

CCPC

Newsletter No.18



March 1989

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1988/89

The important points agreed at the AGM were as follows:

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Full member	£12.00	Student	£9.00
Associate	10.00	Married Couple	18.00
Junior (16 to 18)	9.00	Student	5.00

NB A 'student' is defined as a person under the age of 18 who is in full time education.

There is a £2.00 reduction on fees if they are paid before 1st April (All Fools Day!)

Joining Fee is £1.50

OFFICERS

Chairman	Paul Holdcroft
Secretary	Ralph Johnson
Meets Secretary	Lionel Parkinson
Tackle	Paul Holdcroft
	Ralph Johnson
	Liam Kealey
Training	Kevin Beaumont
Assist. Training	Ian Freeman
Newsletter	Mark Lovatt

FINANCES

Deposit Account	£1000
Current Account	606
Profit on year	200

EQUIPMENT

There appears to be no great shortage of gear but it was suggested that we look into the purchase of some new rope

AMMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

This issue got rather complicated but I think that it was agreed that 'the Editor has the right of censorship on all club publications but authors have the right of appeal to the committee.'

RALPH

ARMENIAN EARTHQUAKE DISASTER

Ralph was asked to put together a team ready to depart at six hours notice. In the event nothing happened but discussions are taking place as to whether or not CRO should become involved in major incidents ie should we be prepared or should we just stick to what we do (building sites)!

STANLEY MOOR

It would appear that there has been some digging in the sinks to the South of Stanley Moor Reservoir. Some look interesting but not particularly inviting. A determined effort would be required.

OXLOW CLIMBING SHAFT

Using Ron's brains, George's skills and Ralph's brawn the problem of the stripped threads on the shaft cap have been put right. If you visit either of these shafts (21m or 55m) please don't overtighten the bolts.

XMAS DO

For once - miraculously - this took place close to Xmas!! The venue was the Biddulph Arms, music by FORGERY which includes our very own Mark Lovatt and our usual M.C. Cliff who ended up winning his own 'Wally of the Year' Award with an amazingly funny story involving him getting off the North-bound Intercity two miles short of Macclesfield Station causing

AT LAST!!!
THE ULTIMATE IN CAVING FOOTWEAR

NEW VOL. 121 SCANDINAVIAN EROTICA (XXX) ALL TITLES ONLY £2.95 EACH

YOU'LL NEVER GET LOST IN THE DARK AGAIN!

thanks to these
SUPER NEW CANADIAN "WELLYLITE" ELECTRIC RUBBER BOOTS.

Ideal Gift

CHINESE

222 SEX WORLD Distributors Only for lovers

sexu desir

NEW 1991...
 1st...
 2nd...
 3rd...
 4th...
 5th...
 6th...
 7th...
 8th...
 9th...
 10th...
 11th...
 12th...
 Telephone...

all trains on the line to be halted until he staggered into Macclesfield Station! Thanks must also go to Liam who organised the event.

RALPH

LOST & FOUND

- || LOST One tatty sit
- || harness plus one
- || alloy circular
- || Mallion - Ralph.
- || LOST One pair of
- || miners type Knee-
- || pads - Ralph.
- || WANTED Articles
- || for inclusion in
- || next Newsletter -
- || Mark Lovatt.
- || FREE to good home,
- || one undersuit, in
- || need of some
- || attention - Ralph.

SUPPLIMENTRY INDEX TO "THE CAVES OF DERBYSHIRE"

Anyone who has trudged around Derbyshire looking for likely sinks, mines, possible digs or ressurgences may have been frustrated by finding a surface feature and then not being able to identify it in the book because they do not know its name. Unless it is on the map at the back of the book, then it is pretty difficult to locate it within the book. It always struck me as an odd system to list alphabetical order when the first thing you don't

know is the name!

In an attempt to give people a sporting chance (and fill the Newsletter) I have included my list of features which are in the book but not on the maps in grid reference order.

On the listing, Ashwood Dale Ressurgence and Dove Hole Dale Swallet (3) appear next to each other as they do on the ground instead of being pages apart. Happy hunting!

