



Reg. Charity No. 517647

**Newsletter No 86**

**October 2015**

## **New Chair - Margaret Manchester**



*Photo: Margaret Manchester*

I would like to introduce myself as the new chair of the Friends of Killhope.

My first memories of Killhope were when, as a child, my family used to travel past at weekends. We lived at Rookhope and my grandparents lived at Garrigill so Killhope Wheel was the landmark I associated with half way there and half way home! Stories of family connections to Killhope surfaced occasionally and on further questioning I discovered that my grandmother had been born at Broadmeadows, the house just over the wall from the reservoir at Killhope. Earlier family members had lived at Hill Top and mined at Park Level. One discovered a body on Killhope Moor, presumed to be a Scottish soldier who had died during one of the Jacobite rebellions.

I spent five happy years working at Killhope Lead Mining Museum as an 'Information Assistant' while my two boys were young. I learnt a lot about lead mining, Victorian

social history and geology from some excellent tutors including Ian Forbes, Brian Young and Trevor Bridges. During this time, I furthered my studies at Durham University initially taking a Diploma class in Local History and Archaeology and continuing with a Masters in Archaeological Survey. On completing my degree, I left Killhope to teach Archaeology at Darlington College. Currently I am Managing Director of Durham Hens, an award-winning company based near Tow Law.

I have been involved with Killhope throughout this time, having been treasurer for the Friends for fifteen years. This year Dick Graham decided to stand down as chairman after serving twenty years; he asked me if I would take over the role which I did at our AGM in May.

At the AGM I mentioned that the Friends and the museum were going through a difficult time and that I hoped the Friends and the staff at Killhope could put aside their differences. Because of a breakdown in communication in the past it was going to be difficult to re-establish a good working relationship.

The management at County Hall have been very supportive and are actively encouraging an improvement in the relationship as they can see the value of having a knowledgeable and dedicated Friends organisation linked with the museum. Communication has improved and the Friends have been welcomed to the museum this summer. We have been asked to work on several projects on site.

The Friends will prepare an annual display within the visitor centre on various themes, there is work in the Jigger House to complete and we are considering a project to generate power from a waterwheel. If you are interested in helping with any of these activities, please email me: [mmanchester@hotmail.com](mailto:mmanchester@hotmail.com)

This year is the Friends' 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to celebrate we are organising a series of events. We have created a mobile exhibition about the Friends showcasing our achievements. This has toured all three Weardale Shows and is currently on display at Stanhope Community Hub. Still to come this year, there will be an 'Ask the Expert' evening in November and a Christmas social with a slide show 'Weardale at Night' by local photographer Gary Lintern. In March, we will be examining the Geology and Architecture of Durham Cathedral with Brian Young and Martin Roberts. This is a joint event with NEVAG (North East Vernacular Architecture Group). We will visit the beautiful gardens of Bretton Hall in West Yorkshire in April, family home of lead mine owner Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, and a day school will be held at St Johns Chapel in May, jointly hosted by the Friends of Killhope and Nenthead Mines Conservation Society.

Thank you all for your continued support and I hope to see you at some of these events!

## Reminders

### Message from your Temporary Membership Secretary

Please could members who pay by standing order check that their bank is paying the correct amount. The membership fees were increased this year and we are still waiting for additional payments from a few members. Thank you. Please see the membership form on the back page for current fees.

### Note from your Chair

Margaret Graham is acting as temporary membership secretary but we would ideally like to fill this role. If you are interested in joining our committee as a Membership Secretary, please email Margaret at [mmanchester@hotmail.com](mailto:mmanchester@hotmail.com).

### Message from your Newsletter Editor

Thank you to all who have contributed articles for this newsletter. Please send submissions for the next newsletter to Richard Manchester at [rmanchester@btinternet.com](mailto:rmanchester@btinternet.com) or by post to Vine House, Hedleyhope, Bishop Auckland, DL13 4BN.

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## **Dick Graham Retires!**

**Ian Forbes**

I know it's hard to believe because Dick has been so much a part of Killhope for so many years. But it's true – after twenty years service Dick has retired from the Chair of the Friends of Killhope.

Margaret Manchester, our new Chair, has asked me to pen a few words about Dick's legacy and I am extremely happy to oblige. At this point it should be said that it's not just Dick who has been so important to Killhope. So too has his wife Margaret. Dick and Margaret have always worked as a team, so much of what I say about Dick applies to Margaret too.

Dick has never been just a turn up and run the occasional meeting sort of chair. He and Margaret threw themselves wholeheartedly into everything Killhope. I have fond memories of both of them appropriately dressed to the nines for Victorian days and taking a full part in other activities on site such as the experimental iron smelting and charcoal making. And although it wasn't a Killhope event, who can forget the image of Dick at the party to celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and his and Margaret's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary dancing the Gay Gordons with sheer delight with his young grand-daughter. For me, this moment encapsulated much of Dick's continual zest for life.

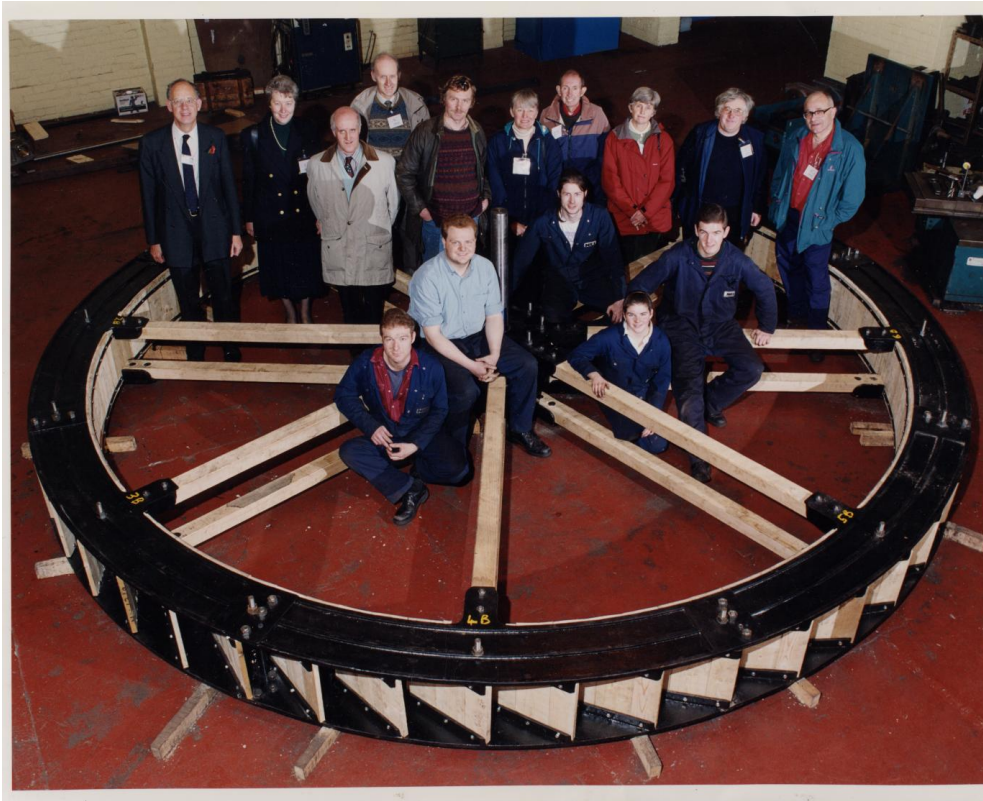
Dick fronted our Friends of Killhope occasions, but as Chair he was so much more than a front man. Much of his tenure coincided with the registration of the Friends as an Environmental Body (EB), able to receive funds from the Blue Circle Cement Works at Eastgate for the benefit of the Museum.

The Friends' registration as an EB benefitted Killhope hugely, but it also involved a huge amount of paperwork. Dick just got on with this behind the scenes, quietly, without fuss or complaint and with complete efficiency.

The grants the Museum received from Blue Circle through the Friends enabled the Museum to acquire and display a superb mineral collection as well as many other things such as the stair lift to the upper floor.

Dick's relationship with Killhope goes back a very long way. I well remember, years back, when the Museum wanted a top keep made to cover one of the bearings of the big wheel. The original had disappeared a long time previously. I said to Dick that it was a large shaft and wondered if the works he managed could cope with something this size. The works was NEI Parsons in Newcastle and, touring the plant with Dick, I realised how foolish my concern had been. In their terms, this was a very small shaft and bearing! Of course the new keep arrived, and fitted perfectly. Dick also ensured that Parsons cast a number of replica mine tub wheels for the museum – good practice for their pattern makers.

But the biggest contribution Dick was able to make through his position at Parsons was the gift of the wonderful underground waterwheel. We wanted a wheel for the mine. For Dick this was no problem. Thanks to his considerable powers of persuasion the design, construction and installation of the waterwheel in Park Level became a superb training scheme for graduate apprentices at Rolls Royce's Industrial Power Group Training Centre. It was with huge satisfaction that we watched this group of young people take on and overcome all the challenges involved. To this day Killhope probably has the world's only Rolls Royce waterwheel.



Dick (on the left) with members of the Friends of Killhope  
and the underground wheel construction team

Dick's contribution to the development of Killhope, both before and after he retired from Parsons, has been immense. Just as important to me, when I was Manager of Killhope, was his constant and thoughtful advice and encouragement based on a lifetime of experience. The relationship between the Friends and the Museum has been a terrific and positive one – and for this we should all be grateful to Dick.

Of course when I said that Dick has retired, that is an exaggeration. He and Margaret remain fully involved with family life and the committees and work of the North East Vernacular Architecture Group, the Weardale Field Study Society, the Weardale Beekeepers - as well as, we're all delighted to say, the Friends of Killhope. We wish his successor, Margaret Manchester, well and know that Dick will continue to support her and the work of the Friends.

## Friends of Killhope Quoits Competition

### Peter Natrass

The Annual Quoits competition organised by the Friends of Killhope was held on Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Killhope Lead Mining Museum.

A few new faces and some who have not attended for a few years boosted the entry to 20 and we saw some of the best quoits played for some years.

