



## Dachstein 2000

*Tim Francis*

It's been a good few years since I've done any serious Alpine caving. So the invitation to go on this year's Dachstein expedition was a good opportunity to see whether the old bones were still up to the job. The arduous nature of the caving had been hyped up in the caving press so I was somewhat apprehensive of what we were about to undertake. The 1999 expedition had concentrated upon pushing Eisturnenhöhle (G5) to approximately 500m and hence revealed the potential of a connection to the Hirlatzhöhle (85km long).

Base camp for this, and previous expeditions, was at the Wiesberghaus, a climbing hut on the edge of the Dachstein plateau. It's about a three-hour hike up to the hut from the village of Halstatt but fortunately we were able to put our heavier rucksacks onto a material cable car (seilbahn). This starts only a few kilometres outside of the village so the walk in wasn't too bad. Our base was actually in a small storage outbuilding (glöcken) that is located a few metres to the side of the main hut. Quite cosy really. I had arrived a day late due to an unforeseen stopover in Salzburg. This was the result of the baggage retrieval system at Vienna mislaying the luggage from our flight. But hey this was an opportunity to do a spot of cultural stuff, watch the "Sound of Music", that sort of thing.

*"The scenery here is excellent and the hospitality is first class. I'm sure an excellent two weeks is about to be had".*

*(Greg Brock)*

### Surface Furtling

As I had arrived a little late the rigging of G5 was progressing well, if a little haphazardly. So I spent the first few days doing what I like best – rummaging around, looking for caves and pushing promising leads. The first site looked at was *Wiesberghöhle*. This was a J'rat dig from years ago that had been temporarily lost.

*"And here you see the delicate negotiations of the bunda: the Greater Spectacled Quackers!" (Snablet)*

Armed with a couple of vague descriptions and a GPS, Quackers and myself spent a merry couple of hours thrashing through the undergrowth looking for the thing. Eventually it was found and a decent GPS fix taken. I managed to find a few bits of tat and an old rope lying around the glöcken so went for a quick solo-caving trip. The cave was rather pleasant but it doesn't particularly draught. I located an unclimbed traverse, which was looked at later on in the week. Unfortunately this didn't go.

*"Find more Cave!" (Snablet)*

After a trip down G5 (see later) our next designated task was to try and locate and explore *G10a*, a lead left from the previous year. Although the day dawned bright enough it soon developed into a wet, miserable afternoon. Ideal for walking! On the way to *G10a* we GPS'ed a few other 'possibles' to build up a better picture of the area. After plenty of wandering around we eventually found the right hole. Just inside the entrance was an undescended pitch. A bolt was placed and a fine 15m pitch descended, but only after the driver had decided to dismantle itself. Peter Hübner and myself bimbled around the bottom for a bit. The cave draughted strongly but both of us declined the offer of descending a desperate boulder funnel in the floor. This was too dangerous a prospect to follow. Off to the right I followed a rift and free'd a couple of pitches but all ways on were blocked with rocks. On exiting the cave we found Rob Garratt, who had elected to stay on the surface, huddled underneath a waterproof in the midst of a torrential downpour. So not a pleasant walk back!

*continued on page 4*

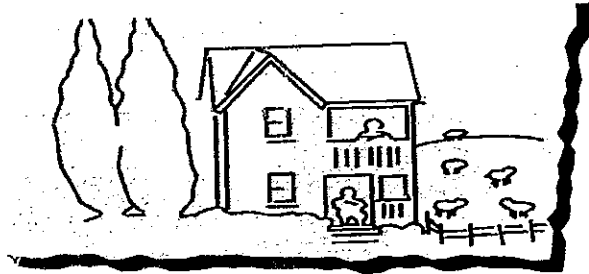
## MENDIP CAVING GROUP

Nordrach Cottage  
Charterhouse-on-Mendip  
Blagdon, Bristol,  
BS40 7XW  
Tel: 01761 462797  
Grid Ref ST51475606  
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Ben Cooper (Cottage Warden)  
Tel: 01256 364199  
Or e-mail: ben.cooper@sbs.siemens.co.uk

MCG information:- Tim Francis (Secretary)  
Tel: 0181 392 2572



<b>WEEKLY MEETINGS:</b>	At The Beehive, Egham, Surrey, on Thursdays from 9.00 p.m. At The Hunters Lodge, Somerset, on Tuesdays about 10.00 pm or at the cottage at 7.00 pm for caving trips.
<b>COTTAGE FEES per night:</b>	MCG members, members children, SWCC, NPC £1.50 Guest clubs and member's guests £2.50
<b>PREPAYMENT STICKERS:</b>	(Available to members only) 25 nights accommodation £30.00
<b>ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:</b>	Full and Probationary Members: £25.00 Associate Members: £12.50
<b>RECIPROCAL RIGHTS:</b>	MCG (members only) have reciprocal booking rights with SWCC and NPC NPC bookings via Nic Blundell, tel: 01203 713849 (hm) or 01203 838940 (wk) SWCC bookings via Ian Middleton, tel: 01703 736997 or email ian_m@tcp.co.uk

### THE 2000 - 2001 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 RichardMCarey@email.msn.com
Caving Secretary	Martin Rowe	'Abingdon', 11 Church Hill, Arnside, Lancs., LA5 0DB	Tel: 01524 762664
Tacklemaster	Bill Richards	6, Elizabeth Square, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 4EJ	Tel: 01626 366639
Cottage Warden	Ben Cooper	10 Coronation Road, Basingstoke, Hants, RG1 4HA	Tel: 01256 364199 ben.cooper@sbs.siemens.co.uk
Editor	Yvonne Rowe	'Abingdon', 11 Church Hill, Arnside, Lancs., LA5 0DB	Tel: 01524 762664
Recorder / Librarian	Wayne Hiscox	3 Keward, Glastonbury Road., Wells, Somerset, BA5 1TR	Tel: 01749 671282
Social Secretary	Lynn Fumeaux	4 Tor View, Wallaford Road, Buckfastleigh, Devon, TQ11 0AP	Tel: 01364 643679

Rescue Warden	Brian Snell	01329 238341
Conservation Officer	Marcus Ward	01252 815112
	J-P Burch	01737 217039
Cottage Extension	Wayne Hiscox	01749 671282
Examiners	Tony Knibbs	0033 5 61858232
	Charlie Allison	01903 821447

