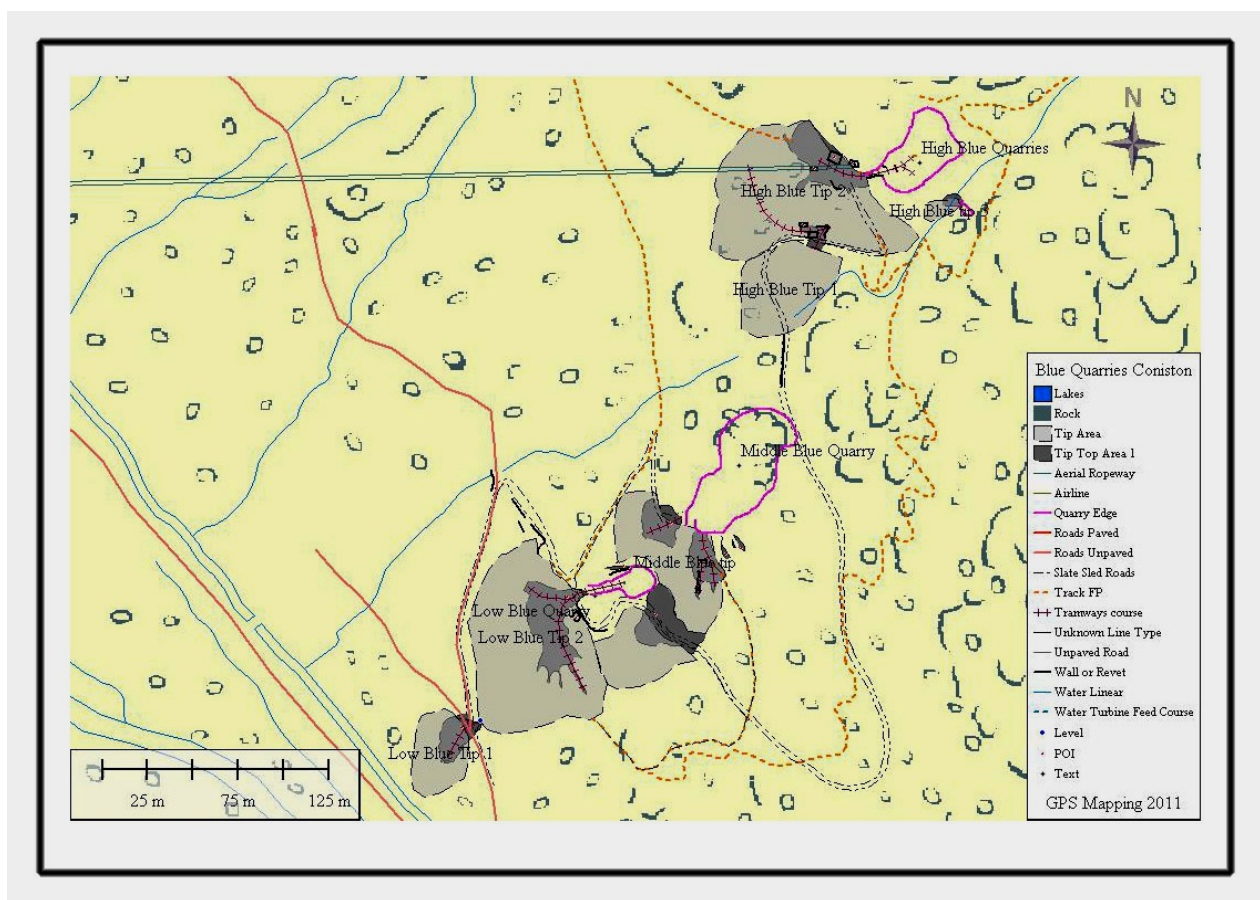


CAT

The Newsletter of the Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society



Map of Blue Quarries, Coniston, by Mark Simpson

Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society

Newsletter No 105, November 2011.

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News

Membership

We welcome Robert Allan Richardson, from Longridge, Preston. He is interested in all of our activities and interests, and has skills in cave surveying, SRT and digging. He also has an explosives license. He is a member of the BCA.

AGM & Dinner

There is still space available both for dinner (£20) and overnight (£57.50) at Rydal Hall on 10th December. Menu choices will follow individually. Please note that attendance at the AGM is free and participants don't have to attend the dinner if they don't want to.

Editor's (final) Rant, Part 3.

This isn't a proper rant, but I thought that I might as well finish it off by describing the processes between printing and posting the newsletter, and the pleasure and satisfaction achieved by producing it.

It takes about three days (and evenings), if all goes well, to print the newsletter and prepare it for posting. Our membership is about 100, and we send copies to some libraries (who pay for them) and to NAMHO, Cumbria Local History Federation and the LDNPA Archaeologists, so I usually print about 110 copies of about 40 sides each, if you include the front and back covers. This results in 20 piles of pages which have to be assembled in the correct order. With this particular issue you should receive the AGM agenda and minutes and a membership renewal form, another 1000 pages to deal with, and several different categories. I lay four sets of pages in a row on the dining table and start to put them together. It is a bit like dealing cards in reverse – collecting instead of distributing - and after a while it makes arms and shoulders ache. Having done the first four pages the operation is repeated four more times until I have 110 complete newsletters. This process doesn't engage the brain, so it is easy to make mistakes and get pages back to front or even upside down, which is particularly annoying if I don't notice until after I have stapled them together. Undoing staples is *very* tedious. Stapling requires a firm base, so I relocate the operation to the kitchen and use the worktop, having cleaned it carefully first. It *is* possible that some lucky members will have received samples of my breakfast or dinner on their back page.

So now there are 110 newsletters ready to put in envelopes together with enclosures. First I have to print labels and stick them onto the envelopes. There are several different categories of member, who receive differing enclosures, so I do this sorting at the label stage. Finally I need to stuff the envelopes and seal each one before taking an example to the post office to get the stamps.

This makes it all sound rather tedious, which some of it is, but actually I get a lot of pleasure and satisfaction from producing the newsletter. I am really grateful to those people who contribute articles and information, and look forward to opening my email each day. I am also pleased to receive the notes, remarks and comments that people send me, to receive complimentary remarks, and to hear that our newsletter is well received by other people and organisations. It is rewarding to be able to produce what I hope is a good quality publication with excellent content, but it is also a relief when the last batch has been posted and I can have a break for the next two months.

Ian Matheson, Newsletter Editor.

Mark Simpson has devoted a lot of time and energy producing reference maps of the mining remains of the Coniston area. The information for these maps was collected over the last two years using the CATMHS mapping grade gps device, the Thales Mobile Mapper CE, a combined PDA and GPS unit, accurate to within half a meter. The files containing all the details of the features mapped are then transferred to a desk PC for working up into the maps that you see, which are just two examples from a set covering the Coniston and Tilberthwaite mining areas.



The next stage is to provide hotspots on points of interest. Clicking on these will bring up photographs or data about the sites. The way this is done is by the use of geo-referenced images with suitable software to provide the links in the map pdf. So far the area covered is from the Walna Scar Road up to Betsy Crag. The system works.

Mark Simpson

Carrock mine

The Project to restore the portal and drainage at Carrock Mine has now been completed and the work inspected and approved by English Heritage, English Nature, The LDNPA and the landowner. It remains to dispose of about 15 tons of surplus spoil and to clear debris from the levels within the mine that has come from collapsed hoppers, which is causing water to back up. An appendix to the Management Agreement has been proposed to deal with these matters. Any work to rebuild a hopper will involve a separate application to English Heritage.

Yesterday (2nd October) the Lake District National Park Authority moved the last of the debris from the dig to the open cut, approx 60 yards away, using their estates team. I went up after work last night and they have done a good job as shown in the photograph. This project has been a great



credit to the society especially considering how many hoops there were to jump through and the number of agencies involved.

Warren Allison

Conservation at Penny Rigg Mill, Tilberthwaite

A site meeting at Pennyrigg, Tilberthwaite took place on Wednesday 12th October. In attendance were John Hodgson for the LDNPA, Julian Lambton and Sarah Stewart from Carter Jonas of Kendal, who act as land management agents for the owners Rydal Estates. Also present was Jonty Brame, who has a long term rental agreement (since 1959) with the landowner for the use of the bothy. This is a converted slate dressing shed on the site. Peter Fleming was asked to attend to represent CAT as our society was the prime mover in seeking protection and conservation of this important site.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the nature of any consolidation work required and the possible sources of funding, and to obtain consent of the landowner, Richard le Fleming, through Julian Lambton.

The conservation management plan published in December 2010 covers most of the Conistown Fells under the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). A sum of £500,000 was earmarked to implement this long term management plan but John says that due to the present economic climate not all of this may be available, therefore he is to seek separate funding for Pennyrigg. The site is not a scheduled monument so English Heritage are

unlikely to contribute, that leaves the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Scheme, which could provide one hundred per cent funding, but the most likely source is the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), however this requires match funding/stroke volunteer input. John says the hundreds of man hours our society has put into re-opening the Horse Level and reinstating the access track after the floods could count towards our input under this scheme. The actual consolidation work on the buildings would be undertaken by contractors at an estimated cost of £30,000.

Radon

The radon measurements we have carried out in the past for Tony Denman and Gavin Gillmore including the more recent work at Coniston with Hossein Gharib are now published as a Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences paper. My input has been to make sure the results are correctly reported and to keep an eye on the historical and geological background. I claim no responsibility for interpretation of the results or the conclusions! The recommendations re the time archaeologists spend underground could be quite restricting and it is obviously up to the CAT committee whether these are adopted at face value or not. A copy of the paper can be downloaded from: www.nat-hazards-earth-sys-sci.net/volume-and-issues.html. The paper appears in Vol 11 No 5, 2011.

Dave Bridge

The following are abstracts from the paper:

... Radon levels were measured in August–September in 2000 and December 2000–January 2001 using commercial alpha track-etch CR39 detectors and at one mine in June 2008 and February–March 2009 using an in-house Radosys track-etch system, following the method laid out by Green et al. (1992) ...

.... This work quantifies the risk of exposure to radon in a number of abandoned mine environments. High radon levels, up to 28 589 Bqm⁻³, have been measured in parts of one mine. (Coniston Coppermine) This study demonstrates that industrial archaeologists (such as the Cumbrian Amenity Trust Mining History Society or CATMHS members) and explorers of abandoned mines can be at risk from radon exposure and it proposes a management scheme to allow industrial archaeologists to continue exploration whilst minimising the risk to health from radon. ...

