

JULY 20th Thursday saw 15 of us (including 2 junior visitors) at the Cleveland Ironstone Museum with Peter Appleton who is a regular guide at the Museum and an expert on local industrial history.

Cleveland Ironstone Mining Museum is unique. From the external buildings, still standing to this day, to the haulage drifts and underground tunnels, the museum stands out as being located on the site of an actual ironstone mine. Between 1865 and 1958, over 500 men and boys were employed here, making this, Loftus Mine, the third largest mine in Cleveland.

Following a short film introducing the origins, decline and legacy of the Cleveland ironstone mines we stepped into the museum gallery as Peter went through the history, plans and artefacts. We discovered how the miners were paid, what equipment they carried into the black tunnels. Our group became split as early arrivals went with an earlier tour but after an entertaining demonstration of mining including a “ real “ firing and rockfall during an underground visit we met up again after a lunch stop at the Centre.

We travelled in convoy (sort of) to a car park at **Margrove Park Old Shale Tip (GR - NZ 652 156)** – about 3 miles from the Museum- where Peter Appleton took us on a **Heritage Walk – Valley of Industry** - a 3 mile (2.5hr) walk to show us the old industries of the area being Iron Works, Clay Pits, Brick Works and Alum quarrying and production which relied on the local geology. This was an introduction to a full day on Alum in 2018.



(NOTE You should be able to read the text by enlarging the PDF just click “+”)



Alan explaining the chemistry of Alum to the group



Going down the mine