

The Newsletter

No.53

April 1998



COMPILATION

Special thanks to those members who are now submitting material on disc, this is a greet help. To assist me in inputting your contribution please could you submit it in one of the following formats :-

Microsoft Word 6.0
Microsoft Works 2.0
TXT
RTF

If you are not a computer Wizard and you don't think you have any of the above, you can save as TXT simply by scrolling down the list of options available when you get the "save as" menu come up on the screen. If in doubt give me a ring. If you are not using Microsoft Word 6.0 or an earlier version of Word please do not include tables and other "fancy bits" such as odd fonts sub or superscripts etc.

PUBLICATION

The newsletter is issued four times a year. Material for inclusion should be with to the editor by the 15th of March, June, September or December for inclusion in the next issue which will appear approximately four weeks later. Information should be sent to :-

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COVER

The photograph on the front cover was taken in the late 1920's by the Abraham Bothers of Keswick and shows the incline at Parrock Slate Quarry, Coniston.

The incline was a timber construction and was supported on a number of masonry and timber supports. It was technically a "carrier" incline and in this photograph, the carrier can be seen near the top. The incline was powered by a winder, also at the top.

The incline was installed by the Buttermere Company and was in use for many years to carry slate clog from the quarry floor up to the rim where slates would be made in riving sheds on the quarry bank. For a few years slate clog from Hodge Close was also brought out by this route. The quarry closed during the 1940's.

Alastair Cameron

LATE NEWS

Ten minutes before the final copy of this newsletter was printed off Alastair Cameron phoned up with the following advance warning of future meets.

10th May - Alastair is taking the Cumbria Industrial History Society on a trip to look at the Slate Workings on the Old Man. CAT members are welcome to attend. Meet at the Walna Scar fell gate at 10.00 am.

28th June - Old Man Scald Cop & Cove Quarries. Alastair is leading an interpretative meet to look at the above. Meet at the Walna Scar fell gate at 10.00 am.

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EDITORIAL

Many thanks to all those who have sent in material for the newsletter. The momentous news this time is that after many years hard work we have at long last entered the Hudgill burn Mine. This is tremendous achievement for CAT and all involved are to be congratulated. Special mention must go to

Sheila Barker who has been the mainstay of this project from its conception through to breakthrough. Its seems ironic in a way that when the decision was made a couple of years ago to "make a proper job of it" and excavate the adit completely using a tub to remove the spoil the original attempt was only about six feet from breaking through into the mine. Hindsight remains the perfect science. My memories of the early phase of the project are of :-

- The damned temperamental pump which not only melted a pair of wellies but however hard you tried to empty it at the end of the day always managed to secrete a gallon of muddy water inside itself which then sloshed about in the back of the van going over Hartshead.
- Mark Simpson and the way he always got "back to basics" when we started digging.
- The determined digging of both Anne Danson and Sheila Thomas the latter being particularly possessive about digging at the face.

Ed.

SINNERS LIST

The current contenders are :-

Tilberthwaite -	Alastair Cameron
Old Man -	Alastair Cameron (is this a meet or a description ?)
Grand Furness Tour -	Paul Timewell
Coniston -	John Davies
Walna Scar -	Alastair Cameron/Mike Mitchell

SOUTH CROFTY

By the time this newsletter reaches you South Crofty Tin Mine will have closed bringing to an end Deep Mining in the south-west.

The closure was brought on by the low price of tin and the strength of the pound. I am glad that I visited the Mine on the NAMHO field meet in 1996.

DOCTOR DESCENDER

Dear Doctor

I've been under a lot of pressure recently and I know there is air involved but I'm not sure if I can put up with the Blast-ed business any

more because its sending me Rand the bend.
Is this a known condition ?

Confussed at Dinorwig

*The condition which you describe is known
Morcom madness or is it Belliss blindness ?*

Dear Doctor

I've recently heard a rumour that a new gold deposit has been discovered at Bont Ddu right beside the valley road near Vigra Mine. Is this true ?

GPS Man

Thats what the old timer told me as well but I think he's a bit of a (suit)case.

NAMHO NEWS

All information is taken from Issue 33 of the NAMHO newsletter.

A response from Alan Davies of the Wet Earth Colliery Exploration Group to an article in a previous NAMHO newsletter regarding the enforced closure of the Clifton workings to the public. Alan responded :-

"The truth is that the enforcing agency are at Clifton to monitor gas and water levels in old shafts. This is after they had asked me "Do you know of any old shafts in your area which we can monitor ?" and my pointing them to Clifton and shafts we had come across during our group's seven years work on site.

Once they became aware of our groups activities in the waterwheel drainage tunnels they decided to survey them, classed them as "workings" (which is absolutely ridiculous) and said we were not to take visitors around any more until further notice.

An attempt by myself to drum up support in the press backfired when a stupid journalist altered my statement from walking visitors along a 500 metre level tailrace tunnel into "taking hundreds of children down a 1000 metre shaft". He also spoke to IMC who gave him their Health and Safety line with no record for our competency and track record.

The whole episode has totally demoralised the group which I set up in 1990. I just felt that, of all people, NAMHO members and other mining historians should get the true facts. All the best".

A research project has shown the Alpine Pennycress (*Thalaspia caerulescens*), a rare plant growing on the site of Hafna Mine, Llanrwst, has been found to be capable of absorbing high quantities of lead and zinc pollutants. It is hoped that cultivation, and harvesting, of the plant could eventually cleanse the land of its heavy metal contaminants. (Daily Telegraph).

The historical archives of the H&S Executive have been registered with the Public Records Library. The archive contains documents and books of historical importance on the mining industry, some dating back to the early 19th Century. Access can be arranged through the Librarian, H&SE Library, Broad Lane, Sheffield, S3 7HQ.

A website for NAMHO, by courtesy of Adrian Pearce, has recently been set up. The address is kweb4.cablenet.co.uk/adrian.pearce/NAMHO.HTM

The Mill Cottage Bunkhouse at Nenthead, which is owned and operated by the North Pennines Heritage Trust, has recently been opened in the village. It is an eighteenth century building that is set amidst a spectacular landscape.

All of the usual facilities are provided together with a washing machine and tumble drier. Linen is provided for the nine bunks. The bunkhouse is open all year except January. The costs are £8.00 for a bed only or £12.00 bed and breakfast.

For further information and bookings please contact Jill Fenwick, Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre, Nenthead, Alston, Cumbria, CA9 3PD. Tel. 01434 382037, Fax 01434 382294.

FFESTINIOG NEWS

The most obvious change resulting from the take-over of the Ffestiniog Slate Group by McAlpines is that the Gloddfa Ganol tourist mine closed immediately. Whilst Gloddfa was never as popular as its rival Llechwedd, for those prepared to spend a little time looking round it did give a better insight into the industry. The artefacts on the site are being disposed off.

OVERHEARD

The frost bite got the ends of both of these fingers.

I expect it makes picking your nose difficult.

Not only that but wiping your a@£e as well.

COMMENT

In the closing years of this millennium we see the extinction of an industry which has probably existed for 2500 years. It needs no explanation that I am referring to the closure of South Crofty Tin Mine.

The closure of Geevor and Wheel Jane some years ago meant we knew that the inevitable would happen but it still came as a shock. It must be a particularly bitter blow for the work force who had worked so hard in recent years, often for wages which were little better than the dole, to try and operate the mine at a profit.

Probably no area of the world has been so intensively worked for metals as the stretch of land from the western slopes of Dartmoor to Lands End. Not only was the south-west, particularly Cornwall, a major mining area but it also trained many of the people who developed mining across the globe. It has been said that if you ever found a deep working in any part of the world there was always a Cornishman at the bottom of it. Looking closer to home we can clearly see the impact that Cornishmen like Borlase made at Greenside and Barratt at Coniston.

A very long and eventful chapter in the history of British Mining draws to a close.

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following people and look forward to seeing them soon.

Joyce Reed from Egremont

Bill Patten from Preston

Philippa & John Tindal from Ambleside

Roderick Hughes from Hull

John Lawson from Castle Douglas

Stephen Moreton from Warrington

Colin Somerville from Washington

Ian Forbes from Newcastle

Interests and skills of the above include bricklaying, North Wales Slate Quarries, Nenthead exploration, an Electrician, Geology, a collection of 150 mine plans and adventurous mineral collecting. One new member says he knows Pete Blezard !, I leave to the readers imagination as to whether this last one is a bonus . . .

BOOK REVIEW

"Images Below" by Chris Howes.

This book is subtitled "A Manual of Underground & Flash Photography" and is certain to be regarded as the definitive work on the subject. This well produced hardback book covers all aspects of underground photography and is packed full of the authors work. There are numerous examples of how the different techniques affect the end result. I and other CAT photographers who have read this book seriously recommend it for any body interested in developing their underground photography.

"Wheel Jane Underground" by Deakin, Buckley & Riekstins.

This is volume two in a series (volumes 1 and 3 on Crofty & Geevor having already been released) containing photographs of modern mining, although the term "recent" mining may now be more appropriate. The pictures are good and each is accompanied by a detailed caption. These retail at about £3 and are good value.

Ed.

