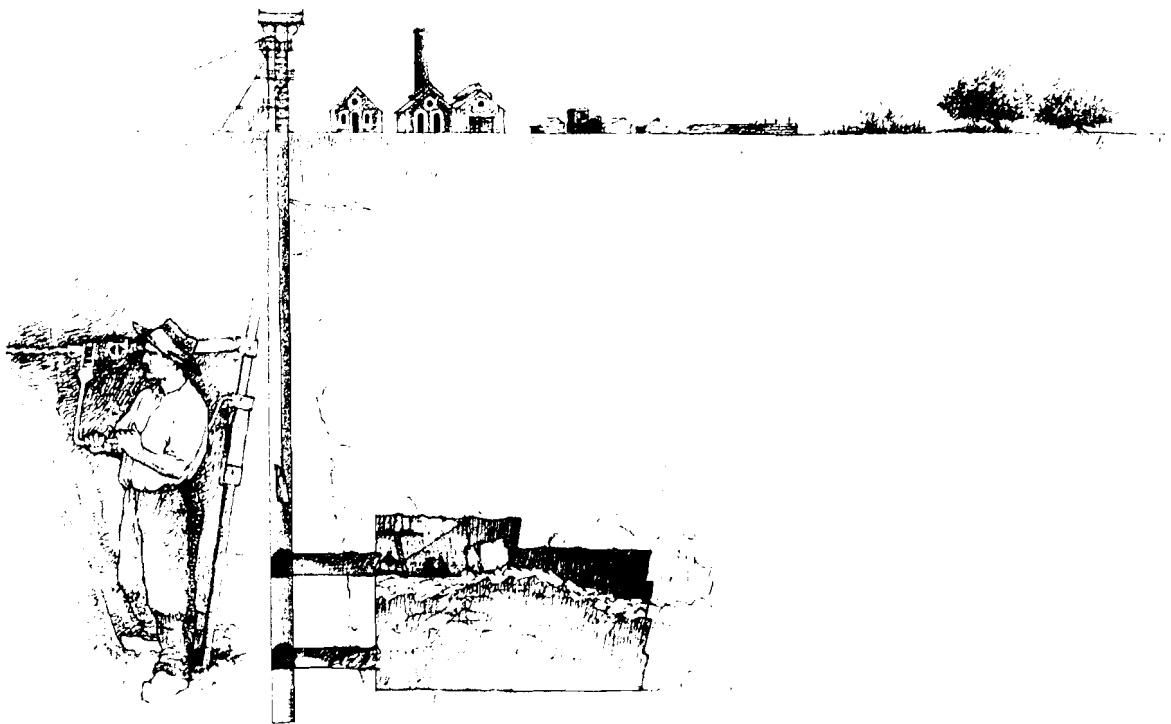


# CAT

The Newsletter of the Cumbria Amenity Trust  
Mining History Society

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## COMPILATION

Special thanks to those who are now submitting material on disc, this is a great help. To assist me in inputting your data if you are not using WORD please do not use fancy tables, columns etc. If in doubt please give me a ring. Even if you are using word please bear in mind that the newsletter is laid out in a two column format so do not use big indents. The Newsletter is generated on Microsoft Office 2000 Premium.

The e-mail connection has now been restored and contributions should be sent to :-

[jon.knolwes@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:jon.knolwes@ukonline.co.uk)

Please note that any contributions sent to the old freeserve address after early August have unfortunately been lost.

## PUBLICATION

The newsletter is issued four times a year. Material for inclusion should be with the editor by the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, June, September or December for inclusion in the next issue which will appear approximately four weeks later. Information should be sent to :-

Jon Knowles  
46 Dukewood Road  
Clayton West  
Huddersfield  
HD8 9HF

01484 860662

## STOP PRESS DR DESCENDER EXTRA

Dear Doctor

### BEWARE MILLENNIUM MUG!

There is never a dull moment underground at Hudgill (that's not strictly true). I think the long dark days 'working away' at the present collapse has started to wear down one of the team, to such an extent, that he has commissioned 'Ashfell Potteries' (appropriate name) to produce a Millennium mug, called the 'Hudgill Recliner'. Now this mug is called the 'Recliner', because that is the repose that it's inventor needs to adopt when drinking from it. To look at, it is only half a mug when viewed from the side (a bisection of the cylinder along its axis), with the handle to one edge. Filling must be done in the reclined position and thus the partaking of a hot beverage is undertaken in the same manner. When quizzed, its inventor (who normally wears yellow waterproof trousers and a black Mac) points out that its

unusual feature allows mine explorers to partake of the hot beverage in areas where the roof is very low.

The rest of the team are quite frankly fast becoming tired of these quirky 'Object d'art' and we would like to suggest a mine visit by your good self to investigate his deteriorating condition (check with us first, just in case he is away on 'The Piste').

Yours

Worried stainless steel flask user.

P.S. I think he has plans to expand into other unusual earthenware receptacles, also with handles, for underground use too.

*I quite agree that a visit is required. I have tried to see the patient on a number of times but the weather is bad in that area and I have often been hampered by snow and Blezards, particularly so in winter. However I will try again on Sunday.*

Doc.

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**EDITORIAL**

A Happy New Year to all members. Many thanks to all who have contributed to this bumper edition.

Jon

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The society's flagship project at Hudgillburn continued unabated throughout the summer and we are indebted to those who have been pushing the Sun Vein forward through difficult ground with brute force, steel and telegraph poles. The collapsed state of the levels as we move into the productive parts of the mine is however proving expensive both in manpower and materials and it may soon be time to reassess the situation. We now have a set of surveying equipment at the mine which is being put to good use.

Renovation of Newland Furnace continues, now under the newly formed Newland Trust, and further progress has been made on the Furness Heritage Survey.

At Coniston efforts are being made to initiate an archaeological dig at early sites at Levers Water and below Red Dell and lottery funding is being sought. The Coniston video project seems to have found a new lease of life and is once again in full swing. We have recently made an unexpected discovery – after all these years the true top of Hospital Shaft was spotted in the bank beside Levers Water Beck and a descent made to Hospital Level.

The geological survey has cleared up some difficult areas this year, including Brow Stope, and computerisation of the data is now being directed towards a CD-ROM. Also work is in hand for 3-D surface imaging from aerial photographs. Following a request from the John Ruskin Museum for material for their IT display a CD-ROM has been produced for sale to the public covering the exploration and history of the mine.

Publications continue to sell well and we are now seeking a Millennium Festival Award to enable *Beneath the Lakeland Fell* to be re-issued in colour. Another new angle on publicity is the recently installed CAT Web site.

Finally thanks must go to all who have supported CAT meets throughout the year – after all, this is what we are here for. Also to the committee (at present diminished in numbers), and in particular to Mark Simpson who valiantly took on the job of Treasurer at short notice after the last AGM.

Dave Bridge

**CATMHS 21<sup>st</sup> BIRTHDAY**

The society has been active for 21 years, from 1979 to 2000. You are invited to celebrate twenty-one successful years with a weekend at Rydal

Hall, one of Lakeland's finest ancestral houses and former home of the Le Fleming family who still own the Coniston Coppermines and the Crossfell Mines.

The weekend is to be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2000, and will consist of 2 nights full board, starting Friday evening, with a buffet supper at 7 pm followed by the AGM, the bar will be open till 11pm.

Saturday will take the form of a conference with six excellent speakers, covering diverse subjects interspersed with morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea.

The Hall is within easy walking distance of Ambleside, so if family and friends do not want to attend the talks they can easily amuse themselves.

A Gala Celebration Dinner will be held on the Saturday night, followed by a cake cutting ceremony and entertainment.

On Sunday there will be a choice of surface and underground trips, packed lunches will be included.

We hope that the weekend will provide an opportunity for members new and old who live outside Cumbria to support the society and get to know the more local members.

Please return the completed form with deposit ASAP (the society has paid the deposit !), rooms allocated on a "first come, first served" basis.

For more information please contact Sheila Barker.

### DOCTOR DESCENDER

Dear Doctor

I am concerned that the club is spending far too much money on a mine that is not only almost out of the county but is a mine for lead and not copper. When will this madness cease !

Copper Man

*When the mine is fully explored, those exploring it run out of interest (unlikely), nerve (possible) or when Middleton in Teasdale is reached. Whichever happens first.*

Any more questions !

Doc

Dear Doctor

I have recently bought a mobile phone and I can now send messages and talk to my girlfriends even when on a mining trip, is this true luv !

New Zealand Man

*Having listened to some of the conversations during your last therapy session I find it hard to believe that knowing when your beloved is eating a steak and kidney pie can be called true love.*

Doc

Doctor Descenders poetry award for the 17<sup>th</sup> December goes to the anonymous contribution which reads as follows :-

Betta Harkta Sheila Barker

Tread on a clog and you will nark her

So tread with care where ere there seen and keep the smile on the face of the Hudgill Queen.

De Drummer

### MAPS

Most members will at some or another need to get hold of old large scale OS maps. Sometimes these can be obtained from record offices whilst at others they must be bought. I have recently come across a good supplier of large scale maps. This is :-

The Map Shop  
15 High Street  
Upton Upon Severn  
Worcestershire  
WR8 0HJ

Phone 01684 593146  
Fax 01684 594559  
E-mail [Themapshop@btinternet.com](mailto:Themapshop@btinternet.com)

The firm seems happy to supply mail order.

As most readers know I seldom give unnecessary praise.

The OS have reduced the price of 25" sheets to £20 each. Although not cheap this is a lot less than they were a few years ago.

Jon

**CAT CD**

No this is not a collection of Mark Simpson ditties but an interactive CD of Coniston Copper Mines. This attractively and professional looking CD provides an introduction to the Mines. The version currently available, 1a, is for release to CAT members only. Version 2 which is planned for release by April 2000 is for general release to the public and will also be used as part of the displays at the Ruskin Museum.

Using the disc it is easy to move around the mine site bringing up photographs, plans and descriptions of the workings.

To obtain you copy contact Dave Bridge who has produced it. All we need is for Dave to produce a disc for each mine and the day of the armchair mine explorer will have truly arrived.

Jon

**COMMENT**

The recent difficulties encountered filling committee posts makes one wonder about the ageing society and more importantly what can be done about it.

The first thing that needs to be clear is that this is not a problem peculiar to CAT or even mining history, many voluntary organisations and nearly every Mining History Club / Society is facing problems of this nature.

Whilst the number of people with an interest in Mining History is probably increasing I suggest that the numbers actively involved in exploration / digging is decreasing.

Generally despite what we read in the papers and see on television the majority of the people we need to attract if the society is to prosper long term (i.e. younger people) have limited leisure time since those that are in work are working long hours and what limited free time they have is often taken up with family/domestic commitments.

If we can't attract younger people should we then attract older people who have retired early, kids have left home etc. Whilst its fair to say that these people currently play an important role in this society most of them have been in it for a long time and joined much younger. Generally people who join at 50+ do not take a particularly active role - I am sure that I will now get 50 letters from OAP's who free climbed triddle shaft last week.

Mine Exploration has always been torn between the Explorers and the Historians and most clubs/societies seem to be either one camp or the other. I personally don't believe that these aims are exclusive but are the same. We need people to explore mines as much as we need people to research their history. People may join a club for either activity or may join as a fit young explorer and in later years spend more looking into the history or conserving surface remains.

Deep down I believe that there are many younger people out there who are interested in outdoor pursuits but are not aware of or are not attracted to Mine Exploration. I suggest the following as possible reasons :-

Mine Exploration isn't sexy. True, whilst I doubt lycra will ever really catch on underground the sport does have an appeal to who want a challenge.

Mine Exploration doesn't have a common front. The only pursuit where small "local" clubs/societies seem to proliferate more is in railway restoration. Why a few mine explorers can't seem to get on with one another for more than a few weeks is beyond me. I honestly think that the structure of Mine Exploration in the UK needs a complete shake up. At the top we need a dynamic front which would be the public face and also campaign on major issues such as access and produce good quality publications covering BOTH exploration and history - too many of the large clubs now produce very dry publications. Beneath this we need a large number of informal local groups which would look after the mines in their patch.

Does anybody have any bright ideas on how this can be achieved ?

**HUDGILLBURN 1999 PROGRESS REPORT**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> January we broke through the collapsed ore hopper on the East Waggon Level, which was barring our route to the Sun Veins. The level ahead looked in good condition, driven in the tuft (we called it the First Sun Crosscut).

A few yards along the level there was a miners tin water bottle complete with cork lying in a niche in the wall. There was a rise on the left which appeared to be a small trial, with a level opening off about 15 ft higher up.

A few yards further up the crosscut was a second rise, this was more interesting. According to the mine plan it should lead to the Blue String, with a crosscut higher up, on top of the Great Limestone, which gave access to the HGB Old Vein.

John Brown and Pete Blezard climbed the rise and found what appeared to be several small old workings (presumably the Blue Strings) one of these led in a convoluted manner to the opening 15 ft up in the first rise. One wall was coated with Smithsonite, which was coming away with big pieces falling off. They then climbed up higher to look for the crosscut, but only found a very collapsed area, with no sign of the crosscut.

Back down in the First Sun Crosscut a lot of the floor needed digging out to lower the water level, at the first bend we were greeted with what looked like a disaster area. The roof was badly cracked and desperate looking and the level was almost full of a mixture of boulders and shale, but there was water flowing from under the fall and the air seemed OK, so the stalwart team decided to carry on. I think lesser mortals would have given up at this point.

We are now 30 yards along the level from the corner, with about the same distance to go to the next junction. The walls and roof are being supported with a combination of sections of telegraph poles, sleepers and crash barrier. This is very heavy work and I would like to thank all the digging team for their dedication.

In February the survey of the mine was started. Mark started the survey and gave instruction to those who were interested. There have been 6 survey meets during the year. The results are being formulated and a draft plan has been produced. A line has been placed in the cavern to help with calculations and has been left in situ. The artefacts and graffiti are being mapped and will be added to the plan. The work will continue throughout 2000.

Sheila Barker

#### **A MINE EXPLORERS DIARY**

This is what your editor has been up to in the last few weeks with the emphasis on the humorous.

3rd December. Diffwys Quarry with Tim Oulton taking light painting photographs. Good results for once.

4th December. Explored Tyddyn Gladdys gunpowder works near Gwynfynydd Gold Mine. On way back visit mine of same name with Peter Hay. Watch Hay measure his length across a flooded winze whilst catapulting his helmet and light to the bottom at the same time – quite impressive especially as light continued to work even when 20' down. The thoughts of the frog which was inhabiting the winze are not known.

5th December. Had planned to take a few friends to see a site of interest in a Quarry but Manager of associated Quarry in same group had suggested this not a good idea when permission requested a few days earlier. Much better to trespass without permission when he didn't know. Bumped into same Manager when both of us were trespassing in another working quarry !

28th December. Snowy trip to Wales to explore Gold Mine with Peter and Daniel Hay, Tristan and Andrew Hurrell (non-member !) Gwynfynydd Mine very interesting would make could group trip if access could be negotiated. Why does Tristan spend every second he is not down the mine sending messages to his girlfriends on his new mobile phone ?

29th December. Attempted to visit working Mine which should have been closed for Christmas. Lights on underground caused tactical retreat. Attempted to descent in Twll Mawr at Tal-y-sarn Slate Quarry but could not locate blocked up tunnel whilst also avoiding rocks dislodged by Hay.

30th December. Very Welsh day with torrential rain and wind. Visit Quarrying Museum at Llanberis before getting wet walking around quarry.

Jon

#### **CORRECTION**

Please note that the Clan Thomas's phone number was shown incorrectly on the back of the last newsletter, this has now been corrected. Apologies to anybody who has been unable to borrow scaffolding or a cement mixer in the intervening period.

Ed.

#### **LAKE PLANNERS IN PROBE AT MINE**

Lake District planners are to visit Force Crag Mine in the Coledale Valley to assess the impact of a proposal by the national trust for engineering works.

The works at Braithwaite are aimed at stabilising the slope in the abandoned mining area of the historic site.

The scheme intends to remove the current threat of a large and rapid increase in pollution levels in the Coledale Beck, which would result if the scree slope slips and blocks one of the entrances to the mine.

Such a blockage could also cause a build up in the mine and destroy old mine buildings.

The mine is an abandoned lead, zinc and barytes mine that was last worked in 1991. The freehold of the land is owned by the National Trust.

The Trust wants to do some essential work to reduce the risk of scree slope slippage which could result in the blocking of the No.1 level entrance and pose a risk to the old mine buildings at this historic site, which is being considered for scheduling by English Heritage.

Planning officers recommended approval, saying that the scheme would have "very limited environmental impact" and that any short-term impact was "far outweighed by the urgent necessity to carry out the slope stabilisation works".

Evening Mail

### **CONCERN OVER OLD LEAD WORKS IN BEAUTY SPOT**

Work to tackle concerns over old lead mine workings high above a lake District beauty spot could cost almost £2 million, it has been revealed.

There has been lead mining at Greenside 1500 ft above Glenridding on Ulswater since Roman times.

