

CAT

The Newsletter of the Cumbria Amenity Trust
Mining History Society



Coffin Level at Goldscope Mine, Newlands Valley.
Photo Tony Holland

Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society

Newsletter No 100, August 2010.

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Membership

We would like to welcome Tom Collins, from Birmingham. Tom is a geoenvironmental engineering geologist.

A note from the Treasurer

Changes to subscriptions from October 2010

At the 2009 AGM it was agreed that the subscription rates from October 2010 would be as follows:-

Basic	£17
Single Surface	£23
Single Underground	£35
Joint Surface	£34
Joint Surface/Underground	£46
Joint Underground	£58

This is our first increase since 2004 despite PLI premiums increasing and interest income on our balances totally disappearing. Hopefully it will be possible for renewing members to pay by credit or debit card via the website once we have a little experience of selling publications through that route.

John R Aird, Treasurer.

News

CATMHS online shop

Thanks to the efforts of your treasurer and webmaster, we now have an on-line shop on our website. Through this facility, it is possible to purchase CATMHS publications. It can be accessed from our home-page <http://www.catmhs.org.uk>

New Publicity Leaflet and Poster

The Society has a new publicity leaflet; an A4 sheet folded in three and printed on both sides. The front face is shown here, the other faces giving contact details, details of our publications and an account of the Society's recent activities.

A poster in both A4 and A3 formats has also been produced to compliment the leaflet for display in libraries and similar institutions. Anyone who wants supplies of leaflets or posters should contact Mark Scott the Publicity Officer.

CATMHS
Underground and Surface
Exploration, Conservation and
Research into
Mining and Quarrying throughout the UK
and occasionally beyond



Old Mill Close Mine (J Aird)

www.catmhs.org.uk

CAT Article in NW Evening Mail, Sat July 3rd.

Through a contact with journalist Bill Myers Peter Fleming arranged a two page spread in the Evening Mail about CAT activities. It includes a review of Journal 6, an account of our recent 30th Birthday celebration at Rydal Hall and a pictorial account of the restoration of the Braddyll stone. Bill Myers also wrote a very informative article regarding the Hext sale, which is reproduced below:

WHEN the contents of Holywath at Coniston are sold at auction next Saturday it will break a remarkable family link which has seen the house act as base for mining interests in Devon, Cornwall, Coniston and Millom.

It has also been home for the Barratt and Hext families since before Queen Victoria first sat on the throne.

John Barratt, born in 1793, was a Cornishman from Gwennap and started work with his father at the Wheal Friendship copper and tin mine on Dartmoor. He was mine captain and his father was mine manager.

In the 1820s John went to work at the Duke of Devonshire's lead mines at Grassington in Yorkshire.

Mining expert and financier John Taylor took on the lease of the idle Coniston copper mines in 1824 and brought in John Barratt to take charge.

He came to Coniston around 1830 and at first lodged at Wraysdale House before buying and enlarging Holywath.

His arrival coincided with renewed activity in the Coppermines Valley which saw a handful of jobs turn into a major industry as the mines gave up their riches.

In 1842 there were more than 400 on the payroll – including 97 children, the youngest a girl of six.

One of his many developments was the building of a 45ft diameter water wheel around 1850.

The Coniston mines closed in 1896. The decision had been taken in 1892 and the mines took five years to gradual fill with enough water to stop all mine operations.

In 1854 his interests had expanded to Millom when he took a gamble on a lease at Hodbarrow.

Others had come in search of iron ore but found nothing worth commercial exploitation.

Barratt and his partners struck lucky and were soon able to establish the existence of ore reserves of at least a million tons.



INDUSTRIAL PAST: Miners at Hodbarrow iron ore mines around 1900

The mine eventually yielded 25m tons in just over 100 years of mining activity – a period throughout which a Barratt was almost always involved in the company management.

John's wife was Ann, daughter of James Mason and they had three sons. All of them died young at Holywath.

Joseph Barratt died aged 42; John aged 32 and James aged just 28.

Ann died in May 1856 and is buried in Linton-in-Craven. John died in Torquay on April 14 in 1866 at the age of 72 and is buried in the heart of mining country at Mary Tavy in Devon.

His cousin William Barratt was a shareholder and became general manager at Hodbarrow until his death in May 1881.

He lodged with the Saunders family of Hoathwaite Farm before building Holly How House, near Oak Howe, Coniston.

In 1863 various members of the Barratt family controlled 59 of the 100 Hodbarrow shares – 52 of them in the hands of John Barratt.

By 1864 the company was doing well enough to pay a £50 dividend per share – that would give John Barratt £2,600.

At that time the average income for a miner – a well paid job by the standards of the time – was around £1 and six shillings (£1.30) a week.

Barratt's dividend earnings at almost 40 times a miner's annual income would be worth in excess of £500,000 by modern standards.

William Isaac Barratt was the son of William and became joint managing director of the Hodbarrow company with Cedric Vaughan.

They were in charge when the commemorative stone block was unveiled in 1900 for the start of work on the mile-and-a-quarter outer sea defence barrier between Hodbarrow and Haverigg.

When Vaughan died in February 1911 William Isaac became chairman of the company.

The link with the Hext family came through one of John Barratt's relatives called Emily Barratt – who married Charles Wilfred Hext.

Emily will be familiar to some readers as she had a boat built and named after her at Millom in 1913.

The schooner ended up at Barrow's Dock Museum but was broken up as being beyond economic repair.

The Hext family seat was Trenarren, near St Austell in Cornwall.

Major Charles Wilfred Hext was a military man who fought the Boers in South Africa and took part in a 1911 punitive expedition to the Bor Abor region of India.

He was in charge of transport and took his camera with him to record life in this remote area and to bring back a host of souvenirs.

He died in the Ras-el-tin military hospital in Alexandria in 1919, aged just 38.

His son was Major John Wilfred Barratt Hext who died last year.

Another to have called Holywath home was Nathaniel George Philips Bousfield who died in 1883.

In 1872 he had married Catherine, the eldest daughter of John Barratt.

He husband was Lt-Col of the 1st Lancashire Rifle Volunteers and was MP for Bath from 1874 to 1880.

More than 600 lots, many of them made for the Barratt or Hext families, will be sold at the Tennants Auction Centre in Leyburn, Yorkshire, next Saturday.

All the items can be viewed from Wednesday to Friday or seen on the website at www.tennants.co.uk

NW Regional Industrial Archaeology & History Conference, National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port.

This conference, to be held on 25th September, may be of interest to members. Peter Sandbach led a CAT meet at the museum a couple of years ago. The program includes Lees Tapestry Works, Birkenhead, Living in the Industrial city, 18th & 19th Century workers housing in Manchester, Managing a museum large object collection, Excavations and the Liverpool Museum, Salt making in Cumbria and Cheshire. Cost £17.50. www.mihs.org.uk

Mealbank Quarry, Ingleton

The quarry, which closed in 1910, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and an SSSI. An eight year plan to regenerate this disused quarry into a tourist and recreational attraction

has taken a step forward. Residents were invited to view the Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust's plans to create a visitor centre and to make the inside workings of the quarry secure for tours. The project is being funded by the north Yorkshire Aggregates Grant Scheme. It is hoped work will begin within a year.

Greenside Mine

Last year the LDNPA changed the lock on Lucy Tongue Level because they were concerned about unregulated access to the mine. One of the keys has become unaccounted for and therefore in order to recover control over access to this level they intend to change the lock again. Consent is highly unlikely to be granted for underground tours or visits without a research element.

The change will take place on 8th July. Keys will be allocated to all relevant parties including COMRU, CATMHS and MoLES and each key will be individually identified. Warren Allison is the CATMHS keyholder.

Forthcoming Meets:

A reminder, ADDITIONAL MEET Sunday 15th August. Tilberthwaite

A circular walk from Tilberthwaite looking at the workings at Tilberthwaite; Borlase Mine, Pave York Mine, Birk Fell, Long Crag Vein, Hawk Rigg and Dr Booth's Level. The route will follow old paths to Birk Hause on the side of Wetherlam above Greenburn and return by way of Blake Rigg to Tilberthwaite. Grade E. Hard hat and lamp needed if going underground. Meet 10.00am Tilberthwaite car park. Mark Scott 01229 466096.

19th September Hudeshope Valley, MIT

Meet at Kings Walk Lime Kilns at 10am.

Take the Stanhope road out of Middleton in Teesdale (north). After about 0.2 of a mile, turn left and follow the narrow road for 3/4 mile, park before the bridge close to the kilns. At NY 9483 2706.

We will walk up the valley through several mine sites to Coldberry Mine, where we can have lunch. Then walk back down the road to Skears Firestone Level and go underground. This can be an EASY walk in trip, or DIFFICULT (SRT) through trip. Leader Dave Young 01883 631609

Sunday 10th October. The Great Nenthead Traverse

ML Tony Holland. This meet has been re-scheduled. It had to be called off last January when deep snow made travelling difficult. Starting at Capelcleugh the trip will pass through Smallcleugh, Capelcleugh High, Smallcleugh, Rampgill, Brownley Hill before exiting at Nentsberry Haggs. Since the trip involves prolonged immersion in water a wetsuit is essential. Grade S. Accommodation if required, is available at the Bunkhouse at £12.50 per night, but will need to be booked well in advance

Newland Furnace

The Historical Metallurgy Society held its Spring meeting at Castle Head Field Centre in May, and as part of their program visited Newland Furnace, where they were shown around by John Helme and other members of the Newland Furnace Trust. (NFT)

One of their members found a small Tuyere pipe in the bed of the beck. It was thought that this was likely to be from a secondary source such as a forge or blacksmith's hearth



The photograph above was taken around 1898, shortly after the furnace closed. The NFT have long speculated about the two long black objects extending downwards from the brick stack top extension towards the (hidden) water wheel pit below, and on the purpose of the vertical brick structure projecting from the face of the stack above the sloping roof. That is thought to be part of a hot blast system which conducted hot gases from the top of the stack and injected them into the base of the blowing chamber. The superstructure on top of the stack has disappeared, but at the bottom left corner of the main stack are the remains of what seems to be a brick arched flue.



This was situated in the left hand foreground building with two entrances, which also no longer exists, and directing gases through the building with the sliding door, which has recently been rebuilt and modernized. Newland may be interpreted as a stack-top arrangement with that brick feature the base for the stove, or as a ground-level arrangement with the stove in the small building on the east of the furnace, supplied by the downcomer pipe visible in the early photo

The members of the HMS who visited Newland recently were obviously impressed with our achievements, future plans, dedication etc., as well as the scope and "completeness" of the site, even if the latter is likely to change in the future. During the visit the main items discussed included the Ulverston forge, the Newland forge/s & the hot blast system. After their visit the MHS have provided a feast of information on hot blast systems from other furnaces and a lively correspondence has ensued. People like Tim Young and particularly David Cranstone are both nationally & internationally accepted as the leading experts in the historical field of metal extraction from ores. There is much to be gained by sharing knowledge and encouraging visits and links with like minded groups.

If you want to know more then visit the furnace on Heritage Lottery Day on Saturday September 11th, when NFT members will be happy to show you round and share knowledge and ideas.

Some recent additions to the library/archive

Books

A History of the Laws and Customs of the Derbyshire Lead Mines by J.H. Rieuwerts – donated by S. Barker 2009

Northumberland & Cumberland Mining Disasters by Maureen Anderson

Mining in a Medieval Landscape: The Royal Silver Mines in the Tamar Valley by Rippon, Claughton & Smart

NMRS – Memoirs Vol. 88 Bought principally for ‘Mr. Pope’s pots and the rapid smelting of Lake District copper and lead ores - 1579 – 83’. – Richard Smith, and ‘The East Cumberland Coalfield.’ - Graham Brooks. Other items include: The Inverness Gold, Women’s place in lead mining at Grassington.

