

# CAT

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

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**No. 102**

**February 2011**

# **Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society**

## **Newsletter No 102, February 2011.**

### **Contents:**

#### **Membership**

New members	Page 2
Renewals	Page 2
CATMHS Projects	Page 2
AGM & Dinner	Page 3
Officers reports	Page 3

#### **News**

LDNPA Archeology Department	Page 8
LDNPA Archaeology Conference	Page 8
Penny Rigg and Coniston Coppermines Conservation Plans	Page 8
Slate removal from Parrock Quarry	Page 9
NMRS Monograph No 89, Metaliferous Mines of Cartmell and South Lonsdale The Southlakes Memory Bank.	Page 9

<b>Library &amp; Archive news</b>	Page 10
-----------------------------------	---------

#### **Meets and Activities**

Grasmere, 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Page 11
Boxing Day meet	Page 14
Wales Weekend	Page 16
Tilberthwaite mine	Page 18

#### **Articles**

The Newland Company, 1879	Page 21
Miscellaneous Newspaper Reports from 1862 to 1928	Page 24
Demolition of No 1 Engine House at Stank	Page 30

#### **Minutes**

CATMHS Committee meeting, 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2010	Page 32
CATMHS Committee meeting, 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2010	Page 35

<b>Society Officers and Committee Members</b>	Back cover
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#### **Cover picture**

First sight of the continuation of The Horse Level at Tilberthwaite. See the report on page 18.

## **Membership**

We are fortunate in gaining several new members recently. We welcome:

Trevor Cooper, Wayside Cottage, Grasmere. Trevor is a retired mining engineer, went to Camborne School of mines and had a career in mining and quarrying.

Kate Tyler, from Rowrah, Ian Tyler's daughter.

Rosemary Vidler, from Threlkeld, a MoLES member

David Taylor, from Clitheroe

Oliver Bratton, from Consett Co Durham

Stuart Clement, from Slyne, Lancs

Alen McFadzean, from Richmond, N Yorks. Alen was a very early CAT member and was heavily involved in our early explorations. As well as writing for the Newsletter he was responsible for our first major publication 'Beneath the Lakeland Fells'. Welcome back Alen.

## **CATMHS Projects**

### **Silver Gill Mine at Caldbeck**

The Society had a site visit with the Environment Agency to ensure that the proposal to open up the fourth level met with their approval before the application was submitted as they are one of the consultees. The application has now been submitted to the Lake District National Park Authority. Their archaeologist has commented that the entrance to Silver Gill Mine will need to be dug in a similar manner to an official archaeological dig and a site visit has been arranged for the 22<sup>nd</sup> February which will include English Heritage. The purpose of the visit is to clarify how the dig will be done so that it can be included in the application prior to submission for approval to Natural England as the site is in a SSSI.

### **Sebastian Mine at Coniston**

The application has now been submitted to the Lake District National Park Authority which will have to gain the approval of Natural England and English Heritage before work can commence.

### **Carrock Mine at Caldbeck**

All the permissions are now in place which involved Dalmain Estates (landowner), Environment Agency, Natural England, Lake District National Park Authority and English Heritage (scheduled ancient monument). Work to open up and restore the entrance to the main level is due to start in the spring and will be dependant up on the flow of water out of the mine. This is to minimise the risk of polluting the beck with the silt which is building up behind the entrance. English Heritage is paying for the materials required for the work and the Society has signed a three year management agreement to monitor the condition of the site. In addition the Society has agreed to make safe the fencing around the shafts and open stopes.

### **Tilberthwaite Mine**

The fall has now been secured and approximately 300 yards of level is accessible to the next fall. A plan has been formulated on how to clear the fall and work will commence shortly on this. Survey work at the top surface workings has commenced in this interesting part of the mine which has had many phases of working.

Warren Allison

## CATMHS AGM & Dinner 2010

After our successful 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend at Rydal Hall last year it was decided to make this a regular venue for our AGM and dinner,



and it didn't disappoint. LDNPA Archaeologist Eleanor Kingston and her husband Sam were honored guests.

Afterwards Mike Mitchell showed his video of the work on the Tilberthwaite dig.

## Chairman's Report

It is with a little trepidation that I write this report, but here goes. Could I first sincerely thank all the committee members for their support during the year without which I would have found it very difficult to carry out this role. As Mark Simpson mentioned in his Chairman's report last year, the society would not exist without the Committee, some of whom travel hundreds of miles to attend the committee meetings. Also on behalf of the committee could I thank Tony Holland, who has unfortunately resigned from the committee, for the contribution he has made.

After the floods in November 2009 which destroyed the work that had been done in the Horse Crag Level at Tilberthwaite Mine, which meant that the digging team had to put Pete Blezard on "suicide watch", they started again by first repairing the track up to the mine which in places had holes three feet deep. They then railed out the level and removed the debris into the closehead



with well over 200 tons being moved and carried on clearing the fall. As Pete Sedgwick commented "we enjoyed moving it so much; we decided to do it again". However I would like to announce that the team has been able to see through the fall, but it will take another two to three sets of steel to make it safe before being able to venture down the level. This project has been a great credit to the society and to the tenacity of the digging

team. Mike Mitchell has produced a film worthy of an “Oscar” of the team in operation which was well received at the recent LDNPA Archaeology Conference. I have been told that the production of the film involved a great deal of blood, sweat and many tears, so Mike thank you.

After two to three years of negotiations, permission has finally been granted to open up the entrance to Carrock Mine. A three year agreement has been signed with English Heritage to maintain the entrance and they are providing the funding required of nearly £3000. This project has also involved negotiations with other organisations such as Dalemain Estates as the landowner, Natural England, LDNPA and the Environment Agency, and work is scheduled to start in February.

Applications have been compiled to submit to Natural England and English Heritage through the LDNPA to open up Sebastian Mine at Coniston and the probable fourth level at Silver Gill Mine, Caldbeck. Colin Woollard must be thanked for writing the applications.

The LDNPA has managed to obtain funding to have professional surveys carried out at Coniston Copper Mines and the Penny Rigg mill, Tilberthwaite with the intention to put a Conservation Management Plan together as part of a broader assessment looking at the Environmentally Sensitive Area of the Coniston Fells, Seathwaite Fells and Torver High Common. This Management Plan should allow access to funding to help conserve these two important mining sites. The Society and its members were heavily involved in contributing to the surveys, which are well worth reading.

As reported in a previous newsletter, the Society successfully bid for Coniston, Threlkeld and Strontium Mine cost books including photographs of Hodbarrow Mine at the sale of Major Hext’s estate during the summer, and at a recent sale in Carlisle, a cost book for Stavely Mine was also obtained.

The Mines Forum meetings continue to be a mechanism for developing good relations with various organisations such as The National Trust, LDNPA and the Environment Agency. The importance of this cannot be underestimated especially in obtaining permission for future projects.

It has been mentioned by one of the committee members of NAMHO that CATMHS is regarded as one of the most active and foremost mining societies in the country especially in terms of its projects, exploration, the way it has built up relationships with other organisations and the quality of its publications including the newsletter for which the contributors and especially Ian Matheson as Newsletter Editor should be thanked.

Finally on behalf of the Society I would like to thank John Hodgson and in particular Eleanor Kingston from the LDNPA for all the help and support they have given over many years. Without Eleanor some of the projects would probably not have happened and it was thought appropriate that she and her partner should be invited to the annual dinner as a thank you for being such a great supporter of the Society.

Warren Allison, Chairman.

## **Secretary's Report**

We only managed five committee meeting this year. The January meeting had to be cancelled due to heavy snow; the other 5 meetings were well attended.

The work of the secretary has changed quite a bit over the last couple of years, as some of the traditional secretary's tasks have been taken over by other members of the committee, for which I am very grateful. The Treasurer does all insurance, Charity Commission and planning business and the digging team do all their own applications and correspondence. Altogether a terrific amount of work, that keeps the society running smoothly. Also, most of the day to day enquiries and requests for our publications now come by email, some coming via Chris from the CAT website. For example, a recent enquiry of note being from Bill Hay a farmer in Uruguay, regarding diaries in his family archive belonging to a Wm Gibson, who was an 18<sup>th</sup> century colliery viewer based in Newcastle. Ian printed his email in the last NL, but there is a lot more to come.

Early this year I joined the Cumbria Industrial History Societies mail group, which sends out information about other organisations' events and publications, which may be of interest. We are also consulted about requests for information which they receive; these often bring up matters of interest, such as a request from Mark Brennand CCC Archaeologist, who said: The cleaning up and restoration of Silverband Mine at Milburn is now taking place, and asked for views on a piece of machinery on site. Is it worth preserving, and will anybody be willing to give it a home? This item will no doubt raise some debate.

Re-opening of the Cumbria Record Office. The moving of the archive collections from Carlisle Castle is well under way and they are aiming to reopen the archives to visiting researchers early in the New Year.

In June I attended the 2010 NAMHO Conference at Coalpit Heath in Gloucestershire, along with other CAT members. Last month I attended the NAMHO Council meeting, as the CAT representative, at the Stone Centre in Derbyshire. The main topic of discussion was the English Heritage funded project to form a 'Research Framework for the Archaeology of the Extractive Industries' which being put together by NAMHO. They have employed an archaeologist for 2 years to gather the required information. This work is on budget but time has been lost, due to difficulty in gathering the Historic Environment Record data from some counties. They still need more information from mining history groups and plan to hold seminars on lead, tin, copper and slate working in 2011 at different venues including South-West, Cumbria. The NAMHO Conference next year is to be held in Shropshire at the Preston Montford Field Study Centre, near Shrewsbury, on 29<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> Aug. The booking forms will be available in January. In 2012 the conference is to be held in Nenthead on 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May.

All archaeology is now development led and funded and EH need guidance laid down in advance, when dealing with applications for work to be done mine sites etc.

Sheila Barker, Secretary



### **Treasurer's Report**

To start I would like to thank Mr Douglas Harrison for auditing the accounts; our Auditor is both competent and thorough and we are deeply in his debt.

Reviewing the year in detail: -

Starting with income; we received the expected full repayment of our loan of £16000 to the Newland Furnace Trust. Subscription income changed little from the previous year, a decline in our publications income was more than balanced by the increase in the Gift Aid tax reclaim and despite the Society's bank balance being at its highest recorded level we no received no interest. The meeting should record its indebtedness to Peter Fleming for his tireless pursuit of sales of publications via local outlets and Sheila Barker for handling all the correspondence sales.

Turning to expenditure, operational expenses changed little with the exception of the Library where the Society's successful bid for the Coniston Copper Mines cost book and the Stavely cost book cost just under £2000. At the other end of the scale members will note a negative rates bill for the Roanhead store, this occurs due to the Society receiving rates relief repayment for both 2008-9 and 2009-10 in the past year. I am pleased to say that my gloomy prognostication that rates relief would decline year on year has not been borne out and the Society received 100% relief this year.

Publications included the production of the new Tilberthwaite leaflet and publicity posters and leaflets.

Projects involved expenditure at Horse Crag level consisting of steel supports, spiling tubes, lagging timber and drainage pipe. It is important that the membership appreciate the generosity of the team for apart from their time both working and travelling (plus the very significant cost of travelling) they provide enormous amounts of equipment and tools for which the Society is not charged.

