

UBS



NEWSLETTER
VOL 7, NO 2 MAY 1990

EDITORIAL

As some of you will be aware Andy has finished as editor in order to revise for his finals. He has done a lot of work on the newsletter in the past few years and been a brilliant editor. I would like to thank him for all the work he has done in the past and thank him for the help he gave me in putting this issue together.

Please continue to submit articles and send in any gossip or scandal otherwise there will be no newsletter. I'm going to try and bring out the next newsletter quite early next term, during the first few weeks of October. So if you get up to exciting things over the summer please submit articles quickly.

All opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily these of the committee.

Bill Miners.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
SPELAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
UNIVERSITY UNION
QUEENS ROAD
BRISTOL
BS8 1LN

COVER PHOTO

16.8.52 HELICTITES IN ROOF
OF OX-BOW G.B. CAVE
D.M.M.T. & O.C.L.

Gravel



A new cave has been found during Gaynor's Party. A tricky traverse along the corridor leads to a 'choke', which was forced and allowed access into a huge black void, known as attic chamber.

Unfortunately, Andy then discovered what gravity is and did a spectacular free fall out of the attic. Amazing what you can do after six pints.

Pictures of John Hutchins on his birthday, being stripped and covered with gunk and foam in the Epi. are now available from the Editors usual address. Please specify in your order if you want the full pin up poster. We are now trying very hard to give these away for free as absolutely nobody would buy them.

Could UBSS be a Slide projector Society? There is certainly the

necessary talent available. During the AGM it was decided that the projector was misbehaving so in no time at all the back was off the projector and using a handy Petzl half a dozen cavers were poking around inside pulling out the lenses and then forgetting which way to put them back.

Also at the AGM dinner Gaynor was presented with a pair of rubber gloves for her anatomical research. When asked what she would do with the two 5 fingered condoms she replied she didn't know 10 men. Any volunteers?

It is rumoured that certain members of the UBSS actually considered going to Derbyshire, even borrowing the Derbyshire guide books. True to form Topher & Co never got underground. Maybe they don't like Radon?

Peace, quiet and relative normality have returned to the society. The reason - Ed. Bailey has gone into exam hibernation.

The lengths people go to get out of caving trips is getting extreme. Following Chris Benett's feeble excuse of breaking down on a South Wales trip, Certain members have gone for a more direct approach. Tony Boycott writes off his car and breaks two ribs

to avoid a cave rescue, Steve breaks a finger in a bike wheel and Trevor and Sarah bugger off round the world. As for the rest of us, well exams do the trick!

A miracle has occurred, Paul Drewery has got a PROPER job designing masts for yachts. Bets on how long the mast for the Fiat family's private yacht, which he is designing at the moment, will stay up are being taken, at the usual address.

Amazing, the UBSS armchair caver of the year, Gaynor actually went caving. However this report may be dubious as there are no reliable witnesses and nobody can seriously believe any of the reports in the tackle store log book.

Yet another UBSS has formed. The UB Stal Smashers are dedicated to removing all the nasty white stuff that interferes with viewing the mud underground. They have recently taken on two new members who will remain anonymous for the usual editorial fee.

The Avon and Somerset Constabulary are presently deciding whether to bring criminal charges against Andy

Simon's

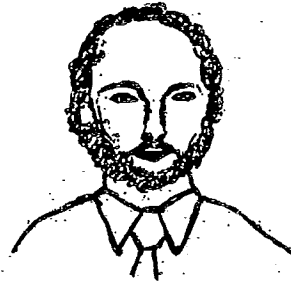
Farrant and Mike, for being caught 'Lurking with intent' late at night near the Cheddar risings such that the apprehending Officer had reason to believe a breach of the peace was about to occur. On being questioned Mike was alleged to have replied, 'Ah well, I'm a spelaeologist and a lecturer at Bristol University.' Would you believe a man who likes lichens, caves and fossils?

Quotes from the Cuckoo Cleeves rescue: After spending 15 minutes strapping Steve into the stretcher he cried out; 'Help, my balls are in a funny position.

Ed. 'If I pull here does it help?'

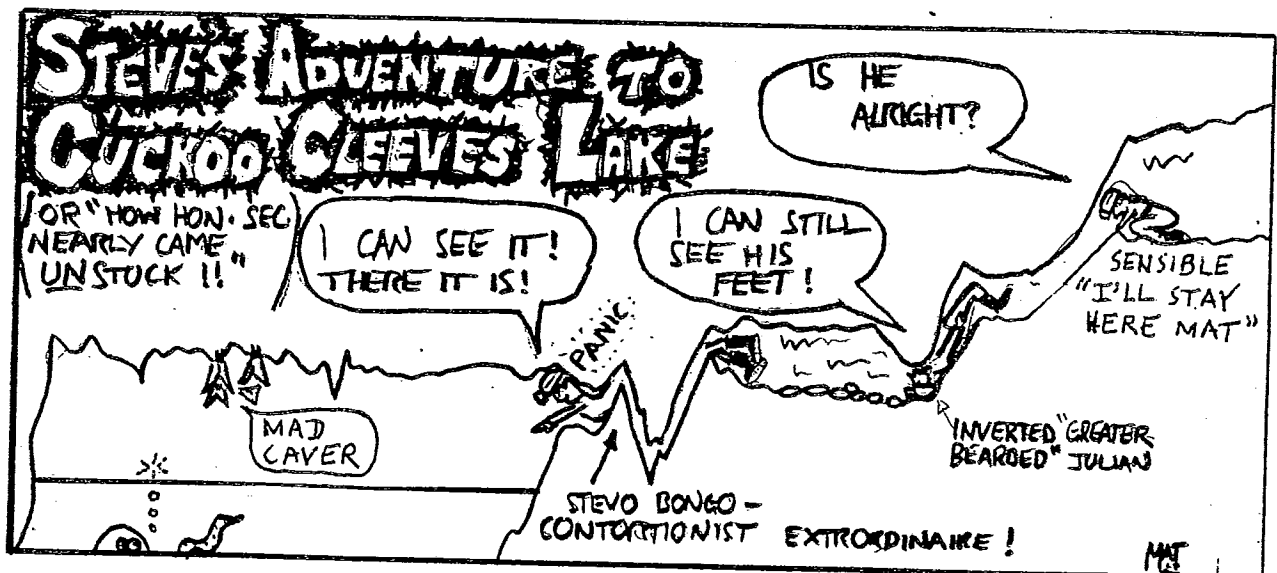
Eventually Steve sorted himself out with his free hand. As someone remarked at the time. 'I'm glad he had one hand free.'