The quarter-finals saw regular competitor, Eddie Barwick of Crook, go out to John Bainbridge of Teesdale and newcomer, Wayne Stonebank was beaten by Stephen Bainbridge. In the second half of the draw Stephen beat the 2014 champion Raymond Little in a close fought contest and Peter Natrass clinched a semi final place by beating John Bainbridge in another tough game.

The first semi-final saw John in a family 'shoot-out' against Stephen in an excellent game with Stephen eventually running out the winner. The second closely fought semi-final saw Stephen up against Peter who won through to take the competition to a final game.

This final game continued the high standards of the semi-finals with Stephen taking an early lead and Peter overhauling him to gain the advantage and then Stephen coming back at him to level things going into the final ends. Stephen then edged ahead and despite Peter playing some excellent shots Stephen clinched the win to become the Killhope Quoits Champion.

Margaret Manchester kindly presented the trophies on behalf of the Friends of Killhope, who also supplied tea and cream scones to all of the competitors. A fitting end to an entertaining and very enjoyable afternoon in very pleasant company.



Peter Natrass *Photos Margaret Manchester*



Margaret Manchester presenting the trophy  
to Stephen Bainbridge

## **A Review of the London Lead Company's Early Interests in the Teesdale Mining Field<sup>†</sup>**

**William F. Heyes**

### **Introduction**

A series of articles under the general heading "Mining in Teesdale Before London Lead" have appeared in the last few issues of the Newsletter. These clearly demonstrate the extensive mining activity that had taken place in Teesdale before 1732, by which date most of the Teesdale mineral veins had been discovered and exploited.

The London Lead Company is an often used, but unofficial, name for the company formed by the amalgamation of *The Governor and Company for Smelting Down Lead with Pittcoale and Seacole*, *The Ryton Company* and *The Royal Mines Copper* in 1705. As a result of the merger the enlarged company held lead mining leases in Flintshire (from the Royal Mines Copper) and at Alston Moor (from the Ryton Company).

It is clear from a report of a visit to Ryton and Alston Moor in 1705 (1) that the company did not own leases to all mines in the vicinity of Alston Moor and that the company had made various arrangements to purchase additional lead ore from many of the mines outside its control, presumably to ensure sufficient raw material for processing at its smelting works at Ryton and, after 1706, at the mill at Whitfield.

The mines in upper Teesdale are a mere 15 miles to the south of Alston Moor and it is highly unlikely that the company's agents would not be aware of the lead ore being won from these mines. So, did the London Lead Company seek to obtain either lead ore from or a lease of the Teesdale mines at this time? In order to address this question a review of the minutes of the Court of Assistants, the governing body of the company, was undertaken; the Minute Books detail the discussions, decisions and actions agreed by the Court. This task was much simplified by recent work undertaken by Mr D.G. McAnelly and the Northumberland County Record Office which has resulted in a digital version of the minute books being made available (1).

### **Entries Regarding Teesdale in the Court Minute Books**

The first reference to Teesdale occurs in the minutes for the meeting of February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1708, indicating the company's intention of expanding its activities from Alston Moor into Teesdale:

*"The Deputy Governor reported that Dr Wright and himself (accompanied by Mr Robert Ruddle) had attended the Lord Barnard about Langdon mine, pursuant to an order of the last day, and that he saith the lease is not out till March 1709 and that at present he can not tell what he shall do with her."*

The Langdon mines had been leased from Christopher Vane (of Raby Castle) by John Clavering of Chopwell, Co. Durham in 1688 for 21 years (2). No further action was taken by the Lead Company until the lease had expired, at which time a firm

proposal was made to Christopher Vane, by this time Lord Barnard (ennobled 1698). The relevant entry in Court Minute Book, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1709, reads:

*“The Deputy Governor and Dr Edward Wright had met with Sir James Tilly (on behalf of the Lord Barnard) about Langdon mine and had delivered the following proposals viz. To give him for a lease of that mine for 21 years 10s per Bing on all the ore that shall be got, to be paid quarterly or if he had rather have one fifth in kind as he hath now on all the ore got. Then to give him 4s per Bing on the four fifths of the ore to be paid as above.”*

This proposal was clearly unacceptable to Lord Barnard because six weeks later, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May, the minutes record:

*“Resolved that this Company will join with John Bacon Esq.. pursuant to his letter this day to give Lord Barnard a sum not exceeding two thousand pounds for a lease of 21 years of Langdon mine one half for Esquire Bacon and the other half for the Company.”*

The minute appears to suggest that John Bacon too had been rebuffed by Lord Barnard and in order to prepare a better offer, Bacon and the Lead Company had joined forces. It is not surprising that John Bacon, whose family resided at Allenheads and Staward, should be interested in the Langdon mines – his family had worked the adjacent mines at Grassgroves and Hawksike (near Ashgill Head) since at least the mid 1600s (3)

This offer, too, seems to have been rejected since there is no further mention of the Langdon mines in the minutes. A lease book in Raby Castle Archives, dating from 1710, records that the Langdon mines were under offer in 1710 but does not name the interested parties. But in 1719 the Langdon mines were leased to William Vane, second son of Christopher Vane, Lord Barnard.

Having failed to secure a lease on the Langdon mines, the company approached Lord Barnard in March 1712 with an offer to purchase ore from his mines:

*“Dr Edward Wright &c. reported that they had waited on the Lord Barnard and he was inclined to sell but 500 Bings of his ore for which he asked 30/- per Bing and we offered 28/- per Bing for 500 Bings and 6d per Bing more for all the rest upon every 5s lead should rise for trade price.”*

Negotiations did not go well, and the following year, 1713, another report appears in the minutes:

*“We set out from London the 25th of June last, and the first place we entered upon business was at Durham. Where we met the Lord Barnard’s steward and discourse him fully about the Lords ore and have a great deal of reason to hope it may conduce to the Company’s more easy dealing with him for the future.”*

The reason for the apparent poor relationship between the Lead Company and Lord Barnard was probably because both parties were operating similar businesses and were effectively rivals; both parties were operating smelt mills and extracting silver from the resultant lead. Christopher Vane (1<sup>st</sup> Lord Barnard) had built a smelt mill, located in the Gaunless valley near Cockfield Fell, which was operational by 1690 (4), - the fore-runner of the Gaunless mill - to process his duty ore as well as other ore from his Teesdale mines; leases from Lord Barnard at this time included a clause

that all ore after subtraction of the duty ore was to be offered to him for purchase at the current market rate. The Lead Company too were by this time operating a number of mills locally, eg. Whitfield and Acton, which would have required a continuous supply of ore.

Despite the poor rapport between the two parties, the Lead Company continued to monitor activities in the Teesdale ore field. In June 1721, the minutes state:

*“From thence we proceeded towards Yorkshire, and procured an account of Stockton of all the markets of lead which come to that market their owners and mines from whence the several ores are got. Which account is given to John Newton to get samples and make trials for silver, with more perfect account of the mines particularly of the Lord Barnard, and to give the Court his opinion with what he learns of the same.”*

By August 1724, relations with Lord Barnard had improved, perhaps because Christopher Vane had died and his eldest son, Gilbert, had inherited his father's title:

*“When John Newton returns from Ireland if the Company see fit he may view this and the Lord Barnards liberty, where if any thing he likes the Company have promise of kind usage and preference.”*

No further statements regarding Teesdale are apparent until April 1756:

*“Took into consideration Thomas Dodd's report of the several mines in Teesdale”*

This minute is enigmatic; there are no reports in the Minute Books of leases in Teesdale being agreed or signed prior to 1756, yet the leases taken on mines in other areas are all carefully documented in the Court Minutes. The conclusion must be that Thomas Dodd, the Lead Company's agent for the Alston mines, was monitoring activity in the Teesdale mines for his employers.

Fourteen years later, in 1770, the Lead Company finally gained a foot-hold in Teesdale. On the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1770 the company leased from Timothy Hutchinson of Egglestone Hall the mines and a smelt mill in the Manor of Egglestone, though the lease was not sealed until February 1771:

*“The Company seal was affixed to the counterpart of a lease from Timothy Hutchinson Esq. to this Company of Mines and veins at or near a certain place in the common of Eggleston in the manor of Eggleston in the County of Durham commonly called Flakebridge extending in length 800 yards eastwards from a certain beck, rivulet or burn called Grainbeck or Eggesliope Grainbeck and 120 yards in breadth that is to say 60 yards on each side of the said Flakebridge vein or veins in any part thereof to hold the said mine with a smelt mill and refining house for twenty one years from 11th November 1770 at one fifth duty on ore and six pounds per annum for the mill.”*

In the same year (1770) the company at last had a positive response from Lord Barnard:

*“Read over a Tack note from Henry Earl of Darlington to this Company of several veins called Manorgill and Flakebridge in the County of Durham dated 10th October 1770 for which the said Earl is to grant the Company a lease of some 21 years.”*

The tack note (effectively an agreement and short-term lease) was eventually replaced, in August 1785, by a formal lease. The content of the lease was reviewed on the 15<sup>th</sup> August and the Company's seal affixed on the 18<sup>th</sup>:

*“Read over the following leases from the Earl of Darlington to this Company of mines and veins of lead ore as under, in the County of Durham for 21 years from the 20th October 1785 at one fifth Duty in ore. Manorgill veins, Flakebridge vein, Parcel of ground on the east side of Egglestone Beck [i.e. Wiregill], Holmhead vein.”*

Consolidation of the Company's interests in Teesdale continued during 1770/1771 by taking-up a lease of mines in Lunedale, a tributary valley of the Tees, from the Earl of Strathmore:

*“Affixed the Company seal to the counterpart of a lease from the Earl and Countess of Strathmore to this Company of mines and veins of lead ore called Birkdale alias Isabella Mea Hill at one fifth duty in ore. Blacksikes. Closehouse. Armgill. Standards, and Cock Lake, at one sixth duty in ore all the said mines and veins lying within the manors or Lordship of Lunedale, Lontton. C'rosthwaite and Holwick in the County of York for 21 years from 12th May 1771.”*

After this flurry of activity to secure leases in Teesdale during 1770/1771, there were no further additions to the company's leases in Teesdale except for that to trial a minor vein at “Egglestone Hall Scar” which was quickly abandoned; Teesdale activities were restricted to renewal of the leases already gained as these expired. The Court must have been very satisfied by the way the Teesdale mines were progressing because in March 1812 a minute occurs which, though short and to the point, clearly demonstrates the Company's intention for its operations in Teesdale:

*“Resolution 34 .That an application be made to Lord Darlington respecting a grant of his mining liberty in Teesdale. Thomas Dodd was desired to see Lord Darlington on the subject.”*

Thus by 1812 the Company had made a decision to take over all mining rights in Teesdale, if this could be arranged, though it would be a further nine years before the deal was finalised and Company began construction of a new headquarters at Middleton-in-Teesdale.

