

**CAVING LOGBOOK  
2003**

Acq. No. 02929

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**Club**

1/1/03 GB CAVE 1224 ft NINA & ANDY

Started the new year with a 4 hour trip to GB at a high point of flooding. Water from the fields was flooding down the entrance hatch to the main cave where the waterfall had built up, a mighty stream. Managed to capture some good video shots of the flooding before we worked on some photography. Never seen GB so 'active' - as much as Swildons in flood - and we were all highly impressed. Even though we did not dare challenge Ladder Dig in such conditions. Got some very good photos and flood videos out of it!... off to Wales now to do some more caving -- Happy New Year all!!

Friday 3/1/03 Kitchen fire door wedged wide open again, It's not good to take risks with the heat, it's not our own fault fire doors are installed for a purpose, and it's not wedging them open.

Mr. S. (Leaving sockets plugged in is only laziness, the Fire Brigade advise to take all unnecessary plugs out of sockets). I can't help it - I know it's wrong!! grown-ups should know better.

1/1/03 Heavy rain all night. Kathy, Jonathan, Christine & I walked over to Swildons to get fresh air. Fields sodden, water halfway up the pipe and rising. (PA)

5/1/03 RHINO RIFT

Mike Thomas, Andy Judd, Chris Grosart

Mike rigged left hand route & took some photos. Bottomed 3rd pitch & out. C.B. practising her knitting (sung - de-rigging). Very pleasant trip.

10/1/03 Weston Brothers. Final survey trip  
to Ridge Mine, Neston.  
Much crawling over 'deads' at  
top height to find non-existent passage!  
Also spent several hours finding /  
photographing drawings etc.  
A very enjoyable 3hr trip on carbide.

11<sup>th</sup> Jan 03 Andy, Chris, Martyn Fair, Steve Marsh, Jo W  
OFDI - The Pit

Same site as already at the Pit. Martyn dived  
sumps through lake at bottom of pit - exploring  
area last dived by Steve Thomas in 1994. Put  
in lines to western then eastern side. Crystal clear!  
The chest deep lake just before sumps was, erm,  
refreshing to say the least! Good time had by  
all. lovely snowy day - but thought of getting  
back into frozen suits for overdue divers not  
appealing - luckily they arrived safe & sound!

18/1/03. Swindons. Rin & Pat Hallidie and Steph Gough on his first caving  
trip for 15 or so years. <sup>via some way</sup> Worked round to mud sump and did a bit of building.  
Then down to Sump I, pausing only to lay two bouts of mud out of the  
Frothy Pool Stream Dig, well the excuse for help was very public. Then back out  
up the stream all the way. Very enjoyable easy amble.

20/1/03 (Am areas (Trotty) C. HATWOOD, T. MOORE, D. BARRETT  
(Am wee) G.B. VERY WET IN DEVICES ELBOW, +  
MIN GONE. GOOD TRIP - SUMP IS FREEING UP TAKIN

Fridays 3rd Jan. Lionel's  
Pete + Alison Moxley.

Good graft about and between us we have to found

all the old connection passages that we used to use  
eg. Travess → Junction Chants and the direct route from  
East Low Lead and the Boulders Chants. Large stream  
running through East Low Lead. We were amazed to find  
that someone has stuck some synthetic stalagmites on the  
roof of the Travess passage. Very convincing until you touch them.  
Also found a very large ball of string just inside  
the entrance!! (It was not ours, honest)

AM

Sunday 19th January - Warner Farm

(Jo, Andy & Ali)

Wessex tourist trip + Gonzo. Nic Nac taking photos,  
Gonzo, sketching + Alison trying to drop boulders on his  
head.

AM

14/1/03 - Coughes

Kernit (Rich Warner), Tadpole (Alice Warner) + Lee Warner  
+ Ben? Davis - adventure caving.

Chris Castle, Alison Moody, Tom Stearn + Norman Wayre for  
good general tourist eg Due Straits, Chris Castle's dig + Lloyd Hill

AM

28/1/03 - Swildens to Sump 1

⇒ Kernit, Alison Moody + Ben? Davis

First Swildens trip for Ben. Cave quite wet. No sign  
of any of the missing duckie or kernit pink frog.  
- perhaps they are at Sump 12, - or even Swildens 13  
by now!

19/1/03 - Aggy Alcock

Dave M, Mark A, Malc A, Andy J.

First trip to Aggy, well impressed with the Showers. Eddie Coxon  
made us v-welcome. Great caving.

25/1/03 St. Amherst's Swallows

Ali, Andy C, Jo W, Mike T.

In via wire ist, tourist route → sump 1 + out.  
Lots of exploring to rediscover routes for Ali,  
Mike raising the opportunity to take photos of  
the premises. Good giggle.

25/1/03 Swallows 40'

Big SIV, M Thomas, Jo, & Co. (THINK IT WAS ANDY  
Surrey East Remained)

M.T. Took myself for my first SRT, TRIP  
longway all the way. Armed with Big "NEW  
Shiny KIT Bag" To top 40' put it on  
SORTED BY M.T. DONT NEED THIS piece REASON  
This & THAT. Excellent Nice & Comfy.

Standing By watching Jo Rig the pitch  
~~(First time By the way)~~ To TRAVERSED  
Across Set a Y Belay at the Head then  
promptly Disappeared Down the Hole.  
THEN M.T. Said your next SIV.  
So I clipped on STARTED To TRAVERSE Across  
heads of Adams Coming from M.T.  
(He'd started PLAYING MIND GAMES "Jo's first RIG."  
My first SRT UNDERGROUND ① ROPE  
AND That Tower Doe's NOT Count as  
SRT)

Any way spread EAGLED Across the top  
DESCENDED Hooked up ready to go  
getting MIND focused. SUDDENLY A  
Lightning STORM Approached From BEHIND  
there was M.T. like DAVID BAILEY.  
With his Camera. SAYING BETTER GET  
THIS ON Record for you..

So off I go Bit Bouncy got to get used  
To steady myself on rope.

"Touchdown" Bigger me! M.T. at the  
Bottom Flash! Flash! Flash!  
(CHECK DESANT FOR PHOTOS! "He He")  
Down in one piece ok (Ring piece tight & Hold)

NEXT UP:

Always Jo goes Making it look so ~~easy~~  
me next. NOT so easy Brushing layered  
back in NOT over need to ~~adjust~~ harness.  
IN free air ok. gets to top touching rock  
not so good. Do you hold rock or do you  
hold assenders & rope made mind up Do both  
Many have hooked a bit shiny to go  
up top. With Jo's advise EXITED the pitch.  
SAT AT TOP legs slightly bouncy

So M.T. says to me "going down & up again"  
then we will de rig.

But I ~~offer~~ To go down & climb  
the water fall back round ~~as~~ as  
they de rig.

Back @ the top of 40' SRT kit removed  
& STOWED IN SHINY NEW KIT BAG

STARTED OUT.

ON WAY OUT MET KENT UNIVERSITY PARTY  
going in quick word with them again  
SHINY NEW KIT BAG MENTIONED.

IS something I should know about this?

ANYWAY HAD EXCUSE TIME

MANY THANKS TO M.T., JD, CO (THINK IT  
WAS ANDY  
Sorry can't remember)

26/1/03 Oor's

A + P Moody, Tony Boycott.

Trip to plug + feather the boulders in the entrance passage that are preventing us removing spoil to the surface. Cave draughting well, as usual.

AM

28/1/03 ST Cuthberts

Ali Moody, John, Alan + Tim (Mobs).

Excellent Tuesday evening scramble. We left → Boulder Chamber → Curtains Chamber → The Finger → Gobblers Series → Gor Hall → Sump 1 → Rabbit Warren → Railway Tunnel, Haven Passage + Upper Traverse Chamber, back to streamway to Water Shute and out via Mud Hall + Wet Traverse. We were even out in enough time for a couple of beers and a warm up by the Hunter's fire.

AM

2/2/03 WOKEY HOLE

ANDY C, MIKE T, ANDY J

MY FIRST TRIP TO WOKEY WHAT A FAB PLACE. FULLFILLED A CHILDHOOD DREAM AND DIVED FROM 3 TO 15 WATER 100%, CRYSTAL CLEAR WATER AMAZING VIS. LOTS + LOTS COMMENTS FROM GUIDED TOUR VISITORS. FELT VERY HONNORED TO BE IN SUCH A LOVELY PLACE. BIG THANKYOU TO MIKE FOR ARRANGING IT AND GREAT TO DIVE WITH HIM HOPEFULLY BACK NEXT WEEK TO GO TO 22 AND GET OUT AND DO SOME CAVING. THANKS MIKE

Andy

2/2/03

Swildons - sump one.

Chris Grosart, Deborah Noras

Deborah's first ever cave trip. Down long dry way, got to the twenty to find there was barely room to swing a cat. Negotiated easily despite a lot of water. Looked at sump 1 & dig & came out wet way. Very enjoyable.

19 (?)/01/03

Agnew Allwedd

Martyn Fair, Andy Chell, Chris G, Alan

Went for a gothly with Martyn to play in his dig - for hours. Removed rubble, placed new scaffold, excellent drought when a boulder dropped on Andy... Lovely cave & would like to do more here. C.G.

2/2/03 Spar Pot

Pete + Ali Moody

Finally managed to get back to Sewer Rat Dig II

Some impressive flood debris in the connection from East Twin to Spar Pot & final choke had continued to dig itself and after about 2 hours work we managed to break through the stod floor and up into a solution pocket. A choked passage probably continues horizontally but decided that there are better places for our efforts. Collected up all the digging tools and bade the nasty little place a final goodbye.

3/2/03

Swildons

Mark Emma

AM

The aim was to repeat the mud sump sumped did a bit of bailing but didn't make much of an impression.

8 Feb '03 SWILDONS

Phil & Rose

WET but fun - looking forward to going again  
(Not too crowded. Long dry → top of 20, looked at levatory bay,  
out on short dry. Pleasantly damp 1/2 h PH) (Does this mean  
'Nicely perspired' Phil)

12/2/03 Mr Scammell Steve (know) & Mrs Hassell Cowmen  
CROOK'S HOLE Ditch. loads & buckets of clay & rocks  
sticky, but good. Looking well roomy (Mrs size)

15/2/03 Temple A - 5°C bright morning, Sam and NASA/CC/AGC  
gathered to see a 35 tonne Sparrow crane lift the digger from  
the bottom of the pit. An uneventful lift which now reveals  
the full size of the boulder and mud pile which must be  
removed before we can start digging or canot. (Poor Ernest!)

Later... Cropton Master Coombe - removed the shelter, and  
found a partly-open, barbed-wire caged overheight at the top  
of the coombe. PH

15/2/03 Eastwater - West End - DETACKLING TRIP

Ali M, Andy C, Jo W

First trip down Eastwater so a trip tourist via

The Upper Traverse, Primrose Path + Baker's chimney bypass,  
Dolphin Pitch and Westend End to Regent's Street. Having  
done the 'nice' part of the trip on down Creek Street  
with the aim of taking all the ladders off the  
pitches this side of the Blackwall Tunnel. Andy  
bravely volunteered to descend the extremely rusty  
ladder down Lollypot to retrieve the next ladder from  
the drop just before Blackwall. Lollypot very wet.  
The ladder on this looked terrible last summer and

was a combination of one WCC ladder and one BEC ladder joined by mallions. Those have rusted solid + couldn't be moved even with an adjustable spanner - so this ladder had to be bundled into <sup>large</sup> 10' roll. \*  
Also removed 2 ladders which were at the bottom of Lally pot + all ladders from the top of the pitch. \* The wires were so stiff with rust that they would no longer flex! Struggled back to Gladman's with the 5 ladders and removed the 2 from this.  
Difficult progress out with 7 ladders + one kit bag between the 3 of us. Gained another ladder and tape from Dolphin Pitch + made the last with 5 men to spare before our ETO. When Jo was asked if she was going to carry down kit down to South Bank for Phil Short, the reply was Noo ... he can F off! (7½ hour trip)

Ali

18/02/03

CLARK & DRE

SWILDCATS HOLE (Sect 1)

FIRST TIME TO Sect 1, HAD A FEW OF NOT THING TIME WITH GLETT B - (MEN <sup>WERE</sup> TALKING US). HAD TO BE BACK SOON!!  
HAD THIS WITH CEDAR + SON NAMED IT WITH THE WOOD BEANIE STUFF

Ali

30/12/02 - 20/1/03 : URAL MOUNTAINS : RUSSIA  
PHILL SHENT.

RETURN TRIP TO RUSSIA BUT TO A NEW AREA THIS TIME  
THE SIBERIAN SIDE OF THE URAL MOUNTAIN RANGE.  
THE MAIN OBJECTIVE WAS TO CLIMB THE RESURFACED  
SUMP 1 OF A WELL KNOWN (FROM A SCIENTIFIC POINT  
OF VIEW, DUE TO PREHISTORIC PAINTINGS) CAVE CALLED  
SHULGINA PASS. IN SUMMER TO GET TO THE CAVE  
INVOLVED A 3 DAY BOAT TRIP UP THE WHITE RIVER,  
BUT IN WINTER A 3 DAY JOURNEY OF DRIVING, ROWING,  
UNLOADING AND LOADING BY 4 X 4 THEN 1 DAY BY  
SNOWMOBILES WITH SLEDGES. OVER THE TWO WEEKS  
220M OF LINE WAS LAYED TO A PERMANENT CHANNEL  
CUTTING AT -81M. VARIOUS OTHER CAVES WERE VISITED  
AND SOME NOTES AND SEVERAL PHOTOS TAKEN IN THE  
BACK OF SHULGINA PASS TO SEE & PICTO THE PAINTINGS.  
FULL REPORT FOR THE JOURNEY TO FOLLOW.

22/1/03 SWILLOWNS 12.

GREG BROCH, PHILL SHENT AND ANDY STEWART  
UNEVENTFUL TRIP TO SUMP 10 OTHER THAN UNUSUAL  
BOAT VIS SO ABLE TO GET A PICTURE OF WHAT THE  
SUMPS LOOK LIKE. AT SUMP 10 PHILL RAN TO THE END  
TO GET IN SUMP 12 BEFORE THE VIS STIRRED UP. WITH  
OVER 5 METERS OF VIS IT WAS THE FIRST TIME WE HAD  
SEEN THE BOTTOM OF WITHS WE HAD BEEN WORKING ON.  
SUMP 12 IS A STEEP DESCENDING ELLIPTICAL RISE WITH  
A SILT AND GRAYE FLOOR, THIS IS AROUND 2 METERS  
WIDE AND HAVE A METER HIGH. THIS ENDS IN THE  
NOW SIGNIFICANTLY ENLARGED WATERBOX WHICH IS NOW  
HALF A METER SQUARE. THERE IS A WALL OF BANG  
PERISSES BEHIND WHICH WE NOW NEED TO REMOVE BUT THE

NEW PASSAGE VENTING OR HALLWAY FOUND LATER  
YEAR WAS CLEARLY VISIBLE. AFTER THIS WE CLIMBED  
THE AVEN ABOVE THE BYPASS TO SUMP II TO THE  
PREVIOUSLY REACHED TUBE. FROM HERE A SHORT  
POINT PASSAGE TUBE LEADS FOR 20 - IT WHICH POINT  
PIPE GOT STUCK SO CABLE COULD NOT BE DRAWN  
IN - TO AN UNEXPECTED LIT HAMMER VENTING TO A  
SECOND LARGER CHAMBER WHICH HAD AN AREA IN  
THE CEILING - WE WERE ABLE TO CLIMB UP AND DOWN IN  
THIS AREA AND TO GO ON TO CURE THE NEXT AVEN AND  
SURVEY THE PASSAGE.

### OGOF DRAENON

22/2/03.

NIKNAK, TALL GRAHAM, ALISON MOODY, TAV, KEV + EMSY, SIMON  
(DES + JK (IRISH) + KATE LAVENDER + SIMON (FROM UP NORTH). 11

EXLEY

THE CIRCUIT 7½ HOURS OUCH!

ROUTE FINDING WITH THE AID OF NIKNAKS AS SURVEY. I GOT  
STUCK TAKING THE WRONG ROUTE AT ~~STOPA~~ SEWER ONE -  
OUCH AGAIN. GOOD TRIP. TALL GRAHAM *gr.*

### SWILDONS ROUND TRIP.

23/2/03.

