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EDITORIAL

A new decade, a new editor, and a new volume of the Journal. All those blank pages waiting to be filled with what? There are some interesting articles already on the way, and more will follow as new discoveries are made. In this edition there is an important article describing the iron mines of the Brendon Hills south of Minehead, and also a report of a calamine mine which was rediscovered in the car park of a Mendip pub; unfortunately not the Hunter's Lodge. You will also find all the regular features.

The seventies were varied years, during which many changes took place on the caving scene. Petrol costs rose astronomically, but did not have the severe limiting effect on transport that was predicted, and the Mendip-based cavers continued to be active in all other caving regions of Britain and most of those in Europe. We have continued to find cave, though now at a slower pace as likely or easy-to-work sites become more difficult to find. Access agreements have tended to become more formalised, and caving politics, like it or not, appear to be here to stay. In the past decade the Club has gained some keen and valuable new members, though sadly, there are some good friends who are no longer with us. All in all, it was a stimulating decade, and it needs a more able pen than mine to review it as it deserves.

So now the eighties lie before us. What do they hold in store? Only time will tell, but be assured, the Journal will record all. I am looking forward to my term as editor, and trust that I will maintain the standard of production and interest that has become the hallmark of the Wessex Journal.

Happy Caving
Phil Hendy

CLUB NEWS

Members will be saddened to learn of the recent death of Brigadier Aubrey Glennie, once a pioneer of British caving, and for many years an Honorary Member of the Wessex.

Abstracts from the December Committee Meeting

Upper Pitts The cleanliness and tidiness of the HQ, has deteriorated. Those who use the facilities are asked to do their washing up and to leave the HQ tidy at the end of each weekend, or the Hut Warden will be forced to consider taking positive action which will affect all those who stay at Upper Pitts.

Locker Fees Those lockers and food boxes which are not paid for will be redistributed or removed from the kitchen area as appropriate.

Council of Southern Caving Clubs The Council has no Secretary at present, and a special meeting is to be held to elect one.

NiFe Cells We have obtained ten of these, in good condition, for sale to members at £15 each. Offers please to Steve Gough, Llandovery, 17 Lockley Road Shepton Mallet, Somerset, within two weeks of receipt of this journal. The cells will go to the first ten applicants drawn out of the hat.

Explosives Licensee The Secretary requires to know who holds a current explosives license for caving use. This is purely for insurance reasons. If you have a license, please let her know.

Thefts Members are reminded that they should keep their lockers locked, and valuables shut away, as the Club does not accept responsibility for personal property left lying around the HQ.

Changes of Address

T.G. Fouracres, 3 Hay combe, St. Giles Estate, 'Whitchurch, BRISTOL BS14 0AJ
B. Schofield (Schoff) 569 Filling Terrace, Manchester Road, Baxenden, Accrington, LANCS

There were no applications for membership.

Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A special meeting of the CSCC was held at the Hunter's Lodge on February 9th. Those present failed to elect a new Secretary, and the Chairman, Alan Butcher of the SMCC is continuing as Acting Secretary for the time being.

Following a proposal by Martin Bishop, the Council discussed at length the state of fixed aids in Lamb Leer. It was decided to repair the entrance ladder and remove the scaffolding at the entrance to Beaumont's Drive and the main pitch platform and windlass, as they are thought to be unsafe. The views of the Directors of Southern Caving Clubs Ltd., and the various landowners are being sought before any demolition takes place, but the Wessex is leading the fight to retain the winch and platform, as there is not only serious doubt that this installation is unsafe, but it is considered that its removal will make the top of the pitch extremely hazardous, and increase the difficulty of rigging and using tackle, even if bolts are placed at the head of the pitch.

Stoke Lane Slocker The gate has been removed. It will be replaced, and access will remain as before.

Brown's Folly Mine, Swan Mine The landowner is concerned about access by non-Cavers. The Council is looking at the possibility of gating these mines, while maintaining access for bona fide cavers. (See CSCC Information Sheet October 1979)

Access Arrangements Chris Hannam is compiling a booklet for CSCC which gives current access details for the caves of Mendip, and others in the region.

MENDIP NOTES

Wimblestone

If You Go Down In The Woods Today

While the well-meaning but suburban-minded members of the Somerset Trust for Nature Conservation persevere in their efforts to tame and tidy up Nature down in Longwood Valley, the Mendip digging fraternity is busily engaged there in the more traditional art of hacking Nature out of the ground and spreading it about a bit. Up on the western slopes, the Rocksport Irregulars are excavating what they hope is a natural shaft modified by miners - Toothache Hole. They are working within a neat stockaded enclosure, and report that at a depth of 30' the shaft is beginning to bell out. Those diggers of a nervous disposition or with a knowledge of mine infilling techniques are advised to wear a lifeline.

The digger who prefers loose rock to long drops may be more at home assisting at the lower level Longwood Valley Sink site, which masquerades as a tank trap alongside the main pathway. Here 'Tuska' Morrison is planning to bring in high technology to solve his spoil removal problems. Having decided that the present vertical entrance of oil drums is a little on the constricted side, he has engaged an Eastern Mendip contractor to drive an adit down to the underground rift and construct a wooden tramway. There is reputed to be a promising draught in the terminal choke of this cave, and they say that on a quiet day you can even hear Pete and Alison discussing prospects in Reynold's Passage somewhere below.

