



The Newsletter

No.57

June 1999



Cumbria Amenity Trust
Mining History Society

COMPILATION

Special thanks to those members who are now submitting material on disc, this is a great help. To assist me in inputting your contribution please could you submit it in one of the following formats :-

Microsoft Word for Windows 97

TXT

RTF

Microsoft Works

If you are not a computer Wizard and you don't think you have any of the above, you can save as TXT simply by scrolling down the list of options available when you get the "save as" menu come up on the screen. If in doubt give me a ring. If you are not using Microsoft Word 6.0 or an earlier version of Word please do not include tables and other "fancy bits" such as odd fonts sub or superscripts etc.


Note that new technology has now reached Knowles Towers and e-mails can be sent to :-

jonknowles@slateminig.freemove.co.uk

PUBLICATION

The newsletter is issued four times a year. Material for inclusion should be with to the editor by the 15th of March, June, September or December for inclusion in the next issue which will appear approximately four weeks later. Information should be sent to :-

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EDITORIAL

Our recent holiday to Scotland took in the Scottish Mining Museum at Lady Victoria Colliery at NewtonGrange. This was the subject of a meet last year, which I missed, but if others are in the same boat it is well worth a visit. I am sure that this is the only tourist mine in the UK where a member of the public is allowed to operate a winding engine – admittedly only on compressed air and with no cable on the drum but an impressive spectacle all the same. If you are going it is probably worth waiting until after August when a major investment programme at the site is completed.

Many thanks to those who have contributed to this newsletter. I offer my thanks and apologies to Dave Sewart for his help with compilation and for so frequently misspelling his name.

Ed.

HUDGILLBURN MINE UPDATE - APRIL

Work on the fall on the HGB Sun Vein is progressing well, we are supporting the roof with telegraph poles and sleepers. A lot of back filling and stone walling has had to be done to support the unstable roof of a blind heading. This gave us somewhere to put all the waste material removed from the level. A rise on the right which we were hoping would take us up into the workings proved to be

loose and unsafe to climb and will have to be back filled. The work is proving very laborious at present as all the heavy timber has to be carried from the portal. At the end of March we started a full survey of the mine, using the newly purchased HGB surveying kit. It is surprising how many small details, not previously noticed have come to light, more graffiti, an abundance of pick marks and, most interestingly the old survey markers in the roof of the main Waggon Level. Thomas Sopwith surveyed the mine in 1838 and produced large isometric drawings. He visited the mine again in 1843 with his assistant Thomas Bewick, after which they made a model which was displayed in the Museum of Economic Geology in London.

Any member who would like to help at HGB please contact me on 01434 381903.

Sheila Barker

DOCTOR DESCENDER

Dear Doctor

When changing in a snowstorm after a recent meet I noticed that my assets were much reduced. I assume that this is due to immersion in water and exposure to sub zero temperatures.

Anon, Gosforth

Your diagnosis is quite correct so Descender may need to look to his laurels since there is clearly stiff (?) competition out there. With regard to a cure I can only recommend placing your assets somewhere warm. (Mouth resuscitation also works well but may not have been available to all members of your party – unlucky William !)

Doc

and moving swiftly on

Dear Doctor

I often have trouble contacting people so I am not sure that I have the latest membership list. I wrote to the Chairman Mr Postlethwaite and he never replied. I am loosing my marbles ?

Anon

No you have the same list as everyone else !

Doc

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members :-

David Dean of Burnley
Jonathan Lodge of Brampton
Lynn Gardiner of Saltburn

**NCA NEWS
CURRENT TRESPASS LAWS**

Many cavers are not aware of the law with regard to trespass. (Certainly this is what the confrontation at Devonshire Cavern, Matlock in June 1998 would seem to indicate!) The current legal situation is set out in a letter, written by Jeremy Burrows, MA, Dip ECL, LL.M, Solicitor, which appears in 'The Great Outdoors' magazine for February 1999, p.88, by whose kind permission the following extract is reproduced.

"The landowner, tenant or licensee, may assert the right to exclude you from the land, and does so with the full backing of the law.

... If you are required to leave the land, then you must do so. If you do not then, after allowing you a reasonable time in which to leave, he is entitled to use reasonable force to eject you from the land. ... If confronted, by all means explain your intentions and politely request his permission to carry on, promising to cause no damage as you go ... but you have no rights here whatsoever ... if he refuses, you must agree to leave the land and return by the route by which you came. The alternative is being forcibly ejected from the land - and the more you resist, the more force he will be entitled to use against you, with the full backing of the law.

"Where the land is crossed by a highway that is to say a public footpath, public bridleway or a public carriageway - the ONLY rights you have are limited to the right to 'pass and repass'. If you seek to use the highway for some other purpose, which might include erecting a tent, stopping to have a picnic or even to take a photograph, then you become a trespasser and you may be required to move on and, if you do not do so, the landowner may take forcible measures to compel you.

"Trespass itself is not a criminal offence in England and Wales (although the newly invented crime of 'aggravated trespass' needs to be carefully watched). However, a trespasser is liable to pay compensation for

any damage which he causes to the land on which he trespasses."

FFESTINIOG NEWS

The only news to report is that the architecturally fine Maenofferen Quarry Office has been completed demolished. The reasons for this are not currently known but in my view it is a sad loss.

Ed.

COMMENT

The recent NMRS newsletter includes a report from the Guardian of 24th April stating that the efforts to revive South Crofty Mine are in tatters. The deal appears to have fallen through due to the prospective new owner, a consortium led by Wilf Hughes, has failed to come up with the necessary funds.

