



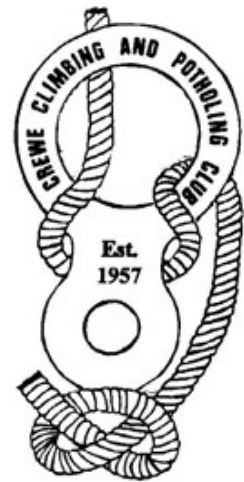
C.C.P.C. Newsletter 136.

July / August 2022

(The Summer Edition)

Log on to www.ccpc.org.uk

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Farewell Des Kelly:

By the time you read this I'm sure that you will know the sad news that our dear friend Des Kelly passed away in hospital on Tuesday, 19th July, after being taken ill ten days before.

Since joining us back in 2014 Des has been a hugely important member of our club, taking an active role in practically every club meet and social event, both above and below ground.

He was a pleasure to cave with, and was always willing to support and encourage everyone he came into contact with.

Des will be greatly missed by all who knew him, and had the pleasure of caving, walking and socialising with him.

Our thoughts and condolences go out to Gill and Martin, and to the rest of Des's family and friends at this time.

Lovely photo supplied by Nicola Wellings.

Des was cremated privately on 4th August, at 8.30 am., and at Gill's suggestion, many Members paused at that time, for one minute's silence to remember Des.

Another bright light, gone out too soon.



A good action photo supplied by CJ (*Cameron Atkinson*), featuring Des doing two things which he obviously enjoyed – caving with other CCPC members, and recording the action with his camera.

This was taken during a trip down Poacher's Cave, in North Wales, on 30th January this year. Eight other CCPC Members enjoyed Des's company that day, and afterwards (as so often before) he uploaded his photographs for everyone to enjoy. [See: *Ibbeth Peril* below]

Planned Club Meets, etc., from July 2022 to August 2022:



Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:

4 th July 2022	July Club Meeting	8.30 pm. at 'The Red Bull', Butt Lane, and hopefully also by 'Zoom'.
17 th July 2022	Parys Mountain, Anglesey, North Wales	Extensive copper mines – with a guide.
20 th July 2022	Gouffre Berger Meet, Autrans, France.	A group of Members will be away in France until 10 th August.
30 th July 2022	Giants Hole, Castleton, Derbyshire. Alt.: P8 (Jackpot).	Excellent 'local' cave systems, with limited SRT.
1 st Aug. 2022	August Club Meeting	8.30 pm. at 'The Red Bull', Butt Lane, and hopefully also by 'Zoom'.
14 th Aug. 2022	Turbary Pot – Valley Entrance, Kingsdale, Yorkshire. Alt. Illusion Pot.	Can be done as a pull-through trip !
27 th Aug. 2022	Curtain Pot, Yorkshire. Alt.: Moorfurlong Mine, Derbyshire.	A long walk over, then twelve SRT pitches! Alt.: Two pitches (13m + 4m).
Privately organised activities continue to take place, especially now, as government restrictions (Covid) have been removed. Even so, some members may still be self-isolating or 'shielding' for personal reasons. Please try to support Club trips when you can. Steve Knox, Ed.		



Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation:

DCRO team members continue to be ready to assist whenever required, throughout the present period of the pandemic, and will use PPE, where appropriate. Training continues.
<https://www.facebook.com/DerbyshireCaveRescue>

4 th July 2022	DCRO Training: the Larkin Frame.	Knotlow Mine, Monyash, Derbyshire.
19 th July 2022	DCRO Training: Underground Hauling.	P.8, Perryfoot, Derbyshire.
3 rd Aug. 2022	DCRO Training: Surface Navigation.	Grinlow Woods area, Buxton. Meet Pooles Cavern car park for 7.30 pm. start.
15 th Aug. 2022	DCRO Training: Stretcher loading and moving.	



Sunday, 19th June 2022: Ibbeth Peril, 1 & 2, Dentdale. Adrian Pedley

Skipping all the breakfast and getting changed stuff, I will get straight into the caving. Five of us turned up, myself, Des Kelly, Steve Pearson-Adams, Rob Nevitt, and Neil Conde; first time in this cave for me, and first time in Dentdale, a beautiful, quiet Yorkshire dale.

