



Wessex Cave Club Journal
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Officers of the Wessex Cave Club

President Office Vacant **Vice-Presidents** Paul Dolphin and Jack Sheppard



Jonathan Williams, Webmaster

Jonathan is currently expanding the club website and working with the Editor to devise the best ways of circulating information and recording club events. He is also the Club **Sales Officer**.

Contact him at sales@wessex-cave-club.org

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Hut Warden	Pauline Grosart	Club Procedures Brian Pitman
Northern Caving Secretary	Keith Sanderson	01524 251662
Hut Bookings	Wendy Williams	01749 679839

This Issue's Cover Picture

On the first of January, a party of past and present Wessex Veterans were invited to rediscover the joys of Swildons, by Pete and Alison Moody. Despite high water levels, many surprised themselves and reached Sump 1. The party were (left to right) Barry Wilkinson, Brian Prewer, Rich (Kermit) Warman, Rob Taviner, Phil Hendy, Judith Vanderplank, Geoff Newton, Adrian Vanderplank, Julian Taylor, Alison Moody, Liz Green, Dave Morrison, Keith and Roz Fielder, Glynn Bolt and Pete Hann.
Photo Phil Hendy

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Club News

At the Committee meeting, on 4th Feb, **Geoff Ballard** answered our appeal for a new secretary and he was duly co-opted. Thank you Geoff.

We welcomed back the following ex-members

Fred Felstead

20 Warner close, Harlington, Middlesex, UB3 5LG, 0208 7596185
elderlyengines@hotmail.com

Russell Mines

16 Eign Road, Hereford, HR1 2RY. 01432 357276

Hut safety

The hut warden was concerned that a visiting group had been using candles in the dormitory. This is a no smoking area and obviously, this means **no naked lights**.

There has also been a return to the old problem of undone washing up. Please clear up after your meals. Pauline is Hut Warden and despite the joking, not a cleaning lady.

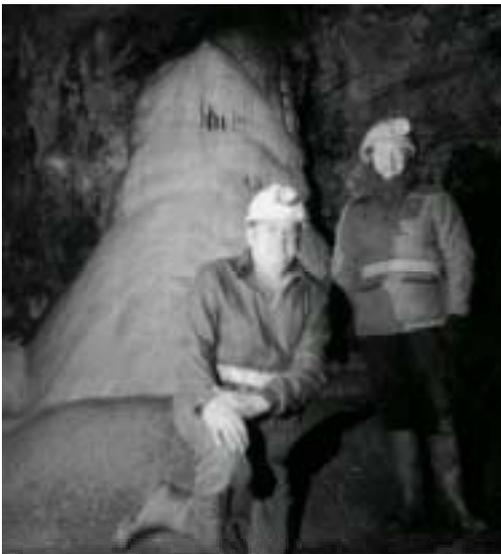
Thanks to Malc Foyle for donating a photo-copier and to **Colin Masters** for making tags for tackle-bags.

Warning

Bad air has been reported in **Tynings Barrow Swallet**.

Mendip Challenge 2001. Unfortunately, the Wessex won last year and thus hosts this year's competition. It will be a Gun-carriage Race. The provisional date is June 23rd.

The following patrons thank the operators of **Saga Cruises** (Formerly Tuska's Tours)



**Ivor
Gibbons
with
Dorothy
Gibbons**

**and
Sheila
Pitman.**



Free beer in the Hunters. The 60 millionth pint of Butcombe beer was dispensed free on February 10th to Barry Wilton of the B.E.C. It was served by brewery owner, Simon Witcombe, who chose the Hunters because of Roger's (and his customer's) longstanding and outstanding loyalty to his product. Free beer remained on offer, all evening, in the presence of a local T.V. crew.

Change of Telephone No.

John and Lou Biiffin are now on 02476 769090

Journal Back Numbers. Frances Tudgay is offering her late husband's Wessex Journals for sale. There are virtually a complete set, from 1956 to 1997 and a run of the early circulars 1934-40 to No.53. Any offers should be sent to Martin Mills, (S.M.C.C.), 33 Carlisle Avenue, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 0QP Tel 01772 744825 E mail: kirsty@milche.freeserve.co.uk. Purchaser collects- within 15 miles of Upper Pitts.

Lodmore Hole- Report to Shareholders

Presented 6th Jan 2001 by Phil Hendy

N.H.A.S.A. will long mourn the untimely death of Richard Kenney, for many reasons, not least for his commitment to digging Lodmore. Most Wednesdays, he wound the top winch. Slow and steady he could lift spoil all evening; his only concession, to the weather was to strip to his vest on infrequent balmy summer evenings. He will be a difficult man to follow. Last year, I estimated the dig to be 130ft deep. We then surveyed it, at 110ft but we have gone down in the world, since then. A year ago, we had dug below the jammed boulder, to where the bedding wall seemed to undercut and a possible way on appeared under the main wall, that we had built. To our dismay, it seemed to point to where John Hill's dowsing had predicted. The route appeared to be under a mass of hanging death. So we decided to carry on, digging downwards. As usual.

Doing this, we revealed a solid wall, opposite the main wall, which gave some sense of security but restricted the dig's width to about 6ft. We soon found this area too small to work and were forced to go sideways, under the hanging death. We had, however, excavated a hole for the spoil. At this point, those of pensionable age let it be, that they intended to continue drawing their pensions and not convert them to widow's benefits. That left the a hard core of younger members, to carry on, led by Jonathan Riley, who is very brave and appears to have no imagination. For several weeks, we mixed pug and passed it down to him, while he dug steadily sideways, stabilising the base of the ruckle with much grouting. The resulting crawl is somewhat restricted and makes spoil removal less than easy. We have recently reverted to packing the mud into plastic bags and dragging them through the crawl, to be hauled out in buckets. At the end of the crawl, Jonathan engineered a 6ft vertical drop, in steps, to enter a small chamber.

Recently, the floor has been steadily taken down and we have found some perched mud floors, which reveal old flood levels, To the right, there is a low extension, under the boulder ruckle, where some slabs have settled, from the roof, which appears to be solid rock. Work continues here, The slabs are supporting the ruckle above, so it is necessary to inch these out and build behind them, supporting the mass, in the meantime, with scaffold poles. A way on can be seen for about 6m. (20ft in old money), where the floor appears to be about 1m.(4ft) lower than in the chamber. Plans are being made to construct a concrete cap, over the shaft, in the summer, so that whenever we leave, (be it then cave or abandoned dig),it will be safe from curious cows and squaddies.

At one time, foul air was suspected and an R.S.P.C.A. approved detector was acquired. So far, it has not been used in anger. It is being kept for the time being in the Upper Pitts Library Please refrain from feeding it.





Mud and Water '99

Andy Kaye

The Concluding Part of this Diving Exploration Deep in the Grand Souci

Translation of an article submitted to Speleo-Dordogne 2nt trimestrial 1999.

6th April Departure of Fish and Liz in the morning. Mixing of gases, with the usual racket of compressors. Clive is in first, taking the stage tanks for Tim, who will continue the “deep route” later. Clive is followed by Rob, who following the deep line to the bolt, arrives in time to make out the glow of Clive’s light, at the end of the “shallow route”. The junction has been made! Once the lines have been joined, Clive returns back to the shot, to run out yet another line, in an attempt to continue the “circular tour”. Rob goes deep to survey back to the belay at minus 70m. He’s back on the surface, after 50 minutes underwater, having accomplished his task without incident. Minus 70m, on air, is nevertheless pretty close to the limit.

