

Summer 2012  
Volume 148



# Royal Forest of Dean Caving Club

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## Committee

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Malcolm White

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## Editorial

Well I don't know about you but the wet weather seems to have knocked a lot of caving on the head for a while. Our dig in Bixslade which is through the infill of an old shaft gets rained off as the shaft lets through a lot of water and coupled with the long walk there means that if it rains a lot digging stops.

We have just returned from a holiday in the Lake District and planned to go down a few of the mines whilst

we were there. But as the weather was fine we did outside activities like canoeing and walking and then when the weather turned wet it was too wet to go out to the mines.

Hopefully things will improve in time for the club treasure hunt on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> June.

## New Members

A warm welcome to the following new members  
John Mallabone

## Editors

This newsletter editing thing seems to have taken off. We now have two members editing newsletters for other societies. Rob Needham is editing the Northern Mine Research Society Newsletter and Malcolm Castle is editing the North Dean Walking Group Newsletter.

## **Nenthead Dates**

JULY:- 13<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>.

OCTOBER:- 19<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>.

Bunkhouse self-catering accommodation at £14 per night, bookings to [mole@grottagge.fsworld.co.uk](mailto:mole@grottagge.fsworld.co.uk).

## **Diary Dates**

The Treasure Hunt has been re-scheduled to 20th June as Greg is working on the 6th

The meet details are ....

Wednesday 20th June. Wenchford picnic Site. Come along and see if you can "Open the Box".

Hopefully we will have a great turnout this year!!

OS Grid Reference: SO 654081

Weekend trip – Mendips.6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> July. To coincide with Priddy Folk Fair. Do a bit of caving, listen to music and get drunk. What better way to spend a summer weekend? Accommodation to be announced. Please let me know if you are planning to come.

Weekend trip – Sat 12<sup>th</sup> August. Woolaston Wood Cave – Danny's hard hours have been rewarded with a good breakthrough. Still needs a lot of stabilising at time of writing, but should be fine in a few months for a trip. Will confirm closer to time if trip still ok to go ahead. Please let me know if you are planning to come.

NB – The weekend trips will be on Saturday, unless Sunday is preferred by the majority. If you fancy going on a trip, but can't make the date – let me know ASAP, and it should be possible to change a date or two.

**Dan Sandford**

## **FODCCAG News**

### **Devil's Chapel**

An agreement has been reached whereby access is granted but limited to 12 trips per year with a maximum of 8 people per trip. This includes bat counting trips and is NOT exclusive to local clubs, it is an agreement for any recognised club subject to permission being granted. Permission for any trips will have to be applied for via FODCCAG.

### **Old Ham**

The locks have now been changed and keys are held by Jonathan Wright. Access will be granted by Jonathan at his discretion provided he knows the individual and there will be no trips below Railway Churn without a qualified person present (eg. Dave Tuffley or John Hine). Keys must be signed for and returned promptly after a trip. There are separate keys for Bow and Lambsquay and Ham so through trips will require two keys.

### **Wigpool**

Wigpool keyholders are John Hine and Dave Tuffley. Jonathan Wright has asked that these people be approached for keys and not himself.

# Big Pit

Big Pit is the National Coal Mining Museum of Wales and is situated in Blaenavon about 7 miles from Abergavenny. This makes it only about an hour to an hour and a half's drive away for most of us in the club and is a fantastic day out. Best of all it is CFP (Caver's Favourite Price £0) to get in although you do have to pay the outrageous price of £2 to park all day.



Arriving at the entrance you are presented with tickets for the underground tour and directed to the waiting area for your guide to collect you. All the guides are ex miners and all seem to have been selected for their "gift of the gab". You're then taken to the lamp room where you are presented with a helmet, self rescuer and an Oldham lamp (remember those). All possession with a battery in are removed as a legal precaution. Big Pit still counts as a working mine and only intrinsically safe equipment is allowed underground. This means that even your mobile phone and car keys have to be handed in. You are then herded into the cage for the descent to the workings. Big Pit counts as a deep mine although with the shaft about 90m (290ft) deep it is one of the shallowest in South Wales if not the whole country.

