Plymouth Caving Group Newsletter and Journal No.104. October 90

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Plymouth Caving Group can be found on Thursday nights at the Breton Arms Public House, Bretonside, Plymouth, in the smoke room. please come and see us, everyone welcome.

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Editorial

For all those people caving in the Baker's Pit area, please tread very carefully as a new type of rare bat species has been discovered, as yet without a name. The one that was found on the 13 th of June was thought to be a youngster as it couldn't as yet fly, and, funny enough, it was out in the daylight as well. It was coloured jet black, and was rather large as bat species go, in the order of about 8 inches in length, and had apeculiar noise coming out of its throat, not the usual squeak but more of a deeper sound. This bat spent the day quite happily in the landrover, and was returned to the wild (as nature intended) when we left, to fend for itself. We tentatively named the species "BATTUS EVERBEENHADDUS". For further information please contact Jim Dunford at the club.

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THE DCRO ANNIVERSARY DINNER IS BOOKED FOR THE 10 NOVEMBER. PLEASE CONTACT MARK VINALL FOR DETAILS.

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MARK VINALL HAS ESTABLISHED THE CAVE VIDEO LIBRARY. ANY SUITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECIEVED.

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DARRENS SECRET EVENT WILL BE AN ABC OF CAVING AROUND SOUTH DEVON BY BIKE, AFTON, BAKERS AND CHIMNEY CAVES BEING MENTIONED.

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ALISTAIR WADE HAS REPORTED THAT PHEONIX MINE HAS A DEVIATION BOLT ON THE SECOND PITCH WHICH IS UNSAFE--YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!!

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THE SAME OLD NAMES KEEP POPPING UP WITH ARTICLES ETC. ANYONE OUT THERE WANT TO SEE THERE LIERARY TALENTS IN PRINT, THEN DROP ME AN ARTICLE OR LETTER, PLEASE!!!!!

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CAVING NEWS.

Devon

RADFORD CAVE. The lock will be changed shortly. Keys for use by caving club members are currently held by Bob Cawthorne and Alisdair Neill. Any clubs or other organisations who wish to hold keys should contact Mark Vinall in the first instance.

Part of the entrance chamber is now very unstable, showing signs of considerable movement. The area has been shored up

temporarily and a more permanent stabilisation is planned, but GREAT CARE should be taken here, and it is suggested that novice groups should keep clear of the area.

PRIDHAMSLEIGH CAVERN. The roof of Bishop's Chamber is showing recent fracturing, and may be dangerous.

SKULLCAP CAVE, Chudleigh. The dig here eventually broke into a length of decorated passage. Further extensions seem unlikely.

RYDON CAVE, Kingsteignton. People from several local and Mendip clubs are now active here,with much bang being used. Any PCG members interested in helping would be welcome. The present dig, in probably the most promising area in Devon for major cave systems, was originally worked by the PCG and others about 15 years ago.

MENDIP.

A tight but pretty extension in Dallimore's cave was reported by the OUCC at the BCRA conference, OUCC being awarded the Golden Crowbar for the year's longest discovery on Mendip.

SWILDONS. The Cotham Caving Club have repaired Main's Barn on Priddy Green, which must be used for changing.

UBLEY HILL POT and COW HOLE have both been blocked by the infilling of shakeholes. It is hoped that they will be re-opened soon.

WALES.

Further discoveries in Daren Cilau are very close to Agen Allwedd. The new semi- rigid ladder has been installed on the pitch in Darren; a life-line must still be used on it.

The rescue dump at Keyhole Chamber in Agen Allwedd has been replaced.

ACCESS PROCEDURES.

AGEN ALLWYDD: apply to Doreen Gasoine, 18 Groveside Villas, Pontynewydd, Pontypool, Gwent NP4 6SZ. (0495 764489) for the key, preferably giving 2 weeks notice, giving leaders name and the number in party, om headed notepaper, with a £5 deposit for the key.

CRAIG A FFYNNON: Apply for a leader to Jeff Hill, 11 York Avenue, Garden City, Ebbw Vale (0495 304413) giving details of the party.

The new OFD survey is available from the SWCC, price £5.

The SWCC changing facilities are again available to non-residents, PROVIDED the fee of 20p is paid and the rooms are left clean.

BRIDGE CAVE AND WHITE LADY, etc. A feud has existed for some time between the two farmers owning the caves in this area. Please ensure that you follow the access procedures.

For BRIDGE CAVE, LITTLE NEATH RIVER CAVE, PWLL Y RHYD and TOWN DRAIN are owned by Mog Lewis of Blaen Nedd Isaf, who charges 20p per person.
PWLL DDU, OGOF CAS, WHITE LADY and IGAM OGAM are owned by Griff Davies of Dyffryn Nedd, who charges 40p per person, donation to his cottage rebuilding fund. To reach these from the bridge you have to cross Mog Lewis's land, in which case you must see him and pay the 20p ALSO.

THE DALES.

LANCASTER HOLE. There are proposals at present to remove the fixed ladders at Fall Pot, Stake Pot, and Stop Pot.

IREBY FELL. The entrance pipes have been installed; a short handline is useful. A series of avens below the entrance pitches have been pushed to a point very close to surface- a possible new entrance.

GAVEL POT. The entrance is in a very dangorous state of collapse, and permits for this cave will not be issued at present.

BOLT FAILURES. A number of failures have been reported recently, one resulting in injury. Most seem to be due to stripped threads, so ensure this has not occurred, and you are not relying on a single bolt. There is much discussion at present regarding alternatives. A record of damaged bolts is kept at Inglesport.

TACKLE.

Tackle is available for use by any PCG member, provided the following rules are adhered to. Access is made by contacting one of the keyholders (at present D Hitchcox, C Bird, A Neill or M Prince).

