



No 47

August 1996



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*The Newsletter of the  
Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society*

## Cover Picture

From Sir John Pettu's Fleta Minor : The Laws of Art and Nature in knowing Metals, 1683

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## A Few Words

Just a very few - this newsletter would have been out earlier but I had the same old problems that come at this time of year - holidays, August, lack of copy etc. However joking apart it is the latter that has been the problem, newsletters need a lot of feeding and that can only come from the Society's membership - 'nuf said.

This has been a contributing factor in the committee's deliberations into publications policy, the results of which will be put to the forthcoming CATMHS AGM in December - yes it is coming round to that time of year yet again.

I have decided to give up being your newsletter editor, someone with more enthusiasm is needed and I feel that my decision may aid the above changes. The job has been interesting to say the least, frustrating and when putting it all-together - hectic, also at times not a little hard on the pocket. First and foremost I have regarded this publication as a window through which the rest of the world sees our Society, there have been times when the standard of content and presentation have not been as I would have wished, but you work with what you have, warts and all.

PS Should you wish to have an edition of the Newsletter in November, copy date will have to be the end of the third week in October. So some of you will have to do some serious writing.  
Mark Simpson.

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## Meets Reports

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### **A Return to Ding Dong - November 5th 1995**

A rather late mine report and a request for support for a return to further explore the workings of the Derby Mine into the moor field of Marton in 1996

On November 4th Dave Robson and myself descended into Ding Dong having put in a cow proof measures to stop rope eating (although on the 5th this cruelly failed to stop a one eyed Max Dobie from attacking the rope and ascending explorers). Once down we removed SRT kit and moved out to refamiliarise ourselves with the workings so as not to feel stupid when the masses turned up on Sunday. With much interest we noticed the water level was down in every sump we looked into, but with unnerving skill still managed not to find the way down into the 67yd level, even though I had been there on previous occasions. We prussicked out tired and 'downcast'.

Sunday dawned sunny (so continuing the summer, even the field entrance had not acquired the glutinous redness of a normal autumn), and the mine explorers not frightened by the red were seen fighting with wetsuits and SRT kit along the road, in the fields, and even by the shaft top. On descending the party set off for the 67yd level, this time knowingly led by Chris Jones. After two dead ends and a little squabbling we reached the rope/ladderway down and there it was --- clear warm and inviting water -- and only at groin level. Who should be first in ???, Trevor Tucker volunteered after being pushed - so muddying the warm water. The party then set off in three different directions before returning to the start point and all going right towards glory. When neck depth was reached Chris declared he was now satisfied that this was not the way on. So we all trooped back and found the correct side turning.

The Derby rise is at the end of a side drive and leads you up to the main stopes, not an easy climb on slippery ladders held on by old bolts. By this time mutiny was put off by

lunch in a small chamber with old tram wheels as picnic tables.

After our hearty repast, views on the way forward were expressed (and two members went home) we agreed on a team plan but went off in different directions. Eventually a route was forged by Stu Hartley and the tyre bulging shaft B46 was negotiated with its interesting 1930's tyres and animal remains. (Chris found a horse brass here). Descending into the main chamber I was amazed by the size of this chamber - a huge cone of debris descending beyond lamp view. The rock was covered by the slime of generations of inundations and care was taken by all. Levels were searched and the size of the ore body removed marvelled at. Near B 43 pit we found a rope ladder rise but only Stu would venture there - as no one knew what held the other end!

On our return we delved into other workings but were overwhelmed by the size of the place. It dawned that only Alan MacFadzeans group really knew this place properly. Wading out to the shaft some vowed never to return whilst others set the next Friday evening for a further visit.

The shaft and daylight called and we wearily ascended to be greeted with cheerful mud and cow muck from Dobie, cunningly claiming he would have joined us but hurt his eye -- Ahh !!! My washing machine recovered eventually but the rubber seal still looks red. (nods the wife in agreement).

The following Friday four hardy souls, led by Anton, explored the East stope to Derby No1 admiring the solid timbers and some of the superbly preserved pitwork still in the system. We want to go back -- having picked Alan's brains, plans, photos and diaries. We were hoping to go but the rains intervened. This summer, if it is dry, we intend to search out the 56yd level heading to B30 shaft and the far workings beyond Trespass Corner. All those of a true exploring nature not afraid of the red and wanting to play should now raise their right hand and solemnly pledge to take

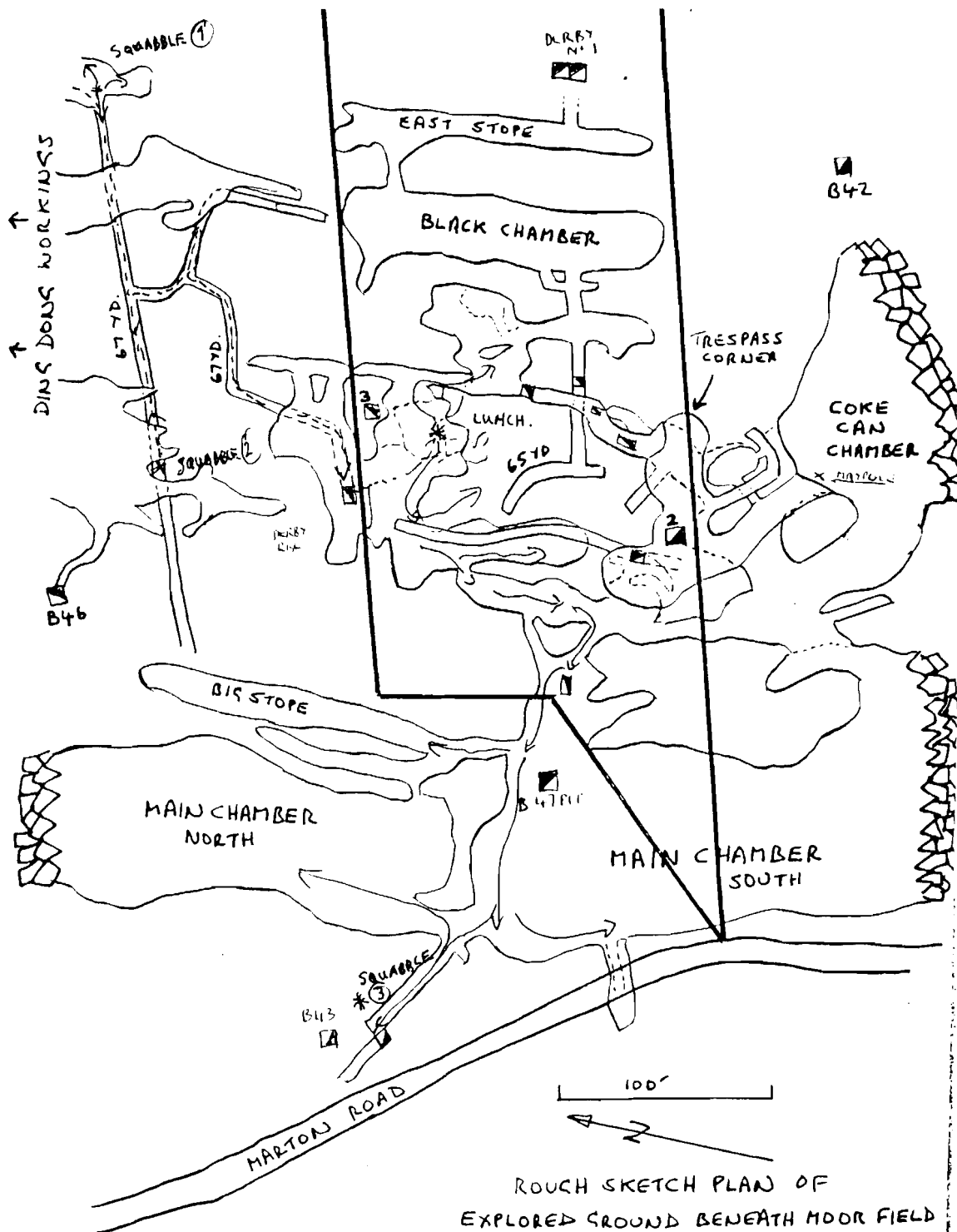
part in the DING DONG trips.

Contact myself or any of the FMA for a cunning invite to glory. You will never forget it, and neither will your washing machine.

For details of Alan's visits see his articles in the 1987/88 newsletters -- it was reading these that made me want to go (and he writes betterer then what I does)

Paul Timewell

Rough Sketch Plan of Explored Ground Beneath Moor Field Marton  
(Not including DING DONG Proper)



ROUGH SKETCH PLAN OF  
EXPLORED GROUND BENEATH MOOR FIELD  
MARTON,  
NOT INCLUDING DING DONG PROPER.

After a bit of nagging from the Newsletter editor there now follows a mega meets report to bring me nearly up to date. JK

## Light Painting

Without sounding too bitter and twisted (makes a change ) all I can say about this is that there appear to be three people in the club interested in the above. One could write as detailed an article on it as I could, and one came on the meet with me and found out. The rest of you will just have to wonder. JK

*Editors Note:- Those of us who have seen Jon's photographs have been very impressed with his expertise in this field. If anyone had any interest at all in underground photography, they would have benefitted by attending.*

## SRT Training (10 March)

These meets which are held annually are intended to help beginners and improvers with their SRT skills. The original plan had been to use the rock face at the Low Blue quarry, however the hard winter has loosened a lot of rock at the top of the face which made this unwise. As most people will know, there is a 60 foot shaft into a closehead in the underground working which was utilised for the meet. Both trainees Dave/Brewery Shaft Bowers and Dave McAnelly considerably developed their skills during the day and learned, the hard way, the importance of having all your kit adjusted correctly. JK

## Burtersett Stone Mines (17th March)

This turned out to be one of those days. The author together with Peter Hay, Ian Devine and Bruce Dean had spent the previous day at Whiteheaps and more importantly the previous evening at the George and Dragon where he had told Bruce that he could follow them to Burtesett in the morning. The Sunday dawned a typical North Pennine day with about 2 inches of Snow in Garragill. After a

leisurely breakfast and a slow crawl over Hartside we were racing down the motorway before I remembered Bruce ! - oh well too late to go back now. Arriving late at Burtesett we were met by a good turnout of Mark Simpson, Mike Mitchell, Sheila Baerker, Don Borthwick, Dave Bridge and probably other people who I have forgotten. Fortunately Bruce turned up halfway through the meet.