.... There is a legal onus on industrial archaeological organisations to ensure that doses received by volunteers are restricted to the legal limits. This can be done by limiting the time spent in such a mine as Hudgill Burn (or Coniston Coppermine) and monitoring the dose via personal radon detectors. As shown above, once radon levels are known, it is possible to estimate the maximum time which it is safe to spend in different parts of the mine and consider whether the risk is sufficiently close to the limit to make it advisable to wear personal radon monitors. Radon exposure is dominated by the exposure received deep in the mine at the dig face. Bearing in mind the values above, it was recommended to industrial archaeologists that the time spent at the dig face of an untested mine should be restricted to 4 each month.

... It was also recommended that volunteers should wear personal radon dosimeters for a month at a time, so that the dose could be monitored throughout the year. It would seem

prudent to extend this recommendation to any cave or mine in the UK as well as for the locations in this study. ...

... This research is ongoing and work is under way to map more mines in the Lake District with the aid of CATMHS. ...

Honister Via Ferrata

19 August 2011. Bosses of a controversial mountain tourist attraction face a bill of more than £28,000 after installing an unauthorised extension. The via ferrata on the side of Fleetwith Pike at the head of Borrowdale in the Lake District opened in 2007, allowing non-climbers a taste of adventure on the fixed rungs and cables over the crags. Operators, Honister Slate Mine, whose owner Mark Weir died when he crashed his helicopter close by in March, extended the route and added a zip wire without consent. The company submitted a retrospective planning application but then withdrew it.

West Cumbria Magistrates ordered Honister Slate Mine to pay a fine of £15,000 and costs of £13,190 costs plus a £15 surcharge. The court heard the extension to the route, modelled on similar installations in the European Alps which allow climbers to use a lanyard as protection as they climb the fixed steps, rungs and bridges across routes that only rock-climbers can usually access, had damaged a site of special scientific interest.

The court warned that continued use of the extension would be unlawful, but did not impose a restoration order, saying the company should work with Natural England and the Lake District National Park Authority to resolve the situation. The late Mr Weir's partner, Jan Wilkinson, described the fine as 'on the high side'.

Alastair Cameron commented: The classic Via Ferrata which runs along the track bed of the former Honister Crag Railway is unaffected by the planning issue in August. The deviation is a more sporting variation which leaves the Classic near to the terminal pier of the old Lancaster Aerial Flight and re-joins the Classic on the other side of Bull Gill. It involves a couple of climbing pitches and a traverse of Bull Gill via a short double zip-wire. The installation had been made without planning consent and this is what the case at Workington Court was concerned with. The Bench chairman instructed that the installation should be left in place and also instructed all three parties (LDNPA, NE and Honister) to work to come to a satisfactory compromise on the route so that it could be re-instated. This work is taking place at the moment.

However, on 7th September planning permission for Honister Slate Mine's controversial proposal for the construction of a 1200m zip wire on Fleetwith Fell was rejected by members of the Lake District National Park Authority's planning committee. The idea to run a 1,200m recreational zip wire from a mountain was rejected by Lake District planners following a highly-charged three-hour meeting in front of a packed public gallery. There had been 476 letters and an 11,500-strong petition in support of the scheme. There were also 255 letters of objection. Opposition came from organisations including Natural England, the Campaign for National Parks, Friends of the Lake District and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England.

It was also claimed “the noise, speed, altitude and appearance of participants” would harm “the qualities of remoteness, tranquility and wildness” for some. The 14 members of the Lake District National Park Authority’s development control committee voted nine to five against the plan at the meeting at their headquarters in Kendal. The zip wire was intended to run from a part of Fleetwith Pike known as Black Scar to the existing mine complex, which also offers guided tours.

Mountaineer Sir Chris Bonington spoke at the meeting in favour of the plan. He pointed out the mine had been an industrial site for hundreds of years, adding the attraction would help the Lake District economy by raising its profile.

Ruskin Museum, Coniston, Proposed Exhibition 2012

CAT member and artist Jane Foale has arranged an exhibition of her work at the Ruskin Museum, Coniston. It should open next June, and she has invited CATMHS to participate. The exhibition will demonstrate the different ways in which CAT members engage with historical mines and how these activities enhance one another. A working title of ‘Portal’ was suggested.

Her work is likely to focus on the mineral material collected from the mines and how similar matter is used in contemporary pigments. Integral to this would be the contribution which CAT has made, particularly in facilitating visits above and below ground which have provided both mental inspiration and physical materials.

Two meetings have been held to discuss the project, involving Jane, Vicky Slowe, the museum curator, Ian Matheson, Don Borthwick, Mark Scott, Peter Fleming, and Mike Mitchell. It was decided that we would mount a photographic display centred on CAT’s origins and purpose, with themes of Exploration, Artefacts and Structures, Minerals and Pigments and History & Research. The photograph of CAT Members after their successful exploration in the Red Dell Copper Workings, Coniston, Sunday July 5th 1981 will be a focal point.



We also hope to mount a continuous digital slide show which will elaborate on these themes and display other aspects of CATMHS’s work, and to offer a series of guided walks in Coppermines Valley. This is a major opportunity for CAT to promote and publicise our existence. If you would like to participate please contact Ian Matheson

Coniston Coppermines, surface ramble. September 18th 2011.

6 members and 3 guests, hopefully eventual members enjoyed a ramble around the Coppermines Valley, Coniston on a mild autumnal day. The aim the walk was to spend time looking around the site, share ideas and perhaps learn something new. The 3 guests certainly did.



Lunch, below the Old Engine Shaft wheel pit. Photo Peter Fleming

The group were shown a geological map of the area at the start of the walk and given a very brief introduction to the complexity of the area we would be walking in. The original plan was to visit the level below Miner's Bridge but due to the high water level little interest was shown, particularly by the leader. We followed the path towards Red Dell Bonsor East workings, looked at mortar stones and attempted to analyse the complexity of the paths and water leats in the area. Lunch was taken in the lower of the two ruined buildings below the Old Engine Shaft wheel pit. The general consensus is that these buildings were used for accommodation. The lower one, in better condition than the upper did have a pitched roof at one time and two compartments. A place, one of many in the area, for a future archaeological dig?

We then looked at the top of the Old Engine Shaft, the New Engine Shaft wheel pit; it still needs trees to be removed before the roots cause irreversible damage, followed by a fruitless walk up Red Dell over boggy ground to look at a little known shaft in the beck. Again, high water levels prevented access. It was here that the leader decided to return to lunch building and retrieve his trekking pole and avoid the scorn of a wasted journey by the rest of the group who in the meantime looked at the working around Fleming's Level.

From there we walked up Triddle Incline, some of the group looking inside the level and then to the Glory Hole. An easy walk to Levers Water, a hop-skip- jump, paddle over the

weir and we were looking into the working of the Back Strings. Again, there was much discussion of site interpretation and looking at more mortar stones.

Descent to Top Level, where heads were scratched again and a slow wander into Coniston completed the day.

Thanks to all those who attended and for the input of the CATMHS gurus and their sharing of many years of accumulated knowledge. Hopefully we all learned something new, if only how much more there is to learn about this fascinating area. Conclusions? Despite old maps, cost books, exploration over many years by members, and recent surveys by 'professionals' there is still a vast amount that we do not know about the area. Archaeological digs would help, but do we need to know everything? Perhaps when we do we will stop looking.

Mark Scott

Silvergill Mine dig

This project started some 14 years ago with the discovery of the actual German workings at Caldbeck consisting of Fortune, Emmanuel and New Staln which has been reported in previous CATMHS newsletters and journals. In 1630 the Germans were still planning to drive a 43 fathom crosscut to the vein some 15 fathoms under the New Staln the lowest of the three levels. An area of disturbed ground including walling, paths and mineral was discovered in an area that corresponded to the records and in 2008 University College London confirmed with their ground penetrating radar and Magnetometry the possible location of the level, which the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) granted permission for a dig.

This time the dig had to be under the supervision of a professional archaeologist as Eleanor Kingston from the LDNPA was on maternity leave and North Pennines Archaeology Ltd based at Nenthead was chosen. On the 16th September the dig commenced and unfortunately after a few hours it became apparent that the level was not in the location identified and the ground was re-instated.

This was a disappointing end to the day as all the indicators and survey work by the University had suggested that there was a level there. However this does not mean that there is no level in that area because of the disturbed ground and also that the flooded shaft in the New Staln is at least 16 metres deep (an underwater camera has been put down the shaft as far as the hade of the vein would allow and it was still going) and naturally drains itself to a depth of at least 25 feet when the water is diverted away from the top of the shaft.

John Hodgson from the LDNPA has verbally given permission for the Society to drain the shaft and the method and application is currently being worked on which should confirm if there is anything at the bottom of the shaft.

Dig in progress

Warren Allison, Meet Leader

Tilberthwaite Mine meet, October 9th

This joint meet between CATMHS and the Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society CWAAS (probably the foremost archaeological society in the country) was held on the 9th October with one meet at 10am and the other at 2pm. It was to show the work that CATMHS has done at the site and consisted of a visit to the mill and a trip underground into the Horse Crag Level looking at the closehead and as far as the dig.

Mike Mitchell, Clive Barrow, Peter Fleming, Alan Westall and Mark Simpson from CATMHS attended the 10am meet along with 14 members of CWAAS. As the weather conditions were appalling the meet started with a trip underground in the hope that the weather would improve. We explained the working of the slate closehead and then spent time describing the two year dig from obtaining permission from Rydal Estate, through the initial part of the dig until the November 2009 floods which wrecked the work and then through to the laying of the rail and bringing the waste material to the closehead to be dumped.

On returning to the mill the weather conditions had not improved and if anything had got worse, Mark and Peter explained the workings of the mill and the attempt by CATMHS to have conservation work carried out to prevent further deterioration of this important site. Peter confirmed that he was meeting with John Hodgson from the LDNPA and Rydal Estates on the following Wednesday to discuss the matter as there was the possibility of funding being available.

At 12.30pm the members of both societies returned back to the cars very wet.

Seven members of CWAAS turned up for the afternoon meet which the meet leader led and followed the same route as the morning's trip with the weather still appalling and it finished at 3.45pm

CWAAS members were extremely impressed with the work that CATMHS have carried out at Tilberthwaite and asked if it was possible to have a look at other sites where the society has worked at. Peter has offered to lead a full day meet at Coniston Copper Mines and trips to Silver Gill Mine and Carrock Mine may also be visited next year.

Warren Allison
Meet leader

Boxing Day Meet

For a change this year the Boxing Day meet will be a circular walk based on the CATMHS mine store at Roanhead, Barrow in Furness led by Pete Sandbach and Pete Fleming. There will be a cheese and wine event, with mince pies at the store afterwards. If you are coming it would help if you would let Mike Mitchell know in advance.

