



PRESIDENT - *Sir Kingsley Dunham F.R.S.*

NEWSLETTER NO 37

May 1996

As you will read in detail elsewhere this season will probably be the most exciting we have ever had at Killhope. Next month Tony Blair will officially open the mine on Friday 14 June between 11.30am and 1pm (provisional times) which will be a great publicity boost for the site. This will be followed by the Pays Weekend which should be as memorable as the Great Drink when we celebrated the restoration of the Big Wheel in 1991). All this in addition to a very full programme of events on site and our excellent lecture programme makes membership of the Friends great value. So there is no excuse for not renewing your subscription now if you have not already done so.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at 11am on Saturday 15 June at Killhope to be followed by a walk around Allenheads. If you require a buffet lunch after the meeting please return the enclosed yellow form as soon as possible.

Friends are reminded that nominations for the position of all Officers of the Committee should be forwarded to the Secretary not less than fourteen days before the meeting.

Membership Subscriptions

I am afraid this is the final reminder that subscriptions were due for renewal on 1st January. If there is a pink form enclosed with this newsletter then I am afraid your subscription is still outstanding and there will be no further communications if you do not renew.

Codes of Practice

National Association of Mining History Organisations (NAMHO) of which Friends of Killhope are members have issued Codes of practice for: Mine Exploration, Removal of Artefacts and Mineral Collecting at disused mines which we recommend as useful guides. These leaflets can be inspected on application at Killhope.

Next dead-line

Material for the autumn newsletter should be in the hands of the Editor by 20 September please.

Second Friends of Killhope Publication

Since the last newsletter I have received another article for the above and the design of the cover has been decided so I can again say that "work continues." I have been promised two more articles which I would like to include so I propose to allow the writers a little more time. As a result of the appeal in the last newsletter 54 members made a commitment to buy at 20% off the retail price and I hope they will not have to wait too long to take up this offer.

Friends Programme 1996

Saturday June 15th Annual General meeting at Killhope, followed by a walk round Allenheads.

Sunday June 16th Annual Open Quoits competition at Killhope 2pm onwards

**Saturday/Sunday
June 22/23** The Pays weekend (joint event with Killhope)

**Saturday/Sunday
July 6/7** Woolly Weekend (joint event with Killhope)

Wednesday July 10th 7.30 at Core House, Rookhope - Rookhope borehole meet with Dr Johnson "Straight to the Core"

**Saturday/Sunday
July 20/21st** Dirty Weekend at Killhope - your chance to do some work on site

**Saturday/Sunday
September 7/8th** Grand Mineralogical Exhibition

Wednesday September 11th "Allenheads Emigrants 1849" by Nora Handcock. A talk at Stanhope Old Hall

Saturday October 12th "Power in the Pennines" Friends of Killhope day school.

Wednesday November 13th 7.30 pm talk at Stanhope Old Hall - to be arranged.

Wednesday December 11th 7.30 pm Christmas Social and Members Night at Stanhope Old Hall.

Events at Killhope in 1996

- May 25th - June 1st *Naturally Killhope* - a week celebrating the wildlife and natural history of Killhope. Includes a Bird of Prey flying display on 30th May.
- June 2nd *The Things People Collect* - display by Bill Quay Collectors Society.
- June 9th *Mineral identification workshop and walk* - led by Barry Webb. (bookable in advance)
- June 22/23rd *The Pays* - joint event with the Friends of Killhope.
- July 6th/7th *Woolly Weekend* - a weekend based on sheep, and the uses of wool. Sheep shearing, rug making, hand-knitting, etc. Joint event with the Friends of Killhope.

Mine Heritage Guided Walks 1996

The following may well be of interest to Friends.

- June 30th Honister Slate - 5 miles. Meet Honister YHA car park
- July 28th Greenside Mine - 6 miles. Meet Glenridding TIC car park
- August 25th Goldscope Mine - 6 miles. Meet bridge car park near Littletown Church.

All start 10.30am. Boots, waterproofs, lunch required. Allow 5 hours minimum. £2.50 per person. Details: MOLES, telephone 017687 79747.

Copyright

Everyone who has work published in the newsletter retains the copyright and therefore we expect anyone wishing to use such material would obtain the permission of the author and ourselves. We assume work submitted for publication is that of the person submitting unless acknowledged with full references in or at the end of the article. The accuracy of submissions is the responsibility of the author and will not necessarily be checked by the editor for validity.

Responsibility for obtaining permission to use someone else's material also lies with the person submitting the article to the newsletter and not with the editor.

Bryan Chambers, Newsletter Editor, 18 Cheveley Walk, Belmont, Durham DH1 2AU
(Telephone: 0191 3868491)

Killhope Events

Maureen Murray has organised a full and varied programme of events at Killhope this year. The first half of this programme appeared in the last newsletter, so look the dates up again, but also put the following dates in your diary now!

School Summer Holidays from 19th July.

Children's Art Festival over three weekends with wood sculpture, pottery playday, and spar box workshop.

The following three weekends Killhope will be full of music. Northumbrian pipes, fiddle and accordion, and Irish music and dancing.

9th - 22nd September.

"Images of Identity". Killhope is a venue for Vision Factory's gallery trail in the Wear Valley. This a chance to see artists at work which will form part of a body of work called "Fragments and Documents". Artists include Barrie Ormsby, Jenny Mountain and Dyanita Singh.

Saturday 28th September.

New Horizons. Enhance your photography skills and be inspired by photographer Dave Foster to look at the world in a new way through your camera lens. Bring your best and worst attempts along with you! The course costs £15, which includes a free film and processing. There will be a prize for the best picture taken on the day, and photos taken during the day will be displayed at Killhope afterwards. This promises to be a very rewarding session.

Sunday 6th October.

Family history walk around the Killhope area.

Sunday 13th October.

Fungus Hunt and Fry-Up in Killhope's woods. Spend a "delicious" autumn afternoon finding and cooking edible mushrooms under expert guidance.

Saturday and Sunday 26th and 27th October.

Spooky Time At Killhope. Autumn half term workshops for kids.

Some of the above events and workshops are bookable. For further details and an events leaflet ring Killhope on 01388 -537505.

If you're looking for something to do this half term come to Killhope for our *"Naturally Killhope"* week, including a **Bird of Prey flying display** on May 30th.

Killhope shop is now stocking a selection of limited edition commemorative gifts to celebrate the re-opening of Park Level Mine. Come and browse, and browse too among the new selection of books. This is your only chance to buy some of these items!

Killhope Quoits Day

We could do with some new faces on Quoits Day. It's fun and its friendly, so why not come along and see how good you are. The Quoits Day is on Sunday June 16th, the day after our AGM.

Project Officer's Report**Ian Forbes**

It's mid May, and as I sit writing this report there is a fresh sprinkling of snow on the tops. It's been a long winter, and a cold spring, and Friends are only just beginning to emerge from hibernation.

I do hope that when warmer weather finally arrives we will see many of you at Killhope, and I urge as many of you as possible - Friends old and new - to come and join in our celebrations for the re-opening of Park Level Mine. Everyone is welcome to come and see Tony Blair perform the official opening ceremony on June 14th, and our big event - The Pays Weekend - is on the 22nd and 23rd of June. More details are elsewhere in the newsletter.

