



NEWSLETTER

NORTHERN CAVERN & MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY.

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SOCIETY NEWS.

I -SAFETY UNDERGROUND.

The Memoirs contain a code of conduct for the guidance of all, who attend our Meets, this article, and these notes are a direct result of the complaint laided before the last general committee meeting, that the conduct of Members underground was on the whole poor, and could if not checked, result in an accident.

As a result of this, all persons on Meets can expect to be checked by the appointed leader to ensure that he, or she is fully equipped.

Which means in effect, you are expected to carry spare lights, a supply of concentrated food, and liquid, and moreover to be warmly clad. Footware is of the utmost importance, it is not good enough to wear boots which are dropping to bits, a good foot-hold is essential at all times, the most important time is when the risk is greatest- UNDERGROUND.

The following note on Safety were submitted by, Mr M, Gill, Dated May 1972.

HOW ABOUT SOCIETY SAFETY?

Some concern has been expressed at the apparent contempt for even elementary safety on Society underground meets. The use of a life line is shunned, and if one is used it is seldom that the life liner is belayed. This is the responsibility of the meet leader, who is covered by Item 8 of the Constitution.

Mining Meets are often ill equipped for an emergency, items like a shovel food, candles, and matches are a must.

If a roof fall should occur in most Craven Mines it would most probably only cover a small area. This could most probably be cleared by our own efforts, if the fall is a long one, you would have pushed your luck in bad ground, and it will require a Full rescue team of expert tunnelers, not even the highly commendable C.R.O. or U.W.F.R.A. could reach you in time..

A common misconception that the levels in Limestone are safe, are held by many, the levels are made by blasting, and this must leave a weak area around their periphery. In thin bedded limestones this could have formed blocks, which can and do, work loose over the years. Mines in shales give more obvious dangers, here shale beds slump and separate to form a natural arch of unstressed rock, which if unsupported creates a real hazard. The size of this zone depends on the inclination, regularity, of the beds, and the size of the excavation. Near the vein the zone will increase rapidly due to the mining and the disruption of the area.

Shales and grits also present the additional hazard of Carbon-Dioxide in workings. Sumps, shafts, and fore-heads are all likely reservoirs for this unseen danger.

Luckily lead mines are practically free from Methane, however if members feel the urge to enter any of the Dales Coal Pits the

Society Flame safety lamps should be used, (A N.C.B. paper on the the care and use of the safety lamp is lodged in the Society Library for your use).

2 -SOCIETY TROPHYS 1972.

Several members have expressed in the past the opinion, that after twelve years of existence, it is time the Society had some token by which an acknowledgement could be made of individual members' efforts in the work undertaken by the Society. With this in mind the following trophies have been donated,

THE FOUNDERS TROPHY.

9 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch E.P.N.S. Cup with lid and plinth, inscribed Donated by J.M. Dickinson Esq.

This will be awarded, to be held for twelve months, to the member who by service to the Society or by individual project, has contributed to the aims of the NORTHERN CAVERN and MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY.

THE GOLDEN CHICKEN AWARD.

A gold coloured fowl on natural wooden plinth. Inscribed Donated by J.C. WADE. D. GRIFFIN. J. GOLEBY. J.M. DICKINSON. J. LOWTHER. R. WALLS. K. WALLS.

This Trophy will be awarded to the member who by act of ineptitude, drops the biggest 'Clanger' on any Society Meet, be it private or official.

In both cases it has been decided that the President of the year shall be the sole judge of to whom the awards are presented. This decision shall not be made known until the Presentation at the Annual dinner.

Members are invited to send their recommendations direct to the President of the year at any time before the dinner.

The Presidents comment on the Golden Chicken Award is, Help, so far I am the principle contender for the biggest clanger, get me off the HOOK, please by sending your nominations to, The Golden Chicken Award, 11 Neville St, Skipton.

3 - SOCIETY EVENTS, PUBLIC LECTURES.

JANUARY, the year started for us with an excellent lecture given by Mr Geoff Workman of Greenhow, who related his story of his stay down Stump Cross Caverns, a most interesting tale this proved to be of such interest that the question time and lecture time were equal. A well delivered account of a scientific investigation of use to any group of cavers who intend to stay underground for any length of time. We now know that the 24 hour cycle will be the norm underground when isolated from any surface contact, if a rigid code of self discipline is imposed. A further bonus from this stay underground was the Observations of Bats, this article, first hand detailed account of some of the flight patterns is most interesting and will be in this years Memoirs. (1972)

FEBRUARY Lecture.

