

MCG NEWS

Newsletter of the Mendip Caving Group

Departure Lounge, Upper Flood (by Charlie Allison)

Number 347
February 2008

m-c-g.org.uk

mendipcavinggroup.org.uk

Founded 1954

A change of scene

by Tony Knibbs

Late in the evening of 5th January 1987 I picked up my unusually heavy luggage from the baggage reclaim at Toulouse airport; I had arrived as an immigrant, not on holiday. The formalities of being seconded from British Aerospace in Kingston, Surrey to Airbus Industrie near Toulouse in the Haute Garonne had been relatively easy to effect. This was now reality. Starting a new life in another country was easy to set out on but had an undercurrent of the unknown – a sense of exhilaration. Any thoughts about the ‘sunny South of France were quelled within a few days as seriously cold weather gripped the area; sheet ice making driving an exciting experience and temperatures of -15°C making it easy to wake up in the mornings. And it wasn’t just the change to Celsius!

Of course the new working environment was interesting, but it was as much for the geographical change that I had made the move. At the age of 51 it is good to widen your horizons. My spoken French was at least ‘average’; the rest would come. During the MCG trip to Arbas in the Pyrénées in 1983 I had met two members of the Toulouse-based Spéléo-Club d’Aérospatiale (S-CA.). I chose accommodation in Blagnac, a suburb of Toulouse city, close to my workplace. It didn’t take me long to work out where the S-CA met. First appearance at their weekly meeting caused some surprise!



Tony Knibbs in Grotte Casteret, Pyrenees (photo Denise Knibbs)

Like a lot of cavers of my generation my introduction had initially involved reading the classic caving books, most of which were translations of French works. For a long time Norbert Casteret was my shining example of a caver. He and his companions’ exploits peopled my imagination. Most of his exploration was done in the Pyrénées, so this was the first caving region that I gained some distant knowledge of. By far the most influential book was Pierre Chevalier’s “Subterranean Climbers” which I still regard as perhaps the best caving book ever written. Cullingford’s “Exploring Caves” opened up the UK aspect.

I was now living within a couple of hour’s drive of the Central Pyrénées! The S-CA’s closest limestone was the Pyrénées, so my first outings with them took place there. In the UK I had become accustomed to taking a leading role in caving trip organisation. In my new situation I was happy to take a back seat and let the experts guide me. I reverted to ‘the new boy’.

Living so close to their area of activity, the S-CA was in the habit of doing day trips, hardly ever staying overnight in the mountains. To this day the idea of a club having its own Field HQ is virtually unheard of. There are two disadvantages to this way of doing things: a) you don’t get to know your fellow members in any profound sense and b) the drive home immediately after a long, wet trip can be very unwelcome indeed. A third unusual aspect is that the French largely choose to spend holidays *en famille*. As a result, Denise and I have spent most of our two-week caving summer holidays with British clubs in classic French, Spanish or Irish limestone regions – not exactly what we expected. Fortunately British caving

From the Editor



I would like to begin by wishing you all a belated happy and successful new year!

This newsletter has been almost ready for a month now, but other commitments have delayed me from sending it to Mike for printing. In the meantime more articles and snippets continue to arrive – thank you to the authors. I was trying to decide which articles to defer and which new articles to include, but all were interesting. The upshot is that this newsletter will be followed closely by issue 348 with all the latest news.

“MCG doings” has been moved to page 7 this month - there are so many new members there isn’t enough room on page 2! And there is an extended caving and social calendar on page 8 - a busy year awaits!
Yvonne

In this issue

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groups tend to seek out the truly classic regions and systems. Hence we have spent useful time in the Vercors, Jura, Chartreuse and Ardèche areas in addition to the Pyrénées. We had done a little alpine caving before coming to France, but getting to grips with the major systems still required adopting some new habits. The first change was to accept the practicality of the carbide generator as the preferred form of lighting. Rechargeable electric lights are fine if they last long enough and can be recharged. Needless to say SRT was the only way of dealing with anything vertical. This was just as well because another marked difference was that of sheer scale, the depth of pitches commonly featured the same numerals as we were used to in UK but the units were now metres. This was something we quickly became familiar with, 80m just takes more time than 80ft. Being already familiar with OFD and DYO, distance was less of a change, but the approach walk could be a couple of hours with heavy pack rather than 30 minutes carrying a rope. On the way up the steep slope through woods to Gouffre du Pont de Gerbaut I was struggling under a heavy pack when a young lady appeared beside me and suggested that she should take my pack. It was an offer that I couldn't refuse, but it did seem to indicate that my days of serious caving were numbered.

