



COMMITTEE

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London N.11.1EB.

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WEEKLY CLUB MEETINGS: are held at the "Royal Oak" New Road, Brentford,  
Middx. (behind Brentford Football Club Ground)  
every Thursday night until closing time.

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COTTAGE: Stirrup Cup, Nordrach-on-Mendip, Blagdon, Somerset.  
ACCOMMODATION for over 30 people -all essential  
services.  
Guests charged at 20p per night (or 20p day fee)  
Guest party bookings through the cottage warden.

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RESCUE WARDEN Bill Jones: Address Above

## CHARITABLE APPEAL

As many of you already know, there has been a change in Editorship since the A.G.M. in March, and as the new editor, I would welcome your continued support in producing an interesting and informative NEWSLETTER at fairly regular intervals.

While compiling this issue, several problems have already made themselves apparent. The obvious one is that articles are in very short supply. Any editor faced with this problem has to make the decision of either producing a very thin edition at regular intervals with available material, or producing a normal NEWSLETTER whenever he has sufficient articles etc. Both these alternatives have obvious drawbacks and neither of them appeal to me. With this in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to ask all members to dig out their rusty pens, put them to paper, and send in some contributions. Any articles are welcome; under, on, or around Mendip, news of official and unofficial meets, Humour, Technical Information, General News etc etc.

In the final analysis the NEWSLETTER is only as good as the contributions the editor receives. So please give generously and help to make this a good NEWSLETTER.

As a further incentive for contributions, I intend to start a "LETTERS TO THE EDITOR" section, wherein members can air their views, news and criticism, about anything they fancy,

I propose to start this in the next NEWSLETTER, depending again on your response. I will publish all letters received providing they are not too obscene or libellous.

Also as another point of interest, there is a new design for the cover in the pipeline, although this will probably not appear for several editions yet.

Bryan Terny.

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### UPPER FLOOD SWALLET

Your hydrologically, hobservant, honorary secretary noted an interesting phenomena during a recent very week-end. A week-end when the humidity could be measured in feet, and most major caves on Mendip were flooded.

Whilst working in the dig over a period of some 3 hours, it was noticed that the water level dropped abruptly. Heavy rain fell during the night and morning, but ceased by midday when the cave was entered. Water poured from every crack and fissure and water flowed well over the DAM. At the end of the digging session, the stream had dropped to half its initial level, but the lake in the valley rose some 18" during the same period.

Assuming that no blockage of the water channel took place during this period, this indicates that little, if any, of the Upper Flood Stream is derived from the lakes and stream in Upper Velvet Bottom Valley. An interesting thought to leave you with

THE FROSTY NORTH

It would appear that access to potholes and caves in the Northern Dales is becoming increasingly difficult. Several landowners have banned caving parties or expressed their disapproval in no uncertain terms; the majority of the trouble seems to be due to pirate parties crossing the fells without prior permission from the C.N.C.C. One such group ran straight into one of Lord Shuttleworth's shoots. On Wharfedale most of the conflict seems to have been caused by a spate of rescues. So please don't make our meet secretary's job any harder by going on unauthorised trips in this area.

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INCONVENIENCED

Would all members please observe that the BOG at the cottage should be used for excretory purposes only. Please do not put tea leaves, milk bottles or mattresses etc, into the receptacle.

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WATCH YOUR STEP

I have just been informed that the 50-foot fixed ladder in Manor Farm Swallet has been removed. Persons contemplating this trip should make alternative arrangements.

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PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

- TERRY PENFOLD - "Peregrine", High Bar Lane, Thakeham, Pulborough, Sussex RH20 3EH,
- RAY BAKER - 292 Twickenham Road, Isleworth, Middx.
- LEN JOHNSON - 427 Hanworth Road, Hounslow, Middx.
- STEVE CONQUEST - 4 Woodpecker Close, Edmonton, London N9 7ND (01 804 8621).
- PETER LINGWOOD - Dry Hill Cottage, Paice Lane, Medstead, Alton, Hants. (medstead 3325)
- WILLIAM ANDERSON - 22 Priory Gardens, Ealing, London W5 1DX.
- PETER SPAIN - 5 Arden Road, West Ealing, London W.13.

EDITORIAL NOTE.

It should be made quite clear that the story "Visitor to the Dig" which appeared in NEWSLETTER No. 104 was based entirely upon fictional events and characters. Any similarity or apparent connection with actual events or living persons was purely coincidental. Apologies are expressed for any possible embarrassment caused thereby.

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The Club is short of mugs (no, not active cavers - the drinking variety) the cottage warden will be pleased to accept any unwanted mugs from members who care to donate them.

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WOULD ANY MEMBERS WHOSE SUBS. ARE OVERDUE PLEASE  
DIG DEEP AND FORK UP.

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CLUB AMALGAMATIONS

Our Congratulations go out to:

Wayne Hiscox and Anne  
and  
Pete Virgo and Anne

Who were married on Saturday 30th March.

With so many members getting married recently it would appear that a future generation of M.C.G. cavers has been assured.