The hard winter hasn't stopped our most intrepid member. Ian Jowett has been labouring valiantly on rebuilding the broken water box on the north bank of the burn; a simple sounding project, but one that has involved engineering, carpentry and stonemasonry skills as well as considerable muscle power in a difficult location.

In April Killhope decided as an experiment to hold an afternoon lecture on lead mining to see what response there might be from the public for this kind of extra activity on site. Roy Curry volunteered to do the talk, which was on a Saturday, and then came back and did it again on Sunday! For both sessions Roy got a good audience who were entertained by his tales and slides of mine exploration.

Roy has donated to our library his log book recording his visits to old mines over the years, and we have also had a donation from Dick Graham of an article on the Blackdene Fluorspar Plant - a timely piece as the plant is at this very moment being dismantled and thus consigned to history. Your committee has bought "Mining Before Powder" - an excellent publication on early mining - for the library.

We have had only one talk since the last newsletter; in May David Cranstone took us on a guided tour of all England's lead mining areas with brief excursions into Scotland and Wales. David, through his work for English Heritage, is uniquely qualified to give an overview of the lead mining heritage of the whole country and his talk was a welcome wider perspective for all of us. The April meeting was a chance for members to have a look down Park Level Mine. Well over 50 people turned up (far more than I was expecting!) and toured the reconstructed mine. I was extremely heartened by the positive reactions - I reckon if the mine can impress Friends it can't be that bad!

Trevor Bridges has continued to work closely with Killhope in producing the photographs for the mine souvenir book. Taking underground photographs is an art form in itself, and Trevor's skill and experience has produced first class results. The book "*Whar A Candel Will Not Burn....*" will be available from mid June.

The staff at Killhope took part in a training programme during the closed season to give them background information on the mine and mining. Killhope was able to call on three Friends with very different knowledge and skills to give training sessions. Frank Unsworth talked of his experience in leading groups underground, Brian Young taught a session on geology, and Trevor and Shelagh Bridges one on the history of

metal mining. I am most grateful to all of them for their willingness to share their knowledge and experience.

Brian Young has also been spreading the word about the mine, by writing an enthusiastic article for "Geology Today" which should be published soon.

Our old Friend and colleague Kevin Watson is hosting a homecoming party of Americans at the end of June. They come from the lead mining area of Illinois, and have roots in the Dales. Your committee has agreed to help Kevin on 30th June, when the Americans will be at Killhope. If anyone would like to join in with this - and perhaps meet some long lost cousins - let me know.

Finally I am aware that increasing demands at work, plus home circumstances, mean that for some time I have not been as effective a Projects Officer as I would like to be. I have been in this post for over ten years, and maybe it's time for a change. If anyone feels they would like to take up the challenge of this job, or help with it, then please think seriously about putting your name forward for election at the AGM. Please do ring me to talk about what's involved. My new telephone number is 01388 - 517365.

The Pays Weekend

Killhope is working hard to make sure this is a completely memorable celebration of the re-opening of Park Level Mine.

We would love you to be there, and to join in the spirit of the weekend. This spirit should be the spirit of the Friends - that of pride in and enjoyment of Killhope, and of genuine friendship. Killhope is the home of the Friends, so come and be at home on 22nd and 23rd June.

As we said in the last newsletter, we would like everyone in costume as 19th century characters, and we'll certainly help with ideas and advice if you want us to. We'll also be giving a prize for the best Victorian costume.

If you'd like to show off your skills - if you are a juggler, a card-sharp, an acrobat, a conjurer, a magician, or can walk on stilts, or if you would like to have a stall selling appropriate wares, or a sideshow - indeed if you have any brilliant ideas or flashes of inspiration - then get in touch. We will also need help with directing people, with manning sideshows, etc., etc..

So do come and join in. The entertainment will run all weekend, with a bar, refreshments, music, stalls, and so on.

On Saturday night there will be a ceilidh with music by the well known ceilidh band Stanacc. Tickets to this are £4 including supper.

For tickets to the ceilidh, suggestions, offers of help, ring Killhope on 01388 -537505. Otherwise we'll see you there!

Ian Forbes and staff at Killhope.

DUBBY SYKE LEAD MINING COMPANY LTD**Harold Beadle**

In my research into mineral mining in Teesdale it never ceases to amaze me that I still have to keep adding to the list of individuals, partnerships and companies which were formed in order to carry out the mining and dressing of lead, barytes, zinc and iron. The latter two attracting the least attention for obvious reasons. Leaving out the numerous prospectors and adventurers active before the early part of the nineteenth century who, with the exception of the London Lead Company, were small. It was round about that time that companies began to be formed. These being financed mainly by the public who were invited to take up shares in what was always advertised as being an exciting investment and certain to be a most profitable undertaking. The Teesdale Mining Company, with a partnership numbering eighty-eight and a capital of £6,500 formed 3rd November 1821, is probably a typical example of what happened from time to time, and it may well be that it was the first of such to be formed in the dale under a deed of partnership extending to some six thousand words in an attempt to cover every contingency. (1) Unfortunately few seem to have met with success.

The outstanding success of the Greenhurth Lead Mining Company Ltd which was formed in 1864 undoubtedly led to the formation of the Dubby Syke Company, and at least another two in the same locality, supported by investors whose advisers were of the opinion that what was happening at Greenhurth, would also happen in the ground to the east into which the Greenhurth veins ran. Ground which had already been leased from the royalty owners by those who were promoting the new company to which it was proposed to sell the rights they had acquired, and who had in fact already spent £500 in development. Apart from the Greenhurth veins which were expected to run into the new ground there was also to be taken into consideration an important vein which ran right through the lease which had been worked to some extent in three places, but still remained completely unproved.

Every endeavour was made to stress that the new company was being formed for the purpose of acquiring the lease of certain mining ground situated in Teesdale, which was triangular in shape, adjoining the celebrated Greenhurth mine which is on the north boundary. (2) As a further attraction to the public to subscribe it was stated that, 'The Greenhurth mine with a capital expenditure of 6/- per share has, during the last three years, paid upwards of 400 per cent in dividends, and that the share are now worth £5-10-0 each. And that the north and south veins which have been so profitable run into this mine.' It is also stated that, 'This mine contains, also, a very powerful east and west vein, well known in the district as Dubby Syke Vein, which extends through about 2,000 yards of this ground.' About 40 years ago it was worked by a few men on their own account by means of surface working, but owing to troubles with water and the difficulty and cost of conveying to market, where it brought less than half its present price, they were compelled to abandon it.

Since then three levels have been driven, one of the main vein, which can be worked by adits, as the property has a considerable slope towards the river Tees. At the point where these two rich veins, the Dubby Syke and Green Hurth veins intersect, it is expected that large masses of ore will be found. Nothing has yet been done to prove these veins at the point in intersection.' Other advantages are mentioned such as the availability of adequate supplies of water and transport and ends by saying, The purchase money is fixed at £4,000.

£2,000 in cash and £2,000 in fully paid up shares, which, with a further sum of £500 already expended in opening out the ground, will leave £5,500 as working capital. (3)

However, the new company was formed in 1875 with a capital of £10,000 in which the following were to be the directors together with all the other necessary organisations or people who become involved in such undertakings.

