

# CCPC



Newsletter

No. 35

November 1993.

## WATERFALL SWALLET POLLUTION.

Waterfall Swallet has been reported as being polluted with farm sewage recently although it is understood that this has now improved. English Nature reported the incident to the NRA, and prompt action was taken. Apparently a new silage tank was being installed during the very wet midsummer weather. A visit to the farm was made and the tank was found to be floating in its own pit. It appears that everything is now fine, and the NRA reported that the farmer at Shepherds Flat was very helpful. Also the slime that seemed to be covering everything is a form of fungus that feeds off sewage, and since this has been eliminated it should clear very quickly.

## RAVEN MINE.

At present some parts of the route through to the new extensions are extremely unstable but Ben Bentham will be doing stabilising work. I don't know what stage this is at, so anybody thinking of visiting Raven Mine, might like to contact Ben on 0298 70202 to find out more information.

## WATER ICICLE MINE.

The top of the shaft at Water icicle is once again in a dangerous state, so be careful! It has been suggested that you do not use the belay bar, but instead drive a stake into the ground to use as a belay point. The Orpheus Caving Club have offered their services and are going to have a go at this one.

# **KNOTLOW MINE**

## **DANGER - SERIOUS POLLUTION**

**August/September 1993**

At present there is very serious pollution in Knotlow Mine. It appears to be entering the mine somewhere in the region of the big old Knotlow Engine Shaft or the large mine level which connects this to the foot of the Crimbo Hollow (Fourways) Shaft. The water in the level is stinking, brown and carrying some solid matter and the pollution can even be smelt in the open air at the top of the Fourways shaft.

The water flowing in from Waterfall Chamber is carrying the pollution from the foot of the Fourways Shaft, downstream along the coffin level, past Rift Chamber and on down into the Crimbo Swallow.

There is likely to be bad air in the region of the pollution and there may even be methane gas since the pollution appears to be organic.

You are strongly advised to avoid this area of Knotlow Mine for the present and, in particular, be wary of using carbide in this part of the mine since methane can form an explosive combination with air.

Derbyshire Caving Association is aware of the problem and is currently taking steps to trace the pollution and to get it stopped at source. Even when the source is found and stopped, the pollution is likely to take some time to clear so you should continue to be wary.

### **WEIL'S DISEASE**

As with all organic pollution arising in farming areas, there may be a risk of contracting Weil's Disease. NCA has issued a free leaflet giving information on this, including where to obtain medical advice quickly. To obtain a copy send 9" x 4" S.A.E. to DCA Secretary, Jenny Potts.

Also available is a credit-card-sized information card on Weil's Disease to fit in your wallet, for this send S.A.E. plus a 20p stamp to:

DCA Secretary, 3 Greenway, Hulland Ward, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. DE6 3FE.

## BOLT FAILURES.

Recent tests have revealed a problem when using drop-in sleeve anchors in conjunction with 10mm couer hangers. ( These hangers are designed for use with self drill wedge anchors. ) The drop-in sleeve anchors have much thinner walls than the self drills ( 1mm as compared to 2.5mm ). The offset nature of the couer hanger means that a load applied perpendicularly to the fixing surface ( i.e. a horizontal pull out on a wall, or a vertical hang from a ceiling ) produces a bending moment on the plate, which is transmitted to the end of the bolt sitting within the sleeve. The thin walls of the drop-in anchors cannot withstand this force and at about 500kg the sleeve always shears adjacent to the end of the bolt. This force is less than a third of the specified tensile strength of the hanger/self-drill combination, and may seem high in terms of body weights, but is easily approachable in a factor one fall. ( i.e. such as a slip when level with a bolt when clipped in with your cows tail. )

So remember: If using cordless drills, end the hole a couple of mm less than the specified depth for self-drill anchors and finish off the chamfer of the drill bit with a self-drill. One minute extra time per bolt in exchange for three times the strength.

For more information, contact Chris Ware or Keith Jones at Lyon Equipment: 05396-25493

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- Tues 2nd Nov : SRT Basic Techniques.  
How to start, bolt changes, deviations etc.  
Holden Lane High School, 7.00pm-9.00pm.
- Sat 20th Nov : Club Meet.  
Juniper Gulf.  
N/Yorkshire, NRG, SD 765733. Grade IV.
- Mon 22nd Nov : Basic First Aid Course for Cavers.  
A Talk-Workshop for those who have wondered  
what to do when things go wrong underground.  
To be held by Dr Tattersall,  
at the Bleeding Wolf. Starts 7.30pm.
- Sun 12th Dec : Club Meet.  
Tathams Wife Hole.  
N/Yorkshire, NGR, SD 731747. Grade III.
- After Xmas : SRT Advanced Techniques.  
Equipment Failure, Rescue Techniques.  
Holden Lane High School. Date to be arranged.
- Wed 29th Dec : Club Meet.  
Giants Hole. (annual xmas expedition)  
Derbyshire, NGR, SK 119826. Grade II-V.
- 22/23rd Jan : DCA/NCA Cave Training Workshop.  
Whitehall Centre, Buxton. Various courses  
available. Further details to follow.

