

CAT

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



No. 80

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Cover Picture:

Hodbarrow Lighthouse. I used this picture because I like lighthouses. Generally they are aesthetically pleasing, historically and architecturally interesting, and situated in outstanding locations. CAT visited this one during the meet on April 17th.



It was built by the Hodbarrow Mining Company in 1905 on the Outer Barrier, in order to guide ships in to the Company's wharf at Borwick Rails in the Duddon estuary, and replaced the Company's 1866 stone lighthouse at the end of the inner barrier. That lighthouse is still standing and can just be seen in the picture.

30 feet tall, the 1905 lighthouse was manufactured in cast iron sections by Barbier, Bernard and Turenne of Paris and erected by John Aird & Co. It was fuelled by paraffin during its working life. On 19th January 1949 the Hodbarrow Mining Company wrote to the Admiralty advising them that they did not expect to exhibit a light there until trade improved, citing the poor condition of their wharf and that of the neighbouring steel works as a reason.

It is remarkable that over 50 years later it was re-commissioned. In 1996 Haverigg Primary School adopted it as their symbol of excellence and attempted to raise funding for its preservation. The Haverigg Lighthouse Committee was formed, and in 2003 the lighthouse was completely refurbished. On 11th November 2003 it was inspected by Trinity House Inspector of Sea Marks, and so once again it is a functioning lighthouse, exhibiting a white light, flashing every four seconds, with a range of 2 miles. Fl4 2m

Ian Matheson

Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society

Newsletter No 80, August 2005.

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Editorial.

Editorial

Apologies once again. We don't have a Meets Secretary, and I managed to get Alastair Cameron's phone number wrong in the meets list, as well as the date of one of his meets. I did ask a couple of committee members to check it before publication, but they didn't spot the errors either. Apparently a lady in Pershore was upset to receive numerous enquiries about Elterwater Quarry. A correction was sent out by post, but just to be sure:

Alastair's phone number is 01386 750494 and the July Elterwater Slate meet was on Sunday July 17th.

The email address for Dave McAnelly printed in the last Newsletter was an old one. Contact him on aujb10@dsl.pipex.com

News.

Slate from Coniston

Alastair Cameron's successful book 'Slate from Coniston' has been out of print for some time. Now Alastair has brought out a revised edition, larger than the original and with some new data. There are more historic B&W photos, many not seen before. The book has been published by CATMHS and all the profits go to our society. Thanks Alastair! The retail price is to be £11.99, but there is a special price of £8.00 to members plus £2.50 p&p, available from John Aird, 1 Hillcroft Crescent, Ealing, London W5 2SG.

Newland Furnace Heritage Open Day

Newland Furnace will be open for you to visit on Saturday September 12th 2005 from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. For details contact John Helme (01539 731020 or David Smithson (01539 568048)

Library

We don't have a Librarian, but as I work at the Armitt Library and Museum as a volunteer I received a telephone call from the Curator asking if I could assist a Belgian gentleman, who was trying to locate some mine information. I went round and was fortunate to meet Rudy Devriese, from Antwerp.

As I understand it, some years ago he had a chance meeting on the fells with Roger Ramsden and Ian Hebson, and became interested in Lakeland mines. He developed an interest in the Hechstetter family and in a connection between Keswick and Antwerp. Apparently, as well as their involvement with the Company of Mines Royal, the Hechstetters had interests in other countries, including Belgium, with offices in Antwerp. He was spending some time in the UK following up these interests at the Carlisle and Whitehaven Record offices, and at our library. I am not sure that I was able to help much, as our archive is badly in need of organisation, but we did find some plans of Goldscope and of the Borrowdale Wadd mine which interested him.

There have been some quite radical management changes at the Armitt aimed at putting it on a more secure financial footing. It has to become more viable and needs to be marketed to attract more paying visitors. As part of this strategy a new Chief Executive post has been created and the name has been changed to 'The Lakes Discovery Museum (The Armitt Collection)' More space is to be devoted to new exhibitions and displays, and there may be implications for our own archive, which has been held there for the last two years or so. If you are in the area please visit it and make

yourself known, as it will be better appreciated if it is seen to attract visitors. Coincidentally the Curator, Michelle Kelly, is about to move on to the Beacon Museum at Whitehaven.

Membership

We welcome Rudy Devriese, Mollei 138, 2930 Brossehaat, Belgium. His special interest is in the ramifications of the Hechstetter family. See the Library report above.

Mines Forum Meeting

A Mines forum Meeting was held at the BMSC hut at Coniston on Friday 1st July. The main business was to discuss Health and Safety policies, which should soon be finalised. John Brown attended in order to discuss our project to open the Elizabethan Coffin Level at Goldscope Mine; a site meeting is to be held there in August. After the meeting Mike Mitchell, Peter Fleming and John Aird took delegates from the LDNPA and the National Trust, together with Rydal Estates agent Julian Lambton, underground into Levers Water Mine and Hospital and Grey Crag Levels. As well as viewing the historic mine workings they were able to inspect the recent conservation work carried out in both areas by CATMHS. The next meeting will be on 30th September at Greenside.

Levers Water Mine



A fall of rock from the north side of the face above the entrance to Levers Water Mine was deflected by the newly constructed mine entrance, which did its job admirably. The spoil was causing water to back up in the adit, and so, on the day of the April Committee meeting, Messrs Simpson, Aird and Fleming went up to clear it.



Here John Aird and Peter Fleming prepare to dispose one of the boulders down into the stopes.

Photos Mark Simpson

Working at Height regulations

The HSE has now published revised Working at Height regulations. There has been concern amongst cavers and mine explorers as they were expected to outlaw SRT. However, caving and climbing are excluded from the regulations:

'Regulations 4 to 16 of these Regulations shall not apply to or in relation to -

(d) the provision of instruction or leadership to one or more persons in connection with their engagement in caving or climbing by way of sport, recreation, team building or similar activities.

(6) In this regulation -

(a) "caving" includes the exploration of parts of mines which are no longer worked;

(b) "climbing" includes traversing, abseiling or scrambling over natural

terrain or man-made structures;

The website for the directive is www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si20050375.htm should you want to read it.

Weil's Disease

Weil's disease is caused by contact with an organism carried in the urine of infected rats. There is concern that it can be caught by cavers, mine explorers, canoeists and others who may come into contact with water which could have been contaminated by rats.

It is curable if caught in time, but in severe cases it can be fatal. Early symptoms are similar to those of flu; later symptoms include bruising of the skin, nose bleeds, sore eyes and jaundice. A fever usually lasts five days and is followed by a rapid deterioration. It is essential that the doctor be informed when a patient may have been in contact with a possible source of infection. An immediate blood test is required, the samples being sent to:

The Leptospirosis Reference Unit
Public Health Laboratory
County Hospital, Hereford, HR1 2ER
Phone 01432 277707.

Sheep Ticks

In Spring and Autumn ticks are waiting in the grass ready to leap out on you and suck your blood. There are several quite serious infections which can be transmitted by tick bites, including Lyme's disease.

A leaflet circulated to BMSC members gives advice on prevention '... light coloured clothing should be worn in order to spot ticks ... smooth materials are harder for ticks to grab on to' '... when travelling through dense undergrowth use proper leg and shin garters or duct tape to reduce possible

opportunity for tick bites' ... 'after being outdoors in an infested area place your clothes in a dryer for 30 minutes then keep them in a tied plastic bag until they can be laundered.' If removing a tick '...shield your fingers with tissue, paper towel or rubber gloves.' '...place the tick in a plastic bag and put it in your freezer for several weeks in case you become ill ...' Yeah, well ...

It's as well to know what's out there, and to be prepared. For further information: www.bada-uk.org

More Buccleuch Boxes

As a result of recycling some articles from the newsletter onto the Lindal and Marton website, Dr Jeremy Greenwood wrote to say that there were 800 boxes of Buccleuch papers in the Northants Records Office. They are uncatalogued, but he has seen many papers relating to Furness including:

An 1871 surrender of Harrison Ainslie's lease of Lindal Moor and Whittrigs mines, with schedule and large scale plan.

1872 renewal of the lease, with plan.

1882 lease to Ulverston Mining Co, with plan and schedule.

Jeremy Greenwood has researched the Sowley forge and furnace. His findings are published on the Ironsowley website:

www.hants.gov.uk/newsforesthistory/ironsowl.htm

Sowley furnace was working before 1601 and closed about 1768. It was managed by the Newland Company from 1763. The forge took pig iron from Bonawe in 1799 and ceased production in 1820.

Sowley furnace was on Southampton water, a stones throw from Harrison Ainslie's last furnace at Warsash. Both depended on timber from the

Beauleau estate and used ore shipped from Furness. They shared the same landlord.

Would there be any support for a CAT dig at Northampton Records Office to explore a previously unknown mine of information? The Sowley ironworks had close links with Furness, so it is worth plugging the website, even if the proposed dig at Northants RO (Grade Exp?) is a fantasy.

Peter Sandbach.

Progress at the Honister Slate Mine

During April I paid a brief visit to the Honister Mine to see how work was progressing within Honister Crag and also at the Hause. It was about 6 months since I had last been there and the changes were quite apparent.

In the Crag the closehead on Kimberley No 4 Level is still producing good quantities of slate with excellent 'bate', and will probably keep doing so for many years. In fact Honister is one of the last working sites in the Lake District still able to produce riving slate. Until recently the bottleneck in Mark's production has been within the mine. However he has now invested in a hydraulic self propelled scissor-lift 'cherry-picker' which he has installed in Kimberley No 4. This clever piece of kit can move under its own power along the closehead floor and allows his rock-hands to access all parts of the closehead and drill at any height above the floor without having to set up scaffolding or work from ladders. As a result of this his production in the mine has increased significantly and he can now out-match the demand for slate in the processing shed at the Hause.

