

*Royal Forest of Dean Caving  
Club*



*Newsletter 138  
December 2009*

# *Forest of Dean Caving Club*

## *Newsletter 138*      *December 2009*

<b>Page 3</b>	Editorial, Diary Dates
<b>Page 4</b>	Contact Details
<b>Page 5</b>	GCRG, Oakwood Mill Deep
<b>Page 6</b>	CROW Act, Working at Height Regs.
<b>Page 7</b>	Early Days
<b>Page 9</b>	Tingle's Iron Mine
<b>Page 10</b>	Crosswords
<b>Page 11</b>	Symonds Yat Swallet
<b>Page 13</b>	Photos
<b>Page 14</b>	Answers
<b>Page 15</b>	Committee Meeting Minutes
<b>Page 17</b>	Working at Height Regulation Amendment

### **Committee for 2009**

Chairman	Jan Karvik
Secretary	Chris Stott
Treasurer	Andy Clark
Librarian	Nicola Bayley
Tackle Officer	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**

Hello and welcome to a bumper fun edition of the newsletter. As you can see we now have a new chairman and secretary and we wish them success in their new roles as well as thanking Greg and Sue for all the hard work they have done over the previous years.

I've received so many items for the newsletter that some are going to have to be put in the March edition. There are some serious items to plough through before you get to the lighter bits, please persevere as they are important.

Welcome to new members Marc Bishop, Graham Dawson, Barnabas Page, Josh Eckett, Luke Bailey and David Coker

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## **Diary Dates**

### **RFDCC Dates**

6<sup>th</sup> December GCRG next practice 6 December

16<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Social, Old Ham Retro, AC to lead, 6.30 Start

Social start at 8.00 at Rising Sun

Members to bring puds

Raffle prizes needed

Funds raised to GCRG

28<sup>th</sup> December RFDCC trip OFD

29<sup>th</sup> December, Mining trip, Mole organising, please contact Mole directly - Box mines

1<sup>st</sup> January New Years Day walk to be arranged by Andy Clark, will be in Wye Valley area

8<sup>th</sup> February 2010, next Committee meeting

4<sup>th</sup> June 2010 NAMO conference will be in South Gloucestershire, 4-6th June

7<sup>th</sup> June Treasure hunt 2010 to be organised for 7th June, Malcolm Cook & Colin Clements to organise

### **Nenthead 2010**

Easter:- Thurs April 1st to Sun 11th

Summer:- Fri 16th July to Sun 25th. NB:- If there is insufficient support by Easter, this week may be cancelled! Cyclists & walkers welcome!

October:- Fri 15th to Sun 24th.

The accommodation remains at £13 per night. Contact John Hine

### **GSS Diary Dates**

Probably best to contact Joe Duxbury on 01242 237378

December 27<sup>th</sup> Box Stone Mines

January 10<sup>th</sup> Mendip, Sanford Levy and Compton Ochre Mine

January 24<sup>th</sup> OFD II

February 7<sup>th</sup> Bath Swallet – Rod's Pot

February 21<sup>st</sup> Ogof Draenen

March 7<sup>th</sup> GCRG Training exercise

### **Contact Details**

It was thought to be a good idea to include some contact details for the various people on the committee and the Forest of Dean Cave Access Group as it might prove useful especially for new members.

Chairman: Jan Karvik

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for other correspondence:-

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## Gloucestershire Cave Rescue Group – Andy Clark

This is a reminder to all RFDCC members, both old and new, about our local cave rescue group. Gloucestershire Cave Rescue Group, (GCRG) has prime responsibility for rescue operations in the mines and caves of the Forest of Dean, Wye Valley the Cotswolds and Thames Valley, and also as back up in the event of a major incident in South Wales, the Midlands and on Mendip.

With the recent demise of the Gwent Cave Rescue Team, it is more likely that GCRG will be called to help with incidents in the major caves of Llangattock and Clydach.

As part of the national Mountain Rescue Organisation the group may also be called on to assist the police in missing person searches, or in civil emergencies such as flooding.

GCRG has its own depot headquarters next to the ambulance station at the top of Littledean Hill, Cinderford, holding extensive specialised rescue equipment and a dedicated land rover.

In the event of an accident in these areas, it is only cavers with the appropriate rescue skills that would be able to assist an injured or lost person. Traditionally GCRG has been made up from members of the local caving clubs, this is an appeal for more members from RFDCC to get involved, as one day it may be you that need to be rescued!

GCRG hold a practice session four times a year, usually on the first Sunday of the month. The next practice is on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December based at the Cinderford depot, starting at 09.30, and will involve training and familiarisation on underground and surface communication equipment. If you are interested in joining GCRG, or just want to have a 'no obligation' look then please come along on the day.

