

CAT

The Newsletter of the Cumbria Amenity Trust
Mining History Society



Cover Picture: The Arms of the Company of Mines Royal
Provided by Peter Fleming

The Arms of the Company of Mines Royal, granted 26 August 1568 by the College of
Heralds.

Described as follows on the frontispiece of Elizabethan Copper, the History of the
Company of Mines Royal, by M B Donald, attributed to Burke's General Armory

Ar. A mine open of earth colour, the upper part variegated with various shrubs vert; within the mine a miner proper vested sable, on his head a cap argent, round his body a belt of the last and in the attitude of working the dexter side of the mine with two hammers; on the sinister side a candle argent lighted proper in a candlestick azure fixed in the mine; on a chief brown a square plate or between a bezant on the dexter and a plate on the sinister.

Crest. A demi miner proper vested and capped, as in the arms, holding in his dexter hand a pointed spade erect argent between two ... in saltire and in his sinister hand a compass.

Supporters. The dexter, a miner, his face, legs and arms of a brownish colour vested in a frock argent, tied above his knees, as at work, a cap and shoes of the last, holding in his dexter hand a hammer azure handled proper; the sinister supporter another miner proper cap and frock and shoes argent the frock loose and down to his ankles in his sinister hand a fork azure handled proper.

Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society

Newsletter No 74, February 2004

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Editorial

Apologies

At the AGM I said that the next Newsletter was due out in the first week of January. Wrong! It is due out in the first week of February, and therefore it was not possible to publicise the fact that the Yew Crag meet could not take place because the landowner would not give permission and the meet leader was away. Never mind, it's all water under the bridge now

Joan Helme, famous a few years ago for her SRT exploits wearing a leopard spotted furry suit, recently had a hip replacement, which unfortunately went wrong. The new joint became infected and had to be removed. She has spent several weeks in a wheelchair with no joint at all whilst the infection was dealt with. At the time of writing she was about to go back into hospital for a second joint to be fitted. We wish her well, and hope that soon she and husband John will be out and about on their new canal boat.

This Newsletter is thinner than usual because no one has sent me any articles. The next one is due out in May, so please get writing.

24th AGM & Dinner, Saturday 13th Dec.

The AGM and Dinner has been held for many years at the Yewdale Hotel in Coniston. Clive Barrow, the owner, looked after us well, but as he has now retired and the hotel has changed hands we looked for a new venue. This year it was the Crown Hotel, Coniston, which was very good, and 38 people attended the dinner. Entertainment was provided during the meal by balloon missiles from Pete Blezzard and others, and afterwards by a PowerPoint presentation by Jon Brown and Jon Knowles. The Chairman's Award was presented to

John Aird. Apart from being a very efficient treasurer John travels up from London, and rarely misses a Meet or a Committee meeting.

Chairman's Report

Another year another AGM, another house, and I am left with the usual where has the time gone? First of all I must thank all the committee members for their efforts in running the society, some coming some considerable distance to the meetings

A full meets list was arranged with visits to the Caldbeck Fells, Nenthead, Coniston, Furness and of course Wales. Some of the meets had varying fortunes as regards attendances, Mexico Shaft and Goldscope being somewhat sparse. I have always thought that if folks can be persuaded to lead a meet, (all of you reading this can contribute) then if you do nothing else, support the meets.

Warren Allison's efforts in Silver Gill being impressive, especially as they were carried out with official blessing and with the discipline of recording as he went and looking after any artifacts etc that the dig came across. That this project was not carried out without apparent aggravation from some quarters is saddening, and that the installation of a gate was not achieved without difficulty.

Some projects have been ongoing from previous years, namely Newlands Furness, the Paddy end Mine and Hudgill Mine Survey (are there any other people out there capable of surveying /recording?). A new project has been seen through to completion, the new stone arching to the Hudgill Mine entrance, carried out by the Greenside Gang – John Brown and company.

I attended a seminar given by the National Park at Shap Wells Hotel

earlier this year, the idea being a PR exercise to make the National Park more relevant to local groups. It was an interesting day but I left wondering how the day's events could relate to CATMHS activities and visa versa. Warren Allinson attended the follow up seminar and apparently found it useful.

Later on in the year CATMHS had a stand at Brockhole, for the Archeology Day that the National Park ran there, a useful exercise if not a particularly productive one.

A contact from the (I think) Lindal Parish Council turned our attention to Furness Iron and the state of Furness iron remains and Woodbine Chimney in particular, Peter Fleming has been looking after our interests there. One thing that did come up, what to do with the Furness relict survey. A wealth of information has been amassed over many years by the FMA, and now the problem is where the material should stay and how it should be reproduced, (bearing in mind where the copyright should reside) A fruitful meeting with the County Archeologist has partially resolved this problem.

The Levers Water mine project is progressing towards a hopefully positive outcome i.e the obtaining of official permission to reopen it. John Hodgson (the National Park archeologist and his number two Eleanor Kingston) have been very helpful in this respect and also other CAT aims and aspirations. It is to be hoped that this mutually beneficial relationship will continue.

NAMHO 2004 looms ever larger on the horizon and under the guidance of Sheila Barker, organization of this event is proceeding, John Knowles being the site visit arranger. All hands required to help in the preparation and in the running.

A big problem has occurred recently – Public liability insurance. This protected you from one another on CATMHS activities, it protected the landowner and it protected the officers of the Society. We, as you all know do not have it any more. If you go on or underground you are on your own and at your own risk. This affects our activities but will effect the NAMHO Field meet and conference. John Aird is at present investigating ways of CATMHS still carrying out its usual business without incurring liabilities. You will be kept informed.

All in all an interesting year, CATMHS has a good balance of funds in the bank, literature sales are proceeding, if at slow rate, and the prospect of useful projects, with assistance from the National Park is there if people wish to undertake them. - All we need is you!

Mark Simpson, December 2003.

NAMHO 2004

Preparations are on schedule for the 2004 NAMHO conference, which we are hosting at Coniston. The base for the event will be John Ruskin School. Speakers have been booked, field trips chosen and catering arranged. If you want to stay in the village you are advised to book accommodation now as many places are already booked up

Would any member prepared to assist with the following please contact Jon Knowles:

1. Lead a surface and underground meet at Goldscope.
2. Lead a surface walk to look at Greenburn mine.

Reply to jon.knowles@ukonline.co.uk. or telephone him on 01484 860662.

A booking form and Meet Programme will be available shortly from Sheila Barker, and will be on both the CATMHS and NAMHO websites.

Please note that Sheila's email address requires .uk on the end –
sheilabarker@cybermoor.org.uk

Membership

Reminder: If you have not yet paid your subscription for this year you will find a brightly coloured reminder with this newsletter, and you will not get another one unless you pay up. Please do so now.

Insurance. Third party insurance was provided as part of the CAT membership subscription through NAMHO and the BCRA. As you will know the insurers decided not to continue cover, and insurance lapsed last December. After a lot of work cover has been re-instated, but at a cost which, whilst very reasonable, adds substantially to the cost of subscriptions. You will find a full explanation from our treasurer enclosed with this newsletter. Please fill in the forms straight away, and return them with your chosen insurance fee to John Aird in the SAE provided.

