

RESCUE PRACTICE 8th August Anne Duffan hopes to  
be extracted from out Longwood/August.  
Details from Bill Jones

Lockout The front door to the cottage needs rehangng.  
Difficulty may be experienced unless the door is lifted  
slightly. A better idea would be to fix it.  
MAKE CERTAIN THE DOOR IS SHUT

Mike Lovell now lives at 196 Colemansmoor Rd., Woodley, Reading

Fire Down Below Our fireman, Roy Stephens, announces that he  
will be shortly emigrating to New Zealand.

Gail Warning Congratulations to Tony and Pauline Knibbs  
on the birth of a daughter, Sarah Gail.

### G.B. Cavern - The Easy Way ?

Since The Great Flood the short  
"squeeze" at the beginning of the Easy Way in G.B. seems  
to have been getting wetter and wetter. During the rainy  
weather at the beginning of the year it was merely  
sporting with just a few inches of air space. A recent  
MCG party, however, found the squeeze not a squeeze but  
a sump. This was in spite of a very long period of dry  
weather.

Other than The Ooze, which we  
will forget about and is blocked anyway, the only way  
down G.B. is via The Devil's Elbow. Returning parties  
can bail or syphon the new sump from the far side (ie.  
the down-hill side) and so come back via The Easy Way.

Access to G.B. may soon be a  
lot easier. Charterhouse Caving Committee are negotiating  
with Bristol University S.S. over the issue of keys to  
founder clubs. Arrangements would then be similar to  
those in existence for Longwood.

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Brian Mee now lives at; Fircones, Midhurst Rd., Bell Vale,  
(phone 0428 3680) Hazlemere, Surrey.  
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Oops ! I've just noticed a mistake on the back page, our  
meet at Bull Pot Farm should read 30th October not  
30th November.

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## GROUP NEWS

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### No Fire, without smoke !

Visitors to the cottage will immediately note that we have a fine stove, but no chimney. The old stove pipe had become dangerous and was removed. Unless a replacement is fitted pretty soon we will be in for a real cold winter.

A replacement pipe should be 4 inch diameter, unglazed cast iron. They come in handy six foot lengths and we need just two. Pipe of this sort is only available from really big or old fashioned builders merchants. Contact ; Phil Ingold

### Club Tackle

New items to the stock list are;  
100 kilo. Calcium carbide (tins needed).  
1,000 feet Ulstron lifeline.

..-ooOoo-..

### Generous Discount - if you were quick !

The Y.H.A. shop kindly gave us a 10% discount on group purchases as from 2nd June. On the 13th June they withdrew all discount concessions from clubs with arrangements with them.

...ooOoo...

### Jim's Lawnmower

Jim Fry has very kindly donated a lawnmower to the club. He seems to be working on the assumption that if we own a lawnmower we will use it to cut the grass !

..ooOoo..

Pete Munt is threatening to return from Canada fairly soon, but only for a short stay: he is also planning to get married again.

Steve Hogan is getting ready for his overland trip to Australia.

We hear Tony Buchan is about to go somewhere but we are not sure where.

Brian Hammond is at present in New Zealand. He has visited Harwood Hole (342 m deep, though there is an easier way in). This follows from a period of V.S.O. in Fiji.

A small party of MCG were fortunate enough to be present at Penwyllt on 12th June; the weekend after the breakthrough of a dry route from O.F.D. I to O.F.D.II.

In OFD I the main passage passes by the sump to Waterfall Series and Boulder Chamber. This chamber contains a large collapse of boulders, but a route through them leads to Hush Sump and Dip Sump. To the left of Dip Sump a small passage previously packed with boulders had been damming back a vast quantity of mud.

When SWCC began digging away the boulders the mud finally broke through opening a route into OFD II.

About 100 feet of muddy passage leads to a crawl and a high aven - this aven is the same as that noticed on the Divers Route from Dip Sump to Collapse Chamber. The aven is climbed for about 20 feet to where a small passage leads to a pile of bruised boulders - the bottom of Coronation Aven.

