



**The Newsletter**

**No.50**

**July 1997**

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## **Cumbria Amenity Trust**

**Mining History Society**

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**EDITORIAL**

Not having been to Hudgill for a new months it was great to see the progress that is now being made, we are nearly where we were two years ago. Seriously the hard work that has been going on recently means that by the time you read this we should be back into the fall but with a tub to remove the spoil so

progress should be much quicker. My only regret is that my "good friend" the pump is no longer required.

Congratulations must go to Ian Matheson on a superb meet which visited the Slate Quarrying Island of Belnahua.

Please can I have all information for the next newsletter by the end of August at the latest. Don't wait till the last minute - send it in now.

If anybody has any Black & White drawings / diagrams / cartoons suitable for the cover please send them in.

Ed.

**RADON**

I have received further information on this subject via Ken Geddes. Full details in the next newsletter.

Ed.

**SINNERS LIST**

In a determined effort to get people to write up meets a "sinners list" of meet leaders who don't do a report will become a regular feature from now on. This months contenders are :-

Tilberthwaite -	Alastair Cameron
Grand Furness Tour -	Paul Timewell
Easter Meet -	Jon Knowles
Scotland -	Ian Matheson

**DOCTOR DESCENDER**

Dear Doctor

I recently discovered an excellent way of stopping a moving mine tub by simply putting my foot in front of it. Don't you think this is an excellent idea ?

Red Robo

*Basically no !*

Dear Doctor

I am having some trouble differentiating between the seasons. Surely if its raining it must be winter it can't be summer.

Drill Man

*It can if you live in West Yorkshire but as I know you don't it must be BDE which has similar side affects to the condition from which is was derived - BSE. BDE is not contagious unless direct hand contact is*

*made with the tool so to speak. Incidentally the common name for BDE is Bosch Drill Encephala or put more plainly still - using that drill makes you go soft upstairs.*

Dear Doctor

I have a hot tip to make that long slog up to Levers Water so much easier. Basically it consists of letting your mates do all the hard work involved in carrying ropes, scaffold poles, drills etc. whilst still giving the impression that your carrying a heavy load. The secret is imply to stuff a large tackle sack full of balloons. When its time to set off bravely pick up this large sack and mutter "I'll take the 100m then" - your friends will be impressed.

Anon, St. Bees

*Your secrets safe with me Dave Bridge !*

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note that with immediate effect all subscption money should be sent to the membership secretary and not the treasurer.

#### DINORWIG SLATE QUARRY

Plans are under way to restore to working order the former V" incline at the Vivian Quarry. The V2 was the first of the series of inclines that climbed up the side of the Vivian Quarry. The National Museum of Wales has engaged staff of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust to prepare plans and elevations of the incline, and the aim is to restore it as near as practical to its condition c.1910.

Gwynedd Industrial History Society

#### COMMENT

The only response on this column last time was from Adrian Barrell who said "I agree entirely with your views on access; its about time someone expressed a more realistic view.

In the latest issue of Descent their mining correspondent and CAT member, Chris Jones, poses the question "has the golden age of mine exploration passed" or has it gone underground. Chris obviously believes the golden age has passed and even goes so far to say that he thinks that it was a phenomena of the 1970s and 80s like glam rock and tank tops ! After getting back from the museum, having seen a tank top and returning my fathers Rod Stewart records I add my own thoughts.

Chris is right that in the late 70s and early eighties rapid exploration of a few key mines was brought about by the development of SRT. Coniston being one of the more notable examples. However I believe that mine exploration in 1997 is as a popular now as it ever was its only that mine explorers seem very shy, compared with their caving colleagues, about publishing their new discoveries. The reasons for this are numerous :-

- Access is a continuing problem nationwide. Unlike Caving, where guidebooks are published for most of the major regions detailing access arrangements, mine explorers have to rely on word of mouth and back issues of local club newsletters.
- Local mining clubs, and CAT is no exception in this respect, make local arrangements with regard to mine access but make no attempt to publicise these nationally.
- The National Association for Mining History Organisations seems weak because/therefore member clubs do not often attend its meetings.

I strongly believe that there is much exploration going on, reports of which are sometimes circulated in brown envelopes as if it were pornography. If reports of this type of exploration appear at all it is often in a club newsletter at the other end of the country from the mine.

Areas where I believe there is still a vast potential for mine exploration include :-

- Cornwall
- Mid-Wales
- North Wales
- Halkyn Mountain
- North Pennines

MINE EXPLORATION HAS GONE UNDERGROUND perhaps it needs better publicity in the Caving press, isn't this where we started . . . over to you Chris.

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### **SITUATIONS VACANT**

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Required somebody who is prepared to assist in preparation of the newsletter. The deal is I send you the odd hand written or typed articles from computer illiterate members you send me back a disc with everything typed in ! no reward other than an assurance that you will not be slandered in Dr. Descender.

### **FORTHCOMING MEETS**

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Apart from being a little unsure of the seasons the new meets secretary apologies for his minor typo in the meets list regarding the date for the Tilberthwaite meet.

### **SMALL ADS.**

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This where you can get to sell your junk to other members at inflated prices.

Olympus OM10 35mm SLR camera body. This camera has taken many excellent underground pictures but a metering fault means that it can now only be used underground. There is no lens but these are available secondhand for about £40. £25 apply to Jon Knowles 01274 871012.

Four sturdy roof bars. Will suit escort sized vehicle which has gutter rails. Will not suit new shape astravan . . . Will split. £15 pair or £25 the lot. Apply as above.

### **SILVERBAND MINE 25.08.96**

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C.Barrow, P. Blezard, D.Borthwick, S.Clarke, A. Danson, P. Fleming, P. Sandbach.

Silverband mine was driven by the London Lead Co. in the early years of the 19th century as they explored the Great Dun Fell fault complex for galena which occurs, with barytes, as veins and replacement flats in the Great Limestone. Production ceased in 1879 when a total of 3.5 miles of levels had been driven to give the disappointing output of approximately 8000 tons of lead ore.

When uses for barytes began to materialise in 1914, the mine was reopened by Brammel with limited production for a period of 4 years.

In 1939, the mine was again reopened by the Laporte Co. for the extraction of barytes, and an aerial ropeway constructed to transport the crude ore to the plant at Milburn Grange. When the operation ceased in 1963, the ropeway and mill were dismantled, a total of 215,000 tons of dressed ore having been produced.

The present mill, at the site of the mine, was built in 1974 by Mr. H Taylor who began opencasting to expose the replacement barytes in the vicinity of the High level adit.

In 1983, Mr. T. Cragg continued with the opencasting and excavated the existing quarry in order to follow the Dun Fell vein eastwards.

The present owners, Waiting Minerals, acquired the site in 1994, and it was with their agreement that this meet was arranged.

Seven members abandoned the sunny Eden valley in favour of the damp mist hanging over Great Dun Fell, and the day began with a tour of the surface remains of Silverband Low and High levels.

The Low level portal, now blocked, is situated close to the mill at GR703317. On the fellside, approximately 75 m behind the portal, access can be gained via a 15 m shaft assumed to be an ore pass for mineral extracted from the High level.

