



**THE WESSEX CAVE CLUB JOURNAL**

VOLUME 25

NUMBER 266

AUGUST 1999



# THE WESSEX CAVE CLUB JOURNAL

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August 1999

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## Contents

Club News	82
New Members	83
Lost Property	83
Notices from the Net	83
Caving News	84
Balls and Barbeques	86
For The Record	87
Library Report	88
Where's Margaret ???	89
Minor Incident At Priddy	92
Prince Of Wales Island	93
New Zealand	95
Upper Pitts Security	97
Logbook Extracts	98
Caving Events	100

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Opinions expressed in the Journal are not necessarily  
those of the Club or the Editor

# Club News

Are these the 2 men you would call if you had an old birds nest blocking your chimney?

Les on the roof pouring something? down the chimney. And Phil with burning tea-towels on a stick underneath!



But when all is said and done, thanks to their fearless work we can now use the Pot- Bellied stove again.

**Eastwater** is currently rigged to the **West End** so if you've ever fancied going 'that little bit further!', now's the time! However, this is an arduous trip and so check first that it's within your capability as there aren't that many people who would fancy a rescue down there. It is uncertain as to how long this rigging will remain, so suggest that you contact Mark Helmore (number at front of Journal) to get the most up-to-date info.

On behalf of the Wessex, we would like to wish **Chris Castle** a speedy recovery following his climbing accident earlier this summer which resulted in fractures to both lower legs and a stay in hospital. The Wessex have much to thank Chris for, as he is our gateway into Cheddar caves. These meets have been hugely successful and would not be possible without Chris.

For all those who have not been to Upper Pitts recently we now have a permanently built **Bar-B-Q** - not quite finished yet but still very efficient. Thanks to the builders, especially Bean for the metal work. Anyone is free to use it at any time - the griddle and grids are in the kitchen to the left of the sink. If you do use it, please ensure the ash is cleaned out and disposed of and the grids are cleaned and replaced in the kitchen.

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Scott (alias Tina Pitman and Steve) on their recent **marriage** on 31st July. However, thanks must go to Brian & Sheila for inviting us all to the evening reception. This was held in Priddy Village Hall and everyone who attended seemed to have a great time. Although it wasn't quite the same as a Stomp, the Wessex managed to demonstrate the Wessex thrust to a number of surprised (& hopefully not too shocked) relatives. Hope no-one was offended, and good luck for the future to the happy couple.

Congratulations also to **Anna & Nick Williams** on the birth of their second child. Isaac (Zac) was born on 21st July 1999 at 10.20pm and weighed in at 8lb, 15.5 oz.

## Auction of Mike York's Library

Mon 11th October at 10am

To View:  
on Friday 8th and Saturday morning of the  
9th of October

Catalogue available 10 days before Auction

To be Held at:

*Phillip's Auction House  
1 Old Kings Street Bath  
or Phone  
01225 310609 for further details*

# New Members

## **Russell Brooks**

1, Grove Ave, Pudsey, West Yorks.  
LS28 7SF Tel: 01132 572550

## **Neil Wooldridge**

Woodbury View, Whimble, Exeter.  
EX5 2PA, Tel: 01404 82955

## **Steven Pegrum**

10, Highwood Gardens, Ilford, Essex.  
IG5 0AA Tel: 0181 550 1168

## **David Upperton**

Kirklees, Mill Leg, Congresbury, Somerset.  
BS49 5JE Tel: 01934 832082

## **Jules Kingshot**

Templars Retreat, High St, Templecombe.  
BA8 0JG Tel: 01963 371315

## **Lizzie Morrissey**

9, Greenwood Rd, Yeovil.  
BA213LT Tel: 01935420917

# Address Changes

## **Anna Harris**

16 Naldertown, Wantage, Oxon.  
OX12 9EB Tel: 01235 770522

## **John Biffin**

2 Madeira Croft, Chapelfields, Coventry.  
CV5 8NY Tel: 01203 674158

## **Sue Bonar and Martin Scott**

11 Sale Street, Orange, NSW 2800, AUSTRALIA.

# Lost Property

The following list shows all items of Lost Property currently held at Upper Pitts. If you think any of this belongs to you, then please contact either the Hut Warden (Wendy Williams) or any Committee member, with a description. Unclaimed items will be auctioned at the AGM.

Book - "Northern Caves (Vol. 3)  
Man's checked shirt  
Patchwork ladies jumper  
Blue Furry Suit Green  
Furry Suit Heavy-duty  
Oversuit Fleece Jacket  
2 identical brown boots (both left feet!)  
Daysack Pair of  
Glasses  
Small tackle Bag & Accessories (First Aid Kit)  
Watch  
'Silver' Ring  
Camera (Minolta)  
Electric Razor (in case)  
1 x small Torch  
2 x Krabs  
1 x Maillon Rapide (with purple tape marker)  
1 x offset Petzl Hanger  
1 x Shunt-type Fall Arrest System  
1x Dean Field Studies Centre T-Shirt  
1x Ammo Box with misc Climbing Gear

# Notices from the Net

## **“Caving Uk”**

<http://www.caving.uk.com>

Anybody out there know anything about the drain pipe which was put into East Twin Swallet earlier this year to divert the flow of water away from the rift it usually goes down? Appreciate that the rift has back-filled considerably over the past couple of years due to the heavy rain-fall, but the diversion of the water appears to be undermining the wall of dig-spoil further down the cave. There's no water going down at all at present but the pipe will be removed when the next heavy rain starts unless we hear otherwise Jane Osborne (SBSS) [jane@bear-cave.freereserve.net.uk](mailto:jane@bear-cave.freereserve.net.uk)  
DCUC Conference on Sat 23rd October at Dinnaton Aports & Country Club, Ivybridge, Nr Plymouth Devon.

For more info, email: [DCUC@btinternet.com](mailto:DCUC@btinternet.com)

# Caving News

## Extracted from Speleoscene, Decent, The Net and other Sources

### Mendip

#### Swildons Mud Sump

The pump has now been mended and Mud Sump is again passable. If you use the pump, please treat it with care.

#### Hazelnut Swallet

Has broken through into about 10m of passage, ending at a pitch. Below the pitch the stream flows into a choked sump, and the prognosis is not good. Work has been suspended for a while

#### His Lordship's Hole

Diggers have reached a small chamber which they have named the Screaming Lord Such Memorial Chamber. The way on is a low passage which needs blasting

#### Stock's House Shaft

Tony J-Rat and Co. have three ongoing leads in the streamway: a side passage, upstream and downstream, the latter draughting well. All the passages are choked with lead tailings and appear to be man-made rather than natural. They are reported to be of a reasonable size for Mendip (hands-and-knees crawling), but only diggable in low water.

#### Holwell Cavern

Following a recent conversation with the farmer, it appears that this cave in the Quantocks is closed until further notice. Please do not approach the landowner as permission to enter will not be given.

#### Wells Blue School

A unique artificial caving training facility has recently been constructed at Wells Blue School as part of the new Wells Sports Development Centre. This development has not led to the creation of an artificial cave, but it does allow practice and training of vertical caving techniques. This includes the whole range from the basic use of handlines, through SRT, to complicated cave rescue techniques.

#### New Book

The latest edition of Mendip Underground has just been published and is now in the shops. Copies available from most caving shops, price £13.95.

#### Sandpit Field Dig

Approximately 30m north of Sandpit Hole, a rift (Dignity Rift) has been exposed at 4m depth. It

looks promising and may provide some answers to the geomorphology of the cave. It is located over the postulated continuation of Swildon's main stream en route to Wookey Hole, and is another possible piece in the Wookey master system jigsaw.

