

CAT

The Newsletter of the Cumbria Amenity Trust
Mining History Society

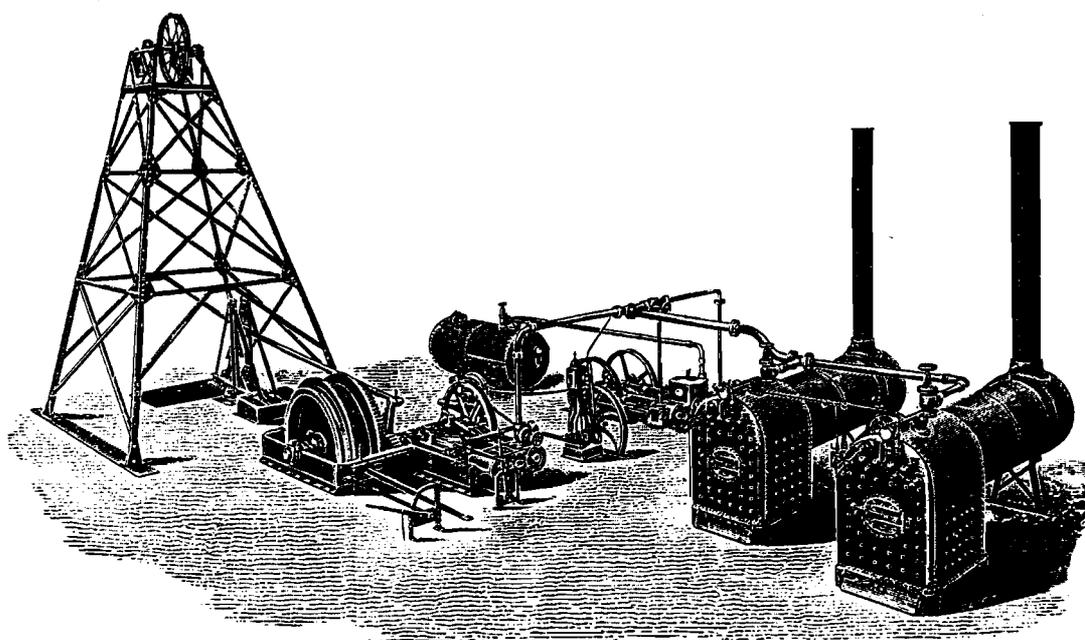


FIG. 1.—Complete Mining Plant.

COMPILATION

Special thanks to those who are now submitting material on disc, this is a great help. To assist me in inputting your data if you are not using WORD please do not use fancy tables, columns etc. If in doubt please give me a ring. The Newsletter is generated on Microsoft Office 2000 Premium.

PUBLICATION

The newsletter is issued four times a year. Material for inclusion should be with 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

If you wonder why this newsletter reaches you somewhat late the explanation is very simple. A few weeks ago the editorial Computer broke down and everything on the hard drive was lost. For all of you with PC's, note that this is a very frustrating event especially when you have very little backed up. **If in doubt back it up now.** After this catastrophe I have changed the layout of the Newsletter a bit and I hope it is to everybody's liking. The same paper is being used, which absorbs chip fat well and then burns excellently !

Again many thanks to all those who have contributed, even those in the last minute rush – you know who you are !

Jon

P.S. Would whoever has the CAT logo on disc please let me have a copy in time for the next newsletter.

OLD NEWSLETTERS

Tony Rawlins has generously donated a run of old newsletters from No. 39 through to No.57 plus a copy of "Cumbrian Industrial Archaeology a Field Guide" to the society. I have decided, perhaps rashly without consulting the committee, that the person making the best offer in writing (monetary ones only please !) received by me before the end of November will be the new owner of these priceless tomes edited by Mark Simpson and I. The money will be used to swell the societies coffers.

Thanks to Tony for this donation.

Jon

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome Chris Hargreaves from Grange-over-Sands. Chris lists one of his skills as diving – this could be very useful.

We also welcome Jane Moreland from Gosforth and Jim Alexander from Dunblane.

Jon

DOCTOR DESCENDER

Dear Doctor

I have heard it suggested that I may be discourteous at some time in the future, is this the done thing ?

Anon, Hard Luck Drive

Whilst I can safely say that this is not the done thing it is hardly a great feat of crystal ball gazing by a fellow officer. If my records are correct being courteous was never your strong point.

Doc.

NAMHO NEWS

Further through this newsletter the latest edition of the NAMHO newsletter is included in its entirety. In future I will be able to download it from the NAMHO website and include only those

articles I believe to be of relevance to CAT members unless people want to see it in its entirety. Any views ?

Jon

POLLUTION HOT SPOTS

An article in the surveyor on 22nd April 1999 read as follows.

Abandoned metal mines in the West Country and Wales pose a serious threat to the environment and to human health, the World Wide Fund for Nature warned this week. Water leaching from mines and tailing lagoons can contaminate large areas with heavy metals, including lead, cadmium and zinc.

The WWF report was timed to coincide with the first anniversary of a disastrous accident in southern Spain, where a mine waste lagoon burst through its dam and released millions of tonnes of toxic sludge into an ecologically important wetland.

According to WWF, there are at least 1700 abandoned mine workings in Devon and Cornwall, and more than 200 km of river are thought to be affected. In Wales more than 500 disused mines are affecting groundwater in the area surrounding Aberystwyth.

The findings are part of a Europe-wide investigation undertaken to assess the extent of the risk posed by toxic leaks and spillages from mining sites.

"Heavy metals pose a serious hazard to people, wildlife and the environment" said Jane Madgwick, WWF's European Freshwater Officer. "WWF has just scratched the surface of a very serious problem"

The group wants to see better records kept at EU level of all potentially hazardous sites and contaminated areas. It is calling for better environmental standards at such sites.

Thanks to Nils Wilkes for sending in this article.

COMMENT

Reading the extract from the surveyor magazine regarding pollution from old metal mines most members of the general public would think that this is something undesirable and "they" the Government or Local Authorities should clean it up and no doubt in due course that's what a number of them will do. I hope they will preserve the

remains and maintain underground access although past experience makes me very cynical.

Thinking more about the article the more I came to question it.

Firstly is it news. Whilst in a free country people have every right to be told what is going on around them there have been metal mines and their remains in Wales and almost certainly Cornwall for almost 3000 years. People don't seem to die prematurely in Llandudno so the effects cannot be that severe.

I fail to see how metal mines in either Wales or Cornwall, or anywhere else in the UK for that matter pose a serious threat to the environment and human health. Mining does not create anything un-natural it merely exposes what is already there, but hidden under the surface. Whilst its true that I wouldn't care to drink the water from many mines that I've been in, most mine water doesn't get drunk but flows into the sea.

The cutting states that 500 disused mines are affecting the ground water in the area surrounding Abetystwyth. Unless there has been a recent upsurge in mines draining into the Rheidol a large number of these must be very minor workings.

The good news is that the group want the EU to sort this out so imminent action seems unlikely.

AGM

If everything goes according to plan with this newsletter you should also receive the invitation to the AGM and Dinner as well as a meets list.

Please remember that the AGM is your chance to have your say about your society. It is also the chance to get involved in running it, don't be shy the rest of the committee members aren't as bad as they look. Seriously though in my view at least we need a few new faces so come on down and get stuck in.

Jon

YEAR 2000

After a thorough investigation involving many experts it has been shown that Doctor Descender is millennium compliant. Yes, Ian Matheson has volunteered to take up the editorial pen after he retires in the middle of the year 2000. The bad news is that you will have to put up with my humour until then unless I am deposed at the AGM.

Jon

MINING BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR WINDOWS

One of Britain's most prolific Mine Explorers, Foy Fellows, has produced a Mining Bibliography for Windows.

Roy describes it as an advanced database of mining books, offering some very unique features. There is also included an on-line picture gallery. From the entry of a single keyword, the name of a site or mine, it is possible to obtain a report of all books on the database containing information about the site of interest. This is invaluable to mining historians, explorers, and mining enthusiasts.

The application is distributed as a CD ROM pre-loaded with details of Roy's collection of over 350 books and periodicals that have been published in the last ten to fifteen years, with the facility to add to the data as more books are published.

The price is £29.95. The disc and/or further details are available from :-

IRIS Computers Ltd
Greengables
Stafford Road
Great Wyrley
Walsall
WS6 6AX Phone 01922 406713

No.16 PIT REVISITED

No 16 pit at Roanhead is a small, dark pond off the anglers path to Burlington. It is first shown on a mine plan of 1873 and worked the Garden sop. It closed in 1882.

The second life of the mine is recorded in my article in newsletter No 40. It was proposed to close Plunger pit, and re-open No 16 to work the remaining ore from the Kennedy's portion of Burlington sop. Plunger pit closed in May 1904, and in June 1905 a new headgear had been erected at No 16, and the old winding engine was brought over from Rita pit. Work continued slowly and it was not until 1909 before the 205 Yd level came close to the ore.

On 31 July 1908, David Lawn made his monthly report to his masters, the Barrow Haematite Steel Co:

Park Mines

All the operations of these mines are going on satisfactorily. The whole of the underground workings are maintained in a condition of safety both as regards the timbering and ventilation.

On the 21st Inst. the last bogle of ore was sent out of the bottom of the Burlington deposit and the

pump and other tackle in the winze below the 104 fathom level are removed and the bottom of the main pump in the "Burlington Shaft" will now be fixed at the 82 fathom level so that the water will be allowed to rise to that level. To this arrangement the agent of the lessor has verbally agreed.

The ore washer is working satisfactorily and the results are fairly good considering the class of the ore treated.

The Limestone quarries are in good working order. Three days per week only are being worked this being sufficient to meet present requirement.

Work stopped in No 16 because of the rising water in Burlington. Park mines closed in 1921 as a result of the coal strike. Kennedy Brothers took over Park Mines for the purpose of pumping only, and this might have been the time to complete work at No 16, but 1921 was no time for development work, and the ore in No 16 is there to this day.

The reason for returning to the subject is a discovery made in the course of the relic survey. A strange building with a domed roof had been puzzling us for some time. The date June 1905 had been scratched into the massive concrete walls. It is now clear that this is the bed of the No 16 winding engine, rebuilt 1905 and later converted to an air raid shelter.

