

Additional Meetings.

April 15th, 1962. Society Cottage. Magpie Mine, Sheldon.

A working party will be held at the Society's Cottage, on Sunday 15th April. Meet at the cottage at 10.45am or Bakewell 10.30am where it is hoped that transport will be available for those travelling by bus (from Sheffield, Bakewell bus from Pond St., 9.20am).

May 3rd, 1962. Lecture - Dr. J. O. Myers (Dept. of Mining, Leeds University).

Dr. Myer's lecture is entitled "Caves & Mines in the Northern Pennines" this lecture is arranged jointly with the Sheffield University Speleological Society and ourselves. The University of Sheffield Geological Society have also been invited. The lecture will be given in the Lecture Theatre of the Department of Geology, St. George's Square, Sheffield, 1. and will commence at 7.30pm. Dr. Myer's is a member of the Northern Pennine Club as well as the P.D.M.H.S. and has built up a fine collection of colour slides of general interest to both those members interested in natural caverns as well as mines.

Proposed Meeting Confirmed.

May 20th, 1962. Field Meeting - Hazlebadge. Leader: P. W. Crabtree.

Meet: Road Bridge, Brough.

(Castleton Bus from Sheffield 10.20 arr. 11.10).

Proceed to sough which drains Hazlebadge area (to Pictor End Shaft). From here we visit 'The Yeld', the resurgence from Moss Rake, Bagshawe Cavern and natural swallets as far south as Great Hucklow, also used to drive pump to supply air for the old Bradwell Smelting Mill. Proceed up Bradwell Dale noting Walker's Cave, Bradwell Parish Cave and 'The Well'. After visiting Hazlebadge Mine, we ascend to large engine shaft (Pictor End Mine), and Nether Pear Mine, both situated on Pictor Pipe running 200 feet below the surface. Various mines (e.g. Revell's Pipe Vein, Hazlebadge End Mine, Cow Hole Mine) will be visited on Hazlebadge Pipe vein, which runs close to the surface and is currently undergoing fluorspar hillocking. The tour will be completed via mines on Earl Rake (e.g. Greenclose Mine).

Past Meetings.

On February 25th the Society visited the limestone mine belonging to Derbyshire Stone Limited at Hopton Wood Quarries, Wirksworth. In spite of advser weather conditions there was an excellent turn out by members, 32 in all. Members were taken on a tour of the workings, unfortunately they were unable to see the mine in full operation as only the maintenance staff were there. The workings were floodlit by neon rings and arc lamps and of approx., 30ft. x 20ft. being worked by the pillar and stall method. The mine is of sufficient size for excavators and tipper trucks to run straight to the working areas. Members expressed their appreciation to the management of Derbyshire Stone for the opportunity to see this unique method of mining limestone.

On March 10th some 20 members attended an afternoon meeting in the Department of Geology Sheffield, when Mr. J. A. Robey gave a very interesting lecture on his research in the Monyash area. The lecture was followed by a series on slides on the Parys Mine, Angelsey given by Mr. A. E. Wiles. Members thanked Mr. Robey and Mr. Wiles for a very interesting meeting.

On March 25th, despite removal of an hour's sleep by B.S.T. eight members of the Society together with some members of the Sheffield University Speleological Society met at the Harrybecca Middle Engine Shaft on Longstone Edge. Despite all hopes the ginging in the engine shaft proved unsafe for a descend to be made. The nearby 50 ft. climbing shaft proved more helpful and after scrambling down a well inclined hading and 2 winzes an attempt was made to secure a belay to enable a ladder, and one small Wagstaff to slide over a rather muddy ladder and down 15 ft. to a ledge off the engine shaft. The bottom of the shaft was reached at 90 ft. i.e. 150 ft. below surface. To the

Bakewell side, a broad passage led off about 30 ft. To the Calver side, a low crawl with an undetermined depth of mud - at least 1'6". This was pushed for about 30 ft. when a side passage towards Calver Village was reached, but unfortunately our intrepid explorer found the mud acting rather like a quicksand at this point, and was forced to make a wet and hasty retreat. On the whole, a disappointing trip, obviously the shaft explored was not the famed 240 ft. Harrybecca. shaft - better luck next time. Those members who explored the surface area had to contend with bad weather conditions.