New members

We welcome the following new members:

Ewan Maxwell. Ewan lives at Lake Bank, near Coniston, and is very keen to get involved with underground exploration. He is an experienced potholer, competent in SRT and rigging techniques, with experience of digging in caves. He is also an experienced dive instructor

Frances Wilkins. Mrs Wilkins lives near Kidderminster. She is a Social Historian and is Honary Archivist at Dalemain. Amongst her interests are mining and quarrying history, with particular reference to properties formerly owned by Dalemain - for

publication. She is a former member of PDMHS.

Mark Oddy, from Speldhurst, in Kent. Mark is a retired geophysist, and worked in oil exploration, and has a mining engineering degree. He is interested in Surface and underground meets, exploration and geology.

We also welcome back **Lindsay Harrison** after a lapse of a few years. Lindsay was an early member and committee member of CAT.

CATMHS Library & Archive

The library was discussed at the AGM, and it was resolved to officially thank Anton and Sheila Thomas for housing it until earlier this year. Anton has done a splendid job of ordering and cataloguing the collection and providing an electronic index. This work now needs updating and, as we no longer have a librarian and archivist, we appeal to members to help with this work. It is envisaged that a small team would meet at the Armitt Library, perhaps three or four times a year, to review the material and update the index. Contact Sheila Barker or Ian Matheson if you are willing to help.

The Croesor File

I spend most Fridays working as a volunteer at the Armitt Library in Ambleside, which currently houses the CAT archive. One Friday in December I was handed a thick loose leaf folder entitled The Croesor File, which had been deposited by Tim Oulton and Celia Hancock who had visited the library during the previous week. I spent some time looking through it and found it to be a fascinating document. I wrote the following piece for this Newsletter:

“The Croesor File has been compiled by Adrian Barrell, who acknowledges the assistance of many people, particularly the staff of the Dolgellau Record Office.

The Croesor File endeavours to trace the history of Croesor Slate Quarry from the 1860's to the present day. It includes articles on specific subjects, archive material, information on Moses Kellow, his hydro electric scheme and the 'Keldril', reminiscences, descriptions of the sites, maps and plans.

The project commenced in 1991 with the aim to provide a file of 'raw information', which will include everything that can be found with any reference to the Quarry

The file consists of a substantial loose leaf folder. Because it is a collection and not a book, and because it may continue to grow, there is no index or page numbering, but there is a table of contents as follows:

Introduction

The early years, 1860's – 1890's.

The Kellow era, 1890's – 1930's.

The final phase, 1940's – 1970's.

The present day up to November 1993, which includes a description of the sites as at November 1993 by Adrian Barrell and the CAT underground survey by Jon Knowles.

Traction and Tramways.

Maps and Plans.

The file collects together information from many sources, which are scattered, and in some cases difficult of access, and is a valuable addition to the CATMHS Archive.”

In order to check the accuracy of what I had written I emailed this to Tim Oulton, asking for his comments. The following email correspondence ensued.

Ian Matheson

From Celia Hancock:

Your piece on the Croesor file looks fine except that Tim and I did not deposit it - we merely returned it after rather a long time. It was sent to CAT directly by Adrian Barrell. Jon Knowles had it out and passed it on to us. We were about to return it when I realised a copy would be a good addition to the slate archive I am producing at Plas Tan y Bwlch. I contacted Adrian for permission, which was generously given, so we contacted Anton and asked to keep it a bit longer. Then, of course, the archive function at CAT went into a state of flux.

Have you had a comprehensive look through the items at the Armit? I'd be very surprised if Adrian hadn't sent CAT a copy of Part 2 - which is bigger than Part 1. Although, I did check the CAT web site and could find no reference to Part 1 in the index. Adrian's address is in Part 1 but I guess you have it anyway. Jon Knowles has a CD of the whole thing so could probably print you off a copy of Part 2 if it has been mislaid.

J Knowles to C Hancock & I Matheson:
I got your (Celia's) note about the Kellow file. The first volume of the Kellow file was produced some years ago and it was passed to CAT from Adrian Barrell via me. ... there was a piece in the newsletter at the time. I think I passed it directly to you after I had finished reading it.

Regarding Volume 2, the CAT copy of this was sent to me directly by Adrian a couple of months ago and is safe and sound on the window sill in our office. Once I have printed out a copy for myself I will deposit it in the library. This is a fascinating read particularly if you trawl through the various letters Kellow wrote and the problems he had with the men, accidents and directors. It brings home to you how much work was involved in running a marginal 19th century slate quarry.

Ian, we should recognise this substantial piece of work by our member Adrian Barrel and I suggest that the following be put in the next newsletter.

"Member and Croesor Guru Adrian Barrel has presented CAT with the long awaited Supplement to his Croesor File. This is available as both a hard copy and a CD and will be deposited in the CAT library just as soon as I have copied it for my own records. This is a fascinating piece of research and Adrian has set an example to us all in his willingness to share his researches with others. For myself, who has spent too much of the last 18 years looking into the Welsh Slate Industry, the copies of Kellow's letters contained in the supplement give more of an insight into what was actually involved in managing a slate quarry than anything I have ever read.

A number of points stick in my mind. Firstly there was an expectation that letters would be delivered the next day and that the receiver would respond that day. If the Manager, Moses Kellow, did not receive a reply within two days he was sending a letter to chase up the response. Secondly the consequences of the accidents in the quarries and the optimism if the injured or deceased had no dependants! Finally there is a classic reply from Kellow to one of the Directors when Kellow had clearly not responded quickly enough to a minor query but was in the midst of implementing a 10% wage cut in the quarry. You can almost hear the tiredness in his voice when he replies to the effect that only those who have had to implement a wage cut themselves could understand the amount of time this consumes in negotiation and discussion!

On 20th Jan I received a CD from Jon Knowles, entitled 'Chwarel Croesor.' It contains the 1994 Croesor File, 2002 Supplement, the 'Autobiography of

Moses Kellow', and 'The Patents of Moses Kellow'. What an amazing piece of work! It will take a little time for me to look at, but will soon be available in the CAT Archive at the Armitt Library. IM.

A day in the life of our Treasurer

Jan 13th 2004.

4.00 am. Got up and drove from London to the Lake District.

9.30 am. Picked up the CAT electric drill from Ambleside.

10.00 am. Met up with Mark Simpson and Ian Matheson at the BMSC hut at Coniston.

10.30 am walked up to Levers Water carrying SRT kit and two ropes (I eased his burden by offering to carry his lunch. IM)

11.30am Entered the copper mine, still carrying the two ropes and descended to Arrette Chamber. It should be pointed out that from this point on all was new ground for John.

12.00mid-day. Crossed MAG'S Catwalk.

12.30pm. Stopped briefly by the ore tub in Top Level Extension for a sandwich. (This was interrupted several times by Chairman Simpson, who demanded that he pose for photographs. IM)

1.00 pm Entered Earthquake Passage and followed it to its junction with Earthquake Stope. Placed two bolts in the hanging wall and rigged the pitch down towards Avalanche Stope.

2.00 pm. Led the descent of Avalanche Stope down towards Middle Level, placing a re-belay part way down.

2.30 pm. Prussicked back up so that the Chairman could inspect the mine

3.30 pm Helped de rig the pitch, and then carried the two ropes back up out of the mine

4.30 pm Carried the two ropes and all his kit back down from Levers Water to the BMSC hut (I eased his burden once again by carrying his empty lunch box and flask. IM)

5.15 pm. Drove down to the Crown Hotel for a shower and a change of clothing

5.45 pm. Drove back up to the BMSC Hut for CAT committee meeting

6.00 pm. CAT Committee Meeting started

10.15 pm Committee meeting closed. Cup of tea and a cheese sandwich.

