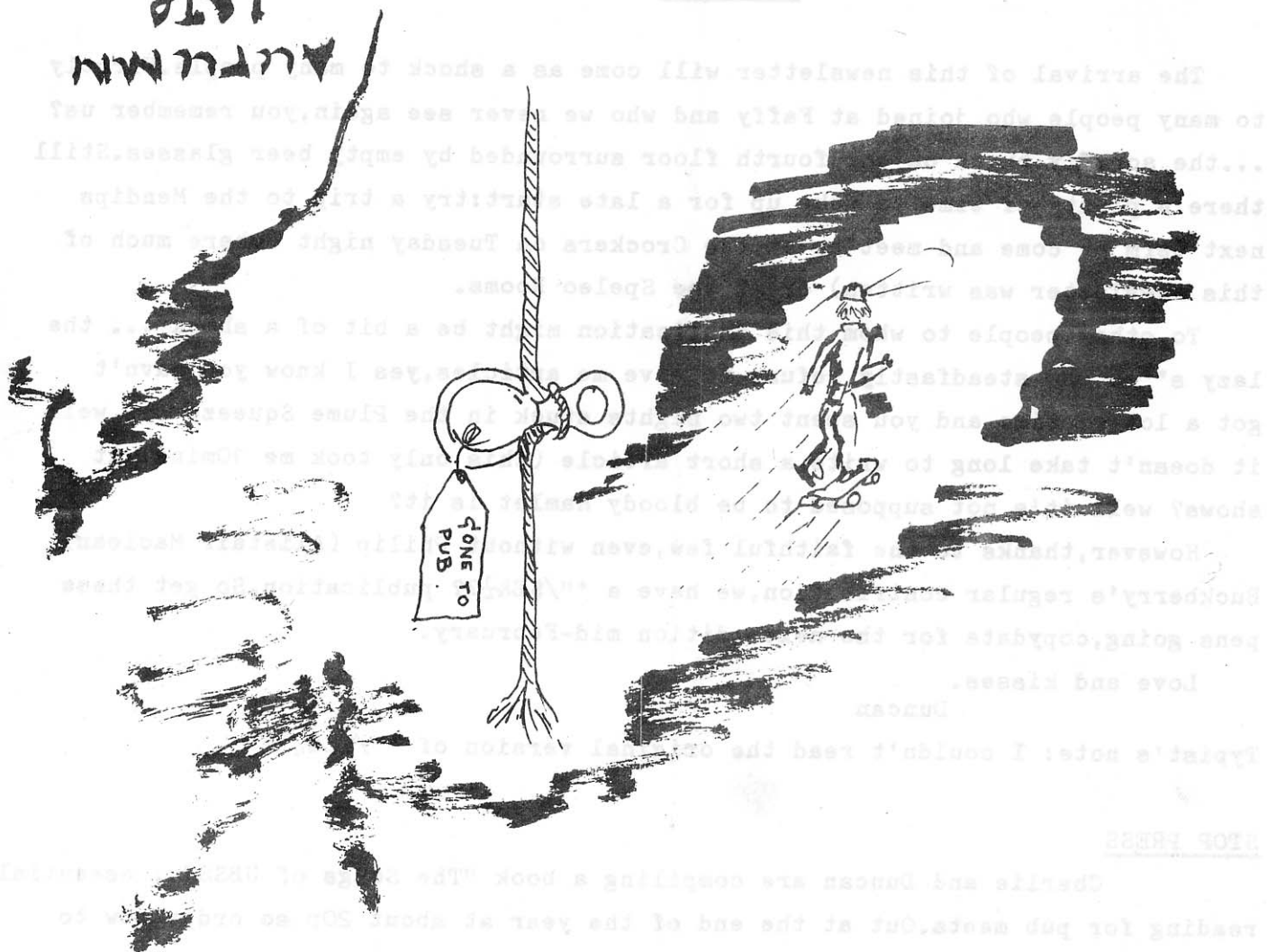


1978

ALUMNI



STOP PRESS

KEEP ON
TRAINING

TUBSS

NEWSLETTER

OK

NEW
SERIES
VOL 9

NOT
NO
CHOICES

EDITORIAL

The arrival of this newsletter will come as a shock to many people. Firstly to many people who joined at Faffy and who we never see again, you remember us? ...the scruffy bunch on the fourth floor surrounded by empty beer glasses. Still there's plenty of time to make up for a late start: try a trip to the Mendips next term or come and meet us at the Crockers on Tuesday night (where much of this newsletter was written) or at the Speleo Rooms.

