

NORTHERN CAVERN AND MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY.

NEWSLETTER - JULY, 1970

Dear Member,

Meets have been very well supported. The year started with snap meets in foul weather, Coldstreak Mine being the main objective and the surrounding moor. This started as an attempt to get above Sleet's Gill from the moor opposite and attempt to obtain some sort of Black and White Aerial photos, angled of course to try out the idea as proposed by Dr. Waltham at the 1969 Conference, the new U.L.S.A. survey of Sleet's means that the Top of the Chute should be close to the plateau above Sleet's.

Caleb and I walked this area with rather confusing results.

Buckden Mine meet was well supported, and has lead to a further series of snap meets, and much survey work, also some rather inspired rise climbing by D. Griffin.

Anglesey meet was not blessed by out-doors weather, hail and rain in plenty. Members reported coming across a deep shaft in a knee deep level.

Richmond meet revealed nothing new, except that there are more spoil heaps in the area and filled in shafts than a first visit revealed.

Carrock was very well attended, with about 28 persons underground and many more trying to store the spoil heaps into small haversacks. The actual meeting place was not detailed enough on our Meets List and lead to some unrest. "This will receive more attention in future".

Great Douk Washfold was, I understand, well attended. No meet report available.

Weardale Allenheads very well attended and most enjoyable. The camp site was to put it mildly, most convenient. A new innovation was to take a portable Honda generator to re-charge Nife Cells, this worked very well and proved its worth on long week-end meets. Capacity 5 batterys at one time or 250 Volts A.C. for Flood lighting.

R. Guthrie, meets leader, was a very able guide.

Grassington Moor meet, a conducted tour round the surface workings, leader J. M. Dickinson. Very good weather, most unlike the usual conditions that prevail. Some small shafts descended. No one could be forced down the main target however after dropping stones down.

We learn that all the major shafts are to be covered over in September 1970, on this Moor.

Nenthead leader C. Wade. Over 25 underground. A report from Mr. Peter Jackson arrived in time for the meet leader to re-arrange his programme (see Members reports). Thanks Peter.

Old Gang Mine meet has, at the time of writing, not taken place. It is going to be a rather wet one.

MEMBERSHIP 1970

We seem to be up on members from last year, 81 total membership and 3 poised to join us. The North East increase is very pleasing.

Members Handbook, Folders and Contents.

This is now reprinted as far as stencils allow. Order from N. P. Scarr. Loose Leaf Folders in blue P.V.C. with Society emblem embossed in silver on the cover, are again available. There are two folders, No. 1 and No. 2. Price 12/6d collected - 14/6d post paid.

These prices are very low so do not hesitate, the contents are free to members as of now. The rise in the price of paper may force us to apply later in the year for a small charge.

Lapel Badges.

Silver/Enamel 3/6d collected - 4/6d posted. As supply is nearly exhausted this price should be taken as a guide only. New stocks are now being priced.

Blazer Badges will go in a Road Fund Holder for car wind-screen. Cloth only, black and white. 4/- collected 4/6d posted.

All the above from N. P. Scarr, 4 Canada Drive, Rawdon Leeds. LS19 6LU.

PUBLICATIONS

A number of back Publications are still available. Some are offered at a reduced price. Order from Hon. Editor J. M. Dickinson.

TACKLE ROOM.

The Society have again a tackle room in Skipton, very near to the Devonshire Hotel. For the moment it is not in use, until Tackle has been re-stocked and overhauled.

LIBRARY.

An addition to the Library List is enclosed. Why not use it? The Society Library is a well balanced fund of information well indexed and free to Members.

A near complete Members Handbook Part 1 will be available soon for loan to members, as mentioned before some stencils are beyond further use and are now out of print.

The Society Librarian is Mr. L. Miller, 24 Wyvil Crescent, Ilkley. To reduce postage, Members pay both ways. Publications requested will be brought to Meets and meetings wherever possible.