When descended by Steve and the writer in 1991, the level was found to be open, but chest deep in water, for 120 m where it cut the Dun Fell vein. At this point, a blockage beneath a second, major, shaft filled by the opencast workings above, prevented further progress despite attempts to clear it.

Since there were no volunteers to descend the shaft, excuses being "lack of rope" and "the mist is clearing", the party continued to the site of the High level at GR704318. Here, the entrance has been completely obliterated by the opencast workings, the spoil heap being the only remaining feature.

Continuing up the fell, the opencast quarry was reached, where, from the floor of the working, the Dun Fell fault and the associated barytes vein could be seen on the eastern face.

On returning to the mine area, the party visited the mill where an authoritative description of the equipment and its method of operation was given by Pete. Details of the plant were recorded by Ron Calvin in Newsletter No 47.

After lunch, and a short walk around the fell to Middle Tongue Beck, walking gear was entrance to Lords Level located. This old

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level, abandoned by 1824, was driven into the Coal Sill above the Great Limestone in search of the Swathbeck vein and, according to plans, should give access to natural caverns which connect with a cross cut through the Great Limestone into Silverband Low Level. After a straight drive of 100 m NNE, the level turns sharply NNW with a branch to the east after a further 35 m. This appears to have been driven along a series of weak veins and can be followed through collapsed ground for approximately 250 m or until discretion overcomes curiosity.

From the branch, the main drive continues 20 m to a flooded shaft, the surface collar of which can be located as a water filled depression in the peat. Access to the continuation of the level across the shaft has been made by removing collapsed ground on the western side, and, after 125 m, it reverts back to the NNW. After a further 160 m, it appears to have been abandoned without having located any veins.

An unusual feature of the level beyond the shaft is its downward gradient, which may be due to the miners having followed the dip of the strata.

When the mine was initially explored in 1991, water entering the shaft from above was diverted along the level to allow the shaft to drain via the limestone beneath. When this was complete, it was found to be choked with rock and mud to within 2 m of the collar so preventing access to workings below, which, it must be assumed, connect with the crosscut to Silverband Low level.

The meet was concluded by locating the surface collar of the shaft before following the miner's track which can be traced to Middle Tongue Beck and across the fell in the direction of Silverband mine.

After leaving the site, several members held a second meet, on the approach to Knock village, in order to gather mushrooms for the following day's ( or in some cases, week's ? ) breakfast.

Clive Barrow

#### BOOK REVIEW

Mines of the Gwydyr Forest. Part 7. Llanwrst: Coed Gwydyr & Cae Coch. Llangelynin: Trecastell & Derwen Deg. By John Bennett and Robert W.Vernon. A5. 116pp. ISBN 0 9514798 6 5. Price £6.95 Post free from

Gwydyr Mines Publications c/o John Bennett, 17 Field Lane, Appleton, Warrington.WA4 5JR.

This series needs no introduction from me since by now its reputation goes before it. Part 7 is the culmination of 20 years research by Messrs. Bennett and Vernon and concludes their work on this area of North Wales. Part 1 was published in 1989 and Part 7 winds up the series by covering the N.E. area of Gwydyr and part of Dolgarrog.

Near Llanwrst, the Cae Coch mine was unusual for the area in that the principal mineral sought was Sulphur, which had been mined there for at least 400 years. This mine and Trecastell (lead/zinc) are the two main mines discussed and both have a history which continued well into the 20th century. Unfortunately, as those with an interest in old mines will have come to accept, the mines which have worked most recently are likely to be those with the least physical remains and this certainly applies to Trecastell, where a waterwheel stood until the early 1970s when the whole site was "reclaimed".

Although the history of the mines is not quite as colourful as some in earlier volumes, there is a great deal of relatively recent history which is fascinating to learn about. There are 4 fold out plans of the mines, no less than 27 maps and diagrams and 14 photographs which all go to make a most interesting and comprehensive book.

Damian McCurdy

My overriding recollection of Trecastell is of a bat ! At one point I was squeezing into a side level which I could see to be blind. A large bat then flew straight at me, I switched my light of thinking that this was what it was flying towards only then to feel something at the back of my neck. As I could not move my hands I tried to push my head back thinking that the bat was trying to get down my shirt. The harder I pushed the harder it pushed back. When I eventually extricated my hands I found that I was trying to push my lamp cable into my neck - the bat had gone !

Ed.

#### THE RUSKIN MUSEUM & BGS MEETING

Brief update - The Ruskin Museum at Coniston is to be extended, amongst other reasons so that local earth history, copper mining and slate quarrying etc. can be well

represented (will we have two slate museums - Ed.).

On 5th February after what seemed like a lifetime of waiting the National Lottery finally announced that our appeal had been granted. We were actually informed in early December 96 of the award but were told "no one must know" and we could not proceed because they wanted the announcement to coincide with the launch of the mid week lottery draw ! This was just one of the many infuriating delays that have dogged us over the past year (but they are an article in themselves). Anyway the award was for £629000 which when added to the other grants and monies raised comes to around £900000, give or take a meagre thousand or two. Within a few months the tenders will be going out for the building contract and designers. The building work will hopefully begin around August/September 97. As things should now start to happen I thought it would be wise to get in touch with the British Geological Survey and arrange a meeting to discuss basic ideas on what type of displays are possible so on 12th March my good lady, the project officer (Ms Vicki Slowe) and myself arrived at the BGS office in Edinburgh. The building was much larger than I had expected, with over 200 employees. As we entered we were confronted by a large remote controlled submersible which was used for taking underwater pictures and samples, very impressive. The reception area was full of interesting publications, maps, mineral samples and a stunning coffee table teeming with corals. Unfortunately Brian Young arrived within 5 minutes so I was dragged away kicking and screaming and escorted to his office under house arrest. From there we went to meet Dave Millward. While we had coffee I took the opportunity of asking Dave dozens of questions ( as I always do ) about the Coniston geology. That's the problem with owning the superb definitive 1:10000 geological map of Coniston, it creates as many questions as it answers ! One of the many interesting facts that I have learned is that because the rocks tend to dip towards Coniston, all of the formations ( which have a general trend across the Copper Mines Valley ) are laid out in sequence. So if you walk up the Copper Mines Valley you are actually walking backwards in geological time from the youngest volcanic rocks i.e. the Yewdale formation to the Birker Fell formation in the Seathwaite Tarn area. This distance represents a 10 million year

period of volcanic activity that happened around 450 million years ago.

On top of a filing cabinet were a pile of rock samples. These came from Coniston and were collected during the successful visit of January 1996. One sample exhibited the quartz string which has been shifted by cleavage. This is likely to turn out to be a significant discovery and a detailed paper will appear in due course. After coffee we went to a larger office to discuss the museum display. A very constructive discussion took place covering many topics. We all seemed to be on the same wavelength. High tech gadgetry definitely got the thumbs down. "Hands on" rock and mineral samples with explanations of origin, special features and uses are something we all felt would work well. They also suggested a walk leaflet but instead of having just the one subject, incorporate others such as botany and of course local history thus finding something for everyone. All agreed that there was a great opportunity here to create a unique display of earth history for Coniston and the Lake District. Having done this basic ground work will make it easier for the designers to bring it all together.

