



## BISHOP COMES TO TEA ...

The Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Right Reverend John Monier Bickersteth, paid a surprise visit to Nordrach Cottage on Sunday morning, 14th February. He arrived, in working regalia, at about 11.40. Members who had been toiling through a pleasantly warm morning, spreading car park chippings, and that weekend's guests from Ealing Technical College, were greeted cheerily by the cry: "Hello, I'm the bishop".

Introductions over, he explained the motive for his visit - curiosity. Having seen a building gradually grow up on the site over the last few years, then one day seeing what he thought was a heap of rubble, and more recently seeing the building intact again, he and his wife were beginning to wonder whether the rubble had just been imaginary.

The saga of the cottage was recounted to him, and it was entirely appropriate that the cottage architect, Roger Wallington, was on hand to explain matters. The Bishop expressed particular interest in the efforts of the members to establish a permanent headquarters. The discussion then moved on to caving activities.

Tea was served, followed by a brief tour of the cottage and the site. Members pointed out the location of the cottage in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Ken's lorry yard). Finally some photographs were taken by Ealing Technical College members, for the record, followed by farewells all round.

## ... BUT MISSES HIS KNIBBS

The Hon. Secretary, sad to relate, had gone for a morning constitutional around Blackdown and Burrington Combe, and so missed the Bishop by little more than half an hour. Could there be a moral in this ?

*14/2/82 + Don Scott Wells, The Palace, Wells. Somerset*

*(extract from the visitor's book)*

MENDIP CAVING GROUP COMMITTEE

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	TEL (HOME) (WORK)	
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	TEL (HOME)	
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	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.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the A.G.M. of the M.C.G. to be held at the cottage on Saturday afternoon of 27th March there will be a discussion of cottage development and use over the last year and future heating and extension plans. Members are reminded that all committee offices are up for re election, but Wayne Hiscox, who has been Cottage Warden for 13 years no less! and Bryan Pittman who has been Editor for a mere two years, will not be standing for re election to any committee posts this year.

You are reminded that Nominations for Office and Proposals to Change the Constitution and Rules of the M.C.G. must reach the Secretary by March 6th. A proposal form is included with this Newsletter.

## ANNUAL DINNER

Bookings are going very well and 50 tickets have been sold already! So hurry up and book if you don't want to miss it. There is a booking form included with this Newsletter.

## COUNTRY RESIDENCE

If you don't know by now Mr Don Vosper Esquire, long standing member of the M.C.G. now has a country residence to compliment his town apartment in Ealing. The address is :-

5 Franklin Terrace  
Farrington Gurney  
Bristol  
Avon

The Editor appologises for the delay in publishing Bon's new address.

## GONE UP THE VALLEYS

Bob Varley will be staying at

53A Robert Street  
Ynysybwll  
Nr. Pontypridd  
Mid Glamorgan  
South Wales.

for the next year while he is on a course, but now expects to be coming more regularly.

## EQUIPMENT FOR GERIATRIC CAVERS

(See last edition)

"You are going to Inglesport aren't you?"

"I'm glad, you can get me some slip on knee pads and don't forget the elbows".

## NEW LADDER

Could Phil have Members comments on the new ladder, the one with the small 'C' links, as soon as possible. He wants to proceed with a large purchase of this type if it is proving satisfactory in use.

## FOREIGN NEWS

Sparing no expense, the M.C.G.'s very own roving reporter has just returned from his first assignment at Dublin University:-

Hello, all you avid readers - fantastic news. As you will have noticed by now, the club newsletter is sporting a crossword-puzzle compiled by that pseudo-intellectual twat Bryan Terry. Well, all that crap about, anagrams, pseudonyms, antonyms and synonyms is now obsolete.

The Irish with their firm grasp of the English language (more a stanglehold really), coupled with their increasing search to make things simple, have come up with the ultimate in crosswords. It truly reflects the devious Irish mind - its totally blank. That's right, no black squares at all, and for your edification, here it is on the page opposite.

Well you'll be hearing from me again with more startling revelations in your next issue.

Byran Tryer

## VOTING FEVER

No, not the election the Grampian Speleological Group may well be contesting north of the Border (would you vote for Gramps or the Alliance?), but our own home & grown hustings on 27th March at the Annual General Meeting. It's not worth us hiring our own psephologist or Gallup survey as no one yet knows the full list of candidates, but those who prefer entrails or seaweed may find some interest in the accompanying chart of past and present office holders prepared by Jon Roberts.

## CROSSWORD NO. 2

The response has been marvellous, several replies had one answer wrong only and one had three wrong, but no one has got all the answers correct yet. Better luck with crossword number 3.

## MALCOLM - 'A THEORY'.

REDUNDANCY SYSTEM This will rely on at least four members of the group being unemployed due to a slump. The members should be offered free lodging at the cottage and a collection made from the still earning. The amount being up to 5/- per week. The cash would pay for food and beer (not too much beer!) and materials for cottage improvements. Digging should also be done at Coopers. With dole this would retain them at the standards they deserve.

From M:C.G. Newsletter No.5 (New Series) November 1961

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to John and Helen for their forthcoming marriage.