The doctor writes:



Anoxia.

Found in many caves with poor ventilation Eg: Otter Hole. The symptoms are usually bad smell, nausea, vomiting (in extreme cases) and a splitting headache (often confused with a hangover). It is caused by caving with vegans. The remedy is either to stop caving with vegans, OR to take a large cork to block the offending orifice. A nose plug is nearly always recommended. If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.



Hon. Secs Bit

The first thing that people will notice for this term is the lack of planned trips. This isn't due to the Hon. Secs being lazy (*That's your story - ed*) but rather due to the fact that so many people are caving and setting up trips in Crockers (and the fact that we're already planning for next year). At present there are no plans to have any away meets but hopefully at the end of the exams there will be some trips to Yorkshire and South Wales but these will probably be decided on in the pub. If those of you who are still receiving the newsletter having joined at fatty but have not come along would still like to see what makes us want to go underground come along to Crockers where we can be found on Tuesday nights after 9:30 and we'll arrange a trip.

At the AGM there were a few changes made to the committee;

President	Prof. John Thornes
Vice Presidents	Prof. Desmond Donovan, Arthur ApSimon, Chris Hawkes and Prof. Bob Savage.
Hon. Secretaries	Steve Cottle and Alison Garrard
Hon Treasurer	Graham Mullan
Student Treasurer	Mat Wood
Committee	Ed Bailey, Hannah Bartholomew, Julian Todd Paul Harvey, Linda J. Wilson, Bill Miners
MiCTE	Bill Miners
MiCPhot	Chris Bennett

G.B. Permits.

As you may have been seen in the caving press measures are being taken to ensure that **ALL** cavers in G.B. Cavern are carrying their permits. This is a regulation of the Charterhouse Caving Committee and permits must be carried by persons in ALL Charterhouse Caves. If you do not have a permit they are available **FREE** to all members from either secretary.

Yorkshire Permits

Having now sorted out the CNCC subs the following permits are available to anyone wishing to use them.

Birks Fell Cave :- Sun. 5th May, Sun. 8th June, Sun. 13th July, Sun. 10th August.

Hammer Pot, Fountains Fell :- Sat. 1st June, Sat 6th July

Gingling Hole :- 11th May

Lost Johns :- 10th August

If anyone would like to use the permits please contact Steve Cottle so that the relevant permits can be found and passed on. It is hoped that the club will be going to Yorkshire for a post exam trip (*and not just to the Marton Arms :-ed*) which will start on 7th June.

Acknowledgement

On behalf of the society, the secretaries would like to thank Bob Williams for organising the sessional meeting in previous three years and has now retired from the job to become the Hon. Secretary for The Bristol and Avon Archeological Society.

Steve Cottle & Alison Garrard

Calender for 1991

Wed. 8 th May	Sessional meeting. Paul Drewery will be talking on Austria 1989 and 1990 including The Organ Höhle. Spelæo rooms 8:00 pm.
Sat. 1 st June	Wessex Challenge. This years theme is Star Trek. See Andy Farrant for details.
Sat. 8 th June	Post exam Yorkshire trip, including Birks Fell Cave.
3/4 October	Faffy squash. Help required as usual.
5/6 October	Freshers Weekend.
Thur. 10 th October	At the beginning of the new term there will be three introductory talks on general caving for freshers and regulars alike. They will start at 8:00 pm in the Spelæo Rooms and will be about an hour long.
Sat. 12 th October	Freshers day trip to Mendip.
Thur. 17 th October	Talk Spelæo rooms 8:00
Sat. 19 th October	Day trip to South Wales.
Thur. 24 nd October	Last of the informal talks. This one will be on "Stone Mining" 8:00 pm Spelæo Rooms.
Sat. 26 th October	Day Trip (probably to Box Stone Mines) to be arranged.
Wed. 30 th October	Sessional meeting. To be arranged.
2/3 November	Bonfire Weekend.

Current Keyholders are [L-Library, S-Stack room, M-Museum, T-Tackle store]:-

Steve Cottle	☒ 31, Cotham Vale.	☒ 738713	LSMT
Alison Garrard	☒ 3, Alma Road.	☒ 736898	LSMT
Bill Miners	☒ 13 Clifton Wood Crescent.	☒ 291513	LSM
Mat Wood	☒ 34A Kingsdown Parade.	☒ 241260	T
Graham Mullan	☒ 38, Devlin Rd. W-on-T.	☒ 502556	LSM
Linda Wilson	As above		
Tony Boycott (Librarian)	☒ 14, Walton Rise W-on-T.	☒ 507336	LSMT
Chris Bennett	☒ 77, Cotham Brow.	☒ 427496	T

RESERVOIR HOLE.

Andy Farrant

Just after Easter, Linda, Tony, Graham and myself, went on a trip down Reservoir Hole, which is located in Cheddar Gorge. The trip was led by Willie Stanton, who had over a long period of time dug out the cave to its present length, discovering some pretty impressive pieces of cave. The entrance is a narrow blasted tube, with a draught, and lots of nuts stashed in odd corners by 'speleo-mice', which obviously use the cave as a larder during the winter. This led to a choked rift which Willie had dug down for over 120', breaking out into a couple of rift chambers *en route* to emerge into a lovely phreatic passage with high avens rising up the joints, and some nice formations. The passage then split into two, one ascending, via a rift chamber with some fantastic pure white moonmilk on the walls and some interesting asymmetric rill marks on the walls, to a boulder choke, next to a fine group of stals. Willie had had the foresight to dig up through the 120' thick boulder choke, following the scallops up what was presumably the rising limb of a phreatic loop, into the impressive fault aligned Golgotha Rift. To protect the formations while blasting, Willie had built a wall round them, to stop blast damage. In several places cement was used to stabilize the boulders.

Golgotha rift was a huge gurt big ginormous rift passage, quite unlike any other cave on Mendip, stretching up into the darkness, with lots of mean looking hanging death. The name Golgotha was due to two skull like projections on the wall of the passage. Climbing to the top of the boulder pile, which made me feel quite agoraphobic, was the fine H.E.Balch group of stal formations. Unfortunately, at the top of the climb the way on was blocked by a choke. Descending all the way to the bottom, we then turned down to the lowest point in the cave, at Jill's Slither, where there were some interesting black (manganese stained?) stalagmites. At this point you are not far above the level of the Cheddar Risings, lower in the gorge. Upstream from the original point of entry, is Willie's current dig, which hopefully is a continuation of the main phreatic conduit (which is probably a tributary to the main fossil Gough's cave conduit) towards the swallets to the north. It is located right underneath the road in the gorge and has no sign of a solid roof. Perhaps some coach full of tourists is due for a let-down soon! There was also a rather interesting Neptunian Dyke, which for the un-educated, is a fissure in the limestone filled with a younger rock, in this case red Triassic marl, -Mike Simms take note! On the whole, an impressive and fascinating cave, unlike anything else on Mendip, thanks for showing us round Willie! The trip was rounded off with a quick pint in the White Hart in Cheddar (so Andy could chat to all his friends at home!).

