

MENDIP CAVING GROUP

News-sheet No. 3

September 1961

PINETREE POT The key book for Pintree Tree (sic) is now at the cottage. Keys may be issued by any full member on a deposit of 10/-.

MENDIP SURVEY The project which involves the mapping of all depressions on Mendip was launched by Tony Knibbs at the meeting on Thursday 24th August. It is hoped that all members of the club will assist in this very worthwhile project which is expected to take about three years to complete.

TACKLE BOX The tackle box at the cottage now contains 90 foot of ladder, two 100ft lengths of rope and some tethers.

PARTY As previously announced the club party will be held at the cottage on Saturday September 9th. All members, with one guest each, all prospective members are invited at the cost of 6/- per head. Representatives from the majority of the Mendip clubs have been invited. Also a number of local residences (sic). Our patron also hopes to be present.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS These will be issued to all members in the near future.

ORDER FORMS for goods from BENJAMIN EDGEINGTON may be obtained from the Secretary.

GENERATOR This is still working.

LEADERSHIP The leadership of a caving trip does not merely entail being the first man in the party. This is perhaps one of his minor duties. Before entering a cave it is his job to ensure that all are properly equipped i.e. Two forms of lighting that work and will work for double the envisaged duration of the trip. An eye should also be kept on helmets, clothing and boots. A whistle and waist sling should if possible be carried at all times and not always be associated with pitches. Its no use having a whistle unless everyone knows the signals. The leader must also ensure that all the necessary tackle is available, in good order and sufficient. It is very bad caving to use a ladder which is just too short in order to cut down weight. On the return journey it might be the breaking point of a tired caver. Always use a lifeline when it is asked for, especially if it comes from an experienced caver who will only ask for it when it is really necessary.

The speed should be that of the slowest, who very often is not the weakest. The leader must watch everone and always be prepared to turn back if neccessary. Here is the advantage of knowing the others in the party. Avoid taking cavers you do not know on strenuous trips. Knowing people underground and knowing people above ground are very different things. Never be afraid to turn back because you yourself are tired. A tired leader is more dangerous than a tired novice in some cases.

If you have to make a decision or give an order always expect it to be obeyed. Never be afraid to stick to a decision in the face of opposition, and never, never be afraid to change your mind in the light of common sense.

"If you think leadership easy, try standing on a fence with one ear to the ground" Anon.

CONVERSATION Well dressed Committee Member - "I might come down again next week-end". Mendip Farmer "Be careful, you may get your clothes dirty".

FOREIGN TRIPS All survived.

SCREEN Under the direction of Pete Dyer the screen in the middle room has been begun.

GOTTAGE CEILING One room has now had its first coat of white distemper.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION See No. 1 News-sheet. It is hoped that all who can will compete.

ARTICLES FOR THE JOURNAL If anyone has any articles for the Journal will he please contact the Editor.

JUMBLE SALE This will probably be held on November 25th. It will only be a success if everyone brings along as much Jumble as he or she can.

TELEPHONE A one way telephone for emergency rescue only is to be laid from Frys Garage to the cottage.

CALOR GAS Two more rings and another cylinder are to be installed in the cottage.

LOST, STOLEN OR PREFERABLY STRAYED A creature on his hands and knees on the pavement in LUZ barking at a dog, believed to be a bitch. This took place on 2nd August. P.S. It answers to the name of Robert, on both lists.

STOP PRESS 26th August 10.30 P.M. LATEST Found under the table at the New Inn, Priddy. Nothing or near offer.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN The use of bad language in the cottage and underground must be discouraged. This applies especially in the presence of ladies and visitors.

Untidiness and "horse play" in the cottage is to be deplored. Apart from damage caused and the inconvenience to other members, it is of great annoyance.

LONGWOOD/AUGUST SURVEY This is now going ahead at great speed thanks to all concerned. All interested please contact the Editor.

ST CUTHBERTS Under the leadership of Brian Ellis of Shepton, six members of the club descended the cave on 26th August.

Hon Editor and Recorder  
Mike Rennie  
125 Cleveland Road  
Ealing,  
London. W.13.

(Retyped by J. Goddard 1994)