THE MENDIP CAVING GROUP IS A REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 270088  
MCG NEWS IS PUBLISHED BY THE MENDIP CAVING GROUP, NORDRACH COTTAGE, BLAGDON, BRISTOL BS40 7XW  
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## MCG News and items from the committee meetings held November 4th & December 2nd 2000:-

WELCOME to prospective member Stephen Duckworth of 66 South Street, Milborne Port, Sherborne, Dorset tel: 01963 250036 e.mail: stephenduckworth@aol.com and... Adrian Gorman of Stable, Brookbridge Farm, Wisborough Green, Sussex tel: 01403 700023 e-mail: training@tci-ed.co.uk

NEW E-MAILS:-  
Bryan Pittman:  
bryan@pittman.freeserve.co.uk

Stephen Wyatt:  
Stephen.Wyatt@gkn-wds.co.uk

...and corrections for  
Richard Carey:  
RichardMCarey@email.msm.com

Charlie Allison:  
Flat 1 Beachview, 121-122 Marine Parade,  
Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 3SA  
Tel: home - 01903 821447  
mobile - 07947 542 013  
e-mail - callison@dircon.co.uk

...and a new address for Cara Allison:  
13 Woodlands Road, Ironbridge, Telford,  
Salop, TF8 7QS  
Tel: 01592 433327

DINNER COST:-  
Please note the committee have reviewed the cost of the Annual Dinner and are assuming that 40 members/guests will attend so the cost has been adjusted to £18.50 per person.

ODDMENTS:-  
The group is to purchase 250m dynamic rope & 3x200m static rope, cost £642.02...  
3 small dragon tacklebags - cost £72...  
extra taps for the washdown area to give more than one hose outlet - cost £20ish...  
PO weighing scales for Linda, to speed up posting / delivery of newsletters - cost £12

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2001

The AGM of the Mendip Caving Group will be held on Saturday 31st March 2001 at 2.30pm at the Hunter's Lodge Inn. (Tim Francis and Richard Carey will be in Argentina at this time so will be absent.)

### Dates for your diary:

TBA - Exploration of tunnels at Castle Cary (see newsletter no. 291).  
5th February - slideshow by Zot of the BEC on his adventures in the Antarctic.  
TBA - Devon cave meet, possibly February - contact Martin Rowe on 01524-762664  
3/4th March - Cottage work weekend. Contact Ben Cooper (see page 2)  
31st March - MCG AGM, 2.30pm, Hunter's Lodge. Contact Tim Francis (see page 2)  
5th May - Archaeology walk (10+ miles). Contact Yvonne Rowe on 01524 762664 (Sites and route will be in January n/l)  
June TBA - caving w/e - Gower Peninsula. Contact Richard Carey (see page 2)  
Richard Carey is available for caving on Wednesday nights - phone 0117 986 2029

### Cottage bookings:

11th Jan	Bridgewater College	(20)
26/27th Jan	1st Bookham Scouts	(24)
2/3rd Mar	Cottage work weekend	
23/24th Mar	1st Bookham Scouts	(06)
30/31st Mar	AGM (members only)	
9 - 13th Apr	HMS Sultan Cadets	(17)

NIGHTLIGHT:- Ben is putting a low watt photocell nightlight at the foot of the stairs to make it safer for night visits to the loo and late night entry to the cottage.

THANKYOU...  
to those of you who have responded to the criticism Linda and I received at the Half-yearly. It is good to know that the majority of you appreciate what we do... and...

### Thankyou...

...to all our caving friends who sent us Silver Wedding congratulations. It was a lovely surprise and really made our day.

Many, many thanks  
Helen, Phil & Simon Ingold

DACHSTEIN 2000 = *continued from page 1*

## C33

*"Hideous place. We have looked Satan in the eye and it's not a pretty sight..." (Joel Corrigan)*

Ah yes, C33, the esoteric highlight of Dachstein 2000. Finding myself at a loose end after having been washed out of G5 the day before, my attention was caught by a small entry in Snablets 'to do' list. Apparently, a squeeze at the end of a cave only ten minutes walk from the Wiesberghaus needed attention. So armed with a hammer, chisel and Joel, who had managed to cobble something akin to a caving kit, it was off to C33. The result of this apparently innocent entry in the reports was the most desperate find of the expedition and prompted numerous quotes and sketches in the logbook.

*"You have to throw your caving kit away after a passage like that because: 1. It's f..... and 2. You never want to go caving again". (Tim Lamberton)*

It starts off ok with some pleasant crawly stuff and a nice 9m pitch. But beyond we found some pretty claustrophobic passage. The whole thing is obviously hideously flood prone so that gave the cave that extra bit of spice. Somehow I managed to push on beyond the previous limit of exploration by forcing a desperate squeeze. Undoubtedly keen to follow (or perhaps because reversing the crawl would have been a tad awkward) Joel made an impressive assault on the squeeze. A few ridiculous manoeuvres and we were both through. The squeeze was called the Buffalo Breach on account of Joel's attire. Beyond was plenty more bone-wrecking meandering passage ending in a 4m climb.

*"We got to the pitch but couldn't get down it head first". (Joel Corrigan)*

With some difficulty this was descended with the aid of a bit of sash cord, and an Eastwater type canyon discovered. Unfortunately just as things were looking interesting we were forced to turn back at a pitch. It was quite a slog to get out of there and we were mightily relieved to get back to the bar.

The promising draught and excellent location meant that another group of keen tigers had to go back and take a look:

*"An awesome cave, a real Austrian classic with sporting squeezes, cascades and climbs. I am so glad that Joel and Tim persuaded us to go and push it. Not only have I looked Satan in the eye but we have also grabbed him by the balls. Unfortunately he has fought back" (Mike Alderton)*

This team managed to push on down the pitch but entered another area of tight crawls. A nine-hour trip of this sort of stuff was enough for anyone so the way on was left open. Apparently it's still pushable but no one seemed keen to pursue this particular line of enquiry. One day, maybe.

