

PEAK DISTRICT MINES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No: 24

27th April, 1965

Meetings:

May 14th-16th: Field Meeting, S.W. Shropshire Mining Area.

The Shropshire Mining Club Cottage will be available for those wishing to arrive on the Friday evening (38 Wellington Road, Church Aston, Nr. Newport: Grid Ref: Stafford: 740178).

Saturday: 11.00 am Depart S.M.C. Cottage
12.30 pm Meet Stiperstones Inn, Snailbeach (O.S. 118, 370015)
1.30 pm Tour of Snailbeach area led by Mr. R. Haszard, reaching the campsite at Perkins Beach about 5.0 pm (O.S. 118, 363000 approx.)

Sunday: Visits as arranged. These will consist mainly of visits using own transport to surface remains with short walks between adjacent places of interest. Some underground exploration will be possible for those interested and suitable clothing should be taken.

The meeting will terminate about 4.0 pm.

All members must arrange for their own camping equipment and food.

Sunday June 13th: Field Meeting, Carsington Pastures, Leader: Mr. R. N. Tune.

Meet Cromford Market Place 11.00 a.m.

This will be mainly a surface meet proceeding to Carsington village by car then on foot via Flaxpiece Rake, Great Rakes Mines, Wester Hollow, and Carsington Pastures. There are numerous shafts in this area, many of them on old mines worked to a depth of 60 fathoms and below.

Reminder:

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

Meet: Alderley Edge Railway Station at 10.30 a.m. Leader: G. Warrington.
For full details of this field meeting see Newsletter No. 23.

Transport:

Mr. and Mrs. John Lawson of 2 Dorset Road, Failsworth, Lancs., will be pleased to offer a lift to members living in the Manchester area who have not got their own transport but who would like to attend field meetings of the Society.

Report of Weekend Field Meeting, Coalbrookdale Coalfield, Shropshire: March 20/21st.

This meeting, in an area which has often been called the "cradle of the Industrial Revolution" was attended by 20 members of P.D.M.H.S. and 15 members of the Shropshire Mining Club.

The opportunity was taken to see as much of the area as possible since it will soon be changed from a typical old mining area, with its old engine houses and debris tips, into a brand New Town to accommodate the Birmingham Overspill population - in all about 85,000 people.

The party met on the Saturday morning at the Lilleshall Company Industrial Museum being welcomed by Mr. C. R. Nicholls, Company Director and Secretary. This Company which is 200 years old was at one time the owner of many coal, iron fireclay and limestone mines and their museum contains many reminders of this, including lamps, records, chartermasters books, plans and prints. Also preserved are four large steam engines, two horizontal beam (1851) and two vertical (1900). After the visit the party was entertained to lunch by the Company.

In the afternoon the museum of the Coalbrookdale Company was visited and some two hours were spent inspecting their many interesting exhibits, rails, models,

pictures, engines and waggons. The most important exhibit was the blast furnace used by Abraham Darby when casting the world's first ironbridge in 1779. The base of the furnace is an earlier furnace built in 1638. This Company is now over 250 years old and at the present time producing modern household grates.

After the visit the party travelled to the S.M.C. Cottage passing en-route several opencast coal and fireclay workings and an igneous rock quarry.

In the evening coloured slides of the district were shown to the party and then all adjourned to 'the Last', the S.M.C's local.

The party awoke on the Sunday to find 4 inches of snow on the ground. This caused some difficulty in collecting the lady members of the party from a nearby cricket club pavilion where they had stayed the night, eventually all proceeded to the Rock Fireclay Mine.

Mr. I. Jones, owner-manager of the mine, met the party and they were shown around the surface plant. The shafts were found clear of carbon dioxide gas (blackdamp to the miner) which hampers all mining in this area, and the manager lowered several members down in the 'box' one at a time. They were met at the bottom of the 130 ft. shaft by the leader and shown some of the workings. After some thirty minutes however, the gas was seen to be rising so a hasty retreat was made. The party were also shown a hand-winch, fire-buckey winch and other equipment last used when the mine closed at Christmas, 1964.

The old gin circle nearby at Teeces Pit was then visited before the party continued to the Talbot Inn near the old ironbridge for lunch.

The Pheasant Inn, Broseley, was next visited and the landlord pointed out to the party the 2 ft. 6 ins. thick seam which outcrops in his cellar. The visit of the afternoon was spent visiting the Ladywood Sough, Coalport Canal Incline and the remains of Coalport China Works.

The leader would like to express his thanks for the full co-operation received, in the organisation of this visit, from the Lilleshall, Coalbrookdale and Rock Cilliery Companies, the Shropshire Mining and Lilleshall Cricket Clubs, and the landlords of the Talbot and Pheasant Inns.

I.J.B.

Future Meetings:

Suggestions for future meetings would be most welcome. The Secretary would also be pleased to hear of any member, or members, who would be willing to lead a Society meeting, or give a talk.

Publications Available:

Back Parts of Volume 2 of the Bulletin are available price 7/6d. each including postage.

Also available are: Stokes: Lead & Lead Mining in Derbyshire - Price £1.0.0.
Raistrick: Mines & Miners of Swaldale - Price 5/-

Cave Research Group Southern Meeting: Main Greenland Hall, Y.M.C.A. St.Owen's Street, Hereford (opposite Town Hall).

May 8th, 1965 5.30 pm.

The main lecture will be "Belinka Pit 1964" by B. Woods. An illustrated talk on the exploration of a deep shaft approx. 500 ft. in a Yugoslavian Pothole by members of the South Wales Caving Club. If time permits two brief talks on "The allocation of closure errors in surveying" and "Introduction to resistivity survey" will be given.

An informal meal has been arranged at the David Garrick Steak Bar, St. Peter's Street, Hereford, costing 15/- to £1 a head. To reserve a place (enclose no monies) write immediately to Hon. Sec. Hereford Caving Club, 10 Glenmore, Ross Rd., Hereford, reservations to arrive by 3rd May.

Field meetings on Sunday 9th have been arranged to Agen Allweyd, Clydach Area, Clydach Gorge and possibly a coach trip to the Wye Valley, full details at meeting.

Hon. Secrerary P.D.M.H.S.

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