

C.C.P.C. Newsletter 142. February - April 2023

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Planned Club Meets, etc., from February to May 2023:



Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club:

a 10th T-1		
Sun. 12 th Feb.	Jug Holes, Matlock, Derbyshire.	Both are interesting mine complexes.
	Alt.: Cumberland Cavern, Matlock.	
Sat. 18 th Feb.	Devonshire Cavern, Matlock,	A rare opportunity to descend Kirkland
	Derbyshire.	Shaft. (Limited numbers.)
Sat. 25 th Feb.	Peak Cavern, Castleton, Derbyshire.	Very extensive and impressive cave
	Alt.: Giants Hole, Castleton, Derbys.	systems with many route choices.
Mon. 6 th Mar.	CCPC Meeting. 8.30 pm.	'The Red Bull', Butt Lane, Kidsgrove,
	Usually also accessible via Zoom.	Stoke-on-Trent. ST7 3AJ.
Sun. 12 th Mar.	Hough Level, Alderley Edge Mines.	Huge complex, with a boat trip or swim.
	Alt.: Hartington Moor Farm Adit.	Short passage with crawls over debris.
Sat. 25 th Mar.	P8 (Jackpot), Perryfoot, Derbyshire.	A superb little system with two short
	Alt.: Mistral Hole, Yorks	SRT pitches.
Sun. 9 th April	Cae Coch Sulphur Mine, near	A complex of chambers and workings
_	Trefriw, Conway Valley, N. Wales.	with extensive mineral deposits.
	Alt.: Perryfoot Cave, Derbys	_
Sat. 22 nd April	Shuttleworth Pot, Leck Fell, Yorks	A recently discovered system with
-		superb formations. SRT pitches.
Sun. 7 th May	Mouldridge Mine, Derbyshire.	Interesting mine complex, often used
•	Alt.: Moorfurlong Mine & Cavern.	for novice trips.
Sat. 20 th May	King Pot, Kingsdale, Yorkshire.	-
	Alt.: Illusion Pot.	
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Plenty of other trips continue to take place, often organised at short notice. If possible and practical, please let other Members know what you are planning, by using e-mail, and 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, and regular training continues, either at the DCRO base in Buxton, or at cave locations in the Peak District – both underground and on the surface. https://www.facebook.com/DerbyshireCaveRescue



Gentlewoman's Shaft to Youd's Level.

12th February 2023 Gaz Mcshee

Jenny Drake, Jack Lingwood and I did an alternative to the official club trip today, as news had surfaced that the Gentlewoman's Pipe was now accessible again after the landowner had previously dropped a four-tonne boulder over the entrance ! Having done Jug Holes many times the draw of a new adventure with big credentials was too much to ignore, so at some time gone eleven a.m., we started the slither down the narrow Gentlewoman's shaft.

I dropped in first and checked out the options to ensure we headed off in the right direction whilst the others made their descent.

Once in we headed off downhill through some pretty amazing, mined passage, with some really intense pick-work to rival any that Masson has to offer. Passing the handline, we soon found the pile of bones, and after the short crawl, up into the dark void above we went. As there is no way through at ground level the only way on is a pretty 'necky' climb up to about 20 or so metres, followed by some very thought-provoking high-level traversing over the unseen harbinger of doom below.



All safely over, our thoughts turned to the problem in hand, which was that we were now at high level, and had to be at low level, and the only way to do that was to chimney down over that still thought-provoking void.



Again, all down safely, although I got some great panicked-face shots of Jack and Jenny (!) then we followed the stream downhill to find Overseer Chamber. After admiring the 'medieval' graffiti, our thoughts turned to the passage onward and the squeezes that had to be passed to prevent a return trip, and a very uncomfortable, restricted 55 metre 'jug' out. The digging tools gave away the first duck; a small triangular restriction in the passage with a now-dirty puddle from all the muck we had stirred up on the approach. It looks 'O'reit' I thought, and barged straight in - one arm forward, slide and push. Nope, that didn't work, so back a bit, both arms through and push again.

It was at this point that I realised what the digging tools were for,

as I not only had to push myself through, but also 20kg of gravel and mud which was backing up over my shoulders. It had been lurking unseen beneath the muddy puddle's surface. Having cleared the way for the others they soon joined me, and on to the second duck we went.