The Metalliferous Mines of Cartmel and South Lonsdale by Max Moseley, see John Helme’s review NL 99 p35

Master of them all: Iron Making in Cumbria – proceedings of a joint conference of CIHS and HMS 2007

Methods of Tin and Copper Dressing in Cornwall – James Henderson. Transcription of Proc. ICE 1858 Probably similar technology used at Coniston under the Taylor-Barratt influence.

Hext sale

Hext Sale catalogue, kindly donated by Tennants the Auctioneers.

CD/DVD

Barratt letters, photos & transcriptions – Work in hand CD from Ian Matheson. Research led and coordinated by Ian Matheson, photographs of pages in the letter books and transcriptions.

Melfort Letter Book BDB 2/20 CD of Photographs and Transcription June 1859 to February 1860 Research of Peter Sandbach dated April 2010

Mike Davies-Sheil ‘handouts’ CD “Mike Davies-Shiel was a prominent person in the industrial archaeology of the Lake counties and also a leading light in the CIHS. He lectured and gave illustrated talks on a wide range of subjects throughout Cumbria and one of his trademarks was always to have a handout to illustrate some part of these talks.” There are 48 in total and include Cumbria Definitve Iron Working Site List, German Miner Names, Potash Kiln List published by CIHS

CIHS Past articles CD – Thirty-Seven articles from the 1st 25 editions of the CIHS Bulletin. These include Marchon marches on, Self emptying colliery drainage tub, The Mines of Eskdale, Some 19th Century comments on Ennerdale mines.

Mining Ancillary

On the Use of the Deer-Horn Pick in the Mining operations of the Ancients by H.Sandars – Off-print Archaeologia, 1910 – Donated by Brian Cubbon

Copies of Vielle Montagne maps and papers; found by Rudy Devriese in storage at the University of Liège.

There are 3 A4 envelopes of material relating to Nenthead and Wales, the material has yet to be fully listed.

Dave Blundell’s North Pennine file, a collection of Dave’s notes and copies of articles.

Force Crag

I have received the Force Crag Feasibility Study from the consultants Entec, it's fairly lengthy but can be summarised as follows: -

High Priority Recommendations

The high priority recommendations include the following:

- *Install a **pilot treatment scheme** at Force Crag to establish key parameters (e.g. residence times) that are required for the design of a full scale passive treatment scheme;*
- *It is understood that the NT will undertake engineering work in 2010 to drain the mine water that has been built up behind the collapse at Level 0. As part of the engineering works, safe access to the mine would be re-established at Level 0 and 1. The sandbag barriers that prevent flow from Level 1 to Level 0 have been reported to be in a poor state, and it will only be a matter of time before they breach. This change in flow path would have very serious consequences if a treatment scheme is designed to treat water discharging from Level 1. As such, it would be important to **reinforce the flow barriers between Level 1 and 0** by means of solid brick or concrete structures;*
- *Following the dewatering of Level 0, the water should be captured and directed to the Coledale Beck by means of a **pipe or a lined, open channel**. This would limit the infiltration of water into the mine waste;*
- *Investigate the **flow pattern at Level 6 and 7** during intense rainfall events to establish whether runoff could be directed away from the open stopes. A site visit during wet conditions would give insights into the flow mechanism at the upper levels. Alternatively, cameras could be set up that record images during storm events. These cameras could be connected to secured field computer, and could be left on site with limited service requirements.*
- *Take further **water samples from the La Porte Incline** above Level 3 during wet conditions (if safe to do so) to investigate whether metal pollutions are further diluted during wet conditions and to gain an estimate of flow volumes. If the results of this monitoring confirm that it would be feasible to divert relatively clean water out of Level 3, then further investigations should be undertaken regarding the feasibility of regaining full and secure access to Level 3;*

*Undertake a **topographic survey** to establish the likely area of land available for a full scale treatment system for the Level 1 discharge, and to inform engineering options that aim to reduce the amount of water infiltrating into the diffuse pollution sources. Such a survey is likely to be required for the Level 0 dewatering work that the NT is planning for 2010, and savings could be made by combining the two surveys;*

- *Conduct a **cost benefit analysis** to address the benefits of remediating the mine water issue at Force Crag. The results may support a funding stream for further project work;*
- *Further synchronous water quality and flow **monitoring** should be carried out (it is essential that the monitoring of all sites is completed within one day).*

There are a number of requirements for further monitoring work, and the scale of the investigations would depend on the project budget. The following options should be considered:

Site monitoring 1. As a minimum, the point source flow monitoring structures should be maintained and water quality samples should be taken on a regular (possibly monthly) basis;

Site monitoring 2. The rating curves for the in-stream flow monitoring structures are no longer valid following the November 2009 flood. Given the effort that it takes to establish these rating curves, it is not advisable to re-establish rating curves. Instead, spot flow gauging and synchronous water quality sampling should be undertaken at regular intervals. It would be crucial to include Site A, the Braithwaite monitoring point and Newlands Beck Bridge into the monitoring rounds. If several points at Force Crag could be sampled, it would be beneficial to replace monitoring point G by a location slightly upstream that monitors the combined drainage input from the spoil below Level 3;

– Site monitoring 3. The relationship between flow and loadings at Sites A and

F, particularly for flows at Site A > 250 l/s, needs to be confirmed, since there are few data for these hydrological conditions. This work should include the establishment of a monitoring point for synchronous flow and water quality sampling at a location downstream of Site A. This could become the compliance point, and the relationship between flows and metal load would need to be established for this point to assess the likely impact on the entire Coledale Beck of remediation of the Level 1 discharge under a range of flow conditions;

– Site monitoring 4. Higher resolution monitoring would be needed to

establish the precise role and nature of diffuse pollution inputs, with a view to future remediation of these pollutant sources (probably in a phased manner

i.e. address Level 1 discharge first, and then the diffuse sources). Detailed monitoring should be carried out under a range of hydrological conditions, but particularly during wet conditions; and

– Catchment monitoring. This would involve the investigation of the source of

the metal pollution in the Newlands Beck catchment. Water quality sampling on its own may not lead to a conclusive answer, and it is therefore recommended to sample the catchment at strategic locations (e.g. inputs from tributaries) simultaneously for water quality and flow. Any initial monitoring should be undertaken in dry conditions and be completed within one day. To identify the exact locations of the pollution sources, refined monitoring rounds, based on the results of the first round, may be required.

Medium Priority Recommendations

The medium priority recommendations include the following:

*Following investigations regarding land availability, stakeholders and regulators ought to be consulted to establish the feasibility of obtaining **planning consents** and to identify a preferred option;*

- Following investigations regarding land availability and the preferred location for a full scale treatment scheme, a **geotechnical desk study** followed by a **ground investigation** should be considered. This work would determine the*

general ground conditions below the site, the properties (including thickness) of waste materials, the elevation of rock head, contaminant concentrations, and any issues with slope stability. All this information would help inform the earthworks design. Ground investigations, to allow for sampling and testing of contaminated land, would be particularly important if the tailing lagoon and the settling ponds (Area 2 and 3) are identified as the preferred potential location for a treatment scheme; and

- *Conduct a **contaminated land survey** to identify areas of contamination and allow specific measures to be installed to minimise impact on the mine due to construction.*

Low Priority Recommendations

The low priority recommendations include the following:

- *Sampling should be undertaken of **epilithic diatoms and filamentous algae** in the mine water discharge stream(s) and Coledale Beck upstream and downstream of the mine water inputs, with assessment of the impacts of these inputs on species composition and cell morphology;*
- *An assessment should be undertaken of the presence in Coledale Beck of suitable **habitat for salmonid fish**, particularly spawning redds; and*
- ***Sediment sampling** in the Coledale Beck and Newlands Beck should be undertaken to assess attenuation processes and the degree of stream bed sediment contamination.*

It should be noted that the ecology surveys are currently considered as low priority, but may become important if a full scale treatment is taken forward. Pre- and post-treatment surveys would allow quantifying the ecological benefits that are achieved, and this may provide an important case study for similar projects elsewhere in the country.

I spoke to John Malley to confirm that the NT will reopen 0 Level this year. At the moment the process is on hold until a Memorandum of Agreement between the NT and the Environment Agency is signed absolving the NT from any ongoing responsibility for the mine. This has been drafted and is with the lawyers. Assuming agreement and assuming materials, equipment and contractors can be got to the site for the summer work should go ahead. (The consultants have not yet drawn up a schedule of works). If the work cannot be scheduled in the summer months then it will probably be delayed till summer 2011.

Funds are in place including funds to reopen 1 Level, however there are signs of a further collapse developing in 1 Level and if this occurs additional funding will be required.

Contamination levels at the top of the Laporte incline are not serious but are bad from 3 Level. Stones dropped from the top of the ore pass on the incline fall for 7 seconds before landing in deep water which may be below 3 Level, Mr Malley believes that this body of water may be responsible for the contamination in the 3 Level water.

Further investigations need to be undertaken to see if inflows from the fellside above the High Force level can be reduced and if the sole of 3 Level can be sealed so that the unpolluted water running down the incline can then be redirected out on 3 Level.

John Aird

The Hext Sale

As reported in the last newsletter, the entire contents of the house of our late President, Major John Wilfred Barratt Hext were to be sold on May 8th by auction and without reserve. Several lots were of special mining interest:

Lot 83, The Letters of John Barratt, 1823 – 1834, manuscript letter copy book bound in morocco; (Guide price £200 – 400, sold for £3200)

Lot 84, Coniston copper Mine cost Book No 2, 1838 – 1843, original reversed calf, cost book for Threlkeld mine, 1825 – 1867, an unidentified account book, 1851 – 1856, worn and damp stained (*I believe that this relates to Strontian mine, IM*) and eight early twentieth century photographs of Hodbarrow Mine; (Guide price £200 – 400, sold for £1600)



Lot 85, a typewritten history of Coniston Copper Mines with maps and plans. (*This was made by a student named David Allen about 1963. I have a copy of it, IM*) (Guide price £50 – 80, sold for £280)

Lot 766, A Box of Items Relating to Copper Mines, which contained some old assay crucibles, some mineral samples, signed prints of some of his drawings by Eric Holland, and a framed print entitled Copper Mill, Coniston Fell 1820. This is the picture reproduced on the cover of Eric Holland's Coniston Copper book. It appears to have been an illustration from a book 'A Tour of the English Lakes 1821', by Fielding & Walton. Peter Fleming has a copy of this book. (Sold for £140)

Lot 421, Portraits of Mr and Mrs William Barratt, half length, seated, she wears a flower enriched bonnet and black dress, he wears a black jacket. Oil on canvas, 90cm by 70cm, in decorative frames; together with a further Portrait of Mr William Barratt, painted-over photograph Guide Price: £200-300, sold for £650

Lot 470, Photographic Portraits of Mr & Mrs William Barratt, 19th century, on opaque white glass, oval, in decorative frames , Guide price £30-50, sold for £180

Lots 405 – 408, Four water colours by William Gershom Collingwood of Coniston Fells, one entitled Coniston Copper Mines. (Guide price £200 – 900, sold for £500 – £3,000)

Whilst Major Hext was alive, Mark Simpson and Ian Matheson photographed all the volumes listed in lots 83 and 84, so we have all the information they contain. A copy is held on CD in the CATMHS archive, together with a complete transcript of the Barratt letters. However, as it was felt that it would be better for research to extract cost book information by using the actual cost books, it was decided that CAT would bid up to £2000 for lot 83. The Ruskin Museum was anxious to obtain Lot 84, the Barratt letters, and asked CATMHS to bid up to £3000 for this on their behalf. If successful then the cost would be met by the Museum, the LDNPA and the county Record Office. The Northern Mines Research Society through Mike Gill also offered to contribute towards the costs.