Again a non member, Mr David Carlisle of the Earby Mines Research Group lectured the Society. Practical Aspects of Dales Mining, was the subject title, it was noted that the the audience came from as far apart as Teeside, Swaledale, Dewsbury, and the Lancaster areas, and that on a night that was working very hard at being winter. Unfortunately, D.P. missed the talk due to a mix up with the projector, so am unable to give a report.

March Lecture. (members Only)

The Caves of the Birkwith Area, Delivered by Mr D.T. Richardson in his usual style, with the Sundays Meet at Birkwith, the talk was intended to introduce members to the area and acquaint them with the holes, streams, and sinks to be seen. A good lecture which proved its worth on the Sunday meet.

4 - Society Meets.

So far the poor weather has not deterred the active members from attending the official meets programme. All seem to be well supported.

The new ladders purchased this year have being put to good use.

All members have this year received a Meets List on a printed card, the result of some determined driving last year by Doug Richardson, who took this chore over, the end result is that again we have a meets list which we can consult easily, a most satisfactory piece of work, the only change to this list as printed will be the date of the 'TALK IN' which will now take place in October, starting Friday night, the 6th to Sunday the 8th. Full details of this later, (see enclosed form with this N/L). This change is due to again a clash of date with the B.S.A. Conference, this we were aware of, when the meets list was in the melting pot, but as the venue had being given as Bristol, it was thought that members would prefer to miss this one out, however, the venue is now to be Sheffield University, Sept 8th to 10th.

A quite different state of affairs, as these w/end events are well worth attending. At the last one at Leeds, a request to

the floor, as to how the future Conference could best meet the needs of the Pot-Holing world, had three proposals, the last one, by Mr D.T. Richardson was adopted, and this if put into practice will most certainly enhance this years meeting.

Meet Report, Leader Mike Gill.

FAGGER GILL MINE and Area. 21 members and guests turned out and were accommodated to their tastes on Fagger Gill Moor. 12 persons visited Sloat Hole Mine and spent an afternoon trying to find out where the lead was? Others tried the Middle and High Level, the latter being a crawl over pebbles washed in by the surface stream, it was not pushed so very far. One member descended a very deep natural shaft, well defended by water, and provided amusement to the very dry surface party who were busy making and breaking dams in the surface stream.

Future Meet, Leadhills Scotland.

First, please note, Mr Strachen Thomson is no longer Hon Sec of the Glasgow Speleological Soc, please do not use his address as printed in the Meets List, Mr Bill Harvey, sending details of this meet, has arranged that his own cottage at, 48, Ramsey Road, Leadhills, will be the Meet H.Q. with the proviso that car parking should be down Ramsey Rd, AWAY FROM the COTTAGES. Suggested programme-Camping, around the ELVAN WATER, along the road from the old viaduct, or a site in the village by arrangement. Saturday, surface tour of the celebrated water systems of Wanlockhead, and a look in a level.

Sunday, down to Barjarg limestone mines, waterwheel and a bank of kilns etc, Monday is not a public holiday in Scotland so a free day to do as you wish.

Leadhills library is now open to the public, and arrangements will be made to have this open for an hour or two on the Sat night if at all possible.

5 ANNUAL DINNER.

Annual Dinner 1972.

Will this year be held at the Overdale Hotel, Skipton, on Sat October 7th 1972.

6 -RETIRING OFFICERS

Mr Norman Scarr, ex Treasurer, and Mr Leslie (Dusty) Miller, ex - Librarian, have both retired from office recently. Both have given a vast amount of time and energy to the Society, and are now able to catch up with neglected home affairs. We express our appreciation and sincere thanks for your fine work carried out for so long by you on our behalf.

7 - OFFICERS REPORTS.

The full report of the last General Meeting, of May 21st is not as yet available, with it seems every one busy with exams etc.

Some reports are however to hand, and these are reproduced.
RECORDER SWALEDALE. Mr R.G.Guthrie.

A Richmond Copper Miner, Mr Ned Close and his wife Evelyn celebrated their diamond wedding last month. Ned started working in the Mines in 1903 when he was 12 years old, leaving when flooding closed the mine some 8 years later. He claims the workings extended as drifts about 1½ miles into Hudswell Bank, but this seems very exaggerated owing to the small spoil tips in the area, after leaving the mines he went to work in the Cleveland Ironstone mines and then prospected for stone in the Wensleydale area.

