



1982 A.G.M. AND DINNER

The A.G.M. is to be held at the cottage on Saturday afternoon 27th March followed by the Annual Dinner at 8p.m. at the Star Hotel, Wells. Tickets will be £6 each from Tony Knibbs. There is an application form attached to this newsletter. Members are advised to book early as numbers are limited. The usual coach from the cottage to the Star will be arranged, leaving the cottage at 7p.m. and returning from the Star at midnight, for which there will be an extra charge. Alternative sleeping accommodation will be arranged for those Members who habitually miss the return coach.

Nominations for Office and proposals to change the Constitution and Rules, must reach the Secretary by March 6th.

SUBSCRIPTIONS INCREASE 1982 - RESULT OF POSTAL BALLOT

A deluge of replies has been received from Members who were invited to send in their views on the proposed increase in Subscriptions for 1982; there were five in favour and one against. It therefore is obvious that a clear majority supports the proposal.

The Hon. Treasurer looks forward to receiving £10 from Full Members and Probationary Members, and £5 each for Associate Members, Members under 18 years of age, and Members Spouses.

CLUB EXPEDITION.

Tony Knibbs is currently investigating possibilities caving in the Pyrenees with a local French club, in August or September. Anyone with any preferences for caves or dates should speak to Tony.

NEWSLETTER BACKNUMBERS

Those of you may have lost backnumbers of the Club Newsletter may be able to replace them soon. The Editor and the Librarian are looking into the possibility of obtaining reprints which would be available at the current photocopying rates. The Editor still has copies instock of most Newsletters printed in the last two years, which are available free of charge to Members.

CLUB JOURNAL

As reported previously articles are now being prepared for M.C.G. Journal Number 7. It is hoped that it will be going to print later this summer. Could those of you preparing articles for publication in the Journal please contact me as I hope to start work on it from April onwards.

We still have a limited number of M.C.G. Journal No.6. available for sale contact Tony Knibbs.

Bryan Pittman

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following as Probationary Members of the M.C.G.

Adrian J Duckett, 130 St Stephens Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.
Roy A Kempstone, 13 Florence Road, College Town, Camberley, Surrey.
Phil Eliot, Belle View, Chiswick Mall, London W.4.
Paul Merron, 41 Preston Road, Upper Norwood, London, S.E.19.

DOWN WITH MEET PROGRAMMES!

Geriatric 'Greg, when am I down in the programme to do the Thrupe Lane and Aggy Aggy trips which I promised to lead?'

Greg 'I don't know off hand, but someone else is leading Aggy now. I've got you down to lead Dowbergill Passage instead!'

Geriatric (ashen faced): 'Christ, I've never even been there; and I'm not fit enough (meaning too old)!'

Greg (smiling): 'Oh, don't worry, I'll be there as well!'

Speechless, Geriatric shuffles unsteadily to the bar to buy another pint with which to drink to the downfall of all well - meaning Meet Secretaries

OUTSTANDING COTTAGE WORK

Lounge Fit tiles round Fireplace
 Discard unwanted carpets, and Apply a coat of sealer to floor
 (when car park completed)

Stair Cupboard
 Finish lagging pipes
 Paint walls when dried out

Changing Room
 Add final coat of paint (eggshell) to walls
 and all pipe work and basin brackets.

Shower Room
 Add final coat of gloss paint to ceiling (at start of a weekend when dry)

Lobby
 Paint walls (eggshell)
 Construct Rescue Cupboard beneath Charger Worktop
 Install charger (new one by D.Vosper)