The site was a commercial mine for 180 years closing in 1963 and is now a scheduled ancient monument.

However, after some slippage at one of the site's spoil heaps, the Lake District National Park which owns the land, called in engineering specialists to carry out a risk assessment of the workings.

The park's concerns centered on structural stability of site features and levels of soil and water contamination.

Now the engineers have reported that Keppel Cove Dam, higher up the hill above the mine site, is seriously unstable and needs urgent attention to prevent collapse.

The dam was built in 1928 to hold water for hydropower to supply steam ( I must look for the boilers nest time I am up at the site ! - Jon ) turbines at the mine.

In 1931 the dam burst and flooded Glenridding. There are now fears that the hole in the dam, which was never repaired, could become blocked with debris, and water could build up once again.

Options include total demolition of the dam, which could result in 6500 tonnes of concrete debris to remove or bury, partial demolition and reinforcement of what structure remains or constructing drainage arches which would give the dam the appearance of an arched bridge.

Funding sources for the work will now be explored and park authority members are to visit the mine site.

Barrow-in-Furness Evening Mail October 1999

### **COMMENT 2**

The above articles illustrate one of the most serious threats to our Mining Heritage - over concern about safety.

Having recently walked up the Force Crag tips I did not notice any signs of slippage. The tips seem to be a reasonable angle of repose and I personally believe that they will stay like that for a long time. If the NT's concern is blockage of the levels why not just run a large steel pipe from the level mouth down towards the river this would provide a simple solution at a fraction of the cost. I suggest that if the work takes place then the levels will be permanently gated and the tips will be landscaped thus destroying a key part of the site - hopefully I will be proved wrong.

One only has to walk through the Gwydr Forest in North Wales to see the desecration of important mine sites purportedly undertaken in the interests of environmental pollution and safety.

### **QUANGO TOURS**

Bored in the office ?, does your quango need a day out ?, e-mail QUANGO TOURS at [www.wasteofmoney.com](http://www.wasteofmoney.com) for full details.

Mine Sites a speciality.

All our trips are led by an over cautious safety expert.

### **AGM**

By all accounts the AGM and Annual Dinner this year was a success. Dave Carlisle is an engaging raconter and from those I have spoken to he made the evening.

There are a number of committee posts still up for grabs. These Include Meets Secretary. Please contact Dave Bridge or Sheila Barker if you want to vounteer your services.

Ed.

## NORTH WALES NEWS

The most recent news is that the Llechwedd Slate Quarry and associated workings seem on the verge of closure. Thirty-six employees were laid off in early December and the remaining Quarry employees are believed to be finishing off the remaining orders. There have been rumours circulating for some time that the Company was in difficulties but the earthquake mentioned in the previous newsletter caused a crack in the main working face. There have also been problems with the HSE over safety at the site. Another large operator also appears to have dropped its prices in an attempt to drive Llechwedd out of business.

However a visit to Maenofferen over the Christmas period found lights on at the bottom of the B8 incline and a tactical retreat was necessary. If Llechwedd do close and the pumps are tuned off in Maenofferen the mine will surely flood up to a higher level and I think will then drain into the Votty & Bowydd workings.

A visit to Gwynfynydd Gold Mine over the break was successful and a very good trip around the workings followed. The route in did not involve using the deep adit or Roberts Level both of which have been secured with massive concrete plugs.

John Knight reports that the V2 incline at the North Wales Quarrying Museum is now in operation. This has been restored and now has a motor for bringing the loaded waggons back up the incline. Three Quarryman's Cottages from Tany-grisiau have been moved to the site and re-erected and furnished to reflect three different era's.

Jon

## TRANSPORT

John Knight has written in asking if members from the South of England are prepared to share lifts and expenses. If anybody can help please contact John at 40 Fladgate Road, Leytonstone, London, E11 1LY.

Jon

## THE HARRISON AINSLIE FLEET

At Newlands Furnace, we have recently replaced a steel girder across the taphole entrance to the blowing chamber. This will enable us to start replacing the fallen firebricks, building our way up to support the area which is now defying gravity. These bricks are not brick shaped. They are tapered so that twenty seven blocks make a ring

12'6" external diameter, 8'9" internal diameter and 7" deep. They weigh about 30 Kg. They are stamped "Rd GRAVES, GILLHEAD" and some are marked "C1". Given about four pairs of hands and a block and tackle, they can be lifted into place and cemented in quite easily. The problem is that we have found 15 C1 blocks, to fill 35 gaps. So we have built a mould, and are now casting counterfeit firebricks made from coloured concrete.

Firebrick was not made locally. It needs gannister, or fireclay, which is found in the coal measures. Richard Graves was a colliery owner and firebrick manufacturer at Gillhead, Flimby about 1878. He bought the Gillhead brickworks from the estate of Joseph Lucock in 1872. Harrison Ainslie were still using Gillhead bricks then they relined Backbarrow furnace in 1919, and bricks marked "Lucock" can be found at Newlands.

The subject of this article is not bricks, but the way they came here. They were brought from Whitehaven by Captain Blundell in the sloop "Newland".

Harrison Ainslie had owned ships since at least 1800. In 1864, they owned three sloops, six schooners and part owned another three schooners. Most of these vessels had been bought new by the general manager, Thomas Roper.

The sloops were the Melfort, (built Chester 1856, Tom Roper 8 shares, Montague Ainslie 16), the Newland, (built at Tarleton in 1859), and the Eliza, (built Ulverston 1842). Tom Roper held all 64 shares in these.

He also held the shares of four schooners. The Gillbrow, Lindal Moor and Whitriggs were launched at Liverpool in 1856. The Lorn was built at Ellesmere Port in 1864. Aymer Ainslie held 62 shares in the Warsash, built by William White at Ulverston in 1867. It was Harrison Ainslie's last venture into shipowning. The other two shares were held by James Geldart, who managed, and later owned the Harrison Ainslie ships.

The Ropers held shares in at least another six schooners. Tom Roper held 14 shares in the Eliza Bond (built Chester 1856), 16 shares in the Mary & May (built Barrow 1862) and two shares in the Jane Roper (built Barrow 1852). James Davies held four shares in the Jane Roper and William Ainslie eight. Aymer Ainslie was appointed managing owner in 1875. When Ashburners of Barrow launched the Tom Roper in 1857, he took two shares. James Geldart held five shares and W G Ainslie four.



Richard Roper also held 16 shares in an eponymous schooner, built by William White at Ulverston in 1851. He also held eight shares in the Bee, which was built at Ulverston in 1841. These shares were inherited by Thomas, James and Richard Roper in 1861.

The Canal records give some indication of the activities of these vessels, and an abstract from them is shown below. The Eliza Bond was not included, as she traded more in gunpowder than iron.

## Leven Viaduct Register of Vessels Passing through the Bridge

Arrived	Sailed	Vessel	Of	Name of Captain	Tons, Reg.	Inwards	From	Outwards	To
07/09/1862	12/09/1862	Gilbrow	Ulverston	Smith	87	Charcoal	Ayr	Light	Barrow
25/01/1863	03/02/1863	Gilbrow	Ulverston	Smith	89	Charcoal	Ayr	Light	Barrow
14/05/1862	15/05/1862	Newland	Ulverston	Blundell	28	Coal	Preston	Iron	Canal
02/05/1863	05/05/1863	Newland	Ulverston	Blundell	29	Ironstone	Workington	Iron	Liverpool
29/09/1864	13/10/1864	Eliza	Barrow	Taylor		Charcoal	Gatehouse	Light	Barrow
29/09/1864	03/10/1864	Newland	Ulverston	Blundell	29	Ironstone	Harrington	Light	Ulverston
16/10/1864	18/10/1864	Newland	Ulverston	Blundell	29	Charcoal	Runcorn	Light	Ulverston
30/10/1864	01/11/1864	Newland	Ulverston	Blundell	29	Charcoal	Runcorn	Light	Barrow
28/11/1864	01/12/1864	Newland	Ulverston	Blundell	29	Ironstone	Harrington	Light	Barrow
10/12/1864	14/12/1864	Bee	Ulverston	Holmes	53	Light	Ulverston	Powder	Liverpool

## Vessels through the Leven Viaduct, 1862 – 1864

Vessel	Of	Tonnage, Register	No of Visits, 1862	No of Visits, 1863	No of Visits, 1864	Captain	Cargoes
Bansvale	Ulverston	43	1	1		Bannister	Coal, Charcoal
Bee	Ulverston	53			1	Holmes	Powder
Eskham	Ulverston	45			1	Rudd	Bricks
Gilbrow	Ulverston	89	1	1		Bannister, Smith	Charcoal
Mary	Ulverston				3	Taylor, Rawcliffe, Hutchinson, Edwards	Coal, Timber, Gen
Newland	Ulverston	29	1	1	5	Blundell	Ironstone, Iron, Gen, Charcoal
Raku	Ulverston	34	1	2	1	Bond	Timber, Gen, Coal
Sarah	Ulverston				1	Needham	Coal, Timber
Acorn	Barrow			1	1	Bannister, Rimmer	Coal, Timber
Eliza	Barrow				1	Taylor	Charcoal
Frederic & Betsy	Barrow	40	1			Rudd	Coal
Loftus	Barrow	71		1		Butcher	Timber
Mary Ann	Barrow			1		Iddon	Coal
Monas Isle	Barrow			1	1	Fairclough, Iddon	Timber
Sushannah	Barrow			1		Crewsden	Coal
Turner	Barrow			1		Rimmer	Timber
Francess	Fleetwood	28	2			Gravel	Coal, Gen
Richard	Fleetwood	29	3	2	4	Roskell	Coal, Gen
William	Fleetwood						
Alice	Preston	30	18	14	12	Johnson, Milless, Dandy	Coal, Gen
Ann & Catherine	Preston				1	Johnson, Rawlinson	Coal
Ant	Preston	37	14	14	16	Iddon, Johnson	Coal, Gen, Iron
Arrow	Preston	30	4	5	11	Taylor, Ball	Coal, Gen, Powder
Bee	Preston	35	2		1	Iddon	Coal, Gen
Button	Preston	30	1		1	Blundell, Fairclough	Coal or Bullow
Catherine	Preston			1		Ball	Coal
Chance	Preston	46	1			Bamber	Coal
Dee	Preston	30	2	4	14	Hilton, Rimmer	Coal, Gen
Diamond	Preston	33	2	2	1	Fairclough	Coal
Elenor	Preston				5	Johnson	Coal, Timber, Gen
Elephant	Preston				3	Bamber, Miller	Coal, Timber, Gen
Elizabeth	Preston			1	3	Coulton	Coal, Gen

Ellen	Preston				1	Iddon	Coal, Gen
Emma	Preston	29	10	11	13	Gore, Bannister	Coal, Gen
Emerald	Preston	36			6	Fairclough	Coal
Harriet & Eliza	Preston				1	Iddon	Coal
Hesketh	Preston				1	Taylor	Timber
Hope	Preston	40		1	2	Fairclough	Coal
Jane	Preston	32	2	1	9	Gore	Coal, Gen
John	Preston	33			4	Hoscar	Coal
John Bull	Preston	28	3			Edmunson	Coal, Sank
Magnet	Preston	34	1			Fairclough	Coal
Martha	Preston	45	1	6	7	Miller, Gore	Coal, Gen, Timber
Mary Jane	Preston	39		2	2	Fairclough, Rimmer	Coal
Monas Isle	Preston	36	2	1		Iddon	Timber
Prince of Wales	Preston	39	1			Roskell	Coal
Ruby	Preston	32	13	13	11	Fairclough, Wignall	Coal, Timber, Gen
Sarah	Preston	34	6	4	2	Parkinson, Gore	Coal, Gen
Sir R Peel	Preston	37		7	7	Edmunson	Coal
Turner	Preston				1	Wright	Coal
Victory	Preston	29	4			Forshaw, Needham, Dawson	Coal, Gen
William	Preston	30	10	5		Rawlinson, Johnson	Coal, Gen, Timber
Dee Bank	Chester			1			Charcoal
Arthur	Liverpool			1		Anderson	Coal
Caldwell	Liverpool			1			Coal
Elizabeth	Liverpool	61	1			Brogbank	General
Ida	Liverpool						
James	Liverpool	59	2	2	3	Whinney	Timber, Gen, Powder, Coal
New Thomas	Liverpool	47	3	5	6	Starkie	General
Parkins	Liverpool			1			Coal
Tickler	Liverpool	42	2			Brogbank	Timber
Victoria	Liverpool	52	7	6	5	Storey, Dobson	General, Coal, Powder
William	Liverpool	42	10	11	8	McLester	General, Coal
Glenkeas	Gatehouse			1		Ledbetter	Coal
Dianes	London	60	3			Bannister	Timber
TOTAL			135	134	176		
TOTAL			135	134	176		

## Ulverston Canal Register of arrivals and departures of vessels

Arrived	Sailed	Vessel	Of	Tons, Reg.	Inwards	From	Outwards	To	Berth
12/04/1862	18/04/1862	Bee	Ulverston	53	General	Illegible	Iron Ore & General	Glasgow	
15/04/1862	16/04/1862	Eliza	Barrow	53	Bobbinwood	Gatehouse	Iron Ore	Elsmere	
13/05/1862	24/05/1862	Bee	Ulverston	53	Iron & Gen?	Illegible	Iron Ore & General	Glasgow	
13/05/1862	16/05/1862	Melfort	Ulverston	36	Iron & Gen?	Illegible	Iron Ore & General	Liverpool	
15/05/1862	18/05/1862	Newland	Ulverston	28	Iron	Illegible	Iron & Iron Ore	Liverpool	
03/06/1862	09/06/1862	Eliza	Barrow	53	Charcoal	Weston	Iron	Barrow	
18/06/1862	01/07/1862	Bee	Ulverston	53	Wheat	Morcambe	Ore & Powder	Glasgow	
17/06/1862	28/06/1862	Newland	Ulverston	28	General	Liverpool	Iron Ore	Elsmere	
30/06/1862	04/07/1862	Lindalmoor	Ulverston	87	Charcoal	Saltney	Light	Barrow	
06/07/1862	07/07/1863	Newland	Ulverston	28	Iron Stone	Harrington	Light	Barrow	
23/07/1862	29/07/1862	Eliza	Ulverston	53	Timber	Palnure	Iron Ore	Elsmere	
25/07/1862	01/08/1862	Gilbrow	Ulverston	87	Charcoal	Ayr	Iron Ore	Elsmere	
26/07/1862	08/08/1862	Bee	Ulverston	53	Iron & Coal	Glasgow	Ore & Powder	Glasgow	
09/08/1862	14/08/1862	Eliza	Barrow	53	Charcoal	Gatehouse	Iron Ore	Elsmere	
28/08/1862	10/09/1862	Bee	Ulverston	53	Coal & Iron	Glasgow	Gen & Ore	Glasgow	
26/09/1862	09/10/1862	Bee	Ulverston	53	Light	Morcambe	Ore &	Glasgow	

