

Mendip Caving Group

NEWS

255 274

21

NUMBER 235

FEBRUARY 1994

RUMOURS OF STRANGE GOINGS ON IN THE ALPS

by Ralph Diment

There are rumours of strange goings on in the Alps; so what is this all about? Maybe it's time for some overdue background information. While Timmy spent 1990 and 1991 playing with Moles (RHBNC Caving Club) Ralph was playing with Marmots (large furry things that squeak). Apart from having a good time this also involved exploring an area of the Alps north of Mount Blanc. Due to low snow falls over a period of about 3 years a proliferation of previously snow-plugged pots has appeared. The 1992 summer trip discovered over 50 new entrances of which 8 were bolted and bottomed; not bad for four days work!

The area lies roughly 25km north of Mount Blanc and is in spitting distance of the Gouffre Jean Bernard (across the valley on Lyon's patch). Most of the caves fall within a nature reserve with access controlled by Annemasse Caving Club who have been exploring the mountain for some years. Their deepest find to date, A3, is a 3-day, -700m monster; while their neighbours, Lyon, are actively pushing a dye-traced connection with 2000m vertical range (!!!), from both ends!

The area is divided into four sectors: A, B, C, D; A being the lowest and best explored, D the area of current activity. These lie on the north side of a deep glacial valley (only a tiny stump remains) with sharply dissected, bare limestone. The surface is full of cavities; many are tight, vertical shafts up to 50m deep, some form substantial shakeholes, others consist of deep rifts over 100m long. There is considerable variety in the composition of the limestone and this is reflected in the nature of the cave entrances. Area D has deep vertical shafts while a few hundred metres north, on the Swiss border, the rock is particularly hard with an almost unbroken surface.

Last summer's visit was not very productive due to extreme rainfalls. Most finds in area D were made the previous year. Since then, other commitments has meant little further work has been undertaken after leaving the hill at the end of the 1992 trip feeling we had only just started.

So, a whole hill of previously unexplored pots waiting to be bagged. Sounds too good to be true?.....Well there are problems of access; it is not difficult, but it is quite a stroll from the nearest road. Caves are easy to spot as there is virtually no vegetation, soil, etc. But, that means quite a lot of it is down the caves. Even the biggest shafts can be plugged, so some exploring/poking around/digging will probably be needed. The snow that held up exploration until now still blocks a large number of shafts and this winter's heavy dumps may have sealed a few back up. And finally, absolutely no effort has been made to map the area, yet.

Enter the MCG. The Group's packing its grotts and shmoofing off, alp bound, for two and a bit weeks at the end of August. The trip has the go-ahead of Annemasse Caving Club, but bearing in mind the nature of the area and the need to closely co-ordinate work, caving places must be kept to around twelve. However, the area has superb scenery, a very comfortable refuge and I am currently investigating the possibility of camping. So extra visitors will be welcome, especially if they fancy humping gear up to 2000m! Who knows, maybe even give A3 a go.

If you would like to come along or get some more details get in touch as soon as possible as places are limited and a lot of members have already expressed an interest. Roll on summer!

++++ MCG 1994 MEETS PROGRAMME ++++ BANK HOLIDAY WEEKENDS IN ITALICS ++++

This list is updated monthly - to add your trip, please phone the Meet Secretary

DATE	AREA	MAIN EVENT	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
05 Mar	Mendip	Archaeology walk	Yvonne Rowe	0252-872006
05 Mar	Mendip	Reservoir Hole	Geoff Beale	0734-722510
19 Mar	South Wales	DFD	Geoff Beale	0734-722510
23 Apr	Mendip	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	Joan Goddard	0608-810382
23 Apr	Mendip	40th Anniversary Dinner	Arthur Spain	0749-679358
08 Jul-10 Jul	Mendip	RCKA Rescue Conference	TBA	
05 Aug-08 Aug	Forest of Dean	NAMHO Field Meet	Yvonne Rowe	0252-872006
20 Aug-03 Sep	France	Alps Expedition	Ralph Diment	0672-516332

MENDIP CAVING GROUP - CAVE LEADERS

DAN-YR-OSDF.....	Geoff Beale	0734-722510	John Beauchamp	0761-463143
	Pete Collings-Wells	0462-76651	Joel Corrigan	0344-842083
	Ian McKechnie	0932-228292	John Miriam	081-393-3955
	Roger Wallington	0753-433841		
DFD I.....	Geoff Barton	0932-849241	Geoff Beale	0734-722510
	Pete Collings-Wells	0462-76651	John Miriam	081-393-3955
ST. CUTHBERT'S.....	John Beauchamp	0761-463143	Malcolm Cotter	07842-52643
CHARTERHOUSE CAVE..	Charlie Allison	081-393-5910	Nick Gilson	0934-417697
RESERVOIR HOLE.....	Geoff Beale	0734-722510		

Accommodation in Yorks & S.Wales can be booked by through the relevant cottage warden:

Yorkshire	Northern Pennine Club	Pat O'Connel	0729-822014
South Wales	South Wales Caving Club	Janice Richards	0985 219111

WEEKLY MEETINGS:	At the Group's Mendip headquarters on Wednesdays at 7.00pm. & at the Eclipse Inn, Egham, Surrey, on Thursdays from 9.00pm.		
CAVING ACCOMMODATION:	For up to 30 people, is available at the MCG headquarters:- Nordrach Cottage, Charterhouse, Blagdon, Bristol, BS18 6XW		
COTTAGE INFORMATION:	Tel: 0761-462797 Grid Ref ST51475606 OS 1:50,000 sheet 182		
COTTAGE BOOKINGS:	Through the cottage warden please (address and tel. no. below)		
COTTAGE FEES per night:	MCG members, member's children, SWCC and NPC	£ 1.50	
	Guest clubs and member's guests	£ 2.50	
PREPAYMENT VOUCHERS:	(available to members only)	12 nights accommodation	£15.00
		25 nights accommodation	£30.00
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:	Full & Probationary Members: £25.00; Associate Members: £15.00 The subscription includes free day-time access to the cottage by the member, their children, and their accompanied guests		



