

CAT

The Newsletter of the Cumbria Amenity Trust
Mining History Society



Turf Moor, Swaledale

No. 108

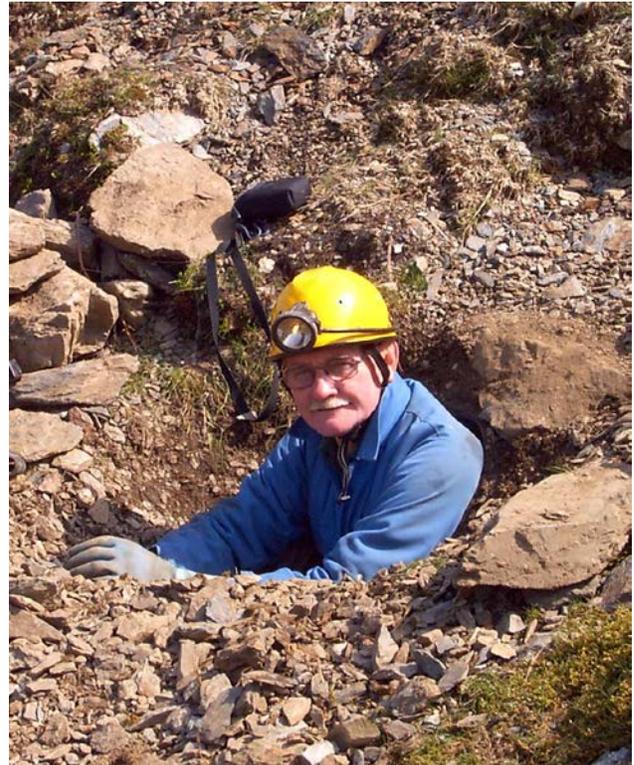
August 2012

Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society Newsletter No 108, August 2012.

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Peter Fleming, 1936 - 2012



Peter, a personal view:

As most of you will be aware Peter Fleming died suddenly on the 16th of June.

Peter was a founder member of CAT and it wouldn't be over stating the case to say that Peter *was* CAT. He has held many positions in the society over the last thirty three years and was precise and exacting in any role he undertook. To say he will be sorely missed would be another gross understatement As anyone on the committee will confirm, whenever there was a query regarding some historical fact, 'ask Peter' would be the echo. He was indeed a MINE of information and extremely well read on all things mining and mountaineering.

He was the instigator of the "Time Team" visit to Coniston and his research was the basis of the whole project. It is another great sadness that he was unable to see it come to fruition. He was highly respected in many other societies and clubs such as the Fell and Rock Climbing Club, Barrow Mountaineering and Ski Club, The Alpine Club, Barrow Ramblers and more, of which I am not qualified to report.

Peter and Margaret have been sincere friends and support to me in my difficult times over the last thirty two years and his death is a great personal loss. The Society and so many individuals have benefited from knowing Peter and I am grateful that he was a large part of my life.

Mike Mitchell.

CAT was a large part of Peter's life. He was its first chairman and its best ambassador, representing our society to the authorities and the press, presenting slide lectures and selling our publications.

There were exciting times when we were exploring the Coniston copper mines, abseiling into unknown territory where no one had been for 100 years or so. Peter kept a diary, drew detailed plans, and wrote it all up for the CAT Journals.

He enjoyed pursuing potentially dangerous activities and said 'Without that element of danger - of pitting one's wits against the odds, I would feel the lack of excitement that these adventures give.' He wrote an article 'Do CAT members have 9 lives?' describing some of the incidents which occurred saying 'If CAT members *do* have nine lives then I have only three left - that is if I don't count the other six I have lost whilst mountaineering'. Well, he has lost the last one now.

He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of everything to do with the Lake District. He was good company, with a dry sense of humour. To go out with Pete was always interesting, but be prepared for a long day. Many a time when his companions were thinking of rest and refreshment he would say 'Do you realise there are still five hours of daylight left – what should we do next?'

He was always well read, well prepared, meticulous and measured in everything he did. He was a source of inspiration and a great motivator and mentor. He was also a traditionalist, liked to do things properly, and was responsible for our 21st anniversary celebrations at Rydal Hall.

He instigated many projects, including the reopening of Levers Water mine and Kernal Level. He was involved in the Time Team investigation to be carried out at Coniston. Determined to be present, he joked that we should take him up to Levers Water in a sedan chair. Alas, it is not to be.

Peter was a great friend and companion and will be missed at so many levels and he leaves a gap that can't be filled. Our thoughts are with his wife Margaret at this time

Ian Matheson.



Time Team at Coniston Copper Mines

Time Team has recently approached the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) regarding making a program about the Elizabethan workings at Coniston Copper Mines. They are proposing to carry out excavations at the Back Strings at Levers Water and at Cobblers Level.

John Hodgson, the LDNPA senior archaeologist, has requested that CATMHS be involved in the making of the program which will involve providing advice and taking the production team underground. John is obtaining the permissions required from the land owner, English Heritage (scheduled ancient monument) and Natural England (SSSI) and is including CATMHS application to re-open Sebastian Mine, which is below Simons Nick at the Back Strings.

Hopefully CATMHS will be able to carry out the dig at Sebastian Mine at the same time that the filming is being done and which may be included in the program. The society will take the production team underground at Levers Water Mine and Cobblers Level as well as carrying out the dig at Sebastian Mine

Warren Allison

Extracts from Time Team Proposed Archaeological Evaluation:

It is proposed that a series of non-invasive survey techniques, to be followed by targeted invasive trenching, are applied to specific areas within the scheduled area known as Coniston Copper Mines, itself an area within the Lake District National Park. These works are designed to establish the character, extent, condition and chronology of sub-surface archaeological deposits at the following sites:

Back Strings: This site consists of standing building remains dating to the 16th century relating to mining activity evidenced by the Simons Nick mine entrance adjacent to the site. Non-invasive and invasive work will be designed to address specific recommendations made within the Conservation Management Plan produced by Archaeo-Environment Ltd in 2010 on behalf of the Lake District National Park (Middleton 2010). Work will include a suite of geophysical survey techniques, applied in order to identify targets suitable for hand dug, keyhole excavation.

Cobblers Level: This site consists of a processing platform adjacent to a 16th century mine entrance. This area also includes numerous structures of a later date that may have been adapted from or built over earlier 16th century remains. Work in this area will also address specific recommendations made within the Conservation Management Plan and will focus on applying geophysical survey techniques in order to identify potential targets for excavation; the main aim being to identify the presence or absence of 16th century buildings within the target area.

Sebastian Level: This site consists of a build up of natural rubble thought to conceal the entrance to a known 16th century mine entrance. In collaboration with the Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society (CATMHS) a geophysical survey will be carried out to confirm the location of the entrance with Trust members then conducting work to

clear rubble from the entrance. No invasive archaeological work is proposed for this location although notes and a photographic record will be made.

The entirety of this work will result in formal reporting and publication of results intended to inform future management decisions in regard to the site. The project will form the subject of an episode of the television series *Time Team*, to be broadcast in 2013 by Channel 4.

The project will be carried out from the 24th to the 26th July, with a day of preparation before hand and followed by an appropriate period of reinstatement.

2.1 Research Aims - Summary

2.1.1 The project aims to carry out a limited programme of non-intrusive investigations and intrusive excavation over three days as part of a conservation led archaeological evaluation. The sites under investigation are part of a scheduled monument of national importance. The sites have the potential to contain deposits of local, regional and national importance with the ability to answer regional and national research questions about various periods already known to be represented within the scheduled monument boundary. The results of this work are intended to form an important resource for the future management of the specific sites being targeted and serve as a response to recommendations made in the Conservation Management Plan completed in 2010 (Middleton, 2010). Although small in scale, a well-resourced three-day excavation is considered sufficient to address the following specific research aims:

2.1.2 *Research Aim 1: Are the structural remains at the 'Back Strings' 16th/17th century in date and what was their function?*

Standing structural remains at the Levers Water/Back Strings site consist of several small semi-circular shelters, or crushing huts, as well as a number of mortar stones. These occur largely on the east side of the open stopes where at least four separate structures are known. These are penannular in shape and approximately 2m in diameter. The walls are constructed of dry stone and stand only two or three courses high. There are also two more substantial structures associated with the Back Strings.

The date range and function of these structures remains unclear as does the presence or absence of further structures below accumulated mining waste and scrub. It is proposed that the character, date range, extent and function of these structures be addressed through a programme of non-invasive topographical and geophysical survey (particularly radar), landscape study and document analysis. This work will be undertaken to identify suitable targets for excavation, based discussion with relevant period specialists.

2.1.3 *Research Aim 2: Are there 16th/17th century structural remains at Cobblers Level? Does anything survive of the potential 17th century stamp mill at this location?*

Elizabethan remains at the Cobblers Level or Low Works site are poorly preserved compared with those of the Back Strings. However, there are numerous other archaeological features in the vicinity relating to this period such as remnants of the original spoil tips and two mortar stones known from the vicinity, used for crushing and

dressing ore by hand.

Poorer quality ore would have been crushed utilising a 'stamp mill', known from the documentary sources to have been in operation at Coniston by 1619. It has been suggested that this stamp mill may have been sited close to Cobblers Level. There is evidence for a possible dressing floor adjacent to the adit (Cobblers Level) here, where a series of terraces covered with ore waste are clearly visible.

It is proposed to explore the potential location of the stamp mill through an investigation of the dressing floor and its surroundings adjacent to the adit. The character, extent and condition of remains potentially surviving under the dressing floor will be addressed through a programme of non-invasive topographical and geophysical survey, landscape study and documentary research to be followed by targeted trenching based on the results of this work and in consideration of input from relevant period specialists.

2.1.4 Research Aim 3: Does surface evidence of the Sebastian Level tunnel entrance survive?

Should time and resources allow it is proposed to carry out a non-invasive geophysical survey to supplement recent work conducted by University College London intended to identify the entrance to the Sebastian Level stope, known from documentary sources. Should the entrance be identified it is proposed that members of the Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society will undertake to clear accumulated rubble from the entrance area allowing it to be exposed.

