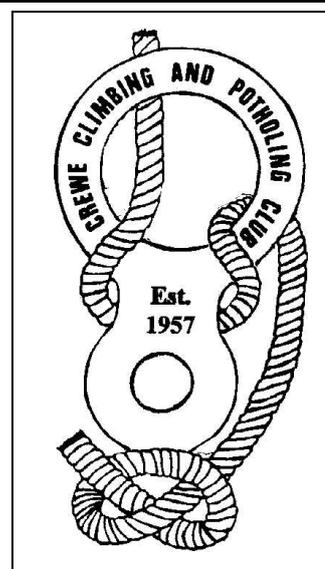


# C.C.P.C.

## Newsletter 118

### April 2019

Log on to [www.ccpc.org.uk](http://www.ccpc.org.uk)



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#### Recent Club Meets, etc., during December 2019, & January to April 2019.

|  |  |                              |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| Sat. 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec.                        | Notts Pot 2, Yorkshire                             | CCPC                         |
| Wed. 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec.                       | Poole's Cavern, Derbyshire.                        | DCRO Team Review & Supper    |
| Sun. 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec.                       | Giant's Hole, Derbyshire.                          | CCPC                         |
| Sat. 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan.                        | Oxlow Caverns, Derbyshire.                         | CCPC                         |
| Sun. 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan.                       | Minera Mine, North Wales.                          | CCPC                         |
| Sat. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb.                        | Aygill Caverns, Yorkshire.                         | CCPC                         |
| Sat. 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb.                        | Bleeding Wolf, Kidsgrove.                          | CCPC Christmas Meal          |
| Sun. 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb.                       | Nickergrove Mine & Hope Shaft/Level 7, Derbyshire. | CCPC                         |
| Sun. 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb.                       | Good Luck Mine, Derbyshire.                        | DCRO Exercise.               |
| Sat. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar.                        | Peak Cavern, Derbyshire.                           | CCPC                         |
| Sat. 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar.                       | DCRO Base, Buxton.                                 | Full equipment audit.        |
| Sun. 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar.                       | Parc Lead Mine, North Wales.                       | CCPC                         |
| Tues. 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar.                      | Alderley Edge Copper Mines, Cheshire.              | DCRO Caving.                 |
| Sat. 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar.                       | Meregill Hole, Yorkshire.                          | CCPC                         |
| Sat. 6 <sup>th</sup> April                       | Dukes Barn, Beeley, Derbyshire.                    | CCPC Training Session : SRT. |
| Sun. 14 <sup>th</sup> April                      | Ireby Fell Cavern, Yorkshire.                      | CCPC                         |
| Wk.End 27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> April | Swildon's Hole, Mendips.                           | CCPC                         |



#### ***Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 8 December : Notts Pot 2 / Mistral, Yorkshire.***

'The original plan was a trip down Notts 2 but due to the weather it was decided to give it a miss, so five of us decided to explore Mistral Hole instead. First we went to the very, very muddy Hall of the Mountain King. It was well worth it just to see the mud sculptures, and then we had a trip to Gour Hall which was very impressive.'



***Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 23 December : Giants Hole, Derbyshire.***

Despite all the demands of the festive season, this trip was well attended. Des Kelly reports that 4 members got to Far Curtain (which was just a wee bit submerged), whilst another group did the Crabwalk and Upper Series circuit. Upper West Passage and the entrance series was also visited.



***Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 28 December : Christmas Walk, Derbyshire.***

The year was rounded off by a family friendly walk, devised by Will Babin-Cooper. This was a 5.5 Mile route in the Longnor area which incorporated a pub stop en-route.



***Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 5 January: Oxlow Caverns, Derbyshire.***

The New Year kicked off in fine style, reported Steve PA, with a trip to Oxlow. Five members made the trip along Pilgrims Way, with the intention of exploring the new series. This was unfortunately curtailed by a particularly “sizeist” section of the New Series beyond North Chamber. Other members undertook trips to the sump in Pool Chamber and to Oxlow East Chamber.

**\*See full report by Steve Pearson-Adams below.**



***Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 20 January : Minera Mine, North Wales.***

A short SRT pitch to get in, then plenty of opportunity for exploring. 8 Members attended and explored much of the system.



***Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 2 February: Aygill Caverns, Yorkshire.***

3 members attended and had to change the venue to Valley Entrance, Kingsdale, due to snow and ice making access to Aygill impossible.



***Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 9<sup>th</sup> February: Christmas / New Year Social.***

True to form, we celebrated the festive season just a little bit late (something of a Club tradition) with a meal at ‘The Bleeding Wolf’, Scholar Green. This was well supported by Members, and a good time was had by all present, especially as this time we weren’t competing with a live band and a series of power cuts (that was last year). We were all particularly pleased to see Steve P-A present after his recent repairs, courtesy of the N.H.S.. !

Neil Conde did an excellent job of organising the event – Thank you !!!



***Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 17 February : Nickergrove Mine and Hope Shaft / Level 7, Derbyshire.***

Nickergrove was explored from Adit Entrance, and then exited through Didsbury Entrance, followed by a steep walk up the opposite slope to rig and descend 2. Hope Shaft, with some exiting through Level 7 while some ascended the pitches to de-rig and exit through Hope Shaft entrance. A fun but somewhat argillaceous time was had by all.



***Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 2 March: Peak Cavern, Derbyshire.***

Six members did the usual “tourist trip” in Peak Cavern last weekend whilst six others undertook the trip to the White River series, exiting via Ventilator. We were joined and passed along the way by Ade and 2 companions who came through on a pull-through trip from JH to Block Hall. A tiring but thoroughly enjoyable trip, followed by a quick gargle in the local.



***Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 17 March: Parc Lead Mine, North Wales.***

Last weekend’s trip was over the border to Parc Lead Mine (SH78706020).

Site Description: Located near Nant Gwydyr, about one mile south-west of Llanrwst. Official records of the first output dates from 1860, the mine being operated by the D’Ersby and Gwydyr Co. though there is some evidence of much earlier exploitation of the lodes.

Production continued, with various lengthy interludes, until 1963, when the mine was finally closed. A hardy team of 7 Members, braved the floods in the Conway Valley for the visit to Parc Mine. An enjoyable trip was had, with the additional bonus of free perma-tanned legs, courtesy of the chemically rich mine water.



***Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 30 March : Meregill, Yorkshire.***

Seven members visited Meregill. Three successfully bottomed the cave, in a total trip time of 5 hours.



***Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 14 April : Ireby Fell Caverns, Yorkshire.***



***Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 27 / 28 April : Mendips, Somerset..***

## Don't Forget:

There are always additional chances to go caving or walking ( ..... and ? ) with other Club Members, with many trips being arranged at short notice.

E-mail is the easiest way to keep in touch, and can be used to let other Members know what you are up to, and to invite them along, where possible. Remember, to get the most out of Your Club, you have to get out there, and get involved. Have fun ! Steve Knox



### Update from Alan Brentnall about Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation (DCRO) open day on 19th May:

The event is for to DCRO members and non-members alike. This is an interesting and educational day demonstrating the work DCRO does and the kit used.

It's main purpose is to let cavers know that DCRO are there for them; it isn't a recruiting drive (although you can join on Open Days).

Apparently it includes free food - so what's not to like??

<https://www.facebook.com/DerbyshireCaveRescue>

## More about Graffiti !

From Newsletter No. 116 - October 2018 - Page 5:

I wonder how many passing cavers, on the main route, have spotted the dated initials and symbol cut into the wall, deep in Hillocks Mine. Have you ?

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For anyone intrigued by the graffiti item on page 5 of the October 2018 Newsletter, and interested in seeing it for themselves: Descend Hillocks Mine by the oil-drum entrance route. You reach the main horizontal workings, after leaving the rift at the foot of the second pitch, by ducking under a low arch into a much larger passage. Straight ahead is the fascinating passage, usually described as 'the cart gate', with an earlier 'coffin level' (now bottomless !) clearly visible in the roof. When facing the start of 'the cart gate', the inscription is high on the wall, up and to the left of your position, and thus is more likely to be contemporary with the 'coffin level', than with the later 'cart gate'.

Incidentally, my notes, made on different occasions, concerning the graffiti outside Ricklow Cave / Berresfords Cut in Lathkill Dale (Newsletter No. 117 - December 2018 - Page 7) show **RP 1809** in one case and as **RP 1802** in another, which emphasises how difficult such inscriptions are to read. I'll have to make another visit, and will be glad to be corrected by anyone better able to work out the correct date.

[Error:- Newsletter No. 117 - December 2018 - Page 7:

The picture caption under the item should read **1787**, not 1780.]