Roanhead Mines closed in December 1942, but the ore washer and central buildings were taken over by the Ministry of Supply, and it is likely that gave the engine bed its third lease of life. References: Mine reports in CRO, Barrow, Z2919 and BDB47 box 6

Peter Sandbach

Unfortunately the prints Pete sent to accompany this article did not reproduce very well.

Jon

THE RUSKIN MUSEUM CONISTON

Now that the museum is up and running it is probably about time I let everyone know what there is to see. First of all if your sole interest is the mines (are there other interests? - Ed.) then you will probably be disappointed. This is not a mining museum. It is a museum of Coniston history and John Ruskin. Represented within are Stone/Bronze Age, Copper Mines, Slate, The Lake, Farming and the Geology of the Lake District with local rock and mineral samples from Coniston (this was done by the British Geological Survey).

Ruskin with his many talents are well presented by the use of multi-media screens. His drawings and watercolours are also on display as are his many mineral samples.

An audio guide is included in the price. Many of the graphic panels and artefacts have a small headphone symbol with a four digit number, keying in the number will give more in depth information about the subject.

In due course a library/study room will be available (by appointment). The BGS very kindly let us have a large number of geological and mineral papers that relate to Coniston and the Lake District, including the recent paper on the copper mines that suggests the materialisation at Coniston was much earlier than previously thought. If you would like information about these papers you can ring me in the evenings on 015394 41231.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed especially Sheila, Dave and Peter for their patience and assistance. I hope you will continue to help us improve and update the displays in future.

The museum is open until November from 10.00 to 5.30, price £3.00 Adult, £1.75 Child and £8.50 Family. For more information call 015394 41164.

Jeff Wilkinson - Museum Custodian

MEET REPORT JULY 14TH - BLACK BECK COPPER MINE AND NEARBY SLATE QUARRY

Nine members turned out for this evening meet to explore two little-known sites to the SE of Corney Fell. First Peter Fleming led the way to a little-known slate working under Barrow Fell to the east of Duddon Bridge. The main working is a closehead entered via a deep cutting in the fellside. Near the entrance is an earlier level several metres above the floor of the cutting and only accessible by abseiling from above. This level looked promising and calls for further investigation. Further up the fellside we located a series of shallow workings and small dressing floors.

The party then returned to the cars on the Broadgate-Corney road where we were joined by Peter Sandbach. With Dave Bridge now leading we continued through fields of freshly mown hay and carpets of orchids to Black Beck where there are a series of copper workings in the banks of the beck. These were made on E-W veins and include one extensive level to the west which we found to contain dead sheep soup above welly depth. To the east of the beck a drier level, hitherto

undiscovered by the leader, showed green copper staining in the roof and though narrow was not entirely hand-worked. The bed of the beck was thoroughly searched for further levels and a run-in shaft at the south end of the workings gave rise to some speculation. Nothing appears to be known about the history of this small outlying mine, and though little more than a series of trials it was notable enough for one seasoned explorer to be heard muttering "I would not have believed it had I not seen it with my own eyes!"

Dave Bridge

MEET REPORT, AUGUST 11TH (EVENING) - GREENBURN COPPER MINE

An encouraging group of members, wives and friends met at the ford, and with the night drawing in and rain clouds threatening no time was wasted covering the two miles to the mine workings in Greenburn valley and on to the reservoir beyond. The present dam was built in the 1850s when the main development of the mine took place and the workings were taken down to 120 fathoms on the Sump Lode with no adit. A reliable supply of water was therefore required to drive the large Engine Shaft wheel which from the size of the pit appears to have been about 35 ft in diameter and 4 ft breast, as well as the extensive dressing plant. This included a large jaw crusher and a battery of stamps, the foundations of which are still in place. There is now little evidence of the water-powered jigs and buddles, but the two stone leaching tanks (originally lead lined) which were used at a later stage to process cuprite, the red oxide of copper, by dissolving it in sulphuric acid are still in position, though collapsed.

After inspecting the dam the party returned to the mine site where several features at the collapsed top of the Engine Shaft were identified including the bob plat, and a careful inspection of the office buildings revealed two 19th century sets of initials. But it was impossible to do justice to the site in one evening's visit. The remains are substantial, covering several periods of operation, and as well as Sump Lode there are also workings on Low Gill Lode, Gossan Vein and Pave York Vein, the latter being accessible via two levels and an open work. Another meet there is called for.

Dave Bridge

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF PADDY END

On the survey front there have been 11 meets since September 98. We have now covered the bulk of Paddy End down to and including Middle Level although there are several details to be filled in. More geological data has yet to be gathered such as details of the cross-faulting through Top and Middle Levels and how they relate to the rest of the mine. The most interesting area geologically has been that to the NE of the Levers water Cross-course which includes Levers water mine and Brow Stope and we now have a much better picture of the structure of that complex part of the mine. Most of Mark's finalized sections are now awaiting scanning so that they can be incorporated into a Web-type model of the mine using hml files and brought together with slides and geological notes. His master plan of the Paddy End workings is something else!

To date I have over 130 slides to go with the model, mostly illustrating specific features, and have recently acquired a Nikon Coolscan III slide scanner which for both definition and colour quality leaves the Umax flatbed with transparency adapter standing and produces some astounding results. The first use this will be put to is to provide the Ruskin Museum with a series of mainly underground images of the copper mine for their computer display in the IT room. These will be scanned from CAT members' slides. At present the computer display relates solely to Ruskin (i.e. paintings, etchings, etc) but the intention is to include other facets of Coniston history in due course.

I've also recently acquired from Meridian Airmaps a stereo pair of aerial photos of the Paddy End site taken at 5000 feet. Mike Mitchell is developing a stereo viewer for these but the ultimate aim is to produce a 3-D digital map (DTM) of the topographical features to incorporate into our 3-D modeling of the mine (i.e. in the Compass or CAD programs). But that's for the future.

THE SURVEY MEETS

Meet No 45 (Stope 1 collapse in Top Level) - 19.11.98 - MS,DB

The collapse from surface below Simon's Nick crag which passed through Top Level and down to Grey Crag Level left an unstable slope of debris above Top Level in Stope 1. Up to now we had avoided surveying the SE end of this stope for obvious reasons, but today we steeled ourselves to the event and clambered up the slope using a hand-line anchored to bolts and stemples, dropping a

second rope down from the "window" into Paddy End Stope in case the ground shifted and blocked off our line of retreat. At the top we found ourselves much nearer the old ladder which rises to the staging above and was possibly part of a ladderway to surface. The air was fresh and the sound of a passing aircraft came through loud and clear!. The collapse appeared to have shot through a hole above us at the top end of the stoop which is now plugged by a large block. After a few quick measurements and photos we made a hasty retreat. The results of the survey show the top of the slope to be only 9m from the bottom of the surface crater and directly below it. On the way out we resurveyed part of the route to Arete Chamber from surface.

Meet No 46 (Top Level floor heights) - MS,DB,PF

In the early days of our survey we didn't account for changes in floor level. As time went on we found that apparently small corrections such as this were important when fitting together the different parts of the survey. With this aim we carried out a re-survey of Top Level from Stope 4 to Stope 1.

Meet No 47 (Belman Hole Level beyond MaG's Catwalk) - 4/12/98 - DB

A careful inspection was made of the workings beyond MaG's Catwalk as far as Top Level Extension to fill out geological data for this part of the mine.

Meet 48 (Manway level, Stope 4) - 7/2/99 - MS,DB

The manway level in Stope 4 at the Belman Hole horizon was re-surveyed taking into account changes in floor height.

Meet No 49 (Earthquake Passage and Shattered Stope) - 12/2/99 - MS,DB

The ground beyond the Levers water Cross-course tends to be more stressed and fractured than that to the SW and this is no more exemplified than in the region of Earthquake Passage where the floor and SW wall is literally collapsing into the adjacent Shattered Stope. Not all of this fracturing is the result of the mining because the country rock in this area is shot through with quartz strings to a much greater extent than elsewhere in the mine. The quartz fills cracks and tears which must have existed during the period of

mineralization.

On this trip we descended the manway shaft from Earthquake Passage to that part of Middle Level which connects with Brow Stope through a collapse. At one point, where the level widens there is evidence that there may have been a shaft in the floor and there are the remains of a jackroll nearby. This might warrant a dig sometime. In the other direction a crawl takes one into the bottom of Shattered Stope where it is possible to climb high up into the stope through a mass of huge boulders and flakes of wall rock until a connection can be made with Earthquake Passage through a hole of ever increasing size in the side of the level. We surveyed the whole of this part as far as the point where shattered stope plunges downwards and links up with Avalanche Stope.

Meet No 50 (Hospital Shaft) - 21/3/99 - MS,DB

This meet should have been a surface survey but inclement weather and the recent discovery by Mark Scott of the true top of Hospital Shaft persuaded us to make a descent and survey of the shaft from the back of the short newly discovered level beside Levers water Beck down as far as Grey Crag Level.

Meet No 51 (Descent of Stope 4/5 from surface to Middle Level) - 30/3/99 - MS,DB,Ian Matheson

We'd been putting off inspecting the SE end of Stope 4/5 until another person prepared to dangle on ropes for much of the day was free. The 100m descent from the air hole near Simon's Nick had been made several times by CAT but Ian had not had the opportunity to look into that part of the mine and was glad to join us. The end wall of the stope being well off the line of descent below about 30m was uncharted ground and there was a possibility that Top Level might continue for some distance beyond. We followed the normal descent line to the staging below "rotten level" (i.e. to the point where the writer once had to be ignominiously rescued after being hit by a rock which had fallen out of the floor of the level ft above) and then we traversed diagonally downwards in a series of 6 pitches until we were able to land on a platform just below a working in the end wall of the stope. Mark bolted and rigged the pitches, oblivious at one stage of a bat which remained undisturbed less than two feet from the drill!

The working turned out to be a mere 10m continuation of the stope several metres above the Top Level horizon and so Ian and Mark continued the decent to Middle Level landing just short of

the Blue Pool. We didn't find a Top Level continuation nor did we gain access to the further workings above Middle Level to the SE, but at least that part of the mine has now been explored and surveyed and our adrenaline flows are back to normal.