NIKNAK, TALL GRAHAM, A. SIMON + KATE.  
(EXLEY)

TO RECOVER FROM THE EMBARRASMENT OF BEING ASKED TO LEAVE  
THE HUNTERS FOR ANSWERING HER MOBILE PHONE + FOR  
THE REST OF US A HANG OVER CURE. SHORT ROUND  
TRIP. FUN

SWILDONS CURTAILED (DUE TO DODGY KNEES) ROUND TRIP

JHJnr and De had to be shown entrance from  
below. oops.

11 Swildons top series as too fat to hold onto ladder - Taz

23/2/3

SWILLONS

PHILL SITTON AND SIMON DEVEAU

SITTON BOUGHT THEM WITH EXCURSION TO SWILLONS BY  
VIA BLUE PEARL. NO PRACTICE AT ENROUTE ELSE  
HE'D DONE IT FOR US.

26/2/3 Crook's Hole. Carmen & Steve last Wednesday - this Wed.  
Carmen Steve & Bob S. Afternoon digging - very pleasant.  
Mr Seaman digging at the bottom of the shaft  
while the other two tried dropping mud down his  
builder's cleavage - not too pleasant. A hole appeared  
about 4-5 ft drop at one end, but still lowering the  
floor. All good solid walls. Evening down to Mr Fielders  
for lid making - This is a proper lid 4'0" square of  
galvanised burnished steel. It'll dazzle aircraft  
on a sunny day.

27/2/3

SWILLONS

PHILL SITTON AND KENNY LUND

DRAINING MID IN THE 20 FOOT PITCH FOR LUNCH  
AND LIFELINE MAVING, THEN TO HEAD OF THE  
40 FOOT PITCH AND OUT THE WET WAY.

22/02/03 ABOVE

Mark Helmore, Bean & Bitch (Mr Dave)

Quick Grand Circle (4t hrs) not much to see except  
people sweating like boulders. Bean nearly threw himself off the  
tramway a couple of times (it was a tad frosty!)

1-3-03 SURVEYS Shot trundle to top of 20 trolley plots. Only 10th party met, low water in spite of earlier heavy rain. Phil 4

25-2-03 Ridge Mine. Weston. Phil H, Paul W, Joe, Mr. H.  
Trip to Ridge Mine to check out Weston box survey. Interest-  
mine - quite extensive, dry with very little breakdown.  
Used extensively in last war for storage of explosives &  
ammo by RAF. Old & new workings visited. Much  
affidavit from the 1930's & 40's, with carvings of Hitler etc.  
Many photos taken. Paul only got lost once! He didn't bring his own  
survey!

8/3/83

Can someone explain to cavers that it is  
not safe to crawl along vehicle roofs and look  
into wind screens when travelling from the Hunter  
to the Dorset. It disturbs the driver. Getting  
hard or hard job works out that the tapping on  
the wind screen was. At 40 mph it was a  
good job she didn't plough the boulders on!  
Max sustained a broken leg just by falling off  
the hut roof.

5-3-03 TERRACES

Only 4 diggers at the shop end, no only 2 tons taken at  
Waterfall Step Gough. 25% still today - we will shot block  
After heavy rain the fillers drop on top with odd plots by  
beneath. Breakthrough - not unusual. Phil 4

9/3/83 Surveys 12

Phil Sizemore, Greg Brooks, Phil Sizemore

Down to Survey 9 with small 3m extension from 8.2m  
17'11" down west there more remains to 18'8" 20'11" down  
up to 19'8" down in 2 courses for 20'7" long west all

TO PREVIOUS LIMIT THEN CONTINUE THROUGH SOMETHING  
TO SMALL CHAMBERS (BRAZED) RT LONG 2 WIDES  
PREVIOUSLY. CLOUD MET THEM FOR 10m INTO HORIZONTAL  
CHAMBER TO A FINAL TWO PORTHOLE. 30m OF NEW  
PASSAGE BEYOND LAST PORTHOLE SO 60m IN TOTAL.  
HORIZONTAL PASSAGE IS 12 BUT 6 INCHES WIDE SO NO TURN  
OF A BIKERS.

### 9-3-03 SHATTER CAVE

PHIL H + 4 SHEFFIELD UNI BOOS - INCLUDING PETE  
(BLOCK OF WOOD EX STICK). TO PILLAR CHAMBER VIA 2 SQUEEZE  
OUT VIA RING ROAD. ~1½h VERY PLEASANT - EXCEPT  
LOTS OF TRIALS BIKES IN QUARRY ON WAY OUT.

(H)

(PA)

8/3/03. Sunloungs. GEOFF B & 'MR X'

THE SHORT ROUND TRIP, OR 'THENCE AND BACK AGAIN' -  
A CAVERS TALE!

AFTERTHOUSANDS OF SWIMPS, I DECIDED TO ENCOURAGE MY  
FELLOW CAVER 'MR X' TO PASS THE SWIMPS FROM THE  
MINE INVITING DOWNSTREAM SIDE. ALTHOUGH I DID  
A LITTLE PUMPING ON THE SIDES AT MID SWIMP THE  
ONLY BAILING WAS THE FIRST TRAVELLER GOT WITH THE  
SIPHON GOING AS DIDNT HAVE TO WAIT TO LONG BEFORE  
WE COULD SWIM THROUGH. WE'D BEEN IN THE CAVE  
FOR AN HOUR BY THE TIME WE REACHED THE SWIMP.

"I'M WAIT FOR YOU ON THIS OWN SIDE, I WON'T BE COMING  
BACK THROUGH" I SAID.

THIS PASSED AS I REPEATEDLY WATCHED THE LINE GO  
YAWNING AND THE SWIMP POOL ILLUMINATED BY 'MR X'

LIGHT, AS HE CROCHED IN THE STREAMWAY CARVING  
 WHAT LOOKED TO BE FINE. EVENTUALLY I DECIDED TO  
 GO BACK THROUGH THIS THING WAS EASIER A PROBLEM  
 - BETWEEN SWIMMING AND COLD WIND 'MR X'...  
 "I'M NOT GOING THROUGH THAT TUNNEL OR DEATH, I  
 KEEP BANGING MY HEAD, I'M GOING BACK"

SO TOGETHER WE ROTATED TIL 'NOT SO SHORT'  
 ROUND TURN FOR WHAT ACTUALLY TURNED OUT TO  
 BE QUITE AN ENJOYABLE few hours.

13.3.03 Bean Swildons

Quick scrub and out, on ones own due to not playing  
 with his boomerang.

14.3.03 Bean RHino RG

couldn't find anybody else so took my self down to the dig  
 at the bottom, and swam out again, and then weighed 1½  
 for Laz to pick me up (Lipidle women).

15/3/03 GB Christine, Simon, Deborah (████████!)- Oh  
 hit-me, please!) and Paul. Don't Forget  
 Robert from America Simon!

Second time caving for me (Deborah) liked  
 this cave better than Swildons, 020203, drier  
 so I did not get so cold!! Although I do think  
 that an elevator would be a good idea at  
 the bottom of the rockclimb! Some of the Squeezes  
 were tight, but as I have been sent through the  
 squeeze box at  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches and being the smallest  
 down there I can hardly refer to and squeezes  
 as I just went straight through. I will be looking  
 for caves in Portugal now and sending an invite when I find them.

Haven't enjoyed GB so much lances - Simon.  
( $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches? Is that all, Simon?!!!)

13/3/03 Box S. M's.

western brothers, Nik Nak Vern plus  
assorted (?) members of the Welsh  
Mines Society. Very enjoyable 3hr trip  
in 'Jack's', salt backdoor. FW

15.03.03 Swildons Sump 1

BARRY GAY, ADRIAN & JUDITH VANDERPLANK, BARRY & MARION WILKINSON

STEADY TRIP TO SUMP 1 TO CELEBRATE BG'S 75<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP AND COMPANY ADRIAN & JUDITH. 3½ HRS

16.03.03 Hunters Hole

Mike Thomas, Christine G, Andy Judd, Andy Chell

Quick trip to play on Mike's new 'interesting' rope. Out  
in time for lunch.

25/3/03 Swildons Upper Series

Alison, Kermit (Rich Warman), Tadpoles (Alice Warman) and  
Dave Warman.

First trip down Swildons for Alison. Very pleasant towret,

AM.

4/3/03 Swildons - Short Round Trip.

Pete + Alison Moody, Tom Stearn, Dick Crane, Andrew Moon  
and Norman Wright. At least 15 years since Pete and I  
had done a SR.T. Good fun.

AM.

8/3/03 Dolphin + Twin Verts.

Ali M, Dr Jo, Nik Nak + Stew.

16

Trip to have a look at the day at the bottom of the 13 pits  
Stew decided that he didn't fit Eastgate so made an exit  
Nick Nak attacked the 'lance' boulders at the head of Dolphine  
Chimney with a crowbar and really succeeded in closing off  
one of Mendips classic traps where the ~~old~~<sup>offering</sup> boulder jammed  
first about 5' down and then about 20' down. For a happy  
moment I thought that we might not be able to get  
to Westend this summer. Unfortunately wishful thinking, and  
with a satisfying boom the boulder was extracted and is now  
at the bottom of the chimney. The top of the chimney still needs  
<sup>some</sup> caution as there may be ~~more~~ other ~~boulders~~ with lance.

AM

11/3/03 - Licicle Round Trip

Ali M, Nick Nak, Dick Crane, Norman Wright, Tom Steam Andrew Hoon  
Round Trip and visit to the end sump.

AM

16/3/03 - Goo's

Ali M and Tony Boycott.

Tony managed to completely break up the top boulder  
near the entrance which has been causing spoil removal  
problems. Cave draughting very strongly. We had to block  
up of the entrance with chicken netting to stop the  
tourists throwing rocks down the entrance - If not, they  
are going to fill up the cave faster than we can dig  
it out! Cave is now much more visible due to the work done  
in the corner. AM.

18/3/03 - Fairy Hilles

Ali M, Tom Steam, Norman Wright, Andrew Hoon, Dick  
Crane, Nick Nak.

Tourist trip - in Hilles + cut Fairy Duck in Fairy was  
very wet. Much surging.

AM

21/3/03 - Burrowton.

Dave Irwin, Brian + Brenda Preve, Ali Hooley.

Surface survey trip to tie in Flange with the rest of the cave entrances so that Dave can finish his master survey showing the relationship of East Twin, Licelle, Pierce, Sidcot and Goatchurch to each other. The original water testing that we did with Graham Muller and Pete Smart has never been published but the basic findings are as follows:

- ① Licelle. — Source of stream unknown and the water is not seen again beyond the sump in Sump Chambers
- ② East Twin — Stream from Black Down, sinks off to the right in a small passage part way down East Twin. This is next seen in the upstream sump in Pierces. Not seen again after the downstream sump
- ③ Goatchurch → Pierce — No water link established
- ④ Flange. The water that sinks here does not enter Pierces — This, makes it a very interesting dig site if permission could ever be obtained.

N.B. Some of these tests were carried out in fairly low water conditions and we would very much like to repeat them and also to extend this work.

19-3-03 Temptation NHASA/ACC/SMCC. Only managed 10 skips of mud, but several large boulders smashed. Even with a power wrench the winchman complains at the size of the buckets! Some good clay, but a lot of clay-with-stones, which makes for difficult digging.

(PH)

22/3/03 - Andy Morse, Ross, Stopgo - Pierres Pot  
 Arse got as far as the top of the rift but no further  
 so took it down sidcot. ~~Stop~~ (Stop). Morse & Ross  
 continued to somewhere pretty and took some photos.

22/3/03. Ali, Nik-Nak, Jo W

- ① Lionel's Hole
- ② Pierre's Pot !
- ③ Ice-cream !!

(Spectacled Duck)

① → Unfortunately the 2<sup>nd</sup> truck was low enough to get through so extended the round trip.  
 "Horrible <sup>I</sup> bishops bypass" renamed "Testicle Squeeze" after N-N's <sup>wisely Ali could reach up from below to the</sup> experience. Still enough reserve to go on to ② + be further compressed in Pierre's. Ali explored swamp bypass which has backfilled with lots of gravel. Excited by ongoing rain + thoughts of digging out to avoid next swamp. Final squeeze proved interesting but wisely Ali was there to stand on! ③ can recommend the apple smudie ice-cream at the cafe!! Another muddy squeezy day!  
 ("Squawl" = A squeezy crawl!)

1

15-3-03 Jo W, ALAN ANDY, NIK NAK, (Moss, snow & some mud-muck)

#### Gaping Gills

NIK NAK, Jo & Alan went to R.O. Swallow where we came last to flood entrance with the intention to do an extended infiltration faced with a reasonable amount of water at -35m NIK NAK decided it would be .... so all down flood. Jo's first gasp into mud chamber (comment from Jo - make the hairs stand up on the back of your neck, like the first time you see the Taj Mahal!)

16-3-03 Dow, Allan Allison, NIK NAK (SUNDA - non wesser)

MEREGILL - SUNDAY MORNING TRIP JUST TO FIND THE CAVE  
AND DOOR THE FIRST PITCH. LOVELY SUNNY DAY AND A PLEASANT WALK.

21-3-03 SUNDA, NIK NAK, (GEOFF - non wesser)

DRAENED

ROAD TRIP ENJOYED BY ALL, ALTHOUGH NEARY DID IT TWICE BY ACCIDENT  
GOING DOWN WHITE NECK PASSAGE ~~on~~ ~~on~~ ON THE WAY OUT.

23-3-03 STUART & NIK NAK - RHINO RIFT

AFTER MUCH PRACTICE ON THE TOWER AND A PLAY ON SWILDONS 40'  
THIS WAS STUART'S FIRST PROPER SRT TRIP. JUST THE FIRST PITCH  
ON THIS OCCASION BUT STUART IS LOOKING FORWARD TO RETURNING  
TO TRY OUT THE REST OF THE CAVE. "WELL DONE STU"

TUNNEL QUARRY & SPRING QUARRY 26/3/03 with only one  
working day (Friday) before I leave the MOD for good after  
31 years. I was invited to inspect the underground  
at a place near Corsham Wiltshire. I had  
asked if I could bring along 2 others who have  
some passes, but could not for several current reason  
(Sorry Mak). The inspection took 3 hours of continuous  
walking covering the old underground platforms and  
rail sidings and districts of Tuned Quarry, the  
old aero-engine factory and canteen at Head Spring Quarry  
and a lot of Cold-War places. It's a place that  
never ceases to amaze. The german underground  
hospitals on Jersey or Jersey could easily be  
lost in a corner. There are tunnels and passage  
which cross over and under others, and two full  
sized train sets could be loaded or unloaded  
at a time in complete bomb proof safety. - If only  
it could be opened to the public.

Bob Scamwell

(Atypical telle-tubbies)  
✓ excuse

Wednesday Digging 26/3/03. Carmen absconded to St Luke's with Aubrey & Pete, as me ad Steve were both late (I had good reason). So we went down to Keith Fielder's with Paula to encourage Keith to finish welding up the bigger than most entrance lid. It's now finished and will hopefully be concreted in place on Sunday next. Bob Scamell - Crook's Hole dig.

PS.

See the new black book in the library for a few details which the NOD keep on file - nothing too exciting I'm afraid - they're very careful.

The old murals are very prolific and cover a very large area. See also the video Deep, Dark & Dusty.

27/3/03 Goon's.

Nik Nak, Ali + Pete Moody + Digge Dog (Copper)

Clearance session in entrance passage to make it easier to get boats out from the end dig.

29/3/03 Tricky, Karen + Rich

K's first time caving - went to Swildons.

"Ow!" I hurt in places I never knew I had.

Sump One was interesting, birthday squeeze painful (don't try coughing halfway though).

All in all, bumped, bruised, cut, wet and cold - brilliant! R.PS My hands are falling apart and I've broken a nail!!

29-3-03 (Palindromic date) Maurice Hewins celebrating his 65th birthday in Slater Cave with Judy Prew, Zora, Phil & Carol Parfitt (yes, I'll write that again - Parfitt) photographed and videoed as far as end of Catar Passage. Parfitt measured up for new curtains, and wants an exterior lead for the vacuum cleaner.

Brief look in Coral Passage, but about 40 large moths and some smaller ones seen, so did not stay long. Pleasant afternoon though, cave very dry. PH

29-3-03

Nik-Nak, Simon, Kate, Chris G.

Swildons round trip, blue pencil, sumps 3+4

Nik-Nak & Simon wanted to play in the sumps so we ventured down blue pencil & had a look, came back through ducts etc, just in time for beer. Excellent trip.

30/3/03 - Goon's

Ali Moody, Dr Jo and Simon Exley + Gavin Newman.