The Stone Mines here worked sandstone which was used for walling but the better material was much in demand for roofing, flooring and pavements. A history of the workings and their relation to the village is contained in a booklet entitled /Burtersett Quarries - A Wensleydale Mining Community by David Hall but this appears to be out of print now.

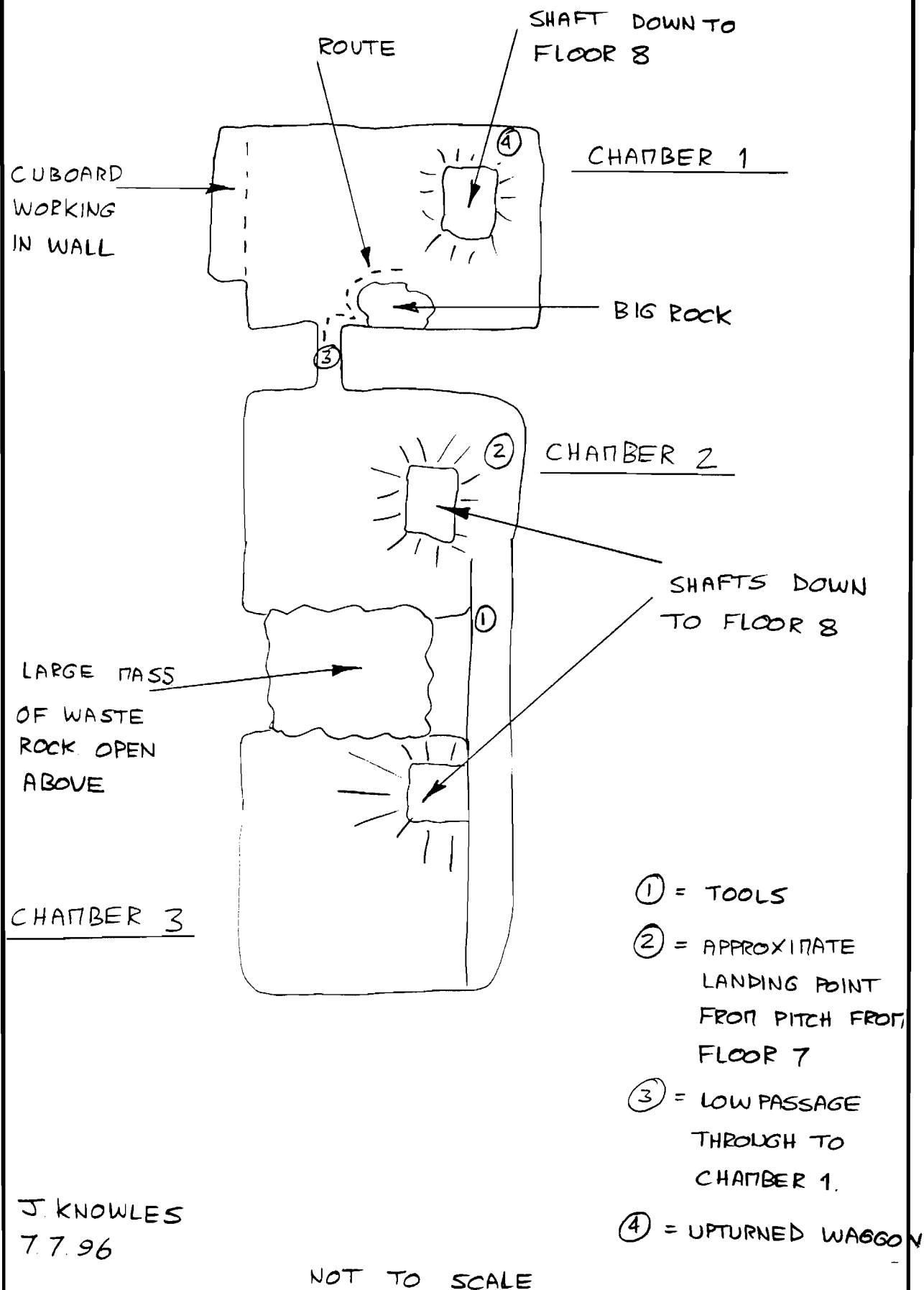
The rock was worked by pillar and post method with much back filling. In some places the roof is supported with solid stone pillars whilst in others props made from waste have been utilised. According to David Hall the industry grew up in the 1870<sup>3</sup>s, peaked about 1890 and declined from then on until it finished in 1931.

The workings were fairly straightforward to explore since most of the worked out areas have been back filled. At one point a cord led across the top of the back filled and somebody thought this would be a quick way back to the starting point, 15 minutes of hands and knees and sometimes flat out crawling later we exited. At one point near the entrance to the Raygill Quarry a hole in the floor give access to what appears to be natural cave. The author descended this but to descend further would have required a rope to get out again.

After lunch the /Southern Team headed south whilst the remainder headed to Wet Groves in an attempt to explore the moor above and look for other workings. This exploration had to be abandoned when visibility reduced to almost zero.

Jon Knowles

# Ratgoed Slate Mine Sketch of Sub - Level between Floors 7 & 8.



## Meet Report - Wales

### 12th - 14th April

Friday 12th April was one of those wet Welsh days where the rain settles in for a steady pour. After meeting at Aberllefenni Tristan and the author headed up to Ratgoed. Those who came on last years visit to the mine will remember me talking about wanting to descend one of the large chambers between floors 7 and 8 since there appeared to be a sub-level shown on the plans, unfortunately on that occasion we ran out of time. For a plane of the mine and details of how it was worked readers are advised to look in Newsletter No.43.

Once into floor 7 we looked for the best way down. Chamber 1 was definitely deeper than Chamber 2 and it had less belay points so we descended Chamber 2. All these descents where you go down the side of a vast chamber always seems more daunting than a small shaft even if the shaft is much deeper. After a descent of approximately 40 feet, between two old ladders in poor condition, a ledge is reached from which ( using a hand line for safety ) it is possible to clamber another 15 feet to the floor of the chamber. During the descent it was possible to look across to an alcove which contained a winch, this was high in the pillar between chambers 2 and 3. A ladder led up to this alcove but it was in too poor a condition to climb. When looking around it was quite clear that few people had explored this area. Much remained from when the mine was working including newspapers from 1943. An interesting article in one of these was asking for well built young ladies to volunteer for the army catering core.

All three chambers have shafts down to floor 8 below. These were not descended due to the amount of debris around their tops but it would be possible in chamber one to descend directly from floor 7 to floor 8. The depths of the shafts varies with the depth to which the chambers have been worked, that in chamber 1 being little more than 40 feet above floor 8. Between chambers 7 and 8 there are

numerous remains including gunpowder and detonator boxes, an oil can with cork stopper, tools and some rail. A point to note is that most of the pillar between chambers 2 and 3 has been worked away. See sketch for details of the chambers.

After ascending and lunch a voice could be heard on the floor below. Ken had turned up late ( never ! ) and was trying to locate us. After we all got together we had a quick look at the rest of the mine before heading back to the vehicles and a quick look into Aberllefenni. For anybody who has not been in to this particular mine the sight of some of the vertical chambers which go straight up for about 300 feet to daylight need to be seen to be believed.

Friday and Saturday nights were spent at the White Lion in Talybont. Some people staying inside whilst others set up camp in the car park.

Saturday saw a Tristan Goldsack, Dave Bridge, Angela Wilson, Mark Simpson, John Bowers and Ken Geddes and the author at Cwmystwyth. We started off by flogging up to the Bronze Age workings on Copa Hill. Although these are quite interesting the icy wind blowing across the hillside soon prompted a retreat to the lower workings. We descended and on the way explored the levels on the eastern side of the mine. It had been intended to explore Taylors adit but the meet leader seemed to find himself in a minority of one at this point and even that one soon changed his mind.

After lunch we headed for the Level Fawr and quickly descended the skip road and explored the lower workings. For anyone who has not been to Cwmystwyth the workings are very extensive and it was only possible to have a lightening tour. Once back on the Level Fawr we located a superb ore hopper surrounded by stonework and were able to climb up into a large stope above.

Sunday saw the same people at Bwlch Glas which lies in the hills behind Talybont. This mine was very much a comparatively recent

working with little having been done before 1889 ( per Bick The Old Metal Mines of Mid Wales ). The main object of the trip was to descend to see the cages which are at the head of the flooded underground shaft. To get to the cages it is necessary to first enter the upper adit and then descend a fixed ladder for approximately 50 feet. At this point a short sub-level was entered from where an inclined shaft leads down and enters the top of the stope. Descending the incline shaft into the stope proved interesting for a number of people and a couple ( we know who you are ) decided that this was not for them and promptly headed back up. Once at the bottom we explored the limited amount of accessible workings and viewed the cages. Our resident mad digger decided to dig out to day but eventually went back up the rope with everybody else.

After lunch most people headed north to Ystrad Einion to look at the water wheel whilst Ken Geddes and John Bowers went to look at some other local mines. The Forestry Commission has been doing a lot of work at Ystrad Einion, I object to calling it conservation, one result of this is that the level is now gated and padlocked. If people are going to the mine and need to know the way around this please telephone me. Once inside we gazed in awe at the large wooden waterwheel which is still in very good condition. To the side of the wheel a level head outbye and after crossing a sump it is possible to enter a shaft which is open to day. From this shaft it is possible to climb up a log about 12 feet to enter another level which contains a kibble. Climbing up is quite sporting as Dave Bridge found out when the in-situ rope broke - probably mice again.

Jon Knowles

## THE GREENSIDE LADDERWAY

25th Feb and 2nd June

The aim of these meets was to inspect and possibly clear that part of the ladderway below the Alma level where a second boulder has caused a blockage and considerable damage, look for an alternative route to Lucy Tongue level through the adjacent stopes, and if the water level permitted to reach the inbye side of the Lucy Tongue dig.