Time was now getting on so we made our way back to reception. This took longer than expected as a certain member of the party kept hanging back as he studied the mineral samples, geology artefacts and maps that littered the corridors. However security was nearly called when he became transfixed studying the results of past earthquakes and tremors at the seismology department.

Having spent our last few museum committee meetings discussing VAT implications, bank accounts, staffing costs and other bureaucratic problems this had been a welcome break. Lets hope that the final product is as good as the vision we all had on March 12th 1997.

Jeff & Heather Wilkinson

#### **SOUTH CROFTY**

Following the success of the mining photograph books on South Crofty Underground and Geevor Mine Underground (soon to be joined by Wheal Jane Underground), we are pleased to announce the release of South Crofty Mine - Geology & Mineralisation by N.G.LeBoutillier. This 32 page book, with four colour cover and frontpiece, is an authoritative account of the

geological background to the south-west's geology, as well as a clear description of the mineralisation of the last surviving tin mine in Europe. The district around South Crofty is also put into perspective.

Nick LeBoutillier has worked as Mine Geologist at South Crofty for several years, after teaching geology and geography to 'A' level at Camborne School. He is a geology graduate of the University of Wales and a member of the Geological Society.

The book will sell at £2.95 and will be available to retailers (shops & museums) at a third discount. Individual NAMHO members can obtain copies, post free, at the reduced rate of £2.50 per book by sending a cheque for three or more copies.

Cheques to be made payable to 'J.A.Buckley' at 25 Carn Brea Lane, Pool, Redruth, Cornwall, TR15 3DS.

#### NEWS FROM THE NAMHO NEWSLETTER

The millennium commission has awarded £15million to the Dynamic Earth Project in Edinburgh. This project will provide the first geological centre of its kind, combining education and entertainment (the mind boggles), and will be housed at the William Finnger Centre on the site where James Hutton, founder of Modern Geology lived and worked. (Planning Magazine).

Members are advised that there has been a report in the Croatian journal "Speleozin" (W.H.Smith in Leeds doesn't even stock Descent !) of failures of corroded Stubai (Austrian) karabiners. The krabs in question were about 15 years old (like most of yours) and were subjected to destructive testing. Both krabs failed at a lower force than was expected.

Anyone who has examples of this equipment is advised to examine them to ensure that they are not corroded, especially in the vicinity of the hinge. (Speleoscene).

I recently "recovered" an aluminium krab from Levers Water Mine. When I examined it at home it was evident that there was extensive surface pitting of the aluminium. The damage was severe enough for the krab to be of no use so I cut it in half but was pleased to see that there was no serious loss of metal internally.

Ed.

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A team of Nottingham University archaeologists, under the leadership of Dr Mark Pearce, have found the oldest copper mine and "factory" in Europe. The 5000 year old mine is a Monte Loreto, near Genoa, in northern Italy.

The team were doing a "paper investigation" when they found reference to the mine. They then went to look for it on the ground. They found evidence of the Neolithic Age (just before the Bronze Age) mine in the form of blue and green minerals, hammerstones and fissures in the ground that were up to 4.5 metres deep.

Dr Pearce has stated that the only mines in Europe that are older than the one at Monte Loreto are in Serbia and Bulgaria. (Nottingham Evening Post).

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The following organisation shave been accepted into NAMHO :-

Wrexham Archaeology Service

West Cumbria Mines Research Group

North Pennines Heritage Trust

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The 1998 NAMHO field meet will be hosted by a consortium of northern member organisations including CAT, Durham Dales Mining Society, Friends of Killhope and the North Pennines Heritage Trust.

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The 1999 NAMHO Conference will be hosted by a consortium of Forest of Dean NAMHO members.

#### New Members

The club would like to warmly welcome the new members Malcolm Charlton from Newcastle who says he doesn't mind digging ( will Sheila please send directions to Hudgill ) and Nick Baxter from Morecambe who rather usefully was a former District Quarry Engineer. Please make these people feel welcome.

#### Hudgillburn Mine Update - June

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There have been three official work meets (and a lot of extra meets) held to date this year. The January meet proving very interesting weather wise. Dave Robson and I set off from Barrow in fairly thick snow towing

a trailer (containing two heavy metal roof supports) behind his Landrover. It took us till lunch time to get to HGB, after circumnavigating Hartside via a lot of narrow roads and unknown villages (Hartside was OK, the tricky bits being squeezing between the road closed signs and overtaking the snowblower - Ed). We were greeted by only Jon Knowles eating his sandwiches. Needless to say we did not stay long. The March meet (sunny) was much more successful with fourteen members turning up. Heavy rainfall had washed a lot of mud down the adit and caused part of the walls to collapse, these were repaired. A drainage channel was dug around the top of the site and the hole under the bedrock was filled in, all hopefully to help keep the water out. The May meet (again sunny, is this a record) was preceded on the Saturday by ten members attending the Ray Forester Memorial Lecture (NPHT) this year given by Sir Kingsly Dunham. A great thrill for all North Pennine mining enthusiasts. Next day eighteen members turned up, nearly as many as the first HGB meet (20). Lots of work was done, the level was now open up to the timber work we put in last year, some of which had to be removed as it was not wide enough to let the tub through. A block wall was built in the chamber and uprights for the two gates (made superbly by John Brown) were fixed. There has been an increased level of activity at HGB, members are at the mine most weekends. Since the work at Greenside stopped for the summer, the project has moved forwards rapidly. Thanks go to all the regular attendees, and welcome to the new members from the north of the county.

Sheila Barker

William Pit Whitehaven

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This book entitled "The Most Dangerous Pit in the Kingdom - The History of William Pit Whitehaven, 1804-1955" has been written by Ray Devlin & Harry Fancy and includes a forward by Melvin Bragg. The book covers the sinking of the pit and the working practices. It also includes the lists of fatalities in the mine with special reference to the 1947 disaster, of which this year is the 50th anniversary. The book runs to approximately 100 pages with 30 illustrations. the price is £9.99 and will be available in late July or early August. The book is published by the friends of Whitehaven Museum.

Geological Survey of the Paddy End Mine

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Considerable effort since January has gone into exploring and surveying the new ground in the Paddy End stope which we discovered from Top Level last August (survey meet No.8). Here and elsewhere we have relied heavily on the new Bosch drill which has more than come up to expectations. the job of bolting up new routes has largely fallen to John and Mark - the writer merely providing moral support by sending up helium balloons ! We have also started on the Back Strings from surface, recording stope profiles and adding geological observations.

Meet No.16 - 5.2.97 - PF, IM, JD MS DGB

A strong team surmounted the pack wall and descended into the new area below Top Level where the Paddy End Vein is split by a wall of rock. A rope descent was made in a northerly direction to the lowest point of the chamber where, by thrusting head first through a hole in the floor at the end of the stope it was possible to locate the open end of Middle Level extension almost at the same horizon ahead. The mass of rocks in the floor at that end of the stope were found to be resting on timbers but a safe descent into the stope below was prevented by a heavy immovable boulder resting on a suspicious looking stemple. We now know that the stope split above the twin tunnels of Middle Level and below the hole dropped down past the Twin Tunnels towards a known but isolated section of Grey Crag Level, nearly 200 feet below.

