

JOURNAL OF THE



2016



Hello Readers,

Welcome to the 2016 Great Orme Exploration Society Journal. A very big thank you to all the contributors to this year's edition. Once again there is a diverse collection of articles waiting to delight and inform you. Stories of exploration underground and surface outings, alongside assorted snippets from the GOES year, have resulted in another excellent Journal, enriched as always by some splendid pictures.

I hope you enjoy reading it.

Regards

Dave Wrennall – GOES Journal Editor 2016



Sir Nicholas Challinor (**Mine Owner**) Ange Gawthrop (**Copper Lady**) and Steve Lea (**downtrodden Miner** and part time builder) More Extravaganza colour on page 28.

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Front Cover: Looking from the limestone pavement across Parc Farm to the Great Orme Summit

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GOES meets informally every Thursday evening in The Snowdon, 11 Tudno Street, Llandudno from 9.30pm. <http://www.the-snowdonhotel.co.uk/> All are welcome.

The Great Orme Exploration Society (GOES) was formed in 1985 and became a Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a share capital on 7th April 1999. It is a member of the National Association of Mining History Organisation (NAMHO), British Caving Association (BCA), and works in association with the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT), the Early Mines Research Group (EMRG) and the Gwynedd Bat Group (GBG). Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the Society.

Roundup 2015 - 2016.

Underground trips amounted to just 18 Sunday outings as work and long term recuperation once again took their toll on our activities, even Steve Lea's mid-week visitor trips into the Ty Gwyn hit an all-time low this year with only one visit recorded. But at least it's good to report that the Leica Disto, our surveying instrument, has been repaired and is now back and ready for action!

Our exhibition on the prom for the Victorian Extravaganza got off to a very wet start, strong winds and driving rain persuading most visitors that a stroll along the Prom towards the pier wasn't such a good idea! So sadly, visitor numbers were low and who could blame them; but despite this we still had a good laugh.

But Sunday was totally different, the early light rain was driven away by a strong SW wind to be followed by lovely sunshine for the rest of the day; with the Ty Gwyn mine entrance open, the visitors flocked to us in their droves, as they say, 'what a difference a day makes'! Ange, Nick and Steve once again dressed up in their Victorian garments to add that hint of authenticity.

Penmorfa

Trips into Penmorfa dominated our underground activities this year with a total of twelve visits. In an attempt to encourage participation and possibly new membership, an invitation was given to members of UCET (United Cavers Exploration Team) to participate in some joint ventures under the Orme. To an extent this worked well, with members of the UCET 'A' team joining us on four occasions and resulting in a new area being discovered in the Attics (Rift 1). Sadly further exploits in this area dispelled any thoughts of a quick way through into the Pyllau mine workings which our survey had indicated as being just a few metres above our heads. A breakthrough into the Pyllau workings would have given us access to the surface near the Mine Centre and the ultimate goal of a through trip. So near yet so far.....but we're not done yet!



More visits were made to the Teapot Cross- Cut (Rift1) than for many years', probably encouraged by the better climbing aids installed this year. Attempts were made to unblock an intriguing side passage in the



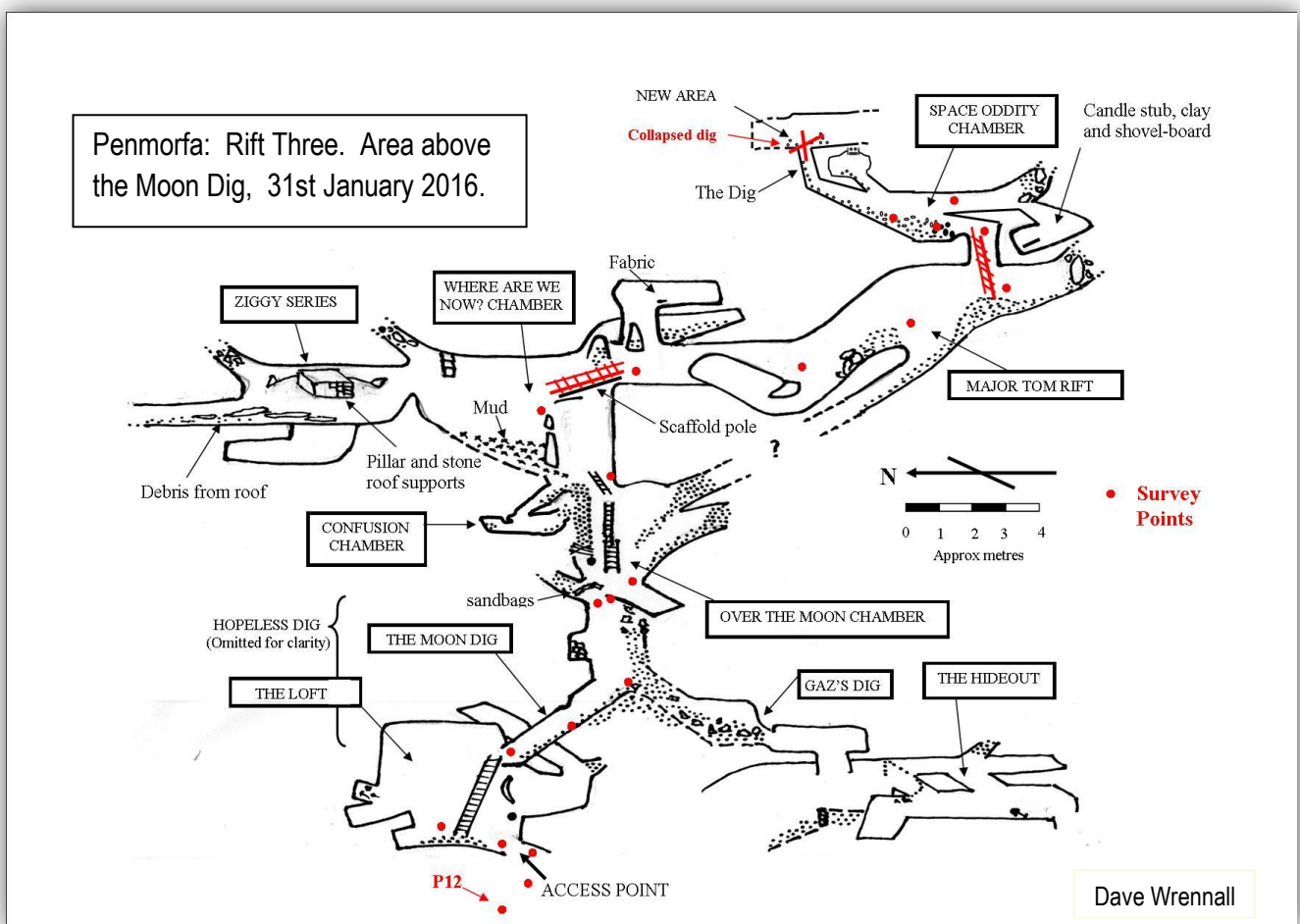
Cross-cut, but wet spoil falling from above has put this on hold until things settle down. A small glimpse of blackness beyond the blockage suggests that the passage continues into hitherto unexplored territory and makes for tantalising prospects in the future.

Dave Flowers abseiled the short ore-chute in the Teapot Cross-cut to explore the area below only to find that the area had been visited before; but such is the nature of mine exploration as successive generations enjoy the thrill of re-discovering the mine for themselves.

The area in the upper reaches of Rift 3 was left alone for a large part of 2015 in the hope that it would stabilise and this certainly seemed to have been the case when we returned to survey the route to our highest dig early in 2016. However, the short up-turn in the passage at our highest point of progress had become blocked by large rocks falling in from above, shattering any early thoughts of a quick advance. Undoubtedly there are still workings to be discovered higher up, but more work is required to reach them. Dave Flowers' video of this trip revealed a rather worrying crack above the passageway at the start of Major Tom Rift, which could easily compromise access in the future. Something which definitely needs watching.



One of Ali Baba's forty men?



