

Autumn 1991

## Quarterly Journal of the Shropshire Caving & Mining Club

### Thirty Years Old

On Wednesday 6th September 1961 the Shropshire Mining Club was founded in the Club room at 36 St. Mary Street, Newport. Although the Club had been in existence before this date, it was not Officially founded until this date.

Looking at the minutes for this inaugural meeting, it is interesting to see what equipment the Club effectively started with, by agreeing to purchased the following items:-

7 lamps ex. G.W.George	-	£14 - 10 - 0
8 Helmets ex Helmets Ltd.	-	£ 5 - 3 - 3
2 Nylon ropes ex. British Ropes	-	£ 7 - 8 - 6
2 30ft. Rope ladders ex. Mottram	-	£ 8 - 15 - 0
1 Sledgehammer ex R.Adams	-	9 - 0
1 Letterfile ex. W.H.Smith	-	7 - 0
Paper & stamps ex. P.Office	-	3 - 0
12 bottles beer ex. O.D.Murphy	-	19 - 1
1 bottle cider ex. Lloyds	-	2 - 5
		£37 - 17 - 3

What a pity those first members didn't kept the O.D.Murphy beer for posterity!

A further business meeting was held on 28th September, 1961 to complete financial arrangements for the setting up of the Club and the first official Club trip was on Sunday 1st October to Llanymynech.

The Club has come a long way since those early meetings, the equipment it now possesses wouldn't have been dreamed of in those days. The increase in popularity in underground exploration, leading to the availability of a wide range of 'relatively' inexpensive equipment has no doubt helped. But oxygen deficiency meters, remote control video cameras, and winches (available soon, I am assured) are not part of the average Club's equipment!

The level of personal equipment has also risen over the years, from exploring with a helmet and lamp in the good old days, to todays SRT rig and harnesses.

The change in exploration techniques over the past 30 years from ladder work to SRT means that a newcomer to the 'sport', not only needs to spend more money in getting kitted up, but also needs a greater awareness of the techniques involved. Thus the role of the Club is just as important today as it was 30 years ago. Infact Mining and Caving Clubs probably have a far greater role in the 90's, in providing equipment and training to beginners, negotiating access agreements and providing an almost nation-wide safety/rescue service.

Here's to the next thirty years,

**Happy birthday S.C.M.C  
(nee SMC)**

# Kent & Surrey

## 13-15th September

**Members present:** Vicky Gamblin, Andy Harris, Steve Holding, Mike Moore, Adrian Pearce, Alan Robinson, Edwin Thorpe, Tom West.

**Friday:** The party left Telford in 3 cars and sped (surprisingly speedily) to Watford Gap Services. Edwin spent his time trying to spot yuppies and proudly wore a flat hat to identify his Wem heritage. Next stop was Farthing Corner Services on the M2 where the separated cars met up again. Edwin was in his element (in the centre of commuter-land) proclaiming that he could hear the rustle of portfolios, the tap of umbrellas and absentee Wem landlords counting their fivers!

We eventually arrived at Challock in the centre of rural Kent, where we were welcomed by Jim Bradshaw (of Kent Underground Research Group [KURG]) who was our host for the weekend. Jim distributed the bodies around the bedrooms and the 3 reputed snorers were closeted together by majority agreement. We were suspicious at the sounds coming from the bedroom occupied by Tom and Andy, who seemed to be inflating some rubber article (they strenuously deny that it was a patent "Plastic Pamela").

**Saturday:** The first trip was to a local denehole, which was a bellpit-type feature for extracting chalk to spread on adjacent fields. This one was unique in that there were two separate deneholes linked underground, not a common practice. The shafts were about 40ft. deep and had been grilled by KURG.

The group abseiled down and explored the limited workings, Andy spending his time destroying the fragile chalk roof to extract a monster flint. This was of an unusual shape and he suffered a number of comments during the weekend as to its eventual use.

The next stop was Westerham Ragstone Mines, where a sandy limestone had been extracted for building purposes. The entrances are in a heavily wooded area which had suffered from the severe gales of a few years ago (at least this was the excuse of our guides who led us there via a circuitous route entailing trail blazing through man-eating bracken).

