

POLISH EXPEDITION NOW UNDER WAY

As this newsletter goes to press ten members of the Group and two CSS people led by Roger Wallington and Peter Mathews are on their way to Poland by road for a fourteen day trip taking in visits to caves in the West 'Atra region in the east of the country.

A report from those who don't take their plane spotters notebooks will appear in the next newsletter.

WATCH OUT FOR NEXT FRIDAY'S DAILY TELEGRAPH MAGAZINE

The Daily Telegraph Magazine due for publication on Friday, September 11 is planned to contain a feature on the problems encountered by BBC producer Derek Smith in filming caving sequences in Caping Gill

THIS IS THE NEXT NEWSLETTER AFTER THE LAST ONE

No, you have not missed an/some newsletters, this is the next newsletter to be published after the July one. == Pressure on the Editor from other directions has prevented him giving the job his full attention. Applications for the post should be addressed.....

HOSPITAL AFTER MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT

Arthur Spain is in hospital with a compound fracture of his right leg after a motorcycle accident. Brian Hillman wishes his friends to know that he has recently discovered that cars drive in both directions down most country lanes. Seat belts saved him, his passengers and the car behind from a more serious accident at Ystradfellite recently.

GM DETAILS

Details of the agenda for the half yearly meeting are published with this newsletter. Proposals include increases to subscriptions in 1971 and voting for the vacant post of meet secretary.

SUMPER EXTRAORDINARY

Those who have discovered that acting meet secretary John MacMillan is a practised diver of Swildons sump one have put him to frequent use and in the past few weeks he has made dozens of trips leading parties through.

EXCAVATOR TO DIG YORKSHIRE SHOW CAVE

An ambitious attempt to discover what lies beyond the known end of Stump Cross Show Cave is being made by the owner using an excavator to dig 50 ft deep

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MCG NEWS

HOW TO USE THE LIBRARY

BY Joan Goddard

Gradually the library is being indexed and put into order. Individual articles are not at present being indexed, but this may be done later.

Part of the library is in London and part on Mendip :

ON MENDIP in the cottage : Keys are available with all committee members. Only the top shelf of the library cupboard has been indexed. There are three sections : 1) books, 2) reprints and pamphlets and 3) journals, newsletter series etc. Within each sections items are kept in order of author or club alphabetically. Please return books etc to their proper places.

A small red card-index book on the top shelf will tell you if the book you seek is on Mendip. Please do not remove items without telling me.

IN LONDON there is a large collection of MCG library books and journals. To visit them at 24 Swan Close Hanworth contact Joan on a Thursday evening.

FOR SALE FROM THE LIBRARIAN

Back issue of the Speleologist : Vol 2 , 9 10/11, 1966, 14, winter 1966, 10, 12/1 1970, 11, spring 1967. Vol 3 19, autumn 1969 (originally 2s6d, 3s6d etc)

R E V I E W: A look at recent additions to the MCG library

British Caver Vol 54, autumn 1970. Britain's first speleological journal published by Gerrard Platten from 1936. This is issue was the last he produced - he was typing the stencils when he dies earlier this year. Tony Oldham has succeeded him and will therefore cease Mendip Caver from v5,8/9

-JCG

Studies in Speleology v2, pt2, 1970 for 1969 (Wm Pengelly Cave Trust Ltd) contains : Glacier Caves in Washington State - an interesting new field of speleology; Cave Systems of the Tanga Limestone, Tanzania, including mention of the influence of former sea levels and the caves' formation and the development of Cave Research Foundation, a US organisation set up in 1957-JCG

Geophysical Prospecting 1969 or 1970. An extract by Dusan Arandjelovic outlines a method of tracing groundwater flows in karst using a time bomb thrown down a swallow hole and listening by geophones to noise of the delayed explosion when it has travelled downstream. This experiment was carried out in Yugoslavia and if it is extended, caving in the area is not to be recommended -BM

UBSS Proceedings v12, 2, March 1970. Contains mainly archaeological articles (Westbury-sub-Mendip, Gough(s and Glastonbury Lake Village, but there is a concise account of Porth yr Ogof in Breconshire. This is well illustrated contains a grade 4C survey and deals with all aspects of the cave and its history -JC G

MCG NEWS

CLUB COULD BENEFIT FROM YOUR INCOME TAX

Treasurer Ron Saunders is investigating whether members would be prepared to promise to pay subscriptions for a minimum of seven years, perhaps at a reduced rate. Income tax normally paid by the member would then be repaid to the Group. If you would like to help MCG in this way, please contact Ron (address back page)

MEETS PLANNED

Here is a list of forthcoming club meets. Anyone interested should contact John MacMillan (address back page)

- September 12/13 Mendip, GB Cavern
- " 19 Yorkshire, Little Hull (with NPC)
- October 4 Mendip, Shatter Cave, Fairey Cave Quarry (limited to 6)
- " 18/19 Yorkshire, Lost John's Cavern
- Easter, 1971 Penyghent Pot
- August BH " Lost John's

BEWARE OF BUCHAN'S BOYS

A party of Tony Buchan's scouts will be at the cottage in November, probably on the second weekend, be warned . . .

RAFFLE GIFTS SOUGHT

Tony Ingold, who is organising the MCG's Christmas, Michaelmas or Derby raffle is seeking prizes. Offers to him at 3 Suffolk Way, Carvey Island, Essex.

Wait for a fortnight though as he is at present holidaying in the steps of his leader in the Scilly Isles (He has just been elected chairman of his local Labour party).