Good clearing session with ice cream refreshments.

(Simon had 2 - hoping to get too fat to fit the cave!)

Tony Boycott turned up to drill the lower slab but unfortunately had left the battery on charge at home.

- very feeble excuse. One golf ball retrieval

from the spiral halfway down, I don't think that golf down. Goon's will catch on with the general public.

AM.



30/3/03

2/3/03 Crook's Hole dig. The new lid is on, which will probably make NASSA scientists scratch their heads on very sunny days, as it glistens like polished silver. The tri-pod is at last in action, and on the dig front a hole has appeared for the 32nd time, and for the 32nd time it looks promising -  
Keith F, Carmen, Paula, Steve, & Bob S.

30/3/03 Crook's Hole dig Sunday afternoon concreting and BBQ.  
Fantastic spring weather and a great place to be. Hard work controlling the cement mixer, but the job got done.  
Mr Hawkins came, and not only gave his seal of approval,  
he also got his hands dirty helping - he also got  
his good jacket covered in cement and Mr Hawkins had  
to stop waving a video camera around and walk the full  
length of the field in order to do some washing in a  
cow's drinking trough. The oldies also did a tour of  
3 fields of depressions and dig sites, which Maurice instigated  
- Paula, Steve, Bob & Colly, Keith, Maurice & Gudry.

4/4/03 Wittenoom. (not 1/4/03 although  
Vernas goes after the Key suggested  
it might have been).

Excellent traps lots of pretty  
staff, tight in places. Taken very  
very slowly for Vern and the  
old fort. Worth another go with  
Cameras. Vern, Neknack, Garthw.

26/3/03. - Goatchurch.

Trip to celebrate Dave Warren's 65th. birthday.  
Refreshments of champagne, beer, chocolate + coffee cake -  
The Boulder Chamber. I like this sort of thing!

AH

1/4/03 - Swindon - Shuttle series

All Monday Andrew Ham, Tom Steam.

Terrific trip, final duck needed bowling. Dotted up to Rock Club  
before finishing at Shambles Chamber. Out at 11.10pm so missed the  
Hunters. - ~~was~~ very bad timing

AH

PS. Suitably impressed with Mr Williams' bowls below 4m forty. But you  
could have stacked it more tightly less.

5/4/03 Puerto

Ali + Pete Moody, Nic Nah.

Cleared the start of the sump bypass passage to make access easier. Good grit around the roof tubes on the left hand side of the downstream oven. Noted a possible dig site for future visit.

AM.

5/4/03 LL WALES ANDY CHILL STEVE MARCH, LYGAD LLCHR  
FINISHED DIGGING IN RESURGENCE HAVE BROKEN THROUGH  
AND CONECTED WITH MARTYN FARRS LINE. NOW POSSIBLE  
TO DIVE INTO THIS CAVE MAKING IT VERY MUCH EASER  
TO PUSH THE SLOT + OTHER SUMPS NEXT. LOOKING  
FORWARD TO GOING BACK REARLY FAB PLACE. HAVE  
BEEN DIGGING HERE SINCE CHRISTMAS TAKEN OUT  
200+ BARRELS OF STONES AND SEVERAL VERY LARGE BODIES  
USING LIFTING PADS

6/4/03

Hilliers - Chris G, Brian Harford

Fairy Cave - Kathy Glenton, Stuart Waldron

CG + BH aiming to find connection Hilliers → Fairy & meet other two in the middle but passed start of connection & went to end of Hilliers, finding red stal and much time spent thrutching, coarking inverted & grovelling only to get annoyed and came back out, bypassing the connection again !!. Stu + Kathy went as far into Fairy as they could before returning to await the very bruised & muddy pair returning from Hilliers.

8-4-03 CUCKOO CLEENED

ALISON, DICK & NIK NAK

THE CHALLENGE WAS SET! COULD NIK NAK GET TO THE LAKE? IT WAS 30 YEARS SINCE THE LAKE WAS DISCOVERED; ONE OF ALISON'S FIRST FINDS AND YEARS SINCE HER LAST VISIT. AT THE APPROACH CRADLE TO THE LAKE ALISON WENT IN FIRST, FEET FIRST. AFTER 10 MINS OF THRASHING AND THE SOUND OF A HELMET HITTING ROCK CAME THE NEWS SHE WAS THERE.

NIK NAK'S TURN - THE FAT BUGGER COULDN'T GET PAST THE FIRST BLIND IN HIS OVERSUIT. AN INSTANTLY CONFINED STRIP FORWARDED IN WHICH NIK NAK LOST HIS BOOTS OR AT LEAST COULDN'T REACH THEM. ONLY 3000 METRES TO SCREEB AROUND THE BEND NIK NAK CONTINUED TO BOUND FOLLOWED ALISON TO THE LAKE NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE WHERE HIS FEET AND THE REST OF HIS BODY WERE DOING. FINALLY PORNED OUT IN LAKE CHAMBER ONLY TO MAKE THE RASH PROMISE TO RETURN AGAIN IN ANOTHER 30 YEARS. FOR THOSE WHO MAY BE CONSIDERING THE VISIT - IT'S EASILY ON THE WAY OUT!!! THANKS TO DICK FOR BEING THERE - NOT TO KNOW SOMEONE CAN GET HELP IF ALL GOES TO POO! N.N.

N.B. I was suitably impressed that Nik Nak was able to find enough room to strip of in the passage. As his oversuit and other waders came off - I wondered what took. I thought for a moment that I was about to witness the first streak to Lake Chamber.

- Once Nik Nak was safely back on the surface I then informed him that my last trip down there had been a rescue from the lake when 2 blokes, refused to come back out the approach passage ~~playground~~.

Date for next trip has been agreed as the 8th April 2033.

AM.

11-4-03 Andy S100, (DAVID H & VIC (new dragon) WOOLLEY  
VIC'S FIRST WOOLY DIV. TOP V12 3722

TWC.

12-4-02 KNOCKHUNDRED, 2ND GENERATION  
IAN, A WILDFIRE, ALEX, BEANIE, ANDY, DAN SON OF IAN.  
WE WENT CAVING TODAY. IT WAS UNDERGROUND.  
WHAT DOES THIS HAVE (WHAT) TO DO WITH  
DRINK - NOT ENOUGH.

2ND GENERATION HAVE TENDENCY TO  
STELLA ~~INERT~~ DRUNKENNESS.  
SCUDLERS →<sup>TO</sup> SON 2, BACK VIA  
FORBIDDEN QUEST etc. — DON'T THAT →  
PUB.

12-4-03 BLACK SHIVER

PAUL WAKELING, KATE LANEIDER, SIMON EXLEY & NIK NAK  
FIRST TRIP TO THE CAVE FOR EVERYONE - NICE TO EXPLORE RATHER THAN  
BLIND SHOWN. RIK & PAT HALLIWELL GAVE US A GOOD START BY SHOWING US  
TO THE ENTRANCE. WE GOT TO THE TOP OF THE LAST PITCH PART  
WAY DOWN BLACK RIFT - WE WILL RETURN TO FINISH OFF.

13-4-03 MARBLE STEPS

PAUL WAKELING & NIK NAK

JUST SPENDING A COUPLE OF HOURS ON SUNDAY MORNING. EXPLORING THE  
TOP PART OF THE CAVE VIA THE OUT ROUTE. WE WOULD BOTH  
LIKE TO REVISIT SOON AND TAKE THE SIDEWINDER ROUTE AND BOTTOM  
THE CAVE.

10/4/03 — Arachnid Rift, Twister + Hurricane.  
Nik Nak, Ali M. Gonzo

General grot about in The Cook's Wood Quarry caves  
with Gonzo as guide.

12/4/03 Scudlers - Shatter Series + Passchendaele  
Pete + Ali Moody, Geoff Ballard + Mad Phil

Quick check on the Sidcot U tube on the route in.  
This would be about a 4' free dive at present but 26

rather choked. A project this summer, <sup>will be</sup> to bail this open and to dig out the bottom of the U tube (hopefully to be able to keep the route into Renaissance open as a free dive. Dived tourist around Shatto Scarries + Passchendaele.

AM

15/4/03 - Swildon's Mud Sump.

Nik Nak, Dick Crane, Mad Phil + Richard? (MGG)

Clearance trip to the 2nd Mud Sump, ~~placed~~ placed bags of mud under the flexi hose to give it extra support. Removed the spare flexi hose + the old metal pump to the surface. Replaced some of the bailing buckets which were starting to split.

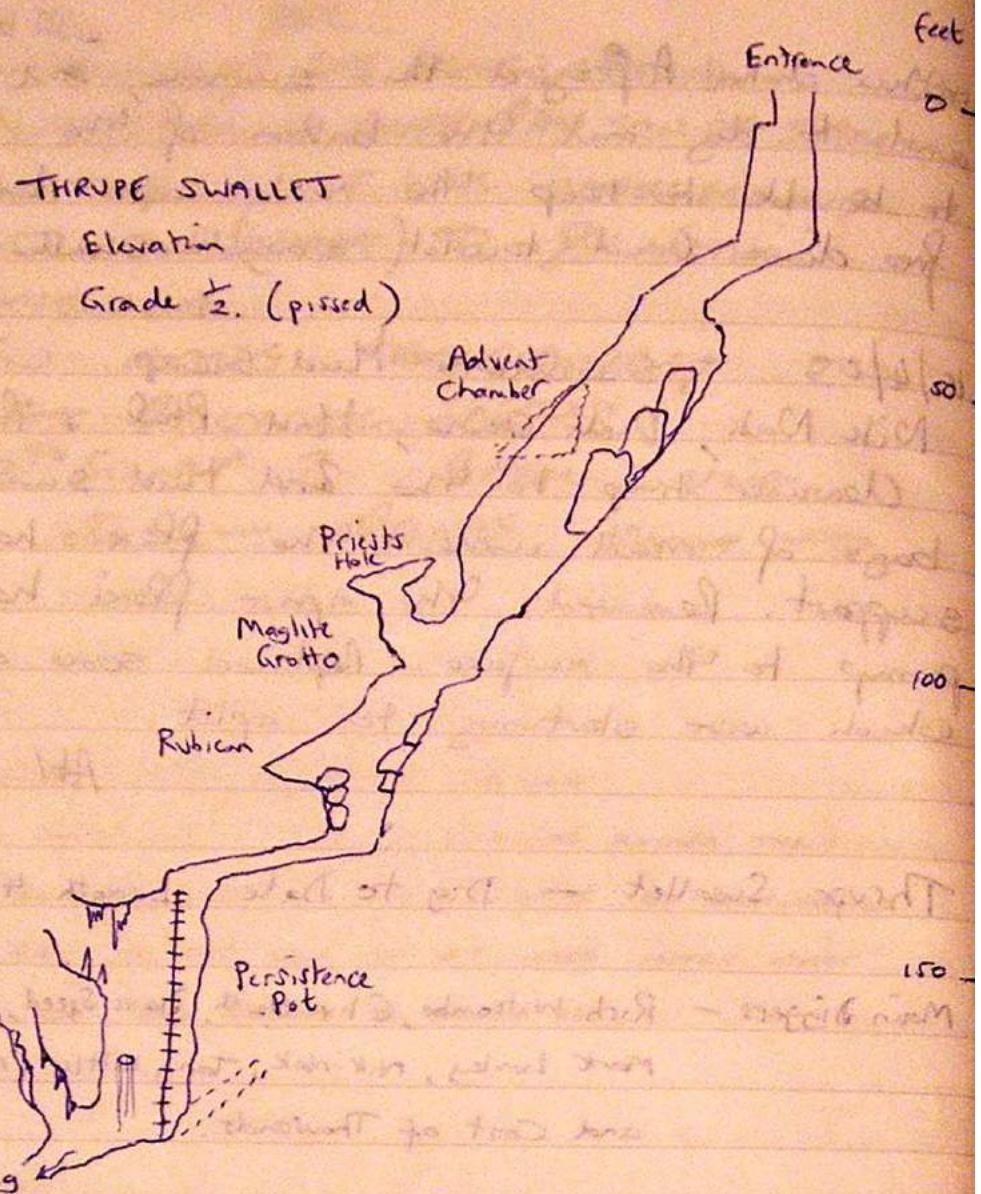
AM.

Thrupe Swallet - Dig to Date Length 400ft VR 175ft.

Main Diggers - Rich Witcombe, Clive North, Dave Speed, Tony Audley, Dave Morrison  
Mark Lunley, Nik-Nak, Tony Littler (MNRC), Dave King (MNRC), Tav and Cast of Thousands.

After 3½ years of 'interesting' progress, the dig has gone into something a bit more like it! Following a 125ft deep dig down a very steep fault-plane amongst boulders, an arduous 50ft horizontal excavation reached the head of a fine shaft - Persistence Pot. The shaft is 6ft x 12ft in shape and 45ft deep. At the base two streams sink in a low, choked arch - which looks like an easy dig once we get cracking on it. The shaft is well-decorated, with a fine grotto at the base of the shaft. There may be a further 'final' lead heading south 30ft down the shaft. See sketch over

Tav



### Crook's Hole Dig

16/4/03 Bob S & Lawrence, afternoon digging started lower in the floor and by the end of three hours the floor had lowered itself another 18-20 ft, totally open sight. Need gardening around the top before venturing to the bottom. Still have 18-20 of loose stones/mud to clear to clear the whole rift, but at least its wetter the opposite side a couple of knicks. Paula came and sealed her approval before we refined to Templeton's on a tourist visit to impress the diggers with our management. Never thought we'd see Mr Brewer operating a powered winch, and a big jobby at that! Crook's is not quite Thrupe but its getting there.

19-4-03 - Kev + Em - round trip in Swildon.  
Swildon was dry and empty! Nice to get underground again.

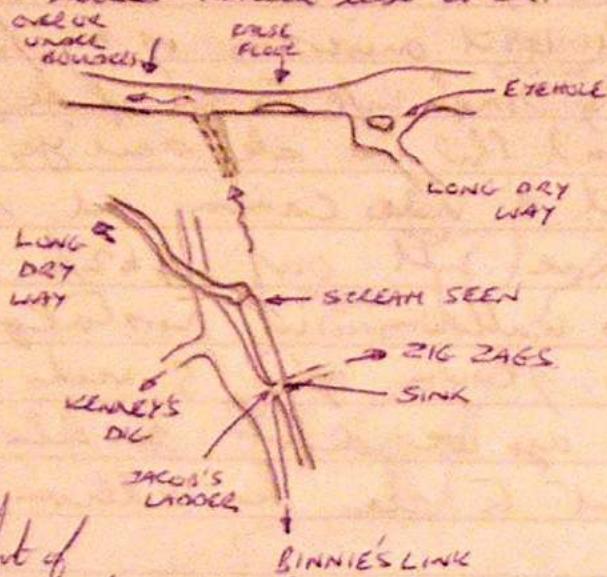
19/4/03 I suddenly realised that on Monday this Friday (Sat) was the 45th anniversary of my first caving trip to (to Swildon) Ronny Jones' wife to see if he could come out to play with me and Phil and she said "yes". So we returned to said cave with a video camera and shot some footage to compare with our 1962/4 8mm film of said cave. Spent 2 hrs wallowing in nostalgia and what little water was flowing after 5 weeks of drought. Unlike 45 years ago we didn't go below the 60, except for Phil who went to see Les Willmott's bubbles.

20-4-03. The younger element wanted to go caving - I refused to do anything too arduous or tiring. We compromised on Swan Holes (a good trip round all of it, photographing the cranes etc. And back in the pub (to show off) then off to Ridge Holes. Not remembering the place, I took the RT wall all the way round, then took a few haphazard routes into the central region - finding N. Stop shaft, the collapsed lift shaft, the wash platform and lots of graffiti. Also some horrendous roof falls. 2h and 1/2. with Steve & Kathy G, Pauline G. Phil H.

21-4-03 OFD Top. Jim Hollid at Stone Gough had a great note before dropping into the streamway and up to Top Waterfall. See large size note in streamway. Used equally dense (unless you want) note - the note in my note to use the first 5ft for 20 of purge time. Jim back to Stone Gough

23-4-03 - Hole, - Cecroft, nice! - some random DEXX & Wg.  
& an evening BBQ.

26-4-03 Swildon's Hole Solo trip to investigate the stream sink  
at the foot of Jacobs Ladder noticed last week.



The stream (small)  
was sinking at the foot of  
Jacobs Ladder, with a pool under the wall in an alcove. Drying the  
flow out did not affect the level.