M LOVATT

SUPPLEMENTARY INDEX TO "THE CAVES OF DERBYSHIRE"

037 629	Parsley Hay Cave	109 646	Crowdecote Cave	128 504	Hinkley Wood Resurgence
044 709	Jakes Hole	097 584	Ecton Copper Mines	128 649	Long Dale Swallet (1)
048 698	Leap Edge Swallets	097 713	Deepdale Cave	128 658	Long Dale Swallet (3)
050 731	Wye Head Resurgence	097 713	Thirst House Cave	129 627	Carder Low Pot
052 717	Grinlow Rock Shelter	098 550	Radcliffe Stables	129 643	Long Dale Swallet (4)
061 685	Stoop Edge Hole	098 552	Plug Hole	130 474	Ellishill Cave
062 692	High Edge Pot	099 471	Wetstones Swallet	130 550	Convalescent Pot
063 680	Swallowdale Sink	099 813	P1	131 505	Ilam Rising
069 730	Ashwood Dale Cave	100 652	Bossen Hole (Crowdecote)	131 506	Ilam Upper Rising
071 479	Hoften's Cross Swallet	100 795	Lamb Pots	131 584	Frank 1'th Rocks Cave
072 674	Chrome Hill Rift	102 562	Wetton Mill Hill Cave	131 584	Wolfscote Grange Caves
072 866	The Belfry	102 570	Ecton Hill Caves	131 654	Long Dale Swallet (2)
072 867	Kinderlow Cavern	102 815	P4	132 506	Ilam Weir Rising
073 484	Gutterholes	103 575	Waterbank Mine	132 552	Sunnybank Pot
073 488	Heminslow Swallet	103 816	P5	132 732	Chee Dale Rift Cave
073 738	Cunningdale Swallet	104 817	P7	133 506	St Bertram's Well
074 673	Chrome Hill Cave	105 718	Churn Holes	133 728	Blackwell Dale Cave
075 471	Ribden Swallet	105 719	Chelmorton Cavern	133 728	Porn Pot
075 779	Dove Holes Swallet	106 541	Hayhole [Hayloft]	133 730	Pips Cave
076 676	Etches Cave	106 541	Pritchard's Cave	133 783	Pittle Mere Pot
076 778	Dove Holes Dale Swallet (1)	107 541	Jackdaw's Cave	134 739	Monksdale Cave
077 782	Dove Holes Cave (Buxton)	112 534	Lower Cheshire Wood Cave	134 750	Monk's Hole
079 749	Waterswallows Cave	113 643	Pilsbury Rock Shelter	135 827	Buttress Hole
079 783	Bull Ring Cave	113 811	Eldon Quarry Cave (2)	136 616	Meta Rift
082 727	April Caves	114 649	Waggon Low Swallet	138 732	Percy's Resurgence Cave
084 534	Deepdale Shacks	114 814	Eldon Quarry Cave (1)	144 568	Iron Tors Cave
086 503	Lee House Quarry Cave	115 493	Calton Moor Swallet	144 569	Peasland Rock Shelter
087 773	Dove Holes Dale Swallet (2)	115 538	Upper Bincliffe Mine	144 824	Middle Bank Cave
089 502	Cotton Swallet	116 487	Calton Moor Crossroads Swallet	150 513	Castle Cave
089 722	Ashwood Dale Resurgence	117 473	Thorswood Swallet	150 825	Gorge Top Cave
089 772	Dove Holes Dale Swallet (3)	117 563	Gatcham Swallet	151 609	Tyre Pit Quarry Cave
092 502	Bank End Quarry Fissure	120 560	Plantation Pot	151 731	Preistcliffe Spring
092 793	Bee Low Pot	123 735	Wormhill Springs	154 734	Tideswell Dale Cave
092 812	Coalpithole (No 10)	124 625	Ludwell Springs	157 823	Black Rabbit Cave
093 503	Waterhouses Fissure	125 492	Waterways Swallet	157 823	Pindale Cave
096 553	Ladyside Cave	127 508	Hamps Springs	161 647	Water Icicle Close Cavern
097 553	Snow Hole	127 508	Manifold River Rising	165 708	Old Womans Cave
097 559	Darfur Crag Cave	127 589	Cotton Cave	169 704	Demons Dale Cave