### FOR SALE;

- Leather Walking Boots, Size 7.  
Almost new £25.00 ono Contact Sharon
- Tee Shirts. £3.50  
Sweat Shirts. £5.00  
Rucksacks. £20.00  
Contact Ralph.





**HIGH ALTITUDE CLIMBER**

## LECTURE AND SLIDE PRESENTATION

Simon Yates is one of Britain's leading and most prolific younger mountaineers. Over the last ten years he has climbed extensively around the world, often combining climbing with his other great love, travel. Simon was first thrust into the limelight as a result of his epic rescue of Joe Simpson, after their first ascent of Siula Grande (Peru) in 1985. Undeterred by his experience in Peru, Simon returned to the mountains five weeks later and climbed the Bonatti Pillar on the Dru, a new route on the Grandes Charnoz and finished the summer with an ascent of the North Face of the Eiger.

The following summer brought the first of many visits to the Karakoram in Pakistan. The rugged and remote nature of this mountain range combined with the warmth and hospitality of the local people made a big impression. Since 1986 Simon has made six visits to the Karakoram, climbing numerous small peaks Alpine style. These have included Leyla peak (6300m) and Nemeka (6400m) in Hushe, Lobsang 2 on the Baltoro and various 5800m peaks on the Hispar glacier. In addition he has climbed and explored on the Choktoi and Nobande Sobande glaciers and participated in an Anglo Polish winter attempt on Nanga Parbat (8125m).

More recently (1991), he was successful in a team making the first British ascents of Khan Tengri (7010m) in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan and an extremely difficult new route on the Central Tower of Paine in Chilean Patagonia.

Simon is offering a choice of illustrated lectures on aspects of his adventures. These are:

**KARAKORAM SPECIAL.** Light weight mountaineering in the Karakoram.

**TIEN SHAN ADVENTURE.** The 1991 Expedition to the Soviet Kazakhstan including the first British ascent of Khan Tengri (7010m).

**PATAGONIAN PRANKS.** The 1991/92 Expedition to the Towers of Paine in Chilean Patagonia, making a dramatic first ascent on the huge E. Face of the Central Tower.

**MOUNTAIN MADNESS.** 10 years in the life of an itinerant mountaineer.

Each lecture lasts approximately one and a half hours.

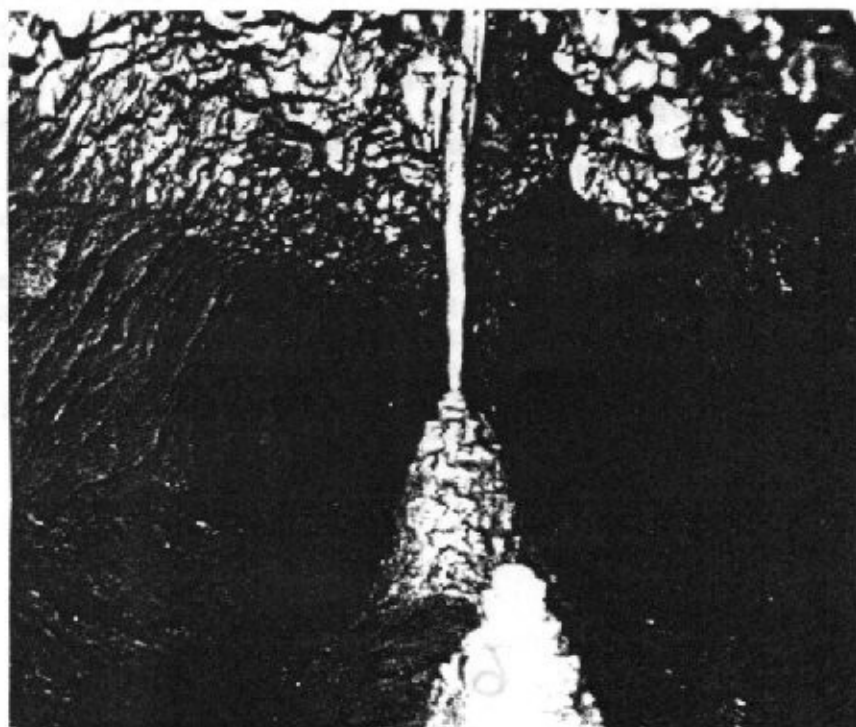
The fee is \$100 or 50% of profits (if larger), plus travel costs \$10-£25. Availability October and November '93, January to March '94. Contact Simon Yates, 797 Abbeydale Road, Sheffield, S7 2BH. Tel 0742-552318.