In the event prices were universally higher than expected and lot 84, the letter book was sold above our limit to Patrick Taylor from Cornwall. Apparently he is a descendant of John Taylor with marriage connections to the Barratt family. He bid £3,400, £3680 with commission and also bought Lot 407, a painting of Coniston Copper Mines by W G Collingwood, for £3460.

We were successful in our bid for Lot 84, the cost books, which we purchased for £1,600, £1840 after commission. The County Record Office has suggested that we deposit the Coniston Cost Book with them. If we were to do so they would make a copy for us. This would seem to be a good way of conserving these historic documents whilst enabling us to have easy access to the material without being too concerned about conservation and security and the CAT Committee are investigating the terms and conditions of the offer.

Ian Matheson.



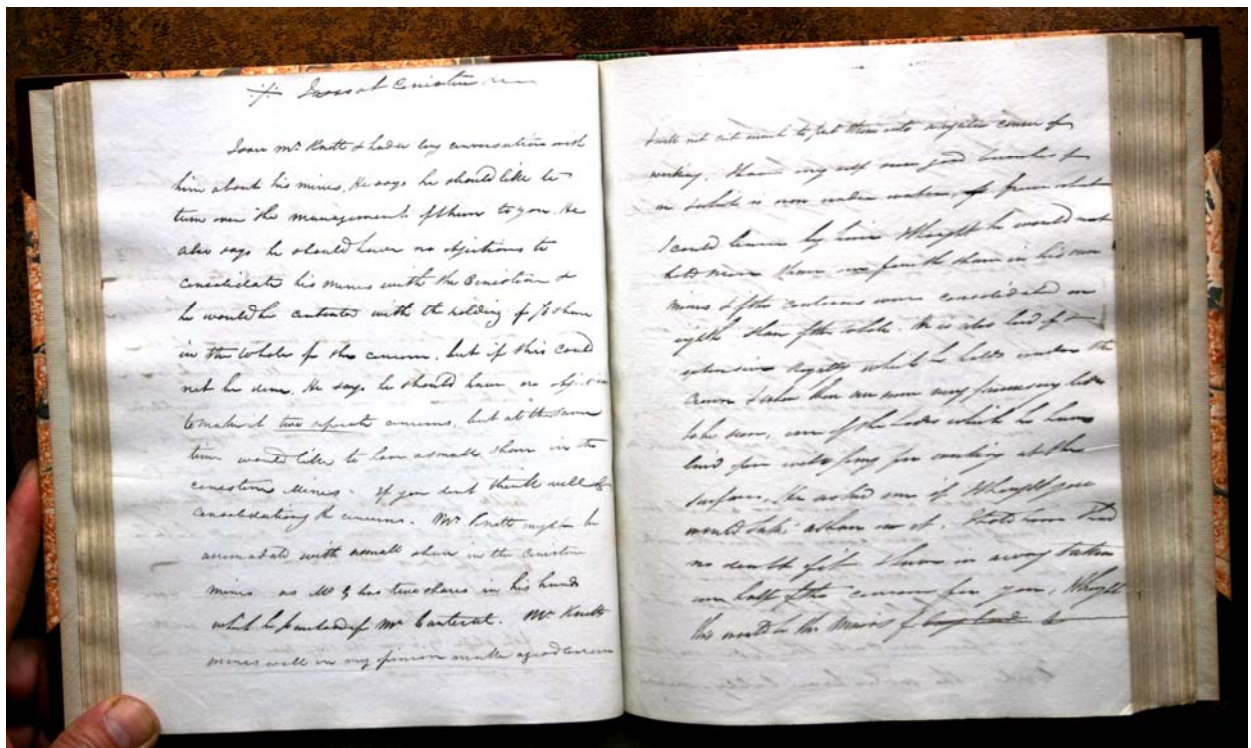
Part of the photograph of William Barratt which was included in Lot 470. William was John Barratt's nephew who he brought up from Cornwall. He lodged at Hoathwaite Farm, Coniston and married Sarah Saunders of Hoathwaite. He became shareholder and manager of Hodbarrow Mine, and he built Holly Howe, now the Coniston Youth Hostel on land he purchased from John Barratt and lived there whilst managing Hodbarrow. He died in 1881 aged 64 and is buried in Torver churchyard.

Copper Mill, Coniston Fell 1820. This is the picture reproduced on the cover of Eric Holland's Coniston Copper book. It appears to have been an illustration from a book 'A Tour of the English Lakes 1821'

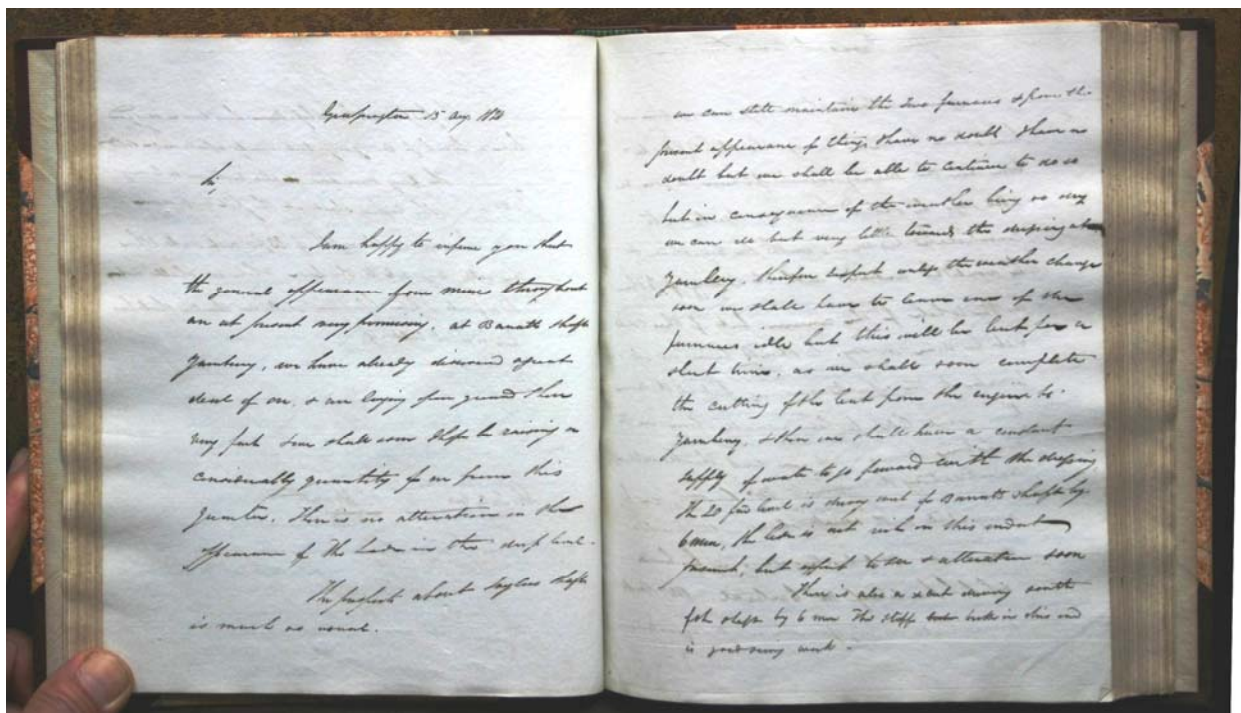


COPPER MILL, CONISTON FELL

Photographic records of the Barratt Letters with transcriptions



Capture 43



Capture 44

Capture 43:

I saw Mr Knott and had a long conversation with him about his mines. He says he should like to turn over the management of them to you. He also says he should have no objections to consolidate his mines with the Coniston & he would be content with a holding of 1/8 share in the whole of the concern, but if this could not be done he says he should have no objection to make it two separate concerns but at the same time would like to have a small share in the Coniston mines. If you don't think well of consolidating the concern Mr Knott might be accommodated with a small share in the Coniston mines as Mr G has two shares in his hand which he purchased of Mr Canteral. Mr Knott's mines will in my opinion make a good concern & will not cost much to put them in a regular course of working. I have myself seen good bunches of ore & which is now under water, from what I could learn by him I thought he would not hold more than one fourth share in his own mines & if the concerns were consolidated an eighth share of the whole. He is also Lord of an extensive Royalty which he holds under the Crown & where there are some very promising lodes to be seen. One of the lodes which he have laid open with ____ for working at the surface. He asked if I thought you would take a share in it. I told him I had no doubt of it & have in a way taken one half of the concern for you, I thought this would be the ____ of leading into his other mines. I suppose you will be going there when you come to Grassington, I shall be going over there in the course of a month or so, & if you think proper of saying any thing further on the subject, until you go there yourself, I shall feel very much obliged if you would have the goodness to write me.

Capture 44:

Grassington 15th August 1824

Sir,

I am happy to inform you that the general appearance of our mines throughout are at present very promising. At Barratt's Shaft, Yarnbury, we have already discovered a great deal of ore, and are laying open ground there very fast & we shall soon I hope be raising considerable quantities of ore from this quarter. There is no alteration in the appearance of the lode in the deep level.

The prospects about Taylor's Shaft is much as usual

We can still maintain the two furnaces, and from the present appearance of things I have no doubt but we shall be able to continue to do so but in consequence of the weather being so dry we can do but very little towards the dressing at Yarnbury therefore I expect unless the weather changes soon we shall have to leave one of the furnaces idle but this will be but for a short time, as we shall soon complete the cutting of the leat from the engine to Yarnbury and then we shall have a constant supply of water to go forward with the dressing.

The 20 fathom level is driving out of Barratt's Shaft by 6 men, the lode is not rich in this end at present, but expect to see an alteration soon.

There is also a cross cut driving south of the shaft by 6 men. The stuff back in this end is good saving work.

Tilberthwaite Horse Crag Level Project Update

Work is progressing well and 'The Digging Team' has finally reached the steel-work which had been installed last November. Track has been laid up to the steel and the 'clear up' has progressed up to the third set of legs. Lagging boards are now being fitted as the work advances. Tools and equipment are being recovered, much to the joy of those who left them behind in November, not knowing what the hand of fate was going to deliver!



*8 Months and 180 tonnes later, amazingly the steel-work appears to be O.K.
Photo A. Woollard.*

Since 7th March when the first skip of rock debris left behind by the floods was hoisted in the Close-Head, 18 visits have been made, clearing approximately 45 metres of Level and an estimated weight of 180 tonnes. Another 4 visits will reach the limit of tipping capacity in the present area and then a decision will have to be made to either increase the capacity by raising the aerial ropeway or relocate it elsewhere.

Dry weather and low discharge levels over the summer period have been of great benefit. At the time of writing the flow rates have increased considerably and a dam situated at the exit of the Close Head is used to control the flow from the mine. Flooding the Close Head

allows the clay particles to settle out of the water before it leaves the mine.



*7 metres to get back to where the work was halted in November 2009.
Photo A. Woollard*

A digital diary is being compiled to record these activities, materials used and members present at each visit. A pictorial record is also being kept.



Shovel split by the force. Photo A. Woollard

Want to improve your fitness levels? Forget the Gym and come to Tilberthwaite!

J. Brown

Meets and Activities

Brandy Bottle to Hard Level through trip - 17th April 2010

Present were Chris Cowdery (ML), John Ashby, John 'Captain' Aird, Jon Knowles, Chris Twigg and Richard Veitch. Steve Brown went walking.

