

B E L O W !



Quarterly Journal of the Shropshire Caving & Mining Club

Winter Issue No: 97.4

AGM Changes

Following the AGM on the 3rd of October there have been a few changes in the make-up of the committee (most are now using black-eye liner rather than green!).

Malcom Newton has stood down as Vice Chairman, Tom West has gracefully stepped into his shoes - although they are a tight fit! Adrian Pearce has also stood down (after a sterling effort in recent years) and been replaced by John Priest as Secretary. Other elected posts have stayed the same.

Slight changes have also occurred with the co-opted officers with Alan Moseley becoming First Aid and Training Officer, the role of Rescue Officer is to be undertaken by the Rescue Wardens.

Subs

If you have not paid-up yet, your subs became due at the AGM, slight changes were made (mainly to cover printing and postage costs) and the current rates are:-

Full Member	£15
Associate Member	£10
Family Member	£22
Junior Member	£ 8
Day Member	£ 2.50

Welcome

To Peter Sheldrake and George Evans, who have recently joined us (as we enter our 36th Year of existence) as Full Members.

Access Arrangements

Clive Mine is only available for use until 8pm during the winter - winter should be taken to mean the months between the clocks going back in autumn and going forward in spring.

Keys

Please note: that keys for access to all the mines under the club's control are held by the Secretary.

Trip Reports

John Priest has introduced a new pro-forma for trip reports, which people organising (and taking part in) trips are encouraged to actively fill-in. The writing up of trip reports has been very lax in recent years, and members should be reminded that the recording of trips is part of the constitution.

John will photocopy the reports so that they can be included in 'Below'.

You might like to know that in the past 2 months there have been Club trips to: Nenthead, East Roman Gravels, Watercress Level, Ashfordby, Pen-Y-Rhosith, Potters Pit (now gated), Ogof, Clive (for a rescue practice - see page 10), with bat counts at Rorrington, Rhadley, Leigh Level and Snailbeach.

Info Wanted

Phil and Richard Amies (of Sygun Copper Mine), have won the contract from the Council to undertake an interpretative study of Snailbeach. They are very keen to include any relevant photographs, artefacts or other material and have appealed to the Club for help.

They came along to the November meeting to outline their plans, which (at the moment) involve developing the miners dry as a small visitor centre with possible inclusion of other buildings.

Things may have to be 'cut back' as the Club has subsequently learnt that the County Council will be unlikely to afford their contribution to the CAP's programme this year.

Snailbeach Visits

Before taking members of the public into Snailbeach the Council has asked that we walk through the area to be visited checking for signs of stability (instability?). The record of the walk is to be recorded and signed by the trip leader in a book (the placement of this is being organised by Nick Southwick). Any changes in stability to be reported to the authorities.

Finally

It only remains to wish all Club Members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Kelvin

If you are feeling bored after lunch on the 25th then try your hand at the puzzles on pages 18 & 19.



News Round-Up 1

by Ivor Brown

Snailbeach

In September work commenced on restoration of Lords Hill Chapel as part of an overall conservation plan. A contract has gone out to tender for the construction of a visitor centre, based around the Loco Shed or Miners Dry area of Snailbeach Mine.

Ladywell

Conservation is nearing completion on the Ladywell Engine House and has just commenced on White Grit. A box-like canopy has been erected over it to allow work to continue in bad weather.

Accidents

In September a horse was killed when it fell down a shaft on Wood Level in Hope Valley, and a 23 year old youth fell to his death down an 80ft. deep well at Heath Hill near Shifnal.

Mines & Draglines

Recently IJB visited Woodhorn Colliery Heritage Centre near Ashington. Most of the colliery buildings still remain, also a steam engine and there is a mock-up of an underground trip. Nearby is the Stobswood Opencast Site which has the two largest walking draglines in Britain (a 3,000 tonner, 'Ace of Spades' and a 4,000 tonner, 'Big Geordie'). The Friends of St. Aidans Draglines (of which IJB is Secretary) are trying to save for preservation the 2 draglines at this site near Leeds, a 1150 tonne dragline (over 50 years old) and a 2,000 tonnes (15 years old). The older walking dragline came to Britain after working in the USA in the late 1940's as an American Aid deal, it worked for some years in South Wales, then at Poplars Site in Cannock, Staffs and finally arrived at Leeds. Membership of the Friends is available at £2 per year from IJB.

The Crown

The Crown Public House (site of) between Pennerley and Devils Chair has recently been visited. There are substantial wall remains and the bar and snug are easily discernible. Around it are several fair sized buildings used

to board itinerant mineworkers, all abandoned and the sunken lanes are mainly overgrown. There was also a miners chapel here until it was replaced by the larger Pennerley Chapel in 1869. From this date most of the population seems to have moved off the hill, abandoning the old chapel, cottages and eventually the pub (it must have closed early this century).

Coal Leaflet

A leaflet sized book, 17 pages of small print, has been acquired entitled "The Shropshire District Coal Mines Scheme 1930" published by HMSO priced 3d. Apparently the majority of owners of coal mines in each mining district had to produce a scheme for "regulating the production, supply and sale of coal". Mr. Alec Morris, the Secretary of the Shropshire Coal Owners Association is named, address was Priorslee Hall, Shropshire!

Information Wanted

Enquiries have been received for information on the following:

- good geological exposures suitable for viewing by parties of up to 20 people, showing coal, iron and clay seams in the Telford area (for a new Geological Association Guide).
- data on the effects of mining in the Ironbridge Gorge on river quality over the last 300 years (for research at Ironbridge Powerstation)

If anyone can help, please notify Ivor Brown.

Miners Portraits

Portraits of some local miners are at present on display at the National Coal Mining Museum, Wakefield. These include Frederick Morgan of Highley, Lawson Roper of Alveley and Sam Cookson of Madeley. These portraits and about 50 others, were commissioned by the new NCB in 1947-51 from artist H.A.Freeth, and were used in the industry's house journal called 'Coal'.

100 Years Ago

On the 20th February 1898, there was an explosion in Blists Hill Clay Mine, Madeley. The deputy told a workman that 'gas' was present in a heading, the workman understood this to be blackdamp as found in clay workings, but it turned out to be firedamp as found in coal. An explosion took place and the workman was badly burned but survived.

1891 Census

This shows that in Shropshire there were 881 persons employed in Stone & Limestone quarrying, 1019 in clay pits and brick making and 1 (one) slate quarrier. Presumably this workman was employed in Wales - or was he?

19thC. Tramway

The 19th C. tramway system in the farm building of Honnington Grange near the Last Inn is in danger of being 'lost' (DRA has been to take photos). This may be a unique legacy from the Lilleshall Co. days.

Brewery Well Access

Information has also been received that access has been 'stopped' to the small building over the Wellington Brewery Well, near the Cock Inn. This well contains a steam pump, control was put in the hands of the Club in the early 1970's. Has anyone been to check it recently? (See SCMC Journal 1978).

Marble Quarries

It appears that there are 'marble' quarries on Clee Hill (see Below 97.3, page 11). A distinctive type of grey-blue, shelly, oolitic limestone was extracted for polishing and marketing as 'Clee Hill Marble'. It was not a true marble (which is metamorphosed limestone) but was capable of being polished - as at Mawley Hall near Cleobury Mortimer. (Thanks "Blogg" for this information). For details see 'The Building Stones of Shropshire' by M.A.Scard, Swan Hill Press 1990. This book also mentions Shropshire 'slates' - perhaps this is where the 'one' slate quarrier was working during the 1891 census (see above).



Penrh yngwyn Slate Mine

by Alan Robinson

At the end of 1996, a request was made to the Club by Shropshire Education's Outdoor centre at Arthog for help in stabilising a section of a local slate mine that they used for underground training. These works were carried out over two weekends in June and July; involving ten club members and a good few pints!

Location & Description

The mine site [NGR: SH 704149] is situated on the lower slopes of the northern side of Cadair Idris, between the Fox and Pony paths that lead to the summit. It lies on private farmland and access is not normally possible. All underground access is controlled by the Outdoor Centre and the only entrance is securely gated.

The surface remains indicate different

periods of working with open quarrying as well as underground extraction. Some idea of the extent of the site can be gained from the early Ordnance Survey plan shown in Figure 1 (page 4).

As well as extensive waste tips, there is an external incline (with remains of a drumhouse), connecting with tramways at each level and a number of ruined outbuildings, some with fireplaces. At the foot of the incline is a large, extended mill building, which shows evidence of power saws being used¹. Nearby is a wheelpit served by a leat from the stream; however, it is not clear whether this waterwheel provided power to the mill.

The accessible underground workings appear to be developed on three distinct

levels, with access to these only at the lowest floor. All other entrances are collapsed, but can be traced underground to roof falls. There is no apparent internal connection to the overlying open quarry, although there appears to be the remains of an incline on the quarry floor.

Most of the chambers on the first and second levels have been extensively worked; in particular the chambers on the second horizon have been broken through to the third level. Evidence of the start of new chambers can be seen at the end of the first level, suggesting a typical method of working. The inter-connection of the second and third levels is very confusing, but it does allow a round trip to be made from the stabilised zone via two short free climbs.

Historical Background

Extracts taken from records at Gwynedd Archive Office, Dolgellau by Arthog's teaching staff:

Date	Mine Ownership	Agent/Manager	No. of Workers	Production (Tons)
1868	Crown Quarry Co.	William Robert Williams		
1877	William Bogett of Chelsea Crown Slate Quarry		16	
1879			4	
1880			8	
1881		William Ellis	7	
1882			47	250
1883			20	
1884		Thomas Evans	6	130
1885			5	50
1887 - 92	NO RECORDS AVAILABLE			
1893			3	4
1894			4	
1895	Crown Quarry, Long Acre, Birmingham		17	
1896		David Davies	40	
1897	Crown Quarry Ltd. Dolgellau		40	
1898			15	
1899	ALL PRODUCTION CEASED			