*"I don't want to push C33, it might go somewhere" (Tim Lamberton)*

## G5 Eisturnenhöhle

## Introductory trips...

My introductory trip down G5 was a porting session down as far as we wanted to go. So Tangent and Peter Hübner and myself were to carry a load of kit down to Insane Worms and Gheckos. Peter was carrying a monster sized "Hirlatz" bag, which somehow managed to make its way all the way down to the camp despite its size. He called it a day in the entrance series leaving Tangent "The Mendip Numpty" and myself to carry on without him. This trip proved to be a relatively straightforward carry despite the strange canvas bag, nicknamed "The Slug" and normally resident at the Belfry, that I was portering the kit in. The highlight of the trip turned out to be the dramatic thunderstorm that chased us back to the Wiesberghaus.

*"Is it going to be ordinary rain or electrical rain?" (Tangent)*

We had to bound across the sharp limestone and 'bunda' with only a fading Mightylight to guide us. Apparently, a group of cavers were hit by ground lightning in the same area a few years ago. Very reassuring!

My second trip was cut short by the high water levels. Lev Bishop, Rich Gerrish, Tangent and myself were scheduled to do a two day camp and pushing trip. The weather didn't look too good when we set off from the hut and we were soon sopping wet. Tangent bloused straight away at the entrance after having compared the normally dry entrance passage to the sound of the Swildon's streamway. The rest of us pressed on to below the big 47m pitch, Action Reaction, but thoroughly soaked and miserable we decided to dump the kit and head out.

*"It's a classic. A real f..... classic. Not sure if I like it though!" (Rich Gerrish)*

And so to camp...

So finally on my third effort it was off to the sharp end. This time I teamed up with Joel to make an 'old duffers' trip. The plan was to cave in over the evening to arrive at camp in time for supper. Things went more or less to plan and despite the hype the caving to be had in G5 is all rather pleasant. Basically its lots of pitches broken up by Mendippy bits. For those not used to such Somerset delicacies, such as the West End, the awkward bits and in particular "Fit For Insane Worms and Gheckos" proved to be most troublesome. As I hadn't been very far it was fun to hear Joel reel off the names of various sections: Sweaty Betty, Fabada Run (remember the Picos?), Charlie Don't Surf, The Numpty Trap, Oi Oi Wobble Wobble Thrutch Thrutch etc. My favourite pitch was High Flyers, a fine bit of old fossil passage.

It takes about 4hrs to reach camp, which is located on the only flat bit of ground in the cave. A small area of rocks behind a huge boulder had been levelled off in a chamber called the Hall of the Mountain Numpty. It was quite a home from home. As soon as we arrived at camp we came across the detritus of previous residents. Whilst clearing up and looking for something to dump the rubbish in I looked rather too closely at an innocent looking BDH. We soon had everything washed up and had a meal on the go just as the culprits, Lev and Rich, came back from a pushing trip. A delightful supper for 4 was created and so to bed. Well almost, except for when Joel managed to roll a large rock onto Lev's leg - it took three of us to lift it off him. Fortunately he only had bruising and Joel cut his hand in the rescue attempt.

The pushing trip...

The next day, after a hearty Bearfeast, we said farewell to the others and headed off down to the end. We took photos as we went, as Joel needed something for the sponsors, Total Access. After a few pitches and the delights of the Birth Canal the best bit was a 50m pitch that had been first descended a few days before. At the bottom we had been given a rough description of the geography so decided to initially head off downstream to look at Lev and Rich's bit. They had bolted a fine traverse, pushed a horrible muddy tube but had left a possible climb at the end. The main streamway had not been followed as this would have entailed a soaking in freezing cold water - not a prospect to be undertaken lightly at such a remote location.

We felt that they had missed the main way on so we returned to the spray-lashed ledge at the bottom of the 50m. Behind a huge boulder we found a parallel streamway. A small pitch was descended and a fault-controlled rift followed (Tortilla Rift). This soon became high and narrow. Progress was hampered by having to climb up and down on small ledges that were liberally coated with mud.

*"...more like some slobbering Jabba the Hut manifestation of hideous plastic clay" (Tangent)*

We pushed it for a short distance before calling it a day. We knew it would take some serious caving to pass this obstacle. So it was back up the 50m, along the Birth Canal and back to camp. More washing up (!) and supper for 6. Four others had arrived and so it was quite a jolly scene at camp. Unfortunately two poor souls (Paul and Greg) had to carry on down to the bottom, as there were only four sleeping bags. We were hotbedding, which is a bit grim until your body dries out the damp sleeping bags and thermals.

*continued on page 6*

## DACHSTEIN 2000 - continued from page 5

Back to the Wiesberghaus...

The prussic out the next day was relatively straightforward. Our only problem was forcing tackle bags through the Numpty Trap. We were out and back to the Wiesberhaus in the early evening in time for a few welcome beverages and some decent food. A few more pushing trips were done in the rift in G5 along the "1000 spits traverse". The disappointing nature of the passage and the arduous caving required to get there meant that it was eventually abandoned. A few avens were also climbed but nothing significant found. So it would seem that G5 would not be connected to the Hirlatz. Indeed a perusal of the known hydrology of the area leads us to think that this part of the Dachstein drains to another resurgence entirely. We need to be looking on the other side of the watershed - i.e. closer to the Wiesberghaus. Which leads me back to C33. Oh God.

### Back Home

*"An end to three weeks of unremitting toil. I look forward to never coming back unless I get Alzheimers and forget how horrible it all was". (Chris Densham)*

For me this was the last caving trip, as I needed to catch a flight back from Salzburg via Vienna to Heathrow. I headed back to Salzburg via foot, ferry, train and bus accompanied by Annette and Quackers. With a hostel booked at Salzburg it all went rather too swimmingly until the Vienna baggage retrieval system decided to lose my luggage again. So my recommendation is if you're thinking of going to the Dachstein next year don't travel via Vienna.

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## HISTORIC CAVE MIGHT RE-OPEN

An ancient Devon cave, which helped the Victorians discover the age of mankind, could be explored again by archaeology students and school parties. Brixham's crumbling one million-year-old cavern, and the empty terraced house which stands above it, have been bought in a £50,000 deal which local councillors believe will help the site's future.

