

4th March 1984

Coniston Coppermines

C.A.T Members present M/L Mike Mitchell, Pete Fleming, Dave Blundell, Ian Tyler, Martin Maher, Denis Webb, Richard Hewer, John Crammond, June Parker, Alan Parker, Lindsey Harrison, Angela Wilson, Alan Westall, Peter Burton, Joy Chapman.

Grey Crag Level, South Shaft, Gaunts Level, Hospital Level and Taylors Level.

Grey Crag

An early enthusiastic start was made on this dig from the outside by Ian Tyler and his daughter, which was continued by the main party when they arrived on the scene at approx 11:30 am.

After some two hours digging, a party led by Peter Fleming went into the mine via Hospital Level to view the project from the inside, and to try and make contact with the outside team. This was not possible and on their return they reported that whilst they could hear us digging, the collapse started where the tunnel left the solid rock and though it would be possible to dig from both sides, it could be a long dig through quite bad ground and thus it was abandoned for the time being.

South Shaft

Whilst all the above work was going on, a rope was fixed at the top of the shaft. Martin and Denis descended with the object of clearing the loose boulder pile half way down, which could damage the helmet of anyone working below if they were to descend uninvited! Much of this debris was cleared and subsequently Denis returned to daylight whilst Martin worked on at the bottom of the shaft. Frequent trips to the shaft top by myself and others were greeted with sounds of intense activity, crashing and banging of boulders and crowbar deep below.

Gaunt's Level

When the digging party returned from Grey Crag they decided to go for a change of mud colour from brown to grey. This was accomplished by transferring their efforts to "Gaunt's" and much work was done in addition to the good efforts of some unknown previous party in this very sticky collapse. Whilst the dig was not completed the blockage was "venting" when work was given up due to several of the male members getting stuck together in this glutinous substance & people were starting to talk!!

Taylor's Level

By this time Martin had surfaced from South Shaft, retrieved the gear and was relaxing with an "evil smelling weed" at the entrance.

As there was still some two hours before the "witching hour" of the hops the party that remained (that means some had forsaken us by this time!) moved over the hill to Taylor's. The entrance was again dug out after partially running in over the last two

months, flooding the level to approx 4 feet deep. When the debris had been removed sufficiently to drop the water to the pedestrian deterrent level, a 4" plastic pipe (diameter not length) was laid to maintain the water level and the rubble was allowed to run in again and cover the pipe.

We then returned to more hospitable surroundings as "The Crown" in Coniston.

Many thanks to all for a good meet.

Mike Mitchell