



Forthcoming events

- Hidden Earth 2007: Tewkesbury School, Gloucestershire, 21-23 September. See <http://hidden-earth.org.uk/>
- A symposium entitled 'Mining Landscapes' Universal Values', hosted by the Colectivo Proyecto Arrayanes, will be held in Linares on December 1st, 2007. The event will coincide with the St Barbara's Day Fiesta. More information will be available at the AGM.
- A conference entitled 'The Preservation and Presentation of Mining Heritage' will be hosted by the Cornish members at Poldark Mine, Wendron, Cornwall, UK, in March 2008. A call for papers will be posted in the autumn bulletin.
- NAMHO annual conference: 'Mines and People: the Mining Industries of Scotland'. This will be held at the Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, 4-6 July 2008. Offers of papers to conference organizer: P.F.Claughton@ex.ac.uk

Inside this issue:

3rd AGM Itinerary, Czech Republic 7-11 September 2007	2
Copper Coast Geopark acquires Bunmahon Church	2
Duke of Cornwall Celebrates Cornish Mining Heritage, Contd.	3
Wheal Peevor removed from the Buildings at Risk Register	3
Welcome to new members	4
Cornish 'Apprentice' returns to Poldark Mine	4



The European Mining Heritage Network

Volume 1 issue 2

Summer 2007

Long Awaited Interpretation Centre Opens in Linares, Spain

A long awaited state of the art new mining heritage centre has recently opened its doors in Linares, Spain. Europamines' members will remember visiting the centre when it was under development in 2004.

Housed in an impressive former railway station, the new centre explores the following themes: the territory; the mining district; the city and the mines; mining works and miners; the singular heritage and the past, present and future of our mining heritage.

The centre boasts five exhibition rooms with one aisle level accommodated in 400 square metres of space and has 11 display screens with various items of information;

a twelve metre square model of the mining district with an interactive laser system that activates screens; eight models of various mining and technological elements; six show cases and four display cases housing minerals, artefacts, tools and documents; eight lit panels with documents and texts; a historical time line and exhibitor units.

Antonio Ángel Pérez, of the Colectivo Proyecto Arrayanes, hopes that the opening of the new centre will be a catalyst to promote a greater understanding of the economic role that mining heritage can play in the Linares La-Carolina district. A conference is planned for later this year. □

Antonio Ángel Pérez



Local students visiting the centre soon after its opening



State of the art laser operated model of the Linares-La Carolina Mining District

Duke of Cornwall Celebrates Cornish Mining Heritage

The presentation of the UNESCO World Heritage Site inscription certificate to His Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall, took place at Cotehele House on 10th May.

Dr Mechtild Rössler, World Heritage Centre Director of Operations for Europe and North America, addressed a gathering of VIPs, councillors and members of the World Heritage Site Bid Team past and present, during which she described the Site within Cornwall and west Devon as "...one of the great industrial landscapes of Europe."

She went on to stress the importance of protecting the inscribed landscapes for the future benefit of all mankind and underlined the necessity

to work in partnership to this end.

His Royal Highness then received the inscription certificate on behalf of the former World Heritage Site Bid Partnership which had dutifully steered the Nomination to its successful conclusion. During an insightful speech His Royal Highness commented that less than 200 years ago the area was a "...powerhouse of technological innovation and industrial progress and physical reminders of this period could be seen across the countryside of Cornwall and west Devon". Contd. p.3 ►

Right: Dr Mechtild Rössler presenting the inscription certificate to His Royal Highness



The Duke is greeted by Deborah Boden, World Heritage Site Co-ordinator (far left), Dr Mechtild Rössler, World Heritage Centre Director of Operations for Europe and North America, and Councillor Adam Paynter, Environment and Heritage Portfolio Holder



Check out Czech Mining Heritage at the third AGM!

The Third AGM of Europamines will be held in the Czech Republic, 7-11 September, hosted by the Czech Geological Survey

Mining in the Czech Republic has a long and illustrious history. Jáchymov (Joachimstal) is where Agricola based most of his observations for *De Re Metallica*.