To other people to whom this publication might be a bit of a shock ... the lazy s**ts who steadfastly refuse to give me articles, yes I know you haven't got a lot of time and you spent two nights stuck in the Plume Squeeze ... well it doesn't take long to write a short article (this only took me 10mins) it shows? well it's not supposed to be bloody Hamlet is it?

However, thanks to the faithful few, even without Philip (Alistair Maclean) Buckberry's regular contribution, we have a *"/\$£&¼?? publication. So get these pens going, copydate for the next edition mid-February.

Love and kisses.

Duncan

Typist's note: I couldn't read the original version of *"/\$£&¼??

STOP PRESS

Charlie and Duncan are compiling a book "The Songs of UBSS" : essential reading for pub meets. Out at the end of the year at about 20p so order now to save disappointment.

CAVING MEETS

20th - 21st Jan.	Mendips. Own transport.
16th - 18th Feb.	Yorkshire. Minibus for 10 places. Leaving Spelaeo Rooms at 6pm. on Friday 16th. £2 deposit
9th - 11th Mar.	Derbyshire. Minibus for 10 places. Leaving Spelaeo Rooms at 6pm on Friday 9th. £2 deposit
31st Mar. - 1st Apr.	South Wales. Details to be arranged.

BCRA TRANSACTIONS

Trevor Ford of the British Cave Research Association has written to us to inform us of the possibility of a special edition of BCRA Transactions dedicated to the memory of Prof. Tratman. If anyone has any original research material on a suitable subject, eg Mendips, Archaeology or County Clare, please contact Trevor care of the Geology Dept, University of Leicester.

UBSS SPRING TERM LECTURE MEETINGS 1979.

With the exception of the lecture on prusiking techniques, all the talks will be held at 9pm on Friday nights in the Union. Ask at the reception desk for which room we are in.

12th Jan.	Caving on Mendip	Phil Buckberry
19th Jan.	Cave Photography	Ken Baker, Ken Miller
		Chris Pepper
26th Jan.	Caving in Yorkshire	Duncan Braidwood
2nd Feb.	Prusiking techniques	Clive Owen
9th Feb.	Wetsuit repair, super-grot-kit	Ken Baker
16th Feb.	Caving in South Wales	Sam Moore
23rd Feb.	Caving in Ireland	Charlie Self, Ken Miller
2nd Mar.	Caving Expeditions	Charlie Self

SESSIONAL MEETINGS

Held in the Geography Main Lecture Theatre

31st Jan. Dr John Frankland - a cave rescue medic in Yorkshire who also has some interesting stories to tell about caving in Texas and in Venezuela. 8.15pm

* 17th March ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ANNUAL DINNER *
* Arthur ApSimon, Senior archaeologist at Southampton University *
* will be talking to us from 5.15 - 6.30, which leaves just enough *
* time for a drink or two before the dinner at 8pm. *

* Paul Esser Memorial Lecture - 7th March at 8.15. Physics Building, Room G42 *
Given by canoeist Rob Haskins "The Descent of Everest".

ODDS AND SODS

There is a possibility of getting the GB Dig started again this year. If enough people are interested it could be possible to persuade Hans to syphon the water out of the dig each Tuesday when he is doing his own research work. Let's talk about it in the pub on Tuesday.

Which reminds me - TUESDAY NIGHT IS CROCKERS NIGHT (Cotham Hill), upper lounge.

PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

At its meeting in October the Committee of the U.B.S.S. appointed Oliver Lloyd as Editor of Printed Publications and invited the following to serve on the Editorial Committee: Bob Savage, Pete Smart, Desmond Donavan, Arthur ApSimon, Chris Hawkes, Charlie Self and a student to be appointed when necessary by the Committee.

