

MCG NEWS

Mendip Caving Group Newsletter
Number 287 - February 2000

LIONEL'S HOLE

Round Trip - Saturday 10th October 1999

Rudely awoken by the sound of last night's red wine hammering in my head I got my kit together and headed (via Bat Products for a lamp) for the MCG hut in Somerset to meet Bill Richards and Lynn Furneaux who had kindly invited me to join them on a trip into Lionel's Hole.

Due to a misunderstanding, there was no hire lamp waiting for me at Bat Products but Tony Jarret kindly offered to lend me his own set, although I was not reassured by the way the lamp did not actually work! Several fiddles and a couple of thumps later Tony said let there be light - and there was light. Hmm!

Tony dropped into the conversation something that sounded suspiciously like "you want to be careful, I've heard that there has been some recent collapse there". Thanks Tony, that's just what I wanted to here!

With Tony's warning ringing apocalyptically in my ears I eventually arrived at the MCG hut at around 11:15 to find Bill and Lynn already on site but unable to get in (lock stuck) Help soon arrived in the form of Richard who succeeded in opening the doors and joined by Paul and Aida (visiting from South Africa - my apologies if I've spelled your name wrong), we were soon kitted up and ready to go.

Lionel's Hole is situated in the picturesque Burrington Coombe several hundred yards above the cafe and only a couple of metres to the left of the B3134.

This being only my 4th (proper) cave - the first three being Pridamsleigh, Bakers, and Swildons in that order, my (now clearing) head was full of pictures of big, clean river passage and cathedral like chambers.

Those who know this cave will know how far from the truth this vision was. The small entrance hole goes immediately downhill and during the next three hours I don't remember being able to stand upright more than half a dozen times. I learned a whole heap of new caving techniques - Crawling on belly like snake, crawling on hands and knees like lame dog and walking stooped like quadriplegic crab!

In places, the passage gets quite tight and on several occasions I found I was able to relax and enjoy the coffin like proportions of the passage while I considered how I was going to extract my wedged self, but encouraging shouts from the others "is lard ass stuck again" and the odd prod soon did the trick and I was able to move forward to the next squeeze/rift/boulder choke/muddy hole.

There is certainly nothing visually beautiful about this cave and with the exception of one tiny, dirty pillar (6-8 inches) in a small window off the main passage I saw no decoration. The real beauty of this system has to be the difficulty of the passage itself - as a novice I found it quite strenuous and technically difficult.

I won't (and probably couldn't) give an accurate account of the route we actually took but the route suggested in 'Mendip Underground' was the intended route - suffice to say that route finding was interesting in places!

All in all I have to say that I found my first trip since being accepted as a provisional member of the DSS very rewarding and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bill and Lynn for their kind invitation. Thanks also to Richard, Paul and Aida (however spelt) for their expertise and patience and to Tony for the light.

Lee Woodward

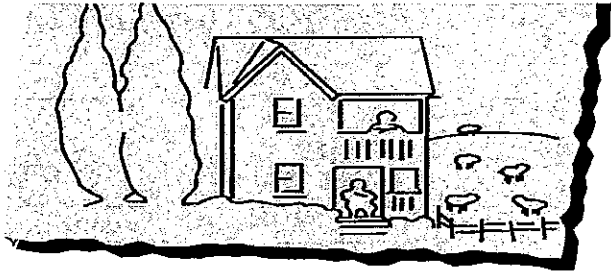
Reproduced by courtesy of DSS. (Journal, no.157)

MENDIP CAVING GROUP

Nordrach Cottage
 Charterhouse – on – Mendip
 Blagdon
 Bristol BS40 7XW. Tel. 01761 462797

High quality caving accommodation available for bookings of up to 16 people. All usual charging facilities, keys etc. Guests £2.50 per night.

