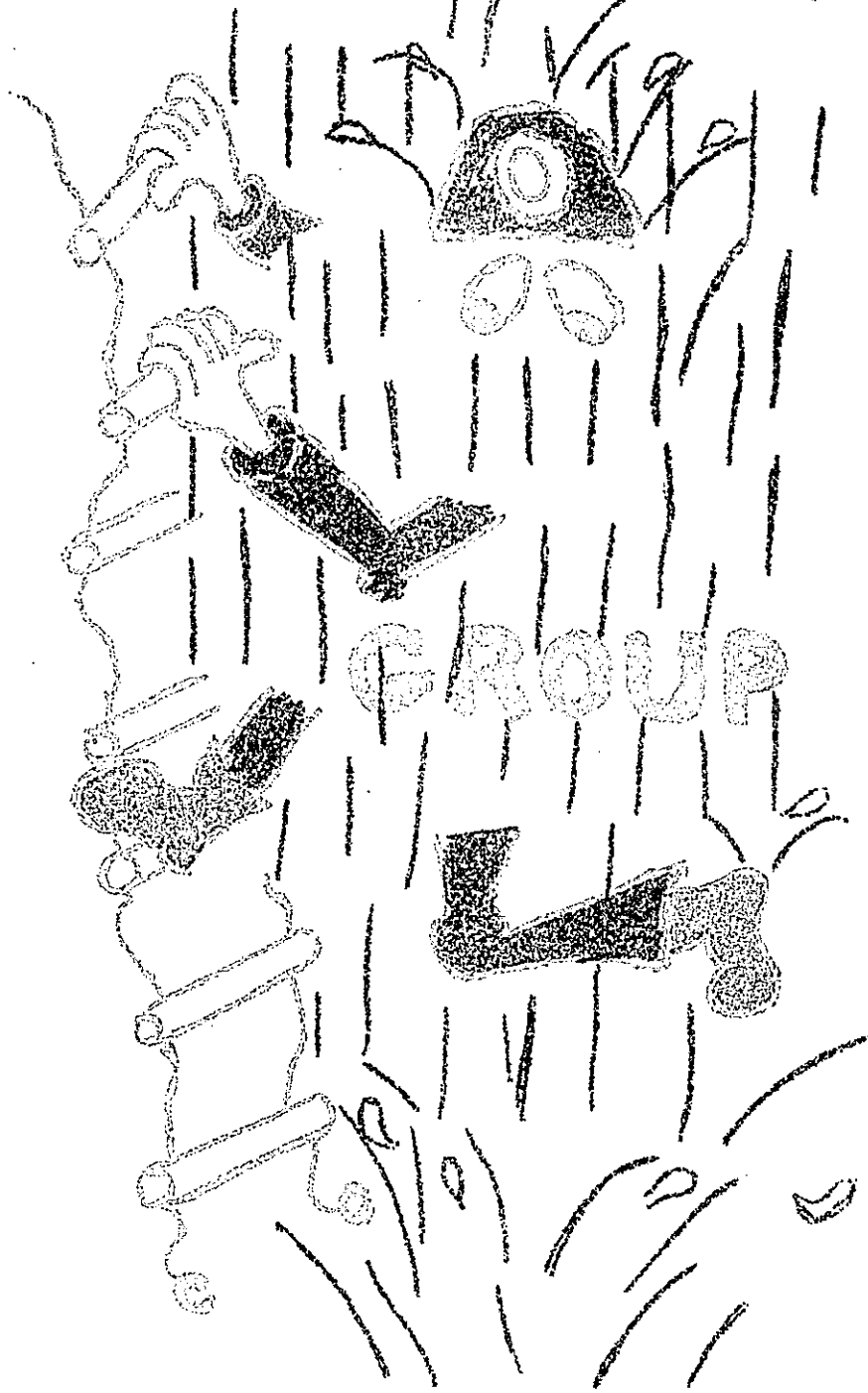


MENDIP CAVING



NEWSPAPER

MENDIP CAVING GROUP

NEWSLETTER No.75.

JUNE 1969.

Gaping Ghyll or A Ride on a Wench (sorry Wilch Ed)

Following on from a breakfast at 'The Three Peaks', Pete Mathews, Greg Smith, Don Vosper and Rog Wallington set off for Ingleborough and Gaping Ghyll. We waved the blessing of the bifurcated digits to John Evans and Bryan Pittman and left them to Heron Pot.

Once at the entrance to the great shaft but not without the puffing and panting on the way up, we sat down. And, for the next half hour we watched on the activities of the winch, trying all the time to pluck up enough courage to make the descent ourselves. We need not have worried for when it came to paying our ten bobs (available for an unspecified number of trips during WHitsun) we found ourselves at the end of a two hour queue. The wait was only involved on the descent, for the chair was coming up empty on the return journey.

