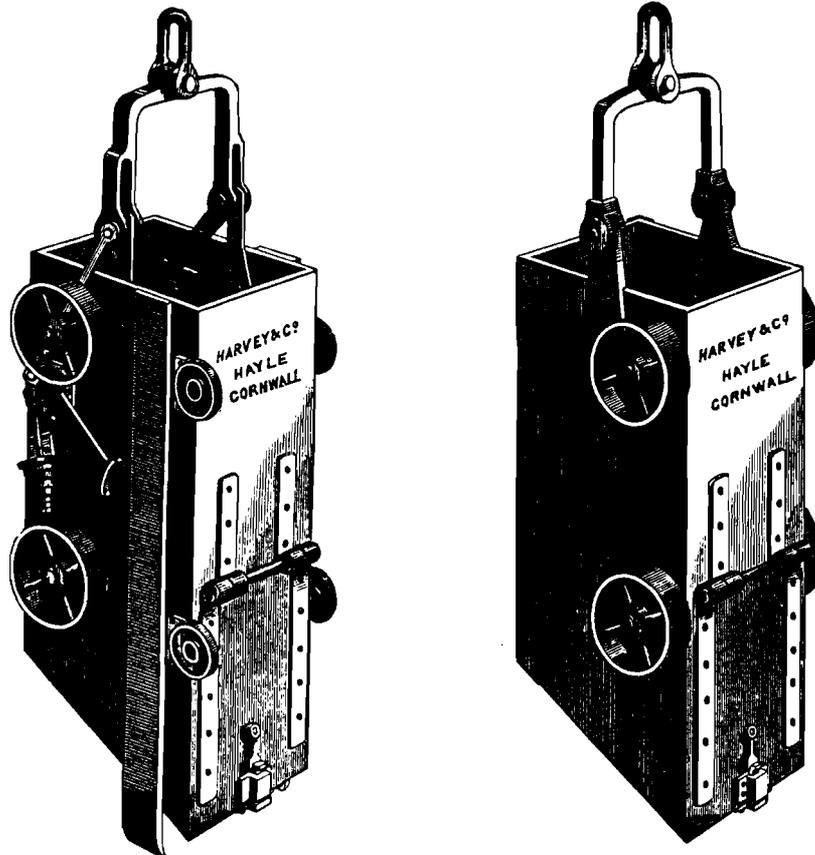




No 46



The Newsletter of the
Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society

Apology

The editor apologises that due to technical problems punctuation in some articles may be indicated by a question mark.

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Editor:- My thanks to all contributors. however I would like to point out again. that a newsletter is only a good as what is in it. If you have not contributed. however humble. well shame .

Meet leaders. those stalwart people. have the extra duty of writing up their meets. or designating someone else to do it. If it is not in the newsletter then there is no official record of what went on. which is sad.!

This could refer to you!

The copy date for CATMHS 47 will be given in the next Bulletin.

Opinions and articles in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views and objectives of the Cumbrian Amenity Trust Mining History Society

Nothing remains the same for ever

A Recent Subsidence below Simon's Nick

Whilst taking a walk up to Levers Water 30/3/96 I noticed a new depression in the screes below The Nick. Upon closer inspection a crater about 15ft square was found, and an area of about 20-30ft above this had been swallowed up, revealing some older revettement walling. During a pumping meet early last year but never written up, this very spot was examined and was thought to be the the top of a stope above Top Level. It looks like this theory was correct!

John Davis. 2 April 1996

Editor Note:- Over the Easter Weekend several souls decided to do the Levers Water to Grey Crag Level through trip, normally not much of a problem, however, they had reckoned without the consequences of the events above. The material has probably gone into the stope on Top Level on the Belman Hole Vein, adding to the material that came down from the roof at the south end. There is a 'window' about 20ft up in the west wall in that area of the stope that goes into the Paddy End Stope and it is probable that some of this stuff found its way through this and down to where the through route comes to Grey Crag Level thus blocking it. This fact was only ascertained when the first members of this party reached the bottom of the last pitch. They were able to ascend back to Middle Level but, having pulled their ropes down, and not knowing the mines well, there they had to wait for assistance. They were all safely rescued.

One further point is that access to the stope on Top Level is now probably blocked, apart from the drop to Grey Crag level, which is a pity since there were several interesting areas there worthy of further investigation. It makes one mindful of an editorial I wrote about recording fully places one could get at as one never knew if access was always going to be available.

New members

John H Todd 34 High Meadow, Bell Vue, Carlisle, CA2 7PZ

Diary Dates

19th May DaleHead Copper Mines.

29th Roan Head - Evening Meet.

27th - 29th September NAMHO Field Meet - Princetown, Dartmoor.

27th September - 5th October CATMHS Summer Meet - Cornwall.

Social Evenings

Please note that these will now take place from September to April inclusive - I.E. you can have the summer off !

MEETS REPORTS

Meet Report - Cornwall 1995

The week long Cornwall meet in September was CAT's longest and probably best meet for some years so if you don't want to feel jealous it may be best to skip the rest of this article.

Newquay, which was the base for our adventures, sticks in my mind as a very distracting place, with crowds of scantily clad young ladies wandering the streets - even when it was blowing a gale. Even Tristan said he felt old, and most pubs had three bouncers, however I digress. Four people Dave Bridge, Tristan Goldsack, Peter Hay and myself attended the meet and we were fortunate to have good cheap accommodation (£45 each for the week) which had been arranged by Peter.

Sunday saw Peter, Tristan and myself (Dave was travelling down) at the mine buildings at King Edward Mine. Those who know a little about Cornish mining will know that this is owned by the Camborne School of Mines. The mill had been built to provide training facilities for Mining Engineers but is now completely out of date and other facilities are used. Since the structure contains a wealth of old machinery a few people connected with the School of Mines are slowly restoring the equipment under the leadership of Tony Brooks, with the long term aim of opening it to the public. The equipment consisted of many interesting items including stamps by Fraser and Chalmers, buddles, a probably unique round frame and various concentrating tables. One item of interest was a tub I think called a dolly tub which was used for concentrating slimes. The method of working was as follows. The slimes together with some water were tipped into the tub, which resembled the lower half of a wooden barrel, which was then stirred. Once the stirring was complete the outside of the barrel was tapped repeatedly with a large hammer which would impart vibration to the mixture and encourage the ore to settle at the bottom. In due course the water could be drained off and the ore dug out.

In the afternoon we went to see what is termed the Great Flat Lode at Wheel Uny (SW695410). The shaft, which is surrounded by a climbable fence, is approximately 35 feet down in-situ ladders to the vein. The vein

which hades approximately 45 degrees can be descended using an extant rope of approximately 1 inch diameter. The workings go both ways and particularly down into the waters below. In one direction after crossing a series of ledges a hole could be seen continuing down together with an old rope which was secured to nothing of any substance. Since there were no suitable rock to attach a rope to we were unable to pursue this route.

After Wheel Uny we travelled back via the Magdalen Mine which is adjacent to the railway viaduct at Ponsanooth. The workings are obviously very old and initially appear to have been developed as an open working before going underground. The workings carried on downwards and an attempt at descent was made however the rock defeated all attempts to place a bolt without shattering or blunting and jamming - yes there is harder rock than Coniston.

On Sunday we had played our cards to the best and talked our way into a trip around the underground part of the King Edward Mine on the following day. This mine actually isn't King Edward Mine at all but South Condurrow. Its nice very now and again to go into a mine where there are such luxuries as ventilation fans (to remove the radon gas - South Condurrow is quite hot in this respect) decent ladders and lights. The workings are not extensive but there is much of interest to see including rock drills and a properly timbered shaft.

In the afternoon we ventured across to Cligga head and initially sat in the van as the rain lashed down and the breakers rolled in. However duty beckoned and in a break we descended the path, which from above looked horrendous but actually wasn't too bad, to the shore. The lowest level is just above the beach and obviously floods at low tide. The workings are quite extensive and on three levels. It is possible to enter at the lowest level and exit from either the middle or upper level (I forget which). Inside the mine there is clear evidence of fairly recent attempts at re-working together with some internal shafts which obviously accessed workings below sea level which are now flooded.

Tuesday was a blisteringly hot day with little

respite even on the coast at Porth Nanven. After climbing up the cliff a little way to photograph what is mainly a Welsh peculiarity; a rock cannon we turned our attentions to Wheel Bellan. After some poking about in dense vegetation and a few unpromising trials, in one of which Peter almost got stuck, we found the main level. This terminated in a large shaft, block lined on two sides. A large timber at head height made an ideal belay and the bottom which is approximately 70 feet below was soon attained. The workings at this point must connect with the sea since the smell of the sea was strong and the water level was moving as if with wave motion. Part way down the shaft a level headed off. After crossing a dubious plank and along a narrow ledge in the foot wall the only way onward was down. Cornwall as a whole is very lacking in bolts and any attempt to place one usually results in a blunt drill, or cracked and broken rock, or foul language and often all three. This was no exception. After a considerable period of time messing about on the narrow ledge trying to jam timbers and large rocks to provide a belay we admitted defeat and headed back to day. The afternoon was spent looking at other mines in the area, none of which were extensive.

