

The Dodger's Dispatch

More thrilling yarns from the
Derbyshire Caving Club

(established 1960)



February 2014

www.DerbysCC.org.uk

About Number 110 including all
past newsletters and Dodger's

EDITORIAL

A lot of muddy water has flowed under the rock bridge since the last Newsletter so there is quite a bit to catch up on. I'll keep it brief for now and maybe next one will be a bit fuller. Things are progressing fairly steadily in the Club with a good meets list for 2014 and a number of people now caving regularly as well as all the work at Alderley.

NEWS

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subs were due on **January 1st** – in most cases members will pay £27 (cavers) or £16 (non-cavers) – and should be paid by 31st March. If you get this by post and see an X here, then the Club probably hasn't received your subs yet.

ANNUAL DINNER 2014

The Dinner was held in Stockport last June. Attendance was down a bit, possibly because of the time of year but now is the time for us to start planning the 2014 dinner, maybe in November as has been traditional for several years. Any ideas for a venue? The Stockport Masonic Hall has been a good location for the last couple of dinners but if anyone has a better idea ...

AGM 2013

The AGM was held in the Wizard at Alderley last December. There were no changes in the Committee! Is this a record? However, the turn out at meetings continues to be good which is encouraging. We don't even seem to have any rows at meetings these days. Congratulations are due to Tom and Ed for keeping the meetings regular, minuted and in good order.

NEW MEMBERS

There have been several new members since the last newsletter. Some have come and already gone so the following are those who are new and, if new in 2013, paid their subs: Nathan Wareing, Helen Perkins, Gareth Kinnersley, Nicole Turner, Robert Birkenhead, Amy Rabson, Sheryl Stubbs, Donna Stubbs, Elle-Jane Szczepanski, Aaron Fearn, Phil Lilley, Gary Bertola and David Purdie. Some of these are still probationary members. Welcome to all. If you want to know more about the Club, go to our website and above all, get onto some trips this year.

ALDERLEY

Mine trips continue with a lot of them generated now by the contacts with Cheshire East ranger service. Paul is still doing a sterling job organising trips and leaders on Tuesday nights and our thanks must go to him and his band of leaders for all the hard work this entails. Ed and Pete have been busy in West Mine, in particular, placing and renewing fixings for safety lines at certain key places. Use of the lines is optional but is strongly encouraged if you are taking novices or non-cavers around the mine. James celebrated his 18th birthday (and commitment to higher subs) with an assault course in West Mine. The Open Weekend is at the end of April. Please make an effort to be there and support the Club's main fund-raising event.

SCOUTS

We have started discussions with the Scouts about how to manage visits by them to the Alderley mines. Speak to Pete Johnson or Ed Coghlan if you want to know more about this.

ALDERLEY EDGE VILLAGE MAY FAIR

Five of us attended the May Fair last year. We have been asked to attend again. There is a procession through the town and the idea has been raised of entering a mine truck (on rubber wheels!) to push through the town. Anyone interested, please speak to Ed or Lauren.

CAVING TRIPS

There have been a number of trips during the last twelve months. If I see reports on them, I'll publish trip reports in the next newsletter. Trips reported on the website since the last newsletter were to James Hall/Titan Exchange and Giants. I know there were plenty more!

Full details of trips can be read at <http://www.derbyscc.org.uk/> follow 'Members pages' and 'Trip reports and blogs'.

DIGGING REPORTS

I'll put digging reports in the next issue.

ALDERLEY EDGE LANDSCAPE PROJECT

Newer members won't know much about the Landscape Project but it was a major piece of research by Manchester Museum and the National Trust between 1995 and 2005 following our finding the coins at Engine Vein. I am reliably informed that the major book about the project including mines, quarries, social history, botany, geology, etc, etc has finally gone to the printers.

FROM THE NEWSLETTER

50 years ago (May 1963):

Report on the Nettle Pot Meet, 17 & 18 Oct

It is most unfortunate that some good caving and excellent team-work should have been marred by the cvrass stupidity of three people, one of whom was expelled from the club several months ago but who "tagged along" on the meet nevertheless. ...

25 years ago (January 1989):

Nettle Breakthrough.

I had been on a few trips down Nettle with Frank Brown and Pete O'Neil poking around in various avens in the upper part of the system. This Sunday trip was to be a little different. Down Crumble and Beza, down the shakes and a few crawls, squeezes and descending rifts into the small chamber which has been the site of a long standing dig by S.U.S.S. and a three day camp by Ben. Efforts in the past had been directed to a small unstable hole in the floor, Frank and Pete however, had noticed that the roof of the chamber had some nice solution features which continued out of sight above some loose breakdown. Two and a half hours of boulder shifting got us about thirty feet along a fairly tight passage, when Pete stuck his head up into an echoing black space and Nettle Pot had given up another secret. ...

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February 2014	10 – General Meeting at the Wizard	[* Caving and mining trips]
	* 22 – Nettle Pot, Derbyshire	
	* 23 – Eldon Hole, Derbyshire	
March 2014	* 8 – OHA (Weather permitting)	
	* 9 – Rhyd Alyn, North Wales	
April 2014	7 – General Meeting at the Wizard	
	26-27 – Alderley Edge Open Weekend (Engine Vein)	
May 2014	* 3-4 – Dan yr Ogof & Ogof Ffynnon Ddu. South Wales Weekend	
	17 – SRT Practice 2, Alderley Edge	
June 2014	* 7 – Cherry Tree Hole, North Yorkshire	
	* 8 – Ireby Fell Caverns, North Yorkshire.	
	9 – General Meeting at the Wizard	
July 2014	12-13 – Birthday Weekend - North Yorkshire - Where? TBC	
	26-27 – NAMHO Conference and field trips, Bangor, N Wales	
	* 27-10 August – Matienzo, Spain	
August 2014	18 – General Meeting at the Wizard	
	* 23 – Otter Hole (TBC), Forest of Dean.	
	* 24 – Wet Sink, Forest of Dean	
September 2014	6-7 – Open Weekend at Wood Mine	
	* 20-21 – Gaping Gill weekend, North Yorkshire.	
	27-28 – Hidden Earth, Leek.	
October 2014	13 – General Meeting at the Wizard	
	* 18-19 – Ireland (For discussion - TBC)	
November 2014	* 15 – Reservoir Hole (TBC), Mendip	
	* 16 – Swildons Short Round, Mendip	
	22 – DCC Annual Dinner Dance 2014!	
December 2014	8 – Annual General Meeting at the Wizard	
	* 14 – Knotlow Triangle, Derbyshire.	

Anything else????

For the full calendar (for members) go to http://www.derbysc.org.uk/club/club_events_list.php.

Any comments, items for the next edition, volunteers to be editor, etc. to Nigel Dibben ✉ newsletter@DerbysCC.org.uk

Subs, articles, etc to: ✉ 2 Kiln Cottage, Audlem Road, Hatherton, Cheshire CW5 7QT