

# Mendip Caving Group

# NEWS

NUMBER 210

MARCH 1990

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## MENDIP CAVING GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 10.30am on Saturday 31st March 1990 in the longroom of the Hunters Lodge, and will finish no later than 1.30pm. Motions for discussion, other than proposals to change the Constitution and Rules, should reach the Secretary prior to the meeting.

### AGENDA

Chairman - to be decided by the committee.

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 1.4.89 (not available as we went to press.)
3. Officers reports. (Included in this newsletter.)
4. Election of officers for 1990/91.  
The following nominations have been received:  
Secretary                   Malcolm Cotter and Jon Roberts.  
Ordinary Member         John Beauchamp, Gordon Lister and John Pudduck.  
Tacklemaster             Adrian Duckett and Steve Redwood.  
  
Cottage Warden         Brian Murlis                             Treasurer     Martin Rowe  
Recorder                Wayne Hiscox                            Editor         Yvonne Rowe  
Meets Secretary        Dave Tooke
5. Election of Auditors for 1990/91 - General and MCG Shop Accounts.
6. Motions.  
Proposed change to Part 1 of the constitution and Rules:  
Delete the category of overseas associate members clause 3 (c) (ii). Amend clause 3 (c) (iii) to become 3 (c) (ii)  
Add new paragraph to the end of clause 6 on subscriptions: Members may apply to the committee for consideration of a reduced personal subscription, in three circumstances: (i) Members aged 60 or over (ii) Members living overseas for at least 6 months a year (iii) Members on low wages
7. Any other business.
8. Date and venue of next meeting.
9. The meeting will finish no later than 1.30pm.

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## THE 1990 MENDIP CAVING GROUP ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday 31.03.90, The Webbington, Loxton, Axbridge.

Carnivorous Menu  
Smoked Salmon Mousse  
with Avocado  
Cream of Mushroom Soup  
with Courgettes  
Contrefilet of Beef  
with Red Wine and  
Shallot Sauce  
Raspberry Mousse  
Coffee and Mints

Vegetarian Menu  
Melon and Orange Cocktail  
Cream of Mushroom Soup  
with Courgettes

Vegetable Rissotto  
with Seasonal Vegetables

Raspberry Mousse  
Coffee and Mints

Tickets: £13.50 from John Beauchamp. AVAILABLE UNTIL 24.3.90.  
Vegetarian meals: order when buying your ticket.  
Coach: £2.00 return, depart Hunters 6.30pm, MCG 7.15pm, return 1.00am.

# TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31-12-89

by Mike Lovell

The Group's funds and investments increased by £4800 to £12739 in 1989. This increase was mainly attributed to advance payment of 1990 subscriptions and season tickets (£980), bank interest (£941), covenant refunds (£1274) and cottage fees from the Navy (£1152).

Normally three or four members pay their subscriptions early. The fact that this year 46 members paid their 1990 subscriptions in December 1989, was mainly thanks to Martin and Yvonne's efforts in issuing membership renewal forms and stamped addressed envelopes with the November Newsletter. The income from subscriptions adequately covered the general expenses for the Group.

Thanks to Alan Mellon, we have recovered £1274 in covenant refunds for the years 85/6, 86/7 and 87/8. Alan has still to claim refunds for the years 88/9 and 89/90 so if you received a form with the January Newsletter and wish to covenant your subscription, please return it to him as soon as possible.

Cottage usage showed a slight increase during the year. Cottage income, excluding the Navy contribution, covered the running costs but there was very little expenditure on maintenance during the year.

We purchased our own payphone during the year for £265. This will reduce our phone bill by over £160 a year, ensuring that it will be financially viable in the future.

