

**JOURNAL
Of The**



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GOES JOURNAL 2004

CONTENTS

1. GOES News in Brief
2. Ty Gwyn News
3. AGM News
Insurance and Subscriptions
4. "Return of the Bonk!"
5. Extravaganza Weekend
6. Limestones of Aberconwy
8. Treweekes Shaft Access Ladder
9. GOES Presentations Update
NAMHO Conference 2004
10. "The Tragic Children"
11. GOES Caption Competition
12. "The Penmorfa Chronicles"
(Back Cover : The Caving Code &
Committee Members 2004)

Also enclosed with this edition
List of GOES Summer Walks 2004

EDITORS NOTES

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2004 Journal of the Great Orme Exploration Society!

Our grateful thanks to those who have kindly submitted articles for this journal. Obviously the journal relies on your contributions to make it interesting.

If you have been on a GOES trip, underground, overground, on the Orme or off it, please let us know. Ultimately the journal will be what **you** make it!

Articles can be sent to me by E-mail (in MS Word or MS Publisher formats please), by post (see details on back page), given to Tony or Ali Davies on GOES nights or handed in to me at the Kings Head where I am occasionally known to be found!

Phil Barratt - Editor
editor@goes.org.uk

The **deadline** for copy for the Autumn/Winter Journal will be **15th October 2004**.

GOES NEWS IN BRIEF

NEW GOES CHAIRMAN & VICE CHAIR

At the recent AGM of the society John Carpenter stood down as chairman after two years. John said that he had never intended to be a long serving Chairman and felt that the Society would benefit from a change at the top. Mark Beardsall also decided to stand down as Vice Chair.

Our new Chairman is Tony Davies and our new Vice Chairman is Steve Lea. We offer best wishes to Tony & Steve as they take up their new offices and offer our heartfelt thanks to John and Mark for their contribution at committee level over the past years.

DON SMITH RECEIVES AWARD

Don, a keen GOES member, is very well known for his book on the Great Orme Mines. He was recently made a serving brother of The Order of St John for his medical services for the Royal naval Reserve. Don was invested into the Order by Lord Slim on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen at a ceremony in London.



Born in Llandudno and raised in Craig Y Don, where his mother still lives, Don is currently a Consultant Physician at the Countess of Chester Hospital.

A keen sailor, Don joined the RN Reserve in 1976 and now holds the rank of Surgeon Commander. As well as being national medical recruitment liaison officer for the reserve, Don is also principal medical officer for HMS Eaglett in Liverpool.

Our warmest congratulations Don, from all in GOES, on an honour which we know is very well deserved.

TY GWYN NEWS

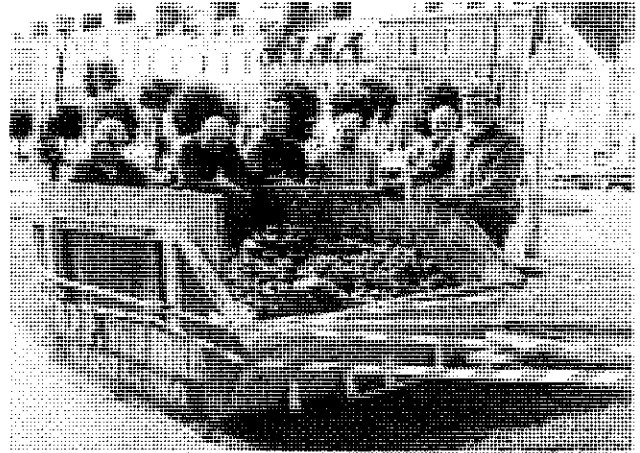
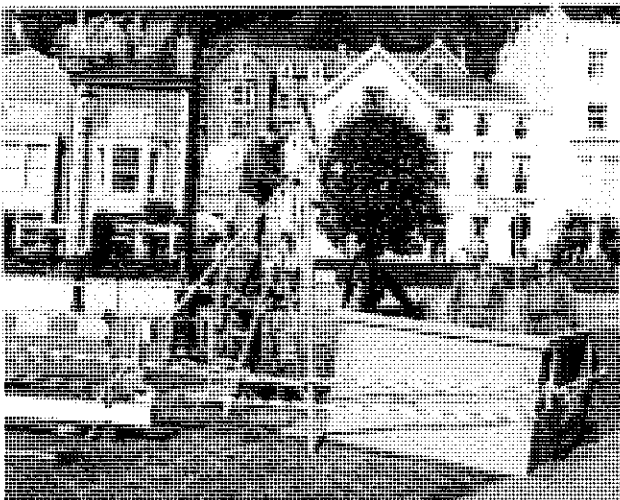
At the end of the summer last year, while on a trip into the Ty Gwyn, Steve Lea and Tony Davies could hear water flowing beneath the main adit in the area around the entrance ladder and where the adit heads off underneath the electricity substation.

Being of curious natures they decided to have a little dig to try and find this subterranean stream. A couple of hours later no new watercourse had been discovered, but what they had unearthed was an area of paving slabs made of dressed stone. Yet another discovery in the Ty Gwyn! This caused much excitement and the need to adjourn to the Kings Head to discuss it!

Unfortunately all this digging produced a large quantity of spoil. It stayed there by the entrance ladder for several months looking unsightly and making it difficult to step of the bottom of the ladder.

David Broomhead decided that it was time to organise a big clean up. A midi skip was ordered, and on Saturday 26th march a group of enthusiastic GOES members arrived armed with spades, buckets and even old door for standing on (to protect the grass). Within a couple of hours they had managed to put a significant amount of mud into the skip, using a pulley system to assist hauling the buckets the 15ft up the shaft.

On Sunday morning the spring clean resumed. This time an A frame was erected over the entrance hole, and with the aid of the winch on Tony and Ali's Landrover, some large boulders were soon brought to the surface. Eventually after many buckets had been filled and emptied the Ty Gwyn was looking tidy again.



As a result of this effort it is now known that the original floor level in the entrance is a good couple of feet lower than its present level, and is a carefully constructed paved route, most likely having been laid to support the tramping rails. We know that it continues into the mine, but at the moment we don't know just how far. One day I'm sure that GOES will find out!

**Ali Davies,
Llandudno April 2004**

STOP PRESS: Wed 19th May The above pavement was found to extend to 3m from the end of the ginged section. **Tony Davies, Steve Lea, Dave Broomhead!**

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN THE TY GWYN

As regular Ty Gwyn-ittes will know, there is still a lot of work to be undertaken in the Ty Gwyn, not least in exploring a little deeper into various areas. Any dig however small leaves behind the spoil and in addition to clearing spoil and new digs, there are any number of small projects still to be launched in the mine. With this in mind, a small group of members have decided to make some regular working parties into the Ty Gwyn on Wednesday Evenings in these summer months. If you would like to join them please ring Tony Davies (01492 864165).