Ibbeth peril has been attempted twice previously but the trips were thwarted by high water levels. There is an ideal spot to park in a large area, and only a five-minute walk to the entrance. No problems with the water levels today, as



the river was but a trickle emptying into the large hollow below a waterfall, and must have been 3m or more below the entrance. Although there were

large amounts of flood debris littering the edges, our entrance into Ibbeth 1 was surprisingly clear and obvious with its wooden gate requiring only a little clearing.

Once inside, the entrance crawl soon opens out gradually to walking height. There is evidence of flooding everywhere, leaving us in no doubt that this can be a dangerous place in wet weather.

After not too far we entered the main breakdown chamber, pretty big place with some good formations some of which were stained black by minerals in the limestone.



Reading the description and survey, it suggested we look at the stream passage entering from the side, with a dodgy step across to get into it. Some elected to find the easier less exposed way in, this is a fine passage which closes down after a while to a sump. Back in the main chamber, reading the description again

which seemed to suggest only “left turns” through the boulder choke at the bottom of the chamber, off we set trying to match the description to the cave with little success. The ladder we lugged along came into use at one point for an awkward step down. Three cavers who shall not be named (but it wasn’t me, Neil or Des) elected to use the ladder for added security. Eventually we found a sump and a streamway, none of which seemed to match up with the writeup or survey, which also suggested a round trip, but back towards the entrance. This could not be found; in fact, not a lot matching to that description was found, but we had a good mooch around, for a couple of hours before heading out to find Ibbeth 2.



Ibbeth 2 was found after a while, under a large slab covered in twigs and other stuff, the oil drum entrance didn’t look appealing, being full of stuff, plus I spotted something big moving down there !, I plucked up some enthusiasm and went in for it. Our ever-reliable description said there was a crawl with a pool, but all I could see was flood debris, so not very inviting. This would be a battle, and a severe gardening exercise, so I backed out, catching and ripping my oversuit on the edges of the rusting drum lining the entrance ! I exited, feeling rather irritated, and losing whatever will I had for getting any further. Neil had a go, but came to the same conclusion, but at least he didn’t rip his suit!

Crewe members are never deterred by such things, so we set off in search of another cave down the dry riverbed. With only a dot shown on the map, and no idea of what lay beneath, we gave it a go, but in reality didn’t stand much chance of finding this hole, considering it probably hadn’t been entered for years, and would most likely be full of stuff from the river, which indeed turned out to be the case. I had a poke around for a while longer, but nothing turned up, so we headed back and called into the local pub just up the road. It was called the Sportsman, and turned out to be one of those pubs that felt like you had gone back in time 40 years or more, with two fires going even though it was a hot summers day ! Even so, it was a great place, and we sat in the sun and contemplated the day whilst the pub dog tied to the next table barked constantly, craving attention. This soon proved to be too much to bear, so I untied him and brought him over to our table - peace and quiet finally!

We all agreed that this was a great location, and whilst the caving wasn’t what we hoped for, there is obviously a lot to go at in the area and you could have a good time doing multiple small caves in one day. There is a campsite nearby, and it’s not too far from the pub. A great area all in all, and worthy of a weekend stay I reckon!

A.Pedley

Photos courtesy of Des Kelly. More of Des’s photos can be seen at:
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/D2Vv8HoEzghByV1H9>

22nd June 2022: Escaping SRT Bits - A Cautionary Tale.

Jenny Drake

A mid-week trip was organised by Grace for the TSG to Titan, with the aim of exploring the Titan Streamway. With Grace and two other TSG members were Gaz and I as quests. I had dismantled my SRT rig after a muddy Odin Mine trip a few days prior, before washing all the soft materials, like harness, cows tails and cleaning the clanky metal bits. It was reassembled and checked before Titan and dropped into my caving bag. I arrived at the Event Horizon and decided that the top jammer and footloop could come in handy for the traverse around the Horizon to the streamway. Imagine my horror to discover no jammer and footloop on my harness. Over the last year, I've been caving without a safety link to the top jammer from the harness and using the long cowstail for this job. The standard way of doing SRT on the continent, though still rare in the UK.

