



The Minerals Engineering Society (formerly The Coal Preparation Society)

Horizons

Special points of Interest:

- Presidential Address
- National Meeting and AGM
- Visit to Cliffe Hill Quarry
- ICPC St Petersburg
- National Golf Day
- North Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Coal Preparation Reunion.

2016 Presidential address



Good afternoon and welcome, fellow members of the Minerals Engineering Society. A special thanks should go to all those not on Council or Section Committees, for making the time and effort to support this event.

I thank David Baillie for his work during his time as President during the past two years. During this time I cannot think of an occasion when I have had to deputise for David so this demonstrates the commitment he gives to the Society.

Unlike the most recent two Presidents, this is my first time as President and therefore do not have any previous experience in the role. However I am confident that Past

Presidents and members of Council will keep me on track during my time in office.

I understand the President's Address in recent years has had a theme, so I have chosen 'A First Time for Everything'. At the time of preparing this address I thought this would be the first time I would have addressed the Society. Not so! Having been asked to give a presentation on the 2016 ICPC this morning makes it twice in one day.

However, by electing me as President it will be the first time a son has followed in his father's footsteps to hold the office of President in the Society, and I understand I'm the first President who has not spent his whole career in the minerals processing Industry. So what am I and what does the Minerals Engineering Society mean to me? I consider myself to be a Design/Project Engineer with many varied skills and experiences.

The Coal Preparation Society was formed in 1958, two years before I was born. However, my first contact with the Society was many years ago at the St Annes family weekends around 1970 where I definitely remember meeting Colin Scargill and possibly a few more of you.

In 1977, I started my first job at Bretby as a Student Mechanical Engineering apprentice. In 1978, I joined the MES as a Student Member and, once I became Chartered through the Institute of Mining Engineers in 1987, I upgraded to Associate Membership. In 2010, I became a full Member and in 2013 a Fellow of the Society. Thus, I have had some sort of association with the Society for 38 years.

In 1983 I had graduated from the then Trent Polytechnic with an Honours Degree in Mechanical Engineering and began working at Bretby on R&D Tunnelling Drilling & Transport Branch projects. In 1986, I returned to college to study for an HNC in Electrical & Electronic Engineering to enable me to start

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working on the automation of mining equipment and the introduction of computers to underground equipment.

Whilst at University in 1980, I was awarded the MES Travel Award which allowed me to visit coal preparation plants, universities and some of the main tourist attractions in China. These two weeks were a real adventure for a 20 year old Student.

After leaving British Coal through redundancy in 1994, I was employed by Getinge, a manufacturer of special steam and gas sterilisers for pharmaceutical companies. As a Design & Project Engineer, I was responsible for the delivery of large sterilisers from order to commissioning.



In 1998, I joined East Midlands Airport as the Mechanical / Electrical Engineer on Capital Projects outside of the Terminal Building. Starting the same day, the contractors moved onto the site to build the new control tower. I worked on projects such as taxiway refurbishment and the car parking infrastructure, layout, lighting and pay on foot parking systems.

In 2009, I left EMA to work for the Educational Development Trust supporting year 12 students on their EDS Engineering Projects. I joined Burton College in an administrative role on government initiatives for assisting the unemployed back into work, during which time I studied for two years to teach in further education, obtaining Level 3 and 4 qualifications.

Around this time, I took over the management of the MES website in its original format and subsequently became a member of Council and some of its Committees. During the Christmas period of 2011/12, I created the new look website you see today. I continue to maintain the website, updating information as and when necessary. So please remember to take a look every so often to see what is new. At the Annual Dinner in 2012, I received the McQuillan Award in recognition of my work as the Society's webmaster.

In 2013, I joined Bretby Gammatech as their Mechanical Engineer, a role I still perform, carrying out the design work, manufacturing, installing and commissioning of the ash monitoring systems.

Thus, it is full circle back to the coal industry and it is interesting to note that I am one of the few in the Society that still works within the field of coal preparation, visiting and working in plants in various parts of the world. However, the experience of visiting and working five times in Kazakhstan often reminds me of why I chose to seek employment outside the coal industry after leaving British Coal.