Rules for use of tackle.
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(1) All items must be signed out by the borrower in the tackle book, giving date, site to be used (to enable a record of use of tackle to be compiled (etc.). This should be done if tackle is taken out for repair work etc. in case it is required on a rescue.
(2) On return, the date and any additional use should be recorded in the tackle book.
(3) All tackle must be cleaned immediatly after use, and checked for damage, which should be noted on the tackle list in the hut, and the tackle warden informed.
(4) Tackle must be returned as soon as possible: with the present levels of use this should be 1 or 2 days at the most after use.
(5) The person borrowing the tackle is responsible for ensuring these rules are carried out, and that tackle fees are paid.

The fees are currently 50p per member per trip (regardless of quantity of tackle used) and £1 for non-members.
Cells, helmets and carbide lamps are also available. Contact Martin Prince and Bob Cawthorne respectively to book these.

DATES FOR THE DIARY.

Oct 19	Pengelly CEC Meeting
Oct 20	DCUC Meeting, 7.30 pm Pengelly Centre.
Oct 27-28	PCG Meet, Mendip. Details Tom Sawyer WCC hut booked.
Oct 26-28	SUICRO Conference, Garrison, Co. Fermanagh.
Oct 27-28	NCA Training Weekend, Derbyshire.
Oct 31	UBSS Lecture, Exploration of St. Cuthbert's. 8pm 2nd floor Student's Union, University of Bristol.

Nov 1	PCG Committee Meeting, 8pm
Nov 10	DCRO 25th ANNIVERSARY DINNER. Dtails from Mark Vinall, 262206.
Nov 10	NCA Training Day, South Wales.
Nov 16-18	DCRO Training and Assessment Weekend, Buckfastleigh
Nov 24-25	CIC Seminar, Derbyshire.
Nov 28-Dec 1	International festival of Speleo Films, Barcelona.
Dec 1	Pengelly CEC Meeting.
Dec 4	DCRO Committee Meeting, Buckfastleigh, 7.30pm.
Dec 5	UBSS Lecture: New Mexico. 8pm 2nd floor, Student's Union, University of Bristol.
Dec 6	PCG Committee Meeting, 8pm.
Dec 12	Lecture, Underground in Samarkind, USSR. Dick Willis. Uni.Chem. Schooll Bristol.
Dec 27-Jan 3	PCG Meet: Dales. RRCPC Bull Pot Farm booked Details-Tom Sawyer.

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Jan 5	CSCC Meeting, Hunters Arms, 8pm.
Jan 17	PCG AGM, Breton Arms, 8pm.
Jan 19	DCA AGM.
Jan 22	Lecture, Underground in Samarkind, Kings College Assembly Hall, Kings Road, Chelsea.
Jan 25	Lecture, Underground in Samarkind, Dept of Electrical & electronic engineering, Univ of Birmingham.
Feb 7	PCG Committee Meeting, 8pm
Feb 13	UBSS Lecture, Diving beneath Cheddar Gorge, Rob Palmer. 8pm, 2nd floor, students union,Univ. of Bristol
Feb 20	Lecture, Underground in Samarkind, Theatre 21 Roger Stevens building, Leeds University.
Mar 1-3	DCRO Training and Assessment Weekend, Buckfastleigh.
Mar 3	Cambrian CC AGM, Brittania Inn, Crickhowel,11am
Mar 7	PCG Committee Meeting, 8pm.
Mar 14	Lecture, Underground in Samarkind, Manchester Lecture Theatre, All Saints building, Manchester Poly.

Apr 24	DCRO AGM, Crest Hill, Buckfastleigh.
May 3-6	NAMHO Conference, Llechwedd Slate Mines, N Wales

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Plymouth Caving Group will be held in the Smoke Room of the Breton Arms, Bretonside, Plymouth on Thursday 17th January commencing at 8pm.

AGENDA

Apologies for absence
Minutes of the last AGM
Matters arising from the last AGM.
Chairman's address.
Officer's reports.
Matters arising from the reports.

Elections of:

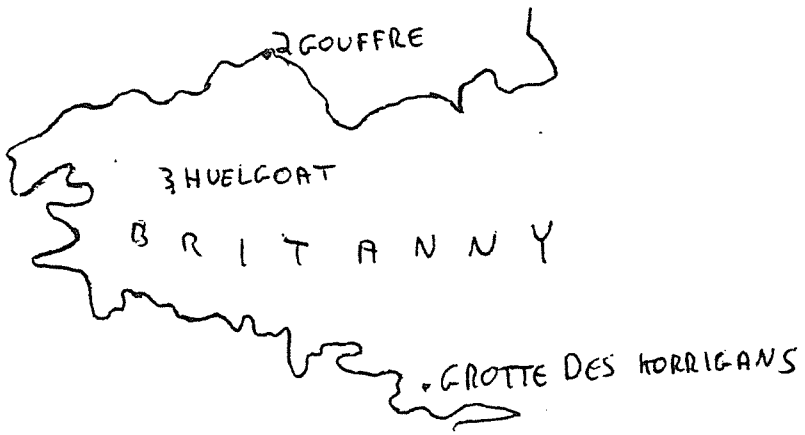
President.
Chairman.
Secretary.
Treasurer.
Committee (7 posts)

Review of subscriptions.

Any other business.

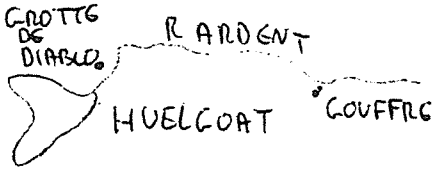
SOME CAVES IN BRITTANY

I recently spent a few days staying at a friend's house in Brittany and took the opportunity of looking up some caves marked on the map. Brittany, like the south west of England, is basically a granite massif projecting into the Atlantic Ocean. Unlike Devon and Cornwall there is no limestone of note in Brittany and therefore the caves are either around the coastline or have been formed in the granite. During my short stay I was able to visit three sites which included both types of cave.



