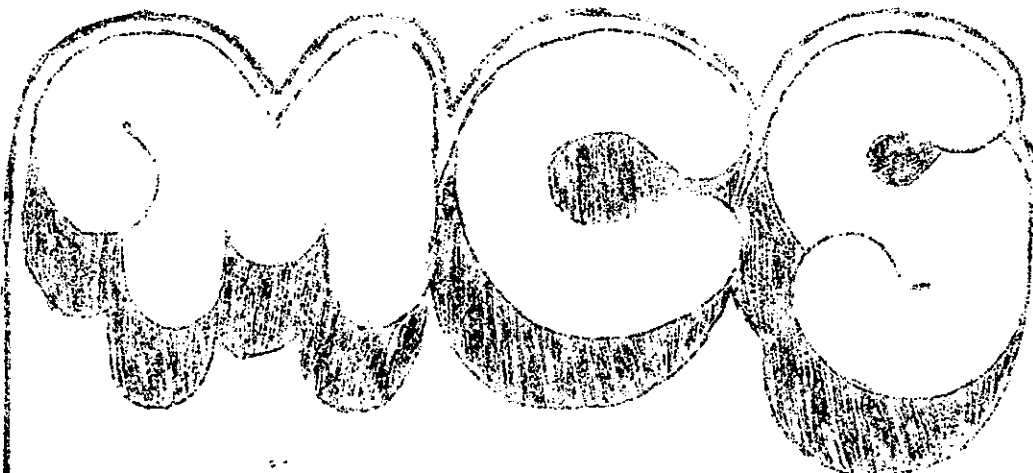




(Cricket View Rose)

Mendip Caving Group Newsletter



BULK PURCHASE AMAZING VALUE
DOUBLE SKINNED 4'x3' 4MM NEOPRENE SHEETS £7.50.
CONTACT MALCOLM COTTER

READY MADE BLACK ONE OR TWO PIECE 4MM WETSUITS £37.50.
CONTACT PHILLIP INGOLD

CAVING BOOKS CONTACT MALCOLM COTTER
THE DARKNESS BECKONS. BY MARTIN FARR.
(AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF CAVE DIVING)

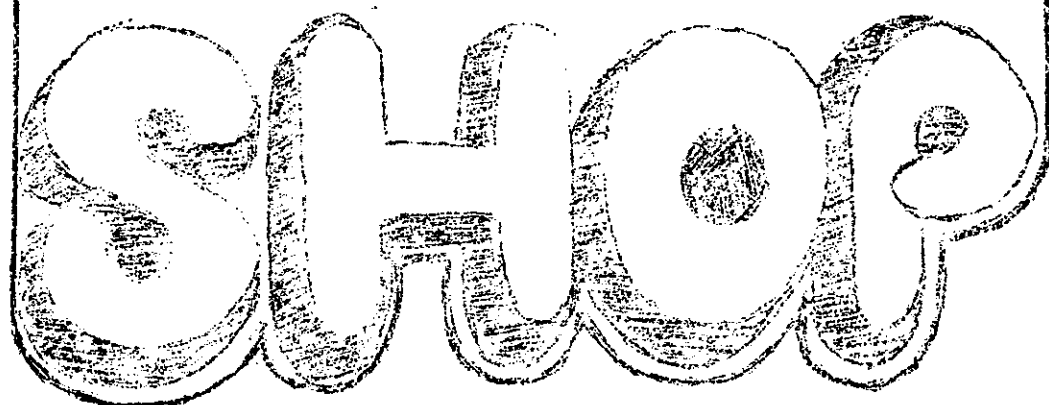
CAVING GUIDES
MENDIP UNDERGROUND. BY IRWIN & KNIBBS
DALESMAN CAVING GUIDES (AS AVAILABLE)

GEOLOGY
GEOLOGY EXPLAINED IN THE PEAK DISTRICT.
BY WOLVERTON COPE

MAGAZINES
BACK NUMBERS OF BRITISH CAVER
CAVING INTERNATIONAL
SPELEOLOGIST

SURVEYS
WE HAVE SURVEYS OF THE MAJOR MENDIP CAVES AVAILABLE

WALL POSTERS
WE HAVE A FINE POSTER OF THE COLUMNS O.F.D. 55p



MENDIP CAVING GROUP

NEWSLETTER NO 133

AUGUST 1980

BEN DORS

I was sitting quietly at my desk on Tuesday 8th July, when the phone rang. The caller was Brian Prewer to inform me of the death, peacefully, in his sleep, of Ben Dors.