In summary a good year financially with Society going forward in a sound position.

John Aird, Treasurer.

### **Newsletter & Membership Secretary's Report**

#### **Newsletter**

The newsletter continues to be well supported by contributors and there have been some good comments about it. This year we decided to improve the appearance of the Newsletter by printing the front cover on photo quality paper. A new printer, was purchased recently at a cost £145. The old one, which has printed 18,000 A4 pages and is still serviceable, is to be passed on to Mark Simpson, who will use the scanner part to digitize archive photographs.

## **Membership**

Membership remains stable. Each year about 10% don't renew and we gain a similar number of new members. At the end of the year we had 106 members. That figure includes joint and honorary members. Membership fees have been increased this year by £2.00 to take account of increases in costs and postage charges. The Treasurer and the Webmaster have set up an online payment system which is working well.

Some statistics:

- 67 individuals took out BCA underground insurance
- 22 individuals took out BCA surface insurance
- 16 have Basic membership which doesn't enable them to attend meets

From the last years meet reports:

- 32 individuals attended official CATMHS meets. That is less than half the number who pay for insurance, but the figure doesn't take account of work meets, digs or privately arranged trips by individuals or small groups
- 10 members have been involved in the Tilberthwaite dig

Someone remarked that 'CATMHS has evolved into a more formalised 'projects focused' group'. He said 'We have an interesting meets list, but as a society we have very little to offer keen mine explorers who want to get out regularly and often'

Food for thought, but CAT was founded as a project focused organisation through an attempt to buy the Henning Valley mine site, and continued with the Ding Dong project. The initial opening of Greenside Mine at Glenridding and the Coniston Coppermines, at Hospital Level, Flemings Level, Taylors Level, and Levers Water Mine were all important early projects.

It was only after these objects had been achieved that underground exploration, using first electron ladders then SRT, became possible. Even during the height of our exploration of the Coppermines in the 1980's, there were a relatively small number of individuals involved, and meets were not frequent enough to satisfy 'keen mine explorers who want to get out regularly and often.' No society can provide for such people, they will always follow their enthusiasms and do their own thing. We have been fortunate that quite a number have done and continue to do so through CATMHS. Our society does provide a structure which is beneficial to such groups and continues to flourish as a broad based organisation which satisfies many different aspects of mining history, conservation and exploration.

Ian Matheson,  
Membership Secretary, Newsletter and Journal Editor



### **LDNPA Archaeology Dept**

Concerned about potential Local Authority spending cuts, CATMHS has sent a letter to the LDNPA Chief Executive, Richard Leife, supporting the work of John Hodgson and Eleanor Kingston, LDNPA Archaeology & Heritage, and listing some of the projects done by CATMHS in conjunction with the Archeological Department. John and Eleanor have been very helpful to our society by advising on the preparation of applications for some of our projects, including the dig at Kernal Level, Coniston, the restoration of Carrock Mine portal and the prospective re- opening of the Elizabethan levels at Silver Gill and Coniston.

### **Archaeology in the Lake District 2010**

The annual conference organized by the LDNPA Archaeology and Heritage Department was again held at the Theatre by the Lake at Keswick on October 12<sup>th</sup>. The LDNPA Archaeologists used the occasion to launch the Penny Rigg and Coniston Coppermines Conservation Management Plans. Although there was not a great deal this year concerning mining related topics, it was nevertheless an interesting day and there were few empty seats. The program included:

Introduction by Admiral Sir John Kerr, Deputy Chairman, LDNPA  
Archaeology in the Lake District National Park 2009-10, by John Hodgson and Eleanor Kingston, Lake District National Park Authority  
Pushing the boundaries – an archaeological landscape survey of the Sizergh Estate  
Jamie Lund, Archaeologist, National Trust.  
Longhouse structures in the Lake District - current knowledge by John Hodgson.  
Farming the Fells: investigating the upland landscape of Tonguesdale Moss, Eskdale, by Mark Kincey, University of Birmingham  
The Environmental Potential of the Cumbrian Fells and Lowlands: recent work on the submerged forest at Eskmeals by Andrew Howard, University of Birmingham  
Historic Boats in the Lake District by Diana Matthews

Diana Matthews showed numerous of images of historic boats which have been used on the lakes, including work barges, slate & gunpowder boats and the Coniston copper barge, which is at the Windermere Steamboat Museum. The museum, which houses numerous vessels, many of them working, is closed for serious refurbishment and will probably open in 2012. For 2011 they are offering occasional guided tours.

### **Penny Rigg & Coniston Coppermines Conservation Management Plans**

At the Mines Forum meeting in November 2009, John Hodgson reported that the LDNPA has been working with Natural England to develop the Environment Land Management Scheme (ELMS). In the past archaeological and historical features were only eligible for 80% funding, but this has changed within this scheme to 100%. Once the current ESA scheme runs out it is being gradually replaced by Environmental Stewardship. This has 2 levels of entry, a basic one and a Higher Level scheme, under which archaeological and historical features can receive 100% funding. The LDNPA archaeologists are trying to target archaeological sites (including mining) within both these schemes, in particular some of the Commons where Conservation Plans have never been attempted and where there are extensive mining remains. It is hoped that the LDNPA can act as an agent for

the commons in order to get work off the ground. They are looking to undertake a number of conservation management plans, which will assess the sites and their condition and provide a schedule of works that are required. This information can then be used to undertake practical conservation work in the new Higher Level Stewardship schemes.

At the mines Forum meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010, John Hodgson reported on the Historical Environment Strategy. ELMS with Natural England would use the Conservation Management Plans to carry out works at Coniston and Tilberthwaite, which, despite the cuts were still expected to be fully funded.

LDNPA Archaeology & Heritage have been successful in obtaining funding for Conservation Management Plans for Penny Rigg Copper Mill, and Coniston Coppermines. The draft plans, produced professionally by Archaeo-Environment Ltd have now been published and will form a basis for funding from the High Level Stewardship Nature Conservation Scheme. CATMHS was consulted in their production; the help of Peter Fleming, John Brown, Don Borthwick, Dave Bridge and Alastair Cameron is acknowledged, and Peter Fleming, Coppermines, and Ian Matheson, Penny Rigg Mill, have sent comments and a few corrections, which have been noted. The reports are an excellent piece of work, very comprehensive and thorough, and will be an important asset. Both documents are quite large; the best way to see them is online. [www.aenvironment.co.uk](http://www.aenvironment.co.uk), go to clients, click the hyperlink at the bottom of the page, then Lake District National Park Authority. You will need a password which I can email you if you want. IM.

### **Parrock Quarry**

Permission has been granted to Mr Woolcock and Mr Gibson of Coniston to remove 2,500 cubic meters of building stone from Parrock Quarry at Hodge Close, near Coniston. The stone is to be removed from the spoil heap in the woods north east of the quarry. The heap was created when spoil was trammed out from the bottom of the quarry through an adit, now blocked, which runs beneath the cottages. Stone would be removed to a depth of three meters, largely by hand, by two workers, sorted and stored in piles on the site before transportation.

### **NMRS Monograph No 89, Metaliferous Mines of Cartmell and South Lonsdale**

This recent publication, written by Max Moseley, was comprehensively reviewed in the NW Evening Mail by journalist Bill Myers. It covers the story of the search for mineral wealth on the other side of Morecambe Bay at places like Cartmel, Allithwaite, Silverdale and Holker, as well as the Carnforth Haematite Iron Company.

### **The Southlakes Memory Bank**

The Southlakes Memory Bank is an online collection of old photos of Barrow & South Cumbria and is well worth a look. [www.southlakes-uk.co.uk](http://www.southlakes-uk.co.uk); click photos then Memory Bank.

## **Library/archive news**

### **Donations:**

Two reports on **accidents by explosions at Askam and Yarlside Mines** donated by Brian Cubbon.

**Four A2 Nenthead mine plans** donated by Mike Hrybyk. Not only does Mike explore the mines at Nenthead, he publishes accounts of what they find on the [www.mineexplorer.org.uk](http://www.mineexplorer.org.uk) web site. Additionally he is developing mine plans based on existing sources and their own surveys.

**Strontian Mines** – papers donated by Maureen Fleming. Between 1846 and circa 1856 these mines were worked by a group of Adventurers who held their meetings at either Kendal or Windermere. They comprise of meeting minutes and mine reports written by John Barratt and his brother James.

The **German Miners of Caldbeck** and the Discovery of an Early Primitive Wagonway by Warren Allison and Samuel Murphy – Reprint Trans CWAAS Vol. X 2010 - Donated by Warren Allison

The **Mineralogy of a Small Flat Deposit at Killhope**, Weardale, with the First Record of Dundasite from the Northern Pennine Orefield by Trevor F. Bridges – Journal of the Russell Society (2010) p61-65 – Donated by Trevor Bridges

A Report on the **Westernhope Old Mine, Weardale**, Co. Durham by Trevor F. Bridges - Journal of the Russell Society (2010) p66-70 – Donated by Trevor Bridges

### **Old Meets Lists**

Meets are an important aspect of our society's activities and our history, but to date they have not been well catalogued. A project has been underway to scan a full set of meets lists; this has been completed. Some of the older lists have poor print quality or key information was underlined, both result in poor OCR recognition and searchability suffers as a consequence. Ultimately it is intended to put the important data into an Excel spreadsheet.

My thanks to Peter Fleming for allowing access to his copies of the very early meets lists, and the additional paperwork that has enabled recording the additions and corrections to those lists. Dave Bridge provided the final part, the first half of 1984.

Is there another long term member of the society who keeps back copies of CAT information, and like Peter can find it again to help with Jan-Dec 1984?

### **Ongoing**

An email was published in the last newsletter from Bill Hays in Uruguay about the Tyneside colliery viewer William Gibson. A correspondence continues between Don Borthwick and Bill and an expert on Tyneside industrial history Dr Stafford Linsley. The diaries are valuable as they depict the life and lifestyle as well as the colliery work with which he was involved. The diaries are now indexed but it will be some considerable time before their story can be put into context and hopefully published in some form. Though principally of valuable as Tyneside history, if Bill can find the time and make progress we will have a new view on an aspect coal mining history.

Don Borthwick.

### **Strontian papers**

With regard to the papers mentioned above concerning the mines at Strontian, it is worth mentioning that at the Hext sale last year CATMHS bought Lot 84, which included an account book for Strontian mine covering the period June 1851 – June 1856, together with another document listing subsistence payments, March to September 1853. We also have a letter in our collection written by John Barratt on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1846 in which he says 'I have an engagement to inspect several mines in Scotland, the property of Sir James Milles Riddell'

IM.

## Grasmere meet, 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Lesley and John Aird (ML), John Ashby, Trevor Cooper, Joanne and Chris Cowdery, Kate and Jon Knowles, Mark Simpson, Mark Waite, Alan Westall. (Bright sun and blue skies.)

Having agreed to lead this meet I realised that I knew nothing about the area! Luckily Dave Bridge was able to provide much background information and Roger Ramsden gave up a day to show the route, which was invaluable.

Some of the party walked the Corpse Road from Rydal Hall to White Moss (a highly recommended route, especially on such a fine day) others rolled up in their Range Rover. At the meeting time a startling event occurred; we were joined by a “new” member, Trevor Cooper, a retired mining engineer, resident in Grasmere who among many other things acts as a volunteer guide (for the National Trust) at Force Crag mill.