This work will not involve invasive investigation, but will require archaeological recording of the mine entrance to include GIS data collection and a comprehensive photographic record. An assessment will be made on site as to the best way in which to proceed with any future investigation. Advice will be taken on site from representatives of English Heritage and the Lake District National Park Authority.

Based on the recommendations of the assessment report an article summarising works and describing results will be prepared in consultation with John Hodgson, Lake District National Park Archaeologist and Andrew Davison, English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Team Leader for the North West. This article will be submitted to Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society Proceedings for publication.

It has been noted by the Lake District National Park Authority and by the Cumbria Amenity Trust that the several mortar stones are present at the Back Strings site. These artefacts do not appear to be in their original locations. Some concern has been expressed over the safety of such portable objects should they appear in a broadcast programme. It is therefore proposed that any mortar stones not obviously in-situ should be recorded and removed from the site to form part of the site archive. The mortar stones will then be deposited in the Ruskin Museum, Coniston. The archive will be presented to Vicky Slowe at the Ruskin Museum within twelve months of the completion of fieldwork.

CATMHS involvement in the Time Team Project

Back Strings and Cobblers Level were proposed as the subject of an archaeological investigation as a result of discussion with Penny Middleton, Northern Archaeological Associates, John Hodgson, Lake District National Park Archaeologist and Andrew Davison, English Heritage Inspector and Team Leader for the North West. Specific aspects of Coniston Copper Mines appealed to the program makers as the area presents an opportunity to create a compelling historical narrative and to communicate the process of archaeology to a wider interested public.

Peter Fleming was to be involved and took part in some early discussions. It was Peter's research that indicated the presence of Sebastian Level, and he was hoping to be present during the Time Team investigations. It is especially sad that he died shortly before the event.

A meeting was held on 17th July to discuss CATMHS interface planning issues for the forthcoming Time Team week. It was decided:

To identify CATMHS members on site with high viz vests with a CAT logo on the back.

To install a syphon system at Cobblers to drain the level.

To provide a handline and ladder for access to Simon's Nick using the CAT ladders stored within the entrance to Kernal Crag.

Colin Woollard and John Brown would be responsible for the Sebastian Dig activity.

Anchors for a limited handline across the fellside to the Sebastian dig location would be installed in case conditions at the time become slippery.

The "Welsh Explorers" would be responsible for supervising and leading the three visits that CATMHS are expected to facilitate.

Mike Mitchell and Mark Simpson made several visits to pump and siphon water out of Cobblers Level in order to facilitate access and investigation by Time Team

Colin Woolard and John Brown spent a very long day extending the shelter to Levers Water mine by two setts. The floor has now been cleared and the large pipe moved into the entrance to prevent water backing up in the mine. Hopefully most debris will now be deflected into the stopes below. The bottom of the gate has been raised by about 9" and a new bottom bar fitted. Two belay points have been fixed to a large rock on the Levers Water side of the footpath for securing the ropes to for next week's descent into the mine, but sound rock could not be found to fix a bolt at the entrance to replace the one that is now out of reach, so it was suggested that the end of the rope be fixed to the gate in the mine for the time being.

Katie (United Utilities) transported some of our kit up to Levers Water last week. Yesterday it was the turn of Bob from the Paddy End works who did the same for us and took Colin Woolard and John Brown up to Kernal Level; more crash barriers from the mine were loaded into his truck. Mike Mitchell drove to there on his quad and then hitched a lift up to the dam. We are very grateful to the staff from United Utilities for their help over the last two weeks. Without this, the work may not have been done.

John Ashby, Chris Cowdery and Mark Scott were on site to escort and safeguard Time Team personnel into Simon's Nick and Lever's Water mine.

News

Changes at the National Monuments Record (NMR)

English Heritage is the guardian of a remarkable range of data, photographs and other archive items related to the historic environment, previously managed as the National Monuments Record (NMR). One of the most important developments in recent years is the online facilities we have been developing to give you round-the-clock access to them.

To better reflect the services we now offer, the name National Monuments Record (NMR) will no longer be used. From now on, our archive, comprising around 12 million items relating to England's historic environment, will be called the English Heritage Archive. This will continue to be housed and curated in Swindon where we have a Public Search Room (open Tuesday – Friday, 9.30am – 5.00pm).

You can search our online catalogue at www.englishheritagearchives.org.uk. This includes photographs dating from the 1850s to the present day, as well as reports, drawings, and plans of English buildings and archaeological sites. You can already view 93,000 images here, free of charge. By 2015 we aim to add 500,000 more.

For aerial photographs and spatial data, please contact the Archive Services team at archive@english-heritage.org.uk.

For listing information and local historic environment records, we encourage you to go to the Heritage Gateway at www.heritage-gateway.org.uk. This is a portal to 49 resources, including over 50% of local English Historic Environment Records, the National Heritage List for England (all nationally designated assets), and 6 other national resources including Images of England.

If you can't find what you need, please don't hesitate to email us at archive@english-heritage.org.uk. We will try our best to help.

Honister Via Ferrata

Planning permission has been given for an amended route for the extension to the Honister Via Ferrata

Kirkstone Pass Slate Quarry

Kirkstone Quarries went into administration in March. Burlington Stone have announced that they have bought the name and rights to quarry stone at Petts Quarry on Kirkstone Pass and Brathay Quarry near Ambleside. They will incorporate Kirkstone's Brathay Blue Black stone, Sea Green stone and Silver Grey stone with their current offering of six Lake District slates. They will not however take on the 39 staff who lost their jobs when Kirkstone Quarries folded. (*WMG 17.5.12*)

Part of Allenheads history revealed again



The Allenheads 'Horse Track' was an inclined passage along which horses could be walked into the mine. It started close to the village centre and descended in a corkscrew fashion into the workings. The entrance was sealed when the mine was reworked, subsequently it was filled and the rail around its edge damaged, after which it became overgrown and difficult to locate. It is an interesting and historically important feature of this famous mining village and recently there have been moves by The Friends of Killhope and the Allenheads Trust, along with the Bywell Estate, to clear the vegetation and dig out the entrance section. In due course the Friends of Killhope and Allenheads Trust intend to install an interpretation panel explaining the site. (*Don Borthwick - NAMHO Newsletter*)

Carrock Mine

Carrock mine conservation management Plan

I have been working on a conservation management plan for Carrock Mine near Mosedale which is a scheduled monument. The work is being prepared for the Caldbeck Commoners, Dalemain Estate and the Lake District National Park and is being funded by Natural England. The intention behind the plan is to obtain funding to conserve the mining remains on the south side of Grainsgill Beck which date to the early years of the 20th century and which are in a perilous condition, however the plan has to look at the wider management of the scheduled area to make sure that any conservation works do not conflict with the other geological and ecological interests.

Caroline Hardie, Archaeo-Environment Ltd

Summary

Carrock Fell Mine is located within an area of complex geology which has resulted in intermittent exploitation of lead and tungsten ores. The area consists of the remains of some mid to late 19th century lead mining and tungsten mining dating from the early 20th century until the 1980s. There are five important mineral veins at Carrock Fell; from west to east they are the Wilson, Smith, Harding, Waterfall and Emerson veins. The Emerson vein was the first to be worked and produced significant amounts of tungsten. In the 20th century the Harding vein was the most productive, yielding the tungsten ores Wolframite and Scheelite. This mine is the only example of a tungsten mine in the country outside Cornwall.

Although the site was landscaped in the 1980s and most of the late 20th century mill buildings destroyed, those remains which dated to the early days of tungsten mining were left intact, as were the many tramways, dams, leats and trenches. The most visible remains are those of Coomb Height Mill which consist of an ore bin, a hopper and crushing mill with

dressing rooms. Large spoil tips can also be readily seen, although these were reworked in the 1930s and 1980s. Sufficient survives on site for it to be possible to track the progress of extraction through the dressing process using the remains on the ground, however the date of some of these remains is not always clear.

The aim of this report is to develop a strategy for the informed management and conservation of the Carrock Fell Mine, some of which might be developed through further agri-environmental funding. Such a strategy must be based on a sound understanding of the various aspects which contribute to the multi-faceted significance of the mines including visitor enjoyment, setting and educational potential, as well as their archaeological, geological and ecological interests. An assessment of factors which might potentially jeopardise any aspects of this significance are then considered and a strategy and management plan proposed to mitigate against any of these potential risks and ensure the future preservation, accessibility and enjoyment of the site for all.

The mine is included on the English Heritage Monuments at Risk register. Like many of the country's industrial sites, Carrock Mine is in a state of gradual decline, largely due to the exposed nature of the remains. While many of the remains are relatively stable earthworks, the extant mill remains at Coomb Hill are in a perilous condition and require urgent conservation. If this is not carried out, there is a high risk that the buildings will slip downhill resulting in a considerable loss of significance.

The site is on land that is the subject of open access and this does not always sit easily with the remaining open stopes which are potentially hazardous to humans and livestock. However much of this is in hand with the Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society carrying out remedial works as part of an English Heritage management agreement.

The Cumbria Way also runs through the centre of the site, making use of an old mining track. This means that the site also has some interpretation potential, although the nature of the site in a remote location means that its facilities will always be limited and visitor numbers low. The important geology does attract a number of universities to the site and there is scope to offer improved facilities through linking with existing organisations such as the Blencathra Visitor Centre or Threlkeld Mining Museum. Interpretation panels would be unnecessarily obtrusive in this wild landscape and so off site interpretation using the latest smart phone technology offers considerable information to users, without the landscape impact or the maintenance difficulties. The price of smart phone applications is still relatively high and to be most economically efficient, it may be preferable for templates for apps to be commissioned by the National Park for use on a wide range of sites and then to have up to four adapted for Carrock at a much reduced cost. However acknowledging that not everyone has access to smart phones or the internet, then one panel has been recommended in the unofficial car parking area located on top of a former spoil tip (NGR 332303 532933). The wording of interpretation will need to be checked by Natural England to ensure that it does not conflict with the geological or ecological interest.