### **The Mystery of Newbiggin Mines, 1753**

It has been widely reported that the London Lead Company's mining activity in Teesdale began in 1753 with a lease of mines at Newbiggin. The generally acknowledged source for this information is Raistrick and Jennings' seminal work “A History of Lead Mining in the Pennines” (5).

Extensive searching in the Raby Castle Archive, Lord Barnard being the holder of the mineral rights within the ancient Forest of Teesdale, has failed to provide any evidence of this lease. Fairbairn (6) also failed to locate evidence of the 1753 lease in local county record offices during preparation of his monograph on the mines of Teesdale.

Reference to the lease can be traced in the Court Minute Books (1) where the original entry, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1753, reads:

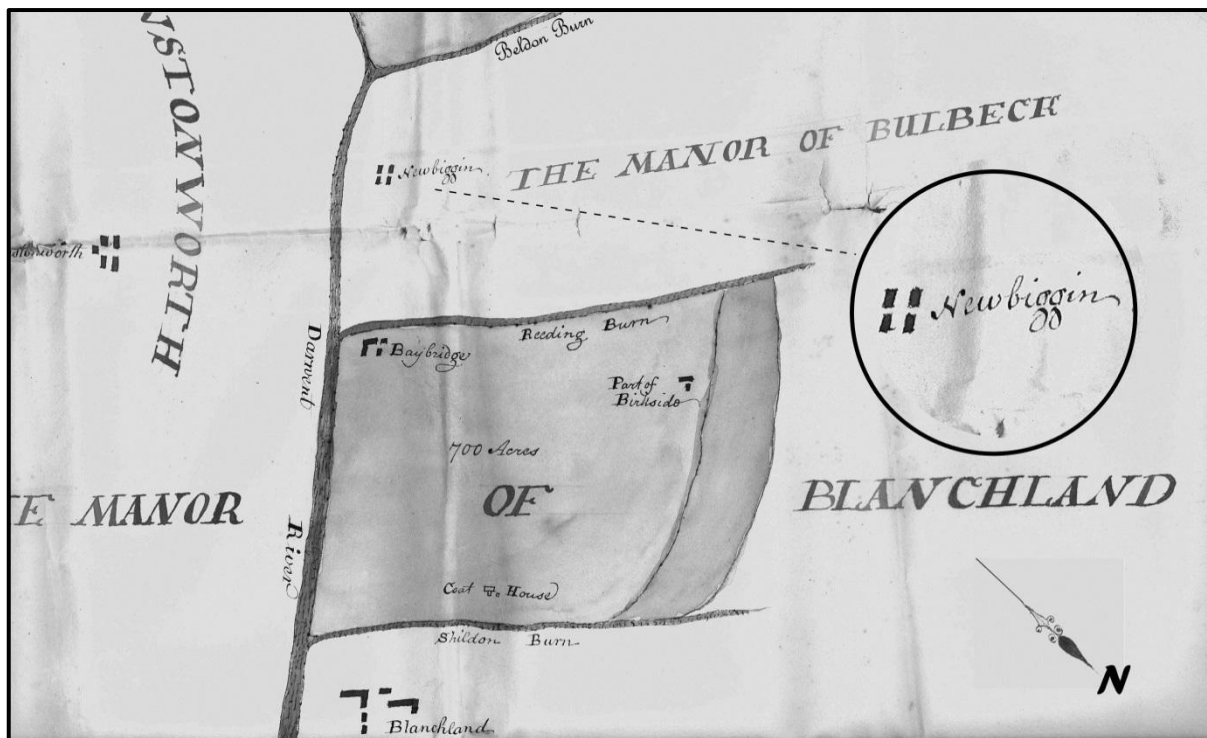


Fig. 1 Section of a large-scale plan of the Blanchland area showing location of Newbiggin (11). The map is undated but associated documents are dated c.1750.

*"Affixed the Company's seal to a counterpart of a lease of mines called Newbiggen or Newbiggen Hope being a parcel of the manor of Bulbeck in the County of Durham from George Baker Esq. for sixteen years from the 24th June 1753."*

It appears that this description was interpreted, to mean that 'Newbiggen...in the County of Durham' referred to Newbiggin-in-Teesdale. However, the Manor of Bulbeck is in fact in Northumberland – a fact corrected in the minute books at the time of renewal of the lease in 1763. Furthermore, George Baker was indeed Lord of the Manor of Bulbeck, as confirmed by Parliamentary Papers (7). George Baker is known to have had coal-mining interests in County Durham but there is no evidence amongst the family papers to suggest that he held a lease of lead mines in Teesdale (8).



Fig. 2 Part of Kitchin's map of Northumberland c.1750 showing location of Newbiggin, north of Blanchland

Two 18<sup>th</sup> century maps confirm that a village or hamlet named Newbiggin was located in the Manor (Figs.1 and 2) and occurrence of the lead veins in the manor is well documented (9; 10)

The above facts taken together confirm, in the author's opinion, that the mines referred to by Raistrick and Jennings were situated at Newbiggin near Blanchland and thereby negate the date of 1753 suggested for the first lease of a Teesdale mine to the London Lead Company. The first mine leased in Teesdale was Flakebridge mine, in the Manor of Egglestone, in 1770, as discussed above.

## References

1. McAnelly, D. G. *Abstracts from the Minutes of the London Lead Company*. Northumberland Record Office, Ref. 6213.
2. Herts. County Record Office, DE/P/T 4816.
3. Heyes, W. F. A History of Mining in Teesdale in the 16th and 17th Centuries. *British Mining*. 2010, Vol. 90, pp. 36-52.
4. Cornwall County Record Office, Ref. CY/1196-1198.
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6. Fairbairn, R A. *The Mines of Upper Teesdale* (2nd edition). Allendale, 2009.
7. Journals of the House of Commons. 1765, Vol. 30, p. 148.
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9. Dunham, K. *Geology of the North Pennine Ore Field (Volume 1)*. HMSO, 1990.
10. Pirt, WK and Dodds, JM. Lead Mining in the Derwent Valley. *British Mining* No. 70. 2002.
11. Document in personal collection (ex solicitor's archive, Alnwick).

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## Friends at the Weardale Shows

### Margaret Manchester

As part of the Friends of Killhope 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, we decided to create a mobile exhibition about the Friends to highlight our achievements over those 30 years.

The morning of the Weardale Show at St Johns Chapel was bright and sunny but unfortunately it did not stay that way for long and there were quite a few heavy showers throughout the day. Ian and Pam Forbes attended this show, helped by Dick and Margaret Graham. Looking on the bright side, they said at least the marquee was full when it rained. Despite the weather, they enjoyed chatting to visitors about Killhope Museum and the Friends.

The weather for Wolsingham Show was perfect - dry and sunny but not too hot. Margaret and Alec Manchester, Jackie Hamer, Linda Brown, Bryan and Dorothy

Chambers were on hand throughout the weekend to talk to show-goers and there was lots of interest in our stand.



*Photo Margaret Manchester*

Stanhope suffered torrential rain on the Saturday which affected visitor numbers and left the show field very wet and muddy. A soggy Dick and Margaret Graham held the fort. The show was surprisingly well attended on the Sunday and Dick and Margaret Graham returned to help Margaret Manchester staff the stand.

The exhibition boards displayed a wide range of photos that caught the interest of many visitors, bringing back lots of fond memories of Killhope over the years. There were many who remembered the buildings there as ruins, some that had picnicked there as children and quite a few who had worked on the conservation of the site as well as recent visitors.

The 'fossil' sand boxes provided an interesting activity for children and were a great success at all the shows. However at Stanhope Show they were an even bigger hit. Dick Graham had buried a few coins in the sand and the children loved finding treasure as well as fossils! Thank you to Jill Essam from Harehope Quarry for the loan of this equipment.

We held a competition to identify the location of ten old photographs related to the lead and fluorspar industries. The winners were Andrew Meek, Tom Gledhill, Dale Golightly, Ivor Wilson, Ben Anstee and Brian Tait who have all won free membership of the Friends for 2016.

## **Local Mining Reports in the Teesdale Mercury**

**William Heyes**

The Teesdale Mercury, a newspaper published in Barnard Castle, was first published in July 1855 and has been issued weekly up to the present day; the newspaper has therefore been ideally placed to report on local mining activities from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century on.

In 2008, a group interested in the local history of Teesdale (including the author) formed a volunteer organisation, supported by Durham County Record Office and Darlington Local Studies Library amongst other bodies, with the sole purpose of producing a fully searchable digital archive of the Teesdale Mercury. Aided by grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Foyle Foundation the group successfully launched a digital archive of the first 100 years of the newspaper (July 1855 - Dec. 1954) on a dedicated website in 2012 ([www.teesdalemercuryarchive.org.uk](http://www.teesdalemercuryarchive.org.uk)). The site is free to search and pages of interest may be downloaded, again without charge; no registration is required.

The main interest from Friends is likely to be the reports of mining activities included in the newspaper. Individual reports can be accessed by searching the digital archive using appropriate search terms, but some kindly soul (not the author!) has recently taken the time to extract some of the reports from the Mercury and combine these together in a pdf document which is available on the 'aditnow' website. The file is a public document available at

<http://www.aditnow.co.uk/documents/Lodgesike-Lead-Mine/Teesdale-Mercury-Lead-Mining.pdf>

It can be downloaded for future reference if required. The content of the document (72 pages in total) is given below.