With Tratty's illness and death the production of Proc. U.B.S.S. Vol. 15 No. 1 for 1978 has been delayed for about five months but the papers are now all in the hands of the printers. We reckon that the publication date should be towards the end of January 1979.

The outstanding paper is the one on the dig in Wookey Four, which has been put together by Chris Hawkes. It contains special studies of the bones by Juliet Rogers, of the artefacts by George Boon and of the lead contamination by Roger Stenner. It should be a best seller. Other papers include one by Ron Harrison on phalangeal whistles, one by Pete Bull on sediments in Goatchurch and Sidcot and two on Irish caves by Charlie Self.

Proc. 15 (2) for 1979 will be the Diamond Jubilee number. We are not proposing to commission special articles for this on the history of the U.B.S.S., as we did for 1969, nor are we making it a special Trat commemorative number. Instead we thought that the best way of commemorating Trat would be to bring forward the date of publication of the Guide-book to the Caves of North-West Clare. This will be the sporting half of the re-publication; a scientific half is also in the pipe-line but will take a little longer.

O.C.L.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The dark-room in our premises under the Geography Department was first commissioned in 1956, when Oliver was MICPhot. It was then equipped for processing black-and-white films and included an enlarger, masking frame, print drier etc. Its antiquity and deficiencies are now becoming all the more apparent, when we look at contemporary publications, such as "Radiant Darkness". Ever since the summer our present MICPhot, Ken Baker, has been murmuring about the changes that need to be made and how expensive they would be. Encouraged by the Treasurer he eventually produced a plan for re-organizing and re-equipping the dark-room, so that we could process colour pictures there as well as black-and-white, together with a shopping list which ran to the very modest sum of £697.50. This the Treasurer presented to the Union Treasurer and at a meeting of Audit-Subcommittee

it was agreed to let us have an extra Capital Grant of £592.50 right away, so that we could get on with the work, and we are being encouraged to put in for the remaining £105 next April.

We will have to tighten up security there, because being careless about such things can be very expensive.

O.C.L.

TREASURER'S NOTE

Student members are reminded that their Union Levy has to be paid by December 31st, 1978. The sum is 35p. Anyone failing to do so will cease to be a member of the U.B.S.S. Those who need to take note of this are students who were members last year. If they are no longer students, they may apply for ex-student membership before the end of the year. After that it will be open for them to apply for outside membership.

O.C.L.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

In accordance with our sixty year old tradition, unbroken even during the war, when Bertie Crook ate the turkey by himself, the U.B.S.S. will hold its New Year's Eve dinner at the Spelaeo Hut on Burrington top on December 31st, 1978. Oliver will make himself responsible for the turkey again but would like to know how many people will be eating it (some turkeys are bigger than others), so that he can order one of a suitable size. Please let him know if you hope to be present and what you expect to be bringing in the way of food and drink; we generally divide up the food expenses equally between us but not the drink. His address is Withey House, Withey Close West, Bristol, BS9 3SX, telephone Bristol 683229.

O.C.L.

CAVES OF COUNTY CLARE

The new guidebook is coming along very well. In the near future there will be a lot of boring work to be done. eg Grid References of the cave entrances, indexes etc. A knowledge of County Clare is not necessary. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Charlie Self.

The party of eight travelled in two cars, one driven by Chris Pepper, the other by Oliver. The latter party climbed up to the lake at Coomshingaun and swam there in the traditional spelaeo style. Chris's nice new Cortina went wandering round by Kilcorny and had an argument with a tractor: the tractor won. The whole party stayed in O'Laughlan's (Cash Stores) cottage with the green roof. We were Chris Pepper, Charlie Self, Oliver Lloyd, Barry Johnston, Geoff Riding, Tricia Ash-Edwards, Ken Miller and our cartoonist Cecily Haines. We took it in turns, two days each, to do the basic catering and cooking the evening meal and the domestic arrangements went very well; the cottage is the right size for eight or nine. This did not however prevent us from extending our hospitality to botanists, girls blown out of their tents, girls who gave Barry a lift or five Welsh cave-divers.