157	823	Pindale Cave	213	586	Astonhill Swallet	270	564	Good Luck Mine
161	647	Water Icicle Close Cavern	214	759	Middleton Dale Mine Level (9)	270	605	Lords' and Ladies' Mine
165	708	Old Womans Cave	215	760	Middleton Dale Mine Level (8)	271	536	Godfrey Hole Cave
169	704	Demons Dale Cave	216	759	Cucklet Delph Swallet (2)	275	529	Odin Cavern
171	747	Tansley Dale Mine	216	762	Cucklet Delph Upper Cave	275	530	Dream Hole
171	751	Lingard's Cave	216	763	Cucklet Delph Swallet (1)	284	690	Bunkers Hill Wood Cave
172	651	Lynx Cave (Lathkildale)	217	759	Middleton Dale Mine Level (7)	291	581	Fluorspar Cavern
172	682	Magpie Mine (Shaft)	218	759	Merlin's Mine	292	577	Cumberland Cavern
172	805	Bradwell Parish Cave	219	740	Swallet Hole Cave	335	523	Bat House Cave
173	733	Lumb Hole	220	759	Middleton Dale Mine Level (6)	348	622	Hawthorn Hole
173	733	Old Cresbrook Cave	221	646	Alport Turfa Caves	352	622	Fallgate Cave
173	754	Dead Dogs Hole	221	758	Middleton Dale Mine Level (5)	352	632	Ashover Swallets
173	771	Grindlow Cavern	222	577	Ducket Wall Swallet	515	376	Ash Tree Cave
173	808	Badger's Rift Cave	222	758	Middleton Dale Mine Level (3)	516	649	Yew Tree Cave
174	731	Bull Tor Cave	222	758	Middleton Dale Mine Level (4)	517	659	Langwith Cave
174	735	Ravenccliffe Cave	223	560	Hoe Grange Quarry Cave	532	741	Pinhole Cave
174	746	Arbourseats Sough	223	758	Middleton Dale Mine Level (2)	533	741	Church Hole Cave
174	801	Hazelbadge End Mine	226	553	Rains Cave	534	740	Boat House Cave
174	801	Nether Fear Mine	226	748	Fatigue Pot	534	741	Mother Grundey's Parlour
175	708	Hob's House Cave	226	757	Middleton Dale Mine Level (1)	535	742	Robin Hood Cave
175	745	Neptune Mine	227	623	Hermit's Cave	987	657	Ludchurch Cavern
178	546	Middlehill Swallets	232	610	Portaway Mine			
178	546	Parwich Sink	237	551	Manystones Quarry Cave			
178	756	Wardlow Crawl Cave	237	610	Placket Mine (Shaft 1)			
179	696	Magpie Mine (Sough)	239	608	Placket Mine (Shaft 2)			
179	718	Putwell Hill Mine	242	552	Harborough Cave			
188	602	Dolomite Cave	243	541	Garsington Pasture Cave			
191	697	Ashford Black Marble Mine	243	837	Robin Hood's Cave			
193	734	Watersaw Swallets	244	608	Drake Mine Cavern			
194	595	Mouldridge Mine	246	554	Golconda Cavern			
194	659	Haddon Hole	259	609	The Dungeons			
195	639	Butcher's Wood Mine	259	625	Milliclose Mine (Shaft)			
196	638	Lombardale Cave	261	561	Spinney Level			
197	661	Mandale Mine	263	600	Tearsall Pipe Caverns No 1			
198	633	Longshot Caves	264	626	Milliclose Mine (Sough)			
198	633	Owlet Hole	265	599	Brightgate Cave			
200	678	Green Crowden Chert Quarry Cave	266	559	Bondog Hole			
201	625	Lowfields Cave	266	602	Tearsall Pipe Caverns No 2			
210	543	Hipley Dale Rock Shelter	269	605	Old Ash Mine			

PS About half a dozen of these features do not actually appear in the , current 'Caves of Derbyshire' but are prominent enough to merit inclusion in the list.

M LOVATT

Life-saving journey to the centre of the earth

WHEN the members of the Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club say 'come on down' they aren't inviting you on to the set of a wellknown quiz show! Sentinel Plus writer Martin Wells and photographer Chris Rushton (pictured right) went half-a-mile below the surface of the Peak District to discover what they really mean...