We also paid more attention to clothing: we encountered very few caves where a wetsuit was all that was needed. A Petzl oversuit and appropriate underwear became necessities. The major systems are extremely impressive in terms of size, but their climate begins to play an important role in the higher systems where temperatures are already low and pressure differences create violent air currents along impressive streamways and through narrow sections (of which there are more than you'd think). Taking an exposure bag and a spare balaclava is *de rigueur*. A hot carbide generator is considered a source of comfort in a cold cave. One of the coldest caves I have ever met is the Lonné-Peyret entrance to the PSM system. The walls of the shafts sparkled with moisture but it felt cold enough to be frost.



Denise Knibbs in the Gouffre Lonné Peyret (photo Tony Knibbs)

The sheer size of some passages and chambers is not easily conveyed by mere numbers; a powerful spotlight was found almost essential to route-find in the boulder-strewn PSM river passage upstream of the great Verna chamber (accessed via the EDF tunnel) where light simply dissipates into the gloom. The Puits de la Tentation in La Henne Morte system is 75m deep, but you could throw several double-decker buses down it at the same time. Over this yawning gulf is a traverse line arrangement leading to the pitch head proper, i.e.. several bits of fraying rope, knotted together and anchored to several 8mm 'spits'. This falls into the category of 'French tat', of which there is not a little in some of the bigger systems. If you've never swung on 'French tat' over a black void you haven't lived. You take one look at it and wish you had some good rope to replace it, but you don't, so up with it you must put!



Denise Knibbs in Salle Queffélec, PSM (photo Tony Knibbs)

Having mentioned French caving books, I am not convinced that French cavers are much given to reading these. On returning to a caving hostel after a Henne Morte through trip I was asked how it went. I mentioned that the wet 75m pitch must have been quite a challenge for Casteret using ladders; the few cavers sitting round the table dismissed that as pure myth even though his first descent pre-dated SRT. I didn't think to ask them how they thought he got down. It is worth mentioning that Casteret attracts a lot of criticism from today's cavers.



There may be no clue as to where entrances are situated

I think there is a feeling that he made rather too much of his own part in some explorations. An interesting aspect of his writing is that there is seldom any clue as to where entrances are situated. An insight into the man is provided by the fact that, although two Dutch cavers discovered the Gouffre d'Esparros, Casteret took out an exclusive lease on the land around the entrance. Notwithstanding his foibles, from what I've seen he did very well to do so much in remote places and with only basic equipment. But I prefer Pierre Chevalier!

As a member of S-CA I gained a very different perspective on AGMs. There is no detailed agenda published. First, the president first gives his *rapport moral* general introduction and overview of the past year's activities and vague ideas for the future, officers reports follow in a rather haphazard sort of way (you'd be shocked at the lackadaisical passage of the accounts) voting for a new committee is usually a sort of farcical process of people protesting that they cannot possibly take on the task.

However, the AGM is followed by a *vin d'honneur*. The wine and buffet is always better organised than the AGM – now there's a surprise!

MCG logbook extracts

19-08-07 MM Mine. Paul ?, Mick Norton, Bill Chadwick, Biff Frith. When descending the shaft Biff decided to test his pelican box with the 36volt drill in it by hurling it to the bottom. We can now say that pelican boxes are not unbreakable but but luckily the 36volt drill survived. We proceeded to the end of the mine and after about 1 hour's digging we broke through to another 6 metres of passage to a t-junction; left went 2 metres to a shaft but choked after 2 meters

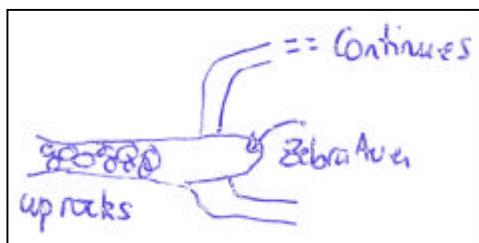
08-09-07 Upper Flood. Tim Francis, Ben Cooper, Mike Richardson. Started dig at end of Threadneedle Street. Needs a slab in the roof banging . Also opened up a bypass to EasySqueeze but it's horrendous hence "Better call the Samaritans". TF

15-9-07 Upper Flood. Julie Hesketh, Mike Richardson, Pete Glanville, Phillipa Glanville. Tourist trip to take Pete Glanville and his youngest daughter into Upper Flood. Much speculation on the caving forum as to whether Pete would fit. He tried the squeeze machine at the cottage, to no avail, even with nothing on but a plastic bag to cover his modesty and make his chest more slippery! Alas he only made it as far as the boulder choke at the end of Andrew's Grotto before his big manly chest proved too big which challenges the theory that 'Not EasySqueeze' is the tightest part of the cave!!

