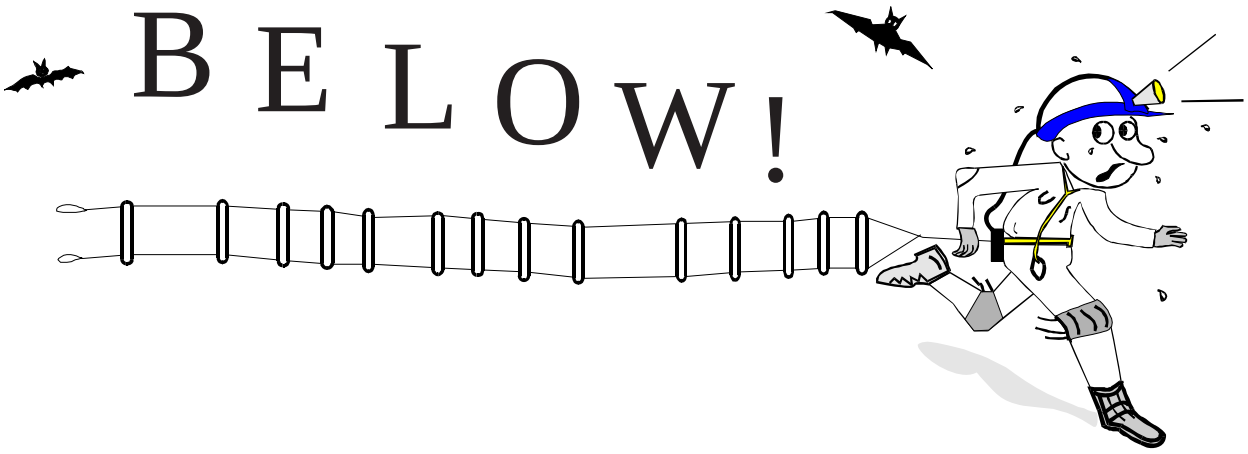
BELOW!



Quarterly Journal of the Shropshire Caving & Mining Club Winter 1993 Issue No: 93.4

In the News

Since the last issue the Club has been making it into the news, luckily all of it good! The Rescue practice at Huglith appeared in a Shropshire Star half page feature, after reporter Alison Mountney spent the day with us.

The article also featured several colour photographs of the Club in action, taken by Neal and Pete Eggleston (or at least his camera - before it had the front of the lens broken off).

The Clubs work on the wooden engine house at Black Tom, Snailbeach was also covered by the Shropshire Star, although no photographs this time.

Cafe Photos

While we were at Snailbeach working on the remains around Black Tom a chance visit to the 'Weighbridge' Cafe, Snailbeach, turned up an unexpected source of old Snailbeach pictures. The cafe was selling a range of photographs from the H.F.Wheeler Collection (distributed by R.S.Carpenter, Hollywood, Birmingham), while they were mainly railway photographs, there were a few interesting shots, taken in the 1930's of the dressing plant machinery that sat on the concrete plinth near to Black Toms' wooden engine house.

Another unexpected bonus, at the cafe, was the discovery of "*Narrow Gauge & Industrial Railway Modelling Review*", issue 15. This contained 3 items on Snailbeach, covering the research and building of a Snailbeach District Railway model.

One of the articles was an historic review of the site and contained several old photographs, new to Club members. Again, although mainly railway biased, the buildings etc. in the background were particularly interesting.

If you are passing the 'Weighbridge' Cafe, it is worth calling in, but try to avoid the main lunch time on Sundays, this tends to be Mrs.Rowsens busiest period, as the cafe is very popular for Sunday Lunches.

Tackle Bag Danger

As a result of the death of a caver in the flooded sump of Kingsdale Master Cave, the inquest produced the following safety point:-

"When walking in underground streams, where there is a considerable flow of water, tackle bags should be carried clear of the water."

It is thought that the weight of a wet rope in a tackle bag attached to a belt and dragging in the water contributed to the caver being swept away.

CCC

Kids For Coal

A new campaign has been launched by a group of children concerned about the effect on the "British Way of Life", of pit closures and the 'dash for gas'.

They are worried about the social implications of closing down coal mines, particularly in bad weather. Although the closures effect children in the North and Midlands the most, those in the South will occasionally suffer.

After all if there are no coal mines, what on earth can you use for the eyes, mouth and buttons on snowmen!

Merry Christmas

and Best wishes for the New Year, Kelvin

Descent of Gozo (With and without Oxygen)

Our return to the Maltese island of Gozo this year was a chance to improve our diving skills, but we couldn't miss the chance of visiting nearly every cave on the island. Well three of them anyway - that must be 75% of the known caves above sea level.

Two of these were in the village of Xaghra (X is pronounced 'sh' , I think ...). Both were operated as showcaves, although this term is perhaps a little grand for their size.