10.30 pm. Drove back to the Crown Hotel

11.30 pm. Lay in bed suffering the aches and pains consequent to his days activities.

12. 00 mid-night. Decided that a trip to Top Level Extension and Earthquake passage should be included in the NAMHO 2004 programme because "it was a major CAT exploration, the jackroll and wagons give considerable historical interest, earthquake passage has geological interest, and the catwalk gives technical caving interest."

The next morning he drove back to London. Now you know why he was given the Chairman's Award at the AGM.

News

Newland Furnace

John Helme reports that the Newland Furnace Trust has been awarded a grant from English Heritage for re-building the loading barn roof and it's structure adjacent to the furnace stack. This part of the furnace complex is in poor condition and has been causing concern. Part of the roof fell in last year, and was temporarily repaired by the work team, CAT members Paul Timewell, Peter Sandbach and Dave Robson. The grant is for 90% of the cost of the work. The Trust has applied to South Lakeland District Council and Cumbria County Council for grants to make up the 10% shortfall.

Charles Blackett-Orde of Appleby has been appointed as Consulting Engineer. He will draw up specifications for the work for tender, which should go out in a few weeks time.

Conservation Projects - Levers Water Mine and Goldscope Coffin Level.

For some time now Peter Fleming has been actively campaigning for the opening and stabilisation of the entrances to Levers Water Mine at Coniston and also the 1565 Coffin Level at Goldscope Mine, near Keswick.

His efforts have born fruit, and Consent has now been obtained to open and to gate the entrance to Levers Water Mine. Strict conditions apply to this project, which is to be undertaken under the supervision of English Heritage and the LDNPA archaeologist. The conditions require a months notice of any work, so it will not be possible to start work on Boxing day, as had once been hoped, but work will commence in the New Year. In accordance with the conditions laid out in the Consent for this work, the dates on which we hope to undertake the project are Sunday 8th Feb, Sunday 15th Feb, Sunday 29th Feb and Sunday 7th March 2004.

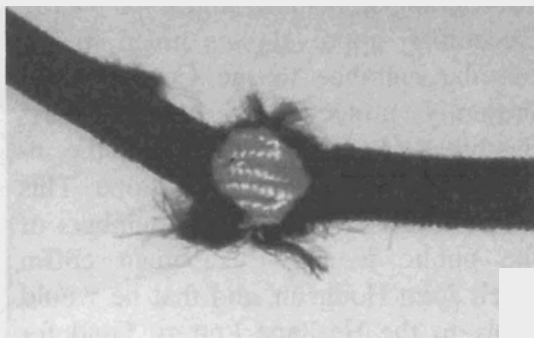
At a site meeting between Peter and John Hodgson, the County Archaeologist, held at Goldscope on 15th December, approval was given to dig out the entrance to the Coffin Level, presently protected by a bottomless dustbin, and to gate the level at the in-bye end where it meets the stope. This would allow free access to members of the public to the Elizabethan coffin level. John Hodgson said that he would apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for financial support for this work, and also to open and gate Carrock Mine at Caldbeck and Grey Crag Level at Coniston. It was hoped that this could be achieved over a three-year period.

Congratulations to Peter Fleming for his achievement

News from the Western Front

After CAT's visit to Goldscope mine earlier this year myself and Gerry Goldsborough decided to have another look at gaining access to the unexplored workings of the mine, especially the Engine Shaft. We think the shaft is still open as you can drop a stone down it (7 seconds in fall) if you are thin enough to get into the position to drop the stone. We looked at the wheelpit by the Back Level, (pictured on the cover of Newsletter 72, IM) and, as there must have been a run-off and as the Wheel Pit has never been flooded, we thought it might be possible to gain access to the workings via this run-off. We thought it would make an excellent project to get permission to dig out the whole wheel pit, crank pit and run-off level, and fence it off for historical display. (This would tie in very nicely with the proposal to open and gate the nearby coffin level, reported elsewhere in this issue. IM)

On another note would Doctor Descender like to offer advice on what to do on meeting the damage to a rope (photo) near the top of a 150 foot free prussick pitch?



I gently eased past, then pulled up enough rope to re-belay. Then, after

seeing the others up, I left the mine to change my underwear.

Roger Ramsden.

Legal moves to stop mining at Daylight Hole

From the Evening Mail, 8.1.04.

Legal action has been approved by the county council to stop unauthorised mining at a Lindal farm. Cumbria County Council's head of environment, Shaun Gorman, said that two areas of Whinfield Farm, near the famous Daylight Hole, were being used for activities which did not have planning permission. A report to yesterday's development control and regulation committee said minerals were being extracted from the former iron ore site, and processing work was taking place in a second adjoining area.

Mr Gorman said "This activity in particular has led to complaints being received about noise generated by the operation of plant. It is taking place without permission". County Council officers believe the site may be of national importance because of its past as an iron ore site. They can now take legal action to stop the unauthorised activity. English Heritage may yet preserve the site as an ancient monument.

The land is behind Lindal cricket ground and the WCF Old Sawmills Depot. It is best known as Daylight Hole, a huge underground cavern stained a tell-tale red with evidence of iron ore. It leads to an abandoned mine working which was opened naturally by ground subsidence. The Daylight Hole allows access to old workings which once formed a massive maze of tunnels and galleries until an end to pumping allowed the majority of them to flood.

Prospective work to find iron ore at Whinfield dates back to at least 1756. In

Victorian days tens of thousands of tons of ore were taken from the ground in this area, from many pits. These include the Diamond Pit, which is part of the area subject to legal action over the unauthorised processing of minerals and waste. Diamond Pit was the main water pumping pit, and was 612 feet deep. In the days of steam power it had massive pumping engines. A pair of pumps could raise 1,000 gallons of water a minute. It was electrified around 1907.

Europe's only working pit to mine iron ore is the Florence Pit at Egremont. Old workings in Furness are still visited by mine historians and by mineral collectors. Good haematite ore samples are increasingly hard to find, and



BLACK STUFF: Hematite kidney ore

command high prices. A massive piece of kidney ore, said to weigh 3,600lbs, was raised from a pit close to Barrow and for years was on display at Stone Cross, Ulverston. It was sold around 1963 for a rumoured £3,000 to a German jewellery firm.

Halt to Extraction

From the Westmorland Gazette, 16.1.04 Cumbria County Council has agreed to take enforcement action to stop the rare mineral hematite being extracted and processed at a farm in Pennington, near Ulverston. Members of CCC's development and control regulation

committee agreed to stop the mineral being extracted from ancient iron ore workings at Whinfield farm, Pennington, after complaints about noise from equipment used for extracting and processing the mineral.

Following the ruling, CCC said that enforcement action to prevent the activity would be taken by the environment unit "as expeditiously as possible".

Haematite is a mineral of iron oxide which comes in several varieties. There is the crystalline Hematite Rose, Tiger Iron, and the locally found Kidney Ore – so called because of its appearance of lumpy kidney-like masses – which is sought after by mineral specimen collectors.

Whitehaven Colliery Document

From Bulletin 34 of the Cumbria Local History Federation.