My first visit was to a coastal site on the Cote Sauvage near the resort of La Baule just to the west of the estuary of the River Loire. The cave here was marked as a tourist site on a spectacularly rocky shore. The Grotte des Korrigans was therefore easy to find. A fault in the granite cliff had been eroded and picked out by the sea and the cave penetrated inland for some tens of metresm, leading under the coastal road and nearby houses. Like similar caves in Cornwall this one is the centre of stories and legends that connect it with smuggling. Other former caves along this stretch of coast have now collapsed leaving narrow inlets into which the sea surges at high tide.

On the north coast of the peninsular is the site of another cave, called simply le gouffre at Pointe de Chateau. This turns out to be another site where the sea has eroded joints



and faults in the granite. At le gouffre the sea surges into the narrow gullies with explosive and spectacular force. The site is obviously a collapsed blow hole which now has more appeal to climbers than cavers.

The final site is at Huelgoat, a town in the centre of the Armorique National Park. Here the narrow River Argent leaves a lake on the outskirts of the town and plunges through a narrow rocky defile filled with granite boulders, some up to 20m high. At a point wherte the boulders rest against one another an enormous cavern has been created known as the Grotte de Diable. To reach this cave you climb down an iron ladder into a gap between the boulders which opens up into a cavern some 10m square. The river flows between the boulders at the bottom of the cavern and shafts of light pierce the spaces between the giant rocks creating an eerie atmosphere. Leaving the Grotte de Diable the river plunges and gurgles over yet more granite boulders until some further 2km downstream it plunges yet again into the granite boulders at a point known simply as the gouffre. The river disappears completely from the surface to re-emerge about 100m downstream.

David Jean

June 1990

NEW EXTENTION IN WHEAL MARQUIS

Members present: Darren Hitchcox, Ali Wade, Ashleigh Philips, Mark Hansen

Wheal Marquis is situated just outside of Gunnislake and is a big trip. To reach the far end of the mine is a good two hour trip. Theadit that you follow is only just above the water table, meaning that everything below you is mostlikely to be flooded. This means that unless you are a diver, the only way is up. While going along mthe bottom level) after coming down a 50ft shaft), you can see other levels above you. These can be spotted due to the wooden planks of the false floor. The

levels you can see above you thoughare about 60ft up and impossible to climb. Further into the mine and you come across a shaft. If you look down you can see for 40ft. If you look up, avoiding the water from the waterfall flowing down here, you can see for around 100ft. The aim of our trip was to climb up the shaft to the first level and place a fixed line.

This mine was re-opened in the early 20th century and new timbers were placed going down the shaft. These timbers are 6" x 6" and around 350ft from he top to the bottom. Being some eighty years old, they are quite solid apart from the odd few. Going up the side of this shaft is a ladder.

My first go at climbing to the first level was via the ladder. This proved not to be a good idea as around 40ft up, one of the rungs that was a bit worse for wear decided to give up on life and go to the great scrapyard in the sky. This left my old ticker going faster than an inter city 125, so I had a rest and looked around. On my far right hand side I noticed a hole in the wall. Through this I could see a large cavern. It was impossible to get to it from where I was, and going further up the ladder was an even worse idea as some of the brackets securing it to the wall were missing. Down I came and let someone else have a go. Ashleigh stepped foreward and proceeded to climb the timbers. I had mentioned this hole thatI had seen and Ashleigh got into it. I came up after. and once up, told Ali to follow on. I went into this passage, dropping down a 15ft bank, and asked Ali to follow my voice. This he did ratherc to well. The next thing that I knew I saw a light above my head, loohing down hole some 30ft above me. He had followed my voice to there. Mark joined Ali on the second level while Ashleigh and I looked around the first. Some of this was very loose and so I stayed well away. Off to my right about 20ft up was an adit. My attempt to climb up to this resulted in some boulders rather larger than me, overtaking me on the way down. So much for that level. Ashleigh by this time, had climbed up to the next level. I went back to the shaft and proceeded to climb. Part way up I noticed what appeared to be an eye bolt. As a possible belay point I thought. I grabbed hold of this bolt and was quite surprised, to say the least, when it came away in my hand. Brushing this aside, I joined the others. They were busy trying to find some suitable rock that would take a bolt. This was hard because the rock was so soft. In places you could almost push your fingers through it.

Meanwhile I had got the adventure bug again and decided to check out the other side of the shaft. A set of ore truck

train tracks went over the shaft. With Ashleigh roping us over, Mark and I went over the tracks. This is not for the weak hearted, because suspended by two metal traks, looking down a 75ft shaft while shuffling across can be a bit hair raising. Once over this, the adit went around a corner. Sat in the middle of the tracks was an old ore truck. It was rusted in place and had seen better days, but still was an amazing sight. Further down this adit and things got even more amazing. The floor was a carpet of blue. Under a couple of inches of water, it was the most vivid blue that you can imagine. Walking very, very carefully past this, we continued down the pasage. I stopped to look at a hole in the floor, I realised to my horror that the floor was moving. We were on a false floor. Looking down the hole very carefully I could see the ground about 70ft down. This was one of the levels that could be seen on the way to the shaft. The only difference being that we were stood on it. Then Mark spotted something else. Some poor unfortunate miner had left one of his shoes behind. Having been down many mines, I have come to the conclusion that the miners were about 4 feet tall, but must have had massive feet. The shoe, which was made of leather with a solid metal sole, was about size 15!

Faint tapping sounds were heard behind us, so Ali and Ashleigh must have found some suitable rock to put some bolts in. Mark and I decided to go back and join the others as we did not fancy the idea of continuing down the passage over more rails (just rails) 70 feet above the ground for around 35 feet.
We finally managed to place two bolts and fix the rope, all we had to do now was to abseil down and get out. We had a petzyl stop, but it wouldn't work because the rope was too thick, and so we ended up abseiling with a figure '8'. (more fun)
So, if you have a free day (you need a whole day as well-our trip took nearly 5 hours), then hire some PCG ropes and ladders, grab a leader and go and havce some fun.