							Powder		
10/10/1862	15/10/1862	Eliza	Barrow	53	Charcoal	Palnure	Light	Barrow	
23/11/1862	08/12/1862	Lindal Moor	Ulverston	87	Charcoal	Ayr	Iron Ore	Elsmere	
23/11/1862	08/12/1862	Bee	Ulverston	53	General	Woodend	Gen & Ore	Glasgow	
03/01/1863	09/01/1863	Lindal Moor	Ulverston	87	Coal	Woodend	Iron Ore	Saltney	
08/02/1863	19/02/1863	Bee	Ulverston	53	Iron	Lancaster	Ore & Powder	Glasgow	
23/02/1863	25/02/1863	Newland	Ulverston	28	Brick	Maryport	Light	Barrow	
16/03/1863	19/03/1863	Whitriggs	Ulverston	87	Light	Barrow	Iron Ore	Saltney	
16/03/1863	18/03/1863	Gilbrow	Ulverston	87	Light	Barrow	Iron Ore	Saltney	
20/03/1863	03/04/1863	Bee	Ulverston	53	Iron	Glasson Dock	Ore & Powder	Glasgow	
01/05/1863	05/05/1863	Bee	Ulverston	53	General	Glasson Dock	Iron Ore	Elsmere	
16/05/1863	19/05/1863	Newland	Ulverston	28	Coal	Woodend	Light	Barrow	
02/06/1863	06/06/1863	Newland	Ulverston	28	Coal	Preston	Iron Ore	Elsmere	
01/07/1863	04/07/1863	Bee	Ulverston	53	Light	Morcambe	Iron Ore & Powder	Glasgow	
10/09/1863	16/09/1863	Whitriggs	Ulverston	87	Charcoal & Timber	Gatehouse	Iron Ore	Elsmere	
12/09/1863	17/09/1863	Newland	Ulverston	29	Iron Stone	Harrington	Iron Ore	Elsmere	
30/09/1863	12/10/1863	Bee	Ulverston	53	Balast	Elsmere	Iron Ore & Powder	Glasgow	
30/10/1863	10/11/1863	Gilbrow	Ulverston	87	General	Gatehouse	Iron Ore	Garstang	
13/11/1863	20/11/1863	Bee	Ulverston	53	Iron	Barrow	Light	Barrow	
25/11/1863	29/11/1863	Gilbrow	Ulverston	87	Charcoal	Runcorn	Light	Barrow	
23/12/1863	31/12/1863	Bee	Ulverston	53	Coal & Bots	Wordend	Light	Barrow	
11/01/1864	25/01/1864	Bee	Ulverston	53	Light	Garston	Iron Ore & Powder & General	Glasgow	
06/03/1864	12/03/1864	Bee	Ulverston	53	Coal	Morcambe	Rods	Whitehaven	
20/03/1864	24/03/1864	Eliza	Barrow	53	Charcoal	Prosiveth?	Iron Ore	Elsmere	
18/04/1864	20/04/1864	Newland	Ulverston	29	Iron Stone	Harrington	Light	Barrow	
01/06/1864	06/06/1864	Bee	Ulverston	53	Light	Morcambe	Powder & Iron Ore	Glasgow	
25/06/1864	07/07/1864	Bee	Ulverston	52	General	Glasgow	Powder	Carnarvon	
17/07/1864	24/07/1864	Bee	Ulverston	52	Light	Cranacora	Iron Ore & Powder	Glasgow	
09/08/1864	11/08/1864	Newland	Ulverston	20	Ironstone	Maryport	Light	Barrow	
08/08/1864	17/08/1864	Eliza	Barrow	53	Timber & Charcoal	Gatehouse	Iron Ore & 1.5 ton Rope	Liverpool	
23/08/1864	26/08/1864	Lindal Moor	Ulverston	87	Timber & Charcoal	Gatehouse	Light	Barrow	
26/08/1864	31/08/1864	Bee	Ulverston	52	Iron	Chester	Light	Barrow	
03/10/1864	05/10/1864	Newland	Ulverston	29	Light	Greenodd	Iron Ore	Dillon Brook	
04/03/1865	11/03/1865	Eliza	Barrow		Light	Greenodd	Iron Ore	Elsmere	
08/03/1865	14/03/1865	Newland	Ulverston	29	Brick & Ironstone	Maryport	Iron Ore	Elsmere	
04/07/1865	08/07/1865	Eliza	Barrow		Charcoal	Runcorn	Light	Barrow	
05/07/1865	24/07/1865	Richard Roper	Ulverston		Porter	Dublin	Light	Duddon	
20/09/1865	25/09/1865	Newland	Ulverston	28	Iron stone & Brick	Maryport	Iron Ore	Dillon Brook	
24/02/1865	02/03/1865	Mary & May	Barrow	97	Ballast	Liverpool	iron	Barrow	
26/03/1865	01/04/1865	Bee	Ulverston	53	Iron	Glasgow	Light	Duddon	
15/12/1865	19/12/1865	Newland	Ulverston	29	Ironstone	Maryport	Light	Barrow	
05/01/1866	22/01/1866	Lorn	Ulverston		Ballast	Liverpool	Iron	Barrow	
26/01/1866	12/02/1866	Lindal Moor	Ulverston	87	Charcoal	Runcorn	Iron Ore	Saltney	
02/03/1866	18/03/1866	Eliza	Barrow		Guano & Bones	Liverpool	Iron Ore	Saltney	
01/05/1866	03/05/1866	Eliza	Barrow		Charcoal	Gatehouse	Light	Barrow	
25/08/1866	20/09/1866	Bee	Ulverston		General	Liverpool	Iron Ore & Powder	Glasgow	
08/10/1866	10/10/1866	Gilbrow	Ulverston	87	Light	Liverpool	Iron Ore	Saltney	

29/10/1866	09/11/1866	Gilbrow	Ulverston	89	Light	Barrow	Iron Ore	Saltney	
12/11/1866	21/11/1866	Lindal Moor	Ulverston	87	Light	Douglas	Iron Ore	Liverpool	
13/12/1866	09/01/1867	Lindal Moor	Ulverston	87	Light	Barrow	Iron Ore	Saltney	
05/05/1867	07/05/1867	Newland	Ulverston		Stone	Maryport	Light	Barrow	
07/06/1867	10/06/1867	Whitriggs	Ulverston	87	Charcoal	Runcorn	Light	Barrow	
16/06/1867		Newland	Ulverston		Ironstone	Harrington			
21/02/1868	23/02/1868	Newland	Ulverston	28	Coals	Preston	Light	Barrow	
25/03/1869	28/03/1869	Newland	Ulverston	29	Charcoal	Runcorn	Light	Barrow	
27/04/1869	30/04/1869	Newland	Ulverston	28	Charcoal	Runcorn	Light	Barrow	
20/06/1869	25/06/1869	Newland	Ulverston	28	Charcoal	Runcorn	Light	Barrow	
27/09/1869	02/10/1869	Newland	Ulverston	28	Charcoal	Liverpool	Light	Barrow	
19/06/1870	29/06/1870	Lorn	Ulverston	88	Ballast	Liverpool	Iron	Onfluer	
23/10/1872	03/11/1872	Lindal Moor	Barrow	76	Charcoal	Gatehouse	Light	Duddon	
20/07/1875	26/07/1875	Whitridgs	Ulverston	77	Coals 140ton	Ardrossan	Light	Duddon	
13/11/1875	23/11/1875	Bee	Ulverston	43	Coles & Iron	Chester	Light	Barrow	
29/12/1876	02/01/1877	Bee	Ulverston	42	Manure	Liverpool	Pig Iron	Liverpool	
09/06/1877	05/07/1877	Bee	Ulverston	42	Sand	Liverpool	Light on the beach for repairs		
19/10/1877	25/10/1877	Whitriggs	Barrow	77	Sand	Fleetwood	Light	Fleetwood	
01/11/1877	17/11/1877	Whitriggs	Barrow	77	Sand	Fleetwood	Light	Fleetwood	
26/11/1877	03/12/1877	Whitriggs	Barrow	77	Sand	Fleetwood	Light	Fleetwood	
06/12/1877	15/12/1877	Whitriggs	Barrow	77	Sand	Fleetwood	Light	Fleetwood	
22/12/1877	01/01/1878	Whitriggs	Barrow	77	Sand	Fleetwood	Light	Fleetwood	
11/01/1878	17/01/1878	Whitriggs	Barrow	77	Sand	Fleetwood	Light	Fleetwood	
24/01/1878	29/01/1878	Whitriggs	Barrow	77	Sand	Fleetwood	Light	Fleetwood	
05/02/1878	11/02/1878	Whitriggs	Barrow	77	Sand	Fleetwood	Light	Fleetwood	
19/02/1878	26/02/1878	Whitriggs	Barrow	77	Sand	Fleetwood	Light	Barrow	
28/04/1878	11/05/1878	Lorn	Barrow	79	Charcol	Bonawe	Light	Priority	
10/12/1878	21/12/1878	Warsah	Barrow	67	Iron Ore	Red Bay	Iron	Port Talbot	
09/01/1879	23/01/1879	Lorn	Barrow	79	Ore	Bonawe	Iron	St Valara	
19/01/1880	07/02/1880	Lindal Moor	Barrow	77	Iron Ore	Belfast	Iron	Liverpool	
08/02/1880	12/02/1880	Lorn	Barrow	79	Coals	Swansea	Iron	Barrow	
09/09/1880	19/09/1880	Warsah	Barrow	67	Ore	Larn	Iron	Liverpool	
03/12/1880		Warsah	Barrow	67	Ore	Belfast	Iron	France	
03/02/1881	14/02/1881	Lorn	Barrow	79	Ore	Larn	Iron	France	
03/02/1881	16/02/1881	Bee	Ulverston	43	Ore	Liverpool	Pitch	Cardiff	
03/03/1881		Jane Roper	Barrow	93	Tar	London			
03/06/1881	12/06/1881	Warsah	Barrow	67	Light	Fleetwood	Iron	Liverpool	
20/06/1881	23/06/1881	Warsah	Barrow	67	Light	Liverpool	Iron	Liverpool	
11/07/1881	14/07/1881	Lorn	Barrow	49	Ore	Larn	Iron	Liverpool	
25/07/1881	30/07/1881	Warsah	Barrow	67	Ore	Larn	Iron	Liverpool	
06/09/1881	12/09/1881	Warsah	Ulverston	67	Ore	Belfast	Light	New Pier	
08/11/1881	18/11/1881	Lorn	Barrow	79	Ore	Belfast	Light	Barrow	
18/02/1882	22/02/1882	Lorn	Barrow	79	Ore	Belfast	Iron	Liverpool	
01/06/1882	07/06/1882	Lorn	Barrow	79	Ore	Belfast	Iron	Swansea	
15/12/1882	23/12/1882	Lorn	Barrow	79	Ore	Larn	Iron	Swansea	
12/07/1885	14/07/1885	Warsah	Barrow	67	Coals	Liverpool	Iron	France	
15/03/1887	16/03/1887	Warsah	Barrow	67	Coles	Chester	Iron	Liverpool	New Pear
28/07/1887	31/07/1887	Warsah	Barrow	67	Bricks	Chester	Iron	Liverpool	New Pear
04/09/1887	08/09/1887	Whitriggs	Barrow	77	Light	Barrow	Powder	Liverpool	Canal
22/10/1887	28/10/1887	Lorn	Barrow	69	Whitning	London	Light	New Pier	Canal
20/07/1888	26/07/1888	Warsash	Barrow	67	Ore	Liverpool	Iron	France	New Pier
04/11/1888	09/11/1888	Warsash	Barrow	67	Ore	Larn	Iron	Liverpool	New Pear
22/12/1888	03/01/1889	Wittriges	Barrow	77	Tar	Chester	Iron	Liverpool	New Pear
01/05/1890	02/05/1890	Whitrigges	Barrow	77	Tar	Chester	Light	Chester	New Pear
13/05/1890	16/05/1890	Whitrigges	Barrow	77	Tar	Chester	Light	Chester	New Pear
08/06/1890	13/06/1890	Whitrigges	Barrow	77	Tar	Chester	Light	Chester	New Pear
27/06/1890	02/07/1890	Whitrigges	Barrow	77	Tar	Chester	Light	Barrow	New Pear
26/06/1892	29/06/1892	Tom Roper	Barrow	99	Light	Fleetwood	Iron	Treaport	New Pear
06/07/1893	07/07/1893	Warsah	Barrow	67	Light	Morcamb	Iron	France	New Pear

When these records begin, the railway had taken the traffic from Ulverston. Slate and copper ore now went by rail. Exports of ore to the Mersey and Dee were a fraction of what they had been. Soon, the only cargoes outwards would be turnips and brooms. Captain Blundell hit back unintentionally. On the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1864, sailing light from Greenodd to the canal, the Newland struck the Leven viaduct, breaking five columns.

There are only about a dozen foreign voyages in the harbour records, but this short extract includes 8 voyages to France. Some of these shipments would be for Mr. Ellis, who made cutlery at Honfleur.

The North Lonsdale Ironworks opened in 1877. Soon after, the Lorn was bringing ore and charcoal back from Bonawe. Other vessels were bringing ore from Warsash. I take this as evidence of Harrison Ainslie closing their outlying furnaces as a result of ploughing all their spare cash into the North Lonsdale Ironworks. The Priory referred to is Connishead Priory, where the gunpowder was loaded. Bones and manure were destined for the bone mill, which still stands by the canal. The rods carried in the Bee would be basket rods, perhaps for making corves for the coal mines.

The North Lonsdale Ironworks used large quantities of moulding sand, most of which came from Fleetwood. The Whitriggs was reduced to this trade for a period. The cargoes of iron to Liverpool or Bristol Channel, and ore from Northern Ireland are typical of the North Lonsdale Ironworks traffic, but most of it was now carried in steamships. The tar carried in the Whitriggs would be for Samuel Alexander Saddler's tar distillery at Sandside, following the loss of his schooner, "John & William".

The Gillbrow and Lindal Moor were sold to Ashcrofts, shipbuilders and owners in 1874. Their registry at Barrow was closed in 1922. The Newland was sold to Newry owners in 1876.

The Whitriggs was also sold to James Ashcroft in 1874, but James Geldart, Harrison Ainslie's shipping agent, bought 32 shares in 1880.

The Mary & May was owned by James Geldart in 1872, when she was wrecked off Milford Haven, carrying iron from Barrow to Llanelli. The crew were rescued and the iron salvaged.

The Melfort was sold in 1875, and wrecked in 1881.

When Tom Roper died in 1876, his 64 shares in the Lorn were bought by Aymar Ainslie. She was wrecked on the Isle of Man, without loss of life, in

1890. Her cargo and gear were auctioned by the receiver of wrecks. In his note to the register of shipping, James Geldart names himself as broker, and Harrison Ainslie & Co. as owners.

The Jane Roper was owned by James Geldart when she foundered off the Frisian Islands in 1886.

The Tom Roper was sold by James Geldart in 1895, and sailed until 1917, when she was sunk by submarine off Cherbourg.

James Geldart held two shares in the Warsash from new. In 1890, he bought the remaining 62 shares. In 1914 she was owned by J Carswell & Sons of Dalbeattie and burnt out in a disastrous fire in Glasgow docks.

The Bee was sold to Bridgewater owners in 1898. The Richard Roper, Eliza Bond and Eliza simply vanish from the records.

#### References:

Ulverston and Greenodd harbour records, 1862 - 77 from PRO, Kew, RAIL 880/7 & 8  
 Ulverston harbour records, 1877 - 1946 from Ulverston Heritage Centre.  
 Barrow and Lancaster ship registers from CRO, Barrow.  
 Some Ulverston Records, James Park  
 J Helme and J Marshall for information on firebricks.

Pete Sandbach

#### BOOK REVIEW

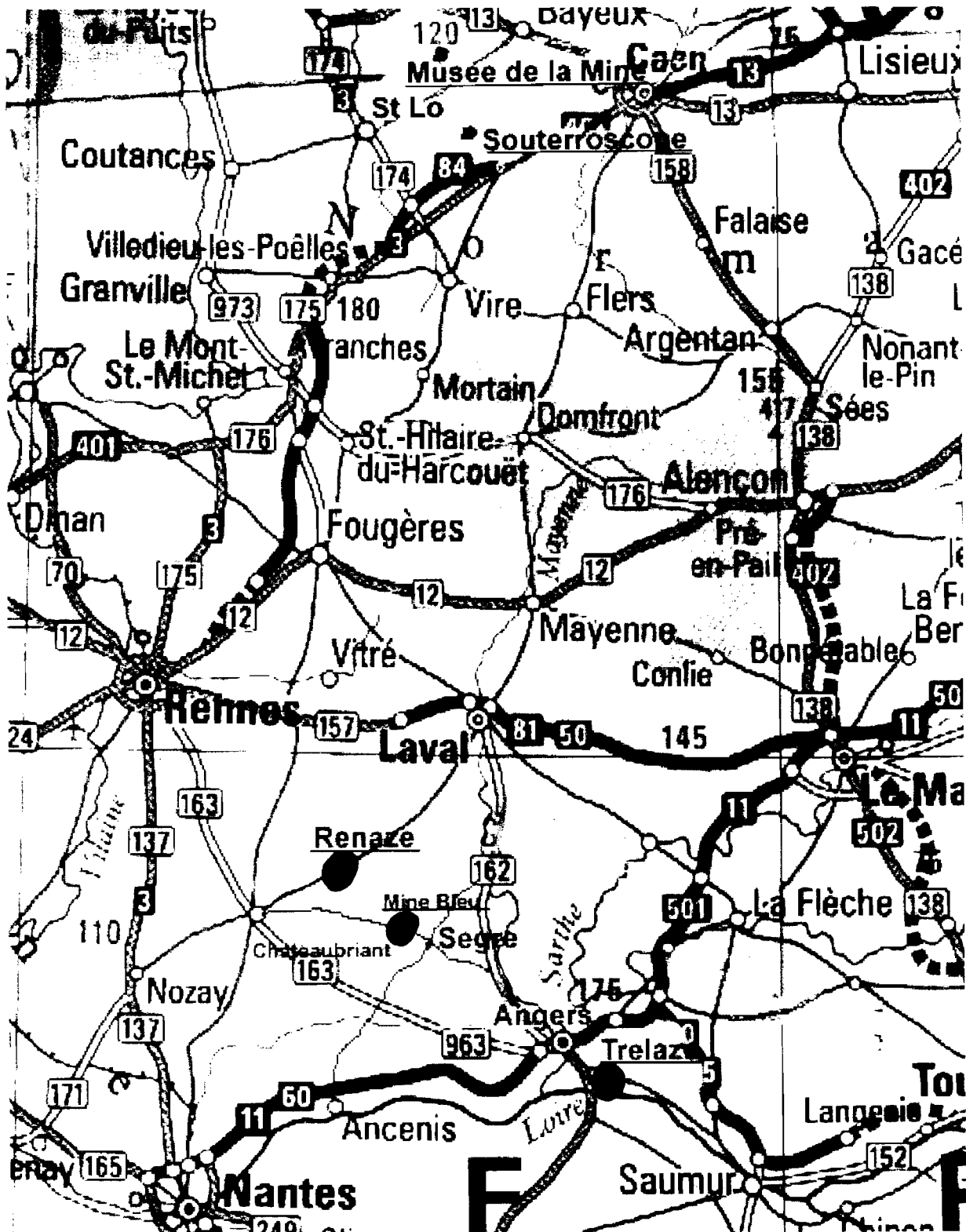
The Ashburner Schooners, by Tim Latham  
 Ready Rhino Publications, 1991

At first sight, £15.95 for 136 pages indicates a book to borrow rather than to buy, but what this volume lacks in weight is made up for in depth of research and quality of illustrations. The establishment and operation of Ashburner's shipyard at Hindpool is the main subject of the book. The working life of their sailing ships is recorded, and other local ship owners and builders are covered. These vessels were built for the Furness iron ore trade and were owned by Ironmasters or their agents. Names such as James Fisher (Shipping agent to the Barrow Haematite Co.), the Duddon Shipping Association (Agents to the Millom & Askham Co.) and James Geldart, who represented Harrison Ainslie, will be relevant to anyone interested in the iron industry. In addition to its relevance to local history, I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a good read.