On an equally dark note the Gwynfynydd Gold Mine in North Wales has again closed and the same NMRS newsletter also reports that Durham Industrial Minerals has announced that it is to cease its Fluorspar operations at Frazer's Hush, Grove Rake and Broadwood Mines. This would bring to an end the long history of Mining in Weardale.

On a practical level, South Crofty is gone and there's probably not a lot anybody can do about it. If you didn't get a chance to go down you probably never will. Gwynfynydd may re-open when somebody gets another dose of the "Gold Fever" which has characterised gold mining in the Dolgellau Gold belt but the last operators had a good mix of actual mining and tourist attraction to provide diversification. Turning to Weardale does anybody have any contacts that could get permission to get a trip down these mines before its too late.

The common thread amongst all of the above is that Britain's metal mines are closing at an alarming rate and it leads me to wonder for how long Britain will continue to have a mining industry and which operation will claim the distinction of Britain's last working mine.

Ed.

MEET REPORT - CAPPLECLEUGH 7.3.99

Killhope loomed through the windscreen out of the snow, down into third, and up we chug, before crawling down the other side in bottom gear and sliding into the car park.

Remembering to park with the front end out so that its easier to get out since the weather looked bleak.

These were the thoughts that went through my mind when I arrived at Nenthead on the 7th March. After a bit of wait for everyone to arrive, we changed quickly and headed underground. It was not the weather to stand about on the surface. The team consisted of Messers McAnelly, Brown, Sedgewick, Snaith and Rutherford.

The inspiration for the meet had started when Sheila Barker had told me "your booked on Roy Fellows trip into Capplecleugh" – and a most enjoyable and interesting trip it proved to be. Up to that time my interest in the North Pennines had started to wane.

Capplecleugh is not for the faint hearted since the access to the significant workings involves a long slog through deep water interspersed with roof falls with a few roof falls in deep water where you tend to stagger along like a drunken oaf endeavouring to twist your ankle on submerged rocks.

Passing an interesting raise on the left you eventually arrive at what is known as lavatory box corner. Turning right at this point and passing through further deep water the fourth ladder on the right ascends for approximately 90 feet. The top of the ladderway gives access to a large working with many interesting artefacts including various styles of ore wagon, tool boxes, old boots etc. Easy progress to the far south-western end of the working is prevented by a shaft down. Looking across this and at a slightly lower horizon, an iron framed winch can be seen.

Part descending the ladder a sub-level is encountered which gives access to further extensive workings. These workings contain further wagons at least one of which is full of ore. Progress along the stope and through areas where much timber has collapsed a further ladderway down is reached. This was not descended (the Fleming option of ladder testing was not available) but it appeared to descend to the level from which we had ascended earlier. The ladder looked in good condition but had no stagings.

Returning to lavatory box corner we initially headed in-by before stopping, out of the water for a late lunch. After discussing farming and suggesting numerous novel methods for storing the most caravans in a

confined space, together with more salacious matters a decision was taken, in view of the weather, to head out and investigate the roped rise we has seen - before proceeding to day.

The rise has a good SRT rope in situ which makes the climb reasonably straightforward although a jammer would have given more confidence. The top of the raise gives access to a low level which after ascending a dry stone wall and crossing another raise which has a nice traverse line over a rail, a hole gives access to the other side of the stope we had been in earlier and there in front of our eyes was the winch we had seen earlier. Everybody who did this part of the trip expressed mild surprise at reaching this point since none of us envisaged that we were this close to where we had been earlier in the day.

After descending back to the level we completed the long trek back to day. The snow has continued unabated all day. One of the little known "pleasures" of our sport is standing on one leg in the snow trying to get a wet suit off your other ankle whilst horizontally driven snow swirls around your nether regions. The return journey over Killhope was touch and go but those who tried the Middleton road had to return after getting stuck.

Ed.

MEET REPORT WALES -10TH & 11TH APRIL

A good crowd promptly assembled at the rendezvous consisting of Tristan Goldsack, Mark Simpson, Dave Bridge, Angela Wilson, Tim Oulton, John Ashby, Ken Geddes, Chris Cowdry and a tall chap from Hemel Hempstead who's name escapes me, but I sure it will be in the new members list . . .

The Lliwedd Mine which is also known as Cwm Merch was the target of the days trip. The Watkin path is followed until the incline to the South Snowdon Slate Quarry is crossed. Here a slippy path (Tim) to the right give access to a good track which leads directly to the mine. The only published history of the workings that I have come across is included in David Bick's "The Old Copper Mines of Snowdonia" in which direction readers are pointed. From this it can be deduced that the mine was in production by 1821 and probably started in the 17th century. The Devonian Alan Searell was involved in the 1850's and 1860's. Searell was also involved in the neighbouring

Sygun mine and was also Manager at the Cwmorthin Slate Quarry for a time.

The workings which could only be entered on the adit level, and then only briefly before a fall was encountered, consist of very deep open cuts on a nearly vertical vein. We had decided not to take any vertical equipment due to the height to which it had to be carried and the lack of knowledge about the site but a return visit is definitely required with a long rope. If the highest open stope connects with the adit level then the descent would be approximately 120 metres.

The most interesting aspect of the site is the wealth of remains that are extant. These consist of the remains of a water wheel from the Hawarden Iron Works, two sets of fluted crushing rolls together with the remains of stamps and a large flywheel. All of this is in the setting of a Cwm on the slopes of Lliwedd, one of Wales highest mountains, with the open cuts and waste tips rising steeply up the mountain.

