



Mendip Caving Group Newsletter
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MENDIP CAVING GROUP
NEWSLETTER NO 132
JUNE 1980

NEW COTTAGE REBUILDING CONTRACT SIGNED

The contract for rebuilding the New Cottage has been signed! Work will begin at the end of June, and will be completed in November. Members will be receiving a letter giving full details with this Newsletter.

REPAYMENT OF LOANS

The pleasant surprise after getting tenders back for the new cottage is that we will end the day with a small amount of money in hand. It is proposed, therefore, to begin the repayment of members loans.

At this stage the intention is to repay some of the larger loans reducing individual loans to a maximum of £100. This amounts to a total repayment of £1100.

Further repayments will be made as circumstances allow. The second phase of repayments will probably be made upon completion at the end of the year. Any outstanding loans at this stage should easily be cleared up during our first year.

If all goes well it may be possible to pay some kind of bonus or dividend on the loans, such as free bed nights or dinner tickets. Anything of this sort will only represent token interest and will come from cottage income. Clearly our accounts must satisfy both the trustees and the Charity Commission.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

The following positions have changed hands at the A.G.M.
Phil Ingold resigned as Tacklemaster and John Miriam has replaced him.
Malcolm Cotter resigned as Recorder handing over to Greg Smith.
Martin Rowe resigned as Editor and Bryan Pittman is now doing the Newsletter.

NEWS LETTER

Although members will have plenty of news to read this month the content of the Newsletter is very small. The July Newsletter will be issued on 10 July and the last date material can be accepted for publication is 26 June. Please make a good effort and send me lots of news, views, trips and gossip for inclusion in the Newsletter and lets make it a big one for July.

UNEXPECTED BANG ON SWILDON'S TRIP

Returning to caving after an absence of only three weeks, Jon Roberts went down Swildons on a Sunday with Three others recently. Progress to Swilsons 2,3, & 4, and back to the Landing was uneventful, except for the 2 foot pink ladu whale inhabiting the downstream side of Sump 1.

The party then split, three doing the Round Trip backwards, and J.R. going the opposite way. Acquaintance with the pink whale was succeeded by chance meeting with two muddy cavers at Tratmans Temple who were making their exit from the High Level Series. When chatting with them it transpired that they had been banging in Swine Puke! "Don't think any of the fumes will reach Shatter", they said. "However should you hapen to smell anything, it would be best not to hang around!"

J.R. encountered extensive bang fumes at Mud Sump at 3.45.pm and it seemed unwise to proceed since the worst was undoubtedly to come. The othe three might be forced to retreat allthe way back through theTroubles. The fumes were progressing at about 5ft per minute.

The other three emerged from the Swap at 4.15 uttering expletives galore, as they had also experienced heavy bang fumes on descending the Greasy Chimney. They had also met another group doing the Round Trip the other way at Blue Pencil Rift who said they had heared an explosion very close to them while they were in Shatter.

Whilst nothing more than anoyance was caused on this occasion, indiscriminate and inconsiderate use of Bang can be fatal! It cannot therefore be over emphasized that such activities must only be carried out when other cavers will not be present in the affected cave system, during the setting of charges and while the fumes are clearing. This period can be well over 24 hours.

S.R.T. LECTURE & DEMONSTRATION

John Miriam and Greg Smith hope to an S.R.T. Demonstration this autumn. This will then be followed by a lecture on another evening in the Beehive which will includ slides showing some of the various methods used. It is hoped the dates will be published in the next Newsletter on 10 July

CAR PARKING AT THE COTTAGE

Due to the increased use of Jim's yard by lorries it has become increasingly difficult to park cars near the cottage at weekends. Members must remember that we park on Jim's property and must give due regard to the parking and movement of the lorries. We should try to park our cars as close to the old cottage as possible and not too far out into the yard. Should space be limited then there is space in front of the new cottage site.

LLECHWEDD SLATE QUARRIES

The slate quarries at Blaenau Ffestiniog have been a popular attraction since they opened in 1972. The old routes through the mine were by tramway through the high level workings.

At the end of last year one of the inclines was opened to the public giving access to the lower part of the mine. This descends at a gradient of 1 in 1.8 into the Victorian levels some 400 feet down.

WETSUIT MATERIAL AT REDUCED PRICES!

Wetsuit material is to be ordered by Phil Ingold soon. So hurry up and give him your requirements work phone No. 01 902 6011

MEET PROGRAMME

21 June	South Wales	OFD, DYO
19 July	Yorkshire	Stream Passage
26 July	Yorkshire	Lost Johns
4 Oct	South Wales	OFD? DYO

DIGGING

Bernard Reeves and Martin Roe will be digging in Blackmoor Shaft on 8th July

CORK SPELEO GROUP

On the subject of cottages, Cork Speleo Group have just acquired a base in the Burren. They moved in at Easter. Further information is available from Cian O Se (Hon Sec), 26 Sundays Well Road. Tel 504648. But it doesn't look as though it would hold more than a tent full!

Gerry O'Connell

THIRD INTERNATIONAL POT-HOLING FILM FESTIVAL

Visitors to France during the autumn should try to take in this film festival which is held from 3rd to the 7th September in La Chapelle en Vercors.

This year for the first time, there is a section for Super 8. With the unfair advantage of the Mick Burke Scheme, British entrants should sweep the board. The Mick Burke Award was won this year by a caving film made by Mike Baxter and Nick Airey. Their film of the Picos de Europe was seen on BBC2 on 4th May in the programme 'The World About Us'.

Just as a reminder, the Mick Burke Scheme allows free loan of Super 8 cameras, sound recording gear and a supply of film. So far caving expeditions have been quite successful. I trust the Greek Islands Trip will be represented?

THE DARKNESS BECKONS By Martyn Farr (224p 90 photographs 16 colour illustrations, and maps) pub. Diadem Books Ltd. Price £9.50, or £8.50 pre-publication price if ordered before 30th June.

GROUP ORGANISATION

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WEEKLY MEETINGS These are held every Thursday evening at the BEEHIVE HOTEL
227 High Street, Brentford, Middlesex.

CAVING ACCOMODATION Available at the M.C.G. Cottage, The Stirrup Cup,
Nordrach-on-Mendip, Blagdon, Somerset.
NGR ST55/5150.5605

29 beds are available, together with cooking facilities and
other amenities including caving library. Guest bookings must
be made with the Cottage Warden.