## RESCUE PRACTICE

June 5/6 is being considered as a date for a rescue practice. The object of this practice will be to rescue someone with a suspected broken femur from the bottom of G.B. Substantial support will be required.

CROSSWORD NO.3

ACROSS

- 1 The study of some cave fossils could lead openly to a goal (13)
- 9 Stetching things when encountering these climbing problems! (9)
- 11 Just the place for me in Somerset! (5)
- 12 Inundate (5)
- 13 Wall inset provides a southern sink (7)
- 14 The remains of this creature could be found persuing 1 across (8)
- 16 A bird heading right becomes an accurate fellow (6)
- 19 Insect in the foreign motor industry? (6)
- 20 Cave near White Scars - enter with risk! (8)
- 22 Dissension between Pachyderms on Mendip (5-4)
- 24 Method of locomotion much favoured by Hensler (5)
- 25 Swigged ale at the end of the Pennine Way (5)
- 26 A single bid, without and old penny, used as a method of tackling a pitch (9)
- 27 Deigning to study going down a pitch (13)

DOWN

- 2 Spend time alone making a cave formation (9)
- 3 Description of a little chap hiding in the garden (5)
- 4 Dutch Navigator (6)
- 5 Someone to depend on (4-5)
- 6 Large number after a key become a spirited person (5)
- 7 Beg for free rug beneath some foreign mountains (13)
- 8 The science of the evolution of landscape (13)
- 10 Inventor of the hut, perhaps (6)
- 15 Resurgence near Wells, sounding like a drab garment (7)
- 17 Want of the comforts of life (9)
- 18 Girl in the vessel glides about (6)
- 21 Descriptive of giants, or a cockney's comment about Primrose Path and Bang Squeeze (6)
- 23 Final and perfect stage of insect after all metamorphoses (5)
- 24 A hundred starting a dire mix-up, wept (5)

First member to send Brian Terry a correctly completed crossword will be bought three pints of beer!  
 Address 54 Brunswick Crescent, New Southgate, London, N11 1EB

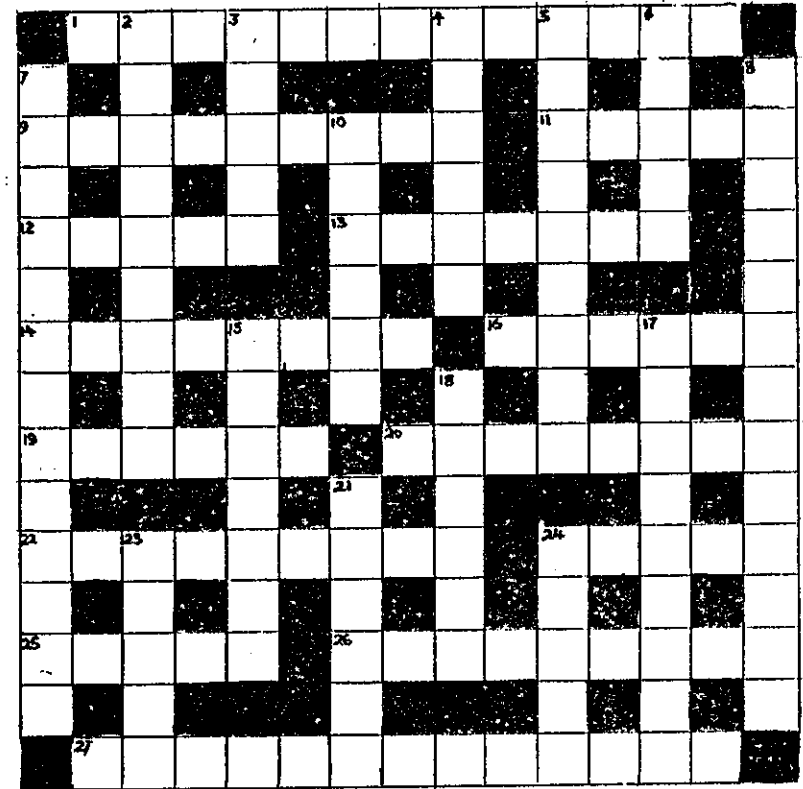
ANSWERS CAVING CROSSWORD NO.2

ACROSS

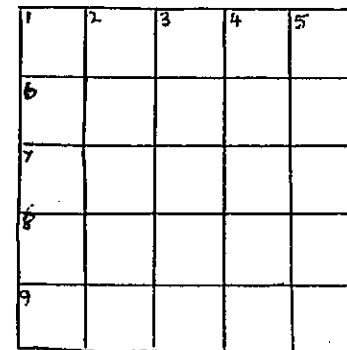
- 1. Longwood 5 Accuse 8 Yoredale. 9 Cavern. 12 Agenor. 13 Cerberus.
- 15 Perseverence. 17 Magnetometer. 22 Yielding. 23 Settle. 25 Oldham.
- 26 Meregill. 27 Easter. 28 Dentdale.

DOWN

- 1 Lay-back. 2 Norber. 3 Wedmore. 4 Owls. 6 Chamber. 7 Unerring. 10 Nested.
- 11 Heavier. 14 Astound. 16 Agreed. 17 Maypole. 18 End-Game. 19 Everest.
- 20 Attila. 21 Fell. 24 Nene.



