

# Mendip Caving Group

# NEWS

NUMBER 206

MAY 1989

## PINTS COMES UP BEST

by Jon Roberts

Ian Mckechnie and Geoff Barton reported last December in MCG Bulletin 2 on the search for a new London area Thursday pub venue. A move from the Mawson Arms had become more urgent with fewer members living within easy distance: a location in the Staines, Windsor, Shepperton area would be more convenient for the London area membership, especially if it was near the M25 and good public transport. Other requirements were the ability to use a meeting room for "armchair events" and reasonable beer!

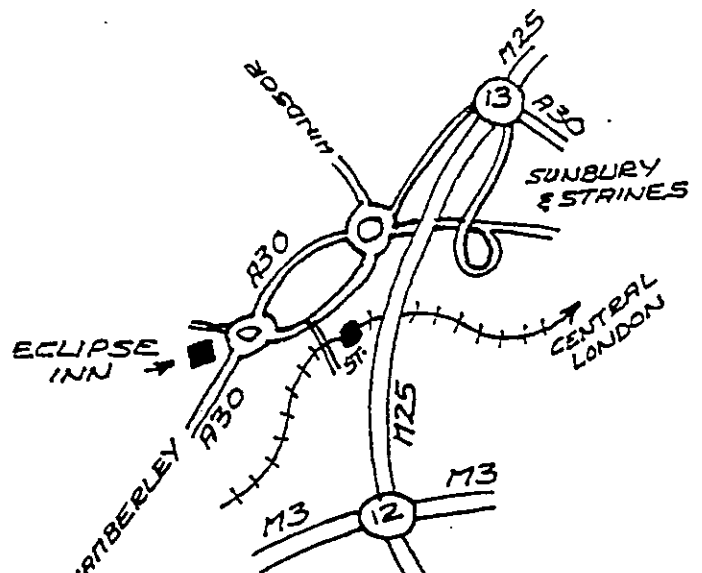
On 06.04.89, the Party Investigating New Thursday Sites (PINTS) was reconvened at The Eclipse Inn, Egham. The PINTS committee was composed of Jon Roberts, Roger Wallington, John and Helen Miriam, Mike Lovell, Ian Mckechnie, Geoff Barton, Roy Kempston, Dik Housego and Bernard Reeves under the chairmanship of Bryan Pittman.

The Eclipse is on the A30 at the roundabout where Egham Hill and Egham High Street meet. Courage Best and Directors (good body) are available. There is a sub-division of the bar which is capable of being closed off at no extra cost; it accommodates up to 30 people. Those present found themselves in charge of this area, giving a snug atmosphere while the landlord and his staff were pleasant to their customers. The only drawback is that on the last Thursday of the month another society uses the room early on, and it may not be available for our use. The Eclipse has a further advantage: it adjoins Windsor Great Park, where a number of MCG members go for early Thursday evening fitness runs (contact Mike Lovell or Roger Wallington for details). It was generally felt that nothing as suitable for our requirements had been seen before. Based on PINTS recommendation, the new MCG London area Thursday venue is now the Eclipse Inn. We look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the new venue. There is even a rumour that the MCG will be re-named the M25CG.

Change is always rather disruptive, but it is clear that the usefulness of the Mawson Arms to the Group had run out. Indeed the low attendance there was holding the Group back from new exploits organised on the spur of a few Thursday beers.

