



# THE WESSEX CAVE CLUB JOURNAL

## VOLUME 21 (NUMBER 232) FEBRUARY 1992

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**Opinions expressed in the Journal are not necessarily those of the Editor  
or of the Wessex Cave Club as a whole unless expressly stated as being so.**

## Officers and Committee of the Wessex Cave Club. 1991-1992

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# Club Notes

## Wessex People

### Congratulations To:

Gen and Tav on the birth of a son, shortly after Christmas. Rumours that he is called Butcombe are unfounded: he actually answers to Michael Sutherland Taviner and was born on New Year's Day.

### New Members

#### Welcome to:

**Samira Abbas**, 25 Armitage Road, London, NW11 8QT,  
**Pete Bryan**, 2b Tappers Lane, North Petherton, Somerset,  
**Brian Coward**, 11 Norden Drive, Northmoor Park, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4SF,  
**Jo Diamond**, 27 Sunningfields Road, Hendon, London, NW4 4QR,  
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**Alex Smith**, Holly Lodge, Main Street, Kirkburn, Driffield, East Yorkshire, YO23 9DU, 0377 89371  
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### Change of Address

**Estelle Sandford**, Norleigh, Bridgwater Road, Uphill, Weston Super Mare, Avon, BS23 4TY  
**John Cordingley**, 61 Linwood Ave., Darwen, Lancashire, BB3 0JA, 0254 774336  
**L M. Plant**, Apartment 1, 42 Marine Road West, Morcambe, Lancs., LA3 1BZ  
**Struan Macdonald**, The Wardroom, HMS Drake, Plymouth, Devon  
**J. Taylor**, 745c Christchurch Rd., Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH7 6AN

## Committee News

Mike Dewdney-York has been sorting out the Library, and has noted a number of items which have been on loan to members for long periods. Please could anyone with items on loan from the library return them as soon as possible, or contact Mike if they have not finished with them.

Lynne Hendy has placed a variety of semi-precious stones and gems in the sales cabinet at Upper Pitts, members who want to purchase such items are invited to contact her via the Club: a percentage of the profits from sales will be given to Club funds.

# Caving Notes

Due to legal problems which were recently discovered by the Westminster Speleological Group, Caerllwyn (the WSG hut near Hirwaun) is closed to guests. This situation is likely to last for about six months.

John Cordingley recently resumed his assault on the downstream sump of Lancaster Hole. In a two hour dive on 25 January, using mixtures, he added a further 120m to the end of the line. The total distance is about 400m from base now, at a depth of -19m. This some 10m shallower than the previous limit. On the same weekend, Andy (Alien) Goddard added a similar amount of line to the end of Roaring Hole.

Members visiting Upper Pitts recently will have noticed the loss of the old MRO radio from the wall of the lounge. This has been removed to make way for an improved set which will be installed in the coming months. The reason for the change is the switch from AM to FM, forced on all rescue groups by the Home Office. In the meanwhile, a car - portable set, capable of being used off any 12V battery, is to be kept in the upstairs store at Upper Pitts.

Thefts from cavers cars parked on Mendip are on the increase: even cars parked on Priddy Green are no longer safe. Please leave your valuables at the Hut.

Flower Pot is now open again. Permission to visit the cave should be obtained from Mr Shephard at Priddy Hill farm

The Belgian National Speleological Federation has written to bring member's attention to the European Conference of Speleology, to be held at Hélécinne in Belgium from 20 to 23 August 1992. The program includes lectures, practical sessions, cave visits, and other activities. A variety of accommodation is available. Full details from Nick Williams.

The re-bolting of New Goyden Pot with the new resin fastened anchors has been completed. Work in Cow Pot and Swinsto is under way. All that is required to visit the newly bolted caves is a selection of maillions or carabiners - 8mm threaded anchors are no longer required.

The National Association of Mining History Organisations will be holding its annual field meet in Shropshire over the weekend of 27/28 June. Workshops include surveying, SRT and underground video recording, while there will also be seminars on the surface preservation of mining sites. There will also be surface and underground field trips. Further details from Adrian Pearce, 72 Hopkins Heath, Shawbirch, Telford Shropshire, TF5 0LZ, 0952 253310.

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## Club Diary 1992

8 February	Yorkshire booking	Top Sink
9 February		Pool Sink
1 March	Committee meeting	10.00 am Upper Pitts
7 March	*CSCC farmer's ceildh	Priddy Village Hall
7 March	Yorkshire meet: camp at the	Lost Johns Cavern
8 March	Hill Inn, Chapel-Le-Dale	Death's Head Pot
4 April	Yorkshire booking	Disappointment Pot & Stream Passage Pot
5 April		Hurnel Moss Pot
11 April	Wales meet	Contact Andy Summerskill for details of accommodation
12 April		
12 April	Committee meeting	10.00 am Upper Pitts
17 April- 25 April	Easter in Doolin, Eire	Contact Andy Summerskill for details

2 May - 4 May	Bank Holiday Yorkshire meet	Camp at the Hill Inn, Chapel Le Dale
23 May - 25 May	Bank Holiday Yorkshire meet	Camp at the Hill Inn, Chapel Le Dale
6 June 7 June	Yorkshire booking	Bar Pot Grange Rigg/Christmas Pot
20 June 21 June	Wessex Challenge Committee meeting	10.00am Upper Pitts
27 June 28 June	National Association of Mining History Organisations Field Meet	Ironbridge, Shropshire
4 July 5 July	Yorkshire booking	Penyghent Pot Little Hull Pot
10 July 11 July	*National Caving Congress	Royal Forest of Dean College, Cinderford
2 August	Committee meeting	10.00am Upper Pitts
23 August to 30 August	RESCON 92 International Cave Rescue Conference	South Wales Cave Club, Penwyllt
19 September 20 September	Yorkshire booking	Birks Fell Pot Gavel Pot
19 September 20 September	BCRA Conference	University of Bradford
20 September	Committee meeting	10.00 am Upper Pitts
10 October 11 October	Yorkshire booking	Gingling Hole Magnetometer Pot
17 October	AGM and Annual dinner	
7 November 8 November	Yorkshire booking	Lancaster Hole/Link Pot Long Kin East/Rift Pot
5 December	Yorkshire booking	Jumper Gulf
30 December 31 December	Yorkshire booking	Notts Pot Lost Johns Cavern

\* Note revised date

Please contact Keith Sanderson (address at the front of the Journal) if you wish to attend any of the Yorkshire bookings.

Novice instruction is available on all Club trips: please contact Andy Summerskill (address at the front of the Journal) for details.

# From the Log

## June 1991

Tuska's Folly Tuska, Mark, Max and Graham. "Removed some of the wobbly bits at the end. Exited after remaining wobbly bits started to wobble. Still looks a go-er."

## 15 June

Wookey. K. Savory, Malc. F., R. Carter, J. Cordingley, A. Taylor (WSG), Dany B, R. Brown (BEC). "We went to go and look at the end using the lightweight approach - with a few tricks, e.g. Nitrox, Tri-mix etc. An excellent 11 hour trip with a bloody good team. At 170ft depth in the last sump is a bad tangle of loose line: this stopped us when the vis went, so didn't get to end quite. Farr's line is in good condition, Rob Palmer's is bust and strewn everywhere."

## 5 October

Swildon's Hole. Murray, Eddy & Darren Brown. "Darren and Eddy helped Murray down to sump II, Murray then went on to IV but it was disgusting so returned ..... Two questions were raised by this trip: i) Where's the water; ii) even more significantly, where's the air?!!!"

## 5 October

Box Mines. Struan, Stewart, Mark, Leg, Max. "Decided not to do Watergate so came here (Obvious choice!). Loads of passageways and deads."

## 7 October

White Pit II. "Big hole dug by Tuska after he welded the Hymac back together."

## 7 October

Hillgrove. Pete Haigh and Aubrey. "Did a bit more to help on another dig. ½ hour, ½ pound."

## 9 October

Drunkards. Mark, Max, Eddy, Pete Hann, Paul Lambert and Aubrey (digging trip No. 137). "Found a lake or terminal sump. Paul found lake to be deep enough to wet his delicate parts (lake



two feet deep please note)."

## 11 October

OFD Cwym Dwr - Top. Mark (married), Max, Leg, Sue (shelvers). "First through trip for us...went right, went left a few times, got lost a few times, eventually made it out."

## 13 October

G. B. Cave. M & E Hewins & Mr Hansford. "I have been promising Eleanor a trip down here for years. Nice two hour potter down the White Way and rift to the bottom and back up the Waterfall. Out well in time for the pub."