Directors			
J Cameron Swann	Newcastle on Tyne	Chairman	Greenhurth Mine
Major Monks	Durham	Chairman	Teesdale Mines
James Snowball	Gateshead	Coal Owner	
T E Foster	Washington	Contractor	
James Oliver C.E.	Newcastle on Tyne		
Robert Weight	Killingworth Colliery	Engineer	
J H Robinson	Newcastle on Tyne	Managing Director	

Bankers - Messrs Hodgkin, Barnett, Pease, Spence & Co. Newcastle

Solicitors - Messrs Hoyle, Shipley & Hoyle, Newcastle

Consulting Mining Engineer - W M Vipond, Nether Hurth, Alston

Brokers - Messrs Spence & Irwin, 67 Grey Street, Newcastle on Tyne

Notes:

Swann became Chairman of the Greenhurth Lead Mining Company in the early 1870s and one of the main shafts bears his name.

Monks, as stated, was the chairman of another Teesdale lead mining venture for which the records are scanty.

J H Robinson (John Harper Robinson) was the largest shareholder in the Greenhurth Lead Mining Company in 1872 and gave his occupation as "Lease Manufacturer" which may not be without some significance in the promotion of the new company in which I am of the opinion that he and Swan played a prominent part.

The remainder has no local connections to the best of my knowledge.

As was usual in such attempts to attract public support, the offer was accompanied by glowing reports of the prospects by William Vipond and Charles Kneebone. Vipond, who gave his address by Nether Hurth, Alston, from which he appears to have conducted his business of Consulting Mining Engineer, was at the time of his report, manager of Greenhurth mine and had a house at Rigg Side, Harwood-in Teesdale. No one could have any better knowledge of the prospects and he wrote a long report outlining the veins, the strata through which they ran, the previous mining activity and ended by saying, 'There is not the slightest doubt but Dubby Syke will prove a valuable mining Sett, situated near Green Hurth, possessing the same veins, the same ore bearing sills, and the command of a

far better water supply. It cannot fail to be a good venture for all who take an interest in it.' Strange as it may seem, but not without precedent, Robinson added to the report a postscript which I quote verbatim.

Mr J H Robinson

P.S. I would strongly recommend at the very beginning to commence sinking through the whin in the lower part of the Sett, on the Dubby Syke vein, and drive on this to cut the Green Hurth cross vein, nothing short of absolute proof to the contrary will ever make me believe that these veins will not bear in depth, and I know of no place where the Whin Sill can be proved at less cost and worked more cheaply. (4)

The report presented by Kneebone from his address, Strada, Florida, Yatrada Murigg, R.S.O. South Wales, begins thus, 'Having completed my survey of the Dubby Syke Mine, I proceed to give my report.' It is obvious that he had made a thorough examination of all the workings which he dealt with in sections beginning with the work done by previous miners in opencasting and the driving of an unnamed level under the Scar Limestone which had been cleared and repaired by the company promoters, and which should be driven further until the vein was reached. In dealing with what was then called Shop Level which had been driven in the shale under the Tyne Bottom Limestone he strongly advised that this level should be driven across the Dubby Syke and North veins without delay, and proceeds at length to give the reasons why, including the advantages to be gained by being able to contact some of the Greenhurth veins which had proved to be productive. As far as Muses level is concerned he recommended that this be not proceeded with for the present. Nowhere in the report did he mention the opinion voiced by others that the best place to test Dubby Syke vein for a start was at the intersection of Greenhurth cross vein, which is in fact shown on the Greenhurth mine plan as being No 1 cross vein. However, he ended the report on a high note by saying,

'In conclusion, permit me to say that, taking into consideration the numerous lodes and junctions, a few only upon which I have been able to dwell upon in my report, the favourable positions of the ground for working the productive sills, with the Green Hurth, and the facilities to hand for cheaply and effectively opening up the mine, I have no hesitation in saying that, with development, you will open out a rich and lasting mine.' (5)

The company at work

That the company was formed there is no doubt, but whether or not all the shares were taken up is unknown to me. However, there has survived a share certificate for five shares Nos. 3531 to 3535 in the name of one Thomas Cooke. (6) There is certainly nothing to suggest that the company met with success. Official records show that the mine was in the hands of the company from 1884 to 1887 and that there were men employed underground during the years 1877 to 1880 under the management of J H Robinson. But there are no details of any lead having been produced unless this was taken by the Greenhurth Company for marketing, which may be a possibility having regard to the fact that at least three men had an interest in both mines and were indeed executives in both companies. (7)

However, it must be said that the opinion and judgement of the prospects of Dubby Syke developing into a prosperous lead mine, which was made by men who professed to be

widely experienced in mining and who also had a full knowledge of the district, did not in fact prove to be correct. Subsequent mining proved that with one exception the veins lying to the east of the Greenhurth sett bore very little lead but large quantities of barytes which was mined towards the end of the century and beyond. Some of the veins produced very small amounts of lead which was said by the miners to have a "Nuisance Value Only", to use a mining term, which involved careful segregation in the mine and transport to a central place where it could be satisfactorily separated by the gravity processes then employed.

There would no doubt be some development at some of the places recommended in the reports, but the only practical evidence we have is that the proposal by Robinson to sink a shaft into the whin sill, at or near to the intersection of the Greenhurth No 1 cross vein with that of Dubby Syke on Bother Mere, did in fact take place as the remains of the walled oval shaft and waterwheel pit prove, But to what depth the shaft was sunk is unknown, neither is it known whether or not there was any attempt to prove either of the veins. However, unless there has been removed any of the dead heaps associated with the sinking, which is extremely unlikely, having regard to the location, there is nothing to indicate that the shaft was very deep or that there was any exploration carried out from its foot, though it was possible at one time to detect signs of mineralisation in the remains which was mainly barytes. (8)

Finally. It may be thought that the accuracy of some of the statements made and advice given to prospective investors could be questioned. Although without any certain knowledge of the contents of the Dubby Syke vein in the sett, experienced men such as Vipond and Robinson should, under the circumstances, have taken into consideration the unmistakable evidence of its contents in the exposure in Forceburn, less than half-a-mile to the south west of Bother Mere, where the vein consists almost entirely of barytes with only a thin rib of lead averaging about an inch which, in my opinion, they seem to have ignored. However, whatever further information future research may discover, the company seems to disappear from such records as are available locally by the year 1880 and by the year 1890 a mine plan shows that the Dubby Syke Sett is now leased by the Greenhurth Company. (9)

References

- (1) The Cleveland Industrial Archaeologist No 13 (1981) pp 1-14
The Teesdale Mining Company 1821-1841.
- (2) See plan of Dubby Syke Sett showing the main vein and the road leading from Langdon Beck through the Cowgreen Sett which had only just been completed.
- (3) Document issued to prospective subscribers.
- (4) Report dated 19th November 1984.
- (5) Report dated 16th October 1874.
- (6) See copy of share certificate dated 7th May 1875.

