

4th June 1989
Caldbeck Fells

The meet was attended by ten people of which only 5 were members the others had had their passions roused after my stirring talk to the Caldbeck Historical Society a few weeks before. After some poor map reading by half the party we managed to meet in Ingray Gill some 400yds from Fellside, the advance party being unable to read or know where they are on a bright sunny day.

From here we all proceeded to Long Grain – Short Grain gill and the China Clay mine. Mexico Mine was visited after lunch.

Here we watched the joy and trepidation of Mrs B Bradbury, a sprightly 70 yr old don my helmet and lamp and venture underground. Meanwhile a local building surveyor/engineer and ex soldier pondered his fate as to whether discretion should be the better part of valour. No choice! His wife leapt down the hole with husband in pursuit – two more recruits. All enjoyed the trip and thirsted for more.

Now traversing around Iron Crag, past Laintons Engine Shaft and onto Roughton Gill. The 60fm level was visited and a new coffin level recently dug out explored. Here some of the party returned to Fellside, the remainder went up to the 30fm and then over to Silver Gill. Here the ‘Golden Vugh’ was explored. Warren Allison started a solo dig on the coffin level on the south side of the gill, near the shaft. The place was heaving with midges and they were truly upset at their dark home being disturbed. However Warren’s labours were rewarded after 1/2hr he had broken through exposing 40 yds of Elizabethan coffin level. Well done Warren.

By now it was 6pm and the 3 mile stroll back to Fellside awaited us – and the weather had been kind all day.

Ian Tyler (ML)

M Miller (not CAT)

C Barrow

S Barker

Kate Tyler (not CAT)

B Miller (not CAT)

D Borthwick

Kate Mortimer (not CAT)

B Bradbury (not CAT)

W Allison

Ian Tyler