

## MENDIP CAVING GROUP NEWS

A General Meeting of the Group is called for Saturday, 5th November 1977 at 4 o'clock at the Cottage, Nordrach on Mendip.

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### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
3. Announcements.
4. The New Cottage :-
  - i. Building Report - W.Hiscox
  - ii Financial Position - R.Saunders
  - iii Fund Raising - M.Cotter & A.Spain. Schemes include Book Shares, Lottery, Dances.
5. Any Other Business
6. Close of Meeting

It is hoped to end the evening with something like a Supper/Ceilidh at the Hunters. If bookings are made they will be based strictly upon those indicating their attendance in good time.

If it proves necessary arrangements will be made for providing accommodation in one of the other Mendip huts.

### NEXT MEETING

The A.G.M. and Dinner are to be held on Saturday, 15th April 1978. This is a change of date.

PRM, 21/9/77

Whata do yuo hink of ths nwslitter soo far ?

The Cottage, the present one that is

The Guest Room is full of building materials and is strictly out of bounds. As a result no guest parties may be accepted at the cottage - this includes groups of friends, work-mates etc. And, you are only welcome if you're building. Normal service will be restored just as soon as the shell is completed.

Go easy with the coke it is now £60 a ton - cottage fees may have to go up again.

Please give due consideration to Anne and Wayne who are living at the Cottage whilst their house deal goes through.

The Meese, oops I mean The Mices

Yes, we have visitors apart from A & W. Keep your food in a safe place, if you can find one, and keep the Cottage clean. All perishable food will be disposed of.

It is important to keep traps around the Cottage - so watch where you're kids are putting their fingers. We have already thrown out a chair and a mattress from the girls' room as they were occupied. We'll have nothing left if we continue.

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Since the last newsletter things have been happening on Mendip :-

A new cave has been discovered. Tynings Swallet is one of the best finds on the hill for years. A complex of galleries offering tremendous prospects. Lots of mud if you like that sort of thing. Formations of all shapes and sizes, and free hanging pitches, waterfalls..... Ha, Ha too late its fallen in.

After a period of about ten years Cow Hole has been reopened ..... and has fallen in again. You're really going to have to be much quicker than this.

The IRAN 77 EXPEDITION

News filtering through from postcards to the Hunters reveal that the expedition has been an unexpected success. We've just heard that the £12,000 expedition has actually made it to Iran after an epic 5 week trip out. During the course of their journey they broke a half shaft in Priddy and caught fire in Turkey. I imagine they will be getting ready to set off back now.

Wigmore Swallet

The latest 'ole in the ground from the B.E.C. features the M.C.G. petrol winch. You'll be glad to know that this benevolent gesture now allows us to help dig there for nothing!

Meet Secretary John MacMillan is currently Acting Meet Secretary taking over from Phil Ingold, who hasn't got a map. Phil has taken over the post of Tacklemaster following the resignation of John Miriam.

Anyone interested in taking over the post should contact the Secretary before the Meeting. Needless to say the job involves very little work during the coming year.

Full Membership Recent full members include Eric Dowley, Doug Anderson and Fred Burton.

Prospective Members are reminded that auditions are held every Tuesday night at the Cross Keys, Black Lion Lane, Hammersmith.

Address Changes Everyone seems to have moved! A new address list will come out when things have settled down a bit. Has the Secretary got your new address?

#### Situations Vacant

Deep Sea Diver for salvage work, must be able to use underwater screwdriver. Apply - Cpt. Vosper, the Finesse, Southall Warf.

An Opening exists for the right young man in the Bristol area. He must have a full set of spanners and used to wearing ear plugs. A part share in an oil well would be an alternative qualification. Apply - J.Kirby, Lisdoonvarna Rd.

#### Fund Raising

Like everyone else we are in need of money to provide the luxuries of life such as showers and bunks in the new cottage. Any ideas for boosting funds would be welcome by Arthur Spain or the Committee.

Malcolm is thinking of buying up entire stocks of some books so as to give us a monopoly situation. This is quite feasible in a few cases where a book is nearly out of print, and reprinting likely to be very expensive.

Sponsored Walk Money is still trickling in from our second walk which raised about as much as the first giving a joint total of about £900. Congratulations and thanks to Jane, who was our champion walker - I don't have the exact figures to hand, but she raised close on £100. Incidentally, both Shepton and South Wales have had sponsored walks since. Our weary walkers might take comfort from the fact that the Shepton walk was over 50 miles.

The Speleostomp The less said about this the better. The event was 'organized' jointly with the EGONS in the Bishops Barn, Wells. At the end of the evening we were delighted, and amazed, at a net profit of £4. The next day's ~~fixx up~~ party at the cottage brought in £16 with a fraction of the effort.

The weekend was a better success in that we gained an addition to the band in the shape of pick axe swinging Trisha Moore, who also plays the fiddle

## The New Cottage

If you come down to Mendip and marvel at the progress on the building since you last came down then it obvious you're coming down often enough. If you don't even know what it looks like that is even worse. At present we are just finishing work on the gable ends. It is essential that this part of the job is finished within the next few weeks.

A special request is asked of all members to get the last bit of walling out of the way before it gets too cold for cement work.

It is imperative that the gables are finished as other tasks depend upon their completion ;-

1. Woodwork etc. can be carried out by our keen members during the winter. But, they cannot proceed until the walls are finished.
2. Our grant runs out on 21st November. If the roof is not on by then we stand to lose 10% of the grant ie. £350 - we simply cannot afford to lose this money.
3. Materials are deteriorating - we cannot afford to replace them.
4. The present cottage is getting packed out with materials under store - we need the space for building workers.

All members are capable of doing something constructive. Every effort is a step nearer. For the next few weeks we need a flat out effort from everyone. We have been too lazy this summer. Don't delay build today !

If you are one of our idle members, I hope you are one of the idle rich.

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### Diary Dates

1st Oct.	B.E.C. Dinner, and beam lifting weekend, all hands.
15th Oct	Committee Meeting, on Mendip.
22nd Oct	Y.H.A. Barn Dance, Hounslow with MCG Band Caller Hugh Rippon, whoever he is
27nd Oct	Wicks' Diving Club Do with MCG Band, Caller Pete M (this is in Reading, tickets available at 30/-)
5th Nov.	Half Yearly Meeting
8th Nov.	Clannad at the National

Thursday Evening Talks at the Beehive, Brentford on the first Thursday of the month.

1st Nov.	- Ireland, Peter Mathews
1st Dec.	- Cavers and the Law, Ron Saunders
5th Jan.	- Yugoslavia. Malcolm Cotter