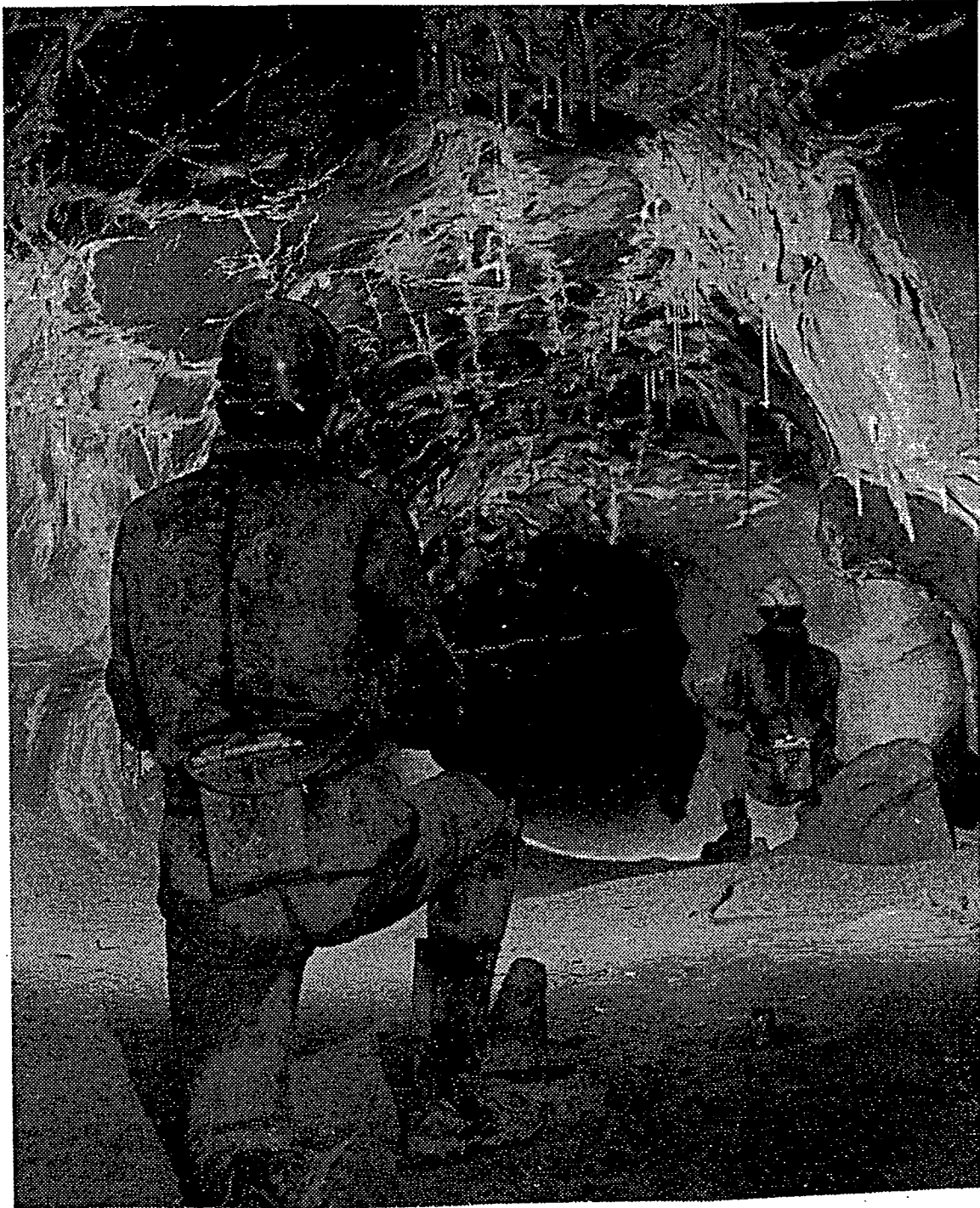


# U.B.S.S.



NEWSLETTER

Vol 9 N<sup>o</sup>. 1

February 1993

## EDITORIAL

Well, here is the first newsletter of the new year, packed full of juicy articles and gossip as you would expect, including the reopening of Pen Park Hole and details of the Annual Dinner. Just a few moans from the editor; please, please could I have some good quality prints for the front cover (preferably scanned!) and perhaps someone with a little artistic talent could do a few cartoons?

Any contributions are welcome. They can be sent to the usual address; University of Bristol Speleological Society; c/o Students Union, Queens Rd, Bristol, or to me at the Dept Geography, University Rd, BS8 1SS (marked P/G).

Now for the disclaimer; All opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Best wishes and Happy caving.

*Andy Farrant*

Front cover, Selenite Tunnel, OFD 2, South Wales.

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## GRAVEL

Newsletter readers will be relieved to hear that Bill managed to stay out of trouble in Hong Kong this Christmas. There weren't any riots he could partake in.

Andy Carrant wants his underpants returned from Dr Jacobi. Unless they are returned by the annual dinner, all the details will be divulged. Could this be 'Jacobigate'...?

Talking of underwear, can anyone offer a reasonable explanation why Steve Cottle wore a pair of lycra leggings to the Xmas party? Perhaps Rachel has something to say on the matter?

Quote of the month from Rachel (will she ever learn to keep her trap shut?) 'The only time I spent all day in bed was the last time I read Cosmopolitan.'

Arthur (or should that be 'King Arthur'...?) ApSimon has finally been dragged from the late Upper Paleolithic into the modern world. So much so in fact, that you can't drag him off the e-mail system.

