

14.10.73 TO 26.10.75

14.10.73
to
26.10.75

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14th Oct. 73 - 26th Oct 75

Wessex Cave Club.

Upper Pitts,
Eastwater Lane,
Priddy BAS 3AX,
Somerset.

Acc No 479

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14th October 1973

Paul Hadfield, Dave Gordon, Pete Moody

Snelbors - Suzanne Puke :- grotting

As an appetizer to the 42ft Rife we went round the Airless Oxbow, very enjoyable. In S.P. we had a good look at the passages beyond Terminus Chamber. An hour or so was spent digging at the high level choke, a major problem is stacking spoil. (Liquid mud) ^{of course.} When we retired from the scene a gravel choke blocked the way on. a long handled shovel will be useful on the next occasion which will be God knows when.

ARK

20th. October 1973

Alison Hooper, Adman Underplank, Rich Webbsell, Bill Brooks, Ian Duff
Johnny Parkhurst.

Manor Farm :- Tourist, exploring and photographic trip.

Adman + Rich chipped away at a place where water enters above
the lift. They tried to persuade me to go through it but I
was unable to oblige as it was only 6 inches high.

John Ham's boulder moved again and looks very unstable.

Adman disappeared up the bedding plane in NASA. Gallery
with the cooing of Brian Prewer only to find a hand print
at the very end. Good trip. - 4 hours.

Alison

20th Oct

Phil Hardy. Paul Hasfield - to look at the Gordon's
dig in Gharrow's terminal chok. Met a party of 10 on
the way down but squeezed past. Below Crystal Chert is
the dig reached by a bedding plane about 2' wide 9' high and
slightly curved. There are 2 openings in this. I tried
to get through the first but it was not really open
no reverse. Paul continued. But said little apart from interesting
Full marks to the Gordons for digging this God from her place but I
hope we will not be helping them.

Phil Hardy.

3

20th Oct Swildons 12 - James Collett, Peter Moody brought the
12 Bypass again.

21st Phil Hardy, Ken Jones, Paul Halford & Alison, Knapp Hill
Swildons. Dug a hole down hole, was sitting in front
part of hole, which Alison dug getting very muddy. Also looked
at rock shelter about 200' up valley, high on R bank.
Low surface goes in and down for about 8'. Dig hampered by
roots - Hydrants of a quick tree full of shells as treasure trove
not realized.

20/10/73.

The Wessox went to it's Annual Dinner &
got pissed - again!

28th Oct. 1973.

Steve + The two Micks. A.V.D.P.
+ Rich. Gordon + Rich? (Bainbridge)

MANOR. FARM. It was a very enjoy-
able trip it is a very worth while trip
with Nice ~~for~~ Formations + Had a good
look at N.A.S.A. Gallery. It's got character
& some good clinks

Steve

28.10.73, Longwood / August. Paul Hodfield, Richard Stovason
 Beautiful view of high level stal formations ^{in light} from high level or low.
 Recommended.

PH

31/10/73

Nine Barrows.

Rich Gordon and Assorted members
 of ~~the~~ ~~camp~~ THE SAME CAMP
 and 216 change and
 retreated. dig is progressing
 SLOWLY.

3.11.73 Paul Hodfield, Rebe ~~Bedford~~. - stake hole.

Visited high level grotto above Sump 2 pool - very attractive - very loose -
 On one lamp from sump 2 on.

PH

~~17.11.73 Bob Holland, Chris Elachman (both Sydney Speleological
 Society, Australia) & Paul Hodfield, Swyne Luke, Digging~~

~~Took a long handled shovel and some poly bags down
 to the chake Mr Moody investigated on 14th Oct '73. It had filled up with
 even more water and the spoil situation is getting very interesting. The danger~~

8th / 11 / 73. MANOR FARM Steve, Jeff, Mick, Rich,
 We had a good trip down to NASA GALLERY -
 where we watched the B.F.C. lose themselves.
 Went to end of the gallery where the childish
 Bee decided to have a mud bath and fight.
 But the wessex overcame them and they
 retreated on the way out had a good chin wag
 over a Mars Bar + a tube of lime flavoured dextrose
 or was a pong!

Steve:

17.11.73 Bob Holland, ^{CHRIS} ~~Steve~~ Lachman (both Sydney Speleological
 Society, Australia) & Paul Madfield Swyne Puke. digging

Took a long handled shovel and some poly bags down
 to the choke Mr. Moody was investigating on 14th Oct '73. It had
 filled up with even more water than before and the spoil situation is
 getting very interesting. The dams built on the previous visit were
 reinforced but with the amount of spoil now removed, even in poly bags,
 there is a continual threat that the U tube prior to the dig might be
 flooded if anything gives. I managed to insert my self feet first into
 the tube after establishing a small air space and could feel the mud/water
 filled tube continuing horizontally with no apparent obstruction. The long handled
 shovel was also used as a probe at maximum reach ^{and} ~~with~~ the zone

7.
18/11/73. Pete Palfrey, P. Hofffield, Hil Phendy - alias - SHATTER CAVE.
for P.H and H.P to take photos. Quite a few taken, in spite of
Pauls dodgy flash gun. Got pritty. Suppressed urge to crunch over
stal in Pillar Chamber. Cured hangers. I think I might take
up this caving lark seriously.

Phil Phendy.

24th Nov Souldons Chris Murray, Peter Mosley

Two others secured our route as have failed to reach
the top of Sump - Puts Rife. We went on to the dig beyond
Terminus Chamber but found that the large excavation Paul
had made on the 17th had filled with water. Since there is
no where to lead water the only solution is to siphon it to
the patch between the U bend and T.C. Unable to do
any effective digging we passed off and round the Trenches (pressing
most of them were in a heap at the bottom
a ruckle of five or six pieces near Greasy Chimney) and so
proceeded to the Muddy Sump in Souldons 2 where a length of
garden hose pipe has been gracing the passage for the last year.
After a lengthy debate we decided it might just be long
enough for the dig. After leaning the test for another time
we sped out through the cramples.

P.S. The hole which can be used to drain the 2nd Mud
Sump is blocked - St Pauls might be a trifle wet next week.

25th. Nov. Alton ~~to~~ Phil Handy.

Took four boyscouts down Goatchurch. Uneventful trip - had a look at the dig and watched someone from another party trip over the 'Nut Coucher' quite amusing and there are now some nice red stains down the formation. Went through Hellish Tight 'Twice and nearly regretted it. Also went down Rod's Pot and along the mine adit which is quite dry and about 320 yds long. - Nice iron flows in a couple of places. If there had been time the scouts ~~would~~ wanted to go down another cave - Keen ~~was~~ aren't they - I'd had enough after Goatchurch.

Alton.

25 Nov. Fred Daviss, Brian Woodward, Paul Hadfield, Coush.

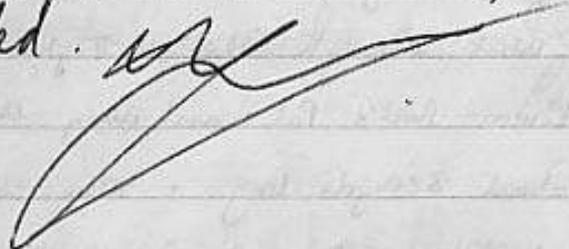
Had a look at Fred's lost lung. We could see through the end of the final tube into a large rift going both up & down from our point of entry. Actual view through the tube was still too tight to be practical so another charge was laid and we retired.

Alf.

2/12/73.

P. Hadfield & G. Jefferson to abandon Hope Extension via Old Approach Passage - the first time Paul has seen this part of the cave. He was most impressed with the spacious ~~prentice~~ passage, and the fire

decorations, especially of course, the Relicites & the crystal covered floor! Waited 45 minutes at Good Stuff Dig, ~~tried~~ listening for Pete Moody's bang in vicarage - the which was heard. 3 hrs, water moderate, care. uncrowded.



1/12/73 Paul Hatfield & Pete Moody visited the Seabrook Vicarage Dig dug & on 2nd Dec Dave Gordon, Andy Sparrow, Jeff Price Geoff Marshall & Pete Moody went to Vicarage and removed many buckets of liquid mud from the dig. After an hour conditions were still evil so we prepared the bang which was fired just after 3pm (see above).

Observations:

1. Both the Good Stuff & the Vicarage digs are pretty solid so it's ~~was~~ encouraging that Ian & Paul heard the bang at all.
2. Even though the core was fairly wet Good Stuff Dig was ~~fairly~~ pretty dry ~~which~~ ^{this} implies that the draining of Vicarage on the first had also drained GSD. *

So GSD & Vicarage are probably the same ~~type~~ ^{type} of chokes and the horizontal distance may be considerably less than the thirty feet which the surveying suggests.

* Doubtful - Good Stuff appeared to have been dug for more than 24 hrs. Possumist
PM

9th Dec Swildons St Pauls & Troubles - Paul Hadfield & Pete Moody.

We had a look at the second Mud Sump which is now about forty feet long and eight feet deep. The Sheperd ~~was~~ had just given up hope of clearing the choked drain hole when we arrived with a long metal spike. We managed to ram it down 5 or 6 feet but the choke is really solid. As a large stream is still flowing into the sump unless something is done very soon Paradise Regained may become permanently unapproachable from this direction. We had a quick look at the Troubles before coming out the hole was completely sumped.

9/12/73

P. Hadfield, A. Hooper, A. Newfort, P. Herdy, J. Jepson, P. Moody, Barry Wilkinson, A. Mills, R. Gordon, trundled down Swildon's to look at the mud sump (see above), indulging in some weegee-baiting en route. Somewhat to our surprise, we found the drain hole unblocked, and were thus able to bail out the sump, after some dam reconstruction, while Phil took historic photos. Trundled on out via Troubles, getting the air in P.R. noticeably fresher than usual. 3 1/2 hrs.

J. Jepson

16/12/73

Rick Webbell, Andy Sparrow

Quick trip to Black Hole but not in best of health and haven't been cavity for a few weeks. Repeating

to see lots of water, Swildons at its best.

Okra RAW.

16.12.73 Julia Range, Paul Hatfield, Swildons.

Hopes of long round trip were dispelled at the entrance by the water level, above the bottom hole - (we assumed ramp 5 would have no air space) Here we returned to the Green, collected camera and enjoyed a pleasant trip to 3 taking pictures of streamway at its best.

OK

20

~~18~~ 12.73 Geoff Marshall, Paul Hatfield - Mangle Hole

Pursued by (Sandford?) Hunt until after much searching in the woods refuge was found in the above mentioned hole - but who's been digging there?

OK

22.12.73 - Roger Robinson, Rich ^(Bainbridge), Paul Hatfield, Swildons
Swyre-Puke -

The hose pipe formerly at the muddy swamp in '2' now resides at the top of the 42' rift ready to be moved on to the dig. Owing to running out of time and climbing ability the trip ended at the rift.

OK

22/12/73

Juhari, Peng + Rob
 Hanger → Cooker gave
 up at Shua dump
 for many reasons
 diversity trip -
 6 hrs -

ACA

COOKO CLAVES AM AM PH + ONE.

A PISSED/SHIT/STOMACH TRIP, AM VERY ~~PISSED~~ PISSED
 QUICK SPOKE IN MARK 1 + MARK 2, DIS
 PUSHED AM TO FARTHEST POINT IN MARK
 2 DIS. FORGOT TO TELL HER THAT SHE HAD
 PISSED FARTHEST POINT VERY TIGHT
 SHE KEPT ~~MOANING~~ MOANING HER ARSE
 WAS STUCK "SILLY MOO"

AM



23.12.73. North Hill - Alison Hooper, Phil Hendy, Paul Halffield.

As a sequel to an excellent NASA dinner ^{this} proved an interesting excursion. A nasty moment on Rumble Plank occurred when the belay (iron bar wedged across passage) slipped free as I was abailing. However I managed to bridge across the pitch ^{very quickly} to stop falling, climbed back up and resecured the belay, then descended by free climbing the pitch.

On returning ~~to~~ to the entrance pitch we found a Christmas present left for us by certain Wesssex members - an hilarious joke if you're on the right end of it - ~~see from below~~ (I wish I had been!) piles of ~~wash~~ coming down from the surface resulting in a smelly exit being effected.

PS

24.12.73, Manor Farm - Mike Norton, Paul Halffield.

This was Mike's first visit since the breakthrough - as he was one of the "original" diggers he was most interested - personally the high point was the Christmas "deer" provided by Mr. Jefferies before our trip.

PS

24/12/73

What's to come over the Wesssex - Christmas Eve & all going caroling! Pub, Intrepid Youth, Patonic, with Ken Gray (3rd trip) to Purildon's,

Black Hole Series as far as 2nd Boulder @ Lake.
 Bare moderately wet, and no! other porties were seen -
 this must be a record. $3 \frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

28/12/73

Have only just come round! Everyone seems a
 bit dazed! What's been going on since 29/12/?? Where's the
 turkey gone, & the ducks? Where did all those bottles come
 from? Oh, it's all too much! My brain hurts!!

29th Dec Aubrey Newport, Ian Jepson & Peter Moody to Suzanne -
 Puke dig, Swildons. With me on the far side of the U tube and
 Ian & Aubrey the ~~the~~ Terminus Ch. side digging was fairly successful
 moving spoil from the digging area to ~~the~~ be dumped down the rift.
 Unfortunately the top of the hauling bag broke and the digging had
 to be abandoned. Ian & Aubrey then expressed a desire to see the dig
 itself, although warned that it was full of water they were aghast
 at having wasted so much (drinking) time & energy on the prospect.
 It was a pity they were not struck dumb because they proceeded
 to heap foul abuse on me and make derogatory remarks about the
 beautiful dig. Ian even rated its prospects as -6 while G.S.D. rated 5
 on the same scale. With swearing, rending the sweet air we made our exit
 They will see the dig will go!

29. Dec 1973 Swine Puke dig (True Version)

We was coned!!

After getting to the dig (without some problems) we spent 1 hour plus removing 4 bags $\frac{1}{2}$ fulls of spoil. When Pete eventually let us see the dig we realised how hopeless it was. Just to prove it two of Petes comments were: "Its a promising ~~dig~~ site but its impossible to dig!!" and "I think* that trip is harder than going to 12" ^{Hubrey} _{land & Pete}

27 Dec 1973. Hubrey, Alan, & Paul H. went to dive surps
2 & 3. Hubrey to 4, Alan & Paul to 3. Unsuccessful trip.

17. Dec 1973 Alison & Hubrey to Sludge pit. Removed various junk including 2 Wessex Pulleys.

29th Dec

PETE PALFREY, JOHN, RICHARD, PAUL H & ALISON TO BOX MINES.
Pete, Phil & John on Rope, Richard on hoist, Alison on plunder, not necessarily in this order. Mine big, impressive. Mr Palfrey talking to himself and getting everyone else lost. Saw Cathedral, Back Doot, Left Passage, Crew Passage, New Workings, Dial Chamber, three and not necessarily in any order. Met a large party, in groups, trying to meet each other, several times. Eventually used the well known resort. Cries of HELP! No-one care.

Followed Cotham signs, took us in a circle. Eventually gave up, and emerged with loot, plunder, and alison. Most terrifying part of trip when Pete's dynamo died, and we returned to Myredapin dimming car headlights and thickening mist.

Remind me to emasculate the CCC. Hil Phendy X his mark.

* N. B. J. Jepson entirely endorses the remarks by A. Newport regarding the Pirine - Pake Dig.

30th December Chris Murray, Bob Elinor, Pete Moody - Suidors the route into the final section of Vicarage was sumped ^{and} we wanted to use the bypass into Hairy Passage we returned to 2. We then visited Good Stuff Dig in Abandon Hope and did some digging. General Haig would have been proud of the mud at G.S.D., as for I.J.'s enthusiasm for the place it can only mean he's a coprophiliac with masochistic ~~over~~ tendencies. If the Snyare Pake dig rates -6 G.S.D. rates -25 on an ascending scale from -25 to 0.

30/12/73

B. W. Robinson, A. B. Bainbridge, J. Jepson to Abandon Hope - Good Stuff Dig to rendezvous with the above party, who were however, met at the entrance, where they regaled us with many tales of woe regarding A.S.D. We proceeded however to the dig, where, I am forced to say, we found their comments to be not entirely justified. While the general description is

correct enough, and I do not feel qualified to comment on Mr Moody's personality analysis, the dig is in fact perfectly workable. Requires a party of 5 minimum - preferably 6. There's almost unlimited standing space, and plenty of room to enlarge the working area if necessary. The mud? is underlain by a rock floor of similar slope to the rest of the passage. Removed a total 20 bucketfuls - which made a marginal but noticeable difference, and effected mods. to the wall of the dig with a number of flat stones. G.B.