Many members will have much quicker journeys than to and from the Mawson Arms, while, because of the fast roads, even those from West London may find the journey no slower despite the longer distance. Motorists will find the pub about 1 mile west of the M25, though the junction arrangements for leaving the M25 are rather convoluted - watch for the A30 and Egham signs! For the non-driving drinker the Eclipse is only 7 minutes walk from Egham station, which has fast trains to Waterloo (33 mins) every half hour, including an apres-pub express at 11.39pm calling at principal stations to London. Other late evening trains run to Weybridge (11.15pm), Camberley and Frimley (11.46pm), and Earley and Reading (11.03pm and 12.09pm). The full address of the new venue is:

The Eclipse Inn, Egham Hill, Egham, Surrey. TW20 0AY. tel. 0784-32989



## 1989 MEETS PROGRAMME

03 JUN - 04 JUN	MENDIP	GEOLOGY	MALCOLM COTTER	07842-52643
17 JUN - 18 JUN	S. WALES	OFD	GEOFF BARTON	0932-849241
01 JUL - 02 JUL	MENDIP	CHARTERHOUSE	YVONNE ROWE	0252-872006
15 JUL - 16 JUL	YORKS	LANCS/EASEGILL	MIKE LOVELL	0734-663747
05 AUG - 06 AUG	MENDIP	BATH STONE MINES	IAN McKECHNIE	0932-228292
19 AUG - 20 AUG	YORKS	MEREGILL	BRIAN MURLIS	0934-412048
19 AUG - 20 AUG	YORKS	LOST JOHNS	DAVE LITTLE	0753-866659
02 SEP - 03 SEP	CHEPSTOW	OTTER HOLE	GEOFF BARTON	0932-849241
16 SEP - 17 SEP	S WALES	CRAIG A FFYNNON	PETE COLLINGS-WELLS	01-423-5601
07 OCT	MENDIP	HALF-YEARLY MEETING	JON ROBERTS	01-753-9423
07 OCT	MENDIP	PRIDDY BARN DANCE	JOHN BEAUCHAMP	0761-62929
04 NOV - 05 NOV	MENDIP	WATERWHEEL	YVONNE ROWE	0252-872006
18 NOV - 19 NOV	YORKS	WEST KINGSDALE	IAN PARRY	0296-434244
02 DEC - 03 DEC	MENDIP	RESERVOIR HOLE	NEIL HUTCHINSON	0734-320665
15 DEC - 16 DEC	S. WALES	DAN YR OGOF	DAVE LITTLE	0753-866659

## \* \* \* MEMBERS-ONLY WEEKENDS \* \* \*

03-04 JUN	At the AGM, several members requested clarification of the committee's policy re Members Weekends. The AGM expressed the view that on one weekend each month, Nordrach Cottage should be available for the exclusive use of Members and their personal guests. Accordingly, on the first weekend of each month (see dates alongside) the Group will not accept visiting parties. The Committee look forward to seeing more members at the cottage on these dates.
01-02 JUL	
05-06 AUG	
02-03 SEP	
07-08 OCT	
04-05 NOV	
02-03 DEC	

WEEKLY MEETINGS are held at the Group's Mendip headquarters on Wednesdays at 7.00pm. and at the Eclipse Inn, Egham Hill, Egham, Surrey, on Thursdays from 8.30pm.  
 CAVING ACCOMMODATION for 30 people is available at the MCG headquarters, Nordrach Cottage, Charterhouse-on-Mendip, Blagdon, Bristol, BS18 6XW Tel.0761-62797  
 National Grid Reference 5147.5606 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 sheet 182

COTTAGE FEES per night:	MCG members, member's children, SWCC and NPC	£1
	Guest clubs and members guests	£2
ANNUAL SEASON TICKET:	Optional exemption from cottage fees, for members	£10
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:	Full and Probationary Members: £20; Associate Members: £10	
	The subscription includes free day-time access to the cottage by the member, their accompanied guests and children.	