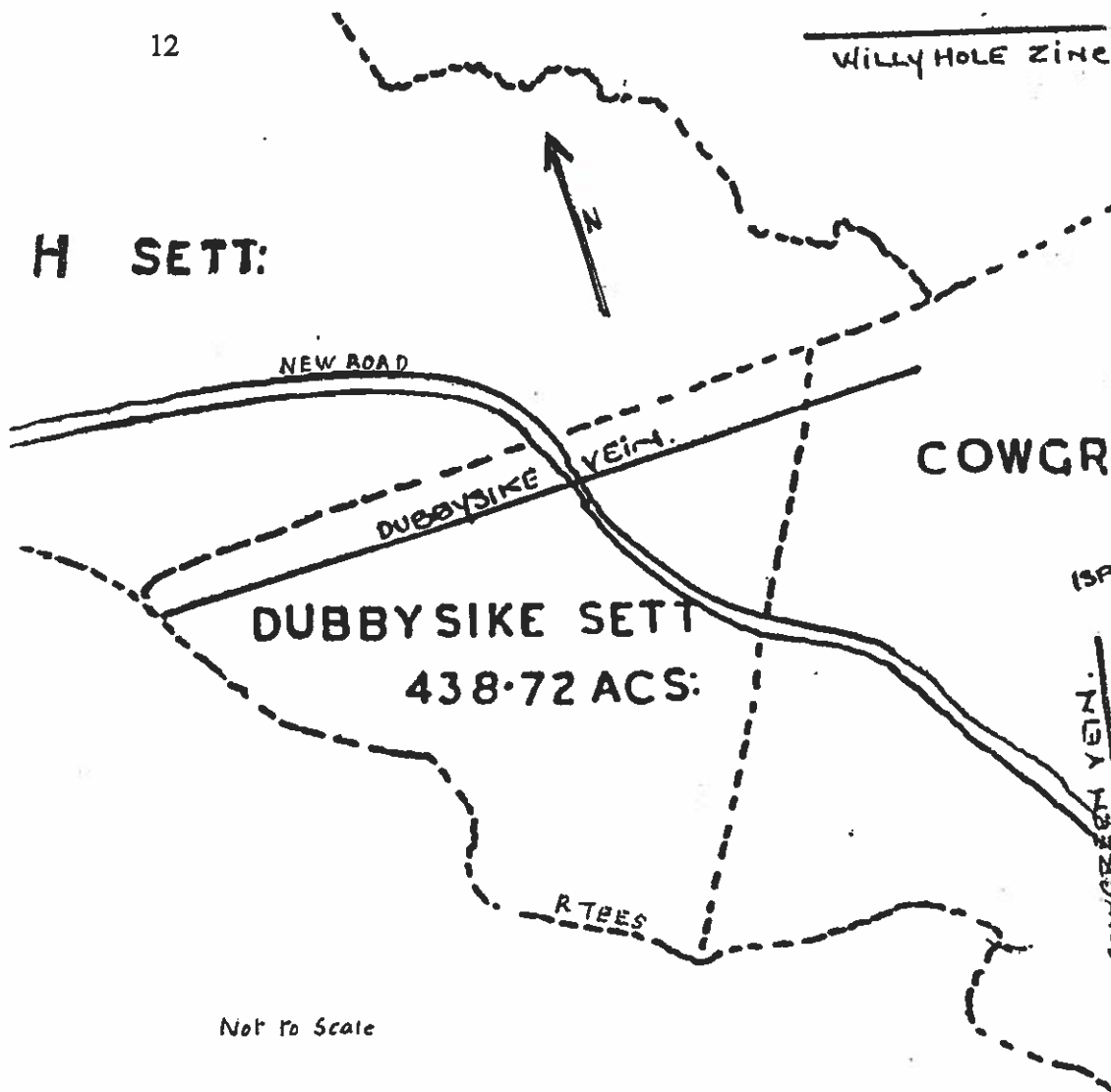
- (7) The Durham & Northumberland Mineral Statistic 1845-1913.
- (8) See photograph of oval shaft and wheel pit with the dead heap of Muses level in the distance.
- (9) See mine plan.

Notes

- (1) In order to give location GR NY 795 320 indicates the point on the mine plan of 1890 where the new road crosses the vein, where can be seen today the remains of the barytes mine which ceased production in 1954.
- (2) Syke/Sike. "Syke" is the spelling used on the company documents and reports and has, therefore, been used throughout.
- (3) An examination of the exposure of Dubby Syke vein in Forceburn will give to the layman some idea of what the miner has to contend with as he drives into the unknown underground!
- (4) Sill. Miners called all the beds of hard rock sills when in fact, geologically speaking, sill is the name given to a sheet of basaltic rock which has been intruded into the sedimentary rocks.

WILLY HOLE ZINE

H SETT:



Not to Scale

Dubby Syke Mining Company Limited.

DURHAM

IN 10,000 PARTS OR SHARES,

Registered Offices, 25, WESTGATE ROAD, NEWCASTLE ON TYNE.

This is to Certify that *Mr Thomas Cooke*
of Newcastle in the County of the same
Number *is Proprietor of Five (5)*
parts or Shares Nos *3531 to 3535*
inclusive in this Company and is duly entered in
the Register.