21-9-07 Upper Flood. Mike Richardson, Mark (SWCC), Andy Atkinson, Simon (UBSS) East Passage, West passage, Wall Street. Possible dig if not on (*illegible*), turn left at Zebra Aven (I think, where climb up loose rocks in right) – tube with but (*illegible*) visible for several metres. MRi

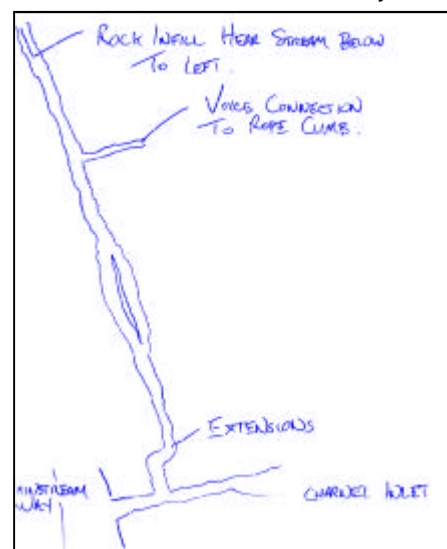
04-10-07 Upper Flood. Steve Wyatt, Neil Larsen Just to the Lavatory Trap and back before pub. NL

06-10-07 Upper Flood. Brian Snell, Ben Cooper, Julie Hesketh, Peat Bennett, Mike Richardson, Jenny (BDCC) Mike and Jenny went down first; tourist trip down to Royal Icing Junction, up to the grotto behind and entrance to Neverland. Then into East Passage to mud filled tube below Zebra Aven. Dug out over mud bank into continuing passage; reached point where passage is still visible ahead but needs trugs and (*illegible*) to pull back the infill (it's that dry-but-very-sticky stuff). Jenny was well tired by the time we got back, and some fine bruises.



06-10-07 Bath Swallet – Rod's Pot through trip and Read's Cavern. Giles Martin, Mick Norton, Richard Pain. With the recent breakthrough between Bath and Rod's, we thought we would give the through trip a stab. A quick descent was made of Bath with the usual two ladders being rigged and then Mick giving a guided tour of the lower parts of the cave. The connection was found first time and involved a rather awkward left hand turn/crawl through thick mud and then up a quite tight muddy shaft, which was difficult with a ladder and rope (rigged by UBSS) and would be very challenging with no fixed aid. Another tour was provided by Mick and then we headed out, with no problems finding the way out. Although the odd step (near the entrance) proved a little bit challenging, especially when Giles found the large boulder above our heads was gently rocking and seemed to be held up on two very small points of contact. We got to the surface just in time to avoid a group of 15 scouts, who were just entering. Quick trip to see Read's Cavern and then back to Rod's to derig. RP

06-10-07 Upper Flood – Charnel Inlet extensions. Peat Bennett, Brian Snell, Ben Cooper, Julie Hesketh. Brian and Ben had a look at a climb above Walk the Plank but thought it was a bit dodgy. Then headed downstream to look at Charnel Inlet extensions that Tim and Richard had looked at. Julie was supposed to follow in with me but decided it was too tight. First bit was a tube that had a right hand turn; carried on and reached a slope going up over calcite. Tube carried on and saw a too-tight tube going off to the right. This made a vocal connection back to Ben at the tube at the base of rope climb. Carried on and reached tight squeeze Tim had previously got to and not carried on. Pushed through this which was rather committing and finally got to some impressive mud cracks with end blocked by an infill of rocks. managed to push one of the rocks out but couldn't move any others. However, more exciting, could hear the Streamway to the left below. Hopefully this might have passed the previous termination of the Streamway. PB



07-10-07 Upper Flood. Biff Frith, Mick Norton, Giles Martin. Old Upper Flood lid removed. New lid fitted with new padlock. 4 keys in key box, also MM Mine key in key box. Note: The new lid can be opened from the inside when locked on the outside, so the lid can be locked shut when a group is inside on a trip. Note: A key needs to be given to the cave rescue and Charterhouse Centre. A temporary iron ladder has been chained in place for now! I hope to make a permanent one later. *BF*

13-10-07 Upper Flood. Bill Chadwick, Mike Richardson, Joel Corrigan, Matt Sinclair (stunt double for Mark Shinwell who was sick). 12:00 – 20:00. Inspected the aven at Walk The Plank. Joel thought it looked do-able. However we pressed on to Zebra Aven and he duly bolted his way up over an hour or two. Meanwhile... Mike, assisted by Bill, dug the tube out of the Zebra Aven corner. The mud looks sandy, indeed the trowel goes in ok but then it turns to glue and sticks to everything. You know how boots go when you walk on a wet clay field – our hands were like that. We pressed on for a bit but from time to time the air seemed a little short. We left it in a state where Mike imagines Tim/Peat might be prepared to push through. However there is no echo and not much draught – not looking good. Back at the bolting, Joel passed a squeeze but sadly after that the aven pinched out to a narrow immature slot – where the water comes from. Joel is interested in another visit to bolt the Walk The Plank aven which we all agreed looked a more mature better project. It is really great not to have to faff with a lock on exit. You just slam the door – fantastic. The aven is about 16m high. *BCh*