Again, I went in without digging, but this duck was pretty clear of gravel, however it was a pure squeeze. There was no contortion here, just 'be small'. I however, am not ! My rib cage wedged solid, and progress was very slow, but mm by mm I managed to move until the pressure eased and I was free. The others flew through, especially Jack who even had space to spare! Once into Old



Jant Mine, Jenny and I started to recognise bits from our previous visit here when we did Day Shaft, and failed to find the connection. That was my first trip with Crewe.

We had however forgotten how low Old Jant was, but that just added to the spirit of the trip we had undertaken, and before long, my personal favourite love/hate appeared on the horizon - the coffin level.

Masson Sough is a great preparation for this, it's much bigger sister, beautifully hand crafted by ancient miners with lines that



draw you in, like a Venus fly trap, until it's too late and you are committed. Strangely though, not climbing these days has shrunk my shoulders, and the suffering was much less that my last visit, although sitting at the junction with Youd's Level I still felt a lot of trepidation about what was about to occur. The others set off ahead, and once composed I followed alone so that I could pace myself. It went reasonably smoothly, although I had many stops, and swore a lot, and cried a bit, and begged God to kill me now. But eventually I caught up with the others, and before long the lid was flung open, and out into the daylight we all appeared - much to the surprise of all and any of the general public who were passing. After getting dry we headed back to Masson Quarry to derig, and parted company after what is deservedly seen as a bit of a classic. Thanks guys for a really fun and very sporting trip and hopefully I will see you all again at Peak Cavern in a couple of weeks. All photos are here for those interested. <u>https://photos.app.goo.gl/qhkt6M3vkjSWGSGi6</u>

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Alan Brentnall passed on some very useful route-finding information for a future Gentlewoman's Shaft / Day Shaft exchange:

'From personal experience, I'd say that the route from Gentlewoman's downstream was the easiest to follow, the main points being:-

a) recognising where to climb up into the high traverse - although I think if you miss it you'll be forced to return and find it as there isn't a way through at floor level;

b) the two breakthrough "puddles" can be blocked with flood debris after heavy rain, but there are digging tools at both ends, so you'll know where you are, and what to do;

c) after the "puddles" you meet the main stream (climb down to it) - just go downstream;

d) after you enter the coffin level, fairly soon you meet a junction, left here takes you straight to the bottom of Day Shaft.

The upstream route:-

a) after leaving the coffin levels, follow the stream and watch for a climb up on the left (true right bank) into a large passage - if you miss it, you'll eventually get to the ruined buddling trough, and know to turn back and look harder;

b) the large passage leads to the two "puddles" - see notes in the downstream section above;
c) again the climb up into the traverse needs to be recognised - might help if the downstream team left you a marker.

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Jug Holes, Matlock, Derbyshire.

12th February 2023 Steve Pearson-Adams

Four members gathered for this trip, travelling down in one car. Arriving on Salters Lane we noticed the pull-ins now have signs on them, "Passing Point". No doubt as a result of those inconsiderate drivers who cause issues for the farmer and obstruct access to the fields and farm tracks.

Jug Holes, upper and lower series, has a lot to offer within a relatively short trip, including remnants of the mining that took place here, connecting the naturally formed phreatic water chambers. The early mining activity dates back to 1629 when Noon Nick Vein, on which Jug Holes is situated, was being worked for lead, both from lead-rich sediments in the floor, and mineralised hydrothermal pipe deposits in pockets on the walls. Mining of Fluorspar around the mid-20th century accounts for the workings and mining artifacts around the 5th Water Chamber.

Our trip began with a look into the Upper Series and in particular the Beehives. Although the drop accessing the Upper Series can be free climbed I opted to rig a ladder to assist on the awkward slope at the top of the drop on our way out. We made our way down to the stream, avoiding the maze of boulders by keeping to the right side of the slope. The maze can be very disorientating and is best avoided. Once at the bottom we followed the stream bed (today a mere trickle) before taking a moment to scatter a bit more of Des, then on to the Beehives. I have had several trips over the years into both the Upper and Lower series, unlike the 3 virgins(Neil, Dan, & Rob) who were with me. It was nice to see their reaction to theses impressive formations and pools. Forever the curious one, Neil pushed the downward slope at the far end of the Beehives, which meets the stream passage. At this point I joined the "virgin club", as I had never bothered with it, as on a previous trip I was told it was basically a low

muddy crawl . How wrong that was, as this passage contains some fine calcite curtains and small stals if you look hard enough. Neil poked his head into a low opening on the right, at the base of the slope as we were heading back up it. "It goes", so we all followed. You drop back into the stream bed after a few metres, and turning right at this point takes you back to the far side of the Beehives and close to the bottom of the boulder maze.