Following the trend of non-limestone digs on Mendip, Gonzo and Tony Boycott have taken this one step further. They are now through their fifth dead cow and hope to reach conglomerate soon!

Has anyone got a spare bed? Steve Cottle needs one urgently as his old bed has broken. One look at Rachel and you'll realise why.

Tim Parrish has obviously got no taste whatsoever. Why else would anyone want to buy a bright yellow ex BT landrover? Well, at least it goes, which is more than you can say for Emma's car, Julian's car...

Rob Palmer has finally succumbed to the effects of too many romantic Bahamian full moons (or was it the rum punch?) and is getting married. Of course, it had nothing whatsoever to do with the size of his ego.

Tim found a new meaning to oral sex (or should that be 'aural' sex?) at the UBSS

Xmas Party when (almost) everyone ended up with their ear pressed to his groin with the excuse that they were listening to his musical boxer shorts.

Following on from Julians Y-Fronts, Hilary seems to go in for Neoprene underwear. Perhaps she would like model her latest idea - the neoprene G-String - at the annual dinner?

Rumours have it that *three* Vice-Presidents were sighted in Crockers on a Tuesday evening. Perhaps even the President may turn up one day; but that may be stretching the bounds of credibility a little bit too far.

### HON SECS' BIT

*Alison Garrard*

This is probably the last time I will be writing the "Hon Secs' Bit" ....so next newsletter you will be reading Tim's pearls of literary wisdom.

### The Stables

One of the main highlights of this term will be the opening of "The Stables"- our new spelaeo-rooms, by Sir John Wills on Friday 5th March. Unfortunately, due to restrictions of space, this will be by invitation only, so in addition, we will be having an "open afternoon" on Saturday 6th March, preceding the AGM & dinner.

### The Hut

As has been mentioned before, the "toilet" at the hut is in need of some fairly urgent repair. The platform above "Shit Pit" (as it is now commonly called), has become so unstable that an MRO rescue plaque has been attached to the tree opposite. We will therefore be looking for eager volunteers to assist with this dangerous task, before some unfortunate person has a rather nasty accident!

If you don't fancy the idea of repairing the loo, we also hope to paint the ceiling inside the hut. If there is enough interest, perhaps we could organise a "maintenance day" & get the whole lot done in one day.

Finally, one thing we seem to be short of is mugs, so any donations would be gratefully received.

## Caving

There are lots of trips planned for this term, so please come along, even if you haven't been caving yet. To sign up for a trip, and organise additional day trips, come along to Crockers, Cotham Hill on the Tuesday before, from 9.30pm onwards.

Unfortunately the trip down Craig-a-Fynnon in January had to be cancelled as the second boulder choke has collapsed, but this can hopefully be rearranged should it be cleared. In addition, we also have trips booked down Otter Hole (beautiful formations, but quite a long trip - as numbers are restricted, preference will be given to those who have not been down before), Peak Cavern & assorted Yorkshire permits.

Linda is organising a trip down Reservoir Hole on Mendip towards the end of term....& if you want to visit Pen Park Hole in the darkest depths of Southmead, Graham, Linda, Steve & Paul Harvey are the people to talk to. Graham will be giving a talk on the history behind the discovery of this cave following the AGM.

## CALENDER

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 5th-7th February<br>Fri - Sun          | <b>YORKSHIRE</b> staying in the Ingleton caravans<br>PhenyGhent Pot permit for the Saturday   |
| 12th-14th February<br>Fri - Sun.       | <b>DERBYSHIRE</b> staying in the TSG hut,<br>Castleton. Peak Cavern permit on Sunday  |
| 11th February                          | <b>SESSIONAL MEET CR4 8pm</b><br>Tony Jarrett on "Caving in Vietnam"  |
| 26th-28th February                     | <b>YORKSHIRE</b> (again), in the caravans (again)<br>Another PhenyGhent permit for those who missed it the first time, &<br><i>possibly</i> a Lancaster/Easegill permit.                              |
| Friday 5th March<br>Saturday 6th March | <b>OPENING OF THE STABLES</b><br>"OPEN AFTERNOON" 12.30-3.30<br>UBSS AGM CR4 4pm followed by talk on Pen Park Hole, by Graham Mullan. All welcome.<br><b>ANNUAL DINNER 8pm at "Vintners Wine Bar"</b> |
| 12th-14th March                        | <b>SOUTH WALES</b> staying in the Croyden Hut, Ystradfellte. A chance to go down some superb Welsh caves.   |
| Friday 19th March                      | <b>RESERVOIR HOLE</b> , led by Linda, a very interesting trip.  |
| Thursday 6th May                       | <b>SESSIONAL MEET CR4 8pm</b><br>Chris Smart on "Caving in India"   |
| Saturday 10th July                     | <b>WESSEX CHALLENGE</b> 'Piss up of the year'. Not to be missed   |
| Saturday 26th June                     | PhenyGhent Pot permit   |

Other Yorkshire permits & Otter Hole date to be confirmed.

## NEWSDESK

### Mendip Round Up.

As reported in the last issue of Newsletter, the BEC have dug into some new passage at Whitepit, just south of Priddy. The cave now consists of a 10m shaft which leads into a short segment of passage before dropping down a 3 m climb, which was choked. Digging entered into approx 60 m of well decorated fossil phreatic passage heading upstream, similar to parts of Bat Passage in GB before choking. However, the draught came from the downstream side of the choke at the base of the 3 m climb. This was dug (after lots of exciting moments with collapsing boulder chokes as Tony Boycott will testify) and broke through into a series of short pitches and a high rift, leading into a small unstable chamber. A high level eyehole revealed a way on into a much larger parallel chamber, with the way on choked in the floor. This is where the draught emanates from, and with over 100 m depth to go until the Swildon's streamway is met, prospects appear good.

