

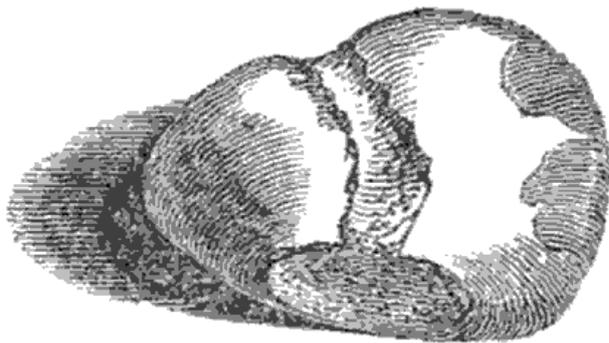
# Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland

Newsletter

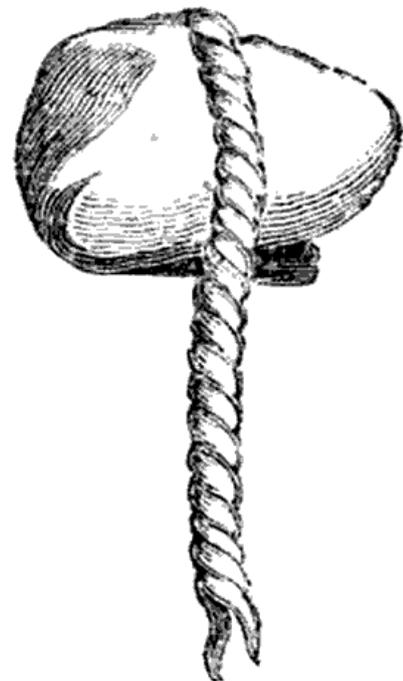
No. 80, July 2019

ISSN 1649-0894

FINAL ISSUE



**Stone hammer found in an  
ancient Colliery.**



**The same with the handle  
and wedge.**

From John Barrow, 1836. A tour round Ireland, through the sea-coast counties, in the autumn of 1835. John Murray, London.

Iontaobhas Oidhreachta Mianadóireachta na hEireann

# MHTI Members' Business

---

## Extraordinary General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the company will be held at 5pm on Thursday 1st August 2019 in the National Museum of Ireland – Natural History Store at Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin 4.

Nigel Monaghan, Company Secretary

### Agenda

1. Resolution to wind up the company
2. Any other business

Following the very brief business, there may also be a brief demonstration of the MHTI Legacy website

### Proxy Form

Proxy forms are available from Nigel Monaghan if you are unable to attend the meeting in person. This will allow your vote to be cast on the resolution. Completed forms must be returned to him prior to the meeting. Contact details are on the back page.

### Resolution for Extraordinary General Meeting

In order to complete legal requirements for the closure of MHTI as a company, the Directors will put the following resolution to the Membership at the upcoming EGM.

**“That the Company applies to the Registrar of Companies, in accordance with Section 731 of the Companies Act 2014 to be struck off the register on the ground that it has ceased to carry on business and that pending the determination (or, should it sooner occur, the cancellation, at its request, of this process) of its application to be struck off, the company will not carry on any business or incur liabilities.”**

The dissolution of MHTI is a process that is well in hand, and has to be completed before the end of August. This motion and the precise wording is a technical formality which must be passed to progress fully to the closure. The Directors would appreciate proxy votes in favour to ensure the process continues smoothly.

### Message from the Directors

The final newsletter of the MHTI is a sad event, but the remaining Directors wish to mark the occasion by thanking all those who have been members over the past 23 years, all those who have contributed to our events, publications, projects, meetings and fieldtrips, the corporate supporters from industry and government, our UK colleagues and supporters in the Shropshire Caving and Mining Club and in NAMHO, mine heritage enthusiasts in the various enterprises and community groups across the country and all the landowners who have allowed us to visit their sites. We also thank the Exploration & Mining Division for allowing access to underground mines under their control. Naas Printing and Mark Rogers have been great partners in printing all of our various publications. The National Museum of Ireland has been a major supporter of MHTI in many ways, especially in the winding up process. Thank you all for many positive memories.

Matthew Parkes, Nigel Monaghan, Alastair Lings, Paul Rondelez.

