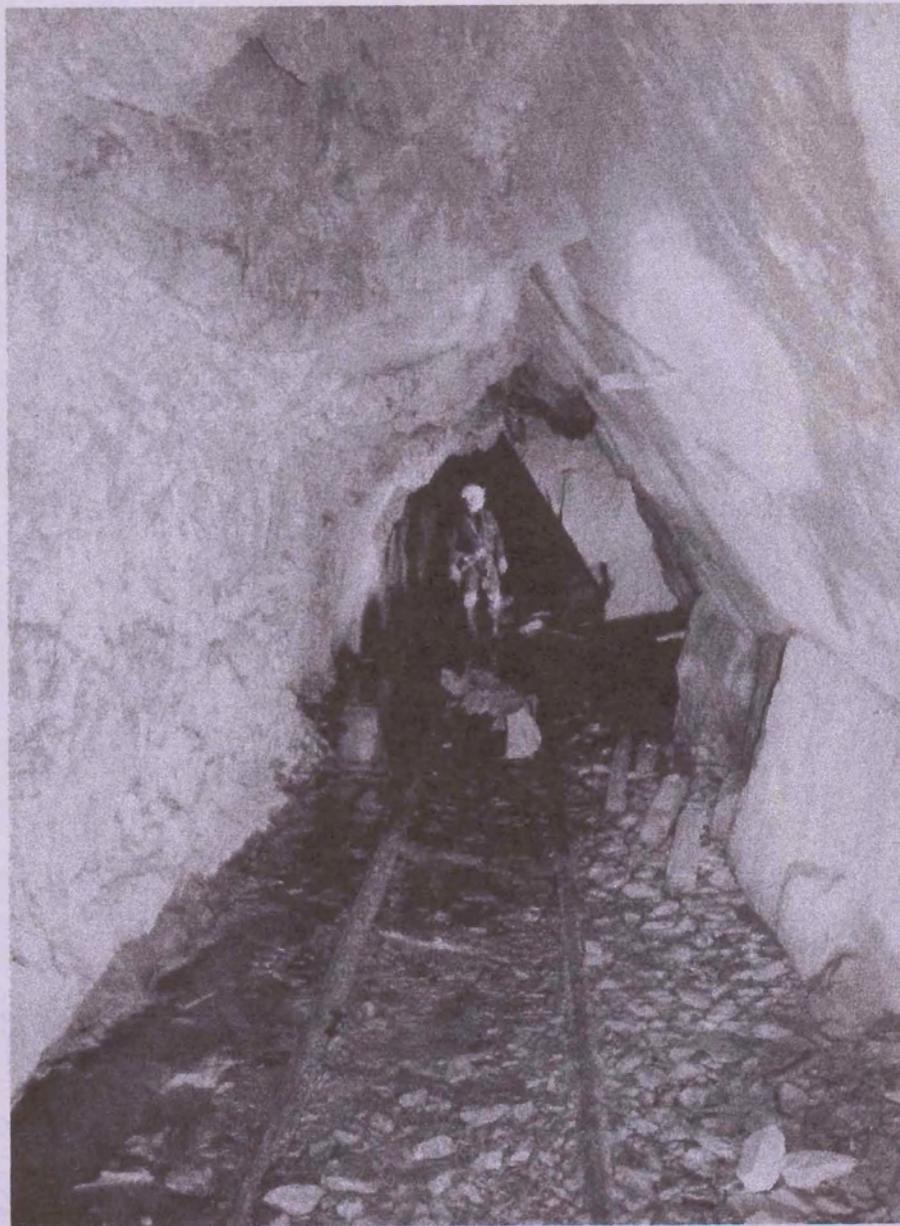


CAT

The Newsletter of the Cumbria Amenity Trust
Mining History Society



No.68

July 2002

Cumbria AmenityTrust Mining History Society
Newsletter No 68, July 2002

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Cover picture:	John Ashby in the Lower Level at Corris. See Jon Knowles' Meet Report on page five.	

CAT web site: www.catmhs.co.uk

NB. Please note that the Wednesday evening meet scheduled for Aug 14th, a walk around the quarry workings of the Tilberthwaite Valley, will now take place on Wed 31st July

Editorial

The Journal

By now you should have also received the CATMHS Journal, 'The Mine Explorer, Vol 5. I hope you like it. I think the contents reflect the achievements and interests of the Society and its members, and do us great credit. My thanks to all the contributors, particularly those who met my deadlines. I am especially grateful to Dave Sewart for setting it all out and providing a print ready CD for the printers.

When I undertook the project I thought that it would not be too difficult, but without Dave (and the internet) I would have been in deep trouble! There were no problems that he could not resolve, and emailed copy was always dealt with and returned within 24 hours. He has been amazingly efficient and helpful, and has probably spent more time working on it than I have. That said, any errors and mistakes are mine, for I did the final proof reading.

Previously, journals have been issued free of charge to members, but whilst membership fees have been stable for a number of years costs have risen, and services to members now absorb virtually all of the membership fee. The Committee has therefore decided to ask for a donation to cover the additional cost. It has cost the Society £4.50 per member to print and distribute the journal. Additional copies can be purchased from the Secretary for the retail price of £9.50, plus £1.00 P&P.

Journal Back copies

Chris Jones, who produced some earlier journals, has been clearing out his attic, and has found a stock of Journals 1, 2 and 3. Copies are

available from the Secretary for £5 each, including postage. Don't miss this one-off opportunity to make up a full set!

New Members:

We welcome

Alan Aldridge & Janet Packwood
9 Necropolis Road,
Bradford BD7 2PU.

Alan and Janet are the first members to apply via the CATMHS web site .

Changes of Address

Tristan Goldsack has moved to:
23 Main Street
Sutton in Craven, Keighley
North Yorks, BD20 7HX
New phone number: 07810 370435

Mark Scott has moved to:
58 Tarn Flatt
Marton,
Nr Ulverston
Cumbria, LA12 0NL
New phone no 01229 466096

'Friends of the Northern Lead Dales'

Sheila Barker asks that we print this bit about the new Killhope book in our next newsletter. They have given us a free copy for the CAT library.

The Friends of Killhope were formed in 1985 to support the new Killhope Lead Mining Centre and to encourage an interest in lead mining and associated industries. Over next fifteen years members received over fifty newsletters which contained many important articles and photographs.

For those of us that have joined the Friends of Killhope only relatively recently, there is the regret that we did not do so sooner, having missed (or at least missed easy access to) much

valuable information about mining in the Northern Pennines. This gap is now partially filled with the publication of 'Friends on the Northern Lead Dales: An anthology of the Friends of Killhope', edited by Bryan Chambers.

There are over 40 contributions covering a wide range of topics including: geology, mining, ore dressing and smelting, archaeology and exploration, important characters, social history and emigration.

Everyone will have their particular favourites; it is particularly nice to see to Willie Watson's drawings and notes on Rotherhope Fell Mine, and to have a written copy of Peter Wilkinson's research about William Wallace.

Published in soft covers it has 134 A4 pages, ISBN 0 9518939 20. Available from the NPHT's bookshop at the Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre, at £12 or by post from Bryan Chambers, 18 Cheveley Walk, Belmont, Durham, DH1 2AU, include £3 to cover post and packaging, cheques payable to: The Friends of Killhope.

Also from Sheila:

**Nenthead News Release
by Roy Fellows.**

For the last few years I have been involved in a project, of which one remarkable feature is the way that it has been kept secret. Now, being virtually completed, it is time to reveal all.

If one enters the Capelcleugh High Level, in the Upper Nent Valley, it is possible to explore this level for a distance of about 500 meters to a solid collapse. There have been attempts to dig through this fall in recent years, all unsuccessful. Many contemporary

researchers dismiss the Capelcleugh High Level as simply leading to Bog Shaft. This could not be further from the truth. If one could "spirit" oneself through this fall, one would be able to pass other falls to eventually find oneself in a virtually solid passage, driven mainly in the limestone. One would then be able to proceed for about a mile in a westerly direction, passing through several recent digs to eventually reach the forehead, about four hundred meters from Longholehead Wimsey.

