

MCG NEWS

Newsletter of the Mendip Caving Group

Departure Lounge, Upper Flood (by Charlie Allison)

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Wet SRTing in Yorkshire

by Geoff Rodwell

July 2008 saw probationary members Angus Leat, Geoff Rodwell & Debbie Lambert, together with her daughter Emma and caving friend Ray enjoy a stormy wet four days camping and SRTing in Yorkshire.

Friday 18/07/08 Sell Gill Holes

After a six hour drive to Dalesbridge camp site (run by Jon Beavan, CRO Duty Controller) and with local weather checked, confirming obvious saturated ground and continued belts of rain, it was decided to forego the normal visit to Inglesport and stretch legs by walking uphill to Sell Gill Holes for an SRT "exchange" trip, water flow permitting. This proved excellent. Debbie and Angus rigged the down hill "dry route" watching Emma make her first visit to this cave and in so doing rigged a safe escape exit. Geoff and Ray entered via the uphill stream way and rigged the separate "wet route" down the main waterfall pitch, stopping half way to swing into the tight by-pass bedding plane, before continuing down through heavy spray to the bottom.

Then the exchange was made. Faint screams echoed from Emma as she entered the cold shower of the her first wet pitch accompanied by Angus and Debbie front and rear. Geoff and Ray exited via the dry route and (as agreed) re-entered via Wet. The return manoeuvre from laying flat in the tight bedding plane to swinging back out into the large waterfall pitch on to a clean free hanging rope was enjoyed by all. The wet route got de-rigged while Debbie and Angus brought up the "Dry" rigging. A damp and windy BBQ at camp, mainly sheltering in Angus's caravan with wine bottle and beer completed the first day.

Saturday 19/07/08 Country Pot to Wretched Rabbit



Morning brought with it rain lashing on the tents followed by calm. A long and wet cross moor walk, guided by markers, saw Angus lead the party down Country Pot and back out via Wretched Rabbit. This was Angus's second only trip into this system (the rest of the party's first trip) and his route finding was impeccable. This excellent trip proved to be a complete mixture; occasional SRT, occasional free climb traverses, tight bits, rope climbs, roof-floodable steam way and a nice straw-filled upper chamber. One notable question as the group crawled "yet again" through low passage, in stripped down harnesses was ...*"Angus, just what part of SRTing don't you understand?"* It seemed a hard walk back across the moor to our vehicle just as rain hit again.



From the Editor



It has been an amazing month from an editor's point of view: I have received five, yes **five** 'proper' articles all written up and ready to just pop into the relevant pages, bar a bit of formatting. One even came with photos and indications of where to put them (not always obvious if you weren't on the trip). *Thank you very much, authors.*

Also, it is so nice to hear about peoples' other caving trips again now that Upper Flood Swallet is a bit quieter. However, there still are the usual updates on Upper Flood Swallet and Stainsby's Shaft. I hope you enjoy reading it all. *Yvonne*

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Sunday 20/07/08 Bar Pot to Gaping Gill

Loaded with rope and SRT gear, we enjoyed a pleasant and dry one hour plus walk up to Bar Pot, to drop down two pitches and walk and part crawl to the main chamber of GG. (30m, 45m & 20m safety line)

On our previous trip here, one person proved too solidly built for the tight entrance pitch of Bar Pot, but Ray being tall, the biggest on this trip, squeezed nicely down helped by gravity. Once the two pitches were passed, a traverse line was rigged around a simple but potentially nasty drop and with a couple of quick crawls, the team re-arranged so that Ray and Emma could be first to enjoy the incredible view as the tunnel turned the final corner to reveal the main chamber.



What a sight. From the one previous “dry” visit, GG was now full of spray, draft and apparent “snake like rushes” of water within its continuous fall. A relaxed walk took place around the noisy chamber. Sheltering under rock overhangs from the downpour and spray, a few photos were attempted before a rapid exit was made back into dry passage. Wildly spectacular in these wet conditions.

At the bottom of the final pitch up to the surface the team organised so that Ray, the largest and an experienced climber and caver, would SRT up last into the squeeze of the rift. An additional pitch head rope was rigged to maximise options. This was set up via a releasable deviation and 2:1 pulley dropped down to SRT harness (all making an independent raise/lower system that could be controlled externally from the rift, if needed). There were no problems. Ray exited like an eased-out champagne cork, to agree the usefulness of a Petzl Pantin in tight rift SRTing. Clapham scones were very welcome on arrival back at the village.

That evening Martin and Yvonne caught up with us as we sat tired after three long days, at the tail end of our Ingleton pub dinner (and various drinks!). This was our first ever meeting and it was great to get to know each other, have a very pleasant chat and exchange notes regarding possible future trips. We would never have guessed that such prominent members lived near the Dales!

