



Bristol Exploration Club
Everything to Discover

Belfry Bulletin No 516, Summer 2003



The
Bristol
Exploration Club, The Belfry,

Wells
Road, Priddy, Wells,

Somerset.
Editor: Adrian Hole

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Committee Members

Secretary: Vince Simmonds

Joint Treasurers: Mike and Hilary Wilson

Membership Secretary: Sean Howe

Editor: Adrian Hole

Caving Secretary: Greg Brock

Tackle Master: Tyrone Bevan

Hut Engineers: John Walsh, Neil Usher

Hut Warden: Roger Haskett

BEC Web Page Editor: Greg Brock

Librarian: Graham Johnson

Hut Bookings: Fiona Sandford

Floating Member: Bob Smith

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Editorial.

Welcome. The big news

of the summer (a touch of deja vu here) is that Hunters' Lodge Inn Sink (currently Mendip's most extendable cave) has gone once again (from late July into the first week of August it has been extended on some five different occasions!) Well decorated passage leads

to archaeological remains and a sizeable pitch that not only accompanies the sump found last winter but lies somewhere beneath it. From the base of this another dig leads to a deep sump pool and another 250ft. of large ascending rift passage. With the new pitch in Thrupe Swallet (see article) and the continuing work in Sump Twelve in Swildon's looking extremely promising this could be one of the best years for Mendip caving for quite some time. This is amply demonstrated by the fact that Tony Jarratt has provided two continuations to his first article in this BB and that Tony Audsley has so much to recount that he has divided his article into two parts.

Jim Giles. Caving Log. Belfry Bulletin No 157, March 1961,
p2.



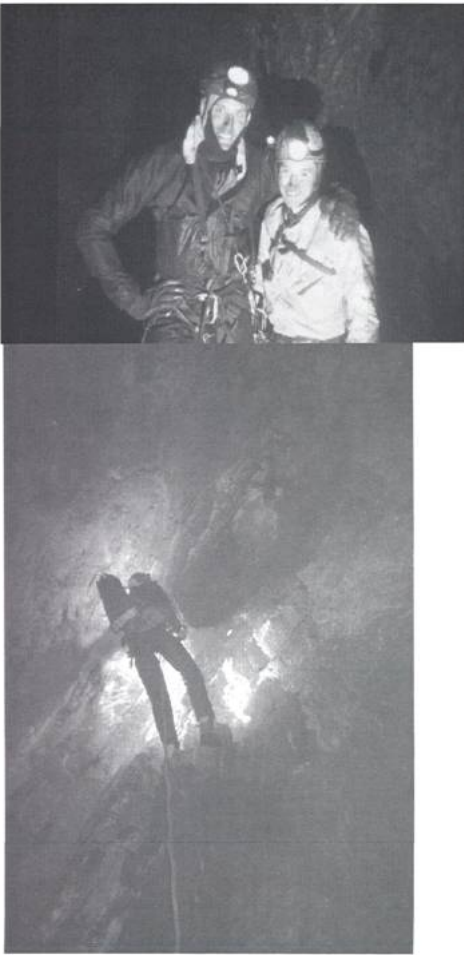
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Sima Pumacocha 2002 Expedition Survey and Photographs

(see article in BB No 515)

by Peter "Snablet" and
Mark Hassell

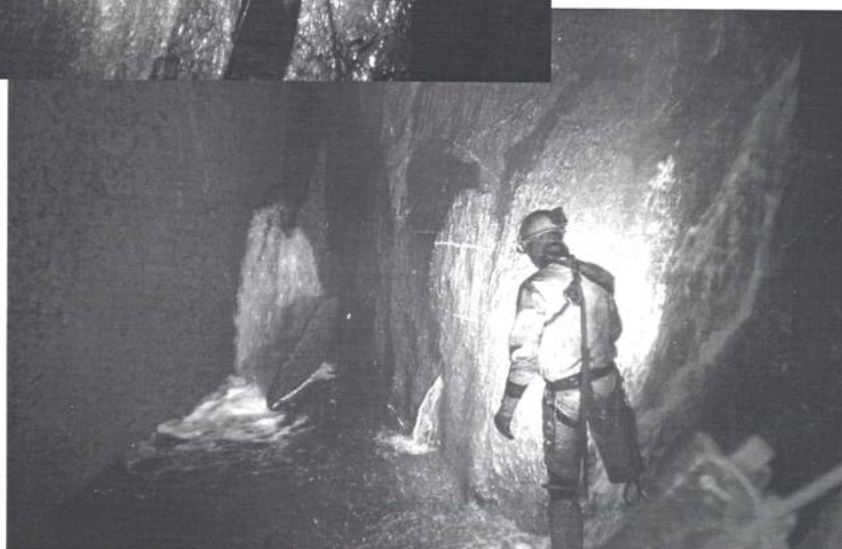
Mark and Snabiet at the Sump.