N.B. If the Purgone - Puke dig "goes" before G.S.D. J. Jefferson hereby undertakes to buy P. Moody $\frac{1}{2}$ pt. of deep mild ale. *ry.* - I accept the challenge - start saving now

31st December Bob Ellinor & Pete Moody to Suidons 12. After blowing up the Flood Bypass once again we climbed Victoria Aven (not without difficulty) and proceeded to the terminal choke of the Despairation Extension. Having blown that ~~out~~ up we made our weary way back to the surface. A nine hour trip.

1st Jan 74 Pete P, AVDP, R Hunt, Richard B. GB

After wading through the 1ft deep semi-liquid mud at the bottom of the entrance pitch we made our way down to Bat Passage where Pete tried out his aerobatics trying to attach the ladder to the chain at the top. He succeeded and we made

our way to Rat passage where we found some good formations
took some photos and came out.

30th Dec. Paul Hudfield, Geoff Marshall - Yorkshire - Don Cave.
- Reconsidered route through Dowbigill passage to a few hundred
feet past rock window $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

31st Dec. Providence Pot to Don Cave via Dowbigill -

A good though trip if somewhat boring. No incident or route
finding problems except for a complete Wipe out strip and rebuild by
Geoff at about the half way mark. Five minutes lost in a high level
rabbit burrow in Brew Chamber and Geoff fell into the ^{bottom of the} rift in
Gypsum traverse and took some time, and considerable effort to
extricate himself. 3 hrs. 20 min.

31st Jan 74 Tatham Wipe -

A delightful trip in clean washed creamy limestone pot hole.
The only real difficulty was the super severe approach walk and
route finding back to the car over the fell in the middle of an
overcast night. 3 hrs.

2nd Jan 74 - Out sheets Beck Pot -

Got to the bottom of the final pitch on the

tackle of a previous party, but as we had not brought sufficient ladder for this pitch we had to come out with them and thus did not succeed in bottoming the pot. A wet & spanting trip. $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs

3rd Jan Sheets Gill

Got down into Hydrophobia passage but cold water in the ears has rather detrimental effects to the physique so we returned to the surface. We were disappointed on ^{our} return ~~to surface~~ to find that we ~~were only~~ had been only a few tens of feet from the end of hydrophobia and almost into the '88 series. ^{took photos.} $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs

4th Jan - The show came and we left - back to standing.

5/1/74

P. Hadfield*, G. Jepson, R.'s Bainbridge* & Barnwell. to Pwllon's Hole. * to Vicarage Pot to replace the tatty rope on the gar side with a rather better piece. I.J. & other R.B. to abandon H. ope, to fit a handline on the climb at the top of the 40' chimney, and also on the "up-in slope" of the muddy "V" tube. also ^{to} deliver 2 large, good quality buckets to G.S.D. The passage, it might

be added, of these large buckets through the crawls, was something of an epic! The aforementioned ladders, it should be noted, are intended purely to assist digging parties en route to & from G.S.D. They will be removed as soon as the dig goes - if not sooner? The dig appears rather better now, as the bank on one side has slumped, and revealed a solid mud slope, which should provide a much more stable wall. Surprisingly little water in the dig, especially considering the amount of rain which has fallen lately. See below for P.H. comments on Vic Pot.

The trip was marred only by the loss of various pieces of equipment by the two Pickards. 4 lbs.
 Vic Pot Bolt appears to be working loose but should be OK for downwards pull - passage to end of Viwaye still unimpeded - ~~OK~~.
 5th Jan Pinebree Pot - Barry Wilkinson, Alison Hooper, Pete Moody

- Very pleasant tourist trip down 'Easy Street' and we recommend it to double jointed people and masochists. After Barry thought better of an S bend, Pete and I continued to the bottom, which is well worth digging if you like that sort of thing. Visitors will be pleased to know that it is possible to set up with a great deal of imagination in the 'large' chamber at the end. Had a slight bit of difficulty getting back on to the ladder which was three feet

short but recommend Barry's head for the purpose. Barry discovered that the ten foot entrance pipe is unclimbable in a wet suit but we eventually let him out because he had the car keys. :- Good trip to lose friends on and ^{definitely} interesting for long legged people.

(Never Again!) Johnson

GRANTAN A. MILLS K. KNEWBURY R. SCAMMEL

RINO, ALAN & KEITH TO BOTTOM, THE REST LAYING EGGS AT THE TOP & TAKING PHOTOS OF THE HERO'S BY THE DECK, ONLY ~~THE~~ TO FIND THE CAMERA TO BE COMPLETELY LACKING IN FILM. DID MANAGE TO DANGLE THE WAY AROUND THE TRAVESSE. (ENTYRD) BY AM.

ANSON & BARRY CAME DOWN TO JOIN US AT TOP OF PITCH.



// RRP

~~(5/174 Village Lot - P. Hadfield, R. Bainton)~~

12th Jan A. Hooper, P. Moody, P. Stead, P. Hadfield.

Cuckoo Cleven MK II dig.

After working for some time in the MK II dig Alison managed to pass the initial very tight rift. She continued, after knocking a large boulder out of the roof, still in narrow, low rift passage, for about 30 feet, to get another constriction ^{where} ~~with~~ wider passage

with stal flow on the walls, ^{was} visible beyond.

The initial squeeze in the rift will need more bang if more normal sized persons ^{are to} pass it.

There is a strong persistent drought at the site.

PJ

Shs

Jan 13th Fred Davin, Paul Hadfield,

Longwood August.

Blew 24 oz about half way down Reynolds passage.

Fred's idea is to wear access to the far end of Reynolds in order to aid the work in the new extension.

N.B. The red / green / white wire currently laid in Reynolds passage is NOT suitable for electrical detonation because of its high resistivity.

PJ

1 1/2 hrs

Jan 13th Alison Hooper, Pete Moody, Paul Hadfield.

G.B.

Tourist trip to But Passage, Great Chamber and White Passage.

Great Chamber does NOT conform to the description given in ~~the~~ "Caves of Mendip" and is well worth a visit with a camera and bags of lighting kit.

On leaving ladder dig extensions we found the terminal choke of main chamber sumped and water backing up about 150' into the chamber.

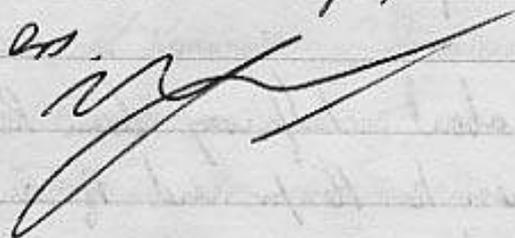
PJ

3 hrs

19th January Swildons 12 - Pete Moody. Found the Flood-Bypass had finally gone - to Sump 12B. The sump looks dire but tight.

10/1/74

P. Hadfield & G. Jepson with R. Prannell to be shown around "Dally's Dept" at Bathford. A surprisingly long system in oolite - high, narrow loose roofed passage mostly. & ss.



19th JAN '74 Martin Bishop, Paul Hadfield, Swildons 9.

Collected climbing gear from G and had two abortive attempts to climb into evers in the lower part of 7. Moved back to the headline going down to sump 6 and traversed ^{over} across to the left to an even covered in creamy flowstone. Climbed a considerable distance up this (conservative estimate 100') and could still see a way on although it got a little tighter.

On returning through the 6 bypass Mr Doherty, while playing with his lump hammer was heard to call quietly for some assistance. Upon investigating I discovered that he had removed a large slab of rock about 4' x 2' x 4" from the roof of the duck. This had fallen in front of him and was effectively stopping his exit.

Thoughts of ~~pranks~~ "aley" overcame my baser instincts and bought a prostitute

I removed the obstruction from the upstream side.

Water in Sump 5 was quite high, and it was reduced to a series of air pockets. 5 hrs

[Signature]

19/1/74.

Ken James entered the but at about 8.15 p.m and took about 5 minutes to persuade us that he wasn't joking about a rescue in Black Hole Peris - so most of mendip went down, and over the next 9 hrs pulled a load with a broken leg out from Old approach Passage (he'd fallen from the 11 ft. climb). Push fun! All out about half-five a.m.

26.1.74

Rhino?

At Hills B with in on Rhinos, W-9 by top. Confronted by fumes of *Statorian* within. Evacuation.

26.1.74. HANSFORD, + PLANT, RITCHIE, FOX + GRIMSHAW JUNRS. NINE BARRROWS TO DIS. TOO TIGHT SO ABANDONED DUE TO SLUDGE FOR SLOW THROUGH ROUND BROUGHT OUT PICKAXE AS REQUESTED.

GRIMSHAW JUNR HAULED OUT ON BOTTOM OF LADDER AS HE FELT TIRED FAIR TIPS

26-1-74, Win and John Hooper, Maurice Hudnott.
Nine Barrow - photographic trip, using
 temperamental flash gun and/or dud bulbs, but
 with persistence, managed to achieve quite a few
 successful flashes. Met another party, one of whom
 addressed Win as "Granny". Two lesser horned
 bats asleep in the first chamber. Was quite
 wet when I got out. - Marget Alison said it was
 a dry cave. *John*

26/1/74.

stead.

Aubrey, Jepson, Derek? Trevor Faulkner.
 Rick Webb. - Digging at sidcot dig. T.F.
 Rick and Derek went down first and spent
 some time visiting mud swamp and after
 failing to climb into Keith's chamber we
 waited for the experts to show us how. Then
 proceeded to the dig where we spent some
 time removing 50 buckets of spoil - but with
 little effect on the dig. Failed removing rubbish
 on the way.

Shro R.W.

27-1-74 HANSFORD + PLANT, RATCLIFFE, FOX, GRIMSITH +
 GILLINGHAM JUNRS. SWILDONS DRY WAYS. DOWN TO 20'
 PLANT FOX + RATCLIFFE ON TO SUMP ONE. HANSFORD TOOK
 JUNRS OUT. RETURNED TO MEET REST OF PARTY AT
 DOUBLE POTS. RATCLIFFE WITH TWISTED RIGHT ANKLE,
 DUE TO HASTE + NO LIFE LINE RATCLIFFE PROCEEDED
 TO DO IN HIS OTHER ANKLE BY A FREE FALL DOWN
 THE 20'. HOWEVER AS HE'S HEAVY WE INSISTED
 THAT HE ASSIST HIM SELF OUT WHICH HE DID
 VERY WELL WITH HELP FROM REST OF PARTY +
 TWO FINE FELLOW'S FROM ~~WISBEN~~ ^{CHURCH} + 4 FROM SIDCOT
 SCHOOL AT THE WELL. FINE TRIP OTHERWISE,
 B.H.

27th Jan Cuckoo Cleaves - Alison Hooper, Al Mills, Barry Wilkinson, Pete Moody & ~~John~~ John Williams

Following Alison's success at Mark II (see Jan. 12th) it was decided to recommence
 banging operations. The passage immediately beyond Sump Squeeze (banged out of existence
 in '72) is tear shaped and about 4ft high. The largest section at floor level, is between
 6 and 7 inches wide. The rift opens out after 5ft and turns sharp right. We found in 1972
 that it was easiest to bang the passage in the roof where it is much narrower and just
 let the spoil accumulate at the bottom. As there is a most excellent draught at Mk II
 it's possible to bang several times on one trip.

We set off laden down with a stove, water, soap, tea etc etc determined to keep
 banging away until we were through. The first charge was fired without problem and

everything looked messy. On the second charge there was a misfire but after charging the detonator it fired successfully. But on the third charge two misfires occurred before we found that the fault was not due to the detonators but traced the fault to a partial break in the new bang wire. After reconnecting the charge with some of the original $1/2$ wire everything went smoothly.

By now we were all feeling the cold and suffering badly from nerves so a retreat was called. However it's almost certain that the way on to the corner is ^{now} open to all instead of only ghosts, wraiths and Alison Hooper.

2/2/74

P. Davies & J. Jepson to P. Wildon's; down streamway to Pump II, with latter taking dramatic action photos of former, $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. Most pleasant to move more slowly down P. Wildon's for a change.

Ye Twelfth of Feb

Barry Wilkinson, Rich. Gordon, Al Mills, Pete Moody, Phil Hendy and the Alison to out 5,000' extensoid to Cuckoo Cleaves which we can't quite get into. Four charges, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb - 2 lb laid in the crawl* beyond Slurp Squeeze, and detonated with spectacular noise - but not all effect. It gets very cold sitting and waiting, waiting and sitting. We can now nearly get IN to

* Boots and Buttore Squeeze

round the corner. There is no audible connection with MK I or the passage near it. Exited at 6.30, after about 5 hrs, Al^{and} Barry's Right ~~with~~ with nasty bang-heads. This dig continues to look promising, but no marble staircases and un-lightable halls yet. next week or so
 INTO ALISON'S squeeze { BOM TITTY ~~of~~ } P.C.H.

16/2/74

R. Bainbridge & 9. Jenson to Puddon's - Trouble round trip. Record Trouble surprisingly wet, & "3rd Trouble" much more so - needed bailing into a rather tatty dam to achieve an airpad. Much evidence of last week's high water in II. Foam 7' up walls at Duck 2. 34s.

9th
 16/2/74 OXLOW. SIMINTS CONNECTION (DARSHIRE)
 AM AM JS PL ISW NICE CRAWL 1,400 FT

16th
 16/2/74 Feb At Mills, Rich Gordon, Alison Hooper, Pete Moody, Keith?
 More blasting down Cuckoo - Buttocks & Bob's Squeeze is now no more. However all the bang debris ^{which has accumulated} now makes it impossible to get around a corner into the rest of the passage discovered by Alison. Digging is required before the next banging trip.

24/2/74

Moody Pulse person - Pevildon's. To climb promising cross-sift in approach to Keith's Blamber. It doesn't go! Exited via Troubles R.P. climbing another hopeless rift in Glistening Gallery. Trip was further enlivened by R.P.'s abortive Gamibage attempts on the 20'. 2 1/2 AD.

24/2/74

AN MILLS K. NEWBURY R. SCAMMAY. RHINO QUICK DOWN + UP OF FIRST PITCH BY A.M. + K.N. FOR THE PLEASURE OF BEING IMORTALISED ON FILM. THEN LAYED CHARGE AT THE SUMP THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRAVELERS WHICH HATTED KEITH'S BRAIN & COMMENT. COULDN'T SEE THE RESULT FOR FUMAS. 3 1/2 HRS. -

23rd February

Cuckoo Cleaves

Alison Hooper, & Pete Moody went to Mark II and cleared debris from the bend blasted the previous week. After a few ~~was~~ a bit of work Alison was able to get around it and along to the constriction which stopped her

progress on 12th Jan. ~~was~~ ~~pass~~ By digging away the floor she was able to pass it and proceeded along a very constricted passage. Realising the dig had a last gone I made a supreme effort and passed the bend and was able to follow Alison into the extension. Some forty feet from the bend Alison was ~~brought up~~ ^{stopped} ~~by~~ ^{however} what she thought was a pitch. she soon found it was a lake which was deeper than her. when she fell in.

The new extension consists of a forty feet of really chuddy passage, a lake twenty feet long, four feet wide and of undetermined depth. A choked inlet comes in at the far end and the draught goes up a very unstable aven choked with loose boulders.

After making an initial exploration we returned to Skarp Squeeze where we met Phil Hendy. Back ~~up~~ at Upper Pits we persuaded Rich Gordon, Aubrey Newport and Al Mills to have a look at the extension. Rich managed to pass the squeeze and continued to the lake and climbed the aven for thirty feet. Aubrey couldn't manage the bend while Al passed the bend but was stopped by a large boulder which one has to squeeze over - so much for 6mm websuits Al!

22/2/73 Eastwater Chris + 2 SCEG went to Rift Chambers. I did some climbing high up in 2nd Rift.

23/2/73 Lamb Hair Chris G + Steph + Al + John went

Like all got down except Chris because we didn't have - long enough lifelines, the others went to cave of Falling Waters.

Sledge Pit we then went and 'enjoyed' ourselves even further, down

24/2/74 Manor Farm Chris & Steph At down to end.

No tackle taken no tackle used interesting trip. Managed to find way up into NHASA gallery. Chris &

8/3/74 Swildons to Mud Sump Chris & Steph. Steph managed Mud Sump after bailing. Dams need to be a bit more stable.

1/3/74 Swildons down to top of Old 40 and up around Oxbows.

Chris &

RANDY ARTIKINS K. NEWBURY B. SCAMMELL A. GILBERT & G. K.N. LAYTON
ANOTHER CHARGE SAME AS 24TH/2. MUCH NEATER THIS TIME, THE MADS GETTING
BETTER. 2 HRS. RB.

10.3.74 Alison Phil & Aubrey to Lambhair. Alison & Phil leaving to provide. While we were down there I stepped on bottom rung of ladder leading to Chamber falling Waters - It broke. Removed that piece of ladder. Perhaps the rest should come out as well.

2nd March Suidons - Desolation Row Series Bob Ellison, Peter Moody

The blast of 31st Dec had opened up the terminal choke ~~4~~ (in the ~~the~~ Desolation Extension) admirably. Unfortunately the depression 6ft long, 1ft deep which had been scoured out in the floor had filled with water to within a couple of inches of the roof. At the end of the pool the choke continues but unless it dries out in the summer it will be impossible to dig.