Romans

In October, GOES led a party of five UCET members on our only trip into Romans during the period. Following a tour of Romans the party dropped the Treweeks shaft from the Wagon Gate to examine some new ground discovered by Dave Wr. on a previous occasion. Watching the group retracing their route up Treweeks sometime later, it was good to note that not all UCET members are super athletes; one actually questioning his own sanity as he arrived wet and breathless at the top of the climb, but at least the water

cascading down on him had kept him cool! (note – not the gentleman in the photo!)

Off Orme trips

The only off Orme GOES trip this year was a trip to Wrysgan Slate Mine high above Tan y Grisiau, near Blaenau Ffestiniog. There was however a non-GOES visit to the Milwr Tunnel near Mold in October, a personal invitation from our UCET friends. Articles from both of these trips are to be found later in the Journal.



Summer Walks

Once again the GOES summer walks led by Nick Challinor were varied and well attended (thanks Nick!). Walks ranged from beach walks, walks around the Orme Country Park guided by Head Warden, Sally Pidcock, to another fascinating tour of the old St Tudno's cemetery by our old friend, Church Warden, Christine Jones. Martin Trevelyan-Jones gave a geologist's insight into the landscape, pointing out geological features which make up the area around the Orme's summit, but some of those fossil names ...oh dear!

One of the venues which had intrigued me when I first read Nick's programme was the visit to the old nine hole golf course. But I needn't have worried, owner Mike Owen had a fund of wonderful anecdotes which kept us amused for ages. So once again Nick pulled it out of the bag, but surely he's got to be running out of ideas by now.....or has he?!

In conclusion

Dave Flowers once again provided a window on our underground world with his videos; I often wondered why Dave sometimes included music in his videos, only to learn it was to cover up some colourful verbal faux pas! Surprisingly, we still do have standards you know!

Member Keith Morris has created a subject index for all past Journals on the GOES web site – a very useful reference tool and worth checking out. I wonder if Keith can make it even friendlier in the future by linking subject to Journals via Hyperlinks?!

A huge thank you must go to our Journal Editor Dave Wrennall for all the hard work he has put in to editing and producing this year's Journal - good on you Dave!

But don't let us forget Steve Lea's huge contribution throughout the year, beaver away quietly in the back-ground; we probably don't know half the things he does on our behalf!

Hang on... what about you the readers? Without your continuing support where would GOES be....so a BIG thank you to you too!

Author: Brian Edwards

The Great Orme Family Golf Course



On Thursday July 2nd 2015 the rain poured down all afternoon then, miraculously, the skies cleared for the GOES Summer Walk to the Great Orme Family Golf Course (GOFGC for short) at its best in beautiful evening sunshine.

We were shown around by Mike Owen who manages the course on behalf of Llandudno Council. He gave a relaxed informative talk about the GOFGC past and present. He explained that the course still entices players of all ages from far and wide keen to play on its attractive greens. During the tour Mike also revealed that he had been trying for years to discover the date the GOFGC had first opened. He suspected centenary celebrations might be in order sometime soon if he could only find this out.

Who better to ask than GOES? Especially with the chance of an anniversary party if the answer was found to be suitable. I decided to give it a go and do some digging.

Sadly, it quickly became clear that researching the history of a “Family Golf Course” which was also a “Miniature Golf Course” and a “Pitch and Putt Course” was not quite such a straight forward task. The problem was further complicated by the fact that, as it emerged later, the GOFGC had not been the original name.

An Internet search, (where else to start looking?), proved marginally helpful by giving a starting date of 1914, before which the GOFGC could not have existed. Interestingly, according to the British Pitch and Putt Association website, 1914 was the year when the first purpose built Pitch and Putt course for public use, possibly in the world, was opened in England, on the front at Southsea in Portsmouth.

Several stabs in the dark followed. Could it be 1919 or 1920 shortly after the First World War when pitch and putt courses sprung up at seaside resorts all over England and Wales, or sometime in the mid-1930s when a Haulfre Gardens brochure was found to be advertising a round of miniature golf at the Haulfre Pitching and Putting Course?

At this stage it would give me great pleasure to claim that I had diligently ploughed through past copies of the local newspapers from 1914 onwards but that was not the case. Instead it was several stabs in the dark and

a reflection on Mike's comments about the layout of the GOFGC when he first started managing it that suggested the late 1920s or early 1930s as a possible date.

While showing our group around, Mike had described the difficulty of supervising players out on the course while admission had been from the original purpose built Swiss Chalet Style building situated at the lowest section of the course. This was immediately above Haulfre Gardens and noticeably there is no road there, so, in an era when cars were not commonplace, the original main entrance for players on to the GOFGC must have been on foot via Haulfre Gardens.

Haulfre Gardens, privately owned, landscaped by Henry Davis Pochin, (1824-1895), also associated with Bodnant, came on the market in 1927 and was purchased by the Council in 1928. It's noted that this was not without considerable opposition at the time and followed an enquiry by the Ministry of Health which sanctioned the purchase as a means of bringing water to Llandudno via Haulfre.* (Ref 1)



The gardens were duly prepared for public access, new paths were laid and a new approach route made from the Invalid Walk then, one year later, in April 1929, Haulfre Pleasure Gardens were officially opened by none other than David Lloyd George, the Member of Parliament for Caernarvon and the Leader of the Liberal Party. This was considered a great honour by the town and his speech was reported in full by the Llandudno Advertiser. In it he praised the new gardens, drew attention to the forthcoming election and admired the views and scenery around Haulfre Gardens. He made no mention of the GOFGC. *(Ref 2)

The following year, 1930, saw significant developments on the land adjoining the northern boundary of Haulfre Gardens. Under the heading of "Tyn-y-Coed Estate", in March of that year the Pleasure Grounds Committee reported as follows:-

"The Committee discussed the question of acquiring land belonging to the Tyn-y-Coed Estate on the Great Orme Head which the owners are desirous of disposing of. It was decided, subject to the approval of the Council to offer £500 for the purchase of the land, 4½ acres in extent, for the benefit, improvement or development of the district." *(Ref 3)

The offer was turned down as being, "Quite out of the question" and a much higher asking price of £1000 quoted as being acceptable. Negotiations followed and by the end of May 1930 the deal was made, the UDC

paying the full asking price of £1000 for approximately 5½ acres of land on the Great Orme Head. All formalities were completed by the end of July.

The decision to develop some of the land as a Pitching and Putting course followed very quickly, so much so that it may have been the Council's intention to do so when the land was bought. By August 1930 the Pleasure Grounds Committee was reporting on its site meeting with Parks Superintendent W G Robertson with a view to commencing work on the new course at the bottom of the site. Work was to begin at the end of the season and an estimate of £300 was made for the work, including a pavilion at the entrance to the course. **(Ref 4)*



W G Robertson, Parks Superintendent, worked for the UDC for six years, resigning in 1934. The designing and laying out of the Pitching and Putting course was acknowledged as being one of his main achievements while in post.



Llandudno residents were enthusiastic about the new development as witnessed by the reports in the local press, for example, in January 1931, one of the letters in the Llandudno Advertiser described a visit to Haulfre Gardens then went on to observe – “Not far away five or six men working on the new golf course, they seem a happy bunch each one doing an honest day's work. One of them is singing while at his task ...” **(Ref 5)*

By February 1931 the work was almost complete. W G Robertson expressed his satisfaction with the new course –

“The greens ... are larger than the one which has proved so popular at Wythfyd. It is a nine hole course and will be accessible from the upper portion of Haulfre. It will be available for use at Easter if necessary, though a longer rest would make the turf be in even better condition” **(Ref 6)*

EG Robertson's advice was heeded. It was at the end of May 1931 that the Chairman of the Pleasure Grounds Committee proudly announced to the UDC that the new Pitching and Putting course at Haulfre had been completed and would be open for play and that, "He hoped members would visit the course to see what an excellent one it was. If they did not like to walk, they could take the Great Orme Tram to the Black Gate, which was within three minutes walk of the pavilion." * (Ref 7)



I'm sad to conclude that the GOFGC has no significant anniversary for to celebrate – its 75th has passed and its centenary is some years ahead. Instead why not celebrate the GOFGC itself as the only Pitch and Putt Course in Llandudno that has stood the test of time? There were at least four in the town when it opened. It has a superb location, beautiful views and well-manicured greens – a little gem on the side of the Great Orme and long may it continue.

