



NEWSLETTER

Northern Cavern & Mine Research Society.

Notice of Annual General Meeting.

~~Notice of Subscription now due, for 1974.~~

All members, other than Associate members, are reminded that subscription for the year 1974, are now over due for payment.

The subscription rates are as detailed below.

Ordinary(Full)Members(18 yrs and over)	£2-0p
Junior Member,(15 to 18yrs of age)	£1-0p.
Student Member,Bona-Fhidefull time student.	£1-0p.
Family Member,	£0-50p.
Overseas Members,	£2-50p.

Members who do not pay their subscriptions promptly may experience delays in the receipt of Society notices, publications.etc.

Please attend to this matter without delay, postal charges make the sending out of reminders an expensive burden.

As this notice is sent out for and on behalf of the Treasurer please disregard this notice, if you have paid.

Return address of the Hon Membership Secretary & Treasurer.

Mrs.Jennifer Griffin,
19,Westfield Terrace,
Baildon,
nr Shipley,
Yorkshire. BD 17- 5EY.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

To be held at the Scout HQ, behind the Devonshire Hotel, Skipton, Yks.
at 14-00hrs Feb 10th 1974.

As this notice is sent too late, please send any nominations for election to the Hon Sec, Mr.K.Walls, at once, or put them on the table, prior to the opening of the meeting.

Return address of Secretary: Mr.K.Walls, A.C.I.S.

33, Gledhow Avenue,
Leeds, LS8- 1 LD.

Tel No, 666208.

NORTHERN CAVERN AND MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY.

NEWSLETTER NO 1. JANUARY 1974.

MEMBERSHIP.

WE EXTEND A WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY,
LISTED BELOW, AND TRUST WE SHALL ALL BENEFIT FROM THIS NEW ASSOCIATION.

HON MEMBERSHIP.

Mr William Shaw, "Dawthwaite", Chestnut Hill, Keswick, Cumberland.

FULL MEMBERSHIP.

Mr G.D. Bainbridge, I, Ribchester Rd, Wiltshire, Blackburn, BBI, 9JH.

Mr J.M. Hussey, I, Helmsdale, New bridge Rd, Hull. E, Yorks.

Mr T.W. Edwards, MSc. II, Lower Barn Rd, Hudfield, Derbyshire.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP.

Mr Owen Baker, 36, Ponsonby Rd, Plymouth, Devon, PL7 4HP.

Mr S.T. Blenard, 4, Tenter Hill, Clayton, nr Bradford, W, Yorks.

The Manchester City Library. Lancs.

Mr D.G. Tucker, 26, Twatling Rd, Barnt Green, Birmingham, B45, 8HT,

Mr K.E. Watkinson, 30, Chestnut Rd, Mollington, nr Banbury, Oxon, OX17, 1BG.

Mr B.S. Whitley, 73, Northside Terr, Ildget Green, Bradford 7, W, Yorks.

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP.

P.M. Green, "Greenhowe" Cross Hills, via Keighley, W, Yorks.

MEMBERS CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Mr R.M. Chalmers, BSc. Bentham Grammar School, Bentham, via Lancaster.

Mr V. Davis, Dawn Farm, Orton, Penrith, Cumberland.

Mr E. Dixon, 9I, Skipton Rd, Silsden, Via Keighley, W, Yorks.

Dr R. Harker, PhD. 92, Town Green St, Rothley, Leicestershire.

OTHER ADDRESS CHANGES.

Hon Sec, The GLASGOW SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, now,

Mr Jim Stevenson, 4, Queens Place, Kilwinning, Ayrshire, Scotland.

2000

I hold up my hand and admit it is my own fault that only two newsletters were produced in 1973, the introduction of the three shift working day at Rolls Royce has knocked my spare time sideways, however, the three day working week is giving a welcome breather. Thank you Ted.

A much more livelier production output has been made by Peter and Mavis Jackson, who this year have put out not only two publications, the ISS, "The Lead Mines of the Teign Valley," and Vol 2 No 3 of "The Memoirs" but also produced many hand-outs for the use of other members at exhibitions, lectures, and the "Grand Tour" of London of the society window exhibition, which was arranged by Mr Julian Holmes, through the Skipton Building Society.

This unheralded extra work has helped the membership recruiting considerably, and of course the sales of our publications, which must be one of the principle aims of the Officers of this Society.