Pages 1 - 20

History of Lead Mining In Teesdale - 1856 Mentions London Lead Company, Joshua Stagg, Manorgill, Lodgesyke, Eggleston Mill, Skears

Pages 21 - 44

History of Lead Mining In Teesdale - An updated version from 1871. Also mentions Sharnberry, Coldberry, Redgrove, Wiregill

Pages 45-49

Teesdale Miners Strike - 1872

Pages 50-56

London Lead Company and Duke Of Cleveland - 1882

Pages 56-68

Snatches from Memory by a Dalesman - 1897/98 Mentions Lodgesyke, Coldberry, Wiregill, Sharnberry

Pages 69-72

Lead Mining In Teesdale - Coldberry – 1930

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### Victorian Day Out



The Friends of Killhope were happy to attend this event organised by the museum. Dorothy Chambers, Margaret Manchester and Bryan Chambers dressed for the day.



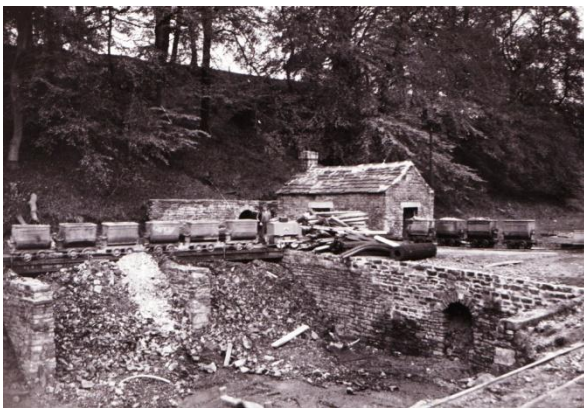
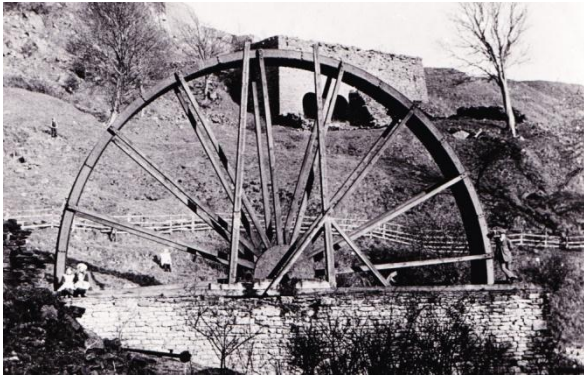
Dick and Margaret Graham represented the Weardale Beekeepers as well as the Friends. Their show hive was very popular with visitors.

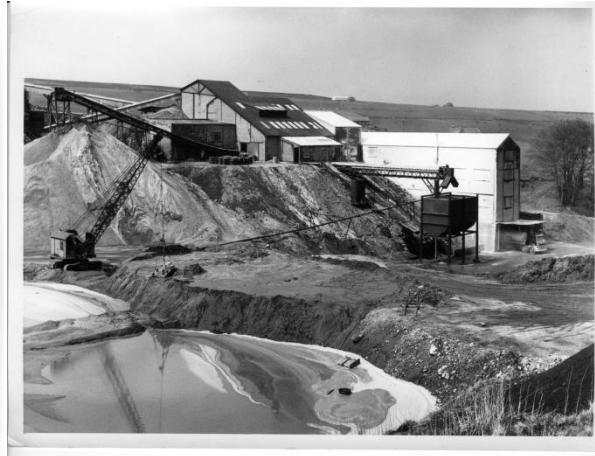


Staff in the mineshop at Killhope, posing as stern Victorians for the camera.

*Photos Margaret Manchester*

Where were these photos taken?





These old photographs were used for a competition held at the Weardale Shows. Nobody got all the answers correct. Can you?

The answers will appear in the next newsletter!

## **Notes from Underground**

**Margaret Manchester**

The Friends of Killhope committee was delighted to be invited by Durham County Council to the premiere of 'Notes from Underground', a musical work commissioned for the Durham Book Festival. Inspired by the poet W.H.Auden, who held a lifelong fascination with the lead-mining areas of the North Pennines, this song-cycle was composed by Agustin Fernandez with lyrics by Sean O'Brien. The performance by Voices of Hope and the Royal Northern Sinfonia at the Gala Theatre, Durham was very well received. They also performed Britten's 'Hymn to St. Cecilia' and three movements from Mahler's 'Das Lied von der Erde'. The Friends that attended thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

## Minco at Nenthead – September 2015

Roger Bade

News from Minco has been fairly sparse and as yet drilling has not recommenced this year.

In their 2014 Annual Report & Accounts, released in May 2015, they disclosed drill results from their second hole at Whitewood/Barneycraig/Williams, which pulled from the Firestone Sill 8.05 metres (m) from 118.0m grading 3.41% zinc and 4.0 grammes per tonne (g/t) silver. Note that lead was not detected, not even over a shorter higher grade intersection that was included within the 8.05m.

Further down hole in the Great Limestone, 6.65m from 201.8m @ 4.94% zinc, 2.04% lead and 12.3 g/t silver was recorded. From 220.05m, the Iron Post was mineralised, albeit sparsely and here 1.05m @ 2.33% zinc, 0.01% lead and 1.5g/t silver was assayed. From 229.1m a fault zone was encountered and 1.9m @ 8.22% zinc, 0.01% lead and 11.8 g/t silver was analysed.

Also in the 2014 Annual Report, the company included the enclosed table which summarises all their successful drill results from the Nenthead area. The table is fairly self-explanatory and it is useful to note that mineralisation, in addition to the main Great Limestone target, has been recorded in the following bearing beds; the Little Limestone, the Firestone Sill, the Pattinson Sill, the Great Limestone Tuft, the Iron Post, a minor limestone beneath the Great Limestone, a shale beneath the Great Limestone, the Tynebottom Limestone, the Jew Limestone and the Lower Little Limestone.

It should be borne in mind, owing to the dip of the strata and the variable inclination of their drill holes (90 degrees is vertical), true widths are not given, although they probably have estimated them. It should also be remembered that the individual veins are not vertical and intersect the strata at an angle, thus further complicating any true width calculation.

Finally, in their Interim results to end June 2015, released at the end of August, they indicated that *“further exploration of both the Great limestone and basal succession is planned.”*

Drill Hole Number	Structure or vein	Inclination	Horizon or bearing bed	From metres (m)	To m	Length m	Zn %	Pb %	Zn+Pb %	Ag g/t
NA008	Nentsberry /High Raise	61°	Great Limestone	125.30	133.55	8.25	1.32	0.15	1.47	1.5
			includes	132.10	133.15	1.05	4.39	0.01	4.40	1.1
CA006	Scaleburn	90°	Little Limestone	125.50	127.15	1.95	1.95	0	1.95	0.0
			Great Limestone	159.25	160.55	1.30	8.70	1.38	10.08	11.6
			Stope (deads)	160.55	161.70	1.15	2.01	0.01	2.02	1.0
			Great Limestone	161.70	164.40	2.70	5.58	1.48	7.06	5.4
CA008	Scaleburn	90°	Little Limestone	118.60	120.30	1.70	3.86	0.48	4.34	8.2
			Stope (fault)	136.75	146.90	10.15				
			Great Limestone	146.90	158.95	12.05	7.65	0.79	8.44	9.7
			includes	150.15	157.35	7.20	9.67	0.81	10.48	12.7
CA009	Scaleburn	55°	Great Limestone	191.75	195.42	3.42	4.91	3.42	8.33	11.7
			includes	193.30	195.42	1.87	8.29	6.24	14.53	20.1
CA010	Scaleburn	90°	Great Limestone	151.60	155.20	3.60	6.36	2.85	9.21	14.7
CA011	Scaleburn	90°	Great Limestone	133.40	146.90	13.50	2.64	4.14	6.78	11.5
			includes	133.40	143.25	9.85	3.25	5.67	8.92	15.4
CA020	Scaleburn	90°	Great Limestone	141.50	155.15	13.65	5.53	4.81	10.34	18.7
			includes	141.50	146.85	5.35	6.93	9.13	16.06	36.8
			minor limestone	284.55	285.55	1.00	6.76	0.03	6.79	7.0
			shale	291.50	292.75	1.25	1.61	1.02	2.63	2.8
			Tynebottom	313.10	314.60	4.50	1.52	0.03	1.55	1.2
CA003	Scaleburn	90°	Great Limestone	142.90	150.00	7.10	2.60	0.55	3.15	4.9
			Jew Limestone	429.70	432.05	2.35	4.32		4.32	3.0
CA015	Gudhamgill	90°	Tynebottom	261.80	267.35	5.55	1.55		1.55	1.2
			Jew Limestone	367.00	368.30	1.30	0.79		0.79	2.0
			Lower Little	383.90	385.65	1.75	2.37	0.02	2.39	5.9
CA016	Gudhamgill	52°	Fault Zone	64.50	65.50	1.00	10.34	0.97	11.31	16.3
			Fault Zone	72.60	74.75	2.15	5.56	0.26	5.82	4.8
			Great Limestone	106.95	124.70	17.75	2.35	0.05	2.40	2.6
			includes	121.10	124.70	3.70	5.99	0	5.99	6.9
			GL Tuft	128.25	129.15	0.90	7.00	0	7.00	2.0
CA017	Gudhamgill	81°	Fault Zone	51.70	60.95	9.25	3.44	0.07	3.51	2.8
			Great Limestone	92.35	94.45	2.10	6.35	0.03	6.38	0.0
			Stope (deads)	94.45	98.75	4.30	3.69	0.08	3.77	11.4
			Great Limestone	98.75	102.70	3.95	0.79		0.79	0.0
CA018	Gudhamgill	70°	Great Limestone	110.65	113.15	2.50	2.27	0.03	2.97	6.4
			Stope	113.15	115.00	1.85				
			Great Limestone	115.00	127.70	12.70	2.99	0.05	3.04	16.9
			includes	121.20	125.30	4.10	6.25	0.02	6.28	44.2
NW001	Whitewood/ Barneyraig/ Williams	70°	Firestone Sill	117.20	121.00	3.80	3.16	1.19	4.35	6.7
			includes	117.20	118.45	1.25	3.95	3.56	7.51	16.7
			Pattinson Sill	138.40	141.60	3.20	2.46	1.94	4.40	5.4
			Great Limestone	177.10	177.70	0.60	4.09	0.36	4.35	6.4
			Great Limestone	186.70	187.00	0.30	20.90	0.27	21.17	98.0
NW002	Whitewood/ Barneyraig/ Williams	56°	Firestone Sill	118.00	126.05	8.05	3.41	0	3.41	4.0
			includes	121.35	125.60	4.25	4.92	0	4.92	5.3
			Great Limestone	201.80	208.45	6.65	4.94	2.04	6.98	12.3
			includes	204.10	208.45	4.35	6.94	2.73	9.68	15.9
			Iron post	220.05	221.10	1.05	2.33	0.01	2.34	1.5
			Fault Zone	229.10	231.00	1.90	8.22	0.01	8.23	11.8
NA001	Coalcleugh	90°	Great Limestone	115.00	131.35	15.50	3.42	0.88	4.29	8.7
			includes	116.15	130.75	12.85	4.27	1.06	5.33	10.6
			and	118.70	125.90	7.20	4.99	1.75	6.75	13.7
NA002	Coalcleugh	67°	Great Limestone	141.90	151.25	9.35	5.72	0.52	6.24	7.2
			includes	141.90	147.75	5.85	7.92	0.83	8.75	9.7
NA005	Coalcleugh	70°	Great Limestone	124.80	125.80	1.00	1.94		1.94	2.0

