

**\* MENDIP CAVING GROUP BULLETIN \***

NUMBER 5

JUN 1989

**GEOLOGY WEEKEND, 3/4TH JUNE 1989**

by Allan Wicks

Saturday was spent above ground describing the geology of the Blackdown area. Driving to Burrington, Malcolm described the geography between the road and Blackdown. The summit comprises Old Red Sandstone, the valley bottom (wet and supporting damp-loving plants) comprises Shale and youngest of all the Carboniferous Limestone over the Shale. The Sandstone sponge holds water, the Shale is impervious to water and the Limestone is soluble allowing water to pass through.

At Lionel's Hole we looked at the morphology of the Combe. The right hand side (facing downvalley) being steeper, due to the steeply dipping rock. Lower down Burrington Combe we examined Dolomitic Conglomerate which is an infill of Triassic age. The Limestone contains fossil crinoids, and corals showing their septa in particular.

Opposite Rock of Ages we saw good examples of bedding and faults. Malcolm explained the significance of "dip" (the angle between the plane of the bed and a horizontal plane) and "strike" (the direction of a horizontal line along a bed perpendicular to the direction of dip). We then walked up the East Twin stream looking at the different rock types, noting how bands of Shale and Limestone affect the profile of the valley. Malcolm described how to identify Shale by eating it! Further upstream we found Shale containing mica and Don Searle found coal (apparently there is a very small coal seam in East Twin valley).

On the way up to the summit of Blackdown Malcolm and Don examined a piece of Old Red Sandstone with fluorite. Malcolm examined a piece of rock which must have comprised quartzite, the test being that he could not scratch it with a steel penknife.

We crossed Blackdown and joined a small stream in a beautiful valley to Longwood. Malcolm pointed out the gentler dip of the beds on this side of Mendip. Again, we met Old Red Sandstone, Shales and Limestone proving that Blackdown is an "anticline" (rocks folded gently in the form of an arch). Malcolm also pointed out evidence of the effect of the freezing action of ice on the structure of the soil - ice wedges formed when the ice sheet came close to Mendip in the last Ice Age.

Longwood valley merited a botony walk itself - full of flowers and very pretty. We looked at Rhino Rift and debated whether it was formed in a fault or joint. Malcolm and Anita found chert nodules along the path - a spark from Don's hammer confirmed this. We joined the valley from Charterhouse where Malcolm described how, although the old valley still existed, subsequent geological events had deposited debris on top of the original valley which had not necessarily eroded to give the same topography in the new valley.

We examined an Oolitic Limestone comprising many nodules smaller than a pinhead and found examples of breccia where rocks have cemented together. We examined the cliff a little further down which consisted of dark Blackrock Limestone as opposed to the light Burrington Combe Limestone. Joan showed us a good specimen of a coral on one of the rocks and what is believed to be an ochre deposit.

Sunday proved to be equally interesting; a trip down Swildons Upper Series. Anita pointed out a rock showing zig-zag markings of stress fracture in its composition. Further down we saw more fossils in the passage walls and a good example of chert bedding. In the Long Dry Way we looked at vadose trenches and considered the conditions leading to the formation of rock bridges. Malcolm described how the Water Chamber was probably formed by a bedding fault.

Thanks to everyone, particularly Malcolm and Joan, for a really good weekend.

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

An up-to-date address list of all current members is included with this Bulletin. As well as incorporating all recent changes, it also shows the status of each member (full, associate, etc.). Prospective members are denoted by "N" for new, to distinguish them from probationary members. Trustees, who may be full, honorary or associate are denoted by *italics* and committee members are underlined. Please check that your details are correct, especially membership category. Errors and omissions should be notified to Martin Rowe (0252-872006) or any committee member.

**LAPSED MEMBERS**

The following have not paid their subs so are deemed to have resigned:

Tim Bethune	Stephanie Bohin
Glenn Cooper	Bill Ducklin
Pete Eckford	Dave Edwards
John Loring	Mike Mintram
Gary Pairadeau	Daniel Sole
Richard Stansfield	Dawn Ward

**CONGRATULATIONS . . .**

...to prospective member Stephen Eddy, who has been accepted as a probationary member.

**WHO TO TRUST?**

At the last AGM, there was some discussion about who the Group's Trustees are and what their purpose is. The answer to the first part of the question is easy - they are all long standing members of the Group: Malcolm Cotter, Pete Mathews, Ron Saunders and Pat Walsh. The second part is not so easy. The Constitution says that the property of the Group (other than cash) shall be vested in them to be dealt with as the committee shall direct. The committee are due to meet the Trustees soon - hopefully, after the meeting I can tell you more about their role!