Meet at the store at **10.30**, Grid ref SD209755. From the Askham roundabout, carry on towards Barrow. At Thwaite Flat roundabout, bear right for Barrow and immediately turn right to Thwaite Flat. At the T junction turn left then immediately right on the unsurfaced track sign-posted Roanhead Cottages. Past California pits on right and Rita on left. Ignore "no vehicles past this point" sign, stop after Hermaness Cottage and before Burlington Cottage.

The Titanic Iron Sand Company. From the Tarnaki Herald, 1 April 1876

To the editor of the TARNAKI HERALD

Sir, -- The question whether the iron sand can be successfully smelted is one of such great importance not only to this province but to the Colony generally, that no excuse is needed for bringing the subject before the public in connection with the proceedings of the Titanic Steel Company.

At a meeting of the shareholders of the Company, held in Wellington on Thursday last, Mr Chew proposed that the smelting operations should be postponed until the directors had ascertained whether certain new methods of working the iron sand could be successfully utilised by the present plant of the Company; and attributed the delay that had occurred in putting the furnace into blast to the difficulty of getting charcoal, which, when obtained at the enormous price of 1s. 7 1/2 d. per bushel, was of inferior quality, so bad was the wood available. He also stated that if they had fuel he did not believe that the present process would be of any use, and that it would be a certain waste of £2,000 even to make an experiment.

My visit to England, to dispose of the interest of the Pioneer Steel Company, enabled me to obtain a great deal of information on the subject of smelting the iron sand; and the conclusion I arrived at was, that under the management of a person used to charcoal furnaces, the sand could be smelted in an ordinary charcoal furnace. The method proposed, that of making the sand into bricks by mixing it with the common subsoil of the district, and then treating it as an ordinary ore, was approved of by Mr Roper, the managing partner of Messrs Harrison, Ainslie, & Co., the owners of the only charcoal smelting works in England, who has had a life-long experience of the business. He said he had himself successfully smelted the Turkish iron sand in one of their small furnaces, after it had been tried in vain in the ordinary coke furnaces.

A statement of the cost of smelting the ore was submitted to Mr Roper, who after a careful investigation and a trifling addition to it, approved of it. One of the items, however, that he reduced, was the cost of charcoal, estimated by me at 4d a bushel, with ordinary wages at 5s a day - This he reduced to 3 1/2 d. The total cost of producing a ton of pig was under £5 a ton. The value of Swedish pig at that time in England was £11 5s per ton, and of French charcoal pig £11 12s per ton, leaving an ample margin of profit after defraying the cost of freight to England, trade expenses and interest on capital.

Mr Chew says that even if they had fuel, he did not believe that the present process would be of any use. As the furnace has never been put into blast, I think for the satisfaction of the shareholders of the Company, and of the public generally, he should have given his reasons for this opinion. As there is no actual data to go upon, I prefer the opinion of a really competent man like Mr Roper, to that of a person who has no practical knowledge of the subject.

With respect to the new method of smelting the sand, unless there be an economy of fuel, which is the chief expense, I do not see what is to be gained by it. If, as I imagine, it is by the puddling process, I believe the reverse will be the case. The Company have an excellent furnace and blowing apparatus, and, if possible, a trial should be made before condemning these as useless. It does not follow that charcoal should be used as the fuel for an experiment. The object is to prove whether or not the sand can be smelted by the present process; if it can the Company's capital will not have been expended in vain, and charcoal can then be substituted for coke.

I will now, as briefly as possible, refer to the cost of charcoal. In America this is produced in kilns and delivered at 2 1/8 d a bushel, the contractor being furnished with the timber standing, and the use of the kilns free. In pits the cost is 3 1/4 d per bushel. In Tasmania the cost made in kilns is 20s per ton, which is as nearly as possible the same as in America 2 1/8 d per bushel. The Pioneer Company made a contract with Mr Oakes, the present successful railway contractor at Wanganui, at 8d per bushel delivered at the works, Mr Oakes finding his own timber, which was not so readily obtained then as now. Any person who saw the charcoal supplied by Mr Oakes will testify to its quality, and he told me that our woods were admirably adapted for the purpose. He estimated the yield at 3,000 bushels per acre of ordinary forest. I anticipated that if smelting became a success plenty of people would go into the charcoal business, and the price would be proportionately reduced; and I adhere to my original estimate, that 4d per bushel would be an outside price. But the Titanic Steel company can obtain the necessary information at no great cost, by sending an agent to Tasmania where there is one if not two charcoal smelting companies in successful operation, and where the whole cost of producing pig iron can be ascertained. If their manager would only take charcoal made from two or three woods, as I am told was the case, it is no wonder that contract after contract was thrown up, and that it eventually cost the company 1s 7 1/2 d per bushel by day work. To reject charcoal made from soft woods is an absurdity. A mixture of soft wood and hard wood charcoal is invariably used in smelting ores, and soft wood charcoal usually predominates.

I must apologise for the length of my letter, but I could not condense my remarks into a smaller space.

I am, &c.,

R CHILMAN March 30 1876

Mr Chilman's letter contains some useful information about the international trade in charcoal iron, but raises the question which Mr Roper did he see and was he really the managing partner? When the company begged for a reduction in royalties in 1893, one of the considerations was the recent death of the senior partner, W G Ainslie, "who for the past 30 years has had the entire control and management of the Firm's business". That statement, if true, would take us back to the death of the previous managing partner, Benson Harrison, in 1863, but it was not that simple. William George Ainslie resigned

after the death of Benson Harrison. I have no information as to who was in charge until the 1879 deed of partnership, when W G Ainslie was named as manager and shareholder.

The first Richard Roper died in 1860. I don't know how long the second Richard Roper lived, but his main occupation was as a solicitor in Kirkby Lonsdale. His brother Thomas gave his occupation as ironmaster and lived at Newland, but he died in 1874. The most likely person is Richard Stephen Roper. He gave his occupation as ironmaster but had an address in Newport. He died in April 1876, so it seems likely that Mr Chilman took the last possible opportunity to meet a Mr Roper of Harrison Ainslie & Co.

Peter Sandbach.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership carried on for some time past by Benson Harrison (now deceased), Montague Ainslie, Margaret Hogge, Thomas Roper, Wordsworth Harrison, and William George Ainslie, under the name or style of Harrison, Ainslie and Co., as Iron Masters, at Newland Furnace, Ulverston, in the county of Lancaster, and Lorn Furnace, Bonan, Argyleshire, and as Gunpowder Manufacturers, at Melfort, near Oban, Argyleshire, was, on the 23rd day of October, 1863, dissolved by mutual consent, so far as regards the said William George Ainslie.—Dated at Ulverston aforesaid, this 1st day of March, 1864.

*Dorothy Harrison,
Wordsworth Harrison,
R. Francis Yarker,
Dorothy Bolland,*
Executors under the will of the said
Benson Harrison, deceased.

*Montague Ainslie.
Margaret Hogge.
Thomas Roper.
Wordsworth Harrison.
William George Ainslie.*

London Gazette, 11th March 1864

ALFRED FELL 1861 – 1942

The name of Alfred Fell will probably be familiar to you as the author of “The Early Iron Industry of Furness & District”, the authoritative publication on the subject, and his association with the Harrison Ainslie Company. But perhaps there is more?

Alfred’s father, Mathew P., a draper’s assistant aged 13 in the 1841 census was still a draper’s assistant in the 1851 census at 23 and living at 51 Soutergate, Ulverston with his father & mother (both in their 60’s), his elder sister Mary and a servant. By 1861 Mathew, now a draper, had married Elizabeth A. Whimery and with their two children, Mary aged 6 and Alfred 4 months, they are living at 115 Northumberland Terrace in Everton, Liverpool. Although Alfred was born at this address, Mary was born in Ulverston so the move must have been after 1855.

By 1871, the family are back in Ulverston at 88 Town Street, possibly after the death of Elizabeth’s father. Mathew and Elizabeth now have 3 children, Mary 16, Alfred 10 and Thomas W aged 5. Included in the household are Mary Whimery, Elizabeth’s mother aged 78, described as an “Annuitant” ie having an annual income, and a lodger.

By 1881, Alfred had left school and was employed as a clerk, his father Mathew and his grandmother have both died & the family have moved to “St Mary’s Place” in Ulverston where the head of household is Alfred’s widowed mother Elizabeth, still only 48. Included are sister Mary, now a governess, Alfred & his brother Thomas W (now recorded as William) who is also a clerk. Another move, before 1891, sees a much smaller family at 16 Church Walk, Ulverston. Registered are Elizabeth 58, head of household, and Alfred 30, a merchant’s clerk.

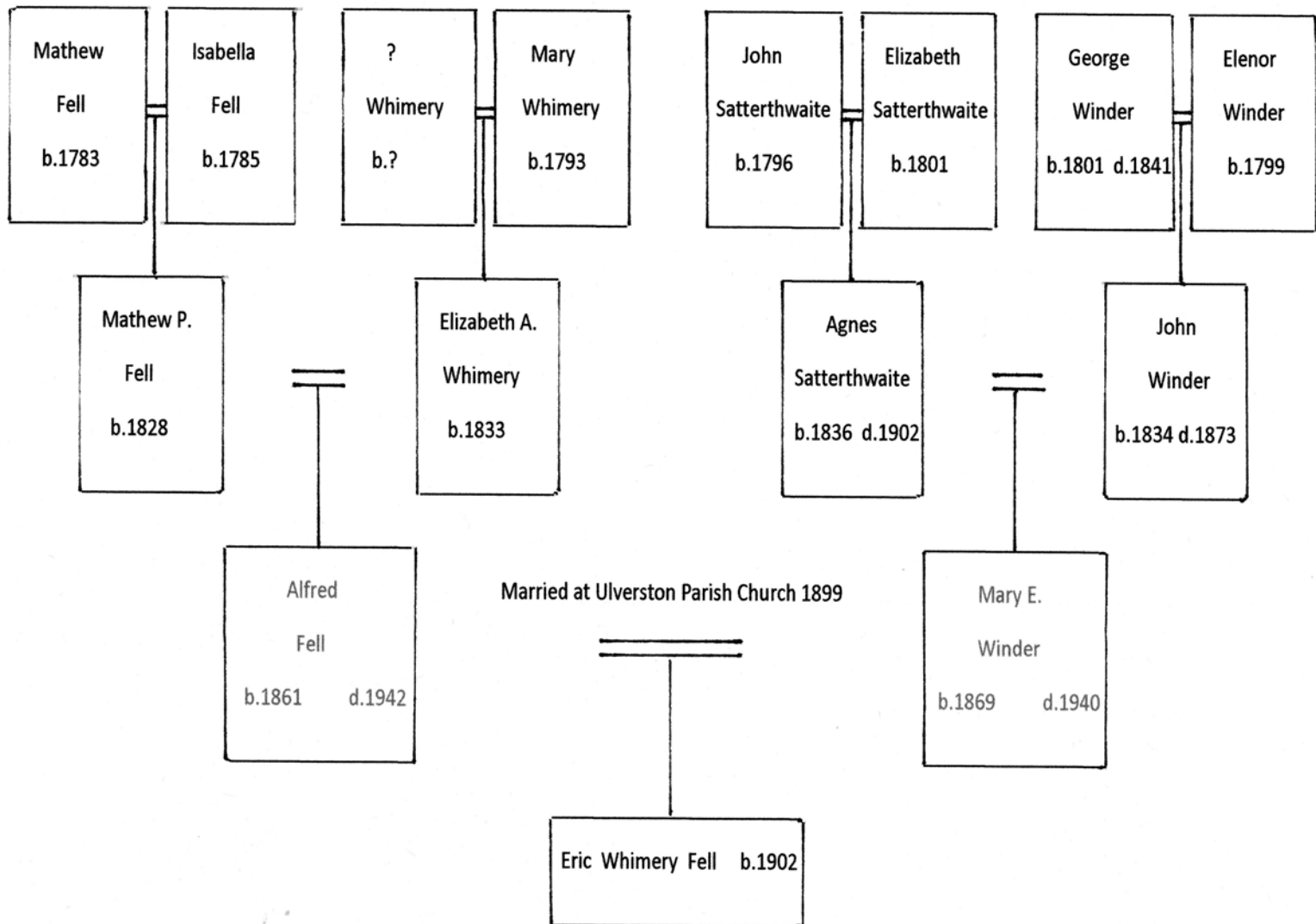
In 1899, at Ulverston Parish Church Alfred married Mary Elizabeth Winder the daughter of John and Agnes (nee Satterthwaite) Winder. By 1871, they and their 2 year old daughter Mary had moved into “Belle View”, 29 Princess St. Ulverston with the widowed John Satterthwaite. John Winder died in 1873, aged 39, and by 1901 Agnes Winder is recorded as head of household at Belle View, along with the newly married Alfred, now a Company Accountant, his wife Mary and 3 servants.

