

SUBTERRANEA BRITANNICA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND
1998 AUTUMN DAY CONFERENCE

Saturday 17th October commencing at 10am at Lucy Cavendish
College "New Building", Lady Margaret Road, Cambridge.

- 10.00-10.30 Coffee and Registration. In Denis Rooke Room
- 10.30-11.15 Annual General Meeting. Resolutions to chairman in advance of meeting please
- 11.15-12.15 Recording The Thames Tunnel. Malcolm Tucker
Malcolm Tucker was commissioned by London Transport to record the Industrial Archaeology of Brunel's Thames Tunnel before its relining.
- 12.15-1.15 Underground City. Nick MacCamley
Nick MacCamley is awaiting publication of his book on the story of the formerly secret government works at Corsham.
- 1.15-2.15 Buffet lunch.
- 2.15-3.15 Dover Castle's Tunnels. Philip Wyborn-Brown.
Philip Wyborn-Brown is Custodian of Dover Castle. The castle's fascinating series of tunnels represent various phases of military history.
- 3.15-3.30 Tea and biscuits
- 3.30-4.30 Brief communications. Please contribute 5-10 minutes of slides, videos or talk etc. Booking with Malcolm in advance is not necessary but it would be appreciated.

Additional. Time permitting, good mining videos may be played during the day

ALL EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO ADHERE TO THE ADVERTISED PROGRAMME BUT LAST MINUTE CHANGES MAY OCCUR. QUERIES (WELCOMED) TO MALCOLM TADD 01737 823456
Cut.....Cut

SUBTERRANEA BRITANNICA

To Gerald Tagg, Flat B, 30 Bedford Place, London. WC1B 5JH

- persons will attend the Conference on Saturday 17th Oct. 1998 at £9.00 each (Conference, coffee, biscuits, tea)
- persons would like buffet lunch at £11.00 each. Are any vegetarians? (..... persons are non-members and an extra 50p is enclosed for each.)

I enclose £..... Signed.....

Repeat in CAPITALS.....

Address.....

.....Tel No.....

Please try to return this form before 9th October - otherwise we cannot guarantee to provide you with lunch should you want it.

MCG News

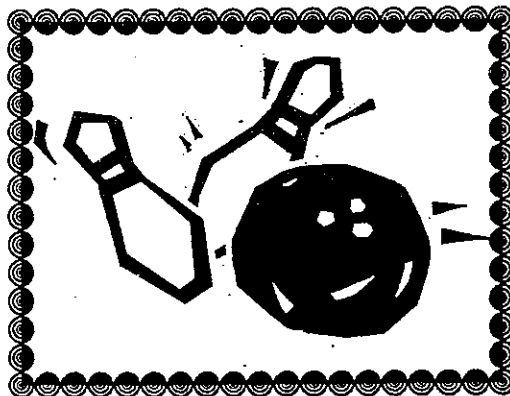
Newsletter of the Mendip Caving Group

September 1998

Issue 272

Half Yearly ~ Skittles Night

7th of November '98
At the New Inn
in Priddy



Lots of food,
Lots of beer,
Lots of Fun,
So.....be there.

Free Skittle Alley

THE HALF YEARLY IS HERE AND WE'RE FULL OF CHEER,
WE'RE GETTING TOGETHER TO DRINK LOTS OF BEER.

THE DAY IS THE SEVENTH, NOVEMBER'S THE MONTH,
SO COME ON AND JOIN US, I DON'T WANT YOUR BUMF !

NEW INN IS THE PLACE OUT ON OLD PRIDDY GREEN,
ABOUT 7.30 IS THE TIME TO BE SEEN.

SKITTLE'S THE GAME, THE ALLEY IS BOOKED,
AFTER A BALL OR TWO YOU'LL BE HOOKED !

FOOD FROM THE BAR, BEER FROM THE TAP,
PLENTY OF TIME FOR SONG OR A CHAT.

DON'T BE LATE, PLEASE MAKE IT A DATE,
AND LETS SEE IF THE CLUB, CAN TAKE OVER THE PUB !!!

Pete Moseley - Social Secretary

WEEKLY MEETINGS: At The Beehive, Egham, Surrey, on Thursdays from 9.30 p.m.

CAVING ACCOMMODATION: For up to 30 people. Available at the MCG headquarters: Nordrach Cottage, Charterhouse, Blagdon, Bristol, BS40 7XW. Tel : 01761 462797
Grid ref. ST51475606. OS 1:50,000 sheet 182

COTTAGE LOCATION:

COTTAGE BOOKINGS: Through the cottage warden please (address and phone number below).