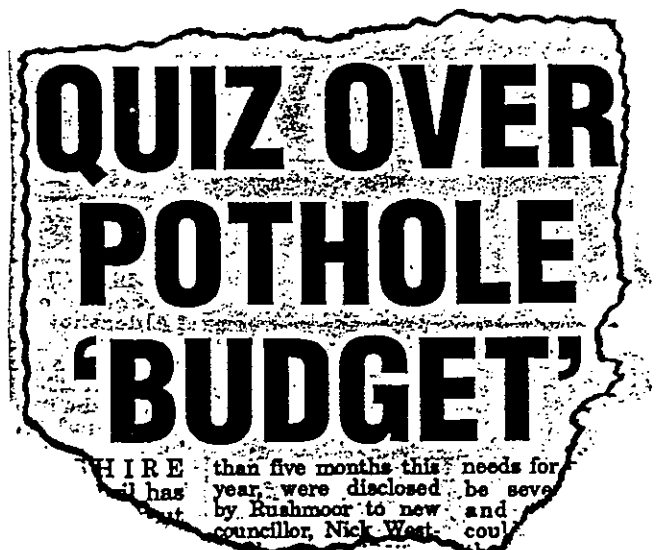
The season ticket scheme appeared to work well and almost broke even. Twenty two members took advantage of the scheme and they spent 235 bed-nights at the cottage, giving an overall loss in income of £15.

Following Ron Saunders' investigation of suitable investments for our longer term funds, the Trustees recommended the Charities Official Investment Fund (COIF) as a better alternative to our present National Savings Account. Ron arranged for the investment of £4000 in COIF in December 1989.

The Group purchased 100 Wessex Water shares in December, primarily to obtain a holding in a company which could affect our caving interests in the Mendip area. We are also investigating Bristol Waterworks shares. We were required by the Trustees Investment Act to divide our investment funds (basically our National Savings Account) equally into Narrow Range and Wide Range investments, before the purchase of the shares on the 6th December 1989. Narrow Range investments include National Savings Certificates and National Savings Accounts. Wider Range investments may include Narrow Range investments but also cover shares and unit trusts. There are various rules covering additions and withdrawals from these accounts that the new treasurer should be aware of.

The Group has about £5000 in readily accessible accounts which should cover most eventualities in the foreseeable future, this leaves over £3000 in our Narrow and Wide Range accounts for longer term investment.

Finally, I would like to thank Pete Spain and Bryan Terry for their efforts over the years in auditing the accounts.



## MCG INVESTMENTS AND FUNDS AT 31-12-89

Charities Official Investment Fund 4000.00

Narrow Range Investments

Post Office Investment Account	1370.99
Interest	<u>0360.68</u>
Total Narrow Range Investments	<u>1731.67</u>

Wide Range Investments

Wessex Water Shares (100) (*)	0170.00
Post Office Investment Account	1270.99
Interest	<u>0334.37</u>
Total Wide Range Investments	<u>1775.36</u>

Other Funds

Barclays Business Premium Account	3839.19
Barclays Current Account	0800.57
Petty Cash	0511.20
Committee Floats	0173.91
Less unrepresented cheques	<u>- 92.36</u>
Total Other Funds	<u>5232.51</u>
Total Investments and Funds	<u>12739.54</u>

\* based on closing price of  
170p per share on 29.12.89

## MENDIP CAVING GROUP ACCOUNTS, 31-12-89

## INCOME

1988		1989
1448.38	Cash at Bank 31-12-88	911.10
39.75	Cash in hand 31-12-88	158.43
42.05	Bank interest	246.47
1582.50	Subscriptions (1989)	2270.00
80.00	Subscriptions (1990)	850.00
	Covenant (85/6 86/7 87/8)	1274.72

## COTTAGE FEES

699.18	Members	406.50
	Season Tickets (1989)	210.00
	Season Tickets (1990)	130.00
417.25	Members guests	634.00
855.75	Guest clubs	991.00
948.90	Royal Navy	1152.00
	Fees from 1988	111.50
147.06	Donations	73.06

32.40	CCC Permits	18.30
971.20	Annual dinner	800.00
78.84	Half yearly dance	269.01
47.55	Shirt sales	58.00
143.00	Phone receipts	310.01
	Premium Bond Refund	50.00
	Collection for G. Shephard	200.00
	Miscellaneous	<u>13.00</u>
		<u>11137.10</u>