We had a look at Sump 12B before leaving 12 it may well repay a dive. P.M.

16th March Suidons - Vicarage - Tim Large (BEC) & Peter Moody

We took down a plastic bucket intending to bail out the pool which leads to the Crange/Shepton dig, ~~but when~~ ^{but when} we found the passage completely sumped to a depth of four feet ~~and being very~~ we abandoned the idea. A very thorough examination was made of all the passages between Vicarage Pool and the sump. After some work among the boulders on the left hand side of the passage Tim managed to open up a small ^{descending} passage leading off into solid rock. As it was impossible to ~~to~~ determine whether the passage were or not when explored feet first, I went down head first and found 1; the passage didn't go, 2; I couldn't turn round, 3; I was stuck.

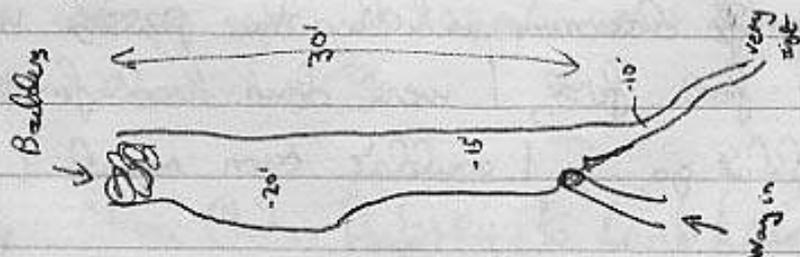
A quarter of an hour later we resumed exploration of

other side passages. We found one other passage of interest, a small phreatic tube which dropped vertically for thirty feet before levelling off. A squeeze prevented further progress but a small stream could be heard beyond. What is surprising is that none appears to have been down the passage before even though it's open for all to see.

23.3.74 Before any Wessan Wits mark the event, I will admit that I didn't take enough ladder to get down Singing River Mine, and had to send back for more. Otherwise an interesting uneventful trip, water filled chambers in E. workings most impressive. Phil H.

17th March Cuckoo Cleaves - Bob Ellinor, Al Mills, ~~Dr~~ Derek Stead
Geoff Marshall, Pete Moody

Bob and I dived the lake found on 23rd Feb. It's between fifteen and twenty feet deep and has a mud floor. A possible way out at the far end was not pushed after a load of boulders collapsed into the sump. ~~The way on from the lake is probably to be found up the vein and not by further diving.~~



The corner at the ~~start~~^{leading} of the passage to the lake was banged by Al. The trip was notable for the casualty list: numberless cuts and bruises, one black eye, and one eye so full of mud that it required hospital treatment later. Good what a cave!

23rd March Swildon 9. Arden Champion + 2 (CPC) McBonoff, Chris Murray. Nice easy tourist trip. Five stunks like ~~hell~~^{hell}. Evil! Swung to nearly jammed - $\frac{1}{2}$ " air space for 4' feel. A quick look at Al and crawled out. It is the trouble. Sweet trip! Chris. C.M.

24th March Swildons Vicarage Alison Hopper, Pete Moody
Alison managed to pass the squeeze at the bottom of the phreatic tube found on the 10th. Four feet beyond a slot ~~of~~^{5-6"} wide gave access to the streamway which appears to flow from right to left. The volume of water seems smaller than the stream at the end of Heavy Passage. * After digging out the squeeze so that anyone ^{now} can't pass it we returned to the surface. At Vicarage Pete Alison pioneered a speedy route down - ignoring the rope hand line one slides ~~free~~ down the steel for 10fe and falls free down the remaining 15fe to the bottom of the pot. Care must be taken to avoid the ^{fixed} spikes, ~~the~~ broken legs and skulls. Alison managed it with grace and skill and only a few bruises.

24th March Alison Hooper, Chris?, Bob Ellinor, Pete Moody
 Swildons - Se Pauls. Bob and I made several dives in the
 First Mud Sump in an attempt to reach the Shepton extensions.
 The dive is very muddy and unpleasant; we didn't manage
 to pass the sump but on the final dive Bob reached an
 airbell in a cross rift which, ~~is about~~ halfway according to
 the survey, is about halfway through.

(* Vicarage WIS in his article More of the Darn Place WCC Jul No 94
 Vol 8 p 41 mentions the passage in question - the only previous reference
 there appears to be - it's described as an impassable crack!)

25th March Mick Bonoff (LUST) Chris Murray, Rob Evans
 Rhino Rift. Absailed 1st & 2nd pitches in one, 3rd
 pitch - leadered 5th pitch. Uneventful push out.
 Time U/G 5 hrs. (RE coming to abb + music).

24th March. 3 Craven, 3 LUST, Chris Murray. Longwood.
 Nice wet trip down Longwood & out of August
 - best to do it this way would mettenlas - more
 enjoyable. Had a look up a small rift in
 the roof of the Wet Gallery - ~~with~~ were about
 30' to construction - a bump hammer might prove useful
 3 hrs CM.

23/3/74

Henri Lebrun wed in Edinburgh
R.I.P.

15/3/74

O.F.D. I.

J.H. JONES led BSB Bennett + 2 round of

1. Stream very low & disappointing could not
water chute down stream. up escape route
down streamway.

J.H. Jones

30/3/74

Andrew Jones (5 1/2) various climbs in split rock
then on to the caves of Ebor

J.H. Jones.

30/3/74

Tom Japson, Andy McCormack, Barry Gay
J.H. Jones. Massive expedition to Nine Barrows
Swallet. Photographed Crystal Chamber. Japson
& Gay pushed into 'Gordon's' dig. Out in 3/4 hr

J.H. Jones.

37

30/3/74 Barry Gay A. MacLennan - north hill
Here is a little more than British standard cows
getting down there now!!

30/3/74 Dad Rose + Ed Oiver Swildons &
First time to 4, not too much
trouble finding way. Mad sump high.

31/3/74 Swildons.

R. Barnard, A. Newfort, & Gerson, having failed to
recruit one more person to make a worthwhile digging party,
took an extra mattock & spare candle to Pidwt Pig, from
which we removed a token & buckets of spoil, and then lost
enthusiasm & exited, with much limping & gripping from
Phawberry, who'd hurt his toe. Bare bearing with slow-
moving wege... 3 hrs.

31/3/74 R. Scammell. K. Newbury & Glynis. Swildons (4.)
Photographing back out via sump 1. last duck before
2. completely full making it surmised.

R.S.

13/4/74

M. Hewin Bot Lawder. Tourist trip down
nine Barrows

13/4/74

S. Stead to shutter pot Swildons
also D. Stead Flasher J. Ham
M.H. Gay I. Jepson B.A. Gay.
S. Stead

31/3/74 Cuckoo Caves - Chris Murray, Alison Hooper, Pete Moody

A determined attempt was made to push the avars above the lake. Chris managed to traverse across the lake at height of 30ft and reached a choked passage on the other side. Half-an-hour was spent trying to climb an avar immediately above the ledge. The avar was very narrow and choked with loose rock. By poking ones head into the passage one could pull the rocks out - care was required to make sure you got your head out of the avar before the rocks fell. After many near misses the way was open and it was possible to climb up to about 40ft above the lake. Unfortunately the roof of the passage was composed of tons of jammed boulders - no chance.

39

6/4/74 Smidons 4 - Rich Barbridge, Pete Moody

We had a look at the dig in 4 which we attacked last year. It has been ~~mostly~~ full of water and ~~messing~~ all winter but during the recent dry spell the water level has fallen ten feet and it should soon be possible to start digging again. We tried to get the siphon working but with only the two of us we found it impossible.

21/4/74 stroke lane - D. Tanswell R.A. Stevenson

Entrance is now dry after diversion of stream
30' before cave by N.L. note.

7/4/74

STROKE LANE 4 - PETE MOODY ALISON

HODGE, GEOFF MARSHALL, BOB ELLIOTT,

A SLOW TRIP TO SUMP 1. WAS

UNDERTAKEN NOT WITHOUT US LOSING

OUR WAY SEVERAL TIMES. THEN WAS

REACHED AND PASSED WHEREBY WE

SPLIT UP AND GEOFF AND ALISON

LOOKED AT GROTTES 1 & 2 AND

PETE AND I CONTINUED DOWN

STREAMWAY. THEY RE JOINED US AT

SUMP 2. AND THE DIVERS PASSED.

A GOOD GENERAL LOOK WAS HAD

Sumps.

BETWEEN 12 AND A GOOD TRIP
SINCE GEOFF NOR I HAVE BEEN
BEFORE

R. ELLIOTT.

26th April Suidors 4 - A quick trip to 4 to see if
the dig was worth pushing on the weekend. Unfortunately
there was still about 9" of water in the dig. P.M.

DARK

1st May Suidors Chris Murray freed up to 9 ^{and} ~~with me then~~ I
~~did~~ or went on to 12 and "dial" ^{the} Sump 12B. It's hopelessly
choked now feet in. P.M.

5th May Suidors Alison and Pete - Finally managed to reach the
Sump Mike Boon discovered at the end of Damascus in 1960
(see SMCC Occ paper No 5, p. 61). Boon reported the sump to be only
6" high but it appears to have been scoured out since then
and is ^{now} quite roomy.

Went on to Sialal Passage and dug for an hour or so
at the terminal choke. We were helped by Ray and Ken of the
MNRC who we met in Keith's Chamber.

11th May John Wilman, Alison Hopper, Pete Moody - No 1 managed to die through

the ~~First~~ First Mud Sump and reach the Shepton's Discoveries. had a line through the sump ready for tomorrow trip. Went down to Sump 2 to wash off aftermarks.
Something of.

27/4/74

Flam, Jefson, Sarah Davies - Lamb Beer.
Looked around in Valentine's Series & then came back again. 2 1/2 hrs.

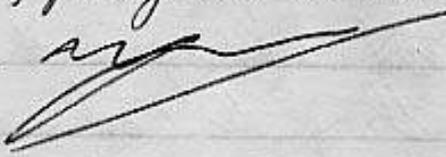
12th May Bob Ellinor, Pete Moody - Suddens First Mud Sump - We dived through the sump and went on to the second sump which stopped the Shepton ^{in 71} ~~It~~ looks fairly hopeless and we ~~have given up any~~ ^{agreed that} ~~should~~ it was not really a diving proposition. The dive back to St Pauls proper was decidedly unpleasant. The sump is horribly tight and muddy. A diving line was left in but its well hidden in case an idiot attempts to freelance the sump under the impression that it leads to Paradise Regained.

The trip was also notable for the gear Bob managed to borrow for the trip

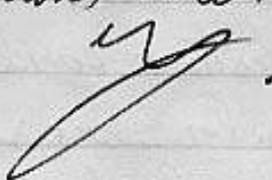
- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Boots: Ian Jefson | 4. Glasses: Alison Hopper |
| 2. Wetsuit: Rich Gordon | 5. Demand valve: Peter Crown |
| 3. Air: Marcus Bishop | 6. Nife Cell: Pete Moody |

The only piece of equipment which was his own was a diving knife!

25/5/74

Herdy Jepson to Eastwater - laddered Dolphin,
 absailed 3 min V-ers, fubed around in Terminal Rgt for a
 little & then proceed out via Dolphin, getting lost in Harris' Passage
 subsequently in the rubble. 4 br. 

26/5/74

Palfree, Herdy, Newport, Jepson with Tony Dingle,
 Rich Wilcombe & assorted others to 7 lounge Lane Pwllheli -
 a fine an' sporting, if rather strenuous hole. 5 br. 

Oh how the shiny lecture light
 With spot light beam a-shining bright

It does the gentle cover please

And lets him find his way with ease

But should its contacts all un-knit

Or belt undoes on nasty pile!

Then its a misbegotten, foul and gruesome nuclear heap of scrap metal!

Anon.

(See previous 2 reports)

1/6/74 Black Wal, Adrian V, Alison and Phil H to Lard Lees.
 Preliminary walk around quarry and fields, then down to
 Main Chamber, abseiled down, leaving Wally on platform.
 To Valentine's Landing, where we checked Aubrey's walkie-talkies.
 Tried to contact Wal again at 1st junction (no joy) and
 again just through the Corbascree into May Passage. He picked
 us up, but we could not hear him. The way on was
 then found to December Chamber, where we got a perfect
 radio link, very clear. By walking around on the surface,
 Wally maximised the volume, and this showed that the
 survey/ground features correlation by the MARC is quite accurate.
 December Chamber has loose walls, and a high avenue
 to the roof - we cannot be far from the surface.

Alison crawled up to Hope Passage, reporting a narrow
 draughting rift, with a sand pile. We were a bit worried
 owing a) to Alison's remoteness and b) the atmosphere - the
 cave was brooding, and didn't want us. Alison got a
 good radio link with Wally, at the end of Hope Passage.
 Then we emerged fairly rapidly, meeting Wal again at the
 platform. A bit of trouble with Adrians, slipping clogs
 20' from the top of the rope, and we emerged in relief
 with great relief.

Phil H.

1/6/74 Paul Hatfield, Pete Moody + two French cavers Daniel & Alain
 Swayne Pute :- We at last got the hose pipe to the site of the dig.

Unfortunately even after some very valiant attempts it was impossible
 to get a siphon started. The underwater passage has silted up
 considerably. The only solution appears to be a pump which can handle
 both the water and the silt.

Out via the Froulles, except Pete who went to four and
 had a look at the dig there and ~~found~~^{found} it dry. He came out
 via the streamway and ^{we} reentered at sump one. Two very wet & cold
 Frenchmen packed their first sump in foiler suits and no lights very
 gallantly.

4½ hr. P.H.

2/6/74 Quaker, Paul Hatfield + 12 members of BERK
 Foyer Léa Lagrange de Bléville - LE HAVRE (FRANCE)

G. B. tourist trip to but passage, Dissinportment Chamber and
 Great Chamber.

3½ hr. P.H.

9/6/74 James Grumshaw, Malcolm
Plant, Brian Hansford,
Swildons Hole sump. It took 3½ hours
with me a nine year old boy.
At the lavatory pan while Malcolm
and Brian went down 40 foot
ladders, they were waiting for me
at the bottom while stupid
ol' me fell and was caught
by Malcolm

JK Grumshaw (Age 9)

9/6/74.

J. Jones & J. Jefson at 2 a.m. to Swildon's; to
torment a Kingswood party by removing their ladder from
the 20'. No water in streamway, and air must be foul as
we both kept on staggering & falling over.

15/6/74

Rick Webb and Pete Moody. Swildons
To dig in H - removed about 30 buckets and numerous
large rods which were extremely difficult to extract
owing to lack of appropriate tools and the glutinous
sticky mud. An air space can be seen above the

fill which goes on for about 10 feet but doesn't show any definite sign of opening up. Eventually the dig became clogged with mud so we retreated mudily and slowly. R.W. Thro.

15-6-74 Alison, Phil H, J. Wilman + J? G.B. Within 20' of the entrance. Alison's belt broke, and we had an unscheduled stop. Fairly uneventful to Ladder Dig, which fortunately was laddered. On then to Helicite Grotto where we deployed our photographic impedimenta, and then into the Boulder Ruelle which is not as evil as Alison would have had us believe.

Here met another party, but passed them and into but passage. Very fine, white formations. Thritch thritch up into Great Chamber then out. Fun getting ladders off ladder dig, Alison being lightest coming down last, as the ladders tied to a waistlength and passed through the bolt - friction stopped the ladders from slipping, and also from pulling it down afterwards.

The high part of the afternoon was watching Alison get her boot stuck in a crack halfway up the waterfall. She managed to extricate her foot after some trouble, but it took a long time to pull, push, kick and hammer the boot out with a stone.

Plain sailing out then, apart from John? falling back down the crack he'd fallen down on the way in.

Alison and Phil to swim in the river, to clean off and frighten the crags (4 1/2 hrs)
Phil H

1-6-74 Bull Pot of the Witches. An excellent trip to find camp and main streamway a good variety of passageway.

Any intending Yorkshire crippers should go to the Red Nose club HQ and have a look at the kinetic sculpture on the beachside running towards the Bull Pot. Chris Gledhill J Parkhouse + MUSS

2-6-74 Great Dook a 'looptable' cave attempted a through trip. Attempted a bit of digging behind Hill Inn. Chris Gledhill J Parkhouse + MUSS

2-6-74 Dalbarn an excellent Yorks type dig very impressive, series of mounds & chambers and some high rift. Farmer amenable but hardbody stumpy.

