

Limekiln Dig, or the search for Planet Rock

by Yvonne and Martin Rowe

Team: Doug Harris, Tim Francis, Louisa Minahan, Martin and Yvonne Rowe, Linda Milne, Geoff Beale, Brenda Wybrow, Bob Templeman, Mike Richardson.

The Somerset Historic Environment Record is a remarkable resource, available, at www.somerset.gov.uk/somerset/cultureheritage/heritage/her And if you check the map for historic records at Charterhouse, you will find the following information about a site known to Somerset Council simply as PRN15799:



As far as we are aware this site is open to the public at certain times. **Details:** Mining remains of several periods are evident with the earliest appearing as long narrow rakes which are similar in character to other known Roman mines. Three small trenches were excavated (PRN 15799) which showed the rakes to be the surface of narrow cuts down into the limestone for a great depth. At some points a natural cave system was encountered.

The filling in of the top of these fissures could be firmly dated to the second half of C1 AD and was probably associated with the digging of additional rakes.

References: Excavation report - Todd, M "Charterhouse on Mendip: an interim report on excavations in 1994" *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society* 138 (1994), 75-79.

After Professor Todd finished his dig, local mining expert John Cornwall took over the excavation which is in a rake-type depression on the land that lies between Waterwheel Swallet and the Charterhouse Centre. He didn't find much of archaeological interest, but got a bit of a surprise when the dig encountered a deep void. John spoke with English Nature, who manage the land the dig is on, and they suggested that he either fill it in or arrange for cavers to take it on for further exploration.

Mick Norton volunteered MCG provided we could obtain the necessary permissions for a prospective dig. The farmer, Mr Small, who owns the land, was approached by Malcolm and Norma Cotter and permission was given for MCG to dig on condition that spoil was out of sight and the site made safe and secure.



Removing the old timber covering

From the Editor



I always enjoy my weekends on Mendip, but the weekend reported opposite was even better than usual. It was shades of the Upper Flood II entrance dig years ago when lots of members worked together as a team on a Group project.

No delegation of tasks was necessary—everyone just got on with whatever they saw needed doing, and what they felt capable or skilled enough to do... and you're never too old to learn new skills as I proved by mixing barrow-loads of concrete for the first time in my life, a task shared with Bob Templeman.

Lots of the usual banter ensured we all had plenty of laughs, helped by cool but sunny weather. Everyone involved is keen to see this project develop so here's hoping the dig is successful. Who knows—we might find that elusive master cave yet!!

Yvonne

In this issue

- 1-4 Limekiln Dig
- 4 Big Roman Dig
- 5-6 New Zealand
- 6-7 Log book
- 8 Group information
- Plus Membership list

MCG doings

Jonathan Roberts

For those that don't already know, Jonathan was involved in a serious car crash on 12th May. The phrase 'lucky to be alive' sums up his condition. He was driving somewhere in the Bath area when a tractor pulled out in front of his car after he had just overtaken a vehicle. He was airlifted to the high dependency unit of Frenchay hospital, Bristol with multiple injuries (broken pelvis, damage to both arms, lacerations to his head and face etc.). He has since been transferred to the Frome Victoria Hospital where he will likely be for a number of weeks, and it could be at least 3 months before he's anything like back to normal, so the tractor definitely won. I know that many of you will wish to contact Jonathan to wish him well and I'm sure he would welcome visitors as he is going to get extremely bored in there. His address (until further notice) is:

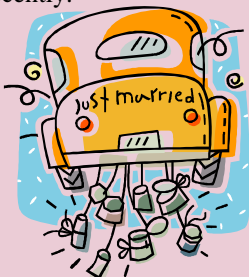
Frome Victoria Hospital
Park Road,
Frome,
Somerset
BA11 1EY
Tel: 01373 463591

Email update

Bill Richards and Lynn Furneaux have a new email:
✉ lynnbill@tiscali.co.uk

Congratulations

To Mike Pittman and Julia Lovell who were married recently.