Author: Judith Morris

Photographs: Alison Davies

References:

- *1. Llandudno Advertiser January 5th, 1929, P.2, Col.3
- *2. Llandudno Advertiser April 16th, 1929, P.5, Col.3
- *3. Llandudno Advertiser March 29th, 1930, P.5, Col.4
- *4. Llandudno Advertiser August 23rd, 1930, P.10, Col.6
- *5. Llandudno Advertiser January 24th, 1931, P.7, Col.1
- *6. Llandudno Advertiser February 14th, 1931, P.3, Col.2
- *7. Llandudno Advertiser May 30th, 1931, P.3, Col.



Mike the manager of the Great Orme Family Golf Course

(Photo: Nick Challinor)

Upper Kendrick's Cave Visit

In July 2015 we were invited to visit upper Kendrick's Cave by CA archaeology, who were involved in archaeological and monument conservation work on the site for Llandudno Town Council, our visit was well supported by our members and commenced with a site H&S introduction by Catherine before ascending the path up to the cave. Our visit was being filmed as part of the project by Topaz Films in a watching capacity

which seemed a little strange at first, but soon became a totally un-intrusive activity during the visit .



Catherine provided a background to the use of the cave by Thomas Kendrick who was born in Llandudno on the 8th November 1821 oldest son of local woman Ann Jones and William Kendrick, a farmer from Ysceifiog, Flintshire who had moved to Llandudno in search of work at the Copper Mines.

The 1851 census shows that Thomas (30ys) and his brother William (27yrs) are still living at Tan yr Ogof cottages with their mother Ann (64yrs). Another brother Joseph has died and a fourth John is no longer recorded. Both Thomas and William Kendrick are documented as being copper miners, an occupation which had been undertaken by the inhabitants of the Great Orme since antiquity.

With the changes happening in Llandudno during the 1850's and the running down of copper mines Thomas Kendrick was to spot a lucrative business opportunity and by 1865 he had established his garden as a successful visitor attraction.

By the time of the 1871 census Kendrick's occupation is recorded as a lapidary. As a lapidary Kendrick would collect and polish stones to sell to tourists, and polish stones which were brought to him by customers.

Work on site at time of the visit was at a fairly early stage and the full results were yet to be recorded, I have since been lucky



enough to have read the final report by Catherine which is fascinating. I would like to share the last paragraph of the conclusion, which is reproduced in full below.

“It was found that Thomas Kendrick established the first museum in Llandudno and when his collection was purchased by the Llandudno Library Committee it was with the intention that it form the core of a county museum in the town. The current display at Llandudno Museum with the horse mandible, human remains and other artefacts at the heart of the new exhibition is the realisation of that vision and it is rather apt that artefacts such as chisels belonging to Kendrick recovered during the excavation will now be submitted for display at the museum alongside these finds. This work has resulted in a reappraisal of Kendrick's work and the collection he gathered and it is hoped that his significance as an antiquarian, collector and excavator of his day, together with his role in the rise of the early tourist industry in Llandudno will now be recognised.”



Author: Stephen J Lea (GOES)





From the Kendrick's Cave the views out over Llandudno are stunning. The entrance area faces south and receives sunshine throughout the day. If you wanted to live in a cave this was a good spot.

All the rubbish will be removed and the cave gated to avoid future vandalism . Hopefully there may be other archaeological finds in the future



This impressive pile of stones made to advertise Kendrick's business can be found at the entrance of a lower cave, now in a private garden, where he had a workshop. Note the original cast iron chimney.



Milwr Tunnel Trip October 2015

A brief history.

The Romans were not the first people to have mined for lead in Clwyd, but they too exploited the rich lead veins close to surface on Halkyn Mountain, Melidon, Abergele and Minera. Shipping the lead ingots back to Deva (Chester), from the coast at Flint. Little serious mining was carried out until the late 1600's when the Mines Royal Act of 1403 (which had made the mining of metals a felony) was repealed in 1688, finally allowing the exploitation of lead, tin, copper and iron. Better prices and improved 'technology' allowed the miners to follow the veins deeper. Black powder was at last being put to good use by the miners, allowing tunnelling rates of up to a foot per day. Fortunes were being made by the wealthy landowners but despite this the poor miner was paid a pittance from which he had to pay for his own tools, candles and black powder.

The high point of the industry was around 1860 but by the 1890's many of the mines had been worked out or were unable to go deeper due to flooding, the pumping technology of the day being inadequate to draw the water to surface. Just as the Old and New Mines on the Orme had co-operated in driving the Penmorfa adit, so too did the local mine companies joined together to form the Holywell-Halkyn Mining and Tunnel Company to drive a deep drainage tunnel from sea-level at Bagillt in a south-westerly direction. By 1957, the Milwr Tunnel as it was known, had been driven a distance of 10 miles from Bagillt to Cadole near Mold, successfully draining and exploiting over 50 lead veins and creating a labyrinth of over 60 miles of interconnecting passageways. In the 1930's up to 650 men had been employed by the Company, but numbers varied, driven by demand or by the price of lead ore. It was estimated that in the two centuries prior to the Second World War the lead and zinc mines of Flintshire and Denbighshire had produced minerals valued at twenty million pounds.

Incidental to the lead ore exploited, the drainage water flowing from the tunnel was utilised, first by Courtaulds in Flint, a large company producing viscose Rayon yarn and following their demise in 1977, by Welsh Water. Today the average flow of water from the Milwr Tunnel is estimated at 23 million gallons of water per day (36 million in wet weather) and the water rights are currently in the hands of United Utilities.

(See: The Milwr Tunnel, Bagillt to Loggerheads 1897-1987 by Chris Ebbs ISBN: 0 9522242 0 8)

Previous trips.

There have been at least three GOES trips into the Milwr Tunnel in the past, hosted by members of the Grosvenor Caving Club who's knowledge of the Milwr system and its' history impresses me still. But this time it was with our United Cavers Exploration Team friends (UCET) that we revisited the Milwr. You'll recall having seen their name more than once when UCET and GOES co-operated in exploring new ground high up within the Orme. It was on one such trip that a personal invitation was made to Dave Wrennall, Dave Flowers and me to join them in what could be their last trip of the season before the winter rains made the rail-track impassable.

A very early start.

Meeting the others at 7:30am seemed particularly hard, but fortunately this was eased by gaining the extra hour with the clocks going back to GMT. We made good time on the road, arriving at the meeting place in the River Alyn gorge near Cilcain with time to spare. Eventually joined by other UCET members we made our way down the path alongside the River Alyn to the locked entrance to the old Rhyd Alyn lead mine.



Climbing down the short ladder into the adit, we made our way single-file along a narrow winding passage, eventually coming to the first set of three ladders disappearing into the dark workings below. Another long passage-way followed which was a little more 'sporting' as they say these days, balancing on muddy scaffold tubes spanning scary, deep shafts, but in fairness there were hand-lines to clip into.

We then came upon the next set of ladders. Now was there 23 of them or more? I'm not sure, trying to keep up with the person in front was hard enough without keeping count. "Ladder free", came the shout from below and it was onto the next ladder and down to the next interchange below. All the modern steel ladders had been put in by one individual I was told, a remarkable feat; but there were still some of the original wooden ladders still in use, in the main fine, but the odd missing iron rung was a bit off-putting and I particularly noticed one which was a trifle 'wobbly' at the top, not very re-assuring!

Soon we were at the bottom, a short walk through a chamber where several ore-chutes lined one side, to finally emerge into a large junction where some old ore wagons were sitting in a siding, we'd finally arrived at the Milwr Tunnel.

All aboard the Underworld Princess!

