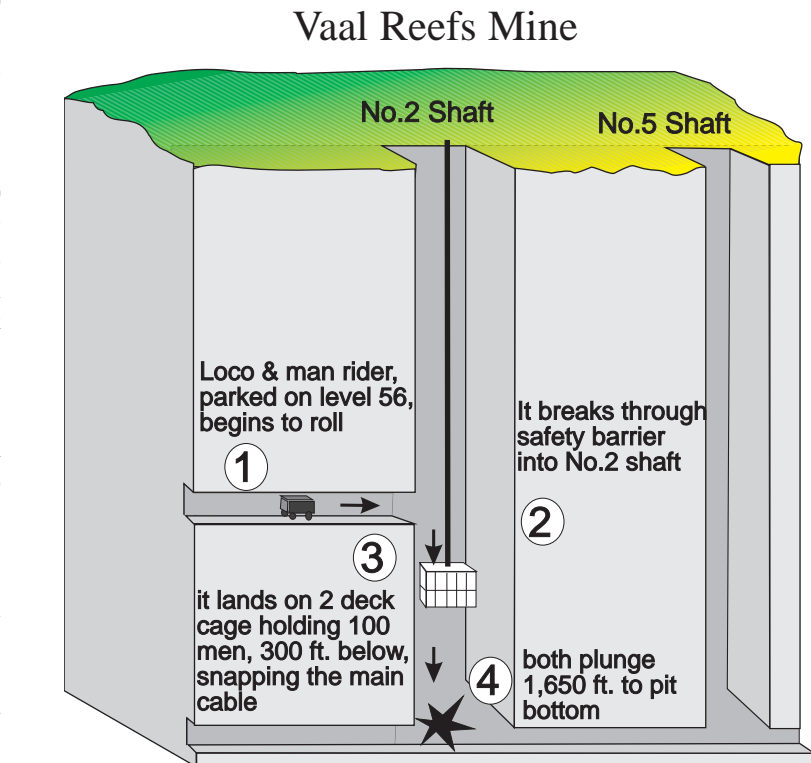
South African Disaster

On Wednesday 10th May, over 100 Gold Miners were killed at Vaal Reefs Mine in South Africa's western Transvaal, when a mine cage was crushed by a runaway locomotive.

A double-decker cage carrying 100 miners was three-quarters of the way through its 7,000ft. journey down No.2 shaft, when a 12-ton electric loco ran out of control on the mines level 56. It crashed through a safety gate at the end of the level and fell over 300ft. down the shaft before hitting the cage, snapping the winding cables and pushing the cage a further 1,650 ft. to the pit bottom.

Rescue workers had to get to the scene through the nearby No.5 shaft, and reported no survivors from the cage which had been "crushed into a one-floor tin box", with "bits of flesh scattered all over".

Vaal Reefs Mine, near Orkney is one of the largest and deepest gold mines in South Africa. It is owned and operated by the Anglo American Corporation. Rumours that the accident might have been sabotage were dismissed by mine officials, but the mine's shares dropped £2 on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange with hours of the accident.



Most of those killed were migrant workers from Lesotho, Mozambique or Malawi. The train driver survived (it is thought by jumping out), but investigators will be looking at why the loco kept moving since it should have automatically stopped when the driver left it.

Background

South Africa is the world's leading gold producer and has some of the deepest mines. In 1994 alone, according to Unions, 424 people were killed and 5,725 injured in 5,851 mining accidents. The worst gold mining accident occurred in 1909 when 152 miners died in a flood.

British Coal Sale

In mid-May British Coal put up for sale 90 homes and sites in south Lancashire and the West Midlands, out of the 800 it still owns. British Coal property is being packaged into 20 regional blocks and this was the first package from its huge property portfolio to be disposed of.

In the next year, British Coal will attempt to complete one of the biggest post-war property disposal programmes, involving 100,000 acres of farmland, 180 sites with development potential, 3 golf courses a leisure complex (at Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent) and office buildings.

British Coal has already raised £100m from the sale of non-coal assets and the final figure could exceed £400m.

Titanium Krabs

Jopo and several correspondants in the Cavers Digest have recently been issuing warnings that some of the titanium products that are becoming available from Eastern Europe should be treated with great suspicion.

Most of the items (jammers, racks, karabiners etc.) are made from commercial grade titanium which has no advantages over mild steel other than a small weight saving and superb corrosion resistance.

The most important point to note is that titanium is **VERY** prone to fracturing from scratches or notches.

Some basic tests have shown that even a small surface mark can make

commercial titanium act like cast iron. There is also a real problem with heat dissipation.

For practical purposes titanium does not conduct heat, so small areas can get very hot - could be risky if you are using a titanium rack, and find the rope melting before your very eyes!

It is apparent that with present costs titanium is unlikely to replace 7075 alloy, the common karabiner material, on cost alone.

