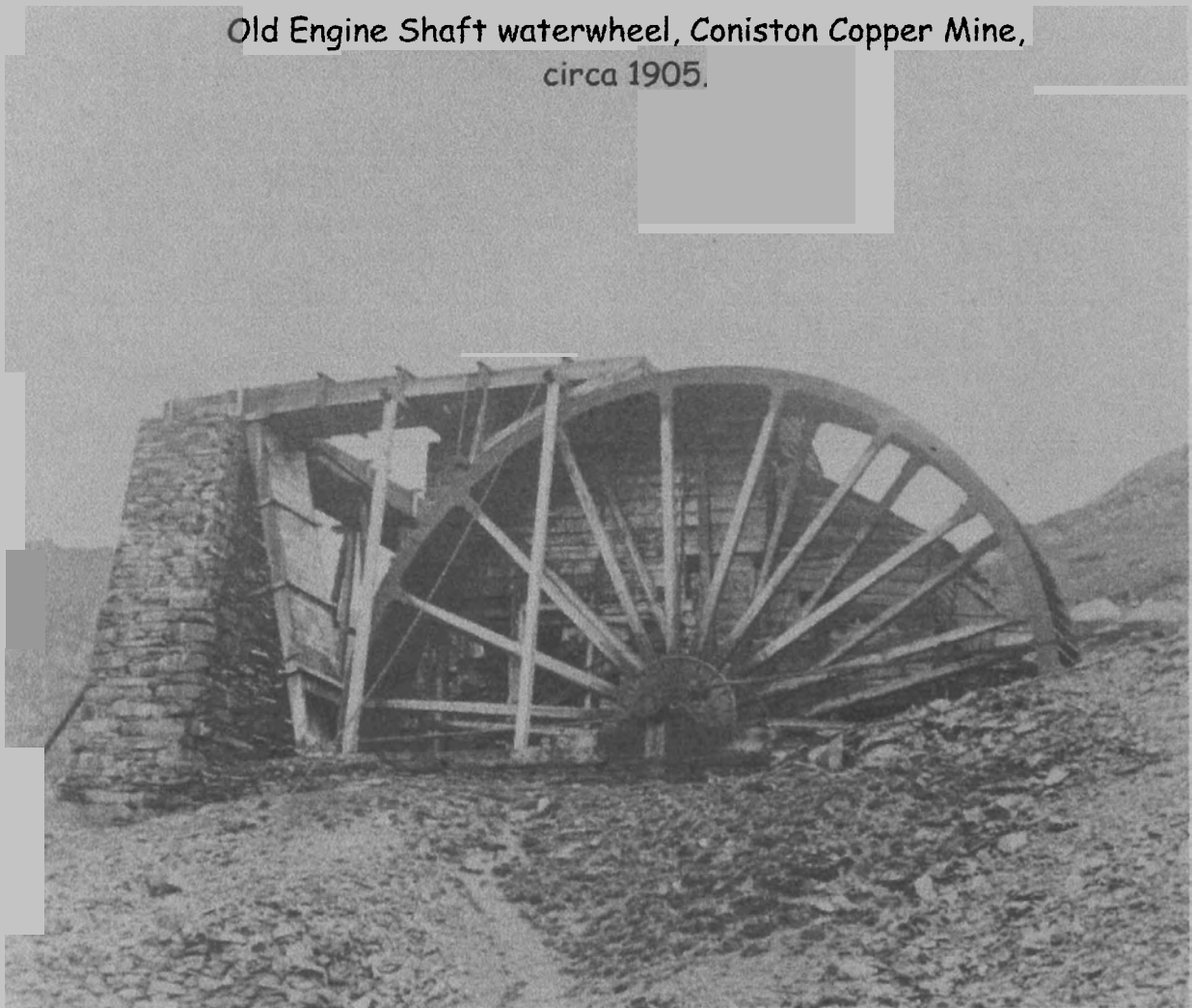


CAT

The Newsletter of the Cumbria Amenity Trust
Mining History Society

Old Engine Shaft waterwheel, Coniston Copper Mine,
circa 1905.



**Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society
Newsletter No 65, October 2001.**

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Editorial

New Members

We are pleased to welcome Mr W J D Parkhouse of Coleford, Gloucestershire. His interests include surface meets, local history preservation and photography. His eldest son Neil has a specialist bookshop publishing and retailing Industrial History and Transport History books. The Archive Shop, 47/49 High Street, Lydney, Gloucs GL15 5DD

Membership renewal

Gift Aid

With this issue you will find enclosed a membership renewal form. Subscriptions become due on 1st November each year. Please complete the Gift Aid form, it increases the value to the Society of each members subscription by about £2.50. Most of your membership fee is spent on the Newsletter and other communication and administration expenses, so this is a worthwhile benefit. There are no hidden costs to yourself, and unlike the old covenant scheme there is no future commitment. Gift Aid can be cancelled at any time. It is important that members who have previously covenanted their subscriptions complete the form, as the old scheme no longer applies.

AGM and Dinner

Hopefully you will also find information about the AGM and dinner, which be at the Yewdale Hotel on Saturday 8th December.

Meets

Several meets have had to be postponed or re-scheduled due to Foot and Mouth restrictions. Unfortunately the disease is continuing to spread, and although a large part of the Lake District National Park has been re-opened to walkers, it seems probable that things will not be back to normal for some time yet. If you

are going on a meet it is important that you contact the meet leader first to confirm the arrangements.

As you will see most meets have been at Nenthead and in Wales where access has not been so badly affected. Work at Coniston on the Grey Crag Level to re-open the Paddy End Through Trip has been suspended for the time being. In July Mark Simpson and John Aird returned to Balcony Stope to recover the ropes which were left in last February, and succeeded in leaving in even more ropes! See Mark's report on page 6.

It is always interesting to learn about unscheduled or informal meets, so if you are doing anything at all which is mine related, anywhere, above or below ground, please make some notes and send them to me for the Newsletter so that we may have a complete record of members activities.

Journal No. 5

We are expecting to publish Journal No 5 in May 2002. Several articles have already been promised, and I am anxious to hear as soon as possible from anyone else who may be contemplating putting pen to paper. The provisional copy deadline is March 31st 2002.

Ian Matheson, Editor.

Backbarrow Iron Works

Intentions for re-use of the site have fallen through. The LDNP authotity has produced a Draft Development brief which outlines developments they will allow on the site. This basically allows for light industry, offices or research and development use. Hotels, holiday accommodation and tourist attraction will not be allowed. Housing may be allowed if appropriate. Developer to deal with scheduled parts of site and provide interpretation panels.

From CIHC Bulletin, Aug 2001.

Nenthead Weekend 5th & 6th May

Saturday 5th May:

Chris Cowdrey

John Ashby

John Aird

Jon Knowles (ML)

This meet had been planned to take place in North Wales but foot and mouth restrictions had necessitated a change of venue. Ironically the restrictions were lifted on Snowdon, the location of the Britannia Copper Mine, on the 4th of May ! +For once it was warm and sunny in Nenthead but four mad souls decided that it was far too hot and headed for the depths of Capplecleugh Lead Mine. I have stated many times before that this mine is very underrated and each visit I make strengthens this view. The main problem is getting almost anywhere is wet, cold and hard work due to the long slog through water which is almost always knee deep and a number of times waist or even chest deep.

Page 145 of Dunham gives the following succinct description of the workings to be found in the mine "The workings from Nenthead join those of Whitesike Mine in the vicinity of Longolehead Whimsey. The principal level from Nenthead was Cappleclough Horse Level, driven by the London Lead Co. at 1500ft (457m) above OD. This Company's stopes, however, bottomed 120ft (37m) above this horse level, being confined to the beds above the Great Limestone on the footwall side of the vein. A length of 2200ft (671m) with an average height of 50ft (15m) was stoped by them. The lower ground accessible from the horse level probably contained too much spalerite and too little galena to be of interest to the London Lead Co, but this was subsequently stoped by the Veille Montagne Zinc Co over a total length exceeding 3000ft (914m), with an average height of about 60ft (18m)."

Generally the only workings we explored were the later Veille Montagne workings although there is clear evidence that other explorers with more knowledge of the Mine are trying to find ways up into the upper workings. This could lead into a very interesting area and possibly the Longolehead Whimsey shaft. It would be useful if any member knows the exact location of this shaft, whether it is open or not and whether anybody has been down it?

I don't intend to repeat here what was included in the report of the visit in 1999 reproduced in newsletter 57 however suffice to say that all that was seen in 1999 was seen in the last visit and further progress inbye was made. Eagle eyed readers will have noticed that there is a major error in the report in NL57 since the second sentence of the fifth paragraph should read "turning left" and not "turning right".

Following the horse level and the main air piping beyond "lavatory box corner" an area which appears initially complex but is in fact a loop in the level is encountered. Here it is possible to free climb (a rope helps) an ore pass through a part back filled stope into workings above. These again must be later zinc workings since there is evidence of compressed air drilling which would date it to post 1890.

Continuing along the main level a number of ore hoppers are passed, which all need investigating, until another more complex area of the mine is encountered. This area has a number of interesting features which include:

- A large shaft which comes from above and presumably descends to Smallcleugh. Although it would not be possible to descend.

- Some nice examples of stone arching in the course of construction complete with the formers for producing the arches.
- An area which is dry!
- Lengths of concrete lined tunnel, which again points to later working.

When in the dry area beyond the water a dry winze down was seen. It is possible that descending here would give access to the Whitesike Level but a prominent note warned of bad air and was not investigated. This whole area needs much more detailed attention.

Sunday 6th May

Chris Cowdrey

John Aird

Dave Bridge

Jon Knowles (ML)

On the second day we visited Rampgill and swapped John Ashby for Dave Bridge. Members should form their own judgment on this ! The morning was spent with a visit to the Scaleburn horse gin.

After lunch we initially explored some of the Scaleburn vein workings above the horse level which seemed to consist of a number of winzes all of which appeared blind but, apart from one, they were all dry. These may be what Dunham describes on page 142 as "A little ore seems to have been won from the Little Limestone, Pattinson, Firestone and Slate sills in parts of this ground but the stopes were very small" The vein was followed until a shaft down to Brownley Hill mine was encountered.

J.Irwins cross-cut onto the Rampgill vein was also partially explored. This is more extensive than any of us expected and progresses in the typical North Pennine style with much material having fallen from the roof holding back water. A drive to the left (east) passed a shaft down presumably from Smallcleugh and continued beyond, but again the air was bad and we did not get to the end. This must be in the Hanging Shaw East End area.

