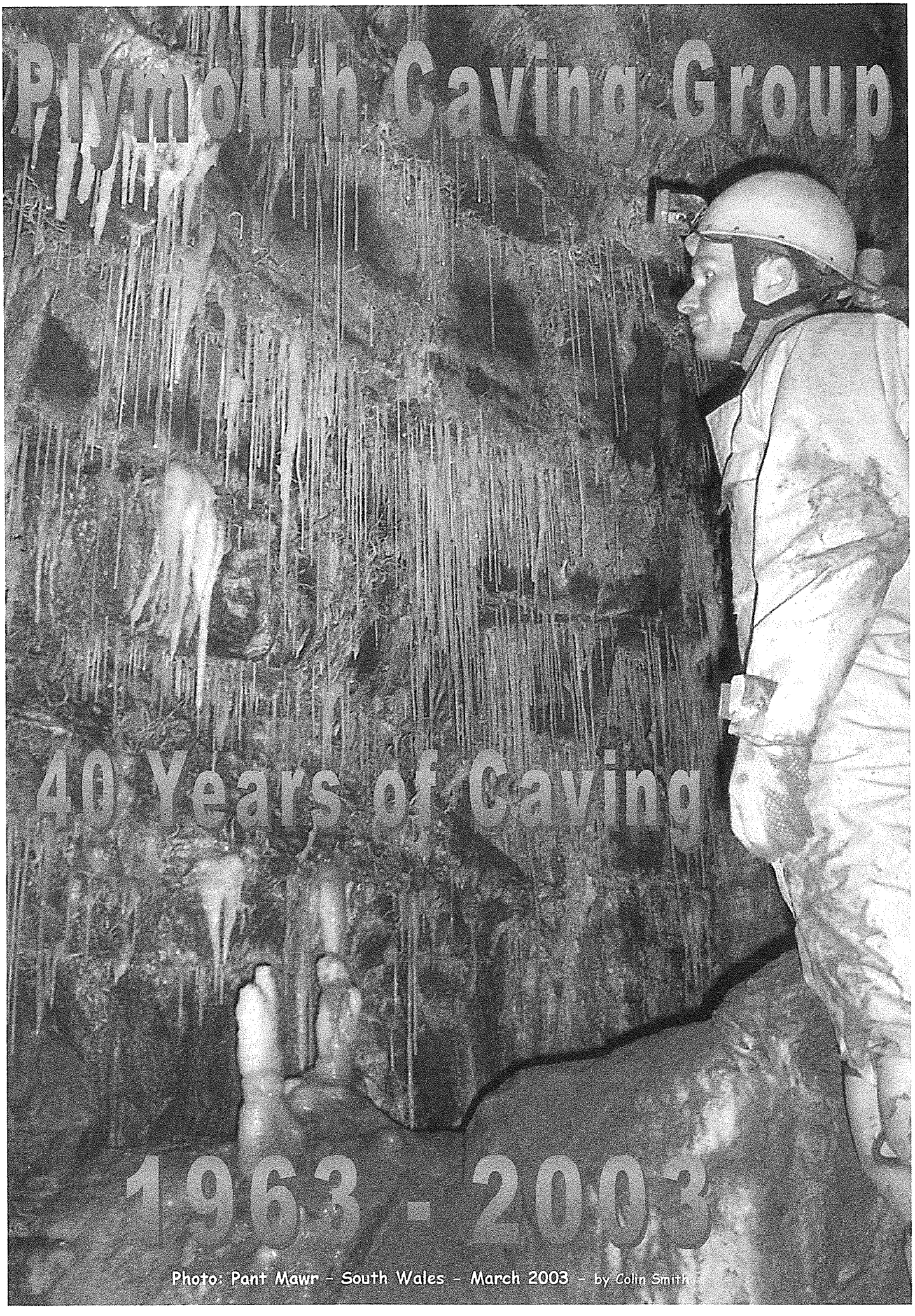


Photo: Pant Mawr - South Wales - March 2003 - by Colin Smith

Newsletter & Journal No. 144 December 2003

Plymouth Caving Group

Newsletter
No 144

December 2003

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For **enquiries regarding Plymouth Caving Group** please contact the membership secretary, Colin Smith, 15 Bearsdown Close, Eggbuckland, Plymouth PL6 5TX Tel 01579 320468

Plymouth Caving Group meet at the Thistle Park Tavern, Cattedown, normally on the first Thursday of the month for a committee meeting, at 8 pm. This is open to all.

On other Thursdays we usually meet in the Seymour Arms (near the Art College) from about 9pm.

Trips to local caves and mines are held on alternate Tuesday evenings. Trips at weekends are held, often to other areas. Please contact the Meet Secretary (details below) for details.

The club has a stock of equipment including lamps, belts, helmets, rope, electron ladders and other equipment. Please contact the Tackle Warden (details below) for further details.

We also hold an extensive library of books relating to caving, mining, and related topics, maps, surveys, mine plans and Journals and newsletters exchanged with other clubs. For details please contact the librarian.