Ben Cooper (**Cottage Warden**) Tel. 01256 364199
 Or email: ben.cooper@sbs.siemens.co.uk
 M.C.G. information: - Tim Francis (**Secretary**)
 Tel. 0181 392 2572



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Weekly Meetings:

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

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. Email : ian_m@tcp.co.uk

THE 1999 - 2000 COMMITTEE :

Secretary	Tim Francis	Flat 6, 16 Lambert Avenue, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4QR.	Tel : 0181 392 2572 Timf@bjm.co.uk
Treasurer	Richard Carey	Hamleaze, Old Bristol Road, Keynsham, Bristol, BS31 2AA.	Tel : 0117 986 2029 Richard@richard42.freerise.co.uk
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Social Secretary	Lynn Furneaux	4 Tor View, Wallaford Road, Buckfastleigh, Devon. TQ11 0AP	

Rescue Warden
Conservation Officer
Cottage Extension

Brian Snell 01329 238341
 Marcus Ward 01252 815112
 Wayne Hiscox 01749 671282

Examiners

James Allen & Martin Rowe

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News in Brief

Accepted as probationary members

Peter Mullins, 13, Tongham Road, Runfold, Farnham, Surrey. GU10 iPH

Derek Sutherland, Earlsfield, Farnham Road, Farnham, Surrey

Change of address

Andrew Bellamy to : 94, Downs Park Crescent, Ewing, Totton, Southampton SO40 9GP. Tel. 01703 661488.

Joan Goddard/Pete Goddard/Simon

Goddard to : Wayside, East End, North Leigh, Witney. Oxon OX8 6PZ. Tel. 01993 882 446

Yong Shik to : Samsung Kongduk APT 103-901, Kongduk-Dong, Mapo-Gu, Seoul, South Korea. His e-mail address: either cavepark@hotmail.com or at University cavepark@dgu.ac.kr.

The committee has the pleasure to welcome Lynn Furneaux as Social Secretary. From all of us : Good Luck.



SUBSCRIPTIONS 2000 by Richard Carey, Treasurer.

I am just writing to remind all of you who have not yet paid their subscription for this year that it is now due. The membership year is from January to December so I would appreciate your prompt payment.

Joan Goddard writes...

CAVERS' CAR BOOT SALE - SUNDAY 11TH JUNE PRIDDY VILLAGE HALL

I intend running a car boot/table on behalf of MCG. As well as selling club publications *etc.* I need lots and lots of caving related stuff to sell. So start sorting through your gear now. Your outgrown/shrunk wetsuit might be just what someone else wants. Have you any unwanted caving books on your bookshelves? What about that redundant fleecy you just replaced with the latest model? Surely someone gave you a bit of outdoor or camping gear at Christmas that you already had?

Bring any stuff to the cottage or to Thursday night meet at the Beehive (I'm sure someone there will pass it on to me). **The AGM/Dinner weekend would be an excellent time to hand stuff over**, or phone me to make alternative arrangements

(Pitch rent is for the MRO, the rest of the dosh going to club funds)

MCG Web Site by Ian McKechnie

Those members for whom I have an email address will already know that the MCG now has its own web site at <http://www.m-c-g.fsnet.co.uk>. Although the basic information is in place, it would benefit from some up-to-date underground photographs and reports of MCG activities. These may be emailed to : idm@m-c-g.fsnet.co.uk.

I also have facilities to scan pictures up to A4 size, and 35mm negatives or slides; any material sent to me (41 Daneswood Close, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 9AY) will be treated with care and returned as soon as practical.