Allenheads Mine, (British Steel).

Rapid progress is apparent in the erection of permanent office, shower, and ancillary buildings in the mine yard, the incline now has a cross cut which has intercepted Top level in the Gin Hill shaft area.

On Sunday, May 7th members of N.C.M.R.S. cleared a fall in the Top Level thereby extending it a further 100' to a further major fall. This extension revealed a portion of the horse-track going downwards for 120ft to a collapse caused by rotting timbers.

RECORDER GRAVEN DISTRICT and WENSLYDALE. Mr J.M.Dickinson.

ON the whole a satisfactory year, with a substantial amount of new material being added to the Records, this has enabled me to tie up some of loose ends on several projects which now should be ready for publication next year. This year we have two major projects in hand which if completed should prove to be of some importance. Information on the Wensleydale Mines is sparse, and further information is desired, members knowing of MSS sources or references, plans etc, are requested to inform me please.

PUBLICATIONS REPORT. Mr Peter Jackson.

The Society Memoirs for 1972 is in the press and if all arrangements go well, will appear before the end of July, Individual Survey Series No 6 is in the process of being typed, and will be issued after September. The title is 'THE TEIGN VALLEY LEAD MINES' by C.J.SCHMITZ, a historical survey and study of a group of mines in the East Devon. Although material is available for a further ISS and another is being written, this does not pledge the Editor to a fixed Publication programme. I would be interested to hear of any material which will be available within the next few months or next two years. In order to maintain a programme of at least two publications per year, I need to know of material which will come available. Similarly, material is needed for the 'Memoirs', particularly items of field work. Many members publish material in other journals in connection with their fieldwork, are associated with fieldwork written up elsewhere, and it would appear

have little inclination to publish in our own Memoirs, perhaps due to the differing circulation. The Society runs a full Meets programme yet very little seems to come from these meets in the way of Field Surveys, Field Reports, etc. The emphasis to the outside observer seems to be more on the actual visit than on any recording at the location. If the Society is to be true to its 'Research' title we must have some more research to show for it! Publications depend on subscribers to be viable, and the subscribers will soon stop buying if there is no content to our Memoirs, or if an edition fails to appear if the Editor has nothing to put in it. If you have any articles, suggestions, or comments, please contact me now. Mr Peter Jackson,

c/o Geology Dept,
Sheffield University,
Mappin St,
Sheffield, S1-3JD.

TREASURERS REPORT. MISS J. GOLEBY.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD JAN 1st to MAY 21st, 1972

Subscriptions	138.61	David & Charles journals	5.00
Metal Badges	2.25	Advert Craven Herald Lecture	1.13
Monies towards Trophy	1.04	Metal Badges	11.39
Profit A.G.M. Raffle	2.20	William Pengelly	2.00
Cash in Hand.	3.89	B.S.A.	2.25

Presidents Plaque	1.50
Roneo Ltd	2.99
Intercom	4.00
J.M. Dickinson Wharfedale plan	4.02
Meets Cards.	4.93
	39.21

Surplus of receipts over payments	108.8
	147.99

	147.99
Less Expenditure	39.21
	108.78

Less Subscriptions paid in 1971 for 1972.	14.50
	94.28

Less Treasurers Expenses	5.50
	88.78

General Account Bank Statement to date.	£232.54.
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Publications	£120.75
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Treasurers Expenses as at 17.2.72.	1.45
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Lecture advert paid to D.P.	0.75
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H/Book folder posted,	0.25
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Miscellaneous Post to Editor,	0.21
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Newsletter Postage,	2.00
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Meets Cards to Members,	.84
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	5.50
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Treasurer and Membership, Cont,
Membership for the part of 1972 stood at 60 full members, 3 Hon
Members, 8 Student and 16 Family Members. 10 new Members were welcomed
to the Society.

LIBRARIANS REPORT. Mr J. Lowther.

Members are requested to note the change of Officer for this Dept
and to note well the change of address, why not make a record of
this change on your Library List, in doing so make a resolve to make
more use of the service offered from this branch of the Society.
It is a rather costly item, and is provided for your use.
Certain publications are in danger of getting lost, after a prolonged
period of loan, I request the return of all outstanding loans and in
particular the prompt return of Adam Brunskill by Thomas Armstrong,
Thank You, Mr J. Lowther.

10 Crag View,
Cononley,
via Keighley,
West Yorks.

P.R.O. & NEWSLETTER EDITOR. D. PLATT.