Cape Cornwall is a famous beauty spot but mine workings pass underneath. On the Wednesday we completed an interesting through trip which commenced on the beach on the North side and ended on the beach to the South. The way in is not obvious but a small steel pipe coming down the cliff is in line with an adit which cannot be seen from the beach. Sporting climbing on vertical grass leads to a way down behind the fallen level mouth. One inside the mine we thoroughly explored the newer workings, pressing on at times through chest deep water, before coming to a descent of 20' which has an in situ rope. This rope was courtesy of Roy Fellowes whose notes on Cornwall from the West Cumbria Mines Research Group proved very useful. After the descent it is immediately apparent that you are now in a much older part of the mine. A tight climb and grovel through some loose rocks at the base of what appears to be a run in shaft soon leads to a ledge along the side of a stope. Deep water can be seen below. Continuing along the level brings you back to day.

After lunch the incomplete exploration at Bellan was still haunting us so Dave and I returned

whilst Peter and Tristan went mineral collecting. Quickly descending the shaft we were soon back at the point where we had turned back. Having thought the problem through we were now quickly able to rig up a belay and descend to the lower level. This is assumed to be the drainage level since one branch goes on the through gradually deepening water. The workings at this horizon are extremely extensive and consist of workings on a large number of parallel veins. The workings were explored as fully as ventilation would allow since the further one went from the shaft the poorer the air got until eventually it was imperative that we retreat. A nice kibble was found near the foot of our descent.

On Thursday we had an official tour around the Delabole Slate Quarry. Note that tours are undertaken three days a week and the one on Thursday being the most extensive. The thing that immediately strikes you about the workings is how tidy it all is. For those, like the author, being used to Welsh quarries where old lorries are scattered all about and most equipment is old, rusty or knackered and usually all three, it was pleasing to see everything tidy with concrete roads to keep the dust down. Whilst the Quarry is the oldest in England little of historic interest remains. The Slate is extracted using wire saws in blocks approximately 25 feet square and are then broken for movement to the mill where it is sawn and sold for sills and decorative purposes or swan again and split into roofing slates. The rock being split for slates was poor and the yield looked extremely low. I think in the time we were in the splitting mill almost all the rock split was defective and was thrown out. Delabole is unusual in that in total, the quarry produces almost zero slate waste. Waste blocks are sold for building or crazy paving whilst smaller pieces are ground down to produce slate powder. This is used as an inert filler in the manufacture of paint, asphalt coatings and plastics to name a few. A specialist section manufactures headstones and slate worktops.

The afternoon was spent at Mount Wellington which was recently worked in conjunction with Wheel Jane. It appears that Mount Wellington was primarily used as a pumping shaft since the workings that could be explored were considerably older than the extensive pipework and drainage channels. An attempt was also made to enter Wheel Jane although this was not

successful (for full details speak to one of the people who attended) .

Friday saw a parting of the ways. Peter and Tristan went off mineral collecting whilst Dave and the author headed east to Caradon Moor. In Minions we met up with Ted Hewison, courtesy of member Adrian Barrell, who took us across the moor (literally - not easy when your trying to keep up with a Land Rover across country) to a hole which leads into the West Phoenix Mine. When Ted, who did not come with us for health reasons, was questioned about belay points he replied "Oh, we use our rescue vehicle for getting down there?". Whilst my mind grappled with visions of an old landrover descending a vertical pitch Ted explained that their rescue vehicle consisted of a mobile crane complete with one thousand feet of eleven millimetre steel hawser. People descending being merely lowered down and hauled back up - beat that COMRU.

Once Ted had left we found a couple of suitable fence posts and struggling with loads of gear descended the first 120 foot pitch on the authors very quick rope. Once safely landed on a pile of old fridges we saw that there was only one obvious way on and this was over a rather daunting little horse along the vein where it splits. On one side the drop was approximately 30 feet whilst on the other it was 160 feet. The trick at this points seems to be to cross with your legs astride - not elegant, comfy or quick but reasonably safe. Once over this hurdle and passing a few large holes in the floor the level stopped at the head of the next pitch. This pitch of 160 feet was belayed using just about everything in site which looked as if it would not move too far - this miscellaneous collection of objects including an old ladder, various planks and scaffold poles and a large stone. Dave descended first passing through a small hole which opened out into a massive stope bellow. The "rope free" call when it came sounded very distant. Once at the bottom we were able to climb down a further 40 feet before the final pitch of approximately 30 feet took us to water level. It was quite evident that the water level was usually consider higher than it was during our visit as evidenced by the very thick mud which covered everything over approximately the last 50 vertical feet of the descent.

If the above has wetted your appetite for Britain's largest Metal Mining Region this

years Cornish trip will take place between 27th September and the 6th October. The first weekend will be spent at the NAMHO field meet at Princetown. The programme looks excellent with underground trips including South Crofty (Cornwall's last working mine) and Devon Great Consols which in 1850 was Europe's largest and richest copper mine. Devon Great Consols closed in 1901 having sold 736229 tons of copper ore (from D.B.Barton). This was the greatest recorded output for any mine in the Old World. As a Devonian it is always pleasing to remember that the biggest mine in the West of England Mining Filed lies in Devon and not Cornwall.