February 25th may have been an ideal day for skiers but not for trudging up to the high adit in Glencoyne with SRT gear, crow bar, ropes and what have you. Half the team failed to materialise because of icy conditions on Kirkstone (where a philanthropic member had his mattock stolen!) so Ann Dansen, Paul Timewell and myself, having been forced to make a long detour to avoid steep loose snow on the miner's track at the head of Glencoyndale, then found the entrance blocked by several yards of drifting snow. Once inside the going was easier (I had

already broken through the frozen waterfall inside on a previous visit) but by now time was at a premium. The most we could hope to do was to descend about 600 ft of ladderway and then rope down to the large flat boulder, about 5 ft across, which is resting on the remains of staging about 100 ft above Lucy Tongue level. We released some debris from the top of the boulder but it is a large block to shift and would almost certainly destroy what remains of the twisted ladderway below. About 10 ft above it there is an H-section steel beam supporting deads which could possibly be used to suspend the boulder from and allow the ladderway to be repaired, but this part of the shaft seems to be getting progressively more dangerous with the change of humidity as the Lucy Tongue dig approaches break-through point. The venting appears to be drying out the walls causing material to break away, and we noticed several unhealthy looking cracks in the hanging wall. Nightfall saw a weary party trudging up to Nick Head and it was quite dark when an anxious Pete Blezard spotted our lights descending the zig-zag track to Glenridding.



On the June meet we looked at the alternative route to this part of the shaft. The party consisted of Paul, Ed Edmondson, Bill Griffin and his son Kevin, the last two being new to the mine. The party again being small in number (gone are the old days when a Greenside trip attracted 32 members! - see Newsletter No 9) we decided to take just 50 metres of rope. While some of us were inspecting the stope from a short sub-level a loud booming noise echoed through the mine as a piece of rock crashed down the shaft and hit one of the stagings above the boulder. Ed who happened to be on the ladders at the time was shaken in more ways than one! After that Paul, Bill and Kevin set off to explore while Ed and myself geared up to descend the stope. This had been descended by Martin Maher in 1982 and a rusty anchor remains as

evidence, but a more recent anchor is also in place. The first 40 feet are down a gritty slope which enters the side of the huge stope after which the descent is free hanging. At this take-off point I inserted a bolt rebelay, abseiled down to what appeared to be the floor, instead landed on the steep footwall and found I had run out of rope before reaching the bottom. The plans show a total descent to Lucy Tongue of about 150 feet yet the 50 metre rope was not enough even to reach to the hoppers. However this proved to be a more reliable route than the shaft and if a way can be found through the hoppers it would appear to offer a safer alternative to the lower part of the ladderway for those who ultimately want to complete the through trip.

Dave Bridge

## HUDGILLBURN MINE 30th June.

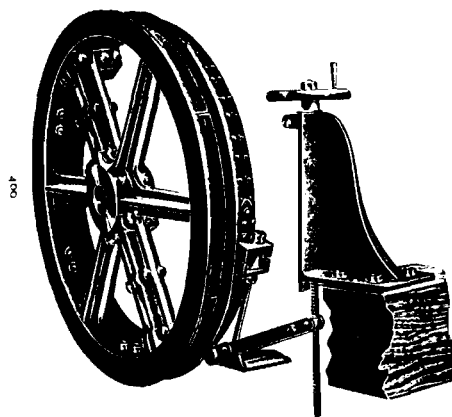
A good turnout of CAT members was greeted by showery weather at Hudgillburn Mine but this did nothing to quell the new found enthusiasm. It is supprising how the sight of a mechanical digger (instead of the manual kind) can fill the average CAT member's heart with joy. This did not last long however as it was back to the shovels to-day. The digging went ahead quickly and the tub zipped up and down (and off) the track, in all

about twenty feet of solid mud was removed from the level. Other jobs were carried out simultaneously. Consolidation work on the walls of the old mine shop and the building of a bait cabin within its walls reached roof level. A section of the mine shop was excavated to try and discover the original floor level but the evidence was inconclusive. The day ended with track being laid within the level in readiness for the next session. Any members interested in unscheduled meets at HGB please contact me.

Sheila Barker.

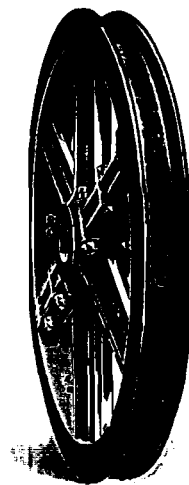
### Haulage or Fleeting Wheels.

All Sizes. Whole or in Halves.



5245

With or  
without  
Bracket,  
Stands  
and  
Operating  
Mechanisms.



5251

Tables for ascertaining pull on Haulage Ropes for various inclines, see pages 396/7

SUMMARY OF HISTORY OF SLATE WORKING AT HONISTER		
HONISTER CRAG		YEW CRAG
First record of a lease from Lord Leconfield to work slate 'on Fleetwith'	1720	
	1750	
Surface workings on both Honister and Yew Crag sides of the pass well developed. Product removed by pack pony.		
	1800	
Underground quarrying started to be developed by Wrights on Honister Crag		High quarries on Yew Crag developed by Wrights.
	1830	
Technique of hand sledging established on both sides of the pass down to the Buttermere road.		
	1850	
Honister Crag idle for twelve years		Major development at Yew Crag. Underground quarrying started.
	1860	
Depression in the market. Both Honister and Yew Crag closed down.		
	1870	Messrs Salmon and Sawrey restart work at Yew Crag
Messrs Salmon and Sawrey take over Honister Crag. Monkey Shelf construction started.	1880	Yew Crag incline constructed. Underground working off the incline developed.
Bull Gill incline constructed. Nag Back Incline constructed. Dubs tramway completed.	1890	Start made on the Dale Head tunnel.
Ash Gill Incline completed.		Dale Head tunnel project abandoned.

<p>Kimberley external incline constructed.</p> <p>Link Level constructed.</p> <p>Lower Bull Gill incline abandoned.</p>	<p>1900</p>	<p>Yew Crag incline extended downwards.</p> <p>Rail track laid to the Hause.</p>
<p></p>	<p>1910</p> <p>First motor vehicle succeeds in crossing Honister Hause</p> <p>Road to Seatoller completed.</p> <p>Workings seriously affected by the Great War</p>	<p></p>
<p>Honister internal incline completed.</p> <p>Aerial flight constructed from Honister Crag to the Hause.</p>	<p>1920</p>	<p>Yew Crag incline re-constructed as a powered incline and re-laid as a 3' 8" gauge</p>
<p>Kimberley internal incline completed.</p> <p>Dubs Quarry closed.</p> <p>Work ceases because of the lack of man-power during the war</p> <p>Dubs incline rail track removed for the war effort.</p> <p>Kimberley workings re-started.</p>	<p>1930</p> <p>1940</p>	<p>Yew Crag workings re-commissioned following lengthy repair.</p>
<p>Aerial ropeway abandoned and dismantled</p>	<p>1950</p>	<p></p>
<p>Winding drum moved from the foot to the top of the Kimberley incline.</p> <p>Slate extraction re-starts on the Honister vein after 25 years.</p> <p>Egremont Estates take over the operation of the Honister Quarries</p> <p>Hopper Quarry re-opened and expanded</p>	<p>1960</p> <p>1970</p>	<p>Yew Crag workings closed down.</p>
<p></p>	<p>1980</p>	<p>Show-room for the sale of slate opened at the Hause</p> <p>Honister Quarries sold to Bernard Moore.</p> <p>McAlpines of Penrhyn purchased the lease.</p> <p>Slate extraction at Honister ceases.</p>
<p>Messrs Weir and Taylor purchase the Honister lease and plan to start small scale extraction.</p>	<p>1990</p>	<p></p>

## **YEW CRAG by Nils Wilkes 21st July**

It was on a hot sunny July morning that a group of CAT members assembled at the Hause car park at Honister. Alastair Cameron was the meet leader, and once everyone had found somewhere to park their cars and had donned their wellingtons etc., he led us, not so much up the garden path, but up the external incline at Yew Crag.

Now I have to own up at this juncture that having been a CAT member for a relatively short period of time, I have been underground on only a handful of occasions. I am therefore still getting used to the conditions and to some of the terminology associated with mine workings. Fortunately, being in the company of the likes of Alastair, Pete Fleming, Jon Knowles and Mike Mitchell I was in good hands.

The party proceeded to climb up above the incline to team up with Martin Carter and Roger Ramsden who were busy trying to uncover an entrance into another level. They led us over to another entrance that they had recently exposed and through which we all duly crawled. Inside we could inspect the corbelled walls (not the classic form of Matt Spedding level) of the tunnel and the vertical shaft. On returning to the outside world, Alastair gave us a potted background history to the area accompanied by some handouts which listed the significant stages of the development of the mines.

The main objective of the day was to enter the Yew Crag system at level ten and re-emerge lower down at level five. Following the notes made by Dave Blundell, Alastair guided us through successfully, taking us as far down as level one at one stage. There were several artifacts to be inspected en route, including a carrock (which is rather like a large dust pan), bait boxes and plug and feathers, although much of it was relatively modern. One or two scraps of 1950's newspapers revealed what was on locally at the pictures, and that a pair of walking boots were less than 2. On level nine there remains a stone formed platform,

upon which still lies the odd piece of dressed slate of the Pattern style.

Generally the going was not difficult, however in a couple of places hand lines were used for convenience and certainly any water lying along the levels did not present any problems.

When we returned to daylight, the sunshine had given way to cloud, nevertheless it was still quite pleasant. We dropped back down the incline where Martin and Roger showed us yet another entrance they had opened up. This is considered to be the Dale Head Tunnel and is covered in more detail by Alastair elsewhere in this newsletter.

The water inside was reckoned to be over welly height, so I decided to give this pleasure a miss. Having recently suffered at the hands of Jon and Alastair in a similar situation in North Wales, I felt that I would prefer to admire the view across to the Honister workings and down the valley to Buttermere. The rest of the party crawled inside and, contrary to all expectations, found that the water was not too deep and therefore they were able to investigate the full length of the tunnel in relative comfort.

It was then merely a question of returning to the car park and bidding everyone farewell at the end of a thoroughly enjoyable day.

## Dale Head Tunnel

by A D Cameron

An interesting puzzle has arisen following recent exploration at Honister Hause which is likely to take some time to clear up. The puzzle surrounds the discovery by Martin Carter and Roger Ramsden of a tunnel at the foot of Yew Crag which may prove to be the long sort after Dale Head rail tunnel.