SECRETARY:	JONATHAN ROBERTS	tel: 01-735-9423
	1 Vauxhall Walk, London, SE11 5JT	
TREASURER:	MIKE LOVELL	tel: 0734-663747
	4 Settrington Close, Loddon Park, Earley, Reading, Berkshire	
MEET SECRETARY:	MARTIN ROWE	tel: 0252-872006
	10 Greenleas Close, Yateley, Camberley, Surrey, GU17 7SL	
COTTAGE WARDEN:	BRIAN MURLIS	tel 0934-412048
	1a Arundell Road, Weston - super - Mare, Avon, BS23 2QG	
ORDINARY MEMBER:	JOHN BEAUCHAMP	0761-62929
	St Hugh's Cottage, Charterhouse, Blagdon, Bristol, BS18 6XR	
RECORDER:	WAYNE HISCOX	tel: (HORK) 0749-72081
	3 Keward, Glastonbury Road, Wells, Somerset	
EDITOR:	YVONNE ROWE	tel: 0252-872006
	10 Greenleas Close, Yateley, Camberley, Surrey, GU17 7SL	
TACKLEMASTER:	STEVE REDHOOD	tel: 0934-823867
	11 West Street, Banwell, Avon, BS24 6DA	



## CONGRATULATIONS...

...to the following probationary members who have completed a proving trip and are accepted as full members:

John Crowsley and Nick Geh.

## WELCOME BACK...

...to Bill Platt who has rejoined.

## PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

The following applications for probationary membership have been received and will be considered at the next committee meeting on 3rd June:

Stephen Eddy (proposed by S. Redwood, B. Murlis) 13 Conduit Road, Bristol, Avon, BS2 9RW tel: 0272-557550

Michael Moose (proposed by A. Beare, I. Parry) 32 Orchard Drive, Nailsea, Avon.

## MEMBERS WEEKENDS

As noted on page 2, on the first weekend of each month, Nordrach Cottage is reserved for the exclusive use of members and their accompanied guests. This is the ideal time for Prospective members to make themselves known to the committee, to avoid the embarrassing question "Who's he?" when their application is considered. It is also the time to meet other members of the Group.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Jeff Blackgrove and Vanessa Gill are Full, not Probationary, members. Apologies for the error in the recent membership list. Any other errors or omissions? Please notify the editor.

## DEADLINE...

...for June's Bulletin: 03.06.89  
 ...for July's Newsletter: 24.06.89

## GOOD LUCK...

...to Greg and Lillia Smith who were married recently ...and to Adrian Duckett and Helen Morrell who are to be married on 05.08.89

## ANNUAL DINNER

The 1990 AGM and Dinner arrangements are now in hand. The committee are considering new venues for both, as the numbers wishing to attend exceed the capacity of the old venues. Suggestions so far are Priddy Hall or the Hunters (back room) for the AGM and Cadbury Court Hotel, Yatton or Webbington Hotel, Loxton for the Annual Dinner. Any comments? Write to the Secretary or the Editor.

## WESSEX CHALLENGE

This year's challenge has been issued by the Axbridge Caving Group - a Batmobile race to Swildons followed by a Stomp at Priddy Village Hall on June 17th at 6.30pm (cost £3.50). Details from any "local" MCG committee member.

## COTTAGE BOOKINGS

29 May - 02 Jun	Royal Navy	(15)
02 Jun - 04 Jun	Phil Eliot	(08)
07 Jul - 15 Jul	Aerospatiale	
22 Jul - 30 Jul	Dave Briggs	(08)
09 Aug - 16 Aug	BTCV	(13)
08 Sep - 10 Sep	Dave Baxter	(12)
24 Sep - 29 Sep	St Cuthman Sch	(15)
02 Oct - 06 Oct	Unicorn	(20)

## EARWIG...

...1989 subs chase under way ...revised ad for Decent ...MCG to be Waterwheel keyholder again? ...hole dug for soakaway ...ladder acquired for cottage, temporarily behind chairs in lounge ...MCG shop to buy MCG T-shirts stock ...new Journal under way ...library storage being reviewed ...SCC Ltd wound up ...MCG insurance under review ...MCG bureaucracy increased: welcome pack for new members, revised assessment trip form, note on use of tackle, combined membership and covenant form (editors versions not good enough eh?) ...community charge looming!

