

YORKSHIRE UNDERGROUND RESEARCH TEAM.

Newsletter - June, 1966.

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WHERE NEXT?

After the dig opposite the Cafe at Stump Cross is finished it seems unlikely that we will be able to get permission to do any more surface digging in the Greenhow area. Although there are a large number of possible places underground, most of these would involve a large amount of work with no certainty of a breakthrough. Much effort could thus be expended to no avail.

The Greenhow area has been very closely looked at over the last 17 years or so and I suggest that we turn some of our attention to other areas where there is probably more chance of finding new caves. Much could be accomplished by a small group going to other areas on most weekends, and if we had a few more members those who wished to continue work on Greenhow would still be able to do so.

I should be interested to hear any comments or alternative suggestions that anyone may care to make.

MEETS FOR JULY AND AUGUST.

There is not sufficient tackle available to descend Rowten Pot on the 23rd. July and permission has therefore been obtained for Christmas Pot instead. Meet in Clapham at 10 a.m.

The meet at Swinsto on August 20th. has been cancelled, as it is understood that the farmer is charging potholers 10 shillings each to descend. Details of the alternative, which will probably be Ireby Cavern, will be given in the next Newsletter.

VALENTINE HOLE.

On the weekend of the 9th/10th July an attempt will be made to dig through the mud choke at the North end of the long level in Valentine. This level should connect with the cave in the North Passage, and if it continues, could join Stump Cross at the Miners' Chamber in Heaven. All assistance would be helpful, and anyone who doesn't fancy digging could still be usefully employed on the surface making hot meals for the lads!

REPORTS FOR JUNE, 1966.

Friday 3rd.

A trip was made up Blayshaw Gill this evening to try and find the entrances to the pots. Both were quickly located, No. 2 being in the bed of the beck against a limestone scar on the north side, about 250ft. below the bridge. No. 1 is on a flat, grassy area on the opposite side of the beck and slightly lower down.

Team:- A.G. Cansell; J. Cansell; G.M. Davies.

Saturday 4th.

A jumble sale in Pateley produced various items of caving gear, most of which was better than our best clothes. In the very late evening four keen men sped off to Blayshaw Pot. It was so late in fact that by the time we had arrived at Lolly Scar it was tomorrow.

Sunday 5th.

Leaving the Land Rover at Lolly, the expeditionary force fumbled their way through the night to Blayshaw Pot No. 2. The entrance is a small hole in the bed of the beck, blocked by a large boulder, which resisted all efforts to move it. However, it finally succumbed just before we did, and 30 feet of ladder was lowered down. Chesh Davies, who had recently read the description of the pot in Pennine Underground, descended and was amazed to find that the ladder was 15ft. short. Several more descents of the ladder later we realised that we needed more tackle, and with much discontented muttering went back to Pateley for some.

On arriving back, 60ft. was lowered down and everyone descended. The pitch is a fine fluted shaft 44ft. deep, down which the ladder hangs free for most of its length. A small stream entered at the bottom and instantly disappeared, and at the opposite corner the way on was found to be blocked by a large fall of earth and boulders. This is not really diggable, but a few feet away is a low bedding with a strong draught emerging, and it might be possible to dig into this. There was evidence of flooding to a depth of at least 12ft., which was rather encouraging as the beck was rising at the time. Four rather tired and despondent figures left the gill and arrived home at 4 a.m.

In the afternoon Rhodes continued work at the top of Shockle, and it was noted that Keith slept until 7.20 p.m., just getting up in time for a meal before going home!

Team:- A.G. Cansell; J. Cansell; G.M. Davies; K. McBride.

Tuesday 7th.

Bewerley Mines dug into the level to the north east of Merryfield Hall today, so an inspection was made in the evening. The entrance is a 12ft. slide into the level, which is through shale. It was followed for an estimated 170 yds. the roof at the end dipping and the water becoming deeper until a run presumed to be at the vein was reached. The only relic apart from the cavers was a piece of angle iron rail, of which we already have two sections.

Team:- A.G. Cansell; J. Cansell; G.M. Davies.

Saturday 11th.

The Upstream Passage in Mongo Gill 1964 Series was investigated and Sumps 3 and 4 were dry so we got almost to the end, being stopped by the long pool, which was too wet and close to the roof for comfort. Various other places were looked at but nothing of note was seen, apart from a pure white column in a rift at the top of Roof Cavern. Meanwhile at the top of Shockle Shaft, work was continuing on concreting a shattered side.

Team:- Mongo Gill - J. Cansell; G.M. Davies.
Shockle Shaft - K. McBride; W.J.N. Rhodes; J. Ross.

Sunday 12th.

A day of unashamed festering.

Saturday 18th.

Whilst work continued at Shockle, a number of rebellious individuals departed for the delights of the Grassington Moor swimming baths, which turned out to be two filthy mine dams. Even Chesh Davies attempted what he called swimming, although at times it was a remarkable imitation of drowning. This energetic pursuit was later forsaken for a large raft on a nearby dam, and later still Roger Davies gave a display of death-defying dives before we changed. It was

