



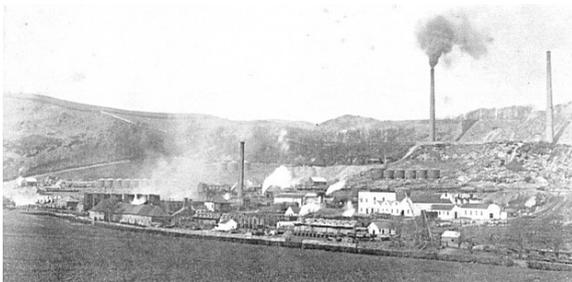
COALFACE

JULY 2015

Shale Oil in Fife

In 1850, James 'Paraffin' Young had launched the West Lothian shale mining and processing industry. When his patent expired in 1864, there were plenty of budding entrepreneurs ready to accept the opportunity presented. Small shale mining operations sprang up in various locations, several of which were in Fife.

The Burntisland Oil Works were established in 1878 to mine and process the shale deposits in the lower reaches of the east Binn. These deposits formed the northern extremity of a shale bed stretching for 22 miles from Cobbinshaw in the Lothians.



The High Binn photographed in 1953.



In ruins. Few signs left today.

The man behind this venture was George Simpson, a coalmaster from Edinburgh, with the other directors coming from Glasgow, West Calder and Pittenweem. For the first three years, the operation was on a fairly

small scale. By 1881, there were only 36 employees. Some of these lived in the old Binnend Farm buildings, a few at Craiggelly and Newbigging, and most of the rest in Burntisland.

In 1881, however, the oil works were bought by a new company headed by John Waddell of Edinburgh. Rapid expansion followed. The mine workings themselves eventually reached 365 feet below sea level at their lowest point. The average daily output of shale was 500 tons, which yielded 15,000 gallons of crude oil.

Jim Waugh, Volunteer and Friend of NMMS

Museum Gifts Lift Bogey to Church

The volunteers at the Flemington Hallside Church in Cambuslang were delighted to receive a donation from National Mining Museum Scotland to complete the Church's heritage garden.

"We want to thank the National Mining Museum who donated the lift bogey from the Lady Victoria Colliery at Newtongrange."

The photograph also features milk churns and a steel cross, marking the area's farming and industrial history.

The volunteers are Jenny Brown, Betty Pollock and Jim



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER JUNE 2015

As I write this, the sun is shining and the day is warm, hopefully the beginning of a spell of decent weather. Newtongrange Children's Gala Day is due to be held this coming Saturday and we are looking forward to a good day and the usual great turnout for the parade and the ceremony in the Welfare Park. Thus continues a long heritage of gala days in former mining communities across Scotland.

The Fridays at 11 talks have now finished until September. The last talk, by Henrietta Dundas on the history of the Dundas family and Arniston House, was excellent and particularly well attended, and your Friends Committee will be arranging a private visit to Arniston House in the autumn. Details will follow in due course.

The Friends AGM was held on 5 June, when a new member, Mr Andy Allan of Glasgow Kelvin College, was appointed to the Committee. We look forward to working with Andy in supporting the Museum.

I have been invited to an event in Hamilton on 16 June to launch the Storybook stemming from the Pits, Ponies, People and People project, a South Lanarkshire wide community learning and interpretation project for young people, developing links between local mines and the associated local history in their communities. The Museum has played an active part in its success.

The artwork developed as part of the project will be on show until the 30th of June 2015 for the public to view at:-
The Visitor Centre, Chatelherault Country Park, Ferniegair, Hamilton, ML3 7UE
Opening hours: Monday to Sunday 10.00am - 5.00pm (Entry Free).

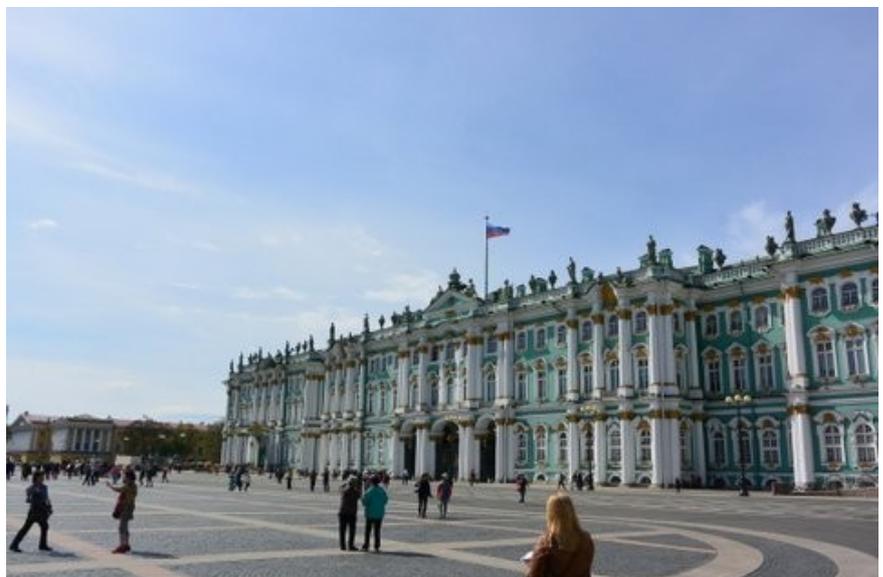
In my last report I mentioned that Linda and I were off to visit Russia. This trip, from the 5th to the 15th of May, was a great success, with warm sunny weather in Moscow and mixed weather in St Petersburg. Our time in Moscow coincided with the Victory parade in commemoration of the end of the Great Patriotic War, or, as we would know it, World War II. We saw the preparations for the parade, and toured the Kremlin the next day, an amazing experience. Moscow is a huge city, and we were received with a warm welcome, courtesy and kindness wherever we went.

