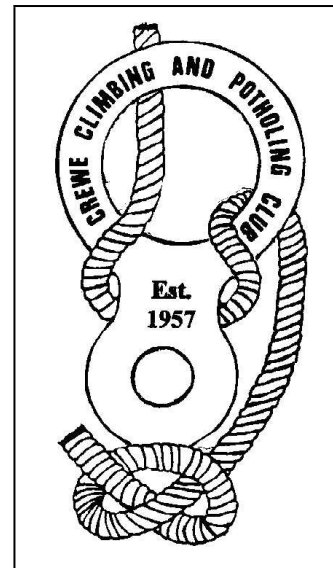


C.C.P.C. Newsletter 75b. Autumn 2002.

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Why “75b”- you may well ask! 75 was a superb 10 page bumper issue until my PC had other ideas. I logged on to send out electronic copies a few days before the meeting and the file refused to open. After repeated attempts I gave up and awaited “expert” help. When help arrived the file had disappeared without trace! Excuses over here’s the abridged version but apologies to anyone who sent in articles or information and its not appeared. However- here’s one that survived.

ARBOR SEATS SOUGH

Well we all make mistakes and mine was to be in when Ralph rang. I’m thinking cave rescue or something worse, it was the latter. (“Hi Neil, Darren’s told me you both been digging out a mine. How about doing a article for the news letter”), I thought oh s*** he’s got me hook line and sinker, leading the lamb to the slaughter. Not being able to say no I agreed.

Has I hav only written afew story since I left school you will haveto parden my spelling mistakes and gremmer

I don’t know if you have heard of Arbor seats sough but it’s a mine behind some bushes opposite Neptune mine in Cressbrook Dale. Darren and I had a look in it after a trip in Neptune mine, it’s a bit of a squeeze to get in but gravity lends it’s hand, once you are in it opens up as a walking rift passage with deads wedged in here and there above your head. The passage carry’s on through shallow pools and the odd collapse for about 300ft, till it comes to a squeeze where it looked like a shaft had collapsed in, but you could see the passage carry on beyond and it draughted well.

We decided to spend half hour digging it out, but every time you pulled a rock out more fell down blocking the passage even more. We decided to come back with some scaffolding poles to hold back the rocks.

Due to home commitments and a kitchen extension it was twelve months before we went back. So the date was set 3rd August.

Darren arrived at 8.30am with a boot load of wood and I threw 6 short lengths of scaffolding (half of my carport) into the boot.

It was a hot and sunny start to the day considering it was suppose to have been on the wet and dull side, so it was a quick stop at Safeway’s for a cavers breakfast then on to Litton. We parked up on a

corner close to the start of the walk for Tansley Dale, got the old digging suits on and packed Darren up like an old mule and off we set down Tansley dale to the mine. We arrived at the stepping-stone and the stream was in full flow which gave us a bit of concern as we didn't know how the mine responded to water. Anyway we arrived at the mine, waded through the stream, over the fence and over to the entrance. The entrance looked no different than it did twelve months ago which was a good sign, so I got Darren to do some posing while I took some photos (it's funny but it seems to be second nature to him).

Darren descended first and I passed the wood and poles down to him, then I followed. I slid down till I fell into the passage; there was a pool just at the start of the passage that wasn't there before. We carried on a little way down the passage to the shallow pool, which was now up to your naughty bits. We decided to carry on to stack the gear if nothing else but when we arrived at the end of the passage the dig site was out of the water, so it was down to business.

A few more rocks had fallen down since the last time we came, but that was probably due to water percolating down the shaft. I took my trusted trench digger in hand and began digging away, I took a few boulders out and Mother Nature threw a few in (it was like playing a game of chess). I had a twenty-minute stint then decided to let Darren have a go, he went in Manweb style, it didn't take too long to clear a kneeling high trench out which made it a lot easier to dig. We managed to stabilise the rocks long enough to saw the scaffolding bars to size and knock them in place, we then placed the wood behind for support.