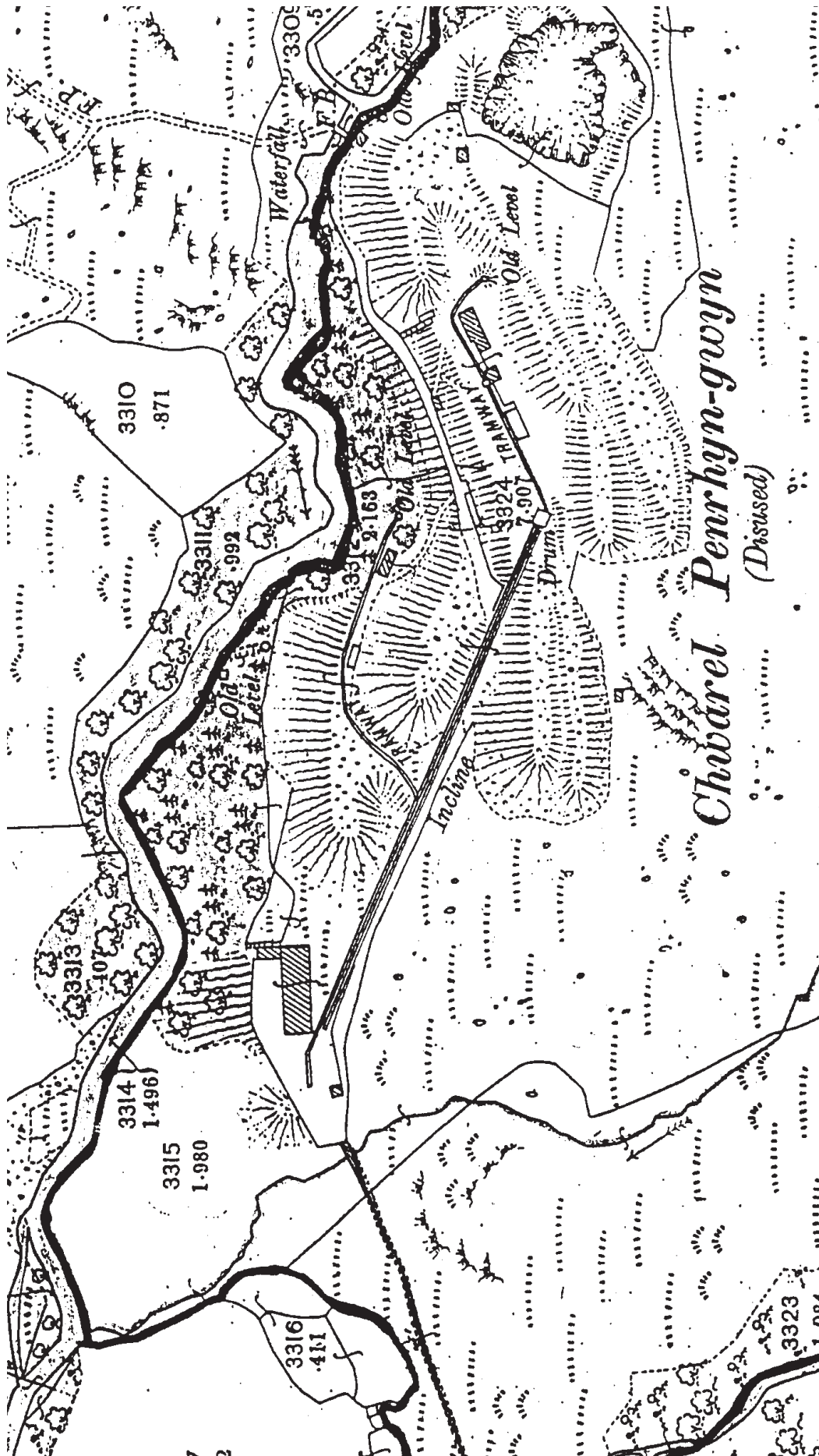
Note:

Figures 1, 2a and 2b are on pages 4 and 5. Turn to page 6 to continue the story.



Penrhyn-gwyn Slate Mine

Figure 1: Ordnance Survey record of mine after closure



Penrh yngwyn Slate Mine

Figures 2a and 2b

Figure 2a:

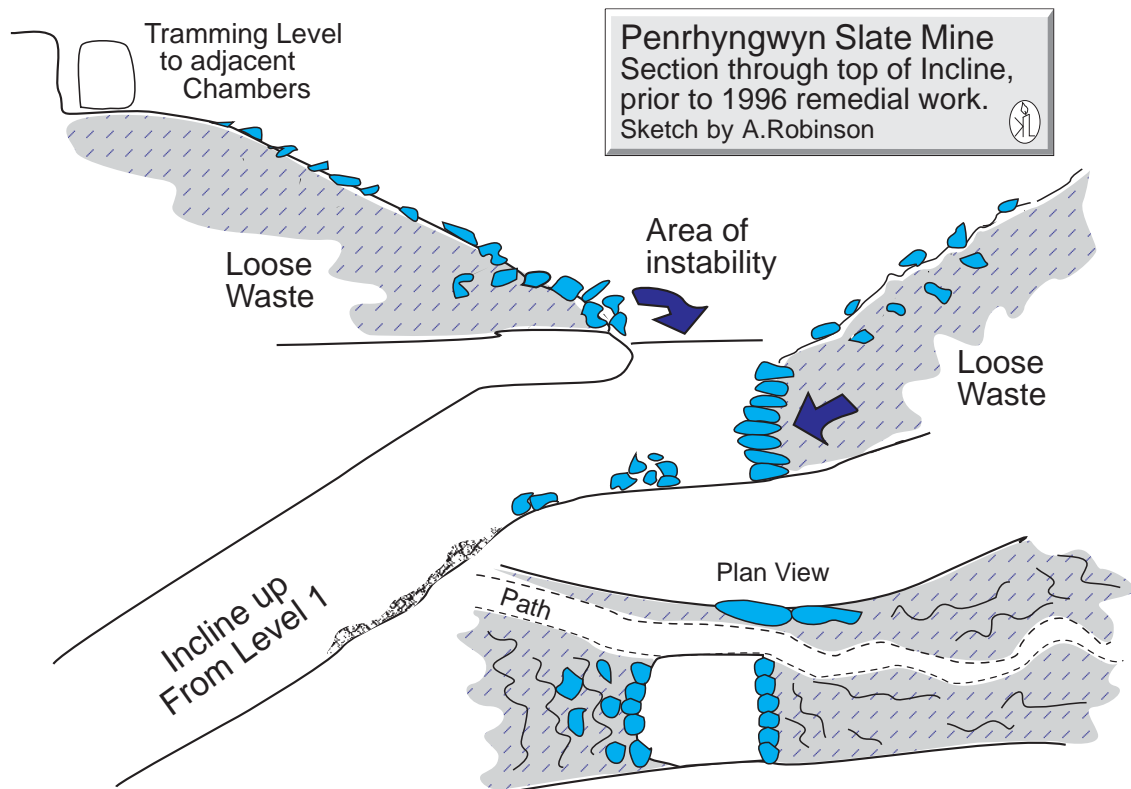
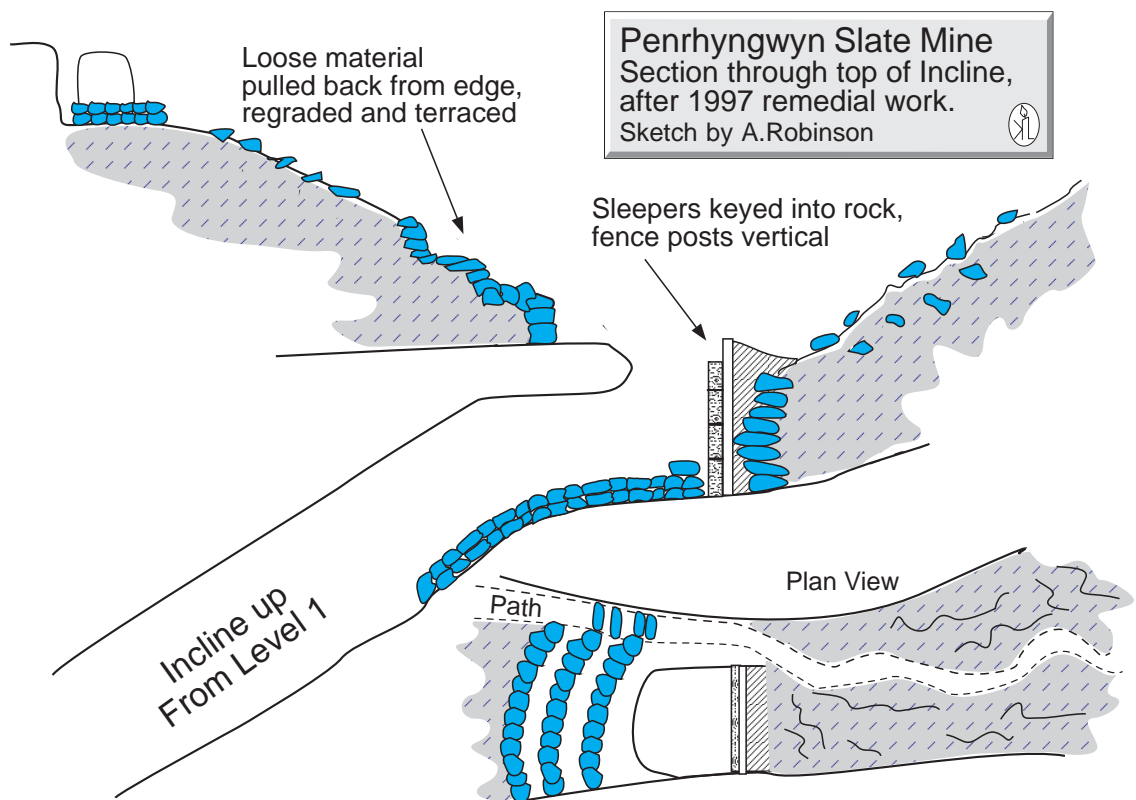


Figure 2b:



Penrh yngwyn Slate Mine continued

Recent Remedial Works

Following a visit by representative's of Wardell Armstrong, the county's mining consultants, a number of sections of the mine had been recommended as unsuitable for taking led groups through. Initially a reconnaissance of the mine was made in February to try and determine the nature of the work required and if it fell within the SCMC's capabilities.

The main area of concern was at the top of a small inclined rise between the bottom and second level, where a large amount of loose waste was precariously balanced above a short climb into the upper chambers.

Additionally, a further potentially unstable slope was being restrained only by a thin pack wall of slates (see Figure 2a). Upon inspection, it was felt that the pack wall could be reinforced by railway sleepers, whilst the loose material behind could be partially removed and terraced.

These works were carried out over two weekends in June and July; involving ten club members and a good few pints!

Problems

Two major stumbling blocks had to be overcome during the works:

1. To move 4 very heavy sleepers, 24 timber posts and a lot of tools from the car park to the mine, through a constricted entrance pipe, along the level for perhaps 150m and finally up more than 20 metres to the top of the rise.
2. To cut two vertical slots in the sidewalls adjacent to the packwall. These were to receive the ends of the sleeper and resist any movement of the wall with competent rock abutments.

In practice, both these tasks were undertaken simultaneously. The farmer was able to move all the sleepers and posts to within 100 metres of the bottom of the main incline. From here,

it required four people to lift one sleeper using tape slings. This worked well for the horizontal sections, but on each slope we had to use a counter balance of extra bodies to provide the necessary impetus to pull the sleepers to the top. This proved a useful application of some of the skills gained from rescue practices, as the sleepers behaved very much like a heavy stretcher.

