

WGCG evening talk Wednesday 19th January, 2022

Mining on the Iberian Peninsula

Presented by Rob Vernon



Mercury condenser - Almadén, Spain

The talk by Rob Vernon, '**Mining on the Iberian Peninsula**' is a brief account of Spanish and Portuguese mining by examining the geology, history and landscape of this very diverse mining region. The introduction will include a general overview of the geology, and mining activity, followed by examples of specific mining areas including the Iberian pyrite belt, mining activities in Andalusia, and the later activities of dredging companies.



Gold Dredge - Northern Spain



La Tortilla Lead Mine, Linares, Spain

Robert Vernon: After graduating in geology from London University in 1969, Rob Vernon worked as a geologist in the UK Coal Industry. Firstly, as the mine geologist at Lea Hall Colliery, Staffordshire, followed by a senior position in Yorkshire. With the demise of the coal industry in 1993, he re-trained in Archaeological Prospection at Bradford University, and was awarded a Doctorate in 2004.

He has always had a passion for mining history and has written widely on the subject, initially on the Gwydyr Forest area in Snowdonia, followed by the Llyn Peninsula. Eventually, his interest turned to the activities of 19th century British mining companies in Spain and Portugal, and he has written several books and papers on their endeavours, particularly in the Linares area, Andalusia, where he is an honorary member of the local Spanish mining heritage group. He has also travelled widely pursuing his interest and has given talks about archaeological geophysics and mining history in European countries, India, Japan, Australia and Chile. His latest book about a Leeds based engineering company (Hathorn, Davey), that specialised in the manufacture of heavy-duty mine pumping engines, was published in 2021.

Rob will be known to many WGCG members, having led our 2019 field trip to Bredon Hill, Worcestershire and given a lively, engaging talk on mining in North Wales in August 2020 – one of our first Zoom meetings.