BELNAHUA MEET, JUNE 1997

Meet Leader - Ian Matheson, Boatman - Alistair Matheson, Sheila Barker, Dave Bridge, Peter Fleming, RN retired, Ken Geddes, Jon Knowles, Mark Scott, Angela Wilson.

On the eastern side of the Firth of Lorne to the south of Oban is a band of slate which gave rise to a considerable slate industry in the 19th century. Slate was quarried on the mainland and on the Islands of Luing, Easdale and Belnahua, and was transported to Glasgow via the Crinan Canal. Large amounts of Easdale and Belnahua have been quarried away, and the workings, which are not far above sea level, reached a depth of some 300

feet. They were kept dry by steam pumps, but the industry was effectively brought to an end by a great storm which flooded the islands to a depth of three feet and inundated the workings. The abandoned remains can still be seen in this spectacular island setting, and a very interesting folk museum and self guided walk has been established on Easdale Island, a short ferry ride from Eilean Beith. There are many other interesting sites to visit, including the Bridge over the Atlantic, the Crinan Canal, Bonawe Iron Furnace, and numerous prehistoric standing stones, duns and brochs. The aim of the meet was to examine some of these sites, and to visit the island of Belnahua on Ian's yacht, Tramontana. For those able to stay on the Monday there was to be a short cruise to some of the islands in the Firth of Lorne.

Camping had been arranged at the site overlooking the sound of Kerrera, but Alistair and I slept on the boat, whilst Jon made a 4.00 am start to drive up on Saturday morning (and hadn't been overtaken south of Glasgow - Ed.). The weather was perfect, with clear skies, sunshine, and superb visibility. Due to the fresh northerly breeze it was decided to stay on land for the first day.

After meeting Jon at Eilean Beith we all drove to Cuan Sound and took the ferry across as foot passengers to the Island of Luing, which is about six miles long and two wide. It is famous in agricultural circles for its unique breed of red Luing cattle.

We set off towards the village of Cullipool along the west coast, amongst the old quarry workings. There were numerous samples of slate on the tips containing embedded rectangular iron pyrite crystals, and many samples were collected. We climbed up to get round the back of the quarries, and looked down on the village of Cullipool, which consists of old slate workers cottages now used by locals who work in Oban, and as holiday cottages. The houses surround spectacular flooded holes, and there is a neat little harbour constructed out of waste slate. In the middle of the village was displayed a propeller from a Sunderland flying boat, which had been dredged up by a local fishing boat. To our surprise we found that the village shop and post office is run by people who originate from the Barrow area !

From Cullipool we set off up to the spine of the island to look at a well preserved iron age fort, set in a superb defensive position on the highest point, overlooking the Firth of Lorne

to the north and the Sound of Jura to the south. The party split up here, some walking along the ridge to inspect another dun about a mile further south, whilst the rest returned to the ferry.

The island of Luing is connected to the mainland by a handsome arched stone bridge, built by John Macadam and known as the Bridge over the Atlantic. On the island side of the bridge is a pub called the Tigh na Truich, which roughly translated from the Gaelic means 'leave your trousers'. During the Jacobean rebellion, as a means of subduing the clans, the wearing of the tartan was forbidden, but the islanders, safe from surprise, continued to wear their kilts, leaving their trousers at the Tigh na Truich in case of intruders or to put on for visits to the mainland. We met there in the evening for a meal and a drink, most people driving there, but Alistair, Jon and I took the boat to a sheltered anchorage on the other side of the island and walked over from there.

Sunday was another fine day, with a more gentle breeze. One group explored Easdale Island and visited the Folk Museum whilst the others sailed from Easdale Harbour for Belnahua, Peter wearing his naval hat, and were put ashore by Alistair the boatman and marooned there to explore at their leisure. Alistair and I then returned to Easdale to bring out the second party, passing an orange inflatable with a group of divers which was anchored about 200 metres north of Belnahua. On the final passage out to Belnahua we were passed by the Oban Lifeboat, travelling at high speed, and by monitoring channel 16 on the yacht radio we learned that one of the divers had failed to surface. Oban lifeboat was joined by the Islay Lifeboat and by two helicopters, and all the small boats in the vicinity joined in the search for the missing diver. The tidal currents in this area run at up to 9 knots and it was hoped that he had simply been swept away and would soon be found.

John Knowles and Ken Geddes had to return home on Sunday evening, but everyone else was able to stay for Monday as well. We planned to spend the night at anchor off the North West coast of Jura, and so, after picking up the final CAT group from Belnahua, we joined the search for the missing diver in the Sound of Luing on our way south. Conditions in the Gulf of Corryvreckan were unfavourable, and so we bore away and made for a small sheltered bay on the East side of Jura to anchor for the night. After an evening

meal of spaghetti bolognaise, washed down by a couple of bottles of wine, Sheila, Angela and Dave decided that they would prefer a night ashore in their tents, a decision they came to regret, as very early in the morning they were all waiting at the waters edge for Alistair to ferry them back aboard and so escape the midges!

The search for the missing diver, which had been called off at dusk, had resumed at first light, and we volunteered our services to search the north coast of Jura on our passage through the Gulf of Coryvreckan, now completely calm. We saw nothing, and the search was called off later in the day. The body of the missing diver was never found. We anchored in a small bay on the Atlantic side of Jura, and went ashore to examine some caves formed when the sea was about 20 feet above its present level. Much of the Jura coast consists of raised beaches formed in earlier geological times. Our caves contained piles of limpet shells, evidence of habitation by early man. They were also deep with droppings from the deer and feral goats which now inhabit the island, and very smelly.

From Jura we motored across to the Garvellachs, a group of islands reputed to have been inhabited by St Columba, who brought Christianity to Scotland and founded the abbey at Iona. There are the remains of early buildings, some graves, a cross, a fresh water spring, and some unique beehive Cells which we couldn't find, although I did locate them on a subsequent visit with another crew. We explored the largest island, visited the small lighthouse which had recently been painted, and climbed to the trig point on the summit, where there were views to Islay in the south, to Colonsay and to Mull to the west, as well as northwards back to Easdale and Oban. Alistair ferried Peter, Dave, Mark, Sheila and Angela ashore at Easdale for the last time, and then he and I sailed back to Loch Feochan to leave Tramontana on her mooring.

A precedent may have been set when the Meet Leader and Skipper was presented with a bottle of malt whiskey! Should this custom be established for all meet leaders? My thanks to everyone who contributed. It was a very pleasant weekend, made more so by some unusually fine weather for Scotland. If there is enough interest we might do another trip next year, though I cannot guarantee the weather!

Ian Matheson

Membership Secretary's Report for 1997

The membership year runs from 1st November to the following October. On 31st October there were 96 ordinary members. There has been one new member since the years end, bringing the present total to 97, which is exactly the same as at this time last year. There are a further 5 Honorary members, and 10 libraries and societies.

So far 56 members have renewed their subscription for 1998, which is better than last year, but 39 have not yet done so. They will each get a personal reminder enclosed with the next publication. We are still failing to attract many new young people, although there are several who qualify as joint or family members.

Membership details are now on a computer database, and can easily be updated. I produce labels on demand for the Secretary and for the Newsletter Editor and I have recently begun to copy and distribute the Bulletin. I would like to add details of members interests and to publish them with the next membership list some time during the next year. To this end I hope to send out a short questionnaire with the next newsletter.

It was decided at the final committee meeting of 1997 to include on the renewal form a request for donations towards the costs of materials for the dig at Hudgillburn, and there has been a very good response. Half of those who have renewed have made a donation, and over £230 has been contributed.

Ian Matheson

HUDGILLBURN DIG

At the last committee meeting before the Annual General Meeting it was decided to include with the membership renewal reminder slips a request for donations towards the cost of materials for the dig at Hudgillburn. The dig has been continued for several years, and it has now been decided to turn it into an engineering project, and to make the work permanent by using steel supports which will not require future maintainance.

There has been a very good response, and so far over £260 has been raised towards the costs of the project. Our thanks go to the following members who have contributed in this way:

Elizabeth Bowden	John Brown
Paul Timewell	Bruce Dean
Malcolm Charlton	James Kendrick
Adrian Barrell	Nils Wilkes
Trevor Cotton	David Waller
Angela Wilson	Tristan Goldsack
Sheila Barker	Peter Blackwood
Peter & Margaret Fleming	
Don Borthwick	M. G. Lockley
Ian & Meg Matheson	Jon Knowles
Gregg Parsons	Ronnie Calvin
John & Joan Helme	Joseph Quinn
Peter Hay	Damian McCurdy
Ken & Margaret Geddes	
Dr G Rawlins	Peter Sandbach
Michael Forsdyke	Peter Sedgewick
Alistair & Ian Cameron	
Ian Kerr	John Crammond
Gerald Colling	

RAMPGILL – BROWNLEY HILL – NENTSBURY HAGGS THROUGH TRIP 5TH OCTOBER

Entering Rampgill Horse Level with enough rope to drop the Brewery Shaft, never mind the Brownley Hill connection, we made our way to the Scaleburn Vein. Ascending the steps and moving in-by to the second junction on the left we continued along the level, eventually coming to the first pitch. This is a sump of about 30 ft., and there was a slight hiccup here when the rig for the pitch was found to be too short.