So what does a Presidential nominee do to understand the workings of the Society? He does what the previous President tells all members to do which is

to read The History of the MES 1958-2008 and, as did David, I encourage all members to read it at least once.

Reading the Society's history makes you aware it has faced difficult times in the past, particularly in the 1990s when British Coal was being privatised. The book tells us support for the Society was dwindling as Companies focused on alternative overseas markets. However, I quote, "There were notable exceptions in the early 1990s who continued to give generously of their time and support to the Society; such as David Baillie, Brian Everitt, Andrew Howells, Doug Jenkinson, Des Redmond, Colin Scargill and Paul Vanags, and later Ian Flanagan and John Sowter". We only have to look around the table and on Council to know I shall be in safe hands under the guidance of such a group of committed Society stalwarts.

I realise that during my term of office there are some serious decisions to be considered on the future of the Society. If the Society is still going to rely on the people mentioned above who held the Society together in the 1990s, then its long term future needs to be seriously considered. However the Society will celebrate its 60th Anniversary in 2018, and I know the S&E Committee are actively considering various options to make this a memorable event. As we approach this Anniversary, we should remember the Society's history. Over its 60 years, the Society has made many contributions to the coal preparation and minerals processing industries.

The Society is a leading member of British Standards on Coal Preparation and is responsible for many BS: standards. The Society continues to nominate members to its Committee. The Society instituted the formation of the ISO Committee on Coal Preparation (ISO TC27/SC1). MES members have always acted as Chairman of the Coal Preparation Committee and still does in the shape of Dr Doug Brown.

The MES has been the inspiration for other countries to form Coal Preparation Societies. Examples are South Africa, Australia, India, United States, Ukraine and China.

Members of MES have always represented the UK on the International Organising Committee (IOC) and following the demise of the National Coal Board and British Coal the Society has been recognised as the responsible body for coal preparation in the UK. As you will know, my father, Doug Jenkinson, is the UK representative on the IOC and I was fortunate to accompany him for the first time to its annual meeting in 2015. There, in St Petersburg, Russia, I met many representatives of the IOC from around the world.



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I was also pleased to accompany him, and MES President David Baillie, to the International Coal Preparation Congress in June 2016 where, during the presentation, we told delegates of some of the experiences we shared. I know the next ICPC to be held in India in 2019 will be just as good if not better under the administration of Raj Kumar Sachdev, and I know the MES will continue to represent the UK on the Organising Committee.



The Society has two active Groups and their committees endeavour each year to provide a varied and interesting programme for the members. I would encourage all members to participate and support these events, details of which can be found on the Society website

(www.mineralsengineering.org)

and which will always be promoted in the *Horizons*. Our successful annual Symposium, held at the Yew Lodge in Kegworth, is to be repeated on Thursday 18 May, so note it in your diaries.

The Society has published many different journals / publications over the years, and the current members' newsletter in the shape of *Horizons* is an excellent means of keeping members informed of Society news and forthcoming events. You should all have received the latest bumper 16 page edition this week. It is compiled and produced by the Symposium and Exhibition Committee under the Chairmanship of Greg Kelley and formatted by Ian Flanagan. I thank Ian for the time he invests in carrying out this task.

I am pleased that the Society website gets many hits from around the world and I, as webmaster, endeavour to keep it operational and up to date. Last week, it received 80 hits.

I would also like to remind members about the MES Archive which is housed at Neville Hall in Newcastle. I thank Vic Branfoot for his tireless effort in maintaining the Archive on the Society's behalf and also for his role as *Horizons* proof reader. I have also realised writing this address that there is currently no reference to the Archive on the website and this is something I will rectify in the near future.

I look forward to my term as President knowing I will need – and will doubtless receive - the guidance and support from many very experienced Council members who all have the good of the Society at heart.

