

CAT

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



No. 82

February 2006

Cover picture

John Aird retrieving some pipes from the Rampgill shaft to build a bridge across the shaft. The picture was taken during the Nenthead Weekend meet on 22nd November 2005, and has been copied from the new CATMHS web site, www.catmhs.org.uk.

Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society

Newsletter No 82, February 2006.

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Society Officers and Committee members.

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CATMHS AGM & Dinner

The annual dinner was held as usual at the Crown Hotel, Coniston. All the Committee members were re-elected, with the addition of Jon Knowles, who has agreed to take on the task of Meets Secretary.



*Members of the Committee, relaxing during the AGM at the Crown Hotel.
Photo: Ken Geddes*

CATMHS Chairman's 2005 Report

Another year another AGM – This year has been much quieter than the last, although we have had a full meets list and looking back I have been on a fair few of them. However, although some meets were well attended others that were organised for the summer - Faggersgill, Wanlock Head, etc - were not supported, thus indicating that meets at this time year are a waste of time. A meets list has been compiled for the first part of next year, and you all should have the information, but, if you wish them to continue, support them.

One of the big issues at the beginning of the year was gating and access. This discussion rumbled on for some months and has appeared in the CATMHS newsletters.

Silver Gill and Levers Water mine projects have been finished and we are now looking round for more. Early this year we endeavoured to obtain permission to open the Goldscope

Coffin level but were refused inspite of an excellent project brief by Peter Fleming. It seems that holes and the public do not mix in any circumstances. In North Wales the great Knowles Abergeffeni Slate mine exploration has progressed and I am given to understand will produce a 600ft descent through trip. Sometime in 2006 a trip will be organised to this site.

The active membership - well those who usually turn up for meets and projects - still turn up, new faces are welcome and may even be talked to. However, as Ian says, we are a bit thin on the ground, so much so that I hope that we can do justice to the projects that are mooted for next year. These are Kernall Level at Coniston, Middleclough Level at Nent Head, possibly Force Crag, the Paddy End Dressing Floors and others.

Another mighty project has been the formulation of a Health and Safety document, a substantial piece of work put together by Mike Mitchell in conjunction with MOLES and the National Trust. This applies to Work meets and, it has to be said, some people are not happy with what is in it. So much so that we may not have anyone willing to take meets and carry out projects. Accordingly a meeting is to take place involving those people who use H&S documentation with the aim of resolving this problem.

So where does that leave us – do the drummers win? H&S issues will not go away and we do have to operate under a H & S policy involving risk assessment. This subject has occupied your committee and others for many hours. Financially we are in a good position, as you will see from John Aird's Report. Book sales are slow but steady and we are considering the next publication. The Newsletter is excellently produced

demand. Membership is down and increased subs that include third party insurance have not helped. It is steady as we go, but the problem of attracting new active members is not going to disappear. Your committee will always strive to run the society to best of its ability and I am proud to serve with them, but obtaining enough people for meetings sometimes gives cause for concern. If there is anyone out there that has any bright ideas, come forth, your hour has come. I will stand for Chairman one more year, and will be available to serve on the committee after that time if required. Thank You.

Mark Simpson, Chairman

Note that the Chairman has moved house again. After threatening to emigrate to darkest Wales he has in fact re-located about two miles down the road, just outside Alum Pot. Ed.

CATMHS web site

Chris Cowdery has taken on the job of running the CATMHS web site, and is doing an excellent job. Go to www.catmhs.org.uk and you will find the home page. Under membership there is information about our history and constitution together with membership forms. Under Activities you will find brief details of our ongoing projects, a list of forthcoming meets and a photo gallery. Under resources there is reference to our archive at the Armitt Library, a contents list from the latest Newsletter, a publications list, links to other societies, including NAMHO, and email links to the CATMHS Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Meets Secretary.

Still in its early stages it is already a first class site. It is up to us to supply Chris with information to enable him to keep it current and up to date.

Dear Mr Newsletter Editor

I was concerned with the absence of our new meets secretary from the AGM. I was told he was busy doing something else that weekend. The next day I went



to Portugal where I believed I spotted him at a distance. Is this what he does when not at CAT AGMs?

Your Dutch correspondent, NL

The National Trust refuses access to Force Crag Mine

The meet to Force Crag will not now take place as shown in the meets list. This is a disappointment after all the efforts to produce H&S Documentation acceptable to the National Trust and making a formal request to visit the site.. A more detailed answer to our request would have been welcome, and one is left wondering about the worth of all the Mines Forum meetings.

This also takes me on the fact that CATMHS voiced concern about the lack of access to Level 1 for safety and drainage checks in order to avoid the risk of a larger 'House of Water' than the one that currently exists between Level 0 and Level 1. A reply was to be given within several weeks of the last Mines Forum meeting. To date none has been received.

Mark Simpson.

CATMHS Health and Safety Policy

A lot of thought has gone in to health & safety policies. The document produced by Mike Mitchell that was accepted by the National Trust and the LDNPA will apply for work on their properties. CATMHS are also developing policies for use on general meets. Colin Woolard and John Brown have produced an excellent draft that was discussed at the committee meeting on 16th January. It will be circulated to members when finalised

Public Liability Insurance 2005-2006

The BCA from whom we obtain PLI run the insurance year in tandem with the calendar year, so if you have renewed your membership of CATMHS you have insurance cover appropriate to your membership status even if you have not received your card.

I have dispatched cards to all of you who have remained in the same membership status as last year. Anyone in this position who has not received his or her card should get in touch with me. Those of you who have changed membership status or who have just joined **are insured** but will not receive your cards for some time. The reason is that either replacement or new cards have to be produced as well as the record system having to be brought up to date.

After the considerable increases in premiums we have seen in recent years the BCA are to be congratulated on managing to negotiate a reduction in premiums this year. The underground figure per person has gone from £18 to £15 and the surface figure from £6 to £5. The cost of covering our liability where we control access to mines (i.e. Hudgillburn and Leverswater) has reduced from £100 to £50. The cost of the Society's subscription to the BCA and the BCRA remains at £65. From

these figures it can be seen that last year apart from individuals premiums we incurred costs of £165 and that this year costs of £115 totaling £280. It is to recover this sum that the Committee has decided to leave subscriptions at the current rate for 2005-2006, fully realizing that those with underground cover are making the greater contribution. I am afraid it would be completely irresponsible of me to suggest that subs will go down next year but one can always hope!

John R Aird, Treasurer.

Geo-archaeological study at Levers Water, Coniston.

In conjunction with CATMHS the Earth Sciences Department at UCL (UCL-ES) proposed a geo-archaeological field study in the Copper Mines Valley, Coniston, using non-invasive techniques to locate buried or underground remains. Victorian workings have obliterated much of the evidence of earlier activity either by mining them away or by covering them with mining waste. Natural erosion has also contributed to this process.

Nevertheless several underground workings attributed to the 17th century still exist and more are believed to be buried beneath spoil heaps or scree. Documentary evidence records an Elizabethan adit some 80 yards long driven below Simons Nick to de-water Levers Water Mine. Since the adit was cut into solid rock we believe that a substantial portion still exists, buried, and indeed protected, under waste from later mining operations.

A grant for the project was not approved by University, partly because they had many more applications than usual resulting in a higher than normal rejection rate. Nevertheless we hope to carry out a preliminary study in May.

Elliscales Engine house demolished

At the last meeting of the Wildlife & Heritage Committee, I raised the question of Elliscales No5 engine house, which is about to fall down. They offered moral support, but threw it back to me to approach the owner and apply for grants. So I approached the owner. He said that he was about to demolish the building and would not accept voluntary labour to try to stabilise it. He said that it was now unstable, and that I should have asked 5 years ago. Since then, the building has been partly demolished. Another landmark has gone.