## Oakwood Mill Deep – John Hine

As a result of so called responsible cavers ignoring warnings about the possibility of 'Bad air' in the mine, notices like this one are to be posted in the entrances. They were obviously oblivious of all the rotting timber around, which contributes to bad air. The fact that no bad air was found on the trip is no excuse to be complacent, & does not mean it won't be present next time!

### **Forest of Dean Cave Conservation & Access Group OAKWOOD MILL DEEP LEVEL**

**It is a condition of the Access Conditions  
for this mine as approved by the Deputy Gaveler  
that at all times a means  
of testing for "**BAD AIR**" is carried and working.**

**Acceptable means is a lit FLAME SAFETY Lamp**

**or**

**a lit CANDLE**

**Failure to Comply may result in DEATH**

**In an Emergency Dial  
999 & Ask For  
CAVE RESCUE**

## **CROW Act – John Hine**

Recent news from the BCA Conservation & Access Panel:

"On 12 November 2009 the Marine and Coastal Access Bill received Royal Assent and became an Act of Parliament. Clause 306 of the Act (copied below) extends the occupier's reduced liability to any physical feature, not just natural features. A small success which might just reduce the threat to mining structures on the coastal margin.

### **306 Occupiers' liability**

In section 1 of the Occupiers' Liability Act 1984 (c. 3) (duty of occupier to persons other than the occupier's visitors), after subsection (6A) insert—  
“(6AA) Where the land is coastal margin for the purposes of Part 1 of that Act (including any land treated as coastal margin by virtue of section 16 of that Act), subsection (6A) has effect as if for paragraphs (a) and (b) of that subsection there were substituted “a risk resulting from the existence of any physical feature (whether of the landscape or otherwise).””

Courtesy of Peter Claughton.

Our hope is that this can be extended to the upland areas of the 'CROW' Act. There are, however, still laws appertaining to the underground areas of mines. These have not been altered.  
A small start, but a start none the less.

## **Working at Height Regulations**

Nick Negus has sent me the recent amendments to the Working at Height Regulations which now apply to some aspects of caving. The full text can be seen on page 17. I think the interpretation of the legalese is roughly as follows.

*If you teach someone how to climb/abseil or what have you in a caving context you must abide by the generally accepted code of conduct for cavers in that situation. E.g. if someone under your instruction slips and isn't lifelined then you and/or the leader of the party could be personally liable UNLESS you can prove that what you were doing was perfectly normal for cavers to do. And even then you might be liable if it was considered that, even though cavers are blasé about some hazards, a life line would be a good idea.*

Obviously this would apply to Steve Tomalin when he does the SRT training **but** it could also apply to something like our recent trip into Sway where some people had never climbed a ladder and were in effect being trained on the job.

## Early Days - Roger Bailey

It all started with a group of us who were employed in the Rank factory at Mitcheldean on the Edge of the Forest of Dean. Through work we all had contact with each other and one day in 1963 Ted Lewis mentioned that he had been down an old Iron Mine near Coleford and were we interested in having a look. Being an adventurous lot we said yes and several of us arranged to meet on the coming weekend.

With a wide assortment of crude caving gear and lights we parked opposite side of the road to "The Lambsquay Hotel" at the Coleford to Clearwell turnoff. After kitting up we made our way across the field to a depression having a large and very black hole under a shelf of rock. This was the entrance to "Old Bow". Ted, who had only one working eye, pumped up his personal light which was a "Tilley Lamp" heater having a chromed reflector about 18" diameter with the heating unit swapped for a lighting fitment off a standard Tilley lamp. This device has never been equalled for a portable floodlight!

Following Ted we made our way underground into an amazing world of passages and chambers that typifies this mine. This is great we thought and we will soon come here again!

From then on we were down there for the following weekends. Soon we found out about Old Ham and British Mine (now Clearwell Caves). The "Butchers Arms" in Clearwell made a good end to our now additional Wednesday evening trips. This ancient pub was then very old fashioned and kept by Mr and Mrs Dovey, a great couple who supplied real cider and large portions of bread and cheese. There were occasionally finger marks on the cheese and the salad could contain some wild life, we did not care as it all went down with no complaints.

Our digging and the club began when Ray Wright remembered an infilled entrance, known as Wych Elm Hole close to his old home at Green Bottom near Littledean. As it was said to lead into the Westbury Brook Iron Mine it could be worth a dig. Foolishly we agreed and excavation commenced. After several sessions and the excavation of a large amounts of household rubbish, some of which Ray recognised. Quickly a small chamber was entered. Further old tin can and broken bottle removal led us to the top of a very steep incline with a miner's flat linked climbing chain still in place. Stones would thunder into the depths and we thought that we must be very much better prepared before we came back for further exploration.