The water percolating down the shaft had made the spoil we were digging out into liquid cement so I was covered head to toe in it, I don't know how he does it but Darren seemed to be spotless. We spent the next hour digging out and pushing back the spoil, we got to a point where we could squeeze through into the open passage but the other side of the shaft was very loose and dropping a few rocks down. By this time I was getting a bit fed up so I told Darren if he could squeeze through safely then squeeze through and we would make the shaft safe if the passage goes anywhere.

I followed Darren through, the shaft looked very dodgy as I passed it. The passage sloped to stooping for about 10ft to where part of the passage had come away from the wall, but you could crawl underneath (tight crawl) for about 15ft into walking passage.

I thought "this is it where in", but it didn't take long for me to come crashing down to earth as the passage came to a total collapse about 20ft on. The collapse seems to be made of earth or gravel up to the top of the passage so either another shaft comes in or it has been back filled, but it looks a long term project, maybe for someone else.

While exiting we heard a few rocks falling but instead of looking back we decided to carry on out. We were about to leave when Darren informed me that he had left his car key at the dig site, I volunteered to go back for them and to see what the noise was. On reaching the dig site I noticed that some rock had fallen down the shaft just where you had to squeeze to get into the new passage (lucky escape).

On top of the hill there are shafts that enter further into the mine, so when Darren and I have got a day free, we are going to explore a few and maybe that will be another story by Darren.

Neil Conde

"Digs" an update.

Lime Kiln Farm. The entrance shaft went to a depth of 80' quite quickly once Len had produced a liner for the entrance brickwork. The team are now in the sough which runs to a collapse in one direction and a shaft blocked with rubbish "uphill". There is an interesting shaft in the floor. Work continues.

Hill House. At one point we had two excavators and a tractor working on this at the same time. The sough tail has now been extended with concrete pipes and work is about to start on passing the foot of a blocked shaft. Work continues.

Hillocks. Matt Andy Banner and Ralph with help from Len and Dave Webb put a total of three days into this project a couple of weeks ago. At present the water level remains low – its certainly worth a look and if a team can get together a further pumping session could be fruitful.

Oxlow. Nigel, Len, Andy B. Ralph and Ann Soulsby spent last Saturday getting the steelwork up the hill and down the shaft. Further modifications are required to the original plan of action before we can proceed.

Knotlow.

Matt, Dave Webb, self et al. have made several visits to Knotlow with a view to doing something about the pollution. Several times we encountered “bad air” and on our last visit CO2 levels were measured electronically at 2.8%- much too high for comfort and approaching the “dangerous” level.

Contacts.

I am at present trying to update our membership list. If you’ve changed your address/mobile/e mail lately please let me know NOW. Can you check your details and let me know of any errors or any missing info. Thanks, Ralph.

For Sale.

All the usual stuff-tee shirts, goretex, sweat shirts PLUS two videos made by our resident answer to Spielberg: P8 (Jack Pot) 25 mins. £4.00 to those who took part: Hillocks-Wharf-Knotlow. 45 mins. £4.00 again. Normal SP £12.95.

Insurance.

Now the bad [news:-](#) our insurance has doubled! This means that subs will probably go up by around £2 next year and we’ll have to be more ruthless about those not paying “on the nail”.

Meets.

As usual a reminder that there are trips almost every weekend and many mid week evenings (and daytime)

October 13	Notts Pot	A Yorkshire classic.
October 20	DCRO	Bagshaw Cavern-Bradwell (all welcome)
October 26	Giants	You never know the connection might be open!
November 3	Flood Entrance	A Yorkshire trip not to be missed.
November 10	Youds Level	Check with John
November 16	DCRO 50 th dinner	(details enclosed)
November 24	DCRO	Whitehall: Please do your best to attend.

We could do with a “pumping session” in Hillocks if there’s enough interest and also Oxlow needs finishing. Contact Nigel for Oxlow and Ralph for Hillocks. Plans are afoot for a social evening in Monyash where we will be showing the two “Local Mine” films to the locals in aid of charity. Contact Mark L for details.