After tying everything available together and resorting to one hanger by general agreement we were able to make the bottom. The sump connects to a sub level which presumably once led back to the Horse Level but is now collapsed that way. We had lunch here before the deep water ahead, down in Brownley Hill. The connection is a descent through a stope, accessed from the end of a short drift off to the right of the level we were in. Hangers are in-situ at the top and we rerigged the 100 mtr. rope to descend the 80-90 ft. into Brownley Hill. (This was the only rope available at the time.) Landing on the dry sanctuary of muck at the bottom we teamed up and moved off into deep water immediately. This continues for a long way, at times up to the arm-pits, but thankfully not as deep as the tide mark on the walls showed it had once been. Apparently there is an inscription on the wall part way along here: "Jubilee" and the date of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. I failed to spot it but the location was given as "about 20 ft. before a bank of clay holding back deep water, on the right hand wall, a few inches above the water. Being a faint inscription the light needs to catch it

right to be readable." Continuing through the water we turned right at the junction with Guddhamgill Vein to climb up into the massive stope a short distance along here. This stope is the largest presently accessible in Alston Moor and was worth the detour. Back heading north along Guddhamgill Burn Cross Vein we eventually reached the cross cut to Wellgill Cross Vein. Along here to just in-by of the North Middle Vein junction we crawled down the mud slope to begin the connection to Nentsbury Haggs Mine. A rise at the bottom of the crawl leads to the Engine Chamber which Peter climbed up to view before we descended the ladder someone has kindly installed into Haggs. Easy walking interspersed by falls holding back waist deep water eventually brought us to the Horse Level portal and daylight. An interesting feature along the way is the in-situ formers for the arching showing "how it was done." We took the scenic route back to Nenthead and the car park by following the Nent up stream. After quick refreshment Peter had to dash to meet the wife and Dave and myself returned to Rampgill to de-rig the pitches.

Billy Griffin

BROWNLEY HILL MEET 16TH NOVEMBER

Once again a handy sized team for quick travelling entered Brownley Hill for the journey to the Jug Vein. I quickly pointed out the timbered repair to the arching just in-by of the portal, work done by CATMHS members. As we reached the Haggs connection Peter suggested we show the others the Engine Chamber, which was done. We also looked at the curious level beneath it and tried to interpret its purpose before continuing along Wellgill Cross Vein to the Brownley Hill Vein junction. After wading through the water, travelling becomes harder at times over fallen roof with squeezes through collapsed arching; even the sound sections of arching generally has knee-deep water in it. Eventually reaching High Cross Vein we turned onto this, having lunch at the top of a sump down to water that looks worth a peep down some time. On down to Jug Vein we climbed up into the limestone workings at Waltons for the purpose of the meet – a descent into new ground. (The less mention of new ground the better now.) I thought the drop might take us below the Horse Level. John K. was not so sure – he turned out to be right! The pitch was quickly bolted by John D. using the drill and he sportingly let me go first. I noticed on the way down that we were standing on over 30 ft. of deads, built up as

the height of the stope advanced. At the bottom a hole brought me out into a place in the Horse Level we had passed earlier! I suppose it is a quick way out if the rope is pulled through afterwards.

After I had ascended and explained I hoped it was dark enough to hide my red face. So much for new ground. We explored further into the workings including a look at a possible dig, then headed out-by to the Brownley Hill Vein. A climb up in another limestone stope was done to view the in-situ ventilation fan, its pipe-work still leading off into the working it was feeding.

Photos were taken and the possibility of re-siting it in a safer area discussed before we descended and continued the long journey out. In spite of the farce with my 'new ground' I think the guys had an interesting day with the sights I was able to show them en-route. As I said at the time: next time I spot a hole in the floor pull me away before I can say "I wonder what's down here!"

Billy Griffin

PHOTOGRAPHS

What follows is a further experiment with photographs - many thanks to Dave Stewart for doing the clever bit.



Moss Head August 1997 - Dave Stewart



Ladder in Moss Head - Dave Stewart

CAT CHRONOLOGY

John Helme has come up with the idea as part of the forthcoming CAT birthday celebrations we should produce a chronology of the important events which have already taken place. John has also taken a lot of time and trouble to sift through old newsletters, yawned again at Chris Jones's jokes, to produce the draft detailed below. Would members with long memories please review and advise any additions or corrections.

9/11/1979 Meeting to inaugurate the Society:
Chairman: Peter Fleming
Secretary: Eric Holland
Treasurer: Alan Westall

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Chairman: Peter Fleming
Secretary: Eric Holland
Treasurer: Alan Westall

Members: Alen McFadzean
Maureen Stone
Peter Dawes

- Nov. 1979 Start of work at Ding Dong shaft
Dec. 1979 First Annual dinner
- Easter 1980 First Welsh meet
July 1980 Joint meet at Coniston and Lindal with PDMHS
Nov. 1980 Underground trip to Haig Colliery
- Summer 1981 Publication of *Coniston Copper Mines*, Holland
Nov. 1981 Closure of Carrock Mine
Nov. 1981 Publication of Newsletter No.1
44 Members
- April 1982 Entry gained at Ding Dong shaft
Summer 1982 Hosts for NAMHO Field weekend at Coniston
Dec. 1982 AGM
- New Treasurer & Memb. Sec.: M. Stone
Meets Sec.: A.McFadzean
Tackle Master: C.Jones
- June 1983 First overseas meet to Southern Ireland
Nov. 1983 Barrow Steel Works closes
- Easter 1984 First meet in Scotland
1984 Joint Newsletter editors C.Jones and A.McFadzean
1984 Journal editor C.Jones
- June 1984 Last coal production at Haig Colliery
1983/1984 Final work in preservation of Ding Dong shaft
- Summer 1984 COMRU First meet at Kentmere Quarries
1984 Publication of *Mine Explorer*, Journal No.1
- Summer 1984 Start of work by New Coledale Mining Co. at Force Crag
1984 West Cumberland Mines Research Group formed
- Dec. 1984 AGM New Chairman M.Mitchell.
Jan. 1985 Monthly social meets (Slides etc.) started
1985 Dept. of Environment, preservation order on Copper Works at Coniston
- Dec. 1985 AGM
- New Secretary: Dave Blundell
Treasurer: Maureen Stone
Memb. Sec.: Lindsay Harrison
AGM Subscription to be £6 or £8
- Feb. 1986 Death of member M.Wickenden
1986 Haig Pit, development work ended and the mine closed
- May 1986 Exhibition at Barrow Museum, "Furness Iron Ore"
1986 First rescue COMRU, at Kirkland, Cumbria.
1986 Carrock Mine, "landscaped" etc.
1986 Responsibility for access and fencing at Warton Crag mines
- July 1986 Display and slide lecture at Coniston by I.Matheson
1986 Publication of *Coniston Copper* by E.Holland
1986 Publication of *Mine Explorer*, Journal No.2
- Oct. 1986 Underground work at Honister Quarries ends.
Nov. 1986 Public Enquiry at Coniston regarding the work done at the Mine Site by
P.Johnson
- Dec. 1986 Inaugural meeting of the "North Pennine Heritage Trust"
Dec. 1986 AGM. New Meets Sec.: I.Matheson
Subscriptions raised to £10 or £12

	1987 Publication <i>Wythburn Mine & the Lead Mines of Helvellyn</i> by A.McFadzean
Nov.	1987 Charitable status awarded
Nov.	1987 New Newsletter Editor: Anne Danson
Dec.	1987 AGM. New Treasurer: Wendy Battersby
March	1988 Recognition of the Furness group of CAT, "Furness Mining Adventurers"
March	1988 CAT archives started
Spring	1988 New Society name, "CATMHS"
	1988 Formal opening of the Horse Level at Whitriggs, Lindal
July	1988 Production & sale of CATMHS sweatshirts
	1988 Publication of <i>Coniston Copper, A History</i> by E.Holland
	1988 Publication of <i>Mines of the Lake District Fells</i> by John Adams
	1988 Introduction of Covenanted members' annual subscriptions
Sept.	1988 Excavation started at Logan Beck Mine
Spring	1989 Preservation work at Low Water power house
	1989 Publication of <i>Mine Explorer</i> , Journal No.3
	1989 Publication of <i>Iron Moor</i> by A.McFadzean
July	1989 Joint hosts (with LMQT) of NAMHO conference at Ambleside
Nov.	1989 Start of work at Newland Iron Furnace (with CIHS & CWAAS)
Dec.	1989 AGM.
	New Sec.: Sheila Barker
	New Treasurer: J.Helme
	New Memb. Sec.: P.Merrin
	Librarian: A.C.P.Thomas
	New Journal Editor: D.Borthwick
March	1990 Opening of the Mining Museum at Caldbeck
	1990 Publication of <i>Honister Slate</i> by A.Cameron
	1990 Publication of <i>Force Crag</i> by I.Tyler
Oct.	1990 Lease concluded for Mandall office at Coniston
Dec.	1990 AGM. New Membership Sec.: A.Sibbald
Jan.	1991 Publicity Officer: A. Cameron
Jan.	1991 Vice Chairman: D. Bridge
	1991 Preservation work at the "Old Engine Shaft" at Coniston
Summer	1991 Entry gained to the "Logan Beck" mine
Nov.	1991 Honorary President appointed, Lord Egremont
Dec.	1991 AGM.
	New Newsletter Editor: A.McFadzean.
	New Membership Sec.: M.Simpson
April	1992 Start of News Sheet by Editor, A.Cameron
	1992 New Newsletter Editors: M.Dobie and T.Tucker
	1992 Reelection of D.Bridge as Vice Chairman
April	1992 Publication of <i>Beneath the Lakeland Fells</i> by "Red Earth", written by
CATMHS	members
	1992 Publication of <i>Greenside</i> by I.Tyler
May	1992 Formation of the "Mines Forum"
Nov.	1992 Work commences on the "Lucy Tongue" level at Greenside with MOLES
Oct.	1992 Joined the "Cumbria Local History Federation"
Dec.	1992 AGM.
	New Chairman: D.Bridge
	New Newsletter Editor: M.Simpson.
	M.Mitchell made an Honorary Life Member
Jan.	1993 Appeal by P.Johnson, Public hearing at Coniston
Jan.	1993 Start of the "Furness Heritage Survey"
May	1993 First public display at Mandell Office, Coniston
	1993 Publication of <i>Slate from Honister</i> by A.Cameron
Easter	1993 Exhibition at Coniston Institute
Summer	1993 Work started on the repair and repointing of Woodbine Mine chimney