Other finds on Mendip include approx 15 m in Attborough Swallet, near Green Ore. This has intersected a streamway, which may come from Tor Hole or Wigmore Swallet. Dye tracing is needed here. Over at Wigmore, divers have penetrated a further 12 downstream sumps, which trend east and then south entering over 130' of open passage. The passage ends at a pitch which has not yet been descended. Watch this space!

### Wessex Challenge

The date for this has now been finalised. Unfortunately, due to the village hall being booked up, we can't hold it in June as hoped. The new date will be on Saturday 10th July, at Burrington, with the stomp at Priddy Village Hall. We will need all the help we can get with this, so PLEASE try to be free on and just before that date. Contact Andy F on 211484.

### BCRA Conference

This years BCRA (British Cave Research Council) conference is planned to be held in Bristol in late September this year. If anyone would like to help to organise it, then get in contact with Dick Willis on Bristol 633013. This is an opportunity to make a name for yourself and it would look extremely good on your CV!

### Craig ar Ffynnon

As those who went on the South Wales weekend know, the second boulder choke in Ogof Craig ar Ffynnon has collapsed, preventing access to the rest of the system. When it is likely to be reopened remains unknown, but it will almost certainly be a long job - one hopes not as long as it took to dig it out in the first place!

### UBSS Expedition to Slovenia.

As some may have gathered, there is hopefully going to be an expedition to Slovenia this summer from mid-August to mid-September. We will be returning to the same place as the UBSS went when Grahams hair style was in fashion (ie, 1972). There appear to be good prospects with some definite leads to follow. Also we will have the chance to go down some of the world's best showcaves, so it can't be all bad! We will also be staying in a hut with access via a cable car for carrying gear, so there will be none of those 'Austria Blues'. Anyway, no definite dates yet, but keep that time free. Further details later or from Tim Parrish, (Flat 19 Northwell House, Tel. (0272) 427268.

## NEW YEARS DINNER 1993

Rachel Privett

New Years Eve 1992. I had been working in a vet hospital in Abingdon all holiday and was rapidly becoming bored with wiping dog's rear ends and scrubbing the waiting room floor. By 5 o'clock in the evening, I had had enough and I think I must have been in a definite state of brain-death, for when I stepped out of the front door into the thick fog, I found myself heading, not home to a warm house and a few quiet drinks with my family as I had originally planned, but towards the train station. My ultimate destination - a freezing cold hut in the middle of nowhere, inhabited that night by a motley crew of cavers, one very dead turkey and large quantities of various beverages, which were soon to turn the motley crew of cavers into a bunch of raving lunatics!

By the time I reached Bristol, the fog had cleared slightly, but it was still bitterly cold and I was beginning to feel slightly apprehensive as I eyed the extremely thin sleeping bag that was to keep the hypothermia at bay that night. However, there was no time for second thoughts, as no sooner had I arrived at Steve's house when Charlie and Gallia turned up and we set off for the Mendips.

The hut was looking very festive when we arrived, with holly and mistletoe adorning the beams and a huge fire in the fireplace. The room was filled with a large number of cavers of all ages, many of whom I had never seen before, but everyone was very friendly. Tables were arranged down the centre of the room, so that everyone could be seated to eat and it wasn't long before the cutlery was all laid out in a very civilised fashion and everyone had parked their bottoms on either a chair, or the corner of one of the bunks. I had never before witnessed such a civilised gathering in the hut(!) and it was surprisingly pleasant.

The meal was gorgeous with large helpings of turkey for everyone. I somehow ended up with far more bottles of wine than I had arrived with, so I was quite happy and it didn't seem any time at all before we were entering the last five minutes of 1992. Everyone stood up and wandered outside (some people walking in straighter lines than others!), and we all formed a circle in the clearing in front of the hut. Graham announced that midnight had arrived and I prepared to launch forth with my rendition of "Auld Lang Syne". Unfortunately everyone else had other ideas and began shouting out strange, unrecognisable words, followed by the names of various people from all corners of the globe. This was followed by an even stranger ditty about a bird, which left me feeling most bewildered! I hadn't a clue what was going on and nobody seemed to be able to offer me any explanation as to the New Year's antics of this strange breed of cavers! Anyway, at last normality was restored and we finally sung "Auld Lang Syne" and everyone wished everyone else a happy new year.

## THE 1993 ANNUAL DINNER

This year we are breaking with our recent habits and have a new venue for the Dinner. It will be at The Vintner Wine Bar, St. Stephens Street, just off the City Centre. We have booked exclusive use of the premises, and so have the Restaurant and the bar, and are organising music, for dancing, as well. We have a bar extension until midnight.

The cost will be £15 per head, for food. They do some good, relatively inexpensive wines and will have beers on for us as well. There is a choice of menu, including veggie option, and we will need to know your choices in advance (to save confusion on the night, you might not remember what you ordered, but we will have a full list!)

### MENU

#### Starters:

Chef's own vegetable soup.

Liver Pate, with hot toast and butter.

#### Main Course:

Beef Bourguignonne - tender chunks of beef marinated & cooked in red wine, button mushrooms, rich stock onions & herbs.

Chicken Curry - served with poppadom & relish.

All served with vegetables or rice.