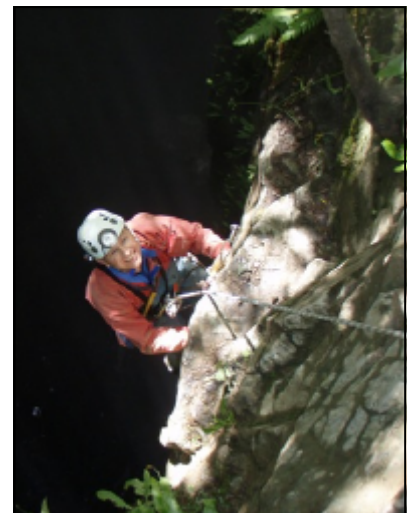
Monday 21/07/08 Alum Pot “direct route”

The final day. A suspected skin allergy (thankfully nothing serious) forced a regretful split of the group as half the party provided company at the local doctors, leaving the oldies, Ray and Geoff, to head to Alum Pot for a planned first descent of the “Direct Route”

The stream was used to soak the rope to prevent heat glaze on the abba down. Two trees (and tensionless hitches) were used to form the initial belay for a descent of only a couple of metres over a mild rope rub to a nice ledge and P hangers nicely located at shoulder height. Another similar short drop over a lip (and another unavoidable very mild rub point) lead to the final main rebelay just below, correctly described in guide books as “exposed” as the caver hangs from a cowtail on a sheer rock wall directly over the 65m “full daylight lit” descent of Alum pot.

(15m for surface Y, 80m main rope, 5 krabs minimum).

This rebelay resulted in a “totally free hanging” open air pitch that descends





forever to, finally, spray, cold draft and bottom darkness, while above the sunlight falls through tree branches to light nearly all of the descent.

SRTing back up, some 4-5 metres was pulled through the Croll before feet finally left the ground and "rope bounce" commenced. The rope appeared to disappear into the light as far as the eye could see. It proved a tiring 10 - 12 minutes before the first rebelay was passed for a vocal call of "rope free" (leading finally to a regretted 6 hour drive home).

In conclusion, an excellent long weekend; great company and first class relaxed trips, despite inclement weather.

Footnote: Debbie, Geoff and Angus were introduced to MCG by member Tony Smith CIC. The three, who often cave as a group with Tony, joined due to the pleasant and helpful members they always met when collecting keys, the advantage of the cottage being "beyond" pub walking distance (though they like a beer or glass of wine) and last but not least because of the cottage's warm, dry and easy-to-use facilities. Their interest is firmly caving and SRT, in particular extending their skills on relaxed trips with like-minded people.

Not all beginners' trips are the same.....

by Jeremy Gilson

Party: Rob Fountain, James O'Brien, Kjell Anderton, Richard Martin, Arthur Munday, Helen, Alun Williams, Mick Norton, Mark Ward & Jeremy Gilson

With seven potential new members planning to descend on the MCG August members' weekend we needed a suitable trip to take them on. Some of them had caved before and were quite good, for others it was their first venture underground. Mick volunteered to help me and suggested Shute Shelve and Axbridge Ochre Mine; this was a great idea and quite different from the usual Burrington or Swildons trip. Mark agreed to help out and was keen to see the upper levels of the Ochre Mine, he suggested taking the maypole to get up the climb as written in Mendip Underground, however Mick was confident that with a harness and cowstails he would be able to climb up and put down a ladder.

The morning was showery but turned sunny and quite warm in the afternoon. After sorting out full sets of gear for everyone we were soon climbing the hill to Shute Shelve. Mick unlocked the gate and we descended the crawl to Reynard's Chamber. For three of the party this was their first trip underground, they had no hesitation with the crawl but looked a little relieved that not all the cave was that size. For me it was good to be back after spending quite a lot of time in the cave around its initial discovery back in my Axbridge days, however I had forgotten just how warm it was down there, I began to wish I was wearing a T-shirt and shorts instead of a fleece and oversuit! After looking around we descended the corkscrew to the lower part of the cave, the view down to Box Tunnel is always impressive and we split into two groups to look at the two digs at the bottom of the cave.

After leaving Shute Shelve we headed further up the hill, this was very hot going in the bright summer sun, especially after getting so hot down Shute Shelve. The view from the hill is stunning, right across from the Bristol Channel to Glastonbury. Making our way carefully through brambles and woodland we quickly found the impressive entrance to Axbridge Ochre Mine, the cool of the entrance a welcome relief to the heat of the afternoon.