## Trip Report: OXLOW Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019

This year's first trip on the caving calendar saw 8 club members turn out on what was a nippy Saturday morning in January, although unlike last year and to much relief we didn't have to wade through the snow or shovel off the entrance lid. Preparations were made on the surface with some of us focused on exploring the new bits of Oxlow, with the rest opting to visit the sump and the impressive West Chamber. Ade and Steve began the procession with rope bags slung on the shoulders followed by Dan, Rob, Des, Adam and Roy, who in his infinite wisdom had opted to change at the chapel saving a chilly de-rope and re-dress in the biting wind. Jenny was the last to arrive but caught us up by the time most had descended East Chamber. Whilst rigging the entrance pitch thoughts of underground and refuge from the chilling wind passed through many a mind. Ade, Dan and Rob waiting patiently for Steve to complete his bomb proof rigging (Steve's words ;-)) . Once safely to the bottom of West antechamber we waited for the others to catch us up. A flashing red light then descended the steep slope and we wondered what it might be until Adam came into view wearing some sort of peculiar adornment on his helmet above his light. Oh yes, that's it, one of those Go Pro gadgets. Adam was quickly followed by Des who had what can best be described as a silver painted egg with an iris ( this trip is getting stranger by the minute) turns out it was 360 3D camera. Des being the Club's unofficial underworld photo tech (much appreciated by all) began filming. Roy missed out on this event as he had opted for a brodge to East Chamber and heading out. Ade had by this time rigged the pull through up to Pilgrims and was ready to set off so Steve quickly took hold of the rope and began the ascent with Ade, Dan, Rob and Jenny following behind. Des and Adam carried on their mission to the Sump and then making their way back to the surface. Good time was made through Pilgrims Way to North Chamber, where we took 5 to rest the shoulders. Here we ascended the in-situ rope to an easy get off into a tube in the roof and on Ade's advice began to take off all our SRT kit and stuff it into tackle bags, for use later if needed. This was the start of the newer bits within the new Oxlow series. Much thrutching and thrusting now ensued as we pushed on, flat out crawling, until we reached a small chamber, relief at last and a chance of a breather before we started round two. More of the same followed and unfortunately it was here where Jenny decided to turn back, suggesting her head wasn't in it, which all of us at one time or another can easily relate to. We soon reached a point where the only way on was through a window in the opposite wall of a snug chamber. Ade was the first, giving instruction on how to best manoeuvre oneself through the constriction with echoes of him saying this is the really tight section. He wasn't kidding, bridge yourself against the wall behind and taking care not to slip into the hole on the left while at the same time shoving through the window and turning to allow your waist to fit through, by which time your upper body is now right angles to your legs. It is then you wished your knees could articulate in the other direction. Relief you're through only to be facing a narrow upwards slot which grips your helmet. Somehow Ade, having taken a few seconds to gee himself up made it up and through. Other attempts were not as successful, and retreat was the only option. Dan in the meantime had attempt the window and on his second attempt made it through, but seeing the struggling decided to retreat. Rob kept the rear guard as he wasn't relishing the window (wise decision in the end). There was nothing left but for the intrepid foursome to make the about turn

and head for the surface and freedom!!!. As we headed off the hillside and turned up the valley we were met with a chilling wind which quickly numbed the hands making slow going when getting changed. The warmth of the Wanted Inn and a few hot drinks soon thawed us out, ready for our next adventure.

Steve Pearson-Adams

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## Waterways Swallet News.



Discovered by Stoke-on-Trent Potholing Club in 1958, Waterways Swallet lies in Staffordshire, far to the South West of the main caving areas of the Peak District. The original cave consisted of a low, steep, bouldery, dry streambed leading to the Main Chamber which connected to the lower Gallery by several routes.



Despite several attempts by Darfar and Orpheus members to find a way down from the Gallery, the further reaches of Waterways Swallet remained elusive until 1995, when Keyhole Caving Club started excavating a slot which appeared to take the bulk of the water when a flood entered the cave. Despite some initial success, Keyhole briefly gave up on this project, but, with some assistance from Darfar, it eventually went.

And by 2008 this was the 6th deepest cave in the Peak District, and it sported not one metre of SRT, and it was further enhanced with discoveries made by a team including Pete Dell.

Waterways Swallet lies on land which is part of the Okeover Estate, and, throughout the exploration and extension of this unique cave, access for cavers has been allowed because of an agreement between DCA and the Estate. Part of this agreement is the maintenance of the cave boundary fence and the cavers car park; the Estate doesn't approve of cars being parked on the narrow road below Waterings Farm.



Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club became involved with some of this maintenance some three years back, when the car park became very overgrown, and a band of Crewe members did a great job in clearing back a significant amount of vegetation.