From here the way on is through Collapse Chamber and into a small unnamed chamber. The exit is through a well concealed slot about 15 feet from the floor. This eventually leads to Diver's Pot ( 55 feet ). And from here the passages assume larger proportions to Picca dilly and The Smithy. The route we took at this point was to the Pub via Cwm Dwr.

NOTES

1. Any party going from I to II or II to I must be in the care of a leader for I.
2. A party intending to visit the connection must inform Mr. Barrows at Yr Grithig. He takes his water from the surface rising and requires notice so that he can fill his water tank before the water becomes muddy.
3. Cars should not be parked at Yr Grithig by any party making a through trip.

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Access arrangements in South Wales are :-

Dan yr Ogof with leader  
Cwm Dwr (or Quarry Cave) is now gated except at weekends.  
Cathedral Cave or did you call it Tunnel Cave? It is now a show cave and the bottom entrance may only be used by parties with a leader. The top entrance is free access; but is now gated - SWCC hold the key.

On the Black Shiver Moss, only a few hundred yards south of Meregill, and just above the limestone pavement is an old open pothole about 15 feet deep. It comes somewhat as a surprise to learn that this obvious entrance should be such a recent discovery. And, yet it is one of the most important caves in the area - Black Shiver Pot.

// Party.  
 // John MacMillan MCG  
 // John Miriam "  
 // Greg Smith "  
 // Rog Wallington "  
 // Dave Barker NPC  
 // John Whittle "  
 // Karate Bill "  
 // + a few others

At the bottom of the pot a shallow stream enters from under a low wall, only to disappear into a tight bedding plane. The stream leads along a flat out crawl for a few feet, and one can then proceed on hands and knees. It is not long, however, before roof and floor approach each other again; and, here our travelling embolism "Wol" became stuck fast. As luck would have it there is now a modern, dual carriage by-pass leading off on the right hand side - this is conjectured in the U.L.S.A. survey.