Compiled from:

SpeleoScene & Cavers Digest



News Round-Up 3

Caves in Pub

The new landlord's of the 'Shoulder of Mutton' (Bromsgrove's oldest pub), Phil and Mary Bradley have recently discovered 5 caves and a flight of steep steps carved into the sandstone cliff leading up to the Church, at the back of the 17th Century pub.

Local historian Alan Richards, estimates the caves to be 2,000 years old, although is uncertain about their origins. The proximity of the pub to the former church-owned Crown Close and the ancient sacred area nearby may provide clues.

Strange, carved indentations and niches may indicate where candles and bars were placed across the entrances and chiselled holes near the roof may have been for beams. One theory suggests they were used as cells for monks doing their penance, while another suggests they formed part of the Bromsgrove defences when the town was fortified (in 910) against warring Danes.

The steps were probably cut as a short cut from the church so churchwardens of old could conclude their business over a pint.

At the moment the caves are virtually full of debris, but Phil and Mary plan to expose them fully and make them into a feature of the pub.

Information

If you have any information on the caves then the Bromsgrove Advertiser (5, High Street, Bromsgrove, B61 8AJ) would be interested in hearing from you.

Coin Hoard

A Roman coin hoard (believed to be about 40 coins) has recently been found in one of the Alderley Edge mines, providing evidence for the possible working of the site by Romans or even earlier folk.

Tankerville Appeal

Watson's Shaft at Tankerville Mine is becoming very unstable at the top and there is danger that the engine house will become undermined and collapse into the shaft.

South Shropshire District Council and English Heritage had planned to carry out emergency treatment to prevent this but despite the recommendations of their officers, the councillors have refused to consider any remedial work on the shaft or engine house.

We need as many people as possible to write in to South Shropshire District Council to object to their decision not to save Tankerville engine house. They have fenced it off and say that they will demolish it if it gets unsafe. Could everyone writing a letter including the points below and ask anyone else who might be interested to write as well. The letter should be addressed to:-

Mr. Graham Biggs,
Chief Executive,
South Shropshire District Council,
Stone House, Corve St,
Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1DG.

Points to Make

Tankerville engine house is one of the most complete in the UK and famous throughout the country. It is a listed building and a local landmark.

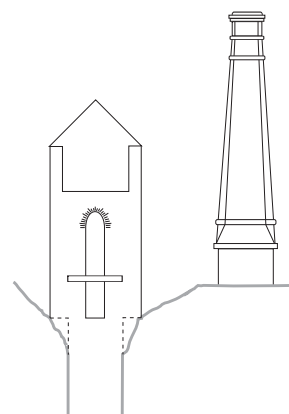
Bosch Battery Drills

Recently mentioned in the Cavers Digest (Internet version) is the proposal by Nick Williams to set up an exchange to help cavers with 'sick' battery drills.

He hopes to maintain a stock of new and second hand spares and suggests that people who donate parts to the general stock can expect to get the bits that they need free in return (subject to availability).

If you are interested you can contact Nick on:-

Tel. 01772-421119,
fax: 01772-622279,
e-mail: nick@confmnce.demon.co.uk



Even if no funds are available at present to preserve the building, remedial work should be done on the shaft to prevent the building being undermined and falling down the shaft. Less complete mining remains in other parts of the UK have been preserved by the local authorities, South Shropshire will not look good if it lets the engine house fall down.

People from all over the UK and abroad are attending a mining history conference at Lilleshall in July and will be expecting to visit Tankerville engine house during the weekend as part of the county's important remains.

How do we explain that in Shropshire we let things fall down or even pull them down?

Steve Holding

Inventory of Club

Equipment

Most of the Club equipment consists of ropes, etc which are kept either in the tackle store at the Last Inn or at Neal's house.

There are, however, other items such as surveying equipment, display material, etc, etc.

Neal is taking an inventory of all Club equipment and where it is kept. If you hold anything that belongs to the Club, can you notify Neal Rushton accordingly.

Steve Holding



BOOKS

Mining in Shropshire

Edited by A.Pearce with contributions by **Members of the Club**, published by Shropshire Books (Shropshire County Council) 1995, Price £7.95, A5, 100 pages, numerous photographs, some historic, some recent, location maps and drawings.

A very readable, popular-style book which is well presented in the manner expected of the series produced by the County Council. It deals briefly with the history of each mining area, for coal, metal and other minerals and provides a field guide to surviving remains. It is evenly balanced between text and very clear illustrations.

Only 2 very small errors were noted (Cruckmeole Colliery is shown on the wrong side of the A4488 on page 12 and describing victims of the Snailbeach accident as all Methodists

or C. of E. - one was a Baptist). Some of the photos raise questions - why show a flanged wheeled wagon on a flanged railway track on p38 and why use a picture of a slotted chain brickyard wagon to represent mine narrow gauge railways for example.