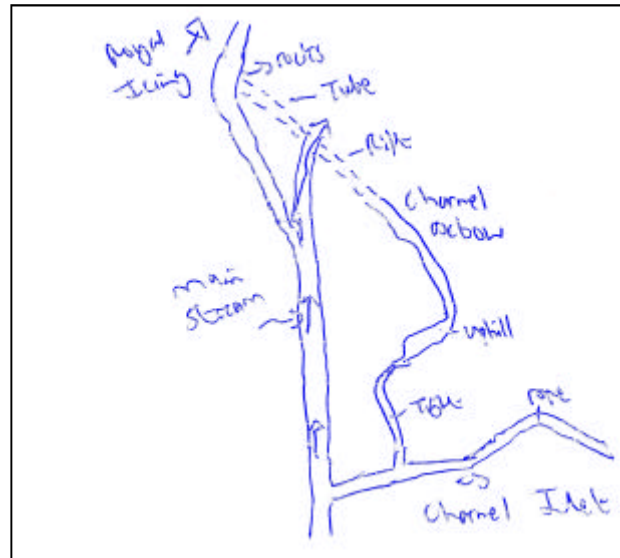
14-10-07 Blackmoor (or Stainsby's) Shaft. Bill Chadwick, Biff Frith. Revisit old dig at bottom of the shaft spoil heap to the south east. This goes quite a way, say 30m in and 15m down from the bottom of the surface shaft (about 10m). Interestingly this is basically a boulder choke against a big cave wall, often covered in flowstone. Near the bottom there is an excavated vertical 10' tube ending with a small puddle containing small mammal bones. A couple of old digging tools and a polythene skip. The main wall is undercut at the top of this 10' pit and floored with crazed grey mud. The air here is very fresh and cold. An air space above the mud (very sticky) of about 6" goes off for about 8'. All very interesting – reminiscent of the main UF boulder choke but a bit more muddy. *BCh*

20-10-07 Bath Swallet-Rod's Pot 18 person exchange trip. Nine in Rod's led by Mick Norton and Giles Martin. Nine in Bath led by Paul ?, Bill Chadwick, Biff Frith. Exchange and out – three ladders. Excellent. *MN*

We started to do Waterwheel Swallet but somebody has removed the key without the knowledge of the C&A officer or the cottage warden. So did Stainsby's Shaft to new dig. *MN*

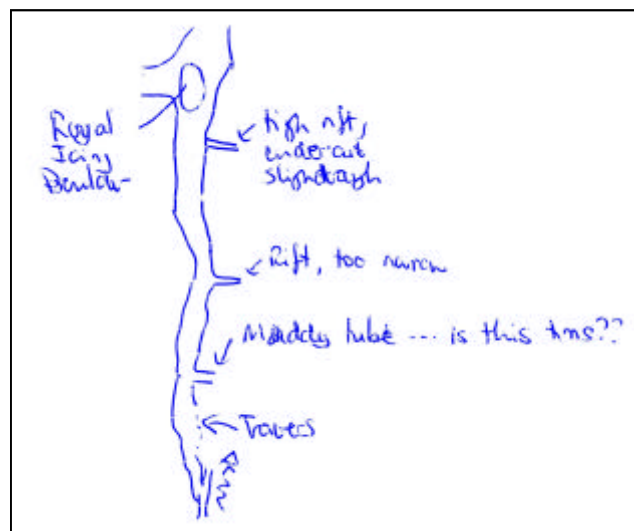
20-10-07 Upper Flood Swallet. Tim Francis plus 3 SWCC. Air 12degC, water 15degC. Very wet with not a great deal of air in the Lavatory Trap. Went to look at end of Charnel Side Passage. Couldn't shift the boulders in the end of the tube so left the hammer and crowbar. Yes, you could hear the Streamway and I felt sure it was an oxbow.

Found the other side to be low down on the right hand side just where you leave the Streamway. Needs surveying plus regaining the tools.



Then down to Zebra Aven to look at the tube that Mike dug. Pushed on to the end. It closes down after a few metres so I'm afraid we will need to dig loads of mud to make progress. *TF*

03-11-07 Upper Flood. Mike Richardson, Mark Shinwell (CUCC), Martin Green (CUCC). Mark's photo trip No. 2. Down to Royal Icing and grottos beyond, and photos on the way out – not as many as would have liked, but ran out of time. Scratted around in the left-hand floor (going out) between Royal Icing and climb back down to streamway. *MRi*



3-11-07 Impromptu beginners' weekend. Following several enquiries via the web, two prospective members (Nina from Bridgewater, Tim Brown from Shaftsbury) came to the cottage and were taken to Swildon's by Linda Milne and Brian Snell. Tim dived Sump 1 on his first caving trip. Both did well and we hope to see them again soon. Steve Porter and his nephew Russell Porter went to GB Cavern, and took Alan Wicks and John Evans on the 'Round Trip'. Russell is another prospective member and we hope he will apply to join! Same day, Biff Frith and others fixed a new fixed ladder in Stainsby's Shaft. *MRO*

10-11-07 Stainsby's Shaft. Biff Frith, Mick Norton, Bill Chadwick, Doug Harris, Carl Ruxton. Infrastructure at start of dig. Scaffolding, grid, cement. Top of shaft secured. Old bath to collect rain water. Carl and Bill went to Caracass Cave to get the winch and some tools. *BCh*

13-11-07 Lionel's Hole. Antoinette Bennet, Sonya Cotter. Seemed to be a lot of bats!

