

BULLETIN

OF THE MENDIP CAVING GROUP

NUMBER 20

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1997 DINNER Don't forget to buy your ticket in time! Pete Moseley must receive your order by 1st April. 28th to 31st March is Easter so you must post your order and cheque no later than 27th March (ie. this Thursday coming!). We are trying a new venue this year (which nobody objected to when it was suggested) so we are hoping for a good attendance. The after-dinner speaker will be Alastair Garman who will give a slide show of Ogof Draenen.

EARWIG in on the committee meeting held on 7.3.97... **Cottage Extension:** Agreed that we would employ a contractor to complete the roof, render the outside and finish the leadwork. Cost expected to be about £600... **Rescue Kit:** £300 to be spent on equipment dedicated to rescue, such as krabs, pulleys, jammers, rope protectors, clothing, etc... **Hidden Earth '97:** This will be in Bristol on 12th to 14th September. MCG have been approached for accommodation. As this is not a members weekend, it's first-come-first-served so if you plan to stay at the cottage, book early... **Midweek Meetings:** Arthur Spain has been attending the cottage regularly on a Wednesday, only to find that he is often the only MCG member! The venue for the midweek Mendip meet has therefore been changed to the Castle of Comfort on Tuesdays at 7pm... **Rescue Practice:** This will be on 7th June in Tynning's Barrows Swallet... **BTCV:** Also on 7th June a party from BTCV will be staying at the cottage, so expect things to be a bit busy... **New Tackle:** 150m new lifeline to be purchased (the old stuff is a bit ropey!)... **Damage to Cottage:** We think we know who made the new loft access from the Foreman's Lounge. When we have proof, those responsible will be asked to pay for the repair or else face being banned.

EASTER MEET Originally, the Group planned to stay at a cottage in South Wales but there was not enough interest to make this feasible. The meet is still on and the caves to be visited are as follows:-

Fri 28th March - Agen Allwedd

Sat 29th March - Llanelly Quarry Pot

Sun 30th March - Ogof Carno

Mon 31st March - Ogof Draenen

There is no accommodation booked, but Yvonne Rowe's Land Rover will be travelling each day from Nordrach Cottage. Up to 12 people can travel together, sharing fuel and tolls. If you want a lift from the cottage, or picking up on route (eg. Langford, Bristol, Severn Bridge Services) please contact Yvonne on 01252-872006 (home) before 28th March or 01761-462797 (MCG cottage) from 28th March. Otherwise, meet at the cave entrance on the day, approximately 10am.

AWAY MEET Marcus Ward has arranged a Devon meet for the Bank Holiday weekend of 23rd - 26th May 1997 based at Buckfastleigh. Accommodation has been booked at the Devon Speleological Society Hut (no deposit required this time, and there's no chance of it being cancelled as it's only another club hut!). It is intended to visit Pridhamsleigh Cavern, Bakers Pit, and another cave (to be decided). Bakers Pit has been surveyed to a total length of over 3000 metres. Pridhamsleigh Cavern is over 1000 metres long with chambers over 30 metres wide. These small and complex cave systems are the longest known caves in the Devonian Limestones. More details from Marcus on 01252-815112

WELCOME BACK to Jane Baldwin (nee Dearing) who has rejoined as an associate member... **CONGRATULATIONS** to Tony Bolton who has been accepted as a full member.

AN ARCHAEOLOGY WALK AROUND GLASTONBURY

Sunday 13th April 1997

As most of you will no doubt be feeling a little fragile after the AGM and Dinner, I have organised the walk so there is not too much walking!! If there are no more than 12 people (including Martin and I) then we can all go in the Land Rover. We will leave the cottage at 10am (hopefully!) and *drive* to the Peat Moors Visitor Centre (for 10-30am if you wish to meet us there) and have a quick look at the exhibits (which include displays of artefacts, examples of the wooden Neolithic and Bronze Age peat tracks, and examples of Iron Age houses, workshops, gardens, etc.) before *driving* to the Meare Lake Village site, Meare Fish House (a very short walk here), the Glastonbury Lake Village site and then to Glastonbury town where we park the car (£1-00 for 4 hours or more) and start *walking*! After lunch there will be about 2 hours walking which will include sites around the town, up onto the Tor (from the least difficult side), and a pleasant cross-country footpath back to the car.

For those of you who wish to meet us at the Peat Moors Visitor Centre you will find it at ST426414. It is in the Willows Garden Centre, Shapwick Road, Westhay, near Glastonbury. Entry to the Peat Moors Visitor Centre costs £1-95 each adult. Entry to the Glastonbury Tribunal museum is £1-50 each adult. The exhibits are mostly from the Glastonbury Lake Village and are well worth seeing. Excluding pub expenses, the overall cost will be £4-45 per person (which includes £1-00 parking fee if you take your own car), but if you choose to join us in the Land Rover (and you're more than welcome) the cost will be £4.00, the extra bit to go towards the cost of fuel and parking (anything left over will go towards the cost of all the photocopying).

The Abbey costs £2-50 but, apart from the added expense, will take too long to look round properly so if you are interested I suggest you return another day. There is also a charge to go in the Priory Barn (Somerset Rural Life Museum) and Challice Well, but the Barn you can look at from the outside and the Well is probably not worth spending the £1-00 on (unless you all want to of course) and I have photocopies of plans, etc.

You can either bring a packed lunch or eat in the George and Pilgrim Inn, and the following is a guide to what is on their snack menu:-

Soup £1-95; Sandwiches £2-00 to £2-65; Baked Jacket Potatoes £3-00 to £4-25; Ploughman's Lunch £4-50; Veggi snacks £3-50 to £4-00; Chef's Specials £4-00 to £5-00; Desserts £2-00 to £3-00. Beer - Bass and Wadsworths 6X.

You will need sensible footwear (there might be the odd patch of mud), waterproof clothing, some money, and a packed lunch if you're not eating at the pub.

This walk is a bit different from the others I have organised but just as interesting I think, and it's ideal for the probable circumstances (hangovers, indigestion, etc!).

Yvonne Rowe (01252-872006)