Consolation Prize

Having had their application to build a hut at Maesbury turned down by the planning authorities, the Cerberus have settled for building a small cave there instead. It is actually the site of an old BEC dig, but the BEC found the soil a bit heavy for them. The Cerberus looked for rock instead, and quickly uncovered a winding rift passage which has now led them into 450' of cave. It is not very inspiring stuff, being a cross between Lionel's Hole and Windsor Hill Swallet, but it carries a large stream and has a 400' depth of limestone between it and St. Andrew's Well. When the snows and rains ease off, an attack will be launched on the terminal choke - a mud-filled bedding plane alongside an impenetrable slot taking the stream. To keep their hand in during the winter, the Cerberus have blasted into 150' of new stuff in Fairy Cave, including a fair-sized chamber.

Rumours

The trouble with the MNRC is that they don't mix much. They claim to have discovered a significant new cave, but they won't say exactly where. Squirrel Hole - if it be not a spoof set to catch the gullible, such as I - is a ruckly sort of system some 700' long. It apparently lies on a field boundary within 5 minutes walk of their headquarters, which might just place it in the Hillgrove area. In the absence of an aerial

reconnaissance facility, I shall have to carry on drinking in the Red Lion, Green Ore, in the faint hope of discovering a careless sketch survey on some discarded beer mat. This is not as farfetched as it might sound - I recently came across a diagram of the MNRC's Nancy Camel's Hole dig chalked on the underside of the shove ha'penny board lid.

Mines in the News

One of Somerset's least known mining enterprises, the Fullers Earth Works at Odd Down just outside Bath, has just closed down, bringing to an end an era of underground coal and mineral extraction in North Somerset lasting several thousand years. The owners, Laporte Industries, have decided to concentrate their production of fullers earth, which is used principally in the paint and cosmetic industries, at an opencast site near Redhill, Surrey, although they intend keeping the Bath mine in a mothballed state in case business should pick up again in the future.

As an indication of the way that the character of this area is changing, the local planners last year rejected an application by Gasex Ltd. of Radstock to open a small trial coal mine near Marksbury. The proposed site for this drift mine was well screened by trees, and would have provided employment for up to 20 men. In throwing out the idea, the planners said that they felt it would be inappropriate to sink a mine in the midst of a group of pleasant dormitory villages - the lads who dragged the putts in Conygre Pit or Greyfields Colliery would have had a laugh about that one.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

WALES

Offof Pfynton Ddu The inquest on D. Gough and J. Fitton, who died in the cave on December 2nd was held in Ystradgynlais on January 24th. It took the jury 20 minutes to return a verdict of 'Accidental death by drowning'; they made the following recommendations:

1. That SWCC deploy some means of communication with underground cavers regarding impending danger.
2. That an approved leader accompany all parties underground.

In view of this we can perhaps expect to see a change in SWCC's attitude to Cwm Dwr, which at present is open to all cavers.

Ogof Craig y Ffynnon This cave is closed due to a collapse in the first boulder choke.

YORKSHIRE

Gaping Gill Gripping on the area above Fell Beck is likely to increase the flood risk in this cave.

Casterton Fell New marker posts across the fell to County Pot have been installed. CNCC is to install a phone extension outside Bull Pot Farm. It will be a direct line to the Police Station, for rescue purposes only.

Penyghent Pot The entrance shaft is unstable.

DIARY DATES

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Sat 19th April | Club trip - Pippikin Pot |
| Sat 19th April | Caves and the Community Symposium, jointly organised by MCA and the William Pengelly Caves Studies Trust Ltd. at High Peak College, Harpur Hill, Buxton, Derbyshire. Tickets from John Wilmut, 20 Brocksby Road, Tilehurst, Reading RG3 6LX. |
| Sat/Sun 21st/22nd June | Club trip - Lancaster Hole / County Pot |
| Sat 18th October | Wessex Cave Club Annual General Meeting and Dinner |
| Sat 15th November | Club trip – Rumbling Hole |

For details of Club trips, contact the Caving Secretary, Jeff Price.

GOING UNDERGROUND WILL SOLVE WORLD PROBLEMS

The vast potential for going below the earth's surface to solve some of the world's greatest environmental, energy conservation and storage problems is the subject of an international symposium to be held in Stockholm on June 23rd to 27th Rockstore '80 is being sponsored by the Swedish government and several international bodies, including Atlas Copco. It is aimed at government and community leaders, international agencies, special interest groups and leading industrialists. The main purpose of the symposium is to generate a wider understanding of how many of the seemingly insoluble problems facing nations can be solved by making use of the vast amount of space underground. At a cost to the individual of SwKr 250, it is unlikely that many cavers will be present to observe the proceedings or argue the case against oil storage tanks in the main chamber of Lamb Leer!

THE HOLLOW HILLS OF BRENDON

T. Charles Bryant

As a child in the 1920s, I have a vivid recollection of days spent on the Brendon Hills in West Somerset when my father pointed out the ruined engine houses of the abandoned iron mines and warned me of the dangers of the mine entrances. Recent visits to the Brendon Hills show great changes resulting partly from the passage of time but chiefly from the effects of agriculture and forestry.

Before it is too late, I have endeavoured to catalogue all the mine entrances. The information should be of interest to three classes of people:

1. historians in general and industrial archaeologists in particular;
2. future developers; and
3. rescue organisations.

