



# The Newsletter

## No.56

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# Cumbria Amenity Trust

Mining History Society

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**EDITORIAL**

On behalf of the Society may I wish all members a happy and exploration rich New Year.

A new year and hopefully a more successful year for photographs in the Newsletter. I have given up with copyshops for photographs and with this issue I am experimenting with printing the photographs separately and inserting them in the Newsletter prior to stapling, I hope you like the results.

Again many members have contributed to this newsletter but particular thanks go to Dave McAnelly and Dave Stewart.

Ed.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

In January 1998 after 3 1/2 years work the society at last realized its long held ambition to open Hudgillburn Mine. This is undoubtedly CAT's most important single achievement and we owe a great "thanks" not only to those who regularly toiled at the mine in all weathers convinced that it would eventually "go", but also for the encouragement given by Mr Watson the landowner, and to those whose idea it was in the first place back in the early days of CAT when the prospect of gaining access to its famous cavern was just a gleam in the eye. Since January the mine has naturally seen a great deal of activity. There are still several kilometres of underground workings yet to be opened up, but all of this work is being carried out methodically and in a controlled manner under the watchful eye of Sheila Barker. We are greatly indebted to Sheila for guiding this project through.

Understandably Hudgillburn has tended to dominate the Meets List this year. Attendance at other CAT meets has been variable, the most popular, as is often the case, being slate. The 1998 NAMHO field meet at Nenthead was partly hosted by CAT and proved a great success, once again to a large extent due to Sheila's organization.

In Furness the Heritage Survey team has continued to accumulate records, photographic and otherwise (Dave Robson now has all the ABBA LP'S), of the iron mining remains in that area. These albums I understand have now reached impressive proportions. Restoration of Newlands Furnace continues, and a Trust whose treasurer is John Helme representing CAT has now been formed with the aim of applying for funding.

At Coniston we are now in the realms of computer graphics for presenting the large amount of data from the Paddy End Survey, while in the field more hard-earned new ground has been gained high up in the stipes of the backstrings. Some of these findings, close to Leverswater, have been reported to North West Water.

The Coniston video which was planned on paper in some detail last year is at last moving beyond the trial stage and a start has been made shooting for real underground. This heralds yet another on-going project at Coniston which will rely heavily on Jim Roskell of Barrow with his video equipment

and editing facility. Also at Coniston we have at last had the opportunity to discuss possible contributions to the new John Ruskin Museum with the designers. Several artifacts, including the kibble, have been transferred to the museum some of which will be put on permanent display. We have also provided material for graphics displays and a script describing the mine's history to assist in the production of an audio tape for visitors.

On a broader publicity front CAT literature this year has included the third edition of Alastair Cameron's Slate from Honister. He is now working on a revised edition of Beneath the Lakeland Fells which he aims to get out in time for the millennium. In the long term these steady sellers provide a valuable boost to our income which is greatly appreciated, a prime example being the Trail Leaflets.

It is clear from the way things are going that the activities of the society are becoming more diverse. This can't be a bad thing as long as the potential for finding new ground to explore, record and interpret - the old driving force - is still there. And there is certainly plenty of that !

Dave Bridge

#### MEETS NEWS

Everybody should have received the January to July Meets List by now. If you have not please contact Ian Matheson.

The Capplecleugh trip on March 7<sup>th</sup> is a follow on from a very enjoyable visit to the mine I made during a trip led by Roy Fellows on the NAMHO field meet last year. This will be a wet trip so wet suits are essential. If you haven't got one stay at home since you won't be coming on this trip. One inside the mine is extremely interesting and after climbing some long pitches of existing ladders much of interest will be seen. The SRT pitch is short but the belay is fairly average !

To assist the Meets Secretary in the prompt performance of his duties would anybody who has any bright ideas for meets and people to lead them please complete the form enclosed with the newsletter and return them to John Davies at the address on the rear cover. We know that there are plenty of keen meet leaders out there, so don't be shy in coming forward.

Ed.

#### MEET REPORT – ALVA SILVER & TILlicOUNTRY COPPER 15 – 16<sup>th</sup> AUGUST

"When the full story of this mine can be written up it will provide a romance equal in interest to many of the mines in the New World" - so said Arthur Raistrick of the Alva Silver Mine. The mine belonged to Sir John Erskin who worked two veins there before joining the Pretender in the rebellion of 1715. Lady Erskin continued the work raising about 40 tons of ore in four months and buried this in casks close to the house, but for his sins Sir John was forced to forfeit the mine. In stepped Sir Isaac Newton, Master of the Mint, to investigate the silver yield on behalf of the Crown who then proceeded to smelt the ore which they found to be some of the richest in Europe. By 1721 Sir John had received his pardon at the request of the Czar of Russia (a near relation would you believe) and continued to operate the mine on a joint lease with the London Lead Company for the next ten years. It is said that Sir John made between £40,000 and £50,000 mainly from one large mass of ore containing native silver which yielded 12 oz of pure metal to 14 oz of ore. When the mine was reopened in 1759 a large mass of cobalt ore was discovered.

Today Sir John's estate is in the hands of the Woodland Trust. His magnificent mansion has fallen into ruin but a large stable block survives as a hotel complex. The silver mine lies hidden in Silver Glen amongst steep dense woodland, closely guarding its secrets and betraying no hint of a Real de Monte. Below the footpath which crosses the burn at the 130m contour is an open work which the party (of two!) descended by handline to a collapse. Using combined tactics and a length of old rail we managed to enter a level near the roof of the stope which proved to be a no more than a short trial. Above the footpath is another short trial on the same vein. In the steep banks of the burn itself we found three levels, two to the east which were iron-gridded and one opposite which was sealed (except to bats). In the woods to the west of the burn is a small dressing floor and other evidence of workings including a shaft. After much searching we discovered another shaft across the burn. Both shafts appeared to be open but time was pressing and we weren't able to investigate further.

About 3 km west of Alva above the town of Tillicoultry is the deep and impressive Mill Glen, one of several glens cutting the south escarpment of the Ochills which once

provided water power for the local woollen industry. Copper mining is said to have taken place in different places along Mill glen in the 18th century, though some of the works may well have been swallowed up by Tillicoultry quarry which now gouges out a huge chunk of hillside near the foot of the glen. To chance upon this quarry from above is a mid-blowing experience! Starting from the summit of Ben Cleuch at 721 m in almost gale force winds we descended into the upper glen but found nothing of interest until the burn dropped into a gorge about 2 km down the glen. Following the gorge we came across two levels, one run in and the other extending for several hundred yards with a flooded sump but otherwise little more than a trial. Below this point you become more committed as you enter a deeper and more scenic part of the gorge overlooked by footpaths and walkways built for the Victorian tourist - a sort of glorified Tilberthwaite Gill. Undoubtedly there are more workings to be found in this section as the mines are said to have employed 50 men for a considerable number of years. A return visit is called for under drier conditions.

To complete the trip we visited the tourist Fireclay Mine at Birkhill. The mine is no longer signposted and visitors are encouraged to use the steam railway from Bo'ness where, incidently, the Scottish Railway Exhibition is worth a visit for anyone interested in the history of freight rolling stock. We drove to the mine along narrow back roads and joined a guided tour of some of the most recent workings in No 3 Mine which is approached down a long external incline. The workings are pillar and stall comprising 6 miles of tunnels, 9ft high by 9ft wide, which produced three grades of fireclay until 1980 when the mine became uncompetitive leaving reserves of 11 million tons of unworked fireclay. Can be recommended for a rainy day.

Dave Bridge

### DOCTOR DESCENDER

Dear Doctor

I have recently bought one of these new fangled televisions but when I told some friends about this they all laughed. Is this unusual?

The Mountaineer

*Buying a television, even after abstaining for 30 years is not unusual. However*

*maintaining a television aerial for 30 years, and even replacing it when it blew down, well that is . . . um . . . not unusual either, is dam strange!*

Doc.

### LOCAL NEWS

A recent news report has highlighted what could have been a MAJOR problem in Coniston. According to a local informant, subversives have been planning to flood the town. Speaking from a phone box in nearby Stavally, Paddy O'Mitchell, told us exclusively about the plan to place a bomb under the local dam which when it exploded would cascade water through the village. Paddy was too afraid to call us from home since he was afraid that other members of the terrorist groups would retaliate and that his phone has been bugged by the security forces.

Paddy had been leader of the notorious Cumbria Action Team (CAT) but had left to form the hard line splinter group Cumbria Organised Militia Response Unit (COMRU) before finally seeing the error of his ways and resigning from active service. CAT is now headed by the shadowy Davy O'Bridge and his hit man Patrick Fleming. Both groups have remained underground for many years and are much feared locally.

The security forces are investiagting both groups.

Our Special Correspondent

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members :-

Hedley Watson from Ashington  
Malcolm Curtis from Durham  
David Parry from Hexham  
David Barwell from Leicestershire & Nenthead

### AGM

The AGM passed quietly with all incumbents being re-elected. The newsletter editor advised the meeting that he would be standing down at the end of 1999.

The annual dinner saw some drama but if you were there you know about it and if you weren't you missed it and my writing about will not help the situation.

Ed.

### HUDGILLBURN MINE UPDATE

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> January we finished work on the fall barring our progress to the HGB Sun Vein. We had been working on this fall on and off since June. It had proved difficult to stop loose material coming down from a blocked hopper. The level ahead was clear, according to the mine plan it was a crosscut in the tuft which would take us to the Sun Vein. The first thing we saw was a miners drinking bottle complete with cork, in a niche in the wall. There were two rises, one on the right and one on the left. When explored they were found to connect via a small chamber. The mine plan here shows a crosscut going to the old HGB Old Vein, but as yet we have not found it.

The level continues for nearly 100 yards entering the shale, at a bend with a blocked hopper the condition of the level deteriorates rapidly. For the last two weeks we have been clearing the level, which is filled to within about three feet from the roof with a mixture of sandstone blocks, shale and clay. We are supporting the roof with sections of telegraph poles and sleepers. At the end of February we hope to start a full survey of the mine. Any member who would like to help at HGB please contact me on 01434 381903.

Sheila Barker

### GREAT ORME MINES

My thanks to John Helme for submitting this article which appeared in the "Daily Post" newspaper.

CAVING experts who have been banned from Llandudno's Great Orme ancient mines because of council fears over insurance are warning that delays in sorting out the legal hitch could put lives at risk.

They fear inexperienced cavers may venture into dangerous areas of the mines risking serious injury.