Over the weekend of 8/9th May a team, made up of **seven** committee members, two other members and a prospective member, and Doug's dog Buddy descended on the site and began to remove the old timber covering from the dig. RSJ's, grilles, scaffolding, cement, aggregate and water all had to be carried up to the dig from the car park near to Upper Flood.

Yvonne, Brenda and Louisa immediately erected a lovely orange lacy plastic fence around it all.

When Doug (our project manager) started removing the loose rocks and spoil from around the entrance, it soon became apparent that it was not going to be the quick tidy-up and securing of the RSJs and grilles that we thought it would be. This was embarrassing as Tim was at the same time telling a CCC

meeting that the work was going well and the entrance would be made safe by lunchtime. The entrance, although well constructed by the previous diggers, appeared to be lacking one major element—planet (*planet – dig-word of the weekend!*). Everything seemed to be resting on huge boulders that were, in turn, kept in place only by the suction of the mud around them. To put the RSJs in securely required them to sit on "planet" and it took a further 4ft of digging over several hours, and the removal of loose rocks before this was reached. Doug constructed a temporary scaffolding with planks to give a stable and safe base to work from, and to prevent the loosened soil falling to the bottom of the shaft (it would only to have to be removed later). As rocks were removed they were placed near the entrance for later use, and the soil was put in a nearby depression out of site. With others of the team helping, much of this work was done by lunchtime. We stopped for a picnic of bread and cheese, crackers and cheese, and crisps and cheese, with a bit of chocolate for afters (Mmmm!).

Work continued to cement together the drystone lining of the shaft that the earlier diggers had constructed on top of boulders wedged in the shaft. While Tim, Doug, Louisa, Martin, Linda and Mike worked in shifts to build the sides of the entrance up from the 'planet' using the rocks, Yvonne and Bob mixed concrete to secure them in place (hard work), trying to keep up with the ever growing demand. Digging into the hillside either side of the shaft had revealed the planet rock that we needed to use as foundations for the RSJ's which we now lowered into position. A metal grid was the placed



Adding the orange lacy plastic fence



Searching for planet



Cementing together the drystone lining



Lowering the RSJs into position



Lining up



Fitting the grilles



Work completed

over the shaft and temporary sheeting was placed on top. So with the site made safe, we removed any nickable tools etc., and went off for a shower before heading to the Wellsway for a deserved drink and meal.

On Sunday, once the required areas of 'planet' had been exposed and prepared, the RSJs were positioned more accurately using the spirit level. The stone walls keeping the deads in place were extended around the shaft and over the ends of the RSJ's. With the drystone linings, deads, boulders and RSJ's all concreted together we could at last be assured that the shaft wouldn't collapse in on us now.

The grilles were laid in place to make sure everything would line up, and of course they did thanks to Doug's prior preparation involving drilling holes in the RSJs and welding corresponding brackets on the grilles for final and secure bolting. Now we had to put all the rocks back that we had spent so much time and effort removing!

By the end of Sunday the final appearance of the new entrance was taking shape—neat walls built up at the sides of the entrance with RSJs and grilles secured in place. The central grille is hinged allowing access, and padlocked for safety.

Over the next few weekends the site was completely cleared and now you can't see any signs of the excavations from the road or car park.

While we were working John Cornwall and his wife spent some time watching and chatting to us. When we were discussing possible names for the dig (Roman Rift, Rakes Rift, Lizard Dig,

Picnic Pot...) John pointed out that there was a limekiln only a few yards away in the old quarry. Limekiln has since become the "working title" for the dig.

MCG caving

Bob Templeman's first endeavour as Caving Secretary, on the June Members Weekend, was a great success. The Shute Shelve trip was attended by 11 members/guests. In fact, 100% of those staying at the cottage (with caving insurance cover) actually went caving.