There were eleven of us in total and we waited patiently as the engine was fuelled up and made ready. Originally lowered into the Milwr in bits and then re-assembled, the engine was the creation of one of the UCET members and I was impressed by its' ingenious design; the driver's seat with integral foot rests swivelled round for going in the opposite direction! The starter spinning, the two cylinder diesel engine roared into life,



enveloping us in clouds of smoky fumes. We clambered aboard the two 'carriages' which were coupled one in front and one behind the engine, sitting astride large drainage pipe seats like cowboys! With a couple of toots from the old horn we rode off into the darkness. Actually it was really quite bright, a powerful light mounted on the engine illuminating the track for yards ahead.



Running alongside the track was the waterway known as the 'Grip' an American mining term I believe. The fast flowing Grip was about 6 foot wide and about 18 inches deep but looked positively evil, a dip in that was one experience I wanted to avoid but one which I very nearly had! The front bogies of our trolley had an annoying habit of occasionally jumping off the crude rail-track. The first occasion was near the beginning of our rail journey and gave my quite a fright as our trolley lurched suddenly, coming to an abrupt halt and leaning perilously towards the Grip.

Fortunately, I had been tipped over onto the track, my right leg trapped by the foot rest. Eventually releasing myself, I opted thereafter to sit side-saddle on the pipe, ready to jump to safety on the dry side. I'm a quick learner!

Our main destination was the natural chamber found in 1931 and known as the Powell's Lode Cavern, something like a four mile journey and the first visit for the *Underworld Princess*. We clanked and rattled down the tunnel passing abandoned ore wagons and other types of rolling stock, seeing some of the old battery driven locos sitting silent on adjacent side tracks. Signs of the approaching winter were obvious as sometimes we surfed along the flooded track, testament to the wet autumn we were experiencing.



Sadly on its' maiden trip all was not well with our engine, contaminated fuel was clogging the filters, starving the engine of fuel and I lost count of the number of times we needed to clean the filters before proceeding.

Subterranean rivers had been a constant problem for the Milwr miners but one of the main sources was discovered whilst driving the Rhosesmor branch tunnel in 1931 when Lode 674, Powell's Lode was intersected, this led to the subsequent discovery of the natural cavern.

Powell's Lode Cavern.

The Cavern was huge and measured 130 ft. X 220 ft. Almost a half was taken up by a lake at one side said to be over 200 ft. deep, the roof soaring another 150 ft. above. It was claimed to be the highest natural underground chamber in Britain. It was now time for a break and we took the opportunity to explore the cavern. It was said that thousands of tons of waste rock had been tipped into the lake but still it could not be filled. Just past the tippler, one ore wagon still inside ready to be tipped, was one of the twenty specially excavated World War 2 storage chambers leased to the then Ministry of Supply. Each chamber was about 80 ft. long by about 30 ft. wide and had once housed vast quantities of the explosive TNT .



Time for home.

But time was ticking on so with a couple of toots on the horn and now sitting at the back of the engine we set off. But sadly we hadn't gone very far when the engine spluttered to a halt once again.....a blocked filter. Whilst the problem was being sorted Mick Murphy offered to show us another part of the mine, I'd been to this area many years ago and opted to stay with the train as did Dave Flowers, but Dave Wr. joined Mick's party. The problem was taking longer than usual so Dave Fl. and myself decided to start walking back along the track in order to keep warm, thinking it wouldn't be long before the loco caught us up, but how wrong we were.

Walking the track wasn't quite as straight forward as you'd think. There were flooded sections and sometimes the track was supported on steel beams above the Grip, stretching across the full width of the tunnel, forcing us to hold on to the side supports whilst balancing along the rail and sometimes they too were under water which complicated things. One of the benefits of walking



was that we were able to examine some of the old rolling stock that we had passed on the way, but by now my dodgy hip was starting to trouble me so that I cannot honestly say I enjoyed this part of our adventure too much. But surprisingly we had caught up with Dave Wr. who had somehow become separated from his party or was he just waiting for the train?

We must have walked for more than two miles before we saw the lights of the engine approaching in the distance and what a welcome sight that was! I think we were all happy to get aboard and thankfully there were no further problems. But now for that climb out to daylight..... was it five hundred feet or six hundred? I was past caring! But with the help and encouragement of a couple of UCET lads I made it out in one piece. It had been a long day but one which I wouldn't have missed for the world! So if any of you UCET lads happen to read this, thanks for a really great day, another one for the memory banks!



But hang on, there's more!! Dave Flowers helmet cam footage! Just click on the following Hyperlink to view. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5L-OeFErX0>

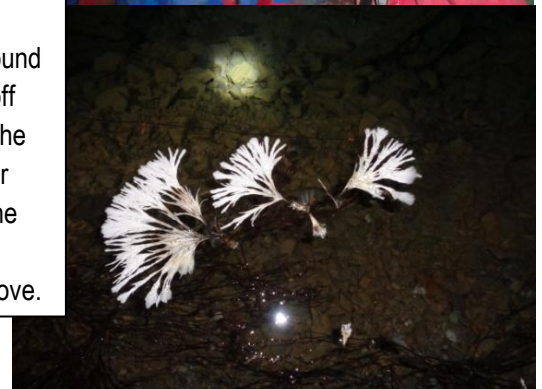
Author: Brian Edwards



An array of battery chargers found at the foot of Olwyn Goch Shaft, power for the mine's locomotives



Fungal growth found feeding off wood in the grip water mirrors the three life forms above.



Great Orme Bat Survey 2016

On the 20th February 2016 GOES members Ali; Nick; Brian and I joined the Clwyd Bat Group to assist with the Bat Survey for 2016, it has been a number years since the last survey on the Great Orme had taken place. The survey arranged by Sally the Orme Warden aimed to visit a number of locations previously surveyed as well as some new sites around the Great Orme

Previously Surveyed

Haulfre Trials
Five Entrances
Corkscrew
Ogof Defaid
Ogof Arth
Elephant's Cave
Elephant's Cave – twin chamber
West Look Out Trials
Ffynnon Gogarth Mine

New Sites

Ogof Deuben
Porth Yr Helyg Mine & Cave
Badger's Cave
Tear Fund Trial
Beach Adit / Toll Gate Adit
Monks Path Level
Ffynnon Llygaid Trail
Skeleton Cave



We met at the Great Orme Visitor Centre to plan how we would tackle the site visits, it was agreed to break into two groups, one (the pink team) would visit the southern end of the Orme, the other (the green team) would visit the sites around the Orme both above and below Marine Drive.

The weather was not being kind to us with continuous rain all day and cloud cover settling on the Orme, so everyone prepared with full wet weather gear and set off to their respective starting points.

Nick and I led the green team travelling by car to the start at the North Shore Toll Gate, while Ali and Brian on foot descended to Ffynnon Gogarth. Our first site was Elephant's Cave including the openings around the side, this produced no finds but some good habitat was noted. Walking down Happy Valley we continued down onto the beach to look into the Toll Gate Adit and caves adjacent, which also proved unfruitful.

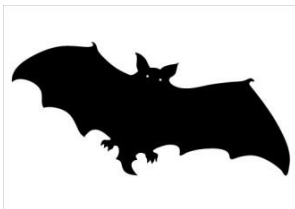


Stopping above Porth Yr Helyg Mine and Cave we carefully descended the grassy cliff to sea level and quickly checked both sites, again with no success. Travelling onto Badger's Cave we ascended to the Tear Fund Trail first, which two of the Clwyd Bat Group entered though they did not cross the internal shaft, then up into Badger's Cave. Neither of these showed signs of bats, but some badger activity was noted in the cave.

