

NEWS

Mendip Caving Group Newsletter

Number 307 – May 2002

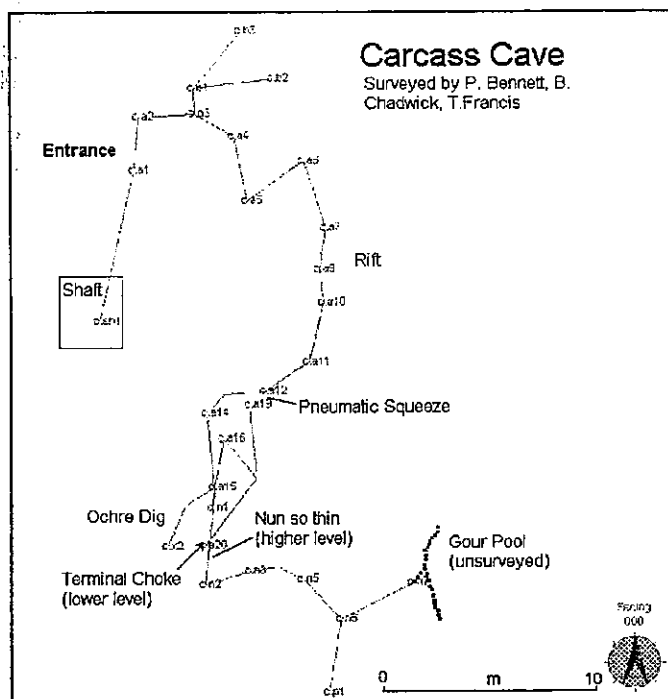
www.m-c-g.org.uk

Carcass: it's more than just a dig

by Tim Francis

Since the last update, digging by our intrepid explorers has yielded even more passage at this intriguing site underneath Shute Shelve Hill. A couple of weekends were spent chiselling away at the draughting hole at the end of the rift using Biff's air tools and compressor (see Bill Chadwick's article on page 4). A small descending tube was opened up leading to a short section of passage, heavily filled with rubble at both ends. But the air still seemed remarkably fresh so we attacked the down slope choke with gusto.

With a team of five, spoil could still be hauled all the way out to the surface and we had soon removed a huge volume of material. Digging was concentrated at two points: an ancient, ochre-filled crawl much like the entrance and a desperately tight bedding plane, "Nun So Thin". The latter was a real slag but a slight draught and airspace beyond kept our enthusiasm up. I was determined to crack the restriction and after a couple of weekends and some suicidal pushing the squeeze eventually yielded. Julie followed through minus an oversuit and hence spent the next week trying to scrub clean her ochre stained skin. Ideal for trying on a wedding dress! A further two hours were spent wrestling with a stubborn rock before a second squeeze was passed. Beyond was a nicely decorated gallery terminating in a crystal pocket on the right and a pool on the left: "Oh look, a puddle". A duck was passed to the left but a rising tube is blocked by flowstone. I haven't yet looked too closely to the right as it all looks rather aqueous. Other points of interest are a small overflow before the pool that may repay a spot of chiseling and a rubble-filled tube on the right after the bedding plane squeeze.



With the bedding plane extensions restricted to the diminutive and determined (Tim, Julie, Peat) focus switched to one of Mick's theories. The main draught seemed to be coming up through the floor just after the Pneumatic Squeeze. So armed with scaffolding and planks the floor of the chamber was removed across one weekend. And lo and behold he was right.

Remarkably there was a section of walking sized passage lying directly underneath. This was the best find yet and despite the initial dodgy choke everyone piled through to explore. 30ft of rubble slope ends in a choke with a reasonable draught still coming up from below. This looks slightly more long term so it's back to the chiseling (two chisels and a better compressor), shoring and hauling. In the meantime a bypass to "Nun So Thin" has been opened up via a hole in the roof above the terminal choke. This is Biff-sized so all can now view the pretties. Finally, Peat and I bashed out the survey to take the cave to roughly 100m – we declined to survey the pool until the weather is extremely hot and sunny.

Diggers: Peat Bennett, Ben Cooper, Bill Chadwick, Paul Craddy, Tim Francis, Biff Frith, Jackie Gibbons, Lee Hawkswell, Julie Hesketh, Doug Harris, Keith Knight, Mick Norton, Brian Snell, and others (Bracknell, Axbridge).