The new Associate membership is good value for money, for members, but with the rapid increase in the cost of paper, may have to be reviewed in the year 1974, it is working well however, as the many new names to our membership prove. Advertising is an expense not easily absorbed by our slim profit margin, members can help, by bringing our publications to the notice of the local librarian, or even asking for back numbers, through the regional library service.

The society does not however exist only, to produce books, Mike Gill, the society recorder, is very active building up the Central Records, with the help of the regional recorders, Bob Guthrie and Joe Wildridge, this side of the organisation, represents a considerable capital outlay, and is invaluable to members who wish to consult it. Many do, and also ADD TO IT:

THE LIBRARY, again an item of expence, has now passed into the keeping of Hazel Martel, a professional librarian, this change will give her a few headaches no doubt, but we, I am sure will be the beneficiary, in due course. Meanwhile the library is open for business by writing to Hazel with your requirements.

Our able President, Mr R, Walls, has during the year, struck a new note, by leading many meets, official and otherwise, showing the society badge, along with Ken, on the Fellsman Hike, a look at the Three Peaks, and that long trek, to Ravenscar, a further side line has and still is a determined effort to fill in many of the blanks, in the Biological map of the distribution of Cave Fauna, where no records of collections exist. A very worthwhile task. The Biological Records, have up to this year been in the keeping of Mrs J, Dixon, and are to be found published in the Fauna Records of the now defunct "CAVE RESEARCH GROUP", with regret, Jean and Eric, are leaving the society but will be long remembered by the valuable records they leave. Now published and recorded on the National Punch Card Index of the Nature Conservancy, an index, that we have played an important role in the past. Eric has also produced many of the illustrations of the earlier "Transactions" of this society, saving us a considerable sum of money. To you both we offer our sincere thanks, for a job well done.

Which will leave us with a vacant place for a Biological Recorder, this interesting position is now on offer, unpaid, very rewarding: ANY OFFERS??? or do we let the situation lapse???:

No mention yet of our Hon Secretary, Ken Walls, busy on many of the tasks put on his shoulders, a marathon one he has just completed, is the revised "Constitution" now printed and enclosed herein. Ken has only one comment on this 'Please but Please do not charge any more rules', as we have printed 2,000 of these, we endorse his plea. We have this year run up a substantial bill for the printing

of the necessary paper work, record files, application forms, constitution, these are however items which will only occur at about seven year intervals, but may stand out on the balance sheet, Jennifer, our Hon Treasurer is preparing, she assured us at the last W/C meeting that we are still in the red? or was it black? and proposes to prove it at the A.G.M. either way. Meanwhile we have a promise from Jennifer, of an extra special Junior Member, coming our way about mid-summer, delightful news, which should get some knitting needles clacking :

This summary of the years struggle to keep things going would not be complete without a message of thanks to the members who have supported the aims of the society in so many ways, to the stalwarts who have produced the lectures at the "Presidents TalkIN" and the side shows to go with it. To the authors who have done so much to establish us in the position we now hold, by the excellence of their work, to the many donors of record material, and relics from the past, and all the running around done by many, to further the "AIMS". Unable to record all of the deeds, one can only say, the Cavern and Mine is doing well, and thanks YOU, for your efforts;

To the many new members, don't be afraid of getting involved, we need you, both on meets and in the administration of the society, any one who is prepared to take an active part, will be most welcome. We need like the blood bank, new blood, new ideas, new officers. Return address for offers, to K, Walls, or ideas even:

Anyone willing to have a session at the publication of the Newsletter for instance, ?make me an offer, .

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PAST EVENTS OF 1973.

Most Meets have gone off without hitches, and again an accident free year, an extra meet was held in Cornwall, much enjoyed, by those who were able to get away for a few days. Survey work has gone on apace in the North East, nothing reported back for Newsletter, most probably to be the subject of Talk In material at some

future date. The excavation of the aerial Ropeway occupied much of the time of a small group of members, as did the excavation of the Sutton Clough Smelt Mill, nr Cross Hills, Keighley, Yorks. (see this years Meets Card). More work was put in at the Arncliffe Carnforth site, as well as Alston area.