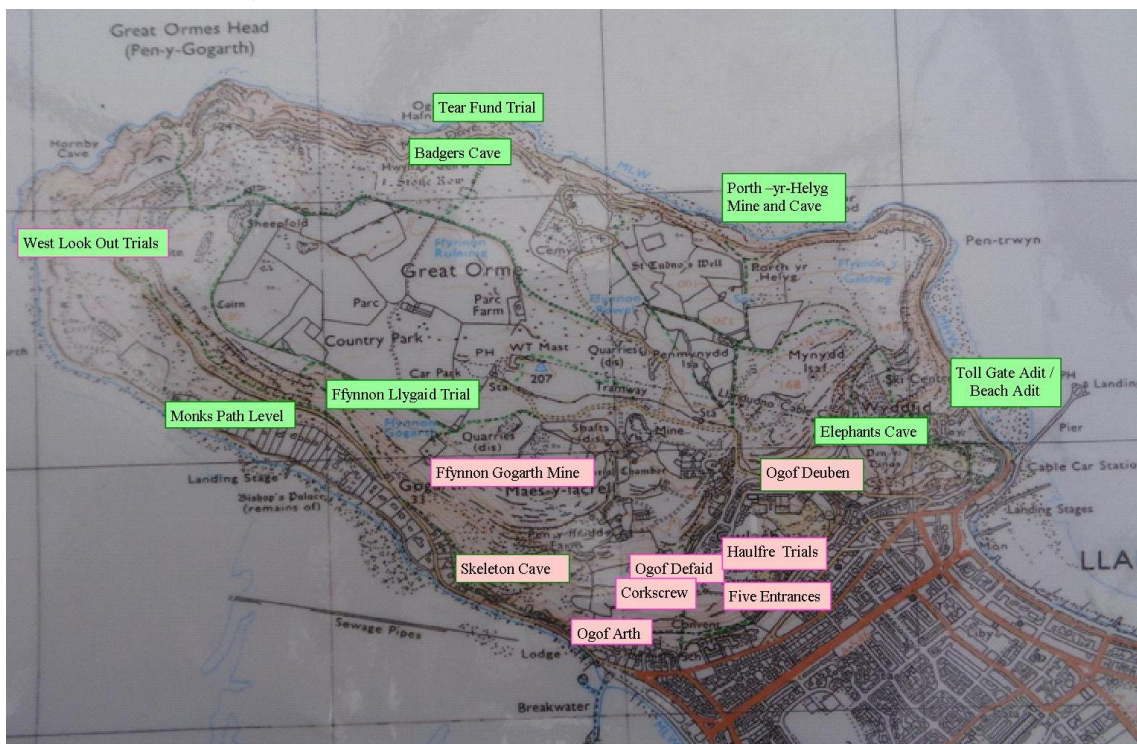
West Look Out Trials were not visited due to the atrocious weather and difficulty of access so, the next stop was below Monks path on West Shore. Splitting into two we checked both Monks Path Level and Ffynnon Llygaid Trail, again no bats were noted but a newt was spotted in Ffynnon Llygaid Trail. This completed our green site visits and we returned to the warmth and dryness of the Great Orme Visitor Centre.



The pink group were by this time just walking up to the Centre, once inside a short debrief revealed that the other group had only seen three lesser horseshoe all in Five Entrances. A small party set off to complete Ffynnon Gogarth which because it is wet internally had not been entered earlier, this proved rewarding with another two lesser horseshoe bats found.



Author: Stephen J Lea (GOES)



A Special Outing to Wrysgan Slate Mine

February 28th 2016

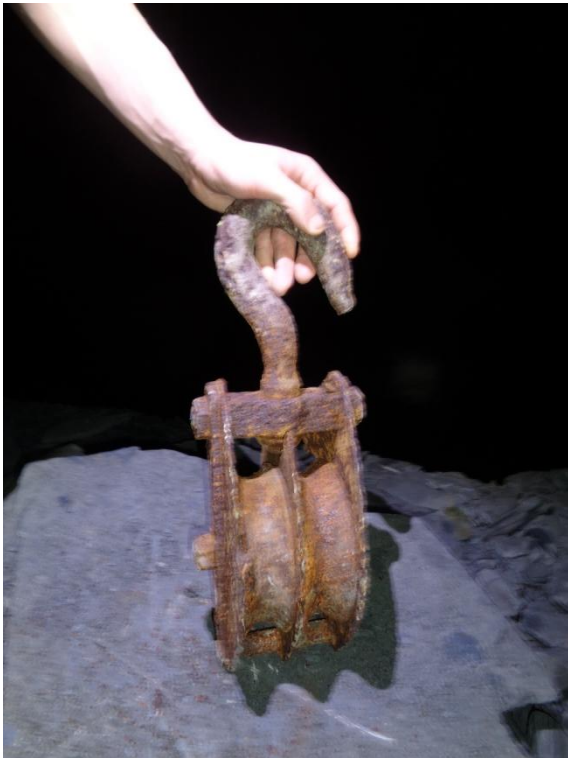
Employment at the Towers Outdoor Education Centre and trips with friends, have caused me to visit Wrysgan Slate Mine more than three hundred times since the late 70's! So it was truly amazing when a GOES Sunday outing led to the exploration of a fresh area, with previously unseen artefacts and the completion of a new through trip. Ben Snowdon was the only person to accompany me, he hadn't even been to the Cwmorthin car park before, the mine and the entire area were completely new to him. We went in at the lowest entrance, the Floor 1 adit, and undertook a general tour of all the regularly used parts of the mine up to Floor 6. All this much visited section is, at every level, east of an area that has suffered from a massive impenetrable collapse in the distant past, so can be referred to as the 'eastern workings'.

There are 'western workings' beyond the major collapse but they are seldom frequented. They can only be accessed by walking through the chambers open to daylight on Floor 6 and then descending. I had been down to Floor 5 several times but as far as I can recall, no further. It was somewhat treacherous on the tips between floors and anyway it was a dead end. But was it? There was news of a way through, pioneered last year with the removal of a few rocks, between the very bottom of the 'western section' Floor 2 and the farthest inbye chamber on Floor 1 of the 'eastern workings', which has a small cascade of water pouring in at its far end.

Sufficient to say, Ben and I made our way down the 'western workings' to Floor 2. Here we were rewarded with a fabulous selection of artefacts displayed on a large slab, including a football pools coupon from



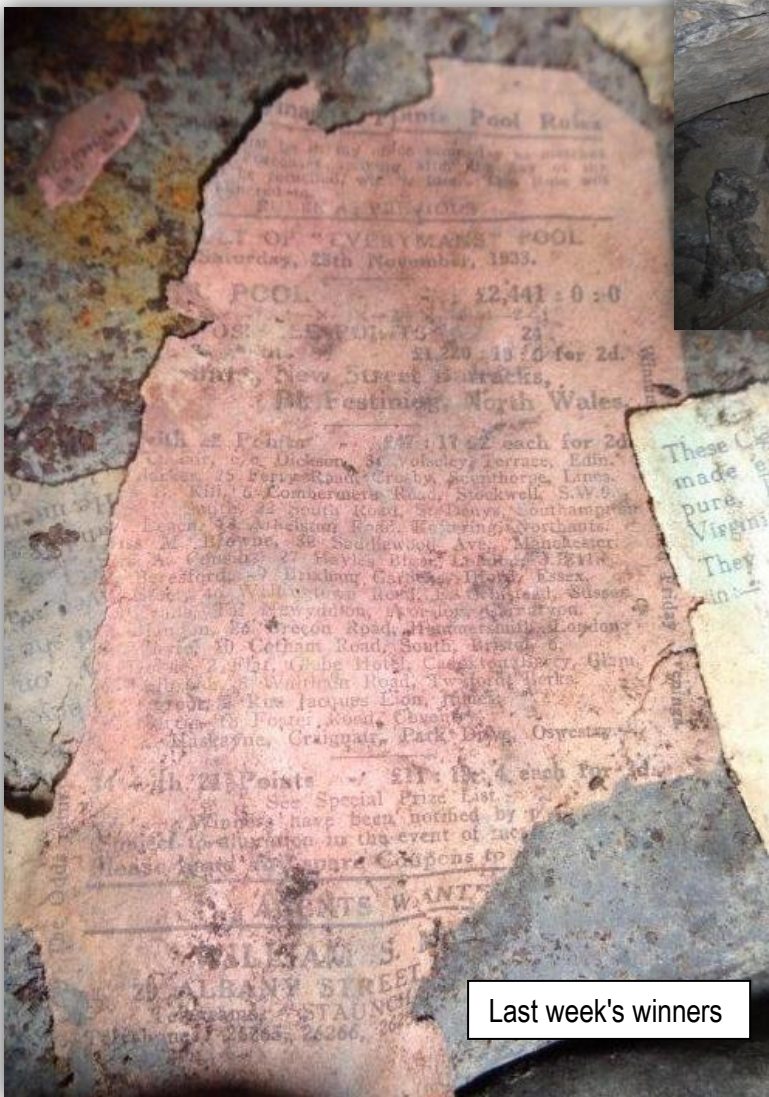
1933. A few chambers along was the anticipated rope hand-line leading down through a squeeze in some boulders, through it blew a strong breeze. The squeeze was just one drop through a pinch point slot, between a large boulder and a back-wall that dribbled with water. Ben went first and didn't seem to have too much difficulty. However he must be a little



thinner than me. It was my turn. Facing the boulder and with the back-wall behind me, the water gradually filled my wellies and soaked my kit whilst the top half struggled vainly to follow my bottom half through the constriction. I was convinced I wouldn't get through. Eventually I clambered back up and went to get some angle iron from a few chambers previous, with which I was able to remove a pointed edge on the back-wall, enlarging the slot to make it reasonable. More could be done, but perhaps it needs to be left as a challenge?