After ascending to the highest workings the group traversed round the hillside to a small trial which consists of a flooded open working. From here the group descended through a sharp hailstorm to Gladstones Rock before proceeding along the path to the South Snowdon Quarries where a brief inspection was made. The return was along the quarry tramway to the head of the incline where the more tigerish descended the incline whilst the remainder of the party returned to descend the strange curving line of stone sleepers which is assumed to have been part of a curving incline.

Saturday evening was spent at the Bryn Tyrch in Capel Curig where the food was as pleasant as was the scenery.

Sunday was a very different affair and the group was as previously but with the loss of Tim Oulton and the arrival of Roy Fellows. Access difficulties and problems with the landowner prevent a detailed report but I am sure that everybody who went enjoyed the trip and our thanks go out to Roy for leading it. Those who actually went on the trip should have had sight by now of one of Roy's reports which are very interesting. If you didn't go – unlucky !

Jon Knowles

A LOCAL OCURENCE

On Friday, May 31, in consequence of information given to the officers of excise at Alston, a secret distillery was discovered in a lead mine in a field on the south side of the River Nent, near to Nenthall. The mine one of the oldest in this neighbourhood, and is surrounded by furze and underwood. At the bottom of the level, which is gained by a regular descent of several yards was a small aperture that could only be entered by creeping on hands and knees; this led to a large apartment in the mine, wherein were found two stills with about 200 gallons of wash and a complete distilling apparatus, valued in all about £50. A long brick chimney conveyed the smoke through an air tight pillar into the old workings, whence the neighbouring levels had a draught, and which prevented the smoke coming to light, by causing it to fall to the ground, as in a blacking manufactory. The mine is very deep: the height of the levels 6 feet high. The wood in the mine was a great advantage, as it supplied the fuel necessary for the process (This perhaps explains the sight, recently observed, of some unruly characters being seen to be carrying large timbers in the region of the mine). The roof and floor of the cavity were covered with petrifications, which appeared to have been formed by drippings of water. It is impossible to say how long this illicit distillation has been carried on in this place, but the general opinion is that it has only recently been abandoned, and that hastily, for fear of detection. As soon as the circumstances became known, numbers of persons resorted to the spot to gratify their curiosity, and some who ventured into the mine had to stay much longer underground than they calculated on. On Thursday, the 6th June about 4 o'clock in the morning, three young men proceeded, as they supposed, about a mile from the entrance; they went so far as to be unable to retrace their steps, and their candles drawing to an end, they were reduced to the necessity of making a fire of an old hammer handle and some pieces of wood which they found in the place. As the day advanced their friends became alarmed for their safety, and about 12 o'clock, three miners, (A lady miner and friends) who had a remarkable (if not suspicious) knowledge of the mine, considering the length of time it had been closed, whom curiosity had brought to the spot, went down in quest of the young men, and after a diligent search, succeeded in finding the inexperienced explorers of the lower regions.

Unfortunately, however the miner, who carried the candle fell and lost his light, by which accident the whole party were enveloped in darkness and were obliged to remain "embowelled in the earth" (there was little concern however, as the quantity of food supplies carried by these miners was legendary) till two other miners (CO and MRU) went to their assistance, and brought them all safely above ground which was not effected till after 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The three young men had by this time been above 12 hours in the mine. A mason was sent to build up the entrance to the place, but such was the curiosity of the public that his work was soon demolished. On the evening of the same day the number of visitants increased and several persons entered the place. About 11 at night, many parents became alarmed from their children not returning home and they bent their way to the "Smugglers Hole," as it is called by some, in quest of their offspring. A motley group was there, several with lanterns and candles, waiting intelligence from the regions darkness. Here they were kept till near 2 o'clock next morning, at which time about 30 persons were liberated from their imprisonment by the humane exertions of some miners. Three boys in their wanderings were much terrified on coming in sight of above 20 others sitting and lying on the ground, not knowing at the moment whether they were members of CAT, or "good men and true." One among them, however, with a philosophical coolness, addressed the wanderers thus:- "Aye, I see you have lost your road like ourselves; so just come and take a seat beside us."

A Modified version of an article printed in The Newcastle magazine July 1822 No7 Vol 1