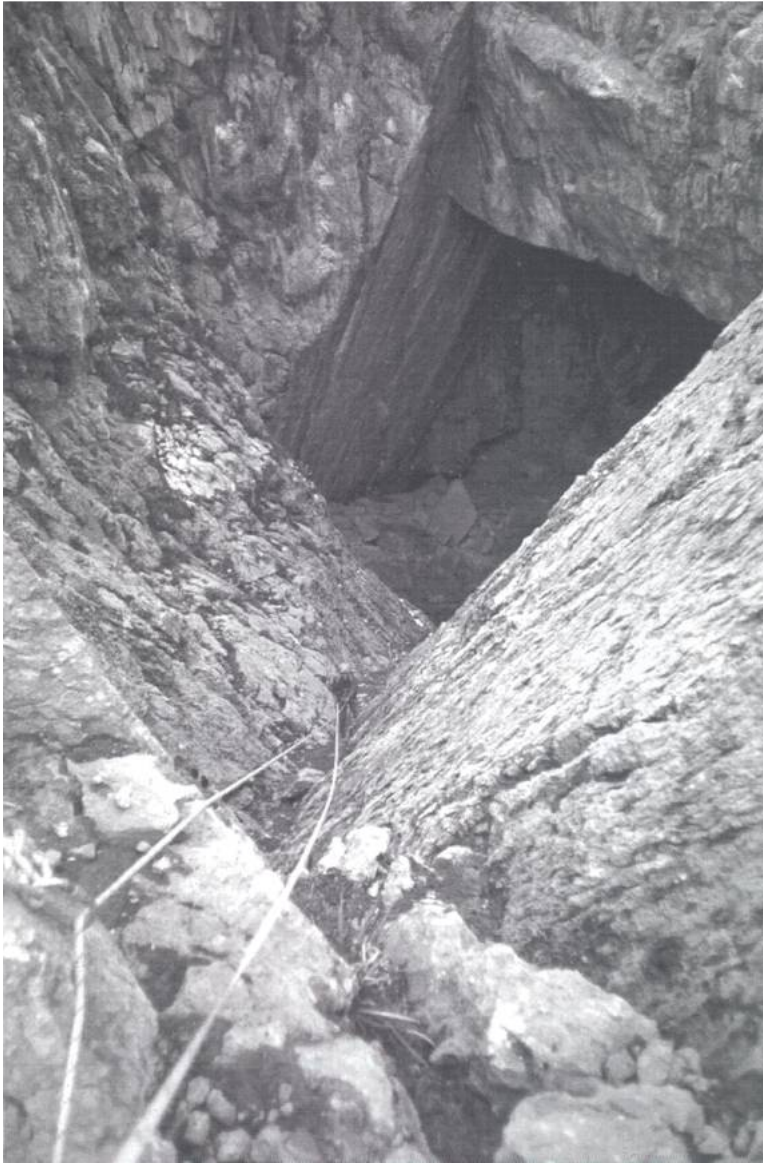


Mark at Crownsnest Pass.



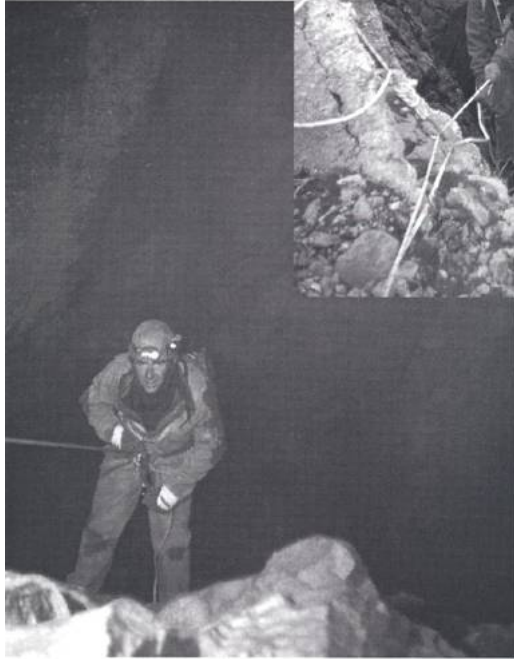
Snablet ascending
Shining Path and
below on the X-Files
Ledge.





Nick Hawkes on the entrance pitch of Qaga Mach'ay
(alt.4930m) - a 50m by 20m entrance over 50m deep to a 20m high passage with
two un-descended, ice coated leads

*Nick at the top of the first pitch
of Qaqa Mach'ay.*



*Matt Tuck on Ammonite
Shaft, Sima Pumacocha.*

Ed. - In addition to these photographs I have also received a copy of the Sima Pumacocha Presentation given in May of this year by Nick Hawkes to the Peru Geological Society. It is planned to include sections of it in the next issue of the BB.

Fun in the Sun and a Lark in the Dark – Meghalaya 2003.

by Tony Jarratt

Introduction

Once again February saw an invasion of the Indian hill state of Meghalaya (the Abode of the Clouds) by a bunch of scruffy Europeans (and Michael) intent on discovering many kilometres of huge cave passage and having a great time. By the end of the month we had over 25km surveyed and at least one Mahindra pick-up jeep full of empty beer bottles – the mission had been accomplished in style! On the down side Jayne had a broken leg, Dr. B was bankrupt and Brian's only caving day resulted in a badly bruised back from falling rocks, though a bit higher up and it would have also been his last caving day A great deal of hard work had been done in both the Garo and Jaintia Hills and many leads had been opened up for next year. Herewith the details of the Shnongrim team's exploits. Tony Boycott wrote an article on the Garo Hills part of the expedition