Gathering our kit and courage together for a descent into the abyss we received startling news. A couple of prospecting Welsh cavers had come across our messy and dangerous hole and had left a message with Ray's dad – would we like to explore the new discovery WITH THEM! The cheek of it, it is the English who invade Wales not the other way round. The impudent pair turned out to be Mel Davies of the British Nylon Spinners caving club and his mate Russell Sullivan.

On a convenient Saturday we carefully descended the depths and eventually reached the bottom – and water, there was no way on. However we established good relations with Mel and received an invite for conducted trip into Agen Allwed back on Mel's patch in South Wales. This was our introduction into a Real Cave, and we thoroughly enjoyed it.

This intervention by outsiders convinced us that we had better form ourselves into a caving club. The outcome was that eight of us met in the "Foresters" at Mile End near Coleford one evening in November 1964.

Those present were Ted Lewis, Alan Paton, Rex Keane, Ray Wright, Jim Hay, my brother Laurance, myself and one other whose name I forget. Ted became chairman; I was secretary and Alan treasurer.

As our numbers grew we expanded the committee, and getting our own back on the Welsh we cloned South Wales Caving Club's constitution, changed the name and with a few necessary alterations we have carried on with that.

Jim Hay had been told of running water being heard at the bottom of an abandoned attempt to dig a well at New House farm on the side of May Hill. Ignoring the fact that if water could be heard, why give up digging the well, Jim got a team together and began redigging the hole. After several weekends they got to the bottom of the previous excavation.

No noise of running water was audible and all they discovered was a pile of very large sticks of soggy gelignite. The local policeman was informed who after desperately trying to prove the hole was not on his beat passed the buck to his superiors who informed the army's Bomb Disposal squad.

Some days afterwards an enormous "Bang" was heard over a very large area. After this the dig was abandoned and filled in.

Our next dig was the Wigpool Iron mine, which we got into without much effort through Fox Hole and were highly delighted with what we found. Many trips were made, and still are, exploring its passageways.

Rod Stewart dug out through Steam Hole one evening and crashing his way through the undergrowth to find a path came face to face with a couple of local hunters with shotguns at the ready: some rabbit they were expecting?

A later trip with a gang of us exploring upwards from the bottom levels eventually came upon a large long chamber disappearing into the distance and at our nearest end a cascade of old tins and household rubbish. This was obviously another entrance and not fancying the long grovel back we decided to have a go at digging our way out. Prodding up with a piece of old bed iron the infill gradually tumbled down. A large avalanche of refuse revealed that we were at the bottom of a short small square shaft with empty socket holes in the sides and the welcoming sky above.

One of the team decided to climb up and was able to reach the top. Through the trees he could see a dwelling and called back down to the expectant followers "I can see a house with blue doors". He was replied to by young Roger Solari, a Wigpool resident, "There is No house with blue doors on Wigpool!" It was his home of course. We all climbed out and Sway Hole was open.

Our first cave dig was at Hawthorns Wood Swallet below Mile End. Now possessing a licence for chemical persuasion progress was soon made and we reached the top of a narrow vertical rift about seventy feet deep. We squirmed our way down to a gravel and mud filled bottom but could get no further than this as everything tightened up and it was not practical to blast our way on down a very small side passage.

This was the early days. Access was easily negotiated, it was either an OK lads or a straightforward No! But being refused we were patient and we usually got there in the end, even if we had to wait for a stubborn farmer to die in one case.

Caves or mines were not locked, we could make our minds up were to go at the last moment and Insurance had never been thought of. O Happy Days!

We got outside the Forest to South Wales, Mendips, Yorkshire and Ireland etc. Sadly we lost two in accidents, Rex Keane descending Turpin Shaft at Milkwall and Roger Solari diving in Agen Allwedd.

From the start the club has been very open minded as to what interests us for as long as it's underground and not a coal mine has been the qualifier. Natural holes take priority of course while the long and fascinating history of the iron mines and their supportive industries are a great attraction. As for the remainder, such as old railway tunnels and other holes you can be seriously disappointed as Laurance and I found when the "secret passage" we were examining turned out to be an old smelly sewer by the time by the time we had got to the end and were down on our hands and knees.