Peter Sandbach

Richard Hewer has retired and is off to New Zealand for three months. Whilst there he hopes to visit the Caromandel Gold Fields. Have a good trip Richard, we look forward to reading your report.

Keswick Mining Museum

The museum at Keswick has gone from strength to strength in its new and larger location. CAT members are invited to the annual open day, which will be held on Sunday 5th March. At 10.30 there will be a guided walk to Goldscope mine, (meet at Littleton) and the museum will be open from 12.30 pm. Ian Tyler's latest book, Goldscope and the mines of Newlands Valley, will be presented, followed by a free buffet.

Mandalls office under threat?

Approximately twenty years ago, in what seemed to be the last phase of re-development of the Coniston railway station site, the old weigh-bridge was demolished in order to make way for a car park. The only original building left was a small dilapidated two room slate building which had been the office for Mandall's Slate Company.

The Mandall Company purchased the lease to the Old Man Quarries in 1841

and extracted slate until 1959, when it was taken over by the Lakeland Green Slate and Stone Company, which was in turn absorbed into the Burlington Company. Wanting to preserve the old office, CAT rented it, mended the roof and gutters, made it secure and cleared the undergrowth. Sheila Thomas repainted the old sign. It has no services, no electricity or water supply, but we have kept it ever since, carrying out periodic maintenance and using it as a store for ropes, mining equipment and materials. Once we even held a small exhibition there.

The car park, now owned by the LDNPA, is now to be developed for housing. Mandall's Office is adjacent to the car park and will be part of the package. The principle of housing on the site is approved, and the LDNPA wishes honour their commitment to encourage affordable housing for local people by disposing of the land with price and occupancy restrictions on any houses built there. To this end they are seeking a co-operative group to take on the task of building the houses and managing the property, including the slate rock face which forms its western boundary. This was quarried out by the railway company and carries a road on top of it. There are concerns regarding its stability and the LDNPA are currently spending a lot of money to stabilise it, using three metre long rock bolts and steel netting.

Whatever the final outcome, it seems that the old Mandall's office is under threat. It is not in the way of any prospective building, but the LDNPA do not want to be left with it, and it seems to me that it would only be an embarrassment to any housing association, requiring maintenance etc. If we are really serious about wanting to conserve it then perhaps we should try to buy it. IM.

Abstracts from the NAMHO Interim Newsletter, Dec-Jan 2005/6

NAMHO research seminars

The next in the seminar series will be topic based:

Working with Coal; its History and Archives

at the Coal Authority HQ in Mansfield, 21 January 2006 starting at 10:30.

There will be no charge for the seminar but Peter Claughton would appreciate notification if you are attending just to gauge the level of interest.

Lunch can be obtained at a local pub. The Coal Authority HQ are in Lichfield Lane, Berry Hill, just to the east of the A60 immediately south of Mansfield. A map is available on the Internet at - www.coal.gov.uk/contact/

Forthcoming events

Keswick Mining Museum Open Day. 5 March 2006

Northern Pennine Silver: Where and How? 8 April 2006

A seminar to be held at the North Pennines Heritage Trust Centre, Nenthead, Saturday 8 April 2006

Although the quantity of silver produced during the 12th century can be estimated with some confidence we do not know the precise location of the workings. Neither can we be certain as to the nature of the ores worked, where they were processed, nor the quantity of lead which might have been produced as a by-product. Information is available on the organisational structure under which mining was carried out but there is currently little to indicate how it fitted into the social framework and upland agricultural practice.

This seminar is being held to consider the evidence for silver production and discuss how our understanding of mining in the area during the late medieval period might be advanced. The intention is to hear

presentations from all those with an interest in the area - geologists, historians, archaeologists and mine exploration. There will be no charge for the seminar itself - lunch will be available in the Centre café.

If you are interested in contributing, please contact Dr Peter Claughton, Blaenpant Morfil, Clynderwen, Pembrokeshire, Wales SA66 7RE;

tel. 01437 532578;

e-mail P.F.Claughton@exeter.ac.uk

To book, please contact Sheila Barker.

Dragline open days in 2006 - Friends of St Aidan's BE1 159 Dragline

18th April, 17 June and 9-10 September - 2-4pm For more details contact Paul Thompson 07889 286634

30 April 2006 - An open day is going to be held at King Edward Mine, Troon, Camborne This is the day after the Trevithick Day celebrations in Camborne.

3-13 May 2006 - Exhibition - Carn Brea Mining Society and King Edward Mine at the Cornwall Centre, in Alma Place, Redruth. From Wednesday 3rd May to Saturday 13th May 2006, we will be staging an exhibition about both Carn Brea Mining Society and King Edward Mine at the Cornwall Centre, in Alma Place, Redruth. During this period it is intended to launch 'Friends of King Edward Mine'. The Mine Museum will be open and there is every chance that the stamps will be run sometime during the morning.

If last year's day was anything to go by there will be something for everyone. There should be a display of static engines and old cars. The Great Flat Lode Pasty race is not for the faint hearted. It will be a chance to meet old friends & possibly listen to a local male voice choir.

20-21 May 2006 The Friends of Killhope are having a Mineral Exhibition weekend as part of the Northern Rocks North Pennine Festival of Geology and Landscape. This will be held in the Town Hall, St. John's Chapel, Weardale. Light refreshments will be available. For more information, please contact Ian Forbes at the Killhope Lead Mining Museum. telephone: 01388-537505 e-mail: Ian.forbes@Durham.gov.uk

9-11 June - NAMHO Conference 2006, Mining in the Landscape.

Llangollen, 9-11 June 2006

The conference booking forms will be available on the Internet at <http://www.namhoconference.org.uk>. you don't have Internet access, telephone Andy Wood 01743 718668 and ask for the forms to be sent by post. Early booking is advisable as this should be a popular conference and the Saturday night dinner will be restricted in numbers.

The organisers are looking at the possibilities for further events at sites in the north-east Wales / border area during the week following the conference.

30 September 2006 Advance notice is given of a Day School to be held on Saturday, 30 September 2006 in the Town Hall, St. John's Chapel, Weardale. This will be a joint venture between the North Pennine Heritage Trust and the Friends of Killhope. The topic will be "Recent Industrial Archaeology in the North Pennines". It is hoped to produce a publication in due course. For more information, please contact Ian Forbes at the Killhope Lead Mining Museum, telephone: 01388-537505, or e-mail: Ian.forbes@Durham.gov.uk

9-17 October 2006 - IMHC 2006

The International Mining History Congress in Belgium, 9-17 October 2006 - there has

been some delay in making the details of the Congress available please keep checking at - <http://www.miningheritage.org>

Red tape stymies £300m Nenthead mine bid.

That was the headline in the Hexham Courant 11 Nov. 2005. Apparently a Canadian company was considering investing in exploratory work with a view to opening up a new zinc mine but has been deterred by the area's designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the planning restrictions that entails.

Auditing and digital capture of non-coal mine plans

NAMHO officers are considering a proposal for co-operation with the British Geological Survey (BGS) on a bid for funding for the indexing and digitisation of non-coal mine plans

Pendeen Community Heritage

News about Geevor.

"Our current lottery bid is being assessed and we will know the result by the new year. This will cover building restoration and a new museum. We have now got the County Council committed to the next phase - visitor access to the modern Geevor workings, which the Lottery won't fund. This will be funded by various schemes. The idea is that the underground will generate sufficient revenue to make the site self-sufficient."

AGM and Council meeting

The Annual General Meeting is at 11am on Saturday 18 March, to be followed by a Council Meeting, and will be held at The New Inn, Cononley (direct trains from Bradford and Leeds, travellers using the Carlisle or Lancaster lines need to change at Skipton). Observers are always welcome at the AGM and at Council meetings

Postscript to the pithead article in the November issue

Further enquiries were made by council auditors in to BAE systems and a visit was made to another area of the site. At the end of August I was informed that a pithead model had been found which appeared to be the one in the article.