MCG Meets List and Caving Diary 2000

Date	Area	Details	Contact
8 th April	Mendip	MCG AGM (Hunters Lodge Inn) Annual Dinner to be held at in Burrington. Further details to be put in newsletter.	Tim Francis (meeting) Lynne Furneaux (dinner)
Easter	Assynt (Scotland)	Possible trip to join the annual "Mendip Invasion". Accommodation either in basic hut or self catering chalets. Promises to be excellent.	Julie Hesketh
4 th June	Mendip - Shatter Cave - Fairy Quarry Caves	Trip for up to 5 people into the Fairy Quarry Caves (definitely Shatter and possibly Withyhill and WL caves if fully open by then)	Julie Hesketh
10 th -11 th June	Mendip	Mendip 2000. Priddy. Mendip Regional Meeting / CSCC Event. MCG to run trips into Upper Flood. Usual trip restrictions will apply.	Dave Irwin. Tel. 01749- 870369, dji2@compuserve.com.
14 th - 16 th July	Forest of Dean	Redhouse Swallet trip booked on the Sautrday. Could also do Slaughter Stream Cave. Accommodation to be booked nearer the date (probably camping)	Julie Hesketh
16 th Sept	Bristol University	BCRA Hidden Earth Conference. MCG Madagascar lecture.	BCRA website: http://www.sat.dundee.ac.uk/~arb/bcra/
October	Mendip	MCG Half Yearly Forum and social evening	Lynne Furneaux
17 th -19 th Nov	Derbyshire Peak Cavern	Accommodation provisionally booked at the TSG. Permit for Peak cavern provisionally booked.	Julie Hesketh

June 16th-18th: Forest 2000 - Royal Forest of Dean Caving Symposium III English Bicknor Sports and \Social Club

July 8th/9th: Cavers Fair 2000 - Pindale Farm Outdoor Centre, Derbyshire

July 14th/18th: International NAMHO Conference, Truro

15-17th September: BCRA Hidden Earth 2000, Bristol

Are You Doing Your Bit?

Accompanying this newsletter should be a copy of the new cottage advert. The issue of falling bednights (both members and guest groups) was discussed at the Half Yearly. Whilst we are not quite on our laurels, a steady income is needed from guest groups (and members alike) to ensure that we have the means to keep the cottage in good order. The cottage is starting to get to "a certain age" where its' cracks and wrinkles are beginning to show and over the next few years there may be some additional work needed to keep in good shape (window frames, lick of paint outside, etc). Members at the Half Yearly agreed that we should advertise our assets a bit more and try to target the advert to university groups, scout groups and the like. The ad was distributed at the BCRA conference this year and has been sent to over 40 clubs by post and email.

MCG members are key to guest bookings with many bookings being made on recommendation of members or word of mouth. Please help us to increase the number of guest bookings we get by pinning the advert up in a prominent place (at work on noticeboards, in scout/guide huts etc). There is a space at the bottom of the ad to put your contact details so people who know you can use you as their first point of contact and find out more details before making a booking. If anyone needs further copies of the ad or can distribute them further - contact Julie Hesketh (Business and Environment Directorate, Chemical Industries Association) Telephone 020 7963 6740 (Direct) - Telephone 020 7963 6788 (Secretary / Administrator) - Fax 020 7834 8586 (Direct)

The Armchair Enthusiast by Tim Francis

Irwin, D.J. and Jarratt, A.R. (1999) *Mendip Underground, A Caver's Guide, 4th Edition (revised)*, Bat Products

241pp, maps, diagrams and surveys, black and white photographs, paperback, ISBN 0 95361 0 6.

The publication of a new Mendip Underground is normally enough to drag even the most hermitic caver out of his hole and down to Bat to spend his hard earned cash. The tradition of Mendip guides pioneered by Baker, Balch, Barrington and others still continues to flourish no doubt much to the bemusement of our transatlantic cousins.

The first thing that strikes you is the new cover. The location for this edition's cover is the streamway in Stoke II. (Previous covers were Swildon's 20', Swildon's streamway and Dolphin Pot in Eastwater.) Pete Glanvill's photo must have been taken in the depths of winter judging by the rather cold looking model. The photo on the Bat Products ad on the back cover is a nice shot of the formations in White Pit, also by Pete Glanvill.