ARTEFACTS

On a recent trip Tony Davies and Phil Barratt unearthed (quite literally!) some more artefacts in the "fireplace" section of the mine. Whilst these are for the most part small Victorian artefacts, they were added to the collection in situ from this Victorian waste. It has been decided that it would be good to record these artefacts (together with those at the first section of the coffin level) and so they will carefully be removed, cleaned, photographed and catalogued. They will then be carefully returned and left in situ. More details on this project from Phil Barratt (07775 646733).

NEWS FROM THE AGM

Members gathered at Queen Elizabeth Court in Craig Y Don on Saturday 17th April 2004 for the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

As you will have read earlier John Carpenter handed on the Chairmanship of the Society to Tony Davies and Steve Lea took over from Mark Beardsall as Vice-Chairman. All the other committee members were elected and you can find their details at the back of the journal. It was decided that the role of *safety advisor* be made redundant.

In his chairman's address, John paid tribute to the hard work put in by committee members over the year with a special mention given to Gareth Davies our Secretary, whose workload had been compounded by the new insurance regulations.

One area of the Society's work which had taken on a new lease of life, was promotional work within the local community. This had in part been a result of some excellent public relations work at the hands of Dave Broomhead our PRO and also the excellent presentation which the new computer/projector now afforded us.

Dennis Abbott presented the accounts which were accepted. He explained that this year, our year end will change to 31st December (rather than 30th April). It is hoped that this will make the presentation of accounts more relevant.

For this current year we have 50 fully paid-up members and one life member.

Insurance & Subscriptions

The last year has certainly been affected by the problems of insurance for members of the society who go underground. Our lease for the mines requires GOES to have adequate insurance cover.

In November 2003 our insurance cover was withdrawn overnight. This meant an immediate halt to all our underground activities on the Great Orme covered by our lease with Mostyn Estates. The embargo on our insurance lasted from November 03 to March 04 when the BCA finally restored our work with a new insurance

policy (backdating it to Jan 04).

The cost of this new underground insurance for this year is £18 per person. For those who do not go underground the cost of insurance for GOES activities, walks etc is £7.00 per person.

It was agreed unanimously at the AGM that we now need to have a two tier membership for GOES as it is clearly unfair to expect those of you who never go underground to fund those who do.

To this end the following was agreed:

1. Membership Subs for underground members will be £25 per year (of which £18 will be insurance).

2. Membership Subs for Non-underground members will stay at £15 per year (of which £7.00 will be insurance).

3. Members who have paid their subs will have their insurance processed through GOES and will receive their own individual insurance certificate/card from the BCA. This insurance card can then be used by members when visiting other clubs, sites etc.

4. Members who do not renew their subscription on time as advised by the Secretary **will not be allowed on any underground trip with GOES** as they will not have the required insurance cover. Please be punctual!

One sad result of these changes is that we will no longer be able to take visitors into the Ty Gwyn for a 'taster' trip unless they come from a club which also has the BCA insurance. We hope that all members will understand the need to increase the membership subs for our Society. We tentatively watch and wait to see if there will be any further increases next year.

As was mentioned by several people at the AGM, we hope that the pain of parting with £25 a year will be offset by the pleasure we get from being members of GOES!

(Ed)

The Return of The Bonk.

It was a blustery Saturday evening in April 2004. Happily tucking into a pint of Conwy Celebration ale in the warmth and security of the Victoria Club in Craig Y Don after potting a few snooker balls for the first time in years. The calm was suddenly interrupted by Rolf Harris playing the theme to The Italian Job on his Stylaphone and I realised my mobile phone was ringing. It was Phil The Vicar. 'Do you want to go down the mines tomorrow?' he asked. 'Do I need to go down a rope?' I asked. 'No' he said. 'Then yes' I said.

Earlier that afternoon we had been together with the rest of the society for the AGM at QE Court and I had listened to tales of what was to come at Tre-weeks with the pending installation of a very long ladder. I'll certainly give that a go when it's ready. As to abseiling I am sure Tony and Ali will eventually coax me into it but at 'well over 15 stone' I don't fancy my chances much of winching myself out once I'm in. But that is for another day.

So the next afternoon, clothed in a virgin blue boiler suit, festooned with a well bonked helmet and lamp and parading green wellies with decorative mud slicks from my previous three wanderings in Ty Gwyn, I sauntered round to Phil's cottage. Phil was ready, clothed in a not so virgin blue boiler suit and taking his last roll up. Despite the fine weather we chickened out of walking and drove up the Orme to the summit car park, destination: the small mine adit below Fynnon Gogarth!

We meandered down the slope past the quarry and at last came to what was announced as 'The Entrance' but had more the appearance of a pile of painful looking stones with a thin aperture through the rock into goodness knows what.

I had been warned, and was mentally prepared for, a good soaking. Once we had crawled though the aperture (I didn't even need to breathe in!) with Phil in the lead he announced that just ahead there was a small wall. The good news was that on the other side of this wall we would be able to stand up and walk along the adit. The bad news was that for a number of yards we would be up to our stomachs in icy cold water.

Phil launched himself over the wall and I waited for the splash. Instead all I heard was 'Goodness me there is hardly any water here' or words to that effect! I peered over the wall and indeed there was hardly any water but there was the distinct sound

of cascades of it up ahead. Hardly able to contain my disappointment that I was to remain dry I too launched myself over the wall and stood up in a similar sized adit to Ty Gwyn but with two (well probably more but two that struck me) differences. The first was that there were no tracks, the second the adit weaved about as opposed to being dead straight.

Phil strode on and I eagerly followed ducking under the waterfall that was pouring through the roof about 30 yards in. Again my expectation had been set to expect a relatively short trip compared to Ty Gwyn but the road seemed to go forever on. There were lots more interesting niches, lumps and varying heights but no mysterious alternative routes branching off from time to time, just a few gentle curves and sudden twists. As we scuttled through the shallow waters eventually the air seemed to get thinner and the atmosphere was tinged with the smell of sulphur (or was that the madras from 24 hours earlier?)