The level from the portal follows the Cowslitts Cross vein to its intersection with the Capelcleugh North Vein, passing several branches on the left. These cross cut the Capelcleugh Vein and the Capelcleugh Sun Vein, one reaching the Capelcleugh Engine Shaft. None of this area is shown on the abandonment plan, possibly a factor that has led to confusion.

Proceeding westward, one would pass several sumps leading down to lower workings; these have concrete dams, put in by the Veille Montagne Company, as this level was used as a spillway from the compressors used in Bog Shaft. Soon one would be in the area covered by the abandonment plans, and reach a crosscut to the Longcleugh Vein going off on the left. This level is blocked by collapses, but would originally have led to Bog Shaft. Proceeding further to the west one would pass Baisbecks Crosscut on the left, and further on the head of Archers Rise, which would be seen to be rigged for SRT, this being the access point from the Capelcleugh Horse Level below. In this vicinity is the name 'Isaac Archer' and 'Priorsdale House Age 18 1850'. Further to the west a branch to the left follows Archers Vein, while the main passage continues through a series of tight digs

and areas containing gas and bad air, to end eventually at the forehead.

The last known people to enter these workings were a survey party, including Thos F Walton, who is the signatory to the abandonment plans. A curious fact is that this party all left their names on the wall, and the date 'February 23, 1926'. Yet the abandonment plans are dated December 6th 1922. There are also a few lines of poetry signed by an L W Pattinson:

*'In darkest shades if thou appear
My dawning is begun
Thou art my soul's bright shining star
And thou my rising sun'.
L W Pattinson (A member of Thos.
Walton's survey group) Feb 23 1926.*

The chalk survey marks are to be seen on the walls going west as far as the Longcleugh Vein crosscut; there was no sign that anyone had been in the westerly extremity for any number of years.

Since the early 1990s I had been exploring the Capelcleugh workings and climbing the various rises. Later I was to team up with Ian Hebson, a fellow member of several northern *mining societies*. Ian is a better climber than me, and together we have managed to climb virtually every rise from the Capelcleugh Horse Level into the Great Limestone workings. Ian also gained Archers Rise, and fitted it out with SRT ropes; however, at this point in time, I am not prepared to describe the route in detail because of safety considerations. Both Ian and myself have put a lot of effort into this project; Ian's climbing on several occasions put himself at personal risk. I myself have spent up to ten and a half hours digging in there, carrying materials,

including two Acro props through the workings and up the various SRT rises.

Others, including Ian's girlfriend Kirsten Crowther, have been part of the team, on and off. As I have stated in the foregoing text, the main level from the collapse in the entrance section to it's forehead is approximately one mile. If one includes the various side passages, stopes, rises and sumps, there is probably about two miles of working *not previously accessed by modern* explorers. I would council a great deal of caution to anyone considering attempting to locate the routes and explore these workings. The route itself is slightly unstable, and the western end of the High Level has gas and bad air. In sharp contrast the eastern end is very strongly ventilated, in fact *too* strongly. It is the coldest place I have ever visited going underground, and therefore carries the attendant risk of someone going into hypothermia.

It is my hope that this discovery will prompt an organized effort to dig the collapse in the main level. This would provide an easier access route for proper research, and greatly add to the famous 'Nenthead Through Trip'.

I am also in the process of writing a book about Capelcleugh. This will include a diary of events relating to the re-accessing of the High Level network, told as it happened. In the meantime I welcome discussion with any contemporary researcher or historian who has an interest in the area.

Roy Fellows, March 2002
roy@iriscom.co.uk
Telephone 01922 406713.

Meet Report - Wales Weekend 8th & 9th February

Jon Knowles (ML)
John Ashby (NL)

Some meets are popular and others are less so. On this occasion the meet leader had double booked himself for the original date so a new date was arranged. I apologise if this wrong footed a few people.

Saturday found John Ashby and the meet leader meeting in Upper Corris for the long trot through the tress to Glyn Iago. Surprisingly, the usually deserted forests were busy with students on a navigational exercise who, unfortunately, refused our offers to tell them where they were – for £5. Arriving at the mine site we were pleased to see that the Forestry Commission had clear felled the upper part of the site above the road and had erected a sturdy “belay” fence around the roofing shaft. At this point John pointed out that he had left his light in the car – not to worry I still had mine! After rigging the pitch (the shaft which is open to day – No.3 on sketch) and kicking a lot of timber down the shaft I started to descend. I then became aware that my light was very dim and getting dimmer and decided to return to surface. A new bulb improved illumination and the wet shaft was then descended. The shaft descends on the dip and initially has steps cut into it which give access to the top of a chamber, of which more anon. The shaft descends for approximately 80 feet at approximately 75 degrees to the horizontal until for the last 8 feet it turns vertical enabling the explorer to swing though the muddy water running down the face.

Landing on the level, this can be seen going out to day at some point, obscured in the dense forest. At the same point the level also turns through 90 degrees along the strike and passes under two other roofing shafts. In neither shaft was there

any sign as to there having been any slate production. Prussicking back up the shaft, to avoid disturbing bats in the level, the previously mentioned chamber provided an ideal location for lunch. Perhaps “chamber” is too grand a word but what we were seeing was the development work undertaken prior to a chamber being put into operation – a state of working which is usually destroyed by later operations.

At this juncture it is probably worthwhile recapping on the method of chambering generally, but not exclusively, used in the Corris district. To open a chamber levels are first driven above and below the rock which is to be extracted. A shaft is then driven either vertically (Aberllefenni, Ratgoed) or on the dip (Bryn Eglwys) between the two. A chamber top is then opened and a winch for lowering good rock and waste down the shaft is installed. At this point slate production can commence with the rock being worked away around the shaft and then lowered down to the lower level for despatch to the mill or tip. At Glyn Iago they had the shaft, and had opened the top of the chamber, but the poor rock, remote location or just a lack of money must have prevented them from proceeding further. It must be remembered that the Corris Slate District was always the poor relation when compared to Blaenau Ffestiniog with the sole exception of Aberllefenni, which is now the last working Slate Mine in Wales.

Adrian Barrell has provided some extracts from the News Bulletin of Wincilate Limited, (who operate the quarry at Aberllefenni, above Corris), which reads as follows :-

“Demand has again overwhelmed our capacity and this has been frustrating for us and of course our customers. The fact is that we cannot substantially increase production because of the nature of our mining operation. We are confident that we

could sell twice as much in 2002 as we can produce, but restraints on quantity of block available make it impossible.

During 2001 we spent some £20,000 carrying out test core holes to enable us to decide where we were going to open our new chamber. This was more than anticipated as the original holes showed a slant/fault that would have made it totally uneconomic to open a chamber where we had originally hoped. Two more holes were carried out, but this again did not give the results we required as there were too many joints in the slate.

The problem with opening any brand new chamber is that there is an initial cost of driving a new tunnel and a new roof before any production can commence. The cost of opening a new chamber is estimated to be a minimum of £ 1/4 million and with the help of core drilling the risks are not as big as they used to be. With unlimited cheap labour in the old days, tunnels were driven which could well take over a year and often proved futile because of faults and other problems.

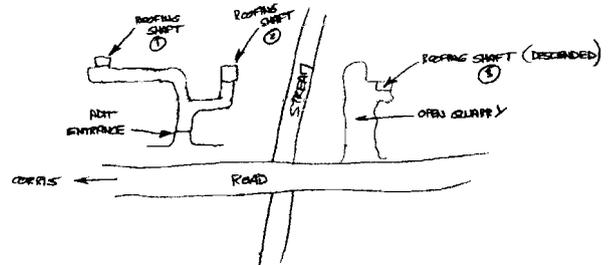
Owing to the costs involved today and because of the results of the core drilling we have now decided to reopen an old chamber where the risks are somewhat less in that it will not be necessary to drive a new tunnel to gain access. We are currently pumping out this chamber and the next step will be a risk assessment of the roof above before we can commence the new chamber.