The greatest failing however must be that there is no indication of source of information that might be used by researchers for cross-checking. However it has to be accepted that the book is intended for the general reader not the academic. There is evidence now that the mass production of such "picture" books is putting at risk the production of more serious works from which future generations will suffer. For example Trinders "*Industrial Archaeology of Shropshire*" may not be published unless sufficient orders are made beforehand!

Ivor Brown

"Shropshire Geology - Where to Go, What to See - A Visitors Guide"

By P.F.Phillips and J.R.Stratford, published by Phillips Tutorials, Frogs Gutter, Minsterley, Shropshire, 1995. Price £3.95.

The title says it all, a complimentary book to '*Mining in Shropshire*' it has 72 pages with as many illustrations, some in colour.

Ivor Brown

Other Recent Publications

Shropshire Gold

A full colour leaflet on Shropshire Geological Sites from SCC Leisure Services Dept. and Tourist Offices.

'A new life for Snailbeach Mine'

by I.J.Brown in Mining Magazine, March 1995 pp153-8.

Industrial Archaeology of Shropshire

Author: Barrie Trinder, due to be published by Phillimore & Co, Autumn 1995. About 250 pages, 100 illustrations, quarto format, hardback. Price £25 (minimum) - Phillimore are currently taking orders for this book, before publishing it.

Sadly its credence as an academic work is immediately ruined by the publicity sheet claiming "*Shropshire was not only the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution but also of the study of Industrial Archaeology*".

The '**birthplace**' slogan was the brain child of some faceless T.D.C. Official about 15 years to replace the slogan "*Telford - Where Industry Works*" that used to be on the road signs before the recession (when industry patently wasn't working!), since then it has been hijacked as fact by many who should know better (for a more reasoned view of the Industrial Revolution, see "*Industry and Empire*" by E.J.Hobsbawm, particularly chapters 2 and 3).

That said, considering the 'powers-that-be' think Shropshire is the birthplace of industry, it is surprising that it has take so long for a guide to the I.A. of Shropshire to be produced!

The starting point for the book is billed as the "*study of industrial landscapes - of the countryside, of market towns, of coalfields and upland mining regions, together with the linear landscapes created by long distance transport undertakings. In this and other respects the book provides a theoretical foundation for industrial archaeological research of relevance far beyond the borders of Shropshire.*"

At the same time, Dr. Trinder reveals much that will be unfamiliar about Shropshire's history, including the theatre in Oswestry that became a maltings, the fine tower brewery at Market Drayton, the pioneering roller mill in Ludlow and the forgotten miners' villages of the Shrewsbury coalfield.

A series of tables and appendices furnish a foundation of facts and quantification which will make the book indispensable to everyone interested in the history of Shropshire; while the general narrative account is as vividly readable as we could expect from Barrie Trinder, and splendidly illustrated."

The cover of the book will feature the 1800's, engine house at Pontesford, which is now used as a house, but at £25 it is a lot of money.

Personally I would like to see a copy of it before committing myself to such expenditure, just to see how much new material it contains, particularly since the industrial landscapes theme has been fairly comprehensively covered in such works as "*The Making of the English Landscape*" by W.G.Hoskins, and other authors such as Hobsbawm, Thompson and even Karl Marx.

Kelvin Lake



BOOKS

Seathwaite Wad and The Mines of the Borrowdale Valley

by Ian Tyler

High up on the fell, after a storm-lashed night of heaving rain, crashing thunder and brilliant lightning, two sodden, rag-swathed shepherds were searching through the murky, misty early morning for their scattered flocks of sheep. Stumbling over steep grass they came upon a lightning shrivelled tree, its blackened, skeletal roots torn from the earth and there, in the first faint, watery rays of the sun they spied the hidden gleam of grey.

These simple untaught peasants knew nothing of the value of the treasure lying at their feet, only that it glowed with a dark, deep lustre and that when they held it, it felt cold to the touch, and that where it lay in their hands, it blackened their already grimy skin.

This is the legend of the discovery of Seathwaite wad, first used by those early shepherds in medieval times to mark their sheep for identification. Be that legend or truth, the full story of

Seathwaite graphite, so pure and unequalled in quality, is told here by Ian Tyler in the fourth book in his series of Lake District Mining.

Here is the story of the hidden treasure of Seathwaite, here were vagabonds and thieves who dared all to steal away the precious wad and create the first black market in the dives and murky alehouses of Keswick, selling their goods to the Jewish merchants.

Here we read of the monks of Furness Abbey, of the brilliant Hechstetter family who did so much for Cumbrian mining; of the enormously wealthy Bankes family who owned the mine

for so long and of Black Sal and the Dandy Wad Stealer



Ian Tyler tells us of the beginning of a unique industry in Keswick, that of pencil making, and then he takes us to the western shores of Derwentwater and to the 16th Century copper mines, where lie the roots of Cumbrian mining.

