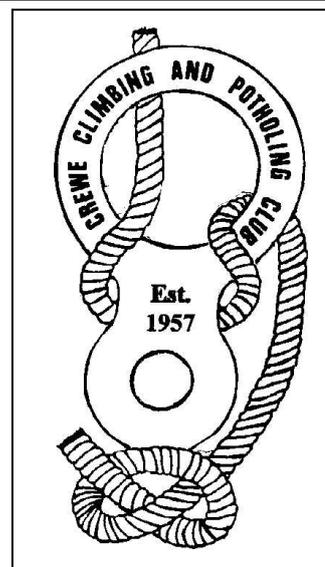


C.C.P.C.

Newsletter 120

September 2019

Log on to www.ccpc.org.uk



Editor: Steve Knox – colinknox@btinternet.com. All contributions welcome – please !!

Club Meets, etc., during July, August & September 2019.

Mon. 1 st July	‘Bleeding Wolf’, Scholar Green.	CCPC Monthly Meeting.
Sun. 7 th July	Ty Gwyn Mine, Llandudno.	CCPC Caving trip.
Sat. 20 th July	Penyghent Pot, Yorkshire. CHANGED: P.8, Derbyshire.	CCPC Caving trip. - Due to very bad weather.
Wed. 24 th July	Knotlow Mine, Derbyshire.	DCRO Training: Rigging for rescue.
Sat. 3 rd Aug.	Death’s Head to Boxhead Pot, Yorkshire. CHANGED: Eldon Hole Derbys	CCPC Caving trip. - Due to very bad weather.
Mon. 5 th Aug.	‘Bleeding Wolf’, Scholar Green.	CCPC ‘Informal’ meeting.
Tues. 6 th Aug.	Rescue Headquarters, Buxton.	DCRO Training: Basic cas-care.
Wk.End 17 th & 18 th Aug.	Dan-yr-Ogof /OFD, SouthWales CHANGED: Ogof Craig a Ffynnon	CCPC Caving weekend. - Due to very bad weather.
Wed. 21 st Aug.	Pooles Cavern, Buxton, Derbys..	DCRO Training: Engineering techniques.
Sat. 31 st Aug.	Mandale Mine, Derbyshire.	CCPC Caving trip.
Mon. 2 nd Sept.	‘Bleeding Wolf’, Scholar Green.	CCPC Monthly Meeting.
Mon. 2 nd Sept.	Rescue Headquarters, Buxton.	DCRO Training: Helicopters, Divers, Animals.
Sat. 14 th Sept.	Derbyshire, somewhere !	DCRO Training ‘Ralph’s Revenge’ exercise, & Team Supper.
Sun. 15 th Sept.	Birks Fell Cave, Yorkshire.	CCPC Caving trip..
Sat. 28 th Sept.	King Pot, Yorkshire.	CCPC Caving trip.



Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation training events, etc., are included in the table above, as CCPC has always maintained a strong involvement with that organisation, and a number of CCPC Members continue to play a significant part in DCRO, training regularly, and turning out whenever required to assist, when called upon to help those in trouble underground.

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



Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 7th July – Ty Gwn Mine, Llandudno, North Wales.

Five made the trip to Llandudno, for a fairly short but enjoyable trip into the Ty Gwyn mine hosted by the Great Orme exploration Society. No candyfloss was damaged or incinerated in the course of this meet. (Unlike previous trips here!) – Nigel Cooper.

Report provided by Steve Pearson-Adams – 21.07.2019.

‘Five intrepid explorers met up in Llandudno for a guided tour of Ty Gwyn Mine the Sunday before last. Being a Sunday, a leisurely 10:30 start time was arranged, along with the meeting point: to be in front of the famous Llandudno Pier.

Finding a suitable parking place was the first challenge, with some opting to park and change in the multi-storey car park, which drew a few raised eyebrows !!

