

PEAK DISTRICT MINES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 16.

April 14th, 1964.

Forthcoming Meetings:

Field Meeting - Sunday, April 26th.

Shuttle Rake - Leader: Mr. R. Steele.

Meet: Bradwell Dale (opposite Morton's Quarry), N.G. Ref: Sk.43.172805.
Time: 11.00 am.

The proposed route to be taken will be as follows:

From Bradwell Dale across the top of Morton's Quarry to the Intake Dale Mines. Through Intake Dale to Shuttle Rake, branching off below Berristall Lodge to the Moss Rake; returning down Moss Rake to Outlands Head Mine and then along the old road to Smalldale Head Quarry. Approximate distance 2½ miles.

Field Meeting - Sunday, May 10th.

Mixon Mines, Staffordshire.
Leader: D.I. Gill.

Meet: Onecote Village Square, 12.00 noon.

Proceed by car to Mixon Mines Farm. Cars will be left here whilst the party will walk to the dams which provided power for the water wheels draining the mine.

The water leat will then be followed down to the mine and the tips and the remaining open shaft will be examined.

The party will then walk across to New Mixon Hay where a drainage level will be examined and entered (torches or lamps will be needed here).

Mixon Mines Farm will then be returned to, after which the party will motor to Onecote and take the Warslow road, stopping to examine New York and Hilledge Mines.

Future Meetings:

Suggestions for future meetings both field meetings and indoor meetings would be welcome. Anyone willing to lead a field meeting should contact the Hon. Secretary.

Stokes

It is hoped to get all the orders despatched within the next three weeks. Further orders will be welcomed.

Recent Additions to the Library and Records

A Share Certificate in respect of the Ecton Mountain Mining Company, dated 20th December, 1851 was recently been presented to the Society by Mr. J. C. Ferguson of Southern Rhodesia.

The following publications have been received:

Sorby Record No. 4, 1961-2, published March 1964.

Crabtree, P. W. "Speleochemistry" in Byproduct (the Journal of the University of Sheffield Chemical Society), pp. 2-4, 1963.

* Kirkham, N. 1963. Drainage of Wirksworth Lead Mines, published by Local History Section, Derbys. Arch. Soc. 18pp.

* _____, Silence Mine. Derbyshire Miscellany (Bull. Loc. Hist. Sec. Derbys. Arch. Soc.) Vol. 2, No. 12, 1963.

* _____, 1963. The Boundaries of Sheldon, Derbyshire. Newsletter 19, Peakland Archaeological Society.

* presented by the author.

Shropshire Mining Club Year Book 1962-3.

Cave Research Group Newsletter No. 89, December 1963.

_____, Transactions, Vol. 6, No. 2, Dec. 1963.

Lloyd, O. C. Cavers Dying of Cold. Bristol Medico-Chirurgical Journal, Jan. 1964. Vol. 79, (i), No. 291. (per C.R.G.)

Pengelly Research Centre, Newsletter No. 2. 1964.

News of Members

Congratulations to Mr. J. C. Ferguson on the award of the Draper Medal by the South African Geological Society. This is the society's highest award.

A Report on Miscellaneous Lead Mine Excavations - Part One. by Dr. D. R. Thornton.

This report is drawn together mainly for the individual interested in carrying out further excavations. The report does not pretend to discuss completed projects but considers a series of 'digs' that may possibly never be completed due to the place of work of the author. References to other reports are not included as none were available to the writer at the time the report was written up.

Firstly, a list of soughs, levels and shafts excavated in Derbyshire with the approximate date of excavation:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Merlin's Mine, Eyam Dale: | 1958-59 |
| 2. Sallet Hole Sough (old cut): | 1960 |
| 3. Highfields Sough | 1960 |
| 4. Red Rake Sough | 1960 |
| 5. Shepherd's Pipe Vein | 1961 |
| 6. Sallet Hole Sough (new cut) | 1962 |
| 7. "Grand Junction" Shaft | 1963 |
| 8. Cromford Sough | 1963 |

The digs will now be discussed in the above order and the findings (if any) stated.

1. Merlin's Mine (Eyam Dale)

Those familiar with Merlin's Mine (Grid Ref. SK.218759), will know of an adit a little above and to the right of the main entrance, bricked up a few yards inside. In 1958 a shallow depression was noted by the author in front of this wall. If this were a filled shaft it was proposed that a possible link between the surface, and the supposed "lost show cavern", Stub Scrin or even Eyam Dale Sough may be found by excavation.

Laborious work has extended the shaft to 42 ft, and has joined with a level in Merlins' Mine and has entered a much older square-cut shaft that is "heavy going" to dig but is still going. Further hard work is required and no guarantee of a find can be made, but Merlins' Mine may yet yield more.

2. Sallet Hole Sough (old cut)

Coombs Dale (Grid Ref SK.218741). Since Glebe Mines commenced work the author has not re-examined the site, and the account is therefore written prior to that time. The leet leading to the old cut, a little further up the dale from the new cut was excavated and after a little difficulty entrance was made. An exploratory party led by Messrs. J. Robey and S. Murphy was later called in. The old cut was heavily silted and was soon a tight crawl in the general direction of Calver Village, that is, cutting across the new cut at an angle of 40-45°. To the explorers surprise a person standing in the new cut could hear them in the old cut. The reason was simply that the roof of the old cut intersected the floor of the new cut and cement had been laid down in the new cut to prevent water loss out of the old one. The continuation of the old cut could be seen on the left hand side of the new sough about 150 yards going in, though it was not previously realised where it was. After a short crawl it is totally run-in.

3. Highfields Sough

Coombs Dale (Grid Ref. SK.217741). in A little further up than the old cut to Sallet Hole. The traditional sight for it is said to be on the right hand side, up the dale beside a small reservoir wall built by the Sallet Hole mining operation. This sight was excavated to hard vertical rock and then down at least 4 feet, bringing one to the valley floor level. No trace of the sough could be found and it is suggested that this is, in fact, not the correct position of the sough tail.

(to be continued)

For Sale

Available from G. Workman, Stonebrack, Slack Lane, Peak Forest, via Buxton price 10 gns the lot:

- 1700 D. C. Leige Natural History of Lancashire, Cheshire and the Peak in Derbyshire.
 1789 J. Pilkington A View of the Present State of Derbyshire.
 1886 J. Pendleton A History of Derbyshire.

Wanted by Nottingham Rover Caving Club, 14 Elwell Rd., Nottingham:

Part No. 3, Vol. 1. of the Bulletin, P.D.M.H.S. willing to pay 3/6d. Any offers?

Hon. Sec. Mrs. P. E. Lunn, 28 Kenbourne Rd., Sheffield, 7.