Drkolnov Waterwheel

The city of Kutná Hora that developed as a result of the exploitation of the silver mines, was inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1995. In the fourteenth century it became a royal city endowed with monuments that symbolized its prosperity. We will be fortunate to visit this city as part of the AGM events.

Veronika Štědrá, who is kindly organising the AGM, has offered to arrange some pre-conference mining heritage trips (4-6 September) for those who would be interested.

ITINERARY

Friday Sept 7: Evening arrivals, small opening dinner, night at Prague

Saturday Sept 8: Morning, closed AGM meeting according to agenda at the CGS. Afternoon, Prague sightseeing plus underground visit to Kladno. Evening, closed AGM meeting, projects, finances at CGS. Night in Prague.

Sunday Sept 9: Transfer via Jílové and Nový Knín to Pribram. Closed/open AGM sessions at Pribram. Evening, Anna Mine, Mineralogical Museum, evening with miners from the Prokop Mining Club. Night at Pribram.

Monday Sept 10: Morning, Pribram Museum, Drkolnov/Vojtěch/Prokop mines and transfer to Kutná Hora. Lunch at Kutná Hora. Afternoon 14:00 public mining workshop at Kutná Hora. Evening, final meal at restaurant 'U Kata'. Night at Kutná Hora.

Tuesday Sept 11: Morning, Osel Medieval Mine and Kutná Hora World Heritage Site followed by lunch. Short afternoon session if necessary. Return to Prague and departures.



Top: Chamber in the Malesov Skarn Mine; Bottom: Nový Knín Gold Museum

Copper Coast Geopark acquires Knockmahon Church, Bunmahon

The Copper Coast Geopark has seen several actions reach fruition over the last few months under the Inter-Reg3B funded project.

This €1.7m project aims to assist in the sustainable development of an area of outstanding coastal scenic beauty which also contains a number of historic copper mines. The actions have been supported by two other Europamines' members (The Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland and the Geological Survey of Ire-

land) along with local government (Waterford County Council) and academia (Cork University). The 4 ½ year project has seen the establishment of a number of educational and commercial activities as well as the development of walks, signposts and interpretation boards. Work on the mining heritage includes the conservation of mine buildings at Tankardstown Mine and development of education and tourist resources throughout the site.

Recently the project has been

fortunate in getting the opportunity to purchase a disused church at Bunmahon in the centre of the Copper Coast. This church will be modified over the next 12 to 18 months to serve as a resource centre, office, heritage centre and refreshment provider for the Copper Coast Geopark.

Interpretation panels are now on display at the Tankardstown Mine, the geological garden and several sites along the coast. □

Dr Martin Critchley MHTI



Above: The disused Church at Bunmahon recently stripped of ivy. Formerly a nonconformist place of worship, the surrounding churchyard contains a few Cornish memorials—a legacy of the immigrant miners who came from Cornwall to Waterford to work in the copper mines in the C19th

Wheal Peevor removed from the Buildings at Risk Register

In July the internationally significant Wheal Peevor mine site at Radnor near Redruth was finally removed from the English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register following a period of extensive consolidation work undertaken by Kerrier District Council.

Since its last period of productive working in 1918 the mine's three Cornish-design engine houses, dating from the 1870s, had suffered the inevitable consequences of many years of roofless abandonment. Walls had deteriorated with the ingress of water causing destabilisation and mortar pointing had failed to varying degrees. Concerns for the site led to it being added to the Buildings at Risk Register and recently the local authority and partner agencies have striven to raise the necessary funds to undertake this much-needed work.

A total of £810,000 (c £1,192,000) has been spent not only in the consolidation of these features but to stabilise other important structures including two Brunton-pattern arsenic calciners. Grant funding was provided by a partnership of English Heritage (£61,750 [€90,809]), the South West

Regional Development Agency (£260,000 [€385,060]), and the UK Heritage Lottery Fund (£407,500 [€598,330]), with the remainder from the local authority. An extensive programme of access improvements has also been undertaken to enable the public to appreciate the site as never before.