I took a day off from work to make a visit to BAE and was shown into the first building inside Kings Gate. In one of the storerooms surrounded by redundant equipment was the pithead which appeared undamaged. I made enquiries to Millom museum to see if it could be moved there, the dock museum offered to pay for its relocation as some form of recompense for the trouble we had been put to. I brought the subject of this up with Lindal Church PCC and the Vicar was keen to have it on display in the church which suited me, as I can do the further work on it which I intended to carry out should it have remained in the museum. In addition to this, it is only a hundred yards from where my uncle built it.

The next week I took another day off to oversee the loading and transport to the church. As it happened it was already on the van when I arrived so it was just down to me to show them where it was going. On examination in the church noticed that an axe was

missing (of which my uncle only made one) and a couple of the picks and shovels. This however, is a small price to pay for its return, as I still have some of the other picks and shovels to put on the model.



Should anyone wish to examine the model in situ, arrangements can be made with me and I will be happy to open the church for that purpose. No firm decision has yet been made regarding its final destination although it looks as if it may remain in the church.



My thanks go to all those I have previously been in touch with who offered to keep a look out for it whilst it was still missing. Richard Quirk.

Archaeology in the Lake District Conference 2005

The fourth annual conference, organised by the Archaeology Department of the LDNPA, was held once again at The Lakes School, Troutbeck Bridge on Saturday 26th November. The event was fully subscribed, and there were 11 CAT members attending. Everything ran very smoothly apart from the heating system which, apparently, was switched off. There was no one available to turn it on and as a result many people complained of the cold. Delegates have since been offered a discount on next year's event.

Archaeology in The Lake District National Park 2004-5. John Hodgson, Senior Archaeologist, LDNPA.

There were no field work results to report; this had been a year of consolidation and preparation of policy documents and strategies. National Archaeology week in July had been a success and the LDNPA had operated guided walks at Duddon Furnace. The Lake District Environment Strategy is ongoing; work includes protection of stone axe sites. With assistance from volunteers the LDNPA hopes to launch a photographic record of archaeology in the National park and to provide improved information on the web site.

Support for local archaeological and community projects through the Local Heritage Initiative. Amanda Searle, The Countryside Agency.

The Local Heritage Initiative is a grant giving scheme in partnership with the Countryside Agency and the Nationwide Building Society. It will close in March 2007, though it is hoped that the Heritage Lottery Fund

will take it on. Its aim is to fund groups who want to explore aspects of heritage in their local area. Grants are available to such groups and the LHI will give support at pre application form stage in order to help applicants fit the criteria and improve their chance of success.

Exploring Lower Eskdale – In the Footsteps of Mary Fair. Alan Vicars, Eskdale & District Local History Society.

The Eskdale & District Local History Society, formed in 1988, set out to retrace the steps of respected local archaeologist Mary Fair, that she recorded in an article (CWAAS 1938 Vol XXXVIII), entitled "A Group of Remains round Eskdale Green". After visiting the sites they decided to apply for a grant to have them investigated using modern techniques of surveying and recording. Oxford Archaeology North agreed to be in charge of the landscape survey, geophysical survey etc., and also suggested that it would be a sensible idea to enlarge the area to include most of Muncaster Fell.

The Society has received a lot of help from Susannah England, the NW representative of the Local Heritage Initiative Fund of English Heritage, and has until February 2008 to rediscover and record with 21st century instruments all the sites which Mary Fair recorded in her notebooks. More information can be found on their web site: www.edlhs.org.uk

The Re-Opening of Levers Water Mine. Mike Mitchell and Dave Bridge, CATMHS.

Mike gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the work done by CAT to re-open and stabilise the entrance to Levers Water Mine, with slides

showing progress from the outset to completion. This was followed by Dave's presentation which used the survey that he and Mark Simpson have accomplished, together with photographs, to illustrate the geology and geomorphology of the site, showing very clearly how the mining activity has followed the complex vein structure.

Bale Sites Smelting in Yorkshire & Cumbria. *Sam Murphy.*

A bale is a wind blown furnace, consisting of a dish shaped depression in the ground with an outlet in one side for the molten metal. Bales were usually built in elevated places to take full advantage of the wind. Basically one builds a wood fire, puts lead ore on it, and the lead runs out onto the ground.

There are over 100 sites in Swaledale, recognisable by pollution scars. They are all close to mines, exposed to the wind and have good routes to wood supplies. They date from 110 to 1500. There are a number of sites in the Lake District, mostly in the Caldbeck Fells. Carbon deposits at Long Hall Bale at Calebrack have been dated to 1080, 1100 and 1140, which might tie in with the 12th Century silver mint at Carlisle, silver and lead being associated.

Rock Art in Cumbria. *Kate Sharpe.*

Techniques of laser scanning are being used to record prehistoric rock art. Some Cumbrian sites were scanned in 2004. At Castlerigg no further carving was detected, at Long Meg some grooves were suggested as natural, and results from Copt Howe have not yet been analysed. More information can be found on the web site www.durham.ac.uk/prehistoric.art

Two new sites consisting of lots of cups carved on glacially smoothed Skiddaw slate were found in 2003 near Crummock Water, at High Park and at Syke Park campsite. In 1999 several sites were found in Patterdale, notably in Tim Cooke's garden, consisting of cups and grooves carved on Borrowdale volcanics.

It is suggested that distribution of prehistoric rock art may be situated on ancient route ways. There could be links with Anglesey and the Isle of Man. Kate showed some slides showing an alignment of the Copt Howe Boulders in Langdale with the sun on the horizon, suggesting that perhaps there might be a sacred connection, possibly related to the nearby stone axe factory sites that date between 4000 and 2000 BC.

Monks, Farmers & Raiders, The Early Medieval Period in the Lake District. *Rachel Newman, Oxford Archaeology North.*

The Romantics see the Lake District as a natural landscape, but in fact it is entirely man made to the very top, and was industrial four, five and six thousand years ago.

Kingdoms formed from fragmentation of the Roman rule but were in trouble by the 8th or 9th centuries due to the Vikings. Sites are recognised from finds and structures. There are more than 30 in the Lake District consisting of casual finds and stone crosses.

The trees were cleared during the Roman period and did not re-generate. Pollen from peat deposits show that major clearance took place near Haweswater between 533 and 687, with trees being replaced by barley, wheat and flax.

The distinctions between the Romans, the Dark Ages and the Viking period are blurred. The Romans didn't leave, they changed; barbarians became different without being aware of it and early sites were re-used. Radio carbon dating is essential in order to understand these changes.

Conservation and Interpretation at Force Crag Mine. *Jamie Lund & Penny Webb, The National Trust.*

The development of the mine was illustrated with the aid of some excellent graphics using four time slices:

1839 -1881. At first lead was mined. Level 3 was the earliest, in 1839, then level 1 in 1849 and level 4 in 1867.

1906 – 1933. A small mill was built in 1906 to process zinc, and was replaced in 1909. It was powered by a pelton wheel using a header dam and pipe leats.

1939 – 1952. There was massive investment during the third period. The High Force workings were opened and the arial ropeway installed. A third mill was constructed

1960 -1990. In 1961 the mine was re-opened and a new entrance was cut to Level 1. Level 0 was refurbished in the 1960's and again in 1970. The New Coledale Company operated the mine between 1984 and 1990, but the mine was declared abandoned in 1991.

The mining landscape was to be swept away and the valley restored to its natural state. However, in 1999 the National Trust carried out a survey and the mine was designated a scheduled monument. Spoil heaps which had been quarried for roadstone in the 1960's had to be stabilised. The mill

was refurbished and the machinery conserved. It is hoped that some machinery that was sold off can be returned. The project won a 2005 Conservation Award for Context Engineering at Force Crag, which was presented at the British Museum in London. The NT are researching the social history of the mine, encouraging local participation and compiling an audio archive. Leaflets and a panel display have been produced, and guided visits are conducted on selected dates during the summer months.