Clive returns, after 80 minutes underwater. While Rob was decompressing at minus 3m, he sent up his slate, with his survey notes. Malc and Andy pace out the approximate position, directly above the minus 70m.point and place a stake in the field to mark the place. If it actually is a passage, at the deep point, it’s heading straight for the hills, in the direction of the sinks at Cubjac. It’s Tim’s turn. Watching his bubbles, we see that he descends, leaving the shot-line.

But he is back, within a couple of minutes. Slight moment of worry; why this precipitous return? Has he met with a technical problem, or what? One of the problems of using Trimix is that one cannot count on what the dive computer says, as it is designed for air dives. Therefore, in principal, the diver is obliged to follow his pre-planned deco schedule, even if he hasn’t attained the anticipated depth. We wait but are reassured by the form of the bubbles, which indicate that Tim is coming back up normally. There is no “gag of the day”, while Tim is at minus 3m.

Finally, he’s back with us and explains that quite simply, he didn’t feel on top form, once he’d arrived at the bolt and so, turned his dive. Thus reassured, we’re even happier to find out later, that he’d carefully recalculated his deco stops, in order to minimise his use of the precious Trimix.....After numerous calculations on the computer, in the evening, it appears that there’s just enough Helium left for another attempt, next day.

7th April.....Clive’s tanks contain a mix, permitting him to go as deep as minus 90m. Tim goes to tie the stage tanks on the shot -line and then enters the other pool, to continue his

exploration of the “Souci 2”. During this time, Clive kits up and starts his dive. Malc waits for Tim’s return, with the line-reel, which had been left in “his” cave the, other day, takes it and dives to continue the “circular tour”.

De -rigging and clearing out the “Souci 2” of dead branches, Tim has the misfortune to pierce the blue bin-bag. A dreadful smell emerges and Tim wastes no time getting out of the water and removing his dry-suit. After thirty metres, in the descending passage, he had found himself in a vast space. We’ve no clue as to whether this is the main chamber, or another similar one.

Clive is back at the junction with the shot-line, 25 mins after entering the water, exactly on schedule. We know, that with his deco stops, we’ll still have to wait another hour and a quarter, before he’s back on the surface. On the contrary, Malc hasn’t set himself a fixed timetable but knowing he’s got vast air reserves, with his two big 15 litre tanks, we’ve got no worries. To pass the time, Robin has taken a shovel, to dig out the “steps” at the edge of the hole, as they have become dangerously slippery, over the days. Of course he took great care not to let any of the earth fall in the water, while the divers were descending.

After a while, the rising bubbles indicated that Malc is back on the shot. Clive is at minus 6m with Malc probably starting his stop at minus 12m. We are wondering what kind of joke to play on Clive, when he gets back to minus 3m, when Rob has a stroke of genius. With a diabolical grin, he yells “instant bad viz!” and launches a clod of earth into the pool, followed by another. Then, he remembers the shovel and the recently harrowed field beside us. Rapidly, it’s a shovel full of fine earth that troubles the surface. Shortly, Clive is back in the open air. First of all, he announces that he got down to minus 87m but in almost the same breath asks “how the heck did you do that?” Rob brandishes a shovel full of earth.

Now theoretically, after a deep dive, the diver should avoid unnecessary strenuous exercise. However, Clive rapidly removes his kit and even before taking off his dry-suit, grabs the shovel to add his portion of “instant bad viz”, knowing Malc has got about 20 minutes, on deco at minus 3m. “Brilliant” he exclaims and we all take turns with the shovel. Finally Malc is back with us, and smiling. He’d dozed off during his stop and when his computer said he could come out, He couldn’t even see his watch. “For a moment, I thought the sun had gone down.

The survey (of the Grand Souci) was drawn up in the evening. The size of the cavity is stupefying and furthermore, Clive hadn’t found a belay, for the far end of the line. He left it suspended by a lead weight. The bottom had neither been visible, nor even sensed as being close. Obviously, the next campaign will be logistically and materially even more complex. Multiple-tank rigs, replacement of the shotline, with caving rope, maybe the use of sonar for the survey; anything is possible. Probably, I ought to retire my surface “special Souci” rope, as the amount of equipment already being passed up and down is becoming impressive.

Technical notes on the Grand Souci

As it has already been noted, the Souci has become a technically and logistically complicated site, for even the most experienced cave-divers. As a result, the author feels obliged to add a few words of caution, although these may already be out of date by the time this article is published.

The shotline has seen some hard use, recently. Although made of 4.5mm braded nylon, it is not really designed to be left underwater, for some years, with the weight of a breezeblock, on the end. Especially not to undergo the wear of jumars teeth, even if the jumars were only holding the relatively neutrally-bouyant stage tanks. It is planned to replace the shot with caving rope, as it is not only the “way back home” but also the attachment point, for the other routes, at the time of writing.

Three other lines leave from the shot, at present. They are only separated in depth by a metre (minus 35m to minus 36m). Needless to say, going along the deepest one and taking a wrong turn, on the way back, could have serious consequences.

The first line goes to a wall belay and ends there. The second goes to another wall, rising to minus 24 and then descending again, via the “semicircular tour”, to join up with the bolt, for the deep route.

The third line leaves the shot, in the “deep route” itself. After the bolt, the line goes down at an angle. This route is far from finished, both in length and depth. Not counting the French “bootlace”, found two years ago and subsequently tied to the shot, there’s probably close on 200 metres of line, in the cavity.

The majority of the “deep dives” were made on trimix. The mixtures were calculated, using “Prodiver” software, with modifications. Each time, Clive and Tim dived using tanks containing different mixtures; one for “travel, the other for “depth”. This system enabled them to calculate their decompression times, within very tight margins. It was preferred to decant the helium, even with a certain wastage, than to run it through the compressors. Experience at the Doux de Coly, had demonstrated that the pumps aren’t too happy with this gas and it’s cost, although high, is less than spare parts for the machines.

During the five days spent at the Grand Souci, the divers spent a total of over 15 hours underwater, in the course of fourteen dives. The surface team passed over a ton of material up and down the shaft, during operations.

We were frequently visited, on site, by the welcoming landowner, Monseur Zachari, (who’s permission should be sought, before diving the cavity.). Also by various other local inhabitants, taking a stroll, on this Easter weekend and curious to observe this rather unusual spectacle. We thank them for their understanding attitude.

The Grand Souci de St Vincent sur L’Isle has now been explored to a depth of 92 metres, 87m of which are underwater. This is incontestably the deepest vertical descent in the Dordogne.

8th April. The divers travel down to the Lot, to meet up with other friends, down there on holiday and to put in a dive at the St. Sauveur resurgence. Here, unlike the Souci, there’s 30 metre viz and they can play with their scooters. Rob descends on air, to –71m, just because he...can! What a character. Their return heralds a long night in the local “bistro”.

9th April Waking up is neither early or easy. The original plan had been a visit to the Grotte des Jonquilles, to visit a pretty cave, without doing any diving but with some S.R.T. involved. However, the previous evening’s revels had had an effect on our spirits. One advantage of having a good stock of Oxygen to hand is that it can become part of breakfast, helping the headaches a lot!