The Grasmere set is old (Elizabethan); has considerable documentation; and still remains confusing. In essence, it divides into two areas: the two shafts and trials along with the associated water wheel, stamps and buddles at Greenhead Gill; and the Black Smithie. “This smithie is distant a quarter of a Mile southwardes from the Myne at the farre ende of gresmere where (at the first) our Myners had wroughte for Ewers”. This description comes from an inventory taken in 1586 some 15 years after mining had ceased at the site. The smithy was a substantial two storey building with a flooded shaft inside said to be 60 feet deep. The Greenhead Gill site is easily located but the smithy has never been found and the mine remains assumed to be associated with it are problematic to say the least.

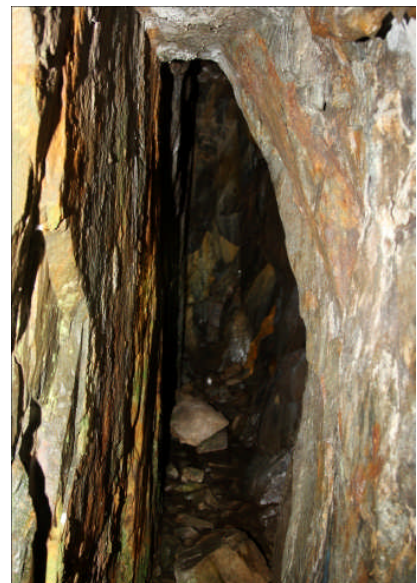
From White Moss, the bridleway leads uphill through the site of the village where the navvies who built this section of the Thirlmere aqueduct lived and passes the tarns which were their



water supply. Continuing on the route, the only evidence of mining is found in the woods above Dove Cottage. There are two small hand cut adits, one below the track (being the larger about 24 metres long, 0.8 metres wide and with evidence of stoping in the roof) and one above the track being only 10 metres long without stoping and showing iron staining. Both adits are completely dry.

Lower  
Adit

Upper  
Adit



Below the lower adit there is some evidence of what may have been further workings, while in front of the upper adit are traces of a building, a track and a stream that has been diverted away from the adit entrance, although all or some of these may be of much later provenance.

After time for members to enter each of the workings, (either enthusiastically, reluctantly or not at all), the group progressed on to Alcock Tarn admiring enroute the exposed water pipeline with its fine Victorian spigot and socket joints caulked with lead. By the time the tarn



was reached a very chill wind had sprung up and the party spent little time examining the remains of a building built into the hillside just to the west of the track, dismissing out of hand any mining activity and suggesting rather a pre WW I refreshment establishment.



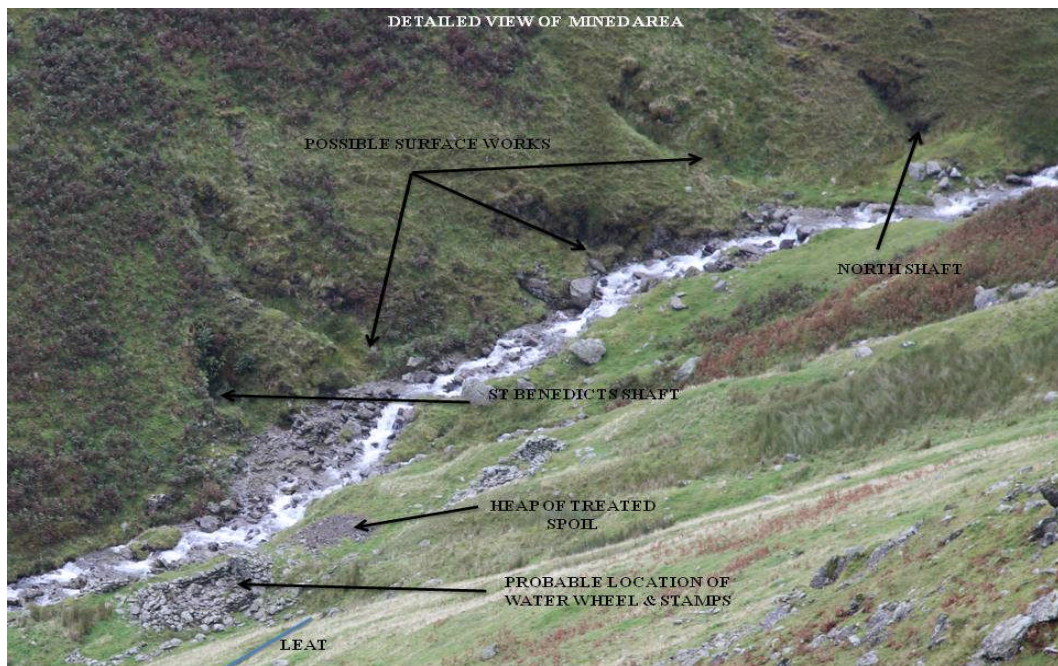
The descent from Alcock Tarn provides an excellent view down into the Elizabethan mining area at Greenhead Gill, pictured on the left. The higher reaches of the leat were clearly outlined by the remaining patches of snow. The Victorian level was not entered being more than chest deep in water; reliable reports state that the length is 150 metres, thus passing below the original Elizabethan shafts, but that no mineralisation was present.

The detailed view shows the original area of workings; the presence of the heap of gangue material and the position of the end of the leat strongly suggest that the water wheel and stamps were located in the area indicated. The annotation of the

shafts should be treated with a pinch of salt; in the original written material only St Benedict's shaft is mentioned and that is as the source of the total of 50 tons of (lead) ore recorded as being raised from the mine. The naming of the two shafts on the photograph is detailed in WT Shaw's "Mining in the Lake Counties"; regrettably he gives no sources for the identification of the shafts though his statements have been accepted at face value by all more recent authors. Shaw was clearly familiar with the workings since he records sampling for mineral content, so a detailed study in his archive at the Cumbria Record Office may reveal more information.

Having wandered about the site and pontificated at length (apart from Mark Simpson who displayed considerable enthusiasm by climbing up the leat for a substantial distance) the company was about to set off to "The Swan" when the second startling event of the day occurred. Culture and CATMHS can only be described as unusual bedfellows but Trevor pointed out the connection between the mine site and Wordsworth's poem "Michael" with a quick outline of the story. At least the conversation extended beyond computers and vehicles, that is until the company found out he owns a Series I Landrover.





During the descent the small Victorian trial adit on the right bank of the gill, not far above where the Thirlmere aqueduct crosses the beck, was inspected from a distance. Shortly afterwards Dave Bridge briefly joined the group before he lured A Westall and M Simpson away for some nefarious purpose; none of them were seen again.

After refreshment, the remaining members made their way back to White Moss following the line of the aqueduct for a considerable way, allowing proper admiration of the splendid masonry and detailing exemplified by the bevelled edging on the posts of the inspection gateways. The Manchester Waterworks Board knew the value of both excellent engineering and proper appearance.

It pains the Meet Leader to admit that on the last leg of the walk yet another attendee, John Ashby, vanished. To set out eleven in number and return but seven is no great advertisement for the organiser.



To end on a more serious note Greenhead Gill appears to be an almost undisturbed mining site dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century which seems to be worthy of the type of archaeological investigation carried out by English Heritage at Greenburn, Force Crag and Roughten Gill.

#### References

- "Elizabethan Keswick" *W Collingwood*
- "Mining in the Lakes Counties" *W T Shaw*
- "Thirlmere Mines" *Ian Tyler*
- "The Mine Explorer Volume 4" *CATMHS*



## **Boxing Day Meet – Sunday 26th December 2010.**

Tilberthwaite -The best laid plans etc.

Originally I had planned to follow a route taken from 'Exploring Lakeland, Rocks and Landscapes' published by the Cumberland Geological Society. The route would have taken us past the Tilberthwaite Sheepfold to look at '...an excellent example of glacial diversion of drainage' on to Penny Rigg copper mill, Penny Rigg slate workings looking at a '...plunging trough of syncline and a plunging crest of an anticline' in Penny Rigg quarry. From there the route would have followed the path to Wetherlam Mine, Tilberthwaite Mine and returned to Low Tilberthwaite passing the 'threshold of a cirque' some 'rhyolite ignimbrite' and lots of other geological and geomorphology bits.



*Hodge Close Quarry*

Unfortunately the weather put a stop to all that serious stuff and we had a pleasant walk instead. Firstly, the meet leader failed to get his car past an icy patch on the Tilberthwaite road and had to reverse on to the main Coniston - Ambleside road. It was not my fault that Fleming and Matheson were close behind me and had to reverse to the main road also, just bad timing by them. Eventually we arrived at Tilberthwaite car park to be met by other hypothermic (CAT) members. It was decided that the above walk was not a good idea because we would not be able to see anything – a good reason not to go uphill into the 'threshold of a cirque'



Instead we walked to Hodge Close which looked very impressive plastered in snow and ice. From there we walked to Cathedral Cavern in improving weather, also looking very impressive plastered in snow and ice, and returned to Tilberthwaite passing birch trees looking very impressive etc.

The CATMHS Catering Sub-Committee (Mike & Barbara Mitchell with the help of Margaret Fleming) had laid on a spread of cheese, biscuits, crisps, mulled wine and T candles in Penny Rigg Close Head. Some of the party even ventured as far as the on-going dig. Looks very impressive.

On the way home, Maureen Fleming persuaded 4 members that a piece of rock that she had seen in the stream next to her house in Coniston should be moved to the Ruskin Museum. The stone has what looks like a man-made hollow in it; possibly it could be a type of mortar stone. Max did the majority of the lifting. (Note to John Aird: Max is going to send you an invoice for a truss)



*This is the stone, with the hole filled with ice. Any ideas? IM.*

9 members and 2 guests attended, down on past Boxing Day meets, but in view of the weather this was understandable.

Mark Scott.

## **Wales Weekend 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> JULY 2010**

### **Clogwyn Coch & Llanberis Copper Mines**

Chris Cowdery, John Ashby, John Aird, Mark Waite, Tony Holland (Sunday Only)  
Roger Ramsden (Sunday Only), Steve Brown (Surface Only), Jon Knowles (ML)

This is a continuation of the exploration detailed in NL 98 to which the reader should refer for reference.

#### **Saturday**

The team re-ascended the slopes of Snowdon and re-entered the level which had been part explored in 2009. The author bolted a traverse across three stemples to gives access to the continuation of the level in-bye. This was eventually blind but passed through high stopes with numerous false floors. It was not possible to determine whether these floors even connected with adits or were merely working platforms in the stope however the impression left is of stopes rising almost to the top of the cliff's. The only way to close this out would be to abseil down the cliffs from above.



Returning to the stemples the author bolted a descent down through a small hole into a stope below in company with much water. A wettish descent gave access to a large stope above a wet level . In-bye the level was blind and outbye the water level rose to a point where all were convinced that there would soon be a collapsed adit. Disappointingly, despite there being workings in the floor these were all flooded implying that this was the lowest drainage adit although the descent did not seem as far as the vertical distance to the lowest adit which can be observed on the surface. The only solution would be to dig open the lowest adit an approach that is unlikely to be welcome  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way up one of Britain's most popular mountains.