Jon Knowles

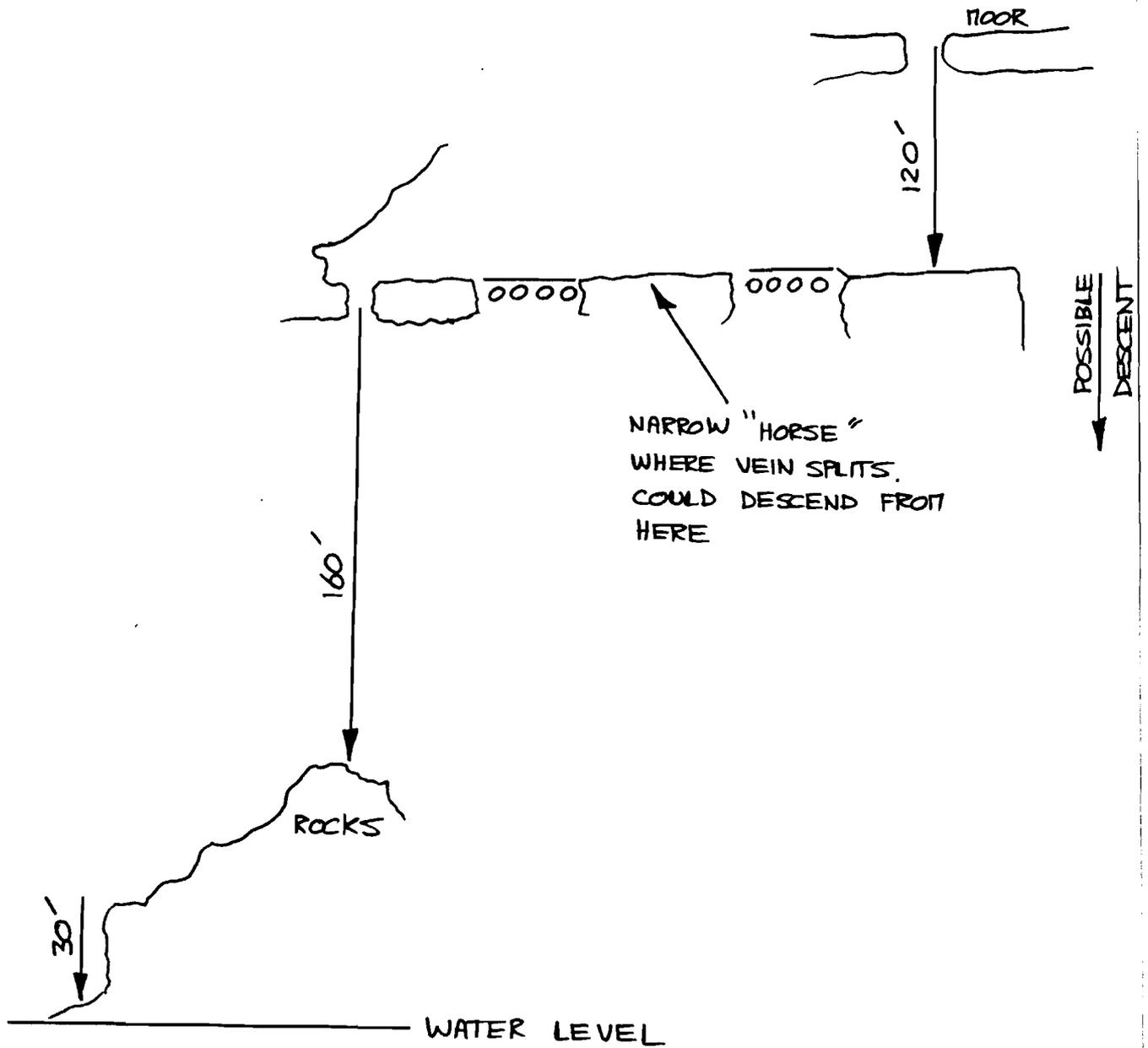
See over for

Sketch of the route through West Phoenix Mine

Jon Knowles -- Light Painter



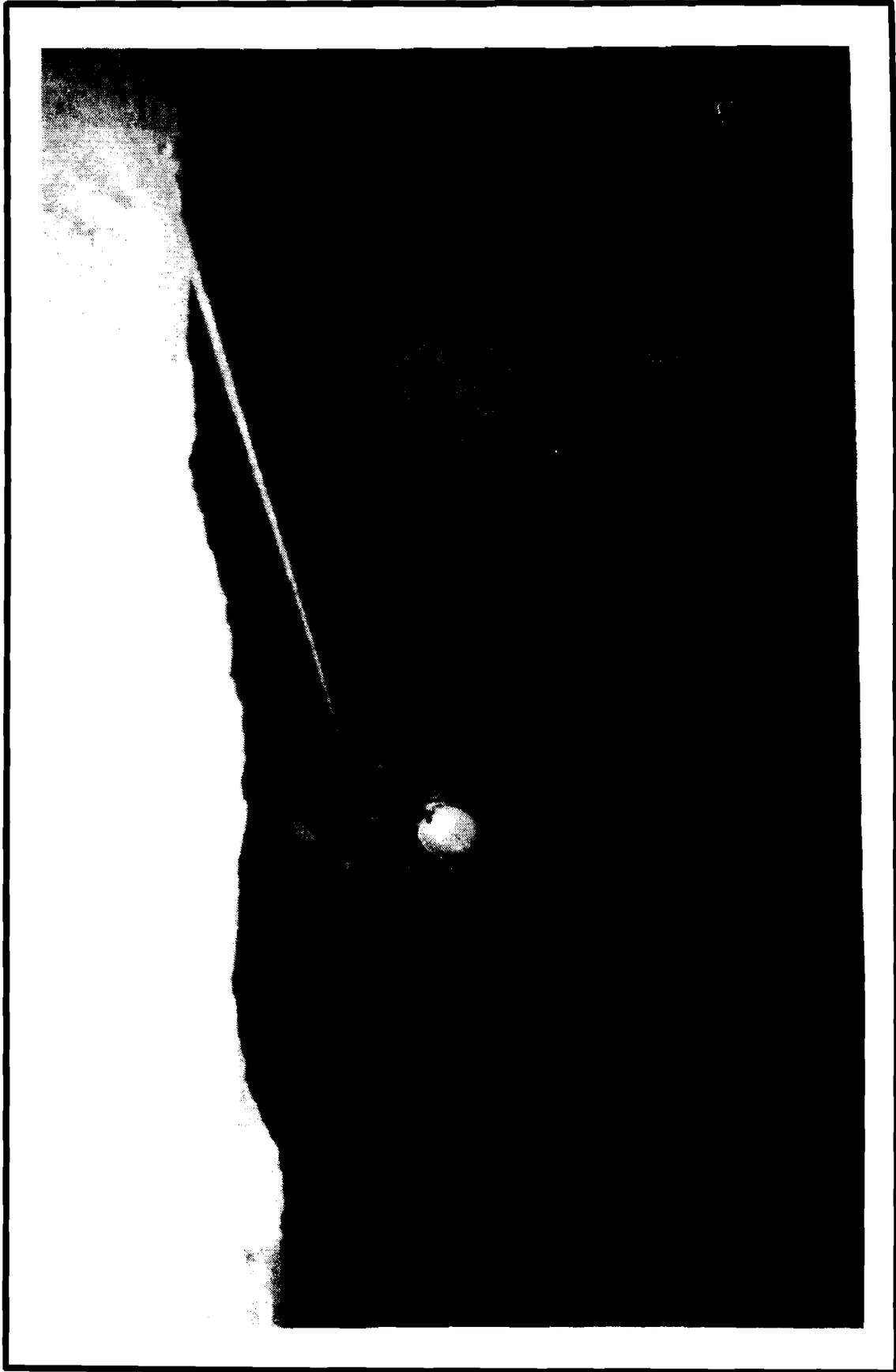
Sketch of the route through West Phoenix Mine



NOT TO SCALE

Stenches

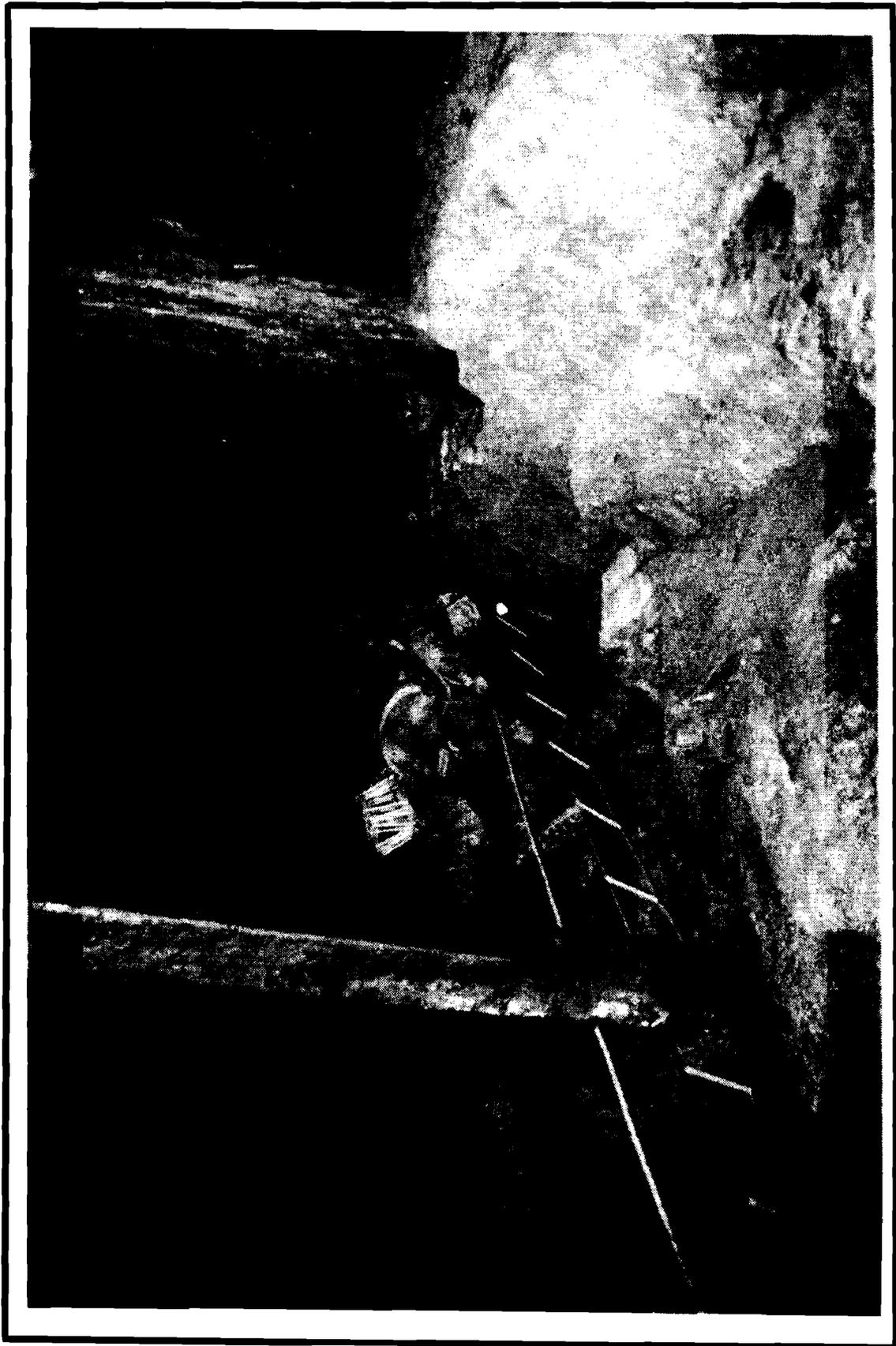
Dave Bridge Ascends 120ft pitch in West Phoenix



Dave Bridge at the Top of 160ft Pitch in West Phoenix



Tristan Descends Shaft in the Bellan Mine



Taylor's Level Coniston

21st January 1996

Further Exploration

Meet leader Ian Matheson, Mike Mitchell, Peter Fleming, Dave Bridge, Chris Jones, Phil Merrin, John Davies, Mark Simpson. All but two were at the forefront in the great days of exploration in the 1980's, and the average age of the first four must be about sixty! Why are there so few newer, younger members participating in meets?

It is a long time since there has been any serious exploration of Taylor's Level by C.A.T. The most recent work there was the construction of the stempleway to complete the level and make possible a through trip from Triddle Shaft to Taylor's Level Adit. This was carried out over several meets during 1993 and 1994. The last visit was in October 1994 when the travers line across the collapsed floor at the inbye end was replaced. The present meet was the suggestion of Ian Matheson, and was originally to be held on 18th June 1995, but was held over, as on that day there was a National Park Voluntary Wardens Work Meet to repair the fences around the Red Dell stopes.

There are several rises above Taylor's Level which have never been thoroughly explored, and this was the main aim of the day. As the outcome was uncertain, several other options had been prepared. They were to complete the Taylor's Level through trip, to inspect John Davies's dig up in Bouncy Level, which he hopes will eventually connect with Flemings Level, or visit the Blue Cascade. As it turned out none of these options were to be required!

Everyone met at the BMSC Hut, and went in for a cup of tea and to agree a plan of action. It was decided that Messrs Merrin and Jones would go in via the main adit and make their way to the foot of the forty foot pitch, and wait there for a rope to be sent down. The others were to enter via the Red Dell Stopes and then take all the gear to the far end of Taylor's Level in order to start probing the rises.