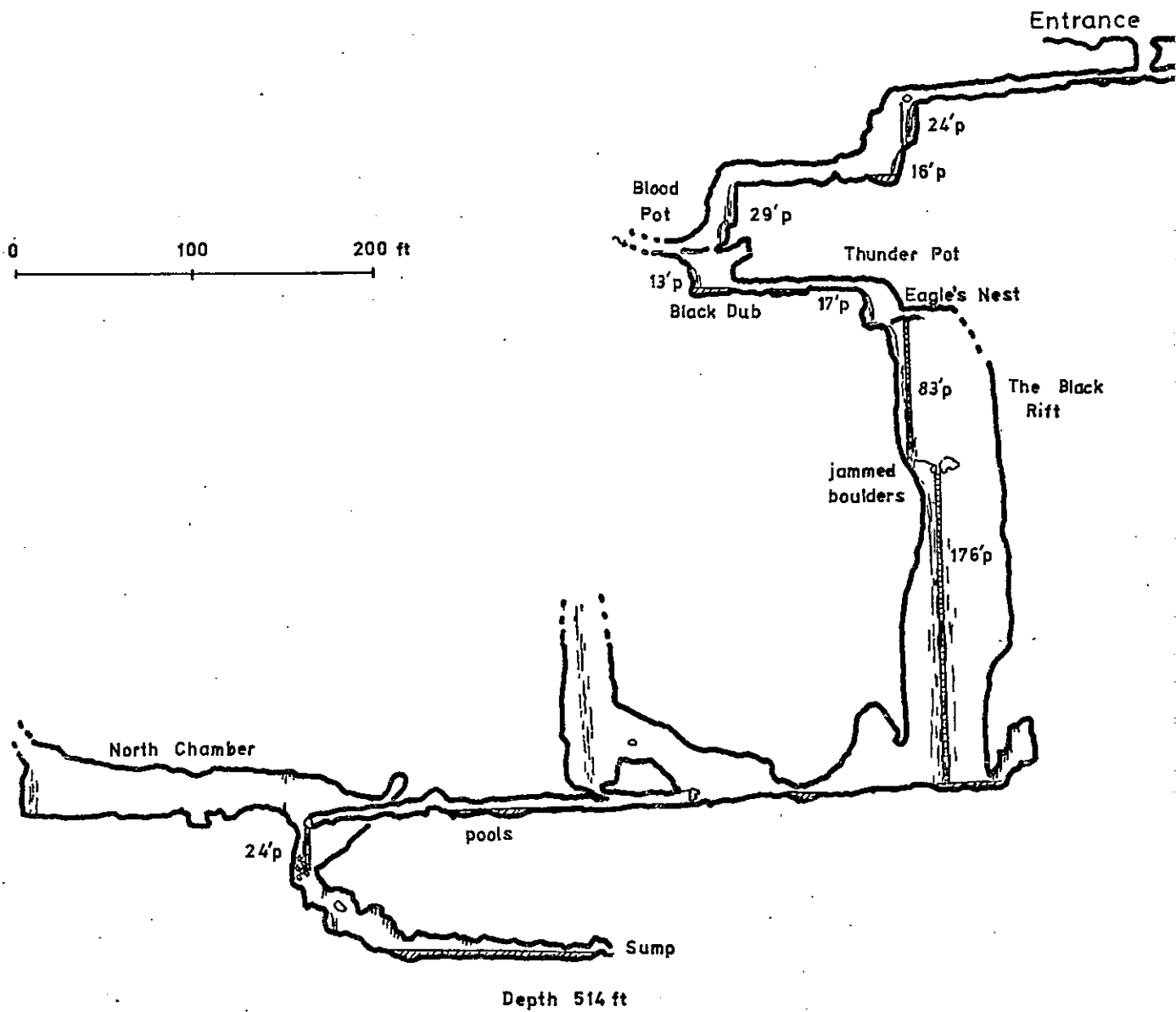
The first pitch of 40 feet is quickly reached. And with short pitches following at regular intervals the descent began to develop into a real 'fun trip'. Amusement ceased as, one by one, we arrived at the bottom of the 13 feet pitch leading to the top of the inky Black Rift. Careless banter stopped and a stone tossed into the void, hit the floor after 4 or 5 seconds. ( 4.09 secs. Ed.)

By crawling along the well protected lip to the left of the rift we arrived at the Eagle's Nest. And from here 90 feet of ladder was enough to reach a point where two huge boulders, could be seen, jammed across the shaft far below.

Following an awkward take off the ladder hung nicely away from the wall, until after 83 feet one could step out onto a wide ledge. This was followed to the jammed boulders some 20 feet away. The lower pitch was laddered directly from a rock flake on the traverse - next to the first jammed boulder. In wetter weather it would be prudent to belay the ladder to the boulders themselves for a reasonably dry descent. The climb was magnificent; the ladder hanging free between the walls of the rift ten feet on either side. Halfway down the stream, now dispersed into

# Black Shiver Pot

Chapel le Dale



a heavy rain, hit the ladder in a most refreshing manner

Resting at the bottom, one had time to look around and reflect that the limestone was of a silvery brown hue and not the hostile black one pictures from its name. It is at the bottom of the Black Rift that all the effort put into the upper reaches of the pot can be pleasantly rewarded. Individually, we trogged off under the falling water. A short duck led into a superb stream passage lined with clean flow stone. It took deceptively long to reach the last pitch since we forced back to hands and knees: The canal leading to the final sump is directly below the final pitch. All good things must come to an end and so we turned back for the return.

The pot is on truely classic lines and was thought by every one to be one of the most rewarding systems we have yet descended. Black Shiver is very high on our list of future trips.

NOTE

- 1) A whistle is essential in Black Rift due to poor acoustics.
- 2) The entrance crawl is impassable after heavy rain.