### Competition

What well know cave is this?

First person to be drawn out of all the correct entries, wins a fig of 8 which has been kindly donated.

All entries to reach T Conde no later than Sun 14th Nov 93.



### LLANGATTOCK CAR PARK.

At present the local residents are up in arms about cavers, so access is a very sensitive subject, so please make sure you don't do anything to exacerbate current difficulties. The Welsh cavers are trying their best to sort the problems. You **MUST** park in the car park, and not outside the Chelsea S.S HQ. But beware of thieves who are regularly raiding vehicles left by cavers in the car park and take suitable precautions.

### CAR THEFTS.

As reported in the last issue, thefts from cars on Mendip continues, especially in the Charterhouse area and Burrington Combe. The local police have supplied a list of known cars, stolen and hidden or otherwise known to be involved in crime. This is displayed at the Belfry and Upper Pitts. Anyone seeing suspicious activity or these vehicles should contact Cheddar Police on 0823 337911. Subtlety is not a strong point with the criminals, as windows are smashed and whatever is present is taken.

Following the fatal road accident at New Year, cars parked on the wrong side of the road at night in the Priddy area are being booked by the Police. Please park legally and sensibly.

### GOUFFRE BERGER REVISITED.

John Preston and Steve Knox are talking of trying to get a permit for the Berger in 1995 or 96. Anyone interested as I am sure there may well be, let them know, so that they can get an idea of numbers, and so get the idea off the ground.

### NEW Policy ON ROPES.

Concern has been expressed over the life of our SRT ropes, some of which are of doubtful vintage!! In future all ropes will be colour coded so that after five years use they can be tested (FF\*1 Drop Test) Ropes coded in blue were purchased in 91 for the berger expedition and are marked with their length in metres. All other ropes cannot be accurately dated so are assumed to be five years old (even tho many will be less than this) These ropes are coded white and a two metre sample will shortly be drop tested. They will then be retested on an annual basis. All new ropes purchased will be coded with that appropriate year colour so that testing them should become a matter of course. As usual any ropes showing signs of damage will be cut or discarded as appropriate. Hopefully by the time you read this article the results of these tests should be available so you should be able to retire from caving with a genuine excuse!!!



### MANDALE MINE.

The 300ft Forefield Shaft leading into Mandale Mine is currently inaccessible due to a layer of concrete over the lid. This was poured there by the farmer in a fairly serious attempt to persuade cavers they are not wanted on his land at Lathkill Farm. Obviously, through-trips to the incline entrance are not now possible.

### BALL EYE MINE.

Update on the situation of Ball Eye Mine has reported in the first issue of the born again News Letter. Swan Minerals now have consent to proceed with construction of a tunnel under the Via Gellia and excavate for ore close to the old mine complex. However, DCA have won recognition of the heritage and recreational value of the site, and the firm has to work within very strict limits to avoid damage.

### DCA/NCA CAVER WORKSHOP.

Don't forget about the next caver workshop to be held on 22/23 January 1994. The topics on offer are listed on the application form enclosed - deadline is 20th December. If you need more forms, please photocopy the one enclosed or contact Nigel Atkins direct to ask for spares. Tel: 0831 449919 or 0283 216507.

### SWILDONS HOLE.

The update on Swildons Hole; After recent heavy rain in the area, very strong diesel fumes have been reported in the section of cave immediately before sump one, so much so, a party is reported to have aborted their trip because the fumes were making members feel sick. No news on the air, or should I say lack of air due to the high CO2 content, as yet.

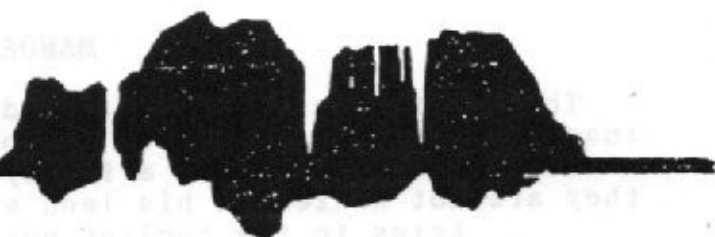
### SLAUGHTER STREAM CAVE.

At the request of the landowner, access is restricted to weekends only, a maximum of six experience cavers only. For further details contact the trips organiser: Andrew Clark, Sunshade Cottage, Lower Redbrook, Nr Monmouth. NP5 4LZ. Tel 0660 716970

### LITTLE NEATH DUMP.

Early in July the rescue dump in Little Neath River Cave was renewed. Some time during the period Monday 12 to Sunday 17 July, some body or bodies opened and used the dump. But no callout or rescue was recorded. While dumps are intended for use in emergencies, there seems to be no excuse for opening the one at Little Neath and leaving it strewn about the chamber. I know no member of our club would commit such an act of vandalism, but its worth noting, new comers to the sport within our club may not realise the importance of such dumps. I just thought it was a point worth mentioning.