Despite this improvement the Honister operation is still 'small-scale' when compared to Burlington's quarries at

Coniston, and Mark calculates that he makes use of every bit of rock brought from the closehead for one thing or another.

Mark's plan to re-establish the 'Monkey Shelf' and the lowest part of the external incline on the Crag is nearing completion. CAT members who attended the meet at Honister in 2002 will remember the work done on the 'Monkey Shelf'. We talked at length about restoring and conserving the Honister Internal Incline. Mark is keen to make a start on this as time permits. We went into the 'Honister' part of the Crag and discussed the stages of the operation. The components of the incline have already been checked over and bearings greased. The carrier is still strapped down with the steel rope fitted by Anton and myself as a safety precaution many years ago. The first stage in conservation will be to clear rubbish from the base of the incline, re-build the retaining wall and the timber bridge spanning the Honister Bottom Level, and then re-install the rail-track. We may need some help here from the specialists!

Alastair Cameron

Visit to Force Crag Mine, Coledale, Friday 15th April.

Many CAT members will remember the sad demise of the Force Crag Mine. During the summer of 1991, while the team working the mine were taking a well earned holiday, the roof of Zero Level collapsed at a point where it passed through boulder clay, only a few yards in from the portal. The resulting blockage proved impossible to clear, despite repeated attempts, and the last ore mine in the Lake District closed for good.

The team operating the mine at the time, The New Coledale Mining Company, consisted of CAT members Peter Blezard and Anne Danson and also Lindsay Greenbank and Mike Sutcliffe. They had taken on the lease in May 1984 and their plan was to mine Zinc and also Barytes. Much ground had been prepared ready for a final 'push'. It was planned to take the ore out of Zero Level and transport it to the mill nearby by road vehicle. Several other people helped the team at weekends, including a number of CAT members.



The blockage in Zero Level

After mining ceased the team turned their attention to salvaging as much equipment they could from the mine. A considerable amount of kit was sold but the mill remained largely intact and the responsibility for it reverted to the land-owner, the National Trust. This proved a mighty dilemma for them. What were they to do with a substantial but somewhat dilapidated five-story mill building situated at the head of a remote Lakeland Valley? Fortunately they did not choose the cheapest or easiest option but decided to conserve it and prepare it for educational and other guided visits.

In 2004 the conservation work had reached a point where it was possible to take visitors round the mill. The advertised trips were a sell-out. On Friday 15th April 2005 members of the

National Park Mine Forum Team were also taken on a guided tour. The two volunteer guides and the National Trust Archaeologist, Jamie Lund, explained how the restoration work on the mill had been carried out. The brief set by the Trust was to halt the rapid decay of the plant, leave it in a 'visually ready to process state', remove only rubbish that had accumulated since the mine closed and take account of the fact that it was planned to take guided parties round the mill. Quite a considerable amount of funding was obtained from Heritage Lottery Fund sources and also from the Trust's own coffers. English Heritage kept a watchful eye on the work.



Force Crag Mill.

The result is a very good and impressive interpretation of a Lakeland ore mine mill. Our tour started at the top of the mill where ore coming into the mill from No1 Level is passed through the jaw-crusher. We descended through the mill viewing the ore screens and the jigs before spending some time discussing the operation of the ball-mill. On the floor below are the flotation cells and below that, in the lowest part of the mill, the disk filters which produced a cake of dry mineral ready to transport away. The last time I had been in the mill it was in full operation with Anne in charge of the process. The noise was deafening and ear protectors were

essential. On this trip the silence was quite uncanny.

We thanked our hosts and drove down-track to Braithwaite. Clearly the Trust have done extremely well to conserve the deteriorating remains of the mill several years after New Coledale Mining left the site.

But what about the mine itself? Zero Level is still blocked and the flow of water through the blockage is very light. At the moment most of the mine water is flowing out of No1 Level which strongly suggests that the mine is completely flooded up to this point. When one considers that Zero Level is about 800 meters long there is a huge amount of water backed up behind the blockage! Fortunately the la Porte Incline appears to be unaffected by the flooding lower down. This relic of the early 1950's operation was a major undertaking at the time and is probably the only slusher incline in more or less working order in the Lake District.

If any CAT member would like to join one of the trips planned for this year they should phone the National Trust at Bowe Barn, Derwentwater (017687 74649) to book a place. The dates set are Friday 3rd June, Saturday 9th July and Thursday 8th September. The cost of the trip is £4 per person and you will be transported to the mine in a minibus.

Alastair Cameron

New CD from CATMHS for the Real Specialist: 'The Mid Cumberland Mining Company'

The correspondence that forms the contents of this CD was handed to the Secretary of the Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society (CATMHS) by J.K.Almond a well-

known North East industrial historian in whose possession it had been for many years.

The Mid Cumberland Mining Company worked the Hay Gill set located near the confluence of the Long and Short Grains of Hay Gill; details of the history of the set are given in "Mines of the Lake District Fells" by John Adams (ISBN 0 85206 931 6 Second Edition 1995). He indicates that the company, to which he refers as the "East Cumberland Mining Company", worked from June 1866 until April 1874, being abandoned after producing 7 tons of lead and 15 tons of copper. From the letters, it is fair to infer that barytes was also produced. Since the average monthly cost sheet runs at c£50 the whole sum sunk in the venture must have exceeded £5000, without taking in to account the Company head office costs. For Victorian times this was no small amount of money.

The correspondence covers the working of the mine for the period 1870 – 1872 and consists of:

- a. Letters (usually weekly) from the mine manager (of the Vercoe family) to James Irving (addressed in a outlying letter in 1869 from the North British Colour Works as Secretary to the Mid Cumberland Mining Company).
- b. Monthly formal reports from mine manager to the Shareholders, which covers the same subject matter in subtly different tone.
- c. Monthly cost sheets.
- d. Some suppliers' invoices.
- e. A letter from 1875 concerning the attempt by James Irving to sell shares.

The fact that only one side of the correspondence is available is tantalizing. One wonders what level of instruction came back from the

Shareholders about developments. The initial manager letter signatory, J Vercoe, obviously the father of William J Vercoe (see the son's embarrassed reference to the father's account keeping in the letter dated 10th June 1870); later letters are signed by Charles Vercoe, possibly brother to William J Vercoe or indeed son, but there are no comments on the changes. James (Jas) Irving was clearly an important person in the operation; it would be interesting to know what shares he had been trying to sell in 1875 - the final letter in the series is from a stockbroker.

It is also worth noting the inspection carried out by "John Taylor Jnr" in 1870. The receipt, dated August 1870, is for the sum of £29 10 shillings, virtually 60% of a months' operation of the mine. An extant copy of the report would be fascinating to read.

Contents:

Mid Cumberland Mining Letters transcribed and searchable; contains two files:

Haygill Letters and Cost Sheets; consists of the Letters transcribed into printed form with the transcribed Cost Sheets inserted in the resulting document at the correct chronological points. Apart from the Cost Sheets a number of separate suppliers accounts are also included.

Index to Transcribed Letters and Cost Sheets.

Mid Cumberland Mining Letters in PDF form similarly contains two files: *Haygill Letters 19.09.68 to 11.09.75* provides scanned copies of the original handwritten letters, since the transcription process occasionally threw up ambiguous or unclear meanings; this allows the reader to consult the original document but avoids the need to travel or to handle

the originals, which are obviously quite delicate. In order to reduce the size of the file the blue background paper colour has been removed in the scanning process.

Index lists all letters with their dates.

Cost Sheets provides each transcribed Cost Sheet separated from the letters. Scans of the handwritten originals of the Cost Sheets and Accounts are not provided because their transcription proved straight forward without any problems of interpretation.

Lesley Aird, May 2005.

Price £12.00 including p & p from the Treasurer.

A History of Drumming out Levels in the late 20th Century

The following piece arrived with an unreadable postmark, signed 'yours Anon'. Whilst not favouring anonymous correspondence – indeed I go to some pains to make everything in the Newsletter attributable - it does contribute in a tongue in cheek way to the current debate concerning gating, whilst at the same time raising the issues of secrecy and of clandestine operations. Editor.

'In the latter part of the last century a splinter group broke away from the indigenous feline mine explorers, to form a more localised population of small furry underground explorers. They could be found twice a week roaming the fells with diggers and shovels at the ready to attack any unsuspecting level Later in the century a splinter group formed within this group who seemed to get more excitement from the actual engineering problems than in the exploration itself. Later this self righteous group reverted back to its feline roots and can still be heard burrowing away behind locked steel doors.' *(I take this to be a*

reference to the CATMHS dig on the Elizabethan levels at Silver Gill. Ed.)

'Some of the remaining furry animals at this point thought the then current policy of back filling and landscaping levels that had taken many days to open was a little short sighted, so drums were used to secure the entrance for 'future generations'. These various groups developed a competitive attitude to their explorations, leading to a degree of secrecy, which is honourably maintained today.

So you can see that Drumming Out evolved. It is not wrong itself, but is just a different approach to the same subject. The precedent for using drums was set a long time ago by the old men; examples can be found at Goldscope, and Helvellyn and others, maintaining access for 'future generations' but not compromising safety, with limited destruction to Archaeology and Landscape.



The entrance to the Elizabethan coffin level at Goldscope

Please note thirty drums are not thirty levels, as many levels had two or three drums to secure access. From Coniston to Ennerdale, from Iron to Slate, future generations may investigate safely, but sadly the levels opened but not drummed out have now collapsed and are lost for ever. With Drumming any disturbance to flora and fauna is soon restored naturally, as averse to

engineering adits which despoil the landscape with new spoil heaps and steel doors.