Most of the mines closed about a hundred years ago and the shafts and drift were capped. Some of these caps have now collapsed and other entrances have been filled in, but I have endeavoured to record the exact position of each entrance.

The mining was carried on mainly by means of drifts and, where these are still open, they invite exploration without equipment. This is most dangerous because of internal collapses which often result in the creation of overhangs up which it is impossible to climb without a ladder or SRT equipment.

In general, the mines are in a dangerous condition; extensive propping was needed and these props have now rotted. Nevertheless, people do visit the mines in increasing numbers and, in the event of a rescue, it is important to know where the entrances are situated, which ones connected, and which ones are still open.

The information regarding open and blocked entrances will be out of date quickly because of almost continuous collapses, but the grid references should assist identification or indicate where to dig.

The mine entrances have been given numbers for ease of reference, and these numbers run from West to East. Appendix I gives the grid reference and brief particulars of each entrance, grouped under each mine complex.

The second appendix gives details of the maps on which each mine entrance is to be found. The County Series (first edition) may be consulted at the Somerset Record Office, Obridge House, Taunton, and the 1:10,560 maps may be consulted at the Local History Library, Taunton Castle.

It is important not to trespass, and permission to visit any site should be sought from the owner or the tenant of the land. Where known, I have given details in Appendix III but this information may not be very accurate and, in any event, it is likely to be out of date very quickly.

The purist will object that the Blackland Complex is not situated on the Brendon Hills, but I thought it convenient to record the information here. The mines around Simonsbath have not been included because they are nearer to those in North Devon and any rescue there would be more likely to include cavers from Devon.

A copy of this paper, together with the appendices and a set of maps showing the position of each mine entrance has been deposited with the Mendip Rescue Organisation.

For a history of the mines, Roger Sellick's book, 'The West Somerset Mineral Railway and the Story of the Brendon Hills Iron Mines ' (1962, 2nd. Edn. 1970. David & Charles, Newton Abbot) is indispensable; this book also includes information as to the sources consulted.

Finally, I wish to record my thanks to the staff of the Somerset Record Office, Taunton; the Gwent Record Office, Cwmbran and the Local History Library, Taunton, for assistance with research. I also acknowledge valuable information from Andrew Bye of Creech St. Michael and M.H. Jones of Taunton concerning the present state of the mines. Roger Sellick of Luxborough has given great help in identifying mine entrances and has allowed me to make use of a great deal of topographical detail in his book.

APPENDIX I

THE IRON MINES

Except where otherwise stated, mining took place at some period between 1839 and 1883; most activity occurred after the opening of the West Somerset Mineral Railway in 1857.

The first column is the reference number; the second is the National Grid reference, and the third is a brief description.

BLACKLAND

1. SS.8387.3690 SHAFT, 61m deep connects with North Adit (3), blocked.
2. SS.8400.3694 SHAFT, blocked.
3. SS.8411.3686 NORTH ADIT, with tramway in situ, intersects lode at 240m and connects with Shaft (1) where drift extends 107m along lode (NNE-SSW), entrance often contains 1m or more of water, open.
4. SS.8412.3679 SHAFT, shallow, connects with South Adit (5) within a few metres of entrance, open.
5. SS.8414.3679 SOUTH ADIT, connects with Shaft (4), open for 100m with short branches, more water than in North Adit (3).

(Mines worked in 19th century and investigated (but not worked) in 1942).

EISEN (O.S. ISON) HILL

6. SS.9031.3709 MOLD'S PIT, drift 33.5m deep, blocked and entrance obliterated.
7. SS.9040.3709 PASSMORE'S PIT, shaft for 18m and drift for further 20m, open.
8. SS.9044.3706 DRIFT, blocked and entrance obliterated.
9. SS.9062.3708 DRIFT, 45m deep, blocked.

- 10. SS.9086.3710 HOE COMBE DRIFT, 45m deep, confusing network of levels above main level, accessible by ladder, about 0.75km of workings open approaching Passmore's Pit (7) and Hoe Combe Levels (12 & 13), lower levels often flooded, recent roof falls make exploration hazardous, ropes essential, entrance fenced.
- 11. SS.9090.3710 SHAFT, blocked.
- 12. SS.9106.3712 HOE COMBE No. 1 LEVEL, entrance blocked.
- 13. SS.9110.3712 HOE COMBE No. 2 LEVEL, entrance blocked.
- 14. SS.9153.3702 POORSLAND LEVEL, entrance open but roof fall immediately inside, nearby collapse gives access to extensive workings, ladder or SRT essential for 30m ascent on return, extremely dangerous.
- 15. SS.9163.3698 OFFICE LEVEL, in rock face behind cottage, still open but entrance partly bricked up.

LUCK YARD WOOD

- 16. SS.9236.3600 ADIT, short, entrance blocked.
- 17. SS.9242.3600 ADIT of some extent, entrance blocked.

GOOSEMOOR

- 18. SS.9437.3584 LANCECOMBE LEVEL, entrance blocked but water issues.
- 19. SS.9481.3556 WEEKFIELD SHAFT, entrance obliterated.
- 20. SS.9554.3557 CALIFORNIA IRON MINE (or HIGHER GOOSEMOOR), 78m deep with 4 levels, entrance obliterated.
- 21. SS.9562.3554 RICHARD'S PIT, drift 23m deep, entrance obliterated.
- 22. SS.9568.3553 DRIFT, shallow, possible position.