## Journal 17 - FINAL JOURNAL OFFER

As there has been no subscription taken from members in 2019, it has been decided that the final issue of the MHTI Journal, No. 17, will be produced on a pre-paid cost basis. We will only print sufficient copies to provide the authors' copies, those for copyright libraries and pre-paid orders from members. There will not be any stock to buy copies of this in the future. ALL JOURNALS INCLUDING THIS ONE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR FREE DOWNLOAD IN THE FUTURE

The articles listed below are all finalised, proofed and ready to print.

TO RESERVE YOUR PRINTED COPY PLEASE EMAIL [nmonaghan@museum.ie](mailto:nmonaghan@museum.ie)

YOU WILL RECEIVE A SEPARATE EMAIL SOON, ONCE COSTS ARE FINALISED, WITH INFORMATION TO ORDER AND PAY, BUT WITH A VERY SHORT TIME FRAME. PAYMENT IN ADVANCE WILL BE REQUIRED.

CONTENTS No. 17, 2019:

Chairman's Editorial by Matthew Parkes .....	1
Glengowla: from lead mine to show mine by Stephen Moreton .....	3
Lough Dan Mine, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow by M Parkes, A Lings, S Callaghan, B Jones and E Honan .....	15
A sociological perspective on the local impact of Tynagh Mine by Dan Shields .....	21
The Millstone Quarry of Lough Eske, Co. Donegal by Niall Colfer .....	31
Avoca - The life and death of an Irish Mine by Nick Coy .....	41
Mining corporations in Western Europe - a response by Peter Cloughton .....	45
Land clearance at Caherglassaun silver mine, Co. Galway by Matthew Parkes .....	47

### Mining Heritage of Ireland Network

The MHTI pages on Facebook and VKontakte will be branded as "Mining Heritage of Ireland". A group will be created alongside the Facebook page which will allow people to contact one another for help with research and visits to mine sites. An informal group, the Mining Heritage of Ireland Network will be set up to manage the pages and deal with any questions submitted. The group may issue an occasional newsletter. If you want to join the network please contact Alastair Lings (details on back page).

# Dates for your diary

---

04-08 July: NAMHO Conference, Llanafan, Ceredigion, Wales. <https://namho.org/>

07-14 July: Australasian Mining History Conference, Queensland, Australia.  
<http://www.mininghistory.asn.au/>

17-25 August: National Heritage Week. <https://www.heritageweek.ie/>

19-25 August: Woodford Furnace Festival, Woodford, Co. Galway. <https://www.furnacefestival.org/>

06-08 September: British Cave Rescue Council conference, Priddy, Somerset, England.  
<https://www.caverescue.org.uk/>

14-15 September: European Heritage Open Days (NI).  
<https://discovernorthernireland.com/events/European-Heritage-Open-Days/>

18-21 September: European Labour History Network conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands.  
<https://elhn.socialhistoryservices.org/conference/programme?network=471>

27-29 September: Mining Heritage Weekend, Andalusia, Spain. <http://www.miningheritage.org/en>

10-12 October: International conference for the history of mining and metallurgy. Jihlava, Czechia. Contact Petr Hruby, [PetrSilberbergbau@seznam.cz](mailto:PetrSilberbergbau@seznam.cz)

05-07 December: "Material cultures of mining" conference, Bochum, Germany.  
<https://www.bergbaumuseum.de/de/74-montan-dok-aktuell/1069-call-for-papers-materielle-kulturen>

2020

03-06 April 2020: NAMHO Conference, Cornwall, England (Details to be confirmed)  
<https://www.namho.org/index.php>

10-13 June 2020: Mining History Association Conference, Nevada, USA.  
<https://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/>

18-22 June 2020: International Mining History Conference, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.  
<https://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/>

2021

01-05 July 2021: NAMHO Conference, Shropshire, England (Details to be confirmed)

**Please check with organisers of meetings before making any travel bookings in case of change of dates or arrangements. MHTI lists events in good faith but is not responsible for errors or changes made.**

## MHTI on social media

For the latest mining heritage news please check our pages on Facebook and VKontakte:

<https://www.facebook.com/Mining-Heritage-Trust-of-Ireland-165987500136619/>

<https://vk.com/public146625610>

# Events, notices and reports

---

## **Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Summer of Heritage events: Barnaslingan and Carrickgollogan guided walks**

Voluntary Rangers of the Dublin Mountain Partnership are providing guided walks on Sundays 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July, 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August, and 1<sup>st</sup> September. The 2 hour long walks start at 11:00 from Barnaslingan car park and take in the Scalp view-point, the Ballycorus Leadworks Chimney and Carrickgollogan summit (276 m). Advance booking is required via [heritage@dublinmountains.ie](mailto:heritage@dublinmountains.ie) giving your name, mobile number and In Case of Emergency contact details. No dogs.