March 30 74 Hungary. We paid a visit to the caves at Aggtelek (Czech/Hungarian border). These are a

very extensive set of show caves 21 km in total length. Formations are very good but covered with soot from the molights of the (19) explorers. Archaeological finds show an early occupation by both man and beast. We went on a one hour trip but the management offer a longer trip of 5-6 hours with the local caving club to help with their explorations. I also got into contact with a Prof Jakucs at Szeged University who did a lot of the initial (20) exploration work and scientific work. I retain contact with him and if anybody has a bent on going out to Hungary get into with him he is a ^{professor} lecturer in Karst Hydrology and Geomorphology. He has a bent on discovering large systems. About a kilometer away he discovered a 21 km system equally as good as Aggtelek.

where they now put aesthetics
to be cured.

Aggtelek is also interesting in that
there is a border post underground!
The rest of the caving in Hungary
is on a smaller scale, more like
our Yorkshire from what I can
gather. There are some thermal
caves in the Buda Hills above
Budapest. Chris Gledhill & Steph Moore.

16.6.76. Ahoia, P. Moody, John Willman & John Winkler

Wet down to the lake, climbing over a couple of mud
patches. Took a 3 ft Comolau down to dislodge boulders in
the roof. The passage from the bottom of Lake Rift to the lake
is 40 ft of the thickest, thickest continuous squeeze possible.
My advice to those contemplating the trip is DON'T.

J.R. Willman

↑
Same trip: We attacked the choked rift at the far end of
the lake some 15 ft above the water level. After only a couple of stones
had been removed a river of ~~thick~~ mud and rock showered out of
the rift. We continued ~~the~~ game of proding out key stones for about an

hour until we managed to open up a space in the rift through which the draughts hauled upwards. It was far too unstable to climb up and see where it went. Two very large rocks remain and ~~it is~~ we ~~hope~~ ~~that~~ hope that they might come down on their own - the rift was still showering old mud when we left for the surface.

26-6-74. B. HANFORD + MIKE HULLAND OF DARTINGTON HALL SCHOOL TO WASSER ROOF, OBJECTIVE; LOOK DOWN CHIMNEY. LOOKED + SAW A CROWS NEST WIF FRESH EGGS INT, SO POKED IT WIF SEVERAL FINGS + CLEARED IT BY DROPPING ^{COW!} ACROSS PROP (VERY POETIC JUSTICE) DOWN ON LENGTH OF ROPE AFTER WHICH LOUNGE CLEARED OF SMOKE. FROM FIRE HIT TO DRY OUT ABOVE SCHOOL PARTY.
 "YOU CRUEL BASTARDS"

24.6.74

Mike Holland + 10 Dartington Hall School Gorkchuch to the better end

25.6.74

Ditto to Souldons sump 1; we met large Dars coming out - locals do come

26.6.74

Abortive trip to Rhinos Rift

Has everyone forgotten how to write??

6 & 7 July. Alison, Pete M, Chris M. + 2 Wales.

Had to drive all the way to Annarford to pick up Alison & found a cave just to E' North of road. - Higgad Hychow (cave). A cave passage ~ 2x the volume of Woburn. 1000' or so of very well decorated passage & 4 big ^(ish) impressive ^(fairly) river chambers. - I can be followed by swimming & aquatics traversing for a couple of hundred feet - bloody cold but great fun!

Sunday saw us down OFD. (Alison cried off coz of a cold so she ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~reached~~). Did Cum Dear - Top Entrance thro' trip in a 5km. Not bad considering our Moody lat us work & round the Cum Dear boulder choke for an hour or so.

A & P went home on Monday - left us to do work on Monday, photographing Porth Tuesday (got frightened by a Camis speb ophidius w/ 6" fangs and eyes like catwalks), Down up Ozof showcase Wednesday (well, it was raining!), OFD photographing Thursday, & home Friday.

13.7.74, C.M. + M.B. (Lusk). A smelling trip to Barnes Loop, acid grotto etc. 3 hrs!

20.7.74, P.M. + C.M. Supposed to be going to? the looks at an oven with two other unfortunate. Failed to 4 when the call of the gubs became too strong - likewise the smell of sump 4. Down the Humber by 1 o'clock. CM

13th July - Cuckoo Cleaves.

Alison, Barry Gay, Barry Wilkenson, Adrian Gay, Harian Gay, Pete Gordon, Adrian Van der Plank, Chris Hammond,

Myself, Adrian O de P., Pete + Chris continued down the extension squeeze with assorted oddments of old pipes
P.T.O

24/7/74

Steve + Paul. We went to G.B. I thought it was quite a good trip on the way out another party was using ladders + ropes on all the 10 FT climbs (AND WATER FALL) - a good festering trip ~~Steve~~

27/7/74

Adrian Vanderplank, Rich Welsell and members of Salisbury
Caving Group (N. Rignani and D. Walker) Manor Farm.

Managed to enlarge squeeze below Haws corner and
enter new passage with squeezes and formation about 200ft
of extensions which is still going. Aerial connection with
the main streamway. Essentially an SC.6 ^(EWCL) dig, Present end
is a 30' aven which has not yet been climbed.

Shas RAN

28/7/74 Manor Farm

Rich Welsell, Dave Walker, Neil Rignani, A Sole (SC.6)

Returned to yesterday's dissection and climbed Aven,
small 10' long streamway at top with deep coars
impenetrable at the end but can be pushed. A horrible
place to go to squeezes in the inlet, 1 very tight,
I suppose we will have to return to push and survey
sometime, the inlet has been named Sarsen inlet.

Returned photographing on the way out.

Shas RAN

Cuckoo cont.

- each about 4ft long which together ^{provide} ~~form~~ a ~~small~~ useful and somewhat safer method of pulling boulders out from above you. It is just about impossible to take any rigid object longer than 4ft through the extension squeeze.
- I climbed up and had another look at the boulder rubble. More boulders had fallen out since the trip of 16th June and it is still continuing to dig itself quite happily. Not feeling suicidal I decided to leave the boulders well alone until we have done some work at clearing up the digging platform.
- At the moment anything that chooses to fall out while you are climbing down to the lake falls straight onto you.
 - Slow exit out with lights doing these usual ^{trick} ~~trick~~ of going out just at the wrong minute. Two people each spent between 1hr. + 40 minutes to do the 40ft extension squeeze + surfaced muttering that they were never going back.
 - 4hrs. to get to the lake and back.

Alison

15th July. Eastwater.

- Alison Hooper, Adrian Van der Plank, + 1.
- Quick trip (45 mins) 1st. traverse, Princess Path, Lower traverse and out via the Eannon so that we could make the Hunter before closing time. The whole of the Upper Series is rapidly becoming one large carbide dump especially at the small chamber at the top end of Princess Path. Will those people who come on carbide please set an example to other cavers and carry a spare tin in which you can carry out used carbide, in which can then be disposed of in a responsible manner on the surface, instead of polluting an interesting and unique cave. - Remember that Eastwater is seldom wet and in many places the carbide will never wash away. - If ~~anybody~~^{anybody} is interested in clearing up the cave I ~~am~~^{am} looking for volunteers who will come down and help me.

Alison.

1/8/74.

Carl & Simon Pickstone had a very pleasant trip down to Sump I in Swildons in very dry conditions. Time 3 hrs.

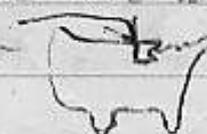
B Pickstone

P.S. After trip, wife forced us to have a shower. Much against our will!!

2/8/74 Alison Hooper, GARY MORTENSON, Tom JOHNSON

Swildons In the record time of 2 hours 20 minutes made it all the way to Bams Loop and back.

But it was a very good taste of the underground world. Would have been better if my pants hadn't kept falling down and I'd think I'd wear hip boots next time!

The Mandips are along ways from Minneapolis, Minnesota.  but we hope to get back.

Thank you all very for this Gary - Tom chance!

28th July - Swildons 4 - Bob Ellison, Julian Perge and Geoff Marshall
 went down the streamway to 4, Geoff Marshall's zip broke in 2,
 so he dropped out. Alison Hooper & Pete Moody went via P.R..
 The dig in 4 had a few gallons of water in the bottom which
 was quickly bailed out. The way on can be seen beyond a
 construction some 12" long but the digging is really difficult. After
 about an hour Chris Murray arrived having come in via 2&3.
 About three hours were spent digging but still no ~~big~~ real
 progress. All out the way we went in and with plenty of
 light trawls.

Aug. 4: Derek Stead/Dale Cooper/Rhona. Thrupe.

5/8/74.

Pickstone, Jones, Jefson, S. Stead, S. Pickstone.
~~etc.~~ Three dirty old men took two small boys
 down G.B. & got lost. 2 hrs.

7/8/74 R. & A. Lauder and R. Barton to G.B.

(R.E.L.'s THIRD trip this year!) Emerged within 30
 minutes at E.T.O. having ventured to the bridge
 and gallery.

8/8/74 As above to Swildons - Barnes Loop.

Discovered that over-watering a carbide lamp while coaxing it to perform permits one to blow down the filler cap and spray one's companions via the jet. Emerged within 45 minutes at closing time, having met two other parties as we came out. (Suggestion: drive lift-shaft to Sump I and enforce one-way system?) R.E.L.

to

10/9/74 SHATTER CAVE

Jim Hunt AVDP Derrick Stead by Jones J.H. Jones photographing in Shatter. Excellent cave. Didn't have enough film or flash bulbs.

J.H.

11/9/74

SWILDONS.

J. Jones & Andrew Jones (6) as far as a R.F.T. drop.

11th Aug Swildons 4 Julian Penge & Pete Moody down to h. to meet Fred & Chris Wood coming from Carsh with the radio location gear. Fred kindly blew up the constrictor in our dig but in return we had to take ^{off} the ^{the} comms can which contained batteries for the R.L.G. set. Certainly didn't need lead in Sump 3. P.M.

59

11-9-74 DOOK MILLS ALB WILKINS MANOR FARM
DIGGING IN RUCKLE AT THE END OF ^{CAVE} (THE MUDDY
RIFT) A SMALL HOLE WAS OPENED AND
HAD A SMALL RIFT AT THE BOTTOM WHICH
WAS OPEN AND DIDN'T APPEAR TO CLOSE DOWN
IN THE FIRST 5 FT. UNFORTUNATELY WE WERE
BOTH TOO LARGE TO FORCE IT. SMALL PERSON
REQUIRES ^{TO PUSH IT} PLEASE. Dook Mills

16th Aug Bob Ellison, Geoff Marshall & Peter Moody to Suddon
dig under 15ft of water. Stream is ^{very} badly polluted by
something coming from the Lake Sump in 2. It is probably the
same as its probably coming from the ~~last~~ one of the inlets
near the bend in Vicarage Passage and entering the main stream
via the N.W. Streamway. The same pollutant was noted
in that area of Vicarage last year.

LEAVE PLENTY OF SPACE IN THIS FOR US WHEN WE GET BACK
FROM SPAIN.

The Fuente De or boat clique. (Hic)

Four punch-drunk piss artists left the club at 8.40 on
Sunday, in a grossly overloaded Marx. Don't reckon they'll
get past the first large bump and/or pub ^{grove}.

23.8.74 John Willman, Chris & Richard Gledhill. GB.

Ternist Taps & But Passage. No water in the stream, despite intermittent rain over the weekend. Someone appears to be digging in But Passage, or else someone is contemplating mass destruction of the formation - pick, shovel and concrete.

The garden in the gorge is nicely coming on.

G.R.U.

24.5.74 HAM IN SWILDONS! is this a record breaking ^{fish} in weegie rubbish or just a case of Chris Rich Gledhill plus John Willman going to camp one with a cover of the same name? Send see plain envelope to WCC Upper Piatts.

23-25/8/74 PATE PALMER - JOHN HUNT - ROB SCAMMELL. SEA CAVE AT CWM TUDU. W/WALES. FOLLOWING A ~~LOCAL~~ LOCAL STORY THE A CAVE AT THE ABOVE JOINS WITH ONE AT LANGRADOY ABOUT 2 MILES? ALONG THE COAST. WE FOUND ONE ABOUT 150-200 LONG, BUT NONE 2 MILES. ENTRY TO THESE CAVES OF WHICH THERE ARE ABOUT 7-8 AROUND THE COAST IS A CASE OF SWIMMING TO THE ENTRANCE AND RIDE IN ON THE MOST CONVENIENT WAVE. ALSO STOPPED AT THE GOLD MINES NEAR CALO VERY INTERESTING ONE WITH A 50 FT SHARP & VARIOUS LEVELS. FINISHED W/ WEEKEND WITH SPLASH IN FORTH, B.D.

5/9/74. UPPER PITTS {COLD STORAGE}

DAY 1

THE DARK SATANIC, THE VICAR + ~~MRS~~ MISS SPLAT
 are residing in the Wessox Penthouse, a most unenjoyable
 time is endured by all. Miss Splat making
 frogs out of bits and pieces of cloth.
 The vicar picking his ~~bloody~~ nose, and
 me writing this alog, end of day ~~one~~ ^{ONE}

DAY 2. THE VICAR STILL PICKING HIS NOSE
 MISS SPLAT STILL IN BED, {ALONE} PM TIME
 AND ITS PISSING DOWN OUTSIDE
 THE EFF'IN HEATING STILL REFUSES
 TO WORK, AND THE DARK ~~SATANIC~~ SATANIC
 IS CASTING 'ORRIBLE' ^{SPRAYS} ON THE BOILER.
 WE ARE ~~STILL~~ THINKING OF MIGRATING TO THE
 D, E, C, think on!

DAY 3 THE RABBLE HAS ARRIVED? X:1:0:0:
 END OF LOG.

{SPS HE IS STILL PICKING HIS NOSE}

- Oh no he is not! -

OH YES HE IS

REP
 10/10

NO 'em not cuz he's wiv
me. miss Splatt -

so there -

bye for now
C.U. again.

THAY WENT AWAY PICKING EACH OTHERS
NOSE

END OF LOG

1st Sept Snildons - Vicarage Passage Chris Murray, Pete Moody,
~~Rob~~ Evans, a trip to 2 to collect water samples.

We took the first just upstream of the Inlet Sump
the second below the Inlet Sump and then went up
to Vicarage Passage. On the bend going towards Vicarage
Poe, where Greg Pickford found some new passage a
couple of years ago, a small stream comes in
It was ~~terribly~~ heavily polluted. The stink is absolutely
diabolical, it makes Cornish at its worse smell like essence
of roses. A deposit of white slime is two inches
deep near the inlet. Chris bravely collected a sample,
may his soul R.I.P.

14/9/74 - K.A. Sanderson + D. Sanderson
 + Rob Harper + 1
 abseiled Simpson's Pot →
 Kingsdale Master Cave 2 hrs.

21/9/74 - K.A. Sanderson + Rob
 Harper + 1 - Alum Pot v.a.
 Hong Churn - 2 1/2 hrs.

22/9/74 - Chris Davies + Rob
 Harper - Alum Pot in flood
 N.B. - Hong Churn entrance
 can flood sufficiently to
 prevent exit - got no further
 than Dolly tubs pitch -
 2 hrs - water rising at
 ~ 3 ft per hour.

23/9/74 - Chris Davies + Rob
 Harper - Kingsdale
 Master Cave - including
 a visit to Toyland well
 with Shile

pleasantly wet little
cave - Shire.

7/8/74 - Julian Penge +
7/9/74 Geoff ^{Price} ~~Price~~ + Rob
Harper - photographic
trip → Black Hole -
3½ - very nice wet.

ROA

15.9.74 We're back from Sunny Spain, with its blizzards,
gales, thunder and rain. Explored several bars, and a
few caves. Only stopped 4 times by Spanish fuzz.
A good time was had by all. Reputations as hard
drinkers and piss ~~and~~ artists will take a long time to
be forgotten.

H.F.

20 Sept. 74 Solo late night to Sump, the
best time so far Swallows these
days! Nice + fresh air + water a good
of the underwater section of the sump
1hr. Chris 'G'.

22 Sept 74 Foul air at Sludge. A number of Mendip notable worthies gathered at Sludge - Nigel with drill, Brian did the telephones, Howard gave advice! ^{+ many others} everyone else slouched with the 1000ft of Firecase. The task comprised firstly of flushing the sump area with fresh air and secondly drilling shot holes 2ft shot holes drilled in 6-7mins. All was successful. Even John Ham was here!
Chris Gledhill

22/9/74. P.M. 8 C.M. Braved Hunter's Hole as route better to do. Moody took 1/2 hr to provide back up the pit! Wot a task!

15th/9/74. P. Moody, Alison, Murray, Cuckoo Mk II again! (God knows why). Using the bars taken down last time, we managed to shift a lot of mud, shale, & boulders from the end of the rift above the lake. 'I were absolutely hair raising'! The way ^{upward} or is a wuggle through & beneath 'ornible' great boulders, which proved to be even more unstable than the thought, as they collapsed again just as we were leaving - a narrow escape no less! The site

is potentially extremely dangerous, as even a slight injury might make it impossible to get through the crawl from the lake. The general feeling is that the place is best forgotten.



Amen.