Pete Sandbach

**DIVERSIONS IN FRANCE**

Now that the new year is here and the festivities are over, now is the time to think of summer holidays, and some of you may be thinking of France. Do not despair, there may be much sunshine, good food and drink, but if you look there are things much more interesting like mines!!



Last summer I crossed 'The Sleeve' several times, once was the middle of July (55 years after the D Day Landings), the next, a month later, was a Loire Chateaux bash.

The first occasion being centered around Caen, mines did not look much in evidence. I had expected to find stone mines, as Caen stone has a long history, no luck so far. Any way, extensive reading through tourist literature finally unearthed a thing called the Souterroscope some twenty miles SW of Caen .

A pleasant little site good parking café etc, the shop containing mineral specimens and some general literature, not much on mines and not much on the site I was at. Still we paid, picked up any leaflets going and with the obligatory helmet (no strap or light) made our way to the mine entrance, the nice lady putting on the English AV tape.

The entrance is at the bottom of an old slate quarry about 30-40 ft deep, with a little waiting area out side, the door being one these electric steel jobs. We waited - and waited, just the two of us.

Suddenly there is loud music (Hall of the mountain king ) and the door opens. We enter and just the first few feet of the mine adit are illuminated and the door shuts behind. The system works on the principle of just illuminating the immediate way ahead to keep people in time with any commentary. A good system but a bit strange when there are just two of you and the music etc . You are encouraged to move on as the lights go out along the way you came in, and come on ahead.

The first point of interest in a cavern on the left in-by, where you are told about underground life forms and the use prehistoric man has made of caves, and there is a nice blue illuminated lake. The next feature is another working that is open to the surface. Lots of loud music, and just as you reach the handrail to look at the view jets of water shoot up from the water from the flooded workings just below. It is here that you notice the strange working platforms suspended from steel hangers from the roof. Show over and you are led on to the next cavern which concentrates on the history of many underground this includes caving . mineralogy and non slate mining and quarrying. The commentary by this time is very loud, apart from that problem a good A/V presentation. This lasts about 15 mins and it is time to move on to the next cavern which is all about SLATE MINING. This chamber is very interesting with several passages going off and has a very tall spiral stairs up to grass which is the secondary means of escape. I had a head ache now and we have seen

all we wish, but the commentary goes on. It seems that you have to have the whole lot before the way ahead is illuminated and you can proceed.

This was the last of the presentations and the next thing to do is exit, and what a pleasant thing it was to leave the noise behind and return to the sunshine and quiet of the outside. It took all of half bottle of wine with bread and cheese to recover.

On reflection , as a good introduction to the underground world in all its forms, this site has much going for it, the amount of AV hardware investment has been considerable, and it works, if anything the presentations as a whole try to cover too many subjects. The volume of sound not withstanding it was interesting, one wondered if there was anything like it this side of the water.

After lunch, and further perusal of tourist literature revealed another site of mining interest just North of the Bayeux - St Lo Road , The Musee de la Mine du Molay-Littry.

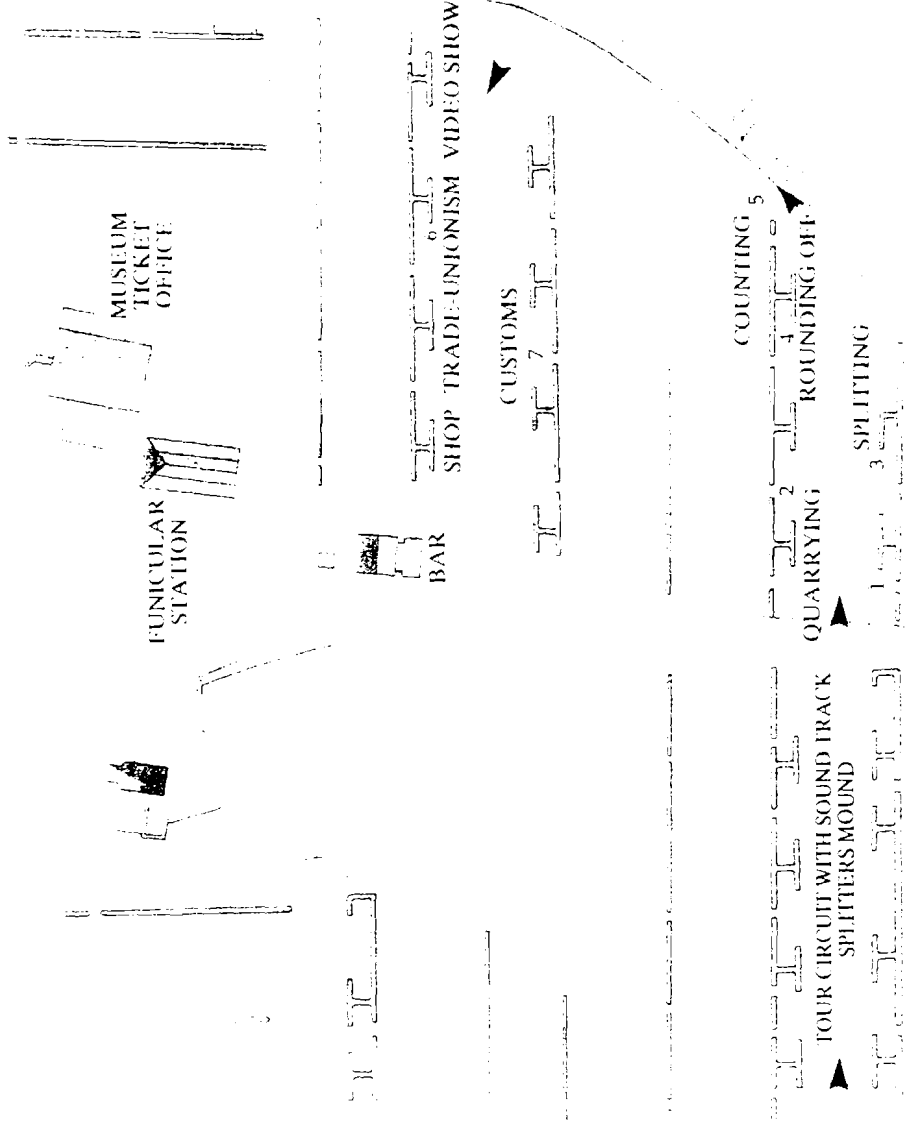
This was a bit more difficult to find as there were no pit heaps or headgear to see and it was only small direction boards that enable us to find the museum. A Place less like a mine I have yet to see, and did not look promising. However working on the principle that once you are there you might as well go and see what there is . As it turned out the site was more interesting than it looked on the outside. The inside of the museum is dominated by timberframed beam engine, with the walls around showing the history and geology of coal mining in the area. The highlight of the visit is a reconstructed coal mine working, and again it is one of these automated AV presentations. So you wait by a door which suddenly opens it is dark inside and there is nothing to tell you to enter but faith . There was only me going round this time not a soul about. Any I plucked up courage and entered, and the show began. What was revealed was a mine working in which over its length was displayed the different methods of coal mining, from small timber propped workings and sledge trimming up to 'modern' mechanised equipment.

Very interesting, with a useful commentary as well. It has to be said that you should have some knowledge of mining and be able to make a good fist at understanding French to get the most out of the visit.

The Chateaux de la Loire - My second excursion took in the slate area around Angers.

Based on our principle of travelling in France of many small distances instead of going from A-B in one go. We overnighed in Portsmouth (being ripped off in the process at the place we stayed)

# THE BLUE MINE



Roofing slate brought about the development of a famed and flourishing industry in Anjou. The gradual withering of its use threatens to cause the disappearance of its heritage and knowledge.

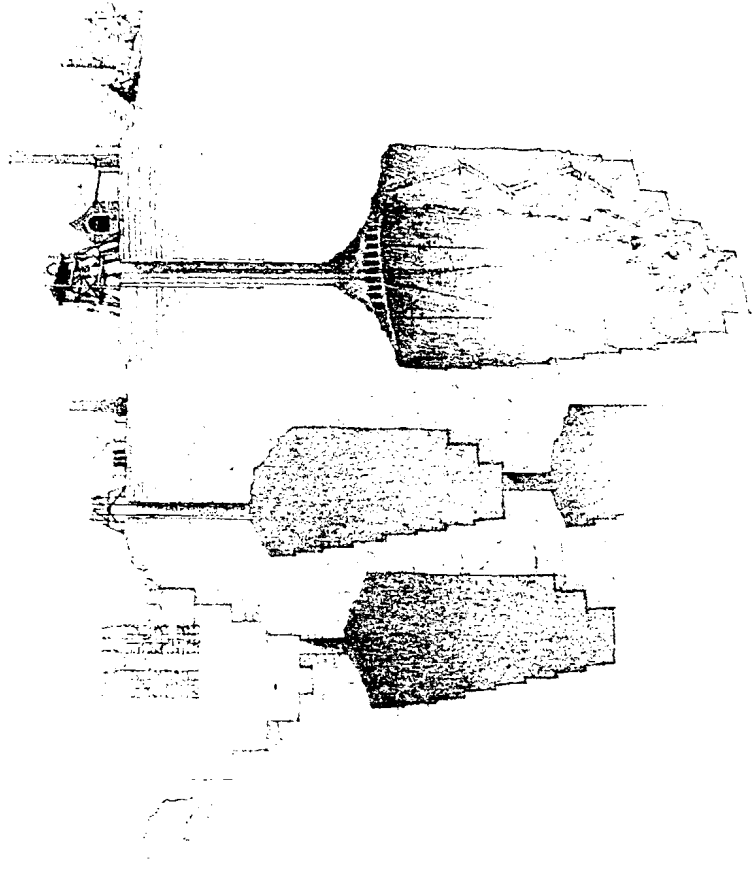
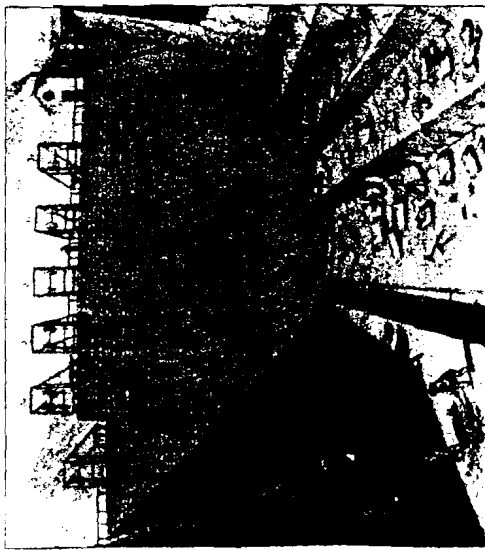
Thus the town of Noyant-la-Gravoyère has decided to rehabilitate a mine abandoned since 1936, and open it to tourists.

Unique in France, the setting up of a tour circuit 40 feet underground is the main attraction, with a fantastic "son et lumière" show.





# FROM THE QUARRY TO THE BOTTLE-PIT



In the 16th century, the slate was brought to the surface by hand. The stone was delivered to the workers above, the splitters. Later, machines powered by horses replaced the hod-carriers. At the bottom of the quarry, the banks form terraces.

The bottle-pits of the late nineteenth century are true underground quarries. When worked-out, these sides of these pits could be over 300 feet in height.

and took the first ferry to Caen, camping the following evening at Falaise (The birthplace of Guillaume le Conquerant, or better known the English as William the Bastard). In order to take in the slate area near Angers we headed across country to the River Mayenne, and south to Laval finding a small campsite halfway to Angers. Be warned if you do not like heat midday is somewhat warm.

The following day we went the local Syndicate d'Initiatif at Chateau Gontier (A town on the Mayenne) which was very helpful, (They were on the WWW and could have spoken English) The publicity stuff on mining was limited and what there was on our first port of call, Renaze, was not helpful about its location. Lunch was had at a Sanctuary for rejected wild animals that had been acquired as pets, the site of some of these poor beasts made one wonder about people. Two things stuck in my memory, beautiful birds swimming in bright green water, and fornicating monkeys (One frustrated monkey and a pack of baboons). The afternoon was spent in more uplifting exploration, we managed to find Renaze, French slate mines sometimes not being very obvious.

Renaze is a slate mine worked by shaft, though I think in the early days certain working was carried out in shallow quarries. The site description is best seen by the attached photos.

The site is well worth a visit, and typifies slate extraction, the museum being especially interesting. One thing I noticed was a book on slate sizing, French slates were just of one or two standard dimensions whilst the 'English' were as we know them here have many differing sizes. A look on slate roofs there will show you what I mean. Once again a knowledge of French and slate mining will help you considerably as it appears not many English have been there.

After several hours and in the interests of domestic harmony, the visit had to be terminated and we made our way to the Mine Bleu near Segre.

This site is very much more commercialised than the above and a lot less interesting on the surface, there being underground trips, a la Llechwedd. This mine is just one of a number in this area, the last one having just closed. (Due to Spanish Competition).

La Mine Bleu is situated amongst trees and has exhibitions on converting 'clog' into slates. The differences between the style of working shown and British riving methods are interesting, though I saw no mechanised trimming here. The Shop has multilingual literature and the usual touristy merchandise. The site is more 'family' friendly.

The next day saw us move down to the Loire with the aim of heading for Blois, via Angers taking in on route one of the most extensive slate mining areas that I have yet seen in France.

Trelaze. This area of slate mines is considerable, you do not have an appreciation of the scale due to the low elevation of the countryside. Many mines have closed but several are still in production. (The only other one I know is Moel-Cahaix in Brittany). This slate mine area is advertised on the WWW. ([multimania.com/trelaze](http://multimania.com/trelaze)). Directions to the museum of slate are minimal and when you are there the word 'museum' appears a gross overstatement, although there is slate all around you, photographs and books are for sale.

The area looks very interesting to explore, and I only had a couple of hours. The workings as usual seem to be only accessible by vertical shaft, though there are numerous tips and small quarries. It may be worth while seeing if we (CATMHS) can obtain an intro to the local slate producers from someone in the slate industry in this country.

Time was pressing and we had to leave the slate behind (pity), our next campsite near Blois was many miles away. Still all was not doom and gloom, there were other underground sites to visit in the days to follow, (if you are not into magnificent chateaux)

This being the Touraine there are Caves, as in wine tasting, and stone mines. I have to admit that we did not indulge, it not seeming right to go underground to have a drink, (if you believe that, well.), but a stone mine was found, a relief from the heat, more than any other reason.

This visit was a very ad hoc affair. We arrived just as the main party set off. no hard hats and two lights between the whole lot. Have you ever been at the tail end of a group that is always in front and you are running to catch up, and they had the lights, amusing it was - afterwards. Anyway we did catch up and found some interesting chamber carved as a village street. The tour then proceeded around some side passages showing how the stone was worked, at least I had to work it out for myself, the guide talking so fast that even my other half had difficulty in making out what was going on. I noticed many interesting side passages and wondered if there was anything in the area on the scale of Box Stone Mines.

The tour was soon over and it was back to the heat of the outside world. The visit was interesting but not worth repeating.