It is anticipated that production can commence in the new chamber, if all goes well, by the end of 2002. "

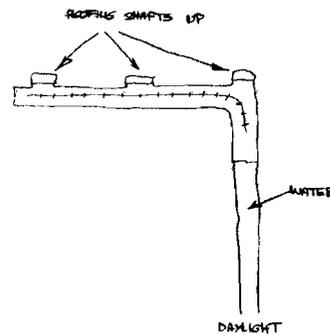
After lunch we explored the short upper level (No.'s 1 and 2 on sketch) which gave access to two other roofing shafts which we assumed just connected with the level below and were not explored.

After returning to Corris we visited the Tir Stent Iron Mine at Cross Foxes. A pleasant evening was then spent in the Royal Sip in Dolgellau which has been done up in recent years and is recommended.

OLYV IAGD 9/2/02 J.K + J.ASHBY



UNDERGROUND PLAN LOWER LEVEL



Sunday found us flogging up through the trees to the Minllyn Quarry the purpose being to investigate the shaft at the head of the incline down to the Mawddwy Railway. The author knew of nobody who had ever descended this shaft. Rigging was straight forward due to a tree and some rails spanning the shaft but the large volume of water descending did not encourage a descent. However John (WL) went first and made a very quick descent, the reason for which became apparent when the author descended. It was a pouring down your neck job and you needed to blow to keep it out of your mouth and nose! Arriving safely at the bottom and escaping the water there was no evidence that recent explorers had ever visited this level. Moving inbye took us to

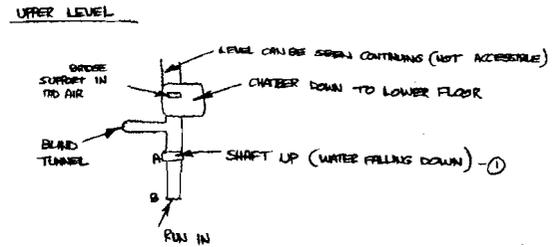
the top of a chamber which could be accessed from below. We were also on the same horizon as the remains (central hanger only) of a wide wooden bridge the other end of which will probably forever remain a mystery. Passing under the water and heading outbye the level was soon blocked by a fall.



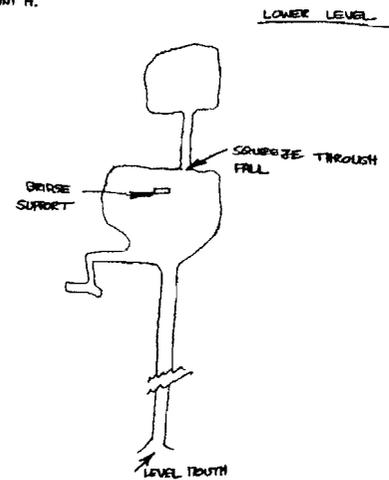
Two interesting artefacts were seen. Underneath the falling water were the remains of a wagon, however the falling water prevented a detailed examination. It appeared to be an iron framed slab wagon. Further outbye a wagon wheel was found which is best described as 1½ flanged! Whilst normal railway wheels have a single flange inboard, it was very common in slate quarries to use double flanged wheels loose on the axle to allow for the wide variations in gauge caused by poor trackwork. The reason for having a wheel with 1½ flanges is unknown especially since the outer ½ flange did not appear to have been a double flange which had worn down. After an extremely wet prussic we

were pleased to get back out into the rain. A short descent of the exit incline enabled the lower level in the tress to be explored.

MINULEM 10/2/07 JK + JASHEV



- ① WHERE DOES THIS WATER GO SINCE A-B WAS DRY.
- ② EXTAINS OF WHEEL AT POINT A.



Returning to the incline head and the shelter of the tress for lunch we then decided to follow the almost nonexistent remains of the strange surface incline to the Cae Abaty workings on the other side of the hill. As we approached the summit the rain turned to hail and the wind lashed it into your face with such a force that the author actually checked to see whether it was drawing blood – it wasn't but it felt like it would soon. Conditions on the far side of the hill were no better so a quick survey revealed little underground other than an adit leading into a twll. The site includes the remains of a "scotch derek" type crane which should be properly recorded – in summer.

The wind and rain blew us back up the hillside and I can honestly say my oversuit has never been so clean even when it has been pressure washed. We trogged back down the hillside to our vehicles, a complete change of clothes and home.

Jon Knowles ML = Meet Leader
 NL = No Lamp
 WL = With Lamp

All photographs are by the author.

The Question of Graphite at Coniston (again)

By Jeff Wilkinson

I read with interest Dave Bridge's article in the last newsletter (More about Graphite). As you would expect from Dave it was well written and researched. I have been back a number of times to the different workings at Coniston to study them in more detail and to take numerous samples. I unfortunately still come to the same conclusion:

In my opinion this is not the native element graphite.

The problems I have with accepting that it is are as follows.

It just does not look like graphite, period.

The whole area has been extensively mapped and surveyed by numerous professional geologists, from way back to at least 1880, as well as by many mineralogists. I have to assume that some of them must have looked at these workings at some time, or were at least aware of the characteristics of the black carbonaceous mudstone in that area.

One of the most detailed books on minerals in the area is "Glossary of the minerals of the Lake District and adjoining areas" by Brian Young of the B.G.S. In this book there are references to just about every mineral recorded, dating back to

well before 1800. Odd entries could now probably be classed as dubious but they are still all in there, yet there is not one single reference to the identification of graphite anywhere at Coniston. This does bother me.

Some other places recorded in the graphite section as having had minute amounts include:

Rebecca Quarry, Dalton in Furness. (Rose & Dunham, 1977)

Bowscale Tarn, Caldew Valley. (R.J.King, personal communication)

Dale Head Mine, Newlands Valley. (Stanley & Vaughan, 1980)

Wanthwaite Mine, St John's in the Vale. (Kingsbury & Hartley, 1958)

If it is graphite at Mealy Gill, then not one single geologist/mineralogist has found it and written about it. It is I suppose just possible that no one has found this working but that is very unlikely.

We would all like Coniston to have graphite but I think we have to approach the possibility in a very analytical and cautious manner. The case for graphite is very small. A couple of very short workings in a known black mudstone and a couple of references by the le Fleming's, of workmen being sent to LOOK at the Wad at Coniston in the mid 1600s. Alistair Cameron mentioned (Newsletter 65) that Sir Daniel le Fleming kept meticulous diaries and accounts. If graphite had been mined here then, you would certainly expect such an important element to have been recorded in the accounts book.

I recently showed a selection of samples from the two separate workings to a professional mineralogist with over 30 years experience of Coniston minerals; he also showed them to his colleague, a well respected geologist who was involved in the most recent mapping of the area. In their opinion the samples were not graphite. They did not think it necessary to have them analysed.

Jeff Wilkinson, May 2002.

Further to Mark Scott's meet on the Elizabethan mines of the Newlands Valley on 19th May ...

Goldscope Mine and the Bowes Connection
by Dave Bridge

When the weather began to turn pear-shaped on Mark Scott's walk-about meet in the Newlands Valley we headed in the direction of the "Grand Level" of Goldscope Mine - what better place! We sized up the waterwheel chamber for the hundredth time and inspected the hand-chiselled walls and the niche cut out for the operator high above the wheel. Then thoughts moved on to the tragic accident that had occurred there in the year 1600, now brought into sharper focus after the death of the Queen Mother. Why the QM? you may ask....read on!