Future meets include:
18th / 19th June. OFD1 and 2. Leader and further Details: Geoff Beale.
2nd July. Swildons to Sump 1. Meet at Nordrach Cottage at 10am.

MCG cottage

There will be a Cottage Work weekend and BBQ on 5/6/7th August. Details later, or contact Doug at dougharris31@yahoo.co.uk

Foreman's decs

I would like to give a big thumbs up for the make-over. Its light and airy - to compensate for the mustiness of its occupants no doubt!
Linda

Found at cottage

An oversuit and a belt hanging on the fence outside the kitchen on 7th June have been put in the shed.

Upper Flood

Tim Francis reports that he saw a three different species of bugs in the streamway. One was a turquoise/white-ish shrimp thing, one was a woodlouse looking creature (grey) and one was a six, maybe eight legged thing with long feelers, perhaps 3-4mm long There were lots of the latter bug in the area of cobbles near where you've got those multi layer flowstone shelves. Has anyone noticed them before?

Yv's droppings

BT: "The Wealdon has a shed."

TF: "Huh! We've got a cottage and *two* sheds!"

MR: "They're treating us as if we're a charity!"

DH: "I have a catalogue at home of knobs!"

Earwig in on the committee meetings held on 07/05/05 and 04/06/05

Secretary Tim Francis has stepped into the vacant post of Secretary until someone else volunteers for the position. He has therefore stepped down as Recorder Librarian.... **Recorder** Louisa Minahan has been co-opted to fill the vacant post of Recorder Librarian... **Hot water tank** is to be replaced as it is 25 years old and completely scaled up... **Cottage sign** A new sign for the cottage is to be made, possibly using a piece of the beech tree... **BCRA** Help is needed to make and man (or woman) the MCG stand at the Hidden Earth conference... **Kitchen** One of the control knobs on the gas hobs is broken and if a replacement cannot be acquired then the whole hob will have to be replaced... **Toilet** The rubber seal on one of the toilets has failed and cannot be repaired.... **Novice weekend** There has been a request for a novice weekend and curry night on the members weekend of 2/3/4 Sept... **Overseas trip** Greece has been suggested as a possible MCG meet for Spring 2006...

Welcome

To **Mike Richardson** who has been accepted as a Probationary Member.

Mick Norton and others have had a quick look at the dig since the entrance has been completed, and a small party explored the dig on the June members weekend. Several large "hanging death" boulders in the shaft appear to be more secure than first thought. The largest boulder extends back into the rift and seems to be quite well cantilevered so the weight of earth above means it will not easily move. A smaller boulder below may need the help of an RSJ to stop it descending into the dig.

At the bottom of the shaft, which is about 4m deep, there are two ways on. A narrow rift (see photo opposite with a 1m metal fence rod for scale) sets off in the direction of Waterwheel Swallet. Back under the hanging death boulders, a possible way down is blocked by mud and boulders, and a dead bird.

Is it a cave or is it a mine? The archaeology report refers to "*narrow cuts down into the limestone for a great depth*". It also says "*At some points a natural cave system was encountered*". Well, we certainly have not reached a great depth yet, nor have we entered a cave system, but the dig has potential for both. The rake can be seen on the surface heading directly for Stainsby's Shaft (aka Blackmoor Shaft) and Waterwheel Swallet is in between, so who knows what may be found? Watch this space!



THE BIG ROMAN DIG

The MCG aren't the only ones interested in digging at Charterhouse. From 26 June to 16 July this year Time Team are carrying out the most ambitious exploration of Roman Britain ever – not just one fort, villa or even city, but the whole country – Time Team's Big Roman Dig. Nine key digs that tell the story of Roman Britain have been chosen, one of which is Charterhouse.

Charterhouse is a key site in Roman Britain, and it was one of the chief sources of lead in the province, brought quickly into large scale production (by AD49 at the latest). There was a fort here in the first century when the site was under imperial control and the military oversaw mining operations, part of which has been investigated archaeologically.