Our members have reopened more walk in entrances to other iron mines such as Oakwood Mill Deep and Westbury Brook and some of our mine discoveries also became bat roosts of national importance. We really got going on cracking opening the natural Forest, which as a speleological area had been written off by many. Otter Hole, Slaughter Stream Cave and Miss Graces Lane and the minor holes have made great additions to British caving and made our locality a true caving area. So keep at it gents and the too few ladies, as there is much more to find in the Forest of Dean.

## Tingle's Iron Mine – Dave Tuffley

This mine is situated near to the top of the Plump Hill, near Mitcheldean, close to the large radio mast. The mine was first awarded by the Dean Forest Mining Commissioners to what appears to be three relatives (brothers?) surnamed, guess what, yes Tingle, in 1841 to mine the iron ore in the sandstone.

George and Robert Tingle of Littledean Hill, William Tingle of Littledean Woodside (Now called Cinderford) and Joseph Hale of, near Latimer lodge were awarded the gale but it is not known whether this group had been working this gale before the Dean Forest Mines Acts awarded the gale to them.

The gale boundary runs northwards for half a mile from the unnamed gale boundary of Westbury Brook (probably the M5 and M6 boundary markers) and the depth is defined as “far as the level will drain in a southern direction”. The rest of the sandstone vein, apart from this half a mile, is incorporated in the Westbury Brook Mine gale allocation

The gale dead rent for Tingle's Gale in 1841 was to be £5 per year and the royalty per ton of ore was 2 old pence (0.84p). The nearby iron ore in the limestone was already galed to Westbury Brook Iron Mine. Tingle's Mine has no plans that are known to exist, and records of output are very sparse. The only known record is mentioned by the Reverend Nicholls in his book “Iron Making In The Forest of Dean”, published in 1866. About 953 tons of ore were raised between the years starting 1863 to end of 1865, making an estimated average weekly output of around 9 tons over that period. This is 1.5% of Westbury Brook Iron Mine's weekly output at this exact same period of about 600 tons per week

The 4 foot 6inch diameter, stone lined shaft was discovered about 20 years ago by George Price whilst poking about in some undergrowth. Shaft location NGR SO 6614 1631.

Description given by Frank Trotter in his 1942 book Geological Survey of the Forest of Dean Coal and Iron Ore Field put the location of a shaft from the known Westbury Brook shaft 39 yards from the true location when compared to modern GPS figures. He obviously just measured something off a map with a rule rather than actually going out and measuring the lie of the land. His work is best used as a useful reference rather than taken as completely accurate.

The iron ore workings in the sandstone are known to be thin with vein thicknesses along the Eastern outcrop of 1 foot to 7 feet thick being mentioned by Trotter. There is no likelihood of big churns of ore I'm afraid, but any workings will be unique along this area.

It would seem that the winding from the depths of the shaft was probably done with a windlass as the volume of the mine's production would not certainly not justify a steam driven winder, and there is also no sign of a horse whim pit anywhere.

The first series Ordnance Survey map of approximate 1880 shows two other shafts situated near to the two mine tips which are extant and visible from the adjacent road to the Edge Hill Lodge. The sites of these two latter shafts have been covered over and lost. This map also calls the mine's site Pingle's Pit in error.

Current work is going on to put a concrete cap over the shaft and this will include a tripod for hauling and a lockable steel gate for security. If you do visit the current site then you are asked not to stand on the shaft infill as we have no idea just how secure and thick that is and there is a real danger of a thin crust breaking and depositing you down the hole where no one will hear you shouting, that is, if you are alone and hopefully still alive.

A lot of help has been forthcoming from various directions, so cheers from the team.

### References

Rev. H. G. Nicholls, 1866, Iron Making in the Forest of Dean.

## Crosswords

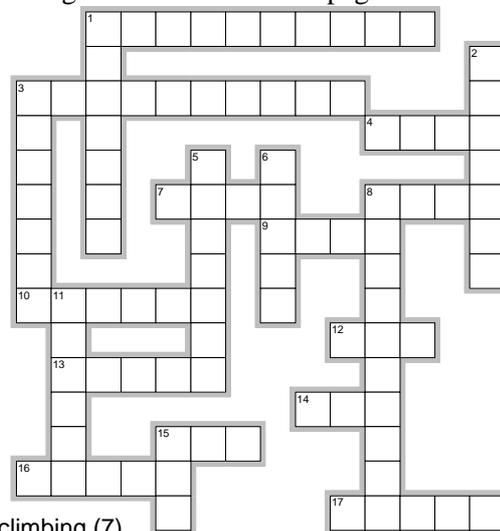
A simple one to get you started. All the answers are caving related. Answers on page 14