They are also worried that the Great Orme's archaeology is at risk, with ancient materials already stolen from the mines over the past year.

Members of the 70-strong Great Orme Exploration Society, who for many years have been the unofficial guardians of the Great Orme's caves and old mines, have been trying to reach an agreement with Conwy unitary authority over access to the caves.

The authority are worried that without some sort of formal agreement they would find themselves liable if there was an accident.

Despite several months of trying to strike a deal, the society was distressed to hear in October of a recommendation that they should be banned from the Great Orme until a legal agreement could be struck. They contacted the authority to ask for a meeting and were offered one for January 10.

They have now written a letter to the Chief Executive of Conwy unitary authority, Derek Barker, pointing out the potential pitfalls of any delays.

"It was with dismay that we heard, accidentally, that a decision is being taken which drastically affects our society. This is particularly so when that decision is being made on the basis of no expertise or consultation, whereas we have members who are world experts in the field of ancient mining."

The society say they now want the recommendation to stop them going into the Great Orme referred back and prompt action taken to sort the matter out.

Yesterday, a spokeswoman for Conwy said they were still exploring the legalities of the situation but they stressed they were keen to work with the exploration society.

Ian Lang – Daily Post

### FFESTINIOG NEWS

A recent communication from McAlpines to the residents of Blaenau Ffestiniog states that they will be making a new planning consent to replace the previous permissions some of which date to 1950. The proposals imply that if an extension to the existing Oakeley site is given then the company would forego their interest in the Rhosydd / Conclog area to concentrate development at Blaenau Ffestiniog itself. The company is also proposing rehabilitation of the site to provide areas of nature conservation, unimproved moorland and what they term "pioneer woodland". This woodland would definitely be a "pioneer" since trees are very reluctant to grow on the exposed site.

All in all the proposals seem of net benefit to mine exploration in general.

Further to my report in the last newsletter I hear from a member that it is possible to get past the fall in Rhosydd by ascending the tip between floors 6 and 7 in chamber A west. Use of this route is, in my opinion, foolhardy since the whole area is unstable.

Ed.

### TREASURER

Please note that due to the resignation of Paul Timewell, Mark Simpson is appointed Treasurer with immediate affect. Please ensure that all matters financial are sent to Mark.

### COMMENT

Phoenix like South Crofty rises from the ashes. According to press reports the mine is to be sold for £625,000 to a Welsh entrepreneur called Wilf Hughes. Apparently contracts have been exchanged and mining is expected to resume within three months. Pumping is expected to start in the next few weeks.

### ABERCORRIS SLATE QUARRY

In newsletter 53 I reported on a visit to Abercorris in January 1998. Subsequent information provided by Adrian Barrell led me to believe that the table of levels and the marked up plan may not have been entirely correct, or possibly just wrong. For the sake of good order a further brief visit to the site was made an amended plan and table follow.

No.	Status
1	Old level lost.
2	Lost in tip.
3	Run in
4	Run in. This level is on the same horizon as the top of the incline.
5a	Cutting into twll from which it is possible to descend.
5	Open. This level is part way up the second incline.
6	Small quarry with level in the back
7	Open but wet

Based on the above the amended wording for the meet report reads as follows :-

Note - Levels 2 & 3 appear to be on the same horizon. Whilst neither can be accessed directly, one can be accessed by descending within the mine.

#### Level 5

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 sinc 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, giving 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 what is assumed to be level 4.

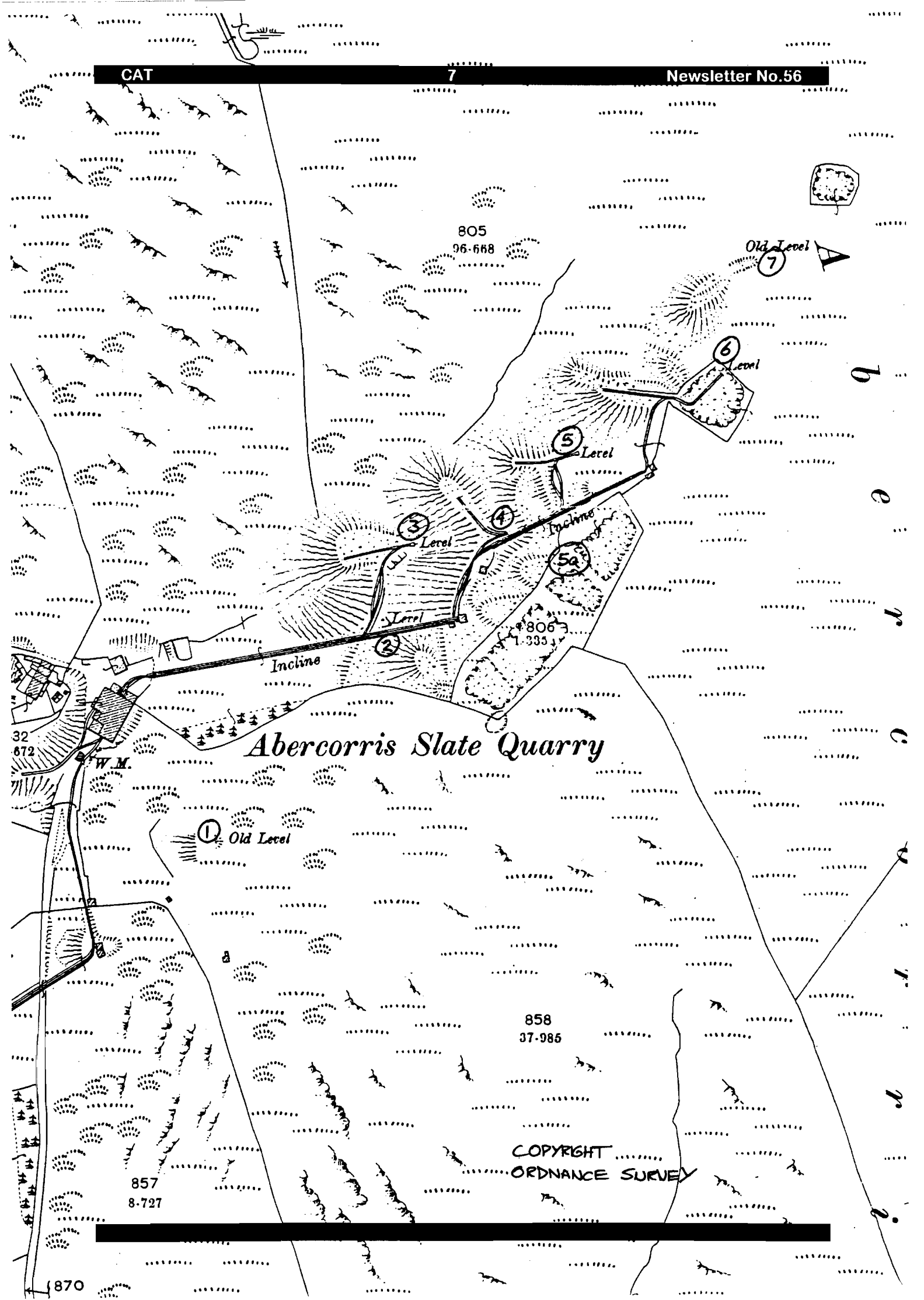
Level 4 goes outbye to the base of a twll from which it is possible to free climb to surface by two separate routes these being accessed at surface by a cutting at 5a. The first chamber inbye has a nice set of stone cut steps down the face, before a short sub-level gives access to a further descent of 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.

The descent gives access to what is assumed to be Level 2/3 which was explored fully. This ends outbye in deepening water approaching a collapse.

Having not in recent memory, and possibly never, explored levels 6 and 7 I am grateful to Adrian Barrell for the following descriptions :-

#### Level 6

Water initially circa 12" deep. After 25 yards a partially walled-up window on the right gives access to the top of a very large chamber. A few yards further on another small access to the same chamber at roof level. Small recent fall in gallery. By fall is a blocked-up window on right. Further window on right looking into chamber different from



that accessed by previous windows then. 2 more windows, one chained and the other with an 18" sill, both leading into a broken area at the same level, from which 2 further windows open into large chamber.

Ahead, in small stub-end, is a shaft upwards into darkness. Not free climbable.

Gallery continues, curving slightly left and right. Another chained window on right into large chamber. Further window on right into different chamber with remains of timber frame possibly for a winch. A catwalk is visible in this chamber.

Gallery ends with another shaft up, square cut about 8' x 8', into darkness. Not free climbable, possible small ledge/window visible about 30' up.

Total length of gallery not more than about 250 yards.

#### Level 7

Water initially about 18" deep leading to 4" of slimy mud. Gallery leads to totally impenetrable fall which appears to have come from a chamber just beyond the fall. Sadly no access to shafts up from level 6.

Jon Knowles

#### **THOMAS DODD & ROBERT HAYTON**

The following article has been submitted by Dave McAnelly who writes :-

"This is chapter 6 of my book the London Lead Company and Mining in the North Pennines. The letters are reproduced with permission from the Bowes Museum and the LLC document with permission from the Institute of Mining & Mechanical Engineers, the BB papers with permission of Lord Alandale"

Thomas Dodd was appointed as assistant to the Agent for Alston Moor, Robert Percival, at a salary of £30 per annum in 1778. Robert Percival was dismissed from the Company on the 26th March 1784, and Thomas Dodd was promoted to take his place. Following this dismissal the Court on the 10th September 1784, passed the following resolutions:-

"That no agent be permitted to deal in any commodity made use of by the miners or smelters, nor that they be permitted to be concerned underhandedly with any person

who shall deal in such goods, nor be concerned in Whimseys or letting horses to draw wagons, or wood, or anything of that kind for the Company; and if the salaries we now pay are not sufficient the Company to allow them what is equivalent.

"That the monthly advance money and also what becomes due to them be paid to themselves and no other person, in money and not in any kind of Bank notes nor any trades people attend pay.

"That the ore from the Company's mines and from each mine be kept in separate Bingsteads at the several mills and also Bought ore likewise separate from them.

"That the ore of each year be smelted before the ore of the succeeding year be begun upon.

"Thomas Dodd to inspect the workmen employed at the mines on Alston Moor and to see that they work their Bargains and ground fairly according to the Bargains let them.

"Upon the above alterations being carried into effect the salaries of the agents to be considered and concluded."