The underground tour covers about half a mile of workings. It passes though pillar and stall workings and the stables for the pit ponies, who worked for 50 weeks of the year with only 2 weeks on the surface. There is the obligatory lights off moment and inevitably there was one person in our party who was unable to work the light switch on the Oldham headset and who came in for a fair amount of good natured stick from our guide.

Back on the surface there is still plenty to see. The audio visual presentation at the underground galleries, the fan house, winding house and conservation areas are worth looking at. The pithead baths exhibition and museum are excellent and cover not only the history of mining but also the social and political history too. I felt it was a shame that nothing was happening in the blacksmith's workshop though, it seemed rather lifeless.



Apart from Big Pit Blaenavon has a wealth of industrial and social history and is a World Heritage Site. Right next door to Big Pit is a stop on the Blaenavon Steam Railway (£5 for an adult all day ticket) with round trips taking about 50 minutes. About a mile or so away is the remnants of Blaenavon Ironworks (also CFP to get in) with both industrial exhibits and the restored workers cottages to look at. All in all, a great day out for all the family.

**Malcolm White**  
**Pictures by Tim White**

## **Extenuating Circumstances**

At the end of January 12 Dan and I went into Wetsink to climb an aven I had previously looked at near Sump Two. I had only climbed up a few metres before it quickly became obvious that it wasn't going anywhere. The enticing shadows seen from lower down were filled with my headlight from higher up revealing nothing but solid rock.

With plenty of time on our hands we decided to have a quick trip part way along Pirate Passage, somewhere neither of us had been before. The climb up Star Shaft 1 (SS1) was longer than we expected but as awkward as we had been led to believe. At the top we had a quick look at the abandoned sandy dig to the left (West) before continuing down the main Pirate Passage heading generally East. We got a little over 1km down it before turning around to head out, reaching the surface two hours later.

Chatting in the pub afterwards we both decided we would like to do some 'pushing' in Pirate Passage and at some time do a long trip to the known end of the passage. We also reckoned that the sandy dig near the top of SS1 was a good prospect and this was the first objective we set ourselves as a digging project. Dan sent an e-mail round and it ended up with five of us (Dan, Rhys, Andy, Martin and me) heading of to Pirate Passage on the 11<sup>th</sup> February for our first dig.

Getting us all up SS1 took longer than expected and included using a 3:1 hoisting system to get one of the party up. I decided that we would need to consider what options there were to make this part of the trip more efficient in the future. We set to work digging out the sand filling the end of the passage and getting it transported 20 metres back along the passage to SS1. We used the drag trays and shovels that were left there by the original diggers who had made a handful of digging trips around about 15 years beforehand.



**Miles at the top of Star Shaft 1 (SS1)**



**Tyrolean Bucket Traverse Over SS1**

I was at the dig face using a small shovel to fill a drag tray with sand that was then pulled back half way along the passage and then transferred to another tray that was

pulled back to SS1 and tipped down the pitch. Digging the sand was easy, it was a bit like being at the beach and digging the more compact sand you'd find a couple of spades depth down. I could fill a drag tray in 20 seconds but it took a lot longer to get it back along the passage and disposed of. This was another aspect of the dig that needed thought - how could the dig be made more efficient?

The dig face was filled with sand at a point where the roof started dipping down and I had a good feeling about it. It reminded me of a sandy crawl I'd been along in a recent trip into Shuttleworth Pot and I envisaged the roof arching down to rise up again perhaps only a few feet further on. I could see the 'tide mark' where the sand had reached on this side of the dig and it was about 50cm or more down from the roof until the roof began to drop to about 50cm below the 'tide mark'. Perhaps it was the same the other side of this possible roof dip and left an open way on in just a couple of metres?...

We didn't make a huge amount of forward progress on the first digging trip but it did provide a good opportunity to scope out what was needed for future digs. One thing I decided we had to do was to put in a Tyrolean traverse over the top of SS1 to transport sand to the far side. Chucking sand down the pitch was eventually going to block our retreat as the passage at the bottom of the pitch was only crawling height and would at some point get too full of spoil.