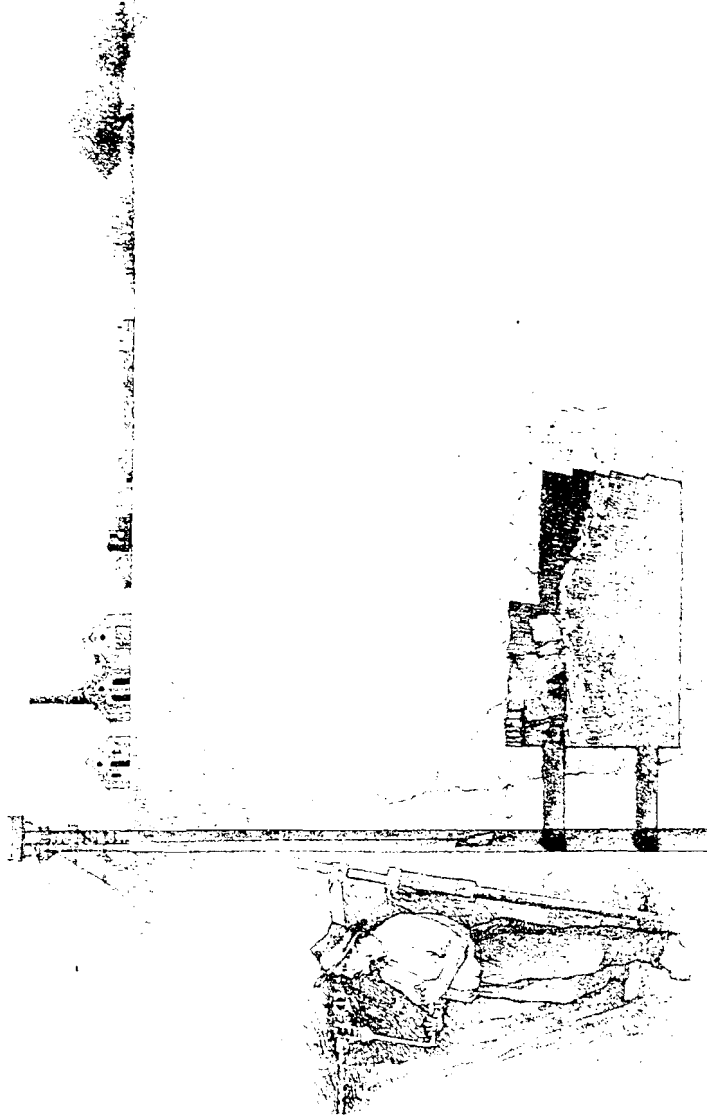
# THE MINE



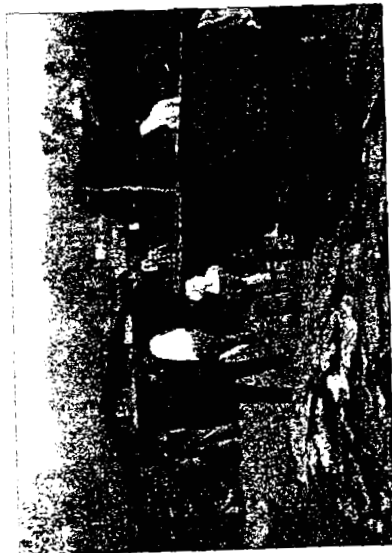
At the beginning of the century, miners used explosives.

Lifts improved safety and production.

Powerful extraction machinery coupled to metallic pit-head gear service the pits to a depth of over a thousand feet, lifting 4 or 5 ton pieces of schist which were then transported by rail.



# THE MEN ABOVE GROUND



A faithful reproduction of two rows of sheds contains tools and machinery needed to manufacture roofing slate.

By means of a sound track, we can discover the slate splitter's trade and the talk of the slate-men at work.

# THE LIVING PAST

At the end of their apprenticeship, the young men became splitters after receiving their leggings. The leggings were rags tied around the calves to protect the legs from slate splinters.

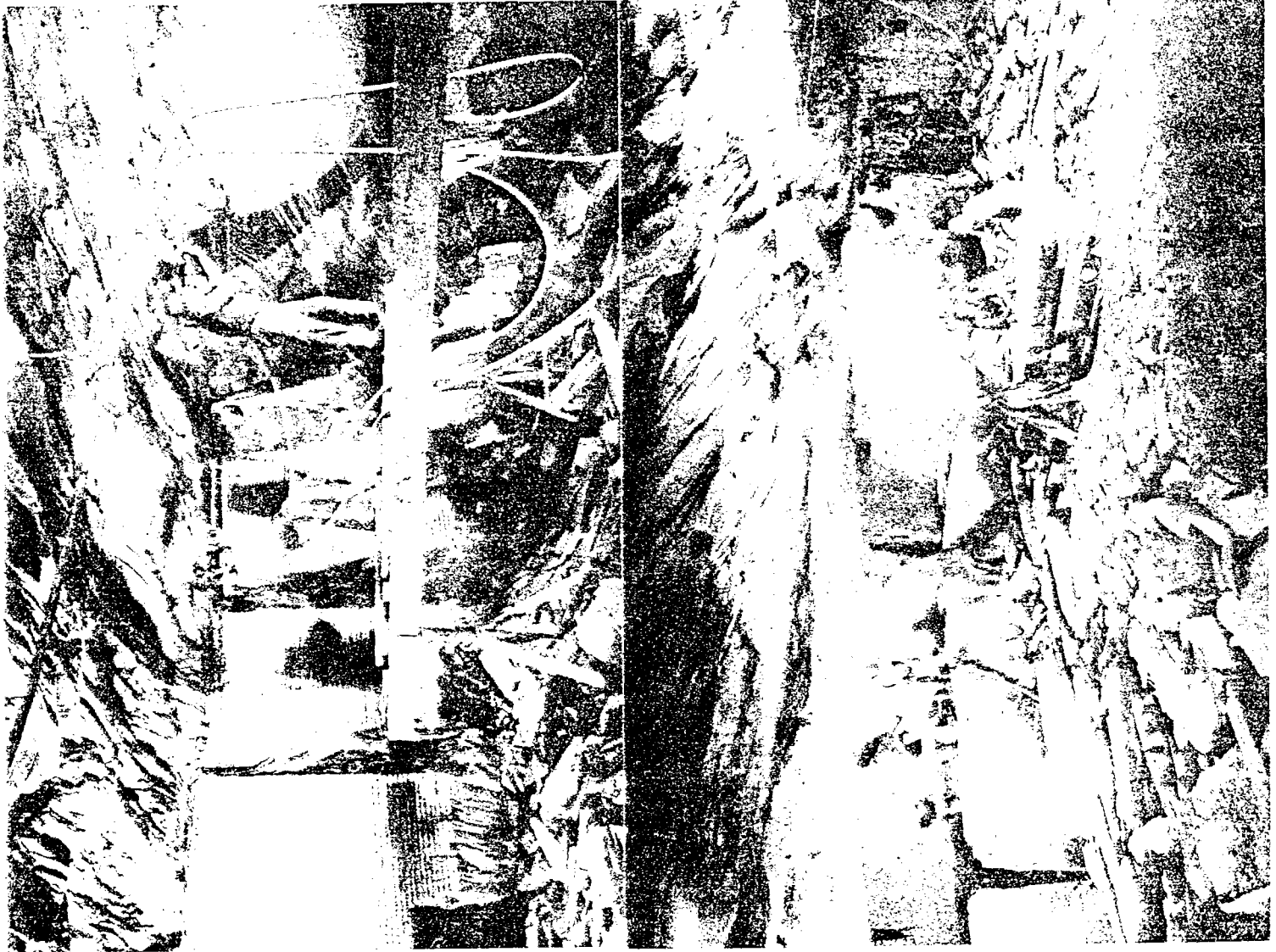


*"He gets his leggings on the very day he starts, at twelve years old. He is given a god-father and a god-mother... he has to make his leggings. It was always with old rags, we spread them on the ground. The boss would say : "Sort yourself out. You're going to make yourself some leggings."*

*The strings were tied cross-wise. Some people made leggings right up to their knees, while some leggings hung down to the shoes. Sometimes somebody would say "he doesn't do it too badly". Then they would give him his chapter name..."*



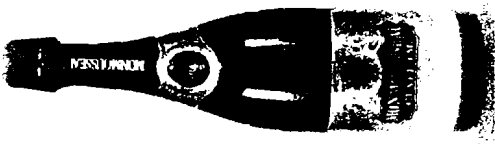
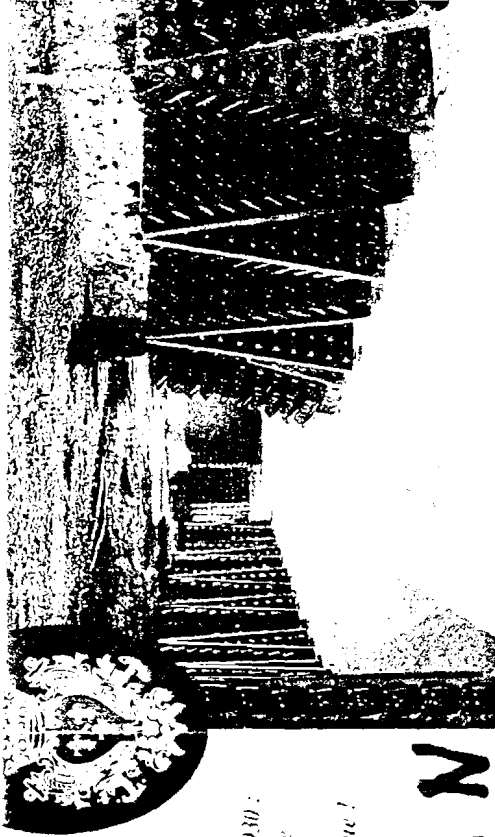




# CAVES MONMOUSSEAU

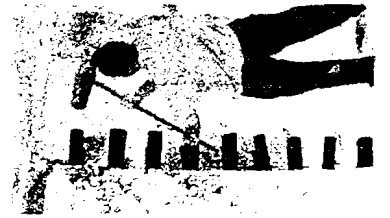
*L'histoire d'une entreprise où la tradition commence par l'audace ! 1886 : Alcide Monmousseau implante ses caves à vins dans l'une des plus belles carrières de la région. 1930 : La méthode de Dom Perignon fait son entrée dans les caves, expérience alors unique en Touraine. Aujourd'hui la tradition se perpétue !*

# LE VIN



# CARRIÈRE DE TUFFEAU

*Pendant plusieurs siècles, quelques centaines de "Carrières" ont contribué à l'économie de l'économie du Tuffeau. Une pierre solide, résistante à la compression. Le Châteaillon de la Loire. Aujourd'hui, les carrières de la Loire (après un développement de la pierre des champs et du béton) ont été remplacées par quelques carrières de*





# THE SLATE MUSEUM



ENGLISH

RENAZE IN MAYENNE

Renazé has been the centre of the Mayenne slate industry since the late Middle-Ages, when exploitation of opencast mines first began.

It was notably during the 19th century that the most considerable developments took place in the slate industry.

The first industrial company was founded in 1843 to expand exploitation of the Laubinière site . :

Underground mining took over progressively from opencast mining.

The Lonchamp site opened in 1890, where the slate museum is located.

Slate was extracted from increasingly deeper levels, between 200 and 500 metres.

A developing town : Renazé's 400 slate workers of 1857 had increased to almost 1500 into 1920.

At the end of the war, powerful industrial equipment was installed to facilitate a more efficient extraction of the schist layers (electrification, pneumatic machinery etc...).

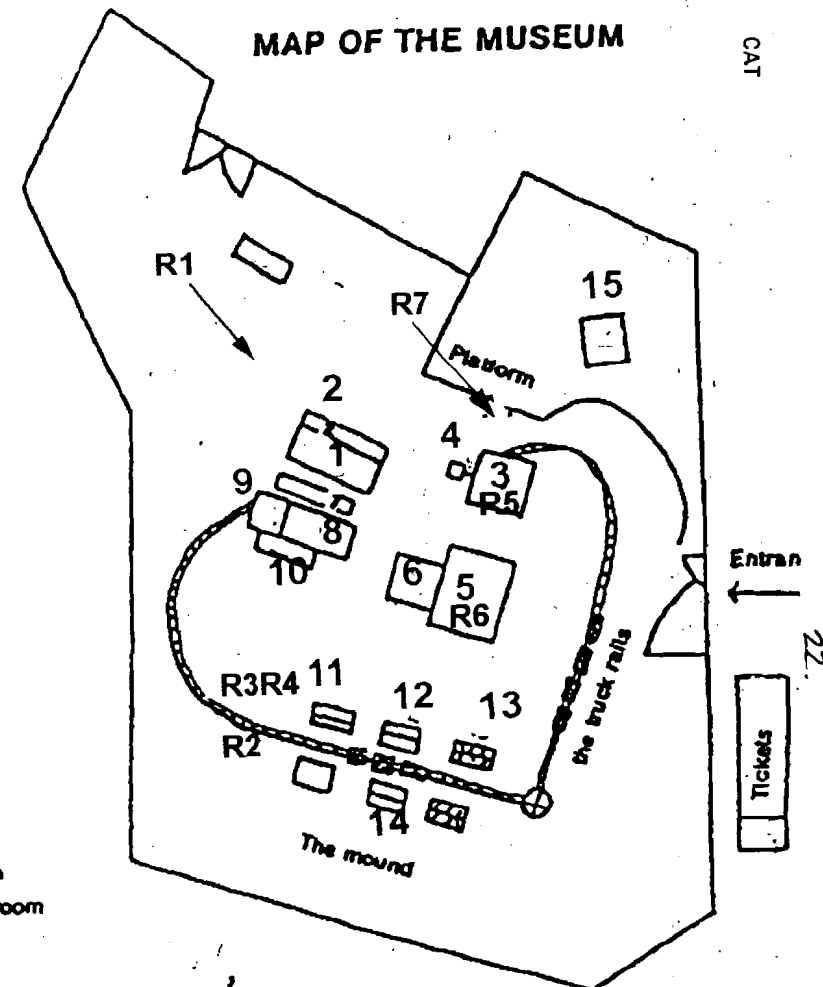
From the seventies onwards, firms started to reduce their slate exports and finally production itself declined in Renazé. The last mineshaft was closed at the end of 1975.

Since 1979, on the slate site a group, entirely formed of ex-mineworkers and friends, has taken on the task of restoring the slate works to which they were attached, in order to pass their memories to the new generations.

The slate museum hopes to give an authentic illustration of the life led by men from generation upon generation who toiled to extract the slate schist which was for so long the renown of Renazé.

But it's also the memory of a profession, that of the "Perreyeux", the local expression for slate workers.

MAP OF THE MUSEUM



## LEGEND

- 1-the slide show room
- 2-hand tools display room
- 3-the pit headframe
- 4-the lamp store
- 5-the machine room
- 6-the compressors room
- 7-the compressed air tanks
- 8-the heavy equipment room
- 9-the forge
- 10-the slate splitting area
- 11-hut made of sawn slate
- 12-hut made of raw slate
- 13-old hut covered with slates
- 14-the former office
- 15-the unloading area

### THE PIT HEADFRAME No 3

Built over an extracting pit 300m deep, (the deepest of Renazé), it supported all the mechanism for the going down to the bottom of the mine.

The pitshaft cage allowed groups of 25 miners to go up and down the mine at a time.

It weighed 2600 kilos and was hung on a cable made of steel which could support 80 tons. It was guided by four cables 30mm wide that could support 30 tons.

The going ups and downs were counter balanced by a counterweight (a cast iron block weighing 4700 kilos) and guided by two cables 30mm wide.

It was linked to the machine room by a telephone.

Outside, they winched the workers up in a sort of basket called "cuffat" when the cage couldn't work, for example after an accident.

### THE LAMP STORE No 4

The miners stocked here, all their specific equipment:

-Their safety lamp hats with portable battery .

They were all connected up with a generator which provided the recharging when not used.

-Their safety helmets, the last types used are soundproof.

-Their safety belts. They are compulsory for the works on the bridges and in the risky areas.

-Their safety boots.

### THE BOARD WITH TOKENS No 5

A number was printed on the token and it was given to each worker going down the mine.

At the end of the day, all the tokens on the board meant that no one from the bottom was missing.

### THE "CUFFAT" (The cage) No 3

It was a nacelle made of sheet steel hung thanks to rings to the cable of the winch of the pit.

When they were digging a new pit, the "cuffat" was used either to remove the earth or to let the employees go from the surface to the bottom of the mine.

### THE MACHINE ROOM No 5

All the necessary power was first supplied thanks to steam and later electricity.

The extracting machine was made by the Alsthom factories in Belfort in 1926.

It consists in two big drums 3,5m wide on which the cable that supports the pitshaft cage winds on two layers.

It's a 160 horsepower engine which runs at the speed of 1000 revs per minute under a tension of 220 volts.

Its speed is 3,5m per second when it is loaded with equipment and 2,5m per second when loaded with miners.

When used for wall safety inspections, the speed is 0,4 cm per second.

In this room are housed a compressor, an extra engine and all the mechanism which supplies the exploitation with electricity.