The Rev John Skinner visited and recorded his findings in the early 1800s; UBSS carried out some excavations between 1960 and 1967; Sir Malcolm Todd (Exeter University) excavated in the Roman fort area and the rakes in the 1990s; and a local history group (CHERT) is currently surveying and recording visible surface features.

Although it has recently been subject to detailed earthwork survey, the site has never been subject to geophysical survey, and surprisingly little is known about its date, extent and nature. Geophysics is one of the techniques used by the Big Roman Dig team which should provide useful information. Hopefully the removal of some of the lead-rich surface layers of the old settlement for re-smelting in the nineteenth century won't have destroyed all the underlying archaeology.

The Big Roman Dig at Charterhouse is live on Channel 4 on 2nd, 3rd and 4th July.



A brief excursion to New Zealand

by Tim Francis

Louisa and I were invited to a wedding in Nelson, New Zealand on February 26th 2005 so inevitably whilst we were there it seemed sensible to take our caving gear along just in case. We only had a couple of weeks in the country so this would really be a whistle stop tour. A brief flurry of emails in the preceding months elicited a few contacts with the Nelson caving club plus I learned that Joel Corrigan (ex. MCG member from 10+ years ago) would be there on an expedition as well. Packing for the trip proved a challenge: clothes for travelling; clothes for the wedding; smart clothes for the hen 'do'; and caving gear and SRT kits. Safe to say that our smarter clothes suffered en route so we had to get them all dry cleaned in Nelson in time for the wedding.

Nelson itself is ideally placed for a spot of cave tourism. Actually finding the whereabouts of the caves is tricky as New Zealand cavers are notoriously reluctant to publish cave locations, so much so that they have a huge guide to the South Island but no descriptions of how to find the entrances. Apparently there is uncertainty as to the location of nearly one quarter of the discovered caves due to failing memories, poor records and the natural passage of time. Even Committee members of a club, as we were to discover, do not necessarily get to know where the latest digs and discoveries actually are.

I had arranged to meet up with local cavers and unbeknown to us Joel (and Martin Groves "Lump") was actually staying up at the Nelson caving hut up on Tanaka hill. This is a large slab of limestone about an hours drive from Nelson. But on our first free day we just popped over to take a look at the National Park and take in the Ngarua show cave. This is a short fossil cave, only a few hundred metres, right on the top of the mountain. The highlight is some well preserved Moa bones but there are also some quite nice formations in there as well. The show cave owner and guide is a real character who is a lot more interested and involved in the history of the cave than your usual guide. It makes for an ideal spot for tea and muffins as well. Afterwards we also visited the beautiful Pu- Pu (Te Waikoropupu springs) near Takaka which is a major resurgence for the area. The following day we met up with Joel and Martin at the Nelson Cave hut. This an isolated building set in some fantastic limestone scenery. They were staying there for two months with plans to explore some deep shafts in the area and push the Riwaka resurgence. We also took a stroll over to the top of Harwood's Hole, the deepest surface shaft in New Zealand at 180m. They can actually be done as a pull through of 357m, exiting at Starlight but that then entails several hours walk back up the hillside to where you started. Apparently it's a great place for call outs involving climbers. They abseil in and oops no jammers...

We managed one trip underground into the Riwaka resurgence. Joel and Lump were heading underground for a few days of exploration beyond sump three so we met up with them in the car park beforehand so we would know where the entrance was. The entrance is a lovely blue/green pool which is very popular for picnics. It's all well signposted with lots of handy diagrams and notices. The original entrance explored way back in the '60s is at the resurgence itself. Two short sumps pop out into a huge boulder-strewn canyon and beyond is loads of dry caving before sump 3. Current exploration is pretty serious stuff involving some rather necky climbing up wet avens or looking for a way on in sump 4. The whole place is flood prone as well. Just beyond sump 2 is plenty of dry stuff which obviously runs very close to the surface, but it was only until a few years ago that someone bothered to look on the surface to see whether there was an obvious place to dig a new entrance. The intrepid explorer wandered 5 minutes off the gravel path to where the survey suggested the cave lay near the surface. And oh, what's that draughting shakehole I espy? He runs back to the car to 'phone the others. Within a few hours (most of it involving packing the car and driving there) they all found themselves standing on the cave side of sump 2 without the need of bottles. If only digging round the sumps in Wookey was that easy.