The descent via the eastern end of the stopes took a long time due to the awkward maypole sections and the caution given to the rather unstable stope, and those waiting on the surface in the snow got quite cold. Mike Mitchell, who was the first down, lowered a rope to Phil and

Chris, who both came up the stempleway but then decided to go back the way they had come. The rest proceeded as far as possible along Taylor's level, the first objective being to climb up the slope below the viewpoint to examine a wheelbarrow wheel lying amongst the debris from a recent rock fall, which John Davis had noticed a few weeks earlier. This was accomplished, and a start was made to remove the wheel for safekeeping and perhaps display in the Ruskin Museum. It is a nice example of a typical Coniston wheelbarrow wheel, being a solid wooden disc with an iron tyre and a square spindle, rounded at the ends where it would run in the bearings.

Whilst this was going on Mark Simpson began one of his digs at the end of the level, and by the time the wheel had been lowered down he had succeeded in clearing a crawl through to Triddle Shaft. The hanging death above didn't look too good, but was bound together with broken timbers, so after some hesitation the others followed, making sure there was always someone left at the outbye end. About twenty yards of new ground led to the huge rectangular hole which is Triddle Shaft. It is very impressive at this point, and would once have been floored with very large timbers. Directly opposite was the continuation of Taylor's leading to the Blue Cascade.

This breakthrough was sufficient to make the meet a success in terms of exploration, but there was more to come - much more! Working back towards day the team began to probe the rises. First was an upward sloping stope which had been ascended before but was worth another look. It follows a thin vein, and is notable for several good examples of miners pick marks in the roof. There is a scratched inscription near the top - CAT April 1981

The team next began to assemble the maypole at the foot of the next rise, which has the appearance of a manway. It was now about 3.00 pm, and the Meet Leader had to leave in order to attend an evening lifesaving class. Mike Mitchell and John Davies, followed by Peter Fleming, Dave Bridge and Mark Simpson pushed the maypole up several pitches and scrambles to a height of about forty meters above Taylor's Level. This point must be close to the floor of Flemings Level, but I am told that further progress was blocked by timber. The next stage of this exploration is to return, climb back up again, and simultaneously send a

party into Flemings Level to try and locate its position.

Meanwhile Ian Matheson had climbed the ropes to the surface, finding the top sections to be frozen and icy. He went home, got changed, went to the lifesaving class, and returned home again.

Just after nine o'clock the telephone rang. It was Mark Simpsons wife Susan, concerned that he had not yet returned home. Ian then telephoned Barbara Mitchell, who was also

becoming concerned as she had not heard from Mike. Ian then prepared to go back up to the mine to investigate, but as he was about to leave Susan phoned again to report that Mark had just called her, and that everyone had left the mine safely. It was the end of a long but satisfactory day.

Ian Matheson.

Editor - My, how time flies when you are having fun.

John Davies now relates the exploration of a manway that the team carried out after Ian's departure

The manway above Taylors level rises between the solid rock wall of the stope and many retaining timbers holding back a considerable quantity of deads. The manway was ascended using Mikes' maypole for the first 30ft, the rest was free climbed until we had reached a point some 45ft above the sole of Taylor's. We were now in a stope of about 35ft in length and about 60ft in height. At the other end from the manway was the top of an ore pass down to the level from which we had ascended.

With the aid of a powerful lamp we examined the timberwork in the roof and decided to go for a 'promising false floor above. The maypole was pulled up and threaded through an array of timbers, (which Mike and Mark had climbed to reach the first ledge up opposite to the manway. The maypole foot was placed in this whilst the top was balanced above a blind level opposite higher up the stope. A swing and prussick enabled Mike to boldly gain a stemple 'stance.

Mike now needed help in hoisting the pole up to the next position, and, as I happened to be in the right place and ready, I found soon found myself up with Mike on this lofty perch. After a good bit of heaving and words of encouragement and not a few showers of rocks, the maypole was wedged again further up the stope in a position that enabled Mike to reach the site we were aiming for. A sound belay position was made so that a clear rope hang could be obtained, and soon we were all able to join

Mike in what appeared to be a timbered sub-level blocked by falls in both directions. (A sub-level between Flemmings and Taylors is shown on mine plans). To what would be outbye of our present position and on top of roof collapse debris was found a wooden iron bound box with moulded handles, it was oblong with one of its longest sided inclined at about 20-30 deg from the verticle. At the other end of the level? before a collapse was a nice vein exposure.

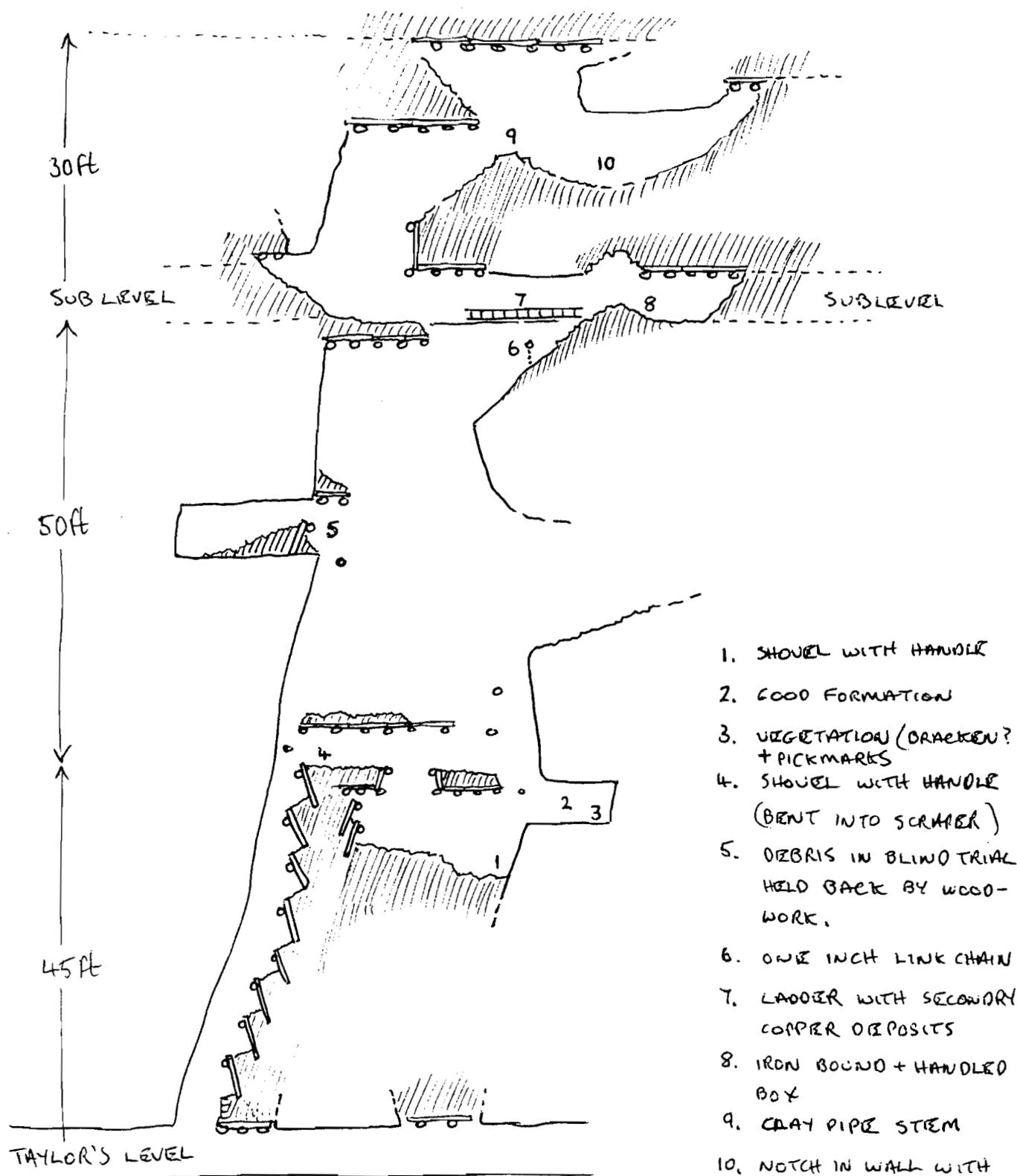
From this point the stope continued on upwards with more timberwork evident higher up, and so the maypole was dragged up to gain access to this higher area. A clay pipe stem and a possible candle site in a notch in the stope wall were noticed. In the roof of this section was what appear to be a boarded over manway, the sort of thing one finds in the floor of levels. Several feet to one side where some rubble had fallen out one could look up through a small hole and see what seems to be timbering over what must be a level. Care will be needed to access this site .

Flemings Level can only be about 70ft above this point so a connection may be possible. The descent to the sole of Taylors was measured and recorded by Peter Fleming as 40 meters.

John Davies. 02/03/96

See over for section of manway

60-70ft TO SOLE OF FLEMMING'S LEVEL *



- 1. SHOVEL WITH HANDLE
- 2. GOOD FORMATION
- 3. VEGETATION (ORACKEN? + PICKMARKS)
- 4. SHOVEL WITH HANDLE (BENT INTO SCRAPER)
- 5. OZIBRIS IN BLIND TRIAL HELD BACK BY WOOD-WORK.
- 6. ONE INCH LINK CHAIN
- 7. LADDER WITH SECONDARY COPPER DEPOSITS
- 8. IRON BOUND + HANDLED BOX
- 9. CRAY PIPE STEM
- 10. NOTCH IN WALL WITH SOOTY TOP SIDE - MAY HAVE BEEN A CANDLE "HOLDER".