Since I was already at the Event Horizon, I joined the others for the rest of the trip climbing up some of the Streamway cascades, till time told us we would need to start making our way out. Fortunately, I'd practised using a mini traxion pulley jammer as an improvised top jammer at White Hall during our training session there earlier in the year. With a borrowed dyneema tape sling as a foot loop, this proved almost as effective as my usual Petzl Basic jammer and dyneema cord foot loop set up for prussiking and I made it up the 70m and 40m pitches without difficulty. The only cause for concern was the risk of dropping the mini traxion when removing it from the rope and I took exaggerated care over this at the top of each pitch. These two pitches are technically simple, if rather long and intimidatingly exposed. A more complex pitch with multiple rebelayes would make the chances of being stranded after dropping the traxion much higher.

At the time I wasn't sure I could trust my memory of completely reassembling my SRT rig before the trip, but once home I realised that that memory was probably accurate, as the missing parts were not there. The footloop/jammer was therefore probably either lost in the grass on the walk in from the car park, or more likely, in the pool of water in the window passage at the base of the entrance shaft. I'd lent a krab from my harness to the person rigging the main drop, as he was having difficulty doing up maillons on the pitch head high overhead. It was possible that the escaped bits had become disconnected then and were hidden in the muddy water of the pool.

I returned a week later, with a couple of TSG folk and an old Croll jammer and foot loop, made from a length of accessory cord. I descended first and found the water in the pool crystal clear. I crossed it very slowly, to minimise stirring up the silt again and found the errant bits of SRT kit just before the window, so all was well.

I have since revised how the top jammer and foot loops are attached to the long cowstail, in the hope of preventing a recurrence !

Jen.



Monday, 4th July 2022: DCRO training with a 'Larkin Frame'.

This item is included for those of you who have never heard of a Larkin Frame, but might come across one in use by DCRO, or any other rescue team.

A Larkin Frame is used **instead** of the more familiar tripod set-up over an open shaft, and will allow a casualty to be hauled to the surface, and then high enough above the level of the shaft top for the rescuers to swing the casualty to one side onto safe ground. The Larkin Frame can be set up, and rigged, on safe ground close to an open shaft, or close to a cliff or ravine edge, before being moved forward and anchored into position. It then can be 'rocked forward' to bring the haul rope into position to recover the casualty, then 'rocked back' when the casualty is suspended clear of the edge of the drop, and the casualty can then be lowered onto safe ground.



Larkin Frame in use (training) at the Knotlow Mine climbing shaft.



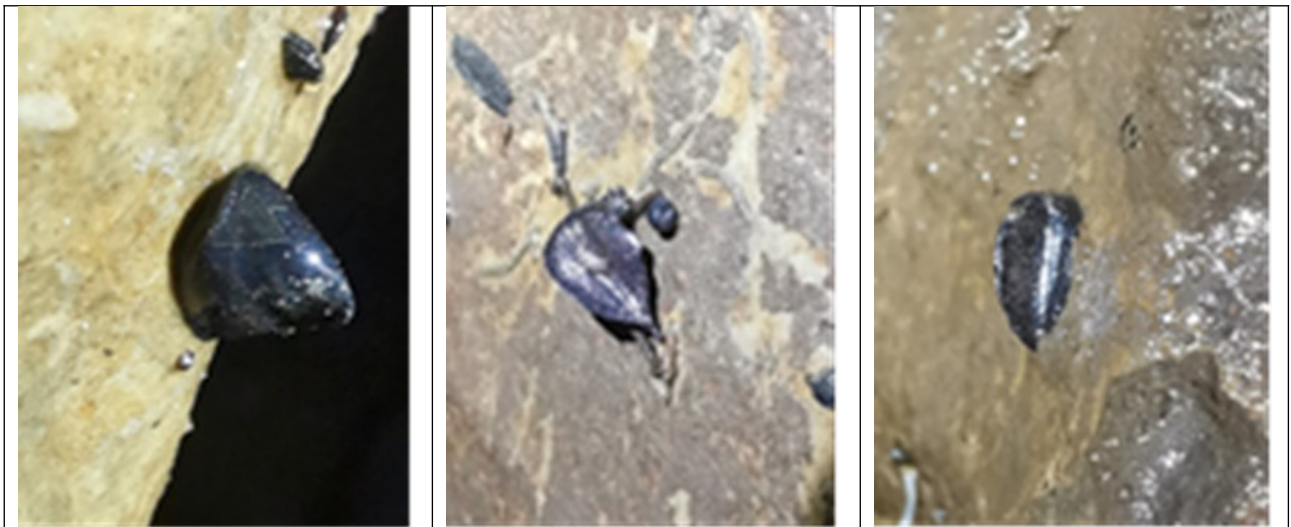
Steve Knox.