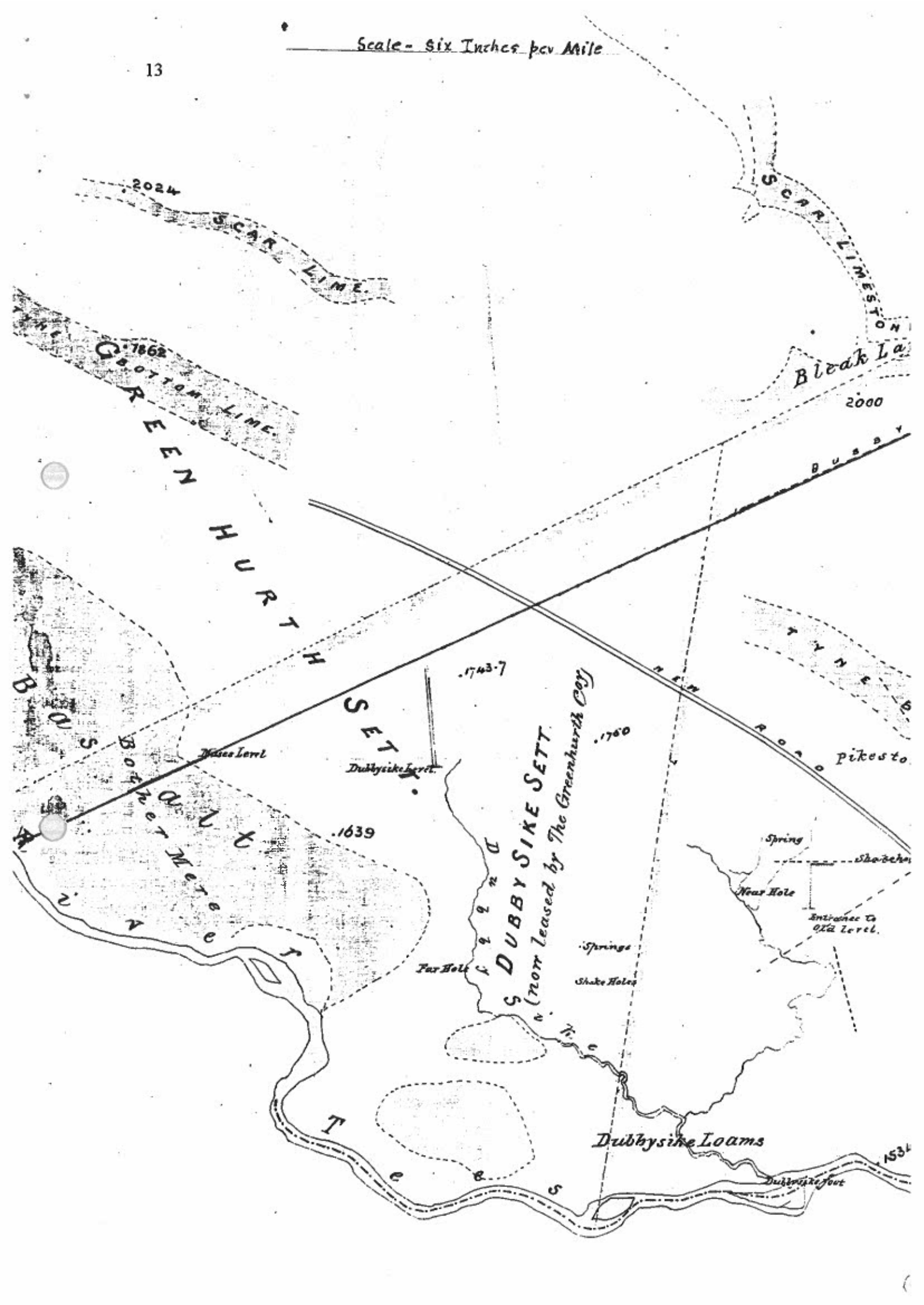


James Snowball
Robt Wright } Directors.

Mr James Snowball Director
Secretary

Dated this *7th* day of *March* 1875

N. B. This Certificate must be exchanged on Transfer of Shares.



2024

SCAR LIMESTONE

SCAR LIMESTONE

7862
GREEN LIME

Bleak La

2000

HURTH

BUSBY

BONS

1743.7

SETT

1760

Dubbysike level

Dubbysike level

TYNE B
ROAD pike sto

NET MERE

1639

Spring

Near Hole

Entrance to Old Level

Far Hole

DUBBYSIKE SETT
(now leased by The Greenhurth Coy)

Spring

Shake Holes

Dubbysike Loams

1534

Dubbysike foot

Remains of oval shaft and Muses level at Bother Mere



Section of vein of
bartyes running through
the whin sill at
Forceburn



WHY WAS BEVIS BULMER IN THE PENNINES?**Ian Forbes**

In 1890 William Wallace published "Alston Moor, Its Pastoral People, Its Mines and Miners". Amongst many stories and anecdotes of the history of Alston Moor, Wallace wrote:-

"Randalholme was an ancient Peel-house, situated on rich ground, near the confluence of Ayleburn with the Tyne Surtees says that "Sir Bevis Bulmer, who was supposed to be a speculator in lead mines, died at the house of Mr Whitfield, of Randalholme in 1616. I suppose Sir Bevis resided in Durham. At this date he undertook to discover a gold mine on Crawford Moor, near the source of the Clyde, and when he died, he was probably on his journey to or from Crawford Moor...."

Until recently this was about all I knew about this man, although I had come across references to him in a history of mining in the Mendips.

Then I received a letter at Killhope from Mr Tom Taylor of near Bristol, who is researching the life of Sir Bevis. Mr Taylor wrote: "he (Sir Bevis) was a Mining Engineer of high regard and was active in the lead mining industry from approx. 1574 to 1614.... I have traced Sir Bevis Bulmer's activities to the Mendip Hills in Somerset, the silver mines at Combe Martyn in Devon, and north to the Hilderstone silver mines in Scotland.... his expertise was the drawing of water from the depths of the mines and he had a patent on a pumping (horse drawn) engine".

In a second letter Mr Taylor filled in further details on the life and activities of Bulmer: "I know he had a "fine house" built at Crawfordmoor for himself and his family. He also had a "Patent" to import sea coals into Gateshead during this time.... He held the rights to mine for lead in the Mendip Hills in Somerset for over 20 years, operated the Combe Martyn lead/silver mines in North Devon with great success and ran the Hilderstone silver mine in Cinlithgoe for approx. 3 years. Of his lead mining activities in the Leadhills (Wanlockhead) area I'm rather sketchy but his gold mining in this area is well documented. He presented Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 1st with a pure gold "porringer" of pure Scottish gold! He also had a water pumping station (horse operated) on the banks of the Thames at Broken Wharf and it was this water pumping that he used in the mines at Mendip.

From these small details you may see that our Mr Bulmer was quite a gentleman of the period and his activities stretched from Devon to Somerset then on to the north east and north west of Scotland. In the days when travel was so difficult by today's standards I find this quite remarkable.

I have still to fill in quite a few gaps in his activities, namely 1610 - 1616 and the period prior to 1578 when he appeared in the Leadhills area with his letter to search for gold in the name of the Crown".

So, can anyone add anything to this? Clearly Sir Bevis was a remarkable man, with widespread mining interests. It is conceivable that he was merely passing through Alston Moor when he died at Randalholme? Or did he have interest in our lead mining area?

Mr Taylor would welcome any information from members of the Friends. If you can help, send a note to me at Killhope, as I have promised to pass on anything we learn to Mr Taylor.

READERS LETTERS

"I want to thank you and your team for the fascinating Killhope Newsletter. I read with amusement the article 'The Killhope Ghost - lives?' and it prompts me to write this letter to you. I understand that it will probably not be included in the Newsletter but wondered if you might be interested or whether you have heard of any other such experiences.

In 1993 I was studying with the Open University and for our Summer School venue I chose Durham. This is purely because we love the North of England and if we can find any excuse to visit then we will. In the August I planted my husband and family at Winston, Barnard Castle in a camp site and attended the University. On returning one week later the children would not stop talking about this lead mine they had visited and that they wanted to take me too. To be absolutely honest, a lead mine did not figure very highly on my list of wonderful places to visit. In fact I wasn't at all interested. Nevertheless, Barry (my husband) and the children insisted that I should see Killhope and that I would enjoy it. Reluctantly I agreed and we arrived at 10.30 one morning on a rather chilly day.

Now this may seem romantically fanciful but the experience was so vivid that I can feel it now. As we made our way towards the bunkhouse I was absolutely certain that my journey of discovery was being watched by a child of the past. It was almost as if, a small child was wishing to make sure that I didn't miss anything. I felt welcome and happy to be in his company and in turn experienced a sense of excitement that here was a challenge to demonstrate or even persuade me that Killhope was worth a visit. I was, metaphorically, guided to such advantage points that I was completely separated from my family and become absorbed in the feeling of hospitality. The experience continued throughout our visit. Instead of staying only 2 hours it was nearer 4½ by the time we left.

As we were leaving I signed the family membership form to join 'The Friends of Killhope'. I have to say that this is the first and only time I have ever subscribed to any 'Friends' organizations and I am sure that my anonymous friend helped in no small part to persuade me.

Living in Oxfordshire means that we can only visit Killhope once or twice a year, an outing keenly anticipated by us all. We would love to be able to join in with the fun and celebrations. However, we wish you all well with the opening of Park Level and look forward to the time when we too can view the work achieved.