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MEANWHILE ON MENDIP

SWILDONS HOLE

The main talking point is the recent dig which now avoids Sump 6. Non-divers can now do a dry (!) trip to Swildons VII. Sump 7 is only 15ft long but is fairly tight on the far side. Sump 8 can also be bypassed, while Sum 9, the longest in Swildons, is 130 feet.

John Evans paid a visit to Sump 12, before his ear trouble, and tells of extensive blasting going on there.

Our reaction to news of a discovery in the well trodden paths of St.Pauls Series was one of amazement. The find was made by She ton and is believed to be several hundred feet long and extremely tight.

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WOOKY HOLE continues to go and there have been further discoveries in XX.

### Lost Mine Found at Rowberrow

Axbridge mebers have been exploring and surveying an extensive calamine working on Western Mendip. About a mile of passage have been entered so far. The explorers firmly believe that the mine has not been visited previously by cavers.

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Rhino Rift ; work continues and the bottom dig is now 50 feet long.

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### New Cave on Mendip ?

Perhaps we haven't exactly got a new cave, but trips down one of the old favourites will be a bit different in future. All fixed tackle, ladder, chain and other ironmongery has now been removed from St.Cuthbert's Swallet.

Primarily because of these artificial aids too many cavers have had little regard for this system. And it has tended to be regarded as something, not too strenuous, for Sunday afternoon. Visits will take a bit longer now, but it should offer some of the most sporting trips on Mendip.

..ooOoo..

Session on Prussiking - Armchair cavers will be delighted to learn of another surface activity. Beginning sometime in the autumn a series of Saturday evening caving sessions are planned at the Wookey Hole Inn.

The first session is to be on prussik methods and the main speaker, we hear, is the notable climber Ragbhir Karimjee, who will demonstrate his novel scaling technique.

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### Caves of Mendip

A complete sell out has meant an early reprint. The new edition is due out in the spring.

Young man seeks friendship with young lady, age immaterial, but must have own car. (Reply Box 155)

### Camping for All

We decided the best place to camp would be behind The Crown at Horton. But, it was two in the morning and dark, and after walking and driving several times around The Crown we still could not decide how to get in.

The next spot to try, we thought, would be along the roadside at Ribblehead. And here again we found it difficult to locate a good spot in the darkness.

" Let's try somewhere we know for sure", and a little reluctantly we drove down the road to the campsite at Skirwith Farm. Turning into the gateway we were halted by a large sign announcing -

Campsite Closed Due To Blasting At The Quarry

..ooOoo..

Our secretary wishes to deny that he was anywhere near the Lost John's Master Cave recently. Anyone thinking they saw him there was quite mistaken. He was safely in the Marton Arms building up his reputation.

Actually, it was a grand trip although there was not much water about; Thunderstorm could be descended completely dry after bailing the top pool - this was just as well if you've just had your wet suit pinched.

The trip took 7 or 8 hours according to whether or not you got lost on the way out.

..ooOoo..

The chap in a deer stalker hat and flying goggles to be seen hurtling around Mendip in an ancient, black, open tourer is probably none other than Don Vosper. He has just purchased a magnificent 1932 Riley Lynx.

### Far and Wide

I shouldn't think it happens too often, but at the end of June we had fairly large parties caving in the four major limestone areas ie. Mendip, Derbyshire, S.Wales and Yorkshire on the same weekend.



Pork a la Nordrach, a change from Vesta curry

$\frac{3}{4}$  lb. fillet pork  
half of small white cabbage  
or cauliflower  
4 medium size onions  
2 potatoes  
2 sticks of celery  
knob of cooking fat

5 pints of Somerset  
cider (rough)  
apple chutney

Chop pork into inch cubes  
and fry until lightly brown; mix in the sliced onions  
and fry until golden. Transfer contents of frying  
pan to a saucepan of boiling cider and simmer for  
at least an hour - two if you don't go caving.  
Boil remaining vegetables. Drain meat and onions and  
mix with the drained vegetables, serve with chutney.  
Drink remaining four pints of cider.

