CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST

ALEN McFADZEAN OPENING THE CALDBECK MINING MUSEUM - MARCH 1990

MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO. 26

APRIL 90

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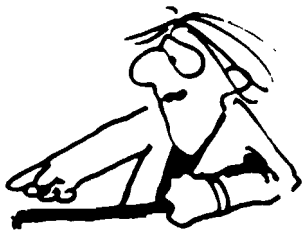
CONTENTS

DRAWING OF NEWLANDS FURNACE PAGE10 BY JOAN HELM.

SPECIAL THANKS TO MARGARET FLEMING FOR PHOTOCOPYING & CLARE HAMER FOR TYPING.



FINANCE

REMINDER :-

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COVENANTS :-

Are you a tax payer?

Have you completed , and returned, the Deed of Covenant form sent out with the December 1988 newsletter?

Additional forms, further details, payment etc., to the Treasurer, please.

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0229 54895

THE OFFICIAL OPENING DAY OF THE CALDBECK MINING MUSEUM

On a bright, sunny, but breezy Sunday, 11 March 1990 over 100 people, mostly guests, turned up for this special event. Around 25 of them took part in the five mile walk around the Mine Sites of the Caldbeck area led by Ian Tyler. The rest of the guests looked over the Mill and this small but well presented Mine Museum. You had to queue to get a chance to see round these very interesting displays. A lot of people met up with old friends from societies outside this areas as well as friends from within Cumbria.

Time now for the Official Opening of the Museum. The owner of the Mill, Mrs C Clark, gave a short outline about the rebuilding of this old Mill in 1985. She referred to the chance meeting with Ian Tyler and Warren Allison when they called into the Mill Cafe for coffee, and got talking about the local history and the Mines. He then gave a talk to local people on the Caldbeck Mining Field. This led to discussions regarding the opening of a Mine Museum.

Ian Tyler's opening remarks were that it was great to see so many mining enthusiasts present to share this special occasion; the culmination of 10 years of work and research into the mining history of the area. Ian then went on to explain how his meeting with Mrs Clark led to this Museum and this day. He thanked friends who, over the years, went out into the hills of Caldbeck in all weathers to explore, map, dig and preserve items for later use in his Museum, and he gave special thanks to his wife, Jean.

Now the time for the Museum to be officially opened by Alan McFadzean - his speech (attached) is far better put by Alan than by me.

Ron Calvin RM

The Lake District, and Cumbria in general, owes its development to the extractive industries of coal, metalliferous mining, and slate quarrying. Towns like Barrow, Millom, Whitehaven, and Workington would have remained villages had it not been for the localised and abundant mineral resources stimulating the growth of industry and commerce.

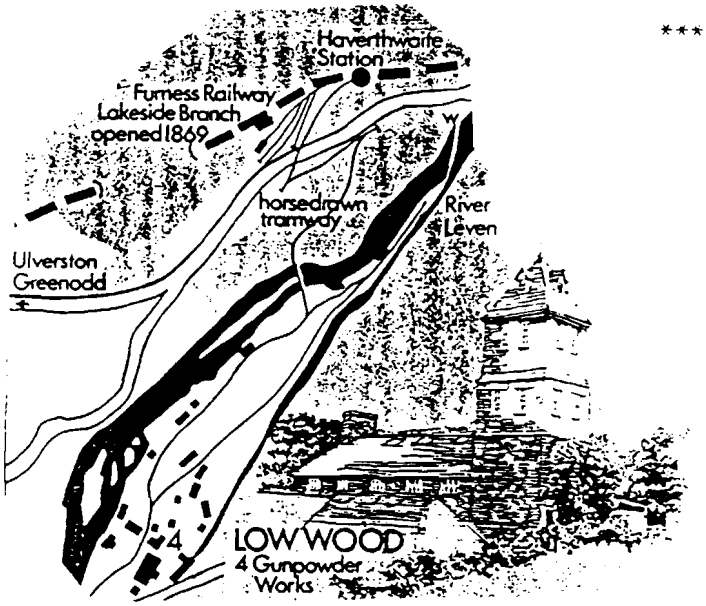
Coniston owes its existence to the mining of copper and slate, Glenridding, Alston and Threlkeld to lead, Chapel Style and Kirkby to slate, Keswick to the mining of copper, lead and graphite. This very village of Caldbeck was, until recently, home for the barytes miners of Potts Ghyll and Driggith; and when its last mine closed in the 1970s, a tradition stretching back to Elizabethan times came to an end

Without these extractive industries Cumbria today would have been a different place, probably a less crowded and more peaceful place, but the fact remains - our history is interwoven with the development of mining and quarrying, our ancestors depended on these industries for their livelihood, it is up to us to salvage what we can.

I have known Ian Tyler for many years. He often talked of opening a museum so it came as no great surprise to me to hear, last November, that he'd actually achieved his ambition. At last there exists a conscious effort, something substantial to encourage interest, to draw the inquisitive and shed light upon the lives of those hardy men who scratched an existence from the rock of these fells, men who, through their labours, changed the landscape and so enriched our heritage.

Ian Tyler is to be congratulated on his achievement. His dedication, and the labours of his wife Jean and friend Warren Allison, have resulted in this gathering today. The Caldbeck Mining Museum will, I am sure, establish itself and win recognition among Britain's growing army of industrial historians.

ALEN McFADZEAN



********** ADVANCE PUBLICITY **********

LOW WOOD GUNPOWDER WORKS,
HAVERTHWAITE.