28/9/74,

P. Moody, C. Murray, J. Geyson. In pouring rain to a very wet bogwood. No problems in bogwood - through Christmas Crawl, down Pwiny Pitik a very spectacular ~~Mass~~ Fault Blamber. Proceed downstream to first pit, where we slithered out, as in the crawl we were in imminent danger of involuntary participation in unauthorised flooded lung ~~respiratory~~ respiration experiments. 2 PM. Very sporty

28-9-74

P. Hendy, B. Gage, C. Murray, A. Vandeylant, Alison etc. In view of the heavy rain in the last few days, especially today, went around some of the major swallets. Eastwater pool at entrance, cascading down through boulders. Cave very wet, possibly impassable, just

inside entrance. Swildons water halfway up relief pipe. Manor Farm medium stream, but sinking well. Longwood - large stream sinking at blockhouse, a large volume being taken by the lower flood entr. G.B. water collecting at entr. heavy drip could be heard inside. Collapse depression had pool at bottom, mud slumping rapidly down the sides. Tynings Farm Swallet - backed up, water rose 2" in about 6-7 min.

29/9/74.

P. Hendy, Zoe, G. Jefferson, Rich Barnacott. Swildons 1st. pair to Pump I. 2nd pair Troubles Board Trip. mud Pump full & 1st Trouble very full. 3 1/2 hrs. Very pleasant wet sporty trip

5/10/74

JON COCKER + RICH BARNACOTT. NORTH HULL THE LAST THREE WEEKS SOLID RAIN MUST HAVE WASHED THE CAVE CLEAN. REMARKABLY CLEAN SMELLING AIR ALTHOUGH NOT MUCH OF IT. SINCE NEITHER OF US HAD BEEN DOWN N.H BEFORE, WE DID NOT REALISE THAT IT IS NOT RECOMMENDED TO SLIDE HEAD FIRST, AT A FAIR RATE OF NOTES, DOWN THE LAST 10 FEET — UGGH!

1 1/2 HRS
RJB

2/10/74.

9. Jeppon + a truckload of RAF down Pwilden's
to Barne's Roof & out. Fairly wet 4 hrs !!!

12-10-74 Phil Hendy + 9 Wokingham Scouts to Swildons Hole. Dry
Way and then the 20. Sent 3 down, spent over an hour waiting for
them to return through the body niche. I started lifelining people up out
of Jordan. 15 people counted at bottom. Half an hour later, more
than 15 at bottom! Never seen the place so crowded. Eventually
out after 3½ h. The rift just above the Well is opening up -
jammed boulders etc are unblocking, the Well itself is now dry.

18-10-74 SLUDGE PIT. Friday evening trip by
F.N.C.C. Included PAUL ~~BLUND~~ (haven't had my name
in the Wesssex Journal yet!) BLUNDEL. B. Milton,
Dave Gill, Greg. Brew, Adrian V. de P. J. Robinson
A. Watson. Andy? Trip to sump to lay charge
in shot-holes - duffed during the 15/20 conference
exercise.

B.P.

Sat 19th. M. Bishop, A. Jarratt, T. Gilbert

Minced down Thrupe Lane Summit and free-dived
Atlas Pot. D.P.J.

Sat 19th Adrian^{Vdp} and Adrian^{Guy} to sludge pit back.
The ~~bar~~ above had a pleasant trip to Summit
where the lang placed on Friday, had done
B — — — B all damage except from loosening
summit top and bringing some small boulder down
possible with crowbar and digging tools roof can be
opened raised to allow better working face and
area.

A.V.D.P.

19/10/74.

J. Jepson, R. Weisell to Sardon's - tumbled
around 7roubles to raise an appetite for the
annual Dinner, P.R. & 7roubles very well -
joined Paul Hadfield & Evgin Benadetti at first
7rouble & $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.

26/10/74.

Cuthberts (Practice Rescue) attempted to
remove subject from a squeeze in long
Chamber Extension, rescue deemed

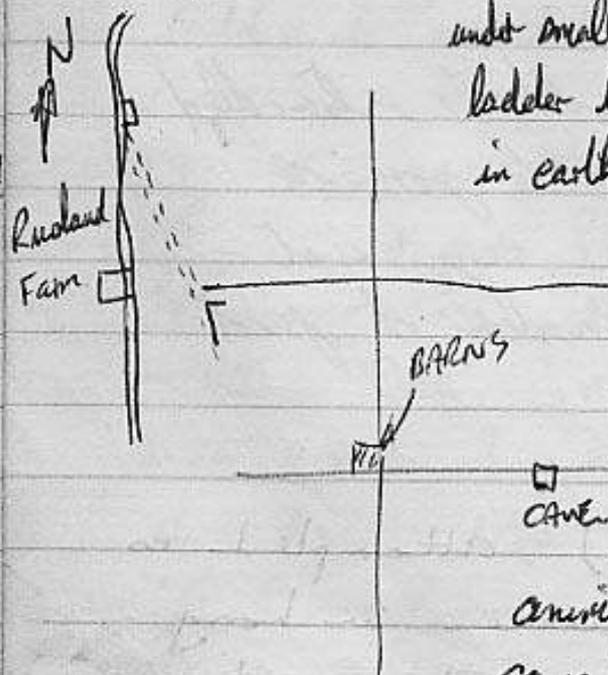
impossible from this point it being easier to drop(!) a victim down Pillar Chamber. Next point was that after getting subject ready in the carrying sheet it was found that hauling ropes had been left on surface, BCC Practice Rescue say no more!!

Chris Gledhill
2-11-74 MwD + EJA to St Michaels of All Angels.

23-11-74 Phil H. A. Vanderplenk Rusland Farm Pot, Butcombe

NGR 51606310, See Farmer Wake at Farm, NGR 513628.

Take track SW from farm at 513633 for 100 yards, then diagonally across field to 2 barns. Cave lies along hedge 200 yards further, under small trees. Remove corrugated iron, tie 60' ladder to trees. 1st ten ft is large collapse in earth, then ladder enters rift, with low bedding plane going off on R. Anxious here, as ladder goes down narrow crack, but rift itself quite large. At bottom (about 50' - beware falling earth), land on body and tin mallet - many dead animals, rotting nicely. A good cave for Elean Cave Club trips!



U

at the bottom, to the L, the rift narrows, and one climbs through rotting calves etc., breathing the sweet perfume of decaying flesh. After doing this, one finds oneself in a small boulder niche with no way on. So one climbs back up through the indescribable, and back down over the other side of the body niche, ankle deep in feasting juices, and then up a stalled-up boulder pile into a red passage, stal flows, stalactites and curtains. It is possible to climb down into the boulders, but you don't go anywhere. Out quickly, gagging and retching. Yours truly nearly peeled off the ladder, but Adrian was believing, that's why I didn't peel! Smelling evil, back to Miffy Potts for a shave and a dip in disinfectant.

N.B. Farmer Wate is very friendly. Very surprised that we wanted to go down - the last visit was 6-10 years ago. I understand why. The cave was used during the war to dispose of offal from a nearby illicit slaughterhouse, and is used to this day for carcass disposal. Worth a visit, but not a return trip. Must go now, I want to hock.

Hil Fendy.

29/11/74 At Mith Alb Wilkins Dook Mith to Muddy rift
at the end of MANOR FARM Banged dig.

30/11/74 Alb Wilkins Dook Mith return to find bang

successful but now a big boulder has to be removed before progress can be made. fumes very strong still proving little draft at far end of cave?

7/12/74. T. Faulkner & Aubrey to Hunters Hole
 Looked at all the evil little passages as well as the nice bits.

7.12.74 Enormous party (about 15) to Longwood for rescue practice. Casualty was brought: 1) down from Upstream Galleries to bottom of Fault Passage.

2) up Fault Pass. and swing Pitch (relatively simple).

3) from base of 10' drop as far as foot of entrance shaft.

Main problems (contrary to our anticipations) were negotiating the lip of the 10' drop, and the bedding-plane below the entrance. A person with serious injuries, and unable to assist him(her) self anywhere beyond these sections would be at very serious risk. How to deal with such an event I frankly have no idea. Does one ignore the injuries and move quickly at the risk of aggravating them? Does one take extreme care, at the expense of time? It is certain that a large individual could not be removed all the way in a rigid ~~load~~ carrying-device.

alt.

14/12/74. Geoff ^{Price} + Ben to dig in Terminal Rift,
 (Continued). Ben digging away merrily in
 newly discovered aren suddenly heard
 Plop! Plop Plop. Appearing from
 a hole to the right there was a
 mini avalanche of liquid mud. At
 the same time the floor of Terminal Rift
 completely collapsed. Work continues
 in the new hole. Ben.

14/12/74 M Voice due to Association Pot but
 found it blocked about five feet down
 by a large boulder in rift NW.

21-12-74 Bob Pyke/^(STANWIX) Steve Stanwix/^{Bob Harris}. Thrape. RP descended by usual (left-hand) ladder
 and proceeded to free-climb the top 40 feet from the ledge. Tackle then
 transferred to right-hand side, feeding the ladder through the crack on the R-H
 side of the stream at the head of the pitch. Contrary to my previous belief this
 simply gives another way down Atlas. As a means of descent this has the
 advantages of ease of climbing and absence of water. With a correctly placed
 header-rope it can be done on about 80' of ladder. Lifeline advised for "take-off".
 Plop.

PS: Rick - you were right!

21-12-74. Jeff Price & Ben to dig in terminal Rift. in Eastwater, we started digging away, eventually removing one hundred buckets of shit, with a small hole appearing looking very promising for future trips.
Shir's Jeff.

21/12/74.

Geoff Moore, Ian Jepson & G.T. Brumock to North Hill Parallel. Final lake still looks quite promising, but also looks and smells rather unpleasant. Got lost twice on way out.

23/12/74.

Swildons - Alan Mills, Ian Jepson, Paul Warfield.

Down to 2 in a chunky slope to field but Alan's Spanish grubshin were better. Discovered that Calvados squirted directly into the pulch has quite a conservatory effect on ones carry ability. The

24/12/74 (unintentional repeat of last entry).

A. Mills, P. Hadfield, 3. japon. Trundled down Swildon's to Pump II. Cave was pleasantly wet and empty of cones. Calvados at Pump II was warming but tended to stain the palate. I merged in time for a couple of quick pints. 1 hr 10 min.

27/12/74.

P. Hadfield & 3. japon + Belgians; - Jean-Paul & Monique Troufin & Enzo Benedetti. Descended pleasantly wet Longwood & August. Belgians seemed unused to both falling water & tight/wet crawls. However they are now acquiring the taste.. 4 hrs.

28/12/74. A.V. Plouk, Linda, Joan, A. Gay, P. Hadfield, 3. Belgian boys, Handy Ham, Aubrey in 2 parties to Shatter Cave.

Nice trip looking & taking photos of prettier trip, notable for method in which HANDY Ham assisted Linda through the various tight parts 2 hrs for fast party, somewhat more for those who had some HAND some ~~extra~~ help.

28/12/74 - Julian P. & Geoff Price
 + Rob Harper & Goldow
 4 intending to do Colish
 trip started @ top of
 Colish avenue to
 (1) Irene shute
 (2) Julian's his amazing
 disappearing glow worm
 pressure out the
 troubles - LHS.

RJA

28-12-74 ST. CUTHBERT'S . staff
 K. Newbury K. James M. Palmer C. Dooley J. Jukes
 A. very enjoyable first time down to
 Maypole series it was very wet on all
 the pitches especially in the maypole series.
 I was very impressed with the formation,
 we returned via the wire rift ~~and~~ ^{and}
 I hoped all my cuts will soon heal,
 I'm hoping to return soon with a camera
 6 HRS. K Newbury

30-12-74 Box Stone Mines Bob & Golly, Mary & Benion, Phil & Zoe, Jean-Paul & Mouge. Cobblett, MacAnas and Bid also lurking somewhere. The Grand Tourist trip - we bin everywhere, man! Plenty of cranes, saws, mud, stone, water, iron bars, mud, roof falls, railway lines and passage. Plenty of photos plenty of walking. Who, and creeps feeling tender footed and with lights dim. P.G.H.

28.12.74

Tourist trip by Belgians to Shatter Cave. I.J. & P.G.H. met them and intended to do Stale - but raining, and water 2" from top of entr - so decided against. St. Dunstan's Well fairly chucking it out, fast and muddy.

As a last resort, to Witherbrook Sloker. I dug out entr, and descended 6' in full force of stream. Way on obscured by this water, so I creepsed. Paul Hadfield went as far, then came out in time to see P.G.H. playing at shoving to 5-6cwt of rock which had decided to peel from the wall. We were then able to watch same boulders rattle into hole where Paul had had his head a minute before. Trip abandoned.

(Never in my caving career have I made so many attempts to go caving, and failed. The Gods were against us.)

P.G.H.

30/12/74.

Swildon's Hole. Fred Davies, Ian Jefferson & Enzo Benedetti to Purine - Lake where we drilled into Slatter & ascended a previously rigged ladder - continued through very wet Trouble Series, and then up to 2nd Boulder Bluff in Black Hole Series via Old approach Passage, and then out of cave via Kenney's Dig & Pump I. Cave was pleasantly wet and also empty of other parties until we returned to one. 6 hrs.

4.1.74. Swildon's Hole. Bob Ellnor & Geoff Marshall "ACTUALLY WENT CAVING"
 Intended to explore S.E. Inlets but found climb with the spike at the top a bit tricky so we thought we'd do the round trip but got led up so turned back. 2 1/2 hrs

4.1.74 Blackhole: Alex & Steve / Alex & Steve.
 L. Marshall.

4-1-75. Sludge + Nine Barrows.
A.V. Plank, Jeff Price, Ben.
Sarah + 1 good trip to sump
in sludge which is looking very
promising. 3 hrs. J.P.

~~4/1/75~~ A-U-PLANK + THE 1 (RICH BARNACORN)
BEING SO MUCH TOUGHER THAN THE OTHERS
WENT TO SWILDONS DOUBLE POTS TO CLEAN
OFF! 1 HR J.B.

5/1/75

~~Ben~~ J. Hunt, P. Palfu, Bob Scammell, and
Anor. Grand trip to Lake in Sages hole
2 min

10/1/75. M Voice + ~~Phillips~~ J. Phillips. Swildons XII
Found cave to be rather wet especially
in Swildons V. Jeff had trouble in
Summ 9 with leaking regulator. Emerged
quickly after a 6 hour ^{classic} trip.
M Voice

10th 11th + 12th Lyones, in water.

Jeff Price, Pat Cronin,
Jim Smart, Nigel Burris,
me + Pat went to help Nigel
+ Jim in their dig.

J.P.

15/1/75 Party of 5 assorted Coonies from WCC & LUST
trudged down to Swillo's Sump 2 at 0200hrs. Back at
huts at 0430!!

18-1-75, Jeff Price, + Mike Voice,
Eastwater for a quick trip,
but we ended up sorting
out the ^{wires} mines in the Boulder
tackle, eventually finding one
running the right way P 1 hr.,
PS. The orange cable is the one to follow.

23-1-75

AM + RM LONGWOOD = BLENDEN WET

31 JAN

AM + RM EASTWATER " "

25th January, Jeff Price
to Smuldon's 4. Solo trip
reasonably met, spent some
time wandering around in 4.
I came out through the Double
Trouble's through sump. I + out.
3½ hrs

26-1-75. Phil He Rich B. to Sludge to take photos of scarp
area before VDI's dam and great assault. Good stream,
heavy dip, 1 hour, time for a good shower and the Hunters
RJA

AFTER A FLASH HERE Y A FLASH THERE
PHIL TURNED NUMEROUS FEMALE ROCK
FLARES AN OFFWHITE EBARRASSED
COLOUR
RJB

26th JANUARY, Swildons north West
Stream passage, Chris Murray,
JEFF PRICE, + JOHN HUNT to Bolt
CHRIS AVEN, Chris dropped out
due to a sprained ankle, +
we failed to find the aven. J.P.

26th Jan. The 2 female committee members
plus one B.E.C. "woman" (known as Liz Bish) plus John
Ham + John Hilditch to GB as far as Main Chamber
very pleasant - very tired at end as first trip this
year. J.P.

1st February, Reservoir Hole.

A. Newport, Jeff Price, Rich Barnacott
gathered for a photographic trip,
explored all caves and took
several photographs, good trip 3 hrs J.P.

2nd Feb. Hunt, 2 to Goathead
Cave very overcrowded. ad air pretty
foul.

Hunt

2nd Feb.

The 2 female committee members (Anne & Ann)
plus John Ham & little John Hildick, pleasant
trip down Nine Barrows - pretty wet. Ar West.

9th Feb. M Vore Swindons. Originally
intended to go to 9 but due to
flood conditions in 5 could not
get through (PITY!) Returned fast
& had help of Shermas on the way
out. Sea Swindons 3 was extremely
high. Very little auppae. 3 1/2 hours.