The annual dinner was held at Skipton, at which event, Mr Stuart Feather, the principle guest, entertained us by showing slides taken during the development of the Bradford Industrial Museum, of which Mr Feather is the Keeper. The White Rose Pothole Club were represented by two of the women members of the club, who spoke for the guests. The President of the year, Mr R. Walls, presented the Founders Cup, to Mr Mike Gill, for his outstanding work for the Society, in the past year. To the surprise of many three weirdly dressed persons, then arrived ^{announced} and they were barmasters come to hold the annual court of Barmoot: Resplendent in the medieval dress of the times, one could hardly recognize, Hazel Martel, M. Gill, J.M. Dickinson who ~~presented~~ awarded the "Golden Chicken Award to Mr Mike Goth, for his act of outstanding ineptitude; (going to Cornwall, leaving the frame of his tent at home)

The following day the Presidents Talk In was held at the Scout HQ again well attended, speakers, were from memory? Mr J. McPherson, Mr M. Goth, Mr J. Dickinson. Mr G. Workman. Mr I. Cornwall. and a film taken by a non member Mr Griffin, of the Worth Valley Railway. who showed us that we are not the only club who dig for a pastime. Mr Mike Gill discussed the art of Coalmining. Speakers were introduced by Mr R. Walls.

Later in the year at the school of Industrial Archeology run by the Yorkshire Dales Railway Society, a lecture was given by J.M. Dickinson, on the Mines of Greenhow, helped by M. Gill. and D. Platt. this produced a fee of £7+ , £2 of this was given to the society as a donation, plus a book for the library.

Again in November, we took part in a weekend exhibition of the Yorkshire Dales Railway Society at Bradford at which event our stand was staffed by R, and K, Walls, Pete and Mavis Jackson, Hazel Martel, M, Gill, J.M. Dickinson, D. Platt, who managed to sell a few publications, interest a few people in the society, and get a spot on the local radio.

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MINING NEWS COAL.

Two Lancashire Collieries are to be merged in a scheme to cut their losses. The plan involves the driveage of a 1,000 yds roadway which will be equipped with a trunk conveyer to take the combined output of $\frac{3}{4}$ million tons/Annum to the No 4 shaft at Bickershaw. At this mine the coal will be treated and dispatched to its market. The Parsonage, NO 1 Shaft will handle men and materials.

At present 70% of Parsonage tonnage is taken by road to Bickershaw Coal Preparation plant. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the output from the new mine will go for the Generation of Electricity and Domestic use. The merger is expected to cost £ 400,000; this will extend the life of the mine to at least 1980. (NB, Bickershaw was the Colliery featured in Y.T.Vs. series "SAM".

ASSOCIATED TUNNELLING CO are driving two 16' by 11' headings, dipping at 1 in 4 through hard sandstone strata, at Bold Colliery, Lancashire. This is to develop an area of the Wigan 4ft Seam on the downthrow of the 120 ft fault.

COLLIERY CLOSURES SCOTTISH AREA.

DOLLAR MINE Closed due to difficult working conditions in the North End of the mine. Remaining reserves can be worked from Solsgirth.

EASTON COLLIERY. Due to Geological difficulties.

AUCHINCRAIVE COLLIERY. Limited and dispersed reserves.

LOCHLEA COLLIERY. Due to rapid deterioration of Geological conditions, this small Ayrshire Pit closed on 6th of November 1973.

MAXWELL COLLIERY. Closure for safety reasons, due to heating. One of the smallest pits in Scotland employing 90 men.

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM.

MORRISON BUSTY exhausted.

BARDON MILL. Due to poor Geological conditions and seam thinning, this pit closed on 24th November 1973.

NETHERTON AS above, closed, 4th Jan, 1974.

FISHBURN. This, the last Colliery south of the Butterknowle Fault in South Durham, closed on the 30th Nov, 1973, due to Geological difficulties and lack of reserves.

USHWORTH. This Colliery is likely to close in January due to Geological difficulties and lack of reserves.

NORTH WALES GRESFORD. Bad conditions at this mine have caused heavy financial losses over the past few years and the Board closed it on 10th November 1973.

STAFFORDSHIRE. GRENVILLE. This mine has been put into jeopardy due to heavy losses caused by poor geological conditions. It is likely that closure will take place in 1974.

YORKSHIRE. BARLEY HALL Colliery This Barnsley Pit will close at the end of the financial year due to exhaustion.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN NORTH EAST COLLIERIES.