Christine Martin"

Vogue Levels

Readers with long memories will recall discussions about vogue levels which began in Newsletter No 7 (February 1987). Various definitions were suggested and Harold Beadle writes of another from a new book "Lead Mine Wagons" by R. A. Fairbairn : 'The Vogue, a two wheeled wagon which was man handled'. Thus, vogue level - a level in which vogue wagons were used? Previous suggestions seem to assume they were horse levels and this is the first mention of two wheeled man handled wagons. Any further comments. Editor

A FROSTERLEY PUZZLE - HOLLY WELL LEAD MINE

"This short note is in reply to the Chambers-Forbes puzzle on page three of the September 1995 Newsletter alongside items on "Envelopes" and "A Burning Mountain." I don't normally buy the Sun but maybe I should start! However, as I understand there is a substantial prize on offer, I shall try to provide the correct answer to this descriptive puzzle.

The extract in question is from Thomas Sopwith's "An account of the Mining District of Alston Moor, Weardale and Teesdale" published in 1833. On page 176 he describes a journey following the Durham and Wolsingham turnpike along the valley on the north side of the Wear. "The route continues westward through somewhat less pleasing country - the hills become suddenly more elevated and bare green pastures and heathy moors increase. At Frosterley is a commanding eminence with a crushing mill and washing places - the first indication of mines which appear. The rocky bed of the river - the precipitous face of limestone quarries - the diminished verdure of the hills and their abrupt formation, now indicate the Geology of the Lead Measures,....." This description certainly suggests following the turnpike road up the valley rather than a diversion by Bollihope and the "commanding eminence" indicates the more dramatic northside of the river and road rather than the gentler sloping south side of the valley. There were a number of small mines on the lower south side of the river near Broadwood, East Bridge End and Buckler Dale and several others higher up at Dryburnside Farm and further west near Dryburn Quarry, but none that would have had a crushing and washing plant, nor would have been clearly seen. There were fewer sites on the steeper north side of the valley and most could not be seen from the road, with the exception of that at Holly Well which lies about 800 yards north west of Frosterley Church. This area is named after the Holly Well which is situated just south of the main road, opposite the junction with Intake Lane.

Holly Well Lead Mine was a larger mine than those already noted and possessed a washing place and crushing mill, together with several other buildings and structures, most of which would then have been visible from the road. Limestone quarries with their precipitous faces are also noted by Sopwith and this mine lay between two such old excavations - the original Kiln House and Rogerley Quarries. The massive quarries with which we now associate the village of Frosterley and which run for many miles along both valley sides are post 1847, being developed after the arrival of the railway at that place. As Bryan Chambers suggested, perhaps the remains of the mine site seen by Thomas Sopwith were removed along with millions of tons of limestone rock as the quarrying operations relentlessly advanced along the hillsides in this area. At first glance this would seem to be the case at Holly Well, as Rogerley Quarry cuts a massive gash in the Great Limestone from Frosterley to Shittlehope Burn on the eastern side of Stanhope.

A careful examination of the bankside, however, will reveal a number of interesting remains, including a two storey stone structure. Parts of the old site remain, though surrounded by overburden and waste from the quarry and now invisible from the road. The site is much better viewed in spring before it becomes camouflaged by dense summer foliage. Neither of the two original mine levels have been traced, though there are more modern excavations to be seen with later entrances situated some forty feet up in the north face of the quarry. The site is quite easily identified as the quarrymen left the vein section in the face unworked, only cutting through it to provide a passage for the railway. There

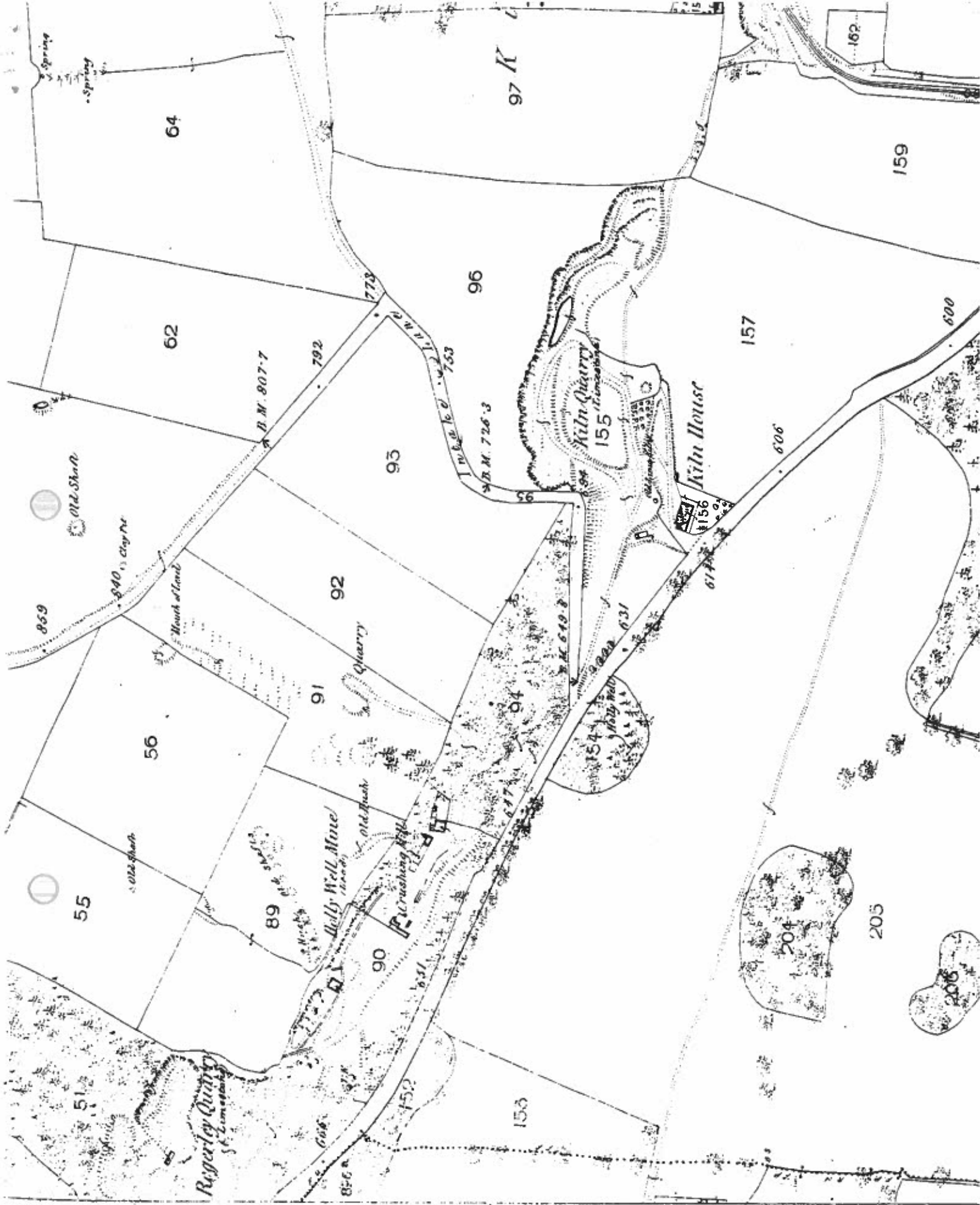
are also a number of other more recent remains on site which indicate continued later working, some items post dating the quarrying operations.