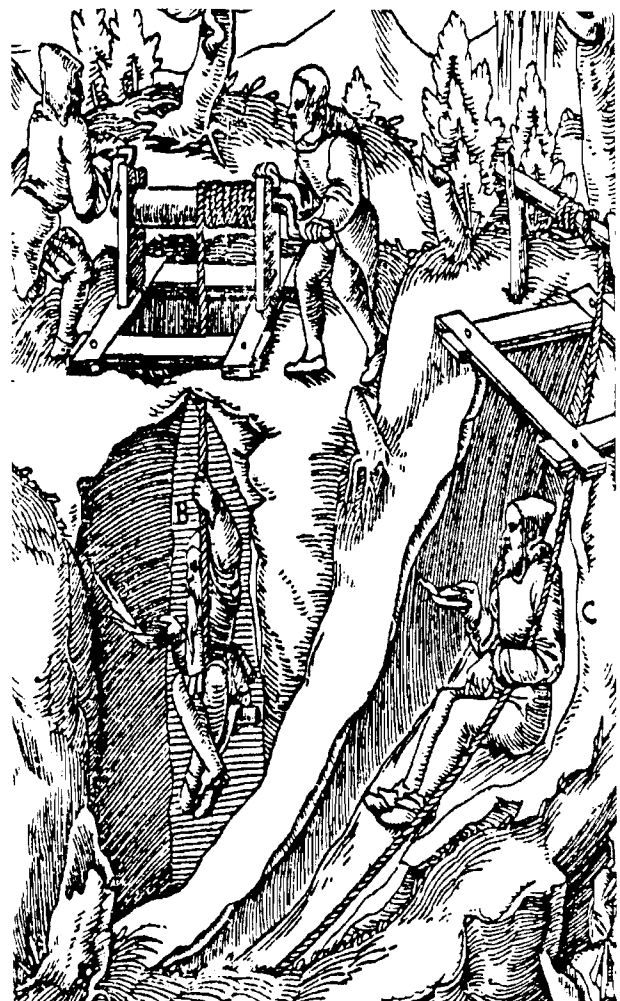
Submitted by Dave McAnelly

TALLOW LIGHT DOWN THE CENTURIES

The forerunner of the candle is said to be the torch or rushlight made by soaking the pithy core of reeds in molten tallow. Though still used by peasants in Europe during the Middle Ages, as early as 3000 BC Ancient Egyptian rulers were using conical "candles", and it is the Romans who are credited with developing the wick candle as we know it. By the 14th century candle making was a registered trade or craft, in England shared by the Tallow Chandlers who used mostly mutton fat as the fuel and the Wax Chandlers who made the cleaner burning but more expensive beeswax

candles used mainly by the wealthy and the Church.

The more acrid-smoking tallow candles, known as "dips", were by then in common use "below stairs" and became increasingly important in the mines of England and Wales (though less so in Scotland). Yet in the early days of the Elizabethan copper industry at Keswick the miners were using tallow burning lamps. For instance during 1569 the Newlands smithy received over 1250 lbs of tallow for use by the tributers, contract workers, wage earners and for the smithy itself. In the same year over 90 lbs of tallow went to Caldbeck, 106 lbs to Grasmere and some to Borrowdale. There is no mention of candles. W H Shaw describes the tallow lamp as a simple metal vessel with a spout through which the thick wick was threaded, designed in such a way that the flame heated the vessel sufficiently to keep the wick supplied with liquid tallow. This tradition may have been brought over by the German miners as oil lamps were in common use in the mines of Saxony and Bohemia at that time. Agricola talks of the foreman apportioning "a certain weight of oil for their (the miner's) lamps" and when the shift is finished "taking back the oil which has been



left". They couldn't have been too liberal with the oil either because he also states that "the



lamps show that the shift has come to an end when the oil becomes almost consumed and fails them"

Agricola doesn't mention the type of oil used, but we know that "whale oil instead of tallow to burn in the mines" was on trial at Keswick in November 1570. The English started whale fishing around 1610 but Basque villagers are said to have been hunting the northern right whale in the bay of Biscay as early as the 12th century, and by the 16th century when the local seas had become depleted whale fishermen from Biscay were turning to fishing grounds off Newfoundland. It is around this time that the Germans at Keswick apparently decided to try out the imported whale oil. Also known as train oil this lighting fuel must have proved successful in the mines as 19 gallons were subsequently brought to Keswick by carrier from London in the same month followed by

two casks in early 1571. Also fourteen new oil lamps were purchased at 2/- each, nine of these for Caldbeck. For the next few years both tallow and whale oil were in regular use in the Keswick mines. For example, in late 1573, 160 lbs of tallow from five cows and

two oxen was bought at Keswick. The next year a man was "sent to Carlisle for train oil but none could be got".

By the early 17th century lamps seem to have been abandoned in favour of candles in the Lake District copper mines. We find candles providing light for two boys employed to draw up water from the bottom of Goldscope into the cistern of the pumping engine, one working by day and one by night. The boys were obliged to buy their candles from the "directors" at the rate of 6d per lb (the company bought them at 4d per lb!). There was also payment for "candle light for the directors and the hodmen to see the works and men apply their charges" and other references to the purchase of candles by Daniel Hochstetter (jnr) throughout the years 1623 to 1633.

Over the years the candle was improved by replacing the simple wick with plaited strands of cotton and/or linen treated with boric acid and other minerals to reduce smoking and by the use of different waxes including solidified oil from the sperm whale (spermaceti) and ultimately in about 1850 paraffin wax. The latter was not entirely successful until stearic acid (a fatty acid from animal or vegetable fats) had been added to raise the melting point. Although the paraffin wax candle has the advantage of producing less smoke and being less prone to guttering it is said that the old dips were better for withstanding draughts and water drops.

Despite competition from more modern forms of lighting dips were still in use in some metalliferous mines in this country at the time of the First World War. For instance a cache of unused tallow candles was recently found hidden behind timberwork in No 10 Level on the Knockmurton No 9 Vein. This vein was being worked between 1908 and 1911 and further work was carried out in No 10 Level as late as 1920. The candles each weighed about 1 oz, sixteen dips to the pound being a common size for the miner, though this varied from region to region.

Market towns had their own tallow chandlers but the country folk frequently made their own candles - a time consuming task judging by the following anonymous account of 1861:

When ye kill a beef or sheep, ye gather all the fat ye can from inside the hide and around the guts and save it. After ye've got a passable bunch of it, ye put it in a big pot and build a fire under it. Not a big fire, mind ye,

else the stuff may catch on fire its ownself. Ye let that come to a boil and then boil it right easy for two or three hours. Then ye strain it through a crocus or burlap sack and throw out the chunks that are left.

The liquid that's left is called tallow except us poor people call it "taller". Ye keep it warm enough to stay liquid, cause if it gets cold, it gets hard like soap.

Ye take a stick and tie about six flax threads onto it about 2 inches apart. Let one end of the threads hang down about 6 or 8 inches. These are the wicks for yer candles, so make 'em as long as ye want.

Hold the stick over the pot of tallow, with the strings hanging down, and then dip the strings into the tallow. When they're all good and wet, pull them out and make sure they're all hanging down straight. Gotta get 'em straight quick a'fore the tallow gets hard. This called dippin' the wick.

