

GB/CHARTERHOUSE LAND ("GRUFFY FIELD")

by Joan Goddard

A meeting of the CCC was held on 24th September to enable the Steering Committee to report to members. CCC has formally approached Bristol Water with a view to purchase. CCC also approached Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT) with a view to joint purchase of the land, but this was rejected by SWT. Currently, discussions are taking place between the two organisations whereby, if SWT was to purchase Gruffy Field, access to the existing caves and digging permissions would be controlled by CCC (or a body derived from CCC) via a legally binding lease drawn up by CCC and SWT solicitors. There was a "hiccup" in late July/early August when discussions on the length of lease proved difficult, but the talks are now progressing amicably.

The Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer, has to sign sale papers before the land can be disposed of, and English Nature and the Countryside Commission have advised him about the matter. If their advice is ignored then BW plc could sell to the highest bidder, bearing in mind that the area is an SSSI and would be subject to limiting PDO's. Other interested parties are thought to include individuals, possibly commercial cavers, and even a clay pigeon shooting group (although this may be just rumour!).

To summarise: negotiations with SWT continue, but further progress is slow until the Secretary of State signs the piece of paper now lying on his desk. Meanwhile, access to GB Cavern and Charterhouse Cave is unchanged.

LIBRARY ADDITIONS

Mendip Limestone Quarrying - a Conflict of Interests Record of proceedings of a seminar held 23.10.93 to examine the dilemma facing Mendip. (See n/1 233) Contents include: Limestone and its Alternatives; Hydrology and Morphology of Limestone Terrains and the Effect of Quarrying (Pete Smart); The Case for the Limestone Environment (Willie Stanton); Minerals Planning Policy; The Changing Ecology of Mendip; Report on the debate at the end of the seminar.

Karst and Cave A special publication of the Hungarian Speleological Society.

Policy and Practice for the Protection of Groundwater Wessex regional appendix, NRA

Ten Years Under the Earth Casteret (a classic!)

Our Exploits at West Poley Hardy (a childrens' book)

Grand Canyon Caves, Breccia Pipes, Mineral Deposits Wenrick & Sutphin (re-printed from Geology Today May/June '94)

LIBRARY VIDEOS

The Group now has six videos. Until we get more library space at the cottage the videos are being kept by the secretary and are available to any member who wishes to borrow them. A deposit of £15 per video is required (preferably a cheque made out to Mendip Caving Group) which will be returned when the video is received back by Joan. Arrangements can be made to collect/return videos on Mendip, at the Eclipse, or by post (postage to be paid by the borrower!).

Video No.1 Mulu, Wookey Hole, Mendip Geology

Video No.2 Gaping Gill, Otter Hole

Video No.3 Surface part of Phil Ingold's "rescue" GB 1992

Video No.4 Cave Safe - a guide to basic training (Andy Sparrow)

Video No.5 Cave Safe II - ropes and rigging for ladder and lifeline

Video No.6 Cave Safe III - SRT and advanced ropework

Thanks to Joyce Dines for donating Cave Safe I & II. Further donations to the MCG video library will be most welcome.

MCG doings

ON THE MOVE Joel Corrigan to:
8th Floor, Health Mansion, 241 Prince
Edward Road West, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Tel: 010-852-714-8656

Julian Flavell to: Lista de Correos,
IA Norte E 2A Oriente, El Centro,
Gutierrez, Chiapas 29003, Mexico.

APPLICATIONS for membership:
Reggie Pain 21 Fernhurst Crescent,
Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent,
TN4 0BT Tel: 0892-545547 (proposed by
J Allen, T Francis)

Nicola Barrall 30 Chartwell Drive,
Lisvane, Cardiff, CF4 5EZ Tel: 0222-
766576 (Proposed by J Allen, M Cotter)

Huw Jones 11 Morlais Street, Roathy
Park, Cardiff, S Glam. Tel: 0222-488615
(Proposed by J Allen, M Cotter)

Rupert Knowles 4 Blaise Lane, Englefield
Green, Egham, TW20 0PH (Proposed by
C Alison, T Francis)

These applications for probationary
membership will be considered at the
committee meeting on 3-12-94

EXPEDITION JOURNAL?

Quite a few members said they had art-
icles on recent caving expeditions and
exploration and would like them included
in a special issue to be published in
the New Year. After I put out a request
in the August Bulletin I received... one
article, and that from an ex-member! I
know it's been the holiday season so
this is really only a reminder, but..
January isn't so far away.

SWEATSHIRTS are now available
from all committee members, £16 for
hooded and £10 for crew neck. Due to the
quantity of stock, access to the
cupboard in the Foreman's Lounge is now
restricted to committee members. (If you
were using this cupboard as a tackle
store, the secretary will advise you
as to the whereabouts of your gear!)

FORUM & BARN DANCE

Don't forget the informal meeting at the
cottage on Sat 5th Nov at 3pm. There is
no agenda, we just want your views on
how the Group should be run. The Barn
Dance is at 8pm, Chewton Mendip Village
Hall, tickets £5 in advance from A Spain
and M Rowe, or £6 on the door. Volun-
teers are needed for food preparation
and with organisation - contact Arthur.
A coach will be available to/from the
barn dance, cost £2.50 single or return.

UPPER FLOOD A new lock is be-
ing fitted, so there may not be access
at the moment. **WARNING!** There is a
dangerous boulder in the rift just
before the Lavatory Trap, at head
height. When ducking under this boulder,
you will notice a small keystone which
jams the boulder in the rift. This
keystone is loose and care must be taken
not to touch it in passing, as its
removal may bring the boulder down onto
you. When approaching the rift from
Hannah's Grotto, it is also advisable to
avoid standing on or leaning against the
said boulder. (Would anyone object if we
were to remove this boulder?)

INSURANCE Now that the status
of the MCG shop has been resolved, we
have been able to change from Eagle Star
to BCRA public liability insurance. Our
cover has been increased from £1,000,000
to £2,000,000 and our premium has fallen
from £490 (Eagle Star's demand for
1994/95) to £137. Unlike the Eagle Star
policy, the BCRA insurance specifically
covers us for caving and digging,
including use of explosives.

XMAS DINNER Tim Francis is
organising an MCG dinner at the Eclipse,
Egham on Thursday 15th Dec. at 8pm. Cost
is £14.50, and Tim would like a £5
non-returnable deposit by 8th Dec.

MENU

Home made soup
or Prawn Cocktail Marie Rose
or Smoked Salmon Pate
or Garlic Mushrooms

Traditional Roast Norfolk Turkey
or Roast Leg of Pork
or Steak Lyonnaise
or Salmon aux Champignon et Crevette
or Vegetarian Nut Wellington

Served with Roast or New Potatoes and
Fresh Seasonal Vegetables

Christmas Pudding and Brandy Sauce
or Iced Christmas Pudding
or Mince Pie and Cream
or Cheese and Biscuits

Coffee and Mints

