

The Dodger's Dispatch

More scribblings from
the Derbyshire Caving Club
(established 1960)



March 2008
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www.DerbysCC.org.uk

EDITORIAL

It's 2008! And it's March already. Sorry about the long delay. There is not a lot of caving news but the mines are presenting some interesting challenges. We also have a few events to look forward to and some changes in the way we do things. Read on ...

NEWS

Social events We have arranged a camping, caving, mining and walking weekend at the Bull i' th' Thorn near Buxton. The weekend is 10th and 11th

May. Ideas for trips will be most welcome. We are likely to be joined by half a dozen or more members of the Shropshire Caving and Mining Club so we need to be on our best behaviour! I will book a simple meal of Beef Hotpot followed by Apple Pie for £12 if we get enough takers – please let me know soon. Contact the Bull i' th' Thorn on 01298 83348 if you want to bring a caravan or take B&B (only four rooms available). www.bulliththorn.co.uk

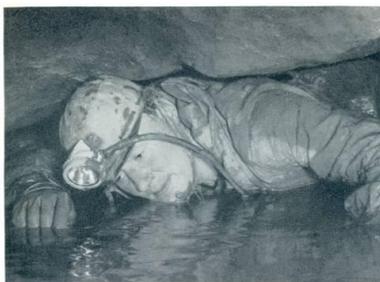
The Bull i' th' Thorn



There are plans for a weekend at Magpie later in the year. There is a feeling that we could dispense with the dinner this year if we fix up an alternative social event. Ideas???

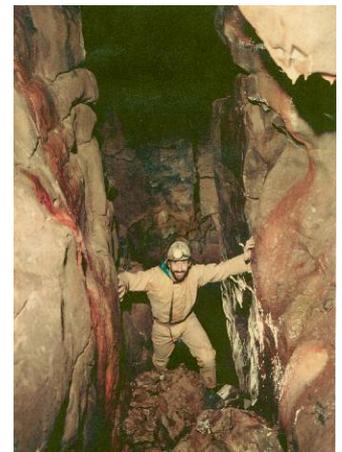
OBITUARY

Since the last newsletter went out in September, we have lost two more members. Shortly after the newsletter was published, I heard that Jim Lovelock (below) had died and then in November Frank Brown (right) went following illness. Many members were present at Frank's funeral and heard about his time as a musician going around Europe, his caving and his, at times, fractious spells as a DCC member. Few of us knew that he had been the Club's Sales Assistant in 1962. Jim will be remembered on 9th April when a memorial service will be held in Stockport at 2.30. The Club has been asked to scatter his ashes on Kinder Scout – for which he left a liquid incentive in his will.



OTHER MEMBERS' NEWS

Kieran Rooney is in Belize at the present, taking part in a combined trek, working spell and holiday for about 6 months. He will spend part of the time teaching English. Check out the details at www.trekforceworldwide.com.

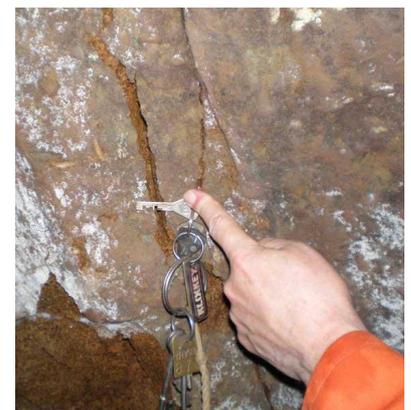


CAVING NEWS (www.derbyscc.org.uk/club/caving-log.htm)

Not a great deal to report. There was a recent trip down Ireby through the Sump One to do some digging. That's about all that has hit the airwaves! Next Easter and Summer, there will be groups going out to Matienzo. The best contact for more information is Tony. Nigel, Liz, Pete and Barbara are going to the Forest of Dean at Easter for an above ground trip but if anyone wants a quick look underground, I think we might be able to squeeze in a trip (please, Liz).