	Floats b/f	168.97
	Unrepresented cheques	<u>92.36</u>
	TOTAL	<u>11398.43</u>

## EXPENDITURE

1988		1989
	COTTAGE	
233.24	Coal/gas	132.59
675.00	Electricity	761.65
572.36	Insurance	616.11
505.86	General/water rates	562.95
54.76	Household	96.88
367.04	Phone	570.06
513.10	Cottage maintenance	<u>29.60</u>
		<u>2769.84</u>

## COMMITTEE

30.00	Secretary	58.36
31.06	Treasurer	39.38
417.10	Editor	493.24
53.61	Cottage Warden	172.30
56.15	Meet Secretary	76.24
24.39	Tacklemaster	91.10
	Recorder	106.17
61.90	General	<u>4.84</u>
		<u>1041.63</u>

## FLOATS OUTSTANDING

3.97	Treasurer	34.08
25.00	Editor	25.00
50.00	Cottage Warden	50.00
40.00	Recorder	14.83
50.00	Tacklemaster	<u>50.00</u>
		<u>173.91</u>

## MISCELLANEOUS

43.50	Library (books, desk)	157.72
387.37	Caving items	391.27
21.00	Subs to other clubs	81.00
1060.50	Dinner	796.55
	Dinner 1990 deposit	100.00
161.08	Half yearly dance	354.00
	Hall 1990 Deposit	25.00
	Water Share Purchase	100.00
	Red Cross Donation (Grant Shephard)	250.00
107.55	Miscellaneous	<u>5.00</u>
		<u>2260.54</u>

Unaccounted expenditure 1.55

Cash at bank 31-12-89 4639.76

Cash in hand 31-12-89	<u>511.20</u>
	<u>5152.51</u>

TOTAL 11398.43

## MEET SECRETARY'S REPORT

by Martin Rowe

A full Meets Programme for 1990 was published in January's Newsletter. This included some 50 meets in Great Britain as well as proposed trips to France, Ireland and Mallorca this year and the Berger next year. I received two phone calls - one about France, one about the Berger. Is there anyone out there? Has activity in the Group totally ceased? Are we merely "armchair cavers", content to read about the exploits of others?

Personally, I feel that this is not the case. There is probably just as much caving now as there has ever been. The difference now is that people (generally) are more financially independent, and no longer have to club together for trips further afield. There is also more provision for accommodation for cavers in Yorks etc, so that people are not dependent on reciprocal agreements with other caving clubs. Most people now have their own car and many (?) have their transport subsidised or even have a company car. With the advent of SRT, it is now possible for a couple of cavers to carry all the tackle to bottom a major Yorks cave, and for small (six or so) groups to attempt

## Expeditions, not holidays

*Guardian headline*

serious systems abroad like Sima GESM. SRT gear is personal - there is no call on the Group to provide rope or personal tackle. Is this what is happening? People certainly seem to be caving, in this country at least, in their own "cliques", independent of the Group but using the Group's facilities such as the library. If this is so, do we need a Meets Secretary, do we need a Meets programme, and where does it leave the "novice" who joins the Group for the benefit of being able to cave alongside experienced cavers?

Perhaps the role of Meets Secretary should be changed. Rather than arranging a Meets Programme up to a year ahead, he (or she) should concentrate on organising "expeditions" abroad and seeing that novices are catered for in the Group. There is also scope for the Meets Secretary to become more involved in the organising of Mendip digs. With a Journal pending, it would be good to have a discovery worth reporting.

Having said all that, it was encouraging to find the cottage fully booked on the Member's weekend in February. Attendance on Member's weekends seems to be increasing to the point where we may need to consider having two Member's weekends per month. The weekly meet in Egham is also well attended.

