

MCG News

Newsletter of the Mendip Caving Group

Number 274

December '98

A few days away in Yorkshire mid-week : by Geoff Beale



Tuesday 06/10/98 : Upper Long Churn to Alum Pot.

Graham Old, Martin & Yvonne Rowe, Geoff Beale.

After our previous attempt in April to have a go at the Alum system was thwarted by hordes of mini-buses and their occupants -(see previous by Yvonne), we approached Selside with apprehension. Imagine our surprise at finding the lane empty!!

We quickly changed and headed up the track for Martin, Yvonne & Graham to look at Alum for the first time. A crashing waterfall by the path wall sent water to the bottom of Alum Pot over 240ft down.

However, we walked past and left our kit at the shakehole entrance to Lower Long Churn and walked up, over a stile, across some very nice limestone pavement to the Upper Long Churn shakehole entrance. Here it is possible to 'do' a small through trip to Lower Long Churn.

Once all the chums were told to mind the "green rock" , we all set off. Some heeded the advice - some didn't - their fault.

The first obstacle was DR Banister hand basin, a wet 45° smooth passage to a large circular pool. Martin rigged a handline and down we went. The passage from then on is a nice walk down a major stream passage with a flat roof ; only about 15ft from the top of the moor above. At the end, a spirited climb down a thundering waterfall gave way to Lower Long Churn. We collected our gear and then stashed it further in whilst we took a wet detour to Diccan Pot. This is a very wet and noisy pitch about 125ft deep.

However we came back to our gear and then through a pleasant squeeze (but not for Martin) and into the route for Alum Pot.

We heard voices below a rift and saw another party of lads trying the Cheese-Press Squeeze. This was featured on T.V several years ago with Anneka Rice being led by Tony Waltham.

We smugly went over the top after persuading Yvonne to climb across the rift top. This led up to the 45ft deep Dooly Tubs which leads into Alum Pot about half way down.

Martin rigged the pitch for SRT and Graham & I did the same with ladders. Once we were all safely down, the large passage took us to an impressive vantage point with views all around Alum Pot and the waterfall crashing down seen earlier from the top.

Another 20ft ladder pitch took Graham & I around the right hand side and a rope descent over the greasy slab to the last 60ft pitch to the bottom of Alum Pot. This was left for another day.

Martin, Yvonne & Graham came out Dolly Tubs by SRT whilst I opted for the ladder. Once the pitch was de-rigged, we all made our way out finding a large by-pass passage (seen briefly on the way in) which avoided the squeeze passed earlier. However, just near the end is a pool which I meant to wade across but was deeper than I thought! Just as well I was wearing a wet suit.

This being the end of the day's excitement we went back to the NPC cottage for a welcome shower. We rounded the day off by having a meal & beer in the Marton Arms. Then goodbye to Martin & Yvonne who had to go home.



Continues on Page 4...

WEEKLY MEETINGS: At The Beehive, Egham, Surrey, on Thursdays from 9.30 p.m.
At The Hunters Lodge, Somerset, on Tuesdays around 10pm or at the cottage at 7pm for caving trips.

CAVING ACCOMMODATION: For up to 30 people. Available at the MCG headquarters: Nordrach Cottage, Charterhouse, Blagdon, Bristol, BS40 7XW. Tel : 01761 462797

COTTAGE LOCATION: Grid ref. ST51475606. OS 1:50,000 sheet 182

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 Nic Blundell on Tel : 01203 713849 (home) or 01203 838940 (work) or on email : nic.blundell@bigfoot.com.
SWCC bookings via Ian Middleton tel:01703 736997. E.mail ian_m@tcp.co.uk



THE COMMITTEE :

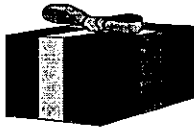
Secretary	Tim Francis	Flat 6, 16 Lambert Avenue, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4QR.	Tel : 0181 392 2572 t.franis@nopres.co.uk
Treasurer	Martin Rowe	"Abingdon", off Church Hill, Arnside, Carnforth, Lancashire. LA5 0DJ.	Tel :01524 762664
Caving Secretary	Julie Hesketh	.23, Ashleigh House, Mortlake High Street, London, SW14 8SH.	Tel : 0802 431588 julie.hesketh@cbi.org.uk
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@3valley.co.uk
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Social Secretary	Pete Moseley	Pendle Cottage, Mearway, Westhay, Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 9TZ.	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.

