

NORTHERN CAVERN AND MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY.
-NEWS LETTER. MEETS LIST. AND SEPARATE REPORT OF THE A.G.M.1971.

NEWS LETTER NO 2. APRIL 1971.

First let me warn you all, THE REINS ARE NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE FAIR SEX. SO WATCH IT.

Mrs Jean Dixon, is now President Elect for the year 1971. Our very first Female President, and I hope not the last.

Jean is well known for her work in Bio- Spelaeological circles and has a third share in the Springs Wood Level, which is as you know the first underground Research Station in England devoted to the study of the Fauna of the Dark Zones.

PAST ACTIVITIES.

The Postal strike left us all with a feeling of isolation, no news coming in, nothing going out. The Meets List already curtailed has gaps where permission could not be obtained, so please note the revised list enclosed.

MATLOCK MEET.

Reports say this was a good one, marred by a very small turn out of members. We seem to be shy of Derbyshire perhaps due to the many tales of irate Landowners in those parts, members who did attend enjoyed this meet, organised and led by Richard (DICKY) Bird, of Sheffield.

MON GO GILL.

This meet nearer home was well attended, one member arrived rather early, one week to early, this turned out to be a true example of a member getting Fleeced, his wife bought a Sheep-Skin rug, with his money, no Meet, he arrived at DPs home Spitting-Sparks.

CAVE RESEARCH GROUP.

The C.R.G. meeting held at Leicester was devoted to the Theme "CAVES, Their origins and development" Eight papers were presented on this subject, which in one session was rather hard going. One of the worst faults was that some of the Speakers were inaudible, perhaps some thought could be given to some mild form of speech amplification at future functions (this moan was also heard after our own Conference at Skipton.)

It was noted that all lectures were taped as was also Q&A Time, a good idea, if after the Editor has done with them, they can be borrowed, one Lecture in particular, (SOME PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN THE STUDY OF THE CHEMISTRY OF SOLUTION) could best be assimilated by group discussion round a tape recording.

This year marks the 25th Birth day of C.R.G. The northern meeting will be held at Whernside Manor, Dent, on June 19th to be followed by one of the three celebration Birthday dinners to be held this year, overnight accommodation can be obtained at the Manor. At the time of writing how ever details are not available, so

members will have to keep in touch, via telephone, to K. Walls, or Overdale Hotel, Friday nights. Unless I get a last minute Newsletter from C.R.G. that's all the information I can give you on this Dentdale Meet.

C.R.G.

Has anyone been interested in taking on the position as Regional Recorder for C.R.G? Give it some thought. The job will not consume a lot of time, for new finds, unrecorded findings can be listed at will. How about it.

Lectures.

One only this part of the year, and one Members Slide night. Mr. Ratcliffe, a new Member, lectured the Society members on his travels round the world. Speaking of his Find in Australia, which is now registered and waiting further investigation.

Members Slides.

Slides given by Ray Walls and John Dickinson. Both were of excellent quality and will be shown at the Society weekend in September, 2nd week, 12/13th Sept. Book this date, Skipton, The Dump. Full details later.

Publications.

All members should have received The Greenhow Mines Publication. If you have not, SHOUT, to J. M. Dickinson.

Memoirs for 1970. - Late due, in part to the production of the Greenhow Publication, and trouble with the new duplicator. However, the good news is that duplicating is now complete, so you will not have to wait very long now.

The increase in Postal Charges is going to present a considerable increase in dispatch of Publications, including Newsletter. An attempt will be made to include this with Memoirs, provided the overlap does not extend beyond the Meets List revision dates.

Positions Vacant.

Mr. J. M. Dickinson, Hon. Editor, is to relinquish the position at the year end 1971, at his own request. Do I hear any eager volunteers? The Committee have considered the suggestion from Mr. Dickinson that the position of Editor could, with advantage, be divided into

1. The Preparation & Production.
2. The Dispatch & Collection of Money.

As it is now, the job is too time consuming, unless you have a good deal of spare time.