### Across

1. A formation growing up (10)
3. Beginners cave in the Mendips (10)
4. Mr. Hine (4)
7. Tufts is one (4)
8. You may need to dive this (4)
9. Entrance to a mine (4)
10. A well decorated chamber (6)
12. See 15 down
13. On your hands and knees for this (5)
14. Smoke it or abseil into it (3)
15. Cave in South Wales (initials) (3)
16. Passage in a mine (5)
17. Tie yourself on here (5)

### Down

1. Where water disappears underground (7)
2. A wooden bar set between notches in rock walls for climbing (7)
3. Dry stone walling around the top of a shaft (7)
5. Mine near Drybrook (7)
6. Stacked debris in a passage (5)
8. A formation hanging down (10)
11. A jumble of boulders (6)
- 15/12ac. Mine near Clearwell 3,3



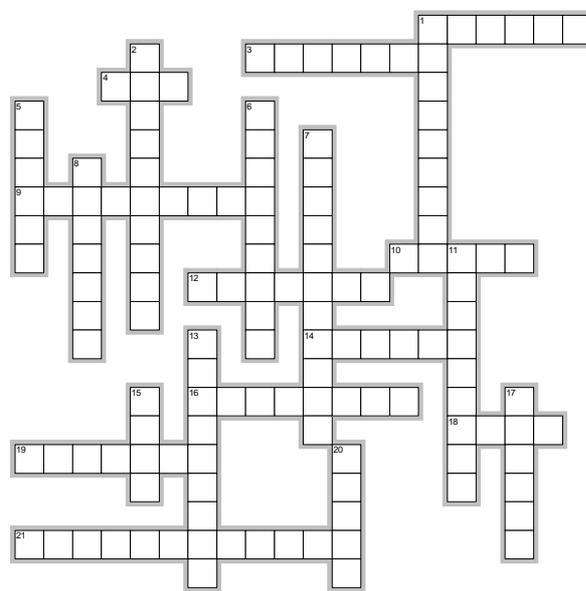
And for those who like things cryptic

### Across

1. Can Rev. dance in this large chamber (6)
3. A syrup, says the cockney by the pond (7)
4. You may get a thump down this quarry (3)
9. Flog the mount to reach this mine (5,4)
10. Noodle minus zero goes back to front in this 15 (5)
12. Initially some women all like looking extra tasty at the sink (7)
14. Sounds like Chewbacca lives in this 15 (6)
16. Snow lids are disturbed in this cave (8)
- 18/15dn. Hello God is shaken in this mine (4,4)
19. Dwarves tie string in this 1 (7)
21. A cut in the middle of a caper gives most of this mine (12)

### Down

1. You won't find murky water here (9)
2. A ruminant prays at this 1 (10)
5. Ancient archery in this mine (3,3)
6. A vehicle plus 50 heading to a boat will get you this 1 (9)
7. A lewd gal end mixed up here in Wales (4,7)
8. Nae nerd is shaken in this cave (7)
11. Darn Goofy mixed up this cave (3-2-4)
13. An oriental lake may be found here (9)
15. See 18
17. An appropriate mine to find a make of miners lamps (3,3)
20. It's warmer! Take top off in this 15 (5)



## Symonds Yat Swallet – Paul Taylor

NGR SO 5602 1522

It's a bit of a give away but Symonds Yat Swallet is located very near to Symonds Yat Rock, who would have guessed that?

For those who have not been to the site before the best way to find it is to go into the Forestry commission car park at Symonds Yat (don't forget to buy a ticket if you intend to leave your car) Once parked locate the exit route that would take you back by car to the main road.

A short way after leaving the main car park you will see a Forestry Track leading off on the right hand side. Take this track and follow it for approximately 200m until you cross a stream coming in from the left hand side of the track. Just prior to the stream on the right hand side you will see a much smaller Foot Path sized track leading off. Follow this for approximately 75m and when you reach a cross track turn left and follow this for 50m until you see a fenced area on your left. You are now at the bottom end of the Swallet area and the gate for Symonds Yat Swallet will be visible just the other side of the fence.

Once you have located this area you will easily work out that you can cut the corner off by walking through the light undergrowth to the same location. Alternatively follow the stream down. They all end up in the same place.

Digging in the late 60's and early 70's by members of BUSS (Birmingham University Speleological Society) resulted in cave passage being found along with a number of chambers. The most notable of which was known as the Slaughter House. There was much talk about many unstable boulders and lots of hanging death.

The site had previously been Dye Traced to the Slaughter Resurgence approximately 600m away to the South East. Unfortunately no major breakthrough was achieved and work moved to other locations. Being an active Swallet large quantities of water and debris are brought down to the entrance and easily fill it in. Not a lot of people visited the site and the entrance fell into disrepair.

