

SLOW PROGRESS ON LAND SEARCH LIKELY
TO BE AGM ISSUE

SLOW progress being made on the search for land or for a building suitable for a new field headquarters is likely to be criticised at the 1971 AGM. Two properties have been viewed but the number on the

The 1971 annual general meeting of the Mendip Caving Group is to be held at the cottage, Nordrach-on-Mendip on Saturday, March 27. at 4 pm.

The annual dinner will follow at the Bath Arms, Cheddar, at 8 pm. Tickets are available from committee members price £1.50. A coach will run from the cottage at a small additional charge.

market in our price range - even assuming that we receive a substantial grant - is strictly limited and they are snapped-up quickly by buyers with cash in their hot sticky hands. The solutions would appear to be an intensification of the search for property by all members and rapid deep-digging into pockets in support of the land fund.

DOZEN PLAN TO VISIT JUGOSLAVIA

SOME TWELVE members are planning to go to Yugoslavia this year for either three weeks from August 27, or two weeks from September 3 until September 19.

TRIP MEETING ARRANGED

Everyone interested in going is asked to attend the Royal Oak on Thursday March 25 to discuss arrangements

BUNTERS BANNED

Only thin men are being selected for a special rescue team being formed by the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Assn - they are expected to be called out for rescues in especially tight places.

Group news

NEW MEMBERS

TWO new full members were elected at the January committee meeting, Helen and Roger Saunders. Four probationary members were also accepted : Leonard Eley, Wayne Hiscock, John Pudduck and David Stanford.

CHIMNEY AWAITED

A new stove has been bought for the cottage but a chimney is still to be purchased. The rescue drag sheet damaged during the last practice has been repaired by Bill Jones

1971 MEETS

A MEET programme is published with this newsletter. On March 20 six members plan to travel to Wales and the following meet is in Yorkshire at Easter, John MacMillan will arrange Mendip meets on request.

LOSERS OF TACKLE TO PAY

THE committee, concerned at recent reports of tackle being 'lost' on trips have authorised the tacklemaster to make charges as follows: Tethers 50p each, ladders, £5 per 20 feet. The payment is due from the individual borrowing the equipment but he may reasonably be expected to collect shares from members of the party.

JOURNAL PICTURES SOUGHT

THE Editor of the journal nearing publication seeks black and white photographs of relevant subjects. Please discuss with Pedro before having prints specially made.

COVENANTORS DALLYING

People who have indicated that they may wish to subscribe by means of a seven year covenant and thereby enable the MCG to benefit from their income tax contributions have been slow in returning their forms. Please send them to Ron Saunders or Pete Mathews.

CARBIDE LAMPS FORSALE

Tacklemaster John Miriam will shortly have carbide lamps for sale.

Home news

DEATH IN SOUTH WALES CAVE
40-YEAR-OLD TRAPPED IN SWILDONS

IN February a student was reported to have taken a wrong turning while diving in Porth-yr-Ogof. His aqualung had apparently run out of air and he died underground. Rescuers from the SWRO and MRO were called out to find him. The student was named as 25 year-old Paul Esser, of Farnham in Surrey.

MRO were called out to rescue a 40-year-old teacher who became wedged in Swildon's Hole while taking a party of school-children underground. Dudley Soffe, 49, of Midsomer Norton was fed with glucose. Pneumatic drills were required to break-up rock around him. MCG member Fred Davies took part in the rescue and for the benefit of autograph hunters was also seen on TV.

ALFIE IN PRINT

The complete set of 'speleodes' by Alfie Collins is now available for the first time at the specially reduced price of 55p (usually 60p)

Alfie is also considering producing an LP record of his songs - but to special order only. Books and orders for record to Pete Mathews.

MISSED SPELEXPERT

Only two MCG members visited Chelsea SS on March 2 to hear Dr Alfred Bögli discussing the 111 km Hölloch in Switzerland. Amazing that such an eminent speleologist should attract so few on such a rare visit to London - lucky we didn't ask him!

MENDIP CAVES LTD FORMED

TONY KNIBBS has been appointed one of the first directors of CSCC Ltd, a company formed with a nominal capital of £200 to buy-up cave entrances. Shares are expected to be sold to clubs at the rate of one for every 50 members and six directors will be re-elected annually.

STOKE LANE COULD BE SHOW CAVE

THE owners of Stoke Lane plan to sink a shaft to investigate the possibility of turning the cave into a show cave.

DOES ACCESS TO CHARTERHOUSE CAVES COST TOO MUCH

ELEVEN clubs, including the MCG, form the Charterhouse Caving Committee, responsible for the administration of caves on BWW land including Longwood/August, GB and others. This year's annual subvention just requested is £5, which helps to pay for a CCC insurance policy and also the cost of administering the access arrangements. But is this levy too much ?

That there must be an organisation run by cavers is not disputed - it is the only means by which the landowners will permit cave access. But is too much of the money coming from the permanent members of the committee and too little from the many associate clubs and individuals who cause most of the administration and need for insurance.

The MCG's representative on the committee is being asked to investigate the matter with CCC secretary Tony Knibbs.

BACK DOOR ACCESS TO BOX HILL MINES

Two entrances to Box Hill Mines are to be kept open - the Back Door and West Gate entrances - and no key will be needed.

NEW SURVEYS COMPLETED

The Mendip Survey Scheme has published two new surveys - Shatter Cave, really new, and St Cuthbert's, amended to take account of all recent discoveries

Overseas news

AUSTRIAN FIND

Discoveries are still being made in Tantalho le, Hagenbirge, Austria and the total length recorded to date is over 17km.

