

# Mendip Caving's NEWS

LOUNGE

NUMBER 215

APRIL 1991

## COTTAGE WORK

Just a reminder about the cottage work weekend on the 4/5th May (members weekend). There are always jobs that need doing and Brian Murlis the cottage warden does as much as he can (which is quite a lot) but as the cottage gets older there is more and more general maintenance required to keep it up to scratch. Here is a list of jobs requiring attention, we hope you can come along and help:-



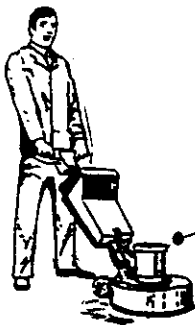
\* Repair Foremans lounge ceiling

\* Wash down and repaint

large bunk rooms

\* Fit towel rail in members room

\* Thorough cleaning of lounge and kitchen, toilets, changing and shower rooms, cleaning cupboard



\* Clear gutters

\* Attempt to level garden

\* Clean windows

\* Clear out and tidy drying shed

\* Clear out and tidy gas store

\* Repair door on gas store

\* Fix leak on shower mixer

\* Attempt to repair/service cooker

\* Wash lounge seats, before fitting covers

(if good drying weather conditions)

\* Repair leg on lounge table

\* anything else that needs attention

\* Drink Barrel!!



++++ MCG 1991 MEETS PROGRAMME ++++ BANK HOLIDAY WEEKENDS IN ITALICS ++++

*Meets and Leaders are published as an on-going programme throughout the year.*

DATE	AREA	MAIN EVENT	CONTACT	TELE. NO.
04 May - 06 May	Mendip	Cottage Work & barrel	BRIAN MURLIS	0934-412048
01 Jun - 02 Jun	Mendip	Geology weekend	MALCOLM COTTER	07842-52643
06 Jul - 07 Jul	Mendip	SRT Training	MARTIN ROWE	0252-872006
14 Jul - 28 Jul	Exchange	Czechoslovakia	DAVE TOOKE	0923-241522
19 Jul - 03 Aug	S. France	Haute Garrone	MARTIN ROWE	0252-872006
17 Aug	Chepstow	Otter Hole	DAVE TOOKE	0923-241522
07 Sep	Mendip	Charterhouse Cave	YVONNE ROWE	0252-872006
02 Nov	Mendip	HYGM/Barn Dance/Bonfire	ARTHUR SPAIN	0749-679358

*Accommodation in Yorks & S.Wales can be booked by through 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



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 10 Greenleas Close, Yateley, Camberley, Surrey, GU17 7SL  
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 117 Leavesden Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD2 5ER  
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 1a Arundell Road, Weston - super - Mare, Avon, BS23 2QG  
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**ORDINARY MEMBER:** ARTHUR SPAIN : 0749-679358  
 Waitangi, Long Lane, Dinder, Somerset, BA5 3PQ

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



## ON THE MOVE

Pat Newman has moved to:  
 86 Elms Close, Little Stoke, Bristol,  
 BS12 6RJ. Tel: 0454-617434.

## PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

The following applications for probationary membership will be considered at the next committee meeting on 01.06.91:

Nicholas Gilson, 24 Coombe Road, Weston-Super-Mare, Avon. Tel: 0934-417697  
 Proposed by: B Murlis, J Beauchamp

Stephen Porton, 79 Becket Road, Worle, Weston-Super-Mare, Avon, BS23 1TE. Tel: 0934-575686  
 Proposed by: B Murlis, J Beauchamp

Joel Corrigan, Portnal Hill, Portnal Drive, Wentworth, Surrey, GU25 4NW. Tel: 0344-842265  
 Proposed by: JP Burch, D Tooke

Julie Deane, 25 Kebble Way, Claremont Wood, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 4XA. Tel: 0276-34047  
 Proposed by: B Parker, K West

## WELCOME BACK...

...to Arthur Cox and Richard Woolacott, reinstated as full members.

## MCG EXPEDITIONS

The meet secretary wants to know where members would like to go for MCG expeditions in 1992. So far Northern Spain and Ireland have been suggested. If you are interested in either of these or have other ideas then please let Dave Tooke know (tel: 0923-241522) so he can start getting information and making inquiries.

