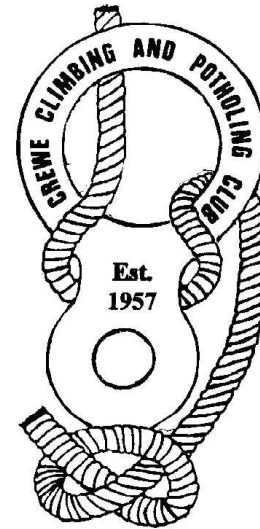


C.C.P.C.

Newsletter 83

Spring 2005.

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The Willets Trophy

Sergeant Willets served with the Parachute Regiment in Northern Ireland. In 1971 he was shepherding people from a building containing a bomb and he stood in the door way to protect them as they cleared the area, the bomb went off and Sgt. Willets was killed he was posthumously awarded the VC.

The Willets Award is on permanent loan to the East Midlands Ambulance Service and is awarded annually for service deemed to be above and beyond the call of duty.

Presented to Tom Bailey by the Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire at EMAS awards ceremony Oct 2004

(Much of what follows is taken from the award citation with a few technical bits added)

In January 2003 Mike McRory Ambulance Technician and Tom Bailey Paramedic responded to an industrial accident at a quarry near Buxton Derbyshire.

Initial information was that this was a worker who had fallen 60 feet, Tom & Mike assumed this would be from the quarry face and asked for Buxton Mountain Rescue Team to be called as a precaution.

On arrival at the incident they were directed to a building containing a large hopper, we climbed up to the top and on looking in through the hatch observed the patient squirming around on the limestone "floor" 60 feet below. He did not respond to voice and there were periods of inactivity. Tom's main concern was that he was going in and out of consciousness and needed very urgent medical attention a large head wound was also visible.

The Fire Service arrived and we discussed the situation, which was time critical and the priority was to get Tom down to the patient, but equipment was limited.

As a member of the East Midlands Ambulance Cave Rescue Support Unit and a member of Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation Tom has experience of working with ropes and heights, Mike was a caver and training for the CRSU and had done some training with DCRO.

They looked at what equipment was available, the Fire Service had a full Troll harness and the contractors had rope. The rope was they assured me of massive test but was about 20mm and hawser laid and had never been used before. There was nothing else in terms of gear. We considered alternatives but these had to be discounted, ladders could not be used and the side of the hopper could not be cut.

Tom decided they could go ahead with what they had and Mike was running through safety issues was the hopper isolated, did it work on a timer, could it fill or empty automatically, was the atmosphere breathable, was there anything at the top that could fall or be dropped in., communications between Tom and himself and emergency extrication if something went wrong.

With the help of the Fire Service Tom put on their harness and they checked it then Tom inspected the rope and tied a figure of 8 with a loop and a stop knot and clipped it to the harness with a krab. Then he put an Italian hitch round a locked off hoist hook and locked the hook gate. Someone made a comment of where's the rest of it.

Mike would be at the top and knew how it worked and Tom explained it to the others and a "dry" test was done with 3 fire-fighters on the rope, there was so much friction the rope only passed slowly through the hook with Toms full weight on it. Tom only wanted to go nice and slowly so as not to heat up the rope and as the rope was "hawser laid" he expected a spin.

The Fire Service lowered him in and he rotated all the way to the floor. The Fire Service tied off the rope so Tom could move around but not fall if the floor of limestone "disappeared".

Tom immediately saw the casualty had sustained a gaping head wound was semi conscious, very distressed and confused and that there was a very high likely hood of further injuries including spinal and internal injuries. Mike kept up a steady flow of equipment and information over the radio.

A hard collar was applied, oxygen commenced and his head wound dressed, the secondary survey revealed chest injuries and signs of shock. The patient complained of pain.

Tom inserted a large bore cannula and started a saline drip and gave pain-relieving drugs.

Following stabilisation extrication was the priority and other emergency workers joined Tom in the hopper from Derbyshire Fire and Rescue and Mountain Rescue and together the patient was secured to a spinal board and the board secured to the mountain rescue stretcher.

Colleagues at the top arranged a hauling system for the Casualty and Tom and they went up out of the hopper together.

Mike supervised removal to the ambulance via Fire and Mountain Rescue personnel.

The patient spent many weeks in hospital but has made a good recovery and is back at home.