ALDERLEY EDGE

Much fun and games up at the Edge since November. Engine Vein is cracking up! I know the editor and various other members of the Committee are also cracking up but at least we are not likely to fall on your head. The problem is mainly at the far end of Engine Vein where the rock wall/pillar between the Fault Workings and the End Chamber is splitting apart. We don't know why but a change in the water content of the rock is a possibility. Large flakes and boulders have fallen in the Fault Workings (nearer to Bear Pit), in the End Chamber and in the Upper Level leading towards the Upper Bear Pit Bridge. The existing rock fall



in Ripple Roof Chamber seems to have got larger. To make matters worse, the earthquake on Wednesday, 27th February has shaken down some more rock although this may actually have helped to stabilise the remaining rock. Either way, we must keep visitors out of Engine Vein for the time being until the rock falls stop and we can be confident that the mine is stable again. As a result, the next Open Day will be at Wood Mine and/or West Mine, depending upon what is agreed at the QGM.

ALDERLEY INSURANCE AND LEASE

In order to reduce some costs and to improve the level and type of cover we have at Alderley Edge, the Club has changed the insurance for the mines. We are now insured by a firm that specialises in organisations such as ours. The insurance covers all our activities at Alderley Edge so we can now take people down West Mine on the same policy. Conditions are very similar to before but we must ensure that we have indemnities for people under 16. There will be some new forms in the Surgery soon. We no longer need to make West Mine visitors into Guest Members. The insurance also covers the Surgery and the lamps and, as a result, we need to improve the locks at the Surgery a bit. See the piece below about a working weekend at the Surgery. One benefit of the change in insurers is that the cover will tie in better with the National Trust and the new lease. This has not been finalised yet but is likely to cover all the mines at the Edge. We will of course still have to prepare work plans and risk assessments as before. We also need to sharpen up on our tally system. Ideas welcome. One that comes to mind is for each member to have a laminated card which he or she leaves on a hook in the Surgery, the Museum or the NT Yard saying which mine the person has gone down. (I use a similar system on a chemical site I visit.)

BATS AND BOULDERS

Four bats of three different species were spotted in Church Quarry and Brynlow during a recent visit by the National Trust. Remember to leave them alone (the bats, that is) and get away from them as soon as possible without waking them up from hibernation. There is some talk of making a bat entrance at the Hough Level door.

In January, a strong team gathered at Stormy Point and removed quite a bit of a boulder which was threatening to roll down the slope. If you want to know more, have a look at the website at www.derbysc.org.uk/boulder.htm.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The caving insurance element has gone up by £1 so full caving membership is now £26, full non-caving membership remains at £15; associate members pay £5 less. Payment can be made by PayPal which costs the Club about £1 but I will save this by not posting out cards to anyone who pays this way. You can pay subscriptions at www.derbysc.org.uk/club/members-payment.htm as well as one-off sums such as Alderley donations. There is also an on-line shop for Tee Shirts and badges!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 2008	3 - Quarterly General Meeting
April 2008	9 - Jim Lovelock's Memorial Service: 2.30 at St Mathews Church, Edgeley 14 - Committee Meeting 19-20 - Saga Louts visit 26-27 - Open Weekend, Alderley
May 2008	10 -11 - Derbyshire weekend - plans are for a caving trip, a mining trip and a walk. Possibly also a walk-in mining trip. Accommodation will be camping at the Bull i' th' Thorn near Buxton. Some members of the Shropshire Mining and Caving Club will be our guests. 30 - 1 June - Working weekend at the Surgery. New door. 5-lever locks. Fresh paint inside and out. Tidy downstairs.
June 2008	16 - Quarterly General Meeting
July 2008	11-13 - NAMHO Conference, Scotland 21 - Committee Meeting
August 2008	First three weeks - Matienzo expedition
September 2008	1 - Quarterly General Meeting [NOTE new date] 6-7 - Open Weekend, Alderley ? - Hidden Earth 2008
October 2008	20 - Committee Meeting
November 2008	? - ANNUAL DINNER (may be replaced by other events)
December 2008	15 - Annual General Meeting September 2007
July 2009	NAMHO Conference at Matlock, field trips to Alderley Edge.

STOP PRESS

Fed up with missing QGMs? Want to know when the next trip is? Don't have access to the Internet? Send your mobile phone number and a brief message to Nigel (xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) and you can be added to the list of members who get reminders by text message. Andy has already subscribed and thinks the service is "spot-on".

Any comments, items for the next edition, volunteers to be editor, etc. to Nigel Dibben ☺ Nigel@Dibben.org.uk

DON'T FORGET TO BOOK YOUR HOT POT AND APPLE PIE FOR THE MAY DERBYSHIRE WEEKEND