Forthcoming Events:-
We are rapidly approaching the end of our year and preparing for a new season of talks/lectures. A summary of our 2011-2012 calendar of events is attached at the end of this newsletter, the final programme will be issued after the AGM in October.


Thurs. 20th October 2011 Annual General Meeting and Lecture by Dr F. W. Smith (see rear cover).

Recent Talks and Events
Mining on the Roof of the World; Dr. Jan Ketelaar (14th April 2011)

Jan Ketelaar, a former president of the Mining Institute, based his lecture on his experiences mining in the mountains of Tajikistan.

The title of this talk was inspired by the fires which occur in the coal deposits being near to the surface and prone to self combustion. This phenomenon was illustrated by one of the many slides Jan used to enhance his lecture. The mining can only take place between May and October as the weather is so inclement the rest of the year working and transport becomes impossible. Transporting the coal is a major problem and involves the building of new roads/tracks at heights over 2000m.

SWANSEA VALLEY MINERS

The Institute wishes to extend its heartfelt sympathies to the family, relatives and friends of miners, Garry Jenkins, David Powell, Phillip Hill and Charles Breslin, who lost their lives on 15 September in the disaster at Gleision Colliery. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time.

We also extend our thoughts to the Miners who returned to help their colleagues and the men of the Mines Rescue Service and the emergency services.

A book of condolence will be placed in the Institute and a collection made to benefit the families of those who lost their loved ones. A benefit event to raise funds for the Swansea Valley Miners Appeal is being considered to aid the families, further details will be announced later this week.

PRESIDENT’S ANNUAL DINNER

The President’s Annual Dinner that was due to be held on 7th October 2011 has been postponed and will be held after the AGM on Thursday 20th October 2011 in the Wood Memorial Hall. A booking form is enclosed with this newsletter. Please return this rapidly to ensure your place.
One of Jan’s bonuses is being able to hang-glide his way home after work, from an office which has splendid views over the rugged mountainous terrain.

Most of the exploration camps are very basic and some have been established to explore the prospects of mining gold in the area. It is fascinating to see an abundance of flowers in an area mainly devoid of vegetation.

Jan explained that to work in the area the company had to have a local partner and local labour has to be used. Jan gave many facts and figures about the coal and other deposits in these areas which have not been included in this synopsis of a most interesting talk. In conclusion Jan’s talk was a refreshing mix of photos, facts and personal experience of mining in the mountains of Tajikistan.

**Visualising the Subsurface: the use of computer modelling in geology;** Dr Michael Welch, Leeds University.

Michael’s talk illustrated the latest methods of using data from various sources, including satellite imagery, traditional borehole and geological data and surveys; and demonstrated how this could be used to build three dimensional models of the geology of an area or site of interest.

Powerful software and processors can now provide high quality models of the subsurface providing the mining engineer or those prospecting gas, oil and other mineral reserves to utilise their resources to the most economic effect.

Michael pointed out that the vast body of data held by the Institute would enable modelling to be undertaken of coalfields and other mineral reserves.

Michael’s lecture may have been proved prophetic already since an enquiry along these lines has been received recently.

**NEW VISITOR RECORDS SET**

The Late Shows took place in May this year and a record number of visitors were received with an increase of 17% on last year. The Mining Institute opened by itself for the first time this year and proved a hit, welcoming 466 people. The Late Shows is Tyneside’s contribution to the European-wide Museums at Night initiative and are designed to encourage young people to visit Museums outside of usual hours.

NewcastleGateshead is a leading area in the UK for this project which was funded by Arts Council England and organised via Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums. The Institute’s library was open all evening and rounded off with a performance by regular partners Monkfish, ably supported by King Ink from Teesside in a performance of Flick the Switch.

As ever, the evening passed in high spirits and great camaraderie, the Late Shows always produces a friendly evening which was enjoyed immensely by the record numbers of people who sampled the cultural events on offer. Plans are already in hand for the Late Shows 2012 and some new ideas have been contributed for a wider collaboration next year.
HERITAGE OPEN DAYS
Heritage Open Days represent another fantastic opportunity for the Institute to widen its audience base and the Institute threw open its doors once more to participate in this increasingly popular event.

This year we opened for three days to give staff and volunteers one day off! Despite this we again welcomed over 400 visitors who enjoyed tours given by Bill Bell, David Bell and Les Turnbull. That represents a 30% increase compared to last year. The open days were also reported in the Evening Chronicle in a fabulous article by Tony Henderson in the Newcastle Journal immediately beforehand. Feedback from the public was once again fantastic.