After the tallow hardens, dip 'em into the pot again and pull 'em out quick. Do it quick a'fore the tallow on the string melts off. Let that harden and then keep doin' it.

Every time ye dip into the pot, it puts on a layer of tallow. Keep doin' it until the candle gets as big as ye want it to be. Then cut the strings off the stick and ye've got six candles.

Ye might guess that since candles take a lot of time to make, we don't waste 'em. If we set up much past dark, we usually set by the

fireplace for the light it gives off. We save candles for company or if my wife has to sew something at night and can't see by the firelight.

Dave Bridge

LATE NEWS

A dainty young man in Smallcleugh said of this place I've had quite enOUGH the damp in the air has quite ruined my hair this is not a nice place for a peugh !

De Drummer

Anon

MINERS IN MINIATURES

The above is the title of a magazine article which has been sent in by Ken Geddes. Whilst is too long to reproduce here it

describes the use of micro-organisms to recover metals in a process known as bio-leaching. Should anybody want a copy of this please send an SAE to me.

Ed.



NAMHO '99 CONFERENCE – ROYAL FOREST OF DEAN

Between Friday 24th and Monday 27th September 1999 there is an unmissable event being held in the Forest of Dean essential for anyone even vaguely interested in mines. Over that weekend the Gloucestershire caving community are hosts to the NAMHO biennial conference, with something to interest everyone. For those who still don't know, NAMHO stands for National Association of Mining History Organisations.

The conference includes lectures which will be based upon the mining history and exploration of the Forest of Dean and other mining regions. Guest speakers will be covering aspects of different mining rights and their origins in diverse mining regions in Britain. Offers of lectures relating to mining customs from other, perhaps obscure, localities in the UK are particularly welcomed. Contact J Wright. It is hoped that a small publication, combining the papers on mining customs, might be produced for sale sometime after the Conference.

Trips into mine workings will cater for a wide range of abilities from gentle walking, to difficult and extensive trips lasting 7 hours. Trips include Clearwell, Wigpool, Westbury Brook, Perseverance mines and many more.

Surface walks will take in some familiar and several lesser known mining sites, with leaders interpreting as the walks progress. There are also a couple of self led drives around the Forest mine sites for those unable or too lazy to walk any distance.

Training sessions are being arranged (subject to sufficient bookings) for Ladder and Lifeline, Basic SRT, and surveying. Courses will be run by entertaining and experienced tutors.

Saturday night's event will allow people to discuss the days activities over an evening meal; to be followed by the showing of the well known 'Forest of Dean Freeminers' film by Mr Melville Watts OBE and the brilliant monologue by Dave Carlisle in the role of a Victorian mining agent (not suitable for the easily offended).

The event is being run from the Civil Service Motoring Association (CSMA) site, Whitemead Park, Parkend village, in the heart of the Forest itself. Accommodation is available at Whitemead in the form of Chalets, camping or caravanning. B&B, hotels and hostels etc are plentiful in the locality. An accommodation list will be sent out with booking forms and further details of surface and underground trips. Please send an A4 SAE to J Hine.

Trade stands selling a wide variety of Caving gear, books and underground related essentials will be open for business over the weekend. Prospective traders please contact J. Hine.

For bookings, information, suggestions etc: please contact:

Event Coordinator:
John Hine
NAMHO '99
The Grottage,
Mile End,
Coleford,
Glos. GL16 7QF
01594 833217

Conference Organiser:
J Wright,
Clearwell Caves,
Near Coleford,
Royal forest of Dean,
Gloucestershire.
GL16 8JR
01594 832535/ Home 01594 510484

NAMHO 1999

Surface trips

There are 4 guided easy walking routes within the Forest of Dean that aim to give an insight into the surface buildings/features/geology etc. that relates to the old mining history of this area. A map is not necessary but is an advantage to understanding this area better - either the O/S map 162 (1:50,000) the O/S Outdoor Leisure map 14 (1:25,000).

1 Bixslade Valley Walk

A 3 mile round trip, easy walking, slightly uphill, time taken approx. 2-3 hours.

The walk starts at GR 608099 (Forest of Dean Stone Firm) and the route will include Coal mining sites, a working Free mine, Pennant sandstone quarries (inc underground site if required) & Birch Hill iron mine. The walk follows the route of the tramroad which served the industries along the valley.

2 Howlers Slade and Wimberry Slade Walk

A 3 mile round trip, easy walking, time taken approx. 2-3 hours.

The walk starts at GR 604114 and will traverse sections of 2 tramroads which served coal mines as well as the stone quarries. The walk is aimed at people interested in the coal mining industry including Mushet's Old Furnace Level and Cannop Drift (mine).

3 Clearwell Area Walk

A 3 ½ mile round trip, easy walking, time needed is around 2-3 hours.

The walk starts from Clearwell Caves at GR 577083 and takes in the iron ore outcrop at the western edge of the Forest ore field and includes the Old Bow, Lambsquay & Old Ham mine entrances. The land pits of Stephens and Yew Tree mines will also be included as well as the deep pits of the Easter Iron Mine and its associated mine building/tramroads.

4 Oakwood Valley Walk

A gentle 4 mile round trip, taking approx. 3 hours.

The starting point is at the layby at GR 601064 and the walk will follow part of the Oakwood Valley tramroad, which served the collieries and iron mines, before traversing the iron ore outcrop in Noxon Park. The sites of Oakwood Mill deep level (Iron Mine) and Oakwood land level (also known as Quab Iron Mine) will be looked at as well as the Princess Louise Iron Mine shaft and China Engine Iron Mine.