So instead, we make a tourist and photographic trip, to the Grotte des Borderies, having previously obtained permission and the key. Malc finally decides he's too "tired" to go underground at all and will act as "surface support" (as if it were needed in this cave). Once in the cave, we are glad to see that the pollution has cleaned itself up, since the silage clamps, on the surface, have been moved elsewhere. After a pleasant subterranean wander, we return to the light of day, to find our "surface support" snoring loudly in the shade of his Land Rover. Unlike in the case of the "Sleeping Beauty" none of us wanted to play Prince Charming and wake him with a kiss. So we do the job with clods of earth, dead branches and caving wellies.

10th APRIL Clive and Tim have to take the ferry, that night, so we say farewell to them, after lunch. Malc and Rob won't set off until later, as they are catching the following day's boat, which leaves in time for the indispensable wine purchases and a tootle around in the afternoon. We pay a visit to the Font de La Doue, where the water seems high, for the season. Also to the sinkholes of La Crouzille, suspected to feed the system. There has been a new collapse in the zone (nicknamed "Sarajevo") by those in the know. The new hole will need some tree trunks dragging out. By comparison, another of the holes, sporadically dug by members of the S.C.P., over the years, has been almost completely filled in by our friends the badgers. The remaining kit is packed in the Land Rover and it's "au revoir". A well filled week of caving.

The Team

Robin Brown (C.D.G./W.C.C.), **Malcom Foyle** (C.D.G./W.C.C.), **Tim Chapman** (C.D.G./B.E.C.) and **Clive Stell** (C.D.G./B.E.C.) Cave Divers.

Andrew Kay (S.P.C./W.C.C.) Caving and Surface Support.

Christiane Devaux-Kay Cooking, Support and enormous patience

"Fish" and Liz Jeanmaire (C.D.G.), who kept the conversation lively.

Beetle Drop

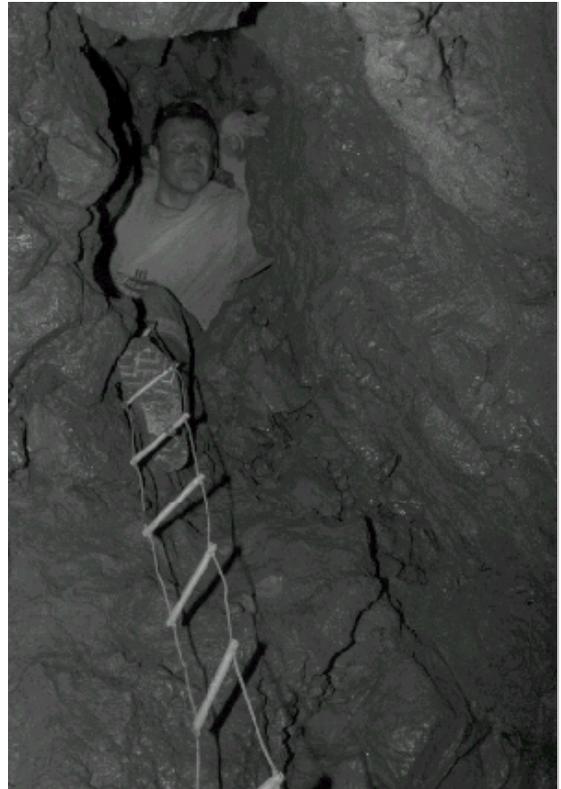
Richard Witcombe

Over the years countless cavers have gazed into the impressive rocky crater of Sandpit Hole, north of Ebbor Gorge, and wondered what vast system must lie somewhere below. More than most Mendip depressions, this pit with its cliff walls looks like a classic collapse feature, surely linked to the long sought Priddy/Wookey master cave that meanders somewhere under these fields, albeit 500' below the surface. Digging in the short passages around Sandpit's walls goes back to at least 1907, and in the 1990s, the latest attempt to sink a shaft into the floor of the pit (by Messrs Romford and Large) petered out inconclusively at a depth of 15'.

All the while, the landowner, Richard Masters, had been keeping an eye on a shallow depression just 80' north of Sandpit, which appeared to be deepening. With his interest stirred by the discovery of nearby White Pit, he decided to call in Dave Morrison to investigate the site by the tried and tested mechanical excavator method. On Saturday 17 April 1999, after only an hour or so's work, the digger clipped the top of a cave passage at the depth of 10'. It proved to be a narrow rift choked with earth and mud in both directions, with stal cemented rubble in the roof, and was stable enough to support three concrete pipe sections and the necessary backfilling of the depression.

Digging at Beetle Drop (the name was derived from the suicidal tendencies of large numbers of black beetles which swarmed around the pipes and regularly dropped into the

rift) began in earnest on Wednesday 19 May 1999 with the usual Wessex/ ATLAS team putting in Wednesday and Sunday appearances. By June, undercutting and air spaces two or three inches high showed that the entrance hole was dropping into a sizeable passage or chamber, and the presence of stal wall coating and short straws was a further encouragement to digging.



Right, Dave Morrison peering into Beetle Drop. Photo by Paul Stillman.
Above, the entrance, with the wooded depression of Sandpit, in the background. Photo Maurice Hewins.

As the summer progressed, the cave developed into a north/south passage, at least four feet wide, with the biggest air spaces in the northwards direction. Ten feet of progress was made to a view over the mud floor to a possible drop ahead, but disappointingly, it proved to be no more than a slope down to a complete mud choke. Digging out the glutinous clay produced a few rocks, the odd tiny air space and quantities of CO₂, which persisted for most of the summer. At no point was any floor encountered.

To aid haulage, Dave Speed's Frog Pot winch was installed, on 30 June and the northern passage was pushed to a rising boulder choked roof and a narrowing of the rift. The floor meanwhile turned into a quagmire, which eventually necessitated rocks being sent down from the surface to enable the digger to stay above the mud! It was decided to switch attention to the southern end of the passage, where a small arched airspace on the western side seemed to hint at a passage heading for Sandpit Hole.

The arch, alas, turned out to be no more than an alcove, but the general nature of the floor, at this southern end proved more interesting. It appeared to be a choke of fairly loosely packed small rocks, with many small pits and airspaces. Among the rocks was found a broken stalactite, 3 inches long and 1 inch in diameter at its thickest end - an indication of sizeable open passage at some stage in the past.

Digging through August and September took the floor down to 5ft below the main passage level but whilst the resulting pit had some fine fluted solid east and west walls, it was threatened by collapse at the north and south ends. In particular, the south face was a

sliding mass of quite large slabs, perhaps a talus cone of collapse material from some further "hole in the roof" beyond. The pit was gingerly deepened with Tony Jarrett banging a large slab in October, but the unsupported ends became ever more threatening.

Three digging possibilities presented themselves. Firstly, continue down in the floor by means of shoring in the hope of finding significant air spaces to follow, secondly, pull down the rock slope ahead and dig through into a possible southward continuation, or thirdly, clear out the entire contents of the rift from end to end. All options required a heavy commitment in time and effort, and with a new winter dig at Thrupe Swallet coming "on stream", the team reluctantly decided to shut Beetle Drop down for the time being. The last digging session took place on 1 December 1999, leaving a roomy passage twenty feet long and a maximum depth in the pit of 28' from the top of the concrete rings.