Future Meetings.

Suggestions for future meetings both in the field and lectures would be welcome. Anyone who would like to lead a field meeting or give a paper is asked to contact the Secretary.

Publications in Stock.

Bulletins Vol.1. Numbers 1 to 5.
No.1. 1/6, No.2. 2/-, No.3. 2/6. Nos. 4 & 5 4/- each. 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:
Cave Research Group, Biological Records, 'Fauna collected from caves, mines and wells as recorded in the C.R.G. recent invertebrate fauna records'. Pt. VII. 1957-9, published December 1961.
Cave Research Group, Newsletter No.83, December 1961.
A separate on the limestone workings at Hopton Wood has also been added to the collection.

Cave Research Group - Northern Meeting

This will be held in the Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham arranged by the Durham Cave Club, at 5.00pm. on June 23rd. The following paper will be read:

"Oxford University Expedition to Northern Spain" by Mr. M. Walker.

On June 24th there will be a trip into Fairy Holes and other caves.

It is hoped that some of the Society members will be able to be present at this meeting.

For those members living in the south west of England there will be a southern meeting of the C.R.G. on May 12th at Buckfastleigh, details of this meeting can be had from the Mrs. P. E. Lunn.

Book Reviews.

"Lead Smelt Mills of the Yorkshire Dales - Their Architectural Character, Construction and Place in the European Tradition".
by Robert T. Clough, published 1st March 1962.

This book, published by the author by private subscription, has been eagerly awaited for some time, and we can now see for ourselves the result of many years research, in the form of this superbly produced book. With 212 pages, 69 photographs and 48 line drawings, all on high quality art paper, this book will take the pride and place on any bookshelf.

In 1942, while still an architectural student, Mr. Clough started to survey, draw and photograph the lead smelt mills of the Yorkshire Dales and his work has continued for over 20 years, this book being the final result of much hard work and research. The surveys of the various mills are all superbly drawn by the author, while the photographs include many old, rare prints taken during the final years of the lead industry.

The first section of the book covers the development of lead mining and smelting, with comparisons between early mining in the area with the works of Agricola (who published "De Re Metallica" in 1556); miners working and living conditions; methods of payment; preparation of the ore; principals of smelting, and a very interesting chapter on the character of the Yorkshire lead miner. Plate 18 for instance is a photograph of a Wensleydale lead miner, taken in 1890, truly a wonderful character, complete with white beard and clay pipe.

Part two, the main section of the book, is the survey of the lead smelt mills arranged geographically from South Craven to Swaledale. Here Mr. Clough has succeeded in bringing out the full architectural character of the buildings and shown how, although superficially different, they all have close similarities to the German smelts as illustrated by Agricola. All the smelts in the Yorkshire dales are mentioned, those of particular merit having very detailed descriptions, surveys and histories, but this book is not just a catalogue of old mine buildings. On the contrary, we are shown how each building, although primarily of functional design achieved high architectural standards, often developing new techniques of building to suit the specialist needs of the lead smelter.

One thing that this book does emphasise to us is the fact that both the Northern Cavern and Mine Research Society and the Peak District Mines Historical Society have been formed many years too late. Numerous unique buildings have been ruthlessly destroyed since the surveys were started over twenty years ago, and we must congratulate Mr. Clough on the foresight to record these smelt mills before all trace disappeared. Time and time again we read: "since destroyed", "now completely ruined", and even the Great Octagon Mill in Arkengarthdale, which was built in 1700, with its unique roof construction, is shown during demolition in 1942.

Here we have a written record of these buildings, a record as fine as anyone could wish for, a record which will remain the standard work on the subject for many years to come.

Due to its specialist subject this book was published privately by the author, the edition is limited to one thousand copies, but a small number are available from the author: Robert T. Clough, A.R.I.B.A., Stoneleigh, Utley, Keighley, Yorks, at 5gns. per copy.

J.A.R.

"British Caving - An Introduction to Speleology" by members of the Cave Research Group, edited by C.H.D.Cullingford. First published 1953, second revised edition 1962, by Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd., at 75 shillings.