Bedrooms
 Fit anti-roll boards to top bunks
 Lay lino tiles

Roof Space
 Paint loft trap (gloss)
 Fit access ladder

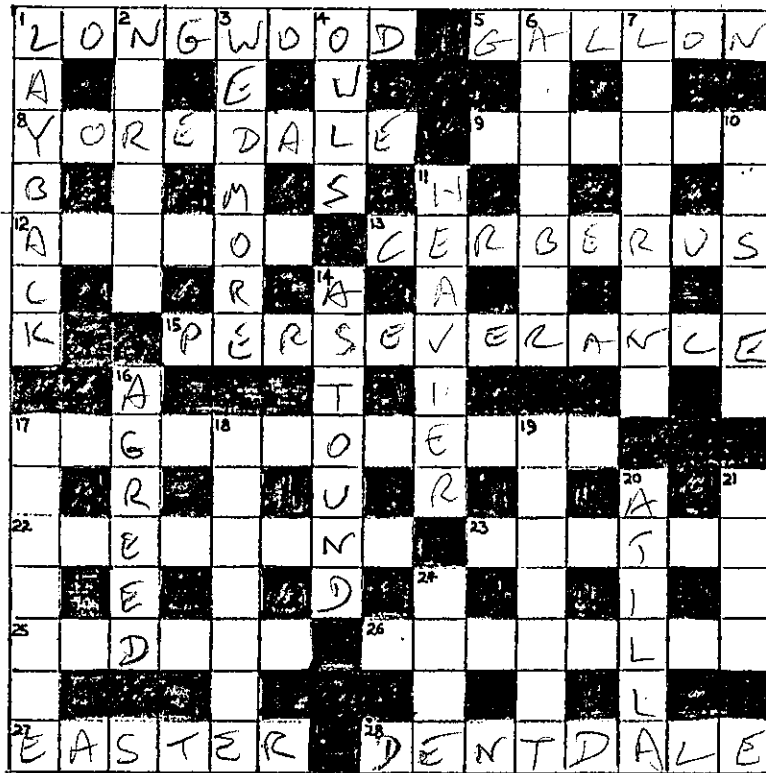
Library
 Move books into library from bedroom

External
 Finish levelling car park and spread scalplings
 Erect boundary fencing
 Construct Soakaway

General
 Install additional heating

BRIAN TERRY'S CAVING CROSSWORD NO.2

Brian will buy the first Member to send him a correctly completed crossword, Three Pints of Beer! The First Crossword Puzzle competition was won by John Pudduck who finished it as soon as he got home from the Mawson Arms! In fact Brian received it before he got his own copy of the December Newsletter!



ACROSS

- 1 A cave and valley on Mendip composed of lengthy timber (8)
- 5 A Measure of Volume to employ blame (6)
- 8 Early odd gives rise to limestone series in Yorkshire (8)
- 9 Speleologist heading north for this place perhaps? (6)
- 12 King of Phoenicia, the father of Europa. (6)
- 13 Three-headed canine residing in St Cuthberts Swallet (8)
- 15 Quality Required to bottom this Northern Pot? (12)
- 17 Emergent atom forms a pothole in Ribblesdale (12)
- 22 Giving up or giving in (8)
- 23 Colonize a place on the A65 (6)
- 25 Light source in Lancashire (6)
- 26 Simple stream forms deep cave in Chapel - Le - Dale (8)
- 27 Seasonal Grotto in Ease Gill (6)
- 28 Ted, laden with confusion produces Northern Caving Area (8)

DOWN

- 1 Strenuous climbing technique that sounds easy (3-4)
- 2 Erratic area near the allotment (6)
- 3 Mendip village sounding appropriate for the bigamist (7)
- 4 Birds from slow mix-up (4)
- 6 Cave Feature found in some firearms (7)
- 7 Precisely accurate in direction (8)
- 10 Made a home in Pine Tree (6)
- 14 What Deuterium is, compared to water (7)
- 14 Connection of gas to underground supply will amaze (7)
- 16 Gained consent from contents of meagre edition (6)
- 17 Festival equipment used by those cavers with high aims (7)
- 18 Termination of chess tournament perhaps? (3-4)
- 19 Pinnacle of achievement for some, but not for cavers! (7)
- 20 Infamous Hun (6)
- 21 Dreadful moor in Northern England (6)
- 24 Northampton Flower (4)

ANSWERS CAVING CROSSWORD NO.1.

ACROSS 1 CHAPEL LE DALE. 8 FUMIGATES. 10 SABLE 11 EMBND. 12 MINRET. 13 CUP OF TEA. 15 SCOSKA. 18 PITONS 19 FULLSTOP. 21 LIMESTONE. 23 TAPER. 24 SCREE 25 SEVERANCE. 26 AVEN. 27 ACONITE.

