



Burnley Caving Newsletter, December 2007/January 2008. Editor Jack Nadin

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE

Welcome to the Burnley Caving Club Christmas, New Year Newsletter for 2007/2008. That's the good news—the bad news is that subscriptions 2008 are now due; we have to renew the BCA public liability insurance on the 1st January 2008. The current membership subscription is as follows:

- Full Member £25.00
- Associate Member £10.00
- Family Membership £50.00
- Junior Membership £10.00
- Unwaged Members £18.00

Please can all subscription payments be paid to the club secretary, Peter Wilson. 140 Halifax Road, Nelson, Lancs. BB9 0EL. Or by hand at the weekly club meeting. Members will not receive the BCA cards until subs have been paid.

**The 57th Burnley Caving Club Annual Dinner.
3rd November 2007**

This year's dinner held at the New Inn, Clapham. Was attended by twenty four members and friends. Our President and founder members Raymond Haffner, Jean Haffner and Marie Holmes were able to attend this year. Geoff Richmond, Brian Boardman Honorary fellows and our special guests Peter & Matthew Bayes were our special guests. The meal was excellent and very efficiently served. Raymond gave an entertaining after dinner speech a review of the club and some funny jokes.

John Jones chairman presented the clubman of the year trophy to Stuart and Nicholas Crossley for there contributions and efforts this year. The raffle followed, Marie Holmes claimed the Red tee shirt prize which had been specially printed with the Burnley Caving Club 57th Annual Dinner at the New Inn Clapham. 2007. The raffle made over £30-00. The remainder of the evening was spent in the bar. Fay Hartley gave a presentation of her slide show of her trip to the Pyrenees, Spain. This was one our quieter dinners but the beer was good and company the best. Some members were unable to attend this year notably: Ron & Rita Crosby, Jack Nadin, Keith & Barbra Taylor, Bernie & Janet Bond, Gill, Phil. & Brian Metcalf. Bonfire night has a lot to blame for this. Our best wishes to Dee who was unable to attend due to illness. Thanks to Garth for booking the venue, and last but not least Peter Wilson.

Report Peter Wilson

THE DIG AT DRY LAITHE BARN

7 October 2007

A great productive day thanks to Nick who worked like a little mini digging machine. A number of large boulders were removed—but boulders, whatever their size do not bother us any more. BOULDERS, just bring them on. We treat boulders especially extra large ones with the contempt they deserve. At last we were making good downward progress, this really pleased Garth who said "*Giggly goo and happy tingles*" as he danced and tiptoed around his Primus stove and bubbling kettle in merriment. "*If this dig doesn't go now I'll eat all gimberries in Gloggytown—aye, and I dare say all dingleburs and dogglebars as well*" Then off he went to smoke his pipe of knowledge and contentment. We all beamed as we looked at one and all, and we smiled and nodded in agreement at his happiness and anticipation. Some passing rambles observing our glee and excitement hurried on and passed quickly on muttering unprintable exclamations as they glanced back repeatedly, and rather nervously some of us thought. Another group chose to turn around altogether and go back from whence they came. Never mind we thought, next week, we will be on the verge of exploring great underground caverns, with pretty snowy white formations and great columns adorning its high roof—time will tell!!

14 October 2007.

Stuart has asked me to mention his little friend and companion 'Larry' his Landrover, who works away and never complains about taking diggers and tackle to remote spots. The only time 'Larry' did mutter a little complaint, and it was a just little one, was when he caught his tow bar in a drainage ditch near Dry Laith barn. We can't blame 'Larry' for making a small objection; after all you know what it is like when you stub your tow! Digging was hampered today by running muck coming in on the diggers, but a little progress was made.

21 October 2007.

We now had some Acrows which I had 'acquired', and Keith came along with some sturdy timbers. At last we could continue downwards again and in relative safety. However, this was short lived—the bitterly cold weather and having to work under drops (mini waterfalls) of water coming off the sides of the dig meant that this particular project is now postponed until better weather comes along early next year. A further report will be issued as and when details become available.