Xerri's Grotte was discovered at the turn of the century whilst Mr. Xerri was digging a well in his back garden. He broke into a partially collapsed solution cavity which is well decorated with stal, flowstone and a small amount of straw formations.

It must also be noted for Mr Xerri's great grand-daughter, aged about 12 and possibly the least helpful and rudest cave guide in the world. Our group of four was first locked in the cave before being led down an excavated staircase to the cave. The visit consisted of a description of the caves discovery and the inevitible formations that bore a striking(?) resemblance to Lions, tigers , bacon etc. etc. This took about 30 seconds, but was perhaps slightly longer than the circular tour of the cave as it consisted of only 1 loop of about 8 metres. "

No, it was **NOT** allowed to take photos." Then we were frogmarched back out of the cave. Although the entry fee was cheap, it did work out at about 50p a minute of visit or £30-00 for the full hour.

Ninu's Cave a couple of streets away was much more relaxed, with a radical pay as you exit and take as long as you like scheme. It was a little smaller - only 5 or so metres in each direction. However, viewing was from a central point and it was really well decorated, even if the calcite was very dry. This isn't surprising as there is no surface water on Gozo at all. For some reason they had also concealed the lighting, unlike their neighbours who had endorsed the 'stark realist' school of cave lighting - Naked bulbs and grey mains cable can really help to encapsulate the true beauty of a cave.

Our final surface trip was to Calypso cave at Ramla Bay, which we explored for its full length with the aid of candles. Homer's description of this grotty hole as Ulysses and the Nymph Calypso's abode for several years may have been a fore-runner for that Estate Agent phrase "in need of some modernisation". Perhaps his prose on nymphs and the like was better suited to the Sunday Sport!

Back to the diving and a chance for Vicky and myself to try our first sump dive with an air bottle. Despite an extensive practice at Sump 1 in Swildons, we were still unprepared for what lay ahead at Cathedral cave.

For a start the water was warm and clear with visibility of over 15 metres. Then the entrance to the cave was 10 metres high and 8 metres wide - should we really risk the tanks on our backs?

Well, in truth it was all a very pleasant experience with daylight visible from inside the cave from the underwater entrance as well as a small opening in the main chamber. Our planned dive was to descend to about 20 metres along the wall of a sea cliff. Once our no-decompression limit was reached we ascended to about 12 metres and entered the cave at floor level which gradually rose to a depth of 6-8 metres.

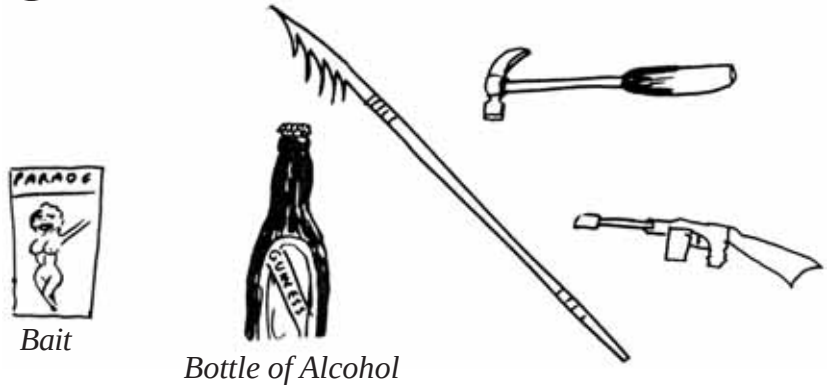
The passage was only about 20 metres long before it opened out into the main chamber, where we surfaced at the back wall. The chamber above the water was domed with a maximum height of 6 metres or so. In late afternoon the water is a turquoise colour and almost fluorescent with the angle of sunshine to the water outside.

I don't think Dig Hastilow or Martyn Farr are going to face much competition from us in the years to come, but it is quite special to enter a cave (even a short one) with diving equipment. Our exit was uneventful, even with six of us all 'squeezing' through the entrance at once.

Alan Robinson

Cartoons from the Archives Collecting Cave Fauna by D.Stevenson 1970

(1) *Collecting Equipment*



Bait

Bottle of Alcohol

Animals and Insects that inhabit caves are rare.

You can help make them even more rare by collecting them for "Scientific" study.

Specimens are usually killed by putting them in a container of alcohol, so at least they die happily.

Bat Group Trips

Shropshire Bat Group: Mike Worsfold, Andrew Mcleish, Eileen Bowen, Colin Hayton.

On the 20th November, Liz and Colin Armfield, Nick Southwick and John from the Club took three members of the Shropshire Bat Group into the workings at Huglith. Present from the Bat group were Andrew, Colin and Eileen.

The workings in Badger Level were examined but although there were signs of bat droppings (Horseshoe and possibly Natterer's or Whiskered bats) no live bats were seen. As the party was not experienced in SRT only the adit level was entered.