The partially flooded level inside the mine proved easier than anticipated, since the displaced water took some of the weight off our shoulders and arms. Fortunately, by the end of the first day we had managed to raise all the sleepers to within a few metres of their final resting place.

Meanwhile, our team of 'miners' were 'stitch' drilling and chiselling through the slate. This took about 12 hours of continuous effort over the two days, providing us with ample opportunity to reflect on how much effort had gone into the original excavation. Since this work was restricted to a maximum of two persons at a time, the rest of the party started a chain gang to move some of the loose, overhanging spoil.

At first we tried to remove it from the higher section of the slope (away from

those working below) up to an area of solid floor above the slope. Once some of this weight was taken away, then a temporary retaining wall was constructed across the slope to allow us to move and rebuild the lower section of the slope with a series of low terraces.

Once the slots were completed and the sleepers cut to size, the new wall was built very quickly and the remaining space to the packwall infilled with small rocks and chippings. Much of the unusable spoil from the slope was tipped down the incline and spread out for hopefully a neat, professional finish!

Many thanks for all who helped to make it possible. Arthog have greatly appreciated the effort put in by the Club and this should help to strengthen our links with them.

References

1. Richards, Alun John A Gazetteer of the Welsh Slate Industry Gwasg Carreg Gwalch 1991
2. Plas Arthog Outdoor Centre. Centre literature. Unpublished.

Alan Robinson

Miners Token

Front of Salop 'Fed' Token (full size), (Reverse blank), probably brass:



(A and B indicate holes for sewing. L was also punched out.)

This token is believed to be a quarterly receipt, with the two holes in the metal disc (A & B) for use when sewing onto a jacket.

'L' may be either:

- a) indication of Lodge ie: 'Lilleshall'

or

- b) letter to indicate quarter for which receipt is given, ie: next would be M for July 1914. Can anyone clarify this?

The name Salop Miners federation seems to have been an alternative form. It was also known as the "Shropshire Miners, Enginemens and Surfacemens Federation".

Note:

The SMA (or SMF) did not include Ifton, which was in the North Wales Association or Highley which was part of Old Hill and Highley Association, later Highley, Kinlet & Billingsley District Miners Protection Society.

Ivor Brown



1998 NAMHO Field Meet

What is it?

A NAMHO Field Meet is an event held in alternate years to the Mining History Conference. It is hosted by a NAMHO member organisation(s) and takes place over a weekend. There are underground and surface trips to suit all abilities and sometimes other activities as well, such as seminars. There is usually an informal get-together on the Saturday evening at a local pub, sometimes with a slide show or other entertainment.

Where is it?

The 1998 Field Meet is being held in Nenthead, Cumbria.

When is it?

The Field Meet will be held over a weekend on 15-17th May 1998.

Who's hosting it?

It will be hosted by Friends of Killhope and North Pennine Heritage Trust.

What is happening?

The weekend will be based at Nenthead Village Hall with the following activities :-

Surface Field Trips

- Cowshill & Coptcleugh, Weardale
- Allenheads Mine & Village
- Mining in the Rookhope Valley
- Rotherhope Fell Mine
- Nent Valley - mining & geology.

Underground Trips

- Brownley Hill Mine
- Rampgill Mine - horse gin
- Killhope Mine
- Brewery Shaft - winch trip
- Tyne Bottom Mine
- Capelcleugh to Rampgill Mine - through trip
- Smallcleugh Mine
- Barhaugh Coal Pit
- Rotherhope Fell Mine
- Frazer's Hush Mine.

Saturday Evening Event

There will be a social gathering in the Village Hall with a meal, bar and informal slide show. Price of the meal is £5.00.

Where can I stay?

Camping

Details of campsites can be obtained from the organisers. A number of touring caravans can be parked in the yard at the back of the Nenthead Mines Centre. Note if camping that Nenthead is at an altitude of 1,400ft and it can be very cold. Snow is not unknown in May!

Bed & Breakfast

Details of local Bed & Breakfast places can be obtained from the organisers.

Hotel

Details of local hotels can be obtained from the organisers.

Where can I eat?

The village pubs (Miners Arms and Crown) and the cafe at the Nenthead Mines Centre will be open for meals. Groceries will be available from the village shop or from Alston (4 miles).

What will it cost?

There is a fixed fee of £5.00 for each person attending.

BCRA liability insurance is essential for all persons attending over the weekend. Attendees who are not already covered by their club will be required to pay 2.00 for honorary club membership which will give them cover.

How can I get more Information?

Further information on the 1998 Field Meet can be obtained by writing to:-

Sheila Barker
The Rise
Alston
Cumbria CA9 3DB

Or watch the website :
[wkweb4.cableinet.co.uk/
adrian.pearce/NAMOMEET.HTM](http://wkweb4.cableinet.co.uk/adrian.pearce/NAMOMEET.HTM)

What are SCMC members doing? Are we booking accommodation en masse?

Visit my Underground Database for references to all kinds of mining and caving subjects.

["http://wkweb4.cableinet.co.uk/
adrian.pearce/INDEX.HTM"](http://wkweb4.cableinet.co.uk/adrian.pearce/INDEX.HTM)

Adrian Pearce

Welsh Mines Trust

The Welsh Mines Trust has been busy during 1997. Preservation work has started on the Pearl Enginehouse at Parys Mountain in Anglesey and it is hoped to do the same at Penrhos Enginehouse at Brymbo by the end of the year. Future work may include preservation of the Nant Mine chimney and enginehouse in Denbighshire and formation of a car trail to visit mining remains in North Wales.

Internet Miners Lamps

If you are interested in mining lamps, then have a look at the miners' lamp collector web pages:

<http://www.asi.fr/~minelamp/>

- Lamps for sale
- Links
- Classified
- History of mining lamp (french only)

Underground Prize

The 1996 E.K. Tratman award for the best piece of British caving literature published in 1996 has been awarded to Kym ap Rhys and Paul Peppiatt for Underground Photographer.

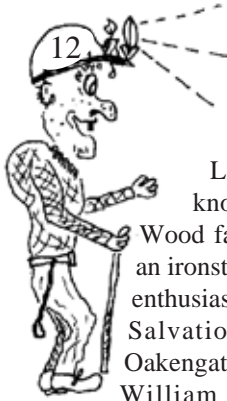
Underground Photographer is not the product of a particular club or group, rather it has been produced to fill a need among cave photographers. The journal contains an excellent mix of articles, covering basic and advanced techniques, practical tips, historical aspects, darkroom technique and even digital image processing. For anyone with even a passing interest in cave photography, its a must.

Kym and Paul win a cheque for £50.00.

Nick Williams



William Latham (1860-1933), the Shropshire Miner's Agent



William Latham (1860-1933) was the son of Jonah Latham of a well known Donnington Wood family. Jonah was an ironstone miner and an enthusiastic member of the Salvation Army in Oakengates.

William followed his father's footsteps and at the age of 10 or 11 in 1871, started work as a boy miner at the Lilleshall Company's Freehold Pit. William gave the age of 10 to the Royal Commissioners but other reports give the age of 11 years. Cyril Nicholls, who himself worked for the Company for 50 years, from 1920-1970, finally as Secretary and Finance Director, has recorded that, as a boy miner aged 11, William would have worked a 52 hour week for a wage of 2s 6d (12.5p) per week in wet, dirty and dangerous conditions.

It appears, from evidence that William Latham gave to the Royal Commission, that he received his mining training from his father who was a pit fireman (or deputy). In answer to a question - had he ever been employed as a fireman he replied "I was assistant to my father when I was 20 or 21 and, when he was away, I took his place". That would be about 1881.

Although William worked for a well organised company at the time, he felt that there was no job as unrewarding or degrading as working in some of the local pits. During the 1880s he decided that improvements could only be accomplished through Trade Unions and through public service including work as a councillor and a Primitive Methodist Lay Preacher.

William was, however, a born trade-unionist leader and very quickly found himself in many leading roles, so much so that when invited to give evidence to the Royal Commission on Mines (taken in 1907, but published in 1908) he could claim to have been secretary of the Shropshire Miners' Association for twenty years and was now Agent

for Shropshire. In this post he represented about 3,000 miners (The Shropshire Miners' Association was formed in 1886).

Royal Commission

William was closely examined by the Commissioners and his evidence makes about 13 pages of very fine print. It is certainly the most comprehensive account of the conditions of work and views of the Shropshire miners published at that time. William's comments were accepted by the Commissioners with particular interest since not only had he had 37 years at a colliery, he had been a miner working underground himself until only a few weeks before being questioned. Among the answers to their questions the following information is given:

- a) he had personally seen an Inspector at his pit only 3 times in 37 years.
- b) he felt Inspectors should visit about 4 times per year.
- c) he was glad that the company now worked mines themselves rather than through chartermasters.
- d) he would prefer that any miner accused of something should be taken to the police court rather than be 'fined' by the manager.
- e) "boys never had a meal-break underground until 18 months ago"
- f) he believed that no-one should start work at a mine "late in life", they are too old to learn the safety skills required.
- g) Shropshire men object to the use of cages with more than one deck. Why? Men on the bottom deck sometimes get a ducking in the sump or are thrown about as he was. (He offered to show the Commission his elbow "where it was smashed".
- h) the police appoint coroners juries but the police are warned by the mine owner not to appoint miners "who know too much".
- I) juries are often made up of "farmers or that class of people".
- j) a man is too old to learn pitwork if he is over 21.
- k) a "loader" is not employed by the management at all, but by the collier

- he is the "collier's servant".

- l) the average number of men at each Shropshire pit would be less than 100.
- m) he did not think there was a "need for toilets underground, men should go in the gob".

So it goes on, covering managers' qualifications, timbering rules, watering of roadways to lay dust, ventilation, training of boys and much more. Perhaps one of the most interesting points he made was that geology, ventilation, nature of gases, should be taught at school to boys in the 9-11 year range.

Trade Union Work

After the Shropshire Association became linked to the Midland Miners' Federation William became their representative and eventually, was elected a representative to the Miners' Federation of Great Britain. He attended a conference in Moscow of the miners' Union of Russia from August 1926 to October 1926 and in 1929 he attended a similar conference in Poland. At both conferences he made notable speeches appealing for international co-operation and mutual support of the miners' cause for better wages and living conditions.

Mr. Latham was often seen at grass root level particularly in times of dispute, he is reported as being underground at Madeley Wood Mine in 1917 and 1921 (see 'Below 97.2, p5). He led the first really significant miners' strike in Shropshire in 1913, all the County's main pits were involved. The miners got very little financial support from the Union or outside and they were eventually forced to capitulate and the strike collapsed. Again in May 1926 he led the Shropshire miners in the General Strike, but in spite of support from many outside the industry, by November the miners had to return to work and concede defeat.