#### Dessert:

Chocolate Fudge Cake & cream.

Apple & Blackcurrant Tart & cream.

### VEGETARIAN OPTIONS

#### Starters:

Soup, as above.

Lentil, Hazelnut & Mushroom Pate with Granary bread & mixed salad garnish.

#### Main Course:

Spinach & Cream Cheese Flan, freshly baked & served hot.

Mushroom & Spinach Lasagne, Spinach sauce flavoured with grain mustard & cheese, creamy mushroom sauce, wholemeal lasagne.

All served with vegetables.

#### Dessert:

As above.

Please send your choice with your booking as soon as possible. We need to know final numbers by the previous weekend, and it may not be possible to squeeze in at the last minute. A cheque (£15 per head) would be nice too.

# A MAMMOUTH ~~TASK~~ *Task*

or

OH BUGGER, NOT ANOTHER BOX OF BLOODY BONES

by Linda Wilson.

Once upon a time, the UBSS was happy and safe and lived in the basement of the Geography Dept., a comfortable womb-like existence in the dark, untroubled by nasty things (except the ones we made ourselves), then one day, a fire in the world up above thrust us out into the cruel hard world and for the next five years, we inhabited three rooms in the Student's Union. The rooms themselves were great, but there always seemed to be the threat of dispossession hanging over our heads and constant rumours that the rooms were wanted for some other purpose.

In that climate of uncertainty, there was very little incentive to carry out the much needed reorganisation of the Museum. It wasn't until our last year in the Union that any real enthusiasm was generated and almost as soon as work had started on the renovation of the display cases, the axe fell and it was announced that the University was taking over the entire second floor of the Union for its International Office. (The axe itself is now residing in Box 112 and has struck up a friendship with a Neolithic flint scraper.) We were on the move again.

Ancestral memories of piles of packing cases surfaced amongst those of us involved in the last move and a deep feeling of depression settled. Amidst a mass of uncertainty (i.e. we had nowhere to go to), we started packing. Chris Hawkes organised vast amounts of museum boxes into which everything was decanted, the boxes were labelled, numbered and listed. For the first time several of us became horribly familiar with the museum's contents (although the significance of much of it escaped us, we soon became able to identify the code "G2" with the site "Alveston Bone Fissure", some sort of Pleistocene hole in the ground, which attracted numerous large and stupid animals, who soon resided at the bottom along with their friends and relations.)

We discovered bones and flints by the bucket load, followed by pots, then more bones and flints. Throughout all this, Chris's encyclopaedic knowledge of the contents (and sensibly robust attitude towards packaging) guided a bunch of enthusiastic but puzzled helpers. We were also ably assisted and guided by Lesley-Anne Kerr from Wells Museum, who displayed a welcome sense of humour and an enviable ability to organise Chris, a talent hitherto unknown in the history of the UBSS. Hopes began to rise, we might have a chance of surviving this move after all. At the same time, Charlie and Andy Farrant were coping with the job of moving the geological collection into the Tackle Store.

Whilst all the packaging was going on, John Thornes (who had recently taken on our Presidency and must have been wondering what the hell he had let himself in for) and Steve Cottle were running around like headless chickens (c.f. Box 94 for a Bronze Age one in a similar state), trying to talk the University into finding us a new home. Initially, their efforts didn't meet with much success and so the library moved into storage on the top floor of the Union and Arthur ApSimon arranged for temporary storage of the museum with the help of Bristol City Museum, who lent us some warehouse space.



This was a worrying time, we had no day-to-day access to our collections and our only premises consisted of the Tackle Store, which thankfully had been unaffected by our problems. John appealed to all our members for help in bringing our plight to the attention of the Powers-That-Be in the University. As ever, UBSS members together with highly placed friends in the archaeological world rallied round and sackfuls of mail descended on the four Pro-Vice Chancellors.

We were offered the use of a small self-contained block of four rooms in The Stables at the rear of the Dept of German on Woodlands Road. The rooms needed substantial renovation, including the replacement of one of the upper floors. The work was carried out by the University starting in the summer of 1991 and the rooms were finally handed over to us at the beginning of 1992. Our bit then began and most members in Bristol were press-ganged into further repairs and redecoration. Vast amounts of varnish and paint were deployed in an attempt (largely successful) to seal the walls against dust. A new, hard-wearing carpet was purchased for the ground floor display areas and we were lucky enough to buy some more carpet remnants cheaply from an office clearance, for the upstairs rooms. The main library room and museum display area were housed downstairs, with the stack room and store upstairs. Doubts were expressed about the strength of the new floor, but it managed to take the weight of the museum store, so we thought, "in for a penny " etc and held a committee meeting up there as well, where Bill Miners gave a vote of confidence in the floor by wearing full SRT kit and anchoring himself to the roof beams.

Due to the mammoth task of reorganisation ahead of us, initial hopes of an opening in the summer term were scrapped, but by then a lot of people had committed a vast amount of time and effort to getting that far and enthusiasm for the new rooms was running high. We started meeting there every Tuesday night for a couple of hours before going to Crockers and weekends started appearing on the working calender as well. Remarks like "If its going to be done, its going to be done properly" started to be made and the Treasurer began to turn a delicate shade of pale as this invariably preceded a request for money.