## 25 September - 10 October

Crete. Geoff Newton, Mike Read, Nigel Graham, John Stevens. "The WCC/Chelsea Norway group works outing courtesy Thompson package tours go to sea and sunshine. Lots of walking around arid, shattered limestone looking for caves that a) did not materialise and B) we had no permit to explore anyway (would Charterhouse Permit suffice?)."

## 13 October

Charterhouse Pete Hann, Wayne Brown, Eddie, Nigel "More cement in the end boulders as the saying goes."

## 16 October

Portland "New find by Wayne and Eddy - Headlands Quarry Cave - Phreatic network fragment to be dug further. It may go to long lost White River cave."

## 19 October

Slaughter Stream Cave. Rich Websell, Malc Foyle, Murray, Dobbin and Carol, Chris Castle (BEC). "Some big bits, some small bits, some dry bits, some very dry bits. Not many formations but plenty of dead dogs. PS many flooded dwarf traps in the streamway."

## 20 October

Lycopodium Rising. Dobbin and Murray. "Got to a pile of boulders 5m in. A reasonable flow but from where? Long term dig underwater."

Ashwick High Rising. Dobbin and Murray. "Had a nose around: very interesting, perhaps needs chemical arrangement."

White Pit. Eddie, Wayne Nigel "Moved a stone."

## 20 October

Swildon's. Chris Jackson, Steve Barrett. "Sumps 1 & 2. Gave 3 a miss after a cursory (cold) glance from ledge 2ft under short round trip from landing to T anti-clockwise. Note: despite rumours to the contrary the air between 1&2 and 2&3 is good. It was the cold that had us gasping!. A good trip made better by hot, oh so hot, showers."

## 26 October

Carlswark, Derbyshire. Tuska, Jim, Max, Carmen, Eddy, Wayne, Graham. "Took 18 of Tuska's scouts caving....Parties on Friday and Saturday nights were a lot better than the cave."

**27 October**

Yorkshire. Dominic, Colin, Nick W “Tried to do Swinston but ~~because Nick couldn't find the entrance~~ due to technical difficulty ended up abbing through Yordas.”

**28 October**

Ullet Gill. Nick W., Rhys Watkins (CSS), Bob Mackin (NCC), Phil Pappard (BICC), Paul Dunkley (ACA). Hauled lots of spoil and stacked it.”

Bull Pot. Colin M., Dominic. “Altered our clocks the wrong way. This trip was an interesting experience as my first SRT trip.”

**30 October**

Drunkards. Aubrey, Colin, Max, Mart and Andy T. Probably Aubrey's 929th trip but the rest aren't that stupid.”

**2 November.**

Eastwater. Max and a few friends. “Had a look at Dolphin Pot. Took ½ hour to get there, but on exit experienced a few technical difficulties hence a 6 hour return time.”

[This was actually a major rescue practice in which Max was volunteered to be the victim - NJW]

**9 November**

Hillgrove. Aubrey. Caves is where you makes them!”

**13 November**

Flower Pot. Mark and Max. “Had a play in the mud.”

**15 November**

Cheese and wine party at the BEC, but there was no cheese.”

**30 November**

Wookey 20. Keith Savory, Tom Chapman. “...Now gained 40ft though last rift is a wee bit tight. Presently enlarging stal eye hole with at least 40ft cave-able passage beyond...”

**9 December**

Holm Bank Chert Mine. Murray, Malc, Mark Sims, Gary (SMCC). “Had a pleasant bubble....very clear dive site.”

**15 December**

Whitepit: Eddy and Graham. “Down another 2-3 feet in very loose fill. End looks very promising but needs shoring.”

**27 December**

Swildon's. Murray and Nick W. “Put a few holes in Rolling Thunder.”

**30 December**

Swildon's. Murray, Nick W., Dobbin, Mark Sims + 2 SMCC. “Thunder Rolled. Then blew up the SMCC's Cistern dig.”

**31 December**

Dan-Yr-Ogof. Chris Milne, Mark, Nick W., Carmen, Graham Bromley, Colin. “Bumbled down the Green Canal to the Rising and back. Good commentary by the guide: pity the Williams missed it all. Must remember the wetsocks next time.”

**2 January 1992**

Swildon's. Ampor, Dröfn & kids. “Vid Fórum ; Hellaferð ; Swildon's Holu - Frúbaert! England er ekki sidra nedanjarðar! takk fyrr tvo goda daga.”

**3 January**

Eastwater. Eddy, Dominic. “End of Blackwall Tunnel. This time it was rigged but no-one told us so we dragged 5 ladders to the pitches.”

BEC Mineshaft dig. Nick W, Struan plus J-Rat, Mac, Trevor & Martin (BEC). “Went to drill holes with Hilti – took generator. Nasty smelly bang.”

**11 January**

Cuthberts. Mark, Carmen, Jos & Tim Large (BEC). “Classic trip to Maypole series. The Wessex did without abseil kit on the return trip (who needs tackle - signed the Tackle Officer).”

**19 January.**

Loxton Cave. Struan, Colin, Max and Eddy. “Small cave, small stal, HUGE spiders.”

GB Cavern (Rescue). Wessex team: Fred Davies, Pete Hann, Eddie Waters, Colin Masters, Jim Rands, Nigel Graham, Carmen Smith. “Cast of oodles to Ladder Dig in GB at invitation of MRO on behalf of four cavers from Southampton who had been plugged in by a boulder...First use of Molephone by MRO - it's performance attracted a lot of very favourable comments.”

**26 January.**

Wigmore Swallet. Howard, Max, Keith S., Matt, Vince and Roz (BEC). “Another invitation by the BEC, but we had to carry Keith's diving gear!! - he found a bit more passage, we found it hard work.”

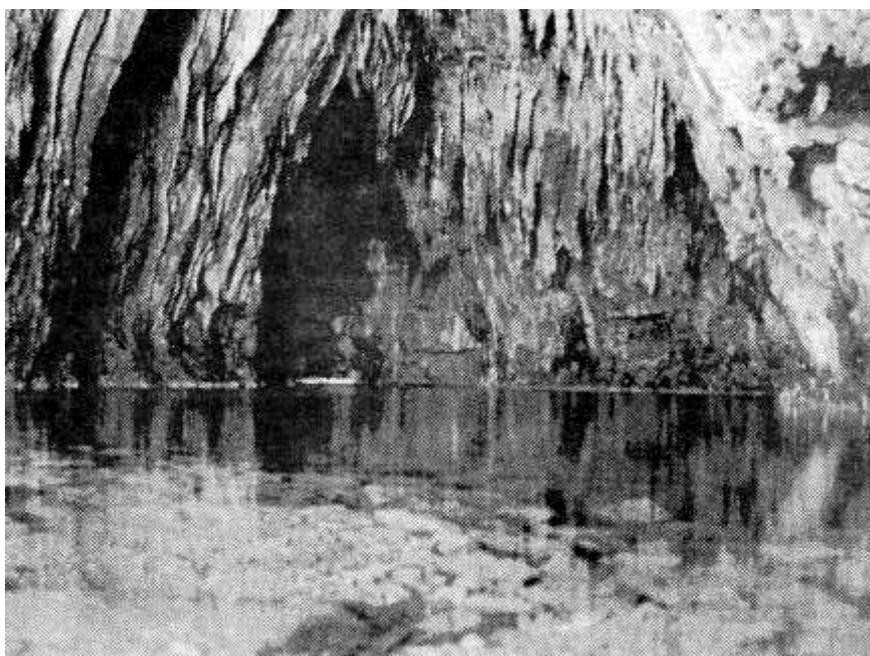
# Letters to the Editor

Dear Nick,

On three matters in the last Journal: -

I am grateful to Linda Wilson for replying on behalf of Council of Southern Caving Clubs, to my comments on the Limestone Research Group radon study. Thanks too, to Nick, for offering her this right of reply.

It is interesting to note the discrepancies between what Robert Hyland (LRG) told Linda and what he and Dr John Gunn said at Manchester. I do not doubt Linda Wilson's words or integrity one bit... Now, my letter was a new version of one to *Caves and Caving*. Robert Hyland has submitted a reply to that, copying it to me (arrived at my home on 8 January). For ethics, I will



The Gournier entrance lake (Photo: Nick Williams)

not pre-quote his letter, doing so would be unfair to him, to *Caves and Caving* and to our own editor. However, I see he has revised things, and answered my questions very fully.