### Peak District

#### Putwell Hill

There is a small collapse at the end of the crawl leading to the second pitch in Putwell Hill Mine. It doesn't seem to present a problem, but take care nevertheless.

#### Eldon Hole

The stakes at Eldon Hole have been replaced. The replacement of the fence is being investigated.

**Eldon Hole Main Chamber** The climb up the wall in the Main Chamber to reach Millers Chamber is now rigged with a pull-through. The climb up to Damocles Rift has been rigged with a fixed 11 mm rope which is in a climbable condition. Although this rigging has been placed for general use by the Eldon Pothole Club, it is the responsibility of each party leader to satisfy themselves that the equipment is in a safe usable condition. If in doubt, check with Eldon PC. Take GREAT care in the crawl through from the Entrance Shaft to the Main Chamber which is in an unstable condition.

#### Dye Tracing

If anyone is aware of any cavers, or others, undertaking tracing experiments on Stanley Moor or in the Shay Lodge Area over the past 2 months, please could they let the Limestone Research Group know ASAP Their contact name and number is Professor John Gunn Tel: 01484 472813. They think they have found a "false positive" reading and would like to eliminate the possibility that others are doing testing.

#### Jug Holes

Warning about instability in Jug Holes. Reportedly, the boulder choke leading from the 4th to 5th Water Caverns is particularly affected, the original route being quite dangerous. This mine is particularly popular for beginners' trips and the warning should be passed on to anyone who is so involved.

### Devonshire Mine

The second shaft has now been capped and access has been restored. But cavers, particularly groups from outdoor centres, are asked to limit their visits to no more than four or five a month and to use only the lower entrance by the public footpath.

### Wharf Pipe Mine

The ginging at the top of the main shaft is in a dangerous state and is currently held in place by shoring while repairs are carried out. Crewe CPC are working hard on this but say that it is a big job and will take some time to complete so please stay away for the time being.

## Wales

### Ogof Draenen

Access for cavers is assured, as the agreement between the Pwll Du Cave Management Group and the new landowner is now being drawn up - details will be published ASAP Please note that the key to the lock will be changed at the end of August.

### Aggy

Duncan Price has now fixed a heavy-duty 6m 'free-diving' line through Turkey sump 3. With dry bypasses to both the other sumps, it is now possible for cavers (with a good set of lungs) to reach sump 5.

## Northern News

### Thistle Cave

In April a large pedestal of rock collapsed into the bottom of the shakehole entrance to Upper and Main Thistle cave. It also disturbed rocks in the roof of the Main Cave rift. Heavy rain caused a further collapse in the rift. The collapse in the shakehole entrance to Main Cave has been cleared. Easy access is now possible. Leaders of groups are advised to check it out for themselves!

### Upper Hackergill Cave in Dentdale.

Right entrance has collapsed, left entrance is blocked with flood debris.

Ireby Fell Cavern: WARNING A large collapse has occurred in the stream bed about 10m upstream of the Ireby Fell entrance pipe. The water that formerly sank in the boulders around the entrance now sinks at this new feature - which is very unstable. This has led to the area at the bottom of Bell Pitch/Shadow Route now being very wet under low water conditions and must be a hazard under wet conditions.

## Access

Owing to an increasing number of access-related problems, the CNCC is issuing the following information as a guide, but the full access arrangements and conditions are contained in the CNCC Handbook, Northern Caving - available from Bernie's Cafe, the CNCC or Inglesport, price £3.50.

### Casterton Fell

All caves and potholes on Casterton Fell are subject to a strict access agreement and require a CNCC permit, which is subject to access requirements and conditions. Access is open to CNCC member clubs for weekday and weekend permits. However there is an agreed route to the cave. Contact P Muckalt, 96 Low Lane, Torrisholm, Morecambe, LA4 6PP for further details.

### Mongo Gill area and Birks Fell

The access agreement places no limit on party size for groups going into Mongo Gill. The limit of 6, including leader, applies only to trips into Great Expectations, the new entrance to Stump Cross which was opened up about 2 years ago. Birks Fell Cave, Great Expectations, Hermit's Cave, Mongo Gill Hole, North Shaft, Shockle Shaft require a CNCC permit, which is subject to access requirements and conditions.

### Inglesborough and The Allotment areas

Permission from the relevant estate offices is required for all the caves and potholes in the Inglesborough and The Allotment areas.

### Leck Fell area

All caves and potholes on Leck Fell are subject to a strict access agreement and require a CNCC permit, which is subject to access requirements and conditions.

### Penyghent and Fountains Fell areas

Gingling Hole, Gingling Sink, Hammer Pot, Hull Pot, High Hull Pot, Little Hull Pot, Penyghent Pot and Psilomelane Pot require a CNCC permit which is subject to access requirements and conditions.

**Echo Pot and Magnetometer Pot** Call at Neals Ing Farm where a small fee is charged for parking and changing.

The British Cave Rescue Council have published their Incident Report for the period 1st Jan - 31st Dec, 1998. Further details relating to the report can be obtained from the Hon. Sec (Pete Allwright, Pearl Hill, Dent, Sedbergh, Cumbria, LA10 5TH, Tel: 015396 25412, or e-mail: PeteAllwright@compuserve.com. For a copy of the full report, send an SAE to the above address. Or just find a copy of Speleoscene for the summary - there will be one in the Wessex library.

# Balls and Barbeques

by our Cricketing Correspondent

It was a grand day. The sun shone, the beer flowed, and the fourth Wessex Cricket Club vs. Bristol Exploratory Cricketers match ended in a result. Unlike last year, when Mr Haskett pulled stumps in a thunderstorm, thereby ending the Wessex bid for victory.

The BEC nearly lost Vince, one of their star players on the way to the game when he fell for a blonde. Unfortunately, the blonde was driving a Volvo and Vince fell from his bike to the verge.

With Phil Hendy and Brian Prewer as totally unbiased umpires, the game went well, with some good fours and sixes. Tav lived up to expectations, and the Wessex, winning the toss, put the BEC in to bat, thereby ensuring that they were well-lubricated before coming to the crease.



of victory by winning by 9 wickets.

The Champagne Moment award went to Davey, for providing the most entertaining moment of the game, while Man of the Match was Chas Wethered, who enjoyed (?) a prolonged innings in spite of a creaking bladder, and actually managed to score a few runs.

Roger Haskett, who was passed over by the selectors as an umpire, held a one-man protest march outside his caravan, complete with banjo which he refused to use as a substitute bat.

This was nearly necessary when Davey Lennard, the BEC's star, managed to smash his bat, and whack himself round the head with the remains. He later retired, 25 not out.

The remains of the second barrel were taken back to Upper Pitts, where the new stainless-steel barbeque was fired up, and succeeded in cooking for most of the Wessex and our BEC visitors. The Ashes remain in the care of the Wessex.