JOHN BUDDLE RETURNS
Sharp eyed Members will have noticed that John Buddle has been missing from the Library for some years; that is, his bust has. Removed to safe storage some years ago due to the poor state of the plaster bust, his place in the Institute’s hall of fame has remained vacant.

We are delighted to announce that, thanks to a generous donation by Mr Buddle’s descendant, Jane Woolley, the Institute has been able to have the bust restored to the best possible condition. The delicate work was carried out by conservator Rachel Metcalfe at Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums over a period of two months.

The bust had been cracked in several places and was in danger of losing the base completely. In addition years of grime had accumulated on the surface, as the picture shows before and after cleaning had been half completed.

Restoration work has involved filling and gluing cracks and areas of loss and painting the repairs to match. Myrocristalline wax has been applied to protect the original painted surface of the bust which will also enable cleaning at regular intervals in the future.

The bust has now been replaced in the Wood Memorial Library. The mount and surrounding areas have been deep cleaned. The scaffolding contributed by HLF, Sir James Knott Trust and a private sponsor was again pressed into service, using cantilever sections for the first time. This restoration forms a further part of the deep cleaning of the Library and conservation of its interior features and is a further milestone achieved in restoring the Library.

Mr Buddle’s bust will be unveiled at a ceremony during the AGM and special guest for the evening will be our generous benefactor, Jane Woolley.
Library Matters –

Jen at the CILIP Umbrella Conference

Our librarian, Jennifer, was lucky enough to win a sponsored place to the national librarianship conference. This is run by CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals) and is called “Umbrella” to signify bringing together all different kinds of library and information workers into one conference. The sponsored place was worth almost £500 and Jennifer is very grateful to the UC&R Group Northern for the opportunity to attend.

‘Above anything else, Umbrella was an amazing networking opportunity and also a chance to step away from my day to day work and see the bigger picture whilst getting new ideas. I attended as many lectures as possible and made copious notes as well as visiting the different exhibitors on their stands to chat to them about their products and services. I went to sessions about metadata, volunteers in libraries and technology. The conference also pushed me into the new world of Twitter (I’m @mininglibrarian if you want to “follow” me) and got me enrolled on a free online training program called CPD23. If you want to read in more detail about Umbrella and the things I learnt, see my blog at http://mininglibrarian.wordpress.com

Library News

We have catalogued 2321 items in three months since May. Simon and Jennifer have met with NERA to discuss the possibilities of including items from their collection. The cataloguing program is continuing to struggle with the complexity of the collections, so we are investigating alternatives including some free open source products such as Koha and Evergreen. Fifteen new volunteers have begun work cataloguing and scanning in the library since the last council meeting. We have hosted several placement students including one each from Newcastle University and the Princes Trust. Donations of books have been gratefully received from R. J. Fowell and Victoria Haworth.

Events: We’ve hosted a meeting of the North East Regional Archives Council and given tours to the Historic Houses Association, Ovingham WI and Gosforth Local history group.

The Institute on Facebook and Flickr!

The Institute now has a Facebook page which already has 46 friends – if you’re on Facebook please do come and join us and we’ll keep you up to date with our events. In addition, we’re now sharing our images on Flickr as well which you can see at: www.flickr.com/photos/mininginstitute/ This is just a tiny proportion of our image collection, we hope to scan and add more to share.

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. For example, if you donate £100, the total value of your donation to the charity is £125 - so you can claim back:

- £25 - if you pay tax at 40 per cent (£125 × 20%)
- £37.50 - if you pay tax at 50 per cent (£125 × 20%) plus (£125 × 10%)

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’.

TRAINING THE COMMUNITY ON ICT

If you want to learn how to use a computer or improve your skills, come along during UK Online Week, 30 October – 6 November. 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. If you are interested, contact Simon Brooks in the Library.
A Tribute to Alex Anderson

Although Alex was not a member of the institute it was thought appropriate in view of his service in the Mines Rescue Service to print this tribute from President Bill Bell

“Mr Alex Anderson, the Mines Rescue veteran, has died at the age of 96. A native of Ashington he worked in the mines in a variety of capacities and was especially active as a member of the Mines Rescue Brigade and was a veteran of the Whitehaven disaster in 1947 at the William Pit. He told me that he remembered the disaster clearly but it was the face of a woman who waited for news of a loved one that haunted him, and when she ran up to him he did not know what to say or how to reply to her. He never forgot the incident and never knew whether indeed she had waited in vain. Alex was a link with history and a living conduit to what is now fast disappearing. It throws into sharp relief why the Institute and its archive must live on to tell the story of our industry and the people who populated it.