Presently the end was upon us and I looked down into a crystal clear, water filled shaft. 'Can you see the bucket?' asked Phil. 'Yes' I lied. 'What colour is it?' asked Phil. 'Er not sure' I blubbed pathetically. 'Lean out properly you wimp and have a proper look' he gently suggested 'OK its white' I said, like my knuckles as I clung desperately to the rock to my side. 'Good' said Phil and I quickly stood up in grateful safety..

Like a mischievous schoolboy I then made various noises to play with the fantatstic baritone echo that you get up there, but more to cover up the repeating madras. Once tired of that we then retraced our steps and the fun really started. Everything on the way back seemed to be lower down than on the way in and Phil and I were bonked half to death and repeatedly gave thanks to the inventor of the bonk absorbers that we were wearing. I also need to do something about my lamp as the slightest nudge makes it jump out of its seat and flail about my head (Now where is my lump hammer?)

At one point we noticed a very precarious looking rotting plank above our heads which appeared to be carrying rock, but just how much rock we did not hang around to discover.

We eventually arrived back at the wall and noticed an aperture at its base through which all the water was pouring away. So was this new, or had previous visits simply been timed for when the

rate of inflow vastly outplayed the rate of outflow?

We chuckled and grimaced at and with each other respectively as we squirmed and squeezed our way out of the entrance with total gracelessness and then lay prostrate on the grass gazing out to Pen and Ynys Mon in glorious sunshine.

'Good 'ere 'innit?' sighed Phil as the roll up formed in front of our eyes. 'Yes' I said, or words to that effect !

Although not perhaps quite the same blow to the senses that my first venture down Ty Gwyn had been, it had nevertheless been a great additional experience - thanks Phil for the suggestion, your guidance and your company.

Running out of excuses now so I guess next stop Romans !

Duncan Nield - April 2004

*(On a previous visit in late November, Tony Davies and I had found the adit very full with water. At six feet goodness knows what, Tony escaped with wading through 'just below the groin' level water. Sadly your short fat editor had not been so lucky! A little later in the early New Year, the water had risen further and was actually pouring out through the entrance. Fascinating that by early spring the water inside was down to ankle height!)
Ed.*

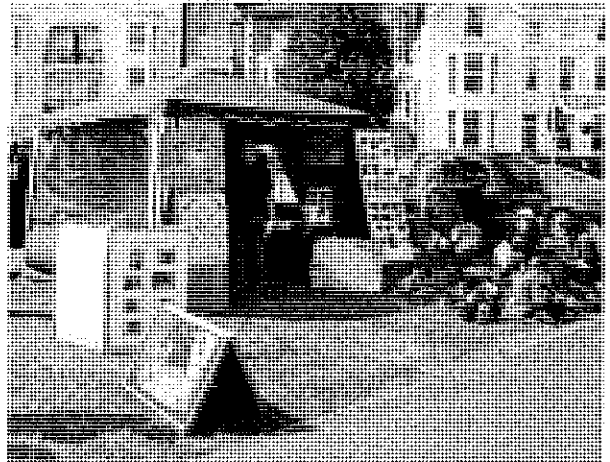
EXTRAVAGANZA WEEKEND 2004

Our Public Relations Officer Dave Broomhead, had raised the idea, earlier in the year, of having a GOES exhibition at this years Extravaganza Weekend (May 1st - 3rd).

As GOES members have found out, Dave is not someone who does things half-heartedly, and this project was to be no exception. No sooner had he mentioned it at a committee meeting and the whole thing was organised!

Permission had been sought from the Harbour Master at Conwy via the Sea-Board Inspectorate, our ten pounds admin fee paid and we had full permission to display an exhibition by the entrance to the Ty Gwyn. By the time the matter was raised at the AGM there was no going back. Negotiations were underway for putting the display together, volunteers were coerced into sign-

ing up for slots over the three days, a gazebo was purchased, Gareth's generator was "commandeered" and we were off.

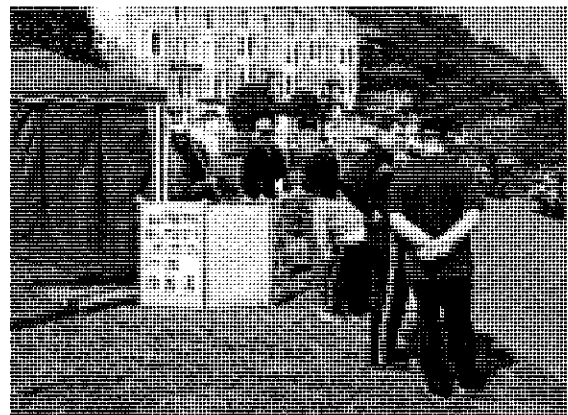


Picture: Members relax in between visitors

Inside and outside the tent were a stunning selection of photo's and plans and a bonus was the film footage shown on the GOES new equipment, all housed in very clever wooden frame which Dave had built.

The entrance to the shaft was open (although boarded round for safety) and the added interest of various GOES members coming in and out of the mine all served to add to the curiosity.

After a slow start we were able to talk to many people who wandered by and who showed a lot of interest. The quality of the display meant that whilst we couldn't take people into the mine they got a real feel for what it was like, how far it went, its history and most importantly what GOES is all about. Thanks Dave for letting us catch some of your enthusiasm and for the hard work that everyone put into it!



Picture: GOES members talking to the public

LIMESTONES OF THE ABERCONWY AREA

Introduction

The purpose of this article is to introduce members with little or no knowledge of geology to the relationship between the various limestone outcrops that exist in the the Aberconwy area between Llandudno and Llandullas.

Travelling around the Aberconwy area one cannot help noticing the isolated, steep-sided, elevated plateaus situated between the more low lying urbanized areas. Most notable of these being The Great Orme, further east we have a chain of plateaus consisting of the Little Orme, Mynydd Pant, Nant-y-Gamar, Bryn Maelgwyn, Marl Woods, the Bryn Pydew ridge as far as Llangwstenin and then Bryn Euryn. To the east of Colwyn Bay the limestones appear again on either side of the River Dulas, i.e. Llanddulas quarry on Craig y Forwyn and around Llysfaen constituting the western flank and Cefn yr Ogof /Rhyd y Foel the eastern flank. The limestones of the eastern flank can be traced south eastwards through Gopof Woods and Bryngwenallt etc, situated above Abergelley and then on to Denbigh. A similar

situation exists in a ridge running south east of Prestatyn through Coed yr Esgob and Craig Fawr, this, however, is beyond the scope of this article, see Fig. 1. The brick-work pattern represents the limestone outcrop. The rocks underlying the areas between these limestone outcrops were deposited during the much older Ordovician and Silurian periods. The relationship between these two periods and the overlying Carboniferous limestone will be the subject of a further article.