Jonathan did sterling work riding herd on the pitch invading cattle, as the scores steadily increased, until the Wessex narrowly avoided snatching defeat from the jaws

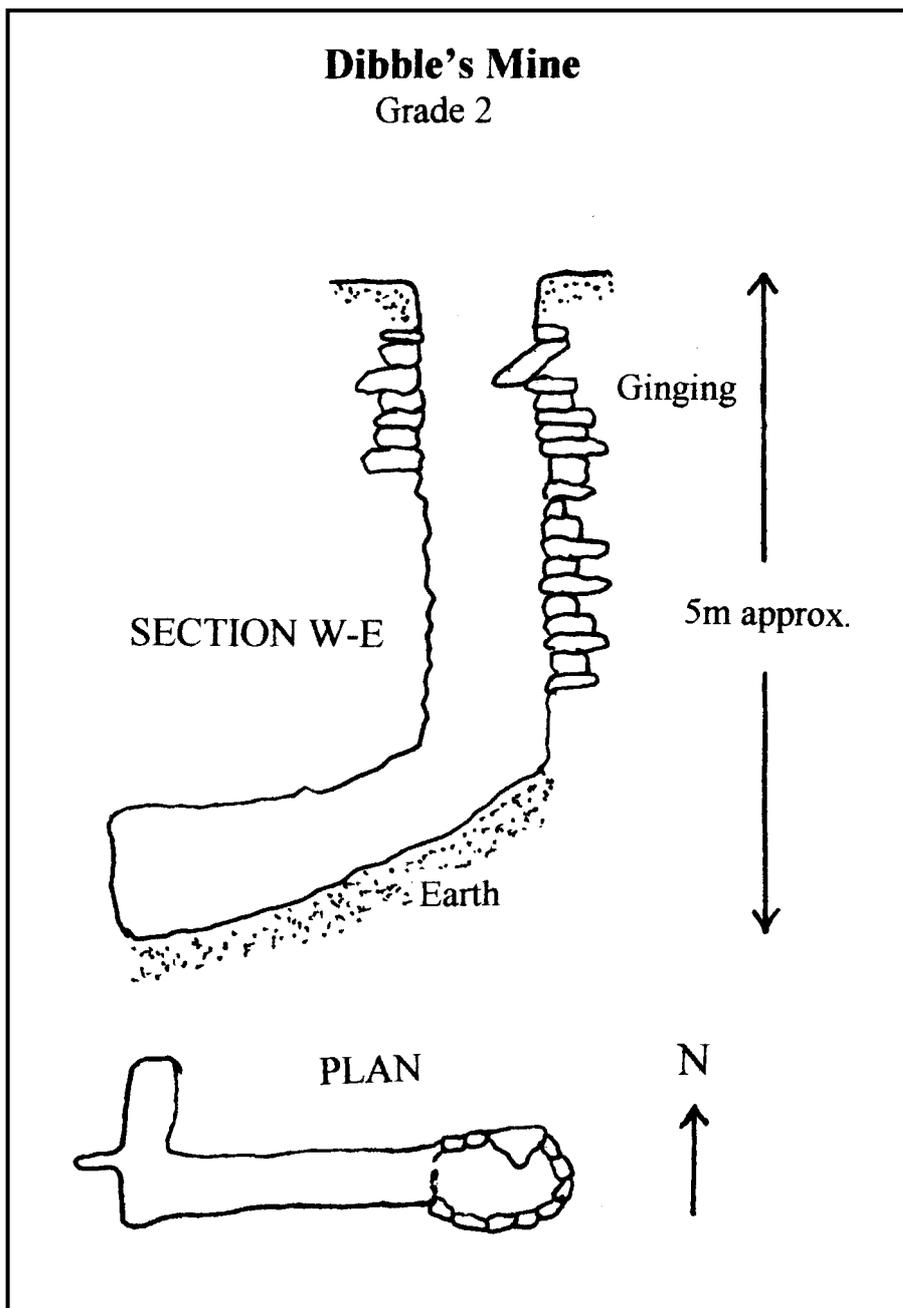


# For The Record

Phil Hendy

This short piece is just to record the 'discovery' and exploration (such as it was) of a short mineshaft near Charterhouse Farm. On June 12th the Old Duffers set out on a photographic trip to G.B. Cave, with the express purpose of using Brian Prewer's collection of high-powered and obsolete flash bulbs, and to test the author's newly-built Firefly slave unit, constructed by the afore-mentioned Mr. Prewer. Also included in the party were Maurice (3-D) Hewins, and Brian Hansford (poseur and flash gun operator). Parking at Charterhouse Farm, we made our way over to the cave, by way of the track, then the footpath north of the ruined Long Barn, and over the fields to the south of Charterhouse Cave. The field just past the barn is a reclaimed area of gruffy, with modern earth humps, used for motor-cycle scrambling. On crossing this, our attention was drawn to a grid, part of some farm machinery, lying in the field. Out of idle curiosity, we had a look, to find that it was protecting a mineshaft. We estimated the depth at 20 feet; we could see ginging and possibly a passage leading off at the bottom. There was no handy belay point, and without tackle anyway, we could do no more at the time than speculate.

Enquiries during the week revealed that the hole had opened up under a tractor wheel the previous autumn. The farmer had no knowledge of anyone going down the hole, but he planned to fill it, as it was a danger to his livestock.



The following Saturday I went over to the farm with Pete Cousins and a large amount of rope and ladder. The farmer, Mr. Colin Dibble, agreed to let us explore, so that we knew what was there, and could advise him on filling the hole. We decided not to use a distant fence as a belay; we tethered a ladder to the grating, which we moved some six feet from the hole, and Pete volunteered to stand on it while I went down.

The entrance was flush with the ground and about 30" W - E, and 24" N - S. About 18" down a large slab of rock projected dangerously into the void, but it proved to be firmly fixed, and I climbed below it. I landed on a steep slope of soft earth at a depth of 11 feet. (So much for the previous estimate!) The shaft was ginged all the way, for two-thirds of its diameter; the rest was in solid but thinly bedded limestone.

At the bottom, a short passage descended steeply in a westerly direction. At a further depth of 4 feet, and about 10 feet in, the earth floor ran up to the wall. The mine ended in a right-angle bend into a rift heading north for about four feet. It was a foot wide and the end was choked with cave earth. Offset along this, parallel with the main passage, there was a much narrower rift, but it was too constricted to look into.

So that was it. We speculated on why such a short and unproductive shaft should be so well ginged. Apart from the top of the passage being enlarged by removing rock, there was no sign of mining in the passage, and no shot holes. Perhaps the passage continued under the earth slope. The slab projecting into the shaft was probably part of a stone capping underneath an earth fill, which the weight of a tractor would have easily fractured.

We advised Mr. Dibble that there was no good reason for keeping the shaft open. It is located at NGR 4778 5626, slightly to the left (south) of the line of the path between the barn and the gateway leading into the G.B. field, and about two-thirds of the way along. We named it Dibble's Shaft, covered it over, and left.

The photographic trip? Prew suffered from a severe case of flash gun pox, but the Firefly performed excellently, and we took some reasonable shots with two powerful electronic guns fired with a smaller gun via slaves. Prew has now rebuilt the errant gun, so we will have to take ourselves over to G.B. again.

# Library Report

Phil Hendy

## LIBRARY - RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Axbridge Caving Group Journal March 1999

Belfry Bulletin 50, 9 (No. 502) May 1999

Caves and Caving No. 84 Summer 1999

Chelsea Speleological Society Newsletter

41, 5 May 1999

41, 6 June 1999

41, 7 July 1999

Craven Pothole Club Record No. 55 July 1999

Descent No. 148 June/July 1999

Grosvenor Caving Club Newsletter

No. 94 June 1999

No. 95 July 1999

Mendip Caving Group Newsletters

263 - 273 August 1997 - November 1998

Mendip Nature Research Committee Newsletter

No. 72 June-July 1999

N.S.S. News

April 1999

May 1999

Pholeos

(Journal of Wittenberg University Speleological Society)

18, 1 May 1999

Thanks to Cookie, we now have a printer (nearly) linked to the Club computer. Dave is also in the process of ensuring that my computer will talk the same language as the one in the Library. Whether I will be able to make them communicate or not is another matter...