Dec.	1993 AGM. P.Fleming made an Honorary Life Member New Membership Sec.: D.Parsons
Jan.	1994 Major J.Hext accepted the position of Vice President
March	1994 Start of the work at Hudgillburn mine
August	1994 Death of D.Blundell 1994 Acquisition of the store at Roanhead
Summer	1995 Mining museum transferred from Caldbeck to Threlkeld Quarry 1995 Publication of <i>Seathwaite Wad</i> by I.Tyler
Dec.	1995 AGM. New Membership Sec.: I.Matheson
	1996 Publication of <i>Slate from Coniston</i> by A.Cameron
May	1996 Death of Barbara Mitchell
Sept.	1996 Death of P.Merrin
Dec.	1996 Through trip possible Lucy Tongue to Smith shaft at Glenridding
Dec.	1996 AGM.
	New Treasurer: P.Timewell
	New Newsletter Editor: J.Knowles
	New Meets Sec.: J.Davies
Jan.	1997 Vice President Major Hext awarded the MBE

MID-WALES MEET 17TH - 18TH JANUARY

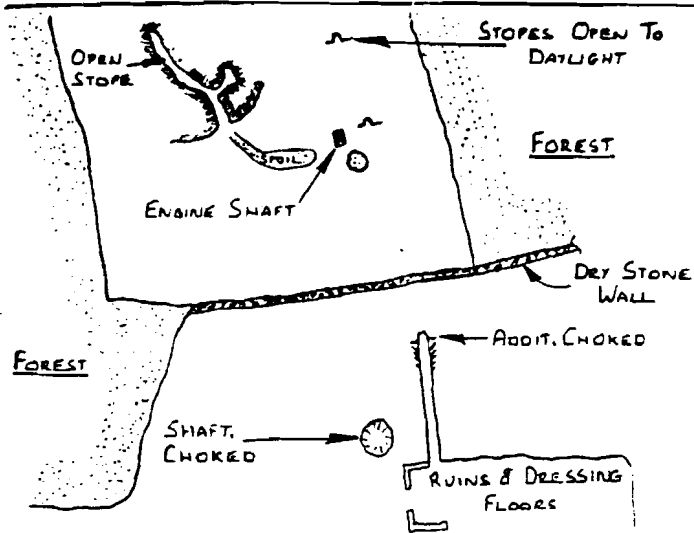
North Wales weather in winter can be uninviting and most potential attendees seemed to have taken note of the forecast, as only Tristan Goldsack and Peter Hay appeared at the rendezvous at Bontddu near Dolgellau on the Saturday morning to join the Meet Leader Jon Knowles. They had left Sussex at 4.30 am. A determined threesome set off across Vigra Bridge to explore the long disused copper mine of that name. At least it wasn't raining. Yet. Above the dumps are some open cuts and what could be a shaft. Anyway that's what the books (and Anton's section) call it. We decided to try our luck and Jon's bolting kit soon had us able to descend. The survey mentioned flood water and it wasn't wrong, but there were some bits accessible without total immersion. The only artefact seen was the top of the rising main sticking out of the water. False floors in flooded areas were distinctly uninviting.

Returning to the surface after the necessarily short time below ground, an elderly (but not senior) member of CAT (no prizes for guessing who - Ed.) evidenced one aspect of his senility by wandering off over the tips in search of minerals. When rescued by his attendants he was clutching a dirty piece of rock smudged pink which he swore was Erythrite. Well, whatever turns you on. Walking back down the well engineered mine track to the bridge we noticed the broad formation of an incline with the vestiges of a drum house, near the mouth of Jenny's adit. The latter never reached the mine workings

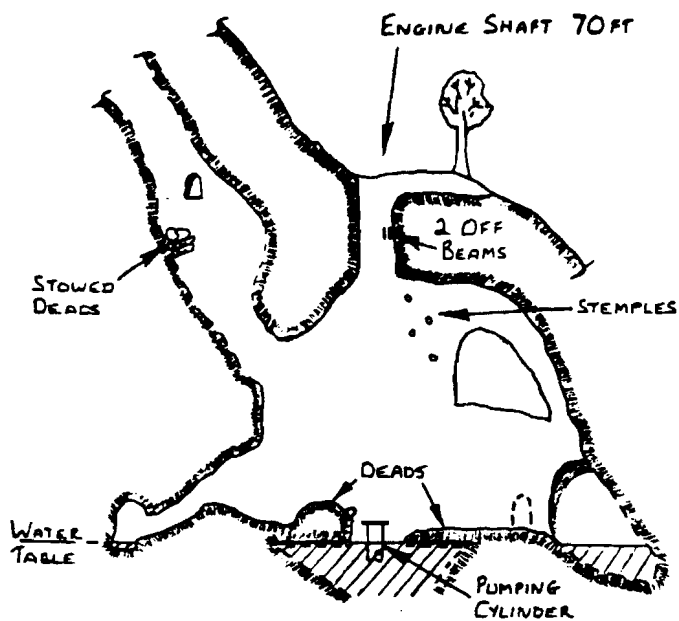
on the hillside above and its lack of riches did not tempt the party who walked down the incline instead. Moving on to look at yet another incline seemingly unconnected with anything, the drizzle turned to a hailstorm. This curtailed detailed inspection of the remains of the buildings at Vigra Bridge itself, which were to process the gold-bearing quartz from the Clogau mine on the other side of the valley. After changing into dry clothes we made our way into Dolgellau, to meet later for a long and relaxed dinner at the Royal Ship Hotel. An early night was most welcome.

Sunday dawned with very bad weather indeed: a gale from the west and driving rain. We set out for Corris where Ken Geddes and John Ashby were waiting. Tristan and Peter decided to give Abercorris Slate Mine, just visible high above the valley in the mist and rain, the benefit of their absence. King Arthur's labyrinth (aka Braich Goch slate mine) was closed for the winter so they spent a dry and civilised morning following in the steps of a Moses Kellow (see the last Mine Explorer) to investigate Glanderri, Scwd, and Gaewern slate workings. Little seems to have changed in the years since your author's last visit, except that access to Braich Goch is no longer possible without paying the Boatman Who Holds the Key to the Labyrinth. After a modest lunch an early departure for Sussex was made.