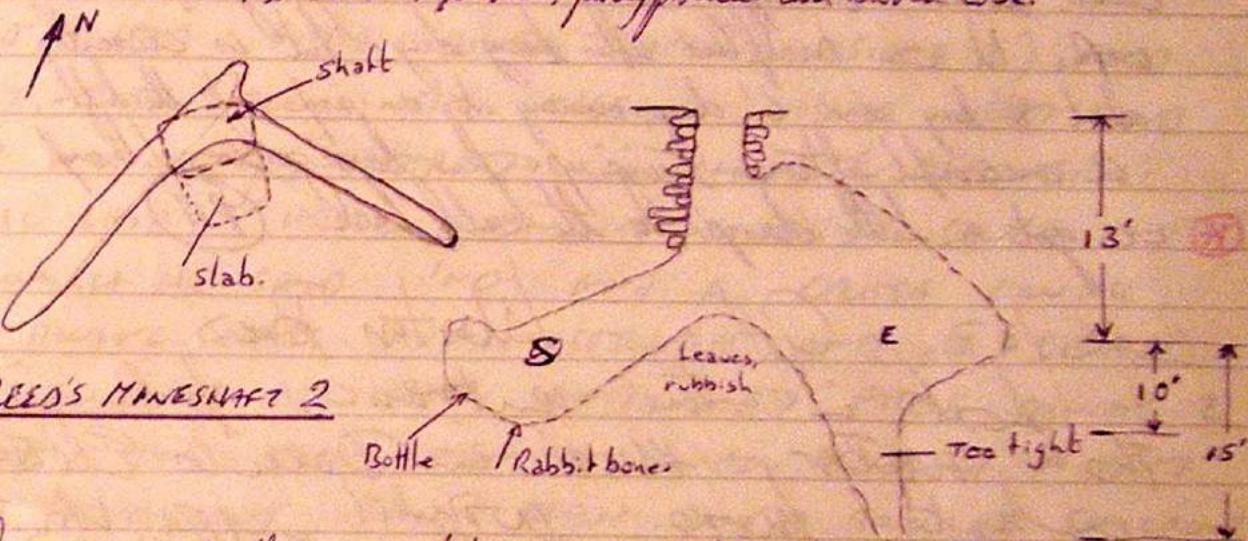
About 30' down the short dry way the passage turns left,  
at a big boulder jutted in the floor - immediately beyond this  
is a dry pothole. However, by the side of the jutted  
boulder I could hear running water. Clearing some stones  
and silt I uncovered a level stal floor, with a  
gap of about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " between it and the wall. Squinting  
into the gap I could just see running water! Since  
the SDW below the gap is dry (a small trickle  
enters in the floor a few yards before the Old Groote, but  
this is not associated) the small stream sinking in  
the floor of the SDW below Jacobs Ladder must flow to  
the right along a joint ~~but~~ at the head of the pothole.

I went on down the SDW to the OG, then back up  
the long dry way, noting that the water entering the  
OG from the SDW was discolored (less than 10 min after  
I had disturbed the sink in the SDW).

This water enters the cave at the upper end of the sector where it is easier to climb high on the roof over boulders and still stay to crawl in the water at stream level. The inlet (water flows = that sinking at Jacob's Ladder.) is from a narrow rift in the left wall. It runs straight for 30' at the end of which can be seen a 2' cascade. So - connection proved by muddy water. Probable difference between the two ends about 30', but non-navigable. Top end is far too tight, the lower end is closer sized, but would still need some rubble taken off. 25 min. Phil H.

26-4-03

Phil H., Brian P., Kathy G. to investigate a recess shaft found in 1984 and relocated a few days ago. Approx NOL 5424 4820. Rockham area. Just inside the wood, under a hedge bush, partly protected with baked wire.



The mine is at the angle between two rifts. The W wall is gauged to where the S rift goes off, the E wall is partly gauged, the plaster stones being jarrined across the E rift. The top of the shaft has a 2" limestone slab to the SE side of it.

A 13' ladder descent lands on a cone of leaf litter and branches and soil, in a rift about 30" wide. To the E, the rift is about 15' long, the floor sloping steeply down for about 15' but too tight to enter.

The cross rift peters out quickly to the N. It runs for about 20' to the S, at a steep angle about 18" wide, to enter a stay-

flored up to part of the sft (which may go, deeper with digging). The floor has a rabbit shelter, and a clear glass bottle filled with water (?) is propped up against the far end of the sft, which is choked. Total depth approx 40', length about 50'.

Slightly higher, and 50' to the NE (bearing  $68^\circ$ ) is Creeds Manshaft 1, which in 1984 was partly capped by a limestone slab, and protected by old bedsteads.\* It is now covered with a steel lid surrounded by cement, and protected by a strong lock. There is no indication as to who has done this.

On our earlier visit, the 1984 grid of the Creeds Cave (and only 1984 dig) was located by GPS as a tiny pitch on the field. However, between two yew bushes and at a bearing of  $288^\circ$  from Creeds Manshaft 1, approx 100' away we located Creeds Cave, under overhanging limestone at the very edge of the wood. It was backfilled after being dug, but is currently about 8' long and 6' deep, running at an angle into the hill.

A successful afternoon tying up a few loose ends, although <sup>(\*)</sup> we got a little damp on the walk back. (PH)

25/03 GB Weston Brod

Lost in the entrance, fell in the water, met in Devil's Elbow what more would you want? 2 prints at Hunter Test & Co (BDI) none found.

31/5/3 Swindons: WENT TO CONTINUE LOOKING AT PASCHENDAILE BUT MET 3 DISTANT CAVES EXITING @ THE mud sump. (THIS HAS BEEN A GROUP OF 4 ATTEMPTING THE ROUND TRIP, BUT HAD REACHED BLUE PERCIE, DESCENDED IT BONE UP STREAM IN SWINDONS & THINKING IT WAS 2 HAD THE FIRST OF THEM HAD FREE DROWNED SUMP 3

IN A NEOPRENE NO MASK NO HOOD DIVING  
IT WITH SUMP 1. WITH HE DIDN'T DIVING A  
2ND MEMBER FOLLOWED TO REALISE IT WAS TOO LONG  
AND TURNED BACK. AFTER WAITING FOR SOME TIME  
THEY REALISED HE WASN'T COMING BACK SO THEY  
RE TURNED THEIR STEPS TO THE MUD SUMP.)

AT 17' (TWENTY) THEY ESCORTED THE 3 CIVILS DOWN  
TO SUMP 2 VIA 1 TO SEE IF THE MISSING DIVER  
HAD MITAKED TO FREE DIVE 3 & 2 (NOT EXPECTING  
HE WOULD OF) WITHOUT GEAR AND PHIC READ (WITH  
ONE GEAR) FROM THE MUD SUMP TO BLUE PIERCE  
AND ON TO SWIMMERS 4 & 1 SUMP 3 WHERE PHIC  
WENT UP AND DIVED THROUGH TO GREAT AIR BELL  
(AT 17' HAD FREE DIVED THROUGH SUMP 2) AND  
THEN BOTH FOUND THE MISSING DIVER WEAR COLD  
AND NOT WEAR GEAR IN THE AIR BELL.  
PHILL (17') 'HELLO, HAVE YOU EVER SCUBA DIVED?'  
TO WHICH HE SAID 'NO' AND A CRASH COURSE  
IN DIVE WKS ADMINISTERED AND HE DIVED  
OUT FOLLOWED BY PHILL AND AT 17' FREE DIVED 2  
TO MEET HIS TEAM MEMBERS WHO ESCORTED A VERT  
COLD DIVER OUT. PHILL THEN DIVED BACK TO SWIMMERS  
4 LITTLE GEAR AND GEAR AND FREE DIVED BACK TO 2  
FOLLOWED BY 17' GEAR AND ALL ENTERED THE SAME SWIM  
PACIFIC DIVING FOR MOUNTAIN DAY! PHILL SHIRT, GEAR  
BAG AND 17' STEAMER.

4/5/3 SWIMMERS: QUICK COOL TRIP TO SUMP 4 - 17'  
CIVILIANS + GEAR. LEFT ALL GEAR @ SUMP 4 FREE  
DIVED 3 & 2 ON EXIT. PREMIUM FOR SWIMMED PHILL IN  
17'. PHILL SHIRT.

4/5/3 Swindons : DOWN TO 4 TO PICK UP LEAR DRUMMER  
FALLING TODAY. ON TO 12 DROPPING THE 7cm  
CLOUDS AT 4 FOR FUTURE PROGNG MAPS. WE  
SUGGESTED CAVING FROM SUMP 9 TO THE LUMBER END  
WHICH WAS PREDOMINANTLY UNPLEASANT AS WE SPENT  
2 HOURS WALKING IN THE STREAM WHICH CROSSED  
REACHED THE UNDESIRABLE MESSAGE OF SUMP 9 WITH  
A PIPE REACHING OUT AND NOT WORKING AS  
WE WERE LEAVING A WIRE HUNG UP WHICH CANNOT CUT.  
SUMP 4 (ONE IN THE LOW WATER AND NO FLOW)  
WAS DISGUSTING, YOU COULD FEEL THE WATER  
CRAWLING OVER YOUR LEGS & FACE ITS YOUR BUSINESS  
PROVIDE THE SEAL CLAMP CONSTRUCTION, SISTER, BLESS  
BROOK & ANDY SWINDON

4/5/3. SWINDONS ANDY JUDD, DAVE H<sup>Baldon</sup>, DEBBIE LEWIS  
40 AND BORN. BIMBLE ULTRA SERIES.

5/5/3. SWINDONS PHILL SHORT ANDY JUDD MICHELLE DANCO  
STEVE PIERCE.

HERO PHIL ESCACOS PRETTY DAMSEL ON FIRST CAVE  
TRIP WHILST ANDY GETS MUPPET WHO BREAKS HIS  
GLASSES HALF WAY THROUGH! BIMBLE DOWN TO  
2 AND BACK VIA WET WAY. MICHELLES SCARIEST  
MOMENT - BACK OF LADDER PHILL WHISPERS IN HER EAR  
"HOW'S IT GOING?" MICHELLE TURNS ROUND NARROWLY  
MISSING PHILLS NUTS TO SEE HIM STRADDLED  
ACROSS LADDER PITCH. MICHELLES BEST MOMENT:  
SEE WORST!!!

AN OUTSTANDING EXPERIENCE & REPEATED AGAIN READING SCARY  
(AND BY THREE HERO MEN. ONE <sup>DO</sup> RECOMMENDED FOR SURE.  
FEELING pretty euphoric about the whole adventure.  
Will probably do it again!

7/5/03

(3/4/03)

Crook's Hole dig. Last week in heavy rain and hail carried on digging the floor out. Hole at one end 3mts deep which we put a natural boulder down, suddenly the floor slipped away and a large rock/boulder had slid sideways and trapped the boulder. Digging with life times Bob S, Paula, Carmen & Steve. This week, a second hole has appeared on the opposite end of the rift similar to first, now we are digging a pile of rocks and boulders between the two. Bob S, Paula & Steve this week. Looking good but getting down and up is starting to look hairy esp. to older people. P.S. - Last Monday (Back Hol) Keith Fielder & Bob S went over to take another length of boulder, and Mr. S's mobile dropped out his pocket straight down the hole bounced once and landed right on the edge of the 3mtrs hole. Keith kindly volunteered to get plastered in mud on wet to fetch it back - still working.

7.5.03. St hukies

Aubrey Pete H. Colin & Keith F. - a special turnout to have a good spot reading session - it takes 4 people now. Good progress.

19/4/03 - Chaterhouse

Pete + Ali Moody.

Trip to look at the end dig to see if it is possible to inspire Pete again. Looks quite good as there is a solid left hand wall + roof. Three boulders will need to be barged in the floor and the right hand wall needs to be stabilized with cement. Also had a pot about in the upper part of the boulder choke - not nice!

Ali

3/5/03 ST. Cuthberts

Ali M. Geoff Ballard + Jon Edwards

First trip for Jon so good wamble about.

A.M.

6/5/03 Mano Farm.

Ali M. Nic Nak, Mad Phil + Dick Crans

General tourist and potos about in the end days.

14.5.03 Crook's Hole dig Bob S, Steve & Geoff Wilkinson. We had the esteemed presence of an old Lime Kiln digger to impress. The floor has dropped another 2 metres (Steve says its 8 feet), but going narrow. One large boulder not one small to chemically reduce in size in order to reduce congestion in the downward push. The weather was good to us tonight

18/5. Cleave - Ag - Flynnor - Lono, Succass & Geoff. Made it to the Gordon Archers in Newport - IT was Hauling it down so ABCESS TRIP. AND DECIDED TO GO TO PIRATE CHAMBER. Succass's last of ducks made for an UNDAY now THF!!

9/5/03 Western Bas. Bath S.M.S.

The search for the North West Passage alias Hazelbury Mine.

In, Tad's entrance, passages off to RT. very fully explored after explorers including 'Hells Crawls'. Nothing new found. Exited back over convinced that we'd been in Hazelbury as it's part of what is currently known as Box S.M.S.

Adjourned to the Quaymans Arms.

Bk in trip + Pub time

PW

36

23/5/03. Weston Woods.  
Swan mine. Round Trip!  
Swan Mine is 5 k. long!  
In via top (low crawl) entrance  
opposite Bus stop & Can Park.  
A low crawl (short) into mine  
passage. Beware hanging death  
just inside on RT.  
Then through trip into what is  
generally known as Swan Mine -  
The connection is made by  
keeping L then RT through arch  
into apparently blind, worked out  
ends, stop short on right &  
upwards into main part of  
Swan - RT. turn takes the  
route into the main route  
near to the exit.

Very enjoyable trip  
Adjusted to the Champs  
which was hearing. Few

18-5-03 Trip to Yorkshire - Pauline (that's me!)  
went to a cave called Kingsdale by Nicky NAK,  
Alan, Roz and Liam. My new suit was christened,  
paddled on the streamway, did some crawling  
(good job she invested in knee pads as well!!)  
Found a big long drop with a River at bottom,  
had to hold NICK NAK back as he was going  
for it. Then there was the waterfall - had  
to have assistance to get up it, much  
shoving and pulling but they got me up there  
somehow!! At the top, a knotted handky so

NIC-NAC went up to the top of it, looked out the view, and rocketed back down again. Then, I had to go back down the waterfall - got a soaking - Roz pushed me and I fell onto the arms of Alan-Brae man. Found a long dry passage - some one was digging it or had dug it out - I had a little lie down whilst the rest of the crew explored further. It's lonely and dark down there. On return - we crawled back - and got into a deeper passage - laughing and swimming out, tree were so many rocks and boulders on the way I moved them to one side as I departed, NIC-NAC told me to "stop tidy ing" and get a move on!! A good trip, most enjoyable. The exit out the large empty bon of beans was the hardest, had to be pushed and hauled out by Keilt and the welcoming party, the rain had stopped and the sun shone. A glorious end to a brilliant weekend. ?? Gapong gill next. Can't wait

— Paulie xxx  
xx

23/5/3 Sunburn : Phil Stent couldn't find anyone to play with so went off to play with myself! To St Pauls L mud sump having free climb down the 20' pira on to silder u tube (written lower low) was having fun so came out via the round trip and an excursion to surf 2 and beach hole. Very low water in the lake which means it was quite clear at surf 2'

25/5/03 SWILDONS - WATERGATE

ALISON + PETE MOODY, GEOFF BALLARD, MAD PHILL, SUNTAZ  
LOVELY PLACE, MUST GO AGAIN. I'M NOT AVAILABLE NOW FOR  
QUITE SOME TIME. SHAME THAT. BUT I DO RECOMMEND IT, ~~THE~~  
EYE BALL LICKING THAT IS.  
MANY THANKS FOR A GREAT DAY OUT SUNTAZ.