The party then climbed up to the Upper Riddleswood workings to descend the inclined shaft. The small adit above the shaft was examined but was thought to be unsuitable fro bats. Nick and John descended the shaft then Andrew and Colin from the bat group abseiled down. Eileen who had no experience at all underground was laddered and lifelined down, while Liz abseiled down on a second rope.

In the upper tramming level 6 Horseshoe bats were seen. The party then came out on ladders being lifelined from the top by Colin.

On the way back to the cars the party was shown the Upper adit portal (collapsed) and the shaft into lower Riddleswood. The lower workings were thought to be too dangerous to enter with a novice party.

The tramming level on Main vein needs to be examined from Badger Level and from the stopes in the wood but this needs an SRT party. If the Lower Riddleswood workings are entered the party should be very experienced due to the unstable nature of the workings.

28th. November

Colin and Liz took a party composed of Andrew and Eileen with Mike, Liz and Rob from the Bat Group along with Colin Hayton who joined later.

We first went into the "Good as Tuesday" adit at Potters Pit. Due to the usual mis-calculation the entrance was about 18 inches deep in very cold water so all the party had wet feet.

As at the last trip, only the Upper workings were examined, but there was extensive signs of bat droppings. Three Natterer's bats and 2 lesser Horseshoe bats were seen.

The party then went down to Burgham Mine where the lower workings were examined. It was not possible to obtain the key for the Upper adit. Bats were seen in all the adits.

Note:

It must be emphasised that it is law, that, as it is now known that these mines and workings have bats present they **must not** be entered without an accompanying Registered Bat Worker.

The Potters Pit workings were examined earlier this year by a Club group. The way down to the lower workings is down a winze, through a short cross cut, down a stope and then down another stope to water.

There is an alternative descent possible via an ore chute, which at the moment is dangerous. This descent is via a hole in the floor of the level but there is a large pile of deads above which needs to be stabilised. If a barrier of wood was placed across the ore chute to prevent loose rocks falling it may be possible to descend to the top of the lowest stope with the use of just a hand line via a loose rock slope.

Colin & Liz Armfield

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(2) *Great Care must be taken not to damage the specimen during capture*

The specimen should be placed in a tube of alchohol as soon as possible after capture

News Round-up 1
by Ivor Brown

Symon Opencast

The British Coal Symon Opencast site near Lawley, worked by Telford based Clay Colliery Company is described in the September issue of Quarry Management. As well as the Symon site the Company also operates 5 other coal sites outside Shropshire (one in Scotland is being further developed into an underground operation).

Other Sites

Coal contractors Ltd. of Chesterfield still list the Clee Hill and Lodge Lane (Telford) Opencast sites among their active mines.

British Geo. Survey

British Geological Survey have produced a 'Discovering Geology Pack' (No.8 in their series) on the Welsh Borders and Shropshire. It includes a 1:250,000 map and a 1:25000 map of the area.

Manchester Museum

IJB visited Manchester Museum of Science & Industry. Beneath the original 1830 railway station there is a mock-up sewerage system complete with "sounds and smells". Rather tame however for anyone who has explored the Ironbridge underground.

[The original Manchester sewers were quite interesting, IA.Recordings managed to go down them a few years ago during modernisation, unfortunately due to 'gas' we could not film underground. The old sewer that was being replaced was only 18" square and made from slabs of granite. The interesting thing was that it had NOT been made by a cut and fill method but by genuine tunnelling - yet it took 2 men to lift the top granite slab! Kelvin]

Time Bombs

The British Museum is seeking examples of the following traditions:
(a) that miners purposely left 'time-bombs' ie: protected dated material in mines that they knew were about to close.
(b) stories about live frogs found in coal seams. (There is a well recorded example of such a story in the Wellington Journal in the 1930's, the frog having jumped out of a hole in the seam at Blists Hill.)

Snailbeach Bats

'The Surveyor' magazine contained an article "Tales from the Bat Cave" on the 7th October 1993 which describes the measures being taken to ensure bats have access to "Britain's oldest lead mine" viz Snailbeach. Dr. Bob Stebbings 'underground batman' is acting as consultant.

D. of E. Report

The official D. of E. Report on "Land Reclamation to 1992" says that "to date £0.3 million has been approved for preliminary surveys and a comprehensive feasibility study" at Snailbeach Mine.

Arthur Waters'

Following a request from George Hall, in a recent issue of 'Below' for information about Arthur Waters' paper on the geology of Shropshire Mines, IJB checked his copy of "List of Works on the Geology, Mineralogy and Palaeontology of Shropshire" by W.Whitaker and W.Watts 1889, which lists 440 papers published between 1712 and 1887.

There is no mention of any paper by Arthur Waters or any other Waters. Arthur Waters lived 1834 to 1887, so died in the last years of the list aged 53. No paper by him has been found, but he was involved with the management of over 17 Shropshire lead mines, first at Pennerley, Potters Pit and Roundhill about 1859.