# ... AND YET MORE



## UPPER FLOOD LEADERS

Under revised access arrangements for Upper Flood, the following people are now leaders:

Vince Simmonds	John Beauchamp
Brian Murlis	Steve Redwood
Wayne Hiscox	Mike Haselden
Andy Beare	Neil Hutchinson
Jon Roberts	Malcolm Cotter

Anyone wishing to visit or dig at Upper Flood must be accompanied by one of the above.

## GEOLOGY WEEKEND

The plan of action for 3rd/4th June is much the same as in previous years with one day on the surface and one below ground. Remember to bring waterproof clothing and provisions to make sandwiches. If weather permits and sufficient people are interested we can also arrange a barbecue.

## THE BASTILLE WEEK

The French cavers are arriving on Mendip on Wednesday 5th July. They are leaving their kit at Nordrach, then spending Thursday and Friday sight-seeing in London, returning to Mendip on Saturday 6th. They will be caving on Mendip until the following weekend, 15th July. Friday 4th July is the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution and there will be appropriate celebrations at the cottage (ie. fireworks, knitting and guillotining) to which all MCG members are invited.

If anyone is willing to provide floor space, croissant and coffee for Thursday 6th and Friday 7th July in London or close to a BR station outside London please contact Yvonne Rowe (0252-872006) as soon as possible

## MORE EXCUSES FOR NOT GOING CAVING

A selection of events organised by various archaeological societies and industrial concerns which may appeal to members of MCG. For details of Mendip Rail '89 contact Marcus Ward (0252-876783). Details of other events are available from Yvonne Rowe (0252-872006).

Jun 05 Lecture: Animal Bones in Archaeology. Pelhams Community Centre, Bournemouth.

Jun 17 - Jul 16 Exhibition: A History of Computing. Newbury District Museum, The Wharf, Newbury. (Traces history of computing from Babage's 1830 machine to present).

Jun 25 Open day: Mendip Rail '89, Merehead Quarry, Mendip. Your chance to see Foster Yeoman's Mendip limestone quarry and the unique Class 59 120-tonne locomotives, each used to haul 45 102-tonne wagons loaded with Mendip stone.

Aug 26 Outing: Crofton Beam Engine and Wilton Windmill, Wiltshire.

Sep 12 Lecture: Bogs, Bodies and Lake Dwellers. Salisbury and S. Wiltshire Museum.

Oct 06 Lecture: Ancient Crafts. Dorset County Museum, Dorchester.

Oct 07 Symposium: Industrial Archaeology. Introduction to Industrial Archaeology in Wiltshire including beam engines, canal boats, windmills and agricultural engineering. Devizes Museum.

Oct 10 Lecture: Excavations at Brean Down, Somerset - Bronze age and early Christian settlement. Salisbury and S. Wiltshire Museum.

Dec 12 Lecture: Humps and Bumps - the South Wiltshire Earthworks. Salisbury and S. Wiltshire Museum.

## NEW VENUE UPDATE

As we go to press I can report that the Eclipse Inn is proving to be popular with 27 members attending recently.

## FOUR MEN AND A WOMAN HAVE FUN IN GB CAVERN

by Alan Dougherty and Nicola Caswell

AD: It was with some doubt about our ability to carry out the practice that Nicola Caswell, John Crowsley, Alan Dougherty, Vince Simmonds and Richard Whittington entered GB Cavern at 11.30am, Saturday 04.03.89. Unusually mild weather for our practice rescue was dampened by a poor turnout. Were we taking the GB maximum party size to heart or had the MCG developed a collective taste for watching rugby internationals? We made our way to the pitch at the end of the Main Chamber. The pitch was rigged for a haul and the victim was tied into the drag sheet in a dry alcove, to the left of the stream flowing towards the terminal choke. In lacing up the drag sheet we found that a length of tape provided a comfortable method of holding the portion of sheet about the upper torso together.

NC: I was placed in an oversized furry suit and a PVC suit, given a pair of goggles to protect my face then tied very firmly into a drag sheet. The rescue team checked to make sure I was comfortable before proceeding to lift me.

