RECENT TALKS AND LECTURES

3D Images A First for the Mining Institute
Fuelling the Future

This was the title of the lecture given by Paul Wood. Paul started by outlining the need to establish our fuel resources. This is necessary due to the growth in world population and hence the increase in fuel usage.

He illustrated the use of primitive early wells as a means of locating Fuels (coal, oil, gas, etc.) and Geological Surveys. These older methods were now being replaced by the use of Seismic Surveys in conjunction with satellite maps and areomag images.

The Seismic Images are obtained using air guns to shoot air into the earth and record the pulses coming back. The method can be likened to the system used for recording foetal images but uses different frequencies. In the case of oceanographic surveys the guns are towed behind vessels traversing the exploration area. In some case as many as 20 lines can be towed by one vessel. This enables 3D images to be produced with the latest technology 4D images can be obtained the fourth dimension being time.

At this point we were asked to put on the 3D spectacles, we had been issued with as we entered the lecture theatre, and were shown a number of slides giving 3D survey images. One of the most impressive was a slide of a ‘mud volcano’ which enabled you to look inside the volcano.

This new technology enables exploratory drilling to be carried out far more accurately than in the past.

This was a very interesting lecture illustrated by numerous slides.

During questions Paul indicated that coal was still the major source of fuel but the surveys did not address the difficulty of access.

In his vote of thanks Rick Smith stated he had first- hand knowledge of working with Paul with this type of survey to establish potash deposits/resources.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Social Occasions

13th April 2012: President’s Informal Dinner.
(Details on rear cover.)

11th May 2012: Annual Golf Competition.

20th October 2012: Presidents Annual Dinner.

General Meetings – Talks open to the public

Thursday 19th April
“Shale Gas”
Professor Stuart Monro, Edinburgh University

Thursday 17th May
Felling Colliery Disaster Marking the Bi-Centenary of the Disaster of 25th May 2012
Dr. Eric Wade, FNEIMME.

Annual General Meeting
18th October 2012: followed by the Presidential Address.
NEW HARTLEY COLLIERY DISASTER OF 16TH JANUARY 1862

This excellent paper by Fellow of the Institute Norman Jackson drew a capacity audience on 26th January, 150 years since the recovery of the last body from the pit.

When the main pumping beam snapped a total of 204 men and boys lost their lives in this disaster wiping out nearly all the male population of the village of Hartley. This disaster left 103 widows and 207 fatherless children the three youngest victims being only 10 years old, with many other boys and teenagers losing their lives.

The high number of deaths occurred when both shifts handed over underground, so twice the number of men were in the mine.

The rescue of the miners was hindered by there only being one shaft and the rescue team being hampered by the accumulation of poisonous gas.

This disaster was instrumental in an act being introduced not allowing any mine to operate without at least two shafts, which must be separated by at least 10 feet of strata.

The disaster brought messages of sympathy from Queen Victoria, who donated £200 to the disaster fund and the Duke of Northumberland who donated £300.

An estimated 60,000 people watched the funeral with the last hearse leaving Hartley after the first one arrived at the church over three miles away.

Norman’s paper was illustrated by numerous slides of items from the various archives of the disaster.

Norman is to be congratulated on his paper being selected to be read at the International Mining History Congress being held this year in South Africa.

BOOK LAUNCH: STILL THE SEA ROLLS ON – Compiled by Keith Armstrong and Peter Dixon. A commemoration in words and images to mark the 150 anniversary of the Hartley Pit Disaster.

The launch of this new commemoration of the New Hartley Hester Pit tragedy was held on the same evening as Norman Jackson’s paper. A selection of readings was given and was accompanied by music provided by The Saw Doctors, Garry Miller of the ‘The Whiskey Priests’, together with Northumbrian Piper, Chris Ormston who among other pieces played his own highly acclaimed composition “Lament for Hartley”.

The book is a collection of poems, stories, photographs and drawings by local people depicting events and memories of the Hartley Pit Disaster. This was another fitting event in memory of the largest regional mining disaster. The publication has been funded by North Tyneside Council as part of a series of events marking the tragedy’s 150th anniversary. Many successful events helped commemorate those who lost their lives; some remain, including the commissioning of a new stained glass window in Earsdon Churchyard.

Packed with poems, stories, drawings and photographs by local people alongside historic documents and images, the book is compiled by the Northern Voices Community Project. Copies of the book are available from the Library priced at £7.99
The hugely popular Late Shows return to Newcastle & Gateshead again on the 18 & 19 May, thanks to funding from the Arts Council England.