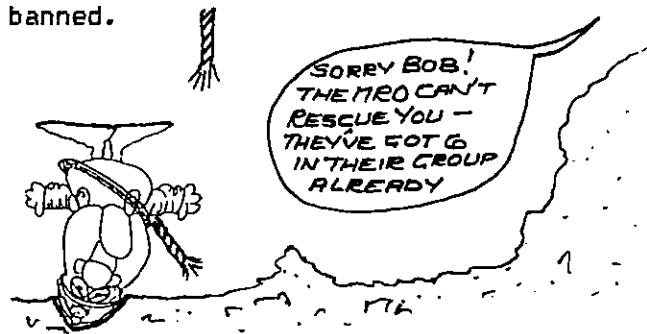
## CHARTERHOUSE KEYS

Charterhouse Caving Committee keys must **NOT** be loaned out other than to MCG members, their guests and guest groups staying at the cottage and who belong to a bona fide club. Just to remind you, these caves are:

Charterhouse Cave (leader only), Longwood/August, Rhino Rift, Tynings Farm Swallet, and GB Cavern...

## ... GB CAVERN

A warning - GB access has become very strict due to members of other clubs abusing the regulations. As a result the UBSS are organising "stake-outs" and are monitoring parties going in and coming out - so beware! The rule is: party size of 6 to one key. You cannot go in as two parties of 6 sharing one key. If you are a group of 7, the 7th person cannot join a smaller group to gain access then rejoin their original group inside the cave, making a group of 7 again. You cannot leave your group to join a group of 6 and come out with them. Also, don't forget to check that you and your guests carry a valid CCC permit even when underground, UBSS are asking to see them. For a reminder of the access arrangements and issue of CCC permits see MCG Bulletin No.12, Dec.1990. Ignoring these rules will certainly get you banned by UBSS from GB, and repeated infringements by MCG members could mean that the Group as a whole could be banned.



## MONKTON FARLEIGH

I have tentatively arranged a trip down Monkton Farleigh Mine with "Prew" (and his dog Socket) on the afternoon of Saturday July 6th (member's weekend). If anyone is interested, please let me know in good time so I can confirm that the trip is on. Phone Yvonne Rowe on 0252-872006 to book a place and for more details.

## LET US ALL RAISE OUR GLASS IN A TOAST...

...to the vacant secretarial post  
The excitement grows hotter  
Is it Roberts or Cotter?  
Or some other Australian Ghost?

*The subject chosen for this year's  
limerick competition at the Annual  
Dinner was "The Post". Here are all the  
limericks fit for printing:-*

At the AGM of the MCG  
The secretary's post was free  
There was a lot of proposing  
And a lot of "supposing"  
Therefore a postal vote it would be.

Some say caving politics breed medi-  
iocracy  
Other say it just ends in hypocrisy  
You'll find the man with the most  
Will arrive in the post  
I suppose you could call that democracy.

Each year there assembled a host  
In order to elect a post  
As the host did not agree  
The election was not to be  
So it has to be done now by post.

Oh, who do we all blame the most?  
For the outstanding secretarial post  
Can all the committee  
Put their hand on their tittie  
And swear to the constitutional oath.

Of an idea I haven't the ghost  
In proposing post prandial toast  
When the name of the game  
Is the wane in my fame  
And I'm cursed to seek succour by post.

The meeting had got quite political  
And the timing was now getting critical  
The bone of contention  
Was the post I daren't mention  
But for MCG this was quite typical.

I wish to propose you a toast  
"The committee". We love them the most  
The editor's prolific  
The rest are terrific  
But the secretary's lost in the post.

Nominations arrived in the post  
Asking "Who do you fancy the most?"  
The timing was critical  
And got very political  
For one nomination was loast(!)

There was a young postman called Jock  
Who wore a red kilt like a frock  
One day full of guilt  
He started to wilt  
So he padded it out with a sock.