25/5/03 Swildons, Short <sup>Round Trip</sup> Tash + Phill Short

My first introduction to Somerset! First stop was the Hunters last night, apparently a compulsory part of every trip - the site where, after a few alcoholic beverages (I'm sure they were light ciders?), a plan was hatched to go to Swildons after closing to leave the ladder @ Twenty Foot Pot. The merry band included Nik Nak, Carmen, Abigail, Jo, John + Mike. We stumbled across the fields + made our way to Twenty Foot Pot, at which point there seemed no point in turning back so 5 of us, in our merry state, clambered our way to Shatter Pot. It was a fun introduction but did end up in a late night, got to bed after 4am. By 8am was ready for more, fueled by bacon sandwiches headed back to the scene of the crime, where surprisingly enough, everything looked slightly different! Did the short Round Trip, taking a detour down Blue Pencil Passage to see the lovely passageways between 3 + 4. I must say I did find the little cavers in Sump 4 fascinating, a huge ecosystem, blood worms, banded worms, little white thread worms, mini leeches on rocks contracting themselves, big green shrimp copulating with little yellow ones. Lying on my belly in this sump for about 15 minutes, Phill thought it was very amusing. Had my first free dive through sump one, was shorter than I expected (seven seconds to be precise) and emerged to an audience of about ten cavers. Batten's started getting low and was propelled onwards by promises of sausage sandwiches, which really hit the spot. I had a great first trip and a fantastic guide, am looking forward to coming back + poking around some more, caving but is very impressive!

Must go as the Hunter is calling . . .

Tash

24/5/03 : COCONUT CAVES PHILL SITZER, NIK-NAK,  
AOL MOON, MARY PITRE.

FOLLOWED AOL DOWN TO THE SQUEEZE THROUGH TO THE  
LARGE CHAMBER, UNEXPECTED AND VERY INVITING. BACK  
OUT AGAIN WITH MUCH SWIMMING ACROSS ~~LEAD~~ THE  
POOL OF WATER.

25/5/03 SWILDONS 9. MIKE THOMAS, JONATHAN, NIK-NAK,  
DR SO + CLIVE WESTLAKE.

Gentle Plod down to Sump 9 for Nik-Nak's first Cave  
Diving adventure. Shrimping Net would have proved useful at Sump 4.  
Any one for Potted Wessex Shrimps? Sump 6 proved exciting  
for JW. Please send reports of phantom divers to phantom@  
iinetmyhelmet.inthesump.com. Nice slow bumble out  
ShB.

24-5-03 G.B. TRIP - For Alison's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
Caving. Pauline (that me again) was invited to go to  
be do, my 1<sup>st</sup> Trip in G.B. I had much assistance from  
various volunteers to get me down the long drops  
and back up again. Got as far as the Bridge +  
Waterfall; where we had a picnic with  
various lemonades. The train Chamber I found  
impressive, most of the guests were amazed I had  
made it so far. Not as amazed as myself!  
The return trip was entertainment for all,  
SUN TAN and Phil shot helped me back up the  
'drop' by a new technique not tried before,  
thank goodness for Rope and Phil's super strength!  
So glad to see the Sun at the top, and the  
fields carpeted in Bluebells. Oh, my aching  
body!

Pauline N.B 2 trips in  
xx 1 week!!!

Crook's hole dig. The day started badly with just Mr Scamell, but help was promised later from Mr & Mrs Fielder as they knew Mr Scamell wouldn't last alone. First Mr S transported a generator, drill (heavy) + ropes and all the paraphanalia required for the job from the truck across the field by wheelbarrow. He then took the truck to the farm and charged and walked back along the lane and across the field to the dig, that's were he found he'd forgotten to ask for the key. After trying a hard-luck line with Mr Fielder and getting a basic bog-off we're not ready yet by about 1½ hours, it was decided the only thing we're to walk back to the farm and get the key.

Later, after drilling rock in thick dust and then Mr & Mrs F tipping up to drill more rock and turn the air in the dig into fumes, Mr S took the key back to the farm, and found he had both the normal key, ~~which~~ which had been in his pocket since last week, and the spare he'd walked back to the farm for. The moral to this is 'Don't trust your brain until you've checked every other avenue'.

There is a rock avalanche to be removed or concreted up for safety and the floor, although a bit tight for Scamell's, is still looking promising.

26-5-03 Swildon's 2.

Roz, Stuart, Gordon, (new lad) Paul + Kathryn  
nice Bank holiday Monday trip. Spent a lot  
of time trying to catch Roz up. Sun + was  
~~was~~ clear and nice to go 'fossing' for  
once.

29/5/03 Swildon's

PHIL HENDY, DAN HENDY and JAMIE HOLLOWAY  
Jamie's 1<sup>st</sup> cave. Better than I thought.  
It was strange looking at all the  
stalagmites & stalactites. Also fun when  
crawling through small gaps at  
Swildon's hole. Enjoyed the day. May  
be back another time. Cheers! H.

30-5-03 Phil, Dan H, Jamie H. Shelter Cave Dan led most  
of the way - no problems route finding. Boys in and out via 2 squeeze.  
Jamie temporarily stuck. Phil out via King Road.

Erosive passage - in and out. no big roofs. Dan then led Jamie  
along Bullock Way - reported lots of big black spiders. A good afternoon.

1/6/03

Chris G, Stuart Waldron  
East Twin  
Lionels + (Goons)

Had a bimble around Burrington to have a look  
at East Twin dig. A lot more work since I last saw  
it! But still not happy enough to go right through.

Ventured a short way down Lions. Needed more  
time really. C.G had a poke around in Goons. Will  
take handline next time & inspect boulder choke. Then  
had a walk up Cheddar and found one or two  
interesting holes on the way.

3/6/03 PHILL STANT & HELEN LUNA  
 SWELLING STANT NARROW TRIP AFTER HUNTERS, AND  
 WEAK STANT TO STRENGTH THE LEGS. MUSCLES AND  
 MUSCLES ARE.

Sorry Brian - log wrote up twice again! th.

10-5-03 Draenen - War of the Worlds.  
 Nik Nac, Tom, Simon Richardson, Ali Moody + Mad Phil  
 Excellent trip to War of the Worlds.  $5\frac{3}{4}$  hours to get to  
 WOW and to do Sendero Luminsa and wow North + South.  
 All impressed with the curly stal formations in Sendero  
 Luminsa. Surprisingly there were also many slippery boulders  
 in WOW - we think that it should be bring a boulder out  
 of Draenen instead of take a boulder in! From wow bad  
 to entrance  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs + we even made the Hunters.  
 Tom did the whole trip in a redface - he did look a bit  
 little hot at times.

13/5/03 Paric streamer + helmets Round Trip  
 Mad Phil + Ali Moody. Tourist + dig check.

20/5/03 Swallows SE Inlets + Love Fault Checks  
 Dick Crane, Ali Moody, Andrew Moon, Tom Steam, Mad Phil  
 Trip to check if the Love Fault connecting duck into  
 Watergate was open. - it was. Rips into Love Fault were  
 broken halfway down - must have been very exciting for someone!

24/5/03 am Cuchos Lake

Phil Short, Nik Nac (brave man), Mad Phil + Ali Moody.  
 A warm up trip ready for the afternoon.

24/5/03 pm - Ali + some friends to G.G. Great Chamber /

Main chamber etc. This is the 30th anniversary of Alsion's first weekend at the Wessex + first Mendip cave. Lemonade + cake in Main chamber to mark the occasion. Mrs Preve's fruit cake was very well received.

25/5/03 - Watergate (see Sun Tan's trip report). All ducts were open

26/5/03 Draener Round Trip + replaced buckets + also top on Low Fault

Nic Nak, Mad Phil, Alsion Moody, Dr Jo + Gawn Newman. More slippery boulders hopping

27/5/03 REST DAY!

31/5/03 Eastwater - Westend / Southbank.

Ali Moody + Mad Phil.

Trip to reached the end of Tooting Broadway on a beautiful sunny day. The sun was definitely shining at the end of Southbank but the final 'perched' sump discovered last August (Canary Wharf) had dropped 3'. Possible to get in about a body length but seems quite silted + would probably need digging to get through. Not really a very good or hopeful diving prospect. Also had a look at the passage above the sump but this just bogs back towards the way we came in. The pea gravel dry on the left of Tooting Broadway was flooded with a black + orange sludge - not nice, so left well alone. The main down stream sump (with the water from Lambeth Walk) actually looked quite inviting for once - clear + no slime. Worth a dive (it has never been dived) but will probably hit silt as the water obviously backs right back up <sup>to the roof of the approach passage</sup> in winter. It was also interesting to note several clumps of fairly fresh looking grass <sup>by the sump post</sup> very similar to the ones in the entrance niche. This suggests that the water route from the entrance to Lambeth Walk must be fairly open. Slithered + scrawled back out to the sun. 7 hours. Going off this part of Eastwater - I think another

12 your boat is called for, before the next weekend trip.  
the

3/6/03 Singing River Holes

Jude + Adrian Vandeplassche + Rob Vandeplassche, Did Coors,  
Ah Moody + Kermit.

Excellent trip thanks to guided tour from Kermit, who knows  
the place extremely well. Water levels very low in the  
creek - possible to paddle across to the end.

Cook's Hole Steve (num) Bob S, Carmen, Kell Fielder + on loan from  
St Lukes Pete Hamm + Colin - The snappers last week cracked rock  
but not powerful enough for the amount of rock to be removed  
(to enable minimum Scamwell width of passage). The small  
stone causes the willies with St Lukes diggers, so we're promised  
to cement it up. It will make the load resting on it a  
lot more safer. Floor still going straight down is open  
but only 6" wide, at the moment. A winch is in  
the offing to raise the technical quality of the dig.  
Couple of photos of Carmen with her wine bottle + Pete at the  
bottom.

8/6/03 OFD - Mark + Bean

A quick trip to one trip plus a diversion to  
Waterfall Series - Well Worth it. Did the tunnels as  
the streamway was too bad to be spotting.

8.6.03 Swildons Hole

Stu, Phil + Brian + 3 Nekyologists (Amy,  
Roxy + Vix) - from UCW

The Nekyologists first experience canning + Stu,  
Phil + Brian bravely led us part the way down  
Swildons. Took it very slowly (due to M fitting  
suits and basic stoniness here!) but enjoyed it

Do very much? Really amazing adventure in the caves. Crawling, Sliding & getting wet = WICKED! It was great to the formations in the cave, for example Jaws & Curtains!

Our intrepid leaders did a fantastic job guiding the way & pulling Roxie back up! (Well done Stu & Brian!!) Archaeologists returned battered & bruised though apparently not enough to be excused from a days digging! All the first timers had a fantastic time & plan to Cave again & who knows perhaps there will soon be a three person University College Worcester Caving Society!!

Thanx again & to the guys for volunteering (quite willingly, surprisingly!) to take us down there - the most amazing experience! WE'LL BE BACK!!!

[Its no good, they still have to return to the archaeological dig at Stanton Drew tomorrow - mattocks at the ready! Phil + Brian to help lifting our infamous stone hopefully too - fingers crossed for a 4000 yr old burial underneath, if the ropes dont break... Dr Jo]

9th June. Stanton Drew - Archaeological dig at regional buildings.

Problem: 1 tonne conglomerate boulder (? robbed from stone circle) lying on section of wall. Archaeologists want to see what is underneath. Terms and conditions A straight, vertical lift needed on entire boulder (ie no bang) No chance of getting chains or ropes underneath. The Solution Borrow set of levers from Mff Pitts Lounge wall. Spend morning cutting wedge-shaped hole with rock drill, cold chisel and hammer. Enter

farmer tickled from field left, with big tractor fork and loader and chain.  
Due to correct estimation of boulders c.o.g., a straight lift is achieved with  
minimal damage to underlying wall. Boulders salvaged by farm, placed as ledge  
for further use, boulders returned without trouble. Only then did we tell  
Dr. Toda we had never done this before! No treasure or burial discovered,  
just a section of wall. Nevertheless, a triumph for 19th and 21st century  
technology in combination. A nice sunny day out as well. Phil Ho Pres.

- CUEARS CRATES: don't know what we're going to do with them  
(AND THE BIG MARMOS).

10/6. Croft B. & NYRA. — Short RawoTair.

NYRA'S FIRST TIME THROUGH THIS SOME FOR MANY YEARS. —  
NO RESERVA! MIND YOU THIS WATER WAS CRYSTAL CLEAR.  
~ 800 eart

11/6/03. Crook's Hole

NHASA subcontracted to wall up our hanging ~~leather~~ leadaches in  
the gulf. An interesting afternoon wedged in a slot, pattered with  
buckets of silt and stone. The dig will be a lot easier when the  
width increases — and the ladders are closer together! Phil H.  
(Work overseen and buckets hauled by Bob Scamell.) P.S. I must  
add, Philip did very well and did exactly  
as instructed, I think he'll make digging  
status yet, but still needs a little guidance.

Evening over. Carmen Paula Stevens & Bob S.  
Dug ~~4~~ very deep shot holes and had a  
laugh. It's what diggings all about.

10-6 - Eastwhere Paul W & Mak

Dry? how you supposed to find  
the way out without water?

KERBBOZGEE

14/6/03

Mark Helmore, Bif, Chris G, Paul Wateling  
OFD I to top.

Glad Excellent trip, low water levels in streamway.  
we did it this way round as I didn't fancy walking  
back up that hill!

14/6/03 PHILL SAYER, ALEXANDER MOON, MHD  
PITIE & GEOF BACCIANO.

SWIMMERS HOLE : AFTER 10 YEARS OF  
TRYING TO GET THE WATERGATE CONNECTION  
TRIP NONE FINALLY GOT A DRAWN UP TO  
SHOW ME THE WAY. FANTASTIC TRIP WELL  
WORTH THE WAIT. Didn't need to bail any of the ducks, so all  
got some good ceiling sucking practice!

15/6/03 PHILL SAYER, ANDY STEWART, ANDY SAYER  
& LINDA.

RETURN TRIP TO PASCOTTENDALE 2. REPAIRED  
LINE IN SWAMP 1 (PASCOTTENDALE) USED LOW  
WATER (NO STREAM AT ALL) FINALLY WAS  
ON END SWIM WITH 2 LARGE HIN BRECS.  
PASCOTTENDALE 2 IS A MUCH HOBBLER PLACE  
SWAMP 2 UNDULATING AND THE DRY PASSAGE  
ABOVE WOULD REQUIRE MAJOR MANUFACTURE  
OVER MULTIPLE TRIPS.

16/6/03 Eastwater - Primrose

All M + MadPhil

Trip to top of second pitch to check that MadPhil  
fitted the Primrose squeeze in both directions.

Kingsdown Mine. NikNak & Gantts.  
Nice round trip - good beer.

17/6/03 ROZ FIELDER'S FIRST TRIP TO GODSTON CHURCH.  
We discovered that Roz had never been down Godstone Church so  
trip to final chamber with Nik Nak, Dick Cane, Kermut, Lynn?  
Ali M, Adrian, Jude + Rob VDP to look after her. Nik Nak  
managed to pass Hellish tight uphill so is declared 'officially'  
thin'. Roz got through 'J' bend, and put boulders back neatly for N.W. - Ali  
to wrangle his way out!!

20/6/03 Eastgate - PRIMROSE POT  
Ali M + Mad Phil.

GTR trip to bottom. We had hoped to survey the South  
Passage extensions but the V tube was blocked. Surveyed  
everything that was open + back up the pitch + through the  
squeeze. Found a good digging site, which would possibly  
give a connection to the 13. pot + Sand Chunks, supposedly  
only 20' away. We like the idea of a Primrose - B pot  
- Dolphin Round Trip. Hopefully have a go at this in September.  
The digging is easiest from the Primrose Pot end but the  
trip definitely isn't. Hard trip with only 2 people - 6½  
hours. We were an hour overdue - sorry Brian.

Ali

21/6/03 Crook's Hole

Aubrey + Bob Gally looking on.

The lid - previously described as  
bomb proof - proved not to be!  
I found a simple way of opening it  
by remote control.

20/21-6-03. Phil H, Brian P - two - built new 3-storey banks for the  
dwarves. pity its in the changing room - but they can be used  
for temporary lat storage when no dwarves in residence.

21/6/03 Charterhouse ~~xxxx~~ Cave

oth Moody & Tony Boycott.

Trip for Tony to bang a couple of boulders in the end dig. Also went down Tyringe Great Swallet + Dibbles Hole.  
oth.

24/6/03. Draycott Step Looked at Draycott Cave, found front Skights Cave - very overgrown, probably another Draycott cave. Interesting (?) found dol. cong. outcrops to the S. of the road, 487513.

Phil H, B & S Survey

21/6/03 Crook's Hole Aubrey Bob & Gilly Scamell

Aubrey managed to open the very heavy galvanised 3' square lid in a split second! What has occurred 30 feet below is yet to be found out. There was quite a noise, and a pillar of brown mud, dust and rocks suddenly appeared from the ground - it impressed us. The smoke smelt nice but we didn't indulge too much!