The sale has ended ambitious plans by the town's newly-formed heritage trust to buy the 600ft deep cave, but officials said that the purchase by a London engineer and his wife still meant that the cavern had been saved. Trust chairman and local councillor Vic Ellery, hopes to meet the new owners during the summer after they expressed an interest in the possibility of permitting access to approved researchers and small school parties if safety requirements can be met.

Excavated by famous Cornish archaeologist William Pengelly, the cave is a scheduled ancient monument and is recognised as one of Britain's most important underground archaeological sites.

It was first stumbled on by quarrymen in 1858 and until recently still belonged to a descendent of the original 19th century owner who was called Philip. His great-granddaughter had decided to offer the site to Torbay council, but both parties failed to reach agreement on a sale price after specialists told Town Hall bosses that it could cost over £100,000 to revamp the cave.

Although the cave was closed to visitors over 20 years ago, the council had no plans to re-open the site as a tourist attraction because the area is in a cramped part of town where parking is impossible for large numbers of cars and coaches. But it is hoped to preserve the cavern so that small groups of students and archaeologists could study its stalactites, flints and animal bones.

Mr Ellery said: "We understand that the new owner wants to make the property above the cave his main home, which is a good thing. We hope to get involved with the new owner and work together to get grant funding to pay for the work needed to preserve it. I certainly do not see this sale as meaning the cave is lost to the town."

*by Colin Bradley, (?)Devon News*

## IT TASTES LIKE CHICKEN

Arriving towards the end of the half-yearly meeting saw the Pittmans escaping for coffee, or at least we think that's what they said. As per usual, various rouses to generate enough capital to turn the MCG into a Swiss Bank were under earnest discussion. It seems that more might actually need to happen rather than simply adding a turnip and swede to the price of the annual subscription cost. There is also the increased risk of caving activity when construction of the hosing-down area starts.

"Why aren't there any activities being advertised in the newsletter?" "They are!" responded the Editor. "Everything I have is in there, I can't make them up!" Actually, it might be an idea to make a few up - no-one will ever know as no-one ever turns up. Something like 'K2 visit, January members' weekend, meet at Base Camp, Nepal' could liven things up a bit.

There was a short interlude as Lee re-directed some lost squaddies "I hope there isn't a war soon or we'll be stuffed!" Apparently, main roads with signs on them are a hazard to effective navigation.

The evening's events were held in the skittle alley and a room booked in the New Inn at Priddy. The food once again proved interesting. The volume we and others generated swamped the kitchen. There was enough of a delay for Martin and Yvonne to go via the Queen Vic, which wasn't serving, to the Castle of Comfort, which was, eat, and return before the rest had finished or some even started. The food itself was very good with monstrous portions. All was going well until Ade exclaimed "This tastes like chicken!"

"What did you order?"

"The chicken."

"Well, what do you expect?"

"Yes well, but it tastes of chicken, blaarrgh!"

This irrefutable logic continued for a while.... Some had no choice other than to bash their heads against the wall in light of this rhetoric. At this point, fellow diners indicated that the ham tasted of ham, and worst of all, the chips had the temerity to taste of chips. Someone really ought to complain to the committee or trading standards about this.

The MCG were divided into two teams and balls were bowled and skittles skittled. Eventually one team won: Charlie put on a slide show of Grotte Casteret (there aren't many occasions where you have to put crampons on to go caving), and the huge Salle de la Verna in the Pierre St Martin. This is a massive place (c250m in diameter and 180m high) and required two-way radios to set up the photos.

The highlight of the evening had to be the rearrangement of Bill's teeth. Having been in a bit of distress for some time, we thought tooth extraction would make a good cottage game, especially after a couple of pints. However, our resident dentist removed it in the pub - 'bush dentistry' or something like that, before the pliers could be found.

Many thanks to Bill and Lynn for arranging an excellent evening.

Thinking about it later, the beer did seem to taste of beer too. Hmmm.

*by Charlie Allison*

### LONGWOOD VALLEY - SUNK!

It was too nice a day to go underground so Martin and I went for a walk with Joan and J-P to Cheddar. We soon realised we could end up being late for the committee meeting so split from them in Velvet Bottom and went back via Longwood Valley instead... and what a surprise!

Not far along, the track became a stream - six inches to a foot deep in places. It had washed all the dirt away that consolidated the track and left behind the rocks and boulders, making walking along it tricky. We followed the stream

past Longwood/August where a hastily repaired dam had diverted the water away from the blockhouse. Further up, where a trickle usually sinks into the cave to become The Showerbath, there was now a very deep pond.

At Longwood Valley Sink, most of the stream ran straight down the old dig in an endless torrent, weakening the sides and who knows what else. It was not backing up so where was it going? It must have been going somewhere so it will be interesting to see if it has broken a way through at the end. *Y Rowe, Dec. 2nd*

## **PEAK CAVERN 19<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2000**

CARA ALLISON, GEOFF BEALE, PETE BENNET, BEN COOPER, PAUL CRADY, TIM FRANCIS and JULIE HESKETH.

Peak Cavern had been booked earlier this year. Accommodation had been arranged at TSG, it was a surprise that so few names had been put forward for this trip. However after allowing for the weather and the proposed fuel shortages (strikes), 7 hardy souls met in Castleton for the weekend.

PB, PC, TF and JH went caving in CARLSWARK CAVERN on Saturday. Their trip report will be written separately.

With high water levels being uppermost in everybody's mind the TSG went into PEAK CAVERN early on the Sunday morning to check out the water level and to determine if a trip was possible.

They returned slightly worried but pronounced that they could authorise a trip lasting no longer than 2 hours as rain was forecast later that morning and a quick run off response was anticipated for the moor land overlying the catchment area for PEAK CAVERN and the nearby SPEEDWELL Systems.

After filling in the necessary indemnification form and paying our £3.00 entrance fee we all walked through Castleton Village to the Peak Cavern entrance, we were all very aware of the tourists who all stopped their window shopping to gaze at us.

The show cave section of Peak Cavern was lit up with hundreds of white candles as a special for the show cave visitors.

We were allowed to walk through the show cave in candlelight before the show cave visitors were allowed in.

As we had only a 2 hour slot in the cave we pushed on from the end of the show cave through 5 ARCHES and MUCKY DUCKS to gain access to the main trunk passage leading to the further reaches of the Peak System.