Family illness and the introduction of three shift working disrupted
the first part of the year for me, the affairs of the Society
were rather neglected.

This is the second issue from this department this year, the first
dealt with the report of the A.G.M. of February this year.

Due to a lack of a Meets List last year, an extra News Letter was
produced to cover this omission, the publication dates we set our-
selves for the Newsletter, are 15th March, 15th June, 15th Sept,
and if material and funds are plentiful the 10 December.

A successful attempt to reduce the cost of producing the N/L
has been made this year, last year the Library List for example
with spares for new members cost over £14.

Requests from overseas for exchange publications are a
constant embarrassment, we just cannot provide any more free issue
publications, nor is it our wish to cause offence by ignoring or
refusing exchange. With this in mind a move has been made to
cater for overseas would-be readers, by an extra class of Member-
ship. This was approved at the last full General Meeting of the
Committee and I trust will provide us with both a source of
revenue and goodwill, the floating of the £ will make our offer
even more attractive.

An extra field of activities has been covered with the
Skipton Scout Group who let us use the Scout H.Q. for our meetings
we have taken very junior members, of the troop underground for
the purpose of passing the Speliological Badge, a further meet
in this series has been arranged for the W/End of Aug 27
Camping at Buckden, under the Leadership of Mr R. WALLS.
This means that an Official Society Code for this field of
activities must be given earnest consideration, we are fortunate that

we have in our members Caving Instructors who will no doubt advise us.

We as a Society have tended to leave the Council of Northern Caving Clubs, to get on with the business of arranging access permission, in view of the rate at which areas of permission are now getting a refusal of access, it was decided to send our Reps on a long over due visit. Mr C. Wade and Mr R. Walls, attended the last meeting, and in view of the last caving FIASCO, our attention must be directed to questions of access to caves and mines. It is quite wrong to allow speliological delinquents to carry on in such a manner as to get whole areas put out of bounds, such conduct must be stopped. Any action directed by the N.C.C.C. to discipline these persons must have our support.

8 -SINGING RIVER MINE.

The buetin of the Westminster Spelio Group Vol 7 No7 contains this report, The Axbridge Caving Club has reopened a very important calamine mine dating back to the 19th century. Approximate length is 2000' with a 100 ft pitch and a lake. This mine 'Singing River Mine' is located at, N.G.R. ST.4447-5736. The key is obtainable from Mr George Thiery, The Square, Shipham, on Saturdays only. A small charge is made. 40ft of ladder is required and belay for entrance.

9 - MINING NEWS.(Mike Gill)

COLLIERY CLOSURES.

Medomsley Colliery, North Durham area.	Exhausted.	
Shotton Colliery South Durham area	Exhausted.	
Manor Powis.	Scottish North,	Exhausted. (SEPT 72)
Thornhill Colliery Yorkshire,	Exhausted.	

Mining news.P.Jackson.

Acmin Exploration have acquired prospecting rights to Loch Naver and Rosehall in North Scotland.

N.C.B. (N.E.AREA) ceased production at Silksworth Colliery on 5.II.71.

Thyssen,s reported to be projecting drilling at Godolphin., between Penzance and Helston.

Cammock Eals, weardale reported to have been taken over by Star Aluminium Co.

10 -SHORT REVIEWS

The Tamat Valley:Its Railways and Individual Archaeology.W.J.Wren. David & Charles, Newton-Abbot, 1968.

Approximately half of this book deals with the lead, slate, and granite and phosphate workings around the area of Llangynog, Central Wales. It is well illustrated with sketch maps and photographs and consists mainly of site description. One wonders if the

writer has followed up some of the possible information sources on history, but as far as the book goes it is well done.

MINING IN THE EAST MIDLANDS. 1550-1947. A. R. GRIFFIN.

Frank Cass and Co 1971.

The title for this book is a misnomer: it should have been titled 'Coal mining trade unions in the Vicinity of Nottingham, 1850-1950. There are however some interesting illustrations of early shaft headgear which suffer from being almost unprintable photographs. Don't buy this one: use your local library.

II - NEWS OF OTHERS. 24:7:72:

CAVE RESEARCH GROUP.

Sorry nothing to tell you, regarding future or past events. No incoming information from this source, other than the Northern Meeting invitation, to Deny.

WILLIAM PENGELLY CAVE STUDIES TRUST LTD;

Plenty of contact from this end of England, Devon, and London. A very full summer programme for members and member clubs, some of our members paid a visit to the open day at the centre, Newsletters, Publications of a very high quality, in our Library. More of this Group in next newsletter.