18/6/03 Swildons (Pauline), Mark H, Jim + Bob

Lovely evening walk to Swildons. My first trip in 31 years!! Could only remember the entrance, got to be 20' + watched Mark go down to bottom of Pitch "Spider-Man" Way. via Jacobs ladder - (with help) + a bit of pushing from Mark + got to the top again. Many thanks -

PHB

20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> June Trip to Yorkshire Calf-holes -

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Keith, Roz, (Pauline) Janine, Liam, Pete Hann, Gordon Kaye, Malc Foyle, to an 'easy' cave they said, just for me.

Well, I did not expect the ladder entrance, never been down one before, well I have now!

Anchor man Gordon; + I insisted Malc held the rope also, just in case. Glad to reach the bottom - complete with waterfall - I stood in pool + promptly fell in deep water up to my neck. Wet trip from the start. Turned right - down a long narrow passage - wet, lots of crawling + struggling - Keith had "Housemaids knee" + had to turn back - we seemed to come to a narrow dead end. Had gone the wrong way.

Found another passage where problems started! - narrow drop down hole x 2 - Malc + Gordon could only get  $\frac{1}{2}$  way through so they turned back to be ladder entrance then Malc joined us! - realizing he could not return through the double squeezey bit. Came to an almighty big drop - complete with waterfall - only way down for Janine + Liam + myself was by a quick make-shift harness + rope; after a quick instruction on how to abseil down a cliff lesson from Malc, I went over the top + edged downwards - beginning to enjoy it "James Bond" fashion when I reached the bottom. That bit was great. Followed by stream to more "which way do we go now"? - and found a sheep skull.

lots of water followed a ravine to a  
Knotted handly? Do we go up these?  
Pete climbed the rope, no - wrong way -  
Climbed over huge Rocks and crossed  
wide deep drops - Saw a light in the  
far Distance - it was the rescue party,  
Gordon. He led us to the exit & was  
never so glad to see green fields +  
sheep on all my life.  
A super trip for me, but at the time I  
was a little nervous. Thanks Malc for  
all your patience.

25/6/03

Lac Louise

xx

Crook's Hole dig. Steve, Paula & Bob S. Aubrey's adjustments  
on Saturday last were ample for the time being.  
We've had everything tonight, from pea-sized gravel  
up to large <sup>single</sup> rocks. The largest of which took four on  
the hauling rope. Fortunately the St. Luke's crew came  
over in time to help haul, and of course Aubrey wanted  
to see the damage he'd caused. The narrow rift is  
not so narrow now. St. Lukers: Aubrey, Pete Hamm, Colin  
and Keeth Fielder.

25/6/03 Templeton - "the Quarry". Hungryons block of limestone beaten  
into submission. Bud expected any day from Arvey Limestone. 4 skips up,  
dump full (failed to start it). Trying to clear route for next 6' of  
railway. Tusha has found another track at the bottom. Phil H., Brian P.,  
Jonathan Riley, Advisor, Mitch, Eric D., Tusha.

27/6/03 Above trip to try to find adit(s) down here by Abey 30ish  
years ago, but uprooted at the time by very dead cows. All filled in,  
one 6' hole found, in a cutting about base of a cliff (used to burn  
brushwood) but covered with large stones. To left of limestone in

Nature Reserve on Draycott New Road below the Under Clif. Follow the track from the road to the back trees, head into the thicket, gully is above a large abandoned rabbit rabbit bank. ABH.

Saturday. 28<sup>th</sup> June. Philip, Christine + Paulee.  
to Cuckoo Cleeves.

Luckily I spent the morning practising on a ladder on SRT. Tower under instruction from Tkakoti. This helped me to get down the entrance, once inside, I was not really enjoying it. Got to the bottom, then saw ~~to~~ return to the entrance. Got attacked by Horse Flies at the opening - made a quick return to car. I will not do this car again. First Family Trip - all 3 of us together. I have the blues to prove it. Paulee.

24/5/03 Leg, Rhys Watkins, Patrick Warren, Karen Lane  
Notts 2hrs

Climb down very impressive scaffold lined shaft to Notts streamway. Upstream, covering several inlets and all the way to the Notts Sump (several sections of swimming involved!). Were quite pleased to ~~be~~ be out of the cave and it not raining. Shame we had a torrential downpour whilst getting changed.

24/5/03

Leg, Patrick Warren + Sean X (cpc)  
Slaughter Stream 3hrs

I managed to go through 3 sets of lights on a ~~two~~ three hr trip!  
Anyway, tried upstream to get to dead dog

probably More (SEC)

passage, but couldn't remember the way on. Then went downstream to downstream sump. Back out via crossover(??) passage and into the higher level passage that leads to ~~the~~ the dead dog. Out via the way we couldn't find on the way in. First time into this cave for leg since just after it was found (10 yrs. ago ??). First trip for the others since the day before!

28/6/03

Cuckoo Cleftes

Chris G, Stu H, Pauline G.

Bumble down fairly unimpressive rift. PG didn't really enjoy it & has bruises to show! CG got molested by horseflies & ran away on exit! (see before).

29-6-03

Swillons Hole.

Rog Fielder, Bob Hardiman (prospective member), Abigail Joyce, Nick Lewis, Chic Westlake.

A jolly trip to Blue Pencil Passage, down to Swillons IV, and back through the Troubles. 3 hrs 50 minutes.

29/6/03 - Longwood August

Gavin Newman, Chris Grosart, Stu Waldron

Stu decided he didn't fit the entrance rift, so returned to ferret in the stream. Gavin & Chris continued to the end (excluding grovelly further reaches) and returned, having a look at upstream passage before the exit. Smashing trip.

6/7. - Sarcoons.

JON (E), MYRA, PAUL S. MEL & Geoff.

MEL'S 3RD CAVING TIP. → (1<sup>st</sup> GOATCHURCH TO END OF DEXION EXTENSIONS. TWO FATHOMS/HOURS) & DOWN TO A THROUGH SUMP 1 → IN WET WAY & OUT (AND DRY).

28-IV. OFD II to SMITHS ARMOURY 5 Hours

KEN, MR. DAVE, BIF, GEORGE, PAUL W., MEL

now I know why black paint is so expensive  
Some careless carvers keep spilling it on the floor!

2-VII LONGWOOD / AUGUST PAUL W MEL 2 Hours

CAVING WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON TO GET RID OF THE EFFECTS OF THE CROWN'S VARIOUS FIRE ALBS  
Sleep sound your country's defence is safe in my hands hoo-hoo!

4/7 Ridge Mine - Weston Brothers.

Weston MK II insists we still have to find the Northwest Passage - Weston MK I not sure it exists.

Tapped/crawled over 'deads' ad infinitum but nothing new found.

Still it was fun.

Long chat with Mark at the Kegymans Arms afterwards.

① 31/6/03 Alison Mood, Nin Naa, Paul Stoenzlaer  
FESTIVAL:

TO WESTEND SERIES TO DIVE THE WESTEND SUMP.

CARRYING THE DIVING GEAR TO THE REMOTE END OF THIS CUE WAS BRUTAL ON THE WAY IN

which was our hole. Replaced the two short timbers on the port and starboard lower post. Anchored at west end hauled up and entered the camp with Alison's wetsuit as the decked as there was nothing else. Feet first found into a 45° slope which leveled off at about 7m of depth. Got stuck at this point so removed my mask and climbed on with it in mind. Took off wetsuit mask in Gravel and mud were by feet with feet and tail it was blocked and round with silt and debris. Unlocked myself and crawled out.

He hauled me forward the camp had passed by round boulders with Alison waiting him and I also wanted to get out. Got to the camp (which was very low) and entered feet first up to port without my mask found it to be totally blocked as well. Remained the same boulders with the gear. Rather exhilarating and with Thomas to Alison for telling me there are no minnows here for support.

①

4/7/3 PHILL SHORT & TASH MITCHELL  
SWIMMERS 2 TO DIVE COUNTERS FOR S/7 DIVED  
OUT through the tree roots!

5/7/3 PHILL SHORT, ALISON MOODY, NIK NAK, PEGE MOODY, ANDY STEWART, TASH MITCHELL

Trip into Swindon's 9 and out through the Damp Link. Took 3 litre cylinders to dive 2, 3 + 4, then Andy kindly dived back through 4 to leave our gear there so we had an unencumbered

onward journey which was a good thing because that bypass of 6  
was hard going, but it was all great fun getting to nine. Then took  
a side trip up Brutch's Tube until I got totally jammed, muddy +  
tight and thought it would be a nightmare to get out. Alison of  
course made it to the very end w/ Phill close behind. However coming  
out was easier than I thought as it was so wet + muddy + downhill,  
it was just a slide out. I don't know if I have ever been that  
muddy before! Had a good soak in nine and then headed out the  
Demp Link which was a challenge but I am glad I did it, some quick  
tight squeezes + long crawls. Came out from Shatter Series to complete  
the Round Trip which was utter luxury at that stage. Standing up again  
was fantastic. Phill waited for Nik Nake + Andy at Sump 2 as they were  
retrieving our gear via Blue Pencil. Alison + I went on out via the  
long dry route. Was exhausting but a good sense of achievement  
to have done it.

6/7/03 PIKE MOUNTAINS, ROSS FIEDER, GREG BROCK,  
ANDY CHEEL, TASH MITCHELL, PHILL STENT 2 PERSON.  
AFTER ALLOWED, GRAND CIRCLE TRIP AND  
CLOCKWISE IN SIX HOURS 20 mins. VERY SOON  
FOR THIS IN VERY LOW VARYING CONDITIONS. WITH  
SMALL VIEW (UPPER).

5-7-03 RIDGE MINE. Phil H, Brian and SHEILA!! Peter, Ross Fieder, Leon, Team + 2,  
Gardens, Cookie, Jo, Dan (guest). A good wade road, being about half of it.  
Impressive roof falls, kids fascinated by lone Cow. Didn't see Geckos this time.  
Sheila did extremely well - and walked 3 miles down Valley bottom and up black  
Rock to Longwood Valley Sink and back a Sunday. Only I except me. (P)

6/07/03 Dave Mark Mae Bean Kew 2PM

Swildon Watergate. Breez down to the top of Watergate, having overtaken a party. Bean dropped a ladder down to lower fault chamber the sump was dry. Rapid progress to Swildon Four. Some performance getting up just climb into the slot of Watergate. Then the FUN began, lots of gloop accompanied by hysterical laughter and much Hoo Hoo's! No eyeball biting though.

Climb out of lower fault chamber felt like hard work even with the ladder! Completed Round Trip & had a few view stops out from sump one. The most fun you can have with your cloths on. TOP TRIP.

7/7/03 The wayward Prodigal Son has returned to the fold. Bob S picked him up from Bristol Bus Station at 130pm - straight to the Hunters for a Butcombe. Max has come home but Christine has only allowed him a day, he has to go back to London tomorrow. If he behaves and not injures himself he may be allowed out again after Legg Karen's wedding. Looked in at Crook's Hde tonight,

10-7-03 SANTAN, MR DAVE, NIK NAK

SWILDONS DAMP LINK. SANTAN & NIK NAK DINED THROUGH SWILDONS 1, 2 & 3 TO MEET MR DAVE IN SWILDONS 4 HAVING ARRIVED VIA BWT PENCIL. NIK NAK FIRST THROUGH & FOLLOWED BY SANTAN, THEN BOTH BACK AGAIN. DECIDED WE WOULD ALL FREE DIVE SO SANTAN FIRST THEN NIK NAK WITH DIVE KIT TO COLLECT MASK FROM SANTAN TO BRING BACK FOR DAVE. MASK DELIVERED TO DAVE, NIK NAK DROPPED KIT AND BOTH FREE DIVED TO SWILDONS FIVE. DOWN TO SWILDONS 7 WHILST WAITING FOR SIGNERS TO

Dr. Phil would not accept traps in there until they referred to traps and instructions  
from Penhill Island and many traps. The air in the sink wasn't very  
fresh most of it never had been used the last time I referred (see 5-7-03).  
The only news was that no Barling was recorded and that trap so  
far except was a little earlier.  
and not as smooth nor sooner and didn't wait back on first place  
to fish back marked 3, 2 & 1. Mr. and detached marker and invited  
in the red snapper.

#### RADIOLOCATION - SWILDON'S HOLE, DESOLATION ROW 12/7/03

Underground aerial located at Sandwich Chamber.

Located in field behind back wall of car park of Victoria Inn, 4.3m from centre of wall.

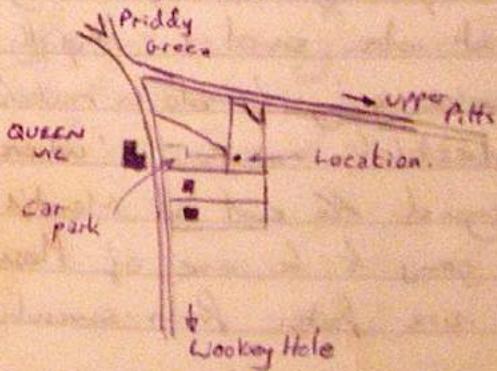
NGR. ST 52850 50753 Alt. 788.6ft (Using GPS)

Depth: ~~42.5m~~ 73.3m

Bearings: 121° (True) to Pen Hill Mast

89° (True) to NW corner of cottage along Priddy road.

Phil H, Jonathan & Kathy, + Anne + Deano (Fitter crew) A brilliant job the  
rolls were total. Extreme working conditions - blizzards and rain  
tornadoes lifting hay to tree-top height. Best bit was taking underground train  
we had finished and were returning to the Vic for a cold beer - they  
were unable to brew as one vendor had left the light at the bottom  
of Victoria Avn.



Sat 12th Suttor's Hole Glowing photography below the showerfall.  
 Kathy, Christine, Jo W, Jo W, Laura. Photographer Phil H. 1st lighting  
 technician Nic Nal, 2nd lighting technician Cookie. Here we suffer for  
 one at. Some (with Phil) hours Andy Bell, Stuart to go down  
 to escort the 12 party out with kit. The rest out to the Hunter's  
 to collect essential supplies for their return.

Phil H.

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Swildons Hole - Greg Brock, Phil Short, Gavin  
 Newman & Andy Stewart-

The Psycho, his mate, his monkey and a cameraman had a  
 successful trip down to sump 12, where upon the  
 climbing of Victoria Aven began. We eventually made it to  
 Sandwich chamber ~~at~~ at 15:10 (4 hours after entering the cave).  
 Much to our surprise ~~the~~ we got communications with the  
 surface immediately. For the next hour we waited for them  
 to do the radio location while we tried to light the stove by  
 shorting a battery because some monkey left the lighter by sump  
 12. After the radio location we headed back to 12 filming  
 desolation row en-route. ~~at~~ We then set up the charge and....  
 5-4-32-BANG. All the water then jumped out the sump  
 which Gavin got excellent footage of.

The trip back to sump two was hard work with all the gear  
 and we were pleased to see the hordes of WRC members  
 there to help us.

An Excellent, Exciting but very hard trip.

- Oh how they lied... 'we're going to blow up sump 12, why don't you  
 come and film it' Hg said. 'Great idea said I... stupidly'.  
 Comes the day... 'Oh by the way we're going to do a radiolocation  
 at the same time... at the end of desolation row...' 'where's  
 that said I' 'Oh somewhere just beyond the end of Mendip'  
 says Phil... 'Oh fuck says me, its going to be one of those  
 trips...' Result - 30 mins of nice footage from somewhere

I'm never going again with a broken body... Thanks to the guys for putting up with me making them crawl through that bit just one more time!...

13/7/03

### Star Mine

Paul Wakefield, Cooke, Jo Williams, Chris G.

Trip to further reaches of Star, through slot/choke. Unstable, but possible into 50 ft of passage with 2 more wheelbarrows. Excellent trip.

13 July 03.

Nad, Stuart, Waldner & NH Hah to return for a "skills" sort of refresher / training / consolidation trip mainly for the benefit of Nad & Stuart. Nad says the RH bolt won't pull couldn't find the ponderous deviation into the crack above the recall pitch, so we continued on down pitch 2, leaving NH Hah to cut up 1 (to feed his cats??). Stuart then exceeded himself by descending the first pitch - this on his first ever via bolted way. All in all an excellent day.

Crook's Hole dig. Paula, Carmen, Steve & Bob 8.

Dilled some deep shot-holes with Keith F's new drill bits - good stiff drills - 3 ft deep<sup>some</sup>. Aubrey came over from St Lukes with the rif-riff and did the necessary with wires and brass things and cord stuff on a slab. It was solid. A house a field away suddenly put on all outside lights. Thunder was expected, they probably thought it had arrived. Next week should be good digging.