10-11-07 Stainsby's Shaft. Doug Harris, Mick Norton, Biff Frith, Rob Hamlyn (BDCC) Digging and infrastructure, concreting and stone-walling. Alan Gray (ACG) was supposed to come but failed to show.

29-11-07 GB Cavern. Mike Richardson, Tim Brown. Mike demonstrated his knowledge of Mendip caves is, with certain exceptions, rather limited. Got through Ladder Dig but failed to get as far as Bat Passage; failed to find the Devil's Elbow. Added an exploratory feel to the trip. *MRI*

30 and 31-11-07 Skye caves. Julie and Eva Hesketh-Laird, and lots of GSG (Grampian). Spar Cave (Eva and Julie), Camas Mallag Caves and Beinn An Dubhaich Cave. All excellent fun tourist trips – see newsletter 346 for details. *JH*

01-12-07 Blackmoor (or Stainsby's). Shaft. Biff Frith, Adrian Bell, Tim Francis, Richard Carey, briefly ACG (Alan Gray, Simon), Joan Goddard came for a look. Widened and deepened the rift [south south-east below Don's Chamber]. Heavy rain so quite a slurry trickle was heading down the passage. We lowered the floor as far as the proposed winch platform. The slope looks rather dodgy because it's all mud and rocks rather than solid. So the plan is to wall it up to stabilise the slope. Headed back in the cold and luckily the rain and hail had stopped. Bumped into a bunch of lost scouts who couldn't find Yoxter. *TF*

01-12-07 Mountain biking. Bill and Hugh (son) Chadwick. Beacon Batch, Burrington, over to Cheddar, back up. About 30km. Weather mixed. Ground wet. 10:30 – 15:00. And again on Beacon Batch in wind and rain for a bit Sunday am. *BCh*

01-12-07 Blackmoor (or Stainsby's) Shaft. Biff Frith, Adrian Bell. We built a retaining wall in the rift above the second shaft 3-4ft wide and 5ft high. It needs another foot to finish it. *BF*

01-12-07 Upper Flood. Mike Richardson, Tim Brown, Russ Porter 17:00 - 20:00. Thoroughly enjoyed my first trip to Golden Chamber; very physical and tight squeezes. Mike was an excellent guide. On return found entrance door frozen stuck due to a ground frost.

05-12-07 Upper Flood. B Cooper, M Richardson. Surveyed Halogen Loft to Royal icing. *MRI*

07-12-07 Stainsby's Shaft. Keith Knight and Biff Frith built a wall to divert the water away from the dig. *BF*

08-12-07 Stainsby's Shaft. Keith Knight, Biff Frith, Keith Thomson, Rob Thomas. Excavated and enlarged the space at the top of the rift to make a winching space. Used the air-chisel to remove calcite wall. *BF*

08-12-07 GB Cavern. Russ Hunt, Russ Porter, Tim Brown, Steve Porter, John Crowsley. Down GB for SRT training, nearly made it to Ladder Dig. Fantastic trip. THANKS John and Steve.

08.12.07 Upper Flood. Team dig: Mark Tringham (Grampian), Peat Bennett, Brian Snell, Bill Chadwick, Mike Richardson. Team survey: Julie Hesketh, Ben Cooper. Team dig set off to West Passage armed with a full size shovel to look at the soil pile at the first corner of the oxbow. Stopped to bail out the Lavatory Trap back behind the dam. Lots and lots of water; stream in 550m Way was higher. Brian and Mike started digging while Bill took Mark to see the East Passage sights. Shovel very effective but mud very wet and gloopy; Peat arrived and took over; got to stage where there is a low draughting continuation. Meanwhile Bill and Mark investigated hole just short of oxbow. Large stream entering from above, so they knocked out some rocks and climbed up, reaching a calcite roof about 5m above passage. According to the survey this must be very close to Neverland. Set off out and met Julie and Ben at Walk the Plank. Ben very, very cold having excavated stream to a duck. Brian assumed Ben had been through and went for it. Mike ditto. Brian returns:

Brian to Ben (roughly): "That's an impressive chamber"

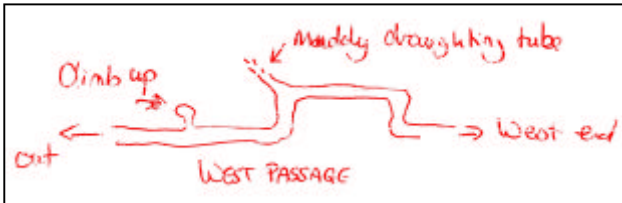
Ben to Brian: "What chamber?"