As a last gesture I threw a small piece of coal into his grave and my last words to Alex were ‘Goodbye bonny lad’.”

Alex was active to the end of his life and last year made time to visit the Institute and speak to a group of disadvantaged young people engaged in the Coal and Cod project which was led by Lookwide UK and the Scouts.

The young people were completely enthralled by Alex and the stories he told of his time working in the coal industry. Indeed, Alex was such a hit with them that they asked Alex to appear in the film they were making about the traditional industries of the Blyth area, which he graciously did. The Project was completed and launched just a week before Alex died, so he was unable, due to a fall, to attend the launch at Seaton Delaval Hall. The short film he made with the young people is however a lasting tribute to a superlative and brave gentleman. The DVD is held in the Library.

2011 -2012 Draft Programme

**Annual General Meeting:** 20th October 2011 followed by Lecture given by Dr. F. W. Smith and President’s Annual Dinner.

**General Meetings**

24th November 2012 “Micro Generation”, Dr. Charlotte Adam, Durham University.


16th February 2012 “Fuelling the Future”, Paul R. Wood.

22nd March 2012 “Mining Heritage in the North East”, Colin Mountford.

17th May “Felling Colliery Disaster”, Dr. E. Wade.


20th September 2012 “Experience of a Mechanical Engineer in Overseas Mining”, Gary O’Hagan.

**General Morning Meetings**

9th November 2011 “Mining Memories”, Ken Smith and Tom Yellowl.

7th March 2012 “Railways before Stephenson”, Les Turnbull.

**Social**

13th April 2012: President’s Informal Dinner.

11th May 2012: Annual Golf Competition.

20th October 2012: Presidents Annual Dinner.

**Annual General Meeting**

18th October 2012: followed by the Presidential Address.

**WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? – ALAN CARR**

The Mining Institute wasn’t featured in the aired episode with Alan Carr, but there is some footage on their website from the blog online filmed here:

http://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/footage/12327
New Books Available from the Library

A History of Jarrow Colliery
By David Kidd. Spiral bound. £5.00

David sub-titles his booklet ‘the true history of the slaughterhouse’, and it is a short book that briefly encapsulates the early story of deep mining and the slow progress towards mining safely. Jarrow colliery became the most hated colliery in the coalfield in the first half of the nineteenth century, a hell hole that claimed the lives of over 200 men and boys.

The colliery was started by Simon Temple, who resided at Hylton Castle and was later declared a bankrupt. Its fascinating history is also associated with Matthias Dunn, John Buddle, Tommy Hepburn, the first miners’ union leader and of course William Jobling. With so many famous names associated with it, the pit deserves an expanded history. It was amongst the first of the deep mines, working the fiery Bensham Seam.

The booklet provides a time line of the colliery’s life in note form rather than a narrative, but is illustrated well and highlights some of the extensive collection of original material in the Institute’s archive, including Buddle’s notebooks from his time at Jarrow. It is a reminder of the pioneering nature of Tyneside’s miners, recalling that the main roadways between Jarrow and Willington collieries and completed almost 150 years before the pedestrian tunnel lie hundreds of feet below the modern Tyne and pedestrian tunnels. The booklet also mentions the struggles of the miners in achieving better working terms and conditions, briefly recalling the pioneers of the union movement.

David expresses the hope that others will endeavour to write a more detailed history and that the booklet has been published to encourage further interest in a ‘forgotten’ pit. Ultimately he reminds us of the cost in lives of an industry that made Britain the powerhouse of the world, remarking that those who died lie in graves that today lie unmarked in St. Paul’s churchyard, men and boys whose contribution to the country has been left with no memorial. That is a tragedy that must be put right.

The Considre Trilogy
By Garry O’Hagan. Softback £12.95

The Considre Trilogy tells the story of iron, coal and railways in north-west Durham. In a book full of detailed research and richly illustrated with photographs, diagrams, maps and plans, it covers the development of the industrial landscape of Consett and its surrounding area, the vast iron and steel works and the network of transport links and subsidiary plants forming an industrial empire and a source of employment and pride for thousands of people. Garry also traces the routes and sources of iron ore used in Consett, explaining the links between Spain, Sweden and the Consett fleet of ships.