So, if when you are out and about and a spoil heap takes your fancy give it a little poke with your digger and you may be surprised to find it drummed out, so giving easy access and saving you a lot of effort.'

As Newsletter Editor I don't think that it is my place to comment, except to say that the writer seems to have an axe to grind regarding operations at Silver Gill, in the Caldbeck Fells. These were initiated by Warren Allison after extensive research by himself and Sam Murphy, which was published in the Trans CWAAS and also reported to the CAT 21st birthday celebration at Rydal. With permission from the authorities, Emmanuel level was dug open and gated. (see NL 62 and 71) Recently a backfilled internal shaft was cleared out by the CAT digging team. I would welcome comment by anyone prepared stand behind their conviction

Before including the above I sent copies to some of the people involved. Here is Warren Allison's response:

'I feel that it is about time that the correct story of Silver Gill was told and that the gate (as requested by the landowner) is protecting a level of National Importance, since the discovery of evidence of the earliest known primitive railway in this country, as described in Agricola. This has been confirmed by the expert in this country on these types of railway and the National Railway Museum in York is planning to pay a visit. There is still work to do in the floor of the level in uncovering further evidence and without the door, this would all be lost.'

Warren Allison

Flash Flood at Coniston Coppermines

On Monday 13th June(?) the water pipe which takes the supply from Levers Water to the water treatment plant burst, releasing a torrent of water down the fellside. The washout stripped off turf and soil, acting as a hush, and flowed through the spoil heaps and terraces at Paddy End cutting channels through the spoil revealing layer upon layer of crushings and waste and exposing numerous features.

Balfour Beatty were called in to deal with the situation, and I understand that English Heritage was involved, as this is an SSSI. Soil and turf were delivered by helicopter, and when these pictures were taken they were just finishing repairing the washed out area above the pressure relief tank near to Courtney's Crosscut. The water supply was maintained via a temporary blue pipe whilst repairs were being carried out to the pressure relief tank.

Planning permission had been obtained for 21 days to close the track to pedestrians and to divert it through boulder valley, but it seemed to have been drawn up by someone in an office who hadn't been there, and the map showing the route of the right of way was incorrect. In any case work occupied only a tiny part of the track which was very easy to by-pass.



General view of the wash out, with slabs from an old floor.

Photos Ian Matheson.



Water from a buried culvert has washed away part of a spoil heap.



Detail of the culvert.



Wooden water trunking exposed.



Covered wooden water leat.

Newland Furnace

A meeting of the Newland Furnace Trust committee was held at the Furnace on Thursday evening 12th May. It was a bright, sunny, but very cold evening!



The main business was to discuss arrangements for the Heritage Open Day which will be on September 12th, but it was also an opportunity to see the progress of the conservation work.

Scaffolding has been erected both inside and outside the building and work has been in progress for about three weeks. The Friday evening gang, Messrs Robson, Timewell and Sandbach have taken advantage of the scaffolding to remove much of the ivy from the walls

At some time in the past, probably about 1960, the front section of the barn had deteriorated to the point where it was removed entirely and a new front built of brick, perched on one of the wooden floor beams. This has been removed and the roof of the charging barn has been stripped, leaving the cruiks in place. The floor beams have been treated with preservative. They are about 18 inches square in section and span the width of the barn and are supported on corbels. Their ends have deteriorated so that the beams have settled below their original level. To re-instate them they will have

to be jacked up and the corbels enlarged.



The gable end before work started.



A start has been made repair the stonework where the barn meets the furnace stack and to re-build the front wall of the barn in its proper location, using a mixture of original and new bricks. The work is of high quality, and the results are already very encouraging



A photographic survey was carried out by Oxford Archaeology North before the work commenced.

Ian Matheson

Newland News.

Yes it did seem a good idea at the time, to hold our most recent Trust Committee meeting actually at the furnace. Well it was true that we hadn't a roof over our heads, but it would be a warm evening in the middle of May, wouldn't it? Well actually no, as the article from Ian describes, it was very cold and windy.

The first days by the contractor were occupied with slate removal and sorting, gable end removal and brick cleaning etc with little actual construction being evident. Construction really started with the removal of the "bulge" near the top of the furnace stack to allow positioning of the wall plate for the new gable end and floor extension. This was followed by extension of the side walls to eave height to correspond with the re-location of the gable, to where we believe it used to be. When the gable end was rebuilt, using mostly reclaimed bricks, the shape of the building was defined.



Roof timbers followed, again some new, some spliced, some original but the real "engineering" occurred when the large end floor joist needed to be lifted back into a horizontal position. It was the slump of this beam which had caused the gable end to lean and the roof to sag and "break its back". The beam was suspended from the roof while the ends, which had rotted, were

cut away and new timber spliced in reinforced by steel plates and bolts. The socket holes were rebuilt and the beam lowered back into place.

During this time we were able to make use of the contractor's scaffolding to tackle the ivy on the south wall which had been difficult to reach previously. The ivy was removed, any large roots drilled and poisoned and some stonework repaired, mainly by the "Friday Night" gang.

Additional flooring was needed both for the extension and also areas of rot in the existing floor using 3" thick boards to match, as nearly as possible, the existing floor. Sub contractors completed the re roofing using as much of the old slates as possible and this was followed by lime mortar (with added Chinese goat hair) torching to the underside of the eaves. Wood preservation treatment to roof and floor should ensure their long life.

The work is due for completion about the 15th. July and it is estimated that there will be an overspend of about £2000, 4% of the project (including fees, archaeological survey etc.). The overspend is largely due to an increase in timber and slates required and is a nett figure after allowing for some areas of saving during construction and the agreement of the Trust to complete the exterior wood treatment (purlin ends, door etc.). Our fund contributors have been informed (English Heritage, CCC, SLDC, and the Manifold Trust) and extra funding requested.

I would like to thank the CATMHS committee and members for their help and support for this restoration project during the last 16 years and particularly for the bridging funding made available during 2005.

John Helme

Meets

Forthcoming weekend meet at Wanlockhead, 27th/28th August.

"I remember when CAT used to go camping", somebody said at the committee meeting. Hence this weekend at Wanlockhead. It is some years since we had a meet in this area, so it will be good to renew our interest. Meet at the Museum at 11am on the Saturday (admission £4.95) to explore the mine and village. On Sunday we will look around other sites in the area. The villages of Wanlockhead and Leadhills that lie at the foot of the Lowther Hills were the centre of the Scottish lead mining industry up until the 1930's. The surrounding area was described as 'God's treasure house in Scotland' due to the rich deposits of minerals. Some members will be camping at the Castle View Campsite at Sanquar. Phone 01659 74387, please make your own booking. If you don't fancy camping, there are plenty of B & B's. Sheila Barker 01434 381903

Evening meets in Furness:

The evening meets in May and June were planned to look at surface remains in the Lindal Cote royalty. The story of the mines from the establishment of the Ulverston mining Company in 1838 to the second bankruptcy of Harrison Ainslie in 1913 was reported in newsletters 75 and 76.

High Crossgates, 18 May

Present: I Matheson, A Bryson, P Sandbach (ML) and dog.

This was a short walk between heavy showers. There was an old road, now a footpath, which ran from Maidenlands to High Crossgates. We picked it up from the Wildlife Park car park but the Giraffes and Wallabies had gone in for the night. Just past the Wildlife Park is a good place to look

around. The Wildlife Park and everything to the West was in the Millom and Askham Company's Tytup and Mouzel royalty. The spoil heaps at Colorado Pit have been levelled, the remains of the windmill are gone; there has been lots of earth movement above the Butts Beck tunnel. The line of the tramway has been dug out to make way for piggeries. To the East was the Eure Pits section of the Lindal Cote royalty. The Eure Pits sops were filled with spoil from the bypass and are now level farmland.

A little further on, the old road is marked by a fence, and there is no evidence that anyone has come this way recently. In 1888 we would have been walking on a wide road. On the left was the Askham and Mouzel tramway, working it's way up towards Marton. On the right was the narrow gauge track taking ore from High Crossgates No2 down through Eure Pits to Dalton sidings. The Millom and Askham Company's workings on our left were the site of a council tip in the 1960s and show no trace of their previous use. Only a hint of the narrow gauge line and the top of the arch where the Askham and Mouzel tramway passed under the road are visible.

The footpath comes out on the turnpike road from Lindal to the Black Dog. After taking a few paces towards Lindal, we stopped to look around. Behind us were the spoil heaps of the Barrow Haematite Steel Co's workings at Whitriggs Crossgates. In the far distance was the pillar at Grieveson Pit, marking the other end of the Lindal Cote royalty. Immediately in front of us was the site of High Crossgates No2 pit, once seen as the only viable mine in the royalty. It looked like a field of silage. Two fields away was the site of High

Crossgates No5. This mine was sunk on the orders of Edward Wadham. It was intended to drain the High Crossgates mines in a sensible manner and to reach the centre of the vein. It was never completed and there are no signs of it's existence visible today.

The mine plan BD/BUC/MP/50 is too dark to reproduce here, but it gives some indication of what went on. It shows Crossgates No2 pit at 329Ft AOD, the shaft to 70Ft BOD and the slope on the vein to 344Ft BOD. It shows Crossgates No5 pit with a proposed crosscut at 200Yds (360Ft BOD). It would have intersected the vein just beyond the area proved from No2 pit, but the only crosscut was at 134Ft BOD, heading parallel to the vein. The plan shows some workings at the end of a very long crosscut from Back Guards Pit, but they do not extend far. The projected line of the vein runs through to James Pit.