Two weeks later Dan, Andy, Miles, Richard and I went back into Wetsink and up to the Pirate Passage Sand Dig. I was first up SS1 and immediately started sorting out rigging the Tyrolean traverse over the top of the pitch. I attached each end of the rope to a thread anchor in the roof as well as using a tyre lever in a crack as an anchor to improve the line of the rope. Once the others were up the resulting zip line was soon put to use to transport buckets of sand over the pitch for tipping the other side.

We soon had a system going and a lot of buckets of sand got zipped and tipped. Much of this sand was not from the dig face but was from the passage. The passage was pretty straight but had a couple of sand hills that we were attempting to level so that we might ultimately be able to drag dig trays the entire length of the passage in one go. We were planning for the long term to make the digging more efficient and viable with a smaller team of perhaps only 3 people to work it. Dan did however have a bit of a go at the dig face and probably gained another half metre or so progress and left it with the roof beginning to rise.

Three weeks later I made a mid-week trip into Wetsink with a friend, Juliet. The plan was to do the round trip and have a look at the dig site where I planned to rearrange the zip line to make it more efficient. We did this first of all and then spent the next hour and a half zipping buckets of sand along the rope and dumping them until we had managed to level the pile of sand that had accumulated at the end of the passage next to SS1. It was now time to head out to be in time for my rather vague 'call-out time'. I had said to my wife I'd probably be home around about when she got home from the school run but hadn't given a precise call out time, as I often do, as I wasn't sure what time I would be entering the cave.

Just before heading out of the cave I decided to have a quick look along the passage to remind myself where the remaining sand hill was and to assess what needed doing next. I also had a quick look at the dig face, which I hadn't seen at the end of the

previous session, and I couldn't resist have a quick 'prod'.

I used the short shovel in both hands to dig a few scoops out of the top of the sand fill where it met the roof and before long it was too awkward and restricted to work with both hands. I then resorted to lying on my side and blindly poking the shovel in over head with my right hand. The roof seemed to continue to rise and I dug upwards with sand cascading down on to my helmet. I was now prodding at full arms reach and couldn't go any further without enlarging the work space. I decided I would have to leave it there for the time being.

What I saw, when I examined the effects of my digging, was a dark slot the size of a letter box at the far limit of my prodding. I had broken through into a void! Could this be it?! I knew it would take sometime to break through to be able to see and so I rushed back down the passage to where Ju was waiting to go down the pitch and told her what I had seen and that I needed another twenty minutes to dig through to see if it 'went'.

Back at the dig face I dug like fury; like a rabbit being chased by a ferret. I knew I was already going to struggle to make my loose call out time and I dug as fast as I could scooping the sand behind me and threatening to block my exit with it. Ju saw the issue and scooped sand further back levelling it out behind us. Sand was pouring down onto my sweat covered face, into my ears, mouth and eyes but I didn't care. I was in a digging frenzy of excitement for the potential discovery beyond.

The hole gradually but quickly enlarged until I had a 60 degree sloping tube running upwards into the void that I could still not yet see along. I tried squeezing up and in but it was still not wide enough for my shoulders and more digging and sand down the back of the neck was necessary until I gave it another try. I now managed to push my head and shoulders up and could peep over the top of the sand hill and saw the passage heading off into the distance, open and inviting. The darkness beckoned!

I could still not get up though. I was in effect lying forwards in a body length tube at 60 degrees with restricted movement and couldn't bend my knees to get footholds to climb up. My feet were simply clambering around on the loose sand and slipping back down. Reversing back I had a go at digging out a foot step and then also scooped back more sand from the lip of the slope. Eventually I managed to wriggle my way up into the passage beyond.

I quickly turned around and began digging the top of the slope away in order to make it lower and wider for Ju to follow. Once we were both up I set off, shovel in hand. I soon abandoned the shovel though as the way on seemed to be open and was comfortable crawling size.

At first I was a bit cautious as I realised, as the first person to enter the passage, that I was causing irreversible damage to the floor of the passage. The sand floor was covered by an extremely thin crust of dried mud and I was destroying this as I progressed. It soon became obvious that this was going to be unavoidable and there was no practical way to conserve the floor. The passage wasn't wide enough to even keep to one side of it and I accepted that I would be the only one to ever have appreciated the virgin nature of the floor sediments probably left at the end of the last ice age.