Other commitments prevented any digging during 2000, and when Dave Morrison went to see Richard Masters in July to appraise him of the situation, the farmer mentioned a new collapse that had occurred on his land close to Dursdon Drove. It was decided to "mothball" Beetle Drop in favour of a "Hymac" dig at the new site, and on 8/9 August with the farmer's help the top ring of the Beetle shaft was removed and a concrete slab cast over the hole. An earth cover will allow Richard Masters to reclaim the hollow for agriculture but the site will be preserved for future generations to perhaps try their hand one day.

Beetle Drop seems to be part of a sizeable ancient drainage system, but very heavily choked with fill. It is roughly aligned with the Sandpit crater's north/south axis, which probably represents a collapsed chamber along the same meandering passage. Significantly, there is a large phreatic tunnel just 50' below the surface in White Pit, only 700 yards to the north west. The new dig – Templeton Pot – has already revealed a large descending rift and will add a little more to the jigsaw of this very important karst area.

BURRINGTON AND BLACKDOWN

Phil Hendy

This is the first of a short series of walks around Mendip with a caving theme. They generally follow marked footpaths and are suitable for anybody who is reasonably fit (ie. at least as fit as me). The usual provisos regarding footwear and foul weather clothing apply; some paths can be very wet even in summer. The routes can be completed in a morning or afternoon, and will take you past a number of sites of speleological or archaeological interest, as well as the usual magnificence of the Mendip landscape.

The first of these walks takes in Burrington Coombe, Rowberrow Warren and Blackdown. Allow approximately three hours; the walk is about 7 miles long. The 1:25,000 (two and a half inches to the mile) OS map Explorer 4 should be used.

Park opposite Rock of Ages in Burrington Coombe (warning - this is bandit country, leave nothing of value in the car). Pausing to look at the site of Plumley's Hole and the cleft of Rock of Ages, we walk up the road, keeping to the left if we want to explore Aveline's Hole (easily done using a hand torch, unless we want to grovel around). There is a grockle path on the right hand side of the road, which keeps us away from the traffic. Walking up West Twin Brook Valley we will observe the stream running in the trench cut in the stony valley bed by the '68 flood. A rock face on the left with steeply dipping limestone is the ill-fated

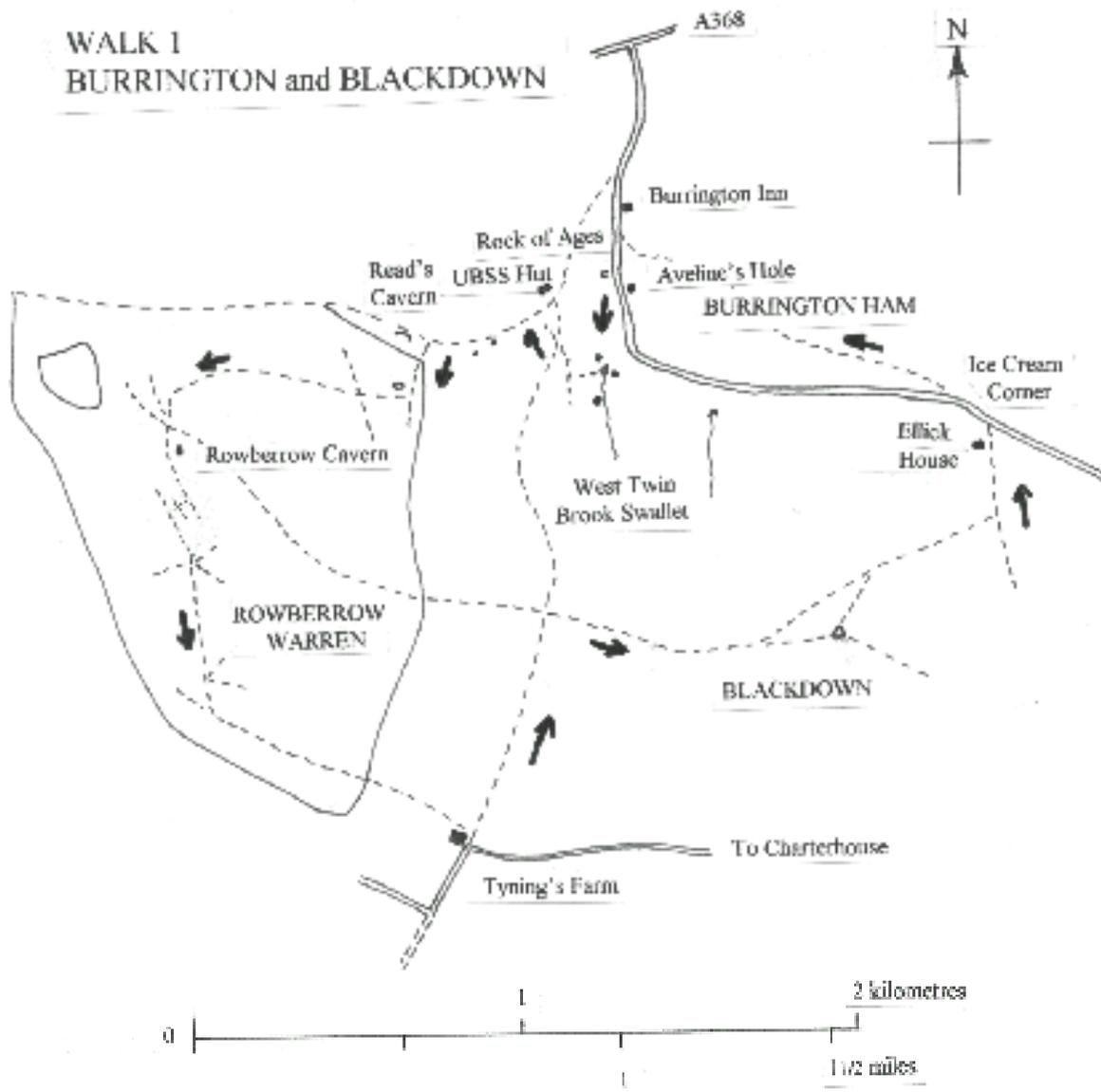
Flange Swallet, a UBSS dig filled at the same time. The path takes us past Sidcot Swallet, and then a set of steps on the left leads up to Goatchurch Cavern. However, we need to keep to the stream, to where clear water flows from a ruined cistern. This is clean, cold water which is drinkable. A slight detour, carrying on up the stream bed will take us to West Twin Brook Adit. The door of this is firmly closed and silted up to at least half of its height.

However, we need to climb up the side of the valley to the right (south) to a footpath. Follow this to the right. Keep going until the path levels out, when a good view behind us will show the bedding of the rocks on the north side of the Coombe. The path continues to a wide grassy ride leading up the hill to the left. A sign informs us that this is a bridleway. Follow the ride to the right, and meet a stony track at the UBSS hut.

