

**ROYAL FOREST OF DEAN**

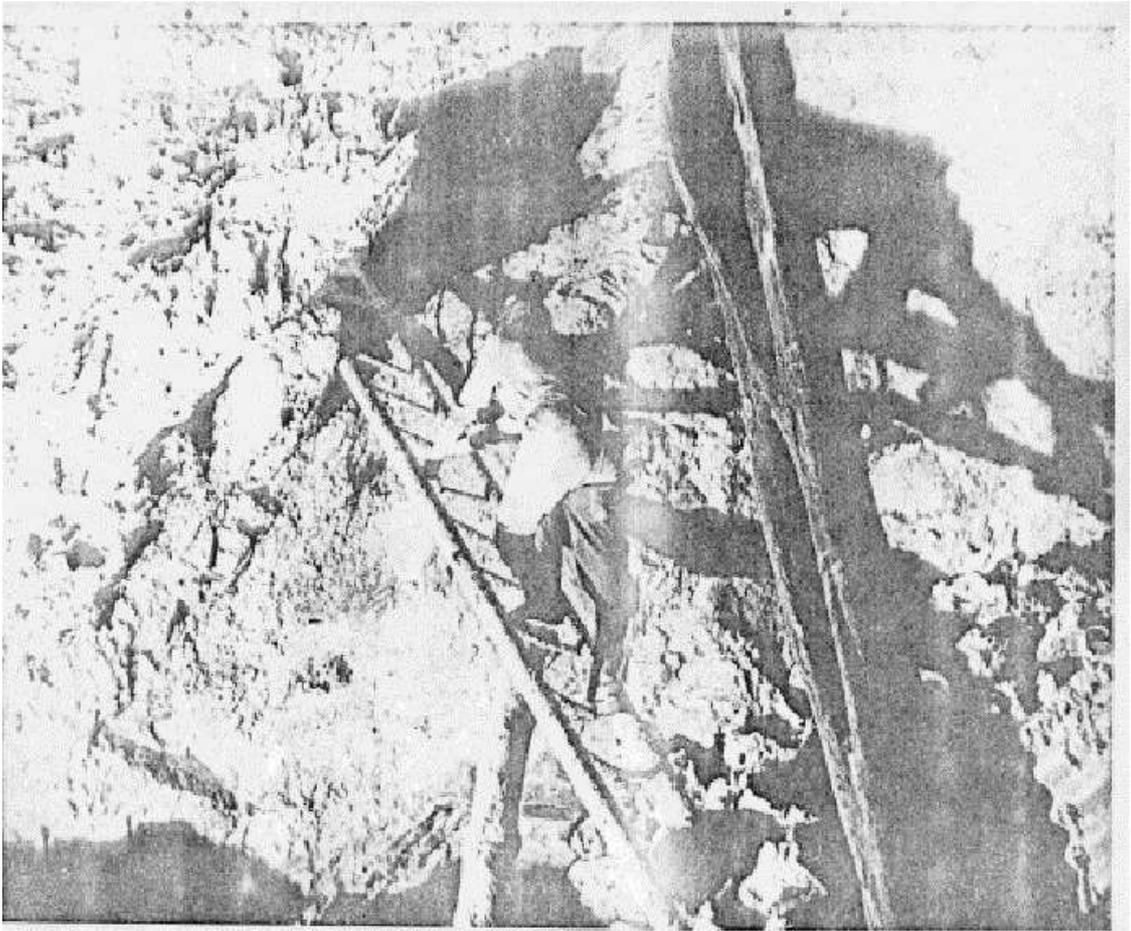
**CAVING CLUB**



**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION**

**NOVEMBER 1974**

**NEWS LETTER No 54**



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## ROYAL FOREST OF DEAN CAVING CLUB

### 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

During October 1964 half a dozen erstwhile cavers met in a pub to formally set up a caving club . Roger Bailey was elected Secretary as he was the only one that turned up with paper and pencil . Those present had all done some caving and some had been doing it for a considerable time . It was mainly mine workings experience but even so was as good as most beginners get .

One of the first things that had to be decided was the name of the club . It obviously had to connect with the Forest of Dean and considerable discussion took place on the relative merits of using the word ' Royal ' or not . Some were very strongly against - and still are .

However , the majority won and the club became known as the Royal Forest of Dean Caving Club .