Serves two or Pete Mathews

You can't cook without heat. Don't forget  
to change the Calor gas cylinders. It is possible  
to replenish them, even on a Sunday, at the village  
store in West Harptree.

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I really had to include this little quote  
which, I think, just about sums up my own reasons  
for going caving as well.

"Once well underground," he said, "you  
know exactly where you are. Nothing can happen to  
you and nothing can get at you. You're entirely your  
own master, and you don't have to consult anybody or  
mind what they say. Things go on all the same over-  
head and you let 'em, and don't bother about 'em.  
When you want to, up you go, and there the things are,  
waiting for you."

The Badger simply beamed on him. "That's  
exactly what I say," he replied. "There's no security,  
or peace and tranquillity, except underground."

from "The Wind in the Willows"  
by Kenneth Grahame

C.R.G. NORTHERN MEETING JUNE 18th/19th

As much as anything the weekend was intended as an inspection of Whernside Manor. This is the National Scout

- o John MacMillan
- o Pete Mathews
- o John Miriam
- o ooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

Caving Centre at Dent, taken over for the weekend by the Cave Research Group. The accomodation here is somewhat on the lines of an hotel. Small points such as the fitted carpet in the bedrooms - you don't need a sleeping bag -, facilities for washing and drying caving gear make this the caver's Hilton. We received full board, and with breakfast waiting for us at eight o'clock we fitted in two long and very active days.

Simpson's Pot on the Saturday with the NPC was something of a novelty in as much as we made the descent with ladder and returned by the same route. Johnny Mac found a cache of explosive floating in one of the ducks and immediately phoned his mate Shamus O'Flynn.

After dinner on the Saturday evening we were entertained by Tony Waltham's account of his expedition to Nepal in a fire-engine. In one of his attempts at hydrology an excessively large quantity of rhodamine dye was placed into one of the more interesting sinks. It so happened that the rising for this sink was a holy spring in one of the temples. And, it further so happened that the dye came through on one of the more important local feast days. The expedition made a hurried retreat from the area early the next day.

Easegill Caverns on the Sunday and a quick visit to Easter Grotto and Gypsum Cavern. Or so we were informed, for our guide seemed to be working on the theory that we had never set foot inside the cave before. His curious route down to Thackeray Passage set us wondering. And we found him out when he announced our destination in a small chamber bearing no resemblance whatever to the Gypsum Caverns we had been expecting.

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Speaking of gypsum, a large party of polish and russian cavers have been taking part in an expedition to Optimists Cave, Podolia in the Ukraine. The cave is not so far from the border with Roumania. Some 55 km. of passage have been surveyed - the world's longest cave in gypsum.

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MEET PROGRAMME

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- 8th August - MENDIP, Rescue Practice in Longwood  
see Bill Jones
- 14th/15th Aug. - S.WALES A suspected private trip which  
you're not supposed to know about.
- 27th August  
- 19th September Yugoslavia Postojna/Zagreb/Hungary  
Hope you've got your passport ?
- 28th August YORKS Lost Johns Cavern without  
tackle.
- 18th September S.WALES Agen Allwed, accomodation for  
8 at Chelsea H.Q., Whitewalls.  
Names to Meet Sec by 18th Aug.
- 26th September Southern Council Meeting
- 16th October - MENDIP Half Yearly Meeting and Party  
Spring Clean and Treasure Hunt  
in August/Longwood.
- 30th November - YORKS Lancaster Hole, Easegill Caverns,  
Bull Pot of the Witches etc  
Accomodation for 10 at Bull  
Pot Farm.
- 13th November - DERBYSHIRE C.R.G. Annual General Meeting
- 25th December - ? : ? Ideas wanted.

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SOUTH WALES LEADERS are now :-

O.F.D. I - B.Hillman, T.Knibbs, J.MacMillan, J.Miriam  
Dan yr Ogof - B.Hillman, T.Knibbs, J.MacMillan, G.Smith

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THE END

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