However, when I reported this work to DCA, I was told that the job of "gardening" the car park was a regular Orpheus job, and we should have simply told them that it needed doing. Consequently, last year, when the car park resumed its jungle-like appearance, I got in touch with Orpheus to let them know, only to be told that the car park was one of the late lamented Boyd Potts's pet projects, and "would Crewe mind taking it on?". Well, we didn't mind! So, again, Crewe members stepped in and sorted it, and now this needs to become an annual event on CCPC's calendar. One benefit of all this is that all the trees and bushes surrounding the car park are all blackthorn; in fact the place is a sloe "vinyard", as the excellent sloe gin and sloe whisky made by members proved a few months later. Something to look forward to next year!

But, shortly after our gardening session, there were reports on UK Caving of some Nottingham University students getting their car stuck in the car park. In fact, this happened more than once, and on one occasion an AA van went to the rescue of a marooned vehicle, and had to be rescued itself by the Waterings Farmer!

DCA then informed me that the deal included maintaining the surface of the car park; previous work had involved spreading limestone over the grass.

I was slightly dubious about this because a good application of proper hard standing would make the car park very obvious, and the Estate are anxious that it doesn't attract any non-cavers' vehicles. I also thought that spreading a few tons of limestone every few years was not a good plan, and that a better, more permanent, job should be done, but in a manner which reflected the Okeover agreement. So, on Easter Saturday this year, I went to look at the car park with a couple of chaps from DCA who were both experienced in this kind of work, one with Railtrack, and one with the Canal & River Trust.

This culminated in a plan to keep the land "grassy", but to hire a small digger to dig channels for land drains, and to dig a soakaway. The work should not take longer than a day, and all materials and equipment hire will be funded by DCA. But we will need a few volunteers to wheelbarrow stone into the carpark to cover the pipes once they are laid.

In addition to this, plans were also made to replace the gate with a better one (with a Derbyshire Key), for the restoration of the stile in the boundary fence around the swallet, and to replace the spits on the knotted rope climb down into Toad Haul with P-bolts.



In the meantime, exploration continues. Last year, a group supported Rob Middleton when he dived Wotno Sump - a perched sump in the lowest passage of the known cave at an estimated 20m above the approximate level of the water table. After a short dive, Rob entered an air bell, with no way on, due to passage size and silting. There was, however, a small hole in the ceiling of the bell through which Rob could hear the chattering of a stream!

Rob doesn't consider that diving is the best option for following this lead. Instead, he recommends removing the sump water, and getting cavers involved with the necessary capping etc..

## Coming Soon to a Saturday or Sunday near you !

The next section of the CCPC Meets List for 2019 includes the following:

| Venue                                  | Region          | Grid Ref.                           | Grade | Alternative Venue   | Region        | Grid Ref  |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------|---|---------------|-----------|
| Boundary Pot and out of Trident Series | Yorks.          | SD 679808                           | 3 - 4 | Mistral Hole  | Yorks         |           |
| Gaping Gill - winch weekend            | Yorks. week-end | SD 751727                           | 4 - 5 | Walk up Ingleborough ! (Plenty of other caves in the area.) |               |           |
| Swinsto to Simpsons                    | Yorks.          | SD 694775                           | 4     | Kingsdale Valley Entrance                                   | Yorks.        | SD 698774 |
| Cautley Spout Waterfalls               | Howgill Fells   | SD698969                            |       | 6 mile circular walk over The Calf (615 metres).            | Howgill Fells |           |
| Ty Gwyn Mine, Llandudno                | North Wales.    | Shaft: SH 781826<br>Adit: SH 782827 |       | Walk over Conway Mountain.                                  |               |           |
| Penyghent Pot                          | Yorks.          | SD 829733                           | 5     | Sell Gill Holes   | Yorks.        | SD 811743 |
| Death's Head to Box Head Pot           | Yorks.          | SD 668791                           | 4 - 5 |   |               |           |

*(Dates are intentionally removed – Members will already have the full Meets List, and will be reminded of forthcoming Meets by e-mail.)*

### Cautley Spout:

Parking is at the roadside (room for about a dozen cars if neatly parked, nose in) just beyond The Cross Keys Inn on the Sedburgh to Kirkby Stephen road (A 683). Don't get too excited, the Cross Keys is a Temperance Pub – No Alcohol !!!! Plenty of soft drinks and good coffee though.



Lower Falls



Middle Falls, top just visible far above.



Rob at the Nickergrove Adit Entrance.



John in Nickergrove main passage.



Adam at Nickergrove exit shaft.



Adam did eventually get through Level 7 exit.



Rob on the second pitch of Hope shaft.



Neil emerging into daylight from Level 7.