Forthcoming Meets

**Ellesmere Port Boat Museum,
25 June**

If I can make an advance booking for 10 or more, we can pay the group rate of £4.95 (children £3.25).

Items of mining interest at the museum include:

The patent slip: The sloop *Lorn* was built here in 1864 for Harrison Ainslie. The raddle wharf: Ore from Ulverston and Barrow was transhipped here for the Black Country.

The clay warehouse: China clay from Cornwall for Staffordshire came via Ellesmere Port.

The engine house: Lancashire boilers, stationary engines, high pressure water pumps and a hydraulic accumulator tower.

The power hall: More engines and pumps. The pumps include Tangye pumps and a three-throw ram, as used at Burlington pit.

There is enough to see at the museum to spend the whole day there, but I hope to stop first at Eastham to see the locks at high tide and the masting berth.

Peter Sandbach

Coniston Coppermines an art form?

The Curator of the Armit Library and Museum phoned me recently to say that a visitor would like some help to look at the Coniston mine plans in the CATMHS archive and so a few days and a few emails later I met Rebecca Chesney.

She is an artist working on a project with Grizedale Arts in Cumbria, and is researching the Coniston area wanting to make a map. It will be very abstract and will be presented in the form of a drawing. She is looking at boundaries in the area, not particularly physical ones, but more about land ownership, funding, wards etc. During her research she had become really interested in looking at maps of the workings of the Coniston Copper Mines.

I spent about three hours with her, and whilst she found the mines interesting from our point of view, her focus was more on the patterns of the geology and of the mine workings as depicted on the plans. Her recent exhibition at the Lowry in Manchester entitled 'Nightfall', looks not at Lowrey's art, but at what happens in this man-made urban environment after the final curtain falls and the last car pulls away. It is about the fear and uncertainty of what lies or creeps in the dark. So don't expect anything to do with mining, or indeed about any conventional boundaries, but a much more unusual, and perhaps intriguing approach to mapping.

IM.

Meet Reports

Greenside Sunday 20th November

I knew things weren't going my way when I tailed that coach again on the road to Ullswater. I arrived at the

Youth Hostel car park after collecting the keys on the way, and was filled with confidence at seeing all those familiar faces. They were keen to get started securing the troublesome boulder and John Aird, sporting his shiny new camera with built in gyroscope to overcome shake, finished his photo-shoot before departure.

Andrew Woollard started in advance to unlock the Lucy Tongue Level. He then returned the keys to be used at the Glencoyne Level by John Aird, John Ashby, John Brown (life can get very complicated) and Roger Ramsden. Going into the Lucy Tongue Level, taking wire rope, gripples, drills, ropes etc., were Jon Knowles, Peter Fleming, Bill Patten, Mark Simpson, Andrew Woollard and Colin Woollard.

Fast forwarding.... (Ed tells me I only have half a page) we arrived at the Glencoyne Level, spent ages in thigh deep, numbingly cold water. It was then clear that both keys were for the Lucy Tongue Level and the gate was not going to open. Conscious of others starting to worry, we removed our SRT equipment, picked up the rope bags, (funny how they're always twice as heavy on the way back) sped down to the Lucy Tongue Level and in to join those awaiting our arrival at the bottom of the ladder-way. Yes, we can all be wise after the event and it should have been obvious that both keys were identical! There was time for JK, JA and JA to start bolting the ladder at Warsops.... Colin, Andrew and Roger continued to remove material from the base of the Willey shaft. Mark, Peter and Bill went investigating the Lucy shaft and Mark took photographs.

Another meet to complete this task is planned. There will be a report with photographs in the next newsletter.

John Brown.

**Nenthead Weekend
Rampgill, 22nd October 2005**

John Aird (ML), John Ashby, John Brown, Chris Cowdery, Jon Knowles, Bonnie Smart, Mark Simpson (part time)

The group's luck with the weather in the North Pennines continued, low cloud and heavy rain being much in evidence. This encouraged rapid changing and getting underground, good progress being made inbye to "Waite's" sump. (simply labelled "sump" on the mine plan and shown going down to the Four Fathom Limestone via the Quarry Hazel, the Barney Craig level running in the base of the latter.) The iron discipline instilled in all members on joining the society relating to high standards of safety were amply demonstrated when the ML was advised that the chairman was "b*****" if he was going to rush about at this pace and was going off on his own! (Via a third party needless to say).

Leaving a rope bag behind at this point the party pressed on to kit up at the top of the Underground Shaft before crossing on the pipe bridge installed last year, inspecting the engine house and climbing the rope ladder into the flats. NORPEX installed this ladder, brought from another mine, by stempling up the rise using a short ladder with hooks on, no mean feat of agility and balance!

Unlike last year no dissention was permitted as far as route finding went and all set out along the measuring tape lying on the floor. Passing through the flats cannot be described as comfortable especially when carrying any weight of bags and progress was

slow but eventually the furthest point previously reached was achieved. This is marked by a quite small squeeze, which all bar one of the party passed without too much difficulty, the remaining member baulked at the obstacle until Dr Descender whispered into his ear (or possibly just hauled hard on an appropriate part of the protruding anatomy). Proceeding onwards the end of the tape came and went, ignoring side passages and openings (apart from Chris Cowdery) the party came at last to a run in from the roof. This fine material had been dammed back with a metal sheet but more had run in and in the absence of a rake it was regretfully agreed the way was barred.

Lunch was taken at the top of the rise before descending the ladder. On crossing the top of the shaft last the rest of the party greeted the ML with opprobrious insults reflecting badly on his navigating ability. (Cries of "Go back and do it again properly!"). They had encountered strangers in the shape of Elizabeth Bowden, two others from the Wirksworth club and the wandering Chairman. One of the gentlemen from Derbyshire was of practical assistance leading the party to the ore hopper on the south side of the Horse level immediately adjacent to the Rampgill/Beaumont boundary gate. Once into the ore hopper and up the fairly fragile looking NORPEX home made ladders short work was made of crossing the flats back to where the party had been only an hour before, the cunning part being that the route branched off down to the Horse level before the end of the tape on the floor was reached!

A little of the ML's pride having been salvaged the party moved outbye to the sump to do some clearance work before attempting a descent. Much rock

heaving by John Brown permitted inspection of both the concrete lined sump and the ladder way. The former is in a very distressed condition the walls being severely squeezed and cracked as well as being full to within about 15 feet of the top with fines apparently washed in from the Horse level. The ladder way is virtually full of long planks on end, a small hole permits water to drain but it would be a major task to attempt a clearance. Additionally it is impossible to know how the water drains away, there are two possibilities either a blockage has cleared in the Barney Craig level and the water is draining into Allendale or drainage through the strata is conveying the water via Engine shaft to the Nentforce level. At this point it was decided enough was enough and exit to day was made rapidly followed by changing and getting into the NPHT café, the weather not having improved at all.

Many thanks to all especially Jon Knowles for bringing and carrying the drill, John Brown for carrying the rope and Chris Cowdery for bringing the ML's bags back to Alston after he left them in the car park. This latter incident brought on by a total collapse of morale after the Secretary cheerily announced that she'd known all along where the exit from the flats was but that the ML seemed so confident she hadn't bothered to mention the fact!