Consultation has also flagged up desires for an education pack and possibly some form of underground access. The latter may not be possible for some time and the insurance implications will inevitably result in some caution, but once more urgent matters are attended

to, it may be worth exploring further. Funding for education packs is not always simple and there are many possibilities from a simple downloadable fact sheet and discovery boxes to more complex interactive web sites with games and notes for site visits. To be viable, any large scale offers would need to be based on the wider geology and mining of the Lake District and could therefore be the subject of Heritage Lottery Fund applications. Other options from geo-trails, linking up with existing geological festivals and a community excavation have also been considered and wherever possible, it has been suggested that best use is made of the existing strong volunteer expertise of CATMHS who have already carried out research, excavation and conservation works to this and other mining sites in the Lake District.

The survey work for this report was carried out in February 2012 and while it was possible to identify most archaeological features, it was not possible to survey the ecology. As a result, the significance of the ecology was not always apparent, although the site is designated as a SSSI for its ecological and geological significance and forms part of a Special Area of Conservation. Consequently future conservation works will need to take into account the need to consult with Natural England and build into work programmes the possible need for ecological surveys. However the nature of the remains in most urgent need for conservation at Coomb Height Mill are not sufficiently sheltered for bats and therefore this should not be an issue there. Mine shafts do potentially offer habitats for bats and so remedial measures to make them safe need to be designed so that bats are not disturbed and that any capping or grilles are designed to allow free movement by bats.

From: Jennifer Little [<mailto:admin@dalemain.com>]
To: Caroline Hardie
Subject: RE: Carrock Mine Conservation Management Plan

Dear Caroline

Jo Edwards and I have had a useful meeting with Warren Allinson and I have talked to Rob Vatcher and the Caldbeck Commoners. It is hoped to proceed with a plan in which it is possible for Warren Allinson to go forward with some of the works which you recommend with funding through the HLS application. You will appreciate that any such works rely on the enthusiasm and energy of the volunteers in CATHMS.

Thank you for the enormous amount of work which you have put into the compilation of all this material.

Robert Hasell- McCosh

Email from our Belgian member, Rudy Devreis.

I have already told you my admiration (Tyler's AGM) for what you, CATHMS, achieved on the Carrock entrance! It has always been a favourite mine, and to see it in its original shape as I saw it in MP COOPER's book was a real thrill. So far I have always been in via srt descend and hope to do it one day through the...door. I do have but one regret and that is that I was born too early, and not living in the Lake District.

For Warren and the whole team...CHAPEAU!!!

Bill Shaw Mineral Collection to Kendal Museum

The Bill Shaw mineral collection has been bought from Keswick Mining Museum with the help of private donors, and grants from Arts Council England and Hanson Heidelberg Cement. Kendal Museum opens Wednesday to Saturday 10:30am to 5pm.

Hext railway

Our late President, Major J W B Hext, direct descendant of Coniston Copper mines manager and owner John Baratt, who lived at Holywath, Coniston, was a railway enthusiast. He had a narrow guage steam railway built in the grounds of Holywath, and when the Coniston railway closed in 1965 he incorporated a number of items from that railway into his layout, including some signaling gear. The railway was sold at auction at the Coniston Institute on Saturday May 26th, raising £56,000 for his estate.

Revised Coniston Trail Guide

The Coniston Old man Trail leaflet written by Alastair Cameron has been revised. There is a new map and a colour photograph. It consists of two A3 sides which will fold in the same way as the Copper mines and Tilberthwaite ones. Thanks are due to Alistair and to Mark Simpson and John Aird for their input.

Ruskin Museum Exhibition



The exhibition of Jane Foale's mineral based art work at the Ruskin museum, , opened on 30th June and will run until November. Ian Matheson provided the CATMHS wall mounted display covering CAT's involvement with the Coniston Copper mines, and Mike Mitchell a digital presentation which will run continuously on a 40 inch TV screen. We are grateful to Jane Foale and to curator Vicky Slowe for the opportunity to display our activities.

An example of Jane's work



Jane & Alan Foal setting up



Mike Mitchell with the digital display

Gold Mines of Wales

A report by Snowden Mining Consultants for Gold Mines of Wales (GMOW) says there could be gold worth £125 million in the Dolgellau area. Ed McDermott of GMOW claims “There could be another Clogau. If that were the case, we could be looking at significant gold production.” GMOW have an option from the Crown estate to explore for gold over an area of 120 km². They hope to start exploration drilling within six months.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-west-wales-17756325>

<http://www.goldminesofwales.com/> (18/04/2012) (*Alastair Lings, NAMHO Newsletter*)

Mines Forum meeting, 15th June 2012

John Hodgson reported that Eleanor Kingston was now back at work following her maternity leave.

Backbarrow Furnace

A revised planning application is expected in July for work to start again. It is hoped that this will enable some conservation of the historic buildings.

Keswick mining Museum

The museum is to close in October, and Ian Tyler’s collection is up for sale. The Willie Shaw mineral collection has already been purchased by Kendal Museum. There was concern that the large collection of artefacts from the Lake District mines might be lost and some discussion ensued as to how they might be conserved and exhibited, without conclusion. It was suggested that a sub group might be formed to consider purchasing them. JH said that he would contact Ian Tyler.

Threlkeld Mining Museum

Donald Angus reported the John and Phillipa Tindal had retired. Ian Hartland will continue but opening is likely to be irregular.

Roundups

CATMHS

Work continues to clear the internal blockage at Tilberthwaite Penny Rigg Horse Level.

Maintenance has been carried out to the drainage at Greenside Lucy Tongue Level. Warren Alison has taken a group of LDNPA officials including CEO Richard Leafe into Lucy Tongue in order to show them the works which we have carried out. They were duly impressed and favourably disposed to our future proposals.

John Hodgson said that the LDNPA had been lucky to have CATMHS’s enthusiasm and expertise at Greenside and that long term management must be considered. It was a National Park responsibility and CAT could not be relied on to do it long term. A separate meeting of relevant bodies is required to identify properties in need of long term management. The need for an interpretive board at Greenside was discussed.

On 22nd May CAT hosted a visit to Carrock mine for a group of officials and trainees from English Heritage. Andrew Davidson said it was valuable and expressed his thanks. Warren Allison said that as a result of our restoration of the Carrock Portal we now have good relationship with Dalemain Estates which should stand us in good stead.

Ian Matheson reported on the forthcoming exhibition at the Ruskin Museum, adding that CAT is seeking a home for the display when the exhibition closes in November.

The Coniston Old Man Slate trail leaflet has been revised and published.

COMRU. Nothing to report.

MoLES

Yewthwaite mine is still on the go. There has been a breakthrough into the higher levels and a full survey is to follow. Some photographs were circulated to the Forum.

Alastair Cameron

Kirkstone Quarry has closed and may cause a retraction local slate industry.

High Fell Quarry, Coniston. G Tarr and R Myers will want to retire soon.

Honister is working well. Interpretive panels are to be situated on site. A new visitor attraction using Burma bridges to replace the Via Ferratta will open soon. It will be spectacular; the Daily Telegraph is to do a feature on it.

Coniston: An application for Scheduling of the Old Man Quarries has been submitted to the LDNPA by the Coniston Local History Group. Newcastle University are examining samples of spoil.

Environment Agency

Force Crag: Two bore holes have been completed and a camera sent down revealed that the Adit Level is clear. The water in the Crown Hole has suddenly dried up. Water level in Zero Level has been monitored and is stable +/- 1 metre.

There is concern that water drained from Level 1 might at some time overwhelm the treatment plant at Zero. The aim is to de-water Zero Level by direct drilling later this year. The alternative would be to re-open Level 1, but that would be too expensive. A consideration is to de-water the mine at Level 3 in order to prevent water going further down into the mine. The collapse in Level 1 is becoming more extensive.

The pilot treatment plant has not been as efficient as had been hoped. Water seems to be shortcutting the media and getting out too fast.

An open Public Meeting held at Braithwaite Village Hall had been well attended and positive. Newcastle University are continuing their monitoring

Gategill: V notch wiers are now in place and monitoring is ongoing. There is concern that flooding might result as the corrosive effluent rots metal culverting. In future effluent from Woodends Level will have to be piped to a treatment plant. talks are ongoing. Donald Angus said that there is possible ground seepage at the lowest level of the mine below the A66 road.

Carwood, Aspatia:

The coal mine here has been designated as contaminated land.

Greenside:

There has been consultation between the Environment Agency and Eden Council regarding the designation of contaminated land. There are no human health problems. Monitoring continues.

Coniston:

There is no money for Environment Agency activity at Coniston as yet, but it is expected to be a future project.

Recent high flood levels in Wales has led to heavy metals washing from mine sites.

National Trust

A ladder is to be placed at Stoneycroft Gill, Eskdale to enable ghyll scramblers to exit without causing erosion problems.

The BBC Coast program has visited Borrowdale Wadd mines with a view to producing a film on the story of graphite.

LDNPA

John Hodgson said that there was a limit on funding of capital works. Claims should be submitted now. CATMHS may submit an application for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant for conservation work at Carrock mine and at Penny Rigg mill, Tilberthwaite.

Disappointment was felt at the failure of the recent World Heritage Status bid for the Lake District National Park. It may be re-submitted in 2013 for nomination in 2015. Industrial Archaeology is now viewed as more significant than previously.

Time Team at Coniston.

Penny Middleton, who produced the Conservation Management Plan for Coniston, had contacts with Time Team. She had telephoned John Hodgson five weeks ago. They are interested in doing a program on the story of Elizabethan mining and would be interested in Cobblers Level and the Back Strings. A survey might establish whether or not the huts above Levers Water are Elizabethan in origin. Subject to approvals the investigation will take place in the last week of July. CATMHS to be involved, and may be able to investigate Sebastian Level whilst filming is taking place. CATMHS to ensure that people are available to assist. There will be an opportunity to improve illegal fencing in the area. Philip Johnston, who owns the Bonsor Dressing Floors, is to be informed.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 4th October at the LDNPA offices at Murley Moss, Kendal

IM.