IRISH CROSSWORD



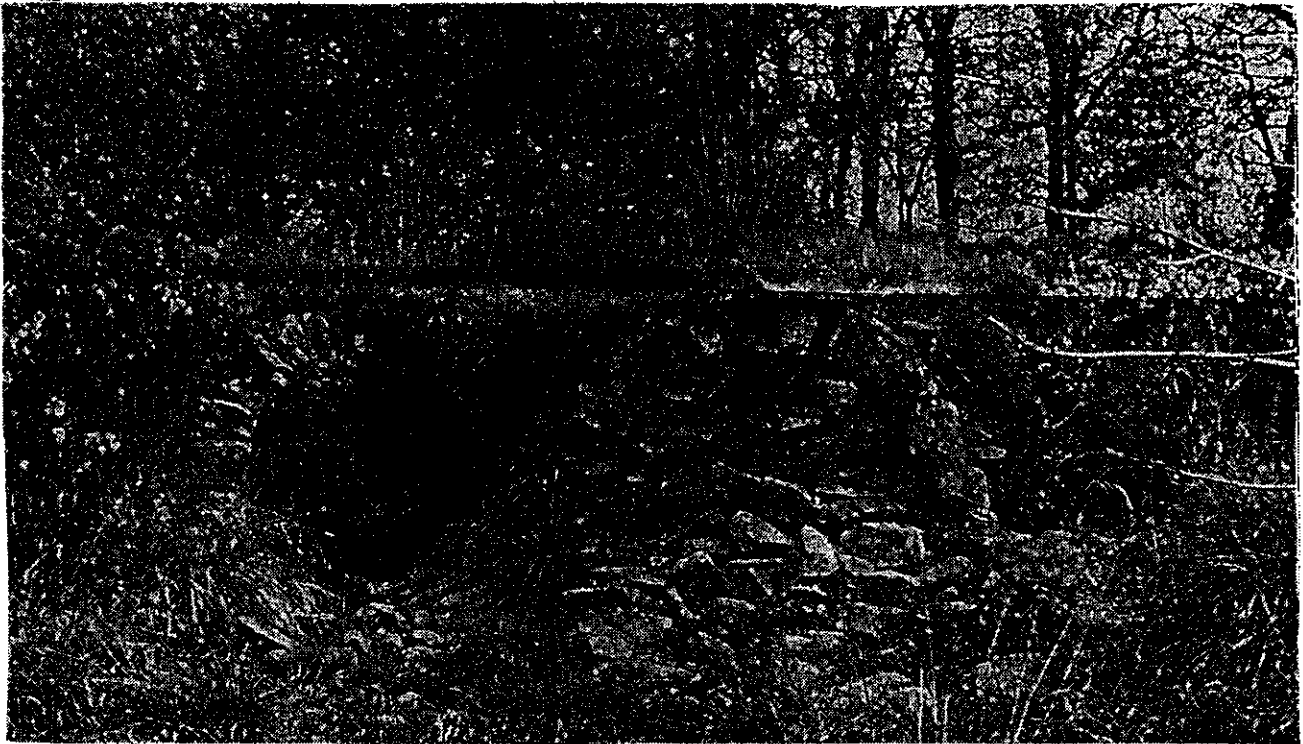
ACROSS

- 1 To hit with a closed fist
- 6 A fruity, spicy drink
- 7 A Suffolk draught horse
- 8 Judy's partner
- 9 To perforate tickets

DOWN

- 1 Vegetables
- 2 To employ
- 3 Farmyard poultry
- 4 Repetative Spaniard
- 5 Often Dropped by Cockneys

ANSWERS  
 ACROSS 1 6 7 8 9 Punch  
 DOWN 1 2 3 4 5 Self explanatory



Charterhouse flues, which the Mendip Society is trying to repair.

## Charterhouse flues got the blues

ANYONE who lives in and around Mendip or who has a love for this beautiful area is invited to contribute to the Mendip Heritage Fund established by the Mendip Society to collect donations and distribute them in connection with the conservation of aspects of our heritage within the Mendip area and its environs.

The first project to benefit will be the Charterhouse Flue Restoration Project.

One such remnant is a dilapidated set of 19th century stone flues, hidden in an obscure corner of Mendip. Yet these flues are a symbol representing 2,000 years of history.

They are part of the lives of our ancestors and they had an important role to play in the final phase of an industry which helped to change the face of England; an industry which participated in a unique and fascinating code of law, ranking alongside that of the more famous Stannery Law of the Cornish tin mines.

An echo of this industry was brought into our modern lives with the cadmium scare in Siphham.

While there are other remnants of the mining industry on Mendip, it is to Charterhouse that we must look for the earliest developments and origins.

The Roman historian Tacitus suggested that one of the main reasons for the invasion of Britain which took place during the reign of Claudius, and endured for as long as the British Empire, was its mineral wealth.

Numerous "pigs" of lead have been found bearing inscriptions from this period, the earliest dated AD 49, a mere six years after the arrival of the Roman troops.

