

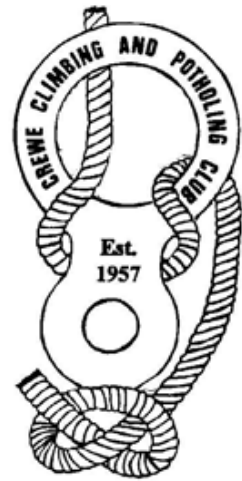


C.C.P.C. Newsletter 124 Autumn 2020

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The 'Covid' issue !

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Editorial:

Well, most of us are still here; still frustrated by the necessary restrictions, designed to try to protect us all from this dreadful virus; and still unable to get underground, or on the hills, as freely as we would all like. Hopefully, the recent announcements about vaccinations will bring changes in the new year, but until then, we just have to go on, doing the best we can.

Keep safe everyone, and use Social Media, telephone, e-mail, or whatever, to keep in touch.

The monthly CCPC Meetings, which have been taking place on-line, have been an excellent effort by the various organisers, although some of us, less technically competent, have not always managed to get properly connected, and able to contribute. (At least I could see and hear nearly everyone else).

DCRO on-line training sessions have been equally successful, and we look forward to more of the same. Again, this has been due to the hard work of a few skilled individuals, ultimately benefitting the rest of us.

There is no doubt that the caves and hills will be there when this is all over. We have to keep on doing our best to make sure that we are too.

With no Club caving taking place, and very little being contributed by Members (my thanks to those who have), you will understand that this Newsletter will be a very limited offering this month. Please consider writing something yourself !!! Anything welcome.

Steve Knox.

Club Meets, etc., since March 2020:

Sat. 21 st March.	National Lock-down began.	No Caving !!
All CCPC Club Caving Meets and activities cancelled.		
All face-to-face CCPC Monthly Meetings cancelled, but 'on-line' Meetings introduced.		
11 th – 20 th Aug.	CCPC Gouffre Berger trip (France).	Cancelled due to travel restrictions, and other factors, including insurance issues, and potentially reduced rescue cover.
Limited privately organised activities have taken place, as, and when, permissible, under the government restrictions in place at the time. Some Members continue to be self-isolating or 'shielding' during this period.		
There have been several 'outings' to carry out essential maintenance work at locations regularly used by cavers for access or parking. These are often thankless tasks, but help to ensure that particular caves remain accessible, while keeping friendly relations with landowners. Thanks are due to all those who have given their time (completing such tasks on many occasions over the years) for the benefit of us all.		



Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation:

Some Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation training sessions have been adapted, where possible, to allow team members to attend, while maintaining social distancing, etc.. Some on-line training sessions have been arranged, and have been successful.

Many DCRO team members have continued to be ready to assist whenever required, throughout the present period of the Pandemic, and have trained with, and used, PPE where appropriate.

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



Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 7th June 2020 – Knotlow and Surrounding Mines, Monyash, Derbyshire.

Trip Report – Nicola Wellings.

Six eager cavers turned up at Knotlow ready to practice SRT and get underground, whilst others turned up to go on their own walking adventure, taking in the Derbyshire scenery. Parking tightly onto the grass verges, and being mindful of social distancing, we got ready in the drizzle and planned which routes to do – memories of doing this in a café with coffee, heating and food, seemed distant, but not completely necessary, as we all got ready and saw familiar, smiling faces! Splitting into a 3, 2 and 1, various options were rigged giving an opportunity for everyone to practise short and long pitches. A pleasant afternoon was had by all, with many experiencing some type of 'sweat on' during the ups on the longer pitches, and "Why am I doing this", on the equivalent downwards journey.



Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- A Plea for Help from Alan Brentnall:

As most of you will know, the cavers' route to P8 crosses two stiles where it goes through a narrow fenced section and enters the P8 field. Both of these stiles are in need of some repair. The last time the stiles were repaired is around a decade ago, when Ralph Johnson and other volunteers from the "Coffin Dodgers" made a very good job of this. The Coffin dodgers were predominantly Crewe CPC members who did lots of remedial work in the Peak District caves and mines during the nineties and the noughties, but, following Ralph's death, this valuable work has ground to a halt.