William's obituary states that he was still agent at his death aged 73, some 63 years after his mining career had commenced but his influence was still



William Latham (1860-1933), continued...

being felt in the local mines many years after this. He died on January 25th 1933, having been almost certainly, the one person who had influenced the miners' trade union in Shropshire the most. His influence had also been felt elsewhere, he had been a Sunday School Superintendent at Wrockwardine Wood for 25 years, a local preacher for 50 years and a long-standing councillor for Newport Rural Council and a Shropshire County Councillor (of which he later became an Alderman). He lived at Ivy House, trench Road, Wellington and was survived by his wife, four sons and four daughters.

At his funeral 8 members of the Miners' Council carried his coffin. Representatives were present of the Midland Miners' Federation, the Shropshire Miners' Association (mostly from the Coalbrookdale Coalfield but a group of 5 miners came from the Hanwood Branch), the Pelsall Miners' Association, the Shropshire Coal Owners Association (represented by a Mr. Morris), Directors of the Lilleshall and Madeley Wood Companies, the Principal of the Walker College and the Secretary of the Enginemans' Union. Local Council and Church Leaders also attended in force.

Anecdotes

Many stories are still told about him and of his solid principles, for example, in 1918 he was called to a meeting with the General Manager of the Lilleshall Company and his response on being offered a cigarette was "I've never been bribed yet and I ain't starting now". Again during 1926 he told a meeting of striking miners "My religious principles would not allow me to advise stealing but it is difficult to see one's children go hungry". Next morning when going to feed his own poultry William found his shed empty and chalked across the door was the words "thanks Bill".

There has been no Union Agent for Shropshire with a record like William Latham's but there were to be other agents. During the writer's time Fred

Minutes of Evidence, Royal Commission of Mines 1908 (Vol. III) Index page 521 (Part of the index to W.Latham's evidence)

LATHAM, Mr. W., Secretary, Shropshire Miners' Association. (See questions 32954-33442).

ACCIDENTS:

Face, large proportion of accidents at, 33331, 33399.

Falls of roof and sides, 33331, 33336, 33399:

Complaints as to condition of roof not made, owing to fear of dismissal, 33340.

Securing of place after, extent desirable and extent practised, 33342.

Winding should be suspended until timber has been set, 33046.

Inspection by Home Office Inspector after, 32962, 32986, 32992, 33092, 33320

Change in scene of accident, prohibition of, until after this inspection, 33085, 33201, 33330, 33405.

INVESTIGATION:

CORONERS' INQUESTS:

Adequacy of, views as to, 33176.

Constitution of, 33093, 33141, 33151, 33179.

Object, chief, of, 33136.

Second inquiry under Sec. 45, views as to, 33141, 33174.

Shaft accidents arising from two-deck cages, 33062, 33414

Unskilled labour, accidents caused by, 33049, 33396.

Friendly society statistics as to, 33051.

Age Limit for beginning work at pit, suggestion as to, 33227, 33439.

Ankylostomiasis, prevention of, steps taken in Shropshire for, 33115

Deeley of Highley was referred to as the "miners' agent". Each pit, however, had also a checkweighman "paid by the men" and they also acted as Lodge Secretary.

At Madeley in the middle of this century this was George Whitehead another Methodist Local Preacher. The last of the Shropshire miners to be so appointed is believed to have been Mr. N.Latham (in the 1970s), but whether he was a relative of William Latham's is not yet known by the writer.

References:

1. The excellent paper on William Latham by C.R.Nicholls in Shropshire Magazine, June 1976 and a reference by the same author in his book 'The Lilleshall Company', 1764-1964.
2. Minutes of Evidence, Royal Commission on Mines Vol. 3 1908 pages 359-372.
3. Pit Log Book, Madeley Wood Colliery (now lost)

Ivor Brown



Midlands Cave Rescue Organisation

Report on Rescue Practice 19th October 1997

The practice was attended by a total of 24 persons including 8 from DCRT, Simon from C & C.C. and two persons from Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service.

An apparently simple scenario was organised with the 'leader' of a party of three (Alan Moseley) falling near the Baryte Stope, one inexperienced remained with the casualty while the other went for help reporting his belief that the casualty had possible head injuries and a broken upper leg. When the initial rescuers arrived at the scene there was no sign of the inexperienced person left with the casualty - this person (Dave Bowdley's son) was later found at the bottom of the winze at the far end of the upper level.

One reason for having Alan Moseley as the casualty was to 'test' persons who had attended the First Aid training the previous weekend. I understand Alan was impressed with the attention he received from the initial First Aiders, Eileen and Mike (Worsfold).

Dave's son at the bottom of the far winze presented a particular problem

in that there was no rigging for the winze and the rock is not strong enough to bolt! To emphasise the potential for communication problems, the radios were not available. John Priest was asked to take control of the underground situation and was very frustrated when his repeated requests for rope (to descend the winze) produced no results for a long time.

Another deliberate part of the practice was to compare the use of a frame mounted Neil Rob. stretcher with a cocoon stretcher for the now awkward dog-leg infill. Much to my surprise, the Neil Rob stretcher proved to be much more satisfactory.

I believe the practice was very successful in that a lot was learnt and everyone enjoyed themselves. The general consensus after the event was to emphasise the importance of communications and the desirability of including some rope with the first response equipment. It may have been a mistake to have two casualties with a small number of persons but having given it further thought, I think the resources should be stretched to learn

the most.

The two representatives from the Fire & Rescue Service appeared to be impressed and noted the desirability of having a practice where they could add the resource of additional manpower.

Simon Amatt noted that he had come feeling an obligation to attend but had found himself thoroughly enjoying the day.

Based on the experience of the Rescue Practice, the MCRO has agreed:

1. To organise a communications exercise at the mill in Dudley, to be followed up by an underground exercise in Shropshire.
2. To propose at the British Cave Rescue Council (in April) that small cave rescue organisations agree a programme of large rescue practices to be held every other year. It was noted that there is a correlation between small CRO's and mining areas.

Steve Holding

100 Years Ago - Mining Accidents in Shropshire

Coal and Clay Mines

Cruckmoile Pit - collier was burned by explosion of firedamp, ignited by his candle - recovered.

Grange, Donnington - banksman injured as he was pushing a tub into the cage - recovered.

Rock Clay Pit - collier injured when a length of doubles (winding chain) fell down shaft - recovered.

Muxton - struck on head by debris when blasting - recovered.

Hinksay Pits - brakesman killed during shunting - F

Grange, Donnington - hurt back while at work, died - F

Overtons - collier struck on knee by piece of roof, died of blood poisoning - F

Turners Yard Clay - fall of stone while working in ancient gob - F

Woodhouse - crushed when putting full tub on cage - F

Priorslee - demolishing building at an abandoned pit, wall fell on him - F

Metal Mines

Snailbeach - miner fell off ladder, survived 24ft fall into sump.

East Roman Gravels - explosion of a shot of gunpowder while he was attempting to unram it (George Pugh age 55) - F

Snailbeach - loco stoker (called Edwards), run over and crushed by a low flat wagon pushed by loco, died - F

Other Accidents

Fatal accidents also occurred at Porthywaen Limestone (Salop) -

fall of stone knocked man down quarry face 31ft. - F

Titterstone Basalt (Field & McKay) - fall of stone from 80ft. above.

(F indicates fatal or died of injuries)

Ivor Brown

Explosives User Group web pages

The BCRA Explosives User Group web pages have moved from Andy Brooks' pages at Dundee and can now be found at:

<http://www.conformance.co.uk/EUG/home.html>

Please update any bookmarks and pointers accordingly.

Nick Williams



NAMHO Conference

11th-14th July 1997

Over fifteen members attended, although quite a few non-Shropshire based members attended under the guise of other clubs.

This conference has the reputation of being the most friendly and this year was no different, mine explorers, cavers and academics provide a slightly eccentric and bubbly atmosphere. The event is Bi-annual and hosted by a different Club each time, as a result each event is very different, often well run with inevitable cock-ups. The event was run this time by the Peak District Mines Historical Society and held at St. Elphins School for Girls in Darley Dale near Matlock. Each day had a mixture of industrial visits, surface walks, underground trips of varying degrees of difficulty and two days of lectures.

The site was perfect in every way with ample camping space, a good size hall for lectures (which unfortunately doubled as a dining room and as a result noises from the kitchen interrupted lectures at regular intervals). There was ample single room accommodation for the affluent and idle, which included communal kitchens, lounge complete with video and TV. The school gym was used for exhibitors, traders, reception area and bar which was all too convenient for J RAT (BAT Products) who attempted single handed to drink it dry.

If anything the event suffered the problem of being over popular: every trip was over subscribed and it created a catering problem at the Saturday evening when most delegates and organisers opted for the substantial good value nosh and ended up in a queue for 1½ hours.

The trade stands included Dragon and BAT, the Book Ouse offering second hand and new books, BCRA, Bernard Moore (no relation) Mining Share Certificates, and PDHMS who sold everything from publications, memberships, to gallons of cold drinks and tons of ice cream.

Friday trips included a look around Enthovens Lead Smelters (this

included wearing a white oversuit etc.), Cavendish Mill, Dene Quarry or Yatestooop Sough - this was particularly popular due to the hot weather as it included two fixed ladders and about ¼ mile of passage with 2' deep running water.

The lecture programme on the Saturday was opened by Dr. Trevor Ford complete with gong (or was it the old hip joint?) and new replacement hip. The first lecture was on the St. Aiden's opencast mine disaster where the river burst its banks and filled the mine, this was an excellent presentation given by Alan Stopher who was the site engineer throughout the job had showed how the river had been put into the canal and the mine drained with the water being used by Yorkshire Water to help out through the drought. Other lectures included China Clay Industry, Flotation Technology, Cave Videos, Bronze Age Mines in North Wales, The Underground Killhope Wheel, Pleasley Pit and how its two steam winders are to be preserved.

Underground trips included Horse Buttocks Mine, Ecton and Dale Mines, Long Rake Spar Mine and Magpie Sough, the latter was organised with special permission for the conference as access is normally closed. The trip involves some two miles in chest to knee deep water which leads to some interesting features and artefacts.

A mining heritage walk of Winster and Bonsall was led by Jim Rieuwerts, the expert on the area, unique examples of buddling, boxwork scrimms and small miner/farmer mines were visited - some of which are unique. Land owner problems were also seen at first hand where one site has been completely destroyed.

There was no formal entertainment set for the Saturday evening, although Peter Eggleston from I.A. Recordings gave several showings of the Irish Mines Video which includes unique underground footage of Tara Mine one of the largest working Zinc mines in the world. This was followed by an auction of unique Mining Share Certificates which included one form

Egypt and quite a few from Wales - entertainment was provided by various groups outbidding each other for the share certificates. This was followed by lots of socialising which was curtailed too early as the bar was closed at 12 midnight!