By 1599 the Company of Mines Royal was getting little or no return from money invested in the enterprise in Cumberland, and the shareholders were demanding an investigation into the state of the mines. One of the governors, the hunchback Robert Cecil who had recently risen to the post of Queen's Chief Minister on the death of his father Lord Burghley, sent a request to Lord Scrope (pron. Scroop), the Governor of Carlisle, to organise a commission to carry out a surprise inspection of the works. The following February commissioners arrived on horseback, but finding the waterwheels at the smelthouses frozen up solid and access to the mines hampered by deep snow and blizzards they had no option but to return home. Eventually a second party led by Robert Bowes met in Keswick on 23rd April 1600. Three days later they were inspecting Goldscope under the guidance of the

Hechstetter brothers, Daniel and Emanuel.

In Robert Bowes' party was his younger brother George. Their father, Sir George Bowes of Streatlam, in Northumberland, Warden of Barnard Castle and Marshal of Berwick, had been a staunch Protestant and was loyal to Queen Elizabeth during the 1569 Northern Rebellion. The rebels, whose aim was to restore the Catholic monarchy under Mary Queen of Scots, held Barnard Castle under siege and after the uprising Sir George was instructed to search them out for revenge. Some were executed and some taken to Carlisle by Lord Scrope and imprisoned there. One well-known supporter of the cause was Thomas Percy, the 7th Earl of Northumberland, who made no attempt to hide his backing for Mary Queen of Scots. He had already fallen out of favour with Queen Elizabeth over his fight against the Crown's claim to Goldscope Mine, where he'd been disrupting the Company's work. As is well known, that grievance culminated in the court case of 1567 when he was convicted of trespass on what he claimed was his own inherited property. Thomas Percy was eventually beheaded for his 'sins' at York in 1572.

Sir George Bowes also had a connection with the Keswick mines through his sister-in-law Katherine Mallory. She had married into the Ratcliffe family and the Manors of Castlerigg, Derwentwater (ie Keswick) and Thornthwaite were inherited by her husband, Sir George Ratcliffe of Derwentwater. The Ratcliffe's local residence was on Lord's Island, where it has been described as 'an house of pleasure in one of the islands of Derwentwater' It was Lady Katherine, usually referred to as 'miladi' in the Account Books of the German miners,

who collected the rent and supplied much of the timber during the early years of the mining enterprise. [See footnote]

Returning to Sir George Bowes, his great grandson William, from his second wife, married Elizabeth Blakiston the heiress of Gibside. From her came much of the wealth of the Bowes family, as the Gibside estates near Gateshead lay over rich coal seams. Two generations later the Bowes-Lyon connection was forged when Eleanor Mary Bowes, heiress to the Bowes wealth, married John Lyon the 9th Earl of Strathmore of Glamis Castle. Three generations after that ten children were born to one family, one of whom would live to the ripe old age of 101. That was Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, the Queen Mother.

We stared up St George's Shaft from the wheel chamber as the Bowes brothers would have done all those years ago while the Hechstetters explained to them how the vein above was virtually exhausted. They would point out the promising run of ore below the level, and the drainage problems that hampered its development. It seems their arguments were successful, as the commission recommended a £300 reduction in the royalty to pay for a water engine to pump out the deeper workings. Two years later it was up and running. What happened next on that fateful day is best described by Daniel Hechstetter in his own words:

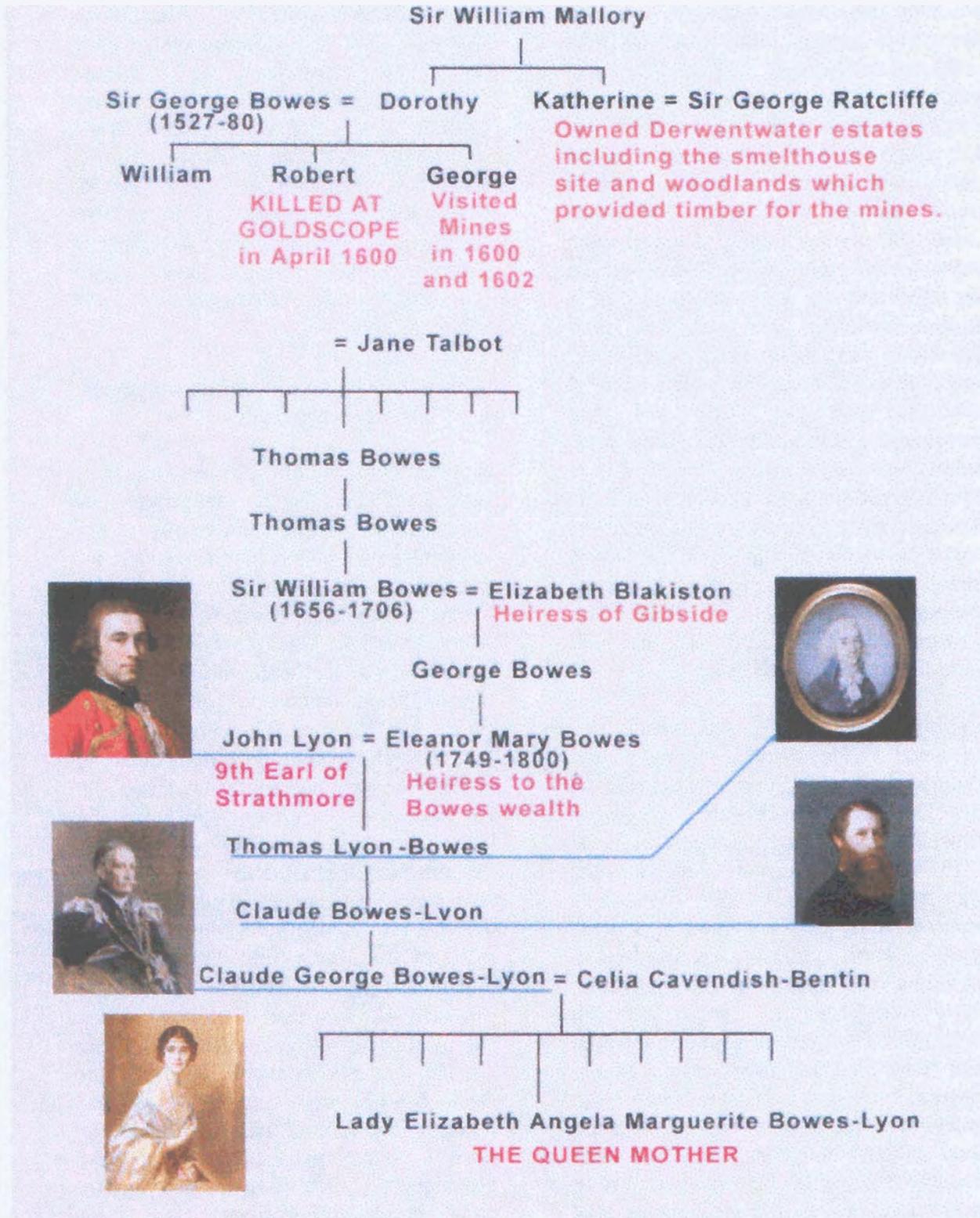
"My brother Emanuel and myself going into Gods Gift Mine with the Commissioner Mr Robert and Mr George Bowes with others, and coming up the ladders from the level it pleased God that the ladders slipped from their hold, being upon them Mr George Bowes, his man Tury, my brother

Emanuel, Mr Robert Bowes, Martin Moser and myself, in which fall Mr Robert Bowes took his death by a wound he received in his side with some clamps and the most of us bruised and hurt. God bless us from the like".

Other members of the commission apparently continued their inspection of the works. Their official report of the incident was brief and to the point stating that *"when viewing the great copper mine called God's Gift it happened by the break and fall of certain ladders that Robert Bowes, the principal commissioner, received a wound whereby one hour after he changed his life. And George Bowes then received such bruises as thereby he was disabled to proceed further in the service at that time"*.