Cumbria Archive Service has won an award in a competition to identify the North West's top 6 archives. The document is a note-book listing mineworkers in Whitehaven collieries about 1841. It was selected as a document that has made a real difference to people's lives, as its evidence influenced Parliament, which introduced legislation in the 1842 Coal mines Act to curb childhood employment. Jonathan Johnston, aged 12, worked as a trapper in William Pit, which meant he spent about 14 hours each day sitting without light, opening the doors as miners and their waggons passed by. At 4' 3" tall he was described as 'stunted and stupid'; you have to wonder how much opportunity he had had for physical and mental growth as he had worked down the mines since he was six years old. The document is in the Cumbria record Office and Local Studies Library in Whitehaven. (ref. DH47/2)

Access to Mining Heritage – The Coal Authority.

The Coal Authority are committed to phase 1 of a project to create a single gateway web site to mining and related sources in the UK. It is described as a substantial task, and it is estimated that more than 1.3 million items could be included in the project. There is a ten year programme in 3 phases.

The main aim is a one stop shop for information about mining heritage sources across the UK. The Authority is already piloting projects to make source documents including photographs and plans available on the web. The web site is www.amhweb.ork.uk

New Book

Pits. A Pictorial history of Mining.

A compendium of volumes 1 & 2 which have been out of print for some years. Tells the complete story of the growth and development of mining in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in the Yorkshire area, including the 1984/1985 miners strike and subsequent pit closure programme. £16.99 inc p&p from Wharnccliffe books, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, S20 7AS.

Threlkeld Mining Museum Open Day Sunday 7th March.

Ian Tyler says: 'We are pleased to announce that our annual open day will be on the 7th March 2004. The event is free and all your members are welcome

In mining circles the museum Open Day has become well known as a high point of the year, a day when mineral collectors, mine explorers, ex miners and quarrymen come on site to one of the finest mining museums in the country.

The day will commence with a guided walk to the Threlkeld Lead Mine,

starting at 10.30am from Threlkeld Village by Four Seasons Foods, and return by 12.30am to the Museum for the official opening. Then the launch of Ian Tylers latest book "Carrock Mine and the mines of Blencathra and Skiddaw" will take place. The book will be about 250 pages with dozens of original photographs on the mines of Carrock, Threlkeld, Brandy Gill, Glenderaterra and the mines hidden beneath the Skiddaw massif. At about 1.00pm a light buffet will be served.

The rest of the afternoon will be to mingle, talk and meet fellow enthusiasts. There will be self guided mine tours, so bring a lamp and helmet if you have one, and see the show mine taking you through mining from 1560 to 1960.

We look forward to seeing you.'

Dr Descender

Dear Doctor

I recently had to pass some slightly frayed rope whilst ascending a long free hanging pitch. Whilst changing after I noticed that my underpants had changed to a brown shade.

Anon - Cartoon Duo (Roger Rabbit and Jerry)

This symptom is not unknown and the correct description is W.A.S. or, to give it its full clinical description, Winking A%\$£&@e Syndrome. This was first identified by Dr Jones of Bell Hill many years ago. The good news is that the symptoms are easily alleviated by using proper rope and avoiding the "friction" style of deviations.

For information I understand from other correspondents that in the south, particularly Hemel Hempstead, this is known as gibbering wreck syndrome.

Dr Descender.

Forthcoming Meets:

Levers Water Mine.

Permission has now been obtained to open and to gate the entrance to Levers Water Mine. Strict conditions apply to this project, which is to be undertaken under the supervision of English Heritage and the LDNPA archaeologist. The conditions require a months notice of any work, so it will not be possible to start work on Boxing day, as had once been hoped, but work will commence in the New Year. In accordance with the conditions laid out in the Consent for this work the dates on which we hope to undertake the project are Sunday 8th Feb, Sunday 15th Feb, Sunday 29th Feb, and Sunday 7th March 2004.

22nd Feb, Roanhead.

Peter Sanbach says that the Roanhead area has already been surveyed, although some of the photographs still need grid references, so the meet will probably move on to another site, probably after lunch. Meet at Rita Car Park, SD208751.

Wales Meet 24th & 25th April

Details of this meet are still being finalised and will depend upon exploration which will be undertaken in the next two months but it will either be based in the Corris or Ffestiniog Slate Districts. Please contact Jon Knowles on 01484 860662 or email jonknowles@ukonline.co.uk approximately one month prior to the meet for full details.

Greenside Appeal.

This is not an appeal for money (well, you can send the treasurer money if you like), but an appeal for help. You may or may not know that that work is starting in the Lucy Tongue Level once again and this time it is to preserve the

through route. The area that is creating a problem is near Worsop's crosscut, the four-way junction to be exact. This area has always been unstable, with a rubble pile to climb over to access Smith's Shaft and beyond, and in the last year, more slabs have become detached from the walls and roof making it increasingly difficult and dangerous to pass through.

It has been decided that the best method of securing this area is to drive through the collapse, maintaining the floor level and taking a right turn towards Smith's Shaft. An estimated 15 metres using the bolt together steel sections as have been used at Hudgillburn and the Grey crag Level at Coniston.

If you would like to become involved with this 'Get a Life Society' in doing this work to maintain the through route, whether it is every Sunday or just the occasional walk in (whilst carrying in some equipment) to see how they are progressing. Please contact John Brown 01325 352999 (day) or 01325 487999 (evenings) or catphone on a Sunday.

Greenside Progress Report 11th Jan

Still awaiting news of the insurance and permission for funding the project. Warren Allison, John Brown, Colin Woollard, Andrew Woollard and Peter Sedgewicke met at Glenridding with the aim of taking tools and steel tubes etc., up to 'Worsop's'. (Pete Blezzard, our resident mining engineer is still away skiing would you believe) These had been left in the entrance since the last major works to open up the 'Lucy' were completed.

It had been raining hard leading up to this visit. This meant that the first hundred metres were uncomfortable,

with water at about knee height. This caused difficulty loading equipment onto the bogey, which is used to move it 'in bye' for the first three quarters of a mile to the the 'first bait station'. From this point we drag/carry everything, because the level is too narrow, to 'high arches', which we did, making about four trips in all. From 'high arches' everything was moved to 'Worsop's' in two moves, a total distance of about a mile. By now it was 2.00 p.m. and we were greeted with more collapse material on the floor which had come directly out of the roof. The rest of the day was spent clearing this up, storing equipment and generally inspecting the area in preparation for starting work once the committee had approved funding.

John Brown.

Meet Reports:

Hudgillburn Mine, 9th November 2003

Present: Members of the digging team, John Brown, Colin & Andrew Woolard, Pete Blezard (1), + John Aird, Karen Beer and Sheila Barker.

The re-arching had been finished and now it was time to fill in the big hole created by the removal of overburden. John Brown had arranged the hire of a small skid steer loader that did the job very efficiently. The site was tidied, all the scrap buried in the hole and all useless wood burned. Although it had been raining and everything was wet, one of Pete Blezard's many skills came in useful, he soon had a roaring bonfire going and kettle boiling. Karen Beer and Sheila Barker cooked the sausages, mushrooms and bacon that brought the day to a very satisfactory conclusion.

Sheila Barker.

Archaeology in the Lake District. LDNPA conference 2003, held at the Lakes School, Troutbeck Bridge.

The second annual Archaeology conference organised by John Hodgson and Eleanor Kingston of the LDNDA was held at the Lakes School on Saturday 29th November. About 120 people attended, 10 of whom were CATMHS members.