Plymouth Caving Group Subscriptions 2003
Full £15
Family £18 for two + £4.70 per person thereafter
Junior/Student/Unwaged £10
Temporary £2.50

Club Officers 2003

President. Bob Cawthorne

Chairman. Alasdair Neill, 97 Mount Gould Road, Plymouth

Treasurer. Patrick Hanlan, Demelza, Tremaba, Dobwalls, Liskeard PL14 6JT

Secretary. Chris Kelland, 78 Durham Avenue, Plymouth PL4 8SR

Meet Secretary. Tom Miles Phone 07929 640293
Note:- Colin Smith is currently performing this role (address below)

Rescue Warden. Roger King, Old Orchard, South Milton, Kingsbridge, Devon Phone 01548 560604

Librarian/Recorder. Alasdair Neill, 97 Mount Gould Road, Plymouth

Conservation Officer. Rupert Goddard

Tackle Warden. Colin Smith, 15 Bearsdown Close, Eggbuckland, Plymouth PL6 5TX

Membership Secretary. Colin Smith (address above)

The club has access to a sites for which keys are necessary including Radford, Afton Red Rift, Baker's Pit (currently closed), Devon Great Consols, Bedford United (Marquis Lode), South Tamar Consols, and Great Rock Mine. The club has leaders for Read's Cave (Buckfastleigh) and Dan yr Ogof.

Any contributions for the newsletter should be sent to:
David Jean, 13 Tor Road, Hartley, Plymouth PL3 5TE

Editorial

I thought I had been allowed to retire gracefully from what I thought was a temporary role as Editor following the move by Keith Jackson to North Wales.

Silly me for thinking that but I must say Club members have rallied around terrifically and I now have a dearth of articles which will not fit into just one Newsletter. However, since I was unable to produce a Newsletter after the April one until now, and no-one else seemed to want to do it, we will have had only two Newsletters this year instead of the usual three. I thought it only fair, therefore, to make this issue a bumper one that I hope you enjoy.

These pages will not only reflect the dynamic enthusiasm which is now very evident within the Club with a lot of events organised and well attended but will also act as reminder of the activities the Club has got up to over the past few months.

These range from the fun and crazy such as Mole Rat's Extreme Ironing under Cornwall, through normal trips and conservation activities to the sad and serious business of assisting the police in recovering the body of Alicia Eborne on the edge of Dartmoor.

Despite this I hope that everyone enjoys their caving and will continue with energy and enthusiasm to support our club as well as, hopefully, providing articles to keep your Newsletter going.

Finally, this is the Plymouth Caving Groups' fortieth anniversary which will be celebrated by a combined Christmas and Fortieth Anniversary dinner. Also in recognition of this milestone in the history of the Club, Colin Smith has provided a special colour fortieth anniversary cover to the Newsletter and Journal.

Good caving *Dave Jean*

Extreme Ironing

One day back in April, James mentioned to me this fantastic web site called 'Extreme Ironing' and asked, "Had I ever heard of it?" Of course the answer was no. So off I went straight to the web and looked up this new exciting sport that James had told me about. What a shock (get the pun; oh well don't worry if you missed it) I got, I couldn't believe my eyes at what I was seeing, people with ironing boards and irons doing the most unusual things you can imagine. One of the photos was a chap 17,000 feet up Mount Everest with his ironing board and iron, and another was a diver 100 meters down, and guess what? Yes you're right, he also had an ironing board and iron. After I had looked through the web site I was pressed with amazement and thought this could be great.

In the meantime James had mentioned this to other members of the PCG, so Saturday's trip seemed the place to start. The five members of the PCG were James (Cave Raver), Patrick (Rafferty's Pig), Colin (Mole Rat), Dave (Iron Balls) and Chris

(Iron Mine). Off we set for our pressing engagement for a 10.30am meet at a well-known Cornish mine with a great feeling of excitement and of course the ironing board and iron. At the first pitch, which is about 120 feet down, I went first closely followed by the others and the ironing board dangling from Cave Raver.
Once on the level we made our way along the passage until you come to the 'bridge', with Rafferty's Pig leading the way he just walked over this very narrow 'bridge' of rock while the rest of us sat down with one leg either side and shuffled across.

Next we came to the 110-foot scare (well it is for me), with Mole Rat going down first followed by Dave (Iron Balls), Rafferty's Pig, Iron Mine and Cave Raver with the ironing board. Once at the bottom we scrambled down to the lake, which is around another 60 or 70 feet below where we had descended to.

After a photo shoot around the lake, the ironing board was set up for our turn at this new and exciting sport. With the iron now plugged in after Iron Balls had found a socket! And the ironing board set up Cave Raver produced a green shirt, which needed ironing. Here was the PCG participating in this new sport with their steam iron.

After we had all had a go at ironing the shirt it was time to head back to the above level. Iron Mine ascended first closely followed by Iron Balls with Mole Rat. Then came the small problem of 'rope rub', Mole Rat had obviously gnawed the rope during his ascent, this had to be sorted so the other two could ascend. Give Mole Rat his due, he soon had it sorted, now the PCG will be one rope better off, or is it one 80-meter rope worse off?

Once everyone was safely back to the 120-level we decided to have another 'Ironing session', with members showing off their ironing skills to the limit. I was wondering if I should show these photographs to their respective wives or girlfriends? They would probably lynch me if I did that, or leave me down there. Here we are again at the rock 'bridge' I walked across it this time (show off), while Cave Raver decided his shirt was not up to standard, so out comes the iron again and he ironed the shirt to perfection even though it could have done with a wash beforehand.

Now the group have decided to descend another pitch, not me though, I've run out of steam and am heading back to surface.

The Golden Wellie

So it leaves me (Mole Rat) to finish the yarn. With minimal fuss I rigged the next pitch and in we went, minus Iron Mine, who was last heard heading off to the exit pitch, leaving the Iron and Board for collection on our way out. Rafferty's Pig and Iron Balls went for a scrabble round some side passages in the upper section of this chamber, while Cave Raver rigged the last pitch we would descend today, the hunt for the Golden Wellie was on.