With high interest rates forcing mortgages upwards, and with poll tax impending, there may be less activity in coming months. I for one am finding that my opportunities for caving are limited due to my financial situation. In other words, you are more likely to see me on Mendip than in Yorks. For this reason, I feel that someone who is caving on a more regular basis than myself should take over as Meet Secretary. I have enjoyed my stint, and wish my successor well.



COTTAGE WARDEN'S REPORT

by Brian Murlis

This year has been a fairly quiet one with no major changes. Unfortunately, the major projects that I had hoped to achieve, ie - the wash area soakaway, drainage for the front gate and tarmacking the car park have not been done at the time of writing, though, I am hoping that all, except the tarmacking will be achieved during the March Maintenance Weekend.



PROPOSED

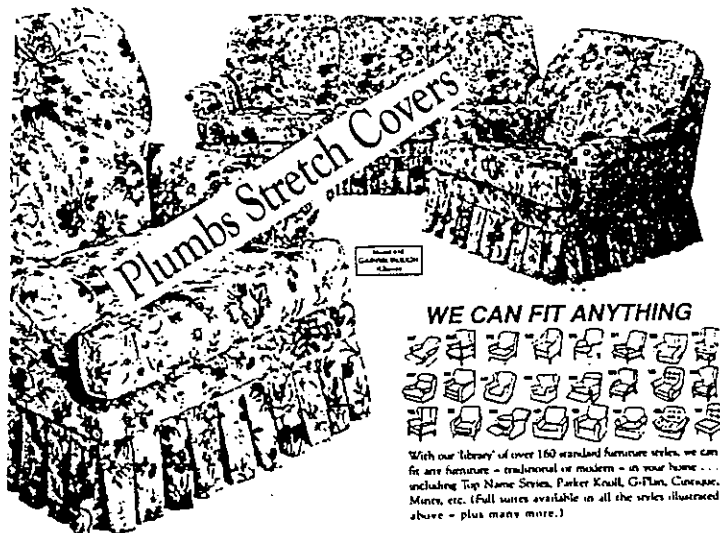
SNORER'S

ANNEX???

COTTAGE MAINTENANCE

My views on this subject are the same as my predecessor, out of the 120 or so members, there are very few who lift a finger to do anything in or around the cottage, it is always the same few faces who help, and the ones who do not usually complain about the work not being done! I would like to point out that I am not the Cottage Maintenance Man, this is everyone's responsibility.

I would further like to remind members to clean the cottage up before they leave after weekends, as I have had several complaints during the year, about the state the place is left in.



FUTURE PROJECT?

BOOKINGS

In general, the cottage was fairly quiet last year, with the Royal Navy being our biggest benefactor (and best at cleaning the cottage!!). Members' weekends have been very quiet generally, with the cottage having been empty on a few of them.

This year has, so far, seen a dramatic increase in bookings, with virtually every weekend booked until May. Quite a few new Clubs and Organisations have been booking, so our reputation for a high standard of accommodation has been getting around.

EXPENDITURE - 1 APRIL 1989 TO 31 JANUARY 1990

Fuel .. .. .	£48.56
Propane .. .. .	£54.50
New ladder .. .. .	£70.00
Postage .. .. .	£ 9.46
Stationary .. .. .	£ 8.68
Keys & locks .. .. .	£19.75
Hose fittings .. .. .	£24.17
General repairs (toaster, taps, etc) .. .. .	£20.44
Sundry materials (toilet rolls, mops, etc) .. .. .	£55.95
Siting new telephone .. .. .	£29.95
TOTAL	<u>£341.26</u>

## EDITOR'S REPORT

by Yvonne Rowe

Since the last AGM I have produced five Bulletins and five Newsletters as well as two completely revised Membership Lists. My intention was to produce either a Bulletin or Newsletter every month. I was able to achieve this, except in July and October when I did not receive enough contributions from members to make up a Bulletin, let alone a Newsletter.

