

**26<sup>th</sup> December 1984**

**Coniston**

Boxing Day

M.L. Father Christmas

An early (for Boxing) was made and the team set out for The Objectives Gaunts Level and Kernal Level.

Full marks go to Max who pushed the wheelbarrow up to the mines nursing a wisdom tooth (not in the barrow). On the way up we were passed by Mike Maher in his land-rover, going fell-walking with his friend – his excuse. The party split into two for the digs and a start was made. This burst of energy only lasted for an hour when the teams had decided that the situation was hopeless. This was made worse by Pete Fleming's economy £1.00 plastic bucket falling to bits on its first contact with a stone. Over lunch it was decided to have a crack a Taylor's Level which had been started the previous boxing day, then left.

Full marks this time to John Crammond who pushed the wheelbarrow down.

At Taylor's Level the water was lowered and 4 members ventured in to continue the dig whilst the others dug at entrance to Cobblers Level. The "A" team was soon through into the stope and Mike rushed out to tell the others (actually he was rushing for the 1<sup>st</sup> aid kit – burst finger due to over – enthusiastic digging).

Max disappeared with him, closely followed by Alen who went to look at the slate workings – nothing to do with the water being over welly depth – honest.

On Mikes return the "B" team was eventually persuaded that the trip was worth it and they all waded in except for Pete Fleming who claimed that he would dissolve and made Mike Mitchell carry him over the watery bits (and out too). The barrels (placed down the stopes the previous March) were still in the stope and one was forced into place to stabilise the horrendous running ground at the bottom of the huge cone extracted by successive digs. All members had a good look around and spotted a way on over a rock bridge – a case of a maypole and this was noted for a later trip. The team exited and headed for the Crown to plan the next meet. Some people first went into Deep Level to inspect a recent collapse.

Members Present:-

Dave Blundell

Max Dobie

Chris Jones

John Crammond

Chris Moore

Pete Fleming

Mike Mitchell

Ian Matheson

Alen McFadzean

\*See next article for continuation of Taylor's Level story.