ARTICLES SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS IN ORDER OF RECEPTION

1. Observation on Lime Coal etc. etc. by R. Guthrie.

Before the railway was laid all the lime used on the land in Upper Eskdale had to be transported 12 to 14 miles in horse-drawn waggons 25 cwt. a load across the moor tops. Cropton quarries supplied Fyup or Glaisdale area and Hutton-le-Hole supplied Comondale, Danby, Castleton and Westerdale areas. As these waggons were empty as they passed the Rosedale Head or the Hamer coalpits they carried coal to the lime-kilns on the inward journey to help offset the cost of the lime used on dressing the land. In this way often little or no money changed hands in either direction as the lime-burner made his profit from local sales or from customers living South of the coalpits. This is typical Dales Farmer finance, 'Never pay cash. Pay in kind'. As 3 or 4 tons an acre is a decent lime dressing a lot of waggons had to start from Eskdale at 3A.M. during midsummer as all the other farm work had to be done after returning. Don't forget this was before mechanisation, hay had to cut with a scythe or sickle and turned by hand at that time of the year.

The High Moor coalpits worked a 20" seam of poor quality coal from pits 35 to 60 ft. deep. The tubs or curfs as the boxes were called were drawn to the surface by horse-gins. These disused pits can easily be located even though they were filled in over 150 years ago by the bluish grey shale tips.

The local coal was too poor for the blacksmiths, so droves of donkeys carried panniers of Durham coal to fill this need. This coal often had a sea trip to the nearest harbour to cut costs.

Captain Scoresby, a native of Cropton, employed local men to man his whale fishing fleet operating from Whitby during the summer and they spent the winter quarrying. The lime-burning was of course a summer occupation.

Jet was mined by means of little rabbit like trial levels in Farndale, Westerdale and Northdale as well as on the Cleveland Scarp and the coastal strip, as the numerous jet shale heaps testify. Most of these are bluish grey in colour but some are brick red. The reason for this is that when the shale was first dumped, owing to internal combustion, it sometimes generated intense heat and began to burn often for months on end, hardening the shale into a bright red material suitable for roads. Scugdale has quite a large one formed in this way.

Jet is not found in seams in the accepted sense of the word, like coal or limestone, but is a fossilized individual prehistoric trunk of a tree-plant in the jet-shale strata, making the chances of reward to the miner much more unlikely.

2. Extracts and Notes regarding the Sir Francis Mine, Swaledale.

Taken from the Public Records Office, submitted by Mr. J. Macpherson.

This has been transferred to the 1970 Memoirs at the request of Hon. Editor J. M. Dickinson as additional information on a Swaledale article.

3. Information on the closure of Levels etc, by P. Jackson.

Northern Pennines. At Nenthead, several levels, namely Brownley Hill Low Level, Nentsberry Haggs Horse Level, Rampgill Level and Smallcleugh Level have been gated and locked. This gating is in part due to the increasing number of visitors to the mines who persist in leaving empty beer cans, flash bulbs and broken glass bottles in the various workings. There has also been an alarming increase in the rate of removal of mineral specimens from the various mines. Access is controlled by the option holders at Nenthead.

A recent re-opening of Heights Mine in Weardale was marred by the theft of the mines stock of acetylene lamps.

British Steel Corporation are carrying out drilling operations at Allenheads in a presumed search for fluorspar.

Settlingstones Mine, recently closed, is being utilised as a public water supply, but although the company has

abandoned its operations at Longeleugh in West Allendale, it is rumoured that a local group is carrying on the prospect there.

The long moribund Swinhope Mine was dismantled during 1969 and the incline entrance filled in. The horse level entrance was also securely walled-up.

Derbyshire. The P.D.M.H.S., who are working on a programme of restoration in Lathkill Dale, also continue to make progress in their excavation of the entrance to Magpie Sough which is at present blocked.

The smelting works at Millclose Mine formerly owned by Eindhoven have now been taken over by a company known as Minmet.

This was well timed information 48 hours before the Nenthead Meet.

REMINDER FROM LAST NEWS LETTER, new members please note

Dr. A. Raistrick will be one of the speakers at a 3 Day School on Industrial Archaeology at Linton-in-Craven Youth Hostel, near Skipton. This event is arranged by The Yorkshire Dales Railway Society and the Youth Hostels Association. Intending students do not require Y.H.A. membership.

App. 80/- including all meals and accomodation. Day tickets (few) available. Reservation Bookings should include 10/- part payment fee, to Mr. John Keavey, 17 Uplands, Green Acres, Skipton. Sept. 25th, 26th and 27th. 7p.m. Fri. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

FUTURE SOCIETY EVENTS

The Society has accepted an offer from the British Speleological Association to take part in the National Speleological Conference and Exhibition, at the University of Nottingham 12-13th September 1970.

Lectures so far offered.