I would like to thank Greg Kelley and Brian Everitt for agreeing to continue as Chairmen of the Symposium and Exhibition Committee and Policy and Finance Committee respectively and I look forward to working with them over the next twelve months. I also look forward to working with Peter Skinner in his role as Vice President.

Finally I must also thank Andrew Howells for his commitment to the Society as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer. Although he may not realise it, Andrew will celebrate - if celebrate is the right word - his Silver Jubilee in 2017 when he will have served 25 years as Honorary Secretary. As some Past Presidents have mentioned to me, we wouldn't cope without Andrew's experience and guidance.

So to finish ... in electing me as President, the Society has given me an opportunity to meet fellow members and learn from their experiences. So, in this age of networking via the Internet, Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter where information is instantaneous and accessible 24 hours per day, I encourage all members consciously to make an effort over the next 12 months to come and meet your like-minded Society Members by attending the organised events and partaking of some old fashioned face-to-face networking. I look forward to making new acquaintances at our events: *there's a first time for everything.*

Northern Group Technical Meeting - End of an Era, safe closure of coal mines

On Tuesday 15 November, Northern Group hosted a Technical Paper presented by Stuart Foweather who, until April 2016, was the Technical Operations Manager at UK Coal. Stuart had previously been Unit Mechanical Engineer at Wistow and Kellingley Collieries.

Stuart's paper was entitled, "The End of an Era - Managing the closure of the last few UK deep coal mines safely". The paper covered the capping of Harworth Colliery shafts and the closure of Thoresby and Kellingley Collieries and the capping of their shafts.



Although Harworth Colliery closed in 2006 it had been hoped that it may re-open when demand for coal made it worthwhile. As that did not occur it was decided to complete the closure and cap the shafts. The reason for capping the shafts, at all three collieries, and not filling them is that methane gas is still being extracted to run a small generating station on the site of the colliery. It is envisaged that this will continue for up to fifteen years whereupon the shafts will be filled.

Stuart's paper took us through the various stages of preparing the shafts for the introduction of the several metre thick concrete caps which would include the incorporation of the gas vents. He also explained that these vents would be the means of introducing the media for filling the shafts in the future.

Because Harworth had been closed for several years the work was carried out almost exclusively by contractors. However, in the case of Thoresby and Kellingley as part of the planned closure part of the workforce was engaged in the process. Stuart also went on to explain how emotive the process became with the engagement of the workforce.

Stuart closed his paper by giving a short summary of some of the other closed collieries in the Nottinghamshire coalfield that had been kept partially open as pumping stations to keep the water levels underground under control while there were still working collieries in the area. These could now be fully closed and, as they had already been capped, they could be handed back to the Coal Authority.

The Paper was well received by an audience of twenty members and Stuart was thanked for a very well delivered and informative presentation.

2016 National Meeting and AGM



Prior to the AGM, members listened to a Double Act by Doug and Neil Jenkinson on the History and current actions of the International Coal Preparation Congress. The history was given by Doug who has attended every Congress since 1962 (Harrogate) and is the UK representative on the International Organising Committee (IOC). Following WW2, the Allies set up a committee to assist European countries coal industries to get back into production.

A coal preparation sub-committee decided to hold a conference on this topic and the first Congress was held in Paris, France in 1950. Following the success of this, it was agreed that similar meetings be held every four years. Sixty six years later the Congresses are still flourishing and offers for future meetings mean that Congresses can be held well into the 2020's. The latest the XVIIth took place in St. Petersburg, Russia in July 2016 and the next will be in 2019 in New Delhi, India. Meetings are now held at three year intervals because of so many offers to host new Congresses. A full report by David Baillie of the St. Petersburg Congress is contained in this Newsletter.