SECRETARY JOAN GODDARD	tel: 0608-810382
10 ENSTONE ROAD, CHARLBURY, OXFORD, OX7 3QR	
TREASURER MARTIN ROWE	tel: 0252-872006
10 GREENLEAS CLOSE, YATELEY, CAMBERLEY, SURREY, GU17 7SL	
MEET SECRETARY BILL HEADINGTON	tel: 0761-419766
43 WHEELER'S ROAD, MIDSOMER NORTON, nr BATH, BA3 2BT	
COTTAGE WARDEN LEE HAWKESWELL	tel: 0923-819103
4a HAZELTREE ROAD, NORTH WATFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE	
TACKLEMASTER KEV WEST	tel: 081-570-6624
21 WESLEY AVENUE, HOUSLOW, MIDDLESEX, TW3 4LY	
EDITOR YVONNE ROWE	tel: 0252-872006
10 GREENLEAS CLOSE, YATELEY, CAMBERLEY, SURREY, GU17 7SL	
RECORDER WAYNE HISCOX	tel: (WORK) 0749-72081x2213
3 KEWARD, GLASTONBURY ROAD, WELLS, SOMERSET, BA5 1TR	
ORDINARY MEMBER ARTHUR SPAIN	tel: 0749-679358
WAITANGI, LONG LANE, DINDER, SOMERSET, BA5 3PQ	

CUSTODIAN TRUSTEES

RON SAUNDERS
MALCOLM COTTER
PAT WALSH
PETER MATHEWS
REGISTERED CHARITY No 270088

* NON-COMMITTEE POSTS

* RESCUE WARDEN
* CONSERVATION OFFICER
*
* MCG SHOP
* MCG SHOP

JOHN CROWSLEY 0272-652585
TIM FRANCIS 081-878-3508
MALCOLM COTTER 07842-52643
PHIL INGOLD 0442-242029



ON THE MOVE Mark Ward's new telephone number is: 071-381-3591

CONGRATULATIONS to Nick Wood on becoming a full member.

WELCOME to Gordon Woodall, Pete Moseley and Pete O'Rourke who have been accepted as probationary members.

FOLLOW THE LEADER Nick Gilson and Charlie Allison are now the MCG leaders for Charterhouse Cave. For their telephone numbers, and details of other MCG leaders, please see page 2.

SIGN HERE Could members please note that cheques should be made out to MENDIP CAVING GROUP and not MCG. As all cheques are now crossed "account payee" the bank will not accept them if they are payable to "MCG" or "The Treasurer".

1994 SUBS OVERDUE and according to the Constitution, "members failing to pay by Jan 31st may have their membership terminated." The list of unpaid members will be considered at the committee meeting on 5th March, so please pay before then! If you wish to apply for reduced rates, apply to the secretary, Joan Goddard, by 4th March.

MCG BEAT THE TAXMAN! Many thanks to Alan Mellon for recovering the tax paid on subscriptions for 1990/91 and 1991/92. This totalled £898.35, and a further £400+ is due for 1992/93. If you do not already covenant your subscription, please contact Joan Goddard for a form.

SRT ROPE Please check with the other riggers or the tackle master before taking out the SRT rope for any length of time. Recently all the SRT rope was already out when two riggers had planned a day's SRT trip on Mendip. It seems the rope had been taken out by another rigger for a long period (ie. more than a weekend) without first informing either the the other riggers or the tackle master.

CAVING VIDEOS If members have any caving videos they could loan to the committee, a member has offered to duplicate them. The copies would be kept in the library and could be used at armchair meets and other functions.

CAVE RESCUE The MCG's rescue practice held on February 5th was a great success with about 30 members turning out to rescue Phil Ingold into and out of Swildon's (which was extremely wet). Two MRO observers, Jim Harwell and Brian Prewer, gave much valuable advice and watched us take Phil in... but didn't stay to see if we got him out again! Our thanks to their help and the loan of their stretcher, drag sheet and Molephone. John Crowsley, who organised the event, did a superb job both before and during the rescue, then followed it up with a useful de-briefing back at the cottage. As a result of everyone, including Phil, talking about their views and experiences, a lot of valuable lessons were learned and some good ideas mooted for future rescues (and practices). Many thanks to our excellent rescue warden, John Crowsey and his right-hand man(!) Vanessa Gill for their organisational skills, to Phil Ingold our "professional" victim, and to all the members who joined in to make the whole event a valuable experience.

The next rescue practice is planned for 4th February 1995 and will take place into and out of Waterwheel Swallet with Phil as our victim once again.

WALKING WETSOCKS After the rescue practice there was a lot of wet neoprene lying around in the changing room. When everyone had finally gathered theirs up some people found that they had wetsuit socks missing. Richard Carey (0272-862029) is minus a pair of size 8, single lined socks with sharkskin outer. Phil Ingold (0442-242029) is minus a pair of size 9 socks, black inside and out. Phil took home by mistake a pair of size 6 socks with blue lining, so at least one other person must be missing a pair of socks too.

TIMES PAST or rather forgot-ten. In the advert for the archaeology walk on Saturday 5th March I forgot to mention a time to meet. I would like everyone to be at Nordrach Cottage at 9:30am for a 10:00am departure.

KNOT-TYING A little bat told me that Tom Thomas is to marry Elizabeth (?) some time in March. MCG wish them both every happiness and good luck for the future.

MCG PHOTO CALL Joan has had a good response to her request for photos for the 40th Dinner. Keep them coming, especially photos from the 70's and 80's which are under-represented so far.

YV'S DRIPPING
PH: "The water's wet!"

UPPER FLOOD UPDATE

by Joan Goddard

The December 1993 newsletter contained an article by Tim Francis describing the radiolocation of Rip-Off Aven, and subsequently I was asked to investigate the possibility of MCG opening a second entrance to Upper Flood. This would allow access to the further reaches of the cave without the need to pass through Sunset Boulevard with its vulnerable formations.

On 15th January I was present at a site meeting which was also attended by Les Davis and Tina ? (Mendip Wardens), Terry Matthews (Charterhouse Centre), the County Field Archaeologist, and representatives of SCC Countryside Services and English Heritage. There was a useful exchange of information and no overwhelming objections were put forward, but it is obvious that gaining permission to excavate in the depression will be a protracted affair requiring us to put forward a well prepared and detailed proposal.

Because of the archaeological history of the area we are required to obtain Scheduled Monument Consent from the Department of National Heritage BEFORE any work is done. To undertake any work before then would be a criminal offence. A Hymac would not be acceptable and the excavation within the superficial materials would have to be carried out as an archaeological dig with adequate supervision by someone approved by English Heritage.

Somerset County Council, the owners of the site, are particularly concerned that the general public who visit Blackmoor in large numbers should be put at no risk. For this reason we should aim to complete the dig as rapidly as possible, and we would require a firm commitment from a substantial number of the Group to work over a limited period. The pipes must be inserted and a locked lid installed as soon as possible after the dig commences. From the public access point of view we should avoid the summer season. Christmas/New Year period is likely to have adverse weather and ground conditions (Blackmoor Valley was a lake last Christmas, and by mid-February it still has not dried out). Therefore it seems sensible to aim for Easter 1995, and we would like to hear from members who would be prepared to help then.

