

# *Royal Forest of Dean Caving Club*



*Newsletter 136*  
*April 2009*

# *Forest of Dean Caving Club*

## *Newsletter 136*     *April 2009*

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### **Committee for 2009**

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Chairman          | Greg Jones    |
| Secretary         | Sue Corston   |
| Treasurer         | Andy Clark    |
| Librarian         | Nicola Bayley |
| Tackle Office     | Seb Hall      |
| Newsletter Editor | Malcolm White |
| Meets Secretary   | Dan Sandford  |
| Other member      | Nick Negus    |

### **Co-opted Positions**

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Club FODCCAG Reps    | Dave Tuffley & John Hine |
| Wet Sink Secretary   | Andy Clark               |
| Otter Hole Secretary | Nicola Bayley            |

### **RFDCC Web Page**

[www.rfdcc.org.uk](http://www.rfdcc.org.uk)

## **Editorial – Malcolm White**

Another busy few months and my apologies for the newsletter being a bit later than I had planned, the best laid plans of mice and men etc. I have included a fairly detailed synopsis of the minutes of the last committee meeting due to a bit of controversy that arose recently. Hopefully that has all been sorted out now.

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## **Diary Dates**

### **RFDC**

Black Friars, Gloucester - Proposed Thursday 4th June. 7pm meet. Meet in Southgate Street by the Statue of the Roman Emperor which is opposite the Tourist Office at the entrance to Longsmith Street. Parking also in Longsmith Street which is right next to Blackfriars. Alternatively just walk from the Cross till you reach the statue on the left. Please ring as soon as possible to book a place. Non RFDC members welcome. Contact Dan or Arthur Price if you wish to go.  
Contact Dan Sandford for full details

Future Socials: May 11<sup>th</sup> Bike ride, meet at Speculation car park at 7pm

June 1<sup>st</sup> Treasure Hunt to be arranged by the Wright family

July 6<sup>th</sup> Walk starting at Morse's Level, park opposite the entrance to Mallard's Pike. 7-7.30 pm. Bring family.

### **Welsh Mines Society**

Summer Field Meet - Weekend, 6th- 7th June 2009

North Wales : Dinorwig Quarry, Dorothea Quarry and, time permitting, Betws Garmon iron mines.

Autumn Field Meet and AGM - Weekend, 19th-20th September 2009

South Wales :Pontypridd, Clydach and Blaenavon

### **Nahmo**

NAHMO Conference 2009

Archaeological Landscapes

Friday 19th June - Monday 22nd

If you would like to attend the NAMHO Conference 2009 you can request an information pack, containing booking details, from the Peak District Mining Museum, The Pavilion, South Parade, Matlock Bath DE4 3NR. You can also contact the museum by email at

mail@peakmines.co.uk or by calling Tel. 01629-583834. The booking form is available on-line <http://www.namhoconference.org.uk/2009/front.htm>

### **Nenthead**

Summer 18<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> July

Autumn 17<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> October (NOT half term)

Contact Mole: [mole@grottage.fsworld.co.uk](mailto:mole@grottage.fsworld.co.uk) 01594 833217 if interested

Bunkhouse accommodation £13 per night. Walkers etc welcome for the summer dates

### **Wetsink Update**

A brief note from Paul Taylor

Gareth Tony and I visited the cave on Thursday Evening. A large amount of the collapsed debris was removed back into the chamber at the base of the pitch. Further drops of debris came down from above. Fortunately not at the time when I crawled through to the other side of the choke. Otherwise I would not be sending you this message. A large amount of debris was moved from that side and sent on a journey towards the next pitches. The bulk of this still needs to be moved on at a later date. Additional scaffolding was built up to and along with the addition of some boards we have now produced a temporary open route through. All though this is not one to be used by any visiting parties as it involves crawling around some very nasty hanging scaffolding from the original supports. These are to be removed.

Excellent progress is being made and we hope that a further trip will result in a useable route being opened through the choke. There is however still plenty of work to be done.

There is a very large and I mean very large hole above the choke with some very large rocks hanging in the fill which will need to be secured before we can open it up to visiting parties.

### **Club Trips – Malcolm White**

Dan has organized a couple of really interesting trips in the last two months.

The first in March was to Blakeney Stone Mine, or Gibraltar Mine as it is sometimes known, was really well attended with 21 people on the trip. The start was slightly delayed by some members of the party taking the scenic route to the entrance. The mine itself is not terribly big but is very interesting with some artifacts still in place.

This month's trip was to Whittington Stone Mine or, to give its correct title, Dodwell Hill Quarries. Again this was a really well attended trip with over 20 people going underground. We were split into two parties and shown round by Arthur Price and Ashley Dickenson. The quarries were first opened in about 1800 and worked through to the 1850s if I remember correctly what Arthur told us. Eventually cheaper stone became available from Bath and that signaled the end for these quarries.

### **Roll Up, Roll Up**

Mole has some carbide for sale. £3.15 per pound (that's 0.453592 kg for those who only work in metric)

## **Committee Meeting Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

(This is a synopsis of the minutes that Sue took. Any errors or omissions are down to my editing )

**Members Present:** Seb Hall, Greg Jones, Nicky Bayley, Sue Corston,  
Nick Negus, Dan Sandford.

**Apologies:** Malcolm White, Andy Clark.

Also present were Jan Karvik and some of the other diggers who thanked the committee for the donation to the Cowshill dig funds.

### **Matters arising:**

Due to the controversy over the Committee's decision to donate £300 to the Cowshill dig, Greg sent out a questionnaire to all members on email regarding use of Club funds.

Out of 65 sent, he received 21 replies.

With regard to the £300 donation, 20 members said they thought this to be a justifiable use of funds.

Some members suggested we leave £1000 reserve for emergencies i.e. repairing and maintaining sites and replacing kit should the whole lot go up in smoke. It was suggested that Seb look into adding this to his own insurance policy and the Club would pay any extra required to cover this.

As the controversy appeared to be about **how** a decision was made on the use of Club funds, rather than the amount, the Committee decided that in future for any amount over £50 a decision must be made face to face at a Committee meeting with a minimum of 5 Committee members present.

It was suggested that in order to keep the membership better informed, passed minutes be sent as an attachment with the newsletter and that 4 set dates for Committee meetings be decided and published on the website so that interested members be able to sit in or send matters to be raised.

Nick Negus proposed an amendment to the Constitution stating that 'all members of the committee have a vote and if a hung vote arises the chair has a casting vote to be used at his/her discretion.

It was also suggested that 'any member of the Committee may vote by proxy if unable to attend a meeting ' be another amendment.

### **Other Business:**

Joe Duxbury is running a trip to Montenegro and proposed that clubs of people intending to go on the trip be asked for a donation of £50 towards the trip. The trip has got Ghar Parau funding. This will be put to absent members of the Committee by email.

It was noted that very little funding was needed for repairs to Wet Sink and Cross Joints.

A digging fund was discussed and dismissed.

The Membership booklet was mentioned and it was suggested that a copy of the Constitution and the caving code be added to inform new members of the Club rules.

Date of next meeting – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July.