The latter were particularly keen to get the gen on Co. Clare sumps, so we told them what was available: Faunarooska would go deep, Doolin was a waste of time, S5 was too big a problem. Their best bet was Cullaun 2, which was said to have been dived unsuccessfully in 1963. So on 25.7.78 to Cullaun 2 they went, calling early in the morning and taking one of our party with them as a guide, whom I will call "Henry". They passed Sump 1 at 90 ft, found 90 ft. more passage and probed Sump 2 to a depth of -40 ft. or more. Both of them got hurt. Back at the cottage Chris was feeling singularly immobile, because Henry had gone off with the keys of his nice new Cortina in his pocket. So after a bit we mounted an expedition to recover the keys. We found the Welsh van at Cullaun, said "Open Sesame" and the door flew open. The keys were in Henry's trouser pocket all right but it seemed a pity to remove them then and there, so after saying "Shut Sesame" to the van we took the trousers back to the cottage. Later that afternoon a sans-culotte Henry found his trousers lying on his bed and it was all we could do to persuade him, that he had got up in such a hurry that morning, that he had forgotten to put them on.

Our caving activities consisted of a fair mixture of pleasure and business. Ken Miller undertook a review of the Oughtderra region, Charlie located surface sites, so as to be able to give them an adequate description in the new guide-book. He also surveyed in the Coolagh River Cave the Mud Branch up to the blocked surface entrance; it was very muddy. He sent Oliver down Doolin to survey a passage in the Smithy Stream Complex, which was said to go for 200 ft., but which O.C.L. had omitted to survey in 1960. We found it to be 90.5 metres and half way along it we found a connection with a hitherto unknown roof passage in the Shelving Layer (that will mean that its roof is the bed which forms the roof of the nearby Smithy Oxbow, but no connection) which was explored and surveyed to a total of 88.87 metres. It made a closed traverse with the Smithy Stream.

It is obviously an abandoned but floodable oxbow from the Doolin Road Sink.

Those of you who were lamenting the filling-in by bulldozers of all the Faunarooska entrances last year will be glad to hear that Faunarooska 1 has re-Opened itself. They also tried to fill in Pollapooka but it was too much for them. They have left a 30 metre pothole with an unstable side to the north. Poll Binn has only one remaining opening (the unclimbable one) but Poll Nua has been left untouched.

We explored the western branch of Branch Passage Gallery, because the survey shows it coming very close to the end of E2. Our opinion now is "that it is a flood overflow for E2, that it was formed by the E2 stream and that the boulder choke is the E2 terminal boulder choke."

TRATTY'S WAKE

This meeting, on 1.11.78, was unique -- well it had to be; but it was also the most marvellous meeting we have ever held. It was attended by about fifty members, past and present, and was addressed by the President, by Brian Collingridge, Barry Perratt and Chris Hawkes, all of them hand-picked, accomplished speakers, who had known Tratty well during the post-war period.