The four of us descended into the next chamber and Cave Raver pointed out the Golden Wellie, untouched since it was placed there by the PCG some four years

earlier. Time has not been kind to it, the golden lustre has dimmed somewhat (makes me think that all that glitters may indeed not be gold!).

A note was written and left with names and date for prosperity, to prove that we had really made this epic trip. With a ting of sadness we turned and left the old boot and moved on, exploring some more passages and wagon tracks. In several places there were holes in the sides of the passages that opened into more huge chambers, but with no more rope with us they would have to wait for another day.

After another photo shoot in a watery passage it was time to call it a day, we turned tail and made our way back. After the two short pitches we collected the Ironing gear, thankfully it had not been stolen but any passing trolls.

Iron Balls was the first to ascend the 120, the first half of which is a relatively easy slopping pitch, Cave Raver and I went up next side by side (we'd duel rigged it to speed our exit), I clipped the board to my cow's tails and ascended the pitch with the board clattering and banging below me.

Rafferty's Pig was the last out, then after a quick bit of rope stuffing we made our way back to the cars, stopping en-rout for Cave Raver to partake of a bit of Ironing Board Surfing.

Off the pub for a swift half. A chat to the barmaid caused a bit of a stir. The five of us, all laying it on a bit thick about our 'hard' trip and asking if the barmaid had ever been caving, when she said 'no but my dad has', it turned out to be the daughter of one of the PCG's long standing members, good job we were all very well behaved!

Don't Forget

If you haven't already done so it is time to pay your

2004
MEMBERSHIP!

If members would like their copy of the
NEWSLETTER
To be delivered by e-mail then just let me know
At davidjean@tinyworld.co.uk

The advantages include

- Delivery will be hot off the press
- Illustrations will be in colour
- The print will be sharp and not photocopied

Unfortunately this service is not currently available

Destination: Local Mine – Kit Hill Date: 28th October 2003

Party: Chris K, Ali, Tom, Tom (stick), Rupert, Ros, Sharron (visiting from Frome Caving Club), Patrick and of Tom's (stick) friends – Chris, ? & ?.

In Brief:

Trip into mine was led by Chris and Patrick with Ali and Rupert disappearing off to a different entrance to do their own thing.

Met at Bretonside as usual, except for Chris and Ali who had gone ahead to get things organised.

Once at Kit Hill we got changed and then had a bit of a ramble across bracken and gorse bushes in the dark to get to the mine entrance, with the warning "watch out for the holes!!!".

Details:

Once most of us had arrived at Kit Hill we realised that we had lost Tom (stick) and friends on route. Those that had arrived got changed and made their way to the mine entrance. Sharron, who was visiting for the evening from Frome Caving Club (experience caver of 5 years), could be heard saying "I have never known such a difficult route to a cave entrance". But then she is use to Mendip caves. Once we had successfully found the mine entrance, with no-one disappearing down a hole, we found Chris K setting up the ropes. At this point Ali decided to go his own separate way with Rupert. Chris continued to set up a ladder so that those without SRT kit could enter the mine. (Still no sign of Tom and friends). Sharron was first to tests Chris's ladder, followed by myself (Ros). By the time they were both safely in the mine Tom (stick) and friends had arrived. The next to enter the mine was one of Tom's friends, Chris, an experienced abseiler. He had no problem entering the mine, although it was a good thing that those in the mine had moved out of the way as he brought half the sides of the entrance with him. Chris was followed down by Tom (stick) using SRT kit for the first time. Once Tom (stick) and Chris K were in the mine we set off. The rest of the party gradually made their way into the mine and followed on through the mine separately, although it wasn't long before we all met up again.

The first group made their way through the tunnels noting how low the water levels were. The old cart tracks could be clearly seen. This was Sharron and Chris's first time in a mine. They were both very impressed by what they saw. After working are way along through the tunnels and crawled down a narrow slipway (avoiding the barbed wire) we found a large area full of rubble which was full of minerals and some tungsten. At this point the first group turned back and met up with the second group. Chris K and Sharron then went their separate way and did some rope climbing up a vertical wall. The rest of the party joined together and returned to the large area with all the rubble, with Patrick taking the lead. At the top of this rubble there was a very

large hole, which one of Tom (stick)'s friends almost tripped head first into. En-route we also came across a large area that was full of very deep water, very clear water, which for once Tom didn't jump into.

We then made are way back to different exit. I tried to climb up the slope but kept slipping back down the loose rubble so Patrick found a rope, successfully climbed up and then threw the rope back down for everyone else to use to climb out. Thanks to Patrick, we all successfully made it out of the mine and made our way back to the cars where we found Chris K and Sharron who had come out a different way, along with Ali and Rupert.

We then all made it to the pub for a couple of drinks, except for Rupert who had gone to the wrong pub.

Overall a good trip with the temporary members and visitor all enjoying their first experience of a mine.