Meet No 52 - (Levers water Mine) - 5/5/99 - MS,DB

We entered Levers water Mine from the Funnel, wading through near waist deep water to continue the survey started in August 98. This we continued on to Avalanche Stope where Mark descended the first two pitches and measured to the bottom of the third. We began to realize from this and the previous survey on this mine that the Levers water Cross-course is not so much a single fault but part of a fracture zone with other parallel clay-filled faults adjacent to the SW.

Meet No 53 (Simon's Nick) - 17/5/99 - DB, Mark Scott

On this occasion a close look was made at the vein structure of the open work at Simon's Nick.

Meet No 54 (Surface survey) - 25/5/99 - MS,DB,Jeff Wilkinson (part time)

The surface survey was extended to include workings to the S of the Funnel at the head of Boulder Valley.

Meet No 55 (Brow Stope) - 21/6/99 - MS,DB,JD

Today we took advantage of a stronger team to investigate and survey unexplored ground at the N end of Brow Stope in the direction of Levers water. We found it possible to traverse N beneath the surface as far as an opening in the top of a fairly shallow dipping stope where a descent was made, possibly following the line of a manway from the surface, until a short working to the N could be gained. This was blind and represents the most northerly extent of that part of the Brow Stope workings. A notable feature was a chain running down the stope from top to bottom consisting of sections with different link sizes joined by a huge iron hook. Continuing down we joined the original "direct" route as far as the top of the final pitch. This area appeared more collapsed than in earlier years and the loose debris now makes a descent of the final (vertical) pitch more hazardous. The working here is complicated by the fact that two mineralized veins of substantially different dips intersect producing an apparent bend in the stope

and due to the shallow dip of one of these huge blocks and flakes have become detached from the hanging wall. There is a considerable flow of water into the working from a side working close to this point. It enters from the direction of Levers water, possibly following a line of fractures in the country rock.

Dave Bridge

OPENING OF THE HAIG PIT MUSEUM

The following is extracted from a report in the Whitehaven News:-

"The mine museum project that suffered many brickbats from local politicians was officially opened on Friday 3rd September. The massive winding engines hummed and swung into life as compressed air was used to turn them. In 1986 they had fallen silent as the last miners left Haig Pit. Now they are working again as a tourist attraction and record of the area's coal mining past - thanks to the work of the Haig Pit Restoration Group.

Among the guests at the opening was Anthony Beaver, grandson of August Beaver, whose Bradford factory built the huge steam engines. He congratulated restoration group secretary John Greasley for all his hard work.

Mr Greasley said that it had taken six years and they were finally getting there thanks to all the local businesses that have helped with materials and their time.

At one stage the discovery of asbestos sheets in the roof of the building almost caused Copeland Council to pull the plug on the scheme.

The mine museum at Kells is now open each Saturday and Sunday between noon and 3pm. Entry is free."

The restored engine is in fact at No 4 Shaft and was used principally for riding men. Each cylinder is 30 inches in diameter with a stroke of 5 feet, and the winding drum is 14 feet in diameter. The group eventually hope to restore the monster at No 5 Shaft with 40 inch diameter cylinders, 7 foot stroke and winding drum 21 feet in diameter. This required a train of 17 wagons to deliver it from the Beaver and Dawley works in 1920.

The group have offered CAT a permanent display board at the museum which is at present covered with pictures and text raided from Allstair's displays. They hope eventually to sell literature related to mining.

Dave Bridge

EARTHQUAKE

Scientists investigating an earthquake which rocked North Wales early on the 1st September warned that more may be on the way.

The quake measuring 3.2 on the Richter Scale was centred eight kilometres north-west of Caernarfon in the Llangefni area of Anglesey.

The Institute of Geological Survey in Edinburgh, which monitors seismological incidents, also received enquiries and its scientists will analyse data to assess the quake.

The Menai Strait area has a known geological fault under it and the shifting of underground rock levels are thought to be responsible for separating Anglesey from the Mainland.

Gwynedd experienced one of Britain's largest-ever earthquakes in July 1984 which touched five on the Richter scales. Seven years ago the area was rocked by another quake centered on the Llyn Peninsula.

Extract from the Caernarfon & Denbigh Herald September 3rd 1999.

Jon

LOW WATER ENGINE HOUSE MEET

Present Ian Matheson (Meet Leader), Dave Robson, Peter Fleming, Sheila Barker, Mark Scott, Geoff Cram, Peter Sandbach, Mike Mitchell, Angela Wilson and prospective member Chris Hargreaves.

Low Water Engine house was a workshop and smithy serving the Old Man Slate Quarries. Compressed air and electricity were generated by a pelton wheel (driving a compressor and dynamo - Jon), using water from a pipeline fed from Low Water. When Wainwright wrote his guide books this still carried water, and it was still more or less complete in the late 1970's. During recent years however it has deteriorated, and most of the pipeline has rusted and fallen away. The building itself was left much as it was last used until about 1976, when the owners sold the slate roof. Over the years the building deteriorated, the walls bulged, and the floor became covered in rubble and sheep dung.

In 1999 CAT cleared it out, carried out repairs to the bulging walls, and cemented the exposed tops of the gables. The cover was refitted to the pelton wheel, the machinery tidied up, and the blacksmiths tools were removed for safe keeping.

Again time and the elements acted on the building and the wooden framework of the roof deteriorated, the loose timbers causing further damage to the tops of the walls.

The present meet aimed to tidy the site and prevent further deterioration. Mike Mitchell provided sand and cement, and Dave Robson carried tools and materials as far as the old slate yard in his Land Rover, from where it was back packed up to the site. Prospective member Chris Hargreaves impressed by single handedly carrying a whole bag of wet sand all the way up. Come again Chris ! Old woodwork was cut away and stacked at the back of the building, the damaged walls and gables were repaired, and the forge tidied up. Mark Scott, having slept in, cooked his breakfast in the forge, and filled the place with smoke trying to boil his kettle on a wood fire.

The party then set off for Levers Water, as Peter Fleming had arranged a tour of Top Level Extension for the contractors who were engaged by NW Water to seal off the wooden plug in Woodends Level. On the way we encountered Alan Westall, who was conducting a Voluntary wardens walk. By the time the party reached Levers Water it had begun to rain, and the contractors had departed. All traces of their presence had been removed, including the caps of the bore holes down to Woodends Level. Peter took Chris Hargreaves as far as the start of Mags Catwalk, reporting the traverse line was still in place, whilst Mark Scott again demonstrated his cooking talents by making a brew at the bottom of Simons Nick. As the weather by now was not very nice we called it a day and went home.

Ian Matheson

GREENSIDE MINE MEET – 5th SEPTEMBER

A fine sunny day greeted eighteen members and friends. Some had travelled from as far away as Watford and Bristol to attend this popular meet, which may be worth establishing as an annual event on our calendar.

Eight members opted for the through trip down from Glencoyne Level and another eight entered Lucy Tongue level. Two others had a walk on the surface.

It was a hot climb up the hill and over the ridge to the Glencoyne adit. It was here, whilst we were getting our underground gear on, that a dog belonging to some passing fell walkers wandered across to us and cocked a leg over an upturned helmet, quickly receiving in return, a kick up the backside. It seemed that the dog had been potty trained.

The heat of the day was soon forgotten as we entered the level in knee deep water, locking the gate behind us. We soon descended the first ladder to the high horse level. There was a short halt in the valve chamber at the top of the main ladderway whilst several members had a look into the enormous stope, the scene of the big collapse in 1862 which left deep craters on the fellside above.

On descending the 250 ft ladderway we entered the low Horse Level and had lunch at the top of the 1953 escape shaft through the Alma Stopes. Some time was spent looking at the various artefacts in the sub levels on the way down and photographs were taken.

At the point in the shaft 140 ft above Lucy Tongue, where a disc shaped boulder is still wedged across, an abseil was set up to span a gap in the ladderway. Soon all eight members were safely down in Lucy Level and we began the long walk out to the entrance over 1¼ miles away.

We stopped several times en route to look at various features, like Smith's shaft, Willie Shaft and the Machinery Room and then Lucy Shaft etc.

Everyone was awed at the amount of work done by the combined efforts, over several years, of CAT and MOLES to re-open the Lucy Level, which had made this through trip possible, but there is still work to be finished and more areas of the mine to be explored.

Peter Fleming

BAN ON UNDERGROUND EXPLORATION

A report by Tony Henderson in the "Journal" for Saturday 3rd July highlights the following :-

A ban has been imposed on prospectors who are digging up part of the National Park.

The Lake District National Park Authority has outlawed all surface collecting, digging, raking over and underground exploration on the 7000 acres it owns on Caldbeck Commons.

The area in the northern part of the park, is recognised as an internationally-important spot for mineral veins and has long been visited by geologist, archaeologists and students. But head of park management Bob Cartwright said that a major problem was being caused by people exploiting the minerals for cash.

"The minerals are close to the surface and people come from all over the world for samples" he said.

"But because these minerals are quite rare there is an international market in high quality samples. They are taken to exhibitions all over the globe and some sell for four-figure sums. Some people have been ruthless. They have been digging up what is a unique feature of the national park and taking it away and it has been a serious problem."

The minerals which are sought after include tungsten, baryte, fluorite and especially pyromorphite. To allow legitimate samples to continue to be collected by responsible mineral societies (??? - Jon) and those involved in scientific research a working group is being set up to agree a collecting practice and authorisation system.

The article goes on to talk about erosion in general in the National Park.

NORTH WALES NEWS

Long term readers of this publication will know that a number of members including Peter Hay, Stewart & Moyra Holme, Tim Oulton & Cella Hancock, Stan Owen, the editor and others are engaged in a long term project recording the remains of the North Wales Slate Industry.

For the last few years we have been looking at the pit quarries of Dyffryn Nantlle. Having previously investigated Pen-yr-orsedd and Pen-y-bryn workings, this year it was the turn of Tal-y-sarn. The initial expectations of the underground team

were not high. Next to nothing was immediately accessible and after all what could match Pen-yr-orsedd with its extensive tunnels, some still unexplored, or descending the 160 foot water balance shaft with the rope being back up to a transit van.