Keswick Mining Museum

Mr Ian Tyler, the proprietor of the Keswick Mining Museum, has been trying to sell the museum as a going concern for some three years. Unfortunately he appears to have failed in this respect and has been unable to secure a sale to date. He now plans to close the museum on the 1st October 2012 as he wishes to retire.

Ian is now selling off the more valuable items so that he can close the museum by the end of September. Ian is putting all the items in the museum up for sale together with items from his personal collection and archive material.

Those wishing to purchase items may do so by appointment or at the museum which is open in Keswick from 10.00 am to 4 pm (except for Sundays and Mondays). Note that Ian is unable to accept cards in payment for items purchased. Ian may be contacted at the Keswick Mining Museum, Otley House, Otley Road, Keswick, CA12 5LE - 017687 800055 or on 01228 561883. [Email coppermaidkes@aol.com](mailto:coppermaidkes@aol.com)

Colin Woolard.

Keswick Mining Museum
Otley House
Otley Road
Keswick
CA12 5LE
017687 80055

www.keswickminingmuseum.co.uk
email coppermaidkes@aol.com

Blue Rock Publica
Otley House
Otley Road
Keswick
CA12 5LE
01228 561883

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

5.6.2012

Re Keswick Mining Museum & Ian Tyler Collection
Sale of Artefacts
Minerals - Miners Lamps
Books - Ephemera - Artefacts

Dear *Steve*,

After failing to find a buyer for the Keswick Mining Museum collection, I have decided after careful consideration to liquidate the contents including my own private collection, of lamps and books etc.

I am offering you the opportunity to see if you wish to purchase anything within these collections prior to it being offered to the general public. This will not be a "Dutch Auction" and will be on a first come first served basis.

Interested? telephone or email for an appointment. This is a one off opportunity, details of the public sale will appear on the Web Site.

Note we do not have the facility to accept "Cards" for transactions.

It is my intention to close the Museum by the end of October 2012.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Ian
Ian Tyler

Established 1988 Proprietor Ian Tyler
Consultants : Cumbria Education Services, English Heritage, National Trust,
Environment Agency, The Lake District National Park, Lancaster University

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
THIS
MUSEUM WILL CLOSE

27TH OCTOBER 2012

SALE STARTS

SATURDAY 21ST AUGUST
BOOKS & EPHEMERA

SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER
MINERALS & FOSSILS

SATURDAY 6TH OCTOBER
LAMPS & INSTRUMENTS

MUSEUM CLOSES
27TH OCTOBER 2012



Advanced Notice and Call for Papers

NAMHO Conference to be held at Aberystwyth University 28 June to 1 July 2013

Mining Legacies: examining the impact of historic mineral working and ore processing on land, landscapes and perceptions of place

A three to four day conference looking at the multiple legacies of historic mineral extraction with the opportunity for field visits to relevant mining sites in the Ceredigion uplands.

Over the last four thousand years mining has left a footprint on the environment, leaving both visible and hidden legacies for today and the future. Evidence of past mineral extraction can be prominent in the landscape as spoil heaps, discharges, dressing floors, mine entrances, derelict buildings, rusting machinery, transport infrastructure and settlements. Other remains are less visible, such as earthworks indicating sub-surface remains and subterranean workings, heavy metal residues, sometimes dating back thousands of years captured in polar ice caps or peat deposits. Less tangible still are the socio-economic, political and cultural impacts of mining, such as in the sense of place and identity, the development of heritage and alternative economic pathways, and the moral dilemmas of current and future mineral exploitation that these historic sites have often provoked and represented over time. Papers are invited on all aspects of the mining legacy.

Investigating, in some cases, rectifying and also promoting the post industrial landscape can inform our knowledge of mining over the last four millennia. This conference aims to bring practitioners from a variety of academic disciplines, industry, the public sector, heritage charities, and independent researchers together and provide a stimulating platform for the transfer of knowledge and expertise.

For further information contact: Dr Peter Cloughton: p.f.cloughton@exeter.ac.uk (01437 532578) or Dr Catherine Mills: c.j.mills@stir.ac.uk (01786 467583)

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Swaledale Meet.

The purpose of the weekend meet was to explore some of the many Lead Mines in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale. There is an extensive orefield which runs parallel to the Swale to the north, and is bisected by Arkengarthdale. Previous CATMHS meets have looked at the Sir Francis Engine, the Brandy Bottle Incline and Hard Level to mention a few of the more notable sites. The meets described below were designed to explore the most densely mined area on the western side of Arkengarthdale (Saturday), and the most westerly of the major workings at Beldi Hill / Swinnergill near Keld.

Saturday May 12th

Present: Chris Cowdery (ML), Capt John Aird (retd), Jon Knowles (not ML), John Ashby and Lesley Aird

The meet convened at the bottom of Turf Moor Hush. At this point John Ashby departed to secure himself some sandwiches for lunch. Thus shortly later, the group reconvened at the bottom of Turf Moor Hush. The plan for the day was to investigate a number of levels leading from Moulds Side (Arkengarthdale) into the vein complex, with the ever patient Mrs. Aird accompanying us on the walking part.

The ML has been unable to determine the age of Turf Moor Hush, nor Turf Moor level which is easy to locate in the sole of Turf Moor Hush. The level runs straight into the hillside for a considerable distance, working the Moulds Sun and Jacobs North veins. The probable connection with Moulds Level (approx 50m below) was reached, followed by a short stretch of badly broken ground which terminated by being completely run-in. The level contained sections of stone arching typical of the North Pennines. (*Cover pic*) At one section a temporary structure was present beneath the end of the stone arching, which the group concluded was part of the apparatus for building the arch. Parts of the floor contain fine clog prints, and is railed by fish-belly rail and some rather substantial 'T' rail.



The roof of the level just cuts the floor of a small level running at 90 degrees. Inspection of this small level indicated that it probably predates Turf Moor Level, and was worked by a now run-in shaft. Towards the portal, a branch level runs off, which shortly becomes an impressive dig (one of many in this area). The author believes this to be the leading towards the sump to the Foregill level.

The group returned to day, to discover Mrs. Aird reading in the sun. Lunch was taken, and on account of the fine (if not windy) weather, the ML decided to lead the group to Danby Level. This involved climbing Turf Moor Hush, taking the old road to the Chert Quarries along the top

of Tottergill Pasture, then contouring across the Hungry Hushes. The ML would like to observe that contouring across heavily disturbed ground does involve a few feet of ascent and descent at times.

The society has explored Danby level in the past, see NL 37 for the report.

Danby level approaches the vein complex from the opposite side to Turf Moor level, thus the two levels are exploring the same vein group at their inbye ends. In fact, it is also suggested by Dunham and Wilson, vol 2, pg 80, fig 2, that Danby Level connected with Turf Moor level

Mrs. Aird left the group at this point and returned to the C.B. Inn. The group entered Danby level, armed with plans from 1840 and 1883. The plans mostly agreed with each other, although significant features were omitted from both. Exploration of a region not shown on either plan discovered an area full of carved graffiti and soot graffiti dating from the 1700's. Interestingly this predates either plan, so the reason for its omission is not clear. The levels intersect significant natural rifts in the limestone, although none large enough to enter. Jon Knowles was disappointed by this fact as it prevented the indulgence in a spot of caving, a particular passion of his. The group failed to locate the underground horse whim as time was running out, however a small flat working had evidence of pick marks. Danby Level clearly is deserving of a longer trip.

The group returned to day, and walked back to the vehicles along the moor top, admiring impressive mining remains.

It is the ML's opinion that one day the level network in this area will be of comparable complexity to Nenthead, with the possibility of a Great Swaledale Traverse, entering at Moulds level and emerging at Blind Gill level (Gunnarside Gill).

John Ashby kindly drove JK and the ML to the C.B. Inn. However, the alarming nature of both the driving and the vehicle left both passengers needing a triple scotch immediately the journey ended. A pleasant evening was taken in the C.B. Inn enjoying fine food, wine and company.

Sunday May 13th

Present: Chris Cowdery (ML), Capt John Aird (ret'd), Jon Knowles (not ML) and John Ashby
Mrs. Aird left the group to visit family, leaving 'Mad Grandpa' to go mining again.

The group met in Keld village. It should be noted that the facilities in the village are excellent, the entrepreneurial talents of the farmer eclipse even Mark Waite. The plan for Sunday was to walk to Swinnergill via the Beldi Hill Low Level and Dressing Floor, ascend Swinnergill to Swinnergill mine, then return via the higher parts of Beldi Hill and Crackpot Hall.



The veins from the Beldi Hill mine cross the Swinner Gill and continue eastwards through Swinnergill Mine to form the backbone of the orefield. The Beldi Hill Dressing Floor has been consolidated by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. It is approached by a now deteriorated but clearly once substantial track which departs from the main bridleway north of the Swale and descends gently passing across the Landy Level tips to arrive at the Beldi Hill Dressing Floor and Low Level.



The group inspected and pondered the operation of the dressing floor and wheel-pit before entering the Low Level. The Low Level runs straight into the hillside before terminating. A collapsed rise shortly before the end is presumably the Golden Ball Rise. It was in this level that in 1882, after firing a shot two men heard the ominous rush of water in heavy volume. Quickly realising their danger, they rushed along the narrow dark drift, and down the rise to escape the flood.

On reaching the bottom, the older man flung his younger companion into an empty waggon, and made for the entrance. This was barely reached before the water overtook them, but they just managed to escape being submerged, though the water filled more than half the depth of the level. They had broken into Landy Level, 50m above.

The group returned to day, and followed the track as it continues to the Beldi Hill Smelt Mill at the foot of Swinnergill. This building is now almost completely ruined, however it would have been an impressive sight when working. It was built in 1771 and operated until 1883 (although not continuously).