The Sunday surface walk was a fairly strenuous 8 mile yomp which looked at the Lead Mine in the Castleton area. These included Linicar, Slitherstones and Dirtlow Rake, Pindale Scrins, Fireset Scrin, Ashtons Mine and Odins Mine plus a short detour to New Venture Mine. The evening concluded with a visit to Stone Edge Chimney the oldest existing smelting chimney in the world. Underground visits included Magpie Sough, Jug Holes, Old Millclose Mine, and Good Luck Mine.

Lectures for Sunday included an interesting talk by Dave Warriner on the exploration and survey of Old Mill Close Mine, showing how some fairly clever engineering tactics had been used to gain access and survey this very extensive system. The detailed computer graphic survey of the mine, shown at last years BCRA conference was also displayed. Jonathan Wright of Clearwell caves gave an unaided talk on work at Clearwell and Ecton Copper Mines including proposals to pump out a flooded shaft. Other lectures included a social survey on mining populations in the Dales, Paul Sowan on stone mines and underground quarries. Ivor Brown gave a confusing lecture on underground canals in the Shropshire Mines, Harry Parker ran an entertaining seminar on the raising of the Winster Engine, including slides of one or two characters such as Stuart (Cheg) Chesters as a teenager.

Sunday evening concluded with a 'dry' (or rather a 'wet') meet in a local pub.

Unlike BCRA, NAMHO makes a weekend of the conference for the benefit of those travelling a long distance. Monday therefore included underground trips to Bage Mine, Masson Mine and Holme Bank Chert Mine, surface and industrial visits included a guided tour of Magpie Mine

continued on page 12



or a visit to the Hope Quarry/Cement Works.

During the weekend there were a number of non-programmed trips organised by 'Mole' which were attended by several SCMC Members. In all this was a superbly organised conference which continues to go from strength to strength, it was a shame that the caving world could not get its act together and run a simultaneous Cavers Fair. The BCRA should also look at this conference to see how to offer a more varied and exciting new programme rather than continuous stuffy lectures, expensive trade hall, same old programme, and cliquy event where very few people truly mix - small wonder that numbers don't increase.

Mike Moore

**Snailbeach,
Tankerville & Tinsley
14th July 1997**

Members present: Nick Southwick, John Davies, Adrian Pearce, Rob Southwick, Andy Yapp, Kim Yapp and Mike Moore.

Some members left the NAMHO conference early in order to reciprocate hospitality shown by the Irish Mines Society. Six of their members stopped overnight in Shropshire so they could see some of the South Shropshire Mines.

Kim Yapp in her first official engagement as a Snailbeach Mine Guide organised the surface walk over the site and she did extremely well. The more obvious underground tour and surface walk around Tankerville was also given. The reaction to the little engine and drum was nothing short of disbelief and led to comments and praise of their visit to Shropshire - followed, of course, by lots of £1 'a pint' in the Stiperstones (the Woods was off and the stuff coming out of the Boddingtons pump may have been too, so we were given something else at the usual discount price).

Mike Moore

Sirs, I live in Edinburgh, but my grandfathers were: Dear Sir,

-Harry Edwards, an overman at Ifton Colliery who lived in St Martins and died in his 80s in the late 1980s

-Fred Stokes, who at one time bred and broke pit ponies at the pit farm, Ifton, and latterly looked after the ponies down the mine until coming up to look after the colliery gardens.

A great grandfather, Richard Jones from Glyn Morlas, worked at Black Park colliery and there were miners in the family for generations.

I am very interested in any material and memoirs relating to Ifton and other collieries in the area. Could you let me know about any magazines or booklets there are and what is in them relating to Ifton.

Robert Stokes

Following our visit to the SCMC over the weekend of the annual dinner, we both wished to extend our thanks to everyone in the club who made us welcome and showed us around the area.

In particular, Steve Holding gave us a chance to see Clive Copper Mine and Tankerville Mine, the latter being doubly relevant due to the superb drawing of the site by Malcolm Newton that was presented after the dinner.

In short, thanks to everyone in what is obviously a very active and excellent club.

Long may you prosper.

*Chris Howes
Judith Calford*

Have an e-mail address for Mr. Stokes if members want to pass any details on to me. *Kelvin.*

*Expencis at Snealbeach Mine Driving
Levells & Sinking Pits from 1782 To 25
March 1820*

	£	s	d
<i>The Long Level from the Brook</i>	4000		
<i>Black Toms Level</i>	3353		
<i>1 Level in the Loard Hill</i>	924		
<i>2 Do in Do Hill</i>	1877		
<i>3 Do in Do Hill</i>	4230		
<i>4 Do in Do Hill</i>	6107		
<i>Sundrys Sumps and Cross Cutes</i>	5431		
<i>1 Level in the Rusting Hill</i>	932		
<i>2 " " " Do</i>	3068		
<i>3 " " " Do</i>	1960		
<i>Level from the Pit in the Meadow</i>	1187		
<i>Towards the Croos [Cross?] Nist</i>			
<i>5 Level to the Loard Hill</i>	1644		
<i>6 Level to Do</i>	604		
<i>Callow Hill Level and Pits</i>	5725		
	41042		

From an unsigned, undated script
(Source: SRRRC 800/25A)

Andy Cuckson



News Round-Up 2

Tin Poppies

If you want something different, but with a mining link, you might be interested in the range of pure tin jewellery currently on sale from South Crofty Mine.

The tin is initially smelted in the mines laboratories, then passed onto local craftsmen in ingot form for casting into a range of items, such as Poppy Tie Pins, broaches and cuff links - designed and produced especially for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

If you are interested in finding out more about the items on offer write to:

**The South Crofty Collection,
South Crofty Mine,
Dudnace Lane,
Pool, Redruth,
Cornwall, TR15 3QH**

Tel: 01209 714821

Asking for the "Cornish Tin Jewellery Brochure".

As a rough guide to prices: poppy tie-pins cost £11.95, matching cuff links £20.95, poppy stick pins £12.95 and stud earrings £18.25.

Coal Mine Opposed

Wrekin Council has decided to object to the plans by the Clay Colliery Company for an open cast coal mine in the Lilleshall, Muxton and Donnington area.

Although the application is currently being handled by Shropshire County Council and Wrekin has no control over the application until it becomes a unitary authority in April next year, they hope the county will take their objections seriously.

Clay Colliery had promised to return the land to its current agricultural use after three years of extraction, but local residents were very concerned about the effects the work would have on their lives.

The county will make its decision regarding the scheme by the end of the year.

Metal Prices

As South Crofty Mine suffered from the drop in the price of tin so has the Philippines metal producers. The prices of tin, copper, silver and gold have dropped significantly in recent months, causing a big drop in revenue for the Philippines Government.

Kelvin

Celtic Energy Sue Germans

Celtic Energy, a South Wales opencast coal mining firm is to sue the German Government for approximately £20 million in damages. The firm (which mines anthracite) claims that they face unfair competition with cheap German coal being 'dumped' in Britain.

The German Government subsidises their coal authority to the tune of £40,000 per miner.

Irish Tunnel

A £14 billion project has been announced to build a tunnel between Britain and Ireland. The proposed tunnel would link Holyhead to Dublin and cut the rail journey time from London to Dublin to just 3+ hours.

The tunnel would be 56 miles long (almost twice the length of the Channel Tunnel) and about 90m below the surface of the Irish Sea. Symonds Group consultants claim that while the tunnel would be a challenge, they possess the technology and are confident that the scheme is practical and technically sound.

The tunnel is seen as one of the last steps in completing rail connections throughout Europe.

The initial study would last a year and cost £8 million, with the earliest date for opening the link being 2010.

Case for Coal

A special conference designed to argue the 'Case for Coal' was held at Kellingley Colliery, Wakefield on 23rd October. Concern over the number of jobs in the coal industry at risk due to the 'dash for gas' was the prime driving force behind the conference.

The main argument was that "Coal has a bright future, but only if urgent steps are taken by the Government. Rather than closing down the industry and relying on nuclear and gas the Government must 'kick-start' a programme of clean coal power stations".

Andy Cuckson

Snailbeach Best Last Analysis

<i>Lead</i>	<i>Calcd as metal</i>	<i>99. 99 36</i>
<i>Iron Oxide</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>0. 00 32</i>
<i>Copper Oxide</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>0. 00 15</i>
<i>Silver</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>0. 00 17</i>
<i>Sulphur</i>		<i>nil</i>
<i>Silicious [? illegible]</i>		<i>nil</i>
		<hr/>
		<i>100. 00 00</i>

Draft Dated 28-6-1888 and sent by John Job to a customer.
(Source: SRRC 800/26A)



Shropshire Pit-top clashes and their fatal consequences - a Christmas Special

The coming of the industrial revolution in the 1700's and with it the creation of large companies and mines brought about a serious problem - that of colliers and workmen striking and rioting en-masse. One of the earliest major incidents took place in November 1756 when for various reasons there was "not a bit of bread nor corn nor flour to be had for money" in the area. The colliers of Broseley, Madeley Wood and Benthall rioted, they marched and food was sought from farms, shops and even houses, some was stolen.

Attempts were made by local magistrates and posses of farmers and their labourers to put down the rioters, and mine owners gave money to keep the men at bay. On one occasion miners from the south of the coalfield met a posse, including tradesmen, in total about 1,500 strong near Ketley, ten of the rioters were taken prisoner and two were subsequently executed.

Industrial Unrest

Between 1756 and the opening of the 19th Century there were many periods of unrest and the causes were often more general ones due to the times rather than the action of the mine owners. Indeed the owners often actively tried to remove the grievances and even, as with the Darbys, in 1757, petitioned for mercy when some miners were sentenced to fourteen years transportation.

In the early years of the 19th Century there was a period of great depression in the iron trade and the mine owners, however sympathetic to the conditions of their workers they might have been, were under pressure to reduce costs by cutting pay. By 1820 the situation had become so serious that the miners were organising strikes and using various means, like threatening to cut winding ropes, in order to 'persuade' those less keen on causing trouble to comply. Some of the strikes were settled by various forms of agreement and arbitration but in 1820 several troops of Yeomanry were called out (This had happened previously but perhaps not on the same scale). The Yeomanry who were part-time soldiers made up

mainly from the middle classes and who tended to support the upper class, were considered more useful than full time soldiers who it was believed tended to support the workers. The Yeomanry had been formed in 1795 and had up until the 1820s been used mainly as a threat and as a show of force. It usually worked - as it did in 1820, but only just!

Trouble in 1821

In the following year, on 29th Jan. 1821 the Masters gave notice of wage reductions - the miners wages, which averaged about 15 shillings per week were to be cut by about 3 shillings. BY early morning on the 30th over 500 workers had gathered in Dawley and numbers were increasing rapidly. Some went to the Old Park Company's works and brought it to a standstill. Other went to Stirchley pits and ore marched to the pits in Madeley. By noon, news reached them that the Yeomanry was being raised so the strikers retreated to the cinderhills near Old Park.

