

PEAK DISTRICT MINES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO: 23

1st April 1965.

Meetings:

Sunday, 4th April: Field Meeting to Chert Mine, Bakewell is POSTPONED until a later date at the request of the mine owner.

Saturday, 10th April: Annual General Meeting of the Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation, 7.00 p.m. Cheshire Cheese Hotel, Castleton. This Society is a member of this Association and your attendance on this occasion would be appreciated.

Sunday, May 2nd: Field Meeting to Riber Mine, Matlock: leader Mr. J. Beck, by permission of Derbyshire Stone Limited; and, it is hoped to pay a visit also to the Ball Eye Mine, subject to permission being granted.

Meet: Starkholmes at road junction to Riber Castle
G.R. SK 43/301.588 10.30 a.m.

It is essential that underground clothing should be taken together with boots, helmets and lamps.

Saturday, May 8th: Lecture Meeting: Department of Geology, University, Mappin Street, Sheffield, 1. at 3.0 p.m.

"The Metalliferous Mining of South-East Shropshire"
by R. Haszard.

During the lecture there will be an exhibition of mining tools, books, plans, and other equipment associated with the area, arranged by members of the Shropshire Mining Club.

Weekend May 14th-16th: Field Meeting, Snailbeach, Shropshire.

Leaders: R. Haszard and I. J. Brown.

Further details available from the Secretary or I. J. Brown, 17 Middleton Ave., Dinnington, Sheffield.

Sunday, July 4th: Field Meeting: Alderley Edge, Cheshire. Leader: G. Warrington.

Meet: Alderley Edge, Railway Station at 10.30 a.m.

It would greatly assist if members with vehicles could help others from the station to the top of the Edge.

The general geology of the area will be demonstrated near Castle Rock and Stormy Point on Alderley Edge. Accessible mines in the Alderley Edge district will be visited (Stormy Point and Engine Vein). The sites of several ancient or inaccessible workings and the sites of pre-historic and subsequent developments such as smelting hearths and processing plants, will be indicated where possible. There will be opportunity to examine part of the workings at Stormy Point and Engine Vein for which purpose those interested should bring lamps. The mineralisation may be examined at Engine Vein while mineral specimens representative of the assemblage will be obtainable from several spoil heaps. The Mottram St. Andrew mine is totally inaccessible and the openworks are largely obliterated; therefore, this mine will not be visited. Lunch should be brought. It is advisable that members bring a drink for midday. Afternoon tea may be obtained at a cafe. The only other establishments on Alderley Edge are a restaurant and a sweet and mineral-water shop. It is expected that the excursion will terminate near the cafe at between 4 and 5 p.m. There will be some scope for underground photography for those interested.

ADVANCED NOTICE: 3rd South Pennines Geological Conference, 21st-23rd September, 1965, University of Nottingham. Any member requiring further details should write to Dr. F. M. Taylor, Department of Geology, University, Nottingham.

PLEASE NOTE: All correspondence for attention of Treasurer **MUST** be addressed to 28 Kenbourne Rd., Sheffield 7, and not Mr. Brown's home address

Reminder

Members are reminded that in addition to the circularised field meetings informal meetings are held each weekend from the Magpie Cottage (the Society's field centre) at Sheldon, near Bakewell. Anyone wishing to join the party should arrive by 11 a.m.

Shropshire Mine Plans

Some time ago a number of books, etc., were removed from the Manager's Office, Snailbeach Mine. It is believed that the person responsible may be a member of this Society. Will anyone having any information as to the whereabouts please send this in confidence to the Secretary at the address below.

Report of the Society's Visit to Ecton Copper Mines, February 21st, 1965.

In spite of a dull, cold day with snow showers, 16 members met at noon for a trip round the famous mines. Most of the levels at Ecton are flooded to varying depths so the dress was gumboots and overalls for the sortie up the Clayton Adit.

For those who don't know their Ecton, this Adit is a 6ft. high drainage and haulage level - flooded to a depth of a foot - running in a straight line for 1,000 ft. into a large chamber, the site of a Cornish beam engine used for pumping the lower workings. The shaft here is 960 ft. deep and flooded to the top, jaywalking around the engine room is definitely not to be recommended!

Leaving the engine room, the party made its way along the Waterbank Level with a short diversion to "walk-the-plank" via a railway line across a flooded shaft of unknown depth to visit the "Cascades". This is a rise to the Chadwick Mine which formerly drained via an adit to the fispond at the Back of Ecton, but now drains back into the mine making a very active waterfall. The journey was then continued along the Waterbank Level to the terminal heading approximately three quarters of a mile from the Clayton Adit entrance. Here, another rise with the Waterbank Mine but is now completely run-in.

After investigating a number of side levels the party then splashed its way back to daylight for what should have been an al fresco lunch but, because of the biting wind, became mostly an in-auto meal.

In the afternoon it was planned to visit the Deep Ecton Level. A preliminary reconnaissance however, revealed the water was well above the dams. This would have meant a chest-deep wade so there was little opposition when an alternative trip along the nearby Dale Mine was proposed. Water in the level - which is reputed to contain some of the stickiest mud in the county - was recently lowered by a Society digging operation so the level was quite 'gumbootable'. The level goes for approximately 3-400 yards to a terminal run-in and is now rather unstable in places. A new run-in had occurred with the last few weeks. A partly mined-cum-natural chamber, containing a drawing shaft to day and the lower workings were inspected and an old shot hold scraper was found.

The party broke up about 4 p.m. after leaving the Dale Mine Level when the majority returned to the Society's cottage at Magpie Mine for a do-it-yourself Sunday tea.

There is, of course, a great deal more to see at Ecton and it is hoped to hold another underground, and possible also a surface meeting, at a later date.

H.M.P.

MEETS AND LECTURES

The Council are concerned over the lack of support evidenced at a number of recent meets and lectures. Obviously, first-class lecturers cannot be expected to continue to visit the Society with only a handful of enthusiasts at meetings. It would indeed be a pity if lectures and meets had to be abandoned because of this temporary apathy. This is YOUR Society and to survive and flourish it needs YOUR SUPPORT. Of course, not every member can attend every event but, if the majority of the members determined to add their support each time, the Council can go ahead with confidence in the arranging of a varied and interesting programme.

The NEWSLETTER is intended to keep members up to date with events of interesting happenings. Unfortunately, the Secretary - who does most of the donkey work - has not got a crystal ball to forecast news. She needs to be told. If you have any items of interest please pass them to the Secretary at the address below.

Constructive suggestions are also welcomed for meets, lectures, areas for investigation, etc.

It is not a case of the Council leading and the members following. The Council SERVES you, so find it some work to do and then GIVE IT YOUR SUPPORT.

H.M.P.

Hon. Sec. Mrs. P. E. Lunn, 28 Kenbourne Road, Sheffield, 7. (Tel: 50170).