Jack Nadin

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THE DISAPPEARANCE OF BRIAN ANDREW KERR

I found the rather strange report about an incident at Goyden Pot in the 'Speleologist' a magazine for cavers in the 1960s. We are all aware of the dangers of flooding in Goyden, but this report gave an amazing and frightening account of just how dangerous Goyden can be—and Goyden Pot and Manchester Hole its sister cave have also claimed other lives nearer our own time.

"Brian Andrew Kerr, a 20-year-old Leeds art student, now presumed dead in Goyden Pot, Nidderdale, was last seen at home on 28th December, 1957. He left home to go on a week's holiday by himself, walking and caving in the Pateley Bridge area of Yorkshire. When he failed to return as arranged on the 5th January, 1958, the police were informed and later, on the 24th January, the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association were also asked to help. From a study of Kerr's diaries it would appear that he was only a moderate caver, having visited quite a large number of easy and moderate caves. He had been unable on more than one occasion to find his way through Hobson's Choice in Dow Cave and had failed three times to climb up into the Spiral from Gaskell's Passage in Goyden Pot. His diaries gave a pretty comprehensive account of his caving activities over three years. He was fond of making sketches and copying out surveys of the caves he had visited. Normally, it would appear that he did his caving with only one or two companions but sometimes he went alone.

The water has been known to come down the beck like a "bore" and not infrequently floods to a height of 12 feet above the cave entrance.

Once he took a "snorkel" tube to Goyden Pot with the intention of forcing a syphon. Happily this was thwarted through some other cause. One might say, judging from his exploits, that he was something of a "lone wolf" and a "dare-devil". On the occasion of his disappearance he was well equipped with helmet, carbide lamp, plenty of carbide, an electric hand torch, candles, matches and vibram soled boots. He had a sleeping bag, cooking utensils and food for a week, all of which he carried in a framed rucksack. Thorough searches were made of Manchester Hole, Goyden and New Goyden Pots. Powerful lamps, an extending ladder and grappling irons were used in the search for his body, but to no avail. However, all his known possessions were found in Goyden Pot, with the exception of his helmet, sleeping bag, trousers and one boot—these were never recovered. Apparently they had been distributed down the main passage by the flood water. His anorak containing spare matches, marker arrows and some English and French money, was found in the lower stream passage, having presumably passed through the syphon. About half his week's supply of food was also found, including three eggs in a billy can. The police placed a net across Nidd Heads where the waters of Goyden re-emerge after a journey of a mile and a quarter underground. Nothing has ever come out. Goyden Pot has a roomy main passage and a complicated "Labyrinth" system. The whole of it floods in wet weather. The water has been known to come down the beck like a "bore" and not infrequently floods to a height of 12 feet above the cave entrance. The cave was completely flooded on January 5th, 1958, the day Kerr should have returned home.

HE'S DONE IT AGAIN!!

We would all like to thank our Treasurer, Shaun for once again getting us funding for the club. This year's awards will be used to provide the club with a new laptop computer, a scanner, printer and laminator as well as topping up any deficiencies in the club tackle. Thank you very much Shaun.

His fate is uncertain. It may be that he decided to camp out in Goyden Pot and was overtaken and drowned by an inrush of water whilst asleep. He may have tried, unsuccessfully, to fight his way out against a steadily rising flood, or in view of the quantity of may have fallen and been injured or lost his light and have been unable to return to his rucksack left either inside the cave or at the entrance. He may, again, have been dabbling in some "snorkeling" activities and been drowned. Whatever his end, the flood waters of the 5th effectively removed all trace. Goyden has a large appetite. Twelve sheep were once swept into the cave by the flood waters. Yet two or three days later a party of cavers could find no sign of them underground. During the weeks of searching for Kerr it was noticed that large logs inside the cave would disappear after a time of flooding. Two dummy bodies were placed inside the cave entrance soon after Kerr's disappearance in the hope that they would give a lead as to his whereabouts. However, these too vanished completely after a period of flood. In spite of all that is washed into the cave system, the waters at the rising remain clear and free from debris of any kind. It is unlikely now that any trace of Kerr's body will ever be found".

'The Speleologist' January 1965

THINGS YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO HEAR A COMMITTEE PERSON SAY!

