

Aliens 111

OK so we get some strange requests, this time it was for permission to use our logo in a "low budget science fiction movie", no doubt this request stems from several excursions into the media (modeling for center-folds / how to rig Alum Pot with a 50m rope. I did point out that we have several members (both male and female) who could act as doubles (for the aliens) should the need arise. Apparently the plot (probably written as a GCSE project) involves an encounter between a group of cavers and extra-terrestrial life forms! ! Bit like meeting Tony Reynolds at Camp 1 in the Berger! Apparently in the pilot only our logos will appear but if this is successful then a follow up will possibly be in the offing. We could have members receiving nominations for the Oscars yet!!

Peak District Mines.

Wed 10th April saw a group of seven of us in action on one of Len's projects (which must remain anonymous!) A short adit led to a stope that was rebolted to allow safe access. Turning right led to a 30m pitch, daylight was visible about 15m above. Again bolts were placed and Jim, Jenny and Mike descended into the usual pile of rubbish at the bottom. Apparently with minimal digging (where have I heard that before?) the shaft will connect to an adit that can be found close to the river.

PDM2

Fri 12th saw a small group on yet another of Len's projects. The morning was spent locating and recording the condition of several shafts in the Monyash Area., after lunch we prospected three adits close to Wetton Mill which turned out to be quite well decorated. Plans are afoot to survey these and work may come our way to recap the shafts near to Monyash.

Suicide Cave.

Permission finally arrived from EN NT DCA and PICA to go ahead and place bolts at this exciting venue. The idea is to encourage instructed groups to use such places in preference to P8, Giants etc.

Speedwell Cavern

On 18th April a group from the CDCG renewed the ancient ladder on The Bung. Len had fettled the ladder brought out of Rob's dig by Matt, hopefully this will outlast those who did the work. The group took the opportunity to wander around visiting the Lower Speedwell Streamway where Len managed to find some evidence of ancient mining activity

which Dave reckoned could be the "bottom end" of Cuckoo Clock Ski Slope.

On exiting we were offered another trip to investigate one of the Speedwell pumps that seemed to have "died".

An Invitation to Kiwi Land.

Kev n Bron (no fixed abode) have now moved to South Island. As they now live in the middle of the best caving area they send an open invitation to member to join them for a holiday. Just turn up with an oversuit, they will supply the rest! Apparently their CCPC beer tankards they received as wedding presents are getting plenty of use. I have a video of Bron caving with the ugliest bloke you've ever seen, if anyone wants to borrow I let me know. Ralph.

Caving Virus

Apparently I was unlucky to be infected as in general I am told that this particular bug is in a decline. Perhaps it is included along with other vaccines received in childhood like NPVIR.

Perhaps I was lucky that I caught it late in life, in my forties, but perhaps others would say, usually the chronic sufferers, that only represent serious bouts of opportunities missed.

Its all the fault of DCRO that I was infected and its scary that you only need a small exposure to the virus to become a serious sufferer with life changing consequences. I had just a few hours and out of the ten or so well persons exposed only two caught the bug.

DCRO members, obviously with hindsight, not well people, took us to Giants Hole. Now here is an anomaly the well people all arrived in an ambulance and the sick people turned up in vans and Land Rovers. We the well people were all trained and experienced ambulance crews, surely we should have seen the dangerous predicament we were entering, but no. Despite over a 100 years of experience and training and a great interest in self preservation, strong believers in the principal of check for further danger we allowed our selves to be exposed to the caving virus. We were guided into the depths of Giants, we used ladders, waded in water and crawled around small passages and listened to the stories of our mentors and guides, of past rescues and caving exploration. We sat and steamed and talked of first aid underground and marveled at the "stinky". We emerged into a grey wet day, some were thrilled and others just grateful to see the light of day again whatever colour it was.

You could almost feel the virus spread through your body, the first sign is the caving itch, the I want to go again feeling, the who will take me where can I borrow kit from itch that becomes more persistent as time passes.