Wednesday evening meet MAY 23rd 1990

Permission has been obtained from the owner, Mr.While, to visit the site of one of our local gunpowder works at Low Wood near Haverthwaite.

The works were built in 1799 and closed shortly after the end of World War I. Gunpowder was manufactured from sulphur, saltpetre and locally produced charcoal at a number of sites scattered along the banks of the River Leven. The sites were separated deliberately to reduce the damage and loss of life when accidents occurred.
Power was provided at the site by various turbines and generators powered by water extracted by a leat from the river just below the present A590 road bridge. The leat is in good condition and the water has been used since the site closed to power a hydro-electric system at Low Wood where the water returns to the river. The generators are now operated by the Electricity Board.
Transport along the valley between the manufacturing sites and the Haverthwaite goods yard was provided by copper shod horses on a 3'6"gauge tramway. This crossed the A590 road, descended the steep hillside to the river by a number of reversing points and crossed the river by an iron girder bridge before spreading out to serve the manufacturing sites. A number of the sites can be visited some of which contain interesting remains including the power generation equipment, the water wheel sites and grinding wheels and a stationary steam engine (J.Robey & Sons).

The following articles were kindly sent in by Dr John Marshall, they outline the history of Newlands furnace and give some idea of the restoration work that has been carried out by CAT members.

NEWLAND HAMLET:
A REMARKABLE INDUSTRIAL VILLAGE

As the traveller approaches Ulverston from Newby Bridge, he mak get a quick glimpse of the sign 'Newland' and see a cluster of buildings over fields.

Those buildings represent the coming of the industrial revolution to Furness, when a growing iron industry was beginning to affect the lives of scores of people in Low Furness and in the Furness Fells alike. The iron was, as many students now know, smelted with charcoal fuel, and there is the stack of an eighteenth century charcoal furnace in the modern hamlet.

It has often been said that the industries of Furness were started by 'offcomers' or outsiders, but this is only partly true. The first furnace of any importance was operated at Cunsey, by the Windermere lake side, in 1711, and this was built by Edward Hall and Thomas Cotton, gentlemen from Cheshire. The same firm, known as Edward Hall and Company, acquired further partners, who were also in the main outsiders, and went on to build the more famous furnace at Duddon Bridge in 1736. This, of course, remains as a magnificent industrial monument.

But Newland Furnace (and hamlet) was the work of local people, the Ford family of Grizedale, the Knotts of Rydal, who were very active in the trade and industry of their time, and James Backhouse of Finsthwaite. It must seem strange that they chose this narrow and once rather remote seeming valley near Ulverston, especially when it is considered that the furnace fuel, charcoal, was often hard and expensive to obtain. When the Newland Furnace was erected in 1747, there was acute competition for coppice woodland that could be cut into cordwood to build charcoal stacks, when several other furnaces and forges were competing for supplies.

But the Newland partners were looking ahead, and had planned their strategies accordingly.

First of all, there was an excellent supply of water available from the Newland Beck, and this today gives clean water to the great Glaxo enterprise. The water was important in 1747, because it was used to drive the furnace bellows. It was already used by a mediaeval corn mill, and the later version of that mill still stands - it has a slate base and (unusually for these parts) a brick upper structure, and can easily be seen from the main road.

Next, the furnace, built of the local slate, was placed at the foot of a steep bank, and water from the beck was diverted for about 100 metres to reach the water wheel that blew the bellows - and then went on to power the corn mill. We may ask why the builders went to this trouble, until we realize that the iron ore, used in smelting, and the charcoal, were tipped into the furnace from a higher level, and that both materials were stored at that level. The magnificent charcoal barn still remains, at the head of an approach lane along which the ore was carted.

So, what had been an empty heath (all excepting the corn mill and perhaps a small farm) became the scene of much activity. The iron ore was brought from Pennington and Lindal, where the firm acquired iron mines, and so the distance to be covered by the ore carts was not great - other local companies, like that at Backbarrow(1711-12) had to have ore brought partly by boat along the Leven estuary.

It may still be asked how the Newland partners exported the pig and other iron that they produced, and it appears that they carted the latter across the Ulverston moss (which then also lay empty before the Canal was constructed in 1793-5), to established loading points at Plumpton, Benn Hill, Sandgate, Treadley and Hammerside Hill. Here again, the distances were not great, and there was a lively shipping trade.

However, in 1780 they built a quay at the small port of Barrowhead, now Barrow-in-Furness, and may therefore be said to have played a modest part in the creation of a modern port.

THE CHARCOAL SHORTAGE.

The local iron companies were all flourishing in the 1740's, and all were competing hotly for charcoal supplies, sending agents round the countryside attempting to buy woods for this purpose.

So serious had the situation become by 1752 that the Newland partners actually arranged to set up a furnace at Bonawe near Oban, on the banks of Lock Etive in Argyllshire, where the firm would have ample supplies of charcoal from extensive woods that were available.

So yet another industrial village appeared on the bank of Lock Etive, and holiday-makers in Scotland can still see the furnace, which is inscribed 'Bunaw F. 1752', and is now cherished as an industrial monument. We are told that 'Quite a colony was established at Taynuilt, dwelling houses, a farm, a church, school and even a public house were all erected by the Company. Spinning was carried on by the women, and most of the yarn was taken to Furness, where it was sold locally'.

The rich local iron ore was carried coastwise to Scotland, for it was cheaper to do this than to struggle for supplies of charcoal (in Furness or Scotland), and the new settlement by the loch helped to trigger off the industrial revolution north of the border.

PLACE IN FURNESS HISTORY.