In 1902 Alfred and Mary had a son, Eric Whimery Fell, but for Alfred life and employment was taking another turn. It is very likely that he had been employed, as a clerk, by the well- known firm of Harrison Ainslie & Co. since he left school or very shortly after. His name first appears on company documents in 1886 when the company acquired the Ulverston Mining Company and Alfred signed the documents as a clerk to Harrison Ainslie and witnessed the signature of WG Ainslie. By 1903, Harrison Ainslie were in receivership and Alfred was appointed liquidator.

So by 1911, the last available census details, Alfred aged 50 is unemployed but at last is head of the household at Belle View, which includes his wife Mary, son Eric and a servant. The former clerk, company accountant, company liquidator is now listed as the retired manager of an iron mining company. In his retirement he was able to research and write his 3 books, The Early Iron Industry of Furness and District 1908, A Furness Manor, Pennington and its Church 1929 and his final book A Furness Military collection 1937. Mary, his wife, died in 1940 and Alfred in 1942 aged 81. Eric, their son, went to University, obtained MSc and PhD degrees and became a metallurgical chemist.

REFERENCES : 1) Census returns 1841 – 1911
2) Some death and probate records
3) CATMHS Newsletter- 102- The Newland Co. – Peter Sandbach

THE FELL FAMILY TREE



For clarity other siblings are not included but details are available from the author.

Mining documents on Ebay

Very occasionally old mining documents turn up on E-Bay along with postcards, photographs, memorabilia etc. Some of the documents I have purchased relate to Cumbria, and on occasions shed new information on a site which was previously unknown. Sam Murphy and Richard Smith made use of these in their recent publication for Northern Mines Research Society title "The Mines of the West Pennines"

Musgrave
for *S^r Christopher*
at *Berckett Lead mines*
July 11 1732
for one new hammer *£6 8*
weight 8 pounds *0-3-4*
14 one new weight
7 pound weight *2-2-4*
2 new buckles and iron
weight *0-3-0*
22 one pair Elvis
mending *0-0-2*
26 one Bule for adfils *0-0-4*
2 pair Elvis mending *0-0-3*
one new Beater
3 pound weight *0-1-0*
one new Scraper *0-0-2*
2 pick! Nothing *0-0-6*
40 one for 2 new picks
7 pound and half weight *0-2-6*
one new hammer
one pound and half *0-0-6*
one new Buckler
2 pound and half weight *0-0-9*
one pair Thongs one
fire Shuffels one
pouch 5 pound weight *0-1-8*
one new Sproy for
Bellows pipe 2 pounds
weight *0-0-8*
0-17-2

new year day 1732
Thos Red. of S^r Chr^l Musgrave
Bar. by the hand of Thos
Rudd seven ten shillings
being for the contents
above Recd by me Matthew
Garkar

Hartley Birkett 3km SE of Kirby Stephen

This document is an account of New Year's Day 1732 which records a payment of 17 shillings and two pence for hammers, picks, scraper, bucker, tongs, fire shovel, iron for a bellows pipe paid by Sir Christopher Musgrave's steward, Thomas Rudd to Matthew Harker. The items were stated to be for lead mining at Berckett, which clearly shows that there was a smelting mill at Hartley in 1732.

A second document relating to the same mine is a note dated 22 March 1750 recording a payment to Edmond Coats and James Clarkson of £1:5s:0d for one bing of ore from their bargain on Birkett

22nd March 1750^L
 Rec'd of S^r Phil: Musgrave Bart. from
 the hands of Thom: Rudd one pound
 & five shill. for delivering one Binge
 of ore from the Barge on Birkett
 By us Edmond Coats
 Jam: Clarkson +

A third document dated 15 April 1751 of a payment of ten shillings to Thomas Nelson for two dozen pounds of candles for Sir Philip's grove at Birkett Hill probably refers to the same site

15th April 1751
 Rec'd of S^r Phil: Musgrave Bart. from the hand
 of Thom: Rudd ten shill. for 2 dozen pounds
 of Candles to S^r Phil: Grove at Birkett Hill Lady
 Day 1751 Rec'd by me Tho: Nelson

High Longrigg Mine

29 May 1735
 Rec'd of S^r Chr: Musgrave Bart. of S^r Chr: Dobson five -
 shillings in full for all Damages ^{done} by ye Leadmines in
 high Longrigg 1734 of us. Simon Harkers
 John Rogerson

This is the earliest known reference to mining at High Longrigg Mine at the Hartley Birkett Hill near Kirby Stephen and is a note of 29 May 1735 "Rec'd of Sr. Chr. Musgrave Bart. P. Chr. Dobson five shilling in full for all Damages done by ye Leadmines in High Longrigg 1734 p us. Simon Harkers and John Rogerson".

Warren Allison

Coniston Old Man Historical and Archaeological Survey Historical Notes and Curiosities, from Alastair Cameron.

Much has been written about the mountain, but mainly by visitors who have enjoyed walking in the area. Although these writers are very familiar with the routes of ascent on the mountain and views from the summit they often have little knowledge of the extensive history of the mountain and the interesting curiosities that surround it.

Long Moss

The narrow defile across the face of Coniston Old Man is known locally by a number of names including Long Moss or Lang Rake. It provides an easy high level route from the Coppermines Valley to Low Cove. Long Moss was used by quarrymen in the early 20th C to get from their digs in the Coppermines Valley to work at Cove Quarries. More recently the route has been adopted by climbers heading for a day's climbing on Dow Crag. It is also used by local farmers when gathering is taking place. (Arthur Wilson, Roy Cooksey)

Flask Brow

On Flask Brow, on the southern slopes of the Old Man, a 'UFO' was allegedly seen and photographed by two young local walkers in 1955. The event, and the photographs taken, gained considerable publicity internationally. (Ibby Brown)

The 'Nail Road'

The steep and stony road leading up to Low Bank from the Windy Gap junction is known locally as the Nail Road. It was constructed to allow road vehicles easier access to the workings above, replacing a lower, earlier road to the quarries. The road was built, almost single-handedly, by O'Neill, a quarry employee who lodged at Rosley Thorns Farm, Torver and walked to work and back from Rosley Thorns each day. The name 'Nail' is a corruption of O'Neill. (Leslie Grisedale)

Sir Daniel le Fleming

Sir Daniel was Lord of the Manor of Coniston from 1663 to 1700. He was a well liked squire and frequently took exercise on the high-fells above Coniston. In one of his diaries he notes "watched this day from Colt Crag the shower of shooting stars in the twilight and wondered what might be the reason for this strange sight". Some years later he also writes "took this day with me the miller Dixon onto ye mountain for exercise and to look for places of wad". Many landowners at this time were keen to find wad (graphite) on their lands, hoping to make similar financial returns to those being made at the Borrowdale Wad Mine. Mr Dixon was the miller at the Haws Bank Mill. (Kendal Record Office)

A Holy mountain

Coniston Old man is revered by the international religious sect known as the Aetherius Society. It has been identified by them as No 5 of seventeen mountains in the world which store and release spiritual energy. The energy is felt to help bring the peoples of the world together. The key position on the Old Man for release of this energy is said to be a flat rock on the main ridge just north of the summit. (Anthony Robinson,)

The Two Pigs

The rock feature visible on the Old Man skyline from the Spion Kop workings was known to the quarrymen as the Two Pigs. This name seems to have 'stuck' amongst local fell walkers and is still known as that today. (Donald Kelly)

Straw Houses

There are remains of at least two 'straw houses' on Coniston Old Man. Straw Houses were small, dry buildings where powder straw fuses were safely stored ready for use in the quarries. Straws were collected from the fields around the village after the harvest had been brought in. The farms of Spoon Hall and Coniston Hall were reputed to be the best for collecting straws. Powder straw fuses were assembled by the quarrymen themselves by filling the hollow straws with black powder (gunpowder). This production process was often carried out at home on the kitchen table. (Donald Kelly, Ron Gibson and Doug Birkett)

The vanishing powder magazine

Gunpowder for use in the quarries was stored in securely locked buildings known as powder magazines. In 1961 the main powder magazine for the Old Man Quarries at Stubthwaite vanished overnight. The following morning quarrymen travelling to work found debris scattered over the fellside. A number of Coniston villagers remembered hearing an explosion during the night. The official cause of the explosion was 'spontaneous combustion' but there were those who believed that human hand had been involved. The remains of the powder magazine are still lying on the fellside. (Harry Belton, Donald Kelly)

Early grazing on the mountain

During the Middle Ages the Lords of the Manor of Coniston allowed tenants to graze sheep on Coniston Old Man by renting them parcels of the mountain known as 'stints'. The stints were not segregated by boundary walls but those grazing sheep were expected to prevent their flock from straying into the neighbouring stints. It was because of this requirement that the present day hefting system became so well established on Coniston Old Man. (Jamie Lund, Dorothy Wilkinson)