Carrs Mine 23rd October 2005

Peter Wilkinson (ML), John Aird, Sheila Barker, Karen Beer, Elizabeth Bowden, Chris Cowdery, Peter Fleming, Mike Mitchell, Mark Simpson

There seems to be a perception that Carrs really only consists of the NPHT show mine and very little else, those attending went away with a very different impression. Having gathered the party and a double section aluminium ladder, the ML led the party up to Carrs Shop. The ML was undaunted by the burglar alarm going off when the door was opened, cancelling it and collecting a further two sections of aluminium ladder and setting off. (All this aluminium ladder business is completely unknown in Welsh quarries, oh hang on there was that time at Conglog).

A brisk tour of the show mine allowed demonstration of the high tech lighting and sound equipment (the latter is not used since all tours are accompanied) before the party set off deeper into the workings.

The rest of the day was occupied working our way up into the flats in the Great Limestone where the wooden bridge was visited, examining the hydrozincite and calcite encrustations especially the amazing growths of the latter over wood rot fungi and attempting to fit everything into the Fleming/Mitchell memory banks of yesteryear. Good use was made of the Chairman's trustee 5-metre length of Bluewater rope (rumour has it that it was purchased during the swinging sixties!).

Finally the party re-emerged to wash the ladders, change and adjourn again to the café, for refreshment and to peruse the excellent maps of the mine that the ML produced.

Many thanks to Peter Wilkinson and Sheila Barker for arranging a most excellent meet.

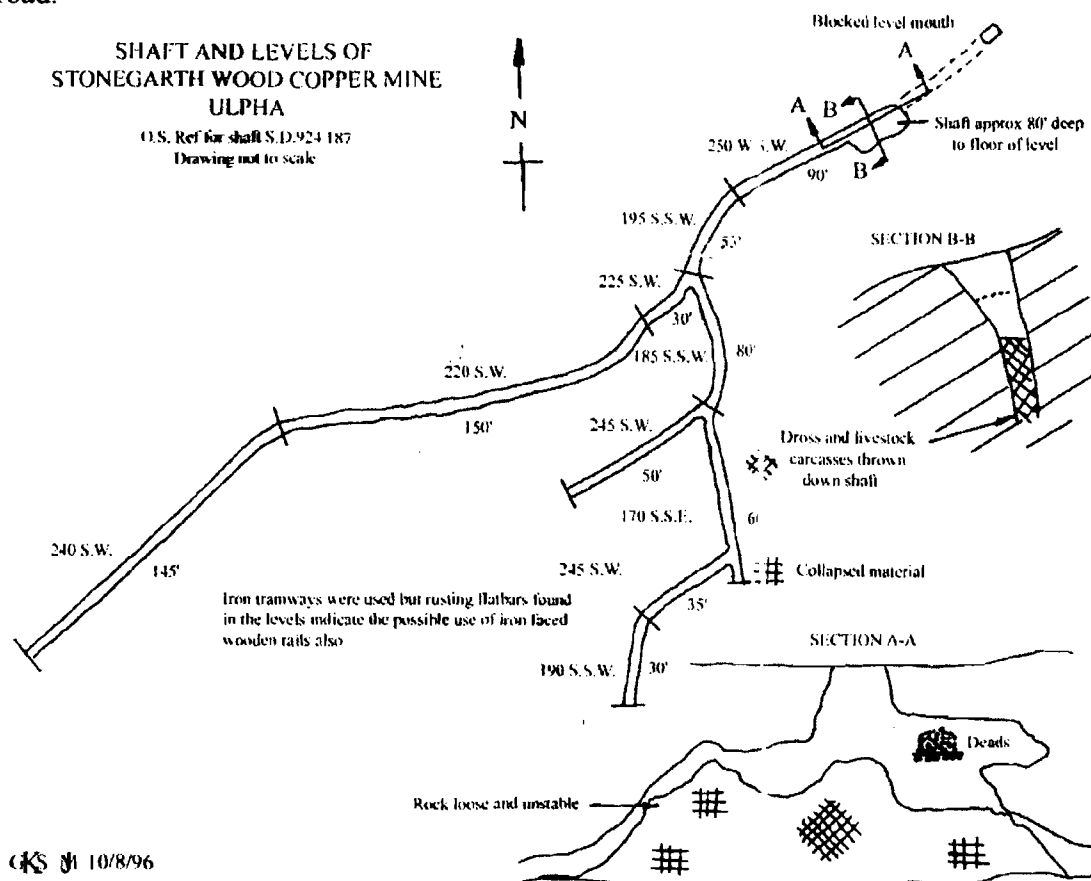
Ulpha Copper Mine

26th December 2005

John Aird (ML), Alan Westall, Ian Matheson, Barbara and Mike Mitchell

Never having heard of this site the Meet Leader was very grateful to Peter Fleming for providing a copy of "Bygone Folk and Industries of the Duddon Valley" by G K Stebbens from which the attached mine map is gratefully copied. Even so on a preliminary visit there were some initial problems in locating the shaft, which lies only 20 metres from the road.

fields. The rectangular structure shown north of the magazine in the wood (SD 183921) is stone built with massive walls, the reason for its construction is unclear. The magazine building is most interesting, effectively a miniature chapel building complete with pitched slated roof (with ceramic ridge tiles) and porch. There is evidence of a wooden lining, there are ventilation holes in the walls and there has been a lightning conductor on the rear wall. The sarking to the slating battens is perfect, the lead soakers where the porch abuts the building are all present



Having assembled the company chose to make an excursion to a powder magazine originally located by Alan Westall on a LDNPA works outing (or was that a working party?) at SD 184919. It is left to the reader to decide which members of the party followed the bridleway to the side of the wood and which chose to trespass across the

and the external walls are all flush pointed (most unusual in the area). Since Adams "Mines of the Lake District Fells" gives the last year of operation of the mine as 1888, it is apparent that considerable work must have been done to maintain the building since then. Additionally by that date dynamite must have been in use but

there is no sign of separate detonator storage. If anyone has further information it would be gratefully received.



Returning to the road a descent to Holehouse Gill was made to view the collapsed mine entrance before returning to the shaft top. From this point the substantial remains of the smithy are visible along with the horse gin circle (Mike Mitchell subsequently found the position of the centre bearing), the line of the drive shaft and the foundations and mounting bolts of the drum that would have wound from the shaft. To the south west of the shaft is a run in adit taken along the vein.

The shaft is inclined to follow the vein, which can be seen in the southwestern wall, and has dimensions of 3 by 4 metres. Rigging of the 14-metre pitch was helped by the close proximity of a 50cm diameter oak tree, a direct descent onto the remains of a spring mattress being achieved. The sheep fence surrounding the shaft top seemed to have done its work well no carcasses were evident. Ian Matheson and the ML having descended it was possible to see that the shaft was actually a stope in the foot wall of which were footholds presumably to permit access using a climbing chain. The rubble pile was then descended to adit level, drainage remains excellent despite the

rubble pile and the collapse of the adit entrance, nowhere is there water deeper than 50mm. Minute traces of green secondary mineralisation could be seen in the stoped area but although the veins could be seen in the adits (along with considerable iron staining) no trace of metal ore could be seen. At the forehead of the drive the 150mm wide vein was completely composed of blue clay.



Interpretation of the site is complicated by there being both a shaft and an adit a seemingly needless expense but it appears that the area of stoping developed from the surface, the adit then being driven to drain the workings. The adit entrance was positioned as close to Holehouse Gill as possible to dewater the maximum depth of ground (while following the vein), but access to the mouth would be difficult from the road. Additionally immediately downstream was the water powered bobbin mill whose owners would probably have vetoed any disposal of spoil into the Gill, the only practical dumping area.

The underground party having surfaced, Mike Mitchell reported finding a further two adits in the woodland below the road. Following de-rigging two of the party adjourned to the High Cross Inn for refreshment.

John Aird.