As in previous years, the events will run in the Ouseburn area on Friday 18th May and throughout the City & Gateshead on Saturday 19th May from 7-11pm.

The Mining Institute is again taking part and will feature two new site specific exhibitions this year. Sculptural installations and artwork by contemporary artists will appear throughout the Mining Institute.

Sculptures by Mair Hughes and Bridget Kennedy respond to the decor and symbolism of the building, exploring the iconography of geological resources. This will occupy the Library and Lecture Theatre.

'Dawn Felicia Knox’s The Felling is visual memorial for the 1812 Felling Colliery Disaster which contrasts archival and newly made images projected onto sculptures constructed from salvaged materials.' This exhibition will fill the light well.

Both exhibitions can be previewed by Members at the General Meeting on Thursday 17 May.

We anticipate an even greater number of visitors this year; if you can help with the evening, please contact Simon at the Library.

These exhibitions are presented as part of The Late Shows 2012. More information about this spectacular weekend of events can be found at www.thelateshows.org.uk or on www.mininginstitute.org.uk

The Late Shows marks the international event ‘Museums at Night’, which takes place across Europe. For further information visit www.culture24.org.uk/museumsatnight

**FELLING PIT DISASTER BI-CENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS**

The Felling Activity Project Group has invited the President and members of the Institute to join with them at a number of bi-centenary events to commemorate the Felling Pit disaster of 25 May 1812.

The preliminary list of events is:

**Thursday 24 May:**
A commemoration service in St. Mary’s Church, Heworth (time to be announced)

**Friday 25 May:**
10am: Unveiling of a Blue Plaque adjacent to the memorial at Heworth Church.
10:30am: Commencement of a heritage walk and parade led by Felling Band and Banners from Heworth to the Felling Pit entrance on Mulberry Street.
12 Noon: Unveiling a 2nd Blue Plaque on Mulberry Street. Viewing of the newly created Felling Pit Banner & Carlisle Street Bridge murals. Brandling Primary School adjacent Felling Metro Station. Buffet luncheon until 2pm.
2:00pm: Brandling Primary School children present their Felling Pit Disaster production in the school hall.
Exhibition of photographs and artifacts in Christ Church, Carlisle Street.
6:00pm approx: Service in Christ Church with Felling Pit Banner and Felling Male Voice Choir and Felling Band.

Members interested in attending please let the office know by e-mail or telephone by 12 April so numbers can be advised to the organizers for the luncheon.

**TRAINING THE COMMUNITY ON ICT**

If you want to learn how to use a computer or improve your skills, come along at any time during the week (Monday-Friday 10am-5pm). If you can spare an hour to help someone to learn, please come along and donate some time to help someone else. We can also train you to become a trainer. If you have spare time and want to help people learn about computers, we can send you on an accredited training course with a grant from UK Online.
JOSEPH SKIPSEY THE MINER'S POET CELEBRATED AT THE MINING INSTITUTE

The 180th anniversary of Joseph Skipsey’s birth was celebrated in words and song at the Mining Institute on Saturday evening 17th March.

Skipsey shot to fame with his poem dedicated to the victims of the Hartley Mining disaster in 1862. He became known as the miner’s poet and worked for many years as a miner.

Skipsey was self educated, he taught himself to read and write. He became best known for poems reflecting the miner’s life and toil. He received critical acclaim for his work from Rosetti, Oscar Wilde and Spence Watson amongst many others.

Obtaining work at Hawks, Crawshay & Sons in Gateshead, he suffered the tragedy of losing a child in an accident at the works. Later moving to the Lit & Phil in a brief foray as a librarian, he was appointed custodian of Shakespeare’s birthplace at Stratford upon Avon on the recommendation of Burne-Jones, Tennyson, Rossetti, Bram Stoker and other eminent men. He resigned two years later, and the episode prompted Henry James to write his story 'The Birthplace'. Skipsey returned north and died at Harraton in 1903.

The celebration of Skipsey’s birthday included readings from Skipsey’s poetry and an account of his life featuring performances by Keith Armstrong and others. Descendant Chris Harrison sang some of Skipsey’s songs; the Sawdust Jacks and pipe player Chris Ormston also provided a great feast of music to celebrate the Poet’s birthday.

This poem Rossetti considered the equal of anything in the language for quietly direct pathos.

'Get up!' the caller calls, 'Get up!' And in the dead of night, To win the bairns their bite and sup, I rise a weary wight. My flannel duddon donn'd, thrice o'er My birds are kiss'd, and then I with a whistle shut the door I may not ope again.