Jug holes was busy, with a couple of Peak Caving Club members checking out the lower workings, and a dad and his two kids wandering around the mined bits in the 2nd Water Cavern. We also had a wander around here, before exiting and making our way down the hillside to enter the lower series adit entrance. We made our way through the short adit into the 5th Water Chamber then the 4th then the 3rd. It was here that we began looking for a drop behind boulders that Jack had suggested we look out for, as it leads to more workings. I think we found the spot; - after you straddle a couple of boulders there is a drop off to your right ,about 6 metres in depth, but nothing that offers either a hand or foot hold, well, nothing obvious anyway. Without a rope we decided not to bother and made our way into the 2nd Chamber, and our exit up the free climb out, although we had rigged this earlier with a hand line. All out safely we headed back to the car, got changed, and drove up to the 'Miner's' for a pint and a natter about the day.

3hrs underground with the following members present. Rob Nevitt, Dan Baddeley, Neil Conde, and Steve Pearson-Adams.

Alan's Note: An Odd Event at Jug Holes !

The "missing vicar" shout at Jug Holes a few years ago was probably one of the strangest callouts DCRO had while I was active.

A minister and a woman (neither were cavers) were taken into the Upper Series of Jug Holes by a more experienced caver. DCRO was called out by relatives when one of them didn't return for tea! Pete Dell led the first party in and found the vicar and the lady PDQ, but there was no sign of the other chap who had wandered into the maze to "check the route". They shouted to him, asking if he was OK to which he replied, "Not really", before going silent for the rest of the day. Not knowing what to do, or even which way was "out", they sat there for several hours until Pete Dell and crew found them.

Following on from this, more of the team arrived and set about searching the maze. By 1:00 the following morning, the place had been searched thoroughly, twice, to no avail, and by this time I had even called in a SARDA dog man (John Combes from Edale MRT) to search the surrounding area, and (possibly) even send the dog underground. Additionally, some fresh team members had also turned up, so I persuaded them to have another good look around in the system. Fortunately the missing man was found - unhurt but a bit embarrassed. A month or so later Pete Dell and I took all three for a good trip around Jug Holes - Pete knew some of them as he's a local, but we never really found out the truth about what happened, although I do have my own theory! The DCRO team did quite well out of the shout with some hefty donations.

Alan Brentnall

Previous Newsletters (No. 140 & 141) – 'From the Archives':

Alan was the only one to come up with a suggestion for the **140** question, suggesting that the photos of <u>Stan Kowalik in 'The Wringer'</u> were probably taken in the entrance crawl to Upper East passage in Giants. I must admit, I have a different location in mind, but only a visit will prove it, either way. No suggestions yet for the **141** question – I thought that would be easy !

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18th February 2023

Jenny Drake

Over the last couple of years, I've been replacing the written descriptions of pitches in the rigging guide with drawn topos. Of the two sites left to do, Putwell Hill Mine currently has no access agreement in place, the other is Devonshire Cavern, above Matlock Bath. There is a total of four SRT pitches in the system. The shaft that drops in by the Upper Entrance, had a topo drawn a few years ago, but the Kirkland Shaft and the two internal SRT practice pitches were text only. Kirkland Shaft is not often visited, as it is in the garden of the owners of the Devonshire Cavern site at Kirkland House. I arranged access via DCA. Wayne Sheldon, DCA Chair, is doing a resurvey of the mine, so we agreed a mutually convenient date, so he could get laser distance, bearing and declination vectors and sketches of the vertical bits while they were rigged.

From CCPC, Steve P-A, Steve Colley and myself met Wayne near Kirkland House at the agreed time on a very mild Saturday morning, for February. Steve P-A had brought a 2m aluminium scaffold pole along, as well as the rope, slings and krabs, as this is needed across the top of Kirkland Shaft. With a back up to a nearby tree we soon had it rigged and dropped down to meet Wayne, who had come in via the main entrance. While Steve Colley was still on the surface, Wayne asked him to hold his hand over the shaft top to provide a target for his laser surveying gadget, but to avert his eyes from the beam. How powerful was this laser? Would Steve have a neatly cauterised hole flash burned through his palm? Fortunately, he came through this introduction to the new surveying techniques unscathed!