The whole undertaking appears to be quite formidable, but I am currently liaising with Somerset County Council and progressing with the initial stages of the application for Scheduled Monument Consent. I am also in touch with an archaeologist from Bristol University who happens to be a caver (not UBSS!) and is willing to help with the dig.

Any help and ideas regarding this project would be most welcome. Joel, Tim, Lee and myself, amongst others, would be happy to discuss any suggestions you may have.

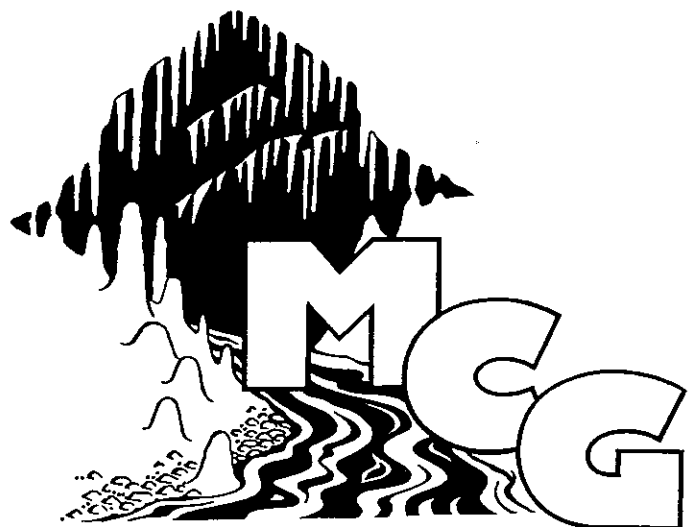
NEW T-SHIRTS - YEAH!!!

The promised new t-shirts are now (hopefully!) in stock and are in the cupboard in the Foremans Lounge along with the sweatshirts (the key is on the back of the library door). The price is £5 each - please write out receipts and cheques as you did when buying sweatshirts. The design on the front of the t-shirts is shown opposite and was the one favoured most in the competition at last years AGM.

COLOURS: WHITE, LIGHT BLUE, CERISE, GREY

SIZES: MEDIUM, LARGE, EXTRA LARGE

We have since received a humerous design from Pete Bulling which has an apt slogan to go with Bob Speleo in the remains of the first Nordrach Cottage. We plan to use this as a future t-shirt or sweatshirt motif. We will display it in the newsletter nearer the time.



RETURN TO BEASTWATER

A history of one man's emotional turmoil in 1990-1994.

by Jules Flavell

18 British Board of Film Classification : not suitable for those of over 18 I.Q.

8.11.90 Back in 1990 Tim Francis promised me an enjoyable stroll down to the West End - "But we can take the 33 bus via Hammersmith", I replied, which was met with an aggressive "you philistine Jules"!! That was the last I was to hear of it until a month later when to my astonishment I was bundled/kidnapped into Tim's "car" and spirited off along the M4. As it was only my 8th or 9th caving trip and my first trip to the Mendips - where the f**k are they? - I was expecting a 1-2 hour easy-life trip down Swillys or somewhere, then to the pub to consume vast amounts of Old Peculiar (sorry, Butcombe Mindscrewer). About 2 miles from Leigh Delamere services Tim passed me the guide, which described Eastwater and sent me into a fit of convulsions, especially as it was p***ing it down. Anyway to cut a long story short, it was hell for 14 hours - sheer hell, - super hell. Eastwater took me on and punished me severely - I swore that I would only return to "Exorcist Eastwater" for 500 crates of Banks Mild!

31.12.93 Three years later, after an intensive course of counselling and electric shock treatment I had just got over my past Beastwater syndrome when this morning I was tricked into a trip down that "eternal rift to hell". As the silhouetted image of Eastwater Farm materialised in front of my bleary alcoholic eyes, I began to tremble, and the Cornish pasties from the nice corner shop next to Bat Products began to turn over. I tried to convince myself I was paranoid but then I saw the plaque. The flashbacks came back as I was transported back to the Vietnam of the caving world.

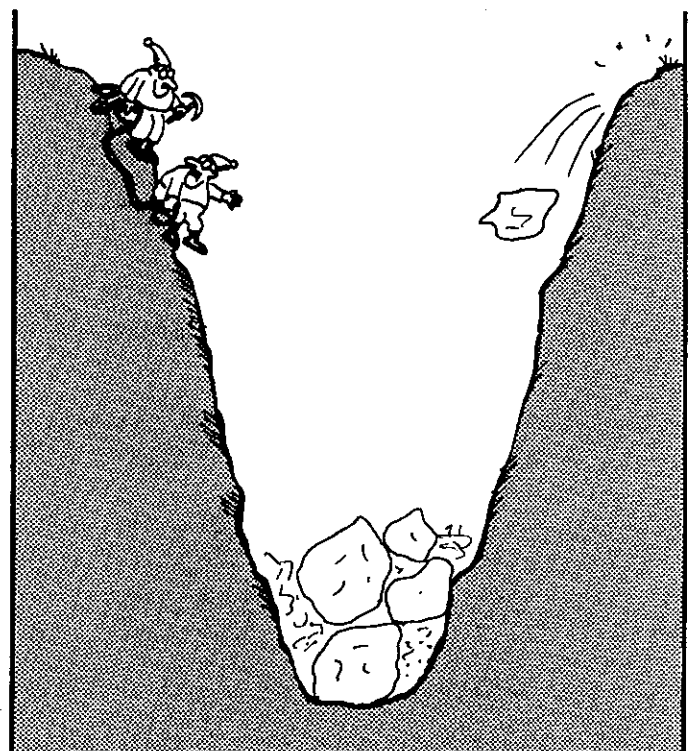
EPISODE DEUX In my daze I made my way through the barbed wire and minefield under heavy napalm fire to the entrance which was receiving huge amounts of water. Malcolm proclaimed "I have never seen it this wet before", and Julie said "It is quite moist!" "It's as cold as a penguins chuff", said Jules.

Worse was to come. "Tim, Tim, help, the rift is here - I'm slipping, I'm going, I'm going - Nightmare!!" It was happening again, I was being sucked down into the belly of the beast, and the Unforgettable Fire. Anyway I was saved by the hand of Tim. We ventured forth to our next challenge (unfortunately Aneka wasn't there, next series maybe, but after much debate and philosophical discussion it was decided that Miss H was a suitable replacement, so on with the plot!) which was another rift and another one, and after that a really tight squeeze hole and at last our destination was arrived at - the Twin Vertical pitches which we did on SRT (thanks to some excellent rigging by Julie - 2 free hangs, 30ft and 60ft respectively). Then Malcolm we go and see (spot the continuity error) the 19 pots "unmeasurable to man" - and they certainly were! - especially as one on the return journey took us 20 minutes to scale its slippery slope and FA up to the pitches which were ascended without any problem. Oh yes, and Malcolm pulled off his amazing juggling hand-jammer party trick!! We bypassed most of the oncoming vehicles - sorry rifts (ie. those between reality and fantasy land!) to the exit - aren't they the euthanasia people you consult after a Beastwater trip?