I have now received the second 'final' load of Library material from Mike York's (via Brian Hansford).

Mention must be given to Ros Fielder, for help with labelling the survey drawers.

# Where's Margaret???

## Wessex Weekend In North Wales / 28-31 May 1999

Mark Helmore

### Friday 28th

The weekend started early for Les, Bean and myself, and leaving Mendip Friday morning on schedule we were soon speeding northwards. Asking Les if he had spoken to Margaret the Land Lady at the Red Lion at Rhosesmor (where we were going to stay) - "No" he said *"there won't be a problem"*, more about that later.

With arrangements made to meet Mad Mick from the Grosvenor Caving Club (our hosts for the weekend) we arrived at the Red Lion early in the afternoon. A new face greeted us at the pub door, *"where's Margaret?"* Les inquired. *"Oh, she left a few weeks ago"* came the reply *"I'm the new Land Lady, can I help you?"* Luckily for us, especially for Les, she was a local and recognised us cavers. She was most amenable and was happy for us to stay in the paddock behind the pub, even offering to provide a cooked breakfast!

With tents erected, and Mad Mick's arrival on scene, we headed off for a preview of Saturday's caving. Arriving at Minera Quarry (back towards Llangollen) we were quickly shown the entrance to Ogof Dydd Byraf (O.D.B.) and an entrance into Grand Turk Passage in Ogof Llyn Du, both mined entrances giving access to natural passage. With plans now made for Saturday we went in search of fish and chips at Ruthin, a fine market town well worth a visit. Heading back towards Rhosemor we stopped for a short walk to the spar mine in the Alyn

gorge, then, via two pub stops, we arrived at the Red Lion to find some Wessex already ensconced, and with more to come. It looked like it was going to be a good weekend.

### Saturday 29th

Saturday morning arrived bright and sunny, and after breakfast we split into two groups, and headed off towards the caves. After a short tour of the country lanes we were soon back on the right road towards Minera, stopping on the way for Ladell and partner to buy some wellies. Several hours later, well it felt like it, they returned and we sped to Minera Quarry, our chosen location; Les and Co having headed to the Caves of the Alyn Gorge (Christmas Cave, Ogof Hesp Alyn and Ogof Hen Ffynhonau). Kitting up at the quarry entrance we were soon heading towards ODB. The entrance in the quarry face comprises of mined passage, very muddy in places, leading to a narrow 10 metre pitch into the cave system below. This was more like it, stomping through large phraetic caverns and passages measureless to man (well about 700 mtrs actually). This cave turned out to be well impressive with formations all over the shop, some tinted green by copper salts (now they would take pride of place in my garage)!

After a pleasant couple of hours it was time to head out to glorious sunshine, via the mud. A quick look at the other cave entrances in the quarry (well we



*Covered in thick glutinous mud after ODB*



have to save something for next time) then back to the cars. Les and Co turned up on cue and we passed the relevant information on - follow the mud!! then headed off over the Esclusham mountain towards the fine limestone escarpments near World's End.

After stopping for cream teas we then moved on to the Pontcysyllte Viaduct, worth a visit unless you suffer vertigo. After food and couple of drinks at Loggerheads we headed back to the Red Lion for a top up before an early night.

### Sunday 30th

Sunday - a day of rest? Not likely, with various trips arranged in the Halkyn Mine system courtesy of Mad Mick. The Olwyn Goch ladder shaft was our way into the system (fitted with wooden ladders for all of its 400 odd feet depth). Mick had also rigged the first 200 feet for SRT, which only a few of us elected to do. A certain paper tiger who shall remain nameless (Slim Boy Fat) said he couldn't abseil as someone had to check the ladders to make sure they were safe (funny that)! With various groups in the mine the differing trips split up. Whilst the other groups were taken on a tour of the workings around Powells lode caverns the tigers (myself included of course) headed towards the Railway of Death, not as bad as it sounds but still a trifle awkward, and on to try and find a route into another section of mine. Some frenzied digging got us nowhere, so we moved on to the next objective - bolting up an unscaled (in recent times) shaft using Mad Mick's

method involving two slings and a double extension ladder. With Slim Boy Fat and Cookie cajoled into their SRT gear, Bean and myself started digging through a blocked passage using a length of old railway line until we noticed a strange cigar shaped object!! "Mick" I said "tell me this isn't what I think it is", it was!! On seeing the Gellignite sticks were sweating (they weren't alone at that) we stopped Mick from playing with them and found something else to do, a couple of hundred feet away. Les and Cookie eventually reached the top of the shaft to find it was just a dead end. So out we went via a devious route involving some very interesting ropework up a stack of loose rubble. Passing through an interesting area of natural cave passage, the flat workings, we were all too soon in the Milwr tunnel heading for the ladder shaft. Whilst Bean and myself opted for the quicker, but more strenuous route up the 400 feet of ladders, Slim Boy Fat, Cookie and Mick went out via the limestone workings, which avoids the first 200 Foot of Ladder (well, spreads it out a bit anyway).

Eight hours of caving had given us a tad of an appetite, so we headed to Loggerheads, to find that the pub doesn't do food after eight on Sunday! Luckily the pub a couple of miles further on did. Fed up we returned to Rhosesmor to help drain some more beer.

Now I don't really know whose idea it was, but it seemed like a good idea at the time. A human pyramid. With everyone out of the pub we gave it a go. Perilously close to Morse's tent, we were soon moved on towards Rosie and Vern's. Struggling to stand up anyway, I helped form the sturdy foundation that proved successful and we soon had a three tier pyramid, well eventually, but, not for long and there I was horizontal again with bodies strewn everywhere, enough was enough and my ~~duvet and pillow~~ rough tent floor called.

### Monday 31st

Another fine day dawned and with breakfast over Les and co headed to the dig at Ogof-Y-Ilyn-Ocrin, our adopted WCC dig at nearby Necrys mountain. The rest of us headed to the Alyn gorge caves. Christmas Cave was first on the list.



Brew-Up at the camp site (Pub Garden) From the left: Mark (Badvoc's mate), Badvoc, Jo, Mak, Bif, Vern, Jonathan, Lu, Kevin, Emsy and Rosie

It comprises of a short abseil in, followed by some crawling and walking, an interesting (for some) climb down, to exit via a handline assisted scramble - fine apart from the fly covered walls and roof. Poacher's Cave was more pleasant with a fine streamway reminiscent of the larger sections of Little Neath River Cave, honest!

Out to a fine afternoon we decided on a short! walk down the Alyn gorge to the spar mine, stream sinks and eventually Loggerheads, where a welcome pint or two was had before returning to the car. Back at Rhosesmor we decided to fulfil Rosie's wish and were soon consuming fish and chips on the beach at Prestatyn. With Rosie and Vern heading back to London, Bean and myself headed back to collect Slim Boy Fat from the Red Lion, and had a swifty before heading south.



Human Pyramid!!!

**A couple of translations:**

Ogof Dydd Byraf	Shortest Day Cave
Ogof Llyn Du	Black Lake Cave
Olwyn Goch	Red Wheel
Ogof Hen Ffynhonau (Poachers Cave)	Old springs Cave
Ogof Hesp Alyn	Dry Alyn Cave
Pwll y Llyn Ochrin	Lake Ochrin Pot
Slim Boy Fat	Les Williams

A new motto: *Death or Glory (Glory preferred)*

It must be said that Arthur and Marge (the Landlord and Landlady) were outstanding hosts, and we were well catered for, considering that they didn't know we were arriving. Arthur was most impressed, especially as we had managed to drink the pub dry. In fact he was so impressed with cavers in general that he agreed to let the Grosvenor keep their store in the paddock. I wouldn't be surprised to find a full blown bunkroom there soon.