The squeeze



Last week's winners

Immediately after the squeeze we were at the top of the very familiar end chamber on Floor 1 in the 'eastern workings', with just a short abseil down a slab to reach the ground. Soon we were walking back out to surface along the adit very happy with our adventure.

'Not bad for your first visit Ben'.

Author: Dave Wrennall

Additional research.....

The football pools were started in 1923, by the Liverpool based Moores family. Within months hundreds of thousands of fans and even those with little knowledge of the game started filling in their weekly coupons, predicting Saturday afternoon's results in the hope of winning cash prizes. Cheap to play, with the potential to win large sums, entries were traditionally submitted through the post or via agents: traditionally, paid a set share of every ticket they sold. As it was 'credit' betting; payment in advance rather than cash on the day it was legal.



Promoters described the pools as harmless fun. But some politicians, especially on the left, were less sanguine. Labour leader Ramsay MacDonald declared the pools

a sinister means of spreading gambling fever, warning of 'a disease which spread downwards to the industrious poor from the idle rich'. Preachers railed against the sin of gambling, there was concern about people getting something for nothing making them indolent. It was the Capitalists exploiting the working classes. The fact that people were spending very little, having fun and enjoying the dream of getting large amounts of money was rarely reported.

Several attempts to outlaw pools betting failed in Parliament partly because of the money being made by the Post Office (postal orders and stamps to send the coupons in) and the Government- through taxation. Another threat came from within the sport itself. The Football League - many of its senior figures rooted in Methodism - as well as being concerned that players would try to fix matches was unhappy that it was not benefiting from the money generated. In 1936 it launched the 'Pools War'. It began trying to keep the identity of away teams off fixture lists, denying the pools companies the ability to produce coupons in time. But the league soon backed down as it also unfairly punished away fans making travel arrangements - they didn't know where they were going!

The date on the coupon 1933 puts it firmly in the years of the Great Depression (1929 - 39) which followed on from the Wall Street Crash of 1929 in the USA. It was the deepest and longest-lasting economic downturn in the history of the Western industrialized world, with its widespread unemployment and poverty. All the more poignant then, might be a hope of winning on the pools for the poorly paid miner with insecure employment in an uncertain world. The fact that it wasn't filled in is another story.

North Wales Cave Rescue Practice

Penmorfa 22.11.2015

It was second time lucky for the NWCRO cave rescue practice in the Penmorfa; the first date had clashed with the Wales Rally Championships which brings thousands of fans to the West Shore to watch the Marine Drive stage of the race, but rescheduling it to the following Sunday wasn't much better either as it also clashed with the very popular Conwy Half Marathon road race!

Making an allowance for the race I managed to arrive at Abbey Place a little early to find Gethin Jones and Chris Jowett, the exercise organisers, already there and contemplating the huge pile of gear they'd just unloaded from their van. Mmm, I thought, that's going to be interesting getting that lot in. By now a further nine stalwarts had joined us at the entrance and I couldn't help noticing the abundance of grey hair in evidence, but quietly relieved that I wouldn't be too out of place after all; in fact, as the sole GOES representative and the mine key-holder, I even felt a teeny bit important! Fool!

Getting ready....

As we stood round the pile of gear, Gethin outlined the plans for the practice. He and Chris would stay at the Tally Board to test three types of communication methods, relaying messages to two NWCRO members who had remained on the outside. I would lead the others on a familiarisation trip round the mine and then we would all meet up back at the Tally Board for the actual casualty evacuation part of the exercise.

The 'casualty' would be located, assessed and evacuated from the mine using the rubber dinghy as a floating stretcher. Finally all remaining gear would be removed from the mine, to be followed by an on-site debrief as to problems encountered and possible lessons to be learnt from the exercise.

An inflatable dinghy! That explained the huge, mysterious, yellow waterproof holdall sitting amongst all the gear I had noticed earlier. This rubber dinghy was not the usual type but specially designed for river rescue and on loan from the Ogwen Mountain Rescue Team (or was it Llanberis MR?) Gethin wanted to assess its suitability for flooded mine rescues; the Penmorfa tramming adit would be just the place. Gethin jokingly voiced his concerns at damaging the dinghy as it was almost brand new so I thought it only fair to warn him of the possibilities of the odd nail still embedded in the pipe walls since the original pipe-jacking some years' ago; something one old member will never forget having had his brand new chest-waders punctured on the way in by one! But at least they couldn't say I hadn't warned them!

Getting started....

Using my two trolleys, I was surprised how quickly the huge pile of gear disappeared down the pipe and being last man in, by the time I had reached the pipe-end, I could see the heavily laden canoe surrounded by its' helpers well on the way down the adit.



Catching the others up at the Tally Board, I could see Chris was already setting up the Mole Phone, a device which, it was hoped, would transmit our radio messages through the rock to another transceiver high up on the Orme above. I had seen a similar device trialled in Penmorfa quite a few years ago but it had met with mixed success, the messages were received down below in Penmorfa but not vice-versa. The Mole Phone is now a standard piece of kit for Cave Rescue Organisations I believe.

But it was time for me to lead the guided tour, leaving our 'comms'. people below twiddling knobs etc. I

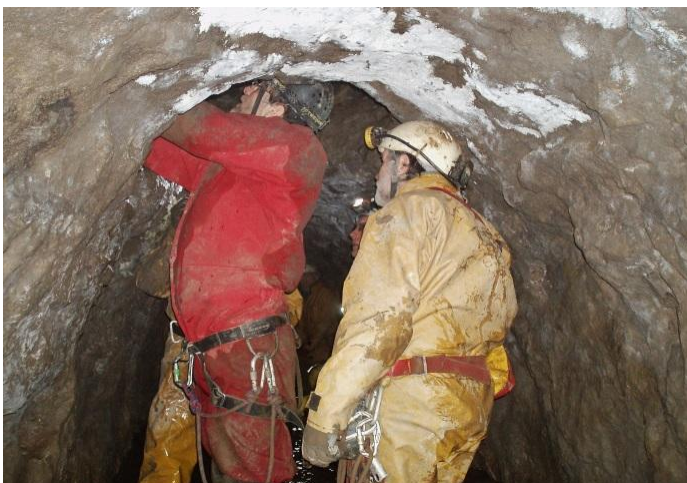
thought I'd start the group on our standard visitor route up Rift 1, planning to be back at the Tally Board for the rest of the exercise at the agreed time,

Unfortunately such was the groups' interest, it took rather longer than planned. In fact we encountered Gethin part way up the rift coming to look for us! He reported that the communication side of the exercise hadn't gone well. The walkie-talkies hadn't worked despite the straight-line nature of the adit and neither had the Mole Phone for some reason. The third option, a cable link, had been rejected for this exercise thinking that it would only cause problems inside the pipe as people and gear passed through. In a real rescue scenario though, it was considered to be the only realistic option.



The 'rescue'....

The 'casualty' was a rather petite lady I was happy to see, a nice change from the usual six foot, well-built gentleman who'd been our casualty on previous exercises and whom I'd recognised in the team earlier.