I made a sketch of the shaft on a bearing of 76° for Wayne and for the rigging guide and prussiked back up. Steve PA and Wayne headed for the Upper Entrance underground and Steve Colley and I went to meet them on the surface. I rigged the Upper Shaft, which drops in at the base of the stairs from the Upper Entrance. I backed the rope up to an enormous tree. Unfortunately, this used so much rope to go round the trunk that Steve P-A shouted up from the chamber that the rope was 2m short of the floor. A bit of rerigging with a spare rope got it to the floor, but a smaller and closer tree is the one to use. From there, we went the short distance up-dip to Hell's Well. This has an extra traverse line resin hanger and an extra, optional Y hang half-way down that are not in our rigging guide, or the DCA's topo. A rebelay, or deviation can be rigged from these around 4m above the floor; ideal for SRT practice in a safe environment. Steve P-A rigged this, and we descended to meet Wayne. Again, a laser shot was taken to get the survey line from the bottom to the top of the pitch. After de-rigging and measuring the rope, we crossed to the other side of the chamber and set up the other practice pitch. This is much harder to rig, involving a balance climb on a polished rib of rock to reach one of the two anchors for the Y hang. We found a couple of resin anchors on this pitch, and on Hell's Well were better with two small carabiners, or maillon rapides, rather than a large krab, as the loops were small above the glue and there was a risk of cross-gate loading of a large krab, or wear of the rope against the rock. These have been identified on the topos. While we were down the pitch, we heard the voices of another party in the mine. A couple from DCRO were there with their young children, and some visiting friends with theirs, doing a treasure hunt. The Upper Entrance gate was jammed, so only the thin could get out that way. The two Steves and I made our way back up the Upper Shaft rope and the others went back to the Main Entrance. The day was successful, with all of us getting done everything that we had planned. I had the

information to draw up the rigging topos, Wayne had his survey data, and the small children found their treasure. The draft topos are shown below and once tidied up will go in the rigging guide.

Devonshire Cavern Derwent South



The Tale Behind the Picture



When I was at school, back in Bradford in the 1960s, I had to re-sit a year because I didn't pass a critical O-level. I still needed to attend most classes, but, as I had a gained reasonable grade in my French O-level, the French teacher said that I could simply read books while I was in his class. So I raided the school library and, to my delight, I found quite a few books on caving which I'd never read before. I worked my way through several of Norbert Casteret's epic volumes before stumbling upon a copy of "Underground Adventures" by Arthur Gemmel and Jack Myers, a book which really blew my mind.

Here were details of the discoveries of caves I had actually heard of; some of them I'd even visited on the odd weekends when I could hitch hike up the Dales from my home in Bradford.

In those days, the only Dales caving guide in print was "Pennine Underground" by Norman Thornber, which was the green (first) edition with fewer caves, and even fewer

details. It would be shortly replaced by the slightly more detailed orange edition, but it would be at least another decade before Harry Long and others produced the first really decent guidebooks for the Yorkshire Dales caves.

Unlike guidebooks, "Underground Adventures" didn't really lay out the details of the cave, it told the history of the caves' discoveries, whereas, with the exception of certain specialist works, such as lain Barker's "Classic Caves of the Peak District", and Tim Lawson's "Caves of Assynt", caving guidebooks rarely contain much in the way of historical information other than dates and, maybe, a bibliographical list of club journal references.

Nowadays, of course, we have the internet with plenty of "blogs" giving anecdotal descriptions, and even "You-tubes", where we can view a trip into a cave before we first descend it, and, although none of this was available in the mid-60s, it was still possible, through the pages of a book such as "Underground Adventure", to get an idea of how the caves were discovered and, more importantly, what they were like from a caver's point of view. "Underground Adventures" fascinates me to this day; in fact, I constantly go back to it as it still interests me and encourages me to do more caving.