[https://www.dublinmountains.ie/activities/guided\\_walks/event\\_information/](https://www.dublinmountains.ie/activities/guided_walks/event_information/)

## **Mining and quarrying related events during Heritage Week, 17-25 August**

Information on the following events was available on the Heritage Week website on 01 July 2019. Other events will be added to the website in due course. <https://www.heritageweek.ie/>

### **17 August**

-Dry stone wall building restoration, includes talk on stone mining (Co. Donegal)

### **18 August**

-Picnic in Beaumont Quarry (Co. Cork)

### **20 August**

-Tour of the Deerpark Mine (Co. Kilkenny)

### **21 August**

- Tamhnach and tSalainn: in history, talk includes mention of stone mining (Co. Donegal)

### **24 August**

-Meet the flint knapper! (Co. Meath)

### **17, 20-24 August**

-Karst, turloughs & eskers, exhibition (Co. Roscommon)

-Stone in Oranmore's heritage, exhibition (Co. Galway)

### **17-25 August**

-Decorative and building stones of Galway, exhibition (Co. Galway)

### **19-25 August**

-Woodford Furnace Festival, smelting of bog iron ore (Co. Galway) <https://www.furnacefestival.org/>

## **European Heritage Open Days (NI) mining heritage of Ballycastle guided walk**

The Geological Survey of Northern Ireland are offering a two-hour long guided walk to explore the mining heritage of Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, on Sunday 15 September. The area contains the remains of coal and iron mines, piers and railways. Advanced booking will be required, when details are finalised in August.

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/european-heritage-open-days>

# Irish News

---

## **Opening of Miners' Way, Co. Wicklow (07/06/2019)**

This new 19 km long trail links mines in the Glendasan, Glendalough and Glenmalure valleys. It was developed by the Glens of Lead group and the Glenmalure Pure Mile group with funding from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The trail was opened on 7<sup>th</sup> June by former miner Robbie Carter, with over 100 people at the event. Deputies Andrew Doyle and Pat Casey unveiled an interpretative panel, and an information leaflet was released by Jim Byrne. The leaflet is available at Glenmalure Lodge and the National Park Information Centre in Glendalough.

<https://www.independent.ie/regionals/wicklowpeople/news/miners-way-trail-is-officially-opened-with-special-ceremony-38253153.html>

## **Built Heritage Investment Scheme grants (28/03/2019)**

These grants from the Heritage Council support the repair and conservation of structures that are protected under the Planning and Development Acts. The total amount available for allocation in 2019 was €2 500 000. Recipients included:

Lime kiln at Ballyquin, Tuamgraney, Co. Clare €2500

Limekiln at Loughill, Co. Limerick €3500

Coalfields House, The Commons, Thurles, Co. Tipperary €2500

<https://www.chg.gov.ie/heritage/built-heritage/financial-assistance-for-architectural-heritage/>

## **Adopt a monument programme (19/06/2019)**

This scheme of the Heritage Council offers expertise, mentoring and support to communities to help them ensure the sustainable future of the adopted monuments. This year seven sites have been chosen to take part including a 19<sup>th</sup> century lime kiln in Kilmurry, Co. Clare. Kilmurry Tidy Towns aim to carry out vital conservation works and to make this monument a focal point in their community.

<https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/news/news-features>

## **Avoca Mine, Co. Wicklow (17/06/2019)**

IMC Exploration Group PLC and Trove Metals Ltd are evaluating spoil heaps at East Avoca, with aim of reprocessing the heaps to recover metals (copper, lead, zinc, gold and silver) and to improve the environment. In the latter half of 2018 the partners have sampled the dumps with test pits and submitted material for mineral liberation analysis by Grinding Solutions Ltd. CSA Global were commissioned to provide a Mineral Resource Estimate for East Avoca, and a Competent Person's Report on IMCs projects.