The mine worked the NE-SW trending Holly Well vein which is a continuation of the Yew Tree vein, worked in the upper Bollihope valley. This vein was also mined between these two places on the south side of the river near Dryburn Quarry to the west of Peakfield Farm, its position being indicated by a line of old shafts up the hillside, together with a small level in the quarry face. Sir Kingsley Dunham gives details of the Yew Tree - Hollywell vein workings on pages 258 & 259 of his *Geology of the North Pennine Orefield*, Vol I (1948.) He states that the main vein was worked from an adit in the Great Limestone for 1740ft and a small north branch for 1225ft. Limonitic iron ore was obtained from both veins by the Weardale Iron Company. The mine dumps show purple fluorite, quartz and small amounts of galena. Hunts Mineral Statistics indicate 323 tons of lead ore were produced between 1848 and 1857, the owners of the mine during that period being the London Lead Company. No production is shown after 1857 though smaller mines were often later grouped together with output given under an area heading. The earliest documentation seen for production is for the period 1835-1845 when Holly Well ore was being delivered to Bollihope Smelt Mill run by the Walton family from Alston Moor. A list of shareholders for that mill in 1840 showed the following names : William, Joseph, John, Thomas, Jacob, Robert, Jon.^s and Friend WALTON! This family were much involved with smelting in the North Pennines during the nineteenth century, the records indicating that they held the Bollihope Mill from at least 1835 up to its final closure in 1896. Also seen in the Walton archive from circa 1840 are regular payments for the use of the Hugh Lee Pattinson Patent Process which would suggest that they were using this system for extracting silver at this small mill.

The first edition 2.5 inch O.S. map for the Frosterley area (1859) shows the Holly Well mine site and the adjoining quarries which, it is hoped, were the features Sopwith was describing about thirty years earlier.

Peter Wilkinson"

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of its correspondents and are not necessarily agreed with or shared by the Friends of Killhope, its officers or the editor. The accuracy of submissions is the responsibility of the authors and will not necessarily be checked by the editor for validity.



STANHOPE QUARTER 505 TP

25th 1 MILE, 1st EDIT. O.S
 FROSTERLEY AREA. (1859)

The following article is based on a paper written by John Dent. It is based on London Lead Company papers held by the Durham County Records Office. In its original form the paper was not suitable for our newsletter and I have rewritten it for our consumption. This shortened version omits some of the detail and my conclusions do not necessarily coincide exactly with those of the author. Nevertheless it relies heavily on John Dent's original work and the transcription of the material is entirely his. I am grateful to Mr Dent for allowing the use of his paper and to Arthur Roberts for bringing it to my attention.
Editor

THE DISMISSAL OF ROBERT HAYTON FROM THE LONDON LEAD COMPANY IN APRIL 1808

Among the London Lead Company papers held by the Durham County Record Office are nine letters and one internal memo relating to the dismissal from the Company of one, Robert Hayton by his uncle Thomas Dodd who was the Chief Mine Agent based at Nenthead. The material gives an interesting insight into industrial relations, the corruption and fraud within the Company at that time, how the matter was investigated and the effect the incident might have had on the organisation of the firm in the long term.

The first letter in the series is from Robert Hayton to his 'Hon Masters' at the Court of Assistants of the London Lead Company who with the Governor controlled the affairs of Company from London. It is dated 14th April 1808, Nenthead. In it he complains that his superior, Dodd the Chief Mine Agent, had dismissed him because of a trifling matter concerning the purchase of a simple Day Book in which he was, in any case blameless. To add to this injustice the manner of his dismissal was particularly shocking. Hayton described it thus, 'At length he (Dodd) got into such a rage that he took up the book about which he quarrelled me, tossed it with great vengeance at and hit me on the head with it. He then ordered me out of the office, and dashed me against the doorpost with great violence, and then setting his hands against my back, sent me with all the force he was possessed of down stairs shouting after me, "Ye dog, if I get at you I will knock(strike) that short arm off you." ' Hayton explained that a childhood accident had left him with a deformed arm and his father had kept him at school for an extra 2 or 3 years (no doubt at some sacrifice) beyond the 6 or so years of elementary education available to miners' sons at that time, in order that he might take up an occupation other than manual work. His father who had been with the Company for 40 years was about to retire and the family were now in "narrow circumstances". Without his job Robert would be unable to support his father and he appealed to the Court's sense of justice and higher authority to censure Dodd and overturn his cruel dismissal.

Hayton went on to claim that Dodd wanted his position his n'ere do well son, Thomas Junior who, though already employed by the Company to deliver wood to the mines, "never attends it at all". In further support of his case Hayton referred to other agents who could support his allegations, one being Mr Robert Stagg (Cashier & Superintendent of all the Company's smeltworks) father of the more famous Robert Junior who would later do much to reform the organisation. Though there appears no proof it is arguable that these reforms were the eventual result of this and later letters from Robert Hayton.

The second letter from Hayton followed two weeks later. Presumably he had allowed time for a reply which so far had not been forthcoming - not withstanding the fact that this was

before Roland Hill's postal reforms. By the time of his writing this letter, Hayton had heard that someone had been appointed to his position and no doubt felt justified in informing the Court of Dodd's flagrant abuse of his position and flouting of the Company's rules.

He wrote, "I hope you will excuse me the expression when I say you are sadly deceived with regards to Mr Dodd's conduct. Your business in the Country has got into great confusion owing to private concerns clashing so much with it. You are perhaps not aware that Mr Dodd has hold of everything almost that comes within his reach". Hayton went on to allege that Dodd and his brother John were in partnership selling gunpowder to the mines and that the agent kept the Company's stocks so low so that the miners had to purchase the explosive from his brother. John Dodd was also employed by the Company but Hayton claimed that his chief business was selling, often on credit, gunpowder and all manner of goods from his shop.

Hayton further claimed that Dodd had employed a miner virtually full time at this farm at Stanhope, though the man's wages were being paid by the Company. The list of improprieties continued with the allegations that Dodd serviced miners' debts at the shop and rent arrears with Company funds and also took a percentage as interest, that there were irregularities in bookkeeping, that Dodd was acting as a farmers' land agent that Dodd, his brother and son all used Company coal and candles but did not pay for them. A Company rule of 1785 expressly forbade the use of Company coal or candles by agents and Dodd's other activities, even if they were not wholly illegal or dishonest, were clearly not in the Company's interest.

Hayton repeated his request to be reinstated to his old position or given a new one and pointed out that since Dodd's son neglected his duties of supervising deliveries of wood to the miners, this work could be undertaken by himself. In a postscript Hayton added that Dodd also used other Company tradesmen to work on his own property during Company's time and that Dodd and his family had shares in various mine bargains let contrary to Company rules and where members were involved in dubious dealings over the sale of ore.