Sat 19th July Templeton. The dig face below the railway has collapsed, so the bucket carrier will now have to detour. Tasha and Tim Young welded new roller onto railway-welded ship (including safety chain) re-fixed an expanding strop to act as psychological and propping up the hanging death, measured for an RST as part of a store trap for protection against falling rocks, and discussed the new crush cable. The old one is at its limit of length and is fraying. Aided by Phil Herdy, observed by Carmen.

19/07/03 AGGIE

Mark Helmore, Bean, Max & Paul Wakeling.

A reasonably quick (sub 1 hour) Grand Crawl to show Max & Paul the delights of this superb Welsh Cave. They were impressed, although 'it goes on a bit' was said once or twice.!

19/7/03 - Yorkshire Trip:- to Care - <sup>IBRETH (Edith)</sup> April Nr. Dent.  
Entrance crawl through Spiders Nest! Yuk. Us lot, Pauline, Roz, Janine, Liam, Sam, Pete & Marc, NIK NAK, "Bob the Builder" Abbey, Kate Lavender - into Big Chamber mosh around. Managed to climb up on to Big Rock with verbal assistance from NIK NAK - but could not step up across to waterfall - too far a leg stretch - Roz + kids went down a tight little hole + explored further - ? bottlenecked out + waited for return - Marc assisted Janine getting out of tight hole + assisted Roz with his boot + pushed his back down again! Much laughter - no little tops, except for Spiders who had rebuilt these walls by the time we made our exit. River Bed - Dry as a bone - Slipping on Rocks to entrance. Have you ever tried a journey in Keith's LandRover without any fuel? You coast for miles through Yorkshire Dale praying for a garage + there aren't any. Try it sometime.

Pauline  
xx

12th July - Grove Caves Portland - went to look for the entrances - found them but the sea was too inviting - went snorkeling. Kev & Em

13th July - Back to Grove with lids and lights this time. Did all the caves - not bad for Portland. Kev & Em

26th July - OFD - Smiths A. Kev, Em, Tony, Dave, Mark (Benton)  
Excellent trip - turned round in streamway - quite high!

✓ 22nd to 23rd July. GAVIN MEMORIAL, SO WISER, LAURA THOMAS  
STEVE MINTY, NIK NAM, JOLIE TROUTT, FRANK, MING THOMAS  
AND PHILL STOUT. OTTER HOLE, LITERSTON  
AIM TO DO THE OVER THE RIDE TRIP TO FISH THE  
HALL OF SHIPS. ENTERED HOLE AT 10:00 AND MADE  
GOOD PROGRESS TO MENDIPIM WIT WITH LARGE AMOUNT  
OF DEBRIS. IN SMALL CHANNEL JUST PRIOR TO THE  
FINAL CHANNELS TO THE MEERAS LAURA SWUNG AND FOUL  
HANGING HER PECULIAR. SO DID THE ASSESSMENT AND  
BOURK STABBLE ON A FEW ROCK WRAPPED IN SWIMMING  
BUOYS. NIK NAM AND JOLIE WENT BACK TO THE RESCUE  
BUOY AND REVERSED WITH THE USEFUL DEBRIS. LAURA  
WOUND WITH POKERS ON 2 CONCRETE BLOCK FORMED OUT AT  
THE SAME TIME. GIVING HER POKES NEAR TO THE LAST  
BETWEEN HALL OF SHIPS TO REFRESH AND OTHER USEFUL  
DEBRIS, SHE REMAINED WITH TWO ARMED (NOT ROD) WHICH  
WERE CUT UP TO MAKE DIVER CLOTHES AFTER A COUPLE  
OF HOURS SO SHE WOULD EXITED DUE TO 10 DEBRIS AND  
COLD. STEVE, LAURA AND PHILL FORMED THE RESCUE TEAM  
HAVING A HORROR DROWN EACH HOUR.

THE FIRST TEAM ARRIVED AND MADE DOCTORS AND  
LAWNS SOME POKER HOLE AND SHE WAS PLACED IN A  
SPRING BOUND AND IMMEDIATELY A NEW BUT FRAGILE AND WEAK

PROFESSIONAL (HINT) WAS NAME. PROBABLY THE  
LARGEST OF THE MENDIPIAN WAS AND ON THIS THE  
SALOMON AND CLIMBES TO THE FIXED LADDER JUST  
BEFORE TO THE SUMP. HERE THE RESCUE TEAM  
AND VOLUNTEER EXPLORERS HAD THE CLIMB COMMENCED.  
PROBABLY THE NIGHT SAWDUST AND MUD. THE LAST  
50' OF EASY WITH ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT BUT A  
SUCCESSFUL EXIT WAS MADE AT 16.30 PM 2 HOURS  
31 MINUTES IN THE TIME.

THE RESCUE TEAM DOCUMENTED FURNITURE INDUCED  
WATER FLOW THERE, A HIGH LEVEL OF MORALE WAS  
WITH THIRTY RESCUERS AND IT'S NOT EVERYONE GOING  
TO THE END.

26-7-03 RETURN TRIP TO OTTER HALL CAVES  
GAVIN, PHILL, NIK NAK, SONTAN, (TOM + 2 - SOUTH WALES)  
A RETURN TRIP TO PICK UP ALL OF THE FILMING GEAR AND RESCUE GEAR  
LEFT OVER FROM LAURA'S RESCUE. A MASSIVE 18 BAGS WERE CARRIED  
OUT BY THE 7 OF US. THOSE THAT HAD NOT YET SEEN THE HALL  
OF THIRTY WENT FOR A TOUR. "NIK NAK MADE THE MISTAKE OF  
STATING THAT HE HAD BEEN MORE IMPOSED BY STAL IN CASTLER."  
THE MUD IN THE ENTRANCE SERIES WAS EXTREMELY STICKY AND MOST  
POE IT WAS REMOVED FROM THE CAVE ON OVERSUM.

✓

25/7/03. ABIGAIL + ROS.

MANNER FARM - SPOTTING TRIP AFTER JULY DOWNFALLS.

ALBERT'S EYE - HAD IN FLOWING WATER - NEEDED WETSUIT!

3 HRS TRIP.

26-7-03. 18 MEMBERS TO SHUTE SHELF CAVE.  
PHOTOGRAPHERS / ARTISTS / CAVORS / DIGGERS + SAGA ALL ON VERY  
INTERESTING TRIP. SEVERAL HISTORY LESSONS MADE AGAIN GRATE

which were informative. Arison Moody, Ros, Abigail + others all visited ECM Hole Dig. Arison can't resist, and large boulders were being removed in no time. Arion's car was going back to clear up from us.

8 VISITED CARCAS CAVE - close by. very pretty little cave. Being dug by Bracaree CC. using Jack Hammer + compressor. (NOT ALLOWED TO BANG!).

19-7-03. NIK-NAK - ABIGAIL - "BBS THE BOLDEN" - ROS - Gordon, MACC + PETE.

Arun direct (240') down to jump. Rigged to go out dolly tubs. Pleasant trip. sunny with no mosquitos.

27/7/03

Stu Waldron, Chris G

### Switchons

Quick bimble to top of 20" to test Chris' new carbide lamp; much settling required. Had a quick look at top of 40" and came out wet way. Lamp worked the last 20 yards!

wed 30 July Noel Cleaver - Randy Hedd, down swallows to range 1. wady, flat top for 15 years. cleaned by the new P' hedges at the 20' - indicating this top - very dry.

19/7/03

Terry Waller, Keith and Derek Sanderson.

PWLL DWFN. Good cave. All five pitches P' bolted so rigging is fairly obvious. If you haven't done this cave then you're missing out on a treat.

6/7/03 Chatehouse

Ali M, Steve + Simon (2 prospective members).

Tourist trip for Steve + Simon. Ali to end dig to look at the results of Tony Boycott's bang on the 6/7/03. All still looks fairly stable + nothing big has moved! Good tidy up + cementsing session is now required.

AM.

8/7/03 St Dunstan's Well Caves.

Nic Nak, Ali + Adrian Vandepunkt.

Duck in entrance series was high + blowing a gale. All got through with varying degrees of difficulty. We were intrigued by the large diving bottle that had been abandoned by the duck. No sign of the draught in the end chambers - it would be interesting to try to trace where this comes from. After exiting the cave followed the stream through the old tunnels. Very impressed with tunnel No 1, the streams in this are now up to 2' long. Not enough squeeze tonight so Adrian + Nic Nak through the gate by the layby.

AM.

12/7/03 N.W. Stream Passage.

Coff Ballard + Ali M. (Pete declined the invitation - can't understand why).

Wet Face squeeze was full of liquid mud - nice. On to look at the Dip tubes (we have left a hand line on the first of those. Then Heaven + Hell Passage (lots of liquid mud) to the final dig. Doesn't look as though NW stream is seeing many trips these days. Me shot you would love it, when do you want a trip?

Ali \* WATCH OUT PHM - THIS ISN'T THE QUARRY TRIP  
THAT WATERCRAFT IS. QB

15/7/03 Reversed Round Trip.  
For Fielder, Ali M, Nic Kirk, Adrian Vandeplas. No booking required.

22/7/03 Kelston Church Tunnels.

Geoff Ballard, Pete + Ali Moody, Jon Edwards + I.

Geoff had found a reference to a tunnel that runs under the churchyard at Kelston and had gained permission for a visit.

You park in the yard of the abandoned Manor Farm + walk along the churchyard wall + through the first gate. The tunnel has a red iron gate across it (it is not locked). This drops into a rather fine man made tunnel that runs for about 100' under the graveyard. It starts out as walking sized passage, first clean washed + then knee deep mud + gradually lower to hands + knees + then flat out.

Looks like a drainage tunnel for the graveyard. We found two odd bars or two! 'Downstream' ends in a drainage grill. Also spotted another 'entrance' to a second tunnel next to where we had parked the cars. Only Ali was able to squeeze into this one - a hands + knees tunnel which ran for about 110'. Again must be for drainage. (Maurice - Geoff Ballard has some good photos of these).

Excellent pub in Kelston.

29/7/03 Buriton Mystery Tunnels.

Geoff Ballard + Ali M.

(it was hilly hard)

For various wimpy excuses eg too wet, too fat\* we bypassed Bos + Pierres + ended up for a go round in Sidcot to allow Geoff to explore the delights of Pugeton.

\* FAT → THAT'S A LITTLE HARD. / NEVER HEARD IT

31/7/03 Pen Park Hole.

Pete + Ali Moody, Geoff Ballard, Gavin Newman, Tim Lloyd + Graham Miller.

Impressive hole, especially considering its location. Water

(Tony had not seen them this low for 10 years)

levels were very low and we were able to get all the way down to East low level. Gavin had brought one of his filming lights which made Main Chamber well worth seeing. A good collector's cave, unfortunately I think that it will take me about a fortnight to get the ladders clear again!

All.

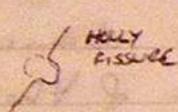
\* with some excellent geothermal crystals

1/8/03 ST COLLECTS

ROZ, VERN & NIK NAK

A SHORT LITTLE TRIP AROUND THE SPIDE PLACID. TO MOD HALL VIA WIRE RIFT, LOWER MOD HALL TO ROCKY SAWDUST TO CORAL CHAMBER AND OUT VIA THE SAWDUST TO CORAL CHAMBER. THEN UP INTO LONG CHAMBER AND LONG CHAMBER EXTENSION. CLIMBS BACK DOWN AND INTO EAST END CHAMBER FOR A quick look and then to the back of MATHIAS FOR A CHECK ON CARB levels at Vern's favorite spot.

2/8/03 STAR CAVES Phil Hardy, coked and abated by Brian and Brenda Power

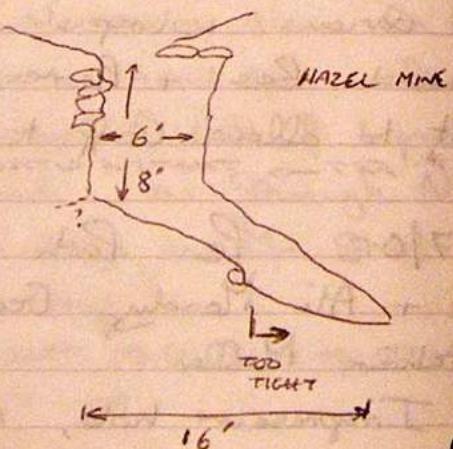


First descent of Hazel Mine (formerly New Shaft 1)

HAZEL MINE  
DOOR  
TELEGRAM POLES  
BOOTH MINE

8' drop in 30" sft. top and side walked.  
Slope down over leaf litter to stone step,  
too-tight continuation, length about 16'  
total. Below to Hazel bush.

T-SHAPED GULF



Then to Boot Mine (formerly New Shaft 2)

A similar entrance, and about 20' SE of Hazel Mine. 6' drop to a further 6' steps slope of leaf litter to stones, with 2 old leather boots, with leather laces and straps

cross-steps, part of a shoe, bottles (intact) broken Spode vase, oil lamp base, and parts of a stone bottle. Low enough to top of choked shaft, full of loose boulders, with far wall (3' high) of spar fragments leading to a low shelf with a narrow (too tight) rift leading off, divided by boulders blocking it halfway up. An old can and part of a stove far on this ledge. Above the shaft was a capping flag bit prismatic-looking stones, obviously near the surface.

This mine was about 30" wide. Left wall of spars, rest of limestone with at least 6 half-shotholes - drilled from above. (Walls of Hazel Mine were both of limestone, though the lower part of the left wall near the construction was of fluorite).

Holly Fissure - choked 7' down with large rocks. A shot continuation could be seen to the N.

### Phil Hardy.

5-8-03 Grebe Swallet

Phil Hardy (on leader training) Alan Hardy, led by Peter Gross. A dog vaned around the sights - the rifle squeeze at the bottom is not getting any bigger (the squeeze had to be forced out to Alan. Heavy dogs in place plus a dead rat lurking in one of the cracks. Great joy and profound happiness struggling with the lock about 4' from a (very) dead rabbit. Phil H.

10-8-03 Hunter's hedge line Sink. With Tony and Target to collect some bones for Dr. Todic to look at. Probably cow rather than bear, also pig (?) jaw and roe (?) antler. The big bits of the carcass are large and impressive with an interesting variety of stal. The small bits (ie the unavoidable extreme garbage) are obscene. Lots of flat-out cowdung - 1' feet very claustrophobic on the way out - and weighed down with pounds of mud. I do not think I will go there again. Phil H.

6-8-03 Brown's Holly Mine Paula & Bob Smith Steven - Break from Crook's Hole until all the green hippies have gone. The gates were locked and I left them so as kids are on holiday. (Used the other entrance) Although live right by it, haven't been inside for a while, I was amazed what workers there are with aerosol spray cans, just a small amount in

somewhere like Goatchurch, let alone anywhere else.  
and C.S.C.C. would be right there, yet although  
they keep the hedges, nothing more is done to preserve  
it. I think its the Bat people who have no other  
interests than ~~just~~ poking and prodding little funny  
things, or the copper suit & green nettie brigade  
who go mad with chain saws and bits of string.  
Its got to be someone or some group with small  
minds - Years ago people used to carve their  
initials and a date in the odd tree, gate or wall  
but now it has to at least a metre high by  
several long.

Cook's Hole 13/8/03 Paula, Bob S, Steve & later  
Aubrey & Colin from St Lukes'. One 1 metre deep shot-  
hole, stuffed with 1 metre lengths of cord, and a 1 metre  
explosion + smoke & fumes, and a barbecue, nice  
evening, pleasant company, digging doesn't have  
to be all hard work.

20-8-03 Templeton. Large turnout, mainly eighteens. Good  
progress made, half of floor lowered by 18". 9+ shps removed,  
lots of rocks, some stal-covered. Gaps are appearing in the  
floor.  
PHM.

23/8/03: Swimmers. PHILL SITTON & TASH MITCHELL  
CAME 17 MINUTES TO SUMP 2 FOR 12 MIN TO SWIM  
THERE TASH DIVED SWIM 2 X 3 & PHILL FREE DIVED TO  
GO UP BLUE PENCIL & BACK BOARD TO SIDE OF V  
TUBE. DIVED THIS WHICH IS VERY SHORT BUT WELL  
SUPPORTED UP WITH MUD AND GRIT AND ON TO NORTH  
DOORSTEP AHEAD BEFORE HEADING OUT.

24-8-03 LES WILLIAMS, ANDY MORSE, JON WILLIAMS, MIKE  
HOTZE AND SUE CARTER.