Normally shortened to RFDCC , some insist on shortening it to RFODCC but then Welsh always were a bit independent .

Membership grew quite quickly and the early club experience of real caves was helped by people like Mel Davies and members of the South Wales Caving Club . At first a great deal of suspicion existed between the club and the nearby GSS and it was rumoured that a certain GSS member joined RFDCC so that they could keep an eye on its activities . Now of course both clubs exist happily side by side , sharing activities but maintaining identities .

As I think with most new clubs , the strength of the membership was thought to lie in numbers . It was quickly realised that a member cost the club money as his subscription didn't even cover the cost of his news letters . After that , members were recruited more cautiously from those with caving ambitions and the numbers ' hanger - ons ' fell away . It did result in the club being tagged ' unfriendly ' but it was thought best if potential new members really had to make an effort to be accepted .

Membership did reach the magic figure of 50 once but it was not representative of the numbers of cavers and in general the club seems happiest and most active with a membership of around 40 .

Quite a few of those original members from ten years ago are still around and some even still go caving . For those of you just starting into caving , I hope that your next ten years are as rewarding and exciting as they have been for the original members .

## CLUB NEWS AND GRIPES

The club has its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary party at the Speech House on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November . The bar is open until 12 and the general idea is to have an enjoyable evening with a bit of everything -----  
Tickets from Sue and Jim . Price 40p includes food .

At least one of the club compasses has gone missing and the other one cannot be found . If you have either one , please return it to the tackle store . One is liquid damped and one is not . Both are amy prismatic type .

An experiment was tried by leaving a number of NIFE cell bulbs , electrolyte etc . in the club room at the Butchers . This was to make replacements more easily available to club members . Please restore my faith and the treasurers balance by paying for any items you have had .

The new club year starts at the AGM and trips will have to be arranged for next year . Start thinking now . Do you want day trips only or are we actually going to start having weekends away again ? GSS have already suggested that the combined club's trip to Yorkshire should take place next year - interested ?

Similarly for club meetings . Should we continue with the infomal type of club meeting that we introduced this year or should we revert to the more formal type ? If we do stay with the apparently more popular inform al meeting , how about some suggestions for speakers etc . at those meetings . Geniuses though the committee are , they still need input from the members .

Finally - how about some decent black and white photos to put in the front of future news letters . Particularly those of the Forest's Mines or Caves .

## CAVING COMMENTS

## BY

## GUESS WHO

Hello Playmates . After being sacked from my job of Beano journalist , I have now been persuaded to put pen to paper once more .

Nobody else bothers to write for the club mag anyway .

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Oct - Saw myself, Phil and Doug galloping down the path to Otter Hole somewhere near ( censored ) our objective , to show Doug the delights of the said cave and also to survey the entire length if time permitted . But due to awkward bits of passageway and Phil's complete wizardry in compass reading, it took us about two hours to survey the 300ft or so that we managed to do before time caught up on us .

We took Doug to the stream / sump and found ( to our delights ) that the water was too high , so hampering further progress . The far end of the cave is extremely muddy and three or four cavers drag a hell of a lot of mud back into the drier parts . So please go carefully near formations which have been taped off to prevent damage and soiling .

We have a great cave here so lets do our bit in conserving it .

## CLEARWELL IRON MINE

Parts of the Clearwell Gale have always been open as small churns opening off the common between Clearwell Caves and Clearwell Village .

The minemaps also show a main drivage off the side of the road and leading into the workings . This drivage is now open and cavers can gain access provided the entrance is covered again to prevent local kids getting into dangerous workings .

About half way between Clearwell Caves entrance track and the start of Clearwell Village , the entrance lies off the side of the road . At present it is covered in by earth over corrugated iron but needs little work to uncover . The workings possibly connect with the upper workings of Sling Iron Mine .

Anyone entering the Mine MUST recover the entrance in a secure way .

## CAMBRIAN CUTTINGS

The only access to the Columns in OFD II is now via the 60ft pitch . South Wales Caving Club have had to take this step as the Columns were too accessible and the area around them was beginning to suffer damage. The whole area is taped and cavers are asked not to cross the tapes - it is very tempting to do so when taking photo's but please don't .