Taking the footpath up Swinnergill, one soon passes Parkes Level. This is now almost completely sumped on account of debris from river floods obscuring the entrance. The author feels that a few hours with a metal bar to move some of the larger rocks would permit access to the level.

Parkes level is the site of a lengthy legal dispute which took place during the 1700's. It is too long and complex to reproduce here - see Further Reading for suggested reference material.

The group continued to ascend to Swinnergill Mine, taking shelter from the gale force winds behind the ruins of the smelt mill for lunch.

The history of Swinnergill is entwined with that of Beldi Hill as the drainage for the two was shared by Parkes Level. The Swinnergill Main or Low level was driven in approximately the 1750's, raising 370 tons between 1751 and 1756. The entrance is splendidly situated where East Grain joins Swinnergill. Like Parkes Level, the entrance has suffered a little from debris being washed in, but after a short crawl the level regains full height. An underground shaft takes water flowing from the mine, which the author believes must connect with Parkes Level. Following the level on the Sun Vein shows a multitude of small stopes and flat workings. The bottom of Smiddy Shaft lies to the side of the level, with water percolating through a blockage. An earlier inspection of Smiddy Shaft on the surface shows a considerable volume of water backed up on top of the blockage. The level continues to the Whim Shaft, which appears to be in excellent condition and could be worth scaling.



Past the Whim Shaft, the level continues until bad ground led the ML to take the decision to terminate progress in that direction. The stone arching had pinched in such that the gap was perhaps one foot wide instead of three feet, and the going didn't appear to improve. However, a brave explorer may well push the level further. Returning to the underground shaft, the crosscut towards the Middle and North Veins was followed for a short period to a stope. John Ashby ascended the stope but returned with no reports of the mine-nymphs he'd been looking for. The group then returned to day, and took the high footpath back down Swinnergill towards Crackpot Hall.

Shelter from the still howling gale was taken in the Crackpot Smithy, before entering Crackpot Hall Level.

Crackpot Hall Level was clearly a significant access to the mine, judging by the size of the tips at the level mouth. It was also an early level, as it is significantly smaller than the other levels explored. This lack of height gave rise to mutterings from certain members of the group, comments such as 'I've lost the will' and 'I'm cracking up / must be crackers' were heard by the ML. The Sun Vein Sump was passed, which appeared to be blocked, and the group soon reached at junction and some poorer ground. The cross section of the level is interesting. A shelf is present approx 2/3rds of the way up



the side of the level for the entire length of the tunnel. It is remarkably convenient for supporting ones doubled over body, but it is a significant effort for just that. After photographing the graffiti, and attempting a photo of the level cross-section, the group 'cracked on' back to the portal as time precluded further exploration. However, the ML notes that Crackpot Hall Level does have potential for more exploration.

The group then returned to Keld, passing Landy Level en-route. A fine cup of tea and cake was taken in the 'shop' next to the car-park before everybody departed on their way. It should be noted that JK's resolve to remain 'Not ML' was held throughout the weekend with only a small number of minor transgressions. He should be complimented on his restraint.

Further reading:

Swaledale It's Mines and Smelt Mill,s by Mike Gill.

The Arkengarthdale Mines, by L.O.Tyson. (British Mining No. 53)

Geology of the Northern Pennine Orefield, Volume 2, Stainmore to Craven, by Dunham and Wilson.

The Lead Industry of Wensleydale and Swaledale, vol 1, The Mines, by Arthur Raistrick.

Extract from the
Liverpool Mercury
13 March 1840

Submitted by
Peter Sandbach

SINGULAR ACCIDENT.—A melancholy and distressing accident, attended with the loss of two lives, occurred at the iron ore mines in the neighbourhood of Ulverstone, on Thursday afternoon last. The men, or a part of them at least, employed in the pits on Lindal Moor, belonging to the **Newland Company**, about three miles and a half south of Ulverstone; it appears, had agreed amongst themselves to club for a drink, as they term it. This had to be brought from a public-house, at a distance of between two and three miles. As soon as the materials for the intended jollification were obtained, the parties assembled to the number of twelve or fourteen, to regale them *more minorum*. Whilst, however, they were thus enjoying themselves, seated in the open air, on the green sward, the ground suddenly opened, and two of the number were precipitated into the gulf, and the earth falling upon them from each side of the crack or rent, closed over them, and they were thus buried alive, several feet deep in the ground. Some of the survivors escaped with the greatest difficulty, one being drawn out after having been partially engulfed. The sufferers, James Kendall, of Martin, for many years overlooker of the works, and Wm. Thompson, of Holm's Green, were not dug out till after three hours' hard labour. What makes the circumstance more singular, several laden carts had passed over the place during the early part of the day without any dangerous symptoms appearing. It is supposed that a portion of the propwood, by which the upper stratum of the earth is supported, had given way, either from decay or other cause, and thus caused this most melancholy occurrence. An inquest was held on the bodies on Saturday, by Wm. Blendal, Esq., coroner, when a verdict of accidental death was returned.—*From a Correspondent.*

Evening Meet, Lickle Valley, May 16th

Present: P Sandbach, P Timewell D Robson M Fleming, E King and dog.

From the Hawk car park, we set off up Appletree Worth beck to a short adit beside the track. It goes in about twenty feet but I have no information what was worked here. Graphite was suggested as the shale at the entrance appeared black and greasy. Then it was back to the road and up the hill to Stephenson Ground, passing the two bracken kilns on the way.



Hexagonal basalt fence at Jackson Ground



An old road leads over the fell to Seathwaite. We followed it a short way before following the contour to Carter Ground, pausing to admire the quality and quantity of the stone walls. At Carter Ground there is the site of Dunnerdale iron mine. It was worked by the Carnforth Iron Co and produced 2100 tons of ore in 1872 and 2800 tons in 1874. All that remains is some subsidence along the line of a vein, a small spoilheap and a loading platform.

W Carter put his name on the gate in 1663.

A path from Carter Ground leads down to the River Lickle and a substantial stone bridge. It is high enough above the rushing water to make the complete lack of a parapet feel rather un-comfortable. Close to the bridge is an adit, slightly longer than the one at Appletree Worth Beck. It offers no clues as to what was worked here and is unlikely to have made anyone's fortune.



Reference: The Mineral Statistics, R Burt et al.

Evening Meet, Black Coombe, July 18th

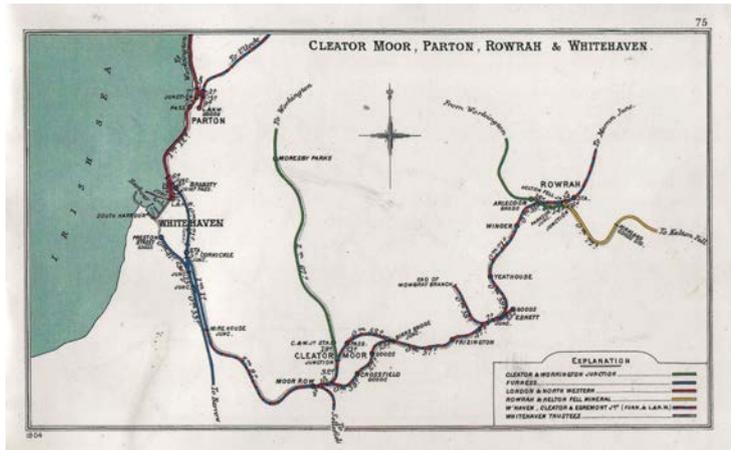
No report for tonight. Alan went off on his own, dog found something unspeakably disgusting to roll in, least said soonest mended.

Peter Sandbach.

**Evening Bike ride,
Cleator Moor, June 3rd**

Present: P Sandbach, D Robson.

This cycle track based on disused railway lines and running through the heart of the West Cumbrian ore field seemed too good to miss. Most people did, but I venture to suggest that there may be other cases, probably involving disused railway lines, where the best way to view a minescape is from a pushbike.



Wikipedia map showing the railways that made up the cycleway



This iron trough was made to carry the beck over broken ground at High House mine in the 1880's.

Barrel-roofed gunpowder store at Crossgill mine.



Dave says you can take a mountain bike anywhere. Note fluorescent cycle clips for use underground.

The Kendall Family – Ironmasters, 1700 - 1807.

Newsletter 104, August 2011, gave details of our visit to the water powered, charcoal fired, iron furnace at Dyfi in mid Wales. At the end of it I conjectured about the Staffordshire family of ironmasters, the Kendalls, and the links they had with both Dyfi and our local furnace at Duddon.

This link has now been confirmed after finding an excellent Kendall family history at www.rotherhamweb.co.uk/h/kendall.htm followed by the original source at the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB see below). This family history has been written and researched by the well known author, researcher, lecturer and authority on mining and ore smelting etc. Mr Brian G Awty.

The opening sentence of the article explains: “The Kendall family, ironmasters of Staffordshire, Furness and Brecknockshire, together with the families of Cotton and Hall played a leading role in the development of the iron industry in Britain between the mid seventeenth and the early nineteenth centuries.” It goes on to explain, in two A4 sheets, the start with Edward Kendall (1684-1746) of Austrey, Warwickshire and his involvement by 1702 as an agent under John Wheeler in the Foley partnership for the Stour Valley and Forest of Dean ironworks.

The first reference to an involvement in our area came in 1718 when Edward Kendall was a partner with Edward Hall and Daniel Cotton at Cunsey furnace. Edward died in 1746 and his widow and son Jonathan (1714-1791) carried on the work and in particular the involvement with William Latham at Duddon. Mention is also made to the Dyfi furnace where Jonathan was involved with his cousin Ralph Vernon and to the Goatfield furnace (1755) on Loch Fyne by Jonathan’s brother Henry (1718-1787). Henry was established in Ulverson by 1750 and partnered William Latham at Duddon.

Note : Goatfield = Craleckan = Furnace.

These are just a few excerpts from the full history but enough to indicate the widespread involvement of this remarkable family. The full article is well worth accessing especially for those members interested in our iron smelting history.