A planning meeting was held on a Saturday (with Chris remarking at five minute intervals "Isn't it time for lunch"), followed by a visit to Bristol Museum for a snoop at their displays. New ideas began to creep into our collective conciousness and we decided to abandon tradition and dispense with hessian as a backing material and move away from serried rows of exhibits on shelves as a display concept (note the new jargon, as well). Its taken a while to wean Charlie off shelves, but we're getting there. We even started to read books about how to organise a museum, which began to look suspiciously like "practising beforehand and spoiling all the fun", a most un-British trait and one that really worried Graham as by then we were developing definite ideas about what to spend money on.

At the same time, other grandiose ideas started to develop...we were going to hold a proper Opening and we also wanted to explore the idea of registering the museum with the Museums and Galleries Commission. Graham cheered up at this point, as this would hopefully make us eligible for certain grants to help with the conservation and management of the collection. Our Collections Management Policy is in the course of preparation and it is hoped to submit the application by the end of this term. (By this time, Lesley-Anne had been helping us every week and had

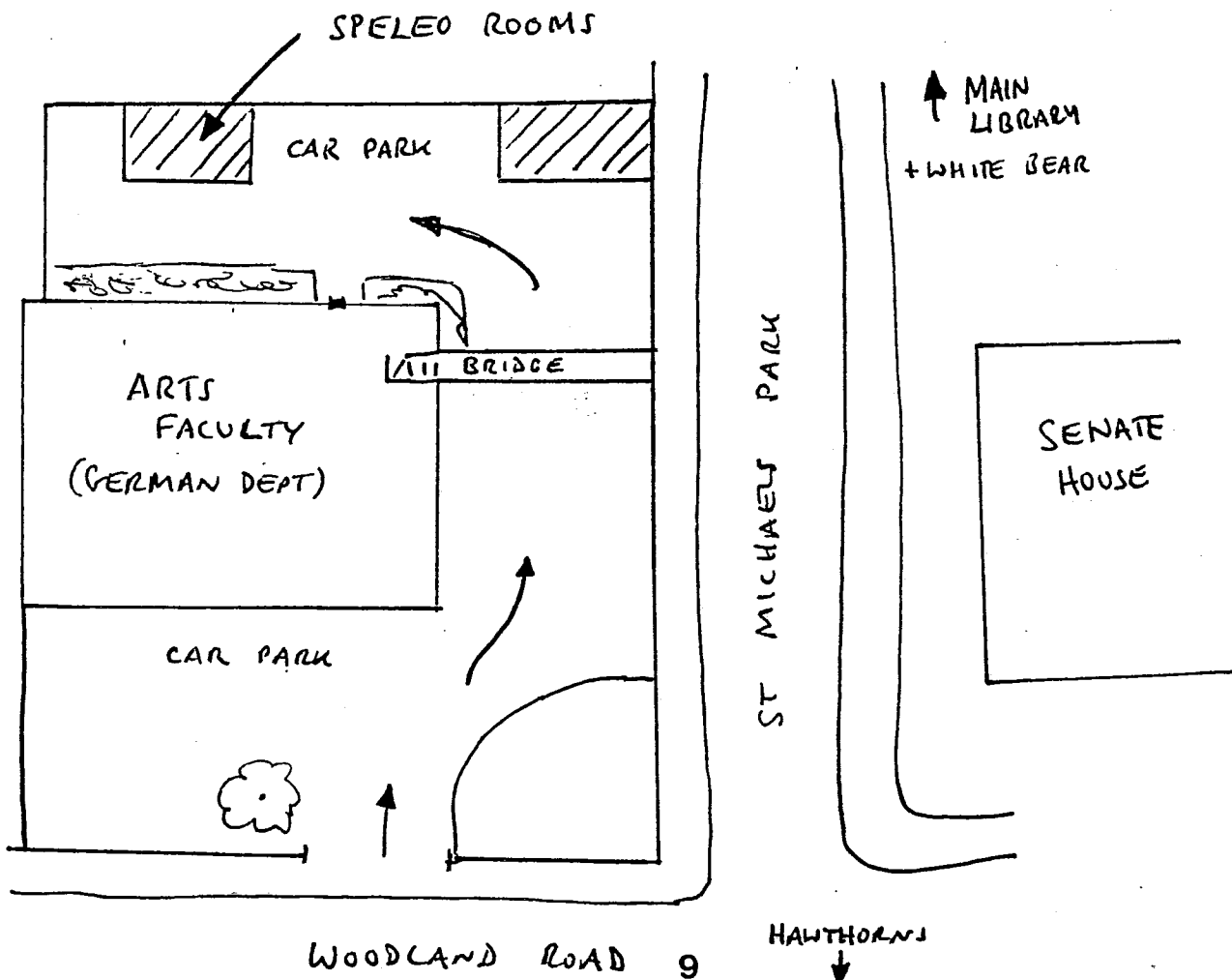
been proposed and accepted as a member - what a way to thank someone , ie take a tenner off them for the pleasure of doing us a favour!)

The display cases have now all been renovated and decked out with proper museum quality backing board, covered with a rather tasteful grey material, to which exhibits can be velcroed (we toyed with the idea of red or lime-green, but sanity prevailed). So far there is not a shelf in sight and Steve is starting work on manufacturing glass display boxes out of the vast amount of scrap glass we seem to have acquired over the years. The one thing that has become apparent is the almost pathological hatred this Society has for throwing anything away....we seem to have acquired the left-over junk from every set of rooms we have ever inhabited!

A date has been set for the Official Opening on the afternoon before the AGM and Dinner, so we haven't got much choice now, we've got to have it all ready in time. The opening will be done by Sir John Wills, whose family have been our landlords in Burrington for the past 74 years. Unfortunately, due to considerations of space, it isn't possible to invite every member to the Opening, but an Open Afternoon is being held on Saturday, 6th March 1993 from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, to which everyone is invited. Please make the effort to come along and see what we've all been up to.