Take the track to the left, and keeping to the left (ie. do not enter Mendip Lodge Wood) walk past Bath Swallet, Bos Swallet, Drunkard's Hole and Rod's Pot (not necessarily in that order. Look for the remains of the UBSS bath in the stream leading to the eponymous swallet). The large coniferous forest of Rowberrow Warren is on the left. A wire fence runs down the hillside, but walking off the main track towards the fence a walkers' gateway will be seen. Pass through this and down to the Hunter's Brook. Follow this downstream to Read's Cavern. Return to where the path crosses the stream, and (turning right) enter the wood to a muddy track. Follow this to the left (uphill) passing a small pond on the right. This is inhabited by water boatmen (and a spaniel, if we have one). Approximately 50 yards past the pond there is a track leading off to the right, by a large sign informing us that this is the Forestry Commission's Rowberrow Warren. This forest is full of signs, most of them warning of forestry operations. These are unlikely to be taking place at the weekend, and the route I describe may need modification at other times.

Take the track leading right into the wood, and keep to the main path. Go straight over the large track crossing. The way is through fairly open mature conifers, and then along the side of a hill, with forest on the right (and a possible swallet depression ?) and a clear-felled area uphill to the left. Eventually, the path comes to a valley ascending to the left. The main track curves sharply round to the right; a path comes up the valley and meets it, while two paths take smaller valleys up to the left. As this junction is approached, straight ahead, on the spur between the two paths on the left, a spoil heap can be seen. Walking up to this will reveal a cutting (blocked by a fallen tree) leading to Rowberrow Cavern. The spoil heaps are the result of the UBSS dig in the 1920s. Most of the cave can be explored with a hand torch. Take care on the muddy path on the right, above the entrance pit, and do not bother the resident bats, if any.

Of the two paths ascending the hill, the first and largest leads directly to the open hilltop and Blackdown. The second path is smaller, grassy and muddier, therefore more fun. After a couple of hundred yards, turn right and walk up the side of the valley, picking the easiest route through brash left after felling operations. Walk over the small grassy footpath, and continue to a stony track. Turn left, noting shallow mining gruffs on the right. This will lead to a 5-ways crossing. Take the third track (from the left) which leads south, and is the steepest option. After a while, we will come to an offset crossing; the main path (which we need to stay on) continues, with two other tracks on the left. The path now descends, and it should be possible to see the track carrying the West Mendip Way running parallel and below us on the right. These two paths eventually converge, and leave Rowberrow Warren to lead via a track to Tynning's Farm (riding school). Walking through the yard, a right of way will be seen just before the road is reached. This path leads across a field, up a hill to a gate.



Beyond the gate is Blackdown, with a large mound on the left. This is not a barrow, but a WWII pillbox. It is open, but rather sordid inside. Follow the main track ahead once through the gate. A lot of the paths on Blackdown are permanently waterlogged, and this one is no exception. It does, however, prepare us for the obvious path leading off to the right and the Trig Point at Beacon Batch, the highest point on Mendip at 325m (or 1065 feet in old money) where most of us have a blow while pretending to admire the scenery.

The path we need now runs North North East. If Blagdon Lake appears ahead and to the right as we descend the hill, we are on the right path. This leads down and bears right, and will eventually take us to the road at the top of Burrington Coombe by Ellick House. Turning left will quickly lead to the car park at Ice Cream Corner (a van will be there for a '99' if we are lucky!) The stony path takes us up onto Burrington Ham. Two signs give a choice of route; we ignore the bridleway (ahead) and turn left on the footpath, a pleasant grassy walk with the slopes of the Coombe on our left. There are some shallow rakes on either side (a few years ago there was one with a steep underground extension; it has now been filled in and the site lost). At the next path marker (pointing ahead) this path or the

one on the left will do. They both lead towards an open grassy area with a slope beyond leading up to a limestone outcrop. We walk to this; it is the end of a stony ridge, where the limestone dips to the left and strikes to the right. This is the edge of a prehistoric settlement.

Walking along the ridge will lead into the trees (yew and scrub oak with some turkey oak) The path is indeterminate at times; there are some yellow paint marks on trees and stones which may help. We gradually descend, coming to an exposed rock from which there is a good view of the Rock of Ages, opposite and below. The path is not at all clear, but eventually we come to a path coming up the hill from the left, and continuing up hill. Walk down the hill here (take care, it is steep and slippery). When we come to a grassy slope, the toilets should be just below. Take the safest path downhill, and back to the car park and our starting point. Starting at 10am will allow plenty of time for lunchtime refreshments afterwards.

Extracts from the Upper Pitts Logbook

Edited by Brian Prewer

28.10.00 Eastwetter Emsy & Spouse & Parent (Kev & Rob), George, Markus & Bif

Primrose Pot with half-a-dozen ladders (invariably not required). George & Rob down 1st section of pitch. Wisdom & whisky head convinced me that my ankle was too fat to get through squeeze. Plenty of liquid in entrance. Half-a-pint more would have made exit problematical! "Emma – Help!"

The Eastwetter trip starred -	Kev –	This'll be a good trip
	Markus –	Maker of weird animal noises
	Squeeze Master Rob –	It's desperate
	George –	I'll just pop down here
	Bif –	I'm too hung over to be here &

Emsy – come on lads let's go & do the 13 Pots. The squeeze is easy to get into but it needs a 12:1 winch to come back out – crash diet & I might go back for another look. Could have done without swimming out of the Boulder Choke & up to the farm!

28.10.00 Swildon's Hole

Tricky, Carl & Rich

Finally a wet Swildon's trip. Through Birthday Squeeze – Carl's grown – back to Vicarage Pot – quick look at Black Hole, & did our salmon impression swimming back upstream to see how high it was at the Blockhouse – HIGH ENOUGH!

29.10.00 Thrupe Lane

Bif & Co

Went down ladder route. Exited in time to get changed in torrential rain!

5.11.00 Longwood Valley

Nice walk down Longwood - the Somerset Wildlife Trust has made a nice job of diverting the stream down their nice new path! The little dry stone wall they built (how twee) by the sink is proving to be an ideal source of stones for throwing into the pool. Longwood Valley Sink is an active swallet, but the stream flowed on past this to sink at various points (noted) downstream. The stream actually increased in volume while I watched & flowed strongly on past the (then) final sink point, at approx. 5 metres/minute. Maybe the Bristol Water pump turned off upstream.

(On 30th Oct Brenda & I spotted a large stream flowing out of Black Rock Gate, into Cheddar Gorge. We decided to walk/wade up the valley as far as Longwood Swallet. As mentioned in the log entry above the nice SWT path was awash with all the gravel being washed out into the Gorge. Higher up near the old Black Rock quarry the stream was nearly 20' wide over the grass & further up still the Longwood Valley path was in fact difficult to negotiate even in wellies due to the force of the water. Longwood sink had disappeared under the stream & there was even a stream flowing into the base of the cave blockhouse. I don't think that the stream has ever reached the Gorge since the Great Flood of 1968 when the Gorge was blocked for several weeks by debris washed down from Longwood & Velvet Bum.

For anyone contemplating wet weather trips into Longwood, it is worth remembering that the BWW pumps upstream are automatic & are therefore unpredictable. Log Ed.)

5.11.00 Thrupe Lane

Bean, Mark & Shag

After two weeks of torrential rain & more rain than the last 40 years it didn't rain yesterday so we thought we would access Atlas Pot & Slither Pot. Right down to the bottom & out!! And surprise, surprise when we got out RAIN! – lots of it. Good trip.

11/11/00 - Swildons, OK! Tragedyke s
 私達は洞窟探険に行きました。楽しかったです。
 (we went caving. it was enjoyed!).
 Good novice trip - upper series. Nice & wet.
 Repeated in the afternoon with the second group.
 ありがとうございました!