The first reference to a tunnel through the mountain of Dale Head goes back to 1887 when Mr Bennett Johns, the manager of The Buttermere Green Slate Company, proposed that a light railway should be constructed from Honister Hause to Braithwaite station on the Keswick to Cockermouth railway. The purpose of the railway was to allow slate to be carried away easily from the Hause which, at that time, had virtually no roads access.

The route of the proposed light railway was surveyed. It would run for about 4 1/2 miles. The first part would involve tunneling through Dale Head. Once this had been completed, and having emerged into the Newlands Valley, the route would descend to the valley floor via a short section of incline and finally run down to Braithwaite.

Old records suggest that the tunnel was started but, at some point during 1894, negotiations with Mr Marshall who owned much of the Newlands Valley failed to reach an agreement and the project was abandoned. The writer is one of several people who have spent some time trying to confirm the existence of the tunnel without success.

During a programme of exploration at Honister by Martin and Roger in 1994 the possible location of a tunnel portal was discovered near the end of the rail track that ran from the Hause to the foot of the Yew Crag incline. A dig was commenced which confirmed that an entrance did exist. The two explorers eventually managed to gain access and discovered a tunnel that ran straight into

the mountain for a distance of about 250 yards. After an exploration the pair exited and the entrance was effectively re-sealed.

In July 1996 a group from CAT were shown the tunnel by Martin and Roger. Clearly it was an unusual feature and uncharacteristic of anything in the Honister area. There was a lengthy debate during the visit which could not resolve entirely its intended purpose. Subsequently a return visit was made to take accurate bearings and to pace out the tunnel.

The question is whether the tunnel was driven to run through to Newlands or whether it was just another mining level. The various arguments are listed below.

Arguments for a railway tunnel are:

- a) the tunnel has been drive virtually in a straight line,
- b) the drive is horizontal and does not rise at a gentle angle as do mining levels,
- c) the direction of the tunnel is towards the head of the Newlands Valley and away from any of the locations of the slate bands,
- d) the tunnel is extremely spacious, approximately 8ft wide and high.

Arguments against a railway tunnel are:

- a) the tunnel is driven from the end of the rail track from the Hause, a development which was only completed in 1908, fourteen years after the rail tunnel project was supposedly abandoned.
- b) the tunnel was driven with compressed air drills. Such drills were only introduced at Honister in 1909.

Unfortunately there is no reference to the tunnel on any of the plans of the workings. This does not make interpretation any easier. My own guess is that, at some time shortly after 1909 the project to drive a tunnel through to the Newlands Valley was started again and a considerable amount of capital was expended before the project finally halted.

## Silverband Mine

Ron Calvin RM

### The Workings on a Wet and Misty Day 24 November 1995

Barytes is taken from the large stock pile, by a wheeled front loader and dropped into a Kun Crusher, which breaks the ore down into 4ins size, and is then fed by a Sheveron Conveyor up to a hopper, which in turn drops the material onto a track type steel conveyor, not unlike a track of a tank, or tracked vehicle, and from there into a very large screwfeeder. (which was made by Stalkers of Kendal 9 years ago and is the third of its type that has been used at this Mine but is due for replacement soon).

The feed off the screw is fed into a small jaw crusher at the top of the mill, where it is crushed down to 22mm, but before it reaches the crusher, the smalls are screened out and dropped down to a conveyor along with the crushed mix. It is then lifted up above the Jiggs and is screened again, to separate the 22mm from the smalls - the smalls going to the end Jigg, which is made of wood, but is still working. It takes a lot of maintenance to keep it running. This will be replaced by a second-hand set of jiggs that came from Sheffield, and the old wooden one put out to rest. This will make three steel Jiggs to work the Mill. Four men work the mine but on the day I visited only three men were there.

Phil Saul was running the Jiggs and keeping the rest of the plant maintained. Arnold Maughan was feeding the big crusher from the stock pile and keeping an eye on the Hopper outside the screwfeeder, he was also moving the dressed Barytes from under the Mill to the stocking area.

Arnolds son Ian Maughan is the Mine Foreman - he looks after all the plant and fitting work, and works in the open cut when they are taking the Barytes out.

### The Working of the Barytes Vein 1995 - 1996

The minerals are extracted to a depth of 30m, but the last working face went down from 100ft to 150ft in places.

No blasting is required, all the Barytes is extracted using tracked excavators and backacters. It is then transported to the processing plant or stock pile by dump truck. The vein being worked is the Dunfell Vein, which goes from 1ft to 10-12ft wide in places. The figures I obtained of dressed Barytes is 200 tons per week, but this can be much higher if they working a good vein. The men work from 8.00 am until 6.00 pm, five days, and Saturday mornings. This is a very inhospitable place to work.

The few hours I was there the mist and rain never cleared, it was only a brief break in the weather that allowed me to drive down in safety. This is one road I would not like to drive down in Winter or the mist, but, on a clear day you can see for miles. All the plant and workings are over 2,000ft up Dun Fell. The Manager and the Owner of the Mine is Mr David Waiting, both he and his workforce were of great help to me.

### Silverband Mine - Some Notes

The London Lead Company took over this area in the early 19th century, although some workings probably pre-date this as there some old smelting sites in the area. Dunfell Hush has been worked for ironstone in ancient times.

The London Lead Company drove the Silverband Low Level at 2,286 ft OD and the High Level at 2,384 ft OD. The notes I have show the London Lead Company working this mine from 1821 till 1879, having driven 17,500 ft of levels at an estimated 7,500 tons of lead concentrates, with 6-9 oz of silver per ton was won - not a lot of return for the length of levels driven.

A Mr Brammalls took over the mine, re-opening it from 1914 to 1918, resulting in only a small production of barytes.

B.Laport & Co took over the mine in 1939 and built an aerial ropeway 3.5 miles down to the dressing plant in Milburn Grange. They worked the mine for barytes till 1960.

Horace Taylor Minerals took over the mine in 1972 and the present day dressing mill was built in 1974. The working of barytes was now by opencast working, which was given up in 1985 when Cragg and Cuttriss took over the working of the mine.

Mr David Waiting of Waitings Minerals Ltd took over in May 1994 and is still working the mine, again by opencast working.

There are many workings in this area and more time needs to be spent on investigating them.

The veins worked :-

Rowpotts Vein, Dunfell Vein, Deed Vein, Swathbeck Vein, Slope Vein

Separate production figures for the Lead Ore cover only the period 1863-1876 when 1,007 tons of lead concentrates, containing 75% of lead, with 6-9oz of silver per ton of lead ore obtained.

For the whole period 1821-1879 the London Lead Company records of the mines on the Thanet-Tufton Royalty, shows a total of 15,062 tons of lead concentrates, it may be estimated that about half of this total or 7,500 tons came from Silverband.

R. Calvin. R.M. November 1995

## The Geological Survey of Paddy End Mine

While visiting the BGS Newcastle office in September 1993 we were asked if CAT would participate in an underground geological survey of Coniston Copper Mine (see CAT Newsletter No 37). It was suggested that we might take members of BGS into the more accessible parts of the mine for them to record the geology and then extend the survey ourselves where SRT was involved. At that time the idea was merely a gleam in the eyes of the geologists.

In January 1996 funding became available and Dave Millward and Brian Young spent a week at Coniston carrying out the first part of the project. With CAT's help they were able to make a geological record of Levers Water Mine, part of the Belman Hole Level including MAG's Catwalk (which Dave apparently has never stopped talking about!), Top Level extension, Courteney's crosscut and Hospital/Grey Crag Level. By the time we got to Deep Level the size of the task I

think was beginning to dawn and they decided that any further surveying should be confined to the Paddy End workings because of the interesting vein structure there.

In the course of the week Dave Millward made a discovery in Grey Crag Level which could have important repercussions, geologically speaking. If confirmed this observation could move the date of the copper vein mineralisation back in time to a point well before the Devonian. They are presently looking for other evidence, both in the field and in mineral samples taken from this and other veins, and we are told that a BGS paper on the subject is already in hand.

Unfortunately the type location (ie the place where the feature was first recognised and described) is now beyond the recent collapse which has effectively sealed off the bottom of the Paddy End through route.

At the CAT committee meeting in January this year it was agreed that we should continue to devote time to the survey in parallel with our other projects. Our involvement would now be more demanding, the aim being to complete the recording of geological data in the Paddy End workings above adit which would then be programmed into a 3-dimensional representation of the mine by the computer staff at BGS, Edinburgh (the Newcastle office having now closed). The outcome for us would hopefully be an even better understanding of the way everything fits together and the way the mine was worked. Also the possibility of CAT being involved in a future publication with BGS.

Mark Simpson and I therefore set about organising meets for this purpose and in the meantime Dave Millward offered to provide a 'teach in' to explain the geological features which they would like us to record. This was held on June 19th at Courteney's crosscut where the workings are easily accessible. The seven CAT members who turned up were each provided with a check list which we went through item by item and whatever ones commitment to the project it made a pleasant evening out. Sue Loughlin who is currently doing the BGS mapping on the east side of the Helvellyn range also came along.

The vast amount of CAT's exploration in Paddy End mine over the years, meticulously recorded by Peter Fleming in the Journal Vols 2 and 3, makes compelling reading and highlights the complexity of these workings. In order to get this information into a computer and to provide a framework to hang the geology on we decided that fixed datum points would need to be established systematically throughout the mine, and that this must be done before we could hope to get down to any further recording of the geology. We decided to confine our efforts initially to the upper part of Paddy End mine down as far as Middle Level but omitting the Levers Water mine - Brow stope - Top Level extension sections, ie omitting everything to

the west of Windy Stope. With the geology added that would give BGS something to work on and provide us with some feedback.

Mark was keen to organise the basic survey which has been a long held ambition of his. Part of the project will involve surveying to surface via different routes, and here the recent RCHME survey of the scheduled copper mines area which should accurately indicate the positions of the open stopes will help to tie things together and provide a check on the accuracy of our underground measurements. To this end Mark has acquired on loan a Hilgar and Watts Microptic theodolite which is lacking a tripod - has anyone got such a tripod hidden in the attic?