One point arises from Manchester and subsequent publications. I now doubt the scientific methods used. I cannot comment on the physics itself, but do now question the experimental methods which appear rather haphazard. Some underground tests are rigorous, others seem to depend on uncomprehending volunteer assistants, without the uniform controls on calibration and measuring techniques expected of any serious experiment. I must admit I (a lab assistant!) had missed this, until a recent discussion on the project with Pete Hann, Nick Williams and others.

I will stress one point. The LRG know radon concentrations change with time: each cave used is

tested at regular intervals some months apart to investigate this very aspect. Those who accuse the LRG of relying on single sets of results from any given cave have not understood the basis of the project.

Next a crumb of comfort for those who, like me, would not want a tramway in Cheddar Gorge (*Journal 231*). The steep gradient and violent meanders (Horseshoe bends) would make such a scheme impractical, or do the scheme's proposers intend cutting through the spurs? Anyway, I can't imagine the hill's residents being too happy about loosing one of their few access roads, a road oft used by Wessex members, one adds.

Turning to happier things, and Trevor Faulkner's account of the Vercors. The Grotte de Bournillion floors violently, as Trevor describes. I wonder if certain hydro – electric plant operations, as well as the weather, can affect it. The first time I visited it (1975!) the resurgence river bed was dry, but a large pipe discharged a vast jet of water into the Gorge a short way up-valley. As we approached, the cave suddenly started to flood - an awe - inspiring sight. Walking back down, we saw the pipe had been turned off. Could have been a co- incidence, but...

I'm surprised Trevor's team dismissed the First (River) access in the Grotte de Gournier. Had his informants simply missed the way on, or has the cave changed? The cave is a fossil passage with active replacement meandering along below it, like Easegill Caverns. The four access points are holes down from the fossil passage. First access is a boulder slope down to an overflow passage to the main stream, in an area which can be confusing, especially when returning. Follow the stream up to a boulder choke passed, as I call from 1988, practically at stream level. This is the Second Access Choke. The second access itself involves climbing down within the choke, emerging into the water close to the First Access exit. Now, the Gournier can carry a raging torrent, so the choke may have recently. Perhaps the next visitors to the cave could investigate?

Yours sincerely,  
Nigel Graham,  
Weymouth  
11.1.92

*Errata: the date assigned to Nigel's letter in Journal 231 should have been 21.10.91, not 21.1.91 as given*

# Speleological Reconnaissance in Eastern Crete

Geoff Newton

Crete is made almost totally of limestone. It is mountainous with the three chief ranges each rising to over 2000m in height. The potential for the formation of long and deep caves is therefore considerable. The Island is over 256km long and varies between 15 and 60km wide. It has an estimated 3000 or so known caves. These are mostly short spacious fossil fragments.

Local cavers are understood to concentrate on the archeological side of speleology. Excavations over the years have yielded a rich haul of bones and artifacts of all sorts as the museums of Iraklion testify. The legacy of past civilisations, particularly that of the Minoans, has an importance in Crete to an extent which is difficult to appreciate here in the UK. For example there is, in theory, an almost total ban on scuba diving in Crete because of the threat to archeological remains on the sea bed. Residents and visitors alike on Crete that we spoke to were totally unable to understand that there could be other motives for exploring caves than the search for bones or Minoan gold. They did not speak the same language as us, even the British amongst them.

However, previous expeditions from countries like France and the UK have discovered and explored more sporting caves on Crete. These have mainly been found in the western massif of the Levka Ori (White Mountains) and to a lesser extent in the central range of the Idha Ori. I could find no record of sporting caves in the eastern range of the Dikti Ori. It was hoped that this omission was because nobody had looked in the right places rather than the fact that there was little to find.

## Objectives

The 1991 expedition objectives were to look for caves in stream sinks and shafts as these would be unlikely to have been explored by the locals. The area to be prospected was the Lassithi Plateau and the Dikti and Selena Mountains which surround it. These types of cave entrances should be more likely to lead to active caves and it was hoped, systems with a significant length and depth.

## Personnel

The recession took its toll of prospective participants. In the end only four people took part. These were Nigel Graham (Wessex CC and Craven PC), Geoff Newton (Chelsea SS and Wessex CC), Mike Read (ex ULSA) and John Stevens (Chelsea SS and ULSA). None of the party had been to Crete before.

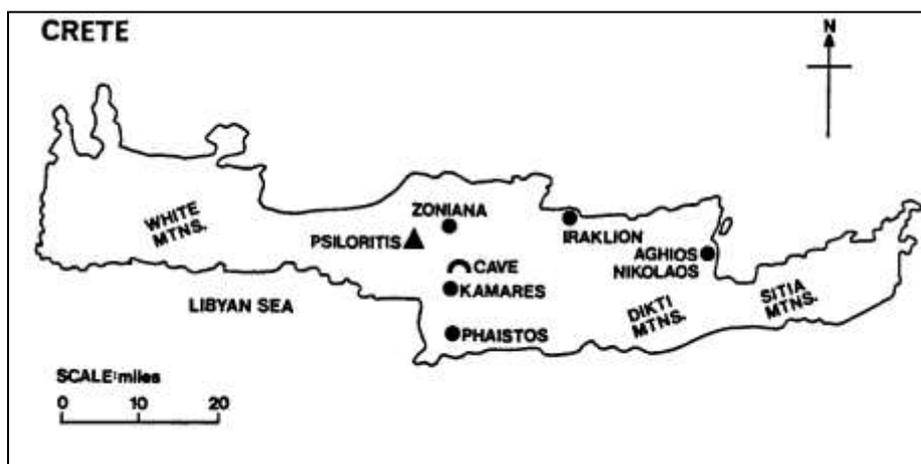
## Logistics

With only two weeks available for the expedition we took the easy way out. A package holiday was booked with Thomsons! This flew us out to Iraklion and transferred us to a self catering apartment between Stalis and Malia about 30km east of the airport on the North Coast. It was situated by the National Highway which runs the length of the North Coast, so all parts of Crete were reasonably accessible. There was a road up to the Lassithi Plateau which left the National Highway close to the apartments. (Figs. 1&2)

We hired a Subaru M80 locally for most of our stay. For a very small car it was surprisingly roomy, taking four people and four rucksacks with the minimum of discomfort. The 800cc engine took us over the mountain roads and worse without problems. The hire company would have had kittens had they seen us driving it over rough stony mountain tracks and through puddles up to the sills. We could have hired a jeep style vehicle which would have coped even better with rough going but carrying four people would have been more of a problem and the cost was prohibitive. Car hire in the Greek islands is expensive and only the fact that there were four of us made it an attractive proposition. Many car hire firms make a massive surcharge for payment by credit card so take plenty of cash or travellers cheques.

Petrol prices were similar to those in the UK. The M80 was economical. Car hire is essential unless you are lucky enough to





tour to the Samaria Gorge, personal and group caving equipment, and travel in the UK to the airport. It should be possible to reduce this. Booking with Intasun could have saved about £90 but they went bust....a lucky escape! An apartment without a swimming pool would have been a little cheaper but we had tremendous fun in the pre-breakfast pool session! There are cheaper operators than Thomsons but take care!

find a caving area which provides a lot to do within walking distance of where you are staying. Buses are cheap and more or less reliable but are rather rare in rural areas. Taxis can be an economic alternative for a group but there is the worry of organising the return trip from a remote area.

The traditional form of rural transport, the donkey, was still very much in evidence away from the major towns and beach resorts seen by tourists. Old women dressed in black, riding side saddle could be seen everywhere on the Lassithi Plateau. However, the younger generation of farmers drive battered Japanese pick-up trucks. As a result the network of farm tracks has been made more or less driveable. As cultivation and goat herding take place up to a considerable altitude it was often possible for us to drive up to an altitude of 1200-1400m and give members a chance to play at rallying!

#### Catering

We organised our own breakfast (eaten on the balcony of the apartment) and packed lunches. We ate out for the evening meal as prices are very reasonable in Crete. This saved us a lot of time and enabled us to sample a wide range of Greek food which we all enjoyed. In general value and service were better at cafes and restaurants in rural villages than in the beach resorts.

A word about the water. Mains water is safe to drink. However the eccentricities of Greek plumbing mean that the supply in some buildings is not above suspicion. Mains water is also highly mineralised. We found it perfectly palatable, however it is probably wise to avoid drinking large quantities until you are used to it. If you should be unlucky enough to suffer a stomach upset you should rehydrate with bottled water as the high mineral content of mains water on a weakened stomach will prolong vomiting. I can vouch for this.