Winter weather

On December 14th 1937 Coniston was affected by severe winter weather. Heavy snow fell for more than 24 hours and drifted in the high wind. Two quarrymen returning down from the high Spion Kop workings were engulfed by an avalanche which swept them some way down the mountain. One managed to dig himself out and raise the alarm but the other was not discovered for over 12 hours. Quarrymen from the village formed themselves into a search team to look for their missing colleague and were out in the extremely arctic conditions all night. (Mike Brownlee, Ulverston News archives)

Low water Tarn

This 'rock-basin' tarn became the reservoir for the power station that generated electricity and compressed air for the Old Man Quarries. The level of the tarn has been raised at least twice over the centuries. A long down pipe ('penstock') fed water from the tarn to the pelton wheel situated in The Smithy, at the base of Smithy Bank tip. The route of the pipe ran down the face of the crag in a channel cut for the purpose. The pipe frequently burst and it became the responsibility of Bert Smith, the quarry engineer, to climb the hillside with welding gear or leather straps to fix the leaks. (Mike Brownlee and Mrs B Smith)

Hen huts

On the lower slopes of the mountain quarrymen frequently set up hen huts with a few hens in residence and collected eggs each day on their way to and from work. To avoid the hens falling 'fowl' of the fox, they often built a dog kennel close to the hen huts and kept a dog there on a long lead, which was an extremely effective deterrent. At least six sites are known close to the Old Man Quarry Road and the Banishead Road. (Donald Kelly, Maureen Fleming)

Fire beacon

The summit of the Old Man was used in former centuries as a warning beacon, one of several which formed an extensive communication system warning of Scottish raids and other potential life-threatening events. More recently, important celebrations have been marked in Coniston by local people lighting bonfire beacons on The Old Man summit, including for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and on the occasion of her jubilee. (Harry Griffin,)

Earth tremor

In 1935 a significant 'earth-quake' was felt in the area. For several days after the tremor quarrymen refused to enter the underground Moss Head system, losing wages as a result. They were proved right to have concern. A roof fall in Middle Moss Head occurred three days after the event and took several weeks to clear. (Charlie Kelly)

The Hunt

The local foxhounds usually visited the Old Man twice a year, an occasion which was eagerly looked forward to by those who worked on the mountain. When the hunt was on the Old Man, quarrymen would abandon their work and join in, often following the hounds as far as Cockley Beck or even Eskdale. They would then return to the quarry, often well into the night, collect their tools and head home. (Jack Tailforth)

Bert Smith

Bert Smith was the quarry engineer on Coniston Old Man from 1938 until the 1960's. He was responsible for keeping all the Company's equipment in the Coppermines, the Smithy and on the mountain in good working order. He eventually left the quarries to follow his other passion of making violins. His skills became internationally acclaimed and his instruments were in great demand. Bert died in 1973. (Mrs B Smith, Maureen Fleming)

Water speed record

On January 4th 1967 quarrymen working at Brossen Stone heard the familiar noise of the engine starting up on Bluebird, Donald Campbell's jet-powdered boat. They downed-tools and went to the tip-end to watch Bluebird skim down to the foot of Coniston Lake – and a few minutes later start the return run. When directly opposite their view point Bluebird somersaulted and disappeared below the surface. (Donald Kelly, Stormer Walker, Doug Birkett)

The Brocken Spectre

The summit of the Old Man is said to be one of the best locations on the western seaboard of the British Isles to view the startling phenomenon of the Brocken Spectre. The 'Brocken' consists of an enormous multi-coloured image of oneself cast onto the mist with one's head surrounded by a series of huge haloed rings. Even though there may be a large group of people on the summit, one only ever sees ones own image. It is thought that on only two or three days of the year are conditions right for seeing the phenomenon. The spectre appears when the sun shines from behind a [climber](#) who is looking down from a ridge or peak into [mist](#) or [fog](#). On the Old Man it is normally seen in the late morning when when mist hangs below the summit in the Low Water Combe. On Christmas Day, 2007, an excellent Brocken was seen from the summit by several local people who had taken the trouble to climb the mountain before lunch. The spectre is named after the Brocken Mountain in Germany. (Moey Charlesworth, Roy Cooksie, Liz Robinson)

Goats Water's weather

Coniston Old Man can be hit by freak weather and in particular the coomb that holds the tarn of Goats Water. Over the years there have been numerous reports of water being lifted out of the tarn and cascading onto the Old Man or the buttresses of Dow Crag. Several walkers have

reported on the tarn virtually emptying as the mass of water is blown to the northern end. However there do not appear to have been any reports of injury or fatalities. (Jim Cameron, Harry Griffin)

Jack Diamond

Jack was a Coniston schoolmaster who originated from Barrow. In his leisure time he was a keen mountaineer and explorer of the fells. At any one time he had several 'projects' on the go of re-building derelict buildings to use as a bothies or mapping out routes over the fells, often accompanied by groups of his pupils from Coniston C of E School. One project was to rebuild the quarry office at Cove Quarries on Coniston Old Man. Sadly, in February 1956 Jack died at the young age of 45. He never saw the Cove Quarries building completed but after his death friends and colleagues did just that, and it is still standing in his memory. (Harry Griffin)

Corrupted names

As in many parts of the Lake District, local names and 'visitors' names for a particular feature can be very different. On Coniston Old Man there are a fair share of features with dual names including Low Water Tarn which was once High Water Tarn, Boo Tarn and the Walna Scar Road, which are locally known as Tewitt Tarn and the Banishead Road, and Brossen Stone which became Bursting Stone at the same time the OS 1st Edition was published. Many of these changes were probably caused by surveyors mistakenly noting down the names when the 1st Edition was being prepared. (Alastair Cameron)

Refuge from the law

The quarry workings on Coniston Old Man provided a refuge from the law on more than one occasion during the Napoleonic wars. The effect of the war with France on poverty in local communities became critical and in April 1800 a group of quarrymen working on the Old Man marched to Ulverston as an 'organised rabble'. They emptied warehouses of flour, handing it out to local people in the town and then made their escape with what food they could carry, pursued by the militia. None of the quarrymen was caught in the ensuing chase as they made their way back 'to their refuges in their labyrinths, galleries and caves' on the mountain. (W.G.Collingwood)

Dickie and John

Nowadays slate from the two quarries still operating on the Old Man is taken down the mountain and onward to Kirkby-in-Furness by heavy four-wheel-drive trucks. In recent times two skilled local drivers, Dickie Walker and John Robinson, have been responsible for this part of Burlington Slate's operation. On a day in 2003, while descending the steep road from Brossen Stone, the brakes on Dickie's truck failed and he had to fight with the wheel all the way down to the Banishead Road to prevent a serious accident. (Dickie Walker)

Aerial Ropeways

The transport of slate product down from the production sites on Coniston Old Man to a road access point has always created problems for quarry owners. During the late 19th C a bold decision was made to install an aerial 'flight' from the Spion Kop workings down to the road at Stubthwaite, over 1000ft below. This flight carried up to 5 tonnes of roofing slate at a time from the manufacturing site on the Spion Kop bank and operated almost constantly during the working day. At the bottom of the flight slates were transferred to a narrow gauge railway system which carried the product to a nearby stock-yard where it could be loaded onto carts. The aerial flight was such a success that ropeways became the main system of transport from then on.

Henry William Schneider

The two following articles are extracted from uncommon sources. This first is a mini biography of H.W. Schneider, who is regarded as one of the founding fathers of Barrow-in-Furness where a large bronze statue of him stands in a square which carries his name. He became extremely wealthy due to his perseverance in mining interests in the Furness District, leading to the discovery around the year 1850, of the largest deposit of haematite ore in the region at the Park Mines near Roanhead.

The second extract was written by H.W. Schneider himself and provides an excellent outline of the history of the Haematite Iron Industry of Low Furness straight from the horse's mouth. He died in 1887, four years after completing this article.

Peter Fleming.

WORTHIES by Robert Casson, published in Ulverston 1889 A FEW FURNESS.

HENRY WILLIAM SCHNEIDER was for some years the head of the firm of Schneider, Hannay, and Company, and was a prominent character in the district the best part of his life.

Mr Schneider, who, as his name would indicate, was of German origin, was born in London about 74 years ago (ie about 1815. Ed.) and was for some time engaged in commercial pursuits in that city. Having heard of the mineral wealth of this district, he came into Furness on an exploring expedition so far back as 1840, which resulted in his taking the Royalty of the Park Farm from the Earl of Burlington (now the Duke of Devonshire), with a view to searching for iron ore. He worked this property for two years, with little success; but Mr Schneider was not the man to give up in despair. He had in the meantime purchased Whitriggs mine, which for some years was not very profitable. In 1845, he took the lease of the Mouzell estate, which he worked very successfully up to the year 1878.

Mr Schneider had practically ceased to work the Park mines for some years, but in 1850 he was desired by the Earl of Burlington to make a further trial for ore. It has been said that up to that time he had sunk upwards of £25,000 in the Park estate without results, but rather than give up the lease he made another effort, and for further trifling outlay, it is said, of £50, the great Park mine was discovered. Some idea of the magnitude of this "find" may be formed when it is stated, that the average raising for 34 years has been 250,000 tons per annum, and the Royalty paid up to 1886, was no less than £535,000.

Mr Schneider was for some years in partnership with Mr James Davies; but the latter, unfortunately for himself, had withdrawn from the firm and invested in the erection and working of an iron manufactory in the Canal Side, Ulverston. Mr. Davies afterwards turned it into a limited company, but it was not a success.

On the retirement of Mr. Davies, the late Mr. Hannay joined Mr. Schneider in 1853, and in 1859, Messrs. Schneider, Hannay, and Company commenced to erect their Furnaces at Barrow.

In 1863, it was determined to build Steel Works at Barrow, the principal shareholders of which were the Duke of Devonshire, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Hannay, Mr. (now Sir James) Ramsden, and the Duke of Buccleuch. It was found, however, that the interests of Messrs. Schneider, Hannay and Co's Iron Works clashed with the Steel Works, which led to the amalgamation of the two companies, and on the 1st of January, 1866, the firm of Schneider, Hannay, and Co. ceased to exist. Mr Schneider, however, continued a director of the Steel Company until his death.

Mr Schneider was also a promoter and director of the Barrow Flax and Jute Works, and also of the Barrow Shipbuilding Company.

Mr. Schneider was a prominent man outside his business engagements. He was an original Alderman of the borough of Barrow, and three times occupied the civic chair, and was also an original member of the Barrow School Board.