By about 1.30pm two troops of Yeomanry in "scarlet and brass" left Wellington Barracks to march towards Dawley. By this time it is said there were 3,000 strikers, mainly miners, gathered on the tips of waste between Old Park and Dawley, their mood was not pleasant. Soon the two forces met, the Riot Act was read to the response of jeers and catcalls, it was very noisy. The Yeomanry were armed with pistol and sabre, the men with sticks, stones and crude mining tools.

After an hour a squad of Constables and Cavalry men had seized two suspected ringleaders, Samuel Hayward and a man called Hassell. As these two prisoners were being taken away the masses closed in pelting the captors with stones. Colonel Cludde gave the order to fire* and during the battle that followed one collier, William Bird, was shot dead, another Thomas Gittens was fatally wounded. Hayward and Hassell were quickly released although Hassell was soon captured. One cavalry man David Spence was dangerously wounded when his pistol went off in his pocket and William

Turner, a magistrates clerk received a light wound in his arm, other cavalry men were severely wounded by stones.

The mob began to break up with much anger and great noise, the cavalry returned to their barracks. Over the next few days several miners were arrested. On March 25th at Shrewsbury Assizes the accused men were tried and sentenced:

Thomas Palin, who had been found wounded after the 'battle' was sentenced to death and was hanged on April 7th.

Samuel Hayward, one of the first caught, also received the death penalty but was later reprieved.

James Eccleshall, John Grainger, Christopher North, John Payne and Robert Wheeler were all sentenced to 9 months hard labour.

The verdict of the inquest on Bird and Hassell was given as "Justifiable Homicide".

Yeomanry Praised

The Yeomanry received a letter of congratulations from Lord Sidmouth (Secretary of State) and the Government of the day expressed its pleasure at the way the affair had been handled by Colonel Cludde and the Yeomanry generally.

The problems didn't end, in spring 1821, there were to be other strikes and other callouts for the Yeomanry but the situation never got so nasty again. This particular period of unrest peters out in late 1822 when demand for iron started to pick-up again, but the problems re-occurred in the 1830s and 1840s (The Chartists). The 1850s-70s were fairly stable times with high outputs but during the 1880s real problems due to decline and depression arose which lead to organised "Union" activity (see William Latham's story on page 8).

References

The events outlined in the foregoing are given in much more detail in two publications and much use has been made of these in this article.



The publications are:

1. The Cinderloo Affair by A.B. Mercer in the Shropshire Magazine dated January 1966 pages 22-23.
2. The Industrial Revolution in Shropshire by B. Trinder published 1973 by Phillimore, pages 376-402. (Full references are given in this publication).

It should be noted that a few details conflict and the dates of events do not always agree.

No memorials to any of the miners who died are known. The last incident known to the writer when the Forces drew their weapons on striking miners was at Featherstone, West Yorkshire, in September 1893, only a short distance from the writer's present home.

Two miners were shot in the back and killed as they fled, another 16 were injured. The 100th anniversary of the event has recently been marked by special meetings and publications.

Ivor Brown

* Colonel Cludde gave the order to fire - but who was he?

Nearly 200 years before this incident in 1649, the Manor of Madeley and its mines was left to Edward Cludde of Oreleton near Wellington, a relative of the Brooke family of Madeley Court. He invested £2,000 in the mines (four adits in Madeley Wood) which seem to have been worked by subcontractors called "Master grubbers".

When Cludde died in 1651 the tenancy went to Francis Wolfe, formerly clerk of the works. (for details see History of Shropshire by G.C. Baugh 1985).

Was Colonel Cludde a descendant of mine-owner Cludde?

The writer thinks so.

The Jockey Bank Area (Madeley Green)

This is one of the most interesting and earliest worked areas of the mining field, references to mines go back to at least the 14th C. and there are several fascinating descriptions of underground visits in the 18th & 19th C. in existence.

The simplified topographical sketch (on page 16) shows four important features, the presence of several competent sandstone beds or 'rocks', the effect of geological faults F1 and F2 (but there are others present), the unconformable Upper Coal Measures (UCM) and the twin valleys in this part of the Gorge. All of these led to easy and very early access to good seams of ironstone, coal and clay, probably in that order. (Sandstone was also mined underground and surface for building purposes, including blast furnace construction).

The Big Flint Sandstone immediately below the unconformity the Vigar and Best Sandstones and the Little Flint and Crawstone Sandstone (the latter outcropping at (3) and in the riverbed) all provided excellent roofs for tunnels and workings.

The outcrops of Madeley Green were noted in early Methodist History (the 'Chapel on the Rock' 1762-1776, now

52/53 New Bridge Road). By 1750 a major tramway tunnel appears to have been driven through the rock beneath the road junction by the Old Fletcher Chapel and School and down-bank of the new (recently closed) Chapel (shown 1750 on the plan). There are certainly many more adits here than these mentioned below.

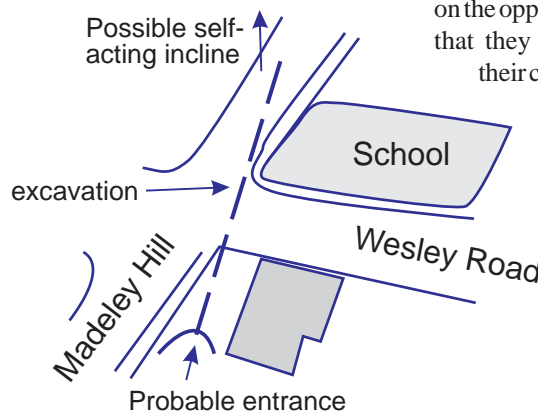
1. Wesley Road Tunnel

The tunnel was broken into during construction of a sewer in October 1976. The excavation showed that it was brick-arched on stone walls, 6ft. high and 6ft. wide and the top of the arch was about 6ft. below the road surface. A line of 1ft. diameter drainage pipes had been put in vertically at some time to give added to support under the road. Local council workmen said that there had been a collapse in the 1930s or early '40s and that the pipes were filled with concrete.

In 1976 the tunnel could be followed for 1 yard uphill towards Madeley to a stone stopping, and downhill towards Ironbridge for 9 yards, at a dip of 1 in 15, to a collapse of rubble. The adit entrance must have been under the 'ruins' and wall supporting the roadway.

The entrance was not found despite digging but the whole length under the road was exposed and filled with lean-mix concrete (30 cu. m) before backfilling. The occupiers of the house on the opposite side of the road reported that they believed the tunnel passed their cellar - as it had an "irregularly shaped bit cut out" and it seems likely that the tunnel, although a longish one, served only to get under the road junction, but it was there in the 1750s!

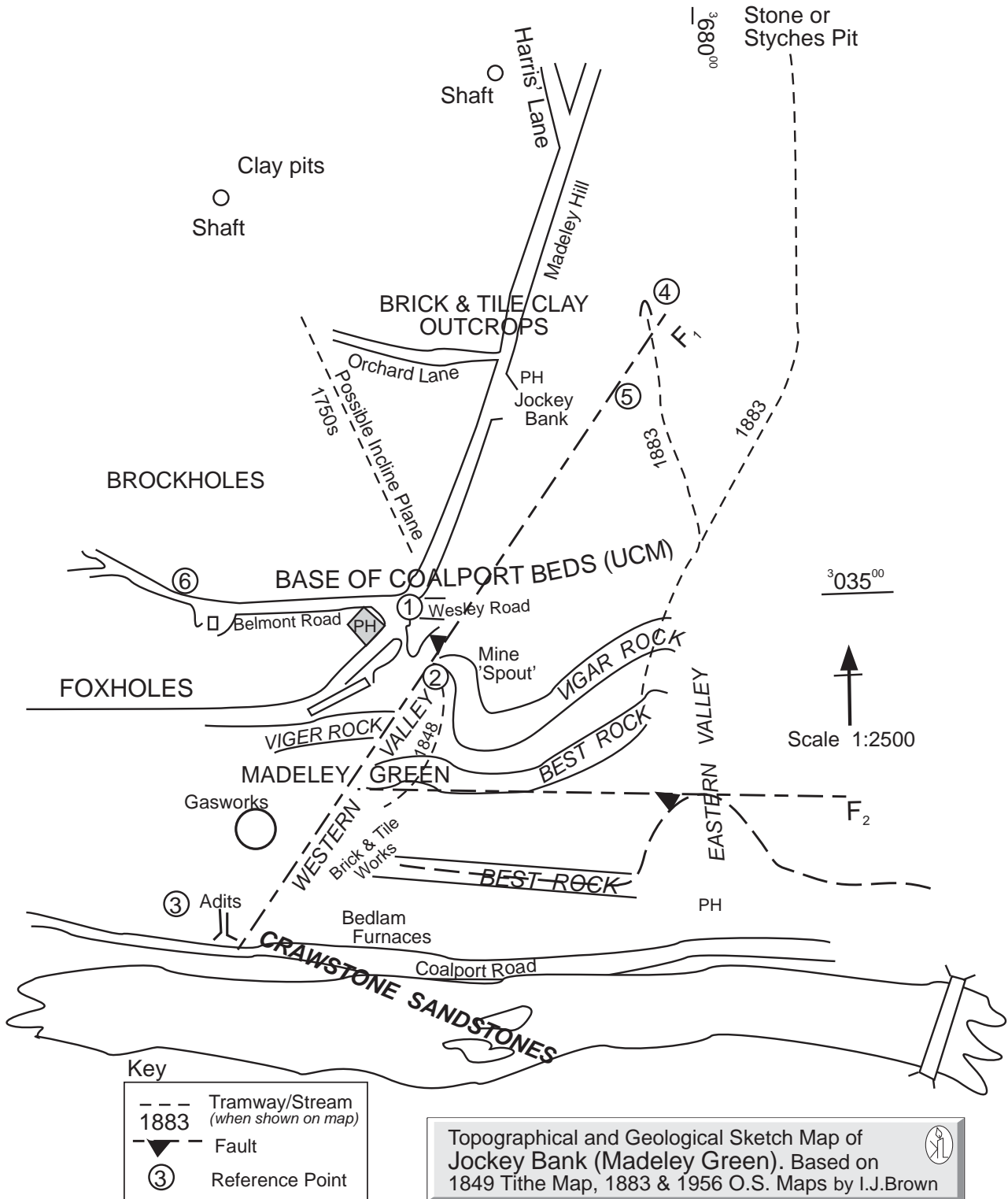
Beyond the road junction there is evidence of an inclined plane.



Wesley Road Tunnel, Jockey Bank
Location sketch by I. J. Brown
Scale 1:500



The Mines and Tunnels of the Ironbridge Gorge, Part 2: Continued ..



The Mines and Tunnels of the Ironbridge Gorge, Part 2: Continued ..