EPISODE TROIS (Back in England). The exit water levels has increased since our entrance - seriously, so we got even more wet and escaped with only a slight loss of our oh so valuable sanity!

Team members: Tim Francis, Jules Flavell, Julie Hesketh, Malcolm Cotter.

PINTREE POT UPDATE



"Because it's not there." (ANYMORE!)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1994

The Annual General Meeting of the Mendip Caving Group will be held in the Longroom of the Hunters Lodge Inn on Saturday 23rd April 1994, commencing at 1:00pm

Nominations are invited for all committee posts.

Nominations for office, and proposals to change the Constitution and Rules must be submitted in writing by first class post to the Secretary's home address with signatures of full members proposing and seconding and at least 25 days before the meeting (ie. by 29th March). A nomination for office must be accompanied by a signed agreement to stand for election by the nominee.

The Committee may grant a postal vote to any member who applies in good time to the Secretary.

CHARITIES ACT; 1992 You are a charity trustee if you are a member of the management or executive committee of a charitable association. Anyone considering standing for election to the Committee should read the leaflet "Responsibility of Charity Trustees", available from the Secretary.

Joan Goddard, Hon. Secretary, 1st February 1994

Copies of the 1993 AGM minutes were circulated with the August 1993 Bulletin. Members may obtain further copies from the Secretary (please enclose a sae).

THE MCG 40TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

MENU

Venue: The Crossways, North Wooton

Date: Saturday 23rd April 1994

Time: 6:45pm for 7:30pm

Coach: £2.50 each (single or return).
Pick-up 6:15pm prompt at Nordrach Cottage, 6:25pm at the Hunters.
Pick-up 1am from Crossways for return to Hunters and Nordrach Cottage.

Accommodation: All beds at the Crossways are now fully booked - by MCG members.

Special events: There will be a skittles match, a slide show by Malcolm Cotter, an "MCG through the ages" photo board... and one or two surprises.

Cost: Tickets are £14 each which includes a glass of house wine or a soft drink. Requests for tickets in writing please (an application form is enclosed with this newsletter) to Arthur Spain, "Waitangi", Long Lane, Dinder, Wells, Somerset, BA5 3PQ, enclosing a SAE and a cheque made payable to "Mendip Caving Group" (not "MCG")

Starters
Home-made Leek and Potato Soup
Prawn Cocktail
Mushroom Pate

Main Courses (meat)
Poached Salmon with Prawn & Lemon Sauce
Chicken in a Sherry Sauce
Beef in a Red Wine and Mushroom Sauce

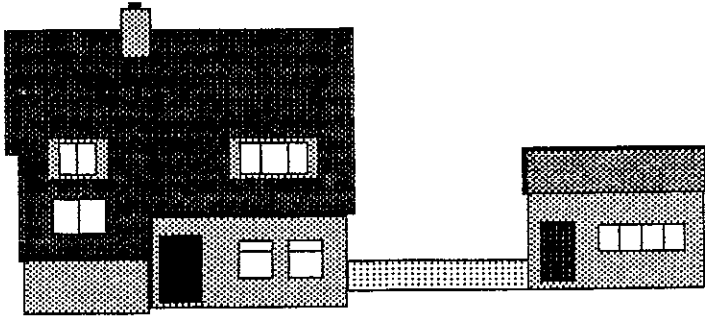
Main Courses (vegi)
Stuffed Vine Leaves
Chestnut Balls
Tagliatelle with a
Mushroom, Tomato & Basil Sauce

Desserts
Gateaux
Raspberry Pavlova
Fruit Salad with Fresh Cream
Cheesecake
Cheese and Biscuits

Coffee and Mints

MCG FORUM 1994

As a result of the questionnaire sent out with the subs request form, the Half-yearly Forum will be on 5th November 1994 followed by a *Barn Dance* at Chewton Mendip Village Hall. This was the clear preference of members. Next popular was a dinner party at the cottage which could be held in the summer, maybe with a barbecue, and spill out into the garden. There is no reason why the Group can't have the other functions mentioned if someone is prepared to help organise them. (Us older members of the committee wouldn't know where to start to organise a Blues Evening or a Disco.)



FOBBED OFF The last newsletter said you would be receiving a credit-card sized card but the smaller keyfobs arrived from the manufacturer just after the newsletter had been printed. Sorry for any confusion. The new electronic security system at the cottage is now operating. Your old key is still needed for the old lock, which has been altered so that it operates as a deadlock only. When this has been unlocked, place your keyfob against the black rectangle on the electric meter box to release the new lock.

The electronic lock can be "bypassed" during your stay at the cottage, just as you can probably bypass your own front door lock. At home, you probably have a Yale-type lock which automatically holds the door closed when it is pulled shut. A catch on the inside allows you to leave the door "on the latch" so you can close the door without locking yourself out. At the cottage, the new lock can be set in a similar way, with a small catch on the lock body, on the inside edge of the door. With the lock set in this way, and with the deadlock open, you can enter and leave without any key. You can leave the cottage and set the deadlock only, eg whilst caving or at the pub, but it is essential that the door is not left "on the latch" when you finally depart from the cottage. Release the catch so that the electronic lock will operate, and set the deadlock with your cottage key.

You will have noticed that the keyfobs have your name, a number, and an "if found..." note on them. To prevent this getting wet / muddy / grubby / erased you could cover the fob with a piece of sticky-backed plastic (W H Smith sells it).

SHOVE OFF! Ever wondered what the spot-light was for between the lecturn and the clock? When we built the cottage, the Foreman was heavily into shove ha'penny and planned to install a slate in the lounge. That was in 1980 - fourteen years on the Group has had a lovely slate shove ha'penny board donated, and the ha'pennies too. We may put it under the spot-light as originally planned, but the new library extension has also been suggested... any other ideas?

OVERDUE BOOKS Below is a list of books that have been out of the library since before June 1993.