#### Costs

The costs of the expedition came to about £500 per head. This includes air fares, insurance, all food and drink, car hire, petrol, postcards, stamps, and peace offerings to those back home. It did not include a coach

It is difficult to get cheap flights to Crete hence package tours have other attractions than convenience. If you can get a good deal on the flight it is then possible to save money as there are usually lots of cheap hotels, rooms, and apartments available for casual booking. In the mountains we had many unsolicited offers of accommodation.

#### Maps

Maps are a problem on Crete. Good large scale maps are considered to have a security value by the Greeks who are still nervous that the Turks or Libyans will invade. It is therefore wise to buy maps in the UK. The best we could obtain were black and white photocopies of 1:50,000 maps produced during the Second World War. These were not exactly works of art, but gave a reasonable picture of the contours (at 20m intervals). The information on roads and tracks was useful provided that it was interpreted with care, given the changes that can occur in the 45 years since maps were produced.

There is a series of 1:80,000 maps of Crete being published by Harms IC Verlag in Germany. Unfortunately at the time of the expedition only sheets 1,2,and 3 (Hania, Remython and Iraklion) were available. The sheets covering the east of the island no.4 Aghios Nikalaos, which we needed, and no.5 Sitia were yet to be published.

The best map covering the whole island is Nelles 1:200,000 map, which we found useful for interpreting the 1:50,000 photocopies as it has contours (at 100m intervals).

#### Fauna and flora

The Cretan mountains are dominated by goat. We were rarely out of earshot of the sound of goatbells. Goats prevent the regeneration of the native forests and can live in the harshest terrain. Most of the plants which survive the goats are covered in thorns and spines, such as the spiny burnette (christened the hedgehog plant by us) and the holly oak, an evergreen oak tree with tiny spiny leaves like a miniature holly leaf. Also typical were various strong flavoured herbs such as sage and marjoram which released a heavy scent as we walked through the scrub.

The goats leave their carcasses all over the mountains. This feeds the eagles and vultures forever wheeling around the sky on the lookout for pickings. Goat carcasses are also found in caves where the stench of rotting goat was not unusual.

Although mammalian sights are a common feature of the holiday beaches, wild mammals are not numerous on the island. During our stay we saw mice around the apartments, and the carcass of a beech marten on the Lassithi Plateau. Lizards were more common. We saw both Brown and Green lizards on our walks and two species of Gecko lived in our apartments. Geckos are small lizards with suction pads on their feet which enable them to walk on walls and ceilings. They perform a useful function by keeping the insects down and should be encouraged. Insect life is interesting but mostly harmless. Biting insects do appear after wet weather but we found them less of a problem than in most parts of the UK and to be nonexistent by Norwegian standards.

#### Weather

Crete being the most southerly part of Europe has a long hot dry summer. The expedition was planned for early autumn in the hope that the weather would be cooler for mountain walking, but still reasonably dry. Spring has the advantage that the landscape is fresh and green but high water levels and residual snow cover may hinder cave exploration.

In practice our first week was as hot as any of the summer. This was followed by three very wet days. After this the weather became cool, bright and windy which is more typical of the season. In hot conditions it was necessary to take at least three litres of water per person on each prospecting trip.

Three days after our arrival the clocks went back one hour. It got dark between 6.30 and 7.30pm. This meant that if we were slow getting our act together in the morning, the time lost would come out of prospecting rather than the evening's relaxation. No comment!

#### Personal Equipment

On prospecting trips shorts and T-shirt were the usual dress. We wore trainers or old leather boots for walking and caving. Definitely not the weather for wellies. If we found a cave it was a simple matter to don a boiler suit over walking clothes. I also packed an old pair of jeans and a long sleeve shirt which was useful to protect against the more abrasive caves and to prevent sunburn as required. Wet suits or furry suits and plastic oversuits would have been a liability unless we had discovered a really wet cave. Unfortunately this was a problem we did not have to face.

We all took a personal SRT kit and used Petzl Zoom lighting. The latter is ideal for prospecting and does not weigh much. It was important to keep weight down both to avoid carrying heavy packs in hot weather and to keep within the 20kg baggage allowance for the flights. A variety of torches were carried as back up, together with spare Duracell batteries.

#### Group Equipment

The expedition members already possessed between them sufficient climbing rope and hardware, bolting kits, karabiners, hangers, survey equipment, and photographic gear. It was thought necessary to buy extra rock anchors in case we found a lot of shafts. We bought 150m of SRT rope. Both this and the 50m climbing rope were 9mm in order to keep weight down. Karabiners were strictly alloy for the same reason.

*To be continued*

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## Notes for contributors

If you have any article, letter, comment, news, photograph, or anything else which you would like to see published in the Journal, please do not hesitate to send it in. Preferably, text should be typed on one side of the paper only, with wide margins and double spaces between the lines, but I'd rather have it scrawled on the back of a cigarette packet than not get it at all.

The main requirement for photographs is that they should not have too much contrast as otherwise they are unrecognizable when printed. Prints in black and white or colour are acceptable, but bear in mind that they will come out as black and white prints when they appear, so if the colour is an important feature the effect may be lost in printing. Please make sure that your prints or Transparencies are clearly labelled, and send the appropriate captions for each figure on a separate sheet.

For those who have access to a word-processor, I may be able to accept contributions on floppy disc. Please give me a ring so that we can discuss whether or not your

software is compatible with mine - at present I can handle contributions in Apple Macintosh format and all formats of MS-DOS IBM disc.

Line drawings, sketch maps and diagrams are all welcome. They should be supplied in the size at which they are to be printed. Make sure that lettering is large and bold.

If you copy drawings or photo's, or quote, from another publication, please make sure you inform me before publication so that I can make arrangements regarding copyright.

Authors may obtain a laser-printed copy of their article for the production of further off-prints by contacting me.

I would like to thank Richard Kenney for his assistance with the typing.

NJW

# Reviews

## Great work of darkness

It has been eleven years since the first edition of Farr's well known book was published. This second edition was published late last summer and is, in my opinion, a very worthy successor to the high quality reputation of the first edition.

The second edition has superseded the first on many fronts. Physically the book is now a larger format and has 70 pages and nearly 150 photo's more. In terms of content, the structure is very similar to the first edition, following the development of cave diving in the U.K. and then the major achievements of international cave diving.

As an introduction to the book there is a section on the origins of cave diving. This starts by describing the lure and challenges of caving which leads to the inevitable sump, then follows a short chapter on the beginnings of cave diving. This section has been enlarged to include much more historical information about some of the initial tentative forays that were made underwater, underground by such famous names as Casteret and Cousteau. There is also included the remarkable exploits of Alexander Lambert in the flooded Severn Tunnel.

The first main section of the book is concerned with cave diving activities in the U.K. A very thorough account is provided of the early pioneers; their equipment, methods and techniques. After reading this section, I feel that there would be few people who would not be left with a feeling of tremendous admiration of the achievements of these early pioneers, especially considering the equipment at their disposal.

The development of techniques to the ones used today is then followed, again a catalogue of amazing achievements by men of remarkable resolve and resourcefulness. Each major caving area of the U.K. is considered and the major discoveries in each area are described, Farr, to his credit, using snippets of the divers original logs to add that extra 'feel' and authenticity to the description. The extensive use of supporting diagrams and high quality photos makes the text very authoritative.

To compare again with the first edition, this section on the U.K. is largely the same. Farr has taken the opportunity to expand on areas of cave diving history, revealing further antics of our caving forebears. He has also taken the opportunity to add the major discoveries since the first edition was published, to the extent of holding up publication to include a mention of the through dive from King Pot to Keld Head in June last year.

The second section of the book is on international cave diving. This section has received the most major revision since the first edition. It has been expanded from 24 to 95 pages long and section describes some of the more notable discoveries and advances made

around the world. This is by no means an exhaustive account of cave diving internationally and does not claim to be. The description of the more notable advances also, by default, shows the amazing equipment that has evolved to allow these discoveries. This allows the reader to make their own comparisons of the differing techniques and equipment with those that have evolved in the U.K. The magnitude and complexity of some of the achievements catalogued in this section are almost into the realms of fiction, but, the text reveals how the likes of Exley, Hasenmayer and Isler have evaluated the problems that face them, and then solved them and make the monumental advances that they have.

Farr has obviously gained considerably more foreign contacts since the first edition and these have supplied some remarkable accounts of their explorations. This section works its way through continental Europe to the America's and ends up in the Southern Hemisphere. As with the first section, the text is very well supported with pictures and diagrams

These main sections of the book are endorsed by an excellent introduction by Bill Stone, probably one of the leading cave diving technologists in the world, which gives an interesting insight into the motivations and attitudes prominent in cave diving. There are also six appendices which support the main text. These appendices include information about decompression, analysis of cave diving accidents, the longest and deepest dives (shame about the *Doux de Coly* this summer making this out of date while on the printing presses!!) and a glossary to explain some of the terms used throughout the book.