Hereford Caving Club have extended Pwll Swnd cutting into a pitch at the end of the cave . The pitch leads into a small tight stream way which does not go at the moment . Of more interest is the fact that the stream has been tested to a major rising about 1 ½ miles away .

Access in Agen Allwed is now back to normal with the exception of the sump . A meeting was held between the Police , the Cave Diving Group and the Agen Allwed Cave Management Committee to discuss the position of access to the sumps and a statement will be issued in due course .

Frank Baguley of SWCC has been appointed the caving representative on a National Committee considering sport for the disabled . He is interested in any club or individual interested in helping with advice and / or practice for a disabled person wishing to take up caving . If anyone can help , he would like to keep a list of names so that he can direct enquires to the nearest and most suitable person . Either give your name to the club secretary or write direct to Frank at SWCC , Penwllt .

South Wales caving club are installing luxurious new showers in their HQ . For those reluctant to visit South Wales on day trips , it is intended to make showers available in return for a small payment . Included is a Wet Suit washing off area , showers and wash basins , changing rooms and a drying room for caving clothes . Provided the price of oil does not go up again , the charge will be quite reasonable .

## CONSERVATION

The last Cambrian Council News Letter contained the following :- As part of their efforts towards Cambrian Conservation Year , RFDCC , GSS and Rank Xerox Adventure Group are cleaning up Old Ham, with the renewal of the fence , alteration of the stile and cleaning up of the mine itself . This is to be followed by action in Old Bow and New Dunn Mines .

So where were you at the first session some weeks ago ? Look out for the date of the next clear up in the News Letter . It needs about 15 people involved to do the job properly and only a start has been made so far . Fence posts are still the problem for the new fence . We need about 8 or 10 metal posts , each 5' 6'' long . Rod Stewart has offered 3'' water pipe but it needs cutting to length - with a cutting torch . Geoff Broadman has the fencing wire available so all we need is some effort and enthusiasm .

Jim Hay has 4 x 100 ft reels of reflective tape available for taping off formations . These have been made available by Cambrian Council as part of the conservation Year at half their normal price . The major of the tapes will be in Otter Hole but if anyone has some specific use in mind , let Jim know . The tape is one inch wide and bright reflective orange .

There have been no further developments in the possibility of OFD being quarried away . South Wales Caving Club are asking for support in case it comes to a court case and the club has offered an unspecified amount should it do so . Meanwhile , some of the clubs that visit the cave regularly are pledging specific towards the north end at the moment and this is away from the cave .

## FURTHER NOTES ON REDBROOK COPPER MINE

BY  
ALAN MARRIOTT

In the edition of the news letter of September / November 1972, Roger Bailey discussed the tradition of the Mining of Copper Ore in the Forest area and came to the conclusion that it was improbable that any ore had ever existed.

I came across certain references to the matter a few months ago and was stimulated to pursue it further.

We must go back to the late 16<sup>th</sup> century to find copper mining being carried out in this country on anything but a small scale. In 1580 the society of Mines Royal who were working copper mines in Cumberland, based in Devon and Cornwall to Thomas Smyth who commenced mining and, after unsuccessful attempts to smelt the ore locally, built furnaces at Neath about 1584. The whole venture was however a failure and we hear more of it after 1602.

Little is known of the state of copper mining and smelting during the first part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but it is evident that it became moribund, probably caused firstly by the shortage of wood for charcoal and subsequently, additionally to the disruption consequent on the Civil War.

It is clear, however, that from the time of the Restoration until the 1690s, the English market was dominated by copper produced in Sweden which had the advantage of abundant ore and virtually unlimited supplies of timber.

However, by the 1680's the reverberate furnace using pit coal had been developed and was being used at Bristol to smelt lead and copper ores by Sir Clement Clarke and partners with whom John Coster was associated.

Also, about the time, it became apparent that the copper mining monopoly held by the society of mines royal had become oppressive and the Mines Royal Acts of 1689 and 1693 removed it.

The way was therefore clear for the expansion of copper production in this country and John Coster was one of the early people in the field. His family had been established in the Forest for many years as iron masters and he left Bristol to establish a copper smelting works at upper Redbrook about 1690.

Now it is interesting to ask why they should have been set up at Redbrook, and it is easy to believe that it was on account of the existence of copper ore in the locality. Such ore would probably have been carbonate or oxide - there is no evidence of igneous rock in the Forest area which gives sulphide - the treatment of which would have been within the technical capacity of English labour at that time, and the site offered ample water power and abundant local pit coal.