DIGITISATION & COLLECTION CONSERVATION PROJECT

The Institute’s three year digitisation & collection conservation project has received several huge boosts in recent weeks and the target of £10,000 has already been smashed.

Cash donations have been received from private donors totalling around £3,000 and with a clever approach to managing these restricted donations, materials worth around a further £4,000 towards the project are expected to be made available in the next few days.

Donations received towards the Project include equipment worth £40,000 if it were bought new including servers and tape back-up devices donated by the Police Federation.

We have also received the generous donation of an additional data projector from our very kind sponsors at Learning Tree International.

To support this project, we have now added a new colour A4 fast laser printer and have acquired an A2 printer to our ICT resources.

We are now applying for funds towards at least one new A3 scanner although two may be required.

Funds will also provide additional conservation materials for the collection, including the photography, negatives and slides.

LOCAL PEOPLE GET A SNAP SHOT OF THE PAST AT A SPECIAL MINING INSTITUTE EVENT

The Mining Institute invited people from Newcastle and the Region to join them for a special event, inspired by the BBC series, Britain’s First Photo Album. 300 people visited the Institute over the weekend prompted by excellent coverage in the Newcastle Journal, Chronicle and the BBC programme.

The series, presented by John Sergeant, aired on BBC Two in March, as a ten part series focussing on the extraordinary achievement of Francis Frith, the pioneer Victorian photographer, who
embarked upon a colossal project to photograph the UK during the 19th Century.

Frith’s photographs are still regarded as one of the first and most comprehensive pictorial records of the UK, providing an evocative record of our shared history and an amazing insight into the social landscape of Britain.

The Mining Institute and the North East Photographic Network (NEPN) held a very special event on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 March from 10am – 4pm, which enabled people from across the region to bring their own old photos, delve into their local history and learn more about photography past and present.

Karen Gregory, Executive Producer for BBC Learning, said: “It’s great that organisations across the UK are getting involved in hosting their own events to tie in with the Britain’s First Photo Album series. It’s the perfect opportunity for viewers to find out more about their own local history in a fun and hands-on way.”

As well as people bringing in old photos that we helped identify, there were experts on hand to tell people how to care for their precious photos. People were able to see some of our collection of 50,000 photographic images, an exhibition of some very old photos of Newcastle that have just come to light and some recent donations to our own unique collection from around the world, as well as Gustav Eiffel’s own photo book showing his tower in Paris being built. We showed people how to digitise their prints and store them safely online as well as care for their negatives and prints and how to use them and have some fun rather than just let them gather dust in the attic. On Sunday, for Mother’s Day, we had a Victorian photographic studio and a chance for young people to make their own pinhole cameras from old tins and boxes. All the activities including scanning, prints and discs were free thanks to the support of NEPN and the BBC. Our great thanks is due to all who helped make this a successful event, especially volunteers and colleagues from NEPN and the University of Sunderland.”

To find out more about Britain’s First Photo Album please visit bbc.co.uk/photoalbum

WAITING AT THE PIT HEAD

As part of its community engagement work, the Institute has again teamed up with the St James Heritage & Environment Group. The Institute has produced, with its partner, a new leaflet about a number of local pit disasters designed for local people interested in history and for schools. More about our joint work appears on the next page.

Copies of this leaflet are available from the Library. If you know of a local group that would like copies, please let Simon know. We can also offer talks about a number of pit disasters to interested local groups.
DOWN THE PIT AND UP THE HALL

In another project aimed at working with local communities, the Institute again teamed up with the St. James’ Heritage and Environment Group to encourage people from Benwell and Scotswood to learn more about their heritage.

Funded through Make Your Mark, the programme this year encourages people to design an exhibition based around the Montagu Pit disaster.

The project has already engaged around 100 people in the Benwell and Scotswood, fifty of whom packed a coach to visit Seaton Delaval Hall and then joined with 12 local people from North Tyneside and 15 from New Hartley at the New Hartley Community Association Hall to discover how people there had commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Hester Pit disaster.

Following a tour with Les Turnbull on the outward journey, Eric Wade gave a brief talk about the tragic events 150 years ago followed by Keith Armstrong and colleagues from Northern Community Voices reading a selection of prose and poetry from their commemoration booklet.

Each of the 38 victims of the Montagu disaster was remembered by name and a candle lit in their memory at St Margaret’s Church, Scotswood in a moving service.

