

PEAK DISTRICT MINES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 17

May 3rd, 1964

ALTERATION TO MEETING PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED

Field Meeting Sunday, May 10th - Bagshawe Cavern (NOT Mixon as previously stated)

Meet: New Bath Hotel, on right hand side of main road leading from Brough into Bradwell, 1.15pm.

Fee: 2/-

An underground "scramble", ordinary walking clothes plus boots, helmets and lamps.

Dates to Remember:

Cave Research Group Meeting in Bakewell: Saturday, July 4th/5th (lecture on the Saturday, field meetings Sunday, an informal dinner will be held on Saturday night at the Wheatsheaf Hotel - full details later.)

Derbyshire Caving Congress: Buxton, October 3rd/4th (lecture, exhibition, films, etc. full details later).

Changes of Address:

C. A. Buchanan: 26 Sandown Park, Redcar, N. Yorks.

R. Bowling: 30 Stephen Hill Road, Crosspool, Sheffield, 10.

R. J. A. Travis: 15 Lascelles Ave., Gedling, Notts.

M. J. Walker: 6a, Cannon Hill Lane, London, S.W. 20 (temporary address).

Mr. D. I. Gill

Due to a recent caving accident Dave Gill is unable to take the planned field meeting on Sunday May 10th and a substitute meeting at the Bagshawe Cavern has been arranged. It is hoped to hold the Mixon meeting sometime in the future when Dave is well enough to take it. We are pleased to say that he is now out of hospital, after a three-week stay, and progressing, though it will be some six months before he can take part in caving again. Our best wishes for a complete recovery.

Cottage:

During the summer months many members visit the cottage, very often arriving after most people have left, and find themselves at a loose end. It has been suggested that messages of where the parties have gone should be left in the window in order that people can follow, e.g. "A. N. Other and party have gone to Field Grove Mine" or "B. Bloggs and party have gone to Knotlow".

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

4. Red Rake Sough (Grid Ref: SK.241.740)

Shortly after the Society rebuilt the arch it was decided to excavate the blockage about 20 feet in. This was fairly readily removed. Ochre coloured water, 1-5ft. deep was found but shortly left behind. The sough was arched for several feet, but soon entered the solid rock.

At a distance in that brings one under the Calver to Bakewell main road, a severe run-in was encountered. It had originally been held up in the worst tradition by old railway lines and sleepers. Local information suggested that this occurred when a bus sank a foot or so into the road above the run-in. Further excavation would not be advisable and it is believed that the original blockage near the entrance has reformed.

5. Shepherds Mine (Grid Ref: SK.222.745)

Opposite the fairly recently opened Shepherds Pipe, Coombs Dale, at the site of the old washing floor. Local information from Highfields Farm stated that 20 years ago, or so, easy access was made up a level in the general direction of Highfields Farm. Examination and excavation revealed nothing and no further report can be made.

6. Sallet Hole Sough (New Cut) (Grid Ref: SK. 219.741).

Coombs Dale. Recently the severe blockage in the sough, which the author had attempted to remove by primitive explosives, was said to cause some trouble to Glebe Mines, who as previously stated, are re-working the level. No report can be made.

7. "Grand Junction" Shaft (Grid Ref: SK. 175.680)

Situated east of Magpie cottage. The dig is situated in the floor of a ruined coe, situated prominently on "made ground". In the cold winter 62/63 steaming air was found issuing from the floor of the coe and a strenuous dig revealed a shaft of about 3-4 feet diameter, very suitable for exploration. ~~The remains of the shaft on the complex of veins in that area is far from certain~~ and is left to the experts.

8. Cromford Sough (Grid Ref: SK. 295.368)

The excavation was not at the sough tail beside the river, but well up in the village, behind cottages close to the Cromford Primary School. After examination of the sough, with the kind help of Mr. Harry Parker, it was concluded that a substantial reduction in water level could be achieved.

The sough comes to light about 10 feet down in a circular pit which also houses the remains of a dam wall in the south, which regulated water to Arkwright's mill in the valley bottom. Two slabs were carefully removed from the wall and a great volume of water released. Lack of time and equipment prevented the removal of more silt and a further slab in the dam wall, but a reduction of 2 feet in the water level was obtained and a little more airspace would facilitate entry to the sough.

Any enquiries concerning these largely unfinished digs would be welcomed by the writer; he may be contacted at the Department of Biology, Royal College of Science and Technology, Glasgow, C.1.

Items for Inclusion in the Newsletter

Any members who has an information, however small, they would like to include in the newsletter they should send it to the Secretary for inclusion. Accounts of shaft descents and what found, etc., or details of buildings would be welcome.

Stokes

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