AD: By 1.50pm the victim had been hauled up the pitch. Some difficulty was experienced with friction at the top of the pitch. No obvious high belays were found amongst the shattered rock above the pitch head and the haul rope tended to catch behind small flakes on the climb. A length of conveyor belting or similar at the head of the climb would have alleviated most of the problem. We hauled up the true left of the stream but there was a tendency for the drag sheet to swing towards the water. Given sufficient rescuers, a rope from the foot of the drag sheet would have solved the problem. JC and RW pulled the haul rope via a pulley / jammer system, AD lifelined to the victim's sit harness and VS climbed with the drag sheet protected by a safety-link. Sufficient linked belays were found amongst the boulders at the head of the pitch.

NC: Several stops were made on the way out during which the rescue team constantly checked I was comfortable, although the only discomfort I suffered was very cold hands and feet, and from the goggles which tended to move around and eventually fell apart.

AD: Coffee and warm air were enjoyed at the top of the climb. Although the quietest victim we have had in recently, Nicola did have a great taste for coffee and warm air.

NC: Half way out I was given a face mask which issued warm air for me to breath in, it helped a bit but I don't think I was ever cold enough to get the full benefit of it.

AD: We were impressed by the workings of the warm air kit lent by MRO. A temperature of 38deg C was obtained according to the gauge in the face mask. The kit, which packs into a large ammo box, comprises a face mask and delivery tube, CO2 cylinder and cannister of soda lime. CO2 is added to the soda lime and the chemical reaction is used to warm the air. It is important to blow the initial build up of CO2 from the system before offering the victim the mask. A max. temp. must not be exceeded but this is apparently unlikely in a British cave. So popular was the warm air that that speculation abounded as to the constitution of the white powder within the cannister! By 2.00pm we reached the bottom of the small climb at the top of the Gorge. This proved awkward and a stamper would have been useful to provide a high belay - the rock above the climb was rather rotten. We proceeded by carrying the victim for a distance and then returning for spare kit. The Mud Passage proved fairly straightforward. At the climb to the blockhouse, separate haul and lifelines were arranged. One of the party acted as a counter balance on the haul rope, a system which worked well.

NC: Throughout, I was relatively comfortable and felt very confident in the rescue team and the equipment they used, although better goggles and something to keep my feet warm would have been preferable.

AD: The cave was cleared at 3.40pm, a creditable effort given the size of the party. Thanks are extended to those who took part, especially Nicola as victim and MRO for the loan of kit.



### UPPER FLOOD

- 29.03.89 Recent dig site abandoned due to uninspiring nature. Work re-commenced at boulder ruckle in Andrew's Grotto.  
 09.04.89 The split rock crew - nuff said!  
 19.04.89 More spoil shifted. Split Rock Canyon too tight - bang needed.

### CHARTERHOUSE AREA

- 08.02.89 Looked at Rift Mine, "Halfpenny Dig" and un-named shaft.

### RODS POT

- 15.02.89 Dig site blocked by wet mud and stones from connection with surface. Evening spent clearing collapse. Main chamber nearly full - where do we put the spoil? Engineering needed to protect diggers from rockfall.  
 29.03.89 Slurry cleared from PJ1(B). Prodding the roof brought a load down! Large boulder removed in PJ1(A), now needs a bang.

### NORDRACH

- 24.03.89 Breakthrough! Dug out large chamber close to cottage .... for new soakaway.

### BLACKMOOR SHAFT

- 22.03.89 Thoughts about re-opening the dig. A lot of shoring would be required.

### BATTERY SHALLET

- 05.04.89 Now contains a dead rabbit

### VOSS PIT

- 05.04.89 Another summer dig!

### BONE HOLE

- 19.02.89 Pool at dig, no air current.

The following comments appeared in the log book some time ago: "The first impression on entering the cave after 2 years absence was the significant deterioration in the condition of the Upper Series. It appears that regular digging parties have produced the unfortunate side effects of baddy muddied formations and some erosion of skull slope.