*and the winner was:-*

A young man who came from the city  
Was seeking a post on committee  
He ran out of luck  
And came quite unstuck!  
Oh what a shame, what a pity!

## COTTAGE BOOKINGS

03 May - 05 May	Members' Weekend	
06 May	Gof Daine	(12)
07 May - 10 May	Royal Navy	(??)
10 May	Churchfield Sch	(12)
31 May - 01 Jun	Members' Weekend	
14 Jun	Churchfield Sch	(12)
05 Jul - 06 Jul	Members' Weekend	
12 Jul - 13 Jul	East Dorset Speleo	(12)
15 Jul - 19 Jul	Royal Navy	(??)
11 Oct - 12 Oct	Wolves Mtg Club	(10)

NB Dates refer to evening of arrival eg  
22 Mar means arriving evening of Fri 22  
Mar, booked into bunk Fri night/Sat  
morning.

## MCG SWEATSHIRTS

*QUALITY FOR ONLY £9.50!*

Stocks can be found in the cupboards in  
the Foreman's Lounge. The keys to the  
padlocks are on the Library door.  
Please pay by cheque ONLY, made payable  
to MCG and crossed "A/C payee only".  
Leave the cheque in the box provided and  
fill out the stock form.

Colours available in large or ex-large  
are BURGUNDY; NAVY; GREY; PRIMROSE.

They can also be bought by post via  
Arthur Spain. Please add £1.50 per item  
to cover postage and packing ie. £9.50 +  
£1.50 = £11.00 per sweatshirt by mail!

## MEETS UPDATE 1991

by Dave Tooke

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

After months of hard work and dogged determination dates have finally been set for the Czechoslovak ground invasion. The expedition will take place from the 14th to the 28th July and a rough itinerary has been prepared by our hosts:

The first week will be based in Prague and will include mine exploration, sandstone climbing and walking in Bohemia.

The second week will involve travelling to the south of the country where the larger caves will be visited.

Cost of the trip will be approximately £250.00 which is incredibly cheap, but bearing in mind this is an exchange trip, you will be expected to chip in for the return visit next year.

Obviously, because time is running short, I need to know if you plan to attend as soon as possible so please ring me or send me a £100.00 cheque as a sign of good faith by mid May.

OTTER HOLE

This trip has been booked for 17th August. It should be stressed that party members must be extremely fit as the trip is usually 10hrs plus. Meeting in the car park at 8.00am and the maximum party is four.

Otter Hole info:-

Otter Hole isn't just the best-decorated known cave in the British Isles - it is also one of the most unusual in other respects. Entered from near its natural resurgence (which lies in the inter-tidal zone on the west bank of the River Wye near Chepstow) a 300m entrance series leads to a tidal sump which, in average, summertime conditions, opens and closes at around the mid-tide point. Beyond this sump a range of natural challenges includes the serious problem of how to protect and conserve the beautiful formations, many of which have suffered irreparable damage at the hands and feet of visiting cavers since Otter Hole was discovered in the 1970s. Because of the need to help preserve the cave and its pretties for future generations, and also to help visitors with the safety aspects of the cave and its unique tidal characteristics, the Royal Forest of Dean Caving Club (who discovered and pushed the cave) operate a leader system. Leaders are more like guides, helping visiting cavers to make the best of their trip. Leaders are local cavers who know the cave well and have a good feel for the sometimes unexpected tendencies of its streamway and tidal sump, which are affected by a range of outside weather conditions.

What to take with you: your party should bring a basic underground first-aid kit in case of injury. Two food and first-aid dumps are located in the cave (your leader will know where). Finally, bring an old brush for removing the mud off your caving gear at the bath by the hillside spring on the way back to the car park after the trip.

Experienced cavers only: this is not a cave for the unfit, the clumsy, the incompetent or the inexperienced. If the leader finds member(s) of your party are not up to the trip, he'll call the trip off before you've gone very far.

Good lights only: trips can last for more than 10 hours, so make sure you bring good reliable electric lamps. NO CARBIDE LAMPS, not even as emergency spares.