Going in a southerly direction, the LH branch of the stope beyond the divide was followed upwards over boulders jammed across a gaping void as far as a short section of solid floor. Ahead across a gap we could see the end of the short cross-cut from the main Top Level roadway to the Paddy End vein (as we later discovered). Ian Matheson led the descent of this stope through a hole between the boulders and found himself at the south side of, and below, the Twin Tunnels at a place which is visible from the through trip at a view point in Middle Level. It was then that a series of spontaneous rock falls from above, which hurtled down our line of exit, dramatically changed our priorities for the rest of the day, and it was a great relief when the party had safely assembled on "terra firma" back in Top Level.

Meet No.17 - 12.2.97 - PF, DGB

This survey covered the section of Middle Level which is accessible on the through trip.



We also dropped to the floor below the view point to link with the descent line of the previous meet. Not having the Bosch with us it took 30 minutes and 4 anchors to insert a single bolt in the hard rock at the view point !

#### Meet No.18 - 6.3.97 - JD, MS, DGB

Back at twin tunnel chamber, this time we avoided disturbing the unstable ground by traversing to a new descent line beyond the pack wall. We then tackled the slope to the RH side of the divide. John led the climb up steep unstable ground to a short blind continuation of Top Level where we found a rusty water bottle and the remains of a clog. About 10 metres above this level Mark traversed into a working which ran through the rock wall dividing the two stopes and continued in the adjacent parallel stope on false floors. Above the entrance to this cross-working was a pack wall rising high up the stope. Further exploration and measurement was left for another occasion.

#### Meet No.19 - 10.4.97 - MS, DGB

This meet started to probe the back strings from surface to link these in with the underground survey. More work is required in this area.

#### Meet No.20 - 17.4.97 - MS, PF, JD, DGB

Once again back to Twin Tunnel chamber. En route a survey was made of the descent through the Crater to Arete Chamber to link in with measurements taken on Meet No.19. From the Twin Tunnel chamber the ascent of the RH stope was pushed further to a point where two stopes converged and it was possible to peer down the other side into unknown depths. The configuration of this part has still to be determined and yet another visit will be necessary, which will now involve a total of 6 ropes ! It is hoped to include diagrams of the whole of this area in the next newsletter.

#### Meet No.21 - 27.4.97 - MS, JD, JK, DGB

Strictly this was a scheduled CAT meet. One party set off to photograph and retrieve artefacts from Woodend's Level before the Water Board move in to seal it off while the rest of us pushed on with the survey project, joined this time by Jon Knowles. The aim here was to investigate an apparent ladderway which passes through a false floor about 15 metres above Top Level in stope 5 adjacent to

Lake Stope. A joint effort with ropes and a short length of scaffolding enabled John D to climb up through the staging - only to find a sub-level which was collapsed in both directions. Later Mark applied his notorious earth-moving techniques to the situation to the concern of all around. including the distant Woodend party (and some walkers on the Old Man - Ed.), but with no avail. We finished the day by surveying the sump below Top Level in stope 4 which is thought to have been an ore hopper connecting with Middle Level.

Dave Bridge

#### FASHION

Would any members who would like to expand their wardrobe to include a new CAT sweatshirt please advise Sheila Barker.

#### NCA News - Threlkeld Quarry & Museum

The museum is open 7 days a week from 10.00 am to 4.45 pm until 31st October when the winter timetable comes into operation. The museum layout has been altered again so that more artefacts are now on display. The geology room likewise has been greatly enhanced, in fact the museum boasts the finest collection of mining and quarrying artefacts, and the geology room is possibly the finest in the north of England. The original loco shed and smithy have been improved whilst outside the collection of "navvies" and other large quarry machinery keeps on growing under the watchful eye of Ian Hartland.

The latest project is the construction of an underground experience and it is hoped that Phase 1 of this will be completed by next year. Also the introduction of a 40 ft waterwheel. This will be constructed and positioned in virtually the same position as the original. The museum offers a selection of guided industrial walks to various mine sites in the county, whilst in the museum shop a large selection of mining/geology books are for sale.

#### CORNWALL

In September 96 Peter Hay, Tristan Goldsack, Dave Bridge and myself headed for the south-west to attend the NAMHO field meet and then to spend a week caring out further exploration in Cornwall. We were joined by a number of other members for the NAMHO weekend including Sheila Barker, Don Borthwick, Adrian Barrell, Alastair Cameron, John Bowers, Nils Wilkes and probably a few

people I've forgotten. We each attended different trips at NAMHO and I can only report on those I went on myself.

Saturday morning saw a very early start and a rapid trip from Tavistock to South Crofty so that we could descend with the morning shift at 7.30 am. If you have not been down this mine before - get down there soon whilst it's still going since it's very interesting but be warned it's very hot and humid with temperatures up to 40 C and 100% humidity. All you need to wear is underpants and a boiler suit. To give some idea of the humidity, we were walking along a level and we could clearly hear the drill team ahead but it was not until we could almost touch them that we could see them so thick was the water vapour. We were guided by one of the Mine Geologists and the Rock Drilling Foreman who gave an impromptu demonstration of an EMCO rocker shovel.

Sunday afternoon brought a trip to Devon Great Consols and an opportunity to visit the vast timbered stope shown on the cover of the NMRS book on this area. On the surface DGC is heavily forested so it is hard to believe that the remains of a fantastically profitable mine underfoot. The mine entrance is gated and descent is via a couple of short SRT pitches which are rigged, like most mines controlled by the Plymouth Caving Club, with strange sized bolts which effectively preclude their use by others. My over-riding memory of the mine is of the great width of the stope and the amount of timber used to support it.

Dave Bridge adds :-

*"There was an excellent day-long trip around the vast site of English China Clays at St. Austell, including a visit to the renovated single acting Cornish pumping engine at Parkandillack, now working on compressed air.*

*In addition there was a descent of the 170 foot ladderway (now fully reconstructed) into Wheal Gorland - a mineral collectors paradise - where Peter talked himself into our guides house afterwards."*

After departing NAMHO we headed for an excellent cottage near Launceston for the remainder of the week.

Mines/sites visited included :-

Levant Engine - In Steam

Geevor Museum - Where Chairman Bridge disgraced himself by not only putting on a hard hat full of rainwater but also managing to fall off the bottom rung of a ladder in the "show mine" which several geriatric Americans with rucksacks had easily climbed without incident. The site is in the process of being preserved although some of the Mill Machinery has been scrapped and guided tours are given - allow half a day to do justice to the site. There is also a good book shop on site at which I bought a photocopy of the report into the Levant man engine disaster which makes interesting reading.

Great Rock Hematite Mine - Hennock. This is a superb mine with much to see, although it deserves respect, including skip roads, launders and much unusual mineral. A full day was spent here and a return visit is necessary.

Kit Hill was extensively explored over a number of days. The most interesting was an SRT descent through an open hole which gave access to the vein and eventually a filled in shaft which we think was probably the North Engine shaft. A further two SRT descents gave access to lower workings. The above are best accessed from the car park on the top of the hill. From the car park part way up the hill some further workings which are thought to be the World War I Tin & Wolfram Works were explored. This whole area would benefit from exploration in the winter when the vegetation has died down since there are shafts all over the place. Interestingly most of the shaft seem to have large numbers of frogs at the bottom of them.