Pierru St. Martin D. Gill.
Mining in Yorkshire D. Carlisle
Geomorphology of the Astrakas Plateau (Greece) Dr. A. C. Waltham.
Bury St. Edmunds Chalk Mines Chelsea Speleological Soc.

If you would like to give a lecture, demonstration or slide show please contact the Lecture Secretary as soon as possible.

Lecture Secretary or further details Conference Sec.

I. J. Standing Esq.,
Rock House,
Bowens Hill,
COLEFORD,
Glos.

Dr. G. Stevens,
4 Kingston Ave.,
ACKLAM,
Middlesbrough,
Teeside.
TS5 7RS

PHOTO SALON. is a competition for Cave Photographers, colour or black and white. Cash prizes each section. Entry Form and details from Dr. Stevens. All entries returned after showing.

Costs. The entry fee including a copy of Proceedings will be approx. 15/- to 17/6d. Reduced rate for entry without Proceedings, and a small nominal charge for visitors accompanying delegates.

The N.C.M.R.S. will have on show and for sale, Publications. On show only a few other items not yet detailed. Members who took part in the Skipton Window Display 1969, may wish to join again. A £5 prize is on offer for the best exhibit!

Interested? Please contact J. M. Dickinson or D. H. Platt.

CAVE RESEARCH GROUP.

The Society are hosts to the C.R.G. at the Northern Meeting November 14th, 1970.

Programme of Events.

4 p.m. approx. Mechanics Institute, High Street, Skipton. The Lecture Hall. (opposite Town Hall).

Short Meeting and a Public Lecture.

THE EARLY DAYS OF SPELEOLOGY to be given by the Yorkshire Ramblers Club, will include very early slides.

Dinner follows at the Overdale Hotel, Skipton, 7-30 p.m. approx. Price 24/-.

A slide show after will be given by D. Ford.

Sunday.

The Meet laid on for the C.R.G. members who wish to

see our Local Holes, will be Gill Fields Level, Greenhow.
Meet, Miners Arms, car park. 10-30 AM. NCMRS leaders.

SEE ENCLOSED MEETS LIST AT END OF LIBRARY LIST.

Members are reminded that the Craven Museum will be open Saturday afternoon if you arrive early for the C.R.G. Lecture. Minerals, Lead Mining etc..

C.R.G. are revising the list of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (S.S.S.I.) if you know of any new caves, extensions of caves which should be included on the new list, make out your case for its importance (Geomorphological, Archaeological or what have you) and submit to Dr. G. T. Warwick, C.R.G. for submission to the Nature Conservancy.

B.B.C. CHRONICLE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Competition No. 2.

We have received an invitation to compete in this, the 2nd competition. Last year we were not in the running, the first prize went to a Mill Engine Preservation Soc.,

However, we should try again in view of the extra cash prizes offered. This is subject to next Committee Meeting discussion. First prize of £250 and 7 others.

Future Meets See Separate Sheet.

THE LAW AND YOU.

Under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, 1946, The penalty of 3 months imprisonment or a fine of £100 on conviction, 5 years penal servitude or £500 fine on Indictment for collecting - RADIUM, URANIUM, THORIUM, PLUTONIUM, NEPTUNIUM or any others which may be named.

Since 1964 control over these Minerals has been vested in the Ministry of Technology.

You have been warned.

Questionnaire, Jan. 1970

Break-down in Brief.

100% in favour of Society continuing to hold an Annual Dinner.

94% in favour of it being held in October.

91% in favour of a Field Meet after Dinner.

1969 Annual Dinner, 15 persons indicated that they attended

this dinner. 40% expressed dissatisfaction in various ways.

Suggested Venues for Dinner, Somewhere in Lancaster or Morecambe, Devonshire Hotel Grassington, Long Ashes Threshfield, alternate between Skipton and Leeds or Bradford, Overdale Hotel Skipton.

A Reasonable Price to Pay,

26%	placed the maximum at	25/-
53%	" " " "	30/-
21%	" " " "	40/-

Programme of Events for 1970, 91% of these were in favour 9% gave various reasons for not liking the programme as it stands. The most sensible replies were that the programme did not contain enough Caving Meets, and why couldn't we pay more visits to the Lake District Mines.

Claiming Date Soc. Annual Dinner, October 10th, Overdale Hotel, Skipton, 1970, and A.G.M.

Members are requested to submit news items, reviews etc., to the Newsletter Editor.

To those of you who do contribute to this Newsletter, Thank-You.