Once work on the displays for the opening is over, the important background work on the conservation of the collection can really begin. The museum and the library have suffered too many moves in recent years and it is hoped that they can now be allowed to settle into their new home and be worked on in some degree of peace and security.

See you on Saturday afternoon.....



## PEN PARK HOLE REOPENED

Graham Mullan

At last the best kept secret in local caving can be revealed, thanks wholly to the work of Society members, albeit under the aegis of the CSCC, the long shut Pen Park Hole has been reopened.

This cave, in Southmead, north Bristol, has been known since 1669, when Captain Samuel Sturmy, a Bristol sea captain, descended it in the company of a miner. They reached the edge of the Lake, at a depth of about 50 m, and at that time and until the discovery of Lamb Lair some four or five years later it was the deepest known cave in Britain and possibly in the World.

Its long history has included several famous episodes, of which the most notorious was the death of the Rev. Thomas Newnam, of St Mary Redcliffe Church. The Rev. Newnam was attempting to plumb the depth of the main cave, when the tree to which he was holding broke, and he fell. His body was not recovered for 39 days.

Some time after this accident all the entrances to the cave were closed. They remained so until 1957. At this time, the City Council needed to relocate the cave, as building was to go on nearby, and the loosely filled entrances may have caused some risk. The cave was found and one of the entrances was reopened by diggers from this Society, the BEC and the Wessex. This allowed an up to date and accurate survey to be made, and for other studies to be carried out.

During this period, the entrance was only secured by a crude wooden cover, which was subject to vandalism and break-ins, and so after a rescue from the cave, in 1963, the City Engineers Department had it securely closed by a concrete slab.

In 1987, the cave came to notice again, when two terriers were reputed to have been trapped down it. They were rescued unscathed, but the incident was enough to make the local papers, and calls were heard to "fill it in". I therefore started negotiations with the Council, on behalf of the CSCC, to secure the future of the cave and if at all possible to reopen it. That work came good in 1992, when the Council produced their landscaping scheme for the area, including access to the cave, and in February the Council drains team re-excavated the entrance and built us a new one, topped off nicely by a Tuska (Dave Morisson) special steel gate.

The ensuing year saw a small number of trips allowed into the cave, whilst the full access agreement was being negotiated, and this has allowed us to complete the exploration started in the fifties. In May, Clive Owen climbed into the never previously visited Upper East Passage (or, as Wanda put it, he "cracked the last virgin in Southmead"). This was all of 13 m long. Attention then turned to the Lake where a large inviting

archway could be seen under the East wall. This was dived in July by Marco Paganuzzi, but regrettably it only went for about 10 m before hitting the wall, with no way on.

Scientific study trips have also been made into the cave, including one last March when Prof. Andrej Mihevc, of the Karst Institute of Postojna, was shown around. This nearly caused Andy Farrant to have heart failure, as, knowing nothing of the negotiations, he thought we were taking our foreign dignitary "pirating".

The full access agreement is now in place, and allows trips to be led by accredited leaders from the Society, the BEC, and the Wessex. These are the three clubs that carried out all the work in the cave in the 1950s and '60s and were therefore chosen for historical reasons, as well as for the fact that they are all versed in running access systems, to continue their involvement. Access has to be restricted to the cave as it is in the middle of a residential area, and irresponsible or anti-social behaviour would lead immediately to permanent loss of access. Our leaders are Paul Harvey and Steve Cottle.

This work, plus a review of the history and of the formation of this unusual cave, along with revised surveys will all appear in a forthcoming issue of Proceedings. (This statement is usually the kiss of death to papers, but can be safely made in this case 'cos I've already written it!)

### Some Useful Caving Definitions

*By Matt Wood, with thanks to Glenn Jones*

- ABSEIL: A method of sliding down a rope using a metal thing to slow you down.
- ARTHRITIS: What old cavers get.
- AVEN: A passage ascending vertically from the floor of a horizontal passage, i.e. a hole in the roof.
- BELAY: A point of attachment for a rope or ladder above a pitch, usually the hardest part of a pothole to reach.
- BERNIES: Bernies Cafe, Ingleton. A place of fine cuisine, filled with delicate aroma of unwashed cavers. Also believed to be the only source of "I ate at Bernies and lived" stickers.
- BOLT: Steel cylinder thingy which expands when driven into rock to provide an artificial belay - see Belay.
- BUGGERED: What old cavers feel like. What happens to gear used underground.
- CAVE: Latin for beware. French wine/liquor co-operative. Horizontal pothole.
- CHOKE: Device used to start old cars. Blockage of boulders or mud in a cave. A passive verb; This cave is choked with cold cars.
- DESCENDER: A mechanical device attached to the rope to effect a controlled abseil. A hand warmer.
- DOLINE: Depression in limestone which may have a cave at the bottom or may not.
- DONKEYS DICK: Rope attached to a harness used for carrying tackle.