The Mendip Caving Group is a registered charity number 70088
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News in Brief



Accepted as Probationary Members :

- Marc Watkins
- Christopher Jones.

Accepted as Prospective Members :

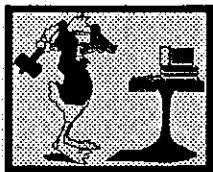
- Elaine Johnson
- Lynn Furneaux
- Bill Richards.

Change of email address :

Simon Fryer > simon.fryer@aol.com
 Pete Bennett > pbennett@amgen.com
 Julian Flavell > quetzalchiapas@yahoo.com

Committee Snippets :

Cottage Extension ⇒ Arthur Spain, Wayne Hiscox & Joan Goddard made a lot of improvements to the library by painting it and putting up the shelf brackets. All that is now needed are some shelves to put up & a worn carpet to give the library a cosy atmosphere.
More cottage work by Wayne ⇒ a new earth connection has now been fitted by Wayne along with a tripswitch to prevent electrocution in the showers...
Signatories ⇒ the club has now got 5 signatories : Martin Rowe, Wayne Hiscox, Tim Francis, Julie Hesketh and Dave Tooke.



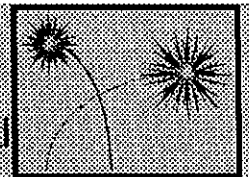
PC deals are available **NOW** through Ben Cooper. If anybody wants one, contact him ASAP on 01256 364199. The hotline opens 1/12/98 - and stocks are limited.

Film Premiere at the Hunters

The Wells Journal (01.10.98) reported that the film "Solo" (by Andy Sparrow and Peter Isaacs) was given its first showing at the Hunters. The star of the film is Brian Murlis who had completed 90% of the film before he died in April last year. The film was put aside after Brian's death, but Andy Sparrow was persuaded by other cavers that completing the film would serve as a memorial to Brian. According to the Journal "the story involves a caver discovering a labyrinth of underground wonders, but eventually slipping and crashing down rocks".

I haven't seen the film, and don't know whether or not it is available for purchase, but if it is available then we will purchase a copy for the library.

To all local members




Please note that the weekly meet has been moved to **the first Tuesday of every month.**

Arthur sends his apology for not being able to make it in December as he had double booked.

Any members wishing to participate can either meet at the Cottage at 7pm for caving or merely turn up at The Hunters Lodge around 10pm for the post caving pint.

Suggestions for trips, contact **Arthur Spain** on 01749 679358

Forward Meets Programme :

<i>DATE</i>	<i>VENUE</i>	<i>EVENTS</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
9th January 1999	Nordrach Cottage	The committee meeting has been moved to a later date due to the New Year.	
16th — 17th January 1999	Nordrach Cottage	More cottage work this weekend to hopefully finish the drainage outside the cottage. Beer and curry to reward workers afterwards. And also a slide show on Madagascar.	Marcus Ward Tel : 01252 815112 Email : m.ward@nichicon.co.uk
30th - 31st January 1999	Mendip	Julie is currently trying to organise another beginners' weekend. If interested please contact ---->	Julie on 0171 395 8053 (day) 0802 431 1588 (eves) julie.hesketh@cbi.org.uk
1st - 5th February 1999	Nordrach Cottage	BTCV : 12 people will be staying at the cottage to finish our dry stone wall. If you are interested in joining in please contact ->	Julie on 0171 395 8053 (day) 0802 431 1588 (eves) julie.hesketh@cbi.org.uk
17th April 1999	Hunters Lodge	Annual General Meeting.	
31st July — 21st August 1999	Madagascar	Return to the Bemaraha. Tim & Ben have expressed an interest in a three week trip.	Tim Francis t.francis@nopres.co.uk
6th — 7th November 1999	Nordrach Cottage	Half-yearly meeting.	