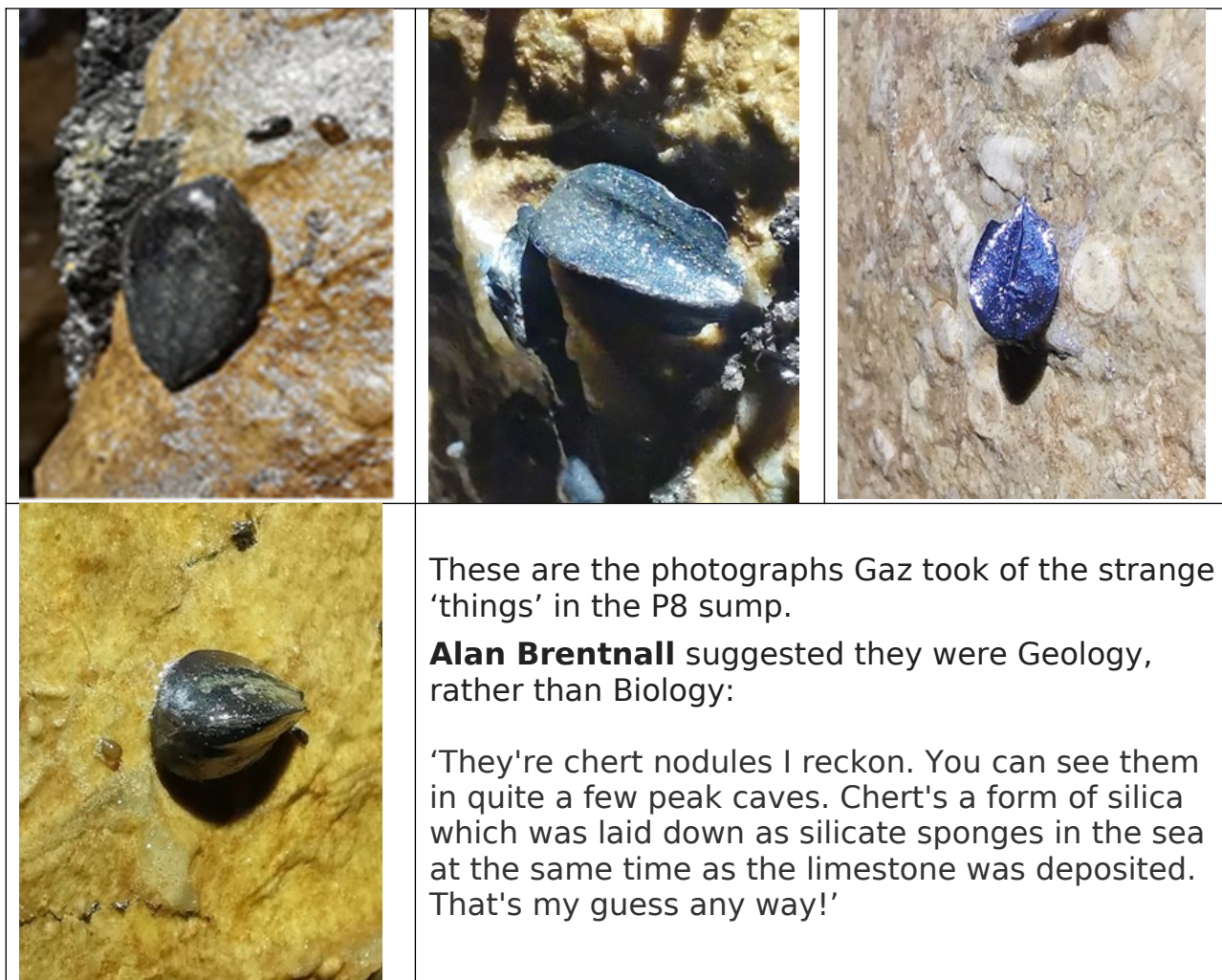


Mysterious P8 Sump Features / Creatures / Organisms / ??????

From: **Gaz Mcshee** - Thursday, 21 July 2022 At 20:32

"So, as it's been dry for a while, I've been pushing a few sumps around the Peak. I was in P8 yesterday and found these beasties attached to the walls of the sumps. I cannot find anything like them online, but they look like fossils, which initially I thought they were, until one got a little cross with me for prodding it. Anyone have any idea what they are ?"





These are the photographs Gaz took of the strange 'things' in the P8 sump.

Alan Brentnall suggested they were Geology, rather than Biology:

'They're chert nodules I reckon. You can see them in quite a few peak caves. Chert's a form of silica which was laid down as silicate sponges in the sea at the same time as the limestone was deposited. That's my guess any way!'

My own suggestion, based on the TV series 'Stranger Things' was rather more frivolous:

'... these look like something from the 'Upside Down' - creepy !!!' **Ed.**

Gaz responded more sensibly to Alan's suggestion that Chert was involved:

'I thought that Alan, until one of them crawled away when I poked it. I've never seen anything quite like them before that wasn't made of rock, that's for sure.'

Steve Knox added:

Back in February 2006, several of us were working at the bottom of a seventy-foot shaft under a building in Buxton (Eagle Street Well). We had to pump out the bottom 10 -15 feet every time we were there (for a couple of weeks that was most days), as the shaft base continually refilled once we stopped pumping. The shaft had originally been dug through solid limestone to intersect a strong spring at seventy-foot depth – it did !

'Aha', you say, 'impossible !! How could anyone know the spring was there ?'

