

PEAK DISTRICT MINES HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER No. 12.

September 3rd, 1963.

Future Meetings

Sunday, September 7th Field Meeting: Elton Area.

This will be a joint underground and surface meeting, details as follows:

Underground meeting: Leader: Ivor Lawrence, Meet: 10.30am at the Beeston  
Lead Mines Research Group  
Cottage (near Youth Hostel  
and opposite telephone box).

Meet will be held at the "proper Plackett Mine Shaft" (marked in Bull. P.D.M.H.S. Vol.1, No.5, page 11, as mine shaft No.8). this is approximately 400 ft. deep and the descent will be made by winch.

Surface Meeting: Leader: Margaret Oakley, Meet: Elton Church, 10.30am.

Leave Elton Church, proceed over Hathill Moor to Greenfields Farm and the old washing dam by Bacon Close and Pynet Nest, along Bradford Dale looking at "Nellie Long Arm" and the lost tails of Nick and Timberley soughs; following the footpath by the R. Bradford to Smerrill Grange, thence south west via cart track and footpath into Long Dale, which follows the line of Bonsall Fault, a small detour into Mouldridge mine (no caving gear needed apart from a small torch each person), after leaving this mine we descend back into Long Dale which leads us into the head of Gratton Dale. We walk down the dale as far as the lime kiln (very well preserved) almost at the bottom of the dale, turning into a minor dale entering Gratton Dale on the S.W. which takes us up onto the line of Coast Rake, which we then follow back into Elton.

Note: Packed lunches and a thermos should be taken.

Sunday, September 29th. Field Meeting: Eyam Edge.

Leader: Mr. J. H. Ricuwerths. Meet: Eyam Village Square, 10.30.  
(just below Glebe Mine).

No details of the meeting are available, anyone who thinks they may be a "late starter" should contact Secretary nearer time, for route to be taken.

Dates to Remember

November 23rd - Lecture Meeting: Mr. W. J. Houston will give a talk on "North Wales Mining".

Early in December we shall be holding the A.G.M., it will be followed once more by the Annual Dinner.

Full details of the above two events will appear in the next newsletter.

It is hoped to hold a meeting in Sheffield shortly, at which members can bring along any slides which they might like to show. Anyone wishing to take part is asked to contact the Secretary.

Training Sessions

It has been suggested that a series of training sessions should be held at the field centre at Magpie Mine Cottage for those members wishing to take part in underground exploration but who have not had any experience. The sessions will cover the use and care of equipment and underground techniques, and will be taken by experienced persons. Anyone wishing to take part should notify the Secretary. The first part of the work will be carried out at Magpie Cottage itself and will be followed by visits to nearby mines once the initial training has been completed.

Two members have already intimated that they would like to take part and it will not be necessary for them to contact the Secretary again.

Ecton Mines

As many members already know two entrances, the Clayton and Deep Ecton Levels were sealed at the beginning of July, though the seals have since been broken. Representations were made to the owners, Chatsworth Estates, and to other bodies. A meeting of interested societies and clubs is to be held in Buxton shortly and will be attended by representatives from Chatsworth Estates and the Peak Park Planning Board. The Society will be represented.

Ashford Marble Mines

During a recent visit by three members it was found that the mine behind the village was now blocked. The entrance had run-in within a few feet and there were signs of rock fracture at the entrance, probably due to frost. The mine entrance on the Kirkdale road is in a dangerous condition and has run-in within 10-15 yards.

Pengelly Cave Research Centre, Devon.

A small number of newsletters from the above centre have been received for members who may be interested in its activities. Anyone who would like one should send their name together with 2<sup>d</sup> stamp to the Secretary.

W. W. Varvill Esq., M.C. M.Sc., M.I.M.M.

News has reached us of the sudden death of Mr. Varvill some three weeks ago. Although in semi-retirement and living at Portsmouth, Mr. Varvill took an active interest in the mining of the Peak District and was at the time of his death writing a paper for the Bulletin on the subject.

New Members

Dr. A. J. Sutcliffe, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road,  
London, S.W.7.  
D. T. Pollitt Esq., B.Eng., 14 King's Road, Rochdale, Lancs.  
A. E. Marsh Esq., B.Met., 12 Hallam Grange Road, Fulwood, Sheffield, 10.

News of Members

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Denis Price on the birth of a daughter. The Expeditions to Spain and Ireland are now back. We understand that the members of the Spanish Expedition had one or two narrow escapes and hope that they will tell us more of their experiences.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for the Financial Year commencing September 1st are now due. These will be £1.0.0d. for Full Members and 15/- for Institutional and Junior Members up to and including the age of 18 years. Please send your subscription to the Hon. Treasurer together with the accompanying slip. Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to: "The Peak District Mines Historical Society" and crossed. Institutional Members please note: if you have already forwarded your subscription on the old rate an invoice for the balance will be sent. Institutions will be invoiced in the normal way.

CONSTITUTION

Copies of the Constitution, as amended at the meeting in Sheffield in July, are now available and will be despatched to members with this newsletter.

Copy for the next issue of the Bulletin

This should be sent to the Secretary, the envelope marked Bulletin, as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

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Hon. Secretary: Mrs. P. E. Lunn, 28 Kenbourne Road, Sheffield, 7.  
Tel. No. Sheffield, 50170.