I feel Farr has done a superb job of this book. He has managed to write the book in such a style as to be technical enough for the technically minded yet he has written it such that 'dry' cavers can enjoy and share in the exploits of their diving companions. The book is also written in such a way that anyone with just a taste for adventure will enjoy the exploits within. Farr is to be congratulated for achieving a delicate balance and creating a book that is not only a good read but also a thorough reference book. The book is excellently presented and I would recommend it without hesitation to any caver/adventurer as an addition to their bookshelves.

Murray Knapp

*The Darkness Beckons (2nd Edn) Martin Farr*  
Diadem Books, 1991, ISBN 0-906371-87-2  
280 pages 242mm x 200mm 190 black and white  
53 colour photo's and 64 diagrams., £22.00 Hardbound

## Angling for a dangle

Once upon a time there was a small but active group which, having rung, would travel. Its techniques were normally good for the mid-70s, although once, having been ordered not to fall off, one was not impressed on reaching the pitch-head, to discover the lifeline was neither belayed nor braced on the brink! Then the first SRT books appeared, plus splendid tales of high adventure and super shafts as in Ghar Parau. "That looks fun" everyone thought, and rushed to purchase lots of fancy yacht rope, and new-fangled cast alloy "Jumars". With Fig-8s and slings our heroes slithered happily through Swinsto-Valley Entrance. The memory makes me giddy: what if the rope had jammed? No-one knew that could happen, anyway the rope must have been free-running to help drag it bodily through the crawls. We were not alone in our innocence!

Over the next few years SRT developed, tragically with some fatalities. There were many heated discussions ranging from constructive to childish abusive. Throughout, people still used ladders. A few counselled caution at what they feared was becoming a mere fashion contest between the two techniques, but they soon learnt to call softly lest they incurred the wrath of Those Who (were paid to) Know. Now we have a far happier situation: SRT is first choice for many vertical trips, its subtleties are discussed constructively, and ladders are regularly used in many caves.... but...

The point of course, was that the ladder methods were being neglected by many cavers. It took a lot of effort for many to see the technique's flaws. A few diehards regarded attempts to render ladder climbing safer as anathema: "I've never fallen off yet!"... "You don't need a line, it's only x feet!", (where x is proportional to the speaker's self-assessed abilities and ale consumed?),... etc

Andy Sparrow addresses the problem in this book. It must be pointed out that he has (as he admits in the book, p3) worked from notes prepared for caving courses he runs. Like other "professional cavers" he has found himself, fairly or not, a rather controversial figure on Mendip. At least Andy avoids excessive advertising, or rubbishing those not equal to his own abilities, though his views on actual stupidity are clear.

Having not named Dave Elliot, one may compare the two writers. Their approach is similar, although Sparrow combines techniques and cave-guide in one book. The rigging diagrams are similar to Elliot's, and even called "topos"; a slangy abbreviation of the French word for survey that I abhor!

A pre-amble on safety and attitudes is followed by chapters on equipment and its use. These are fully illustrated with diagrams and photographs, although detail is not always very clear, possibly from the manuscript's reduction to A5 published format. Diagrams of pitch heads are cluttered with stalactites: Who admires the stal while tying knots over great voids? Andrew's wife Johanna, and Beryl Brett, acted as models for many photos: the cover photograph is an impressive shot of them in action in Hunter's Hole.

The information is succinct and almost complete, but for a few important points. For instance, yes, Oldhams and Nife cells can and do leak: So can ex-MOD Ni-Cd cells, now more common (p9). In warning of chemical damage to rope or tape, he could examine the possible effects of petroleum-based greases, since he recommends just "grease" for ladder protection (not lanolin or a modern penetrating wire-rope preservative?). The practice of securing tightly-rolled ladders by forcing the C-links together, especially for storage, is deprecated. (p16). Sparrow favours rigging from Y-hangs where possible, but omits the significance of the 90° maximum angle (e.g. p35, para 2). Interestingly he prefers a rope sling, krab and a pair of Maillons rather than a wire tether or spreader.

Handline, included assisted line, and various lifeline, techniques are described and discussed, with the Italian Hitch being the writer's favourite (although he admits it will twist the rope, but suggests the "Batbrake" device to lessen this).

The third section of the book, to be used with the full guide-books, gives a rather motley selection of Mendip pitches and climbs. Sparrow includes the Swildons and Eastwater pitches, including Primrose Pot, but not West End. Rhino Rift's deep shaft (probably now more often an SRT venue) is included, as is The Coalchute climb in Goatchurch Cavern. Yet, no Manor Farm Swallet or Tynings Barrows Cave. The section is divided into two. The first details ladder and line rigging, with natural belays where appropriate. Second is an Elliot-style Mendip SRT rigging guide, but with less information on the bits between the pitches.

This book is NOT an SRT treatise. Some voice their opinion that there is no place for SRT on Mendip, Rhino apart perhaps. Frankly, I regard this as a sterile argument, though agree that SRT is not really practicable for many of Mendip's shorter pitches. You choose which technique to use, and Andy Sparrow recognises this personal choice by simply offering a few SRT routes for those already able to use the method.

Flood warnings for three caves described, are appended, giving the significance of particular entrance stream depths. A page advertising his services completes the book.

Modern ladder techniques have been widely published in the last few years. This book is the first to suggest definite tackle requirements and ladder routes for particular pitches, in the sort of detail associated with SRT guides. The guide is Mendip-based, but the techniques chapters are naturally universal so commendably summarise modern ladder and lifeline methods. Not all will agree with all of Andy's suggestions and recommendations, however it is a useful (if slightly pricey) book, provided its omissions and limitations are realised.

Nigel Graham

*A Mendip Caver's Ropework Guide, written and published by Andy Sparrow. Printed St Andrew's Press (Wells), A5, ring-bound, 83pp text. £6.95. From: the author (Glenview, Wells Road, Priddy) or Bat Products.*

# The other end of Swildon's

## An interview with Oliver Wells

The following article was published in the american diving magazine *Underwater Speleology* in July 1988. It is reprinted here with Oliver Wells' permission. The original transcript was edited and sent for review to Graham Balcombe and Jack Sheppard, both of whom are in fine health. Comments attributed to them were taken from their replies.

JOHN SCHWEYEN: Why don't we talk a little about your early caving activities, how you got started for instance?

OLIVER WELLS: At age six or seven my mother told me about Casteret's discoveries at Montesperan when I was in the bath. I can remember her telling me that when he free-dived the second sump it was longer than the first. The idea of plunging through a totally submerged passageway captured my imagination. At age 9 (this was in 1940) we went as tourists to the third chamber of Wookey Hole, which is as far as the tour went in those days. We listened fascinated while the guide told us about the divers who had gone into the pool of water in front of us and had found great chambers in which their lights did not reach the roof. Little did I realise that I would later be going there myself.

At age 15 I was away at school when an uncle took me out to tea. He had a fascinating line of talk about folks who floated along in cave passages with their noses only an inch or so below the roof (he said nothing about it being cold). At age 17, we went to France and our host

(who was a much more athletic person than I) said "Voulez-vous aller dans les grottes?" and like a fool, I said "Oui". We rode on bicycles for many hours to this place where it was wet and cold. It wasn't a very great success, I'm afraid.

JS: You found out what a "grotte" was.

OW: Yes indeed. I then forgot about it until I was drafted into the army. One of my companions started to talk about caving so I said "Oh, I can do that too!" We went for a weekend in the Devon caves where John and Winifred Hooper very kindly told us about their work with bats and generally pointed us in the right direction. They even had us working on one of their cave digs. It was a good example of how a well-organised caving club can get you really interested in caves.

Perhaps I might mention that we had two sets of clothing in our military days, and we wore the less respectable of these underground. There was an interesting moment the next morning when the platoon was on parade and the two of us were a bright red colour because of the mud. We felt very conspicuous. We wondered if the officer would notice, but nothing was said.