Advanced Bookings : Please note that the cottage will be fully booked on the weekend of the **22nd of January 1999** by the 1st Bookham Scouts — well, 25 to 30 of them!!!



A few days in Yorkshire, the end...

Wednesday 07/10/98 :

Took a break from caving & did the grand tour (by car) from Ingleton, Hawes, Wharfedale to Malham. Visited (walked) up Goredale Scar & over the fell tops. Brilliant day / weather etc.

Thursday 08/10/98 :

Intended to do a trough trip from top of Yordas Cave to bottom but instead settled for Kingsdale System (Valley Entrance). Took photos on way to 25ft ladder pitch but then realised that although we had packed ladder & tackle bag we had left it in the NPC cottage.

Graham made a spirited descent on a very dubious piece of knotted rope down to the streamway. He had a look upstream but downstream is the 2000ft + long Kingsdale Master Cave sump. Here Graham made another spirited climb up the knotted rope to reach the passage where I was sitting smugly watching him, but not being able to help (what a hero).

From here, it was back again - taking more photos, and then out to be caught by a tramp type bloke who kept on rabbiting on about nothing in particular in his broad Yorkshire accent.

Rescue Team rescued from GB - by Brian Snell

Brian Snell, David Snell, Keith Knight, Darren Gamblin, Cara Allison & Simon Goddard

The trip had started as an ordinary visit to GB cave. Everything went fine until we reached the ladder dig. The ladder was fixed and the party was soon gathered above the pitch. Unfortunately, the crawl was sumped but I had a cunning plan to use the tackle sack to bail it. A human chain was set up to pass the sack through to the pitch but the idea was short lived however, when the bailing started. As the sack was passed down the chain, the drain holes and a split seam emptied it before it got to the end of the line, resulting in all the water running back into the crawl. It was like a sketch from a Laurel & Hardy film. The plan was abandoned and everyone gathered at the top of the pitch to continue with the rest of the cave via White Passage etc. It was then that someone noticed a casualty lying against the wall. A full-grown toad that was immediately nicknamed Toady. I've seen bats quite deep in caves before and wondered how even with their sonar, that they navigated down small passages to get there. I also once came face to face with a small frog in the connecting wet crawl between the Ifold and West End Series of Eastwater Cave. But I really find it difficult to understand how a toad could end up at the top of the ladder dig other than if the terminal sump had raised up enough to overflow into the ladder dig. Even then how did this toad get down the 40ft drop in the main chamber. From Bat Passage direction it would have had to climb overhangs out of the crawl section to get there. Anyway although toads are usually finding somewhere underground to hibernate at this time of year it was unanimously agreed to take it back to the surface and give it a chance to find another hole to crawl down which wasn't quite so deep. It was duly placed into a foam lined ammo box and we set off. After sampling the delights of the Devils Elbow it wasn't long before we were back at the entrance. However, when the key

was placed in the padlock it would only turn through 90°. I had already experienced an aborted trip to GB earlier this year when we couldn't unlock the lock to get in but now we were unable to get out. We persevered and struggled on. It was spat on, blown into, clean water collected and poured into and slammed against the metal door in frustration but it wouldn't let go. I think it was only the presence of a woman that stopped us pissing into it. We knew that there were at least two other parties in the cave so sooner or later they would turn up and we could try their key. We struggled on with it and after an hour two parties turned up outside. Their keys were handed through but neither worked. At this point the guy outside felt that we must be doing something wrong and that he could do better from outside. What is it about human nature that makes someone think that if you can't turn a key in a padlock that is easily accessible in front of you, you must be doing something wrong and they can do better reaching through a 6 inch hole. He soon discovered for himself that the lock was stuffed. Not long after one of the other parties in the cave returned to the entrance and thought that we were doing something wrong, (human nature bit again) got their key out and took their turn in struggling but again to no avail. One of the party was announced as the Engineer by Profession who obviously felt we weren't working this problem out scientifically (human nature bit again) and come forward to save the day. He tried the key in wiggling it, withdrawing it, gently teasing it and licking the key. Then someone told him what we had already done to the lock and to be aware that it was warm for a reason. The key licking stopped. Someone remembered Toady who was ceremoniously handed through the hole and set free.