The new edition seems to have undergone a bit of an overhaul and is a significant improvement on the '93 edition. Many of the criticisms of the previous guidebook seem to have been taken on board. The font has been changed which noticeably makes the surveys and maps easier to read. There has been intelligent use of font throughout the guide. Sub headings such as access, location, description and history are all in Italics. Major warnings for caves such as Longwood/August and Swildon's are clearly marked in boxes. I suspect the average Mendip caver will appreciate the reformatting of the Swildon's description. Rather than the old "Swildon's One" and "Main High-Level Network" the cave description has been broken up into much more manageable chunks. It is now much easier to identify where you are in the text as each section has a clearly marked heading. Eastwater has also been re-jigged to make it more readable.

I rather like the 'blobby maps' so it's nice to see that they've been retained. Generally only the larger sites have been included on the maps which is sensible but there are a few inconsistencies. For instance I'm not sure Elephant's Hole (spelt with a semi-colon for some reason) needs to be on the map but not Frog Pot. A couple of moans are that the map titles are now not at the top of each page, and that most of the key for map 5 is on the next page. This could have been put on the facing page under map 4. On the maps there are still smudgy blobs, half blobs and blobs of different sizes.

The most obvious layout change has been the inclusion of the lesser sites, in smaller font, within the main body of the text rather than as an appendix. This gives the guide more of a 'Barrington Stanton' feel, which I think is a great improvement. Each of the small caves has been given a reference section providing further 'added value'. Ideally the aim of such guides should be to encourage diggers to put them out of date as quickly as possible although this is getting more and more difficult as time progresses. It is undoubtedly at these smaller sites that the breakthroughs will be made.

For the armchair enthusiast the reference section at the back has been updated making the publication more than just a guidebook. There is also a handy guide to calling out the rescue on the inside front cover. Importantly this includes instructions on how to call out the MRO via mobile phones. Read it carefully or you'll find yourself calling out the coastguard.

So the errors? Well error spotting has become something of a competitive sport on the Mendips but most have now been removed. Even the authors' names have been spelt correctly. After a quick perusal I spotted a new one at the top of page 11 in the "How to use this guide" section where a chunk of text seems to have vanished. I'll leave the rest for you to find.

In conclusion I think this is the best Mendip Underground yet and definitely worth a detour into Bat to pick up a copy. A snip at £14.00. Well I would say that as I buy everything, so take a look at the club copy in the lounge or peruse at your leisure in the new library.

HIDDEN EARTH 99.
LEEDS UNIVERSITY

Lynn Furneaux

BILL and I had not been to a B.C.R.A. Caving Conference before so this was all new to us. Knowing how I travel (sick bag in hand) we decided to travel on Thursday
 [WRONG MOVE.]

We arrived in LEEDS on Thursday evening. To keep my tea down I did most of the driving. With map and compass we could still not find the campsite, so it was the CAR or the PUB, yes the PUB won?

We arrived at the University ready for the field trips, and to top up a good start to the week end, we find that they were not expecting us, nor was there any field trips planed plus nobody was expecting cavers to arrive until later in the day. LEEDS MARKET was only a short walk away, 4 hours later we return only to find LES from the WESSEX, in the main hall .He said he belonged to the ground crew!!!!

We finally got to the campsite at 7.30 p.m., then back to the University to meet the others.

SATURDAY.

We decided to look around the stalls in the main hall first, then on to the film show. Andy Sparrow's talk and film show will take some beating. After more talks, films and stairs it was time to return to the campsite for tea. After a wash and brush up, we set off to find an Indian Restaurant, once there we meet up with some Australian cavers that Bill and I had met earlier in one of the University lifts.

We all ended up going over to the stomp, which we were far too knackered to stay to the end, we ended up getting drenched waiting for a taxi, only after we were in the car did we realize he drove like a KAMIKAZE PILOT.

SUNDAY.

After a long hot day on Saturday we only waited for the M.C.G. film then headed back to Devon.

Both Bill and I enjoyed the conference, made some new friends, bought some new kit, had a great time and hope to meet everybody next year.