This was the entrance we went in. It's a nice scrabbly bit of cave with a massive

Caving Snippets

Warning: There have been car break-ins at Priddy Green, Tynings and at the Upper Flood / Waterwheel carpark.

Manor Farm: There is bad air plus skin irritations caused by the water.

Wigmore Swallet: There are loose boulders nearish the entrance.

Quarry Dean and Merston Mines, Surrey: You are advised to stay away from these mines at the moment while access arrangements are going on.

Aveline's Hole: The gated part will be closed in the bat season and there will be no access at this time.

Longwood/August: It is proposed to put DMMs on Swing Pitch. Three people have been trained for checking and placing DMMs. It is intended to eventually list all bolts on the CSCC website with information about when they were placed and when they were tested.

CCC Handbook: This has now been published and can be obtained from Dave Cook for £2. Details at www.csc.org.uk

SSSIs: There is to be a 10 yearly audit re conservation of SSSIs on land where caves are.

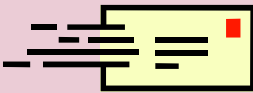
BCA Insurance cards

Public Liability cards for Club Individual members are on their way, but have not been despatched yet.

In the meanwhile, if you need evidence of cover before your BCA card arrives, please let me know and I will arrange for you to be sent something.

Nick Williams

nick.williams@conformance.co.uk



From: Michal Trybulec
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 05
Subject: Visit to Mendip

I'd like to thank you for the warm welcome on our visit to Mendip. We really enjoyed ourselves, the caves were really nice (especially Swildon's). And you can see our photos from Mendip here: <http://www.yac.com.pl/mt.caves.en.html>

I would invite MCG to Poland - have a look at http://panda.bg.univ.gda.pl/~dbart/tatr_p.html This is a list of Tatra's caves, with name, length and depth. The first column shows deepest caves, the second column the longest. The descriptions (after you click on the name) are in Polish, but you can at least see the maps and photos. I'm sure something could be arranged, if anybody at MCG would be interested. Eg, Kasprowa Niznia http://panda.bg.univ.gda.pl/~dbart/tatry/kasprowan_p.html has the longest sump in Poland - 333 meters. And it's not that far from the car - about an hour.)

Best regards, Michal & Marta Trybulec



Editors note: We first met Michal & Marta at the Speleocamp in Laze during the MCG 50th Anniversary trip to Slovenia. They recently stayed at the MCG cottage, and their photos on the web are worth looking at. I'm not so sure about the 333m sump though!

draught that suggests huge amounts of cave beyond. Not far from the entrance is a nice grotto well worth a few photos. A lot of the rest of the cave is active and flood prone so it's not really conducive to formations. After a bit more wriggling through a choke you pop out into the large boulder floored canyon mentioned previously. We went downstream first to see the cave side of sump 2. Just next to it on the right we were surprised to see a huge flowstone cascade with some delightful gour pools.

