

31st August 1989

Cockley Beck

Who organised a meet over 'Wrynose' on a bank holiday weekend!! And fails to turn up, I'm not sure.

Having gained access to 'Cockley Beck Mine' site with the farmers permission, our party of 8 viewed the remains of the Low Adit and shaft, alas now filled in to the collar (last 3 months) this was I assume driven for iron.

The ancient copper workings on the north side of Cockley Beck were visited, a fine example of an old dressing floor and smithy still standing (these should be "listed" buildings) the only level open was not entered it is extremely wet and is collapsed after 10 yards.

The original idea was to traverse over "Grey Friar" mountain and so on down to "Seathwaite Copper Mines" making a day's fell walk and some 2500ft of ascent on suggesting this, other ideas were submitted for ways to Seathwaite Mines. Eventually it was agreed to take the cars four miles down the road and go up the walking path by the side of "Seathwaite Tarn" the first part of this walk is steep and boggy under foot but with the long dry spell and the bracken not yet to its full height, made walking a pleasure in the morning sun.

As we approached the "Seathwaite Dam" it was recalled that during the building, the workers went on the rampage and wrecked the "local pub" which created much ill feeling.

At about lunch time we arrived at No 1 level, this is situated at the eastern end of the lake and is a stone arched level leading into solid rock which cuts two quartz strings. Don and partner who had arrived late, joined us whilst lunch was being consumed, having come over "Grey Friar" stout fellows. Two members of the party ventured part of the way in and returned complaining that the water had come over the tops of their boots.

Lunch consumed, the party now ten in total progressed along the water race past over small smithy house up to the main mine office. Just below No 2, this level was explored recently by members of CAT. From here we proceeded to No 3 level, again this level is very wet and very long and no takers for the long swim could be found. Despite various threats and chicken sounds the level is open having been dug by myself and D Blundell many years ago. Any one undertaking this venture must have dry clothes, the level does not drop in water depth from the entrance to the F.H.

The party returned via the south side of the lake to ensure no trials has been missed by earlier explorers. On returning to the cars, Peter Fleming kindly drove back to C/Beck with Don.

On returning several of the party decided to break for home whilst Pete Fleming, Don Borthwick and myself went to explore and find 2 small levels at Stainton. After a walk of some ½ mile the levels were found after a quick dig the bottom level was

entered (47 yards to F/Head) the other level was badly run and could be not more than 30 yards long.

We returned to the cars and decided to call it a day, 7:00pm.

Ian Tyler

Mike Mitchell

Barbara Mitchell

Pete Fleming

Don Borthwick

Dave Blundell

A Cameron

P Timewell

(Plus 2 others) sorry lost sheet!

Ian Tyler