The end on Page 7 ...

OGOF CRAIG - A - FYNNON 11/10/98



Got up at the crack of dawn and drove from home to meet Steve Jones at the Aust services by the Severn bridge. Unfortunately it was just the two of us for this trip as everyone else had dropped out at the last minute.

I had been looking forward to this trip for a while as I had never visited Craig a Fynnon before and it was also Steve's first trip. Due to this we just had to stop in the McDonalds near Abergavenny to discuss the intended route and possibly have a burger for breakfast.

Anyway we got to the cave and met up with some lads from a Birmingham based club who had also arranged a trip. Steve and I set off aiming to get to the Hall of the Mountain King then anything extra would be a bonus. We made it in and through the first choke very quickly then got to the second in what seemed like no time. This is where things slowed down a bit as the 2nd choke is an interesting tight spiral up-wards yet it is quite short.

Once through the large stomping passage was encountered which contains some lovely flow formations, hence it is quite heavily taped. This is an unbelievable contrast to Ogof Carno which is just around the corner which Julie, Mike and myself struggled through the week before.

Due to the large dimensions progress was quick and Hall of the Mountain Kings appeared very quickly (too quickly) as this marks the end of the large passage and the formations for a while. The Hall itself is a very impressive high chamber (30m high if my memory is correct) with some enormous curtains hanging at least 15ft down from the centre.

Anyway from here we reluctantly left the Hall behind and entered the 3rd boulder choke which is short and is followed by a 250m crawl (cant remember what it's called). The crawl isn't as bad as I imagined as for the most part it is actually more of a stoop therefore you can move quite quickly through it. The crawl breaks out into the 'Severn Tunnel' a large phreatic passage big enough to walk through which lasts for around 250m. This breaks out into large stomping passage which after a bit of route finding took us to the fourth choke after only a short distance.

The fourth choke was a bit of an epic as it is hard to find the way through, we got lost in it for about 1/2 an hour as typically the way on was the last one checked and the least obvious every time! It is also very unstable which doesn't help. Anyway after almost an hour in total we got through and back in the stomping passage which we decided to follow to the fifth and final choke as there are some nice pretties in that area before heading back a short way and rigging the ladder down to Precious Years Passage. So it was worthwhile lugging the b*****d tackle bag all that way after all.

Once at the bottom of the 20ft pitch we headed up stream to check out the Pagoda an interesting little deformed stal boss which is well worth seeing. So whilst we were there Steve took a couple of photo's before heading down stream which is the main way on to the end of the cave. As time was getting on and we were more or less at the end of the cave anyway we decided to just go as far as it was possible to walk which was only 200m or so. We then thought it best to make a casual exit, on the way out Steve stopped to take a couple of picture including the Hall of the Mountain Kings.

Once we had left the Hall Steve had to stop to change his battery and in the process managed to hide his ammo can. He didn't realise he didn't have it until we got to the 2nd choke so we had to return up the main passage to find it!!!!

In between the 1st and 2nd choke we bumped into the Brummy lads who were checking out an inlet called (can't remember again!) anyway it looked wet so I didn't bother but Steve had a look so I went out and Steve caught up with me later after exploring the 500m long walking passage, I wish I'd had a look now!

Anyway from here we left and I dropped Steve off at Bristol bus station to make his way home to Cambridge, but his days adventures weren't over yet!! There were only two buses going his way and both were full so he ended up waiting until Monday morning before he could get on one!



Rescue Team rescued from GB - by Brain Snell, The end....