In closing this was yet another outstanding Wessex weekend away and you really should have been there. This is what club caving is all about. Our thanks again to Mad Mick and the Grosvenor caving club for organising our underground exploits.

- Those present:
- Mark Helmore
  - Slim Boy Fat
  - Bean
  - Rosie and Vern
  - Mak and Jo
  - Morse
  - Cookie
  - A Jackson and Bristol Crew
  - Bif and Lu
  - Carmen and Husband
  - Emsy and Kev
  - Badvoc and Partner
  - Jonathan

Apologies if I have missed anyone, blame Les he gave me the names.

See you next time.

NB: At some time over the weekend Badvoc and partner took their mountain bikes for a ride up and down Snowdon for some reason or other (that's what they told us anyway!!) Judging by the state of his injuries it must have been an interesting ride!



# Minor Incident At Priddy - No-one Injured

Phil Hendy

The Hunter's Lodge was just beginning to fill at 9.25pm on Tuesday July 27th when a muddy caver came in to announce that a certain local caving shop proprietor was trapped by a rock fall in Stock House Shaft. The MRO rolled into action, and within ten minutes, the first rescuer, Quackers? was descending the shaft. By 10pm, a large number of cavers had gathered. Les Williams was sent off to the Belfry for shoring materials, and Stuart Macmanus had taken over surface control.

It was reported that Mr. J... was pushing through a mined tunnel some 50 feet from the bottom of the 45 foot entrance shaft when the roof caved in, trapping him by the legs. However, by the time the rescuers arrived, he had managed to crawl on through to a safe place. He was uninjured, but the nature of the fall meant that the roof would need shoring.

Fencing stakes and a saw, and crowbars were sent down. In the meantime, Brian Prewer and Nigel Taylor established radio communication, and floodlights were set up. The Police set up hazard signs before finding better things to do, and leaving.

The constricted nature of the dig meant that only a few thin cavers were able to approach the collapse. The air was reported to be good, though a compressor and hose, and oxygen were placed on standby.

By 10.30, rescuers started leaving the mine, and it was reported that one large boulder had been levered to one side, and T..y had been able to wriggle out. Wardens insisted that all rescuers were lifelined up the entrance shaft, and of course, much helpful advice on ladder-climbing was given to Andy Sparrow.

Most of the rescuers, and a highly-embarrassed victim, made it to the Hunter's by 10.55; it is amazing how the imminence of closing time gets things moving. On a serious note, what could have been a major incident ended happily. It was good to see how quickly MRO can turn out on a Tuesday evening, and how many cavers can be mustered at such short notice. It appears that the diggers have tunnelled under another blocked mineshaft, which can be located on the surface. Progress in the dig will be slowed until the area can be stabilised, which will no doubt hinder the BEC in the race for the digging barrel.

On Sale Now

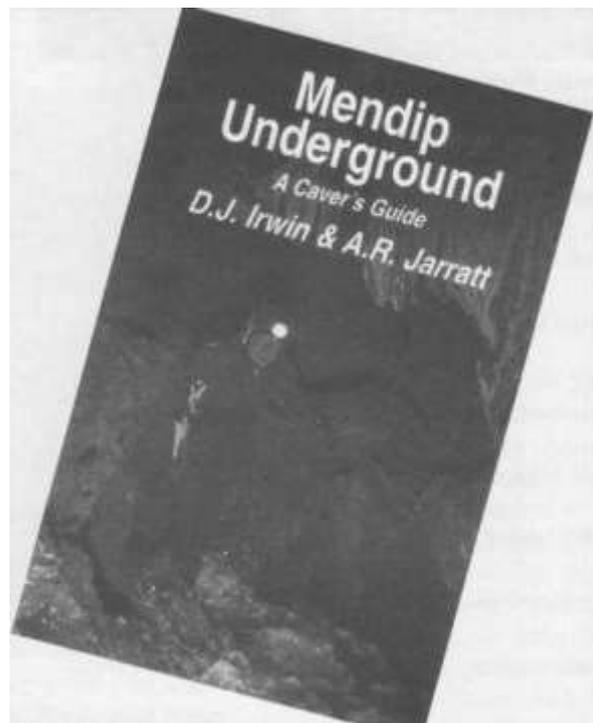
The New

## Mendip Underground

£13.95

Fully Revised and Up-To-Date

(only for about 24hrs as those diggers keep finding new cave, including one of the authors)



# Prince of Wales Island 1999

Paul Hadfield

Hello Wessex all,

Just to point out to you folks on the wrong side of the pond that you've missed yet another wonderful season of new cave discovery. The latest was "Walkabout" found just two days before our departure from Prince of Wales Island(POWI).



*Trailhead for "Walkabout"*

*L-R: Pete Smith (Tongass Cave Project)*

*Joe Solominsky (Pittsburg Grotto, NSS)*

*Bob Roe (Ex Grampian)*

This cave has only yielded 700' of passage so far, but it is all large walking gallery with active streamway and decorations that are absolutely wonderful for these latitudes. The terminal sump at the end of "Dreamtime Passage", "A sump called Alice", is almost certainly perched and should go very easily. There is still about 500' of relief to go to the resurgence.

Some of you may recall my report of "Eagles Roost" a few years ago, when we pushed a high aven (with Mr. Hilti's aid) to reach more major streamway beyond and were stopped by a sump. This year we excavated the stream bed downstream of the sump for several hours, and were able to lower it to a point where it became a feasible short free dive. We popped through and found the main streamway continuing in major canyon / canal passage that just keeps on going. We are saving the exploration for next year.

This cave is a major resurgence located some 2000' below an alpine karst plateau where we already have a number of going systems, a couple with 600' pitches. The likeliest candidate for a link up is "Blowing in the Wind".

My personal finds this year were "Cave of the green Ectoplasm" and "Rear Entry Cave". Other finds were "Dewaynes Cave", Snaily Cave, "Anticline Cave" and "Zina Cave". I also know of one other that has not yet been entered or named. Snaily Cave yielded over 400' of passage and the others, with the exception of "Zina", which looks like being a major system, were somewhat shorter, except that "Anticline" was not fully explored due to the discovery of a bear's pawprint in stal, bones, and possible evidence of early human occupation. The new cave discovery rate on this trip worked out to be about 0.3 new caves per caver, per cave searching day.

Zina Cave ("Tlactzinacantli", Cave of the Bat God), promises to be a major find. Two pitches, 70' and 60', drop into a large abandoned phreatic system. A tight hole in the floor and short drop, leads to an even tighter squeeze onto a small ledge at the top of a 150' plus drop. At the foot of this, two active inlets meet to form the main active stream passage. At the time of writing, neither of the two inlets have been explored, and the main downstream passage has been followed for only about 300' and is still going.



*View from approach to "Zina" cave on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska. Kosciusko Island is left of centre on the horizon*

We spent a day hiking on the NE slopes of El Cap Mountain and found, as usual, so many sinkholes that we lost count. Unfortunately for us, (or fortunately), the winter snowpack had been very high and even in early July there was over 20' of packed snow in many of the depressions, so nothing of significance was found. Only two purely recreational trips were undertaken. One into the delightful river cave of "Roaring Road", the other into the flood prone "Scallop Cave" to fill in the odd afternoon.