The Brandy Bottle incline to Hard Level trip forms part of the extensive Old Gang mine. The Old Gang mine exploited the Friarfold complex of veins as they crossed Hard Level Gill in an East - West direction a few miles North of Swaledale. It is rumoured that in days long gone, one could pass underground from Old Gang in a Westerly direction to emerge in Gunnerside Gill at the Sir Francis Level. It is also rumoured that one could pass underground to the East and emerge in Arkengarthdale via Moulds Level. These long distance routes have long since collapsed, as has most of the Old Gang mine.

Hard Level was driven from Barney Beck (subsequently called Hard Level Gill) in 1785 as an entry to the Old Rake and Friarfold veins at depth. The Brandy Bottle incline is in fact a pair of parallel inclines descending steeply for about 200m, driven sometime after 1814. It joins the Friarfold Vein at the bottom. Halfway down the inclines a level leaves to the East, which used to join the Surrender Mine and onwards to Arkengarthdale.

The group met at Surrender Bridge, and suitably equipped with wetsuits, (including J. Knowles in his sleek black leotard), departed for the 2.5 mile walk up Hard Level Gill. The walk passes through a number of mine related sites, the most impressive being the remainder of the Old Gang mill with it's flue running up the hill behind, and the remains of a James Simpley Vibrating table still present inside the building. Hard Level emerges below the track just past the mill, however the group continued up the gill to the Brandy Bottle incline. At the bottom of the incline lie the remains of a number of ore-tubs, their positioning suggesting a final speedy descent down the incline.



The level at the bottom of the incline is deep water, offering no alternative but to enter the water up to neck deep on the start of the journey. From the bottom of the incline, the group effectively turned through 180 degrees to pass back underneath the incline and into the Black Cross Cut. Just as the water gives the impression of being impossibly close to the roof, the penetrating collapse is encountered and thus the deepest part is passed.

The group continued along the Black Cross Cut to North Rake, stopping to inspect a shaft rising up. The shaft had been capped with an impressive dry-stone cap, and suggested maybe the presence of a level off part-way up. Dropping through a short hole in the floor, the group continued along the Black Cross Cut to meet Old Rake. Fine rails were still present at the junction, and continued in a Westerly direction towards Gunnerside. Two fine sets of points were still present as well. As expected, the level was blocked in that direction, thus progress was made towards Hard Level in the opposite direction along Old Rake. At Hard Level, the group explored all the possible routes, all of which ultimately terminated at collapses, inevitably after deep water. A small amount of clearance



North Rake

was undertaken to lower the water behind a blockage. The good work was nearly undone after J. Knowles lowered a large boulder into the constricted space above the collapse, but couldn't find the strength to remove it. Fortunately the ML and Capt. Aird could make good the inconvenience.

An uneventful traverse of Hard Level found the group outside not long after lunchtime, so lunch was enjoyed in the sunshine at Old Gang Mill.

After lunch, some of the group explored Spence Level, which apart from a very low section which suggested it was natural, offered nothing of interest. Following this, the ML and Chris Twigg explored Knotts Level. This level was driven on the opposite side of the gill to Hard Level / Spence Level, and appeared to be trying the same vein as the Spence Level. The level has an interesting wood-lined chamber, which the ML and Chris Twigg considered to have been an explosives store. Other than that, the only other point of note is that the level forks, one fork along the vein, the other driving towards presumed other veins, and although both forks are hundreds of meters long, absolutely no stoping or mineralisation was noted! It was clearly an expensive folly.

After reverting to civilian dress, the group variously repaired to the Bridge Inn in Grinton, followed by the CB Inn in Arkengarthdale for a rather splendid meal, and back to the Bridge Inn for a final pint. The final highlight was following Steve 'luminous trousers' Brown up the hill to Grinton Youth Hostel.

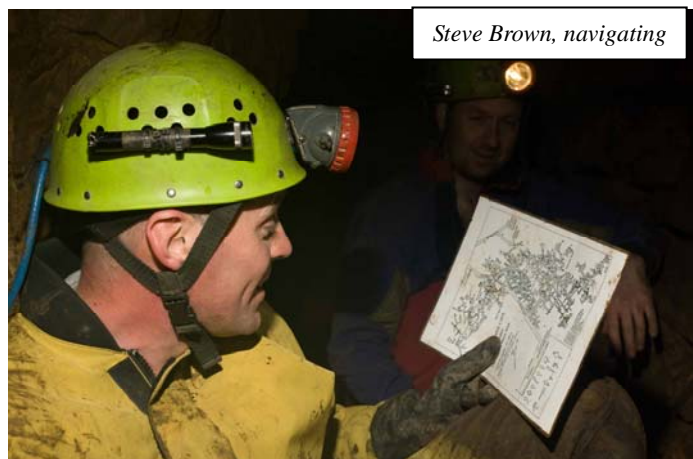
Chris Cowdery

Devis Mine - 18th April 2010

Present were Chris Cowdery (ML), John Ashby, John 'Captain' Aird, Jon Knowles and Steve Brown.

The ML had obtained a number of surveys and a description of Devis Mine. A particularly intriguing aspect was the combination of natural and man-made features.

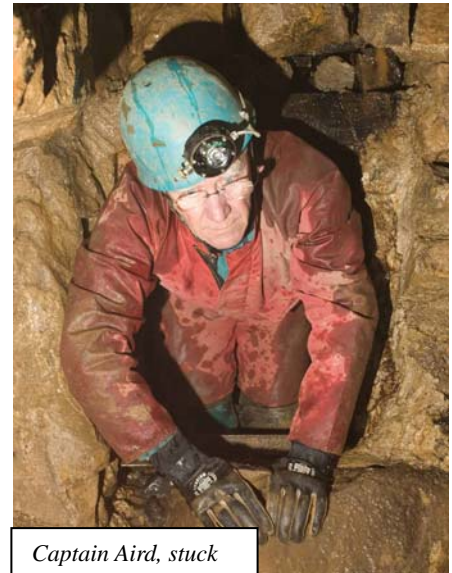
A pleasant stroll up Cogden Gill took the group to the Devis entrance shaft. This was quickly climbed down to enter the mine level, which appears as a natural rift enlarged by the miners. A short distance in, Pearsons level was passed on the left. After Pearsons level, the mine level passes through the Central Maze area, which is a compact area of natural passages. With Steve Brown navigating, the group left the main drive and entered the maze. Some debating took place with regard to the exact location, however an 8m pit allowed



Steve Brown, navigating

synchronisation with the map. A short investigation into the maze showed that J. Ashby would suffer unduly from the 'Winnie the Pooh' effect if further exploration was undertaken in this area. Steve Brown also complained of a similar possibility, but this was believed to be psychological as the ML and J. Knowles passed through a short section of the maze with ease. Capt. Aird congratulated the ML on his decision not to pursue the maze further. Rumbblings of mutiny were also detected.

Past the Central Maze, the level intersects the Wellington Vein. The group passed along the Wellington Vein and into Robinsons level. A descent of a small sump revealed an area of old workings in a network of natural cavities, suggesting the miners simply picked up and broke off ore from the cavity walls.



Captain Aird, stuck

Regaining Robinsons Level, the group reached a very wet dig (credit to the diggers) through which the Devis Hole Extensions are reached. A number of sumps were encountered, each one far too deep to be descended with the equipment present. Shortly after, the end of the level was reached.

The group returned to the Wellington Vein, and then along the Cranehow Level. A long and wet dig was passed, on the other side of which were a significant number of hobnail boot prints and a well preserved section of rail including some working points. More sumps were encountered, again too deep to descend, before reaching the end of the level. Lunch was taken, before returning to the Wellington Vein, where the Western reaches were explored.



Devis Mine mill.

After changing, the group enjoyed Steve Brown's home-smoked cheese with biscuits in the Yorkshire sun, and the Captains dried apricots, before departing for the various long journeys home.

Chris Cowdery.

Devis Mill launder

The group returned to day, and on the way back down the valley investigated the smelt mill and fuel store. The buildings are in excellent repair, and are impressive. Interpretative boards are present inside the buildings showing how they operated, and sufficient original stonework remains to limit the imagination required.



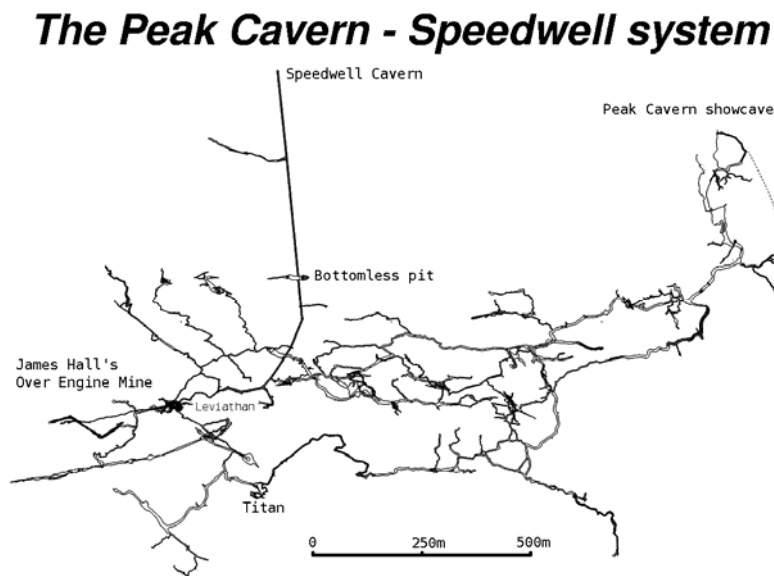
Titan reconnoitre

Chris Cowdery (ML), John Aird, John Ashby, Mark Waite, Jon Knowles (absent)

Titan is the UK's largest vertical cave chamber, with a height of 141.5metres (464ft). It forms part of the Peak / Speedwell system, which is in Castleton, Derbyshire. It was discovered by Dave Nixon and team on Jan 1st 1999 after numerous digs, and free-climbed over the following 6 month period. Its relative inaccessibility was resolved by digging a 45m shaft from surface, which broke through (after three and a half years!) into a passage near the top of Titan.

A trip into Titan was offered for the NAMHO 2009 conference, but was heavily oversubscribed and CATMHS members missed out. Thus the ML decided to organise a reconnoitre trip to see if it would make a suitable trip for the CATMHS meets list. It was determined that the most exciting trip would be an abseil into Titan and exit via the Peak Cavern showcave, passing through James Hall Over Engine Mine and the far end of Speedwell Cavern.

The ML organised the various permissions, keys and a guide, as the system is large.



The group rendezvoused in Castleton (minus Jon Knowles who was unfortunately away on business), collected our guide (Tim) and set off for Hurdlow. Near gale-force winds made changing challenging, but soon the Three Musketeers, the ML and Tim made their way to the shaft top. The shaft was opened, and the shaft rigged. A handy trough of water was present near the shaft top to wet the ropes, considered essential with pitches of this size. A rapid descent into the passage near the top of Titan was accomplished.



The passage opens out into a window, from which the true magnitude of Titan can be appreciated. It is worth observing that the ML is not entirely keen on big pitches, thus Titan was going to be a personal challenge. The ML had a plan for rigging Titan. 1st Rigger was Mr. Knowles. Unfortunately absent. 2nd Rigger was Mr Mark 'Fearless' Waite. Unfortunately too short to reach the anchor points. Captain Aird suffers from the same height issues as Mark. Thus the ML found himself leaning out into the top of Titan, standing on tiptoe trying to hook karabiners into the anchor points. This accomplished, the ML retreated and let Mark set off and complete the rigging. There is a re-belay about 70m down, followed by a 60m pitch to the floor. The team set off in turn, using their very powerful torches to admire the architecture. The ML on the other hand closed his eyes. For the brief moment that he did open them (near the re-belay), the good Captain decided to illuminate the chamber from below thus showing the ML quite how large the chamber is, and quite how far from the floor he still was.