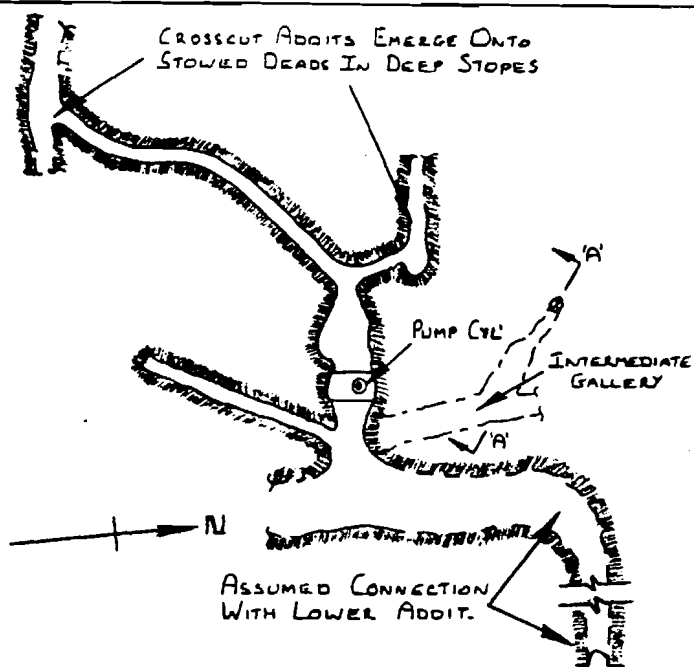
Peter Hay



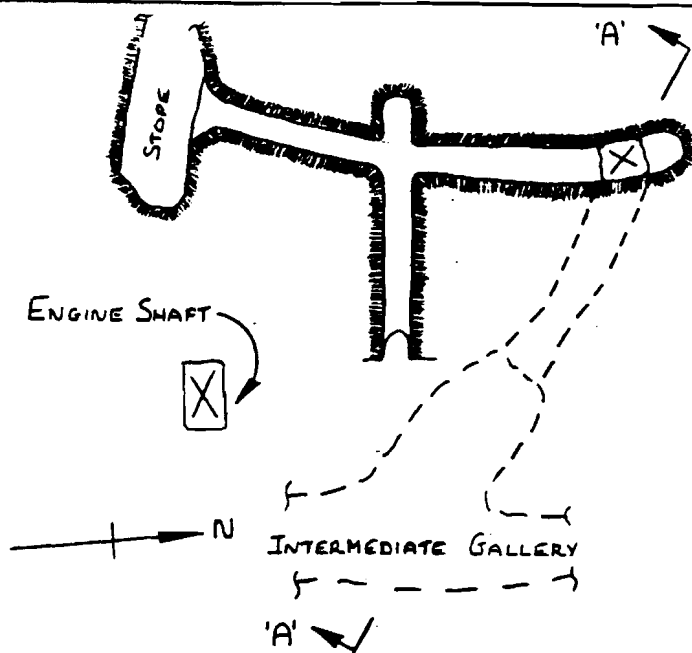
GENERAL ARRANGEMENT
OF UPPER WORKINGS



SECTION THRO' SHAFT LOOKING NORTH



PLAN ON WATER TABLE



PLAN AT SHAFT TOP

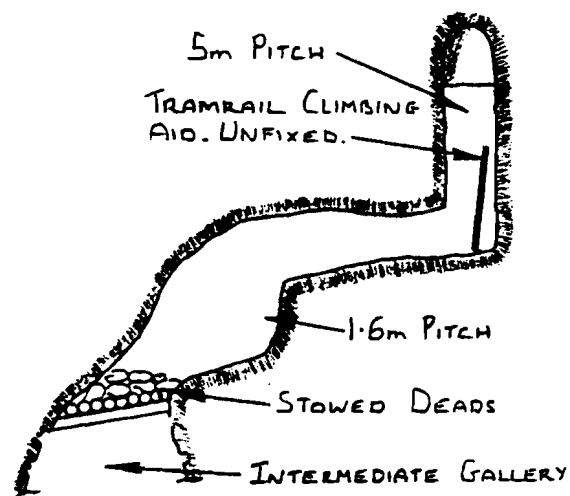
VIGRA MINE BONTODDU NORTH WALES

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE OF UPPER
WORKINGS SN 663 191

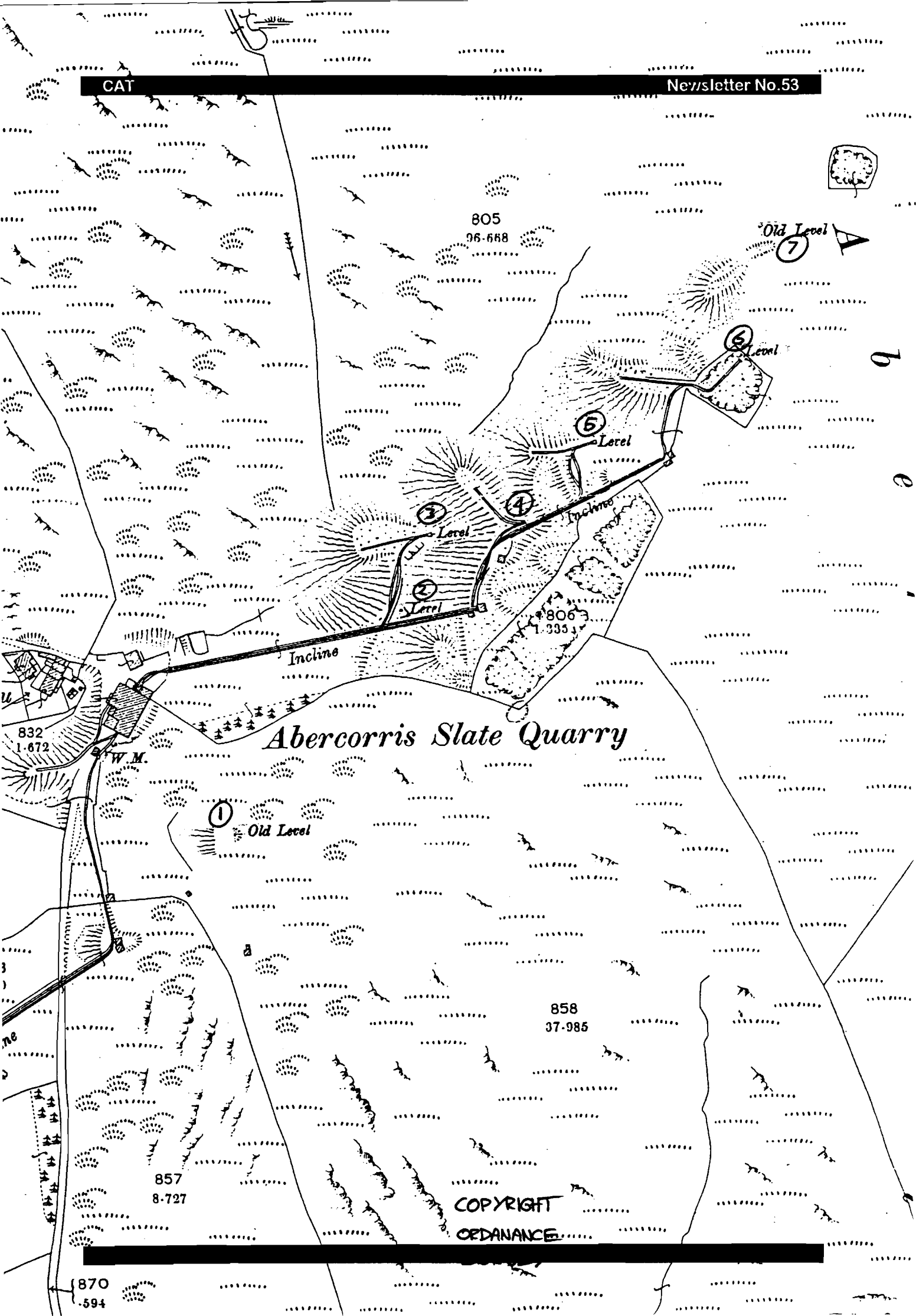
SURVEY GRADE 1

DRAWN: A. THOMAS 21/3/85

©



SECTION THRO' 'A-A'



Meanwhile back at Abercorris Ken Geddes, new member John Ashby and the author flogged up the near vertical Abercorris incline through the trees and the lashing rain to the summit. It was very welcoming to stand and catch breath in the shelter of the breakmans cabin at the top of the incline.

The 1901 1:2500 map of Corris shows six levels at Abercorris although even at this date two the (the highest and lowest) are marked as "Old Level" the inference being that they were already out of use at this time. In addition there is clearly another level which is not marked as such on the map. The status of these levels, which I have numbered in ascending order is as follows :-

No.	Status
1	Old level. Lost
2	Not open - see note.
3	Not open - see note.
4	Open. Explored
5	Open. Explored on previous visit.
6	Not known. Not explored due to lack of time.
7	Not known. Old Level. Not explored due to lack of time.

Note - Levels 2 & 3 appear to be on the same horizon. Whilst neither can be accessed directly, level 2 (the one nearest the incline) can be accessed by descending from level 4 or alternatively by free climbing down the twll.

Having previously done some exploration on the site the plan for the days activities was to ascend to level 5 and descend through a rather daunting window, into a large chamber, to floor 4. Therefore it was with some pleasure that we found that floor 4 had been dug open by others. Quickly wadding through knee deep water it was pleasure to be out of the wind. We quickly entered the vertical chambering which is so common on the east side of the valley and at Aberllefenni. A number of chambers were entered. Some disappearing into the depths below whilst others soared almost out of reach of our lights. The furthest inbye chamber had a flooded sink in the floor together with a windlass mounted nearby. This and various ironmongery littered about indicated that it was the last chamber to be worked.

One chamber into which water poured from above had been used as a tipping chamber. At the bottom of a steep tip a window and a short drop gave access into the chamber below could be seen. This immediately

reminded the author of a trip some years ago when he had climbed up a tip in a chamber below but had been unable to climb a step to ascend further. After quickly rigging a safety line a descent was made down the loose tip into the chamber below. Warning keep to the right hand side when descending the lower chamber since the left hand side terminates in a loose edge above a large drop. Swiftly descending the lower tip a rabbit hole partly obscured by blocks gives access to level 2/3.