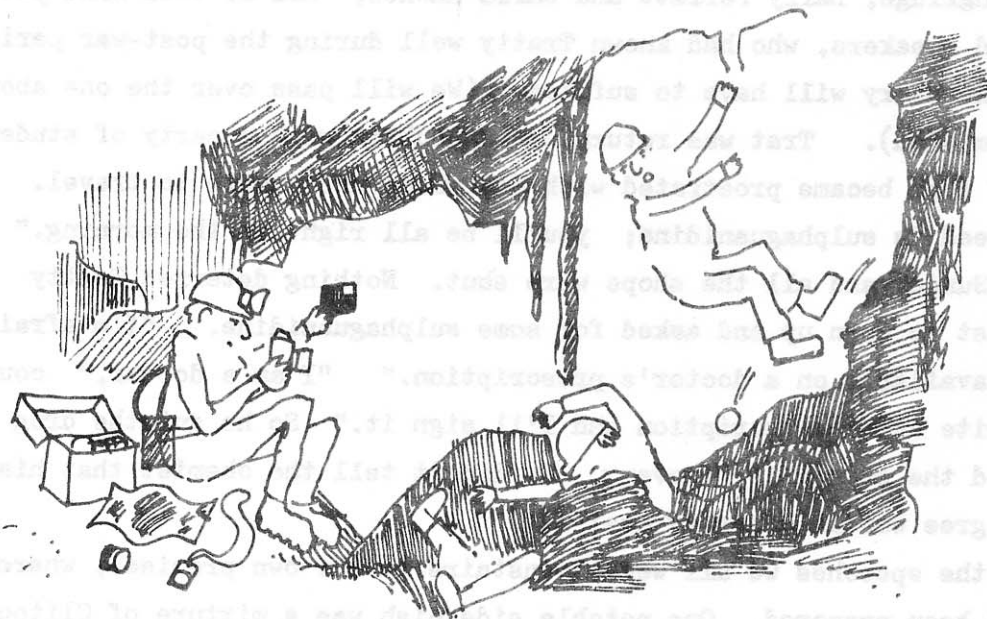
Just one story will have to suffice. (We will pass over the one about the oyster-midden). Tratty was returning via Dublin with a party of students, when one of them became prostrated with diarrhoea and unable to travel. "What you need is sulphaguanidine; you'll be all right in the morning." But it was Sunday and all the shops were shut. Nothing deterred Tratty got a chemist to open up and asked for some sulphaguanidine. "I'm afraid it is only available on a doctor's prescription." "I am a doctor," countered Tratty, "write out a prescription and I'll sign it." So he got the drug and hastened the student's recovery. He didn't tell the chemist that his doctor's degree was an honorary one!

After the speeches we all went downstairs to our own premises, where a feast had been prepared. One notable side dish was a mixture of Clitocybe nebularis and yoghurt, specially prepared by Charlie. The real beer had been brewed by Geoff Riding and there was wine in the Library. The party was still going at one a.m. when I left.

O.C.L.



'Log says: "Cave near foot of cliff behind bushes," ...



CAVE PHOTOGRAPHER

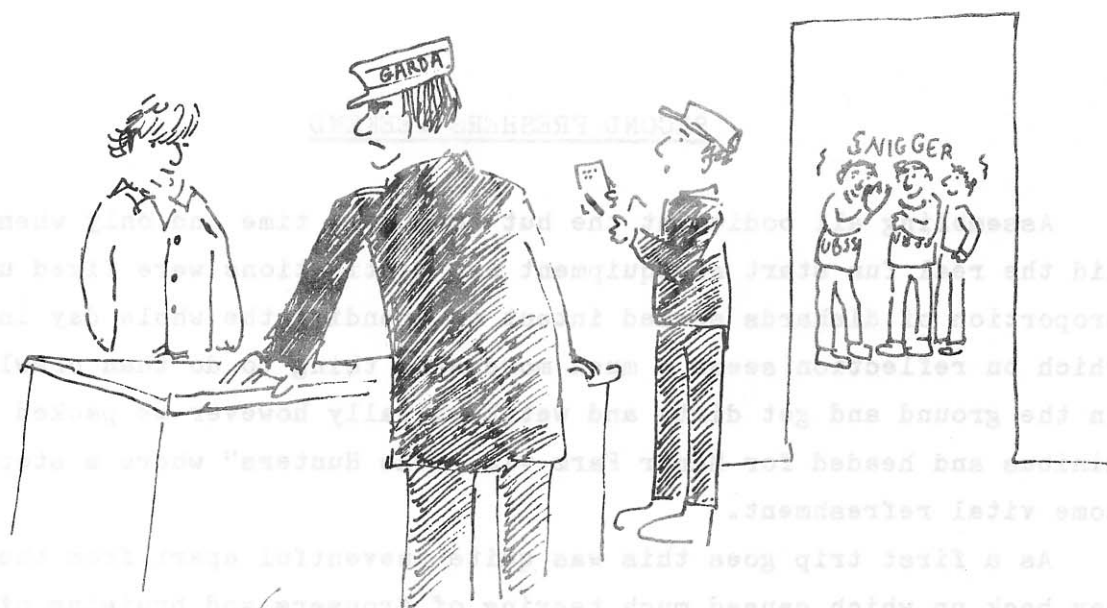
'Hold those positions please.'



The 'Bubble bath' discovered in Poulmagollum ...