The wait for the winch decided us on a trip via Bar Pot. Here the scene was much the same. A half hour wait at the entrance and another at the top of the 110ft pitch slowed us up. The high spot of the trip being the descent of the latter pitch. A superb view was enjoyed from two ledges about 15 and 30 feet down---pant---pant. The free hanging pitch is quite dry, and is perfectly circular, being some thirty feet in diameter. "I say fellahs I'm just pausing a mo' to admire the fine fluting on the walls of this pot!" -Thinks,---Cripes, I can't hang on to this ladder much longer. These thoughts only became increasingly certain during the next eighty feet. When he finally did reach the bottom our cave photographer immediately fell flat on his back. This was mainly due to exhaustion, but this position also gave the best view up the shaft of the others coming down.

From the bottom of Bar Pot we followed an assortment of dry passages before coming out into the Main Chamber. Again we paused for photographs with illumination from someone else's flash powder. Where next? We paused for deliberation and looked at a bunch of blokes in the middle of the chamber. They appeared to be waiting for something to happen - in the next moment a chair came down from the roof and after an exchange of occupants it returned to where it came from.

We had no food with us and a long delay in getting out would have meant a hungry night. Our minds were quickly made up by the sight of hordes coming in from every direction.

Each with one thought in mind - to get the hell out of it before the pubs shut. Even so we still had to wait an hour (five minutes later and it would have been two). Our wait at the bottom was partly relieved by a jug of steaming soup which came down from heaven. As more people joined the queue we mustered a choir - the beautiful singing was even heard by the people at the top of the winch, 370 feet above; they sent down a request for it to stop.

Obviously the ascent of the main shaft was the climax (twang) of the trip. The couple of minutes (twang) to reach the top were pretty hectic. With a camera in one hand a flash gun in the other, and a mouthfull of flashbulbs, photographs were snapped in all (twang) directions. The ride in varying degrees of daylight (twang) all the way, will remain one of our most impressive caving experiences. The only disturbing feature of the winch ride was an uncomfortable 'twang8 from the cable, as it changed layers on the take up drum.

I think we were glad we came out when we did as we ended the day with a steak at Whoop Hall.

Pete Mathews

Cover Competition

No the cover design on the front of this newsletter is not the winning entry. It is just one of the designs submitted for consideration. Perhaps you have an idea, if so hurry up and send it to the editor before the next committee meeting, when the final judgement is to be made.

AAAAARH!"I Am Falling!"-----Splat.

A morbid interpretation of the cover perhaps. However as you may have heard someone fell from a ladder pitch in Yorkshire, just over a month ago and is now paralysed from the waist down. He was a very experienced caver and was only climbing a free hanging 20ft pitch so a lifeline was not really necessary (I don't use a lifeline myself on Swildon's 20'). However the tether suspending the ladder broke! This incident has made it quite plain that livelines should be used on even the shortest pitches as a precaution against any mechanical failures that may occur in the equipment being used as well as a guard against a slip or fatigue! It is all important that tethers should not be kinked or rusty and that though the safety factor of a tether may be more than ample the ladder is only effectively suspended by one piece of wire! Should there be a secondary form of suspension, food for thought.

Bryan Pittman

Children

Club members are reminded that children under the age of sixteen should not be taken caving as persons doing so

are held fully responsible in law for the safety of the children. This means that the leader of a caving trip in which a child is injured may be sued in the courts by the parents for compensation. The M.C.G. does not hold an insurance to cover such an eventuality.

Bank Holiday in Wales

Saturday 24th May dawned fine at S.W.C.C. cottage at Penwyllt and eight members of the M.C.G. arrived at Dan-yr-Ogof at the unheard of hour of 10.30. (in the morning).

Lead by the intrepid Meet Sec the party negotiated the lakes without drowning and pressed on to the Long Crawl with great haste. The party was considerably slowed by that tortuous torment which claimed many coilersuit buttons and other sundries. After pausing to gasp with awe and wonderment at Flabergasm Chasm, we proceeded down the Worm Way and Bakerloo Strait to the Abyss. We ascended the Abyss and paused to eat our goodies whilst several members of S.W.C.C. members proceeded to explode 4½ lbs. of bang in a boulder choke. The party then split, half came out via the Green Canal, whilst the others came out via Virgin Passage. The party surfaced after six hours to bright sunshine, and pints of beer at the Cave Cafe.

Sunday saw undaunted speleologists descending O.F.D. 2 in the company of one Mike Day and one Aussie. After misdirecting several large parties of Yorkshire spelers, we traversed some of the unspoilt sections of the cave in the direction of O.F.D. 3. On reaching some nasty looking rifts, 60ft deep, and watching Mick traverse them on none existant footholds, the Hon. Sec. made a few clucking sounds and sat down to eat his dried apricots. The rest of the party turned green and made death defying traverses across the rifts to reach the O.F.D. 3. streamway, finally emerging from the cave after six hours.

Monday morning started wet but soon dried up. Several M.C.G. members being lured by Welsh gold and free food spent the afternoon showing tourists round Dan-Yr-Ogof show cave.

B. S. H.

Job For Judson

Those who remember Dave Judson will be interested to know that he recently took over as secretary of C.R.G. He lives at Ipsley Court, Redditch, Worcs. He replaces Alan Fincham, who has gone abroad.