PS. Hire charges for equipment are 50p per person, no matter how much equipment is used.

Darren Hitchcox.

WHEAL PYE, ST. AGNES

Wheal Pye is a small mine on the outskirts of the village of St. Agnes. It is one of numerous ancient tin-mines which

eventually became part of the Polberro group. This area was re-opened for working numerous flat-tipping tin lodes, resulting in a maze of workings; Spargo (1865) wrote "the workings are quite peculiar,rendering a perfect plan and section a most difficult undertaking. I have heard it alleged as an impossibility to make a plan of Polberrow Mine". However most of the workings were above adit level, the workings being drained by several adits from the cliffs, just above sea level. These drained most of the area to a depth of about 100m - Wheal Pye itself is at about 117m above O.D.

During the 1980's,most shafts in the area were capped during the extensive operations of Carrick District Council. The shaft at Wheal Pye referred to was descended to check for bats using the East Cornwalls Mine Rescue winch, and was reported as being blocked by a tree about 30m down. The shaft was then capped, but the owner, Ian Doble, asked that access should be maintained. The cap was costructed by placing RSJ's across the shaft,covered by weld mesh and then a thick concrete cap. A wooden box was left in the centre. To allow access, all that was needed was to cut out the weld mesh under the wooden box. A safe cover then had to be provided.

Ian asked members of the PCG if they were interested in re-opening the shaft; he hoped to gain access to the Seal Hole Adit,one of the major adits of the area. However at that time there was nota great deal of interest in mining in the club,so it was nearly six years before anything further was done.

This year, however,has seen a revival of interest. On 22nd April, Mark Hanson,Alister Wade and myself arranged to descend the shaft. The weld-mesh was removed using bolt cutters, a "head-gear"of portable scaffolding and telegraph poles arranged allowing easy access,and the shaft descended.

It proved to go to 32m to a blockage,-a great dissapointment. The shaft is about 3m by 2m,vertical,with no workings going off it apart from a level about 2m long about 10m or so down. A number of north and south dipping quartz lodes were seen in the lower part.

The blochage is made largely of tip material,of which it was thought was dumped down during the capping operation. It was suggested that it may be of no great thickness, perhaps supported by a collar in the shaft, or by the tree reported by ECMR. We thus decided it might be worthwhile using Nobel's Linctus to see if this might remove the blochage.

Having made the shaft safe by heaving a large concrete slab over the opening, we contacted Dr. Roger Burt (DSS) who has a bang liscence.

On June 5th, Roger, a friend Peter, and myself returned. The concrete slab was removed using a JCB, and I descended and placed the charge. 10 sticks of Gelmex were used, fired by Cordtex, initiated electrically by the battery in Rogers car,- Ian had had a trail bulldozed to the shaft top. The bang was placed in a hole about 3ft deep down on one side of the blockage. It was noticed this is draughting, which is a very promising sign. The block appears to remain, but hopefully we will now have a better idea of its nature. We hope to return soon; hopefully we can dig down where the charge was set, and perhaps this has revealed the bottom of the choke, in which case it should be easy to remove. If not, Ian is keen to erect a headframe and winch to clear the choke-perhaps over ambitious, but worth a try.

Alisdair Neill.

BETSY'S ADIT

In 1984, Ian Doble told us of an adit in the garden of an old woman, Betsy, on the east side of Trevance Coombe. He said that he had looked "a short way in", but it was "rather wet" (which turned out to be a bit of an understatement).

We eventually went to have a look after banging Wheal Pye, and were shown a well-like hole. Closer inspection showed this to be an adit, with about 1" airspace, about 2" wide; a light showed this to extend a considerable way in.

This is probably an ancient working, part of Wheal Kitty. It seems that at a later date the land was terraced, resulting in the damming up of the entrance. It was used for local water supply until the Stithians resevoir was built.

It has certainly not been explored in the many years that Betsy has been therre. She has given us permission to do what we want to gain access. We are planning to wait for a dry spell, or to syphon the water out to gain more air space which would appear to be easy-there being a considerable drop down to the road a short distance in front of the adit, and the inflow is apparently not large.

Alisdair Neill.

SEAL HOLE ADIT.

The Seal Hole adit was one of the most important in the St. Agnes area, draining many of the small workings which were eventually incorporated in Polberro mine. It was driven from a large sea cave in the cliffs between Newdowns Head and Trevance Cove, and extended a mile or so inland, crosscutting the numerous lodes in the area. Ian Doble has examined the cliffs from a boat and reports a number of sea caves.

We hope to examine the sea caves by swimming in from a boat, which should be feasable in dry weather; if thought worthwhile, a longer trip could then be undertaken by abseiling down the cliffs, once the exact location has been ascertained.

The only two other ways of gaining access to the adit would seem to be from Wheal Pye, already described, and from the Turnavore adit. We have surveyed about 1.5km of the latter, with several side passages left to do. The only way towards Polberro and Seal Hole, however is by descending two "climbing shafts" at the end of the big stopes-once the site of a PCG underground dinner. These lead to a very manky stope; the way on is draughting, but a vertical wall of unstable rubble has stopped us. (see PCG Journal 98 for description and survey of this)

Alasdair Neill

MARQUIS LODE.(25.8.90)

Tricia and I started underground at about 11am. with the intention of climbing Engine Shaft. We reached the first level in about 1½ hrs carrying a bag of ropes, camera and a pole. I started climbing the Skip road timbers using an earth pole, which had a stout wire hook on the top with which I looped a weighted length of cord over suitable timbers above. The cord was then hooked down and used to pull up and choke around the timber a short length of rope. I could then prussik up the rope, secure myself to the timbers, and then repeat the operation.