Peter eventually managed to descend to Pentireglaze Mine, at sea level, having roped his way down vertical grass from the coast path 300 feet above.

Dave Bridge adds :-

*"There are surface workings beside the NT car park at SW 941800. The mine can be entered via the adit near the beach about 300 feet below but it requires an abseil. In the far corner of the field beyond the workings a gate in the wall gives access to the coastal path. Just short of the gate a hog hole in the wall provides a convenient belay where the cliff is not vertical or overhanging. We used an 80 metre rope which was only just long enough to reach a point where it was possible to traverse R into the cove using an old ship's*

*rope which had been fixed as a hand-line. The abseil is down bracken and slippery rock, and the final descent from the traverse is a scramble. The obvious hole in a slanting vein (which has two other inaccessible holes higher up) leads to a stope and ultimately a flooded winze. A level off to the L is collapsed after a crawl. This working appears to be very old but is not the main adit. The latter is found by climbing behind a pile of collapsed rocks where one finds a warning notice about bats and a modern hand-line down to the floor of the level. The first stope along this adit (off to the right) is choked with deads at a steep angle but can be crossed to gain a level which eventually continues down a loose hole which we didn't enter. This might connect with the adjacent working. The main adit continues and after some twists enters a wide near vertical stope with some heavy timbering. The stope can be climbed to a short sub-level using a hand-line in situ and is a venue for mineral collectors looking for large cerussite crystals for which the mine was apparently famous. There is no way on beyond this stope, but it makes a sporting trip.*

*We also found a trial about 100 feet from the top of the cliff near the line of the rope and a cave on the beach with signs of vein working. Both are blind. The traverse line (i.e. ship's rope) leads in the other direction to a recess which we didn't inspect."*

Lanterdan Coastal Slate Quarry near Tintagel.

Ed.

#### **PENNY RIGG MILL**

This meet started as an idea one meets meeting as a project to survey and record a site deemed by those present as worth doing. The eventual site chosen was Penny Rigg Mill (Tilberthwaite Mine). I was somewhat surprised at this because I had assumed that the remains were fairly complete and near the road and some recording had been done.

A call through to John Hodgson (National Park Archaeological Officer) confirmed that as far as he knew, this was the case, and no one was planning to carry out a survey. He also said he would be very interested to see the results of our efforts when completed.

The aim and objectives of the survey were :-

1. To carry out a detailed plan and elevation survey to enable accurate plans / sections / elevations to be drawn to a scale of 1:100.
2. To photograph in detail all the upstanding structures and any other items of interest, to provide a visual record and augment the drawn elevations.
3. To use the above information together with archival research to try and ascertain the type of machinery and method of separation used on these premises.
4. To give CAT members the experience of carrying out a survey and the equipment used.
5. Eventually to produce a report containing all the above information on the site, and try and persuade people and organisations of the importance of the area and the need for stabilisation of some of the walls, notably what I call the Buddle House gable end wall.

The equipment that was available was as follows, (bearing in mind the sloping nature of the site). Theodolite (Holger & Watts Optical), 20 pegs, 50 m steel tape, 30 m fibron tape, 2 sectional 2 m ranging poles, 2 off 1 m rules, a quickset Hilger & Watts level and 4 m staff, plus a good compass. Not forgetting a hammer to put the pegs in with. Also last but not least a 35 mm camera to produce colour prints.

The day itself did not start off with any optimism on my part, the weather being somewhat inclement. I arrived at the Tilberthwaite car park at 10.00 am and contemplated the rain sheeting down and the fact that the meet was likely to be a non-starter. 10.30 am came and went with no other members on site, when lo and behold John Davies turned up, having walked over from his house.

We decided to walk over and have a look round and see if anything useful could be done, even if it was taking photographs, the idea of surveying and booking in the pouring rain not being that practical. After about 15 minutes the rain ceased and things started looking up so I decided that as there was only two of us we would do the photography. The gear required was the two ranging poles (for the vertical scale and providing reference points for adjoining photos) and a metre rule

(for horizontal scaling). As has been said in the introduction the idea was to record all upstanding stone structures, each individual wall to have its own set of photos taken from (as far as possible) from the same distance.

Just as John and I were starting work Dave Bridge and Angela arrived, which meant a rethink of my plan of action. It was decided that John and Dave would continue the photography, whilst Angela and I would start the ground survey. The lines and peg positions were set out as shown on the plan, and the job of taking offsets and any other useful measurements was got under way. The job of the tape holder is invaluable, the knowing just where to go and having the patience while the booker does his thing, hoping that all necessary dimensions are being taken. It was not intended to take heights at this time, the main objective being to bash on with the ground work whilst the rain held off.

At about midday Alan Westall and Mike Mitchell turned up, it being just about lunch time, and still not raining. Afterwards we continued on, Alan helped with the photograph taking and Mike took some video for posterity or something.

After an hour or so it was time to fix peg positions with the theodolite taking forward and back readings and vertical angles to the nearest minute (one could have gone to the nearest second but considering the accuracy of the linear measurements it seemed a bit silly to do this).

Mike and Alan had gone by the middle of the afternoon, the rest of us had done by 4.30, as the wind was rising the rain coming on and everyone was feeling somewhat cool. I must thank all those who turned up to help with what I feel should be an important part of CAT activities. the way being shown by the Furness Survey.

There is still a full days work to be carried out, both photographically and more measuring is required. I feel that one should always aim with a site to do the bulk of the business in a day. the logic being that if the remains were 4 miles up a hill you would not wish to lug all the gear there and back too many times.

PostScript. A ground plan was drawn out in several days using graphical methods, (good for Grade 3 accuracy) to give me a working

plan and to being out which extra measurements would be required. Several further visits have been made on subsequent Sundays which were even wetter, more angles taken, more peg positions set out, levels taken and the wall heights measured. The sum total of usable times on these days must have been about half a day. About another couple of hours should see the business done.

The peg positions (and thus survey lines) and relative heights have now been fixed on plan by the method of co-ordinates. Tedious but necessary, no edm and computer plotting here. Peter Fleming and Dave Bridge are carrying out the background research into the history of the site, and John Davies is looking after photographs.

The site appears simple and was constructed quite late. about 1850, being one of Mr Barratts enterprises. We also know what machinery was supposed to have been used there. Ascertaining what happened, and where, is not quite so straightforward, also the area of the bouse tips has been covered over with later slate heaps.

You will have to read the report to see the result of our deliberations.

Mark Simpson

#### Masson Caving Group

CAT members have been invited by the Masson Caving Group to join them on their meets. Forthcoming trips include. Ginging Hole, Gavel Pot and Gapping Gill. Interested people should contact Paul Chander at 12 Darwent Road, Tapton, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S41 0UE.

Ed.

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**CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY**

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 17th March 1997 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 Furness Projects              |
| 9 Hudgillburn Mine                          | 10 Newlands Furnace             |
| 11 Coniston Coppermines Site                | 12 Video Film Project           |
| 13 Date and venue of next committee meeting | 14 Any other business           |

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

The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

- 1 Apologies for absence**  
None all present.