COTTAGE FEES per night: MCG members, members children, SWCC and NPC £1.50
Guest clubs and member's guests £2.50

PREPAYMENT STICKERS: (Available to members only) 12 nights accommodation £15.00
25 nights accommodation £30.00
55 nights accommodation £55.00

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: Full and Probationary members : £25.00 ; Associate members : £12.50.

RECIPROCAL RIGHTS: MCG (members only) have reciprocal booking rights with SWCC and NPC.
NPC bookings via Andy Goddard tel:01978 812100 (work) 01244 570944 (home)
SWCC bookings via Ian Middleton tel:01703 736997. E.mail ian_m@tcp.co.uk

THE COMMITTEE :

Secretary	Tim Francis	Flat 6, 16 Lambert Avenue, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4QR.	Tel : 0181 392 2572 t.francis@nopres.co.uk
Caving Secretary	Julie Hesketh	23, Ashleigh House, Mortlake High Street, London, SW14 8SH.	Tel : 0802 431588 julie.hesketh@cbi.org
Tacklemaster	Dave Tooke	44, Beechtree Avenue, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0SR.	Tel : 01784 436237
Cottage Warden	Marcus Ward	56, Barn Meadow Close, Church Crookham, Fleet, Hants, GU13 0YB.	Tel : 01252 815112 m.ward@nichicon.co.uk
Editor	Letti Patte	44, Beechtree Avenue, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0SR.	Tel : 01784 436237 lpatte@3valleys.co.uk
Recorder / Librarian	Wayne Hiscox	3, Keward, Glastonbury Road, Wells, Somerset, BA5 1TR.	Tel : 01749 671282
Social Secretary	Pete Moseley	Pendle Cottage, Mearway, Westhay, Glastonbury, Somerset.	Tel : 01458 860524

RESCUE WARDEN	Brian Snell	01329 238341
CONSERVATION OFFICER	Marcus Ward	01252 815112
COTTAGE EXTENSION	Wayne Hiscox	01749 671282
EXAMINERS	James Allen & Ben Cooper	

CUSTODIAN TRUSTEES: Malcolm Cotter, Pete Matthews, Jonathon Roberts & Pat Walsh.

MCG Doings ...

On the move & Converted to Associate membership ➤ **Pat Newman** to 44 Skelton Drive, Leicester. LE2 6JP.

Accepted as Prospective Member ➤ **Tim Woodhams**.

Accepted as Probationary Member ➤ **Simon Goddard**.

Accepted as Full Member ➤ **Steve Jones** who has finally completed his training trip - Hooray!!!



Committee Snippets ➤ **Membership** : The following members have not paid their subs and are now receiving their last newsletter. Unless payment is received immediately, their membership will be deemed as lapsed and their cotag keys will be wiped. Should any member wish to get their £10 deposit back for their cotag key, please return it to Marcus Ward. **Tony Bolton, Julie Capel, Alan Clements, Ralph Diment, Joe Frampton, Bill Headington, Ian Parry, Anne Pittman, Charlie Ruddick, Grahame Treliving, Bob Wanstall.** ➤ **Shares** : The Wessex shares have now been sold.

The Treasurer – Huw Jones – has resigned from the post of treasurer thereby leaving a vacancy. The committee has decided to wait until the Half-Yearly to consider the views of the meeting. If you would like to apply for the post, please contact a committee member. The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Huw for all his hard work and for stepping into the breach at such short notice. As there are only 4 committee members left in the country next month, there can be no committee meeting.

Please note that Tim Francis, Dave Tooke & Letti Patte will not be available until the beginning of November. Do not hesitate to contact any other members of the committee if needs be.



Internet News : by Tim Francis

Cybercaving...

- <http://rubens.its.unimelb.edu.au/~pgm/uisc/lexintro.html> The Cavers Multi-Lingual Dictionary. Now under the auspices of the UIS Informatics Commission this dictionary was originally started by Attila Kosa. Languages covered so far are English, French, German and Hungarian. Currently there are up to Edition 3 last updated 27 Aug 1998 but obviously things are being added all the time. This dictionary is organised into groups of numbered concepts. i.e. collections of words with the same meaning. Basically you use your text search facility to search for a word. Very useful!!