In the early 80's along with Steve Tomalin, Dave Parker and others from GSS we carried out some concreting work at the entrance and a new gate was also fitted some years later by the RFDCC. We always planned to go back but like many things we never did. The site has always been on my list of things to do and over the years I have been back and looked at it many times.

In more recent years with the discovery of Big Sink Cave the area around Symonds Yat has taken on a new dimension and it is now possible with the increased knowledge to look at the site with a much different view than they did back in 1970. Yes we still know that the water goes to the Slaughter Resurgence but we now have what I believe to be two major controlling influences on the direction that the water that sinks at Symonds Yat Swallet takes.

### 1 Big Sink Cave.

Approximately 1000m in length Dye Traced to the Slaughter Resurgence but does not contain a major stream way nor is there any indication that it ever has other than the water that has formed it. Although the downstream end of the cave is heading towards the resurgence the passage that continues towards the formations (Formations Passage) is heading towards the continuation of the valley that heads down from the entrance to the banks of the River Wye and if our surveying is reasonably accurate lies just off to the left hand side of the valley floor. This passage was not pushed to a final conclusion due to the delicate nature of the formations but there is certainly not the sound of running water in the distance.

The passage is also at quite a low altitude at this point.

## 2 The Big Sink Valley

This is quite a sizeable valley which as previously stated runs all the way down to the banks of the river. At this point the lower end is only just above the river water level with only quite a narrow gap of land between the end of the valley and the bank. Also the known end of Big Sink Cave is not that far away. I find it very difficult to think that the water from Symonds Yat Swallet has managed to find its way through this very small gap. Neither do we see an ancient aqueduct carrying the water across the valley at a higher level.

If we take a look at the Geological Map for the area we see that the Dip of the Rock at Symonds Yat is in fact back into the hill side and if we also examine the area around the Swallet its self and continue walking along the main Forestry Track from the point where we saw the stream after approximately 75 -100m there is evidence on the left hand side of the track of a large depression. Unfortunately now considerably filled in by the Forestry Commission but for those old enough to have visited it in its prefilled days it is confirmed as a large and active depression. Water still sinks in the depression on the far side but this is well above the original level of the floor.

We also know that the water from both Coldwell Swallet and Redhouse lane Swallet both have confirmed Dye Trace results to the Slaughter Resurgence and I think that it is to these collective underground streams that the water from Symonds Yat Swallet heads. Passing underneath the large depression as it goes and then around the back of Big Sink before making its way to the resurgence.

Over the years I have discussed Symonds Yat Swallet on a number of occasions with Deej Lowe who in the 70's spent a lot of time digging and working at sites within the Forest Area and as a Geologist has written much about the Forest Hydrology and in particular the Slaughter Resurgence catchment Area. I have postulated my theory to Deej and he has told me that when they were digging at Symonds Yat Swallet they passed a rock filled rift but followed the open passages. The rift leads off in the direction of the large depression. Could this be the secret?

With this in mind I convinced Tony Marden and Gareth Jones that Symonds Yat Swallet deserved another look at. I have certainly never been any further than the entrance shaft and that was many years previously.

The first job was to change the lock. Easier said than done having, been locked and full of mud and debris for more years that one cares to remember. A battery powered angle grinder soon got the old one off and with a bit of pushing and levering the gate was opened. Plenty of WD 40 applied had it swinging on its hinges.

Then there was plenty of debris to remove.

The first section of the shaft has been cleared and the work of concreting all those years ago had certainly paid off as the upper section was in quite good condition. However lower down things do not look quite so good and the scaffolding has certainly seen better days.

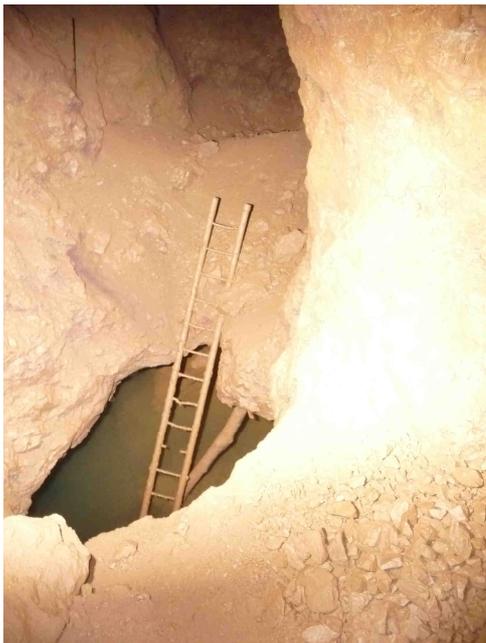
So there is going to be plenty of work to do even before we look at what lies beyond. And can we find the rock filled rift. It may not be possible but it is certainly worth a good effort. If you would like to come along and help please get in touch.