Two sets of workings were explored, both grilled to protect the bats who use this as an important hibernation site. These grilles had a fatal fascination for some members who were intent on proving how thin they were (Mike dismissed the idea needless to say!). Poor Alan was morally blackmailed into squeezing through after it had been successfully negotiated by Vicky. He succeeded on his second attempt but refused to admit to crushed ribs and bruises.

To round off the day, we crossed the border into Surrey to explore the workings of Marden Stone Quarry (stone mines are actually termed quarries locally). This was quite extensive and produced massive blocks for building (termed Firestone) and smaller lumps for whitening Victorian doorsteps (termed Hearthstone). It had been used as a bonded liquor store during World War II and subsequently for growing mushrooms.

On our way back, we stopped at a pub where we proceeded to glut ourselves with a mega-meal and took out mortgages to pay for a round of drinks! We later moved on to a local pub in Challock which was much more convivial and allowed the opportunity to admire the scenery sitting on a bar stool. The barmaid fell over and sprayed Mike's trousers with white sauce (at least that was his excuse!).

**Sunday:** First stop was at Mote Park Ragstone Mine in Maidstone, similar to Westerham but

## Kent & Surrey cont.. 13-15th September

much more loose. Alan was shocked to hear how little roof existed between the mine and the housing estate above - a common feature in Kent.

This mine was only entered by KURG last year (David Adams was even persuaded to help dig when he was down on a holiday). For Adrian it was a long awaited trip, since the breakthrough came on the weekend he moved to Telford and he had never managed to see the workings.

The mine is crossed by numerous natural rifts and this adds to the instability. After KURG have finished the survey, it is likely that it will be filled by the local council.

The last trip was over the border in Surrey again to visit Godstone Stone Quarry. The entrance is from a manhole literally next to a busy dual carriage-way and it is 'interesting' to emerge to see speeding traffic bearing down on

you. If you emerge on the wrong side you fall into the road and get run down!

There are several miles of workings and much of it is at an inconvenient height for normal sized people like me. Whereas most of us were usually stooped over, Mike and Steve seemed to have found their ideal environment.

Thanks go to the members of Kent Underground Research Group and Wealden Mines Research Group who acted as hosts for the weekend.

**Adrian Pearce**

This Issue of "**Below**" has been sponsored by

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# News Round-Up 1

## by Ivor Brown

### Snailbeach Restoration

Work continues on restoration at Snailbeach. The loco shed has been completed and work is starting on the blacksmiths shop.

### Geology Gallery

Design work continues on the Geology Gallery for the IGMT at Jackfield. It will contain a significant amount of mining plus a mock face with the Siskol coal cutter recovered from the Rock Mine by the Club - although several parts are now missing!

### Stone Masons Yard

The Stone masons yard opened at Blists Hill during the summer. At the moment it concentrates on Grinshill Stone but other famous Shropshire stones e.g.: Alverley, will be added.

### Early “Designers”

About 30 of the early “designers” of the IGMT concept met in Ironbridge on 13th July. Obviously there was much progress to be seen in many areas but the mining theme has now been left far behind. A fresh impetus is needed, who can raise £½ million to complete a new shaft to the Tar Tunnel for a through trip?

[It's a pity the Museum has allowed its existing mining exhibits to deteriorate so much, during their “shop” building phase. KL.]

### Old Photographs

Photographs of the removal of an egg-ended boiler 37ft. long, 17.5 ft. diameter from Blists Hill have appeared in The Ironbridge Quarterly Issue 2 1991.

Also an interesting picture of the clay quarry at Lightmoor, Shropshire.

### IJB Abroad

IJB visited Brussels (to keep an eye on daughter then a student there) also to Spain (twice).

Object of the first visit was to give lectures on design of Mining Museums and to assist local authorities in determining feasibility of an ironstone mining museum - underground and surface at Bilbao, Basque Country.

Only one mine still working, some large holes but few ancient remains. Many mines have Scottish names, Scots owned McLennan Mines seem to offer best potential.