*John Aird, back on the Stemples is ascending the wet pitch.*

#### **Saturday Night**

This was spent at Snowdon Ranger Youth Hostel and at the Cwellyn Arms. On the return journey in Aird's Taxi, Ashby presumably in his desire to continue the scintillating conversation that those in the cab were trying to avoid, managed to break the sliding window between the cab and truck body to such a degree that 3 days were needed for the dealer to carry out a repair under warranty. Captain's comments are best not recorded. We were awoken by Brownny faffing and pouring rain.

#### **Sunday**

Following the exploration in 2008 the aim was to descend the workings on the eastern part of the site. Parking at the south-eastern end of Llyn Peris the team ascended the tips to the open level. Note that there is an interesting painting of the site by J "Warwick" Smith dated 1792. This is at the Lady lever Art Gallery at Port Sunlight but may be seen more easily in the book "Metal Mines of North Wales" by C.J.Williams. It shows a twin arch bridge over the Nant Peris and towering mountains

as often depicted by artists at that time. More usefully there is a wooden chute descending from prominent stone bastions to bring ore to the lakeside presumably for onward transport by boat. The interesting aspect of this photograph is that it shows that the workings were already well established at that time.

Ascending to one of these bastions, which are assumed to be dressing floors, a level is entered the end of which gave access to a stope both up and down. The first pitch has always looked drippy but was quite wet with worse to come since to gain access to the first pitch it was necessary to cross under a torrent from above. A short descent gave access to a sub-level which is assumed to have connected with surface since out-bye it continues in ever deeper water. In-bye a large stopes heads down accompanied by the torrent from above.

There was no queue to rig the pitch and the author rigged a traverse across some stemples to avoid the worst of the water but this entailed rigging through it – at one point the torrent poured down inside the neck of my suit. 75 m of rope, 3 deviations and a re-belay later we were all standing on a level above a further large descent. The level was interesting since although progress outbye was soon halted by a hole in the



floor the same floor contained cast iron pipes of at least 6" diameter. It was unclear whether these pipes were to take water away or for ventilation since the method of joining them seemed to have disintegrated. In the same area was the roller from a jack roll.

Bolting a narrow ledge along the side of the stope a fine climbing shaft was passed before the level ended in a blind heading shortly after the floor became solid.

A lack of tackle and drill battery power precluded further descent. On the re-ascent Roger, clearly keen to clean his oversuit, spent a great deal of time under the wettest part of the ascent and cunningly made it all look a struggle to pass a re-belay.

*Roger Washes his Oversuit*

## Update

A return visit on the 16<sup>th</sup> October consisting of Messer's Waite, Aird, Ashby and the author managed to rig a further 2 vertical pitches and a traverse to descend to adit level. Further visits are planned to photograph the artefacts and explore a number of sub-levels. Total tackle required for the descent is:-

- 4 ropes totalling 173 m
- 22 hangers
- 27 krabs
- Various slings, rope protectors etc.

There is an official trip on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> May and all with the necessary SRT skills are invited.

Jon Knowles.



## Tilberthwaite dig

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2010**, the day following last year's A.G.M. and Annual Dinner at Rydal Hall, the final part of the collapse yielded to the relentless toil of the digging team. Once declared safe, the decision to explore the newly opened section of the level was taken. J. Brown, J. Glover, I. Matheson, M. Mitchell, A. Woollard C. Woollard and P. Sedgewicke moved in to investigate what lay ahead.



First impressions were that the air was relatively fresh, all the water had drained down to the floor and the level appeared to be driven in very good ground and straight for as far as could be seen. The walls showed obvious signs of having been under water for some considerable time with ochre staining reaching the roof in places.

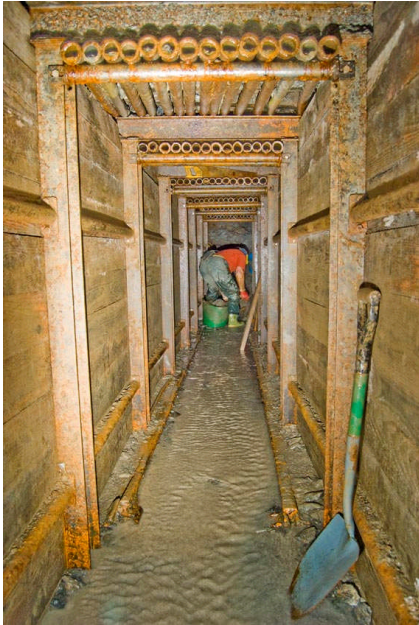
The floor had a layer of ankle deep mud deposited on it. The first section of rail after the steel-work was missing, but after that, remains intact. Some of this rail has been lifted from the sleepers and rotated through ninety degrees as if someone was in the process of removing it. The group moved cautiously forward with Andrew Woollard taking photographs at the front, Mike Mitchell and Ian Matheson were doing the same at the rear. The end of the straight was reached and it was at this point where the level turns to the right (North West) that an abandoned wooden bogey lay. Could it have been used for

removing rail?



Shortly after making the turn, we found the ground became much poorer with some stoping to a limited height. A little further on there is a cross-cut driven to the left which had been back-filled and this is shown on both the 1935 plan and the 'Lampton' plan. Strangely, there was no sign of secondary

mineralization in the walls or roof in any of this area. After about 100 metres from the corner we started to see evidence of the tail of another collapse and soon it became a hands and knees crawl until we could go no further. This was after about 150 metres from the corner, but the air was good and the water was coming out at floor level at the start of the tail.



**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2010**, work to remove some of the last of the collapse material and complete the steel structure got underway. Mark Simpson and Ian Matheson carried out some surveying work to try to relate our new position within the mine to the mine plan. Much work was done during the following week to add distances to the plan and it has been established that we are now 584 metres into the mine.

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2011** was the day the ‘Job Done’ sticker was slapped on the last set of steel legs, marking the end of the work to drive through the collapsed ground and make safe this area of the mine for many years hence. Records show sixty six work meets have taken place since the project began back in May 2009, with the lowest point being the catastrophic

floods of November 2009 which undid all of the six months work that had been done and more. This was a major set back, but resulted in hardening the resolve of those involved, where lesser mortals would have given up.

What now? Well, a test dig on the next collapse has shown that it is not possible or safe enough to try and worm a way through. The ground in the area of this collapse is far too unstable, it will require a more technical approach than this and one similar to that which has just been completed. A decision has not been made at the time of writing, but should the consensus be to go ahead, there could be enough steel and timber left to do this work, but it will be no light undertaking. Some believe that the collapse Roy Garner reached from in-bye in 1996 (Newsletter no.45) may not be the one we have reached from out-bye, but possibly a distance of some fifty metres exists between the two.

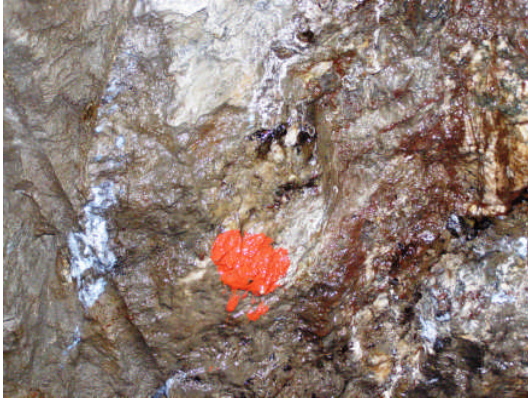
John Brown

Photographs by Andrew Woollard.

The cover picture was taken by Ian Matheson before anyone had entered the continuation of the adit accessed by the dig. Mike Mitchell is setting up his camera in order to record the first steps by the digging team. Since then, at the time of writing, we have made two more visits to photograph and survey the new ground



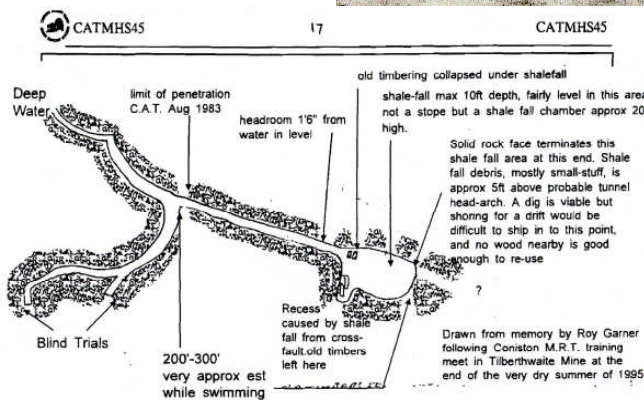
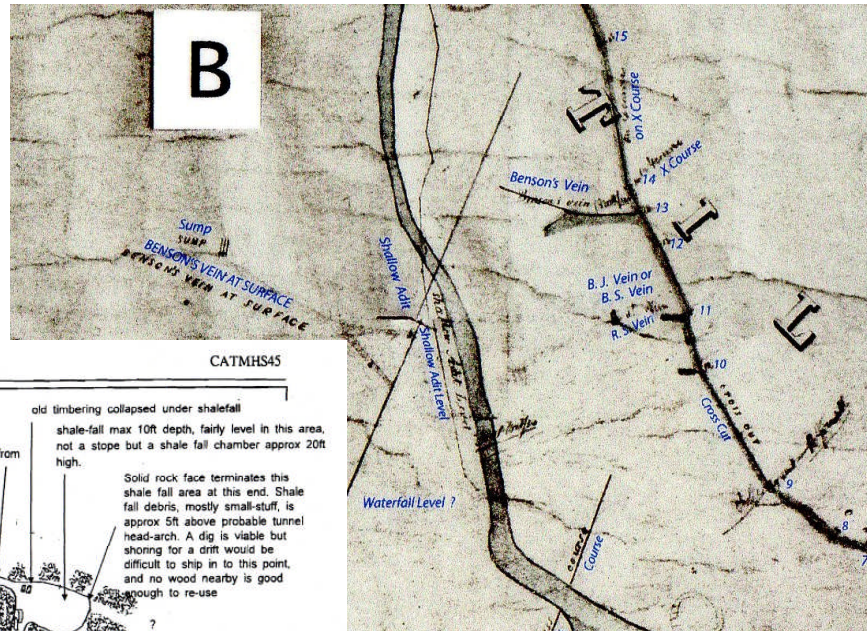




Of particular interest are a series of red paint marks in the roof, presumably survey marks put there in the 1930's.

Mike Mitchell has done a lot work with Photoshop on images of the Rydal Estates plan to try to decipher the writing on it and to relate the survey marks. On this section the current blockage is believed to be at survey point 9, whilst the blockage found from the inby side by Roy Garner in 1995 is at the BJ vein,

survey point 11. The trial on Benson's Vein is clearly shown on Roy's diagram, published in CAT Newsletter 45, which was first brought to notice by John Aird.



Given the level of interest in the local community about this project, it is suggested that CAT issue a press release, which would help publicise the activities of the society. Some people in the local community have already suggested doing this.

Research is already underway in the local archives for information about the original workings at the head of the Gill down to the Horse Crag level, with the suggestion that there may be enough material for a publication.