Has anyone any suggestions to put to the Working Committee regarding this subject. Write D.P. if you can make any suggestion for Working Committee consideration.

Members Handbook.

Still a few on offer at 50 new pence. Members Only. With Contents. A Bargain! Delivered by hand on Meets. Write Norman Scarr, 4, Canada Drive, Rawdon, Leeds, Yorks.

Change of Address.

Notified to D. Platt, up to 17th April, 1971. All Officers please record.

Mr. Ralph A. Sutcliffe,
93, Halifax Road,
Nelson,
Lancs. Tel. Nelson 64615

Mr. John Hunter,
81, Acklam Avenue,
Grangetown,
Sunderland,
Co. Durham.

Mr. J. P. Cumpsty,
7, Ripon Avenue,
Skerton,
Lancaster.

NEW MEMBER

Joseph Alfred Lowther,
10, Crag View,
Cononley,
Via Keighley.

Library Additions.

No official list given from Librarian? One Publication has been purchased:- "A Fortune in Minerals" by Ian Iddriss, now in library.

Items from Members

1. A.E. & M. Cannell.

A Report on a visit to the Mines in Rundale in November, 1970

A traverse of all the mines was made taking in Threlkeld Side from Brownber Hill to the Upper Smelt Mill and the south side of the valley from there to the lime kiln at 1700'. In all, eighteen levels were located as follows:-

(1) Directly and considerably above the lower mill washing floor and easily seen from the south track. It can be followed for 45 yards to a collapse.

(2) A little higher and to the east of the above level. It ends in a forehead at 16 yards. Neither of the above two levels seems to be mentioned in Dunham's Geology of the Northern Pennine Orefield, Vol. 1. The heaps, however, yield good quality barite and thus it is possible that they reach the western continuation of Barrow's vein. There is also evidence of open working on the fell breast above them.

(3) Low down the fell at about 1475', an obvious entrance from which a sizeable stream emerges. This is probably Threlkeld Low Level and is cut in shaly limestone. The crumbling walls have caused deep water to back up for some twenty yards and therefore a drainage operation was begun. The lateness of the hour, however, precluded awaiting the finished result and a further visit is needed.

(4) A few yards below (3). A narrow and old level which ends almost immediately in a fall.

(5) About half way up the first of the two obvious gullies which seam Threlkeld Side. The level appears to be Threlkeld Side mine and closes in a fall at 56 yards. A 4" coal seam is encountered in the roof near the fall. The upper part of the gully has been worked open right to the ridge.

(6) The Robinson limestone level at 1635'. The entrance is walled and inside the level goes through poor ground, roof falls impeding progress. At 51 yards, a chamber caused by a roof fall can be entered but the way on is barred by a jumble of boulders. The level appears to end about 20 yards beyond the boulders.

(7) The Smiddy limestone level at 1720'. The entrance involves a squeeze. At 20 yards, the level divides, each branch ending in a fall, the left hand at 10 yards, and the other at 5 yards.

(8) Dobson's Vein level at 1750'. A low entrance leads to a watery level which ends at 29 yards in a forehead.

(9) The Melmerby Scar Limestone level. Closed.

(10) There are no more levels on the north side of the valley and one can descend at the last level to the track on the opposite side of which is the tip from the Robinson limestone level. It is not accessible.

(11) Dufton Low level. This follows a curving course through Hard Ark vein and Barrow's vein and eventually closes in a collapse at 189 yards. It contains a good deal of water.

(12) Dobson's Hush level. An active stream emerges from this mine and it requires wading. A total fall brings it to an end at 45 yards.

(13) At the Upper Mill washing floor, the level below the Jew limestone goes in for 23 yards to a collapse.

(14) A little above the above level. Finishes at 16 yards in a roof fall.