On our way out we met a group of cavers in bright yellow oversuits. We stopped to chat and found out that they were looking for a route which took them in one side of the valley and brought them out the other – they thought this sounded OK for a Sunday afternoon jaunt. When they asked if we knew the way they were a little taken aback to be told that there were only about 3 people who knew the full route and 2 of them probably couldn't remember it all and that three o'clock was a little late in the day to start thinking about it. They arrived back in the car park about 10 minutes after us.

Thanks to Dave Bridge and John Aird for additional information used in preparing this report.

Jon Knowles.

Brewery Shaft Meet Report 26th August

Jon Knowles

Meets News

The Cornwall Meet programmed for the 20th & 21st October has regrettably been cancelled due to lack of interest.

A visit to Prince of Wales Slate Quarry, 13.7.01.

The quarry is situated in the Cwm Pennant valley at the far northern end. The site is reached from a farm car park at the end of the driveable road, then by footpath up the north eastern slope. There is another quarry very much visible from the car park. This is Dol Evan Gethin, also known as Dolgarth.

Following the footpath we first approach the mill, Cwm Trwsgl. The outer shell remains with the waterwheel pit at the southern end, and there is a line of fine launder pillars. The mill has rather ornate windows and archways. The launder crosses the track bed of the Gorseddau Tramway, which can be seen curving away.

We climb the incline to the drum house. It is rather boggy in parts, but there is a path of sorts by the side. Close by is a small reservoir. Beyond the drum house it passes on an elongated 'S' curve to the foot of the main incline at the quarry. There are four working levels. Rock extraction was on the eastern side, with waste material discarded on the western side beyond the apparent central incline. On each level the waste tramway crosses under the incline by a bridge.

Material was accessed from a series of adits, some of which were then developed into small pits. The larger pit adjacent to the upper level has an adit at ground level which has fallen in after a few yards, and there is another at pit bottom which was not exposed on this visit, but I am told that it has been blocked after a short distance.

At the uppermost level there is a drum house but no workings. It would appear that this was built after the site

was developed, replacing the ruined drum house on the second level. However, from an early O.S. map, the top level was shown in dotted lines, presumably denoting that it was not in use, which would seem to be in contrast to the apparent site evidence.

There are a good number of buildings around the site, but there is a virtual 'street' on the third level. Here is an impressive line of barrack rooms with front doors and windows. Some have communication passages between them, but none have any hearths. At the eastern end of these and adjoined is a weigh house, unique I think. Opposite is a fine set of waliau (dressing sheds). All slate dressing was conducted on site as the mill worked slab only. From this level you can get a good view of near neighbour Princess Slate Quarry looking south east, high up on the mountain side, remote, and seemingly inaccessible! Also the line of the exit tramway can be seen disappearing into the distance towards Porthmadog.

The quarry was opened around the 1860's, and it is said that at its peak it was worked by 200 men. This seems a very high number considering the quarry's size, with an output of 5,000 tons per year. The last workings at the quarry were on a very small scale in the 1920's.

Close by is the copper mine of Cwm Dyfor (SH 541505) and this can be reached by crossing the hillside. Partway round is a series of rock outcrops from which one can rest and enjoy the wondrous views of the valley.

John A. Knight

Rope Retrieval Meet – Coniston 29th
July 2001.

With the easing of restrictions on access due to FMD, a meet was arranged to retrieve the ropes left in after the descent and through trip via balcony stope on 25th Feb.

Early in July Peter Fleming had reported a fall in the bottom end of Balcony Stope (Paddy End Vein South), where a way in had recently been cleared from Pudding Stone Level (Grey Crag Level Horizon). Soon after, after a bit of debris removal, an inspection revealed that some large rocks had indeed fallen, though from where it was not possible to ascertain. Considering what I had written about the state of the hanging wall in the meets report of 25th Feb, I do not think that anyone present on that trip was surprised, only that this event had happened so recently

Well, there was me and John Aird – every one else was in Italy apparently. John Knowles had originally indicated that he would help, but e-mailed me to say that some events would prevent this. The plan was now to descend from the top (Levers Water) look in at Balcony stope and then come out by South vein using the traverse line fixed by Jon Knowles last year. We had the drill, plenty of bits and hangers, plus adequate rope. The big plus was John agreeing to drive up to Levers Water in his Land Rover Truck.

We waited until 10.30 just on the remote of chance that others would come, and set off. The boon of driving up, so quick and easy, I thought of all the times that Dave Bridge and I had toiled up with several ropes each plus personal and survey gear. Levers

Water was soon reached and we were off down the mines, pausing to note that the entrance to Levers Water Mine was nearly blocked and that the dire roof of what looked like a stiff cobbly matrix was still looming over this fall.

The first pitch was originally set up down to orange box corner (Top Level X cut/Stope 5 junction, this was derigged, inspected and set up from Arette chamber as a pull through. John and I had some profound thoughts when the rope was pulled down to Top Level (Manure or Bust sort of thing)

South Vein was reached without problems. The intention from here on was to leave two ropes in situ down to where there was little likelihood of stone fall in the stope, then a single rope down to the traverse line and out, so that it would be possible to ascend from Pudding Stone up to Middle Level. This was achieved but in a different way from that which I had intended. All I can say in retrospect, and John agreed, is that Mike Mitchell's pendule across to Pudding Stone level at the end of John Knowles 50m rope (belayed from Middle Level) last year was in a league of its own, singularly impressive.

The Middle Level belay was re-rigged as John's gear had been used originally, my 30m being put in as the second rope. (Note: 30m is the minimum length for this pitch down to the Balcony landing; 35m would be better.)

The descent to the Balcony horizon was made and we looked to see if anything could be seen. All looked the same as last time; we had half expected the balcony to have gone. I tentatively hauled on the rope left in from last

time, and it came free. About 24m later the end came, it looked as if it had been cut with an axe! Now the only place that this could have happened is where the rope went over the large block that everyone was sitting on the trip of 25th Jan. Much contemplation on this idea.

We had a good look at this rope. It all seemed ok, and it was a useful length to boot, and after retrieving the hangers it was time to press on. Back in South vein several hangers were put in the hanging wall, two 24m ropes attached, and down I went with the intention of moving across the stope towards Puddingstone as far as possible and rope length permitting. This was done and a couple of anchors put in the footwall under a comforting rock roof. The rock is very hard and seems to have a lot of iron in it. The hanging wall was inspected, but apart from the difficulty of actually putting the anchors in, bash testing indicated unreliable rock. John descended to me and then I went down to the traverse line not far below. This is when things got interesting I tried pulling myself along the traverse line and could only manage about 5m horizontally, 15m to go! So plan B.

Somehow or other I needed to descend further and then prussic up the traverse line to Puddingstone Level. Easier said than done. Several problems. The first was to detach the traverse rope from the inbye anchor, the second was that this rope went over some time expired stemples that used to hold the floor of the level up in South vein. John was able to descend and release the rope, though not without a bit of tribulation.

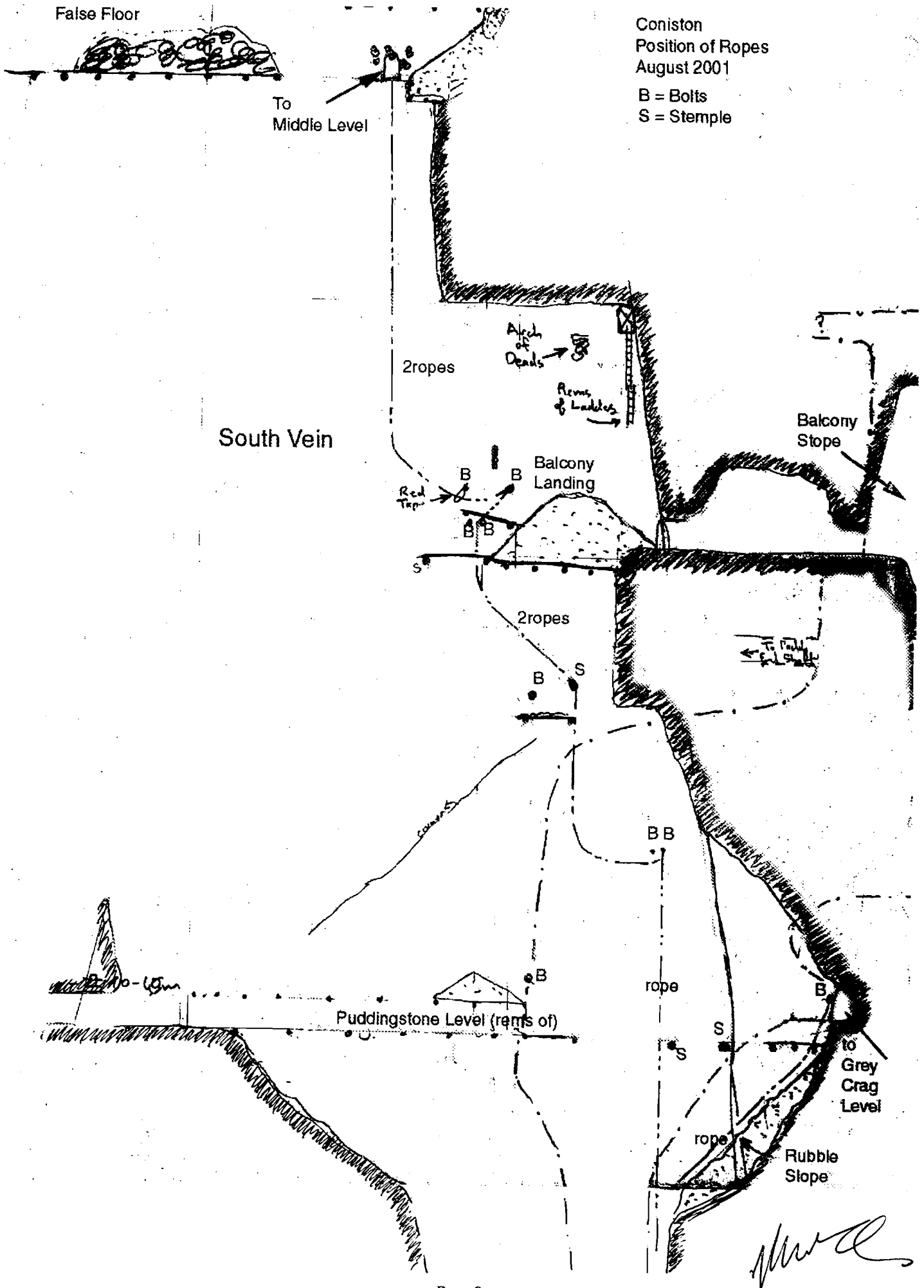
The problem of by-passing the stemples was more interesting. This meant descending several meters and

then transferring over to the traverse line, prussicking up to a stemple, passing the descent rope over, transferring back to this rope, pulling the traverse line over and then descending again, and so on. (South Vein at this point I am given to understand is c 60m deep) This procedure had to be carried out twice. The second stemple was a really soft grotty affair. When I prussicked up the rope sawed in one side, and when I abseiled down the rope sawed in again, the whole rotten thing moving above one. After this I descended to the rubble slope down South Vein below Pudding Stone Level and made my way up to safe ground. John's progress was easier as he was able to abseil straight down to where the rubble slope drops off into South vein proper, from where he was able to reach the traverse line that I passed down to him.

