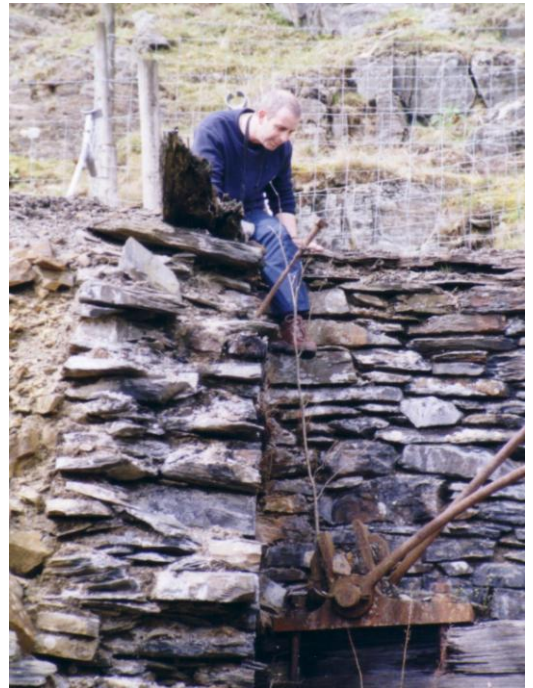


STEVE OLIVER 1963 – 2010



On 22 November 2010 Steve passed away following his long brave fight against cancer. Steve was well known and admired in the mining history and preservation world. His positive attitude and enthusiasm was appreciated by all who knew him. Despite the handicap of losing one of his legs, in an earlier battle with cancer, he was more active and agile than most people with two legs. On many expeditions into the hills with him I had to ask him to slow down, so those with two legs could keep up! To watch him cross a mountain stream was a sight to behold. He would place his crutches in the middle and hop across keeping his foot dry. Going underground was no problem to him as he had heavy duty crutches made because his standard ones could not stand the punishment he gave them.

Steve and Christine were very active in mine preservation, joining the Welsh Mines Preservation Trust. His dedication was soon recognised and he was elected a director. Christine and he volunteered to manage the project to restore the Engine House at Pen Y Clun, obtaining a 100% grant from CADW to pay for the restoration. Steve was also a meticulous researcher; spending many days visiting museums and record offices piecing together the history of Pen Y Clun. This resulted in the article by Steve and Christine published in the proceedings of the first Welsh Mines Society "Bickfest" Conference in 2007 (The Lode of History). Over the conference weekend they led a well attended field trip to Pen Y Clun, where attendees were able to share Steve's enthusiasm and affection for the mine and the area. The day ended with a presentation of an engraved tankard to Steve in recognition of his efforts at Pen Y Clun.



Sadly, in early 2007, the cancer returned and Steve began his long battle enduring courses of chemotherapy and the effects of the disease. He fought it with determination and a positive attitude which I am sure must be an example to us all. His friends and family gathered at the Crematorium in Clarach on 30 November 2010 to say farewell to a brave man.

Graham Levins Sec WMPT