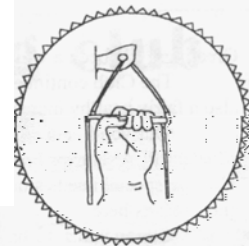


# Burnley Caving Club, News Sheet May/June 2007

EDITOR, Jack Nadin

## BCCs SUMMER CAMP.

Don't forget to book with John Jones if you are thinking of going to the Summer Camp at North Lees Camp Site at Hathersage in Derbyshire N.G.R. 236-832 which takes place on July 13-15 Only persons pre-booked in are allowed on the site—no **'unsupervised'** teenagers but well-behaved pets are allowed. Activities include the Ashford marble mines and Titan Shaft, there are also many excellent walks in the surrounding area and rock climbing. A caving photo exhibition is also on at Castleton.



## CARD INDEX

Garth and myself are currently compiling a card index of caves, caving, mining and related subjects. These will be in laminated pouches on A4 card and filed away alphabetically in a filing cabinet. The index will comprise of the **actual** articles from various sources such as 'Descent' 'Caves and Caving' and other club journals and the Internet. These will be scanned using text recognition software or using photocopies. The articles will include such things as the discovery and exploration of caves, surveys and feature articles. At present we will be concentrating on 'Northern caves' but other information will be added at a later date.

The object of this project is to have a central source of information for all members to use, without having to scour through the extensive library looking for the information. We are sure you will agree that this is a worthwhile project, and hope also you will appreciate the many hours of work put into it. A project such as this is of course ongoing—in fact it can never be finished, being updated all the time. However at present we have compiled information on hundreds of caves, obituaries, cave rescue situations, rigging guides, cave descriptions, accidents, and feature articles. The project has already cost the club a great deal of money—so please use this facility. Whilst not wanting to belittle Garth's mammoth attempt at updating the library catalogue which I started in the 1990s and continuing to bring up to date the entire library, this project is probably the most important thing that has happened in the way of research in Burnley Caving Club for many years.

Jack Nadin

## INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE AREA ABOVE OLD ING CAVE.

John Jones, Shaun Purser and Jack Nadin arrived on the scene on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 to investigate a 'slit' type hole we had seen above Old Ing Cave, and to look at the possibility of a dig at the entrance to Old Ing itself. We were soon joined by 'Garth' and his friend Dee and Nick and Stuart Crossley. Only John Jones could access the 'slit' hole, which soon closed down amongst broken rocks. A number of boulders were removed at Old Ing entrance to reveal a flooded passage with a lowering roof. Meanwhile I was poking about in various shakeholes with a four-foot bar. In one of the shakeholes I almost lost this bar indicating a cavity below. Efforts were then moved over to this—and after about two hours struggling with a couple of obstinate boulders we uncovered a ten-foot shaft. Unfortunately, this was choked at the bottom—we did remove some of the rubble but decided that it was not going anywhere. The hole was then re-covered over with the offending boulders which took so long to get out along with some tin sheets.

Some thoughts and conclusions as to the investigation of the possibilities or potential of underground passages above Old Ing or of evidence of speleological interest and/or subterranean passages in this area.

**NONE SPRING TO MIND!**

Although this project might be construed as being fruitless, I don't think this was the case. It does show, that as a caving club, we are still able to muster enough interest among ourselves, to actually get out there and look for new caves—even though this might involve a bit of hard labour. This is the only way that any new caves can be found—the club's past history shows only too well this to be the case. Many of the clubs past members used to spend weeks at a particular dig only to be disappointed—but they would then move on to another shakehole full of anticipation. With this in mind, I would like to thank all those who took part, in no particular order, John Bones, Shaun Purser, Stuart and Nick Crossley, Garth. Other sites are now being investigated for future digs.

## **OBITUARY, Fritz Volkmann**

With sadness we report the death of Fritz Volkmann on 10 May 2006 aged 83 years. Burnley Caving Club have had a long and happy association with Fritz going back to the early days in the 1950s. Fritz was a prisoner of war (having been conscripted into the German army) and was initially billeted in a P.O.W. camp outside Skipton. He was one of those allotted to work on farms in the surrounding area. He was doing this when the war ended, and elected not to return to his homeland which was then in East Germany. BCC's favourite hostelry at that time was the 'Crown' at H-I-R and that is where we first met Fritz. From time to time he would come back to our hostel at Selside and sometimes stay the night.

Fritz regularly attended our social occasion and came to our celebratory dinner at the Keirby Hotel along with George Perfect. Both he and George became Honorary members of BCC. Fritz had a great sense of humour and his turn of phrase at broken English could be very amusing. Fritz will be sadly missed by the older end of Burnley Caving Club.

Raymond Haffner.

**We may occasionally fail, but at least we tried. Those who consider that they have never failed are those who have never tried.**

**We would all like to congratulate our chairman, John Jones for retaining his seat on the Brunshaw Ward in the May local elections. But here's a frightening thought—Tony Blair resigned the week after!!!**

#### **DISMAL HILL CAVE. BIRKWITH AREA.**

28 April 2007

Keith Taylor, John Jones, Peter Wilson.

