

The Dodger's Dispatch

More scribblings from
the Derbyshire Caving Club
(established 1960)



March 2009

www.DerbysCC.org.uk

EDITORIAL

When I looked at the last edition, it was published nearly a year ago so this version is well overdue. As usual, there has been the last minute rush of people offering pages of content and I have had to edit this down to ... who am I kidding? I will base this newsletter on what I know about and some meets reports supplied by Paul, Ed and a couple of others.

(OLD) NEWS

We managed a couple of social events last year with a weekend in glorious weather at The Bull i' th' Thorn (probably the only hot weekend in the year). We camped at the pub, had a meal there on Saturday night, entertained by Steve and Simon, and had a trip down Golconda thanks to Warrington Pete's arrangements. Later, there was a barbecue at Magpie in more typical 2008 weather and Nigel, Simon and Allan went down Jugholes and Brightgates Caves. (Picture: Neil in Golconda)



Paul, Ed, Den, Pete Capper and others got out on quite a few trips including a weekend at Nent Head and a Box Mine Trip. Reports on all of these trips can be seen on the Club website. There was also a trip to Long Rake. At the end of the year, Tony, Simon, Colin and a few other stalwarts got involved in a dig in East Kingsdale. We're still waiting to hear the good news.

OBITUARY

It seems that a year cannot go by without losing at least one member these days. This seems to be the trend in a lot of clubs, possibly because so many young men started caving in the fifties, shortly after the Second World War. Last year, Colin Darroch went to join the diggers in the sky when he died at the age of 76 after a long illness. His funeral took place at Colwyn Bay and was led by Pete Borthwick, his lifelong friend. Some older members will remember Colin and Pete digging at Gautries and the other P-pots along the so-called Peak Fault.

OTHER SOCIAL NEWS

Howard and Dee started 2009 with a wedding in the Far East on 1st January. Neil and Gillian enjoyed their wedding in Derbyshire on 3rd January. Some of the Club were there to witness that it actually happened and others turned up in the evening to celebrate. Not to be outdone, Simon and Noreen celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in January with a fifties themed do in Brinnington. The geriatrics of the club, and a few others, turned up in a range of interpretations of what the 1950s looked like. There were some "interesting" pictures of the young couple before, at and after their wedding.

BRILLE POT

Tony, Colin, Pete Kellaway, Simon and others have been at work in the Yorkshire Dales on Brille Pot in East Kingsdale. Apparently, smoke from the snappers reappears all over the hillside and clears very fast from the dig. Anyone interested should contact Tony or Simon.

ALDERLEY EDGE

The cracking problems at Engine Vein seem to have stopped and although there is quite a lot of unstable rock around, the movement may have ceased – for now. The area is still out of bounds for trips and anyone visiting there MUST be very alert to any fresh falls. There are plastic sheets on the ground in the worst affected areas and if these have any rocks on them, then the movement has NOT stopped and the area should be avoided. I think the rest of the mine is safe and we may be able to have an Open Weekend in there later this year. Recently, there have been visits by English Heritage and Natural England, both of whom have the power to stop (or allow) our activities at the Edge. If anyone wants to know more, contact Nigel. We may be in for some money from Natural England.



Far left: Nenthead.

Centre: Long Rake

Right: Jug Holes

ALDERLEY LEASE

We're still waiting to see the completed lease, 18 months after it was due for renewal. I will take this opportunity to remind everyone that there are **conditions** and that they are not much tighter than before but we **must** comply with them. I'll put up a summary in the Surgery as soon as the lease is finalised. PLEASE REMEMBER NOT TO START ANY NEW WORK WITHOUT A WORK PLAN.

THE ARTHUR ATKINS ARCHIVE

At the end of 2008 and early this year, a guy on e-bay started selling some scraps from the archive of a caver in Manchester in the 1930s called Arthur Atkins. A few members bought items and we now have some of the plans he made of the mines, descriptions of West and Wood Mines, details of caving and mining trips and some other bits and pieces. It all adds up to some interesting stuff showing just what was accessible in 1937 and 1938, telling us a bit more about the boat and showing that there were serious cavers around at that time.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

This year, there has been no change in the caving insurance so full caving membership stays at £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!

HOW ABOUT A DINNER THIS YEAR?

How about you organising it? No, that was just wishful thinking. Various ideas have been kicked about including a classic do in Stockport in November, a venue in the Peak District in June like the Monsall Head hotel (avoiding the NAMHO conference), a camping/caving/walking weekend like the Bull i' th' Thorn one this year. Votes to be sent on the back of a ten-pound note to the address at the bottom of this newsletter.

**** MINE

Steve has been helping *** and a few others on a dig in **** Mine in the ***** Valley in the county of *****. Unfortunately the dig is too secret for me to tell you where it was or what has been found or how long it will take to ***** ***** but I am sure that Steve will tell you more if you ask him nicely. He is always keen to have helpers on *****days to dig through the ***** with the hope of reaching the ***** or ***** soon. Watch this *****.

EDDISBURY HILL

Colin and Steve have also come up with an interesting round shaft through solid rock at Eddisbury in mid-Cheshire. There is a possibility of digging it out but we need to help Colin's friend John get permission to dig the site as it is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Shades of Alderley! If anyone is interested, contact Colin, Steve or myself.

PILLAR MINE, ALDERLEY EDGE

The National Trust is planning to gate Pillar Mine but the first step is organising an archaeological dig in the entrance. This is an ideal opportunity for members who want to learn more about archaeology to get involved as Carolanne King is going to provide training and supervision over a three-day dig in March. Anyone interested should contact Elaine. This is a seriously worthwhile opportunity to find out more about the way the National Trust works.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 2009	2 - Quarterly General Meeting 28 - Saga Louts visit and dig at Pillar Mine
April 2009	6 - Committee Meeting 25-26 - Open Weekend, Alderley 30 - Nent Head trip
June 2009	15 - Quarterly General Meeting 19-22 - NAMHO Conference, Matlock, field trips to Alderley Edge 27-28 - Peak District mining trip
July 2009	20 - Committee Meeting
August 2009	First three weeks - Matienzo expedition 24 - Quarterly General Meeting
September 2009	5-6 - Open Weekend, Alderley ? - Hidden Earth 2008
October 2009	19 - Committee Meeting
December 2009	14 - Annual General Meeting



Snailbeach Mine in Shropshire



Levens Seat Mine in Scotland

Trips being arranged include Long Rake, Nent Head and of course Braille Pot. See http://www.derbysc.org.uk/club/club_events_list_body.php?type=all for a full list on the Club pages on the web.

Any comments, items for the next edition, volunteers to be editor, etc. to the editor