"Ever been drunk?"
Well... not recently.
"No. Have you ever been DRUNK?"

The significance of this strange conversation will become clear later. Suffice to say that it occurred at the entrance to a gaping hole in the ground into which flowed a veritable raging torrent of rainwater.

And they expected a pair of sensitive newspapermen, albeit clad in (from skin upwards) socks and underwear, a thermal body suit, an oilskin overall, and hard hat and lamp, to climb into this torrent and follow it down to the very bowels of the earth?

It was sheer madness, of course, but clutching notebook, pen and camera to our respective breasts, we took the plunge — literally!

Treacherous ledges

As guests of the Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club we knew we were in safe hands. Formed in 1957, they've since become one of the foremost such clubs in the country and now draw their members not only from throughout the North Staffordshire and South Cheshire area but also from regions as far apart as Worcestershire and Yorkshire.

Eighteen years ago their development reached a peak when they joined a network of clubs offering a rescue service to the entire potholing community. As part of this caving elite, the senior members of the club, though all expe-

By Martin Wells
Pictures by Chris Rushton

rienced amateurs, have had to hone their skills to a professional level. It was a demonstration of these skills, in the form of a cave rescue practice, that we'd come to observe.

But first we had to get to the scene of the 'accident.'

To do this meant being drunk.

Not falling-down drunk, although, we did a lot of this as we edged our way through the semi-darkness, squeezing through narrow crevices and shinning along damp, treacherous ledges. No. I mean really DRUNK!

The feeling of following the water course, from level to level, often down the same cascading, direct route of a waterfall, seemed to me much how an aspirin must feel as it slides down the gullet with a glass of water before beginning its journey along the rapids of the alimentary canal.

Jack Pot, near Chapel-

en-le-Frith, in North Derbyshire, or P8 as the serious speliolegists call it, was the scene. An average cave, half-a-mile deep and culminating in a pool of clear rainwater, it's a labyrinth of passages through the solid grit-stone on which the Peak District is founded.

When tackled by the experienced potholer, it provides four hours or so of wonderful adventure, spent conquering and enjoying all the classic features of a good cave — tight squeezes, challeng-

ing 'pitches' down rock-faces and caverns.

For the solo beginner, however, Jack Pot is an altogether different proposition. Initially, it's a fairy grotto waiting for its treasures to be discovered but, with no natural light to guide you after the first few feet, the way back can easily be forgotten. What's more, the treacherous holes in the cave floor open up on drops of forty feet or more. Death or serious injury is often only a footstep away.

So, while it may not be the perfect place to drag two journalists, it's certainly an ideal location for a cave rescue practice.

The willing guinea-pig was Mrs Janet Harper, a teacher at Holden Lane High School in Sneyd Green. Her introduction to caving had come through colleagues Ron Beckett and Ralph Johnson, the only founder-member of the club still playing an active part in its activities.

First-aid practices

"Ralph and Ron asked me if I wanted to be rescued," said Janet, as she was strapped into the robust, if rather flimsy-looking stretcher, "but I didn't quite realise that this is what they meant."

The practice involved hauling Janet up an underground waterfall. Men were positioned both above and below the

'pitch' to operate the rope-based pulling gear and to guide the stretcher on its short but nerve-racking journey through the water. Safely up, she was ferried to the surface, still strapped to the stretcher and threaded through the network of passageways to the surface. Mission accomplished.

Cave rescue, as Ralph Johnson later explained, differs from other, more conventional methods because of the underground conditions: "Speed is the key factor with us because the chances are that the victim will be suffering from cold and shock."

Traditional first-aid practices, too, tend to go by the board. "In many medical cases you shouldn't give the person hot drinks but we do. It's felt that keeping them warm is more important than keeping their stomachs empty in preparation for any operation they might have to undergo," added Ralph.

And it's not just people who need their services. "We often get called out to rescue sheep or other farm animals and it

doesn't always follow that we only go down pot-holes," said Ralph. "The last time we were called out was about six weeks ago when we were needed at Knutsford to rescue a builder who was down a well that had collapsed on him."

Despite being called out to searches or rescues only on average once every 12 months, practices like this occur two or three times a year for the club. But they attract both the pure cavers and those who take the sport one step further by joining the rescue team.