The programme included:

An overview of recent archaeological and conservation projects,
Investigations at Cunsey Beck Forge,
Excavation of a late prehistoric and Romano-British settlement in Glencoyne Park, Ullswater,
An overview of Roman Lakeland,
The Upland Peat project and excavation of a Neolithic stone axe production site in the Langdale Fells,
An archaeological research agenda for the North West,
Burnt mounds and the Bronze Age in the Lake District,
Characterising the landscape: Crook & Underbarrow.

All the topics were interesting, but I pick out here those of particular relevance to Mining History :

Cunsey Beck Forge – Ian Miller, Oxford Archaeology North.

The talk began with some definitions of iron making terms. There are documentary references to iron making in Furness in the 13th Century, but it is thought that iron may have been produced here in Roman and possibly even Neolithic times.

Bloomeries are sites where iron ore was simply roasted in a charcoal fire to produce a bloom of impure iron. This then had to be repeatedly hammered to remove the carbon.

Bloom smithies, where water power was used to drive bellows and hammers were in use in the 16th Century.

Bloom forges, where the iron was further refined, were a development of the bloom smithy. Developed in the 17th Century, they were associated with the blast furnaces of the 18th Century, such as that at Backbarrow, established in 1711. Cunsey is a Bloom Forge.

Although long since used for agricultural purposes, Cunsey is marked as a forge on the OS maps, and there is documentary evidence from 1618, when it was leased to William Wright, iron developer. A lease of 1639 to Gavin Braithwaite and William Wright describes the forge as being divided into chafing and refining areas and as having 3 hearths. In 1685 it passed into the hands of Messrs Rawlinson and Machel, founders of Backbarrow. In 1750, when the lease expired, there were three forges, a chafery, lower finery and upper finery. Although the lease was transferred to Backbarrow it is thought that Cunsey was little used thereafter and no more documentary evidence has been found. Since the 1950's the building was used as a storage shed. A photograph taken by Mike Davies Shiel shows a substantial barn, but the buildings were demolished in the 1980's, and a photo taken in 2000 shows very little left, only some rubble and the lower part of the back wall remaining.

The site consists of a dam 2 meters high, a dried out mill pond, a head race, possibly two wheel pits and huge areas of iron slag waste. A track runs through the site, and it is thought that once there were buildings on either side of it, but only the remains on the south side are now visible.

The rubble was removed and the floor and foundations revealed together with a cobbled floor. A coin dated 1715 was found in one of the walls. A geophysical survey showed older remains beneath. The remaining walls were stabilised and some conservation work was carried out. There is a good deal more investigative work to do on the remainder of the site. The present work was funded by English Heritage and supported by the LDNPA.

At the end of the presentation Peter Fleming asked if there was any evidence to show where the haematite ore had come from. The answer was yes: There is an agreement dated 1648 with the owners of pits in Grasmere, and samples of ore found on the site are similar to samples from Grasmere.

The Upland Peat project and excavation of a Neolithic stone axe production site in the Langdale Fells – Jamie Quartermaine, Oxford Archaeology North

Until now most North West archaeology has been carried out in lowland areas because it is exposed. In upland areas much is buried beneath the peat, which preserves anything which is organic. The peat is now threatened by environmental changes, and 20% has eroded away in the last 50 years. The causes seem to be overgrazing, forestry improvements, upland drainage projects and fires, and visitor pressure.

By far the most serious is overgrazing by sheep, which removes the turf and leads to erosion by water. There are signs that such erosion is being reduced by good management and conservation practices. Visitor pressure is not a fundamental problem, as damage is generally restricted to the margins of footpaths. Serious fires

caused by visitors do damage the peat in popular areas outside the National Park, but heather burning has little effect.

The Stone Age Axe Factories on the Langdale Pikes were a major enterprise, on a scale that is not easily appreciated. It has been estimated that there are 700 tons of Neolithic waste in just one of the Langdale screes, representing production of between 40,000 and 50,000 stone axe heads! This is probably the first significant industrial monument. Screes are disappearing as the vegetation which formerly covered them is eroded. Photographs show that the scree level is 3 meters lower than it was in the 1950's.

Tools used by man did not change significantly from 100,000 years ago until these axes began to be made. Their efficiency would have brought about changes in agriculture. It has been shown that to fell a tree using a tree using a stone axe takes only about twice as long as using a modern steel axe. By dating the peat overlaying stone age axe workings the sites have been dated to 3959BC, plus or minus 250 years; about 6000 years old. Pollen dating reveals that the upland forest disappeared at about the same time, and it is likely that there is a connection.

Report by Ian Matheson

Mines Forum meeting, held at Threlkeld Quarry, 16th January.

It has been eight years since the last mines forum meeting was held. The LDNP Archaeologist, John Hodgson

convened a meeting at Threlkeld Museum, on 16th January.

Attending the meeting were John Hodgson and Eleanor Kingston from the LDNPA Archaeological Department, Jamie Lund from the National Trust, Mike Mitchell representing COMRU, Ian Tyler and the Treasurer from MOLES, and Peter Fleming, Mark Simpson, Sheila Barker, Dave Bridge and Ian Matheson From CATMHS. Warren Allison was unable to attend.

John Hodgson opened the meeting and after introductions asked for a report of activities from each organisation:

MOLES: Ian Tyler reported that MOLES had been engaged in opening the Trustee Level on Cat Bells, with the permission of the National Trust. Restrictions on working confined activity to a four-week period, excluding weekends. The level had been opened, photographed and secured. They now hope to continue the project, working 2 or 3 days per month, but not between Easter and October. The project been inspected by the NT safety officer.

A discussion ensued regarding Risk Assessment for mining related activities. Not everyone has experience of writing risk assessments and it was agreed that it would be beneficial for organisations and individuals to share information.

CATMHS: Peter Fleming reported that:

CAT was hosting the 2004 NAMHO Conference at Coniston next July. Consent has been obtained for re-opening and gating Levers Water mine.

We hope, when funds are available, to open and secure the 1564 Coffin Level at Goldscope Mine.

At Hudgillburn Mine work re-arching the portal has been completed. We hope to erect a ladder up to the limestone cave area, which contains historic graffiti.

Safety work is to be carried out at Greenside Mine and is expected to cost about £2,000.

The Newland Furnace Trust had obtained a substantial grant from English Heritage to repair the loading barn.

We hope to re-start the Furness Iron Survey. Work completed so far is of a very high quality. The County Archaeologist, Richard Newman is to copy the material, which will be deposited in the County Record Office. CAT has been concerned about the preservation of Woodbine Chimney.

Unauthorised removal of aggregate at Diamond Pit had been prevented.

Work is continuing on the Coniston Coppermine Survey. It is hoped that the results will be published on a CD.

There is a project to list and catalogue all the known original documents relating to Coniston Copper Mine.

There is a proposal to write a new book on the history of Coniston Copper mines

COMRU. Mike Mitchell reported that there had not been any recent call outs. They had been experimenting with a Hay Phone, a development of the MOLE phone, for communication underground.

National Trust: Jamie Lund reported that phase 1 of the three phase Force Crag Mine project, recording of buildings and machinery and conservation of the building, was complete. Tenders had gone out for

phase 2, conservation of the machinery. Hazardous substance sampling and assessment had been done. Phase 3, due in the summer is to improve physical and intellectual access and install lighting. There will be two open days in 2004, five in subsequent years. Guides are being sought, they are collecting artefacts relevant to the mine, leaflets are in preparation and interpretative boards will be placed inside the building, with one outside.