The Considre Trilogy covers the development and demise of the coalmines, cokeworks, ore terminals and railways in a fascinating history that explores in detail the integrated industrial empire of the Consett ironworks. It provides a fascinating history of a landscape that has almost completely disappeared and which resides now
only in fast fading memories. Its depth is astonishing, covering the technology and machinery in sufficient detail for the specialist and retaining the interest of the enthusiast and the lay reader. Garry’s book is more than deserving of a place on the bookshelf of anyone interested in the history of the north east, it’s collieries, railways and industry.

A History of the Newcastle & Berwick Railway

Another superbly illustrated and carefully researched and detailed book which looks back at the history of the Newcastle & Berwick railway.

Within a couple of pages, we encounter Matthias Dunn’s involvement with the line, before being elbowed aside by George Stephenson and learning the reasons for the line’s route – avoiding land owned by some of Stephenson’s wealthy allies. By page 11 we encounter Thomas Sopwith and Nicholas Wood and find Earl Grey put a spoke in the works which would have left a superb fast railway. There is much to be learnt about the power of the wealthy landowners and their attempts to block progress and as such this book presents a fascinating picture of the difficulties encountered in developing the railway network.

The engineering of the line is a very detailed account which contains superb detailed drawings and maps showing the vast scale of civil engineering and architecture undertaken for the construction of the line. The branch lines, goods yards, signalling and, of course, the locomotives are all carefully recorded in this superb edition. It’s a must have for the railway enthusiast and the local historian.

PAINTINGS GO ONLINE
The Institute’s collection of oil paintings has been included in a national database by the Public Catalogue Foundation (PCF) and already features in a regional edition of a national directory and website of paintings accessible to the public. This helps not only to make the collection widely accessible to the public; it also records the ownership of the collection and provided high quality images to use at no cost.

In recent months, the collection has also become available on a second international website created and supported by the PCF and the BBC. Now in a new initiative, the Institute has entered into an agreement where people can buy photographic copies of the paintings via the PCF. The Institute receives a generous share of the income this generates and the deal is non-exclusive. Whilst the Institute isn’t expecting to get rich from this initiative, we may find that it adds to the wider public appreciation of the Institute and the collections in its care. And, since it does own some lesser known works of important nineteenth century engineers that are little used, we may find that a new portrait may be useful in places in which we could never hope to publicise the Institute itself. This is a further new partnership that helps to widen public access to our collections.

You can buy copies of paintings from other leading museums and galleries; to access the web-site go to: www.thepcf.org.uk and select the tab Buy Prints at the top of the page. The Institute’s collection isn’t presently online, but will be soon. It’s worth looking at this site if you enjoy paintings just for sheer pleasure.
THE ARCHIVE EXPANDS

The Institute’s globally important archive continues to expand. Recent donations have included the deposit of extensive archive material relating to estates in the North East by Wardle Armstrong to whom our thanks go for entrusting us with these important records.

We’ve also received a collection of books and papers, artefacts and memorabilia from Mrs Rhodes in memory of her husband, Mr Harold Rhodes, a former Director of British Coal International. His collection includes memorabilia and notes from his visits around the world. A small part of this collection is currently on display in the library and was enjoyed by many visitors recently during the Heritage Open Days.

We have also received a series of books kindly donated by Mrs Linda Barrett in memory of her late husband, Rollo Barrett M.I. Min E, who worked in the industry including as a consultant at William Armstrong mining engineers. Amongst this generous gift was a set of typed notes and manuscript of the Cowpen/Plessey and surrounding areas that it transpires were once owned by TE Forster whilst residing at Eldon Square in Newcastle. Our sincere sympathies are extended to Mrs Barrett on the loss of her husband and grateful thanks for entrusting the Institute with books her husband valued greatly.

NEW MAP ROOM

The Institute now has a new Map Room as an additional resource available for Members and the public. With a collection we now estimate at over 40,000 maps, finding storage room for the collection, let alone making it accessible, has been a long-standing problem. This development is a first step towards a solution.

Thanks to the Princes Trust and a group of young people from across Newcastle, we have now stripped out and completely re-decorated the former Law Office. This work was supported by the Princes Trust, several private donors (who have asked to remain anonymous) and Derek Newton. Their generosity covered the costs of all the materials. The painting was completed by David Bell, Julia Bell, Simon Brooks and Fiona Watson. The room has been re-decorated to match an original colour scheme based on analysis of the paintwork and advice from the Local Authority’s Historic Buildings Officer, Peter Derham and Architect, Steven Miller. The room is now resplendent in York White with Roman White paintwork. The chimney breast has been given a warmer accent coat of red ochre and the original fireplace has been restored and opened up, allowing the air to circulate and dry out.