Charlie Allison	5.10.92
Speleospotif 2- Jura, Franc-Comtois	
Charlie Allison	18.04.92
Atlas des Grottes du Belgique Vol.4	
Charlie Allison	18.04.92
Atlas des Grottes du Belgique Vol.5	
Charlie Allison	18.04.92
More Yrs Under the Earth - Casteret	
Charlie Allison	18.04.92
Atlas, Great Caves of the World	
Charlie Allison	5.04.92
Inventaire Speleo. de la Belgique	
Charlie Allison	11.04.93
Pyrenees Souterrains - J Jolfe	
Pete Collings-Wells	25.05.91
The Cave Explorers - Eyre	
Pete Collings-Wells	25.05.91
Cave Men New and Old - Casteret	
Lorna Cotter	28.01.93
On Rope - Alan Padget	
Bill Headington	17.04.93
Charterhouse Cave - UBSS reprint	
Kat Kaufmann	28.03.93
Caving - E A Baker	
Barry Parker	28.01.93
Vertical Caving - Mike Meredith	
Barry Parker	28.01.93
Underground Britain - Bedford	
Brian Snell	31.05.93
Caving Practice and Equipment	
Key West	30.11.92
Rock and Mineral Guide	
Can't read signature	
The Mysterious World of Caves	

Will you please check your bookshelves and anywhere else you may keep books (in loo, under bed...) and return these as soon as possible. Others may wish to read them.

SURVEYS If you have any of the Group's surveys could you please return them to the library as our survey holdings are currently being catalogued by Joel Corrigan and Tim Francis.

COTTAGE BOOKINGS

04 Mar-05 Mar	Members' Weekend	
07 Mar-10 Mar	Navy	(20)
11 Mar-12 Mar	Osterley Sea Scouts	(12)
18 Mar-19 Mar	Chris Whittle (member)	(15)
01 Apr-04 Apr	Members' Weekend (Easter)	
22 Apr-23 Apr	AGM/Dinner	(filling)
06 May-07 May	Members' Weekend	
03 Jun-04 Jun	Members' Weekend	
01 Jul-02 Jul	Members' Weekend	
08 Jul-10 Jul	BCRA Rescue Conference	(12)
05 Aug-06 Aug	Members' Weekend	

COTTAGE EXTENSION The proposed plans are being revised to incorporate a porch at the front door, as it was pointed out that it would be more economical and practical to carry out this work at the same time as extending the library. New plans will be ready shortly.

DANGER! Brought to our notice is the dodgy state of two popular Mendip caves. We have been told that the boulders in Eastwater are moving again, and that Singing River Mine is extremely dangerous due to the entrance shoring giving way making it unstable. A lot of debris has been deposited at the foot of the entrance shaft making the way on almost impossible. You also stand the risk of getting blocked in if there are further collapses while you are underground!

PINETREE POT The guaranteed unjammable outdoor all-weather mud-resistant padlock... jammed recently! It has been freed by a locksmith, but by way of maintenance a squirt of WD40 should be applied every couple of weeks.

SWILDON'S! Wessex Cave Club members have worked hard to isolate the oil in Swildon's. It is just past Caliper Pot on the round trip. Mats have been laid to soak up the oil which will then be brought out of the cave.

Plans are being considered to install a calibrated V-notch wier in the stream above Swildon's to monitor water flow.

MENDIP CAR CRIME Total car break-ins in 1993 from the caving areas were 123. Of these, 92 were from Burrington and 12 from GB. You have been warned!

MALLORCA CAR CRIME Tim Francis reports that cavers' cars are now being targeted, particularly at Cueva de Can Sion and Cueva de Cal Pesso. Also, gear left inside cave entrances is being rifled. In Cal Pesso, candle-bearing local yoofs first ransacked Tim's gear, then got themselves stuck on an exposed traverse with a 100m drop. Being a decent sort of chap, Tim rescued them despite the urge to blow their candles out while they were on the wrong side of the traverse.

CAVING COPPERS? Yes, Avon and Somerset Constabulary have their own Sub-Aqua Club and they invite you to an evening with Gavin Newman who will be showing two of his highly acclaimed audio-visual multi-projector sound sequences:-

Underwater, Underground, Under China
"Caverns of the Dragon"

Under New Guinea
"Caves of Thunder"

This event will take place at 7:30pm on Wednesday 16th March 1994 at Bristol University Chemistry Lecture Theatre, Cantocks Close (off Woodlands Rd) Bristol. Cost £4 at the door or £3.75 if booked in advance. Tel: 0275-816025.

UPPER FLOOD LEADERS

Joan is experiencing difficulty finding Upper Flood leaders to take people down when she has had a request for guest trips. The task usually falls on the same few leaders who live locally or cave on Mendip regularly.

Joan has also had requests from other members who wish to be Upper Flood leaders and as some existing leaders cave on Mendip infrequently, perhaps they would be happy to move over to let some of the "regulars" have a go? If you wish to remain an Upper Flood leader then please let Joan know by 31st March 1994 (address and tel. on page 2). If she does not hear from you by this date she will assume you no longer wish to be a leader and will remove your name from the list. If you wish to become a leader, and you are prepared to take a turn in leading groups from other organisations, please contact Joan.

Listed below are the current MCG Upper Flood leaders.

Charlie Allison	081-393-5910
John Beauchamp	0761-463143
Jean-Paul Burch	0737-767738
Mike Carson	0753-655143
Malcolm Cotter	07842-52643
Sonya Cotter	07842-52643
John Crowsley	0272-652585
Adrian Duckett	081-568-6211
Steve Eddy	0272-665222
Tim Francis	081-878-3508
Vanessa Gill	0272-652585
Lee Hawkeswell	0923-819103
Mike Hazelden	0703-464491
Wayne Hiscox	WK:0749-72081
Mike Lovell	0734-663747
Martin Rowe	0252-872006
Arthur Spain	0749-679358
Adrian Thomas	0272-851095
Dave Tooke	0923-241522
Roger Wallington	0753-433841
Kevin West	081-570-6624
Stephen Wyatt	0934-838953

OFD ACCESS Life has been very difficult for SWCC duty officers this year as unscrupulous persons have been attempting to gain access by claiming to belong to respected and valued regular clubs when they have no right to do so. Not only does this show a higher degree of insanity than among we normal cavers but must be deplored as we use the permits as a conservation method which (so far) works liberally and efficiently. Duty Officers will be asking you to show your (MCG) Membership Card so you should be warned they could well be needed. (Knowing the memory-span of the average caver, maybe these should be tattooed on the body or embossed on caving wellies!) We regret this extra bit of beaurocracy but it is sadly a sign of the times.