John Aird. Colostomy Crawl

Everybody arrived at the bottom of the pitch without incident, and set off down through the rather tight boulder choke to reach the Far Peak Extensions part of Peak Cavern (until recently only accessible to divers).

A jaunt along the streamway with a turn into Stemple Highway took the group into the bottom of



Peak Gate

The Leviathan, a natural chamber 80m high which was broken into by the miners of James Hall Over Engine Mine (JH). JH has some particularly impressive stemples across the chamber, perhaps 12feet long. A descent on iron ladders led to the Speedwell Streamway, which was followed downstream to the inner end of the Speedwell Canal. Yomping along the Speedwell Streamway, the group soon arrived at Egnaro Aven, which is the start of Colostomy Crawl. This is a muddy flat-out crawl for 140m followed by the same length again of stooping. The ML passed with ease along this section, followed by Tim. It soon became apparent that the group was spreading out. By the end of the crawl, the Three Mustketeers had transformed into the Three Stooges. Marks knee had packed up so he was punting himself along with the other leg, Mr. Ashby was an interference fit in places, and Captain Aird had 'lost the will to live'. The crawl eventually dropped into Treasury Chamber, which in turn connected with the Peak Cavern Streamway via the Mucky Ducks. A vigorous cleaning exercise was undertaken at Buxton Water sump to try to clean up before emerging via the Showcave (to the surprise of some of the tourists)

Overall, despite being an enjoyable trip, it was concluded that it was perhaps not for the Society Members. It would be best described as 'sporting', or maybe even 'desperate'. The ML however would be more than happy to advise on the organisational complexity should other members wish to follow.

Details of the exploration of Titan can be read on the

Peak District Caving News website, here: <http://www.peakdistrictcaving.info/cavenews.htm> starting January 1999. Wikipedia also has a good summary.



Bottom of James Hall Over Engine Mine

Chris Cowdery.

Newland Bottom, May 12th

Present: P Timewell, D Robson, I Matheson, E King, D Benham, P Sandbach and dog.

Behind the charcoal barn, there is an old track, heading in the general direction of Kirkby. The track leads gently up the side of the valley and soon reaches a good view of the mills at Newland Bottom. According to the pamphlet from Jack Layfield, this section was the main road to Ulverston in it's day. The mill and surrounding buildings are now converted to holiday homes. The tallest building at the back of the hamlet was built as a fulling mill and later used as a flax mill, a cotton mill, and a workshop for making swill baskets. There was also a corn mill and a blacking mill. The corn mill operated until 1955, the blacking mill has now been replaced by a large holiday home.

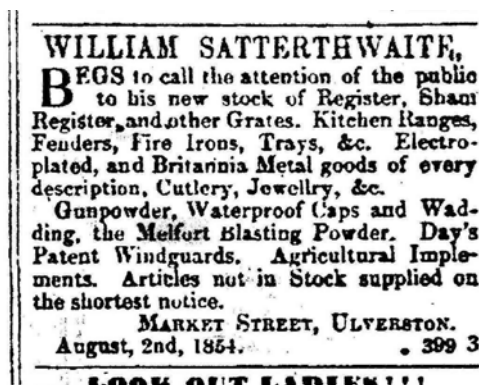
The magazine on the Alps, Photo: P Sandbach



The track becomes a sunken lane, then comes out at "The Falls", now holiday cottages. After a short walk along the road, we turned onto another sunken lane running down to Newland Bottom Farm. John Helme showed us the farm after one of the early working parties at Newland. It was then a ruin with the remains of wooden scaffolding on the outside. It is now fully restored. The present owner remembered the previous occupant

living by paraffin lamps and bathing in the stream. He had a small turbine set up at the weir to charge batteries for his radio. The turbine house is still there, but we were unable to look inside as the house is now occupied. I had thought that the place had been another mill, but there is no evidence for this from the 1895 OS map.

Ian asked when we would get to the mines and I replied wrongly that there were no mines on this walk. Paul reminded me that there are two addits in the valley bottom above Newland Bottom Farm. Nobody had wellies, but Dave took photos to confirm that they are blind headings.



Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser

We climbed up to the road and headed back toward Newland, then turned left up the Alps to visit a gunpowder magazine. A resident of Newland village had showed us the site some years ago and suggested that we might like to restore it. He said that it had been used by an ironmonger in King Street. There is documentary evidence of Melfort powder being delivered to King Street ironmongers, but this magazine was built of 20th century bricks, glazed and stamped "ABC" or "BBC".

It has not deteriorated since our first visit.

From the magazine, it was an easy stroll back to Newland in the evening sunshine.

References: Pamphlet No 52 and notes supplied by Jack Layfield.

Northampton Record Office, 26th & 27th May

Not sure if this is a meet report as there was no meet. Brian Cubbon drove for 3 hours, got forced into the inside lane at the horrible junction 15 and had to continue to Newport Pagnell. Returning, he (understandably) failed to see the turnoff for the records office and continued towards home. Can you have a surface meet graded as V Diff on the grounds of severe traffic and bad signposting? I cannot use my dog to improve turnout as he is no help in a records office. It was poor communication all round. John Helme would have come but did not know the date. Spent a very pleasant day with Brian looking at windmills and waterwheels. Even if we had turned out in force, I don't think we could have done much without adequate catalogues.

Peter Sandbach

The Curved Wall of Gorseddau

The Welsh slate industry has left us a rich legacy remains to explore and research, but one of the more unusual sights is the striking curved wall of Gorseddau Slate Quarry (SH570452).

Gorseddau was an open quarry and operated for 12 years from 1855, though not successfully. It



enjoyed a rail link to Porthmadog and it would appear that as the quarry waste heaps grew in size, they became a threat to the railway. Lack of room on the property meant that moving the railway was not an option, hence the extraordinary solution that we see today. In practice, the wall's purpose was to shoot any errant waste away over the top of the railway thus preventing any damage. This imposing and very well engineered wall stands some 4mtrs high and the leading edge overhangs the base by 1.5mtrs. A careful scrutiny reveals a respectable amount of graffiti, but the oldest dated piece is dated 1899 – long after the quarry closed. Another interesting feature of the site is a very fine incline, though on the whole, the place has a certain barren feel and no metalwork of any kind remains. The rail link probably served the scrap men just as well as it had the operating quarry.

Tony Holland

THE QUARRY MANAGER AND THE MINES INSPECTOR

**ABERLLEFENI SLATE
QUARRIES LTD**

ABERLLEFENI

MACHYNLLETH, NORTH WALES

OUR REF: _____
YOUR REF: _____

Inspector
Mr A Dobson. H M Ministry of Mines.
Chester.

I : II : 60.

Dear Sir,

In the Miscellaneous Mines (Explosives) Regulations 1958 (No 2258) Part IV (1&2) it states that "a manager of a Mine shall not permit Explosives, Detonators, or Fuse to be stored thereat except in a place on the surface."

I consider this method much more dangerous than storing same in a safe place underground. I wish to make a strong objection to this Regulation.

The less these are carried about the better, and I consider it much safer for all if these are stored underground in a safe place.

Also Part V (19-1) which states that "No person shall use any tool in a shot hole other than a tool made wholly of wood or any other tool of a type approved for the purpose by the Minister."

As we have already tried wooden stemmers which proved to be of no use for stemming any Pillering or Cleavage holes. No wooden stemmer will stand the hammering required for stemming a Pillering hole, and in the case of Cleavage holes which need to be up to 7ft long and no more than 2" in diameter I think you will agree that these are not practical.

I can not from experience see how these are going to work in our case, and wish to object to this Regulation also.

Yours Faithfully,
J Arthur Williams.
Quarry Manager.



MINISTRY OF POWER
H.M. SENIOR DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF MINES
NORTH WALES AND ST. HELENS DISTRICT
25 Eastgate Row, CHESTER
Telephone: Office: Chester 23658
Residence: Tarvin 481

Postage must be prepaid
Our reference:
Your reference:

Aberllefeni Slate Quarries Ltd.,
Machynlleth,
North Wales.

3rd November, 1960.

Dear Sirs,

The Miscellaneous Mines (Explosives) Regulations, 1958

I have your letter of the 1st November, 1960 in which you state objection to certain of the above Regulations.

I must remind you, however, that although you object the regulations are part of the law of the land and were made to be obeyed. It is the function of this Inspectorate to see that they are obeyed.

You would be wise to read them carefully and even study them.

Yours faithfully,

(A. Dobson)
H.M. Senior District Inspector of Mines and Quarries.

The adjacent letters although from a mere fifty years ago might as well have been written in the Middle Ages so remote is their connection with the present day. It would appear that the Manager was his own typist (for those too young to have used a typewriter the smudge marks are due to the carbon paper used to produce a copy). The Inspector had both secretary and a typing pool hence the higher quality of his letter. If anything the differences in appearance greatly understate the two men's relative positions.

Merely to be appointed, the Inspector would have been required to hold a Colliery/Mine Managers Certificate, and the area over which he had authority is very considerable, covering the whole of the Welsh slate industry, the North Wales and the south Lancashire coal fields, involving the production of millions of tons of coal every year. Additionally the role of the Civil Service in public life was probably at its peak, the age of

deference still existed and “human rights” were unheard of. In many ways the work of enforcing mining legislation had become much easier than it was before the Second World War; the advent of the National Coal Board meant that instead of having to deal with a vast array of coal mining companies the Inspector had only to deal with a single large organisation which treated safety as a very high priority and in which the National Union of Mineworkers had a large input. Furthermore, the newly formed NCB promptly set about closing a large number of small and marginally profitable coal mines, which in the past had caused a whole disproportionate number of problems for the Inspectorate; since while in private ownership enforcing any particular piece of legislation would lead to the individual mine closing.

This combination of circumstances left J Arthur Williams in a most un-enviable position. Working for a small company in remote rural Wales in an industry whose output was declining steadily (and had been since the first decade of the 20th Century apart from blips at the end of each of the wars), he was faced with serious manpower problems ever since quarry workers had discovered Local Authority employment with attendant guaranteed holidays, sick pay, pension provisions and Union representation, not to mention canteen meals and tea breaks! Reference to Jon Knowles article on Aberllefenni in NL 78, February 2005, will illustrate the reasons why the quarry was unpopular with the Inspectorate, the vertical slate veins lead to the formation of chambers of enormous height in which inspection of the roof was impossible. Obviously such chasms required extensive protective railing, and the anchorage points for hauling cables became inaccessible as the slate was removed below.

As far as the two specific points raised are concerned: (1) Ever since the passage of the Explosives Act in 1875 every effort had been made to ensure that explosives were only stored in appropriately approved magazines. The days when grocers sold black powder by weight in brown paper bags were over! The essence of Mr Williams’s complaint is that any surplus explosive at the end of the day had to be carried out of the quarry and back to the magazine, instead of being kept “in a safe place”. It is the nature of the safe place that causes the problem. The Inspector would in all probability have been quite happy with a properly installed portable magazine underground, but is not going to accept the upturned box on which the quarry men sit to drink tea! It may be of interest that a visit to part of the upper levels of the quarry recently proved conclusively that not all explosives were returned to the magazine. (2) As far as tamping tools go Mr Williams is being wilfully unhelpful. With timber he has the option of using *lignum vitae*, certainly tough enough for the purpose, but even in 1960 very expensive, or applying to the Inspector for permission to use a tool “approved by the Minister”.

Since the search of the quarry archive is incomplete there may be more letters to be found, although it is doubtful if anything with the ringing clarity of the Inspectors final sentence will emerge.