These give some indication as to the concerns of the Court and perhaps as to why Robert Percival was dismissed, although no specific reason is given other than that he had not conducted the Company's affairs to their satisfaction. In October 1785, following a visit to the North by members of the Court (Jacob Hagen and Simon Warner), the resolutions of 1784 were repeated but in greater detail.

"That the Company's pays in the North which used to be paid half yearly be in future paid once every year at Michaelmas and that no one be paid for but what is washed and weighed up, and none sent but with a printed ticket of the quantity from the mine to the mill.

"That no agent be permitted to deal in any commodity made use of by the miners or smelters, nor that they be permitted to be concerned underhandedly with any person who shall deal in such goods, nor be concerned in Whimseys or letting horses to draw wagons, or wood, or anything of that kind for the Company or have any allowance of coals and candles.

"That the monthly advance money and also what becomes due to them be paid to themselves and no other person, in money and not in any kind of Bank notes nor any trades people attend pay; nor to any order written or otherwise, except the miner is ill and cannot attend himself.

"That the ore from the Company's mines and from each mine be kept in separate



Bingsteads at the several mills and also Bought ore likewise separate from them. "That the ore of each year be smelted before the ore of the succeeding year be begun upon."

Not all Company's thought it wrong that the agents should own horses, and charge for their use in the mine. The records of the Blackett Beaumont Company give the following information, from a letter dated the 17th January 1797, from Thomas Beaumont to John Blackett. He writes in reference to a letter from Ralph Coulthard and John Kidd who have complained to him and made allegations about Mr Emerson, the mine agent. He refers to these men as idle, mischievous fellows and points out that they were the leaders of other disturbances in Weardale. He also said; "As to the charge of the agent having the advantage of employing some horses, I do not see the evil arising from it, in a case the charge be fair and reasonable, it has always been allowed to the agents who can do it at a lower rate than you, and in case they should be deprived of this advantage it would be reasonable that their salary should be advanced. I told Mr Emerson not to employ these men until they were sensible of their fault and promised to be quiet and peaceable for the future which I am doubtful of their doing."

On the 30th November 1797, Thomas Dodd asked the Court for an allowance for coals and candles, an allowance of £20 was agreed.

On the 19th September 1803, Thomas Dodd recommended the appointment of Robert Hayton as Agent to assist him at Nenthead at a salary of £40 per annum; at the same time Thomas Dodd junior was appointed as an assistant to his father at £20 per annum. On the 6th March 1806, the Court approved a request from Thomas Dodd senior to have his son appointed as store keeper in addition to his post as assistant to his father; he was awarded a further £10 per annum for this. Thomas Dodd senior's brother John was also employed by the Company, working in the Company store. In August 1804, at Thomas Dodd's request, his allowance for coal and candles was incorporated into his salary; his salary now being £250.

Thomas Dodd was a highly respected agent and the Company relied greatly on his skill and knowledge, he inspected the Company's mines for them in other parts of the country. On the 3rd September 1789 he was awarded 60 Guinea's for his services in inspecting the Company's mines in Scotland and the Isle of

Man. He received gifts from the Court as expressions of their thanks and appreciation of his work, 10 Guinea's in May 1795, £100 in November 1802, and 20 Guinea's in May 1807.

It must therefore have come as a shock for the members of the Court to receive Robert Hayton's letter dated the 14th April 1808, in which he complained of mistreatment by Thomas Dodd, and of his dismissal from the Company's service. For the Court it is the last part of the letter which was the most important, in which he states that Thomas Dodd junior has shares of the shop in Nenthead and shares of mines and gunpowder business with his uncle John Dodd; these being expressly forbidden in the resolutions of 1784 and 1785.

Robert Hayton's (Nenthead) letter of the 14th April 1808 to the Court

Hon'd Masters, I am under the painful necessity of addressing you at this time, respecting a disagreement betwixt Mr Dodd and me. I will fairly and truly relate this circumstance and leave it to you to judge whether I am deserving of being dismissed from your employ for such a trifle. The old day-Book that I entered the gunpowder and candles into when I delivered them to the workmen at your magazine, being filled up, I asked Mr Dodd for another, but there being none in his office proper for the business, he gave me consent for one to be ordered of the stationer at Alston.

I accordingly ordered one, I gave him a ruled paper to make it by. Whether he misunderstood my meaning, or he wilfully transgressed his orders, I don't know; but when the Book came it turned out to be twice as large as was intended. The first time I went to the office after it came, Mr Dodd fell upon me and called me all the scurrilous and awkward names he can't possibly invent, as if I had been solely to blame in the matter. I was very much hurt by such abuse and ill treatment, and knowing my self clear of the charge, I begun in a very cool way to prove myself innocent. But he would hear no reason, and kept calling me worse and worse, till I began to reply to some of his expressions with some degree of warmth. At length he got into such a rage that he took up the Book about which he quarrelled me, tossed it with great vengeance at, and hit me on the head with it. He then ordered me out of the office, and as I was opening the door he laid hold of me and dashed me against the door post with great violence, and then setting his hand against my back, sent me with all the force he was possessed of down

stairs, shouting after me, ye dolt, if I get at you I will Knock (strike) that short arm of you. Very fine expressions for a man professing religion to make use of. Then in a letter sent me soon after he said I was discharged from your employ. You no doubt will think it a strange expression for him to say he would strike my short arm off, but I will relate this matter to you, I leave you to say, whether it was Christian behaviour to call after me in such language as this. I had a fall from a horse when young, in consequence of which, my arm was broken and put out of joint. The Doctor through bad management, suffered the arm to contract, and the bones are also out of their proper situation. On this account my father, though in narrow circumstances, (having a very small family) dispensed with my small help in the way of working, and put me to school 2 or 3 years, in order to make me fit for some kind of business, as he thought my misfortune would render me incapable of working for a living. I was very thankful to providence and you, for the place I have had under you, for these four years past, and permit me to say, have made it my study to render myself worthy of the favour, I don't like to speak much in vindication of my conduct, except in cases of necessity. I only say that I defy any man to come forward and prove that I ever neglected your business entrusted to me, or otherwise injured you, or any man, in your concerns in this place. I refer you to the Mr Stagg and Mr Friend with whom I have to do, respecting the Ore when it goes to the mills and business on their accounts: Also Mr Smith at Whitfield mill, who will also inform you of my conduct respecting the Ore and Ore accounts. I would have observe, my Father has served you near forty years, and in a little time will be unable to work, and when that takes place, his dependence will be on me. My Father, myself, and many others have long thought that Mr Dodd wants my situation for his son Thomas as he proffered to get me a situation in the East Indies last year. His son has got married and being very gay and extravagant, takes a great deal of supporting: And yet his income must be considerable as he has a share of a shop at Nenthead, shares of mines and gunpowder business with his uncle John Dodd. I could make your ears tingle if I had room to mention the things of this nature I know. Every body knows if young Mr Dodd is appointed to my place, it will be solely for the emolument arising from it, as every person knows very well, he will never attend to it at all, and in fact, knows nothing about it. I understand he has so much a year for

attending the delivery of the wood at the mines and he never attends it any time. I could have said a great deal more respecting the ill treatment I have met with from time to time, from Mr Dodd's self and family, and about things that seriously affect your concerns in this place; but on the account of Mr Dodd being instrumental of my getting a situation under you I forbore, I encourage myself in the hope that you will continue me in your employ, not being conscious of doing any thing to render me deserving of a discharge from the place I hold. I am Hon'd Masters ever your humble servant R Hayton.

I should thank you kindly for an answer hoping you will continue me in my place till you enquire into my conduct of impartial men. Please to inclose the answer to this undercover to Mr Stagg.

On the 27th April 1808 Robert Hayton wrote again to the Court, expressing his surprise at seeing Ralph Briggs appointed in his place. He then proceeds to accuse Thomas Dodd senior of:-

1. Having a great share in supplying the miners with tools.
2. Having a share in the gunpowder business.
3. Having a share in a farm.
4. Paying debts owed by the miners to the shop with Company money, and then putting this debt onto the miners Company account so that the miner is in debt to the Company and has to work to pay it off.
5. Acting as a land agent and taking a percentage of the rents.
6. Employing a man on his farm at the Company's expense.
7. That he does not pay for his coal and candles.
8. That he was working for the Dean and Chapter. (Durham)
9. That he had shares in a bargain, and hired men to work the bargain.

Robert Hayton's (Nenthead) letter of the 27th April 1808 to the Court

Hon'd Masters, I was not a little surprised on seeing a man appointed to my place immediately after Mr Dodd received your letter. I will first observe, that it is my real opinion, along with Mr Stagg and all the people that have known any thing about the affair, you would not have consented to my dismissal, if you had known the real circumstances of the case; but make no doubt they have been wrong represented by

Mr Dodd. I hope you will excuse me the expression when I say, you are sadly deceived with regard to Mr Dodd's conduct. Your business in this country has got into great confusion, owing to the private concerns clashing so much with it. You are perhaps not aware that Mr Dodd has hold of every thing almost that comes within his reach; Viz. A great share of supplying your mines with shovels, colrakes, nails in fact; almost every kind of hardware the mines require. Also, a share of gunpowder business with his brother John (who by the by is not worth the expenses he runs you to every year, let alone his salary, for his chief business at Nenthead is to get money entered for his shopgoods, gunpowder etc. and to solicit new orders for these articles) a share of a farm etc. etc. which cannot be fully expressed in the compass of a letter.

He has a very great number of cottage houses, rent for which, cash for shop goods for his son Thomas and partners, cash for shop goods, gunpowder etc. for his brother John and every other species of debts they want is entered generally on the month days whether the persons have the money so advanced earned under you or not, for I can prove it to a demonstration that there have been persons in your balances at the year end that would not been there if it had not been owing to large advances put in for the sundry articles named above. Mr Dodd is also employed by sundry persons to let their farms at so much per £ or otherwise and it frequently happens that when he enters as landlord, the old tenant is greatly in arrear with his rent, and let him be ever so infirm, or unsuitable for your business he is immediately employed, and frequently to the disappointment and injury of your best workmen. I understand Mr Dodd has nothing allowed for coals and candles above the £20 you advanced his salary on that account but it is well known by Mr Staggy myself and others, that he does not pay for a third of these articles; you will easily imagine who pays for the remainder. I heard him say not above half a year ago, that he has received some very unpleasant letters from you and if you did not let him alone he would give up and that he cared nothing for you, saying at the same time he could live without you and further observing if he had a mind to turn himself wholly to the Dean and Chapter, what they would allow him and what he could realise of his own (which must be considerable) he could live very well. I am persuaded you are not so credulous as to believe him, when he says that if you don't discharge me, he will quit your business, or if ye won't let him alone, he will do it. It is

laughable to hear a man talk thus. There are very few men in this poor country, would be fond of giving up 8 or 9 hundred pounds a year, which is moderately rating his income. It is also a joke if he endeavour to make you believe that there is no person in this country so fit for his place as himself, I can render you such imminent service. The contrary is plain to every decerning eye; for where a man at the head of a public concern has shares of so many private concerns depending for their success upon the public concern; it is impossible it can have justice done it. It remains for me to say that I would have been extremely happy to have served you in my late capacity, or any other, I must say there is still room especially in the wood business, for there is very much wanting a steady man to attend the delivery of it from the carriers to see whether they bring the full quantity delivered to them at the woods. Should thank you very kindly for either appointing me to this business or letting me continue in my old place till you come into the country and have an opportunity of investigating my conduct, when I am persuaded you will find no just grounds for my dismissal. I am Dr Masters your very humble servant Robert Hayton.