We descended the fixed ladder at SURPRISE VIEW to the main stream. This was seen in high flow conditions with water levels above knee height (higher on JH, TF, PC and PB). We all moved downstream with the current helping our progress to see the rounded section phreatic passage leading to BUXTON WATER SUMP. This was a gloomy noisy place with mud high on the cave walls indicating water levels got much higher than us in high water/flood conditions. There was also a strong smell of what appeared to be diesel oil.



As we were conscious of time we retraced our steps back to SURPRISE VIEW PITCH.

JH, TM, PB, PC and BC continued upstream on a strict 15 minute each way time basis. CA and GB climbed the pitch and went to TREASURY SUMP to check out water levels there. This sump gives a direct diving connection to the main river in SPEEDWELL CAVE. This however seemed normal. In flood conditions water can flow from the main stream in Speedwell, flow through Treasury Sump and out through the show cave via the low sections seen earlier at 5 ARCHES and the MUCKY DUCKS.

Both parties met up by TREASURY SUMP and exited the cave together.

As we climbed up to the end of the show cave barrier we met up with show cave visitors and the impressively lit show cave with candles.

With the forecast rain for that morning staying in the clouds and not falling, we might have had a longer trip, but this we did not know whilst we were underground, but had a very enjoyable if short trip.

**GEOFF BEALE**

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## SNIPPETS

### POSSIBLY THE BEST GEODE IN THE WORLD!

A cave lined with huge crystals has been discovered in an old silver mine near Almeria in Southern Spain. It is possibly the world's largest geode, so big that up to ten people can sit in it at once. The crystals are of transparent gypsum which it is thought may have formed six million years ago when concentrated brines entered the cavern from an almost completely evaporated Mediterranean sea.

*Geoscientist, August 2000*

### NEW MENDIP WEB SITE:-

[www.somerset.gov.uk/mendip](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/mendip) contains information about the Mendip warden scheme, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Charterhouse Centre, lectures, walks, special interest activities, other local links - and some pretty pictures.

### WARNING - SIMPSON'S / SWINSTO UPDATE:-

Further to the warning given in newsletter no. 293, the boulders in the Great Aven area of Simpson's / Swinsto are on the move again. Since then the cave has modified itself still further. An inspection found a further large collapse, with the remaining huge boulders, which had previously defied gravity in the Great Aven, now residing at the base of Swinsto's final pitch. These pushed mud and rocks ahead of them, all of which is now blocking Philosopher's Crawl. There is a large amount of very unstable material which threatens to block the way down to Kingsdale Master Cave.

Looking up, the Great Aven is transformed, with a huge black space where the 'floor' used to be: the pitch is now significantly longer than it was before. Through-trips must be considered impossible as there is no certainty of a way out after pulling your rope down.

*Dave Ryall*

There is also movement at the bottom of the Fall Pot boulder choke in Lanacaster Hole. The choke is being washed out by floods and is very unstable; great care should be taken when entering or leaving the Main Drain by this route.

*Ray Duffy and Andy Hall*

## More MCG news:

**CAVE KEYS:** Could members borrowing cave keys please return them promptly. If you can't for whatever reason, then post them back to the cottage.

Please note that all CSCC caves keys are interchangeable, so Singing River Mine key opens Cuckoo Cleaves, Stoke Lane Slocker etc. For other CSCC caves see Appendix 1 in Mendip Underground.

**BONE HOLE:** The lid for Bone Hole is to be fitted on the March work weekend and volunteers are needed to help. We could be getting some funding for it from CSCC.

**DRAINAGE:** There was a proposal put to the Half-yearly for the hosing-down area to be covered. It was suggested then, and the committee has since been contacted by some members who think that the whole of the car park needs levelling first, and the land at that side needs to be sloped away from the hosing-down area. Lee Hawkswell is to get a survey done and an estimate of the cost of levelling / sloping the land.

**WOODSTORE:** A new shed to store wood has been found costing only £100. It will require racking and struts. A budget of £150 has been agreed for this.

**CSCC TRAINING EVENT(?):** There will be 1st Aid training but if anyone wants any specific training, contact Andy Sparrow.

## Yv's droppings:-

**JG:** "I didn't think they were white, I thought they were more... er... black!"

**LM:** "I've got a new dog called Monti."

**MR:** "Has he been neutered, or is he The Full Monti?!"

**YR:** "We are coming down for New Year's Eve which is on.....!"

**MR:** "Which way do we go at the junction?"

**YR:** "Well, you either turn left or right!"

## MCG ANNUAL DINNER 2001:

Next year's annual dinner will be at the Cox's Mill Restaurant (previously known as the Cliff Hotel) on Saturday 31st March 2001 at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. The menu is as follows:-

### STARTER

Soup (Chef's choice)  
Prawn Cocktail  
Homemade Farmhouse Pate  
Devilled Whitebait  
Chilled Melon Boat

### MAIN COURSE

*From the carving table:-*  
Roast Topside of Beef  
Roast Leg of Pork  
Roast Turkey  
All served with fresh vegetables  
and roast potatoes

*Vegetarian alternatives:-*  
Vegetable Chilli with Rice  
Vegetable and Cream Kiev

### DESSERT

Belgium Apple Pie  
Raspberry Pavlova  
Fresh Fruit Salad  
Cheese Board

Tea or Coffee and Mint

The cost will be £18.50 per person.

Transport will be arranged at a later date. There will be a selection of beers at the bar, a raffle, and a room available upstairs for a slide show or guest speaker etc. B&B has been arranged at Cox's Mill for £15 per person - to book, telephone 01934 742346

Please send your order and cheque to Lynn Furneaux at 4 Tor View, Wallaford Road, Buckfastleigh, Devon, TQ11 OAP by 10th March 2001, and make cheques payable to 'Mendip Caving Group'.

**THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING** will be on Saturday 6th January 2001 at 5pm.

MENDIP CAVING GROUP MEMBERSHIP AT 14/11/00

01803 782856	Cara Allison	Stoke Gabriel House, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6QY
001 713 942 0861	Victoria Arbizu-Sabater	2420 McDuffie St. #7 Houston, Texas USA 77019
01633 441096	Jane Baldwin	14 Commercial Road, Machen, Caerphilly, Gwent CF83 8NA
01932 849241	Geoff Barton	The Lodge, The Heath, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0UB
01923 212462	Dave Baxter	123 Princes Avenue, Watford, Hertfordshire WD1 8LP
0118 972 2510	Geoff Beale	30 Churchill Crescent, Sonning, Common, South Oxon RG4 9RX
01223 2406333	Pete Bennett	7 Marshall Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB1 7TY
01624 623429	Dave Briggs	51 Wybourn Grove, Onchan, Isle of Man IM3 4AU
01903 235431	Pete Bulling	22 Canterbury Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 1AE
01737 217039	JP Burch	10 Ranelagh Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 6BJ
0117 986 2029	Richard Carey	Hamleaze, Old Bristol Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS31 2AA
01753 655143	Mike Carson	41 The Poynings, Richings Park, Iver, Buckinghamshire SL0 9DS
01252 873421	Peter Cattemull	12 Harvest Close, Yateley, Hampshire GU46 7YS
0207 7813 7447	Sophie Chambers	7 Narcissus Road, London NW6 1TJ
0181 570 4116	Robbie Charnock	30 Bassett Gardens, Osterley, Middlesex TW7 4QY
	AEM Clements	800 Naval Air Squadron, HMS Invincible, BFPO Ships
01293 547708	Barry Clements	73 Trefoil Crescent, Broadfield, Crawley, West Sussex
0181 372 2938	Steve Conquest	10 McAdam Drive, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 8PS
01256 364199	Ben Cooper	10 Coronation Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 4HA
01749 677468	Dave Cory	92 St. Cuthbert Avenue, Wells, Somerset BA5 2JS
0181 890 8390	Lorna Cotter	21 Brainton Avenue, Feltham, Middlesex
01784 252643	Norma Cotter	249 Feltham Hill Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 1LU
01784 252643	Malcolm Cotter	249 Feltham Hill Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 1LU
0117 9686162	Paul Craddy	29 Ormerod Road, Stoke Bishop, Bristol BS9 1BA
0117 965 2585	John Crowsley	11 Rose Walk, Fishponds, Bristol, Avon BS16 4JN
0181 979 2587	Louise Curley	10 Sonning Gardens, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 3PL
01934 744389	Gof Daine	16 St Andrew's Road, Cheddar, Somerset BS27 3NE
01923 227154	Geoff Davies	72 Aldenham Road, Bushey, Watford, Hertfordshire WD2 2ND
01249 813785	Ralph Diment	57 The Pippin, Calne, Wiltshire SN8 1JG
	Eric Dowley	1 The Hillway, Portchester, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 8BN
0181 568 6211	Adrian Duckett	195 Jersey Road, Osterley, Middlesex TW7 4QJ
01594 530 339	Steve Eddy	The Old Bakery, Llandago, Monmouthshire NP25 4TA
01784 431098	Mike Eeles	20 Larchwood Drive, Englefield Green, Surrey TW20 0SH
01736 787648	Phil Eliot	No.2 Little Kelynack Cottages, Kelynack, Nr St. Just, Penzance, Cornwall TR19 7RF
01273 493755	Geoff Fisher	Old Mill House, Sandy Lane, Nep Town Road, Henfield, Sussex BN5 9UX
	Jules Flavell	Lista de Correos, 1a Norte e 2a Oriente, El Sentro, Gutierrez, Chiapas 29003 Mexico
01245 442523	Robert Fountain	5 Heathfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex
0208 392 2572	Tim Francis	Flat 6, 16 Lambert Avenue, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4QR
0117 9519929	Simon Fryer	101 Greenbank Road, Greenbank, Bristol BS5 6HL
01364 643679	Lynn Furneaux	4 Tor View, Wallaford, Buckfastleigh, Devon TQ11 0AP
	Jacky Gibbins	21 Milton Lane, Wookey Hole, Somerset BA5 1DG
	Jeremy Gilson	26 Priest Royd, Darton, nr. Barnsley, South Yorkshire
01934 417697	Nicholas Gilson	24 Coombe Road, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset
01993 882446	Pete Goddard	Wayside, East End, North Leigh, Witney, Oxfordshire OX8 6PZ
01993 882446	Joan Goddard	Wayside, East End, North Leigh, Witney, Oxfordshire OX8 6PZ
01993 882446	Simon Goddard	Wayside, East End, North Leigh, Witney, Oxfordshire OX8 6PZ
01202 891217	Mike Gould	Archers Lodge, Newmans Lane, West Moors, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 0LW
01934 814676	Doug Harris	Toad Hall, 8 Willow Drive, Hutton, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset BS24 9TJ
01597 810831	Peter Harvey	Brynawel, Castle Road, Rhayader, Powys LD6 5BA
01703 464491	Mike Haselden	3 The Close, Thornhill Park, Southampton, Hampshire SO18 5RB
01985 212690	Lee Hawkswell	48 Deverill Road, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 9QR
0181 340 2613	Julie Hesketh	18 Albany Road, Stroud Green, London N4 4RJ
01749 671282	Wayne Hiscox	3 Keward, Glastonbury Road, Wells, Somerset BA5 1TR
	Pete Hollings	CODES SRC, University of Tasmania, GPO Box 252-79 Hobart, TAS 7001 Australia
	Neil Hutchinson	7 Glade Road, Marlow, Buckinghamshire SL7 1DZ
01442 242029	Phil Ingold	31 Spring Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP1 3QJ
01222 862934	Huw Jones	Coedhir, 3 Clos-yr-Arad, Nant Felin Cwrt, Castle View, Caerphilly CF83 1TN
01179 684528	Stephen Jones	14 Benville Avenue, Coombe Dingle, Bristol BS9 2RX
01252 516444	Julie Kavanagh	28 Avon Close, Cove, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 9LN
01275 858401	Nick Kelly	10 Vale End, Nailsea, Bristol, Avon
01252 837888	Fiona Kempston	85 Pevensey Way, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey GU16 5UU
01252 837888	Roy Kempston	85 Pevensey Way, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey GU16 5UU
0033 5 61858232	Denise Knibbs	Las Claourios, Thil, 31530 Levignac, France
0033 5 61858232	Tony Knibbs	Las Claourios, Thil, 31530 Levignac, France
01329 280386	Keith Knight	7 Highmead, Fareham, Hampshire PO15 6BL
01460 241287	Vicky Landeryou	12 Moor Villas, West Street, South Petherton TA13 5DN
0181 805 2538	Pete Lingwood	39 Holmbridge Gardens, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 7EY
0118 966 3747	Mike Lovell	4 Settrington Close, Loddon Park, Earley, Reading, Berkshire RG6 3XJ
01753 886029	John MacMillan	4 Hill Farm Road, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire SL9 0DE
01707 321018	Pete Mathews	15 Delicott Close, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL8 7BB
01275 851597	Clive Maybury	2 Woodford Close, Nailsea, Bristol, Avon BS48 2UH
01932 854959	Ian McKechnie	41 Daneswood Close, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9AY
0208 751 0137	Alan Mellon	17 Alfred Road, Feltham, Middlesex TW13 5DQ
0118 972 4074	Dan Miles	Mill Farm, Mapledurham, South Oxon RG4 7TX
01344 774589	Linda Milne	40 Harts Leap Close, Sandhurst, Berkshire GU47 8PB
0181 393 3955	John Miriam	44 Chesterfield Road, West Ewell, Surrey KT19 9QP
01458 860524	Pete Moseley	Pendle Cottage, 82 Meareway, Westhay, Somerset BA6 9TZ
01252 782883	Peter Mullins	13 Tongham Road, Runfold, Farnham, Surrey GU10 1PH
001 301 468 3513	Pat Newman	5911 Barbados Place, #201 Rockville, MD 20852 USA
01793 726321	Paul Nichol	20 Furlong Close, Haydon Wick, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 3QP