Further, a second works was established nearby at Lower Redbrook in 1691 by the English Copper Co. a competitor, and it is difficult to understand why, unless ore was available locally.

These considerations are reinforced by the existence in the Swedish State Office reports, one written in 1692, that a company had recently been formed to work copper mines in the Forest of Dean, and, the other 6 years later that the mines were exhausted.

Cont.

It would seem , therefore , that a good case exists for believing that copper ore was mined in the Forest area, but there are other considerations to merit our attention .

It was said that although Redbrook offered good access by water to ore from Cornwall , it was much more distant from Cornish Ports than Neath and Swansea , which possessed the necessary pit coal and water power , and consequently not competitive . We must , however , remember that the South Wales copper smelting industry had died soon after 1600 and was not revived until 1695 at Neath and 1717 at Swansea , and it would therefore appear quite plausible to argue that the Yorks would still have been set up at Redbrook even though there was no local ore and only Cornish ore was available . There was no competition and John Coster would no doubt have much better connections with Redbrook than with Neath or any other likely site . The case here is backed up by the port entries for copper ore loaded at St Ives for Chepstow ( the port for Redbrook )

These were :-

|      |   |          |
|------|---|----------|
| 1690 | - | 50 tons  |
| 1691 | - | 53 tons  |
| 1692 | - | 502 tons |
| 1697 | - | 986 tons |

We know also that John Coster acquired extensive copper mining interests in Cornwall and shortly after 1700 took on lease , amongst others , the Chasewater Mine . He improved many aspects of mining and introduced a new type of water wheel when drainage was becoming a big problem and was the first to use a Horse Whim . He has been described as ‘ An excellent metallurgist and a good natural philosopher ‘ and has been called with some justification ‘ The father of Cornish copper mining ‘

There is , therefore , no doubt that Cornish ore was used at Redbrook and certainly from 1692 on a considerable scale and it is apparent that the existence of local ore was not necessarily the reason for the establishment of the furnaces there .

It has recently been stated that a water pumping station at Redbrook stands on the site of the old Copper Mine , referring presumably to a station recently built to pump water from Bigwell Adit , and it has been suggested that this was originally driven for mine drainage . This , however is not so and Mr S G Horten , lately managing director of the Redbrook Tinplate Co. whose family were connected with their works for 150 years , stated that his father remembered it as being driven to augment the water supply for the wheels which drove the plant . Some years ago , Mr Horten penetrated the adit in a small boat and found it extended for a distance of about 180 yds and ended in a rock face , from a fissure in which a powerful stream of water issued .

I accompanied my friend , David Blick , on a recent examination of the hillside above the adit , but we found no indication of a shaft , and although excavations have been made , they appear to be old limestone workings to feed the kilns and furnaces , remains of which have been found in the works area . No evidence was found of copper ore workings .

It is also worth noting that investigations by the water board into the possibility of copper at Redbrook proved negative and that the district geologist can find no reference in his records to its occurrence .

It seems to me that the only evidence in support ie. That in the Swedish State Records Office , is more than outweighed by the other factors and I can only agree with Roger Bailey that it seems most unlikely that the tradition has any basis in fact .

Cont.

References :-

- (I) As Roger Bailey's notes .
- (ii) The copper works at Redbrook & Bristol .  
Rhys Jenkins , Transactions of B & GAS . VOL . 63 - 1942 .
- (iii) A History of Copper Mining in Cornwall & Devon DB Barton - 1968 .

Alan is continuing his investigations into the activities of John Coster . As much of this was in Comwall , that is where Alan will be spending some of his spare time in future . Hopefully , when more of the story is available , we will be able to publish a further article in this news letter .

In the meantime , there is plenty of similar mysteries in the Forest that could benefit from systematic investigation such as Alans . How about the complete and true story of the activities of the Chastan Syndicate and the reasons for Fairplay Pit ?

### **OTTER HOLE**

### **ROGER BAILEY**

Otter Hole is at present the largest and most promising cave in the area, being at the time of writing around 2000ft long . It has an active stream way , large passages , a sump , terrific formations and a fantastic draught - the cavers dream in fact .