(15) Atkinson's level. The main mine in the area and immediately adjacent to the Upper Mill. An active streamway. After 134 yards of wading, a branch bears off to the N.E. and the main level ends in a massive fall at 203 yards. Water springs from the fall at roof level and thus digging would be a difficult proposition. The branch contains deep water and leads to a rise at the head of which is an angled wooden ladder from the rungs of which dangles a rope. It clearly leads into the flats above on Dobson's vein in the Tynebottom limestone. This tempting morsel, however, lies only two to three feet below the stope deads and a careful inspection revealed that the horizontal support woods had lost their end props, the latter having fallen away. It was not explored. Since Atkinson's level gave access to over a mile of flats and almost $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of levels, entry by the shaft referred to under (16) below may be a worthwhile proposition.

(16) The London Lead Co.'s level at 2040'. The most interesting exploration, some 560 yards in length and with two side levels. The workings have broken into natural solution passages in the Scar limestone in several places, especially on Hard Ark vein. Both branches at the end reach foreheads and both contain a very compact coal seam, 9" in thickness. At 310 yards from the portal, a shaft descends into the flats on the Tynebottom limestone horizon. It appears to be in sound condition and may provide a way into the Atkinson mine complex (supra).

(17) High in the South Hush, an old level goes in 21 yards to a fall.

(18) A little above (17). It goes 16 yards to a collapse.

All the veins have been worked on their backs at altitude as far as the ridge and an inspection of all these workings was carried out. Everything is closed except for a shaft at 2150 feet which descends to White Rake vein in Atkinson's level and seems to be in good condition. A level some way below it is apparently connected with it but turns out not to be. It is old and narrow and can be waded for 67 yards to a fall. It is almost certainly a coal level mining the seam found in the 2040' level (supra).

More Progress on the Escarpment

In the course of several visits, further exploration has been carried out in the Escarpment area, east of the Eden valley. The following mines have been inspected:-

Cabbish Mine worked Cabbish Vein and Parlour Vein some three miles E.N.E. of Brough. It is the southernmost working in the area and best reached up the rough track past Dummah Crag. The level mouth is walled but a collapse of the roof a few feet back gives access. The passage is blocked completely at 51 yards and is fully arched throughout except for an occasional section of half arching where sound wall rock permits. It is somewhat and the footing is in 9" of mud and water. The collapse can be traced on the surface at the western end of old grass covered vein back workings which extend N.E. as far as the lane. Beyond, an occasional bell pit marks the forehead area.

Augill Mines. These workings are located a little over a mile East of Brough. The ore was obtained from opencast workings in the main, most of which are now grassed over. Two filled in bell pits close to the road appear to have been sunk as trials. Washings and sortings can be seen 3/4 mile to the south but the remains of the old crushing mill were not definitely identified.

Carry Band Mine. Three E-W veins on the N.W. side of Carry Band have been worked for barytes. Opencasting has been carried out over the whole length, the middle one being the most productive and extending to the edge of the escarpment. Specimens of galena are also present on the heaps. The ground to the N.E. falls steeply and the veins crop out. Here, on the middle one, a level with a timbered entrance in dangerous condition goes seven yards to a forehead in good quality barite. The cheek of the centre vein is exposed along the whole length of an E-W scarp above Swindale Beck.

Raven Beck Mine at the northern end of the area. Three veins occur in a very isolated position at the head of Raven Beck, E.N.E. of Renwick. Only one appears to have been worked and a small area of disturbed ground near to the stream is all that can now be seen. A level a little way to the S.E. may not be connected with these veins since it seems to be driven into the Coal Sills above the Great Limestone. It can be followed for 11 yards to a fall. The sills have been well worked for coal on the breast of the fell between here and Loo Gill. All the levels are closed except one which can be entered for 20 yards to a collapse.

Loo Gill Mines. Four veins on the north side of and close to the road over Hartside Pass have yielded considerable quantities of ore until quite recent times. The principal mine, Harrison Adit, which cross cuts all the veins, is open but heavily timbered and the exploration was eventually abandoned in very bad ground. The 1695' level on Daffenside Vein and level

in the Great Limestone on Loo Gill No. 1 vein were not located. Both are presumed closed and buried.