"On Your Knees Cave", the site of the oldest human remains in Alaska (circa 9,300 yrs), is now being excavated by both archeologist and paleological teams and we were asked along on three occassions to demonstrate our micro blasting techniques to remove exfoliated slabs that were resting over interesting sediment deposits. I have to report outstanding success and lots of rock removed.

All these discoveries were on POWI which is not even starting to get worked out. I've not yet heard from the much larger, Alaska forest Service sponsored group that was working on Kosciusco Island. Typically we've been finding fifty new caves per year over the last ten years in the archipeligo with piches up to 600' and up to a couple of kilometres in length. Anybody interested in next years trip please contact me. We'll probably be trying for the month of July - early August (the coho run is full on then and the fly fishing spectacular).

Walsh and I are off to the East Kootenay's now to push a new lead in Cody Cave and enlarge the entrance to a newly discovered active sink with measureless passages beyond. After that, maybe a visit to the Dezaiko's in late August to get to the back of "Fang Cave".



*Stream (to right of Ms Walsh) Running down to main sink of Fang cave under limestone rock face*

Good caving to you all.

All the best

Paul



*Camp in the Dezaikos*



*Paul Hadfield at the entrance to "Anticline Cave" Prince of Wales Island.*

# New Zealand

Aiden Harrison-Wolff

As soon as we had decided to visit New Zealand, we had to find a physically fit, sane, emotionally sturdy saint to look after the kids while we were away. Easy, except for the sane bit; Grandma could be relied upon. Luckily Rose's mum agreed, which meant we had twelve days in March to get to NZ and back.

Caving went straight on the list of things to do while we were there. All I had to do now was find some friendly Kiwi cavers to help. I knew I was on the right track when I found the Nelson Speleological Group on the internet. The Kiwis like technology, everyone seems to have email and there are loads of NZ web sites. We found car hire, kayaking, trekking, several nights accommodation and most importantly the Nelson Speleo Group.

Michael Brewer and Arthur Freeman of NSG were very helpful from the outset and soon we had hatched a plot to meet up and go for a days caving. Coincidentally, a major rescue in NZ had been reported on UK television recently. It turned out that Mike Brewer had been the doctor on the rescue team so I knew we were in safe hands!

After landing at Christchurch at 11pm we got a good nights sleep before driving to Nelson, the second biggest city on the South island. At the Northern end of the island, Nelson is close to the Abel Tasman National Park which has fabulous beaches and acres of untouched bush. Inland from the Park lies a band of limestone and marble country going South and West from Takaka Hill to the Mount Arthur and Mount Owen ranges. This area has some terrific caves, there's a lot of variation and loads of potential for discoveries. We could have spent the whole ten days in this location walking, exploring the coast and caving.

We spent three days based near Nelson. Kayaking up the coast on a beautiful day and stopping for a picnic on an idyllic beach was a relaxing start to the holiday. The following day we went for a walk in the bush and got a look at Harwoods Hole. NSG have accommodation nearby and according to Arthur there was a major international cave diving expedition underway that week based at the club hut.

*Harwoods Hole* is the deepest open shaft in the Southern hemisphere and it is impressive! A huge rock amphitheatre descending into a vertical shaft

as wide as football pitch at the top and 200m deep (according to the Lonely Planet guide). The sides are sheer and the last few metres of the approach to the lip are steep so it's quite difficult to get a good look over the edge. The stupendous descent is a venue for occasional accidents and suicides with lucky local cavers getting the job of recovering the bodies. For those considering a less final visit, a through trip is possible since the shaft joins a horizontal system which exits the hillside below.

Arthur arrived to meet us at our hotel bright & early on our third day in Nelson and we set off to pick up a couple of others who were to join us. At their house in Richmond we met Alison and Greg Pickford. It turned out that Greg was originally from Frome and twenty years ago had been a Wessex member. Alison was coming with us along with Murray Biggs, this was to be Murray's first real trip since he was new to caving (even newer than Rose & I). His only previous outing with Arthur had consisted of wandering about the bush failing to find the entrances Arthur was seeking (sound familiar?).

We set off for *Blue Creek Cave* in the Mount Arthur area. This is fabulous countryside, big limestone hills with verdant valleys and farmland cut by rocky rivers. We drove for fifty miles or so from Nelson, the last fifteen on unsealed gravel roads. Compared to Britain (and lots of Europe) the area was very sparsely populated with only the occasional farmstead to be seen. The sense of space lent an extra sense of adventure to the outing, for us jaded Europeans at least.

After parking at the end of the gravel road we 'signed in' to the park. The Kiwis take their wilderness seriously, at the entry points to the National Parks there are visitors' books to record your time of entry, exit and intended itinerary. The records are checked periodically by park wardens for overdue parties.

The weather was warm, the air buzzed with wasps and bumblebees (there were a lot of these) and the trees waved in a gentle breeze, altogether an ideal start to the day. We got changed by the cars noticing that our fleece undersuits and cordura oversuits were definitely not what the fashionable NZ caver was wearing this year. Alison & Arthur donned lightweight nylon suits over polypro tee shirts & longjohns, but like cavers everywhere their kit bore the signs of extensive use! Arthur lent Rose

& I some wellies (borrowed from members of his family - thanks Arthur!) and Carbide sets were hired from the NSG for a very reasonable fee. Rose and I had not used carbide before so this was a chance for us to try it out.

While getting kitted up we hastily scooped our elevenses; Arthur particularly enjoyed his, getting rather more than he expected in his bread roll. As he chewed, a puzzled expression clouded his face which changed to alarm followed by him spitting out a large bumblebee which flew off. "*I thought it was a bit furry for a raisin*" he complained.

The path to the cave entrance followed a river for a mile or so, passing the remains of ore-crushing machinery. Arthur told us that it had been used to crush rock for sifting and panning for gold. Soon we reached a major resurgence with water gushing down into a foaming pool ten feet below. Arthur explained his theory that the biggest nuggets of gold would be at the bottom of the waterfall, too heavy to be carried away downstream but too difficult to get at by the gold panners. Nobody volunteered for the dive!

We filled the carbide generators in the river and scrambled up to the entrance above the resurgence. The cave had three entrances (I think) and we took the largest one. The first thing I noticed was the white mud, so different from the various shades of red on Mendip. The rock itself was smooth grey marble, quite highly polished by water in places and although the cave is well known and easy going, it bore few signs of visitors. Formations were rare but the rock itself was very attractive, showing occasional streaks and whorls of white. We followed Arthur down the system of passages which were mainly dry, although we did reach a streamway and saw one or two sumps. The going was mainly easy walking with a few scrambles thrown in. After two hours or so we reached a sump which was the end, or one of the ends, and turned back.

On the way out we paused by a narrow rift about 12 feet deep, which Arthur expressed an interest in, so a quick descent was made by Murray and I. The climb out was a classic scabble up the narrow, slippery marble with little room to manoeuvre. Murray disappeared down the rift, quickly reaching the bottom from where he reported that it didn't go anywhere. I think it's fair to say that he found getting back up the rift a lot more difficult than going down it! However Murray doesn't give up easily, and refusing offers of a footloop, he eventually extricated himself from the slippery rift unaided. This was just as well because at that point Arthur admitted that he hadn't brought a rope anyway!

Throughout the trip the carbide sets added a novel twist for Rose and I. With a mind of their own, it seemed they went out when any obstacle was encountered. The more difficult the route, the more likely it was to happen. A sudden movement of the generator, or knocking when scrambling, seemed enough to extinguish the light. We stopped several times to add water, or carbide or just fiddle with the things. However, the light did have a warm quality and provided all round illumination unlike the narrow beam of an electric set. On balance I can see some advantages on a long trip but I still prefer my Headlight for short outings.