Reference to Fig. 2 (Over leaf) shows four vertical columns labelled Great Orme, Gloddaeth/Little Orme, Llanddulas and Prestatyn. These columns represent the apparent actual thickness's of the individual beds of limestone in each area, the lines seen joining the beds of limestone across each column are time horizons and do not represent geographic elevation. The information leading to the establishment of these columns has been acquired over a long period of time from field exposures, quarries, mines and borehole records.

On the far left-hand side of fig. 2 you will see that the succession is divided into two divisions i.e. The Asbian and the Brigantian,

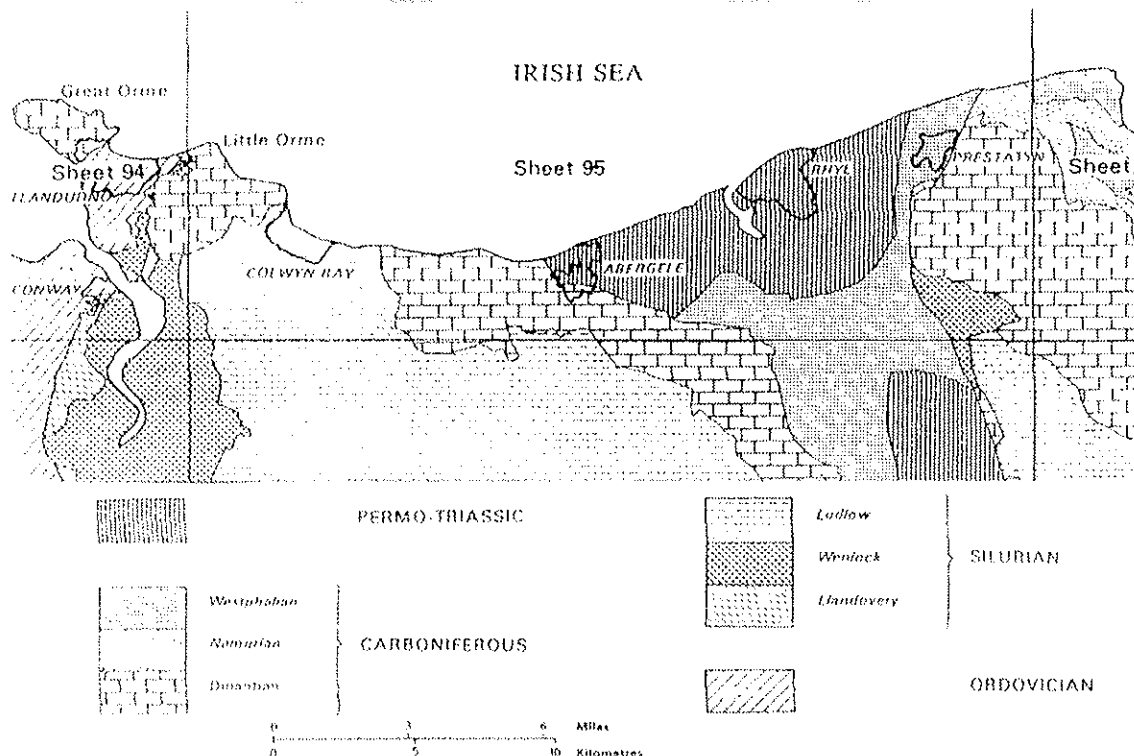


Figure 1

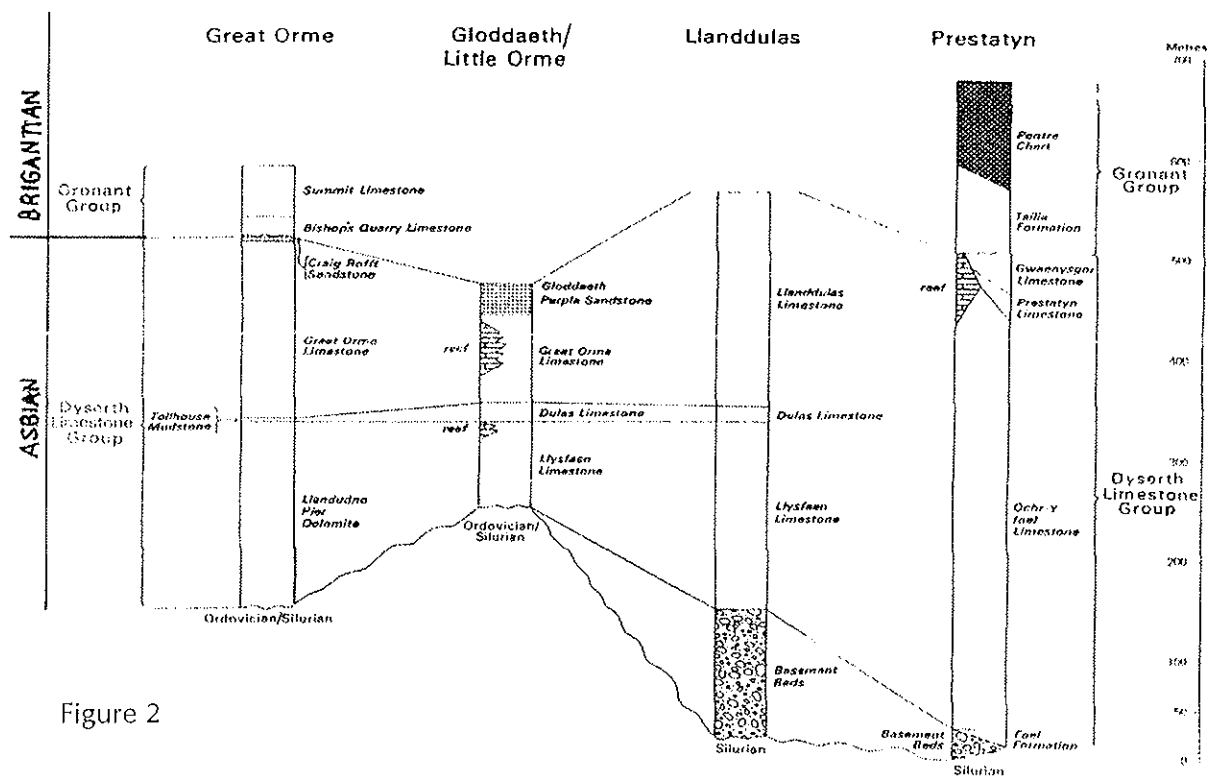


Figure 2

and constitute a part of the Lower Carboniferous Period. These are what we call chronostratigraphic divisions which are based on fossil assemblages and are universal. Whereas, the divisions in the next column, the Dyserth Limestone Group overlain by the Granant Group, are more localised and are based on certain lithological characteristics that can be traced between outcrops, and, as such are lithostratigraphic rather than chronostratigraphic divisions. In this case the two divisions coincide although this is not a necessary condition.

