The European Mining Heritage Network

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Forthcoming events

- NAMHO 2007 ‘Pennies to Pesticides: mineral exploitation in the Tamar Valley through eight centuries’, 15-17th June 2007 at Morwellham Quay near Tavistock, Devon, UK. Europamines will have a publicity stand at this event.

- Europamines’ 2007 AGM will be held in the Czech Republic in September, hosted by the Czech Geological Survey. An exciting itinerary including field trips to various mining heritage venues and a seminar covering the mining history of Czechia and Slovakia are planned. More details to follow in the summer bulletin.

- A conference entitled ‘The Preservation and Presentation of Mining Heritage’ will be hosted by the Cornish members at Poldark Mine, Wen- dron, Cornwall, UK, in March 2008. A call for papers will be posted in the autumn bulletin.

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The future looks green for mining heritage in the Emerald Isle

Congratulations to partner organisations, the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland and the Geological Survey of Ireland, on the successful funding of the Green Mines Project. Financed by the Inter-Reg3B (Atlantic Region) programme of the European Union, the project will run for 18 months until June 2008, and brings together partners from Spain (The County Council of Huelva - Lead Partner); Portugal (Regional Development Agency of Alentejo); Ireland (the Geological Survey of Ireland, the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland and Tipperary County Council) and the UK (Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and Cadwyn Clywd Rural Develop- ment Agency).

The general aim of the project is to favour environmental recovery and sustainable management of natural resources and socio-economic activities in areas damaged by mining activity in the European Atlantic Area. This aim is structured into four objectives:

1) To assess the mining resources both from the point of view of plants and of their geological value - mining and environmental;
2) To improve the rehabilitation methods for ecosystems harmed by mining activity;
3) To promote the socio-economic progress of municipalities whose spaces have been damaged and/or polluted by mining;

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Britian, as the former ‘Workshop of the World,’ has undoubtedly got some of the finest industrial heritage attractions in Europe. Our Polish friends came over to Britain to learn more about how we conserve, interpret, present and valorise our mining heritage as they seek support to develop the former Julia Colliery into a top mining heritage attraction for Lower Silesia.

Over the past 18 months a number of exchange visits have been conducted between the Cornish and Polish members of Europamines. The fifth such visit occurred on 1-7 February when Professor Marek Lorenz of the Institute of Landscape Architecture, Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences, and Andrzej Winnicki the former Director of the Julia Colliery, Walbrzych, Lower Silesia, Poland, came to Cornwall to begin a fact finding mission about UK mining heritage sites. They were hosted by Dr Sharron P. Schwartz of the University of Exeter, Ainsley Cocks of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site (WHS) Office, and Kevin Baker of King Edward Mine. Joining the tour was Kelvin Lake of the Shropshire Caving and Mining Club.

The tour began at Geevor Tin Mine, Pendeen, one of three potential key gateway sites for the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site. Bill Lakin, Chair of Pendeen Community Heritage, explained the exciting plans for Geevor following a £3.8 million capital grant that will enable the consultants, Gendall’s of Falmouth, to deliver a completely new museum devoted to hard rock mining within the former Top Fitting Shop of the mine. Geevor’s strength lies in its democratic engagement with the local community, a thing Andrzej noted needed to occur at Walbrzych. Afterwards the group travelled along the coast to the former Botallack Mine.

Above: The group pose for the camera with Bill Lakin, Chair of Pendeen Community Heritage, at the Victory Shaft of Geevor Tin Mine, Cornwall
Below: Ivor Brown conducts the group around Caphouse Wakefield, the National Coal Mining Museum for England
Here they viewed the iconic engine houses of the Crowns Section that cling precariously to the Atlantic cliff face and which have been consolidated by the Carn Brea Mining Society. The following day the group travelled to Big Pit, the National Coal Mining Museum for Wales where they were met by Director, Peter Walker and curator, Ceri Thompson. Big Pit is a part of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape WHS and is a free entry venue offering a superb underground experience and access to many important buildings including the miners’ dry and canteen. The site makes innovative use of audio visual devices delivering an exciting visitor experience and the interpretation centre handles the Thatcher year of pit closures particularly effectively by allowing the visitor to draw their own conclusion about this era of industrial history. The afternoon was spent with John Rodger of Torfaen Borough County Council who gave a presentation about the socio-economic benefits of WHS inscription and work undertaken to aid sustainable tourism initiatives in the Blaenavon area. John kindly escorted the group around Blaenavon town centre to see what has been achieved in terms of community regeneration.