IN OUR COTTAGE:



INCIDENT OF GEOFF'S TROUSERS -

CAN YOU EXPLAIN HOW YOUR TROUSERS (PLUS
WALLET) DISAPPEARED FROM A LOCKED
VAN AND NOTHING ELSE WAS STOLEN?

FIRST FRESHERS' WEEKEND

A bright sunny Saturday saw a party of newly appointed UBSS members start a trip down Swildon's Hole led by the Oliver Lloyd. A very pleasant introductory trip to Blasted Boss, Balch's Forbidden Grotto, Trat's Temple etc and everybody seemed to enjoy it.

Returning to the hut we discovered that not only had there been other freshers' parties, but they too had had good trips & nobody seemed put off.

CAS's attempt to poison the stew proved unsuccessful so everybody went to the Plume in order to get pissed as the proverbial Newts. Most people succeeded. Vague recollections of beating a group of vets at conkers glimmer through my mind, but maybe that was during the second freshers' weekend : one beer-sodden evening is very much like another.

More caving was undertaken on Sunday - will wonders never cease? A party went down GB as far as the Ladder Dig and again nobody got lost, tired or broken; even the carbides behaved well. From GB back to the hut and thence to Bristol.

So ended another Mendip weekend.

MJS

SECOND FRESHERS WEEKEND

Assembling all bodies at the hut took some time and only when completed did the real fun start as equipment and destinations were fixed up. A small proportion of diehards seemed intent on spending the whole day in the pub which on reflection seems a much more sane thing to do than crawl down a hole in the ground and get dirty and wet. Eventually however we packed into the minibus and headed for Manor Farm via "The Hunters" where a stop was made for some vital refreshment.

As a first trip goes this was quite uneventful apart from the rift on the way back up which caused much tearing of trousers and bruising of knees as we progressed slowly upwards with the occasional help of a head from somewhere below.

We had been quicker than intended and so while waiting for the minibus Ken and Mick entertained us by running up and down the road throwing sticks at each other.

Charlie was cook and had prepared a very eatable stew even if the cabbage was a bit underdone and occurred in 2 by 1 inch pieces.

Later that evening we received our introduction to the social life of the club by getting drunk and partaking in a choral evening at the local.

Sunday saw Longwood conquered even if the last 80 feet did take 15 minutes and involved getting into positions a contortionist would have been proud of.

Life was not without amusement kindly provided by a team from a London University who after taking an hour over the last stretch discovered that they had left our ladder at the bottom of the first pitch, but being good boys they went and fetched it.

And so ended my first weekend with as much chaos as when it started.

PAH

FIRST SOUTH WALES WEEKEND

After departing for South Wales as usual on Saturday morning the minibus, containing a majority of ultra-keen new club members and a few sleepy old speleos, duly arrived at the South Wales Caving Club cottage to join up with the various UBSS/SWCC members already there. After much tea and sandwiches (those sandwiches that escaped a pack of ravenous Welsh hounds passing through after a fox) three trips were organised by mutual agreement. CDO led a trip nearly all round OFD2 by devious means, failing to find Selenite Tunnel. AB led a second trip from Cwm Dwr to OFD1. CAS and party, after winning a race to the OFD2 Top Entrance, set off across the moors to Pant Mawr. A certain South Wales member who owns a Land Rover was last seen walking off arm-in-arm with a young lass, both clad in wellies, shorts and T-shirts. All parties returned before dark and the UBSS minibus retired to the WSG cottage for the night.

On Sunday after extracting the Bristol Poly minibus from the WSG vegetable patch, where it had mysteriously arrived while the driver searched for reverse, the UBSS minibus visited Porth yr Ogof to temporarily delay proper caving. The next stop was the Little Neath River where after inspecting LNRC entrance the brave ones, including one new member in grot kit, changed and dived into Little Neath for an excellent trip to the sump and back despite a slight deviation on the return journey. The sensible ones set off down White Ladies and Bridge Cave. The very sensible ones remained in the minibus, reading. CDO completed a solo trip from Cwm Dwr to Top entrance in OFD. The gentleman with the Land Rover was not seen.