Cheers. Elsie Little, Permit Sec., SWCC

MCG Members at 21FEB94

FKp JAMES ALLEN	081-393-8250	53 EMELL BY-PASS, STONELEIGH, EPSOM, SURREY, KT17 2PY
FKp CHARLES ALLISON	081-393-5910	69 CHEAM ROAD, EMELL, SURREY, KT17 3EG
A-p VICTORIA ARBIZU	01034-54276981	CALLE MONTE CARMELO 51-2/B, 41011 SEVILLA, SPAIN
F-n KEVIN ARNOLD	0248-600416	NAVAL AIR MOUNTAINEERING CENTRE, TAI-NEWIDDION, TYN-Y-MAES, BETHESDA, GWYNEDD
AKp CAROL BALL	0272-498171	47 WILLIAMS CLOSE, LONGWELL GREEN, BRISTOL, AVON, BS15 6BS
F-p DOMINI BARRETT	0275-462449	12 CHELSFIELD, BACKWELL, BRISTOL, AVON, BS19 3LU
FKp GEOFF BARTON	0932-849241	THE LODGE, THE HEATH, WEYBRIDGE, SURREY, KT13 0UB
F-n DAVE BAXTER	0923-247907	123 PRINCES AVENUE, WATFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE, WD1 8LP
FKp GEOFF BEALE	0734-722510	30 CHURCHILL CRESCENT, SONNING COMMON, NR READING, RG4 9RX
FKp JOHN BEAUCHAMP	0761-463143	5T HUGHS COTTAGE, CHARTERHOUSE, BLAGDON, BRISTOL, BS18 6XR
FKp STEVE BEDFORD	081-783-1265	5 MYRTLE ROAD, HAMPTON HILL, HAMPTON, MIDDLESEX
F-n ANDY BELLAMY	0705-670420	66 HARTLEY ROAD, PORTSMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE, PO2 9HX
FKp JEFF BLACKGROVE	081-337-7926	141 RIVERVIEW ROAD, EMELL, EPSOM, SURREY, KT19 0JD
FKp DAVE BRIGGS	0624-623429	51 WYBOURN GROVE, ENCHAN, ISLE OF MAN, IM3 4AU
FKp PETE BULLING	0903-235431	22 CANTERBURY ROAD, WORTHING, WEST SUSSEX, BN13 1AE
FKp JEAN PAUL BURCH	0737-767738	10 RANELAGH ROAD, REDHILL, SURREY, RH1 6BJ
FKp FRED BURTON	0952-810143	17 BAYLEY HILLS, EDGEMOND, NEMPOT, SHROPSHIRE, TF10 8JB
FKp RICHARD CAREY	0272-862029	HAMLEAZE, OLD BRISTOL ROAD, KEYNSHAM, BRISTOL, BS13 2AA
FKp MIKE CARSON	0753-655143	41 THE POYNINGS, RICHINGS PARK, IVER, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, SL0 9DS
F-n PETER CATTEMULL	0252-873421	12 HARVEST CLOSE, YATELEY, CAMBERLEY, SURREY, GU17
F-p ROBBIE CHARNOCK	081-570-4116	30 BASSETT GARDENS, OSTERLEY, MIDDLESEX, TW7 4QY
P-n CHRIS CLIPSHAM		W.O. & S.R. MESS, H.K.S. SULTAN, MILITARY ROAD, GOSPORT, PO12 3BY
F-n PETE COLLINGS-WELLS	0462-76651	5 FLINT COTTAGES, LUTON ROAD, OFFLEY, HERTS, SG5 3JR
P-n LAURENCE CONISBEE	0263-513615	PETTERILLS, ELLENHILL, CROMER, NORFOLK, NR27 0DC
FKp STEVE CONQUEST	081-366-3276	10 McADAM DRIVE, ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX, EN2 8PS
FKp BEN COOPER	0256-64199	10 CORONATION ROAD, BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE, RG21 2HA
F-p JOEL CORRIGAN	0344-873613	2 WINDLEMERE HOUSE, WESTWOOD ROAD, WINDLESHAM, SURREY, GU20 6NB
P-n LORNA COTTER	07842-52643	249 FELTHAM HILL ROAD, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX, TW15 1LU
HK- MALCOLM COTTER	0784-252643	249 FELTHAM HILL ROAD, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX, TW15 1LU
F-p NORMA COTTER	0784-252643	249 FELTHAM HILL ROAD, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX, TW15 1LU
F-n SONYA COTTER	07842-52643	249 FELTHAM HILL ROAD, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX, TW15 1LU
FKp JOHN CROWSLEY	0272-652585	11 ROSE WALK, FISHPONDS, BRISTOL, AVON, BS16 4JN
FKp LOUISE CURLEY	081-979 2587	10 SONNING GARDENS, HAMPTON, MIDDLESEX, TW12 3PL
FKp GOF DAINE	0934-744389	16 ST ANDREWS ROAD, CHEDDAR, SOMERSET, BS27 3NE
A-n GEOFF DAVIES	0923-227154	72 ALDENHAM ROAD, BUSHEY, WATFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE, WD2 2ND
FKp MIKE DEAN	081-399-9085	30 OAKHILL, SURBITON, SURREY, KT6 6DY
P-n JANE DEARING		8 SELHURST PLACE, LONDON, SE25 5PY
F-n RALPH DIMENT	0672-516382	11 VICARAGE CLOSE, MARLBOROUGH, WILTSHIRE, SN8 1AY
F-p ERIC DOWLEY		1 THE HILLWAY, PORTCHESTER, FAREHAM, HAMPSHIRE, PO16 8BN
F-n ADRIAN DUCKETT	081-568-6211	68 ROXBOROUGH AVENUE, ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX, TW7 5WJ
FKp BILL DUCKLIN	081-643-5105	1 ST ANNES COURT, STANLEY ROAD, SUTTON, SURREY, SM2 6RX
FKp STEVE EDDY	0272-665222	33 SOMERSET TERRACE, WINDMILL HILL, BRISTOL, AVON, BS3 4LJ
PKp MIKE EELES	0784-431098	20 LARCHWOOD DRIVE, ENGLEFIELD GREEN, SURREY, TW20 0SH
A-n HUGH EDWARDS	0932-343136	RUBERSLAW, HOLLYBANK ROAD, WEST BYFLEET, SURREY, KT14 6JD
A-n PHIL ELIOT	0736-787648	No 2 LITTLE KELYNACK COTTAGES, KELYNACK, NR. ST JUST, PENZANCE, CORNWALL, TR19
PKp LEE FERRIS	081-889 4961	18 ANDRULA COURT, LORDSHIP LANE, LONDON, N22 5LJ
FKp GEOFF FISHER	0273-493755	OLD MILL HOUSE, SANDY LANE, NEPTON ROAD, HENFIELD, SUSSEX, BN5 9UX
FKp JULIAN FLAVELL	081-878-3508	90 WOKING CLOSE, PRIORY LANE, ROEHAMPTON, LONDON, SW15 5LB
FKp JOE FRAMPTON	0734-404861	75A HIGHFIELD PARK, MARSGRAVE, BERKS, RG10 8LD
FKp TIM FRANCIS	081-878-3508	90 WOKING CLOSE, PRIORY LANE, ROEHAMPTON, LONDON, SW15 5LB
FKp LINDA GATES	0276-24409	113 UPPER COLLEGE RIDE, CAMBERLEY, SURREY, GU15 4EY
FKp VANESSA GILL	0272-652585	11 ROSE WALK, FISHPONDS, BRISTOL, AVON, BS12 4JN
FKp NICHOLAS GILSON	0934-417697	24 COOMBE ROAD, WESTON SUPER MARE, AVON
P-n ANDY GODDARD	0608-810382	10 ENSTONE ROAD, CHARLBURY, OXFORD, OX7 3QR
FKp JOAN GODDARD	0608-810382	10 ENSTONE ROAD, CHARLBURY, OXFORD, OX7 3QR
F-p PETE GODDARD	0608-810382	10 ENSTONE ROAD, CHARLBURY, OXFORD, OX7 3QR
PKp DAVE GWILLIM	081-740-4470	55 WELLINGTON COURT, MAYFIELD ROAD, LONDON, W12 9LT
P-p SHARON GWILLIM	081-740-4470	55 WELLINGTON COURT, MAYFIELD ROAD, LONDON, W12 9LT
FKp PETER HARVEY	0597-810831	BRYNMEEL, CASTLE ROAD, RHAYADER, POWYS, LD6 5BA
F-n MIKE HASELDEN	0703-464491	3 THE CLOSE, THORNHILL PARK, SOUTHAMPTON, HAMPSHIRE, SO2 5RB
FKp DIGGER HASTILOW	0952-591118	15 CLOVER GROVE, RANDLAY, TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE, TF3 2AA
FKp LEE HAWKSWELL	0923-819103	4A HAZELTREE ROAD, NORTH WATFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE, WD2 5RG
F-p WILLIAM HEADINGTON	0761-419766	43 WHEELER'S ROAD, MIDSOMER NORTON, NR BATH, BA3 2BT
FKp JULIE HESKETH	081-544-0742	8 BOTSFORD ROAD, WIMBLEDON CHASE, LONDON, SW20 9NP
P-n SIMON HEWLETT		4 POLMENNOR ROAD, FALMOUTH, CORNWALL, TR11 5UX
FKp HAYNE HISCOX	0749-672081x2213	3 KEMARD, GLASTONBURY ROAD, WELLS, SOMERSET, BA5 1TR
N-- PETE HOLLINGS	081-874 5086	6 BURNTWOOD CLOSE, LONDON, SW18 3JU
P-n JEFFREY HOLLOWAY	081-751-3330	44 ORCHARD AVENUE, BEDFONT, MIDDLESEX, TW14 9RE
A-n MATTHEW HORROBIN	0643-702437	5 MARSHFIELD ROAD, NINEHEAD, SOMERSET, TA24 6AQ
AKp NEIL HUTCHINSON		7 GLADE ROAD, WROLW, BUCKS, SL7 1DZ
A-p HELEN INGOLD	0442-242029	31 SPRING LANE, HEWEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTFORDSHIRE, HP1 3BJ