From Wales the group travelled to Wakefield in Yorkshire to visit Caphouse, the National Coal Mining Museum for England, where they were met by Iavor Brown who was instrumental in the early years of Caphouse’s development as a mining museum. Another free entry site, Caphouse has a large interpretation centre, an extensive suite of colliery buildings, including a Cornish-design engine house, and an impressive underground experience that illustrates various bits of mining machinery at an exposed coal face particularly effectively. Iavor outlined some of the technical problems that Caphouse had to overcome in order to open its doors to the public. At Snibston Discovery Centre in Leicestershire the party was met by Fred Hartley and escorted around the former colliery which was developed making use of a derelict land grant in the late 1980s. Snibston is not devoted entirely to mining and offers no underground access. An eclectic mixture of artefacts and exhibits ranging from costumes through the ages to steam engines are on display. Snibston has adopted a hands on approach to learning allowing children to discover through play a wide range of basic laws of science. The colliery buildings however, are in urgent need of conservation and access to them at the time of our visit was not possible due to health and safety concerns.

The group then travelled south to Somerset to visit the excellent Radstock Mining Museum. Richard Maggs and former miner Bryn Hawkins conducted the group through the museum and a very useful conversation about democratic engagement and consultation with the local community to ensure success for a venture such as the Julia Colliery ensued. Back in Cornwall the party, with Kingsley Rickard of the Trevithick Society, visited the 80-inch single acting steam engine at Robinson’s Shaft, South Crofty Mine. This engine will be restored and run under compressed air as part of the new Heartlands mining heritage centre. The group then went to King Edward Mine to meet Tony Brooks who talked about the importance of the conservation of rare mining equipment. Andrzej learnt many things of relevance for developing a major mining heritage venue and will take home numerous ideas that will inform future plans for the Julia Colliery.

Our Spanish colleagues, the Colectivo Proyecto Arraneyas, have been actively involved in the development of an important new mining landscape interpretation centre soon to be opened in Linares, Spain. This centre aims to attract visitors to the former lead mining city of Linares in Andalucia, Spain. This centre assumes a greater significance now that the Linares-La Carolina mining area has officially begun the process of application for inscription on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites for its outstanding relict mining landscape, consisting of scores of Cornish- design engine houses and mining remains dating from pre-Roman times. The Colectivo have been campaigning for years to preserve, valorise and interpret this landscape, something that has taken on added urgency in light of recent quarrelling exploitation of spoil heaps in the area that threaten important mining structures. The Colectivo have also been collaborating with the Linares Town Council and the regional mining authorities to make safe some of the deepest and most dangerous shafts and subsidences close to a network of signposted paths and roads that they have been instrumental in developing in recent years.

The Colectivo will be participating in a talk and guided visit about mining and the railways in the Linares-La Carolina District organised by the Education Council Junta de Andalucia in Jaén in April, and an itinerant exhibition about mining in the district will be shown in the towns of Carboneros, Santa Elena and Vilches. Research is ongoing, and a book entitled The Mining Province of Jaén is being produced with the Universities of Granada and Jaén.