A few hours sharp digging soon led into a rubbish strewn stairway giving access to the drainage tunnel. The system has many interesting features, which will require a full report at a later date, but a rusty tank perched on wooden beams over the level was noted as an interesting artefact but little else. After closer inspection somebody mentioned that it looked like a locomotive side tank since it had a rounded leading edge. This immediately aroused interest in the plate which was mounted in the middle of the side. Investigation soon showed this to be a nameplate but despite lighting at all manner of bizarre angles the name proved unreadable. Steady cleaning by more patient mortals revealed the name to be MARGARET. After much deliberating the nameplate was removed for safe keeping. Incidentally is a thought that the tank was being used as part of a crude condenser for a stationary engine mounted above.

Much tedious work with a small screwdriver and a small high speed grinder revealed the nameplate in its full splendour. An impression made from it is reproduced below. The actual nameplate is 425 mm x 110 mm and is, unusually, made of Cast Iron. The tank dimensions are 1130 x 762 x 229 mm (LxWxH) and the style is reminiscent of a front or wing tank.



The name Margaret ties the locomotive clearly to the quarry and provides an indication of the date since Margaret was the name of John Robinson's mother. Robinson was first involved in the Quarry in 1867 and after 1879 became sole owner. Robinson and his family remained directly involved in the concern until after his death in 1900.

Once the initial excitement at finding the plate had subsided our thoughts turned to the identity of the locomotive - a task that is still to be completed. The standard published work on the area is "Industrial Locomotives of North Wales" by V.J. Bradley. This excellent work unfortunately sheds no direct light on the manufacturer.

The only clue that can be gained is from the style of the nameplate with the unusual "ears" cast on at each corner for the fixing rivets. This is an uncommon feature which, to the authors knowledge, was only used on the products of the Henry Hughes of Loughborough. The Falcon works were taken over by the Falcon Engine and Car works and eventually became Brush.

The aim is that the nameplate will be donated to a suitable secure museum in Gwynedd.

Investigations continue within the narrow gauge locomotive fraternity and a further update will be given in due course.

Jon

A YEAR OF DISCONTENT – PART 1

Dave McAnelly has prepared an extensive and informative article for the newsletter which will be serialised in the next few issues.

Jon

A Year of Discontent

I would like to thank the Editor of The Hexham Courant for permission to use the articles printed, and the staff of Northumberland Record Office for all their help and patience. The information is presented as printed in the Hexham Courant, any additional information is shown in italics.

The period of 1867 - 1868 had been one of relative depression and falling prices, whereas after this there was an economic boom, and full employment. (In 1869 - 1873 there was a credit boom partly due to the increase in availability of gold from Australia and America.) Due to this prices rose quickly and it was mainly this rise in prices which provoked the demands for increased wages. In the lead mining districts of the North Pennines there was a general feeling of discontent, resulting in strikes by the Beaumont miners in Weardale, the London Lead Company miners in Teesdale and the Rodderup Fell miners. These disputes were recorded in the Hexham Courant.

30 March 1872

The W B Lead Miners Weardale Agitation for increased wages

For some time past considerable dissatisfaction has prevailed among the miners of Weardale in consequence of the low rate of remuneration they received for their services, and they have determined at this period, having regard to the cost of living, now greatly upon the increase, to follow the example of other classes of workmen throughout the country and adopt a movement having for its object the advance of what is termed "lent money" a stated amount of cash guaranteed to his men by the employer monthly in order to meet the exigencies caused by the peculiar and uncertain nature of the work; and when, but for this "lent money" they would have frequently little or no earnings to draw.

During the past summer an attempt was made to procure an advance from the £2 a month they are now receiving to £2 10s, and some negotiations

were commenced which resulted in the formation of a committee of the men, and that committee appointed a deputation to wait upon the masters agent at the New House, and there lay before him what the men wanted. A short time elapsed, when the refusal from the masters was announced, the latter stating that the request could not be complied with, and a rumour got abroad that soon there would be a change in the system of working the mines, and a ready money method of payment to be introduced at some not far distant day. Matters quietly settled down from that time, and things have gone on as usual to the present without any alteration being made. But the miners, latterly, seeing no prospect of their condition being improved, have again resolved to inaugurate an agitation for the increase of the lent money from 40s to 50s per month, and, on Saturday, a crowded and enthusiastic meeting of the W B lead miners was held in the Town Hall, St John's Chapel, Weardale, for the purpose of adopting resolutions in furtherance of the movement for increased pay. A thousand miners were computed to be present in the hall. ... THE CHAIRMAN (whose appointment was carried by acclamation) commenced the proceedings; and said: Nearly a quarter of a century had elapsed since a meeting similar to the present had been held at St John's Chapel. The object then was the same as at present - namely, a struggle for the increase in lent money. (Cheers) Many connected with that movement had passed away; and not one now upon the platform beside him occupied the platform of the past. Since then things had gone on pretty smoothly, and no outward demonstration of lead miners had occurred in Weardale since that day. Every innovation in the shape of change had been received with good grace up to the present. It was during the last summer in June or July, that an attempt was made to procure a further advance of lent money. The request was very moderate, and nothing was said about the rise of wages. (Applause) All they asked for was an increase from 40s to 50s per month. The committee that was formed, appointed a deputation to wait upon the master's agent, with a view to the miners request. The reply shortly afterwards was that it could not be complied with, and matters in consequence were allowed to drop. But as no change had taken place since then, and great struggle between capital and labour had been going on throughout the country it was time he thought, they should do something for themselves. (Cheers) Many of the masters seemed to have anticipated the wants of their men, and did not wait till requested to shorten their hours of labour or advance their wages, and give them then what they thought they should have. (Cheers) But the lead miners of Weardale had had nothing advanced to them except provisions, coals &c., which latter had

considerably advanced, and many a poor man with only £2 a month could not see his way clear to secure a load of coals, and other things were rising in proportion, so that the men were compelled to make another effort. Six or seven weeks ago that effort was commenced, and it was arranged that the deputation of the men should see the masters, but before that it was announced to have also a mass meeting of the men. The masters then sent word for the deputation to appear at Newhouse, and the men were told that a scheme was in progress which was not complete, but when it was they would again send for the men and lay it before them. In consequence of that the mass meeting was put aside for the time being, and the men waited patiently for a new scheme. Resolutions were proposed and presented to the master's agent, but there was an answer from Mr Beaumont that he was determined to stand to the new system (to which as a whole, the men could not see their way clear), and rather than shrink from it would lay the mines in for two or three years. This seemed a very cold answer to moderate requests, especially as Mr Beaumont's workmen stood in a very different relation to that gentleman in the valley than many other classes of workmen did to their masters. (Applause) The miners of Weardale were a class of men that had not been gathered from the four quarters of the globe, as their very fathers were cradled in that valley, and for some time they could trace back their ancestors. Their grandfathers had wrought in the same mines and many a grandson was now working in the place of his forefathers at the present time - (Cheers) - so that the announcement to close the mines was very cold. The resolutions to be submitted for their approval or disapproval were founded on the petition sent to Mr Beaumont after the scheme was laid before the men, and he hoped the appointed speakers would have a fair hearing, and show to the outside public that the miners of Weardale knew how to conduct a mass meeting (Cheers). He then called upon the mover of the first resolution.

A MINER the stepped forward and moved, "That we receive the new system, with the exception of an advance to the unfortunate miner to 50s per month." After referring to the high price of food and other necessaries he said the men could not do with their small earnings, and they wished to show the reasonableness of their request. ...

THE MOVER of the second resolution advanced to the front of the platform and said he was called upon to move. "That the miners cannot see their way clear to work without some degree of certainty, monthly, as there is so much irregularity in mining, unforeseen circumstances are such that they might have to work for two or three months without making anything, and this they cannot afford, and therefore they have again decided to appeal to the managers of the W B lead mines,

Weardale. The object of their meeting together he said was to give public expression to their opinions on the new system. ...

Examples were then given of the unpredictability of lead mining, and how it was that a lead miner may work for long periods without raising very much ore, but with the hope that they would strike a rich load of ore, so that they would be able to redeem the subsistence they had received.

The speaker then said he failed to see how the workmen were to get fair play with the ready money system, except they had so much per fathom or ton for their work, and it to be weighed at the level mouth, so that a man could get what he made, and have the liberty also to remove elsewhere if not satisfied. But through sheer necessity, perhaps, he happened to be unfortunate two or three months, and could not meet the demands of his creditors, and they would refuse to speculate longer with him and his uncertainties and in all probability he would have to leave his country without a shilling in his pocket to get work elsewhere, where he would be more fairly remunerated for his toil, (Applause.) The proposed ready money system was wrong for both men and master. ...

THE SECONDER of the resolution stood up to address the meeting ... with respect to the ready money system, it favoured the masters too much at the men's expense. It obliged the men to give their labour, and left him open to advance the unfortunate miner what he pleased. It chilled the spirit of enterprise in searching for lead ore, and placed a man too much at the mercy of one individual. ...

The resolution was carried amid great applause, and the large meeting separated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

20 April 1872

The strike of lead mines in Weardale
Great mass meeting of the men

On Saturday afternoon a mass meeting of the Lead Miners of Weardale now on strike, was held at St John's Chapel. The meeting had been announced to commence at twelve o'clock, but in consequence of the long distances many of the miners had to travel before reaching St John's Chapel; the chair was not taken till one o'clock. ... although many of the miners had walked their six, eight or a dozen miles, to the place of meeting - upwards of 1,500 persons had congregated by one o'clock in the afternoon ...

MR NATHAN RACE occupied the chair, and in opening the proceedings said he could not help but on that occasion returning the meeting thanks for their kindness in again choosing him to preside over the present one. ..