Examined the old JM/NH dig which appears to have been left untouched for some time. The new dig at the top of terminal chamber "goes" horizontally. Examination of the survey (MCG Journal '76) shows this new dig is leading for the cliff face 30ft above the road - an outcrop is visible on the surface at this point. The survey suggests JM/NH dig is about or below road level.

It appears the way ahead should be to proceed with JM/NH dig, produce an accurate survey and take care in conservation of the upper series in accordance with the National Trust access agreement. I hope the diggers, who are putting in a lot of valuable work, take these comments as they are intended and will not take offence at an "outsiders" oppinions.

*Ed: Perhaps the time has come to construct a "catwalk" above the archaeological deposits in the cave to ensure their continued preservation?*

### ROCK DRILL

The Group recently purchased a Bosch GBH 24v RE battery powered drill for drilling anchor and shot holes. It runs on a 24-volt re-chargable battery which can be charged in two hours. Its performance is impressive when drilling and fixing bolts. In fact, a 12mm hole can be drilled and an anchor fitted in less then a minute. This means that pitches and climbs can be bolted in a fraction of the time it took by hand. In addition to 12mm anchor holes, it can be used for 18mm shot holes for more effective and efficient use of bang. Because of its value, the drill is locked away. Anyone wanting to use it should contact Steve Redwood.

## THERE WAS A UNANIMOUS VOTE...

OR, LIMERICKS FROM THE ANNUAL DINNER  
on the subject of "no smoking" at the cottage

There was a unanimous vote  
Against all members who smoke  
But down Stoke Lane Slocker  
Behind Malcolm Cotter  
You'll steam and you'll sweat  
and you'll smoke

There was a young caver called Fred  
Who felt rather uneasy in bed  
His problem you see  
Was his inability  
No matter - he was just co-opted

There once was a smoker on Mendip  
Who smoked every fag to the filter tip  
But all that's been ended  
By those who attended  
This afternoons quorum of membership

There once was a caver called Dave  
Who wanted a fag in a cave  
His mates said "remember  
As an MCG member  
At the cottage you'll have to behave"

MCG meals are now uninocuous  
Because the air is no longer obnoxious  
The AGM's decided  
That clean air is provided  
For the non-smoking, non-caving  
populous

The members have voted "no smoking"  
And you can be sure they're not joking  
When you yearn for a drag  
Of that prohibited fag  
Just forget it and try your luck poking

It's no smoking at MCG, evermore  
If you do you'll be thrown out the door  
A fag in the loo  
Just will not do  
And it's banned at Rat Products, "The  
Store"

There once was a smoker on Mendip  
Who smoked every fag to the filter tip  
But constitutional status  
Caused an AGM hiatus  
Because "no smoking" say MCG membership

There was a young lass from Australia  
Whose caving was really a failure  
She went down Swillys  
Which gave her the willies  
And now she is pushing up dahlias

There was a young man called  
John Beauchamp  
When told not to smoke said "I'll  
teach'em"  
He went to the sump  
Did a mighty great dump  
And said "the smell of my cigar will not  
reach'em"

At the meeting we all took a vote  
Against all the members who smoke  
One member spoke  
"It's all a big joke"  
I really don't care if you choke

"No smoking" the MCG say  
As from 5.30 today  
So mackerel is banned  
As is haddock, unless canned  
But smoked salmon is probably OK

So let's sing a farewell to smoking  
And perchance you should think we are  
joking  
At the next AGM  
We'll intone an amen  
For swearing and drinking and poking

The motion on fags was a farce  
Unconstitutionally difficult to pass  
But if you want to smoke  
Just ask the next bloke  
Then if he says no  
You'll know where to blow  
The smoke - right up his arse

There was a young lady from Mapping  
Who rolled cigarettes from bird dropping  
As she sat and smoked shit  
Each fag that she lit  
Made her ears and her eyes go a-popping

After radon, it was rather naughty  
To ban smoking, thanks to A. Dougherty  
But if that just won't do  
And you want a fag in the loo  
Sextex could be a bit sporty

There once was a caver called Puff

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Crying: Stop, I'm on fire-that's enough!

