

# AFTER HOURS

## Musicians and their hobbies

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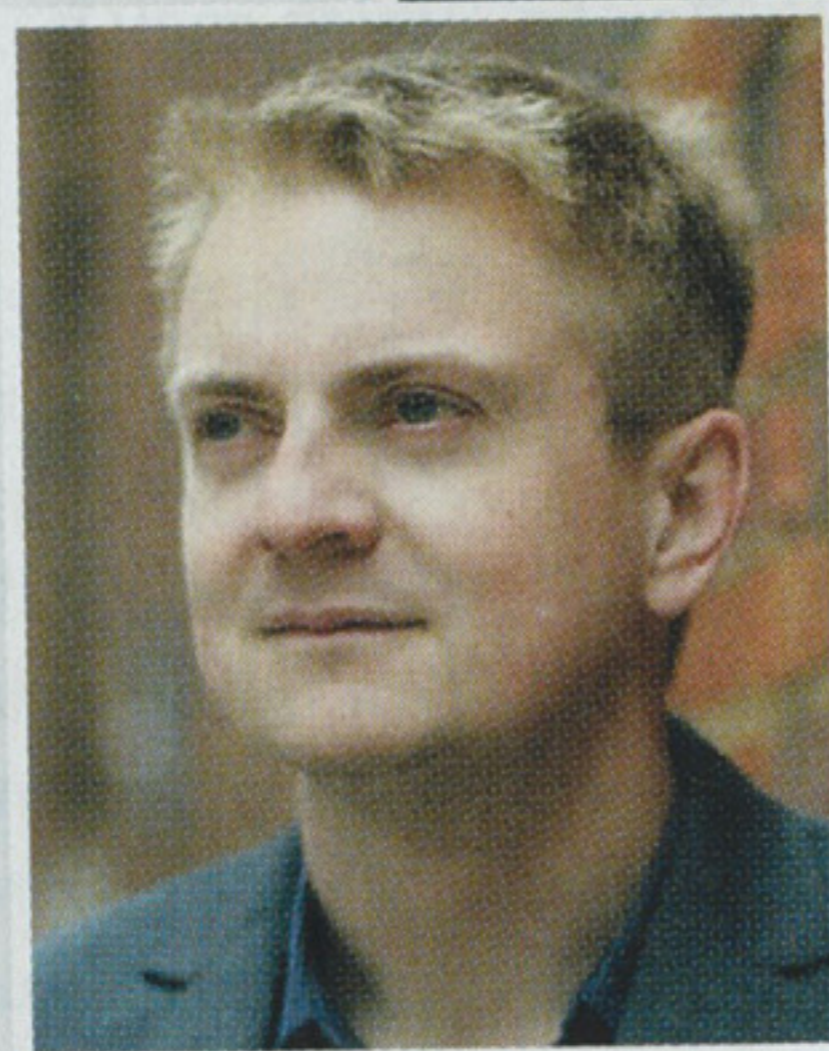
### BEN CRICK