I cannot omit naming some more things that are very injurious to you. Every person in this place are very much astonished that you gave consent to Mr Dodd doing business for the Dean and Chapter, as you cannot help thinking that when he is absent from your concerns here (which frequently happens) on the above account your business in a certain degree must be neglected. It is so gross a thing what I am now going to mention, that it is a matter of talk for every one. Mr Stephenson who married Mr Dodd's daughter and Joseph Cowper Mr S Nephew carried on shop keeping at Nenthead, but on Mr S. obtaining the surgeoncy in the Lancashire Militia they gave up that business, 3 or 4 years ago, and ever since that time Mr Dodd has been taking money off such of your workmen as owed the above persons to the great injury of you and said workmen. Mr Dodd keeps one man constantly employed in attending his cows, horses and working about his lands, except for 2 or 3 hours in the forenoon (by way of covering the fraud) at any small job belonging your works, and which is all you get for 13/ or 14/ per week. He has also a share in a bargain along with 6 or 7 men for a number of years, paying so much a Bing out and selling the ore themselves, which I expect you will not approve. He never scruples to take of the masons and joiners

from your employ when they have half completed their days labour. Young Dodd has used your candles and coals in abundance since he married, having not paid one shilling for these things.

The next letter is from Robert Stagg senior to the Court dated the 11th May 1808, in this he confirms what Robert Hayton has said. He goes further, and points out a deficiency in the stock of gunpowder; and gives details of the fraud associated with the bargains and selling of ore. (Robert Stagg died in June 1808, his son Joseph took over his post.)

Letter from Robert Stagg (Alston) to the Court 11th May 1808

Honoured Masters, Sirs, I have received yours of the 5th Inst. enclosing two letters from Robert Hayton to you, and at your request shall candidly and faithfully give you my sentiments on their contents: though I feel it a painful task, for I am so weak I am unable to write myself, all I can do is to dictate to my son.

When Robert Hayton was first appointed to his late situation under you, he was unacquainted with the business and of consequence did not manage it well for some time, which obliged me to find fault several times, when this was done he always behaved in a becoming manner and promised to take all possible pains in future, and for some time past we have seen nothing to complain of, he got acquainted with his business and managed it very well, and so far as we observed he has been diligent and steady, and except what has come from Mr Dodd we never heard anything improper laid to his charge. I sincerely believe his chief fault with Mr Dodd has been too warmly vindicating his own conduct, when Mr Dodd charged him with any thing, and though he might be blameless yet this is a manner Mr Dodd cannot put up with. Hayton's account of his quarrel with Mr Dodd is, I dare say very just and I believe the country considers it a most scandalous thing indeed for a person to be turned out of his situation on account of such a foolish piece of business, and for my part I can view it in no other light.

I attempted to interfere and begged Mr Dodd to be reconciled to Hayton again, but all in vain, he was quite resolute and violent against him observing he was determined Hayton should quit the Company's service or otherwise he would himself.

What Robert Hayton observes about Thomas Dodd junior in his first letter to you is true, he has grown very dissipated and not at all likely to attend to his business; he went off to

Gretna Green some time since with an innkeepers daughter at Nenthead, to the no small mortification and grief of his parents and friends. I understand the business of his appointment to attend the delivery of wood etc at the mines is left to be done by the Companies wageman, but much neglected:- he has as Hayton observes a share along with Isaac Hornsby and John Hutchinson of the shop at Nenthead: they were joint agents to the Durham Bank, but now only Hutchinson's name appears in the banking business. Though I understand it is carried on the same as before: This shop business is quite scandalous and what I still consider altogether improper for Agents or their families to be concerned in. I always believed Mr Dodd had a share with his brother John of the gunpowder business, it is kept along with the Company's in your gunpowder house and your Agent delivers it (Robert Hayton had this to do till his dismissal) to the workmen. They supply the workmen with upward of one half of what is used at your mines, which is a capital business to them as you will find if you enquire further into it. I must also now mention to you that there is a deficiency in the stock of 94 half barrels of the Company's gunpowder at your gunpowder house at Nenthead, how this has arisen I cannot tell, but that it is lost to you is certain, you may judge by what probable means.

The trade carried on with the Company's mines is most notorious; what Hayton mentions is a fact at Irishopeburn, Fairhill, Fletchers etc. etc. Bargains or rather the mines, have been let for a term of years, the partners taking such mines paying a trifling sum per bing to the Company, but the account at the end of the year is made up to appear as though these men had raised ore and worked Dead work in the regular way for Mr Dodd always buys the ore. Irishopeburn mine was let in this form last year and raised nearly two hundred bings of ore (Isaac Hornsby and his partner in the shop at Nenthead (Hutchinson) are parties in the bargain) you will probably remember this mine never raised any ore of consequence before. Mr Dodd, Thomas Dodd junior, Hornsby etc. have hirelings that are partners in such bargains. The mine accounts are not as you will expect a fair representation of what has been done, but are made up just as best preserve appearances. It is the outcry of the whole country that Mr Dodd and his family monopolise almost every kind of business that is anyway connected with your concerns, and he has ordered advances to a considerable amount for persons who were in the Balance paper for the express purpose

of paying himself, his brother, Hornsby etc. Robert Hayton frequently had this money to take up or collect for the above purpose on the month day, such as this has really brought the Company's business into confusion and disrepute.

It is a general opinion that John Dodd is quite a useless person and also a very expensive one to the Company.

I suppose Robert Hayton speaking about the farm, refers to the one he took off Mr Rippon when you took the lease of Rippon's mines. The farm is managed and worked by a workman of the Companies and has still been, who has always a full years wages entered in the Stanhope mine accounts.

What Robert Hayton says about Mr Dodd's coals and candles is just, which will appear by the accounts which he (Hayton) kept and by our Due papers. I have always been quite surprised at you allowing Mr Dodd to be Agent for the Dean and Chapter, Durham, when at the same time he cannot do your own business without so many assistants.

Robert Hayton it is evident writes in the way of retaliation, he would not have brought these things to light had this quarrel not taken place, but though this is the case I cannot detect him in asserting any thing really false and unfounded, though had Mr Dodd the explaining he would give several things a different colouring, however Hayton has given you a clue which may lead to interesting discoveries if you think proper to investigate things more thoroughly.

What he says about several in the country being fit for Mr Dodd's place is rash and foolish. I know not one in the country suitable that can be got.

I have not explained every particular which Hayton has brought forward, but if you require further information on any thing I will give you it to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On reviewing what I have been obliged to remark on Mr Dodd's conduct I cannot help being pained at having such a task assigned me, however what I have said is without prejudice or partiality and what I conceive you require and expect of me.

Things of this kind I expected would come to your knowledge at some time or other but I had hoped to have been done with the business of this life before such an opening out had taken place.

I am most respectfully, Gentlemen, Your most obedient humble servant

Robert Stagg.

Robert Hayton moved to Grassington in order to find employment, and it is from there

that he wrote to the Court on the 3rd June 1808, in order to explain why he had taken some of the Company books. This he says was done in order that he would have some evidence to support his accusations, and also as the Court had not responded to his letters he thought that when there was next a visit by members of the Court he would be able to present them with the books. In this letter he also refers to the way in which Mr Dodd and his brother kept their gunpowder in the Company magazine, and kept the stocks of Company gunpowder low in order that they could sell their own. He also lays doubt about the security put up by Thomas Dodd. (All agents were obliged to put up a security, his was for £500, presented to the Court on the 27th October 1785.)

Letter from Robert Hayton (Grassington) to the Court 3rd June 1808

Honoured Masters, On account of my dismissal from your employment, I have been under the necessity of leaving Nenthead to seek a situation in this country, being determined, that Mr Dodd should not be gratified by seeing me work for bread in the place where I served you and him as an Agent.

I was not a little uneasy that you took no notice of my letters, not so much that you did not answer them, but that you never asked the Mr Stagg's opinion respecting the case. Mr Stagg and some other of your Agents here are of the opinion, you intend to say nothing about the affair till some of you be in the country, and which is hinted to me, will very likely be some time this summer. I understand from what I can gather from other people Viz. such as Mr Dodd makes free to talk to on the subject, that he has taken particular pains to make me appear as black as possible in your eyes, and especially with regard to me not delivering up the Books, etc. I have in my possession belonging to you. There are two reasons may be assigned for my retention of them; first, after Mr Dodd's quarrel and mine, his proud and insolent son threatened to strike me down one day. I could not put up with this from a cousin 10 or 12 years younger than myself, and of course words began to run very high on both sides. I told him allusion to nefarious practice, that he and his father might get peculation sacks and throw them over their shoulders and go and join Lord Melville. For this I was threatened to be prosecuted, and so thought fit to keep the books, that in case they should proceed in this way, I might produce the Books as

corroboration of what I had said, as there are records in them that would completely establish the above assertion. The second reason I assign for retaining them is this: As you had not taken any notice of my letters, by way of answer, I thought if the Books etc. were in my possession when you came into the country I would have an opportunity of delivering them to yourselves and letting you see my lame arm Mr Dodd threatened to strike off, when perhaps you would have more mercy on me than Mr Dodd has had, for it is not possible you can have less. There is a circumstance or two (out of a multitude that cannot be mentioned in the compass of a letter, but which I could relate, if you would condescend to hear me when you are in the country) I did not mention to you in my former letters, which I'm sure if known to you before, you would have laid aside: What I allude to here is, first, that Mr Dodd and his brother has made a practice for many years of sending their gunpowder into your magazine for me and others to deliver out amongst your workmen. And since Mr Dodd has ordered such small quantities at a time, they always let your stock be exhausted before Mr Dodd gave orders for more, which gave him and his brother an opportunity of vending a great deal amongst your workmen before your new stock came in. 2nd Mr Dodd gave an order to Mr John Grey of Newcastle for 20 half casks last year, I am of opinion, was without your consent: Not only so but I'm very much inclined to think the workmen were not fairly used in the business. This might be known if you could get an account from John Grey what Mr Dodd paid him per cask for it. I conclude with the observation it is the general opinion in Alston Moor that Dodd (if you believe him) has deceived you respecting him drawing out his security from the Durham Bank. It is very unlikely that they will take John Hutchinson's security (who is a partner with Hornsby and young Dodd in the shop at Nenthead) for £1000 or £1500 of their notes in his hands, when he himself is not worth above £200 or £300. I am determined to throw my self upon your mercy when you are in the country when I hope my case may be fully considered. In the mean time, I am Dear Masters your unworthy and unfortunate servant, Robert Hayton Jnr.