This is soon followed by finger itch, you have to dial phone numbers of cavers and see if someone will take you on a trip.

Soon comes caving shop this, usually the buying of a copy of Descent, so that if you can't go you can read about it. Also while you are in the shop you get that temporary caving fix that alleviates your symptoms.

Now things start to escalate rapidly, you have been in a caving supplies establishment, this usually eases things as I have said, but it is only temporary remission. The exposure to caving talk and equipment stimulates latent qualities in the virus and the virulence of the disease is now refuelled.

The caving shop itus extends you are addicted, your visits will increase in frequency and usually this is also accompanied by increases in expenditure. At first it will be individual minor items, perhaps some gloves or wellies but soon it will be a on offer SRT kit, under suit, over suit, lamp, etc not all at once but spaced out to spread the feeling of recovery provided by each visit.

There is also an accompanying desire and by now serious requirement for caving trips with other' sufferers. Where experience and talk of techniques, shared flasks of coffee and Mars Bars again provide relief for the by now seriously ill person.

Soon there comes a stage where as trips become more extended, tight, and vertical the caver may no start to emerge into the daylight with a now thank God that's over feeling, this must not be mistaken for a sign of recovery for it is not. It is nothing but a clever phase of the disease to lull the caver and their relatives into a false sense of security that the madness may be coming to an end.

Soon the illness will enter the retrograde phase often referred to by the patient's next of kin as the " not more bloody rope" stage, as this is a frequently heard cry in the patient's home.

This is best tackled in the fashion of my wife who rather than suffer prolonged misery of multiple visits to various caving abodes, lets go to Ingleton, nice place for a day trip the kids would love it, nice cafe I know above a shop there sweetheart, secretly looking for odd rope ends about the required length, and enduring the endless one sided monolog debates of Edelrid v Marlow and 10 mm v 11mm that can make football almost seem appealing. She herself entered the lair of the dragon and purchased 200 meters of rope. This may be seen as weakness but I see it as a better alternative, the patient will have hours of relief, phoning his friends telling them of this kindness to the afflicted, and even more hours spent measuring cutting and marking the rope to his requirements. But be prepared to find the whole lot soaking in the bath for 24 hours, and the patient will not be amenable to this being interrupted, so have your own long soak before hand.

By now a cure is very unlikely, my advice is phone the plumber, not that he can help the patient, but get an outside tap fitted as soon as possible.

What ever happens do not allow the patient to persuade, cajole or bully you into helping with rope washing, this is not in your interests its cold wet and bad for your hands and shoulders, let his fellow sufferers combine their efforts it can help prolong periods of remission, it may even assist in the cure as they may get pissed o~ with it all especially if you with hold food and warm drinks until its all put away.

Finally there are self help groups where sufferers meet and talk over their problems and personal experiences over a drink and plan further trips together these meeting can be very beneficial. They are referred to for social reasons and to reduce the stigma sometimes attached to this social disease as caving clubs and they are found usually behind closed doors through out the country even where there are no caves. There will be one in your area.

The chances of a cure are at this stage very slim, however the disease is very seldom fatal and its activities are planable and with care the expenditure controllable especially after the initial phase of cavingitus. So look at the positive aspects and formulate some basic rules and life with caving can turn out to be relatively harmonious.

Rules. 1 Caving limited to 3 trips a week 2 No wet gear in the house
3 No wet gear left in the car if it's shared 4 Wash your own rope
5 Do not to try to infect partner with it,
6 Sufferer to try and find other topics of conversation for relatives and non-sufferers. Tom Bailey

A follow- un to "Men's Fitness"

Having achieved international notoriety in the above "top shelf mag." I was approached by Channel 4's "Time Team" to help out with a promotional video for a new programme (that remains top secret!) On arrival I was surprised to find that I wasn't playing a starring role I was merely there to look after the stars that were! I am sworn to secrecy but I can say that all the archaeologists taking part were dressed in their new company "uniform" consisting of TIGHT trousers and even tighter tops which led me to believe that the new programme MUST have something to do with the promotion of chapel hat pegs! (One of the few perks of being a CI!)