As a result of this trip, Linda has now been made a leader so ask her for a trip, if you wish to go down. Note, the cave is generally closed over the summer due to the billions of tourists that swarm into the gorge during the holiday season.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Graham Mullan

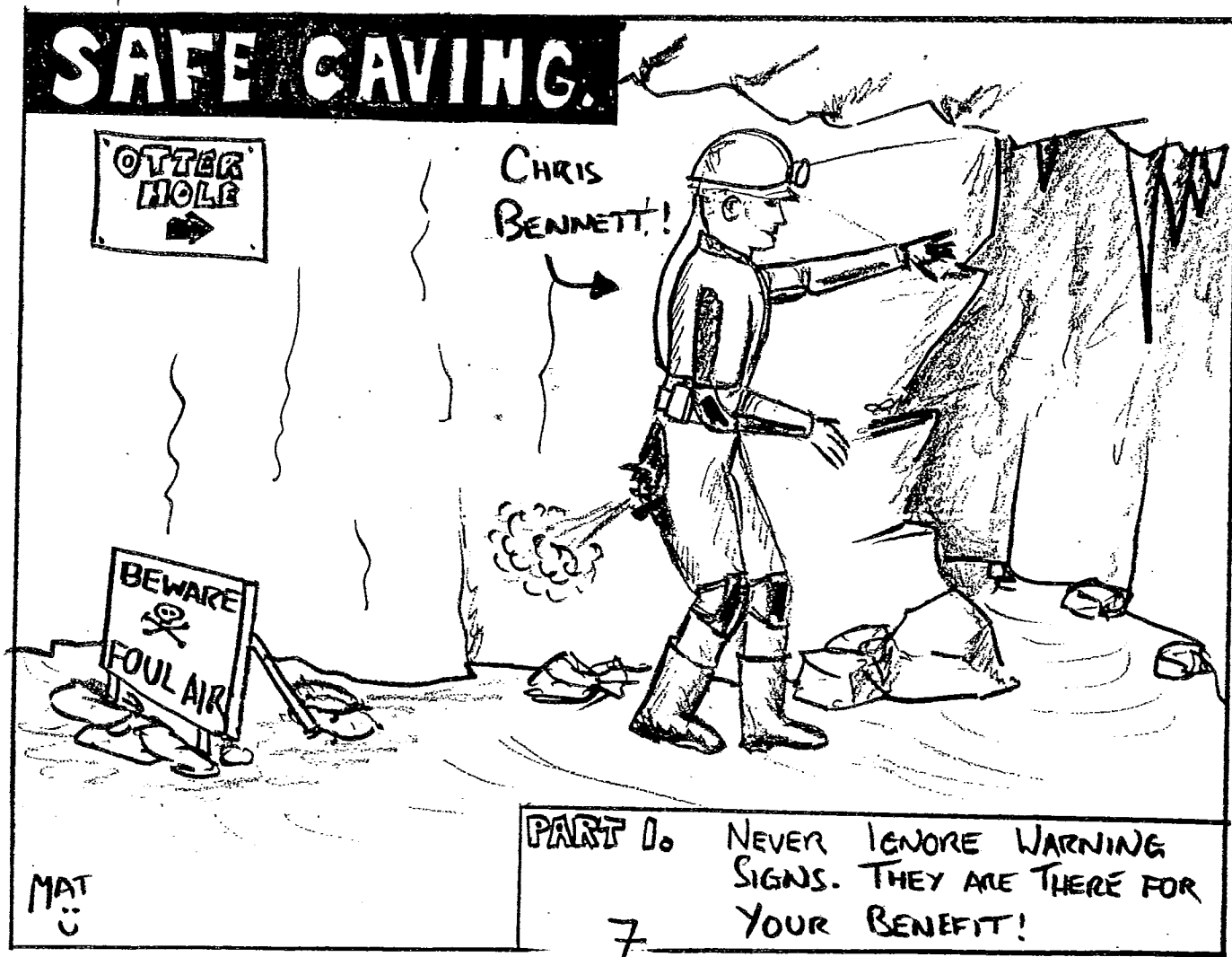
As can be seen from the attached accounts, 1990/91 was something of an odd year. This is due entirely to the late appearance of *Proceedings*. Financially, however the publication is well in hand, we already have £2500 set aside for it, which along with sales income should cover the cost nicely.

Proceedings aside the year was quite straightforward. The usual items, insurance, duplicating, etc. went up in price, but then so did income, especially from subscriptions and investment interest. Once again, my personal thanks are due to Mr. Gunn, of the Finance Office, not just for the work that he does in auditing the accounts but for the excellent advice that I receive along the way.

Finally, a plea to all those who have yet to pay their subs: When you do, please consider a Banker's order in future, it saves me an enormous amount of time.

TRAVEL MONEY.

Mat Wood is now the Student Treasurer and has lots of nice blue forms to make claims on.



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UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SPELAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 1991

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£	£	£	£
Tools and Equipment: Capital	630.70			12.50
Current	<u>14.96</u>	645.66		
Library		162.15		1,312.00
Sessional Meetings		10.00		345.00
Photography		42.98		
Postage		120.37		
Hon. Secs. Petty Cash		23.66		
Stationery and Duplicating		305.43		935.87
Rates and Taxes		19.07		
Insurances: Third Party	135.85		Interest on Investments: Bank	459.21
Property	<u>204.74</u>	340.59	Post Office	<u>464.62</u>
Subscriptions and Licence		52.25	Sales of Publications (not C of C. Clare)	676.36
Donations to Rescue Organisations		10.00		316.00
Travel Money		220.50	Donations	293.26
Treatman Fund		900.00	Tax Refunds on Covenants	900.00
Shirts		229.24		
Fatty		5.00		
Miscellaneous		49.37	Treatman Fund	
Transfer to Printed Publications Fund		<u>2500.00</u>		
		5636.27		
		<u>78.55</u>		
		<u>5714.82</u>		
Excess income over expenditure for the year				<u>5714.82</u>

'CAVES OF COUNTY CLARE' PUBLISHING ACCOUNT 1990/91

	£	£	£
Balance at 1st February 1990		2207.94	374.55
		Sales of 'Caves of County Clare'	1833.39
		Debit Balance at 31.1.91	<u>2207.94</u>
		<u>2207.94</u>	<u>2207.94</u>

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J.A. GUNN B.A., F.C.A.