When, in 1883, Edward Wadham told the shareholders of the failing Ulverston Mining Company that they had the most valuable mining property in Furness, he was probably thinking of this vein. Today there is only good farmland. We took the road past the Melton Hotel (as was) and talked about it in the Black Dog.

Lindal Cote, 8 June

Present: M and H Simpson, P Flemming, A Bryson, A Westall, P Sandbach (ML) and dog.

The footpath leads straight up the hill from the roundabout. The spoil heap at the top of the hill is not from the mines, it was left from the excavation of the railway tunnel. From there, we headed towards the wood. Inside the wood, the footpath remained good until we reached a point above the

tunnel entrance, and then it disappeared. The right of way continues to a stile by the railway track, but it was impassable, and we had to take to the field. The buzzards were heard but not seen and no trains passed. The footpath comes to a dead end at Lindal Cote No2 engine bed, and I could not work out where this was when I last saw it. There were plenty of piles of limestone rubble ready for the crusher but nothing to show where two large Davey engines drained the water from the area. The owners were busy setting up for Sundays motocross event and did not warn us off the public footpath on this occasion.

There was nowhere to go but back the way we came. From the railway spoilheap we descended to Occupation Road. The sunken lane comes out above Standing Tarn, and from there we followed the tarmac to Grieveson pit, passing Lindal Cote No5 and 6 pits on the way.

The pillar at Grieveson Pit is one of the oddest sights in Furness. Built by a company facing it's second bankruptcy and only intended to carry spoil across the road, it was used for only four years but it has needed no attention since. Perhaps there were worked blocks on hand from Pindar Ring engine house and masons with no other work. It is the only evidence that there was a mine here.

We carried on towards Urswick for a hundred yards and then took the footpath towards the candle works. There were two pits on our left that I am unable to identify from the maps. On our right was a storage area for caravans. The caravans stand on a concrete base because Harrison Ainslie built their power station here in their

last attempt to save the company by electrifying the mines.

The footpath drops into a narrow valley with some traces of a concrete watercourse. Mine water was pumped from all the Lindal Cote mines to underground drainage tunnels which passed it first to Lindal Cote No2 pumps, then to Lindal Cote No1 pumps, which lifted it to the surface. Then it passed through this channel before dropping down into the Urswick water level. Further up the valley are the Lindal Cote North pits, but they are not on the footpath.

Returning to the road near Colony Candles, we crossed the railway bridge and returned to the cars via the A590 and the ex-Melton Hotel. From the A590 looking North, the tramway coming down from Whitriggs, past Back Guards and James Pit to the railway was still visible. Looking South, James Pit smithy still serves as a barn. On the way home, we stopped at the Black Dog.

Wildlife and Heritage Committee

The two meet reports above describe some of the changes going on in the Furness landscape. It is not a new subject. The relic survey was inspired by wanton destruction at Crossgates tunnel in 1992. As a direct result of that project, two mine structures were saved. Many more were recorded and some of those are now demolished. The size of the project proved larger than our energies and it remains unfinished.

My own view is that we should not complain too much about the infilling of collapse craters or recovery of aggregate from spoilheaps. This will continue, either formally or informally, whether we like it or not, and it is better that a subsidence is filled with legally tipped rubble than with old sofas and dead sheep. If Harrison

Ainslie had needed to apply for planning permission, landscape restoration would have been a precondition. Tramway lines, engine beds and mine buildings are a different matter. They mark the site where ore was shifted and the raw materiel was provided for Barrow, the West Midlands and South Wales. If there is nothing left to show where (say) High Crossgates No2 stood, the stories told in mine reports and mine plans become meaningless. We need to use our influence to see that these things are preserved.

One area of influence is the Wildlife and Heritage Committee, an advisory committee to Barrow Borough Council. When it was reconstituted last year, I was nominated to represent CAT. So far, their deliberations have been largely concerned with dog fouling and places west of the Town Hall, but the future of the minescape between Roanhead and Plumpton is within their remit. I would like to resign, because I need to go out to work.

So is there any CAT member willing to put forward their views on what should be preserved and how, available to attend about four meetings a year at Barrow town Hall? If so, please contact me.

Bad Language

I was obliged to use an offensive word in my last article, for which I apologise. I think that it used to mean the skills and artefacts left by previous generations. It now appears on every other tin of processed food and most advertisements for theme parks. Avoid it.

Peter Sandbach

Highfield, July 13

Present: A Bryson, A Westall, D Robson, P Timewell, P Sandbach and dog.

From the roundabout, we walked past the scrapyard and the garden centre to Occupation Road. I had brought seccateurs to deal with the brambles in the sunken lane, but someone had got there first and the way was clear. We crossed the Urswick road to Standing Tarn. It consisted of three muddy pools, as shown on the (undated) estate plan. The fences in the middle of the tarn are usually underwater, but they indicate the division of mining royalties. The eastern side of the tarn was in the Duke of Buccleuch's Lindal Cote royalty, the northern edge, where the footpath runs, was in his Crooklands royalty and the west side was in the Crown Estate's Highfield royalty.

A little further up the hill we came to the remains of Highfield mine. There was some broken ground, a shallow pond, some small spoilheaps and the site of two shafts. John Clegg had the lease in 1867 and sold it to Thomas Massicks in 1870. Thomas Massicks was a partner in the Cumberland Iron Mining and Smelting Co, and they worked the mine from 1875 to 1883, producing about 4000 tons/year. CIMSC merged with the Askham and Mouzel Co in 1890 to form the Millom and Askham Co. They renewed the lease in 1893 but no ore was produced after 1883.

There was more broken ground on the other side of the fence. This was in the Crooklands royalty and worked by Denny Brothers. Mathew Denny and Co had a takenote for the area in 1854, but it was not converted to a lease until 1866. The lease was in the name of the Dalton Mining Co, consisting of

Mathew and John Denny, Stephen Hart Jackson and Benjamin Nicholas. Following the death of Benjamin Nicholas and the ill health of John Denny and his son, the mine was sold at auction in 1880 to Myles Kennedy for £21,500.

The first Myles Kennedy died in 1883, but it was worked by his executors and heir (the second Myles Kennedy) until 1892. The Cornish engine left by Denny Bros was unable to cope in winter at a depth of 103Yds and repeated trials of new ground found only disappointment. In 1890, Mr J W Lawn considered the purchase for Barrow Haematite Steel and advised against: "Messrs Denny discovered the mine in good times and worked the best part of the deposit before they parted with it. Some years ago, Messrs Kennedy bought the mine Since that time it is not supposed the working of the mine has been a profitable undertaking." The Dalton Mining Co sent out 22,600 tons of ore in 1877. In 1889, production was down to 6,600 tons.

BHS took the lease in 1899 and sank four trial pits but found little of value.

From Highfield, we followed the mineral railway to it's junction with the Stainton branch. The bridleway runs next to the Stainton branch line, but where the branch line used to be a cutting is now a level field because it was filled in by Cliff Hindle.

Across the road, the railway line is either destroyed or inaccessible, but an old road runs parallel. We followed this for a short distance to some concrete pads in the field on the left. Ore from Woodbine pit was sent away by an aerial ropeway to the Stainton branch at Longlands. This was the

base of the last ropeway pier at this end.

Returning to the road, we took a look at the site of Longlands. Longlands mine is unusual in that it was worked for the Duke of Buccleuch, by his agent, Edward Wadham, so the mine reports for Longlands are Wadham & Co reporting on their own work. It worked from 1865 to 1881, but the mineral statistics indicate that the only significant production was the 3,000 tons raised in 1873. The New Engine shaft was sunk in 1871. Paul told us that the engine house was standing when we started the relic survey, but was rebuilt as a bungalow shortly after. Some of the barns started life as mine buildings. The brick building contained a smithy, cart house, office and change house, the stone building was the joiner's shop.

The highlight of the walk should have been the lower end of the Stainton branch line. It is an S shaped curve on an embankment with a steep gradient. Two bridges survive intact, but the party seemed more concerned about a big black bull, and the field was crossed at a good pace.

The last leg of the walk was not without interest. There was a vertical boiler in a disused market garden, the Old Dalton Grammar School, the Miners Arms, now disused and crumbling; there was the remains of a tunnel under the old A590 where the Butts Beck tramway met Dalton sidings. Then there was Crooklands Garage. If I wanted a car to polish

instead of one that would get me home, then this would be my first stop.

Peter Sandbach.



*Plan of Crooklands Estate,
BD/BUC/40/5/6.*

References

The Red Earth, David Kelly
BHS mine reports, BDB47 Box 6
The Mineral Statistics, R Burt et al.

Furness Furnaces Meet, June 12th

MLs Ian Matheson and Alan Westall, Mike Mitchell, Mark Simpson, Peter Sandbach, Maureen Fleming, Angela Wilson.

We met at Satterthwaite, just down the road from the Eagles Head, as the parking there was difficult, and followed Allan Westall to Rusland to view Stoney Hazel Forge. Before setting off Allan told us a bit about it and gave us some diagrams of the site based on the work of Mike Davies

Shiel. These helped a lot in interpreting the remains, though we were puzzled by references to ore storage bins, as we had thought that Stoney Hazel was a finery, built for processing cast iron, not for smelting ore. However Mark Bowden, in the English Heritage book *Furness Iron*, (in the CAT Library) suggests that it was used simultaneously both as a forge and as a smelter. There are remains of bins with some red staining. We were intrigued by a small square hole in the wall of the hearth which it has been suggested may have been either a hole for passing iron bars into the forge or for part of the bellows mechanism. We were impressed by the size of the mill pond structure, now dry.

