

## **Report to members by Hon Secretary.**

The year started well, with a number of visitors – then figurately the sky fell in. I've tabulated the good and the bad!

### Negative

- Virtually no visitor income since COVID hit – small socially distanced trips provided minimal income. Balance of funds slightly reduced.
- Antisocial behaviour on site, with damage to powder house, and coe, bonfires and litter.
- Loss of Sunday group day and of course the AGM. As secretary I can say that I really miss both those and the AGM most of all.

### Positive.

- More potential trips for caving clubs opening up, strong interest (three trips likely) for when re re-open
- Weekly working days (sometimes with members going twice a week), with a significant amount of work completed. Tribute must be paid to all those who have come and given so freely of their time and effort. Its appreciated, however, that owing to work commitments many of you can't take part.
- Good relationships built with the police, camera was installed and problems appear to have stopped.

### Specific Achievements

- Repairs and consolidation of the powder house (mortaring of dry-stone walls).
- Artefact displays put in – bracketed to walls, display bench built within the mine
- Conservation of our original tub completed (freshly wax-oyled)
- Laddering of JK shaft completed (three ladders and a platform all put in) – and safety chains fitted. This means we have an alternative access in the event of malicious damage to the gate
- Rock ledge in JK stabilised.
- Dig Shaft has been capped/lidded, fitted with ladders and digging commenced with most concrete railway sleepers removed.
- Smoke testing in Dig Shaft completed with results showing several ways on.
- Letter box series dig seriously advanced, now draughting strongly.
- Start made on works to dig new passage at Else's scrin with fore poling used.
- Access (one we own), to two rescue tripods.

As such, therefore, I can say that thanks to members we have achieved perhaps as much this year as any of our best years, and set out a strong foundation for next year. We've also – thanks to fund raising – kept a very reasonable bank balance. We have seized the time and opportunities and made what could have been a disastrous year into one we can be proud of.

One two final points – I have completed a safety access statement for your approval (missing some phone numbers pending this). Its clear from discussions with the Mines Inspectorate and local activity operations that we needed to update our risk assessments and procedures.

Website – I have updated to some degree, and some works will continue. As such I have delayed the need to get professional assistance, although I would still warn this might be necessary as the

current software is not supported. I would suggest to members that this is a project which might be worthy of a grant application when circumstances arise.

### **Special contributions this year**

Alan K – on site catering, advanced spanner handling and ladder handling. Liaison with the police on antisocial behaviour, sign construction

Richard H – on site ladder fixing, welding and fabrication

Andrew B – ladder fixing, hauling of waste

Margaret B – catering and general digging/hauling

Margaret F – tub oiling/artefact conservation/hauling

Steve E – digging in Letterbox series, provision of puns

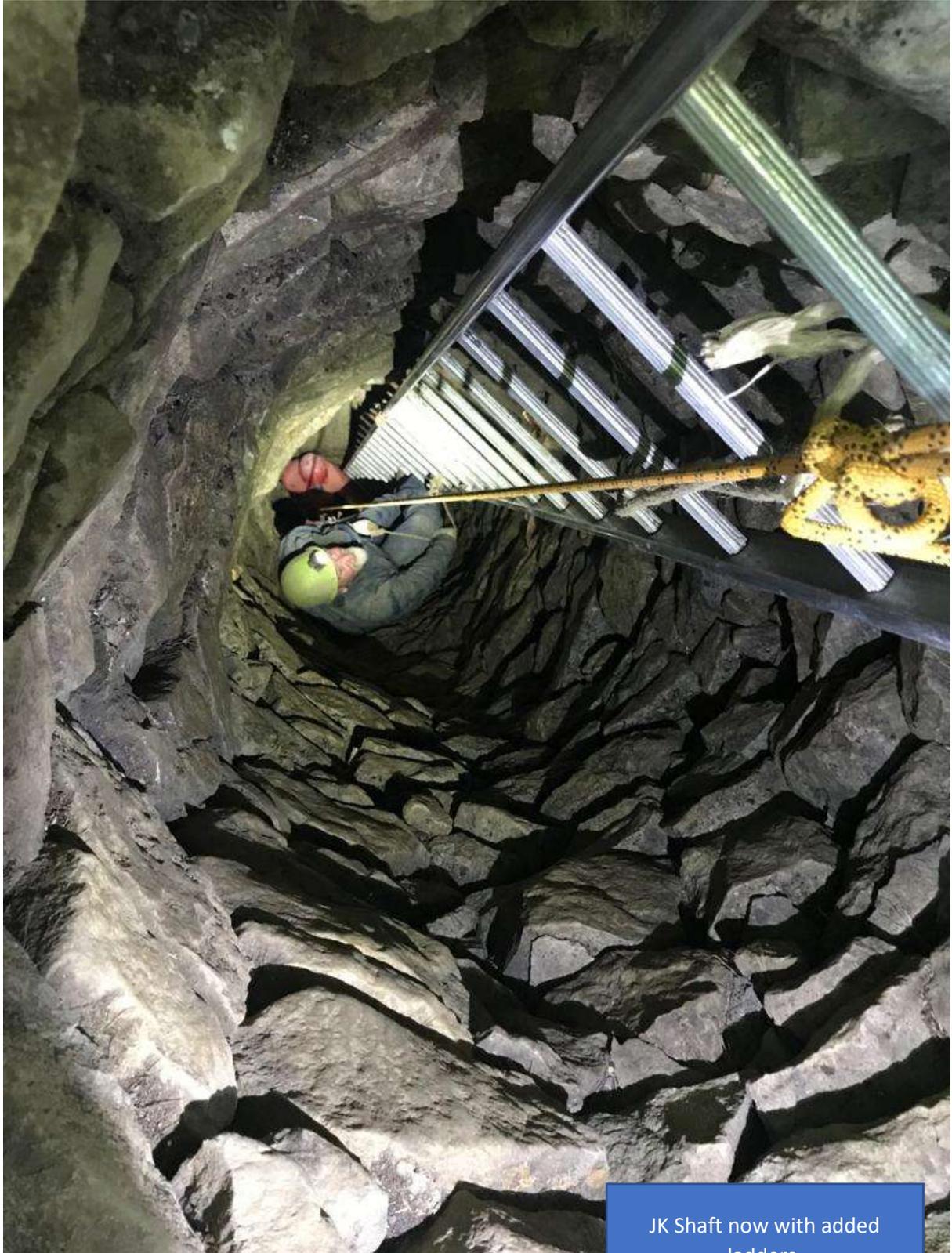
Malcolm S – all jobs on site for JK and dig shaft.

Roger – concrete sleeper breaking and other jobs

Ian G – general help/signs/club clothing

This is **not exhaustive**, and if I have forgotten something please accept my apologies.

**I understand completely that many members would have wanted to help out, but that circumstances and lack of Sunday workdays have stopped them.**



JK Shaft now with added ladders.





The new shaft lid and concrete surround – new dig shaft.