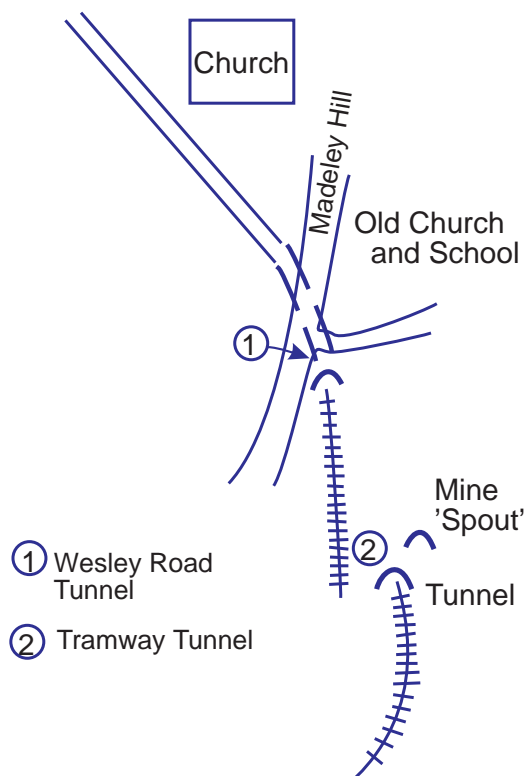
2. Tramway Tunnel

This adit is marked 'Tunnel' on the Madeley Tithe Map of 1849, and it has a tramway leading from it. Its entrance is some 13 metres below that of (1) (on page 15) and so it is unlikely to be connected to the above.

Exploratory digging with a JCB in 1976 located the top of the tunnel which was itself almost completely backfilled with rubble. The visible part indicated that it was blocked by a stone wall 0.6m in, but probably had been at least 1.5m high. It was arched with stone.

The area was later backfilled and the cover formed into a landscaped garden.

Also shown on the Tithe Map is a mine 'Spout', the local name for a sough tail. It has not been seen in recent years.



Wesley Road & Tramway Tunnels,
Jockey Bank, Ironbridge
Sketch by I.J.Brown

3. Bedlam Adit (or adits)

Situated at the foot of the high wall west of the Bedlam Furnace site. These have not been explored but are believed to be in the Crawstone Ironstone seam.

Any workings will almost certainly have been disturbed by the landslide which affected the Gasworks Site behind in the 1950s and also greatly contaminated by pollutants from operations on the site. Drill-hole investigation on the site in the 1970s showed much disturbance.

4. Stone Pit Tunnel

The mouth of a tunnel is shown on the 1883 OS Map, this had a tramway and a drainage channel leading from it. It is possible that this connected with the ironstone mine to the west of Harris' Lane and may have been covered later with spoil from Styches Pit.

This tunnel almost certainly played a major part in the flowslide that destroyed houses below this point in the 1930s.

No access to the tunnel has been found, but there was a boggy area present in the 1970s. The entrance was probably destroyed by the earth movement.

5. Lower Stone Pit Tunnel

A similar tramway to the one above, with drainage channel is shown leading from this point on the 1883 OS Map. Its history is probably similar to that of (4).

These workings appear to have been worked by shaft or quarry. However there is (or was) an inscribed stone having the words "Imperial Clay Mine" built into a wall at this point. Almost certainly it is not in its original position and its history is unclear.

Possible Pennystone Adit

In the grounds adjoining the old Council Offices. This was destroyed by development before it could be fully investigated. It may or may not have been an adit because many properties on this horizon are partly built into the sandstone to produce a cool storage 'cellar', or have 'arbours' for pleasure and decoration in their garden. These can appear very similar to mine entrances (and elsewhere some have been shown to be adapted from actual entrances).

There is no known mine of this name in the Coalfield. The writer offers a prize for the first photo or drawing of this inscription received with description of present condition, location, grid reference etc..

Warning:

All the dangers indicated in Part 1 (last issue of 'Below') apply. Do NOT enter any workings or tunnels without proper precautions. News that a youth had just died in such a tunnel near Barnsley reached the writer as he was producing these notes, October 1997, BEWARE.

6. Clay Adits

No adits have been found connected with any of the Brick and Tile Clay workings on this bank of the Gorge.

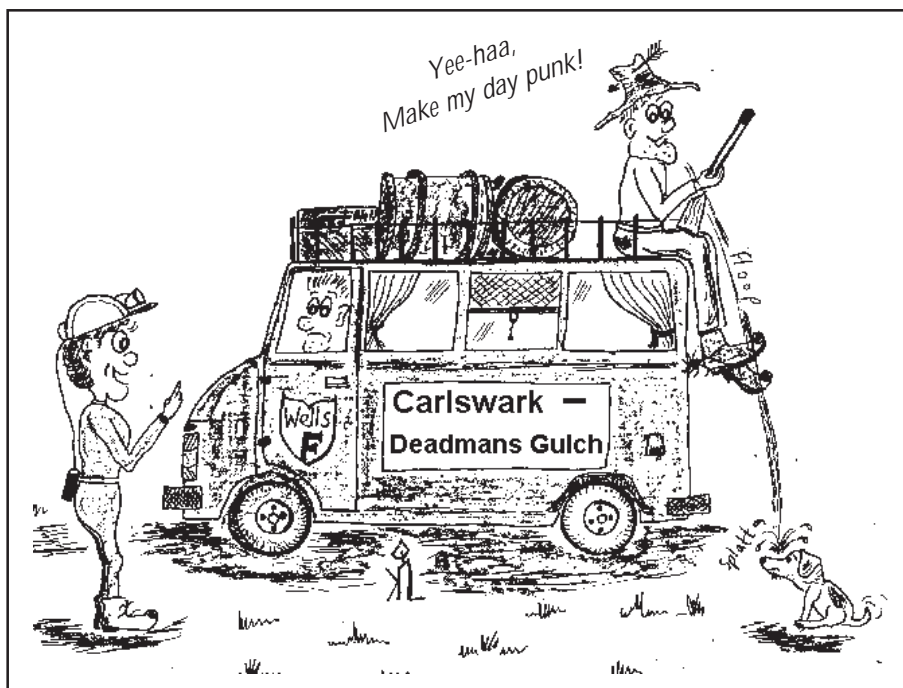




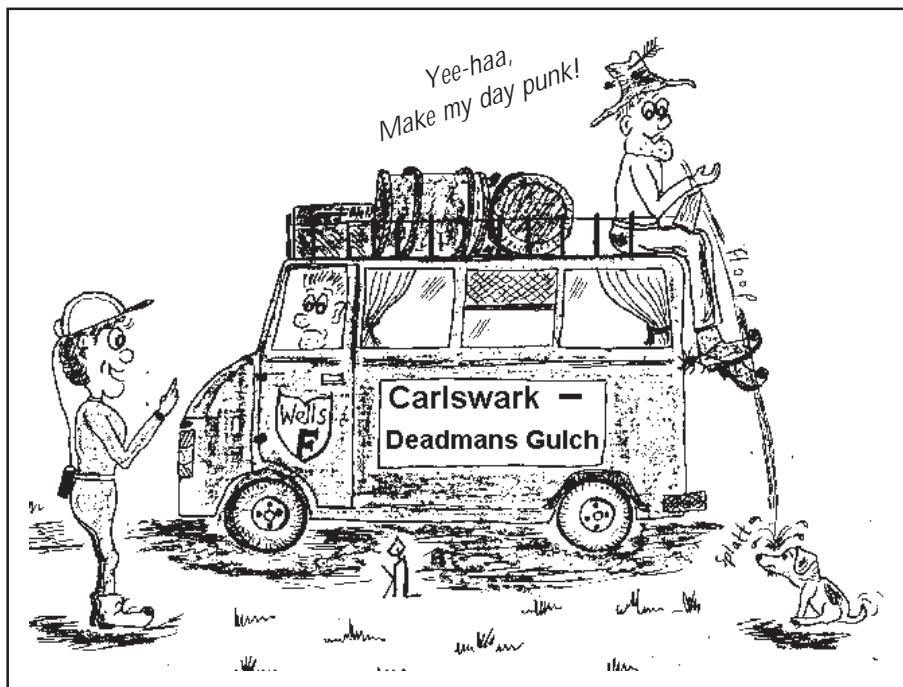
Christmas Puzzles 1997



Due to popular request (well Andy Harris asked anyway!). Here are a few Christmas puzzles to help you relax after the big day - Alan Moseley's walk around Broseley, what else?



I told YOU asking him to ride "shot-gun" on this trip was a mistake!



Can YOU spot the 5 differences?



Recent Huglith Explorations by Ben Shaw

9th April 1997

Members present: L.Davies, I.Davies, Ben Shaw, Tom West, Mike Worsfold.

Using the petrol drill we were able to put in 3 bolts at the top of the pitch just outbye of the ore chute on the main tramming level. This was then descended to a constriction (about 30ft. down) which was partially blocked by an old wooden ladder.

The way on was clearly visible below, however the top of the pitch was overhung with loose mud and rocks,

16th April 1997

Members present: L.Davies, Ben Shaw and Tom West.

The top of the above pitch was made safe by pushing the mud, rocks, stemples etc. down the pitch. Unfortunately 2 stemples joined the ladder in being stuck at the constriction. On descending to the constriction both ladder and stemples proved to be unmovable.

23rd April 1997

Members present: Eileen Bowen, Ben Shaw and Mike Worsfold.

On descending to the constriction with a saw I was able to cut through the stemples and ladder. The stemples were thrown down but the ladder had to be hauled up to avoid it crashing through some in-situ stemples. I was then able to descend the pitch, until the ladders ran out, about 60ft. down and 15ft. above a level!

The level appeared to be open in both directions with a hole in the floor apparently going to water. I presume this level to be the middle (75ft.) level.

30th April 1997

Members present: I.Davies, Steve Holding, Ben Shaw, Tom West and Mike Worsfold.

The ore chute pitch was descended to the middle level, deviations being rigged from stemples. The pitch has a lot of loose rock and needs great care. Middle

level goes about 100 yards in each direction passing several short crosscuts and holes in the floor, down to water.

Inbye the level ends at a solid wall with splendid azurite and/or malachite formations. Outbye the level ends abruptly 30ft. above a flooded stope. This is probably very close to the inbye limit of exploration described in 'Below', Issue 95.5 (Winter, 1995). The date 1984 has been scratched in the wall on middle level, who was here then? and how did they get in there?

9th July 1997

Members present: Steve Holding, Alan Robinson and Ben Shaw.

Digging the blockage inbye from the winze (from Badger level) proved virtually impossible due to everything (even the 'solid' walls) being very unstable!

Speleo Magazine goes English

Do you know the french magazine "Speleo" ?

Probably not, because... it's in french.

Since 1990, "Speleo" has become one of the most beautiful caving magazine in the world (according to Michel Siffre).