I'm not suggesting that CCPC should resurrect the Coffin Dodgers, but, if just a few of us could take a look at this relatively easy job in Ralph's memory, it would be greatly appreciated - not least by Pete Knight, the DCA Projects Officer, who is currently snowed under with work in several other underground venues (including P8).

Roy Rodgers and I have mended a few stiles over the years, and it's a relatively simple joinery task. A couple of years ago we mended the stile which crosses the fence into the doline containing Gautries Hole and Car Pot, and old Mr Ritter, the Perryfoot farmer, was very appreciative. Mr Ritter is a great friend of cavers, and always has been.

If you fancy doing this, please let me know so that I can tell Pete Knight that there is one less job to do.

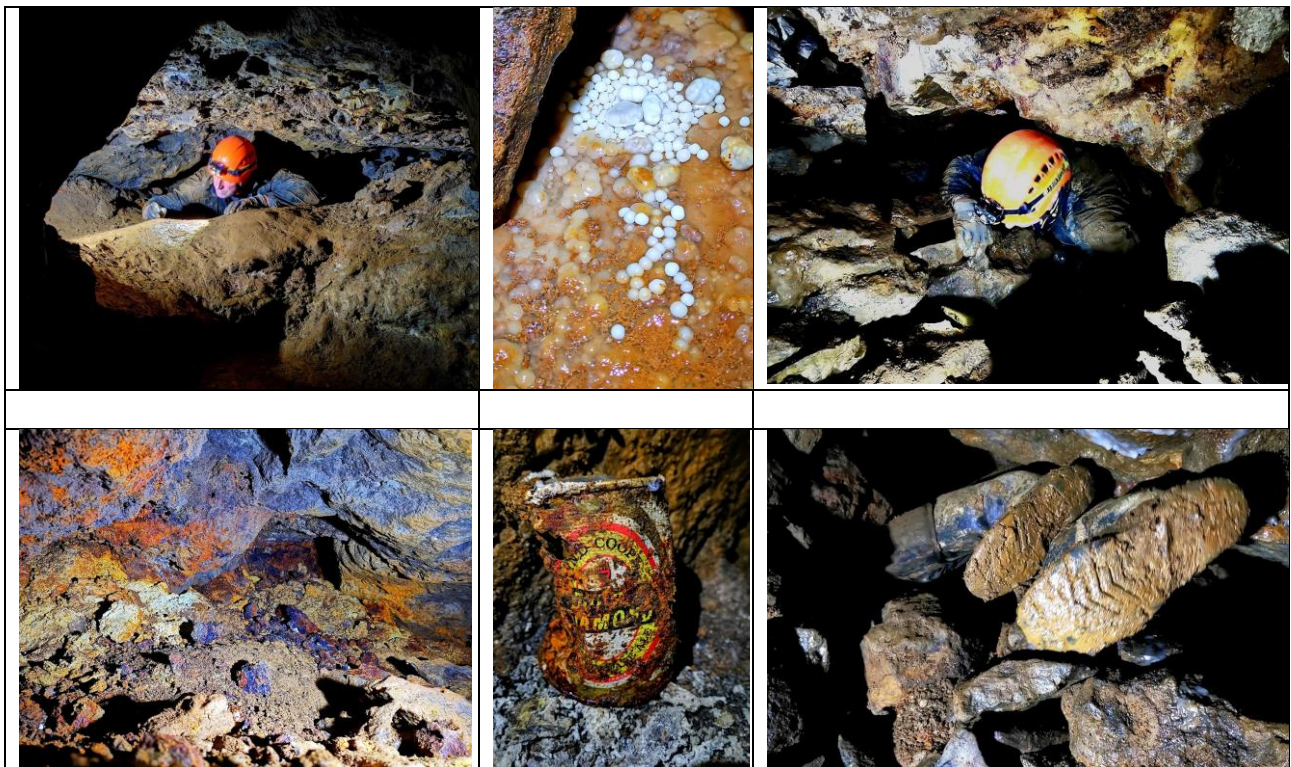
Alan Brentnall

Kings Mine, Matlock, Derbyshire – Tuesday, 21st July 2020

Today I set off to try out the King's Mine on Masson Hill. I had been warned of hanging death loose rock and hard navigation so as usual I decided to work it over multiple visits. What transcended was one of the best day's caving I've ever had. - A little over four hours of face up or face down crawling into flat's which branch off the main pipes, sometimes only to have to reverse out due to lack of turning room. Hard to believe that men and children had to work in these conditions that we now use for recreation. I managed to cover about half of the workings, but even the fifty-metre flat out crawl, in and out, won't put me off returning to finish what I started. It is well worth the effort, if anyone fancies some proper caving without the need for a rope and tackle. Added a few pictures for anyone interested, but not much room for any masterpieces I'm afraid.

Gaz Mcshee

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/FjWEJuyf6ZKPNyHz8>



Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 24th October 2020 – Hagg Gill Pot, Langstrothdale, Yorkshire.

Originally this trip was intended to be Pasture Gill, but more on that later. There were not many takers for this trip, so it was left to me, Ade, and Mark, aka the "White Van men" (inside joke), to make the journey up north. We decided it would be better to drive up on Friday after work, saving an early departure on the Saturday morning. The arrangement was to meet in the public car park in Buckden, and partake of a socially distanced drink at the nearby Buck Inn.