The prospectus issued by IMC on 16 April 2019 includes a program of work including:

- Borehole drilling (percussion rig) to get a true three-dimensional picture and a large sample per metre interval. 50m drill spacing envisaged and all samples will be geologically logged.
- Collecting representative samples from each drill hole to provide additional bulk density data
- 3D modelling of the spoil heaps will be carried out in detail
- Recalculation of volumes based on the newly acquired drilling information

- Carry out a trade-off study between a gravity separation-based processing route and a flotation-based processing route.

The last attempt to work the dumps at Avoca was by Connary Minerals and Feltrim Mining around 1990. They hoped to extract gold by leaching the spoil with thiourea. <https://www.imcexploration.com/>

### **Drumgoosat Mine, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan (29/06/2019)**

In the early hours of 24 September 2018 land above the former Drumgoosat gypsum mine was affected by subsidence, with major fissures in the ground. On 19 December a crown hole was discovered 35 metres from the LP4900 road. The road was closed again, for safety and to facilitate ground investigation work. On 11 April 2019 Gyproc published on their website a plan of the mine workings and described the investigation work.

“A very comprehensive examination of the L4900 road has been completed. This study included drilling 25 bore holes (23 along the road) which facilitated the use of specialist cloud & sonar scanning equipment which created a detailed picture of the underground conditions”.

A further update by the company on 29 June reported that a drainage survey had been completed in early May. Some drainage work is planned and extensometers will be installed in the ground. Subject to completion of these works Monaghan County Council hope to decide by mid-July if it is safe to reopen the LP4900. A borehole is being drilled in the field opposite O'Rourke's Filling Station to reduce the water levels in the old mine. Gyproc have started work on an Environmental Impact Assessment Report on the area of the old mineworkings, with a view to developing a surface mine. <https://www.gyproc.ie/>

### **Lough Neagh sand dredging (07/05/2019)**

The Planning Appeals Commission has partially upheld an appeal by the Lough Neagh Sand Traders (LNST) against enforcement action taken to prohibit the unauthorised working of minerals (Appeal reference 2015/E0023 and others). The decision allows for the continued dredging of sand within a 3.1 km<sup>2</sup> area for 12 months from the decision date (07/05/2019), but barge movements between sunset and sunrise must stop. In March 2017 the LNST applied to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) for planning permission to extract up to 1.5 MT of sand and gravel each year over a 15 year period (Planning application LA03/2017/0310/F). The DfI is considering the application. Sand has been extensively dredged from the bed of the Lough since the 1950s. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-48234993>

### **Tara Mine, Navan, Co. Meath (13/02/2019)**

In 2018 2.2 MT of ore was milled, producing 131 742 T of zinc and 16 712 T of lead in concentrates. At the end of the year the proven mineral reserve was 1.6 MT of ore at 6.7% zinc and 1.8% lead, and the probable mineral reserve was 17.4 MT of ore at 5.6% zinc and 1.5% lead. Boliden paid €15 M in taxes to the Revenue and €6 M to the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment for production entitlements, royalties and licences. The average number of full time employees of Boliden in Ireland was 610, of whom 37 were women. <https://www.boliden.com/media/press-releases>

### **Cavanacaw Mine, Omagh, Co. Tyrone (25/06/2019)**

The decline tunnel has reached the 1060 (4<sup>th</sup>) level and a drive to access the Kearney Vein has been started. Stopping between the levels is expected to start early in 2020. Development in the vein on the upper levels is providing feed for the processing plant. The plant has been improved and is now being operated by two shifts. Basic plans of the workings are available on the Galantas website, under Operations Documents.

<http://www.galantas.com/news/>

### **Obituary: Jack Gunter (1938-2019)**

Lionel John Gunter was born in September 1938. He was educated at Haileybury School of Mines, receiving a Mining Technology Diploma in 1962. He graduated from Michigan Technological University in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geological Engineering. From 1966 until 1974 he worked with Phelps Dodge. He then worked with the UK-based Rio Tinto group from 1975 to 1989 as head of Rio Tinto Finance and Exploration (RioFinEx). In 1987 the latter company discovered the gold deposit that is now the Cavanacaw Mine near Omagh, Co. Tyrone. The discovery was too small for the company to develop. In 1990, Jack Gunter formed Omagh Minerals Ltd which acquired the rights to Cavanacaw, and then managed the development of the deposit through a public enquiry and planning permission. Mining operations were started in 2006 by Galantas Gold Corporation with Jack Gunter as a Director and Chairman, positions he held until his death. A statement issued by Galantas acknowledged his contribution, guidance and support over the years and said "He will be greatly missed by his family and his many friends in the natural resources and wider community".