There then follows action by the Court to investigate these allegations for themselves, and the records show that Mr Masterman was to go and meet with Joseph Stagg, this meeting was to be kept secret.

A record of a Committee meeting held on the 16 June 1808

The Court having received intimation in various letters from the North, that states have prevailed in a principle department it has been thought advisable for the Company to avail themselves of the services of Mr Masterman for the purpose of ascertaining by private means how far the reports which have been made to the Court are well or ill founded.

The committee to whom the Court's direction of this matter has been referred have therefore requested the attendance of Mr Masterman with a view of learning in the first instance how far it may be consistent with his engagements to carry into effect the wishes of the Court.

The committee have the satisfaction to acquaint the Court that Mr Masterman has confirmed his willingness to comply with their wishes and will be ready to take his departure from London about the end of this month.

In consequence of which a general conversation has taken place at a meeting held with him this day and various points upon which your committee have thought it most important to obtain information have been noticed for his guidance with a view of enabling him to report his opinion hereafter on the nub of this subject.

23rd June A Committee held. Mr Masterman present Francis Cooper Governor, Richard Chester Deputy Governor, Mr James Palmer, Mr Charles Pearson, Mr Charles Mills.

Mr Masterman stated to the committee his intention of setting out on Saturday 2nd July. A letter was agreed upon to be written to Joseph Stagg to be signed by the Governor.

Copy of the letter sent to Joseph Stagg on the 23rd June 1808 from the Court.

Mr Joseph Stagg

Sir, Our friend Mr Masterman being about to take a journey to the Lakes. He has been requested by the Court to go by way of Nenthead in order to have a conference with you upon the state of the Company's affairs, and you are desired to meet him at the Queens Head on Friday the 8th July morning and to give him every information within your knowledge that respects the interests of the Company.

You will take notice that the cause of your journey is not to be made known to any one even of your own family. Although Mr Masterman is not this year a member of the Court you are to consider him in their perfect confidence and you are expected to communicate with him upon all matters without any reserve whatsoever.

You will not notice anything of what is here written in your letters to the Court, but if you should judge any reply necessary you will address yourself to me.

Brabant Court. Philpot Lane.

Joseph Stagg wrote to Mr Masterman on the 19th October 1808, asking for the Courts advice with regards to the fixing of the prices for gunpowder and candles; he also comments on the profit made by Mr Dodd and his brother. He had also found that two more bargains had been let at Irishopeburn (mentioned in his fathers letter of 11th May 1808) on similar terms.

Letter from Joseph Stagg (Alston) To Mr Masterman the 19th October 1808

Mr Masterman,  
Sir,

I wrote two letters to you since you were in the country both of which I hope you received. My principle reason for writing at present is to have your, or the Court's directions how to proceed with Report to fixing the price per barrel to take the gunpowder off the workmen. Mr Dodd has without fixed the price and of course allows himself and brother what profit he thinks proper by what they furnish the workmen with. We are just going to commence the reckonings I therefore conceive it my duty to represent this to you and to request your directions as soon as convenient. Mr Dodd charged the last quarters candles 14/6 but I paid them only 11/- observing that the ready money price of candles was no more, and that the Greenwich Hospital and works were furnished by Mr Dickinson at six months credit at that rate. I find the Company have to pay for the candles used at Irishopeburn mine every quarter the same as for the candles used at the other mines. Two more bargains have been let in the moor that I know of upon the same conditions as Irishopeburn mine is let, since you were here, I got this out of Briggs the new Agent without his being aware I had any design in the enquiries I made.

We are much plagued with the Lead ore carriers at present. All proprietors of lead ore are trying their utmost to get them carried before the winter sets in: and there

is a great deal more in the country than can be got off. Col Beaumont's superintendent (my father in law) told me this week the have upwards of two thousand Bings of ore at Coalcleugh and Allenheads that must remain in the mines over winter and in Weardale a great deal more. I suppose at least five thousand Bings in the whole. Our lead has gone away from the mills very briskly of late. I have quite brought Matthew Johnson the Agent at Nenthead mill into my measures they have been smelting very badly at that mill for some months past which he is now well convinced of, he therefore sees it indispensable to go upon another plan: They have taken about one third of a Bing of ore more at Nenthead mill for the last three months to make a Fodder of lead than we have done at Stanhope mill. I have the Stanhope smelters at this time at Nenthead mill smelting Tontale ore, the Nenthead smelters had smelted some Tontale ore so extremely ill that the workmen complained very heavily to Mr Dodd and he got quite out of patience with them and Johnson. However before I heard this I had turned some of the smelters of work and made other arrangements which when I told Mr Dodd, perfectly satisfied him. I have also reduced the price of smelting from 10/- to 8/6 per Fodder. Consequence of which the smelters have left their work expecting we could not do without them. This I was aware of and considered how to move; and have so laid my plans as to convince them we are independent of them and when they are more sensible of that I will make them better to manage. One of the workmen at Mannorgill has been killed by the crushing machine catching his foot about a fortnight since.

I am with great respect

Sir  
Your most humble servant  
Joseph Stagg

PS.

Should the Court think of appointing my brother to my former situation I should wish to know it as early as it can be done with propriety. At the same time I will observe to you that I wish the Court to determine on this price just as may be thought most for the Company's interest, for, except the disagreeableness of a travellers life to a married person, my brother has no motive for desiring to change his present position.

On the 21st October, Joseph wrote again to Mr Masterman, expressing his concern about the price of gunpowder, and the

Irishopeburn bargains. He also informed him that Ralph Briggs, Robert Hayton's successor had a share in a bargain; and that the shop at Nenthead was a "source of incalculable infamy to the Company's business". He supports further that the allegation regarding money being put on miners accounts, and the use of Company coal by Mr Dodd. This letter is unclear in places and the seal covers part of a sentence, therefore that part that says, "Nenthead shop he is same of work and must pay through work." may be incorrect.

Letter from Joseph Stagg (Alston) to Mr Masterman on the 21st October 1808

Mr Masterman

Sir

Since writing to you on the 19th I have seen all the invoices of gunpowder sent to Mr Dickinson, the moor master, for the last year viz. from Michaelmas 1807 to Michaelmas 1808. The price charged is £5 10s per barrel without variation throughout the year. 10 percent discount and 2.5 percent gunpowder. The carriage from Kendal which is 46 miles is 4/6 per barrel neat cost in Alston £5 1s 3d per barrel. The cost was I believe exactly the same last year and Mr Dodd ordered the gunpowder to be taken of the workmen at £7 4s per barrel. I should be very glad if the Court would fix the price this year. However I think it my duty to make these observations to you and you may make use of them you think proper.

I understand the Nenthead smelters are wishing to return to work again and one blames another for standing out. I suppose they intend to offer their services to the Company again tomorrow on the terms we have fixed.

The Irishopeburn Co. have had upwards of £200 advanced by Mr Dodd's orders to carry on the mine this year, and all the persons who take bargains in the same way, have also money advanced.

R Brigg's, R Hayton's successor, has a hireling employed in a bargain.

Isaac Hornsby's advances for whimsey and level horses only amount to about £350 for this year.

Doctor Harrison's advances this year will be about £90 and J Hutchinson (partner in the shop at Nenthead) about the same.

The shop concern at Nenthead is a source of incalculable infamy to the Company's business and will be, so long as Mr Dodd's sons are partners.

This Truck Mr Johnson of Nenthead told me, in a confidential way, that a certain workman had said he could upon oath testify if

required, that about £16 was added to his account and for which he never worked, to pay a bill due to the shop Co. I heard R Hayton say the same thing some time since. The shop concern keeps up the Banking agency which our Bankers are still jealous of and without much reason. And it is a common observation that if a person only be in debt to the Nenthead shop he is same of work and must pay through work.

Matthew Johnson also told me that when Mr Dodd was at Durham he sent orders that the coal carriers should fill his, I Hornsby's and his son's coal houses with coals before any were carried to any other place (in their Nenthead mines) this J Bell the marking Agent told Johnson as a secret. The order was sent to Bell and Briggs and it seems they all understand that the Company pay for these coals.

I am Sir Yours respectfully  
Joseph Stagg

P.S. You may find the Courts rules to their Agents in letter books Dec 10 1778 and Oct 6th 1785 at the latter date you will find "No Agent shall have any allowance of coals and candles". In 1798 a gratuity of £20 per annum was given to Mr Dodd and my late farther in lieu of any such allowance. If I am not mistaken Mr Dodd at that time requested some allowance for his office.

The Court's letter of the 27th October acknowledges Joseph's letters, and answers his query with regard to gunpowder. Word had got out about the behaviour of Thomas Dodd and that the Company were aware of it. This is made apparent by a letter from William Todd offering his services if Thomas Dodd was to be dismissed.

Letter to Joseph Stagg from London dated the 27th October 1808

Mr Stagg

Sir

On Mr Pearson's very return we found your first two letters and I have to acknowledge the receipt of those of the 19th and 21st Instant, these two last were laid before the committee, who have our joint and separate reports under consideration, but as they were not before the Court you would not receive any directions respecting the price the workmen are to be charged for the gunpowder therefore (if on receipt of this there should be time to exchange a letter with the Court previous to your reckoning with the workmen I think you should write a letter on this subject to know the price that



the Court may determine to fix, at the same time offering your opinion what you think fair for the workmen to pay over and above the price at which the Company purchase it which I conclude you are made acquainted with, when any is forwarded, if not the Court will furnish you with it, but if there should not be time to receive the Courts instructions as above proposed then you and Mr Dodd will (I suppose) fix it the same as last year.