Moses Kellow

NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS FROM 1871 - 1930

from the Ulverston Mirror and Furness Reflector and the Millom Gazette concerning Iron Mining
Peter Fleming

8th April 1871

We understand that the Duc de Grammont and M Schneider, the famous ironmaster of Creuzot, France, have been visiting the iron and steel works at Barrow and are at present staying in the Furness Abbey Hotel.

8th April 1871

FATAL ACCIDENT AT GREENSCOUGH MINES

A very sad and fatal accident occurred at Greenscough Mines, near Dalton, on Saturday last, to a man named Johnathan Inman, residing at Butts, Dalton, who was a miner employed at Greenscough Mines. An inquest was held over the body at 10 o'clock on Monday morning, at the Bridge Inn, Dalton before William Butler, Esq. Coroner, and a respectable jury. It appeared from the evidence that the men changed sets at four o'clock in the morning, and deceased went down for the purpose of working a drift. He was followed by another man named James Towers, of Dalton, who was going to work another drift, but hearing someone groan, he went to see what was the matter and found that about 14ft. of rock and earth had fallen upon deceased. He was taken out about seven o'clock the same morning quite dead. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death". Deceased leaves a widow and two children.

July 11th 1873

FATAL ACCIDENT AT LINDAL MOOR PITS. An inquest was opened on Saturday last at the Red Lion, Swarthmoor, by W. Butler, Esq, coroner, touching on the death of a lad named Charles Dunstan, who was killed the previous day by a fall from one of the ladders at the GB No.7 pit at Lindal Moor. The following are the names of the jurymen: Messrs John Sharpe (foreman), John Park, William Thorpe, Joseph Cherry, William Moyle, William Bowden, Michael Sweeny, John Marsh, James Jackson, James King, and John Rigg.

The first witness called was James Henry Dunstan who said; I am a miner and live at Swarthmoor. The deceased was my brother. He worked at the iron ore pit at Lindal Moor. Had he lived until the third day of August he would have been 16 years of age. He was the son of Hendry Dunstan, who lives at Swarthmoor, and was an iron miner until the time of his death. – Jacob Marshall said; I am 15 years of age and work at the iron ore pits at Lindal Moor. I knew the deceased and saw him alive yesterday. I afterwards saw him dead or very much injured. – The Coroner then stated that it was necessary that the inquest should be adjourned, to enable the Government Inspector to attend, and it was accordingly stood adjourned until Friday.

July 19th 1873

INQUEST AT SWARTHMOOR. The adjourned inquest into the circumstances attending the death of the boy named Charles Dunstan, who was killed by a fall at the G.B. No.7 pit at Lindal Moor, was resumed yesterday (Friday), at the Red Lion Inn by Mr Butler, coroner.

Mr Joseph Dickinson of Pendelton, one of HM Inspectors of Mines, was present.

It appears that the deceased worked at No.17 Pit, but during the dinner hour on Friday, the 11th inst, he went down pit No. GB 7, to look about him, and as he was returning, by means of the ladder for that purpose, he fell a distance of about 40 yards down the shaft.

It transpired that he was doing wrong in being down the pit and would probably have been discharged had he been caught in the act.

There are five ladders from the top to the bottom of the shaft. These ladders are divided into two equal parts, the lower half slanting, and the upper half upright. The jury found that the death was caused by accident, and the jury requested the Coroner to intimate to the proprietors of the pit that, as it was illegal that any part of the ladders should be vertical, it was their opinion each ladder should be in one piece and inclined, and that the manholes should be underneath the ladders instead of in front. They further stated that they thought the boys should be better looked after during dinner hours.

June 15th 1878

INFRINGEMENT of MINERAL RIGHTS.

KENNEDY BROTHERS V. THE FURNESS IRON AND STEEL COMPANY, LIMITED

Some years ago Messrs. Kennedy Brothers discovered a most valuable bed of iron ore under the Askam estate, which belonged to Mr Mackinnon, to whom they paid royalty for the ore, and they became mining lessees thereof. The lease expired in November, 1868, and Messrs, Kennedy Bros. negotiated for its renewal, and this they all but arranged.

Mr. Mackinnon, however, ultimately leased the ore to the Furness Iron and Steel Company. Messrs. Kennedy Bros. had also, and still have, a lease of the adjoining Roanhead estate, belonging to Mr Sandys. In October, 1874, Messrs Kennedy Bros. men were working in their mine in the Roanhead royalty when they broke through and came suddenly upon an open space which was on a lower level than they were working. They looked through the opening and could see candle lights below and men at work; the space appearing about twenty feet above and twenty feet below where they were. The men whom they saw working were men in the employ of the Furness Iron and Steel Company. Messrs. Kennedy Bros. took immediate steps to ascertain the quantity of ore abstracted by the Furness Iron and Steel Company, and claimed compensation for what they had taken. The company then made a set off for the ore which they alleged Messrs. Kennedy Bros. had abstracted from the Askam royalty. The questions of compensation were referred to Mr Edmund Ray, on behalf of Messrs. Kennedy Bros., and to Mr J. D. Kendall for the company, and they appointed Mr. Thomas John Bewick, of Haydon Bridge, Northumberland, civil and mining engineer, as their umpire. The reference was held at the Furness Abbey Hotel, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday; the 20th, 21st, and 22nd of May last. Mr C. T. Clark, solicitor, Lancaster, conducted the case on behalf of Messrs. Kennedy Bros., and Mr. S. H. Jackson, solicitor, Ulverston appeared for the Furness Iron and Steel Company.

The umpire made his award on the 30th May, by which he awarded to Messrs. Kennedy Bros. the sum of £4,654 and directed that the Furness Iron and Steel Company should bear and pay all costs and charges attending the said arbitration.

June 14th 1879

THREE MEN KILLED BY A FALL OF ORE.

On Monday evening a deplorable accident occurred at Park Mines, near Dalton, which resulted in the deaths of three men named Wm. Cooil, aged 38, and James Hicks, aged 30, both of Dalton, and Matthew Walsh, aged 60, of Askam. The deceased was working in Park Mines, when the roof fell

suddenly and covered the three men, a man named Wm. Gregg having a narrow escape from the falling material. All the deceased men were married.

An inquest was opened at the Wellington Hotel, Dalton, on Wednesday afternoon, by Mr. Coroner Poole, when Mr Eddy was foreman of the jury. Wm. Gregg deposed; I live at Cleator-street, Dalton, and am a miner, and work at Park Mines, belonging to the Barrow Hematite Steel Co, Limited. I knew Wm. Cooil and James Hicks. They were both miners, and worked at the same place, Cooil lived at Antecross, Dalton, and Hicks in King-street, Dalton. I was working with Hicks on Monday last at the Park Mines. The roof of the working fell in, and Cooil and Hicks were covered with the earth and falling rock. They were both of them got out dead, Cooil about 6 o'clock on Tuesday morning, and Hicks about 11 o'clock the same morning.

The inquest was then adjourned till Monday afternoon, for the attendance of the inspector of mines.

An inquest was subsequently held at the London House Inn, Askam, the same afternoon, on Matthew Walsh. The following were the jury:- Messrs. Josph Brockbank (foreman), Joseph Pickthall, Joseph Lishman, Robert Reevely, John Lamb, James Huston, Robert Warwick, David Williams, Alfred Jackson, James Cryer, George Wilson, and Wm. Jones.

Wm Gregg again gave evidence. He said: I knew Matthew Walsh. He was a miner, and lived at Marsh huts, Askam. I and he both worked at the Park Mines. I and deceased, Hicks and Cooil worked in the same height of workings. I and Hicks worked together, and Cooil and Walsh worked together. We went to work on Monday afternoon last at 2 o'clock in the California pit. We were getting ore by the ton. About half-past 6 o'clock in the evening I and Hicks were boring a hole, and Cooil and Walsh came to us, because the end where they were had got uneasy. The ground began to move, and pieces began to drop down, and they came to get out of the way. They were working about 8 yards behind us. Hicks got off a stage to get a charge to put into the hole which we had made, and whilst he was there Cooil said he believed it was all coming in, and he had hardly spoken the word when it all came down in an instant and covered Walsh, Hicks, and Cooil, and they had not time to speak again. I was standing on a stage close to the drift. It came round where I was, but I was not knocked down with it. I got under a rock and remained there till it fell. Men started to get out the deceased, and Walsh was got out about 6 o'clock on Tuesday morning. He was quite dead, and was removed to where the body now lies. The drift where we were driving had been worked about 10 feet high, and the top of our level consisted of 4 feet of ore. We had wooded all along close up to the end. We had plenty of timber, and it was good. I think that some pinnel fell from the top of the workings above and crushed in the ore and wood of our workings. It did not break our timber, but knocked it endways. We were all accustomed to getting iron ore. It was rather dangerous ground. Our drift was 11 feet wide, and about 10 feet high. The usual width is about 8 feet and the height about 7 or 8 feet. After it had all fallen I got over the timber and out another way. I have worked about 18 years at the Park Mines, and the ore was of the usual hard kind of metal. They had not been a quarter of a minute with me when the place went in. It fell for about 6 yards.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

14 May 1881

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT AT YARLSIDE MINES

On Monday afternoon, Mr John Poole, coroner, opened an inquest at the Harbour Hotel, Barrow, concerning the death of Benjamin Davis (36) labourer, of Barrow, who was injured at Yarlside Mines yesterday morning week, and died in North Lonsdale Hospital. Mr Charles Harrison was foreman of the jury, - Mr Nalder watched the proceedings on behalf of the Yarlside Mining Co. -

After viewing the body of deceased, which was lying at the North Lonsdale Hospital, he first witness called was Charles Sutton, 10 Worcester Street, labourer, employed at the Yarlside Mines .

On Friday last he was working along with deceased and six other men. They were lifting a ram and some rods to lower down into the pumping column. The pumps were being repaired. The mines belong to Messrs. Storey and Bolton. They were lifting machinery with a crab winch. Had been working at the same place the day before, and using the same machinery. They had only one winch, which had two handles to it. There were two men at each handle when winding up, but when lowering three men at the handle and one at the brake, which was an iron one worked by a separate handle. They first started to lift the rods and ram. When they lifted them a few inches the men below shouted "hold" and they were told to keep them there until the pit joiner, William Minnie, got down into the pit, when he would shout as a signal to lower. It would be about 40 ft. down. The crab winch was straight at the top of the pit. The joiner shouted to Richard Elm to lower. They started to lower, and it had gone down 4 or 5 feet when the deceased shouted, "Hold, Charlie," They stopped the crab from going round, and John Butler put a brake on. The deceased at this time was entangled in the rope with his feet. There were some coils in the rope, and he had got his foot into one of them. He was close to the crab. The weight of the ram and the rod forced the rod round the drum, and the deceased being caught, was dragged round. Witness called for assistance. Other men came, and the deceased was freed in 5 or 6 minutes. His left foot was cut off. He was sensible, and spoke frequently to witness on the way to hospital, but never mentioned the accident. They had the rope four times round the drum, the circumference of which would be about 2ft. 6in. The rope was to the extent of 6 or 7 yards. He could not tell why the rope slipped, unless it was because the deceased got fast. Two extra men were sent on account of the rope being wet. There were 4 or 5 coils in the rope. The engineer, Mr. Davison, ordered witness the deceased and John Butler to take the coils out. Deceased said he could take them out as the rope was going over one barrel. One of these coils caught the foot of the deceased. They were lowering about 2 tons. They had been lifting the day before. John Butler told the deceased to stand on the left hand side of the rope facing the crab, as he would be safer. Witness and deceased had worked together for about 4 months. There was about 100 feet slack rope at the top of the pit. It was a new rope, and therefore would be slightly still. Mr Davison was looking after the job at the top and gave instructions for the men to be careful. -

By Mr Nalder: Deceased was well used to this work. There were three men holding the rope behind the drum, and the deceased was nearest. If the deceased had been on the proper side, the accident would not have happened. The rope became loose on the drum. -

Dr Booth, house surgeon at the Hospital, spoke to the admission of the deceased into the Hospital on Friday last. He was suffering from a fracture on the left thigh; the left foot was nearly torn off, lacerated wounds on each groin, fracture of the right arm, and several cuts on the head. He died from the effects of the injuries about 11 o'clock the same morning. He was not conscious. - John Butler, 34, Harrogate Street knew the deceased and worked along with him, and the last witness.