From Stoney Hazel we drove to Cunsey, and walked up the bridal way which runs through the site. Having looked at the remains of the building which was recently excavated and conserved by Oxford Archaeology North, (*See the report made to the 2004 LDNPA Archaeology Conference, NL 74 page 12*) we spent some time prospecting the area where the furnace had been situated. It was built in 1711 and closed in 1750, but there are extensive banks of slag and furnace waste, remains of a dam and some masonry where, it is thought, the water wheels had been situated. It would be easier to interpret the site in the winter when there is less vegetation.

We went to the Anglers Arms at Haverthwaite for lunch. Alan had the three course Sunday lunch, but didn't have time for his pudding, which was slow arriving!

Next stop was Backbarrow Furnace. Here planning consent has been given to build offices and work units on part of the site, and to convert the surviving

buildings for domestic use. The archaeological core – comprising the furnace stack and surrounding structures and the rock-cut ore store – will be properly conserved as part of the development and has been offered to the National Park Authority for management.

First we went to look at a building in the woods above the railway line. At some time this has been given a curved corrugated iron roof, but there is now a small birch tree growing through it. The upper floor seems to have been used as a charcoal store, and there is still a quantity of charcoal inside. The ground floor seems to have contained a large water tank. It is boarded up, but some metal work can be seen at one end and a six inch diameter pipe protrudes from one wall. It was suggested that its purpose was to supply a water lift, used to raise materials up to the railway.



Part of the iron ore store, with the rail track above.

Down hill from the railway are the charcoal barns and the impressive iron ore store. Some conservation has been done here, and the store has been re-roofed with a modern aluminium roof.

A railway track runs through the barns at high level so that ore was tipped

Down hill from the railway are the charcoal barns and the impressive iron ore store. Some conservation has been done here, and the store has been re-roofed with a modern aluminium roof.

A railway track runs through the barns at high level so that ore was tipped direct from rail trucks into the hoppers. Outside is a stone crusher, the remains of a weighbridge, and what seems to have been an iron surfaced shovelling floor. On the next level down is the furnace stack and its associated buildings.

Not much has changed here, though there is some evidence of survey and minor conservation work. The iron work of the coke fired smelter within the furnace stack continues to deteriorate. First we looked at the huge Lancashire boiler which sits outside, whilst engineer Mitchell explained how it worked. The steam was used to power a large horizontal steam engine driving an air pump which supplied the blast furnace. This machinery is all in situ and is in relatively good condition, though the bronze bearings have been removed and the asbestos pipe lagging is not in mint condition.



Backbarrow Furnace, showing the re-roofed barns behind the blast furnace and boiler. The horizontal steam engine is in the main foreground building. Molten iron was cast into pigs on the flat area to the right of the picture, but the casting house has long since been demolished.

Some of the party could remember when all of this was working. It closed down around 1968 and the site was allowed to become derelict. What a wonderful museum it would have made had it been treated with the same foresight and imagination which led to the preservation the Stott Park Bobbin Factory, itself built on the site of an older forge. At the north end of the furnace site is a building housing a large pelton wheel generator, and we were able to get in round the side of the sliding door. Everything is still in place, all the machinery just as it was when it was working, although the passage of time and of intruders have caused some deterioration.

Our final visit was to the Newland Furnace. Peter Sandbach had the key and let us in to view the progress of the restoration work, which is reported elsewhere in this Newsletter.



Inside the charging barn at Newland.



*On top of the Newland Furnace stack.
Ian Matheson*

CAT and CLHG trip to Elterwater and Lingmoor, May 22nd.

We had promised ourselves a fine sunny day for the trip to Langdale, so you can imagine my disappointment when I woke to steady rain and cloud down to the village. But fortunately the weather improved as I drove over to Langdale to meet up with members of CAT and the Coniston Local History Group at Elterwater village. The plan for the day was to spend the morning on a tour of Elterwater Quarry and then head off to view some quite early slate workings on Lingmoor above Langdale.

Our guide at Elterwater was to have been Donald Kelly, manager of the quarry. It was Donald who had led the CAT trip to Broughton Moor Quarry a few years ago. Unfortunately Don was laid up with a bad back but his place was taken by his son Ian, who also works at Elterwater, and grandchildren Sophie (6) and Charlie (4).

We assembled at the small office and museum at Elterwater and followed Ian down the steep quarry road to the quarry bottom. Ian spent some time explaining the present working of the quarry and how the individual clogs of slate were removed from the face and handled. Despite automation and the use of big machines the skill of the quarryman is obviously still paramount and their eye for the bane of the rock and for the natural faults is essential.

After over an hour we all climbed back to the quarry rim and Ian answered everyone's questions. Eventually it was time to take our leave so we thanked Ian warmly for the tour and his hospitality and also thanked Sophie and Charlie for allowing us to use their dad on a Sunday morning.

At this point quite a few of the CLHG also returned to Coniston but a group of about 20 keen explorers headed off to view the workings in Sawrey's Wood and climb up to the 'ring-garth' on Lingmoor. On the way Treasurer Aird was despatched to explore and check on a number of old workings in Sawrey's Wood and caught us up later with stories of sizeable caverns and easy through trips.

We continued our climb along the former access road to Oak How quarry until we reached the base of the incline up to Lingmoor Edge Quarry. This incline is little known and quite remarkable. It is extremely steep and, at the head, is a sizeable winding drum-house. From this point old workings stretch along the crest of Lingmoor, both in an east and west direction. Above is the ring-garth, the ancient Norman manorial boundary. The view over the Langdale Valley from here is extensive and one can see most aspects of the valley's history from ancient times to the present day. Langdale was once a proud and well-populated valley but, sadly, is on the verge of becoming unsustainable because of the rapid loss of homes to the second home market.

We left this high viewpoint and returned the same way. On our way up Maureen Fleming had become concerned about a lamb we had seen that appeared to have a broken back leg. She was planning to take it down Keith Rowan, the farmer at Bays Brown farm. As it happened Keith's son had already come up on his quad to collect it so a detour was unnecessary.

The final part of the day involved a short walk over to Owlett End where a number of small underground workings were inspected. Shortly before we got back to the cars we stopped to check out a small level-entrance beside the road. Treasurer Aird volunteered to wade along the level, which was partially walled up at the entrance. We waited while the noise of John wading along the tunnel got fainter. Eventually we couldn't hear him at all. We stood there for quite some time. An elderly lady in her Sunday best walked past. 'Yon's water supply for youth hostel' she murmured and kept on walking. We thought of the flavour that John's sweaty socks would impart on the hostellers' tea. After a while we heard him wading back. He climbed out to inform us that the tunnel was about 250 yards long; which means that John had probably walked right underneath Elterwater Quarry!

The day ended in the only way possible with a drink in the sunshine outside the Britannia at Elterwater.

Alastair Cameron

Book Review

'The Great Laxey Mine', by Andrew Scarffe, published by the Manx Heritage foundation. Hardback, 14" x 10", 232 pages. Many B&W and coloured illustrations, maps and plans.

Today there are many new books on mines and mining. Every so often one comes along which truly is a 'must have', and this is such a book. Given it's highly subsidised price it must be the bargain of the year.

'The Great Laxey Mine' may only tell the story of one mine, but what a story it is. We are taken right through from the very earliest efforts up to the present day and the work of the Laxey Mines Research Group. To them we owe our ability to traverse the deep adit all the way to the remains of the man engine in the Welsh Shaft. The delightful locomotives *Ant* and *Bee* are re-born, something which none of us who knew the originals only from pictures can believe. I suspect that what has driven the research group is not just a desire to regain access to parts of the mine, but a pride in their Manx heritage. In this book you will meet many colourful characters, such as G W Dumbell, 'the Great Laxey Dictator'; biographies are given of some of them

The Lady Isabella waterwheel is a major tourist attraction in the island, so many people who know nothing of mining will have visited the mine site. With this book in hand (or not: it's a very substantial handful) anybody going there hereafter can really make sense of the place and enjoy it. This book would be well worth the money for the text alone. With the illustrations added it would be a bargain at twice the asking price. Buy it while you can, for you will regret it if you don't.

Peter Hay.

Brief report on visit to Honister and Dubbs workings.

In June John Hodgson and Alastair Cameron visited the Honister and Dubbs workings to carry out a thorough inspection of the pre

1890 surface features and to start the task of reviewing the industrial archaeology of some of the sites 'at risk' in the Lake District.

We were blessed with a fine and warm day and, before heading up the Drum House path, stuck our heads into the show-room at the Hause to explain what we were doing.



Dubbs Cottage with the Buttermere fells behind. On the right of the cottage are the office and smithy, now derelict. On the left are the stables behind which (and out of site) are the remains of the horse gin used to bring tubs of slate up from No 1 Level

There are a number of features of historic importance in the area of Honister. We noted that Mark Weir was working to re-establish the external incline on the face of Honister Crag. The lower section was lost in the 1930's by over-tipping from the Road End entrance above. Mark is now removing the spoil which will allow the whole of the external incline to be studied again. This seemed to us to be a mammoth but extremely worthwhile task.

We left the Crag and walked up the quarry road towards the old Hopper workings. Our second point of interest was the remains of the Sam Wright 'Roads'. These magnificent paved and graded tracks were built by Sam Wright, quarry lease holder, during the early years of the 1800's. They were designed to make cartage of slate from the workings as easy as possible. They were also designed to assist the sledge-men returning to the workings with their empty sledges on their backs. The routes of the 'roads' (and there are quite a few of them) have never been surveyed properly by the specialist groups.