The other subject noticed in yours are also under consideration and that part which relates to your brother will be replied to as early as the nature of the subject, as connected with other arrangements will admit.

Letter from William Todd (Alston) to the Court on the 5th January 1809.

Gentlemen.

As there has been of late a great deal said here about Mr Thomas Dodd leaving your employ. In case it should prove true and that he leave it. I take this early opportunity of offering you my service. Should I meet with you approbation when you may want a person to manage your mines I hope I shall give satisfaction. I worked in the mines for several years and since I gave over working I have for the last 18 years been engaged in the inspection of a number of mines in this neighbourhood. You'll please to observe I do not wish to have any persons place from him, but when a vacancy takes place then I will thank you for the situation. But before I can expect it I suppose you will enquire more about me, and as I am well known here I dare venture to refer you to any person or persons who does know me. I am

Gentlemen Your very Obedient servant  
William Todd

The letters (D/Bo/B 318 - 327) quoted in this chapter are included with the kind permission of the Bowes Museum and the Durham Record Office.

The behaviour of Thomas Dodd had also upset some of the miners, three miners employed by the London Lead Company applied to the Agent at Coalcleugh (Blackett Beaumont Company mine) for a job, as they were dissatisfied with the irregular behaviour of Mr Dodd. This is mentioned in a letter dated the 10th January 1809 from Mr Jos Dickinson to Mr Morrison, writing about Coalcleugh mine he said, "The Lead Company had three face men working for some time past close to the end of their boundary and brought out their work at Coalcleugh, which took up part of the

convenience which should now be useful but for the irregular behaviour of Mr Dodd of late, wishing to leave that work, the men petitioned Mr Little to employ them under Col Beaumont. We have employed them thinking that they may be useful in pointing out the different strings etc. about the new boundary and that no more men may be sent there." (The Blackett-Beaumont papers are quoted with the permission of Lord Allendale.) As a result of the information given to the Court, on the 6th December 1810 they passed the following resolutions:-

"Resolution 1 That it is expedient to appoint a Superintendent to the Company's concerns in the North.

"Resolution 2 That the appointment be offered to Mr Bainbridge of Alston.

"Resolution 3 That Boltshaw mine shall not be given up at present.

"Resolution 4 That a fund be established for the relief of maimed and decayed workmen employed by the company.

"Resolution 5 That the sum of £25 be given to Joshua Stagg junior for his attendance and charges on the Newcastle journeys which he took with Robert Stagg, from the death of Joseph Stagg to the appointment of Joseph Little.

"Resolution 6 R Stagg to take the Superintendency of Loanwood colliery.

"Resolution 7 That John Dodd's appointment is rendered unnecessary and that he be discharged upon due notice.

"Resolution 8 That no gunpowder be used by the Company's workmen but what is furnished by order of the Court and be charged to them at prime cost with only the addition of freight and carriage.

"Resolution 9 That the candles be purchased upon the best terms, paid for quarterly and charged in the same manner as the gunpowder.

"Resolution 10 That in letting of bargains no person whatever shall have a hireling employed on any account in the Company's works except a workman who may fall sick and has taken a bargain previous to his sickness and he shall only be allowed this till that bargain is finished.

"Resolution 11 That no bargain be let for a longer term than a quarter of a year.

"Resolution 12 That as few wagemen as possible be employed, but that in every instance where it can be accomplished, the work be done by the peice of what nature soever.

"Resolution 13 That for engaging of Whimsey or Level Horses used by the Company, notice to be given to the parties letting the same for receiving proposals for yearly

contract; the proposals to be given under seal and forwarded to the Superintendent.

"Resolution 14 That all stores such as wood, rope, iron etc. necessary for the Company's mines shall be purchased of the first wholesale houses at Newcastle at the short credit, and the benefit of discount taken.

"Resolution 17 That the store keeper shall keep a correct record of ... wood, rope, iron, gunpowder, candles and other stores; keeping a similar account of the same, making a distinct account of what is to be reckoned for with the workmen from what is paid for by the Company ...

"Resolution 18 That Joshua Stagg senior give the whole of his attention to the mining in Teesdale.

"Resolution 19 That Joshua Stagg junior be appointed the mill agent at Egglestone.

"Resolution 20 That no Agent, Clerk, or assistant, or any party on their behalf shall have any concern, directly or indirectly, in selling gunpowder, candles, or any other material used in the Company's Mines, or be concerned in the Corn Trade, or in the sale of shop goods to the Company's workmen, or any others, either directly or indirectly.

"Resolution 21 That no Agent, Clerk, or assistant, or any party on their behalf shall have any Mine or shares of Mine, or be concerned either in Mine adventuring, or in the purchase of Ore, directly or indirectly, or in any shape whatever...

"Resolution 22 Coals and Candles are not allowed to any Agent or otherwise.

"Resolution 23 That the letting of Tynebottom Estate and other of the Company's property in the North shall be under the direction of the Superintendent and the rent and profits be paid to the Company cashier.

"Agents Salaries be fixed as follows to commence from the 1st January 1811.

Thomas Dodd senior	£350	per annum
Robert Stagg	£300	" "
Joshua Stagg Senior	£100	" "
Joshua Stagg Junior	£80	" "
John Smith	£100	" "
Mathew Johnson	£80	" "
John Little	£130	" "
Isaac Hornsby	£120	" "
Thomas Dodd Junior	£100	" "
Isaac Batey	£80	" "
Ralph Briggs	£60	" "
Total	£1,500	

"The thanks of the Court be presented to Messrs Pearson and Masterman for the trouble they have taken in visiting the Company's works in the North and that they

be requested to accept each of a piece of plate, value ten Guinea's."

It is interesting to note that despite all that has been said it is only John Dodd who is dismissed, and that the others get a pay rise. It is perhaps partly due to the comment made by Robert Stagg that, "What he says about several in the country being fit for Mr Dodd's place is rash and foolish. I know not one in the country suitable that can be got." Which led to Thomas Dodd retaining his position. This matter was not fully over, on the 27th and 28th, the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th March 1812, the Court questioned Robert Stagg and Thomas Dodd. Following this the resolutions of the 7th March 1812 were passed.

Resolution 1 That under no consideration the cost price of the lead to be laid down at Newcastle for the present year, exceed the statement delivered in by T Dodd and R Stagg.

Resolution 2 That Robert Stagg remove from Alston to the Company's house at Stanhope and that an office be established there, Robert Stagg to see that the garden be put in order and the house and premises in a proper state of repair. And that the painting of inside and out, engaged to be done by the trustees be completed as soon after the 1st May as possible.

Resolution 3 That Joseph Little the cashiers assistant attend the mill at Stanhope, and that the mill Agents reside as near the mill as possible.

Resolution 4 That a reduction take place in the Middlehope and Irishopeburn ore carriage as suggested by Robert Stagg.

Resolution 5 That a new mould be made to the form proposed by Robert Stagg for the lead to be refined.

Resolution 6 That a Trial be made for condensing the smoke in Stanhope chimneys, the effect to be reported to the Court.

Resolution 7 That Stanhope chimneys should not be heightened till the above experiment have been tried.

Resolution 8 That proper Bingsteads be made at Stanhope mill in a secure situation, that Robert Stagg transmit to the Court an estimate of the expense.

Resolution 9 That the Peat house at Nenthead be repaired or rebuilt an estimate thereof to be transmitted to the Court.

Resolution 10 Joshua Stagg senior is to give the whole of his attendance at the mines in Teesdale.

Resolution 11 Joshua Stagg junior be appointed the mill agent at Egglestone.

Resolution 12 Thomas Dodd junior take the Superintendency of Loanwood Colliery.

Resolution 13 John Dodd's appointment is rendered unnecessary and is to cease at Michaelmas next.

Resolution 14 That not any gunpowders be used by the Company's workmen but was furnished by order of the Court and be charged to them at the prime cost with only the addition of freight and carriage.

Resolution 15 That the candles be purchased upon the best terms paid for quarterly by the cashier, and charged to the workmen in the same manner as gunpowder.

Resolution 16 That in the letting of bargains no person whatever shall have an hireling employed on any account in the Company's works, except all workmen who may fall sick, that has taken a bargain previous to his sickness, and he shall only be allowed this till the bargain is finished.

Resolution 17 That not any bargain be let for a longer term than a quarter of a year.

Resolution 18 That as few wagemen as possible be employed, but that in every instance where it can be accomplished the work to be done by the piece of what nature so ever.

Resolution 19 That for engaging of Whimsey or Level horses used by the Company, notice be given to the parties letting the same for receiving proposals for yearly contracts the proposals to be given under seal to the Chief Mining Agent and forward to the Court.

Resolution 20 That all stores such as wood, ropes, iron etc. necessary for the Company's mines shall be purchased of the first wholesale houses at Newcastle, at the short credit and the benefits of discount taken.

The invoices to be transmitted to the cashier for examination and payment.

Resolution 21 That the article of Boll (140lbs weight) wood be purchased upon the best terms for the Company's interest by the Principle Mining Agent, taking a complete survey and estimate of all parcels in person previous to purchase. The invoices to be transmitted to the cashier for examination and payment.

Resolution 22 That whenever there shall arise a quantity of timber, old wood, rope, iron, bark or any other stores, that may be unservicable to the Company, an inventory thereof shall be taken and transmitted to the Court who will give directions respecting the sale thereof.

Resolution 23 That the store keeper, shall keep a correct account of all bought wood and all parcels delivered to the mines, stating distinctly the quantity and the quality and the quantity delivered to each mine and to check the delivery of each parcel from the wood to the mine, and also to attend the same with the delivery of other wood, rope,

iron, gunpowder, candles and other stores, keeping a similar account of the same, making a distinct account of what is reckoned for with the workmen from what is paid for by the Company and that charged in the actual amount as near as possible and not in round numbers, both of which to be transmitted to the Court by the cashier.

Resolution 24 That no Agent, clerk or assistant, or any party on their behalf shall have any concern directly or indirectly in selling gunpowder, candles or any other material used in the Company's mines or be concerned in the Corn trade, or in the sale of any shop goods to the Company's workmen, or any others directly or indirectly.