The descent and traverse rope were left attached so that ascent can be achieved. Note - there needs to be an anchor put in at this landing point to enable the rope up the exit slope to be kept out of the rubble. Exit from this point was soon achieved via Grey Crag Level and it was still only 4.30! All in all an interesting day, and many thanks to John Aird, who had come up from London that very morning.

Astute observers of this account will notice that no ropes were retrieved. Indeed one more was left inside. Also, as far as I recall, all the CATMHS ropes left in are between 24m and 28m in length, so we need to invest in some of 35 – 40m length in addition to the 60m of 11mm Edelrid just purchased.

Mark Simpson



Smallcleugh Meet, 10th June & 26th
August 2001

The original purpose of this meet was to assess the possibility of re-entering a 'lost area' of the mine below the Horse Level through the side of a wide shaft. This area of the mine was only partially explored over 20 years ago by the intrepid three who were to become the founder members of CAT. Since then, due to changes in the shaft, it became sealed off.

It did not take long to complete the assessment, but the shaft was not descended. Instead it was decided to put it to good use the man/woman power we had at our disposal, ten if my memory is correct, and we set about clearing the blockage in Gulley Back Crosscut which used to provide a useful link between the Smallcleugh Flats and the Horse Level. This avoided the nasty flat out crawls through the collapsed parts of the Horse Level.

The blockage in the crosscut was at the base of a hopper/ladderway from the flat above. We had access to both sides of the blockage, so our team was split in two to work on both sides. We also had access to the flat above, so it was possible to monitor our progress. Several tons of stone were removed and stacked along the walls of the tunnel until the two teams could see each other. The rubble on the floor was lowered to make it easier to get through. The hopper itself was still in good solid condition. We had removed from it virtually all the loose rock that had fallen from the flat above. However, there was still the possibility that loose material would fall into it if explorers or mineral collectors were careless in the flat, so on 26th August eight members returned to install a heavy timber roof over the opening just above the cross cut level, which will hopefully protect it from minor falls for some years to come. The material for this was provided by the Northern Pennine Heritage Trust.

Peter Fleming.

Honister Slate Mine.
A report by Alistair Cameron

In March I produced the following newsletter for Mark Weir, proprietor of the Honister workings. It was the third in a series that were designed to keep his customers (and also his many visitors) up to date with development work at the Hause and in the mine. I have reproduced it here for the CAT newsletter and have also added, at the end, details of how the FM restrictions affected him and how he is now attempting to make a recovery.

Honister Quarry Newsletter No 3, March 2001.

Sadly, at the time of writing this newsletter, the Foot & Mouth epidemic is devastating north Cumbria and the farmers in the Lake District are praying that it doesn't spread south onto the fells.

We have been very conscious of the need to take full precautions to help them and we have decided to stop, for the time being, the Mine Tours which proved so popular last year. Many local businesses that rely on tourism are suffering greatly. Let's hope that the epidemic can be contained quickly.

The bad weather in February also affected our operation to some extent although we were able to use our own snowplough to keep the road up from Seatoller open and also the road from the Hause up to the mine. Because of this we didn't lose a single day's operation despite the heavy snow. However at times conditions were very bad at the Hause, although in the mine it was quite pleasant and production continued more or less as normal.

Our development of Kimberley No.5 Level progresses and the effort we have put into it is beginning to pay off handsomely. The slate from there has excellent 'bate' and we are able to rive 'monster' slates over 5ft high. This is becoming a bit of a speciality of ours now and we are able to meet the demand for

slates to repair cathedrals and abbeys. Before we could develop No.5 Level we had to re-commission the Kimberley Internal Incline to carry the rough slate 'clog' from No.5 Level up to No.6 Level where we take it out of the mine and load it onto our wagon.

Those who haven't been up to the Hause for some time will notice quite a difference. We are continuing to reduce the height of the tip on the east side of the Hause that overlooks Borrowdale. The material from the tip is being crushed into stone of various sizes. Our plan has always been that we would not generate any waste from our working. Everything brought out of the mine would be used. We have now achieved this and we are also reducing the waste dumped by previous operators at Honister. Eventually a good part of the area covered by waste rock will be seeded and returned to how it looked 150 years ago.

Other developments have taken place within the sheds. An area has been put to one side for the production of kitchen work-tops. We are installing temperature control here to keep the slate warm. It can be smoothed and polished much better when warm. We have also made a major investment in our Airblast unit. This superb bit of kit allows us to create patterns on the surface of slate from any diagram or drawing scanned into a computer. The scope is endless family crests, coats of arms, company logos etc .

We are also keen to keep going with conservation work. Part of the old haulage route from Honister Crag to the Hause has now been repaired. This section is known as the 'Monkey Shelf' and was the first part to be constructed. It was completed in 1883. Other projects are planned and project briefs have been set up. They include restoration of the Honister Internal Incline and stabilisation work at Yew Crag on the other side of the Hause. Nothing can start until funding is available, but it is good to plan ahead.

We are always happy to welcome visitors at Honister. Please feel free to call

whenever we are open and have a browse round our showroom.

Since March the Honister operation has suffered considerably from the F&M restrictions. Mark was in a very difficult situation in that his father is a Borrowdale farmer and Mark felt extreme loyalties to him. It was towards the end of July before the mine tours could start again. Despite all the development work in the mine and at the Hause his turnover is down by about 52% this year on last; a difficult situation for any company to survive.

To make matters worse he was, until recently, still in dispute with the National Park planning officers. The problem concerned his lease, which only allowed him to quarry slate, rather than mine it (a throwback to the days when the Hopper Quarry was in operation). Had he followed the lease to the letter he would have had to develop the Hopper workings both north and south along the very top of the Kimberley vein. Fortunately he didn't do this, and instead, started working underground in Kimberley No 6, much to the annoyance of the planning officers. During the winter he invited the officers, a number of National Park Rangers and John Hodgson up to Honister. It was a brilliant move. Mark's passion for the workings rubbed off on all of them and at the end of the visit they all left pledging their support.

Spirits were lifted in August when No 5 Level started to give indications that there was enough slate there for at least 10 years operation. For some reason previous operators had refused to drive beyond the quartz line in Kimberley. Had they done so they would have found acres of excellent rock with near perfect bate. There is also every chance that No 4 Level will show the same results.

Also in August a number of distinguished visitors came up to the Hause. Mark's brother Joe thought that the couple who walked into the showroom looked familiar but couldn't place them. Fortunately his

sister recognised Sir Paul McCartney and his fiancée of a few days. Mark was summoned from the workshop and spent the rest of the day showing them round the sheds and then took them up to the Kimberley Mine in the Landrover.

Another distinguished visitor called on them a few days later. Prince Phillip had been to Honister before, in 1966, and paid a return visit on August 6th, 35 years later. He was accompanied by his special branch officers and by the press. After showing him round the workshops Prince Phillip accepted Mark's offer to see Kimberley No 5 Level. Protocol was abandoned and Mark bundled him into the Landrover, leaving the rest of the group at the Hause. Fortunately the old ladder way down to No 5 had been replaced earlier in the year by concrete steps (and a decent hand rail) and he was able to get his distinguished elderly visitor into the level. The Duke was extremely impressed and was clearly taken by Mark's enthusiasm for the workings. When they came back out to daylight The Duke had obviously little desire to get back to his party and suggested a short fell walk towards the top of Fleetwith, much to the concern of the Special Branch officers who were watching from the Hause. Before he departed Mark presented him with a signed copy of Slate From Honister as a souvenir of his visit.

This autumn the mine tours have started again. They are extremely popular. On one Sunday morning in August Nils Wilks and I arrived at the Hause to meet up with Mark to find over twenty people waiting to be taken up to the mine.

Mark is still keen on progressing with restoration work in the area, but nothing will be possible until next year. He is very concerned about the state of the Yew Crag incline, and in particular the unstable state of the 'pillar' and also the sheaved wheel at the head of the 'new' section of the incline. He has offered to take a CAT group round the Kimberley site and we are arranging this at the moment.

All this depends on whether he can keep going after this disastrous year.

Alistair Cameron.

Mining of 'Wad' at Coniston?

While researching for our latest book ('The Story of Coniston', due to be published next year), we have come across a number of extremely interesting references to the village and its community in ancient records.

One which caught our attention was handed to us by a local historian recently and relates to Sir Daniel le Fleming. He kept meticulous diaries and accounts. His entry for March 22nd 1658 reads '*given to Parce Corrats when hee came to look at the black lead mine at Coniston, 2/6*'

Another entry by Sir Daniel seven years later, on May 2nd 1665, states '*given unto a Newlands man who came to look at the wadd-mine at Coniston, 5/-*'.

One can't help wondering whether there were deposits being worked or whether they were confusing 'black-lead' with the poor quality, friable flag-slate which outcrops in places. They must both look very similar.

I have discussed this with a number of Coniston people. One recalls another reference to extracting wad and remembers seeing some accounts for it many years ago. Another remembers information being passed down from grandparents on where the extraction might have taken place. It happens to be in a very inaccessible ravine on the fell above the village which, I have to admit, I have never explored, even in my youth.

No doubt research into some of the un-indexed boxes in the Record Office may bring more information to light.

Alistair Cameron.

**A letter from Alen McFadzean
regarding a trial level on Ben
Dubhchraig.**

What's this you're thinking. A letter from Alen McFadzean? What does he want? Well, first of all hope you're well and everything is fine and dandy.

Second thing, I've been up in Scotland this week, striding out manfully over some Munros, and came across a level in the bank of a stream while descending from the Ben Lui / Ben Oss Ben Dubhchraig ridge.

Now I know there are lead mines at Tyndrum, having explored them with CAT circa 1984, and that there is a gold mine and lead trials in the Cononish valley. But this level was high on Ben Dubhchraig and way off the alignment of the Tyndrum veins.