Map cabinets have been relocated to the room from the long passage where they were previously inaccessible and the room has been fitted with a new map table and chairs donated to the Institute by the Society of Antiquaries, to whom we extend our thanks. Our thanks is also due to all those who made this possible.

The work of Bill King, Gordon Hull, John Crompton and Colin Laidler, who are working diligently to catalogue and sort the map collection is also due; it is a Herculean task and more volunteers are needed to help.

The handsome new map room at the Mining Institute. It will be named and launched on 20 October after the AGM.
VOLUNTEER SUPPORT CONTINUES TO GROW

In the last full year, the Institute has continued to attract more volunteers to various roles in the library, ranging from cataloguing and labelling and shelving books, to deep cleaning, guiding tours, giving outside talks and highly skilled electrical and computer work. In all, over 8,700 hours have been donated by volunteers to the Institute. This equates to around 1,250 days and is worth more than £70,000.

The rate of volunteering seems to have accelerated quite sharply this year and enquiries from new volunteers continue to come in. Quite a number of people have found volunteering at the Institute helps them on the road to gain new training opportunities or employment and we are always delighted when we can help someone gain new skills that assist them in their objectives.

It’s not always easy to appreciate just how much work our dedicated team of volunteers do, a lot goes apparently unseen in relation to work in the Library. However, when you realise we are cataloguing books at the rate of almost 3,000 a quarter, scanning and making available thousands of pages on the web, have insulated the Library roof, cleaned the Lecture Theatre, installed a computer network, added CCTV at various points, decorated a room to house maps and a hundred other small tasks it all adds up. In fact, in a year, the Institute gains the support of more hours from volunteers than the whole of Dorset County Council’s Library Service achieves. In Kent, libraries there each gain 360 volunteer hours a month; our average can reach twice that time per month.

A huge thank you is due to all the people who give their time so freely to the work of the Institute, their work is enormously appreciated and it is reported regularly both within and outside the Institute’s membership and appreciated well beyond our own walls.

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

The Institute is pleased to be able to support all the following initiatives demonstrating its continuing support for the arts in the Region.

UTOPIAN REALISM

Bridget Kennedy and Mair Hughes are working with the Mining Institute on an art project called Utopian Realism. Mair and Bridget, who met at Glasgow School of Art in 2005, are taking radical experiments that happen in rural places as their starting point for this project. They are working with a variety of other organisations in the North East of England and Mid-Wales in order to research and develop art work in response to the possibility of a utopian reality. If you would like to know more about the project please visit: http://utopianrealismproject.blogspot.com/

THE PROFANE MYTH

Local independent arts curator Dawn Bothwell has selected the Mining Institute to host a series of contemporary art works coinciding with the Turner Prize candidates work being exhibited at Baltic.

'The Profane Myth’ exhibition will be held at The Mining Institute, Newcastle upon Tyne from October 21 – end November. There will be a website accompanying the exhibition that will market the exhibition widely in the international contemporary art community and amongst the local and visiting community. The project will also engage local people through a strong program of public talks and published critical writing that will be widely accessible through the website. In Dawn’s own words, “This exhibition will introduce a wider audience to a culturally significant building and charitable educational resource and organisation that is central to the region's history.” More information is available on www.theprofanemyth.org

Two further projects based on the Institute’s photographic collection are already underway through commissions made by the North East Photographic Network with Aaron Guy and Sally Lockey.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND PRESIDENT’S DINNER

THURSDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2011

WOOD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Timetable:
5:30pm Tea in the Library
5:50pm Unveiling of the Buddle bust followed by naming the Map Room
6:00pm Annual General Meeting in the Lecture Theatre
6:40pm Lecture by Rick Smith
7:30pm Drinks Reception for all Members in Neville Hall
8:00pm Sherry in the Library (those attending Dinner)
8:15pm Dinner
9:45pm Loyal Toast

PRESIDENT’S ANNUAL DINNER

Menu 1
Vegetable soup with a crusty roll and butter
Duck with plum sauce served with Seasonal vegetables
Carrot cake served with pouring cream

Menu 2
Prawn Cocktail
Salmon with a white wine and tarragon sauce
Chocolate Gateaux

Menu 3 Vegetarian Menu
Vegetable soup with a crusty roll and butter
Leek and potato rarebit
Carrot cake served with pouring cream

Wines
A glass of wine will be served with dinner.

Tickets £25 each available from the office.

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The National Lottery®
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The Foyle Foundation
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