Seathwaite Wad paints a wide canvas of life in the Borrowdale valley through hundreds of years, of the rough and tumble of working the mines, of the daring and foolhardy smugglers and of the elusive, exclusive magical Seathwaite Wad.



Mining Videos (available from the Club)



If you are interested in doing a bit of armchair mine exploration the following videos, produced by I.A.Recordings with help from Club members, may be of interest to you.

A Tour of Clive Copper Mine £14.95

A comprehensive guided tour of Clive, with Edwin Thorpe acting the 'experienced' expert and Kelvin Lake the 'novice'. The tour covers both the upper and lower levels, plus the Northern stope (the access to which is now a bit dodgy).

Clive Rescue Practice, £9.95

An action packed 'head banging' record of a Club rescue practice, featuring the 'infamous' maypole winze traverse!

Snailbeach, £14.95

The rise and fall of Snailbeach, once renowned as the "richest per acre of ground in Europe", is traced in this production through the use of historic photographs, animated plans and sections, and unique underground video footage.

Collections from the Archives

The following tapes contain almost all the footage recorded at the given mine, and are intended as a resource base, not a finished production:

- C.15:Dudley Tunnel '88 to '89, £14.10
- C.18:Donisthorpe Colliery, £11.75
- C.20a:Snailbeach - Final Frontier, £9.87
- C.23: Bagworth Colliery, £11.75
- C.28: Morse's Level, £9.87

The book is 220 pages long with over 120 photographs, diagrams and illustrations and is soft-backed. Priced at **£13.99** it is available direct from the publisher:

Blue Rock Publications, 33 Townhead Road, Cotehill, Carlisle CA4 0DF.
Tel: 01228-561883 (Please make cheques payable to 'Caldbeck Mining Museum' and include **£1.50** for postage and packing).

Or

Alternatively, obtain the book from Mike Moore at the next Club Meeting or at the NAMHO Conference.

A fifth title in the Lake District Mining series by Ian Tyler is planned for next year. The previous books are:- '**Force Crag, The History of a Lakeland Mine**' (now out of print), '**Greenside, A Tale of Lakeland Miners**' and '**Honister Slate, The History of a Lakeland Slate Mine**'.

For more details contact: I.A.Recordings, PO Box 476, Telford, TF8 7RH
e-mail: info@iarecord.demon.co.uk



Dr. C. Le Neve Foster and the Shropshire Mines

Le Neve Foster (LNF) was born in 1841. He was Inspector of Mines with responsibility for North Wales and Shropshire Metalliferous Mines from 1880 to 1892, by which time he was also Professor of Mining at the Royal School of Mines, London and soon to be Knighted.

LNF received his early education in Boulogne and Amiens, then studied at the School of Mines in London and in Freiburg, Saxony. From 1860 to 1865 he worked with the Geological Survey of Great Britain (mainly in the Wealdon Area and Derbyshire). He left to work on exploration in Sinai and to examine gold mines in Venezuela. From 1869 to 1872 he worked at the gold mines of Val Anzasea in Italy.

He was appointed Mines Inspector in Great Britain in 1873 and was appointed District Inspector for North Wales (which included Shropshire Lead Mines) in 1880. During the 1880's he seems to have concentrated on sorting out the slate mine operators of North Wales (*see Brown I.J.; Mining Slate in North Wales in the late 19th. C. Shropshire Mining Club Journal 1972-3*) as there are few references to Shropshire Mines in his reports.

However in 1890 he turned to Shropshire with a vengeance and in both 1891 and 1892 took mine owners to court for alleged offences. The 1891 report is worth repeating in full:

“Bergam:- The Shropshire United Mining Company, Limited, Owners and Mr. W. Toye, Agent, of Bergam Mine, were proceeded against for neglecting to provide adequate ventilation and to fence the top of a shaft. On a previous visit I had complained about the badness of the air in one part of the mine, and had given notice about this and the want of a fence. During the interval between my 2 visits, Mr. Toye, originally an owner had converted the small partnership into a limited company, retaining the

management of the concern; but the solicitor for the defence contended that my notice had nothing to do with the company.

On the occasion of my second visit I went into the adit level soon after the men had left work, and found the air so bad that a candle would not burn upright. I felt bound to report the case and recommended a prosecution for two reasons: first, because I had already called Mr. Toye's attention to the want of proper ventilation in an adjacent working on a previous occasion; and, secondly, because the arrangement which he had put up for supplying air showed an utter ignorance of the most elementary principles of ventilation, which should be known to every agent in charge of workings below ground.

The defence was that I had gone in just after blasting; but I was convinced by my examination of the workings that I should have found the air unfit for breathing even if I had gone in before the shots were fired. I am of opinion that nearly half-an-hour had elapsed after blasting when I was trying the air in the level.