During one of the stops to fettle the lamps, Arthur pointed out a small aven as being a possible lead so Murray & I explored. After climbing up the aven, we found a connection to the top of another small parallel aven which we descended to find ourselves in more, big phreatic passages. When we returned Arthur was not sure if we had found new passage or not. It was not on the survey, but then about a quarter of the known cave wasn't either!

This was illustrative of caving in NZ. There are so many opportunities to make discoveries there that the Kiwi caver can leave finds for later investigation in a very relaxed sort of way. As an example, about 5 years ago Arthur had found a short cave near to Blue Creek ending in a strongly drafting boulder choke. They'd banged it, but not gone back for a really good look since then. This was only one of many possible opportunities for exploration. Arthur was also planning to be dropped in to the area by helicopter to investigate a resurgence that had been spotted in a remote valley on a previous visit. Using helicopters seems to be a common occurrence in NZ, they use them for access to all sorts of things; tramping (NZ parlance for walking or hiking), skiing, mountaineering as well as caving.

We returned to the surface having thoroughly enjoyed our outing with NSG. We drove back to Nelson and said good bye to Arthur, Alison and Murray. There was so much more to do that it was with real regret that we left Nelson the following day to drive to the Southern Alps. Time was running out, we only had four days left to explore the rest of the Island.

If anyone is visiting NZ, and interested in meeting up with the NSG they can contact Dr Michael Brewer of Nelson Speleological Group by email [m.brewer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:m.brewer@xtra.co.nz) or I can supply telephone/address details for Mike Brewer.

# Upper Pitts Security

Phil Hendy, on behalf of the Committee

Some personal observations of frequent hut use led to a discussion by the Committee on the subject of security at Upper Pitts. While there are no plans at present to alter the existing system, no doubt there will come a time when it will be necessary to replace the hut locks (and therefore keys).

The existing system of issuing hut keys to members and bona fide guest groups works, but it is becoming increasingly more difficult to keep track of who has keys, and it is practically impossible to recover keys when members leave the Club. Members also lose keys from time to time. It must be remembered that a hut key not only allows people into Upper Pitts; it gives access to tackle and cave keys, and to the Library.

Consideration was given, therefore, to the possibility of replacing the locks on the front and changing room doors with an electronic key pad. This would have several advantages.

First, the combination could be altered each year at the AGM. The sticker currently issued as a receipt (and which should be fixed to the plastic membership card) would have the current key code printed on it. Until the sub is paid (and with the proposed rule changes, there will be no excuse for late payment) access to the HQ would be barred.

The locks would accept two codes, the first is obviously for members. The second could be changed weekly, and would be given to visiting clubs when their bookings are confirmed. They would no longer need a hut key, and would therefore only have access to the HQ, and not to member-only

areas. These areas would continue to be accessible on the existing hut key, for which a deposit would continue to be required, although in time key-pad access could also be installed. By changing the guest combination weekly, security would be much enhanced - and no-one need worry about losing their hut key, or forgetting to bring it to Mendip. Of course, should it be suspected that too many unauthorised persons know the members' combination, then it can be changed very quickly at minimal cost, as it would no longer be necessary to exchange metal keys.

The key-pads would have to be mechanical, or with a battery back-up in case of power cuts. For a small further outlay, the key pads could be linked to the Club computer, with the Membership Card replaced by a 'swipe' card. This would enable the Committee to ascertain who is using the HO, and when. This has obvious advantages when it comes to, say, programming the central heating system for mid-week hut use, but would also help to uncover unauthorised use of Membership Cards. Putting a 'swipe card' lock on the Tackle Store would help the Tackle Warden to keep track of who is using tackle, which should help to cut losses and track down missing tackle. It would also make the Treasurer's job easier when he needs to chase people for day fees.

Discussion is invited on this idea, so that the Committee can judge the level of support, and take note of any constructive criticism. It is emphasised that there will be no need, for the foreseeable future, to alter the status quo.

# Logbook Extracts

## 5.6.99 - Axbridge Ochre Cavern

*Phil & Dan H, Colin M*

Spending 1½ hours finding the damn place, 20 minutes exploring. Nice stal film at the far end (beyond the pool). Failed to climb to the grotto. Also found and explored (?) Letterbox Cave.

## Libary Report

Everytime I see light at the end of the tunnel, someone sets off a charge and brings the roof down - still, I am slowly filling the gaps from various swaps people bring in, and odd choice items from the Bristol MD-Y archive annexe.

## St Lukes - 9.6.99

*Aubrey, Bean, Steve, Paula & Bob S*

Good digging lots of rock up. Large stone fell out of the bucket ½ way up the lower pitch. Luckily only Aubrey was at the very bottom and luckily for Aubrey he is small enough and still agile enough to get in behind the thick conveyor belting, so the MRO failed to get a look in. Aubrey said it was a 'boulder' but we know it as a large stone. Boulders come up in nets or on ropes, this one had a bucket to itself. Anyway, it's all a matter of size - so it was a boulder to Aubrey.

*Bob S* got a letter from Christine (& Max). It's very entertaining - seems Max believed every word about the St Lukes breakthrough, so well he rang his Mum in England to tell her the news ... Max & Christine have a house in Australia - just moving in to their new address. Haven't got it with me though. If anyone wants it ring Bob S on: 01225 859232.

## 8.6.99 - Black Hole Series

*Mark & Bean*

An excellent trip to the far reaches of Swildons - well far enough for a Tuesday evening. Ladders - Ha, who needs them?

## 10.6.99 - Eastwater 13 Pots

*Mark Bean & Neil (new boy)*

A very dry entrance. Perfect conditions for us. Neil's first trip for 10 years or so - he found it harder than we did!

## 12.6.99 - Old Duffers photographic trip to GB

*Prew, Hansford, Hewins & Hendy*

Main objective was to use Prew's ginormous flash bulbs - but failed due to flash gun pox. However, various snaps were taken using a combination of cameras, tripods, flash guns and slave units, with Mr Hansford nimbly scuttling all over the cave

with a slave unit, and posing. Very pleasant, had the cave to ourselves. On the way out B...n H...d asked for a gentle pull, but we declined. Found a previously unknown (?) mineshaft on the path to the cave from Charterhouse Farm ...

PS I got one good stereo with a ginormous flash bulb - Maurice.

## 13.6.99 - Thrupe Lane - High up somewhere!

*Mark & Bean & Simon*

Railway series led to somewhere high up - long wet drop led to somewhere lower. Remind me not to let Bean lead!!

## 12.6.99 - Ogof Agen Allwedd

*Divers: M Thomas, M Foyle, P Mullholland*

After many, many years we returned to Aggy with several memories good and bad! The aim: to keep the Wessex key & to re-acquaint ourselves with the system for a trip down to "Maytime" somewhen. Finally to plan a trip for team SAGA - we think you could manage Main Passage! And yes, we did no diving. It's too bloody far to carry kit.

## 15.6.99 - The Official Eastwater Appreciation Society Day Trip to: Swildon's Mud Sump

*Em & Kevin*

A big first - no queue for the ladder 'cos it's Tuesday and you're all at work HA HA!! Almost makes you want to live on Mendip so you can do it more often. But then who wants to live on Mendip?

19.9.99 - "Don't you have to go caving to form an appreciation society?"

## 17.6.99 - MJ

My first dirty weekend!! Little did I realise I could get sooo wet!! I could get to like ferreting around in small dark holes.

