

**16<sup>th</sup> March 1986**  
**Dale Head Copper Mine**

Meet Leader D. Blundell

10:30 am meet at Stair Village, a typical Cumbrian day, low cloud, driving torrential rain. I was somewhat surprised by the number of members who turned up, and the distance some had travelled, for a walk around the Copper trials of the Upper Newlands Valley, though it was noticeable that the Furness contingent was not represented. Those present: - Ian Tyler, Norman Thompson, George Farrell & son Kevin, (visitors, NAMHO insurance fee paid) Phil Merrin, G Chilton & son Nick (membership applied for) Anton C P Thomas & wife, Robin Westerman (Doncaster) Don Borthwick (Newcastle), Frazer Beattie, & Ernie Ellershaw.

Trans shipped into 4 vehicles to avoid aggravating the natives and drove up to Carlisle Climbing Club Hut and parked up. Walked up to Castle Nook Lead Mine for a brief inspection, then onto X cut level driven S.W. from Newlands Beck adj. Sheepfold 800ft A.O.D. Level entrance had run in partly, so dug clear and left to drain, walking along vein (Long Work) inspecting Elizabethan Open Stopes. Up hill to level on same vein, nr for Tongue Gill, 1200ft A.O.D level was entered, and after lunch (when Frazer Beattie, Ernie Ellershaw, Anton & wife left us) up pony track to remains of hand dressing floor at 1700ft A.O.D. party split here, with 4 going up to Middle Level at 2100ft A.O.D. to dig clear, and remainder taking sheep/pony? track round crags to bottom (waterfall) level in crags at 1800ft A.O.D. After inspection of bottom level, party reformed at Middle Level. Unfortunately, recent freeze and snow had done nothing to add to the stability of the entrance, which had collapsed. Part cleaned, but decided against entry, as would require a considerable amount of digging to make safe, and by now, time was 4:30pm. Detoured back down fell via Bottom (waterfall) level, for those who missed it first time around, and then down track to bottom level, water level had dropped 1', so entered and inspected. Back to cars in driving rain, arriving back at 6:15pm. Who put the item on the meet card about exploration on this meet?

D.S Blundell 16/3/86