Yewthwaite mine. Water erosion had been a problem, exacerbated by previous work. It is believed to have stabilised and is resolving itself. Photographic monitoring will be carried out.

Hartsop Hall mine had been surveyed by Martin Railton, of Durham University, with help from Warren Allison. A report consisting of a book and CD has been published. 'Survey of Harsop Hall Lead Mine, Cumbria. Martin Railton, Durham University Dept of Archaeology.

Myers Head mine. Railings have been placed around the wheel pit, and an interpretative board is to be erected.

Borrowdale Wadd mines. The extraction of a block of conifer trees from the scheduled site had been completed.

LDNPA: John Hodgson reported that a reorganisation had taken place over the last 2 years, resulting in new faces. Peter Davies has retired. The old departmental structure has gone. There are new property and ranger managers. The emphasis now is towards enabling other groups to access external funding.

Low Wood Gunpowder Works. The site is privately owned, but English Heritage are to carry out some work and a conservation plan is expected.

Backbarrow Iron Works. There is to be some new building development with some use of original buildings. The furnace stack is to be conserved.

Cunsey Iron Forge. Rescue work has been carried out to the ruined building. The NT hopes to carry out conservation work on the rest of the site.

Historic Landscape Survey. This concerns the origins of fields, and should be completed by the end of the year. The Lake District historic Environment Record is to be on the internet, and an outreach programme is to be developed to reach local communities.

Greenside mine. Major Health & Safety work has been carried out on the tailings dam, which has been capped with bentonite. A water monitoring programme is ongoing

Keppel cove Dam. There is concern about the condition of the breach at the bottom. Work to stabilise it is being considered, probably an arch.

Honister Slate quarry. There are some outstanding planning issues concerning re-use of spoil heaps and underground workings. There is concern about the use of historic remains.

Caldbeck Fells. A permit system has been introduced for mineral collecting, and controls to prevent the disappearance of minerals. Protection is needed for spoil heaps, as buried wooden structures are being exposed and destroyed. The NT is meeting with English Heritage to discuss ways forward. This may affect mine exploration and research, but they are looking at procedures to ensure that it is carried out on a sustainable basis that produces useful information.

Silver Gill. The work done by Warren Allison is seen as the start of a wider project to determine the archaeological significance of the Caldbeck mining area.

LDNPA is looking at boundaries of scheduled sites to ensure that everything that should be is included.

Mining Heritage Project. A project to co-ordinate mining and quarrying sites and assess their importance, to initiate archaeological investigation, conservation and interpretation. It is hoped to involve local groups and to co-ordinate bids for financial help.

Warren Allison sent a report.

He has leading Voluntary Warden walks.

He has been working with the LDNPA with regard to the Greenside tailing dam and doing documentary research.

His mine exhibition, held annually at Glenridding is now an official National Park Event.

He has been working with Patterdale School.

He assisted in the surveys of Hartsop Hall Mine and Myers Head.

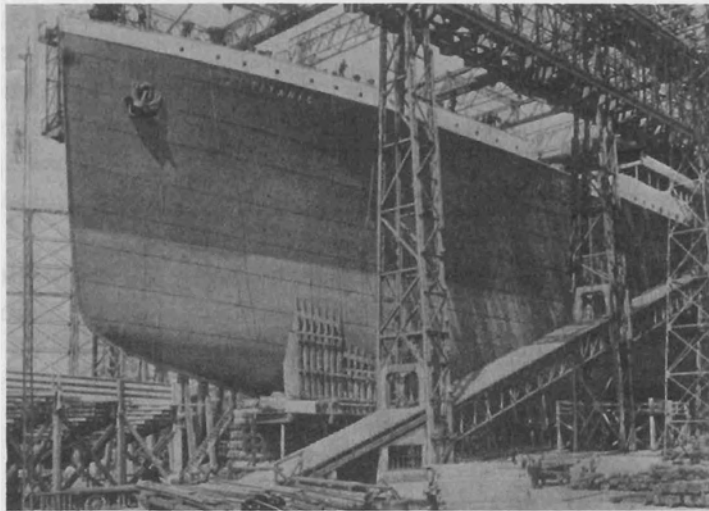
He appeared on the TV programme 'This Land'

His work at Silver Gill together with Sam Murphey was published in the CWAAS Transactions as 'The Lost German Mines at Caldbeck.'

Discussion

Jamie Lund enquired if guidelines were available for people carrying out digs etc. Mark Simpson replied that guidelines were available from NAMHO on their web site. JL said that it would be useful to provide a framework for applications to the NT to include a detailed assessment of expectations and practices. John Hodgson said that he hoped to produce a document for application for permissions, with guidelines. It would be necessary to rank priorities, provide a research strategy and an assessment of significance. Standards are needed for a recording and research agenda for the Lake District.

The membership and function of the Forum was discussed. It was decided for the present to restrict membership to mining groups, the LDNPA, NT, and COMRU, and to restrict its business to the Lake District National Park area, excluding West Cumbria. There would be two meetings per year.



Any other business:
Carrock mine

Peter Fleming stated that the blocked entrance to Carrock Mine was holding back water and air. Slurry pumped into the back workings during the life of the mine was being deposited in the main adit, which had silted up above welly depth. It should be opened, drained, and gated. Ian Tyler agreed, and offered to do the work free of charge. The mine is on Dalemmain Estate land, and their agents had previously said that there was not a problem. Events have proved them wrong. John Hodgson said he would go to English Heritage for permission. He would like a letter from CATMHS and MOLES in support, outlining the problems.

Unwatering a Cornish Tin mine

This article was submitted by one of our members. Apparently a work-mate had acquired a page torn out of 'The Engineer' from June 2nd 1911. The page relates to the launching of the White Star Liner Titanic, and this article was printed on the back. An interesting co-incidence, but the article itself, which is a model of clarity of description, gives a fascinating insight to a common mining problem!

Titanic, before her launch.

About fifteen years ago owing to the discovery of some easily worked surface deposits of tin in different parts of the world, the price of the metal fell considerably. At this price it became unprofitable to work many of the Cornish mines, and it is no doubt well known that these mines were closed down. The result has been that in many cases they gradually became water-logged. When, however, the surface deposits referred to had been worked out the expenses in getting the ore from the places where they existed increased very considerably, and the price of tin went up. This high price again brought the question of working the Cornish mines to the fore, and the owners of those which had become water-logged set about discovering the best method of getting rid of the water.