One of the two levels on the Rowten Beck Vein is still open but only for eleven yards. The other level was not found and may well be covered by later surface workings of which there are many, some of more recent vintage than others. The most recent (by Laporte's) is interesting and yields good samples. Higher up the fell the veins are lightly open worked.

Gamblesby Fell Mine on the south side of the road, two veins carry barytes and some open-cutting has been done. Good specimens are available on the dumps. The larger and northern fault crosses the Alston road some 300 yards east of the summit cafe and a level south of the road cross cuts it. It is in good condition and has been explored for 120 yards to deep mud and requires a further visit.

Knock Ore Gill Mine. Four small veins have been surface worked between the Knock Ore Gill and the Knock Fell ridge. All the workings are old, closed and well grassed over.

2. Robert Guthrie.

A Report of the Teesside Industrial Archaeology Group's Visit to Low Worsall near Yarm on 13th June, 1970. is duplicated with their kind permission.

N.Z.395103. In the river bank alongside the Low Worsall Pumping Station the lowest course of Peirse Borough Quay can be seen at low water. This was set up in 1753 along with a warehouse by Richard and Robert Peirse to serve as a port for the agricultural hinterland. It became important as a port for shipment of lead from the Yorkshire Dales and copper from Middleton Tyas. The Lead trade ceased in 1820. The remainder of the quay was used to build Worsall Church in 1893. A small brick building remains. This has a wide stone arched doorway and may have been the lead store. A pig of lead was found during the excavation of the foundations of the pumping station.

On the trackway down to the quay on either side is roughened ground where once stood the cottages set up to house the fishermen who found employment at Peirseborough, also Peirseborough Grange, a fine brick house which was once the public house.

The above report caused me to read about this trade and the following synopsis is the result.

1182 Yarm was shipping lead if not even in Roman times.

1732 Richard and Thomas Peirse Began building a stone quay, a granery, warehouses and a row of cottages near the river close to Low Worsall. It became known as Peirceburg, borough, brough according to the whim or ability of the writer and was at the upper limit of the navigable River Tees, 26 miles in those days from the river mouth and $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 miles West of Yarm which until 1758 had the nearest bridge to the sea. The intention was to save 4 miles of land haulage from goods produced West of Yarm. Thomas Carver a grocer of Northallerton saved 1d. per cwt. Thomas Lumbley of Bedale had a saving of £4 per year. Farmers also found they could save time and make extra journeys in the day. Robert Maltas a carrier of Cowton saved 1s 1d. per fother. It cost 6s. per fother from Cowton to Low Worsall, 5d. for loading and water carriage to Yarm but by road all the way was 7/6d. In the winter season of 1733 he employed 30 horses to transport lead to Peirceburg but only 2 boats were needed for each load.

In 1738 the Peirces lost litigation over wayleave and of tracking along the river bank and the partnership between the brothers was dissolved. Thomas still controlled the Peirceburg trade but Richard left £4,000 invested. The initial outlay was about £1,200 but the building account reached £3,999. 7. Od. by 1740.

Tracking caused law suits in 1754, but not until 1757 did Thomas Peirce get a verdict in his favour.

Trade volume was at its best in the 1750s when 3 boats described as "round bottomed", "lowering masts", "about 20 tons burthen" were owned apart from the "Cumberland" of 40 tons burthen and smaller privately owned cobbles all using Peirceburg Quay.

£500 duty on salt alone was paid in some years of the 1740s. Timber was cut and rafted downriver.

In 1749 Thomas Peirce shipped from Stockton (the Customs Point) 104 tons of lead to Amsterdam but this was only 1% of the lead for foreign ports leaving Stockton.

1752 Thomas Peirce loaded the brig Wilmington with copper ore for Chepstow.

Of the 153 tons of copper ore, probably from Middleton Tyas area 10 miles West of Worsall, exported from Stockton, 108 tons were loaded at Peirceburg and shipped by Thomas Peirce.