They had at last secured an interview with Mr Beaumont, and that interview was satisfactory so

far. They could not accomplish all that was desired but ultimately the dispute would be settled. At the mass meeting held on the 23rd of March he (the speaker) made a statement to the effect that Mr Beaumont had said he was prepared to stand by the new system, and that rather than shrink from it he would throw the mines in. Now he was happy to tell the meeting that day that that statement made on the 23rd of March was not true. When he (the chairman) uttered those words he firmly believed they were true; the committee believed they were true; and there was no doubt but that every workman in the WB lead mines believed those words were true. But he heard the other night from Mr Beaumont's own lips that that gentleman had never said he would fling the mines in, nor ever dreamt of flinging them in for two or three years. But he wished it to be thoroughly understood by the meeting that he had every confidence in Mr Featherstone Phillipson, who had communicated the intelligence to the committee. (Hear hear) ... There would he believed, soon be a settlement brought about, but in the meantime they were struggling for the 50s a month lent money, and they would have it. (Great applause)

MR JOSEPH WATSON, Hasswicks, Westgate. Up to that time they had been battling with the new system, which seemed to have been a bubble blown by one man, and which burst in his own hand on that memorable night. (Laughter and cheers) Mr Beaumont said he never wished to push any new system upon them, and to use his own words, "they had been fighting with the wind." But the new system was held up to them as an absolute reality by Mr Cain, and as one which would come into operation at the beginning of the present quarter. they therefore, never went to Newhouse to take their bargains on Monday last. He heard Mr Cain say that Mr Beaumont was willing to let the men have the benefit of the mines for two or three years in the hope of something better turning up in the future, but that he was not prepared to suffer any loss by the mines. Since this, however, he had heard Mr Beaumont declare that he never said anything of the kind, and never thought so. (Loud cheers) Mr Featherstone Phillipson said that Mr Cain told him that Mr Beaumont would close the mines for two or three years rather than grant 50s lent money, or shrink from the "new system." But he himself heard Mr Beaumont say that he never said so, and never even dreamt of such a thing - (cheers) - and he wrote out a declaration to that effect, and declared that it might be published to the world. As regard to the promised interview he believed Mr Beaumont knew nothing about it till the Monday, when he found the letter sent by the committee, and that he then went to Newhouse on Wednesday; but he heard Mr Cain tell the deputation twice in one interview that if the men had not confidence in their master the sooner they

parted the better. (Laughter) Another contradiction he might refer to was an equally glaring one. When the deputation were up some time ago hearing the document read, Mr Cain told them that lead had fallen £2 per ton during the last two or three years, and was still tending downwards in price. Well they introduced the subject on Wednesday evening to Mr Beaumont, and told him that they knew from good authority - from a person of their acquaintance, who did business in lead that the value had risen £2 per ton during the past twelve months. In reply to that Mr Beaumont said he must admit that lead had an upward tendency. ...

Mr WILLIAM GIBSON, of Hasswicks, Westgate. At the interview on Wednesday with Mr Beaumont he was exceedingly happy to ascertain that the gentleman was not, in point of fact their enemy. They found that their true and real enemy was Mr Cain. He had the impression that Mr Beaumont was a gentleman; he received the deputation very courteously, and listened to all they had to say with great patience, and answered nearly all that came before him in a straightforward and honourable way indeed. Mr Beaumont told them that he had long been of opinion that a little ready money in Weardale would be a very acceptable thing. No miner objected to getting plenty of ready money. Mr Beaumont told them that he had never thought of pushing the new system against the wishes of the men. ...

MR WILLIAM EMMERSON, of Westgate ... There was a sort of agreement or understanding, existing between the agents of Mr Beaumont and certain neighbouring employers say, for instance, the iron stone mines. So that it was necessary for a man to have his clearance, which is often refused by Mr Cain on the plea that a working man had no right to one. ("Mr Cain is not a man") So for Mr Beaumont to be their last employer was sufficient with but few exceptions to debar men from getting work until they had been elsewhere working, either east, west, north, or south, within seven miles of where that meeting was being held. That was tyranny. (Hear hear)

MR JOHN FEATHERSTONE, Middle Rigg. ... The price of living had so much increased since those days (when Mr Sopwith was agent) that it had become necessary that there should be a general advance of wages, and he was glad that their master, Mr Beaumont, was willing to grant it. They would observe that he (the speaker) was in favour of the system of ten percent, as introduced by Mr Sopwith, only he would have it to take place after the miner had earned £1 per week instead of 15s. That was like each man helping his brother. ... Mr Beaumont had not thought of the system of paying the miners monthly. He never approved of it; first, because there was a deal of ground that was not payable in three months. Plenty of lengths in the Burtree Pasture Mine were not

payable in three months; and not only there but in all other mines, there was unproductive ground that had to be cut through. Secondly, in the high part of Weardale there were seasons when it would be impossible to get it washed up for months, and it would cause endless difference when the work was to be valued. Thirdly, there would be far more wood used, making a greater cost, as well as rendering the mines more unsafe; and in fact, the mines would be ruined, because it would destroy all enterprise on the part of the miners, which enterprise was of more value to Mr Beaumont and the landed proprietors and tradesmen of the dale, and to all who were interested in it, than all the agents, that ever were at Newhouse since the days of old Maughan. (Loud cheers)...

The following resolutions were then put to the meeting, and carried by unanimous vote, amid great enthusiasm.

First, "That no 'bargain' be taken at Newhouse until the 50s lent money be granted."

Second, "That £1 be the standard to base the 'bargain' upon, and no man to be percented till he makes that sum."

Third, "That the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr Beaumont for the gentlemanly manner in which he received the deputation."

The "Percent System"

In 1845 when Thomas Sopwith took over as agent of the Beaumont Company mines he increased the bargain rate so as to give an average wage of 15s a week, and raised the monthly subsistence to 40s. It was also decided that miners who were in debt at the end of the year would in future only be responsible for half their arrears. The other half was to be met by those miners who earned more than the 15s per week. These miners were to have 10 percent of their excess earnings deducted from their end of year settlement of pay. So a miner earning for example 30s per week on average would contribute 78s in that year (10 per cent of 15s x 52 weeks) to help pay off half the debt of the less fortunate miners. If these "percent" payments did not meet the amount owed the the Beaumont Company would cover the remaining amount.

The "New System"

The system suggested was that the miners were to work for £3 per bing of ore raised, and that money which they earned was to be paid at the end of the month (ready money). The miners were to be paid a month in arrears, that is they would have to work two months before they received their first payment for one month. The miners found this system to be unacceptable and at the mass meeting examples were given why this was so. "The ready money system with £3 per bing seemed all very well; but there were many mines where if they had £6 a bing they could not make way, and

no man could work for a whole quarter of a year and make no money - merely depending on future success. A partnership might set to work in any mine and work very well; and yet they might work a month or eight weeks without making what would pay for a "charge." What would the ready money system do for men in such a case."

Dave McAnelly

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 17th May 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), J. Davies (JD),
P. Fleming (PF), and A. Wilson (AW). The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

1 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from M. Scott (MSc) and M. Simpson (MS)

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 15th March had been previously circulated to members. It was PROPOSED by AW and SECONDED by DB 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 3.1 The wording of the proposed revival of the 'CATMHS Artefact Statement' was discussed, some further alteration of the wording was required, for a final decision at the next meeting.
- 3.2 Item 3.2 DB had purchased a Silva clinometer, a bag still needed to be bought the HGB survey kit would then be complete.
- 3.3 Item 3.3 The CAT artefacts which are stored in Mandall's were discussed, it was decided that SB should ask and the John Ruskin Museum if it was possible for them to provide storage facilities.

4 Secretary's Report

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

5 Treasurer's Report

MS was unable to attend the meeting but had sent the current balance sheet which was circulated to the committee.

Expenditure at HGB had been heavy this month, materials and survey equipment had been bought. SB said that they would be starting the summer recess at HGB so no further materials would not require this year. The covenant forms needed to be filled in and sent to the tax office. Several members had cheques from books they had sold, SB to post them to the Treasurer.

6 Membership Secretary's Report

IM reported there had been one new member, Tony Singleton from Preston. He had run out of back copies of our newsletter to send to new members, DB offered to do some photo copies and send them. IM had compiled a membership list which would go out with the next newsletter.

7 Meets Secretary's Report

JD had completed the next meets list which would go out with the next newsletter. Materials required for IM's June meet to carry out conservation work on the Puddingstone Engine House were discussed. The lack of Wednesday evening meets was discussed, three were decided on, details to go out with the newsletter. DB had contacted Richard Gillanders of BGS who is sending copies of the Cashwell Mine plans to be used on SB's meet in June.

SB reported she had been unable to get permission to drive up the track to Cashburn Mine (on the 5/6th of June) as it was a sensitive time for the nesting birds. The plan was to drive to the first gate (CCC Road) and walk the rest of the way.

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 were supporting the roof in this area with sections of crash barrier. There had been a small collapse in the East Wagon Level, this was cleared on the May meet. The survey is going ahead well and had now reached Thomas Shield's Rise to the Cavern, and part of the North Vein.

9 Newlands Furnace-No report.**10 Coniston Coppermines site**

DB and MS reported that they had completed the survey of the long drop from Simon's Nick which had taken nine pitches to complete. They had started on Avalanche Stope in Levers Water Mine. DB and MSc had looked at the vein structure in Simon's Nick. Work was continuing on the computerised mine plan. DB had received aerial photographs of Coniston from English Heritage to assist with the survey and a BGS article from the Geological Magazine No. 136 (2) pp 159-176, which pushes the date of mineralisation at Coniston back forty million years.

PF had met with John Hodgson (JH) with regard to investigating the possibility of obtaining lottery funding for an archaeological survey of several small sites at the Coniston Copper Mines. JH had been very enthusiastic at the idea and had made a lot of helpful suggestions. One of the possibilities was to consider doing the archaeology work through the NPA, who were looking at a management plan for Coniston and would be putting in a Lottery bid. JH would look at: a) alternate funding bodies. b) who would be suitable to carry out the work.

Several committee members had attended a NWW meeting at Levers Water Mine. The Water Authority appear to have decided to go ahead with their plan to put a concrete barrier in front of the wooden plug. The top of Hospital Shaft has been exposed by water action in Levers Water Beck, there is a short sub-level leading to the shaft. Heavy timbers over the shaft support a sheave wheel, the lever for the signalling wire survives, as does wooden staging in the shaft.

The John Ruskin Museum was now open to the public, SB had been shown around by Jeff Wilkinson and had been very impressed by the displays.

11 Video film project

MSc had brought a video from J Roskill (JR) with printed references, JR had done a lot of work for the project, but no other progress had been made. PF suggested we should either drop the whole idea or appoint another Director as the filming was not progressing. DB to contact MM.

12 Publications

A.D. Cameron (ADC) had received a quote for the printing of 'Slate from Coniston'. One thousand copies would cost £2126 00, at the present rate of sale these would last about six years. 'Slate from Honister' (100 copies) had been received from the printers at a cost of £365, the profit per copy would be £2.30 retail and £1.15 trade.