Considering the disgraceful state of the working place, the want of proper appliances for ventilation, and the neglect to comply with a notice in writing, the defendants escaped very easily with small fines. I regret that the fines were so small, because if it is difficult to enforce the law in a bad case it becomes utterly impossible to secure a conviction in the earlier stages of inadequate ventilation.”

LNF's disgust is understandable since the owner had only been fined a total of 10 shillings with 19s 6d costs and the Agent (Mr. Toye) 5 shillings with 19s 6d costs.

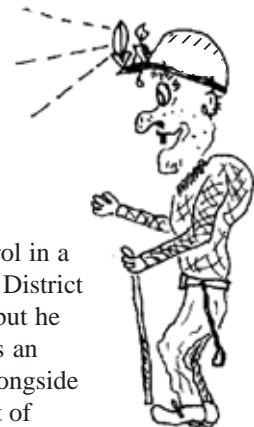
The following year, 1892, Le Neve Foster tackled the owners of Wotherton Mine who he found where in the habit of hanging extra weights on the levers of the safety valve. He took them to

court but the Shropshire Magistrates considered this a mere ‘technical offence’ which did not require the infliction of a fine. Such treatment of a 20 year-old law annoyed Foster greatly, particularly as the owners were flagrantly breaking rules “which were posted up in black and white under their own eyes”. Where would such disobedience end!

Le Neve Foster was obviously dismayed at such treatment by the magistrates, he was very conscientious. In 1891 he reported “I travelled 7,546 miles (6,435 by rail, 150 by sea and 961 by road) I made 209 visits to mines (121 underground inspections, the rest surface only). I spent my holiday in France, Galicia and Germany visiting mining districts for the purpose of gaining general information.”

For him this was a typical year. By 1895 he was writing that during the year “I received 4,587 letters, telegrams and notices and dispatched 5,146 (not counting internal memos from the Home Office and his 2 assistants)” and he added “I spent part of my leave of absence visiting gold mines in the Val Anzasea, granite quarries on Lago Maggiore and marble quarries at Carrera.”. His assistant, Inspector Williams, was a keen photographer and with Le Neve Foster started adding photos of North Wales Mines to the Inspectors Reports, but unfortunately none of Shropshire Mines.

Shortly after these court cases the Shropshire Mines were taken from LNF's control in a shuffling of District boundaries but he continued as an Inspector alongside his new post of Professor of Mining. He investigated some important mine accidents and on one of them, the Isle of Man Mine Disaster of



continued on p11



Vertical Access Fatality

An industrial rope-access worker was killed recently when he fell and his Petzl Shunt failed to stop him. While we tend to use just a single rope for life-lining etc. many climbers often use twin ropes.

In this case the worker had his working rope and his safety rope through his Shunt. For some reason his working rope broke above the Shunt, this in turn did not allow the Shunt to close onto the safety rope! So BEWARE.

SpeleoScene

Magpie Thefts

The P.D.M.H.S. Magpie Mine Cottage Warden has reported doubling of the number of people staying at the mine, but an unfortunate increase in the amount of vandalism, theft and anti-social behaviour.

The site has been robbed on 3 occasions during 1994. Amongst the items stolen are:- a kibble, 6 cast iron radiators from inside the Old Cottage, plus various other metal items from the site. In addition a fine specimen of galena was stolen from the Cottage Collection.

Le Neve Foster cont....

1897, he was taken ill with carbon monoxide poisoning. He never fully recovered and died in London, shortly after being Knighted in 1904.

During his later years LNF did not forget Shropshire, he supported the idea of evening classes for metal miners and even lectured in the area particularly at Minsterley. He also published 2 classic mining text books: "*Ore and Stone Mining*" in 1894 and "*Elements of Mining and Quarrying*" in 1903 and both contain references to Shropshire Mines. These refer mainly to candle manufacture at Snailbeach, temperature and gases in the mines and the use of the Boat Level for navigation.

Ivor Brown



In August 1960 and 1963 the writer spoke to a Mr. Johnson at his cottage at Pennerley about some sale details of the mine site and other documents which he had. These were not immediately available - although another copy of the sale particulars was found and published in the Club Journal.

In August 1976 George Johnson of Oldham wrote to the Club to say he had an old diary about the mine. He said he would send the book but it never arrived. However at the Snailbeach Exhibition his son David Johnson of Shrewsbury produced the diary and asked if it was of interest.

Mr. Johnson's Diary

The Diary was commenced by Don's great-grandfather, John Johnson, in 1845. At this time it appears Bog Engine was used to pump the Pennerley Mine (up to the Boat Level). John Johnson was obviously the mine engineer, but the mine seems to have been working at a low level, and was taken over by Edward Thomas and John Betton that August. By December they had 27 tons 8 cwt of ore at bank which was "*sent to Chester*".