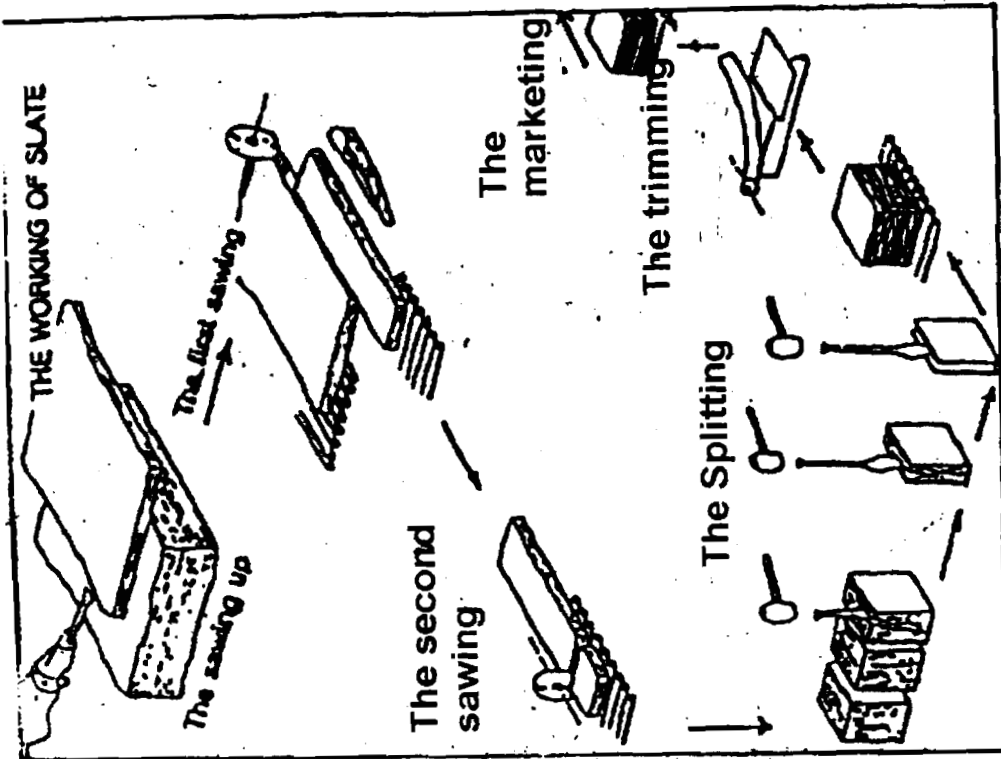
### THE COMPRESSORS ROOM No 6

The compressors supplied all the different shifts on the surface and at the bottom of the mine with compressed air.

These 45 and 75 horsepower compressors are Ingersoll Rand type.

### THE COMPRESSED AIR TANKS No 7

The compressed air supplied by the compressors next to the machine room, was stocked in these old steam boilers.



The gaiter ceremony, to remember the gaiters made of old rags used to protect the legs of the splitters, was in fact the enthronement of the apprentice as a true slate splitter and was the pretext of a big celebration.

The mechanization starts with the cutting machine invented in 1915 which allowed women, apprentices and old workers to work at a time when labour was lacking.

From now on, they can work in a standing position and no longer bent over the slates.

The present workshops are equipped with semi-automatic cutting machines with shears and pneumatic suction pads.

Since 1960 the windbreaks and huts have given way to the big workshops where all the slate splitters can work together.

### THE FORGE AND THE WORKSHOP No 8, 9, 10

The equipment and the tools used on the surface and at the bottom of the mine were handled roughly.

In this workshop, about ten mechanics and blacksmiths used to maintain and mend them.

At the bottom of the mine, another mechanical workshop was looking after the good working order of the heavy equipment: cutting machines, skips and trucks.

Nowadays, this building houses 3 exhibition rooms where machines, tools, cutting machines and excavating equipment used for schist mining can be seen.

### THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT ROOM No 8

- "Autopelle pneumatique autonome": with 2 motives, one for the lifting and one for the translation, which allowed a moving 1m5/sec.

- "Chargeuse sur rail à air comprimé": used to the digging of gallery.

- "Locotracteur diesel": used to forward the train of schist's blocks from the pit headframe to the workshops.

- "Locotracteur électrique": used in the bottom for different handlings.

- "Treuil électrique télécommandé": used for the extraction and the loading of the blocks.

- "Jumbo"

- "Aérateur"

- "Rouilleuse" for the vertical sawing

- "Haveuse" for the horizontal sawing

### THE SAWING MACHINE No 10

The blocks of schist are first sawn up with a pneumatic drill.

This machine cuts the schist in trips then in bits of the sizes required. They are called "repartons".

### THE MOUND

It's an open air workshop built on the very spot where schist is extracted.

The splitters used to work under the traditional windbreaks.

These simple shelters were covered with broom, rye straw and heather.

Later, the splitters built huts with raw slates and afterwards with sawn slates.

They used to buy their blocks of schist and sell back to their employer the slates once they had been cut the sizes needed.

There are different stages in the slate's working :

-the sawing up: this means splitting the big blocks into plates.

-the sawing: the plates are sawn first in strips then in rectangles to get pieces called "repartons" 7 to 8 cm thick.

-the splitting: it means splitting the "repartons" into slates 2,5mm thick.

-the final cutting: now they can cut the slates to shape them the sizes they want.

All these different works were done with very simple tools you can see on the mound and they are still used for live slate splitting demonstration.



As you have just read, there is a fair bit of mining and related activities to see, and as far as I can tell, what I saw was just a small part of could be seen with a party dedicated to this end.

Mark Simpson

## **GEOMANTICS, GEOLOGICS & 3D GIS**

### Definitions

**GIS** . In its simplest form it is the using a map on which data is placed and information derived i.e. a mine plan. A land use plan, population plans. In the old days this meant a base map and overlays, with legends and references to other documents and graphics. The whole lot being a rather large publication. Good software can make the whole process easier and accessible. Notice that I made the qualification, Good. Is it easy to use without a cliff like learning curve, will it result in useful output, can this output be used in other software.

**Geologic**:- A Geologic Map is essentially a record of observations located in space, and a tool for analysing Earth History.

**Geomantics** :- From Geomancy , the divination of pictures from the configuration of dots. From this it would seem that any one using CAD/ Drawing packages witch involves essentially linking dots is a Geomancer.

**Industrial Archaeology** as in much else of modern life has been, altered by the advent of cheap powerful computers. As a society dedicated to the exploration recording, and publishing the legacy of our industrial past we have to be cognisant of modern trends as any academic institution. Fortunately with the www there is now access to what is out there, but, the downside is the difficulty of finding out if any of it is useful to a small society like ours.

This article is a way of coalescing my thoughts about what I have found so far. A good maxim always to keep in mind is – This may be marvellous software but will it assist in a useful end result to the work you are doing. (i.e. at it simplest level, a word processor , would you go back to writing long screeds by hand?)

Any publishing is an exercise in gathering data, converting it into useful information so that your work adds to knowledge about the subject in hand, and maybe add to the collective wisdom.

People who have been through academic institutions have been trained to do this (or they ought to have been), and have access to knowledge and software to enable them to do this.

Software costing figures with many round noughts in it.

Most people have seen TimeTeam and the wonderful Graphics used, The software and equipment used is not cheap and neither were the graphics done in five minutes, days might be more accurate.

The Society is involved with several projects that may use GIS. The first that comes to mind is the Furness Relic Survey. A vast collection of information that has taken many man hours to collate and has a least two years to go at present progress. This is in the form of two great books totalling at least 200mm thick. At present I am told that the decision on its final form has not been taken.

The second is the Coniston Survey. The problem here is that 2D GIS as would be used above is relatively straight forward, in so far that a lot of information can be put in the system without recourse to the Z factor. Once you go underground vertical relationships matter, i.e. how do stopes and levels relate to each other and to the surface. How does the geology affect the mine development, and how was the copper exploited. All these problems we have, and this where 3D GIS can help.

In case you think that this is of academic interest only, you only have to think of certain holes very near the south end of Levers Water and one that has recently got deeper. Our understanding of the 3D relationships of mine and geology has helped to be able to say what is going on.

Going back to first principles – The aim of the survey is :-

- 1) Mapping the Stopes and Levels in the BackStrings area of Coniston Copper Mines down to the Middle Level Horizon
- 2) Record the Archaeology and Geology
- 3) Record Surface Features
- 4) Relate 1 , 2 to 3
- 5) Publish the above.

### Problems

- 1) Gaining access to all parts of the open workings as many levels no longer exist or are blocked
- 2) Keeping survey accuracy consistent especially in the vertical direction
- 3) Visual representation of survey
- 4) Allied to 3) find suitable computer software
- 5) Finding suitable means of presenting the above.

Fundamental to anything is the fact that someone has got to find the time and energy to do the data collection, a difficult job in itself. Lengthy

texts about survey accuracy and parameters, are very worthy and the problems need to be known about, (i.e. survey grades and magnetic variations) but you have to go with what you have and as long as you recognise the survey data limitations, and try for consistency, it is the best usually you can hope for. With modern equipment, good survey conditions and a fair wind, great accuracy can be achieved but in the usual underground situations where just getting there is difficult, recording what you can is a minor miracle.

The surface survey has few problems as you can use a theodolite and tape (EDM if you are lucky) reduce errors to mm

It should be obvious and I have said it before, if you have not measured it in relationship to a survey point or line, you are guessing. The thing being any object that is to be drawn out later. Whether you need to measure a thing depends on the object of the survey. In our case at Coniston where the geology and archaeology are the main recording objects, trying to achieve high survey accuracy is not I think necessary or indeed possible in most cases. The desired end is a map/section to hang Archeo and Geological information on, both of which need to be understood to work how the copper was exploited.

This has almost been achieved, down to Middle Level, the next stage is the detailed plotting of geological data and the 3D interpretation of it.

The survey and recording process has been reported on in previous CATMHS Newsletters, but is repeated below:-

- 1) Equipment – underground- Compass, Tripods, Tape and Clinometer
- 2) Survey Data – Distance – Azimuth and Inclination (Forward and Backward Tripod Height, Passage/stope height where accessible, Hade of stope.
- 3) Recording method – Field Note book into Spreadsheet (Excel) to give true vertical and horizontal distances.

#### Visual representation Underground

- 1) Handrawn Plans. – Still the easiest way of achieving a useful plan. The scale was chosen at 1:200 as the optimal scale for showing detail versus physical size. Scale increase to 1:100 for certain details. A master plan was produced starting with bare plan of survey lines stations filled out with passage/stope details.

From the above were derived Longitudinal and Cross Sections, the choice of the Long axis being determined by the main direction of stopes 1 – 6, the X sections being at right angles to this. Problems – a psychological one is what you draw is not what you see even though the sections are controlled by actual

measurements. The other problem is foreshortening. The L sections are drawn along a rigid plane, and stopes both hade and direction alter along their length. The aim of keeping to set viewing planes is that a true 3D appreciation can be made.

2) Computer Representations. – The Spreadsheet data was used as input into a standard CAD Package – Autocad and a cave survey software Compass – the advantage of the latter is survey traverse corrections can be easily applied. ( There is a Excel Macro available that will convert survey data to dxf files) DXF is the standard 3D drawing format that can be used in a variety of software - all being well! What you end up with is a 3D wire line where different horizons can be shown as individual colours. Logic would say that this could be used as the basis of 3D simulation of the mines but not having access to 3D studio or Lightwave and not at present the skill to achieve this end this subject is best avoided, EarthVision has some impressive samples. Some cave survey programmes have attempted this (Compass and On Station) The use of wire frame in our case is to provide a basis for handdrawn graphics.

Above ground – There are several sources of data

1. Ordnance Survey DEM data (NTF or DXF) comes on a 50m or 10m grid, at a cost (Jan 2000) of £100 a tile and £30 p.a a tile being 20km and 5km respectively.
2. Convert aerial photographs to digital data, needs good stereo pairs
3. Digitise from maps
4. Survey you own to provide extra detail.

However you do it the end result required is a 3D mesh or TIN (Triangulated Irregular Network) that is referenced to known OS datum. The next stage is to put on the detail, bearing in mind that if underground data is being hung onto the surface, extra info may obscure this. The simplest way and the one we shall probably use is to drape or rubber sheet an aerial photo onto our 3D grid. The photographs being ortho corrected if necessary, obliques cannot be used directly.

Another way of adding detail is to use terrain modelling software, such as Vistapro and Visual Explorer (Now Genesis 11) but most of the big names in GIS will do this e.g. Arcinfo/Mapinfo/Autocad . The results I have seen from demo's are impressive and would be useful over large area as in kilometres, The Coniston Copper Mining Field is one such area.

Linking Surface to Underground

What I have done is to digitised data off a contoured map of the BackStrings area and hung the survey from it, orientation and scale do present problems, which why both sets of data must have linear scales built in and at least 3 common reference points. Anyway it works. Once the aerial photo is laid on that is as will be as far as we will go.

Disseminating Information – In the short term we shall use HTML – Claris Home Page where the maps/sections/ surface terrain models will act as bases for links to photos and text. The whole lot being put onto CD for viewing via MS Internet Explorer

#### Useful Publications

The GIS Guide to Good Practice by AHDS (The Arts and Humanities Data Service) to be found at ([info@ahds.ac.uk](mailto:info@ahds.ac.uk)) is a good place to start, and is sponsored by the Council For British Archaeology. You can download or buy the book.

Covered are A brief introduction to GIS and Archaeology, Spatial Data types, Structuring, organising and maintaining information, Documenting the GIS data set, Depositing information – archiving your data set, Useful definitions and references.

The point is made that principal applications of GIS within archaeology have been restricted to 2D models or 2.5D at best. The latter being the result of the inability of currently available analysis and display tools to adequately deal with 3D data.

GPS – apparently useful if dealing with large area, but in our context an error rate of plus/minus 50 metres renders the system less than useful.

Digital Terrain Modelling is covered (DEM / DTM data, and TINs)

There is an interesting section on copyright and OS sourced information.

USGS Digital Mapping Techniques '98 Workshop Proceedings.

Covering – A Method of Three-Dimensional Mapping, A Process for Utilising Database Information to Produce High Quality Direct to Printer Digital Map Files, Geologic Maps, Spatial Databases, and Standards.

(If the above seems arcane, my thoughts are, if someone has invented a useful wheel why try to invent one yourself, ) Having said that it appears that the process of achieving the ends above is not easy or cheap.

University of Edinburg, Department of Geography Their web site covers various information on GIS, case studies and links

British Geological Survey web site has a useful download is the BGS Geological symbols list.

#### Useful Software

Underground – Compass , On Station standout, but there are others available as shareware from caving websites - some have GIS and 3D rendering capabilities , problem of data output file types, for inputting into other software i.e. can data be converted to dxf? I used a standard CAD package – Autocad 12/14, but I have found that you can download Intellicad for free? And is 11Mb, seems to handle 3D and produce 3D Meshes.

Surface – CAD for inputting survey data directly or digitising maps, but for Terrain Modelling, Rubber Sheeting, Orthorectification and GIS see below.

- 1) GRASS 4.2 from Baylor University – serious software at a reasonable price. The version for Linux is free ( Corel Linux is free with PCPLUS) Not for the novice though there are online manuals
- 2) BASP – Bonn Archaeological Software Package – Aimed at Archeological data analysis of various types, most of which I do not understand, but the Airphoto is very interesting, does orthorectification, applies photos to maps and make DTM,s. Time limited dl,s available.
- 3) Map Maker Pro – From the info – is well worth a look and can link to external databases, Time limited dl, Map Maker Basic is Free, good pdf manual. Good price.
- 4) Pioneer GIS seems similar to (3)
- 5) Genesis 11 by Germantics was Visual Explorer 98 does very good terrain modelling.
- 6) ACE , Orthophoto , PCI Germantics - seems to be similar to Airphoto,
- 7) Vistapro – The Terrain Modelling programme – though at the moment (5) looks better as you cannot import OS DEM data.
- 8) ArcInfo/ Arcview 3D analyst – ESRI –
- 9) MapInfo/Vertical Mapper
- 10) Autocad Map/GIS – Autodesk
- 11) Earth Vision – the u/g visualisation demo's look very impressive.

Items 7-11 are the heavyweights in this field and are ones used by the big institutions and have a price tag to match, but were included for completeness.. – This list is not exhaustive, but software info was looked at to see if the Society could use any of it. The problem being is that you would have to train yourself to obtain the best from the packages, and my appreciation of any software's capabilities is limited by my lack of knowledge and what opinions I have made are my

own. If any one out there has used the above in a Mining History context, your observations would be useful.

There are programmes to convert photos of buildings/townscapes to 3D – e.g. Canoma by MetaCreations (of Bryce 3 fame), 3D Builder by Softkey- who also do Scan 2 Cad a Raster to Vector conversion package (converts scanned line drawings to dxf) very good- There is other software and you need to read Computer Arts Magazine to keep up to date.

As you can see there is a lot of stuff out there and some of it we have used, the software we would like to be able to have for the u/g visualisation, who knows in 6 months something may come along. I hope that the above will be of use

Mark Simpson January 2000.

## **NAMHO NEWS**

The following has been downloaded from the NAMHO newsletter.

**NEWSLETTER SPECIAL FOREST OF DEAN  
CONFERENCE EDITION : 24-26 September 1999  
WELCOME TO NAMHO'99**

The organisers of the NAMHO'99 Conference extend a warm welcome to you. It is now 20 years since the formation of NAMHO and this, the tenth biennial conference, is being held in the well known and picturesque mining district of the Royal Forest of Dean. An exciting programme of speakers, underground visits and surface walks has been arranged to cater for all interests, abilities and ages.

Based at the Civil Service Motoring Association (CSMA) site at Parkend, the Conference looks set to be another success. The organisers are fortunate to have found such a convenient and attractive centre for the main events and a marquee has been arranged for the evening meal and entertainment on Saturday night.