DOWN 2 HAMMERPOT. 3 PAGED. 4 LITTERED. 5 ARSENICAL. 6 EBBOR. 7 WESTHARPERE. 8 FRENCH POLISH. 9 SUMP. 14 FINISTERE. 16 SIT ON IT. 17 QUEEN VIC. 20 LOOSE. 22 MORIA. 23 TURIN.

-- G -- -- E -- --
EMERGENT ATOM



CAVING SHOP

FOR ALL CAVING BOARDSAILING
AND MOUNTAINEERING NEEDS

SPECIAL LOW PRICES TO MEMBERS

JAN 1982

WARMWEAR

HOLOFIBRE	DUVET JACKETS	FROM	£31 - 50
DOWN	DUVET JACKETS	"	£47 - 50
HOLOFIBRE	SLEEPING BAGS	"	£27 - 00
DOWN	SLEEPING BAGS	"	£62 - 00
THERMAL PILE	SLEEPING BAG LINERS	"	£16 - 00

WETSUITS

SPECIAL PRICE 2-PIECE 4MM DOUBLE LINED WITH
EXTRA ZIPS ON ANKLES AND WRISTS (LADIES SIZES ONLY) £33 - 00

SINGLE LINED 4MM JACKETS	£24 - 50
SINGLE LINED 4MM LONG-JOHN'S	£30 - 50
SINGLE LINED 4MM TROUSERS	£20 - 00

SINGLE LINED 'ECONOMY' JACKETS	£22 - 50
SINGLE LINED 'ECONOMY' TROUSERS	£15 - 00

SINGLE LINED 6MM JACKETS	£31 - 50
SINGLE LINED 6MM LONGJOHN'S	£38 - 00

TO OFF SHORE NORTH SEA STANDARDS	
DOUBLE LINED 6-7MM JACKETS	£40 - 00
DOUBLE LINED 6-7MM LONGJOHN'S	£49 - 00

4MM SINGLE LINED SOCKS	£5 - 00
6MM SINGLE LINED SOCKS	£6 - 10
6MM DOUBLE LINED SOCKS	£7 - 50

BOOKS

GEOLOGY OF THE PEAK DISTRICT	£ 2 - 00
BRITISH CAVES AND POTHOLES. BY DEAKIN	£ 4 - 95
CAVING AND POTHOLING. BY JUDSON	£ 1 - 95
CARLSBAD CAVES AND A CAMERA	£ 5 - 25
SPELEOLOGY, THE STUDY OF CAVES	£ 2 - 95
CAVING MANUAL. LOVELOCK	£ 7 - 95
THE DARKNESS BECKONS. M.FARR	£10 - 50
DOWN TO A SUNLESS SEA. BOON	£ 8 - 50
NORTHERN CAVES VOL I WHARFEDALE & NIDDERDALE	£ 2 - 50
VOL III INGLEBOROUGH NEW EDITION	£ 3 - 25
VOL V THE NORTHERN DALES	£ 2 - 50

ODD VOLUMES OF CAXTONS ENCYCLOPAEDIAS	60
CHILDRENS ENCYCLOPAEDIAS	60

249 FELTHAM HILL ROAD, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX.

TEL. ASHFORD (69) 52643

31 SPRING LANE, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTS.

TEL. 0442 42029

G.B. CAVE

The 'fixed' ladder to Ooze Passage from The Gorge has either been taken down or has fallen down. Access to Ladder Dig Extension is now difficult due to a number of factors. The second rawlbolt is not safe. The eye has been opened out so that it resembles a 'question mark', reducing its strength. The eye is also very thin where it takes the krab, and the bolt itself is loose. THIS RAWLBOLT SHOULD NOT BE TRUSTED. The chain which facilitated the climb over the lip to Ladder Dig is at least 6" shorter than it used to be (due to rusting?). To reach the final bolt it is necessary to loop a rope over it or use part of the old fixed ladder to reach above. It is probably safer to take your own bolts (It's certainly quicker and easier.) There is a risk that further use of the second rawlbolt will lead to its failure and possibly an accident.