KEM

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BONFIRE WEEKEND

To the hut - eat,drink,eat,drink,gabble,gabble.

To the Plume - drink,drink,talk,talk,drink,BULLSHIT,drink,skittle,drink.

Back to the hut - fire,fire,drink,fireworks,AAAAAH,drink,music,BOP,BOP,fire,
drink,potato,gabble,potato,gabble,drink,fire,fireworks,
AAAAAH,drink,drink,drink,CRAASH!

Sunday - UURGH!OW!NNZZZ!fry,fry,gabble,gabble,drink?Bleugh!chop,chop,Bye Bye,
Bristol,hitch,home.

Is this any way to live?

MJS

SECOND SOUTH WALES WEEKEND

Ding-dong,ding-dong.A small dishevelled form crawls out of bed into the blinding light of a wintry day.How can I stop this dreadful ringing in my ears? Ah,recognition,it's the doorbell.The door opens,I wipe the remnants of a deep beer-induced sleep from my eyes to perceive through the dispersing mists of my interrupted somnulence a small runtoid form.

"Going caving, Duncan?" it asks.

"**** off Mick.It's only 11am"

"But it's South Wales and you have paid your deposit"

A hundred excuses flash through the mind."The cat's just honked","I haven't polished my crabs","I've been caving once this term already","There's a woman in my room somewhere".But I have paid that quid.

"OK,I'll be ready in 5 minutes."

Scene two hours and half a stomach later:the darkest,nastiest black cloud in South Wales sits squarely over Penwyllt belching sleet,snow and other obscenities onto an unsuspecting landscape.Christ!Is this what caving is all about?

Into OFD 1 all doubts fade.This is really it,warm big roomy passages nothing particular to do nowhere special to go.The illusion is broken.

"You just hold onto this wire and traverse about 70 feet."

"There's a fifty foot drop down there Andy,those bolts look a bit rusty". Still,mustn't show oneself up,sweat,sweat,ah here we are,come on Paul it's a piece of piss".

One hour and one Captain Churchur later,"I don't remember these crawls, perhaps we're in Coronation Aven"

"Is this the route to Waterfall Chamber,Bob,what about all these crawls?"

"I'll buy you a pint if this is the wrong route,you all buy me one if it's right".Obviously Churchur's confident.

You owe us a pint Bob.

Waterfall Chamber, a chain to the streamway, look no knuckles. Ouch. Excellent streamway. What's it like in grotties, Paul? Tee hee. Shame, he looks as though he is enjoying it - damn.

Hitch a lift home avoiding camping in the snow and walking on Sunday.

Another South Wales trip bites the dust.

DIB

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SCATEBOARD SOCIETY

This newly formed and, as yet, little known society would like to welcome some new members that have appeared in the last few weeks.

Ken Baker. UBSS's 2nd oldest member student enjoys the thrill and adventure of skateboarding. He says "streetsurfing really helps me maintain that lithe, boyish figure that the girls go WOW over". Leading exponent of the freshly introduced "head over arse" stopping technique he claims he enjoys a good truck "now and then".

Steve Perry. SRP recently took up skateboarding to work off excess energy now that he has fewer commitments to take up his time. Recovering from a near fatal "wipeout" at Bedminster Skatearena, Steve said "Yeah, skating gets one in tune with one's environment, you know, as one takes the Snake Run at full tilt one feels at one with the cosmos, sort of". Rumours that SRP is propelled by a stream of hot air are nearly totally untrue.

Mic Seavers. Mic "kicktail" Seavers, a connoisseur of falling off motorbikes, has recently taken up skateboarding to supplement his pain threshold in life. Expert of the "Look, Mum, no skin" Elbow Brake, he has mastered the following skill-testing tricks, known in the skateboarding clique as "Under the influence", "Trip Dip" and "Now you see it, now you feel it". At present he is busy looking for skin donors.

Gossip Piece - The rumour that Oliver's 423rd Swildon's trip was on a skateboard is probably not true.