On Christmas Eve Mr. Johnson arrived at Dee Bank Lead Works in North Wales "*to help put up the old Bog Engine*", during the Christmas holiday.

From this date he seems to have lived in North Wales and the diary entries of 1846 and 1847 refer to visits by Shropshire miners bringing the ore to the lead works, and his visits back to Shropshire - to keep an eye on the Pennerley Mine.

Engine Trouble

The old Bog Engine seems to have given some trouble and the situation got much worse in 1848 and 1849, there are several references to the engine "*stopping*" and having to work "*on Sunday*". Mining wise the diary then goes dead, but it is known that John stayed for 15 years, he had returned to Pennerley by 1871.

By 1876 John's son William had taken up the diary. A new 70" pump had been put to work in 1870 at the Bog (William had apparently joined his father in the engine house "*at aged 9*").

In 1876 William records an incident at the Bog Engine when they had to take the "*lift out of the 60's*" but "*left the slide in the bottom of the pit*". This is probably a reference to the rods braking as this is recorded in other sources of information. According to the diary it took 7 months to get the "*lift out*".

On to Lancashire

After this William went to work at mines near Clitheroe in Lancashire, but his son George was sent to live with his grandmother at Pennerley and attended Stiperstones School from the age of 6 to 11.

At 11 he returned to Lancashire to work in the cotton mills and it was from his Lancashire home that he contacted the Club in 1976. He died in 1979 aged 90 and his records passed to Don his son who brought them to the exhibition.

Other Pennerley Mines

The diary also mentions other Pennerley miners during the 1840's, Hughes, Betton, Butler, Lewis, Corfield and Roberts, names still commonplace in the area today.

Child's Sketch

Don also has a child's sketch showing an impression of a beam pumping engine (without a house), three rather tired moustached miners (extra large) and a diminutive 0-12-4 cab-less steam loco and tender. It is signed "*John Johnson*" (twice) and if this is the John who started the diary, it would be over 150 years old.

It seems more likely to be a drawing of Snailbeach post 1870's and probably by another John.

Ivor Brown

Shropshire Mines Potential and known bat sites

Mine	Section	Status	Access	Species
Batholes Mine	?	?	?	?
Boat Level		open	SCUBA	?
Bog Mine	Somme Tunnel	open	Gated(unlocked)	Lesser Horseshoe,
Long Eared				
Bog Mine	Shafts	?	Vertical	?
Burgam Mine	Lower levels	open	open	L H/shoe, Myotis
Burgam Mine	Upper(gated) level	open	Gated	L H/shoe
Calcot Mine	?	?	?	?
Callow Hill Mine		Quarried	?	?
Cefn Gunthly Mine	?	?	?	?
Chittol Wood Mine	?	?	?	?
Clive Mine		open	covered(SCMC)	?
Cothercott Mine	?	?	?	?
East Roman Gravels Mine	?	?	?	?
Grit Mine	?	?	Vertical	
Huglith Mine	Badger level	open	open,Vertical	L H/shoe
Huglith	Riddleswood	open	open	
Knolls Mine		open?	open?	
Ladywell Mine	Shafts	open?	open?,Vertical	
Leigh Level		open	Bad air	?near entrance
Llanymynech	Ogof, Mandible ch	open	open	?
Llanymynech	Pit Series	open	open	
Llanymynech	Winze Series	open	open(V)	
Llanymynech	Levels in Quarry	open	open(V)	
Maddox Coppice Mine		open?	open?	
Myttonsbeach Mine		open?	open?	
New Central Mine		?	?	
Perkinsbeach Mine		?	?	
Potters pit		open	open(v)	L H/shoe
Pim Hill		open?	private	L H/shoe, Myotis
Rhadley Mine		open	open	
Ritton Castle Mine		?	?	
Rock Mine		?	?, Vertical	
Roman Gravels Mine		?	?	
Rorrington Mine	Adit, N of lower rd	open	open	L H/shoe
Rorrington Mine	Drainage level	open	open	L H/shoe
Rorrington Mine	shaft	open	Vertical	
Rorrington Mine	Brick tunnel	open	open	
Roundtain Mine	?	?		
Sallies Mine	?	?		
Snailbeach Mine	Brick Tunnel	open	private	Myotis
Snailbeach Mine	“Chidleys Bat Level”	open	gated	L H/shoe, Myotis
Snailbeach Mine	“Chidleys water level”	open	gated	Natterer’s
Snailbeach Mine	Sheep shaft > Roberts L	open	Vertical	L H/shoe,Natterer’s
Squilver Mine		?	?	
Swanhill Mine	Upper workings	open	gated(V)	L H/shoe, Myotis
Swanhill Mine	Middle workings	open	gated	
Swanhill Mine	Lower workings	open	gated	L H/shoe, Myotis
Tankerville Mine		?	?,Vertical	
Westcott Mine	Stoped level c water	open	private	L H/shoe
Westcott Mine	2 short levels	open	private	
Wotherton mine		?	?	