He took over Hope Valley from Richard Waters in 1886 (was Richard a relation?). In later years Roman Gravels and East Roman Gravels were managed by A.Waters & Son. Presumably his son was also named Arthur, because a "A.Waters" was manager 7 years after the older 'A.Waters' death.

(For more information see SMC Journal 1972 - although the article only discusses one A.Waters.)

Clayworkers 1929

IJB purchased a copy of the "Clayworkers Handbook 1929" recently. In the back where hand-drawn plans for a proposed brick-kiln for Bayton Mining Company, South Shropshire (see Mines of Shropshire page 78 and SMC Journal 1978, for further details on this mine).

Snailbeach Models

Two articles on Snailbeach Mines and Railway are included in the Summer issue of Narrow Gauge & Industrial Railway Modelling Review (No.15). They include some excellent historic photographs. It is understood that issue No.16 has 2 more pages on Snailbeach Mine, has anyone got a copy?

Main's Barn

There is a danger that Main's Barn in Priddy will cease to be available for cavers use due to the unreasonable behaviour of a few individuals.

Cotham Caving Group (who helped repair the barn which cavers use to change in) recently went to remove rubbish from the building and found that the litter bins had been used as urinals, with excreta on the floor.

They removed the sewage and took the bins away to prevent them being used again.

While the club are prepared to remove normal cavers' rubbish they are appealing to all cavers to act responsibly, and if they know who did this, to write to Descent.

K.U.R.G. Mine Exploration Winch Field Testing in Shropshire

After 2½ years of work, completion of my manriding winch has finally come, after many frustrating setbacks.
Adrian Pearce had most kindly offered to arrange suitable test sites to enable it to be tested in real use.

Accompanied by elder KURG member Jim Bradshaw, the drive to Telford (from Dartford) was uneventful, my ageing metro being well up to the task of towing ¼ tonne.

Saturday 23rd. October

The day dawned bright, and the necessary gear was driven to Rorrington Mine. The final ½ mile was definitely not metro-friendly, but most fortunately Neal and Stuarts Land Rovers (with human ballast on the front wings) proved up to the task. We stopped well up the hillside with a super scenic view of distant hills, and a bank far too steep and vegetated to get the winch any nearer the shaft.

Having located the air-shaft, the winch was jacked up, level, and ground-anchored, 160 feet of cable run out was found to reach the shaft. After necessary shaft-top gardening, the headframe was erected and ground anchored.

All the other bits and pieces were put together, including of vital importance - telephone communications.

Finally we were ready, a volunteer was needed! Whilst the winch builder was (just about) prepared to go first, I was honoured by Neal, who has a responsible respect for safety, who volunteered for the task, thus leaving me available to sort out any problems.

After an uneventful descent of 53 feet, the shaft was unfortunately found to be blocked by debris. Neal was equally uneventfully rewound to the surface - success! To me it felt like a first man on the moon achievement.

After this debut, most of us had a go, including myself, having shown Stuart the controls (I understand he regularly drives lifting gear of rather more awesome lifting capability).
So despite awkward site access and layout, the day was technically most successful.

Sunday 24th October

Another fine day. The equipment was driven to the Well Shaft at Clive Copper mine. This site also proved most awkward, due to the cramped space by the shaft and problems of getting a clear run of cable between the winch and the shaft-head pulley.

After a while the set-up was completed, this time with the cable load-sensor in operation, showing the winch driver how much weight he has on the cable.

I volunteered for the first descent and was rewarded with an enjoyable descent, including a full-speed run, to the pump barrels at -135 feet. By passing an "interesting" vertical squeeze in the chair, a descent to -165 feet was achieved, thus just getting my feet wet in the 20 foot deep shaft bottom sump. On ascent the chair briefly stuck at the squeeze, but this is no problem as on overload the winch merely stops. A full speed ascent to surface was wonderful.

After this everybody else had a go and I think enjoyed the experience.

Credit must go to Mike Moore who tested the winch to exactly its design maximum safe working load and survived to tell the tale (although the certification test load was in fact double this). Mike got revenge by afterwards taking the controls to safely lower and raise other SCMC members.

For myself this was a most enjoyable and successful weekend, and I extend my thanks to all the SCMC members who helped organise these field trials. In the future I look forward to a ride on the winch currently under construction by Alan Taylor.