(Ed. A suitable prize is offered for the  
best attempt to complete this limerick)

## TO THE RESTAURANT AT THE END OF THE UNIVERSE (AND BACK AGAIN)

by Dave Little

SOMETIME IN DECEMBER 1988

Dave says to Dave, "?!ing hell". This universal caving term was immediately understood to mean "Let's get out of here before the pubs close". We were part way through the sand ducks in the Hard Rock extensions of Daren Cilau. Our conclusion from this little foray into the further reaches of the system: you most definitely need to camp to get to the bitter end of the cave.

FRIDAY 17TH MARCH 1989, VERY EARLY MORNING

We assembled a ridiculously big pile of gear to take into the cave with us. At about 10am we were packed and ready to go. I grovelled into the low entrance armed with a tackle sack containing two BDH tubes and a carbide generator (it seemed like a good idea to put the 'bide in the sack and use a Petzl zoom instead). The generator managed to manifest itself into an awkward lump on one side of the sack which jammed on any and every obstruction (and there are thousands of them in the entrance crawl). The other problem with this approach of carrying the generator rather than using it was that the water seeped down the outlet pipe and onto the carbide, filling the passage with acetylene gas (it is quite easy to fill the passage with gas as most of the time it is a very small passage). Through the wet calcite squeezes, only about 5 minutes to the end of the crawl now. After about an hour of thrutching, the entrance series eventually gives way to a chamber and a welcome opportunity to stand up. Now for the ritual of coaxing a flame from the carbide lamp; click, click, click - BOOM, a warming glow after the dim Petzl lamp. Then you move - darkness, click, click, click - wish I'd brought five FX2s instead.

We were soon all together again and romping off along Jigsaw Passage, past the Misfit and into Big Chamber Nowhere Near The Entrance. A few dry crawls, climb down through St Valentine's and up the pitch (how did they ever get a ladder up there in the first place?). Across the traverse and down the handlines and then the big stuff starts. Looking up at a hole 70ft up in the roof, "Did we really just climb around the edge of that?" A quick stomp along the enormous Time Machine and down into the Bonsai Streamway. Stopping at the Hard Rock Cafe we re-filled the 'bides with water, had a Mars bar break and a drink (this is the last sign of water for quite a way).

Now the serious caving starts. The extensions start with a series of sandy crawls and sand ducks, these are a whole new experience, unlike anything else underground. The sand gets everywhere, yes I mean everywhere! After an hour and a half from the Hard Rock Cafe the crawls end at an extreme squeeze through to a dig - wrong way! After I had tried a very dodgy climb up to a high level side passage and fallen off crushing Kev's BDH tube we eventually found the right way on. We had mistakenly been following the Oregon Trail. Crawling through Brazil, Miami Vice, and Accupuncture (this bit really finishes the knees off) we eventually reached the Micron. We had heard rumours of how bad this squeeze is but it really isn't at all tight. We reached Borrowed Boots Streamway and the bottom of it, what a relief. We refilled the 'bides and washed some of the grit away. Slow, careful progress along Ankle Grinder to what appeared to be 7th Hour Sump. After looking for Jacob's Ladder and not finding it, the only conclusion was that this wasn't 7th Hour Sump, just a duck that looked like a sump. After negotiating this unexpected obstacle the route up to Jacob's Ladder was obvious, a short climb up through boulders leads to La Plaza and The Restaurant At The End Of The Universe. After 12 hours of tough caving we made a unanimous decision that we had no desire to dig at the end of Friday 13th Passage. A quick exploration of the area and a few of the leads was followed by a meal of pasta and soya chilli, washed down with copious quantities of whiskey. The alcohol served two purposes: a celebration of having reached this far, and probably more important, to induce a state of unconsciousness until about 8am Saturday morning.