2002 MCG CAVING AND SOCIAL CALENDAR

DATE	AREA	EVENT	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
TBA	Mendip	Archaeology walk	Yvonne Rowe	01524 762664
8/9 June	Mendip	Cottage work weekend (from 10am)	Ben Cooper	01344 776306
5 October	Mendip	Half-yearly Forum	John Pudduck	01749 870383
5 October	Mendip	Skittles and Beer evening	Linda Milne	01344 774589
26 October	Mendip	Longwood/August MRO rescue practice	Brian Snell	01329 238341
7 December	Mendip	MCG Christmas Dinner	Linda Milne	01344 774589

GROUP INFORMATION

Accommodation	Nordrach Cottage, Charterhouse-on-Mendip, Blagdon, Bristol BS407XW Tel: 01761 462797 Grid Ref ST51475606 OS 1:50,000 sheet 182		
Weekly Meetings	At The Hunters Lodge, Somerset, on Tuesdays about 10.00 pm		
Cottage Fees	MCG members, members children, SWCC, NPC		£1.50
per night	Guest clubs and member's guests		£2.50
Season Ticket	Available to members only		£30.00
Annual	Full and Probationary Members:		£30.00
Subscription	Associate Members:		£15.00
Reciprocal Rights	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 2002 - 2003 COMMITTEE

Secretary	John Pudduck	1, Manor Farm Cottages, The Green, Easton, Somerset, BA5 1ED	Tel: 01749 870383 secretary@m-c-g.org.uk
Treasurer	Richard Carey	9 Greenvale Drive, Timsbury, Bath, BA2 0HW	Richardmcarey@email.msn.com
Tackle Master	Brian Snell	38, Serpentine Road, Fareham, Hampshire, PO16 7EB	Tel: 01329 238341 brian.snell@dsia.com
Caving Secretary	Tim Francis	Flat 6, 16 Lambert Avenue, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4QR	Tel: 0208 392 2572 T.Francis@research-int.com
Cottage Warden	Ben Cooper	Granville, Circle Hill Road, Crowthorne, Berks, RG45 6RN	Tel: 01344 776306 cottage@m-c-g.org.uk
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Social Secretary	Linda Milne	40 Harts Leap Close, Sandhurst, Berkshire, GU47 8PB	Tel: 01344 774589 Linda.Milne@btinternet.com

Non-committee Posts

Rescue Warden	Brian Snell	01329 238341
Conservation Officer	Peat Bennett	01223 2406333
Examiners	Wayne Hiscox Mike Lovell	01749 671282 0118 966 3747
Gift Aid Administrator	Malcolm Cotter	01784 252643

Cottage Bookings

OUCC	From Fri 07/06/02	To Sat 08/06/02	
Stephen Taylor - 1st Hurstpierpoint Scouts	From Sun 21/07/02	To Fri 26/07/02	10 beds

THE MENDIP CAVING GROUP IS A REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 270088
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MCG News and items from the committee meeting held 4.5.02

COMMITTEE CO-OPTIONS John Pudduck and Brian Snell have been co-opted as Secretary and Tackle Master respectively. Their contact details can be found on page 2.

NEW ☎ for Jane Baldwin is 01495 785361

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER An application for probationary membership has been received from **Roy Oxlade** ☒ 11, Armond Road, Witham, Essex. ☎ 01326 520540
Proposed by T Francis, seconded by R Carey.

UPPER FLOOD Peat Bennett and Paul Craddy have been made leaders for Upper Flood.

SEASON TICKET A motion was carried at the AGM to replace bed-night vouchers with a season ticket. For £30 per year members can stay at the cottage as often as they like. The 12 and 25 night vouchers will no longer be issued, but unused vouchers will be honoured. Although a season ticket allows 'unlimited' use of the cottage, in practice members will not be allowed to stay for more than 15 days in any 30 day period without prior agreement from committee. This is to ensure that we comply with planning regulations which say that the cottage is a club hut and not a residence.

HALF-YERLY FORUM This will be held on Saturday 5th October 2002 followed by a beer and skittles evening. More details later.

