

**HE DOES GIVE A CASTLEMAINE XXXX!**

John Beauchamp asked if I would print this letter to you all...

Dear Friends,

Ally and I would like to thank all our friends who laid on our farewell do at the Cottage the other weekend, and for the tankards which will more than likely be used for drinking well known Australian beverages.

The event was important to us, as it has rekindled a family spirit within the Club, which for some time appeared missing. We do hope that similar functions continue to be organized for many occasions that merit a "party" (gosh that could mean endless drinking!). It certainly does bring people together under pleasant conditions, and that can only be good for the Club as a whole.

We shall miss our friends and the cavens of Mendip, but will expect to see some of you in Oz once we are established there.

Again our sincere thanks and we wish you all years of good caving,

*Ally and John*

**BEC REFUSE FREE BEER!**

Funny, but for the first time in living memory the BEC didn't appear interested in the free beer at the MCG cottage. Perhaps it was because you had to work to get a pint. The cottage work weekend, 4/5/6th May, was a great success with a pretty good turnout of members who worked really hard, but couldn't quite finish the barrel. Nearly all the tasks listed in newsletter 215 were completed. The gutters were cleared out the week before the work weekend. The new wash basins in the Guest room were installed by Arthur Spain prior to the weekend and the room has now been repainted. The Foremans Lounge ceiling was repaired, the walls repainted and the floor cleaned. The lounge, hall, stairs and landing walls, kitchen, showers and changing room were all thoroughly cleaned as were the windows. The under-stairs cupboard was cleared out and tidied. Shelving was fitted in the gas store as well as pegs for the digging ropes. The library was cleaned and additional book-shelves were put up. The display cabinet is being refurbished and will eventually be fixed to the lounge wall. The cooker was cleaned and serviced and now works perfectly - the grill works too!. One dining table has been repaired (the other awaits materials). The garden has been started on, and all the firewood has been chopped - so PLEASE do not bring the axe or hacksaw into the lounge!



The first group booked in after the work weekend was.... the Navy! I bet they were surprised to find the cottage clean for once!!

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS****CONGRATULATIONS...**

...to Geoff Beale, Kat Kaufmann and Bill Platt on becoming Full Members.

...and to Christine Krntzke, Auf dem Schilde 9, 4800 Bielefeld 15, Germany on becoming an Associate Member.

**PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS**

The following applications for membership will be considered at the committee meeting on 06-07-91:

Ron Arkless, 16 Park View, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 BBL  
Tel: 0491-39968.

Dan Miles, 2 Wells Cottage, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common, South Oxon.

Darcy Brimson, Ridges, Holford, Bridgewater, Somerset TA5 1DU

Iona Brimson, Ridges, Holford, Bridgewater, Somerset TA5 1DU

Richard Gandy, Alveston, Blue Anchor, Minehead, Somerset TA24 6JU

**UPPER FLOOD LEADERS**

Dave Tooke and Sonia Cotter have been added to the growing list of leaders.

**EARWIG...**

...in on the committee meeting held 04.05.91... £3,000 to be invested by trustees... Czech expedition equipment costs too high, agreed that as cavers already have their own helmets, only carbide generators / laser headsets and tacklesacks to be purchased. When returned, tacklewarden to hold them for future expeditions... bright yellow tags being made for CCC cave keys so if dropped can easily be seen... price and colour agreed for lounge floor covering. Will go ahead when written guarantee obtained that quote won't be exceeded... SMCC seeking permission to use MCG Longwood/August survey in their fund raising booklet - Ron Saunders to be asked about copyright position, otherwise we have no objections... Arthur Spain to look into the cost of MCG t-shirts with exciting new design...

**A NEW GB KEY...**

... at last I hear you all say! It will be on one of the new yellow tags with the correct MCG address on the back. If lost, not only should it be easily seen, but will be returned to the cottage by the finder, with any luck.

**NEW BOOKS...**

... in the library: A Mendip Cavers Ropework Guide, by Andy Sparrow  
...and Yorkshire's Hollow Mountains, by W R Mitchell

**YV'S DROPPINGS**

Discussing cottage security...

AD: "The only reason anyone would break in would be to fly-tip some rubbish in".

FB: "I was woken by a funny noise, then I realised it was me!"

MR: "Geoff is known at both ends".  
(Ed. You can say that again!)

Geoff: "Have you done blow football?"  
Julie: "I've done blow something!"

ML: " It takes two hours on a good day but takes a week on a bad day".

BM: "You'll be pleased to know I'm going to come this year".

BP: "What's the matter with this club? It's rapidly going downhill... there's a mirror in the shower, it's 7.30 and I'm not down the pub, and I'm so bored I'm having a shower!"

NC: "It's amazing what boredom can do!"

**COTTAGE BOOKING...**

...extras:

07 - 09 June	Linda Gates	(8)
21 - 23 June	BTCV	(?)
12 - 19 Aug	BTCV	(?)
18 - 20 Oct	Pat Walsh	(12)

**ON THE MOVE**

Pete Collings-Wells has moved to:  
10 Sunridge Avenue, Luton, Bedfordshire,  
LU2 7JC