PF had enquired about funding for the re-printing of 'Beneath the Lakeland Fells', we could apply for a Millennium Festival Award. This award (of £5000) is given for publications on heritage subjects which would benefit public study. The pricing would be critical as it is a non profit making scheme. PF PROPOSED he should proceed with the application, SECONDED by DB, all were in favour. PF would discuss the application with ADC.

It was decided to leave discussion on other publications till the above was progressed.

PF had obtained a quote for insurance for the contents of the CAT library-a Magpie Policy costing £47 per year, which would give £6000 cover, with all risks covered. All agreed-action PF.

13 Date and venue of next Committee Meeting

This was arranged for 7.30 p.m. on Monday 12th July 1999 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston.

14 Any other business-None

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 12th July 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 AGM and Annual Dinner | 14 Date and venue of next committee meeting |
| 15 Any other business | |

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

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 17th May had been previously circulated to members. It was PROPOSED by AW and SECONDED by DB 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 3.1** The wording of the proposed revision of the 'CATMHS Artefact Statement' was discussed, all agreed on the wording, which is:

THE REVISED CATMHS ARTEFACT STATEMENT April 1999.

The policy of the Trust is that artefacts found on CATMHS meets should be left undisturbed. A photographic record should be made and details of the find given to the meet leader.

The artefact should only be removed if it is under threat, it then becomes the responsibility of the Trust, but can be held in the possession of the discoverer, providing he/she is a CATMHS member and has suitable storage facilities. This arrangement is subject to the condition that it may be recalled for display at some future date.

3.2 **Item 7** DB had received the plans for Cashwell Mine and had passed them to SB for the June meet.

3.3 **Item 3.3** It will be possible to store artefacts at the John Ruskin Museum, they must be labelled. A work meet will be held at Mandall's on the Wednesday 18th August, please meet at 7 00 pm.

3.4 **Item 11** MM felt he would be unable to carry on as director, but would maintain an interest.

3.5 **Item 12** MM and PF had both made enquires about insurance and come up with the same policy (Magpie Collectors Policy) which will cost £37.44 per year, this cover is now in place.

4 Secretary's Report

The secretary had received:

4.1 Charity Commission. newsletter, Speleoscene, NAMHO newsletter and minutes.

4.2 A letter from the Avoca Heritage Committee asking for any available information on miners who had migrated to their area in the latter part of the 19th century. It was thought they came from 'Clithermoor' in Cumbria. It was decided that this probably referred to Cleater Moor. SB to send addresses of the Whitehaven News and Dave Banks.

5 Treasurer's Report

MS asked for his thanks to John Helme for guidance with the covenants to be minuted, he presented the current balance sheet which was circulated to the committee. There was a healthy balance ready for our next publication. He had received several cheques for book sales.

6 Membership Secretary's Report

IM reported that most members had renewed their subs. He reminded the committee that after his retirement (next year) the membership expenses would rise, as he would not have photo-copying facilities.

7 Meets Secretary's Report

The completion of the winter meets list to be put on the next agenda. MM suggested that a visit to Lingmoor should be on the next meets list.

Member P. Blezard (PB) wished to propose (via PF) to the committee, that CATMHS should consider the reopening of Zero Level at Force Crag Mine. All agreed this was a good idea, as a first step DB would contact John Davies regarding this matter. Funding would have to be raised, PB estimated that the project could take 2-3 years and cost in the region of £4-5000. DB will ask B. Young for a copy of the BGS survey of Force Crag Mine.

8 Hudgillburn Mine

SB reported there would be a break in the work at the forehead till the end of October. The survey would continue and work tidying the portal area would take place on the July Meet.

9 Newlands Furnace

No developments.

10 Coniston Coppermines site

DB and MS reported that there had been three survey meets since the last meeting. Some new ground in the Brow Stope area had been entered, a long hanging chain of varying thickness had been discovered. They are studying the vein structures and getting a much clearer picture of these and the fault zones.

PF found a copy of R. Bland's plan in the BRO and DB had acquired some aerial photographs, both of the of Levers Water area, which revealed several interesting facts.

The CATMHS display boards were discussed, it was thought some new material should be added to include the Coniston and Furness survey's and work at Newland Furnace.

PF reported there had been no progress made with the Coniston archaeological project. NWW had finished their work of placing a concrete barrier (10 m in length) in front of the wooden plug in Levers Water Mine. MM and MSc had removed a lot of the loose material from the entrance of Lever's Water Mine.

MSc asked if SB could write to the NPA telling them of the dilapidated state of the fences around the open works.

11 Video film project

The shooting of the video film was discussed, it was decided each section's writer should contact J. Roskell (JR) and arrange to do the shots they require. MM will bring the indexed script to the next meeting when decisions will be made.

12 Publications

A.D. Cameron (ADC) reported he was just about to send out a Bulletin. There were about 50 copies of 'Slate from Coniston' left to sell. 'Slate from Honister' was ready for another print run. He had re-vamped some of the Trail Leaflets and PF had ordered a new supply. A list of members willing to sell our books was required.

We are getting a funding package together for the re-printing of 'Beneath the lakeland fells', the application will go to the 'Millennium Festival Award'. MM has made a list of every illustration, he thinks 22 would benefit from being in colour. Other authors may have opinions about which pictures are suitable for colour printing.

13 AGM and Annual Dinner

To be held on 12th December, SB to ask Dave Carlisle to perform his monologue. DB was definitely going to resign this time.

14 Date and venue of next Committee Meeting

This was arranged for 7.30 p.m. on Monday 13th Sept. 1999 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston.

15 Any other business-None

15.1 PF wished to give the Society's congratulations to Mike and Barbara Mitchell on the occasion of their marriage.

15.2 PF reported that BGS would be holding an open day in Edinburgh on 12th September, any member wanting to attend contact DB for travel information.

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

SB 14/07/99

Chairman

NAMHO

National Association of Mining

ISSUE No 36



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1999

Editor: Wes Taylor, 18 Station Lane, Walton on Trent,
Swadlincote, Derbys, DE12 8NA

EXTENDED CIRCULATION OF THE NAMHO NEWSLETTER

It is thought that the contents of the NAMHO Newsletter are not circulated within all Member Organisations as well as was expected. The reasons for this are numerous and complex ranging from practicalities, size of the member organisation and multiple memberships by individuals. It is also impractical for NAMHO to send a copy to all members of the Member Organisations.

It has been decided that to try and improve the circulation, the current Newsletter will be added to the NAMHO web site which is operated on our behalf by Adrian Pearce. In addition, Peter Claughton will put the current Newsletter on the Mining History List.

NAMHO CONFERENCES

1. NAMHO '99 Conference

Don't forget to book your place at the next NAMHO Conference which will be held in the Forest of Dean on 24 to 27 September 1999. Details of the Conference were circulated with the last Newsletter. The theme of the Conference will be "Free Mining and the Mines of the Forest of Dean and Other Traditional British Mining Rights and Areas".

For further information please contact John Hine, The Grottage, 2 Cullis Lane, Coleford, Gloucester, GL16 7QF. Tel:- 01594 833217.

2. INTERnational NAMHO 2000

This, the 21st NAMHO Annual National Event will be held on 14 to 18 July 2000. It will be hosted by Carn Brea Mining Society and Camborne School of Mines and will be based in Truro.

It is expected that the acceptance of bookings will be launched at the NAMHO '99 Conference. Anyone requiring further information should contact Lawrence Holmes, Rivergarth, Bar Meadows, Malpas, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 1SS. Tel:- 01872 278234. E-Mail:- NAMHO@csm.ex.ac.uk

LANDMARKS IN MINING HISTORY ORGANISATIONS

The year 1999 sees a number of significant anniversaries within NAMHO and it's member organisations. NAMHO itself is 20 years old this year.

The Welsh Mines Society has also celebrated its 20th Birthday. The 20th Anniversary Meet was held in June and a special publication commemorating the First Twenty Years has been produced.

The Peak District Mines Historical Society also celebrated its 40th Birthday in June. There was a weekend of presentations, surface and underground trips and a social gathering, complete with a nostalgic slide show. Professor W S (Bill) Sarjeant, a founding member of the Society, travelled from Saskatchewan, Canada, to join in the celebrations.

If any other member organisations are celebrating a significant birthday in the near future, please let the Editor know so that it can be reported in future editions of the Newsletter.

DETR PLANNING RESEARCH

About 10 years ago the Government (through the Dept of Environment) commissioned a series of national reviews which considered landsliding, foundation conditions, erosion, deposition, flooding natural underground cavities, natural contamination and mining stability. NAMHO and some of its member organisations were involved in the last three of these - the Ove Arup mining stability being the one which had greatest impact. Some of the findings have been implemented through Planning Policy Guidance, Mineral Planning Guidance and Regional Planning Guidance Notes circulated to local authorities and others who make decisions on proposed developments.

NAMHO have been informed that there is now "a need to consolidate the results and to interpret and present them in forms which can be readily used in preparing and monitoring the effectiveness of National and Regional Planning Guidance" and contractors are being sought who have an interest in undertaking this work.

How does all of this affect mining history societies? To

put it simply there is great pressure from many directions to remove "eyesores", make derelict land "safe", decontaminate waste tips, make work for the consultants and contractors, remove remains of old mines and the mining heritage, fill in adits and cavities, block off shafts, put fences around reclaimed sites and, in a nutshell, take away everything of interest to our members unless someone speaks out and shows those that matter that there are alternative uses and values. That is the work of NAMHO.

Members of NAMHO have in the past worked with the commissioned consultants, individual officers have attended meetings in London of "Steering Groups" at their own expense and individuals have perused through the masses of paper produced, checking, and rechecking, to see that our interests are protected. This is the unseen work of NAMHO. It is not finished yet for, as stated above, more work is constantly coming in our direction. The pressures are still there. NAMHO's work still continues.

If anyone wants a job on these projects outlined above, either as a consultant or contractor (were the pay is reasonable and the competition is strong), as a member of steering groups (travel, time and postage at own expense), or vetting and commenting on papers (at own expense), then please contact the Secretary.