It was in the west bank of Allt Coire Dubhchraig, driven in from the beck itself, and about thirty yards up from the final deer fence. The entrance is right under the path. Indeed, the reason I discovered it was because the path had collapsed, arousing my curiosity, so I clambered down into the beck and – hey presto – there it was. It was full of debris to within a couple of feet of the roof and there was a lot of water running out. I had my torch with me and would have crawled in, but it was the first day on the tops that I had managed to stay dry so I thought bugger it.

It didn't look like it would go far. But I thought it was interesting – and that you would be interested – that there should be a trial level in such an isolated place, away from all the other activity.

I don't know if there is anyone in CATMHS who is interested in this area. I remember Ewan Cameron was

doing a lot of work up there at one time. But if there is anyone interested, please pass on this information or put it in the Newsletter. I'd be interested in any feed-back.

Anyway, it was the perfect end to a perfect day on the tops. It was followed by an even more glorious day on Scheihallion yesterday, but I found no signs of mining activity up there, just lots of big rocks cluttering the place up somewhat and making progress hard going. Actually, while I am typing this, it just came to mind that we once looked round an old copper mine on the south banks of Loch Tay, just a few miles to the south.

Anyway, please find enclosed a map showing the location of the level.

All the best,

Alen.

NB The map would not reproduce very clearly in this Newsletter, and unfortunately one cannot get a grid reference from it, but if anyone anyone fancies going and having a look you can get it from Peter Fleming, to whom Alen addressed his letter.

For those who do not know him, Alen was a very active early member of CAT. He was much involved in the exploration of Coniston Copper mine and the discovery of Top Level Extension in the 1980's. He was Meets Secretary for a time, and Newsletter Editor, entertaining us hugely with his writings. He worked at Vickers before becoming a journalist and publisher, publishing our first hardback book 'Beneath the Lakeland Fells'. Alen used to live at Marton, but has moved away to Richmond in Yorkshire.

Editor.

3d Mine Modelling

Some time ago Catmhs had a trip to Smallcleugh to commence operations in unblocking Gulleyback Crosscut. (This has now been achieved) In the afternoon of the same day some members went through to the Ballroom Flats to carry some practice surveying of the approach level and the flats themselves. Gear used was compass, tape, tripods and Disto. Clinometer readings were not taken as the device was found to be unusable.

The presence of rails in the level was noted. The tripod heights were kept as high as possible. The readings taken are shown in the table and the plot is shown on plan 1 – The software used was **On Station**, which can be downloaded from the internet. I inputted the data into this software as it is easy to use and any obvious errors can be found. One problem with the program is that files cannot be used in other software. The next stage was to plot the traverses into CAD. A similar drawing to plan 1 is obtained. See plan 2

Why Cad? All your scale drawings, sections have to be carried in one of these type of programs, also basic 3d modelling can be carried out. The resulting drawing files can be saved in dxf format or as image files. Either way these files can then be used in 3d modelling programmes (3dstudio Max, Truespace etc)

If plan1 is observed you will notice that the Flats are shown only by offsets from a single survey station to the corners/changes in wall direction. As the roof to the flats are more or less level only one reading was taken. The level which was driven on the vein has a varying roof height but for this case it was taken that the roof was constant a c1.8m except where the flats were.

The next stage in Cad was to join the ends of the offsets in the Flats so that a floor plan appears. The level was obtained by offsetting the travers line. After this the floor outlines of the level and flats have to be converted to continuous polylines and then extruded to the appropriate height, so that the roof profiles mirror the floor plan. This as you can see, from the 3d image, seems to work with the level/flat section profiles found in this particular part of the mine. However many mines do not have stopes so nice and convenient. Coniston Paddy End for one.

The next stage appears to be to use modelling software in which several methods can be used –

- a) Lofting your sections along your survey line, (known in modelling parlance as a spline),
- b) NURBS modelling, where your stope/level profiles are used as nurbs surfaces and a surface u-lofted between them.

From my experiences with the above. Several points emerge:

There is no substitute for learning the software, especially if it is not designed for the job you have in mind. It may eventually not be up to the job.

Methods a) and b) work with sample shapes used in the books used.

Use short survey lengths, two or three survey station points long .

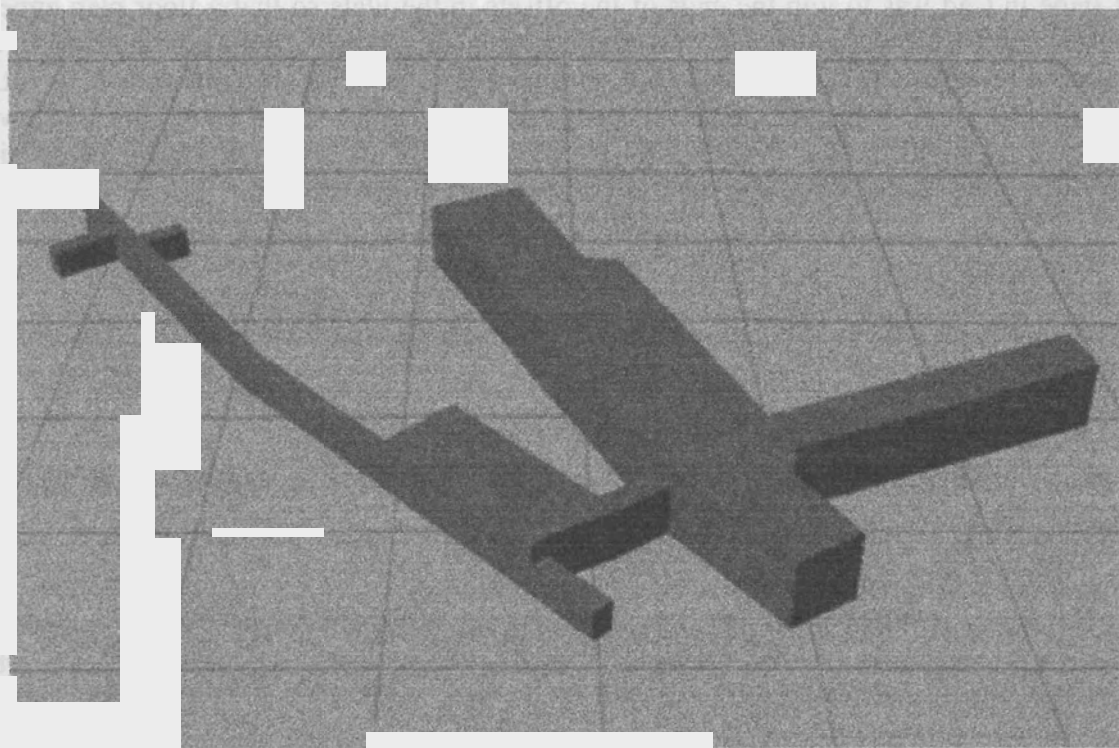
Be prepared for strange things to emerge on your screen as you are looking at the mine stope/level from the outside, which in reality is not how you see it. With nurbs one can have the disconcerting experience of seeing inside and out of the level etc at the same time. With this method the level etc is shown as hollow sections so that it is possible to view the inside rather than just the outside as in method a) Weird certainly – frustrating definitely – time-consuming yes. Desire to throw computer through wall - often.

For those of you strong minded enough to wish to proceed, survey data is required in the form of cross sections. The simple up/down/left/right dimensions are not enough, especially if the stope is its usual irregular profile. The best solution is the one that was use by cave surveyors. Any one who has used a cave plan will have noticed that passage profiles are shown to the same scale as the plan. One assumes that these were sketched roughly to scale when the original survey was carried out, the same method should be used in mine surveys. As long as basic width height are shown and related to the survey traverse, the rest can sketched in. Now we have the Disto, this can be achieved with adequate accuracy.

All this means a lot more data collection when you survey, and thus a lot more time required, especially if section details are collected at each notable change in passage profile. But if the finished 3d model is to have any resemblance to the real thing – is there any other way?

Hope the above is useful food for thought! If anybody has had experience of 3d modelling in engineering/surveying I would like to hear from you. Also have you any experience in terrain modelling, as the next step, once a mine model has been made, is to relate it to the surface and to surface geological features.

Mark Simpson, August 2001.



