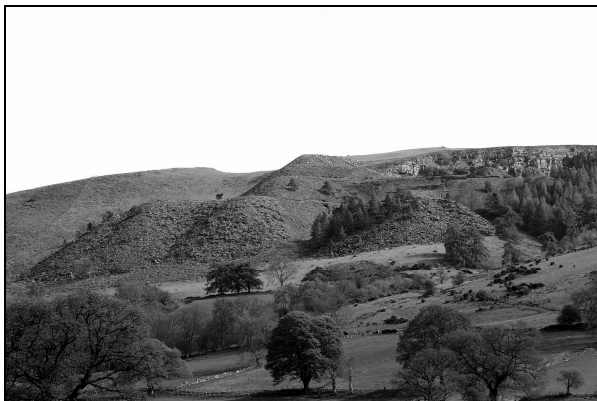

quarry. It was this quarry and others that made the building of the railway in 1865 a profitable venture. Although now disused, Penarth Quarry is an important geological site because of the Silurian plant fossils that are found in the slates.



Penarth Quarry near Corwen

The train journey takes around 35 minutes from Llangollen to Carrog but it passes through Silurian rocks 420 million years old with Carboniferous rocks 340 million years old visible from the train. The last few miles run along the wide valley bottom over sediments laid down in the Tertiary and Quaternary periods, only a few thousand to a few million years old. The scenery is wonderful at any time of year but the spring and late autumn are recommended. The walking is good but presents some challenges particularly on the Berwyn Way. Gentler walking can be achieved on the towpath of the Llangollen Canal with its 200 ft high span of the river Dee at Pontycysyllte, although crossing in high winds can be a scary experience. Other attractions in the area include the Horseshoe Falls just upstream from Berwyn where a weir holds back the river and diverts water into the canal. Just west of Corwen, up the A494 towards Ruthin is the little 17th century Rug Chapel. Plain on the outside, it is richly decorated on the inside with a beautifully carved roof, a panelling frieze that runs the length of the church and a wall painting of a skeleton.

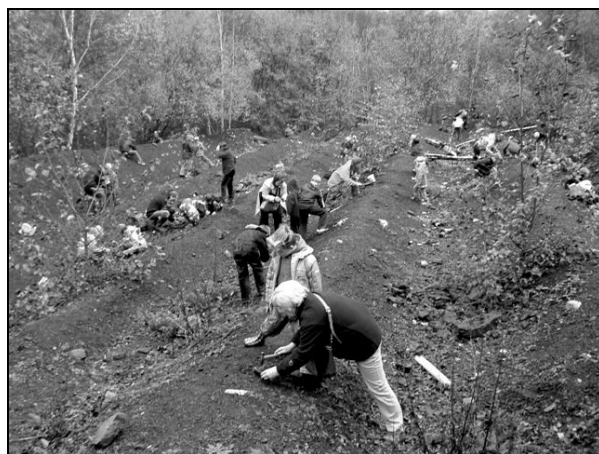
The trail leaflets are available from the Tourist Office in Llangollen as well as timetables of the Llangollen Railway www.llangollenrailway.co.uk

Photographs by Charles Hiscock

WRITHLINGTON '08

John Parkins

The fossil hunt organised by Radstock Museum is now a well established part of Bath & NES Somerset's Heritage Week, and a very popular part at that! The '08 event was no exception. Although departure time from the museum was 1.30, children and accompanying adults were arriving much earlier. As in previous years, the age range was wide, from four to eleven. A free car park near the museum is most welcome and the walk to the site along a disused Railway, now a cycle track, is a pleasure in itself. Finds covered the more common types of Upper Carboniferous Flora and every child had something to take home. Beyond this, the event gave the children a chance to interact with the environment in an immediate way. They were, in my opinion, experiencing true education. To see both adults and children also interacting with each other in the way that they did was a personal pleasure. This event deserves the fullest support. In this respect, the site now needs a thorough refreshing. At present finds are more sparse than previously and I can foresee a time when many children will finish the day disappointed. This would be a great loss, as anyone who has seen the enthusiasm and the wonder that the children express will know.



Fossil hunting in the Writhlington batch