by Paul Thome
KURG Equipment Officer

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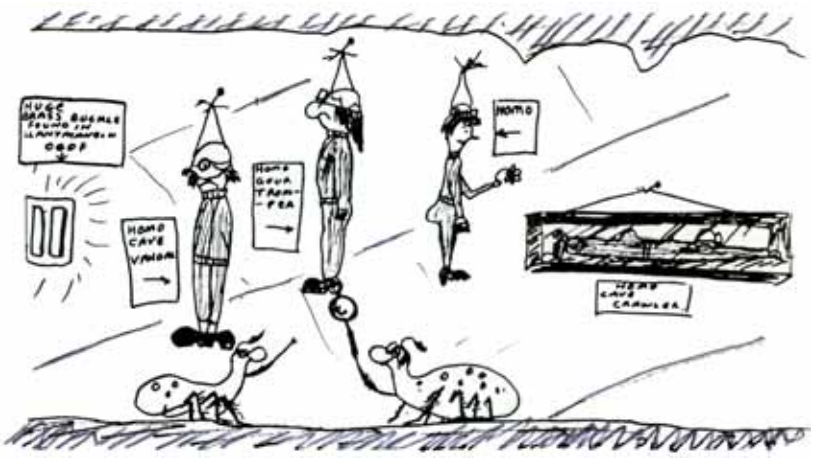
③ *Specimens are then taken home and 'mounted' ...*

Well displayed specimens properly identified are of great scientific importance ..



Anchor Tests

DCA have recently been involved tests on Drop-in Sleeve Anchors and 10mm Coeur Hangers, which have revealed certain problems.

These hangers are designed for use with self-drill wedge anchors, but the drop-in sleeve anchors only got 1mm thick walls compared to the 2.5mm walls of the self-drills.

Due to the offset nature of the Coeur hanger if a horizontal pull (out from a wall) or a vertical hanging load (from a roof mount) is applied then a bending moment is produced on the plate, which is transferred to the end of the bolt sitting within the sleeve.

The thin wall of the drop-in anchor cannot withstand this force and the sleeve shears near to the end of the bolt when the force reaches approximately 500 kg.

This size of force is easily achieved in Factor One falls, yet it is less than a third of the specified tensile strength of the hanger/self-drill combination.

The advice is: If using a portable drill, stop the hoe a couple of millimetres less than the required depth for the self-drill anchors and finish off the end of the hole by hand. One minutes extra work for 3 times the strength!

New Mining Regs.

The Health and Safety Commission has recently published an Approved code of Practice (ACOP) on the Management and Administration of Safety and Health in Mines.
The ACOP supports and provides practical guidance on the requirements of the new Management and Administration of Safety and Health at Mines Regulations 1993 (MASHAM). These came into effect on 1st. October 1993.

The ACOP and Regulations are part of a programme approved by the HSC for the renewal of health and safety legislation relating to the mining and quarrying industries. This programme will gradually replace the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, about 50 sets of national regulations and many more local regulations. The renewal programme, which covers non-coal as well as coal mines, does not form part of the Government's proposals for the privatisation of British Coal.

The Management and Administration of Safety and Health at Mines Approved Code of Practice, ISBN 0 7176 0618 X; price £7.50 is available form HSE Books.

Brian Tildesley

4 *Good hunting.*

The END.

Club Publications

All Accounts currently cost £3 (to members), available from Mike Moore.

Account No.12

A Survey of the Metal Mines of South Shropshire
This publication is a revised and updated version by Steve Holding, taking into account a lot of the recent changes to the mine sites in South Shropshire. 65 pages, plus 17 maps/ plans (which are legable this time!).

Account No.14

The Mines of Llanymynech Hill
Originally written by Dave Adams, as Account No.8, this version has been edited/re-written by Adrian Pearce and includes reference to recent discoveries at ancient mine sites, plus 16 B\W photographic plates.

Account No.15

Snailbeach Recent Explorations
A new publication written by Steve Holding, charting the Club's activities in exploring Snailbeach over the past few years. It includes sketch map sections of the areas around and below Chapel shaft and "Sheep" shaft etc.

Account No.16

T*he Mines of Lilleshall and Church Aston, Shropshire.*
Written by David Coxhill, this informative account, draws heavily on David's Geology background. It brings up to-date an old Club account originally written by Dave Adams.

Account 17

Snailbeach Lead Mine, nr. Minsterley, Shropshire.
A short history of some of the surface remains of this fascinating mine site, written by Dr. I.J.Brown. Many of the buildings mentioned in this Account are currently being restored/preserved.

6 Mining Sketches

From the 'pen' of Malcom Newton. These superb drawings need **NO** explanation, you CANNOT afford to be without them! **Club price: £5**

Letters to the Editor

Thoughts on Rescue Procedures

I like to write down my ideas and it seems sensible to pass on these ideas on paper!

In my opinion our recent rescue practices have gone reasonably well, but we have not sought much flexibility from members - generally members have fulfilled the tasks which seem natural to them. Also the 'control' situations have been reasonably straight forward.

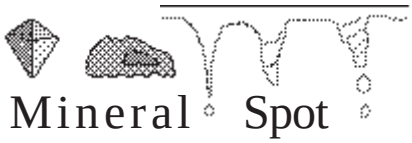
For future rescue practices we should deliberately seek to have members carry out different tasks and should give emphasis to Wardens gaining experience of Surface Control.