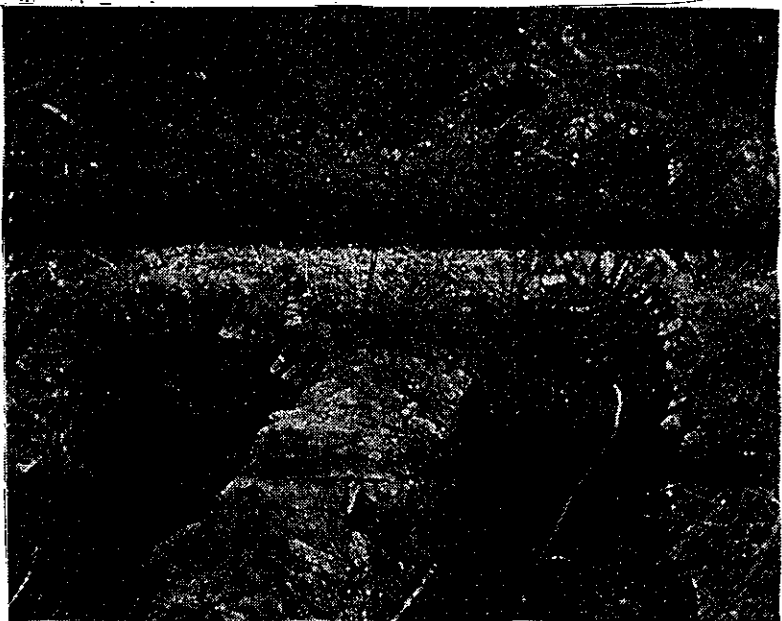
Lead was almost certainly mined on Mendip before the Romans arrived as is shown by analysis of lead in the Iron Age net sinkers in the Glastonbury lake villages.

It is unlikely that mining ceased on Mendip after the departure of the Romans; but no further proof exists until the 12th century. From then until the end of the 19th century activity fluctuated but was continuous.

During the 16th century, or earlier, the area became divided into four Liberties, each belonging to a Lord Royal, who conducted his own court, subject to a code of law which grew up based on that of other lead mining areas.

### EXTENSIVE

These Liberties were: West, with a mine at Charterhouse; Harptree, with a mine at Smitham Hill (above East Harptree); St. Cuthbert's, with a mine at Priddy (the Liberty of the Bishop of Bath and Wells) and Chewton, with a mine at Chewton (the Liberty of the Waldegrave family).



A closer look at the Charterhouse flues.

This whole area was probably more extensive than the original area known to the Romans, although it is possible that they also mined at Priddy.

Many Cornishmen chanced their luck on Mendip, bringing expertise from the tin mines and the ability to extract further lead from slag which had often been worked more than once before.

One of the major problems they encountered was the fact that the smelting process they used required a forced draught which caused a large proportion of the metal to be volatilised, so that it passes off in the form of a vapour.

### SORRY

Most of the lead, would of course be lost if something were not done to prevent this. So long horizontal flues were

built along the surface of the ground through which the smoke had to pass, depositing much of the lead on the walls and ceiling as it did so. This would then be scraped off and resmelted.

In his classic work on The Mines of Mendip, J. W. Gough stated that the ruins of these flues, "often in rows, side by side, are still conspicuous on the hills."

Unfortunately this is no longer true and the flues at Charterhouse which do remain are in a sorry state of repair.

These flues are a part of our national heritage. It is important to preserve them. They represent far more than their 100 years or so of life would at first suggest.

They are one of the few memorials to this long and

exciting history which has influenced the lives of all who can trace their ancestry back through Mendip's past.

In recognition of this fact the Mendip Society is asking for contributions towards the repair of the flues. Already they have been promised a substantial contribution from the Department of the Environment and have the full and enthusiastic support of Somerset County Council.

Anyone who would like to contribute to this work should send donations to:

John G. Page, The Mendip Heritage Fund, Arlington House, The Barrows, Cheddar, Somerset. Tel. Cheddar 742992.

## COTTAGE BOOKINGS

### FEBRUARY

26 Tony Snell King Edwards School

### MARCH

5 MEMBERS WEEKEND (COTTAGE WORK WEEKEND)  
12 Dave Higinson Baling College  
19 Dave Gibson  
26 A.G.M. AND DINNER

### JUNE

4 MEMBERS WEEKEND. COTTAGE PARTY + COTTAGE WORK WEEK END +(PRACTICE RESCUE?)

## MEMBERSHIP CARDS

These are now being issued to paid up members by Arthur Spain..Those wishing to participate in any of the trips should make their arrangements through the published Meet Leader.

## DOUBER GILL PASSAGE

"I would like you to know it was intentional" said Greg to Tony in explanation of Tony's selection as Leader for Douber Gill Passage

## M.C.G. MEETS PROGRAMME 1982

	LEADER	BASE
27 MAR STCUTHBERTS	A. Spain	
17 APR POACHERS CAVE	B. Pittman N.W.C.C.	
15 MAY SWILDONS 9	J. Roberts	
26 JUN OFD/DAN-MR-OGOF	D. Samuel S.W.C.C.	
17 JUL LAMB LEER	D. Walsh	
14 AUG GIANTS HOLE	G. Barton Orpheus	
18 SEP DOUBER GILL PASSAGE	A. Knibbs N.P.C.	
16 OCT RHINO RIFT (SRT)	J. Miriam	
20 NOV AGEN ALLWEDD	P. Ingold	
18 DEC EASTWATER - PRIMROSE POT	I. McKechnie	

## ST CUTHBERTS 27 MARCH

Would members wishing to go down St Cuthberts on 27th March should contact Arthur Spain as soon as possible as numbers are limited to two parties of six.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

J. P. W. Birch 47 Chichester Court, Chessington Rd, Ewell, Surrey.  
Julie Spain 'Waitangi' 57 Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, Sussex.