9th Feb. J. Price, R. Cronin & N. Burns
to Gomer (males) & to
look at several sinks in
Bishopston valley looks promising.

J.P.

15-16-2-75.

Jegg ^{Price} PRICE, and AVDP. to sludge fill. with a pick axe!
 rushed down to the new dam to put a Bung in
 and then attacked a shingle Bank gutter up the
 cave hoping to find a bypass for the sump.
 Then the wesser went climbing (with a pick axe)
 and attacked some high choked little passages
^{then} we moved downstream where some large boulders
 boulders were hanging in the roof. These were very
 efficiently moved with a pickaxe.

We then moved to the sump ~~over~~ via the
 new Dam which doesn't leak at all! Jegg bunged the
 Gordons Dam and we nearly taked the sump drain
 but gave up after the traditional 50 buckets.
 P.S we did this when we should have ^{been} asleep.

AV.

15th (Saturday) February. The wesser
 goes diving in Wookey.

16.2.75

Ame work, King Bishop plus party from the navy (wrote)
to Manor farm, very enjoyable trip - plenty of water going
down - very impressive. AD.

22.2.75.

S. Davies, J. Price, A. V.D.P. P, Hendy, + ^{C. Murray.}
Went down sludge to look around
dry series, but went down to the
dams and started to dig, ~~dig~~ to
try and pass the sump.

Sarah A. Davies

22-2-75

P. Hendy, AUDP. J. Price, S. Davies
+ C. Murray to split rock for fracturing
practice.

22nd - 2-75. J. Price + C. Murray
to Suddons II for a
wander around, good trip.

23rd Feb. - Browns Hole

Alison Hooper Gwyn Thomas + Christine Thomas

- The ideal place for anyone who enjoys a series
mud baths. Makes Abandon Hope seem like ~~one~~
a series
of crystal passages and marble stairways.
Well worth a visit (once)

Office.

23/2. J Hunt, P Mosley, J Price, C Murray, - Stone Lane
Fine wet trip. Peter dived the inlet
swamp near Swamp 2 - went down 60° ^{single passage} _{on}
~ 10 feet till it became silted & impassable.

Which drain? PIPE

23rd T. HAM, GOWIE, B. SCOTT & ADV. P. GOAT/CHURCH.

THE LATTER TWO CAME FROM END OF DRAIN PIPE OUT THROUGH
MAIN ENTRANCE ENTIRELY WITHOUT LIGHT OF ANY SORT.

VERY INTERESTING AND MUCH MORE EXCITING ESPECIALLY THE

OFFICE AND

1/3/75 Ian Cusally, Richard Stevenson Swildans 12
 Towns- trip to admire the animal life
 in sump 4. 3 hrs. RS

John Cocker + AVDP, Sheppard gear to Swildans
 two got the above a AV.

Went

THURSDAY 6th MARCH 1975

THE WESSEX CAVE CLUB EXTENSION WAS
 STARTED AT 8.30 A.M. BY "WHEETABIX THE BUILDER"

15-3-75

J. Price & eight members of
 Lancaster Caving Club. to Longwood
 August upper series. for a look
 around. good trip.

15-3-75. The Red Baron, Snoopy, Mariano & Peter

The above bravely plumbed the depths
 of that fearful cavern under St Swithins.
 To mark the occasion of the birth (67 years
 ago) of a certain member of the party.
 This member attained in a brand NEW
 web suit! Dried sump I for the first time.
 And now shows that he

Thomas & Thomas Ltd.
 Red Baron

buy the bar.
 to

15-3-75 FOOTNOTE (WELL 1") FROM PREVIOUS ENTRY,
HE DID!
Baron led!

15/3/75 The Red Baron DID DO HIS ANNUAL
TRIP THIS DAY
Baron led.

15/3/75. ~~Baron led~~

Bob Scammell, R. Gallegher, & P. Palmer trip to
Cumb Beer trip to Cave & falling water.

15/3/75. Went Bob Scammell, Gwyn, Thomas, Correne French
to Suldons two. Correne got down Swildan
but went through sump two then stop.
All four of party to Sump three.

5-3-75. Jeff Price & P. Cronin.

Dundry, ^{stone} lead mine, for a look
about, several interesting passages
of a fair size looked at, & quite
a few Horseshoe Bats found.

Sunday 16th MARCH. G.B. Cameron.

AUDP. J. Price, P. Lacey, up past ladder dig extension to Bat passage good trip. J.P.

Mine Shafts at West End, near Coker Hill.

29/3/75

M. Bishop (BEZ), A. Jamatt (WCC), P. Ford (NWCC), M. Jeanmaire (PCG)

Please do not
publish in

Journal
(BEZ TRIP)

ARJ.

Descended ^{Six} eight shafts (average depths 40'), all of which had minute amounts of natural passage. All are numbered by marked posts & all are on private Waldegrave Estate property.

- (1) Totally blocked shaft
- (2) Shaft blocked ~~at~~ down with rubbish. Takes a stream.
- (3) Open shaft, 40', choked. Stinks.
- (4) — " —
- (5) shaft blocked ^{2ft} ~~down~~ down!
- (7) 40' shaft to some 300' of tight vein workings with possible ~~digging~~ diggable ways on.
- (6) 45' shaft - choked. A raise leads to a ginged climbing shaft to with 3' of surface. ~~shaft~~ Blocked by slabs.
- (9) 40' shaft to large decorated passage some 60' long. Choked. Nice examples of stoping.

ARJ.

WB(8)
could not
be
found.

29th March Swildons, tourist trip.

AUDP, R. Stevenson Colin Edmunds
to fine, while J. Price & D. Tringham
dined to mine, very good trip J.P.

28th March J. Price & Mayne (wesset
New Small Boy) to Swildons I.

One toad found in dump & brought
out which we set free in the fields
J.P.

30 March. Lamb Leer. Jeff Price,
AUDP, Chris Murray. ~~_____~~

+ several USSO, people, for flintworking
practice. on main pitch J.P.

4th April. Richard Sebrell, Paul Hatfield.

Heale Farm Cave -

A dig originally worked by Beeden Cliff Speleological
Society. It now goes ^{steeply} down the fault following an unstable route
through boulder. At the foot of the boulder slope the stream ~~is~~
appear and is followed through a low steep to walking sized

16.3.75. Aubrey Newprot (the well-known typing error) Ian Jepson, Brian & Sheila Pitman, Phil & Pat Davies, Rich & Annie West, John & Liz Jones, Zoë Hartwell and Phil Hendy. Following Aubrey's house warming party the night before, a drunken crew descended the Hell Fire Caves at West Wycombe. We fearlessly negotiated the entrance turnstyle, after the Hon. Secy failed to obtain a party pass, at the Hon. Chairman's instigation. Straight entrance passage leads to the seldom trodden depths, where we encountered countless tourist parties in the dimly lit warren, dug from the chalk by 17th Century Pleistocene roadbuilders. According to the guidebook "Before the present baronet had electric lighting installed in the caves in 1955, visitors groped their way along the passages ..." Its a lie, of course, they still grope their way. The cave does not appear in the Cave Survey Scheme, but perhaps when the BEC have stopped mucking about in Cuthbert's, the Wig can be persuaded to have a go. Reliable sources (back to the guidebook again) put the length at a quarter of a mile, and at one point 300 feet below the top of the hill. Apart from the slimy chalk walls which leave permanent reminders of the trip on clothing, the most severe hazard is the 8/- entry fee. A CCC permit is not required. To continue... little gated side passages lead off, usually with figures inside in period dress. At first we thought they were old cavers, who had been lost in the days before MRO, but closer inspection showed them to be stuffed models, of small children, miners and the gentry, who used to hold orgies in the mines. More masochism than depravity, methinks, everywhere the floor is dripping wet. Local doctor must have made a bomb selling rheumatism remedies. Little loop passages abound, and near the bottom is a chamber, about 30' across and 40' high. It is curiously lined with chicken wire and angle-iron, cunningly whitewashed to make it look natural. Around the walls are niches with modern reproductions of renaissance nude statues. A bit farther on, in the Inner Temple (there's a notice on the wall to tell you so) is a tableau showing a scene of typical Hell Fire Club depravity. This reminded me of the Hunter's Lodge on a quiet night. Each tableau had a ~~xxx~~ hidden tape recorder telling you a little of the history of the mine. All the time we heard weird hollow laughter, like a Hut Warden extorting day fees, but this proved to come from the recorder. Near this chamber is a small passage with a clear shallow puddle on the floor (did you think it would be on the ceiling?) A sign says RIVER STYX, but I don't think its the real one, just the local water table. The Hon. Chairman took advantage of the darkness to show what he thought of the showcave by defiling the Styx. Behind bars was a little grotto, with very real looking chalk stalactites glued to the roof. Although the caving community has nothing but scorn and contempt for tourists, it strikes me that a party of cavers on a tourist trip is worse than any coachload of townees

Hon. Asst Secy

passage where after a few meters the head of a 15' pitch in net. A ladder can be rigged for the large boulder wedged at the head of the pitch with a long tether. From the foot of the pitch the stream can be followed for about 30m^m steeply descending large fault passage to a point where it runs among boulders. It muddy squeeze ^{between the} boulder joints part of the stream which runs into again. The route continues along very muddy narrow rift with an awkward climb, ascending

A continuation could be seen ^{along} ~~across~~ an awkward ^{ascent} there which would probably need tackle to descend, and so was left for future visit.

1 1/2 hr. [About 600' of passage]
P.H.

5/4/75 J H Jones & Andrew Jones (6) Visited
Nine Barrows. Had a look everywhere. It's
galling when one has to crawl push and
shove thru cold wet narrow passages and one's
partner just romps thru without getting wet
P.H.

WESSEX TRIP TO BELGIUM.

27-3-75. Ian Japan, Phil Hardy, Aubrey Newport, Richard Webber
drove uneventfully to Dover. Ferry 2 1/2 hrs late leaving.

28-3-75. Drove through heavy snow to ON in the Ardennes. Ferry awful and
expensive (Scalind). Arrived at the Speleo Club du Gemy about 15 min
before Paul Hadfield. Few hours kip, then up to do the nearby
Grotte de Fayt. A super-Goatchurch, with climbs, crawls,
squeezes, a large easy main drag, and pumps. Hon. Asst Secy tried
to fall headfirst backwards down a 10m hole, but failed.

Sausage & chips in the nearby bar, then lots of Trappiste in another.
Returned to the Gemy at a late (early?) hour, singing Cathusaleme
through les mes de Terelle.

29-3-75.

Hon Asst Secy woke in a pool of hock, but being generous shared it with
everyone. Embarrassing moment when Jean-Paul & Maurice came in to say
hello. We shook hands over a pool of vomit. Looked at the sink of
Grotte de Non-Maurui - taking much water. Trip to the Hau Cave
~~was~~ postponed indefinitely due to flooding. Went to the abandoned
show cave of Grotte d'Eprave. Mainly high rfts, phreatic passages, concrete
floors and steps, iron railings. Clear sump nearly walked into.

Meal in the Cafe ~~du~~ du Luxembourg, then with a large party
of Belgians (and Eric) to Hau for much Trappiste.

Slides of Xmas at Upper Potts back at the Gemy.

30.3.75. Tried to do the ~~Bernard~~ Bernard, reputedly the ~~largest~~ most difficult cave in Belgium. Didn't wear wet suits, so when we found 2 streams going down, called the trip off.

As we left, snow started falling - 2" in 10 minutes.

Tried to do the nearby Trou d'Eglise, but still too much water.

Returned to Rochefort, took the top entrance of the Trou de Non-Martin.

Entrance crawl to largeish passage, then 60' handline pitch,

Phil dropped his camera down this. At bottom, pump to the L,

large phreatic / rift passage to the R, soft mud floor, plenty of rat footprints. Ian, Rick and Paul continued through

dry sump to attempt a round trip which involved passing through many vast boulder-ruckles

and logge channels, round trip could not be done,

however as it was sunned, so we returned the way

we came. Returned to surface to meet Phil

N.B. This cave does not smell nice

and Aubrey photographing in entrance to cave.

31.3.75.

Paul, Ian and Rick decided to attempt the Bernard (Trou de Bernard) but were unable to

persuade Phil and Aubrey. A forty mile journey in wet suits proved uncomfortable. We arrived at

the cave and no stream was going down. Entrance

climb lead to top of 35m pitch with

awkward take off followed by tight start to the next pitch, the Chicane 30m. This was rather tight and Ian had to push his way down!. Beyond this a small 10m pitch lead to vertical squeeze and crawl into chamber. From this chamber a further awkward take off led to 120m pitch broken in 3 stages. The rope fitted perfectly and ended just 1ft of the ground. Further climbs lead to bouldery passage and small streamway; final mad tubes lead to chamber with static pool which we assumed was the end. We returned pursuing all pitches and finding them rather awkward to get off. Ian had trouble at top of 10m and we all had trouble getting up the Chicane pitch with chest jumar getting in the way. We all agreed that the trip deserved it's reputation, about a Northern Grade IV equivalent. Battered and out in 5 hrs, a worthwhile trip, entirely different from the other things we had done in Belgium.

29th MARCH P. PALFRER JOHN HUNT B. SCAMMELL DOWN DICCAN
 UP ALUM, YORKSHIRE. PASSED TWO WEECLES GOING
 TOTHER WAY. BOB PIKE ABSRILED ALUM WITH THE TWO
 DID THE LAST 10' FREE FALL TO THE LEDGE WITH GLOVE
 SMOKING AFTER FINDING BLUE WATER A BIT ON THE EAST
 SIDE, WENT OUT VIA LONG CHURN.

30th MARCH. P. PALFRER JOHN HUNT B. SCAMMELL
 DOWN SWINGSTO OUT THROUGH KINGSDANE MASTER CAVE
 BIT SLOW DUE TO PARTY OF THREE IN FRONT HOLDING
 US UP. ~~TWO~~ TWO BEINGS FROM THE LAST TRIP. GETTING OLD.

ANON

9th April, Richard West, Paul Hatfield

Swildons - S.E. Inlets to visit Pete Mosdy's dig
 and remove a few token bags of spoil.

about 1 m² in diameter. Pete has made considerable progress along a plastic
 tube, with a very tightly packed ~~fill of~~ sand/gravel fill over a ~~day~~
 lower layer of clay, and with ~~plastic~~ ^{plastic} of fossil remains in the walls.

A visit to ~~of~~ ^{my} ~~was~~ found the water very
 clear, and we were able to observe two pairs of ~~gammarus~~
 gammarus copulating, and found many more in and around the
 pool. We were surprised to find a very large number
 of leeches also in the water.

3^{1/2} hrs P.W.

Sunday 6th April Swildon's II

Jeff Price AUDD & Wayne (Wessex
New Small Boy) to take Wayne
through his first sump, which he enjoyed!
we noticed a small passage going
off just before II this we followed
until it was too tight, a waterfall
can be heard in the distance & should
prove interesting

29th March - P. Moody, J. Gordon spent
Saturday climbing out of Dicean to remove
ropes left by tired party, see opposite page.
After this bit of light exercise we proceeded
to the main trip of the day Calf Holes!

Marion Gay, Barry Gay and Barry Wilkinson to
Swildons. Enjoyed Round trip (Cave fairly empty).
B.W.

12 April Vicar + Roy (O.S.) to Goatclark
Pleasant couple of hours festering like
weezies. Roy's first trip.

13 April Vicar + Roy (D.S.) Swildons via
 Long dry way ~~and~~ to the 20' back
 out via stream way. Roy got 'damp'?

13-4-75.

IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT CERTAIN
 YOUNG LADY CAVERS ARE DEMANDING THE
 ATTENTIONS OF ONE JOHN (SUPERCAPER)
 H - - UNDERGROUND. YET AGAIN.

13-4-75.

G. B. Thomas, J. Hunt, R. Scammell, P. Palmer.
 J. G. B. Bat passage of great chamber cct.

13/4/75 J. H. Jones P. Woodfield i. Jenson.

Explored new 'caves' in Dinbath Valley. S. Water.

19th April. Swildons. Jeff Price & Wayne Davies
 to the small passage noticed on a previous
 trip. this we pushed for a bit but is
 too tight & really needs a Bang. J.P.

20th April Eastwater Jeff Price &
 Wayne. for a digging trip in terminal
 rift But we somehow got a bit lost?

20-4-75. P. PALFREY & J. HAM & 3 Japanese tourists
trip to Shatter Cave.

26-4-75. J. Hunt. P. Palfrey. Dan yr ogor. & Porth yr ogor.

27-4-75 J. Hunt. P. Palfrey. G. & C. Thomas, R. Scammell,
OFO II & Gwyn Durr.

We hereby record that on this day, May 3rd 1975 at 09.30h, Alison
did pass the squeeze machine at a setting of 6". Our
French colleagues failed to get their heads into this aperture.

- Continued on Saturday cueded by Mr Yorks Barnd ~~at~~ 5 3/4" passed.
3/5/75

Alwin and Thomas on rare pilgrimage to the cave
of St Swithun. The good Saint ~~was~~ poured water
all over us. many photographs were taken.