Mark having had a free Friday was first to arrive, followed by myself, with Ade bringing up the rear, -most unusual for Ade. Having missed the chance of a pub meal we retired to our respective vehicles around 21:45. There I was cooking up pasta mixed with pesto and fried peppers, what was I thinking !!!

The following morning, like the evening before, Mark was the first to rise, followed by myself and, you guessed it, Ade bringing up the rear, - sound familiar ? Yorkshire didn't fail to deliver on the weather front, with strong gusts throughout the previous night, and now the hills were blanketed in mist with a constant drizzle for good measure. Needless to say, after a short deliberation a unanimous verdict was reached to avoid Pasture Gill, for fear of getting caught beyond the duck, due to the possibility of flooding, so it was with Ade's knowledge of these caves that Hagg Gill should be our target instead.

We made our way to the parking area between Deepdale and Yockenthwaite, taking particular note of the rising river levels. While Mark and Ade kitted up, I ventured up the Dale in search of a 'phone signal so that I could let Helen know of the change to our original plans. Does anyone know how much a Satellite phone costs ? -no prizes for guessing. Even the B.T. box a few miles up the Dale was being decommissioned.

Back at the parking area, after a quick change into my gear, we were off. Ade no longer bringing up the rear, but leading the way, with Mark and I following behind. Soon we were at the entrance, a fine, scaffold lined affair, dropping approximately 3- 4 meters to a constriction, which Ade rigged in his usual double-quick time. Once past the nippy bit the rift opens into the impressive chamber known as Shatter Pot. A free hang of 15 meters sees you land on the shattered, sloping floor with 2 routes on. To your right as you come off the rope is a short climb down to a rift with a sump to its left. While to your left and up the slope is the route on, joining the stream. We headed up-bank first, where many pretty formations can be seen along the route which takes in a few crawling bits, cascades, and small chambers in between. Ade was the first to comment, 'Des needs to be in here with his camera'.