It was intended that apart from the library list and Members List, that this would conclude the Newsletter, however holidays and late reports /reviews have extended it. A start could be made at this stage by reviewing the discussion on SAFETY IN MINES, from the last Working Committee Meeting. AS reminder to old members and a WARNING to new members. FOSTER SMITHS notes, are reprinted WE ASK YOU to read them. PLEASE.

The working Committee request YOU to observe this rule would you please introduce to the meet leader any guests, (NON MEMBERS) that are brought on a meet, the numbers underground have at times been out of hand for any one leader to CONTROL, or ADVISE.

A further point, we the SOC, could be held responsible for injury sustained underground by non members, taken by an unwitting meet leader, or for matter just plain deladder a hole and never miss them.

BOOK REVIEWS

NORTH - WEST SPELEOLOGY Volume 1 Number 2 December 1969

Published by: the Lancaster Cave & Mine Research Society
50, Vale Road, Lancaster, Lancs. Price 8/6d

An excellent 26 page journal which is more than a credit for a Society whose membership is less than 20.

Duplicated - 10" x 8" - attractively bound, neat printed cover, well illustrated. In the latter respect it is perhaps a pity that the limited finances of this small Society could not have been stretched far enough to have had the page of photographs sent to a printer for the article they accompany warrants this.

On the whole it is well set out but more attention to spacing between paragraphs; paragraphs and sub-headings; and the underlining of headings and sub-headings would have added to the attractiveness of the publication as a whole. This is not disastrous for these finer points come by experience more than anything and it is, after all, only their second publication.

As its name implies it confines itself to the North-West of Lancashire and the present edition contains five articles.

A bibliography of archeological literature relating to the Morecambe Bay area covering the years 1774 to 1969 - which forms an invaluable reference list for anyone contemplating study in the area. This is the first of a series which is to be extended to cover caves & caving, mines and mining, geology, geomorphology and speleobiology.

Two articles on the exploration, development and origin of caves exposed during quarrying in the Kellet area. The Society must be congratulated on their action in this case for it is more than likely that these reports will form the only record of these caves for as the quarry face is extended the caves will be destroyed.

An article on the archaeological excavations which the Society is carrying out at Kirkhead Cavern, Grange-over-Sands. Here again they must be congratulated on the thorough way in which they are carrying out this work and recording their findings.

Finally a number of newspaper extracts from the Lancaster Guardian and Lancaster Gazette of 1836 - 1838 about the Warton Crag Copper Mines.

To sum up - a must for anyone with even the slightest interest in North-West Lancashire whether they be caver, geologist, archaeologist or mining enthusiast.

It is hoped that the journal will attract the outside sales it deserves for it is obvious that any financial return which it brings will be put to good use by this determined band of enthusiasts.

Whilst there is a copy in the Society library I trust this will not deter many of you investing in a copy.

D.T. Richardson.

BOOK REVIEW

"MINING IN THE LAKE COUNTIES" by W.T. Shaw.
Dalesman Publishing Co. Ltd. Clapham, Yorks. 1970 80p. 16/-

A publication that will be of value to most members of the Society.

Mr. Shaw describes in great detail the mines of Coniston, Keswick and the Caldbeck Fells, together with chapters on Dressing Plants and mining methods.

Quite a number of old photographs are reproduced, in all making a valuable reference book, only spoilt by the lack of location maps and major mine sections.

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"THE LEAD MINERS OF THE NORTHERN PENNINES
in the 18th and 19th Centuries" by C.J. Hunt.
Manchester University Press. July 1970 282p 60/-

Here we have what must be the best book published for some time on the history of the Lead Mining Industry. Mr Hunt has covered all aspects of the miners work and life i.e. The Bargain System, Payment and Earnings, Strikes, Health and Education to name but a few.

His style of writing is such, that what could have been rather heavy reading, makes a fascinating story which includes much detail on the working of the London Lead Co. and the Blakett and Beaumont Companies.

This book is a must for all students of Lead Mining history.

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FIELD MEET SUNDAY 14th. JUNE 1970
Crag Foot Mines, Warton, near Carnforth, Lancs in conjunction with the
Lancaster Cave and Mine Research Society

Eight N.C.M.R.S. members turned up and despite the fact that the weather was not conducive to hard manual labour it was not long before the tackle was unloaded, shirts were off, and we set to work alongside our friends from Lancaster. The work was accomplished by dividing up into a number of working parties.