## TRAINING TRIPS DUE

Steve Taylor, Bill Ducklin, Bob Varley, Richard Housego, David Howe, Mike Bygrave, Derek Walsh and Paul Merron, all have Training Trips outstanding. As soon as they are satisfactorily completed they can then be considered for Full Membership of the M.C.G.

# M. C. G. COMMITTEE & OFFICERS

	SECRETARY	RECORDER/ LIBRARIAN	TREASURER	TACKLE MASTER	MEET SECRETARY	EDITOR	COTTAGE WARDEN
1955	Malcolm Cotter	Malcolm Cotter	Geoff Wingrove	M. Burbidge Tony Crawford	Dennis Hemmings		
		Leslie James	Derek Holmes Malcolm Cotter		Steve Hunt (Tony Knibbs)	Tony Davies	
1960	Leslie James	Tony Knibbs	Leslie James		Malcolm Cotter	Tony Knibbs David Harle	
	Richard Woollacott	Robbie Charnock	Robbie Charnock	Jack Green	(Bob Knott)		Bob Knott
1965	Robbie Charnock	Mike Rennie	John Barker		Tony Knibbs	Mike Rennie	Don Dovaston
	M. Cotter						
1970	Richard Woollacott			Tony Crawford		Barrie Ottewill	Pete Goddard
	Brian Mee	Simon Knight		Peter Munt		Arthur Cox	Pat Walsh
1975			Tony Fitzgibbon			Joan Goddard	
		Pete Mathews		Pete Goddard		Mike Brace	Pete Goddard
1980				Greg Smith	Bryan Hillman		Dave Hill
				Ken Newcomb		Bryan Pittman	Greg Smith Ken Newcomb
1985	Pete Mathews	Joan Goddard	Ron Saunders	John Miriam	Peter Munt	Brian Mee	Tony Buchan
					John Macmillan		Phil Ingold
1990		Greg Smith				Roger Wallington	Wayne Hiscox
					Bill Jones	Bryan Pittman	
1995						Brian Terry	
						Steve Conquest	
2000		Malcolm Cotter		Phil Ingold	John Macmillan		Tony Knibbs
			Eric Dowley				Martin Rowe
2005		Greg Smith		John Miriam			Bryan Pittman
	Tony Knibbs	Jon Roberts		Phil Ingold	Jon Roberts	Greg Smith	
2010			Arthur Spain				

FIRST M.C.G. NEWSLETTER and first invitation to pay fees to the Group. Effectively the formal beginning of the M.C.G.

NOTES:  
Committee records are seriously incomplete prior to 1962. Some office holders are therefore derived from M.C.G. Newsletters, and some dates are uncertain (shown as:-).

During at least 1955-57 there were two other Committee offices:  
Hon. Overseas Representative  
1955 Noel Dilly  
1956 Noel Dilly  
1957 Derek Holmes  
Hon. Committee Member  
1955 Don Searle  
1956 Don Searle  
1957 Austin Sanders

Mike Rennie was Secretary briefly in Summer 1962, after Malcolm Cotter left for Singapore and before Richard Woollacott took office.

(...) indicates there was no formal office, but that the individual mentioned did most of the relevant work.

Since 1958, our accounts have been audited by two non-Committee members appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

What happens after here is up to members at the Annual General Meeting, 27th March!



COTTAGE HEATING REPORT FEBRUARY 1982

This winter has seen two very cold snaps with temperatures down to  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . A compression joint was forced open on the shower unit when the pipes froze in the shower room, while the cottage was unoccupied. Apart from this there is still condensation in the building, as it has still not fully dried out yet!

The Jetmaster is the sole source of heating at present. Members have now got used to it <sup>and</sup> are using it quite effectively, however it is impossible to keep it burning over night

The electric immersion heaters have been so successful! that the Boost element has not had to be used yet! May be it will when we have more active cavers using the showers at once.

It is plainly obvious we need heating in the library to protect the books surveys and records. We also need frost protection, therefore decisions have to be made now on additional heating for the cottage.

The alternative systems are; Oil, Gas, or Coal fired Central Heating. Coal and Wood burning stove with Back Boiler heating several radiators and the hot water. Storage Heaters using Off Peak Electricity, and finally, replacement of the Jetmaster grate with an allnight coal burning box grate, and electric convector and radiant heaters placed in the library, shower room and kitchen using standard rate electricity.

Oil fired Central Heating would require an oil storage tank, a boiler, which could be obtained cheaply second hand, and radiators, installation of which could be in excess of £500 excluding boiler and storage tank. Regular maintenance would be required but the system could probably be run continuously even if cottage is unattended. It would therefore satisfy both heating requirements, however oil is expensive.