Resolution 25 That no Agent, Clerk or Assistant or any party on their behalf shall have any Mine or Shares of Mine or be concerned in Mine adventuring or in the purchase of Ore, directly or in any shape whatever or be concerned in the Farming Business or employment except keeping a Horse or Cow or two for the use of their families.

Resolution 26 Coals and candles are not allowed to any Agents or otherwise

Resolution 27 That the future lettings of Tynebottom Estate and others of the Company's property in the North shall not take place without the previous consent of the Court, and all rents and profits to be paid to the cashier.

Resolution 28 That every charge against the workmen for drawing work tools, crushing mills etc. as well as advances, candles, gunpowders be passed through the due papers, and no part to be reckoned or taken off them in any other way whatsoever.

Resolution 29 That the percentage allowed by the Newcastle bank on the amount of the issue of their notes to the Company be in the future credits to the account of discounts.

Resolution 30 That Thomas Dodd relinquish his engagement with the Dean and Chapter of Durham.

Resolution 31 That the Chief Agents Thomas Dodd and Robert Stagg be strictly enjoined to observe that the several forgoing resolutions be carried into full effect.

Resolution 32 That the salaries of the respective agents be increased and fixed as follows to commence from Ladyday next the property duty to be paid for the same by the Company.

Thomas Dodd senior	£500	per annum
Robert Stagg	£500	" "
Joshua Stagg Senior	£120	" "
Joshua Stagg Junior	£100	""
John Smith	£100	" "
Mathew Johnson	£100	" "

John Little	£150	"	"
Isaac Hornsby	£130	"	"
Thomas Dodd Junior	£100	"	"
Isaac Batey	£100	"	"
James Bell	£60	"	"
Simon Dodd	£30	"	"
Ralph Briggs	£80	"	"
Total	£2,100		

That such part of the Court minutes of the 10th December 1810 respecting the agents salaries be rescinded.

Resolution 32 That a warehouse be obtained at Newcastle for the depositing of the Company's stock of litharge as it may arrive. Robert Stagg was ordered to consult with Mr Hewitson there on.

Resolution 34 That an application be made to Lord Darlington respecting a grant of his mining liberty in Teesdale. Thomas Dodd was desired to see Lord Darlington on the subject.

Resolution 35 That if any ore of good quality be purchased in Alston Moor, Weardale or Teasdale, Thomas Dodd is at liberty to agree for the same provided it can be obtained at a price that it shall admit of its being laid down as lead at Newcastle at the price given in by Thomas Dodd and Robert Stagg for the cost of the Company's lead in the above district for 1812.

Resolution 36 That Thomas Dodd be at liberty to procure what ore can be obtained from Old pickings both in the Moor, Weardale and Teasdale provided it can be laid down in lead at Newcastle including every expense at a price not exceeding £15 7s per fother.

Resolution 37 Resolved that £20 be subscribed towards building a school at Nenthead.

Resolution 38 That the sum of £25 be given to Joshua Stagg junior for his attendance and charges on the Newcastle journeys which he took with Robert Stagg from the death of Joseph Stagg to the appointment of Joseph Little.

(The London Lead Company records are quoted with the permission of The North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers.)

From these we can see that Thomas Dodd junior has been given the Superintendency of Loanwood Colliery, and that John Dodd who, was to have been dismissed in 1810, is to be dismissed from Michaelmas next. On the 18th April 1812, Thomas Dodd wrote to the Court, "I received the Courts letter of the 9th and have to declare that I had no knowledge of the Courts intentions respecting my brother until their resolutions were sent down nor do I remember his name being mentioned in the Court from first to last, for if

I had known their determination I would have remonstrated respecting this matter before the Court." Then again on the 18th July 1812, "I entreat the Court to give me their final answer respecting my brother, that if he is to remove he may have time to look out for a situation, and if so the Court, I trust will have the goodness to name the reason." I can find no record of their reply but John Dodd was not reemployed by the Company. Thomas Dodd senior continued in his post until his death aged 64 years on the 10th April 1816; his position was filled by Robert Stagg junior. Thomas Dodd junior continued working for the Company until following a letter from Robert Stagg on the 7th October 1819, he was dismissed. Thomas appealed to the Court against this decision but the minutes of the 28th October 1819, record their response. "A petition from Thomas Dodd respecting his dismissal from the Company employ accompanied by a letter of recommendation of his case signed by several inhabitants of Middleton, Alston and Weardale was presented to the Court by Mr Thomas Richardson of Lombard street and upon full consideration of the same the Court find no reason to alter their decision respecting Thomas Dodd and the Court cannot but express their surprise and regrets that so many respectable characters should have signed a letter in such terms." Despite this response Thomas tried again, this is recorded on Thursday the 4th November 1819; "Thomas Dodd attended the Court and requested to be heard, he claimed that he did not know the charges against him by Mr Stagg. On examination by the Court this did not appear fact and he was asked to leave."

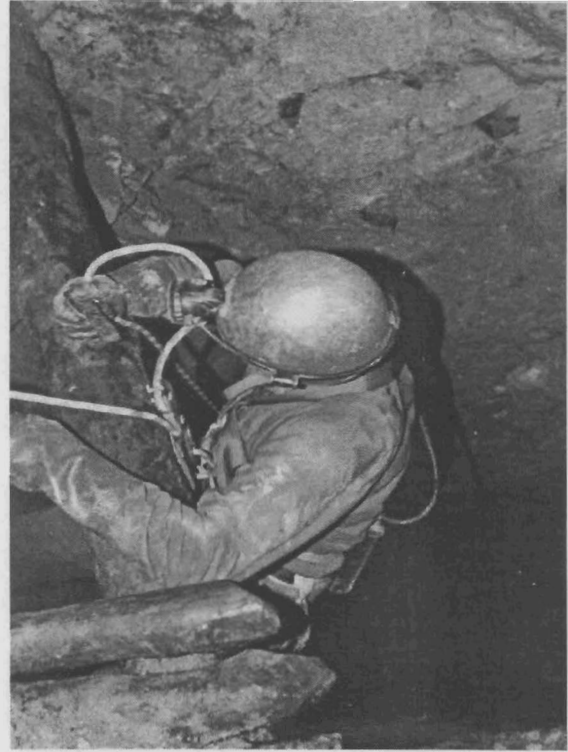
Dave McAnelly

**HELVELLYN MINE - PHOTOGRAPHS**

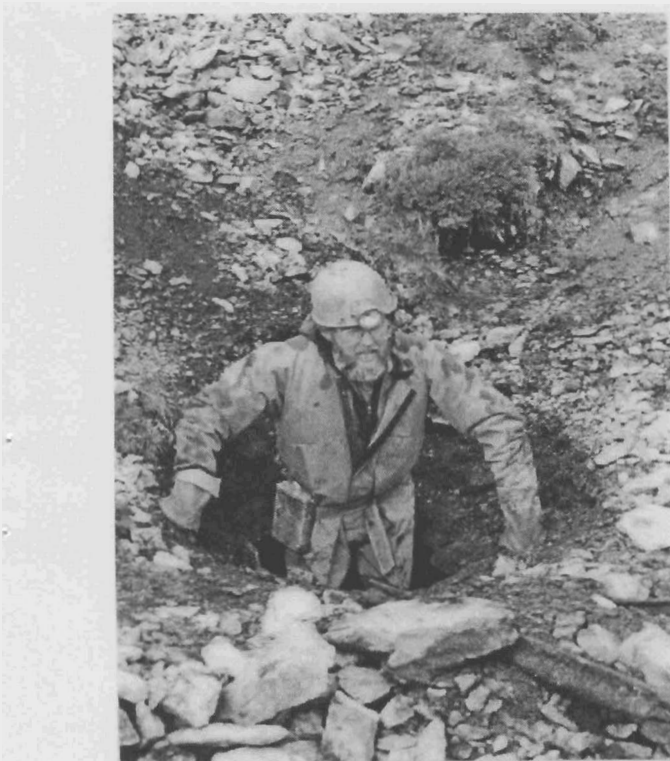
The following photographs should have accompanied the report in the previous newsletter. All photographs were taken by Steve Brown.



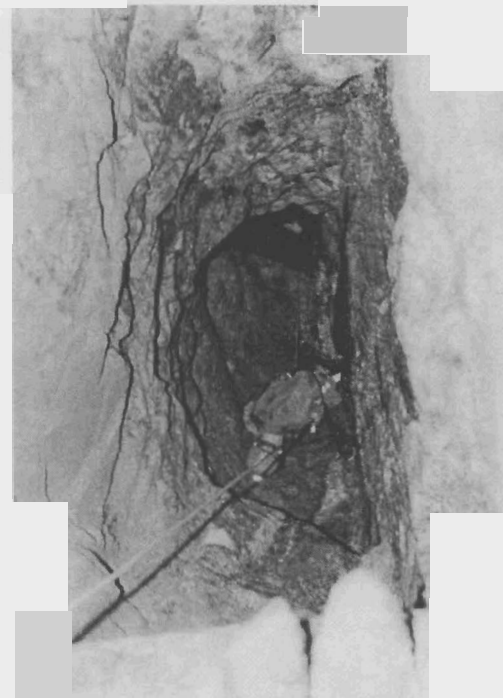
Entrance to No.1 level.



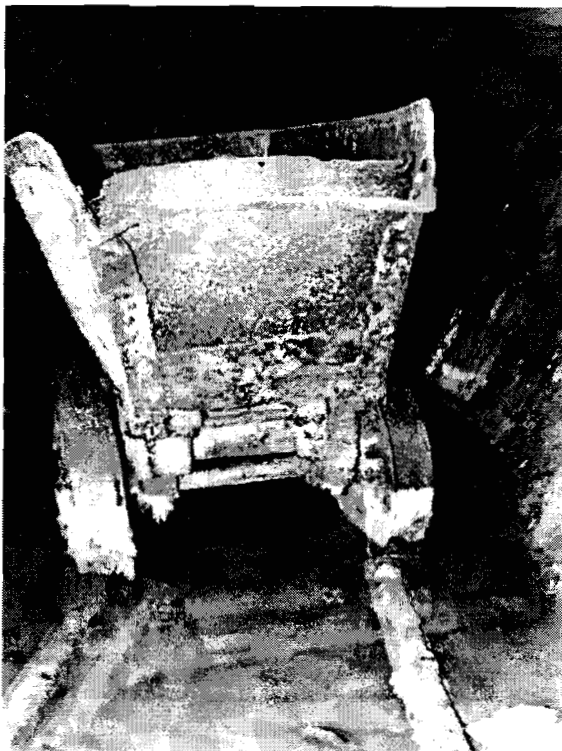
Top of pitch down to No.2 level.