Around this time a woman on the outside asked if there were any tight bits in the cave as she was concerned because she suffered from claustrophobia!! She later said that she had never been caving before!! Clearly, some leaders are ignoring the No Novices bit clearly marked inside the entrance. Actually, it could be that they are confused, because it actually reads NO CARBIDE NOVICES. They are probably the same people I've seen down Swildons all togged up in their westsuits leading parties of children in ordinary clothes and trainers down to and through sump one only to return cold, tired and never wanting to go caving again. After 1 hour

someone eventually turned up with a hacksaw and hammer. The padlock, which the bank of England would be happy to use, being made of case hardened steel and a multiple barrel, high security lock, was ignored. Instead, the thin mild steel U bracket around which the lock is secured was quickly cut off. Cold, but free at last and overdue now by 1 hour we made our way back to the cars and back to Nordrach for a welcome cup of tea. We had missed the half-yearly meeting but it's got to be one of the best excuses so far.



Library Update: by Joan Goddard

- **Modern Snow and Ice Techniques** by Bill March, 1973, 66 page paperback.
- **Hill Walking in Snowdonia** by E.G. Rowland, 1972 - useful for the MCG Hillwalking Group!!
- **Mountains and Moorlands (No. 11 in the New Naturalist Series)** by W.H. Pearsall - background reading for those who like to know more about their surroundings while hillwalking.
- **Malaysian Cave Bibliography (up to 1997)** by Liz Price, 1998 - a 'must' if you are thinking of visiting the area.
- **The Mendip Hills** published by Bristol Naturalists' Society (1995) - This book contains 14 chapters on subjects which include wild flowers, birds, reptile, mammal and insect habitats, agriculture and geology. The latter includes a geological history (by Mike Simms) and the geomorphic evolution of the Mendip Hills (by Andy Farrant and Pete Smart) which is of particular relevance to cave formation.
- **Meta menardi in underground systems in the south west of Britain** by Colin Rogers, 1996 - we don't have many publications on cave biology in the library, so this one on the distribution and habitat of a cave spider should help redress the balance.





Some of the journals & articles received during recent months :
by Joan Goddard

☞ **The Potholer** by Lee Stow, The Express on Sunday, 15th February 1998 - double page spread comprising an article about Geoff Workman, "at 68....one of Britain's oldest potholers..." who in 1963 set a world record by spending 105 days below Stump Cross Show Cave.

☞ **Going Underground** by Josie Barnard, Time Out, ? July 1998 - two and a half page typical journalist's report of a first trip underground on an introductory caving course in Long Churn.

☞ **Searching the Depths of Borneo's White Mountain** by Donovan Webster and Stephen Alvarez, National Geographic Vol. 194, No 3, Sept. 1998 - lovely pictures but text a-bit naff e.g. "*sprawling systems of voluptuous grottos and uncharted pits*". Report of an American led 1996 expedition to explore the cave systems under Gunung Buda mountain which the Malaysian government wants to set up as a protected area within a region which is encircled by logging and mining concerns. The team consisted of biologists and archaeologists as well as surveyors and explorers. The writer gives the impression that he didn't enjoy the experience too much, with descriptions of hair-raising dangers both within the caves and outside in the jungle!

☞ **Notizario del Circulo Speleogico Romano**, New Series, 8, 9, 10, 11 (1993-1996) - all in Italian (I presume). One article, with cave surveys, is on the Ernici Mountains of Central Italy. How do I know? There are three-line English summaries at the end of each section!

☞ **Imperial College Caving Club Journal** No. 21, 1998 - includes an in depth 30 pp article entitled '*Adventures in the Hollow Mountain*' describing ICCC's expedition to Slovenia between 1994 and 1997. Also '*The Secret Life of Ascenders*' which should be interesting to the technical types amongst us.

☞ **Shepton Mallet C.C. Journal**, Spring 1998 - includes '*Lost Caves of Mendip*' by Dave Irwin.

☞ **Wessex C.C. Journal**, June and August 1998 - includes '*Observations in the St. Dunstons Well and Ashwick Drainage Basin*' (cave development) and '*Eastwater Southbank Series*' by Rob Taviner (potted history of the discovery ten years ago of Southbank Series).