**2 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 13th January 1997 had been previously circulated to members. It was PROPOSED by P. Fleming 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 15.1 The secretary had been not written to NAMHO, regarding the new Forest of Bowland and Ribblesdale Leisure Map (No 41), as she had been unable to find out the number of the previous Pathfinder map. C. Barrow is pursuing this matter.
- 3.2 Item 3.5 D. Bridge reported that we now have three new date stamped ropes (40,60 & 100m) in red and yellow bags, they will be stored at Mandalls to be convenient for Coniston. Hooks will be needed to hang ropes up to dry. The Treasurer asked if any usable CAT gear remained with the Tackle Master, this was thought to be unlikely. P. Timewell would contact C. Jones regarding this subject.
- 3.3 Item 4.5 The houses that were to be built on land adjacent to the Duke Pit fan house, would not now be built, due to a lack of funds.
- 3.4 Item 8 D. Bridge had bought the bolts, M. Simpson to buy 10 ~~hangers~~ <sup>hangers</sup>. All new gear to be marked with paint. Action J. Davies.
- 3.5 Item 8 J. Davies had contacted I. Tyler, who asked if CATMHS would be agreeable to attend a meeting, between all the local mining groups (as last year). All were agreeable.
- 3.6 Item 3.4 A.D. Cameron reported that the article in question did not refer to a MOLES project. The dig was at the request of the leaseholder of Low Bank, who was entitled to carry out exploratory digging.

#### 4 Secretary's Report

The Secretary had received:

- 4.1 A letter from J. Knowles stating he was having great difficulties with Staples (printers of our newsletter) and wished to change to another printer. All agreed he should go ahead and make enquires with other firms. He will need any material for the next newsletter by the end of May.
- 4.2 A report from the Publicity Officer: (A) He was preparing display material for the NAMHO Conference, to promote CATMHS as a serious society and show examples of our projects. He will need photographs of Woodbine chimney, Greenside and other projects. (B) He will start another Bulletin after Easter. (C) The new edition of 'Slate from Honister' is progressing well.
- 4.3 Notice of this year's CIHS conference at Ambleside.
- 4.4 Copies of the latest Speleo Scene.
- 4.5 A letter from GIBB Ltd who have put in a tender to C.C.C. to carry out consolidation work on the Brownley Hill tailing dams. If they are successful in their bid, they would like us to provide information on the mining remains.

#### 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 The secretary's expenses included the purchase of two first aid kits. One of which is to be kept by the Meets Secretary, the other to be kept at Hudgill Burn.
- 5.2 In future all membership fees are to be paid to the Membership secretary and not to the Treasurer. This information to be relayed to the membership via the next Bulletin.
- 5.4 P. Timewell told the meeting that we had already spent the money earned from the yearly subscriptions. We would therefore have to put effort into selling books (our only other source of funding) to support our current projects.

A discussion on fund raising followed, the following were suggested: (A) Reprint B-L-F in colour. (B) Hopefully we will make money from the Coniston video. (C) Produce more Trail leaflets e.g. Tilberthwaite and Coniston Slate,? to be written by A.D. Cameron, D. Bridge would start to think about Newlands Valley and S. Barker Nenthead.

#### 6 Membership Secretary's Report

I. Matheson had sent out the newsletter and membership list. He has had several new membership enquires recently. The latest number of paid up members was 86 + Hon's and libraries. Good news, Linsey Harrison has re-joined.

#### 7 Meets Secretary's Report

J. Davies had almost completed the next meets list. He still had to write to R. Harding (NP Ranger) regarding the PDMHS intended visit to Greenside. The completed meets list will go out with the next Bulletin or Newsletter.

#### 8 Furness Projects

- 8.1 Woodbine Pit, Newton. The FMA are now ready to pour the concrete for the cap, the ladders will then be removed, a steel bar has been fixed at the top of the chimney for SRT ropes.

10.2 Furness survey. Surveying work has started on Ethel and Peggy Pits at Roan Head. The former has an arched boiler flue, it is hoped to finish surveying the Roan Head site this year.

## 9 Hudgillburn Mine

Fourteen members turned up at HGB yesterday. Heavy rainfall the previous week had washed a lot of mud down the level and covered the tramway, this was cleared by A.D. Cameron and N.Wilks on the Saturday. Unfortunately the water had dislodged some of the stone work, which had to be rebuilt. The hole under the bedrock where we first started the dig, was filled in to discourage water ingress. A drainage channel was dug above the site, hopefully these measures will help to keep the mine drier. A 'Danger, Old mine, Private property, Keep Out' sign was erected at the landowners request. Please remember not to visit the site without first informing John Watson.

## 10 Newland Furnace

J. Helme had sent a written report on two important visits to the site that had taken place recently:

10.1 With Mike Daniels County Archaeologist, who had not visited the site for more than two years. His last visit was prior to the funding we obtained from the County. He was impressed with the variety and quality of the work done and was pleased that we were willing to continue.

The opportunity was taken to remind him of our other areas of concern, the charcoal store, the gable end wall of the loading bay and the leaking leat.

He suggested it would be wise to concentrate our efforts and limited resources on the furnace itself and the leak from the leat. If we dilute our efforts by looking at these other areas it may result in no single area being effectively preserved. Unfortunately this will mean that those other areas will continue to decay, but at least we have brought their condition to his attention.

He recommended we should seek 'expert' advice on the masonry bulge which occurs higher up the furnace, before we actually reach that area of re-build.

Our thanks go to the secretary for writing a letter to English Heritage on behalf of CATMHS, requesting a visit from a structural engineer. Work will continue up to the level of the bulge, hopefully we will then get advice which will enable us to consolidate the stonework to the top of the furnace. An attempt to seal and cap the top of the furnace will be the last stage of the project.

When the weather is drier a 'wet suit volunteer' will be needed to investigate the leak from the leat through the back wall of the blowing chamber and effect a repair.

We still have some of the C.C. grant and the 'appeal' fund money left for building materials. There is not however large sums available for expensive solutions to our problems.

**UPDATE 17th March.** Visit by Mr Girdler EH engineer. He did not think the bulging wall could be dismantled and suggested it should be drilled, grouted and bolted with about 1 m long ringed steel rods, then pointed. He would send a written report giving details of materials, etc.

10.2 Visit by survey team from RCHME (Early Iron Industries of Furness Survey).

Four members of the above were in Furness for one week in February, several members of the FMA and Tony Keats (CIHS) were able to meet them. We showed them around the site and passed on to them some of our collection of old maps and documents, for which they were very grateful. They spent the rest



of the week surveying of the site. Since then he had received a letter of thanks and the plans returned. He will be writing to Dr Goodall shortly, asking if we can receive a copy of their report and survey.

#### **11 Coniston Coppermines site**

P. Fleming and J. Davies had conferred and written to J. Hodgson regarding North West Water's proposal to seal the wooden plug to Levers Water. They suggested several preferred methods of carrying out this work, which would insure the survival of the underground features. D. Bridge suggested the area should be surveyed very soon in case it is lost.

D. Bridge reported there had been 5 survey meets since the last committee meeting, two of these had been into new ground. The John Ruskin Museum had now reached the design stage and would shortly arrange a meeting to discuss our exhibits. They hope to start building in August and open next year.

#### **12 Video film project**

The sub-committee had met twice, J. Roskell and R. McGregor also attended the second meeting. They have offered to do the filming and the sound track and had a very professional approach. At the next meeting the script will be discussed. P. Fleming thought although making the video would involve a lot of work, we should go ahead and we will be able to produce a very good product.