3D Model, Ballroom Flats, Smallcleugh Mine

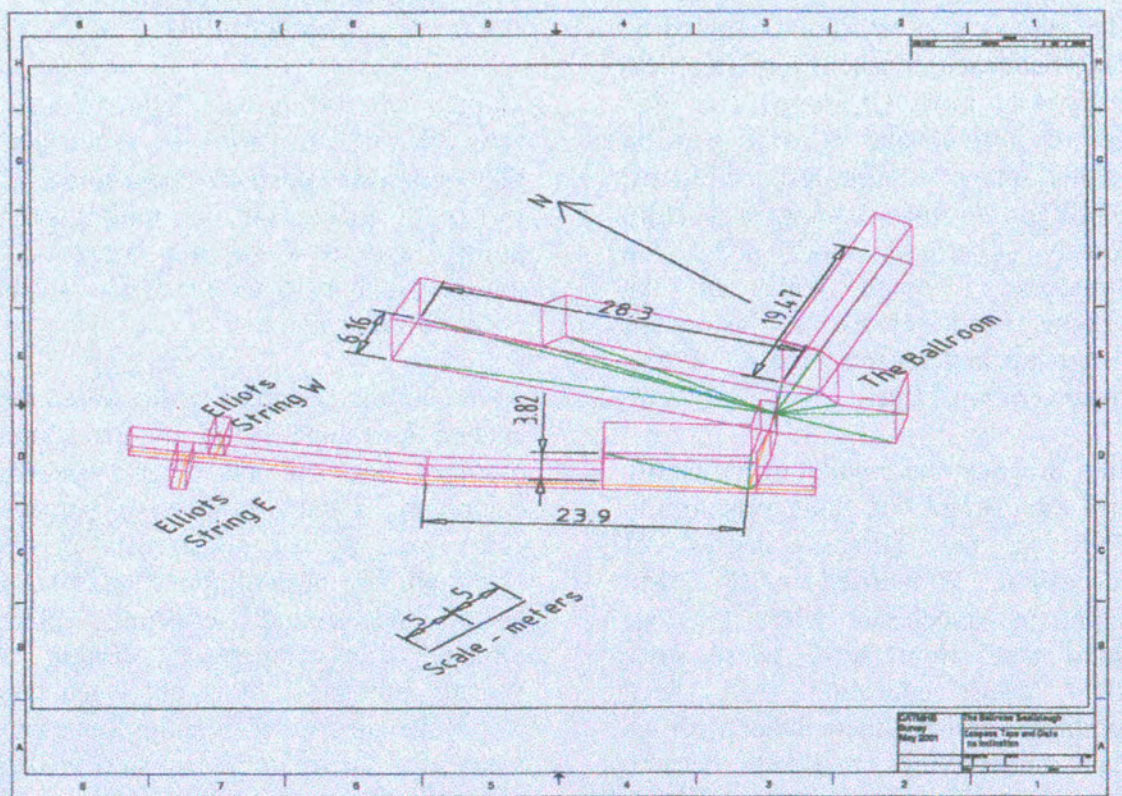


Diagram 1

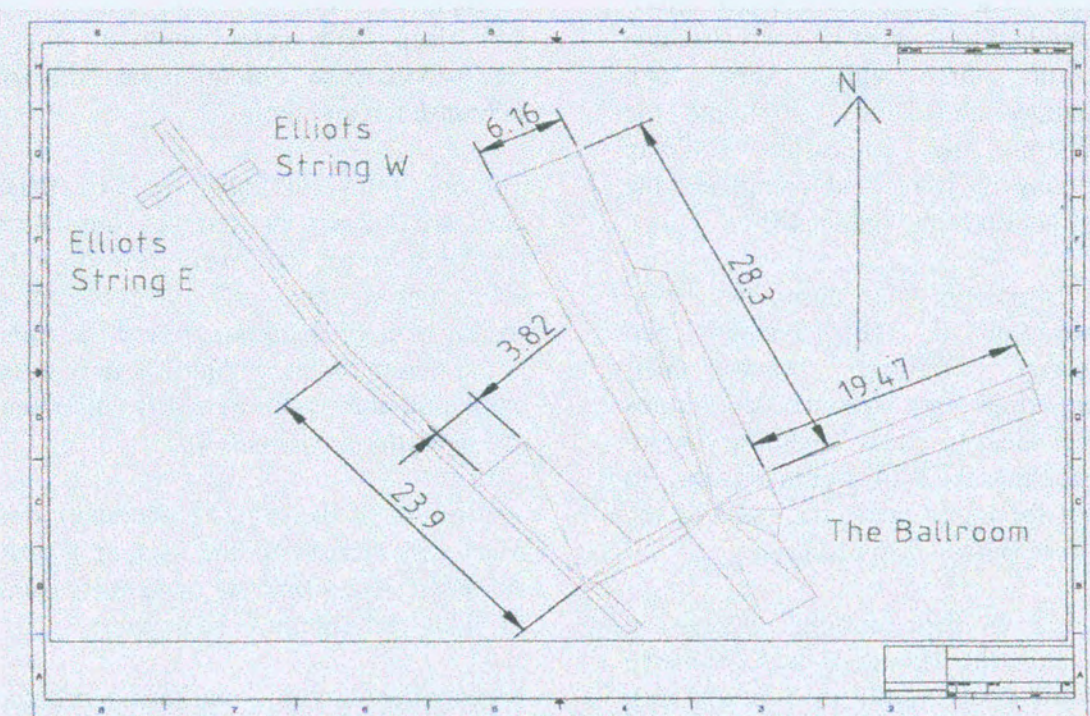


Diagram 2

John Brogden & Sons.

The following information, supplied by Peter Sandbach, is taken from an article first printed in the Glamorgan Historian Vol 10 (1974) and is re-printed by permission of Stewart Williams, publishers to the Glamorgan History Society. There is more about the Brogdens in South Wales on the website Tondy House: A history of ownership and tenants (1650 – 1963), by Dr Gwilym J Rees.

John Brogden, the founder of the family firm John Brogden & Sons, was born in 1798 in the Furness district of Lancashire. He married in 1822 and settled in Manchester where his four eldest sons were born. These sons, when their education had been completed, assisted their father with his many undertakings, and later became his partners. This combination of father and sons, in addition to constructing railways in the Midlands and the North, mined Furness haematite ore, and exported it to South Staffordshire. Since the ore had to be sent by road, Brogden and his three eldest sons, John, Alexander and Henry, promoted the Ulverston and Lancaster Railway Company in 1847, and completed the construction of the line in 1857.

The Brogdens only commenced the construction of the Ulverston and Lancaster Railway when their enterprising and speculative natures caused them to embark upon a venture as ironmasters in South Wales, to which for many years the bulk of the ore from Barrow had been sent.

As well as their mining interests in Ulverston, the Brogdens had extensive iron and coal works in South Wales, developing railways and docks to serve their undertakings.

Blast from the past. Marchon Anhydrite Mine, 15th July 1983.

12 members turned up in Whitehaven to view this unique 'mine in mothballs'! Members were conveyed down some 400 feet on an incline railway, unfortunately in rope repair as it was only ever used to transport one man to check the pumps every now and again.

At the bottom, members disembarked and entered a strange world of 15' square passages laid out on a grid system, comprising some 35 miles of passage. They were shown all aspects of the operation. The upshaft conveyor belt, the huge underground crushing plant. Strangely, the company (Albright & Wilson) brought nothing out when they closed the mine in 1976, and it looks very much as it did when the last shift walked out. All tractors and drilling rigs are still in place, some will even start. Spread out through the mine are various shops such as tyres, drills, fitters, electricians and mechanics. Members were shown the 400' deep shaft under Sandwith village put in to increase ventilation, near it is the immense fan and motors.

The only thing moving in the mine these days are the pumps and the ventilation fan which is run up every few days to keep the air pure. The overwhelming feeling you get walking around the mine is the quietness, as though it's only a tea break and at any minute a bell will sound and everything will start up.

The future of the mine is uncertain, and what will happen to the system is also unknown. At present, the mine costs some £130,000 per annum to keep going.

An excellent day out, and thanks are due to the mine manager, Mr Telfer, and his three staff.

Christopher D Jones.

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 14th May 2001 at 1 Rothay Holme Cottages, Ambleside.

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 | Hudgillburn Mine |
| 9 | Coniston Coppermines | 10 | Lakelands Mining Heritage |
| 11 | Publications | 12 | Library |
| 13 | Date and venue of next committee meeting | 14 | Any other business |

Present D. Bridge (DB), S. Barker (SB), M. Simpson (MS)
I. Matheson (IM), P. Fleming (PF), M. Mitchell (MM) & A. Wilson (AW).
7 members in total. The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from M. Scott (MSc).

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 2nd April had been previously circulated to members. PF pointed out that the names quoted in item 10 and item 13.2 were the wrong way round, this mistake amended it was PROPOSED by DB and SECONDED by PF that the minutes be signed by the chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings. This was carried unanimously.

3 Matters arising

- 3.1 Item 4.1 SB had contacted the LDNPA regarding their 50th Birthday celebration on 6/7th May. They cannot hold this at Brockhole due to the FMDR and are to have a tent on the Glebe at Bowness, so I cancelled our display. They are holding another exhibition in August, which they would like us to participate, they will contact us nearer the time.
- 3.2 Item 5 An offer to take up the Treasure's post had been received from member John Aird.
- 3.3 Item 13.2 SB had received a bill for Mandall's rent. After discussion it was decided to pay the rent and PF would contact the LDNPA's property manager regarding the renewal of our lease.
- 3.4 Item 13.1 SB It was decided CATMHS should join the CIHS, NL's and Journals to be sent to IM, then to the CAT library. Action SB.
- 3.5 Item 3.1-4.5a DB had photocopied our newsletters missing from the CAT library.
- 3.6 Item 3.3-4.5b (updating the library list) MS had transferred the list from the 'card index' to a floppy disc, it was now compatible with Windows 98.

4 Secretary's Report

The secretary had received:

- 4.1 The NAMHO AGM and council meeting had been re-arranged to take place in Bradford on 13th May.
- 4.2 NAMHO had decided to hold the 2001 conference in Bradford, as the Ireland conference had been cancelled. This is to be organised by the Northern Mine Research Soc. and will be held 15th/16th September, details in the NL. The 2002 NAMHO conference will be held in Aberystwyth on 5-8 July.
- 4.3 SB had received a form from Barrow Council to apply for discretionary rate relief for Roanhead Store. To be completed and returned.

5 Treasurer's Report

MS reported that:

- A) The bank balance at present stands at £2684.36.
- B) The building society a/c was unchanged.
- C) The printer's bill had been received.
- D) The production of the NL had cost £600 so for this year.

E) Money received from publication sales to date this year was £2871.64.

The society's finances were in a fairly healthy state and would improve as publications were sold.

The invoicing system for book sales was discussed, all members who sell books to send copies of their invoices to SB, so she could keep a check on payments. The cheques would then be passed on to the Treasurer. Each member to be responsible for collecting the money from their own sales.

6 Membership Secretary's Report

IM reported that the paid up membership now stood at 100. There had been one new member since the last meeting, Alistair Myers. The Gift Aid forms would be sent out in October with the subs re-newel forms.

7 Meets Secretary's Report

J. Knowles had sent the following report:

- Generally meets were cancelled due to foot and mouth restrictions.
- The Wales meet scheduled for the 5th & 6th May would take place in Nenthead. An e-mail was sent to the people he thought might be interested.
- I will endeavour to have the next meets list available for July but this is totally dependant upon a large number of the current access restrictions being lifted by the time I come back from Scotland in mid May, otherwise it will not happen. If committee members are aware of local areas that are open this information would be gratefully received.

8 Hudgillburn Mine

Nothing to report.

9 Coniston Coppermines

PF had been in touch with Mr Lampton land agent for Rydal Estates, who showed him a metal tube which contained documents. This had been stored in the cellar for many years and could not be opened. PF and MM to attend to this problem.

10 Lakeland's Mining Heritage, the last 500 years.

The remaining 690 copies of LMH had been delivered to IM's house, some of the packages were damaged. A problem has arisen with the book, it appears that quite a number of the copies of LMH have wavy pages, ADC was discussing this problem with P. Martin of Black Bear Press. It was decided to withhold payment till this problem was sorted out.

There has been several articles in local papers and reviews in various publications and sales were going well.

11 Publications

11.1 DB had sent information about the Coniston CD to 109 local schools and SB had already received two orders. When we have sold 500 copies of the CD we would have to apply for another licence. It was decided that if centre's demonstrated the CD they could purchase it for £6 (trade price).

11.2 IM asked if the Treasurer thought we would be able to afford to print Journal No 5 next year. MS thought it was to early to give an answer, we needed to get money in from sales of LMH first.