Remember: that although Otter Hole has no single outstanding safety hazard it is slippery everywhere and is also loose in places which requires cavers to watch their step and be really careful about safety. An immobilising accident beyond the tidal sump would be a major rescue challenge and, in certain circumstances, the early arrival of a rescue team would be impossible.

PLEASE: LEAVE NO LITTER, DON'T CROSS TAPES, AVOID HANDLING FORMATIONS. GO CAREFULLY!

## FRAGMENTS FROM FRANCE - 8

*by Tony Knibbs*

In 1990 the first caving trip of note was a visit to one of the many entrances of the Réseau Trombe at Arbas. The adjacent shaft entrances of Gouffre du Plantillet (1455m) are the second and third highest (after Gouffre du Plan de Liet at 1469m) known feeders to the system. As yet there is no possible connection to the main system from Deax Jean-Paul, a fact which spurred a visit that included a detour to see some blue stalactites. Because they soon unite, the easier Plantillet shaft was rigged (4 rebelay).

Cars were parked as usual at Fontaine de L'Ours and the walk up was in brilliant sunshine. A moment of warm relaxation was had before descending the initial 40m of GOUFFRE DU PLANTILLET entrance shaft to reach an easy traverse to the left into a passage. This led, via a short crawl, to a traverse line over a deep rift then downslope to the next pitch of 20m to a bouldery ledge and short traverse to a further 20m pitch (1 rebelay) down to a sloping ledge to another drop of 15m.

A few metres along a bouldery rift arrived at a short but tight squeeze opening out into a small stream passage joined at a T-junction. Arrival at this point coincided with a young Belgian in the party getting into difficulties at the single rebelay on the last 40m pitch. The problem warranted an immediate exit with the now-tiring lad, leaving whatever attractions beyond the streamway until another visit.

Warm weather greeted us for a weekend at a gîte at Cabrerets, Lot, May 25/26/27 including a national holiday. A large turnout of the Spéléo-club Aérospatiale ensured a convivial atmosphere and only the gentlest of caving trips were undertaken, the best being to the IGUE DE ST. SOL at Lacave. The Igue (a local variant of "hole") is located about 17km NW of Gramat - follow N140 for some 15 km and turn left, before Montvalent, towards Mayronne where the D23 is intercepted and followed SW towards Lacave for about 3km to a walled cemetery in the valley on the left. A track just west of the cemetery can be followed by car to a point where the going gets tougher. Park and continue on foot, looking for a track to the right after about 1km where the approach levels out at a clearing.

The entrance is fenced off and the obvious 75m shaft has equally obvious natural belays at trees, one overhanging the shaft. Two rebelay were needed to reach the horizontal passage below; careful belay selection would avoid mud problems on the ascent. From the muddy landing slope, a roomy passage runs off to the left and right. To the left (upcave) the going soon gets very muddy and a choke is reached after 200m. To the right the 10m wide x 15m high passage continues past some splendid columns and flowstone formations to end at a mud choke. This choke is currently being dug and off-duty diggers have created a veritable art gallery of mud sculptures - some quite delightfully obscene, others are rather amusing. Beyond this mud choke lies the grottes de Lecave: one a natural entrance to a choke, the other a show cave. Both are located only 0.5km further SW along the road past the cemetery. Other entrances were noticed during the walk to Igue de St. Sol and the general area looked very interesting.

The next highpoint of caving was a week spent in the Ardèche, centred at a campsite adjacent to Aven-Grotte de Marzal, staying as guests of the Flahaut family who have pursued a dig here for over 20 years. They have established a remarkable campsite with

many individual tent pitches beneath the welcome (essential) shade of scrub oaks. It was now July (week of 7-15) and very hot.

Marzal is almost at the T-junction of the D201 (St. Marcel d'Ardèche to Vallon Pont d'Arc road and the D590 which meets it from the Gorges de l'Ardèche direction. Related to the Gorges de l'Ardèche, Marzal is 3km north of Cirque de la Madeleine, a well-known spectacular horseshoe-bend in the Ardèche river. Three publications are useful when caving in this region: "Spéléo Sportive en Ardèche", Edisud 1989, Drouin and Marchand, and volumes 1 and 2 of "Les Cavités Majeures de Méjannes le Clap", Société Cévenole de Spéléologie et de Préhistoire. Most caves are named and located on the IGN 1:25000 Série bleu maps of the area, but the countryside has a way of hiding entrances in thickets and behind outcrops.