Walking into the mine we descended the rift and looked up at the climb to the higher levels, this was much higher and more slippery than I think all of us remembered. Mick tried to climb up but sensibly did not try to get too high up the muddy sides. Mark reminded us of his suggestion - we should have brought the maypole after all. After a brief visit to the end of the lower level and some thought on how to ascend, Mick suggested using a long tree branch to catch the end of the rope that could be seen above us hanging down from the rift. A piece of tree was quickly found and we took it in turns to try and catch one of the loops in the rope. Rob finally came up with the winning solution, he climbed up further along and with those below carefully pushing the rope along Rob was able to reach the rope and pull it down so a ladder could be attached.

The rope was not in too bad a condition, careful consideration was given to it before sending someone up; Mick had his harness and cowstails and was able to ascend by clipping on one end of the ladder and then the other in true Ladder Dig style. Upon reaching the top he rigged the ladder, I climbed up and preceded to lifeline everyone up the pitch. Our new members did well with the ladder, everyone made it up with Richard and Rob managing particularly speedy ascents.

While I was lifelining the rest of the team, Mick climbed the chain to the next level and set up the second ladder, again I climbed up with the rope attached to me and lifelined climbers to the top. Everyone set off in different

directions to admire this interesting part of the cave, I was impressed by the flowstone and formations, not what I had expected although much of the 'mine' is in fact natural cave. I was then back on lifelining duty and lifelined everyone down, first the top pitch and then the lower pitch, Mick was the last to descend using a figure of eight on a doubled rope.

Back outside, sitting in the sunshine, everyone agreed that they had a very enjoyable trip, although it had not been the simple new members' trip that Mick and I had expected. Being honest I did think at one point that we wouldn't get up to the first level - I really think Mark was right about that maypole after all....!

6 of the potential new members became probationary members (Helen has not yet joined). I enjoyed the day, it was good to revisit Shute Shelve, the Ochre Mine was great fun, quite a challenge, and certainly different from our normal new members or beginners' trip; however I suppose that not all beginners' trips are the same.....

OFD Weekend 15-17/08/08

by Geoff Beale

Party: Geoff Beale, Keith Knight, Keith Thomas, Brenda Wybrow.

The weather forecast was not very promising, it was going to rain for the whole weekend, and it lived up to its expectations. Well it was Wales after all. However after a dismal drive down the M4 from Reading we eventually reached the SWCC HQ at Penwyllt and booked in.

Saturday's trip was set to be a minor classic to the Cross Rift area, visiting formations at the Trident/Judge (off Salubrious Streamway) and the phreatic passage called Selenite Passage, then down admiring the formations to the Shattered Pillar. GB, KK, and KT laboured up the hill to enter the cave system at top entrance (OFD 2). After our last trip earlier this year, when it was dry, we noticed many stream inlets in passages normally thought of as dry and abandoned.

Salubrious Streamway was flowing faster than I had seen it before as it gurgled its way down to Maypole Inlet and the main stream. Just a short way down from Trident Passage a squeeze through slippery polished boulders leads to a junction where Selenite Passage goes off to the right. After a hairy committing traverse on small ledges over a big drop, the fine formations of Selenite Passage were seen and admired. This passage then meanders down to the very impressive Shattered Pillar which is very near to Cross Rift.

We had a poke about Cross Rift and onwards towards the old skyhook of the Upper Traverses. After a brief refreshment stop we turned for home along a smaller rift passage parallel to Cross Rift with some more traversing on small ledges until we reached an area that I knew as the bold step which is at the top of the rift passage on the climb up from Maypole Inlet at the Main Stream Junction.

Then out by the same route taken in, but in reverse - up Salubrious Streamway, climbing up the boulders at the Corkscrew, Chasm passage, Gnome Passage and skirted round Big Chamber Near The Entrance.

On this trip we had a guest from SWCC. His name was John Gillette. After the trip we were presented with signed caving books by John, who has written several caving volumes. This book was entitled *Of Caves And Caving - A Way Of Life*. Look out for it in the club library.

For Sunday's trip the weather was vile and still raining hard. Despite the rain and Keith Knight having a sore foot, GB and KT decided on a quick trip into OFD 1 to see the height of the main stream at the normal entry point to the stream at The Step. OFD leaders rules say that if the stream is 12-18 inches above the step, then a traverse up the main stream is not advised.

At the step the water level was guessed to be about 3 feet above the step. The stream was an impressive sight, a torrent of fast flowing peaty stained water which was thundering down to the entrance sump.

We retraced our steps back up Loopways to the ladder at the Toastrack. By turning to the left we traversed over Pluto's Pool and down a lofty passage back to the main roaring streamway. The passage here was about 12 feet high with foam marks about 8 feet high. This showed the water height had lowered overnight, but we still felt uneasy and got out quickly. We also had a look at the passage leading down to the dive site from the entrance ladder. From where we stood, we were in awe of the ominous signs of foam on the cave walls.

On a lighter note we rescued a frog from the top of the entrance lid and hid him for safety in a stone wall.