After climbing over 8 skip guide supports, I was just under the 9th at the next level. Unfortunately there is an accumulation of dallen timber and some stones at this level.

On reaching above this, the loose timber was accidentaly dislodged, and, although a stone fell past the level below, the timber did not ! Foolishly I neglected to descend to check the state of the shaft as nothing was obviously caught in the rope.However, something must have fouled the rope because as Tricia began to climb, what must have been several hundredweight of loose material fell down the shaft from between the two levels, the roaring of which lasted perhaps 10 seconds.

I was horrified thinking that Tricia must have been killed outright as she didn' make a sound.
(Tricia) "I had taken the slack in from the rope and had just started to prusik up when there was a terrific roar above me. The rope was trying to pull me out into the shaft but because the rope that we were using was quite elastic, I somehow managed to grab the rock to pull me in towards the level, trying to shield my face at the same time from rubbish that was falling down. I was narrowly missed by a pointed plank of wood about 6" wide & 6-8ft long, the split end of which went into the rope. Another timber landed where my head had been. I thought Hugh had fallen down the shaft with all the rubbish, until I heard him shouting above me. Apart from a small bruise on one arm and a slight scratch on my nose there were no injuries. My legs were shaking for a good 10 minutes after."

Very lucky, as included in this rubbish were several lengths of old ladders. I was very negligent not to descend the shaft to check for loose material.

Before descending I traversed around the shaft to the Western side - the level didn't go. The Eastern side connects with the stope on the 1st level. I then pulled up the rope and inspected it before going down. I doubled the rope over the timber and started down, repeating this several times to withdraw the tackle safely.

Perhaps I should have left the rope up at the 2nd level, but I didn't at the time expect to return and did not wish to lead anyone else into danger. The shaft is probably not too bad now although some of the ladders and a huge timber looked precariously balanced. We pulled the bluewater rope up from the bottom level to protect it from falling rubish. We descended the final pitch, clearing some bits of fallen rubbish on the way. Not a very nice trip!

Hugh Browning

AN INCIDENT AT PRID (5.8.90)

No. in party - 12

Ages - 11 to adult

No. of leaders - 2

Mixed group, 5 female
9 male

Total number underground - 14
Number of adults present - 6

The caving group was a mixed bunch, and contained 4 persons of a mentally sub-normal disposition from the G.O.A.L. (Go out and live) organization that is based around the Plymouth area.

We travelled to the caves at Buckfastleigh and proceeded to the cave after kitting everyone out with helmets and lights. As the leader in charge, I was also carrying a climbing rope and a basic first aid kit.

The route that we took underground was one that I have taken many times over the last five years with various levels of groups, without incident, and I had no qualms about takng this group over the same route.

The trip was proceeding well, until about 1¼hrs. into the trip, when one of the party members had a fall from a rock ledge from a height of approximately 3½ ft. I personally did not see the fall as I was guiding the rest of the party around an obstacle, and my assistant was doing a job elsewhere. The casualyu was not the first person to climb down from this ledge, and it is normally considered to be a very easy stepdown to the floor, and therefore can only assume that she slipped off the edge. The result of this fall was that the casualty was lying on her front, with her left leg underneath her and crying hysterically.

Taking care that the rest of the party was in a safe position, I proceeded to the casualty to assess the situation. The casualty was fully conscious but in a great deal of pain in her left leg which was underneath her. Without moving her, I did a quick first aid check to establish wether any bones were broken, or wether there was any bleeding. This proved to be negative, and I therefore concluded that the casualty was not in a serious condition, and therefore organised some of the adults in my party to move the casualty into a more comfortable

position. When this was achieved, I established from questioning and further examination that any damage seemed to be centred on the left knee, and after ascertaining that the casualty was not able to walk and was not suffering from shock, I decided to treat the injury by immobilisation. This was effected by strapping the injured limb to the good one, with padding in between. This done, I organised the party to carry out a self-rescue, and this was duly carried out, taking approximately 1½hrs.from the position of the fall to the exit.

Just before reaching the exit, I came across another caving party, who I arranged with to take the remainder of my group out of the cave. This they did, with one of the adults going off to the local farm to telephone for an ambulance as a precaution. When we exited the cave, the ambulance was already waiting, and took the casualty to Torbay General Hospital. During the exiting of the cave, a regular check was made on the casualty conscerning the onset of hypothermia or shock, and the general comfort of the casualty.

I arrived at Torbay General Hospital approximately 25 minutes after the ambulance arrived, where we waited for the verdict from the doctor. The hospital sent the casualty to X-Ray, and the diagnosis from the doctor was that our casualty had a badly bruised knee which would heal on its own accord and should therefore not require any further treatment, but a visit to the patients own doctor should be made should the need arise. The casualty was then discharged from the hospital, and with the aid of a wheelchair was taken back to her transport, where she walked the last few yards, albeit a bit painfully.

I have since telephoned the Welby Community Unit wherethe casualty is a resident, to check on her progress, and it was reported back to me that she was now walking around quite happily, but with a bruise on her knee.

I feel that the incident was an unfortunate accident that could have happened to anyone, and that no-one else was to blame. The self-rescue proceeded smoothly, and although I was constantly reviewing the situation, I felt that there wasn't a necessity to call an official Cave Rescue, as the circumstances and the number of adults present did not warrant this action. This being proved out by the relatively speedy exit from the cave.

The conclusions that could be drawn from this incident could be numerous, but I believe that one of the most important ones to arise out of this is that no matter how long you have been

caving and leading parties, you must never think that you are such an expert and nothing could happen to you or your group. Thinking this could be a sure way to an accident. The incident mentioned happened at the top of Lake Chamber, AFTER negotiating the corner, and as a result falling off the easy ledge to the floor. Call this complacency or what ever you like, but a guard by this ledge for an inexperienced group would possibly have prevented this incident.

I can honestly say that this incident shook me up at the time and as a result I have completely reviewed the way that I take parties underground.