Apparently the landowner wanted to get into the local Buxton Spring-Water business and engaged a local dowser to find a spring (you couldn't make this up). He examined the surface with his willow wands (or something), and marked the exact spot to dig (the proverbial X) and sure enough, there it was ! He even said it would be seventy feet down !!

I've been digging through my photos of the job, as Gaz's account reminded me of some strange things / creatures (?) which were exposed every time we dropped the water level. Fortunately, one photo shows these.



These were definitely organic, but I didn't really want to prod them.



Gaz: "Wow, looks like chicken pieces. There are certainly some stranger things in 'the upside down' we play in."

Photo: Base of Eagle Street Well, Buxton. 2006-02-22. Steve Knox

I always intended to collect a sample to send off (somewhere ??) but never did. Hopefully someone can identify these, and the (more easily accessible) things Gaz found. Any suggestions about sources of information will be very welcome.

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Page Filler: Creatures that spend their lives in caves are called 'troglophiles'. Examples include molluscs, worms, spiders, millipedes, centipedes, crustaceans, insects, fish, amphibians, and reptiles. Some species exist in complete darkness, so have lost the ability to see, and nearly all have evolved to be pale in colour.
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Saturday, 30th July 2022: Bagshawe Mine & Cavern, Derbyshire.

Jenny

Drake

We had an age range spanning 60 years underground today, over the nine people. Two novices, Lewis and Maeve (on their first caving trip), John Gillett, Grace Chu and her son Andrew, Heather Simpson, Rob Nevitt, Jack Lingwood and Jenny Drake.