Secretary: "Subs are due"

Editor: "Does Army begin with an 'R'?"

Tacklemaster: "What's this bit o' kit for then, and where does this go?"

Treasurer: "I have just bought a brand new villa in the south of France"

Librarian: "Shush, be quiet, shurrup hush"

Chairman: "Can I have a new chair?"

A WORTHY AWARD

We are pleased to announce that long time friends and associates of Burnley Caving Club, Bernie Bond and Gill Moorhead have been presented with Long Service Awards in recognition of their work and involvement with the Cave Rescue Association at Clapham. The awards were given out by Mike Harding in November. Congratulations lads!

THE APPEAL OF CAVING

It is always nice to ask newer members how they got interested in caving without enquiring too much into their sanity—with this in mind I asked one of our new members Adele if she would mind writing a short article for us to read on this subject. Adele obliged with the following:--

“As a new member of BCC I was recently asked what had attracted me into the world of caving. At first the answer seemed simple and straight forward and in many ways it still is—but then as I contemplated writing this article I began to consider my reasons a little deeper (always a silly thing to do if you ask me!). I’m writing this as a woman, approaching forty who’s never thought of herself as ‘sporty’. I can recall as a child, being taken to show caves and being memorised by the rock formations and power of nature. This appreciation never left me, although I never really realised it until recently. I have always sought outdoor activities and interests. I developed a life long love for geology and palaeontology, spending hours upon hours examining rock faces for signs of fossil remains. I was never happier than when camping in the remotest of places, hiking and orienteering. Many moons ago I learned how to canoe (even though I never learned to swim, a secret I managed to keep!). I tried my hand at rock climbing and abseiling. Then as life took me in different directions I lost touch with a lot of these activities, concentrating on a career instead. That is until I decided earlier this year to take a friend to visit Ingleborough show cave. I still don’t know why I chose this over White Scar but I’m glad I did.

Why you might bother to ask?

My interest was instantly reignited as I entered the cave and I consistently plagued the guide with questions and an undying enthusiasm but I was frustrated by the safe platforms and steel railings. I admired the formations, atmosphere and even the sheer pitch blackness but the limitations on exploration were more than I could bear. As we approached the end of the walkway I spied a crawlspace ahead and knew it was there that I wanted to be. (Nothing to do with a well known phrase which involves the words crawled, out, under or rock!!)

Why I say that my choice of cave was a blessing is because the guide recognised my genuine interest and suggested I might try caving. As ridiculous as this sounds, I had never even considered it! He gave me a general caving leaflet and the rest is history! After contacting the e-mail address I was re-directed to BCC and Peter. Nuff said! Attending BCC as a lone woman was an extremely intimidating thing to do. As I think back, I wonder how I ever even managed to turn up! I think everyone else was as surprised to see me as I was to find myself there!

I expected the sport (or club) to be predominately male and was not proven wrong. Peter and Jack (after recovering from the shock of finding me there!) introduced me to the training tower and I must admit after breaking the ice, I felt welcomed by them both and began to relax a little. But then I was met by a sea of surprised, curious faces as I entered the club house which was in the middle of a meeting!! I found this first experience very intimidating as there wasn’t much of an opportunity to talk and introduce myself to many others. I’m not sure I would have made it back the following week if it hadn’t been for my determination to become involved in caving. I was blessed by the electricity being out. This allowed me the chance to talk with Peter, Stuart and Garth by lamp light while waiting for the others to start arriving. I really enjoyed this chance to chat to them about their experiences and hoped that I would be able to learn from different members. I regret to say that this has not happened as much as I would have liked—so far.

I had hoped that there would be regular group caving trips that I would be able to join in with and start to build up my knowledge, ability and start to get to know people better. I’ve been a little disappointed that this doesn’t seem to be the case but hope with time to get to know everyone and integrate myself within the club. Many, many thanks to Shaun for taking me on my first trip and ensuring I was safe. A big thank-you to Ron and Patsy who have so warmly welcomed me and included me in their weekend caving trips. I’ve learned such a lot already and have thoroughly enjoyed every minute (almost!) I think it’s great that there’s a club with so many years experience between it’s members. I think the resources available and the annual subscription is extremely reasonable and I know that there is an almost bottomless supply of experience available to learn from—I just hope that the members are able to share this with an enthusiastic novice caver!”