Above: The ‘Coal Tour Group’ with Peter Walker at Big Pit, the National Mining Museum of Wales, Blaenavon World Heritage Site

‘I fully agree that looking at mining heritage in its wide social, cultural and environmental aspect is a crucial point. It would be very good to transfer such a way of interpretation to individual Polish mining museums, and to Walbrzych in particular.’
Andrzej Winnicki

Above: The group at Snibston Discovery Centre with Fred Hartley of Leicestershire County Council

Mining Landscape Interpretation Centre soon to be opened in Linares, Spain

Above: La Tortilla Mine, Linares, Spain

Antonio Ángel Perez
(Colectivo Proyecto Arraneyas)
Not just any coalmine ...the Julia Colliery, Poland

When Europamines member, Kevin Baker of King Edward Mine, Cornwall, visited the Julia Colliery near Wałbrzych, Lower Silesia in Poland in September 2006, he was moved to claim: this is not just any mining museum, it could be Poland’s leading coal mining museum with international recognition.

Indeed, the Julia Colliery, the oldest preserved coal industry working in Lower Silesia which closed in 1996, is architecturally, technologically and historically eminently worthy of preservation. The rare 25-metre-high Malakof type towers, erected in 1867-1869 above both shafts, on top of which in 1893 and 1903 steel head frames and winding equipment were introduced, are two of only three such structures left in Europe, the other being in the Prosper-Haniel (shaft no. 2) colliery in Germany.

The electrically driven winding engines, introduced in 1911 and 1912 at the Julia Shaft and the Sobotka Shaft respectively, of the Koepe-5000 type and the BB-4050 type manufactured at the Donnersmarck Metallurgical Works in Zabrze and the Siemens-Schuckert-Werke in Berlin, are among the first such engines to be commissioned in Europe. Moreover, they are in perfect working condition and are therefore very rare in European mining.

Additionally, the large-scale coal processing plant, decommissioned in 2000, is the only complete preserved mechanical coke-processing plant in Europe, dating from the beginning of the 20th century with a full technological profile. It clearly demonstrates the process for the sorting, cleaning, and flotation of coal and contains several pieces of unique machinery and equipment.

The machine shop (erected in 1870) containing a smithy, mill, turnery and equipment required for repairing mining machinery, including the Rosenberg frontal scissors (1915); vertical lathe (1920), and Patter-Lauterbach slotter (1922) are very important because of their technological and educational value.

Also very impressive is the Fox Adit, hewn in the C18th and officially registered in a state list of monuments in 1961. This adit is believed to be the only accessible example in a European colliery along which coal was transported by boats, something that was technologically innovative at the time. The workings accessible above adit level, some 1100m in extent, offer exciting opportunities for the creation of an underground experience.

The entire architectonic-industrial complex of the Julia Colliery, comprising 22 buildings, is a unique site worldwide. It is suggested that the complex be protected as an industrial heritage site, representative of Lower Silesian industrial architecture of 1850-1928, which also corresponds with the classicistic-Renaissance Berlin school of architecture dating from the turn of the 20th century.

Europamines, through the dedicated efforts of Professor Marek Lorenz, will be supporting the development plans for the colliery. Marek will be attending a meeting with the Wałbrzych Cultural Council along with former Mine Director, Andrzej Winnicki, in April to raise awareness of the tourism potential of the site. A letter of support from Europamines will be sent to the authorities in Wałbrzych.

**Dr Sharron P. Schwartz**

Above: The distinctive Malakof towers of the Julia Colliery.

Above: The well-preserved No. 2 winder at the Julia Colliery, Wałbrzych, Lower Silesia, Poland

Above: ERIH delegates enjoying a guided walk led by Christine Kerrin around Saltaire World Heritage Site, Yorkshire, one of ERIH’s new anchor points

**The mine is in desperate need of preservation and saving. We need to help this project.**

Kevin Baker

Talks begin with ERIH

Following a meeting with John Rodger of Torfaen Borough Council during the Cornish-Polish exchange visit, Europamines was invited to attend the UK partners’ meeting of the European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) that was held at Saltaire, Yorkshire, on 27-28 March.

Europamines was represented by Dr Sharron P. Schwartz and Ainsley Cocks from Cornwall; Dr Schwartz gave a PowerPoint presentation about the development of Europamines from the MINET project of the late 1990s to the emergence of Europamines Ltd., the European Mining Heritage Network.

