

Where have all the newsletters been ?

The familiar question - gets the familiar answer. The Editor regrets that because of house moving most of the printing equipment has been mislaid - not to mention such copy as has been received. If your piece doesn't appear, I am sorry ! Editor.

Sudden respectability or not ?

"The Times" recently carried a feature on cavers asking the familiar question: 'Why do they do it?' You will be glad to know that they couldn't think of a very good reason, either.

MENDIP DESERTED AT CHRISTMAS

No one appears to be visiting Mendip at Christmas this year so there are plans for a Climb-up at Harrisons Rocks, Tunbridge Wells on Boxing Day and/or the Monday after.

HE SEEKS TO JOIN

Applications for membership received recently include Graham Gregory, of 55 Preston Road, Wembley, Middx.

YET AGAIN.....

After Christmas Pete Mathews tells us he is to organise yet another of his Yugoslavian Slide Shows (at least we'll know the place so well, we shan't ever have to go). He asks for slides to show - if you give them to him too late expect to see them and get them back in any old order.

TIME TO DIG IN YOUR POCKETS

No surprises here, it's subs time again - that is if you haven't taken the precaution of promising to pay for ever under the tax-avoidance scheme. This year Roger Wallington, the new membership secretary elected at the HYGGM is looking forward to seeing the colour of your money. He lives at 113 Upton Court Road, Slough Bucks. £2 for full members over 18, £.0. 75 for everyone else.

Half-yearly meeting report

Please do not turn in your cave

Older members prepare for a shock, times have changed, Pat Walsh was chairman of the meeting.

31 there

Beer attracted 20 full members, 4 probationers and 7 guests. Three members who were down avoided the meeting.

Only there for the beer

The promise of beer silenced all opposition to the committee's views. Ryan Pittman wanted to know if the LPF could be more profitably invested, but kept quiet having been asked where his covenant form was.

We're still there

Land searching has been unprofitable but we're still looking - building restrictions in Western Mendip aren't helping either. At present we are still happily ensconced at Nordrach.

New audit procedure

To overcome 'administrative difficulties', the annual audit will now be carried out at the end of the calendar year.

1972 MEET PROGRAMME PROPOSALS

February	Mendip, St Cuthberts
March 10/12	S. Wales, OFD, Pant Mawr
March 18/19	MENIP: DINNER/AGM
March 31..	Yorkshire, camping
April	Mendip, Rhino Rift, again
May 26/Jan 4	Clare, Eire (see Pete Mathews)
June 24/25	S. Wales, Dan yr Ogof
July 15/16	Yorkshire, Little Hull and Hunt Pots
Aug 23/Sep 9	France (see Pete Mathews)
Oct 7/8	Yorkshire, Lancaster/Easegill
Nov 11/12	S. Wales, OFD, Little Neath River Cave.

More details from John Macmillan

Trip reports

TREASURE HUNT IN LONGWOOD/AUGUST by Pete Mathews

The great spring clean/treasure hunt in Longwood August turned into a mixture of treasure hunt/dig/with some spring cleaning. Digging was brought to a halt by a sump in the new extension they vented their frustration by having a big bang in sand passage

Winners of the treasure hunt (according to the rules or otherwise) were : Derek Hancock, a roll of Agfacolour film
 Robert Holmes, An emergency food supply (bar of chocolate)
 Greg Smith, a Ponson gas lighter
 Roger Saunders, a squeegee kit (bar of soap)
 Barry Squibb, a rubber-sealed torch

Jumars in Lamb Leer

On the Sunday of the half-yearly meeting members tried-out Bill Jones's Jumars (prussiking device) in Lamb Leer. Most people managed to rise some five feet, only Greg Smith ascended the whole pitch. Bill Jones, wisely, spent the day contemplating the after effects of the aftereffects of the HYGM at the cottage.

RHINO RIFT REVISITED

by John MacMillan

John Miriam, Richard Norris and John MacMillan were one of two parties to make a "once is enough" trip down Rhino Rift.

The rift is situated about 200 yds below the entrance to Longwood on the right hand side of the valley (looking up or down depending on the weather -Ed) . It (the rift, not the valley, can easily be recognised by the large pile of spoil outside.

The cave is entered by sliding down the railway track and following the rift for about 100 ft, where a cross-rift leads to the head of the first pitch. What follows is a huge rift divided by the three pitches.