Back up the hill to sample the new showers at SWCC. They are very good with self mixture manual valves. Perhaps we should fit a similar valve type to end the misery of hot/cold showers at the cottage and remove the existing thermostatic mixing valve. This will stop those who are forever tampering with the mixing valve whereby shower users can select their own individual shower temperatures. [Ed: there is only one feed to the MCG showers, with the mixing taking place at the hot water tank.]

Upper Flood Swallet: Royal Icing and Birthday Surprise

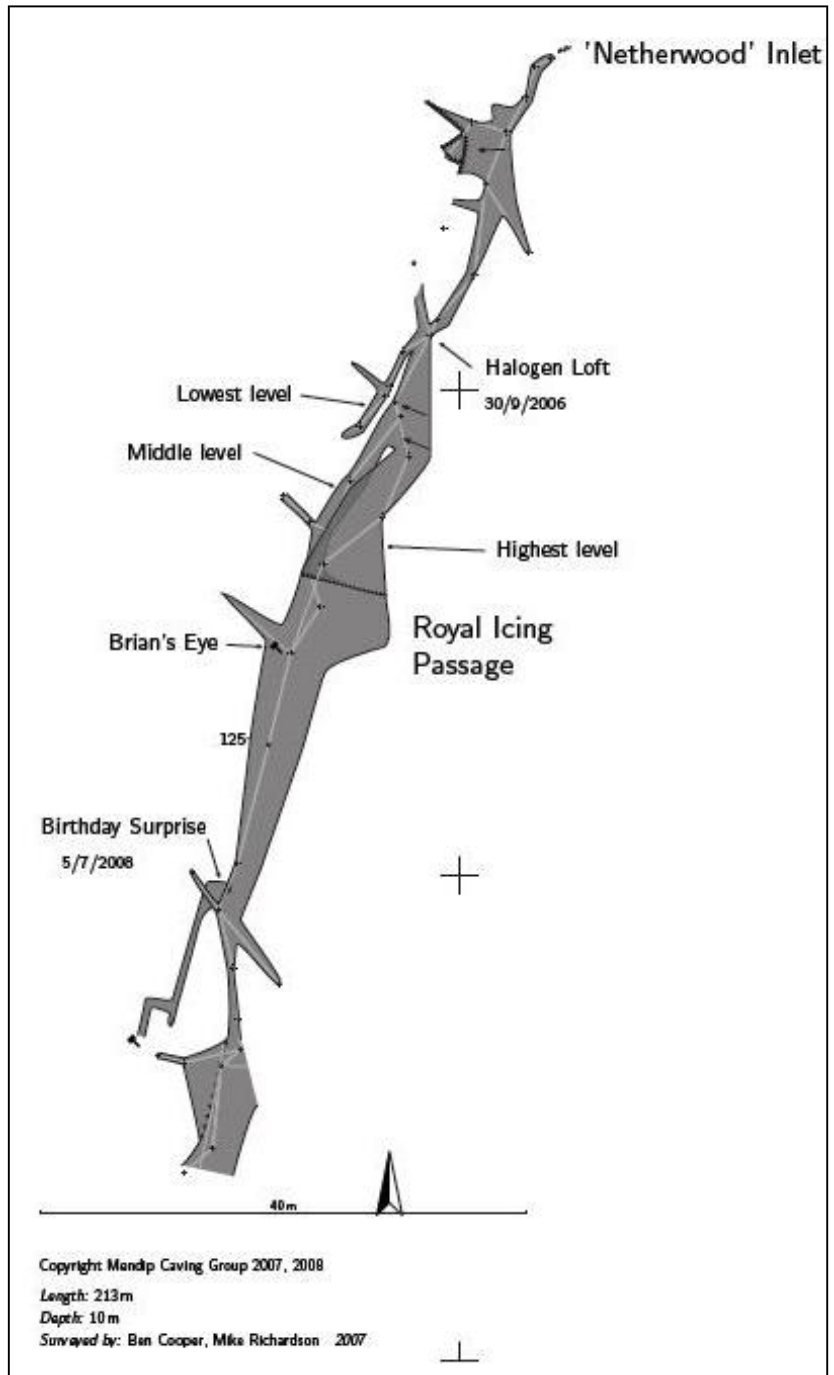
by Ben Cooper

Survey Notes The survey of Royal Icing was conducted by Ben Cooper and Mike Richardson on 13th December 2007, using a Phil Underwood SAP (serial number 7) (compass and clinometer) and a Bosch DLE50 laser rangefinder. Loop closure error was 1.39%. Survey stations in the cave are all marked with Tippex as a dot, and are shown in the map as a small cross. At junctions, "fixed" survey stations have also been marked with Tippex as a triangle, and are shown on the map as a small circle.