Neil Jenkinson followed on with highlights of some of the visits arranged for delegates during the week, well illustrated by photographs taken at these events. St. Petersburg is on the River Niva and has many canals; evening trips along these waterways with dinner, provided the opportunity to see the back waters of the city. A sail also took place to the Peterhof Palace, the Russian Tsar's summer residence. Beautifully restored with magnificent rooms embellished with gold leaf was contrasted to the damage caused by enemy occupation. The city was not occupied by Nazis but was completely surrounded causing over 800,000 deaths by starvation. The Congress dinner was held in the Atrium of the Peter and Paul Fortress a small island in the river where guests were provided with a first class meal with music from a dance band with singer. On the island is the Cathedral of St Peter & St Paul holding the tombs of the Tsars including Catherine & Peter the Great as well as the remains of the last Tsar and his family. St. Petersburg is well worth a visit: suggest by cruise liner which avoids the expense, etc of obtaining visas.

This was then followed by Des Redmond, The second presentation entitled "Measurement techniques in Coal Fired Power Stations as an aid to Boiler optimisation" was presented by Des Redmond, a past President of our Society. It updated a paper given at an earlier society AGM. Des focussed on how the instrumentation had developed and the techniques are used to optimise boiler performance, including unburnt carbon in fly ash, air flow, pulverised fuel flow. He went on to identify the control techniques for the regulation of these parameters. Finally summarising with a number of examples of successful practical application of this technology.

Society AGM and Dinner

Following the excellent presentations and a break for coffee we moved to the Annual General Meeting of the Society, which was opened by outgoing National President David Baillie. This year had seen a new format Trustees' Annual Report circulated to all members that incorporated the old style Annual Report and Financial Report in one document. National Secretary Andrew Howells gave his usual review highlighting another successful Symposium at Kegworth and the technical programmes of Northern and Southern Groups before taking members through the financial element that once again confirmed the Society was able to look forward to 2016/17 with a healthy balance sheet. Those present adopted the new Report and the meeting then, for the first time for several years, received three resolutions as detailed to members previously and the meeting unanimously approved all three. The National President then took centre stage to make a few final observations on his two years at the helm before introducing your new President, Neil Jenkinson. In time honoured fashion, Neil thanked his predecessor and presented him with his Past President badge and tie, relieving him of the customary £5 for the latter. The new President then continued with the elections that saw Peter Skinner elected as Vice President before the Presidential Address that is reported elsewhere in this issue of Horizons.

Neil then chaired his first Council meeting before presiding over the annual dinner for which the college once again provided an excellent meal. After dinner the Immediate Past President had the pleasant duty to bestow Honorary Fellowships on both Colin Scargill and Ian Flanagan. This is the Society's highest award for service and dedication by individuals and was gratefully and humbly received by both gentlemen. Neil then moved to another very well deserved award of the McQuillan Shield and Medal to Greg Kelley of Northern Group, recognising his contribution to both the Group and Council for many years.

Members then retired to the bar to complete a great evening and plan next year's event so that we can all return to the Stables for more good company.



Northern Group Technical Visit—Cliffe Hill Quarry (Take 2)

Following the successful visit to the Midland Quarry Products (MQP) operation at Cliffe Hill Quarry last year, Northern Group began the 2016/17 technical session by returning to the Leicestershire site to visit the aggregate processing plant. We were once again joined by colleagues from Southern Group which ensured we had eight members in attendance, which was slightly disappointing as we were once again welcomed and very well looked after by Richard Nevin, Cliffe Hill Manager, and his team.



Richard began with a brief presentation about the site whilst we enjoyed bacon cobs and coffee in their conference room. There is a comprehensive description of MQP operations and history in issue 22 of Horizons so we do not detail it again here. The party was then split into two groups for an escorted visit to the aggregate processing plant which prepares the various products emanating from the Markfieldite granite rock mined at the site and initially crushed in the Fuller Traylor 2300 tph 54" x 74" gyratory crusher. The re-siting of the crusher was the subject of the paper this February which is reported in detail in issue 23 of Horizons.

The processing plant had actually been stopped to allow our visit. We all had a very interesting couple of hours following the twin processing route to view the conveyors, screens and crushers that are used to prepare the high quality products that are supplied to the construction and road building industries. We are once again indebted to Richard and his team and David Bagshaw, MQP Director, for allowing us once again to use their operations for a technical visit.