And, many years later, while I was sitting in the TSG Chapel in Castleton, talking to John Cordingley as we sat, sipping pints and waiting for Martyn Grayson to create the annual Christmas Dinner, I raised the subject of this book. As well as being a cave diver of some repute, John happens to be a mine of information regarding caves in many areas of the country, but specifically in the Peak and more so in the

Dales. I had noticed that John had, in fact, written the preface to the re-printed (paperback) edition of "Underground Adventures", so I asked him if there had ever been a plan to put together a sequel to the Gemmel & Myers book, which stopped its story just before the advent of wet suits and other equipment improvements brought about the huge number of discoveries of the 1960s.

John said that it was something which he would like to do, and something which needed doing, but, at the moment there were many other projects taking up his time. However, a few years later, in 2017, along with Dave Haigh, John did produce a sequel entitled "Adventures Underground", published by Wild Places, a company which, until just recently, used to publish the cavers' magazine, "Descent".

And a terrific tome it is as well, covering the second half of the twentieth century, right up until the early decades of the twenty first. And, like its predecessor, it's an excellent read and tells the ongoing story of caving in the Dales. It's sad that nobody has yet managed to do something similar for the Peak District.

Looking through the new "Adventures Underground", I eventually came across an old familiar photograph of myself on page 82. It had been many years since I'd last seen this picture; in fact the very last time I saw it was on the cover of a menu for the Annual Dinner of the Craven Pothole Club, sometime in the late '60s. The photograph was taken by Gerald Benn in the Whit Series of Gaping Gill, in 1968, shortly after its discovery.

In those days, the "jungle telegraph" was much slower than today's information superhighway. Indeed, the first time most cavers found out about anything new was probably when it was published in "Descent" some months after the breakthrough. And so it was, when I met up with my caving buddy, Martin Milner, in Clapham on the August Bank Holiday weekend of 1968, neither of us had even heard of the Whit Series (or Far Country, discovered during the same period, for that matter). We simply shouldered our rucksacks and took the usual track up through Trow Gill towards the Gill, looking forward to a fairly routine trip.

However, the queue for the winch was quite long and very slow. The CPC winch, like the BPC version, still used an old diesel engine, with downward journeys using "braked" gravity, which was fairly fast (even faster, if the winch man knew you!) and upward journeys taking up to 5 minutes. An additional problem was that this year Sid Perou was doing some filming, and some of this work unfortunately interrupted the flow of winch descents.

So, all we could do was sit and wait. I ended up chatting to a chap who called himself "Chubbs". He told me that he used to cave a lot in Derbyshire, but, since he did a "bang" job for a farmer in a cave called Giants Hole, he was now "caver non grata" down in the Peak, and now he had to do all his caving in the Dales. Whether it was all true or not, I don't know – I'd never heard of Giant's Hole, and wondered what all the fuss was about! Little did I know what I would be doing half a century later!

Eventually, I got to the front of the queue; at last, it was my turn to go down. I sat in the bosun's chair, clipped the straps over my legs and literally flew down to the chamber below to wait for Martin, who was due to come down next. However, the next person down (who wasn't Martin) stopped just above Birkbeck's Ledge and hung there for a minute or so before being raised up a few feet. This up-and-down non-progress went on for ages and, meanwhile, I was getting cold and we were losing precious trip time. In the end I walked over to the field telephone and gave some bloke on the surface a piece of my mind, in the hope that it might hurry things along, but it was quite some time before Martin appeared and we could finally "get on"!

We decided to head up into Old East passage and along to Mud Hall. This was in the days before the rope traverse circumvented the pit, so we had to descend a very ancient wood and rope ladder. It wasn't too bad, as most of the pitch was down a 45-degree slope, with only the last 10ft or so being vertical.

By the time we were heading into Far East, I was beginning to warm up, and, at Brothers Junction, I was raring to go. Neither of us had been to the very end of Far East, so we carried on as far as we could, and

ended up in a long, narrow, muddy canal which terminated in a slightly deeper pool. At first we thought that this was the end of the line, but then I heard voices - in fact I recognised one of the voices as that of my old mate, Snake, a BPC lad I had caved with on many occasions.

I managed to have a conversation with Snake, and he told me to get into the pool and get my eye right down to the water level. This I did, and, sure enough, there was a small (maybe 4") air space heading towards where Snake's voice was coming from. "What's the best way through, Snake?" I asked, to which he replied, "Backwards!" which I took to mean head-first on my back. This I did, but, half way through, I decided that I would speed things up by taking a deep breath, rolling over and sliding through forwards.