(As half of this log entry was in Japanese? I found translation somewhat tricky, also my steam-driven computer does not have Japanese characters on it, therefore the entry has been reproduced directly from the log. The reader can do his or her own translation!)

Logbook Nickname Decoder by Brian Prewer

For several years Wessex Journals have included extracts from the Club Logbooks. In recent years it would seem that anyone who is anyone on the caving scene has a nickname. I thought it was about time we revealed all by disclosing for the first time this top secret information regarding the people who are hiding behind these nicknames, so here below are the names of some of them. Some others are so highly classified that they are only known to a select few.

<u>Nickname</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Nickname</u>	<u>Name</u>
Aubrey	Aubrey Newport	Little Chef	Mark Tuck
Badvoc	Andy Ladell	Lou	Louise Hilton
Bean	Mark Easterling	Mak	Mark Kellaway
Bif	Bif Biffen	Mark	Mark Helmore
Butch	Dave Meridith	Nik Nak	Simon Richards
Cathy	Cathy Wooldridge	Pete	Pete Hann
Colin	Colin Masters	Phil	Phil Hendy
Cookie	Dave Cook	Prew	Brian Prewer
CSCA	Combined Services Caving Assoc.	Rob (Ems Dad)	Rob Heron
Dan	Daniel Hendy	Rosie	Rosie Freeman
Debs	Deborah Morgenstern	Russ	Russell Brooks
Dom	Dominic Sealy	Shag	Dave Edge
Em(m)s(e)y	Emma Heron	Simon	Simon Richardson
Jo	Jo Diamond	Stop Go (Stop)	Richard Boyle
Jon	Jonathan Williams	Suntan	Rob Delacour
JRat	Tony Jarratt	Tommo	John Thomas
Kathy	Kathy Glenton	Tootsie	Ian Timney
Kev	Kevin Hilton	Tuska	Dave Morrison
Laurie	Laurie Orr	Uppy	Dave Upperton
Leg	Andy Summerskill	Vern	Vern Freeman
Tall Graham	Graham Prole		

Logbook continues.....

15.11.00 Some Cave

Bicton Babes

We went down Some Cave, I don't know what it was called but it was cold and wet!

17.11.00 Wookey Hole

Robin Brown & Mike Thomas

A Friday night trip in appalling conditions to dive through to 22 with a tackle bag of rope, ladders & bolts for our winter projects in 22 and 24. The high flow and zero vis' made for an interesting dive especially when Mike got the bag and himself stuck in the squeeze at Wookey 24.

25.11.00 Rhino Rift

*Tony Brown, Amy Finne, Ewan Whitmey,
Richie Savage & Carl Stephenson*

Planned X-over trip, but unable to locate 2nd Y-hang on right hand route, so all party descended 'Direct' to in progress dig. Many thanks to Wessex for putting us up.

25.11.00 GB Cavern

*Jim Carr, Jon Roe, Chris Constable,
Neil & Julie Brammer, Andy Thornton.*

An introduction to Mendip caving for some CSCA stalwarts. Visited the car, surprised it failed its MOT! Down to the sump & climbed into the Ladder Dig, first & second ducks very passable & so onto Great Chamber & the pretties in Bat Passage. The main streamway was very sporting so out via the Oxbow – well worth looking upwards at the bottom entrance! Straight out to visit Bat Products and support J Rat's pension fund.

25.11.00 Honeymead & Little Crapnell

Reading University CC

Good trips. Entrance is a bit loose in Honeymead. After the 3m free climb watch out for loose boulders before the very short squeeze. One is resting on a plastic bucket only.

25.11.00 Swildon's

Terry Chew + 4 (OMUC)

Good trip, a little more water, which made for a better trip. A severe lack of air on Short Round Trip. Swildon's should be more aptly renamed the M25 as we the Essex lorry drivers would feel more at home.

After Swildon's Cuckoo Cleaves – interesting trip, a lot of loose stuff. A raised path needs to be laid to avoid wading through mud & cowsh.

Another good weekend had on Mendip. Thanks again to the Wessex for putting us up.

26.11.00 Swildon's

CSCA Again

To Sump 2 & return with what seemed to be every other caver in the UK! A queue of 17 at the bottom of the 20'.

28.11.GB Cavern

Nathan & Makiala

Ventured into GB and had lots of fun! Very good helactites in the Gorge. Makiala on her first trip to GB got through the cave all right but it's a shame she fell over the fence on the way back to the car!

29.11.00 Longwood/August

Mark, Bean, Simon & Neil

The one metre deep pool around the blockhouse did not put us off for long, and with the dam reconditioned we were in. Down August for a change, wingin' it all the way. Wet, wet, wet and then dry. Sat at the little chamber at the top of Swing Pitch – we waited for Neil, who had climbed down Swing Pitch by mistake!! Out Longwood. The entrance was dryish for Simon & me, but suddenly got quite wet for Bean & Neil!

2.12.00 Wookey Hole

Tim Morgan, John Volanthen, Duncan Price & Gary Jones

A trip to Wookey 22 in reasonable conditions for the weather. (1.5m vis') Lights cleaned for the Show Cave in 3&4.

2.12.00 Swildon's

Tim Morgan, Duncan Price & Enfield Scout Leaders

Assisted with rescue of lady from bottom of 20' who couldn't climb pitch due to cramp. In & out in under an hour and topped off in style by J Rat's "Special Brew" coffee.

2.12.00 Swildon's Black Hole

Stop Go & Ross

Went down it. Nice. We were informed later, that there had been a rescue while we were in the cave, some scout leader (level 4 cave leadership?) had become exhausted and suffering cramp; she couldn't climb the ladder at the 20'.

3.12.00 OFD

Mark & Bean

A trip to see the wondrous Pom Poms. In Top Entrance we detoured around Shale Chamber for a change before heading across the Traverse to Marble Showers. After all the rain lately the streamway was outrageous. Quickly at the climb up to the Pom Poms we clipped the 'Skyhook' onto the chord and pulled the ladder up. A couple of sharp tugs? and – yes, yes, NO! – the chord snapped and the ladder and 'Skyhook' fell unceremoniously on my head. Thwarted, we carried on our through trip to OFD 1, ignoring the foam several feet up the walls. A misread watch saw us storming out, until I reread the time (it was actually 12.45 not 2.45) we then steadied up the pace. Poked around Flood Escape for a while in a hideously loose passage near Roundabout Chamber. Out via Airy-Fairy and back into streamway.

9.12.00 OFD

J Thomas, M Thomas & Sarah

Family outing to the dry bits of OFD - Mini Columns, Gnome Passage, down to the Trident & Judge and return. Made a bit of a 'Sow's Ear' walking back to the SWCC HQ – fell over twice in adverse conditions.

9.12.00 GB Cavern**Jack, Malc, Mark, Jon, Rus & Morse**

Bimbled down to the Ladder Dig, hangover and ineptitude meant Jack and Rus then left, leaving others to go to Bat Passage.

9.12.00 Swildon's**Jack, Malc & Mark**

Not very wet but enough to clean the kit!