Witness told the deceased to stand on the left hand side of the rope, facing the winch, because he was in the "pull" of the rope if an accident happened. He replied, "Never mind; I am all right." Mr Davison had the general management of the job, and came now and again to see them. Witness noticed there were some coils in the rope. He asked deceased to help him to get them out, when he said, "Never mind; I can get them out." Witness then dropped the rope, and went to look after the work allotted to him. -

The Coroner here said that he had received a telegram from Mr. Willis, the inspector of mines, announcing that he would like to attend the enquiry, and the inquest was adjourned.

Millom Gazette - Saturday October 14 1883

Fatality at a Dalton Mine

On Wednesday a miner named Thomas Nankervis, aged 48 years residing at 60 Chapel Street, Dalton-in-Furness died from injuries received whilst working at the Stank Mines, belonging to the Barrow Haematite Steel Company. It appears that on Monday deceased had been unloading pit rails into a cage, and when the cage was ascending the shaft one of the rails fell out, striking the deceased violently in the side, causing a deep incised wound, from which he died as above stated.

Friday May 26th 1899

DISCOVERY OF ORE NEAR ASKAM

There seems to be every likelihood of the Greenscoe Mines, now leased by the Askam and Mouzell Iron Company, providing a source of great benefit to the company. It appears that extensive boring operations have recently been carried out on this estate, with the result that a fine body of metal has been discovered, equally, if not superior to any yet found in Furness. The outcome of this is the sinking of a shaft which exceeded all expectations, and now preparations are in progress for putting down an engine and the fixing of a pit top. The scarcity of iron ore should tend to cause a great revival in the iron trade in this district. The general impression is that there is a large body of workable metal at the present mines and also in the immediate vicinity.

Millom Gazette – July 18th 1902 (page 7)

SHOCKING MINING ACCIDENT AT LINDAL

William Walker, 27, married of Askam, met with a frightful accident at Lindal Moor Mines on Thursday morning. Whilst working at the fore breast a short was accidentally discharged, and his left hand was shattered. His face was also terribly injured, and it is feared he may lose his eyesight. He was taken to the Ulverston Cottage Hospital, where his injuries were attended to by Dr. Ashburner.

Millom Gazette – May 8th 1903 (p.5)

IRON MINING IN FURNESS; A COMPANY FORMED

Some time ago a discovery of iron ore was made at Greenhaum, near Dalton-in-Furness, at varying depths, and all bearing promise of good deposits in the immediate locality. For certain reasons however, the boring operations were suspended, and nothing was done in the matter until Monday, when a private company was formed to resume operations. The capital of the company is £5000, and the directors are Dr. Booth, Barrow; Mr William Chapman, Whitehaven; and Mr Joseph Huntrods, Whitehaven. The other first subscribers are Messrs G. W. Williamson, Whitehaven; C. W. Hunter, Barrow; J... Jackson, Whitehaven; and W.E. Walker, Whitehaven. New machinery is to be immediately put down, and the ground near Greenhaum is to be thoroughly exploited. The estate which the company have taken in hand comprises Greenside and Greenhaums, about 400 acres in all.

Millom Gazette – Friday August 6th 1909
REPORTED DISCOVERY NEAR ASKAM
Silver and Copper Ore Found

It was understood that some weeks ago traces of very valuable minerals were found in a quarry near Askam, which led to further search, with the result that a number of men are engaged in testing the nature of the “find”. The operatives so far have revealed the presence of silver, copper, and lead ores. It is the intention of the promoters to sink a shaft and make a thorough search, and we hope the promoters will be amply rewarded for their enterprise. This comes as exceptionally good news at this period, when many of the iron mines are practically worked out in the district, and which has resulted in so many men being thrown out of employment. We can only hope that the present find at Ireleth will lead to further and more important discoveries.

Millom Gazette – Friday June 14th 1912
TRAINED AT HODBARROW MINE

A funeral took place in Dalton-in-Furness cemetery on Tuesday afternoon of the remains of Mr Emmanuel Jackson, foreman pump repairer at the Roanhead Mines belonging to Kennedy Bros. There was a large gathering and the Rev. H.S. Helm, B.A., conducted the service. Mr Jackson met with a terrible death on Saturday morning last, being hurled down a shaft a distance of 70 ft, on to a staging. He was in the act of guiding a 5cwt plate on the pumprod, when the plate fell on to the plank on which he was standing and smashed it. He had terrible injuries to the head, death being instantaneous. At the inquest on Monday a verdict of “accidental death” was returned. Deceased formerly worked as pumpman at Hodbarrow Mine, Millom, and came across the Duddon to work at Sandscale. When these mines were stopped he was engaged by Kennedy Bros., who greatly valued his services. The deceased was 66 years of age, and leaves a widow and grown up family of seven daughters.

Millom Gazette – March 19th 1916
THE IRON ORE INDUSTRY
Eskdale Mines Re-open

The iron ore mines which closed down some three years ago when the old railway, “Auld Rattie”, ceased to run, have recently been re-opened. There is a very large supply of excellent ore, but the difficulty has been in the cost of its removal.

The new railway now runs to Beckfoot, which is only a mile away from the mines, and contracts have been made with the farmers there to cart ore from the mines to the station.

Millom Gazette – June 19th 1917
THE ESKDALE MINES; APPLICATION FOR STORE LICENCE

At Millom Police Court on Saturday an application was made to the magistrates by Mr William Lazarus, representing a London firm, for a store licence for Boot, Eskdale, in connection with the prospective working of the Eskdale Mines.

The Clerk (Mr J. Rowlands) informed the applicant that before a licence could be granted there was a certain form to be filled in, after which the police would examine the place.

Mr Lazarus said he was under the impression that the previous licence could be renewed.

The Magistrates Clerk pointed out that the licence lapsed on the death of the previous manager.

Millom Gazette – December 31st 1925
OVER 20 TONS FALL

Entombed miners story at inquest

The Coroner for Furness held an inquest at Askam on Wednesday last on the body of Captain John W. Myers, of Roanhead, which was recovered from Nigel Pit, Roanhead Mines, after three entombed miners had been rescued. Mr W. Loudon of Whitehaven, H. M. Inspector of Mines, was in attendance, also Mr R.B. Jackson, Solicitor, and Mr F. Symons, representing Messrs Kennedy Bros., the owners of the mine.

Frank Absolom, of Dalton, stated that they got instructions on Friday to put in an uptake. They did that, and fired three holes. On returning to the work they found the uptake was down. The object of the Blast was to get forward with their drift. When they went back after firing the shots they found the whole thing had collapsed. They left it until Mr Myers, the foreman, came in. He ordered them to put in a false course of wood. They were really making a new roof. They covered it over with spiles, and packed some wood on the top to ??? the fall of any more stuff. There mates came on Saturday, to get a second course of wood in, and on Monday he and his mates worked a third course up to the time that Mr Myers came to them, about twenty past 12. They were to leave at 2 o'clock. Mr Myers came in and looked at it. He thought it was not quite high enough, and would not be serviceable. He then ordered a course of wood for the back side. They brought the wood and shoved it through to the back side, and were making ready to put it up when the whole place came squash again. He and his mates were fastened in at the back side, and Mr Myers was at the front side. The stuff completely burying him.

The Inspector remarked that considerably over 20 tons of stuff fell.

Witness said they were fast in. They tried to dig themselves out, but could get no further then the timber, and had to wait for the rescue party to release them.

NO WARNING HEARD

In answer to the Inspector, witness said no warning was given that the roof would fall. They heard nothing.

Had it given any warning Myers might have got clear? -- I think so.

With respect to yourselves, if any warning had been given, how would it have been? -- We would have made an effort to get out.

But you three might have been caught? -- Yes.

So it was good for you there was no warning? -- Yes but not for him.

Frank Symons, manager, said Myers had worked for the Company for many years. He was a thoroughly practical and reliable foreman. They had every confidence in him.

The Coroner entered a verdict of "Accidental death," and said no blame was attached to anyone.

Millom Gazette – February 7th 1930

LAKELAND IRON ORE

REPORTED DISCOVERY NEAR WRYNOSE PASS

PROSPECT OF WORK FOR 2 OR 3 HUNDRED MEN.

Prospecting in Lakeland mountains has led to the discovery of a fine quantity of iron near Red Tarn, close to the old Roman Road over Wrynose Pass, between Ambleside and Eskdale, where a proposal has recently been made to construct a motor highway.

So promising have experts found the initial test of iron ore that boring machinery is to be installed as soon as wintry conditions have passed.

A hut has been erected on the top of Wrynose Pass for workmen, and the prospect is held out of employment for two or three hundred men.

Geologists have proved that the Lakeland mountains contain valuable minerals, and slate, lead, copper, silver and gold have been found.

MILLOM GAZETTE – 12 September 1930

LAKELAND IRON ORE., WILL IT BE WORKED?

Old Eskdale Mines.

Some people, jealous for the preservation of the wild beauties of the Lake District, are perturbed, writes "Silverpoint" in an article in "The Times", by the report that boring operations for iron are going on near Red Tarn, Wrynose Pass, with a view to opening out mines there. But need apprehension be felt?

It is true there will be dump-heaps and necessary buildings, and perhaps an aerial way for transporting the ore, but there are many worse forms of industrial activity than iron-ore mines, and it must be borne in mind that the whole district sorely needs an outlet for its labour.

It is highly probable that this Red Tarn iron-ore deposit was worked centuries ago during the Middle Ages, so giving the tarn its name from the ruddy stain of the metal. There was a time when the heart of Lakeland was a Black Country, its iron ore mines worked intensively, its woods going up in the filmy smoke of charcoal, its valleys wrapped in the smoke and ruddy glow of the bloomsmithies and smelting furnaces. Few to-day picture the activity which must have characterised these quiet dales "lange syne," or know that iron ore and other mineral wealth lie hidden beneath these rugged mountain flanks.

Rich Deposits.

It is, of course, well-known that some of the richest deposits in the world of iron ore lie in the limestone band around Egremont, Cleator Moor, Workington, and (farther south), from the Duddon estuary to the Leven estuary. But the iron exists also inside the area of Lakeland proper, though whether it is deposited in such form as to repay the winning of it remains to be seen. When the price of iron was high, iron-ore mining had a great boom, and during the middle of the nineteenth century extensive mines were opened out in the Eskdale Valley, a railway being constructed to convey the ore to the main Furness railway at Ravenglass.

There were workings at both sides of the River Esk, one mine being near the hamlet of Boot, which is at the foot of Scafell, the other being in the hillside at the south side of the river opposite,

connected by a wagon-way, the river being spanned by a massive iron-framed bridge capable of carrying heavy trains of iron-ore tubs.

Once Thriving Spot.

This once thriving spot has now gone back to the wild; wild cherry trees make the wagon-way a place of beauty in their blossoming season; oak fern grows luxuriantly; blackthorn and sloe bushes make a jungle fighting for their place with dense scrub of birch, wild rasps, crab-apple, bramble and briar. A haunt of woodcock is this ravine, where the abandoned wagon-way ends in a dark and gaping cavern, once a well-timbered adit to the mine in the hillside.