The first edition of this book has proved itself to be a standard work on British Speleology so much so that it has found fame in many parts of the world as a reference book on many of the varied aspects of this science.

Since it was first published in 1953 many changes have taken place in the world of speleology, both with the theories of cave development and the practice of cave study, as well as the more obvious new discoveries which are continually taking place. To account for these changes the second edition has been revised, some chapters being rewritten, others having supplements, while others have not been changed.

The chapters on cave formations and deposits and on cave fauna and flora have been rewritten, but most of the chapters have had to suffice with supplements or added notes. British Caving Regions and Cave Archaeology and Palaeontology, surely both very important chapters, are now overloaded with supplements which make many comments in the original chapters out of place. These chapters at least needed completely rewriting to bring them up to date.

The bibliographies at the end of each chapter have been completely revised, giving an extremely useful list of caving references, but many unfortunate errors still exist in the book. Pan Holes, Bingley, is now in Westmorland (p.554) the list of British Caving Organisations is completely out of date, even errors occurring in the biographical notes on the authors. In chapter eleven we read: "The pioneer of caving in Mendip was H.E.Balch, who is still carrying the torch." Yet the introduction states that Balch died in 1958 !

It is things like this which tend to make the book patchy. What was needed was for the whole book to be rewritten, but in such a developing subject as speleology it is to be expected that information is soon out of date. This book has brought us up to 1960, but with a little more effort the second edition could have made as big an impact as the first edition.

I can recommend the book to anyone who has not got the first edition, but I think many cavers who have the first edition will think twice before spending nearly four pounds on the second edition.

J.A.R.

"The Story of Speedwell Cavern, Castleton, Derbyshire"
by Trevor D. Ford, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.G.S. published March
1962 - price two shillings.

This is the first guide book of the Speedwell Cavern to be published, and is to be recommended to anyone visiting the cavern as well as to those interested in the Castleton region as a whole. It contains some 28 pages including 4 photographs in which, incidentally the colours are very much exaggerated, but the eight black and white prints are of reasonably good quality. Also included is a survey of the cavern.

The material contained in this guide book is far in excess of what is normally required by the ordinary visitor and the author has gone out of his way to make this booklet as informative as possible by giving as complete a history of the mine, although condensed, as is possible in a booklet of this nature.

M.E.S.

Bulletin No.6.

This is now in the production stage and it is hoped that it will be available at Dr. Myer's lecture on May 3rd. Copy day for Bulletin No.7. and incidentally the last of Volume One has been fixed for September 30th so start writing NOW. If you have any problems or queries concerning the production of an article for publication then please contact the editor.

Items for inclusion in the newsletter should be forwarded to either the editor or secretary.

New Members The following have applied for membership:
Miss E. M. Clark, Thorbridge Hall, Ashford, Bakewell.
C. A. Buchanan Esq., 37, Ryegate Road, Sheffield, 10.

Derbyshire Naturalists' Trust.

The countryside is changing rapidly before our eyes. Some change is, of course, inevitable; but nearly all the alteration is tending towards a loss of variety, interest and beauty, and the destruction of areas still in a natural and semi-natural state. There is a very urgent need for a local organisation to take action, before it is too late, to safeguard what remains, and to encourage the intelligent conservation of nature. The aims of the Trust are:

To record and study the chief places of natural history interest in Derbyshire.

To protect these places if they are threatened.

To acquire and administer any such place as a Local Nature Reserve, if this action is the most appropriate method for conservation.

To co-operate with other local and national bodies with interests in natural history and nature conservation.

To encourage interest and understanding for an intelligent policy of nature conservation, which should not run counter to the best interests of agriculture, forestry, sport, and other rural industries and occupations.

If you wish to become a member of the Trust or require further information please communicate with the Secretary: W.H. Wilcockson Esq., 5, Newbould Lane, Sheffield, 10.

PLEASE NOTE: The Secretary's home telephone number is 50170 (Sheffield).

28, Kenbourne Road,
Nether Edge,
Sheffield, 7.

(Mrs.) P. E. Lunn (Secretary)
M. E. Smith (Editor)