Note: Brian Awty also has articles in the ODNB on the Cotton and Hall families.

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

This massive enterprise was started between 1885 and 1890, followed by regular additions and reviews. It now covers 61 volumes, 61,000 pages, about 70 million words and details of about 58,000 people, and is increasing annually.

Access is available by subscription but many libraries & other organisations pay this fee. Cumbria County Council subscribe and individuals who hold a library ticket can access the entries on individual private computers as follows: www.oxforddnb.com, choose “public home page” followed by the 14 digit number on your library ticket. This gives unlimited free access to the people contained in the biography.

John Helme.

In the archives.

One thing leads to another

Last year Newland Furnace Trust members thought it would be a good idea to produce a booklet to inform visitors and perhaps raise some money to spend on hydraulic lime. Or they may have been expecting another hard winter and looking for somewhere warmer than the store to spend Friday nights. At some point it was felt that we needed to know more about where the ore went, so Paul Timewell and I had a good look through the BDB2 documents. Many interesting things were found such as the ledger of the Melfort company store (BDB2/2/3). The store supplied the local gentry and shepherds as well as the gunpowder workers and most people made their own clothes.

There may be an article in the future about where the ore went but for now it can be summarised as masses to Hindpool, lots to the Kirklees Hall Iron Co, later the Wigan Coal & Iron Co., and most of the rest to the West Midlands, as shown below.

Sales of ore, 1868 and 1875 from BDB2/5/1

		By rail to Hindpool			Via Ulverston		Wigan Coal & Iron Co			Shipped			
		Blast	Whitriggs	Dark	Blast	Whitriggs	Ground Whitriggs	Blast	Dark	Ground Puddling	Blast	Whitriggs	Total
1868		30644	33731	108	18529	8888	351	12776	2178	0	4879	510	112594
1875		15265	82020	0	14092	0	3764	6087	0	34339	0	0	155567

It seems that Whitriggs ore is synonymous with puddling ore. I suspect that the figure of 34,000 tons of ground puddling to Wigan was the result of a clerk failing to alter a column heading to "blast ore".

The Lilleshall iron Company of Donnington took 6,773 tons of blast ore in 1858 and 5,312 tons in 1860. We also learned for the first time about a depot at Connah's Quay.

While studying "Deliveries by rail (2 vols) 1858 – 1861" (BDB2/4/1) the archivist, Susan Benson happened to mention that they had acquired the Wadham diaries. Now Edward Wadham drew up most of the mine plans that you are ever likely to see and employed the mine inspectors who wrote the volumes of mine reports which describe how the Furness iron mines were worked. I want to see what he had to say, but I want it in a legible and searchable form. As described in the May newsletter a project was started to make a transcription.

Waiting for the archivist to produce the Wadham diaries, I was idly looking through an index when I noticed BDX415, a box of W G Ainslie's papers, otherwise uncatalogued. William George Ainslie was the managing partner in Harrison Ainslie until the end of his life and a founding partner in the North Lonsdale Ironworks. I volunteered to do the cataloguing.

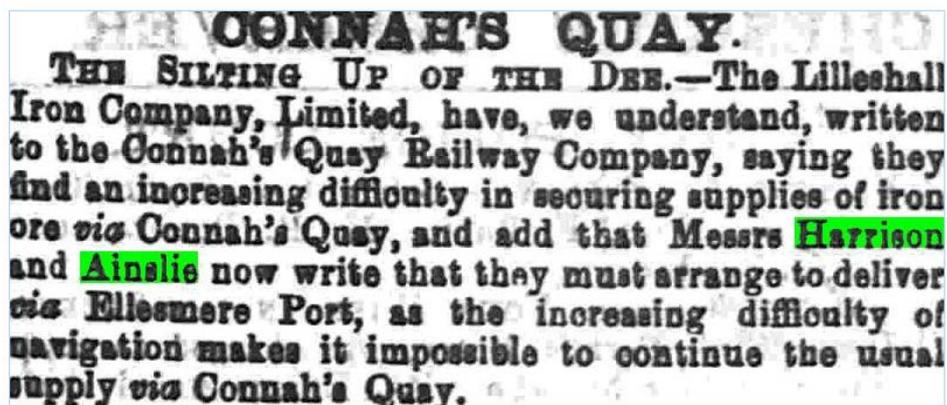
My camera will hold 704 pictures. That is 1,408 days, nearly 4 years of diaries. It takes 20 minutes to transfer 704 pictures from camera to computer, then they need to be put into folders. If you highlight 10 files with the intention of moving them to a folder called (say) "Wadham

1857", my computer takes it as an instruction to start copying. In the absence of instructions about where they should be copied to, it copies them to the folder they are already in. So "1857 496" begets "copy of 1857 496" and "copy of 1857 496" begets "copy (3) of copy (7) of copy (5) of 1857 496". When you cotton on to what is happening and start deleting the surplus files, the same problem occurs. Delete them one at a time and it will be a very long job. Delete them 10 at a time and they breed faster than you can get rid of them.

So I was in a ruthless mood when I deleted a folder full of zombie files, hit the wrong button and deleted the folder "my pictures".

Some of these pictures were newspaper clippings from Gale News Vault and these at least were salvageable. Searching the Gale News Vault for references to Harrison Ainslie I found this piece in the Cheshire Observer which says a great deal with admirable brevity:

Cheshire Observer 7 September 1879:



CONNAH'S QUAY.
THE SILTING UP OF THE DEE.—The Lilleshall Iron Company, Limited, have, we understand, written to the Connah's Quay Railway Company, saying they find an increasing difficulty in securing supplies of iron ore *via* Connah's Quay, and add that Messrs Harrison and Ainslie now write that they must arrange to deliver *via* Ellesmere Port, as the increasing difficulty of navigation makes it impossible to continue the usual supply *via* Connah's Quay.

It says that exports by sea continued long after they had ceased from Ulverston, that shipments from Chester River to the midlands were not necessarily via the Shropshire Union canal and that the ledger BDB2/5/1 was not a complete record of where the ore was sent.

Newland Booklet

Nearly finished, should be ready for Heritage Open Day at Newland Furnace.

BDB2/2/3

I was invited to write a paper on the role of the company store in Scotch industry but it is not my subject.

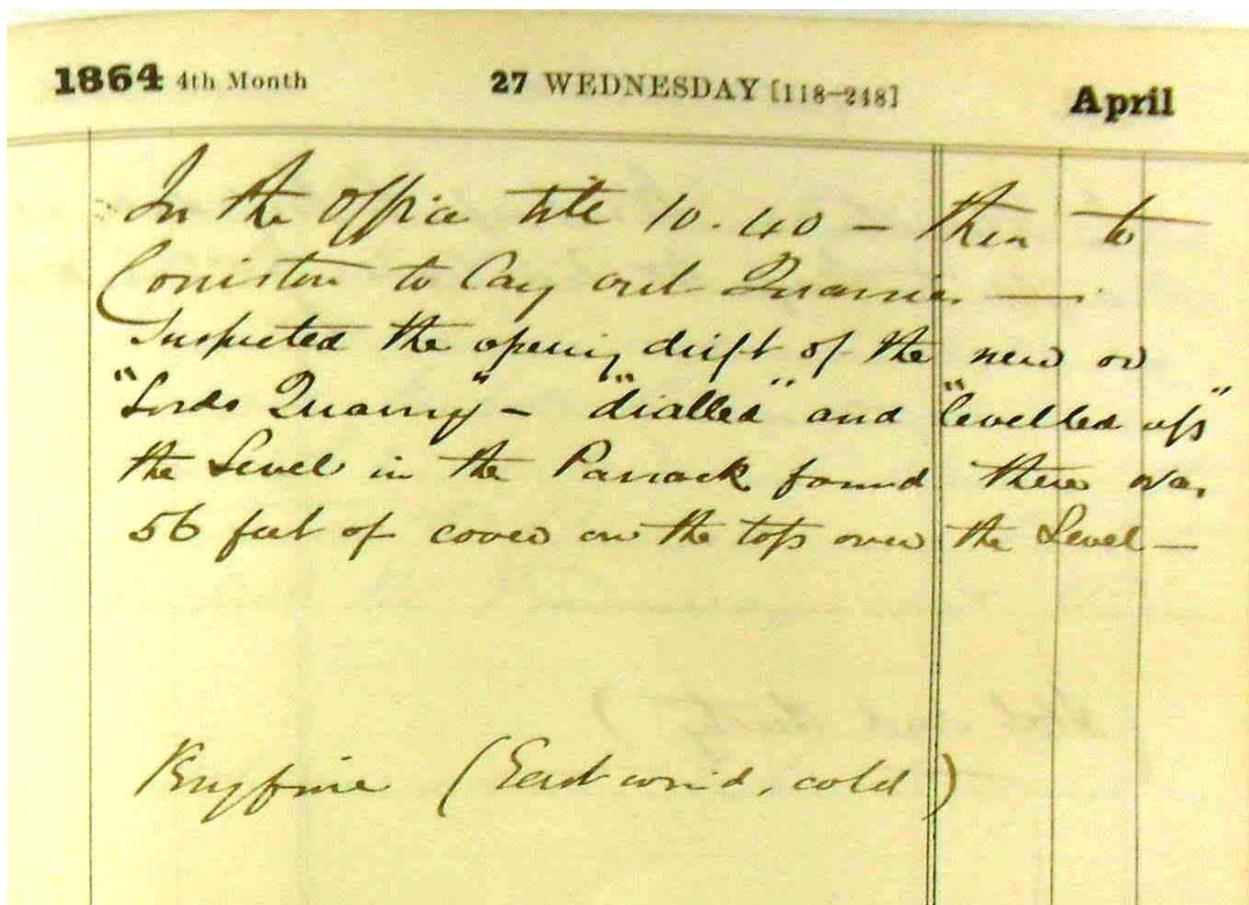
Wadham Diaries, BDX 653

11 volunteers are working on it, including myself. We could do with more help as there are 64 years to go at. We have photographed 27 years, transcribed 9 years; transcribed, checked and returned to the Records office 7 years. It is a start but this will be a long job and your help would be welcome.