In 1752, 3,197 tons of lead left the Tees. Peirceburg claimed £1,100 turnover in the 1750s hey-day but 1771 is often said to close Yarm as a port as even on the Spring tides only 8' of water could be relied upon.

Thomas Peirce died in Nov. 1771 and his son was declared bankrupt

in 1778, assets only £33,000 with a deficit of £56,000.

The lead trade and others still used Peirceburg and in 1801 Richard Alderson, a lead carrier took a 10yr. lease on the wharf.

1808, Peter Denys, whose lead from Swaledale had been loaded for a number of years at Peirceburg, bought the estate.

1810. He sold the Hall and grounds at a profit but kept the right to use the shipping staithes.

1814. 3d. per pig of lead charged for transport by water from Low Worsall to Stockton. 6d. Per pig wharfage charged at either Yarm or Worsall. Road charge Richmond to Low Worsall 1s.3d. per pig.

1818 5,000 pieces of lead in store at Low Worsall, probably to save flooding the lead market on insufficient water in the river.

1893 the stones of the quay were used to build Worsall Church. The Tees valley Water Board built a pumping station on the site which revealed further buildings.

Scottish Law - 1606 Act.

The Industrial Relations Bill, will this year be made Law, to the dismay of some and the relief of others.

It is to be hoped that this new Act will be more lenient than the Act of 1606, Scottish Law, part of which is reproduced below, from the Records of the Glasgow Speleological Society:-

"The position of those employed in collieries and salt works has often been noticed. That it was, in fact, a sort of slavery cannot be doubted. Though "neyfship" or serfdom died out in Scotland in the fourteenth century - the last claim proved being in 1364 - compulsory service was known long afterwards. Vagrants and sturdy beggars were obliged to find a master, or be liable to pains and penalties. And, in 1606, it was enacted that no person should fee or engage any colliers, coal-bearers, or salters, without a testimonian from their last master, showing a reasonable cause for their removing; and if any one engaged them without such certificate, the master from whom they had deserted could claim them within a year and a day, and they had to be given back within twenty-four hours, under pain of a hundred pounds damages. The deserting workers were to be punished as thieves.

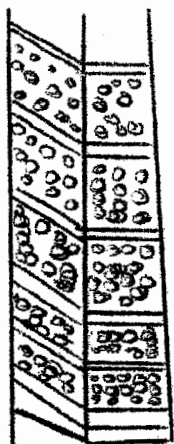
Leadhills Library.

This Library, founded in 1741, contains a true Miners Library, and not, as with other collections at that time, a library for the rich and scholar. An Inspector of Mines reported early in the last century that he found even the poorest miners in the village, with only an earth floor to their cottages and only heather to lie on, could read and write and had a few library books on the shelf. The old library is then a wonderful monument to the interests and aspirations of the Leadhills miners, and should be a matter for pride and concern of all interested in Scotland. Lanarkshire County Council are going to restore "sometime" this library building but deterioration is going on unchecked as of now.

We hope to meet some of the Glasgow Society on our Meet to Leadhills, where the Hon. Sec. G.S.S. Mr. S. F. Thomson and Mr. Bill Harvey have cottages. Overflows on this Meet can use the Y.H.A. (Scottish) or Camp Sites are available. They promise us an interesting w/end. (See Meets list).

A recent find by Glasgow Speleological Society has been a positive identification of roost of Daubentons bats at an altitude of 1400 ft. These were first seen by G.S.S. and Bill Harvey, Chairman, was contacted by Mr. C. Placido of the Nature Conservancy, Loch Lomond, who has been studying Daubentons bats in the area. A positive identification was made at this site in the Leadhills area.

Glengonnar Copper Mine.



The sketch represents a shaft in one of the lower levels, which is arranged with rubble packed in a frame arrangement to occupy about half the available space in the shaft. The system is intriguing as any advantage over not having to cart the spoil to the surface for disposal, would be overcome by the work of constructing the framework to support the waste entirely on one wall of the shaft. As the retaining spars are 2-3 feet apart, it is unlikely to have been used as a chute. The waste can be seen to extend for about 60 feet up the shaft, and must have presented a considerable hazard to the miners of the day. The support is entirely by stemples in one wall, and it appears surprising that this can retain the material. Should the structure collapse, it is certain to seal the shaft and workings beyond it.