The Silver Gill Project

In 1997 the entrance to Emanuel Stolne was discovered in the upper reaches of Silver Gill at a height of 525m AOD. The accessible parts of the level were explored and in 2001 a report, confirming the identification of the level, was published in the Trans CWAAS by Richard Smith, Samuel Murphy and Warren Allison

At the point where the short cross cut meets the vein a backfilled shaft was observed with simple jack-roll still in place. In times of heavy rain considerable water soaked away into the top of the shaft and it was confirmed that the dirty water came out from the lower level some 12.9 fathoms below. The lower level is not accessible and is blocked by a fall; so access down through the shaft offered a possible route to explore the remaining Elizabethan workings of New Stolne - with a dream that access may be possible via internal shafts to the inner reaches of Emanuel.

Andrew and I decided to try digging out the shaft. On the 5th January 2003 we started in earnest. This was easy – we were able to barrow the rocks away down the cross cut and the shaft was quite easy to dig. We did a little in 2003 reaching 20 feet after four sessions. Warren Allison and Peter Blezard from Carlisle joined us and gave us some encouragement, but hope of a quick victory, by way of a capped shaft had faded and we knew we were in for a long haul. The shaft was inclined at about 28 degrees from the vertical and was about 6'3" by 2'8" at the top. The hanging wall had some loose flakes and it was clear that hoisting and safety would be major issues next year.

Andrew and I returned in August 2004 determined to make a real attempt to clear the shaft. We acquired 50 foot of

ladder from various scrap yards and dragged ladders and timber up the fell. It had become very difficult to climb out of the shaft so we fitted ladders and erected stemples and shelters to provide safety when hauling kibbles up the shaft using the jack-roll. The 25 litre plastic orange cartons we were using were wearing thin after a couple of sessions, as they drag heavily on the shaft side due to the inclination. We later experimented with wheeled kibbles as haulage was very hard work but this was a total failure as the shaft footwall is irregular.

From a safety perspective we needed some assurance that heavy rocks would not fall. We experimented with a taut guide rope to relieve the weight of the kibble on the footwall and this, combined with an ascender, gave us a simple but effective brake in case of haulage rope or jack-roll failure. Stronger plastic kibbles helped but we quickly ran out of steam as the depth increased. At this point, some 34 feet down we discovered a short blind side drive with a top shaped in the style of a coffin level.



View down the top half of the shaft

Now with some excitement and encouragement we showed Pete Blezard (the younger) our finds and enlisted his help. On his first visit he could see no problems he had lost his contact lense, never to be found again!

John Brown and Peter Sedgwick joined - enter the CAT digging team! With our new horsepower we continued downwards and found another blind side drive some 6 feet below the first on the other side. By the end 2004 we are at 50 feet and are starting to wonder if the haulage will work for a deep inclined shaft as kibbles wear quickly and tend to jam on irregularities on the footwall of the shaft. Winding is now a two man task, taken in rotation.

Just before Christmas we are visited by the Ranger, Graham Standing, who is keeping a close eye on the Caldbeck Fell area following police action to stop unauthorised digging at Hay Gill. In January of 2005 on our return to Silver Gill with the full digging team we found the water main from Roughten Gill, which runs under the access road, had burst and had washed out a large hole in the road. The water was turned off and the hole was filled in – this marked the isolation of the pipe from the 90 fathom level water extraction plant at the head of the valley.

We continued to push the shaft and with another 30ft of ladders, kindly donated by Peter Blezzard at Carlisle, we reached 75 feet. The shaft was narrowing up to about 2'6" square and resembled a hopper.



Near the bottom of the shaft where it narrows up.

At the end of the shift on the 20th March we thought we could see down into a void below. This was not new as we had been “nearly through” many times before just to find a small pocket amongst the rocks.

We returned the next week to push through into a narrow, wet, coffin level with about 2ft of water. Sadly, after some 60ft in-by, we were greeted by a fall of oozing clay and nowhere to put the debris. The water is cold, deep, and there is not much room to work.

Out-by it is another 60ft to the inside of the fall that blocks the way in from the open adit of the New Stolne. This fall has been probed and found to exceed 18ft in length and comprises more oozing clay. Water flow from this level is quite high and drainage is the immediate barrier to any attempt to clear the internal fall.

The exercise utilised around 500 man hours of effort and completely wore out my ascender. Strangely the jack-roll was found to be serviceable after replacement of one side member – not bad for something over 100 years old!

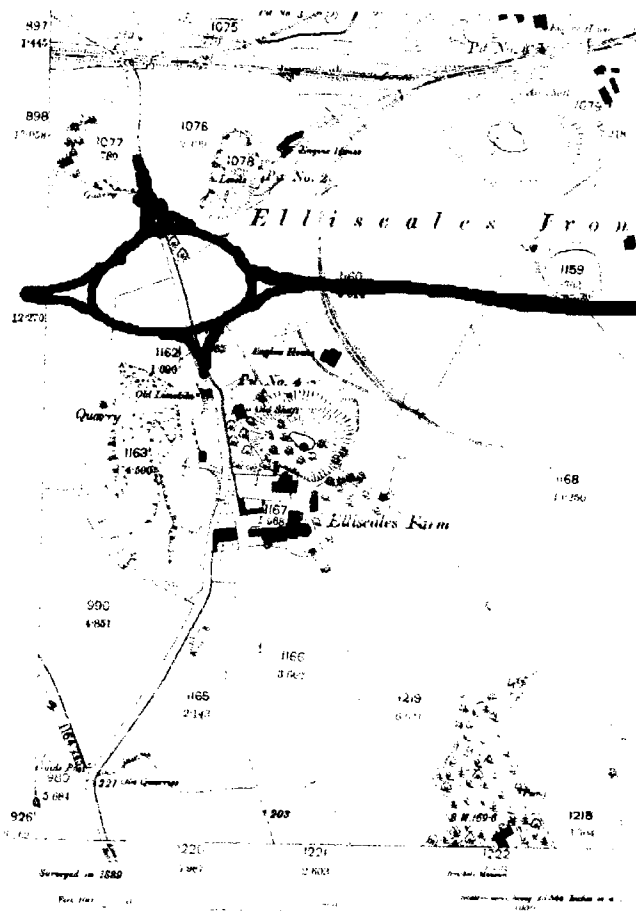


This will never start!

Colin and Andrew Woollard

Elliscales No 5 demolished

The engine house next to the Askham roundabout was demolished on October 29th. If a previous owner had not sold the slates off the roof, it might have continued to provide a shelter for the horses, but the present owner thought it was beyond repair and becoming dangerous.



Elliscales mines on the 1889 OS map with the Dalton by-pass superimposed.

Not much has been written about Elliscales, probably because it was freehold and worked by the owners, so there are no mine reports to go from. Dave Kelly records that it was worked by the monks of Furness Abbey in the 13th Century and by the Backbarrow Company from 1721 - 1728. Later developments are down to George

Banks Ashburner and his heirs. In 1825, he described himself as a yeoman farmer and lime burner. In 1849, he was a farmer and iron ore master. He died in 1875 at the age of 75, leaving the estate to John Ashburner. John Ashburner became insane and died in 1881, leaving the estate to the second George Banks Ashburner, grandson of the first. G B Ashburner II was building Dowdales Mansion when he killed himself. The rising cost of his new home, his father's insanity and the falling price of ore might have contributed to the decision to end his life.

The building just demolished was brand new when the 1889 map was surveyed. It replaced Elliscales No 4, also shown on the 1889 map, nearer to the Askham road.

After the death of G B Ashburner II, the mines were owned by the Elliscales Mining Co from 1880 to 1901, Ashburner Ltd from 1903 to 1909 and Elliscales Mines and Quarries Syndicate Ltd from 1910 - 12. They were abandoned in 1912. In 1890, they produced 46,000 tons of ore, but that was exceptional.

The usual production from 1872 - 1900 was about 20,000 tons.