The Royal Commission for Historic Monuments, who carried out an extensive survey of Yew Crag and Dubbs in 1997 didn't include them in their report at all, as they didn't even know they were there!

An important feature of the 'roads' is an elevated section of track carried on slate-built arches. At one time it was possible to walk along the whole section but we were saddened to find that, since I was last there, the fine arching has collapsed and this section of the road was derelict. Perhaps if we had been able to point out the feature to the Royal Commission some of the funding could have been directed to consolidate the stone-work and prevent the collapse.



Remains of the elevated section of Sam Wright's Roads, sadly now collapsed. Yew Crag Incline is in the background

We continued along the quarry road eventually arriving at Dubbs Quarry. One good piece of work carried out by the Royal Commission was to repair and stabilise the Cottage. This feature, in the wild setting of the quarry, with the backdrop of Haystacks and Red Pike is one of the most 'atmospheric' scenes in the Lake District, although, no doubt, the Friends of Lakeland would like to demolish it all and return the landscape to its pre 1800 state.

To the right of the cottage is the old smithy and also Sam Wright's office. At the time he was working slate in the area this was the only substantial building in the whole of his lease. To the left of the cottage are the

remains of the stables in front of which is the site of the horse gin that was used to draw tubs of 'made-slates' up the incline from No 1 Level below. Four horses were stabled at Dubbs, and when they were not operating the gin they were used to haul slate along the rail track to the Drum House at the summit of the fell. We studied all these features. The large securing bolts that held the gin firmly down on the ground are still in position. The rest of the structure has been removed, possibly at the same time as the rail track was removed during the war.

All three levels at Dubbs are now blocked but No2 level was re-opened by CAT members some time ago and is draughting well. We inspected the top of the ventilation shaft and I remembered the discussions we had many years ago as to why the cross sectional profile was triangular. I don't think we ever came to a satisfactory conclusion to this one.

Having completed work at Dubbs we returned along the route of the tram-road. The old Drum House, in which one could once shelter from the weather, is now no more than a pile of stones. In my father's old diaries there are several references to the Drum House operating. I am sure that there may be some veteran fell walkers alive who have old photographs of the structure as well. Perhaps Peter could put a request in the Fell and Rock Journal to see if any members can provide some. Lying in the heather near by are the remains of the brake mechanism which were the only controls on the whole incline. An interesting feature of the mechanism is that the brake could be applied which ever way the lever was moved. This will have been because the drum could rotate either way. It has been suggested that the brake-man could see the full length of the incline to the Hause from the Drum House. All I can say is that he must have been very tall as in practice this would not be possible. It is much more likely that he relied on marks on the wire rope to show when tubs of slate had reached the terminus at the Hause.

Alastair Cameron.

The Last Years (of the London Lead Company)

The last few years of the Governor & Company (London Lead Company) are a bit of a mystery as the minute books stop after November 1899, the last minute book being missing. Unfortunately, the Index to the letter books referred to by Arthur Raistrick is also unavailable. Some light can be put onto the situation if other documents are referred to, newspaper reports and the records of the Crewe Estates.

In 1900 James Hyslop the agent for the Crewe estates reported that the Lead Company had employed 194 men and raised 2477 Bings 1 cwt of ore, for the year ending 31st October 1899. For the year ending 31st October 1901 these figures had fallen to 107 men and 1858 Bings 2 cwt of ore raised.

The returns for the 31st October 1902 show an increase in the amount of ore delivered 2039 Bings 2 cwt, but they also show no men employed

In 1902 the Lead Company informed James Hyslop that they intended to close their works in October of that year. In September the Company had started to dismantle their equipment at Coldberry and Lady Rake mines.

The newspapers give the next items of interest; the Hexham Courant reported in the paper dated 12th December 1903:

£33,000 for Teesdale miners

"The London Lead Company having relinquished the lead mining Royalties in Teesdale, and the Governor and Company having wound up the concern, the question has arisen as to the disposal

of the Miner's Fund, which had at one time accumulated assets to the value of about £100,000. The London Lead Company handsomely subsidised the workmen's contributions from time to time, but are now giving up the management and control of the fund, which is now estimated to be worth £33,000. A private meeting has just been held, attended by about 300 members of the various branches, when it was resolved by a majority of sixty that the fund be dissolved. It is understood that the distribution of the fund will be effected through the Court of Chancery¹."

In order to find out what exactly was happening I looked to the Times Law reports for an answer.

The Times Law Reports vol. 20 Chancery Division (Warrington J) 9th May 1904

Unregistered Society-Winding up-Jurisdiction of Court-Right of pensioners in society-"Indefeasibly entitled" to weekly payments.

The Court held that it had jurisdiction to wind up the society and to settle a scheme for the equitable distribution of the assets and that the words "indefeasibly entitled" did not mean that the pensioners were indefeasibly entitled to the weekly payments whether the funds of the society were sufficient or not.

The plaintiffs in this action, who sued on behalf of themselves and all other members of the above named society who were under the age of 65 years, claimed a declaration that upon the true construction of the rules of the society and in the events which had happened,

the members of the society who had attained the age of 65 years in March 1904 were not entitled to a first charge on the funds of the society for their pensions of 6s a week in priority to members who had not attained that age, and to have the society dissolved and its affairs wound up under the direction of the Court. The circumstances giving rise to the necessity for this action were shortly as follows: -

The Governor and Company for Smelting down Lead with Pit Coal and Sea Coal was established by Royal Charter about 1700², and formerly carried on extensive mining and smelting works in the North of England. In the year 1817 a society for the benefit of the workmen in the employ of the Company was founded called the Lead Company's Workmen's Fund Society³, to which the company made considerable contributions during the early stages of its existence. No deed of any kind was ever entered into by or on behalf of the company with reference to this society, but the funds of the society stood in the name or in the books of the company, and the society was managed by a general committee in accordance with printed rules, which were varied from time to time, the latest rules being those sanctioned in 1891; the Governor and Company being the trustees of the fund.

The objects of this society were to promote and establish union, friendship, and mutual assistance among its members, and to provide for them, by means and out of the society's funds, aid towards a comfortable subsistence in times of sickness and old age, and other benefits and advantages as thereafter mentioned in the rules. Membership was confined to regular workmen,

agents, clerks, and others in the employment of the company. The members on their admission paid fines varying in amount according to their respective ages on the day of admission, and a yearly contribution of 30s to the society's funds until they attained the age of 65. The benefits given by the society to its members by rule 22 included an allowance of 7s a week to every member who had not attained 65, was confined to his bed by sickness or infirmity, with a smaller allowance in the event of partial incapacity, and then the rule proceeded as follows: -"Every member upon attaining the age of 65 years shall cease to contribute to the society, and he can then no longer claim any allowance for accident or sickness but shall become indefeasibly entitled to a weekly allowance of 6s for the remainder of his life, whether in sickness or in health, and without being under any restriction as to work, and such weekly allowance shall not be liable to forfeiture under any of these rules." There was a provision for excluding a member from the society if his subscription was in arrear for a year, and for stopping the allowance for malingering, intemperance, or misconduct, and other reasons defined by the rules. The society was never registered under the Friendly Societies Acts.

Owing to a fall in prices the company discontinued working their mines, surrendered their royalties, and were now selling off their property. The local officials of the company in the counties of Durham, Cumberland, and Westmoreland had all been discharged and the company had ceased to carry on business, and no longer employed any workmen, and no new members of the society had been admitted since 1899.

The invested funds of the society now consisted of some £32,000 Consols⁴ standing in the name of the company. There were at present 439 members of the society of whom 88 had attained the age of 65 years; and it was admitted that with no new members coming in, the society was insolvent, and that if it continued to pay the 6s a week pension to the members who had attained 65 out of its capital, and also to make the usual sick-pay allowances, the younger members of the society would probably receive nothing. The matter came before the late Mr Justice Byrne in March last, when he considered it desirable that the opinion of the members should be ascertained as to the desirability of a dissolution. A circular with a voting paper attached was accordingly sent out convening a meeting for this purpose, with the result that 54 pensioners and 250 non pensioners voted for a dissolution by the court and 29 pensioners and 31 non pensioners voted against a dissolution in any form either by the Court or under the Friendly Societies Act. The main question now raised was whether the Court had jurisdiction to make any such order; and there was also a further question as to the meaning of "indefeasibly entitled to a weekly allowance of 6s for the remainder of his life" in the case of members who had attained 65 years.

Mr Norton, K.C., and Mr MacSwinney, for the plaintiffs, contended that the society was in effect a partnership, and could be wound up by the Court. True the partners were numerous but they could be divided into classes, and each class could be, and was, separately represented; and they submitted that if each class was represented, as here, a

decree for dissolution could be made without having all the partners' parties.

Mr Cave, K.C., and Mr Adler, for persons representing the pensioners voting for a dissolution, supported this argument, and further contended that all members who had attained 65 were indefeasibly entitled to receive a full 6s a week for the rest of their lives, whether the assets of the society were sufficient or not; and that a dissolution would not effect their rights in this respect.

Mr Rowden, K.C., and Mr Stokes, for persons representing pensioners and non pensioners who had voted against dissolution in any form, argued that it was a misuse of words to call an association of this kind a partnership, and that there was no jurisdiction to order a dissolution and no precedent for such an order.

Mr T H Carson K.C., and Mr A J Spencer appeared for the company.