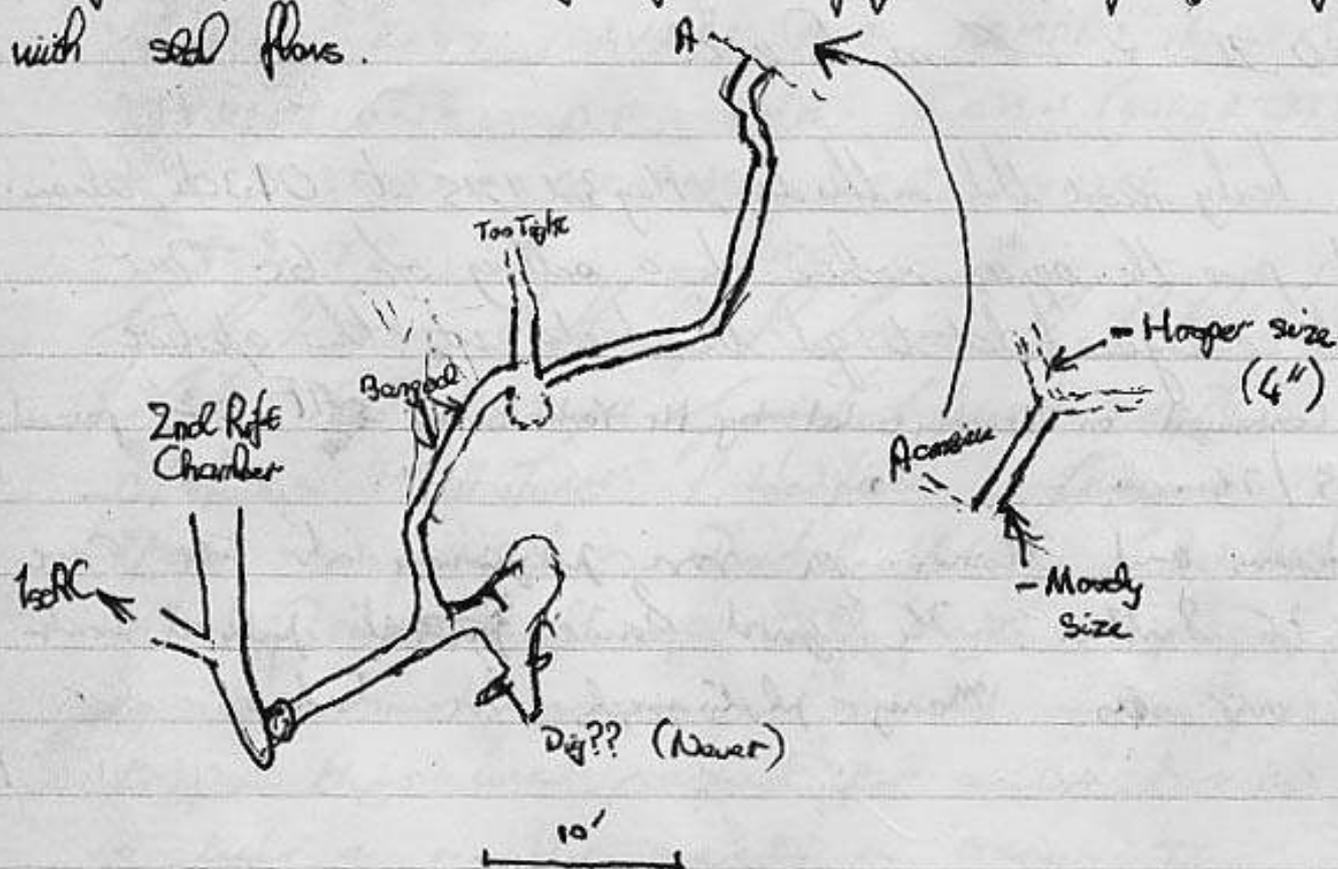
3-5-75. Mike York & J. Price for a quick
get fit trip down to Swildons I

5/5/75. Ben Ham P. Hendy Brian & Sheila
Pitman Andrew Jones & Jones to Shatter
Cave.

4-5-75 Roy Sabido - a meditation in nine burrows.

4-5-75 Eastwater - Alison & Pete

After five previous digging trips including two with Freddy the passage went, 50' of quite steeply ascending passage with solid flows.



7-5-75 Barnsly Stone Mine, complete circumnavigation of the mine total length approx $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. Typical rotawold stone mine. Pete Palmer.

SAT 17th May Jeff Price & WAYNE.
to Smildons to try & push a small
passage we got to the top of it
but found it to be a bit tight
a small bang should do it.

SUN 25th MAY JIMMY & CHRISTINE THOMAS PETER PALFREY D. STUART B. SCAMMELL
HUNTERS HOME - S.T. ON BLUE WATER.

25/5/75.

Phil Handy & 9 or 10 men trundled down Longwood-August,
looking in side passages. 2 hrs.

Has everyone forgotten how to write??

31/5. Andy Nichols & Chris Murray to 9. 3 1/2 hrs.

Scumpl seems to have silted up considerably.

N.B. BEC looks to WCC for hard trips!

31st - 5 - 75. Jeff Price & AUDP.
dined to Smildons 4. to take some
tools to Pete Moody & Alison who
are digging in 4.

1/6/75

Hadfield, upon, Cheryl. Bombs, - Swildon's to
Black Hole Peris. Bare almost empty & quite dry. Our
American friend was amused by Pump I. 4 1/2 hrs.

5/6/75 Cheryl, Condu, Paul Mulfield - Swildon's III.

Went to work on the dry in IV but found it still with too
much water to be workable.



7-6-75. Jeff Price + Pete Moody
to Swildon's 12 looking at small
passages just off the streamway
also 12 & 12B good trip 4 1/2 hrs
Jeff.

7/6/75 M Helen M Whitfield Swildon's I
can choke full of humanity

22/6/75 A V de Pee Hill F
"Phil sherpa" carried A's bottles down
Singing River Mine for the non diving event
of the year. Like taking bottles for walkers!

21-6-75 Rich Stevenson, Chris Batsstone (BEC) Phil Hendy, Adrian Vanderplank. P.I.S.S. (Diving section) to Singing River Mine to dive the Blue Holes of Shipham. AVDP much harassed when others saw size of flooded holes. Threats of retribution abated when Rich found a possible, though choked and loose way on in the first hole, and dived another 50' to an underwater chamber lined with dead. Possibilities Good. PGH.

21/6/75

PGH Sarah Davies, Wayne & Andrew Jones to G.B.

PGH photographing. Despite very dry conditions on the surface, a great deal of water occupied the squeeze to 10 ft drop. Ruined my fags & matches in it. W & A went as far as entrance to big chamber then returned on 1/2 light. Others went on. My ankle stood up to it.

Borrowed 'Guinness Book of Records' from library
 JPH

24/6/75 P Moody + C Munday. Swildon
 to look at dig. Despite the cave being very
 dry the dig still had too much water
 for any progress - P.M. got his feet to the
 longed bit with mud glooping & snorting
 - didn't feel too hopeful. Will have to
 be siphoned. 1 1/4 hours, C.M.

21-6-75. Jeff Price. & David Howard.
 Swildon's 4. very dry trip
 to I. also laid a new line
 through sump I as the old one
 was nearly worn completely
 through 3 1/2 hrs

SAT 5th July Jeff Price Chris
 Backstone + Bob? to Swildon's 6
 which was very dry. we also
 noticed the methane gas in
 S. is getting very bad. J.P.

6-7-75. Pete moody + Jeff Price
to Swildon's to dig in 4. Not
much progress made, so we
came back out.

12. 7. 75.

DON. THOMPSON

R. KENNEY, B. GAY & M. GAY, B. WILKINSON + 4 OTHERS
O.F.D.I. TO TOP ENTRANCE. TRIP ENJOYED BY
ALL CAVE FAIRLY DRY B.W.

12. 7. 75

WOOLKEY HOLE PHOTOGRAPHIC TRIP 1-9 MANY GOOD
PICTURES (WE HOPE). NO ONE ELSE IN THERE EXCEPT US.

3 1/2 HOURS. PHIL HENDY. CHRIS HANM. (WHO GOT PERMISSION)

BOB SCAMMEN. ANN GORHEDGE + WAYNE

B.S.

12-7-75

Carl Pickstone, S Pickstone, B Pitman
M Evans, John Jones to Ager Allowed.

C Pickstone prospective father of two or maybe
more was intrepid leader. However he was last
going in and last coming out. Went down
main passage as far as music Hall. I looked
at Trident. Time of trip 4 1/4 hrs of which

1 1/2 hrs spent in route finding in the 1st
1500 ft. Water in the "Trays" very cold.
Emerging to pouring rain. The Diesel in
the shape of Mr & Mrs Bell gave us a large
hot mug of tea as we changed.

Jeffries

2nd August 75. AUDP + JEFF PRICE
TO SWILDONS 6. The lane was
very dry and 5 smelt of shit
as usual? and had a look at
the new sump inlet in 6.3 hrs 5 P.

2/8/75: - Mick ~~Rogge~~ - Rob
Harper → Plum Lift
- S.R.T. - 6 hrs. - investigated
avenues

(1) above bottom of Graphite
wall here after 10'

(2) above bottom of ~~por~~
cracked out after 30' or so
of rotten rock

(RCA)

2/8/75 JULIAN PENGE , BOB MCINTOSH.

Bob's first caving trip. Managed to get him to Sump 2. (Swildons) quite easily. I had a quick dip in Sump 2. Shortage of weights at sump. Members of Shepton not replacing them after Long Round Trip. - 3hrs. Hardly any body down there - quite pleasant JP.

3/8/75 JULIAN PENGE , BOB MCINTOSH.

SAUDGE PIT. Leisurely trip of the whole cave - Horrible - ≈ 2hrs. JP.

3/8/75 J. Penge . B. McIntosh.

NINE BARROWS - another leisurely trip of whole of the cave - again horrible - ≈ 1hr. JP.

4/8/75 J. PENGE . B. McIntosh.

Swildon's Hole - Shatter Series - Quite a pleasant trip. One light completely useless the other on

the black. Met a party of about 15 wee gees
on the way back. $\approx 3\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

JP.

5/8/75 WOOKSY MOLE. TOURIST TRIP
RICH BARNACOTT, PAULINE CLARE.

AFTER WAITING HALF AN HOUR AT THE CAVE ENTRANCE,
(IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT A SIX INCH CONCRETE ROOF
HAS BEEN BUILT OVER THIS PART OF THE VALLEY PATH
TO STOP BLOCKS OF MENDIP BEING THROWN DOWN AT THE
POPULATION BELOW BY INFURIATED CHEADAR CAVE
ACCOUNTANTS!), ONE ENTERS THE WITCHES KITCHEN,
AND WITCH. SEEMS TO BARE A RESEMBLANCE TO
NOTE SPELLING, NOT OTHER TYPE OF DRUNKARD
THE WCC & STONE HUT WARDEN. NOW ENTERING
THE MAIN CHAMBER, AT PRESENT LOW IN WATER
CONTENT, ^HWERE INTREPID DWIGS & DIGGERS DISAPPEAR
INTO THE ~~AT~~ RIVER (GASPS OF HORROR FROM THE
CROWD) WE FIND A CHUBAT PASSAGE TAKING US INTO
WOOKSY 6.7-8! LARGE IMACALPINE STRUCTURES
CONVAY TOURISTS OVER DEEP GASMS, ^HRATHER LIKE
^{BEING} BEEN A COLUMN FROM LORD OF THE RINGS, TO THE EXIT.
FROM THE CAVE, DOWN THE PATH INTO THE OLD MILL
WHERE VARIOUS STAGES IN PAPERMAKING ARE ON

DISPLAY, THEN THROUGH INTO A MUSEUM OF OLD
 ROUNDABOUTS WERE FISH, PIGS, MEN, HORSES AND
 DUCKS ARE PAINTED LUXURIOUS COLOURS. ~~FINALLY~~ ^{FINALLY}
 INTO MOM! TENSANDS STORE ROOM, TO VIEW
 BODIES OF B. BARTOT, S. YORK (NO RELATION TO M.D.Y.)
 S. LOREN ~~BEA BEA~~ BLACKWAL IAN JERSON - COOPS,
 SLANDER! ANYWAY ITS ALL WORTH WHILE FOR 65P!

ffs

(8/8/75) → Rich Barua & A
 + Rob Harper →
 Soldier's only → 2000
 of failing lights.
 He climbed 400
 way out - 2000.

KRA

8/8/75 Roger Day camp I Swildons
for old times sake.

N.B. / Otherwise alive and well and
living in Bermuda. Have founded
Caving Club as half the island is like
a Gruyere cheese and almost all
entrances are unexplored.

A party of about six
would be welcome, especially cave
divers, for all the caves I have
found end in huge flooded
passages. This is crystal clear
sea water, due to seepage, wonderful
visibility.

Contact me

% BERKELEY INSTITUTE,
ST. JOHN'S ROAD,
PEMBROKE,
BERMUDA.

fare approx £115 return if booked 60 days
ahead on the 'early bird' charter
via Brit. Airways. Minimum stay
3 weeks on this flight.

(700)
 24/7/75 BMD SOAMMALL A. GOMMAGE & PETE PALFRER (HUTWARDEN) ^{TWIT}
 UNITED HILLS MINE & WIREL CONTRS NEAR ST AGNES, CORNWALL.
 U.K.M. VERY COLOURFUL WITH COPPER FLOW RANGING FROM
 PALE GREEN TO TURQUOISE TO BLUE. ADIT DIRECTLY BELOW THE
 ENGINE HOUSE ON TOP OF HILL OR SHAFT IN FRONT OF ENGINE HOUSE
 APPROX 100' TO ADIT LEVEL, WIREL CONTRS. LARGE CHAMBER WHICH SEA
 ENTERS AT BOTTOM APPROX 150' HIGH SAME LONG STEEP DESCENT TO FLOOR
 WHEN TIDE'S IN, ROPE VERY HELPFUL LAST 25 FT VERTICAL. DRAINAGE
 ADIT RUNS BACK ABOUT $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ MILE TO ROOF FALL. IF IT ISN'T
 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ MILE, IT SEEMS LIKE IT. THE HUT WARDEN SAID SO.

10/8/75 = Mick Rogers + Pet. ^D
 Hanger Swildens -
 Figure of 8 Round Trip -
 Paradise Regained - Blue Pencil -
 Sump to \Rightarrow Damp Link - Shatto,
 and out thro' Troubles I - v.
 enjoyable - $3\frac{1}{4}$ hrs.

Pet

13/8/75:- Rob Harper + Derek
 = = = Sanderson [B.R.C.] + Jim (?)
 - Thrugs - v. enjoyable - v.
 little water - Shrs.

RAH

6-8-75 Grotte de la Cigalère; French Pyrenees
James S. Cobbett on Pegasus Expedition

In two days we reached the end of
 the cave (26th Cascade) carrying bottles, J.S.C.
 dived the terminal upstream sump c. 2 miles from
 the entrance. After 40 ft a small air-bell
 was reached, The sump then descended & became
 too tight for further progress.

We were the third party ever to
 reach the end of the cave, the first to do
 it without sub-terranean diving and
 the first to dive the sump. Bloody fine trip.

J.S.C.

17-8-75. Jeff Price, John^{HUNT} & Dave Walker to Swiddon's. Jeff & John to 6 where Jeff dived the new 6 inder Sump for twenty feet before getting stuck between several boulders & came back out. John went to 10 for a quick look around & Dave did the ~~long~~ Blue Peril Passage to exit.

Returned Guinness Book of Records


8/9-8-75 BERGER J. RAT RA STEVENSON
 +MAN-1 NON WESSER

Bottomed came after very enjoyable trip. Bottom half is like a Mega-Swiddon. Frogger would not allow us to dive - shame!

JUNE STOKÉ LANE, AMILLS MONIE MEMBER,
 AM + 1 Pushed. Stoke, L. climbed. Top avons
 found. 200^{ft}. new passage. The roof was well
 cracked, from. explosion. possible. from quarry
 AMILLS

JUNE STOKÉ LANE. AMILLS MONIE MEMBER,
 Once more pushed. Stoke, L. found.
 by pass TO by pass this woods ducks leading
 to sump. L. approx. 300 NEW PASSAGE.

THROUP SWALLAT. AMILLS MONIE MEMBER,
 Pushed, avon above. sump.
 approx. 100^{ft}. found inlet passage, flood.
~~debris~~ debris wood, leaves fresh. grass very
 near, the surface needs MARKS for new
 entrance.