This is just a preliminary first draft of sites, a more complete list (with more accurate site details) will be produced in due course.

Mike Worsfold





Mineral Spot

Chalcopyrite - Copper Iron Sulphate.

The most wide spread copper mineral and an important ore of copper.

Commonly found in high and medium temperature veins and in contact metamorphic deposits associated with pyrite, cassiterite and pyrrhotite.

It is similar to pyrite, but is more 'brass-yellow'. It alters naturally to sulphates, malachite, azurite and limonite. It occurs as tetrahedral or sphenoidal crystals, although it occasionally occurs as granular or compact masses (it was found in this former in the deep levels of Ecton Mine, Derbyshire - where it was the principal copper ore).

Chemical formula:

$CuFeS_2$



Sygun Copper Mine

Open all year round. The fascination of history and the wonders of modern-day technology combine to create an unforgettable experience at this Prince of Wales award-winning family attraction, set in the heart of the stunning Snowdonia National Park.

Bookings/inquiries to:

Sygun Copper Mine, Beddgelert, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 4NE

Telephone: 076686 585

24 Hour infoline: 076686 564

If you have not visited this mine before, it is well worth it. You can also combine a visit with a walk over the mountain to Llwynddu (OS. ref: 606 483), an interesting copper mine site that was worked for about 6 years in the late 1830's-40's, and has a variety of surface remains. Not far from here (603 472) were a series of steel towers - remains of the Cwmbychan ropeway down the valley (although many of the towers have recently been removed),

The area makes interesting walking, with numerous trails and levels dotted around the mountain - so take care!(Although 'preservation' work has been carried out on the adit entrances and mine remains in the area, so some are no longer open).

Kelvin

Snailbeach Weekend

The Snailbeach Weekend was a great success, it was really amazing how much local effort was put into it. Others will probably be writing about the displays, the mock Victorian miners cottage room, the model mine and the railway model, but here are a few impressions on the rest.

The material on display was staggering, original mine deeds, powder house lock, tools, lamps, 1850's Mine Captain's notebooks containing surveys of some of the buildings, family trees, copies of original disaster inquiry documents, a spar-box (very common in the North but I have never seen a Shropshire made one before) and some photographs complete with persons named! (Mr.Randal working on the buddles, groups of old stonemasons around structures when newly built etc. - amazing!).

Saturday Evening

The Saturday evening talk was packed out for nearly 2 hours of slide show - again some brand new "oldies". For example a photo of a bridge outside the cottage at the bottom of Lords Hill, with a group of eager miners walking past on their way home from Hugnith Mine in the 1940's (this was a long walk over the Hill). Also a view of the former Crown Public House on the hill behind Pennerley.

Sunday

On Sunday evening an appointment after the Pennerley Evening Service had to be cancelled - the congregation could not get there because of snow drifts. Instead they spent an evening listening to stories of the Bog during the First World War and about German P.O.W.'s building the ropeway. Apparently people came from miles around to see the electric lights in the village, at that time 'brightness' at night was something that could not be experienced elsewhere in Shropshire.

All the cottages in Pennerley and Ritton Castle were thatched - and a large photo in the house visited shows it, with its thatched roof, dwarfed by the engine house of Potters Pit which stood behind it.

Memories & Reunions

Monday evening was the Short Memorial Service in the well filled Church, and a talk on the disaster by the writer. The writer thought he was introducing a new angle when he spoke of the 8th victim, the wife of one of the men in the cage before the ill-fated one, who collapsed and later died when she heard of the accident thinking her husband was in it. The Inquest verdict on her death was "died of shock". However a local person added a ninth victim, she said her grandmother had a miscarriage because of the incident, a baby girl who would have joined a family of "all-boys".

An old miner at the meeting asked the writer if he was the student who worked at Hugnith during the war, he wasn't but behind him stood Dick Haszard who was, the 2 old miners reminisced with tears in their eyes. A tape recording was made of the complete evening for use at various WI's. Anyone got a copy?

Ivor Brown

Postscript

On the Monday afternoon a senior Club Member arrived from a distant part and thinking everyone had forgotten placed flowers at the top of George's Shaft. He was found by the locals, told he had missed most of the programme, but brought to the evening meeting. Perhaps there is a need for better communication on future events with the Associates - a monthly programme sheet like there used to be!

Reply

All Full members of the Club already receive a monthly posting detailing each months meets programme. Associate members do not receive this posting, as they are not eligible to attend underground trips. However, an abbreviated form of the trips list appears in 'Below', which Associates do get, and this provides contact names should they wish to follow up any particular 'event'.