When Mr Schneider first came to reside in this neighbourhood he occupied the mansion at Swarthdale, subsequently removing to Lightburne House (now the “County Hotel”), Ulverston, and afterwards to Conishead Priory, where he remained for many years. He also built a marine residence at Roa Island.

Much to the regret of the Ulverston tradesmen, Mr Schneider purchased the lake residence at Belsfield, Bowness, where he went from Ulverston. In 1872, he built a mansion at Oak Lea, near Furness Abbey and resided there when busily engaged in Barrow.

Mr Schneider was twice married; first in 1842, to Augusta, daughter of Richard Smith, Esq., of Bankfield, Urswick, who died in 1862; and next in 1864, when he married Elizabeth, second daughter of the Rev. Canon Turner, Vicar of Lancaster. He died at Belsfield on the 11th of November, 1887.



TSS Y Esperance (1896)

TSS Y Esperance, the model for Captain Flint's houseboat in [Arthur Ransome's](#) *Swallows and Amazons*. It was owned by Henry Schneider, chairman of the Barrow Steelworks, who lived at what is now the Belsfield Hotel overlooking [Bowness Bay](#). Every morning he left home, travelled on the *Esperance*, on which he had breakfast on his way to [Lakeside](#). There he would travel by train in his private carriage (he owned the railway too) to his job in [Barrow](#) !

THE HÆMATITE IRON MINES OF LOW FURNESS

By H. W. SCHNEIDER (Read at the Bowness Annual Meeting)

from TRANSACTIONS OF THE CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND ASSOCIATION for the Advancement of Literacy and Science. No XI 1883 - 1884

In the Furness District the apparent irregularities of the strata are beyond measure bewildering, and Professor Sedgwick and several other eminent geologists have in vain attempted to solve the difficulties they present. Theories, again, as to the origin of the Hæmatite itself, are so various, and so irreconcilable with one another, and with observation, that all is yet hazy and undetermined. It is the object of this paper to contribute something to the facts already accumulated, from which competent geologists may deduce the conditions under which the Hæmatite has been deposited. It is unnecessary to say that such a discovery would render Hæmatite mining, which is now a matter of chance, a science of certainty and exactitude, and by cheapening production, would confer infinite benefit on the Furness District.

Whether Hæmatite be a water formation, or the result of volcanic action, none can say. There appears, however, to be one general law concerning it – and the only law which, up to the present time, has been found consistent in working the Hæmatite mines, viz:- That the largest masses of ore are found at the junction of the Clay Slate and the Mountain Limestone. Yet these deposits are so irregular in shape and position, that it would appear utterly impossible to indicate any law regulating their formation.

Another point, however, deserves attention, viz: -- That to the south the Mountain Limestone dips below the New Red Sandstone, and to the S.W. beneath the shales and sandstones of the Yoredale Rocks.

The Low Furness Hæmatite Ore District is comprised within a very limited area, and is of a very irregular shape.

In some cases the ore is merely covered by a few feet of drift; in others it is found in the solid limestone rock. In some places the limestone rock surrounding the ore is perfectly free from any stain of iron; in others there are thousands of yards of rock without any appreciable quantity of ore, and yet every crevice and seam of this rock is stained with the red of Hæmatite.

The most ancient mine in Furness is Whitriggs. Here ore was quarried near the surface, and smelted into iron in charcoal fires, or Biscayan Bloomeries (similar to the method used in Spain,) many years prior to the Reformation. The earliest mine, however that in modern times has been profitably worked in Furness, is Lindale Moor, belonging to Messrs. Harrison, Ainslie and Co., whose predecessors have worked this mine for a very long period. In this mine the ore lies on the N.W. in close proximity to slate rocks, and there is a solid mass of ore, with nothing but drift as a cover, which extends in places from thirty to forty, fifty, and even a hundred yards wide, and is some seven or eight hundred yards in length. This mass of ore was found for many fathoms in depth, when it was apparently cut out by a bed of rock, and it was supposed that the life of this mine was ended. But further investigation in depth proved that this bottom of limestone was on no great thickness, and ore was again found beneath it. As time progressed, and improvement were made in the mode of working, this large mass of ore was developed to the south, and at the present time the mine, still producing an enormous quantity of ore is about a mile in length. But over its whole length and breadth there is nothing to show any regularity of formation, or anything to indicate any system by which further ore should be discovered. In fact in this mine, as in all other mines in Furness, the discovery of ore seems to be a mere matter of chance. It frequently appears where least expected; and where most expected, is not found.

In close proximity to the Lindale Moor is the Whitriggs Mine, and to this the same remarks apply. There is nothing to indicate with certainty the presence of ore. The search is made by driving a heading across the apparent run of deposits, which is N.W. and S.E., so that if there be ore it can scarcely be missed. Yet in driving these headings, cases have arisen in which ore had been discovered in veins of from only two to six inches wide, and therefore neglected; and then perhaps years afterwards, when further exploration has been made, large masses of ore have been found on one or other side of the original drift, and have been missed simply by a few feet.

The Whitriggs Mine, and the runs of ore in connection therewith, and which cover many hundred acres, are still in working, and hitherto no bottom has been found to the ore. The only peculiarity of the mine is that the ore is found nearest to the surface at the N.W., and the deepest at the S.E.

Leaving Whitriggs, we traverse to the S.W. a country in which the occurrence of ore is very irregular, and the mineral itself of little value, until we reach a place called Mousell, where we come upon one of the most remarkable phenomena of the district. Here the ore is apparently of a different formation, and is found in the limestone rock in holes of the form of a half-globe, with the convex side downwards, and these pots are covered simply with sand, and what is called "pinnel," and with other gravely matter. In most cases the limestone surrounding these pots is on every side perfectly free from any stain of ore. The Mousell district is small, being only about two hundred acres in extent, and yet has produced ore to the amount of several millions of tons. Large quantities have been found so near the surface that, when some five to fifteen feet of gravel has been removed, the ore has been extracted by open quarrying.

In direct line from Mousell we come to the great mines of the district – Park and Roanhead. The slate rock makes a sharp turn, throwing in a kind of wedge between Mousell and Park. Round the edge of this point indications of iron ore exist universally; and in one point there is a great mass of limestone thrown up, about three-quarters of a mile in length. Every joint and seam of this limestone is stained with iron ore; and in some cases the stain penetrates into the limestone to the extent of three-quarters of an inch. Yet in no one single point – and the reef has been diligently searched – has a single barrowful of ore ever been found.

To the N.W. a valley intervenes between these mines and the limestone on the opposite side of this valley, which is only about two hundred yards wide, large masses of limestone are again thrown up, vast quantities of which have been taken in connection with the works at Barrow for smelting purposes. Every seam and joint of this rock, too, is stained with iron, yet in no single case has ore been found. This rock lies exactly to the south of the great Park Mine, and where it dips and slopes to the back of the valley the ore is found. Between this and Mousell the slate rock comes in, and underlies at an acute angle the ore which is here found.

Lying as they do on the opposite side of the valley, these mines somewhat alter their run, and instead of trending N.W. and S.E., they go W.S.W. and E.N.E. Their formation is most irregular. In places large masses of ore project into the rock; and the formation is equally irregular on both sides of the mines. The ore varies in width from one to three hundred yards, and the total length is about one thousand yards.

The workings have not reached a sufficient depth to show what the ultimate result will be; but from experience which has been hitherto acquired at one hundred and twenty fathoms, it would seem likely that at a greater depth, the slate rock on one side and the limestone on the other will meet, the slate dipping below the limestone, and the ore will thus be cut out. At the E.S.E. end, the ore in one place is within thirty feet of the surface, and with nothing but drift over it. But to the W.N.W. there is a depth of forty fathoms before the ore is reached. In this forty fathoms some drift exists

near the surface; then comes a huge mass of red clay, and beneath this, white sand. The rock, which is level with the ore to the E.S.E., is very much above it to the W.N.W. In fact, while the fissure – although its sides are irregular – remains apparently the same, the ore, lying between walls of solid limestone, is twenty fathoms below the top of the rock at one end, whilst it is level with the top of the rock at the other end.

After the main fissure is passed, branches of ore break off in two directions, one trending N.E. to N., and the other trending nearly south.

These mines were discovered in 1851, and have now been in working for thirty-four years; and during this period from ten to twelve million tons of ore have been extracted. They are irregular in the quality of the ore, and the shape and direction of the pocket is very uncertain. The best of the ore in the centre of the big mine runs up to 63% of iron oxide, or 90% of oxide of iron, whilst the bulk of the ore to the S.S.E. of the mine does not contain more than 70 to 80%. Where the mine branches off into two different directions (see map), the ore in places falls in per cent as low as 60% oxide, and here there is a large percentage too of manganese.

To the south of these mines we find, as we approach Furness Abbey, the New Red Sandstone again overlying the Mountain Limestone. But at a few hundred yards past the Abbey the Mountain Limestone again reappears, and half a mile further south, the ore-bearing limestone is met with. Here two mines are working – Yarlside, nearest to Furness, and south of this, Stank. And here too a remarkable phenomenon presents itself.

Near the junction of the two mines the Yoredale shale appears, the Mountain Limestone dipping under it; and at Yarlside the ore is found nearest to the surface in limestone rock. At Stank the following strange circumstance occurred.

Very many years ago, at some period of which no record exists, two pits were sunk to a depth of twenty fathoms, with the object, it would seem, of discovering coal. None, however, was found, and they were abandoned. After the Yarlside mines were discovered, the then owners of Stank determined to reopen one of these two pits. As they were in close proximity, it was a question which pit should be selected, and by mere accident, and as was subsequently proved – by a strangely fortunate accident, one was chosen; and after passing through the shale it reached the limestone at the depth of about sixty fathoms. The appearance of the rock, from the very moment it was reached so indicated the presence of ore that the shaft was continued; ore was found, and the shaft was ultimately sunk to the depth of one hundred and thirty fathoms. Subsequently the other shaft was sunk, but simply for drainage. At about the same depth as in the first pit limestone was reached; but this limestone, instead of being mountain limestone, was apparently magnesian limestone* – blue in colour, solid in formation, and without any trace of iron ore. And this formation has been found continuous down to the same depth of one hundred and thirty fathoms. So that if this second shaft had been selected instead of the other, the Stank mine would not have been discovered, because the limestone in this second shaft was so utterly unlikely to lead to iron ore, that the works should at once have been abandoned. Lastly, when we state the mass of dolomitized limestone does not appear to be more than twenty fathoms in diameter, and that its form is almost circular, we have mentioned perhaps the strangest peculiarity of this singular mine.