Deafened by the noise

They do it because it's fun, particularly when the excitement is enhanced by an 'active' pot — a cave that, like P8 on that day, was flooded by overnight water.

"For us, this is much better than a dry pot," said Ralph. He's probably right — walking along a flowing stream, deafened by the noise of cascading water, clinging on to every available niche in the rocks and watching every step for fear of plummeting to a wet and rocky end — all in near-darkness — does have a certain black attraction.

And it certainly adds a different twist to being drunk... I mean really DRUNK!

ARE YOU GETTING YOUR SHARE?

So far this year we have had the following:

7 Jan Club Xmas Do
8 Jan Peak Cavern
Nettle Pot
15 Jan PLantation Pot (Dig)
4 Feb Nettle Pot
5 Feb Giants (Notorious Dig!)
West Mine, Alderley Edge
6 Feb CCPC monthly meeting
11 Feb Rowter Hole
12 Feb Rigging/SRT practice,
Oxlow/Maskhill
13 Feb Self Rescue practice, H.L.H.S.
14 Feb Czek meeting, Biddulph Arms
26 Feb Kettlewell/Langcliff

Forthcoming Attractions Include:

18 Mar Juniper Gulf
Oxlow Cavern/Nettle Pot
19 Mar Lost John's Cave
25 Mar Giants Hole
Ogof Ffynnon Ddu
29 Apr Ireby Fell Cavern/Marble Steps
21 May Black Shiver/Meragill
3 Jun Providence Pot/Dow Pot
17 Jun Lancaster/Easegill
9 Jul Alum Pot
19 Jul? Large Pot/Little Pot
22 Jul Gaping Gill
17 Sep Notts Pot
7 Oct Diccan Pot

The Mendips Mad March Session is on the weekend commencing 17th March.

-----oo00oo-----

Avon and Somerset Constabulary have issued a warning to all cavers about the increase in thefts from vehicles in the Mendips area, particularly around Cheddar Gorge. Cheque books and credit cards have gone along with caving gear. They suggest the totally impractical solution of leaving someone to 'mind' the vehicle! One interesting point is that not one single item has been removed from a locked boot! 'Evenin' all.

* PLEASE NOTE Meetings take place at *
* the usual place (The Bleeding Wolf *
* Scholar Green) on the first Monday *
* of each month (unless this is a *
* Bank Holiday in which case its on *
* the second Monday) BUT STARTING AT *
* 8:30. ie 30 minutes later than *
* previously!