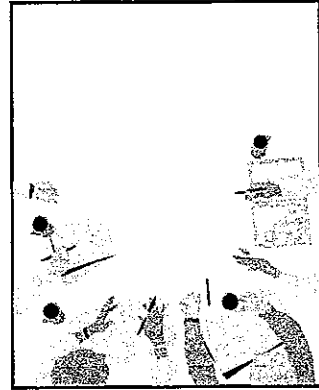
Also a big thank you to all the Venture Scouts and leaders for looking after all our tents for the weekend.

Lynn Furneaux.

P.S. AT TIME OF PRINT BAKERS PIT BUCKFASTLEIGH
 DEVON IS STILL CLOSED TO ALL CAVERS.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2000

The Annual General Meeting of The Mendip Caving Group will be held in the Long Room of the Hunter's Lodge Inn on Saturday 8th April 2000, commencing at 2.30pm.



Provisional Agenda

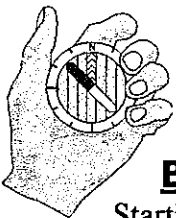
1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 17.04.99.
3. Agreement that the minutes are a true record of that meeting.
4. Matters arising.
5. Officers reports and matters arising from those reports.
6. Election of Honorary Officers for 2000/2001.
7. Election of Examiners for 2000/2001
8. Election of Rescue Warden and Conservation + Access Officer.
9. Motions.
10. Any other business.
11. Date and venue of next Annual General Meeting.

Note: Nominations for office must be submitted in writing by first class post to the Secretary's home address with the signatures of Full Members proposing and seconding, and at least 25 days before the meeting. A nomination for Office must be accompanied by a signed agreement to stand for election by the nominee. The honorary officers shall be: Secretary, Treasurer, Caving Secretary, Cottage Warden, Tacklemaster, Editor, Recorder/Librarian, and Social Secretary. Enclosed with this newsletter is a nomination form.

Nominations for the two non-Committee posts (Rescue Warden, Conservation and Access Officer) will be accepted at the meeting.

Copies of the 1999 AGM minutes were circulated with a previous Newsletter. Members may obtain further copies of the minutes or Constitution and Rules from the Secretary.

Saturday 8 April 2000



How many of the 41 caves with in Burrington Combe can you find or remember?
Richard Carey is organising the event.

Burrington Orienteering Challenges :

Starting time is 9.00am for the early birds, then every 15 minutes thereafter. For the sleepy heads the whole challenge should last around 2-3 hours **BIG PRIZES TO BE WON** Donations for the quiz sheets appreciated. Maps of the area will be provided

M.C.G Annual Dinner 8 April 2000 - £16.00 per head

Do not forget to reply by 10 March 2000.

To :Lynn Furneaux, 4 Tor View, Wallaford Road, Buckfastleigh, Devon, TQ11 0AP

A minibus will be organised at an extra cost, please see :

Bill Richards.

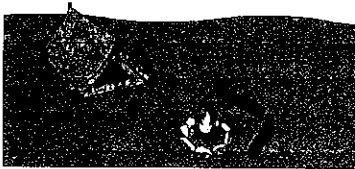
Black tie optional – Late license – Live music until 11.30PM

I remember when.....

Pete Goddard

.....I started caving. It was 1958 and a fellow apprentice, Bob Knott, suggested I might like it. "What do you do?" I asked. "Oh! It's great - camping in Velvet Bottom, going down underground and exploring, endless possibilities of finding new caves, going to the pub and bringing back beer after closing time in plastic pop bottles etc" "Is it far?" I asked. "No distance on your motor bike." (Since he didn't own one of his own and could only see properly from one eye, he was very interested in getting regular lifts on mine!) So, one Friday night we set off from Twickenham for Mendip. Bob had a tent so all I needed was a sleeping bag. I bought one covered in flowers.