The ERIH is a European funded project aimed at the promotion of industrial heritage and culture through the networking of existing sites, with appropriate interpretation, information and signposting to enhance their tourism potential.

The ERIH partnership intends to develop a series of transnational and regional routes which will cover seven themes: mining; iron and steel; textiles; production and machinery; application of power; water and transport and communication. Europamines has considerable experience in setting up and managing a pan European mining heritage Network and ERIH wish to hold further talks about possible future methods of collaboration to avoid duplication of effort.

Dr Schwartz will attend the Transnational Partners meeting of ERIH at Ironbridge, Telford, 18-20 April to learn more about ERIH and what form such collaboration might take.

For more information on ERIH see their website: [www.erih.net](http://www.erih.net)
The man from Real del Monte says YES!

Talks are under way with the local authorities in the Mexican state of Hidalgo for a re-enactment of a unique piece of history that connects the silver mining settlements of Real del Monte and Pachuca to the copper and tin mining towns of Camborne and Redruth in Cornwall.

Due to the efforts of Europamines’ member, Richard Williams, Managing Director of Poldark Mine in Cornwall, the Minister of State for Hidalgo had given the go ahead to recreate the ‘great trek’ of the transport party. The epic journey that took over a year to complete in 1825-6, saw the arrival of a group of Cornish mineworkers and many tons of mining equipment, including steam engines to unwater the flooded silver mines, to the shores of Mexico, but the party met with many obstacles.

It took a year to reach the silver mines of Real del Monte at huge loss of life to the Cornish immigrant mineworkers and their Mexican helpers through accident and disease.

A group of members from the Cornish Mexican Cultural Society aim to recreate symbolic parts of the route of this trek from the coast near Vera Cruz and plan to arrive at Real del Monte during the annual Miners’ Festival in July 2008. The Cornish influence in Hidalgo is strong and pasties are still eaten there.

Europamines will endorse the re-enactment as an important example of the global diffusion of European mining skills and technologies.

The future looks green... Continued from p.1

4) To define strategies for the construction of a community heritage which on a local level will compensate for the negative effects of mining.

These aims will be put into practice along four lines of action: Valuation of the environmental mining heritage; Promotion of the recovery of the natural environment damaged by mining; Momentum for the sustainable development of communities which once depended on the monoculture of mining and the development of plans contingent on mining to minimise its adverse environmental repercussions.

The Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland (MHTI) is actively supporting the development of mining heritage at a number of sites throughout Ireland. In addition to supporting the Copper Coast Geopark (Co. Waterford), the MHTI has provided technical expertise to local initiatives at Avoca and Glendalough, both in Co. Wicklow.

A three year (2006-2008) InterReg3A project based on Avoca (Ireland) and Parys Mountain (Wales, UK) brings together partners in Ireland (MHTI, Geological Survey of Ireland, Wicklow County Council, Vale of Avoca Development Association and Eastern Regional Fisheries Board) with partners in Wales (Amlwch Industrial Heritage Trust, Environment Agency Wales, Anglesey County Council).

The project has three main aims. Firstly, the testing of the treatment of acid mine drainage (AMD) using pilot active treatment plants at both sites. Secondly, the development of walking routes, signs and publications. Thirdly, exchange educational, technical and scientific meetings.

To date the pilot AMD treatments tests have been completed and the results will be published soon. Currently, walking routes and signage are being put in place at both sites. A part-time coordinator (Aidan Doyle from Newcastle University) has been engaged at Avoca and a full-time manager (Neil Johnstone at Parys Mountain).

At Glendalough, the MHTI is working with the support of an 18 month extension (until end of June 2008) to the InterReg3B project between Ireland, UK and Germany. Conservation works at Tankardstown Mine are now complete. Interpretation boards and local and regional signage are being installed in time for the summer 2007 tourist season. A local office and bistro has been established and it is hoped to secure a permanent facility in the form of an old church over the next few months.

Visit our website: www.europamines.com