I feel that the most important and difficult task during an actual incident is likely to be the Surface Controller. I see this person having the hard decisions to make and they should not be distracted by routine co-ordination. Kelvin has developed good procedures which ensure that the Surface Controller is kept well informed and that we keep to safe practice, but I feel that the Surface Controller should keep clear of these co-ordination functions so that they can concentrate on what is actually happening underground and be free to make decisions without delay.

I also feel that the Surface Controller is not a specialist task - the Surface Control should be carried out by the Warden who is completely familiar with the tasks being carried out underground. During an actual incident, given a choice, the Surface Controller should be the Warden who knows that mine best - their experience and knowledge of the mine will have the most impact in this role (if they are underground that experience will frequently be isolated).

In order to ensure that members gain experience of different tasks, some prior thought should be given to allocating tasks. Perhaps with the person who sets the scenario allocating members to groups with specific tasks and particularly checking on the safety of inexperienced members, should they be given rigging tasks.

Steve Holding



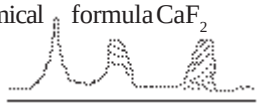
Mineral Spot

Fluorite - Calcium Fluoride.

Found as late stage crystals in **granites**, **gangue** material in high-temperature veins, replacement deposits in limestones, and cavity fillings & cement in sandstone.

Important as a flux in blast furnaces, for steel production, and the manufacture of optical glass and ceramic glazes. A major source of flourine for the chemical industry.

Also known as: **Flourspar**.
Common chemical formula CaF_2



Meadow Pit

Around the Telford area there were several incidents of children being killed while playing near mines. A plaque at Snedshill Church records the death of a child when he fell down an open shaft. Another sad incident is commemorated by a mosaic tombstone in St. Michael's Churchyard, Madeley (near the Church tower).

This incident occurred on 20th October 1906, when 8 year old Arthur Turner died after falling into boiling water at the Meadow pit.

The "Wellington Journal", 10th November 1906 carried the story:-

Continued on page 9 ....

Past Trips

I see that the Club had a trip to Bryneglwys in April, this was the first place I went underground, about 31 years ago.

I can still remember using the old road at Corris, Braich Goch was still working, I remember going under the bridge from the upper level and seeing trucks on it.

At Bryneglwys I was one of the people who built wooden bunks and a fireplace in the compressor house, in those days all of the buildings where still standing, over by daylight adit there was a chapel, and I seem to remember a small graveyard.

In the chamber at the end of daylight level you can still see our graffiti, at our age we knew no better.

I didn't write my name, I put up the reg. no. of my 'kids first car' and old Sunbeam, HAW628, the 'SACRE BLEU' was the offering of a chap called John Barratt, he is now a member of Northern Mine Research Society.

The J.W. which can be seen everywhere, often mistaken for one of the old Quarrymen with the same initials, was the work of the late John Walters who introduced us all to the area.

John fell in love with the area, and went on to buy property in Abergynolwun, he named his own house 'The small cave' (in Welsh, I can't spell it), he was killed in a car crash some years ago.

Hope you find the above of some interest.

Regards

Roy A. Fellows

Cave Accident?

The skeletal remains of a 5ft. 5" man, aged 35-40 have been discovered in a cave 10,000ft. up in the Colorado mountains. It is thought that he died about 8,000 years ago.

British Coal

The days of this feature are probably numbered, with the announcement that by Christmas there will only be 24 British Coal pits left and by 1998 there will only be 4 - run by private operators!

Despite "dramatic improvements" in productivity, of up to 12 tonnes per miner per shift, Britain was still lagging well behind other countries such as Australia and the USA, according to Energy Minister Tim Eggar. Fairly ironic really considering Daw End Colliery, Coventry has just broken the European production records, after mining 114,921 tonnes in a 7 day period. (Incidentally most European mining records are currently held by British mines.)

Silverdale Colliery

On the local front, Silverdale Colliery closed on Friday 3rd of December. This NUM Staffordshire pit was acclaimed as the "most modern in Europe" just 10 years ago. All of Silverdales output went to the adjacent Fiddlers Ferry power station. Surprisingly Silverdale is profitable and was cutting coal at a cost which was competitive with average import prices.

In future coal for Fiddlers Ferry will have to be transported from higher cost Nottingham pits.

Littleton Colliery

The first of the so called 19 "core" pits to close. (These were pits excluded from Michael Heseltine's original closure list of October 1992.) Littleton Colliery, closed on the 10th December with the loss of 550 jobs. The Miners held a valedictory march through Cannock to mark the pits closure.

This effectively brings to an end deep mining in Staffordshire. Although Malcolm Edwards, who was taking over Trentham Colliery with the newly renamed Geevor Tin Mine as "Coal Investments" is now looking to operate the pit with a company called "Edwards Energy" and employ up to 300 men.

I know they are looking for private buyers for the pit, but ...!

Daw End Colliery

One of the few remaining Midlands pits, British Coal has said that the future for this Coventry colliery is safe. Daw End supplies domestic and industrial users rather than power stations.

