

15th February 1987
Borrowdale Wad Mine

Meet Leader Angela Wilson

Sunday 15th February found 16 CAT members fighting hordes of eager fell walkers for parking places at Seathwaite Farm. The glorious Sunday morning had even tempted our "long time no see" school teacher from Bootle out, and our "not seen since the Irish trip" Doncaster member, whose excuse for not being seen on recent outings was that he'd lost his meets list! None the less he was eager to rush up the ghyll in search of specimens to rub his fingers sensuously over in search of slickensides.

The usual slog found clothing discarded and boiling point reached by many, although the eager specimen hunters wasted no time in reaching the spoil heaps and filling their rucksacks, whilst the remainder of the group contemplated whether to bask in the sunshine all day or to struggle into their SRT gear. Ian Tyler had stopped off at Gilberts Level; he wanted to do some investigating there, accompanied by a volunteer who no doubt was eager to miss the steep slog up to Harrisons Stage.

Harrisons Stage was explored, members taking off in all directions and for various reasons, the Meet Leader finding it difficult to keep track of everyone, not an easy task in the warren like Wadd Mine. After much clambering and wandering in ever decreasing circles the jungle drums brought news of the sighting of a native and a regal type figure who was being hauled up the hillside by a large furry animal. Curiosity and the warm sunshine caused a natural lunch break at the entrance to the mine, members being surprised to find it was Mahatma Bhatti and followers out taking the mid-day air. CAT members present now increased to 18 plus one dog.

On bidding the Mahatma farewell 10 set off to abseil down to Fareys Stage, the remaining four being happy to busy themselves with geological hammers. The 10 explored anything and everything that looked interesting before exiting at Fareys Stage. One or two were having lighting problems now, and for various other reasons six decided to call it a day here. The remaining four, not having had enough, descended from Fareys to the Old Mans Stage and explored as far as Dixons Pipe before returning and leaving the mines, to find only a handful remaining at the parking spot. Ian Tyler was not around, so we didn't find out how he got on.

Hands up all other CAT members who found rude stickers regarding inconsiderate parking on their windscreens, also all those with access to photocopying facilities.