*The current blockage*



## The Newland Company, 1879 Deed of Partnership and Associated Litigation.

### Summary

When the Newland Company was established in 1747, the capital was divided into 16 shares and this structure remained the same for over 100 years. Tom Roper and Benson Harrison both wrote complicated wills which left their assets in the hands of trustees, which raised the question "What role should the trustees have in the management of the company? It seems that the cases of Harrison v Harrison and Roper v Dodgeson both tested legal opinion on this question and the answer seems to be that they should have thought of this in 1747 and written it into a deed of partnership. As there was no deed of partnership it required an act of parliament to give the trustees the authority to continue with the management of the company.

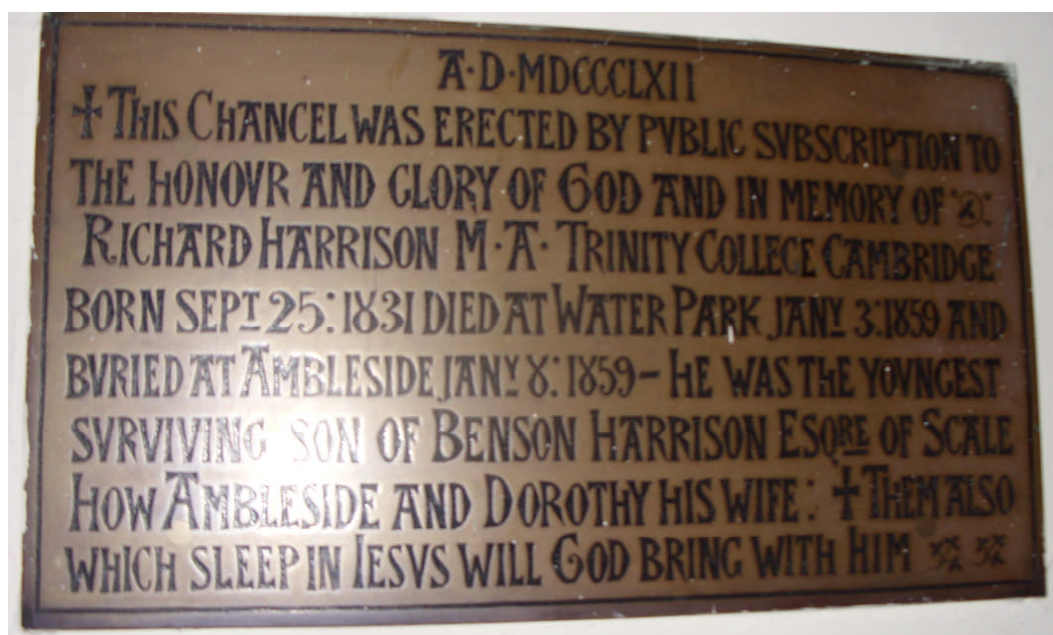
### Harrison v Harrison

Matthew Harrison became manager of the company in 1774 following the death of George Knott. In 1812 he bought the 9½ shares belonging to the Knott family for £34,000. When he died in 1824, he was succeeded by his son, Benson Harrison. Benson Harrison married Dorothy Wordsworth, a second cousin of the poet, and they had at least 4 sons, Matthew Benson Harrison, Wordsworth Harrison, Benson Harrison and Richard Harrison. Shortly after the death of his youngest surviving son in 1859 Benson Harrison wrote the will which became the subject of Harrison v Harrison, 1872 in which Gilbert Henry Wordsworth Harrison and others were plaintiffs and Dorothy Harrison was defendant.

**PARTICULARS of the Collection made at Melfort Powder Works, Argyllshire, by Richard Kelly, Esq., for the Memorial to the late Mr. Richard Harrison, in the New Church, at Blawith, and published in *Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser*, on the 3rd of May, 1860.**

Richard Kelly .....	5	0	0
Alexander McKillop .....	2	0	0
Rev. Donald McOllivray .....	1	0	0
John Sinclair .....	1	0	0
William Murray .....	1	0	0
Duncan Forbes .....	1	5	0
Archy Campbell .....	1	0	0
John Oson .....	1	0	0
Malcolm McLennan .....	1	0	0
Mr. McQueen .....	1	0	0
Rev. J. Veau, Kilmaiver .....	1	1	0
Captain Wilson, smack "Earl" .....	1	0	0
Captain Robertson, schooner "Kelpie" .....	1	0	0
Captain Campbell, smack "Melfort" .....	1	0	0
John Harrison .....	0	10	0
H. Livingstone .....	0	10	0
21 subscriptions of 2s. each .....	42	0	0
44 subscriptions of 1s. 6d. each .....	66	0	0
Readings .....	2	9	6

Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser  
10 May 1860



The chancel of Blawith church is a monument to Richard Harrison who died in 1859 at the age of 27.



### **The Roper Estate Act, 3rd July 1879**

Thomas Roper of Gawithfield died in 1874, leaving his estate to his son, Richard Stephen Roper, and his friends John Cowans of Wood Bank Carlisle, ironmaster, and Thomas Dodgeson, of Ulverston, book keeper. They held the assets as trustees, the income going to his widow, Jane Roper and to Richard Stephen Roper. In the event of the death of Richard Stephen Roper there was to be provision for his widow, Mary Roper and daughter, Mary Agnes Isabel Roper. At the time of his death, Thomas Roper owned 44/1710 of the company. John Cowans predeceased Thomas Roper and Richard Stephen Roper died in 1876. Aymer Ainslie was appointed trustee in place of Richard Stephen Roper. In 1878, Mary Agnes Isabel Roper sued the trustees. In the action Roper v Dodgeson, it was stated that the partners in the firm of Harrison Ainslie had carried on a very profitable business as ironmasters for many years, but there was no formal deed of partnership. In the absence of a deed of partnership, the trustees did not have the authority to carry on the business. The act of parliament was needed to authorise the trustees to sign a deed of partnership which would permit them to carry on the business. Incidentally, the friend and trustee, John Cowans was the founder of Cowans cranes, a company which survived well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **The Deed of Partnership**

The deed of partnership is in Kendal records office, BRA1770/6/3, marked "This copy belongs to Major B Harrison". It is 68 pages long and the first 10 pages relate the circumstances of Benson Harrison's will. Like Thomas Roper he left his estate in trust, the trustees being his wife, Dorothy Harrison, son Wordsworth Harrison and Robert Francis Yarker. Benson Harrison died on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1863.

Page 9 refers to a codicil of Benson Harrison's will whereby the manager, William George Ainslie, would receive a bonus of £500 plus 3% of the profits in any year when the profit was greater than £1000 per share. However, this bonus was to be paid by only some of the then shareholders, namely:

9 ½ shares owned by Benson Harrison including one held by Wordsworth Harrison.

3 ½ shares owned by Montagu Ainslie including one held by William George Ainslie.

2 shares held by Margaret Hogg of Lynn, Norfolk. The Roper share is not included.

Page 11 records an agreement in 1869 whereby Wordsworth Harrison would hand back his share and stand down as trustee, no reason being given for this arrangement. The share was cancelled so that the remaining shares became 1/15ths, but in order to avoid fractions, these would now be expressed by 1710 shares. In other words, each 15<sup>th</sup> share was split into 114 parts.

Pages 17 and 66 list the current (1879) shareholders, namely:

Dorothy Harrison, Benson Day Harrison and Thomas Gale Mills held 570 shares as trustees of Benson Harrison the elder.

Thomas Dodgeson and Aymer Ainslie held 44 shares as trustees of Thomas Roper.

William George Ainslie owned 529 shares.

Aymer Ainslie owned 130 shares.

James Roper owned 38 shares

Benson Day Harrison owned 228 shares.

George Day Harrison owned 171 shares.

Page 18 repeats that this deed of partnership is necessary as a result of the cases of Roper v Dodgeson and Harrison v Harrison. Page 19 records that the assets of the company will now be held by Henry Maynard Mills and Earnest Henry Ainslie as trustees of the company.

Pages 20 - 65 are the rules of the company, including that W G Ainslie is to be manager with a salary of £500 pa and that Charles Alfred Swinburne of 28 Bedford Row is to be company solicitor.

### **State of the company**

With hindsight, one would expect the company to be in decline. They had ceased to manufacture gunpowder and had not ordered a new ship in the past 10 years. The forges had closed and only two blast furnaces were left, though they had been converted to hot blast. In 1882 JK Dunstan began a damning series of reports on the mines which was continued by his successor, JT Rigg. But the deed of partnership and the Roper Estate Act both say that the company is worth fighting over and on page 15 of the deed of partnership it says "The manufacture of gunpowder has been discontinued but the trade of ironmaster has been further developed and extended so as to embrace various branches of the business connected with the manufacture and sale of iron and steel."

### **Witnesses**

The signatures of Aymer Ainslie, Wordsworth Harrison and Thomas Dodgeson were witnessed by Alfred Fell, clerk to Harrison Ainslie and Thomas Duckworth, schoolmaster of Lindal. Alfred Fell would be 18 years old at the time.

### **Later developments**

The trend of dividing shares and allowing them to be managed by trustees continued so that when Alfred Fell (now cashier) became a shareholder in 1894, his share represented 1/11380 of the company, while Walter Dowson controlled 75% of the shares as trustee.

Peter Sandbach.

### **Editor's note:**

Alfred Fell later wrote the definitive book about the Furness iron industry, **THE EARLY IRON INDUSTRY OF FURNESS AND DISTRICT**: an historical and descriptive account from earliest times to the end of the 18th century, with an account of Furness ironmasters in Scotland, 1726-1800.

He is buried, I think, in the churchyard at Greenodd, which is well worth a visit when the crocuses are in bloom.

IM.

### **Miscellaneous Newspaper Reports from 1862 to 1928**

This is the last of four articles on this subject. The following extracts are not all mining related but should be of interest to Lakeland History enthusiasts. Those of you who are of a sensitive disposition are warned that some descriptions of incidents are very graphic.

Peter Fleming.

#### **Ulverston Mirror March 8 1862**

**FIRE AT LOW WOOD POWDER MILLS** - On Sunday evening last, between ten and eleven o'clock, the watchman at the Low Wood Powder Mills (Messrs. Dave Barker, and Co.) discovered a fire in one corner of the preparing house, and at once raised an alarm. The flames rapidly extended, and, notwithstanding the active exertions of many of the workmen and others who congregated, the fire spread to the whole of the preparing house, thence to the two nearest amalgamating mills. Messengers had been despatched to Ulverston, and, in the meantime, endeavours were made to confine the fire as much as possible, and to check its progress. By two o'clock the two mills were enveloped in flames, and, on the arrival of the Ulverston fire brigade, with a powerful engine, means were adopted to saturate with water the outsides of the nearest two pairs of mills – the interior of which had been wet by the hands. The Ulverston fire engine was accompanied by Messrs. J. W. Grundy, John Case, Myles Whyte, and one or two policemen, who, it need hardly be said, exerted themselves to the utmost. The result was that the fire was extinguished between five and six o'clock, but not before the buildings which were on fire had been totally destroyed, and all the machinery contained in them. A change in the wind occurred at a very favourable moment, and the sparks from the burning materials were carried in a direction from the mills which were entire. We understand the property was not insured, and that the loss to the proprietors is estimated at about £3,500. The business of the company will not be seriously impeded.