### **Obituary: Herbert McDowell Stanley (1937-2019)**

One day short of his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday, Herb Stanley died at his home in Loughrea, Co. Galway. Originally from Carleton Place, near Ottawa in Ontario, Canada, Herb came to Ireland in the early 1960's to work on the exploration of the Tynagh zinc-lead-silver mine in east Co Galway. His expertise in the mining industry was invaluable in that regard, as there was limited availability of advanced mineral drilling technology in Ireland at that time.

Shortly afterwards, Herb founded his own company Irish Drilling Ltd (IDL) in the mid 1960's. Based in Loughrea, Co. Galway, IDL has gone on to provide mineral exploration drilling services to companies active in Ireland, Northern Ireland, the UK and France. IDL has been involved in the discovery and delineation of almost every mineral deposit and /or mine on the island of Ireland including gold, base metals and industrial minerals. IDL is now managed by Herb's son in law Ronan Killeen and his fellow director Declan Joyce. Herb served as Chairman and was until a year ago still very active in the affairs of the company.

Herb was deeply involved in the social life of Loughrea, being a member of Loughrea Golf Club, Lions and Loughrea Rugby Club. He was also a founding member and promoter of the Galway Bay Golf and Country Club. Herb's other interests included ownership of several successful racehorses (National Hunt and Flat).

Herb married Emily Brady from Loughrea in 1963 and has been based there ever since. He is survived by his two daughters Lillian and Avril; son in law Ronan Killeen and Shantanu; grandchildren Caimin, Tiernan, Cullen and Jarah, and by his twin Hannah and sister Lillian.

(For the full tribute by Sean Finlay see: <https://www.imqs.ie/uncategorized/herbert-mcdowell-stanley/> )

## **Windmillhill Quarry, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin (29/04/2019)**

At 7pm on 13 April 2016 a black Skoda Fabia car with two occupants was seen entering L Behan Aggregates & Recycling Centre. The vehicle was let into the premises by Larry Behan (41) the son of the owner. The car was later stopped by Gardai on the Naas Road, Dublin 12, and found to contain 57 kg of homemade explosive, 38 2.5 kg packages of Kemegel industrial explosive and 18 detonators. The two occupants received sentences of 7 years and 8½ years in prison. Larry Behan pleaded guilty to knowingly rendering assistance to the IRA contrary to Section 21A of the Offences Against the State Act 1939. He was given a two year suspended sentence. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/courts/naive-dublin-man-avoids-jail-sentence-over-ira-explosives-1.3875083>

---

## **Publications**

---

### **Forthcoming publication**

Shorelines: the coastal atlas of Ireland. This 33 chapter, 800 page atlas will be published by Cork University Press in 2020. Chapter 29 covers coastal mining, quarrying and hydrocarbon exploration.

### **Additions to bibliography**

Blake, John, 1978. Barytes Ireland: a world leader. Irish Mining Review, vol. 1, no.3, p.10.

Booth, Neil, 2013. Magcobar (Ireland) Ltd, Ballynoe open pit operation. Mining the Past (2013), p.63-72. (Silvermines Historical Society)

Colfer, Niall, 2019. Turning stone into bread: the millstone quarries of medieval and post-medieval Ireland. Industrial Archaeology Review, vol. 1, part 1, p.65-72.