PDF NEWS So far about 15 members have registered to receive MCG news via e-mail. This will save the Group £55 per year, or more than 10% of the annual cost of the newsletter. We would still like more members to join the scheme. As I don't want to have to type in lots of e-mail addresses, can anyone else who wishes to receive their newsletter as a .pdf file please e-mail me, at yvonne.rowe@btopenworld.com

NEW PRINTER Nobody responded to my plea to replace the missing paper feeder for the Group's HP printer. Consequently, the Group has had to purchase a new printer which will shortly be installed in the library. Please note, the printer is to be used for official Group business only.

DEHUMIDIFIER Thanks to Joan Goddard, who has donated a dehumidifier for the library.

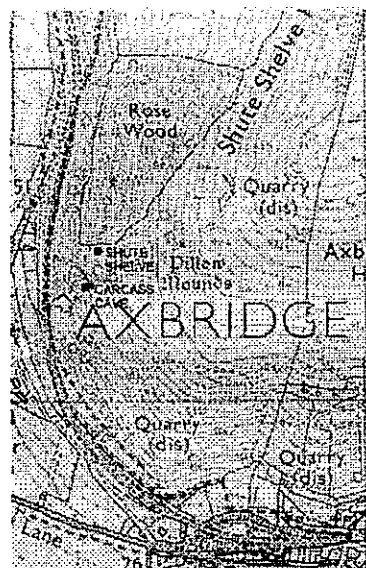
DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T TELL YOU... So that no-one has an excuse to miss our 50th Anniversary dinner, the committee have now set the date which will be **Saturday 27th March 2004**.

COTTAGE ☎ This may still be out of order. If you phone the cottage, you cannot hear what is being said to you, although you can be heard at the cottage end. This means that conversations are one way only. It is not economical to repair the phone as it is obsolete so a new phone will be purchased, if not already done so.

ON YER BIKE Wayne Hiscox is leading a Pedalling Picnic for Sustrans from Wells to Brent Knoll and back. The route will be 30 miles in total and completely flat. It will take place on Sunday June 23rd starting at 10am in Wells Market Place. There will no doubt be a pub stop and any MCG members would be most welcome. Details from Wayne: ☎ 01749 671282 or e-mail him at Wayne.Hiscox@uk.thalesgroup.com

COTTAGE WORK WEEKEND This will be on the weekend of 8th/9th June (meet at the cottage from 10am). Further details will be found on page

NEW DRILL Staying at the cottage? Spotted a small job that will only take 5 minutes? Would love to do it but you didn't bring your drill? (How many times have I heard that excuse!) Well... Ben has bought a new electric drill for cottage work and it can be found in the tool box under the charging area. So, there's no excuse now!



DIGGING AT CARCASS...

Bill and the rest of the diggers are at the dig on every members' weekend. All members are welcome to join them, either on a digging trip or just as tourists (I've tried to mark the entrance of Carcass on this map.)

Cave Digging With Man Portable Compressed Air Equipment



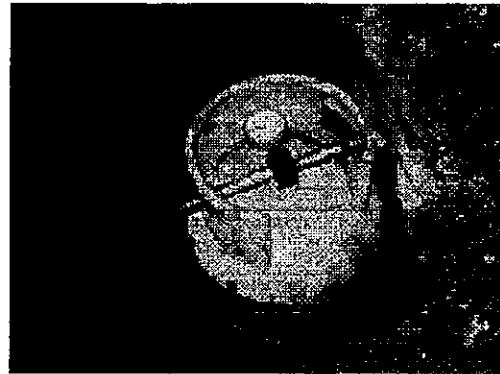
Biff Frith has recently perfected a man portable set up for compressed air rock chiselling. The system comprises a small petrol engine (about 80 cc) driving a small compressor (about 5 cu ft per min). Following this is an air reservoir of about 30 litres with a pressure gauge. Finally a CP9 (Chicago Pneumatics) type air chisel is used.

The engine and compressor (left) are sited on the surface with the reservoir near the work face. We have used two 60' hoses between the compressor and reservoir, more would probably be OK. A shorter hose of about 20' is used between the reservoir and chisel. The chisel is designed to operate from 90-100 PSI. The system cannot be used continually.