Brian to Ben: "The one you found beyond the duck"

Ben to Brian: I haven't been through the duck"

Transcription actually sounded more like "Oi you bastards, that was my 'effing breakthrough!" - so likely to be called 'Thief chamber'.

Set off out and the Lavatory Trap was sumped right up to overflowing. Brian and Bill bailed lots out. Mark bailed lots out. Mike bailed – ah – 2ins air space, go for it. Helmet off, feet first, nose out: Note: 1 body displaced 1" water so air space down to 1". Argh. Wet. Cold. Out. Nuff said. *MRI*



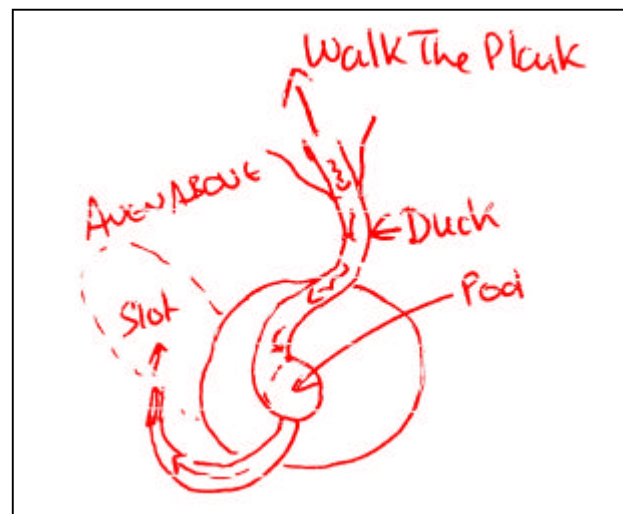
Team survey / breakthrough: Julie and Ben surveyed Plank Chamber for a couple of hours. We had not fully explored the very pretty passage off the inlet as the beautiful mud cracks were too good to walk over – so we left the full exploration to a surveying trip.

The inlet had a healthy stream flowing out of it. We noted a very pretty gour boss with Neverland-style needle-like crystals with an 80cm crater in it which had been redissolved by water entering in from an aven above.

The aven is obviously climbable but very pretty – though definitely worth a look at some point. Ben was in a wetsuit so pushed the stream to what appeared to be a sump but I could hear a cascade the other side so Ben had a dig of the mud bank where the water sank – easy digging, kicking the mud away.

Finally the air space widened enough to let us in but we popped back for tools to make it safer only to catch up with the others who went to have a look at all the excitement and enter the new stuff – stream emerges into a chamber whose roof rises up to about 60' ending in an aven – about 90' high – probably climbable.

The water cascades down past 4' high mud banks, which need taping, and over a small drop into a pebbly floor where the water sinks behind a boss. We dug for half an hour or so easily removing rocks by hand. The end is very diggable and a good prospect as the survey now shows it heading towards the end of Threadneedle Street. Interesting exit out of Lavatory Trap! *JH*



Recent library additions

Cave and Karst Science, Vol 33 No 2 (for 2006) has something of interest for the club's surveyors. An article by Mark Dougherty describes how binocular vision disorders can affect the accuracy of a survey, to the extent that a Grade 5 survey may not be achievable. Various techniques to eliminate these errors are explained and compared. Another meticulously researched article in this volume records the history and development of White Scar Cave in Yorkshire.

Tsingy: Stone Forest - Madagascar by David Wolozan and Olivier Grunewald. A large, glossy coffee table book about the Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park. The photography is superb with images of plants, animals, insects and CAVES and CANYONS. None of the caves are named but perhaps members of MCG's expeditions to Madagascar in '98 and '99 will recognise some of them.

The Descent by Jeff Long (1999). One reviewer's comment - "Far fetched fiction of average quality" (donated)

Grotte Casteret, an Annotated and Illustrated Bibliography (BCRA Cave Studies Series 17) edited by David St.Pierre. (2007). Essential reading if you are planning a visit, or even if you have visited the cave in the past. Surveys, numerous photos and, of course, a large bibliography.

Fight for Life: The Neil Moss Story by David Webb, 2006. The tragic death of Neil Moss in Peak Cavern occurred at about the time I first became interested in caves

so I found this DVD enthralling, but sad. The events are sensitively described by some of the people who were directly involved. Photography and press cuttings from the time are intermixed with film of modern cavers retracing the route to Moss Cavern.