Back upstream you climb up a huge boulder slope, traversing up and left to the roof. This is the unobvious bypass to a boulder choke that eventually drops you back into an overflow passage for the main streamway. At the back wall a climb up into a window and low crawl leads to a large fossil chamber. This again is littered with huge boulders and seemed to be a dead end. However off on the left we spotted a handline that the gang had rigged earlier that drops out of the floor. This is a little bit awkward but we had a descender that made life a bit easier. From here it was then merely a scramble down a muddy slope (with stal. columns) to reach the overflow passage. The latter is a Wales sized bore which seems to go on and on. Every now and then you can hear the river rumbling away below you through holes in the floor. Actually it was quite an ominous place. Not knowing the cave that well it had taken us a couple of hours to this point but from here until we turned around we made rapid progress. We only went as far as where the river was rejoined (I'm not sure how many hundred metres it was) and then turned back. Apparently a spot of swimming is required before you actually get to sump 3 and we weren't exactly kitted out for that. We had to run out of the cave quite quickly as we were clearly going to be late for our B&B. Nelson being Nelson they had already heard that we were cavers by the time we got back.

Riwaka was the only actual bit of wild caving we did. However we did meet up with some of the local cavers, one of whom is a Brit formally of Crewe CPC. So of course the reunion was a fine opportunity for knocking up a curry and swapping tales of Derbyshire caves. In our last 5 days we did a whistle stop tour of almost all the island taking in the West coast, central region and the East Coast and clocking up over 2000km. All the usual sights so I won't bore you with tales of how fantastic the scenery was and how empty the roads were. But en route between Timaru and Christchurch on our last marathon stretch we took a detour inland to a place I spotted on the map called "Cave". Just before it we drove down the well named "Limestone Valley" past some fine limestone cliffs. The village is only a tiny hamlet with a pub called the Cave Inn but you could tell there must be plenty of 'spelaeological interest' around there somewhere. That was it really apart from huddling inside an Igloo in the Antarctica Centre during their simulated snow storm: -28° apparently.

On a literary note we didn't have time to pick up a copy of the new edition of the Caves of New Zealand in Greymouth but we did meet up with the author of "Delving Deeper", the history of New Zealand caving. A signed copy for the MCG is

Logbook extracts, February - April 2005

Week commencing 14.02.05 – Doug Harris felled two of the beech trees outside the cottage.

19.02.2002 Upper Flood (Lee Hawkswell & Jacky Ankerman). Stream in good spate. 10½°. Lavatory Trap quite low, but canal quite high! No thanks. [JA]

25.02.2005 Riwaka resurgence, New Zealand (TimF, LouisaM) Whilst we were in New Zealand we met up with a few of the local cavers from the Nelson Caving Club plus picked up a copy of New Zealand caving from Moira Lipyeat (the author) of the Marlborough caving Club. Popped into the Nelson Caving Club hut which is up on Tanaka Hill near Harwood Hole. Joel and Lump (Martin Graves) are out there on a two month expedition diving in Riwaka Resurgence and climbing avens beyond Sump 3. We went in Riwaka for a tourist jolly as there's now a dug second entrance that bypasses the entrance sumps. Pretty, wriggly sort of stuff pops out in a huge chamber. The route further in is a bit tricky to find but Joel had left us with a little hand drawn map. A huge boulder pile hides

the route to a fantastic stomping passage which apparently floods horrendously in wet weather. A six hour trip for us – it shouldn't take that long though if you know where you're going. [TF]

27.02.2002 GB Ladder Dig (LeeH, Doug Harris, Richard Perry). General tourist trip into Gorge, over Bridge, down White Passage, up into Ladder Dig. Back out via Waterfall. Richard (new member) enjoyed himself. [DH]

05.03.2005 Swildon's (Geoff Beale, Mick Norton, + Bracknell & DCC). I went as far as the 20 ft ladder pitch to test out my elbow which had an injury several months ago. It passed the test! Water very cold but not much of it. [GB]

19.13.2005 Upper Flood (Louisa Minahan, Tim Francis). Air 10.5°C, water 10°C. Lovely sunny day but caving as usual. Heaved out all the spoil left in the choke on 5th Feb. Andrew's grotto is now full up so on the next trip we'll have to pull back to the Red Room. We then went into Golden Chamber and rigged up a scaffolding frame to protect the floor. This needs finishing plus the bolts are only finger tight. Please take in a spanner and tighten.