Ros

PCG Radford Trip Tuesday 9th September 2003

By "I don't like Caves"

One new member (Natalie) experiencing her first trip along with four temporary members for this evening's wonderful through trip. Dave and Katie had arranged with Colin to join us for this evening's trip as it was Katie's 30th birthday and they wished to go caving. Julie, a friend of Dangerous Darren joined us for this trip, as did Selina's boyfriend Andy, making a total of five newcomers. We met as usual at Bretonside, except Natalie and Julie who met us at the car park of Radford Lake. The group was split this Tuesday evening due to the large number of cavers attending. Colin, Rupert and Neil had decided that they wanted to become asylum seekers by trying to dig their way to Australia, while the rest of the group headed for Radford Cave. Once changed and ready for the experience of a lifetime, the four newcomers had very apprehensive looks about them. Big Dave opened up the cave system and I entered first to check if there were any bats roosting. With no bats encountered the rest of the group entered the system with Dave and myself leading the new comers through the first section. In the first cavern we all assembled to see if everyone was ok and how the newcomers were coping with the small and narrow passageways? With everyone stating that they were fine, we continued to the trumpet where Dave and myself gave the assistance to those that needed it. With the group now all happily in 'Red Corridor', a break was taken for those that wished to admire the beautiful formations. Onwards, and once at the bottom of 'Root Chamber' I climbed up the usual way, and straight back down (show off), while Big Dave decided to do his stunt by shimmying up one of the tight squeezes (well it was for him). Hats off to Andy (Selina's boyfriend) as he climbed up into 'Root Chamber' and took the tight squeeze back down. With all the showing off over with, it was time to move on. Somewhere around this point Graham turned around and retraced his steps with Big Dave accompanying him while the rest of us came to the very tight squeeze. I got through first and assisted the newcomers down

and through the hole into the next chamber. Now, all gathered ready for the great exit Dangerous Darren decided that the best way out would be to push members up the 'Great Slide' (my name for it). I clambered through the 'Breach' (what a struggle) closely followed by Selina, American Dave and Katie. I had to assist Andy, Natalie and Julie who were pushed up through the 'Great Slide' by Darren. We met Bid Dave near the entrance who was assisting the group out of the last section. With a head count done, we discovered one was missing (oh no!) who was it? Need we have guessed! It was Darren, who could not make it up the 'Great Slide' Big Dave and Graham waited for him to retrace his steps through the entire system while the rest of the group made their way back to the cars closely followed by Dave, Darren and Graham. Time for the debrief at the Borringdon Arms, Turnchapel with a couple of pints to clear the dust (that's my excuse). All in all, a great trip, which was enjoyed by all newcomers, along with the members of the Plymouth Caving Group.

REPORT ON DEVON GREAT CONSOLS, 1871.

In 1871, almost half way through the life of Devon Great Consols as the south west's greatest copper and arsenic mine, and at a time when production and profits were showing a marked decline, a group of Plymouth and Tavistock shareholders were seeking to remove the management from London to the mine, and were complaining about the high administration costs. The London directors issued the following memorandum to counter one of the claims, that the agents on the mine were paid much too much when their salaries were compared with those of South Caradon, a rich but much smaller mine. The attempted coup failed, and the management remained in London to the end of the concern in 1901. This memo indicates the huge scale of the mine.

Memorandum of works done and actually being done, and the duties and responsibilities of the agents:
Number of shafts by means of which the underground operations throughout the mines are carried out, 18
Number of shafts now being sunk, 3
Total depth of shafts now being worked as above, 2,381 fms
Total of pitwork actually in course of working, 2,173 fms
Man engines – One at Wheal Josiah, 144 fms
And one at Wheal Emma, 205 fms
Length of drivages throughout the mines, 24,938 fms
Length of winzes and rises, 5410 fms
Length of shafts, 2,171 fms, total 31,519 fms., or 36 miles nearly
Length of tramroads underground, 4,720 fms or 5½miles nearly
Steam engines employed constantly 8, and one occasionally during the summer months when the water falls short in the Tamar, 9
Large wheels for pumping, and several smaller ones for hauling stuff, &c, throughout the mines, 6
Length of rods at surface 2,140 fms
Length of railway from arsenic works to Morwellham floors, 5 miles
Length of railway for bringing stuff from the Railway and Agnes' Shafts to Wheal Anna Maria dressing floors 1 mile
Locomotives 2

Inclined planes leading from the main line of railway to different parts of the mines, viz to Wheal Emma (a double line), to Saw Mill, to Wheal Anna Maria engine, total length of 549 fms
Ordinary inclined planes, 443 fms
Total length of tramways at surface, or dressing floors, &c, 1648 fms.
Total length of dressing floors, 240 fms
Arsenic works – area, 7 acres nearly, including 5 calciners, 3 refineries, 4,005 feet in length of flues, or over ¾ of a mile, the working capacity being 87,395 feet, arsenic mill, driven by water wheel, spacious stores, cooper's shops, equal to the production of 15,600 barrels per annum, hanging house for men, &c, the works altogether being capable of producing 2,500 tons per annum.
Laboratory for analysis of all ores going to the arsenic works, and from different parts of the mine in connection with the underground workings
Length of mines from the western part of Wheal Maria to the extreme limit of the sett eastward, through which the explorations have extended, and through which from one end to the other there is uninterrupted communication underground, 2180 fms., or 2½ miles.
Total number of people employed underground, 327, ditto at surface, 553.
Number of places working underground, viz, shafts, winzes, rises and drivages, 60
Dock and floors at Morwellham to be kept in repair
Length of leat (width 18 feet) to the large wheels to be kept in repair 2 miles
Length of upper and other leats 4 miles, - 6 miles
Monthly return of ores, 1431 tons
Monthly ditto of arsenic, 178 tons
Monthly carriage of coals, timber, iron, &c, 527 tons
Monthly ditto of ores and mundic from Bedford Mine, 82 tons
Monthly ditto of coals, &c, to ditto, 4 tons - total 2,204 tons
Superintendence of ores at quays, dividing, weighing, &c, weighing after sale
Superintendence of foundry.