Daly, Eoghan, 2019. Extreme machine: Beco Maxxim 800. Earthmovers issue 181 (May 2019), p.56-60. (Sand & gravel quarry at Derryarkin, Rochfortbridge, Co. Offaly)

Daly, Eoghan, 2019. Extracting value beneath the waves. Earthmovers issue 183 (July 2019), p101-103. (Testing of VAMOS underwater mining machine at former Ballynoe Mine, Co. Tipperary)

De Stafort, Eamonn, 2012. 20th century mining in Silvermines: an overview. Mining the Past (2012), p.1-10. (Silvermines Historical Society)

De Stafort, Eamonn, 2016. Saying no to a landfill. Mining the Past (2015/16), p.93-100. (Silvermines Historical Society) (Relates to former Ballynoe Mine, Co. Tipperary)

Devoy, Cora; Wrong, Linda; and Collins, Kevin, 2018. Former Galmoy Mines tailings restoration. Pages 9-17 in Wolkersdorfer, Christian, et al (editors), 2018. Mine Water – risk to opportunity. Vol. 1. Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria. 570pp. [https://www.imwa.info/docs/imwa\\_2018/IMWA2018\\_Devoy\\_9.pdf](https://www.imwa.info/docs/imwa_2018/IMWA2018_Devoy_9.pdf)

- Dowse, Joseph, 2006. Kilcavan Slate Quarry. Carnew Historical Society Journal (2006), p.49-54.
- Dunne, Terence, 2018. "Humour the People": subaltern collective agency and uneven proletarianization in Castlecomer Colliery, 1826–34. *Eire – Ireland*, vol. 53, parts 3&4, p.64-92.
- Gleeson, Denis, 2014. Mogul Mine – relegated to history. *Mining the Past* (2014), p.96-102. (Silvermines Historical Society)
- Gleeson, Denis, 2016. Ted Russell – the mining connection. *Mining the Past* (2015/16), p.137-139. (Silvermines Historical Society)(George Edward Russell, Chairman of Silvermines Lead and Zinc Company)
- Gleeson, Denis; and Collins, Pdraig, 2018. The mine shafts of Silvermines. *Mining the Past* (2018), p.41-45. (Silvermines Historical Society)
- McGrath, Brendan, 1978. An increase in production. *Irish Mining Review*, vol. 1, no.3, p.11-12. (Barite mines in Ireland)
- McGrath, William, 2018. Eddie visits his irish cousins. *Mining the Past* (2018), p.156-159. (Silvermines Historical Society)(includes photo of cornish engine house 1918)
- Meaney, Phil, 2017. Carlow Blue Limestone. *Carloviana*, no. 65, p.9-13. (Old Leighlin Quarry)  
<http://carlowhistorical.com/archives/>
- Ó Conluain, Proinsias, 2006. At the Coalisland coalface - a brief history of Tyrone coalfields and their associated Tyrone Navigation. *Dúiche Néill*, No.15, p.133-154.
- Quinn, Donal, 2018. Families uprooted by Mogul of Ireland Mine. *Mining the Past* (2018), p.21-25. (Silvermines Historical Society)
- Quirke, D.F., 1958. Limestone quarrying. *Transactions of the Institution of Civil Engineers of Ireland* vol.84, p.147-165. (Provides information about the limestone quarry of Cement Ltd at Drogheda)
- Ungoed-Thomas, Jasper, and Kearney, Terri, 2014. Lick Hill 'Cave' and its inscriptions. *Skibbereen and District Historical Society Journal* vol. 10, p89-105. (Undated copper mine 3 km SW of Skibbereen. Earliest inscription 1790) <https://www.corklocalstudies.ie/collections/show/21>
- Williams, Jack, 2011. Robert Recorde: Tudor polymath, expositor and practitioner of computation. Springer, London. 265 pp. (Chapter 4: The affair at Clonmines, p.35-52)

**If you come across any articles or books on irish mining and quarrying that are not listed in the bibliography in Journal No.9, or on Facebook, please let our Bibliographer know.**

**MHTI CONTACT DETAILS**

**Registered Address :** c/o Natural History Museum, Merrion Street, Dublin , D02 F627, Ireland  
Registered in Ireland as Company 340387.

**Chairman (matters of policy):** Matthew Parkes, mparkes@museum.ie, mobile 087 1221967

**Secretary (corporate matters, membership):** Nigel Monaghan, c/o Natural History Museum, Merrion Street, Dublin D02 F627, Ireland, email: nmonaghan@museum.ie, mobile 087 7985570

**Journal Editor, Bibliographer:** Paul Rondelez, prondelez@yahoo.com

**Newsletter Editor:** Alastair Lings, alastairlings@yahoo.co.uk , mobile +44 7763 850087

Country code for Ireland is +353, and the first zero of the area code or mobile number is omitted