- DUCK:** A portion of passage, usually small, where the proportion of water is greater than the proportion of air that fills the said passage.
- FREE HANG:** Ideal position for the rope to hang down the pitch, free of all walls. Penalty imposed by French courts at no cost
- GOUFFRE:** A large French cave or pothole, as in Gouffre Berger. Not to be confused with a cheeseburger.
- HARNESS:** Nylon truss which attaches the caver to the rope.
- HELMET:** Protective covering applied to the head to prevent it damaging the rock. Also removes the need for the caver to have a lamp bracket screwed to his skull.
- INTERESTING:** As in "This looks interesting" - cavers jargon for difficult.
- KARABINER:** Universal linkage for rope etc.,
- LIFELINE:** A piece of rope usually forgotten until it's too late. So named because it would have saved a caver's life had it been in use.
- MAILLON RAPIDE:** An alternative to the Karabiner - not very rapid.
- PITCH:** An aerial sporting venue, pitch black when peered over.
- POTHOLE:** Bits missing from British roads. A vertical cave.
- PUCKER FACTOR:** A scale of reference used to measure the degree of involuntary contraction of the anal sphincter muscle that occurs at the top of large pitches. Range of measurement usually lies between 1-10 PF's. Factors above 10PF have been known to occur and are often preceded by gaseous eruptions of a comparable factor on the Richter scale. Such occurrences usually require prompt medical treatment for the diarrhoea that follows. Frequently witnessed at the Scialet Malaterre, France.
- RACK:** A type of descender which allows uncontrolled descents when threaded incorrectly.
- REBELAY:** Intermediate belay designated to make life in the middle of a pitch more interesting - see "interesting".
- RED BOLTS:** An infection causing red spots on limestone in the Yorkshire Dales, believed to have originated in Dent. Similar to Chicken Pox or measles in humans.
- RESURGENCE:** Spring where underground water emerges into daylight, except at night.
- RIFT:** Tall thin passage with or without a floor. Disagreement between members of the club, usually over who bought the last round. Interesting cave in the Dales - see "interesting".
- ROPE PROTECTOR:** Sheath of thick PVC which prevents damage to the rope where it touches the rock. Far better to have a free hang.
- RUB POINT:** Place where the rope rubs against the rock. Better to have no rub point.
- SCIALET:** French equivalent of a pothole. i.e. the bits missing from French roads.
- SEVER:** The result of a bad rub point which has been ignored.
- SHAKEHOLE:** Yellow holes in the ground found near to cars where cavers are changing.
- SRT:** Single Rope Techniques. Self Rescue Technique. Severe Rope Trauma. Silly Rope Tricks, depending on circumstances.
- SQUEEZE:** Excessively tight point in the passage, usually requiring a great deal of effort.
- SUMP:** Point in a cave where the water fills the passage entirely. Probably more feared that either a shaft or a squeeze.
- THRUTCH:** Way of passing a squeeze by uncoordinated whole body effort.
- WETSUIT:** Rubber suit that keeps you warm by a thin layer of water next to your skin, and also keeps you cool due to the large number of holes that most wetsuits seem to contain.

Some Caves along Back Mountain Road,  
Pocahouta Co, W. Virginia

Rosemary Balister

*Dill Cave.* First explored by UBSS members in 1969 (actually three small children - one of whom went on to be the Vice President of VPI Grotto. It was assumed that a cave was there scientifically, and chance removal of a rock revealed the entrance. It is not a long cave and most of it is wet, but there are some excellent examples of mud stalagmites and rock bridges. It is a pleasure to enter this cave on a hot muggy summer day and emerge while it is still warm. Ideal cave to show non-professionals. Usually wets their appetite for more. Some visiting Russian scientists were taken down it and a multi-national group of women. Fuller reports and a map appeared in Canadian caver No 2, June 1970.

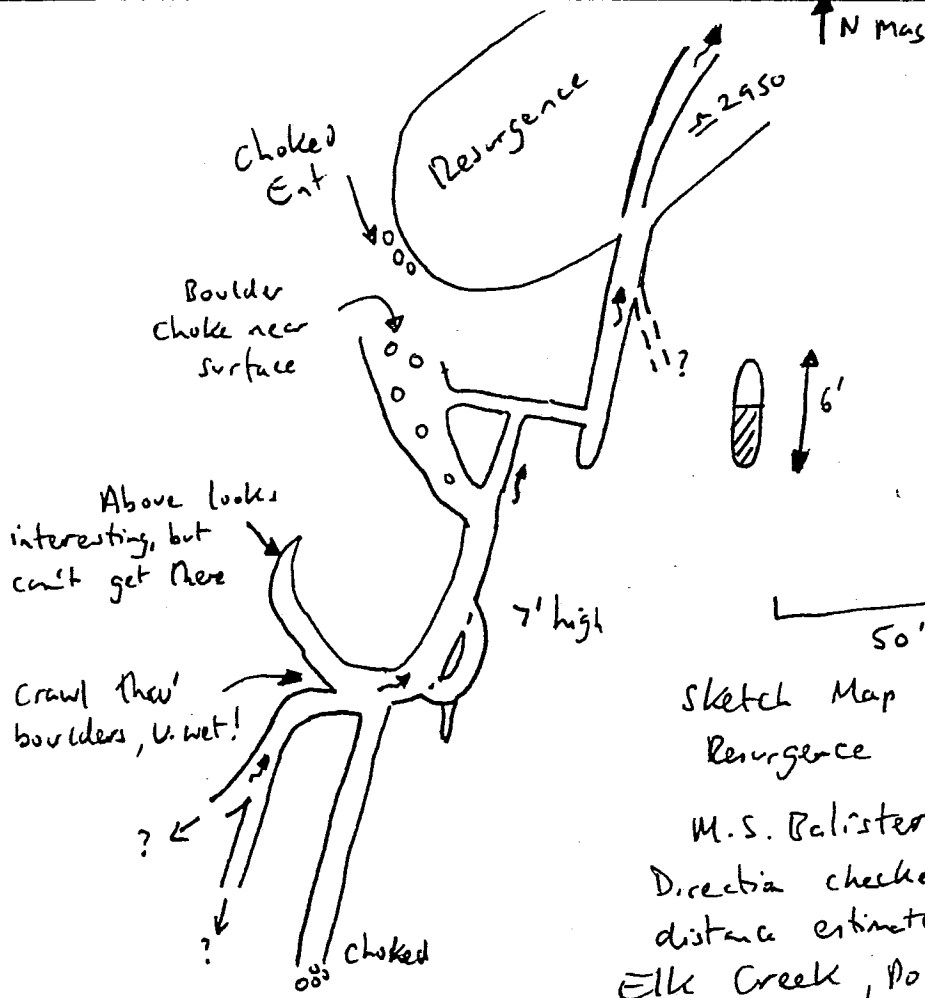
*Quarry cave.* A stream sinks in a quarry along the Back Mountain road, but doesn't seem to yield the secret of the cave below. It is too rocky to really dig - at least that was my feeling. To pass the time while waiting by the sink with small children, I did an oil painting which was exhibited at the 8th International Congress at Bowling Green. (I don't think the UBSS delegates were interested in the art show, at least that didn't feature in the account written in Descent.)