The N.C.B. have announced a scheme to link Horden and Blackhall Collieries which will cost 5½ million pounds and give access to an additional 57 million tons of good quality coking coal from under the North Sea. The N.C.B. will have the new British Steel Complex at Redcar on Teeside as a major market.

End of Mining Report from M. Gill.

MINING NEWS METAKS

Scraithole Mine, West Allendale, Northumberland, has been reopened. The entrance to the low level has been cleaned out, and the formerly blocked Middle Level has been excavated at the entrance.

WHEAL JANE. This mine produced 131 metric tonnes of Tin concentrates during September.

It is reported in the TIMES 19.10.73. that part of the crushing mill at Bedd-y-Coedwr mine, Dolgellau, Merioneth, has been restored by apprentices from Brs(Shotton)

The first annual report of the Dept of Trade & Industry for the period up to 31-3-1973, on the Mineral Exploration & Investment grants act, shows that 17 applications for fluorspar projects were approved, all being in the North of England, and the Pennines.

98 projects for non-ferrous metals were approved, 64 being Scotland, 15 in S.W. England, and 3 in N. England & Pennines. No applications were received for Barium minerals. The amount of assistance approved on 31-3-73 was £1,053,205.; work on 21 projects had been completed.

End of report from P. Jackson

OIL PROSPECTS

Candecca Resources Ltd, a Calgary based company, drilling for oil in Lincolnshire, are to start oil exploration in Stirlingshire, Scotland, now.

BP Petroleum are reported to be interested in trial bores, which they propose to sink in Yorkshire, at Brompton and Troutdale, nr Scarborough.

A LETTER TO THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR.

SHEFFIELD.

1st DECEMBER 1973.

Dear Derrick,

Since the publication of my review of Dr A. Raistrick's book, 'Lead Mining in the Mid-Pennines', in the last Newsletter, several points concerning this volume have been brought to my attention by Dr Raistrick, which I feel that members should be made aware of.

A major feature of the book is the detailed work on the 17th and 18th century mining activities, which as I failed to point out, is mainly unpublished work, and to use Dr Raistrick's words,

"our knowledge of these mines is made much fuller" by the information.

Some of the maps and diagrams suffered by being reduced in size by the printers without the author's knowledge, particularly the one of Cononley Mine (diagram I2) which was originally a two page diagram.

The section on the Greenhow area was reduced in detail in order to avoid duplication of material with other books on the area, which have already been published. Dr Raistrick also makes the point, which I accept, that the book was intended to fill in a great deal of history not previously published: What does worry me, that Dr Raistrick's book will probably stand as the definitive work on the mining area and on that ground should have dealt more equably with the different historical periods, in order to give an overall view of the development to the general reader.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Jackson.

PUBLICATION REPORT.

AT the time of writing, the next edition of the Memoirs has been duplicated, and is awaiting the illustrations from the printers, before binding can take place.

Occasional Publications 5&6 continue to have steady sales, with advertising in various journals contributing extra orders.

The first publication during 1974 will be another edition of the society Memoirs, for which articles are required.

Any contributions will be gratefully received by the editor, no matter whether long or short.

If any member feels that he or she could encourage the further sales of publications, copies of our publication leaflet are available, together with other information on the society, from the editor at 37, Broomhall Place, Sheffield, S10 2DG.

P. Jackson.

Since the writing of the above report, and due to the length of time in getting the newsletter out, the memoirs is now in the hands of all members. However a post script to the above report;

Peter would like to get material for the next Memoirs early, for a publication deadline of EASTER, in order to clear the desk for a further I.S.S.

A further letter of report, from P.J. brings news of changes in membership, the following associates have this year transferred to FULL MEMBERSHIP.

MR A.D. OLDHAM, 17, Freemantle Rd, Eastville, Bristol. BS5 6SY.

Mr J.C. Harker, 144, Desborough Ave, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP11 2SU.

Mr J.C. Thompson, 11, Dilston Ave, Hexham, Northumberland, NE6 1JE.

Mr Oldham, (Tony) is well known for his publications on world news on speleology, and would be very pleased to have any news items from member, to include in future editions. Tony would also be more than pleased to sell you his publications, details from above address.