Second visit was to the Canary Isles (Gran Canaria and Lanzarote). Object was to give talks on mining museum design to delegates at a Heritage Conference. No mines in the vicinity but did manage to go to a “restaurant” for a meal underground in a volcanic lava tube cavern, “Jamers del Aqua”.

## Limestone Grant

Derelict limestone mines under parts of Wolverhampton, which were last worked in the 1850's are to be filled with the aid of a £2.5million Government grant.

A detailed mapping exercise over the last few years (itself costing £1.5 million) has revealed

the extent and location of the mines.

The filling operations are due to start at the end of this year and should ensure that no homes in Wolverhampton are at risk from the collapse of the limestone mines (they hope!).

## 25 Years Ago (Early Days of the Club)

### October 1965

Surveying at Brasgyll, Ogof Dydd Byraf, Myttons & Perkins Beach. Members attended a Cave Rescue Conference at Buxton and with NWCRO took part in a 3½ hour rescue of a London caver suspended in Ogof Dydd Byraf.

### November 1965

SMC Newsletter re-commenced with No.14. Exploration work continued in the Tar Tunnel. Explosives were found at the foot of a shaft at Burgam (amongst a carpet of dead sheep). Treasurer P.R.Gaut “had let £196 pass through his hands, but managed to retain the balance of £26”. Discussion under way on changing the name of the Club.

### December 1965

Visits to various slate mines, also Park Farm, Clee Hill and a Rescue Practice at Llanymynech.

### January 1966

All the places mentioned above seem to have been re-visited. Club very active, 2 sometimes 3 trips each weekend. Club takes to a dinghy in Lilleshall Mine and on Eardington underground canal. Having spent a night at Clubhouse some members found a quantity of grenades and mortar bombs down an un-named mine in North Wales.

### February 1966

Visits to Brasgyll, Berwick Tunnel, Eardington Tunnel, Fynnon Ddu, Glyn Ceiriog, Erryrys Area. D.Stevensons beard accidentally set-alight. Where is he now?.

### March 1966

Many visits, as above also DCA Buxton Conference and CRO meeting. A lot of correspondence and 3 new publications -inc. South Shropshire Survey and Yearbook 64-65.

### April 1966

Easter camp was held in Yorkshire, also exploration at Cilcain, Gatten and Brasgyll Rescue call out to assist at a shaft rescue at Friog, boy rescued.

### May 1966

Club put on an exhibition in Denbigh Town Hall. Two Whitsun camps, first at llansannon explored drainage system from mansion and found a shaft with beam (from an engine), old boiler and cage. Second camp was at Brasgyll.

### June 1966

Much digging in Tar Tunnel, Brasgyll, Coed Nant Gain and Llanelidan. Also visited mines in Hanedloes and Graid Fechan.

### July 1966

No fewer than 10 expeditions recorded to just about everywhere that mattered. Courtaulds gave the Club permission to explore the Halkyn Drainage Tunnel.

### August 1966

No reports, because no newsletter (No. 22 was for June/July, next No.25 was for October. Anyone got No. 23 or 24?).

IJB's notebook however shows visits to Rock Fireclay Mine, the Lake District and Northern Pennines and with Club Members in the Arans (Wales).

### September 1966

9 trips including Cornwall and Halkyn Level. Annual Dinner at the Royal Victoria, Newport cost £1 per head (certain members complained at the expense).

Motion to change the name of the Club  
**DEFEATED.**

**Ivor Brown**

# Possible Mine Sites in South Shropshire

Extracts from “Geology of the Country around Church Stretton, Craven Arms, Wenlock Edge & Brown Clee” by D.Greig et al, 1968.

p.171 - ‘Old trial shafts at White Birches (SO 429 894), shown on the 6" map, were thought by Cobbold (p.33) to have been sunk for coal. No record of these shafts is known to the landowner, nor could any evidence of their presence be found on the ground.’

Reference to Cobbold is in: “Church Stretton” edited by C.W.Campbell-Hyslop, 1900, Shrewsbury. This area seems very remote from known coal deposits - has anyone heard of any exploration here for other minerals?

p.227 - ‘In the woods about three quarters of a mile south of Downton Hall, in the Ludlow district, the limestones were quarried and mined in the mid-19th century by the landowner, and substantial kilns were built.’