It seemed quite a long way although my trusty Royal Enfield twin coped with the massive load of myself, Bob, camping gear, panniers stuffed full and the tent on the petrol tank. When we arrived at the Golden Arrow Cafe on the A4, Bob explained that this was a halfway stop for refreshment; just as well as my knees were frozen solid. (I had another memorable occasion at the Golden Arrow one winter when I was unable to stop the bike on entering the car park as the clutch cable had frozen solid. I was thinking that I might have to rejoin the A4 but heaving on both brakes and stalling the engine brought us to a halt. The Golden Arrow staff gave me a jug of hot water to pour over the cable and thaw it out. I poured what was left over my knees). Oh! What a beacon of joy the Golden Arrow was, two eggs and chips twice, it was a life saver.



Eventually we arrived at the camp site in Velvet Bottom (just up valley from Black Rock Quarry) and set up camp. Bob would remove special stones from the dry stone wall, and with the air of a magician produce tomato sauce and tins of beans which he kept stored there. I was very impressed. After a very short night's sleep we breakfasted using our primus stove and selected items from the stone wall store. (I have since revisited the camp site wall with my family, thirty years or so later, and found some of our rusty tins still in the wall).

We did a tour of the area; Bob showed me Cheddar (I was amazed) and in the afternoon decided that my debut caving trip would be Longwood. We walked up the valley to the entrance and I looked down the shaft. "Would you like a lifeline?" he asked. "Yes" I said. Having descended the awesome shaft I began to quite enjoy it. We went down to the main chamber and started to return. Up until then it had all gone very well but on the way out our lights began failing, first the carbides (couldn't relight them) then the electrics (U2s, I think) and we ended up with no lights at all. However we were now at the bottom of the shaft and climbed up in the dark. I was very pleased to have had such a successful trip although I began to get depressed walking back to the tent. It was pitch dark and freezing solid. Our wet clothes were crackling with ice by the time we reached the tent.

This was the start of my caving career. We camped in Velvet Bottom many times before the advent of the cottage in Netherwood. Bob was an excellent companion on the bike; he would sing and whistle, light fags behind the shelter of my back and pass me one. He smoked his in relative peace while mine burnt down like a blowtorch. He was a great one for gadgets and invented a special fag holder which clipped to the bike's handlebars. He also invented a waterproof tin for carrying cigarettes underground, complete with a special pin for extracting them with wet fingers. You then smoked the fag holding it by the pin - it didn't seem unusual to me. Caving clothes in those days were just old clothes which, although cheap, did limit the extent of your trip. I was incredibly impressed by the first wetsuit I made from a paper pattern. I actually stayed warm while wet!

Our official club dig in those days was Timber Hole just above our camp site. Many a happy hour I spent there getting nowhere at all. We had an 'explosives expert' in the club then, Tony Crawford, and he would place charges in Timber Hole assuring everyone that this would be the breakthrough. Somehow it never was. Tony used to carry the gelignite down from London in his sidecar combination and I would have the detonators on my bike, for safety you understand. (Once, Tony took the explosives and the detonators by bus!). The detonators were mercury fulminate, electrically fired and expensive. I had a go at inventing a cheaper method of firing a charge using the cap from a shotgun cartridge (obtained through a farming connection). I thought a simple spring loaded nail could be triggered remotely to do the job. I experimented at home by emptying a shotgun cartridge and fastening the cap in a vice. I then struck the cap with a nail and hammer. Not only was I exceedingly frightened by the noise, the cap and the nail had disappeared and my fingers were numb for three days. I decided that electrical detonators were more suitable.

It was a happy time and I'm sure that you modern lot have just as good a time in different circumstances. Hope you liked my reminiscences.

In brief part II:

The First Aid box has had its yearly make over, please sign out any items into the book provided. Thank you, Lynn.



Clearout by Ben Cooper (Cottage Warden) :

At the next work weekend, the Cottage Warden will be clearing out any members property left lying around at the cottage. If you store any item at the Cottage, please ensure that you either remove it before the next work weekend, or at least let the Cottage Warden know that it is yours. In particular, there is a box of rocks under the stairs which will be disposed of, unless someone can explain its value.