HONORARY AUDITOR'S REPORT: I have examined the above Income and Expenditure account for the year ended 31.1.1991 and the attached Balance Sheet as at that date in accordance with the Auditing Standards. I confirm that they are in accordance with the books and records of the Society and the explanations given to me by the Hon. Treasurer.

POL AN IONAIN

Graham Mullan

Some of you will have heard by now that Clare County Council have received an application for permission to develop Pol an Ionain as a show cave. The Committee learnt of this a few months ago, and were fortunate, through the Society's excellent contacts in Co. Clare, to hear some of the details of this proposal.

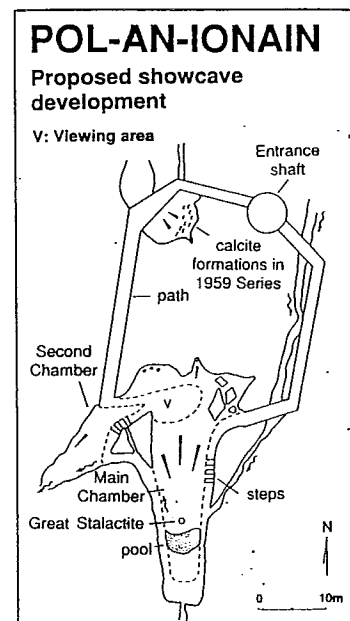
Study of these details lead us to believe that the scheme was fraught with danger to the cave environment and its principal features, and so Linda and I were directed by Committee to prepare an objection to the proposal. This we have done, and at present we are in the process of offering further comments on additional material requested by the Planners from the Developers.

The proposals call for the blasting of a shaft and a series of tunnels to bring visitors into the main and the second chambers, where they will be treated to views of the Soggy Dishcloth, mainly, and other features. The tour is intended to take about 35-40 minutes, quite a long time to travel through 80 metres of tunnels and 100 metres of cave! In addition they propose to build a restaurant and interpretation centre overhead.

Our reasons for alarm at this proposal can be summarised briefly: There is considerable risk that the great Stal will be damaged, if not destroyed, by the construction work required. As in other show caves, moss and algae will grow in lighted areas, such as on the great stal, this particular formation would be very difficult to clean, and so if it isn't damaged by the growth it probably will be by the cleaning.

The building of the restaurant etc., along with items such as car parks, will upset the groundwater flow over the cave, and could lead to changes in the depositional regime of the Stal, if not to outright pollution. Other changes in the cave environment, to temperature, humidity etc., will be caused by changes in the airflow pattern brought about by the new entrance. Damage will be done by carving a pathway through the fluvial deposits. These are, of course, important to the geomorphic history of the area, and star in the long running debate as to the age of the Clare caves.

At present, we have seen and commented on one large but fairly insubstantial report from the developer's consultants, and we hope to see more. So no decision has yet been made. More news as we get it.



Mendip Digging Techniques.

[How to make your own cave.] Andy Farrant.

This is a guide to the latest 'hi-tech' digging techniques now employed on Mendip. Forget the drag bucket and crowbar; make things easy for yourself.

1. Find a nice closed depression close to the Hunters Lodge Inn.
2. Persuade the local landowner to allow you to dig the site, before he tips all his own rubble, cars, fridges etc into it.
3. Adopt the name 'Tusker', and hire a mechanised digger, preferably a Hymac.
4. Have a whip round in the Hunters, just before closing time, when everyone is pissed, using the pretence of telling everyone that they will be shareholders in the new cave.
5. Have a party. [Optional but it will help with stage 7.]
6. Invite a few of your friends round [20 is a good number], and start digging with the Hymac.
7. Set up a barrel of Butcombe, and dole out turkey sandwiches [ideally left over from the party the night before, see stage 5.]
8. Discover a section of new cave passage, preferably with a draught and over the end of St Cuthberts.
9. Bang it, stabilize it, pipe it and gate it.
10. Have another party [essential].

In case this has rather bemused you, Tusker, the C.S.C.C. Conservation and Access Officer and digger extraordinaire, has dug out 2 caves near the Hunters Lodge Inn, using a Hymac. [yes - with a barrel set up for the occasion.] The cave draughts, and is located directly over Gour hall in St. Cuthberts. Tusker reckons that it pre-dates Cheddar caves and anything else on Mendip and dates from a time when the Mendips were 5000 feet high! From a brief inspection it would appear to be similar to Hunters Hole, both in origin and morphology. It will be interesting to see how they compare once the cave is fully dug out. Prospects look extremely promising - watch this space!

MENDIP NOTES

Linda Wilson

Car Thefts at G.B.

In spite of some culprits being caught by the police, the spate of break-ins has continued to such an extent that there is a very high risk of your car being broken into whilst parked here. DO NOT leave any valuables in the car and always try to leave as little gear behind as possible, as it is very likely that it won't be there when you get back.

"Tusker's Folly"

The latest Mendip game of digging with a Hymac has spread to the field opposite the garage near the Hunters. Dave "Tusker" Morrison and a consortium of diggers have obtained permission from the landowner and the Nature Conservancy Council to excavate the depressions in the field which overlies the end of St. Cuthberts. A couple of weekends work has seen one of the depressions opened up and the entrance, about 20ft. in depth, lined with concrete pipes. Digging continues at the bottom. The other (the furthest of the two from the road) has had its entrance "dry-lined" with rocks, following the method applied successfully at Nettle Hole, to form a shaft. So far about 70ft. of progress has been made and an altercation with a boulder choke is currently in progress. Watch this space!

Swildons Hole

Local residents are becoming increasingly irritated by the unreasonable behaviour of visiting cavers who insist on changing in full view of the world on the Green itself, in spite of the renovation work done to the Barn by the Cotham Caving Group. Please ensure that you always change in the Barn and also that you do not park cars on the Green itself.