The first pitch starts in flowstone with ledges and the first 40 ft are awkward. The second ladder is rigged just below the first and it is important to move all the loose scree before descending, otherwise the lifeline will bring it down instead. The ladder is against the wall for 20ft and then hangs free. The final pitch starts at a ledge 25ft wide and 35ft long and consists of scree and loose boulders at an angle of 40° - all very unstable. This pitch

Rhino rift

from page three

is rigged 10ft from the second ladder to a Rawlbolt in the right wall. The ladder hangs over the loose blocks, then free for 10ft and then against the wall - an easy climb, easy enough except for the ever-present risk of loose boulders falling on you - or as seems likely one day - the whole ledge tumbling down. The bottom is an anticlimax and one suspects that one wished one hadn't come !

Tackle required....

- Pitch 1 100ft ladder, 40ft belay, 210ft lifeline
- Pitch 2 55ft ladder, Rawlbolt belay, 120ft lifeline
- Pitch 3 75ft ladder, 40ft belay, 160ft lifeline, - a suit of armour and preparation of 8pts Guinness would help.

A WEEKEND ON THE WAY TO BULL POT FARM

by Pete Mathews who was there

Strange places of which one has heard, but doesn't believe exist, Knutsford, Charnock Richard (no relation of Richard Charnock, Robbie Charnock or any other Charnock, this one) and Keele, were all discovered on this trip to Yorkshire (Oct 30/31).

After hitting thick fog at Coventry we stopped at every service area on the M6 and took 9½ hrs getting there arriving at Bull Pot Farm at 0530. (Forton Service Station rated a 'two Carbide-lamp' award for coffee - best on the trip).

NPC woke up some dozen MCG members and went to Earby Extension via Lancaster Pot - we missed out part so that we could go again soon! On Sunday a slow party went to Easegill via County Pot taking a survey to find the less-trodden areas - these were found mostly while looking for the trodden-areas.

From November 20 to 27 half a dozen members braved the snow-bound North again to again assault Black Shires Pot.

THE EVENING AFTER THE HALF YEARLY MEETING

Leek Soup and Boef Stroganoff from Windsor Castle (Helen responsible) featured on the menu after the meeting, not to mention Don's beer. Singing, led by Simon, resulted in sore throats afterwards. Bill Jones (qv) suffered almost as many after-effects as Bernard Reeves, who produced a

A CHANCE TO BOGGLE

From August 18 to 25 the International mining exhibition will be held at Olympia in London. Here's a chance to make your mind boggle - how to cut ten feet of passage a minute, how to run a railway in it. Give yourself a treat, learn how to 'dig' the easy way.

FROM JUNGLING CAVE TO ROWTEN AND OTHER YORKSHIRE RUMBLINGS..... from Tony Knibbs

You start from Jingling Pot following the diverted stream passage into Jingling Cave. At first crawling, and then walking as the passage deepens before a duck. For those without wetsuits there is a squeeze above.

A sporting climb downstream leads to the larger stream passage of Rowten Cave.

SHORT DROP

A short vertical entrance leads to a 400ft crawl to a small stream passage. Downstream the passage gradually enlarges and there is The Bridge, an arch formed by four jammed boulders. This is followed by the 15ft pitch which leads to a larger pitch where the stream enters Gavel Pot - an enormous shake hole several hundred yards from short drop.

MARBLE STEPS

The 100ft entrance pitch is a free climb, first 50ft with a handline, then 20 ft helped with a ladder, then back on to the wall again. This is followed by a 25ft pitch, Stink Pot and the Big Pitch (90ft). An ideal place for a boring afternoon out with nothing to see.

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CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS FOR EVERYCAVER

Let's start with the essentials - everycaver, who is ever to talk about his fantastic achievements needs the odd trophy. Why not a set of plastic stalactites - try Ann Summers' shops everywhere - also with battery electric motor. 'The tunnels I have travelled map' comes free with different colours for different routes - write to London Transport SW1. And for the caver with everything, a flat hat,

science survey

AN UNDERGROUND SPELEOLOGICAL RESEARCH STATION
IN THE RAIN.

Experiments with gravity have to be carried out in places as little subject to disturbance as possible. A new series of experiments are to be conducted in the Italian Grotte Gigante near Trieste.

Our science correspondent writes... The constant of gravitation is by far the least accurately known of all fundamental constants. This is primarily because of the difficulties of measuring weak gravitational effect.

In the 100m high Grotte Gigante the temperature is fairly constant at 11°C and the humidity is 100%. There is already a speleological research station there studying the nature of micro-seismic disturbances.

In this experiment classic principles using a torsional pendulum oscillating between two fixed masses - mass equality being adjusted to one part in 10⁶. The pendulum and its 80m long suspension fibre will finally be encased in a vacuum chamber to avoid influence by convection currents.

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COMMITTEE ** This is what it says, not some new kind of fetish

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