A visit to system had been on the cards for sometime since the development of the new entrance. We had been told by other cavers on other occasions when visiting the area that the upstream sump had been bypassed by a blasted hole into the Baker Series of Old Ing Cave. The new entrance is on the opposite side of the track from the original entrance. The entrance is lined with a man sized plastic pipe through the soil and clay to the bedrock, and is a 30' pitch to the main stream passage. I descended first down the awkward rift on a 25' ladder the last bit was climbed, Keith and John abseiled down. We followed the upstream passage and soon reached the canal leading to the sump. The canal right wall was rigged with a selection of traverse lines which enabled us to keep dry. At the end of the canal on the right side where a blind rift once stopped progress, had a hole blasted for a few feet in the left wall into the narrow canal rift from Baker Series, Old Ing Cave at the point where the sump starts. The narrow canal passage was also rigged with a traverse line. We followed the canal to the point where the passage opens out into a deep wide canal; we could now hear the stream cascades in Swift Falls Chamber. A rope climb with foot aids leads to a roof oxbow avoiding the water emerge at the Swift Falls Chamber. The chamber and cascades is quite spacious and has many interesting features and is well worth a visit.

This chamber was discovered by club divers Jim Penny and Ron Crosby in 1972 when we were exploring the Red Moss Pot, Birkwith system. We climbed the cascades with the aid of an insitu traverse rope. The stream passage was followed to the start of the Leeds & Liverpool canal section where we stopped. The canal leads to the short sumps which emerge in Old Ing Cave. The tight dry connection crawl that bypasses the sumps named Micks end was checked out. The passage looks to have been enlarged. I decided not to try the squeeze today, having tried from the other side in the past. Keith insisted on exploring the muddy oxbow which leads back to the canal. On the return Keith and I swam the canal to clean off the mud, John reversed the bypass and climb. We concluded the visit with trip down stream in the fine stream passage. The work in opening up the sump bypass means a sporty caving trip can now be made from Old Ing Cave to Dismal Hill Cave. In a wet suit the visit would be more enjoyable as the water is very cold. The cave has too many rope aids for my liking but is a great help for poor swimmers.

Peter Wilson.

#### **FARRER HALL GAPING GILL (VIA BAR POT)**

At last "a cracking the flags" hot summer's day, ideal for a trip to the far reaches of Gaping Gill and the Whitsun Series. In Bernie's, Jack Pickup said he couldn't rescue us from Farrer Hall as he'd never been there! More credit to our leader Simon Beck who'd soloed it! Duncan, Simon and I steamed up through the Ingleborough Estate, lingering for a drink at the show cave. We probably had the entire GO system to ourselves that day—not a rope nor a ladder on Bar Pot entrance. I rigged Bar and we left all SRT kits except cows tails at the bottom of the big pitch. After admiring main shaft's cascade, we followed Old East Passage noting the way to hidden Millennium Chamber, traversed the ropes and chain in Mud Hall and on to Boulder Chamber. Duncan led the traverse over the hole in the floor using the "Skittle Stal" handholds and on to Far East Passage then downstream in Pool Passage to a mud duck "the Font". (NB. This bears no resemblance to the 2m pristine stalagmite boss called the Font (or Wedding Cake with bride and groom on top) in Pooles Cavern, Buxton.). Duncan was not wearing his wet suit so went back out visiting the fine display of straws in Millennium Chamber en route.

Simon and I survived the baptism to enter the beautiful long straws Gallery. We continued. Crawling along Anagram Passage with helictites and winged stalactites finally reaching Farrer Hall - many stalagmite bosses and abandoned digs. (Simon was scrapping his Skoda next day-co-incidentally the scrap yard in Glossop is called Farrar's yard), The usual de-rigging trauma on the way out-tackle sack strap getting caught at the bottom of the 100 in Bar needed a concerted effort to free it-final maillon ping out and back down the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch-curses! Duncan had kindly waited on the surface and was joined by Nick and Stuart Crossley in his bushwhacker's hat. A rock fall in Sell Gill had cut through Nick's tackle sack strap. It was still sunny as the five of us set off back down Trow Gill, now festooned with ropes and climbers. Thank-you Simon for showing me the Northern Line in Far Waters and now Farrer Hall.

FAY HARTLEY

#### **HOW TO STOP SMOKING**

Can I thank all friends of the club for their get well soon messages I got while in hospital recently with a minor heart attack? The doctors say that it was only a small heart attack (If there is such a thing) and that I should carry on taking the pills—and cut out the fags  
Interesting email I got of a 'friend' while confined which went something like this—"Jack, heard you were in hospital with a heart attack, can't get up, but tell Rita to let me know when the funeral is!"

JACK NADIN

**We are all told to look after our elderly neighbours, which is quite right. The dear old lady a few doors up from us is really well looked after judging from all the milk bottles on her doorstep.**