12 Library

SB had purchased all Ian Tyler's books and Hechstetter from Threlkeld Mining Museum for the CAT library. DB asked if the committee thought we should buy the new BGS Memoirs for the CAT library, he would make a list, for discussion at the next meeting.

Date and venue of next Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on the 9th July 2001 at the BMSC Hut, Coniston.

13 Any other business

13.1 PF had given John Hodgson a copy LMH. The good news was that English Heritage were to fund an archaeological assistant to help John with the Lakeland Mining Heritage project. The bad news was that the LDNPA would have to spend a lot of its funds on the foot and mouth crisis, to the cost of the archaeology budget.

13.2 MS said the compass and the 50m tape from the Coniston survey kit needed replacing. IM **PROPOSED** that we allocate £200 for this purchase, **SECONDED** by MM-action DB.

13.3 John Aird's offer to take over the post as CATMHS Secretary was discussed. Mark Simpson **PROPOSED** that we accept John Aird's kind offer to become acting Treasurer, **SECONDED** by Dave Bridge. All were in agreement.

M S will get forms from the HSBC Bank for the transfer of signatories and will contact John to transfer the accounts, who will take over in June or July.

Dave Bridge thanked Mark for taking over the job of Treasurer at short notice and bridging the gap. IM **PROPOSED** that we co-opt Mark onto the committee, **SECONDED** by DB, all were in favour.

13.3 The venue for the AGM and Annual Dinner would be decided at the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.45 pm.

SB 21/05/01

Chairman

Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society-Committee minutes July 2001

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CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 9th July 2001 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 Hudgillburn Mine |
| 9 Coniston Coppermines | 10 Lakelands Mining Heritage |
| 11 Publications | 12 Library |
| 13 Date and venue of next committee meeting | 14 Any other business |

Present D. Bridge (DB), S. Barker (SB), J. Aird (JA), I. Matheson (IM),
M. Simpson (MS) P. Fleming (PF), M. Mitchell (MM) & A. Wilson (AW).

The Membership secretary, J. Knowles (JK) also attended. 9 members in total.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from M. Scott (MSc).

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 14th May had been previously circulated to members. It was **PROPOSED** by IM and **SECONDED** by DB 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 PF-The rent for Mandall's had been paid, the LDNPA did not want to build a warden's base this year.
- 3.2 Item 3.4 (13.1) SB had paid the CIHS subscription -programme given to IM.
- 3.3 Item 13.2 MM had ordered the compass and tape.
- 3.4 Item 13.3 JA-The bank had accepted his identification, he was now the authorised signatory.

4 Secretary's Report

The secretary had received:

- 4.1 The NAMHO NL, Mins of AGM and Council Meeting.
- 4.2 LDNPA Corporate Plan for 2001/2002
- 4.3 Overall progress of the MPP from English Heritage.
- 4.5 NCA Speleoscene and CLHF N/L
- 4.6 CC N/L

5 Treasurer's Report

JA had taken over as acting treasurer, he reported that:

- A) The current a/c stands at £4648.96, he had recently paid in £557 from book sales.
- B) The building society a/c now stands at £1099.86.
- C) £8000 had been paid to the printer.
- D) JA was asked to pay the NCA subs.

6 Membership Secretary's Report

IM reported that the paid up membership now stood at 101. The Gift Aid forms would be sent out in October with the subs re-newel forms.

7 Meets Secretary's Report

J. K had nearly completed the next meets list, he required suggestions for replacement meets (for cancellations due to FMDR). As the footpath to Levers water was now open it was decided to get the ropes out of Paddy End on the 29th July. New drill bits would be needed for this -action MS. Work would be continued on the Gully Back cross cut dig on the 26th August (on Brewery shaft meet).

8 Hudgillburn Mine

Nothing to report.

9 Coniston Coppermines

PF had been unable to get in touch with Mr Lampton land agent for Rydal Estates, regarding the metal tube which contained documents. This had been stored in the cellar for many years and could not be opened. PF and MM to attend to this problem.

MS thought the Pudding Stone level dig could start up again, as the footpath was now open.

10 Lakeland's Mining Heritage, the last 500 years.

SB had sent £8000 to Black Bear Press and had explained that 340 copies of LMH had wavey pages, they had sent back an unsatisfactory answer. JK to answer their letter and pursue the matter. JA to send a further payment.

The remaining copies of LMH are selling well and there had been two further good reviews.

The good news is that LMH won a runner-up prize in the 'Lakeland Book of the Year' contest. PF and MM had attended the award presentation luncheon at Miller Howe Hotel.

11 Publications

Nothing much to report, sales continue.

12 Library

A. Thomas needed the price details of the recently purchased books for his records-action JA. The card index is being updated and then it can be transferred to floppy disc, for easier access.

Date and venue of next Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on the 10th September 2001 at the BMSC Hut, Coniston.

13 Any other business

13.1 The AGM and Dinner, the Armadale Hotel was suggested IM will investigate.

13.2 The video was discussed, PF will discuss with J. Roskell. There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.45 pm.

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

**Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 2nd December 2000
at Rydal Hall, Ambleside commencing at 5.30 p.m.**

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence.
- 2 To approve the minutes of the 20th AGM, held on the 11th of December 1999.
- 3 Matters arising from those minutes.
- 4 Chairman's report.
- 5 Treasurer's report, and approval of Balance Sheet, (to be distributed at the meeting).
- 6 Secretary's report.
- 7 Meet Secretary's report.
- 8 Newsletter Editor's Report.
- 9 Membership Secretary's report.
- 10 Publicity Officer's report.
- 11 Archivist's report
- 12 Project reports.
- 13 Notices of Motions, none from the committee.
- 14 Election of Officers & Committee for 2001.
- 15 Any other relevant business the chairman may allow.

Attendance - 28 members as follows: D. Bridge, S. Barker, M. Simpson, I. Matheson, J. Alexander, C.& A. Woolard, C. Barrow, D. Borthwick, E. Bowden, R. Calvin, A. Cameron, G Cram, J. Davey, B. Deane, E.L. Dixon, P. Fleming, K. Geddes, C. Hargreaves, J.&J. Helme, M. Mitchell, M. Pickthall, P.A. Sedgewicke, J.E.D. Brown, A. Westall, N. Wilkes and A. Wilson.

1 Apologies for absence

The secretary reported that she had received apologies from A. Barrel, J.W.B. Hext, J. Knight, J. Knowles, P. Sandbach, M. Scott, D. Sewart, A.& S. Thomas and P.& J. Tindall.

2 To approve the minutes of the 20th AGM, held on the 11th of December 1999

The minutes of the 20th AGM had been previously circulated to all members.

It was PROPOSED by R. Calvin and SECONDED by A.D. Cameron that the minutes be signed by the chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings. This was carried unanimously.

3 Matters arising from those minutes

3.1 Item 8 Last paragraph-D. Bridge said the quality of photographs in the newsletter had improved.

4 Chairman's report

As we are now celebrating the 21st anniversary of CAT it is interesting to look back to the year 1979 when a handful of enthusiasts decided to remedy the lack of serious research and exploration of abandon mines in Cumbria and form a club for that purpose. In those early days the field was wide open for exploring new ground, opening up old workings and interpretation the sites. from what were, in many cases, long forgotten records. Without doubt those were exciting days. As the more immediate and obvious targets ran out more sustained projects emerged such as the Top Level dig at Coniston, the Logan Beck Project, Lucy Tongue (jointly with MOLES) and more recently Hudgillburn. Work on surface remains also played an important part such as the Powerhouse at Saddlestones and of course the ongoing restoration of Newlands Furnace, but increasingly there have been barriers to work of this kind. For example the water leat tunnel at the Triddle Incline is now in a scheduled area and we were fortunate that English Heritage could be persuaded to let us do the restoration work before it collapsed completely. Underground there is plenty to get on with free of such constraints, for instance a major dig is now being planned to drive through the Grey Crag Level collapse at Paddy End.

Over the years the general public had been made increasingly aware of the work of the Society through publications ranging from the first Mine Explorer in 1984 to this years issues which included 'Slate from Honister', The Coniston CD-ROM and, thanks to the financial support of a Millennium Festival Award, the forthcoming publication 'Lakelands Mining Heritage'. Contact with the public has been further strengthened through the popular Tourist Leaflets which are slowly being extended to cover more areas, the talks and slide shows which members frequently give, the CAT web site and recent collaboration with the Ruskin Museum. Our publications now account for a large proportion of the Society's revenue enabling other projects to be financed and this year in particular the bulk of the CAT funds had been committed to several productions which will hopefully benefit the Society over the next few years. It is also important that we continue to adequately fund the Newsletter which, together with the Bulletin, provide an essential and informative link with the membership on a regular basis. The first Newsletter appeared in 1981 by which time the membership had grown rapidly from 6 to 44. By 1990 it had topped 100 and since that time the membership has been fairly constant with a steady turnover bringing in new faces each year. New members are vital to the success of any Society and are always welcome.

So the year 2000 has been as productive in its own way as the early years. As well as sustained effort by the Furness contingent at Newlands and by the undaunted digging team at Hudgillburn we have had a wide variety of meets including something of interest for pre historians, caving enthusiasts and even the anti-nuclear and I hope we can continue to attract this level of interest. All this has been to the credit of the above members and others who have given up much of their own time, not least Peter Fleming for encouraging and organising new projects, Alistair Cameron for his publishing commitments which have been particular demanding this year, Mike Mitchell for the mammoth effort he has put into the illustrations for the new book, Ian Matheson (now wearing two hats) and Jon Knowles for maintaining a high standard of meets and Newsletters, Nils Wilkes for organising the web site, Mark Simpson for keeping a strict eye on our spending and of course our hard working secretary.

It remains for me to thank those of you who supported the weekend at Rydal Hall-a first of its kind for CAT- and to extend our thanks to those whose time and effort made it such a success, in particular the visiting speakers for their informative and though-provoking presentations, the member speakers, and also Karen Beer and Angela Wilson and especially to Sheila Barker who bore the brunt of the organising with more than a few nail-biting moments and did a magnificent job. We have a strong team and a thriving Society- lets hope it continues that way for the next 21 years. Dave Bridge.

5 Treasurer's report

Mark Simpson reported the balance brought forward on the 1st November 2000 was £10,412.61.

Other items noted were:

Subscriptions-These had been fairly consistent, last year had been £1217.00, this year up to £1369.00.

Publications-Receipts from SfC, SfH, J4 and trail leaflets up from £2134.10 to 2893.50 (of which £931.20 has been from the sale of the Coniston CD).