(* Probably Carboniferous Limestone, locally converted into dolomite, as it often is where it has been affected by magnesian matter percolating downward from the New Red that formerly covered all that part of the country. ED)

The Stank Mine has been worked for a about twenty years, and has produced some two-and-a-half million tons of ore; but the formation is more irregular than in any other mine in Furness, not even excepting Whitriggs. No rule governs it, except the general one, that the ore runs N.W. and S.E. Yet so many branches lie in a direction opposite to the ordinary apparent vein that the greatest rule affords but little guidance in working the mine. Trials by means of drifts are frequently disappointing. Occasionally some enlargement inside the drift will lead to workings being carried on in a direction which brings them to some old drift that has been abandoned, and would, if carried a few feet further, have discovered a valuable bed of ore.

It should be remarked that as the mine is worked towards the south, the super incumbent mass of Yoredale shale increases, and the limestone dips at the same rate. The ore from one end to the other of this mine apparently maintains the same relative depth in the limestone, and it is only the increasing thickness of the shale that caused the ore to be worked at an increasing depth.

The progress and development of the iron ore district of Low Furness is interesting and instructive. Up to the year 1840 the production of iron ore in the whole district did not exceed 30,000 tons, and this was raised in the most primitive manner by a machine called a horse gin. The miners were raised and lowered in buckets. There were no pumps in the whole district, and, in fact, water being reached, put a stop to further operations.

In the years 1840 and 1841 an effort was made to get a tramway from the mines to the port of Barrow. The miners appealed to the Duke of Buccleuch, who was then the only mineral owner whose mines were in operation. This assistance was refused, and the origin of the Furness Railway Company was due to pure chance. In consequence of a scheme having been propounded to connect Preston with Carlisle by a railway across Morecambe Bay and Duddon Sands, prior to the formation of the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Duke of Devonshire (then Earl of Burlington), and the Earl of Lonsdale, employed the celebrated engineer, Mr James Walker, to survey the district, with the object of ascertaining – first, the advantages or disadvantages that might accrue to their respective properties in consequence of the formation of such railway; and, secondly, to ascertain whether in their joint interests any enclosure of the Duddon Sands could be made with advantage.

It so happened that the writer of this paper was a personal friend of Mr James Walker, and talked to him on the subject generally, and especially drew his attention to the advisability of the formation of a railway from the mines to Barrow. With his usual foresight, Mr Walker entertained the proposal favourably, and instructed his surveyors to ascertain the advantages such a railway would confer both on the district and on the mineral owners. The result was the formation of the Furness Railway Company, with the Duke of Devonshire at its head, who has remained the Chairman up to the present time. This railway only extended, in the first instance, from Barrow five miles up the country; but it reduced the distance the ore had to be carried from seven to two miles. This railway, while in progress of formation, was supplemented by another, which, branching off near Furness Abbey, was carried out along the coast up to the Duke of Devonshire's slate quarries, and is now a portion of the main line into Cumberland. This railway passes the mines of Park and Roanhead, which were at that time undiscovered. The railway was completed and opened in 1847, and Sir James Ramsden was appointed the resident manager, and by his energy and talent the Furness Railway Company has been brought into its present condition. The effect of this railway was to give an enormous impetus to the development of the mines, and led to the extension being made to Ulverston, and subsequently to Carnforth. The progress of mining industry was great, and the amount of ore, which in 1841 amounted to less than 30,000 tons, was increased in 1851 to 300,000 tons; in 1861, to 670,000 tons; and in 1871, to over 1,000,000 tons; and ore has continued to produced at an average rate of from one to one-and-a quarter million tons per annum up to the present time.

The opening of the Ulverston and Carnforth Railway for the first time rendered it possible for ore to be smelted in the district, and in 1859, the writer of this paper, with his partner, Mr. Hannay, commenced building furnaces in Barrow, and this, it may fairly be said, was the foundation of the present prosperity and development of the entire district.

In 1860 the production of pig-iron was only a trifle, in 1861 it reached 60,000 tons, and it has gained up to the present time annually. The Barrow works are now producing over 300,000 tons; the North Lonsdale Smelting Company, at Ulverston, about 80,000 tons; the Askham Furnaces, from 60,000 to 80,000 tons and Carnforth Furnaces, from 80,000 to 100,000 tons: making the total production of the district at the present time somewhat over 550,000 tons.

The great drawback to the Furness District is, that it is entirely without coal; and the problem to be solved was, whether it was cheaper to take ore to coal, or to bring coke, made out of coal, to the ore. The result has proved that it is cheaper to bring the coke to ore, and hence the successful erection of iron works in the Furness District.

As soon as the railway was in progress, it became evident that more scientific means of raising the ore must be used. Engines were erected, shafts were sunk deeper, and the water pumped in large quantities. And here we may observe that the difference in the quantity of water in various districts is very great. The Lindale Moor mines have comparatively little water; but to the south end of Whitriggs, passing into the royalty worked by the Lindale Cote Company, the quantity is comparatively little water; but to the south end of Whitriggs, passing into the royalty worked by the Lindale Cote Company, the quantity is comparatively large, rising up to 1200 gallons per minute. At Mousell the quantity of water is very small, and engines of a very small power only are necessary to keep the mine clear. At Park, also, the quantity of water is small, and during the bulk of the year does not exceed two hundred and fifty gallons per minute, and the largest quantity of water ever known has not exceeded five hundred gallons per minute; while at the extreme south end of the district, in the Stank mines and the adjoining royalty of Yarlsdale, the quantity of water amounts to 4,000 gallons per minute, and after a wet season has exceeded 5,000 gallons per minute.

The future of these Low Furness mines is problematic. Fresh discoveries are occasionally made, and ore is continually being found laterally; and hitherto, except in a few cases, the mines have increased in depth, and ore still is found. But it seems pretty evident that in all case, after a certain depth, which is at present unknown, but which probably will not exceed one hundred fathoms below the top surface of limestone, the ore will be, so far as present knowledge goes, entirely worked out. It is not only impossible to say, but it is extremely improbable that the whole of the district has yet been explored, and at any moment a discovery equal to the Park and Roanhead conjoined mines may be made.

To shew the immense mass of wealth that lies within a very small space, it may be said that from under the surface of one acre at the Park mines one and a quarter million tons have been produced, and upon this minute area of surface a royalty of £80,000 has been paid to the mineral landlord, equal to a surface value of £16 per square yard.

Such is a short outline of the history of the rise and progress of the Hæmatite Iron Industry of Low Furness. And it is hoped that whilst it may prove interesting to those who visited the district yesterday, it may stimulate some of the members of the Association to a personal investigation of the geological problems to which reference has been made.

Mines Forum Meeting, Ruskin Museum, 14th July 2011

Present: John Hodgson and Graham Standring, LDNPA, Andrew Davidson, English Heritage, Donald Angus and Stewart Cresswell, MoLES, Warren Allison, Peter Fleming, Ian Matheson and Mark Simpson, CATMHS

LDNPA.

John Hodgson reported that Eleanor Kingston was on maternity leave. Temporary cover had been obtained for part of the time.

He has been working on the High Level Stewardship Scheme, including Coniston and Tilberthwaite and Caldbeck. Cutbacks have affected Agro-Environment funding, which is proving difficult to secure, and the future is unclear.

Bracken clearance has been carried out at Carrock.

Ranger Graham Standring has left the Caldbeck area but is still doing mineral permits. Pete Barron is the new ranger.

Netting has appeared in the gully above Carrock mine. It is thought that the netting may have been installed by the hunt in order to prevent hounds falling in, but it is potentially dangerous as a person falling in might be unable to get out. It should be removed and the heather cut back to make the void easy to see. JH has contacted the landowner, Dalmain estate.

To combat climate change there is a movement to increase vegetation cover in the natural environment by reducing grazing. This has implications for environmental heritage, as vegetation, roots etc can damage archaeology.

MARS (Monuments at Risk) sites have been visited and improvements carried out at 40 sites.

English Heritage

Andrew Davidson said that there had been a 32% cut in funding, but EH was still grant aiding repairs and management agreements.

He pointed out that Scheduling of sites can give protection, especially when considering action to be taken to deal with water pollution and re-cycling of slate tips, where uncontrolled actions might cause major damage.

CATMHS

Warren Allison reported on progress at Carrock Mine. Andrew Davidson and John Hodgson would visit the mine when all the work has been completed to sign it off. John Hodgson suggested that conservation work might be carried out at the mill site and said that an interpretative board could be sited at the mine portal.

Silver Gill: North Pennines Heritage Trust has carried out a base line survey of the site where the Elizabethan adit may be found, and will produce a background report. An application has been made to the CWAAS for a grant. We are awaiting a suitable time to carry out the exploratory dig.

The documents purchased at the Hext sale are now with the Carlisle Archive. Some have already been digitized and a report is due.

MoLES

Donald Angus is spending all his time at Threlkeld Museum. Nothing more has been done at Yewthwaite mine and the site needs attention.

Stewart Cresswell reported that Keswick Museum is to close at the end of the season for refurbishment and will re-open in 2013. they intend to update the building but retain the Victorian atmosphere, a café will have external links to the park.

National Trust

John Malley had sent a report on Force Crag. Two tanks are to be installed as a pilot water treatment scheme. Level 1 has collapsed 90 meters in-by and there is risk of further collapse. Remedial work is to be carried out.

Peter Bardsley, Environment Agency

Peter Bardsley was unable to attend, but sent a comprehensive report regarding monitoring of water quality from mines in the Lake District, summarized below:

Gategill mine. Debris blocking the entrance was cleared and iron hydroxide ochre precipitating from the solution was analysed. A weir is to be established on bedrock in the adit. We are expecting £25,000 for further characterization of this site

Greenside mine. Eden DC awaiting a report from Land Quality Management Consultants, likely to identify the significant pollution linages with spoil and water pollution. The Northern Soils Network of the Institute of soil scientists will be visiting the site on Sept 28th with Ian Tyler.

Coniston Copper mines. Lancaster University has undertaken salt guage testing and water quality sampling to assess flows calculate metal loading. the FRM team have visited to inspect the erosion of spoil heaps and assess the impact of future dredging of Church Beck. PB will be bidding for funds to undertake a characterization study of mines at Coniston and Tilberthwaite.

Newland. Bids for funding to characterize Newland Valley mines are proposed.

Water samples have been taken from mine adits and upstream/downstream of mine affected areas along the Pennine range and throughout the Lake District to comply with the Mining Waste Inventory. Results have been interesting and surprising and will be used to focus further investigations and bids for funding.

Conservation of Penny Rigg Mill

John Hodgson reported that 100% funding had been obtained to pay for the Conservation Plans. These would be used to obtain funding (£500,000) for works. In order to do so the co-operation of the Commoners was essential.