Comments or theories on this are welcomed from anyone.

These extracts are reproduced from the Newsletters of the Glasgow

Speleological Society, the Hon. Sec. of which invites correspondence with interested members to: Mr. Strachan Thomson, 120, Lochlea Rd., Newlands, Glasgow, S.3.

Chairman of G.S.S. : Mr. Bill Harvey, A.M.I.Mech.E., 23, Orleans Ave. Glasgow, W.4.

William Pengelly Cave Studies Trust Ltd.

An appeal from the current newsletter for items for their "Studies in Speleology" from British members, should be of interest to members.

Vol. 2, Part 3, is now with the printers - publication should be in July 1971. (See our Library for past editions).

Items dealing with History of Caving Organisations, Old Mine Workings, Sea Caves, would be most welcome. Send to: Dr. A. J. Sutcliffe, c/o Palaeontology, British Museum (Nat.Hist.), Cromwell Rd. London S.W.7.

Dr. Sutcliffe is one of the Founder Members of our Northern Cavern & Mine Research Society, always ready to give us help with our Cave Finds, so, come on Members, or Readers from other Clubs, can you supply anything!

Items for William Pengelly newsletter to: W.R.G. Maxwell, 12, Heybridge Drive, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex.

The William Pengelly open day at the centre (Devon) will be held on 11th Sept. from 2.30 p.m. Society members, as a member club may attend.

New Finds

Craven Pothole Club Have extended Cherry Tree Hole, Darnbrook Fell, through the Boulder Fall into some well decorated space. Note: This system is not very safe.

Earby Pothole Club have a nice new find on their hands, a reported 1500 ft. of new passage, and they think a new stream. Details are not official yet, so am not at liberty to state where.

Earby have also sent bones from Digs to me for identification and recording via John Wilcox (2 sites) - these are now in the pipeline. One has been fully identified and recorded to John.

News Letter.

Members are thanked for the welcome reports and items sent in, further items are needed, have YOU the time?.

Send to, D. Platt.

II, Neville ST,
Skipton,
W, Yorks.
BD23 2EU.

Late details are now available from C R G as follows,
Lecture subjects will be; "Caves of Ethiopia and East Africa"
Dr.A.J.Sutcliffe.

"1970 Nepal Expedition"
Dr.A.C. Waltham.

"Recent Hydrological Work in the
Craven Area."
Dr. A.F. Pitty.

Venue Whernside Manor,Dent, Yorks. Saturday - Sunday 19-20 June.
This will be a full week-end event, with exclusive use of
the Manor Friday to Sunday evening, and a licenced bar will
be laid on after the Dinner on Saturday.

Members should contact D.P. for Booking Forms late May when these
available.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT.

The promised Report,s are not available as yet,
nor are any further Meet Details,except the May 9th, meet.

MEETS LIST,(This will be added to with A.G.M. report

May 16th.General Meeting,at the Overdale Hotel, Skipton. 2PM.

May 19th. Boulby Grange,nr Staithes, East Yorks.

Meet N.G.R.76I 189.1/e West of STAITHES, on the
A174 road from LOFTUS. Sunday, 11-30.

Leader,R.G.Guthrie. NOTE, No Children may be brought on
this Meet, due to the dangers on site.

May 23th, Alum Pot, Leader, N. Scarr. Horton, 10-30.

May 30th, Leadhills Area. Scotland.

Some members will leave on Friday night,so ,
details will be left at or in the Hopetoun Hotel,
Main ST, Leadhills Villace,as to where members are to
stay, The Hon Sec Glasgow Spelaeological Society,
has also an address in Leadhills, which is no 11,
Lowther View.

Some Subscriptions for 1971, are still outstanding,?????