GUPWORTHY

- 24. SS.9611.3541 SCOTT'S FIELD DRIFT, 15m deep, entrance obliterated.
- 26. SS.9628.3539 GUPWORTHY NEW PIT, drift 130m deep with 15 levels, levels 1 and 2 connect with Skip Drift (28), entrance obliterated.
- 28. SS.9631.3539 SKIP DRIFT, 38m deep, connects with levels 1 and 2 of Gupworthy New Pit (26), entrance obliterated.
- 29. SS.9640.3539 FOOTWAY SHAFT, blocked.
- 31. SS.9664.3507 GUPWORTHY LEVEL, open for about 225m to remains of Gupworthy Old Pit (32), collapse can be passed with care but level is flooded by dam at mouth of level and space for equipment is very limited, possibility of access to workings extending to area around Gupworthy New Pit (27).

- 32. SS.9667.3531 GUPWORTHY OLD PIT, drift intersects Gupworthy Level (31) at 36m and continues to 141m with 14 levels, entrance in garden of rebuilt chapel is partly blocked with rubbish.
- 33. SS.9679.3523 AIR SHAFT, connects with level 4 of Gupworthy Old Pit (32) entrance fenced and very overgrown, shaft wet, possibility of access for about 15m.
- 35. SS.9687.3520 BAKER'S PIT, drift 61m deep with 6 levels which don't connect with Gupworthy Old Pit (32 etc), masonry arch has partly collapsed making entry very dangerous, drift wet and slippery, ropes essential, still open with access to extensive workings.

KENNESOME (or KENNESHAM or O.S. KENNISHAM) HILL

- 23. SS.9610.3607 GREGORY'S SHAFT, only a small depression in the ground.
- 25. SS.9616.3608 AIR SHAFT, only a sharp depression at West end of surface working.
- 27. SS.9630.3608 CURTIS'S DRIFT, 143m deep with 7 levels below water adit, entrance completely obliterated, engine house demolished 1978.
- 30. SS.9645.3600 DRIFT, original engine drift, 46m deep, only a depression in the ground.
- 34. SS.9685.3595 WATER adit, well preserved entrance with inscription "G. Collins Kennisham Mine", open but partly flooded, dangerous due to roof falls and irregular water levels.

BEARLAND (O.S. BEERLAND) WOOD – LANGHAM

- 36. SS.9732.3578 AIR SHAFT (with chimney), connects with Bearland Wood No.1 level (37), blocked at base of chimney.
- 37. SS.9740.3585 BEARLAND WOOD No. 1 LEVEL, open as far as Air Shaft (36), entrance has wire mesh cover.
- 38. SS.9742.3581 BEARLAND WOOD No. 2 LEVEL, water adit for Langham Hill Pit (41) at 111m, entrance has fallen in but water still issues, divers might squeeze past fall.
- 39. SS.9747.3575 BEARLAND WOOD TRIAL PIT, blocked, interest lies in site being first place where trials were made in 1830s.
- 40. SS.9754.3569 ZIG ZAG LEVEL, connects with Langham Hill Pit (41), entrance obliterated.
- 41. SS.9771.3560 LANGHAM HILL PIT, drift 212m deep, connects with Bearland Wood No. 2 Level (38) and Zig Zag Level (40), open for 12m in spite of rubbish, flooded.

SMOKY (or SMALLUOMBE) BOTTOM

- 42. SS.9780.3510 SMOKY BOTTOM LEVEL, connects with Smoky Bottom Pit (43) entrance completely obliterated although water issues lower down.
- 43. SS.9785.3524 SMOKY BOTTOM PIT, drift sunk to 27m below adit level, entrance obliterated.

LOTHBBUOK (O.S. LOTHBROOK) - NEW LAMGHAM (or BETSEY)

- 44. SS.9838.3558 LOTHBROOK LEVEL, water adit for Lothbrook Pit (48) sealed and used as water supply to the Round House.
- 45. SS.9849.3537 NEW LANGHAM MINE, blocked shaft.
- 46. SS.9851.3536 NEW LANGHAM AIR SHAFT, blocked.
- 47. SS.9851.3548 SHAFT, filled with rubbish, fenced.
- 48. SS.9863.3545 LOTHBROOK PIT, drift with 2 levels below Lothbrook Level (drainage) (44), only a depression in the ground, possibly original 1883 capping.

WITHIEL (or FLOREY) HILL

- 49. SS.9911.3508 WITHIEL HILL PIT, drift 46m deep with 5 levels, blocked.
- 50. SS.9935.3517 SHAFT, field ploughed, entrance obliterated.
- 51. SS.9963.3469 LEVEL, entrance blocked, water issues from cutting.
- 52. ST.0026.3360 GUERNEY LEVEL, open for about 18m.

BARROW FARM

- 53. ST.0086.3456 NORTH LODGE SHAFT, blocked.
- 54. ST.0088.3450 ENGINE (or SKIP) DRIFT, 45m deep, blocked.
- 55. ST.0092.3450 AIR SHAFT, connects by levels with Engine Drift (54) blocked.
- 56. ST.0111.3447 LADDER WAY, entrance obliterated.
- 57. ST.0112.3445 GUNDRY'S SHAFT, connects by levels with Engine Drift, (54), entrance obliterated.

