

## Descent Newsletter (8) April 2021

**THIS** edition of the newsletter follows not long after the most recently despatched, in March. We've always said that we wouldn't send too many of these, being roughly once per issue (and we've already sent one linked to the April issue, which is formally published in a couple of days, on Saturday, though it is available now and subscribers will probably have received their copies). However, we have a special reason for sending this latest edition.

The following text relates to a fundraising appeal to support Malcolm Bass's recovery from a stroke; it will appear in the June edition of *Descent* (to reach readers who do not subscribe to this newsletter) but, given the early need for medical support, it felt very valid to send this out now. Malcolm was, long-time readers will know, once a *Descent* correspondent. Simon Yearsley takes over from here

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ANYONE who knows about late 1980s/early '90s Yorkshire Dales cave exploration should know the name Malcolm Bass. Anyone with a memory of *Descent's* area correspondents should know the name Malcolm Bass. Anyone who has even vaguely considered a trip to the remote Penyghent Extensions will definitely know the name Malcolm Bass!

Malcolm was a leading figure in ULSA from 1983 to the early 1990s and played a key role in ULSA's many discoveries and epics, notably Friday The 13th Series and the Living Dead Extensions in Penyghent Pot. He had a notable cave diving career, with hours of effort diving the New Goydon series in Nidderdale; to date he is the only person to have passed Sump 8.

His passion for information-gathering and creative writing skills made him an ideal Northern Area Correspondent for *Descent* from December '89 to October '91.

Malcolm's exploratory urges shifted above ground, and over the past 30 years he has become one of the UK's leading exploratory Scottish winter climbers, alpinists, and Himalayan mountaineers.

Last August, aged only 55, completely without warning, and with no underlying health issues, Malcolm suffered a life-changing stroke which almost killed him. He is finally back home, after being in hospital for months, and now faces the hardest challenge of his life trying to learn to walk and function independently again. A group of his friends are determined that this is not the end of his sporting endeavours, independence and irrepressible vitality. They have launched a fundraising campaign to support his recovery and get him back on his feet (literally) and back into the wild places he loves so much. The caving community can play its part too, so we'd encourage you to check out the GoFundMe page (clicking the link will open a new window) [MoveMountainsForMalcolm](#) and support the fundraising effort where you can.

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Much more information is revealed on the GoFundMe page. At the time of writing, just over £37,000 has been raised towards the target of £100,000.

Before leaving, we should note that if you placed an early order for either of Dave Gill's books, *Journeys Beneath the Earth* or the new title *More Journeys Beneath the Earth*, the new stock has arrived and your copy has been posted.

Best wishes from  
Chris & Judith

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Best wishes from *Descent* magazine