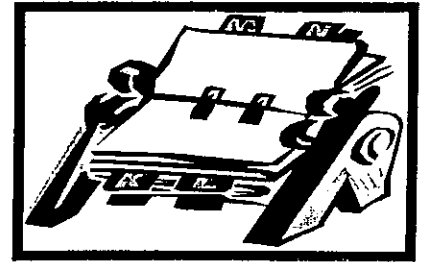
International Union of Speleology...

- <http://rubens.its.unimelb.edu.au/~pgm/uis/index.html> This covers a loads of things including : the international congress, working groups, speleo abstracts, publications and a cybercaving link page. I found the abstracts section to be really useful if a little out of date. You can search on author, topic, geographical areas etc.

Mailing Lists...

- http://www.karst.net/maillinglist/mtb_e.htm This is a useful guide to all the mailing lists that are doing the rounds, what they are about and how to subscribe. Obvious inclusions are the Cavers Digest (USA), Cave Surveying (UK) and Cave Biology (UK). But there is also more esoteric stuff on diving, rescue, French, Spanish, Russian lists etc.

Forward Meets Programme :

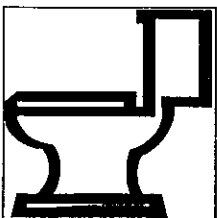


Date	Venue	Events	Contacts
27 th Sept.	Mendip	BTVC : dry stone walling. This will be the last training weekend.	
Whole of October	Nordrach Cottage on Mendip	Wayne will be working on the cottage from the 06/10 until the end of the month. All welcome to help.	Wayne Hiscox
11 th October	Craig-y-Fynnon : South Wales	A trip has now been organised. Max. party is 6, no carbides.	Julie Hesketh Tel : 0802 431588 E.mail : julie.hesketh@cbi.org
24 th October	Agen Allwedd : South Wales	Trip has been organised. Max. party is 8.	Julie Hesketh Tel : 0802 431588 E.mail : Julie.hesketh@cbi.org
31 st October	South Wales	Cambrian Caving Council Training Day : vertical workshops include : - SRT for beginners (£18) - SRT Rigging (£20) - SRT Rescue (£25) - Ladder & Line (£20)	Juliet Parker-Smith CCC Training Officer 'Keri', Glasbury-on-Wye via Hereford. HR3 5NT Tel : 01497 820512 (day) Tel : 01497 847214 (eve)
7 th November	St Cuthberts : Mendip	The trip will be timed in order to get back in time for the Half Yearly meeting.	Jeremy Gilson Tel : 01934 515689
21 st November	North Wales	Julie has organised a trip yo Olwyn Goch Shaft (Milyr Tunnel). Members wanting a trip MUST book a place with Julie in advance for insurance purposes. The trip requires a reasonable level of fitness as there is 400ft of fixed ladders. If interested please contact →	Tel : 0171 395 8053 (day) Tel : 0802 431 588 (eves) Julie.hesketh@cbi.org
7 th November	Mendip	Half-yearly, New Inn, Priddy, Skittles evening, see front page for details.	Pete Moseley Tel : 01458 860524

Advanced Bookings :

- **2 weeks in September**, dates still to be confirmed. During the day, the cottage will be used by the police dogs handlers. Please make sure that any illegal stashes have now been removed from the cottage.

- Please note that the cottage will be fully booked on the weekend of the **22nd of January 1999** by a few scouts – well, 25 to 30 of them!!!



← This last weekend was so busy that the monthly count was overlooked. It can categorically be stated however that no shortages were reported. There will be no committee meeting next month so the next count will be at the Half-Yearly.

Ogof Draenen – Digging at Pontypool or Bust

Tim Francis

Ever since our earliest trips into Ogof Draenen in 1996 I have been intrigued by those odd bits of passage that head off into blank areas on the survey and yet have been overlooked. Numerous trips have been made to unusual areas such as Pen-y-Galchen Passage, The Canyon, Big Mole Passage and Ladder Passage. About 40 foot of passage was dug open at the last site and looks like it could bypass the choke and open up a significant blank area to the North. However we finally chose to concentrate upon Pontypool or Bust, a Southern trending passage which runs parallel to the main streamway. Since our first visit in August 1996 a huge chunk of passage has been opened up to the South, Luck of the Draw, leaving a big hole in the survey.