# NATIONAL CAVING ASSOCIATION



## TRAINING GRANTS

The NCA Training Committee offer assistance for constituent bodies, clubs, special interest groups, etc. to organise training and training related workshops and events.

**Assistance** can take the form of financial help, use of equipment, assistance in the organisation, use of the Training Coordinator's services or advice in selecting speakers or instructors.

The following are some of the events that have so far been assisted by the NCA Training Committee during 1992 and 1993.

Bolt Training days.

DCUC SRT day.

BCRA Hydrology Group.

NAMHO Field Meet.

Caver's Fairs 1992 and 1993.

DCA Training Events.

CCC Training Event.

Valkyries Caving Club.

Masson Caving Group.

Mine Rescue Training Exercise, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire Cave Rescue Group and others.

**Why not take advantage** of the opportunity available to you and get your caving club, special interest group etc. to organise a training workshop?

For further information contact the Training Coordinator or complete the application form overleaf.



# N.C.A. / D.C.A. CAVER WORKSHOP

JANUARY 22nd & 23rd, 1994  
BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE.

OPEN TO ANY INTERESTED CAVER WISHING TO JOIN US FOR AN INFORMAL  
AND ENJOYABLE 1 OR 2 DAY WORKSHOP-TYPE COURSE.

THE BEST CAVING WORKSHOP IN THE WHOLE WORLD - I SHOULD KNOW, I'VE BEEN TO ALL  
OF THEM! Mr A. WELLS. PROFESSIONAL CAVING CRITIC. SEPT. 1993.

NOT ONLY DOES THE WORKSHOP BRINGS TOGETHER A VARIETY OF CAVERS FROM  
ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO PROVIDE A FRIENDLY AND INFORMAL  
ENVIRONMENT, IT'S DAMN GOOD FUN! NIGEL ATKINS.

TOPICS AVAILABLE ARE ; LADDER & LINE/RIGGING.

SRT.  
SRT ADVANCED.  
FIRST AID & CAVE RESCUE.  
CAVE PHOTOGRAPHY.  
CAVE INSTRUCTOR.

THIS WORKSHOP GIVES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CAVERS TO GAIN FURTHER  
KNOWLEDGE WHILST HAVING FUN AT LOW COST AND IS ALSO IDEAL FOR  
CAVING CLUBS TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.

COST ; £10.00 PER HEAD/PER DAY  
£8.00 PER HEAD/PER DAY  
(D.C.A. MEMBERS OR MEMBERS OF MEMBER CLUBS)

BOOKING MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE- CLOSING DATE ; DECEMBER 20th, 1993  
FEE PAYABLE TO 'NATIONAL CAVING ASSOCIATION'.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE BOOKING FORM AND SEND TOGETHER WITH A STAMPED  
ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO ;

NIGEL ATKINS.  
D.C.A. TRAINING OFFICER.

Redacted

NB; THERE ARE LIMITED PLACES ON THIS YEARS EVENT SO PLEASE BOOK WELL.  
IN ADVANCE TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

NCA/DCA CAVERS W  
APPLICATION FORM.

Please make only one application per form.  
If you can't get hold of a spare one for a friend etc. we are happy to  
accept photocopies of this one. Tick the session/s that you wish to  
apply for; one session per day. There is accommodation available for up  
to 20 people at the Orpheus caving hut. First come first served-please  
indicate which nights you wish to stay. All course and accommodation  
fees must be paid well in advance as there are limited places available.  
Cheques made payable to 'NATIONAL CAVING ASSOCIATION'.  
Details of the event plus maps will be sent out nearer to the date.  
Please tear off below and send together with your cheque and a SAE  
to; Nigel Atkins, DCA Training officer, 51 Derklands road, Swadlincote,  
Derbyshire, DE11 0PG. Tel: 0831 449919.

All sessions are £10-00 per head/per day. (£8-00 DCA members).

LADDER & LIFELINE	SAT JAN 22nd.	
LADDER & LIFELINE	SUN JAN 23rd.	
SRT	SAT JAN 22nd.	
SRT	SUN JAN 23rd.	
SRT ADVANCED	SAT JAN 22nd.	
SRT ADVANCED	SUN JAN 23rd.	
FIRST AID/CAVE RESCUE	SAT JAN 22nd.	
FIRST AID/CAVE RESCUE	SUN JAN 23rd.	
CAVE INSTRUCTOR	SAT JAN 22nd.	
CAVE INSTRUCTOR	SUN JAN 23rd.	
CAVE PHOTOGRAPHY	SUN JAN 23rd.	

£

cheque enclosed for total amount  
Please print your name and address clearly;

NAME.....  
ADDRESS.....

...../ Post Code.....

Telephone numbers. Daytime.....Evening.....