One party disappeared below ground on a water sampling expedition and later in the day returned underground to recover a quantity of scaffolding poles for use as three legs for lifting stones at a later date.

Ore Crusher the scrub round the crusher was soon removed by an enthusiastic band armed with picks, shovels, cutters and axes and the area immediately round the base of the crusher was dug over. All the fallen blocks of masonry were unearthed and dug out and the smaller ones placed in position on the rim of the crusher. Unfortunately the uppermost layer consisted of extremely heavy blocks encased in concrete and it was not possible to raise these into position. These are being left until our next visit when it is hoped that suitable lifting tackle will be available. During the excavations a small piece of rail and a pipe gasket were unearthed.

Attention was then paid to the 'rail track' which runs through the wood. This was found to be 6ft. wide. An area 6ft x 4ft was cleared of turf but no evidence of sleepers or rails could be found. A trench 18ins wide was then dug across the track and the various layers examined.

The surface consisted of approximately 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "ins of reddle coloured soil, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " of ash and 5"ins of hard core resting on a yellowish clay soil of a similar nature to that found in the natural woodland. It is concluded from the evidence found that the track was in fact laid as a rail track and the absence of sleepers or rails is probably due to these having been removed for scrap or use in another part of the area.

Further in the wood a digging party was busy excavating a shallow concrete channel which had obviously been built to convey surface water to the reservoir. Their efforts were soon rewarded when it was found that this channel ended up in a much larger one running at right-angles and heading straight for the reservoir. A lot more digging will be necessary if the whole of this channel is to be excavated but this is considered worth while as it may provide evidence as to where the water came from to fill the reservoir.

Whilst this was going on yet another party was busy uprooting and felling trees and scrub which was growing inside the reservoir itself. Once this was done the reservoir was accurately measured and the figures will be used to calculate its capacity.

Finally a large boulder blocking the entrance of a cave was coaxed out by means of a 'sylvestre' - unfortunately the cave was only a fissure in the clints and yielded nothing but the decomposing carcass of a rabbit.

In conclusion - an excellent day particularly as the company was good and the weather superb.

As to our next joint meet which is booked for Sunday 13 September 1970.

Meet as before at Moss House Farm 10.30 a.m.

The programme is as follows:-

Crusher Lifting into position of the remaining masonry blocks by means of suitable lifting tackle. Heavy builders planks 5 - 6fy long and three legs and pulley block wanted. Cementing up of the column - 1-2 bags cement 6 - 12 bags of sand - any offers?

Water channels: Further excavation -undergrowth permitting. Cutters axes, saws, machettes etc would be helpful to clear undergrowth - spades for digging.

Water Samples from below ground and if surface springs are running samples will be taken from these as well. D.T.R. will arrange supplies of sample bottles.

A small hand winch would be very useful for hauling the crusher coping stones up planks.

D.T.Richardson.

MEMBERS HANDBOOKS

A reprint of the Members Handbook is now under way - this publication contains lists of Society Library books, colour slides, scientific methods, constitution, short articles, etc. etc. It is designed on a loose leaf system so that pages can be added as required. The contents of the handbook are issued free of charge to all members (Family members excepted).

In order to assist preservation of the handbook contents the Society has had a quantity of Handbook Folders made - these are in blue PVC with the Society emblem embossed in silver. There is a number 1 and a number 2 to take the overflow of material from No.1

Regrettably we cannot supply these free of charge -but they are no use to us stacked away in parcels in an attic -we would be obliged if any of you who haven't got a Handbook Folder would invest in one thus enabling us to recover our investment. Price 12/6d each collected 12/6d plus postage if forwarded. An invoice covering cost of folder and postage will be included in any that are sent out in this way.

Orders to Norman Scarr.

Any members who haven't received any Handbook material should notify Mr. Platt so that he can assure that you get copied as soon as these are available.

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Reports of the W.C.M.R.S. in the Northern section.
MAY 3 1970. FIRESTONE LEVEL. Middleton in teesdale. N.G.R. NY.94227
D2. Weir. Explored manway using electron ladder to solid floor at
85ft and the workings at this horizon.

MAY 10 Preliminary reconnaissance of Old Copper Mines at
MIDDLET TYAS. N.G.R. 231058. 235056. 233058.
Earth mounds and bell pits still visible on three sites All are
covered with scrub tree growth. One is used for Pheasant rearing
so a request for access will have to be made at a more suitable
time.
KNEETON HALL. N.G.R. 213069.