## **Volunteer days 2015**

### **John Sheppard**

The staff at Killhope, friendly and approachable, knowledgeable and hard-working though they are, simply do not have enough time to do all that has to be done. The maintenance staff, in particular, have their hands full coping with vital day-to-day maintenance. They have little or no time to spare for bigger jobs, let alone development work. With this very much in mind, Mike Boase suggested there was scope for voluntary help.

I feel I owe much to Killhope – in a previous piece in this Newsletter I described my own happy involvement in the 1966 initial working party – and was glad now to have a chance to pay back. So I signed up for a wet and windy October day where potential volunteers met with maintenance man Chris Askew to tour the site, including areas “behind the scenes”, and to discuss what we might be able to contribute.

It was agreed that to rejuvenate the Jigger House would be an excellent first project, and after completing the necessary recruitment process, three of us were raring to get started.

Because I inconveniently live in West Yorkshire, it is really only worthwhile travelling up to Killhope for more than a single day at a time. At last came the chance for an agreed two-day working party in January. Chris and Norman had specially arranged to be both at work on the Wednesday and Thursday. On the Tuesday I had a leisurely drive up through the sunny dales and settled into my usual comfortable digs just a mile down the Cowhill road at Low Cornriggs Farm. However, I had managed to choose the one week this winter when it really snowed, starting that night! When I turned up at the office in the Wednesday morning blizzards, it was doubtful whether any of the off-season skeleton staff could stay for the day, as their journeys home were obviously going to be hazardous. In the event Mike did see it through with me, but the Thursday was clearly out of the question. In my wellington boots I took a walk up the almost deserted main road past the site, where no footprints marred the virgin snow. Venturing as far as Killhope Cross, I was rewarded with absolutely no view of Cumbria through the swirling mist and snowflakes. I hied me back to a cosy drink with my hosts Jan and Harry at Low Cornriggs. The Friday was mainly sunny, but it took several hours with the tractor and scoop for Harry to dig us out of the farm. At least I was then able to put in a full unscheduled afternoon at Killhope before driving back south.

On my second visit, in February, it snowed again. That's Killhope for you. However, this time it did not stop play.

Over the two visits in January-February, Daphne and Charlie Tomkins and I, with guidance and some practical assistance from Chris and Norman, wire-brushed and then applied a couple of coats of lime wash to the back wall of the office, prepared and re-painted the woodwork inside and out, and the stove. Mike lent a managerial hand with the paintbrush too when he and I were the only ones on site. Charlie took the desk home with him for some tender loving care before it can be replaced in the office. The leather belts, by which the big wheel drives the jiggers and trowsers, were also cleaned of moss and mould and fed with a modern equivalent neatsfoot oil, and the most intrusive heaps of pigeon dropping removed. The floor, undermined by rabbits, has also been given some attention.

Charlie and Daphne live more locally than I and have often spent a day on site over the winter. They have put considerable effort into unearthing and generally tidying the rail track on the gradient up to the jigger house which had become overgrown, and by the time this is published they hope also to have removed the rampant reeds which have been merrily growing in the settling beds. Together with other bits and pieces of weeding and tidying we have fitted in, we do hope that the work we have already undertaken will give a better impression for the new season's visitors.

I am writing this in March. Killhope opens to the public on 1 April after which there will be less opportunity to undertake major projects, though some input will still be possible. There is, though, ample scope for keeping us busy over the next few winters - snow allowing!

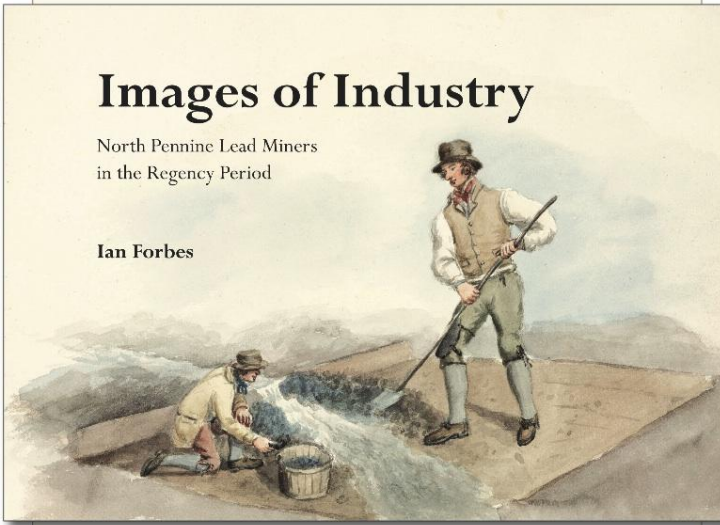
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### **Hexham Historian**

Hexham Historian is a journal containing articles of local and regional history and is published by the Hexham Local History Society. Issue number 25 (August 2015) has two papers of interest to mining historians. Both are spin-offs from the highly successful "Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers Project" led by the Friends of Killhope in partnership with Slaley and Hexhamshire parish councils. Greg Finch writes about "William Blackett, Dukesfield, and the Seventeenth Century lead industry". Ian Forbes and Yvonne Purdy's article is about "The Mulcaster Family: a lead mining dynasty". Copies of the Hexham Historian can be purchased through the Society's website [www.hexhamhistorian.org](http://www.hexhamhistorian.org).

## Images of Industry

Many Friends of Killhope will be familiar with some of the delightful early nineteenth century watercolours of North Pennine lead mining scenes which are held by the Library of Science and Society in London. Individual drawings and paintings have been widely used in interpretation panels, leaflets and publications. Yet the complete collection has never, until now, been available. The final element of the “Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers Project” remedies this omission. “Images of Industry” is a high quality hardback book which contains every single drawing, sketch and painting in the collection. There is an introduction and accompanying commentary by Ian Forbes. “Images of Industry” will be launched at a discounted price of £20 at the Mining Institute in Newcastle on November 4<sup>th</sup> following a talk by Ian which starts at 11 am. Thereafter the book will be retailed at £24. Every penny of the price goes to the Dukesfield Arches maintenance fund to ensure the future of this important monument. For details of how to buy “Images of Industry” visit the Dukesfield website at [www.dukesfield.org.uk](http://www.dukesfield.org.uk).



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# Index to the W B Lead Mines Surveyors' Notebooks

Dave Greenwood

## Introduction.

A brief reference was made in a previous Newsletter (No 78, pp 12-13) to the discovery of a series of W B Lead Mines surveyors' notebooks found amongst the records of the Allendale Estates during the British Steel Corporation (BSC) fluorspar operations in the 1970s. The current whereabouts of these books remains unknown, but an old BSC file has been found recently that contains an index to their contents (Dr D C Goldring *pers. comm.*). The index was compiled in the 1970s by Mr D G Elford, the Geologist with BSC Ore Mining Branch at Scunthorpe, and gives a very clear indication of the extent and timing of this work. The books fall naturally into nine different series as shown in Table 1. In each case the survey work began just a few years after Thomas Sopwith took over as Chief Agent for W B Lead Mines in 1845 and during much of the period when Thomas J Bewick was in charge of all survey work. Note that the place names listed below are those recorded in the original survey notebooks and do not always match their modern equivalents.

## The Series.

**JR (1-16).** The survey notebooks for Allenheads Mine begin in 1853 and the work was initially focussed on the complete resurvey of all accessible old workings together with those currently in operation. All the major veins were surveyed including Christopher Mills, Bretton, Old, Diana, Wentworth, Victoria, Coronation, Grindstone, Henry's, Henrietta, Great, and East & West Cross Veins. The survey also ran along all the major levels including Fawside, Mills Vein, Top, Haugh, Crankey, Knopley, Allercleugh Crosscut, Plantation Crosscut, William Kearton's Crosscut, Caleb Curry's Crosscut, Hull's Level together with individual details such as the Horse Track and the Water Wheels at Gin Hill Shaft. The survey lines off the major levels frequently terminated in old stopes often with the note that they were filled with "old man's deads" and the presence of deads within the areas of Great Limestone flats was also noted.

Taken together this work formed the basis of the Abandonment Plans deposited in April 1897 (MRO 3608) following the closure of Allenheads Mine on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 1896, and is the source of the illustration of the Allenheads Mine workings in Dunham 1990 (Fig 28, p 168). Several of the crosscuts provided an opportunity to close individual surveys in a horizontal sense and this was supplemented by connections to the surface via various shafts such as Corbetmea Shaft on Fawside Level. Some of these closures revealed errors in the survey and parts were resurveyed to correct these. The books contain occasional flashes of humour, for example Line 3333 was written very carefully rather than in the usual quick script, and there were accidental references to working conditions at the time such as a note that over one Christmas work finished late on the evening of December 24<sup>th</sup> and the surveyors were back early on the morning of December 26<sup>th</sup>! These books were not indexed because it was easy to relate individual survey lines to the 1897 Abandonment Plans (see Newsletter 78, p 16, Fig 3) which provided their own index.

**JRWA (1-11).** The West Allen area was not investigated in detail during the BSC operations consequently these survey books, which began in 1862, were not indexed, however, from memory they are believed to have included all the workings at Barneyrcraig, Coalcleugh and the other West Allendale mines.