Ben was buried the following Saturday at Priddy Church, the congregation numbering around 400. Possibly the largest ever at that church.

The social side of Mendip Caving owes its existence almost entirely to Ben and his acceptance of the caving crowd, who regularly filled his back room bar for many years doing all sorts of things that most landlords would not even dream of. Many long friendships owe their existence to chance meetings while singing and boozing in the happy atmosphere of the back room.

Most of our Members have spent long and happy hours in the Hunters and have got to know and have regard for Ben's character and humour.

I personally got to know Ben well due to his long interest in shuve ha'penny, Ben having helped run the local league for many years.

Very few people have the opportunity, and even fewer, the ability to make as many friends as Ben has over the years. The number of his friends and the high regard that they had for him says more for the man than I possibly could. He will be very much missed by all, and especially by his close family. We would like to offer our sincere condolences to his family and especially to Mrs Dors. They will certainly not be alone in mourning the passing of such a friendly man.

Wayne Hiscox.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Group will be held at the old cottage, Nordrach on Mendip on Sunday 24th August at 2.30pm.

The Agenda will include reports and discussion on the new cottage. The aim is primarily informative.

BARBEQUE

A Barbeque will be held following the E.G.M. weather permitting! Val Knight will be running it with Simon and it will cost 75p per adult, 50p per child under 12 and free for children under 5. Members should phone Val as soon as possible on Wells 75805 and let her know how many tickets they require so she can assess catering requirements.

NEW COTTAGE

Members will be pleased to know that work has started on the new cottage, and in fact the walls are up to the first floor level. The first Stage Payment has been paid and the second Stage Payment is due just before the E.G.M.

Fitting Out

The Committee take the unanimous view that their responsibility is to complete the rebuilding of the cottage as rapidly as possible. The intention is to contract out the greater part of the fitting out work. If our rebuilding fund runs out in the process then so be it. That is what it was intended for.

A number of the original building team have indicated that they are not prepared to take part in the reconstruction. Without a strong work force the fitting out could drag on for years. None of us want to see that happen, as the loss in income could more than off-set any savings we might make.

This income taken over the next few years makes economies now seem inappropriate. If a few members are keen to take on some of the work, such as painting, then that is good news. Certainly, we will need money to fit out the library for example. However, workers will need to guarantee a strong, dedicated team. We cannot afford to delay moving in. Malcolm Cotter is getting a decorating team together, and will be pleased to hear from you.

There is some concern perhaps, about wise investment of our building funds. The Cottage is our best investment and should be finished as rapidly and as well as we are able. One might predict that the Group will have more than it knows what to do with in five years time.

Loans

All outstanding loans have now been repaid except four for which we have no addresses. It was decided to do this as in the present financial position the Group has no right to hold on to them. Some of the loans date from five or so years ago.

Ironically though it may seem the Group may well need further loans in order to complete the rebuilding. There is nevertheless some doubt about this and we certainly would not be able to judge the figure at this stage. The aim behind the move is to wipe out all the old debts, and start afresh when, and if, we need the extra money. This will also give the opportunity for newer members to make a contribution rather than rely on the old diehards.

LAND SPECULATION

One or two members appear to have the idea of buying up vast tracts of land across Mendip. Perhaps I am being naive, but I really cannot see where the money will come from.

The Land Purchase Fund is defunct, and is in the course of being wound up. The General Fund is intended for the everyday running of the club,

and is in any case, insufficient to meet even a modest purchase.

The current building fund is fully committed to the rebuilding programme. Neither the Committee nor the Trustees have any authority for using it for any other purpose. In the circumstances, it is not surprising to find that the Committee has no plans for the purchase of further land.

How about getting the New Cottage built first?

Pete Mathews.