Derek Yearling.

DANGER DARREN

OUR INEPT HERO, "DD", AND HIS BRA
LESS SIDEKICK, "JEANFOLD", ARE EXP
ING A 'VAST'(?) CAREER IN THEIR LO
INUING SEARCH, FOR THE EVIL MAD
BARON SILAGE WET BACK. WHEN T
ENCOUNTER A NASTY CLIMB....

COR DD SHOULDN'T YOU CLIP THIS CRAB THINGY-A-JIG ON YOUR BELT

LOOK JEAN FOLD I'LL JUST USE THIS HAND LINE IF YOU DON'T...

SNAP

MIND!

JEAN FOLD THROW ME THAT BLOODY KRAB! FAST!

P.K.B.
©'90

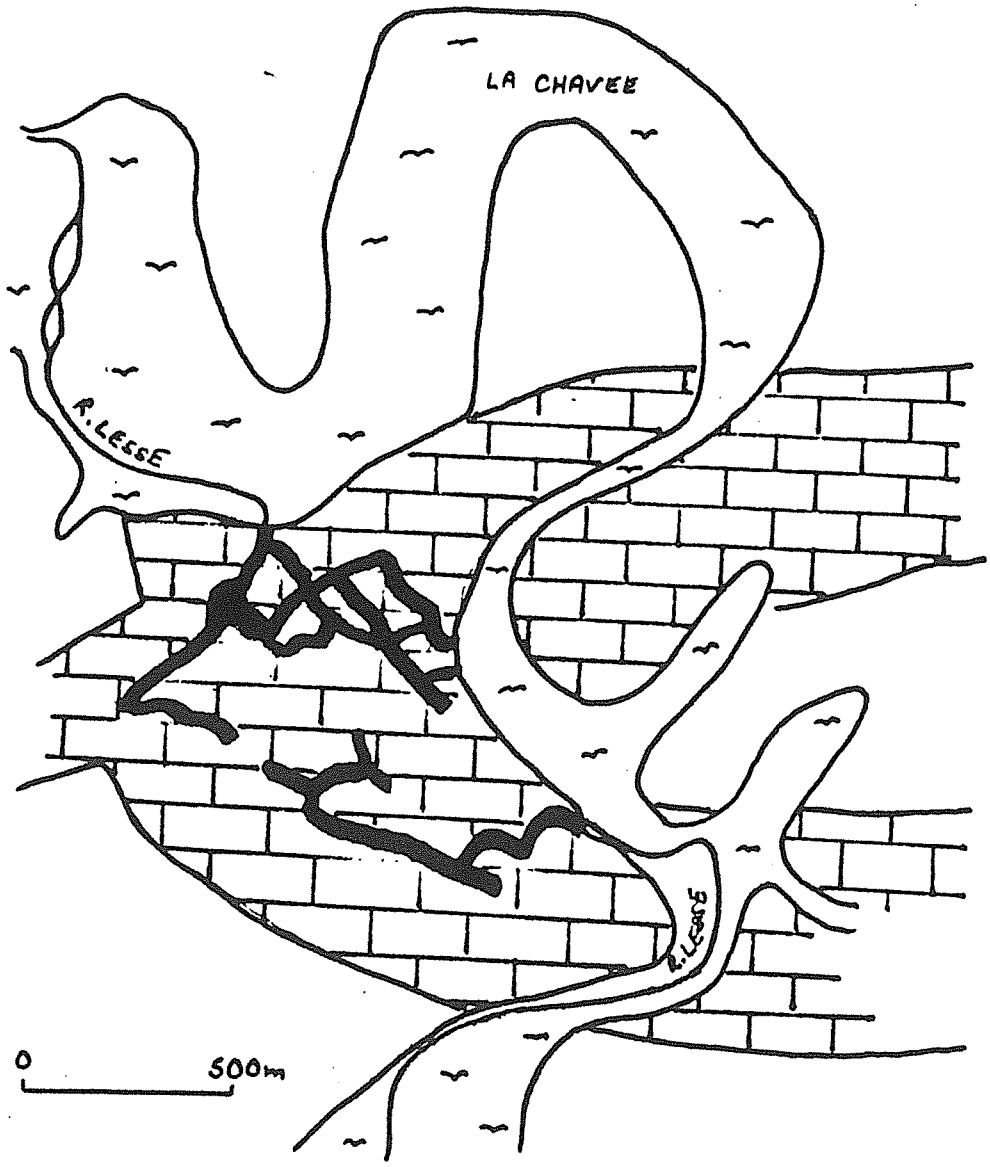
WILL OUR HERO INJURE HIMSELF (YE AGAIN!?) OR WILL HE LA SAFELY (ON HIS HERO). DO ANYONE REALLY CARE?

IT MAY BE CONT...

HAN SUR LESSE

In the autumn of last year I stopped off in Belgium on the way back from a visit to Germany. The Ardenne hills in the autumn are a spectacular sight with an array of yellows, golds and bronzes. The hunting season is also in full swing and the place is full of people in green suits with felt hats complete with feathers and littered with the bodies of shot boars hanging outside every notable restaurant. Add to all that one of Europe's greatest show caves, Han sur Lesse, it makes the Ardenne an ideal place to spend a weekend.

The limestones of the Ardenne in which the caves have formed are of Devonian age, in fact nearby Dinant is a type area for one of the stages of the Devonian Period, the Dination. At Han sur Lesse these rocks have been folded into a faulted anticline that is now crossed by alluvial deposits, La Chavee, marking the former course of the Lesse before it cut out its sub-terranean course beneath the limestone hills. The anticline is much faulted by earth movements and the river has taken advantage of these weaknesses in the development of its underground course. The tourist route through the cave begins in the dry high level fossil galleries and ends in the active part of the system.