A later account of the incident by Stephen Atkinson paints a different picture. Atkinson was a refiner at the Royal Mint in the Tower who became closely involved with Sir Bevis Bulmer's mining exploits in Scotland. In his *"The Discoverie and Historie of Gold Mynes in Scotland"*, which was published in 1619, he records that *"Mr Bowes who works sundry mines on Robbart's Moor at Wanlock Head, in the reign of Elizabeth, was killed in the copper mines at Keswick...as he was going down into the deep pitts the ladder broke, and the earth fell upon him and so was bruised to death, and thus he lost his life, and the vaine of gold not since discovered in Scotland. Mr Daniell Hochstetter, one of the masters of the same copper mine, was then going down after him into the ground, and fell but a little way, and hurt himself, but not unto death yet was he sore bruised with the fall from the ladder but he escaped, praised be God therefore. I wrought with him since, and he told it me for a truth"*

GOLDSCOPE MINE AND THE BOWES CONNECTION



After twice visiting the Cumberland copper mines as a commissioner, in 1600 and 1602, George Bowes received a grant from the Crown in February 1603 to work with Sir Bevis Bulmer and search for gold in the Wanlockhead area. Not satisfied with extracting gold by washing his main ambition was to discover a gold-bearing vein which he imagined must surely exist, and he spent much of his time and money hushing and digging long prospecting trenches. He was empowered 'to dig and delve as he would', and is said to have discovered 'a small vein of gold, which had much small gold upon it', about which his men were sworn to secrecy. He then closed up the shaft and the vein was lost. This is almost certainly the vein of gold mentioned in Atkinson's account. It seems that Atkinson's facts had become distorted after 19 years and, not surprisingly, some later historians have maintained that it was George Bowes who suffered the fateful accident. But the dates are quite clear and if you happen to visit Glamis Castle and study the family tree, high up on the wall for all to see are the names of two brothers - Robert and George - one of whom, Robert, met with an untimely death in the year 1600.

Footnote Although the Ratcliffes remained Royalists during the Cromwellian years, James Ratcliffe, the last Earl of Derwentwater, disgraced himself by supporting the Jacobites in the 1715 rebellion and was beheaded for high treason on Tower Hill. His estates were seized by the Crown and 2000 acres at the north end of Derwentwater, including the manor of Thornthwaite, were transferred to the Greenwich Hospital. Here a sailors' isolation hospital was built on the Keswick side of the Whinlatter Pass which later became the Traveller's Inn and is now a licenced hotel called Cottage in the Wood. The Greenwich Hospital also planted forests in the area, not of the indigenous oaks and birches but of conifers brought in

from abroad, and a large area of the Whinlatter Forest Park, on the northern slopes of Grisedale Pike, still retains the name "Hospital Plantation".

References include: R Hunt, 1887 'A Historical Sketch of British Mining' Book I; M B Donald, 1955 'Elizabethan Copper'; W G Collingwood, 1912 'Elizabethan Keswick'; L O Tyson, 1996, 'Sir Bevis Bulmer' in British Mining No 57; T K Meikle, 2000, 'Gold Mining in Scotland' in British Mining No 67; G Hammersley, 1988 'Daniel Hechstetter the Younger'; G Bott, 1994 'Keswick - the Story of a Lake District Town'; Parsons and White, 1829 'Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland'.

A new development in mine surveying technique.

A prominent member from Yorkshire, who has made a speciality of underground mine surveying, has recently developed a new technique for measuring the depth of mine shafts. What he has discovered is that if you throw an object down a mineshaft you can abseil down after it, and, with a long tape measure, determine how far it has fallen. He first tried this technique using his rucksack, which just happened to contain the rope needed for the last pitch. He developed it further, I am told, by using his camera, before going on to demonstrate the superior reliability of traditional instruments by dropping the Disto Laser Rangefinder down the last pitch of the Paddy End Through Trip, and measuring the distance with a tape measure. He has recently commenced a survey of the mining remains on the surface in the vicinity of Levers Water Beck, but so far, owing to the sloping nature of the ground, has been unable to find a way of applying his new technique. We await further developments with interest.

IM.

Jeff Wilkinson chats to Angela Wilson,
Or,
When 5'8" met 5'2"

When I asked Angela if she would be interviewed for the newsletter she said with typical understatement "I'm not worthy, I haven't done anything". I pointed out that these interviews are to gain an insight into the different backgrounds and personalities of C.A.T. members. It is not about who has the most impressive tick list!

What always impressed me about Angela is that she can look after herself in any situation underground. You never felt you had to look after her because she was a female. I know that sounds terribly sexist but people who have been on trips with her will know exactly what I mean, she has everyone's respect. It also sounds awful but it is true to say that she has always been treated as one of the boys. She just fits in so well that you often forget that she is a female (oh dear this is beginning not to sound the way I wanted it to). I'm sure that in the past she has heard a great deal of "colourful language" and could tell many a tale about the failings of the male species!

Oh yes I nearly forgot, Angela HAS done a great deal and is most DEFINITELY worthy.

JW. So Angie, I only know about your involvement in mining history. Tell us about your background. Were you also playing the piano from the age of 4 like Dave?

AW. No Jeff. Unlike Dave I play no instrument. I was born in 1943 in Halifax W. Yorks. Weighing 3 ½ lbs. I arrived 20 minutes before my identical twin sister. Twins being uncommon in those days meant I had a rather celebrity style childhood, receiving more attention than was probably good for me. At 5 my fathers work in a wool factory took us to Darlington. This being a vast change from a smoky industrial Mill town. They didn't drink out of pint pots in Darlington. I attended a school where boys/girls were segregated (big mistake) I was the sporty rather than academic type. Our teachers were not amused at having to cope with the confusion of identical twins. To my sister and I this was great fun. I loved school and left in floods of tears at 15 to work in the wool factory as a clerk/shorthand typist. Being separated for the first time at work meant at last I developed my own identity. No longer was I "The little Twins". At 16 while strutting my stuff at the local Rock and Roll dance, I met my husband to be and 5 years later we married, moving to Amlwch Port in Anglesey. Incidentally I encountered my first abandoned mine here. A tin mine next door to where I was living, although at this time it held no interest, I was busy making babies. Moves to Kent and North Yorkshire followed before my husband was offered a job at Millom School. Being a townie I didn't take gladly to this area. There were no big shops. I kept getting dragged (moaning) up mountains (what for, there was nothing up there?) and the locals drove me mad by saying Hi ya! All the time. Fred Barlow, another "all round good egg", Jeff, changed my feelings for this beautiful area, which I never now wish to leave. He offered me a job in his Mountain Centre at Broughton in Furness, encouraging me to learn all about outdoor gear. He taught me to ski and sent me on my first ever trip abroad. He



also talked me into becoming the secretary of the Blackcombe Ski Club. I worked alongside a shy, rather private young girl Ann Danson. She would take off for weeks at a time with a guy from the village, who polished pebbles, and had great adventures climbing in the Himalayas. I was most impressed. She also had a mini van, which was always full of red muddy waterproofs and wire ladders – strange

JW. How did your interest in mining start?

AW. In 1982 the Big 40 was almost upon me. My marriage was on the decline and I needed to be independent, so I at last took a driving test and bought myself a car. Bingo! Life was just beginning. I joined the local Amateur Operatic Soc., fulfilling a lifelong burning ambition to dance on stage in musicals like Guy and Dolls and West Side Story. While chatting to our new Musical Director after rehearsals I discovered Dave Bridge who was a keen outdoor pursuit's person. He told me he had recently joined a mine exploration group. On hearing I was keen to take up a new activity he invited me to come to their next meet. "They're a friendly bunch" he said. Somewhat apprehensively I agreed to think about it. Could I really take off with a bunch of guys I didn't know, underground risking life and limb? A week later Peter Fleming called in the Mountain Centre. We got chatting. He seemed surprised when I admitted to being neither a climber nor a mountaineer. I mentioned I was however considering joining C.A.T. and he surprised me by revealing he was a founder member. "Why not come along to our next meet" he said, there's lots of exciting thing happening. OK thought I, a "friendly bunch" doing "exciting things" that's just what this middle aged inexperienced, mother is looking for. My fate was sealed!