The Newland partnership is best remembered because it provides the link between the eighteenth century iron industry of Furness and the Victorian district's awe-inspiring achievements in the same industrial field. The partnership became known as Harrison, Ainslie and Co. (1812) when most of its wealth was in the Scottish Highlands. It also owned the furnace and forge at Newland and the furnace at Nibthwaite, the forge lasted from 1783 to 1807 only, and is rather a mystery. It acquired Lowwood Furnace in 1818 and the Duddon enterprise in 1828. It was this concentration of power that enabled the Newland firm to survive so triumphantly through the nineteenth centruy, investing in iron

mines and shipping.

It had already helped to promote the rise of the small port of Barrow through its 1780 quay at that village, and it continued to hold a mine floor (dump for iron ore) and a jetty in the growing village of Barrow - the jetty was near the line of the High Level Bridge. In addition to owning the old Ship Inn at Battow (now sadly destroyed), it had cottages at Lindale, Barrow and Backbarrow and property at Greenodd. And, more than this, it came to own several important iron mines in the Lindal area in the later nineteenth century. Through individuals like Aymer Ainslie, it had a hand in the promotion of Ulverston's well remembered ironworks, the North Lonsdale Iron and Steel Co. (1874).

No other Furness iron company survived in this manner, and most of those promoted in the Georgian age perised or were taken over, with the furnaces at Backbarrow and Newland continuing into comparatively recent times (Duddon furnace closed in 1867).

So Newland furnace and its hamlet are unique monuments to the history of this area, and of course they deserve a much closer look. There are few industrial villages (or hamlets) like this in the north of England or in Scotland, and Newland would still be of interest if it lacked such a remarkable history.

STORY OF A COMMUNITY.

We must also remember that Newland is a community, and that it has been so for well over two centuries. It is privately occupied, although accessible to the genuinely interested visitor. It also has quite a complex story, not all of which can be unravelled. The settlement which now exists is substantially that which was built by the end of the eighteenth century, although there have been some alterations to the residential property, and, indeed, the industrial structures. Hence, the main walls of the furnace and its associated buildings almost certainly belong to the late eighteenth century; the lower part of the corn mill could well be earlier than that, as could the stable near the furnace hearth and entrance.

SAVING NEWLAND FURNACE by J.D.Marshall and others.

The old iron furnace at Newland Village is known to expert visitors from all over Britain. It is a survivor of the once famous Furness charcoal iron industry, and was dismantled in 1903, after having been 'blown out' (worked for the last time) on 19th January 1891.

However, the hearth, stack and some of the furnace lining remain, and there is every hope that one day the whole furnace complex will be restored. This would mean that Furness would be able to boast of two eighteenth-century type ironworks, the remains of which are among the finest specimens in Britain. Duddon Furnace is of course the other one in our area.

We can remember a time, only about fifteen years ago, when the Duddon Furnace site was seriously overgrown, and when the furnace stack was being wrenched apart by a tree, the roots of which had wound their ways into the upper masonry. Every time a gale dragged at the tree, we thought of the fate of the stonework of this unique historical monument, and dreaded to envisage what we might find on a visit.

Years of agitation caused those in authority to take notice. One of our number visited the Duddon site in 1971, in the company of Mr. P.R.White, now Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, and he was deeply impressed by what he saw. Now, of course, Duddon Furnace and its buildings are specially protected and maintained by the Lake District Special Planning Board. Even now, visitors are not fully aware that what they can see (on special application) is superior to the ironworks remains at the Ironbridge Museum.

Returning to Newland, the ironworks and hamlet there has not had any special protection at all, and year after year, we have watched the furnace lining collapsing to the ground as frost, rain and ice have taken their toll. It was frustrating to see this happening.