**JRW (1-23).** The Weardale series is by far the most extensive of the surveyors' notebooks and covered the greatest areal extent including many of the mines being worked for fluorspar in the 1970s. As a result, David Elford made a complete index of these books and went as far as replotting some of the workings in the Blackdene area that were no longer accessible, thereby providing important structural information. The total number of lines shot by John Ridley was 9,457 over a period from the 7<sup>th</sup> October 1859 to January 1882 when W B Lead Mines relinquished their leases in Weardale prior to them being taken up by the Weardale Lead Mining Co. Ltd. (later the Weardale Lead Co. Ltd. from 1900), however, it would seem that the original survey information was not passed on to them.

**TKW (1-3).** This series is unusual in that it only covered a very short time span from the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1859 to November 1863 and in the fact that TKW 1 is a duplicate of parts of JRW 3 & 4 suggesting that Thomas Kidd was simply a trainee surveyor. The other two books mainly covered the Greenlaws, Swinhope and Westerhope group of mines on the south side of Weardale, which were somewhat separate from the main W B Lead Mines operations in the dale. The total number of lines shot by Thomas Kidd was 1,131 between December 1859 and November 1863 when he left the area (see below).

The 41 Weardale mines covered by John Ridley and Thomas Kidd are shown in Table 2. In addition to these, there are more detailed references to a further 378 localities in the index to the JRW and TKW series giving a very detailed picture of the extent of the survey work. The index also contains just over 1,100 detailed references to the book and page number of each new surveying event at individual mines, with the number at any one location ranging from one to nineteen (at Quarry Level in Greenlaws Mine) and averaging 2.9 repeat visits to each site. The books are sequential and are dated so that in many cases the time of the actual survey can be pinned down to the nearest month. For example the first line to be surveyed shown in Book 1, page 1 was on the Horse Level in Copt Cleugh Vein in October 1859 and the last line to be surveyed was on Quarry Level at Greenlaws Mine in January 1882 in Book 23, page 157. Similarly the record of intersection of Burtree Pasture Vein with Groverake Vein noted below was recorded sometime between December 1859 and July 1861. The index to the survey books for Weardale runs to 17 pages and is arranged in the order of Mine; Location within Mine; Book Number; and Page Number. This order was chosen to enable surveys of individual mines to be quickly located, but it would be possible to re-enter the data into a computer database (not available in the 1970s) so that the records could be recast in the order in which the surveys appear in the books, however, at present this must be a project for the future.

It has also been possible to obtain a rough indication of the frequency at which this work was carried out (Fig 1). The initial Weardale survey reached a peak of 581 lines/month in October 1860 after which it fell to less than 50 lines/month which presumably just represented the survey of any new ground being cut. This initial peak is slightly complicated by the fact that it includes both the JRW and TKW surveys and it is known that there was some overlap so the graph may slightly overstate the case. Things remained stable and at a low level of activity until a second surge in 1866 when it again reached a peak this time of

430 lines/month in May of that year. In both cases the peak probably represents the backlog due to the resurvey of entire mines with the earlier phase being mainly in the western part of Weardale (Blackdene, Burtree Pasture, Kilhope, Middlehope, Sedling, etc.) and Rookhope (Boltsburn, Groverake, etc.) and the second peak being in mines further to the east (Hope Level, Slitt, Stanhopeburn, etc.) and south (Greenlaws, Welhope, etc.). The Weardale survey was possibly delayed by the initial survey of Allenheads from 1853 and the period between the two peaks may have been taken up by the West Allendale survey which began in 1862 because John Ridley was involved in both of those.

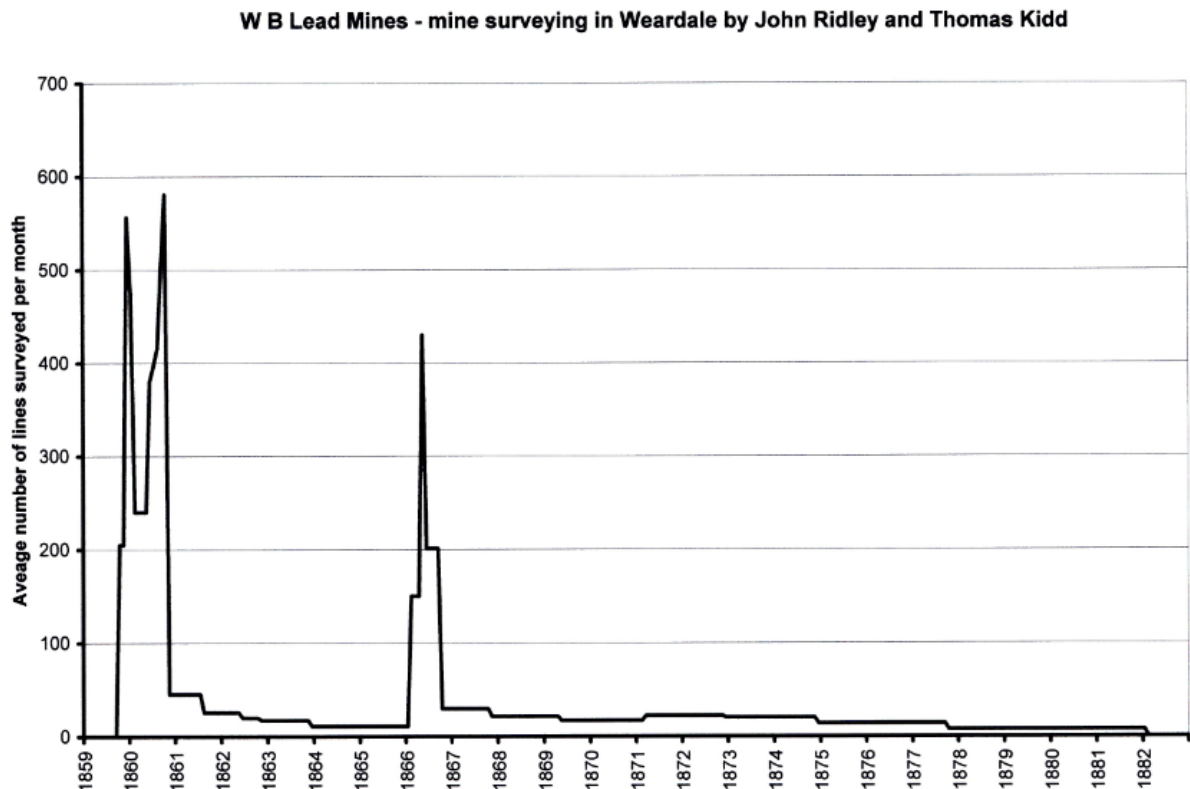


Fig. 1. Rate of underground surveys in Weardale in average number of lines/ month.

Most of this work was underground although there are occasional references to surface surveys presumably to tie in with other surface data. Surveys carried out for the Weardale Coal & Iron Co. are noted on three occasions (Hope Level, Slitt Mine and Stanhope Burn Mines). There are also occasional references to shaft sections (Groverake, Ireshopehead, Lodgegill and Stanhopeburn Mines), one to a “Section” (Grovehead Mine), and one to a “Vein Throw” (Burtree Pasture Mine) indicating that some geological observations were being made. There is also a reference to surface survey work around Stanhope covering Ashes Quarry, Crawley Side Observatory, and the Ironworks. One small item in particular was seen in the survey of Groverake Mine where John Ridley noted a “Supposed Burtree Pasture Vein” in his survey of the 30 Fathom Level which coincided exactly with one of the

high temperature areas found by Dr F W Smith on Groverake Vein (see Greenwood & Smith 1977, Fig 3).

**Level Books.** These were not as systematically numbered as the survey books and levelling seems to have been done on an *ad hoc* basis as required, mostly by John Ridley. The books found were Weardale Nos 1-5, Burtree Pasture, Burtree Pasture Mine No 1, Slitt, and Kilhope & Welhope Nos 2-3, however it is possible that this was not the full coverage. A total of 162 locations are noted within 31 mines (see Table 2) including Drifts, Levels, Rises, Shafts, Veins and Cross Cuts together with four shafts and two rises where there was an accompanying sketch, presumably of the geology. The total number of survey visits was 297 ranging from one to seven (at both Greenlaws and Grovehead Mines) and averaged at 1.8 visits per mine. In most cases some surface levelling was also carried out, presumably to link up with the surface surveys. W B Lead Mines used three different datum levels including Ordnance Datum (Liverpool); their own W B Datum with zero at 700 ft “above the level of the sea”; and occasionally an arbitrary local datum, presumably tied in to either of the other two at some later date. Unlike Allenheads, where BSC surveying showed that the early W B Datum (taken from Newcastle) was 3 ft above OD, those in Weardale match closely. For example the rail level at Blackdene Level, quoted by Ridley in 1862 as “344.40 ft above Datum” i.e. 1044.40 ft, was measured by BSC in 1972 as 1044.5 ft OD. This increased accuracy presumably reflects the fact that by the 1860s, when the Weardale levelling was carried out, the area had finally been surveyed by the Ordnance Survey who had by then established local benchmarks. Unlike the survey data the rate at which levelling was carried out cannot be plotted because the Level Books are not sequential.

**Surface Surveys.** The surface survey notebooks found at Allenheads fell naturally into two groups. These were a total of 80 books covering the detailed survey of East and West Allendale found in **WS (1-32)**, **WW (1-7)**, and **JW (1-41)**, and a further 20 books covering more miscellaneous topics by six different surveyors (see Table 1). This division of effort is not surprising because the Beaumont family owned the freehold of a very extensive area of South Northumberland so that in addition to their mining interests there was also a need for accurate information in connection with the general management of the estate. This work began on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1850 and was largely complete by 1853 although other areas were added up to the 20<sup>th</sup> October 1859, including surveys in connection with Blakett Level. It was at a time that pre-dated the arrival of the Ordnance Survey in the North that eventually led to the publication of the 1/63,360 Old Series Sheets (currently available as reprints – see Godfrey 1998 & 2001). As a result the Estate made its own surface map at a scale of 1/15,840 (4 in to 1 mile) many copies of which were found amongst the Allenheads Estate records in the 1970s. This scale may have been chosen because it was exactly ten times smaller than the standard 2 chains to 1 inch (1/1,584) that was also widely used by W B Lead Mines including one for Allenheads that showed the entire mine on one large rolled plan.