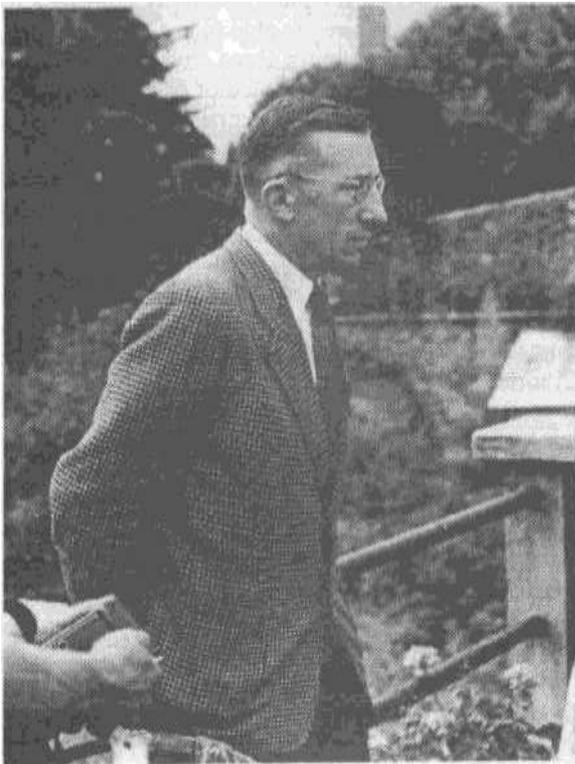
JS: So like most English cave divers, your initiation to cave diving was through caving as opposed to diving.

OW: Yes.

JS: You started cave diving in '56?

OW: No, '55. There had been a very active community of cave divers in England since the mid-1940's, and you must contact Bob Davies in Philadelphia if you would like to hear about that. Graham Balcombe and Jack Sheppard had started cave diving in the 1930's. Graham and his friends dived with pump-fed naval equipment at Wookey Hole at about the same time as similar efforts were being made at Vaucluse in France. (Sir Robert Davis of Siebe Gorman Ltd. lent them the equipment and an instructor free of charge.)

In 1935, Jack Sheppard constructed a lightweight pump-fed diving dress called "Jimmy" with which he passed Sump One in Swildon's Hole and so became the first cave diver to use lightweight equipment specially designed for use in a cave (Oct. 4 1936). Two weeks later he free-dived through it and laid a rope so that



Norbert Casteret (Frank Frost Collection)

the others could follow. I looked up the detailed ascription of Jimmy last night, and it was a wonderful device, with a two-piece waterproof suit, air provided by a small hand-operated pump, telephone, light in the flexible helmet, and so on.

Graham Balcombe was the first to use a self-contained respirator for cave diving, in the second sump of that same cave (Nov. 22, 1936). In 1944, which was a year after Jacques-Yves Cousteau, Frederic Dumas and Philippe Tailliez had first used the aqualung in the Mediterranean, Balcombe was making preparations for his explorations in Keld Head that started in March 1945. Balcombe and Sheppard founded the Cave Diving Group in 1946 during a diving meet in South Wales. For equipment, they used mainly government surplus oxygen rebreathing gear.

JS: So people avoided diving deeper than 30 feet.

OW: When breathing pure oxygen, yes.

JS: When people were diving with the helmets, what kind of times were they spending underwater?

OW: Up to two hours. That was in the 1930's with the traditional naval apparatus. You had your friends turning the handles.

JS: Turning the handles? On the pumps?

OW: Yes. You could tell who your friends were.<sup>1</sup>

JS: What was the typical penetration distance in those days?

OW: At Wookey Hole Graham Balcombe and Penelope ("Mossy") Powell went in for about 170 feet pulling the pipes after them. That was from Wookey Three to Wookey Seven. Wookey Three is where the tourists stand beside a large pool of water, and from where you can reach Four by going under a wide submerged arch. You can walk under this arch when the water is low, and indeed, they found bones and things like that. You can also reach Five in a boat if the water is low (the water in Five is five to ten feet deep). To go beyond this point you must go down a slope and through the Letterbox which under normal conditions is sixteen feet deep. The helmet divers had to indulge in underwater rock climbing to get up the slope and onto the level plateau in Six and Seven. When I made the trip using self-contained gear with Graham Balcombe and John Buxton in 1955, I was astonished by the achievement of the helmet divers in

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<sup>1</sup> Jack Sheppard comments: "Much of the early work at Wookey Hole was done with the 'see-saw' pump, with two men at each end. Hard work, but it was amazing how to some pairs the work seemed exhausting but others seemed to form a team and the work seemed effortless. This was the pump that Sir Robert Davis hoped, in our first discussions, we would take down Swildon's Hole."

pulling their air hoses for such a great distance.<sup>2</sup>

JS: The pipes were air supply and communications hoses?

OW: The jargon of the day was as follows. The "shot rope" was the present-day "guideline" that was laid between concrete blocks on the passage floor (except that it was more than an inch in diameter). The equally thick "breast rope" (with the telephone wires woven in) was the lifeline. The air hoses were additional. They could talk to each other which is something that cave divers couldn't do for many years afterwards. They were ahead of all of us on that.

JS: When you first started diving, were helmets being passed up in favour of rebreathers or were they still being used on a regular basis?

OW: Helmet diving stopped in the 1930's. The equipment which we used was government surplus respirators from World War Two.

JS: What was the training like?

OW: They had a training schedule with five hours underwater and various tasks on dry land. Underwater, you had to do all the usual things like taking your mask off and putting it back on again. On dry land you had to experience carbon dioxide excess and oxygen lack to the point of unconsciousness. You needed medical supervision for that — I don't recommend it even slightly.

JS: What kind of qualifications were people looking for for prospective cave divers?

OW: You had to be experienced as a caver. Also, it was considered that cave diving required a certain degree of dedication, and that if you were not going to stick with it, then the sooner that this was found out, the better. The trainer diver had to keep control of the equipment until it became clear that you were going to persevere. The days when you could buy equipment at the friendly neighbourhood dive store and then train yourself in your own time or in a regularly scheduled class came later.

JS: Where did training take place?

OW: The first thing that you had to do was to find someone to train you. I had been a supporter on the occasion (organised by Oliver Lloyd) when Bob Davies and Graham Balcombe had done great things in Sump Two of Swildon's Hole (June 26, 1954). Possibly because of this, Bob was able to prevail upon Jack

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<sup>2</sup> Graham Balcombe "Concerning underwater rock climbing — that was one of Mossy's bits of overemphasis. Suggest: The leading diver had to indulge in some simple boulder-climbing..."



John Buxton diving in Saye's Hole, Cheddar. The other figure is Luke Devenish (Frank Frost Collection)

Thompson in Sheffield to give me my initial training. So I rode on my motorcycle for many hours to Sheffield where Jack was kind enough to put me up for the night as well as dress me in the dry suit, big black rubber boots and oxygen respirator which is what a well-dressed cave diver wore in those days. Sometimes I would dive in a lake beside a dam, and sometimes in a pool indoors.

JS: What was happening with the aqualung at that time?

OW: The earliest reference that I can find in the CDG newsletters is dated June 1948: "... (Jean Ruffel) sends us a preliminary mention of a French invention which he says is particularly safe and would greatly assist exploration." Cousteau's book "The Silent World" was published in England in 1953, and I can remember the enthusiasm with which it was received. However, as far as the members of the Cave Diving Group were concerned, they were copiously supplied with Government surplus gear, while aqualungs were expensive. So why get involved with something that you cannot afford while the stuff with which you are familiar is to hand?

However, non-cave divers had no such inhibitions, and the Sub-Aqua Club was founded in 1953 with a complete prohibition on oxygen apparatus. Jack Thompson was one of the converted, and while I was being trained in the use of oxygen for cave diving, there were others in the pool with aqualungs. As I remember it there were two manufacturers from who you could buy scuba equipment by mail: Siebe Gorman and Heinke.

JS: Where did you make some of your earlier cave dives?

OW: My first cave dive was in Peak Cavern. Jack Thompson took me for a dignified walk for a few yards along a commodious tunnel underwater at the Swine Hole (Aug. 28, 1955). My next cave dive was at Wookey Hole with Graham Balcombe and John Buxton when Balcombe took me through to Seven (Oct. 1, 1955). Perhaps I should emphasise that John was a cave diver for several years before I became involved, and without him, none of this would have occurred (John contributed significantly to cave diving for many years).

JS: What are conditions like it Wookey?

OW: On the way in, the visibility on a good day can be a hundred feet or more. But the mud soon enough rises up in clouds, so that on the way out, you cannot see a thing.

Jokes were made that you must find your way out by the senses of smell, taste, hearing and touch (mostly touch). The water did not move fast enough to push you around (remember, we were walking) but you certainly saw the mud clouds moving. When you were going upstream the thing to do was to move slowly so that you could see as much as possible before the mud cloud swept around you in the various eddies that always seem to exist when the passageway is not a perfect tube.