The World of Caves by Tony Waltham, 1976. A classic caving book of the 1970s - surprised we didn't already have it in the library (donated)

Cave Geology by Arthur.N. Palmer, Cave Books, 2007. An excellent book, packed with information, and with numerous drawings and descriptively captioned black and white photos. It has a useful glossary, index and bibliography and brings together most of the cave related disciplines (except cave biology which is planned for a later book). As Chris Howes wrote in his review in *Descent* 198 "every caver can simply enjoy reading and learning at a level that might challenge what you thought you know".

The Netherworld of Mendip by E.A.Baker and H.E.Balch, 1907. We were fortunate to obtain this book at the recent auction of the late Dave Irwin's books and pictures. Its descriptive prose brings the caves to life. A classic that every Mendip caver should have read.

The Mine Explorer (The Journal of the Cumbria Amenity Trust, Vol 1, 1984). A nice little publication with articles and surveys of Coniston Copper Mines, Ding Dong shaft and Helvellyn Mine, amongst others (donated)

Clearwell Caves, Ancient Iron Mines by Ray Wright, (30pp) undated but probably the first Clearwell Caves guide to be produced (donated)

MCG doings - New members

Welcome to the following new probationary members:

Russell Hunt

6 Elderberry Walk
Worle
Weston-super-mare
☎ 07919817077

✉ tenchman@aol.com

Proposers: Y Rowe & M Richardson

Gary Porter

No. 6 The Lawns
Worle
Weston-super-mare
BS22 7UB
☎ 0783738520

✉ 2154porter@hotmail.co.uk

Proposers: Y Rowe & M Richardson

Tim Brown

24 Stoney Lawn
Marnhull
Dorset

✉ tim_brown@hotmail.co.uk

Proposers: B Snell & M Richardson

Russell Porter

20 Pistow Close
Worle
Weston-super-mare
☎ 07812938203

✉ sproutmaster2226@aol.com

Proposers: Y Rowe & M Richardson

Geoffrey Rodwell

24 Bisenden Road
Croydon
Surrey CR0 6UN
☎ 0208 6810590

✉ geoff@rodwell.net

Proposers: T Knibbs & D Knibbs

Deborah Lambert

Aston
Church Road
Scaynes Hill
West Sussex
RH17 7NH
☎ 01444 831392

✉ peter@lambert497.freeserve.co.uk

Proposers: T Knibbs & D Knibbs

Angus Leat

Bramley Knowle Farm
Eastwood Road
Ulcombe
Maidstone
Kent

☎ 01622 858878

✉ angusleat@hotmail.com

Proposers: T Knibbs & M Rowe

Welcome too, to the following former members who have rejoined:

Jeremy Gilson

38 Shepherds Walk
Bradley Stoke
Bristol
South Glos
BS32 9AY

☎ 01454 615612

✉ rubberchicken1@btinternet.com

Mark Ward

30 West Court
South Horrington
Wells
Somerset
BA5 3DE

☎ 01749 672654

✉ wqsltd@btconnect.com

MCG	Destination card
Date	
Cave	
Route	
Party	
Car reg. no. (if applicable)	
Callout time	
After trip, please put used card in Cottage Fees Box.	

Call-out cards

We now have new-style call-out cards, to be used on the Destination Board in the lounge of the cottage.

Please record the details of your trip on the card and place it on the hook for the time you wish MRO to be called out (**not** your estimated time of return!).

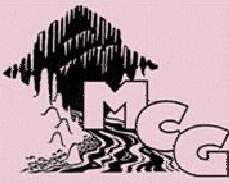
After your trip, please **do not destroy your card**. Instead, please put used cards in the Cottage Fees box on the wall. This is so that we can keep a record of all MCG trips. You should still write up your trip in the Log-book of course!

The 2007/2008 committee

Secretary	Mike Richardson	01761 471069
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2008 AGM

The AGM on 05/04/08 will now be held at Nordrach Cottage at 10:30 am. To encourage attendance, the AGM will be followed by a free buffet lunch and refreshments for members attending the meeting.



Group Headquarters

Nordrach Cottage,
Charterhouse-on-
Mendip, Blagdon,
Bristol BS40 7XW
☎ 01761 462797

[Grid Ref ST51475606](#)



Custodian Trustees

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[Ben Cooper](#)

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[Keith Knight](#)
01329 280386

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[Mick Norton](#)
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Examiners

[Fiona Kempston](#) MCG
[Anne Pittman](#)



Cottage Bookings. To avoid double bookings, please make bookings for Groups (MCG or Guests) through [Joan Goddard](#) 01934 732760

The Mendip Caving Group is a UK registered charity, number 270088

MCG NEWS is published by [MENDIP CAVING GROUP](#), Nordrach Cottage, Charterhouse, Blagdon, Bristol BS407XW