POB passage is an infrequently visited bit of passage leading off from Agent Blorengie just upstream of The Sewer. Initially the series begins as The Crystal Maze, named after the television programme, which is a thrutchy bit of cave where the walls are coated with some fine crystals. After ten minutes at normal pace a junction is met: straight on are the Sand Swims and to the right Pontypool or Bust. The Sand Swims are well decorated but we've tended to concentrate on POB as that is where the main draft seems to come from. Another ten minutes of crawling and squeezing and one pops out in the terminal chamber. All ways on appear to be choked with sand but there is definitely a draft coming from somewhere. We made a couple of day trips to the chamber in 1996 and 1997 and probed the far end of the chamber as well as off to the left. The way on straight-ahead closes down and the slope up the left would repay further effort but I think it probably connects to the Sand Swims. Things didn't look too promising. I squeezed through to a chamber at a lower level but this was completely filled with sand, the way on not obvious and no draft.

Initial furtles: Joe Frampton, Tim Francis, Julie Hesketh, Duncan Horne, Kerry Howard, Reggie Pain.

Other projects abroad and closer to home kept us away but there was always that nagging thought that we had missed something. The location of the passage is perfect and there has still been no progress into that blank area either from Life on Mars, Luck of the Draw or elsewhere. So finally Duncan and I decided to take another look but this time as a camp/dig. The bank holiday loomed and we found ourselves at the entrance completely overloaded with two tackle bags each!. Normally it takes 3 hours to the dig but this time we took a more leisurely 6 hours. It is also unfortunate that the last water source is back at the start of the Crystal Maze so I had to whizz back to fill up a few BDHs before we could get the supper on. We camped in the final chamber where there is plenty of space for sleeping. The floor is covered in sand so very comfortable and relatively warm.

The next morning after a pleasant breakfast we dragged the digging kit to the lower chamber. This is only five minutes from the camp but has the disadvantage of a rather notorious squeeze. Easy for me but not for those approaching an average build. Duncan persevered and was rewarded with a day's hard graft. Where to dig was not particularly obvious but we started work where a trace of water seems to have sunk in the corner eons ago. A day later of pleasant digging and we had extended Draenen for 20ft. The digging was dead easy and more like playing on the beach. The only hassle was spoil removal. After tiring ourselves out it was back to the camp to try and consume all the food and gas so we didn't have to carry it all out. Chilli and chicken pasta in the same pan never tasted so good. Another night in the sleeping bags and then it was the long slog out in the morning. We left the digging kit in so there were only three tackle bags to carry; hence an exit time of five hours. It was raining and we were knackered but definitely happy to be out. The only slight misfortune was that Duncan had left his keys down at the entrance so had to walk back down the hill to retrieve them. A quick change into clean clothing and we were off for a well earned tea in the Little Chef at Crickhowell.

So what's the potential? Well we can see for another 15 feet or so at the end of the dig. Admittedly there is a lot of sand to remove but the prospects are good. The digging kit is still in there so all you need is something to drag the spoil back in (we used a tackle bag and rope). Rumour has it that Duncan is planning a return whilst I'm away in Madagascar so sign up now or its Pinetree for everyone!

Digging camp: Tim Francis, Duncan Horne.

MCG and NCA respond to Government Consultation on "Right to Roam"

In June, the MCG responded to the Government's consultation paper on Access to Open Countryside. The NCA had raised the issue and urged as many caving clubs as possible to respond to the document or to support the NCA's response. The consultation followed the Labour Party's pledge to secure greater access to the open countryside. Whilst caving was not mentioned specifically, access to many cave entrances could be affected by these proposals and so the NCA felt it necessary to make the voice of cavers heard. An MCG response was duly drafted in support of the NCA.

The consultation paper put forward 35 proposals and set out some initial proposals and described some of the practical issues which need to be resolved. The Government is not calling for unrestricted access everywhere. The priority is to increase access to mountain, moor, heath, down and common land, which between them represent no more than 12% of England and Wales — some already subject to access. If the Government's objectives could be achieved by totally voluntary means there would be no need for any legislation, but it is questionable how successful this might be. Whatever legislation is introduced however, voluntary measures will continue to be encouraged. Any new legislation in this area however could however be used to shape the way that future access arrangements for other types of and are shaped, hence the need for a response by cavers.

The MCG response focuses mainly on the government's definition of "open-air recreation". The committee were concerned to ensure that present access arrangements for cavers to caves are maintained and not jeopardised by a change in the definition. We argued that caving should be included in the definition of "open-air recreation" and that cave entrances should be covered in the list of areas covered by the scope of the consultation. It would be unfortunate if access rights for cavers were inadvertently overlooked by the DETR.