NETHERCOTT'S

- 58. ST.0195.3544 ADIT, length 15m, entrance blocked.
(Trial Adit opened 1936)

CARNARVON (sic) - RALEIGH'S CROSS PIT

Carnarvon New Pit

- 59. ST.0195.5429 AIR SHAFT, 21m deep, vertical dry shaft, ladder or SRT equipment essential.
- 60. ST.0206.3430 ENGINE DRIFT, 155m deep with 16 levels, level 7 (at 76m) connects with main workings and level 10 connects with level 13 of Raleigh's Cross workings, open to first level with floor partly collapsed giving views of lower flooded level, rope essential for access, much visited, naval divers consider the flooded workings highly dangerous for diving.

Carnarvon Old Pit

61. ST.0222.3424 DRIFT, drained by level linked to Raleigh's Cross Water Adit (64), entrance only a depression in the ground.

Raleigh's Cross Pit

62. ST.0250.3421 NEW DRIFT, 211m deep with 26 levels, levels 1 - 22 connect with Engine Drift (65), level 3 is water level (64), level 13 connects with level 10 of Carnarvon New Pit (60), open (or entry obtainable from collapsed first level), first level partly flooded.
63. ST.0251.3436 AIR SHAFT to Raleigh's Cross Water Adit (64), now used as water supply for troughs.
64. ST.0252.3460 WATER ADIT, drains main workings to depth of 34m, entrance open but dam inside which causes water to rise up Air Shaft (63) for supply to troughs.
65. ST.0255.3420 ENGINE DRIFT, 163m deep with 22 levels which connect with New Drift (62), open giving access to level 1, partly flooded.
66. ST.0273.3411 AIR SHAFT, blocked.

(See also Timwood Tunnel (71))

BEVERTON

67. within 500m of
ST.0273.3347 ADIT, no trace has been found.
68. within 500m of
ST.0273.3347 ADIT, no trace has been found.

RALEIGH'S CROSS LEVEL

69. ST.0307.3394 RALEIGH'S CROSS LEVEL, never connected with Raleigh's Cross Pit (61 - 66), connects with Shaft (70), entrance obliterated.
70. ST.0312.3404 SHAFT, connects with Raleigh's Cross Level (69), blocked.

CAREW

72. ST.0362.3410 SKIP SHAFT, open but filled with water.
73. ST.0367.3411 SHAFT, entrance blocked.

TIMWOOD

71. ST.0319.3528 TIMWOOD TUNNEL, constructed during 1908/9 as a deep level water adit to Raleigh's Cross Pit (61 - 66), abandoned after being driven for 488m, water still issues but entrance blocked with scrap iron, many roof falls.

ROMAN

74. ST.0457.3421 RoMAN MINE, shaft which connects with Level (75) and Shaft (76), blocked.
75. ST.0472.3394 ROMAN LEVEL, connects with Shafts (74 and 76), entrance blocked.
76. ST.0475.3416 ROMAN MINE, shaft which connects with Shaft (74) and Level (75), blocked.

COLTON

77. ST.0504.3511 WEST ADIT₂, connects with West Shaft (78) and East No. 2 Adit (80), entrance blocked.
78. ST.0511.3493 WEST SHAFT, 46m deep, connects with West Adit (77), open.
79. ST.0535.3484 EAST DRIFT, 59m deep with 5 levels, connects with East No. 2 Adit (80), open for 9m.
80. ST.0544.3474 EAST No. 1 ADIT, blocked.
81. ST.0547.3488 EAST No. 2 ADIT, connects with West Adit (77) and East Drift (79), entrance blocked.

(Mines worked from very early times, last worked 1907/9)

YEANON

82. ST.0642.3347 AIR SHAFT, blocked.
83. ST.0653.3344 DRIFT, 114m deep with 7 levels, cleared to 55m in 1907, entrance covered by corrugated iron sheets.

APPENDIX II

MAPS

County Series (First Edition) 6 inches to one mile

Map number	Reference numbers
XLV.SE	1-5
XLVI.SW	6-11
XLVI.SE	12-22
XLVII.SW	23, 25, 27, 30, 34, 36 - 41, 44, 47, 48
XLVII.SE	58
LVIII.NW	24, 26, 28, 29, 31 - 33, 35, 42, 43, 45, 46, 49 - 52
LVIII.NE	53 - 57, 59 - 79
LIX.NW	80 - 83

1:10,560

SS.83.NW	1-5
SS.93.NW	6-19
SS.93.NE	20-50
SS.93.SE	51
ST.03.NW	58, 71
ST.03.SW	52 - 57, 59 - 70, 72 - 76
ST.03.NE	77
ST.03.SE	78 - 83

NAMES OF OWNERS OR TENANTS FROM WHOM PERMISSION TO VISIT THE MINES MUST
BE OBTAINED

This information is believed to be correct, but not all details have been checked, and they are liable to rapid change.