These lithostratigraphic divisions are further sub-divided into a number of even more localised units otherwise known as 'formations', i.e. the Llandudno Pier Dolomite, the Tollhouse mudstone, the Great Orme Limestone, Bishop's Quarry Limestone and the Summit Limestone. These formations, albeit with different names, can be traced across the area at least as far as Llanddulas. In the Prestatyn area the absence of the thin marker formation known either as the Tollhouse Mudstone or the Dulas

Limestone renders the tri-partite divisions of the other areas not possible and, as such, the Dyserth Limestone Group is comprised almost entirely of the Ochr-y-foel Limestone

formation, apart from certain rather thin members at the top and bottom of the group, namely the Foel Formation at the bottom and the Prestatyn limestone and the Gwaenysgor at the top. It will be noticed from Fig 2 (above) that the thin Tollhouse Mudstone and Dulas Limestone formations are depicted as being horizontal, again this does not reflect geographical elevation, it is simply chosen as a convenient datum horizon from which to compare the rest of the succession.

The Basement beds occurring at the bottom of the Llanddulas and Prestatyn sections consist of conglomerates (well-rounded pebbly sediments), which were a result of erosion of older rocks following a lengthy period during which sedimentary deposits are absent. The provenance of these conglomerates still remains unclear. Reference to Fig 2 shows two sandstones, namely The Craig Rofft and The Gloddaeth Purple sandstones, situated at the top of the Dyserth Limestone Group. Although they appear to be stratigraphically equivalent, their provenance's may be distinct. There are also isolated reef accumulations present in the area, unfortunately however, the ones that I have visited so far have been too difficult to access being beneath impenetrable woods with thick undergrowth and barbed wire.

As a final footnote for the layman in the field, it is well nigh impossible, without access to a detailed geological map, to identify rocks of the various limestone formations mentioned above simply from hand specimens unless you know for certain that you are stratigraphically above or below thin marker horizons such as the Tollhouse Mudstone or the Craig Rofft Sandstone for instance.

Geoff Walters March 2004

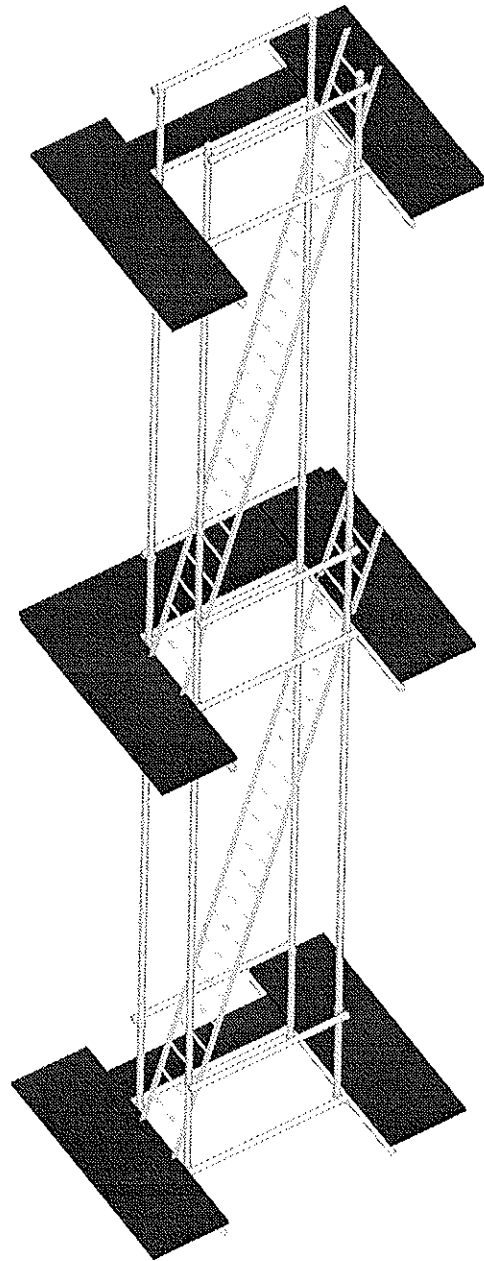
References

Warren, P.T., Price, D., Nutt, M.J.C., and Smith, E.G. (1984) *Geology of the country around Rhyl and Denbigh. Memoirs of the British Geological Survey. Explanation of Sheets 95 and 107 and parts of Sheets 94 and 106, 217pp.*

**TREWEEK'S SHAFT -
NEW ACCESS LADDER**

The post Christmas bloot had only recently been reunited with the waistband, when the talk of the Round Table in the King's Head, turned to matters of exploration. The need to regularly access the lower levels of Treweek's Shaft to expand our exploration works, would mean that every trip involved an SRT of 235 feet, taking an average of 20 minutes (10 minutes for fit ones). This would mean an average trip of 6 -8 members would require at least two hours to clear the system after completing a morning's work. The suggestion of a system of fixed ladders was floated, which would speed that process and require less effort on behalf of a tired band of workers. This was accepted generally as the direction to go and plans were quickly put into place as to the construction of such a ladder way.

The proposal is to scaffold the shaft with landing stages at 16 feet centres, to enable people to walk around to the next ladder placed in the centre of the scaffolding. The need for a clear hauling pitch for use in emergencies and to lower general equipment would be catered for on the fourth side which would be located away from the connecting adits. Each landing shall be fully floored with handrails and meshed with toe boards to prevent anything falling down the system. The ladders against the open haul route would be protected with mesh to protect people on the ladders and to



give a greater feeling of security. Each of the 5 levels off the shaft would be made accessible, with the more major exits to the Wagon Gate Entrance in the Roman's System and the lowest Treweek's Adit formed with steel beam platforms. The top level platform will be fully board with a short vertical ladder giving access to the existing bell chamber entrance.

Work on the collecting of materials started in February, which has so far included most of the clamps necessary, with numerous short lengths of steel scaffolding for bracing. The ladders to be used shall be galvanised steel fabricated in 20 feet lengths, these are to be obtained from a scaffolding supplier in Bala.