The biggest single expenditure on publications had been £2393.39 for the printing of SfH. The CD in the first place was produced by Dave Bridge himself- thus the low production cost. We have now ordered 1000 CD'S from an external source at a cost of £1233.75 (this will fall in next years budget).

Admin. (secretary and treasurer) had only seen a slight increase to £115.60 from £92.29.

The same can be said for Insurance (BCRA) and subs for other organisations.

Extra this year is a rates bill for the Roan Head Store of £214.39.

Regular Publications-Bulletin and Newsletter-including printing and postage cost £643.40 last year and £756.42 this year- the cost of postage is nearly the same as printing costs.

The Millennium Heritage funded book 'Lakelands Mining Heritage', has been committed to print and is expected to cost £85000 of which we had a grant of £5000. To cover the deficit we have in the Furness Building Society account £9000.61.

Projects- The Furness Iron Survey and Hudgillburn have cost very little this year and the Coniston Survey-nothing at all. The item in the balance sheet refers to the cost of producing the CD. It is

hoped that in the near future to purchase a Laser distance measuring device to aid surveying. Anybody using a 50m tape above or below the ground will appreciate the benefit.

This has been a year of sustained effort on the publication front with a committed expenditure in this calendar year of approximately £11134, it will take several years for CATMHS to reap the financial benefit. Together with the CAT 21 which started in Sheila's front room back in I think February, it has been a year of great achievement and with your help, we will continue for many more years to come.

Acceptance of the balance sheet (which was circulated to members) was PROPOSED by M. Mitchell and SECONDED by J Helme, all were in favour.

6 Secretary's report

We have held our usual six committee meetings throughout the year. It has been much easier to maintain a quorum at meetings this year, due to the smaller committee.

In January the LDNPA introduced a policy to control mineral collecting on the Caldbeck and Uldale Commons A permit system is now in operation. Permits will only be given to those undertaking accredited research or educational programmes. In April we received the good news that we had been successful in applying for a Millennium Festival Award for £5000 for the production of 'Lakelands Mining Heritage'. The cheque was presented to Dave and Peter by Culture Secretary Chris Smith at the re-opening ceremony of the John Ruskin Museum at Coniston.

In the Summer the Step 3 Report on the 'Iron and Steel Industry' part of the E.H. Monuments Protection programme was received. Assistance given by CATMHS members was acknowledged. This with several other E.H. reports along with a copy of their Force Crag Mine survey have been deposited in the CAT library.

The NAMHO 2001 field meet will be held in Ireland, at Avoca in September. They have produced a new Mining Heritage Guide, which is on sale for £4 per copy.

7 Meets Secretary's report

Jon Knowles had re-assumed the role of Meets Secretary. The next meets list covering the period till July has been produced and should be distributed in December. The list covers a wide variety of meets and I hope there is something for everybody. When I was Meets Secretary a few years ago w had meets twice a month and this was probably too often. In the last year it has been down to about one a month which in my view is too infrequent so the new list is based on a meet approximately every three weeks. Meet numbers will be monitored to see whether this is about right and I would value members thoughts.

Will anybody who has bright ideas, particularly for a meet, please let me know. If you know somebody who will lead it then that's even better, if you don't we can always find a suitable candidate. Please remember however that is much better to volunteer to lead a meet of your own choosing than try and say no to a bullying Meets Secretary when he rings you up when half way through your evening meal! My final plea is for younger members to lead meets- we can't leave it to all the old timers and me for ever, can we!

I offer myself for re-election to the post of Meets Secretary.

8 Newsletter Editor's report

Jon Knowles had sent a written report, he would like to thank everybody who contributed to the two Newsletters he had produced in the first half of the year. All contributions were welcome however small since he felt that a wide variety of articles makes an interesting Newsletter. As he planned and mentioned at the last AGM, Ian Matheson took over as Newsletter Editor after the June issue and Jon wished him every success.

Ian Matheson wished to thank Jon for his work over the last three years or so, and for making the hand over smooth and easy.

The September issue was my first effort, and I hope to be able to improve the presentation with succeeding issues. The content, of course is up to you, the members, and I shall need a constant supply of news and articles. In particular I need reports of CAT meets, and of members activity. Whilst it is the meet leaders responsibility to provide a record of the meet, I would also like reports from participants, who may well have a different perspective. There are quite a lot of unprogrammed

meetings and activities, and I would like news on these for publication. A lot goes on which is not announced or recorded, and the Newsletter should be our main channel for information, especially as members are so geographically widespread.

I wish to publish the deadline for each Newsletter. Topical information, meet reports and press cuttings will be included right up to publication date, but articles can be prepared in advance, and in order to spread the work of production it would help me a lot to have them as early as possible.

Longer articles have sometimes been serialised in the Newsletter, but I feel that something is lost by spreading them over several issues, with a three^{week} gap between each. I will try therefore to print complete articles, but in order to control the size and cost of the newsletter it may occasionally be necessary to hold them over for subsequent issues. As the Newsletter has a limited readership, about 130 copies are produced, I think that articles which first appear in the Newsletter could be published later in our Journal No 5, which has a much wider readership. I would welcome such articles. (Already had one from R. Hewer). I have access to cheap photocopying, provided that I do the copying myself. This not only saves money, but gives better control over quality. I am aware over concerns over the clarity of photographs in previous issues, and for the time being I intend to address them by printing picture pages on my PC. This means that unless pictures have been prepared by the author for photocopying they will not be embedded in the article, but will appear on a separate page. If there is a better way then I would appreciate any advice or help. Mike Mitchell has offered to help with scanning of slides and prints, and together I am sure that we will make some progress.

9 Membership Secretary's Report

The membership continues to be fairly stable with just over a hundred members. About 10% don't renew each year, but they are replaced by a similar proportion of new members. I have produced a membership list for the 31st October this year, and this will be distributed with the next Newsletter, which is due at the end of this month. On the renewal slip I included a question about covenanting subscriptions. I understand this is no longer relevant, as the system has changed. You will no doubt be hearing from the Treasurer in due course. I also asked for e-mail addresses, and these will be included in the membership list. E-mail addresses tend to change quite frequently, so if you keep me informed I will update them in the Newsletter.

Subscriptions were due on the 1st November, and so far 62 people have paid and there is one new member. Thanks to Trevor Cotton and Pete Blackwood who included donations. Some people renew very late, and those who have not done so will receive a reminder with their next Newsletter.

10 Publicity Officers Report

- A. A.D. Cameron discussed the various items on his last years "to do list" current publications:
- B) Slate from Honister had been reprinted (1000 copies) selling at £7.95 retail.
- D) Slate from Coniston-now is just about sold out, to be reprint in 2002.
- E) The Bulletin would be given a miss this year, information would be put on the web site.
- D) Coniston CD ROM-Thanks to Dave Bridge for producing it. 1000 copies had been produced recently. Next years distribution to be discussed at next committee meeting.
- F) The Trail Leaflets were a very good source of income, The Newlands Valley leaflet would hopefully soon be published and should sell well in Borrowdale.
- G) Lakelands Mining Heritage. Work on this book was stepped up when we got a full Lottery Heritage grant in April of £5000 which had to be spent by end of the year. The critical path was adhered too (one month behind at present). Thanks to Dave Sewart for scanning and putting everything on disk. Thanks to Mike Mitchell for editing all the photos and adding colour. To Mark Simpson who did work on the cover. To Karen Beer who did the text on the dust jacket, To Dave Bridge who scanned the photos. Work on the captions did delay things for a while, but the book is now almost ready for print. Will be ready for sale in Spring.

Peter Fleming thanked all who had helped, a terrific amount of work had been done.

Dave Bridge thanked Peter Fleming for getting the funding.

11 ARCHIVIST report

The CAT library is now in its thirteenth year, having received its first official budget of £75 for the year 1988-99. The last budgeted (i.e. via the librarian) spend was in the year 1992-93 since which one major un-budgeted spend was for some £200 plus approved by the committee for the purchase of part of the D. Blundell book collection via Embsay Railway book shop. Another significant spend was with BGS of Edinburgh for abandonment mine plans.

Spending of this magnitude, at that time, led us to consider having a few years of no spend (to balance the yearly average) since which the ball hasn't really ever got properly rolling again.

More recently, a purchase was made of copies of the R.C.H.M.C. Greenside Survey, and the last ever purchase I am aware of was for 'Grey Gold' in 1998. Both of the above were approved and paid for direct from society funds.

The following is a summary of the library activities for the year 2000-2001:

Books loaned. None.

Submissions to archive and donations (including 16 MPP reports) 37.

Books purchased None.

Under use of the library was discussed, an updated library list needed to go in the newsletter, as new members probably did not know about library. It could also go on the CAT website. Library budget to be discussed at next committee meeting.

12 Project reports

12.1 Hudgillburn Mine

Members met almost every Sunday throughout last winter till the end of April. A lot of effort went into the clearance of the collapse on the Sun Vein. Steady progress is being made through very loose ground. In the summer there were several surface meets, the fence was re-erected covering a smaller area of ground and a new gate was fitted. In June we lifted the tub lines from the portal and started to clean the mud out of the adit, this work remains to be finished. Also on this meet, work started to bolt up the rise at the far end of the Western Waggon Level or North Vein. The 1st sump on the East Waggon Level was descended, a short level was found about 8 ft from the bottom, leading to a small collapsed working. This working is marked on the mine plan and is testing the Quarry Hazel. The day was concluded with a barbecue.

Work started again in October and Radon gas detectors have been placed in the mine, as part of a project being carried out by Dr. A.R. Denman Head of Physics Department, University College Northampton.

12.2 Newlands Furnace

John Helme separated his report into two parts, firstly regarding the voluntary work being done by members of CATMHS and then an update on the progress of the Newlands Furnace Trust.

Voluntary Work - the dedicated team meets regularly on the last Saturday of each month, except December, and at other times as needed. Progress is slow but positive, the repair of huge hole in the furnace wall above the new wooden beam is now completed and work has now started on a similar exercise at the tap hole entrance. Both of these jobs have involved the inclusion of steel girders and considerable areas of stone corbelling, a technique we have had to learn as we went along. The corbelling required great quantities of large pieces of slate with a sloping corbel face, requiring numerous visits to the quarry. Work is also proceeding on the inside of the furnace replacing the fire brick lining with both original blocks and "imitation" blocks made in our own wooded moulds.

Funding for this work is secured by grants from the "Historic Buildings Trust" fund of the South Lakeland District Council. I would like to record my thanks, and those of the Trust, for the excellent work carried out in all weathers by this small dedicated team from CATMHS.