For Sale by Ben Cooper (Cottage Warden) :

The committee have decided to sell the Lead Acid battery charger from the cottage. You may remember that it was decommissioned last year – not because of any fault with the charger, but because the distribution box cabling was damaged. Anyway, if anybody would like to buy the charger, please contact me. We are looking for a fair offer.

Bookings by Ben Cooper (Cottage Warden):

Arrive	Depart	Nights	Beds	Groups
Mon 13/03/00	Tues 14/03/00	1.5	6	John Crowsley
Fri 24/03/00	Sun 26/03/00	2	16	Steve Tibbert-First Bookham
Fri 09/06/00	Sun 11/06/00	2	16	Gloucester Guides

Lost & Found by Ben Cooper (Cottage Warden) :

Please contact the Cottage Warden if you have lost something at the Cottage. Any item held for longer than three months will be given away or auctioned at the AGM or Half Yearly.

The items found are : drill key, yellow T.shirt, yellow towel, two small batteries, razor, soap, toothbrush, paste, turquoise sweatshirt, child's grey cartoon sweatshirt(age 9-10), child's light grey tracksuit trousers, one white sport sock, yale type key, medium sized turquoise towel & large pink towel.

MENDIP 2000

A Weekend of Events and Entertainment for Mendip Cavers
9, 10, 11th June 2000

Mendip Caving 2000 is the combination of several annual Mendip events on one weekend. The idea is start the second century of Mendip caving with a memorable, enjoyable and useful gathering of local cavers.

This weekend gives you the opportunity to meet up with old friends, learn something new, have some fun, and party, party, party! So - get yourself along and spread the word around your caving friends. Let's make it a good one!

Provisional Programme

Friday 9th June

Hunter's Lodge Inn, From 9.00pm

Social evening with a showing of slides and digital pictures. Bring your best caving pictures along on slide, CD or disc.

Saturday 10th June

BCRA Regional Meeting

Priddy Village Hall, 10.00 am to 5.00pm
British Cave Research Association one day regional meeting organised by Dave Irwin. Talks, slideshows and maybe even videos on Mendip Caving topics. Details to follow. Small entry fee.

CSCC Training Event Various Venues, 9.30 am to 1.00 pm and 2.00pm to 5.30pm.
Half day training sessions in caving ropework. If you are interested in attending, or if you have any suggestions for other training topics please email the following information.

Which of the following would you like to attend?

- basic ropework (knots, handlines and simple ladder work),
- advanced ropework (ladder and lifeline, technical rigging and hauling systems),
- basic SRT (for beginners - kitting up and basic changeovers),
- improvers SRT (changeovers, traverse lines, rebelay),
- SRT rigging,
- SRT rescue,
- or other topics (please specify).

£5.00 charge per half day session.

Wessex Challenge Priddy Village Hall, 6.00pm - 7.30pm (approximately!)

For teams of 4 persons. How good is your team work? Put it to the test in this contest of fitness, organisational skill and caving know-how. Big prize for the winning team (when we find a sponsor). Small entry fee.

Barbecue Priddy Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Food glorious food provided by the Mendip Rescue Organization. Advance ticketing advised - see below.

Stomp Priddy Village Hall, 8.30pm onwards.
Music by old favourites Tufenuf. Find out why we call it a stomp. Entry fee on door but Advance ticketing advised - see below.

Sunday 11th June

From 7.00am, Various Venues, Hangover.

Caver's Car Boot Sale

Top Green or in Village Hall, 10.00am - 12.00
Bring along your old gear, books or anything caving related and raise some money. Bargains galore!. Small fee for vendors. Organiser Phil Hendy, Wessex Cave Club.

Cave Rescue Training

Priddy Village Hall & other venues, 11am onwards
Rescue training by Mendip Rescue Organization. Details to follow.