**Mud Crust Over Sand**



**Extenuating  
Passage**                      **Circumstances**

I therefore continued on at a good pace knowing that I was at risk of causing a call out if I was much longer. I wasn't however ready to turn around yet, the lure of the unknown was strong and I hurried on with increasing exploration fever. I was hoping the nature of the passage would change and that I'd enter passage of walking dimension or find junctions and avens, but instead it relentlessly continued in the same direction and at much the same size.

After several minutes and a short dog leg in the passage the roof lowered or perhaps the sand floor just got deeper. The passage was now too low to squeeze through and would need digging out. I shone my light ahead and could see about a further 8m of similar low passage before I thought it looked like it might be enlarging again. At least I was hoping it did. I drew a line in the sand metaphorically and literally and started heading back. On the way back Ju and I independently estimated the distance from the breakthrough and reckoned on between 55 and 60 metres.

After getting out I quickly phoned home to cancel any call out. Later that evening I wrote an e-mail to the rest of the digging team telling them about the breakthrough and to find out who could make it for a trip the coming weekend at shortish notice. I said that I had an 'Extenuating Circumstances Pass' from my wife to cave again that weekend due to the exciting discovery of new passage and the chance to find more.

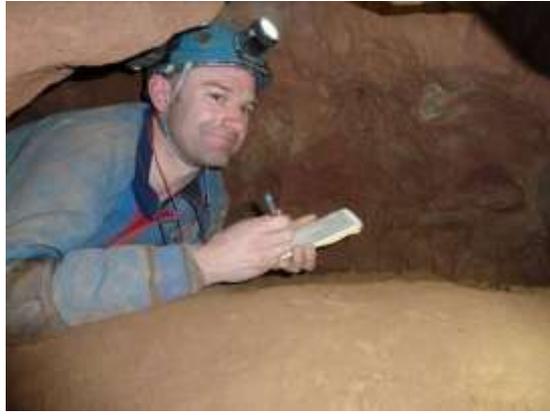
Other families made similar sacrifices to allow their partners and fathers to join me. Dan and Andy managed to dodge an Easter Egg Hunt in Box Mines and Rhys got a LMGICP ('Let me go or I'll cry pass'). Miles made the long drive down from the Midlands and on Saturday morning the 5 of us assembled in the warm spring sunshine to head into Wetsink once more. We were all excited about the prospects that lay ahead and I was particularly hoping that we would have another breakthrough to reward the hopes and expectations of the others.

Once up SS1 Rhys and I started a Grade 5 survey of the new extension while Dan and Miles started digging out the constriction I had reached. Andy had a change of mind about finding the effort to climb SS1, even though he had been up twice before, and elected to stay behind and bash some rock at the bottom of the pitch in an attempt to widen it.

After an hour or so Rhys and I neared the site of the constriction with our surveying and I was just in time to hear Dan saying to Miles he was through it. Rhys and I finished the survey leg, later confirming the distance from the first breakthrough to this second breakthrough at 55m, and then set off in pursuit of Dan and Miles who were now off exploring more virgin passage.



**Dan Coming Through The First Breakthrough**



**Rhys Surveying in 'Extenuating Circumstances'**

The passage continued heading NW in the same line but became narrower and more rift-like. Of course without its sand infill the real passage may bell-out into much bigger dimensions lower down. We were just up in the roof of it and it could be metres deep. We caught up with Miles about 60 metres on and encountered some calcite on the walls and even a small stalactite of about 6cm. More impressive though were some crystal formations of a helictite type style.



**Calcite Formations 135m into 'Extenuating Circumstances'**



**Crystal Formations**

A little further on Miles got to a bit which he couldn't get through and I climbed over him to pass him and try it myself. With a bit of thrutching along forwards, in a prone position at waist level, I managed to get through this tight piece and catch up with Dan who had now come to a halt at another constriction.

