

1989.10.01

Low Water Power House

This was a very enjoyable meet. The weather was fine, the company good and the project worthwhile. Everyone worked hard and a great deal was accomplished. Those present were Anton and Sheila Chenyll-Proctor-Thomas and Imogen, Paul Timewell, Sheila Barker, Chris Jones and dog, Phil Merrln and Neville, Mike and Barbara Mitchell, Pete Sandbach and the Meet Leader Ian Matheson with Meg, Alistair, and Clare plus dog. John Helme and Dave Robson arrived later, but made up for lost time by working non stop.

A quarter of a ton of sand and cement was transferred to Chris Jones' Landrover and driven as far as possible along the quarry track. The last bit is now too steep and rocky for a Landrover, so the first load was taken up by a three man wheelbarrow team using hauling ropes. This proved to be too energy intensive, so the remainder was divided into 56lb loads and carried up.

Sheila Chenylle-Proctor-Thomas got all the kids mixing cement, which Ian and Paul applied to the tops of the remaining gable ends and the rest of the ladies applied themselves to the heavy work of mucking out the smithy. The men, led by Anton, set about the more technical task of recovering an old bogey which lay nearby. This involved setting up a system to winch it up the slope and once accomplished they set off again to fetch the tub which lay further away, returning much later to report that they had got it more than a third of the distance.

Meanwhile the heavy gang excavating the blacksmiths shop collected a sizeable pile of artefacts, including many of his tools, which lay buried in the debris. These were later removed for safekeeping by the Meet Leader. Whilst making good part of the forge, which had collapsed, John Helme unearthed a home made wire toasting fork. The work was finished by about 4.30 and all had the satisfaction of a job well done.

We intend to place the following notice on the site, which Clive Barrow has kindly offered to provide:

This building houses a Pelton Wheel water turbine which used to provided compressed air and electricity for the now disused slate quarries. The left hand part was the Blacksmiths workshop. Conservation work has been carried out by the Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society. Please do not remove or damage anything.