To coincide with the completion of the consolidation work a guided walk was given on 5th August by Ainsley Cocks of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site team. The morning proved to be bright and sunny and the event was well attended with many wishing to learn of the site's significance both in local mining terms and to the World Heritage Site. Ainsley was joined by wildlife guide Rory Goodall who provided an interesting counterpoint covering the ecological diversity within the site and highlighting the many and various flora and fauna.

The historic importance of Wheal Peevor was first recognised in 1974 when the site with its outstanding assemblage of engine houses and ore dressing features was declared a Scheduled Monument, the highest level

of statutory protection which can be accorded in the UK. The engine houses were also given Listed Building status (Grade II) in 1989, and in July 2006, the area was included within the UNESCO World Heritage Site for Cornish Mining. □

For more about the Wheal Peevor project, please see: www.kerrier.gov.uk

Ainsley Cocks, Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Office.

Editor's Note: It is encouraging to see the consolidation and preservation of the mine engine houses and associated industrial structures at this important site. However, the creation of intrusive pathways (one constructed of concrete), the installation of a staircase leading to a metal platform in the pumping engine house that all but obscures the cylinder bedstone, and the unfortunate loss of underground access down a shaft that has been 'accidentally' choked with rubble during nearby 'landscaping', are cause for concern. One hopes that this expensive and largely unnecessary 'prettification' of our mining landscape is not a sign of things to come.



Above: Ainsley introducing the site and explaining the recent building consolidation work. The 70 inch cylinder pumping engine house can be seen to the rear. Image Sharron Schwartz 2007

"Wheal Peevor is an excellent example of an historic site that has had its future secured by partners working together. It is encouraging that so much good work is going on in the region to safeguard our built heritage..."

Andrew Vines, Regional Director of English Heritage



Above: The reconstructed pumping engine boiler house arch and 36 inch stamps engine house. Image Ainsley Cocks, Cornwall County Council 2007

Duke Celebrates Cornish Mining Heritage, Contd.

The Duke also added that the region had dominated the hard rock mining world for nearly 100 years and Cornish miners, engineers and technology "...came to represent everything that was dynamic and innovative in the early days of the industrial revolution." Councillor Adam Paynter, Chairman of the former World Heritage Site Bid Partnership and Environment and Heritage Portfolio Holder, concluded proceedings with a presentation to the Duke of a handsomely framed photograph of the Prince of Wales Shaft, Phoenix United Mine, as a memento of the day. □



Prior to the presentation, His Royal Highness was shown a consolidated engine house at Holmbush Mine in the company of Nicholas Johnson, Historic Environment Service Manager (right) and Chris Hariades, Environmental Programmes Project Development Officer (centre)

Exchange Visit

The Cornish members of Europamines were pleased to welcome Veronika Štědrá and her daughter to Cornwall in July. Hosted by Chris Halls, a former Royal School of Mines Lecturer, Veronika had time to tour some of the Cornish Mining WHS. In addition to Geevor Tin Mine, she visited the Blue Hills Tin Streaming Works with Sharron Schwartz where she ably demonstrated her panning skills! An afternoon was spent at Poldark Mine, which included an underground trip with Richard Williams, who kindly organised a superb dinner at which Europamines' members Ainsley Cocks, Kevin Baker, Sharron Schwartz and Marta Szumska were also present.



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NEW PUBLICATIONS



Congratulations are long overdue to Des Cowman, for his excellent book on the copper mining industry of the Bunmahon area of Co. Waterford.

Entitled *The making and breaking of a mining community: the Copper Coast, County Waterford, 1825-1875+*, the 200 pages of the book cover the social history and anecdotes about the mining community in Bunmahon during the 19th Century. The fully referenced work is lavishly illustrated with archive material and reconstruction drawings and is aimed for a general readership. A highly recommended read.