Level 2/3 goes outbye to the base of a twll from which it is possible to free climb to surface by two separate routes. The first chamber inbye has a nice set of stone cut steps down the face, before a short sub-level gives access to a further descent of approximately 18' to reach a working bench at the top of another chamber. A long rope was rigged for the whole 3 part descent the final element of which, down the face of a steeply slopping, but not vertical chamber, seems impossible to ascend with any degree of grace.

Level 1 was explored fully. This ends outbye in deepening water approaching a collapse.

Lack of time precluded exploration of levels 6 and 7 although information from Adrian Barrell indicates that level 6 ends in a shaft going up. This will need to be the subject of a later visit.

Jon Knowles

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF PADDY END MINE

For the past year the Paddy End survey has been slowly progressing and there is now quite a lot to report. By November Mark had produced an impressive set of longitudinal and transverse sections of the mine covering stopes 1 to 6 from the surface downwards, as well as plans at three different horizons and a plan of the surface workings. In addition I have been making notes on geological features and backing these up with slides. But there are still plenty of gaps to be filled in and the work continues.

Meet No. 22 - 4.6.97 - JD, DGB, MS (Part time)

This was another attempt to survey the back strings from the surface. Above Arete Chamber the identification of the worked veins becomes confusing. Stopes 4 and 5 converge and come to surface at the Crater (the normal way in for the old Paddy End through route). But two other branches of the

vein have also been worked at outcrop. These lie to the NE, one converging with the Crater and the other forming an independent parallel working. It was this working (Stope 4/5b) that John and I descended for 8m down the dip of the vein and then followed the inclined floor of the stope down to a square opening in a false floor. From a bolt belay we descended beneath the false floor for 9m and found ourselves in an isolated working with a flooded sump in the bottom which we plumbed at about 4m. This stope is very close to the adjacent parallel stope to which access can be gained above the false floor via a trapezium-shaped hole the miners have made in the dividing wall making use of the rock's natural cleavage as a line of weakness.

Meet No. 23 - 19.6.97 - MS, DGB

Today we had arranged to take Lawrence Donnelly, a rock mechanics expert from BGS, to look at some of the unstable ground in Paddy End Mine in the vicinity of Levers Water. After tip-toeing along Earthquake Passage to gather photographic evidence of floor movement in the tunnel and its slow collapse into Shattered Stope he beat a hasty retreat (quite happy to see his own way out being a caver) leaving Mark and myself to survey the clay-filled cross course which is encountered in the first section of Top Level Extension. This strong shallow-dipping fault is an important feature of the Paddy End geology can be traced elsewhere in the mine. It is exposed at the entrance to the Funnel and was also intercepted during the NW Water drilling operations above Woodend's Level.

Meet No. 24 - 10.7.97 - MS, JD

On this meet Mark and John carried out a precarious bit of free climbing up two unstable rises above the Belman Hole level near MAG's Catwalk, one leading to an incline with fresh air entering from above. A full report can be found in the October newsletter. As always the discovery of new ground leads to more questions and the source of the air flow through the timbers at the top of rise B has yet to be solved.

Meet No. 25 - 17.7.97 - MS, PF, DGB

With five ropes now in place on the route above Twin Tunnels it fell to Mark and Pete on this meet to make the final push and complete a through trip back to a different location in Top Level. But first, on the way down from the Crater, we made use of the rope left the

previous week in rise B above MAG's Catwalk and completed the survey there. Then we descended to Top Level from MAG's where I took the opportunity to take measurements on a steeply dipping fault which can be traced for a considerable vertical distance through the mine and produces a 1.2m horizontal displacement of the vein. Judging by the direction of displacement and the respective dips of the vein and fault this is a reverse fault. Then on to the Twin Tunnel chamber where Mark and Pete traversed to the RH side of the dividing rock wall and climbed existing ropes to the point where the RH and LH stopes converge. They had already reached that point three months previously, but this time they had sufficient rope to descend the LH stope into unknown ground. Meanwhile I moved to the short cross-cut in Top Level which intersects the Paddy End vein about 30m further on and by shouting up through the timberwork was able to make voice contact. Before long, accompanied by the odd unrepeatable comment and the noise of falling stones and other debris, a faint glow appeared high up in the stope above and a muddy Simpson descended out of the gloom soon to be followed by his mineral collecting companion. The vertical descent was about 20m but it was found necessary to traverse some distance to the SE to clear the timberwork. We now had a fairly complete picture of the workings in that part of the Paddy End Vein.

Meet No. 26 - 24.7.97 - MS, JD, DGB, Bill Griffin

The plan today was to complete the survey above Twin Tunnels. Bill Griffin had joined us to make up a team of four and we split into two parties, tackling the through route from both directions. While John and Bill entered the Twin Tunnel chamber and climbed the RH stope Mark and I ascended the LH stope from the Top Level cross-cut on the rope left in the week before and set up tripods at the top where the stopes converged. The stope walls here showed an unusual degree of spalling associated with black, white and green patches of secondary deposits of minerals which appear to have leached out of the walls. Here the geological structure is complicated by a steeply dipping cross-fault which links the two stopes and appears to have been mineralised because it has been worked through between the main veins. The survey was completed by sending up a helium balloon to measure the height of the solid stope roof above our platform. After that it was a relief to leave that dodgy area of the

mine once and for all and to remove all the ropes.

Meet No. 27 - 10.8.97 - MS, DGB

Continuing our work on the open stopes we decided to survey Jack Roll stope (ie Stope 3) which is the one almost in line with Simon's Nick at the surface. The false floor which used to be the first landing point is now badly collapsed with a gaping hole through it, so the safest way down was to abseil straight through the hole and avoid touching any of the timbers, landing on the incline below which then leads down to a take-off point for the final vertical descent to the Belman Hole Level. There is a backup bolt anchor in place for the final pitch and Mark chose to descend from an offset stemple belay which made for an awkward landing when ascending. This stope is quite colourful further down and contains a flooded sump in a recess some distance above the floor.

Meet No. 28 - 17.8.97 - MS, DGB

This day was spent entirely on the surface tying in different datum points and then surveying Simon's Nick.

Meet No. 29 - ?9.97 - MS

We had now covered the ramifications of Stope 4/5 in the upper part of the Back Strings between Arete Chamber and Levers Water but the continuation of this vast stope out towards the crag where there is a small fenced off air hole was still to be surveyed. The upper part of the stope can be entered both from air hole and also by way of a shallow, largely collapsed, level from "The Pit" - a surface working about 6m deep and 3m wide into which the Stope 4/5 ramifications to the NW converge. The aim is eventually to bolt a traverse line along this level from The Pit to the end of the stope below the air hole (about 28m in length) and to complete the survey downwards. On this occasion Mark began the traverse and then made the 30m descent to Arete Chamber deviating on the way down to record the stope profile and noting a distinct shift in the vein caused by a shallow-dipping fault which be traced from Arete Chamber for about 50m up towards the air hole.

Meet No. 30 - 2.10.97 - MS, DGB

The two aims today were to obtain a profile of the section of stope 2 to the SE of Dead Dog Passage (ie towards Simon's Nick at the

Belman Hole horizon) and to check the survey from that point to the start of MAG's Catwalk for the purpose of rationalising heights. The helium balloons proved invaluable for determining the roof profile of stope 2. At the highest point, 20m above the floor, the roof was out of sight due to a curvature of the stope but it was still possible to get a measurement with the balloons which a visual method wouldn't give you. At the SE end of the stope, nearer Simon's Nick, the balloons indicated a draught high up in the roof - could there be a connection through to the floor of Simon's Nick? More investigation is needed in this area.

Meet No 31 - 28.10.97 - MS, DGB, AW (part time)

The aim today was to continue the traverse along the line of the shallow level in Stope 4/5 starting from The Pit. Mark inserted three more bolts but his second wasn't prepared to follow (his excuse on this occasion being a finger injury!) and the attempt was abandoned for the time being. Later we were joined by Angela and all three of us descended to the same level from the air hole. This was part of an established route which drops almost 100m from surface to Middle Level. It had already been bolted by CAT and we found evidence that other parties had been down there more recently. Not having visited that part of the mine before Mark was keen to look down the stope and to weigh up the possibilities of traversing further out towards the crag where the stope lengthens out and where there might possibly be a continuation of Top Level. At one point during the descent the dip of the vein changes abruptly from SW to NE where the veins worked in Stopes 4 and 5 below converge and Mark was able to use the tape deviation which I had put in several years ago. Below that point he soon ran out of rope and finished dangling in what must be one of the loneliest places in the mine. There is a lot more work to be done in this area and it requires a strong team.

Meet No. 32 - 5.11.97 - MS, PF, DGB

At last we had an opportunity to use a theodolite, or at least we would have done if the mist had cleared! We intended to inspect the crag face workings and relate them to datum points at the Back Strings but the weather closed in and no measurements were taken.