*Horrible Hole.* Above the Rexrock House, this has been dug and dynamited, but is rather unpleasant to explore. Perhaps it wasn't my sort of cave. In the same area there are two other holes which look promising, but don't seem to go.

*Greathouse Cave.* Self explanatory as per map. I never went in and to get to the entrance I found myself ploughing through a forest of stinging nettles with small children. These may have warped my outlook.

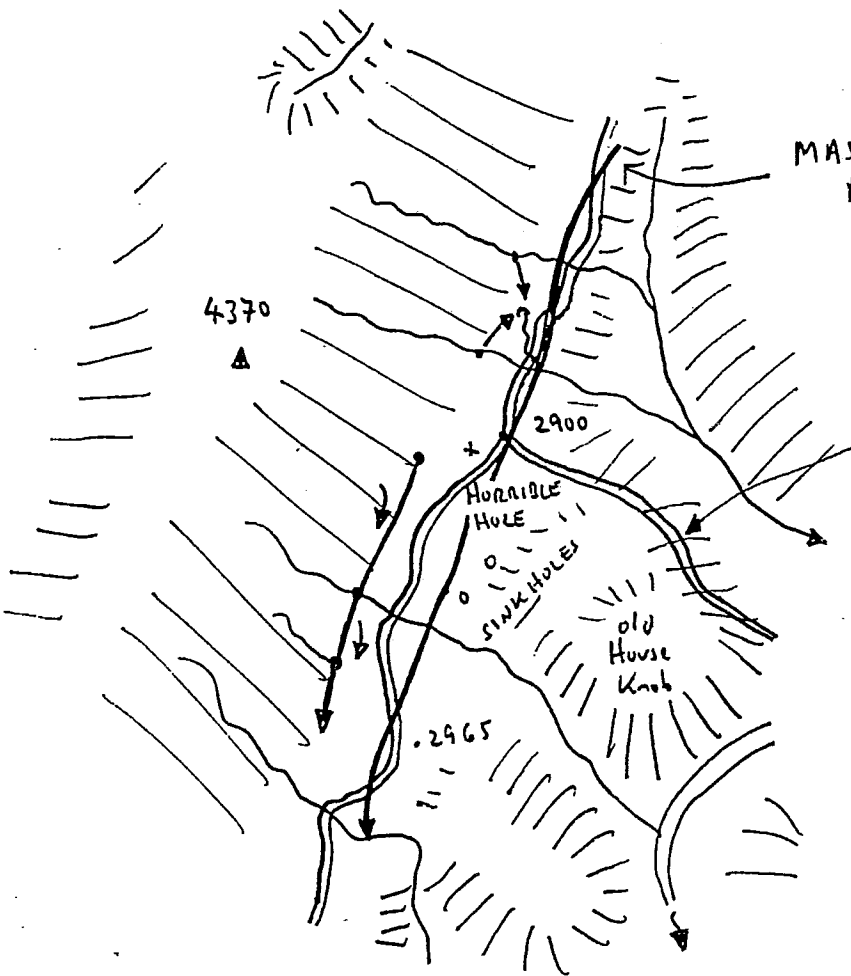
OCL's spirit lies there as there is an Oliver's school and a place called Oliver marked on the map. Other places of speleological interest are Roaring Springs - a major rising and the water supply for the town of 'Durbin'. Major known cave systems are Cassell's pit, Windy cave and Cass cave, all described in Davies' *Caves of West Virginia*. Other small caves are mentioned in Davies' book. I used Grimes cave for Cub Scouts - short and interesting and difficult to have an accident in! In the 60's it was easy to buy dynamite!

Error in Trevor Shaws obituary for OCL (with all due respect for the great man). The speleo's called him the dead man's doctor'. MD's are wont to invent intellectual reasons for not practising their profession outside the clinical situation - this was Oliver's; when asked for his opinion, he replied 'I am a dead man's doctor', after which he wasn't asked any more.



Sketch Map of Creathouse Resurgence 27. July 1969

M.S. Balister  
 Direction checked with compass  
 distance estimated.  
 Elk Creek, Pocahontas Co, W. Va.



MASTER CAVE, postulated by M. Balister as result of Dye Tracing

- sink
- CAVE
- + known cave