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

This was arranged for 7.30 p.m. on Monday 19th May 1997 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston.

#### **14 Any other business**

14.1 D. Bridge expected shortly to receive the finale account for materials used on the Greenside Mine project. D. Bridge PROPOSED "That CATMHS should, as agreed at the beginning of the project, pay half the cost of materials used, SECONDED by M. Mitchell. All were in favour. When the details have been approved, a cheque for £750 to be sent to Warren Alison, project leader. Accompanied by a letter thanking them for all their effort and stating, that there cannot be further expenditure without discussion. Access arrangements and key holding to be discussed.

14.2 The Secretary to ask Clive Barrow to write an article about early days of the Greenside exploration. John Brown had been asked to write an article about the re-opening of the adit.

14.3 M. Simpson will send an invoice to the Treasurer for the wood required to make a former to repair the arching at Thriddle Incline, Red Dell. It will be then be forwarded to J. Hodgson (NP Archaeologist).

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

**CATMHS Financial Statement MARCH 1997**

Balance January 1996		3590.65
<b>Income</b>		
Subs 21@ £10	210.00	
3@ £12	36.00	
Donations		
Dr Rawlins	3.00	
Mitchell&Matheson	60.00	
Literature sales		
Journal 4	16.50	
BLF	10.00	
Honister Slate	6.00	
SFC	136.00	
Book postage	2.50	
Bank interest	0.53	
<b>Total</b>	<u>480.53</u>	<u>480.53</u>
		<u>4071.18</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Photo copying CCC	17.40	
Printing Staples	85.54	
Subs Spelioscene	3.00	
NANHO	15.00	
CLHF	6.00	
Meeting room rent	3.00	
Equipment: Drills	17.94	
Rope	160.00	
Hangers	22.60	
Tape mes	13.51	
Rope bags & bolts	103.53	
Secretary's expenses	72.63	
Memb Sec expense	88.83	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>608.98</u>	<u>-608.98</u>
Balance		<u>3462.20</u>
<b>Balance held as:</b>		
Building Society	3305.24	
Bank	156.96	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>3462.20</u>	

## CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 19th May 1997 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  | Furness Projects              |
| 9  | Hudgillburn Mine                         | 10 | Newlands Furnace              |
| 11 | Coniston Coppermines Site                | 12 | Video Film Project            |
| 13 | Date and venue of next committee meeting | 14 | Any other business            |

**Present** D. Bridge, P. Timewell, S. Barker, P. Fleming, M. Mitchell,  
M. Simpson, and A. Wilson.  
7 Members in total.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

- 1 Apologies for absence  
I. Matheson, J. Davies and M. Scott.

### 2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 17th March 1997 had been previously circulated to members. It was PROPOSED by D. Bridge and SECONDED by M. Simpson, 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 3.2 P. Timewell as requested, had contacted C. Jones, there was no usable CAT gear remaining in the COMRU store.
- 3.2 Item 3.5 This meeting is to be held at 7 30 pm on Thursday 22nd May at the Kings Head, Thirlmere.
- 3.3 Item 14.3 P. Timewell had sent the details of the timber required, but to date had not received a reply.

### 4 Secretary's Report

The Secretary had received:

- 4.1 NAMHO's latest newsletter and minutes, the new Handbook should soon be going to press.
- 4.2 A newsletter from the Haig Pit Preservation Society, who have obtained funding which will enable them to go ahead with their work at the Pit.
- 4.3 An application form from the LDNPA requesting us to put on a display at this years National Archaeology Day, at Brockhole. All agreed we should exhibit as it was a success last year, details to be sent to A.D. Cameron.
- 4.4 A letter from I. Tyler (MOLES) asking us to object to the LDNPA against their intention to move the public footpath which passes close to Force Crag Mine. After discussion it was decided not to object, as the path in question was dangerous in winter, and hopefully less damage would occur if the general public were discouraged from walking on the mine site.
- 4.5 Copies of the latest Speleo Scene and CLHF newsletter.
- 4.6 Notification from the LDNPA of P. Johnston's Appeal against their Enforcement Notice regarding the Powder Store at the Coniston Coppermines. They asked for comments from the Society, after consulting with the Chairman the Secretary answered supporting the Board. The Enquiry was held on 13th May (see item 11).
- 4.7 A report from the Publicity Officer included:
- (a) A number of copies of his new 'Coniston Old Man' (slate) trail leaflet. Several committee members had already read and approved the leaflet. It was agreed to go ahead and print, P. Fleming said the cost per copy would be 11p at HSP, Barrow. He would be prepared to arrange for 1000 copies to be printed. It was agreed the retail price per copy should be 60p, but that the price would not be printed on the leaflet.
- (b) He still required display material for the NAMHO Conference, He needed photographs of Woodbine Chimney, Greenside and Belmans Hole (use of helium Balloons in survey).
- (c) He suggested we should ask the members opinion on producing a new CAT sweatshirt with logo, secretary to put an article in the newsletter to assess interest.

- (d) He asked if a board could be placed in Mandall's to indicate who has the drill, ropes, etc. All agreed, action M. Mitchell.
- (e) He offered to update the CATMHS publicity leaflet, all agreed to his offer.

#### 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 The membership secretary's expenses cover two postings to all members, plus printing.
  - 5.2 The sand and cement was for the Woodbine Chimney cap
  - 5.3 Book sales: Journal No 4-674 copies sold, will many more be sold? Slate From Coniston-715 copies sold, has saturation now occurred. A discussion followed on the number of books to be published in future. Using a wholesale book seller was suggested. The Treasurer asked if the unsold books could be counted. Publications to be put on the next agenda as a separate item, to enable this discussion to be continued.
  - 5.4 Expenditure on HGB to date stands at £622.
  - 5.5 A letter from W. Allison itemising expenditure for the work carried out at Greenside Mine had been received, this amounted to £1721.23. As agreed at the last committee meeting, a cheque for our half share in this project (£860) to be sent to W. Allison. The secretary to write to the project group expressing our congratulations at the completion of this mammoth task. The opening of the Lucy Level is a big step forward in the full exploration of the mine. It will facilitate research, continued maintenance work and provide easy access in an emergency.
- The committee asked the secretary to point out that at the present time CATMHS could not provide further funding at Greenside, because of their commitment at HGB.
- 5.6 More bolts were required for the Paddy End survey-cost £40 per hundred. M. Simpson to buy a 100.

#### 6 Membership Secretary's Report

I. Matheson sent his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting. He reported that new membership subscriptions continue to come in, these included several from the north of the County and the West Furness Bat Group. He had sent out the last news sheet, meets list and an addition to the membership list in one mailing. He could now do this easily and was willing to carry out any mass mailing required by the society. For items which involve a single sheet, he could also undertake copying and non urgent items should be sent to him for inclusion with the next mailing.

He was now collecting names for his June meet to Belnahua and will send out information to members attending.

#### 7 Meets Secretary's Report

J. Davies sent his apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting. A mistake in the meets list was discussed (24th June should read 29th). It was decided that a mailing of the membership would be too costly and that members would probably notice the mistake and phone the meet leader.