The first "serious" trip was to the GOULE-EVENT-DE FOUSSOUBIE, a system which feeds the Ardèche from the south. It is over 20km long, 135m deep and has an evil reputation in flood conditions - like it's not survivable. The sink entrance is marked in IGN sheet 2939 ouest, just north of the T-junction D355/D217 between Vagnas and Labastide de Virac, some 6km due south of Vallon.

A 3m rope scramble drops to the large entrance arch and one enters a roomy, damp and well-scoured passage. Two short pitches of 4m and 7m descend to the Passage de Joly with a few pools to navigate before reaching the Grande Marmite pitch(es) of 10m. Rope tricks were the tactic here to avoid deep pools below - a 5m drop, a 3m ascent then a 6m drop to the start of the first of two, long canal sections. Wetsuited cavers would choose to wade or swim the canals, but we did it the hard way along traverse lines where some acrobatics were sometimes called for. Eventually a gloomy, large sump pool halted progress and marked the end of our trip. It was rather like doing Swildon's to Sump 1, knowing that much more cave was to be left for another day.

The EVENT DE PEYREJAL is located about 25km south of Vallon Pont d'Arc, and is another mainly horizontal system of roomy passages, and about 6km in length. Its two entrances, one natural and one artificial, are situated in an area of scrubby "garrigue" 0.5km south off the D901, and roughly halfway between St. Paul-le-Jeune and St. André-de-Cruzières. A roadside kilomètre marker (No.15) is adjacent to the track followed roughly SE to a clearing (and carbide dump), the artificial entrance being about 100m ahead. The circular metal lid - not locked - is easily recognisable if you can get within about 5m of it!

This entrance is about 50m above the main horizontal passage and entails a series of mostly steeply sloping rope climbs which incurred SRT techniques. A single rope of 100m would easily suffice for all the rather scrappy drops of 4, 10, 8, 7 and 3m, but the guide says 15, 10, 12, 12 and 3m ropes.

Turning right along the main gallery soon brought us to the downstream sump, beyond which lies the natural entrance. To the left, 300m of easy walking reached a left-hand inlet which we followed gently upslope to another sump, this time separating us from the Goule de Sauras, and memorable for a long section of circular cross-section passage. Back in the main gallery we continued for several hundred metres to where it took on a somewhat bedding-plane character and both walls and floor showed noticeable erosion features. One such feature provided a 5m hole in the floor which gained a further 300m to where the roof became uncomfortably low; this was obviously the right place to turn back, and we did.

To be continued as Fragments From France - 9 in Newsletter no.215.

## SECRET HISTORY OF THE BAT CAVE

by Trevor Lawson

South Mimms, home of the legendary M25 service station and its accompanying traffic jam, seems an unlikely venue for a caving expedition. Yet beneath a very ordinary-looking farm nearby are a series of gigantic caverns which, until recently, had lain hidden since before the First World War.

From the surface, you would never guess what lies below. Only three narrow, vertical shafts provide access to the vast underground chambers, although caver John Huston, who rediscovered them almost by accident, believes that somewhere close by is a collapsed shaft large enough to accommodate horses and carts. The reason is that the caverns are actually a vast chalk mine, a breathtaking monument to labourers who spent their entire lives wielding pick-axes by candle light during the 1800s to supply the raw materials of calcium carbonate and flint to the local building trade.

Virtually nothing is known of the history of chalkmining in the Chilterns. Another huge tunnel system, discovered near Windsor last year, shows that it was a local industry of significant importance in the 19th century, yet it remains an enigma. Most local people around South Mimms have no idea of the mine's existence, although there are more than 1132ft of tunnel known, up to 40ft high and 32ft wide. It is one of the largest unsupported chalk mines anywhere in the world, representing a volume of chalk and flint exceeding 7700 cubic metres.