This incident is a fine example of inter service and voluntary sector co operation in unusual circumstances combining the skills of all to excellent effect.

Final line of citation

“ The award of the Willetts Trophy for 2003 is a tribute to Tom’s bravery & commitment to providing the highest standard of care to the public he serves. His actions were “above and beyond the call of duty”
Paul Phillips Chief Executive EMAS

Young Interest in Caving

I had to provide pupils with experiences that would provide them with opportunities to:

- Observe, find out about and identify features in the natural world.
- Find out about the environment and talk about those features that they like and dislike.
- Look for similarities, differences patterns and change.
- Find out about the uses of everyday technology.
- Listen to spoken language and pose and ask appropriate questions.
- Be interested, excited and motivated to learn.

With Tom’s help we came up with a way to meet these learning objectives. First I read a story about bears who lived in a cave and father bear tried to make it lighter for the baby bear who did not like the dark, then using the P8 Jackpot and Sidetrack, videos by Ralph Johnson, gave the children the chance to see what caves were like. The next step was to “build” our own cave. Experience of role play is essential if children are to learn and come to terms with their environment. So with the help of a pop up tent, camouflage nets and card the children were given the chance to investigate light and dark and the use of other technology, including hard hats torches and walkie talkies.

Chris House (teacher at Longwood Infants School, Pinxton, Derbyshire)

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Last year (2003) I was asked by teacher Chris House if I would visit her class of four and five year olds at Longwood Infants School in Pinxton, Derbyshire to give them a short talk and a small demonstration of caving.

The visit was so successful I was invited to make another visit. So today I visited for the second time. Both visits were similar so I will combine the two into one account.

Chris told me approximately 20 minutes talking would be sufficient, (she must have heard one of my talks before as most people find 20 minutes enough) she said I would know when they had enough, as they get fidgety.

I sat in whilst they watched a bit of the video to set the scene. I started off by throwing a sling over a high up support bar and tied a rope to it. I went on to demonstrate the clothing and safety equipment required for caving. The children asked lots of questions and put forward their own ideas including what could be done if people got stuck I answered their questions and reassured them getting stuck did not happen very often.

I showed them lamps and SRT (Single Rope Technique) equipment and attached it to the rope. I then demonstrated how we would descend into the cave, the children thought cows tails were very funny, especially as we had two and a cow is much bigger and only needs one. We went on to look at ascending out of the cave using leg loops and hand and chest jammers. They asked really good questions. Chris took the end of 70 meters of rope and walked out one door, round the whole school and back in another door to show the depth of some of the shafts we abseil.

We pulled all the contents from my emergency kit and spread it out and the best fun they had was watching me try and get it all back in especially when an old Mars bar went SPLURGE!

I wound up my talk by trying to answer more of their wonderful questions. The children had been brilliant and had obviously taken a lot in from being in their classroom cave and the video's.

We were all surprised to see that an hour had gone by.

Hopefully we will have fired the imaginations of some future cavers.

Tom Bailey DCRO CCPC EMASCRSU

Radio Location.

By the time you read this we should have access to a "radio-location device" (thanks to Jen D). Len already has a couple of uses for it (down a couple of dry and dusty pits apparently) but other sites worthy of a look are Corkscrew Ave (Giants) and The Great Rift (Water Icicle). If anyone has any other locations worthy of investigation you know what to do.

Rob Farmer

Many of you will already know That Rob left DCRO a substantial sum of money in his will. His parents will be bringing a cheque to the DCRO AGM on 23 April. It would be nice if one or two CCPC members could be present (You don't **have** to attend the AGM!!)

Potential Members.

Some of you already know that Kev has got Bron into trouble! They are expecting an addition to the family in August 2005. Emma has just beaten

them to it, she is expecting her "first" a week or two before that. She was advised to lay off the chapattis when we were in The Himalayas last year but these youngsters don't listen to the wisdom of an old man! Congratulations to both families.

Apple's intro to Peak District Caving!

I wont bore you all with the details of Apple's "rescue" from Giants and subsequent hospitalisation since the details have been well circulated! Suffice to say she is now back in China with Matt and well on the way to recovery. She sends her thanks for the large supply of fruit sent to the hospital, Matt tells me she did manage to eat it all before leaving the UK!