And, immediately, my light went out! Or so I thought. What had really happened was that the "water" I was passing through held a huge amount of mud in suspension. It was, in fact, liquid mud, and it obliterated the light coming from my cap lamp. But I could now see Snakes lamp and finished the final slide up into a larger passage no trouble. Welcome to The Font!!

And there was Snake, and with him were Allan Britain and Gerald Benn, both also of the BPC, and Gerry was wearing an immaculate, clean, boiler suit, and standing at the side of a very expensive looking camera on quite a large tripod. How he managed to get all this equipment plus a set of clean clothes through the Font I don't know, but the next thing I knew was, "Hold it right there, Alan," and off went the flash – and the result has finally surfaced in John and Dave's book.

Meanwhile Martin was getting cold. "How do I do this, Alan," he shouted, to which I replied, "Backwards!" But Martin took this to mean feet first face down, and the next thing we knew was a pair of size 10s sticking up the slope out of the Font, thrashing about while, at the other end, his head was well and truly beneath the surface of the liquid mud.

Well, we pulled him out and both Martin and I had a marvellous journey past huge straws and other pretty formations, through a variety of entertaining passages, all the way to Farrer Hall and back, before returning to the winch.

Arriving on the surface, I was approached by the bloke who was checking off folk on his clip board. "You see this asterisk by your name," he said, "Well, that means you're banned!" And, looking at the state of my muddy boiler suit, he added, "It's folk like you that give us pot-holers a bad name!"

But you'll be please to know that CPC "un-banned" me less than a year afterwards, and the next couple of times I went through the Font, I noticed that the mud was much lower, and the air space was much bigger. As has happened, even with horror shows like Colostomy Crawl in Peak Cavern, time can really heal anything ... even caves!

P.S. I'm currently reading a book entitled "Decades in the Dark", which was written by Alan Jeffreys (known usually by his nickname "Goon"). This describes the first 50 years of caving and cave discovery in Scotland by my new caving club, the Grampian Speleological Group. Well worth a read if you can get hold of a copy - the parallels with CCPC are Alan Brentnall uncanny!!

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Alan's Footnote:

'The Whit Series is an excellent trip into the far reaches of Gaping Gill, and, the last time I was there, the Font was no worse than a lot of the muddy crawls in Peak Cavern, and a damn sight shorter! The formations in the series are well worth the trip, and Farrer Hall is a very good objective. Done at a winch meet, you'll barely need any kit, possibly a pair of cowstails for the Mud Hall traverse. (And, unlike Far Country which sits on the water table, the Whit Series is a much drier option! (*continues below*)

If I remember correctly, the story goes that Far Country (at the base of Echo Rift which is accessed via Hensler's Stream Passage at the bottom of Disappointment Pot) and the Whit Series were both discovered at more or less the same time, the Whit Series being a BPC project. The Brooks Brothers were on a roll, discovering everything from KMC to Black Shiver, and hearing of the two new leads in GG, were very keen to "nip in" and pirate either or both. They were very successful with Far Country (hence all the Leeds names!!) but failed to find the Whit Series, presumably as it was hidden behind the Font. I can really recommend reading John Cordingley's book which details most of this, without the shouting and swearing!



Regarding Copyright, the two images are both part of the one survey which is published on **CaveMaps.org**, which is a brilliant site and a repository for many surveys, as well as a comprehensive map which pinpoints all the cave entrances in the Dales. The surveys are pretty much free to use - see <u>http://www.cavemaps.org/copyright.htm</u> - having been published under the <u>Creative Commons Licence</u>, which gives you freedom for use and publication, so long as you credit the source.

In this case, this is an **ULSA (University of Leeds Speleological Society) survey, created in 1968 by the Brooks Brothers.**'



M A new challenge '<u>For</u> the Archives':

Several Members have asked if we have a collection of photographs of past Club trips and Club Members. I have my own small collection, but I'm sure there must be plenty of other pre-digital stuff lurking in shoe boxes or cluttered drawers. Any contributions will be very welcome.

As always, my thanks to everyone who contributes to the CCPC Newsletter, and also to those who acknowledge receipt afterwards. It's good to hear from **Alan**, 'our man north of the border', and from Members anywhere in the world. All errors, changes, or corrections are mine – my apologies. Keep safe, keep caving, and continue to support your club. **Steve Knox, Editor**.

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