☞ **Belfry Bulletin**, April, June and August 1998 - descriptions of trips to Little Crapnell Swallet and Honeyhead Hole, White Pit (with survey), historical look at the Bleadon and Hutton Caverns (also printed in Axbridge Journal), Attborough Swallet (with survey), Pakistan 1997, Megalaya (India) 1998 and Vietnam 1997. BEC is to be congratulated on their new style bulletins which are packed with articles and news items.

☞ **Underground Photographer**, Summer and Autumn 1998 issues - the former contains a revealing article entitled '*Irresponsible Photography*' by Dave Gwillim who was a member of the MCG a few years ago before he returned to Aussiland. Dave's photographs also appear in the Gallery section.

☞ **NSS News**, July and August 1998 - American caving news (obviously!) and the usual excellent colour photographs.

☞ **Mining in West Cornwall** (Holiday Geology Guide Series), British Geological Survey, 1998 - a glossy folded A3 guide with brief background information and 12 suggested localities to visit, including a couple of tourist underground trips.



Belfry Bulletin, Vol, 50 No 2 (early 1998) - has anyone got the library copy?



CSCC NEWSLETTER

No. 3

SWILDON'S IN FLOOD

There was a time when the owner of Swildon's Hole would lock the cave and refuse access if he considered the water levels to be hazardous. This was back in the pre-neoprene and fibrepile days and the death of a caver from hypothermia in Swildons in 1959 (plus another in Longwood four years later) was no doubt a factor in continuing this practice. Sometime in the '70s this restriction ceased and it became a matter of judgement for the caver to assess the conditions and to decide if descent of the cave was advisable. With the 'Forty' gone, and with the advent of specialist clothing, it was soon discovered that the Streamway could be negotiated reasonably safely in almost any conditions and a new 'wetter-the-better' attitude prevailed.

October this year saw some of the highest water levels since the great flood 30 years ago. Saturday 24th October began with torrential rain which continued steadily throughout the day. With the ground already water-logged and stream levels high the level at Swildon's rose steadily. A number of vehicles on the Green, including a minibus, testified to the presence of several parties in the cave. By mid afternoon the water submerged the upper pipe and by anyone's definition the cave was in spectacular flood. Fortunately everyone emerged safely from the system, all the parties being well equipped although there were adult novices included.

A week later on Hallow'en saw even higher levels. By midmorning the upper pipe was submerged and the level was still rising. By early afternoon the water was flowing over the lip of the blockhouse door. Even

these levels did not deter several groups of cavers who entered the cave (despite being strongly advised not to!). The slightly more cautious of us waited until later that night, when the levels were clearly dropping, before going underground. The biggest surprise in the cave was the volume of water over-shooting the Showerbath at the head of the Wet Way and flowing into Binney's Link. Jacob's Ladder is not an all-weather escape route - and an inexperienced or tired caver would have great difficulty under the conditions we witnessed.

Down at the Forty the eyehole at the head of the wet climb was half submerged. It was very hard getting back through against the force of water - again this would prove extremely difficult for the tired or inexperienced. At the Twenty the usual ladder hang was under a deluge sufficient to sweep a caver off the ladder and traversing across to a safer area was necessary. The short crawl just beyond the pitch (approaching the Shrine) was easily passable downstream but proved much harder against the flow.

The trip illustrated graphically two facts about Swildon's in flood - it's a great trip, but it's potentially very dangerous. We have to remember that a misjudgement under these conditions will have very serious consequences. There is a serious risk of being swept off waterfall climbs, or being struck

MRO NEWS

Lectures / Training

Friday 11th December
Orthopaedic Trauma
7.30 PM at Hunters Lodge
inn

further lectures in January
February and March but no
dates confirmed yet
apologies but some lectures
have to be on Fridays due to
lecturer commitments

by dislodged rocks propelled by the current. The cave environment is extremely hostile in these conditions - the combined spray and draughts would quickly combine to induce hypothermia, even in a well equipped caver. Rescue would become increasingly difficult - imagine the aggravated problems in carrying a stretcher through a cave in flood - and the effect that repeated torrential soakings would have on any casualty.

So please take care. Enjoy Swildon's in the wet - even in flood - but treat it with the respect it deserves. Be very selective about who is suitable for this type of trip and that their personal kit is adequate. Cavers should be free and able to make their own judgements on safe water levels for themselves, and for their party. Let's show that we can.