The description puts this at about SO 52 78. Has anyone visited this area and found evidence of mining?

p.231 - ‘Debris of grey calcareous sandstone and cornstone - conglomerate is found near what appears to be an old shaft (SO 518 811), 180 yards N 17° W of the chapel. The rock bears a film of malachite in places and was worked intermittently for copper until 1919. According to local information, adits were also opened at the roadside and the mine is said to date back to medieval or even Roman times.’

This is Haytons Bent Copper Mine. Nobody, in recent years, seems to have explored the shaft, reputed to be 50ft. deep and in the garden of Mine Cottage. Other contemporary references only describe one adit. Does anyone know differently?

p.234 - ‘Calcareous flags and cornstone-conglomerate, dipping at 11° to S 40° E, are seen at a locality (SO 591 784) 1034 yards S 26° W of Callowgate, partly enclosing what appears to be a small swallow hole.’

The location given is on the upper north slope of Titterstone Clee Hill. Has anyone seen this?

**Adrian Pearce**

## Black Engine Mine A Warning

The Black Engine Mine, Hucklow Edge, Derbyshire is now an integral part of the Milldam/Ladywash mine complex and due to the “active” state of the mine, access cannot be permitted to Black Engine Mine shaft.

The mine owners, Laporte Minerals, have reinstated a locked cover on the Black Engine Mine shaft and erected a warning notice on the shaft top because blasting will expose any weakness in old shafts and workings.

The Company want as much publicity as possible given to the new situation, to prevent people from attempting to gain unauthorised access to an extremely dangerous environment - unauthorised access to Ladywash mine has already been made by persons unknown, via Black Engine Mine shaft. The Company is rightly concerned that this should not happen again, so please take note.

# Underground in the Italian Dolomites

Whilst enjoying the vino rosso, pizza's and cappuccino in Italy this summer, Vicky and myself were able to visit three underground sites along the route of the Alta Via 1. As the name suggests (if you speeka-the-Italiano!), this was a high level path which winds its way across the Eastern Dolomites at a height of 6,000-9,000 feet.

The Dolomite peaks in this area were the scene of very fierce fighting on the Italian-Austrian front during the First World War. Here, the highly trained forces of the Italian Alpini and Austrian Imperial Riflemen were engaged in a three-dimensional trench warfare around and through the mountains. Often the conflict would see one side perched on the summit of a steep, towering peak, with their opponents entrenched half way up vertical cliffs. Control of the communication routes of mountain passes depended upon holding all the higher vantage points.

Tunnelling through the limestone was undertaken by both sides to provide communication and storage networks, living quarters and protected shelters against artillery and the extreme winter weather. It was also a method by which the oppositions positions could be "mined" or new higher firing points achieved.

Two excellent examples, dug by Italian troops remain today: the Galleria's Lagazuoi and del Castelletto (1100 and 800 metres long respectively) were driven steeply upwards from the base of high cliffs towards the Austrian summit position. At Lagazuoi, the Austrians heard digging and counter-mining techniques were used.

Typically the passage cross-sections were about 2x2 metres, with steps cut in the steepest sections. This allowed field guns and explosives to be hauled up the tunnels by men

and mules. Additionally ammunition chambers and sleeping quarters were also excavated.

In the Galleria del Castelletto 35 tonnes of explosives were detonated simultaneously beneath Austrian positions in July 1916. Despite the devastating damage (a large crater is still visible) it took a further day of hand-to-hand fighting before the Italians finally captured the summit.

Today, the tunnel bottom entrance is situated about 10 metres up a cliff face and is reached by climbing fixed wire ropes and ladders. Inside a fixed wire rope, belayed periodically with pitons, assists the steep climb to the top entrances. Near the summit, there are several exit points from the tunnel, presumably to assist the following attack or perhaps leading to the individual explosive chambers. Occasional "windows" or cross-cuts were driven into the cliff face, providing very exposed views of the surrounding peaks. From the top of the Galleria a 'via ferrata' (iron way) provides a route to the top of Tofana de Rozos, almost 11,000 feet high.