The only mine building left at Elliscales looks like a small brick shed, but it is filled with water to the roof. It held clean water for the boilers.

References:

Article from the Evening Mail, 30/8/74 by James Melville.
The Mineral Statistics, R Burt et al.

The Government Secret Bunker

A few weeks ago, on 29th December 2005, cabinet papers from 1975 detailing the Government's plans in the event of a nuclear war were released from the National Archives. These papers gave extensive information on the plans that had been put in place to move the Government officers and civic servants from Whitehall to a secret regional seat of government deep beneath the Wiltshire downs. It also gave details of plans to move art treasures from London and Edinburgh to slate caverns above Blaenau Ffestiniog. Although the location of the art treasures depository at Blaenau is now common knowledge, details of the Wiltshire location was kept well and truly under wraps. As one official said *"these were the Crown Jewels of genuine official secrecy...because you didn't want the other side to get your war plans"*.

Last October, a few weeks before these papers were released the MOD announced that it was planning to dispose of a sizeable 'underground facility' near the village of Corsham between Bath and Chippenham. It didn't take long for a number of observant people to put two and two together and, as a result, details of this astonishing underground complex were made public.

The history of this 'underground facility' is as follows. For over a hundred years the Bath & Portland Stone Company extracted stone from the Spring Quarry stone mine, until production ceased in 1940. By this time the mine was over two miles long and divided into dozens of working chambers. It was taken over by the Ministry of Aircraft Production who turned it into 'the largest

underground factory in the world'. The site closed after the end of the war but was used for quite a few years for storage of military and other equipment.

During subsequent decades, in the build up to the Cold War, the government decided that a secret bunker was required which would serve as a wartime seat of power in case of a nuclear attack.



The Prime minister's private bathroom

So, in 1958, work started on adapting the vast Spring Quarry for this purpose. The site was designed to house the Prime Minister, Cabinet Office, local and national government agencies, intelligence and security advisors and domestic support staff. Work was completed in 1961 and the 40 acre bunker became operational shortly afterwards.



Part of the administration office.

The site had its own branch line off the main GWR line from London to Bristol

and the branch led directly to an underground terminus. It was therefore theoretically possible to ship out the whole government machine in one train-load from Paddington in a matter of a couple of hours. The site was totally self sufficient, held 4000 people, was blast proof and radiation proof.



Part of the bakery and food prep area.

It had full services such as power, water and heating. It contained two kitchens, a bakery, complete hospital and dental surgery, a BBC transmitting studio, a laundry and library. Travel round the one-kilometer site was by battery vehicles which were maintained within the complex.



Part of the BBC emergency radio broadcast studio

In the 1980's there was a major overhaul and up-grade of the facilities but a further upgrade in 1991 was put on hold by the government and never implemented. Subsequently, during the 90's the complex was slowly wound

down and food supplies and fuel were removed. However until last year the site was kept on stand-by and essential care and maintenance continued to be carried out.

To avoid the presence of the bunker becoming general knowledge, a 'decoy site' was also set up nearby in a separate stone mine and this was also run down during the 1990's. CAT members may remember the rumours that started to develop that this complex was the place where captured UFO's and their alien crews were housed and this led to local cavers finally gaining access by devious routes to find out for themselves exactly what was down there.

Anyone who travels today by First Great Western's high speed trains from Paddington to Bristol will be able to see, just as the train enters Box Tunnel near Bath, remains of the track that once ran directly into the bunker.



One of the roadways within the complex

A number of potential buyers have expressed an interest in the site and English Heritage is also considering taking over part of the site. In the mean time there is potential for serious exploration, as can be seen from the attached photos. Can anyone speak 'alien'?

Alastair Cameron.

Concerning Duddon Furnace, tapwater, and mutton dressed as lamb

In 1886, Harrison Ainslie was in the hands of Ernest Henry Ainslie, barrister, of Lincolns Inn and Lloyd Evans, esq, of Ulverston. They held their position as trustees of the Company under a deed of settlement of 1879.

Lorn Furnace had closed in 1876. Warsash last operated in 1877. Duddon furnace had been idle since 1867 or 1871, depending which information you accept. Newland furnace would only last another five years. So it is odd to find a lease signed 6th January 1886, backdated to 12th May 1885 where the Duddon Furnace is leased to Harrison Ainslie for another 14 years at £25 a year. The lease covered the furnace, three cottages, mine houses, coal houses and warehouses connected with the furnace and a bobbin mill or brush stick manufactory. It also included the right to dam Seathwaite Tarn to ensure a regular supply of water.

The estimate for repairs was dated 1889. Lining the furnace with special made furnace bricks, set in fireclay would cost £45. To take down a portion of wall thrown out and cracked by expansion of the furnace and make good would be another £30. The whole estate could be put to rights for £760. Harrison Ainslie did not have £760 to spare, but they hoped to find it elsewhere.

The dry summer of 1887 forced Barrow Corporation and Barrow Haematite Steel to look for a secure supply of water. The Barrow Corporation Bill of 1889 allowed the abstraction of water from the Duddon

near Ulpha, as it is today, but there was no intention to dam Seathwaite Tarn at this stage. Among the clauses for compulsory purchase and laying pipes was a restriction on butchers:..."no carcass or part of a carcass of any small sheep shall be dressed or prepared for sale as lamb or part of lamb...."

It seems to be coincidence that Harrison Ainslie renewed their lease and predicted the dam shortly before the act, but it put them in a good position to bargain over the water rights. The company solicitors, Dowson Ainslie and Martineau prepared the case. They stated that the company had held the lease for well over 100 years, and that although it had not been in blast for "about ten years", it was regarded as a reserve for the furnaces at Newland and Backbarrow. They asked the corporation to pay for the actual amount spent on rent, rates, taxes, repairs and other outgoings since the furnace was put out of blast about ten years ago and £1000 for assignment of the present lease.

What, if anything, was paid by the corporation is not recorded, but the decline in the company's fortunes began when solicitors took the place of ironmasters at the head of the company.

Peter Sandbach

References:

Furness collection, CRO Barrow. Z2159, Z2165

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 3rd October 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), I. Matheson (IM), D. Bridge (DB), P. Fleming (PF), M. Mitchell (MM) & M. Scott (MSc).

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm. 7 members attended.

1 Apologies for absence from: - J. Aird (JA), J. Brown (JB) & A. Wilson (AW).

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 4th July had been previously circulated to members, it was **PROPOSED** by PF and **SECONDED** by MM that the minutes be signed by the chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings. This was carried unanimously.

3 Matters arising

There were no matters arising that were not covered by the following items.

4 Secretary's Report

Received since last meeting:

4.1 Notice of the LDNPA Archaeology Conference - Nov 26 at the Lakes School, MM & DB would give a presentation on the re-opening of Levers Water Mine.

4.2 NAMHO The 2006 Conference will be held in Wales.

4.3 BCA - Nil

4.5 The content of Ian Tyler's letter objecting to the reopening of Goldscope coffin level was noted.

4.6 Communication from Welsh Mines Preservation Society – asking clubs not to visit Cwymystwyth mine until further notice, as they are in discussion with the Crown Estates regarding the management of the mine.

4.7 SB asked if the minutes could sent out digitally in future. This was agreed.

5 Treasurer's Report

JA was on holiday and had sent his apologies. He had sent his report and the balance sheet covering the period from 4th July to 3rd October. Income for the period was 1221.28 and expenditure 5355.72. The current a/c stood at 8477.18 and the Scottish Widow a/c at 4342.74. The printing of 'Slate from Coniston' had cost 4430.00.

6 Membership Secretary's Report

Subs due 1st Nov. Renewals will go out the first week in November, with next Newsletter. Membership fees unchanged.

7 Meets Report

The current meets list ends on Boxing Day. Next meets list to be compiled at next meeting.