The underground agents are required to be on the mines on all occasions throughout the year, commencing at five o'clock on the Monday mornings for the delivery of materials, candles, powder, and other requisites. To attend daily at six in the morning, and again at ten o'clock at night to see the men down and up to their different places of work, in addition to their daily duties underground, consisting of visits to and measurements of sixty bargains, including shafts, winzes, rises, and stopes extending from Wheal Emma to Wheal Maria, a distance underground of nearly two miles, and the superintendence of pit and timber men, and 72 trammers, fillers, and landers. The surface agents have to superintend the dressing departments, the despatch of all ores from the mines to the quays, and the receipt of coals, timber, iron, and all other materials therefrom, the superintendence of smiths, carpenters, masons, engine men, labourers, and the foundry and railways, dividing and weighing the ores at quays, and constant attention to the precipitate and arsenic works; to attend to the monthly samplings, which sometimes happens on the measuring day at the mines; on which occasions the measurements underground have to be made before leaving the mines; two locomotives to be kept in repair; all the machinery throughout the whole of this great range of mines, both at surface and underground, to be kept in thorough repair; railway wagons to make and to be kept in repair; manufacture of coke for foundry, locomotives, and arsenic works. From the great width of the lodes, and the dangerous nature of some portions of the ground, great care and attention is also at all times

required in connection with timbering of the underground workings, in order that the mines may be kept well open fort advantageous working, and entire safety to the men. At the reduction works, from the nature of the different processes, the furnaces require to be kept at work both night and day, and strict supervision is at all times necessary, in order that no loss may accrue (especially in the production of the pure arsenic) from inattention or neglect on the part of the men engaged in the works. Attendance on the mines of two agents from Saturday evenings to Monday mornings, visiting leats, water-courses, and machinery, including steam engines, water wheels, and lines of rods, with various other incidental duties throughout the year by night or day.

Alasdair Neill

Devon Great Consols: Main Lode, Wheal Fanny Section, 15-fathom level. Tuesday 7th October 2003.

I arrived with Chris late afternoon, and after a spot of mineral collecting on the Siderite dumps, we saw two young deer at the edge of the burrows while making our way back to the car. After kitting ourselves out we then made our way to the entrance of the mine. Chris rigged the first pitch, and then it was my turn to go down. Going down the pitch which was okay being only 15 feet or so, and the second pitch was a free-hang of about 30 feet, dropping into a massive stope. This was a bit hairy, particularly the last 10 or 15 feet, as the electron ladder had not uncoiled itself properly, so Chris had to lower me down on the safety line. (Just as well I had a harness) The third pitch was comparitively easy, being only another 20 feet down the footwall, from one level of huge timbering to another.

The last, a short 6-foot scramble down to solid ground again, well as solid as you can get in an old mine. We were at the foot of a huge stope on the 15-fathom level of the Wheal Fanny section of the Devon Great Consols main lode. I think the cathedral of mines would be an understatement, looking up and along the levels of massive timbers. After a bit of exploring, Chris went back to surface to meet up with the rest of the group, while I did a bit of experimenting with my camera, half an hour, and a roll of film later, the rest of the group started coming down, with Natalie first and the rest (Matt, Ros, Dave & Chris) in quick succession.

Dave took us down to the next level, to Eastern Shaft (which Matt promptly stood in,) looking at the formations of the way back, including several ochre stalactites and strings. Now for the climb back up, by now I was getting the hang of the ladders, I was back up to the next level without too much a do. Although, the free hanging pitch was still a bit daunting, but after a twist and turn and some hauling by Tom F and Chris (Tom making full use of himself) I finally reached the safety of the guys who were life-lining me. The others followed shortly after with Matt, and Ros needing

assistance from the hauling team, which had now included myself. Natalie borrowed Chris's harness and SRT kit and proceeded to make her own way up the rope, whilst still being life-lined by us all. Well Dave he just used his upper-body strength and hauled himself up with no bother. Time for a quick change, and off to the local pub to round off a very good evening. Thanks to Dave and Chris for leading this wonderful trip.

By Tom Thomson

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY (144)

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Journal 30, 2003
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A Sharpe et al 1992. St Just: An Archaeological Survey of the Mining District.
P Herring and N Thomas 1990. The Archaeology of Kit Hill.

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Great Rock Mine Plan.
Tracings of Mine Plans:
CORNWALL
Botallack 6174
Callington R260
Holmbush R260
Kelly Bray R260
Magdalen 10212
Prince of Wales 6643
Redmoor R260
Trevethoe 15319

Trip to a Local Mine Tuesday 16th September

By "I Don't Like Caves"

This trip was laid on by the 'Tamar Moles' who have a number of digging projects to there name. We met as usual at Bretonside, and then made our way to a pre-arranged rendezvous. After a half-an-hours hike through a wooded valley we reached the adit portal. Ali was the first to enter through the dug out entrance with myself following along with the rest of the group. The PCG members included Ali, Big Dave, Chris, Colin, Natalie and Rupert, with Rick & Bob from the 'Tamar Moles' group. Once inside the adit with the ochreous water up to our armpits the group made their way to a large area of stoping. This was an impressive area where a number of photos were taken by a couple of PCG members (Check out the PCG website). After the photo shoot the group carried on into the bowels of the earth, passing numerous piles of timbers, dams and ochreous stalactite and stalagmite formations. This adit seemed to

go on forever, with a twist this way, then that way. The height of the adit in places must have been close to 3 metres, with the width coming close to 2 metres. We encountered a large ochreous pile in a crosscut, probably around 3 metres high with water issuing out at a steady rate of knots. Onward, does this adit ever end? We had now been in this adit for about half-an-hour, and had not reached the end yet. After about another 10 minutes or so we came to the end, probably around 900 metres in length. The end of the adit had clasped and Ali crawled through to an area beyond the collapse to see if there was any potential for continuing the dig. His report was that the air in there was poor and it looked completely choked. Our thanks go to the Tamar Moles for sharing with us one of their projects, and leading this wonderful experience. Thanks Rick & Bob lets do another one soon?