There has been two site visits now to lower the materials down into the system prior to commencement of the construction. The first enabled a large selection of scaffolding to be placed in the Wagon Gate, which will be used as one of fabrication workshops. The second visit again included more scaffolding and clamps, but also included several steel beams. This was proposed to be lowered to the bottom of the shaft to provide materials for the lower section of the construction. This was made possible with the use of an electric winch on Tony Davies Landrover, whilst some difficulties were found initially these were overcome allowing the safe lowering of all the materials to the bottom.

One of the problems encountered was the loose telephone cable, which became disconnected; this shall be relaid on another visit, as communications is essential during work in the shaft.

Another problem in the shaft is the water flow from some of the adits, inspection of these by some of the members has indicated that the flow can be reduced and / or redirected. A longer term solution may have to be found, which could involve piping the water away to another area or to the shaft bottom.

The next stage is to form the lower structural platform and start scaffolding the shaft. Whilst no timetable has been set, it is generally considered that work should be completed by the end of the summer. Any observations, help or materials will always be welcome.

Stephen J Lea
Glan Conwy May 2004

GOES COMPUTER/PROJECTOR

During the past year, since GOES received a grant totalling £5000 from Awards For All Wales, we have given talks to the following organisations.

Holy Trinity Girl Guides
Aberconwy Historical Society
Geoscience Wales
Llanfairfechan Historical Society
The Carers Association
Conwy Valley Rotary
Llandudno Rotary
Llandudno 41 Club
Colwyn Bay Amateur Radio Society
Cwrt St Tudno Residents
The Association of Co-Operators

The portable computer purchased with the grant money has been fully utilised for the talk programme as well as being loaded with a long list of photographs from the available archive. (See the web site at www.goes.org.uk). If other members have photographic records, then please loan them to the society for scanning and storage. All originals will be returned and in doing this you will help preserve the history of the mines of the Great Orme.

Tony Davies
Llandudno - April 2004

NAMHO CONFERENCE 2004

This year's conference takes place 24th-26th July in the Old Mining village of Coniston. The theme of the conference is **The Extractive Industries of Cumbria**. Coniston is a village with a strong industrial heritage. There was copper mined in Coniston as early as the 1590's and later slate was taken from the hills around.

The conference will start with a keynote lecture by Peter Cloughton and will be preceded by a buffet supper to celebrate NAMHO's 25th anniversary year.

There will be a full lecture programme to be held in John Ruskin School as well as a full programme of field and underground trips, which will suit all levels of fitness and ability. In addition there will also be a field trip by coach on Monday 26th July to Threlkeld Mining Museum, Haig Pit and Florence Mine.

Full details and a booking form are available from Gareth Davies.

(Ed)

The Tragic Children.

On the afternoon of the sixth of March 1903 a thirty year old woman and three small children, two girls and a boy, walked through the Town toll gate on the Marine Drive. The woman spoke to David Owen the toll keeper and said that they did not intend to go far. Some two hours later David Owen saw the boy walking back on his own. He asked him where his mother was and the lad replied, "She's gone".

The seven year old then went on to say he intended returning to Liverpool and that he knew his way to Lime Street Station. He was dishevelled, his clothes covered in soil and he looked confused and distressed. Owen was unable to glean any more information from him.

He assumed that he had somehow become separated from the others and called the police and placed the boy in their care. His name was Edgar Jackson and he said that the family had travelled from Liverpool that morning.

It was discovered that the woman's name was Ellen Roberts, a widow who had re-married some four months previously. Her husband, Richard Robert Roberts, was a tram inspector in Liverpool. Meanwhile the police searched the Orme. On a cliff top in the vicinity of the lighthouse they discovered a pile of neatly folded clothes. On the nearby rocks they found signs consistent with something or somebody falling over the cliff edge. There was no sign of the woman and the two children either on or below the cliffs or in the sea. The following morning Richard Roberts travelled to Llandudno from Liverpool and confirmed that the clothes were those of his wife. He managed to question Edgar about the event. The boy told him that he had fallen over the cliff but had managed to scramble back to the top.

The area was thoroughly searched by Sergeant Pugh, David Owen, and John Evans. Owen was lowered over the cliff. About fifty feet down he saw an opening in the rock and tried to enter it. The hole was too narrow and he was unable to get in. He could see no signs of the family. He was however dissatisfied and arranged for a larger party to conduct a more extensive search on the Saturday morning. In this party was a man described as, 'Professor Short'. He succeeded in pushing his way into the narrow entrance and discovered the corpse of a little girl. He also noticed marks on the surrounding rocks which suggested that someone had fallen into the sea. At the

entrance of the hole the surrounding soil was similar to that found on Edgar's clothes.

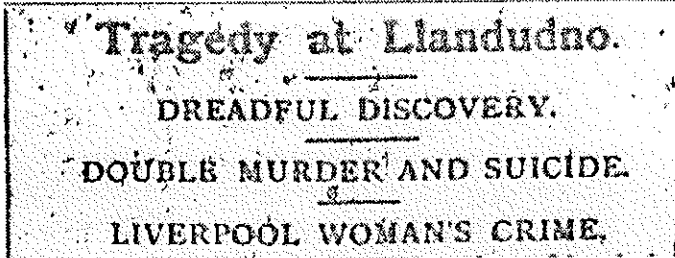
On the following Tuesday, the 13th March, the Caernarfonshire Coroner, Mr J L Bodvel Roberts conducted an inquest on five year old Elise Jackson at Llandudno. Sergeant Pugh outlined the circumstances leading to the discovery of the body. Mr Askew the lighthouse keeper and his son gave evidence of finding clothing on a seat near the spot. The toll keeper, David Owen and Professor Short, the two who had been lowered over the cliff, described the area in which the body was found. According to Richard Roberts, the children's stepfather, Edgar claimed that his sister had fallen over the cliff whilst walking near the edge. In his summing up the Coroner declared that there was no direct evidence to suggest that the mother had thrown her children over the cliff, but that it was reasonable to assume that she had done so. After a brief respite the jury came to the conclusion that the mother had thrown the child over and that her death had resulted from shock and exposure.

In the afternoon following the inquest a corpse was observed on the rocks below the lighthouse but as the tide was flooding it was impossible to attempt to recover it at that time. The following morning Constable Williams and four boatmen rowed to the foot of the cliffs and found the remains of a little girl lodged between two rocks.