In 1998 : they plan to edit the magazine simultaneously in french and in english. So every caver of the world can read it.

If you are interested, in finding out more about Speleo Magazine visit their web site:

<http://www.speleo.com/>

to get an idea of what its all about. Also have a look at:

<http://www.speleo.com/english.html/>

you will find more informations about

the 'english' project and a form to let you subscribe at their mailing list (it's free - the to be on the list, but not the magazine).

They want to know as soon as possible how many cavers are interested in the English version, to see if it is worth continuing with the project.

The magazine contact is:

Luc-Henri Fage
Magazine "Speleo"
BP114, 20, rue del'Amphitheatre
84404 Apt Cedex
FRANCE

Tl. 04 90 04 75 16
Fax 04 90 04 75 28

Email: lhFage.Speleo@wanadoo.fr

The Steam Engine of Thomas Newcomen

by *Rolt and Allen*

This book has been re-published by Landmark Publishing, recognised as the 'definitive history' of the Newcomen engine and its inventor. It is available in hardback for £17.99 including post and package. Or via Mike Moore at a Club meeting.

Ivor Brown



Mineral Spot

Autunite -
hydrous calcium uranium phosphate
Occurs as thin tabular crystals and scaly aggregates or crusts. Yellow or greenish-yellow in colour. Glassy in luster, and transparent in thin sheets.

Formed as a secondary mineral by alteration of Uraninite. It is strongly fluorescent under ultra-violet light.

Common in granite, only found in Cornwall in Britain.



Darkworld- The Secrets of Llangattock Mountain,

by **Martyn Farr**

A lavishly illustrated book, which follows the story of Llangattock Mountain, which boasts some of the most spectacular and colourful caves in the world. During the past 40 years a series of dramatic discoveries has led to the establishment of one of Britain's longest cave networks, a complex system now well over 70 kilometres (42 miles) in length, ranking as one of the longest in the world. This is the story of determined, tireless and dedicated exploration. It recalls the successes and frustrations of the past and discusses the prospects of further exciting discoveries in the future.

128pp, 68 colour illustrations, 22 b/w illustrations, 14 maps and diagrams.
 Hardback: £15.95, Softback: £12.95
 Published by Gomer Press, Llandydul, Ceredigion, SA444BQ,
 Tel: 01559362371

Contact Mike Moore if you are interested in a copy.

'Shropshire History Books' have reproduced two publications of mining interest:

1. **Twelve Mines in the Broseley Area**, 3rd Edition, fully revised by A.J. Mugridge. 1997, 46 pages, A5 with over 30 illustrations. In similar style to the previous issue, but now contains a gazetteer to over 130 mines as well. Price £2.50
2. **Ropeway Conveyor at Bayton Colliery**. A reprint of a paper first published in 1913 describing the interesting aerial ropeway, single rope, by Whites, at Bayton Colliery near Cleobury Mortimer. A5 size, 16 pages, with 12 photocopied photographs. A map showing the route of the ropeway would have been helpful. Price £1.95.

Both available from club member: Steve Dewhirst, 9, Maypole Road, Broseley Wood, Broseley TF12 5QH (add 10% of cost plus £1 for post and packing to each order).

Ivor Brown



Pit Profiles

An Exhibition of Portraits by the Artist H.A. Freeth (1912-1986)

At the National Coal Mining Museum, New Road, Overton, Wakefield, WF44RH
 Tel: 01924-848806

20th October 1997 - 5th January 1998
 Commissioned by Manny Shinwell (Minister of Fuel and Power in the 1940's) to make a series of drawings of mineworkers for the newly formed National Coal Board. A selection of them were published in Coal Magazine in 56 monthly 'Pit Profiles' between May 1947 and December 1952.

Hundreds of drawings were made, using a range of media as Freeth travelled throughout the coalfields of England, Scotland and Wales. The drawings were generally executed in charcoal, chalks and in pen-line overlaid with watercolour, and were nearly always initially undertaken on the spot. Many other drawings were made outside of

the portrait brief as he sketched and painted glimpses of the everyday colliery life.

Freeth was intensely interested in the humanity of working life and each Pit Profile was accompanied by a 'word picture'. A written article often using the miner's own words without alteration of grammar or dialect and sometimes adding the comments of family and friends.

Other Exhibitions to be held at the Museum include:

'Old King Coal', - the mining landscape by Janet Buckle
 12th January to 17th April 1998

'Images of Coal', - the coal mining industry by Marjorie Arnfield
 27th April to 31st July 1998

'Coventry Colliery Captured', - drawings and watercolours by Arthur Lockwood
 10th August to 30th October 1998



Mining Videos (available from the Club)



If you are interested in doing a bit of armchair mine exploration the following videos, produced by I.A. Recordings with help from Club members, may be of interest to you.

A Tour of Clive Copper Mine £14.95

A comprehensive guided tour of Clive, with Edwin Thorpe acting the 'experienced' expert and Kelvin Lake the 'novice'. The tour covers both the upper and lower levels, plus the Northern stope (the access to which is now a bit dodgy).

Clive Rescue Practice, £9.95

An action packed 'head banging' record of a Club rescue practice, featuring the 'infamous' maypole winze traverse!

Snailbeach, £14.95

The rise and fall of Snailbeach, once renowned as the "richest per acre of ground in Europe", is traced in this production through the use of historic photographs, animated plans and sections, and unique underground video footage.

Collections from the Archives

The following tapes contain almost all the footage recorded at the given mine, and are intended as a resource base, not a finished production:

- C.15: Dudley Tunnel '88 to '89, £14.10
- C.18: Donisthorpe Colliery, £11.75
- C.20a: Snailbeach - Final Frontier, £9.87
- C.23: Bagworth Colliery, £11.75
- C.28: Morse's Level, £9.87
- C.29: SCMC in Cornwall, £16.45
- C.32: SCMC in Ireland, £14.10

For more details contact: I.A. Recordings, PO Box 476, Telford, TF8 7RH
 e-mail: info@iarecord.demon.co.uk
 or visit them on the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.iarecord.demon.co.uk/>

Club Officers

Diary Dates '97

President: Alan Taylor

Training Officer:
Alan Moseley

For organised Club trips please refer to the Monthly Meets lists.

Chairman: Neal Rushton

Conservation Officer:
Nick Southwick

28th December: Walk around the 12 mines of Broseley. Leader Alan Moseley - contact him to confirm start point, time and date (!)

Vice Chair: Tom West

Bat Officer: Mike Worsfold

1998

7th January: Talk on "Evidence of Broseley's Past" by A.J.Mugridge, organised by Broseley Local History Society at the Pipeworks Museum, 7.30pm.

7th February: AGM Mining History Society of Ireland at the Geological Survey of Ireland, Dublin. 11am.

Secretary: John Priest
scmc.secretary@factree.org.uk

Rescue Officer:
Role undertaken by the Rescue Wardens: Neal Rushton, Steve Holding, Alan Robinson, Andy Yapp

7-8th February: Cave Expedition Planning Seminar at Plas-y-Nant Outdoor Centre, North Wales.

7th March: BCRA Cave Science Symposium, University of Keele.

Treasurer: Bob Taylor

CCC/CNCC Rep: Ben Shaw

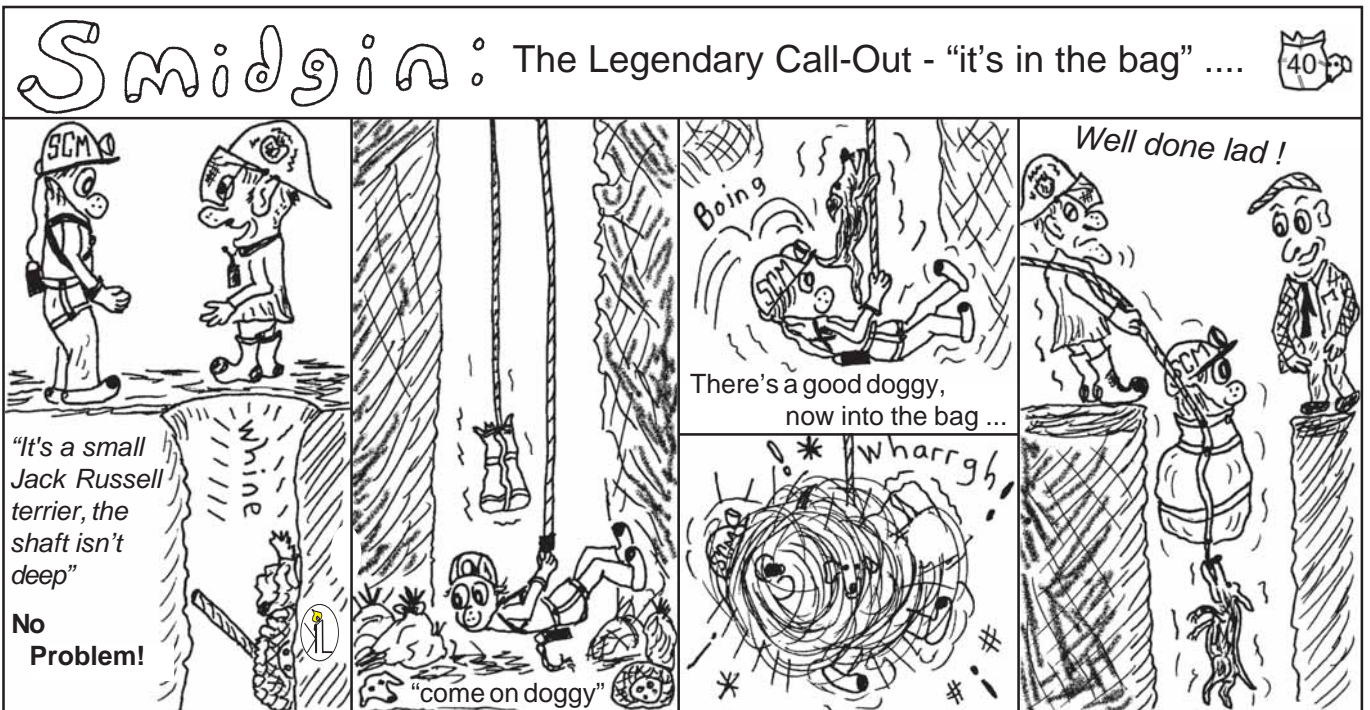
25-26th April: GPF 3rd European Caving Expedition Symposium. Peak District.

Tackle Officer & NAMHO:
Steve Holding

'Below' Editor: Kelvin Lake
e-mail: scmc@factree.org.uk

15-17th May: NAMHO Fieldmeet, Nenthead, hosted by North Pennine Heritage Trust and Friends of Killhope.

1999: NAMHO Conference, will be held in the Forest of Dean.



Catch us on the World Wide Web. Club activities & the labyrinth: <http://www.shropshirecmc.org.uk/>