* APPEARS TO BE DIRECTLY BELOW PUMPING AND WINDING SUMP ON FLEMMING'S LEVEL (MENTIONED IN LEATHART'S REPORT DATED 10th SEPTEMBER 1833) THE FOREHEAD OF TAYLORS WAS 210ft SHORT OF THIS AREA AT THAT DATE.

Florence and Haigh Pit Field Visit.

February 3rd 1996

So I forgot to ring Jon Knowles to confirm I was going to Florence mine on Feb 3rd. It was my own fault.. when I rang on Saturday Feb 2nd I was expecting him to say "sorry no places left " WRONG ! He actually said " you can take my place as the van is broken, the *!?!*** thing has broken its water pump and I need to fix it. You can do the dirty work". And lo, so it was that I was driving to Egremont catching Peter Fleming up on the way over Corney Fell (silly really as he only lives 200yds from me) on a pleasant if cold morning.

At the mine, the place looks more like a museum than a working mine now but still mines 2-300 tons of high grade ore in a week. Dave Eilbeck introduced himself and led us on a tour of the surface plant explaining the processes before heading to the inclined shaft which is now the main access. The last C.A.T. trip must have been just before the winder went out of general use. Once underground we visited the present workings as well as some of the older and lower parts of the mine where concrete shuttering showed just how permanent the Millom and Askam workings were..even if they didn't believe in much mechanisation. The processes of mining were again explained as well as the huge extent of the original mining field accessible from this 1947 shaft (part of Ullcoats). An incline descends here..now flooded, which Peter remembers on a visit in the 60's.

Once back on the surface the mine museum was visited (wiping winter from the cases and displays as we went). Also on the trip were two BBC Radio Cumbria reporters making a programme so we may be heard making our way round... for posterity. Once our feet were clean we met Ron Calvin.. who came to check up on us before we set off to his old workplace, Haigh Pit at Whitehaven. But first lunch intervened.

Out into the cold and a look at the last remains of Haigh Pit. the winding engine house now saved as a museum by their engine trust. Ron told us of what had gone and how much it had deteriorated. The trust has a huge task in front of it but I applaud its efforts so far. The No 5

engines are now looking better (they can be seen without the pigeon dropping), the walls are pointed and the brightwork is gleaming. Throughout Ron kept up a running commentary of how the winders were operated and how he had to keep an eye on the men to get his crew safely hauled.

Some of the party left at this point whilst a hardy group went for a look at the Saltom Pit Newcomen engine house and walling down on the seas edge. Some parts look rather weak, perhaps repairs are needed. Mr Minerals Fleming managed to find a large cobble of coal at the high tide mark as a momento!! And so to the cars and home. My thanks to the 8 members who came along. A brilliantly varied day and thanks to Jon for giving me his place on it.

Information on the Sites

Florence No 2 .. named after the chairmans wife. Sunk in 1947 when No 1 shaft was damaged by mining activity. It was connected to the rest of Ullcoats in 1950, by way of a level called Lonely Hearts, after the lonely job of the gang driving it. The mine closed in 1968 and was then sold by British Steel to some of its workers (and Lord Egremont) who still run it today. The West Cumberland Research Group run mine tours. It is the last working deep iron ore mine in Europe. For more details see:-The Red Hills by Dave Kelly Red Earth 1994

Haigh Pit .. The last deep coal mine in Cumbria shut in 1986 and has almost disappeared apart from the dual engine house. See Journals 1 & 2 for Ron Calvins history.

Saltom Pit .. One of the old coal mines built right on the seas edge. It has an oval shaft (now concrete capped). The engine house contained a Newcoman engine (1750's) and has still some metalwork extant. Abandoned in 1824. See Industrial Archaeology in the Lake Counties by Marshall and Davies-Sheil.

Paul Timewell

25th February Greenside Ladderway - see March Bulletin

10th March SRT Training

17th March Faggergill - Posponed - Meet held at Burtsett Stone Mines . No Report received.

31st March - Hudgill - No work done - Site meeting to decide next step - See 20-21st April.Report.

12-14th April - Mid Wales - See CATMHS 47

Dr Descender

Dear Doctor

I must protest in the strongest possible terms about the swearing of one of the committee members on a recent North Pennine dig. This is quite inexcusable and must be stopped. Whilst at the dig I noticed that a large fountain complete with dancing figure had been installed this is a most pleasing addition.

Anon

Firstly I would like to state that contrary to popular opinion the two events described above are not connected. I'm glad you mentioned it was a committee member (therefore its not me - for a change) and I quite agree that this is unacceptable but I think there is little we can say otherwise the editor will not include it.

Dear Doctor

My sack has recently dropped, is this a case of Cleugh and drop ?

Anon, St. Bees

I am surprised that this has happened at your advanced years however if you dangle all the time you will probably drop now and again so to speak. Fortunately we are happy to report the tests indicate that you are not Baron.

Dear Doctor

I have recently discovered a large number of small mines in the Allenheads area. These mines are interesting but often wet and extremely short often only running to ten foot of passage. In addition to being short the mines often have roads passing above them. Have all these workings been explored ?

The Young One

I can confirm that most of these workings have been surveyed using a new CAT invention which enables the explorer to sit in reasonable comfort, rather than f?#k about in the woods, it is dry and moves about without undue exertion. This new exploring tool we are proposing to call van. I doubt whether you will have seen one of these before.

NOW OPEN - BARROW BUS MUSEUM.

Now open 24 hours a day an exciting edition to Barrows amenities (for those who find looking at the slag tipped into the sea just a little too interesting). Just call at 189 Greengate Street and the Proprietor will be happy to show you around. If demand is sufficient one of the heritage vehicles may be used on a ?hail and ride? service to Weardale, times are still to be finalised but arrival is likely to be approximately one hour after the start of the meet.

COMING SOON. CAT has decided that in an effort to improve its services to members the library will now be mobile and will call at your house on request. All you will have to do is call **FREEPHONE ANTON** and say ?give us a book mate? and the vehicle will be racing (to be confirmed) to your door. The vehicle is currently being fitted out and will shortly be mobile - watch this space for details.

FOR SALE. Small self contained fountain, in good order but a temperamental little s#d. Can also be used as pump. Many other uses including welly burner, elbow basher. Buyer collects. Offers.

Doctor Descender near the knuckle and some.

Letters to the Editor

The alternative Hudgill Dig by Ron Calvin R.M.

On Sat 20th April one of our West Cumbria news reporter just happened to be in the area. attending a combat and survival course. held at the Nenthall Hotel. The course is run by a former foreign legion officer.

You may ask your self why a reporter should be on a course like this. well, what with all the secret digs taking place. and only a few people knowing about

them. and these sites being well camouflaged. In order to for us to bring you the full story. we risk life and limb. However. the news and one of our ace reporters did not survive such an assignment. The harsh environment up on Alston Moor got to him and he is now at a rest home at Ashfell where he making a full recovery.

How did we know about this new attempt at Hudgill?. When heavy earth moving plant is trying to get to the site on poor roads. it draws peoples attention to itself.

Our man on the spot noticed this traffic and trailed it to a small caravan site. The main HQ of the group behind this operation was a plain looking caravan tucked in with the rest of the vans. Very soon the this group had moved all the gear up to the entrance of the mine entrance and the digger was going all out shifting the spoil.

The cover and vegetation is very scarce in this area, so it was a good job we sent our man on the survival course. He had a hideout some distance from the dig, some of the people there had dark glasses and were dressed in camouflage gear. The weather was too bad to

get good photographs and he did not wish to risk being caught. What with the extremes of the weather

our reporter did well to survive and record this for you. Later on Sunday night he overheard some of the locals talking in the pub, about some wealthy businessmen trying to reopen the mine. In the middle of the night he got into the mine to take some photos of this dig. A few words cannot tell you about this operation, it would be best if you could get up on the next meet to see it. If you can get security clearance

The R C News Agency. The One that writes the story first!



Digging out Hudgill

Sat 20 - 4 - 96



NEWS

Florence Mine

Re-opening of Florence Mine Heritage Centre on Monday 1st April 1996. by Tony Cunningham M.E.P. The Heritage Centre has been extended, over the last few months, by a few members working at nights and weekends, there are two new display rooms, full of mine photos mine plans, iron ore and coal articles, plus a new heritage room, also the lamp room was upgraded to make it better for visitors to use. It is well worth a visit if you are in the area.

The Centre is open 10.00am to 4.00pm, seven days a week £1.00 entrance to the museum The Centre is open from 1st April to 1st October 1996

Ron Calvin R.M.

Ruskin Museum Coniston Update

First of all an apology is in order. Its a long time since our last report on the progress of the museum extension appeal. There are two reasons for this. The first is the old standby, "I never have time" however, as I write this with my leg in plaster and 3 months rehabilitation to face, this excuse has some what evaporated!! Secondly when ever I was going to write a report there was always an important cash funding decision due which would render the update obsolete (as will be the case here no doubt) but anyway here goes.

In January I took the opportunity of introducing Brian Young & Dave Millward to the curator Mr Dawson and our project officer Ms Viki Slowe. They then had a look at Ruskin's mineral collection where Brian was able to point out some errors in the labelling, not only that he, in some cases able to give a grid reference and the exact location from where the samples had come from! What a man!