After several trials we are using the CAT Suunto KB-14 direct sighting compass where possible underground and a cheaper Suunto MC-1 (ie with mirror and sighting line) when the angle of inclination is too great for the KB-14, which is often the case. The compass and objective (ie reflecting strip) are mounted on camera tripods which have been adapted to be non-magnetic and fitted with plumb lines. If used with extreme care the cheaper compass has a precision of +/- one degree when tripods are used. This is proved by the back measurements we take at each station.

The accuracy of the compass bearings will of course depend on the proximity of any ferrous material and trials revealed that bolting gear, MityLite, spare compass and metal watch strap should be removed while taking measurements!

All this may appear obvious but it is surprising what one can overlook (fortunately my own SRT gear is now almost totally of lightweight alloy). So far there has been no detectable effect of magnetite in this part of the mine. Because of the difficult terrain and the large amount of ground to be covered the best we can hope to achieve is a Grade 3 survey for the datum point positions and Grade 2 for the shapes of the levels and stopes. When the plans of the different horizons are superimposed the results so far have been encouraging.



To date there have been seven survey meets covering the following ground:

Meet No 1 - Tuesday 21st May - Mark Simpson and Dave Bridge

The whole of the Belman Hole Level was surveyed apart from that isolated part of the crosscut opening into Windy Stope. This included Arete Chamber, the Ladderway level, and the workings beyond MAG's Catwalk.

Meet No 2 - Friday 7th June - MS and DGB

The Funnel was descended as far as the take-off point for the main pitch and a Y-hang bolt belay established in the LH wall above the point where the Belman Hole crosscut opens into Windy Stope. MS then abseiled down to inspect and measure up the short length of crosscut which is a continuation of Dead Dog Passage beyond the collapse at Angela's Dig. This section of level had almost certainly not been entered since Peter Fleming's famous descent in the early days when he was left dangling in Windy Stope from one piton, the other having parted company from the rock! On the same day we descended to the Lake Stope level from Arete Chamber and surveyed the Top Level crosscut from Windy Stope to the Boxing Day Dig.

Meet No 3 - Tuesday 18th June - MS and DGB

Much of the remaining part of Top Level was surveyed. Also the descent down the Ladderway to the Lake Stope level.

Meet No 4 - Friday 5th July - MS, DGB and John Davies

We descended to Top Level via the timbered hole in Arete Chamber. Beneath the timbering the arete continues and is stoped out on either side for some distance providing descents both to Lake Stope level to the west

and the Four Way Junction level to the east. This remaining level was surveyed together with some other workings off Top Level crosscut. On a staging above one of these John discovered an artefact made from a thin wooden rod which had been carefully teased out at one end - possibly a stemmer or for cleaning out shot holes. After that we descended Green Ginnel and surveyed Malachite Tunnel at the Middle level horizon.

Meet No 5 - Friday 12th July - DGB

This was a short trip to take more accurate compass bearings in the Arete Chamber area because the measurements made on Meet No 1 had been with a hand-held compass without a sighting line or tripods. This correction brought that part of the Belman Hole Level plan into close agreement with the Top Level plan.

Meet No 6 - Monday 22nd July - MS, DGB, JD

Having arrived at Coniston without the surveying gear I spent two hours driving to St Bees and back while Mark and John set to work opening up a blockage between Boxing Day Dig and the main tramming level to Top Level extension to get a tape through and take a compass bearing. By mid afternoon the important connection had been made and we were able to survey the full length of the Top Level crosscut and tie this in directly with our previous survey along the tramming level. On this occasion the descent to Top Level was made from the start of MAG's Catwalk and that connection surveyed.

Meet No 7 - Monday 29th July - MS, DGB and JD

The interesting descent down to Middle Level extension from Top Level was surveyed, which includes a length of sub-level between Top and Middle levels. We then surveyed the whole of Middle Level extension carefully avoiding the few remaining clog prints. This level poses several questions eg where does the

crosscut enter Windy Stope? (which it must do) and where are the workings above the hopper which are producing so much secondary copper mineralisation? After that we re-surveyed the length of Top Level from that point back to the Boxing Day Dig, which we had previously done without tripods.

Meet No 8 - Monday 12th August - MS and DGB

Today we had a lift as far as Hospital Level in Clive Barrow's 4-wheel drive which was a great help as more and more gear is needed the deeper we get into the mine. We headed first for the descent point to Middle Level extension in Top Level, and here a run of debris rises to the south from about fifteen feet below ones feet ending at a collapse beneath some timbering which supports a pack wall. The wall rises to a height of about twenty feet above Top Level and the Paddy End stope continues beyond. Some of the supporting timbers have recently collapsed and the whole pile looks very unstable.

Using two rusty scaffolding poles from an early phase of CAT's explorations dragged from Orange Box Corner and a short length of angled steel brought in for the occasion Mark made a precarious ascent of the pack wall, inserting a bolt in the LH wall on the way up for a running belay and another at the top. I followed with the big lamp and we found ourselves perched at the top of a short unstable slope which after a few feet dropped vertically into a working many feet below which neither of us recognised. Ahead the narrow Paddy End stope continued, curving to the left, but below it widened out. The floor directly beneath us was strewn with large rocks dominated by one huge boulder and beyond that a narrow rock wall or rider rose up splitting the vein in two. To the right of this rock wall we looked down onto the floor of a level which appeared to have a wooden plank running along it. The workings also continued to the left of the wall but ran out of sight as the vein curved to the left.

We deduced that this must be unexplored

ground roughly above the Middle Level twin tunnels. It would require a carefully positioned bolt to make the descent, but my driver had come apart so we retreated from the unstable perch leaving exploration for another day. Next we rodded a way into the most easterly stope of Top Level through the recent blockage caused by the collapse of the ground below Simon's Nick. Mark managed to crawl through, make a quick survey of the area, and return unscathed but further access is not recommended until the collapse can be stabilised. After that we settled for a pint in the Crown.

The survey meets have been held on weekdays partly for domestic reasons and partly to avoid scheduled CAT meets. Anyone who can spare the time to assist should contact Mark or myself. There's still a lot to do, and as we go deeper more gear to be moved.

Dave Bridge

Further Observations by Mark Simpson.

The survey work from the out set has been restricted to distinct horizons - for ease of surveying and for drawing up. Fixing the relative position of different levels could only be achieved with any accuracy when top and bottom of descents are in line of site, or where they are known to be vertical and hade can be easily allowed for. Thus the BH Level and TL are easy to position. ML under Top Level with only (so far) point of access less so. Height and distance (where the floor has gone) estimation in stopes is very difficult and ones perception varies with the amount of illumination. A DIY device has been developed to provide a means of getting round this problem. The CAT funds will not run to laser distance measuring equipment. This will have to be carried out if our aim of drawing sections with any pretence of accuracy is to be achieved. Our work so far shown that there are many places that need further exploration, the last trip found one such area. There are others over MAGS, one can go on.



## News

### A REPAIR JOB AT BROWNLEY HILL MINE

Early in May I received a phone call from Bill Griffin of the West Cumberland Mines Research Group asking if CAT could spare some effort to help repair a collapse a few yards inbye of the Brownley Hill Horse Level portal. A section of the LH wall several feet long had fallen in leaving roofing slabs unsupported on that side and causing a potential build up of water which Bill had temporarily alleviated with a drainage pipe. The collapse was spreading along the level which, being of shallow cut-and-cover construction, was vulnerable to water draining in from the surface. Before long the roofing slabs would be down. On 12th May, with Ian Matheson's help, we inserted a temporary support for the roof and cleared some of the collapsed masonry. At the next committee meeting it was decided that CAT should send a work party to carry out a proper repair in view of the importance of the mine.

On 28th May John Helme, Paul Timewell, Peter Sandbach and myself met Bill and his son Kevin at the mine with a view to rebuilding the collapsed wall. It soon became clear that this could only be tackled by digging a trench to expose the collapse,

rebuilding the wall, and back filling the trench - a major job which would require a mechanical digger. Instead we opted for the simpler solution of supporting the roof with heavy timbers and shuttering off the collapse. The decision made, we set to work after lunch with a vengeance, 'borrowing' timber from the Hudgillburn dig and using the original iron gate from the Brownley Hill level as a frame for the shuttering. Finally we back-filled the hole at surface.

Just as we were admiring the day's efforts a family of four appeared at the portal to view their ancestor's mine. They were over from New Zealand and were not a little surprised to find the mine still under care and maintenance! Their ancestor, whose name was Hutchinson, had according to them worked the mine in the early part of the 19th century. In fact Wallace records that a William Hutchinson took out a joint lease on the mine as early as 1765 when 'very large quantities of lead ore were raised from the cross veins, and the principal east and west vein'.

One encouraging outcome of this joint project was that the society gained two keen new members.

Dave Bridge

### Nenthead Mines

The 15th of July was the day of the official opening of the Nenthead Mines, the North Pennines Heritage Trust's new exhibition centre, situated in the recently renovated Rampgill Mine buildings. The sun kindly shone on the invited guests who ranged from Sir Kingsley C. Dunham, to local council officials, mining experts, the local work force and children from Nenthead Primary School. The opening ceremony was performed by John Craven (of Country File fame). KCD

said a few well chosen words, followed by music played by the school band, the children playing the some of the original instruments played by the miners many years ago. A very enjoyable day, which celebrated the successful completion of the first step of the NPHT's plans for the mine site. Their aim is to protect and conserve all the existing archaeological, ecological and geological aspects of the rest of the site, for future research and recreational enjoyment.

Sheila Barker

## Scotlands First Commercial Gold Mine.

The mine at Cononish on the slopes of Ben Lui near Tyndrum, Tayside is going to start production next summer, and is expected to produce 25,000 oz of gold a year, and 37million worth in the first seven years.

The 7 million project, employing 50 miners, is being developed by Fynegold Exploration, part of the Caledonia Mining Corporation, and is the work of Scots-Canadian Dennis Macleod, whose ancestor was said to be responsible for the Scottish gold rush of 1868.

The firm has been granted a seven year licence for the site but hopes to renew the mining permission next century. It has also

targeted another eight potential gold mines in Scotland.

The Cononish mine, running a mile into Ben Lui, has been opposed by some environment groups concerned about physical scars on the mountain, and the pollution of water courses.