The Newlands Furnace Trust - was formed in 98/99 in order to negotiate a long term lease of the site from the owners and to enable grant application to be made to fund professional work on the site. A 999 year lease has been drawn up by the owners solicitors and signed by the owners. However the Trust has not yet signed the lease as some members felt that care of the site and insurance costs for such a long period was a large burden. We are due to have a meeting with Mr Davidson of the Manchester office of English Heritage on December 5th. Hopefully he will be able to give us advice and support and indicate the best way forward. Grants have continued to come in

Cumbria Amenity Mining History Society- Minutes of AGM 2000

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during the year and the Trust has now nearly £8000 on deposit.

Again many thanks for the support of the "volunteers" and the continued interest shown by the Society.

12.4 Furness Survey

P. Sandbach reported that last winter they had caught up with the backlog of collating and captioning the photographs taken at Roan Head, Stank and Yarlside in the previous season. After a late start due to a wet spring, we recorded the winding bed at Frank Pit, Henning Valley. The shaft, pumping engine and engine house at Frank Pit will need considerable scrub clearance work, which we hope to tackle this winter. When this is complete, there is more scrub clearance to do at Carkettle. In view of the poor progress this year, I enclose the list of things still to do. It seems a long list, but the tramway features are not our main concern, and most of the major sites have been recorded.

I would guess that the project is at least three quarters complete.

13 Notice of Motion-None from the committee.

14 Election of Officers & Committee for 2000 All posts were open for election.

All officers were willing to be re-elected. With the exception of John Davies (Meets Secretary)

No nominations for posts were received by the Secretary, those from the floor were as given below:

| POST | NOMINATION | PROPOSED | SECONDED |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Chairman | D. Bridge | P. Fleming | J. Helme |
| Secretary | S. Barker | D. Bridge | C. Barrow |
| Treasurer | M. Simpson | D. Bridge | I. Matheson |
| Membership Secretary | I. Matheson | M. Mitchell | A. Westall |
| Newsletter Editor | I. Matheson | S. Barker | M. Mitchell |
| Meets Secretary | J. Knowles | J. Brown | A. Cameron |
| Archivist | A. C-P-Thomas | A. D. Cameron | N. Wilkes |
| Journal Editor | D. Borthwick | S. Barker | D. Bridge |
| Publicity Officer | A.D. Cameron | P. Fleming | M. Mitchell |

All above were elected unanimously.

Nominations for the 5 committee posts were as follows:

| | NOMINATION | PROPOSED | SECONDED |
|---|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | A. Wilson | En Bloc J. Helme | En Bloc N. Wilkes |
| 2 | P. Fleming | | |
| 3 | M. Mitchell | | |
| 4 | M. Scott | | |
| 5 | A.D. Cameron | | |

All above were elected unanimously.

15 Any other relevant business the chairman may allow:

- 15.1 J. Davey asked if the meets list, any unscheduled meets, and other information could be put on the website-Action NW.
- 15.2 A.D. Cameron reminded members about his Boxing Day meet in Hodge Close - a chance to meet Billy Gibson local quarry man.
- 15.3 A. Westall suggested we contact the NPA Centre publications officer (Guy Weller)-re our book sales i.e. for them to buy our books direct-Action PF.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7-00 PM, thanking all members for attending.

Chairman

S.B. 14/12/00

At the conclusion of the dinner following the AGM, the following award was presented:

Chairman's Award Alastair Cameron.

Museum hits fundraising target

by Duncan Smith

TRUSTEES at Earby's Museum of Yorkshire Dales Lead Mining were celebrating this week after hitting their fundraising target.

The museum is located in one of Earby's finest and most historically significant buildings, the Old Grammar School, on School Lane.

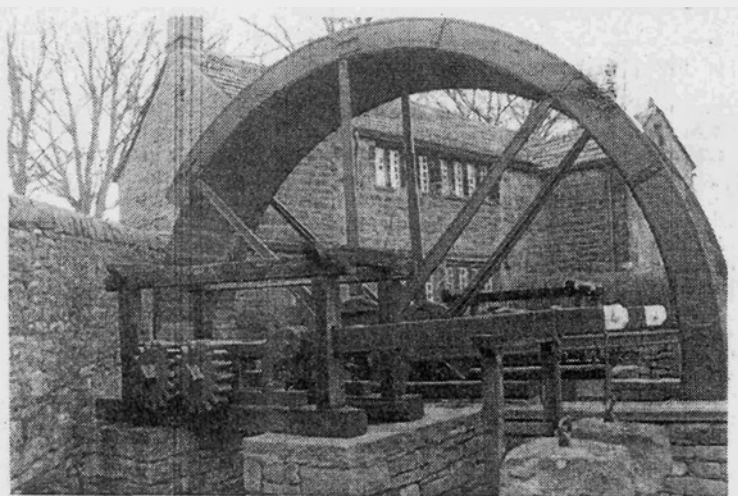
But the grade two listed building needs a considerable amount of work, and the trustees have been trying hard for the past few years to raise funds.

Almost a year ago they were dismayed and bewildered after learning that a bid to English Heritage had been unsuccessful.

For several months they had been given strong indications that it would succeed, but were then told there was no money in that financial year and it was unlikely a fresh application would be successful in the 2001/2002 budget.

Bruised but not beaten, the trustees picked themselves up and pressed ahead, but there was a growing possibility that they would have to relocate to new premises and see the Old Grammar School fall into ruin.

It was founded in 1591 by the will of Robert Windle, and is still



In the money: Earby's lead mining museum

owned by the Robert Windle Foundation, an administrative body with no money to maintain or repair the building.

However, the continued efforts of the museum trustees were finally rewarded in February this year with a welcome change of heart from English Heritage.

It agreed to give a £75,000 grant, provided the trustees could raise £30,000 themselves towards the £105,000 estimated cost of the work by the end of 2001.

Even that was a lot for a small

band of volunteers, but they set about contacting local organisations, funding bodies and businesses looking for help, as well as organising their own fundraising events.

Gradually the fund built up, with £4,000 from Pendle's tourism development budget, a hefty £3,000 donation from Earby Parish Council and £2,000 from Pendle Council's West Craven committee.

More money came in donations from local businesses and even

individuals giving whatever they could spare, while various jumble sales, garden parties and other events added to the total.

Then this week came the news the trustees had been waiting for.

They received a letter from Pendle Council promising £16,500 from its central capital programme for the current year – enough for the trustees to hit their £30,000 target.

"We're absolutely over the moon about it," said museum trustee Morris Horsfield. "This means we can finally make a start on bringing that building up to scratch and hopefully securing our future there for many years to come."

Mr Horsfield thanked everyone who had helped with the fundraising effort, saying the trustees hoped to have a board inside the museum listing all the people who had made the refurbishment possible. Special thanks go to Pendle councillor for Earby, Rosemary Carroll, and other West Craven councillors who have worked hard for the museum.

The lead mining museum has been at the Old Grammar School since May 1971 and boasts one of the best collections of mining artefacts in the UK. It includes mine tubs, tools and small implements, mining machinery, miners' personal belongings, models,

photographs and mine plans.

The museum was born out of the Earby Mines Research Group, founded in 1945 from within the Earby Pothole Club to explore lead and other mines in Yorkshire.

Many of the artefacts on display were recovered from disused mines by members of the research group. One of the highlights of the museum is the lead crushing mill, sited near the entrance.

Several improvements have already been carried out at the museum, including improved access, provision of a car park, a tea-room and putting in a telephone. Now the much-needed improvements to the fabric of the building can be carried out, including repairs to the roof, the floor, windows and repointing the whole building.

In the longer term the trustees hope to restore the building still further by putting in a second floor, as there used to be. They hope to win National Lottery Funding for that project.

The Museum of Yorkshire Dales Lead Mining is open every day except Monday and Tuesday throughout the summer from 1pm to 5pm. Admission is £1 for adults and 50p for children and OAPs and group visits can be arranged at other times by phoning 01282 841422.

Ruins at risk

unless their potential
is fully recognised...

The Westmorland Gazette, July 6, 2001

HERITAGE experts are calling for more recognition of the 'untapped potential' of South Lakeland's historic features as the latest Buildings at Risk Register highlights crumbling castles and ruined monuments in the area.

About 1,590 listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments appear in the English Heritage list, including 39 in Cumbria.

All are designated grade I and II, and are considered to be at risk as a result of neglect or decay.

Although the register in no way criticises the owners, English Heritage regional director Malcolm Cooper fears the buildings could be lost if not repaired and brought back to use.

Chairman of English Heritage Sir Neil Cossons said almost half of the 1,593 monuments at risk could be bought back into viable economic use if funding was found. The remainder needed long-term stewardship to survive for future generations, he said.

At the register's launch, Sir Neil called for 'recognition of the vast untapped potential of historic buildings for bringing about social and economic regeneration'.

Last year English Heritage provided £5.7 million in grants to help conserve almost 100 buildings, but it would cost about £400 million to rescue all those currently registered, he added.

"I urge the new Government to recognise the enormous regeneration potential that an investment of this amount would achieve. 'Some have called this the age of the 'throw away society'. If that is so, let us again learn from

— by —
Nadia Jefferson-Brown

Ruskin who said 'when we build let us think that we build forever'."

At Arncliffe Tower, one wall has completely collapsed and cracks have appeared in some of the lintels. The fortified 15th century building was burned in 1602 and, although it is thought repairs were carried out later, has since fallen into disrepair.

The Register reports that no upgrading has been done on the listed Grade II site, and states urgent work is needed.

Gleason Castle, near the Furness coast, was included in the first ever 'at risk register' in 1998, yet remains in a 'very unstable' condition.

Two corner towers are still standing, but the other pair has collapsed and the site - part of a working farm - is deteriorating.

Also on the register are the Lowwood Gunpowder Works at Haverthwaite, in use from 1799 to 1935, as well as Greenside Lead Mine at Glenridding; Coniston Copper Mines and Beetham's 14th century Hazelslack pele tower.

Many of the sites are privately owned, while others are in the hands of a company, trust or local authority.

Less dire, but still causing concern are a 14th century tower at Burnside Hall; the Winstar Potash Kiln, Cartmel Fell; former ironworks at Backbarrow; and a blast furnace and associated buildings at Egton-with-Newland.

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

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| | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
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| | Peter Fleming | Ian Matheson | Mike Mitchell |
| | Mark Scott | Mark Simpson | Angela Wilson |

Honorary Members: Sheila Barker, Peter Fleming,
John Marshall, Mike Mitchell.