A six foot high barbedwire fence was erected around the 1968 'Great Depression' at the beginning of December, for safety and to discourage access via the depression. There has been general abuse of G.B. Cave in recent months, and U.B.S.S. and Bristol Waterworks are concerned about the disregard for the cave and access procedures. Members are reminded that guests must have valid permits to enter this cave. Temporary C.S.C.C. Permits are available in the 'lectern' in the cottage. Always lock the cave after entering and after leaving, to prevent unauthorised use.

Martin Rowe

UBLEY HILL POT - PROGRESS REPORT

The slumped material over the entrance has been removed, and the entrance shaft measured for a concrete pipe. This pipe will be fitted in the very near future having been delayed by the recent heavy snow falls. Please note that the farmer would prefer people not to enter the cave until the work is completed. (So if you want to go down, you have to help with the work!)

On a recent visit, Martin Rowe was almost irretrievably fixed in Ubley Hill Pot! having tried for half an hour to get through the squeeze below the entrance pitch. There is no truth in the rumour that Ian and Co. were about to concrete Martin in to provide a solid support for the entrance pipe!

Martin Rowe

AGEN ALLWEDD

The experimental system of issuing keys via wardens on the spot was abandoned due to the demands on people's time and travel costs. On more than one occasion the key warden was the only visitor to the area on a particular weekend. For the present the postal system is being used. Next October applications from clubs who have visited the cave at least four times in the year are to be invited to purchase keys on a permanent basis and to renew their entitlement annually. Carbide is now banned even as a form of secondary lighting. This appears to be the only way to control the dumping of carbide in the cave. This is to be a condition of access in future.

PAUL ESSER MEMORIAL LECTURE 1982

The Paul Esser Memorial Lecture 1982 will be given by Julian Griffiths on "Expeditionary Caving". It will take place at 8.15pm in the usual place, the large Physics Lecture Theatre in Tyndall Avenue, Bristol University, on Wed 17.2.82. Admission is free, but those of you who live some distance away, and would like to reserve seats, should write to Dr. O.C. Lloyd, Withey House, Withey Close West, Bristol. BS9 3SX.

WARNING THE POSSIBILITY OF KARABINER FAILURE AT LOW LOADS

A recent report made to the BMC Technical Committee by D. Hutchinson (U.M.I.S.T.) shows how some karabiners can be considerably weaker along the major axis in certain situations, than the quoted load carrying capacity which is often stamped on them.

A karabiner with the keeper open can be considered as a simple 'hook' and is much weaker along its major axis in this condition. The U.I.A.A. (which amongst other things sets standards for mountaineering equipment) require that a karabiner be able to withstand 900 kilogrammes force (approximately 1 ton) with the keeper open. This requirement has led to many D-shaped models, as opposed to the generally weaker oval shape. Precautions are usually taken to guard against the keeper being open, by employing a screwed sleeve to secure the gate, and by placing karabiners so that the gate is not forced open by contact with the rock. The possibility of the keeper being open whilst the krab is under load can easily occur through vibration. If a krab is 'slammed' against a rock as it starts to support a falling climber, the spine comes to a rapid halt and the momentum carries the gate forward overcoming spring resistance. Thus the krab is effectively a 'hook' as it receives a load perhaps greater than it can hold in this form.

The effect can easily be demonstrated by wrapping a layer of insulating tape or some such around the spine of the krab, and then striking the spine of the krab sharply against your thigh. The tape will be marked by the gate striking against the spine of the krab.

Where any karabiner is used in a situation where it may be shock loaded and impacted as a result, it would be advisable to use a screwgate type karabiner with the screw done up, especially if the krab is of an oval design.

N.C.A. Equipment Committee

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE

On 18.1.82, Mr Arthur Lewis, M.P. for Newham North West asked the Secretary of State for Social Services Mr Geoffrey Finsberg what cost was incurred by his Department in rescuing the potholers in Yorkshire on Sunday 3 January; and whether action has been or is to be taken to claim these costs from the persons concerned.

Mr Geoffrey Finsberg: No costs were incurred directly by the Department. Information on costs incurred in the National Health Service is not held centrally: the hon. Member may care to contact Yorkshire regional health authority and North Yorkshire area health authority. There are no powers to enable such costs to be recovered from the patients concerned.