One of the largest tin-mining companies of Cornwall is, we believe, the Phoenix Mines (Cornwall) Ltd, of Cheesewring, near Liskeard. This company's mine has a shaft about 800 feet deep, and comprises many miles of headings. The whole had become water-logged, with water to within 100 feet of the surface. At the time that the

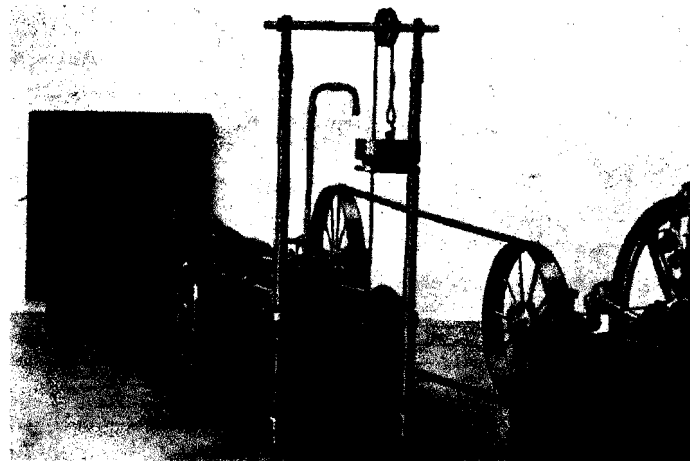
price of tin fell this company was producing many tons of high-grade tin ore, and it was known that a considerable quantity of the ore had actually been mined and was ready to be brought to the surface. Moreover there still remained vast quantities of ore waiting to be mined. The deposit of tin is divided into two portions by a mass of grey granite going down to and below the full depth of the workings. Advantage was taken of this fact in the unwatering scheme which was decided upon. A new shaft was sunk to the full depth of 800 feet in this solid granite, and is itself an excellent piece of work. It was intended that this shaft should serve the double purpose of unwatering the old workings and of affording a means of access to the deposits on the other side of the granite wall, of which mention has already been made. A powerful Cornish pumping engine was erected at the surface; it is capable of raising 48,000 gallons of water per hour; its spears being nearly 800 feet long. The new shaft was at a distance of 300 feet of the old workings. From its bottom a horizontal heading measuring 8 feet by 8 feet was driven in the direction of the old workings for a distance of something under 220 ft., to a point estimated to be about 87 ft. from the old workings.

It then became a question of the proper method to employ in making the actual connection between the old and the new workings. To have bored through without taking precautions to regulate the flow of water would, of course, have meant disaster. After a consultation it was decided to bore

small horizontal holes through the remaining 80 feet or so of granite, and to provide some means of checking the water. The consent of H.M. Inspector of Mines was obtained for this purpose, provided that the means of checking were efficient.

No definite decision as to how to bring this about having been arrived at, several engineering firms were approached and invited to suggest schemes. Among those to whom this invitation was extended were C Isler & Company Ltd., Of Bear Lane,

Southwark, SE, and eventually their proposal was accepted. From first to last Mr Frank Meyer, a director of the firm, was in charge of operations. He made an examination of the mine, and came to the conclusion that the best method to employ would be, first of all, to make vertical and to accurately smooth the heading, and then to secure against it a thick steel plate held in position by four strong H joists let into the top and bottom, the whole being



grouted in with special cement. Whilst this was being done Mr Meyer had designed and built in Messrs Isler's works a very powerful horizontal

boring machine of an entirely new form.

The boring was done by means of a steel crown set with diamonds. The feed was practically automatic, being actuated by a weight running over the pulley, coarse adjustments being made by the capstan wheel. The boring rods were hollow and water was supplied through them to the tool at a pressure of 150 lb. on the square inch, this being provided from tanks fixed in the new shaft. The machine was driven by a small horizontal steam engine worked by compressed air, the compressor for this being fixed at the surface.

Three holes were bored in the thick steel plate mentioned as having been fixed against the heading, these holes being 4in. in diameter. Each was provided with a leading tube flanged to the plate. Attached to this flange were two 4in. sluice valves. One was a quick-closing valve and the other a screw down stop valve. In front of these valves a length of tube was provided flanged to the valve, so as to allow the boring tube to be drawn past the valves without taking it out of the tube. At the end of this tube was fixed a stuffing box and gland which could be unscrewed to allow the tool to pass through. The turned portion of the rod could, of course, be revolved in and advanced through the gland. This pipe was not necessary when boring through solid granite, but became so when the old workings were approached. There was an outlet controlled by a valve to permit the water used for boring purposes to flow out, and to allow of the boring-hole to be occasionally flushed out to clear it of grit. Only one bore-hole was driven at a time; in fact at the time of writing only one hole had been bored, though

provision was made for boring three holes. It was thought possible that the boring would have a tendency to drop or curve forward, but this did not occur. The actual distance bored before the old workings were pierced was 87 ft. The Phoenix Mine (Cornwall) Ltd. was responsible for the direction of the bore, and the calculations of its' engineers were proved to be entirely correct. The boring was started on January 28th and the main body of water was tapped on February 28th. The whole work went forward without a hitch of any description. The first part of the boring was in solid granite. We have seen a portion of one of the cores and the material is singularly compact. The last 47 ft. of the material was, however, somewhat broken and fissured. This caused a rather slower rate of progress than had been possible in the solid granite because the cores occasionally broke and jammed.

There was an exciting incident just as the boring was completed. The first rush of water brought with it a large quantity of grit which jammed the boring tool right in the valves and prevented them from being closed. Fortunately this eventuality had been foreseen and provided for, and the

Unfortunately the account ends here, as this is the end of the torn out page.
IM

GPS Survey Coniston Copper Mines - December 2003

In course of the Paddy End Survey - the mine was surveyed eventually from Levers Water to the entrance of Hospital level. A theodolite travers was carried out a year ago on the surface between the same places. That the ends of the two types of survey did not coincide was not a surprise, the

bias of accuracy being on the theodolite survey. The internal compass and clinometer survey being carried out over more than 5 years, in conditions of varying difficulty.

To provide a check of our data, Eleanor Kingston, an archeologist with the Lake District National Park, kindly agreed to carry out a GPS survey for us, using their accurate equipment capable of using differential reception. This survey was eventually carried out in December 2003, with myself, Mike Mitchell and Ian Matheson assisting.

The whole exercise was carried out in one day and the map shows the positions measured and the accompanying table the results that I noted down at the time. In the normal course of events the data logged in the GPS equipment memory would be downloaded into GIS software - Mapinfo or similar - and shown on a OS digital base map.



One thing that did emerge was that the handheld GPS units that Ian and Mike had gave similar horizontal accuracy but took longer (several minutes) to achieve comparable results and the data given I do not have a problem with. {I don't agree that it took longer. IM.} However, I am still awaiting information on the expected accuracy of the vertical measurements. Apart

from providing check data, I hope to use the information to provide a surface overlay to the underground



survey, so that the mine can be more easily related to present ground levels

A useful day and much was learnt about the use of this GPS equipment and my thanks go out to Eleanor and the National Park for helping us.

Mark Simpson.

Location	GridRef	Xcoord	Ycoord	height_M
Hosp Lev	328309498855	28,309	98,855	350
GCL Ent	328300498842	28,300	98,842	345
ML Incline	328295498865	28,295	98,865	353
ML Incline Boulder	328259498887	28,259	98,887	370
Hut Platform SE Corner	328254498906	28,254	98,906	368
Wheel Pit NE Corner	328231498935	28,231	98,935	376
Blue SP by HL Shaft Top	328227498943	28,227	98,943	380
ML Entrance Beam	328200498930	28,200	98,930	402
TL Entrance Boulder	328188498971	28,188	98,971	424
TL Waterfall E end	328188499028	28,188	99,028	422
Big Boulder abv TL NW corr	328137498950	28,137	98,950	446
Crater below S Nick SW co	328128498984	28,128	98,984	448
Bottom S Nick	328107498993	28,107	98,993	463
S Nick cliff bottom E End	328133499053	28,133	99,053	464
S Nick cliff top E end	328130499070	28,130	99,070	470
S Nick top SE corner	328097499008	28,097	99,008	488
Blue SP N end S Nick	328064499023	28,064	99,023	489
Boulder SP by The Pit	328045499018	28,045	99,018	492
Boulder SP between S2 & S4	328044499029	28,044	99,029	491
Path by NE Fence Corner	328074499074	28,074	99,074	485
SP N of fence N of S6	328003499046	28,003	99,046	475
Browstope Boulder E plus 1n	327969499013	27,969	99,013	487
FP to bouldervalley high point	328008498966	28,008	98,966	488
Boulder W of last point	327970498986	27,970	98,986	499
No2 from N Germ adit by LW	327928499052	27,928	99,052	470
LWM S entrance revet	328005499076	28,005	99,076	466
Track to Dam	328051499121	28,051	99,121	469
S Steel Dam SP West	328062499148	28,062	99,148	466
Water flow meter below dam	328174499110	28,174	99,110	450

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 10th November 2003 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston, starting at 6pm.