## Tingle's Iron Mine



## New Dun

The mystical iron ladder, in New Dun, a traditional means of conveying to other members the depth of the water on 2nd & 3rd landing. ( check out the older editions of the N/L )



## Crossword Answers

### Easy

#### Across

1. STALAGMITE
3. GOATCHURCH
4. MOLE
7. MINE
8. SUMP
9. ADIT
10. GROTTA
12. HAM
13. CRAWL
14. POT
15. OFD
16. LEVEL
17. BELAY

#### Down

1. SWALLET
2. STEMPLE
3. GINGING
5. WIGPOOL
6. DEADS
8. STALACTITE
11. RUCKLE
15. OLD

### Cryptic

#### Across

1. CAVERN
3. WIGPOOL
4. BOX
9. BIRCHHILL
10. ELDON
12. SWALLET
14. WOOKEY
16. SWILDONS
18. GOLD
19. KNOTLOW
21. PERSEVERANCE

#### Down

1. CLEARWELL
2. GOATCHURCH
5. OLDBOW
6. CARLSWARK
7. AGENALLWEDD
8. DRAENEN
11. DANYROGOF
13. EASTWATER
15. HOLE
17. OLDHAM
20. OTTER

## Minutes of RFDCC committee meeting 16<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Present

Jan Karvik (Chairman) JK  
Andy Clark AC  
Chris Stott CS  
Dan Sandford DS  
Malcolm White MW  
Nick Negus NN  
Seb Hall SH

Apologies Nicky Bailey

In Attendance

John Hine  
Dave Tuffley  
Sue Corston

1. Minutes of the last meeting read & approved, proposed NC, seconded AC
  - a) noted we bought a 200mtr rope rather than 100, the old rope is available for other uses, hauling etc, agreed NN would have some for digging
  - b) Cowshill ongoing, now fully lined, club funds well used
  - c) Treasure hunt 2010 to be organised for 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in June (7<sup>th</sup>), **Malcolm Cook & Colin Clements** to organise
  - d) Wigpool levels, **JK** to speak to Greg Jones about the locks, there is an issue!
2. Treasurers Report (AC)
  - a) Bank approx £541, Deposit £3,000
  - b) Subs will be due, note to be sent to membership CS.Note, caving members with their own insurance should supply their BCA insurance number to AC
  - c) New members approved  
Mark Bishop  
Graham Dawson  
Barnabas Page  
Josh Eckett  
Luke Bailey  
David Coker
  - d) Cheque signatory, Greg Jones & Sue Corston to be taken off the mandate & Chris Stott & Jan Karvik to be added
  - e) Agreed that the club would support the Tingles dig with funds amounting to £111
  - f) £50 contribution to FODCAG agreed **AC to pay**. This should be an annual contribution
  - g) £100 contribution to Nick Negus's bang store license agreed
3. Need to raise general awareness of GCRG within the club – next practice 6 December
4. Oak Wood Mill Deep, lock needs attention, John Hine to advise
5. Christmas Social, 16<sup>th</sup> December  
Old Ham Retro, **AC** to lead, 6.30 Start  
Social start at 8.00 at Rising Sun  
Members to bring puds (reminder in mail)  
Raffle prizes needed  
Funds raised to GCRG
6. OFD trip in Christmas break to be organised (**DS**)
7. New years day walk to be arranged by **AC**, will be in Wye Valley area
8. A film night has been suggested by Andy Lough, this needs to be followed up, **CS** to send note to Joe Duxbury to see if there is interest from the Gloucester
9. John Hine is arranging a mine trip somewhere in Wiltshire on 29<sup>th</sup> December, details to follow & be circulated
10. Tackle Officers Report
  - a) General discussion re surveying kit **SH** to follow up with Paul Taylor & report back
  - b) SH** to list available kit on website (**SH**), plus a short copy for the handbook

- c) SH noted concern over a lack of a safety officer, it was agreed that Steve Tomalin's training schedule should be publicised – who is going to liaise needs to be agreed **JK**
- d) Further discussion over bad air in Oak Mill Deep, John Hine asked to speak to landowner about wording of safety notice to go to the membership **CS to follow up**
- 11. It was agreed that FODCAG details should be included on our website, who is going to sort that out needs to be agreed (**SH**)
- 12. Next newsletter to be published in December (**MW**)
- 13. Noted that next years NAMO conference will be in South Gloucestershire, we should publicise this to the membership 4-6<sup>th</sup> June
- 14. Date of next meeting 8<sup>th</sup> February
- 15. Agreed that 2010 subs would be paid for Greg Jones & Sue Corston in appreciation of all their efforts over the past years