Xmas Do.

This years Xmas do was organized by Mark Lovatt who did an excellent job despite problems getting folks to commit themselves prior to the night. This meant that some latecomers had to be accommodated in the bar rather than the restaurant. ``Smithy's Brew" provided an excellent evenings entertainment that went on until the early hours. A few of our wealthy associates spent the night at the pub (B+B) and I'm pleased to note that the walk back to the camp site was uneventful with none of the fractured limbs seen on the last night out at the Bulls Head!

It was nice to see Dave Webb and Ann Soulsby there (MCG) and it would have been even nicer if a few more of our own members could have made it to swell the numbers a bit. Maybe we should investigate the relatively poor turn out (around 20 ish) -perhaps it was the 1/z term holidays, family holidays or whatever. Once again thanks to mark and to all the members and families who supported the event.

PS. Apparently we even made a £4.00 profit!

DCRO Ex 9th June.

Around two dozen DCRO members arrived at Knotlow triangle on what turned out to be a foul day as usual. Tim Webber (SUSS) Tom and Mark Smith (both CCPC) were dispatched to the bottom of the waterfall pitch to "have an accident" - only part of this information was given to the rescue team who were looking for an overdue party of three. The decisions were complicated by the fact that someone had stolen the rope from the entrance pitch and bolted the lid down (and I mean BOLTED!) Things went fairly well (for an exercise that is) until it was decided to use a rope Turfor to lift Mark. He was raised about 3" before the Turfor snapped leaving him suspended in the full force of the water unable to be lifted or lowered. After some faffing about he was returned to the ground and the rescue abandoned as several team members were, in the opinion of Tom "in the first stages of hypothermia" (The pitch was too wet for communication) ,

The exercise ended at around 1530 by which time everyone, including the surface team, was VERY cold and wet.

Participants: Brian E., Jim., Andy B., Neil W., Mark S., Rob, Jenny, Nigel, Ralph.

i ~4a I

Meets.

July 7th Odin; 15th DCRO Challenge; 16th BCRC "Bad Air (INigel Cooper has been asked to give a presentation at this, 20th~ 21st Nent Head Mines, 26th Rumbling Hole.

August 4th DCRO Duck Race. (There will be some caving as well) 10th King Pot, 18th Crock Pot, 25th Outsleets Beck, 26th DCRO Castleton (Collection),

September 1st Nickergrove Mine, 14th Aggen Allwedd. 21st Vespers, 22nd Peak Cavern, 29th Whalf-Hillocks, Knotlow.

October 5 Juniper Gulf, 13 Notts Pot, 20 Bagshaw, 26 P8 and Gautries.

November. 3 Flood Entrance- Stream Passage, 10 Youds Level, 16 DCRO 50th Dinner, 24 DCRO Whitehall (all welcome, especially if you have not been before. before)

Remember this represents only a fraction of what goes on. There's the "Wednesday night mob" and the Coffin Dodgers so if you're stuck for something to do you only have to ring to find out. Also, if you have a

burning desire to do a trip, John, your friendly meets secretary, is only a phone call away-give him a ring.

Finally I must apologize for a rather short newsletter. Truth is I'm disappearing to the Alps with a couple of CCPC's lay-abouts plus a couple of charming females so I won't be around much prior to the August meeting. Hopefully the autumn newsletter will be a bumper issue - assuming you s***s put pen to paper and give me something to print! Please don't forget the duck race on 4th August. I need your forms in NOW and I need some help on the day

Newsflash. If you log on to <http://homepage.mac.china2002/> you will find some info. re Matt's trip to China. Hopefully we'll get a full report sometime this summer.

Stop press: John Gilletts book is now available from www.Amazon.com.
“Of caves and caving”

Apologies for the lack of artwork and any errors. I inadvertently “lost” the entire newsletter and this is the result of optical scanning plus ½ hour spent on corrections.

I