Meet No. 33 - 1.2.98 - MS, JD, AW, DGB

This was a scheduled CAT meet designed to push on at the far NW end of Lake Stope where it rises up towards a possible unknown part of the Belman Hole Level beyond Angela's Dig in the direction of Levers Water. The original intention was to make use of CAT's rigid ladders previously used in Woodbine Chimney but even if the ladders had arrived there wouldn't have been sufficient people to get them down to Top Level together with the other gear. The floor of the stope rises steeply from a pool of variable depth below the descent line, from which the stope takes its name (on this occasion, unusually, it was dry), and from the top of this loose, gritty scramble which ends some distance above the Top Level horizon John and Mark spent most of the day bolting up the steep footwall, having first put in a hand line up to that point. Meanwhile Angela and I made our way through to Stope 1 which had been temporarily cut off by the recent collapse from surface but was now accessible. Our aim was to attempt a survey in the SE end of the stope where much of the debris from the collapse had landed but the slope in that direction proved too dangerous and unstable to climb without the help of a rope and wall anchors. Earlier measurements in the other direction had surprisingly shown that at one place these workings in Stope 1 almost break through to the main Top Level tramway some 25m along the level with well under 1/2m of rock separating them. We checked this by hammering on one side of the wall and not only could the hammering be clearly heard from the other side but it could also be accurately pinpointed, which adds confidence to our surveying methods. On returning to Orange Box Corner we found the others just emerging from Lake Stope having bolted about 2/3rds of the way up to the Belman Hole horizon, which is very tiring work. We look forward to a return to Lake Stope before too long.

Dave Bridge

MEET REPORT WAD MINES 18.10.97

This weekend attracted a large number of people, partly because CAT were hosting PDMHS and partly because it included the through trip recently opened up at Greenside Mine, which was reported on by John Brown in the January newsletter. On the Saturday we once again attempted the popular abseil descent through the Wad mines from Gill Stage to Gilbert's Stage, a total descent of about 120m, and once again, because of the

wide range of rope-work experience amongst the members on the meet, it proved to be not without incident.

A party of about eighteen made their way up to Farey's Stage in the warm sunshine, Ian Matheson filling in details of the visible surface remains to the visitors on the way. At this point Ian, Mark Simpson and John Davies disappeared into the mine with the Bosch drill to check the rigging in the lower part, notably at the top of Dixon's Pipe where anchors are regularly rived out presumably to discourage the descent of this long and rather unstable pitch. The rest of us trudged up to Gill Stage where we found it very tempting just to sit and admire the view (some CAT members, who shall be nameless, managed to avoid SRT altogether and went for an optimum sun tan!). While the main party were exploring the upper workings I rigged the first two pitches which took us down Grisedale's Pipe to Bill's Stage about 33m below, and for the final short drop from here to Farey's we used a handline followed by another short abseil, pulling all the ropes through after us.

At Farey's Stage the lower CAT party took over so I walked down to Gilbert's Stage to see folks off the bottom of the last pitch which is well known for being wet. On this occasion "wet" was an understatement - the water was literally pouring through the hole above the landing point - and you can imagine the comments as people struggled to detach themselves from the rope. Most came away grinning and said they had enjoyed the trip which included an inspection of the Old Men's Level part way down the Grand Pipe. One member of the party however had experienced a serious problem passing the rebelay in Dixon's Pipe which had caused a long hold up. Considering the wide range of experience of those on the meet greatest thanks must go to the three CAT members who saw the party safely out to Gilbert's Stage.

Dave Bridge

HUDGILLBURN MINE UPDATE

There have been work meets on most Sundays since the breakthrough on the 11th January, including two official meets. Most of the time has been spent trying to open the left hand rise, at the end of the Wagon level up to the Cavern. This has proved very difficult, as loose material is continuously running in at the top of the rise. Attempts have been made to stabilise the top of the rise and we hope to

complete the work by using Acro-props the next time we meet.

Access to the cavern was gained on the 8th March by climbing the rise on the right hand side of the level and crawling through a very narrow tube. This not the best of routes as the top of the rise is full of hanging dead. The fact that we have opened up the mine after over a 100 years, is bound to have an effect on the stability of such places. It would seem sensible therefore not to use this route and all our efforts will be put into clearing the safer route. The cavern is a wonderful place and appears to remain as it was in Sopwiths day, with a mass of dates and graffiti from the Victorian visitors. Several other rises have been explored but mostly they seem to go up into small old workings and as yet we have not got into any of the main veins. Each time we visit the mine different discoveries are made, the last visit produced several more clay pipes and the imprint of corduroy trousers as the miners leaned against the wall at the bottom of a rise.

A lot of work has gone into the photographing and recording of artefacts and features of the mine. Alastair Cameron will be making up display boards for future use.

Sheila Barker.

NATIONAL CAVING ASSOCIATION NEWS

The NCA newsletter No.31 contains the following.

In a recent incident (10th November 1997), South Snowdonia search and Rescue Team assisted by North Wales Cave Rescue Organisation came to the aid of two cavers stranded for approximately 15 hours whilst attempting a through trip from Croesor Mine to Rhosydd Mine. during the rescue there was a considerable rock fall in one of the chambers.

These events serve to highlight the dangers of old mine workings, and the risks associated with through trips. Cavers should be particularly cautious in disused slate mines where rock falls are common. they should also familiarise themselves with the current state of the route before embarking on a through trip.

(report by North Wales Cave Rescue Organisation)

Information passed to the editor in a North Wales bar shortly after the event is that the cavers rescued in the above incident had not previously rigged the pitch up into Rhosydd so had to wait to be rescued !

Whilst accepting that most of the comments in the above report are correct I do not accept that rock falls are common in Slate Mines. I personally have only heard one in 13 years. Maybe the report writer was a friend of Mark Simpsons

MEET LEADERS RESPONSIBILITIES

At the meeting on Monday 16th March the Committee discussed our responsibilities towards members attending meets. It was agreed that the following information should be provided for Meet Leaders.

INSURANCE

CAT is affiliated to NAMHO, who provide third party insurance cover for members. This insurance does not cover visitors or temporary members attending meets. Meet leaders should ensure that visitors complete and sign a membership application form before participating on the meet unless they are covered by the NAMHO insurance through membership of another club or organisation. Membership forms and constitutions are available from the Membership Secretary.

FIRST AID

Meet Leaders are responsible for ensuring that adequate First Aid Equipment is available at each meet. CATMHS First Aid kits are available if required, and are located at Mandals at Coniston, and at Hudgillburn.

SAFETY

Meet Leaders shall have the right to exclude any member from certain activities if they believe them to be outside that persons capability. Training is available on request.

NAMHO Field Meet 1998

SATURDAY

Morning Half-day Events Starting at 10-00

Brownley Hill Mine, History and Geology	UG	RS, FOK
Rampgill Horse Gin	UG	CAT
Killhope Mine	UG	FOK
Cowshill and Coptcleugh, Geology and Mining History	SUR	RS, FOK
Thortergill Low Level and Garrigill Village, Mining and Tourism	UG/SUR	NPX

Afternoon Half-day Events Starting at 14-00

Allenheads Village and Mines: Ancient and Modern mining at the back door	SUR	FOK
Tynebottom Mine, Geology and Mining History	UG	FOK, RS
Rampgill Horse Gin	UG	CAT
Barhaugh Coal pit, Twentieth Century Coal Mining	UG	FOK
Killhope Mine	UG	FOK

Full Day Events Starting at 10-00

Rookhope Valley Mines, a 600 year old landscape		SUR	FOK
Brownley Hill Mine	SRT	UG	CAT
Caplecleugh - Rampgill Mine	SRT	UG	CAT
Rampgill - Caplecleugh Mine	SRT	UG	FOK
Brewery Shaft Winch		UG	NPX
Smallcleugh Mine	NOT SRT	UG	NPX

CAT	Cumbria Amenity Trust MHS	FOK	Friends of Killhope
NPX	NORPEX MRG	RS	Russell Society
NPHT	North Pennines Heritage Trust		

NAMHO Field Meet 1998

SUNDAY

Morning Half-day Events Starting at 10-00

Rampgill Horse Gin	UG	CAT
Killhope Mine	UG	FOK
Nenthead Smelt Mill Archaeology	SUR	NPHT

Afternoon Half-day Events Starting at 14-00

Rampgill Horse Gin	UG	CAT
Killhope Mine	UG	FOK

All Day Events Starting at 10-00

Rotherhope Fell Mines and Blackburn Level		SUR + UG	NPX
Brownley Hill Mine	SRT	UG	CAT
Caplecleugh - Rampgill Mine	SRT	UG	CAT
Rampgill - Caplecleugh Mine	SRT	UG	NPX
Brewery Shaft Winch		UG	NPX
Smallcleugh Mine	Not SRT	UG	NPX
Upper Nent Valley, Nenthead to County boundary, Mining landscape		SUR	NPX, RS

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 19th January 1998 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 Policy on meets with other groups | 14 Date and venue of next committee meeting |
| 15 Any other business | |

Present

D. Bridge(DB), P. Timewell(PT), I. Matheson(IM), A Cameron(ADC),
J. Davies(JD), P. Fleming(PF), M. Mitchell(MM), M Scott(MSc), and
A. Wilson(AW).

Member N. Wilkes attended with the permission of the Chairman.

10 Members in total.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from S. Barker(SB) and M Simpson(MS).

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 11th November 1997 had been previously circulated to members. Amendment-PF noted that Item 3.1 should read £20,000 not £2000.