## 15.6.99 - Eastwater West End (well, Regent St & Wardour Street anyway)

Swift Tuesday evening trip to check out an area I hadn't been to before. Bloody classic - not like Eastwater at all.

## 17.6.99 - Swildon's Mud Sump

*Mark, Bean & Neil*

Quick check on the sump & pump. Sump not - pump working.

## 19.6.99 - Jonathan & Mark H

Saturday morning trip to Rhino to inspect the shiny new P-hangers. Down the bottom and OUT! Some came out quicker than others.

### **19.6.99 - Mineshaft**

*Phil Hendy & Pete Cousins*

To investigate mineshaft near Charterhouse Farm. Provisionally called Dibble's Mine. Small opening in middle of field. Belayed ladder to steel grid, which Pete then stood on. 20' estimated, shaft was 11' to steeply sloping mud floor, descended about 4' to length 10', ending in two narrow rifts. Nice ginging though. It will probably be filled - no great loss.

**20.6.99** - *Mark & two office ~~less~~ colleagues* Showed them around the delightful caves of Burrington. Say no more!

### **22.6.99 Eastwater -**

*Mark & Bean*

Rebolting trip to Gladman Shaft in West End (Eastwater). Where were the BEC? Job done.

### **24.6.99 Eastwater -**

*Mark & Bean & Les*

Laddered Gladman Shaft and on towards Lolly Pot. Route-finding difficulties (it can't possibly be through there!!) forced a halt. Will return next week with more information & courage.

### **26.6.99 - Practice Rescue in Gough's Cave from Bishop's Palace**

*Various members of WCC, CDG & MRO*

Just to get my version in first - Phil H & Maurice Hewins carried the soup to the top of Makin' Progress. The directionally-challenged Mr H took the wrong route along the wet crawl, following the phone line out of the cave. But we got there in the end, and various people said they enjoyed the soup and Mars Bars - or were they just being polite? Missed a lovely sunny day to get cold, muddy and miserable. There is a lot of hanging around on practice rescues.

### **26.6.99 - Swildon's Black Hole**

*Kev, Lu, Simon*

All because the lady loves Milk Tray.....

### **27th**

*Jules*

Well, June goes! I was on my first caving trip ... and I had the best time. Apart from that the people are great - what a mix of personalities, it's so nice to meet people of the world. I love you - dream on.

### **27.6.99**

*Jonathan's Ilford Mob*

Enjoyed the caving. Adjusted the central heating system to give warmth for the high summer months and maybe the winter.

### **29.6.99 - Tuesday in Eastwater**

*Mark & Bean & (guess what - no Les)*

Down Gladman Shaft and on through to Lolly Pot! Laddered this - soft - quick look at bottom - ooh err & out. Just enough for a Tuesday evening. All ladders left in place for pushing (& laziness).

### **3.7.99 - Eastwater**

*Jonathan & Mark T*

Eastwater, we don't go there! Ever again!

### **3.7.99 - (Dragon Caving Shop)**

A frantic phone call from SAGA C.C. founder member Maurice Hewins, led to a shopping expedition by M Thomas and M Foyle to South Wales to buy some 9mm skyline rope (amongst other things). The reason for Maurice buying 150m of rope is as yet unknown, but we suspect a SAGA C.C. trip down Rhino on ladders! We await instructions .....

(Correction! It was only 15m for use as handline in Aveline's, etc - Maurice).

### **2.7.99 - Forest of Dean weekend**

*Maurice & Judy, Jo & Mark, John Thomas and Alan Goddard*

On return trip to Dom & Deb's quarters in the Forest of Dean. Back down the Wye, this time in kayaks. The SAGA team managed to stay dry throughout. Tested Dom's wine before we returned to the Fountain to sample the 'Free Miners'.

### **3.7.99 - interesting half hour potter in Bixslade stone mine**

*Maurice*

Pennant sandstone was dug here until the 1960's. Easy drop in to short bedding plane which dips gently into large chamber. Wide flat roof in vein forced with strips of steel. Another series of large chambers leads off down to lakes at the water table. Walked back via the Forest's Cast fully worked free coal mine. Must go back for the NAHMO meeting.

### **14.7.99 - Danny's birthday bash to Longwood.**

Good practice for Slovenia. Happy birthday mate!

### **10.7.99 - Ogof-Y-Daren-Cilau**

*Mark & Bean*

4 hours ish

A swift trip to show Bean the White Company Antlers & Urchins out via Man in the Roof (more urchins than you can throw a stone at!)

### **13.7.99 - Swildon's**

*Mark & Bean*

Quick run down to Mud Sump for some pumping!

### 15.7.99 - Swildon's

*Mark & Bean*

Through Mud Sump and on to South East Inlets & Sidcot U-tube then out.

### 18.7.99 - Water Sampling Exercise, Swildon's

1 team to NW Stream & Swildons 2:

*M. Helmore & D Cooke*

1 team Sump 1 to 20' pitch:

*Jon Williams & Cathy Glenton*

1 team 20' pitch to Entrance:

*Mak Kellaway & Jo Diamond*

1 team surface:

*Dr Roger Stenner Les Williams A D Morse & Paul Weston*

### 24.7.99 - Longwood/August

*Em, Kev, Lu, Simon*

Short round trip, a wonderful REFRESHING trip to escape the July Heat.

### 27.7.99 - Eastwater

*Mark, Bean and John (temporarily)*

Swift Tuesday night trip to rig handline at bottom of Lolly Pot and rig new 10' ladder into Blackwall Tunnel. John turned around before Gladman Shaft - sensible fellow. Quick gravel in Blackwall Tunnel - yes, it is as bad as we were told and then out to a nice pint of Butcombe Gold.

### 31.7.99 - Eastwhere -

*Mark, Bean Vern & Suntan (Tart)*

Trip to push on past Blackwall Tunnel. First time in West End for Vern and Suntan. Suntan turned around before Lolly Pot (I don't blame him, he's put on a bit of weight). Looking through a tight squeeze at a horrible looking duck at the end of the Blackwall Tunnel Bean said "On-Back". No one complained. Will try again when Slovenia is over. Out to glorious sunshine and Tina and Steve's Wedding Stomp. (Tav has offered to lead us through the duck!!!!!!).

### 1.8.99 Goatchurch

*Vern, Rosie, Mark & Jeremy (Vern's Nephew)*

Quick? trip to show Jeremy the delights of Burrington. He enjoyed it so I've got to take him caving again. I chose Goatchurch to put him off Didn't work! Gorgeous ice creams afterwards, but still had hangover from Tina's wedding.

# Caving Events

## August

28th/30th North Wales, Rhosesmor

## September

2nd/3rd Cave Art, Exhibition, Cheddar  
10th/12th BCRA, Hidden Earth, Leeds  
24th/27th NAMHO '99 Conference,  
Forest of Dean

## October

2nd/3rd WCC Rescue Practice  
3rd/30th Brush with Darkness '2'  
16th/17th AGM & Annual Dinner

## November

1st/7th First European Cave Rescue  
Symposium, Göppingen  
Southern Germany  
13th/14th CSCC training event, Blue School  
13th/14th DCA/NCA Cavers Workshop  
Pindale Farm, Castlton

## 2000

## March

25th BCRA Cave Science Symposium  
University of Huddersfield

## July

14th/18th Inter NAMHO 2000 Truro

## Summer

Caver's Fair 2000 Derbyshire  
Rescon 2000 Derbyshire

## September

Hidden Earth 2000