Penny Rigg mill wheel-pit is deteriorating and urgent action is required. Heritage lottery funding may be the best option, but the site is not scheduled so funding might not be easy to obtain. Andrew Davidson said that a scheduling application would help English Heritage funding. John Hodgson suggested that we employ a consultant to put a bid together. This would cost about £1500. There is a possibility that LDNPA, EH and CATMS provide £500 each to employ a consultant (probably from Archeo-Environment, who produced the Conservation Plans) to apply to HLF for a grant for urgent conservation work to start next spring.

Ian Matheson

Mines Forum, 21st October 2011

Present: John Malley, NT, John Hodgson, LDNPA, Alastair Cameron, Honister Quarry & Coniston Local History Society, Mike Mitchell, COMRU, Warren Allison, Peter Fleming, Ian Matheson, CATMHS.

National Trust, John Malley.

DEFRA has substantial funds (£10 million) to deal with water quality in regard to mines. £2 million is earmarked for Saltburn and Force Crag. They are developing passive treatment systems and a pilot has been installed at Force Crag and has been active since April this year. Two tanks are taking mine water from no 1 Level to precipitate ochre on high surface media and zinc is precipitated with the ochre. This method has achieved 25% extraction of zinc.

By the end of this year two bore holes will be driven down to Zero level in order to de-water the mine by pumping.

There is a need to re-invigorate the gauging stations around the site.

The 2009 flood scoured material from around the buildings. Permission has been obtained to re-instate this.

Yewthwaite mine: JM has not received a report from MoLES. He would like to renegotiate. High levels of metals have been noted in discharge from the mine. It may be necessary in future to deal with this; might become a big problem.

Greenburn: A major collapse has destroyed part of one of the wheelpits.

LDNPA, John Hodgson.

Eleanor Kingston expected to return at the end of March following her maternity leave

JH would consider the pre 1920 mill at Carrock for conservation, also Myers head mine, which requires tree work and rubbish removal.

Caldbeck: The mineral permit system is expiring and needs to be renewed. There have been fewer problems whilst the present permit system has been in force. Some gorse clearance has been carried out.

English Heritage Monuments at Risk (MARS) is to concentrate on industrial heritage. Backbarrow iron furnace is in their top ten (or should that be bottom? IM)

A BBC Channel 4 documentary featuring the Honister zip wire is to be broadcast next Sunday, 22nd October.

JH has been asked if the LDNPA has guidelines for underground recording. They don't. MM said that NAMHO has a framework for underground recording.

CATMHS, Warren Allison

Silver Gill. Nothing found at the designated site except bedrock. WA distributed photos of the dig. There are further options: 1) To drain the internal shaft, 2) To seek for cavities by driving a series of iron bars into the ground. 3) To monitor the water by inserting dyes into the foot of the flooded shaft and testing surrounding water flows. Once a decision has been made it is hoped that more will be done next summer.

Carrock Mine. The work has been completed and signed off by English Heritage.

MoLES: Nobody present

COMRU: Nothing to report

Penny Rigg Mill:

A site meeting had taken place with the LDNPA, the landowner's agent and CATMHS present. Urgent conservation is required. It seems that funding from English Nature may not be forthcoming. We might apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Any HLF grant must be matched by cash or notional volunteer time, and the HLF would insist upon increased public access. CATMHS had recently conducted members of the CWAAS around the site, and they had suggested that the Hatfield Trust might support the project. A discussion followed.

Urgent consolidation is required to prevent further erosion of the structures, especially the wheelpit and stilling pond. CATMHS has the expertise to do this. JH agreed that we could carry out stabilization work. Land owner consent would be required, together with the usual H&S and operation plans, which would require approval by JH. CATMHS will put a proposal together.

Sebastian Level, Coniston:

A proposal has been submitted to the LDNPA for a dig to search for the Elizabethan level below Simon's Nick. It should be a quick and easy job. The landowners consent is required together with SSSI and Scheduled Monument consents. JH will do these after the forthcoming Archeology Conference. The aim is to carry out the dig in the Spring.

New Engine wheel-pit. Permission wouldn't be required to remove rubbish and tree growth.

Honister Quarry, Alastair Cameron.

The slate mining part of the business is UK. They have been developing the Kimberly No 5 level which is now producing slate. The quarry and visitor centre closes for January.

Negotiations are ongoing to re-route the via ferrata deviation for which fines were imposed.

Dubs: Dubs closed in the 1940 – 1950's and the tramway was removed. The present Honister Slate Co. was given permission to work the tips at Dubs quarry. They wanted to remove stone from the middle of the three tips but were given permission for all three. The consent is due to expire and should be re-negotiated, hopefully with reduced areas. Spoil tips have now come to be recognized as an important component of quarrying heritage and should be protected.

AOB

Peter Fleming reported that the fies areas of the Greenside dressing floors above the High Horse level were being used for camping activities. People were dragging large stones onto the fies and lighting fires there, damaging the landscape burning wooden artefacts which have become exposed through erosion and subsidence. Informative signs are needed, together with a working party to remove stones from the dressing floors.

Next meeting;

Monday 23rd January at LDNPA Offices, Murley Moss, Kendal

Ian Matheson

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the 6th June 2011 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 | Any Other business | 18 | Date next meeting |

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

The meeting commenced at 6.10 pm. 9 committee members attended.

1 Apologies for absence: Sheila Barker SB, Mike Mitchell MM.

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 21st March had been previously circulated to members. It was **PROPOSED** by 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 18.2 J.A. still pursuing the sale of the drill on e-bay.

4 Secretary's Report

SB had nothing to report.

5 Treasurer's Report

JA had circulated his report to members for the period 21st March to 6th June 2011 and apologised for an error in donations and has added C.W. £1600.00. To date there have been thirteen bookings for Dinner Bed and Breakfast and two bookings for Dinner at Rydal Hall for the A.G.M. The Treasurer asked that his expenses of £39.89 be approved. IM proposed that this was accepted, seconded by WA. This was carried unanimously.

6 Membership Secretary & Newsletter Editor's Reports

6.1 IM did not have anything to report on membership.

6.2 IM reported on the last newsletter and told the meeting that he was short of content. Postage is now .92p per issue and this costs the Society £400.00 per year. He suggested reluctantly, that future newsletters could be sent electronically to reduce the cost, but worried that it could not be done securely. IM proposed putting this to the membership and J.B. seconded this. J.A. suggested a printed copy should be kept in our archives at the museum.

6.3 IM suggested back numbers of the newsletter should be available on the website and it was agreed that this should go back 2 years. The Treasurer recommended a charge of £5.00 to non members and that fully paid up members should be able to ask for any back copy. W A suggested a nominal charge of £1.00. J.A. proposed that this should go ahead and MSc seconded this. J.A. agreed to be the distributor.

7 Meets Report

7.1 The Meets Secretary J.K. had put out a request prior to this meeting for a list of meets and meet leaders for the next meets list due out soon. This was discussed and a number of meets and members to take them came out of the meeting and one or two others suggested would almost complete the next list.

8 RA Forms

Nothing to report.

9 John Barratt Cost & Letter Books

WA reported that Carlisle Archive opened on 1st June and provides a service for conservation and will assess and produce a report on all the Coniston cost books, also the Threlkeld, Strontian and Stavely mines. A microfilm will be produced for any person wanting to read them. The originals will still be available for viewing. IM thinks a facsimile or a bound copy should be produced, and CATMHS should offer to pay towards the cost of producing a quality item, as this would aid anyone wanting to do research. The archive service now has equipment suitable to copy large maps etc. JA suggested DB our archivist should be consulted about any items that may be in our possession that may need to be copied.

10 Publications

PF told members that the trail leaflets are selling, but nothing has yet appeared on the new leaflets for Tilberthwaite. IM said that he hoped to have the script and route finished soon. The map is to be provided by M.M. and M.S is to look at updating the Old Man trail leaflets.

11 Library

11.1 IM asked the committee if they thought that it would be a good idea if CATMHS could supply member Jane Foale with material for an exhibition at the Ruskin Museum. It was agreed that he should get back to her.

11.2 The Archivist's report

This was read, discussed and accepted. Notably the heroic John Aird had photographed 554 pages of the Coniston Cost Books and processed them in 3 formats.

12 New Projects

12.1 JB reported on Carrock Fell Mine – Nine visits have been made since the last committee meeting. The mine water bypass and dirty water retention is working well, with dirty water being pumped onto the fell and surfaces by WA's pump. A temporary silt retaining dam has been installed inside the entrance to enable digging out for the gate and permanent dam. Work to rebuild the portal is now complete. Attention is being given to building the internal walls in the gate/dam area. Discussions are under way with the LDNPA archaeologist about disposal of surplus spoil. JA asked how the project would be signed off. It was agreed a report will be written, signed by the Chairman and Treasurer and endorsed by JH (LDNPA).

12.2 WA reported on Silvergill - All the companies who had quoted for the supervision of the opening up of the 4th level had been informed of the Societies decision regarding the awarding of the contract. WA is looking at CWAAS for possible funding for the work to open up the 4th Level and will contact NP Archaeology to see when they are available and will circulate dates for the dig.

12.3 Access to Tilberthwaite Horse Crag Level via the Waterfall Level is no longer possible due to a major collapse which could have been caused by the earthquake.

12.4 The application for Sebastian Level is to be completed and submitted.

13 Publicity Officer Report

MSc reported there is to be an Archaeological and Historical Weekend at the Beacon at Whitehaven in September. CATMHS would not have to pay to exhibit.

14 Coniston Mines & Quarries

14.1 JA reported Levers Water mine entrance has now been cleared and the gate has been left open after struggling to clear it of debris. It was agreed that some alterations to the protective shelter may need to be done.

14.2 PF reported that he has distributed the Coniston Copper mines, Cumbria Conservation Management plan for DSTC Commoners and the LDNPA. Bill Myers an independent journalist has requested a visit into the copper mines; PF has offered to take him.

15 GPS

15.1 MS has been out mapping on Betsy Crag and also Tunnel Crag.

15.2 MS has been in discussion with ADC who has suggested mapping some tracks on Honister and he has been asked by Duddon Valley History Group for guidance on using mapping equipment.

16 Mines Forum Meeting

The next meeting is at the Ruskin Museum on 14th July.

17 Any Other Business

17.1 PF told the committee that he had been walking in the area of the Stontian Mines and bought a leaflet on the mines. It would appear that they do not have the information that we have. PF tried to contact George Fox who lives in the Manse, but without success. He will contact Maureen Fleming about the letters relating to George Fox.

17.2 WA suggested cutting down the number of committee meetings from six as per the constitution to four, with additional meetings if required. This was due to the escalating cost of travel for quite a few of the committee members who have to travel some distance varying from over 100 miles to 600 miles.

18 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

To be held at the BMSC Hut, Coniston on Monday 26th September 2011, 6.0 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm. JB 06/06/2011

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

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