<u>Name, address and telephone number</u> <u>(where known)</u>	<u>Ref. Nos.</u>	<u>Name, address and telephone</u> <u>number (where known)</u>	<u>Ref. Nos.</u>
?	1 - 5	?	32
Halsgrove Farm, Exford, Minehead, Somerset		The Old Chapel, Gupworthy, Brendon Hill, Watchet, Taunton, Somerset	
Mr Rawle Nurcott Farm, Winsford, Minehead, Somerset	6 - 9	Forestry Comission, Brendon Forest, Southdale, The Parks, Minhead, Somerset. Tel: Minehead 2886 or Forestry Office, Tel: Washford 388.	23, 25, 27, 30, 36 - 41, 44 - 48
Mr Rawle Hoe Farm, Winsford, Minehead, Somerset	10	Mr S. Payne, Lower Holworthy, Brompton Regis, Taunton, Somerset. Tel: Brompton Regis 244	34
?	15	Mr H. T. Bale, Burrow Farm, Brendon Hill, Watchet, Taunton, Somerset. Tel: Brompton Regis 232	53 - 57
Mr H. J. Scott Goosemoor Farm, Wheddon Cross, Minehead, Somerset. Tel: Winsford 305	20 - 22, 25	Mr V. C. Norman, Heather House, Brendon Hill, Watchet, Taunton, Somerset. Tel: Washford 340	59 - 66
Mr. Phillips, Wooton Courtney, Minehead, Somerset	26, 28, 29	Mr P. W. Clapp, Tone Farm, Brendon Hill, Watchet, Taunton, Somerset. Tel: Brompton Regis 287	69, 70, 72, 73
L. & B. Norman & Sons Cupworthy Farm, Wheddon Cross, Minehead, Somerset, Tel: Brompton Regis 267	31, 33, 35	Fountain Forestry, New Street, Chumleigh, Devon. Tel: Chumleigh 491	77 - 81

SURFACE LEVELLING AROUND CHARTERHOUSE

P. R. Cousins

Some years ago the Wessex undertook a levelling traverse linking many of the Central Mendip swallets. This project was completed and written up by John Church in 1968 (WCC J. 11, No. 134). We had always intended to continue this work, but the idea was dormant until 1978 when Tony Audsley requested an accurate altitude for Charterhouse Warren Farm Swallet where he was digging.

The old OS maps showed a Bench Mark at Charterhouse Warren Farm, and this was unearthed from behind a pile of sand early one Saturday in July 1979. An hour or so of levelling around the fields took us across to the swallet, and a break for lunch.

Charterhouse Warren Farm	Alt. 857.2 ft. OS Bench Mark
Charterhouse Warren Farm Swallet	Alt. 777.1 ft. Top of 1979 Shaft
	Alt. 771.8 ft. Rock Lip of Shaft

Later that day an attempt was made to complete the circuit from Lower Farm - the only other known Bench Mark in the area. We levelled down Longwood Valley, and up Velvet Bottom, eventually cutting straight up to Charterhouse Warren Farm Swallet. The results of this traverse confirmed the published altitudes of both Longwood Swallet and Timber Hole; but the traverse misclosed by 3 ft (vertically), this misclosure is not an acceptable figure for surface levelling (3 inches would be more appropriate). Attempts to calibrate the level suggested errors of 0.2 ft per leg might be occurring, but the instrument was sent away for servicing before this could be confirmed. Gross errors can of course also occur in this sort of work but in the absence of further evidence the results are presented uncorrected.

Lower Farm	Alt. 724.9 ft.	OS Bench Mark on House
Longwood Swallet	Alt. 703.7 ft.	Top of Block House
- ditto -	Alt. 700.9 ft.	Rock in Stream Bed
Rhino Rift	Alt. 706.4 ft.	Drill Mark in Rift
Longwood Valley Swallet	Alt. 673.0 ft.	Level of Path adjacent
Timber Hole	Alt. 622.0 ft.	Estimate from Footpath

** There is also a second Bench Mark on the North wall of Charterhouse Warren Farm, believed to have been cut by M. O. Cotter some years ago in connection with work at Blackmoor Swallet.

PUB WHERE YOU CAN "DROP- IN" FOR A PINT

A hunt for a garden rake by 15-year-old pub landlord's son Michael Upton has led to the discovery of a 150 to 200 year old calamine working beneath the car park of the Waldegrave Arms, East Harptree.

Now the mine is to be filled in by Courage Brewery after caving experts investigated the area on Wednesday evening.

Cavers led by geologist Dr William Stanton spent half an hour down the workings and discovered seven shafts leading up to the new public house car park.

Two of the shafts have already fallen through into the mine but the experts have declared the other shafts safe with no danger of collapse.

The old workings were discovered accidentally when Michael was sent out to find a rake and discovered instead a hole the size of a dinner plate.

PROD WITH STICK.

His parents, Mike and Joyce went out into the yard and Mike started prodding the hole with a stick.

Suddenly it widened and the three found themselves staring into a six-foot shaft.

An excavator was used to take away the surface of the car park and found another shaft.

Mike said: "It all seems laughable now but people were actually walking across the car park and leaving their cars there. And it actually fell in on its own accord."

At first the couple thought the shaft was an old well which they knew existed somewhere in the car park.

Joyce said: "It was when we widened the hole we discovered it was not the well. When the second shaft fell in we again thought it was the well. It was quite frightening."

The team investigating the mine with Dr Stanton were Nick Barrington, Willie Edwards, Bob Elliot and Courage's public relations officer Bruce Lewis.

Dr Stanton said the mine probably yielded calamine with some ochre as well.

He said: "A lot of the mineral has been removed, but you could still see the pick marks on the sides. We also found some goose bones, metal hoops off barrels and some old coins."

He explained the shafts were positioned in the shape of a capital H in the car park with about 100 feet of workings.