D of E Projects in which NAMHO was directly involved are:-

1. The Treatment of Mine Shafts and Adits - published 1988.
2. Methods of Compilation, Storage and Retrieval of Data on Disused Mine Workings - published 1988.
3. Review of Mining Instability in Great Britain - published 1990.
4. Review of the Significance of Natural Contamination to Planning and Development (heavy metals, oil, gases etc) - published 1996.
5. Members were also involved in the study of natural underground cavities.
6. Proposed study - The Consolidation and Interpretation of the Effectiveness etc of the above studies 1-4.

A series of four books drawing upon the above studies was published by DETR in June 1998. These are in the series "Environmental Geology in Land Use Planning". They are:-

1. "Advice for Planners and Developers". Cost £5.00.
2. "Emerging Issues". Cost £15.00.
3. "A Guide to Good Practice". Cost £20.00.
4. "Sources of Earth Science Information". Cost £10.00.

Ivor Brown

BOOK REVIEW

1. "IN THE BEWICK VEIN - The Story of a Northumberland Lead Mine" by Susan Harley

The veins at the Langley Barony Mine, near Haydon

Bridge, were tried in the 18th century, but it was not until 1871 that Thomas John Bewick proved their true potential. Newsletter No. 58

Unlike many veins in the North Pennines, mineralisation here persisted over a depth of around 57 fathoms and, when the mine closed in 1893, it had produced 40,761 tons of lead concentrates.

The section covering the history and layout of the mines, which are centred on Honeycrook Burn, is supplemented by one giving useful biographical notes on T J Bewick and his later association with C.A. Moreing in founding an international firm of consulting mining engineers.

The author set out to write at a level suitable for "people with no prior knowledge of the lead industry" and has generally succeeded. Her sections on the production and washing of lead ore and the working conditions at the mines work well and are illustrated with appropriate photographs. It is, however, a pity that a few dubious interpretations and errors were not spotted. For example, the 3 oz of silver per ton of ore is described as 'significant'. This low figure is most probably based on analytical results published in the annual mineral statistics and would hardly have covered the expense of recovery. Elsewhere, impeller buddles become propeller (sic) buddles and, in a confusing merging of terms, we get plunger lift pumps! We are also told that buddles are named after John Buddle (1773-1843), but Agricola depicts them in 1556 and they were used in Britain from at least a similar time.

"In the Bewick Vein" is a good introduction to this seldom visited mine and has 70 pp, 16 figures (5 coloured), 15 plates. It costs £4.95 (plus 85p p&p) and is available from Honeycrook Press, Joicey Shaft Cottage, Haydon Bridge, Northumberland, NE47 6NF or e-mail:- Harley.Science@btinternet.com
Mike Gill

2. "Geology of the Western Front 1914-1918" by Dr Peter Doyle is No 61 in the Geologist's Association Guides.

The author has combined a lifelong interest in military history with a geological training to produce the book. There are numerous references to the difficulties with water logged trenches but this is the first account, in English, to explain the geological and geomorphologic aspects of the problems.

The author handles the "delicate" subject with respect. He shows sensitivity to the area and the itineraries are not intrusive upon the battlefields or cemeteries.

The book is well illustrated with black and white photographs, maps and line drawings. The cost is £12.00.
Down to Earth

NEW PUBLICATIONS

1. "Hafodlas Slate Quarry, Betws y Coed" by G R Jones. A4-230 pages, 4 maps, 13 production Analysis Graphs, 37 detailed survey drawings, 60 plates. ISBN 0 9533692 0 X. Cost £12.50, p&p £2.50.

The Hafodlas story began in 1855 when the initial exploration was carried out by C E Spooner of Ffestiniog

Railway fame and his brother James S. Spooner who built the Talylyn Railway. In 1860 they were joined by other eminent engineers, William Fothergill Cooke of electric telegraph fame, Hedworth Lee who engineered the Chester and Holyhead Railway and Sir Daniel Gooch of the Great Western Railway whose son Henry became manager of the quarry. The impressive remains of the remarkable and unique architecture of this period have largely survived, while later mills of traditional construction have all but disappeared. The mills were equipped with a plethora of machines - fearsome great saws and planers by George Hunter, ordinary circular saws, sand saws and cranes, while some of the incline haulage was operated by highly innovative systems.

Part 1 of the book covers the history and development of the quarry from 1855 to its final closure in 1929, with an analysis of the production and men employed.

Part 2 assesses and interprets the site remains, and is supported by 37 detailed drawings and 60 photographs. The work, which is published in its entirety, was awarded the prestigious Association for Industrial Archaeology 1997 Fieldwork and Recording Award.

Griff Jones' book on the Slate Quarry at Hafodlas is a model study of archaeological and architectural recording in an internationally important industry. It will surely become to be regarded as a classic of industrial archaeological practice. The standard of the readily understandable drawings is remarkable and also reflects the interpretive skills, and the wealth of understanding of slate-industry processes and techniques, of the five members of Fforwm Plas Tanybwlic who spent no less than 7,500 hours at this nationally significant site. They have set an example for such work for others to try and emulate. Few other groups have brought such a fund of knowledge to such a task and conveyed the results in drawings that are a delight to peruse, and then backed it up with perceptive and informative archival research and writing.

The written sources for the slate industry, for long the economic lifeblood of Snowdonia, have hitherto received some attention from scholars, but very little work on its archaeology has been published. Its merits lie in its comprehensive coverage of the documentary evidence, its perceptive interpretation of the archaeology, and most especially in its large number of record drawings of superlative quality. That Griff has no formal qualifications is quite irrelevant, for he has achieved a remarkably competent result of which any professional could be proud.

2. "Thirlmere Mines and the Drowning of the Valley" by Ian Tyler. BlueRock Publications 1999. 273pp, 132 plans and photographs. Soft backed. Cost £14.99, p&p £2.50.

This book tells the story of the struggle for survival in the mines, of the constant driving deeper and deeper into barren ground, and the heartbreaking frustration as the veins yielded so little for so much toil. It also tells of the story of mighty Manchester, the men of the Waterworks Committee who greased the right palms, the hundreds of navvies who

22
poured into the vale, the soup kitchens in winter and the gradual destruction of Thirlmere. Newsletter No.58

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

At the last Council Meeting it was suggested that a list of significant articles published in member organisation Newsletters be published. It was agreed that a "significant" article would be one which is an A4 page or more long. The contents of this list, the first list to be published, has been determined by the Newsletters that have been received by the Hon Secretary/Editor in recent months.

The success of publishing the list is dependant upon the Hon Secretary/Editor receiving copies of your Newsletters. I am always grateful to receive copies of Newsletters but I know that I am not on the mailing list of all Newsletters published. So, all you member organisation editors, please send me copies of your Newsletters and have details of all of the significant articles circulated throughout NAMHO. Recent articles received are:-

Grosvenor Caving Club No 94 June 1999

Parys Mountain, Anglesey

Journal of the Great Orme Exploration Society No 1, 1999

Tripping around the Baltic in a Landrover

Mine memories by the aged secretary

Winter Quarters - description of RNR annual training on Gibraltar

Bats underground

Common caving knots

The Hornby - report on the wreck of the Hornby on the Great Orme in 1824.

Samuel Worthington - Cheshire business man and entrepreneur.

Peak District Mines Historical Society - Newsletter, No 90, April 1999

The French Connection - Description of underground war sites in northern France and a report of a Society meet in that area.

Peak District Mines Historical Society - Mining History Vol 13, No 6, Winter 1998

Early Gunpowder Work in Cromford Sough

Primitive Mining Tools from Temberlini

Aspects of Late 17C Lead Industry in Wirksworth as revealed in the Courts

Oil and Mining Museums in Texas

Spanish Mining Museum at La Union

Ford Mine, Grindon, Staffs

Surface remains at New Venture Mine

James Watt's Steam Engine for Leadhills Mine

Brief guide to Froth Flotation

Early Gold Mining in Japan: More Sado Scrolls

Ore Dressing in the Manifold Valley

Washing Floors at Winster Pitts

Plymouth Caving Group Newsletter No 131

AGM Report

Marienzo 1996-1998 (Part 2) - Pt 2 of article describing caves and caving explored by PCG members in northern Spain over past few years
Penberthy Croft, St Hilary, Cornwall - description of attempted recovery of motor vehicle from the shaft.

Subterranea Britannica No 21, 1999

Tunnels under Tonbridge, Kent - An extract from "Tonbridge Legends", 1866

Burlington and Corsham Computer Centre
Some WW11 Air Raid Shelters

Short notes on the Box/Bath area

Welsh Mines Preservation Trust June 1999

Report of the activities of the Trust

Welsh Mines Society - Special publication

The First Twenty Years 1979-1999

EARLY COPPER MINING

The April 1999 edition of the National Geographic Magazine contains a feature on early copper mining in Israel and Jordan.

PDMHS Newsletter

ANNESLEY-BENTINK COLLIERY CLOSURE

It has been announced that the Annesley-Bentink Colliery in Nottinghamshire is to close. This colliery, at 130 years old, is the oldest working pit in Britain. The colliery is owned by Midland Mining and they have had problems in producing coal at a cost which is profitable.

MINEWATER IN NORTHUMBERLAND

There is concern over the possibility of serious pollution of the River Coquet and its tributaries as a result of rising water levels in the abandoned workings of the Whittle Colliery, near Alnwick. Water levels are currently being monitored. The problem has received considerable publicity in the local press and on television.

Recent serious flooding in the Spittal area of Berwick-upon-Tweed appears to have resulted from an overflow of water from flooded coal workings in the Scremerston area. Similar potential hazards are associated with abandoned mine workings throughout Northumberland.

Whereas the risks and consequences of mine water and gas reaching the surface from abandoned workings are relatively well known, less well understood problems may also occur. Rising water levels may cause serious surface instability and may, in certain circumstances, cause movement along faults. Rising water levels may also result in significant changes to the permeability of the rocks adjacent to the old workings and it may not be possible to achieve controlled drainage of water from known shafts and adits. Considerable areas of land slipped ground have recently been identified in the area underlain by the White Colliery workings. Although apparently stable under present conditions, rising groundwater levels could initiate further

slippage. There is thus a real risk to ground stability above mine workings and perhaps over substantial adjoining areas not directly undermined. Such instability could result in damage to land, property and natural drainage, as well as to gas, water and sewer pipes and other services.