*Conductor*

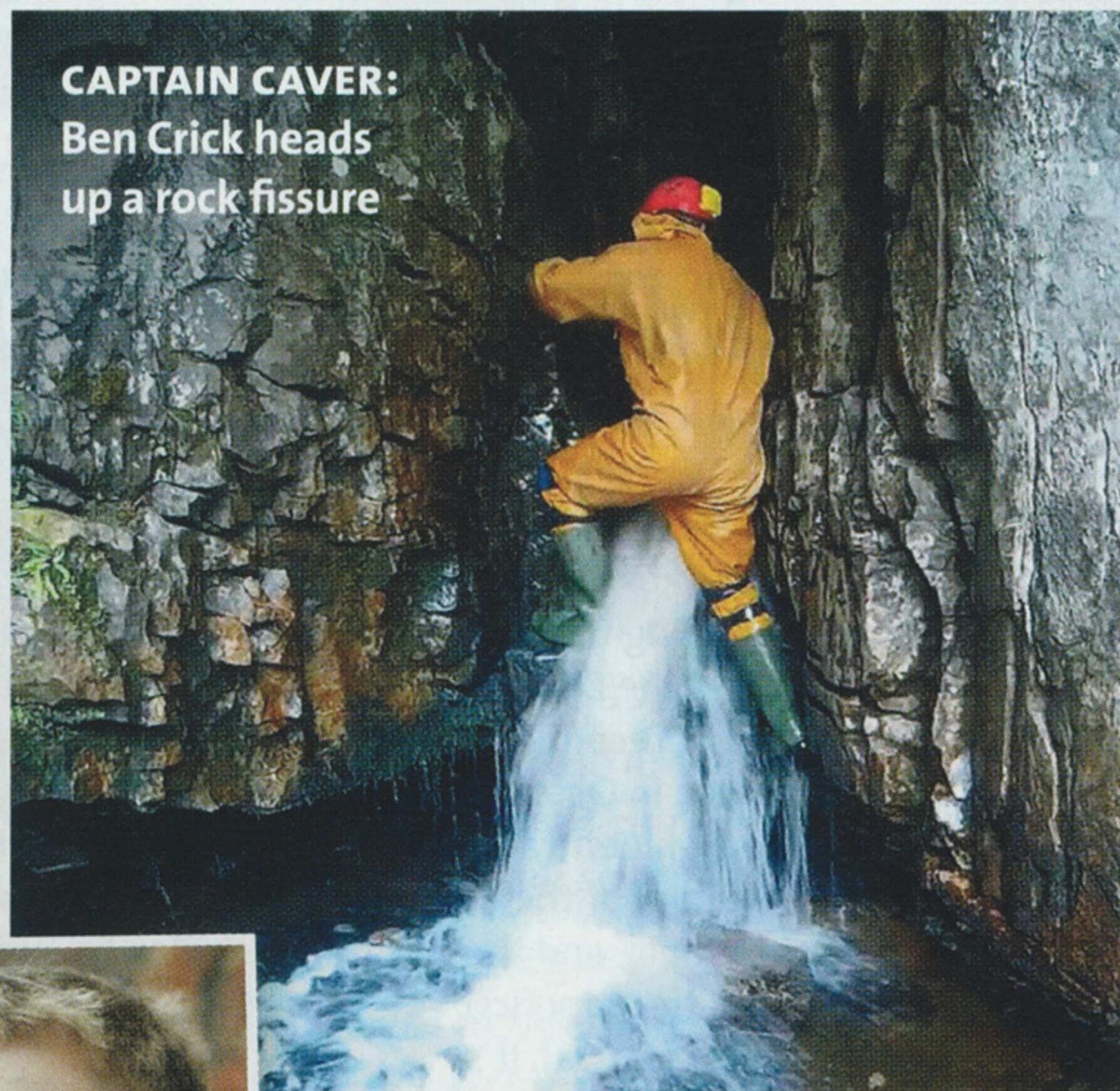
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### CAVING

My dad was a member of Bradford Pothole Club, and used to take me caving as a kid. My enthusiasm grew from there. There are very few things in life that completely absorb you while you are doing them, but caving is one, not least because there are high consequences if you get it wrong. What I like, too, is that the more I get my ropework skills and fitness up to scratch, the more I minimise the risks – like conducting, as long as you are prepared, the risks of it going wrong are vastly reduced. I go caving about once a week, as it only takes half a day. From where I live in Skipton, I can go caving in, say, the Ease Gill System or Gaping Gill, a big cavern the size of York Minster, and be back home,



**CAPTAIN CAVER:**  
Ben Crick heads  
up a rock fissure



showered and ready to conduct in the evening. I tend to go caving in a pair with a friend, though having three or four people is better. Sadly, none of my orchestra colleagues share my passion. I once took a flute player, who hated it. It was the bit where we had to go under water in a submerged stream that proved too much...