The fully charged reservoir (right) gives 10-15 seconds of drilling, to 50 PSI, which must be followed by a 75 second recharge period. In operation, a mate is required to shout out when full pressure is available. The system has been most effective in use. With two and a half digging sessions, a tiny drafting hole has been enlarged to a 6' long man sized tube. Obviously calcite is quicker and easier to remove than Limestone bedrock, which requires some patience and operator skill.

For the future we are looking to a slightly bigger engine and higher capacity compressor. The use of a Propane powered engine should allow operation in large, underground air spaces.

Bill Chadwick



Editor: Bill's article first appeared in the newsletter of the Bracknell District Caving Club.

MCG SOCIAL CALENDAR

MCG isn't just about caving. Come to think of it, it's hardly about caving at all, or that's how it seems sometimes. With no caving meets programme yet (Tim's only been in post a month), here are a few suggestions which might encourage one or two or more of you (cavers included!) to come to Nordrach Cottage over the next few months.

Jun 8 th 7pm	Nordrach Cottage	Ben The Builder's Barbecue And Beer Bash (Bring A Burger And A Bottle). Celebrate the successful cottage work weekend by dressing up as Bob the Builder and joining Ben and the others. Can we fix it? Yes we can!
Aug 3 rd time tbc	Venue tbc confirmed	The Ashes. This will be a rounders rematch with the Wessex. Come and help MCG retain the Ashes that we won fairly and squarely(!) last year
Sep tbc	Mendip	Bike rides for all abilities (J-P Burch will be the contact for this)
Sep 7 th 7pm	Nordrach Cottage	Mexican night - more details nearer the time
Oct 5 th	Venue tbc	Half yearly social with Beer and Skittles- more details nearer the time
Nov 2 nd 7pm	Nordrach Cottage	Quiz night- more details nearer the time
Dec 7 th	Cox's Mill	Christmas Dinner- more details nearer the time

MCG JUBILEE YEAR 2004

We've had 50 years to prepare for this so we had better get it right!

We've talked to members old and new, raised it at the AGM and discussed it in Committee meetings. We are starting to get some ideas now of what people would like to see happening in the Group's Jubilee year.

First of all, we had to establish the exact date of our 50th Anniversary. An undated flier (probably December 1953) says that a meeting of Mendip Caving Group will be held at the first possible opportunity of at least 4 members being present. Newsletter No. 1 was published in February 1954. It says that there were 8 members of the Group and that the first meeting was on 4th February 1954 at which A. Windate, M. Perrins, F. McGuire and M. Cotter were present. However, the newsletter goes on to record that M. Cotter and D. Evans made a trip (as MCG?) 'before Christmas'. So, is the Group 50 years old in December 2003 or on the 4th February 2004? It seems that the idea of the Mendip Caving Group was born in 1953 but the Group came into existence on 4th February 1954 when 4 members were together at the same time. We are therefore taking 4th February 1954 as the date the Group came into existence.

We are starting to put together a programme of activities for our Jubilee year in 2004. So that as many people as possible can participate, we are advertising these activities now but please bear in mind that some dates or events might change. The caving and social programme so far includes:-

31st December 2003 New Year's Eve party at the Cottage

Saturday 7th February 2004 We didn't have a cottage in 1954, so members slept in Maine's Barn, Priddy. If Mr Maine will grant permission, we hope to be able to sleep in the Barn again.

Saturday 7th February 2004 The only MCG caving trips up to February '54 were to Swildon's Hole. You are invited to re-enact a 1950' caving trip to the 40ft Pot. Please wear suitable period caving attire.

Saturday 5th March 2004 Search for a hut. On 26th February 1954, Malcolm Cotter and others walked from Priddy to Piney Sleight Farm in search of a site for a Group hut. Join us for a walk around Velvet Bottom and Longwood, re-visiting the sites they considered. Followed by a 'treasure' hunt and cream tea.

Saturday 27th March 2004 50th Anniversary Dinner. We hope to make this something special, and hope that as many current members as possible will make the effort to attend. If you only ever go to one annual dinner, make it this one!