Above are holes, air-shafts, bore-holes, and the like. I have seen an otter emerge cautiously from the adit, from which a tinkling stream flows busily to join the river. I have been told there is still iron ore in this mine, but so patchily deposited that it would not pay to get it out. But it is a beautiful spot; the River Esk flows in a deep and rocky gorge; there is sea trout fishing during the late summer, and salmon may occasionally be caught here, too, in the green and brown pools.

The mine across the valley, the Nab Ghyll Mine at Boot, also collapsed when the price of iron ore fell, but an attempt was made at working it again in the present century. The iron ore is rich, but it is deposited in pockets in granite formation, and so is costly to work, and before the war Nab Ghyll again closed down. The ghyll is a vertical cleft in the hillside, above which stretches a heathery moor where grouse have been successfully hand-reared. You walked into this mine by an adit, and were not lowered down a shaft as in iron ore mines in the limestone country outside Lakeland. A tramway for ore tubs ran into the passage; between the rails a torrent poured from the heart of the mine, for as you followed a train of empty tubs you heard the “thud thud thud” of the miner’s heart, the giant pump which did its best to cope with the water poured into the workings by the springs discharging through the chinks in the granite.

If Venture is Successful.

Thus it was 20 years ago; to-day but for the rushing of the water, all is still, the props are rotting the grass is growing on the refuse dumps. Inside the adit you found yourself in a roomy passage hewn from the living rock, your only illumination tallow dips struck in lumps of clay which required no small skill to keep alight in the draught, for Nab Ghyll is amply ventilated by Nature. Also, water dripped constantly from walls and roof. After stumbling along a duckboard walk laid between the rails you reached a working bay where men hacked at iron-ore deposits in a sort of pocket in the surrounding stone – curious-looking stuff, much of it in a form from which it takes the name “kidney ore”, for it looks exactly like chunks of beef-kidney. Some of it is a kind of gravelly sludge, and there are lumps of glittering crystals. From the main haulage way branch galleries led, and there was a low level to which the way was by a chair slung on a stout rope. There were upper levels, too, to be climbed laboriously, and a “back way” out of the mine by a “Jacob’s ladder,” an ascent of some 200 feet up a natural chimney in the rock, to a platform high up in the ghyll.

It is to be feared that the Eskdale iron-ore industry, for this generation at least, has collapsed for good. But one of the charms about mining lies in the strong element of gambling which enters into it, and perhaps if a swing of the pendulum comes and other mines are worked out, Nab Ghyll and Ghyll Foss will awake from their long sleep, especially if the Red Tarn venture proves successful.

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the 11th May 2010 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston, starting at 6.00pm.

Agenda.

- | | |
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| 1 Apologies for absence | 2 Minutes of the last meeting |
| 3 Matters arising | 4 Secretary's Report |
| 5 Treasurer's Report | 6 Membership Sec. & Newsletter Reports |
| 7 Meets | 8 RA forms |
| 9 Publications | 10 Library |
| 11 New projects | 12 Publicity Officer |
| 13 Coniston Coppermines & Quarries | 14 GPS |
| 15 Mines Forum meeting | 16 Any other business |
| 17 Date and venue next meeting | |

Present: W Allison (WA), S. Barker (SB), I. Matheson (IM), J. Brown (JB), P. Fleming (PF), T. Holland (TH), M. Scott (MSc), M. Simpson (MS), A. Wilson (AW) & C. Woollard (CW).

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm. 10 committee members attended.

1 Apologies for absence from: J. Aird (JA) & M. Mitchell (MM)

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Tuesday 24th February had been previously circulated to members. It was **PROPOSED** by JB and **SECONDED** by IM 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 7 JA Item 9 - Online payments; Subject to consultation with the Secretary about the dispatch arrangements for publications, the system is ready for use. It is envisaged that once running satisfactorily the system could be used for the collection of subscriptions.
- 3.2 Item 11 JA – Force Crag Mine - Unfortunately the visit to the site had already taken place, CATMHS will be advised of the results of the water quality tests on the outflow from Level 3.
- 3.3 Item 16.3 JA - Income item - £250 repayment of "charity discount" by Rydal Hall that had not been debited from the final bill. As soon as the matter was raised with Rydal Hall immediate repayment was made. The 2010 dinner has been booked for 11th December along with the Drawing Room to provide a venue free of interruption for the AGM and the after dinner entertainment. It is hoped to arrange that the bar will be open between the AGM and dinner for those requiring refreshment. £548 of the total funds shown in the Treasurer's Report represents advance bookings for the AGM/Dinner, a total of 14 (dinner b & b) bookings have been received. Please see accompanying Treasurers report.
- 3.4 Item 4.4 WA - NAMHO Research Framework for the Archaeology of the Extractive Industries. WA, MS, DB and SB had attended the seminar held 25th April at Carnforth Station. There were several speakers, including archaeologist Phil Newman who has been engaged to gather information for the framework, he emphasised the importance of entering information on the county HER. EH's Stewart Ainsworth explained progress on their 'Miner Farmer' project on Alston Moor.
- 3.5 Item 13 MSc – The Coniston Walking Festival will not be held this year.
- 3.6 Item 16 TH – he had collected the VMCo plans from Rudy Devriese.

4 Secretary's Report SB had nothing to report that was not covered by other items.

5 Treasurer's Report

JA had been unable to attend but had circulated the balance sheet to committee members covering the period from the 24th February to 11th May 2010. Income was from: subscriptions, donations, refund from Rydal Hall (charity discount) and publications. Expenditure included: Rydal Hall weekend, BCA PLI NL, travel expenses & printing the newsletter, rates for Mandall's.

Prior to the auction of the Hext estate as many of the Committee members as possible were contacted by telephone to establish a maximum price the society would bid for the Cost Book, this was established as £2000, subsequently an offer of assistance from the County Archive allowed this to be raised to £3000. WA put in a successful bid for the cost book. The actual price paid was £1840 (bid price of £1600 plus buyer's commission of 15%). JA had paid for the purchase himself, WA to contact him regarding repayment.

This amount has not been deducted from the total funds shown in the Treasurers Report.

Discussion took place regarding the future of the cost book and where it was to be kept. Kendal Record Office was one suggestion, with CAT retaining ownership (to go on next agenda). IM suggested we should produce three bound copies of the John Barratt Letter Book (taken many years ago with permission of Major Hext). One to be kept in CATMHS archive, one to be presented to the John Ruskin Museum and maybe a third to the Cumbria Record Office. All approved of this suggestion as a worthy project. PF would price binding costs.

The Treasurer wished the committee to approve his expenses of £59.97 for stamps and CD's., Approval **PROPOSED** SB, **SECONDED** JB, all in favour. The current a/c stood at £17604.65 and the Scottish Widow a/c at £365.31.

6 Membership Secretary & Newsletter Editor's Reports

IM had nothing to report. JB wished to express our thanks to Ian for an excellent newsletter.

7 Meets Report

The cancelled January meet will be run in August, MSc would lead a meet to Tilberthwaite.

JB would contact David Carlisle regarding the Faggergill Mine meet.

IM, MS and P. Sandbach have been continuing work on the Furness Survey.

8 RA Forms - nothing to report.**9 Publications**

9.1 The reprinting of LMH was revisited; doubts were expressed that it may not sell in its current form. MS will put together a presentation giving his ideas on a new publication for the next meeting.

9.2 PF had sold 600 of our publications recently.

9.3 JA had produced the new CATMHS publicity leaflet; these were distributed to committee members to put in suitable places. MSc took the rest; he is to get membership forms from IM. Thanks were expressed to John for his work on the leaflet.

10 Library The Archivist had nothing to report.**11 New Projects**

11.1 Carrock Fell Mine – JB reported that Eleanor Kingston had sent an application to EH for funding for the project.

11.2 Silver Gill – WA reported that the report from University College London on the ground penetrating radar survey carried out in August 2009 had arrived, confirming that an anomaly had been found. A draft SMC application for an exploratory trench would be circulated by WA prior going to EH, to coincide with the permission already granted to pump out the flooded shaft in New Staln. John and Eleanor would like to be present on the day. CW expressed the need for extreme care when opening the level to avoid any kind of pollution of Silver Gill.

11.3 Tilberthwaite Horse Crag Level – JB reported there had been nine visits since the end of February; rail had been brought from Ash Fell Farm and an effective hoisting system installed. Approximately 12 meters of material had yet to be removed; to take us back to the steelwork installed before the flood. March saw us welcome a new member Jeff Glover. Thanks to those recording the project (see full report).

11.4 Penny Rigg Mill – Will be included with the Coniston Coppermines conservation management plan.

12 Publicity Officer

MSc is hoping to set up a display at Lindal in Furness Village Hall. The boards to be updated with details of new projects. A booking to be made to display them at the LDNPA Archaeology Conference in November.

13 Coniston Mines & Quarries

13.1 NMRS have asked PF to lead a meet around the Coppermines in June, which he has agreed to, he may need to borrow some equipment.

13.2 LDNPA's Lakeland Mining Heritage Project - Coniston Coppermines Conservation Project – This work is to be carried out under the Environment Land Management Scheme (ELMS), funded by Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship Scheme (LDNPA acting as agent). Any capital works identified under this scheme can receive 100% funding. ArchaeoEnvironment Ltd has been employed to carry out a conservation management plan as a first step. All agreed this was very good news.

13.3 MSc had attended a LDNPA meeting where footpaths in the Levers Water Beck and Thriddle Incline area were discussed. SB contacted LDNPA who said "They are currently ensuring that the footpaths that have previously had work carried out on them are correct on the definitive map. There is no actual work on the ground taking place – it has already happened".

14 GPS

MS reported that the GPS was put to good use on a recent Alastair Cameron survey meet at Castle Crag, in Borrowdale. MS has the GPS, DB the laptop.

15 Mines Forum Meeting

Next meeting: Will be in September, venue to be arranged. Permission given to SB to circulate the MFM minutes to the committee.

16 Any Other Business

16.1 MS reported that he had surveyed the north wall of the Furnace for the Newland Furness Trust. It was hoped to discover what size of wheel had been used.

16.2 2010 AGM and Dinner, booking forms went out to members with the newsletter. PF to invite Eleanor Kingston and her fiancée to attend, in appreciation of all her efforts on our behalf.

17 Date and Venue of Next Meeting - Monday 12th July at the BMSC Hut, Coniston at 6.00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

SB 16/05/2010

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Honorary President:	Lord Egremont
Chairman	Warren Allison 17 Gilbert Road, Cummersdale, Carlisle, CA26BJ Phone: 01228 523923 Email: chairman@catmhs.org.uk
Secretary:	Sheila Barker, The Rise, Alston Cumbria, CA9 3DB Phone 01434 381903 Email: secretary@catmhs.org.uk
Treasurer:	John Aird, 1 Hillcroft Crescent, Ealing, London, W5 2SG Phone: 0208 997 5985 Email: treasurer@catmhs.org.uk
Membership Secretary & Newsletter Editor:	Ian Matheson, 1 Rothay Holme Cottages Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0EE. Phone: 015394 32957. Email: membership@catmhs.org.uk
Meets Secretary:	Jon Knowles 46 Dukewood Road Clayton West, Huddersfield, HD8 9HF Phone: 01484 860662; mobile 07920 231627 Email: meetssecretary @catmhs.org.uk
Librarian / Archivist:	Don Borthwick The Rise, Alston Cumbria, CA9 3DB Phone 01434 381903 Email: archivist@catmhs.org.uk
Committee members:	John Aird, Warren Allison, Sheila Barker, John Brown, Peter Fleming, Tony Holland, Ian Matheson, Mike Mitchell, Mark Scott, Mark Simpson, Angela Wilson, Colin Woollard.
CATMHS website:	www.catmhs.org.uk