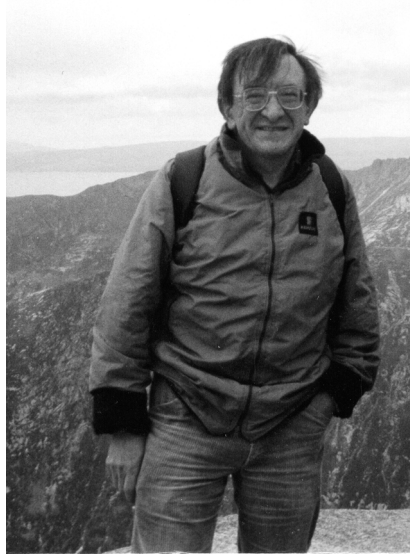


MICHAEL J. WATSON FCA
(1943 – 08.06.02)



Mick died on June 8th after a six year battle with cancer.

He was born and went to school in Leeds and joined the White Rose Pothole Club before coming to Bristol to read economics in 1961 and joining the UBSS and the Royal Naval Reserve. He brought with him to Bristol a deep knowledge and experience of Yorkshire caves, enthusiasm and an engaging sense of humour.

Mick had resolved early on to pursue a career in accountancy and, deciding in 1963 that his degree course was not the quickest way to become qualified, left Bristol to become articled to a firm of accountants and undertake a six year correspondence course. He maintained contact with the UBSS and used to spend much of his correspondence course study leave staying with Oliver Lloyd. The two of them developed a great mutual respect. After qualifying as an accountant, Mick worked successively for Peat Marwick and Mitchell, the Atomic Energy Authority and the CEGB, before starting his own accountancy business in 1984, with offices in his home village of Dacre Banks near Harrogate and in Ingleton. In 1965 he married Joan and they had two children, a son and a daughter.

He continued his caving and potholing activities, taking an active part with Bradford Pothole Club, Northern Cave Club and the Happy Wanderers as well as the White Rose (for whom he was treasurer for a time). Mick participated in several overseas expeditions including one in Czechoslovakia and was also an energetic walker with a particular love of the Lake District. Mick went to County Clare with the UBSS in 1963 and 1964 and for the 1998 reunion.

He was active in Cave Rescue activities and was chairman of the Settle and Ingleton CRO for some years. In that role he was active in RAF liaison affairs and joint exercises. Mick took Metropolitan Police parties caving as part of their outdoor pursuits training and was rewarded with an exciting trip to experience many aspects of Met activities in London.

He was also a Harrogate District councillor for some years.

T.J. Hill