2007 No. 114  
health and safety

The Work at Height (Amendment) Regulations 2007  
Made  
23rd January 2007  
Laid before Parliament  
26th January 2007  
Coming into force  
6th April 2007

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions makes these Regulations -

(a) in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sections 15(1) and 82(3)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974(1) ("the 1974 Act"), and

(b) for the purpose of giving effect without modifications to proposals submitted to him by the Health and Safety Commission under section 11(2)(d) of the 1974 Act.

Before submitting proposals for these Regulations, the Health and Safety Commission has consulted the bodies that appear to it to be appropriate, as required by section 50(3) of the 1974 Act.

#### Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Work at Height (Amendment) Regulations 2007 and shall come into force on 6th April 2007.

#### Amendment of the Work at Height Regulations 2005

2. The Work at Height Regulations 2005(2) are amended in accordance with the following provisions of these Regulations.

3. In regulation 3 (application) -

(a) in paragraph (4) -

- (i) at the end of sub-paragraph (b), insert "or"; and
  - (ii) omit sub-paragraph (d) and the word "or" preceding it; and
- (b) in paragraph (6), omit sub-paragraphs (a) and (b).

4. After regulation 14 (duties of persons at work), insert -

#### "Special provision in relation to caving and climbing

14A.-(1) Paragraph (2) applies in relation to the application of these Regulations to work concerning the provision of instruction or leadership to one or more persons in connection with their engagement in caving or climbing by way of sport, recreation, team building or similar activities.

(2) Where this paragraph applies, an employer, self-employed person or other person shall be taken to have complied with the caving and climbing requirements, if, by alternative means to any requirement of those requirements, he maintains in relation to a person at such work as is referred to in paragraph (1) a level of safety equivalent to that required by those requirements.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (2), in determining whether an equivalent level of safety is maintained, regard shall be had to -

- (a) the nature of the activity;
  - (b) any publicly available and generally accepted procedures for the activity; and
  - (c) any other relevant circumstances.
- (4) In this regulation -

(a) "caving" includes the exploration of parts of mines which are no longer worked;

- (b) "climbing" means climbing, traversing, abseiling or scrambling over natural terrain or man-made structures; and
- (c) "the caving and climbing requirements" means regulation 8(d)(ii), so far as it relates to paragraph 1 in Part 3 of Schedule 5, and that paragraph."
5. In paragraph 1 of Part 3 of Schedule 5 -

- (a) at the beginning, insert "Except as provided in paragraph 3,"; and
- (b) in sub-paragraph (a), omit "subject to paragraph 3".
- Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

Bill McKenzie  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,  
Department for Work and Pensions  
23rd January 2007

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

1. These Regulations amend the Work at Height Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/735) ("the principal Regulations") which give effect as respects Great Britain to Directive 2001/45/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ No L195, 19.7.2001, p.46), amending Council Directive 89/655/EEC (OJ No L393, 30.12.89, p.13) concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the use of work equipment by workers at work. The principal Regulations contain additional provisions, including additional provisions which replace regulations giving effect to certain provisions of Council Directives 89/654/EEC (OJ No L393, 30.12.89, p.1) concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the workplace and 92/57/EEC (OJ No L245, 26.8.92, p.6) on the implementation of minimum safety and health requirements at temporary or mobile construction sites.
2. These Regulations omit the disapplication in regulation 3(4)(d) of the principal Regulations in relation to work concerning the provision of instruction or leadership to one or more persons in connection with their engagement in caving or climbing by way of sport, recreation, team building or similar activities (regulation 3). These Regulations also make provision as to what is taken to be compliance with certain requirements under the principal Regulations as they apply to such work (regulation 4).
3. A copy of the regulatory impact assessment prepared in respect of these Regulations can be obtained from the Health and Safety Executive, Economic Advisers Unit, Rose Court, 2 Southwark Bridge, London, SE1 9HS. A copy of the Transposition Note in relation to the implementation of the Directives can be obtained from the Health and Safety Executive, International Branch at the same address. Copies of both these documents have been placed in the Library of each House of Parliament.

(1)1974 c.37. Sections 15 and 50 were amended by the Employment Protection Act 1975 (c.71) Schedule 15, paragraphs 6 and 16 respectively. Back [1]