Entrance to No.1 level.



Descending to No.2 level.



# THE WALES WEEKEND

**10<sup>TH</sup> & 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1999**

Yes, Knowles Mine Tours promotes another excitement filled trip to the principality, for your delectation.

One day will include a lead mine in the Gwydyr Forest, subject to access. This trip is graded EXP. and will include unstable ground, SRT, old ladders and possibly deep water/ochre – some of these hazards may occur simultaneously. A wet suit might be useful. The ability to disguise yourself as a walker for the walk to the adit is also a prerequisite. Meet at the lay-by at the 3-way junction of the B5106 at 794611 at 10.00 a.m.

The other day will be a complete contrast and will be a walk to look at the remains of Llywydd Mine on the south-eastern flank of the mountain of the same name. The ascent to this mine is 1900 feet so walking boots are necessary together with mountain gear, hardhat and lamp, although a rope might be of use. If time permits the workings at Hafod-y-llan and Braich-yr-oen will also be visited. Grade E. Meet at the Watkin path car park at 628507 at 10.00 a.m.

Since the Llywydd trip is very weather dependant the decision of which trip to do when will be made on the Friday – ring the meet leader on 01484 860662 for final details.

I suggest Cobdens in Capel Curig for Saturday night refreshment.

Jon Knowles

## THE GHOST OF NAMHO '98

### SWORDS, CANDLES & OLD BOOTS

An evening of mining related entertainment – not to be missed at this price – **FREE!**

This extravaganza will be held on Saturday **1<sup>st</sup> May 1999** at **Nenthead Village Hall**, Nenthead, Alston, Cumbria. starting at **7pm.**

Refreshments will be provided and the bar will be open.

*Come as you are, wet suit, jeans or dinner jacket, but anyone wearing Victorian dress would add atmosphere to the evening.*

**Limited places – booking essential – so book early!**

To reserve your place, write **now** to:  
Sheila Barker, The Rise, Alston, Cumbria, CA9 3DB

**CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS – 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1999**

Why not spend this **BANK HOLIDAY** weekend in the sunny North Pennines!



## CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 16th November 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 Publications                             | 14 AGM & Dinner                 |
| 15 Date and venue of next committee meeting | 16 Any other business           |

**Present** D. Bridge(DB), S. Barker(SB), P. Timewell(PT), I. Matheson(IM),  
P. Fleming(PF), M. Simpson (MS) and A. Wilson(AW).

7 Members in total.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

### 1 Apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

### 2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 14th September 1998 had been previously circulated to members. It was PROPOSED by PF and SECONDED by PT 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 5-PT had noticed a typing error in the July statement, the secretary corrected the mistake.
- 3.2 Item 3.2-DB had looked through the list of mine plans held by BGS, it was decided to buy copies of the Cashwell and Rotherhope Fell (Alston Moor) plans. Action DB.
- 3.3 Item 4.4 -DB had received the copy of the Caradon Mine article from R. Fellows personally.
- 3.4 Item 5.4-PT had paid the BCRA insurance for next year and also for a landowners certificate for HGB.

### 4 Secretary's Report

The secretary had received :

- 4.1 Speleoscene.
- 4.2 The NAMHO newsletter and minutes. The 1999 Conference will be held on the 24/27 September in the Forest of Dean, information will be available from John Hine in December. The Carn Brea Mining Society are hoping to hold a special NAMHO 2000 Conference in Cornwall, an event not to be missed. J. Knowles attended the last NAMHO council meeting on our behalf.
- 4.3 From EH-Step's 1&3 of the MPP report on Electric Power Generation.
- 4.4 J. Knowles had received a letter from the Nat. Trust regarding a recent incident of rock fall in Cathedral Cavern. It reminded users of safety precautions.

### 5 Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented a balance sheet covering the period to the end of the financial year. Funds were slightly up on last year, the sale of the CATMHS leaflets had boosted the funds.

The following points arose:

- 5.1 The BCRA insurance (for 112 members) payment included a landowners certificate for HGB.
- 5.2 Expenses -both the Secretary and the Membership Secretary had a £30 float.
- 5.3 We had been overpaid £20 by a Bookseller, this will be corrected next year.

- 5.4 The CATMHS subscription had remained unchanged for many years. Due to the increase in printing and postage costs The Treasurer PROPOSED That a motion be put to the AGM asking for the Society's subscription to be increased to: Single membership £12. and Joint membership £15 in 1999. This was SECONDED by IM. All were in favour.

**6 Membership Secretary's Report**

IM reported there had been several more new members recently. The membership now stood at 112. He had sent out reminders with the last newsletter: a) membership subscription renewal and b) Reminding Joint members that only the first named is covered by the BCRA insurance.

The cost of recent mailings to members was discussed (almost £100 for three separate mailings), it was resolved to get them all out together next year.

**7 Meets Secretary's Report**

JD was unable to attend the meeting. Next years meets programme had been discussed at the last social meeting and DB had sent the details to the Meets Secretary. As time was now getting short the new list would be given out at the AGM. An underground meet in Coniston was suggested for Boxing Day.

**8 Furness Heritage Survey**

The Survey will be starting again in the near future.

**9 Hudgillburn Mine**

SB reported that on the October meet work clearing several falls on the North Waggon Level went well, the water level was lowered to knee depth. As the water receded strange shaped formations were revealed. Members were able to walk to the forehead, two low wooden hoppers were seen the only wooden hoppers found in the mine so far.

MS suggested we should lay a drainage pipe along the floor of the North Waggon Level, as the soft material we piled on the level sides could slip and cause future blockages.

**10 Newlands Furnace**

PT reported the work was continuing, they had filled the large hole above the wooden beam and would soon begin to remove the bulging wall above. Two concrete beams had been built into the taphole side to support the furnace lining.

The proposed Newlands Furnace Trust was applying for Charitable status, to apply for Lottery funding and so enable the conservation of the Furnace and other buildings to go ahead. The Secretary had received a letter from Dr. Marshall asking if the committee agreed (as one of the participating societies) to approve the formation of the Newlands Furnace Trust, and also to agree to the transfer of moneys (about £500) to the bank account of the new Trust. PT PROPOSED that we agreed to the two requests, SECONDED by DB. All were in agreement.

PF had accidentally arrived at the Furnace in time to attend a meeting between J. Helme Dr. J. D. Marshall and the new Cumbria County Archaeologist. The latter was enthusiastic about the site and suggested the Furnace could possibly be included with other Cumbrian projects in a planned £200,000 funding package.

**11 Coniston Coppermines site**

DB and MS reported that the survey of the Lake Stope, Bellman Hole and Brow Stope areas had continued. They had compiled a report of the Lake Stope area, describing the close proximity of the clay cross-course and very unstable ground to Levers Water Reservoir. They felt it would be advisable to send a copy of this report to NWW (copy to BGS). PF wrote to D. B. Wickham (Reservoir Safety Manage) and included a copy of the report. A reply was received, giving the borehole information requested, NWW have employed a specialist access team to investigate and would keep us informed. The proposed concrete plug was discussed, would the water back up behind it? and where would that water go?

DB had brought his PC to show us their ideas on how to record and demonstrate the survey material.

Interaction with the John Ruskin Museum. DB.SB.PF. and H. and J. Wilkinson met with Mrs V. Slowe and one of the designers. The building is now practically finished and work has started on the interior. We were shown round and were very impressed with the layout. We were shown the exhibition space they would like us to utilise. We will be meeting again soon to show them any photographs and artefacts we wish to display along with information on the coppermines and the slate industry.

PF told the meeting that the LDNPA were relinquishing their wardens building at the Old Station Site in Coniston. The Coniston Mountain Rescue Team are keen to take this over. The NP wardens are to be moved to Broughton, some of them evidently do not like this idea and an enquiry was made regarding the availability of Mandall's Office, which we rent as a store.

After discussion it was decided that we would not want to give it up, as we have spent money on repair work and it is too useful.

## 12 Video film project

PF said it was 14 months since we had made any progress. MS said the project needed substantial input. It was decided to meet at IM's house, Lane Head and view the progress. PF to contact J. Roskell.

## 13 AGM and Dinner

PF had arranged details and the price of the buffet and printed the menu. SB had sent this out to all members along with the AGM minutes and agenda. All other arrangements were done.

## 14 Publications

A. Cameron book 'Slate from Honister' was selling well. He is going to reprint the publications leaflet.

## 15 Date and venue of next Committee Meeting

This was arranged for 7.30 p.m. on Monday 18th January 1999 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston.

## 16 Any other business

16.1 MS asked if the survey team could buy two new tapes, all agreed.

16.2 PF asked if IM could produce a current membership list.

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

SB 23/11/98

Chairman

Balance Sept 1998			4399.12
<b>Income</b>			
Literature sales			
	SFC	116.60	
	No4	16.00	
	Leaflets	230.00	
Bank interest-2 months		1.23	
	<b>Total</b>	<u>363.83</u>	<u>363.83</u>
			<u>4762.95</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Memb Sec. expenses		26.00	
Secretary expenses		36.05	
Treasurer		30.70	
Insurance BCRA		184.00	
Projects	Coniston Survey-drills	62.00	
Rent of room		6.00	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>344.75</u>	<u>-344.75</u>
	<b>Balance</b>		<u>4418.20</u>
<b>Balance held as:</b>			
	Building Society	3999.90	
	Bank	418.30	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>4418.20</u>	<u>4418.20</u>

## CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

HONORARY PRESIDENT Lord Egremont

VICE PRESIDENT Major Hext

### Officers for 1998

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01946 822484

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381903

TREASURER Mark Simpson, Rantree Farm, Keasden,  
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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Ian Matheson, Lanehead, Coniston, Cumbria,  
LA21 8AA, 01539 441293

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Barrow in Furness, Cumbria, 01229 835951

PUBLICITY OFFICER Alistair Cameron, Linden Lea, Pass Street,  
Eckington, Nr Pershore, Worcestershire,  
WR10 3AX, 01386 750494

### Committee Members

Peter Fleming  
Ian Matheson  
Angela Wilson  
Mark Scott

Mark Simpson  
Dave Bridge  
Sheila Barker

Paul Timewell  
Mike Mitchell  
John Davies

### Honorary Members

John Marshall  
Sheila Barker

Mike Mitchell

Peter Fleming