The party returned to Scotswood’s St. Margaret’s Church to be joined by a further 50 people and local Councillor Hazel Stephenson for a moving service marking the tragedy at Montagu Pit. The victims’ names were each read out, every miner remembered with a candle placed on the altar by a representative from the groups taking part.

Members of the North Tyneside group studying the New Hartley calamity also visited the Mining Institute to study the resources here about the Hester Pit tragedy. A group from Scotswood and Benwell is due to visit soon to prepare a new exhibition about the Montagu disaster.

Special thanks are due to the New Hartley Community Association for their splendid hospitality and for putting up the exhibition and displays. The new Hester Pit banners looked splendid in the Hall together with the lovingly made cross stitch panels displayed naming the 204 men and boys who lost their lives.

DONATIONS - TAX REPAYMENT TO CHARITY

Would you like to give your tax repayment to our charity? If so you can complete form SA100 Charity 2011 from the HMRC web-site at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/forms/sa100-charity.pdf

To donate to the Mining Institute use charity code SA A5 7J G in the boxes at question 5 and HMRC will automatically pay the refund to the Institute under the SA Donate scheme.

Claiming back higher rate tax. If you pay higher rate tax, you can claim the difference between the higher rate of tax 40 and/or 50 per cent and the basic rate of tax 20 per cent on the total ‘gross’ value of your donation to the charity or community amateur sports club. You can make this claim on your Self Assessment tax return, if you were sent one. For more information see HMRC’s web-site: ‘Telling HMRC about your Gift Aid donations’.
**THE NORTH OF ENGLAND INSTITUTE OF MINING AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS**

The North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers, Neville Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1SE. Tel: 0191 232 2201. office@mininginstitute.org.uk

Founded 1852, Incorporated by Royal Charter 1876. Charity No: 220208.

---

**PRESIDENT’S INFORMAL DINNER**

**FRIDAY 13th APRIL 2012**

**WOOD MEMORIAL LIBRARY & COUNTY THISTLE HOTEL**

Times: 6:45pm Sherry reception Wood Memorial Hall
7:30pm County Hotel for Dinner
9:30pm Loyal Toast
10:30pm Carriages

---

### To Start

---

- Chilled seasonal melon, berry compote, fruit coulis. (1)
- Smoked Mackerel pate, tomato salad, toasted ciabatta. (2)

### Your choice of soup:

- Carrot and almond (3)
- Tomato and tarragon (4)
- Vegetable broth (5)
- French onion (6)
- Fish chowder (7)
- Cream of garlic (8)
- Mushroom (9)
- Leek & potato (10)
- Minestrone (11)
- Celery and stilton (12)
- Tomato, artichoke and basil (13)

### Main course

---

- Supreme of chicken, white wine cream & mushroom sauce (1)
- Herb crusted cod fillet, watercress sauce. (2)
- Mediterranean vegetable & goats cheese parcel, tomato & basil sauce. (3)

---

*All main courses served with seasonal vegetables*

---

### Dessert

---

- Warm treacle tart, caramelised apple, vanilla cream. (1)
- Vanilla cheesecake, forest berries, mango coulis, chantilly cream. (2)
- Poached pear in red wine, vanilla ice cream (3)

---

### Wines

A fine selection of wines available on request
Tickets £25 each available from the office.
APPLICATION FORM

PRESIDENT’S INFORMAL DINNER at THE COUNTY THISTLE HOTEL

FRIDAY 13TH APRIL 2012

Dinner at the County Thistle Hotel will be preceded with a Sherry Reception at 6:45pm in the Wood memorial Library followed at 7.30pm with a three course dinner including a glass of wine. The Menu is attached to this invitation. Ticket price: £25.00 each

Please reply by 7th April 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ticket</th>
<th>Please state names below and indicate menu choice with a cross in the relevant box</th>
<th>Starter e.g. 3</th>
<th>Main e.g. 2</th>
<th>Dessert e.g. 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>(name)</td>
<td>(No.)</td>
<td>(No.)</td>
<td>(No.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>(name)</td>
<td>(No.)</td>
<td>(No.)</td>
<td>(No.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>(name)</td>
<td>(No.)</td>
<td>(No.)</td>
<td>(No.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>(name)</td>
<td>(No.)</td>
<td>(No.)</td>
<td>(No.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>(name)</td>
<td>(No.)</td>
<td>(No.)</td>
<td>(No.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>(name)</td>
<td>(No.)</td>
<td>(No.)</td>
<td>(No.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please make cheques payable to: - NEIMME and post to above address.

NAME: - ........................................................................................................................................

ADDRESS: - ...................................................................................................................................

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER ................................................