(From the Wells Journal, 10th Jan 1980, by kind permission of the Editor)

WCC/BEC DIGGING COMPETITION 1979 / 80

Little has been heard in the Hunters since it was found that during the twelve months duration of this competition the Wessex had found more new cave than their competitors, the BEC. Here for the record are details of our finds.

1. Longwood Swallet 50ft, an ascending passage just upstream of Swing Pitch, found by Websell, Faulkner and Moody.
2. Swildon's II a roof tube, about 50ft long, found by Pete and Alison
3. Swildon's - Shatter Series 700ft of passage found up to the date of expiry of the competition, by Pete and Alison and others. (The series is now c. 1,000ft long)
4. Thrupe Lane Swallet over the year, 50ft of side passage was found near the entrance, by Rick Witcombe and others.
5. Water Wheel Swallet, Blackmoor. Willie Stanton, Alan Clarke and others found 50ft of passage over the year.
6. Swildon's VI Approximately 50ft of extensions found in the sump by Chris Milne.

A quick calculation shows the Wessex total to be 750ft of new cave found. Details of the BEC's total will be published when they become available.

COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS CONSTITUTION

1. The name shall be the Council of Southern Caving Clubs.
2. The objects shall be:
 - a. To encourage the exchange of information between caving clubs in the South of England and Wales.
 - b. The safeguarding of the interests of those clubs.
 - c. Maintaining friendly relations with similar bodies with a view to promoting and achieving objects of mutual interest.
3. Guiding principle shall be:
 - a. Respect for the autonomy and independence of action of all caving clubs, 'live and let live'.
 - b. The owners and tenants of property containing caves have the right to grant or withhold access. In certain cases caving clubs, singly or jointly, have the control of cave access delegated to them by the owners. In such cases access for cavers should be granted as freely as possible throughout the country within the terms of those agreements. When forced to make new agreements the appropriate body should ensure this freedom.

4. a. The Council shall consist of delegates from member clubs. It shall meet not less than once a year to transact business.
- b. A meeting of the Council must be called, if the Secretary receives a request from at least six member clubs, or if required to by the committee.
5. A club becomes a member by signifying its wish to do so.
6. a. The Officers shall be an Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, and such others as the Council shall decide. A Chairman shall be elected at the beginning of each meeting.
- b. Officers shall be elected by Council to serve for a year and shall be eligible for re-election.
7. There shall be a committee consisting of the Council Officers and the nominee of each club wishing to serve. It shall regulate its own business.
8. At all meetings of the Council and its committees each participating club shall have one vote and in addition the right of veto.
9. Each member club shall subscribe a minimum of 25 pence per year.
10. In the event of a dissolution, the assets of the Council shall be given to other organisations of a similar nature. A motion for dissolution, if passed by a two-thirds majority at a Council meeting shall not be subject to veto.
11. A quorum at Council meetings shall consist of one third of the member clubs.
12. Motions for amendment to the Constitution must be received by the Secretary at least 6 weeks before the meeting, and be circulated to member clubs at least 4 weeks before the meeting with the agenda.
13. The Annual Meeting of the Council shall take place in May,
14. There shall be four trustees of the Council. The first trustees shall be appointed by the Council and the freehold, leasehold, shares and other property of the Council shall be vested in them to be dealt with by them as the Council shall from time to time direct by resolution (of which an entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence). The trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of Council property. The trustees shall hold office until death, or resignation, or until removed from office by a resolution of a Council meeting of delegates from member clubs who may for any reason which may seem sufficient to a majority of those present, eligible to vote and voting at a Council meeting remove any trustee or trustees, from the office of trustee. If by reason of any such death, resignation or removal it shall appear necessary to the Council that a new trustee, or trustees, should be appointed or if the Council shall deem it expedient to appoint an additional trustee or trustees the Council shall by resolution nominate the person or persons to be appointed the new trustee or trustees. For the purpose of giving effect to such nominations the Honorary Secretary of the Council is here nominated as the person to appoint new trustees of the Council within the meaning of Section 36 of the Trustees Act 1925 and he shall by deed duly appoint the person or persons so nominated by the Council as the new trustee or trustees of the Council and the provisions of the Trustees Act 1925 shall apply to any such appointment. Any statement of fact on any deed of appointment shall in favour of a person dealing bona- fide and for value with the Council be conclusive evidence of the fact so stated.

(As amended at the 1978 AGM)

FROM THE LOG

21st July 1979 Cuckoo Cleaves RAW, Pete & Alison. Small chamber above lake still open but way on completely blocked by large shattered boulders. Too dangerous to crowbar, so poked from a distance. Many large rocks brought down blocking the route into the small chamber.