Another inquest was conducted the following Friday. It opened with a statement that an error had occurred in the inquest on the previous Tuesday. It was explained that the body of Lillian Jackson two years and seven months old was the body found in the hole in the rock, and not her sister, Elise as had been originally assumed. Elise's body was the one recovered from the sea the previous day. Constable Williams gave evidence of finding the body in a cleft in the rock and expressed the opinion that it would have been impossible for it to have fallen there. He believed that the child had fallen into the sea and that the sea currents had deposited the body in that position. A similar verdict was arrived at but the cause of death was said to be that the little girl had been thrown over the cliff.

The two children were buried at Llanrhos cemetery. Despite atrocious weather a strong contingent of Llandudno residents followed the hearse to the cemetery. A local fund had been set up for

the funeral costs. The grave plot had been donated by the Reverend Francis Jones, the vicar of Llanrhos. The people of Llandudno were deeply affected by the tragedy. A proposal was made to erect a memorial near the spot where the tragedy took place, although this never materialised.



Picture: Llandudno Advertiser 10th March 1903

In Llanrhos cemetery a stone in the form of a Celtic Cross marks the grave of the two sisters. The tragic cause of their deaths is not referred to. At the foot of the stone is inscribed, "Thy will be done".

On the 1st. April 1903 the body of Mrs Ellen Roberts was washed up at Ulverston, Morecambe Bay.

Twm Parry
Llandudno May 2004

GOES CAPTION COMPETITION!

People lurking about with cameras can be a dangerous thing, as I found out recently when the Church Times photographer managed to catch your editor *resting his eyes*, so to speak after a rather heavy lunch at the General Synod in Westminster!

The large photo shown below was captured by Ali Davies on the weekend of the Ty Gwyn clear up party (as mentioned earlier in the Journal). It shows a rather cool and calm looking Tony Davies together with a not so cool looking Brian Edwards, snapped at an inopportune moment. But what was the scenario?

We thought it might be a light hearted addition to the journal to have a GOES Caption Competition. We invite members to submit captions for the photo shown below. (Please remember that we need to publish them in these pages!)

Please send to me either by post or via the GOES web site. The results (and captions) will appear in the next issue!

Phil Barratt (editor@goes.org.uk)



The Penmorfa Chronicles (2004)

Solving a Conundrum (separation, spooks and solutions...)

Action plan....

On February 8th 2004 a small team re-entered Penmorfa, our first visit since the previous summer. As a small project I had suggested attempting to establish some sort of contact between the remote lower reaches of the Carpenter Series and the main tramming level. This isolated enigmatic series is best reached by climbing all the way to the top of Rift Three and scurrying through a 20m crosscut to the point where JC and others dug through to it in 2002. A rough measurement had estimated the bottom of the series to be 27m lower than this breakthrough point, surely enough to place it close to tramming level, probably in the region of Rift Two.

It was proposed that I would undertake the circuitous route getting down to the foot of the Carpenter Series for a prearranged time, to shout loudly for ten minutes. As an additional attraction I would pour huge amounts of water from some nearby flooded workings down a choked hollow. This was the drain into which a small overflow of water already trickled. Hopefully my colleagues in the main tramming level would notice either the bawling or the deluge.

Bongo buckets....

Gaz provided me with two small plastic buckets for the mission, I clipped these to my belt and set off with great enthusiasm. Whilst Gaz and Brian lingered around in Rift Two, Steve Lea accompanied me into Rift Three to check I got safely to the top. A bit of climbing would be required where an electron ladder had recently been removed and another ladder fixed across the top of the chasm was somewhat precarious.

The two buckets clattered and scrapped as I squirmed up through the various tunnels. I was soon scaling the awkward ladderless section. On reaching the top I was extremely surprised to here Gaz's voice. Why had he followed me? Why were we not sticking to the plan? I shouted down to Steve who assured me Gaz wasn't there! I felt confused and disorientated. Was I going mad? Voices again, this time closer, virtually next to me! Apparently Gaz and Brian were high in Rift Two above the wagon area and had managed to home in on my drumming buckets, the noise of which had reverberated throughout the mine. Conversation between us was now easy. They were so very close, somewhere in the narrow and inaccessible rift to my right, proba-

bly at the other side of a slope of loose rocks, which lay under a treacherous false floor. The two rifts we had thought to be totally separate were clearly not. It was a major discovery. As they dug I could even see a few stones falling. Making a physical connection looked possible but it would take time and was both dangerous and of limited value so we decided to continue with the original plan.

More voices....

Cautiously stepping across the ladder and crawling quickly along the crosscut, I was soon squeezing through the dig into the Carpenter Series. This confined cleft with its several drops and occasional stemples is full of loose stones underfoot, but being on my own, I didn't need to worry about the mini avalanches as I sped downwards.

I was stopped in my tracks when the noise of falling rocks and drumming buckets was interrupted by a muffled voice emanating from under the debris. Once again we were able to communicate easily. A sea of stones flowed in front of me replacing those Gaz was excavating below. We could only be a few metres apart. This second point of contact was just 10m from the top of the entry pitch into Rift Two. Again a lot of work would be required to establish a usable connection - a project for the future perhaps.

Full flow....

Proceeding with the original plan I was soon climbing down past the fragile remnants of a ladder to reach the flooded section in the bottom of the series. Following on from the latter contact I was confident of establishing communication at this lower level. Lots of shouting however simply succeeded in giving me a headache, and intensive listening only highlighted the sound of my beating heart. My second line of attack was the buckets. They were ideal and a torrent was soon pouring down the soak-away. It disappeared quickly and could be heard flowing for a time to some hidden depths. After a while the water in the flooded section was noticeably lower. But despite additional yelling and even more decanting there were no answering shouts. Eventually I gave up and started my ascent out of the series and the return journey down through Rift Three.

Mission accomplished....

Our endeavours had been most successful. Although my bawling and pouring hadn't been detected, we were now certain that the foot of the Carpenter Series was somewhere in the vicinity of the main tramming level. The fact that we had pinpointed a slightly

higher link with the lower section of Rift Two proved that this had to be the case. With some digging a viable 'short cut' connection may well be established here.

In addition we had shown the tops of 'Rift Two' and 'Rift Three' lay very close to each other. This fact added to a new appreciation of the mine layout. A few years ago 'Rifts One' 'Two' and 'Three' were regarded as access points along the main tramming level into totally different fault lines where copper was found and then extracted. Penmorfa aficionados and avid readers of 'The Chronicles' will recall that previous adventures (See Issue No 2 2003) led to a realisation that 'Rifts One' and 'Two' merged at their higher levels with numerous interconnecting faults and crosscuts. The same now seemed likely to be the case with 'Rift Three'.