Wearmouth Colliery

Scene of a tragic train crash last year, this colliery one of the last in the North-East, has been put into the formal review procedure - the usual prelude to a closure announcement.

Coal & Nuclear to Go

The Governments own Energy Advisory Panel has said that at the present closure rate (with even so called "core" pits ear-marked) the Coal industry will be wiped out, along with coal fired power stations. This combined with the run down of nuclear power means by the end of the Century, we will only be left with gas - which by then will be scarcer and more expensive!

Foreign Mines

Rich Nugget

Miners in Russia's far eastern Khabarovsk region have found a nugget of **platinum** weighing 7.76lb., the third biggest discovered.

Metal Detectors

The Cambrian Caving Council have asked all cavers to be on the look-out for the illegal use of metal detectors in caves. Recently an iron age sword was found in a cave in Cumbria and there is evidence of methodical plundering of archaeological caves using metal detectors.

If you see anyone using a metal detector in a cave please check if permission has been obtained from the landowner. If in doubt, report the details to the Club Secretary (Adrian), noting names, addresses and car numbers.

Mines of Shelve 1898

In the last issue of 'Below' mention was made of a book on the Mines of Shelve and Minsterley. Each chapter was to be written by an authority on individual topics. Mr.Higgins of Shelve Villa was to be the collator and Mr.Jasper More MP was to be the editor.

Mr.More produced the Preface and Chapter One in 1898 but no other chapters have been found.

The Preface or Introduction sets the scene for the range of topics to be covered, it discusses the importance of Shropshire as a metal mining County and then gives an indication of the range of work previously done by other writers.

It mentions the work of Roderick Murchison in the 1830s (incorporating material from Aikins' Papers, prepared for a book in 1810). A treatise on the ore deposits had been produced by A.Phillips and a second edition, enlarged by H.Louis, had been published. A Mr.Salmon had written an account of the District in the Journal of the French Society of Arts.

Mr. More believed it was a mistake to remove engines from mines (as had happened at Tankerville and The Rock), he had kept them on site at his mines (at The Gravels), similarly it was wrong not to construct the railways that had been approved by Parliament including those to the Rae and Hope Valleys. He concludes his introduction by referring to past success at The Grits (over 300 men employed for 10 years). and present hopes for the Rhadley Mine.

Mr.Mores Chapter 1 rambles rather, over the same topics as his Introduction. He uses the first half to talk mainly about the Roman finds and the mines in the time of Henry and of Elizabeth. The second half discusses papers on the geology of the District by Prestwich, Harrison, La Touche and Lapworth. The book on the Mines and Geology of Shelve by Marton (to be dealt with in the next issue of 'Below' is referred to, as are the works of Aikin and Mr. W.Jose of Chester (on Grit Mines).

Mr.More records that in 1811 Snailbeach Mine produced 1,289 tons, Bog 1,554 tons and Grit and Gravels (combined) 685 tons making Bog the prime lead producer in the early 19th Century. He also refers to the possibility that gold would be found at the Heathmynd Mine.

His chapter ends with details of early records in the hands of the Laurence family, including a 1791 map of Roman Gravels.

No other chapters have yet been found, but Mr.More did not leave matters here. He produced a very long article, an extension of his Chapter 1, in the Advertiser in 1903 entitled "The West Shropshire District and Mines - Chiefly Zinc, Lead, Barytes & Granite".

It extended in 'parts' to 5 issues of that Journal, Feb. 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th and March 6th 1903.

Ivor Brown

Shropshire Lead Mines 1876

IJB has recently acquired part of another book - "British Lead Mines 1876" by J.H.Murchison which has Shropshire connections. J.H.Murchison (not to be confused with the famous geologist) was Secretary of the companies controlling Tankerville and East Roman Gravels mines. About one third of the book (30 pages) deals with local mines and it includes a pull-out map of "The Lead Mining District of Shropshire".

It is really a guide for investors and deals with the present position at, and the financing of, the mines.

If anyone knows of a complete copy IJB would be very interested in reading it.

Ivor Brown

Meadow Pit

(Continued from p7)

*"**Sad Fatality at Madeley***

Mr. F.H.Potts, Coroner, held an inquiry on Wednesday concerning the death of Arthur Turner. George Turner, father of the deceased, a colliery winder residing in Park Street (Madeley), said that his brother Charles brought home the deceased saying he had fallen into boiling water at the Meadow Pit. The lad was scalded from the knees downwards. Dr.Reynolds attended the injuries, and the boy up to the time of his death.

Deceased told a witness that in saving his little brother he fell into the water himself. The water was about a yard deep. Deceased had been at the Meadow Pit playing cricket with other boys.

There was no public footpath or road within 80 yards of the place where he fell in. The hot water from the boiler of the pumping engine was emptied into the ditch once a month, and they were emptying the boiler when the deceased fell in, James Sherwood and George Jenks, 2 little boys, also gave evidence, Jeanette Ward, wife of a banksman, stated that she saw from her window deceased fall into the water.