Abstracted from the Daily Telegraph 3 July 1996.

Note:- Alistair Lings, for many years an active member of our Society, was one of the team of geologists working for Fynegold during the early prospecting stages.

See also Issue No 30 (July 1991) and Issue No 41 (January 1995)

John Helme.

## Weils Disease

The new breakthrough in Priddy Green Sink and Swildons will focus attention on a site where there is risk from this disease, which is caught from the urine of rats. Another area of risk is the tidal stretch of the lower part of the Wye in the Forest of Dean. In Derbyshire Long Tor Grotto, the lower end Youds Level and the Stoney Middleton caves are also danger areas. ( Several years ago Anton and Sheila C.P. Thomas visited Youds, and Sheila caught the disease. It was not fun while it lasted). In fact there is significant risk in any caves or mines carrying drainage from farm land, stables or quarries.

The symptoms are similar to flu at first, but which left untreated may worsen and lead to serious illness or even death in 10% of cases. treated promptly with appropriate antibiotics the disease is curable.

The NCA has produced a free leaflet on the disease and also a plastic credit-sized information card which fits in your wallet.

Other Information available from the NCA includes the following:-

Leadership and Instructor Qualifications in Caving Cave Instructor Certificate

(Exploration of Mines as part of the CIC Scheme is still at the consultation stage)

Local Cave and Mine Leader Assessment Scheme

Legal Aspects of Access Underground.

Guidelines for Cave and Mine Exploration - Criteria for determining the Quality and Safety of Provision of Instruction and Leadership.

Above are available from Mr John Cliffe, 45 Gwernyfed Avenue, Three Cocks, Brecon, Powys, LD3 0RT. (Send SAE - most are Free)

NCA SpeloeScene No 24 July/Aug 1996.

Petzl Stop Warning

Lyon Equipment Ltd, UK distributors for Petzl Equipment have advertised that the Maillon Rapide should never be used to attach a Stop to the harness. This applies to both small diameter Maillons and the 10mm long-series oval. See over for detailed explanation.

## SAFETY, EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

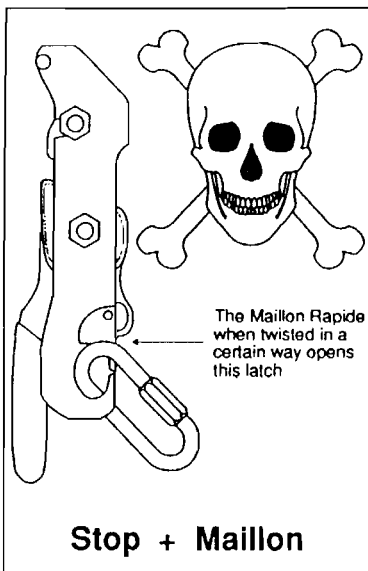
### Connecting Descender to Harness

#### PETZL STOP - A WARNING !

Following the publication of the article "Abseiling Safety" in Training Bulletin 96/3, (May/June) we have been advised by Lyon Equipment Ltd., the UK distributors of Petzl equipment, that it is unsafe to use any Maillon Rapide to connect a Petzl Stop descender to a harness. The problem with the small diameter Maillons has been known for some time but Lyon Equipment advise that this applies not only to small diameter Maillons but to the 10mm model also.

The reason why the 10mm Maillon is not suitable is nothing to do with the bar diameter, it is the relatively narrow width across the Maillon that makes it ideal as a lever to open the latch on the Stop when twisted at the right angle. The sketch illustrates the nature of the problem.

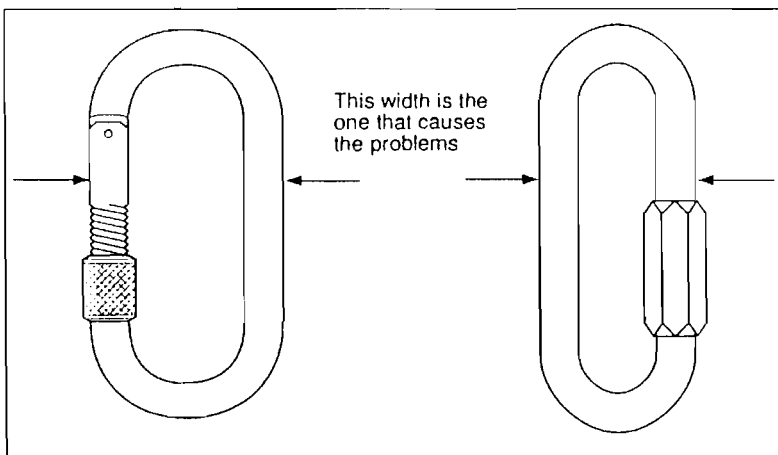
Lyon Equipment's Development Engineer, Chris Ware, confirms that a 10mm long-opening Maillon Rapide is perfectly acceptable for attaching a Rack but should NEVER be used to connect a Petzl Stop descender. He suggests that the ideal connector for any descender is a large karabiner with a double action locking gate, such as a



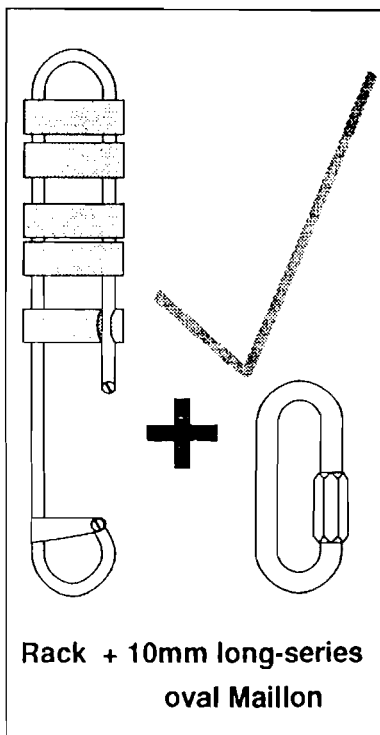
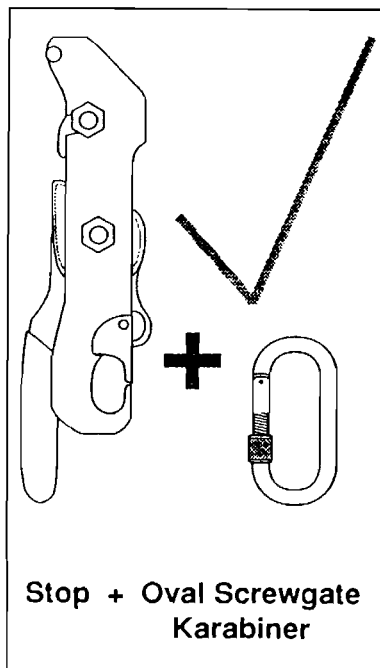
Charlet Moser bayonet lock or DMM Locksafe. Either way, with a gate that requires two separate actions to open it, you are very unlikely to open it accidentally in use.

Direct attachment of a Stop into the semi-circular Maillon is not advisable because it leaves the descender in the wrong orientation, and it also means the Stop is difficult to remove in an emergency situation.

Our thanks to Chris Ware for the detailed information.

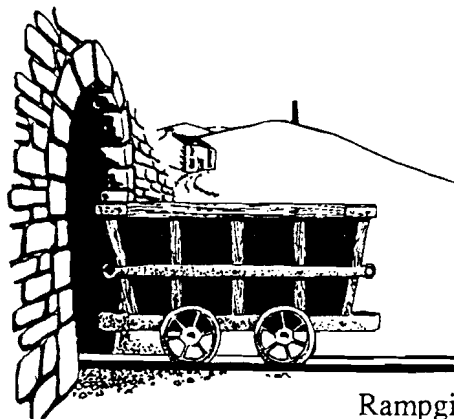


#### EITHER OF THESE TWO SYSTEMS IS SAFE



## **Late News**

1. The following letter from the North Pennines Heritage Trust is self explanatory. For reasons of copyright we have not printed the map mentioned but it is roughly Dowgang Hush up to 772428, Dowgang Burn up to 776427, Middle Cleugh up to 790425, Long Cleugh Burn up to 794424 and most of the area with mining remains North to the Killhope road. Further clarification can be obtained from the Trust or Sheila Barker.
2. The next meets list is now being produced and will be issued in approximately 4 weeks.
3. Please note that there are three changes to the current meets list :-  
  
**20th October Tilberthwaite.** This meet will now take place on the 3rd November.  
  
**27th October Hudgillburn.**  
  
**3rd November Gutterby Iron Mine.** This meet has been postponed.
4. The grid reference for the meeting point for the Faggersgill trip is the CB Hotel in Arkengarthdale at NZ 000031



# North Pennines Heritage Trust

Ramsgill Visitor Centre, Nenthead, Alston, Cumbria, CA9 3PD Tel: 01434 382037

22nd August 1996

To members of NAMHO

Our ref: A/2/10/5/596C

Dear Representative

## ACCESS TO NENTHEAD MINES

I am writing to draw your attention to new arrangements for access to the mines on land owned by Cumbria County Council in the Nent Valley and would be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of your Secretary, Committee and Newsletter Editor. I enclose a map showing the boundaries of the land concerned.

It is generally known that the County Council bought this land to secure the conservation of the important remains and to make them available to the public in a controlled fashion.

Since 1992, negotiations have been taking place with the North Pennines Heritage Trust to achieve these aims. In 1993 the Ramsgill Workshops were acquired. These are now leased by the Trust which has converted them into workshops for local businesses and a heritage centre which opened to the public on 24 June 1996. The Heritage Centre tells the story of the people of Nenthead and their activity on the site. I enclose a leaflet with opening arrangements.

Further developments of which you might like to be aware are that:

1. The whole site is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
2. Parts of the site are now scheduled as a geological SSSI. This includes Carrs Level and Smallcleugh Mine, both the surface and the interior.
3. The site is now the subject of a management plan approved by English Heritage and a programme of conservation of the surface remains is now being prepared.



These developments mean that for the first time access to the site can and must be regulated. The only right of access on foot is over existing footpaths and there is no vehicular right of access except for quarry and agricultural purposes. Admission away from the footpaths is therefore by permission and the public will in future be paying for access to the Heritage Centre and the waymarked trails which are being set up. Groups from outdoor activity centres will in future pay to use the site by prior arrangement.