Owner not available. A level entrance and what appears to
be an incline is visible in the quarry behind the Hall. A talk
with the owner and access rights is a must.
LOW MERRIBENT FARM. N.G.R. NZ 211075.

Large tips and base for head gear and winding machinery visible
The main shaft and all the smaller air shafts etc, have all been
filled in. Some of these have sunk further during the lifetime of
the owner and re-filled again. Modern farm buildings cover a large
part of the main site.

BARTON QUARRY. N.G.R. NZ 212079.

Trindall House is the name given on Ordnance Survey to THORNHILL
as it is known locally. The new owner has purchased the house and
part of the Barton Quarry for shooting and has plans to flood part
of the quarry for fishing, so please do not trespass.

A level used as part of an Adit from the main workings at Low
Merribent is now the house water supply. With permission this was
explored to the Low Merribent Area where one branch forked left
and the forward section dropped 5ft under a hand made brick arch
semi-circular in section. Both of these were flooded to the roof.
This was the beginning of the ore bearing area as only stone and
ganister type clay had been cut previously.

West of Trindall House in land owned by someone
living in Melsonby the old quarry has traces of a shaft and
a winding base apart from the old lime kilns.

Near the ram used for raising the water to Trindall House
are two interesting and unusual kidney shaped "Lime Kilns"??.

"According to the Ordnance Survey." They were obviously
charged from the top and had two fire bottom like holes at the
base of each. Has anyone seen or read of anything similar?

MAY 17 MIDDLE WASHFOLD.

MAY 24 ALLENHEADS. NGR. NY860453.

Engine Shaft, 85ft ladder to top level workings which were entered
by specimen collectors (yellow and blue spar). Only 30ft of the
level is open. Care is needed when laddering the Engine Shaft
that your belay beam is not over the underground conduit below the
rotten cover.

CONDUIT IN YARD.

10ft rigid ladder to conduit floor with 1" water to floor of
engine shaft. 18ft down engine shaft ladder to beam pivot area and

the top of 1st UNDERGROUND WATER WHEEL made of timber banded with

iron. All timber rotten. Iron strong but heavily corroded. Cleared silt etc near 1st wheel, and crawled into and along conduit leading to 2nd wheel. DANGEROUS stonework above 2nd conduit entrance, 2" water and silt in 2nd conduit. 2nd wheel almost disintegrated. Wheel bearing collapsed, wheel shaft almost spokeless, rotten timber, silt, and masonry 5 or 6 ft deep in wheel pit owing to exit conduit to 3rd and 4th wheels being fully blocked.

FAWSIDE LEVEL.

DANGEROUS IN FLOOD as when Corbet Mea dam overflows 2 miles away the level takes all the surplus water. Explored Low Underground to top level which was then above water. North branch O.K. to Collier Shaft where ringing ends. 10 ft beyond Collier Shaft is a blueish fluorspar vein 2 to 3 ft wide with spar bearing shale as roof and walls. South branch has an interesting geological fault beyond which it is dangerous to go owing to water from Corbet Mea.

GIN HILLSHAFT.

Cement capped, stones at side can be removed and replaced to permit visibility with a good light to water 85 ft below.

Gin Hill was the main winding shaft of the original workings

Horse Shaft track, blocked with soft material 60 ft from portal.

EAST END SHAFT, COLLIER: HUGH, NIXON, and GEORGE GRAHAM shafts are all near the Rookhope - Allenheads road.

HAUGH drainage level mouth is under a new forestry plantation in spar and soil near the Allen Water. N.G.R. NY 851469.

MAY 25th

HUDSHOPE BECK. Middleton in Teesdale N.G.R. NY948255.

Surface walk looking at mines and hushes etc, to gain knowledge for a report already in preparation of the Coalberry Area

June 7th Grassington Moor.

June 14th ROTHERHOPE FELL.

Blackburn Level, has a well oiled bogie on modernish metal rails at the entrance. 1 ft of water and good conditions for 4,200 ft, to Rotherhope Vein and No 1 and 2 Shafts. One cage is clear of the water filled shaft. 2nd shaft alongside although still containing sound wooden cage guides has the remains of pumping spears etc protruding from the water.

Traces of chalcopyrite very evident in one section of Blackburn Level but no flats found. Victoria Vein at 2,900 ft from portal seemed to have had poor lead values at this horizon.