BUT - and a very large but , it cannot be over emphasised that for the unaware and the unformed the cave can be very dangerous . So far we have explored to the sump and 1000ft past it .

The cave resurgence into tidal reaches of a river and this introduces several variables into the accessibility of it . Apart from the usual hazard of heavy rain in the locality, we now have to bear in mind the time of the tides , which are as follows :-

1. What time is high tide as this varies from day to day - this is known from tide tables .
2. The height of the tide - this varies considerably but can be predicted .
3. What is the state of the river - this depends not so much on local rainfall but on the weather Conditions of two days before .

As an additional factor , barometric pressure and winds can also effect the height of the tide . The answers to 1 & 2 can be found in Arowsmiths Bristol Channel Ports Tide Table ( Short ) priced at 24p and this is the Bible for Otter Hole ! The other condition of the river has to be specially assessed as it may be possible in future to do extensive trips in the cave between tides - that is 12 hour trips from low tide to low tide . It will also be necessary to establish a food dump on the other side of the sump above tide level and a telephone link through would be most desirable . Local rainfall is very important as the cave collects over an extensive area and there will be a long run off period after heavy rain . This could mean a long stay on the other side of the sump .

Cont.

### **Description of the Cave**

The cave starts in a very jumbled mass of rifts and collapsed beds, through which a tunnel has been driven to enter the cave proper. Then follows a wide low bedding plane series with a tight squeeze that is not as bad as it looks - not when going in anyway. At the end of this section, the cave changes direction and a large boulder stream passage is entered.

This is very well decorated with large stal and is obviously a very old cave. Continuing along the passage, two sizable chambers are entered, the second having a large column around 8ft high and 2ft diameter and a huge boss 4ft high and 4ft diameter. The whole area is very well decorated and the way on beyond leads directly to the sump.

The sump, probably unique in Britain, is tidal and is a considerable barrier to exploration in the cave. About 20ft through and submerged twice a day in good weather. In wet conditions it is submerged for far longer periods. When the sump falls to give air space, a tremendous draught emerges that is literally a howling gale.

Beyond the sump, the cave opens up to 30ft high by 6ft wide with a false floor 10ft up leading to a blockage. Fifty feet along after laddering up to the false floor, a large boulder choke is reached. Going up into the choke reveals a clear way and after 100ft comes out above the main stream passage. This is about 30 - 40ft high by 6 - 10ft wide and is well decorated with large formations. The passage ends in a boulder choke.

### **History of Exploration**

The first site discovered in 1971 by GSS when Dave (Sparky) Parker made contact with two local men, George Gardener and Cyril Fitzpatrick, to whom we must extend special thanks. They showed him the entrances. Sometime later, Sparky returned with Chris Bowen and they opened up the first squeeze to a length at the time of 30ft. Other visits were made and Sparky asked Laurence and myself to have a look at it.

Unfortunately, we were too busy at the time with job building. Earlier this year, a mixed group including Stuart Jones, Roger Solari, John Elliott, a gang of us had a look for the first time one evening. We were immediately fired by the possibilities and were all sure the cave would go.

After a poke around, we decided that the best bet would not be across the top bedding plane but as low down as we could get, this being the level of greatest development, the bedding plane having been caused by a collapse.

Returning early from our holidays, we set to work and, after a couple of digs, found a good lead. We recruited Phil Schwartz and were digging on Saturday evenings, Sparky and Gordon Burch joining in for a session as well. After not a little bang had been expended together with not a little sweat and some blood, we were successful. On the evening of Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September we broke through and explored to within a couple of hundred feet of the sump. We could hardly believe what we had found with the size of passage and formations being far bigger than we had hoped for. Phil, Sparky, Laurence and myself returned to the Butchers Arms to celebrate. There we were observed by Rod Stewart who later described us as being "Disgustingly exited". We certainly were and still are!

Much has happened since then - three nearly got drowned by the highest tide for years - the sump has been passed and the main stream found. There is much more to find with the way on seeming to be through a large boulder choke from which a strong draught emerges.

The cave must be treated with caution due to the tidal factor and its behaviour in flood is not fully known as yet. Heavy mud makes the going hazardous at times and it is definitely a wet suit trip.