The map shows Netherwood Inlet at the north, but omits the lower Malcolm's Way passage just to the west and below the overhang shown. The route from Netherwood Inlet south into Royal Icing Passage is not the usual way in: in fact, the climb down to Halogen Loft from here is very exposed and not recommended. The usual route is the climb up from Malcolm's Way into Halogen Loft. From here, Royal Icing continues south at three levels. The lowest level is to the west and ends after a few metres - a westerly tube half way along appears to be blind. The highest level is to the east and is entered by continuing to climb up the slope to the east. This level has a solid floor and a pleasant quiet atmosphere, but ends at an overhang after a few metres. The climb down has not been attempted to protect the undisturbed sediment.

The middle level is the main route, which is followed by carefully traversing over the start of the lowest level, then it becomes easier as it follows the right-hand (westerly) wall. After a few metres, in the floor on the right hand side, a body-sized tube heads off to the west and has been pushed by Tim Francis and Peat Bennett to connect with Charnel Passage. After a few more metres, the passage opens

out again and looking up and backwards (to the north), the overhang from the highest level can be seen. At this point the passage dimensions are large: 4.5m wide and 4m high. On the right hand side (west) is a narrow rift in the wall, and at its foot, the floor falls away and has been dug (Brian's Eye). As of this writing, the Brian's Eye dig is flooded and digging has been suspended. Royal Icing continues wide and gains height. Most of the width of the passage is taped to protect its pristine condition, and only a narrow and awkward path remains open along the right hand wall. After a few more metres is a narrow rift on the right and a low blind crawl on the left. At this point the ceiling is some 6m high, and high up on the left (east) a large window can be seen which is actually an opening into East Passage. On the right, just below the narrow rift, the floor lowers and loose boulders indicate a natural drainage point. This was the location that Peat and Ben dug on 5th July 2008, when we quickly opened up a low crawl under the westerly wall. Peat pushed this for some fifty feet into what we named Birthday Surprise (in celebration of Upper Flood's 40th birthday). This has been sketched onto the map, but is unsurveyed, so its dimensions and direction are estimates.



Just beyond the narrow rift (moving south), Royal Icing Passage narrows and continues up a steep slope. At the top of the slope, the narrow passage opens out slightly and one can step onto a large boulder on the edge of Royal Icing Chamber. Only half of this chamber is shown on this map, most of it is to the east which is contained in the East Passage survey. Immediately on the right, the westerly wall continues south, and a painted permanent station has been placed here. However, underneath, the wall cuts away, and the passage floor plunges down 5m. At the bottom of this funnel is a narrow rift (not visible from above), which has been pushed to a visible window into West Passage and a sound connection with Birthday Surprise.