01344 421469	Michael Norton	62 Bay Road, Bullbrook, Bracknell, Berkshire
01491 628596	Graham Old	1 Upper House Farm Cottage, Harpsden, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 4JF
001 941 346 3220	Pete O'Rourke	c/o Drs Hight and Bryan Miller, Earth Essentials, 4067 Shell Road, FL 34242 USA
01892 685005	Reggie Pain	7 Blackthorne Avenue, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9YA
0082 2 278 9803	Yong-Shik Park	Samsung Kongduk APT 103-901 Kongduk-Dong Mapo-Gu Seoul South Korea
0181 890 8390	Barry Parker	21 Brainton Avenue, Feltham, Middlesex
01784 244479	Letti Tooke	12 Ashdale Close, Long Lane, Stanwell, Staines, Middlesex TW19 7BA
01784 437540	Bryan Pittman	36 Manor Way, Egham, Surrey TW20 9NG
01344 445472	Michael Pittman	45 Nutley, Hanworth, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 7HE
0181 551 8533	Bill Platt	18 Roding Lane, South Redbridge, Ilford IG4 5NX
01934 515686	Stephen Porter	79 Becket Road, Worle, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset BS22 0TY
01749 870383	John Pudduck	1 Manor Farm Cottages, The Green, Easton, Somerset BA5 1ED
0181 864 3559	Bernard Reeves	16a Newbury Way, Northolt, Middlesex UB5 4JD
01626 366639	Bill Richards	6 Elizabeth Square, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 4EJ
01749 850413	Jonathan Roberts	Bridge House, Wanstrow, Somerset BA4 4TE
01222 862934	Nikki Robinson	Coedhir, 3 Clos-yr-Arad, Nant Felin Cwrt, Castle View, Caerphilly CF83 1TN
01285 810356	Peter Robinson	7 The Wharfings, Kempford, Gloucestershire
01524 762664	Martin Rowe	"Abingdon", 11 Church Hill, Arnside, Carnforth, Lancashire LA5 0DB
01524 762664	Yvonne Rowe	"Abingdon", 11 Church Hill, Arnside, Carnforth, Lancashire LA5 0DB
01753 577676	Charlie Ruddick	9 August End, Slough, Berkshire
01494 813487	Ron Saunders	21 Rushmoor Avenue, Hazelmere, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP15 7NT
01689 819919	Don Searle	14 Hilda Vale Road, Farnborough, Orpington, Kent BR6 7AN
01865 751222	Andrew Shann	90 Windmill Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7BZ
01282 602922	Greg Smith	9 Halstead Close, Barrowford, Lancashire
01329 238341	Brian Snell	38 Serpentine Road, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 7EB
01494 715027	Pete Spain	25 Forge Close, Holmer Green, Buckinghamshire HP15 6PY
01749 679358	Arthur Spain	Waitangi, Long Lane, Dinder, Wells, Somerset BA5 3PQ
01420 520341	Derek Sutherland	Earlsfield, Farnham Road, Farnham, Surrey
0181 643 6869	Graham Sutcliffe	Fairlawn Cottage, Fairlawn Road, Croydon Lane, Banstead, Surrey SM7 3AU
01273 834035	Steve Taylor	58 Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 9SB
01784 244479	Dave Tooke	12 Ashdale Close, Long Lane Stanwell, Staines, Middlesex TW19 7BA
01761 453214	Don Vosper	5 Franklyn Terrace, Farrington Gurney, Bristol BS18 5UD
07775 627658	Rob Wake	Cathedral Court, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH
01753 543384	Roger Wallington	125 Langley Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 7DZ
0181 977 8414	Pat Walsh	58 Munster Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9LL
01252 815112	Marcus Ward	56 Barn Meadow Close, Church Crookham, Fleet, Hampshire GU13 0YB
01749 675693	Mark Ward	6 Wood Close, Wells, Somerset BA5 2GA
01344 411632	Marc Watkins	41 Finmere, Bracknell, Berkshire
01908 320022	Bill Webb	30 The Spinney, Bradwell Village, Milton Keynes MK13 9BX
01484 605 304	Kevin West	38 Westerley Lane, Shelley, Huddersfield, West yorkshire HD8 8HP
01442 832994	Chris Whittle	17 Apple Cottages, Old Dean, Bovingdon, Hertfordshire HP3 0EZ
0118 947 5628	Allan Wicks	68 Conisboro Avenue, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire RG4 7JE
01278 641455	Gordon Woodall	Satfield House, 1 Littlemoor Road, Mark, Somerset TA9 4NG
	Tim Woodhams	27 Kingsley Avenue, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey TW20
01934 838953	Stephen Wyatt	17 Stonewell Drive, Congresbury, Avon BS19 5DW

