

Welsh Mines Society

The Society continues its usual activities having had one indoor meet and two field meets (Cwmystwyth/Vale of Rheidol and Dolaucothi/Strata Florida) during 2014. Individual members have pursued their own projects during the year. Currently the Society has 160 members; this number has been relatively constant over the last decade.

In addition to its usual two newsletters, during the last year the Society published the third volume in the series *Welsh Mines and Mining*, this being *Metal Mining in Mid Wales 1822 –1921* by the late George Hall. The proceedings of the 2014 NAMHO Conference are in preparation by the Society and it is intended they will be published in May 2015 in time for the 2015 NAMHO Conference.

The Society has concerns with regard to the conservation of mine sites, particularly underground. In many ways mines and their artefacts are even more fragile than caves, for instance structures are generally in a state of decay and climbing on them, even when not actually dangerous, accelerates their degradation. In addition, the movement of artefacts, such as taking rails from one location to use them as anchors for SRT elsewhere, removes them from their historical context. Whilst it is recognised that mines can provide a challenging and adventurous underground environment, it is suggested that they should be considered primarily as historical monuments and that every effort be made to preserve their archaeological record. The Society would recommend that the Council promote this aspect of mine exploration to its constituent bodies.

As announced in its Autumn 2014 newsletter, the Society's editor Dave Linton will be standing down at the end of 2015, by which time he will have performed this role for 10 years. In addition he will no longer act as the Society's representative to CCC and NANHO after the end of 2015.

Dave Linton
Editor, Welsh Mines Society