Easter Friday 9th April 2004 MCG's most successful meet of 1954 was at Easter when six members, three of whom had just joined, camped at Velvet Bottom. Help us recreate the camp at Velvet Bottom and join a visit to MCG's first dig at Timber Hole.

June 5th 2004 50 years to the day, re-enact MCG's first visit to Longwood Swallet as far as Swing Pitch.

September 4th 2004 Retrace MCG's first away meets with trips into Tunnel Cave, OFD, and Pant Mawr, South Wales. Alternatively, a trip into Smoo Cave, Durness, Scotland.

Linda Milne will also be planning various social events on some of the above weekends to coincide with the caving / walking events. If anyone can offer help or suggestions of any kind for any of the above events, it will be gratefully accepted.

For the social events, contact Linda Milne ☎ 01344 774589 or e-mail Linda.Milne@btinternet.com

For the caving / camping / walking events, contact Yvonne and Martin Rowe ☎ 01524 762664 or e-mail: yvonne.rowe@btopenworld.com

We would like to invite past members of MCG, young and old, to join us in our 50th anniversary celebrations. If you know the address, telephone or e-mail of any former members, please let the secretary know so that they may be invited to join in some or all of the above events. There is too much organization to be left to one person, so we are forming a sub-committee. If you want to be involved, please contact Linda to volunteer your services. ☎ 01344 774589 or e-mail Linda.Milne@btinternet.com

View from the Hill

Extracts from the logbook

By Richard Carey

MCG caving is alive and well.

1/1/02 GB Cave.

Tony, Denise and Joan.

Where are the cavers of yesteryear? To uphold tradition and avoid bedsores we braved the icy tundra of Charterhouse to notch up the **FIRST TRIP** of 2002. The visit conformed to the usual criteria: a gentle amble around the system, missing out Ladder Dig. The combined age of the party is a secret.

5/1/02 Upper Flood.

Tim + Toby CC, Paul C, Brendon and Sloan.

Tourist trip to the Red Room and Black Shale Rift. Took in two small skips and an entrenching tool to the Choke. Removed two knackered entrenching tools. Air 11C. Water 9C. Gave the lock a blast of WD40.

9/1/02 Sidcot Swallet and Goatchurch Cavern.

Gary W, Simon T and Matt A.

1 hour trip to Purgatory. Simon always has trouble with the entrance to Purgatory – too many pies over Christmas. Suggested picking him up next week when he'd be a few pounds lighter, but a bit of wriggling and a good f**t saw him clear to the top. ¾ hour in Goatchurch. Ab'd down the Coal Shute, through Bloody Tight and climbed back up the Coal Shute wondering what "fatty" named Bloody Tight.

12/1/01 Carcass Cave.

Duncan, Jenny, Biff, Mack, Doug.

Smashed out floor in final chamber, used ACG's hilti drill to enlarge hole at end of chamber. Made more forward progress (1 metre), more formations in right hand side, large rock to remove next. Cleared about 40 buckets. 6 hours.

18/1/01 Eastwater Cavern.

Gary W, Matt A.

2 ½ hour trip in the upper series. Primrose Path, Upper Traverse and Canyon. Gary climbed down Dolphin Pot but unfortunately the rope was too short, bad boy scouts – not prepared!! Gary managed the S-bend Bypass. Want to look at the Lower Series. Any volunteers to take us on a trip?

3/2/01 Swildon's Hole

M Rowe, Y Rowe, G Beale

Short trip to top of the 20'. In the Dry Way out the Wet Way to see how fit we are after being unable to cave for the past year due to F & M. Found out that MR and YR are not fit. Need to take more exercise. Swildon's was very wet, so lots of fun. Surprisingly we saw no other cavers and there

was no tackle at the 20'. So we assumed that no one else was in the cave. Can't remember ever being the only ones in the cave.

January/February Argentina

Tim, Peat Jules Flavell

More frolics in the Southern Hemisphere. See newsletter for details. Spent ten days camping at Poti Maial under the blazing sun. Extended Dona Palmyra, Cangrejos and found lots of digs, although nothing huge.

16/2/02 Bath Swallet.

Richard, Tim, Julie

Richard and Julie's first trip to the new extensions. Still very loose and hairy in parts. Went up Tim's new aven – interesting squeeze to get in and a few pretties at the start. Lots of bats all around the cave. Engelbert Humperdinck accompanied us most of the way, especially in the tight bits where "Please release me" became very appropriate.