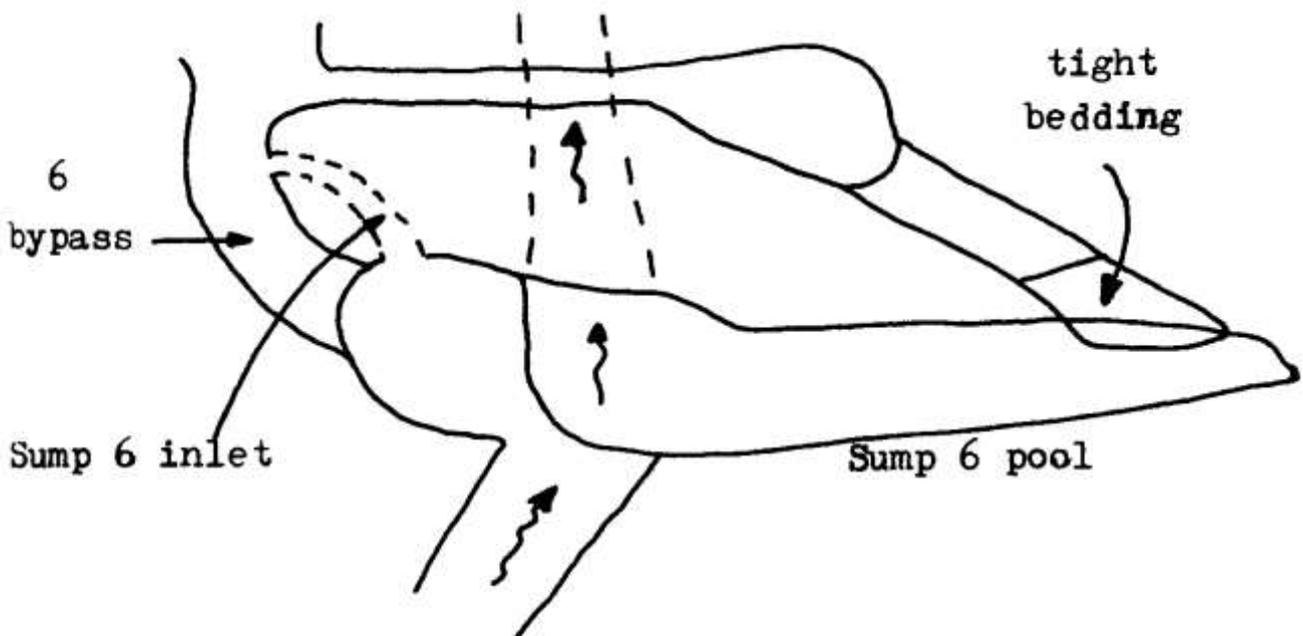
29th July Swildon's Hole S. Gough, Ian Jepson. Applied chemical persuasion to clear a drainage channel for Vicarage Passage dig.

29th July Swildon's Hole C. Milne, P. Moody. Sump 6 bypass - survey.

5th Aug. Swildon's Hole S. Gough, RAW, I.J. Placed bang on hole in Swynne Puke, which has an aural connection with the 42' rift.

12th Aug. Longwood Valley Sink Tuska, Al Richardson, and T. Hughes (BEC) RAW. Played with boulders at bottom, then grouted in new winch and attached cable.

18th Aug. Swildon's 6 C. Milne. Dived pool below 30' pot in 6 bypass. Upstream went 30' in a 3' wide rift still going but rapidly silting up. Downstream goes into a 3' wide rift, 6' high for a few feet to extremely tight bedding. I committed myself and got through a very tight squeeze to surface in the 6 pool from a depth of 10 feet.



19th Aug. Swildon's Hole RAW, G. Pickford, IJ to Swynne-Puke to examine damage from 5/8 bang. Removed debris, placed another charge hopefully to remove corner of passage.

26th Aug. Cuckoo Cleeves Pete & Alison. Removed about 10 cu ft boulders above the lake before encountering a solid jam. The few formations in Lake Chamber have been vandalised but those in Unnamed Inlet are OK.

27th Aug. Middle Scar Cave Yorks. C. Milne, RAW, Pete Slater, Oakes. Interesting and pretty cave only found by divers 2 years ago. Rarely visited.

27th Aug. Swildon's Hole P. Moody, Phil Dunk, Phil ? (SMCC). Abortive trip to survey Shatter Chamber extensions, instead trundled boulders and re-entered the continuation of the chamber where we had been banging. Prospects do not look good, it looks as if it is closing down. Decided to abandon the site.

1st Sept. Swildon's Hole Pete & Alison. Started banging in Damascus in an attempt to get back into Renascence. Looks long term.

6th Sept. Heron Pot Kingsdale. D & D Walker. The wooden beam for the first pitch belay can be found below the second pitch.

8th Sept. Swildon's Hole Damascus. Pete & Alison. Banged again in passage to Renascence.

9th Sept. Lionel's Hole Pete & Alison. Banged passage above the sump, also found 40' passage leading off from Suicide Rift. This is heading downstream, Way on seen but needs banging.

21st Sept. Swildon's Hole - Shatter Chamber. P. Moody, T. Faulkner, A. Kingle, P. Dunk. Stopped at Damascus to view damage. The way on to the pot now seems open apart from a small spur of rock. While trying to knock this off the head came off the hammer and fell down the pot. On to Shatter. Stream in new section has dried up. Upstream end looks good - a bedding plane appearing to open up after 5. A double charge was laid. The downstream end also looks promising. Also fired a small charge in the roof of Shatter Chamber.

22nd Sept. Lionel's Hole Pete, Alison, A. Kingle (?) Flakes in Sump Chamber passage had been partly removed. After a bit of digging Alison squeezed into a small continuation. Straight ahead is a 4" high bedding plane. There is a strong draught, but we didn't want to bang it. Above and to the left is a dry choked rift which may repay digging. Also pushed the cobble passage. Tight connection proved to a passage above the squeeze in the duck bypass.

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