North Hill Swallet

On a recent trip to this cave, Graham, Tony, Helen and I encountered foul air in the crawl at the bottom of Rumble-Plonk Pitch and we were unable to reach the Master's Cave. Should anyone else visit the cave.....goodness knows why they'd want to, but we can't be the only idiots around.....or can we??.....watch for the signs of a high CO₂ concentration, ie shortness of breath and slight signs of disorientation, and retreat if necessary.

OTTER HOLE

Andy Farrant

Otter Hole is located on the banks of the River Wye, near Chepstow, and extends for over three kilometres underneath Chepstow race-course. It is one of the best caves in Britain, with incredible formations, and a unique tidal sump.

On the 27th April, Chris Bennett, Matt Wood, Steve Cottle, and myself, were lucky enough to get an over-tide trip into this cave, which has a leadership system, and is usually booked up six months in advance. It is also only accessible for six hours at low tide, as much of the entrance series floods to the roof at high tide. To make things worse, the sump is usually closed in the winter due to high stream levels within the cave. On this occasion low tide was predicted at five pm, so we would go in at low tide and come out on the following low tide, fingers crossed!

No-one knew quite what to expect, did we need a wetsuit, or was it possible to do it in a furry suit? Much to my relief, the leader turned up in a furry suit, while Chris and Matt (who didn't have much choice, as he hasn't got a furry suit) opted for the wetsuit. As we walked down to the entrance with the sun shining, and the birds singing, I wondered why I was going to spend the next 10 hours down a rather muddy hole. Chris was almost dying of heat exhaustion by the time we reached the entrance. For some reason, our leader had brought two cans of beer with him, which he stashed at the entrance. Then it suddenly dawned on me. The sump reopened at midnight, too late to make it to the pub afterwards. (A very anti-social cave this.)

The entrance series was awful. It was mainly low flat out bedding passage, full of disgustingly slimy mud derived from the estuary outside. Alison would have loved it. I was beginning to regret wearing a furry suit. At Sand Chamber, our guide cheerfully told us that we were now below high tide level, but thankfully the going got a bit easier from now on. The mud gradually got worse towards the tidal sump itself, often knee deep in places. Care was needed to avoid losing boots, B.D.H. containers or cavers. The tidal sump was open, we had timed it right, all it was was a low archway in knee deep flowing water. Beyond this a ladder led up through a boulder choke to a rescue dump, in case any parties were trapped on the wrong side of the sump. From now on the cave was a pleasant fault aligned stream passage, with lots of boulders, and unstable chokes leading up to Sump 2. By this time Andy was having orgasms over the 'fantastic' fault gouges, slickensides and breccias up to 4 m wide exposed in the roof (spot the Geologist!). This is where things got unpleasant again. A short way before Sump 2, a narrow rift led up. For some reason, it was called the 'Mendippean Way', why, I wasn't

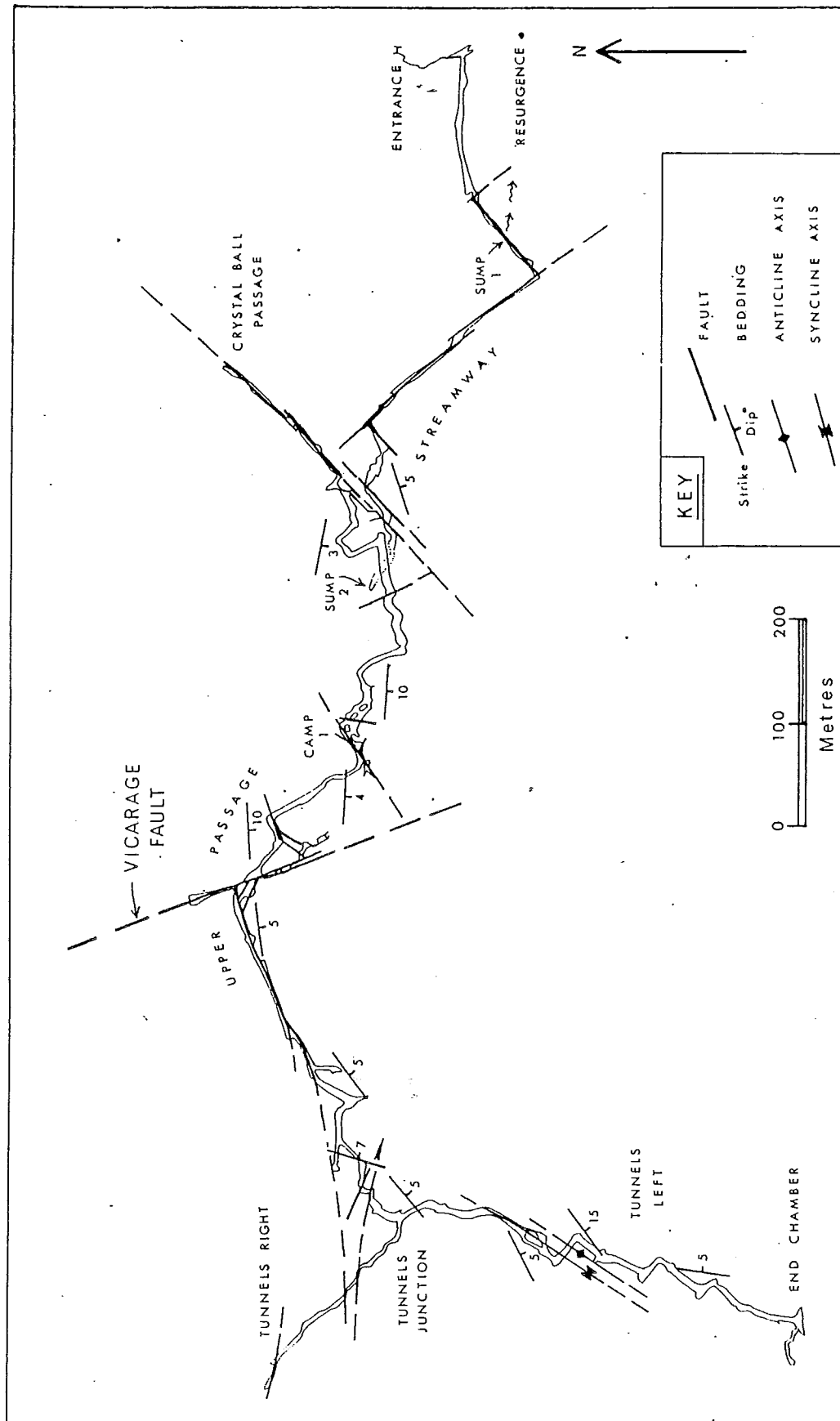


Fig. 5. A plan of Otter Hole, showing principal geological features in the cave.

quite sure. (Perhaps it has some thing to do with the fact it is small, narrow, awkward and squalid? - Ed). This was a short section of narrow rifts, squeezes and boulder chokes, leading into the upper abandoned passages.