9.12.00 Priddy Green Sink – Swildon's**Mark, Bean & Carmen**

Excellent first trip for me (Mark). Didn't notice any squeezes, noticed a few worms and wet pitches. Swildon's 4 was wetter than I remembered so were the Ducks! As we hadn't rigged the 20' we had to haul Carmen up (the wet caving gear made her seem quite heavy – odd that!!). Might go back some time.

22.12.00 Eastwater**Andy Jackson, Mark Adams**

Shortest trip ever!! Entrance solid ice, in & out in two minutes.

23.12.00 OFD**Mark & Bean**

A Tour of Delights of Nyth Bran Series. Very entertaining traverse, climbs & even a squeeze. A classic & little visited area of this cave. (Luckily the Wall of Death wasn't)

30.12.00 Dan-yr-Ogof**Mark & Bean**

A trip too the Far North choke and back proved a fitting end to a good year's caving. It wasn't at all how I remembered it! Luckily the snow didn't melt during the trip so the water levels remained quite low. Stunning cave scenery, classic climbs & outstanding formations make this an excellent trip.

29.12.00 Swildon's**Em & Kev**

Troubles – still too much water!

30.12.00 Rhino**Em, Kev & Mark (Little Chef)**

To see Suntans "Y" hang – left-hand route & out.

31.12.00 Slither Pot**Em, Kev, Bean & Mac**

Only one went through! Excellent trip.

END OF 2000AD LOG BOOK**31.12.2000 – 01.01.2001 Swildon's****NBW Naked, solo & unsober**

The most stupid trip for a thousand years

With water at the bottom of the overflow pipe entered the cave & stripped off in the first chamber. The roar of water was most forbidding. Was joined shortly by Mr Stop, who was doing his own solo trip, but said he was to give me a 15-minute head start.

At 11.59pm preceded this trip & arrived at the 20 footer at 12.15am of the 3rd millennium AD. In view of personnel circumstances & the huge amount of water honking over the edge, rigged a ladder & proceeded downwards. Oh my god, that meltwater was cold. At 12.22 arrived at Sump I having arrived via Barnes' Loop; immediately began the return trip. The draught from the water was huge at places like the Washing Pot & Double Pots. Although skin Etc was cold, internal temperature was fine & I didn't notice the cold. In fact, I was enjoying the trip.

At 12.45 I arrived back at the 20 footer & saw Mr Stop's light at the top. I shouted up to Stop not to look as I attempted a freeclimb rather than face the vertical sump, formerly known as the ladder pitch. After pausing for a chat & derig the ladder, Stop had a head start of 5 minutes as we started the exit journey.

The inlet stream pouring from the Water Chamber was formidable to climb against, as was the torrent from the climb near the Old 40 foot pitch. I attempted to exit via the Wet Way but the Lavatory Pan was impassable & so I returned via the Dry Way. Jacob's Ladder was still dry on the return although major water was flowing, the subsidence in the first chamber has now enabled all the water to be diverted down the Wet Way.

At 1.06am we had both attired ourselves in decent clothing & exited the cave. A fantastic experience being at one with the cave. A unique understanding not to be missed & highly recommended. Looking forward to other similar trips.

Addendum**by Stop Go (also pissed & naked)**

Crazy, crazy, crazy, fantastic trip in search of the full moon rumoured to be visible from the Twenty. Saw the moon but missed Saturn & Uranus. Probably just as well! The worst part of the cave was Jacob's Ladder, requiring just a little bit more contact with the rock than was comfortable under the circumstances.

On exiting the cave we navigated successfully to Prew's house (*I missed the two full moons – luckily!* – Log Ed) via the Nine Barrows taking in the sights & sounds of Mendip in the mist. A unique experience enhanced by the high water level.

PS NBW was quite probably insane to attempt the 20' (and succeed). It was impossible to find a dry route down & almost certainly involved a total drenching in ice-cold water of substantial power. Under the circumstances I'm glad that I did not attempt the twenty, as I don't think I would have made it out easily. One thing is certain, climbing up out of a cave naked is colder than going in, you need more contact with cold rock. Brrr.....

Gaping Gill, 100 years of exploration

A video by Sid Perou, reviewed by Brian Prewer

The 100 years exploration of Gaping Gill is yet another fine effort by Sid to commemorate Martel's first complete descent of Gaping Gill in 1895 and to set out some of the present day problems of cave conservation. Sid repeats a journey to Whitson Series and compares the state of the cave with footage taken back in 1970. Regrettably the damage, in some places, is quite extreme, probably caused in places by the quantities of liquid mud.

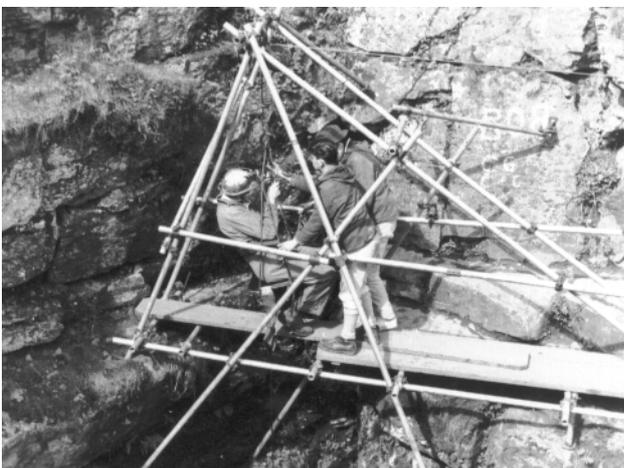
The video opens with the present day showing modern tractors pulling heavy winches and kit across the moors with relative ease to allow members of the public to descend in the Main Chamber in safety. There are some good shots of members of the public descending into the shaft.

There follows an excellent reconstruction of the original descent by Edourd Martel. The Bradford Pothole Club has done a great job here using period costumes, newly constructed wood and rope ladder and horse power to assembly the mass of kit at the hole. Dr Farrer, the current landowner, even plays the part of his great uncle who was present at the time of the descent. Fell Beck is shown being diverted along the original route of Birkbeck's Trench. The actual descent, made by Andy Jackson, is great, even the problems of short ladders, jammed ropes and faulty telephones are all carefully re-enacted. Martel's descent onto Birkbeck's Ledge is followed by his final descent into the Main Chamber.

There are some good shots of Sid & other BPC members in Old East Passage and Mud Hall followed by a mud grovel through the Font into Whitson Series. The sequence of old film from the 1970s helps compare the state of the formations today.

Sid and the BPC must be congratulated for their attention to detail and hard work in producing this video. I had two minor criticisms – firstly the sound track on mine was at a rather low-level even on my fairly new video machine and secondly I found the 'Allo 'Allo French accents a little too heavy.

This video is well worth having and can be obtained from Sid at 8 West Lane, Embsay, Skipton, N. Yorks, BD23 6QE. The cost is £13.50 including postage and packing.



The winch at Gaping Gill taken at the 1961 Bradford Meet, when a large party from all the Mendip clubs travelled up by coach to the Flying Horseshoe at Clapham. The trip was arranged by Brian Prewer. At that time, a solitary scaffold plank was pushed over the shaft, while the caver got into the chair, which came up very slowly.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Maurice,

I was appalled to read Garth Weston's article in the February edition of our club Journal. I found it inaccurate, badly written and frankly offensive. I was disappointed that a man of your maturity saw fit to publish it. To redress the falseness and innuendo, of this ghastly piece of juvenile journalism, I have written and enclose an article, entitled Caving with the young. I sincerely hope that you are able to publish it in the Journal of our beloved club. If not, I shall certainly demand your resignation, as Editor, at this year's A.G.M.