SATURDAY 18TH MARCH, MORNING

Now for the most unpleasant bit of the whole escapade, getting back into a wet gravel-encrusted fibre pile suit, various screams and yelps could be heard throughout the whole system emanating from La Plaza. After thinking up many more reasons not to go digging we set off back into Ankle Grinder. About 8hrs later we emerged to see the daylight fading and the rain starting. We spent a tired evening in the Drum and Monkey, deciding that we wouldn't be doing Aggy on Sunday, amongst the reasons were:

- (i) Lack of skin covering kneecaps
- (ii) Caving gear full of gravel
- (iii) Lots of rain meant that Deep Water could well be sumped and none of us fancied a slog along Southern Streamway.

All in all, well worth doing. I'll be back at the Restaurant again someday, when I've forgotten how far it really is. Anyone else interested? (If you don't enjoy (?) the entrance series you won't be impressed by the extensions.)

## CHARTERHOUSE CAVING COMMITTEE AGM

The Charterhouse Caving Committee AGM was held at the Hunters on 08.04.89.

- ‡ John Beauchamp was re-elected as the Secretary / Treasurer.
- ‡ The Longwood lock is to be replaced by an Ingersoll-type lock. The possibility of having a common lock at Longwood and Rhino Rift is to be investigated.
- ‡ The membership subscription for Charterhouse Caving Committee will be £10 for 1988/89.
- ‡ Any 5-year Charterhouse Caving Committee permits currently in use are no longer valid. Only 14-day and 1-year permits are now acceptable.
- ‡ The BCRA insurance cover held on behalf of Bristol Waterworks does not cover commercial caving, although novice training by caving groups is covered. (ED. What about "no novices" in GB?)
- ‡ Member clubs are reminded about their responsibilities when issuing permits. For insurance purposes, this means that the issuing club effectively takes responsibility for any visiting group who use a 14-day permit.
- ‡ The Nature Conservancy Council has begun the process of making Charterhouse and Cheddar "Sites of Special Scientific Interest". When Priddy was designated an SSSI it created problems for caving. Will the same problems arise for Charterhouse and Cheddar, and will access to caves such as Bone Hole be affected?
- ‡ Member clubs of Charterhouse Caving Committee who fail to attend two AGMs will not remain as members and will lose the right to keys.
- ‡ The key for Tynings Barrow can be obtained from Mendip Eggs at Green Ore.
- ‡ Charterhouse Centre's membership was renewed amidst disquiet.
- ‡ The entrance gate to Charterhouse Cave is to be repaired by Wessex. A temporary gate has been installed at the dig in view of instability and danger to the unwary.
- ‡ MCG still control the Longwood September Rift dig, but no activity was reported for past year. (Clubs failing to make reports face losing digging rights.)
- ‡ The next exciting AGM will be 07.04.90

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
PLANNING RESEARCH PROGRAMME

# Treatment of Disused Mine Openings



To avoid the action illustrated above:

1. Do not litter the bottom of disused mine openings with dead bodies - bring your litter out with you.
2. If you plan to fill a disused mine opening for safety reasons, it is more acceptable to use a mineral infill.
3. If you must fall down a disused mine opening, do not touch the sides as this loosens rubble around the edge making the opening wider and easier to spot.
4. Do not attempt to turn triangular warning signs upside-down. This would result in any rubble produced in 3. falling onto anyone below.
5. Do not fall head first down disused mine openings as it makes identification very difficult.
6. On the other hand, if you fall down a disused mine opening feet first, you will find it very difficult, as well as painful, to climb out.
7. When falling down a disused mine opening, remember to warn those who fell before you by calling "BELOOOOOOOOW". Always use the correct whistle code: 1 blast stop, 2 blasts up, 3 blasts down, 4 blasts (or 1 continuous blast) Oh s\*\*t!