JW. So here you are, your marriage going down the pan and you get an offer of doing "exciting things" with a "friendly bunch". Which places did you visit in those early days and can you tell me a bit about those trips?

AW. The "friendly bunch" claim proved right Jeff. I was eagerly shown the right and safe way to do things and Mike's (Mitchell) constant "are you alright flower" made me feel well watched over. My first big trip was in the Wad Mines. Half way through my lamp failed and I found myself descending Dixon's Pipe in complete blackness when the wall suddenly disappeared and I was for the first time ever free hanging, twirling round like a spider on a thread. Fear like I'd never known before gripped me and as I struggled to hang on to my bodily functions I heard myself moaning "Mother help me" as we all do when we fear our end is immanent. Mike's ever reassuring voice from above started me focusing again on what I should be doing and soon my wellies touched solid ground and the "Buzz" kicked in. Now I knew what guys get out of rock climbing. The adrenaline rush from being able to control natural fear. I was hooked. Every available weekend and evening I went exploring, I couldn't get enough. Big 8's and electrons were the norm in those days. Bar Pot in Gaping Gill was the most memorable. Waiting to climb the long last pitch out I witnessed my first ever exponent of S.R.T. Martin Maher demonstrating this new technique. The jeers and colourful language he was bombarded with did not deter him, though it did look quite exhausting. However after sitting for over an hour while a "domestic" took place ¾ of the way up the ladder, while a husband tried in vain to coax his wife whose arms had given out to move, I decided S.R.T. must be the answer. But for now the only way I was going to get out of this huge cavern was to let the little fat hairies do all the graft and go for it like a rat up a drainpipe before my "knots in cotton" gave out too. It worked.

JW. My first time underground was a big trip where I ascended/descended rope pitches and was generally able to pass obstacles I came across. This was due to coming from a background of years weight training and rope work associated with rock/ice climbing. You, on the other hand came from a more sedentary life style and if you don't mind me saying so look like a gentle breeze would blow you over! Did you find it hard adapting to life underground and learning SRT?

AW. Having a 5ft 2in female frame required quite a lot of technique adaptation when learning S.R.T. skills but Mike's patient and competent instruction soon had me tackling anything along with the best of them. Remembering the right sequence of doing things whether ascending or descending was harder

of them. Remembering the right sequence of doing things whether ascending or descending was harder for me than the gymnastic bits, this I enjoyed more and more as my fitness improved. I became aware that I was developing an “Annie get your gun” attitude especially whenever a hole was discovered too small for broad male shoulders to squeeze through. A ferret comes to mind. My biggest delight was when Peter Fleming informed me I was the first female ever to see the fantastic Blue Waterfall. It was well worth the effort getting there. “Annie get your gun” however gets shot in the foot. There’s no competition when it comes to getting rid of surplus fluids consumed on a long trip underground. Being female and therefore minus an “outlet pipe” one has the frustration of having to disappear for ¼ hour to dismantle every piece of S.R.T. gear, plus helmet, wellies, over and under suits (we can’t aim) to perform what takes a guy an effortless couple of minutes. I therefore bow to male superiority underground until such a time as any budding inventor comes up with the answer, and no a colostomy isn’t a good idea.

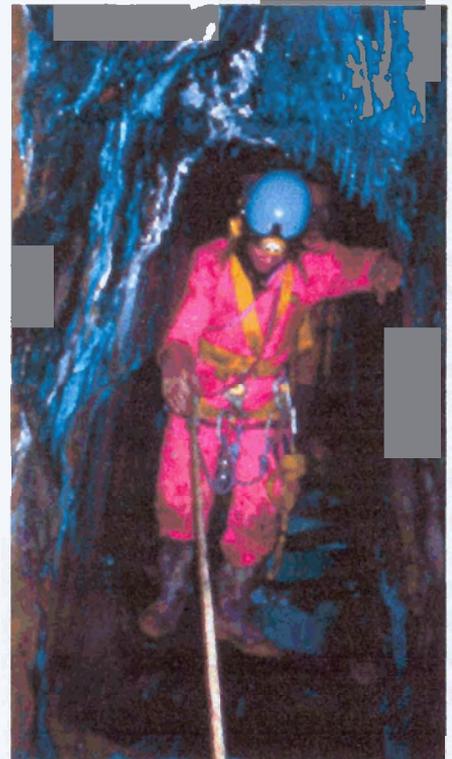
JW. Before we continue Angie I can’t resist asking what path you’re identical twin has taken and assuming she hasn’t been doubling for you all these years, what does she think about what you do?

AW. My twin worries a lot about my escapades and so I don’t tell her half of what I get up to. Being twice as big as me now she could not double for me anymore. A life from the age of 18 in flat as a pancake Lincolnshire with no mountains or even stairs to climb has probable brought this about. In fact her lifestyle today is like mine of 20 years ago before I joined the “friendly bunch”.

JW. I remember seeing a slide show on Coniston Coppermines quite a few years ago by “that man” Peter Fleming. The thing that struck me was not so much the colours of the minerals but this female in the amazing BRIGHT PINK OVERSUIT! At that time most people wore basic colours. Tell me the story of the pink suit, **AW.** “The Shocking Pink Oversuit” was first inflicted on the general public in February 1989 and was greeted with “shock horror” on its first outing followed by “must get a picture of you in that”. I think it must have been the most photographed over-suit ever seen underground. I had to buy lightweight nylon over-suits as the basic underground type swamped me, designed I am sure with only men in mind. With frequent washing these lightweight suits delaminate quickly and when purchasing my 4th, the only alternative (large child’s size) that Daleswear could offer was this

fluorescent pink one. I deliberated for ages considering if I dare inflict such a colour on my fellow explorers, but as the choice was nil I told myself at least I would be instantly identified as no self respecting male would ever dream of wearing “Barbara Cartland” pink. Fell walkers coming upon me however usually greeted me with pitying smiles.

JW. Oh what a disappointment, there was I thinking you were a leader of style and fashion.



JW. Which are your top six mines?

AW. Well I feel most at home at Coniston Coppermines, having spent almost 20 years exploring and digging there. Greenside lead mine is always very testing, but not as sporting now you don’t have to climb back up all those man ways. Knockmurton iron mines hold sentimental memories of my early

course, clinging to the Mountainside always gives me a buzz, it is so atmospheric, but the Nenthead mines come out tops for me. There is so much to see and do there, above and below ground. It's an amazing place. I always leave, not only with the feeling that my abilities have been greatly challenged but also with an overwhelming feeling of respect for the courage of the men and boys "long gone" who created it, earning their daily bread

JW. Having had 2 knee operations (and still suffering now) as a result of crawling around on hands and knees for 5 hours in Old Mill Close lead mine in Derbyshire some years ago, it is one mine I won't be rushing back to in a hurry. Are there any mines that you won't be rushing back to?

AW. A place I'd not rush back to Jeff? This would defiantly be Hard Level/Brandy Bottle incline, in Swaledale. Armpit high freezing water without a wet suit did nothing for my circulation, everything shut down and I just had to come out. I could not function properly for hours afterwards. Never again.

JW. Over the years you have been involved in many explorations and new ground at Coniston. Which would you pick as the ones that gave you the most satisfaction?