Geological Map of the area (simplified after Quinif, 1987)

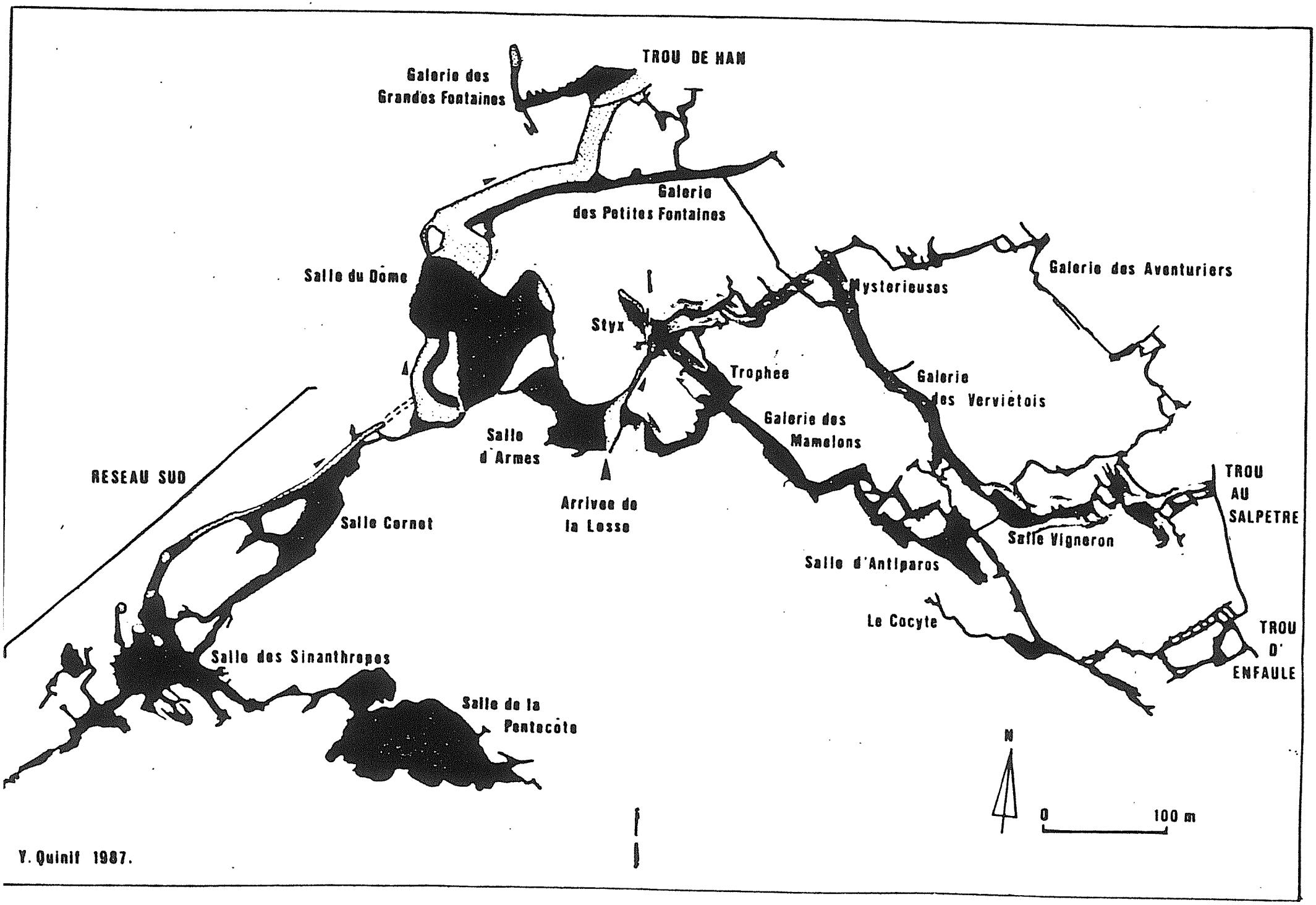
The tourist itinerary begins with a train ride from the village which takes you along the banks of the Lesse and then up into the wooded limestone hills before arriving at the tourist entrance to the caves which is the Trou du Salpêtre which, along with Trou d'Enfaule, are ancient sinkholes, the latter being still active in winter. The present sink for the Lesse is in the Gouffre de Belvaux. The tourist trip therefore begins in the fossil galleries which are now extremely well decorated with formations of all descriptions and sizes in enormous profusion. There is so much that the guide simply begins the tour with a quick explanation of the discovery and formation of the cave along with the normal speil on how the formations themselves were formed before leading the crocodile of tourists off at a leisurely pace along the labyrinth of passages just stopping occasionally at a particularly spectacular point. The route is through the Salle Vigneron, on along the Galerie des Verviètois to Mysterieuses and Styx where you get your first glimpse of the underground Lesse flowing between its mud banks.

The rest of the tourist trip is following various stages of the river on its progress through the system. In the huge Salle du Dôme, the assembled throng all take a seat and are then treated to a display of son et lumiere highlighting the course of the Lesse along the bottom of the chamber. When that concludes your attention is drawn to a man holding a flaming torch high up at the top of the dome by a speck of light which is a small entrance caused by collapse. Holding the torch aloft he then runs down to join the other guide and becomes a boatman for from the Salle du Dôme we go down to the river bank to find barges moored.

Safely on board we embark for the final part of our trip through the cave, a boatride along the quietly flowing Lesse itself. Soon we round a bend in the river and the exit comes into sight, the resergence of the underground Lesse at Trou de Han. As we glide out into daylight someone lets off a booming cannon which echoes through the cave.

A short stroll takes you back to your starting point in the village after an interesting morning trip.

David Jean


TROU DE HAN
Galerie des Grandes Fontaines
Galerie des Petites Fontaines
Salle du Dome
Styx
Mysterieuses
Galerie des Aventuriers
Trophee
Galerie des Vervietois
Galerie des Mamelons
Salle d'Armes
Arrivee de la Lesse
RESEAU SUD
Salle Cornet
Salle Vigneron
TROU AU SALPETRE
Salle d'Antiparos
Le Cocyte
TROU D' ENFAULE
Salle des Sinanthropes
Salle de la Pentecote
N
0
100 m
Y. Quinif 1987.