There are 2 car journeys:

1. Iron mines and associated iron works

This car journey starts at Whitemead Park site (GR 610080) and will visit the Whitecliff & Darkhill coke blast furnaces, the Titanic steel works, the Easter Iron Mine pithead buildings, Fairplaypit Cornish 'bull' engine house, Findall Iron Mine ventilation furnace, Parkend blowing engine house and Wigpool Iron Mine.

2. Coal Mines (Surface features and buildings)

Some of the proposed visits may have to be at the roadside due to restricted access. Arthur & Edward (Waterloo) Colliery, Cannop Colliery, Princess Royal Colliery, Flourmill Colliery, Lightmoor Colliery, Northern United Colliery, Rose in Hand drainage level and Parkhill Coal Level.

NAHMO 99 UNDERGROUND TRIPS.

<u>FRIDAY EVENING</u>	<u>SATURDAY AM</u>	<u>SATURDAY PM</u>	<u>SUNDAY AM</u>	<u>SUNDAY PM</u>
1. Clearwell Caves Old ham entr. grade2	4. Clearwell Caves Show Mine. walking	14. Clearwell Caves Show Mine. walking	21. Robin Hood Winch grade3	26. Robin Hood Winch grade3
2. Wigpool Sway Hole entr. grade3	5. Clearwell Caves Old Ham entr. grade2	15. Clearwell Caves Old Bow entr. grade2	22. Devil's Chapel In & Out/Devil's Ditch gr2/3	27. Devil's Chapel Victory/Crabtree grade2/3
3. Wigpool Steam Hole entr. grade3	6. Wigpool Steam hole entr. grade3	16. Wigpool Steam Hole entr. grade3	23. Brinchcombe Level Limestone shale grade2	28. Blakeney Hill Stone Mined for sandstone gr2/3
	7. Wigpool Sway Hole entr. grade3	17. Wigpool Sway Hole entr. grade3	24. Westbury Brook Mega all day trip. 1st level	Trip 24 extensions grade6
	8. Robin Hood Winch grade3	18. Robin hood Winch grade3	25. Morse's Coal Level grade 2	29. Morse's Coal Level grade2
	9. Noxon Park Crater entr. grade2/3	19. Noxon Park Jetty/ Land Level grade2/3		30. Perseverance grade5/6
	10. Mine Cam Shaft Camera demo prov.	20. Underground Video Techniques. prov.		
	11. Westbury Brook Honeycomb/1st level gr5/6			
	12. Clearwell Caves Mega trip all day grade3/5	Trip 12		
	13. Whittington Stone Cotswold stone mine near	Trip 13 Cheltenham. All day gr2		

NOTES: All the sites are iron mines unless otherwise stated. Some of the sites have several trips, these are to different areas of that complex. Grades are 1 easiest, 6 hardest & are subjective. There are limited places so first come first served. The Clearwell Caves mega trip [no.12], although not technically difficult, is strenuous with some tight squeezes & should not be attempted by anyone with more than a 44" chest. The Westbury Brook mega trip [no.24] is very strenuous & should only be undertaken by fit & competent cavers. Trips nos.10&20 are provisional. Trips will be available Monday if requested. The organisers reserve the right to amend trips if they deem it necessary.

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 18th January 1999 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 | Furness Projects |
| 9 | Hudgillburn Mine | 10 | Newlands Furnace |
| 11 | Coniston Coppermines Site | 12 | Video Film Project |
| 13 | Publications | 14 | AGM & Dinner |
| 15 | Date and venue of next committee meeting | 16 | Any other business |

Present D. Bridge(DB), S. Barker(SB), I. Matheson(IM), J. Davies(JD),
P. Fleming(PF), M. Mitchell(MM), M. Simpson (MS) and A. Wilson(AW).
AD. Cameron(ADC) and N. Wilks(NW) attended at the invitation of the chairman.

10 Members in total.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from M. Scott.

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 16th November had been previously circulated to members. It was PROPOSED by DB and SECONDED by MS 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 from the AGM-CATMHS library insurance. It was decided to cost insurance cover to the value of £6000. Action MM & ADC.
- 3.2 Item from the AGM-It was decided it would be a very good idea for CATMHS to have a web-site. N. Wilks agreed to establish a CAT web site.
- 3.3 Item from the AGM-Auto CAD, it was decided to delay discussion on this subject for the time being.
- 3.4 Item from the AGM-The timing of mailings was discussed, the secretary to inform the newsletter editor of decisions.

4 Secretary's Report

The secretary had received :

- 4.1 Letter from the Carn Brea Mining Society inviting members to the 2000 International Conference, which will be held on the 14/18th July 2000 in Cornwall. They are asking for help from any interested bodies with sponsorship ideas, sources of funding or suggestions of speakers. NAMHO have suggested at least 40% of speaker should be from abroad.
- 4.2 Information from P. Holmes about the Barrow Salt Industry for the MPP.
- 4.3 Letter of thanks from the Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust, the group who are compiling the MPP report on Electric Power Generation, for information sent.
- 4.4 S. Barker suggested that in view of current thinking on the preservation of artefacts and minerals in old mines, the society should perhaps adjust the wording in their 1987 'Artefacts found in mines on CATMHS meets' statement. It was agreed that the secretary should look at the wording.

5 Treasurer's Report

The chairman had received a letter from the treasurer, which the secretary read to the meeting. P. Timewell wrote to confirm that he had resigned from the post of treasurer of the CATMHS, as from the annual dinner for personal reasons. D. Bridge PROPOSED "That M. Simpson should become temporary treasurer of the society, until the next AGM," SECONDED by P. Fleming, all were in favour. M. Simpson accepted the post. As our account is presently in Furness and will have to be moved to Settle, P. Fleming agreed to take cheques to

the bank and enquire about moving the account.