NORTH HILL, AMILLS MONIE MEMBER,
 Climbed. Top avons bit of gardening
 found 80^{ft} NEW ~~at~~ PASSAGE. very pretty
 also fault. line.
 AMILLS

22 Aug. Stoke Lane.

Rose early in order to sherpa for
Divers to Stoke Lane. At cave 10 am. with
K James + 1 (BEC) Other diver who had bottles
(A Mills) didn't turn up. Abortive.
DID TURN UP. $\frac{1}{4}$ " LATE.

HITS THESE PEOPLE WHO CAN'T ~~WAIT~~ WAIT TO GET TO
'THE POND' A Mills.

AVDP. Rich Stevenson. Colin Edmunds. to Singing River
Mine. I dived sunk ground on 21-6-75 but missed
obvious way to the left underwater.
instead unlike Rich went straight ahead and
came up in large air space with actual
connection only. to where Rich and Colin were.
and no chance of pushing left hand underwater
passage due to absolute zero viz on the
way back. AVDP.

23 Lumb Linn.

AVDP, J Ham, J Jones, Sheila Pitman, B Pitman
J Pitman M Hewins.

Adrian was going abseiling down the main
pitch so the remaining 6 agreed to sherpa for him.

Descent of the entrance pitch was made with some difficulty as J Jones got his rather big shoulder jammed about 10 ft down. Only thing to do was to get out & start again. Second descent was uneventful and we all got down well J.H. taking special care with Sheila P.

Adrian abseiled down main pitch and landed with a splash in a bucket of water. Whilst he was prussiking up Maurice & I went to ~~the~~ east passage & we both bottomed it. H.N.R.C. trays still in situ.

After a mad dash to the surface we emerged just in time to miss the pub. 2 p.m.
Time of trip 1 1/2 hrs.

J.H.

Thursday 28 August.

R & A Lander and Mr Henry took Lander's young Replax Christopher to Sirdham. It was intended to go up to Tots but time ran out at Double Pot and he returned after 2 1/2 hrs to rescue Lander's new dog from Mrs Henry.

29th August Dave Howard Steven Benson.

a Jeff Price a pushheads trip to sump II

30th August AVDP JEFF PRICE + JOHN? + WAYNE!
+ A PARTY FROM ST. ALBANS.
FOR A SUPER SERIOUS CAVING TRIP

TO ~~ALL~~ SOME OF THE BURNINGTON CAVE'S
GOAT HURCH EAST TWIN + LIONELS HOLE.
ETC.

7th September. Singing River Mine.

Peter Moody Jeff Price + Andy Plank. Pet dived
glooded exit in chocolate canal, and pushed
15' NW direction and 20' in a SE direction rope.
Then I dived the stream passage to the air
bell found 22.7.75. and then out.

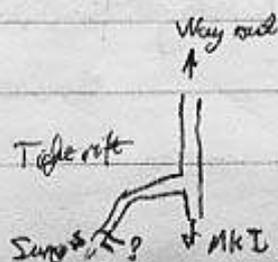
17-9-75.

Jeff Price + 2 weegess
Swildons I very slow trip +
much Honking from 1 weegee
2 1/2 HRS, ~~Swildons~~

20 September 75. J. Parise +
 Sludge Pit + Dump Hammer
 + Star drill to make several
 holes for hang, only one very
 short hole was made due to
 feeling very knackered through lack
 of help.

20th Sept Cuckoo Caves Polina, Alison Peter

looked at the rift leading off Grants Seaway just below ford
 climb to Puke Rife. Very tight & muddy - ^{small} passage appears to lead off from
 the bottom but were unable to get down to it. Is parallel ^{to} and probably
 connected ^{with} Puke Rife. Also looked at the inlet drain by Mark I.
 The water in the first pool was ^{very} low and it was possible to
 get into it for some way. Straight on the passage appears to surge in
 a chute but there does appear to be something going off to the left.
 The left bend is extremely tight ~~so~~ ~~was~~ ~~we~~ and we were unable
 to get round - need to look around at it headfirst next time. Had a
 go around the upper series before coming out



10/9/75 Warsop Mine -

Descended 140yd. shaft by "QRT" (Quadruple Rope technique), this technique is very fast and much safer than SRT! (about 30secs). Spent about five hours inspecting system. dig progressing ~~at~~ at one part at about 12yds every week, narrowing the passage to a width of 24yds. dig controlled by a small group called the N.E.B.

Good trip 5HRS.

Marion & Barry Gay, Barry Wilkinson, Keith?

20/9/75 Barry Wilkinson + Alan Mills (non member)

tourist trip to Swildons 6. Cave dry and fairly empty. 5HRS. B.W.

(NOTE. THERE IS SOMETHING ON THE FLOOR OF SIX BELONGING TO AL MILLS. AL MILLS. }
SWILDONS. 9. { MONIE. MEMBER. }

Having found, no one interested, in a trip to S/Q, one TUE AFTERNOON, I decided, it was time to investigate the air bell, in S/Q, so said by J COMBIT. To be a by-pass, to S/Q, having arrived, on the site alone, { NOT TO BE RECOMMENDED } removed my

lead. Thus making it easier to find
 the air bell, ~~being easier to find~~
~~said air bell~~, as one is stuck to the
 roof, etc. approx. 15 to 20^{ft} in by
~~entry~~ emerged in to the air bell,
 having scabbled up the rift, few
 10^{ft} of ~~was~~ came to two passages,
 both of which ended at 6^{ft} + 3^{ft}
 respectively this finding no way on
 to make my way out of the cave

UUN



28-9-75. Jeff Price +
 Nigel Reynolds to a well
 known cave in the Bristol
 region, at the dead of night
 very interesting, but very
 loose S.P.

28-9-75 Tim Lyons - Forjester and got
 to sump II, hundreds of weegies - must
 get red wet suit

4/10/75.

R. Barnacott & G. Gepron gestered their way down
a disappointingly dry Longwood - very sweaty

26th. Sep.

A. Harper, P. Moody, R. D. P. + John Coker,

Arrived in sunny Devon in time to try out the pulse
of Buckfastleigh. Spend Saturday down Read's Baker's Pit
& Priel trying not to get lost. New entrance shaft down
Bakers is superb but the smell from the rubbish dump
is rather powerful.

14th October Cuckoo Cleaves

Fred & Simon Davis, Rich (from Brunton)

Pete Moody

Fred put 1lb of bang on Strawberry Boulder in the main passage
- the really large loose one. We heard no crash after the bang so Fred
went down later after the fumes had cleared a bit. ~~But~~ he
Fortunately the bang had been successful and the mine is
no more tipbeing. ~~is~~ for

11.10.75 } JEFF PRICE CHRIS COLE DISCOVERED
 POSSIBLE Sump Just before Swindons two.
 JEFF Plans to try and dive it in due
 course C.C.

~~11.10.75~~ ~~Wayne + 2~~ ~~went down~~
~~down~~ ~~at~~ ~~Swindons~~ ~~that~~

11.10.75. Wayne + 2 went for visit
 down gontchurch while coming out
 Wayne discovered something he was lost

Saturday 11th October 1975

Intrepid party of Adrian, Alison, Jeff and June watched
 Phil intrepidly descend Associates Pot. Then A, A, J, & P.
 intrepidly watched J. intrepidly ditto. 2k' to water and dead
 mice and frog. Otherwise as per Barrington. Dodgy belay to
 fence so back-up belay to equally loose sapling.

Lifelining down through a Fig 8 is jerky on a laid rope
 though coming up lined through a Turnat is OK.

Phil H.

12-10-75.

Phil H. Adrian, Jeff, Wal, June. P.I.S.S. Rides Again.
Afternoon spent digging in Waldegrave - Built a dry stone wall at
the base of the shaft, - needs grouting before the pipe can
be fitted. Took 1-2' from the floor at the bottom, projects look
as good as in June. MORE DIGGERS AND CONCRETING NEEDED
HF ~~WHE~~

11/12th Oct 75. Derbyshire.

Elton Dale - Cartswark. Very dismal
hole, quite pleasant once water
is reached around Aladdin's Cave
area.

PS. For Derbyshire this is cave
par excellence, beautifully wet and
clean. Trip spoiled by the presence
of a coach load from SILSS all
trying to go caving at same
time. What a lot a
shateholes in that area.

Chris Gledhill

25/10/75 Adrian v Vanderplank bet Jan Jepson
9 gallons of bitter that Adrian would win
before Jan ~~WHE~~ a Vanderplank.

26 OCTOBER 75. Jeff Rouse
 & Dave Howard. To Stoke
 Lane, to Sump II. on the
 way out we found a small
 inlet sump which hasn't been
 dined. quite a bit of gravel &
 silt has to be removed. before
 anyone can investigate it.

J.P.

25. Oct.

Barry Wilkinson^{25.10.75}, Alison Hooper, Pete Hoody, Marion Gay & Barry Gay
 returned to a double shaft near Wigmore Farm. There are two shafts
 next to each other one round and one square. Barry was volunteered
 to go down first ^{down the round shaft} and after 110 feet hit the bottom. The bottom is
 full of barbed wire and it is impossible to get off the ladder. There are
 also many ^{hanging} 3' long straws from a beam. No levels but the
 two shafts connect near the bottom. A local farmer reckoned
 that mining was stopped due to flooding and it is possible
 that the shaft was originally deeper.

MENDIP, BATH & BRISTOL

Associates Pot	74, 123
Biddlecombe Swallet	3
Brownes Hole	87
Box Stone Mines	15, 78
Cuckoo Cleaves	12, <u>21</u> , 26, 27, 28, <u>29</u> , <u>33</u> , 38, 49, 52, 66, <u>119</u> , 122, <u>126</u>
Dundry Stone Mine	89
Eaker Hill/Buddles	90
East Twin	118
Eastwater	30, 42, 55, 67, 74, 75, 81, 82, 99, <u>101</u>
G.B. Cave	17, 22, 44, 46, 52, 57, 60, 67, 83, 90, 99, 104
Goatchurch Cavern	8, 50, 83, 87, 98, 118, 123
Heale Farm Swallet	92
Hunters Hole	66, 73, 102
Lamb Leer	6, 30, 31, 41, 43, 89, 92, 116
Lionel's Hole	118
Longwood	4, 22, 35, 67, 73, 76, 82, 87, 102, 121
Mangle Hole	11
Manor Farm	2, 3, 5, 13, <u>53</u> , 59, 67, 72, 86
Nine Barrows Swallet	2, 4, 6, 24, 25, 36, 38, 66, 80, 84, 93, 101, 103
North Hill Swallet	13, 37, 68, 75, <u>115</u>
Pen Park Hole	121
Pinetree Pot	20
Rhino Rift	21, 24, 29, 31, 35, 50, 107
St. Cuthbert's	70, 77
St. Dunstan's Well	78
Sally's Rift	23
Sayes Hole	80
Shatter Cave	7, 58, 76, 78, 99, 100
Singing River Mine	33, 103, 104, 116, 118
Sludge Pit Hole	24, 31, 69, 70, 80, 82, 85, 86, 103, 119
Stoke Lane Slocker	4, 39, 87, 115, 116, 125
Thrupe Lane Swallet	42, 57, 70, 74, 113, 115
Tynning's Farm Swallet	67
Waldergrave Swallet	124
Wigmore Swallet	125
Withybrook Swallet	78
Wookey Hole	106, 109
Husland Farm Pot	<u>71</u>

(red page numbers indicate discovery trips)

SWILDON'S HOLE

Upper Series	31,45,58,99,110
1	26,45,50,52,56,57,60,65,69,92,100,103,106,117,118
2	7,11,27,75,76,81,86,89,97,108,117,121,123
Black Hole/Old Approach	10,13,21,65,79,103
Abandon Hope	8,16,19
Vicarage	6,9,16,19,32,34,62
North West Stream	83
St. Pauls	7,10,31,35,40,41
South East Inlets	1,5,7,11,14,15,25,29,37,40,44,79,97
Shatter Series	38,108
3 & 4	15,37,39,40,44,45,52,57,58,59,77,82,102,103,105,106
Cowsh Aven	8,12,58
TroubleSeries	10,28,68,70,79,98
5,6 & Long Round Trip	84,105,107,112,114,120
9	23,34,92,102,120
12	3,6,23,40,80,87,103
Desolation Row	17,32

OTHER REGIONS & FOREIGN

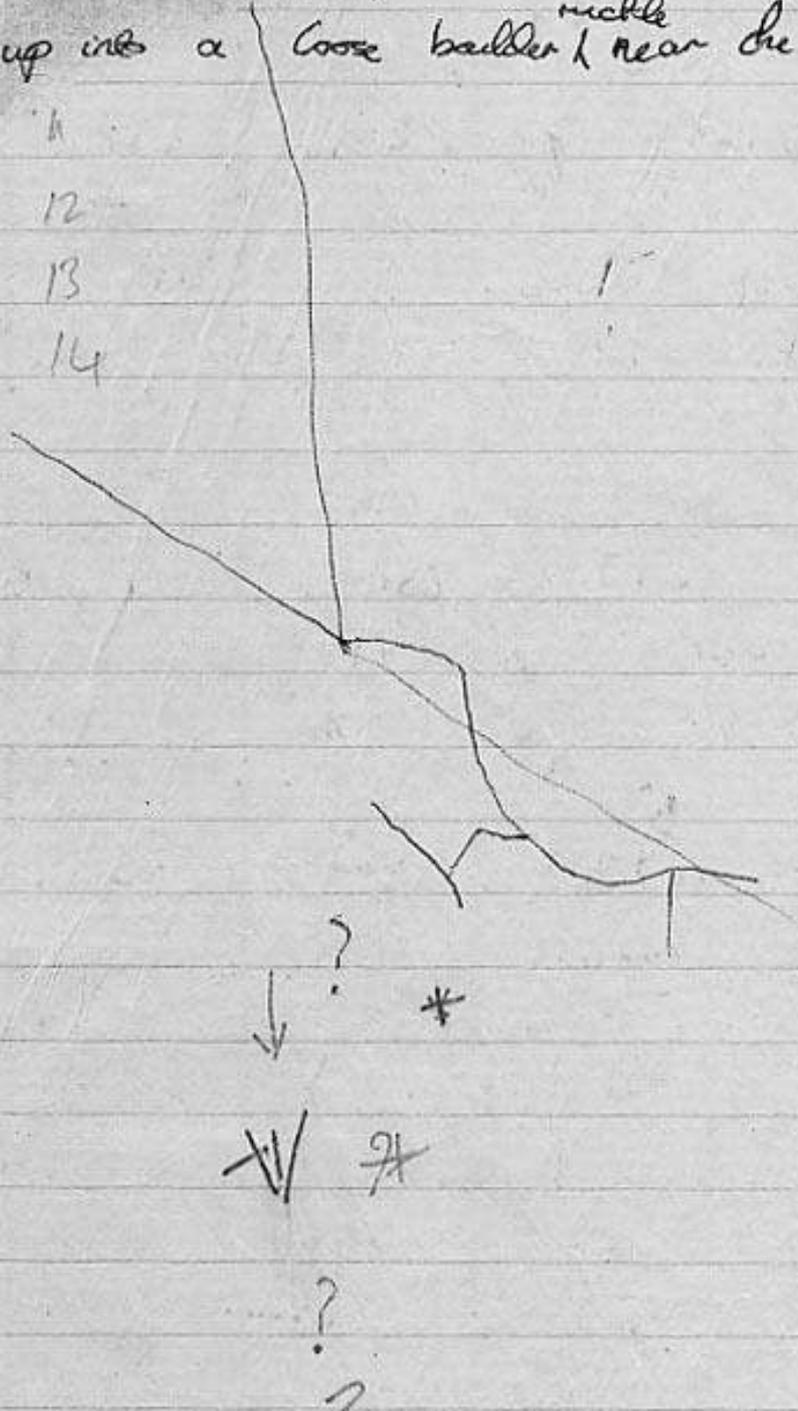
BAHAMAS	III
BELGIUM	94
Cornwall	112
Cotswold	101
Derbyshire	28,124
Devon	122
FRANCE	113,114
HUNGARY	47
Hellfire Caves	91
SPAIN	59,65
Wales	
Agen Allwedd	106
Bishopston Valley	81,84
Dan-yr-Ogof	51,100
Cwm Tudu	60
Llygad Lluchwr	51
Ogof Ffynnon Ddu	36,51,100,106
Porth-yr-Ogof	51,100
Dirbath Valley	99
Worsop Mine	120
Yorkshire	
Alum/Diccan	63,97,98
Bar Pot	64
Birkwirth Cave	64
Bull Pot of the Witches	47
Calf Holes	98
Dale Barn Cave	47
Dow Cave	18
Great Douk	47
Old Ing	64
Out Slets Beck Cave	18
Simpsons	63
Slets Gill	19
Swinsto	97
Tatham Wife	18,64

26th October

Curtain Caves

126

Adrian V.P.P. Wilson, Peter dug open a small inlet
near the top of the canyon. They flew about 4 hrs we
go through into a ~~75'~~ 75' of well decorated, walking size passage
leading up into a loose boulder ^{middle} near the surface.



11

12

13

14