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Group information

Weekly Meeting	At The Hunters Lodge, Somerset, Tuesdays at about 10pm		
Monthly Meeting	At the Group HQ usually on the first Fri/Sat/Sunday of the month		
On-line Meeting	http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/mendip-caving-group/		
Websites	www.m-c-g.org.uk and www.mendipcavinggroup.org.uk		
Accommodation	Available at the Group HQ (for members and guests)		
Cottage Fees (per night)	MCG members, members' children, SWCC, NPC	£ 2.00	
	Guest clubs and member's guests	£ 4.00	
Camping Fees (per night)	MCG members, members' children, SWCC, NPC	£ 2.00	
	Guest clubs and member's guests	£ 4.00	
Season Ticket	Available to members only	£40.00	
Subscription 2008	Full and Probationary (excluding BCA insurance)	£30.00	
	Associate Members (excluding BCA insurance)	£15.00	
BCA Membership	Club Cavers £16.00, Club Non-cavers £5.00, DIM £pay to BCA		

Caving and social calendar 2008

Date	Area	Event	Contact	Telephone
Mar 7/8/9th	Mendip	Members Weekend		
Mar 8/9th	Mendip	Cottage work weekend	Doug Harris	01275 847750
Mar 8th	Mendip	Chilli night	JP Burch	
Mar 21-24th	Scotland	Caves of Skye	Bob Templeman	01923 773973
Apr 4/5/6th	Mendip	Members Weekend		
Apr 5th	Mendip	Annual General Meeting	Mike Richardson	01761 471069
Apr 5th	Mendip	Free buffet, post-AGM	Linda Milne	01420 562315
Apr 5th	Mendip	Annual Dinner	Linda Milne	01420 562315
Apr 5th	Mendip	Upper Flood	Mike Richardson	01761 471069
May 2/3/4th	Mendip	Members Weekend		
May 3rd	Mendip	Bone Hole (day)	Bob Templeman	01923 773973
May 3rd	Mendip	Gough's Cave (evening)	Bob Templeman	01923 773973
May 3rd	Mendip	Cheese and wine evening	Linda Milne	01420 562315
May 23-26th	Yorkshire	Gaping Ghyll - BPC winch meet	Mike Richardson	01761 471069
Jun 6/7/8th	Mendip	Members Weekend		
Jun 7th	Mendip	Beginners weekend	Linda Milne	01420 562315
Jul 4/5/6th	Mendip	Members Weekend		
Jul 5th	Mendip	Upper Flood 40th birthday party	Linda Milne	01420 562315
Aug 1/2/3rd	Mendip	Members Weekend		
Aug 23-31st	France	Vercors	Bob Templeman	01923 773973
Sep 7/8/9th	Mendip	Members Weekend		
Sep 8th	Mendip	Longwood August System	Peat Bennett	0118 9546473
Sep 8th	Mendip	Curry night	JP Burch	
Sep TBC	TBC	Hidden Earth	Mike Richardson	01761 471069
Oct 5/6/7th	Mendip	Members Weekend		
Oct 6th	Mendip	St Cuthbert's Swallet	Bob Templeman	01923 773973
Oct 6th	Mendip	Archaeology walk	Yvonne Rowe	01524 762664
Oct 6th	Mendip	Beer and skittles evening	Linda Milne	01420 562315
Nov 7/8/9th	Mendip	Members Weekend		
Nov 8th	Mendip	Pinetree Pot	Bob Templeman	01923 773973
Nov 8/9th	Mendip	Training days (TBC)	Linda Milne	01420 562315
Nov 8th	Mendip	Priddy fireworks	Linda Milne	01420 562315
Dec 5/6/7th	Mendip	Members Weekend		
Dec 6th	Mendip	Eastwater Cavern	Bob Templeman	01923 773973
Dec 6th	Mendip	GB Cave	Bob Templeman	01923 773973
Dec 6th	Mendip	Xmas dinner at cottage	Linda Milne	01420 562315

Cottage bookings

For latest updates go to <http://www.caver.plus.com/MCG/>

Group	Day of arrival	Day of departure	Nights	Beds	Rooms
F Stone	Fri 08/02/08	Sun 10/02/08	2	8	
P Mason	Fri 15/02/08	Sun 17/02/08	2	20	3
G.Bligh (scouts)	Fri 22/02/08	Sun 24/02/08	2	26	3*
N Pow / M Harley	Fri 29/02/08	Sun 02/03/08	2	23	
G Bligh (scouts)	Fri 14/03/08	Sun 16/03/08	2	26	3*
M Harley	Fri 09/05/08	Sun 11/05/08	2	6	
M Harley	Fri 20/06/08	Sun 22/06/08	2	7	
Subterranea Britannica	Fri 18/07/08	Sun 20/07/08	2	12	
M Woods	Thu 25/09/08	Mon 29/09/08	4	16	3

*Members should co-operate with scout leaders with respect to sleeping arrangements