Other issues raised in our response are:

- A preference for a statutory right to roam, rather than a voluntary scheme (which already exists in many areas and has led to loss of access to some caves). A statutory basis for access avoid confusion and allow responsibilities of landowners and users alike to be clearly laid out;
- That government ought to consider extending the scope of the proposals to other types of land (e.g. cultivated land) for access to natural sites such as caves;
- That consideration be given to extending voluntary arrangements to agricultural/cultivated land;
- Our support for guidance/agreed codes of practice for recreational users;
- Our concern over the proposal to allow landowners to ask for a financial contribution for the use of facilities provided for access. This could, we thought, be abused by giving landowners an incentive to provide additional and maybe unnecessary facilities in the countryside in order to make profit. Access by foot to land should be free of charge.

In the region of 2000 responses have been received by the DETR. During the coming months they will be analysing these responses and holding further meetings with a number of national bodies, local government, the statutory conservation agencies, and other interested parties. The intention is to make recommendations to the Government in the autumn and it is understood the intention is to proceed with any legislation fairly quickly.

For cavers to make any headway in this matter, the more pressure that can be put on the Government, the better. The NCA, in addition to responding to the document are therefore liaising closely with other national bodies with similar interests, and also with the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) as members of the Outdoor Pursuits Division, who are more likely to make effective representations.

Copies of the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions' (DETR) consultation paper may be found on their Website at <http://www.nds.coi.gov.uk/coi/coipress.nsf>.

The NCA response is available on their Website at <http://web.ukonline.co.uk/nca/> Look under "Administration" and then "Miscellaneous documents".

A copy of the MCG response to the Consultation is pinned to the cottage notice board for reference. A hard copy is available on request from Julie Hesketh.

Potholer's injuries blamed on Alps feud

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

A potholer who plummeted 200ft on to jagged rock, suffering major injuries, because his ropes had been sabotaged may have been the victim of a feud between cavers and climbers competing for space in the increasingly crowded Alps, according to the French police.

Lionel Vivet, 30, and two experienced potholing friends had finished exploring a network of underground caves high in the Croix des Têtes Aplines range in the Savoy region last weekend when they prepared to descend an external rock face, using ropes they had installed several weeks earlier.

M Vivet seized a rope and swung himself on to the rock face, only to plunge immediately on to the rock shelf below. He remains in intensive care in a Grenoble hospital, suffering from multiple head injuries.

"The ropes had been cut by a human being," said Oliver de Bianic, the police captain leading the investigation. The area is a major rock-climbing site, and Captain de Bianic said it was not clear whether the action was an act of malice or "by a zealous mountain climber anxious to clean up the mountain".

Police have seized a guest book from a nearby climbing refuge which, they say, contains evidence of growing tension in the region. In one entry, "a rock climber has written insults against the potholers", protesting at the ropes installed by the cavers "which hang down there in the middle of the rock face and get in the way of climbers", police said. Another entry declared: "The potholers are really messing up the climbing schools."

M Vivet and his friends, members of the Savoy Potholing Club based in Chambéry, had discovered the entrance to the caves, some 600 meters up a steep cliff, last autumn. The two ropes were left to ensure they could get in and out rapidly. Whoever cut them appears to have done so while the potholers were underground.

Police have urged witnesses to come forward but will not yet say whether they are treating the incident as attempted murder. "The cut was clean, and could not have been caused by a rockfall or fraying on a stone. The rope was severed intentionally," said a spokesman for the gendarmerie at Modane, near St. Jean de Maurienne.

M Vivet is suffering from a cracked skull and multiple fractured, but he was fortunate to escape with his life since the fall happened at 10pm in one of the most inaccessible parts of the mountain.

Emergency workers arrived on foot at 2am, but the rescue helicopter was unable to airlift him to hospital until dawn.

Potholers and climbers concede that the wide-open spaces of the French Alps are not large enough for some. "Certain of the more fanatical mountaineers are afraid of an influx of other climbers into relatively untouched areas and could be tempted to lift equipment installed there to make their own access easier, at the risk of causing the most serious accident," said Robert Durand, head of the Savoy Potholing Club.

The Times. Wed 12 Aug 98



From the Editor:

Please note that there will not be a Newsletter in October as the Editor will be busy in Madagascar.

The next edition will therefore be in November – after the Half-Yearly.

