



Spring 1988

The Quarterly Journal of the Shropshire Caving and Mining Club

It's a trial....

Like all good mining ventures 'Below' has been started as a trial. Firstly to see if Club members like the general style. Secondly to see what they think of the new banner for this replacement of the old Bulletin/Newsletter.

As the club is a mining and caving club the title was deliberately picked to be bi-partisan, as it is a word used by both sections of the club plus it has other meanings as well.

If you have any comments to make about 'Below' please bring them up at the next club meeting on Friday June 3rd.

Practice makes perfect

As with any new technique it pays to practice, SRT is no different. Watching the practice sessions at Madeley Court brings to mind a Heath Robinson drawing, with some members adopting the familiar Australian method hanging upside down and wriggling a bit, while others are up the rope like demented squirrels.

Everyone who has managed to attend a session at Madeley has learnt something, the only problem is that in broad daylight its a little unnerving being able to see the ground. Perhaps the club should arrange midnight practices in future.

The Dudley Bug

In 1984 Dudley Council built the first new canal tunnel for 120 years. Branching off the existing Dudley tunnel at a spot called the Well, it passes 60 metres through the hill to join Singer Cavern, an old underground limestone quarry. Having got the tunnelling bug, the Council (along with the Dudley Canal Trust) now propose to reopen part of the original route into Singer Cavern, then extend it with yet another canal tunnel to provide a round trip for canal boats. Plans to reopen the much larger (and more impressive) Dark Cavern have been temporarily shelved, but may still be carried out as part of the development of the new Black Country World's underground Mining exhibit. The Dudley Canal Trust hope to turn the new-new tunnel into a 'time tunnel' with an Audiovisual display taking you through different eras as the boat travels along!

Old German

Several books give the origin of the word 'Corve' as being from the old Dutch word 'Korf' - meaning wicker basket (this word apparently doesn't exist in modern Dutch). However the Dutch got the word from the old German word 'das Korb'. So strictly speaking Corve is an old German word, as so many of our mining words seem to be.