Andy Sparrow

GB Cave

Following a recent 'rescue' when the hasp had to be sawn off of the door, the cave is temporarily secured by a wire strop and padlock. Please operate the lock with clean

hands and more importantly with a clean key, as this would appear to be the cause of most problems. Anybody who has problems with the lock should report it to the place where they obtained the key and to Graham Mullan the Secretary of CCC Ltd address overleaf.

SUBSCRIPTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1999

The new CSCC financial year begins on 1st January 1999, following last AGM's approval to move it from springtime. Member clubs are due to pay 1999's subs in time for the start of the year. So I have already put in the post the invoices for your club's 1999 subscription to CSCC and, where you pay via us, the National Caving Association 1999 sub. Both subs are £10 each. You may issue one cheque for both subscriptions if you wish, payable to CSCC. We shall receipt both, and forward the NCA sub to that organisation.

Send the sub to me, at Bridge House, Wanstrow, Somerset BA4 4TE, or bring it to the next CSCC meeting at the Hunters Lodge at 10.30 on Saturday 5 December 1998. I shall be grateful if you will pay promptly, as NCA has advised us that under further revisions to Sports Council funding, there are currently no national grants for regional expenditures. This means that CSCC is wholly dependent on its members' subscriptions.

I am also requesting subscription arrears for 1998 from a few clubs. The following are currently overdue and have not advised me that the money is on its way:

CSCC OFFICERS ADDRESS LIST

Hon Chairman	John Dobson
Hon. Secretary	Dave Cooke, 33 Laverstoke Gdns, Roehampton, London. SW15 4JB Tel 0181 788 9955 E-mail CSCC@alchemy.co.uk
Hon. Treasurer	Jon Roberts, Bridge House, Wanstrow, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. BA4 4TE Tel 01749 850413 E-mail jroberts@westminster.com
Conservation and Access	Martin Grass, Bryscombe, The Quarries, New Road, Draycott, Cheddar. Tel 01934 742710
Training	Andy Sparrow, 2 Pelting Drove, Priddy Somerset Tel 01749 677192 E-mail andy@mendipnet.co.uk
Equipment & Newsletter Editor	Les Williams, 51 Churchill Rd East, Wells, Somerset. BA5 3HU. Tel 01749 679839 E-mail les.williams@virgin.net
NCA Representative	Graham Mullan, 38 Delvin Rd, Westbury on Trym, Bristol, BS10 5EJ Tel 0117 950 2556 E-mail Graham_Mullan@compuserve.com

Avens Cave Exploration Group (CSCC & NCA 1998)
Avon Outdoor Activities Club (NCA 1998)
Border Caving Group (CSCC & NCA 1998)
Mendip Exploration Group (NCA 1998).

Best wishes for the new Caving Year.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the Cheddar Caving Club, a new local members club, based on the Mendips, who joined us at the last meeting.

CSCC Controlled Caves

All the padlocks for the various caves controlled by CSCC have been replaced with new locks. All existing keys should still work although some people have had problems. These have since been rectified and no further problems are anticipated, although anybody experiencing problems with these locks should contact the C&A officer, Martin Grass.

CORAL CAVE

This cave is now locked with the standard CSCC padlock. Keys are available for any member club of CSCC and from the C&A officer Martin Grass.

Dates to remember

CSCC Meeting Hunters lodge inn	5th Dec
1999	
CSCC Meeting Hunters lodge Inn	6th Feb
MRO Annual Meeting Hunters Lodge	19th March
NCA AGM	20th March
CCC Ltd AGM Hunters Lodge	10th April
CSCC AGM 10:30 Hunters Lodge inn	15th May
BCRA Conference Leeds University	10th to 12th September

Disclaimer

Views contained in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, the CSCC, or its officers.

Any relevant news items should be sent to the Editor either on a 3.5 floppy disk as a TEXT file, in the body of an E-mail, as a TEXT file attachment to an E-mail or alternatively Phone or write, address below.