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Members visiting Ilminster are asked to refrain from leaving their membership cards at the "Dolphin Hotel"

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Did you hear the sad story about the non-swimming statistician who drowned while wading across a river whose average depth was 5ft.

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NEW BOOKS

"CAVES of NORTH WEST ENGLAND", edited by A.C. Waltham, published by David and Charles. at £6 . 50.

"NEATH and DISTRICT", (400pp including 16 colour plates, 135 black and white plates, 50 maps and figures). This book is a must for those with a passion for Wales, and deals comprehensively with the area and the industries, past and present that used to go on there. Price £6 . 50  
From: Elis Jenkins, 15 Hawthorne Avenue, Neath, GLAM.

"THE COLUMNS", Large colour prints of "The Columns" in OFD TT size 26" x 38" Price around 50p according to source.  
From usual sources and S.W.C.C. and Jenny Potts, 3 Greenway, Hlland Ward, Derby DE6 3F3.

A "NEW CAVES OF DERBYSHIRE", is expected from Trevor Ford in the near future.

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Groucho Marx interviewing a father of 13 children asked him to explain his prolific output. The man stated simply "I love my wife". "I love my cigar too", said Groucho, "But i take it out once in a while".

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Who was asked to leave a bar in Bristol for Being "too casually dressed"? GR+G.

Who needs to get some smarter gear? - J+HNNY M+C.

A SILLY JOKE

A man bought a pair of Wellington boots in a large shoe shop and although he had seemed quite happy with them he came back to the shop the next day.

He was wearing the boots and walking in a most awkward-looking, knock kneed fashion.

"Is there something wrong with the boots?" inquired the assistant.

"Oh no", the man replied, "they're fine, but I wonder if I could exchange them for a pair with a longer piece of string in between?"

A NEW INSTRUMENT FOR MEASURING DISTANCES IN CAVES

The December Edition of "Die Höhle" gives an account of a new cave surveying instrument developed by Eumig for the Austrian Academy for Science.

A semi-conductor laser is used to generate pulses in the far infra-red wavelength. The pulsed beam is aimed at the target, whose distance is to be measured, and some part of the beam is reflected back into the receiver optics. The target distance is derived from the time lapse of the returning pulses and displayed on a digital read out.

The prototype instrument was capable of being used up to a distance of 20 metres, but it is hoped to extend this up to 50 metres. Measurements can be made with an experimental error of + 10 cms. The instrument weighs 1.4 Kg and measures 106 x 110 x 72 mms.

A portable laser range-finder has an obvious application in cave surveying. The biggest advantage is probably the speed with which it can be used. It also overcomes one of the cave surveyors' biggest headaches - measuring the heights of chambers, avens, and rift passages.

If you fancy a speleo - electronic project, I'll give you one guess what one-up gadget the group could use.

Pete Mathews.

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FRENCH CONNECTION

The Secretary has recently received the following letter. Perhaps one of our members would like to help out. The address (somewhere in the Home Counties) is at present being held by the editor, who will, for a small fee or some liberal liquid refreshment, pass it on to any interested party. Genuine Offers Only.

"Dear Sir,

I have seen your club advertisement in "Climber and Rambler" and would be most grateful if you would send me further details of your activities. I'm a French au pair, I'm nineteen and will be in England until the end of June.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Christine Potier.

By some incredible fluke, or was it careful planning the letter below was received by the following post from "Climber and Rambler"

"Dear Secretary,

The value of our long established Club Notes to local and National Groups is well known, and I am sure your club has benefited from it in the past. Unfortunately I understand your subscription has now lapsed and I would like to draw your attention to its renewal etc etc.

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Who, according to the log, visited "Nasser Gallery?" - H+L+N.

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M.C.G. MEET PROGRAMME 1974

23rd March Mendip Saint Cuthbert's Swallet (10 persons)  
13/14 April Yorkshire ?  
1/2 June Mendip Shatter Cave, Withy Hill Cave.  
15/16 June Yorkshire ?  
13/14 July Yorkshire Birks Fell Cave (Bull Pot Farm  
8 persons)  
28/29 September Yorkshire Lost John's System (Bull Pot Farm  
8 persons)  
12/13 October S. Wales Agen Allwedd  
2/3 November Mendip Rescue Practice

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DIARY DATES

B.C.R.A - Summer Meeting on 8th June at Whernside Manor.  
B.C.R.A - Conference, 14th - 15th September at Leeds University.  
B.C.R.A - Annual General Meeting 7th December - Wells.

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CHANGES OF ADDRESS

MIKE CHAMBERS, 212 Chertsey Lane, Staines, Middx.  
DAVID GRAVES, "Warilda", Soames Lane, Ropley, Hants.  
Phone: Ropley 2397  
ROGER WALLINGTON, 87 The Alders, Hanworth, Middx.  
Phone 898-1898

WILL ALL MEMBERS PLEASE INFORM THE SECRETARY ON ANY  
CHANGE OF ADDRESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.