The Court sent Hayton's first two letters to Robert Stagg senior and must have requested information or verification of the accusations they contained. By that time Stagg was in very poor health and his reply of 11th May 1808 was dictated to his son Joseph. He confirmed that Hayton's allegations were substantially true and described the "shop business" as scandalous. Further, he was able to add that there was "a Deficiency in the stock of 94 Half Barrels of the Company's Gunpowder at your Gunpowder House at Nenthead : how this loss has arisen I cannot tell, but that is lost to you is certain, you may judge by what probable means". (Dodd kept his gunpowder along with the Company's in the Company Gunpowder House). Stagg's closing remarks reveal, perhaps surprisingly that he had been well aware of the situation described by Hayton. He wrote, "On reviewing what I have been obliged to remark on Mr Dodds conduct I cannot help being pained at having such a task assigned me, however, what I have said is without prejudice or partiality and what I conceive you require and expect. Things of this kind I expected would come to your knowledge at some time or other but I now hoped to have been done with the Business of this life before such an opening out has taken place". However, a Company man to the end Robert Stagg senior had responded to the call of duty one last time. He died less than a month later on 7th June 1808 aged only 34 years.

It would seem from this letter that the Company were taking Hayton's allegations seriously and that the Court were indeed unaware that such large scale fraud was taking place. Perhaps this was possible since at that time the Company was still largely run from London with no one in overall authority based in the north.

On 3rd June 1808 Hayton wrote again to the Company from Grassington where he had found employment, "being determined that Mr Dodd should not be gratified by seeing me work for my bread in the place where I had served you and him as Agent". He went on to say that he had heard there was concern that he had retained two books of account but explained that he had done so in order that he might use them as evidence to back his claim. However he promised to return them to any of the Company's agents who might come up from London. (Presumably he felt unable to trust any of the local officials.) Then he went on to make still more serious allegations claiming there were rumours that Dodd had withdrawn Company securities of £1,500 from the Durham Bank(1) in order to provide backing for his son's partner. Perhaps by gradually releasing information of a more serious nature Hayton hoped to heighten interest in his case as speculation rose as to how much more was to be revealed.

The minutes of a meeting held by the Court on 10th June 1808 seem to indicate that the Company had set up an inquiry to be carried out in the strictest confidence. William Masterman, later to be an important figure in the Company would travel north (2) at the end of the month to meet secretly with Joseph Stagg at an inn, probably near Alston. Presumably Stagg would give a more detailed verbal account of the situation and possibly they might discuss the remedies. Masterman was first to go to the Lakes on Company business and since he was on a fact finding mission, a visit to Hayton might seem likely, though no mention was made of this.

On 19th October Joseph Stagg wrote from Alston to Masterman in London advising, "two more bargains have been let on the Moor that I know of upon the same conditions as Ireshopeburn Mine is let, since you were here. I got this out of Briggs the new Agent (Hayton's successor) without his being aware that I had any design as to the enquiries I made".

Obviously the Company investigation was still going on but presumably no steps had been taken to prevent the various frauds from continuing.

The letter also contains interesting general information about the amount of ore that will have to be left at the mines over winter and details about how he had dealt with the problem of the poor quality of the smelters' work at Nenthead. The Nenthead men had been dismissed and others brought in from Stanhope, "and have so laid my plans as to convince them we are independent of them and when they are more sensible of that it will make them better to manage".

- (1) Mills, Robinson, Hoffer, Pearson & Chipchase formed about 1787. Partnership dissolved 1802 and transferred to Richardson & Mowbray.
- (2) At that time a six day journey only contemplated in summer.

The postscript of this letter is also an interesting aside : "Should the Court think of appointing my brother (Robert Stagg Junior) to my former situation I should wish to know it as early as it can be done". Robert Stagg Junior was to become one of the best known Company personalities and in 1816 became the Chief Agent and Superintendent of all the Company's mines in the north. Robert first succeeded Joseph (who died on 19th March 1809) as Cashier and Superintendent of all the Company's smelting works, ore washing and carriage and of forwarding lead from the mills to Blaydon and Stockton.

Only two days later Joseph Stagg wrote again to Masterman; "The shop at Nenthead is a source of incalculable injury to the Company's business and will be so long as Mr Dodd's sons are partners". He went on to confirm that virtually all that Hayton had alleged was true. Further it appeared that Hayton's successor, a Mr Briggs had an interest in a Bargain which was against Company rules but it was unclear whether or not he had been deliberately drawn into the conspiracy to prevent him stirring up trouble as Hayton had done. He confirmed in a postscript that the Dodd family were being supplied with Company coal free of charge and referred the Court to its own rule of 1785 which forbade this. "No Agent shall have any allowance of coals and candles". Thus Robert Hayton seemed to have been vindicated.

The London Lead Company Court resolutions laying down general rules for the administration of mines and estates dated 6th December 1810 seem to close most of the loopholes exploited by Dodd and possibly others. However some of these were repeats of early resolutions which had been ignored by Dodd and there was no indication of how these rules were to be implemented or enforced. Neither was there any mention of any action to be taken against Thomas Dodd who possibly remained in post as late as 1816. At this point Robert Stagg Junior was appointed Chief Agent and General Superintendent so that for the first time one man was in charge of the mining, smelting and transportation operations. Stagg gradually put in place a system of overmen promoted from within to ensure a better degree of control at all levels of the Company.

Perhaps Stagg's changes were Hayton's memorial for these seems no record of his eventual fate.

Can anyone enlighten us?

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REPORT FROM DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

This is a big year for Killhope and a big year for the Arts, Libraries and Museums Department. At Killhope our attentions are naturally focused on Park Level Mine, on the official opening by Tony Blair on Friday 14 June and on the Pays weekend on Saturday and Sunday 22-23 June when Killhope will host a re-creation of the Victorian miners' pay day - I hope as many of you as possible will be present to join us, preferably in Victorian costume! The Friends events such as the Annual Quoits Championship and the Grand Mineralogical Exhibition will I am sure be as big a draw as ever in what I hope will be a bumper year for Killhope. Extra publicity has been produced which I hope you will have seen around the region and, for May and June, we have been able to arrange additional signposting for events, through AA Signs.

One new innovation at Killhope has been the new computerised booking system, essential for the successful operation of the Mine, which has been developed by the Durham County Council IT Department. It was something of a new venture for IT staff, but everything is now running smoothly and the system was featured on the front of the County Council's IT Newsletter. The system is to be extended to include stock control for the shop, and hopefully the pioneering work done at Killhope will allow similar systems to be installed into the County's other museums.

At a departmental level one of our major projects for 1996 is Visual Arts Year. I am delighted to say that at least one event is happening in every library and museum operated by this Department. Reflecting the importance of the mine opening this year at Killhope we have appointed Ros Wates as 'artist in residence' to interpret life at Killhope throughout the season. When we decided to appoint an artist-in-residence we didn't specify what medium he/she should work in and we received interesting proposals from artists working in many different media. As well as the extremely high quality of her work there was another reason for appointing Ros. She works in mosaic, which seemed particularly appropriate for Killhope. She will be using pieces of local rock and mineral (much of it extracted from the bouse) in her work. I hope you will have the opportunity to see her working on-site throughout the season (Killhope staff can tell you when she should be around) and to visit her exhibition at the end of the project.

Before signing off I would like to mention the new 'souvenir guide' to Park Level Mine, called 'Whar a candel will not burn', which will be available at Killhope from 15 June. Ian Forbes has researched and prepared an excellent publication. It will be another impressive title in the growing list from the Arts, Libraries and Museums Department.

Once again, thank you for your continuing hard work and your commitment to Killhope. I hope to see you on-site over the summer months.

Patrick Conway, Director of Arts, Libraries and Museums