**A FOX HUNT AND HOW IT ENDED** - On Monday last the foxhounds of John Lewthwaite, Esq., Broadgate, threw off at Kirkby Park, and after a most exhilarating run, which tried both dogs and men, came to an abrupt and singular termination near Coniston. Reynard was making his way, doubtless in hopes of finding a refuge from his inveterate pursuers, when he was waylaid by an individual (anything but a sportsman) who was accompanied by two cur dogs, which were set upon poor Reynard. After a pretty sharp conflict, dogs and fox rolled over a declivity into a little beck, which gave an opportunity to the two legged cur to take the fox alive, and he was locked up in an outhouse belonging to Mr E. Barrow, innkeeper, Coniston. On the arrival there of the huntsman, Reynard was, of course, demanded, but his captor refused to give him up – remonstrances, reproaches were alike unavailing; so after partaking of refreshments, bountifully supplied by Mr Barrow, they were obliged to return home unsuccessful. With the morning “calm reflections came” and the fox was despatched per train to Broughton, and placed at the disposal of Mr. George Lewthwaite, to whom, and others fond of the chase, he may furnish hereafter another day's sport – Cor, --

Another correspondent says:- Bold Reynard ran for the fastnesses of Dhu Crag, behind Coniston Old Man, and, being hard pressed, he took the lower side of the Old Man, by the way of Levers Waters. But here what in the morning had promised to be a good day's sport, was brought to a speedy termination, for a Coniston shepherd, who had been out upon the fells feeding his sheep, but who had received a telegram in the morning, informing him that the hounds were out, saw Reynard coming towards him, and let his dogs attack the fox, when with the assistance of forty or fifty miners from the “Paddy end “ of the works, the fox was bagged, and carried away alive in triumph.

### **8th April 1871**

**DREADFUL ACCIDENT.** On Saturday night, while a lad named Charles Muster was filling a massive ore crushing machine, at the West Maria Mine near Tavistock, he was drawn by his clothes becoming entangled, into a series of heavy rollers. His body coming out on the other side a mere mass of pulp, having passed through spaces only 4 inches wide. Reports From The Millom Gazette

### **Saturday, October 7, 1893**

A sad occurrence took place at Coniston on Saturday last, resulting in the death of Mr William Fleming, age 49 years, of Tilberthwaite Cottages, Quarryman, who, it appears, went to Coniston in the afternoon of that day, and was returning home between 10 and half past ten at night, when he met on the road near Coniston Church, a man, named Edward Pickthall Pearson, of Coniston, a Quarryman, who was carrying a walking stick, and, it was stated, gave him a violent thrust with it in the left eye. Blood spurted from the wound, and the deceased staggered and fell. He was immediately picked up, taken to an outhouse, and left there. Those who saw what happened did not think it was anything serious, but on the morning of the first inst. the deceased was found in a dazed condition on the Ambleside road, between Coniston and his lodgings. He was taken to Dr Kendall's surgery, where the wound was dressed, and afterward conveyed home, where he died at 10 o'clock the same day. Deceased never regained consciousness from the time of the injury and died without giving a further account than that the injury was caused by the stick. - At the inquest a verdict of "Death from misadventure." was returned. - Ed. Pearson was taken before the magistrates and remanded til Monday next.

### **Millom Gazette - Saturday October 14 1893**

#### **Only Pleasantry**

Round about Coniston they have a queer idea of frolicking and giving vent to their exuberant spirits. It appears to consist of prodding one another in the face with sticks, which is an excruciating funny joke if the prod does not happen to be too hard. This has actually been the case with one recipient of these delicate attentions who was so impervious to humour as to die from the effects of the injury he received, he being prodded in the eye. The humourist in question was brought up before the magistrates, who had sufficient idea of the fun as to dismiss the culprit with a caution, adding that this kind of frolic was dangerous, and apt to lead to unpleasant consequences. It now remains for some inventive genius to find out some other equally praiseworthy form of practical joking.

### **Friday August 18 1897**

#### **Gold in Cumberland**

It is not generally known that it is not necessary to go to the colonies to dig for gold. It has been found in appreciable quantities in England. Most people have heard of the Welsh gold workings, but it was of Cumberland that the greatest hopes were entertained at the time of the mid century gold craze. A party of prospectors, headed by Mr Calvert, the Australian geologist, obtained gold readily, by the common process of washing with the tin dish, at the head of Borrowdale, and also near Buttermere, while near Bassenthwaite Lake, at a short distance from Piel Wyke, very good samples were obtained in reddish earth resting on the clay slate, and is to be found locally on the green stone slate; but in quantities too minute to pay for working.

**Millom Gazette – May 8th 1903****BARROW'S GREAT WATER SCHEME, LIGHT RAILWAY FROM THE DUDDON VALLEY**

This scheme is now being put into practical shape, and tenders have been let for 22 miles of pipes. The cost of the pipes from Messrs Hannay and Clark, of Barrow, is £42,305 7s. 6d. and halves and other costings £426. Messrs John Aird and Sons have secured the order for laying the pipes from Seathwaite Tarn to Barrow at a cost of £26,417 15s. 2d, and in connection with this contract it is reported that Messrs Aird will construct a tramway from Broughton to Seathwaite. This means the opening of a light railway in the Duddon Valley, which has never previously been attempted, and it is anticipated that Messrs Aird will endeavour to secure the contract for the making of the dam and reservoir at Seathwaite Tarn. The construction of a light railway in Duddon Valley would greatly increase the value of the slate quarries in that district, and therefore the projected scheme will be watched with great interest by the residents of the northernmost portion of Lancashire and south Cumberland.

**Millom Gazette – January 30th 1903****DUDDON HALL ESTATES**

Mr J.F. Cheetham of Manchester has purchased Duddon Hall, near Barrow-in-Furness, one of the best residential houses in the northwest of England, together with the Manor of Dunnerdale with Seathwaite, at £28,000. Over and above this figure an annuity of £8000 is to be paid to a lady, who is sixty-four years of age during her life time. The Duddon Hall Estate, which was put up for auction a few months ago by order of the Court of Chancery has realised over £100,000. Mr Harold Brocklebank of Aigburth, Liverpool, and late of Duddon Hall near Barrow, has purchased Grizedale Hall near Hawkshead, the residence of the late W. Ainslie, formerly Member of Parliament for North Lonsdale.

**Millom Gazette – October 30th 1908****OLD MEMORIES - December 1853****COBALT ORE ON BLACK COMBE**

It is said that an agent from Messrs Locke, Blacklock and Company's Lead Works, near Newcastle upon Tyne has, during the week, paid a visit to the mountain of Black Combe, with a view to an arrangement respecting the cobalt ore which has lately been dug out of a place called "Kings Quarry" on Black Combe. An agreement, we understand, has been effected. It will be conveyed to Silecroft Station, and from thence per rail to Newcastle upon Tyne. Should it yield in abundance, and give satisfaction so that the working operations may proceed, the Whichamites will still have more cause to be proud of such a production from their already famed mountain.

**Millom Gazette –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 – April 1st 1910**

#### **MILLOM MINER KILLED**

Alexander Cummins, a lead miner at Greenside Mines, which honey comb Helvellyn, was preparing on Monday night to fire a fuse when a piece of rock weighing several tons fell from the roof and almost buried him. He was alive when released, but died before he could be carried to the level, a mile away. A curious feature of the accident was that Cummins had left his own shift to take that of a man named Cowin, who wanted to be away for the Easter holidays. Cummins was a single man from Millom.

### **Millom Gazette – Friday June 14th 1912**

#### **“OPENING UP” MOUNTAINS - Lakeland Horse Trail to be made into Coach Road**

A scheme which the Lake District Association has decided to put before the Councils concerned for converting the present derelict road – an old packhorse trail – over Wrynose and Hardknott passes, a distance of 8 miles, into a coach road at a cost of £20,191, has aroused keen interest throughout Lakeland, particularly in Eskdale, which, lying to the west of the pass, has been practically cut off from the rest of the district, and is rarely entered by visitors.

The cost would be divided among three counties (Cumberland £9995, Westmorland £4867, and Lancashire £5369) and as it is hoped the Road Board will make a substantial grant, the financing of the scheme presents a much easier problem than if all eight miles ran through one county.

The road would reduce the driving distance from Ambleside to Wasdalehead from 52 miles via Keswick to 26, while Ravenglass, a quaint old-world seaside resort on the Cumberland coast, would be brought within 20 miles.

The launching of the project has revived an interest in the sister scheme for making a coach road over Styhead Pass from Wasdale to Keswick, which the Cumberland County Council rejected because of the cost. Now, however, circumstances have changed, as the Road Board would probably contribute handsomely, and consequently the subject will again be brought forward at the Cumberland County Council, when the Wrynose and Hardknott scheme is under consideration.

### **Millom Gazette – October 4th 1912**

#### **LEAD MINING IN LAKELAND**

The great increase in the prices of lead has turned attention to a number of mines in the Lake District which are lying idle for want of capital to develop them. A German firm have sent representatives to inspect the Threlkeld lead mine at the foot of the Blencathra range of mountains and the water is now being pumped out of the mine. It is hoped the mine will be purchased, and the industry re-established in the village of Threlkeld.

### **Millom Gazette – October 1st 1915**

#### **ELECTRIC LIGHT AT CONISTON**

Residents in Coniston are soon to have the opportunity of having the long talked-of electric light. The Coniston Electric Supply Company have started work. Preparations are being made for the building of a power station on the side of the stream coming down from Leverswater. The building is to be situated just above Holywath grounds. Several of the poles are now erected, most of wayleaves have been granted, and the fixing of the cable will be commenced in a few days.

**Millom Gazette – January 5th 1923**  
**LANGDALE AND ESKDALE ROAD**

“With so many good schemes afoot it is perhaps not very surprising that the old project of making a highway over Hardknott and Wrynose in order to link up west Cumberland with Westmorland, is not making a great appeal to local authorities. But all the same it has a good deal to commend it, and this is the time when it should be pressed forward, and not only pressed forward, but constructed. I do not know whether the Westmorland County Council has mentioned it recently as a useful piece of work that should be undertaken, but it would really be a great service to the southern part of the Lake District if it were brought into closer relationship and communion with Eskdale and the west. Some day such a road will be found essential. The pity is that, though it has been frequently talked about, it is relegated to the background either because it has not the requisite virility or enthusiasm behind it, or the question of cost is regarded as an insuperable obstacle by the powers that be. But if half the amount needed to do the work can be obtained in the shape of a state grant, the financial problem is almost solved, and the local authorities could surely do the rest between them.”

Thus John Peel in the Westmorland Times.”

We are in entire agreement with the above. We are, nevertheless, somewhat suspicious that this proposal is being introduced as a camouflage to render the destruction of the Whitehaven and Millom scheme less noticeable by the general public. There is room for both schemes, but we want that Millom road, and we won't be happy till we get it.