After Northern Group Chairman Peter Skinner proposed a Vote of Thanks to the Cliffe Hill team, the party retired to the Coach and Horses at Markfield where they enjoyed a hearty lunch in very pleasant surroundings.

Obituary — Bernard Roberts Fawthrop 1932 – 2016



Bernard was a long serving member of the Society and National Secretary in 1970 and 1971. Born in Nelson Lancashire and educated at Nelson Grammar school he always wanted to be a colliery manager. On leaving school he joined the N.C.B. Bank Hall Colliery and studied mining engineering at Burnley College. In 1951 he was awarded an N.C.B. University Scholarship for a mining degree at Sheffield. During this time he was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes precluding a mining career. He subsequently returned and gained a Degree in Mining Engineering in 1955. He then turned to coal preparation where his career took him to St. Helens N.W. Division, Plant Manager Littleton Colliery W. Mids, and Assistant to Divisional C.P.E. East Mids. His final move was to the N Notts Area in 1967 with appointment to Deputy A.C.P.E. in 1968. He took early retirement in 1987. In retirement he pursued his hobbies of hiking, reading and music (The Stones, The Doors, Bob Dylan etc.) He always preferred a good natter and couldn't stand this WWW stuff. Deteriorating health finally took its toll and he died in hospital on the 18th September 2016. He married Dorothy in 1957 who survives him together with sons Ross and Duncan and his younger sister Joan. He will be sadly missed by his family together with all former colleagues and friends who had the privilege of knowing him.

2016 Golf Day



The Yorkshire Golf Day (incorporating the Society's Annual Golf Tournament) was again held at the Styrrup Hall Golf Club and although numbers overall were down on the previous year, the day saw 26 players (which included ten Society members, one more than in 2015) playing for the Rogerson Shield, Norec and Metso Trophies for individual performance and the Arthur Mason Shield for the team competition. The weather was once again kind to us and with the course in its usual excellent condition the competition was once again fierce, but friendly, particularly since the dreaded battle for the "Keith Wood Two Iron" did not occur this year as the two multiple winners had exercised their right to retire the trophy - one year too soon as it turned

out!

The Members' Competition this year was a complete turnaround from 2015 when a delighted Ted Chomiuk of Southern Group went from just escaping the "Two Iron" last year to first with a score of 33 points to take the Rogerson Shield for the first time. Last year's third placed Andy Hucknall of Northern Group moved up to second place on count back to take the Norec Trophy with 32 points, Peter Skinner just missing out on the same score. So congratulations to Ted whose name joins the elite Society golfers on the famous Shield. Who would bet against Andy Hucknall joining him next year? The Guests' Competition was again extremely closely fought with another new name on the Metso Minerals Trophy, Peter Coupland. Peter won with the best score of the day, 40 points, closely followed by Don Murfit and Norman Down. The Arthur Mason Shield for the winning team was held for another year by the same team led by Society member Andy Hucknall of Northern Group ably supported by Peter Coupland, John Whitworth and Paul Turner. With 97 points, they just held off a team from Styrrup Hall Golf Club of Ken Jones, Don Murfit, Howard Jones and Peter Durnien who also scoring 97 points, on count back on the back nine.



An excellent day closed with a good meal and prize giving by the National President David Baillie before Andrew Howells thanked everyone, both members and guests, for supporting the day. He wished them all a safe journey home and hoped that they would all be back on Friday 21st July 2017 to meet old friends and do battle once again. Only those who played know the potential winner of the "Two Iron"!