Adele

Can I take this opportunity of thanking those who contributed to this newsletter, in particular Peter Wilson ‘Will’ and Adele? If you have articles to put forward for the next newsletter please let me have them as soon as possible. These can be a recent caving trip, a suggestion about improving or running the club, a particular meet, something for sale, in fact anything you wish. This is your newsletter, so let’s have some news!

Editor

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 8TH NOVEMBER 2007 AT BANKHALL BURNLEY. CLUB HQ.

Present.

Jack Nadin, Simon Mitchell, Peter Wilson, John Jones, Kevin Nuttall, Shaun Purser, Simon Beck, Stuart Crossley, Nicholas Crossley, Owain Thompson, Patsy Price, Ron Price, Duncan Smith, Alec Peacock.

Chairman opens the meeting 8pm.

Minutes of last AGM.

These were read by the Secretary and agreed as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising none.

Secretary report.

The membership currently stands at 26 club cavers, 3 club non cavers and honorary fellows. The club continues to be a member of the British Caving Association, the BCRA and the CNCC. The club has had an active year; the meetings on Thursday have been generally well attended. Bernie Bond has represented the club at the CNCC meetings. Wayne Brown has done an excellent job of maintaining the clubs web site. We have had no involvement with the local sport for youth programme this year. We have undertaken a few caving trips with young offenders and the Girl Guide Association. The trip was very enjoyable trip; we took 24 girls and leaders down Long Churn Cave.

Treasurers report.

The clubs bank account currently stands at £1893.94. Outgoings £721.65. Income £419.24. The year end for 2006 was £2304.93. As stated at the last AGM. No balance sheet was presented but a verbal account was made. The treasurer is currently applying for a grant for £5000.00 this for caving equipment and a new computer. It has already passed the 1st and 2nd stages. New signatories are needed to replace Simon Mitchell and Wayne Brown who are no longer on the committee. They will be replaced from the following John Jones, Jack Nadin or Kevin Nuttall. The figures quoted by the treasurer were questioned by the chairman; the annual dinner money had been included in the outgoing figures.

Editors report.

Three newsletters have been produced a fourth will be issued this December.

Tackle master report.

Absent. Shaun Purser stated that the current stock of SRT ropes needed replacing. The meeting agreed and decided that ropes older than 5years would be scrapped.

Librarians report.

It had been a good year.

Meets Secretary. Simon Beck.

NTR. New ideas for next year's list wanted.

Election of officers.

There was no change of committee.

Any other business.

1. Subs and insurance. Increase of subscriptions. This was discussed and it was decided that no increase would be made this year.
2. Fund raising, various ideas were discussed. St Peters sponsored climb, car boot sale. Etc.
3. New members and caving trips. This was discussed and it was decided that we need to have three levels of trips, beginners, Intermediate and hard. Organise the training trips on a month by month basis.
4. John Jones asked the meeting if £100.00 could be spent on the digging project at Birkwith. The meeting agreed.
5. Next years camp will be held at Lee Farm, Hathersage.

Meeting closed 9.15pm.

STOP PRESS

Your editor Jack Nadin, not content with doing the club's newsletter, and writing books about local history has now embarked on another project—a digital library for the club. This involves scanning any articles to do with caving from magazines or other sources and storing them as an image onto the clubs computer. Each cave or related subject is given its own folder, and any information on that cave is added to that folder as a scanned file. These are readable on the computer and they can be printed out although to save space and time they are only scanned at 150 dpi. However, the source of the information is given on each file so that if required they can be scanned at a higher resolution and then printed out. (When we get our new computer and printer) At present I have completed 524 folders, that's 524 folders mostly on Northern Caves which hold over 1,350 files. That's right—I have sat in front of my computer and scanned over 1,350 magazines and other documents, all in the name of research. So please use it!! (I know!! Someone else said '*Get a life, Jack*') The project is ongoing, and of course can never really be considered to be complete. It may be possible that CD copies of this work could be on sale for members, the money going towards club funds in the near future—watch this space.