Easter 2005 25-26.03.2005 Sewer investigation and repair (DougH, MickN, Malcolm Cotter) Over the work weekend (Feb 5/6th) a blockage had been located at the cess pit end of the sewer pipe and an inspection hole was needed. Doug excavated the site half way through the month and found that the bend had fractured and the pipe had subsided about 3". On Good Friday the weather was fine, a trench was dug to expose the entire pipe length and a spare bend section was fitted – I don't want this report to put too much emphasis on the nature of the job, but it is someone else's turn if it happens again! We realised that an inspection pit was desirable at the pipe bend but it was not possible to obtain a suitable half pipe bend so we decided to leave the linkage as before but put an inspection hole above. At the cottage end the main electricity cable was encountered. Doug and Mick prepared footings for inspection holes at each end of the pipework while Malcolm started to infill the trench. [MOC] [Note: Doug has continued to build the inspection pits and one had been completed by the AGM weekend. [JG]]

Foreman's Lounge (LouisaM, TimF) Helped by Joan on the Friday, we painted the Foreman's Lounge (16 room) – more fun than investigating and repairing the sewer! (Ivory isn't the most exciting colour but it is very easy to live with) [LM]

27.03.2005 OFD Columns Open Day (Martin Peck, LeeH, JackyA, LouisaM, TimF). Tour of the fossil stuff via the Labyrinth to the Columns. We avoided the puddle on the way back. Did a spot of touring down Salubrious, The Judge etc. Supper back at the Westminster c/o Jacky [TF]

28.03.2005 Upper Flood (TimF, MalcolmC, DougH, MickN). Down to the Red Room. Malcolm and Mick moved rocks and spoil from the crawl down to Andrew's Grotto while Tim and Doug removed the stocked up soil from Andrew's Grotto to the bottom side of the squeeze in the crawl. Then we went into Golden Chamber, Tim and Doug assembled scaffolding at the bottom of the chamber. A streamway could be heard from the dig site. [DH]

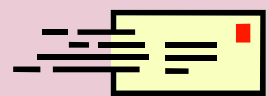
29.03.2005 (Mick Norton) On visiting the 'free' Axbridge Museum I was pleased to see that the two pieces of human skull that I excavated a few years ago from White Cliff Cave, Axbridge, are now on display. No walks as extremely wet, so I am going home. Nordrach Cottage car park flooded! [MN]

AGM and Dinner Weekend 09.04.2005 Blackmoor Shaft (TimF, LouisaM) Viewers: Doug, Malcolm and Norma. Laddered down the verdant shaft to go and look at Malcolm's dig - moderately interesting but seems like bang will be needed. Good luck. Then popped over to check at the archaeological dig. It's a rift/fault so I suppose water might have gone down there. [TF]

09.04.2005 Pierre's Pot (Peat Bennett, Julie Hesketh). Good quick sporty trip after the AGM to go and look at hanging gardens. Couldn't quite remember the way but got there eventually. Julie had fun on the way up the slot. Were planning to walk back but luckily Keith gave us a lift. [Peat]

10.04.2005 G.B. (Martin Rowe, MartinP, Cara Allison). Usual round trip with one detour to a side passage and boulder choke. About 2 hours. [MR]

10.04.2005 Longwood (Peat, JulieH + 2 Grampian members). Did round trip down wet way and down Swing Pitch. Out via dry route. Good sporty trip was enjoyed by all [Peat]



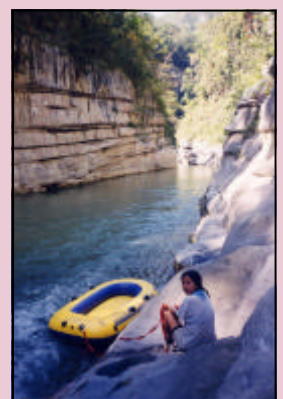
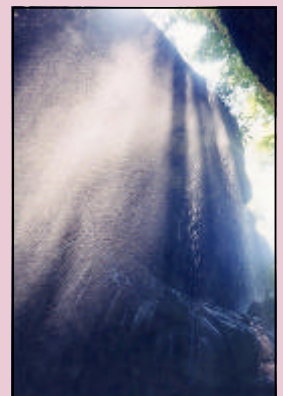
From: Julian Flavell
Sent: 04 May 2005
Subject: Saludos!!