DINNER VENUE

Now is the time to start thinking about what sort of Dinner we want next year. Although everyone enjoyed last year's meal at the Hunters, it is well to remember that it was attended by only 50 people, which is the limit for the room. Fortunately, no more members wanted to come.

Our last Dinner was also excellent value for money. There was no service charge, and the Club made a considerable loss on ticket sales. Such a combination is unlikely to be repeated.

The sort of venue we are looking for is an hotel or restaurant within ten miles of the Cottage. The nearer the better, but the cost of the coach is unlikely to vary much. We could think of including Shepton Mallet, Midsomer Norton etc.

As an alternative, we might think of using a small village hall and caterers. This might represent better value. Think about it. Surface surveying is a good getout from caving.

USE OF ELSAN

Complaints have been received that the chemical toilet is being used without a chemical charge. Certainly, the practice appears to be common. Such behaviour might be described as funny by some, disgusting by others. The toilet is situated adjacent to the kitchen: improper use of the Elsan is DANGEROUS

THE FOLLOWING POINTS MUST BE OBSERVED

- 1 The Elsan must be emptied when half full or at the end of each week end. Contents may be poured into the Cess Pit near the New Cottage
 - 2 The toilet should be hosed out and recharge with Elsan Blue Fluid. Other chemicals such as caustic are unsuitable.
 - 3 If chemicals are unavailable, the toilet is OUT OF USE
- Failure to comply with these simple points may lead to withdrawal of the facility

MEET PROGRAMME

Attendance on the last two South Wales Meets was NIL and compensation was paid to S.W.C.C. for loss of hut fees. In the circumstances, all remaining South Wales Meets have been cancelled.

A similar situation applies to Yorkshire, where it would obviously be irresponsible for us to book up a long list of caves if no one is going up. Future Away Meets will only be booked where numbers can be guaranteed, or if there is a Meet Leader. The latter idea is not new, we used it a lot in the past, and it is common amongst other clubs.

Whatch out you will be given a Meet to organize! Many of these will be to the lesser known Mendip Caves, or a site of your choice.

5 September	Manor Farm
6 September	Walk to Harptree Coombe
18 October	Tynning Barrow
19 October	Walk to Compton Martin via Ubley

11 ...

All the above trips lead by Wayne

COOPERS HOLE

Congratulations are due to Tony Jarrett and Chris Bradshaw on their break-through in our old dig. Working at the rift at the back of the chamber, they gained access to a blocked aven. Use of a crowbar while dodging the falling debris they reached a new chamber. News is that it is still going.

Much of this comes about from a recent change of manager at Gough's Caves. Naturally, they are taking a keen interest in the new discovery. A new dig in the show cave itself is also progressing well.

GOATCHURCH CAVERN

With the numerous changes and additions to this cave, the survey is beginning to get a little dated. A prospect not envisaged by the surveyors. What are the thoughts on launching a new survey?

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Robert Page Haemophilus, Tangier Marine, Eton, BERKS.
Geoffrey Barton 5 Cricket View, Princes Road, Webridge, SURREY.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Simon and Val Knight · 14 Rowdens road, Wells, SOMERSET
Telephone Wells 75805
Pete and Trisha Mathews 15 Bellocott Close, Welwyn Garden City,
Telephone Welwyn Garden 21038 (They move on 14 August)

GROUP ORGANISATION

COMMITTEE

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Meet Secretary	JOHN MACMILLAN	11 Whitehouse Way, Iver Heath, Bucks.
	Tel (home)	Iver 652339
	(work)	Slough 33611
Cottage Warden	WAYNE HISCOX	3 Keward, Glastonbury Road, Wells Somerset.
	Tel (work)	Wells 72081 x 41
Tacklemaster	John Miriam	Glenville, Wheeler Lane, Wibley, Surrey.
	Tel (work)	01 736 1212 x 272
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	Tel (home)	01 848 3340
Editor	Bryan Pittman	36 Manor Way, Egham, Surrey
	Tel (home)	Egham 37540

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

CAVING ACCOMMODATION

This is available at the M.C.G. Cottage, The Stirrup Cup,
Nordrach-on-Mendip, Blagdon, Somerset.
NUG.R. 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.