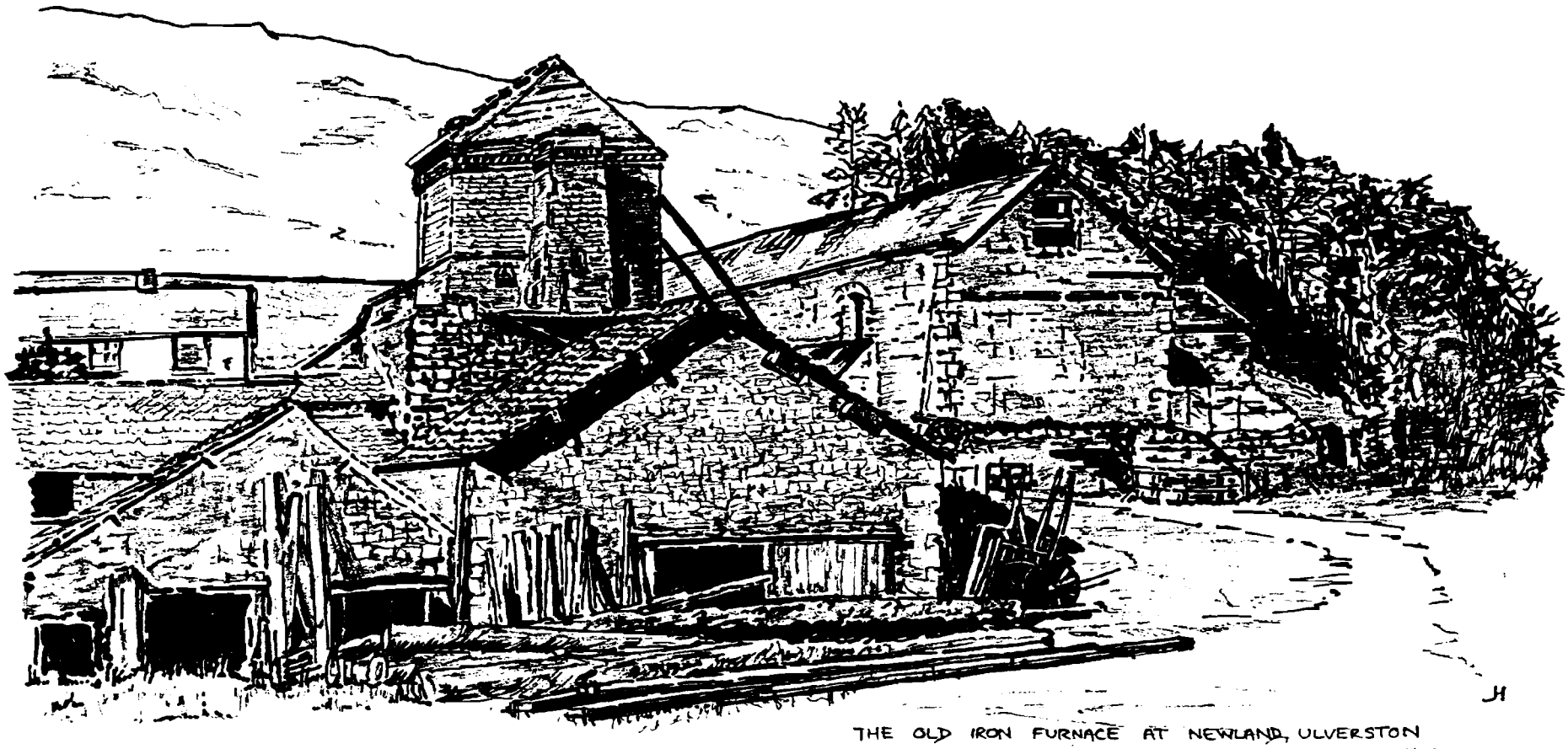
Whenever we made a representation to authority, we were aware that shortage of money would probably be made an excuse for doing nothing. However, the Department of the Environment, in 1983, did begin to think of offering protection, and a specialist surveyor looked at the buildings, only to produce a depressingly expensive list of things that needed doing. One can add, 'in an ideal world'.

In fact, if the work is broken down into priorities and non-priorities, it begins to look perfectly feasible. When one of our own local industrial archaeologist, John Braithwaite, undertook his own survey, it became obvious what needed doing first of all - the furnace lining needed securing, and the blowing chamber arch needed protection against collapse.

By way of explanation, the masonry round the furnace itself dated from the eighteenth century, and consists of skillfully made drystone walling with rubble filling. The blowing chamber, to the west of the furnace, originally contained great leather bellows which were operated by a water wheel - the wheelpit is on the north side. The cold air from the bellow was pumped into the furnace through nozzles in the arch, just as charcoal and iron ore (with limestone flux) were tipped into the top of the furnace from the 'bridge' or serving platform higher up. This platform is still in existence.

The furnace stack as a whole is covered with well-grown ivy, and this has to be destroyed with great care and persistence. Drystone walling can be seriously loosened by the action of the ivy roots.

The drawing here shown shows the furnace as it looked in about 1897, complete with its surrounding buildings. It will be noticed that the furnace stack has a wooden extension, presumably to give a more powerful draught, but that most of the masonry is still intact.



THE OLD IRON FURNACE AT NEWLAND, ULVERSTON
from Furness Year Book 1898 - photo W. Holmes

However, there was an increasing mess inside the furnace, as the blowing chamber arch collapsed, leaving a heap of debris five or six feet high. What was much worse, it was highly unsafe within the furnace hearth, for massive firebricks, left in position by the late owners, threatened to fall on the heads of visitors, and the proprietor, Mr. H. Stevenson, was rightly unwilling to let people take undue risk.

The situation was saved by members of the Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society, who revel in bold but well organised underground exploration. Following the agreement with Mr. T. Clare, the Cumbria County Archaeologist, it was arranged that C.A.T. volunteers would secure the entrance to the furnace and would prop up the collapsing arches within. To do this, several tons of rubble have to be removed.