FUTURE MEETINGS FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS. A.G.M. FEB 10th 1974,

Meet at the Scout H, Q. Behind the Devonshire Hotel, Skipton, 14.00 hrs.

APRIL 21st, General Meeting, at the BILLINGHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE,
The Causeway, Billingham, Teeside, 14.00 hrs.

OCT 5th, Annual Dinner, venue not as yet fixed.

OCT 6th, Presidents 'TALK IN', not as yet fixed.

NOV 17th, General Meeting, Scout H.Q. Skipton.

ON THE first Friday in the month, the Working Committee are to be found at the Devonshire Hotel, Skipton, after 9 PM. All members are welcome to join in, also open to associate members, on the last Sunday in the month investigations will continue at the Sutton Clough Smelt Mill site, nr Keighley, West Yorks, come and have a dig, but please ring, J.M. Dickinson, at Cross Hills 34075, for last minute details. Camping can be arranged in the area, if requested.

HOLIDAY MEET. J.M. Dickinson, address as above, would like to hear from any members interested in a rock tapping trip to the Hartz Mountain's, late in 1974? Any Takers, ring, or write, Dicko. SOON.

NEWS FROM SCOTLAND.

The clash of dates, Cornwall Trip V Barjarg prevented us from making a hand in the rescue of the Waterwheel at the stone mine of Barjarg, first proposed in 1971, the full story is told in the Newsletter of the Glasgow Speleological Society, as follows.

"The rescue of the old waterwheel from the Barjarg mine, Dumfriesshire was first mentioned in our last N/L, the story can now be further unfolded. About a year ago it was felt that something should be done to get the waterwheel pump and the hand pump which was near it, out of this 19th Cent. Limestone mine. An approach was made to the Dumfries Museum, who were unable to take the relics, our waterwheel member, Alan Stoyel, then arranged that they would go to the Scottish Society for the Preservation of Historic Machinery, who were busy collecting material for an Industrial Museum; Arrangements were made with the owners of the mine, and on the 17th June, seven members, supported by wives, gazed in some dismay at the half ton of hardware which they had to get out of the mine onto the road, where it would be collected the next day. Alan's enthusiasm dispelled forebodings, and after the pump had been cut away, the wheel was heaved on end and rolled along the old tramtrack. By mid-day heroic efforts had got it up the slope to the mine entrance, and after a break to make

up for dehydration, the wheel was manhandled through, an inch at a time, once outside the party was at least in daylight, and with a 'yo - heave ho' the wheel was slowly rolled through $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of dense brush-wood and marsh to the road. All then collapsed, until revived by sips of beer, (there was only one can left) they were then reminded that, there was still two muckle pumps to bring to grass! All was however accomplished, and the waterwheel and pumps are now stored near Anniesland. This was probably one of the most worthwhile tasks the Society has been engaged in for some time."

(Gosh am I glad Cornwall called me away from that) Ed.

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CAVING NEWS

The Skipton freelance cameraman Sid Perou, and his wife Alison, are to film the Castleguard Cave, in British Columbia, Canada.

at an altitude of 6,500 ft and a length of $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles, reaching a depth of over 900ft this is Canada's second deepest pothole.

Sid as director/cameraman for the unit, financed by the Canadian National parks will find this a tough, cold, challenge to his skill, but has as organiser of the expedition, the tough, dynamic, Derek Ford, who has played a leading role in the exploration of Castleguard, between them, and a wife running base camp medical needs, the end result must be one more good caving film.

Mr Len Huff, founder member of the Upper Wharfedale Rescue Association has retired after 25 years of dedication to others.

Founded in 1948, the Assn has the impressive record of, 277 rescue operations, which have involved 317 persons. + the rescue of 155 animals.

There are some debts that can never be paid, all of us owe a debt to Len Huff and the U.W.F.R.A. for providing the life-line, which means so much when things go wrong, as indeed some of our members are fully aware of. The hand offered in help by this good group of dales samaritans have not only saved lives, but by example, have changed the pattern of life for more than one person of our acquaintance, leading them to a fuller more rewarding future.

In paying tribute to Mr Huff, one should not forget the help given by the Grassington Constabulary, often stretched beyond the normal call of a paid civil servant, quite willingly given. To bring aid to persons in need.

D.P.

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II, Neville St. Skipton, Yks. II