THE DRAGLINE THAT WALKED AGAIN

History was made on the 31 January 1999. On a misty Sunday in the eastern outskirts of Leeds the St Aidans 1150-B walked 48.8 metres, turned through 90 degrees, and gently lowered its boom. After starting life in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and previously working in West Virginia, South Wales and the English Midlands as well as in Yorkshire, it reached its final location with consummate ease and - if you can say this of a machine - with dignity. With it moved the memories of all those who had, over half a century, designed, manufactured, erected, dismantled and re-erected, operated and maintained and, in recent times, worked to save it from the ignoble end of a cutting torch and scrap.

Beeby Plant Repairs of Retford, who had won the contract for the move, had spent the previous two weeks preparing the machine. In conjunction with associated electrical contractors they had devised a most unusual and impressive, possibly unique, way of moving the 1,200 ton walking dragline by remote control. Only the minimum essential motors were re-activated to raise the boom, walk and slew the machine using power from two small, temporary, on-board generators and a very large trailer-mounted generator parked alongside. The new system was controlled by an outside operator using a hand-held console wired into the machine.

During the previous week the boom had been raised, with some assistance from cranes, and fixed with three of its four pendants and the walking and slewing mechanisms tested. Around 10.00am on the Sunday the first steps were taken and soon the 1150-B was crossing the internal road towards the level area prepared for its permanent display. By about mid-day the machine had arrived at its destination, swung through 90 degrees and was ready to lower its boom unaided. There had been only two delays; one while a hydraulic excavator was brought in to move a cabin which had obstructed the machine as it very slightly veered off its intended path, and another when a fork-lift had to move another cabin which was just preventing the slewing.

Walking draglines have previously been brought back to working order after many years of idleness and some have walked great distances. Moving St. Aidan's 1150-B was different, it walked only a few metres but it is probably the only walking dragline to be preserved in the world.

Congratulations all round, particularly to RJB Mining, Miller Contractors, Leeds City Council, Beeby Plant Repairs, the "Friends", finance contributors and all those other organisations and individuals who, directly or indirectly, have contributed to the project's success.

I J Brown

MR PRESTWICH'S IMPROVEMENT

As a celebration of the 125 years life of the Protector Lamp and Lighting Co Ltd, a book which tells the story of the Company has been published. In addition, an exhibition to illustrate the life of the Company will be on display in northern England. Mr Prestwich's Improvement has been based on the unique archive of the Company. It captures the ingredients of Victorian Ingenuity and Edwardian Eccentricity and Pioneering Spirit.

Joseph Prestwich (1851-1919) joined the Company as a commission only agent. As a result of his obsession to produce the ultimate safe miner's lamp, and the success he achieved, he ultimately became Managing Director of the Company.

The book tells how the Company lurched from the brink of bankruptcy to the zenith of prosperity and back again.

The exhibition provides a rare opportunity to see images spanning the 125 years of the Company. Prints from Victorian and Edwardian glass plates contrast with a contemporary account of the Company and the coal mining industry.

The exhibition is on display at the National Coal Mining Museum until 23 July 1999 and at the Lancashire Mining Museum from 12 November - 19 December 1999.

THE TEMPUS/NAMHO MINING HISTORY SERIES OF BOOKS

The collaboration between Tempus and NAMHO proceeds apace, moving towards what should be a unique national collection of regional mining history publications. Unique because of the balance between informed, educated, keenly researched detail and general interest, and because of Tempus' own publishing programme, which maintains quality across a large range of titles while keeping prices low, and especially for its aim of covering every significant mining area in the country

At the present moment, two NAMHO-affiliated titles are awaiting publication - *The East Shropshire Coalfield*, by Ivor Brown, and *Peak District Mining and Quarrying*, by Lynn Willies and Harry Parker. These books will be released simultaneously in late July/early August and will retail at £9.99 each.

With NAMHO's assistance in finding authors, we hope to publish ten more Tempus/NAMHO titles before the end of the year 2000. The series will by this point have established its position as the new pictorial historical reference source, which will be used for years to come.

In addition to the requirements for ten compilers to produce "picture books" for mining regions by the end of 2000, the publishers are now so confident of success that they have asked NAMHO to find authors for more descriptive, higher priced books, for each major mining area. It is envisaged that these books will be illustrated, 160 or 196 page books of about 60,000 words with colour plates. It is expected that they will retail at £15 - £24 each. Authors will have an individual royalty contract with the publishers.

24 If you are interested, or know someone who would be interested, in preparing such a book either alone or in collaboration with others, then please contact the NAMHO Secretary, Wes Taylor, as soon as possible.

TOURIST MINE ACCIDENTS

The report of H M Inspector of Mines records one "major injury" accident during the year 1997/8. In the previous year four "major injuries" were recorded, including two to members of the public. Nearly all the "major injuries" recorded have been either broken bones or serious cuts involving hospital stays caused by slipping or stumbling.
I J Brown

SOUTH CROFTY TIN MINE, CORNWALL

The sale of South Crofty tin mine to Wilf Hughes has stalled. David Giddings, Managing Director of South Crofty PLC, alleges that Mr Hughes' company is unwilling or unable to come up with the money to acquire the mine.

There is now an air of uncertainty over the re-opening of the mine. Work that was ongoing to re-open the mine stopped at the end of April. Wilf Hughes is still adamant that he will obtain sufficient funding to complete the purchase of South Crofty and re-open the mine
Western Morning News

ROSEVALE TIN MINE, CORNWALL

NAMHO member Rosevale Mine has recently been featured in the *Western Morning News* and the *West Briton*. The features relate to the decision of the leaseholders, Tony Bennett and Mike Shipp to open the mine to members of the public and thus generate an income which will be used to develop the mine further.

There is very little recorded history of the mine but it is believed that it was opened in the early 1700's when a three foot wide vein was exploited. In 1906 the mine was bought by a syndicate who used an early mechanical tunnelling machine to develop a level below the original drive. By 1916 Rosevale was closed and abandoned. In 1974 the lease was acquired by Tony and Mike and they have spent the intervening years developing it into an authentic working tin mine.

ACID ATTACK ON LIMESTONE

Rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide and the breath of tourists threaten to destroy records of European rainfall hidden in limestone caves.

Like trees, the spectacular stalactites, stalagmites and drip curtains in caves have growth rings whose chemical makeup provides a clue to past climates. A technique has been developed for revealing the past moisture levels of soils by analysing light passing through the rings. Using this technique a record of European rainfall over the past millennium can be constructed.

This valuable record may be in danger because stalagmites in British caves are corroding away. This is caused by rising carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels inside the caves.

The CO₂ in the breath of the many visitors to show mines can lead to a significant increase of the levels of the gas in poorly ventilated caves, reversing the process that forms the limestone structures.

Stalactites and stalagmites are created when calcium carbonate precipitates from water dripping inside the cave. Water percolating through the soil above the cave dissolves CO₂ from its surroundings, forming carbonic acid that strips calcium carbonate from limestone rocks. When the water reaches the cave, however, it loses CO₂ to the cave air, reducing its ability to carry the mineral. But, elevated levels of CO₂ in cave air can upset this process. Less calcite will be deposited if the water loses less CO₂ when it reaches equilibrium with the cave air, slowing the growth of the structures. Worse still, if levels are sufficiently high, the water will dissolve CO₂ from the cave air, forming more acid that erodes the limestone structures rather than building them. The risk is greatest in caves where the calcium content of the water is low. The majority of British caves fall into this category.

It is not only tourist attractions that are at risk. The predicted doubling of atmospheric CO₂ within the next century could be sufficient to destroy stalagmites in pristine caves. It has been noted that the stalagmites in Uamh an Tartair in Northwest Scotland, some of which may be 10,000 years old, do not appear to have grown over the past hundred years or so.

New Scientist

STABILISING UNSAFE MINING LAND

A new initiative to stabilise unsafe mines, the Land Stabilisation Programme, was launched in March 1999 by the Regions and Regeneration Minister, Richard Caborn.

The programme will be administered by English Partnerships and will make finance available to local and National Park authorities to stabilize areas which have been left in a hazardous condition by non-coal mine workings.

Is this a further threat to the mining heritage of our country?

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY PUBLICATIONS DATA BASE

Paul Sowen of Subterranea Britannica has a data base containing details of the many aspects of Industrial Archaeology, not just mining and other holes in the ground. Besides having details of the title, author, publication details, ISBN, availability and cost, the data base contains an abstract of the publication. A sample of recent titles on the data base is shown below:-

Thirlmere Mines and the Drowning of the Valley
Geology of the Dodwell Hill Quarries,

Whittington, Glos.

Les Souterrains de Pontoise.

Tramways and Railways of John Knowles (Wooden Box) Ltd.

The Kirkleatham Iron Stone Company.

Anyone who is interested in obtaining further information on the contents of this database should contact Paul via the NAMHO Secretary.

MORE CASH FOR CHATTERLEY WHITFIELD

English Heritage have agreed to part finance the restoration of the Chatterley Whitfield site. They are providing £1m to save this historic colliery. The money will be used to restore the currently listed buildings as part of a plan for the restoration of the site

At the moment, there are no plans to re-open the site as a museum.

TICCIH 2000 CONFERENCE

The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage Millennium Congress will be held 30 August - 7 September 2000. The Congress will be based in London for 4 days and then there will be a choice of tours to either Cornwall, Wales or Scotland. The tours to Cornwall and Wales will contain a significant bias towards mining.

The cost of attending this Congress will be significant.

Further information is available from:- TICCIH2000 Congress Administrator, 42 Devonshire Rd, Cambridge, CB1 2BL. Tel:- 01223 323437.

SALE OF THE LIBRARY OF THE ROYAL GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CORNWALL

The library of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall was sold on 22 February 1999. The Society, which is based at Penzance, was formed in 1814. When formed the Society discouraged membership from within the local mining community, apparently for social reasons. It is believed that this factor contributed to its failure to fulfil its early promise.

The Society did, however, build up an outstanding library collection. The dispersal and break up of the collection, which has followed the sale of other valuable collections in recent years, has provoked a further debate by academics and others about the loss of such valuable relics of a past era.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MINING HISTORY ORGANISATIONS

Registered Charity No 297301

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wkweb4.cableinet.co.uk/adrian.pearce/NAMHO.HTM

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