081 878 3506

FKp PHIL INGOLD	0442-242029	31 SPRING LANE, HENEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTFORDSHIRE, HP1 3BJ
FKp KATJA KALFMANN	081-450-9787	26A MELROSE AVE, WILLESDEN GREEN, LONDON, NW2 4JS
PKp NICK KELLY	0275-858401	10 VALE END, NAILSEA, BRISTOL, AVON
FKp ROY KEMPSTON	0252-835259	74 BUCKINGHAM WAY, FRIMLEY, CAMBERLEY, SURREY, GU16 5XP
FKp DENISE KNIBBS	01033-61858232	LAS CLAUDIROS, THIL, 31530 LEVIGNAC, FRANCE
FKp TONY KNIBBS	01033-61858232	LAS CLAUDIROS, THIL, 31530 LEVIGNAC, FRANCE
FKp KEITH KNIGHT	0329-280386	7 HIGHHEAD, FAREHAM, HAMPSHIRE, PO15 6BL
A-n SIMON KNIGHT	0749-675805	14 ROWDENS ROAD, WELLS, SOMERSET
FKp PETE LINGWOOD	081-805-2538	39 HOLMBRIDGE GARDENS, ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX, EN3 7EY
F-n DAVID LITTLE	0272-799963	37 GADSHILL DRIVE, STOKE BIFFORD, BRISTOL, AVON, BS12 6AU
FKp MIKE LOVELL	0734-663747	4 SETTRINGTON CLOSE, LODDON PARK, EARLEY, READING, BERKSHIRE, RG6 3XJ
FKp JOHN MacMILLAN	0753-886029	4 HILL FARM ROAD, CHALFONT ST PETER, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, SL9 0DE
F-n BOB MARLES	0734-790764	27 WATMORE LANE, WINNERSH, READING, BERKSHIRE
F-n STEPHEN MARSHALL		60 CAUSEWAY VIEW, NAILSEA, BRISTOL, AVON
PKp JULIE MARSHALL DEANE		28 AVON CLOSE, COVE, FARNBOROUGH, HANTS, GU14 9LN
F-n PETE MATHEWS	0707-321018	15 DELLCOTT CLOSE, MELWYN GARDEN CITY, HERTFORDSHIRE, ALB 7BB
P-n CLIVE MAYBURY	0275-851597	2 WOODFORD CLOSE, NAILSEA, BRISTOL, AVON, BS19 2UH
F-p IAN McKECHNIE	0932-228292	21 CONYERS CLOSE, HERSHAM, WALTON-ON-THAMES, SURREY, KT12 4NG
FKp ALAN MELLON	081-751-0137	15 CHICHESTER WAY, FELTHAM, MIDDLESEX, TW14 0DF
P-n DAN MILES	0734-724074	2 WELL COTTAGES, THE HAMLET, GALLOWSTREE COMMON, SOUTH OXON, RG4 9DD
FKp JOHN MIRIAM	081-393-3955	44 CHESTERFIELD ROAD, WEST EWEY, SURREY, KT19 9BP
P-n PETER MOSELEY	0278-421802	PENDLE COTTAGE, McAREWAY WESTHAY, NR GLASTONBURY, SOMERSET, TA6 4NN
F-p PAT NEWMAN	071-537 9321	4 CUTTY SARK HOUSE, UNDISINE ROAD, LONDON, E14 9UN
F-n GILL NORRIS	0252-835051	253 FRIMLEY GREEN ROAD, FRIMLEY GREEN, CAMBERLEY, SURREY, GU16 6LD
FKp GRAHAM OLD	0491-628596	1 UPPER HOUSE FARM COTTAGE, HARPSDEN, HENLEY-ON-THAMES, OXON, RG9 4JS
PKp PETER O'ROURKE	081-904-2174	1 BOLLTERS COURT, MAYBANK AVENUE, MEMBERS, MIDX, HA0 2SY
FKp BARRY PARKER	081-572-3702	65 MOUTON AVENUE, HOUSLON, MIDDLESEX, TW3 4LN
AKp IAN PARRY	0296-715245	MELODY COTTAGE, 1 ORCHARD WAY, BOTOLPH CLAYDON, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, MK18 2NG
A-n ANN PITTMAN	0784-437540	36 MANOR WAY, EGHAM, SURREY, TW20 9NG
F-n BRYAN PITTMAN	0784-437540	36 MANOR WAY, EGHAM, SURREY, TW20 9NG
F-n MICHAEL PITTMAN	0784-437540	36 MANOR WAY, EGHAM, SURREY, TW20 9NG
F-p BILL PLATT	0362-691758	TAPLEWOOD, ROSAVELLA DRIVE, NORWICH ROAD, EAST DEREHAM, NORFOLK, NR20 3SB
FKp STEPHEN PORTER	0934-515686	79 BECKET ROAD, WORLE, WESTON SUPER MARE, AVON, BS23 1TE
FKp JOHN PUDDUCK	0749-870383	1 MANOR FARM COTTAGES, THE GREEN, EASTON, SOMERSET, BA5 1ED
FKp BERNARD REEVES	081-864-3559	16A NEWBURY WAY, NORTHOLT, MIDDLESEX, UB5 4JD
FKp JONATHAN ROBERTS	071-735-9423	1 VAUXHALL WALK, LONDON, SE11 5JT