BDX415

To date I have catalogued 6 bundles from about 12 and so far they are not as interesting as last month's weather forecast. As described in NL102, Benson Harrison and Thomas Roper left shares in trust for their heirs. Most of these shares fell into the hands of Walter Dowson after the death of other trustees. He then became a trustee under the will of Montague Ainslie so that

when the firm became a limited company in 1893 following the death of W G Ainslie, Walter Dowson controlled 3,796 out of 6,380 shares. As well as being chairman he was a partner in the company solicitors, Dowson Ainslie & Martinau.



Wadham 1862 520: A page of Edward Wadham's diary

Mrs Wadham (nee Mary Elizabeth Ainslie) became convinced that Walter Dowson was not acting in the interests of the other shareholders and started the case of Wadham v Dowson. The case continued for years in the manner of Jarndice v Jarndice until there was nothing left of the Company to fight over.

The end may be in sight for this box but I fear I will read it all again in the Wadham diaries if we get that far.

BD/KF 338/1 & 2

If I ever find the bottom of that box, there are two boxes of C S Kennedy's papers to catalogue.

CASCAT

When finished, the catalogue of the boxes mentioned above will not be found on A2A. A2A is old hat and indexes (and the contents of A2A) will now be found on CASCAT. This index is confined to Cumbria. Future internet searches of the archives should consult CASCAT and A2A and something called Discovery.

Peter Sandbach.

Trial of the Truepulse 360 R, a surveying revolution

What is a Truepulse? Simply it is a rangefinder device with built in optical sighting and digital magnetic compass. It can be used as a stand alone or with gps mapping software in a PDA. (ie Thales MobileMapper CE). It is accurate to 0.5 degree in Azimuth and 2 places of decimals horizontal. There is much info on the internet. For ease of operation a non magnetic tripod is required, for a survey , two.

The device was tried out by Mike Mitchell and myself, both by itself and with a Mobilemapper GPS, in Pennyrigg quarry, the closehead in the Horse Crag level, and in Mike Mitchell's garden.

Once the device is calibrated, the Truepulse is very easy to use. Look through the viewfinder to a target. One press of the fire button for horizontal distance, scroll down the in view menu to Az, fire again for bearing. That's it. An underground surveyors dream. Measurements are booked in the normal way, and can be fed into a CAD system. (or a toughened PDA with the relevant survey software) In other words the same way as you would use a compass and clinometer, only with one big difference, you can do large spaces and get horizontal and vertical distance plus bearings – accurately and easily. Note: magnetic influence precautions apply.

Above ground the device can be used with Digiterra mapping software being run on a MMCE GPS units such CATMHS has. The connection between devices is via Bluetooth. You use the Truepulse to access points that cannot be reached by the GPS. Either the feature cannot be physically reached, is too dangerous to get at, or is out of reach of satellite reception, as in near crags, buildings or under trees.

The mode of operation is as follows: From the last good GPS position you use the Truepulse to take readings to the required features (offsets). The accuracy is to that of the Truepulse and with each other, ie to within 50mm and half a degree. Not Total Station accuracy but good enough for a 1:50 plan. Note: For mapping grade equipment GPS accuracy is to with half a meter horizontal and 3 times worse vertical, so with this device, site surveys of a good enough accuracy become possible, which before needed survey grade GPS equipment costing £15,000.

In use, the Bluetooth connection was easy to set up. Digiterra is run up and a layer for offsets made. Press the offset button on the mapping screen and fire the Truepulse and points appear on the map. No problems, at least not with version 5 of the software. CATMHS uses version 4, which did not work. The Truepulse was successfully trialled with a MMCE borrowed from the North Craven Historical Research Group.

So there you have it, the device works very well, both above and below ground and is very small; it is also not cheap. The device we tried was £1,250.00 plus VAT. The Digiterra software upgrade is £450.00 plus VAT.

My thanks go to David Shandley of Mobile GIS Services Ltd, for allowing CATMHS to trial the Truepulse 360R.

Mark Simpson May 2012.

See: Site surveying on the Windermere Reflections Fulling Mills Project, April 2012, using plane table, optical theodolite and the Leica Disto D3 in the next newsletter.

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 12th March 2012 at the BMSC hut, Coniston – starting at 6.00pm.

Attendance: – 10

W Allison	J Brown	J Aird	M Scott	M Mitchell	P Fleming
I Matheson	S Barker	M Simpson	C Woollard		

1. Apologies for Absence

A Wilson

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last committee meeting held on the 10th December 2011 were circulated to members. It was agreed that the minutes could be signed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings after one amendment. (Proposed – W Allison, Seconded - M Mitchell).

Action 12/1/1 – *Secretary to amend the minutes:*

Paragraph 7 – correction to indicate the Roanhead meet had been cancelled and the meet would be at Elterwater.

On a point of clarification within the library report "Other Issues", Ian Matheson said that the newsletters were not to be published electronically online but were to be sent electronically to individuals who request them and also to those others who purchase a copy in order to save postage. A short discussion on copyright issues followed. It was considered that this was unlikely to be a problem for the society and that a formal copyright challenge would be prohibitively expensive.

3. Matters arising from previous meetings

The secretary reported that the AGM action to write to Mr David James, the LDNPA Conservation Officer, to raise our concerns over the deterioration of the Backbarrow Iron Furnace had been completed. A reply had been received from John Hodgson indicating their position. A planning application is in place for a scheme for more affordable housing associated with this site. It was agreed that the issue would be raised at the forthcoming Mining Forum.

4. Member's Reports

Secretary – C Woollard

The transfer of secretarial data from Sheila Barker to Colin Woollard was completed early in the New Year.

An invitation from the National Trust was received to attend the "Windermere Reflections - Reflections on History" programme of local history and archaeology in the Southern Lakeland area – M Simpson is to attend the National Trust session on Fulling Mills.

A letter of thanks has been received from the LDNPA Chief Executive, Mr R Leafe, drawing on the successful collaboration between CATMHS and the LDNPA.

Under the Management Agreement with English Heritage the Year 1 site inspection has been completed and sent to English Heritage.

Liz Carney is researching a possible story for BBC Two's Coast programme about the importance of plumbago, (graphite), and particularly its use in moulding cannon balls and shot. She has been put in contact with Jeff Wilkinson and Dave Bridge.

An enquiry was received from a non-member, Sean Southwood, about an old medallion he had found in his grandmother's button box. The medallion appeared to be from the union called "The Cumberland Iron Ore Miners and Kindred Trades Association" and a web link and further references were returned to him.

The amended CATMHS constitution has been completed and is on record.

Treasurer - J Aird

The treasurer's expenses for £166.83 (comprising £144.83 materials and £22.00 for postage) was approved (Proposed – I Matheson, Seconded - W Allison).

The treasurer said he was preparing to pay expenses directly to bank accounts where the recipient was happy to provide bank details. A confirmation e:mail would be sent to advise each payment.

Barrow in Furness Local Authority is facing a financially tight year and are unable to freeze council tax in the area. To recover some funds they are no longer willing to give discounted rate relief for charities. This will affect CATMHS rates for the Roanhead Store and will probably increase our costs by around £50 per annum. The contents of the store and their ownership was unclear and the meeting wished the Furness Adventurers (P Sandbach) to be consulted to ask what equipment they had claim to in the store prior to a review of the equipment stored within.

Secretary's Note: Following this meeting on the 2nd April the Treasurer reported that Barrow had advised that instead of the discretionary rate relief ending at the beginning of the financial year 2012-13 it will taper away over the next three years. The Treasurer has completed and dispatched the appropriate claim forms for consideration by the Council committee.

Action 12/1/2 – *Peter Fleming to contact Peter Sandbach to request details of the equipment stored at Roanhead that the Furness Adventurers own.*

Membership / Newsletter – I Matheson

Currently there are 85 paid up memberships equating to 96 individuals. (54 underground members and 27 surface members plus basic members with insurance with another society). 15 memberships have not yet renewed. All of these have received a renewal notice and a final reminder. It was agreed that a last final reminder should be sent and that it should remind them that without membership renewal they are not insured.

Action 12/1/3 – *Ian Matheson to send out a final reminder to the 15 members who have not yet renewed their membership.*

The next newsletter is due to be issued on 1st May and material is a little short. Would members please provide information by the middle of April for inclusion in the May newsletter.

Action 12/1/4 – *Relevant Members to send information on the following topics to Ian Matheson by the middle of April for inclusion in the May newsletter.*

- *Report and pictures from the Carrock Meet (WA and or JA)*
- *Tyn y Berth meet on 10th/11th March. (J Knowles)*
- *Further information on the progress at Force Crag*
- *Update on the Tilberthwaite Horse Level dig (JB)*
- *Status of the North Pennines Heritage Trust (SB or DB)*
- *Backbarrow Furnace developments*
- *Some information may come from the Mines Forum Meeting on Friday 16th March.*

It was noted that the published date of the NAMHO Conference in the meets list is incorrect. It should be 29th June to 1st July 2012 at Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, Near Wilmslow, Cheshire. It is **NOT on the 25th, 26th and 27th May 2012**. The next newsletter will highlight this error.

Library / Archive – D Borthwick

Most of the society's collection of mine plans and maps, were photographed during 2009, 2010; J Aird taking significantly over 500 images. Some 'loosely' listed items and further new material

had been taken to Alston to be worked on. Work has begun on sorting and cataloguing the many plans etc.

We are trying to tie together, the main archive lists, such as Mining General, Mine Plans, Maps, etc; the JPEG images, and a 'database' in an Excel spreadsheet. This task is progressing well, though slowly. When this step is finished, the physical items will have to be marked up; then located in what hopefully will be their permanent storage place. I hope that at the end of this exercise that the digital copies will suffice most users' requirements. I am indebted to Sheila for her help sorting and recording 200 plus items. At some point I will be calling on people for some help 'finally' putting everything away.