Gas fired Central Heating would incur the same installation costs and problems but would have to use L.P.G. which is as expensive as electricity and the boiler would probably have to be an expensive new one specially designed for L.P.G. It would require less maintenance than an oil fired system.

Coal fired Central Heating would run more cheaply than gas or oil but would not run unattended.

Replacement of the Jetmaster with an enclosed stove with backboiler supplying several radiators in the lounge, library, and shower room as well as heating the hot water would be the most suitable system for our needs while the cottage is being used. The fuel costs half the price of electricity and no maintenance would be required. It would however have to be backed up with thermostatically controlled electric heaters for frost protection and damp control when the cottage is unoccupied.

Replacement of the present dog grate with Jetmaster Night Watchman allnight coal burning Box Grate costing £80 and possibly fitting Jetmaster back boiler element supplying several radiators and the hot water, would be the cheapest and easiest to install, backed up by electric heating for frost and damp protection. Electric heaters cost between £16 and £40 each and would require extra power points.

Finally Off Peak (Economy 7) Storage Heaters could be installed. These would satisfy all requirements. Installation costs would be about £80 plus £80 for new storage heaters. There would be problems siting one in the changing room and advise would have to be obtained from S.W.E.B. If this system were to be adopted electricity would be used at approximately 2p per unit off peak, however the peak rate would be approximately 7p, the normal rate being 5p.

It would therefore be expensive to boost the hot water during the day. The main problem preventing us using this system at present however is the cottage supply cable is too small and the last estimate some time back for a larger cable was £800.

It would seem in conclusion therefore our best option would be to change the grate to a box grate and to use ordinary electric heating for the changing room and library as well as for frost and damp protection.

One final point, the fan in the shower need not be on all the time the changing room light is on. The shower light could be separated from the changing room light switch and a timer added in the circuit to switch the fan on with the shower light switch and off say ten minutes after the shower light has been switched off.

Bryan Pittman

#### COTTAGE WORK EXPERIENCE - MARCH 6/7TH

Join the amateurs for a really exasperating weekend of futile activity - no previous experience necessary. Lend a hand with all those jobs you'd hoped someone else would do. Amazement, fatigue and minor injuries are guaranteed.

SMELL THE GLUE as the dormitory floors suffer an attack of crooked line tiles.

DAMAGE YOUR BACK by taking part in the 'Build a Drystone Wall with Totally Unsuitable Rocks' event.

ADD TO THE CONFUSION as the outside area is transformed from total chaos to utter mess.

RUN FOR COVER when the irresistible force (electric adze) meets the immovable object (that bloody tree stump).

FEEL THE TENSION as umpteen piddling little jobs turn into major epics.

HEAVE A SIGH OF RELIEF when it gets too dark to continue your job, or you run out of essential materials, or when the clock strikes OPENING TIME.

In short, it's a weekend that you and your conscience cannot afford to miss. It may be your last chance to shovel chippings in the pouring rain, or to permanently scar the cottage with a slip of your sledgehammer. Whatever your fetish, we'd be pleased to have the pleasure of your company.

#### LIBRARY

Jon Roberts nobly aided by Tony Knibbs has now established the shelving in the library, and our books and newsletters are in situ. Jon has also varnished the library floor.

The next step will be to catalogue, and note which books and newsletters we lack. To help this process, all members are URGED TO RETURN to Jon, either via the Thursday evening meeting or via the cottage, all material they currently have on loan.

## PYRENEES VISIT SCENARIO

The Pyrenean mountain chain provides the natural frontier between France and Spain, stretching 250 miles from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean. Important limestone areas extend over a distance of approximately 120 miles, and the prime mountains (almost 90 summits over 3000m) occupy approximately a 70 mile stretch.

Less rugged than the Alps, the Pyrenees offer excellent mountain walking opportunities and a fair amount of high-grade climbing. Three areas - one on the French side of the frontier and two on the Spanish side - have been designated as national parks. The flora and fauna are broadly alpine in type with many regional varieties, especially in the flora.

Pyrenean caves come in all shapes and sizes from small and grotty to vast and well decorated. The area contains the deepest cave in the world (Gouffre Pierre St Martin - 1123m) and at least one over 50 km length (Reseau Trombe). In addition to the usual downstream type trip there are several accessible resurgence caves, notably Grotte de la Cigalere. Crawls and squeezes are rare; most caves seem to vary between roomy passages (or shafts) and large chambers. Underground streams can be anything from a trickle to a torrent. The standard advice on wet caves is to visit them at the driest time of year, i.e. mid August to mid - September.

There appear to be few access restrictions; only P.S.M. and Cigalere are likely to prove a problem in terms of advance booking requirements. But there are other forms of access 'restriction', many caves being situated a long way from any road or village and very difficult to find on open lapiaz or in wooded country. A key to solving local difficulties would be the establishment of friendly relations with a local club.

The best basis upon which to plan a visit to the Pyrenees would be that of extensive local knowledge; this we do not have. Reliance will have to be placed on published information, on both the caves and the mountains. It is assumed that members taking part in the visit will be interested in both these aspects.