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 | Meet Report | 8 | Newsletter |
| 9 | Publications | 10 | Library |
| 11 | Coniston Coppermines | 12 | Hudgillburn |
| 13 | NAMHO 04 | 14 | Date and venue of next committee meeting |
| 15 | Any other business | | |

Present J. Aird (JA), S. Barker (SB), I. Matheson (IM), J. Brown (JB), P. Fleming (PF), M. Mitchell (MM), M. Scott (MSc) and A. Wilson (AW). M. Simpson (MS) would be arriving late.

MM was voted to be acting chairman till MS arrived.

Members Jon Knowles and Dave Robson also attended.

The meeting commenced at 6 00 pm. 11 members attended.

1 Apologies for absence from: D. Bridge (DB).**2 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 8th September had been previously circulated to members. It was **PROPOSED** by PF and **SECONDED** by JA 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 Furness Survey - SB had contacted Richard Newman regarding the depositing of the Furness Survey. SB and PF to meet with him (24th November) to discuss this and some of the Furness mine sites (including Diamond Pit & Woodbine Chimney). A list of survey work still to be done in Furness had been produced. It is hoped to form a group to help the FMC to carry on with this work. A suitable site to be chosen and a survey meet to be arranged.

3.2 Item 3.2 PF had met R. Bland, who said he had not received a letter, but he agreed to our offer to replace his old Coniston report in the BRO with a new copy. He suggested some of his source material had come from Fisher Hoggarth (now Carter Jonas). PF will make enquiries.

3.3 Item 3.3 JA reported that missing copies of the CAT newsletter in our library had been replaced.

3.4 Item 15.3 PF will be meeting John Hodgson at Gold Scope (12 Dec.) to discuss the re-opening of the portal of the Coffin Level. It would be gated where the level entered the stope.

3.5 Item 15.1. PF reported that Braythay Flag Quarry was still selling material.

4 Secretary's Report

Received since last meeting:

4.1 From LDNPA - The consultation period for the draft of Part One of the LDNPA Management Plan had ended on 15th August. The responses had been very constructive; a programme had been set up, which would culminate in the publication of the Plan next spring.

4.2 NAMHO Council meeting minutes for March and June.

4.3 NCA- A special meeting was held, to approve the draft constitution and that the BCA should come into being on 1st Jan 2004.

4.4 Letter from Mark Brennand of the Cumbria C.C. Community Economy and Environment Unit. The Ass. Of Local Government Archaeologists and English Heritage are planning to produce an Archaeological Research Framework for the North West Region. In its simplest form this project will assess the current state of archaeological knowledge within the area, and provide research priorities for future work, to address the gaps in our knowledge. They will utilize all the major publications, local and national journals and the county sites and monuments records as their major source of initial assessment. However, there is likely to be a great deal of material that is not recorded within these sources or known to particular individuals.

They would therefore like to invite our members to contribute to the Research Framework.

Please send any information on primary sources to Ian Matheson, who is listing sources for the Coniston documents.

5 Treasurer's Report

JA presented the audited account for 2003, which will be presented at the coming AGM.

JA asked for formal approval of expenditure for work done at HGB, **PROPOSED** PF, **SECONDED** by MM, all were in favor.

JA reported that our public liability insurance had run out on the 7th November, as it had not been possible for the BCRC to get it renewed in time. They have now approached the BMC's insurance provider but will not know the result for some time. After discussion it was decided that IM should send out subscription only renewal forms with the next

newsletter. Insurance would have to be paid later. A letter would be included informing members that they were no longer insured.

Next years subscription should be:

Single membership	No insurance	£15
Joint membership	No insurance	£20

It was thought we should seek legal advice, regarding the position of meet leaders in case of accident or damage to land owners property. JA to investigate the society becoming a limited company.

6 Membership Secretary's Report

IM reported there had been one new member recently, Peter Blezard (2) who has helped us many times in the past. The membership now stood at 110.

7 Meets Secretary's Report

The meets list had gone out. The next meets list to be discussed at March Committee meeting.

8 Newsletter

The newsletter had been delayed due to the insurance problem, but would go out at the end of next week.

9 Publications

It was decided to take stock of our publications in January. If any body is holding a stock of our books, please count them and let SB know the numbers.

10 Library

There had been several additions to the library recently. A visitor's book will be kept in the filing cabinet along with the card index. Please remember to visit the library and sign the book. We are looking into putting some of the mine plans on to CD, as they would be much easier to access-action MM. There is a lot of material still to catalog.

11 Coniston Coppermines

PF reported there would be another meeting of interested parties at Levers Water Mine next week. He had been on Radio Cambria talking about the Coniston Copper Mines.

MS is to meet Eleanor Kingston who will take GPS readings of several points between Hospital level and the Back Strings and then over into Boulder Valley. Marks underground plan can then be 'hung' onto these points, so the surface features can be related to the stopes beneath.

BGS have published a leaflet on the Coniston Coppermines Valley.

12 Hudgillburn Mine

The re-arching of the level was now finished and on last Sundays meet a machine was hired to fill in the enormous hole created by this work. The site was tidied up, walls and fences repaired, old wood burnt and the day finished off with a celebratory barbeque (thanks to Karen Beer). The portal still requires a little work and we may move the fence to enclose a smaller area.

JA wanted our appreciation recorded for the excellent work carried out by the group at HGB, the mine would now stand for many years to come. All were in agreement.

13 NAMHO 2004

Arrangements for the event were going well, most of the speakers were booked. Chris Irwin had offered to arrange the stalls. JK was well advanced in organizing the trips; the amount of new rope required would be assessed. Safety work would be carried out in Greenside Mine. SB had ordered the meals and had obtained the prices. The application forms would be ready to go out in the New Year.

14 Date and venue of next Committee Meeting

To be held on 12th January 2004 at the BMSC Hut, Coniston, at 6PM.

15 Any other business

15.1 JB reported the collapse at the 4 way Junction on Warsops Crosscut, Greenside Mine had deteriorated and would need work carried out to make it safe for the proposed NAMHO trips. He would estimate the cost.

15.2 JK had received a letter from the National Trust in answer to his request for access to Force Crag Mine next year (NAMHO). Members were invited to a meeting to discuss the proposed work on the surface workings at Force Crag Mine. They had obtained funding and hope to open the site on several days a year to the general public. They are looking for volunteers to act as guides etc. PF attended the meeting and has written a report.

15.3 AGM and Dinner - Preparations for the AGM and dinner were discussed; there would be a raffle as usual.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

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