This one was more terminal for the time being and was only about 40cm high as well as narrow. It would need digging out but this was not going to be a quick solution. The main problem, other than the very constricted working space, was that there was nowhere nearby to dump a lot of dug out sand as the previous 50 metres had been not particularly high and were also narrow. In fact it looked too narrow to even pull through a standard drag tray. It was time to leave it for the time being.

On the way back to the second breakthrough Dan, Rhys and I all made estimations of the distance of the days extension and agreed on 120m of progress on from the second breakthrough. Not bad for a days caving. I took a few photos and the trip was captured on helmet-cam video by Rhys and edited down to just under five minutes and put on U-Tube -(<http://youtu.be/sXjmMBo2jPU>)

A few weeks later Dan, Rhys and I went back to 'Extenuating Circumstances', as the passage had by then been named. While Dan started digging at the far end and kicking the sand behind him, Rhys and I continued the Grade 5 survey. After about an hour surveying a length of about 70 metres we stopped and went on the remaining 50 or so metres to catch up with Dan. We dug Dan out of the passage by scooping out and dispersing the sand behind him and then all moved back a few metres to have some late lunch in a short section of passage we could sit up in.

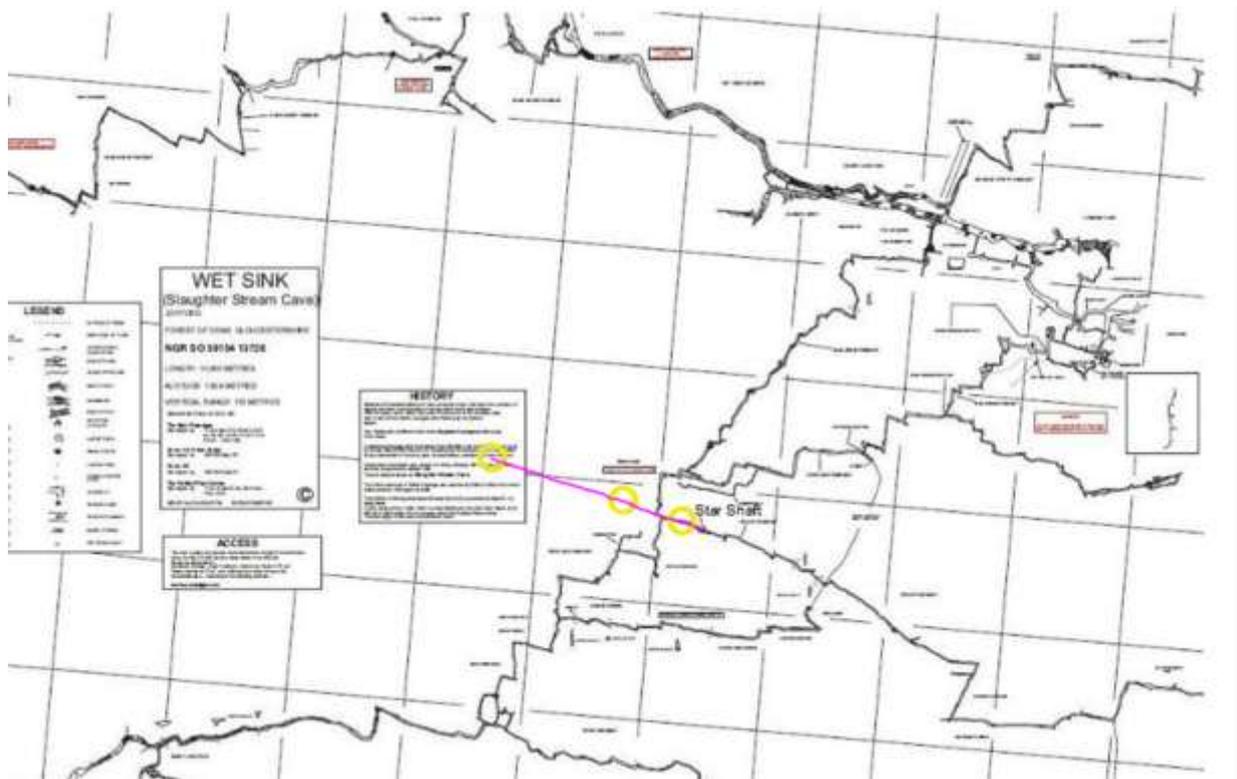
I then took a go at digging at the far end of the passage. From where Dan had progressed the dig to I could see about 7 metres further on to where the passage constricted even further leaving only a triangle in the roof, about 40cm high at the apex. I could not see what lay beyond this but hoped it enlarged again.