17/2/02 Upper Flood

Tim, Julie

Rather high water levels. Temp 10.5C air. Digging in Red Room. Good progress made in the muddy tube in the Boulder Choke. Removed a bucket and rubbish from the Lavatory Trap.

23/2/02 Upper Flood

Tim + 3 from the Shepton

Rapid thrash down to the Red Room and back. Very high water levels and cold. Sludge Junction air 10.5C, Midnight Chamber 10.5C, Water 8C and then off to Carcass.

23/2/02 Carcass Cave

Doug, Bill, Mick (MCG) Biff, Jenny, Duncan, Alison (Bracknell)

Early start and ascent of hill with compressor, air reservoir (old gas bottle) and pneumatic breaker. We did the same trip 2 weeks ago and had enlarged the draughting hole to a tantalising squeeze that gave a view of a chamber beyond. This time after a few hours chipping Doug was first through and widened the exit for the rest of us. We now have a fair sized, phreatic roofed chamber part fill with silt rocks and stones. There appear to be a number of possible ways on. Tim Peat Julie and Richard then joined us and all ventured into the new chamber. They soon started digging through the fairly easy fill. The old way on that had started, as a small draughting hole is now an easy crawl. The drilling equipment has got us through what we thought was (*cont p7*)

View from the Hill Extracts from the logbook *continued*

a hopeless impasse without the use of explosive. It has proved to be very reliable and effective. Further digging will require a team of spoil haulers. The loose rock around the entrance of the breakthrough needs to be removed for safety.

24/2/02 Carcass Cave

Mick Norton, Bill Chadwick, Doug Harris, Jenny Plumb, Duncan Harbour, Biff Frith, Julie Hesketh, Peat Bennett, Tim Francis.

Everyone had a look at the new chamber "Fools Rush In". The floor was dug and two leads were started. About 50 skips were extracted right out of the cave. No real progress was made but the chamber is now deeper. The iffy stuff hanging above Pneumatic Squeeze was removed so Stalagmite Chamber is now safe. A good weekend's effort with a new chamber discovered and brilliant potential looming

2/3/02 Upper Flood

Jackie, Lee, Tim, Ben

The three of us headed in to Upper Flood for a spot of digging in the boulder choke. Did an hour of digging so the choke is now full of slop. Started to head out when Ben appeared. So Tim and Ben went back to the choke for more digging. More progress but things now look low and grovelly.

2/3/02 Swildon's Hole

Peat, Julie, Nick B, Alex L

This is the first time I have ever been caving and I found the decent to sump reasonably straight-forward except for one narrow and steep part. However, the ascent was a different matter. I found the climb up the pitch utterly terrifying. Getting wet and cold sapped my physical and mental energy making the rest of the ascent a real struggle, especially in the narrow sections, but Peat, Julie and Alex were superb in helping me – without them I would never have got out. I also fell in a deep pool which combined to sap my confidence. I did, however, feel a real sense of achievement when I emerged from the cave. It is probably something I would try again but it would be better if I could find a somewhat easy cave. Nick B (a true son of Mendip)

2/3/02 Carcass Cave

Tim, Peat, Julie, Brian, Keith, Lee

A pleasant few hours digging on the right hand side of the end chamber. Nice and orange.

2/3/02 Swildon's Hole

Linda M, Andrew, Steve and Geoff B

Pottered around the top bit before the 20'. Good intro for Andrew and Steve.

3/3/02 Manor Farm

Ben, Adam, Sally, Andrew, Steve and Linda M

Had forgotten how good this cave is. Introduced ladders to Steve and Andrew who took it in their stride. Not smelly and no worms! The surface however was very muddy.

10/3/02 Carcass Cave

Mick Norton, Bill Chadwick, Tim Francis, Doug Harris, Biff Frith

Digging again. Tired from yesterday. Got a draw hoe from Wells to help clear the rift. It wasn't much use but was still a help. As the rift is so hard we worked the side passage removing a lot of rock, ochre and sand. We continued to chisel the rift and towards the end of the day Tim forced his head through and said that it goes left and then ahead with the floor dropping away. It will be a hard slog to open up the rift. It is now about 12 – 15' long but there is space beyond.