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE

The Annual General Meeting of the Plymouth Caving Group will take place at the Thistle Park Tavern, Cattedown, Plymouth on Thursday 5 February at 8pm

Bat Records

Since becoming Conservation Officer for PCG, I have endeavoured to record sightings of bats on all trips. Below is a record of all those sightings, including other sightings recorded during my absence.

AFTON RED RIFT

Date	Species	Notes
18 Feb 2003	2 Greater Horseshoe 4 Lesser Horseshoe	

REEDS CAVE
17th January 2003 11.30am
Entrance temperature 10.4°C 92% humidity
Easter chamber 11.1°C 95%

BAKERS PIT
Data collected 18th January 2003

Outside temperature in the field near the church 10.15am	11.4°C	
64% humidity		
Bottom of entrance shaft	15.0°C	88%
Bottom of dump	16.4°C	89%
1 x Lesser Horseshoe		
Near link to Reeds cave(Devils kitchen)	14.1°C	88%
Air flow from Reeds into Bakers		
Just back from junction	18.2°C	
Judges chamber	13.2°C	80%
15m in from entrance into gas compound	8.0°C	93%

Air flow from Bakers into the Gas compound
13 x Greater Horseshoe
7 x Lesser Horseshoe

Date	Species	Notes
18 Jan 2003	13 Greater Horseshoe 7 Lesser Horseshoe	Monitored during bat survey of Bakers Pit with Dave Millen
4 March 2003	2 Horseshoe	Species unknown
29 March 2003	2 Lesser Horseshoe	1 active at bottom of entrance pitch, I hanging at tip face
5 April 2003	6 Greater Horseshoe	
12 April 2003	1 Greater Horseshoe	
29 April 2003	1 Lesser Horseshoe	In flight
13 May 2003	1 Lesser Horseshoe	
20 May 2003	1 Lesser Horseshoe	

CHUDLEIGH ROCKS
8 February 2003

95 Greater Horseshoe
approx 10 in other areas
approx 10 Lesser Horseshoe
2 Whiskered
Reported by Chris Kelland, Dave Wills and Dave Millen

DEVON GREAT CONSULS

Date	Species	Notes
16 Feb 2003	1 bat sighted	Greater Horseshoe?
18 March 2003	1 Lesser Horseshoe	

HEXTON QUARRY CAVE

Date	Species	Notes
11 March 2003	2 bats	Probably both Greater Horseshoe
2 April 2003	1 Greater Horseshoe 1 Lesser Horseshoe	
9 April 2003	2 Greater Horseshoe 1 Lesser Horseshoe 1 Daubenton? 2 unknown species 1x12 in a tight roost	A lot of small nooks had bats inside them. Previous visits had not seen the roost, with a large pile of guano beneath. As a result PCG decided not to enter the area until activity reduces.

MOOR WOOD, Bovey Tracey

Date	Species	Notes
27 April 2003	1 Lesser Horseshoe	DMMC trip

MARQUIS LODE, BEDFORD UNITED MINE
PCG Bat Survey 26 July 2003-11-27

Time	Number of Bats Detected	Comments
04.20		Scanning different frequencies through the range
04.21	1	First bat sighting
04.22		Bats heard chirping
04.24		Warble heard 38-40 Hz – bats heard chirping
04.25	1	Bats heard chirping – warble heard 40 Hz
04.26	2	Bats heard chirping – warble heard 40 Hz, 1 in, 1 exiting
04.27		Warble heard 40 Hz
04.28		Greater heard on bat detector – 80 Hz
04.29		Bat heard chirping twice in one minute
04.30		Bat heard chirping
04.31		Warble heard twice 40 Hz – bats heard three times
04.34	2+1	2 exiting – bat heard chirping 80 Hz – 1 Greater Horseshoe seen
04.35	1+3	Greater Horseshoes
04.37	5	Bat heard chirping, 80 Hz detected
04.39	1+1+4+1+1+1+4	40 Hz detected – 1 exiting – 80 Hz detected x4
04.42	3	1 Greater in, 1 out, 1 circling – 80 Hz detected
04.43		40 Hz and 80 Hz detected
04.45	1+1+2+1+1	1 Greater seen – 1 exiting – 80 Hz detected
04.46	6+4	1 exiting – 80 Hz detected
04.47	20	Swarm of 6 then steady flow – 80 Hz detected
04.48	7	80 Hz detected
04.49	2	80 Hz detected
04.50	1	80 Hz detected
04.51	9	80 Hz detected
04.52	5+5	Swarm of 5 – 80 Hz detected
04.53	6	80 Hz detected
04.54	5	80 Hz detected
04.56	5+4+3+4	Circling around – 80 Hz detected
04.57	5	Swarm – 80 Hz detected

04.58	5+12+6	Swarms of 5 and 6 – 90 Hz detected
04.59	4+2	80 Hz detected
05.00	3+3+9+3	Swarms – 80 Hz detected
05.01	10+4+2+8	Swarms – 80 Hz detected
05.03	2	80 Hz detected
05.04	7+15	Swarm – 80 Hz detected
05.05	8+3	Swarm – 80 Hz detected
05.06	10+3	Swarm of 10+ - 80 Hz detected
05.08	20	Swarm of 20+ - 80 Hz detected
05.09	6+15+3	80 Hz detected
05.11	5	1 heard chirping – 80 Hz detected
05.12	3+3+5+1+4	2 heard chirping – 80 Hz detected
05.14	8+3+2+3+4+3+4+2+3+3+4	40 and 80 Hz detected
05.17	1+2+2+2+2+4	80 Hz detected
05.18	2+1	80 Hz detected
05.19	5+2	80 and 28 Hz detected
05.21	1	Very small specimen noted – 22-28 Hz detected
05.22 to 05.25	Stood at gated entrance to mine with bat detector	A number of bats detected on very low frequencies 22-28 Hz. These detections were not on any higher frequencies.