After descending the steps, some of us went up Calypso's cave, while we waited for everyone to regroup.

We dumped rope and SRT kit at the top of the Dungeon, before heading towards Hippodrome. Some of the team turned back when it got crawly, and rigged and descended the Dungeon, to explore the lower series. The remained turned left at the Hippodrome, down the descending passage to visit the two sumps reachable from the junction.



Low water levels gave us the weird experience of caving alongside a dive line for many metres. Returning to the Dungeon, those with SRT kit descended the pitch, while Jenny and the two novices squeezed themselves through Agony Crawl to meet

them at the foot of the pitch.



From there, we started out, returning either via Agony Crawl, or back up the rope. Finally, the long climb up the steps to the Coe. Everyone enjoyed themselves today. Some of us went to 'The Anchor', near Tideswell, for a celebratory drink with John, for his birthday on Monday. Happy 85th Birthday John!

Photos courtesy of Jack Lingwood,; Full set available at:
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/GWf8zzAxD4TS1Qv47>



Sunday, 14th August 2022: Turbary Pot, Kingsdale, Yorkshire.

Gaz

McShee

Those involved: Gaz McShee, Rob Nevitt, Steve Pearson-Adams, Ade Pedley.

Four of us turned out yesterday for the club trip to Turbary Pot and as usual the first port of call was the cafe above Inglesport in the lovely little town of Ingleton.

Kingsdale was beautiful, basking in the summer heatwave that the country is currently experiencing, and it seemed ridiculous to start adding layers of clothing, ahead of the steep climb to the plateau above, where the entrance to the pothole was located.

The climb was straight forward but still the entrance was finally reached by four very sweaty bodies, especially Steve, who had chosen to get fully kitted up and was gasping by the time he joined us at the top. Meanwhile, Rob, who had chosen naturism as his dress for the ascent, was finally getting his clothes on, much to our relief.



I dropped in first and took the lead through the low crawl to the head of the first pitch, and then flat out, rigged the pull-through, before dropping in to start rigging the second pull-through while the others organised themselves to follow me down.

From the bottom of the second pitch the way on was through a dug-out shaft which had made the pull-through trip possible, by connecting Turbary Pot with Swinsto hence missing out a big chunk of the Swinsto entrance crawl.

From that point some crab-walking led to a section where the walls became too close to pass, and the way on became a low crawl in a small stream with some pretty tight squeezey bits for added interest. After a few climb-downs, and more crab-walking, we got to the next pitches and then to the Great Aven.



We had a good scout around to admire the 'pretties' before ploughing on, through the ever deepening and widening streamway, until we finally popped out in the Kingsdale Master Cave. Although flowing, the stream was very low, and

it seemed unthinkable that one would ever need to use the emergency high level traverse line to avoid the water.



blistering heat of Kingsdale.

We made good time going through the cave, and after getting changed, we headed off to the pub for a bit of light refreshment and a toast to Des who sadly will be missed from future trips, but not forgotten.



The only slight dampener to an amazing trip was the two-hour delay on the M6, after an earlier accident.

A link to the best of the photos is here for those interested. They were taken without long exposure due to our speed of movement through the cave, so they are not amazing, but they give a pretty good account of the place and the trip. Thanks to Steve, Rob and Ade for the great company.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/LUFUrUEJxwczeSH5A>



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Late news: URGENT - Celebrating Des's Life:

Neil Conde has notified Members that he is exploring the possibility of booking a bunk house in Yorkshire on Gill's behalf, ideally for the 10th September, to celebrate Des's life.

The plan is to scatter some of Des's ashes down Alum Pot.

Gill thought it would be a good idea to have two groups; a caving group that would like to go down Alum Pot, and a group who are non-cavers who could go for a walk, and then everyone could meet up afterwards.
Neil needs to know which people are planning on joining in the weekend so he can try and get something booked, although some people might want to stay somewhere other than a bunk house, or just turn up for the day. Please contact Neil ASAP. neillien@hotmail.co.uk

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