Mr Justice Warrington, in giving judgement, said the question raised was a somewhat difficult one, but he thought he saw his way to doing justice between the members. The question was whether he was entitled to make an order to wind up the affairs of this society and to make an equitable distribution of its assets. No authority directly in point had been cited; but he came to the conclusion after careful consideration of "Pearce v Piper," 17 Ves., 1, decided by Lord Eldon, in 1809, that he had jurisdiction to make such an order. The evidence was plain that if the society was allowed to go on making payments, it had hitherto made the younger members of the society would get nothing. The Court had, in his opinion, a right to interfere, and see that an equitable

distribution of the fund was made. His Lordship, after stating the facts and the rules, accordingly made an order for the dissolution of the society, and referred the matter to Chambers to settle a scheme as to the rights of the members in the fund. With reference to the claim, of the pensioners who had attained 65, his Lordship came to the conclusion that "indefeasibly entitled" meant indefeasibly entitled notwithstanding the provisions in the rules as to exclusion and forfeiture, not indefeasibly⁵ entitled⁶ whether funds were sufficient or not, as of course the rules assumed that the society would have sufficient funds. These weekly allowances were therefore liable to reduction in proportion to the insufficiency of the fund. Pending the settlement of the scheme the pensioners might continue to be paid, and would have to account for these payments when distribution was ultimately made. As the company were anxious to be relieved from further responsibility, his Lordship at the request of all parties interested, appointed two more trustees of the fund, and directed the Consols to be transferred to them. [Solicitors-Ridsdale and Son, for W. J. and H. C. Watson, Barnard Castle; Clarke, Rawlins, and Co.]

The next reference to the Lead Company comes in an advert, which I found in the Times newspaper, which helped to clarify the situation.

The Times 30th June 1904 page 1

Re Lead Company's Workmen's Fund Society.

Pursuant to a judgement dated 9th May 1904, of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, made in the matter of the trusts of the trust funds of the Lead Company's Workmen's Fund

Society, and in the action Lowes and another against the Governor and Company for Smelting down Lead with Pit Coal and Sea Coal and others 1904, L. No. 429, whereby the Court declared that the affairs of the Society ought as from the 1st May 1904, to be wound up and that the rights of all parties beneficially interested in the trust funds of the said society ought to be ascertained, and such funds distributed by and under the direction of the Court and whereby it was ordered that a scheme for the division of the said trusts among the parties beneficially interested therein be settled by the Judge and pursuant to an order dated 11th June 1904, whereby the Judge dispensed with service of notice of the said Judgement upon the members of the said society who were not parties to the action, and instead thereof ordered that advertisements be published once in the London Gazette, once in The Times, and twice each in Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper, the Penrith Observer, the Teesdale Mercury, the Darlington and Stockton Times, and the North Star (published at Darlington), giving notice of the said Judgement and of the proposed scheme for the division of the trust moneys and of the date when the same would be settled, and that a copy of the said Judgement and of the proposed scheme be sent by post, prepaid to all such members whose addresses were known to the plaintiff's Solicitors.

Notice is hereby given that the Judge has directed that the SCHEME of DISTRIBUTION of the SOCIETY'S FUNDS shall be settled upon the principle of return to the Members of the Society as existing on the 1st May 1904 of their contributions, including fines of

admission, but irrespective of fines or payments in respect of sick pay or weekly allowances or other benefits and without interest. And notice is hereby also given, that the scheme for the division of the trust funds among the parties beneficially interested therein will be settled in accordance with such direction, and that Wednesday the 27th day of July, at 2 of the clock in the afternoon at the Chambers of Mr Justice Buckley and Mr Justice Warrington at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, is appointed for the settlement of the said scheme.

Richd. White master
Ridsdale & Son 5 Grays Inn Square,
London. Agents for W. J. & H. C.
Watson, Barnard Castle, Durham,
Plaintiff's Solicitors.

The final reference that I have as yet been able to discover is the following from the Hexham Courant of the 21st January 1905.

Teesdale Lead Industry

Distribution of the Provident fund

"The closing of the London Lead mines in Teesdale necessitated the dissolution of the provident fund established in 1817 in connection with the works.

The Company on its dissolution applied to court for an order as to what should be done with the money accumulated. An order was accordingly made that each living member of the Society should receive the amount he paid in. This has now been done. In September, a sum of about £23,000 was disbursed amongst the odd 4300 members. This left a sum, after taxed costs of the suit, bankers charges, medical officers fees etc had been paid, Messrs Barclay and Co, giving every facilities for the payment in

cash of a large portion at Middleton-in-Teesdale and for the payment of the balance at Barnard Castle on Friday. The Teesdale lead industry is now almost a thing of the past."

For background information, I include brief information about the Working Men's Fund.

Working Men's Fund

Friendly societies were to the miners a form of insurance, they protected them from the hardship which could result from illness or old age; without this their only other source of help would be from Parish relief. The Company had their own benefit fund for all its regular employees. In a resolution of 1810, they established a fund for the 'Relief of maimed and decayed Workmen' employed by the Company. The men ran it as a traditional friendly society, themselves with a subsidy from the Company. The problem that such societies had was to maintain a balance between income and the money paid in benefits; many societies collapsed due to such an imbalance. In 1827, the fund became insolvent; the payments made being too large for the fund. The fund was taken over by the Company and membership was made compulsory for all employees.

Before the Company took over the Workmen's fund the fund committee paid for a medical officer, but the Lead Company decided that they would take over complete responsibility for supplying medical help. The first appointments were made at Nenthead and Middleton in Teesdale:

"Resolved that the Medical Gentlemen in the said districts be allowed the use of

respective houses rent free and the salary of the Surgeon for Teesdale be Three hundred pounds a year and that of the Alston Moor One hundred and fifty pounds a year from Midsummer day.”

On Thursday the 5th September 1833, the Court authorised the payment of £200 per annum to the Workmen’s Fund. The annual payment of 30s by the men was deducted from their pay. In 1834, the benefits were 8s to the sick per week, for the first six weeks and 6s there after for as long as the illness lasted.

The sound financial state of the fund is recorded in a minute of the 29th January 1884. “Letter from Mr Bainbridge of the 24th instant with reference to the Workmen’s Fund.

I have the pleasure of informing you that at a meeting of the members of the General Fund Committee held at the Company’s office here yesterday it was unanimously Resolved that the proposition of the Court made in their communication of the 15th instant for investment in 3 per cents of a further sum of £25,000, or the balance resting in their hands at 31st December last as they may afterwards decide upon the sum involved to be placed in the names of four directors as before, the dividend upon such investments to be credited to the Workmen’s Fund account as received while the interest now paid by the Company at the rate of four per cent will cease from the date of the investment, be sanctioned and approved. And that an expression of grateful acknowledgement and thanks be conveyed to the Court for their continued countenance of the objects of the fund.

Resolved that £27,732 3s 2d be invested in consols for the Workmen’s Fund.”

On the 31st October 1884 the book-keeping of the Workmen’s fund was transferred to the Fund committee, this committee was to take over full responsibility for the running of the fund.

Dave McAnelly.

¹ Court of Chancery, the Lord Chancellor’s Court, a division of the High Court of justice, which ruled, on equity cases, which had no solution already, established in common law.

² By a Charter dated 4th October 1692 (4th year of William & Mary)

³ A. Raistrick in Two Centuries of Industrial Welfare, page 40, describes the formation of a society in 1755. The Company minutes of 6th December 1810 recommend the formation of a fund for the miners, and the minutes of 25th October 1827 record that “The Court agreed with the recently returned deputation to the North that great advantage would arise to the concern at large if the Workmen’s Fund be placed upon a proper foundation for the future provision not only of the men in the Company’s employ who may be disabled from labour by sickness but also for the benefits of widows and children after their deceased.” On The 31st October 1884, the books of the workmen’s fund were transferred to the care of a fund committee. This committee was to take full responsibility for the running of the fund. The minutes of 17th February 1885 LLC 34 record that the balance of the Workmen’s fund resting in the Company’s hands on the 31st January was £58,170 14s 7d.

⁴ Consols; a fund formed from the consolidation of Government annuities, investments were a loan to the government which paid a set rate of interest; hence 3% consols.

⁵ Indefeasible - not to be made void

⁶ Entitle - to give right

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 21st March 2005 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston, starting at 2.30pm.

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 Meet Report | 8 Newsletter |
| 9 Publications | 10 Library |
| 11 Coniston Coppermines | 12 Hudgillburn |
| 13 Mines Forum meeting | 14 CATMHS website |
| 15 Date and venue of next committee meeting | 16 Any other business |

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

The meeting commenced at 2.30 pm. 10 members attended.

1 Apologies for absence from: - None.

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 17th January had been previously circulated to members, it was **PROPOSED** by IM 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 3.1 PF reported that our plans for conservation of the tub had been put on hold, as the owner (T. Brown) had decided to handle the conservation personally, then present the tub to Colony Candles. We have returned the tub.
- 3.2 Item 3.2 PF reported that P. Meredith had presented a proposal regarding the project, which had been accepted. Work to begin Sept/Oct. S. Dickinson's project would not be carried out this year, but would be fitted into his schedule at a future date.
- 3.3 Item 11 DB had decided to name members featured on the slides, he needed a slide of MM at Levers Water Mine.
- 3.4 Item 3.3 Goldscope Mine was discussed. JB to attend the next meeting with the Nat. Trust.
- 3.5 Item 15.1 MM had provided the photographs and arrangements have been made for the sale of CATMHS books. MM would take copies of the Coniston CD. CATMHS members have been granted free admission to the site.

4 Secretary's Report

Received since last meeting:

- 4.1 LDNPA – Asking for volunteers to serve on the Local Access Forum. No interest.
- 4.2 NAMHO - The 2005 AGM and council meeting was held on 12th March at the Castle Inn, Highley. The 2005 annual conference will be held near Box Hill, Dorking on 8-10 July. The booking forms are available on the NAMHO website. It is proposed to publish a new edition of the NAMHO Handbook in 2005. IM to complete the form and send a suitable photograph.
- 4.3 Carlisle Record Office are thinking of moving to a new site in Harraby, SB had filled in and returned a consultant's questionnaire.