As the discussion continued it was suggested that the B.G.S. could be employed to give a definitive interpretation of the geology in the Coniston area. This would take in over 500 million years of earth history using text, maps, diagrams and selected rock samples etc. All agree that if sponsorship money could be found, this would be an excellent idea. It would also add greatly to the prestige of the display. At

this moment (April '96) the appeal fund raised is a staggering £139000. This is made up from personal/society donations and available grants. To add to this we have just received the European 5b grant of £76000, which takes the total fund to £215,000. The architect has been told to go ahead and produce detailed building plans so that a building regulation certificate can be obtained. It was hoped that we would have started building work by now but unfortunately the Lottery people have yet again put back our application, and, as they will be supplying the bulk of the finance, work cannot commence. However, indications are that this money will be allocated in due course (probably May/June)

It is perhaps a good idea to mention current thoughts of the museum layout (this is of course speculative at the moment) On entering the museum the first display will (hopefully) be by the B.G.S. detailing how Lakeland evolved etc which would then lead into the formation of the mineral deposits in the area. There would then be a display by C.A.T. on the copper mines and slate quarries followed by other relevant topics leading to the extensive Ruskin collection which include mineral and rock specimens.

How much space will be for C.A.T. is not yet known but it would be wrong to assume that a substantial area will be available. (even if we were able to fill it) However, it is expected that periodically special displays would take place which could feature the mines today, their exploration etc.

Once building work commences a small committee of Coniston "experts" from C.A.T. will probably need to be formed to work on the display format. We are fortunate in that we have a wealth of knowledgeable people who will be able to provide accurate and interesting information.

So to sum up, we are now just waiting for the Lottery people to get their act together then its all systems go with the building. The the headaches will really start.

Jeff & Heather Wilkinson

(Museum Committee Members) April 1996

The latest work at Haigh Pit

Had a walk up Haig today Thursday 25th April, to have a crack with the lads working on the restoration of the winding engines, a lot more work has been done since the visit by CAT. They have managed to turn the No 4 Winder over once, using the overhead crane, and get the winding drum painted. There are some good photo's on display and some more display cases. The museum is open 3 days a week Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 10.00 am till 3 pm I will try and spend some time up there.

Ron Calvin R.M.

A Miner working at Hodbarrow

This picture is from the Evening Mail archives shows a miner at work in the old Hodbarrow mines, near Millom. The photograph is believed to date from the late 1940's or early 1950's and was probably taken deep underground at the Moorbank workings, close to Haverigg. This was the last shaft working when the mines closed in 1968.

Evening Mail 3-2-96



The Cambridgeshire Mining Rush

by Dave Sewart

If asked to name a county that was famous for its mining indeed, one famous for its pioneering, innovative mining, Cambridgeshire is hardly the name likely to spring to mind; yet it does have such a claim.

Around 1845, the Professor of Botany of St. John's College, Cambridge, Prof. Rev. John Henslow, stated that deposits of coprolites on the Suffolk coast near Felixstow could be of commercial interest. But it was two years later, quite independently, that John Ball, a miller of Burwell, noticed that his turnips were growing exceptionally well. He associated the growth with an outcrop of fossils (prehistoric bear, horse, oxen) that occurred between the chalk and the gault clay along the fen edge. As an experiment, he collected a number, ground them in his mill, and treated the residue with acid. It was a success, and the artificial fertiliser industry gathered momentum. The reason he knew how to treat them was probably because it was the established method of treating bone & dried blood for use as fertiliser; John Bennet Laws of Rothamstead had patented the technique in 1842.

Coprolite mining now began in earnest, rapidly spreading along the Cam valley into Cambridge and the surrounding villages along the extent of the greensand. It appears to have been the first, large-scale, open-cast, mineral working in the country. What is more, the industry normally returned the land to its original use after the minerals were exhausted indeed, in some places, the process actually improved the soil. Coprolite mining could return a lot of money for a land-owner, but only for a short time. The long term income would continue to be farming, hence the land had to be usable afterwards. For this reason, the industry has left very little evidence of its existence. There is a weigh-bridge house in Cambridge, the odd street name or building, but of the workings themselves, little remains other than crop marks that can easily be mistaken for the marks of strip fields. Occasionally marginal land was not restored, and this, with its scrub and water-filled trenches, provides rare havens for wild life in the wide, open fields of East Anglia.

The East Anglian coprolites are the fossilised remains of at least eight dinosaurs, prehistoric rhinoceros, hippo, mastodon, bear, crocodile

and other ancient creatures, and include such delights as dinosaur droppings which is where the name came from, a combination of the Greek words for dung and stone. The petrification process results in the fossil being rich in phosphate. Coprolites are found in two layers in the greensand, each of around a foot or so thickness. To mine them, it was necessary to dig down between 3 and 20 feet, or even further.

The extraction method used was to dig a trench, extract the coprolites, then dig an adjacent trench by undermining the working face, using the spoil to refill the previous trench. If the soil was peat, mixing some sub soil with it improved the structure, giving the land-owner a double bonus. If it was not peat, the top soil would kept on one side and replaced. This undermining was extremely dangerous. In some pits a sentry stood on the top watching to see cracks start in the soil and warn his colleagues below, who might be two or three feet under the overhang. Many injuries and deaths occurred as clunch or chalky soil gave way without warning. The high wages (5 to 8 times agricultural rates of about 12/- to 14/- (60-70p) per week) ensured a steady supply of men willing to risk their lives. When on piece work wages of £18-20 were not unknown.

Having exposed the coprolite vein, the nodules were picked out (around 200 to 300 tons/acre) and taken (in some cases by tramway or plate-way) to be washed. This was done by putting the hard stones in a circular trough full of water, and dragging a harrow through them with a horse gin or a steam powered engine. The vast quantities of water required were obtained from local streams or artesian wells in the same greensand. The washing water was run off to settling tanks & the slurry dried and removed. Sometimes it was dumped back in the pits, or, in some cases, used for brick-making. Landowners did not want this heavy slurry left on the surface of what might already be heavy land (part of the coprolite mining area is peat, part clay). The washed stone was taken to coastal manure works by barge or railway to be ground and treated. The end product, super-phosphates, were sold in bulk nationally and internationally.

The industry flourished for around 40 years, employing workers from the depressed agricultural industry and, according to local gossip, groups of Irish navvies who were no

longer required to build canals or railways. This produced a skilled, though sometimes rowdy, class of labourers. Around the later 1870s, during the agricultural depression, the most readily available workings had become worked out, and the north Americas had begun to follow Britains lead, and, having more easily obtainable phosphate deposits, started exporting it to Europe on a large scale. First the overseas market was taken (super-phosphate is bulky to transport, so the Americas could supply Australia more cheaply than Britain), and then the home market. Many of the unemployed skilled labourers gravitated to the towns, displacing the unskilled, and creating a poor law problem. Possibly the biggest reserves of coprolites in Cambridgeshire remain largely untouched beneath Cambridge itself!

The industry had a brief revival during WW1, when the demand for phosphates for munitions

made them viable for a few, short years. By this time improved technology led to extensive operations in Trumpington and Grantchester.

There were various offshoots of the industry. Some were the establishment of firms such as Fisons Chemicals (recently sold to Norst Hydro) and some land-agency firms, but the biggest spin-off was the discovery of a marl that was ideal for Portland cement, with the result that the countrys biggest (or so I am told) cement works is at Barrington, only a few miles from Bourne, our village, which was just on the edge of the Cambridge Mining Rush.

Extracted from The Coprolite Industry in Bassingbourn by Bernard O Connor, and The Cambridgeshire Coprolite Mining Rush by Richard Grove 1976. With thanks to Bernard O Connor for checking the article.

B.R.Moore & Co

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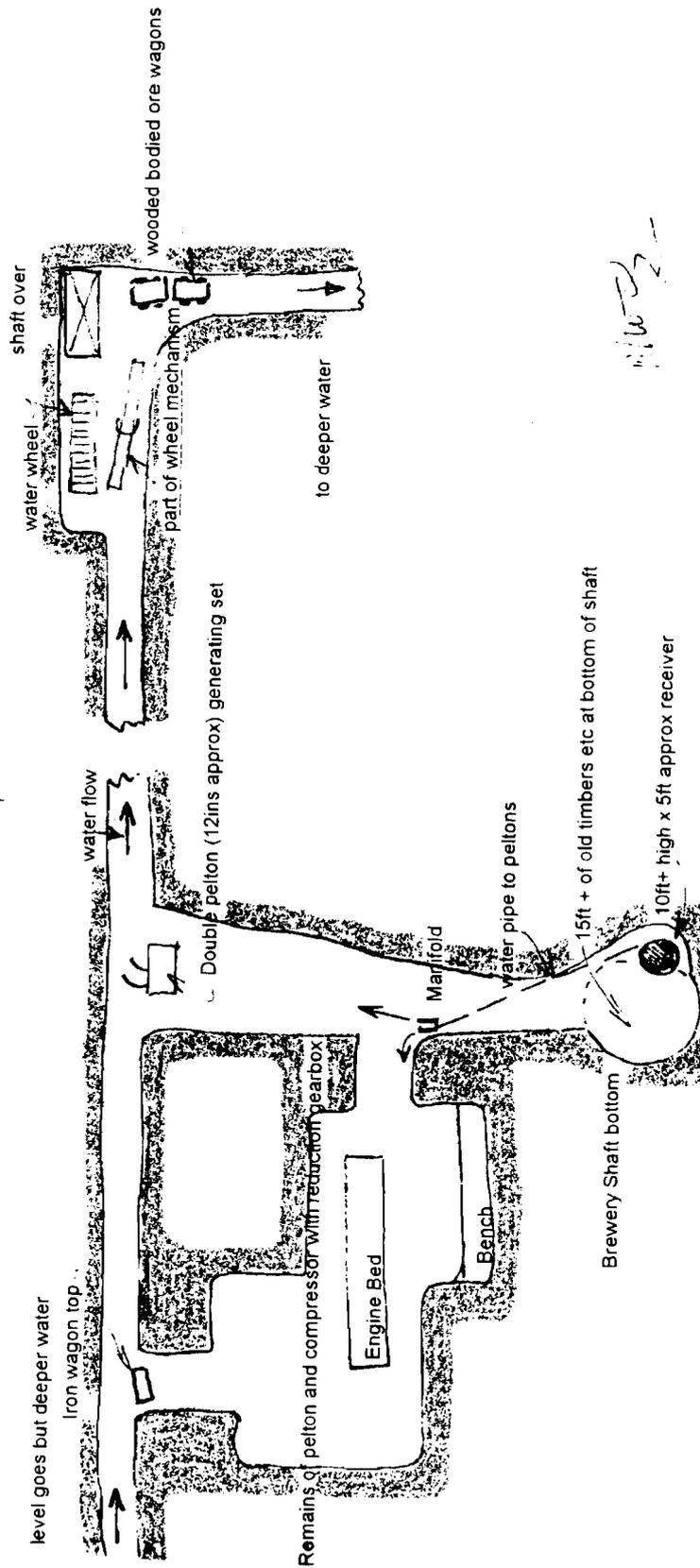
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List available on request - please state areas of interest.