Mike Moore



Club Officers

President: Alan Taylor

**Tackle & Rescue Officer:
Neal Rushton**

**Chairman/NAMHO Rep:
Steve Holding**

**Training Officer:
Alan Robinson**

Vice Chair: Malcolm Newton

**Conservation Officer:
Nick Southwick**

Secretary: Adrian Pearce
scmc.secretary@factree.org.uk

Bat Officer: Mike Worsfold

Treasurer: Bob Taylor

**Membership Services:
Mike Moore**

'Below' Editor: Kelvin Lake
e-mail: scmc@factree.org.uk

Diary Dates '95

For organised Club trips please refer to Adrian's Monthly Meets lists.

Bank Holiday Sundays: OFDII Columns visits. 10.30am from South Wales C.C.Cottages.

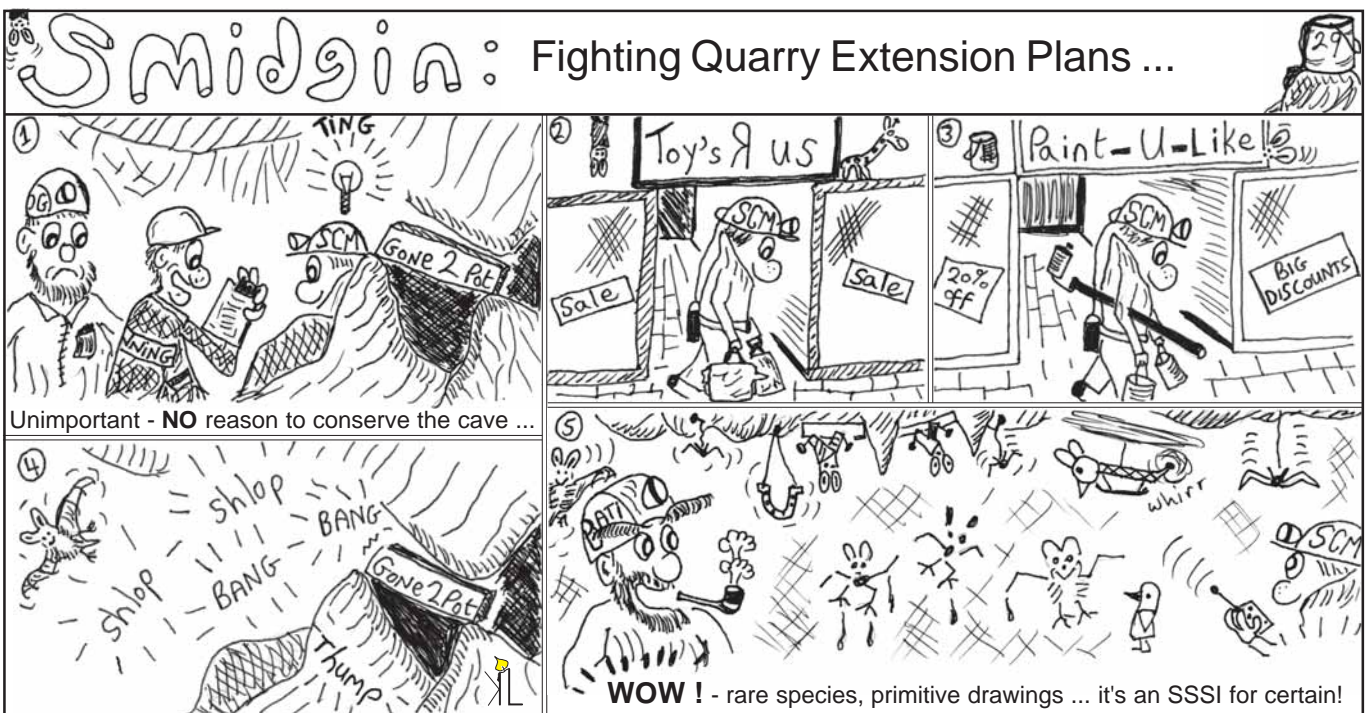
15-16 July: NAMHO Conference, National Sports Centre, Lilleshall, Shropshire - hosted by US!

22-23 July: Digging Weekend at Wrentnall Mine. Contact Mike Moore.

30 July: Mining Heritage Walk (6miles) to Greenside Mine, Glenridding, Cumbria. Organised by Caldbeck Mining Museum, start 10.30am at Tourist Office car park. Boots, waterproofs and packed lunch essential. Charge: £2.50 per person, Bookings: 01228-561883

19-25 August: International Symposium on Souterrains, Maastricht, The Netherlands. Organised by the 'Study-Group Subterranean Limestone Quarries' and based on the Maastrichtien limestone outcrops, the symposium covers a range of man made underground structures. Cost ~£130.

19-26 August: Nenthead Mines trip. Contact Nick Southwick.



Catch us on the World Wide Web. Club activities & the labyrinth: <http://www.shropshirecmc.org.uk/>