Mining and geological groups who are members of NAMHO may continue to use the site within the following framework.

Vehicles will no longer be able to park along the Priorsdale track but will be required to park in the enlarged car park at the old Rampgill workshops.

Groups and individuals who feel willing and able to help with the conservation of the surface remains will be very welcome. They should let the Centre Manager know so that any work is carried out with Scheduled Monument Consent and in accordance with the Management Plan.

Neither the County Council nor the Trust wishes to prevent access to the mines by bona fide mine exploration and survey groups. Indeed the Trust would welcome co-operation with them in extending our knowledge of the Nenthead Mines as a whole. In future what we seek is your co-operation in:

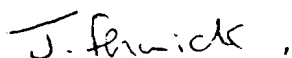
- a) parking in the Heritage Centre car park
- b) notifying the Centre Manager before you go down a mine - either by calling at the Centre during opening hours or leaving a note in the Trust letter box outside that time.
- c) helping us to prevent activities which damage the fabric of the mines or involve the extraction of minerals.

We would welcome publicity for these arrangements in any club journal so that as many members as possible are informed.

The Trust cannot be held responsible for any damage, injury or loss by parties from mining history groups while visiting the site.

We would be very pleased to know if your club or group has a particular research interest in any part of the site above or below ground. We are attempting to build up a comprehensive record of the whole site and if your organisation has carried out surveys or produced written material we would welcome a copy for our archive.

Yours faithfully



Jill Fenwick  
Centre Manager

**CATMHS Financial Statement May 1996**

Balance march 1996		2014.71	
<b>Subscriptions</b>			
7 members @10.00	70.00		
3 joint memberships @ 12.00	36.00		
In Rev (Cov Tax Rebate)	104.82		
Donations (slide show)	20.00		
<b>Literature sales</b>			
Journal 4	91.10		
BLF	140.00		
Misc.	5.15		
SFC	1284.15		
Bank interest	0.67		
<b>Total</b>	<u>1751.89</u>	<u>1751.89</u>	
		<u>3766.60</u>	
<b>Expenses</b>			
Secretary's expenses	45.66		
Membership Secretary's expenses	81.00		
Publicity Officer's expenses	73.45		
Treasurer's expenses	35.00		
Meeting room rent	3.00		
Mandalls Office rent	50.00		
Refund book sale	1.33		
Second payment SFC	1610.00		
Finale payment SFC	438.16		
Production costs SFC	73.57		
Printing Trail leaflets (HSP)	122.00		
<b>Project Hudgill Burn</b>			
Hire landrover etc.	86.00		
Wire staples etc.	24.32		
Hire excavator	176.25		
2nd hire excavator	105.75		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>2925.49</u>	<u>-2925.49</u>	
<b>Balance</b>		<u>841.11</u>	
<b>Balance held as:</b>			
Building Society	758.73		
Bank	82.38		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>841.11</u>		

**CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY**

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 20th May 1996 at the BMSC Hut, Coniston.

**Agenda**

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 Apologies for absence                     | 2 Minutes of the last meeting   |
| 3 Matters arising                           | 4 Secretary's Report            |
| 5 Treasurer's Report                        | 6 Membership Secretary's Report |
| 7 Meets Secretary's Report                  | 8 Publicity officers Report     |
| 9 Furness Projects                          | 10 Hudgill Burn Mine            |
| 11 Newlands Furnace                         | 12 Coniston Coppermines Site    |
| 13 Date and venue of next committee meeting | 14 Any other business           |

**Present** D. Bridge, S. Barker, J. Helme, I. Matheson, P. Fleming,  
M. Mitchell, P. Sandbach, P. Timewell and A. Wilson.

9 Members in total. A.D. Cameron also attended.

The meeting commenced at 7.35 pm.

The Chairman started the meeting by expressing the sadness felt by us all at the death of Barbara Mitchell. Barbara was a long-standing and valued CAT member, he offered the condolences of the membership to Mike.

**1 Apologies for absence**

D. Parsons and M. Simpson

**2 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 22th March 1996 had been previously circulated to members. It was PROPOSED by J. Helme and SECONDED by D. Bridge "That the minutes be signed by the chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings". This was carried unanimously.

**3 Matters arising**

3.1 Item 4.3 (c) (Jan. 96) D. Bridge along with other CATMHS members had attended the meeting with MOLES, LMMT and COMRU at the Kings Head. Mine exploration in Cumbria was discussed. MOLES had received a letter from the LDNP asking them for an inventory of artefacts removed from mines on their land holdings in the Lake District. It was decided to write a joint letter (to be seen by the Chairman before being sent) asking for a list of these land holdings. This subject to be discussed at the next Mines Forum meeting.

**4 Secretary's Report**

The Secretary had received:

- 4.1 NAMHO newsletter and AGM minutes. They are going to update their handbook.
- 4.2 Notification of the first International Mining Congress to be held in Switzerland in August 1997, details to be in the next newsletter.
- 4.3 English Heritage had sent the Step 1 reports on the Lime, Cement, Plaster and Quarrying industries (part of the MPP).
- 4.4 NCA newsletter and AGM minutes. The National Caving Conference will be held on 13/15th September, at Sheffield.
- 4.5 A letter from David Parsons, who for various reasons felt he could no longer give the time required to be an active member of the CATMHS

committee. The Chairman expressed his regret at David's resignation and asked the Secretary to write and thank him for his help in the past.

#### 8 Publicity Officer's Report

This item was brought forward as the Publicity officer had to leave the meeting early.

8.1 The John Ruskin Museum. In April the appeal fund stood at a staggering £139000 (for a more detailed report read J.&H.Wilkinson in the last newsletter). In the near future, thought will have to be given to the CATMHS's section of the museum display.

8.2 'Slate from Coniston'. A.D. Cameron reported it was selling well, especially in Coniston. 1535 copies had been printed. There had been a review printed in the local paper, with more to follow. P&R Books (wholesalers) offered to sell some of the books but they would require a 50% discount, it was agreed to allow this. In view of the former, it was agreed to discuss the possibility of raising the book price at the end of the summer. This subject to go on the next agenda as a separate item. The format of the society's future publications was discussed, this subject also to be put on the next agenda.

#### 5 Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented a balance sheet covering the period since the last committee meeting. He made the following comments.

5.1 We have sold 31 (of the 70 copies purchased) of 'Beneath the lakeland fells'.

5.2 570 copies of Journal No 4 have been sold; raising £2140 which is very near the production cost.

5.3 'Slate From Coniston' had already sold 215 copies at £1284 (about one third of the cost). On behalf of the society, I. Matheson PROPOSED a vote of thanks to Alastair Cameron for donating the proceeds of his book to the funds. SECONDED by P. Fleming, all were in favour.

#### 6 Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership secretary reported there were 92 paid up members at present, with 2 new members. I. Matheson is compiling a new membership list to be sent out with a future newsletter. Writing to lapsed members was discussed. It was decided not to do this, as the committee considered plenty of reminder's had been sent out already.

#### 7 Meets Secretary's Report

The current meets list had been sent out with the last newsletter, some members of the committee had not received a copy. The secretary to put a notice in the next Bulletin, asking any member who did not receive a meets list to contact the membership secretary.

#### 9 Furness Projects

9.1 Woodbine Pit, Newton. The chimney had wintered well, only a small amount of work was required to finish this project.

9.2 Furness survey. The work is continuing.

#### 10 Hudgill Burn Mine

The turnout (Barker, Barrow & Simpson) on the morning of the March work meet was too small to start work. Later when A.C.-P.Thomas, P. Blezard, A. Danson and J. Brown arrived, a site meeting was held to assess the possible use of a small excavator. It was decided to dig out the original mine entrance mechanically and re-commence the dig from there. If this is successful it will

dispense with the need to pump the dig out each time before starting work. Over the following weekends the work went ahead rapidly. Thanks go to John Brown who drove the hired excavator for three long hard days. The old level was dug out, track was laid (thanks to Pete and Anne for the loan of lines and an ore truck) and an enormous hole dug to tip into. Extra workmeets will be arranged, please contact S. Barker if you wish to attend.

#### 11 Newland Furnace

Work is proceeding, tie bars have been fabricated, they will pass through the beam and be built into the masonry wall.

Next work meeting will be held on 25th May.

#### 12 Coniston Coppermines site.

P. Fleming reported some headway had been made with the insurance problems that were holding up consolidation work on the Red Dell launder tower.

A major collapse has occurred on the scree slope below Simons Nick, the material had descended through the mine workings and eventually blocked the exit of the Paddy End through trip, at Grey Crag Level. A visit to the mine is to be arranged to decide on the future action needed.

D. Bridge had been contacted by the BGS regarding the survey work we intend to carry out on the Paddy End vein. It is hoped this project will be commencing shortly.

Holletts Book shop has documents referring to the ~~mine~~ <sup>CONISTON</sup> mine for sale (pers com D. Parsons), P. Fleming will look at them with a view to possible purchase.

#### 13 Date and venue of next Committee Meeting

This was arranged for 7.30 p.m. on Monday 22nd July 1996 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston.

#### 14 Any other business

14.1 P. Fleming had redesigned the book sales invoice.

14.2 D. Bridge had been asked by WCMRS member B. Griffin if CATMHS could help him repair the entrance of Brownley Hill Horse Level, which was beginning to collapse. Temporary support was put in place, a workmeet to be arranged shortly.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10-00 p.m.

SB 31/5/96

Chairman

**CATMHS Financial Statement July 1996**

Balance May 1996		841.11	
<b>Subscriptions</b>			
1 joint memberships @ 12.00	12.00		
<b>Literature sales</b>			
Journal 4	145.57		
BLF	212.50		
Leaflets	160.00		
Misc.	33.96		
SFC	1034.92		
Bank interest	0.39		
	<b>Total</b>	<u>1599.34</u>	<u>1599.34</u>
			<u>2440.45</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Printing (Stables)	141.65		
Printing (Bulletin)	34.00		
Meeting room rent	3.00		
<b>Projects</b>			
Furness Survey (films)	30.24		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>208.89</u>	<u>-208.89</u>
Balance			<u>2231.56</u>
<b>Balance held as:</b>			
Building Society	2163.28		
Bank	68.28		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>2231.56</u>	

**CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY**

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 22nd July 1996 at the BMSC Hut, Coniston.