#### 8 Furness Projects

- 8.1 Woodbine Pit, Newton. The FMA have now finished the concrete cap on the chimney, a hatch has to be constructed and the ladders will then be removed.
- 8.2 Furness survey. Surveying work has been interrupted at Ethel and Peggy Pits (Roan Head) due to nesting birds.

#### 9 Hudgillburn Mine

Eighteen members turned up at HGB over the weekend of 10th & 11th of May. On the Saturday evening a large group of CATMHS members enjoyed a lecture by Sir Kingsley Dunham, organised by the NPHT. A lot of work was done over the two days, which included: lines made up and laid, walling under the bedrock, steps built up to the escape route, gates welded and a block wall started in the chamber, plus lots of other jobs too numerous to mention. Thanks go to J. Knowles for bringing timber, P. Blezard for collecting and delivering loads of materials and to J. Brown for making and transporting gates and hiring a generator.

With the increased activity most weekends at Hudgill (now Greenside is resting for the summer), hopefully with the larger work force an early break through is imminent. The committee feel that this is perhaps the appropriate time to remind members, of the Society's responsibility to mining history and conservation. When the breakthrough occurs the level **must** be photographed before **anybody** walks in it. Artefacts and minerals must be left untouched and no exploration done until a date can be fixed the following weekend. This will enable all members who have worked on the

project to have an equal opportunity to be present on the first exploration of the mine. The time interval will also allow for ventilation of the mine.

#### 10 Newland Furnace

J. Helme had sent a written report regarding two work meets in April.

10.1 April 9th Members selected waste slate from the old tips at Gawthwaite Quarry for wall building at the furnace. Transportation of the large blocks of slate (some up to four feet long) proved difficult. Two trips were made using a borrowed pickup and the CATMHS trailer. Thanks are due to the Quarry management for again allowing us to take slate free of charge.

10.2 April 26th Several large blocks were fixed in place above the wooden beam, so starting the first stage of rebuilding the wall above it.

10.3 J. Helme had contacted the Royal Commission requesting to see in draft form, a copy of their recent survey of the furnace. No reply had been received.

10.4 No written report had been received from the EH engineer who visited the Furnace last month. J. Helme had contacted the London office and left a message, but to date had not received an answer.

The May work meet has been re-arranged for the 7th June.

#### 11 Coniston Coppermines site

Three members attended the appeal by P. Johnston against the LDNPA's enforcement notice telling him to return his dwelling at the Powder Magazine, Coniston Coppermines to its former state. The appeal at the Coniston Institute hinged on the interpretation of the previous planning inspector's decision. The two highly paid barristers argued over the wording of the last decision, for and against, for some six to seven hours. The inspector (Mr M.J. Joyce) now has to go away and ponder on the arguments, then deliver his judgement, probably in a couple of months time.

P. Fleming attended a site meeting at Coniston with J. Hodgson and several North West Water representatives regarding their proposal to seal the wooden plug to Levers Water. They had already decided on their preferred method of carrying out this work, i.e. to drill three boreholes, sink a new shaft outbye of the plug and then to backfill. Their intention was to start this work in three days time. J. Hodgson informed them they would have to apply for planning permission and scheduled monument consent, before the work could commence. This they amazingly obtained in three days and the work will start soon. J. Hodgson expressed concern that the work could destroy surface and stratiform archaeological remains. D. Bridge had photographed the geological features of the shaft and found them very interesting. A high count of Radon Gas was found in the area. The Paddy End survey continues and now includes the geological features.

The John Ruskin Museum had not contacted the society regarding the proposed CATMHS's contribution to the exhibition. The secretary to write to Mrs Slowe, to clarify the situation.

M. Simpson is doing a survey and researching the history of Penny Rigg Copper Mill and has spent two further days (after the listed meet) on the site. A.D. Cameron is also researching the area for a trail leaflet.

#### 12 Video film project

At the last sub-committee meeting M. Mitchell agreed to be the Director. He has been investigating the method of work, which appeared fairly involved. He had broken down the script into different areas i.e. surface, underground, maps, stills, etc. As J. Roskell is away at present M. Mitchell will start the surface photography. D. Bridge has ordered the lights. We now need the geological script.

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

This was arranged for 7.30 p.m. on Monday 21st July 1997 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston.

#### 14 Any other business

14.1 M. Simpson asked if we could buy a new 50m measure tape. A. Wilson will obtain prices.

14.2 M. Simpson thought the society should invest in more surveying equipment, he would obtain prices. In view of the inevitable high cost of such equipment, it was suggested that the source of a grant should be investigated.

14.3 S. Barker reported on the progress being made by the Friends of Killhope and the North Pennine Heritage Trust towards the organisation of the 1998 NAMHO Field Meet. They wish to know which underground trips we are willing to lead. Suggestions were: Frog Shaft (for 10 experienced persons only), Scaleburn Whimsey, Brownley Hill, Capleclough to Rampgill round trip, and hopefully HGB.

- 14.4 P. Fleming asked if he could arrange the annual BMSC underground meet to take place on the same date as the PDMHS visit. All agreed.
- 14.5 D. Bridge brought to the committee's attention that under the Cumbria County Council Heritage Services Department's initiative "Andy Goldsworthy-Sheepfolds" it is planned to restore, and in some cases completely re-build a 100 sheepfolds across Cumbria. With respect to two folds at Redmire Farm in Mungrisdale, he understood stone was used from a nearby derelict building. He was concerned by the fact that Goldsworthy in his book on the project, quotes from Wordsworth's poem "Michael" which refers to the unfinished sheepfold in Greenhead Gill. Would stone be taken from the Elizabethan mining remains to repair the fold? After discussion it was decided the secretary should write to CCCHSD (copies to J. Hodgson and D. Cranston) expressing CATMHS's concern about this matter.

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

SB 2/06/97

Chairman

CATMHS Financial Statement May 1997			
Balance March 1997			3462.20
<b>Income</b>			
Subs 5@ £10	50.00		
1@ £12	12.00		
<b>Donations</b>			
P. Fleming	15.00		
S. Barker	4.00		
Mitchell & Matheson	30.00		
A. Cameron	50.00		
<b>Literature sales</b>			
Journal 4	6.60		
SFC	223.60		
Honister Slate	6.00		
Building Soc.	58.05		
Bank interest	0.31		
	<b>Total</b>	<u>455.56</u>	<u>455.56</u>
			<u>3917.76</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Annual rent (Mandall's)	50.00		
Printing Staples	78.68		
Meeting room rent	3.00		
<b>Equipment:</b>			
Raw bolts	16.50		
Sand & cement	33.71		
Membership Sec expense	68.94		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>250.83</u>	<u>-250.83</u>
	<b>Balance</b>		<u>3666.93</u>
<b>Balance held as:</b>			
Building Society	3363.29		
Bank	303.64		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>3666.93</u>	

# **CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY**

**HONORARY PRESIDENT** Lord Egremont

**VICE PRESIDENT** Major Hext

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## **Committee Members**

Peter Fleming  
Ian Matheson  
Angela Wilson

Mark Simpson  
Dave Bridge  
Sheila Barker

Paul Timewell  
Mike Mitchell  
John Davies

## **Honorary Members**

John Marshall

Mike Mitchell

Peter Fleming