FKp <u>MARTIN ROWE</u>	0252-872006	10 GREENLEAS CLOSE, YATELEY, CAMBERLEY, SURREY, GU17 7SL
FKp <u>YVONNE ROWE</u>	0252-872006	10 GREENLEAS CLOSE, YATELEY, CAMBERLEY, SURREY, GU17 7SL
F-n CHARLIE RUDDICK	0753-38494	9 AUGUST END, SLOUGH, BERKSHIRE
H-- RON SAUNDERS	0494-813487	21 RUSHMOOR AVENUE, HAZLEHIRE, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, HP15 7NT
FKp DON SEARLE	0689-852116	14 HILDA VALE ROAD, FARNBOROUGH, ORPINGTON, KENT, BR6 7AN
FKp BRIAN SNELL	0329-238341	38 SERPENTINE ROAD, FAREHAM, HAMPSHIRE, PO16 7EB
FKp <u>ARTHUR SPAIN</u>	0749-679358	WAITANGI, LONG LANE, DINDER, WELLS, SOMERSET, BA5 3PQ
A-p PETER SPAIN	0494-715027	25 FORGE CLOSE, HOLMER GREEN, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
F-n GRAHAM SUTLIFFE	081-643-4737	FAIRLAWN COTTAGE, FAIRLAWN ROAD, CROYDON LANE, BANSTEAD, SURREY, SM7 3AU
F-n STEVE TAYLOR	0273-834035	58 CLUCKFIELD ROAD, HURSTPIERPOINT, HASSOCKS, WEST SUSSEX, BN6 9SB
FKp BRYAN TERRY	0533-432533	12 MEIR LANE, HOUGHTON-ON-THE-HILL, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE7 9GR
A-p PAT TERRY	0533-432533	12 MEIR LANE, HOUGHTON-ON-THE-HILL, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE7 9GR
F-n ADRIAN THOMAS	0272-851095	17 CEDAR WAY, NAILSEA, BRISTOL, AVON, BS19 1BZ
PKp RICHARD THORNTON	0258-459458	14 ALBERT STREET, BLANDFORD FORUM, DORSET, DT11 7HY
FKp DAVID TOOKE	0923-238781	16 MUNDEN GROVE, WATFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE, WD2 5EE
F-n DON VOSPER	0761-453214	5 FRANKLYN TERRACE, FARRINGTON GURNEY, AVON
FKp ROGER WALLINGTON	0753-543384	125 LANGLEY ROAD, SLOUGH, BERKSHIRE, SL3 7DZ
PKp DAVID WALSH	081-977-8414	58 MUNSTER ROAD, TEDDINGTON, MIDDLESEX, TW11 9LL
A-p JUNE WALSH	081-977-8414	58 MUNSTER ROAD, TEDDINGTON, MIDDLESEX, TW11 9LL
FKp PAT WALSH	081-977-8414	58 MUNSTER ROAD, TEDDINGTON, MIDDLESEX, TW11 9LL
PKp BOB WANSTALL	0425-480642	31 EUSTON GROVE, RINGWOOD, HAMPSHIRE, BR24 1FB
PKp MARK WARD	071-381-3591	20 PASSFIELDS, STAR ROAD, LONDON, W14 9LJ
FKp KEVIN WEST	081-570-6624	21 WESLEY AVENUE, HOUSLON, MIDDLESEX, TW3 4LY
FKp ROBERT WHALLEY	0923-245455	55 PINNER ROAD, OXHEY, WATFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE, WD1 4EG
PKp BARRIE WHITEHEAD	0458-273912	47 NOWRIES COURT, SOMERTON, SOMERSET, TA11 6NF
FKp RICHARD WHITTINGTON	0272-392751	27 LYVEDON WAY, LONG ASHTON, BRISTOL, AVON, BS18 9ND
FKp CHRIS WHITTLE	0442-832994	17 APPLE COTTAGES, OLD DEAN, BOVINGDON, HERTFORDSHIRE, HP3 0EZ
FKp ALLAN WICKS	0734-475628	39 SHERIDAN AVENUE, CAVERSHAM, READING, BERKSHIRE, RG4 7BB
PKp FIONA WILLS	0252-838760	29 WINDSOR WAY, FRIMLEY, CAMBERLEY, SURREY, GU16 5YZ
FKp NIC WOOD	0908-260841	60 DENHEAD, TWO MILE ASH, MILTON KEYNES, MK8 8JA
PKp SUE WOOD	0908-260841	60 DENHEAD, TWO MILE ASH, MILTON KEYNES, MK8 8JA
P-n HELEN WOODFORD	0737-767738	10 RANELAGH ROAD, REDHILL, SURREY, RH1 6BJ
P-n GORDON WOODALL	0278-421802	37 ELIZABETH WAY, BRIDGWATER, SOMERSET, TA6 4NN
F-n STEPHEN WYATT	0934-838953	17 STONEMELL DRIVE, CONGRESSBURY, AVON, BS19 5DW
H-- FRED YOUNG	093484-3274	WANSTEAD COTTAGE, SHIPHAM, WINSORBE, SOMERSET