Camping, chalets and caravan pitches are available on site, as well as an adventure playground for children and an indoor swimming pool. The Conference theme is mainly based upon British mining customs but it also includes speakers describing mining around the Forest of Dean and contributions from the Mines Inspectorate and Mines Rescue Service. Simon Timberlake, a mining archaeologist, will raise an awareness of mining features which may be more important than is normally assumed. The talks will end with reminiscences from a well known NAMHO member who actually worked in coal and iron ore mines in the

Forest of Dean during the Second World War.

On Saturday evening, Mr Watts will show his excellent film on Free Mining in the Forest of Dean. The evening will also include a chance to see Dave Carlisle's very entertaining recreation of a nineteenth century mining agent. The underground trips and surface walks have been categorised to emphasise suitable abilities and range from the very easy to the very ambitious. The organisers hope that member's families will make the most of the venue and location.

NAMHO events are an opportunity for member organisations and their members to meet like-minded people, to exchange information, to provide the mining history community with an annual point of contact and an opportunity to get out of their own environment. We hope you will enjoy this years event.

## **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

Some of the delegates at this Conference will remember the "Mining Conference at Beamish on 23-24 June 1979 when the final session (5.00-5.30pm) was a discussion on "The Future". My notes of this meeting say that it was resolved to:-

- a. to set up a Standing Council of Club Representatives
- b. for these Representatives to meet at Matlock Bath in September 1979
- c. to arrange a biennial conference and for the first conference to be held in Shropshire in June 1981.
- d. admission charge to Conference to be no more than £5 and for there to be trips on the Friday and Monday before and after the Conference.

The first Council Meeting was held in Matlock Bath on 16 September 1979 and the "launching contributors" (at £5 each) were

Alston Moor MRS,  
Beamish Museum,  
Cambrian AT,  
Carn Brea MS,  
Chatterley Whitfield Mining Museum,  
Clearwell Caves,  
Earby MRS,  
Ironbridge Gorge Museum,  
North Cardigan MC,  
North Wales CC,  
NMRS,  
PDMHS,  
Plymouth MMC  
Shropshire CMC.

Earlier NAMHO Conferences were held at Ironbridge (1981), Leeds (1983), Matlock Bath (1985), Cornwall (1987), Ambleside (1989),



Llechwedd. (1991), Isle of Man (1993), Lilleshall (1995) and Darley Dale (1997).

So it is that in 1999 we are now holding our 10th Conference. The format seems to have changed little but the cost has gone up a bit! I would like to welcome all who attend this Conference and I am sure that there will be plenty to interest everyone. The four local NAMHO member organisations have been working hard for the last two years to organise this Conference and I am confident that we shall enjoy the fruits of their labours. I am most grateful for all they have done. NAMHO has not completed its work. At this conference we hope to launch our

revised "Access Code" that has been produced with the co-operation of the Mines Inspectorate (note also their contribution to this Newsletter) and to launch a new series of books that have been published in association with Tempus Publishing Ltd. We are also collecting information for a revised Mining Heritage Guide next year.

Next year NAMHO breaks with tradition when we have a special International Millennium Conference which is to be held in Cornwall. A lot of work has already been done on the organisation of the Conference and provisional programmes and accommodation details are available at this Conference.

I hope that you enjoy this weekend and, as this is the 10th Conference, I shall give a prize to the first person who proves to me that they have attended all previous NAMHO Conferences.

Dr Ivor J Brown NAMHO Chairman

#### SAFETY ALERT

The death of a man who fell down a shaft while excavating at a disused lead-silver mine at Combe Martin in Devon on 27 June 1999 attracted much media attention, some of it critical of the way those involved had concealed their activities from the authorities and responsible voluntary sector associations.

HM Inspectorate of Mines assisted the police with investigations and have provided the following information in the hope that members of NAMHO will learn from this tragic incident. "The dead man was the owner of a farm and the shafts of the mine, which was last abandoned in 1881, lay within his property. He and three friends, none with any previous mining experience but sharing an interest in mining archaeology, had been excavating the two shafts for more than ten years. At the time of the incident they had reached a depth of 40m in the second shaft, clearing debris in a small skip wound by a diesel winch to a landing incorporated in a headgear improvised from scaffolding tubes. The man appears to have fallen to his death in the shaft as he attempted to land a skip of debris by leaning out to pull the skip to the shaft side. The

shaft top was not fitted with safety trap doors; the landing had no handrails or toeboards and the dead

man had not been wearing a safety harness. If any members of NAMHO are undertaking shaft clearing operations without using these well recognised safety features, they are urged to do so."

NAMHO wishes to make it clear that no members were involved in the activities at Combe Martin. Advice on safety in shaft work is readily available to members from the professional mining engineers within NAMHO. If you are in any doubt, then contact W J Taylor, Hon Secretary, and he will arrange for you to get advice from a professional mining engineer who is a member of one of the NAMHO organisations.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO CARN BREA MINING SOCIETY

Carn Brea Mining Society celebrated its 25th Anniversary this year. To commemorate this achievement, the Society held a "Vanning Contest" which was held on a damp Sunday in June. A good time was had by all with the competition being won by ex Geevor Geologist Charles Smith.

#### STABILISING UNSTABLE MINING LAND

A new initiative to tackle unsafe mines, the Land Stabilisation Programme, has been launched. It will be administered by English Partnerships and funding will be made available to local authorities and National Parks Authorities to stabilise areas of abandoned non-coal mining areas which have been left in a hazardous condition. The programme will fund the stabilisation costs including investigations, surveys and pre and post treatment monitoring. All very nice if you get a slice of the action but what will be the effect on the classic mining sites around the country?

#### OPEN DOOR AT THE COAL AUTHORITY

The Coal Authority of GB has now adapted an "open door policy". Its first public meeting was attended by four outsiders (including two miners and a solicitor). Its second meeting is to be held in Leeds on 14 September and, according to a note in "Newscene", (formerly Coal News), the house-journal of RJB Mining, further information can be obtained from the website: [www.coal.gov.uk](http://www.coal.gov.uk) This presupposes that all persons who may be interested in attending have a computer connected to the Internet. However, all attempts by the writer to gain access to this website have failed. A telephone call to 01623 427162 (a number obtained from other sources) provided the information that the meeting would be held at the

Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds, LS10 1LT at 11.00am on 14 September 1999.

Presumably the entry charge of £8.00 and car parking fee of £3.00 will apply.

"Interested"

#### CONTRACTORS FINED AFTER TUNNEL COLLAPSE

Balfour Beatty has been fined £1.2m, plus £100,000 costs, following the collapse of the Heathrow Express tunnel at Heathrow Airport in 1994. The Company, which was the main contractor for the project, admitted failing to protect workers and the public from "very serious risks". This fine is said to be the highest for a single Company under the 1974 Health & Safety at Work Act. Geoconsult, tunnelling experts from Austria, was found guilty of two similar offences and was fined £500,000, plus £100,000 costs.

Daily Telegraph

#### MINING JOURNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The winner of the Underground Section of the 1998 Competition was Paul Deakin with a photograph taken in East Foss Barytes Mine, Scotland. Second place went to C McCombe with a photograph of a miner lying on his side shovelling coal in

Ayle Colliery, Northumberland.

#### RJB MINING INVESTMENT

RJB is to invest £20m in a 295yd long state-of-the-art longwall face at Daw Mill Colliery, Warwickshire. The face will have a life of 15 months and 2.5m tons of coal will be produced, extracting a 5m slice from the top of the 10m thick Warwickshire Thick Coal seam. Most of the equipment will be supplied from factories in Wigan, Worcester, the Midlands and Yorkshire. Daw Mill is one of the fifteen collieries operated by RJB Mining.

Eng & Min Journal

#### LADY VICTORIA WASHER WORKING AGAIN

The Old Coal Washer at the Lady Victoria Colliery, Midlothian, Scotland has been restored. This is the latest phase of the conservation of the surface structures at the colliery which has been ongoing since 1985. The Old Washer was built around 1911 and consisted of bash tanks for cleaning raw coal. The feed elevator

has been refurbished and visitors can see the jigs which were in common use

until the closure of the mine in the early 1980's.

Mines & Quarry

#### METAL MINING IN THE UK

With the closure of the Cornish South Crofty tin mine in 1997, the Florence Mine in Cumbria is the only UK mine raising a metalliferous mineral as its main product. Haematite is mined at Florence for use in pigments and in foundry annealing processes.

Mining Journal

#### SOUTH CROFTY UPDATE

There has not been any progress on the proposed sale of South Crofty mine to Welsh businessman Wilf Hughes. Kerrier councillors are refusing to accept that South Crofty mine is dead and are continuing to back the reopening of the mine. Recently there has been a proposal to build a University of Cornwall campus on the site. As it now looks doubtful that South Crofty will reopen, suggestions are being made to safeguard the headframe as a lasting memorial to many years of mineral mining in Cornwall.

#### MONUMENTS PROTECTION PROGRAMME

It is known that some members have been consulted and have commented on Step 1 reports for Lead, Iron and Steel and quarrying (stone extraction). A copy of Step 3 (Coal) has also been seen. Step 1 of Alum, Tin, Arsenic and Gunpowder may have been seen by non-council representatives. Bloomeries, Salt, Oil, Gas and Water Power, which are also of interest to members of NAMHO have, apparently, not yet been started. The writer, I J Brown, has only seen one Step 3 report and none of the Step 4 reports although eight have been completed. The position of

these is being investigated.

I J Brown

#### SECOND SELBY PIT TO CLOSE

RJB is to close the North Selby Mine next year with the loss of about 300 jobs. RJB has already closed Whitemoor Mine and merged North Selby with Stillingleet. The Company has been frustrated by geological problems and poor productivity at the mine. The output from the Selby complex will be less than 6m tons per year, a figure that is less than half the original planned output. A RJB spokesman has said that by concentrating production in areas with lower geological risk will provide the more secure and stable operations required in the current economic climate.

Daily Telegraph

#### OLDHAM CAPLAMP BATTERIES

I recently discovered that my Oldham Caplamp Battery was not holding its charge. Fortunately I made this discovery as I was setting out to open

Scott's Grotto<sup>1</sup> to the public for a couple of hours rather than during a more extended underground expedition and so I was able to take alternative lighting. I tried, unsuccessfully, to contact the chap who had sold me my old battery so I set out to discover current suppliers, prices et hoc genus omne. A few minutes<sup>2</sup> on the world wide web provided a list of suppliers of caving equipment. These were then invited to send price lists and catalogues. This research told me that the technology had moved on and that there were many more modern caplamp models but, reasoning that I already had the headset and battery cover and more than enough Oldham spares to last out my lifetime, I decided that a replacement battery was the best choice. The best price by far was offered by Stuart Kirby - Purveyor of Illuminating Experiences - who carries on his business in a small village in Gloucestershire. As I was visiting Gloucester in connexion with another society's activities, I was able to collect the battery and avoid the cost of postage (not inconsiderable - the battery is mostly lead, after all). If other members find themselves in a similar position, I would strongly suggest that they contact Mr Kirby. His telephone number is 01531 650226 and facsimile number 01531 650012. Being a very cautious person, I am not in the habit of giving unsolicited testimonials but I felt that others might be interested. Mr Kirby agreed that I could offer his name and contact details to the Editor for publication.

1 Scott's Grotto is in Scotts Road, Ware, Hertfordshire and is open on Summer Saturday and Bank Holiday afternoons from 2:00pm to 4:30pm. Admission is free (donations invited) and a visit is very worthwhile if you are in the area.

2 This does not include the time wasted when the system crashed or hung or while it downloaded totally useless large graphics images. Why can't web site designers realise that graphics just irritate some users who would much prefer a plain text site?

M C Black

#### **MINE HERITAGE AND TOURISM - A HIDDEN TREASURE**

An international conference is being organised by the Geological Survey of Ireland, Shannon Development and the Mining Heritage Society of Ireland on behalf of the MINET project. MINET is an EU funded project established to develop a pilot network of European Mine Heritage Centres. The project involves partners from France, Ireland, Italy, Spain and the UK. A two day conference is

planned for 4 - 5 November 1999 and it will be based in Nenagh, Co Tipperary. There will be pre and post-conference field trips (Bunmahon and the Irish National Mine Heritage Centre at Shallee, (Silvermines). The topic of the conference is "Mine Heritage as a Tourism Resource". Further details can be obtained from: Mr Eamonn de Stafort, Shannon Development, Connolly Street, Co Tipperary, Ireland.

Tel: + 353 - 67 - 32100.

Fax: + 353 - 67 - 33418. E-mail: [DESTAFORTE@shannon-dev.ie](mailto:DESTAFORTE@shannon-dev.ie)

#### **INTERNATIONAL MINING CONGRESS**

The next International Mining Congress will be held on 13 - 16 September 2000 at Milos, Greece. Preliminary information is available from the following web site:

<http://heliotopos.net/conf/immhc>

#### **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

"We are involved in a Leader funded transnational project with mine heritage groups from Parys Mountain in Wales and West Cornwall. In order to further the mining migration aspect of the project we are attempting to identify the origin of names in the Avoca valley in Co Wicklow. We are trying to trace mine directors at the Cronebane Mine in East Avoca who met at Cronebane on 7th November 1798. They were:- Edward Hawkins, Macclesfield; Bryan Hodgson, Craigmarrsh; John Jefferies, Gloucester; Robert Hodgson, Congleton and Thomas Weaver, Gloucester. We are also looking for a Henry Hodgson who developed the mine at West Avoca and our mineral tramway, the Arklow Harbour and a chemical and manure works at Arklow. We believe he came to Avoca around 1820 but this is not definite. He was born on 6th January 1796 and we are trying to trace his place of birth and wonder if he is related to the above mentioned Hodgsons. We also understand that approximately fifty miners emigrated from Avoca to Clitherrmoor (this spelling may not be correct) in Cumbria circa 1860 and would appreciate confirmation/further information of this migration. Have any NAMHO members any information/advice on the above subject or who could advise us on how to research the above mentioned miners. I can be contacted at: Ballymoneen, Avoca, Co Wicklow, Ireland"

Marie Merrigan

#### **CORNISH MINERS GALA**

The Cornish Miner's Association held a gala on a very wet day last May to

celebrate hundreds of years of copper and tin mining in Cornwall. The march started at the gates of South Crofty and the banners of many Cornish mines were paraded by former miners through Camborne town centre. It is hoped that the Gala will become an annual event.

#### **CORNISH MINERS LEAD THE WAY**

Five former South Crofty miners have once again proved the old maxim about a Cornishman being found at the bottom of every mine in the world is true. The Cornishmen were recruited to manage the development of a new nickel mine in Brazil and to train a workforce of twelve young Brazilians. The new mine was at a former open pit operation and is owned by RTZ Brazil at Fortaleza de Minas near Passos. The first blast for the 5m x 5m access ramp took place on 27 July 1998. The first blast in the ore body was in mid May 1999, some two months ahead of schedule. A witness to the first nickel ore reaching the surface said "the Cornish miners have certainly used their experience and knowledge well in training the young Brazilian workforce".

#### **DIAMONDS IN IRELAND**

Cambridge Mineral Resources believes it is one step further in its quest to locate diamonds in Ireland. The secret location is in the Inishowen, Donegal, area. An aerial survey of the area has been commissioned and, hopefully, the geological map produced will indicate the locations at which to bore test holes. The company also holds a licence to prospect for gemstones in the Falkland Islands. Preliminary investigation have suggested that there are reserves of gold and diamonds on the islands

#### **PROFESSOR BARRI JONES**

The obituaries in the national broad sheet press that followed the recent sudden death of Prof Barri Jones all made reference to his study of the archaeology of Roman Britain and Roman mining. His work on the Roman gold mining centre at Dolaucothi led him to investigate the ancient mines of Rio Tinto and Las Medulas in Spain. He also organised countless excavations at Llanymynech where a perfectly preserved Roman lead mine was exposed.

#### **BOOK FOR SALE!!!!**

A translation of the first Latin edition (1556) of "Agricola Georgius de re Metallica", published in London in 1912 and containing 640 pages, is offered for sale at a cost of £475 + p&p. If anyone is interested then the editor can put you in touch with the vendor.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Acknowledgement is made to the following who have submitted copy for this Newsletter but who have not been credited against individual articles. They are I J Brown, M Holmes, J Wright, HM Mines Inspectorate, R Gosling, P Sowan, L Willies and other anonymous subscribers.

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Last revised: 9 October 1999

#### **A YEAR OF DISCONTENT II**

27th April 1872

The Weardale miners strike. Another mass meeting of the miners now on strike in Weardale, in connection with the W B lead mines took place on Saturday, for the purpose of receiving from the delegates a report of what had taken place since the last meeting, and of determining upon the steps to be taken in the altered circumstances of the case.

... the fifty shillings lent money was granted - (cheers) - that £1 a week to be the basis of the bargains was granted - (cheers) - and that the percentage system was to be entirely swept away - (cheers) - ...