Stephen from ‘GOES’ (I think it stands for Great Orme Exploration Society) kindly offered his services on the day. I’m not quite sure what the tourists made of the sights before them as we waited for the cap and cover to be removed. Quickly down the short ladder and we were in an impressive, dry-walled, arch-roofed adit, with not a sign of mortar in sight - truly impressive. Much of the mine’s workings have since been built upon with some of the old disused shafts now being located under hotel floors, car parks and in one case, in a closet of a ground floor bedroom, but that’s another story. As was common with mines during that era, much of Llandudno’s empty bottles, cosmetic pots, plates and jars have found their way into the mine via some of these shafts.

Stephen led us along the tramming level, which dissected a coffin level, along which was Fireplace Shaft and Simms Engine, or Thunder Shaft. It was here Stephen explained what effect the ocean tidal had, as the water level here could rise 4 meters !

The mine was first opened in 1835 and closed in 1853 during which time it produced £100,000 worth of copper ore but much of it, about £93,000, was produced in the first 12 years. Flooding was a constant battle because of the tidal influence, due to its close proximity to the sea.

This was not a long trip by any means, but it was interesting all the same.’



Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 20th July – Penyghent Pot in Yorkshire was a non-starter, due to the poor weather during the previous week, and the bad forecast, however a few stalwarts still got underground in P.8, Derbyshire.



DCRO Training at Knotlow Mine:- 24th July – This session was planned to provide an opportunity for team members to investigate the different rigging possibilities for hauling a casualty up the Pearl Chamber and Waterfall Chamber pitches [2nd & 3rd pitches].

There was a good turn-out, with folk being divided into two teams, one group for each pitch. Everyone was soon underground, via the Climbing Shaft entrance pitch, leaving a couple of us on the surface to enjoy the glorious evening sunshine, and to keep watch over the vehicles and to keep cattle away from the open shaft top. Time passed, and eventually the Pearl Chamber group emerged, having investigated various ways of setting up hauling rigs. The Waterfall Chamber group were still underground when I left to travel home.



Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 3rd August - Death's Head Yorkshire - This was another Yorkshire trip which unfortunately had to be abandoned due to the poor weather, making the long drive north pointless. Fortunately, the dry alternative of Eldon Hole in the Peak District provided a good day out for those still keen to get underground. Report provided by Steve Pearson-Adams – 03.08.2019.

'So, the weather up in the Dales was playing havoc with deciding which trip, if any, we should do. Was it worth the journey up there only to be disappointed ?

Eventually it was decided amongst the group (Dan, Rob, Neil, Jenny and Steve P.A.) that a trip down Eldon Hole was the preferred choice. We made our way, after picking up Neil en-route and arrived shortly after 10 a.m. The boot was quickly unloaded and so the four musketeers began to tackle up. Neil had been doing quite well of late, with not forgetting any gear, but alas that came to an end today having forgotten his wet socks (unlucky Neil) - not they were really needed for this trip. A few jibes were uttered, with me recalling having left on white pants when caving, Big mistake.

Once up the hill we met up with Jenny. I'm sure she was a Roman centurion in a past life, as I don't know any other members of our club who would hike for an hour and thirty minutes up Cave Dale, traversing Eldon Hill to get to Eldon Hole, and then do the trip. I can only say, OUTSTANDING Jen !!!!

I got on with rigging East route while Rob busied himself rigging South-west pitch. Soon we were all safely at the bottom, some recalling the snow drift that was present on our previous visit. We went through into Main chamber, which doesn't fail to impress, then Neil, Jen and Dan arranged the rope to access Millers Chamber, requiring a 22 metre prusik UP to gain the chamber ! Some nice speleotherms and calcite flows adorn the wall of the climb, with a good view back into the main chamber below. This was my first visit up into Millers, and Damocles Rift beyond, and may I say, well worth it ! Jenny opted to mess around in Millers while the four musketeers ascended the rift. Soon after the first rebelay an awkward move is required to negotiate a calcite constriction, and it was here that sadly, and with much regret, four became three as Neil's progress was hampered - something to do with being overweight ? This gave rise to some amusement amongst the successful three. Jenny made for the surface as the rest abseiled back into the main chamber, then up the ladder and into the bottom of the main shaft readying themselves for the long prusik out to glorious sunshine. A short walk back down the hill to the car, a change of clothes, and we were off to Castleton for a refreshing libation and chunky chips in the Peak Hotel . General chat about the trip followed with some focus on our next weekend, away in South Wales in a fortnight. Once again a good trip , three hours underground, and great company enjoyed by all.



Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 17th & 18th August – South Wales caving weekend. Weather Conditions forced plan changes AGAIN !!

Report details and photos provided by Des Kelly – 26.08.2019.

After our trip into **Dan yr Ogof** was called off due to about week of rain and the rivers full to the brim, the party instead visited **Ogof Craig a Ffynnon**.

Five members, led by our guide Stuart, had a good trip into this well decorated cave.

My camera couldn't handle the lack of light in the Hall of the Mountain King and Stuart has sent some of his pics of the chamber but I've posted a couple of pics anyway.

Here are my best efforts: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/TsGph5WeHTq7ua2u8>





***Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 31st August – Mandale Mine, Derbyshire.
Trip Report provided by Nigel Cooper – 31.08.2019.***

When I saw Mandale on the meets list for September, I thought “why not”. It was one of the first trips I’d done in the Peak District, back around 1986. Apart from the water, which used to regularly be about waist deep, I always thought it was the ultimate “take your Grannie” trip. This was despite the fact that the last time I was in there with Lionel P, we were almost entombed when part of the walled & stone stemped level partly collapsed on us! A few weeks later it collapsed completely, trapping a party of cavers & initiating a quite challenging rescue. Anyway, back to the present. When I mentioned the upcoming trip to my son Mark, he surprised me by saying he’d quite like to come along – he’s not caved for at least 15yrs. So, Saturday morning at 9:45 and we arrived in the layby in Lathkill Dale. John Gillett and Steve Knox were already there, so we quickly changed and headed down dale with them. A short struggle with some rusty bolts and we were inside the mine, heading down the incline. The sough proper was soon reached and just as I recalled – not quite waist deep but almost at critical (i.e. gusset) depth, & bloody perishing! (Note to self. Next time wear the wetsocks, rather than leaving them in the car boot.)

There was more to this place than I remembered. 30 odd years ago it just seemed like a quick stroll to the end and back (the odd collapse notwithstanding). Now it seems to have got much harder for some reason. After wading along the sough for some distance, we encountered a couple of slippery up & down climbs which I don’t recall at all, eventually arriving at the top of the climb down to a flooded stope.

At this point John decided to go back. Steve & Mark climbed down and deftly crossed the traverse over the stope – there’s now a traverse line, where previously I’ve just swam across. I followed them across but rather than deftly as they had, I accomplished the traverse with all the “poise & grace of an arthritic gypsy fiddler with chilblains” (copyright Les Dawson). Oh, and I also got somewhat wetter than they had! A further wet traverse followed in similar fashion, deftly executed by Steve and Mark – somewhat less so by yours truly. A short walk then brought us to the base of the Mandale Founder Shaft, where a noisy stream fell into another flooded stope – I didn’t remember this at all, I’m sure this used to be dry but it’s a good while back.

A mostly walking size (in places quite well decorated) passage then leads to the start of the long “hands & knees” section of passage. This has ginged walls with herringbone stemping supporting the roof and is a superb example of “T’owd Mans” art. Before the collapse previously mentioned, it was possible the crawl along until a window in the stemped roof was encountered. Above could be seen a high narrow, worked out stope. The stone lined section runs along the base of this stope and many tons of waste rock must lie in those stone stemples.