This is where the good stuff began. A large passage led off into the distance, with a few exquisite straws heralding things to come. Round a few corners things got better, with long pure white straws and large stalagmite bosses, and stalactites looming out of the darkness. Masses of long broken straws littered the floor, undisturbed since they fell years before, some having been recemented to the floor. A few massive stalagmites indicated the way up into the incredible Hall of Thirty, which houses the most impressive group of stals in the country. There were stalagmites in profusion, some up to 15 feet high, and long pure white stalactites covering the ceiling. It really has to be seen to be believed. We carefully followed the taped path around the formations, and into the continuation of the passage, through a rather obscure slot. The formations continued with unimaginable splendour, with some notable pure white stal bosses immediately next to some jet black stals, and an unusually bent straw, underneath which was an equally bent stalagmite. A short way on was Camp 1, where we stopped for a quick drink from an inlet entering from the roof. At this point, I began to wonder how much horse piss filtered down from the Race-course, some 60 m above....

For the next 200 m, the cave had relatively few calcite formations, but it did have some quite nice mud formations. Then the stupendous stals reappeared, with some impressive sheets of flowstone cascading out of the roof, and exquisite straws and helectites began to appear in abundance. The splendour culminated in a truly awesome display of curtains, crystal pools, helectites and straws, some of which were over 4 m long. The passage continued with more superb formations, passing an exquisite little grotto on the left. It was extremely difficult at times to avoid the formations, especially if you're 6'4". Coral passage had a stunning display of multistory crystal pools, with some fantastic straws glistening in the light, and where they had fallen into the pools, they too were coated in a layer of crystals. So the passage continued for the next 100 m to the junction of Tunnels Left and Tunnels Right. Turning left, the passage entered a large elliptical phreatic passage, with an array of gleaming white straws hanging delicately from the roof. The boulder floor gradually gives way to a sandy floor, with a few low crawls, connecting larger passage.

By this stage Matt was beginning to regret going to a Nightclub the previous night, and Chris was regretting not having stitched up his wetsuit properly, as there was now a gaping hole on his backside, which was not a

pleasant sight. Our leader at this point sat down and told us to do the rest of the cave ourselves, as he thought it was rather boring. In fact, if you are a 'Passage' person, rather than a 'Formations' person, the next few hundred metres were superb, with a really pleasant elliptical phreatic tube, with avens along the cross joints. Towards the end of the passage we realised we must have been the first people here since the previous year, as the floor was covered with undisturbed ripple marks, left by the winter floods. It felt as if you were crawling down a virgin passage. At the end of the cave, the streamway reappeared, flowing for a short distance before flowing into a boulder choke. This provided the ideal place to relieve ourselves, easier said than done if you're wearing a Warmbac one-piece wetsuit. Getting out of the sump pool at the end also proved a little entertaining, as climbing up a steep slippery wet mudbank is not very easy, as Chris found out. Four goes and five minutes later, Chris finally managed to extricate himself. Matt then proceeded to do exactly the same thing.

It was an eerie feeling. We were now trapped in this cave, with no hope of escape until the tide went out and midnight. We began the long trek back, by this time we were getting a bit blasé about the formations. When we got back to the start of the Mendippean Way, what we originally thought were excellent formations, paled into insignificance compared to places like Long Straw Chamber. Chris' wetsuit was by now well and truly split, which didn't help matters much when following him through a tight squeeze. It was just at the tightest point that Chris decided to break wind. Now, with all those beans and lentils and stuff that a vegan eats, they all add up to a pretty potent mixture, which in a confined space has devastating effects. Us poor mortals behind him had no chance to escape the fumes, and so had to 'free-dive' the squeeze to reach fresh air. The moral of the story - *always cave in front of a vegan!*

We got to the tidal sump only to find it was still sumped up, we were too early! Matt and Chris were keen to press on and swim to the eye-hole, while the leader, Steve and myself (in furry suits) made them wait until the tide had dropped enough (making loads of glooping noises in the process) to get through without getting too wet. The mud made the climbs on the way out rather entertaining. We finally emerged onto the surface after a 10 hour trip, and were extremely grateful for the cans of beer our leader had stashed at the entrance. We washed the worst of the mud off at a conveniently located bathtub on the way back up to the car park, placed there by the Hades Caving Club, got changed and headed back to Bristol. All in all, an excellent trip, and a superb cave.

REFERENCE; Elliot, J.V., Westlake, C.F. and Tringham, M.E. 1979. Otter Hole, near Chepstow, Wales. *BCRA transactions*. Vol 6, No 4.

The First Rescue Practice of the UBSS
In Cuckoo Cleeves
Or
Doesn't the Roof Look Good.

When the idea of a rescue practice of a rescue practice was first thought of, just after the talk in October by Jim Hanwell and Brian Prewer of the MRO, I had a few volunteers to be the victim. Tony Boycott on the other hand was very good at putting them off as he said it was going to be very painful for any victim being bashed about a cave by more than just yourself. Anyhow one night in the Hunters I arranged to borrow the MRO gear so that the club could undertake the rescue, arranged a date, arranged a cave in which to rescue some poor soul, notified all the members to come and help some distressed person, who would be heavily into bondage, out of a cave whence any revenge could be sought.

It was just after this that as organiser of the practice that my first problem occurred. I broke my hand whilst sticking it through a fast revolving bicycle wheel. It was now that my second problem occurred, I was capable of gentle exercise but without the use of my left hand, I could quite conceivably get underground BUT not out. I had volunteered myself to be **RESCUED!!!**

Okay so people turned out with the intention of getting me underground but did they really want to get me back out (*answers on a postcard - ed*). So outside Cuckoo Cleeves were 11 people and one zombie like person dressed in 2 furry suits and a badly fitting oversuit with one arm being told by Tony Boycott, who assumed the role of surface controller, as he had broken two ribs on the way to a recent callout, but was really going off to Bat Products (*or so he said - ed*), how to truss the victim up like a dead chicken in a stretcher.