Membership As at Oct 1st 1990

R Ackroyd	35 Julian Rd, Ivybridge, Devon	Ply 893196
R Ashley	28 Edith Ave, St Judes, Plymouth	Ply 665232
R Ashley-Steele	57 Morley Ct, Western Approach Ply	Ply 220125
C Aylen	17 The Coppice, Ivybridge	Ply 690083
L Beattie	35 Portland Ct, Portland Pl, Stoke Plymouth.	Ply 606330
A Bennett	10 Clayton Place, St Judes Plymouth	Ply 262947
N Binks	51 Kinross Ave, Lipson Plymouth	Ply 260766
C Bird	166 Albert Rd, Stoke, Plymouth	Ply 562230
C Booth	10 Ocean Court,Richmond Wk,Devonport Ply	Ply 560156
A Brown	20 Primrose Clo, Ivybridge	Ply 690861
H Browning	2 Sandy Park West Tavistock	Tav 616551
P Browning	" "	
A Came	Stable Cott, Holystreet Manor,Chagford	0647 3298
J Cawthorne	3 Valletort Rd, Stoke, Plymouth	Ply 563588
R Cawthorne	" "	
M Cleave	Stidston, South Brent	0364 73292
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J Dunford	118 Lipson Rd, Plymouth	
M Edwards	4 Plym St, Greenbank, Ply.	
A Elsdon	29 Follaton Rd, Totnes	Totnes 866310
P Fairbanks	166 Albert Rd, Stoke, Plymouth	Ply 562230
J Fermor	24 Uphill Clo, Ivybridge	Ply 893836
M George	138 Langdale Gdns Estover Plymouth	Ply 701184
C Gibbs	47 Prince Maurice rd, Lipson Plymouth	Ply 672418
S Good	63 Barton Ave, Keyham Plymouth	
P Green	2 Keep Cottage, Berry Pomeroy, Totnes Devon	0803 866215
B Hancock	70 Salcombe Rd, Newbury Berkshire	
M Hansen	The Flat,Spriggsmoor, Moorland Pk S. Brent (Work)	0364 73292
G Hart	35 Portland Court, Portland Place, Stoke Ply	Ply 606330
M Hayes	25 Lipson Rd,Greenbank Plymouth	Ply 262206
M Heard	176 Devonport Rd, Stoke, Plymouth	Ply 561506
J Heslop	154 Plymstock Rd, Oreston Plymouth	Ply 405438
D Hitchcox	37 Billacombe Rd, Plymstock Ply	Ply 402962
M Homer	Flat 3, 107 Mannamead Rd, Hartley Ply	Ply 660397
D Jean	13 Tor Rd, Hartley, Plymouth	Ply 700293
C Johnstone	10 Ocean Court, Richmond Wk,Devonport.Ply	Ply 560156
R King	29 Follaton Rd, Totnes	Totnes 866310
G Lindsay	Woodvale Cott Badgers Wood, Plymouth	Ply 786443
J Lynch	109 Pembroke St,Devonport Ply	Ply 560953
K Manktelow	42 Lands Park, Plymstock, Plymouth	Ply 406480
Steve Mantle	Catering Off, RAF Boscombe Down, Salisbury Wilts	
StuartMantle	15 Tothill Ave St Judes, Plymouth	
J Masters	8 Allens Rd Ivybridge	Ply 893042
E Mercer	38 Willeys Ave, St Thomas Exeter	0392 433513
D Mikhail	35 Speakers Rd, Ivybridge	Ply 690141
J Murphy	67 Truro Drive, Tamerton Ply	Ply 791574
R Muncey	50 Torridge Rd Plympton, Ply	Ply 337753
R Murley	11 Connaught Ave, Mutley Plymouth	via 569427

A Neill	25 Lipson Rd, Greenbank, Plymouth	Ply 262206
F Nicholls	21 Westbridge Cotts, Tavistock	0822 614964
L Parsons	College of St Mark & St John,Derriford Ply	777188 x274
B Payne	200 Grenville Rd St Judes, Plymouth	Ply 662941
A Phillips	Danehurst, Richmond Rd, Crownhill, Plymouth	
M Prince	23 Cotehele Ave Keyham Plmouth	Ply 561094
N Prince	" " "	"
D Pritchard Jenkins	Manor House, Lutton Cornwood.	
P Reid	86 South Down Rd, Beacon Park, Ply	Ply 500455
B Rodda	c/o Moorhurst, Kirkella Rd Yelverton	
N Rooney	198 Elburton Rd, Elburton Plymouth	Ply 406809
M Sawyer	166 Albert Rd, Stoke, Plymouth	Ply 562230
T Sibbald	38 Dean Hill Plymstock Plymouth	Ply 402146
E Skuse	19 Napier Tce, Mutley, Plymouth	Ply 673713
P Skuse	19 Napier Tce, Mutley, Plymouth	Ply 673713
C Stacey	College of St Mark & St John,Derriford Rd,Ply	777188 x278
M Taylor	225 Embankment Rd, Prince Rock Ply	Ply 268291
D Thompson	c/o Benbow block, HM Drake Plymouth	Ply 65668
M Vinall	25 Lipson Rd, Greenbank Plymouth	Ply 262206
S Vipond	28 De-La-Hay Ave Penlee Plymouth	
A Wade	117 Blachford Rd, Ivybridge	Ply 894136
D Wade	117 Blachford Rd, Ivybridge	Ply 894136
S Wadlan	66 Dockray Clo. Estover Plymouth	Ply 785259
D Yearling	558 Budshead Rd, Whitleigh Plmouth	Ply 772963