## A WET TRIP IN OTTER HOLE

DIANA COURT

Following the discovery of Otter Hole, a group of us went in to further explore and take photos. Coming to the place that had halted the last party, we found what had been a large deep pool was now a dry but muddy hole. The exploration then continued with many "oohs" and "aahs" at the fairly large formations and we were finally stopped by a sump in a chamber where fresh water was entering through a submerged rift and exiting the other side below water level.

The resurgence is some distance down river so it seemed probable that the cave ran roughly parallel to the river and the sump chamber could have been near to the resurgence. As the tide obviously did effect water levels (explaining the disappearance of the large pool) and parts of the passages so far discovered were extremely muddy, possibly due to tidal flow, it seemed fairly important which way the cave ran and to search for a passage or passages leading up above the tidal level.

The following Tuesday, Ian, Phil and myself went along with surveying gear intending to survey from the sump chamber out. We had checked the times of the tides and entered the cave at what we thought was just after high tide. Climbing down to the first banded crawl, we found a small puddle of water and, although no one had seen any water here before, just assumed that it was surface percolation as it had been raining. We reached the short sandy crawl just before the first chamber to find it half full of water. All slid through into the chamber and here too there was quite a bit of water around. By now we were beginning to wonder and decided to check the level to see if it was rising or falling. It seemed to be running around the chamber under the rocks, then there was a peculiar gurgling and glooping and the stone I had been looking at began to disappear rather quickly under the rising water. We decided to go out, not knowing how high it would rise or stay up. All of us had a picture of that puddle in the entrance and realised that it wasn't percolation after all. When we got to the section before the crawl, water was running noisily all around the joints and cracks in the floor underneath us and we then dropped all the gear and went like hell. Phil got to the crawl and went through, the puddle having grown and the full length of the crawl being fairly deep in water. Ian followed and then me. I could feel the water rising as I was lying in it and had only just enough air space to take a breath and then move forward. My feet jammed against Ian and for a few seconds I thought we were all going to cop it and tried to decide whether to keep trying to get out or go back. I pushed forward again and the way was clear and I got through. Feeling somewhat shaky, we went out and down to the river bank to see what the tide level was like. As we watched, it started to drop so we reckoned we were in the crawl at the very height of the tide and so would have made it alright anyway.

We trekked back to the Land Rover and drove towards home dreaming of Butcher's Arms cider but arrived there to find it closed. The next day we checked the heights of that tide and found it to be one of the highest tides of the year at 14.8 metres. We also discovered that the tide tables are in Greenwich Mean time and we were still in British Summer time and hence we were an hour out in our calculations. The following evening, some of the GSS members went in and found that the sandy area near the first chamber was sumped and although they waited some hours, it did not drop enough for them to get through.

Cont.

Since then the tides have been lower and various trips have been made to the sump chamber but here again, fluctuating water levels have impeded progress . It seems to be rainwater that affects the sump level and not the tide although this does have the effect of topping up the pool at each high tide . This sump has now been passed due to the low tides and low rainfall but great care has to be taken to work out the timing for trips on the other side and this is the limiting factor in the time for exploration . Phil has now surveyed through the entrance series and almost to the sump chamber - brave lad - and this shows the cave passage is running straight into the hill and not parallel to the river .  
I haven't been back since and , although the memory has faded , it was a nasty experience - I am waiting for a drought .

**LAMBSQUAYMINE**  
**Via Old Ham Iron Mine**

**John Elliott**

On Wednesday evening , the 4<sup>th</sup> September , Heather and I were heading for Pit Bottom when , on reaching Railway Churn , we said “Sod it “ . Instead we turned off to continue looking round the Lambsquay area . We penetrated this labyrinth for an unknown distance and were grubbing around some small passages , getting a bit thirsty , when we found a T Cook survey mark . This was funny , not being on a route to anywhere , so we crawled on . We entered a nasty collapsed area and I sniffed around , eventually finding a hole leading downwards . Leaving Heather , I climbed down into a heavily and rather erratically timbered passage . To the right didn't go but left was followed for a while through a crawl into a chamber which appeared not to go . As there was a draught , I investigated further and found a low passage out . Peering through , the way was blocked by a shovel which was kicked clear . A small timbered level was entered which looked good and here a retreat was made .  
The next Wednesday , Heather and I were joined by Colin Clements , Margaret Hay , Phil Schwartz and Doug Mdean . We carefully made our way to the little level and continued to a junction in better ground . Straight on was a level with very old railway lines leading into a fall . An upper series was explored and it was found a tool ( about six feet long ) used for packing the explosive charge into the shot holes . This will be photographed and taken out . The left hand series was explored and proved to be a complexity of churns and Phil was lucky to find a completely intact clay pipe .  
The following week , Phil , Heather and myself were back to finish exploring to the left . This was completed and a complex route was connected back into the entrance series . The only chance for further progress is to clear the fall on the track . Possibly this could be heading towards one of the Yew Tree Pit Shafts . Time will tell .