Tapachula 36C, stormy.

We are suffering in the heat but the rainy season is starting so it should cool down a bit. Wedding probably end of June if the immigration accept all our documents etc Maybe a small wedding / celebration in UK in July.

How's the caving? The photos below are of El Higado, and Rosy in the canal.

Saludos, Julian





Group Headquarters

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Charterhouse-on-
Mendip, Blagdon,
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Grid Ref ST.5147.5606



Custodian Trustees

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Conservation Officer

Lee Hawkswell
01985 212690

Examiners

Fiona Kempston
(MCG member)
Anne Pittman
(External)

Gift Aid Administrator

Malcolm Cotter
01784 252643

Booking the Cottage

Please make bookings
for Groups (whether MCG
or Guests) through [Joan
Goddard](mailto:Joan.Goddard@btinternet.com) 01934 732760
to avoid double bookings.



GROUP INFORMATION

Weekly Meeting	At The Hunters Lodge, Somerset, Tuesdays at about 10pm	
Monthly Meeting	At the Group HQ on the first Fri/Sat/Sunday of the month	
On-line Meeting	http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/mendip-caving-group/	
Accommodation	Available at the Group HQ (for members and guests)	
Cottage Fees	MCG members, members' children, SWCC, NPC	£ 2.00
(per night)	Guest clubs and member's guests	£ 3.00
Camping Fees	MCG members, members' children, SWCC, NPC	£ 2.00
(per night)	Guest clubs and member's guests	£ 3.00
Season Ticket	Available to members only	£40.00
Subscription 2005	Full and Probationary (excluding BCA insurance)	£30.00
	Associate Members (excluding BCA insurance)	£15.00
BCA Insurance	Cavers £18.00 Non-cavers £6.00 (all members must have cover)	
Reciprocal rights	MCG members have reciprocal rights with SWCC and NPC	
NPC bookings	Nic Blundell tel 01203 713849 (hm) or 01203 838940 (wk)	
SWCC bookings	Keith Goodhead tel 01874 610080 hutbookings@swcc.org.uk	

CAVING AND SOCIAL CALENDAR 2005

DATE	AREA	EVENT	CONTACT	TEL
Members W/Es	Mendip	Digging, Limekiln Dig	Any committee	
Jun 18/19th	S Wales	OFD I / II	Geoff Beale	01189 722510
Jul 2nd	Mendip	Swildons	Bob Templeman	01923 773973
Jul 1/2/3rd	Mendip	Mems. w/e and British Cave Rescue Council Conference		
Jul 2/3/4th July	Mendip	Big Roman Dig Charterhouse / Channel 4		
Jul 8/9/10th	Surrey	NAHMO conference		
5/6/7th August	Mendip	Cottage work weekend	Doug Harris	01934 843636
Aug 21-28th	Athens	International Congress of Speleology		
Sep 2/3/4th	Mendip	Members weekend		
Sep 23/24/25th	Mendip	Hidden Earth 2005	BCRA / BCA	
Oct 7/8/9th	Mendip	Members weekend		
Nov 4/5/6th	Mendip	Half-yearly meeting / Members weekend		

THE 2005—2006 MCG COMMITTEE

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COTTAGE BOOKINGS

 Latest updates at <http://www.caver.plus.com/MCG/>

Who	Date Arrive	Date Leave	Nights	Beds
SWCC	Fri 12/08/05	Sun 14/08/05	2	20