The Jury returned a verdict of 'Death from scalds, accidentally received."

Following the death of her son, Mrs.Turner (a mosaic worker at Maw & Co.,Jackfield) purchased a tombstone and spent her spare time sitting in her front room placing the mosaic pieces on to the headstone.

If you are passing Madeley Church it is worth visiting the grave, the centre piece of the stone is a cross entwined with red roses, with the inscription running around the edge.

Not far down the path from this grave is a cast iron tombstone covering 9 miners killed in the Lane Pit accident, Madeley Wood on 27th September 1864. It is very hard to read the inscription, but you can just about see what it says.

Club Officers

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Training Officer: Alan Robinson

Conservation Officer: Brian Tildesley

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Diary Dates '93/94

The names in brackets indicate the trip organiser or contact.

5 December: South Shropshire Project [CA/NR].
The South Shropshire Project involves surface surveying and underground exploration/surveying. Meet on each date at 10am in the car park by Snailbeach Village Hall (SJ373023)

12 December: Slaughter Stream Cave, Gloucestershire. [Steve Powell]

1994

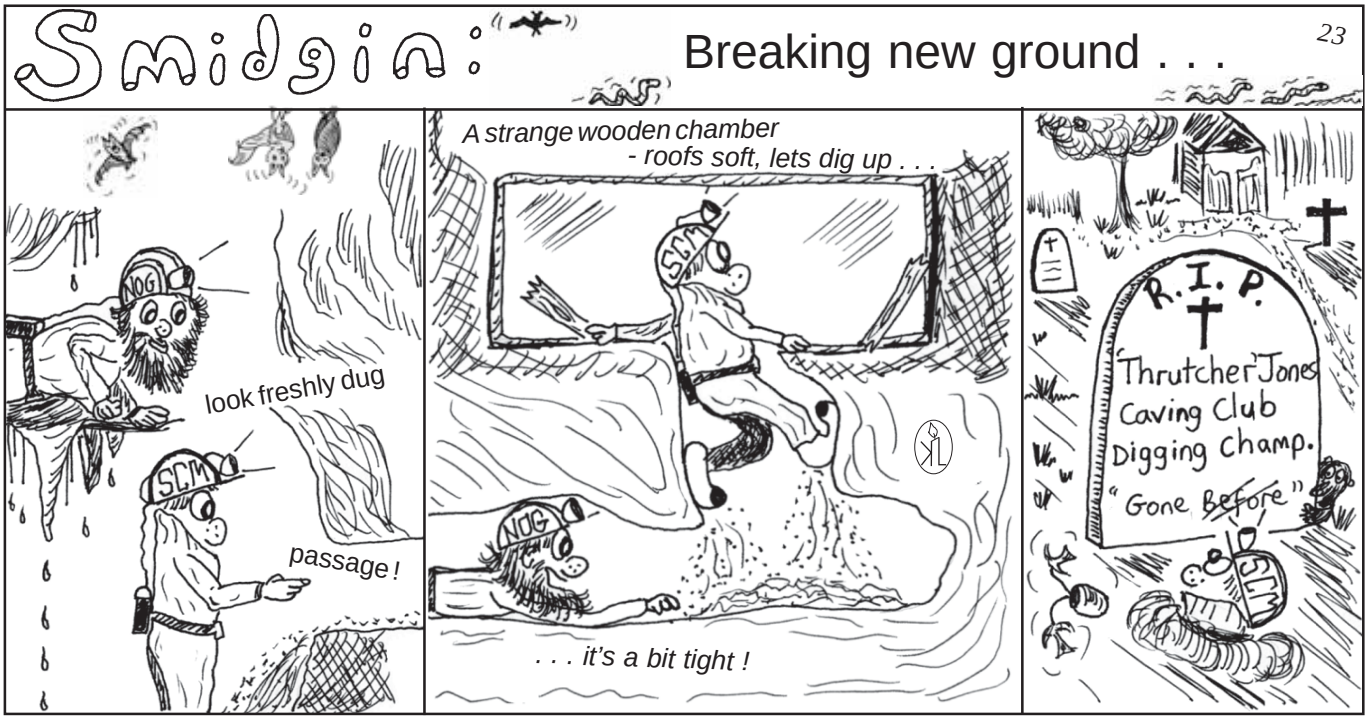
The following Meets are provisional, see Adrian's detailed Meets List with the Minutes of the December Meeting.

January: Caves/MInes in South Wales

February: Caves in Mendips

25-26 March: 2 day celebration of 500th Anniversary of the birth of Georg Agricola, Chemnitz, Germany

17-20 April: I.of M. & M. Extractive Industry Geology Conference, Sheffield University.



Catch us on the World Wide Web. Club activities & the labyrinth: http://www.shropshirecmc.org.uk/