## THE LONGEST SHORT TRIP

OR

### EASTWATER AGAIN

Members :- Myself , John Elliott , Colin Clements , Doug Mclean and prospective member Diana Standing ( she was the good looking one )

7.55 pm on the evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> October , saw the Coleford team meeting up with Colin at the famous Burrington Café . It took a while to wake him and convince him that we were cavers and not a bunch of weirdo's after his money ! Half an hour later saw us toggled up and easing our way down through the entrance boulder ruckle , at the beginning of which was a notice which read 'Please follow the guide wire ' Unfortunately , most of the wire was missing . However , the old Burch instinct led us on down until we reached an awkward 45 degree bedding plane ( it could be less of an angle but I'm no expert ) This bedding plane , most of us ( wait for it ) took in our slide , but it was whilst waiting at the other side for Colin to get across , that my unerring instinct once again caught hold and drove me downwards into the depths , only to find that it didn't go .

At the top of my voice I shouted ( quite calmly ) this fact up to the gang and felt rather hurt at some of the replies , such as , " silly sod , wots e doin down there ? The way on's upere " and " Poor lad , its its eyes y' know "

Uttering streams of profanity in a prolific manner , I rejoined my so called mates and scrambled ever downwards until we reached the cross roads marked by a genuine county council sign .

The first pitch encountered was a nice 25 footer with an awkward 12 foot drop once off the ladder . Viewed from below it was impressive for a small pitch . It was while waiting at the top of this pitch that my stomach decided to play up and within ten minutes or so I felt right grotty , probably at the thought of dimbing back up .

At the next pitch , also a 25 footer with a nasty traverse and a drop at the bottom , I decided that I'd had enough for one night ( caving that is ) and bravely life-lined the party down and then I sat back to wait it out . From below came much shouting and banging , with cries of " How the hell do you get down here John"?

And " How did you get down here John " ? All this was followed by a great crash as someone dislodged a rock and I thought " Hooray " I wont have to life-line anyone up now , on that horrible wet rope "

It was not to be - they returned after about 30 minutes or so , no doubt hoping to find me dead from exposure , and by the time we were ready to re-climb the first pitch , I nearly was . My teeth were chattering so much when climbing the ladder that I left bite marks on every rung . Oh for the joys of a wet suit - I'll wear it next time .

As the time was now around 1 Am , Di and I left the lads to de-tackle the pitch and made our way out . After changing and a quick cuppa , we settled down to await the others . Three quarters of an hour went by before they turned up . The reason for the delay was that Colin had got himself stuck in an 'ole . Apparently John had got across the bedding plane only to hear Colin hollering at him from a distance , looking back , John realised that he couldn't see anyone , so back he went to look for him . He finally located Col in a hde somewhere above him , wedged in he was .

Cont.

There then followed a dramatic half hour or so as Doug and John tried to extricate 170 pounds plus of sweating, swearing, struggling caver out of his fix, incredibly, they did get him out. After an early breakfast of cold coffee and raw coconut at about 3 Am, we set off home to the accompaniment of Doug's stereo tape unit, which Elliott didn't appreciate anyway as he went to sleep. Doug did a great job on the driving (considering he'd been driving most of the previous day) and got us back in time for the milk.

The above trip report deserves comment-----While articles for the news letter are in short supply we will be forced to continue printing them.

### **WHO'S WHO**

Who eats hot green peppers ?

Who had it right up before breakfast ?

Who peed in Phil's stinky and found it wouldn't stay alight and frothed like mad ?

Who still doesn't wear a tie ?

Whose wife was all set to call out the Rescue Group when her old man was two minutes late ?

Who comes alive when you talk about caving ?

Who got stuck ?

Who is the latest expert ?

Who's got one 14 inches long ?