Congratulations also to the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland for their input into the production of a DVD entitled *The Life and Times of Glendalough Mines* in association with the Glendalough Mining Heritage Project. It features Martin Critchley, MHTI Chairman, who discusses the lead mineralisation of this area of the Wicklow Mountains. More about the activities of the Trust, including events for Heritage Week, at: www.glendaloughmines.com/

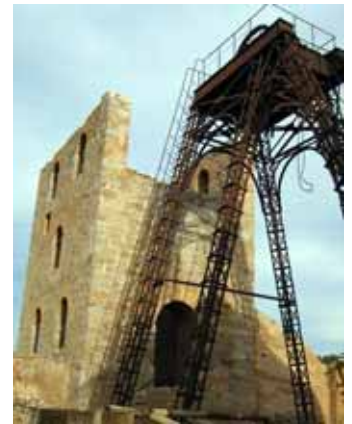
Welcome to New Members

Europamines is pleased to welcome the Fundación Sierra Minera, Cartagena, Spain, as probationary members of our Network.

Some Europamines members were fortunate to visit the incredible mining landscape around Cartagena-La Unión last spring when the Fundación Sierra Minera hosted a conference on mining heritage, the restoration of land contaminated by mining and sustainable tourism initiatives.

We were shown the newly opened Las Matildes Interpretation Centre, a series of signed trails, the polluted Portmán Bay area, and the Mina Blanca Cornish-design engine house. We warmly welcome our new friends from the Fundación to our Network and look forward to meeting them at our AGM.

For more information visit their website at: www.fundacionssierraminera.org/proyectos/minamatilde/index.html



The iconic head frame at the Mina Blanca engine house

Cornish 'Apprentice' returns to mark mining heritage event

Naomi Lay, the Cornish celebrity from this year's hit BBC series, *The Apprentice*, will be returning to Wendron, her home village, on Sunday 26th August to officiate as the last commercially operating Cornish beam pumping engine in Cornwall is given a new lease of life.

The Apprentice actor has been invited to start the restored Poldark Beam Engine which is to return to commercial action for the first time in 50 years by pumping water at Poldark Mine, Wendron.

The Poldark Engine started life at the Bunny Tin Mine near St Austell and was then moved to the Greensplat China Clay Pit in 1894 where it worked until 1959 pumping water out of the pits. The Poldark Engine was the last Cornish Beam Pumping engine to have worked commercially in Cornwall.

Poldark Mine inherited the Cornish Beam Engine in 1974. After 80 years of service it was no surprise that the engine was prone to problems but the Poldark team kept the engine "operating" until 2006 using compressed air. This summer, the engine has undergone further refurbishment by the Poldark team consisting of Chris Fletcher, Percy Rawlings, Rod Brown and Rod Thomas.

This 'dream team' have not only carried out repairs but they have also converted the engine to operate by hydraulics, attaching a pump in a flooded shaft in the mine, making the Poldark Beam Engine the only beam engine in Cornwall to be operated by hydraulics and the only working pump engine in the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site.

Naomi Lay will be introduced by Redruth's Town Crier, Alan Jewell, and will start the engine at 11am on Sunday 26th August. Naomi used to work at Poldark Mine during her school holidays and her father Stephen Lay, an international mining consultant, has been an important supporter of the Poldark Mine. Stephen has shared his passion for mining with his daughter who has travelled with him to Africa and Russia on mining trips.

During the day members of the Cornwall Mine Rescue group will be demonstrating their skills, with opportunities for members of the public to take part. □

Richard Williams, Managing Director, Poldark Mine

Above right: the Poldark 'Dream Team' in front of the Greensplat Engine

Bottom right: fixing the pump in the flooded mine shaft



"I'm thrilled to be coming home and feel privileged to be asked to be associated with this important event. Poldark Mine does a fantastic job of making the public aware of our mining heritage and its important role in the county and how it and the Cornish have influenced cultures throughout the world."

Naomi Lay, actor



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