
NENTHEAD MINES CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Newsletter No 5 May 2013

SOCIETY NEWS

Annual General Meeting 18th May 2013

The day of the meeting dawned with low cloud and persistent heavy rain. An intense rainstorm swept across the Northern Pennines after dawn and many roads were badly flooded. Some members travelling to the AGM were not able to continue and returned home. Others braved the deep floods and made it to the meeting.

Our meeting quorum is fifteen and we only mustered fourteen. All those who made it to the meeting agreed that the meeting should continue. The existing committee members were appointed for a one year term of office. The Chair's and Treasurer's report were received and discussed.

The meeting suggested that a new AGM should be convened, if any members were unhappy about what was decided on 18th May.

For those of you receiving this newsletter via email, copies of the Treasurer's and Chair's reports are attached to the email. Those of you who receive this newsletter by post will find a copy of the two reports in your envelope.

If you have any questions about these reports, please contact Pete Jackson either by phone 07718385646, or by email p.jackson@ntlworld.com, or by post to 41 Cranswick Close, Billingham, TS23 3NH.

Members at the meeting suggested that Newsletters should be placed on the Society website, and that Newsletters should be distributed at regular intervals.

Members also suggested mining history organisations that NMCS might join. Your committee will consider this suggestion and then report back to members.

Following the meeting, some members walked around the Nenthead Mines site. The rain had almost ceased and some flood damage was visible. A new drain inserted under the Quarry Access road has channelled water towards the smelting mill bunkers and down the road to the assay house. The pictures here show some of the scenes on the day.

I have now written to the Cumbria County council Land Agent drawing his attention to the flood damage and the effect of the new drain.

Peter Jackson

COMMITTEE

Peter Wilkinson
Alistair Myers
Nick Green
Ray Hall – Treasurer
Sheila Barker – Membership Secretary
Peter Jackson – Chair

Contact details are at the end of this Newsletter.

NEWS ABOUT THE NORTH PENNINES HERITAGE TRUST ASSETS

The society has now purchased the smaller assets of the North Pennines Heritage Trust from the Administrator of that company. Included are the artefacts, historical records, archaeology site archive, mine wagons, education material, book stocks, and all domestic and household equipment and so on.

We have also asked the Administrator to transfer the freehold of the Brewery Shaft to the Society. More negotiations will be required. If agreed, the Society will need to set-up a charitable company limited by guarantee.

NMCS PROGRAMME 2013

Nenthead Mines Site Maintenance

On Sunday 19th May, we held a site maintenance day. Following the floods on AGM day, we spent most of the day clearing gravel which had been washed on to the ground to the north of the Assay House, clearing mud from the Barracks drains, digging diversionary drains on the track up the valley, and attaching gravel boards to the fence to try and prevent more damage.

The equal opportunities monitoring shows that 75% of the team were female. Rosemary Vidler, Joyce Jackson and Sheila Barker put in 12 hours of voluntary labour.

Don't be put off by the thought of hard physical asks. We can also offer much lighter work!

Site maintenance days are held on the 3rd Sunday of each month: 16th June, 21st July, 18th August, 15th September & 20th October.

Bring lunch. Tea & coffee provided. Meet 1000 in the car park.

More information from Sheila Barker email: sheila.barker@cybermoor.org.uk, or phone 01434 381903

MORE EVENTS

Smallcleugh Mine-off the Tourist Route

Sunday 2nd June 1030hrs

"Off the tourist route" - an underground trip to explore those places you normally march straight past. No SRT. Not unduly wet, wellies are fine but it can be a bit mucky so old clothes would be best.

The Leader is Nick Green, who can help with more information about this event.
Email: gnick44@aol.com.

Meet in the car park at Nenthead Mines.

Nenthead Mines Archaeology

14 July, 1045 – 1445hrs

Archaeology of the Nenthead Mines site by Matt Town, MA. This will be a guided walk of the key archaeology features of the site. Matt authored the report on the smelting mill excavations for English Heritage.

Meet in the Nenthead Mines car park.

History and Geology in Carrs Mine

28th July, 11th August, 18th August.

These trips will provide an Introduction to Nenthead mining history and geology via a visit into Carrs Mine. Designed for first time visitors. Details will be published on the website.

Heritage Open Days 2013

12th to 15th September.

The society will open parts of the site during this national event.

We need more volunteers for everything including guiding, welcoming, and tea making etc. If you can help, please contact Sheila Barker – details at the end of this Newsletter.

NEW IDEAS

Your committee is always looking for fresh ideas and alternative views. If you think that you might be able to contribute, please tell us about your opinions and ideas. The Society *contacts list* is at the end of this Newsletter.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

Chair: Peter Jackson, 41 Cranswick Close, Billingham, Stockton, TS23 3NH. Phone 01642564100.
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