16/3/02 Two World War II tunnels on Alderney.

Tim, Julie, Peat, Duncan, Rupert, Phil, Cheryl.

It was Rupert's and Cheryl's joint birthday so the massed hordes of the Old Moles arrived en masse on Alderney. Spent a few hours cycling and walking around. Whilst we were there a few of us visited a couple of German tunnels. The largest, under Essex Castle, was big enough to cycle through. Not too sure about the spooky Wendy house though.

23/3/02 Carcass Cave

More digging by Tim, Bill, Julie and Paul

A determined assault was made at the bottom of the bedding plane. Tim eventually made it through followed by Julie on her back in only her furry. After several hours of wrestling with a rock a way on could be seen. Julie unfortunately had to leave but soon after Tim levered the irritant rock up and squeezed through. A flowstone slope comes in from the left and runs down to a fine gour. With running commentary "Oh look a puddle" Tim went off to explore. To the right there may be a possible dig but further up is a joint or calcite pocket. So with no way on I was forced to drop into the gour pool. To the right the pool seems to be held back by a dam. To the left there is a duck followed by calcite slope ending in a calcite blockage. I was now freezing so a rapid exit was made, fortified by a cup of tea en route.

24/3/02 Hunter's Lodge Inn Sink

Tim and Bill

This cave/mine is now about 80ft steeply inclined down the Mendip syncline. The way on is still miniscule but draughting slightly. Heaved out 25 skips of rocks to the base of the entrance. And then to the pub for lunch.

Battery Swallet has slumped in and the entrance is obscured. Needs pipes to maintain access.

BEN THE BUILDER'S BBQ & BEER BASH (BRING A BURGER & BOTTLE)**SATURDAY 8TH & SUNDAY 9TH JUNE 2002**

Ok, it's a work weekend really, but this year we thought we would make it more enjoyable by having a 'theme'. And the theme is... a fancy dress work weekend. At first we thought we'd make it Country and Western, but then some bright spark suggested Bob - sorry, **Ben the Builder**. Hard hats must be worn at all times - commencing at 10am on Saturday 8th June 2002. There will be a BBQ and barrel Saturday evening commencing at 8pm (or earlier if all the cottage work for the day has been completed). Jane is supplying suitable music - see the words of the song, below.



ALL ABOUT BEN THE BUILDER Ben the Builder has laid a foundation of friendship and teamwork with cavers all over the Mendips. Since premiering with the MCG, Ben the Builder has become a phenomenal local success with record-breaking work weekends.

Set in a caving club cottage, the charming tales of Ben the Builder and his gang of cottage workers, have found an eager audience Mendip-wide. The characters live in a world where members and committee respect each other, cooperate, and maintain the cottage as they play and work together.

MCG Entertainment developed Ben the Builder over a three-year period, carefully planning his creative development and positive, pro-social themes. The results are a singular cottage experience for members, offering a variety of colourful characters and a wide array of imaginative, entertaining and inspiring themes expressly for preschool boys and girls (also suitable for cavers).

Ben the Builder's better known twin brother, Bob the Builder, had a recent number one hit with his song 'Can We Fix It'. This was based on an original MCG song by Goddard and Walsh (to an original theme). For those who don't know the words - here they are:-

**CAN WE FIX IT?**

*Ben the Builder (can we fix it?)
Ben the Builder (yes we can!)*

*Ben the Builder (can we fix it?)
Ben the Builder (yes we can!)*

Tim, Jane and Linda, and Richard too
Yvonne and Brian join the crew
Ben and the gang have so much fun
Working together they get the job done



*Ben the Builder (can we fix it?)
Ben the Builder (yes we can!)*

Time to get busy, such a lot to do
Building and fixing, 'til it's good as new
Drilling and fixing, having so much fun
Working together, they get the job done



Can we drill it? **Yes.**
Can we build it? **Yes**
Can we fix it? **Yes**

*Ben the Builder (Can we fix it?)
Ben the Builder (Yes we can!)*

We'd better get some work done!!!!!!!!!!!!

(or you won't come to the BBQ - Ed.)