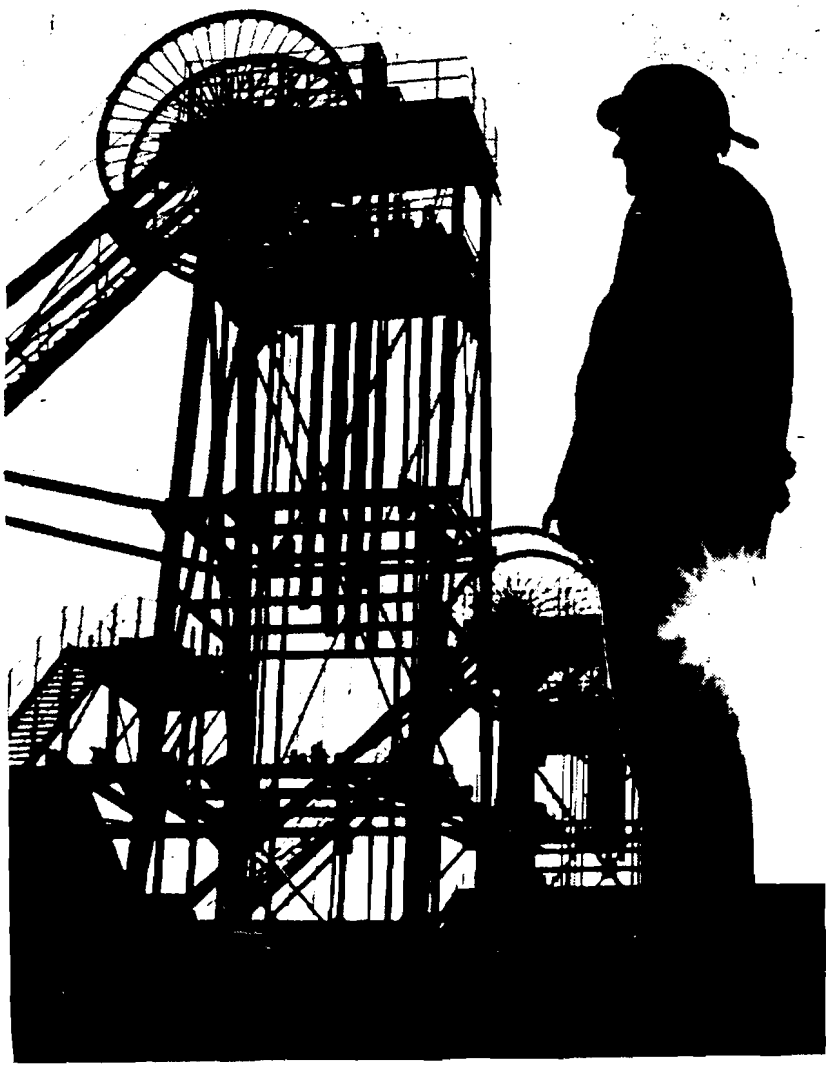
So far, the rescue operation has worked splendidly. The volunteers showed the expectyed resourcefulness and planning, under the leadership of Mr. Hohn Helme of Ulverston, and the proper entrance to the furnace was excavated. Members of the public are warned that the ara of the furnace entrance is still highly dangerous.

Later on, we intend that the authorities shall take over, and there are plans to support the inside of the furnace permanently. The appearance of the stack and nearby buildings should be greatly improved.

However, much depends on Newland Hamlet getting the status of a Conservation Area. If the locality is protected in this way, by up-grading into such an area status, money can be spent on conserving the buildings as ancient monuments - money that would not otherwise be available. It is most unlikely that such a procedure will affect any of the residents, for the visiting of ancient ironworks is a specialist taste.

Save these magnificent machines

LAST LINKS WITH WHITEHAVEN'S MINING HISTORY



IS THE sun finally to set on the last landmark of deep mining in West Cumbria?

WHITEHAVEN is on the brink of losing its last piece of mining history.

British Coal have applied for planning permission to Copeland Council to scrap the steam engines and demolish the winding house at Haig Pit.

But in doing so they would ruin a great piece of mining history said Whitehaven Museum curator Harry Fancy.

Mr Fancy said: "It is the last link with deep mining in the area.

"They were built during the first world war and the engines were originally constructed for a Yorkshire Woollen Mill by an engineer called Bever Dorling.

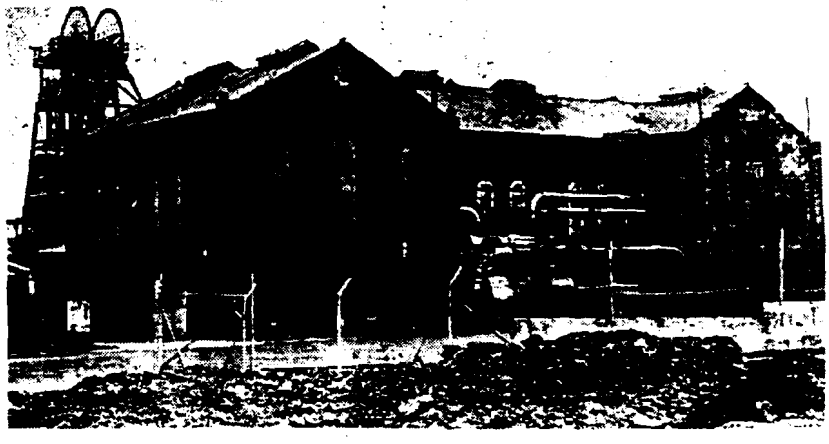
"But given that it was during the war and materials were scarce the engines were used at Haig. They are the finest steam engines ever installed in a British pit.

"They are really magnificent, collosal machines. Right up until the end of their life they were still working on steam and as such were among the last steam operated engines in the country."

There are mining museums dotted throughout the country, but none in Cumbria.

Mr Fancy added: "If one could be saved it would make a superb museum piece."

The Haig Pit site has been transformed by British Coal into a £1.3 million business park with mainly light industrial workshops and the winding house and its engines are somewhat isolated.



THE HAIG Colliery engine house and winding gear as they are today. Battered by wind and rain, especially this week, how long will they last?

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 20/3/96

Picture: TED DITCHBURN

Lead mill ruins to be preserved

By Colin Wright

THE ruins of North Yorkshire's ancient lead smelting industry are to be protected against the elements and illegal quarriers.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is expanding archaeological rescue schemes at the Surrender and Old Gang lead mills in Swaledale which have gained ancient monument status since they cast their last ingots for roofing and piping at the end of the 19th century.

Lead mining in the Dales was begun by the Romans but died out in the 1880s in the face of cheap foreign competition. Traces of more than 50 sites still remain, of which the two on the banks of Mill Gill Beck are among the finest.

National Park officials say thousands of pounds will be needed during the next few years to preserve Surrender, pictured left, and Old Gang in their present ruined condition.

Archaeological Conservation Officer, Mr Robert White, believes illegal quarriers have caused almost as much damage as decades of Yorkshire winters.