Land ownership also had an important impact on the mining interests of the Beaumont family because they owned the freehold for the mineral rights in their Northumberland estates hence did not have to pay royalties on any lead mined within that area in marked contrast to the mines in Durham and Cumberland. Defining the exact position of the County Boundaries, therefore, was a major preoccupation, particularly at the north end of Henry's Vein where it intersects Wentworth Vein and East Cross Vein. Here an extensive area of flats occurs on both sides of the Durham-Northumberland border and it would have been

important to know exactly the areas where a royalty was due and, perhaps more importantly, those in which no payment was required (See Dunham, p 68, Fig 15 & p 168, Fig 28). Similar remarks apply to the Cumberland-Northumberland border that affected mines such as Barneycraig, Coalcleugh and Scraithole where workings on the veins extended westwards into Cumberland (see Dunham, pp 136-137, Fig 22).

The second set of some 20 notebooks is less well organised and these appear to be the personal records of six different surveyors over the period from 4<sup>th</sup> August 1848 to the 14<sup>th</sup> August 1907. Within the Northern Pennine Orefield they cover mainly Civil Engineering topics such as work at various smelt mills, together with work on roads, railways, and reservoirs, but they also include surveys to tie in underground workings to the surface and revisit the ever present need to define boundaries. There are also entries for areas further afield in the North East that must have been of importance to the Beaumonts including surveys at Acomb Colliery, Blaydon, Broomhaugh, Bywell, Shaftoe Leazes, Stocksfield, and in the Hexham area.

## The Surveyors

**John Ridley (1832-1908).** As a result of a career stretching from the 1850s to the early 1900s, John Ridley must have seen more of the workings of W B Lead Mines than anyone else alive in the late nineteenth century. He was born at Ninebanks in West Allendale in late 1832 and baptised in the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1833. His parents were John and Elizabeth Ridley (née Swindle) who lived at Low Limestone Brae. John Ridley (snr) is noted as a “Lead Miner” in the baptism record and as a “Lead Ore Miner” in the 1841 Census however by 1851 and 1861 he had moved up in the world describing himself as “Mining agent and farmer of 25 acres of arable”, By 1871 he was a “Retired lead ore mine agent” living at Blackett Terrace, Allendale. He died on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 1875 and is recorded on a headstone at the Wesleyan Chapel in Ninebanks as having been “Agent for 17 years of the W B Lead Mines Coalcleugh”.

Given this background it is hardly surprising that John Ridley (jnr) embarked on a career with W B Lead Mines and in 1851 he is noted as an “Assistant Land Surveyor” aged 18. This was shortly before he began his career as a Mine Surveyor starting on the Allenheads Mine survey in 1853, the Weardale survey in 1859 and the West Allendale Mines survey on 1862. He married Elizabeth Close at Allendale Parish Church on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 1856, describing himself as “Surveyor”. After that he appears as “Land and Mine Surveyor (1861 and 1871), “Mining Engineer” (1881), “Mining Engineer and Surveyor” (1891), and finally as “Land Bailiff & Surveyor” (1901). He died on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 1908 aged 75 at Allen Lodge in Allenheads and was recorded as a “Land and Mining Agent”. This later led to an amazing coincidence because Allen Lodge was used as the BSC Survey Office in the 1970s and for a time housed John Ridley’s notebooks in the care of the BSC Surveyor, the late Donald Grey.

**Thomas Kidd (b. 1843).** Was the son of Thomas and Frances Kidd (née Hetherington) and was born in Allendale on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1843. He is recorded in the 1851 Census living at Whitley Shield in West Allendale where his father is shown as a “School Master”. By 1861 the family had moved to Allenheads where Thomas (jnr) was listed as “Surveyor Land and Mines” and his father as “Clerk in Mining Office”, presumably that of W B Lead Mines in the

village. This is confirmed by a note in the 1871 Census that he had risen to be “Cashier and Accountant for W B Lead Mines”, after which he is shown as being retired. Unlike John Ridley, Thomas Kidd’s period as a mine surveyor was relatively short lasting for only four years from December 1859 to November 1863 after which his name disappears from the English Census records, the reason being that he joined Thomas Sopwith’s son Thomas (1838-1898) at his lead mining venture at Linares in Spain, where he is noted as having arrived in 1864 (Vernon, p 24). Thomas Kidd later returned to England to marry Margaret Curry at St Peter’s Church, Allenheads on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 1870 and was described as “Clerk & Cashier” – this presumably being his role at Linares at that time. Margaret was the daughter of John Curry, who along with his brother William was one of the “Inspectors of Mines” at Allenheads, both names being very familiar to anyone who has read the Allenheads Bargain Books, placing the Kidd family very close to the Beaumont/ Sopwith operations in both England and Spain.

Thomas and Margaret returned to Spain and are listed in several Census returns in that country including one for Linares in 1881 (Dr R W Vernon *pers. comm.*) that shows Thomas had been resident (*Tempo de residencia en el pueblo*) for 18 years and Margaret for 11, which matches the known dates from their time in England. Thomas went on to become General Superintendent of the mines by 1877 (Vernon, p 44) and later was described as Manager, a role subsequently taken over by his son Tom Kidd (1872-1945). The last recorded connection of Thomas with the Spanish operations seems to have been in 1906 when he took out 150 shares in a new venture (Vernon, p 61) and it appears that he must have died in Spain because there is no record of his death or of a Will in English records, although there is an entry in the Index to Death Duty Registers for his father who died in Allendale in 1901 at the ripe old age of 93!

**William Sparke (b. 1820), William Walton (b. ca 1833) and John Whitfield (b. 1825).** All three of the team that carried out the major surface survey of East and West Allendale were born locally. **William Sparke** was baptised on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 1820 in Allenheads the son of James and Hannah Sparke (née Philipson). He is described in the 1851 Census as “Land Surveyor” aged 30 and living with his mother and step-father William Robson at Sparty Lea where he is listed incorrectly as “son in law” rather than “step-son”, a not uncommon mistake in early census entries. **William Walton** was born in Allenheads around 1833 the son of the Smelting Agent William Walton and his wife Mary. William (jnr) is listed as “Surveyor” aged 18 in 1851. Lastly, **John Whitfield** was baptised on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 1825 at Ninebanks in West Allendale the son of Joseph and Sarah Whitfield (née Martin). He is recorded as living at Nook in 1841 and 1851 and as a “Land and Mine” surveyor in 1851. Sparke and Whitfield are also listed under “Surveyors” at Allenheads in a contemporary directory (Whellan 1855, p 820). No record has been found of these three men as “Surveyors” in the Census for Allenheads after that date and it would appear that they either changed their occupation or left the district once the large scale survey had been completed.

**Thomas Bewick (1821-1897), Ralph Charlton (1848-1924), Joseph Coat(e)s (1832-1893), Thomas Kidd (as above), John Ridley (as above) and J Scott (no dates).** These six men account for the remaining 20 notebooks in the index that are essentially their personal jottings over a wide range of topics. The work of **Thomas Bewick** is well known (see David Scott in Newsletter 79 pp 12-15) and it sufficient to note here that his presence was always there in the background to any survey work at Allenheads. His survey notes

cover the period from the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1846 to the 15<sup>th</sup> December 1856 after which he was probably too busy running the mines in the absence of Thomas Sopwith to undertake any surveying on his own account before leaving W B Lead Mines in 1865 to supervise the construction of the Hexham to Allendale Railway.

The next set of books in date order are those of **J Scott** running from 28<sup>th</sup> August 1848 to 18<sup>th</sup> April 1850 and cover a survey of the Allenheads district and one entitled "Link to Rookhope survey". Unfortunately Scott does not seem to be listed in any Census but was probably local.

As with the underground surveys, **John Ridley** appears prominently in this series starting on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1850 and ending on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 1907 less than a year before his death in 1908. His work ranged far beyond the dales and included surveys at Acomb Colliery, Shaftoe Leazes, other work in the Hexham area, and the Allendale to Hexham new road. His final survey in 1907 was for the Hexham area Water Board.

**Joseph Coats** also appears frequently in the list. He was born in 1832 the son of Joseph and Mary Coats (née Nevin) and appears in the 1841 and 1851 Census records living at Burnfoot age 8 and 18 respectively with the latter record showing him as "Scholar" which is very unusual for his age at that date. His W B Lead Mines survey work began on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 1856 and continued to 1894 and his occupations as listed in later Census returns were "Land and Mine Surveyor" (1861), "Civil Engineer" (1871), "Civil Mining Engineer (1881), and "Civil Engineer and Surveyor" (1891) by which time he was employing his son, also Joseph, as his "Apprentice". He died in 1893 aged 61. As with John Ridley, these surveys went far beyond the Orefield and included Broomhaugh, Stocksfield, Dilston Woods, and the Hexham Aqueduct. His first book in 1856 is interesting because it was for an "Examination Survey" of Allenheads, possibly indicating the process of gaining a professional qualification.

**Thomas Kidd** just appears once in the surface survey books for one at the Coating Hill Reservoir on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1863, i.e. just before he left for Spain. Similarly **Ralph Charlton** has just a few entries covering Boltsburn, the Allenheads Toll Gate, the Allen Smelt Mill and the Allen Smelt Mill Branch Railway, all carried out in the period 1867-69 when the branch line to the Smelt Mill was being constructed as part of the Hexham to Allendale Railway. He was born in 1848 the son of Thomas and Hannah Charlton (née Stobbs) of Allenheads and was described as "Land and Mine Surveyor" in 1871. After that he moved to Coundon in Co Durham where he is listed variously as "Land and Coal Mine Surveyor" (1881), "Colliery Surveyor" (1891), and "Land and Mine Surveyor" (1901 and 1911). His death at the age of 76 was registered in 1924 in Darlington.