The leaders had chosen an interesting place to rescue our young lady from; it was a smallish cavity in the roof of the main tramming adit and about two-thirds the way in. Some of our taller members, forced to stoop as they walked down the adit, used it as a place to stretch their weary backs I recall.

But I suspect this place was chosen as it was both awkward and the water below was just deep enough to float the rubber dinghy.

Two of the 'rescuers' joined the lady in the cavity in order to assess her 'injuries' before getting her into the 'cas' bag, strapping her into the special caving stretcher before finally lowering her down into the dinghy below. No mean feat in such a confined space. But many hands make light work and before too long the casualty was safely in the dinghy. As mentioned earlier the rubber dinghy was of a special type used for rescuing people from fast flowing river scenarios and as such didn't have a back wall, so it didn't really keep all the water out, much to the discomfort of our once dry, now wet casualty who complained bitterly! I now suspected that was the reason the big man hadn't volunteered!



Soon the dinghy was speeding down the adit with its' attendants, leaving three of us to bring the rest of the gear out in our trusty canoe. Bringing up the rear again, I was just in time to see the rubber dinghy starting its' final journey out through the pipe. I was still wondering about those nails!

But I needn't have worried, the dinghy and casualty were swept down the pipe on their own mini tsunami, leaving us tail-enders struggling to bring the rest of the gear out through the pipe; two journeys through the pipe on my hands and knees in one day, I wasn't used to this!

Having changed into dry clothes, the exercise was evaluated with all parties able to have their say. Overall, the exercise was judged a huge success and using the rubber dinghy as a floating stretcher had shown its' worth. My reservations about the dinghy in the pipe were unfounded, but how it missed those nails I'll never know. Perhaps it's an issue that we need to address and sooner rather than later, one never knows but we might be needing that dinghy ourselves one day! (Fingers crossed it won't be for me!)



Author: Brian Edwards

Miscellany

Rest and be Thankful

The GOES photographs which have been on display in the Rest and be Thankful Cafe had started to deteriorate. Tony Davies and Dave Broomhead have recently replaced them with newly printed copies. These will no doubt continue to fascinate visitors for many years to come.



National Trust buys Parc Farm

In May 2015 Parc Farm was purchased by the National Trust for £600,000. (Front cover: Across Parc Farm to Orme Summit from limestone pavement.) The deal includes 145 acres (58.6 hectares) of land and grazing rights over an additional 720 acres (291 hectares) of the headland.

The Great Orme is a wildlife paradise, regarded as one of the top 5 most important botanical sites in Britain. Its fragile landscape can now be better protected from insensitive development and its flora and fauna safeguarded for the future.



Early morning view within Parc Farm walls from Orme Summit side

The acquisition comes on the 50th anniversary of the NT's Neptune Coastline Campaign, a fundraising initiative enabling 157 miles of welsh coastline to be secured for people to enjoy and nature to thrive.

Penmorfa Adit Artefacts

This year the Society was presented with some artefact's from the Penmorfa Adit which had been removed in 1977/78 by Billy Davies and Phil Quigley during some early explorations before the formation of GOES.. The group contains Chisel, Pipe Gasket; Scraper; Track Pin and other assorted mine items.

The Society is grateful to Phil Quigley who after storing these for the last 37/38 years, has made them available to exhibit at future GOES events.



Lower Treweeks

October 18th 2015, GOES hosted a trip down Lower Treweeks for a team from UCET (United Cavers Exploration Team). The barrel inserted through a dig in 2011 to provide safe access into new ground was found to be partly squashed and a slumped boulder at its exit proved extremely awkward to squeeze past. Work is required to make the route easier and UCET have offered to help. After probing into many nooks and crannies a circular trip was made back to Base Camp for the obligatory rest and photograph.



This joint outing with UCET, together with several other trips into Penmorfa, laid the foundations of a productive working relationship and a friendship with UCET members. Subsequently a GOES contingent joined them on an outing to the Milwr Tunnel, described elsewhere in this journal.

2015 Victorian Extravaganza

Last year Saturday was exceptionally wet and the GOES tent was often very quiet. Clearly out of practice, the Chairman was even overheard to be talking about the Great Orme lead mines!



On Sunday the weather was much improved and the promenade was busy. For the first time three tents were used to improve the visitor experience and were a great success.



Readers may be aware of an index to GOES journals compiled by Keith Morris which has been made available on the club's website. His index is preceded by an introduction outlining the rational used in compiling the inventory. The forward is reprinted here to advertise the presence of an invaluable resource and highlight the work that was put into it.

Index to Great Orme Exploration Society Journals

When I first came across the Great Orme Exploration Society's web pages, I was impressed by the amount of information contained in the Society's Journals but quickly realised that an index was required to unlock the information. I noted that an index had been compiled to cover the early years, namely an Author Index for 1989-1995 and a Subject Index 1991-5, but here in 2015 a new index seemed desirable.

Compiling An Index To The Journal

By and large, the new index is a Subject Index, which is probably the most useful format. Once in a while though, a title entry is preferred where this seems to be common sense! (As to an Author Index, I don't think one is really needed).

GOES is by definition concerned with the exploration of the Great Orme, so the latter is therefore ignored as a subject entry. Most of the time anyway!

An article entitled "An Introduction to Copper Mining on the Great Orme in the Bronze Age" could be indexed under several headings, but this index would choose "Bronze Age Copper Mining: an intro" as being more helpful to users.

Some short items or ephemeral items have usually been ignored by the indexer e.g. GOES Xmas lunches.

A small number of articles were difficult to index: these include imaginative articles where the writers displayed their creative side and a few articles describing digging underground without giving clear indication of where the exploits were performed. In all cases, the indexer had to use common sense. Bear in mind here that one man's common sense is another person's confusion!

In a few Journals, the contents list refers to articles which do not actually appear in the Journal!

This is frustrating. Possibly in saving files and converting to

PDF format something has gone astray. On occasion several pages had disappeared from the Journal. So if your favourite article does not appear in the Index, that may be the reason.



Some short items appear in each Journal described as 'News Roundups' or 'Editorials': these are very useful for updates on the development of shafts and mine workings etc. Although these short pieces have not been indexed, attention is drawn to them as being very useful summaries of the ongoing work of GOES in that

particular year.

There may be some inconsistencies with the page numbers referred to in the Index. Some page numbers in the journals seem to have been added as an afterthought, and differences can occur depending on whether the cover page is counted as page one or not.

Abbreviations Used In The Index

It is hoped that the abbreviations used in the Index are self-evident, but to avoid misunderstandings, please note the following: -

1992:3:12 indicates the GOES Journal for 1992, issue 3, page 12.

Index to the GOES Journal 1988 to 2015

AGM (poem) 1991 Newsletter:14
 Alderley Edge: GOES expedition 1990:1:5
 Ali Series link to Treweeks Shaft & D-Day Rift 2010:1:17
 Animals, more subterranean 1989 Autumn:12
 Archaeological sites of the Great Orme 1992: Supplement:12
 Archaeology: Great Orme Management Plan 1999:2:13
 Badger Cave and Tudno Cave 1994:2:21
 Baltic – trip by Landrover 1991:1:4
 Bannerman Premise, Ode to 1993:1:12
 Barker, David: obituary 1993:1:4
 Bats Underground 1991:1:10
 Beardsall, Mark: obituary 2009: Newsletter:4
 Bibliography of the.....