Steve, having been on the rescue previously alluded to, decided to crawl up this section to see if the supports put in during the rescue were still intact. (It seems they are but only just). Mark and I waited while Steve crawled on. I’d seen it, had it collapse on me and had no desire to give it another chance!! Besides, I was knackered - have I become the “Grannie”? If so, next time leave me at home!

On Steve’s safe deliverance from the clutches of the man eating stemples, we turned round & headed out. Due to a continuing lack of finesse on my part, at least one of the traverse lines was just used to prevent me from sinking – it was easier to just get wet! During the return journey, we met up with Alan B, Pete S & several others, who’d started in after us. Eventually the almost forgotten smell of ozone assailed my nostrils, indicating that daylight was at hand. A slow plod up the incline, and I was out.

Once back at the car and changed it was back to Monyash, for either the pub or café. Mark and I opting for the pub & after handing over a weeks wages for two glasses of Pepsi Max, discovered that most of the others had gone to the café. We settled down next to Rob and Susanne N for a chat, during which a strange chap came into the bar and started looking at me “funny”. I suddenly twigged it was young Gareth Williams, or at least the grown-up version. Now I really do feel old! It was great to see him, if only briefly as his family were in the dining room and food was imminent.

Oh I mused what joys I’ve missed, once home washing muddy gear in the yard! But now the memory has faded a little, I quite fancy another trip and so it would seem, does Mark. For me though, I think something like P8 would be my absolute limit.

Tempus Fugit – unfortunately!

A few photos from our trip along the sough follow, courtesy of Steve Knox:





***Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 15th September – Birks Fell Cave, Yorkshire.
Trip Report provided by Jenny Drake – 15.09.2019.***

'Five members had a very sporting descent of Birks Fell Cave in Wharfedale. We met for breakfast in Kettlewell, before driving the few miles to Buckden and parking in the village car park. After changing, there was a roughly one mile walk to the cave, crossing the valley floor and climbing the opposite hill side. Steve PA stopped by at the farm with our permit. There had been some rain overnight and more was forecast for the afternoon, so we had a time limit for the trip. Those who had been before found it hard to recognise in many places as the water levels were higher than on the previous trip.

The cave is reckoned to be one of the most sporting in the Dales, with water accompanying visitors for much of the time, down cascades and climbs. A couple of low crawls tested out larger team mates. We decided to turn round at Shooting Box Aven, where a spectacular waterfall drops around fifty feet in to the cave. There is plenty more cave to do beyond this, but we were conscious of time passing and the wet weather heading towards us. The journey out was swift and uneventful. No one obstacle is especially hard, but they follow each other in constant succession. Once in the flow of caving it is a joy to make progress through this cave. Back on the surface, we returned to Buckden and got changed, before wandering over to the pub for a post caving drink. All agreed that it is well worth returning to this cave for a trip without the time pressure and hopefully see more of it. Dow Cave/Providence Pot is not far away and the two systems would make a challenging weekends caving if camping nearby. Just a thought for next years meets list!' - Jenny.





Another brilliant set of photos from Des Kelly – thanks for sharing these with the rest of us. These really compliment Jenny’s account, and give a good idea of the nature of this trip.



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

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
Peak Cavern	Derbys.	SK 148825	3+	Giants Hole	Derbys.	SK119826
Cwmorthin Slate Mine	North Wales			Croesor – Rhosydd Mines	North Wales	
Poacher's Cave	North Wales			Hendre Spar Mine	North Wales.	
Water Icicle Mine	Derbys.	16106460	2+	Hillocks / Whalf Mines	Derbys.	14496729
Scoska Cave	Yorks.					
Gentlewoman's Shaft & Day Shaft.	Derbys.	29215959	3+	Brightgate Cave or Youd's Level	Derbys.	265599 29555945

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

Once again I was hoping to make the Newsletter up to **10** pages, but it seems that contributions from other Members are as rare as well, something ! Gold stars for those who did help out with reports or photos.

Cheers,
Steve Knox, Editor.