As we made our way back out along the adit we chatted about our discoveries, unexpected voices and the possible uses of 'bongo buckets' in the future!

Rummaging in the attics

(A tale of drill, pole and dustpan...)

The High Life....

A decision was made to push for new ground in the highest area of Penmorfa in 'the attics'. On the 29th of February as we made our way up through the maze of workings that make up the 'First Rift' it became apparent that there was something to look at in each of the three adjoining attics. Dave Flowers was interested in a small hole that was just out of reach in the roof of the First Attic. Gaz was keen to re-evaluate a constricted damp dig in the second and I was eager to continue my acquaintance with the 'Skylight' in the third. The fourth member of our team was Brian, happy to be chief 'Gofer' and voice of reason.

Means to an end....

The First Attic lies at the top of the magnificent First Stemple Shaft, its wooden beams still intact, an icon of Penmorfa. In contrast the elusive cavity in the narrow rift just along the corridor was tiny and unassuming. With care it was possible to climb the workings for 5m and reach a precarious bridging position below the hole. But this time Dave was prepared having brought along his drill. A bolt was eventually secured and with the aid of a sling access was made into the unknown area. Unfortunately he was to be disappointed finding

only a small blind chamber. There was some infill under a low slab but any further progress looked unlikely.

Stab in the dark....

At one end of the Second Attic lay Gaz's target, a slope of wet debris leading up through a constriction into a damp inclined tunnel surrounded by calcified deads and gritty clay. After an initial poke around it became apparent that the top section looked the most promising but working directly below it was rather too dangerous. Luckily there was a scaffolding pole available and this was put to use, although the confined nature of the situation limited the poles usefulness to hopeful jabs. There was also a tendency to get grit in your eyes, and, if you didn't look up, the blows were inaccurate or more debris than anticipated would suddenly cascade and hit you as it past. In addition the material would fail to drop through the lower constriction, despite efforts by those below. It was necessary to clamber back down periodically to stand on the rubble and push it through to lessen the feeling of entombment. Despite the problems some progress was made and perhaps more could be.

Sitting comfortably....

The 5m high 'Skylight' shaft had been discovered in December 2000 at the top of a dry spoil tip in the Third Attic, together with a connection beyond down the rubble into the First Attic. Awkward bridging soon found me directly under its ominously hanging roof of consolidated clay and rocks. Reassuringly nothing had changed since my previous visit over a year ago, when I had steadily removed clinging stones and gritty clay from one wall to reveal solid rock and create a platform on which to sit. Above a slight overhang offered some protection from any rockfall and after passing a length of rope through a small hole in the rock nearby to anchor myself I felt additionally secure on my perch. It was a situation I was familiar with, one which I had burnt into my consciousness, a place I had often visited, drifting there in idle moments, in dreams and in numerous conversations. It enthralled me. Being surrounded by material that had obviously been dropped in from above, perhaps from another mine was fascinating, new passages and workings beckoning just out of reach, perhaps even

offering a route up to the Orme's surface.

A tidy house....

Last time I was here I encountered a slight problem. Material extracted from the compacted rubble with hands and tent peg, falling to the base of the shaft and threatening to block the connection to the First Attic. This time I was prepared, with a dustpan! All the grit and small stones could be scooped up and jettisoned precisely to fall into the Third Rift where there was more space. Larger stones were trundled in a similar direction following a warning shout to the others.

With my new method I made rapid progress, dustpan and tent peg in unison. Excavations leftwards lengthened the ledge and revealed much more of the rockwall. There was certainly an area to the side of the shaft to be explored. Eventually I had created a metre high slot able to accommodate my torso and extending back as far as my rope would allow. Wary of becoming complacent about the situation I stopped to assess the possibilities. I decided to leave a section of the tightly packed rubble as a precautionary pillar and abandon the rope so as to reach further in.

Making your own space is very special, it's sculpting from the inside. Rather like the snow-caves I had lovingly crafted and slept in on the Cairngorms, here was a home. Behind my pillar the house grew as the removals continued but still no sign of any far wall or solid roof. I was somewhat surprised by but highly delighted with the stability of my creation.

All too soon I hear shouting, something about beer and it's time to depart. One last run through with the dustpan sweeps the floor so that when I return even the slightest rockfall will be noticeable. After a final contented look around I climb back down to rejoin the others.

Dave Wrennall
May 2004

Members Discount

GOES members may, upon production of their membership cards, gain a 10% discount at either Blacks or Millets in Llandudno.

GOLF & GOLFING WALKS 2019

All walks start at 7pm and are usually gentle strolls which last approximately 2 hours. Sturdy footwear is recommended. Following is a list of the proposed walks, but **all are subject to confirmation**. Please check the community news section of the North Wales Weekly News which will provide full details of the walk taking place and the arranged meeting place. (Please note that some car parks are 'Pay & Display')
 If the weather is poor, it is very likely that the walk will be postponed until a later date.
 If you have any queries, please contact Ali Davies on 01492 864165

Date:	Walk:	Meeting Place:
May 20th	Marl Woods where Geoff Walters will point out a variety of interesting plants	To be arranged
May 27th	Parc Mawr/Trecastell Lead Mine where Brian Edwards will tell us of the history of the area	Car park at SH759745
June 3rd	Conwy Morfa Tree Stumps - a chance to view the ancient remains of a once forested area	To be arranged
June 10th	Nant y Gama with its wonderful views across Llandudno and Snowdonia	Car park at SH803813
June 17th	Circular route from the Ski Centre, past Pink Farm to Ffynnon Powell and back past White Farm to ensure that a little used footpath remains open to the public	Ski Centre car park
June 24th	Guided walk around Pen y Bryn house and Gardens (near Abergwyngregyn)	To be arranged
July 1st	Circular route from Bishops Quarry, down to Pant y Ffridd, a quick detour to the Cromlech then back past Great Orme Mines	Summit car park
July 8th	Geology of the cliffs around Llanddulas explained by Geoff Walters	To be arranged
July 15th	Fairy Glen, Echo Rock at Dwygyfylchi	Car park at SH75057702
July 22nd	Pigeons Cave area	North Shore toll gate
July 29th	Deganwy Castle and the Vardre	To be arranged
August 5th	Circular route around the entire length of Parc Wall	Summit car park
August 12th	Bryn Euryn restored hill Fort at Rhôs on Sea	Car park at SH834802 (off Tan-y-Bryn Road)
August 19th	Stroll along the beach at West Shore to Bishops Palace	West Shore boating lake
August 26th	Bishops Quarry and the Brammock Rod Pits	Summit car park