GOOD YEAR FOR ARMCHAIR CAVERS

Two important conferences are planned for this year. From August 5 to 9 the International Geographical Society is holding a regional conference in Hungary with visits to Miskole and Aggtelek. The IUS meet in Athens from September 1 to 5 to with visits to Macedonia Crete and other islands.

WANTED Twelve feet of 4in diameter unglazed cast iron sewer pipe for new cottage boiler chimney. See a committeemember

NEW DERBY CAVES FOUND BY QUARRYING - AND WILL DISAPPEAR THE SAME WAY

WIMPEY quarry staff working in Darlton Quarry in the Peak discovered a new and well decorated cave some 100 feet, or more long. But quarrying is to continue and the cave will disappear as quickly as it was found.

FEW CAVERS ATTRACTED TO DEVON RESEARCH CENTRE

ONLY one small party out of 267 visitors to the Pengelly Cave Studies Centre at Buckfastleigh in Devon were cavers during the last nine months of 1970, the remainder were archaeologists, geologists and palaeontologists. In 1970 the Nature Conservancy held a Conservation Year Project at the centre and 2,000 visitors saw Upper Kiln Quarry.

CAVE FAUNA SPEAKS NEW LANGUAGE

Ex-MCG member Chris Reynolds has been using fauna records collected by CRG in writing a new computer language CODIL. He claims that the language much simplifies computer programme writing and can be used for D-I-Y methods.

SKULLS FOUND NEAR MONASTERY

Bones, human and animal, have been found on a new archaeological site opened on Caldy Island off Pembrokeshire. Pengelly newsletter no 15 in the MCG library lists further details.

GREAT FLOOD ON RECORD

'The Great Storms and Floods of 1968' have been written up by Jim Hanwell and M Newsom in Wessex CC occasional publication series 1 number 2. Copies available from Tim Reynolds, Yew Court, Pangbourne, Berks, price 62½p incl pp.

CALCIUM CARBONATE AND WATER IN GB CAVERN

The aggressiveness of CaCO_3 to water is examined in Transactions of CRG Vol 12 no 4 Dec 1970. The survey was carried out in GB.

POETS CORNER FOR EASTER

The Son of Man on Mendip (DMC, 1930)

- 1 The Son of Man on Mendip
He walked among the fern;
Against the blackness of the down
He saw the heather burn.
The Son of Man from Mendip
Gazed down the glistening tide
Beyond the sprinkled islands
Where the grey lagoons spread
wide.
- 2 For Joseph was a tin man
Who sailed the western sea,
And brought his young companion
Across to Eggarley
Where, amid golden orchards
Whose scent the silence thrills,
The lamb of God in beauty trod
Our Avalonion hills.
- 3 The Son of Man on Mendip
He gave the folk no sign
But talked and walked with such
as worked,
The lead and calamine.
He knew the old Nine Barrows,
The swallets and the droves,
As well as, on far southern
slopes,
He knew the orange groves.
- 4 As summer passed to Autumn
He marked the changing days,
The blood red wicken berries
In Ebbor Gorge ablaze;
The crocus in the meadows,
The gold upon the wheat;
And the snow white bog cotton
Bent to those gentle feet.
- 5 The son of Man on Mendip
He breathed the common air,
And so folk tell (by word of
mouth)
He played at Priddy fair.
For Joseph was a tin man
Who dealt in dyes and ores
Trading from torrid Nazareth
To Somerset's green shores.
- 6 Now on an Easter morning
When clouds be rolled away,
And climbing Masbury Beacon,
The young sun brings the day.
They that be simple hearted,
That nothing ill have done,
A wondrous sign may witness -
The Lamb against the sun.

From the Somerset Year Book, 1930 extracted by Joan Goddard.
For those who care, Joseph was probably St Joseph of Aramathea
who planted his blackthorn staff on Glaston Tor and it was reported
as having bloomed on Christams Eve and on every subsequent Christmas
Eve since.

And from the same source, by Johnson Little . . .

A cow on a cliff over Cheddar
In haste to get home took a header
To the dear little town

NEW CAVES ARE FORMED

Three members of the MCG attended the Leicester University/CRG symposium on how caves are formed. The discussions are to be printed in CRG transactions. Here is a brief summary :

T. D. FORD discussed the significance of variations in the formation of the rock on eventual cave formation and new relationships which are being established between the density of joints and the lithology of the surrounding limestone.

Studies of the factors that control topography, and other geological phenomena will eventually enable predictions of cave situation to be made from the surface, according to A. C. WALTHAM

Waters mixing enable additional CaCO_3 to be dissolved explaining the dissolving of limestone even when flowing water is a saturated solution. This explanation by Dr ALFRED BOGLI is an important advance in the analysis of cave formation.

D. INGLE SMITH attempted to reconcile the cavers view of cave formation - phreatic and vadose origins - and those of hydrologists: the water table concept and water movement restricted by d'Arcy's law.

Experiments in analysing water found in caves were described by L. G. BRAY, DC Ford looked at geological structural effects on cave development and Malcolm Newsom looked at speed of water as an abrasional cave formation method by reference to the 1968 floods. GORDON WARWICK discussed caves in the Ice Age and subsequent effects.

CAVE SLIDES have been made by Diana Wyllie Ltd 3 Park Rd NW1 on: Limestone landforms, Cave formations, and caving techniques.

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