Our third underground visit of the holiday was the Grotta de Tofana, a natural limestone cavern situated on the opposite side of the Tofana de Rozes to the Galleria del Castelletto. The large keyhole entrance of the cave is about 100 metres above the scree of the Tofana. To reach the cave it is first necessary to climb a short 'via ferrata' or protected climbing path which traverses a narrow ledge across the cliff face.

Inside, the cave was fairly roomy and consisted of two parallel passages (see figure 1) diminishing into tight fault rifts. There was very little evidence of calcite formations or water action on the rock, but a small stream runs in wet weather through the eastern section. The total length of the cave consisted of about 75-

# Underground in the Italian Dolomites

100m of walking passage, plus further tight rifts. Two wire ropes within the cave allows a round trip to be made.

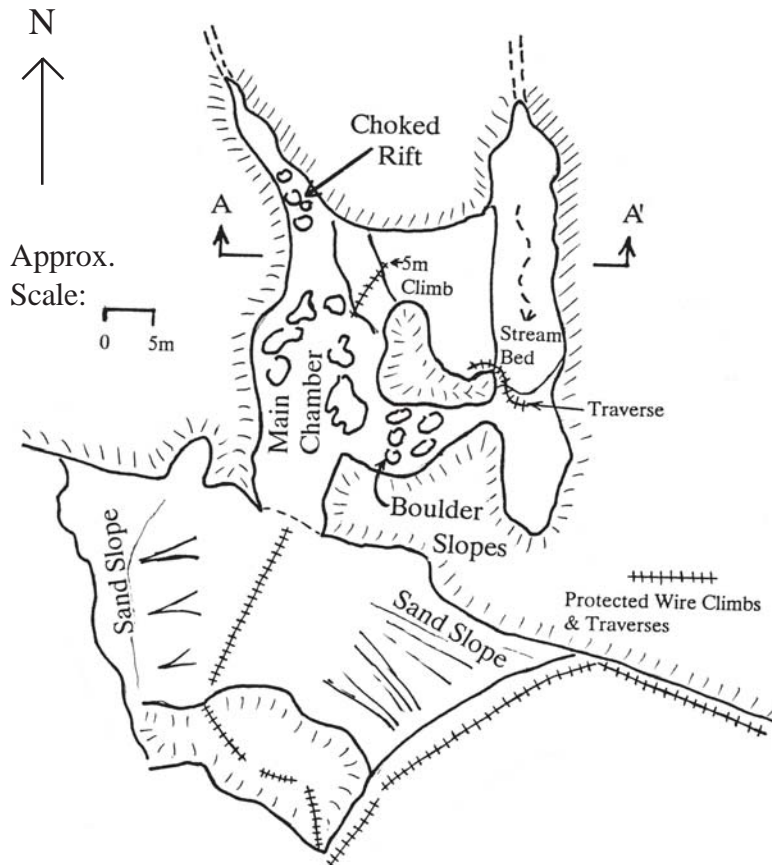
No exceptional climbing skills are required to visit these sites, but the following items may be useful:

1. Climbing Helmet (essential). Friable rock and crazy Italians are a constant danger.
2. Cowstails - once you're clipped in you can't get lost
3. Head torch
4. Freedom of vertigo and projectile vomit
5. Large appetite for pasta
6. Loadsamony. Italy is quite expensive, especially the huts.

**Alan Robinson**

Figure 1  
Grotta de Tofana

## a) Plan View



## b) Section AA





## Conferences & Field Meets for 1992

The Club is hosting the 1992 NAMHO Field Meet , 27-28th June. The poster and leaflet that Adrian Pearce is sending out to advertise the Meet is reproduced on the next page for your "interest".

### International Conference Bath/ Bristol 1992

Subterranean Britannica are holding an International Conference at the Bath College of Higher Education (Newton Park, Bath) on 7th - 11th August 1992.

Sixty place have been booked for delegates. Accommodation costs (per person, from dinner Friday evening to Tuesday morning) £125 (inc. VAT). This figure does **NOT** include Conference administration fee and coach/mini-bus hire.