Mr Arthur Lewis asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will introduce measures to ensure that the costs of hospital treatment and care given to potholers and others who take deliberate risks outside their normal occupations and who consequently cause additional costs to be borne by public funds in cases where injury occurs, may be reclaimed from the insurance companies of those persons in a similar manner to the way in which repayment is made to the health service by the insurance companies of motorists involved in accidents.

Mr Geoffrey Finsberg: No.

M.C.G. MEETS 1982

DATE	VENUE	Leader
20 Feb	Leicester/Pippikin (Yorks.)	G. Smith
27 Mar	St Cuthberts	A. Spain
17 Apr	Poachers Cave (N. Wales)	B. Pittman
15 May	Swildons 9	J. Roberts
26 Jun	OFD/Dar-yi-Ogof (S. Wales)	D. Samuel
17 Jul	Lamb Leer	D. Walsh
14 Aug	Giants Hole (Derby)	G. Barton
18 Sep	Douber Gill Passage (Yorks)	A. J. Knibbs
16 Oct	Rhino Rift (SRT)	J. Miriam
20 Nov	Agen Allwedd (S. Wales)	P. Ingold
18 Dec	Eastwater - Primrose Pot	I. McKechnie

COTTAGE BOOKINGS

JANUARY

29 Dave Gibson

FEBRUARY

5 MEMBERS WEEKEND

12 Dave Higinson Ealing College

19 MEMBERS WEEKEND

26 Tony Srell King Edwards School

MARCH

5 MEMBERS WEEKEND

COTTAGE WORK WEEKEND Martin's Barrel

12 Dave Higinson Ealing College

19

26 A.G.M. AND DINNER

JUNE

4 MEMBERS WEEKEND

COTTAGE PARTY AND WORKING WEEKEND

NOTE

On 5th March Work Weekend three jobs in particular will be tackled. The floor tiles in the bedrooms, see Phil Ingold. Tiling the fire surround see Don Vosper, and the tree stump in the car park is to be removed see Bryan Pittman

1982 MENDIP CAVING GROUP ANNUAL DINNER
27 MARCH AT THE STAR HOTEL WELLS. 8 P.M.

TICKET APPLICATION

TO
A. J. KNIBBS
23 WINERN GLEBE
BYLEFT
SURREY

PLEASE SUPPLY _____ TICKETS @ £6 EACH FOR WHICH
I ENCLOSE CHEQUE/POSTAL ORDER FOR £ _____

SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

MENDIP CAVING GROUP COMMITTEE

SECRETARY

TONY KNIBBS

23 Winern Glebe
Byfleet, Surrey
Byfleet 43875
01.546.7741. Ex 377

TEL (HOME)
(WORK)

TREASURER
CO OPTED

ARTHUR SPAIN

57 Guildford Road,
Broadbridge Heath,
Horsham, Sussex.
Horsham 64068
Crawley 542251 Ex 60

TEL (HOME)
(WORK)

MEET SECRETARY

GREG SMITH

16 Nield Road,
Hayes, Middlesex
01.848.3340.

TEL (HOME)

COTTAGE WARDEN

WAYNE HISCOX

3 Keward, Glastonbury Road,
Wells, Somerset.
Wells, 72081 Ex 273

TEL (WORK)

TACKLEMASTER

PHIL INGOLD

31 Spring Lane,
Hemel Hempstead, Herts.
0442.42029

TEL (HOME)

RECORDER

JONATHAN ROBERTS

17 Kent Avenue,
West Ealing, London, W13 8BE
01.997.2916
01.278.3825

TEL (HOME)
(WORK)

EDITOR

BRYAN PITTMAN

36 Manor Way,
Egham, Surrey.
Egham 37540

TEL (HOME)

CAVING ACCOMMODATION

MENDIP CAVING GROUP
NORDRACH COTTAGE
CHARTERHOUSE ON MENDIP
BLAGDON,
BRISTOL BS18 6XW

N.G.R. ST/5147.5605

GUEST BOOKINGS:-

To be made with the Cottage Warden

THURSDAY MEETINGS

THE FOX & HOUNDS AND MAWSON ARMS
CHISWICK LANE SOUTH, LONDON, W.4.
FROM 8.30P.M.

A321