"The problem was particularly serious in the 1970s, although fortunately it has died off since. Stones from the mills are now undoubtedly standing as country fireplaces in many houses throughout the region," he said.

MINING SITES WITHIN THE LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK RECCOMENDED FOR PROTECTION BY MEANS OF SCHEDULING OR LISTING.

ALLERDALE DISTRICT.

1. BANNERDALE MINE.
(Pb) NY 335295, Circa 1850.
The building here is in two parts, a smithy and a mine office/shop. The office has a magnificent fire place and chimney still standing.

2. BLENCATHRA MINE.
(Pb,Cu,Ba.) NY 297267, Circa 1840.
Situated in the Glenderaterra Valley, the site consists of a filled in shaft on the East bank of the beck, two water wheel pits, plus two other buildings, both standing to roof height. There is also an open level on the West bank of the beck, 200yards furter South. This mine was last worked in 1875.

3. BRUNDHOLME MINE.(Earlier known as Glenderaterra Mine)
(Pb,Cu,Ba.) NY296274, Circa 1700.
Situated higher up the Glenderaterra Valley than Blencathra Mine,the site consists of filled in shafts, a mine office, wheel pit, turbine site, open levels, plus evidence of a very old mining site on the East side of the beck, indicating the use of a dam and hush, with hand dressing floors. The site was last worked in 1920.

4. DALE HEAD MINE NEWLANDS.
(Cu) NY 222157
Remains of mine office,the walls require capping with mortar to prevent water penetration. Also remains of hand dressing floors.

5. FORCE CRAG MINE,COLEDALE, BRAITHWAITE.
(Ba,Pb,Zn.) NY200216. Circa 1800. The last metalliferous working mine in the Lake District.
Situated at the head of the Coledale valley, numerous levels, and a full operating mill site, with office. Also remains, (Circa 1930), of large-scale workings for Barytes, at High Force Crag site, at NY193214.

6. FORNSIDE MINE, St JOHNS IN THE VALE.
(Cu.) NY323205, and NY323209. Circa ?
There is a single building at this site.....? Any more information?

7. (OLD?)POTTS GILL MINE, CALDBECK.
(Ba.) NY320361. Circa 1871 ?
The magazine at this site is complete with roof, and also has the names of some of the miners who worked at the mines, carved into the building, along with the datethey worked there.

8. ROUGHTON GILL MINE SITE NY298341, Circa 1600.

9. ROUGHTON GILL SMELTER. NY301362 Circa1850.
(Pb,Cu,Zn,Ba.)
Both sites are situated South of Fellside, in the Roughtongill Valley. At the head of the valley lies the main working area and dressing floors, with a collection of remains, including a smithy/office, horse whim circle, engine house, water leats, smelter, ancient dressing floors, and an ore processing house. The area also contains open levels.
At the junction of Hay Gill, and Roughtongill a large smelter was built with a 400 foot long chimney. Much of this building still remains.

Continued.

10. SEATHWAITE WAD MINES BORROWDALE
NY232125 Circa 1600.

Known as the Seathwaite Plumbago Mine, numerous levels are to be found within high boundary walls, the most important of which are called, 'Robsons' 'Gilbert's' and 'Harrisons'. At all of these levels remain the 'search houses', situated at the level portals. Two boundary stones marked 'Banks' denoting the boundary of the mine site also survive, along with remains of dressing floors.

11. THRELKELD MINE.
(Pb,Zn.) NY324262. Circa ..?

At the big wier are the remains of a building ,which although not of great antiquity, is still in very good condition, although in need of urgent attention to prevent damage by water penetration. An adjoining stone built watercourse is also worthy of preservation , and requires some urgent attention to prevent any more of it collapsing.

12. WYTHBURN/HELVELLYN MINE.
(Pb,Zn.Ba.) NY325148. Circa 1800.

Situated in Thirlmere, at the East side of the lake.Much of the site is still recognisable, i.e.,the Powder Store in the woods, the remains of the dressing plant in the clearing,and the dam just above the forestry fence at NY325148. Immediately uphill from this point is the start of the 600 yard long self-acting incline, built up as a stone causeway for most of its length. At the head of the incline is the remains of the drum house. This constitutes the best remaining example of a self-acting incline on a metalliferous mining site in the Lake District.
In the region of the head of the incline lie the mine office and smithy, which contains a 'dated stone' with initials. The mine last worked in 1880.

SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT.

13. BIRK FELL HAUSE MINE TILBERTHWAITE.
(Cu) NY294016.

This remote mine has a building and probably a small dressing floor , which are in need of preservation work.

14. BORLASE MINE TILBERTHWAITE.
(Cu) NY297015.

The compressor house at this mine is still in very good condition, and is worthy of protection.

15. COCKLEY BECK MINE.
(Cu).NY249013. Circa. 1700.

A small copper working beside Cockley Beck, consisting of levels and shafts. A very good example of a smithy and ore house remain on this site. Both buildings are still standing to roof height.

16. GREENHEAD GILL GRASMERE.
(Cu.) NY350087. Circa. 1600.

A well known Elizabethan mining site, containing various shafts and pits, plus buildings which are still easily definable. The buildings include an ore house, hand dressing floors, and a bunk house.

17. GREENBURN & PAVE YORK MINE LITTLE LANGDALE.
(Cu.) NY 280022. Circa. 1850.
Also known as New Coniston mine, or Great Coniston Mine.

Continued.

Greenburn and Pave York Mine Cont...