Moved

Chris Reynolds has moved to 33 Buckingham Road, Tring, Hants.

Austria.

A party of M.C.G. members depart for Austria on July 4. They will probably have departed by the time the July N/L is issued so here's wishing them good luck. However it has been heard that there are 700 cases of Typhoid in Linz. Visitors are advised to get a jab before they go. Typhoid injections usually take about four weeks before they are fully effective. So if your on the Austrian trip, take a jab.

Meet Programme

13/14 June Mendip-Cuthberts and G.B.

20 July Spectacular Heathstone Mine at Merstham near Redhill Surrey (for details see Brian Hillman)

26/27 July Derbyshire Oxlow Eton and Giants.

10/11 Aug Agen Allwedd (Note Names to Brian Hillman by 9 July-This is essential)

B.S.H.

Brigadier E. A. Glennie.

The Committee of C.R.G. have arranged to hold a Reception in honour of their President and Founder Member, Brigadier E. A. Glennie, C.I.E., D.S.O., on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

The reception will be held at the Staff House, The University, Birmingham, at 12.30 pm on Saturday, 2nd Aug. 69. After a buffet luncheon Brigadier Glennie will be presented with a special volume appraising the main aspects of his work. It is hoped that as many members and friends as possible will be able to attend. Could Pedro have \$1 and the name of each person wishing to go by June 26.

Membership

Gina Sharpe and Peter Eldridge have been accepted for Probationary Membership. Bill Jones and Tony Buchan have been accepted for Full Membership, and Dave Shipham is to become a Publications Member.

John MacMillan, 31 Little Reeves Avenue, Amersham, Bucks. has applied for Probationary Membership, and his application will be considered at the next committee meeting.

Congratulations.

We wish to extend our warmest congratulations to Ken and Ann on their forth-coming marriage.

Tackle Cupboard.

It has come to the notice of the committee that the tackle cupboard has been forced open by club members! It has also been noticed that it is often left open all weekend. Club members are advised that all committee members have keys to the tackle cupboard and also Bob Knot has one at Cedar Farm, Wet Lane, Draycot, Nr Cheddar. Should any member find these alternatives unsuitable at any time, they may apply to Pete Mathews who may lend them a key for a weekend. Finally please remember to lock the tackle cupboard immediately after use.

Funds

The Land Purchase Fund now stands at £225 18s 11d. and the General Fund now stands at £76 19s 9d.

Weather Forecasts

From last weekend, 5/6 June The Council of Northern Caving Clubs has been making weather forecasts available at the following addresses and times covering the area within a radius of 5 miles from the summit of Ingleborough. This is by way of an experiment for a period of one year.

On Display

1. Front door of the Spindle Tree Cafe, Clapham.5.00pm.
2. Interior of National Park Information Centre,when-
Clapham. ever the Centre is open
3. The Pen-y-Ghent Cafe, Horton in Ribblesdale5.15 pm.
4. Notice Board at the Police Station, Ingletonearly evening
(time uncertain as the station is not continually manned)

By Telephone

1. The Pen-y-Ghent Cafe, Horton in Ribblesdale
(Horton in Ribblesdale 257)5.15 pm.
- x 2. National Park Information Centre (Clapham 419)....11.00am.
(until 4.30pm. Saturdays and Sundays)
3. (Only to be used if both the above telephones are out of order)
Settle Police Station (Settle 2542)5.30pm.
- x 4. Head Warden, Yorkshire Dales National Park6.30pm. to
(FRIDAY EVENINGS ONLY - if not otherwise on 10.00pm.
duty - Airton 256)

x Although only available at limited times, the National Park Information Service will endeavour to provide information on current weather conditions in addition to reading the forecast. Please ask for any information you feel would be of help

T. Sykes, Hon Sec. C.N.C.C.

All You Can Eat and Drink For £1 and Giants Hole

Orpheus invite any M.C.G. members who are interested to join them at their annual Barbecue to be held on the last Saturday in June. The price will probably be £1 for men and 10s. for birds - for, they allege, all you can eat and drink. Giants Hole has been booked for the Sunday and you are welcome to go if you can face it. Names to Brian Hillman by June 19 please.

History of Welsh Cavemen

The two items for discussion at the Northern meeting of C.R.G. to be held in the Town Hall, Grassington, Yorks. on June 21 at 4pm are:-

The life and history of the caveman in Wales, and Recent caving developments in Yorkshire.

All members, friends are welcome. Caving on Sunday is likely to include Dow Cave, Dowber Gill Passage.

S. Wales C.C. Divine Water

The 'Financial Times' reported on June 10 that water extracted from an underground river discovered by S.W.C.C. is to supply water all the year round to the village of Penwyllt. The river 130ft below the surface, will overcome previous problems of the supply freezing in the winter.

Secretary

For those to whom it may concern the secretary Brian Mee will be on holiday for a week from June 13.

COMMITTEE

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Meet Secretary: Brian Hillman, 22 Linley Court, Thicket Road,
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