MIDDLE LEVEL NGR NY697422. 1250 ft OD.

3'3" deep in water. Has been used as a tailrace for hydraulic machinery. Only 50 yds of dry walking before major run in after a long distance of wading.

HIGH LEVEL NGR NY700416. 1330 OD.

Wooden rails in surprisingly good condition with a wooden tub which moves without a squeak owing to the wheels being always below water, are near the entrance. The wood of the tub itself is almost disintegrated only being held together by the iron banding. Boulder clay containing stone above a big plate roof collapse.

negotiated about half-way between entrance and final run in.
Max water depth 3ft, but dry in roof fall area.

HYDRAULIC SHAFT. NGR. NY 701 413.

The shaft head had sunk somewhat and the concrete ringing was badly fractured. The wrought iron piping was still in place both places. Sluice gates were in position at the dam but were inoperable. Remains of the old water leats are visible.

CLEUGH HEAD LEVEL. NGR. 702409. Alt 1500ft.

Portal near the dam. Was some 3,000ft in length (DUNHAM) reaching the Greencastle Vein in the great limestone. It was not entered but appeared to be over 3ft deep in water. The arching looked sound.

24th June

Kneeton Hall. NGR NZ 213 069.

A 10am appointment having been made with the owner who was interested and showed us a "New and Complete History of the county of York" by Thomas Allen published 1828 by I.T. Hinton.

Page 160 and in three other places the Copper Mines were mentioned but did not appreciably add to our knowledge. The acreage mentioned in the Mining Prospectus of 1862 includes most of High and Low Merribent Farms plus a smaller portion of Kneeton Hall property.

Kneeton Hall Level. NGR. NZ. 212069.

Level 5½ft high cut in limestone 292deg true North for 30ft to a 4½ft square shaft, this shaft had been timbered but without platforms. Used as a climbing shaft with 25ft long iron ladders fastened vertically to the timbers. The iron was still quite strong but had fallen and jammed across the shaft owing to the woodwork rotting. Traces of the postholes for the headgear on the far side of the shaft and a 2½ft iron kibble jammed 33ft down at water level with 2 iron ladders confirmed that it had been used for hauling also.

Kneeton Hall Incline. 30ft from level, driven 252deg true North at 45deg to horizontal for 30ft then swung to 60 deg for another 30ft where the water table was met in dry conditions.

Dabris on the walls proved that the quarry drains into the incline which then floods to quarry floor level. 1" iron pipe used for compressed air is still in position almost to the surface.

5" iron pipe presumably for dewatering 30' from daylight to below water. 1" iron handrail still in use. Galvanized fencing wire rope which seemed to light for haulage even if rails were laid over the steps cut in the rock, were found. 3 grooves worn in the step where the angle of incline altered, suggests that this happened and that this gauge of wire was used. Close to the grooved step a small working was tried on the right.

No trace of engine bed or fire ash was found as the quarry was 3' high with nettles. West of Kneeton Hall are small spoil heaps. Monks fish ponds should not be confused with dressing floor or water power dams. Depressions in the ground caused by old workings and air shafts occur towards High and Low Merribent.

PRINCES LEVEL. SWALEDALE. NGR. NZ 065026.

24th JUNE 1970.

Original portal collapsed and keystone missing at the entrance to this horse level. 10" of water in dry conditions probably 18"

after sustained rainfall for 150ft. Good arching for 250ft, then daylight lost as sound rock is encountered with slight bends where this crosscut has followed the easier course to the vein at 500ft. the vein to left is at horse level height and appears to have had rails but has been fully walled up. To the right the hanging wall forms the left side of the horse level and Gothic shaped arching forms the right wall for 100ft, where a major run in prevents further progress. A strong draught through the fall edge and the damp material suggests a run in shaft up to the surface, This is pity as the large tip along the valley floor and the money that has been spent on the crushing plant and other buildings proves the extent of the underground working.

The miners repair shop has been used by the farmers and though windowless is in fair repair. On the other bank of Shaw Beck is the remains of a rather large crushing mill powered by a 24ft over shot wheel. 2 tips of fines nearby appear to have a 50% byrites content. A bousetoam with 9 large and 2 smaller bays complete the mine buildings near the level., the dynamite store at the Eastern end of the main tip. Towards Hurst village is a dam which is one possible source of water for the water wheel, and dressing floor.

END OF REPORT FROM THE NORTHERN GROUP.