8 Newsletter

IM would be sending out the next NL in November and would like articles in the next two weeks.

9 Publications

Hills the wholesale bookseller had refused to take copies of 'Slate from Coniston', as there are indentations on the Covers. Nobody else had noticed these. MM said he would write to Goodman Baylis telling them of the fault. DB would take some of the less marked copies to Hills, to see if they would be accepted. 'A Walker's Guide to LMH' was discussed. IM had been working on this and would circulate his ideas. The format is still open to discussion.

10 Library

Enquires to be made regarding moving the CAT library to John Ruskin Museum. It was felt our collection was no longer valued at the Armit,t due to new management; part of collection found piled in a store cupboard. The CAT map chest is deteriorating in Mandalls, due to damp conditions. DB would try to store it at his house.

11 Coniston Coppermines

The application by Prof. P M Meredith (UCL) for a research fund grant for a geophysical field study at Levers Water Mine had been submitted. Decision expected in December.

Damage done by the burst water pipe (between Levers Water reservoir and the treatment plant), was discussed, the area needed to be recorded. J. Hodgson to be approached. A possible project; the re-opening of Kernal Level was discussed. A project proposal would have to be written. Tilberthwaite Horse Level was also discussed. PF had walked up to the Black Scar workings and found a wrestler slate and a large lump of malachite near the hut.

12 Hudgillburn Mine

A work meet was arranged on 09/10/05 to dig a drain above the mine.

13 Mines Forum meeting – 01/07/05

The Safety Policy and Risk Assessment drawn up by MM for CAT and S.Cresswell for MOLES, were finally adopted by the National Trust. When the policies have been passed by the CAT committee (at next meeting), they are to be followed by CAT members on any visits to NT property.

The CAT application to do work at Goldscope had been rejected, J. Lund would write to PF giving the reasons. The condition of No.1 Level at Force Crag was discussed, the roof of level needs support; could be joint effort; CAT and MOLES.

The next meeting will be on 27th January 2006, 10.30am at Greenside camping barn, with an afternoon visit to Lucy Level.

14 Date and venue of next Meeting

To be held on 14th November 2005 at the BMSC Hut Coniston at 2.30 pm.

15 CAT web-site

No decision made, volunteer needed to keep website up to date.

16 Any Other Business

16.1 AGM papers and menu to go out with next Newsletter. There would be a raffle as usual. Members to be asked to give short presentations after the meal.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

SB 14/10/05

Chairman

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 14th November 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+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), J. Aird (JA), S. Barker (SB), I. Matheson (IM), D. Bridge (DB), J. Brown (JB) P. Fleming (PF), M. Mitchell (MM)

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm. 8 members attended.

1 Apologies for absence from: - M. Scott (MSc) & A. Wilson (AW).

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 3rd October had been previously circulated to members, it was **PROPOSED** by JA 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 - None that were not covered by the following items.

4 Secretary's Report

Received since last meeting:

4.1 LDNPA - nil.

4.2 NAMHO The 2006 Conference will be held in Wales.

4.3 BCA - Nil

4.5 An enquiry about mining on Muncaster Fell was answered by DB.

5 Treasurer's Report

JA presented his report and the balance sheet covering the period from 3rd October to 14th November. Income from publications had been 1075.08. A quantity of old rail had been purchased at a cost of £1000. There had been £250 expenditure on meets & 22.99 on postage of 'Slate from Coniston' by JA. **MM PROPOSED** and **IM SECONDED** that these be accepted, all were in favour. £7,500 had been refunded to us (our loan to Newland Furnace Trust).

The current a/c stood at 1329.54 and the Scottish Widow a/c at 11000. 00.

6 Membership Secretary's Report

IM had sent out the subs renewals, 27 had been returned to date.

7 Meets Report

The current meet list ends on Boxing Day. The list for the following six months was discussed at length. IM would draw up the list. It would be given to members attending the AGM, the rest by post. The Nenthead meet was well attended, and enjoyed by all, thanks go to Peter Wilkinson for a splendid visit to Carrs Mine.

8 Newsletter

The NL went out in November; MS noted the usual high standard.

9 Publications

'Slate from Coniston' MM had written to Goodman Baylis telling them of the fault (indentations on the cover). No answer had been received, SB would write to them. DB had taken some of the less marked copies to Hills, they had accepted 5 copies. JA would contact Hills.

'A Walker's Guide to LMH' was discussed. IM had been working on this, he would send out details of information needed for each walk. MM would produce a draft map. IM would like the various authors to start work on the walks, when these were at the draft stage it would be easier to decide on the format of the book.

It was decided that the society would produce a Journal No. 6; IM would advertise for articles and hoped it would be ready in Spring 2007.

10 Library No change.**11 Coniston Coppermines.**

The LDNPA Archaeologists are hoping to be able to fund a professional archaeological survey of the area damaged by the burst water pipe (between Levers Water reservoir and the treatment plant).

MS had contacted the LDNPA Archaeologists regarding the possibility of an exploratory dig at Kernal Level, near Levers Water. The answer was positive, so MS would draw up a proposal for submission for Scheduled Monument Consent, as a first step.

Several member thought that the post mine mineralisation (copper colouring) in Levers Water Mine (LWM) were beginning to fade. The possibility of covering the gate to cut down the flow of air was discussed. A key to LWM is being kept in Mandall's.

JA reported that work of stabilizing the quarry face behind Mandall's had began; he would contact the LDNPA property manager.

12 Hudgillburn Mine

Work had been done clearing the level and a drainage dyke had been dug above the mine.

13 Mines Forum meeting

JB **PROPOSED** that the Safety Policy and Risk Assessment accepted by the National Trust at the last MFM was adopted by CATMHS, Copies will be sent to meet leaders and the guidelines are to be followed on all meets and projects. **SECONDED** by JA, all were in favour.

AMMENDED on 16/01/06 so that it now reads; JB PROPOSED that the Health & Safety/Risk Assessment documents accepted by the National Trust & the LDNPA archaeologist at the last MFM, were for use on their property only. SECONDED by JA, all were in favour (see minutes of next meeting). signed S.Barker

The committee would like to thank Mike Mitchell for the colossal amount of work that went into drawing up these papers. PF agreed to lead a walk around the Coppermines Valley to celebrate National Archaeology Week, on 20th July 2006.

SB to contact the NT property manager regarding work to be done in No.1 Level, Force Crag Mine. The next meeting will be on 27th January 2006, 10.30am at Greenside camping barn, with an afternoon visit to Lucy Level.

14 Date and venue of next Meeting

To be held on 16th January 2006 at the BMSC Hut Coniston at 2.30 pm.

15 CAT web-site

Chris Cowdrey has kindly offered to design and run a new website for the society, JA will give him details to put on the site. JA **PROPOSED** we accept his offer, **SECONED** by SB, all were in favour.

16 Any Other Business

16.1 AGM papers and menu went out with the Newsletter. There would be a raffle as usual. Members have been asked to give short presentations after the meal.

16.2 MS had visited Jo Macintosh (CCC Sites & Monuments Officer) to look at the county photographic collection. He gave them a copy of the Furness Iron Survey on 2 CD's and a copy of LMH.

16.3 DB had been to Scale Hill, Lowes Water to look at Batey's Level; it was used historically as a rubbish dump for the hotel, lots of interesting finds. A tree had been dropped onto the portal. This subject had been discussed at the last Mines Forum meeting.

16.4 SB outlined the Middlecleugh Project to be carried out by the NPHT. Their intension was to:

- Consolidate the mine shop.
- An archaeological survey of the area around the shop and a possible early dressing floor.
- Re-open the mine entrance and repair the arching.

We had been asked if we could do the work on the portal and reopen the level. It was **PROPOSED** by SB that CATMHS should do this work, **SECONDED** by JB, all were in favour.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

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Vacant!

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