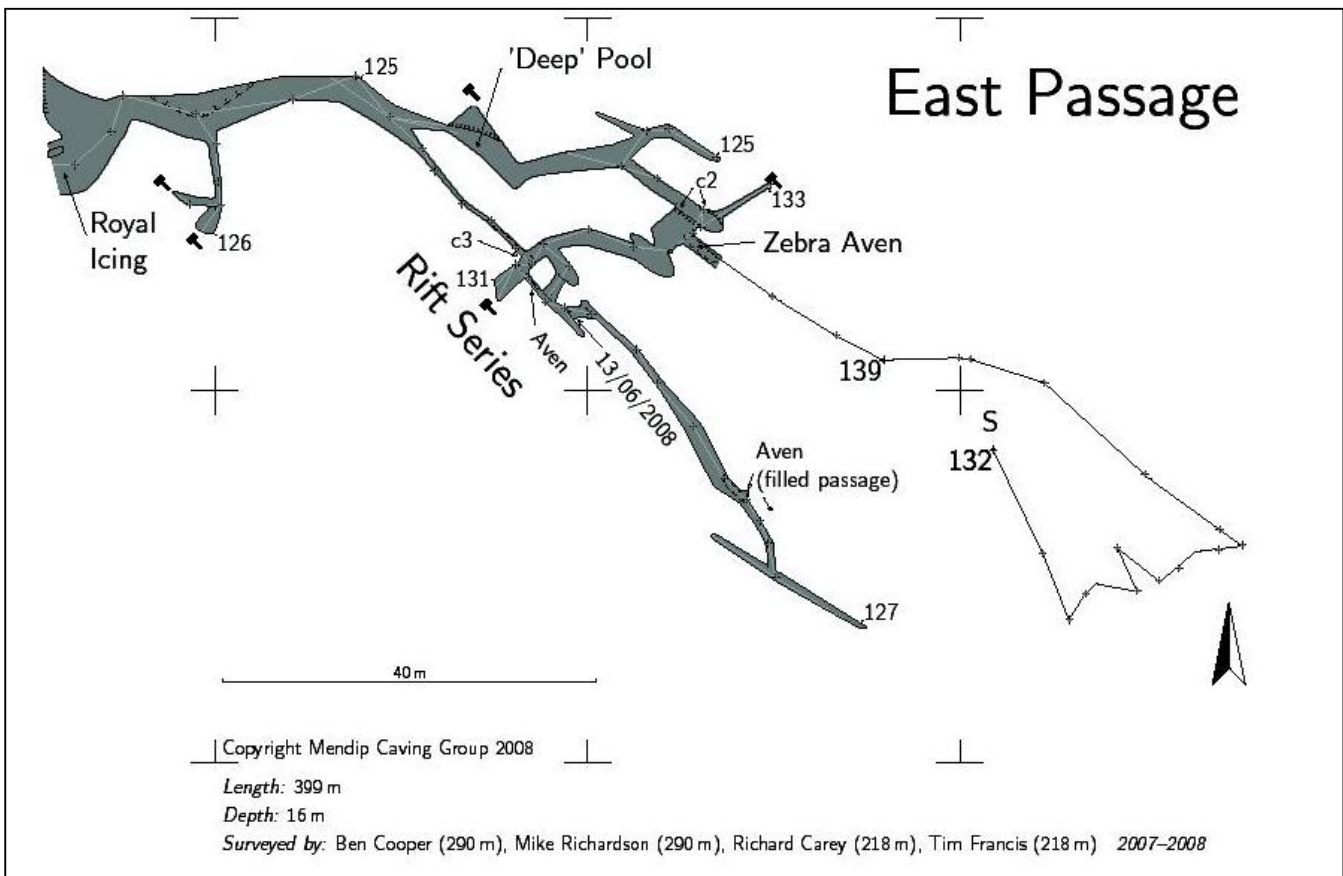
To the left (east) of the large boulder, the chamber opens up and doubles back. Most of the area is covered in royal-icing-like stal, and the whole area is pristine. It has been extensively taped, leaving a narrow path for entry into East Passage. On the floor by the easterly wall is an interesting vadose water-cut swirl. Straight ahead (south), the roof rises to cathedral proportions, and the floor climbs up over large boulders. A little way up is the clamber through gaps in boulders to West Passage, which is where this survey ends. The full survey south into the remainder of Royal Icing will be completed in due course. Back in Royal Icing Passage, the way on continues up a steep narrowing slope that almost gains the height of the window.

Upper Flood Swallet: East Passage

by Ben Cooper

Surveying Notes: The survey was conducted by Ben Cooper and Mike Richardson on 13th June 2008, using a Phil Underwood SAP (serial number 7) (compass and clinometer) and a Bosch DLE50 laser rangefinder. Loop closure error was 0.29%. Survey stations are all marked in the cave using tippex. At junctions, "fixed" survey stations have been marked in tippex. My plan in due course is to make these more permanent, for example by drilling a small hole. The survey is super-imposed on the centreline survey completed by Tim Francis and Richard Carey on 6th January 2007, and shows excellent agreement. Total length of the new survey is 268m, bringing the East Passage length to 399m, and an overall length for the Upper Flood survey of 3415m.

As previously reported, new rift passage was discovered during the survey, prompting the name Rift Series for the section of cave previously referred to as the East Passage oxbow. All leads in this section have now been checked out and are closed. All known and potential dig sites have been marked on the survey with a hammer symbol (with the exception of the "filled passage" in one of the rift avens in Rift Series), and altitude marks are shown as metres above OD.



The survey highlights that the tube that is being dug to the north-east of Zebra Aven appears to be a continuation of a significant cross passage that ends to the south-east in a viable dig marked by the hammer symbol just by the 'S' of Rift Series. It is a too-low arched roof above soft clay infill, with a few-inch air gap. Its potential only became apparent by its 4m depth as revealed by the laser rangefinder. This is currently being actively dug as reported elsewhere. This passage is wide and heading into an unmapped area, so is of significant interest. The westerly dig marked just to the east of Royal Icing is the end of a small crawl, and may be of little interest. However, the southerly dig in the same crawl is an undercut with a visible few-inch high air space at floor level. This has not yet received any attention other than by the survey team - its potential again only becoming apparent by its 3.5m length revealed by the laser rangefinder.

There remains a few loose ends yet to be surveyed, including the above-mentioned north-easterly tube, and a northerly tube above the not-so-deep 'Deep' Pool. Both are labelled with hammers. There is a third continuation, just south east of 'Deep Pool' that is not labelled. We left painted survey stations close to all these endpoints to facilitate further surveying. We plan to complete this in due course, together with a continuation of the full passage survey to the end of the known East Passage.