AMMENDMENTS TO THE CURRENT CCPC MEMBERS LIST 88/89

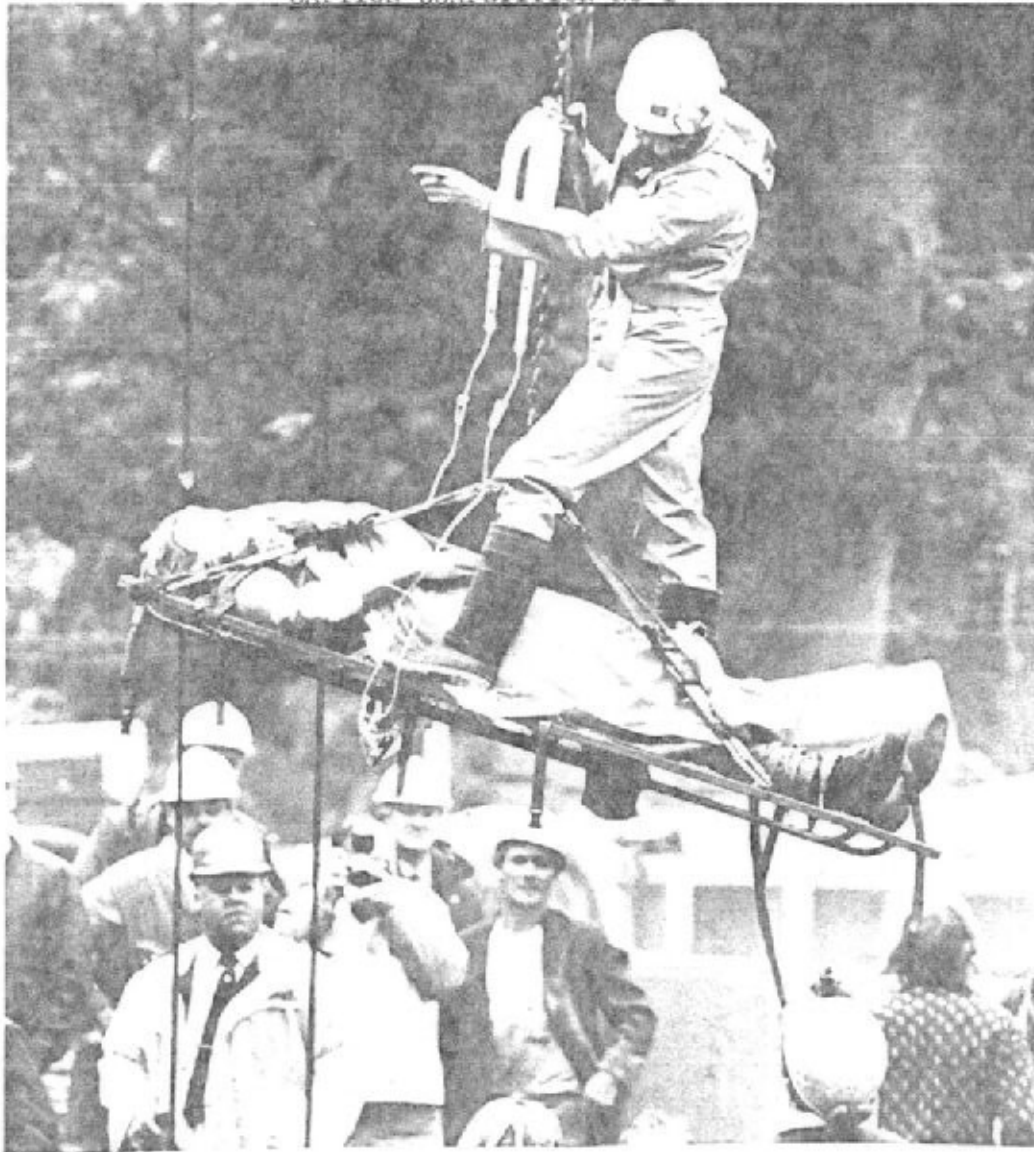
	Home	Work
R Beaumont	0782 780749	0782 202521
I Freeman		021 705 7581 Ext. 24872
I Housley	0782 513298	0782 575575 Ext. 2477
S Knox	0782 782343	
L Kealy	02605 2433	0625 34902
S Lamb	0782 784150	
L Parkinson	0782 771157	366399 x4414
J Smith		0782 782584
R Beaumont has changed adress to; 6 Shepenhall Grove, Aston, Nantwich.		

MOLEPHONE TRIALS CCPC have agreed to take part in DCRO's validation of the Molephone for use in the Peak District. The trial will involve teams taking part of the equipment into caves where there is a likelihood of a callout to assess the usefulness of the gear. CCPC have been allocated Oxlow Cavern and Nettle Pot. The trials will take place on Saturday 18th March (time to be agreed). This exercise could be doubled up into a rigging practice if enough people are interested, but a good turnout will be needed anyway if the trial is to go smoothly and as several other clubs are taking part in similar exercises in the area it could turn into a good social day out.

-----oo00oo-----

Anyone who has been down into the West Chamber of Oxlow in the last few weeks may have noticed that the chain which has acted as a banister for several generations has now been replaced by a newer and more securely bolted length of rope. Friends in the EPC (who were responsible for installing the new rope) told me that they had decided to test the safety of the old chain following a rescue callout to a youth who had fallen down the fourth pitch. To their amusement/horror the chain pulled completely out of its bellay with very little effort. Moral; never trust a fixed aid!

CAPTION COMPETITION No 1



Study the photo and use your skill/experience to fill in the caption to indicate what Ralph, the victim or the Paddy was saying/thinking.

Best entries to be included in a forthcoming Newsletter.



CAPTION COMPETITION No 1.

Ralph/victim/paddy ".....
.....
....."

Please give/post entries to Mark Lovatt

Redacted

I would prefer to remain anonymous ☐