At the head of the Greenburn Valley in Little Langdale, lies Greenburn Mine. The site contains numerous buildings , a row of 3 cottages, including a mine smithy, office, (with dated wall) shafts, and wheel pits. The site also contains the substantial remains of the stone slab tanks(formerley lead lined) used to leach copper from the ore by the Sulphuric Acid process. There are also remains of the incline from the 3 Pave York levels, up the hillside to the South (Wetherlam) At the Pave York levels are the remains of two buildings, in need of repair.
This site is almost certainly the most complete mining and mineral processing site in the Lake District.

18. HAWKRIGG MINE TILBERTHWAITE.
(Cu.) NY301014. Circa 1580.
This is probably the most important building on a mining site in the Lake District,because of its age (possibly Elizabethan). It is complete with its roof, and, as such, is the only building, with the exception of the Old Potts Gill Magazine, in this category.

19. SEATHWAITE MINE ,DUNNERDALE.
(Cu.) Low Level SD261933, Middle Level SD266994. Circa 1840.
There is a single building between the Low and Middle Levels standing almost to eaves height. Nearby are the remains of hand-dressing floors.

20. TILBERTHWAITE / PENNY RIGG MILL.
(Cu.) Mine NY 299008, Circa 1800.
Deep Adit Level Portal/Penny Rigg Mill,NY305007, Circa 1850.
The site was last worked in 1942.
The buildings on the mine site include a wheel pit, smithy/office, and a copper store.The buildings are in a fair condition, although in need of some preservation work. They probably date from the early 1800's. There are also a number of open shafts, and opencuts in this area, as well as the remains of water leats.
The Penny Rigg Mill is a well-defined site, dating from 1850. It was constructed at the time of driving of the Horse Crag Deep Adit Level.The mill is substantially complete, along with the wheelpits, and is worthy of preservation. It should be ensured that the mill site is not adversley affected by the recent(October 1989) granting of planning permission to re-work the slate closehead in the Deep Adit Level.

21. WETHERLAM MINE TILBERTHWAITE.
Cu.) NY298005. Circa. 1900.
At this site there is a building in need of preservation. Also on this site is a horse-powered cast iron gin, manufactured by John Fell and Co. of Wolverhampton, around the turn of the century. This was used to wind ore from the 13 fathom deep sump in the floor of the adjoining level. The drive shaft and universal couplings to the sheeve wheel are still visible.

Continued.

EDEN DISTRICT

22. EAGLE CRAG MINE, GRISEDALE, PATTERDALE.
(Pb.) NY358142(No.2 Level), NY354143(Upper workings).Circa.1700.
The No.2 level on this extensive mining site,is still open and contains wooden rails insitu. At the portal stands a two storey mine office/shop, complete except for its roof.Also in the immediate area are the remains of adressing floor, and settling ponds.
On the upper part of the crag lies the No.5 Level,adjoining which is an excellent dressing floor area, with a mine office, and an engineered roadway. On the summit of the cragare very old open workings, with an old mine building still standing to eaves level. This site constitutes a good example of an early mining site, and is worthy of preservation.

23. GREENSIDE MINE PATTERDALE.
(Pb.)NY 365174.
Although the upper part of this extensive mining site is Scheduled as an Ancient Monument, the scheduling does not extend to the lower part of the site, that is, the area around the portal of the 1 mile long drainage adit serving the mine, the Lucy Tongue Level. This area contains the remains of the former treatment works, and smelter. The buildings in this area date from the mid-1850's , as Lucy Level was driven during the period 1854-1868. The mill site occuoied a number of terraces on the hillside, which occupy a prominent position on the site. The remaining mine buildings, which have been adapted to alternative uses, should be preserved by means of Listing.

24. HARTSOP HALL MINE
(Pb.)NY395120. Circa.1700.
The upper (No.s 1 & 2 Levels) date from the early 1700's , although the mill and office remains date from the last period of re-working 1931-1942. The office still has the chimney in position,and should be cleaned out , and the walls topped with mortar to prevent water penetration.

25. MYERS HEAD OR LOW HARTSOP MINE.
(Pb.) NY416126. Circa 1867 - 1878.
The mine is situated at the confluence of Pasture Beck, & HayeswaterGill. At this point stands the remains of a wheel case for a 30foot diameter water wheel, and massive stone piers, which supported the launder leading to the overshot wheel.
Just to the West is a small mill with "dated" gritstone wheels. This mill was used for grinding corn for supplying local villages with flour.

COPELAND DISTRICT.

26. LOGAN BECK MINE, ULPHA.
(Cu.) SD173916. Circa.1850.
This is a small working for Copper on the West bank of the Logan Beck.The site contains a shaft,and two levels. At the upper level is a good example of a smithy, and ore dressing area.

27. HESK FELL/HOLEHOUSE GILL MINE, ULPHA.
(Cu.) SD175942. Circa 1850.
This mine is to be found on the South side of Hesk Fell, nr Ulpha. The site has a three-roomed mine office, and separate smithy, intact up to roof height.

DJB 07/10/89.

BOXING DAY MEET – CLOSEHEADS ON CONISTON OLD MAN

ML Alastair Cameron

Eighteen members of CAT decided to forego re-heated turkey and join the Boxing Day meet at Coniston Old Man. The venue was the middle level on the main bank at Saddle Stone where, the meet-leader assured everyone, a bit of digging would gain access to the level which has been blocked for a number of years. Some of the elder members of the group thought they might just remember exploring this particular level in their youth before the entrance became blocked.

The dig started apace but spirits were dampened when it was realised that the task was not as easy as first thought. The level mouth appeared to have been blocked intentionally by explosives. Even the experts in the group became dubious. Eventually a small gap was opened up which looked as if it dropped down to what might be the level floor; but no one felt like squeezing down to see.