5 Treasurer's Report

JA presented his report and the balance sheet covering the period from 18th January to the 21st March, the current a/c stood at 2220.18 and the Scottish Widow a/c at 12400.00. Income for the period was 938.97 and expenditure 560.19.

JA would informed the committee when he had paid the first installment of the interest free bridging loan (up to the sum of £7,500) to the Newlands Furnace Trust, to cover the period between them paying the contractor for roof repairs and the reimbursement of the expenditure by English Heritage (probably April/May 2005).

6 Membership Secretary's Report

Three members of the Local National Trust management team had joined. IM reported that we had lost 10% of the membership, through the new insurance arrangements. The rules have again been adjusted; members now only need insurance (either surface or underground) with one organisation. Concern was expressed regarding the lack of BCA cards for this year. JA will look into the matter.

7 Meets Report

The next meets list was drawn up.

8 Newsletter

The next newsletter, meets list and a copy of the CATMHS Health and Safety Policy will be sent out to members in May.

9 Publications

IM was still awaiting the result of an insurance assessment for the books lost due to flood damage. 80 copies of LMH and 98 Journal No. 5's had survived. 'A Walker's Guide to LMH' was discussed. IM would get printing estimates and write a draft chapter as a template.

PF had found a new book wholesaler in Torver, he will call to see them.

10 Library

IM reminded the committee that we had overrun the agreement period with the Armit Library. The Curator was pleased with our use of the library. In future we may have to pay towards the cost of keeping our collection there. A decision would be delayed as they are undergoing management changes.

11 Coniston Coppermines

JA reported that the 15th January meet at Coniston had bolted the stope below Earthquake passage allowing others to reach the bottom of the stope subsequently. PF had submitted the final report on the Levers Water Mine project, MM had provided a CD of photographs taken at all stages of the project. The 17th May was the suggested date for all who have been involved in the project to visit the mine, to see the finished article. Insurance will have to be arranged.

12 Hudgillburn Mine

The work meet arranged on 20th February was cancelled due to snow, another will be arranged. A request had been received from 3 CAT members to take mineral samples from the mine. It was decided, when we first re-opened the mine that artifacts and minerals would remain undisturbed, this policy remains.

13 Mines Forum meeting

MM had amended the proposed CATHMS policies, which are:

- a) Field Research Policy
- b) Safety Policy
- c) Risk Assessment for Underground Visits

These documents (which will be presented at the next Mines Forum meeting) were discussed and further amendments suggested. It was **PROPOSED** by PF "that when these amendments are completed, they would be adopted" (copies to be sent out to all members, especially meet leaders). **SECONDED** by JB, all were in favour.

14 Date and venue of next Meeting

To be held on 16th May 2005 at the BMSC Hut, Coniston, at 6.30 pm.

15 CAT web-site

BCA are now offering a web service, JA will ask for details.

16 Any Other Business

16.1 An email to the chairman from Jon Knowles (JK) was discussed.

A) JK disagreed with remarks made by the chairman in his annual report. The offending paragraph follows "It goes without saying that we cannot condone members having their own explorations that are not sanctioned by the landowner and statutory authorities. If folks persist in doing this I would suggest that the society is not the place for them".

To address this problem two papers 'CATMHS Field Research Policy' and 'CATMHS Policy on Visiting Sites' had been drawn up by MM and JA respectively, these were discussed and amendments suggested. With these amendments completed JA **PROPOSED** their adoption, **SECONDED** by MM, all were in favour (see attached papers, which will be circulated to members).

B) JK also raised the subject of gating levels, suggesting that the purposes for gating levels should be: for conservation, safety or if a landowner requested us to do so. Each situation should be considered as it arose. The North Pennine type gate was considered to be most suitable (opened with a spanner). If gates were to be locked, CATMHS should have keys. All were in agreement

16.2 IM suggested we should join MOLES and WCMRG, he would make enquires.

16.3 IM had looked after the CAT drill for two years, but felt the system had broken down recently. He was willing to carry on, if the maintenance programme was adhered too. This is: IM will do charging (drill to be kept by him), MM will do mechanical maintenance, JA will buy bolts and hangers. The drill is only to be used by members on official CATMHS projects and meets. This includes Silver Gill.

16.4 PF had been contacted by an author who was hoping to publish a book about the Furness Iron Industry. It was agreed he could look at the Furness Survey.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

SB 29/03/05

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 16th May 2005 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston, starting at 6.30pm.

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 Meet Report | 8 Newsletter |
| 9 Publications+Slate from Coniston | 10 Library |
| 11 Coniston Coppermines | 12 Hudgillburn |
| 13 Mines Forum meeting | 14 CATMHS website |
| 15 Date and venue of next committee meeting | 16 Any other business |

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

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm. 9 members attended.

1 Apologies for absence from: - J. Brown (JB).

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 21st March had been previously circulated to members, it was **PROPOSED** by IM and **SECONDED** by JA 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 4.2 SB would fill in the form, MS would provide a photograph.
- 3.2 Item 16.2 IM had arranged a newsletter swap with WCMRG, MM would contact S. Cresswell regarding a swap with MOLES.
- 3.3 Item 8 IM had sent out the NL and meets list, the H&S document was not finished.
- 3.4 Item 16.1(B) JA had contacted Jon Knowles informing him of the committee's agreement to his remarks.
- 3.5 Item 16.3 JA had purchased the bolts and drill bits, to be kept with the drill.

4 Secretary's Report

Received since last meeting:

Letter from the LDNPA Property Manager (Janet Moss) regarding Mandall's Slate Office, they had no record of CAT paying the annual rent (which we had). JA had contacted her and sorted the matter out. The LDNPA hope to sell the car park at Mandall's for housing, which would mean our landlord would be the developer. SB to look at planning application.

5 Treasurer's Report

JA presented his report and the balance sheet covering the period from 18th January to the 21st March, the current a/c stood at 2220.18 and the Scottish Widow a/c at 12400.00. Income for the period was 1919.21 and expenditure 6361.33.

JA informed the committee that he had paid an interest free bridging loan of £5.000 to the Newlands Furnace Trust, to cover the period between them paying the contractor for roof repairs and the reimbursement of the expenditure by English Heritage. JA had received a letter from the Trust saying they would repay the money as soon as possible. All members had received their BCA insurance cards.

6 Membership Secretary's Report

IM reported that we had 94 paid up members.

7 Meets Report

Nothing to report.

8 Newsletter

IM had sent out the NL in May, he had not received any responses to the gating article. The CAT printer had failed after doing good service (30,000 sheets). He had replaced it with an Epson C86. The committee thanked IM for producing another excellent NL.

9 Publications

IM reported the result of an insurance assessment for the books lost due to flood damage was negative. A. Cameron (ADC) had reported progress on the re-printing of 'Slate From Coniston', he had almost re-written the book, there were more than 50 photographs, and many more diagrams. The best quotation had come from Ebenezer Baylis and ADC had been to discuss details with them. Retail price was discussed (not to be printed on book) some thought 11.99 and some 12.99. To be discussed with ADC. JA would take delivery of the books and IM would hold 500 copies to distribute. The committee expressed their thanks to Alastair for donating the profit from book sales to CATMHS funds. JA said the Haygill papers CD was now complete, a price of £10 was decided, to be advertised in our NL.

'A Walker's Guide to LMH' was discussed. IM to write a draft chapter as a template. The possibility of reprinting 'Lakeland's Mining History' was discussed, IM would contact Dave Sewart.

10 Library

The Curator was leaving the Armit Library. In future we may have to pay towards the cost of keeping our collection there. A decision would be delayed as they are undergoing management changes. The original Haygill letters to be deposited in the CAT collection.

11 Coniston Coppermines

MS reported that he had been up to Levers Water Mine with JA and PF to clear the fall at the portal, the roof of the level did not appear to be damaged. The mine would have to be inspected regularly. PF reported he had a site meeting at the mine with J. Hodgson and the local Ranger on 19th April. They saw the amount of fencing put in place by Rydal Estates. They also went across to see the fox trap, and hopefully the Nat. Park will do some consolidation work on it. The 17th May meeting was cancelled.

MS remarked on the continuing deterioration of Middle Level Incline, the revetment wall at the foot of the incline is now missing and rapid deterioration was setting in. SB was asked to write to J. Hodgson expressing our concern, MS would provide photographs.

12 Hudgillburn Mine

The work meet to be arranged to dig a drain above the mine.

13 Mines Forum meeting

The following policies were discussed:

- a) Field Research Policy
- b) Safety Policy
- c) Risk Assessment for Underground Visit.

Amendments were discussed. MM had been working with S. Cresswell of MOLES, further amendments would be made. MM was thanked for his work on the draft policies.

Proposed work at Goldscope was discussed, a site visit must be arranged to decide on the method of work, before a proper proposal could be drafted. MM would attend the Nat. Trust conference in Birmingham.

The next meeting on 1st July at 10.30 would be at Coniston, with an afternoon visit to Levers Water (A hand line will be required). SB to book room at John Ruskin Museum.

14 Date and venue of next Meeting

To be held on 4th July 2005 at the BMSC Hut, Coniston, at 6.30 pm.

15 CAT web-site

No progress at present.

16 Any Other Business

IM had attended the Newland Furnace Trust meeting. The contractors had been working for three weeks. They have removed the charging house roof and hope to finish this work at the end of July. The top of the stack may also need some work.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

SB 1/05/05

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

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