**DEADLINE . . .**

...for July's Newsletter: 24.06.89  
 ...for August's Bulletin: 29.07.89

**WELCOME TO ENGLAND**

The MCG are pleased to welcome the Aerospatiale group from France, and hope that their visit will be enjoyable. Our guests will be arriving at Nordrach on Wednesday 5th July before visiting the Eclipse Inn, Egham, on Thursday 6th ("London" members are invited to come along to meet them). After spending the weekend in London they will be back at Nordrach from Sunday 9th until Sunday 16th. On Friday, 14th July, Aerospatiale are arranging a party to celebrate 200 years since the French Revolution, to which the MCG are invited (ed. bring a tent, the cottage is likely to be very busy!). The Committee wish to make it clear that Guillotining of MCG members is forbidden, however the odd BEC or WCC member would not be missed!

**PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS**

The following applications for membership have been received and will be considered at the next committee meeting:

William Headington, 66 Adelaide Road, West Ealing, London, W13 9EB, tel: 01-840-6803 (proposed by Gordon Lister, Mike Carson)

Mark Ward, 20 Passfields, Star Road, London, W14 9LJ, tel: 01-381-5274 (proposed by Gordon Lister, Mike Carson)

**WHAT A SHOWER!**

Day visitors to the cottage are reminded that it is necessary to switch on the shower boost located in the kitchen if they intend to drain the hot tank. Failure to do this means that members who have paid £1 overnight fee will only find cold water at the cottage on their return from caving.

**MEMBERS WEEKENDS**

Despite cold showers, June's members weekend was a great success with over twenty members either staying or visiting the cottage, and not a guest club in sight. The next two members weekends are 01-02 Jul and 05-06 Aug.