Results: -

Society Members

Ted Chomiuk 33
 Andy Hucknall 32
 Peter Skinner 32
 Ed Simon 31
 Andrew Howells 30
 Richard Walton 30

Guests

Peter Coupland 40
 Don Murfit 37
 Norman Down 36
 Howard Armstrong 36
 Alan Jones 35
 Brian Coatham 35

Team Competition

Andy Hucknall/Peter Coupland/Paul Turner/John Whitworth
 Ken Jones/Howard Jones/Don Murfit/Patrick Durnien
 Alan Jillott/Paul Thorpe/Ted Chomiuk/Brian Coatham

Longest Drive 9th: Peter Coupland
Nearest Pin 10th: Richard Walton
Nearest Pin 13th: Don Murfit



International Coal Preparation Congress 2016

The Minerals Engineering Society continues to be the UK organising body on the International Organising Committee (IOC) for the International Coal Preparation Congress (ICPC) which is held at three-year intervals. Long may this continue!

Douglas Jenkinson remains as our MES representative on the IOC and has been ably assisted over the past two years by our recently appointed President, Neil Jenkinson, in preparing the programme and papers for this most recent event, hosted by Russia in the picturesque and historic city of St Petersburg.



Although UK participation in the Congress was disappointing (with only three papers and six delegates) the MES was well represented. The then President (David Baillie) was invited by the Russians as an honoured guest, which enabled the Society to register our Vice-President as a delegate, and together with our IOC representative and the three authors (all MES members) we ensured that the MES featured prominently in all the proceedings.

It must be said that obtaining 'letters of invitation', registering for the Congress and receiving Russian visas was an interesting challenge, but when eventually sorted out, the trip and event ran very smoothly. The only real 'inconvenience' was Air France managing to lose all our luggage for 24 hours on the outward journey! But hey-ho what's new?

St Petersburg is 'A city built of granite and embellished in gold' and is well worth a visit as a tourist. It is an inspired choice for the Congress in Russia!

The elaborate official opening and closing ceremonies for the Congress took place at the modern Congress Hall of Multifunctional Complex (MFC), Gorniy, whereas all the technical paper presentations were in the very impressive and historic Saint-Petersburg Mining University. They were only ~2km apart and bus transport, when required, was well organised.

St Petersburg Mining University was established in 1773 and in addition to its impressive façade is recognised as one of the best Mineral Resource Universities in the world.

Currently there are over 16,000 students being educated at the University. Those present were all dressed in smart military styled uniforms and provided most of the logistical assistance to the delegates in a friendly and attentive manner with excellent English skills. They are a credit to the University.

The presentations for the main Congress were split between the cinema style Assembly Hall and the very modern Conference Room. The Youth Section papers were presented in the adjacent Library Hall.

The Conference Room and Library Hall in particular were excellent venues for both presenters and delegates as they included audio and vdu facilities for the audience. All venues had full translation available.

Other impressive facilities at the University included the Library and especially the extensive natural science Mining Museum, which contains a collection of 230,000 items including 47,000 minerals, with mining and metallurgical equipment, geological collections together with stone and metal artwork. A truly marvellous display!



The Opening Ceremony on the Tuesday morning included welcomes from Mr Alexander Novak, Chairman of the Russian Organising Committee, Mr Vladimir Litvinenko, Rector of St Petersburg Mining University and Mr Georgii Poltavchenko, Governor of St Petersburg. The scene was then set for the Congress working programme, by the presentation of several 15-minute papers on the state of coal preparation in Russia and worldwide, together with a joint paper by Douglas Jenkinson and Andrew Swanson on the 'ICPC past, present and future.' All 14 'Country Reports' on coal preparation by the IOC delegates were printed in full in the 'June 2016 issue of the Gornyi Zhurnal Mining Journal', and made particularly interesting reading. This will be included on our website.



The Congress Exhibition opening followed immediately and the exhibition was fairly low key with just 21 exhibition stands, of which 15 were Russian. It was mainly catalogue / poster presentations with very little equipment on display.

For the main Congress a total of 121 technical papers from 22 countries were presented over 2½ days in parallel sessions in two separate conference halls in the University. Each presentation was crammed into only 15 minutes including questions, which is far from ideal to allow the author to provide sufficient information and get any meaningful feedback. The Proceedings for the Congress were distributed shortly after registration in printed form (two large volumes) and on memory stick and contained a total of 187 papers. The papers were divided into eleven different categories to try to assist delegates in choosing their preferred presentations.