This could well have been the end of the strike, but, in a letter from Mr Beaumont to Mr Cain published in the Durham Chronicle, Mr Beaumont had stated to Mr Cain that he was thoroughly satisfied of his single-mindedness of purpose, and of the truth of all his statements both to him and the men. This to the miners implied that Mr Beaumont was saying that the miners delegates, had in fact misled the men. The letter referred to was as follows:-

"144, Piccadilly, London, 16th April, 1872  
"Dear Sir, From what took place at the Weardale mass meeting, I infer that the lead miners think that you proposed the new system without my cognizance. Now, it must be clearly understood that the whole scheme had my entire approval, and that it was put before the deputation of miners with my sanction. It was originally intended, as a ready money system, in the interests of the men; but as it meets with little favour, and will be much more difficult to work out than was first anticipated, I have had little hesitation in authorising its withdrawal.

"It is hardly necessary for me to add that there never was nor, is there, the slightest difference of opinion between us; and that I am thoroughly satisfied of your single mindedness of purpose, and of the truth of all your statements, both to me and to the men. Those who think I can accept compliments at your expense are quite mistaken, and little know me. Believe me, as always, yours very truly.

"Wentworth B Beaumont"

On the 17th April Mr Beaumont sent another letter to Mr Cain in which he concedes to the wishes of the men.

"144, Piccadilly, London, 17th April, 1872

Dear Sir, I am very glad to observe from the resolutions passed at the meeting of miners last Saturday that the good feeling which has so long subsisted in Weardale is still unimpaired, and I have therefore felt the greatest pleasure in approaching the present unhappy differences, with a full desire to meet fairly the difficulties as change of time and circumstances may require some modification of arrangements which have existed for about a quarter of a century.

"Having come to a conclusion clear and definite in my own mind, I will not delay informing you that there is no longer any objection on my part to give the men fifty shillings a month lent money; the standard basis of all bargains being one pound per week, instead of fifteen shillings as at present. There is so much complication and difficulty about the percentage system that it will be better to abolish it altogether after next June; it is questionable in principle, and does not exist (so far as I know) in any other mines.

"As I am detained here on a Parliamentary committee, I cannot explain my views personally to the men; but I think it right to state that the decision at which I have arrived has been mainly influenced by advice and assistance derived from yourself. You have always acted with loyalty and kindly feeling towards the men; and I am perfectly confident that what has been recently said against you at the miners meeting is the result of unfortunate misunderstanding, and that good will and peace will be speedily restored in our mining districts among all parties. Believe me, very truly yours.

"W B Beaumont"

MR NATHAN RACE, chairman. ... He must say that in the Durham letter Mr Beaumont wanted to clear Mr Cain, and expressed to him his entire concurrence in that new system which was laid before the men. (Hisses) Now, he must say that staggered him (the chairman) more than everything else he had heard, because he happened to be one of the deputation who waited upon Mr Beaumont at Newhouse, and distinctly heard him say that there was no new system; he

never intended that any new system should be brought before the men, and they had been battling with the wind, and so on. (Laughter) And he (the chairman) was struck when he read in the Durham letter that that the new system had his entire approval. (Hisses) If they would read the fore end of Mr Beaumont's letter to the committee, and the back end of his Durham letter, they would observe that there was such a contradiction as he never saw in his life.

(Applause) At the fore end of the miners committee letter he praised their loyalty, and said he was pleased that the good feeling which had existed for such a long time in Weardale was still unimpaired - (loud ironical laughter and cheers) - but at the back of the Durham letter he said he could not think of receiving compliments at the expense of Mr Cain. (Loud laughter and hisses) Now he (the chairman) thought there was a flat contradiction there. ... The deputation had told the men the truth and nothing but the truth; and on that they took their stand. (Applause) The struggle had assumed a form which they never expected (hear, hear). He would far rather have been battling that day for the wage question than on that personal question. It was a question of character - (loud cheer) - although they were working men. ... The meeting would be aware that the committee were gathered together at once, after they got the document first read, and drew up three resolutions which they forwarded to Mr Cain, and a copy of which was also telegraphed to London to Mr Beaumont, as follows:-

1st. That the acceptance of Mr W B Beaumont's proposal, received to-day, be held in abeyance until a proper understanding be arrived at between Mr Cain and the miners delegates.

2nd. That our character and that of our delegates has been falsified to such an extent that we cannot as honourable men submit to take any more bargains of Mr Cain until Mr Cain has fully cleared Mr Phillipson and his co-delegates from all falsehood.

3rd. That if Mr Cain does not at once come forward and clear our delegates we must take legal proceedings, and let the law do that for us. (Loud cheers) He had received from Mr Cain the following reply:-

"Dear Sir, (laughter) I have received your letter of the 18th Inst., with the resolutions passed at the miners committee meeting last evening, and which I will forward to Mr Beaumont by to-day's post. On receiving a reply from that gentleman I will again communicate with you. Meantime I remain dear sir, yours truly J C Cain." (Laughter) By to-day's post the committee had received the following letter from Mr Beaumont:-

**"144, Piccadilly, 19 April 1872**

"Sir, - In reply to your telegram, I can only express a hope that calm consideration will lead you to receive the letter I sent on Wednesday in the kindly spirit in which it was written.

"I remain yours faithfully

**"W B Beaumont**

**"Mr Featherstone Philipson"**

There then followed a discussion as to what should be done next and the following resolutions were passed.

1. That this meeting is perfectly satisfied with the past conduct of the committee and the select deputation, and hereby express its unbounded confidence in their honour and truthfulness, and consider them perfectly blameless in the complications which have taken place between the owner and the manager of the W B lead mines.
2. That we request the owner of these mines to withdraw from the union which exists amongst the employers of labour in the neighbourhood for the purpose of preventing any miner obtaining employment who is necessitated or chooses to change his employment, as we consider the object of such union unfair and despotic to the workmen, and dishonourable to the employer.
3. That we should appoint a miners standing committee, to consist of forty members, including chairman, treasurer, and secretary, whose duties shall be to watch over the interests of the workmen; and represent any grievances that may exist, between masters and men, to the owner of the mines; and that we the lead miners of the W B Mines do hereby promise, and sign our names to support to our utmost ability the aforesaid committee.
4. That fifty shillings a month be granted to men who work one month whether fortunate or unfortunate, without exception.
5. That as a bargain is an engagement entered into between two parties, that it in future be conducted on the principle of contracting, pure and simple; and not by dictation as has been in the past.
6. That advertisements be inserted in all the local papers, asking that subscriptions in aid of our movement be sent to their respective offices.

**27th April 1872**

**The Teesdale miners**

The case of the Teesdale miners is not yet satisfactorily settled. They have had an interview with Mr Bainbridge, the resident agent, and have been advised not to press for an advance of "lent money," and have been told that the average wages last year had been 17s 6d per week, and that the whole of their earnings can be drawn

every month if they choose, and that they (the masters) placed no bar upon any man who wished to leave the Company from procuring employment elsewhere. The impression existing in Teesdale, that miners leaving the Company's works lost all interest in the Miner's Fund which is said to have a capital of several thousand pounds, appears to be unfounded. Workmen who leave, in a proper manner, can retain their membership if they choose, and still be entitled to the benefits accruing from the fund.

**27th April 1872**

**Mass meeting in Allendale**

A mass meeting of the workmen in the Allendale section of the W B Lead Mining Districts was held in the Miner's Room, Allenheads, on Wednesday evening last, the object of which was to take into consideration the generous offer of their employer W B Beaumont, Esq., MP., to augment the standard wages of his miners and workmen generally. The meeting was of a very enthusiastic character, and many points in the past history of the mining enterprises of this district were very ably adverted to men with locks white with age were moved with animation as they contrasted the present with the past, and scarcely could find the language to express their grateful feelings for the almost unprecedented advance of wages now so kindly granted them. Many whose long lives have been spent amongst the surrounding heath clad hills alluded to the strong attachment they felt to their native place, and referred in glowing terms to the Beaumont family, in whose service they, and their grand-sires had been exclusively engaged. Though for some time past the earnings of lead miners have not been subject to those fluctuations and migrations which are so common in other fields of industry, and their constant employment seemed to them as an equivalent to wage in the long run. A fixity of residence amongst the scenes and associations of their earliest days materially enhances and greatly contributes to their general contentment in their secluded sphere of labour, and strangers from the din and bustle of town life cannot but admire their neat and comfortable-looking homesteads, and be led to eulogise their immunities. The advance of wages now offered on the standard basis for bargains is over 33 per cent, and taking the abolition of the percentage system into consideration may be deemed in the aggregate an augmentation seldom surpassed in the history of trade. The meeting not only gave their expressions of good feeling towards Mr Beaumont, but also to the resident agent Mr Curry, whose uniform kindness and attention to their wishes has been unremitting, and who without any ostentation has taken every opportunity to secure to them any real benefit. This good feeling and understanding that exists between him and the

workmen will ever tend to inspire confidence and united effort to promote the interest of their employer, Mr Beaumont. The following resolutions were unanimously passed and ordered to be sent to Mr Beaumont:-

**W B Beaumont Esq., MP.,**

Sir, It is with the greatest of pleasure and satisfaction that we, the undersigned on behalf of the whole of your employees in the Allenheads mining district take this mode of conveying to you the following resolutions unanimously passed at a public meeting of miners, &c., held at Allenheads, 24th April 1872.

1st. That the intimation (communicated through our respected resident agent, John Curry, Esq.) of the definite and substantial manner in which you have so generously proposed to improve our position merits the deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks of all your employees in this section of your mining district.

2nd. That the increase of monthly subsistence money to 50s to contract men, together with the £1 per week as the standard basis of all bargains, and the liberal remuneration of every other class of labourers, accompanied with the great benefit of payment in full each month are boons which cannot be too highly appreciated, and for which we wish to tender to you our most sincere thanks.

3rd. That the kindly sentiments - or what may be more properly termed loyalty - which have ever been cherished towards yourself and family by the inhabitants of this district will, if possible, be more strong and binding after the generous expression of your liberality and considerate efforts to promote the welfare of your workmen.

Signed,

on behalf of the meeting

**John Stobbs, chairman**

**Thomas Prest, secretary**

# **NORTH WALES WEEKEND**

**8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> April 2000**

As is customary at this time of year Knowles Mine Tours will run a trip to Wales. I have had a number of suggestions from friends not all of which can be included unless we stay for a week.

## **Trip 1 – Cwmorthin Slate Quarry**

Of all the Mines in the Ffestiniog area this is the one, with one exception, that has most to offer the underground explorer. This will be a full day underground and will consist of a complete tour of the workings below lake level. There are numerous interesting artefacts to see including old wooden bridges spanning chambers, inclines complete with winders, walkways up abandoned chambers etc. Grade D. Meet at the parking area at Cwmorthin Falls Tan-y-grisiau at 683454 at 10.00 a.m. Please note that this parking area is notorious for break ins so please don't leave valuables on display.

Useful background reading would be "Cwmorthin Slate Quarry by Graham Isherwood". Available from the editor at £11 including postage and packing.

## **Trip 2 – Llywydd Mine**

Last year we did a surface trip looking at this and other sites of interest. This year we intend to find out what lies at the bottom of the large open stopes which are a prominent feature of the site. These looked deep and I don't know of anybody who has been to the bottom so the meet is graded EXP. If you are not competent at this grade then there is lots to see on the surface. Meet at the Watkin path car park at 628507 at 10.00 a.m.

Since the Llywydd trip is very weather dependant and Cwmorthin is generally dry (except where its very wet) the decision on which trip to do which day will be made on the Friday – ring the meet leader on 01484 860662 for final details.

Saturday night will probably be spent at Cobden's in Capel Curig or the other place we went to last year !

Jon Knowles



## CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 15th November 1999 at the BMSC Hut, Coniston.

### Agenda.

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 Apologies for absence    | 2 Minutes of the last meeting               |
| 3 Matters arising          | 4 Secretary's Report                        |
| 5 Treasurer's Report       | 6 Membership Secretary's Report             |
| 7 Meets Secretary's Report | 8 Hudgillburn Mine                          |
| 9 Newlands Furnace         | 10 Coniston Coppermines Site                |
| 11 Video Film Project      | 12 Publications                             |
| 13 AGM and Annual Dinner   | 14 Date and venue of next committee meeting |
| 15 Any other business      |   |

**Present** D. Bridge (DB), S. Barker (SB), I. Matheson (IM), J. Davies (JD),  
P. Fleming (PF), M. Scott (MSc), M. Simpson (MS) & A. Wilson.

8 members in total.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

### 1 Apologies for absence-none.

### 2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 12th September had been previously circulated to members. It was PROPOSED by PF and SECONDED by AW that the minutes be signed by the chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings. This was carried unanimously.

### 3 Matters arising

3.1 **Item 3.3** SB had written to Helen Mann (Property Manager) for the National Trust requesting permission for CATMHS to re-open No 0 Level, Force Crag Mine, but had not received a reply to date.

### 4 Secretary's Report

The secretary had received:

- 1) NAMHO news letter and minutes.
- 2) Paul Timewell asked me to write to a farmer in Ulpha, for permission to look at mines on his property. No answer to date.
- 3) The NAMHO-99 Conference in the Forest Of Dean was a great success, I wrote a letter of thanks from the CAT members who attended.
- 4) CAT web site-information received from Nils Wilks. It was agreed he should go ahead, up to 50 MB for the time being.
- 5) The Lead Mining Strategy Report (draft), for the conservation and interpretation of the remains of the North Pennines lead industry, has come out at last. It has been in the pipeline since 1987, the AONB Steering Group ( Historic Buildings and Features ) would like comments by 10th December.

### 5 Treasurer's Report

MS reported on the society's financial state to date which included:

- 1) The balance ( on 14th Nov.) in the current account was £1401
- 2) Payments out since the last meeting inc. £217 for BCRA insurance, and £119 for printing and postage of the last newsletter.
- 3) There had been income from our publications and the subs were coming in well.
- 4) This years figures to date were income £3933.58 and expenditure £3092.74.

MS will contact J. Helme for advice regarding the auditing of the accounts for the AGM.

### 6 Membership Secretary's Report

IM reported that two weeks into the new year half the membership had already re-newed their subs. He had included a request for members interests on the re-newel form, which had produced some interesting facts. Another reminder would be sent out after the AGM.

**7 Meets Secretary's Report**

J. Davies reported that the next meets list went out with the newsletter. The meets secretary had decided to stand down next year. The summer meets list to be discussed at the March Committee meeting.

DB had made arrangements for the BNFL visit in Feb. next year, details to go in the next Bulletin.

**8 Hudgillburn Mine**

SB reported that work started at the beginning of November, surveying on the Saturday and digging on the Sunday. A set of legs, headtree and crash barriers were put in last Sunday at the Sun Vein dig and safety work carried out in the East Wagon Level. Permission to buy materials was given.

**9 Newlands Furnace**

No developments.

**10 Coniston Coppermines site**

DB had produced a first attempt CD-ROM for the John Ruskin Museum IT display, at their request. It contained information on 16th/18-19th century mining in the Coniston Coppermines, and sections on minerals and geology. DB gave out copies for observations.

The method of recording the Paddy End survey was discussed, MSc to contact John Moore (Imperial College) who had offered assistance.

PF reported that there had been no progress made with the Coniston archaeological project.

PF had attended a site meeting at Coniston with the Nat. Park Warden, Mr Lampton (Rydal Estates) and a representative of English Nature regarding the poor state of fencing around Simon's Nick. English Nature to provide £2000 to replace fencing. The work will be done by contractors.

**11 Video film project**

Outdoor photography to be started. SB to send a copy of the script to MS.

**12 Publications**

AD Cameron thought 'Slate from Coniston' should not be re-printed before 2002-3 and that the re-printing of 'Slate from Honister' would attract bigger sales.

It was PROPOSED by PF, That the Society should make an application to the 'Millennium Festival Award' for funding for the re-printing of 'Beneath the lakeland fells' SECONDED by DB, all were in favour. DB thanked PF for his work on this project.

**13 AGM and Annual Dinner**

To be held on Saturday 11th December, the committee to propose a motion to reduce the size of the committee, as the widening geographical spread of the membership makes it very difficult to achieve a quorum at meetings.

**14 Date and venue of next Committee Meeting**

This was arranged for 7.30 p.m. on Monday 17th January 2000 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston.

**15 Any other business-None**

SB reported on a discussion held between members attending the last meet at Nenthead. It was suggested that to celebrate CATMHS's 21st birthday, we should combine the activities of AGM, meal, talks, slide show and a field meet into a weekend at a suitable venue in the Lake District. The committee thought this was a good idea, PROPOSED DB, SECONDED PF. All were in favour-action SB.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10 p.m.

## CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

HONORARY PRESIDENT Lord Egremont

VICE PRESIDENT Major Hext

### Officers for 1999

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### Committee Members

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Ian Matheson  
Angela Wilson  
Mark Scott

Mark Simpson  
Dave Bridge  
Sheila Barker

Paul Timewell  
Mike Mitchell  
John Davies

### Honorary Members

John Marshall  
Sheila Barker

Mike Mitchell

Peter Fleming