**Millom Gazette – December 28th 1928**  
**THE HARDKNOTT ROAD, OASIS IN LAKELAND**

That the highway for motorists which it is again proposed should be made over Hardknott and Wrynose in place of the ancient rough road would open out inaccessible dales in the heart of the Lake District is itself sufficient reason why the proposal should not be carried out, says “The Times”. The dales in question are some of the few places left in Lakeland where the solitude of the hills, undisturbed by the charabanc or even by the private car, can be enjoyed by the pedestrian who does not wish to climb them. There is no population that requires improved facilities; the few scattered farmhouses can almost be counted on the fingers of one hand, and if the road should bring about the building of modern villas the more is its construction to be depreciated. There is little or no trade; the days when wool was carried over the pass by packhorse to the sea at Ravenglass are long past, for if Ravenglass were ever a harbour it is no longer, and, though at high tide it looks a fine sheet of enclosed water, it is a waste of shingle when the tide is out. Further, if these roads were improved there would almost inevitably arise the plea of bettering the communications north and south, a demand for a road up Upper Eskdale over Esk Hause and on to Keswick, through one of the wildest and most desolate valleys in the district, where it is now possible to walk for miles under the precipices of Scafell without seeing a house. In spite of the miniature railway which runs up Eskdale, this part of West Cumberland remains, without the exception of some sporadic settlements, very much as it has been for centuries. Even the ubiquitous motor omnibus has made its appearance on the main roads only within the last few weeks. Surely this oasis can be spared the incursions of the all devouring motors.



**To finish – Something quite different:**

**Extract from Millom Gazette – July 10th 1910 - Vicar's Fight with Great Bustards.**

**EXCITING ADVENTURE IN THE LAKE DISTRICT, SAVAGE BIRDS BEATEN OFF WITH STICK.**

A Wigan clergyman, the Rev. H. F. Lloyd, has just had a most exciting experience in the Lake District. Mr Lloyd, while holidaying, went on a climbing excursion among the mountains that flank the Troutbeck Valley, and when nearing the summit of Great Mell\*, which is some 2476 feet above sea level, he was startled to see a very large bird hovering above him in a rather threatening manner.

He watched it, trying to evade its movements the while and, thinking it was a hawk of the larger variety continued to climb. But as he proceeded, this strange visitor became more and more aggressive, and began to swoop down upon him, making a direct attack. It struck at his head and passed just above him.

Then, to make the situation even more alarming, another bird of the same species, apparently the paired mate, came suddenly darting to the attack from behind the rocky crags in the immediate neighbourhood. Luckily Mr Lloyd had brought a stick with him to assist him in his climb, and with this he attempted to keep the two savagely disposed creatures at bay, striking out at them to protect himself from their combined attack.



*Illustration of an Indian Bustard from an old book*

As the encounter was assuming a perilous phase the reverend, being single-handed in the combat, thought it best to retire, and so he beat as hasty a retreat as possible under the circumstances, leaving the couple of feathered combatants masters of the ground. The reverent gentleman afterwards discovered that his feathered assailants were a couple of great bustards that have taken up quarters in the neighbourhood. The great bustard is the largest game bird in Europe, and is not a denizen of the Lake District.

Mr Lloyd, on descending the mountain, mentioned his exciting adventure, and was then told that several visitors had recently met with similar experiences in the neighbourhood, one gentleman a few days before coming from his climb in a state of alarm almost, and requesting that a party should be organised to go out and try to shoot the birds.

It is revealed that last year two persons were attacked on different occasions while climbing the same mountain, it being then thought that the bird was an eagle that had strayed from its usual haunts.

\* This should be Ill Bell, which is in Troutbeck Valley, Windermere.

## Stank Iron Mine

In Newsletter No 90 (Feb 2008) I mentioned that the Engine House on No1 Pit had been demolished in 1922 and the rubble used to help build the Coast Road, providing work for some of the unemployed.

The photographs given here substantiate this, showing the demolition by Dynamite actually happening. The first photo is by kind permission of Glyn Caine, the owner of the Stank site. Nos 2, 3 and 4 all feature in a book 'Around Barrow-in-Furness in Old Photographs' which was compiled by John Garbutt and John Marsh, and first published in 1993. The copyright for these belongs to John Garbutt and John Marsh, but since the book is essentially about Barrow history, I thought some members may not have seen it, and since these photos contain several points of interest to us, I thought they might be worth repeating here.

The first photo shows the stripped out Engine House, in front of which are arrayed the work group. It is my contention that this picture records the final moments of this building before it is reduced to rubble. Seven men and a boy are posing proudly for the shot, so obviously it is an "occasion".



Next, and apparently reprinted from a slightly damaged negative or glass plate, we can see the No 2 House looking almost as it does today. However, the charges set in No 1 have been fired, and the structure is seen gracefully folding amid a large cloud of dust. Of further interest in this shot is



the Blacksmiths Shop visible on the extreme left with its longitudinal ridge vent on the roof, which disappeared when the building was converted for use as a barn; also to be seen are what seem to be two flues for internal hearths emerging from the edge of the roof at eave level at the near end of the building. In fact the wooden supporting frame for the roof vent, together with four flues for the hearths – one in each corner- are still to be seen inside the building. A further point of interest is that No 2 Pit exhibits a lot more masonry around the shaft top than can be seen today. Also, the slightly elevated angle of the shot itself is not achievable any more, as the spoil tip has been levelled.

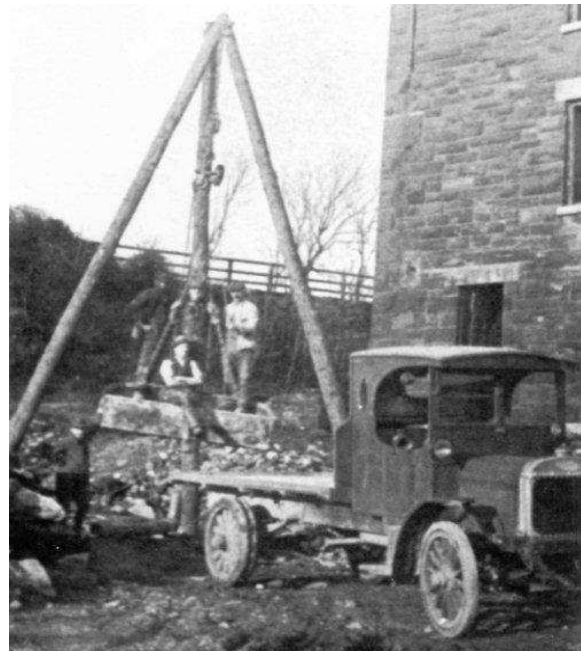


The third shot shows the immediate aftermath of the big bang. I would say that the men look quite pleased with themselves, and they have been joined for the “occasion” by family, as there is at least one woman, one youngish child

and a baby in the shot, which would have been not long after the second one (how long does it take a dust cloud to settle?). The men are all dressed in the same clothes as in the first shot, and the weather appears to be the same.

Shot four obviously a day or two later, shows clearing up under way. The rather frail looking lorry is about to be loaded with a lintel, still intact. The chap sitting on the lintel is Mr Dunn, the then owner of the site.

B.D.Cubbon.



## CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston, starting at 6.00pm.

### Agenda.

- |    |  |    |                                      |
|----|--|----|--------------------------------------|
| 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 Report                             | 8  | RA forms                             |
| 9  | John Barratt Cost Book                   | 10 | Publications                         |
| 11 | Library Report                           | 12 | New projects                         |
| 13 | Publicity Officer Report                 | 14 | Coniston Coppermines & Quarries      |
| 15 | GPS                                      | 16 | Mines Forum meeting                  |
| 17 | AGM including discuss venue for 2011 AGM | 18 | Any other business                   |
| 19 | Date and Venue of next committee meeting |    |                                      |

**Present:** W Allison (WA), J. Aird (JA), J. Brown (JB), T. Holland (TH), I. Matheson (IM), M Mitchell (MM), P. Fleming (PF), M. Scott (MSc), A. Wilson (AW) & C. Woollard (CW).

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

#### 1 Apologies for absence from: S. Barker (Secretary), M. Simpson.

#### 2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July had been previously circulated to members. It was **PROPOSED** by WA and **SECONDED** by JA that the minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings. This was carried unanimously.

#### 3 Matters arising

2. JA two online payments have now been received.
- 3.2 JA ENTEC was grateful that he had commented on behalf of CATMHS regarding Force Crag Mine.
- 10.1 IM In a reply to Sheila Barker's e-mail relating to the reprinting of the LMH, Alastair Cameron has all the information to proceed and has most of the text on Microsoft Office. He reported having problems with the data on one of the CD's and bought a repair kit which fixed the problem. He thought that it would be better to send sections to whoever is going to edit them.
17. JA The 2011 dinner had been provisionally booked; the date should be changed in the minutes to 10<sup>th</sup> December.

#### 4 Secretary's Report

SB had nothing to report and only to note that A. Cameron now has all the information for the reprint of the LMH and that he thinks that each chapter should be edited by the various individuals.

#### 5 Treasurer's Report

JA had circulated the balance sheet to members covering the period from the 12<sup>th</sup> July to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2010. Income from: subscriptions, donations & publications. Expenditure: on printing, timber, Staveley Mines cost book, travel expenses.

The Treasurer wished the committee to approve his expenses of £66.16 for stamps and ink. Approval **PROPOSED** WA, **SECONDED** MM, all in favour. The current a/c stood at £15758.35 and the Scottish Widow a/c at £365.31. The Treasurer reported that a deposit of £250.00 had been paid to Rydal Hall to safeguard the date of the 2011 AGM and Dinner.

#### 6 Membership Secretary & Newsletter Editor's Reports

- 6.1 IM - two new members, Nigel Bottrill and Alex Thurston.
- 6.2 Has now produced some application slips as he was asked to do and brought some of these along to the meeting. The prices are next year's prices.

#### 7 Meets Report

- 7.1 The next meets list has been distributed.
- 7.2 It was agreed that the Boxing Day meet would start at the BMSC hut and MM suggested using the Tilberthwaite Close Head for refreshments. This will need clarification in the newsletter.

#### 8 RA Forms

All agreed that meet leaders on the list were capable of writing their own Risk Assessments.

#### 9 John Barratt Cost & Letter Books

WA is to meet with the Deputy County Archivist to ask what they are willing to do for us regarding the John Barrett Cost Books, Staveley and Threlkeld Mine documents. PF to forward previous correspondence to WA which refer to number of copies offered etc.

#### 10 Publications

- 10.1 PF reported selling £1270.00 of publications.
- 10.2 John Helm had reviewed 'The Mines of South Lonsdale & Cartmell', in the Barrow Evening Mail.
- 10.3 IM to give a talk to the O.U. Geological Group in November and will collect some Coniston Copper Mines CD's from PF to sell.

## 11 Library

JB apologised for not bringing the Archivist's report along to the meeting and agreed to circulate this by e-mail to committee members after the meeting.