After the amendment was made it was PROPOSED by IM and SECONDED by MM that the minutes be signed by the chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings. This was carried unanimously.

3 Matters arising

5.5 MM-100m rope had been purchased. DB will label. DB pointed out that all five CAT ropes purchased within the last year are kept in distinctive red and yellow bags and stored in Mandall's, with a book for signing in and out. All ropes should be washed and inspected before being returned to the store.

5.6 PF-6 copies of BNF are still on sale in Grasmere Book shop at £16 each.

9 There had been no response from Mr Best.

4 Secretary's Report

Agreed that SB's new address should be inserted in books yet to be sold.

LDPB had provided finance for the NT to carry out work at Myer's Head Mine, Hartsop.

5 Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented a balance sheet covering the period since the last committee meeting. The following points arose:

5.1 IM had submitted a list of contributors to the Hudgill fund to be published in the Newsletter.

5.2 PT agreed that financially we should go ahead with Journal No 5 (copy date June 1998) as long as suitable articles are forthcoming. It was agreed that there should be articles on the Hudgillburn project and the Frog Shaft project in the Journal. PT felt that a further instalment on exploration at Coniston would also be welcomed by the readers of the Journal.

5.3 There was a discussion on the possibility of offering a larger discount to retailers for bulk orders of SFC.

5.4 PF said that Publications should be included as a regular item on the agenda.

6 Membership Secretary's Report

IM reported there were 75 paid up members to date. A final reminder to those who have not paid will go out with the next Newsletter.

7 Meets Secretary's Report

J. Davies regretted that there was such a poor attendance at the November 30th Coniston meet (MM and Tristan Goldsack who had travelled from Brighton for the occasion).

8 Furness Projects

PT had nothing to report.

9 Hudgillburn Mine

The breakthrough (on 11-1-98) was discussed and ADC described work yet to be carried out to secure the entrance and improve access. The necessary work would be continued on January 25th and 26th. It was agreed that SB should control access and that the break through should not be broadcast widely until the entrance was secure and made safe. The chairman extended the committee's thanks to those who had spearheaded the work at the mine.

10 Newlands Furnace

PT said that a hole in the furnace wall had been infilled. The next job is to line the cowl with bricks.

DB had been contacted by J Helme. The possibility of forming a trust had been considered to complete the work on the furnace, if the owner was agreeable. This would enable an application to be made for lottery funding. The trust would require a member from each society involved to be on the board (CWAA, CIHS and CATMHS). JH wanted to know our views on the subject. He would be prepared to represent us on the board. It was agreed that CATMHS should support the idea as it would amongst other things, secure the future of the furnace and other buildings in the complex.

11 Coniston Coppermines site

PF drew the committees attention to English Nature's proposal to designate the area of the Coniston Copper Mines, as an SSSI site on the strength of its geology and minerals. This also includes the Blue Quarries and the Seathwaite Copper Mines. A copy of the proposal had been sent to the BMSC.

The committee noted this and considered that it would not restrict our own activities.

12 Video film project

Nothing to report.

13 Policy for meets with visiting groups

Concern was expressed regarding the large number of people on the recent Greenside through trip. Also the lack of experience of certain members which became apparent during the Greenside trip and the Wad Mine through trip on the previous day. It was agreed that for meets involving visiting parties or popular meets where large numbers are anticipated we should in future:

- A) Be more definitive in our description of the meet in the meets list.
- B) The meet leader should question members about their experience and ability at the start of the meet and not be afraid to turn people back or make other arrangements for them if considered necessary.
- C) Limit the numbers.
- D) Make sure that enough 'officials' are available to assist on the meet.

14 Date and venue of next Committee Meeting

This was arranged for 7.30 p.m. on Monday 16th March 1998 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston.

15 Any other business

- 15.1 JD referred to a review being carried out by the NT which could affect access to mines on NT property. The NT are currently sorting out the legal position.
- 15.2 Following an action from the AGM to appoint 3 Custodian Trustees to be responsible for property owned by the Society, PT had completed forms to this effect.

- 15.3 The chairman extended the committee's thanks to Chris Jones for many years work as tackle master.
- 15.4 It was agreed that PF should make a booking for the next Christmas dinner. It was generally felt that the buffet dinner last year had been a success and that the food was excellent. PF, who would have preferred a sit down meal with a Top Table, pointed out that there had been much more choice of food than we had asked for, but that it was not likely to be the same next year. He said that some people would have preferred to pay a little extra and be waited on. He complained that he was obliged to use the same plate for his fish course and main course. PF also complained that the chairman or secretary should have been more in control of the situation on the night, for instance he had to rely on his own initiative to set up the member's slide show and was somewhat 'in the dark'.

Due to lack of time further business was postponed until the next meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10-00 p.m.

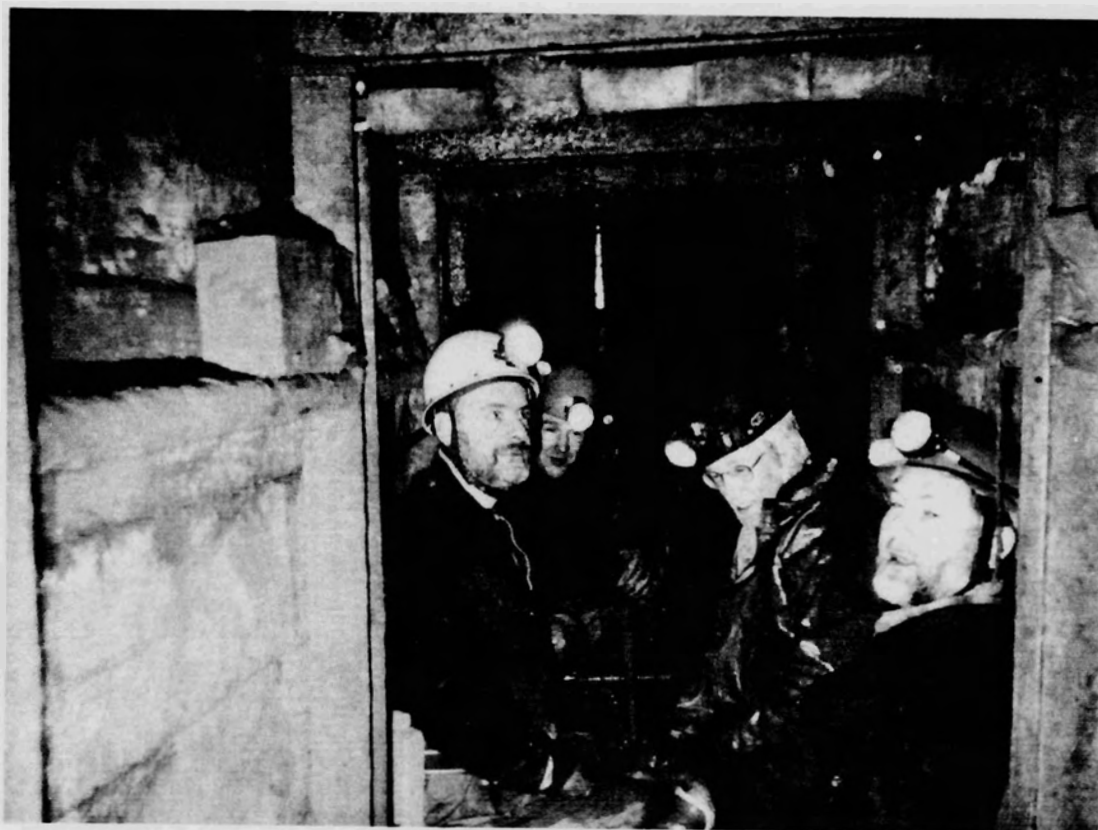
DB 2/2/98

Chairman

Balance November 1997			2969.31
Income			
Subs 13@ £12		156.00	
Subs 40@ £10		430.00	
Donations			
J.Wilkinson		16.18	
Maj. Hext		40.00	
Membership appeal		237.00	
Literature sales			
Journal 4		20.80	
SFC		190.00	
Misc.		11.25	
Dinner profit		36.05	
Bank interest		0.38	
	Total	<u>1137.66</u>	<u>1137.66</u>
			<u>4106.97</u>
Expenses			
Printing CCC		61.32	
HSP-Milner		100.00	
Meeting room rent		6.00	
Postage		20.60	
Equipment Drills		26.80	
2 rope bags		68.95	
Project-HGB			
J.Brown		288.53	
P.Blezard		43.33	
	TOTAL	<u>615.53</u>	<u>-615.53</u>
Balance			<u>3491.44</u>
Balance held as:			
Building Society		3203.29	
Bank		288.15	
	TOTAL	<u>3491.44</u>	

HUDGILLBURN MINE PHOTOGRAPHS

At the site of the Hudgillburn dig the digging team made up of CAT members John Brown, Will Snaith, Pete Sedgewicke and Colin Woollard rest before completing the clearing of the blockage.



Nearly a kilometre into the mine Sheila Barker and CAT member Nils Wilkes (a keen amateur archaeologist) record details of the wooden rails and points in this part of the mine.

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VICE PRESIDENT Major Hext

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Mike Mitchell

Peter Fleming