The main theme for papers presented at the Conference is "**Subsequent use of Subterranean Space**" but if you wish to submit a paper it does not need to be exclusive to that subject matter.

A variety of sites in the Bath/Bristol area will be available for visits. For more details contact:

Mrs. Sylvia P. Beamon, MA,  
Conference Organiser,  
Subterranean Britannica, 2 Morton Street,  
Royston, SG8 7AZ, England.

### '92 International Cave Rescue

The South Wales Cave Rescue Organisation will be host to the 1992 International Cave Rescue Conference at the SWCC Hostel at Penwyllt, South Wales from 23rd. to 30th August 1992.

Accommodation for delegates will in local Adventure Centres with transport laid on to and from the venue.

Assistance is welcome from individuals and other rescue organisations, as are ideas and suggestions. A particular requirement is for cavers with linguistic skills to help with translation.

If there is any way in which you can help, please contact:

B. Jopling, 31 Holbeche Road, Sutton  
Coldfield, West Midlands, B75 7LL,  
(Tel: 021 378 1936)

## News Round-Up 2 by Kelvin Lake

### Quarry Managers Journal

Noted in the above journal:-  
Little Wenlock Clay Mines Ltd. (1939), Reg. 8/3/39. Established "*to search for and develop quarries, brickfields, pits and mines for the manufacture of clay, fireclay, silica, glazed and other bricks.*"

Dirs: T.Hickman, J.P.Lloyd, C.H.N.Hadley.

Did the firm do anything?

### Accident on 11/10/91

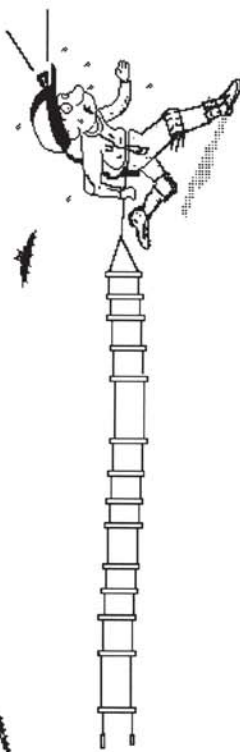
A miner died in hospital after an underground roof fall at the private Glen colliery, Cwmllynfell, West Glamorgan

### Mine Closure

British Coal is to axe 1,300 miners jobs and close the 'loss-making' Coventry Colliery after its failure to meet production targets.

Merton Colliery, County Durham is also due to close.

## COME TO SHROPSHIRE IN 1992



### DO YOU WANT TO

- Explore local mines?
- Learn underground surveying?
- Attend seminars on preserving mining sites?
- Learn how to take underground video recordings?
- Have a conducted surface tour of local mines?
- Learn single rope techniques?
- Buy books or equipment?

### WHATEVER YOUR INTEREST, WE CAN CATER FOR YOU

**WHEN?** June 27-28th 1992

**WHAT?** This is the biannual field meet of the National Association of Mining History Organisations

**WHO?** Anyone with an interest in mining history or underground exploration

**COST:** £5.00 per person for the weekend

**HOSTS:** Shropshire Caving & Mining Club

**DETAILS:** Can be obtained by sending an A5 S.A.E. to:

**ADRIAN PEARCE**  
72, Hopkins Heath, Shawbirch, Telford, Shropshire, TF5 0LZ

**TEL:** 0952-253310

## NAMHO FIELD MEET 1992

**DATES:** 27-28th June 1992      **VENUE:** Shropshire  
**HOSTS:** Shropshire Caving & Mining Club

This year we are expanding the traditional programme of underground trips by offering a wide choice of activities to cater for every taste. These will be:

**1. WORKSHOP SESSIONS:** taking place over the whole weekend, allowing participants to learn new skills or compare notes with expert instructors. The sessions will be on:

- \* a) Underground Surveying
- \* b) Underground Video Recording
- \* c) Single Rope Techniques

\* *These sessions will be for restricted numbers*

**2. SEMINARS:** organised by the Institute of Mining History & Archaeology on the theme of surface preservation of mining sites. The theme will culminate in a surface trip to Snailbeach Mine on the Sunday afternoon.