email addresses

<i>Charlie Allison</i>	<i>callison@dircon.co.uk</i>	<i>Tony Knibbs</i>	<i>tony.knibbs@wanadoo.fr</i>
<i>Victoria Arbizu-Sabater</i>	<i>varbizu@aol.com</i>	<i>Keith Knight</i>	<i>new e-mail address</i>
<i>Jane Baldwin</i>	<i>PJOandA@aol.com</i>	<i>Vicky Landeryou</i>	<i>Landeryou@bandv.freemove.co.uk</i>
<i>Geoff Barton</i>	<i>geoff.barton@dial.pipex.com</i>	<i>Mike Lovell</i>	<i>lovelmj@matthey.com</i>
<i>Dave Baxter</i>	<i>dave@ravello.co.uk</i>	<i>Pete Mathews</i>	<i>Peter.Mathews@gbr.xerox.com</i>
<i>Pete Bennett</i>	<i>pbennett@amgen.com</i>	<i>Clive Maybury</i>	<i>c.maybury@bssgroup.com</i>
<i>Dave Briggs</i>	<i>briggs@enterprise.net</i>	<i>Ian McKechnie</i>	<i>idm@m-c-g.fsnet.co.uk</i>
<i>JP Burch</i>	<i>jean-paul@cwcom.net</i>	<i>Alan Mellon</i>	<i>alan.mellon@entuk.co.uk</i>
<i>Richard Carey</i>	<i>RichardMCarey@email.msn.com</i>	<i>Linda Milne</i>	<i>Linda.Milne@btinternet.com</i>
<i>Sophie Chambers</i>	<i>sjachambers@lycos.com</i>	<i>John Miriam</i>	<i>JohnMiriam@aol.com</i>
<i>Barry Clement</i>	<i>Clements@btinternet.com</i>	<i>Pat Newman</i>	<i>npatnmary@aol.com</i>
<i>Steve Conquest</i>	<i>106326.2646@compuserve.com</i>	<i>Graham Old</i>	<i>graham@amflow.demon.co.uk</i>
<i>Ben Cooper</i>	<i>ben.cooper@sbs.siemens.co.uk</i>	<i>Pete O'Rourke</i>	<i>earthess@aol.com</i>
<i>Dave Cory</i>	<i>dc.wells@lineone.net</i>	<i>Reggie Pain</i>	<i>rpain@kitun.hlbkids.com</i>
<i>Paul Craddy</i>	<i>mby0pgc@stud.man.ac.uk</i>	<i>Yong-Shik Park</i>	<i>cavepark@hotmail.com</i>
<i>John Crowsley</i>	<i>john.crowsley@amserv.net</i>	<i>Letti Tooke</i>	<i>LTOOKE@steelcase-europe.com</i>
<i>Gof Daine</i>	<i>gei78@dial.pipex.com</i>	<i>Michael Pittman</i>	<i>pittman@fdn.co.uk</i>
<i>Ralph Diment</i>	<i>rdiment@uk-gw.swindon.ingr.com</i>	<i>Bill Richards</i>	<i>bill@richards369.freemove.co.uk</i>
<i>Jules Flavell</i>	<i>quetzalchiapas@yahoo.com</i>	<i>Jonathan Roberts</i>	<i>Jonathan.Roberts@Citigatepa.co.uk</i>
<i>Robert Fountain</i>	<i>Robert.Fountain@virgin.net</i>	<i>Nikki Robinson</i>	<i>Coedhir@enterprise.net</i>
<i>Tim Francis</i>	<i>TimF@bjm.co.uk</i>	<i>Peter Robinson</i>	<i>platorobinson@lineone.net</i>
<i>Simon Fryer</i>	<i>SimonFryer@tesco.net</i>	<i>Martin Rowe</i>	<i>Martin.Rowe@harvesthousing.org.uk</i>
<i>Jacky Gibbins</i>	<i>jackyg@ic24.net</i>	<i>Andrew Shann</i>	<i>97330443@brookes.ac.uk</i>
<i>Nicholas Gilson</i>	<i>gilson@powellslaw.com</i>	<i>Brian Snell</i>	<i>bsnell@mailhost.galacticis.net</i>
<i>Pete Goddard</i>	<i>pejogoddard@waitrose.com</i>	<i>Dave Tooke</i>	<i>dave.tooke@futureelectronics.com</i>
<i>Joan Goddard</i>	<i>pejogoddard@waitrose.com</i>	<i>Don Vosper</i>	<i>Don@vosperd.freemove.co.uk</i>
<i>Simon Goddard</i>	<i>Simon.Goddard@balliol.oxford.ac.uk</i>	<i>Rob Wake</i>	<i>ecmlrw@eim.surrey.ac.uk</i>
<i>Mike Gould</i>	<i>mike@meph.demon.uk</i>	<i>Marcus Ward</i>	<i>mward@nichicon.co.uk</i>
<i>Lee Hawkswell</i>	<i>leehawkswell@yahoo.com</i>	<i>Mark Ward</i>	<i>mole02@globalnet.co.uk</i>
<i>Julie Hesketh</i>	<i>Julie.Hesketh@btinternet.com</i>	<i>Marc Watkins</i>	<i>M.Watkins@bsn0106.x400.icl.co.uk</i>
<i>Wayne Hiscox</i>	<i>wayne.hiscox@wells.rds.co.uk</i>	<i>Bill Webb</i>	<i>Bill@comtex.swinternat.co.uk</i>
<i>Pete Hollings</i>	<i>peter.hollings@utas.edu.au</i>	<i>Kevin West</i>	<i>kevinwest@shelley38.freemove.co.uk</i>
<i>Huw Jones</i>	<i>coedhir@enterprise.net</i>	<i>Chris Whittle</i>	<i>chris@primrose.eng.co.uk</i>
<i>Stephen Jones</i>	<i>saj24@hermes.cam.ac.uk</i>	<i>Tim Woodhams</i>	<i>t.woodhams@rhbc.ac.uk</i>
<i>Denise Knibbs</i>	<i>denise.knibbs@wanadoo.fr</i>		