And among the few who do know of the mine's existence and precise location, there are rumours that the excavations are much larger. A surface pond indicates subsidence in a second mine, and an entire field is pitted with hollows, suggesting a gigantic system of tunnels below. Geologists might argue otherwise, claiming that chalk is too soft and unstable to support such excavations. But the miners were extremely cunning.

The tunnels were started close to the surface and the diggers worked their way down into the floor, deeper and deeper, creating a shape of a huge church vault to give the structure stability. A century on, the vaults emptied of some 2300 tonnes of chalk, stand as firm as they did in the 1800s. A soot graffito on the roof of the youngest tunnel records the last day of mining: April 17, 1912. "There are several carvings in the walls showing the mining agent, who wasn't particularly popular," explained John Huston, as we descended into the abyss.

"Miners never liked their agents, but legend has it that in this case one of the last miners, William Rowson, set light to the agent's house, killing him, his wife and children and destroying all the records relating to the mine." Sure enough, scratched into a wall is an illustration of a burning house with a stick-limbed mining agent grimly waving his twiggy arms in the flames. Alongside are the initials W.R. By a quirk, this act of arson has actually been beneficial to certain members of the local community: Rats.

A search through the records in County Hall reveals that only a well is listed for the area, probably for tax-evasion purposes. A mine was a very taxable asset, but wells came free. Consequently, the mine has remained undiscovered by authorities seeking a suitable site for a nuclear fall-out shelter, and cavers and bat enthusiasts alike intend to keep it that way. The Herts and Middlesex bat group has just completed £6600 worth of work on the mine's entrances, clearing the third shaft of debris to improve air circulation in the tunnels.

Two nationally rare species, Natterer's and Daubenton's Bat, use the tunnel system as winter quarters. The numbers are surveyed monthly by bat group members, who descend 80ft to the pit face to reach the crevices in which the bats roost. Contrary to popular belief, a stable atmosphere does not make an ideal hibernation site for bats. A dynamic environment is essential, with high humidity and constant air movement. By clearing the third shaft, Patty Briggs of the bat group hopes to increase the number of bats using the site.



"This is the first mine of its kind in the Home Counties to be capped and renovated in this way," she explained.

"The tunnels are so large that two shafts on their own cannot maintain enough air circulation to suit bats. With a third shaft clear, we hope to have 100 roosting here in the coldest months."

It is ironic that a mine with such a morbid and mysterious history should experience so lively a renaissance. For the bats, it is equivalent to the Brave New World below ground envisaged by H.G. Wells's artillery man in "War of the Worlds".

While development and intensive agriculture increase the threats to bats' long-term survival above ground, they at least have a secure retreat in the bowels of man's bygone excavations.

(Sunday Observer 27.1.91)

## POWER—DRILL CLIMBERS VANDALISE ROCK FACE

by Peter Beaumont

The environmentally wholesome reputation of Britain's mountaineers has been shattered by allegations that an ancient monument and Site of Special Scientific Interest has been vandalised by rock climbers. The row, which threatens relations between climbers and landowners, concerns the use of power drills and stainless steel bolts by climbers to render safe difficult and dangerous climbs on Dumbarton Rock, the volcanic plinth that supports Dumbarton Castle. The site, in use since prehistoric times and once the capital of the ancient kingdom of Strathclyde, is owned by Scotland's Historic Buildings and Monuments, which has banned climbers from the rock and threatens to seek up to £200 fines or six months jail if further bolts appear.

Traditionally, British climbers have protected against falls by slotting metal wedges into natural cracks and faults in the rock. The leading climber clips into these and the second climber removes them, leaving the rock undamaged. On faces where this is impossible, such as blank walls, the climbing will be much harder, with the possibility of falls. The alternative is to bolt a route by abseiling down the proposed line of ascent and filling in dangerous blank sections with a battery-powered drill and expansion bolts. The leading climber then clips his or her rope on to the bolts.