I still enjoy being the Editor but it's disappointing to get such little response from 120 members. Remember, articles don't need to be only about caving, there are many associated subjects that are just as interesting - so come on you lot! As well as articles, I need to know all the gossip - births, marriages and other items of news that you come across. If I don't get any articles soon then members will be getting a bi-monthly Bulletin and only the occasional Newsletter. Martin and I wrote most of the January Newsletter ourselves, the next Newsletter will contain AGM necessities and Officers reports (with any luck!), then after that there's nothing that won't fit in a Bulletin.

My thanks to those few stalwarts who have sent me articles and snippets over the past year. Special thanks to Tony Knibbs, Vince Simmonds, Steve Redwood, John Beauchamp and Brian Murlis who regularly contribute articles and items, as well as Dave Little, Alan Dougherty, John Roberts, Allan Wicks and Alan Mellon. Thanks also to all those members who have bothered to send news cuttings, gossip and news.

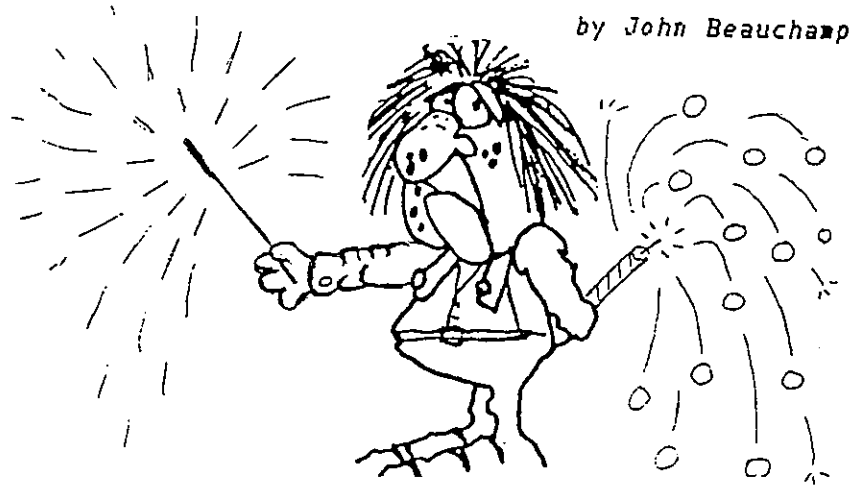


Finally, I must mention the Jon Robert's computer - not only has it proved invaluable for producing the Newsletter and Bulletin but also for Membership lists, address labels, CCC permits, membership forms, etc. and more recently subs renewal forms, covenant forms, and dinner tickets. The response from members in completing and returning these various forms has been overwhelming, eg. Mike Lovell actually had over 40 subs forms returned (with payment!) before Christmas, with about the same again by the end of January. This made the annual subscription chase very much easier this year - thanks from all of us concerned, your prompt response is much appreciated.

## ORDINARY MEMBER'S REPORT

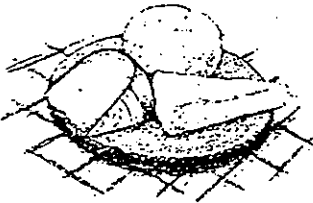
by John Beauchamp

The two main projects required of this post are the Half-yearly Barn Dance and the AGM dinner. I am pleased to report that the Barn Dance held on 7.10.89 was deemed to be a success, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the few people that did so much to help on that evening, and also the clearing up on the Sunday morning.



Priddy village hall has been booked for this years "do" to be held on Saturday 3.11.90. It is hoped to combine some sort of firework event possibly before the dance.

Fingers are crossed for a successful evening for the AGM. The venue is an untried new one at the Webbington Country Club, on the face of it an upmarket move. If this proves disappointing then it may well be back to the Star which we hear is under new management.



A job recently landed in my lap is to get some new MCG sweatshirts. These will be available shortly after the AGM.

# MCG

## doings

### Quotes . . .

**S**OMEBODY, don't ask me why, sends this cutting from the West Somerset Free Press: "A Somerset Health Authority survey to help pinpoint incontinence sufferers in the West seems to have back-fired on them. . ."