The UK can be proud of its three papers presented as they were all of a very high standard and relevant to the science and practice of coal preparation. Dave Woodruff of FLSmidth (FLS) put forward a convincing economic case for the DM Bath / cyclone combination compared to only DMC circuits. Steve Frankland's paper, presented by Dmitry Bojarskiy of Arcelor Mittal, described the recent and on-going improvements being made to the fines cleaning and de-watering circuits at Vostochnaya CPP in Kazakhstan and created some interesting questions. Gary Wain, Bretby Gammatech, gave an update on the advances made in the use of natural gamma equipment and the development and advantages of a new data handling system (Matrix Data Delivery method) using the EyeGrafix software.

The Social Side of the Congress was also well organised and started early for the 'dignitaries' on the Sunday evening with an interesting boat trip around several of the smaller canals whilst being wined and dined by the hosts of the Congress.

On the Tuesday evening was the Gala Dinner at the Atrium of the Peter and Paul Fortress, which contains the magnificent Catherine's Cathedral where the Russian monarchs are buried, including the recovered remains of the last Tsar Nicholas II, his wife and daughters. This was a lavish feast with entertainment by a jazz type band and talented singer, then back to Toni's!



On Wednesday evening a Cultural programme was organised and the author of this report took this opportunity to go on another two-hour boat trip (with commentary) along the Neva River to learn some history of the city, followed by another late night rendezvous at Toni's.

Thursday evening was the Closing Ceremony with an elaborate stand-up buffet where the Russian hosts handed over the organising reigns to Mr Raj Kumar Sachdev, Chairman of the IOC, for the XVIV ICPC to be held in Delhi, India, in 2019.

Although the official Congress closed on Thursday evening, the hosts had organised a visit to see the gardens and fountains at Peterhof, located 30 km from St Petersburg and reached by a thirty-minute trip by hydrofoil. Peterhof was the favourite retreat for Peter the Great from 1705 and was developed during the

18th and 19th centuries into a grandiose complex of eleven parks, 200 naturally pressurised fountains and many sculptures, with The Grand Palace and Fountain Cascade forming the centrepiece.

North Derbyshire CPP Reunion.



The annual reunion of friends and colleagues associated with coal preparation in the old North Derbyshire coalfield of British Coal took place on Thursday 27 October at the Hostess restaurant in Shirebrook. This reunion has been taking place for over 20 years and is now organised by Oliver Dodd. It takes place each year on the last Thursday in October and for the last few years the venue has been the Hostess restaurant. Normally the numbers attending have been around 20, but this year saw a significant drop due in part to holiday

and previous family commitments.

Thirteen stalwarts turned out in the end and they enjoyed the excellent Hostess lunch with non-stop chat and reminiscences. You can never get tired of this event because you always learn new tales about someone or something from this era. Oliver is still confident that this year was somewhat of a glitch and the numbers should return for next year's lunch.

If you are interested in attending this event, Oliver would be delighted to hear from you and make you most welcome. He can be contacted by email at oliverdodd@hotmail.co.uk.

Future Events

Minerals Processing Symposium 2017
Thursday 18th May 2017
Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth

Minerals Engineering 2017 is the next in an annual series of symposia organised by The Minerals Engineering Society, South Midlands Mining and Minerals Institute and the Coal Research Forum. This symposium is free to members of these Institutions, however you still need to book your place. Non members fee is £75 which includes one years membership of the MES at Associate level, Student fee is £35. This symposium has attracted a wide range of international speakers from Industry. Further detailed Program to follow. This one day symposium organised by the Minerals Engineering Society and co-sponsored by the South Midlands Institute of Mining & Minerals and The Coal Research Forum brings together Industry professionals from all over the UK. It provides an opportunity for equipment and service suppliers, producers, regulators, government agencies and academia to come together under the common goal of ensuring a future for the UK's processing industries through sustainable research and Innovation