Sketch Plan of the area at the bottom of Brewery Shaft Rampgill Nenthead, 1994



CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 22nd January 1996 at the BMSC Hut, Coniston.

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the last meeting
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Secretary's Report
- 5 Treasurer's Report
- 6 Membership Secretary's Report
- 7 Meets Secretary's Report
- 8 Publicity officers Report
- 9 Furness Projects
- 10 Hudgill Burn Mine
- 11 Newlands Furnace
- 12 Mandall's Slate Office
- 13 Coniston Coppermines Site
- 14 Library
- 15 Date and venue of next committee meeting
- 16 Any other business

Present D. Bridge, S. Barker, J. Helme, I. Matheson, J. Davies,
 P. Fleming, M. Mitchell, D. Parsons, P. Sandbach, P. Timewell
 and A. Wilson.
 11 Members in total.

The meeting commenced at 7.45 pm.

1 Apologies for absence

M. Simpson.

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 20th November 1995 had been previously circulated to members.

It was PROPOSED by J. Helme and SECONDED by D. Parsons, "That the minutes be signed by the chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings". This was carried unanimously.

3 Matters arising

3.1 Item 3.2 D. Bridge had given R. Fischer a book token as requested by the members at the last meeting.

3.2 Item 16.2 P. Fleming had obtained quotes for the cost of printing the newsletters, from two firms in Barrow-in-Furness. As the prices quoted were much higher than the present cost, it was decided not to change printers for the next newsletter. This subject to be discussed at the next meeting.

3.3 D. Bridge apologised for being unable to attend the AGM and thanked J. Helme for taking his place. The Chairman's annual report will be printed in the next newsletter.

4 Secretary's Report

4.1 The secretary had received a copy of the CLHF newsletter, programme and membership renewal form.

4.2 A letter from the Festiniog Railway Society asking our permission for them to re-print two articles from Journal No 4, in their 'Journal'. The committee had no objection to this request, if the author's were agreeable. Action J. Knowles.

4.3 Correspondence from I. Tyler of MOLES:

- A) Copy of a letter (1) that they had sent to the National Trust (NT) regarding a forthcoming meeting at Force Crag mine, at which presumably it's future management is to be discussed. They expressed concern at not having been invited to send a representative to this meeting, as MOLES over the years have had a great interest in and carried out conservation work on the site. We also await the results of this meeting, as CATMHS have also maintained a similar interest in this site over many years.
- B) Copy of a letter (2) that they had sent to the NT suggesting that MOLES (after discussing the matter with COMRU) should backfill the unstable area beyond the wheelpit chamber in Goldscope Mine. A mine explorer was recently successfully rescued from this area, MOLES have since carried out this work.
- C) Copy of a letter (3) addressed to the Chairman, suggesting a yearly meeting between the local mining history groups, each group sending two representatives. After discussion it was agreed, we should suggest a more democratic approach to the meeting, by extending the invitation to any member who wished to attend. The provisional date for the meeting is 7.00 pm on Thursday the 21st March at the Kings Head, Thirlspot.

5 Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented a balance sheet covering the period since the last committee meeting. He made the following comments:

- 5.1 The balance brought forward is the "end of the year" figure from the AGM.
- 5.2 Literature: 14 copies of BLF have been sold so far this year.
- 5.3 Subscriptions: Only 22 members have renewed their 1996 subs.
- 5.4 Thanks to M. Mitchell and I. Matheson for the proceeds from slide shows.
- 5.5 A profit of £28.78 was made on the annual dinner.
- 5.6 A donation had been received from Mr Cotton.

6 Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership secretary reported there had been no membership enquiries to date this year. I. Matheson was asked to send a membership re-newel slip with the next newsletter, to all those members who had not yet paid. The secretary to ask J. Knowles to send the newsletter to the Membership secretary by carrier, to speed up the postal procedure.

7 Meets Secretary's Report

J. Knowles reported (A written report sent to the secretary) that he had arranged a visit to look around the Haig Pit engine house after the trip to Florence Mine on the 4th of February. He had written to the NRPB regarding radon dosimeters, and was awaiting their response. The report on the Greenside Mine given to the society by John Keevey, had been sent to the Librarian.

8 Publicity Officer's Report

- 8.1 John Ruskin Museum. Nothing to report.
- 8.2 A.D. Cameron had sent a written report to the secretary. His new publication 'Slate from Coniston' was almost ready to go to the printer's. He needed confirmation from the committee that the Society was willing to publish it. He had obtained various quotes ranging from £3,200/£3,800 for 2000 copies. A discussion followed, P. Timewell thought it very important that the society continued to publish members books, etc. J. Helme expressed concern, as the amount required would empty the account. D. Bridge suggested members would probably be willing to make interest free loans (of £100 each) to the society. This cover would protect the societies position in the period between paying the printing costs and receiving the returns from the book sales. He asked the committee members if they would be willing to participate in such a scheme. All thought it a good plan, and those who could afford to were willing to participate. S. Barker thought that members, other than committee members would be willing

to participate. It was PROPOSED by M. Mitchell "That we go ahead with the publication and if there is a shortfall in the funds, we instigate the IFL scheme", SECONDED by D. Bridge. All were in favour.

- 8.3 A.D. Cameron would start preparing the next Bulletin, a flier advertising his book should be sent out with the Bulletin.

9 Furness Projects

9.1 Woodbine Pit, Newton. Work has ceased for the winter.

9.2 Furness survey. The work is continuing. It has been decided to concentrate on photographing as many of the sites as possible this year, as they continue to disappear at an alarming rate.

10 Hudgill Burn Mine

The opening of HGB mine continues steadily. On the January meet a ventilation system was installed, which improved the poor air circulation. The use of a JCB was discussed, to speed up the digging out. This decision was deferred till after the completion of the Greenside project.

The next work meeting is on 31st March.

11 Newland Furnace

In December three pick-up truck loads of slate with a corbelling edge, were selected from the old tips at Burlington Quarry and taken to the furnace site. These slates will enable the remainder of the corbelled face above the air inlets to be completed. J. Helme would like to thank those members who gave their time and energy to this task. His thanks also go to Mr Dickinson (quarry manager) who gave us the use of a large bucket loader and driver, and at the end of the day made no charge for the slate.

Next work meeting will be held on 4th March.

12 Mandall's Slate Office

COMRU have informed the society they no longer intend to pay half the annual rent (£25.00) of MSO, as they have no further use for their half of the building. After discussion it was decided CATMHS should pay the full amount themselves. The society had spent a fair amount of money and time on the project, which had stopped the building from deteriorating.

13 Coniston Coppermines site.

P. Fleming had written a report for the next newsletter regarding the RCHME visits. On the 13th December I. Matheson, D. Bridge and S. Barker took a group of English Heritage personnel (who were attending a course in Cumbria), around the Coniston and Tilberthwaite sites. They gave us information regarding the Coniston Coppermine Scheduled area, which had been extended slightly above the Red Dell incline. A small new area which includes John Dixon's Works and John 'Willie' Shaw's level, has now been scheduled. These areas of course include everything under the ground.

D. Bridge outlined the recent British Geological Society's (BGS) mineral survey work carried out in the Coniston mines. CATMHS's connection with the BGS started with a meeting at Newcastle attended by himself and J. Wilkinson. After a good few communications BGS found the funds to do a full weeks geological and mineral survey of the mines, the results of which should be very interesting. CATMHS members accompanied D. Millward and B. Young into the mines, enabling them to visit the places normally inaccessible to them. Thanks go to J. Wilkinson who organised the weeks schedule and entertained them. They hope we will give them further assistance in the future. Action D. Bridge.

P. Fleming reported on the recent exploratory meet at Red Dell. A break through was made from Thriddle Shaft to Taylor's Level. The roof stope 40m above TL was reached by maypole and a hand picked vein discovered, to be visited again.