The committee felt that the use of the Coniston Institute rooms is a possible venue that will provide sufficient space for this activity.

Action 12/1/15 – *Anyone able to help out with the task of sorting these plans and their listings in the Coniston area please contact Sheila or Don to arrange a date.*

P Fleming has discussed the Furness Mine Plans with Peter Holmes who has two plans in this series. Peter Holmes would like his plans copied and then he wishes to deposit them at the Barrow Record Office if he can make a suitable arrangement like ours. It was agreed that M Simpson would arrange to copy these plans for Peter.

Action 12/1/16 – *Mark Simpson to arrange to photograph the two Furness Mine plans belonging to Peter Holmes.*

5. Publication Stock Levels and Equipment Inventory

Members were requested to consider what publications and equipment they hold so that an inventory check can be considered at the next meeting.

Action 12/1/17 – *Secretary to contact relevant members to request details of their holdings and to prepare a set of collated data for the next meeting. The stock in Roanhead and Mandell's store would then need to be added.*

6. Suggestions for the next Meets List Issue

The current meets list expires on the 18th July 2012 with the Black Coombe meet. A draft list was developed and will require confirmation at the next meeting to allow issue in time for the next season.

Meets proposed were:

- Coniston - through trip – T Holland in September
- Greenside – through trip –
- Force Crag – investigation of the drained "0" level – J Aird in July
- Yew Crag
- Lingmoor Fell Quarries – M Simpson in October
- Smallcleugh Mine – Mike Hyrbyk
- Cauldale Moor
- Carrock Mine SRT day
- Tilberthwaite Surface Walk with C&W Society(Evening)
- Boxing Day meet
- Welsh venue – J Knowles

Action 12/1/18 – *Secretary to contact Mike Hyrbyk to ask if he would lead a meet at Smallcleugh Mine.*

7. Current Projects

Tilberthwaite Horse Crag Level - J Brown

Three meets have been held to commence work on the removal of the next fall. The tub body that had been chained to the entrance gate has been dismantled, carried through the last fall

steelwork and reassembled on the other side. The tub was then pushed up the level to the beginning of the stacking area using the existing rails and boards where necessary. The top of the tub was then modified to reduce the overall width. The last two meets have been used to clear debris from on top of the rails and to start a bag wall. The trolley works well on the old rails and one more week should clear all the rails up to the start of the long debris tail of the next fall. Bagging using bulk bags appears to work well where there is sufficient space.

Lucy Tongue Level, Greenside – W Allison

Two maintenance meets have been held to clear debris from the level. A fall of bags has been cleared and secured at the location of the final fall. At the start of the four way junction steelwork debris from decomposed rock falls above had fallen onto the level. This debris was packed into bags and the "rat hole" leading up to the now blocked cavity above the four way junction was secured. The two trolleys in the level were serviced and are useable.

The possibility of clearing the debris blocking the route to the Lucy Shaft was discussed and a cost estimate is required to consider the proposal further.

The meeting considered that further clearance at the base of the Willie Shaft would be of some benefit as it was a zero cost option.

Action 12/1/9 – *John Brown to provide a budget estimate for the materials needed to secure the route to the Lucy Shaft.*

Jane Foale Exhibition at Coniston - I Matheson / M Mitchell

A meeting had been held this afternoon to establish key elements of the exhibition. A television screen and mount had been purchased to enable an endless slide show to be displayed. It is planned to provide wall displays on Introduction, Exploration, Artifacts, Conservation and Mineralisation aspects as a lead into Jane's artistic use of mineral colours and pigments. An outline plan is to purchase 3 off 8x4 sheets of thin MDF which when painted will provide assembly boards that could be hung on supports to avoid damaging the exhibition walls. A number of A4, A3 and A2 displays are envisaged. Backing will be required for the equivalent of 40 off A4 sized displays. The display plan is for photographs with a minimum of text and laminated sheets on hand to provide extra details where necessary to provide the complete story.

It is likely that the budget of £500 would be exceeded. It was agreed that this budget could be increased to cover the proposals developed above.

It is proposed to display an underground plan of Coniston Coppermines. Alistair Cameron had the original plan but this is believed lost somewhere within the society.

Action 12/1/10 – *Ian Matheson to loan Sheila Barker's copy of the plan and to make and mount a copy for the exhibition. A copy to be returned to A Cameron.*

The programme for the exhibition is to assemble the displays on the 25th/26th June with the exhibition opening at the weekend and staying open until November.

Peter Fleming was looking at a display of mineralogical mediums and a UV mineral display in some of the cabinets. It is planned to recover the John Barrett cost book from the CRO for display with other items in other display cabinets. Advertising will be required to support the exhibition.

8. Future Projects

Website Improvements

Ways to make the society website more immediately informative were discussed. Also the website should sell what the society has achieved – like past project success and progress on current projects etc. It was felt that the above exhibition should be detailed. Links to other sites

like AditNow and our data storage index are under consideration to make us a more open society. As the limitations on website capacity and design were unknown it was agreed to move this topic to current projects for discussion at the next meeting.

Action 12/1/11 – *Ian Matheson to send details of the J Foale exhibition to Chris Cowdery for inclusion on the website.*

Action 12/1/12– *John Aird to ask Chris Cowdery what can be achieved on our website and what limitations are necessary from a design perspective.*

Sebastian Mine, Coniston

This proposal to be raised at Friday's Mines Forum

Silvergill, Caldbeck Fells

A proposal to drain the shaft is to be prepared for presentation to the LDNPA as a possible future project.

Action 12/1/13– *To prepare a proposal to drain the shaft at Silvergill for LDNPA consideration.*

Tilberthwaite – Conservation of the mill

This topic will be discussed at the Mines Forum. CATMHS have offered to prepare a methodology to raise the capstones in the wheelpit and temporarily replace them to prevent further damage while a major stabilisation project can be developed and funded.

Action 12/1/14– *Tilberthwaite digging team to develop a proposal to stabilise the wheel pit stonework for consideration by the committee.*

9. Liaison with other Agencies / Societies

LDNPA - Carrock Fell Mine and Dale Beck Smelter Surveys

The Caldbeck Commoners and the LDNPA have funding to conduct a survey of Carrock Fell Mine and to develop a project to stabilise the remains that are in danger of collapse. This work commenced on the 27th January 2012. A similar survey will be conducted at the Hay Gill Smelter in Dale Beck.

Mines Forum - 16th March 2012

The CATMHS agenda for Friday's forum is Backbarrow Site developments, The Exhibition, Sebastian Mine proposal, Tilberthwaite Mill Conservation, Haygill Smelter survey, dates for the Keswick Archaeology Forum.

At the MoLES open day Mr Tyler had indicated the sale price for the museum was now £60K. CATMHS felt that the collection should not be broken up and would like to raise the issue of purchase by a Lakeland Body with an established organisation for running exhibitions.

LDNPA - Planning application for Backbarrow Site Development

A planning application is on line for the further development of this site.

Environment Agency - Force Crag / Threlkeld Clean Up

The drilling to locate the flooded level is complete and pumping is awaited. This will take some time as settlement tanks will need to be installed prior to the actual pumping task commencing.

Craven Caving Club – visit to Coniston

John Aird reported that he had been in contact with Mike Bottomley and he thought that Craven Caving Club had visited the area recently and had done a through trip. He will advise them that the Levers Water entrance had been cleared earlier today and could now be accessed.

BBC Coast – Plumbago mine, Seathwaite

Liz Carney is researching a possible programme for BBC 2 Coast on the Plumbago Mine at Seathwaite and the connection with the moulding of cannon balls and shot. She has been put in contact with Dave Bridge and Jeff Wilkinson.

Snowdonia Mines Access and Conservation Group Meeting

An inaugural meeting of the Snowdonia Mines Access and Conservation Group was held on 29th February 2012 at the Memorial Hall in Betws y Coed. Mark Waite attended.

The aim of the group is to co-ordinate access to a selection of mines in North Wales, owned by the Forestry Commission, that fall within the British Caving Associations Local Cave and Mine Leader Award Scheme.

There are proposals to gate levels and to provide a combination style lock that can be opened from within. They plan to ensure the "combination of the week" can be provided to bone-fide explorers via e.mail. For non-commercial exploration a demonstration of Public Limit Insurance should suffice. Commercial explorers are likely to require a Mine Leaders Certification. CATMHS had no objections to the scheme in principle and Mark remains as a member of the group.

Other Business

- S Barker will attend the NAMHO AGM on Saturday 17th March at Aston Green Colliery.
- M Scott requested that dates for the Keswick Archaeology Forum should be raised at the Mines Forum.
- M Scott wished to borrow display boards on the 6th and 7th October.

Truepulse 360 B Laser Rangefinder and Compass – M Simpson

M Simpson has sourced a Laser Rangefinder and compass that is compatible with the CATMHS GPS system. This system costs around £1200 and can be loaned for evaluation purposes. The system is a compass, laser rangefinder and inclinometer in one unit, It combines the latest electronic compass technology that allows the instrument to take an accurate azimuth reading no matter how it is orientated in physical space.

The laser can be tilted, rolled or used upside down, and it will still measure the correct azimuth in the direction that the user is viewing, allowing ultimate freedom.

TruVector compass technology allows a simple field calibration procedure. It evaluates the local magnetic environment and provides user feedback on the quality of calibration.

The Missing Line Routine calculates distances and angles to describe the relationship between 2 points in three-dimensional space. It is ideal for span lengths, crown spread, remote slope determinations and changes in elevation from one location.

Data communication is via a wired RS232 serial (standard) or wireless with the BLUETOOTH option (TruPulse 360B). Supplied with protective case.

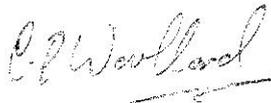
Date of Next Meeting

Monday 14th May 2012 at the BMSC, Coniston

W Allison (Chairman)



C Woollard (Secretary)



14/05/2012

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