I had brought in a length of tarpaulin and lay on top of this and scooped sand on to it and pushed it under my body. Once I had got a fair few shovels of sand on to the tarp I did a press up and Rhys pulled the tarp of sand out from under me and back down the passage for dispersal. I then pulled the tarp back with some string and we repeated the process.

I was pleased with how well the system worked and after about five tarp loads I had cleared enough sand in the two metres of passage in front of me to squeeze forward. I took my helmet off and wriggled along until I had gone about six metres forward and I could shine my light through the triangle ahead. It revealed a further five metres of low passage after which it was difficult to determine if it got larger or not. But it wasn't getting smaller. However there was not going to be an easy third breakthrough and we called it day there.

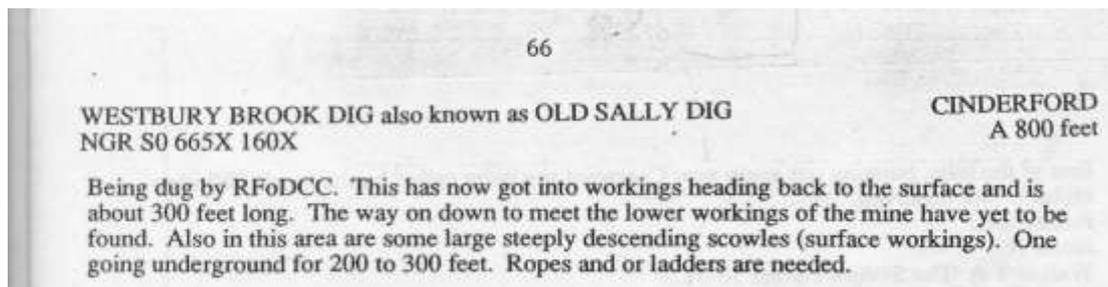
'Extenuating Circumstances' is 180 metres of sandy crawling passage going in a NW direction from Star Shaft 1 in Pirate Passage. It is heading into an area of blank limestone and is the first newly surveyed passage in Slaughter Stream Cave in about 12 years. Looking at the survey, if it continues in the same direction for just under 500m and drops at a slope of -5 degrees, it could connect to somewhere near the Pig Trough in Dog's Grave Passage.

My personal guess however is that it connects to inlet avens further on that head towards the surface. Anyone is welcome to dig on from the present limit of exploration and we have left equipment in for this purpose that you are welcome to use. Just let us know if you break through into passages 'measureless to man'!



Ian Healey  
April 2012

## Old Sally Dig



I first noticed the entrance to Old Sally mine when out walking my dogs near Edgehill Lodge early last year. The square hole made it look out-of-the-ordinary. But it didn't appear to go anywhere. There was a mention of Old Sally in Dave Tuffley's article in New Regard of 2008. Discovering the entry for the Westbury Brook dig in Tony Oldham's 1992 book on the caves and mines of the Forest led to a chat with Dave and so with Jack and Barnabas I had a better look down Old Sally. It was obviously blocked by a fall only a few feet in from the entrance. Encouraged by Dave and by the possibility of finding another way into Westbury Brook we decided to try and clear the blockage. It was our first attempt at a dig. We filled in the form and passed it to Dave to get permission. Then I managed to scrounge some scaffolding poles and clamps from a neighbour. With a bit of bent pipe, an old wheelbarrow wheel centre and 3 pieces of scaffold we cobbled together a hoist inside the entrance to OS and got digging. Within a few weeks (30 June 2011) we could see beyond the blockage. Progress! By the end of July we were at the top of the shaft and managed to get a 2 section aluminium household ladder down the shaft. However, some of the shoring from the 1992 dig looked decidedly dodgy (an old fridge door, corroded corrugated iron and rotten timber). Then one day, while Barnabas was standing on the ladder in the shaft, a large boulder fell out from one side of the shaft, hit the ladder and wedged it across the shaft. It took nearly 6 months to clear the shaft, make it reasonably safe (there's still the occasional small rock that becomes dislodged and falls down the shaft), and secure the ladder. Finally, ten months after starting we got beyond the bottom of the shaft and were able to explore further. Haven't found the way into Westbury Brook yet ..... but there's still more to explore!