Ultimately, the dig was abandoned and the party made their way up the mountain to the Low Water Quarries where the meet leader felt there might be another site worth digging. After a half-hearted look round it was decided to repair to the Saddle Stone caverns at Moss Head. Surprisingly, a number of CAT members had never been in these huge closeheads which, we were reliably informed, are the biggest caverns in England. After looking round and taking photos, we all walked down to the cars in the dark and headed for the Crown Hotel in Coniston where a number of pints were drunk before we all returned to families and continued Christmas festivities.

HONISTER SLATE MINES 7th. JAN 1990

ML Alastair Cameron

Despite the change of date, and the bad weather, a surprisingly large number of CAT members turned up for the Honister trip on 7th January. A total of 19 people assembled at Honister Hause, got kitted out then made a dash through the driving rain to the main entrance of the mine.

The plan for the day was to show new ground explored during the previous 12 months and also to gain access and explore several areas as yet not entered.

Having passed through the Link Level, a small number examined Level EO which was only re-discovered recently and runs in through the masonry-work below the overhead haulage gantry. The level gains access to quite a sizeable closehead. The roof of the entrance tunnel looks decidedly dodgy (like so much of the Honister Mine). This is not a place for people who tend to bump into things.

The party came out to day and entered the Honister Bottom Level. For the next five hours we would be underground and out of the weather. The group gathered at the foot of the Old Internal Incline where the counterbalance 'dog' of the incline system was photographed (and photographed again -- and again ---). The incline was climbed and the winding drum reached at the top. Several members paced out the distance that Top Level runs before the major collapse is reached and duly passed results (all of which were different) to the meet leader.

We then descended the incline to the lower landing and entered No 4 Level. A short way along three members and one guest (Gerald Colling) climbed a steep spoil slope and gained access to a section of Top Level not previously entered. This part of Top Level is blocked both ways by a roof-fall. Yet another tiny piece of the huge Honister jigsaw is now in place. The group moved on, leaving the more juvenile members playing trains with an ore-truck. The rest of us proceeded to the end of Level 4 and then climbed the open spoil slope to Top Level where Mike Mitchell decided that it was lunch time.

After feeding and resting we entered ground that had only recently been explored and surveyed. A narrow climb through stacks of dressing waste led up through levels numbered 7, 8 and eventually 9. This was as high as a previous exploratory group had managed to get. One of the main objectives of the meet was to try and get into Level 10. In two places small openings in the roof looked as if they might lead upwards to Level 10 but were blocked with waste. Digs up into the blockages were energetically started. In the left hand opening, Guy eventually managed to dig himself a sizeable cavern but without breaking through. The right hand one was more successful and broke through to a black void. After some consideration Dave Bridge and Ian Matherson followed later by the meet-leader, plucked up courage to climb up through. After a delicate traverse, they found themselves on the floor of Level 10. Strangely enough there was a smell of cigarette smoke. Eventually it was realised that Guy was resting in his dig and the smoke from his ciggy was percolating through the floor.

The ground in Level 10 appeared horrendously unstable. Masonry work, the roof and the stacks of spoil looked as if they were about to collapse at any moment. Not a place to go if you suffer from a bad cough. A collapse was climbed through and a second climbed over. The level continued beyond a third collapse, no doubt eventually ending at a large closehead. Common sense ruled, and the three decided to return but not before a small fall of stone partially cut off their retreat. On the way out a very fine powder pricker was found and salvaged.

The group gathered at the wide mouth-exit of Level 9 at the external incline. The breaking through to Level 10 was celebrated by passing round the meet-leader's hip flask. It was obvious that no further progress upwards could be made underground that day and so we climbed the external incline where the only view we had was of the faint traces of becks in spate on the slopes of Dale Head. The Ash Crag internal incline was traversed and the area above was explored briefly. Messrs Fleming, Mitchell, Matherson and others checked out a number of levels and Angela found an underground route up from one level to emerge like a rabbit from a hole at the top of the crag.

By now it was getting dark and it was still raining. We made our way back towards the Hause meeting a late arrival on the way down in

the form of Chris Jones who had just returned from his mine exploring trip to Spain.

The internal workings at Honister are not in a very stable condition. The main dangers are the unstable rock through which the levels are driven and the even more unstable banks of walled-up deads some of which are bulging ominously. Massive roof falls block many of the levels and some have happened quite recently. The writer, who doesn't normally wory about such things, found himself wondering what would happen if he became trapped inside by a major collapse. Rescue would take several days at the least. And what if you'd forgotten to tell anyone where you were going----.

Exploring will continue at Honister during 1990. If anyone is interested in taking part they should contact us for details of what is planned. A draft submission to English Heritage has been drawn up for 'scheduling' the External Incline which is considered to be of significant importance. A major task of preparing a field guide to area is also well under way and with any luck will be completed this year.

FORTHCOMING MEETS

May 27th - (Bank Holiday Weekend) Work Meet, Moss Head Ropeway. E. ML Ian Matheson. Following completion of the Low Water Engine House project, this meet is to carry out conservation work on the Brake House at Moss Head. Bring the family. Meet at the Walna Scar Fell Gate, GR 288971.

June 17th. Doves Nest Caves - Glaramara Axe Factory - Grains Ghyll Mine. E. ML Peter Fleming, 0229 824103. A fell walk to visit these interesting but little known sites. Helmet and lamp required. Meet at Seatoller Car Park, NY 245137

FINAL REMINDER !

This will be the last Newsletter circulated to members who have not paid their subscription for 1990