Split Rock Quarry, 2.00pm - 5.00pm

Bring your ropes and SRT kit for some practice and fun at this excellent training area. A variety of routes from the simple to the technical will be rigged including the 20 metre high Tyrolean across the quarry. Free of charge.

Accommodation

Please note that there is no special provision for visiting cavers during Mendip Caving 2000. This is because ample bunk space is available in the local caving clubs, and there is a commercial campsite ideally situated closeby. Visiting cavers seeking accommodation or campsites are advised to contact the following-

- Mendip Heights Campsite
- Mendip Nature Research Committee
- Wessex Cave Club
- Bristol Exploration Club
- Cerberus Speleological Society
- Mendip Caving Group - TimF@bjm.co.uk
- Shepton Mallet Caving Club - Hayley Clark, tel: 01722 710216

Caving

There will not be any organised caving sessions but local cavers will be available to advise on Mendip systems. Tony Jarratt invites visiting cavers to come digging on Sunday - or possibly even to look at his major new discovery (if he's found it by then).

Food

We hope that some snacks and hot drinks will be available at the village hall to provide light breakfasts and lunch on Saturday and Sunday. The barbecue on Saturday night may be oversubscribed - book your tickets early!

Advance Booking

Advance tickets for CSCC training sessions and MRO barbecue and stomp will be available from 1st May. Information to follow.

Suggestions and Enquiries

If you have any suggestions or queries about Mendip Caving 2000 please email Mendip Caving 2000 Co-ordinator Andy Sparrow on Andy@mendipnet.co.uk

MENDIP 2000 WEBSITE

www.mendipnet.co.uk/2000

Mendip Caving 2000 is a non-profit making event co-ordinated by the Council of Southern Caving Clubs (CSCC)
Contributing bodies include the British Cave Research Association (BCRA), Mendip Rescue Organization (MRO), and the Wessex Cave Club.



BCRA

BCRA Cave Science Symposium

University of
Huddersfield

Saturday March 25, 10.00 to 17.00

Hosted by the Limestone Research Group, Division of Geographical Sciences, The University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield, HD1 3HD.

The admission charge (payable on the day) will be £8 (BCRA members £7, undergraduate students £4). The charge includes tea/coffee in the morning and afternoon, but not lunch, for which a range of venues to suit all tastes will be available in Huddersfield Town Centre.

Provisional Programme

Speleothems and Environmental Change

- Reconstruction of bomb 14C in four modern stalagmites (poster).
- Stalagmite laminations and palaeoclimate: the record from NW Scotland.
- Palaeo-environmental reconstructions from speleothem pollen and luminescence (poster).

Karst Hydrology

- Seasonal patterns in speleothem-forming drip water geochemistry, at Crag Cave, SW Ireland.
- New observations on the hydro-geology of the northern White Peak.
- Stratigraphically-guided drainage in the Slaughter catchment, Forest of Dean.

Caves, Karst and Archaeology

- Evidence of karstification in the Permian strata east of Leeds.
- Recent archaeological, speleological, and palaeo-environmental research in the caves of the Makapansgat Valley, South Africa.
- Order and disorder in central Scandinavian karst and caves.
- The ecology & conservation of aquatic invertebrates in the Peak-Speedwell cave system, Castleton, Derbyshire.
- Human skeletal remains from Cloghemore Cave, Co. Kerry, Ireland (poster).

Electronics and Cave Communications

- Sub-surface radio location at skin-depth distances.
- Adaptive digital communications for sub-surface radio paths (poster).

Check the BCRA website for further details:
www.bcra.org.uk

FOREST 2000

ROYAL FOREST OF DEAN CAVING SYMPOSIUM III

English Bicknor Sports & Social Club
16th - 18th June 2000

Talks and Discussions, Underground Field Trips, Surface Field Trips, Trade Stands, Rope Testing, Displays.

Bookings in advance only - booking leaflet enclosed with SPELEOScene 40.

For the latest news and information find us at
<http://members.aol.com/fodsymposium/>