**3. SURFACE FIELD TRIPS:** taking in areas of mining and general industrial archaeology.

**4. UNDERGROUND FIELD TRIPS:** with a wide choice of visits to the mines of Shropshire. These will vary from easy trips to strenuous ones involving extensive use of SRT techniques and ladder climbing.

**5. SATURDAY NIGHT SOCIAL:** with a bar, meal and entertainment.

The base for the weekend will be at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, where the seminars and workshop theory sessions will be held. Practical workshop sessions and field trips will be held at numerous surrounding sites in Shropshire, with minibuses transport to most of the locations. A central camping site will be available but all types of accommodation are available locally. A standard charge of £5.00 per person will be made to cover general expenses over the weekend. The Saturday night social is optional and will be charged for separately.

Please notify your members about the event so they can keep the dates free, further details and a booking form will be available from February 1992. Some workshop sessions have restricted numbers and places will go to those who book first. To ensure you receive a booking form when available, send an A5 S.A.E. to:

**ADRIAN PEARCE**  
72, Hopkins Heath, Shawbirch, Telford, Shropshire, TF5 0LZ

**TEL:** 0952-253310

# Library Catalogue Update

Since the main library catalogue was produced back in April, a number of new books, newsletters and extracts have been added to the library.

## Supplement 1 (2nd September 1991)

AA3/91 SCMC Newsletter Summer 1991  
C001/B18/3 AIA Bulletin Vol.18, No.3, 1991  
C030/N9-10/90 CCC Newsletter No. 9-10, 1990-91  
C030/N1-3/91 CCC Newsletter No. 1-3, 1991-92  
C050/M1 CNCC Minutes 1991  
C060/N75 DCA Newsletter No.75, 1991  
C120/N18-19 NAMHO Newsletter No.18-19 1991  
C120/M3 NAMHO Minutes 1991  
C120/M5 Circulars on proposed NAMHO constitutional changes  
C145/N183 NWCC Newsletter No.183, 1990  
C145/N185 NWCC Newsletter No.185, 1991  
C145/N187 NWCC Newsletter No.187, 1991

C155/B11/3 PDMHS Bulletin Vol.11, No.3, 1991  
C155/N59 PDMHS Newsletter No.59, 1991  
C155/M5 Mining History Bibliographies 1990-91  
C216/J2-3 Stafford Speleo Journal Vol.2-3,1987-88  
ED85 Descent No.85, 1989  
ED87-92 Descent No.87-92, 1989-90  
ED95-96 Descent No.95-96, 1990  
ED100 Descent No.100, 1991  
GC7 Coalbrookdale Coalfield c.1621 (e)  
KG3 "Gold Mines of North Carolina, USA", P.Etchells, SCMC Newsletter 1991  
KG4 "Geology of the Country around Church Stretton, etc", D.Greig et al, 1968  
MT7 "The Gold Mines of Merioneth", G.Hall, 1988  
WC6 "Coal Mining in Crowsnest Pass, Alberta, Canada"  
XL1 Littleton Street Mine, Walsall  
XM1 Mountain Biking Underground (15/4/89)  
KM6 "Minerals & Metalliferous Mines in Ireland", G.Cole, 1922  
MB6 "British Coalmining - an Introduction", British Coal

**Adrian Pearce**

## News Round-Up 3 by Kelvin Lake

### Mine Privatisation

Rothschild, the Government's bankers have produced a report for the Department of Energy which says that only 14 collieries are fit for privatisation, all the rest are marked for closure. The south Wales and north west coalfields would be closed completely and only 11,000 miners would keep their jobs.

Since the 1984-85 strike 104 out of 169 pits have closed and 114,000 jobs have disappeared in the coal industry.

An added impetus to the Government's privatisation and closure idea is the fact that no new coal-fired power stations are likely to be built during the next decade, since coal is a third more expensive than gas per unit of electricity produced. Meanwhile, Britain's

existing coal-fired stations are likely to switch to imported coal, which is cheaper (at the moment) and cleaner than high-sulphur British coal - although Britain possesses low-sulphur coal at depth, new investment in deep mine coal is unlikely.