Pierre Minvielle's book "Grottes et Canyons" describes trips to 92 caves and 8 canyons in France. Of these, 24 caves and one canyon are in the Pyrenees. They are given in the following list, placed in geographical sequence from west to east. The numerical prefix refers to the visit description number used in the book. Trip durations do not include the time required for any approach march.

- 97 GOUFFRE D'APHANICE, Mendire, Pyrenees Atlantiques.  
V.Diff. 12-13 hours. Depth 504m.  
Dry trip, largely vertical, pitches 56m, 41m, 17m, 328m!
- 61 ABIME DE BETCHANKA. Camou-Cilique, Pyrenees Atlantiques.  
Diff. 8 hours. Depth approx 400m, length 1500m.  
Dry trip, large decorated cave, pitches 30m, 70m, 50m, 85m,
- 92 CANYON D'HOLCARTE ) OLHADIBIE, Larrau, Pyrenees Atlantiques.  
Diff. - V.Diff 14 hours. Descent 360m, length 5km.  
Wet daylight paving trip, pitches 15m, 20m, 30m, 36m, 10m, 5m, 10m, 10m, 23m, 7m. Dry weather essential.
- 90 GOUFFRE PIERRE ST. MARTIN, Arette, Pyrenees Atlantiques.  
Diff. 30 hours. Descent 810m, length 8 km.  
V.Wet /dry stretches. Through trip down Gouffre de la Tete Sauvage and out of  
out E.D.F. tunnel. 420m descent in 13 pitches. Bivouac required. Controlled  
access

- 99 GOUFFRE ANDRE - TOUYA, Accous, Pyrenees Atlantiques  
V.Diff. 18 hours. Depth 933m.  
Virtually dry trip. Up to 20 pitches to head of 304m pitch broken into 8 drops - longest two are 75m and 129m.
- 87 GROTTES DES EAUX - CHAUDES, Eaux - Chaudes, Pyrenees Atlantiques.  
Diff. V.Diff. 10 - 15 hours. Length 1650m, ascent 300m.  
Resurgence, mostly streamway - deep pools and cascades (highest is 34th Cascade, 9m). Dry weather essential.
- 89 QUEBEC DE COTCHE, Eaux - Bonnes, Pyrenees Atlantiques.  
Diff. 15 hours. Depth 286m.  
First pitches are dry: 4m, 15m, 32m, 10m, 10m. Then wet pitches: 100m (18m, 10m, 32m, 40m), 40m, 5m, 80m.  
Dry weather recommended.
- 62 GROTTES DE LHEY, Eaux Bonnes, Pyrenees Atlantiques.  
Moderate. 3-5 hours. Round trip of about 4 km.  
One stretch prone to flooding in very wet weather. Two underground pitches of 26m and 10m, and two cliff face daylight drops (unspecified, but less than 30m). Dry weather recommended.
- 71 GOUFFRE DU HAYAU to GROTTES DE LA BOUHADERE,  
St. Pe-de-Bigorre, Hautes Pyrenees.  
Diff 6 hours. Through trip. Depth 145m, length 500m.  
Dry. Sporting trip with four 30m pitches.
- GROTTES (CASTERET) GLACEE DU MARBORE,  
Gavarnie, Hautes Pyrenees.  
Moderate. 2 hours + 5 hours walk (alt. 2650m)  
Short, dry ice cave. One pitch of 15m.
- 28 GROTTES DEVAUX, Gavarnie, Hautes Pyrenees.  
Moderate. 3-4 hours + 5 hours walk (alt. 3013m)  
Length 2 km.  
Cold and occasionally wet trip. One pitch of 8m
- 59 GROTTES - GOUFFRE D'ESPARROS, Esparros, Hautes Pyrenees.  
Diff. 6 hours. Depth 150m.  
Dry. Sporting trip with pitches of 10m, 10m, 5m, 45m, 15m, and some excellent formations. Access to be obtained from Esparros Village.
- 13 GROTTES DE LABASTIDE, Labastide, Hautes Pyrenees.  
Easy. 2 hours. Length 350m. Ancient monument.  
Dry trip through mostly roomy passages with prehistoric paintings and engravings. Access via Services du Ministere des Affaires Culturelles.
- 55 GROTTES - GOUFFRE DE PENEBLANQUE, Herran, Haute Garonne  
(Reseau 55) Diff. 12 hours. Length 3 km.  
Dry trip through mostly roomy passages with pitches of 20m, 20m, 6m, 7m, 35m, and 10m.
- 56 GROTTES - GOUFFRE DE PENEBLANQUE, Herran, Haute Garonne  
(Reseau 53) Diff. 8 hours. Length 2 km.  
Dry trip through mostly roomy passages with pitches of 20m, 20m, 10m. This trip can be combined with Reseau 55 (above) for a duration of 16 hours.