This is only a brief summary, I've missed out a lot – such as the clay pipe that Jack found last July and the toad that Barnabas rescued from the bottom of the shaft earlier this year.

**Rob Needham**

## Old Sally Pictures



## New Residents at the Rising Sun



Pictures by John Hine

# Salt Mine

Last October my brother and I took a short sightseeing trip to Cracow in Poland. One of the events on our itinerary was a trip to the "Wieliczka" salt mine, which is about 10km to the south-east of Cracow.

The mine is a complex of excavated workings, on floors from one to nine, at the depth from 64 to 327 metres. It consists of over 300 kilometres of galleries and about 3000 chambers of total cubic capacity of around 7.5 million cubic metres. It was worked from the Middle Ages until 1996 and is now on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Entrance is by the Danilowicz Shaft sunk in the years 1635-1640 and salt was originally raised by a treadmill. Over the years this was replaced by a steam engine and finally an electric haulage.

Visitors descend by WALKING down 378 steps. It is five steps down, then across a short landing, round 180 degrees, then down again. I did not count steps or turns. My advice is to go down on the outside against the shaft wall otherwise you soon feel dizzy by keeping to the inside, and you are also looking down a very deep hole.

After the 378 bloody steps you reach floor one and onto the Tourist route. The rock is a grey colour, but I did not taste it for salt as it looked too well licked. Soon you are walking along a passageway between layers of horizontally cross stacked timbers each about 30cm plus diameter, these piles are holding up large excavated chambers on either side. The timber is very old, but the guide reminded us that we were in a salt mine and nothing rots down there (you too if you get lost). Much wood propping is seen throughout the tourist route and great skill must have been used in positioning the supports into some very impressive and huge arrangements.

Poland is both a patriotic and very religious country, and there is strong theme of both of these feelings shown in most of the mine as is evident by the numerous sculptures and chapels carved out of the rock salt. Many sculptures were made by the miners themselves.

As their work was always very dangerous the miners heard Mass every morning in an underground chapel, usually at the shaft bottom. St. Anthony's Chapel was made in the years 1690-1710 in the Baroque style, and is the oldest religious site preserved.

Wooden stairways take you down from level to level and many large, and I mean large! chambers are passed through via top, side or bottom routes.

Throughout the mine there are many reconstructions of the miners at work and of the equipment they used. The rock salt was often formed into barrel shaped rolls, which made them easier to be moved by wooden levers, and then lifted to the surface. A good example of the lifting power is in the Sielec Chamber where there is what we would call a Horse Whim, and it has a stuffed horse harnessed ready for action. From the sixteenth century horses were used in the mine and their use did not end until 2002.

The most dangerous job is shown in The Burnt Out (Spalone) Chamber with several models of miners holding long sticks with bits of rag on the ends. Surprisingly in this salt mine there is a serious gas problem as on the excavation of rock salt inflammable Methane is released. Being lighter than air it accumulates around the roof of the workings and when the right proportion gas and air is reached it made an explosive mixture very easily ignited by the oil lamps and open fires then used by the miners. This danger was eliminated by experienced miners, called Penitents, who dressed in wet clothes and with torches alight on the end of long poles, fired off the mixture in small quantities. The Penitents had a higher pay rate!

In modern times some large chambers of historical interest have had their walls prevented from slipping by introducing epoxide glass rods over ten metres long into the

rock mass. These are secured with resin glue and this provides sufficient strengthening of the walls and roofs of the workings.

Beside the chapels many of the chambers have been converted into a range of uses. The Warsaw Chamber can be a ballroom, concert hall, sports arena or fairground. The Witold Budryk Chamber is now a smart restaurant and bar. There is also the expected souvenir shop, and any postcards purchased can be sent from a Post Office kiosk there just to prove you really have been in a salt mine.