Approximately 386 bats were spotted, although, most probably, some bats were seen more than once.

RADFORD CAVE

Date	Species	Notes
14 Jan 2003	2 Lesser Horseshoe 8 Lesser Horseshoe	In passage to right In entrance chamber
11 Feb 2003	5 Lesser Horseshoe 2 bats	In entrance chamber Species unknown observed by club members further into cave
25 Feb 2003	3 Lesser Horseshoe	In entrance chamber

Virtuous Lady Mine
21 January 2003

13 Greater Horseshoe
3 Lesser Horseshoe

Rupert Goddard

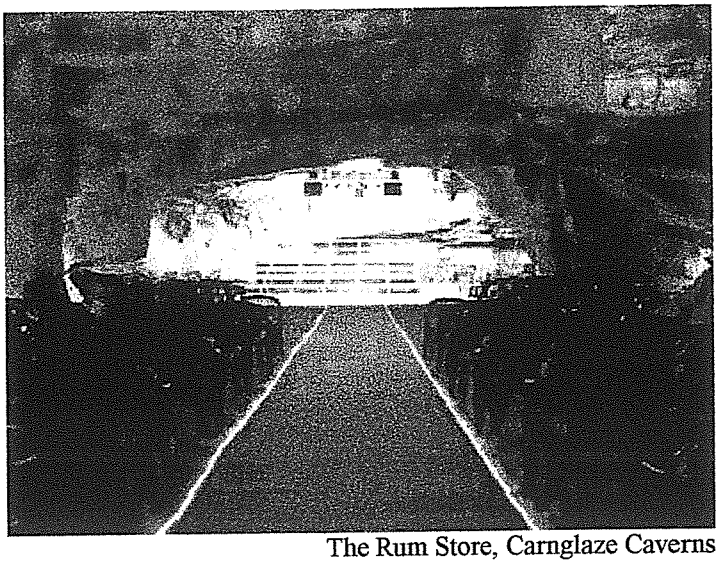
PINK FRAUD AT CARNGLAZE CAVERNS



Chris Kelland organised a social event for members at CarnGlaze Caverns near St Neot to relive the music of 70s Pink Floyd in this superb setting. Altogether 17 members of the PCG turned up to fill one and a half rows in the Rum Store, one of three caverns within this slate mine. The Rum Store was used by the Royal Navy in the Second World War to store their precious supplies. The chamber is some 90 metres long, 20 wide and between 4 and six metres tall, providing seating for some 400 people.

The music provided by Pete Hayward – alias Dave, Phil Burns – alias Roger, Adam Aggiss – alias Nick and Billy Surgeoner – alias Rick was excellent and well supported by the lighting effects from Stage Electrics. Such a great evening was had that the bar was soon drunk dry – the effect of 17 thirsty cavers I wonder!

Many thanks to Chris for his hard work and effort, particularly standing out in the rain to make sure everyone got in ok.



The Rum Store, Carnglaze Caverns

David Jean

South Wales Trip 22 – 23 March 2003

Ali, Colin, Dave, Rupert

We set off from Plymouth early evening and arrived in Hirwaun for chips around 9pm. Saw a familiar looking bloke go into the chippy – turned out to be Colin, arriving from Essex.
The Westminster hut was found quickly and with kit stowed, Dave offered to drive to (and from) the pub, saving a lengthy walk and valuable drinking time.

Chef Smith sorted out a fine fry up Saturday morning then it was off to Ogof Draenen for a lengthy cave and spot of digging. We parked up at the Lamb and Fox – closed this early in the morning and made are way to the entrance.

The entrance was fairly small but didn't prove too much of a challenge. After the first short crawl the passage descended through scaffold supports. To manoeuvre through them proved a bit tricky and shortly after Dave turned back – his bones refusing him access.

With one party member down, the rest of us pushed on, our destination Three Amigos. We had found a small stream close to the entrance but we were now in to the Draenen system Ali had warned us about. Lots of crawling and we were getting dehydrated.

If we weren't crawling long distance, we were walking in large passages lined with rocks, rocks and more rocks. Made it through into White Arch Passage but we couldn't see the arch! At the end of this we came into Lamb and Fox Chamber where we came across a novel bit of bat conservation. In an attempt to divert cavers from a passage inhabited by bats, a stone wall had been constructed for cavers to climb up out of the Chamber and on through towards Indiana Highway where we took another pit stop. We noted two lesser Horseshoe bats here so pushed on into the Megadrive Series and on to the Nunnery where we took a slight detour to peer into Arms Park.