JS: Why is it that so much work has been done in Wookey? What is the big attraction there?

OW: The underwater tunnels are large, the water is clear (at least to begin with), you can walk in along concrete paths, there is a comfortable place to dive from, it is an excellent place for a beginner to practice in, there were bones to be found, and so on. Mind you, not everyone agreed with this, and during the early 1960's, I think it was Fred Davies who said: "Wookey? Why yes of course it is interesting. It is the other end of Swildon's."

JS: When was your last dive in Wookey?

OW: My last serious pushing dive in Wookey was when we reached the entrance of the fifteenth chamber in a descending slot at a depth of 65 feet — that was on March 14, 1958. On April 5, 1959 I had my last dive at Wookey (a training dive for some new divers, really) and put my nose into a tight vertical rift in Nine-One without really getting anywhere.

JS: How far into the cave were you when you looked into Fifteen?

OW: It seemed like a long way, involving two dives in sequence to reach the upstream pool in Nine, and two more to come out. But perhaps I should mention that when I started diving at Wookey Hole, Graham Balcombe and Donald Coase had already discovered the Ninth chamber at about a hundred yards upstream from Three. Also, they had gone for some distance beyond that to Eleven, where the floor drops away below thirty feet. Bob Davies discovered Thirteen with his aqualung by swimming down to about 50 feet in Eleven, under a low arch, and then up a narrow rift on the far side (Dec. 10, 1955).

So to answer your question, our own

explorations took us from the edge of Eleven, down the slope and into Fourteen, and then across to the entrance of Fifteen where we reached the depth limit for the 70/30 oxygen/nitrogen gas mixture that we were using. We walked across below Thirteen, which was up in the sky as far as we were concerned. John Buxton came with me on those dives.

There were several other divers who would come through to Nine and they would do various essential things but it was only John and myself who dived with mixtures (until I had come to America when several other divers started mixture breathing). It is of course agreeable to see that mixed-gas rebreathers are now being used in caves again after so many years.

JS: The other divers were serving in a back-up capacity?

OW: The expression "back-up capacity" doesn't sound quite right because they did more than this, such as exploratory dives here and there, training dives, hunting for bones in Four and generally keeping things going.

*To be continued*

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## Library Review 1988 - 1991 (part 2)

Rob Taviner

The publications mentioned may be viewed at Upper Pitts

### DC SPELEOGRAPH

#### Volume 45, No. 8

- a) An article on Shaw Hill Bat Cave, Kentucky.
- b) Caves of Silvertip Mountain, Montana.

#### Volume 45, No. 9

- a) A report on Tower Maze Cave, a 700ft long cave contained in a single karst tower, in Cockpit karst, Jamaica.

#### Volume 45, No. 11

- a) Caves in W. Kentucky including Peters Cave and Lisanby Cave. b) Progress in Lechuiguilla Cave, New Mexico. c) A new method for counting bats using video film of bats in flight and a computer to count the numbers in each frame.

#### Volume 45, No. 12

- a) A review of Nigel Graham's WCC Berger report which describes him as an 'ageing, non-vertical caver'.

#### Volume 46, No. 1

- a) The cave of El Capitan Peak, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, including El Capitan Pit, a single drop of 450 ft., 3rd deepest, and El Capitan Cave, 9000 ft. long. b) Update on Cave Mountain Cave, W. Virginia, 2.5 miles long. c) Winter Caving techniques used in the Appalachians.

#### Volume 46, No. 2

- a) An account of a trip into Sinnett Cave with a

- party size of 52!. b) An article on the Blue Cheese Caves, Roquefort sur Souzlon, France.

#### Volume 46, No. 3

- a) Report on the December 1989 Lechuiguilla Expedition. b) An article on how the journal is produced.

#### Volume 46, No. 4

- a) Report on Mexico, including Arroyo Grande Cave and Rio Hondo Cave. b) Cave Mountain Cave, W. Virginia. c) Carbon Dioxide and it's effect on caves & cavers. d) History and legends of mines in the Tyrol.

#### Volume 46, No. 5

- a) Reports on extensions to several small caves in W. Virginia, including Fortlick Cave, Fortlick Run Crevice Cave, Windy Run Caves and Clay Run Cave. b) A suggestion that the saliva of vampire bats could be used to prevent blood clots and heart disease.

#### Volume 46, No. 7

- a) An account of Organ Cave, 37+ miles long. b) A description and survey of Roy Robertson Cave, Logan County, Kentucky, 445 metres long. c) An account of a trip to the far reaches of New River Cave where there are Black Bear bones in situ. d) An account of a short extension (580ft) in Paxtons Cave, Virginia.

#### Volume 46, No. 8

- a) New discoveries in Fisher Ridge Cave System, Kentucky. b) Description & Survey of Duck Lick Cave, Logan County, Kentucky, 213 metres long.

## **DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOC.**

### **No. 69**

a) Watertracing at Ilam. b) Progress in Peak Cavern. c) Radon in Derbyshire caves. d) A dig report on Pounder Lane Cave - complete at Length 60 ft., Depth 28ft. e) A description of the small Engine Close Mine in Femdale, reopened in 1988.

### **No. 70**

a) Progress in Peak Cavern. b) The use of Magicubes in cave photography.

### **No. 71**

a) Water Tracing Project, Ilam, Staffs.

## **DEVON S.S.**

### **No. 141**

a) Extracts from the club log in 1949, including Penn Recca, Ogwell Caves and Pridhamsleigh.

### **No. 142**

a) Bats in Devon. b) Extracts from 1948 log on Rock House Cave.

### **No. 143**

a) Articles on the first descent of Bickington Pot and the stale air problem that exists now.

## **GRAMPIAN S.G. (3rd Series)**

### **Volume 1, No. 2**

a) Gold mines in Zimbabwe. b) Exploring a man made tunnel in Edinburgh. c) Fungi in Scottish Caves, d) Radon in Scotland. e) Surface to cave radio communications.

### **Volume 1, No. 3**

a) S.R.T. accident report by the victim who suffered a broken back. b) Caving and video cameras. c) Discovery, description and survey of Heidbanger Hole in Sutherland. d) An article on 'Caver Decay' i.e. number of years membership of the club and how long before they disappear. e) Description of caves on Raasey.

## **HADES C.C.**

### **No. 26**

a) A report and survey of Lamons Cave, Morgan County, Alabama. b) A trip report on the Gouffre Berger.

### **No. 28**

a) An account of a visit to Haute-Savoie in 1989 including a visit to Reseau Jean Bernard. b) High Wood Cave dig in the Wye Valley. c) Ireland 1989.

## **IMPERIAL COLLEGE**

### **December 1989**

a) Articles on South Africa and South America. b) An article on the meaning of British Cave Names. c) An account of a visit to the Reseau Jean Bernard.

## **NSS NEWS**

### **Volume 47, No. 8**

a) An account of a flash flood caused by a cyclonic storm during a cave diving expedition in

Pannikin Plain Cave in which the divers were trapped for 29 hours and the dramatic changes the cave underwent. b) An account of the Wakulla Springs Project

### **Volume 47, No. 9**

a) History of the exploration of Endless Caverns in Virginia. b) A personal account of an earthquake underground. c) USA longest & deepest including 8 over 1000ft. deep and 50 over 10 miles in length.

### **Volume 47, No.10**

a) Caves and Karst of the Dominican Republic. b) An article on exploration vs. conservation. c) Maple Leaf Cave, Missouri, 13334 ft. long, d) An account of a double dog rescue that lasted 11 days, attracted a lot of publicity and considerably extended a Tennessee Cave.

### **Volume 47, No. 11**

a) Caves of Elk Valley, W. Virginia, including Falling Springs, My Cave, Simmons Mingo Cave, Elk River Cave, Bradshaw Run, Sorely Violated Cave, Left It Pit. b) World-wide development of show caves.

### **Volume 48, No. 3**

a) An article on Slacks Cave, Kentucky on attempts to find lost passages described in a newspaper article in 1790. b) Discovery and description of Sullivans Cave in Kentucky, 2800 ft. long.

### **Volume 48, No. 5**

a) The removal of Lint (Hair, Skin, Dust, Cloth) from Show Caves. b) Artificial anchors. c) The American Cave & Karst Centre, Horse Cave, Kentucky.

### **Volume 48, No. 6**

a) Discovery and exploration of Scott Hollow Cave in W. Virginia, 17.1 miles long and 571 ft. deep.