**Agenda**

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1 Apologies for absence      | 2 Minutes of the last meeting               |
| 3 Matters arising            | 4 Secretary's Report                        |
| 5 Treasurer's Report         | 6 Membership Secretary's Report             |
| 7 Meets Secretary's Report   | 8 Format of future publications             |
| 9 Publicity officers Report  | 10 Furness Projects                         |
| 11 Hudgillburn Mine          | 12 Newlands Furnace                         |
| 13 Coniston Coppermines Site | 14 Date and venue of next committee meeting |
| 15 Any other business        |   |

**Present** D. Bridge, S. Barker, J. Helme, J. Davies, P. Fleming,  
M. Mitchell, P. Sandbach, M. Simpson, P. Timewell and A. Wilson.  
10 Members in total.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

- 1 Apologies for absence**  
None.

**2 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 20th May 1996 had been previously circulated to members. It was **PROPOSED** by J. Helme and **SECONDED** by A. Wilson "That the minutes be signed by the chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings". This was carried unanimously.

**3 Matters arising**

- 3.1 Item 4.3 (c) (Jan. 96) D. Bridge, no action to date.  
3.2 Item 14.2 D. Bridge reported that four members had attended a work meet at Brownleyhill Mine, to repair a collapse near the entrance of Bloomsbury Level. The roof of the level was supported with timbers, the walls shattered and a hole to the surface filled in.  
3.3 Item 8.2 P. Fleming reported that P&R Books and Hills Books had each taken 50 copies of 'Slate from Coniston'.

**4 Secretary's Report**

The Secretary had received:

- 4.1 English Heritage had sent the Step 3 reports on the copper, tin and stone industries (part of the MPP). Action D. Bridge.  
4.2 A letter from K. Robinson (English Heritage field worker). He hopes to visit Cumbria later in the summer, when decisions will be made on which lead mining sites will be scheduled under the MPP.

**5 Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer presented a balance sheet covering the period since the last committee meeting. He made the following comments:

- 5.1 Literature sales had raised £1587, this is the highest two monthly total ever recorded. Sales of 'Slate from Coniston' accounted for £1034.92 of this total. We have now sold 53 (of the 70 copies purchased) of 'Beneath the lakeland fells', so our income from this source has almost come to an end. M. Mitchell suggested the society should retain five copies, as their value

would probably increase in the future. All agreed with this suggestion, the secretary to call in the remaining copies.

- 5.2 617 copies of Journal No 4 have been sold, raising £2285 this is £100 over the printing cost.
- 5.3 'Slate From Coniston' had sold 408 copies at £2287 against printing costs of £3721.

#### 6 Membership Secretary's Report

No report.

#### 7 Meets Secretary's Report

The meets secretary had sent a written report, he reported on the recent meet at Whiteheaps Mine, with members travelling from as far away as the South Coast and Scotland to attend. There will be further visits to this mine which has considerable surface and underground interest.

J. Knowles asked the committee if a rough programme of dates for newsletter and bulletin production could be set. It was very difficult for him to pass on "last minute" meet changes, if he did not now when they were to be printed. M. Simpson said the next newsletter was due in August but that it was difficult to stick to definite dates, as there always seemed to be a lack of material.

J. Knowles asked if any members intending to go on the Cornwall meet would like to share accommodation, if so please contact him ASAP. Included with the Meets secretary's report were the minutes and correspondence regarding the use by groups of Cathedral cavern (Little Langdale), discussions are on going.

#### 8 Format of Future Publications

This subject was discussed at length, the following are some of the comments made :

A) As the Bulletin contains all the current news, it robs the NL, leaving it with very few interesting points to make.

B) To have a regular more comprehensive bulletin (say two monthly), then a yearly journal containing meets reports, detailed project reports and interesting articles.

C) Exciting accounts of exploration e.g. Coniston, Dingdong, Frog Shaft and Croesor, could be produced separately and put on sale to the public. It was felt our publications had lacked excitement recently. An effort should be made to return to the former mode, as this is how we have attracted new members in the past.

D) We must not return to the old photocopied and stapled format, as most sellers prefer books which can be displayed edge on.

J. Helme to contact A.D. Cameron and ask him if he would be willing to continue to produce the Bulletin in the suggested format.

M. Simpson expressed a wish to stand down as newsletter editor next year. If any member would like to take on this post, please let the committee know.

This discussion to continue at the next meeting.

#### 9 Publicity Officers Report

No report.

#### 10 Furness Projects

10.1 Woodbine Pit, Newton. A small amount of work was required to finish this project.

10.2 Furness survey. The work is continuing. An evening was spent recently photographing the washing floor at Rita Pit.

#### 11 Hudgillburn Mine

The turnout on the June work meet was very good and the work went ahead well. There has been several unofficial work meets since, mostly attended by P. Blezard, A. Danson, J. Brown, M. Mitchell and M. Simpson. The old adit is now dug out to where it had collapsed originally and cut and cover work should begin on the next meet. Extra workmeets will be arranged, please contact S. Barker if you wish to attend.

#### 12 Newland Furnace

Work is proceeding, the slate corbelling above the blowing chamber is nearing completion. The next job will be to fill in the space between the corbelling and the fire bricks.

There will be no work meeting in July due to holidays.

#### 13 Coniston Coppermines site.

P. Fleming reported that the NPA had completed the consolidation work on the Red Dell laundry tower at Coniston, at a cost of £2000. Three CAT members had helped to bring down the scaffolding when the work was completed.

M. Simpson is organising the survey work in the Paddy End mine, there has been several meets recently and the work is going ahead well, any member interested in helping, contact Mark. Dave Millward (BGS) went with a group of CAT members into Courtney's Crosscut recently to give advise on what to look for when doing survey work underground.

D. Bridge looked at the documents for sale at Holletts Book shop that referred to the Coniston mines, they were the same as documents already in our possession.

#### 14 Date and venue of next Committee Meeting

This was arranged for 7.30 p.m. on Monday 23rd September 1996 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston.

#### 15 Any other business

15.1 D. Parsons had contacted the committee offering to sell the society a new rope at a bargain price. All agreed to purchase same. Action S. Barker.

15.2 NPA archaeologist J Hodgson had contacted P. Fleming asking if CATMHS would like to set up an exhibition and sell our books at a meeting on the 15th September. Secretary to contact A.D. Cameron to arrange the details.

15.3 The FMA's had recently fitted a new door lintel to the Roan Head mine store.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10-00 p.m.

SB 9/8/96

Chairman

# NAMHO Conference '97

Hosted by The Peak District Mines Historical Society

**When ? 14 - 17 July 1997**

**Where ? Darley Dale, Matlock**  
and the surrounding Derbyshire area

**Theme ? "Mud and Water"**

Special Water  
Yes

Crusade  
Antiques

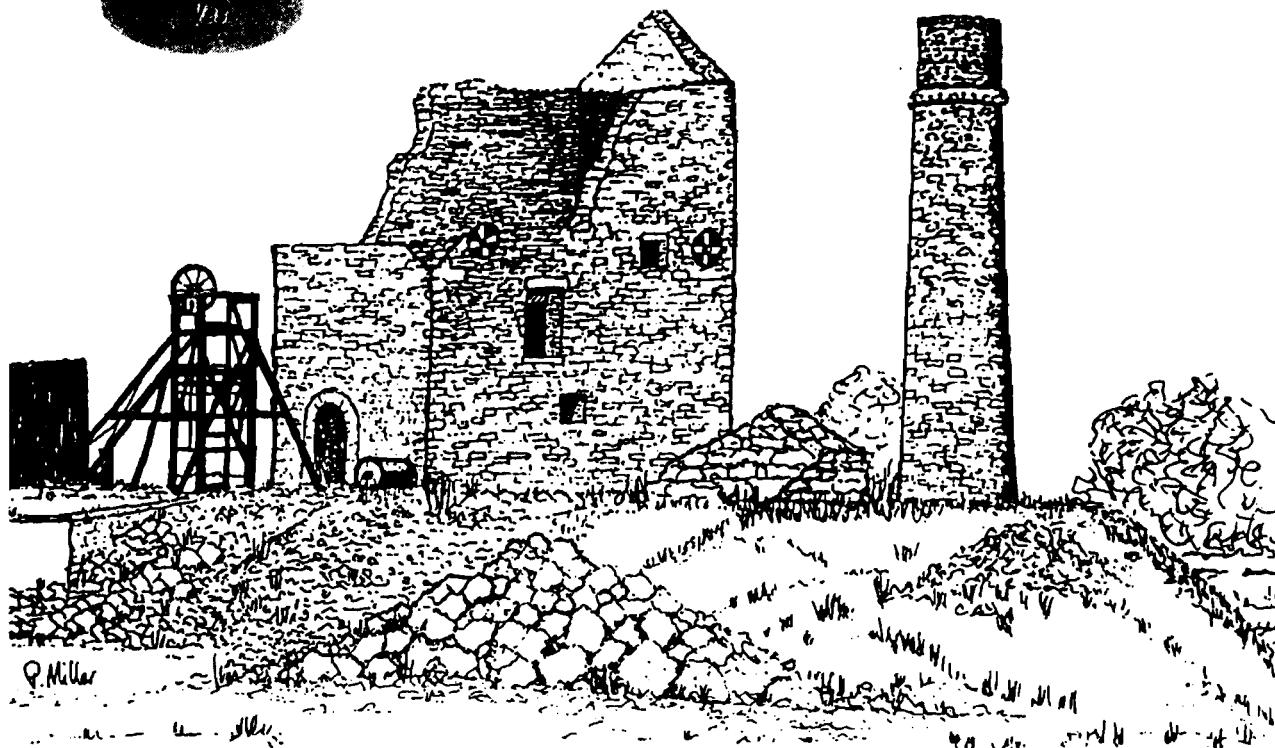
Special Events  
Saturday night

In Local District  
Yes

Area of Interest  
Residential / Caravan / Camping

Underground sites  
Yes

Country  
Yes



Reserve these dates in your diary!  
More information and booking details available later in the year.