We passed by a couple of water buckets where thirsty souls like us could quench our thirst before pushing on. At last we arrive at our destination – Three Amigos chamber. We entered through a bit of a squeeze in to chamber full of .....rocks. The walls of the chamber are covered with black splodges which turnout to be dead flies. This is our reasoning for the dig. The flies must have entered via a different route to us – They couldn't have made the trek we did. We had been underground for about 4 hours now, the journey in taking slightly longer than we had expected. We quickly started on the digging, shifting boulders the size of houses out of our way. It wasn't long before we realised Dave would have been really useful down here. Progress was slow as we had to stop tie rope around the rocks and heave them out of our way. We had been digging for an hour and a half when the hammer shaft split in two. The hammer had been teasing rocks out of place so we were lost with out it. With time pushing on we made a break for the surface. The return journey seemed a lot quicker no thanks to Rup and Colin who tried desperately to get lost. We decided to take a detour and do some site seeing so that we weren't waiting for Dave out in the cold. Ali led us to some beautiful formations which Rup tried photographing with his battered old camera. We had to push on now and were getting close to home when we came across another group. This slowed us down further but eventually after nine and a half hours we returned to the surface and headed for the Lamb and Fox.

Back at the hut we were starting to suffer. The aches and pains were sinking in and the thought of having a long walk to the pub and a longer stagger back became too much. With Rup in charge of the kitchen, Colin and Dave headed up to the Red Lion and returned with a variety of ales in lemonade bottles. There we sat quaffing our beers and spouting crap till the early hours.

Sunday morning, it must be time for a fry up. With the bright sunshine outside it seemed a shame to go underground again. Some of us were feeling a bit stiff from Draenen but we had to get Dave underground for a decent trip. The problem was how to play in the sun and go caving. Ali had a brain wave so off we went to Dinas Rock for a bit of SRT practise in a tree high above a mighty flowing river – well the water looked cold anyway. We looked on as the many faces of Ali rigged up a couple of pitches with rebelays. Dave had a go and demonstrated why you don't want to get your ropes tangled up. Not being prepared to cut any rope, we watched Dave dangling in mid air for a while until he managed to free himself.

Now it was time for a stroll. This would be one familiar for Colin except this time we hoped to find and get into Pant Mawr. We parked up at the South Wales hut and joined by Sarah from Westminster Spelaeological Society set off into the hills. After a good hour and a half we were straining our eyes to see the fence around the top of the cave. Eventually we spotted a few bright over suits belonging to a university group who where out sunbathing. With our destination marked we marched forward and rigged up. A nice decent into the entrance chamber where, whilst we waited to regroup, some off us went up stream to explore some waterfalls.

The walk to Pant Mawr had taken quite a while so we didn't have too much time to explore. Our fearless leader Ali took us down stream and to an amazing chamber of formations. Colin dug out the digital camera this time to record our visit. Ali cut the snapping session short and suggested we move on.

Our next photo stop saw a wall covered in complex helictites. With slave flashes to hand we switched off our lamps and fired the slaves to check out the effect on the stals. For a couple of seconds we could see a green tinge from the formations phosphorescing. The formations were awesome but it was time to head back to the surface now. Back at the entrance chamber the university guys had just finished their descent so had stopped for a smoke break. We ascended and started our merry trek back to the car.

Back at the Westminster hut we grabbed our stuff then the convoy headed off towards the bridge and back to sunny Devon. We had had a fantastic weekend and I think are all looking forward to the return trip.

Rupert Goddard

News

CLUB EQUIPMENT & TACKLE – A MOAN

It is the duty of all members using club equipment and tackle to ensure it is cleaned immediately and returned after all trips, and appropriate fees paid. Lamps helmets and belts should be returned to the tackle master promptly. However, not all members have suitable cleaning facilities, or the means to get them to the tackle masters' house. All too often the same people are left to clean and return tackle, and to avoid losing their goodwill, please will everyone offer to help out with this however they can.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jo and Carl Gibbs on their recent marriage.

A NUMBER of PCG members were involved as part of DCRO, when called in to assist the police with the investigation of the unfortunate murder of Alicia Eborne. Initially called to investigate mine shafts in the area under investigation, we were diverted to assist her recovery and subsequent investigation of the site where she was discovered, in very steep and difficult terrain.

INSURANCE is a problem at the time of writing. Our current insurers are unable to take on any further business and there is no agreement currently with NCA regarding insurance for cavers. Negotiations continue and hopefully this position will be resolved satisfactorily but massive increases are likely and, because of the small size of the caving fraternity, we carry little clout in negotiations.

Forthcoming Events

Christmas and Fortieth Anniversary Dinner
Plume of Feathers, Princetown 19 December 2003-11-27

- Andy Pryke will do an 'After Dinner' Slide Show Presentation. Andy will cover the Berger trip, which is 12 minutes long. Also Andy and Chris will put together a Digital Slide Presentation of PCG trips for the year.

Annual General Meeting
Thistle Park Tavern 5 February 2004

PCG Trips

- 4th Dec. 2003. Committee Meeting 8pm Thistle Park Tavern.
- 9th Dec. 2003. Bakers Pit Cave. Meet Bretonside 7pm. Ali 07808486507.
- 16th Dec. 2003. Digging. Meet Bretonside 7pm. Colin Smith 07764536251.
- 19th Dec. 2003. Christmas Party at the Plume of Feathers, Princetown. Chris 07930829182.
- 23rd Dec. 2003. Christmas Crawl – Meet Bretonside 7pm. Colin Smith 07764536251.
- 6th Jan. 2004. Local Mine (KH). Bretonside 7pm. Ali 07808486507.
- 8th Jan. 2004. Committee Meeting 8pm Thistle Park Tavern.
- 13th Jan. 2004. Digging. Meet Bretonside 7pm. Colin Smith 07764536251.
- 20th Jan. 2004. Pridhamsleigh Caves. Meet Bretonside 7pm. Colin Smith 07764536251.
- 27th Jan. 2004. Digging. Meet Bretonside 7pm. Colin Smith 07764536251.
- 5th Feb. 2004. PCG AGM. Officers please have your reports ready.