### **Volume 48, No. 7**

a) An article on progress in Jewel Cave during the '80's which pushed the cave beyond 75 miles long. b) The relationship between cavers and show caves. c) A history of the longest Californian caves, including Lilburn Cave and Bigfoot.

### **Volume 48, No. 8**

a) An article on the formation of aragonite Lechiguilla Cave, New Mexico. b) A report on Cuban Speleo Society 50th anniversary meeting.

### **Volume 48, No.9**

a) Endangered species in Caves in Texas. b) article on Relapsing Fever caused by Tic bites (cases in Western USA).

### **Volume 48, No. 10**

a) History of exploration of the horrendous Tecumseh (Horseshoe Bay) Cave, Wisconsin. Americas West End. b) 1990 Expedition to Rio Corredores, Costa Rica.

## **NSS BULLETIN**

### **Volume 50, No. 1**

a) Computer applications in cave sun using Fisher Ridge Cave System, Kentucky as a model. b) Pleistocene Mammal remains from Patten Cave, W. Virginia. c) Pebble indentations - a new cave feature found in Fixin to Die Cave, Colorado. d) Bulgarian Cave Minerals - a supplement to Minerals of the World, 1986. e) Index to Bull Volumes 47 and 48.

### **Volume 50, No. 2**

a) Articles on Sulphur River Passage in Parker Cave, Kentucky concerning Solution Equilibria, Protozoa & Bacteria, Electron Microscopy and X-Ray analysis of Substrates from flowstone. b) An article on Moonmilk. c) The relationship between temperature and radon levels in Lehmann Caves, Nevada. d) Archaeology of Indun Rockshelter, Indiana. e) A bibliography relating to Indiana karst. f) Index to Volume 50.

### **Volume 51, No. 1**

a) Coleoptera of Mitchell Cavers, California. b) Cave fauna of Alabama. c) The fossil herpetofauna of Hamilton Cave, W. Virginia. d) Bat study of Fort Scanton Cave, New Mexico. e) Cave conservation and rats. f) Histoplasmosis. g) The origins of Saltpetre and historical speculation.

### **PLYMOUTH C.G.**

#### **No. 107**

a) Matienzo, Spain 1989.

#### **No. 108**

a) Sea Caves of Jersey. b) Picos De Europa, Spain.

#### **No. 109**

a) Sea Caves of Brittany, France. b) An article on Cornish Mines. c) Accident report on an incident in Pridhamsleigh.

### **REGARDS – UNION BELGE DE SPELEOLOGIE (French with English abstracts)**

#### **No. 5, 1989**

a) Exploration of Gouffre des Grands Frissons, a permanent Neve to a depth of -210m. b) Extension through diving of Trou Wuinants, near Liege to 1500m length, and other small adjacent caves. c) Description of the through trip, Tanne des Trois Betas - Grotte de la Diau, Haute-Savoie, France. d) Description of the Italian system Piaggia Bella. e) Description of the Spanish through cave, the Sistema Bandalona. f) Discovery of Buco Marcello, length 740m, Depth 56m near Lazio, Italy.

#### **No. 6 1989**

a) The karst area of Croisiers, SE of Liege, including Grotte des Surdents, Trou des Deux Copines, Grotte de Bellavau. b) Caving in USSR, including cave descriptions and equipment used. c) Combating Lichen in show caves. d) Two articles on 'Canyoning' and one on SRT in an old quarry. e) Exploration of Kiev Skaja in Tien Shan, USSR, to -1000m plus.

#### **No. 7, 1990**

a) Caving in Guatemala. b) An article on Lascaux Cave. c) Diving reports from 'Exsurgence des Clefmonts' and 'Emergence de la Bezerne' in Meuse, France. d) List of World's longest & deepest - 38 caves at -1000m depth. e) Description of 'Grotte Golden Sixties'!! near Venviers, Province de Liege, Belgium.

#### **No. 8, 1990**

a) Bats and bones in Grotte de Glaminforge, Sambreville, Belgium. b) An article on Histoplasmosis. c) Exploration of the big river through cave, Yochib-Ha to

Shumul-Ha, Chiapas, Mexico. Length 1400m, depth -115m. d) Expedition report on USSR.

### **SHEPTON MALLET C.C.**

#### **Series 8, No. 6**

a) Caves of Nant-Y-Craig (Brasgyll Caves), N. Wales. b) Caves in Music.

#### **Series 8, No. 7**

a) Box Freestone Mine, including a survey of the Northern area. b) Extracts from 'A History of the Earth and Animated Nature' by Oliver Goldsmith, first published prior to 1790, including details of Wookey Hole and Mendip mines.

### **SOUTH WALES C.C.**

#### **No. 105, 1989**

a) A description and survey of Ogor Foel Fawr and Herberts Quarry. b) Description of a 1000ft. extension to Ogor Ffynnon only accessible in frozen conditions as the entire extension sumps. c) Radio-Cesium contamination in DYO. d) A theoretical model of a fossil network of passages in DYO and Tunnel Cave.

#### **No. 106, 1990**

a) An excellent journal dedicated entirely to the DYO catchment, including a description of numerous sites, their potential and hydrology. This forms a very useful supplement to the B.C.R.A. publication of a few years ago.

#### **No. 108, 1990**

a) An excellent journal entitled Project Greensites discusses numerous techniques for locating caves where no obvious surface features exist. Methods discussed include Geophysical, Gas Geochemistry, Plant Species, Biological, Remote Sensing and Dowsing. Essential reading for diggers.

### **STALACTITE - SOCIETE SUISSE DE SPELEOLOGIE (In French and German)**

#### **No. 1/2, 1988**

a) Diving expedition to Sorgente del Gorgazzo in NW Italy, which reached a depth of -117m. b) Article on the enormous Sieben-Hengste - Hohgant-Schrattenfluh system in Switzerland, including Barendschacht. c) Exploration by diving of Batterich resurgence, in Thunersee Lake below Sieben-Hengste, Switzerland. d) Morphological changes in Sieben Hengste system after a powerful flood.

#### **No. 1, 1989**

a) Exploration of Gouffre de La Tanna L'Oura, Montreux, length 398m, depth -193m. b) Rescue techniques and materials, plus a list of callouts 1981-1988. c) Description & survey of Stumpendonnerloch, -140m, near Starckenbach. d) Recent discoveries in Switzerland.

#### **No. 2, 1989**

a) Bat survey in the Swiss Alps. b) Biospeleology in Holloch. c) Systematic investigation of the karst area of Schrattenfluch, including P155 and P164. d) Karst and caves of Disblerets Massif, SW Switzerland including Grotte du Dard.

## **U.B.S.S.**

### **Volume 5, No. 1**

a) Processes of cave development in the Bahamas. b) Fergus River Catchment, Co. Clare, Ireland. c) Yugoslavia - a report on the international symposium on show caves in 1988, including several field visits and a discussion of how different countries treat karst tourism. d) Jura 1988.

### **Volume 5, No. 3**

a) Austria - 1989 Expedition. b) Co. Clare - 1989 Expedition. c) Extracts from the log on the discovery of G.B. Cave 50 years previously.

## **WESTMINSTER S.G.**

### **Volume 9 No. 4**

a) Discovery & exploration of Pwll Pindar. b) Discoveries in Co. Clare 1988. c) Smoke testing in caves. d) Caves in the Western Taurus mountains of Turkey. e) Caving in Rumania. f) Pant Mawr - The search for the missing master cave.

### **Volume 9 No. 5**

a) An expedition report on a recce to the Sierra de los Organos, Cuba 1988.

### **No. 60**

a) Caving in the Dordogne and Pyrenees. b) Caving and Diving in Rumania. c) S. Wales digs.

### **No. 61**

a) Cuba 1989. b) Description of High Water Cave, above Mermaids Hole, Co. Clare, length 50m with

5m pitch. c) Digs in Pant Mawr.

## **MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS**

### **QMC - Belize 1988**

Expedition Logistical Report.

### **Current titles in Speleology No. 22, 1989.**

### **Anglo-Hungarian Dictionary of Caving Terms.**

Hungarian Caves Bibliography and References.

### **NCA - Legal aspects of Access Underground.**

### **Environmental Science 'A' Level**

Thesis Donated to the club by student Mike Howsam following help from club members. It contains a fairly detailed analysis of cave damage, such as broken stal, litter and pollution and methods of combating them. Mike achieved an 'A' grade.

### **Caribou Mountains Expedition**

Full expedition report to British Columbia, Canada, a previously unexplored area. Unfortunately little cave was found. Includes Grayling River Thermal Springs and Caves.