I left in the advance party who were going to assist me down the cave and inform the rescuers who were following that I had a broken hand AND a broken left leg. It was now that the doubts set in, Were they really going to break my leg? Was I going to get out in one piece? Was I going to get out **ALIVE?** No, possibly and yes was the answer to my questions. Chris Bennett soon had me secured in the stretcher and had made sure that I would not fall out. Then Andy Farrant started the rescuers on their mission of mercy by giving them their instructions on how to rescue me and still appear in front of me to continue the carry out. Progress was swift and I hardly noticed the movement up the first part of the Canyon as people carefully carried me and passed me from person to person. Soon the Canyon narrowed and progress was slowed but the might of some of the rescuers was amazing as Graham Parnell at times seemed to carry me by himself whilst the rest of the rescuers regrouped to continue their task. Somewhere up the canyon reinforcements arrived (*no Linda and Graham were just late - ed*) but the valiant rescuers battled on to the 20 ft. climb. It was here that a difference of opinion on how to rig the hauling ropes occurred and the victim received his biggest injury. On the short haul before the climb my sit harness, which I had been advised to wear as a back up to the MRO hauling ropes! had decided to rub against my groin. Graham was at hand to readjust my b***s by hitting them, thus they quickly moved themselves out of reach.

I was soon up the climb and swiftly on towards the entrance where the rescuers began to leave the cave. *What had I done to offend them?* No, they were only going to rig the entrance shaft. Slow movement towards the entrance shaft took place and after a slight communications problem, Fast haul instead of slow haul gave me a quick bash against the helmet, and I was out. Now came the worrying bit, it was verging on closing time in the Hunters and there were cries of dissent as Tony decided that I should be released before everybody was going to rush off and find that the Hunters closed at 2:30 not the rapidly approaching 3:00. So I was released (*thank God I was in need of some release after being stuck in a good fitting sit-harness AND the stretcher*).

Thanks are due to all those who helped and actually treated me very well as I didn't have a single cave caused bruise, which may be due to the fact that I already had a broken hand or may just show how good we really are (the rescue team were informed by Andy that they had beaten the ACG time for rescue in Cuckoo Cleaves by about half an hour). Our thanks also to the MRO for lending us the gear to carry out the rescue and to Dave Irwin for coping with the descending hoards of unannounced rescuers, who hadn't made it to the pub, by offering them tea, coffee and biscuits.

So I survived. HOW? (*WHY?* - ed) I don't actually know but the world takes on a new meaning when you put yourself flat on your back and look at the whole of the roof of a cave. At least it was a reasonably stable roof and a good team who rescued me. Being the victim wasn't too bad but for the next one I think I'll keep away from bicycles in the preceding weeks before our next practice and let someone else put their lives in the hands of the UBSS Rescue Team and may no-one have the misfortune to be rescued until then.

Steve Cottle

The Rescuers

Chris Bennett, Graham Parnell, Paul Harding

Bill Miners, Ed Bailly, Julian Todd, Alison Garrard,
Linda Wilson, Graham Mullan

Underground Co-ordinator

Andy Farrant

Surface Co-ordinator

Tony Boycott

Victim

Steve Cottle



REVIEW: ULSA Exploration Journal

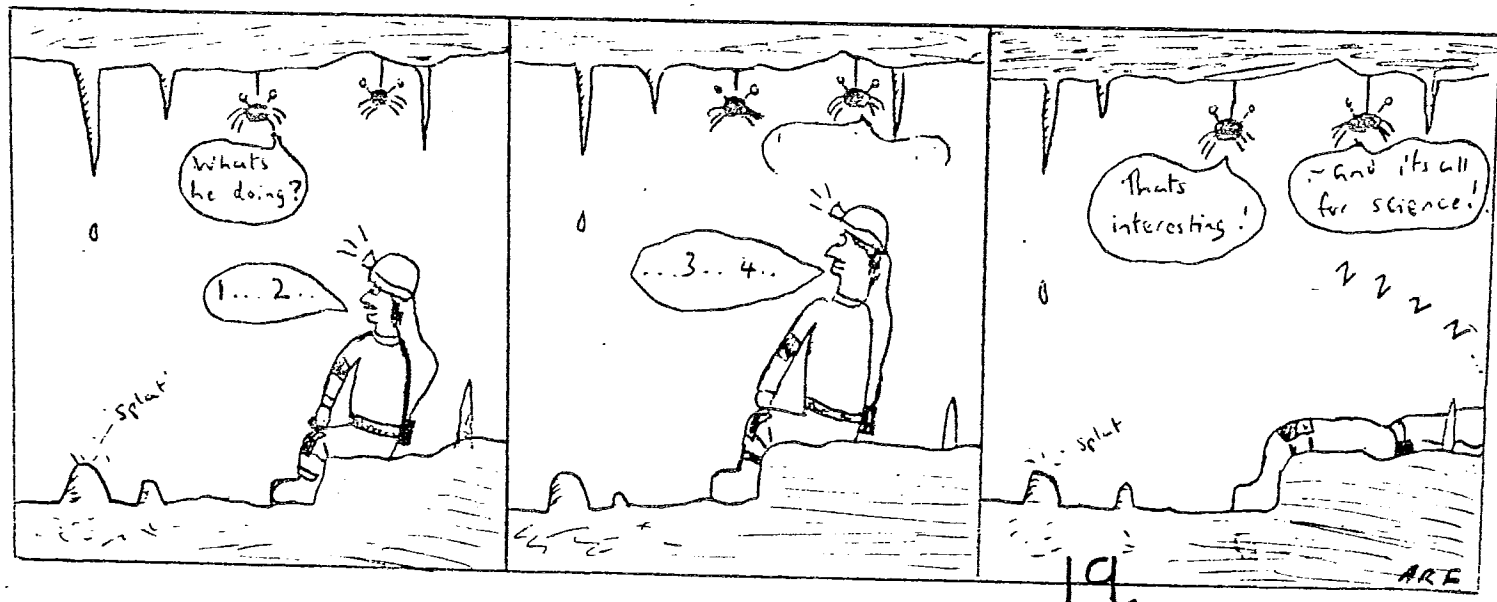
An excellent publication with detailed accounts of ULSA activity from 1968 to 1989 with a comprehensive description of the exploration of Mossdale Caverns from 1941 to the present day. Numerous new or updated surveys are included including a full survey of Pen-y-Ghent Pot with extensions. The large format is very readable and the B/W photographs included add interest, although a few more shots would have been appreciated. The journal recounts the ULSA explorations in Mossdale and Langcliffe Pots during the 1970's with a sprinkling of other accounts including Sleets Gill, Hangman's Hole and others. The contemporary members are not to be outdone and the journal has a full description of the extensions in Pen-y-Ghent Pot underlying the fact that the new boys are every bit as determined as the old lags to force even the most miserable passages to a conclusion. The editor has made an excellent job and has obviously researched the records thoroughly. The style is factual with a low key humour which understates the ULSA exploration. This is a most important contribution to the history of the Dales caving and well worth a place in every cavers library. Priced £6:95 from ULSA or caving shops.

