

**PEAK DISTRICT MINES HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

NEWSLETTER No.2.

February 16th 1962.

The following proposed meetings are confirmed, further details are given.

February 25th, 1962. Visit to Derbyshire Stone Limited, Hopton Wood.

Members of the Society are invited to visit Derbyshire Stone's new workings at the Middleton Limestone Mine at the invitation of Mr. H. Fletcher the managing director. Meet Matlock Bus Station 11.30am. The mine is situated at Middleton by Wirksworth, grid ref. 43/279555 and is marked on 1/2500 scale Derbyshire Sheet XXXIV. 10. Those wishing to join the party at the mine itself should arrive at 2.0pm.

March 10th, 1962. Lecture by Mr. J. A. Robey on the Knotlow Complex.

This will take place in the Department of Geology, The University, Mappin Street, Sheffield, 1. at 3.00pm. by permission of Professor L. R. Moore. The talk will be followed by a few slides of the Parys Mine Angelsey, shown by Mr. A. E. Wiles.

March 25th, 1962. Field Meeting to Harrybecca Mine, Hassop.

Meet: Eyre Arms, Hassop. (9.25 bus from Sheffield) at 10.30am.
Leader: J. H. Rieuwerts (M. E. Smith).

The excursion will consist of two main items. The first will be a descent of a small shaft which communicates with old upper workings in Harrybecca. The particular interest of this mine is the method of working the ore in the steeply dipping limestone and the effect that the dip has had upon the mineralisation. These workings lead into a larger engine shaft and the second item will be the attempted descent of this and exploration of workings whose limits are at present unknown. It is believed that an arched level at the bottom of this shaft is the Newcastle Road, already referred to in previous Bulletins. Should this latter part of the excursion be unsuccessful, then there is ample scope to investigate other shafts and workings in the immediate neighbourhood for the Society's records.

Note: surface and underground meet, bring appropriate clothing.

April 29th, 1962. Field Meeting: High Rake, Mill Dam, Cressbrook and Victory.

Meet: Windmill - 11.00am. (Buxton Bus from Sheffield 9.25 to Windmill).
Leaders: J. H. Rieuwerts & M. E. Smith.

Proceed to High Rake Mine, formerly a very extensive working with a shaft 120 fathoms deep and formerly the site of a steam engine, and house with chimney now demolished. Follow the High Rake eastwardly via Great Hucklow Co.'s Mine, Gateside, Mill Dam (site of engine, etc.), Smithy Coe and New Hedge. The vein throughout this district has been exhaustively worked to very great depths, and east of Great Hucklow village is capped by the shales and grits of Eyam Edge. The underground drainage here is very complex, being not only the watershed of Middleton Dale and Bradwell Dale but the vein contains natural cavities some very large, and man made drainage levels add to the problem. Some attempt will be made to explain the geology, mineralisation and hydrology of the district. Proceed further east on the vein via Have-at-all and Silence Mines. Turning southwardly we pass Who-can-Tell Mine, once the scene of a legal dispute. Across Stanley Moor to the northern end of Cressbrook Dale where the drainage will be discussed. The route will then be up Sedlow Rake where the Sedlow Mine will be examined, a good gin circle is still visible. Unfortunately this part of the Rake is being used as a council refuse tip. From here we shall go to Victory Mine and the Burnt Heath Pipe Workings.

The return journey will be down Middleton Dale via Hazard Mine and Middleton Rake to Calver.

Past Meetings

Masson Hill - Owing to very bad weather only a few members attended it is hoped to rearrange this meeting at a later date.

Lecture - February 10th. - This meeting was very well attended. A detailed history of the Mandale Mine was given by Mr. Rieuwerts - this is to be part of a special publication. This was followed by an illustrate talk on Odin by Mr. Smith.

Preservation Report VI.

Mandale Mine Engine House, Lathkilldale - Work on this project unfortunately fell off last Autumn and nothing has been done here for some months. It is proposed that the bob wall is completed, also the floor level and the position of the cockpit established. A very large gritstone block has been uncovered, and since this much lie above the floor level, it is proposed that an attempt be made to locate the floor level by digging down to the base of this block. We can then discover the nature of this floor and decide whether it would be profitable to uncover the whole of this floor level. Several small protruding blocks and openings in the walls have been uncovered recently, each adding to the interest of the building. This project will be given priority again this coming Summer, and all members are to be encouraged to assist in the work. The other items of interest in the area will be considered when the work on the Engine House has been completed.

Merlin Mine, Eyam Dale - This project has been shelved until the work at Mandale Mine has progressed considerably.

Chapel Dale Mine, Monyash - It is proposed that the Engine in Crimbo Vein (see Bull. P.D.M.H.S. Vol.1. No.5. p.30-36) be removed and reassembled in the Society's museum at the Magpie Mine. This will require both underground and surface parties. A date for this project has been arranged for June.

Eagle Mine, Monyash - It is understood ('The Lyre', Orpheus C.C. No.2. 1956-7) that this mine contains an underground stow. It is a very small mine, accessible by a 40 ft. deep shaft, and a small party should be able to recover this stow, if it is found to be in good condition.

Magpie Mine, Sheldon. - A complete surface survey together with detailed plans of the Engine and Winding Houses are needed, also the surface layout needs tidying up, but since we are now tenants of the cottage there is no immediate danger of the buildings being destroyed, so the work required is not urgent.

Other Projects - Although other mines and buildings have been mentioned in previous reports, it is considered that these projects should be completed first. Any information which members have on mines which need preservation or the location of tools or equipment which would be suitable for the Society's museum would be very welcome.

January 1962.

J. A. Robey
Preservation Secretary.

Publications in Stock

Bulletins Vol.1. Number 1 to 5.
No.1. 1/6, No.2. 2/-, No.3. 2/6, Nos. 4 & 5. 4/- plus 6d postage.

Kirkham, N. 'Ecton Mines' price: 2/6d. plus 6d. postage.
Raistrick, A. 'Mines & Miners in Swaledale' price: 4/6d. plus 6d. postage.

Library:

The following have recently been received:

R. W. P. Cockerton, 'The Hereward Street' (with the author's compliments).
Journal of the White Rose Pothole Club, Volume 1.
Cave Research Group Occasional Publication No.6, 'The Lapiaz Superieure du Pla Segoune', J. C. Knight.
Transactions of the Cave Research Group, Volume 6, Number 1, December 1961.

Bulletin No.6.

Members are reminded that copy day for the next issue is March 30th. Anyone wishing to contribute a paper should send it without delay to the Editor. No material will be accepted for this issue after that date.

Cave Research Group of Great Britain.

The Society's election to membership of this Group has recently been confirmed.

New Members:

The following nominations were confirmed at the meeting of February 10th.

The University Library, Western Bank, Sheffield, 10.
Lt. Col. G. W. Wilson, Teesdale House, Hassop Road, Bakewell.
J. F. R. Collins, Stephenson Hall, Oakholme Road, Sheffield, 10.
National Coal Board, N.E. Division, The Lodge, South Parade, Doncaster.
Mr. & Mrs. P. Skinner, 25, Dunkeld Road, Sheffield, 11.
M. J. Luff, 3, Wye Grove, Buxton.
Birmingham Reference Library, City Libraries, Birmingham, 1.
F. Nixon Esq., Southlea, Hazlewood Road, Duffield, Derbys.

Cottage:

VOLUNTEERS please contact Mr. Robey.

Information for Newsletters.

Anyone having any information they would like included in the newsletter should contact either the Editor or the Secretary.

P. B. LUNN (Secretary)

M. E. SMITH. (Editor)