## MCG MEMBERSHIP AT 27.06.89

H MARQUESS OF BATH		JOB'S MILL, WARMINSTER, WILTSHIRE
F VICTORIA ARBIZU	01034-54276981	CALLE MONTE CARMELO, 51-2/B, 41011 SEVILLA, SPAIN
F DOMINI BARRETT	0275-832449	12 CHELSFIELD, BACKWELL, BRISTOL, BS19 3LU
F GEOFF BARTON	0932-849241	THE LODGE, THE HEATH, WEYBRIDGE, SURREY
F DAVE BAXTER	0923-32504	52 BRADSHAW ROAD, WATFORD, HERTS, WD2 4DE
F ANDY BEARE	0734-792066	7 REYNARDS CLOSE, WINNERSH, BERKS, RG11 5NT
F JOHN BEAUCHAMP	0761-62929	ST HUGH'S COTTAGE, CHARTERHOUSE, BLAGDON, BRISTOL, BS18 6XR
F STEVE BEDFORD		5 MYRTLE ROAD, HAMPTON HILL, HAMPTON, MIDDLESEX
P GILL BLACKGROVE	01-337-7296	141 RIVERVIEW ROAD, EWELL, EPSOM, SURREY, KT19 0JQ
F JEFF BLACKGROVE	01-337-7296	141 RIVERVIEW ROAD, EWELL, EPSOM, SURREY, KT19 0JQ
F DAVE BRIGGS		51 WYBOURN GROVE, DNCHAN, ISLE OF MAN
F MARK BUCK	0272-560270	ROSE COTTAGE, CLEEVE ROAD, DOWNEND, BRISTOL, BS16 6AD
F PETE BULLING	0903-35431	22 CANTERBURY ROAD, WORTHING, WEST SUSSEX
F JEAN PAUL BURCH	0737-769741	FLAT 6 ROSSENHALLAS, NUTFIELD ROAD, REDHILL, SURREY
F FRED BURTON	01-866-6761	33 WOODFORD CRESCENT, PINNER, MIDDX
F MIKE CARSON	0753 655143	41 THE POYNINGS, RICHINGS PARK, IVER, BUCKS, SLO 9DS
P PETER CATTEMULL	0252-873421	12 HARVEST CLOSE, YATELEY, CAMBERLEY, SURREY
A PAM CHARNOCK	01-570-4116	30 BASSETT GARDENS, DSTERLEY, MIDDX, TW7 4QY
F ROBBIE CHARNOCK	01-570-4116	30 BASSETT GARDENS, DSTERLEY, MIDDX, TW7 4QY
P JOCELYN CLARK		SWALLET FARM, EAST HARPTREE, SOMERSET
P JOHN COLES	027583-2976	THE SHINGLES, CHELVEY BATCH, BACKWELL, BRISTOL, BS19 3BZ
F PETE COLLINGS-WELLS	01-423-5601	10 NEWMARKET AVENUE, NORTHOLT, MIDDX
F STEVE CONQUEST	01-366-3276	10 McADAM DRIVE, ENFIELD, MIDDX, EN2 8PS
H MALCOLM COTTER	07842-52643	249 FELTHAM HILL ROAD, ASHFORD, MIDDX, TW15 1LU
P SONYA JANE COTTER	07842-52643	249 FELTHAM HILL ROAD, ASHFORD, MIDDX, TW15 1LU
P DANIEL COUTIN	0243-553204	37 GOSPOND ROAD, BARNHAM, BOGNOR REGIS, WEST SUSSEX
F JOHN CROWSLEY	0272-650897	12 ACACIA AVE, STAPLE HILL, BRISTOL
F LOUISE CURLEY	01-894-1704	53 WILLS CRESCENT, HOUNSLOW, MIDDX, TW3 2JA
A JANET CURSI	0734-340413	PRIMROSE COTTAGE, 19 STATION ROAD, TWYFORD, BERKS
F KEITH DART	0272-569705	82 FAIRLYN DRIVE, KINGSWOOD, BRISTOL, BS15 4PX
F GEOFF DAVIES	0927-27154	72 ALDENHAM ROAD, BUSHEY, WATFORD, HERTS
F JO DAVIES	0252-876783	15 JESSE CLOSE, YATELEY, CAMBERLEY, SURREY