Secretary read a letter to the meeting that had been received by the Chairman from member J. Wilkinson. The letter referred to the specimen of vein material collected by B. Young on a joint CATMHS and Russell Society meet last July. The specimen was cut

in two halves by the BGS, one to be retained by them, the other delivered to J.Wilkinson who would deposit it in the Ruskin Museum as a good example of the Coniston Vein. P.Fleming reported a telephone discussion with J.Wilkinson on 25th Nov, about the saw marks and poor finish on the specimen, proposing improvement by a professional stone cutter/polisher before handing it to the Ruskin Museum project, which, still being at the planning stage allowed time. No objection was raised. M.Mitchell reported arranging for the work to be done. A letter was sent to B.Young of the BGS explaining this, and one was to be sent by M.Mitchell to J.Wilkinson confirming the reason for the delay in handing the specimen to him with a copy to V.Slowe of the Museum Trust. J.Helme suggested that D.Bridge also respond as the letter was addressed to him.

A cave diver has reached the 50 fathom level in the Old Engine Shaft. He has offered to write an article for us.

14 Library and Mine plans

Nothing to report. This item to be removed from the agenda.

15 Date and venue of next Committee Meeting

This was arranged for 7.30 p.m. on Monday 18th March 1996 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston.

16 Any other business

16.1 S. Barker raised the question of the lack of support at the monthly social meetings

It was decided to call them slide evenings and try advertising them in the newsletter as such.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10-10 pm.

SB 16/2/96

Chairman

CATMHS Financial Statement		Jan 1996	
Balance November 1995			2707.87
Subscriptions			
15 members @10.00		150.00	
7 joint memberships @ 12.00		84.00	
Literature sales			
Journal 4		45.05	
Journal 3		5.99	
Honister		6.00	
BLF		100.00	
Slide show LDSPB		26.90	
Slide show Kendal Engineers		23.35	
AGM Dinner (Profit)		28.78	
Interest Current		0.50	
	Total	<u>470.57</u>	<u>470.57</u>
			<u>3178.44</u>
Expenses			
Printing (Staples)		16.44	
Membership NAMHO		15.00	
Membership Speleoscene		3.00	
Meeting room rent		3.00	
Auditor Fee		12.00	
Project Hudgill Burn (timber)		26.65	
	TOTAL	<u>76.09</u>	<u>-76.09</u>
	Balance		<u>3102.35</u>
Balance held as:			
Building Society		2968.33	
Bank		134.02	
	TOTAL	<u>3102.35</u>	

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 18th March 1996 at the BMSC Hut, Coniston.

Agenda

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 Apologies for absence | 2 Minutes of the last meeting |
| 3 Matters arising | 4 Secretary's Report |
| 5 Treasurer's Report | 6 Membership Secretary's Report |
| 7 Meets Secretary's Report | 8 Publicity officers Report |
| 9 Furness Projects | 10 Hudgill Burn Mine |
| 11 Newlands Furnace | 12 Coniston Coppermines Site |
| 13 Date and venue of next committee meeting | 14 Any other business |

Present D. Bridge, S. Barker, J. Helme, J. Davies, P. Fleming,
P. Sandbach, M. Simpson, P. Timewell and A. Wilson.
9 Members in total.

The meeting commenced at 7.35 pm.

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
I. Matheson, D. Parsons and M. Mitchell.
- 2 **Minutes of the last meeting**
The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 22nd January 1996 had been previously circulated to members.
It was PROPOSED by J. Helme and SECONDED by P. Fleming "That the minutes be signed by the chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings". This was carried unanimously.
- 3 **Matters arising**
 - 3.1 Item 4.3 (c) D. Bridge had answered I. Tyler's letter accepting the invitation, the meeting will go ahead as planned.
 - 3.2 P. Fleming had received a letter from J. Hodgson who is planning a multi-disciplinary meeting in September, to discuss the geology, archaeology, and safety aspects of mining sites in the National Park. A field trip round the Coniston Coppermines is to be held on the afternoon of the same day. J. Davies asked if CATMHS had a digging policy. The Chairman replied "That we followed the rules laid down by NAMHO", adding that digging was a subject to be discussed at the coming meeting between the mining groups.
- 4 **Secretary's Report**
The Secretary had received:
 - 4.1 Details of this years NAMHO field meet.
 - 4.2 Notification that the Kentmere Mineral Water Co. had appealed to the Secretary of State against the LDSPB's refusal to grant planning permission for their new bottling plant in Kentmere.
 - 4.3 English Heritage had sent the step 1 report on water and sewage (part of the MPP)
 - 4.4 Details of the CIHS conference on the 20th April. P. Timewell or J. Helme will attend on our behalf.
- 5 **Treasurer's Report**
The treasurer presented a balance sheet covering the period since the last committee meeting. He made the following comments:
 - 5.1 Donations include a generous £40 from Major Hext our Vice President.
 - 5.2 The Building Society interest is for the year 1995.
 - 5.3 The first payment for the printing of 'Slate From Coniston' has been paid (£1600) to E. Baylis.
- 6 **Membership Secretary's Report**
The Membership secretary reported (a written report sent to the Secretary) there had been three membership enquiries. To date one had joined, John Todd from Carlisle. I. Matheson had sent out a membership re-newel slip with the last newsletter, to all those members who had not yet paid. This slip to be sent out next year with the AGM papers. The printing and posting of the last newsletter had gone well and J. Knowles will continue to arrange the printing of the newsletter.

7 Meets Secretary's Report

J. Knowles reported in a written report sent to the Secretary:

- 7.1 A letter was received from the National Trust regarding use of the Little Langdale Quarries. A meeting on this subject will be held in May, I. Matheson will attend.
- 7.2 Dates for newsletter production need to be firmed up so that it does not contain details of meets which have already taken place. Usually 7-10 days are needed from receipt of the draft to the posting of the printed copies to the Membership Secretary. A further 4 days are then needed for I. Matheson to post them onto members. His comments were noted. M. Simpson said "the copy date for the next newsletter was the 1st April".
- 7.3 A reminder to members that the next meets meeting is on the 25th March.
- 7.4 This years Cornwall trip is already looking good, the first weekend will be spent at the NAMHO field meet, for which forms are available.
- 7.5 The SRT training meet went well with two "improvers" (Dave's Bowers & MacEnaly).

8 Publicity Officer's Report

- 8.1 John Ruskin Museum. The fund had received £25,000 from the Esmee Fairbairn Trust, they now have a total of £88,500 towards the museum extension.
- 8.2 A.D. Cameron had sent 'Slate from Coniston' to the printers, a further £1600 was required to pay printing costs. The Treasurer would contact individual members who had agreed to lend the society £100 each, if and when necessary. It is hoped the book will sell quickly and so dispense with the need to borrow off members. P. Fleming will pick up supplies of the book from Coniston, for members to sell.

9 Furness Projects

- 9.1 Woodbine Pit, Newton. Work should soon start again, depending on the weather.
- 9.2 Furness survey. The work is continuing. It has been decided to concentrate on photographing as many of the sites as possible this year, starting with Roanhead.

10 Hudgill Burn Mine

The next work meet is on 31st March, P. Blezard will attend to assess the possible use of a small sized excavator.

11 Newland Furnace

Work of corbelling the face above the air inlets is going well, a further one and half rows of slate need to be installed to complete this task. Next work meeting will be held on 30th March.

12 Coniston Coppermines site.

No headway has been made with the insurance problems which are holding up consolidation work on the Red Dell launder tower.

D. Bridge contacted the BGS who would like us to survey the Paddy End vein, to support their surveying work in the Coniston area. After discussion it was decided that a grade five survey should be carried out by a small group of interested members. A letter of thanks had been received from D. Millward for our previous help.

13 Date and venue of next Committee Meeting

This was arranged for 7.30 p.m. on Monday 20th May 1996 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston.

14 Any other business

- 14.1 P. Fleming reported he had asked John Wadham to be our after dinner speaker at this years annual dinner (14th December).
 - 14.2 D. Bridge had received an invitation from WCMRS for CATMHS to send a representative to their museum opening day. A. Wilson to attend.
 - 14.3 P. Fleming had attended the MOLES Mining Museum open day. This had been a great success enjoyed by about 60-70 people.
- There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10-00 pm.

CATMHS Financial Statement March 1996

Balance January 1996		3102.35	
Subscriptions			
42 members @10.00	420.00		
10 joint memberships @ 12.00	120.00		
Libraries	60.00		
Donations (£15+£1+£5+£40)	61.0		
Literature sales			
Journal 4	51.15		
Journal 3	4.00		
Honister	39.00		
BLF	37.45		
Misc.	6.20		
Interest			
Building Society	115.57		
Bank	0.12		
	Total	<u>914.49</u>	<u>914.49</u>
			<u>4016.84</u>
Expenses			
Secretary's expenses	72.52		
Membership Secretary's expenses	69.88		
Meeting room rent	3.00		
Cumbria Local History Federation	6.00		
Printing			
Printing (Staples)	141.94		
Postage	11.70		
Projects			
Chimney (Book Token-Fischer)	15.00		
Relic Survey (Photo. Cassette)	53.83		
Hudgill (Air pump)	27.26		
F.M.A.	1.00		
Printing			
Coniston Slate (1st Payment)	1600.00		
	TOTAL	<u>2002.13</u>	<u>-2002.13</u>
	Balance		<u>2014.71</u>
Balance held as:			
Building Society	1834.50		
Bank	180.21		
	TOTAL	<u>2014.71</u>	