Battery Swallet

by Mark Ward

On 16/08/08 Doug and I spent an hour walking the 'bomb craters' with the very amiable Duncan Massey of Swallet Farm. He was very keen for us to dig Battery Swallet, located in a basically untapped area between Wigmore and Lamb Leer, with great potential. However, the cave lies on the Wookey brothers' land and this was going to prove a bit harder work! The brothers were not impressed when we introduced ourselves as MCG members. They said they were unhappy with the previous fence that had been erected around the trees and that they had lost a cow down the pit? This was later borne out when we dug out a few cow bones from the



entrance. One can only speculate how they actually got there? However, with lots of charm and promises, we managed to get them to agree to us having another go! The proviso was that before we did anything, we were to erect a proper barbed wire fence. We returned on 17/08/08 and achieved this although a few more strengthening posts and a stile are required. We are going to give the brothers a couple of pictures and ask them to approve what we have done. We also have to maintain the fence. We have cleared a lot of vegetation from around and above the cave. The next step will be to dig the pit back in layers and build a scaffold and mesh cage to hold it all back, before we can clear the entrance and start digging. We had a squirm inside and a thrutch into Vee Swallet and both look good prospects.

Tim Francis adds: I think the original 1980s MCG diggers at Battery Swallet were Brian Murlis, John Beauchamp and Steve Redwood. I remember reading their log book entries when we had a go at the site in the mid 1990s and also discussed the dig with them in early 1991. Bill Headington also took a brief interest when he was living / working in the area in the early '90s. I suggest someone has another look in the log book to see what the '80s diggers say about their first visit. I don't remember them saying they actually named the site but they may well have done. John Crowsley might know. This shows the value of log book entries for those who don't write things up.

Wasn't there some connection between MCG and Swallet Farm Centre at the time which meant that the MCG were wandering all over that area checking out the shakeholes? Vee Swallet, the best looking site, was already adopted so it was about finding another swallet to have a go at. Of course the line of wooded shakeholes themselves will have been known about for eons as the last one is the Devil's Punchbowl, which is absolutely huge. Its well worth a visit if you haven't seen it. So perhaps when "Complete Caves" was written in '77 they all didn't have names?

The whole area has been heavily dowsed both by John Wilcock and MCG (log book entry on this). I think I have the map somewhere. There are lots of positive readings apparent to the north of Vee Swallet and then heading West.

Stainsby's Shaft updates

(adapted from MCG Logbook entries of Biff Frith and Julie Hesketh)

26/07/08 Biff Frith, Paul Ketcher, Mick Norton, Carl Ruxton enlarged the second shaft ready for the ladder but the Hilti caps would not go off and the drill battery gave up.

02/08/08 Biff Frith, Keith Knight, Doug Harris installed fixed ladders in the second shaft making ascent/descent easier.

03/08/08 Biff Frith, Keith Knight, Brian Snell, Ed Waters, Hayley Clarke fitted scaffold at the bottom of the shaft and opened up a rift to a third shaft.

30/08/09 Biff Frith, Mick Norton, Bill Chadwick, Julie Hesketh, Budy (Mark Williams), Paul Ketcher, Angus Leat, and Yvonne & Martin Rowe (briefly). Impressive progress made - dig face shored and made safe, 80 drums of spoil and a large rocks removed.

Progress report by Biff Frith: A dodgy boulder, roughly 5x7x6ft now needs to be secured with a concrete lintel cast in situ. Once this is done, progress can be made under the boulder at an angle of 45° to check out a new route in an 8ft draughting void.

Doug's and Alison's Wedding



Congratulations to Doug Harris and Alison Selley who were married on 31/08/08 at St Mary's Church, Hutton. The reception was held at Combe Lodge which will be familiar to MCG members as this was where the group held its 50th anniversary dinner.

MCG guests, including Mark Ward (usher), Mick, Julie, Linda, Biff (photo above right) and Joan took their caving helmets to form a cavers' guard of honour.

MCG wishes them well.



Yv'sdropping 1

Below is an overheard conversation between Joan and her mum as Joan was taken to hospital:

Yv'sdropping 2

LM to MRi: "Are you an 8-incher or a 9-incher?"



Vale: Tony Jarratt

Tony Jarratt, or JRat, passed away on 31/08/08 in Musgrove Park Hospital. Tony had been seriously ill for some months but even a week ago was still in his shop and until 21/08/08 was supervising the digging of Home Close Hole, Wigmore.

Tributes to JRat can be left at:

<http://ukcaving.com/board/index.php/topic,6942.20.html>



Nordrach Cottage Fire Alarm

I am pleased to report that the new fire alarm system has now been installed in the MCG Cottage. There is nothing that needs to be done unless the alarm sounds, in which case please retire quickly to the fire assembly point. There is a code to disable the alarm once it sounds - see laminated notice on the control box - so that everyone knows how to silence and reset the system.