Invite to China in May

Matt is involved in a "ten-day" expedition in May looking for caves in the vague region of the border with Tibet. To save copying out all the details I've pasted the reply he sent. If you are interested (at least one person is going) contact Matt direct.

Ideally (to maximise the length of MY holiday but also minimise the price of your tickets!) you want to be landing in Chengdu on 30th rather than leaving the UK then. Keep the trip just under 30 days rather than just over to make visas less hassle. I can buy you an internal flight from Shenzhen -> Chengdu and courier the ticket to you given enough warning. Full price is 85 pounds I think.

You'll get some discount but it's hard to predict exactly how much. You could also buy a flight from a Hong Kong travel agency and pick tickets up on your way but this does add the problem of finding their offices in Hong Kong. Some of Jenny's flights to Hong Kong sounded pretty cheap although flights to Beijing may be cheaper than flights to Hong Kong these days - a flight from there to Chengdu is roughly the same as from Shenzhen but it's an easier change. Don't fly Aeroflot even though they are usually the cheapest. The best option might be Air France which are about to run flights to Chengdu via Paris - though tickets may not be on sale yet. I'll see if I can hunt down the details. The other Air France flights to China are pretty reasonably priced.

By the time you arrive we'll hopefully have a Jeep to play with. Much bigger than Ralph's but significantly less comfortable and reliable. Cheapest 10 seater model is just 2500 pounds! We'll probably buy a couple of models up (with 4wd, better tires and more doors), but it's still basically a lorry with seats in the back. First made in China in 1983

And a further chance to cave in China.

Matt has another suitable trip planned during the first week in October-vertical caving this time- see details below then contact Matt if interested.

There's likely to be plenty around a couple of hundred metres. There's stuff at all levels. It's not compulsory to

get to the bottom of every cave, camp for days, etc. We could do with a camera man!

Incidentally Apple is setting up her own trekking company- watch for details of What's on offer!

Len's Secret Explorations!!

Having successfully completed his exhumation of the underground sites at Mow Cop and Astbury Len turned his attention to a further area not a million miles from Biddulph. As there is no general access the location is being kept under wraps but those who join him will not be disappointed.

As usual it's described as "extensive, dry and dusty" and a number of the locations have received little or no attention since they were last worked.

Waterways Swallet

I've copied and pasted an e-mail from Peter Dell. A couple of members had a look down here recently and were impressed. If you're interested you know what to do! Be good for an evening trip (Wed crowd and Jennies Thursday group!!)

Just to let you know

We found a further 80 meters of cave and 20 meters of depth

This is now a truly big trip. With a cavern in it of about 70 feet deep and 30 across 50 feet at the widest

There are now a total of 4 pitches in the cave including the one in the original cave.

We have loads of leads that are all going

To see the latest go to

HYPERLINK www.waterways.wyotec.com www.waterways.wyotec.com

Best Regards

Pete

And for a change: Is anyone interested in Killimanjaro autumn 2005 (and maybe Mount Kenya) If so contact Ralph.

June 11. DCRO Duck Race and Street collection in Castleton. If you CAN help please do- if not why not buy a duck- better still several ducks. If you can help by selling ducks (£1 each) contact Keith Joule. First prize £100. I recall a couple of winners amongst the Crewe members not long ago!

Meets.

April 4 Meeting Bleeding Wolf	April 21 Wharf-Hillocks
April 5 DCRO store Rigging/hauling/stretchers loading	April 23 DCRO AGM and presentation of Rob's cheque.
April 6 Bateman Shaft. Fitting lights for Eng Nature.	April 28 Plunge Hole-Axe Hole
April 7 Waterfall	May 7 Providence _ Dow.
April 10 Potteries Outdoor Club. Help needed!! BCRC AGM	May 22 Aquamole
April 12 Work begins on Hillocks Entrance	May 24 DCRO store. Searhes, navigation, record keeping
April 14 Odin Mine	June 3-4 Smeltpill Beck/Knock Fell
April 16 DCRO Exercise: Knotlow	June 11 DCRO collection & Ducks!
April 17 Yorkshire.	June 25-26 Mendip. 26 DCRO

Please note: In future, due to increased postal charges HARD copies of newsletters will only be posted to paid up members. Members and ex-members will continue to receive newsletters via e-mail as normal.