Arnside Anecdote - July 25 - 27th '98

Yvonne Rowe

Friday 24th July and Joan Goddard arrives at Arnside for a long walking / caving weekend. I was quite looking forward to this weekend as Joan is a good walking / caving / chatting company and, as we don't see so much of each other since our move to Arnside, we have absolutely loads to catch up on. Martin and Joan also get on well, particularly as they both have great interest and knowledge in geology (and enjoy the odd heated debate about the world in general!). Marcus and Zoe had stayed over on the Thursday night en route to Scotland, then at fairly short notice my daughter Sorrel and her fiancé Billy asked if they could stay over Friday night before driving on to visit her Grandparents (my parents) in Newcastle on Saturday morning. Needless to say it was a bit hectic but lovely to have everyone stays and there was such a good atmosphere. Just to add to the melee, Martin's parents called on the off-chance Saturday morning on their way to Morcambe!!

Enough of that. The weather forecast for Saturday was good so Martin worked out a good 14 miles walk taking in all the geological, ornithological and botanical delights of the Arnside area. The flora around Arnside is very similar to that of the Mendip due to it also being limestone, with the exception of some large pale blue Campanula which could have been escapees but for the fact that there were no properties in the vicinity? We have a large number of wild deer in the local woodland and saw one Roe and two Muntjacs. Nearing the end of our walk we disturbed many green woodpeckers in a field – at least ten in all and they looked lovely with their olive-green backs and crimson heads. There was the usual abundance of rabbits and a recent discovery for us which is a large flock of juvenile teal (100 or more), which graze in meadows beside the sink / rising (?) and whose quacking sounds like they are laughing, which we found quite infectious.

Martin's route took in the Fairy Steps, a narrow, steep, highly polished fissure in a limestone cliff, which was once an old coffin route from Arnside to Beetham. The legend says that if you can get up or down it without touching the sides then you will be granted a wish. Of course we tried...!!? We then crossed a fine example of limestone pavement at Slack Head. We are always very proud to show off our areas of pavement – anyone would think they belong to us personally! Along the route we would get occasional spectacular glimpses from high of the Lakeland fells, Ingleborough, the RSPB's Leighton Moss Bird sanctuary, and Arnside with its yellow estuary and long rail viaduct (for passenger trains as well as waste re-processing flash-carrying trains for Sellafield!). We tried to get to Gait Barrows, supposedly the best area of limestone pavement in Cumbria but it was fenced off with no way in. Instead we went to look at nearby Hawes Water (no, not the Lakeland one) which is part of a local nature reserve. Towards the end of our walk we came across the sink / rising which is at the base of Arnside Knott. We will need to get permission from the landowner to investigate it properly as there are no public footpaths to it but it looks as if it flows away from the Knott and inland rather than seaward! It was in the adjacent meadows where we saw all the juvenile teal. Last but not least was Arnside Tower – one of a chain of a dozen Pele towers constructed around Morcambe Bay in the 15th century to repel marauding Scots. In 1690 the towers were abandoned, lead was stripped from the roofs to repair other buildings and they gradually decayed.

Because of the comings and goings we did not start our walk until after lunch so it was quite late by the time we got home. I had prepared and cooked a bug beef stew the day before and we tucked into this in the locally traditional way – served in a large Yorkshire pudding. Yum!

On Sunday we had again got started quite late – too late for any serious caving, so we went to attempt the through trip from Great Douke Cave to any one of the Middle Washfold entrances in the Chapel-le-Dale area of Yorkshire. I had been down Great Douke Cave a short while ago with Geoff Beale and Tony Bolton when the water was no more than ankle deep. I should have guessed from the increased size of the waterfall in the entrance climb that things had changed a little. Instead of just ankle deep water it was now over-the-wellies in places but this made it more interesting. With a bit of imagination and if you squinted a bit, it was not unlike the OFD streamway! Lots of mini-waterfalls and plenty of fast flowing water. We reached the dry oxbow where Geoff, Tony and I turned back but we decided to press on, checking all inlets and passages for the correct route on. By this time the bedding plane roof had closed right down and we were reduced to hands and knees crawling. There were many promising leads but with the amount of water in the cave and not being sure just how far to risk going down each crawl, we decided to exit and try from the Middle Washfold end another day. We enjoyed what we did though so we were happy to return home – or rather to the pub where Joan treated us to a lovely meal and a bottle of wine.

Joan was leaving for the south at lunchtime on the Monday, it was raining and there wasn't time to do much – especially after we'd put the word to rights yet again! So we wouldn't feel as if we had wasted the entire morning we went raspberry picking at a local 'pick your own' farm. Monday was not a good day as the best had gone over the weekend but we still managed three punnets between us. Joan left after a spot of lunch then, after all that had gone before and a very enjoyable weekend, I was on my own – all together now : Aghhh!!!