MIKE McHALE

Secret Underground Bristol. By Sally Watson.

If your interested in any sort of underground cavity, be it cave, sewer, mine or grotto and you live in or near Bristol then this book is for you. It covers all the underground sites in an informative manner, ranging from the new (still being dug, the Northern sewer interceptor under the Downs,) the Old Redcliff Mines, the hot springs of Bristol and the caves of the Avon Gorge. For anyone interested in the historical aspect of Bristol's underworld the book is a must. However, it doesn't dwell too long on the caves of the area, but none the less is a very readable and interesting book. Published by the Bristol Junior Chamber 120pp £ 6.95

Andy Farrant.





AVON and SOMERSET CONSTABULARY,

Police Station,

Cliff Street, Cheddar. BS27. 3PS.

29th April 1991.....

Tel. No: 0934 742463

Ref: PK/JH

Your Ref:

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you concerning a growing problem in the 'Beauty Spot' areas of Avon and Somerset, and it would be very much appreciated if you could bring it to the attention of your readers.

Not everyone visiting the countryside is interested in rambling, taking in the view, or picnicing. Some are there to steal property from your car.

Thieves do not discriminate. Any property left in vehicles is likely to be stolen. If a thief sees a handbag, coat or holdall in the vehicle, even if there is nothing in it of value to them, you could well have the window of your car smashed and the property stolen, just so that they can have a look. Anything that is of no use is then discarded.

By following a few simple rules, you can reduce the chance of having your property stolen:

- i) Leave nothing in sight - or better still - don't leave anything at all
- ii) Take handbags, cheque books, credit cards and valuable items with you when you leave the car
- iii) Postcode your radio and make a note of the serial number
- iv) If you have a car alarm fitted, please use it
- v) Avoid parking in a lonely spot. Park in a busy area if possible
- vi) If you are part of a group, leave someone to look after the cars, especially if you are away from your vehicles for a long time
- vii) If you leave a dog in the vehicle, do not close windows or leave the dog in hot weather. You may commit an offence.

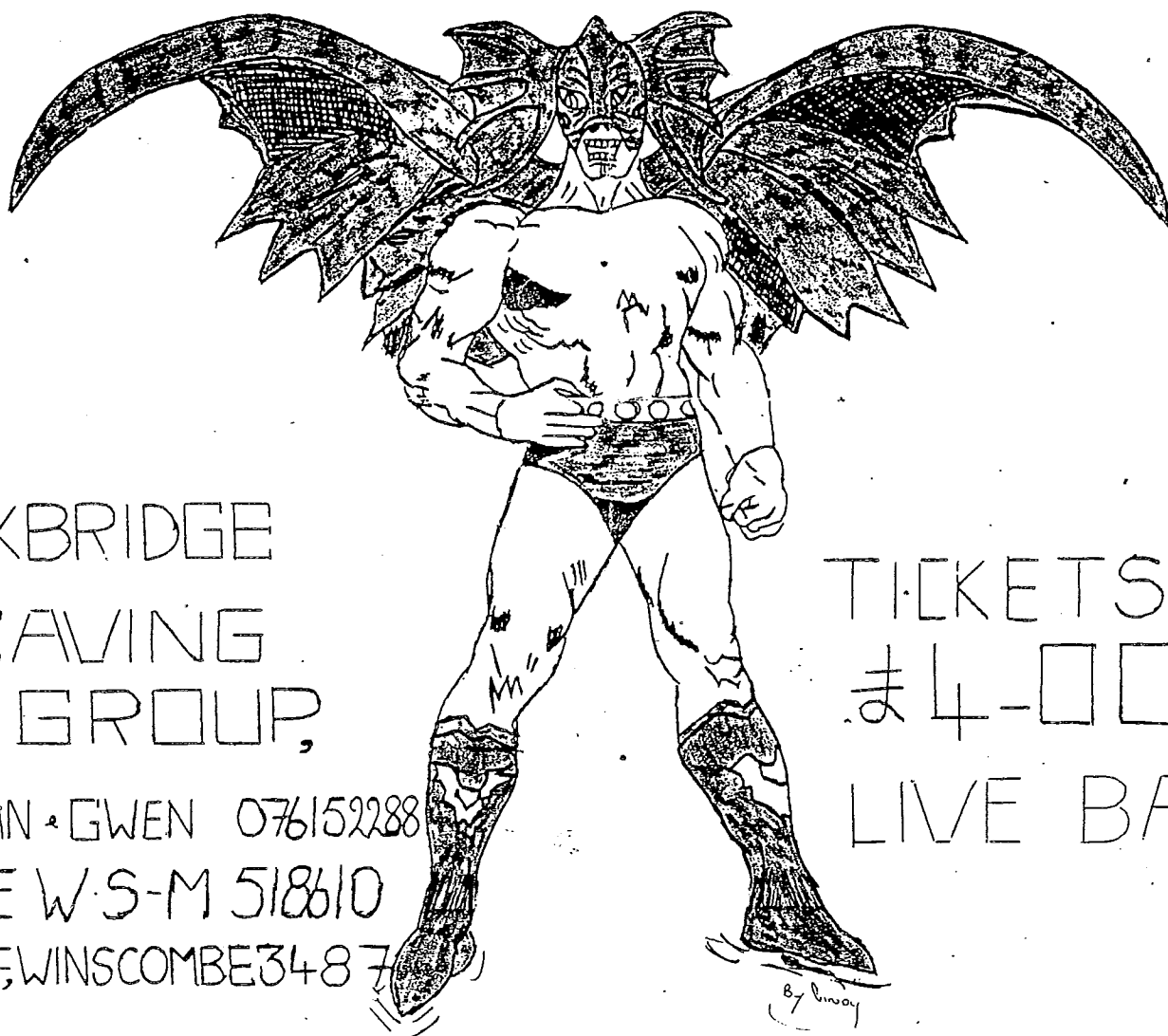
I am responsible for Policing the area of Cheddar. Over the past twelve months, there have been over 300 thefts from cars in the area. By studying the nature of the thefts and the type of property stolen, the rules above should help ensure a happy day out.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Knowles

Police Sergeant 2959 KNOWLES

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MIKE W-S-M 518610
CLIFF, WINScombe 3487

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21.