AW. Well discovering Balcony Stope gave me a great deal of satisfaction. I was also extremely proud to be one of the team of 3 whom with much toil, sweat and apprehension, constructed MAG's Catwalk, later named after us, Mike Mitchell, Angela Wilson, Gordon Gilchrist. It made reaching Top Level Extension, Woodends Rise and The Oak Plug much easier. Some have told me they are nervous of crossing these stemples, but having fallen off them (just testing of course) I can assure you, that as long as you have a good set of cow's tails and longer legs than yours truly, getting back up onto the stemples should not be a problem. I found reverting to lavatorial language helped on this occasion.

Actually it was something that occurred in the middle of the night that gave me the most satisfaction Jeff... No I'm not about to reveal my most private habits. It was a mines rescue call out to search for three missing young Millom lads who had set out to attempt the through trip. We however drew a complete blank searching in this area Feminine intuition drew me (against all probability) to look at MAG's Catwalk. There I found three cold, hungry and extremely relieved young lads. They had misinterpreted the guidebook and abseiled into the wrong Stope then confidently pulled their rope through, leaving themselves stranded. I am still their hero, sorry heroin, keep forgetting my gender. The good looking one later told my daughter, "I knew your mum was coming I could smell her from miles off". Yes, well thank you Estee Lauder for your morale boosting "Youth Dew" perfume. There is one Millomite who claims he will never forget the smell!

JW. Final question Angie, "Will You Marry Me"? No, sorry wrong script. Are you still keen to continue going underground or have your priorities changed over the years? To put it another way. Is age taking its toll yet?

AW. Well, yes the mind is still keen, but my body has taken a setback of late. A pelvic injury has put me out of action (temporarily I hope) for more than 12 months, however I don't feel quite ready for the knitting and the rocking chair just yet. There is still a shortage of feline explorers so I had better try and keep the flag flying a while longer and as Peter Fleming correctly says "There's still lots of exciting things happening".

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Peter Fleming for allowing me to scan the slides of the famous "Pink Suit" and to Angela for proving that I was right to bully you into the terrifying world of literary wiz kids and academics!!

But oh Angie, what interesting and amusing articles we could have had from you over the last 20 years. Still, there's always the next 20 years for you to write about!

Jeff Wilkinson, May 2002.

**Smallcleugh Mine, 31st March 2002.
Pack Wall repairs.**

CAT members joined the NPHT work meet to repair collapsing pack walls in Smallcleugh mine. Help was also given by John Hine's (Moles) group. They come up to Nenthead for a week about four times a year, and do much good work surveying, exploring and repairing damage in the mines.

Two high sections of walls in the flats were re-built, other sections stabilised and floors cleared. The idea for these work meets came about when I overheard one of the last Nenthead miners saying "In the old days Smallcleugh was always neat and tidy, with everything kept in good repair." This is the third workmeet of this type we have joined in with, and as a result Smallcleugh now looks a little more as it would have done in the old days

Sheila Barker.

Hudgillburn meet, 7th April.

A small turnout meant that not much was achieved. Dave Robson showed two new members around the mine, and work was started on the collapsed wall in the cutting

Sheila Barker.

**CAT Meet at Honister Slate Mine,
Saturday 20th April 2002**

It had rained all Friday night in Coniston, and the morning looked unpromising. However as we travelled over Dunmail the clouds lifted, and by

the time we drove along the shore of Derwentwater the sun was out, with the promise of a fine spring day ahead.

The meet was to be jointly led by myself and Mark Weir, although, in practice it was Mark's event. He was obviously looking forward to being able to show off his developments to those who knew what he was talking about, not only at the Hause but also up at the mine.

In all seventeen CAT members attended, and after a cup of tea and a few words from Mark we started off up the track to the entrance of Kimberley Top Level. Currently this is the main entrance to the mine and all slate clog is brought out this way and loaded onto the lorry just outside. Mark is justifiably proud of the refurbished internal incline which is now essential to his whole operation. The old electric motor has been removed and replaced with a neat hydraulic unit. Other than this the rest of the mechanism is as he found it when he took over the lease in 1997.

From the incline head we descended the staircase beside the incline to No 5 level. It was down these steps that Mark had brought the Duke of Edinburgh on his trip to Honister in 2001. We were then taken along No 5 Level, viewing the enormous upper sill on the way. At the end of the level we entered his working 'quarry'. It was here in 2000 that Mark had decided to drive the level forward beyond the quartz line, something that the 'old-men' had not done as they felt it would not be productive. As a result the Company now has reserves of riveable slate for many years.

We listened as Mark explained his method of working. Unknown to us his

young assistant, Marie Rowley, had stayed behind on the incline and at a predetermined time switched on the powerful ventilation fans. The noise of the air in the ducting is similar to that produced by a roof-fall, which caused a few seconds of alarm.

We then ascended the incline again to Top Level. It was on this horizon that Mark's first attempts at slate mining were carried out and he enjoyed explaining some of his more adventurous moments. After this we returned to the Hause, having a quick look in the Road End entrance on the way.

Mark's brother, Joe, has always been interested in the tales of the Dale Head rail tunnel, excavated by CAT members Martin Carter and Roger Ramsden in 1993. Within a few months of them discovering the tunnel portal the entrance had become blocked again. Joe decided it had to be re-opened and on one of the quieter days he took the small digger along the route of the former rail track to the bottom of the Yew Crag Incline and within a few hours had re-opened the entrance. On the day of our visit we walked along the old rail track-bed and those who didn't mind getting wet waded up the tunnel to the end.

The rest of us sat outside in the sunshine. From this point the whole of the face of Honister Crag can be seen. It reminded us that there is clearly more exploring of the 18th and 19th century workings still to be done, especially below the ancient workings of Ash Gill. Ah well, one day, when we have time!

Alastair Cameron.

Elizabethan Mines of the Newlands Valley. 19th May 2002.

On a damp and windy day 6 members met at Little Town and walked up to Yewthwaite Mine. The party spent about an hour musing about what things may or may not have been, e.g. "Are they bell pits?" and "why does the entrance to that adit bend at 90 degrees before it enters the hillside?" Perhaps somebody knows, we didn't. Perhaps nobody knows, the secret buried long ago.

We then contoured the hillside under High Crag and looked at what is believed to be to be an old Elizabethan lead working. This is an open working which follows the slightly off vertical strata of the rock which is Skiddaw Slate. Towards the back of the cutting a roof is formed, and, if one lies on ones side at the same angle as the rock, using a little imagination it is possible to see what may be the remains of a coffin level. The Right Honourable Member for Staveley had to leave at this point for an important engagement with some kitchen tiles.

The party then crossed the valley bottom to Goldscope Mine. "Somewhere in the lower spoil heap is a level", the Right Hon. Member for Barrow said, with great authority. "One of Lakeland's greatest mysteries. Worth a proper archaeological survey" We found pieces of cinder fused to coal and rock in the spoil. Perhaps remains of a smithy, or even an old smelter?

The walk in to the mine and look at the internal waterwheel was as mind boggling as ever. A fantastic achievement considering the basic tools

used for surveying and cutting rock at the time. On the surface we walked 'around the corner' to the workings above Scope Beck and spent time looking at the upper workings and the remains of a coffin level. Below this an adit entrance with what may have been a waterwheel was examined.

The days findings were discussed over scampi and chips, or in Angela's case, something green and smelly.

Mark Scott.

Coniston, Evening Surface Walk. 19th June 2002.

Most of us have walked up the Coppermines Valley above Coniston and as we have walked, looked and speculated as to why when and how different parts of the mine developed. Fortunately in our Society we have members who in the past and more recently, by scrutinising old ledgers, or surveying above and below ground have given us some of the answers. There are still many unanswered questions.

A group of 12 left the BMSC cottage and headed for Levers Water Beck. At the footbridge we began to scramble up the beck and soon came to a small overgrown working on the true left of the beck. As far as I know, nobody has given a satisfactory explanation why this is here. It was suggested that it might have connections with South Shaft.