6 Membership Secretary's Report

The membership now stood at 81, only 30 members had not renewed their subs. He would be sending out a final reminder slip with the next newsletter. He had recently sent out the next meets list.

7 Meets Secretary's Report

JD distributed forms to be filled in with ideas for next summer's meets, he hoped this would dispense with the need to hold meets meetings (which were usually poorly attended). These forms should be returned to him by mid February. It was suggested that meets should have opportunities for all grades to participate, this would make it easier for members to upgrade their skills. MM suggested that we should hold our meets on the same Sunday of the each month, to make it easier for members to remember to attend. PF thought we should have a trip into Greenside Mine on the next meets list, he would contact the NP for permission to drive up to the mine. PF also suggested that CATMHS should go on a field trip to the mines of the Picos De Europa, maybe at the later end of this summer. He would draft a sheet to gauge interest and put it in the newsletter. ADC suggested a meet in Gaunts Level.

8 Furness Heritage Survey

No report.

9 Hudgillburn Mine

SB reported on progress at the mine, work on the fall barring the way to the Sun Vein was completed on the 3rd January, the level beyond was in good condition. A rise on the right and one on the left were explored, these connected in a very circuitous manner. An intact water bottle with cork was found on a ledge and there was evidence of mineralisation. The level continues about for 100 yds to a blocked forehead and then turns left. Here the level is almost full of fallen shale, clay and sandstone blocks. We are using sections of sleepers and telegraph poles to support the roof here. Thanks go to W. Snaith for hunting these out and delivering them to the mine.

MS offered to start off a full survey of the mine, he suggested it would be easier if we had a set of survey equipment at HGB. DB to look into the cost of this. MS hopes to start the survey at the end of February, putting in datum points, starting with one on the mine shop. PF had seen second hand surveying equipment for sale at an antiques market in Lancaster.

10 Newlands Furnace

J. Helme had contacted the secretary reporting on progress at the furnace, they would be holding their first steering committee meeting on the 16th January. Difficulties regarding the lease would be discussed. They will have to find funding for the repair of the charging bay gable end before it can be insured (one of the lease conditions). The Secretary had received a letter from Dr. Marshall thanking us for agreeing officially to the formation of the Newlands Trust, he added thanks for all our help over the years. The trust is gathering together a strong group of interested people and later they will form a 'Friends of Newland Furnace', which hopefully CAT members will join.

11 Coniston Coppermines site

DB and MS reported that there had been three survey meets since the last meeting and work was continuing and the mine plans. The work done on the survey had made clear the position (in relation to the underground features) of the large surface crater under Simon's Nick. The large underlying stope which is very unstable and continuing to erode, making the surface area a very dangerous place for members of the public to roam around. The committee asked the secretary to write to J. Hodgson (NP Archaeologist) and inform him of the dangers (copies to BGS and Rydal Estates).

No further work appears to have been done at Levers Water Reservoir. The forehead of Woodends Level has been estimated to be 11m beyond the wooden plug.

Interaction with the John Ruskin Museum. A site visit took place at the museum, when artefacts for the display were deposited along with a script for use in the audio-visual presentation.

12 Video film project

MM reported the project had taken off to a good start, there had been two meetings recently and several filming sessions. A script for the geology of the valley was required. Action DB. MM would arrange the next meeting.

13 AGM and Dinner

The AGM and annual dinner had gone well, PF would book the dinner for this year at the Yewdale as usual. It was agreed to retain the buffet meal as before, but to number the tables next year to avoid queuing.

14 Publications

A. Cameron reported that there were about eighty 'Slate from Coniston's' left to sell, which would raise about £700 in profit. All the copies of 'Slate from Honister' (100 copies were printed) were sold, should he get more printed. It was agreed that another 100 should be printed, but an easier method of binding should be explored.

The new edition of 'Beneath the Lakeland Fells' had hit a few snags, A. McFadzean could not find the original text discs, so ADC was having to type it all out and there were 223 pages to type! MM had taken on the task of collecting photographs, about one third to be coloured. ADC would get printing quotes, but the easiest would be to use Smith Settle who owned the plates, he estimated the cost would be around £3000. The photographs needed to be ready by February, hopefully the book will go to press in November and be ready by Easter 2000.

The Publicity Officer thought we should start to think of future titles, the first could be a trail leaflet of the Newlands Valley near Keswick, DB would give this some thought.

PF reminded the committee that we would run out of trail leaflets in the Spring, they would have to be reprinted.

15 Date and venue of next Committee Meeting

This was arranged for 7.30 p.m. on Monday 15th March 1999 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston.

16 Any other business

16.1 PF told the meeting that John Moore would be giving a lecture on Diamond production in China in Kendal on the 20th January.

16.2 ADC had seen George Tarr who had suggested that we could hold a work meet at his quarry in Tilberthwaite.

16.3 PF asked if the committee agreed in principle to the Society attempting to start negotiations, with a view to eventually having a full archaeological survey of such sites as: the Back Stings and Greenhead Gill. They did agree and PF would approach J. Hodgson for guidance.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10-00 p.m.

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 15th March 1999 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 Hudgillburn Mine |
| 9 Newlands Furnace | 10 Coniston Coppermines Site |
| 11 Video Film Project | 12 Publications |
| 13 Date and venue of next committee meeting | 14 Any other business |

Present D. Bridge(DB), S. Barker(SB), I. Matheson(IM), P. Fleming(PF),
M. Mitchell(MM), M. Simpson (MS) and A. Wilson(AW).