Yours sincerely, Ken Dawe (Boatswine).

Caving with the Young, Some Guidelines by Ken Dawe.

These guidelines have been produced, with the help of the local kindergarten and are designed to assist mature cavers wishing to pass on their wisdom, expertise and experience to those of tender years, by accompanying them underground. It is assumed that all cavers, under 60 years of age, and a few rare infant prodigies, under 50, will benefit from such assistance.

It must first be recognised, that these youngsters suffer from the mad impetuosity of their generation, resulting in a tendency to gallop through caves, at prodigious speed, paying little heed to the glories that surround them. It is in their own interest to slow them down.

One useful technique is to festoon them with ropes, ladders and other tackle, irrespective of whether or not such equipment is actually needed for the particular trip. If further slowing down incentive is required, do not allow them to eat but at the same time, ensure that you consume copious quantities of Mars Bars etc.

As a last resort, if all else fails, arrange for one of the young people to have a minor accident – a gentle push at the top of the 40, in Swildons, will usually give the desired effect. (Although, I have heard the astonishing rumour that the 40 no longer exists). Minor fractures (e.g. a broken leg) are very suitable for the purpose, particularly since other young cavers, in the party, will have to carry their injured colleague.

It is of the utmost importance, that the young party has complete confidence in you, tinged with a modicum of awe and wonderment. It follows, that you must appear to have a thorough knowledge of all modern caving techniques and practices. Note the word appear – actual knowledge is unimportant. For instance, you must not be seen to be surprised, when the ladder you are about to descend does not have wooded rungs.

There now exist, certain suicidal techniques, which dispense with ladders and involve sliding up and down ropes, using mechanical devices. Do not worry. Stay at the top of the pitch, so that you are able to summon help, should a flash flood occur. (Even in Rhino Rift, this is a sound procedure.). Bellow your instructions, advice and exhortations down the pitch. It may be helpful for one of the young porters to carry a megaphone, for use under these circumstances.

Eventually, you will lead your party safely and triumphantly to the surface and will expect to accompany them to a place of ale repute, such as the Hunter Lodge Inn. Your group, relieved at having survived the ordeal, will commence to get themselves completely rarsed. Do not try and match these foolish ones, pint for pint but drink carefully and in moderation (as I have always done), advising the younger element that to attain true caving wisdom requires a clear head at all times. I also recommend that you suggest, that in the light of the wisdom already imparted, your party should provide you with the moderate amount of ale, that you require.

Now will come your moment of true glory. As the party succumbs to the evils of drink, regale them with ancient tales. Sing of Cathusalem, the Good Ship Venus, of the Young Lady from Clapham etc. Speak Irish poetry, in the form of the Limerick. Then, finally, render the Boatswine.

NOTICE

Due to the current Foot and Mouth outbreak there is a voluntary ban on caving on Mendip and across the country. The Government is also asking people to limit their trips to the countryside. In view of this and to do our bit to help the farmers, Upper Pitts has been closed to all but essential visits until further notice.

We have good landowner relations, which would be decimated if cavers were responsible for spreading Foot and Mouth. Please observe the caving ban.

Please check the club website (www.wessex-cave-club.org) for the latest information.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE FOOT AND MOUTH CRISIS

By David G Cooke (18/3/2001)

20th Feb. 2001. The first case of Foot and Mouth Disease was confirmed at Little Warley near Brentwood in Essex.

24th Feb. 2001. To its credit, the sport of caving responded rapidly and decisively to the threat. There was a collective decision by the major Mendip clubs to request that cavers refrain from visiting caves with access across land that can contain livestock. A decision that was echoed across the caving regions of the country. The NCA also issued a statement advising that "cavers stay away from all areas containing livestock. Cavers are therefore being asked to follow this advice and limit their activities until all restrictions are lifted." The Government declared Great Britain to be a controlled area, banning all movements of livestock, hoping to control the disease.

26th Feb 2001. The NCA updated their statement. "The situation has deteriorated rapidly during the past few days with twelve cases now confirmed in various parts of the country. In view of this very grave situation everyone is requested to immediately stop all caving and associated activities until the crisis is over. Indeed all unnecessary visits to the countryside should be avoided."

28th Feb. 2001. We had already stopped issuing keys and permits. The Hut Bookings officer started cancelling our guest bookings.

2nd March 2001. There is disinfected straw across the end of Eastwater Lane and it is clear that even our own members visiting the hut was a risk. So it was decided to close the hut for an initial two week period. By the end of the weekend all the other Mendip clubs had also closed their huts. This could seriously affect club finances.

8th March 2001. The disease had not peaked as expected and hopes for a quick end to the crisis faded. The government's Chief Veterinary Officer Jim Scudamore said "We will not see the disease disappearing at the end of this week and this outbreak is going to last for a long time."

9th March 2001. Bidisham near Axebridge became Somerset's first confirmed outbreak of Foot and Mouth. MAFF declared an associated Infected Area which encompasses most of the Mendips, including upper Pitts. The border follows the A39 out of Wells as you climb up onto the Mendip Hills through Green Ore and then down the other side into Chewton Mendip. Everything to the west until you meet the sea is within the declared area. This means that it is now probably illegal to cave within the declared area.

16th March 2001. The hut closure to all but essential visits was extended until the MAFF infected area declaration is revoked.

18th March 2001. The Chief Vet, Jim Scudamore said the current outbreak is already more severe than the last one to affect Britain. "Just three weeks into this outbreak we are already looking at 278,000 animals affected," he said. "In the six months the 1967 outbreak lasted, only 400,000 animals were affected, which shows the severity of this."

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Flashback From Wessex Journal No. 115, February 1968 Caving has been at a low ebb over the last two months, to minimise the risk of spreading foot and mouth infection, to Mendip. It has been necessary to cancel the planned programme of club trips, until March, 1968, when it is hoped that restrictions may be eased. As it appears that the epidemic may be dying out and not spreading southwards, we hope to reopen Hillgrove, to parties who have not come from, or through the affected areas. However, it is emphasized that there is still Government restriction on access to agricultural land and so, way leave to caves is not guaranteed.



Editorial

I had hoped that we would never see the return of foot and mouth ever again. At present, Upper Pitts is closed and all caving is suspended. However, this is a trivial matter, compared to the problems being experienced by our friends, the Mendip farmers. The thought of Priddy without caving is bad enough. Just think of it without sheep!

Forthcoming Events

Committee Meetings,	June 10 th , July 15 th , September 2 nd .
South Wales Meet,	May 4 th to 7 th , at the W.S.G. Cottage at Penderyn.
C.S.C.C. A.G.M	Sat May 12 th , at Hunters Lodge.
France (at Doubs),	May 24 th to 28 th . Joint meet with Belgium cavers.
Banwell Caves,	Sat June 9 th at 2.00 pm.
Craven Winch Meet,	August 18 th to 27 th .
Hidden Earth 2001,	At Buxton, October 12 th to 14 th .
Wessex A.G.M. and Dinner,	October 20 th .

All Subject to the ending of foot and mouth restrictions. Please check on the website, or by telephone.