## 12 New Projects

- 12.1 Carrock Fell Mine – WA asked if anyone had any comments regarding the English Heritage (EH) agreement. This agreement had been circulated to committee members by e-mail. EH will pay £2753.00 towards material costs upon production of receipts, and £60.00 per year to carry out inspections of the gate/fences etc; once a 3 year agreement is signed. CW thinks that the inspections refer to the Monument; which is clearly defined. Photographs must be taken and used as a benchmark. CW asked if he should update the paperwork to reflect the fact that MOLES are no longer included in this project and this was agreed. JA PROPOSED that the agreement should be signed by the Chairman as soon as possible, SECONDED by Mark Scott and agreed unanimously.
- 12.2 Silver Gill – WA suggested submitting a proposal to carry out a physical investigation to locate the possible 4<sup>th</sup> Crosscut adit mouth. Based upon evidence and supported by data from the UCL student survey. WA has arranged for Peter Bardsley from the Environment Agency (EA) to help put together an Environmental Impact Study on our behalf. JA suggested that we put in an application for both the Silvergill 4<sup>th</sup> Level and the Sebastian Level at Coniston at the same time. The committee was in full agreement.
- 12.3 Tilberthwaite Horse Crag Level – JB reported: Work continues with steady progress each week. The void above the crash barriers in the 'cut and cover' area prior to the main collapse has now been filled. The first set of tubes since 'The Flood' in November 2009 were driven in yesterday (Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September). The previous set driven in just before 'The Flood' had to be jacked up (Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September) to allow the next set of steel to be fitted. 200 lagging boards have been collected from Wards Timber and are stored at Darlington. MM has managed to get agreement from John Hodgson archaeologist for The LDNPA to allow CATMHS to put up notices around the Penny Rigg Mill site, stating **Do not further damage this important Historic Site**. These would be carefully placed with a low visual impact. The committee was in full agreement.

## 13 Publicity Officer report

MSc made an appeal for information for the Archaeological Conference at Keswick to be held on 31st October. MM would provide a slide show and a short visual recording of work on the collapse in Tilberthwaite Horse Crag Level. WA agreed to supply photographs on Tilberthwaite and Silvergill Mine. JB to supply photographs of Middlecleugh.

## 14 Coniston Mines & Quarries

- 14.1 John Hodgson expects to receive a full draft report of The Coniston Survey from Penny Middleton of Archaeo-Environment Ltd. shortly.
- 14.2 PF reported that Parrock Quarry has been granted permission to extract material from the tips.
- 14.3 TH reported that the pipes and lagging boards are working well at the entrance to Levers Water Mine.

## 15 GPS – No report.

## 16 Mines Forum Meeting

- 16.1 PF The zip wire above Honister Slate Mine is to start from the top of Ashgill Quarry and will be 1200 metres in length. The planning decision has been put back to November.
- 16.2 PF John Hodgson may not be in a position to chair the Mines Forum meetings in future due to cut backs. It was agreed that the committee would write in support of The LDNPA archaeological services. WA agreed to draft a letter.
- 16.3 The National Trust gave an update on the water treatment plant at Force Crag. This is to be a passive treatment plant. No. 1 Level and Zero Level are going to be re-opened. Peter Bardsley (EA) is going to keep the meetings informed about Force Crag and other mines sites.

## 17 AGM including discuss venue for 2011 AGM.

JA said that there had been strong representations regarding the programme of events for this year's AGM and Dinner. The AGM would start at 4.30 p.m. and end at 5.30 p.m. leaving 2 hours for members and guests to change or use the bar. Wine for the meal must be ordered at the bar and paid for before the meal. Wine not purchased on the premises may be brought to the dinner, but there will be a corkage charge. Last orders at the bar will be between 11.00 p.m. and 11.15 p.m. Eleanor Kingston and her partner Sam have been invited and have accepted. MM is to arrange place settings and the film night. Menus are to go out with the next newsletter.

## 18 Any Other Business

- 18.1 PF - Two items at Auction; Lot 120 Durham & Northumberland – Blanchland 1787-1796 and Lot 127 the Lord Crewe Documents. JA proposed that the Society makes £30.00 available as a 'hammer offer'.

## 19 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at the BMSC Hut, Coniston at 6.00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15 pm. JB 15/11/2010

## CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston, starting at 6.00pm.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 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 Report                              | 8 RA forms                             |
| 9 John Barratt Cost Book                    | 10 Publications                        |
| 11 Library Report                           | 12 New projects                        |
| 13 Publicity Officer Report                 | 14 Coniston Coppermines & Quarries     |
| 15 GPS                                      | 16 Mines Forum meeting                 |
| 17 AGM including discuss venue for 2011 AGM | 18 Any other business                  |
| 19 Date and Venue of next committee meeting |  |

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

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm. 11 committee members attended.

### 1 Apologies for absence

### 2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September had been previously circulated to members. It was **PROPOSED** by WA and **SECONDED** by JA that the minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings. This was carried unanimously.

### 3 Matters arising

- 3.1 Item 18 PF reported that Lot 120 went for £55 and lot 127 went for £200, he did not bid.
- 3.2 Item 14.2 JA would look at the planning application for Parrock Quarry; to see what was proposed.
- 3.3 Item 16.2 WA had received a reply to his letter, thanking him for our interest and for expressing of our views. They had not made any decisions to date.

### 4 Secretary's Report

SB had attended the NAMHO council meeting last Saturday at the Stone Centre nr. Wirksworth.  
The 2011 Conference is on 19<sup>th</sup> July/1<sup>st</sup> Aug, to be held in Shrewsbury, booking forms available on the web by 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. The 12012 Conference will be in Nenthead on May 25<sup>th</sup> /28<sup>th</sup>.  
The Research Frame Project Archaeology of the Extractive Industries has had a 9 month extension to the project as targets are behind, there will be a series of seminars to gather information during the winter. See website projectofficer@namho.org

### 5 Treasurer's Report

JA had circulated the balance sheet to members covering the period from the 20<sup>th</sup> September to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Income from: dinner, subscriptions, donations & publications. Expenditure on: printing, spilling tubes & travel expenses.

The Treasurer wished the committee to approve his expenses of £16.95 for stamps and ink. Approval **PROPOSED** MSc, **SECONDED** WA, all in favour. The current a/c stood at £16867.13 and the Scottish Widow a/c at £365.31. The Treasurer reported that advanced payments for PLI & the Dinner had been made.

JA had written the 2010 Trustees Report for the Charity Commission. Although not officially required by them, it would be put on our website to be available to the public. He expected the accounts to be audited shortly.

### 6 Membership Secretary & Newsletter Editor's Reports

39 members had renewed to date.

6.1 IM **PROPOSED**, that at the AGM we make Mark Simpson an Honorary Member of CATMHS, for his work in the past as chairman, **SECONDED** by JA, all were in favour.

6.2 The CATMHS printer had printed 17,000 A4 pages and will need replacing soon. Cost about £150, (see full report).

6.3 IM would also like to update his computer software; he is using the Office Pro 2003 programme which CATMHS purchased with the laptop. Increasingly he is receiving contributions written for the Newsletter using more recent programmes, which can cause difficulties.

Full price	£150 + £429	£580
Student price	£38.95 + £38.95	£78
Download price	£74 + £76	£150

The 3<sup>rd</sup> option was thought suitable. JA **PROPOSED** that IM should buy new printer now and look into software etc when convenient. **SECONDED** by JB, all were in favour.

IM would send an updated membership list to committee members. Old printer to go to MS for survey work.

It was decided to send free CATMHS newsletter to the LDNP Archaeology Dept.

### 7 Meets Report

7.1 The Greenside Mine meet was cancelled.

7.2 The Boxing Day meet would start at 10 am in Tilberthwaite car park. Refreshments in Tilberthwaite Horse Level close head.



## **8 RA Forms**

All agreed that meet leaders on the next 4 meets were capable of writing their own risk assessments.

## **9 John Barratt Cost & Letter Books**

WA had tried to contact the Deputy County Archivist to ask what they are willing to do for us regarding the John Barrett Cost Books and the Staveley and Threlkeld Mine documents; but had been unsuccessful. He would keep trying. AW reported that Millom Museum were appealing for info on Hodbarrow Mines and area (some were purchased with above). These could be copied. SB to ask the CAT archivist if there is anything in our library.

## **10 Publications**

WA would contact A. Cameron re LMH. PF reminded us that we usually did a book inventory in January, would anybody holding books please send details to IM before the next meeting. PF reported that there were not many CAT Coniston Old Man leaflets left. These sell well and need to be updated. WA to Contact A. Cameron.

## **11 Library**

The Archivist's report had been emailed to members (see full report).

- 11.1 Strontian and other papers donated by Maureen Fleming are to be photographed for CAT archive. Decision on destination to be made along with documents in Item 9; possibly Barrow Record Office.
- 11.2 Graham Brooks (CIHS) had requested any info regarding a Mr Bigland in connection with Iron workings around Aglionby Beck (S of Hartside Pass).
- 11.3 Request from Peter Claughton; regarding CATMHS activities in Tyndrum area.
- 11.4 The Archivist has an ongoing project to record past meet lists; he only has copies going back to 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 1984. Does anybody have lists prior to this date that can be copied?
- 11.5 PF asked if the CAT library had the collection of John Barratt letters bought by a group of CAT members some time ago. SB would check.

## **12 New Projects**

- 12.1 Carrock Fell Mine – WA had signed the agreement and it been returned.
- 12.2 Silver Gill – WA had sent a draft proposal to carry out a physical investigation to locate the possible 4<sup>th</sup> crosscut adit mouth to Peter Bardsley for consultation, but had not had a reply.
- 12.3 Sebastian Level - CW had done a first draft of the proposal (he will email to committee), PF had sent him information and a map. JB suggested we borrow a thermal imaging camera this winter, to look for evidence of Sebastian Level.
- 12.3 Tilberthwaite Horse Crag Level JB reported - The attempt to re-open the Horse Crag Level is progressing well and now has over 18m of steel work installed. Seven sets of spilling tubes (14 tubes per set) have also been driven into the roof.  
The tip at the end of the close head is now full to capacity and the tower is to be dismantled at the next visit and these tubes will be used for the next spilling session. Tipping will commence at the existing tip area in the right hand side drive of the close head. This will be faced with slate in the style of the now redundant tip. A draught door and security were discussed for when the mine is eventually open.
- 12.4 CW reported that several new members were showing interest in joining the conservation team and should we compile a list of small works to occupy all. Discuss at next meeting.

## **13 Publicity Officer Report**

MSc was unable to attend the Archaeological Conference at Keswick. He thanked MM for making and showing a slide show and a short visual recording of work in Tilberthwaite Horse Crag Level. Which proved very popular along with the interpretation boards. About £60 of CAT books were sold.

## **14 Coniston Mines & Quarries**

- 14.1 A draft report of The Coniston Coppermine / Tilberthwaite management plans had been produced by Archaeo-Environment Ltd. PF had made comments on the Coppermine section and would send it off. IM would do the same with the Tilberthwaite section. Both would be circulated to the committee. Thanks were expressed to PF & IM.

## **15 GPS**

MS had been invited to talk to Duddon Valley Archaeological Group about the use of GPS equipment and offer advice on purchase. They intend to buy similar kit to CATMHS.

MS is mapping the Coniston Fells.

## **16 Mines Forum Meeting – Nothing to report**

## **17 2010 AGM & dinner**

JA said that coffee etc will be served at 4pm on 11<sup>th</sup> December at Rydal Hall. 42 places had been booked to date. Please bring raffle prizes. MM would prepare a slide presentation.

## **18 Any Other Business**

PF - Donald Angus would be giving a mine related talk to the Barrow Rambler on 25<sup>th</sup> November.

## **19 Date and Venue of Next Meeting - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at the BMSC Hut, Coniston at 6.00 pm.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15 pm. SB 17/11/2010



# CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

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<b>CATMHS website:</b>	<a href="http://www.catmhs.org.uk">www.catmhs.org.uk</a>