In St Petersburg the welcome was the same, although it appears to be a much more European place. We visited the Hermitage to see an overwhelming collection of fine art, jewellery, furniture and above all the magnificence of the palace itself.

Two pictures are shown on the right, one of St Basil's Cathedral, Moscow, and another taken at the Hermitage, St Petersburg.

I will close by wishing Friends all the best for the summer season.

Bob Anderson, Chairman.



Ian's Memories

War was declared with Germany on 3 September 1939 and, as a result, the school year did not start the following day. I was transferred to Uddingston G S until December when Allan Glen's resumed. Despite the disruption, I passed my Qualifying (now 11 plus) in June 1940.

As a consequence of Dunkirk, our own soldiers and others from France and Poland began to appear on our streets. Very soon the Battle of Britain began and continued until 15 September when the German Air Force started the Blitz. Many of our cities suffered and Glasgow's turn came in nights around the full moon in March 1941. The bombing was accurate and shipyards, docks and industry were badly affected with many adjacent housing areas damaged.

School life continued as normal except that, if air raids lasted beyond 2am, school did not start until 10am. Rationing began in June 1940 (lasting until end 1953). Weekly, this comprised:- Butter 2 oz, Margarine 4, Cooking Fat 2, and Sugar 8. Meat and Corned Beef were rationed by value to 5 and 1p respectively. Other items such as dried fruit, jam, biscuits and additional sugar were on a points system each 4 weeks. It took quite some time to adjust to 1 egg, 2 oz bacon and 2 oz tea per week.

Clothes were also rationed by coupons per year which was a problem for mothers with growing children. Coal was 1 cwt (50 kg) per week and milk depended on age with more for children than adults. Dried milk and eggs were a great help.

After Pearl Harbour, America entered the war and, in 1942 the first American Troops came to Britain. Their Mosquito Night Fighter almost ended night air raids on us and we began preparations for invading Europe. After D Day in 1944, senior school children were used to gather in the harvest with the summer holidays divided between whole of July and mid Sept to mid Oct.

Glasgow schools were sent to Aberdeenshire. We had to assemble at Buchanan Street Station at 9am with cases, bicycles and sandwiches ready for an 8 hour journey. We were based at Balbithan House, Inverurie. Two of us were allocated to a farm near Kintore where the farmer and his wife fed us well. I learned to drive a tractor, use a pitch-fork and stack sheaves.

VE Day was celebrated with a street party. A neighbour, Mr Mowat asked 4 of us to move his piano out onto the pavement, produced a fiddle and we ate, drank and danced till 4am after which we moved the piano back indoors and went home.

Then it was back to school and the dreaded Highers. Despite 2 attempts, I failed English due to my dyslexia (not recognised until 1954 as a medical problem). I could not go to University but was accepted for the Royal Technical College.

Next time will be about student days and joining NCB.

Ian Hogarth, Friend of NMMS

MEMORIAL STONE Limeylands Colliery, Ormiston, East Lothian

This memorial stone on the Pentland railway Walk gives the history of the colliery including the owner's name, dates of opening and closing, seams worked, the number of miners employed and the daily output of coal. I stone to Limeylands Colliery, Ormiston, East Lothian.



LETTER OF THANKS

To the Friends of NMMS,

Many thanks to you all for the generous donation of a hedge cutter to the Technical Department. We cannot wait to see the delightful view of Newtongrange once the hedge has been cut!

Kind regards,

Richard Thomson
Technical Assistant

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FOR FULL DETAILS OF THE MUSEUM'S EVENTS PROGRAMME PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE www.nationalminingmuseum.com

5th July 10am—Wheels of Yesteryear

7th July 10am —Toddler Tuesday—"Summer Treasurers"

15th July 10am—Wacky Wednesday—"Canaries"

22nd July 10am—Wacky Wednesday—"Crowns"

23rd July 1pm– Community Consultation—everyone welcome

26th July 11am—Kids Cinema—"Despicable Me"

29th July 10am—Wacky Wednesday—"Ceramic Painting"

4th August 10am—Toddler Tuesday—"Creature Creations"

5th August 10am—Wacky Wednesday—"Fossil Gardens"

9th August 11am—Kids Cinema—"Despicable Me 2"

12th August 10am—Wacky Wednesday—"Peg Dollies"

4th September 11am—Fridays at 11am—"Tobacco Lords" Thomas Dowds

JOIN THE FRIENDS

I wish to join the Friends of National Mining Museum Scotland and enclose a cheque for the appropriate subscription.

Adult (Annual) £20 Family (Annual) £30

Please make cheques payable to "The Friends of National Mining Museum Scotland" and return to:-

AGH Moore, Membership Secretary, Friends of National Mining Museum Scotland,
16 Shafto Place, Bo'ness EH51 9JE.

Name

Address

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