MJS

GLOSSARY OF OBSCURE CAVING TERMS (PART TWO)

Fissure (French) A dirty, unpleasant crack

Grade (of cave surveys) Explains why the passages are never where they ought to be

Gravity Traverse A traverse with no hand or foot holds

Helmet Safety device to protect cavers' heads

Karst	Jugoslavian, meaning a barren waterless place is restricted opening hours or, in extreme cases, no pubs at all
Krabs	An unusual hazard found in sea caves
Ladder - Fixed	A ladder, left by somebody else, that is difficult to nick
- Electron	Built in a variety of lengths, spacings and materials. Usually decrepit or, if new, nicked
Lifeline	Extraneous rope that gets tangled in the ladder
Lifeliner	Person who lets go of the lifeline when you fall off
Lamp - Carbide	Device for writing your initials on formations
- Electric	Expensive light for those incapable of using a carbide properly. Gives either acid or alkali burns
Maypole	Device used to reach passages that were better left alone
Meander	To wander aimlessly looking for the way out
Neil Robertson	Used to move cavers too lazy to use their own feet
Stretcher	
Neoprene	A type of soft black rubber much favoured by cavers
Pitch	Place where most accidents occur
Piton	Metall spike used to open tins
Pot	See Joint
Prusik	A method of climbing the lifeline when you have dropped the ladder
Rope - Hemp	Rope that breaks
- Nylon	Rope that melts
- Polyprop	Rope that melts and breaks
- SRT	Rope that abrades
- Lifeline	Rope that broke, melted and abraded some time ago
Running Belay	A cowardly lifeliner
Ruckle (Boulder)	A cunningly balanced choke to catch the unwary
Safety Factor	An irrelevance, usually ignored
Self-Lifelining	Being lifelined by Arbuthnott
Spelaeology	A verbose form of caving
Spelaeologist	A caver with a B.Sc.
Student Treasurer	See Tight
Snap Link	A link that snaps
Sump	Part of a car engine
Tiger	A caver who knows other peoples limits but not his own
Tight (1)	Passage you get stuck in
(2)	Asks for a receipt when you buy him a pint
Traverse	A method of walking along the walls when the floor gets boring
Wetsuit	A garment which keeps the vital organs warm by cutting off the blood supply to the limbs

Flood Test at Longwood Swallet

In May, 1978, UBSS cavers Duncan Braidwood, Thawley Sweetman, Hans Freiderich and Chris Smart assisted Bristol Waterworks to assess the effect of sudden releases of water from the Charterhouse pumping station on access to the August/Longwood system. Recent changes to the pump controls at Charterhouse to improve the quality of the water supplied have meant that sudden diversion of water from supply into the swallet stream may occur (up to 4 ML/d). This is particularly likely during wet weather when the Charterhouse source (mainly Lower Limestone Shales and Old Red Sandstone springs) has turned cloudy.

The flow of the swallet stream during May was unusually low due to the dry Spring. A pulse was therefore created by pumping from the stand-by borehole in the Lower Limestone Shales. Prior to this the UBSS party had entered the system and rapidly moved down to the lower streamway by the Oxbows climb, noting water conditions on the way. The pulse took about 20 minutes to reach the group and resulted in a 10 cm increase in water level. Observation indicated that none of the dangerous sections of the cave were significantly affected.

The experiment alerted Bristol Waterworks to the possible dangers of a sudden shutdown. Although this was not a problem under low flows, for those sporting winter trips there would be little or no warning of increasing discharge and a 10 cm rise could close an acceptable air gap in the streamway crawls. There could also be problems for cavers stuck in the tight Wet Chimney area. Liason between Bristol Waterworks and the Mendip Rescue Organisation is therefore continuing to establish a system to permit manual override of the pump cut off in the event of a rescue. It is hoped that this will be completed in time for the winter caving season. Details will be published as soon as possible, but it is probable that the Waterworks will be alerted through the normal call out procedure, and a waterman dispatched to Charterhouse.

Coincidentally the pulse was also used to determine the phreatic volume of the Longwood to Cheddar conduit. This lies between $4 \times 10^5 \text{ m}^3$ and $4 \times 10^3 \text{ m}^3$. It is also estimated that only some 9% of the total conduit length between Cheddar and the end of Longwood is air-filled. Further exploration will have to aim at the abandoned high level passages.

Pete Smart.