7 Members in total.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from M. Scott (MSc).

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 18th January had been previously circulated to members. It was PROPOSED by AW and SECONDED by IM 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 4.4 The wording of the proposed revision of the 'CATMHS Artefact Statement' was discussed, SB to type it out for a final discussion at the next meeting.
- 3.2 Item 9 DB had purchased two camera tripods at a very good sale price (£20 each) and converted them to be suitable for survey use. He had also bought a compass for £50. DB PROPOSED That CAT should also buy a Silva clinometer (price £83). SECONDED by MM, all were in favour. These items along with a 50m tape, survey book and bag, would complete a second CAT survey kit for use at HGB.
- 3.3 Item 11 DB had treated further CAT artefacts and deposited them at the John Ruskin Museum for the mining display.
- 3.4 Item 11 SB had written to the NP Archaeologist re the crater at Paddy End but had not received a reply.

4 Secretary's Report

The secretary had nothing to report that was not covered by the other items.

5 Treasurer's Report

MS reported that on the 12th March the balance was 5369.12, plus cheques in hand 196.00. Expenses included publishing and postage costs and survey equipment for HGB. He thought there was a need to set a budget for the rest of the year and had estimated 840.00 for basic costs.

6 Membership Secretary's Report

IM had received 103 membership subscriptions, 15 of which were joint memberships. There were also the honorary members and six library's. He had sent out the final reminder slip with the last newsletter. He hoped to include a membership list in the next newsletter.

7 Meets Secretary's Report

JD was unable to attend the meeting. PF was disappointed not to know the results of the survey slip included in the last newsletter regarding the proposed trip to the Picos De Ropa.

PF had obtained permission to hold a meet at Greenside Mine from the NP, but they stated that only 2-3 cars could be taken up the track to the mine. SB would contact W. Allison regarding the LDNP indemnity form for Greenside Mine.

8 Hudgillburn Mine

SB reported on progress at the mine, clearance work on the Sun Vein was well underway. The ground ahead was very unstable and the digging team wanted to support the roof in this area with steel, £210 were allotted for the materials.

On the 6th March MS (supported by five members) started a survey of the mine, the first datum point was on the 'Shop', by 4-30 pm the end of the main Waggon Level was reached.

9 Newlands Furnace

J. Helme had contacted the secretary reporting on progress at the furnace. Over the last two workmeets the team had fitted two girders over the tap hole entrance and the first row of firebricks had been put in place.

The new Newlands Furnace Trust had held their first board meeting, difficulties regarding the lease had been discussed. They had received some initial funding towards the repair of the charging bay gable end, this work had to be done before insurance can be obtained (one of the lease conditions). The Trust had registered it's interest in joining 'The Story of Cumbria' project with the CCC, who are intending to enter a £2 million lottery bid.

10 Coniston Coppermines site

DB and MS reported that there had been two survey meets since the last meeting and work was continuing on the computerised mine plan. PF had been investigating the possibility of obtaining lottery funding for an archaeological survey of several copper mine sites at Coniston. He had contacted the appropriate office at Barrow, for information, it appears that we would stand a chance but there would be a lot of difficulties. This sort of archaeology is termed 'destructive' and not approved of, it can only be carried out if it can be proved that the site is in danger and that the work done will be of value to the public for interpretation. He also contacted the John Ruskin Museum who said they would be pleased to support the idea as the public would benefit, if the results were displayed in the Museum. Four small areas had been chosen for the bid these were:

- 1) Area to the East of Simon's Nick, containing a small dressing floor.
- 2) Hut 25.
- 3) The ruined ?smithy above the New Engine Shaft.
- 4) The two small ruined huts below the Old Engine Shaft launder tower.

11 Video film project

MM reported that progress had not been possible since the last meeting.

12 Publications

A.D. Cameron (ADC) reported that he had received a quote for the printing of 'Beneath the Lakeland Fells', it was going to prove very expensive, a price of £6-8,000 for a soft back version and £7-9000 for a hard back book was quoted. The committee decided to delay the re-printing as it would probably only sell slowly and it would take a long time to get a return on the investment.

'Slate from Honister' (100 copies) would be coming from the printers shortly.

ADC to be asked to get a price for re-printing 1000 copies of 'Slate from Coniston'. The possibility of producing a new publication was discussed. DB and PF said they would discuss jointly writing about the German Miners at Coniston. Several other ideas were put forward to raise funds, a poster and a calendar were suggested. MM to look into prices. The trail leaflets continued to make a good profit.

The secretary had received a communication from the Journal Editor, who had returned (on the authors request) an article intended for the next CAT Journal, as the time span to a publishing date was too long. He had received a second article some time ago. It was decided that D. Borthwick should be asked to write to the author to ask if the article could be printed in the newsletter.

ADC had been contacted by Radio Cumbria asking if we were doing anything exciting which they could include in their 'Open Air' programme. All agreed we could take them to Coniston or HGB. Action ADC.

The library insurance was discussed, it was decide to obtain quotes for the sum of £6,000.

Action MM and PF.

13 Date and venue of next Committee Meeting

This was arranged for 7.30 p.m. on Monday 17th May 1999 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston.

14 Any other business

MM had received a phone call from a TV Co. regarding their programme 'Flash Back' (a garden restoration programme). They were working in the old garden of a house in Ambleside, when they found several old tunnels and strange structures, which appear to have housed various things ranging from crocodiles to tropical plants. MM and MSc went to investigate.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10-00 p.m.

SB 20/03/99

Chairman

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

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VICE PRESIDENT Major Hext

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