The row at Dumbarton began last year, when climbers bolted three climbs, a move condemned by *Climber* magazine as vandalism. When alerted to the bolts, the estate managers of Historic Buildings and Monuments hired a firm of Edinburgh steeplejacks to remove the bolts - although, ironically, they could achieve this only by placing a bolt themselves. A spokesman for Historic Buildings and Monuments said: "These bolts were placed on the rock without any consultation with the owners or the Scottish Nature Conservancy Council, who have registered the rock as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. We do not want our rock damaged and therefore we arranged to have the bolts removed."

The bolting of Dumbarton Rock was also condemned by Bob Reid, access officer of the Mountaineering Council of Scotland. He said: "The danger is that the acts of a few selfish climbers at Dumbarton have created a precedent." The row is seen as a test case. While the use of bolts has long been widespread in Europe, British climbers have mainly resisted what they see as the emasculation of the adventure of rock climbing - where the climbers use judgement and skill to protect themselves - and its replacement by a dangerless mere technical difficulty.

The Sunday Observer

# Pothole Pourri

## PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Two more, just in time for this issue:  
Stephen Marshall, Officers Mess, CAD  
Kineton, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Ralph Diment, 11 Vicarage Close,  
Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 1AY  
Tel: 0672-516382

## NEW BOOKS

There are two new books in the  
library...

W Podziemiach Tatrzańskich (with 2  
surveys) by Stefan Swolinski, donated by  
Victoria Arbizu and...

The Blandford Rock and Mineral Guide by  
James R Tindall & Roger Thornhill,  
donated by Wayne Hiscox...

... and there is an almost full set of  
photocopied MCG Journals on the  
bookshelf now, thanks to Joan Goddard  
responding to a member's request.

## EARWIG...

...in on the committee meeting  
06.04.91... enquiring into cost of  
recovering lounge chairs... Alan Wood is  
an MCG leader for OFD and Dan-yr-ogof...  
135ft of new ladder has arrived, to be  
held by Tacklemaster... 1991 MCG dinner  
made a surplus... cost of wash basins in  
Guest room has been approved, work  
starting soon... infra-red operated  
light installed over front door...  
Malcolm Cotter co-opted as secretary  
during postal voting... Arthur Spain to  
consider other venues as well as  
Webbington for 1992 dinner... John  
Beauchamp emigrating to Australia  
1.5.91: agreed to present him with a  
tankard for his work on the committee...  
two vacuum cleaners have been donated...  
HYGM 02.11.91 will be an EGM to  
authorise the change of signatories at  
National Savings Bank, Priddy Hall  
booked for Barn Dance, Arthur Spain  
organising fireworks display.

## 1991 AGM MOTIONS

The proposals to limit the maximum term  
of office of Committee members to five  
years was heavily defeated at the AGM.

The proposal to alter the Constitution  
so that the Committee can no longer  
co-opt someone to fill a vacant post was  
also defeated.

The proposed amendment to the  
Constitution allowing subsidiary  
accounts was felt to be unnecessary as  
the Committee already have the power  
under Part 10 (a) Finance "to place the  
Group's funds in such accounts with  
banks or be otherwise invested as the  
Committee shall direct."

The motion to set up an expedition fund  
was referred back to the Committee. The  
feeling of the meeting was that  
financing expeditions was possible in  
principal but further thought was  
required on the best way to arrange  
this.

## YOUR NEW COMMITTEE..

..from 23.03.91:

Arthur Spain is the new Ordinary Member  
(see p2 for his address and telephone  
number). He replaces John Beauchamp who  
has decided to emigrate to Australia  
01.05.91 even though his house has not  
yet been sold. As well as welcoming  
Arthur to the Committee, the Group  
wishes John and Ali the best of luck in  
their new life in Australia.

The election of Secretary was deferred  
due to the confusion over which  
nominations had been accepted and which  
had not. In the meantime, Malcolm Cotter  
is continuing as co-opted Secretary and  
a postal vote for Secretary is being  
organised by the Committee.

The other posts on the Committee remain  
unchanged.

## THE 1992 MCG AGM...

... will be held at 2pm in long-room of  
the Hunter's Lodge, on Saturday 4th  
April 1992 (2 weeks before Easter).  
Suggestions for the venue for the dinner  
should reach Arthur Spain asap.