F MIKE DEAN	01-546-6143	29 BONNER HILL ROAD, KINGSTON, SURREY
F ALAN DOUGHERTY	0934-863056	"WYNHAYES", STATION ROAD, WRINGTON, BRISTOL, BS18 7LL
F ERIC DOWLEY		172 PARLAUNT ROAD, LANGLEY, BERKS
F ADRIAN DUCKETT	0252-524102	20 MEADOW COURT, ANCHOR MEADOW, COVE, HANTS, GU14 0HU
F PETE DYMENT		15 OLD VICARAGE GARDENS, MARKYATE, ST ALBANS, HERTS
N STEPHEN EDDY	0272-557550	13 CONDUIT ROAD, BRISTOL, AVON, BS2 9RW
F PHIL ELIOT	0736-787648	17 PLEASANT TERRACE, ST JUST, PENZANCE, CORNWALL
F GEOFF FISHER	0273-493755	OLD MILL, SANDY LN, NEPTOWN RD, HENFIELD, SUSSEX, BN5 9UX
F LINDA FISHER	0276-24409	113 UPPER COLLEGE RIDE, CAMBERLEY, SURREY, GU15 4EY
F NICK GEH	0272-573797	10 QUEENSHOLM CRESCENT, DOWNEND, BRISTOL, BS16 6LR
F VANESSA GILL	0272-685634	27 SABRINA WAY, STOKE BISHOP, BRISTOL, BS9 1ST
F JOAN GODDARD	0608-810382	10 ENSTONE ROAD, CHARLBURY, OXON
F PETE GODDARD	0608-810382	10 ENSTONE ROAD, CHARLBURY, OXON
P JIMMY GREEN	0248-600416	N.A.M.C., TAI-NEWIDDION, TYN-Y-MAES, BETHESDA, NORTH WALES
P PAUL HARDING	0525-376291	283 BIDEFORD GN, LINDALE, LEIGHTON BUZZIARD, BEDS, LU7 7TX
F PETER HARVEY	0597-810831	BRYNAWEL, CASTLE ROAD, RHAYADER, POWYS
F MIKE HASELDEN	0703-464491	3 THE CLOSE, THORNHILL PARK, SOUTHAMPTON, HANTS, SO2 5RB
P OLIVER HASELDEN	0703-464491	3 THE CLOSE, THORNHILL PARK, SOUTHAMPTON, HANTS, SO2 5RB
A DAVE HASTILOW	0823-45481	SOUTHFIELD, MILL CROSS, KINGSTON ST MARY, TAUNTON, SOMERSET
P LEE HAWKSWELL	0923-222887	7 DUNCAN WAY, BUSHEY, WATFORD, HERTS, WD2 2BE
N WILLIAM HEADINGTON	01-840-6803	66 ADELAIDE ROAD, WEST EALING, LONDON, W13 9EB
F WAYNE HISCOX	WK. 0749-72081	3 KEWARD, BLASTONBURY ROAD, WELLS, SOMERSET
F DAVE HODBY	0497-820081	CLYRD COURT, NR HAY-ON-WYE, VIA HEREFORD, HR3 5LE
F RICHARD HODGSON	0753-39260	1 COURT CRESCENT, SLOUGH, BERKS, SL1 3JP
P JEFFREY HOLLOWAY	01-751-6360	44 ORCHARD AVENUE, BEDFONT, MIDDX
F DIK HOUSEAGO	0932-224546	29 BRUCE AVE, SHEPPERTON, MIDDX, TW17 9DN
P ISCA HOWELL	0895-57949	212 COWLEY ROAD, UXBRIDGE, MIDDX
F NEIL HUTCHINSON	0734-320665	PRIMROSE COTTAGE, 19 STATION ROAD, TWYFORD, BERKS
A HELEN INGOLD	0442-42029	31 SPRING LANE, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTS, HP1 3QS
F PHIL INGOLD	0442-42029	31 SPRING LANE, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTS, HP1 3QS
P CHRIS JOHNSON	0923-672489	45 FIRST AVENUE, GARSTON, WATFORD, HERTS, WP2 6PY