Fortunately the way back up to the surface is not by 378 steps but by a four story lift, which takes nine persons on each level shifting a load of thirty six at a time.

The mine has to be seen to be appreciated and if you are in the area it is well worth a visit.

If you are active, feeling fit, keen on geology, mineralogy and history etc and you can get on it, there is a tour, "The Secrets of Wieliczka's Mine". It needs caving/mining kit and is outside the Tourists Route taking about four hours and mainly in 19<sup>th</sup> century workings.

Cracow is a beautiful city being left virtually undamaged by the Second World War. Also Poland is not in the Euro, and it is a cheap place for a tourist.

Unfortunately my lack of computer skills prevented me from including some pictures, but a large range of photographs showing the mine can be found on GOOGLE and typing in Wieliczka salt mine.

## **Roger Bailey**

RFDCC Committee Meeting Minutes  
28 May 2012

Present

Jan Karvik (Chairman)  
Nicky Bailey  
Andy Clarke  
George Cheshire  
Chris Stott  
Malcolm White

John Hine in attendance

Matters brought forward

- Children's policy. **Chris** to have another look at the BCA documents to clarify our position. Although the Committee is reluctant to just say "No" to requests from younger people it would be good to have a formal policy
- Old Ham access. **Jan** will try to agree a statement of access arrangements with J Wright. The principal is .... Access will be granted by JW at his solo discretion, based on his knowing individuals & their acceptance not to go below the Railway Churn level without qualified people (John Hine & Dave

Tuffley). They will also agree to return the key straight after their visit and sign it back in the key log book.

- RFDCC Wigpool key holders are John Hine and Dave Tuffley. John Hind is continuing negotiations with J Wright for a formal access agreement with FODCCAG
- Devils Chapel. A draft agreement has now been agreed with Lydney Park Estate allowing 12 visits a year with a maximum of 8 in a party. This will include a bat counting visit, allowing 11 for caving groups. Requests for access are to be made through FODCCAG via Dave Tuffley.
- T Shirts, little interest based on the last communication / orders form circulated, it will be included once again in the next newsletter (**Malcolm / Nicky**)

#### Treasury Matters

- Current balance before the items below = £4094
- Approved items of expenditure
- Otter & Library £171
- Montenegro expedition £50
- John Harvey present £22.50
- 2 Disto X Surveying instruments £512
- Funding for Wet Sink exploration approved £200 – Re Jan Karvik. This was unanimously approved without the Chairman taking part in discussion

#### New Member approved

Neil Shillabeer

Marshall Davies

John Mallabone

Andy will circulate a revised members list

#### Wet Sink Keys.

- We have enough keys
- Going forward there will be no privately held keys (one known exception currently will not be challenged)
- If anyone requires a key for the duration of a special project this will be made available at the Committee's discretion

#### Car parking / cars on Forestry tracks

- Use of tracks & access is a privilege not a right, there is no insurance for those taking their vehicles on such tracks
- In order for the police & Forestry personnel to identify any parked vehicles Forestry Car Badges are to be introduced by the Forestry

## RFDCG Clothing

As part of the forthcoming 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations (and because it's a good idea anyway) Nicky has arranged to get some shirts with the club logo embroidered on. The logo will be about the size and shape to fit on a breast pocket. If you would like to order some of this most elegant and flattering apparel then you can use the form below (or make up your own provided it contains the same info.) and send it to Nicky Bayley, 67 Templeway West, Lydney. GL15 5JD. nic@palmcons.co.uk

RFDCG CLOTHING ORDER	
NAME:	

LADIES	POLO	T-SHIRT	SWEATSHIRT
	UC106	SS046	GD056
		10	6.5                  12.5
SIZE	8 10 12 14 16 18	(POLO'S GO UP TO A 22)	
COLOUR	BLACK / RED / NAVY / GREEN / GREY		

MENS	POLO	T-SHIRT	SWEATSHIRT
	£10.00	£6.00	£14.00
	UC101	GD002	SS200
SIZE	S M L XL XXL 3XL 4XL		
COLOUR	BLACK / RED / NAVY / GREEN / GREY		

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