In the short run much will depend on the new contracts signed between the power generators and British Coal in 1993. A point to remember is that it takes a long time to develop a new mine, and NO British pit once closed has ever been re-opened.

A detailed break down of working mines in Britain has been produced by Adrian Pearce and appears on page 13 .

## Petrol Driven Winch as at Start of October

Construction is proceeding as already discussed at Club Meetings. The engine retrieved from the Snailbeach Adit dig, is rigged to drive through two Cavalier gear boxes and rear axle gearing a winding drum. The drum will contain at least 600 ft. of  $\frac{3}{8}$ " steel cable.

The engine and first gear box will be on a sub-frame mounted with anti-vibration mountings to the main frame. This is to reduce vibration being transmitted to the ground which could have a de-stabilising affect on a shaft collar. The arrangement is best suited if a belt drive is used between the two gearboxes.

**Progress to-date** includes:-

- a. fitting one new main bearing to the engine (an expensive item).
- b. connecting the engine to a coil ignition - the magneto originally with the engine was not working and repairs have not been entirely satisfactory.

- c. fitting a self starter.
- d. making the shaft coupling between the engine and clutch
- e. making the brackets to fix the engine to the first gearbox

The engine requires new piston rings which have been ordered but not fitted yet.

The carburettor is dubious, it appears to be working but the jets can't be un-screwed and the slow running adjuster is seized and broken off. Ideally I would like to fir an LPG "Carburettor".

Material to hand includes: engine, two gearboxes, final drive off a rear axle, coil ignition set, self starter, steel sub-frame and main frame, nuts & bolts etc..

Total expenditure to-date £157.54

**Alan Taylor**

## Cartoons from the Archives



# Mining Statistics

## compiled by Adrian Pearce

### Working Mines in the U.K.

The following is a summary of working mines according to official statistics as at 1991.

Mineral	County	Number of Mines
Anhydrite	Cumbria	1
Ball Clay	Devon	4
	Dorset	3
Barytes	Cumbria	1
	Tayside	1
Coal	(see separate list)	226
Fireclay	West Yorkshire	1
Fluorspar	Derbyshire	2
	Durham	1
Gypsum	Cumbria	2
	Nottinghamshire	2
	Staffordshire	1
Honestone	Strathclyde	2
Iron Ore	Cumbria	1
Limestone	Avon	1
	Derbyshire	1
	Wiltshire	2
Potash	Cleveland	1
Salt	Antrim	1
	Cheshire	1
Silica Sand	Highland	1
Slate	Gwynedd	2
Tin	Cornwall	2
Zinc	Anglesey	1
	<i>Total =</i>	261

### Working U.K. Coal Mines

Region	British Coal	Private	Total
<i>England</i>			
Cumbria	-	3	3
Derbyshire	4	3	7
Durham	4	11	15
Gloucestershire	-	8	8
Greater Manchester	1	2	3
Lancashire	-	8	8
Merseyside	2	1	3
Northumberland	1	10	11
Nottinghamshire	15	-	15
Staffordshire	3	10	13
South Yorkshire	16	1	17
Tyne & Wear	2	-	2
Warwickshire	2	-	2
West Yorkshire	5	1	6
Yorks & Humberside	7	-	7
<i>Wales</i>			
Clwyd	1	3	4
Dyfed	2	9	11
Gwent	-	12	12
Mid Glamorgan	4	15	19
West Glamorgan	-	55	55
<i>Scotland</i>			
Central	-	1	1
Fife	1	3	4
Lothian	-	1	1
Strathclyde	-	5	5
<i>Totals</i>	70	156	226

## News Round-Up 4

### by Kelvin Lake

#### Newport Quarry

Tarmac Roadstone Central has unveiled plans to quarry a 220 acre site next to the A41 at Pave Lane Farm. The firm are looking at reserves of 6 million tonnes of sand and gravel to be extracted over a period of 10 to 15 years.

An exhibition was recently held at the Farm to show local people the scheme and another will be held soon to explain what their planning application involves. A local Action Group has been formed to fight the plans.

# Club Officers

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Kelvin Lake