SIGN SEIZED

The landlord of the Castle of Comfort Inn was recently seeking information as to who stole his pub signs. Information to Pete Mathews (wait until he gets back from Poland).

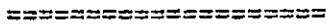
ADDRESS CHANGES

A new address list is attached to the newsletter. Note changes to Bryan Pittman and Tony Ingold. Other corrections to the secretary, please.

Sea's Spot

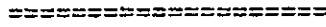
Box Mines Threats to completely seal the mine seem to have been finally averted. The local authorities have been blocking the main entrances one by one. The only remaining way in "the Backdoor" which is on private land has been spared. The landowner has promised a right of way to the mine provided the entrance is locked and gated.

A key to this entrance will shortly be available at the cottage.



Locked Out ?
cottage.

A couple of yale keys were recently found at the
Apply the Sec.



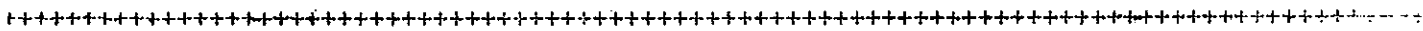
Pinner Chalk Mine At the last committee meeting it was decided to extend our public liability policy to provide cover of £100,000, which is the minimum required by the local council for official visits to the mine. Hitherto, members trips down the mine have usually been unofficial. Though, we have on occasions arranged extension of our insurance for the benefit of parties of guests. The insurance company are no longer keen on doing this free of charge and we have decided to pay to obtain the minimum cover.

Anyone wishing to make an official visit to the mine (ie with the permission of the local council) is therefore, covered by our insurance indemnifying the London Borough of Harrow against all claims arising from the visit - the minimum cover required is £100,000.

ooo0ooo

A quick estimate shows that 35% of our members have been caving in Yorkshire this year. And, we haven't had a club meet there yet !

Telephone Directory If you want your number included then make sure you fill in the sheet on the notice board.



So he started to climb out of the hole. He pulled with his front paws, and pushed with his back paws, and in a little while his nose was out in the open again...and then his ears...and then his front paws... and then his shoulders... and then - " Oh, help", said Pooh. " I'd better go back." " Oh, bother !" said Pooh. " I shall have to go on." " I can't do either !" said Pooh. " Oh, help and bother !"

Winnie-the-Pooh , A.A.Milne

Findon Well - The Bottom

There are two reasons for this short article which is mainly taken from the last Chelsea S.S. Newsletter. Firstly, a number of M.C.G. members have taken an active interest in the project. And, secondly, it enables me to try out a typewriter we are thinking of buying. ++

Findon, for those that don't know, is the site of a 4th century Roman well. It was descended by Trevor Dore in 1961 and in the March of that year the idea of excavating and probing the centuries of silt was begun. At that time the depth was a mere 68 feet.

At 0213 hours on Sunday morning the 28th June the bottom was reached at 262 feet. It was certainly appropriate that the person who was first to reach the bottom was Harry Pearman. He not only started the dig in 1961 but has continued with unabated zeal ever since.

The early excavators descended by electron ladder and the spoil was raised by half a dozen people running across the field with a rope. At the finish there was a motor winch, digging shelter, overhead gantry, air - conditioning, telephone and electric lighting.

An idea of the efficiency of the dig during its later sessions can be gained by the results of the final dig.

Initial depth	76.02 m.
Final depth	79.71 m.
Depth increase	3.69 m.
Human descents	10
Number of bucket loads	117½

Duration of excavation 18 hr. 13 min.

Speleologically, this was quite a unique excavation both for the duration and depth attained. Was it all worth it? Well this remains to be seen. Throughout the excavation many interesting archaeological finds have been made. The earliest dated finds were, of course, found last. Even on the final weekend the spoil taken out took something like 50 manhours just to wash.

Now the digging is complete we look forward to the final write up of the Findon Well Saga - let's hope it doesn't take so long.

PRM

..oo0oo..

(++ We have now purchased the typewriter, hence this newsletter Ed.)

MCC News

ROUND AND ROUND SWILDONS

Ron Saunders

A first impression . . .

I've never seen the entrance stream so low - it was a hot summer morning and the sweat dripped out of my sleeves, which just about doubled the flow of water in the entrance.

The dry way was very dry and not much water going over the 20; the swim once past sump one was only half its distance before the Cheddar flood. It seemed arduous baling the mud sump for one member of the party without a wet suit. The greasy chimney was very greasy and much easier for the short legged than us long 'uns.

I reckon that the trip was about my limit and at the entrance I was glad of a helping hand out. True never that I am I found relaxing on Priddy Green afterwards with a sausage roll the most enjoyable part of the day! Omar Khayan would I think have put it differently . . .

The Rubiyat of Swildons Round Trip

Here with a sausage roll upon the grass
A can of beer, a cigarette and three
Good friends telling of the double troubles
Is paradise on Priddy Green.

COMMITTEE

Secretary, Peter Mathews, 155 Radcliffe Way, Northolt, Middx.

Treasurer, Ron Saunders, 21 Rushmoor Avenue, Hazlemere, H. Wycombe

Recorder, Joan Goddard, 24 Swan Close, Hanworth Middx

T/master, John Miriam, Glenville Wheeler Lane Witley, Surrey

or contact Phil Ingold on Thursday evenings while JM is studying

C/warden, Tony Buchan, 80 Rectory Lane, Long Ditton, Surrey

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