### **John Ridley's Section Book.**

Although not part of David Elford's index, a further notebook by John Ridley was found and copied during the 1970s. This contains a series of shaft and other geological sections covering Allenheads Mine (Collier, Craigshield, Gin Hill, Low Underground and Plantation Shafts), Blackett Level (Breckonhill, Holmes Linn, Studdon Dene and Sipton Shafts), Barney Craig, Burtree Pasture, Boltsburn Engine, Coalcleugh, Greenlaws, Kilhope (see Newsletter 84, p 22, Fig 4), Middlehope, Scraith Head, and Slitt Engine. Bizarrely it also has a section of Rose Bridge Colliery, Ince, near Wigan, (with a total depth of 2,445 ft 6 in and 243 named stratigraphic horizons), and details of a boring at Kentish Town, showing how deeply

interested the surveyors were in the stratigraphy of the Northern Pennine Orefield and of Geology elsewhere.

## Discussion

The survey notebooks show that a major effort was made by W B Lead Mines to re-survey their properties starting in the early 1850s and was largely complete by 1870 although the work continued as the mines developed. This represented a major departure from past practices where one of the duties laid down for a W B Lead Mines Inspector had been that *“He must be capable of taking levels, hatching and laying down correct plans of the different workings, not merely describing the progress of such workings, but also the dead work done at each place.”* (Hunt, p 255). Clearly, with the arrival of Thomas Sopwith, this local effort was no longer seen as being adequate and in need of centralisation. Equally clearly, this major expansion of effort required a concomitant expansion of the available manpower and as the UK Census information shows this was met entirely from local sources where Sopwith recruited and presumably trained a total of eight young men from the district. Some of these like John Ridley chose to remain in the Northern Pennine Orefield for their entire careers whilst other such as Thomas Kidd found a career in another Sopwith venture at Linares in Spain where there are still Kidds amongst the local population (Dr R W Vernon *pers. comm.*). Tracing some of the other surveyors has proved difficult because they disappear from the UK Census records for Allenheads after 1851 and with fairly common names it has been impossible to locate them elsewhere in the UK, however as with Ralph Charlton, they would have had very marketable skills and no doubt found continued employment elsewhere.

This effort is perhaps not surprising given that Thomas Sopwith encouraged education as soon as he took over as Chief Agent at Allenheads (Hunt, p 240) and laid down rules as to how this should be carried out (Hunt, p 242) as well as encouraging the development of libraries (Hunt, p 244). It also fits in with his known views on education (Sopwith 1853 & 1868). Sopwith himself had been trained as a land surveyor whilst still a boy in education and had exercised these skills locally in Newcastle by the age of 21. After that he became a pupil of the Greenwich Hospital Estates Mine Surveyor, Joseph Dickinson, in Alston in 1824, and worked for a year without pay before becoming a Partner and Mine Surveyor in his own right (Richardson, pp 13-15). This interest in developing the skills of others was continued when Sopwith took on Thomas Bewick as his pupil at the age of 16 in his survey office in Newcastle in 1837 so it is hardly surprising that the two of them continued this tradition when they moved to Allenheads in 1845. In fact some form of elementary education had been available since 1796 when it was noted (Hunt, p 235) that boys should be taught reading and writing and the common rules of arithmetic although at that time the teaching of *“Mensuration, Trigonometry, etc.”* was something to be frowned on because it apparently made them too clever to be miners! It would, however, have made them ideal candidates to become surveyors.

## Conclusions

It is a great pity to find that this remarkable series of notebooks has disappeared and one hopes that one day they may be rediscovered. When that day arrives, the indexes carefully prepared by David Elford will be an invaluable guide to their contents. Work on computerising these records will be continued and it is hoped that a database of their contents will eventually be made available. In the meantime, a copy of the Elford indexes together with one of John Ridley's shaft section book have been lodged with the Friends of Killhope as both hard copy and as scanned files on DVD.

## Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Dr D C Goldring for passing on the original BSC file; to Dr R W Vernon for help with the Spanish Census records; and last but not least to Mr D G Elford for his hard work in compiling the indexes. The views expressed here, however, are entirely those of the author.

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**Table 1 – The W B Lead Mines Surveyors’ Notebooks.**

Series	*	Surveyor	Location	From	To
JR (1-16)	U	John Ridley	Allenheads	1853	1896
JRWA (1-11)	U	John Ridley	West Allendale	1862	na
JRW (1-23)	U	John Ridley	Weardale and Rookhope	1859	1882
TKW (1-3)	U	Thomas Kidd	Weardale	1859	1863
See Text	L	John Ridley <i>et al</i>	Weardale	1859	1877
WS (1-32)	S	William Sparke	East Allendale	1850	1853
WW (1-7)	S	William Walton	East Allendale	1850	1851
JW (1-41)	S	John Whitfield	West Allen District	1850	1859
See Text	S	Thomas Bewick Ralph Charlton Joseph Coats Thomas Kidd John Ridley J Scott	Various locations around East and West Allendale and Weardale surveys outside the area.	1846	1907

\* U = Underground; L = Levelling; S = Surface.

**Table 2 - Mines Surveyed (S) and/or Levelled (L).**

Location	S	L		Location (cont)	S	L
Ash Hill Mine	X			Ireshopehead Mine	X	X
Blackdene Mine	X	X		Kilhope Mines	X	X
Bollihope		X		Kilhopehead Mine	X	
Boltsburn Mine	X	X		Levelgate Mine	X	
Breckonsyke Mine	X	X		Lodgegill Mine	X	
Breckonsyke Vein		X		Lodgesyke Vein		X
Broadsyke Mine	X			Longty Head Mine	X	
Burtree Pasture Mine	X			Middlehope Mine	X	
Cammock Isle Level	X	X		Middlehope Shield Mine	X	
Clints Veins	X	X		Midge Pits		X
Cowhaust Level	X	X		Old Fall Vein		X
Crawleyside Mine		X		Puddingthorn Level	X	
Douks Level	X			Ramshaw Well		X
Elmford Mine	X	X		Richards Vein	X	
Gowlands Level	X	X		Sally Grain Level	X	X
Greenfield Mine	X			Sedling Mine	X	
Greenlaws Mine	X	X		Shield Hurst		X
Grovehead Mine	X	X		Silverdykes Mine	X	
Groverake Mine	X			Slitt Mine	X	X
Harthope Burn Mine	X			South Heights Mine	X	
Hawksyke Mine	X			Stanhopeburn Mine	X	X
Heights Mine	X			Swinhope Mine	X	X
Helmsleys Vein		X		Welhope Mines		X
Hemsleys Level		X		Welhopehead Mines	X	
Hope Level	X	X		West Pasture Mine	X	X
Ireshopeburn Mine	X	X		Westenhope Mine	X	

## The Beamish Trophy Trial 2015

### Dick Graham

Since its inception over forty years ago the Friends of Killhope have organised a check point for the Beamish Trophy Trial and this year was no exception. The trial covers 120 miles of Northern Dales in Cumbria, Durham & Northumberland and has a number of testing off-road sections. The start and finish is at The New Board Inn, Hill Top, Esh, Co. Durham. The event is restricted to motorcycles manufactured before 1970 and is divided into classes depending on the age of the bike. The entry is limited to 150 and the event is oversubscribed with riders who fail to gain entry being given priority the following year.

The trial is now run by South Durham Vintage Motorcycle Club. It was run originally for 27 years by The Friends of Beamish, then by Durham Classic Motorcycle Club from 1998 until handing over to South Durham VMCC in 2008. Many of the Friends of Beamish were also Friends of Killhope which is the reason Killhope became a check point and has remained one for many years Brian and Dorothy Chambers were the original link but in recent years I have taken over the role of liaising with Tom Norman the organiser. Lately the number of volunteers from the Friends has declined but fortunately the Weardale Lions, a group of motorcycle enthusiasts who meet regularly in the Golden Lion at St John's Chapel and organise charitable events, have helped out. The marshall's duties are to direct the riders from the road onto the site via the cart bridge and to pose two questions which relate to vintage motor cycles and record the answers.

Like last year the weather for this year's event held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September was dry and sunny at times. Killhope is a popular stop as it provides the opportunity for the riders to park up, enjoy a refreshments provided by the cafe and talk to the museum visitors. Next year's event will be held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September.



Some of the riders taking a break

*Photo Dick Graham*

## Dates for your Diary

### Friends of Killhope Events 2015/16

**Saturday 7th November 2015** - Ask the Expert! A panel of experts on Geology and Mining History would love to answer any questions you have on these subjects. St. Thomas' Church Hall, Stanhope, 7pm. Members free, non-members £3. Refreshments available.

**Saturday 19th December 2015** - Friends of Killhope Christmas Social with a slide show 'Weardale at Night' by photographer Gary Lintern. St. Thomas' Church Hall, Stanhope, 7pm. Members free, non-members £3. Refreshments available.

**Saturday 19th March 2016** - Durham Peninsula and Durham Cathedral with Brian Young and Martin Roberts. This is a joint event with NEVAG. Final details to be confirmed and places will be limited.

**Saturday 23rd April 2016** - Visit to Bretton Hall to explore the beautiful gardens created by Thomas Wentworth Beaumont. Meet at the West Yorkshire property (postcode WF4 4LG) at 1.30pm.

**Saturday 14th May 2016** - Day School at St Johns Chapel Town Hall. This is a joint event with Nenthead Mines Conservation Society. More details to follow.

Please see [www.friendsofkillhope.org](http://www.friendsofkillhope.org) for updates

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### Weardale Field Study Society Programme 2015

All evening meetings held on **Monday** evenings at 7.30 pm in the Durham Dales Centre

**(except the December meeting which will be held on a Thursday in the Church Hall Stanhope)**

16 <sup>th</sup> Nov	The Palace of the Prince Bishops of Durham: Christopher Ferguson 1000 Years of History at Auckland Castle, and many future projects
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Social Evening

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### Events at Killhope for 2015

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Nov** - 'Letters to Santa' £5 per person. For bookings and further details please contact 01388 537505

## Committee Contacts

Members are advised that their main contacts with the Friends' committee are:

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THE · FRIENDS · OF  
**K I L L H O P E**

# Ask the Expert!

A panel of experts on Geology and Mining History  
would love to answer any questions you have on  
these subjects

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 7pm**

**St Thomas' Church Hall, Stanhope**

Friends of Killhope members free

Admission non-members £3

Includes refreshments