Thanks to Don Vosper for going up to the cottage to meet the engineers.
Jeremy Gilson

Mendip Cave Rescue training

On Saturday 20/09/08 there will be a rescue rigging/bolting exercise to be held in a quarry. On Thursday 09/10/08 a session will be held at the Hunters to cover call out procedures and surface control.

Please note that the September event will be taking place in a privately owned quarry and I would like to know in advance if you plan to attend so I can confirm numbers etc.

Mendip Caving Group

Beer & Skittles evening

Sat 4th October 2007,

7:30pm



Bar Food

New Inn, Priddy Green

Tickets not required.
 Food can be ordered in advance, menu options to follow.

Beer & Skittles, New Inn, Priddy, 04/10/08

We are able to order our meals in advance from the following menu:

Chilli and rice, served with sour cream and tortilla chips. £8

Chicken New Inn Yorker, served with potato wedges and salad garnish. £9.50

Mendip sausage and mash, served with peas, sweetcorn and gravy. £8.50

Tomato, Mozzarella and olive burger, served with potato wedges and salad garnish. £9

If you order in advance you will be guaranteed getting something to eat and you will not have to queue to order or wait too long.

If we have 20 people or more ordering in advance we can have exclusive use of the conservatory.

Please send your menu choices to Linda Milne by Tues 30/09/08. A deposit is not required.



Group Headquarters

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Cottage Bookings All Groups (MCG or Guests) should be booked via Mike Richardson

The Mendip Caving Group (MCG) is a UK registered charity number 270088

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Group information

Weekly Meeting	At The Hunters Lodge, Somerset, first Friday of month from 9pm
Monthly Meeting	At the Group HQ usually on the first Fri/Sat/Sunday of the month
On-line Meeting	http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/mendip-caving-group/
Group websites	www.m-c-g.org.uk and www.mendipcavinggroup.org.uk
Cottage Fees	per night: MCG members, members' children, SWCC, NPC £ 2.00 per night: Guest clubs and member's guests £ 4.00
Camping Fees	As for Cottage Fees: MCG, SWCC, NPC: £ 2.00. Guests: £ 4.00
Season Ticket	For 12 month's cottage fees - Available to members only £40.00
MCG Subs 2008	Full or Probationary member: £30.00. Associate member: £15.00
BCA Subs 2008	Club Caver £16.00, Club Non-caver £5.00, DIM £pay to BCA

Caving and social calendar 2008

Date	Area	Event	Contact
Sep 7/8/9th	Mendip	Members Weekend	
Sep 8th	Mendip	Longwood August System	Peat Bennett
Sep 8th	Mendip	Curry night	JP Burch
Sep 26-28th	Yorks	Hidden Earth	Mike Richardson
Oct 3/4/5th	Mendip	Members Weekend	
Oct 4th	Mendip	St Cuthbert's Swallet	Bob Templeman
Oct 4th	Mendip	Archaeology walk	Postponed until the
Oct 4th	Mendip	Beer and skittles evening	Linda Milne
Nov 7/8/9th	Mendip	Members Weekend	
Nov 8th	Mendip	Pinetree Pot	Bob Templeman
Nov 8/9th	Mendip	Training days (TBC)	Linda Milne
Nov 8th	Mendip	Priddy fireworks	Linda Milne
Dec 5/6/7th	Mendip	Members Weekend	
Dec 6th	Mendip	Eastwater Cavern	Bob Templeman
Dec 6th	Mendip	GB Cave	Bob Templeman
Dec 6th	Mendip	Xmas dinner at cottage	Linda Milne

The 2008 committee

Secretary:	Mike Richardson
Treasurer:	Martin Rowe
Tacklemaster:	Jeremy Gilson
Recorder/Librarian:	Brian Snell
Cottage Warden:	Doug Harris
Editor:	Yvonne Rowe
Caving Secretary:	Bob Templeman
Social Secretary:	Linda Milne

Cottage bookings

When under-18s are present, members should co-operate with teachers / scout leaders with respect to sleeping arrangements

For latest updates go to www.mendipcavinggroup.org.uk/sections/cottage/availability.html

Group	Day of arrival	Day of departure	Nights	Beds	Rooms
M. Woods	Wed 24/09/08	Fri 26/09/08	2	8	2
Harley (7) Woods (8)	Fri 26/09/08	Sun 28/09/08	2	15	2
M. Woods	Sun 29/09/08	Tue 01/10/08	2	8	2
Cardiff Uni. CC	Fri 10/10/08	Sun 12/10/08	2	22	2
Bicton College	Sun 23/11/08	Fri 28/11/08	5	12	2
Marie&Tony F	Fri 30/01/09	Sun 01/02/09	2	20	2
Majendie-Steeps	Fri 20/03/09	Sun 22/03/09	2	12	2