F ROY KEMPSTON	0276-34338	13 FLORENCE RD, COLLEGE TOWN, CAMBERLEY, SURREY
F DENISE KNIBBS	01033-61858232	LAS CLADURIQS, THIL, 31530 LEVIGNAC, FRANCE
F TONY KNIBBS	01033-61858232	LAS CLADURIQS, THIL, 31530 LEVIGNAC, FRANCE
P KEITH KNIGHT	0329-280386	7 HIGHMEAD, FAREHAM, HANTS
F SIMON KNIGHT	0749-75805	14 ROWDENS ROAD, WELLS, SOMERSET
F PETE LINGWOOD	01-805-2538	39 HOLMBRIDGE GARDENS, ENFIELD, MIDDX, EN3 7EY
F GORDON LISTER	01-579-3466	127 SEAFORD ROAD, WEST EALING, LONDON, W13
P DAVID LITTLE	0753-866659	11 MILLS SPUR, OLD WINDSOR, BERKS, SL4 2ND
F MIKE LOVELL	0734-663747	4 SETTRINGTON CLOSE, LODDEN PARK, EARLEY, READING, BERKS
P BOB MARLES	0734-790764	27 WATMORE LANE, WINNERSH, READING, BERKS
A PETE MATHEWS	07073-21018	15 BELLCOTT CLOSE, WELWYN GARDEN CITY, HERTS
F IAN MCKECHNIE	0932-228292	21 CONYERS CL, HERSHAM, WALTON-ON-THAMES, SURREY, KT12 4NG
F JOHN McMILLAN	0753-886029	4 HILL FARM ROAD, CHALFONT ST PETER, BUCKS, SL9 ODE
F ALAN MELLON	01-890-6000	15 CHICHESTER WAY, FELTHAM, MIDDX, TW14 0DF
A JOY MERRON	074985 685	GREEN BROOK COTTAGE, KALE ST, BATSCOMBE, SOMERSET, BA4 6AD
F PAUL MERRON	074985 685	GREEN BROOK COTTAGE, KALE ST, BATSCOMBE, SOMERSET, BA4 6AD
A HELEN MIRIAM	01-393-3955	44 CHESTERFIELD ROAD, WEST EWELL, SURREY, KT19 9QP
F JOHN MIRIAM	01-393-3955	44 CHESTERFIELD ROAD, WEST EWELL, SURREY, KT19 9QP
N MICHAEL MOOSE		32 ORCHARD DRIVE, NAILSEA, AVON
F BRIAN MURLIS	0934-412048	1A ARUNDELL ROAD, WESTON-SUPER-MARE, AVON, BS23 2QG
F PAT NEWMAN	061-442-7525	33 MAULDETH CL, HEATON MERSEY, STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE, SK4 4NP
A CAROL NUNN		3 BRAMLEY CT, BARRS CT, WARMLEY, BRISTOL, BS15 7AZ
F IAN PARRY	0296-434244	11 LANGSTONE COURT, CLEVELAND PK, AYLESBURY, BUCKS HP20 2DF
F BRYAN PITTMAN	0784-37540	36 MANDR WAY, EGHAM, SURREY
P BILL PLATT	0279-412683	7 WHITEWAITS, HARLOW, ESSEX
F JOHN PUDDUCK	01-764-8454	9 WINDERMERE ROAD, LONDON, SW16
F STEPHEN REDWOOD	0934-823867	11 WEST STREET, BANWELL, BS24 6DA
F BERNARD REEVES	01-864-3559	16A NEWBURY WAY, NORTHOLT, MIDDX
F LESLEY ROBBINS	0734-792066	7 REYNARDS CLOSE, WINNERSH, BERKS, RG11 5NT
F JONATHAN ROBERTS	01-735-9423	1 VAUXHALL WALK, LONDON, SE11 5JT
F MARTIN ROWE	0252-872006	10 GREENLEAS CLOSE, YATELEY, CAMBERLEY, SURREY, GU17 7SL
F YVONNE ROWE	0252-872006	10 GREENLEAS CLOSE, YATELEY, CAMBERLEY, SURREY, GU17 7SL
F CHARLIE RUDDICK	0753-38494	9 AUGUST END, SLOUGH, BERKS
P CATE SAMPSON		33 WEST STREET, AXBRIDGE, SOMERSET
F RON SAUNDERS	0494-813487	21 RUSHMOR AVENUE, HAZLEMERE, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS
F STEPHEN SAY	0272-571070	56 FAIRLYN DRIVE, KINGSWOOD, BRISTOL, BS15 4PX
F DON SEARLE	0689-52116	14 HILDA VALE ROAD, FARNBOROUGH, ORPINGTON, KENT, BR6 7AN
F VINCE SIMMONDS	0761-221552	6 TOWNSEND, EAST HARPTREE, AVON, BS18
F GREG SMITH	0282-602922	9 HALSTEAD CLOSE, BARROWFORD, LANCS, BB9 6HH
F BRIAN SNELL	0329-238341	38 SERPENTINE ROAD, FAREHAM, HANTS, PO16 7ED
F ARTHUR SPAIN	0749-79358	"WAITANGI", THE BEECHES, LONG LN, DINDER, SOMERSET, BA5 3PD
F PETER SPAIN	0494-715027	25 FORGE CLOSE, HOLMER GREEN, BUCKS
F GRAHAM SUTLIFFE	01-979-3390	80 HURST LANE, EAST MOLESEY, SURREY
F STEVE TAYLOR	0273-834035	58 CUCKFIELD RD, HURSTPIERPNT, HASSOCKS, W SUSSEX, BN6 9SB
F BRYAN TERRY	0533-432533	12 WEIR LANE, HOUGHTON-ON-THE-HILL, LEICESTERSHIRE
F ADRIAN THOMAS	0272-851095	17 CEDAR WAY, NAILSEA, BRISTOL, BS19 1QZ
P DAVID TOOKE	0923-241522	117 LEAVESDEN ROAD, WATFORD, HERTS, WD2 5ER
F DON VOSPER	0761-53214	5 FRANKLYN TERRACE, FARRINGTON GURNEY, AVON
F ROGER WALLINGTON	0753-43384	125 LANGLEY ROAD, SLOUGH, BERKS
F DEREK WALSH	0468-41029	8 BEECH TERRACE, INGLETON, VIA CARNFORTH, N. YORKS, LA6 3HT
P DAVID WALSH	01-977-8414	58 MUNSTER ROAD, TEDDINGTON, MIDDX
A JUNE WALSH	01-977-8414	58 MUNSTER ROAD, TEDDINGTON, MIDDX
F PAT WALSH	01-977-8414	58 MUNSTER ROAD, TEDDINGTON, MIDDX
N MARK WARD	01-381-5274	20 PASSFIELDS, STAR ROAD, LONDON, W14 9LJ
P DAVID WARREN		11 HARVEY CLOSE, WORLE, WESTON SUPER MARE, AVON, BS22 0PW
F GILL WARREN	0276-684809	THE FLAT, 6 OAKLEY RD, CAMBERLEY, SURREY, GU15 3AT
F CHRIS WHITTLE	0442-832994	17 APPLE COTTAGES, OLD DEAN, BOVINGDON, HERTS
F ALLAN WICKS	0734-475628	39 SHERIDAN AVENUE, CAVERSHAM, READING, BERKS
P JOHN WILLIAMS	09274-25297	22 WATFORD ROAD, MIDDX, HA6 3NT
P PAUL WOOD	0799-30888	2 CHILTERN COTTAGES, GT CHESTERFORD, ESSEX, CB10 1PL
P CARL WRIGHT		KILMOON, LISDOONVARNA, COUNTY CLARE, EIRE
F STEVEN WYATT	0934-838953	17 STONEWELL DRIVE, CONGRESBURY, AVON, BS19 5DW
H FRED YOUNG	093484-3274	WANSTEAD COTTAGE, SHIPHAM, WINSCOMBE, SOMERSET

KEY: H=HONORARY F=FULL A=ASSOCIATE P=PROBATIONARY N=NEW PROSPECTIVE COMMITTEE TRUSTEE