Back in Shatter Pot we made our way down the climb, with Mark poking his head into the sump for a look. Then we were off, making the climb down the short cascades, then entertainment as we entered a sizeable chamber with an abundance of geo faults and hanging death !! Beyond this the cave gave back in spades. The collection of differing formations was truly beautiful: Dog tooth curtains, Cake tiers, Gour Pools, some filled with popcorn calcite formations, calcite rafts, stals, Moon Milk, and last but not least, a rift passage lined on both sides with Helictites, the like of which I have not seen in a long time. The rift passage is similar in some aspects to the Crab Walk but not nearly as long. At one point the rift passage is lost momentarily, and one has to negotiate an awkward flat narrowing in the floor of the stream. Ade was first through with me in the middle. I remember Ade commenting, 'Good job I got my wet suit on'. My reply being, 'That will do for me'. Then Ade said, 'Its not tight, you'll be ok', so on we pressed. It was well worth the effort because Hagg Gill just kept on giving, right up to the point where we reached the 'Thin White Line', a fine display of straws similar to Cloud Chamber, in Dan-yr-Ogof, but on a much smaller scale. We were happy with what we had done, and decided to make our return, which proved sensible, as water levels had risen significantly in the hour we had spent in that area. It made for an exciting exit. Altogether three hours of wonderful caving, and highly recommended.

Steve Pearson-Adams.

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Ade Pedley added:

After Steve and Mark left, I went and checked out the entrance to Pasture Ghyll. There was a small stream running into it which I thought wasn't a problem. I climbed down the unappealing entrance for a short way, and could hear lots of booming water from inside, so it was with some satisfaction that I felt we had made a good decision. I stayed overnight, and it was still wet and wild in the morning. It wasn't until I got home that I realised i had an extra hour in bed that day!

Langstrothdale will be a great place for a weekend; lots of caves to do; great spot to wild camp, and a pub down the road

Adrian Pedley
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Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- 28th October 2020 - Clearing the P8 car park.

		
	<p>Alan Brentnall had asked if we could do a spot of gardening in the P8 parking area, as it was getting overgrown. Mick and Gill Potts assisted me with the job today. There should be room for 7-9 cars now. Steve Pearson Adams</p>	



Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation

Solve your Christmas present problems with a Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation fund raising calendar. I can see at least one picture from Gaz there. Well done Gaz! DCRO have lost a lot of its usual fund raising events from COVID this year, so this will help redress that.
- Jenny Drake.

<https://derbyshirecro.org.uk/2021-fundraising-peak-caving-recue-calendar/>

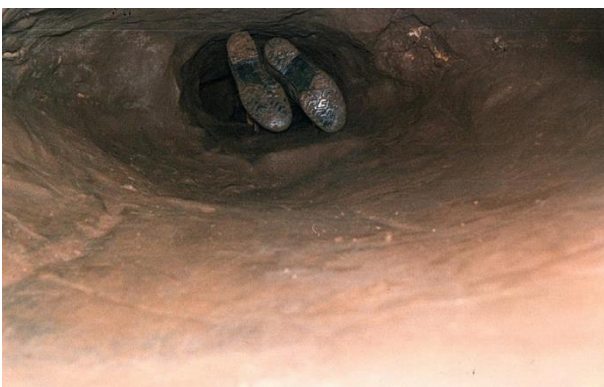


Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:- Old Photographs from Mark Lovatt.

Passing time whilst in lock-down, I sorted through a box of old photos and came across these. Although not of great artistic merit, they may have some historical value to CCPC members and others. I think they are from the mid 1970s.



1) This is the second cap on Knotlow 210' shaft, installed (I think) by Eldon CC which replaced the original Eccles CC one. When this eventually crumbled, CCPC fitted the current one (c.1990?). Note the steel lid with the inscription 210' in weld; this was reused on Cascade Cavern where it has confounded many feckless youths who find they have 170' of rope left over!



2. & 3.) Peter Heath (CCPC) in 'the Bung', Knotlow.



4. & 5.) Jeff Fox (CCPC) ascending from Pearl Chamber and exiting the Climbing Shaft, Knotlow Note the 'mutual suicide pact life-lining from the waist' technique which was in vogue at the time.



6.) John Preston descending the 210' into Waterfall Chamber. Note the fixed ladder which used to make a through trip to Hillocks via Meccano Passage very much more convenient. CCPC removed this at the request of DCA in the early 1990s.

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Please consider submitting something for the next Newsletter - hopefully we will all be out and about by then ! You might even discover a few historic photographs in your own collections.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL. S.K.

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