BRITISH SPELIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

Nothing final has so far emerged from the meeting between B.S.A. & C.R.G. who are planning a merger. As a member club of B.S.A. we attend at times Northern Meets. of the Settle Group, BSA. subject to of course room for us on any meet, members should always arrange with Pete Comer prior to the meet and not just roll up.

B.S.A. MEETS. SETTLE GROUP.

20th Aug, 72.	Gaping Gill.
21st Sept	Mere Gill.
22 Oct,	Lost Johns.
26th Nov,	Outsleets Beck.

Members who wish to attend these, or any BSA, meet are advised to write to Mr P. Comer.

77 Church St,
Ainsworth,
nr Bolton,
Lancs.

Enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

BSA CONFERENCE. 1972, THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD UNION.PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

SATURDAY, 9th SEPTEMBER

10.00a.m. Opening of Conference.

10-15a.m. T.C. Atkinson Geology of cavernous limestones.

Coffee.

11-45a.m. D.I. Smith. An outline of limestone geomorphology

1.00 p.m. Lunch.

2.00 p.m. J. Wilmut. Cave conservation--a lost cause?

Tea.

4.00.p.m. R.V. Davis. 'Caves and Caving' an educational film.

Dinner.

SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

10.00 .a.m. T. Gledhill. Aquatic animals in the subterranean habitat.

Coffee.

11.30a.m. M.D. Newson. Hydrology of limestone caves.

1.00.p.m. Lunch.

2.15.p.m. D. Cobley. The Marble Arch Systems.

Tea.

3.45.p.m. I.J. Standing. Accidents in caves and safety in disused mine workings.

4.45.p.m. Photo Salon Showing.

Closing of Conference.

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Prices.

Entrance to Lectures and copy of Proceedings £1-15

Lecture only 50p

Lecture only-under 18 years OR visitors, 25p

Meals. Booked and paid for in advance.

Saturday Lunch 50p

" " Dinner 55p

Sunday

Lunch (cold) 45p

Conference admission fees will be accepted at the door.

BOOKING.Should be made not later than 1st SEPTEMBER. to the Conference Secretary,

Dr. G. STEVENS.

4 KINGSTON AVE.

ACKLAM.

MIDDLESBROUGH TS-5 7RS.

CHEQUES should be made out to the , BRITISH SPELIOLOGICAL ASSn.

BSA.cont

Accommodation.

DETAILS OF HOTELS AND guest houses are available from Sheffield Civic Information Service, Central Library, Surrey St, Sheffield.I.

How to get there?

One map has been supplied, without it you seem to be sunk. Head on the A61 to the Royal Infirmary, coming from Leeds, and your not so far away, or request a map when booking, or see D.P. for a copy of the map.

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I2 -- General Secretary

Will all Members please note, Mr K.Walls has notified the following

Telephone Number change, now LEEDS, 666208.

Home Address, same, 33 Gledhow Avenue. Leeds, LS8-ILD:

This is for the Hon Sec K.Walls., and the Caving Officer and VICE PRESIDENT Mr R.Walls.

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I3 -INVENTORY OF SOCIETY PROPERTY.

The Committee ask all members to help in this respect by filling in, the form supplied for this purpose, and enclosed with this Newsletter. We ask you to fill and return to Mr K.Walls as soon as you can. Address as above;

I4 -TALK IN, (FORM)

Again in order to plan for this event, we must know how many members are interested, in the event of lack of entries, we would have to think about other ways of filling the W/End, or the advisability of making it a bi-annual event. Your comments and views on this or indeed any item of the years events are solicited. Please, let the General Secretary have your ideas for consideration. Do not forget also, that funds are to hand for members to use for the purchase of, Films, Tapes, Script typing, for any aspect of recording covered in the aims of the Society.

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I5 - CAMPING: SHEFFIELD AREA.

Latest mail from Peter Jackson, Venue Representative for the BSA. Conference as follows, There are plenty of Camp Sites around Castleton, which is about 1/2 hr from Sheffield. Rowter Farm, Top of Winnats pass, is good; Directions, leave Castleton on the Chapel-en-le-Frith road, up pass, and bear left at top, and then turn left in 200 yards through farm gate.

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Items for the next news letter, are always welcome;
Return address:

Mr D.Platt,
11, Neville St,
Skipton,
Yorks, Bd 23-2UE.