 Vivians family 1989 Aut:13
 Vivians shaft , installation of a fixed ladder 1990:1:17
 Vivians shaft, recollections 1989 Aut:11
 Vivians shaft, worth waiting for 1988:4:4
 Weil's disease 1996:1:3
 Wells & springs, Llandudno 1990:1:21
 Wells, Old, of the Great Orme 1990:3:16
 Where seagulls dare 1990:1:12
 Where Did All The Prehistoric Copper Go? (A detailed scientific analysis of Great Orme ore & its Bronze Age exchange network) 2015:1:7
 Williams, Hugh Tudno: obituary 1992:3:3
 Williams, John (1837-1932). Short biog of miner from Cromlech Rd 1998:2:2
 Wrysgan Slate Mine: GOES trip 2013:1:17

More of the Index can be seen by following the hyperlink

http://www.goes.org.uk/assets/Journals/GOES_INDEX.pdf

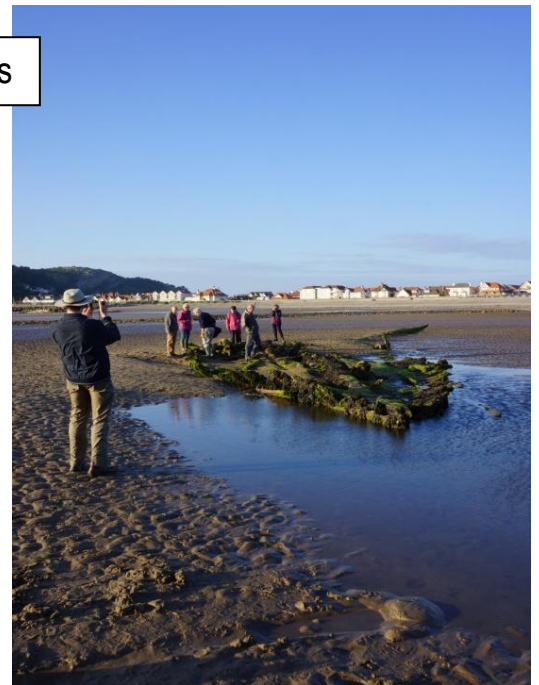
Author: Keith Morris

GOES Summer Walks 2015

Fishermans Ledge, Pigeon Cave



West Shore Walks



Dowsing evening



Summit Route



Summit Walk



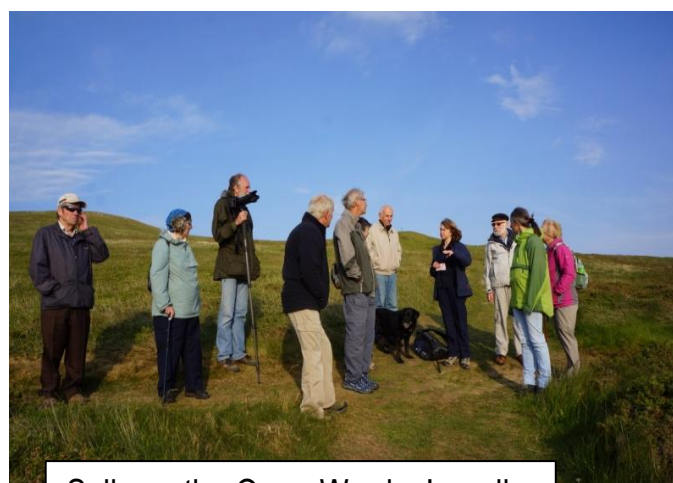
Maes y Facrell area walk



The 9 Hole Golf Course



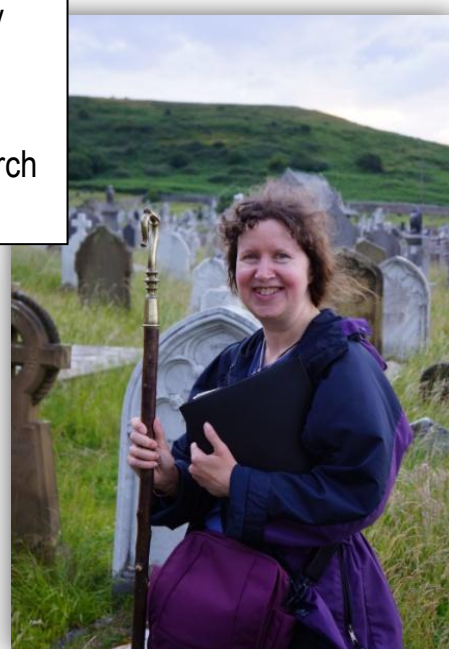
Sally on the Orme Warden's walk



Geo Walk with Martin



Christine - the very helpful St Tudno's Church Warden - Cemetery and Church walks organiser



Lovers / Invalids Walk



Martin at his best



GOES Summer Walks 2016

All walks start at 7pm and are usually gentle strolls, which last approximately 2 hours. Sturdy footwear and waterproofs. Below is a list of the proposed walks, but all are subject to confirmation. Please check the community news section in the North Wales Weekly News, which will provide full details of the walk taking place and recommend the arranged meeting place. If however, the weather is poor, then the walk is very likely to be cancelled or postponed until a later date.

- 26th May. **Conwy Morfa.** Meet at the Beacons Car Park (There may be a charge for parking. Wellies advised. Low Tide 20:50 - 1.4m). GR - SH 773 791.
- 2nd June. **West Shore and the Miniature Railway.** Meet at West Shore Marine Drive Toll House. GR - SH 768 823.
- 9th June. **RA Gun Site.** Meet at West Shore Marine Drive Toll House (With guest speaker Merfyn Thomas). GR - SH 768 823.
- 16th June. **Parc Wall Walk.** Meet at Great Orme Visitor Centre Car Park. GR - SH 766 833.
- 23rd June. **The Camera Obscura and Happy Valley.** Meet at the Obscura (There will be a small charge for the Obscura - £2). GR - SH 781 828.
- 30th June. **'Inside the Wall' National Trust, Parc Farm.** Meet at Great Orme Visitor Centre Car Park GR - SH 766 833.
- 7th July. **'Under the Pier'.** Meet at the pier entrance (Wellies optional but advised. Low Tide 20:05 - 0.8m). GR - SH 782 838.
- 14th July. **Boat trip around Great and Little Orme.** (£10 charge for 2 hour trip, full waterproofs advised. High Tide 19:45 - 5.9m). GR - SH 781 827.
- 21st July. **North Shore to Pink Farm and back.** (steep walk). Meet at the North Shore Toll House. GR - SH 782 832.
- 28th July. **Pen Dinas and Ski Slope area.** Meet at the Ski Centre Car Park. GR - SH 778 833.
- 4th August. **St Tudno's Well / St Tudno's Church.** (With Christine Jones and kind permission of the land owners). Meet at St Tudno's Church. GR - SH 769 838.
- 11th August. **Summit Circular.** Meet near Half Way Tram Station by the Water Pump House. GR - SH 772 833.

Walk Coordinator: Nick Challinor

The Caving Code:

1. Get the basic gear: Helmet, lamp, warm clothing, spare lighting, insurance.
 2. Always get permission from the owner: If in doubt, ask the local group; always leave the site secure and follow the 'country code', close the gates.
 3. Tell someone where you are going. How many, which mine and where, time in, out and home-contact; if overdue contact **CAVE RESCUE 999**.
 4. Never go underground alone or intoxicated: The minimum number is four, one to stay with the casualty and two to go for help. Alcohol or drugs in you, or one of the group, compromises the safety of the entire group.
 5. Do not exceed your capability: Do not over estimate your skills and endurance; and remember it is always more difficult coming out against gravity.
 6. Do not get lost: Take a reliable plan or guide from the local group.
 7. Never climb on mine ladders or machinery: If it is rotten you will not defy gravity for long, but you will accelerate at 32ft/sec/sec.
 8. Never climb on stacked or dead walls: They may collapse around you like a house of cards; take care.
 9. Never fool around underground. It might be the last thing you do for yourself or your mate(s), or they do for you.
 10. Do not spoil the mine environment: Take your rubbish home, leave artefacts in situ, leave bats and other flora/fauna alone. Do not smoke.
 11. Know your emergency self-help drills: Don't panic; apply first aid to save life (bleeding, breathing, consciousness) prevent deterioration (shock, hypothermia) and promote recovery (reassurance, and go easy on the gallows humour); stay with the casualty while two of you go for help.
 12. Access to the mines on the Great Orme is controlled, but is available to caving groups or individuals via the **Great Orme Exploration Society Ltd**. Arrangements for guided access can be made with the Society Secretary.
- **TAKE** only photographs, **LEAVE** only footprints, **KILL** only time.