Opposite, on the true right bank of the beck and slightly higher are what some believe may be the remains of an ancient dressing mill, just below the entrance to Hospital Shaft. There are the footings of

a building and below this on the side of the beck is what appears to be fines from a stamp mill and in the beck the remains of a wheel pit. Above all of this is a small waterfall into which a shallow groove has been cut to divert water to the waterwheel. There may have been a working nearby, now covered by the spoil from Top and Middle Levels. By the edge of the waterfall above all this is a cutting, with a fine vein of copper ore. In years to come all of the spoil from above will end up in the beck and be carried away towards Coniston. Perhaps then an ancient coffin level will be revealed leading into the Paddy End workings.

We then walked to the flat area near Top Level and speculated as to why there is a wooden trunking/drain? running from under a pile of spoil. There are fines with traces of copper ore here similar to the type mentioned above. Another lost dressing floor?

From there we went to crater that appeared several years ago and then to the workings on the rocky face below Simons Nick. A short scramble and we were above 'The Nick', into which some of the group descended to escape the unseasonably cold wind. A walk to 'The Crater' and a double time march via Triddle Incline to the BMSC cottage rounded off the evening for most of the group. The rest went to the Black Bull to 'speculate'.

A detailed account of the history and the underground workings of the area we walked that evening can be found in chapters one, eleven and twelve of Volume 5 of the Mine Explorer.

Mark Scott.

**Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History
Society.
Committee minutes, May 2002.**

Present:

Mark Simpson (MS), Sheila Barker (SB),
John Aird (JA), Ian Matheson (IM), Peter
Fleming (PF), Dave Bridge (DB), Mark
Scott (MSc), Angela Wilson (AW).

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm. Eight
members attended.

1. Apologies for absence:

Mike Mitchell (MM)

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the committee meeting held
on Monday 18th March had been previously
circulated to members. It was PROPOSED
by JA and SECONDED by AW 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 6. SB was working on the
publication leaflet, and would send it on to
Karen Beer.

3.2 Item 4.1, the display boards. ADC had
contacted SB – a decision whether to buy
new ones would be taken after the book
launch.

3.3 Item 9, pump pipe. MSc had obtained
some pump pipe, still to get suction pipe.

3.4 Item 4.5, MS had contacted J Hodgson,
nothing to report.

3.5 Item 11, PF had approached the
Evening Mail, and a good article about
LMH had been published. Thanks were
expressed to Peter.

4. Secretary's Report:

The secretary had received:

4.1 NCA proposal for insurance 2002 – a
ballot paper on a Constitutional
Amendment regarding proposed changes
to the insurance. (To be returned by 8th June
02) JA would look at the proposal.

4.2 CIHS Bulletin (For CAT library)

4.3 NAMHO 02, 5–8 July. SB had priced
display boards: £239 + VAT for an eight
panel board. Would contact members for
photographs.

5. Treasurers Report:

JA presented a balance sheet for 17th
March, which included;

a) The current account now stood at
£1951.58 and the Building society
Account stood at £6218.94.

b) Newsletter expenses were 3111.19

c) Lamberts – first payment for printing
Journal No 5 £1400.

d) LDNP (Mandells) rent £50.

e) Rates for Roanhead £34.52 (would be
refunded)

f) Income from publications had been
£1017.34

g) JA asked for approval for £1500 to be
transferred from the building society
Account to the current Account to
cover the balance payment for Journal
5. All agreed.

Thanks were given to DB for a donation of
£20 (talk given)

IM had sent a round robin to committee
members regarding increased expenditure
for Journal 5. Nobody had objected. JA had
paid slightly more members insurance than
was required, to cover new members. A
member had enquired if we were covered
by insurance if trespassing, the answer was
definitely no! CAT meets only were
covered, but small groups of members on
CAT projects (not on Meets List) as long as
all due care and attention was taken, were
covered. A note to go in the Newsletter that
it was not CAT's policy to enter active
workings.

6. Membership Secretary's Report:

IM reported that 103 members had paid
their subscription. Five had not renewed.
IM had sent them a final reminder to them
and one had renewed. New member,
Richard Shaw. Joint members Janet Packer
and Alan Aldridge had joined via the CAT
website.

7. Meet Secretary's Report:

Jon Knowles had asked that the recruitment
of new members be discussed. E-mailing
university caving groups, more information
on our web site, better advertising of our
activities, articles in papers were suggested.
A new journal always brought in new
members. MS thought that we should
encourage more members to be co-opted
onto the committee and participate by

email; he would contact members and ask their opinion. Our new publicity leaflet to be distributed to libraries and information centres, and information about joining our society be put on trail leaflets.

Newsletter & Journal No 5.

IM reported that a newsletter plus a membership List had gone out in April.

The proof reading of Journal No 5 had been finished, and it was now at the printers. It would be ready in about three weeks. The number of pages had increased, and consequently the cost, which had been approved by the committee. It would cost approximately £4.50 each to send a copy to members, and the retail price was to be £9.50 + p&p. Libraries could have a copy at cost price. Honorary members and contributors would get one free copy each. Arrangements for picking it up from the printers, distribution and storage would have to be made.

PF would contact the Evening Mail re an article about the new Journal, and SB to give IM a list of the usual reviewers.

9. Other publications.

IM thought that we should look ahead to our next book, to be out in about two years time, and suggested that members should bring ideas to the next committee meeting. A D Cameron had said he would be willing to look at 'Slate from Coniston', with a view to re-printing in the autumn. He had a stock of 'Slate from Honister' at his late mother's house, which would have to be moved.

PF had been given a box of Journal No's 1, 2, & 3 by Chris Jones, who had been clearing his attic! These to be advertised in the next Newsletter at £5 each inc p&p..

MS & DB were progressing with the Paddy End underground survey publication.

10. Coniston Coppermines.

PF reported that the Grey Crag Level dig was completed on the 21st April, and the success of the project was celebrated with a bottle of Champagne. The Society's thanks were expressed by the Committee to the team for a very impressive effort. The far reaches of Grey Crag Level were explored, with a view to doing some work on a fall between there and Avalanche Stope.

The survey was progressing, a few loose ends needed finishing, and some surface surveying of the hospital Shaft area was needed. Future underground conservation work was discussed, and various suggestions were made. DB has received results from the radon detectors and had spoken to Dr G Gilmour, who is hoping to come to Cumbria in the near future. He would like us to put more detectors in the same mines as before.

11. Hudgillburn Mine

A small turnout at the April work meet meant that not much was achieved. D Robson showed two new members around the mine, and work was started on the collapsed wall in the cutting.

SB had asked for an estimate for the stone needed to re-arch the collapse in the level.

12. Library.

SB had bought Ian Tyler's new book 'Cumbrian Mining', and a copy of Peter Wilkinson's 'The Nentforce Level and the Brewery Shaft'. PF would deliver them to the CAT library, where they would be available for members to read.

13. Date and Venue of next Committee Meeting:

22nd July at the BMSC Hut, Coniston.

14. Any other business:

14.1, NAMHO 2004.

MS had contacted various members regarding the Society organising the 2004 NAMHO event; all seemed to think that it would be possible. After discussion it was decided that we would let Mike Moore know that CATMS would be willing to hold the 2004 event in the Lake District.

SB had made a list of suggestions; it was decided that the venue would be Coniston, she would make enquiries at Coniston School, with a view to using the school as the conference centre.

14.2, ADC's new book on the history of Coniston will be launched on July 11th at the John Ruskin museum.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm.

SB 22/05/02.

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Peter Fleming	Ian Matheson	Mike Mitchell
Mark Scott	Mark Simpson	Angela Wilson

Honorary Members:

Sheila Barker, Peter Fleming,
John Marshall, Mike Mitchell.