**BRISTOL, Avon**  
Scheme proposed

Mixed dev - Heritage Group, 235-237 Old Marylebone Rd, London NW1 5QT plans to build a £14m leisure-based scheme at Redcliffe Caves, Bristol. Works include building a glass museum, a glass blowing centre, restaurants pub etc, with finance from Security Pacific Eurofinance.

### TYING THE KNOT

Congratulations to Alan Mellon and Liz Yates who are to be married on 21.04.90

### CONGRATULATIONS . . .

. . .to Dina and Dik Housego on the birth of daughter Rachel, 7lb 8oz, on 11.1.90

### PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

The following applications for membership will be considered at the next committee meeting:

Katja Kaufmann, Barry Parker, Kevin West (advertised in Bulletin no.8) and Geoffrey Beale, 30 Churchill Crescent, Sonning Common, Reading, Berks, RG4 9RX Tel.0734-722510 (Proposed by B. Murlis, J. Beauchamp)

++++ MCG 1990 MEETS PROGRAMME ++++ BANK HOLIDAY WEEKENDS IN ITALICS ++++

DATE	AREA	MAIN EVENT	AND/OR
31 Mar - 01 Apr	Mendip	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	St Cuthberts
13 Apr - 16 Apr	Scotland	Cnoc Mh Uamh	Uamh An Claonaite
13 Apr - 16 Apr	Cumbria	Copper Mines	Graphite Mines
05 May - 07 May	Mendip	Swildons 9	Singing River Mine
26 May - 28 May	S Wales	Ogof Ffynnon Ddu	Craig A Ffynnon
02 Jun - 03 Jun	Mendip	Geology Field Trip	Merehead Quarry
23 Jun - 24 Jun	Chepstow	Otter Hole	(over-tide trip)
07 Jul - 08 Jul	Mendip	Thrupe Lane	Burrington Caves
21 Jul - 22 Jul	Yorkshire	Pippikin/Link	Long Kin West
04 Aug - 05 Aug	Mendip	Rescue Practise	Upper Flood
25 Aug - 27 Aug	Yorkshire	Penyghent Pot	Notts Pot
08 Sep - 09 Sep	Mendip	Manor Farm	Novice Weekend
22 Sep - 23 Sep	Derbyshire	Peak Cavern	Oxlow Caverns
06 Oct - 07 Oct	Mendip	Longwood clean up	East Twin Swallet
20 Oct - 21 Oct	Yorkshire	Lost Johns	Hurnell Moss
03 Nov - 04 Nov	Mendip	HALF YEARLY MEETING	BARN DANCE/BONFIRE
17 Nov - 18 Nov	S Wales	Daren Cilau	Pwll Dwfn
01 Dec - 02 Dec	Mendip	Charterhouse	GB Cavern
15 Dec - 16 Dec	Yorkshire	Alum Pot	Bar Pot
29 Dec - 01 Jan	Mendip	New Year Party	

MCG EXPEDITIONS	June - July	Ireland	NW Clare
### AND ###	July - August	France	Vercors
CAVING HOLIDAYS	Winter	Mallorca	Pollensa

For further details of meetings, contact Martin Rowe (tel: 0252 872006)  
 "Away" meets: accommodation can be booked by telephoning the relevant cottage warden:

Yorkshire	Northern Pennine Club	Steve Thorpe	0532 559214
South Wales	South Wales Caving Club	Janice Richards	0985 219111

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 member's 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 children, and their accompanied guests



**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: (WORK) 0749-72081  
 3 Keward, Glastonbury Road, Wells, Somerset

**EDITOR:** YVONNE ROWE tel: 0252-872006  
 10 Greenleas Close, Yateley, Camberley, Surrey, GU17 7SL

**TACKLEMASTER:** STEVE REDWOOD tel: 0934-823867  
 11 West Street, Banwell, Avon, BS24 6DA

The Mendip Caving Group is a registered charity, number 270088  
 The Group's Trustees are: Ron Saunders, Malcolm Cotter, Pat Walsh and Peter Matthews