

**27<sup>th</sup> April 1986**

**Tilberthwaite Mine – The Descent**

An excellent turn – out, I was quite surprised to see 11 people, alas, many were back-sliders and skivers and only a hard few decided to make the trip. It was left to C.J. (meet leader), P.F., I.M., A.L., P.M. (not Maggie Thatcher) and A.C-P-T.

The usual tiring entry was effected to the top of the first pitch and whimpering had already been experienced due to depth of water, condition of the roof, colour or Merrin's shirt, etc. First pitch and bucket hole (now a motorway) negotiated with ease followed by the long traverse. The first problem of the trip was then met with – the whimpering had risen to crescendo and one turned back gibbering with fear last seen running off down the fell, hair white as the pure driven snow, screaming “No floor, no floor!” The rest of the pitches followed on although the top of the last pitch is becoming extremely unstable. It is possible that it will collapse in the near future and CARE should be taken there.

The Horse Level, as usual was flooded and the party set off down it. Unfortunately the water level was much higher than in 1983 and the first stope could not be reached. THIS MUST BE DONE AGAIN WHEN THE WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE MORE SATISFACTORY.

Exit was made with little difficulty and the party ended up in the Crown – surprise, surprise.