- 88 GOUFFRE DE LA HENNE MORTE, Herran, Haute Garonne.  
V.Diff. 10 hours. Depth 358m.  
Classic pothole with some wet pitches. Pitches are 12m, 4m, 27m, 10m, 6m, 35m, 44m, 11m, 75m, 25m, 17m, and 9m, Dry weather recommended.
- 98 RESEAU TROMBE, Herran, Haute Garonne.  
V.Diff. 21-25 hours. Length about 10 km. Through trip.  
Sporting trip, wet in places and requires accurate route finding.  
Several traverses and abseil descents of numerous pitches (deepest 80m).  
Exit via Reseau 55 of Grotte-Gouffre de Peneplanque, which requires prior placing of tackle. Dry weather recommended.
- 95 GROTTTE DE LA CIGALERE, Sentain, Ariège.  
V.Diff. 8-11 hours (50 hours if no tackle in position).  
Length 3200m, ascent 256m.  
Wet trip upstream via 26 cascades (Highest 15m) involving some tricky free climbs and lots of tackle.  
Controlled access
- 65 GROTTTE D'ALIOU, Cazaret, Ariège.  
Diff. 5 hours. Length 530m.  
Classic river cave. One tight squeeze and a final 15m climb.  
Inflatable dinghies required, lifejackets advised.
- 30 GROTTTE DE NIAUX - GROTTTE DE LOMBRIVES, Ussat, Ariège.  
Moderate. 4 hours. Length 2500m; through trip.  
Dry apart from wading in lake. Almost the entire trip is through very roomy passages. Controlled access.
- 60 GROTTTE DE LOMBRIVES, Ussat, Ariège.  
Diff. 6 hours. Length 2500m.  
Dry except for a lake at the foot of 90m shaft (42m, 38m).  
Mostly easy going in big passages, but more sporting in lower series. Controlled access.
- 22 GROTTTE DE SABART, Sabart, Ariège.  
Moderate. 2 hours. Length 1 km; through trip.  
Dry trip in roomy passages and big chambers. Route finding difficult in complex areas.
- 29 GROTTTE DE FONTANET, Ormolac - Ussat - les - Bains, Ariège.  
Moderate. 4 hours. Length 1750m.  
Mostly dry roomy passages. Route finding is a problem in one small area.  
Lower series carries a stream.
- 47 CAUGNO DE LOS GOUFFIOS, Belesta, Ariège.  
Moderate. 1½ hours. Length about 300m  
Dry cave with entrance pitch of 45m to roomy passage with good formations. Cave in the vicinity of:  
  
GROTTTE DE L'HOMME-MORT, Rivel, Aude.  
Easy. 1 hour. Resurgence.  
Essentially this is one huge, well decorated passage with some interesting short climbs, descents and narrow sections.
- 17 GROTTTE DE FONTRABIOUSE, Fontrabieuse, Pyrenees Orientales.  
Easy. 5 hours. Length 1750m (whole system 10 km)  
Two pitches, 15m and 10m lead down to 1km of large stream passage needing inflatable dinghy. Good formations.

23 GROTTIE D'EN GORNER, Villefranche-de-Conflent, P. Orientales.  
Easy. 5-6 hours. Length 5 km. Through trip.  
Dry trip, except for a few shallow pools, through roomy passages  
with areas of excellent formations. Access permission required.

In order to reduce the choice somewhat, the caves to the east of a north/south line drawn through Toulouse seem to offer less attractions than the larger systems to the west. Numbers 30, 60, 22, 29, 47, 17, and 23 from the above list are those east of Toulouse.

Of the remainder, numbers 90 (PSM) and 95 (Cigalere) may be discarded as doubtful prospects due to access problems, i.e. shortage of booking time. Number 97 (Gouffre d'Aphanice) may be discarded as being rather specialised and of little interest.

This still leaves a choice to be made from sixteen trips. Apart from a subjective judgement of the trip descriptions, the only other yardstick could be how near the high mountain areas they are to facilitate mixing caving with mountaineering.

#### VISIT GUIDELINES

From Calais, mileages are between 700 and 800 miles to western and central caving areas respectively. Mileages are very similar to western and central high mountain areas.

Most of the journey through France can be made by motorway for which a toll fee is payable; £10 has been suggested.

Petrol costs based on 30 mpg consumption and approximately £2.00 per gallon (French prices) are in the region of £120

Cross-Channel ferry charges for an average sized saloon car in the peak season amount to around £160 including four passengers at £8.50 each. Prices are for return trips on the Dover-Calais crossing.

The prices of food and drink in France are similar to those in the U.K.

#### DECISION MEETING

Armed with all this information, it should be possible for members to work out their preferences. Members interested in joining a trip to the Pyrenees should contact Tony Knibbs, who will convene a discussion meeting at which dates and objectives can be decided. It is hoped that members will signify their interest by the AGM, March 27.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 27.3.82.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed by \_\_\_\_\_  
TREASURER \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed by \_\_\_\_\_  
MEET SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed by \_\_\_\_\_  
TACKLE MASTER \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed by \_\_\_\_\_  
COTTAGE WARDEN \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed by \_\_\_\_\_  
RECORDER \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed by \_\_\_\_\_  
EDITOR \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed by \_\_\_\_\_

Nominations for Office and Proposals to change the Constitution must reach the Secretary by March 6th. Please ensure nominees are prepared to stand. Should you have any special item for discussion, this should also be submitted as soon as possible.

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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  
BYFLEET  
SURREY

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

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
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