HOTZE CAVE TO BAT PASSAGE + GREAT Chamber. THE  
SQUEEZE IN LADDER DIG SEEMS TO HAVE SHRUNK!!!  
GOOD TRIP WITH GOOD COMPANY. ANDY TOOK A CAMERA SO  
WE SHOULD SEE SOME PICCIES SOON.

25/8/03 SWILDONS . PHILL SHORT, GREG BROCK, TASH  
MITCHELL

DOWN TO SUMP 2 TO PICK UP CLIMBERS FROM YESTERDAY.  
DIVE TO 12 MTRN DOWN TO CHECK OUT RESULTS OF RUMBLE.  
LINGER ROCK REMOVED FROM WADDER NICE BEYOND ENCLAVES  
SQUEEZE WITH RESUME IN A CALMSE OF THE PILE OF  
BATH DEBRIS. PITCH & LINE DUG S PRACTICALLY OF DEBRIS  
FROM THE FLOOR WHICH THIS JUST ATAT FILLED, THE DIVE  
AND OUT OF THE LURE (1 RUM OF DEBRIS IN 2.2M)  
WHICH UPON SPARE FEET REMOVED, WILL NEED DUG OUT.

25/8/03 Longwood Andy Morse, Rob Clarke, Nigel Jaeger

A small delay at first pitch as we had only brought one ladder with us. Managed to continue by using the ladder cordelette technique. Shover back dry, but not of streaming water. Down to the hole streaming and the end of the cave as far as I'm concerned. A good trip

Andy

25/8/03 ST CUTHBERTS

PHILL SHORT, GREG BROCK, TASH  
SIMON 'DEVON'  
+ SOME OTHER BEE BLORE

DOWN PURPLE PITCH, ALONG VICTORY PASSAGE, TO SUMP 2. WALKED  
AROUND THE SAME BOUCLES FOR 2 HOURS, GREG (BEE) WAS  
LEADING... SAW SOME CAVE PEARLS, MUD, ROCK, STAL, MUDGEMS,  
GOWER (GOUR) POOLS, NICE PRITTY CAVE. WISH WE COULD TURN OFF  
THE WATER IN SOME OF THE OTHER CAVES AROUND HERE.

22-24th Aug Phil + Dan Hendy, Brian + Brenda Prever CPC Gaping Gill  
 went rock. Weather generally OK, plenty of bed in Trenchford Arms.  
 Main shaft quite dry. Various tools on surface and underground,  
 also tracks to Sand Caverns and Mud Hall. Dan is now an  
 experienced guide and Whistlers Ass, but does not rate Rat Pack  
 very highly.

30/8/03 ANDY CHELL, PHILL SHORT TRIP TO SWILLOONS  
 SUMP 12. DIGGING IN SUMP LARGE ROCKS CAME OUT  
 PHILL TRYED TO GET THROUGH STILL TOO TIGHT THOUGH  
 BACK NEXT TIME TO CARRY ON MORE 1 MORE TRIP  
 AND WE'LL BE THROUGH HAD FAB TIME VERY LITTLE  
 WATER. ALL SUMPS ~~SHR~~ CRYSTAL CLEAR, REARLY NICE  
 TO HAVE SUCH GOOD VIS IN SUMP NINE LOTS TO  
 SEE.

24/8/03

G.B

Federick, Chris & Jo Williams, Morse, Les W, Mike & Sue  
 Trip to great chamber, as C. & J. hadn't seen it before  
 and to take Mike & Sue on a tourist trip. Good fun &  
 Federick the Marmite enjoyed it too!

30/8/03 - Noxon Park Iron Mine.

Jonathan, Mike, Kathy, Laura T. + Chef.

Bad After a bad start to the morning (no Golden Arches)  
 a hungry but keen trainee + supporters arrived still in the  
 Forest of Dean. Several carrying trips later a mountain of  
 gear was piled next to a much depleted sump pool.  
 Water levels were down over 15m on previous levels.

A new swim found us ~~at the back~~ near the end of the  
 time at 30m. All looked good for a pushing return soon.  
 After caring at Chepstow Castle + NDC. ~~about back~~.  
 To the dismay of the Divers Laura was unable to access

on the sterpering of cylinders. Something about a bad back?

3/9/03

Crock's Hole Carmen Paula, Bob S, & Steve, with additional support of Mr & Mrs Hawkins. Aubrey's wall adjusting chemicals of the last inst, had done a very pretty job. The rift is wider to approx two full Scammell's, and the floor had risen by a Temptor's skip load. The nicest bit was the wall (ahead at the moment), had been cracked to a height of 6' or and moved side-ways, but still complete (a little damaged). This is now waiting to be levered gently into a more horizontal position. A huge amount of broken rock was removed before retirement to the stutters to wet some very dry whistles. A very good Wednesday evening, weather still very dry and shirt sleeve warm even at 10:00 pm.

4/9/03

Maurice and Judy shot visit to Bindon to take a few video shots to show how the well in the way has changed since we ~~had~~ filmed in 1964. Cave almost very dry.

5/9/03

Maurice and Judy to Ridge mine with the experts - the Weston Brothers. Took ride down to recent gully and of wisdom and to capture the wartime graph graphite etc unfortunately the Westons noticed some very new scuffles in one case obliterating the older drawing.

6/9/03

ANNT CHEIC, PASH MITCHELL & PHILIP SHOOT DALEEN CLOW. Down to hard rock and on to the surface then out. Good trip (THE CAVE IS STILL HORIZONTAL)

30-8-03 PIERRE'S POT NIK NAK, ALI & DE SO  
 FIRST PROPER MODERATE GROTTE HOLE AFTER OUR TRIP TO FRANCE - NICE TO BE BACK. WE HAD MISSED THE SAWLERD AND WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO DAMP MUDDY GROULING. TO THE HANGING GARDEN AND BACK AGAIN WITH A QUICK LOOK AT THE UPSTREAM SWIM BY ALI. NIK NAK MANAGED TO GET OUT THE ENTRANCED SAWLERD UNAIDED - NOT AS FAT AS HE THOUGHT HE WAS! JUST FOR SO WE POURED INTO AVELINE'S ON THE WAY TO THE CAR.

4-9-03 RHINO RIFT NIK NAK & BOB THE BINGER  
 JEST TO THE BOTTOM OF THE THIRD PITON SO NIK NAK COULD PRACTICE HIS RICING AND BOB COULD TRY OUT HIS NEW SRT KIT. BOB'S FIRST TRIP IN THE CAVE - GREAT FUN - WILL COME BACK TO GO TO THE VERY END.

7-9-03 WATERWHEEL SWALLET ADRIAN, JUDI & ROB VANDERPLANK, NIK NAK PLENTY EVENING TRIP. WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT TWO PARTIES WITH KEYS ON THE SAME NIGHT - US 4 AND ANOTHER 5 FROM THE HADES. PUSHED THE END DUCK AS FAR AS WE DARED, ABOUT 3FT AND STILL NOT ABLE TO GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF WATER. SLOW-WORM RESCUED FROM INSIDE THE ENTRANCE.

17/9/03 Cook's Hole dig. Carmen, Steve(NWM) & Bob's. Refixed 2nd ladder, now quite safe instead of fairly safe. Why we have a large piece of timber blocking the way down, we aren't sure yet until it comes out. We're pretty certain no human has been down this ~~far~~ far, unless they were Ali Moody type miners.

23/9/03 Box Mines. Carmen, Steve(NWM), Paula & Bob's. Checking dates around Bridge Gate - Jack's entrance for a whim of Mr S's. Noticed the walls of much of this area are jaded or picked and the only sawn ~~on~~ areas of wall are later "pillar robbing". Dates range from 1867 onwards, and only on sawn walls, not on jaded/picked walls. How come "Private Gay" is supposed to date from 1803 is stated in the Box Mines booklet. phwhh! Quasymous Entsone isn't as good as Roger

19th - Sept - 03. CARMERS, PATRICK WILSON (etc)  
 TOP SIDE → DETERMINED RABBIT, & REPAIRS  
 ARRIVED FOR TOMORROW THROUGH TRIP -  
 IT WAS ALREADY RIGGED! BATH HUMMING - UNQUOTE  
 OF ROSES SO RIGGED AGAINST. WATER LEAKS  
 HIGH.

20-SEPT-03 (Carmers (etc) Patrick, Tom, Dave?  
 PIPPIKA → TOP SIDE, DETERMINED THE DAY,  
 ALTHOUGH ALL PARTIES WERE RIGGED AGAINST,  
 EXCEPT P.P. ENRANCE. WATER LEAKS SO HIGH  
 ON EXIT - BACK SAS IS FLOOD!!

24-SEPT-03 CARMERS DOWN TO EASTWINDERS MOUNTAIN  
 POT TO SEE THE PROGRESS MADE BY MAND  
 PHIL + JACK, THE MONOMAMMALS, VERY...  
 .... NICE..... IF YOU USE THAT SORT OF  
 THING GOOD LUCK BOYS

24/9/03 Coopers, Steve & Bob S. late digging session. The  
 piece of wood is longer than imagined - it will not come up.  
 why, we cannot tell. It moves side to side, but not up or down.  
 The way on is straight down but a tad narrow, at the moment

24-9-03 TEMPERON. Good session - 8 dip up lots of spongy rock to  
 E. wall. Encouraging full of a nice fragmat of dolomite. 2 hours taken.  
 We now have a rustic gallery - and a ladder up! (P)

### 20-21st Sept WORKING WEEKS

Baker house - main insulated wall built and re-roofed. Took getting up  
 Path at back broken up, partly relaid base for new sacrifice staircase laid  
 laid. Wood pile tidied. Pallets moved. Help tonnes, cattle and filled etc  
 etc etc. Lots of coke broken, and a job not done and think  
 to another. (23 workers - whenever he got off the job!) (P)

25/8/03 Grotte Perret 1hr  
 LEE, KAREN SUMMERSKILL (CPC), PATRICK WARREN (CPC)

Shorts, T-shirt and sandals trip into this cave which meant we didn't get into the water and through the duck!

(Annettes)

26/8/03 Trou de Clay → Annettes 6hrs  
 LEE, PATRICK WARREN (CPC)

A classic 'how the mountain' trip through this cave. Not exactly the prettiest cave in the world, and some told me about the squeezes and crawling in Annettes! Anyway, I can tick it off but can't see myself rushing back. Got a bit of a sweat on

(Guiters Vif)

27/8/03 Guiters Vif 1hr

LEE, KAREN SUMMERSKILL, PATRICK WARREN

Impressive entrance and large passage. Went through the 'wheelie bin', which had an impressive draught. Not too much graveling as another shorts + shirt and sandals trip.

1/10/03 Crook Hole Dig. Paula, Steve, Mr S & Mr Fielder. Drilled & bolted 3rd fixed ladder to wall, drilled and removed a piece of sidewall with a snapper, + 1 bucket up from the bottom. Lot of work to be done and a lot of rock to unmercifully take apart. We managed to drop the Kango drill down the shaft luckily Steve was at the bottom, though a level has gone on down the rift -

13/9/03. Héjault (France!) Grotte Madame Edith.  
 Took Arthur Spain (MCS) to the camp.

It seemed a bit lower than last year. Ownership of the campsite has changed - the new people were friendly enough. Paul went

30-8-03 PIERRE'S POT NIK NAK, ALI & DE SO  
 FIRST PROPER MODERATE GROTTE HOLE AFTER OUR TRIP TO FRANCE - NICE TO BE BACK. WE HAD MISSED THE SAWLERS AND WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO DAMP MUDDY GROULLING. TO THE HANGING GARDENS AND BACK AGAIN WITH A QUICK LOOK AT THE UPSTREAM SWIM BY ALI. NIK NAK MANAGED TO GET OUT THE ENTRANCED SAWLER UNAIDED - NOT AS FAT AS HE THOUGHT HE WAS!  
 JUST FOR SO WE POURED INTO AVELLINE'S ON THE WAY TO THE CAR.

4-9-03 RHINO RIFT NIK NAK & BOB THE BINGER  
 JEST TO THE BOTTOM OF THE THIRD PITON SO NIK NAK COULD PRACTICE HIS RICING AND BOB COULD TRY OUT HIS NEW SRT KIT. BOB'S FIRST TRIP IN THE CAVE - GREAT FUN - WILL COME BACK TO GO TO THE VERY END.

7-9-03 WATERWHEEL SWALLET ADRIAN, JUDI & ROB VANDERPLANK, NIK NAK  
 PLENTY EVENING TRIP. WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT TWO PARTIES WITH KEYS ON THE SAME NIGHT - US 4 AND ANOTHER 5 FROM THE HADES. PUSHED THE END DUCK AS FAR AS WE DARED, ABOUT 3FT AND STILL NOT ABLE TO GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF WATER. SLOW-WORM RESCUED FROM INSIDE THE ENTRANCE.

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M

Tuesday Evening, 30<sup>th</sup> Sept? 03

Goatchurch - NIK NAK {Pauline}, Alison, Rob, Janine, Linn. NOT been to Goatchurch before!

Ali - led me down, through all the tight squeezes, sliding down all the polished bits and into that long bloody tight tunnel-squeeze.

I thought it was a one way tunnel, not so.

Coming back NIK NAK took some photos of me

"Faking" a smile! The coffin lid was MR. SHEENED  
+ I had a bitta trouble getting up it!

Had no trouble getting at the exit, up the rope

reasonably quickly. Silent supper at Rogers, now  
nursing my bruises. Pleasant evening. Thankyou, NIK NAK

+ Ali. (only  $\frac{1}{2}$  a page, just like you said) Tadka xx

20-9-03 ALAM POT - NIK NAK & BOB THE GUIDE

Quick trip down to Diccan in very wet conditions. Took the direct  
route for a speed prusik on the way back up. Excellent trip except  
breakfast

20-9-03 TOP SINK TO WETWOLD RAGGIE - Gordon, NIK NAK & BOB THE GUIDE  
After an hour looking for top sink we entered the cave and for most  
of the time after were never really sure where we were? Following  
our noses we eventually made it to the streamway and apart from a  
rope finding problem in stop pot the rest was straight forward.  
(6 hours)

21-9-03 SKILL GILL HOLE - Gordon, NIK NAK & BOB THE GUIDE

Quick Sunday trip after the long day before. Faded route down to  
main chamber and back again.

25-9-03 SANDWELL BONE CAVERN - Gavin, Steve Marsh, NIK NAK & John  
(Gavin decided)  
Fighting session in the lower chamber for faded HTV recent  
(NO RESCUE THIS TIME!!!! - NIK NAK NO LONGER A JINK.)

19th - Sept - 03. Carriers, Patrick Warren (etc)  
 TOP SIDE → Deterred RABBIT, & RIGID PUP.  
 ARRIVED FOR TOMORROW THROUGH TRIP -  
 IT WAS ALREADY RIGGED! BATH HUMBUG, - UNWARE  
 OF ROPES SO RIGGED AHEAD. WIRE LEAVES  
 HIGH.

20-Sept-03 (Carriers (etc) Patrick, Tom, Dave?  
 PIPPIKA → TOP SIDE, DETERRED ON THE WAY,  
 ALTHOUGH ALL PITCHES WERE RIGGED ANOTHER,  
 EXCEPT P.P. ENCLAVE. WIRE LEAVES SO HIGH  
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 The way on is straight down but a tad narrow, at the moment

24-9-03 TEMPELTON. Good session - 8 dip up lots of silt off ground to  
 E. wall. Encouraging find of a nice fragment of stoneware. 2 hours taken.  
 We now have a rustic gallery - and a ladder up! (P)

### 20-21st Sept WORKING WEEKS

Baker house - main insulated wall built and re-roofed. Took getting round  
 Path at back broken up, partly relaid base for new sacrifice staircase laid  
 laid. Wood pile tidied. Pallets moved. Hay bales, cattle feed filled etc  
 etc etc. Lots of coke broken, and a good sort daily and think  
 to Father. (23 workers - whenever he got off the job!) (P)

8/10/03

Cookie hole dig Steve, Corinne & Bob. This week I managed to drop a pair of stilsons on Steve. Lot of bouldered gravel out + plus one snapped in the remaining check of the sidewall to tidy up the haulage way. Weather windy, but not cold + full moon.

10/10/03 Box S. Mines Weston Brothers Plus

Mr Bobby Scammell who resides near the city of Bath. A most pleasant trip with Mr Scammell investigating various mining & art work near Jacks Entrance. Mr Scammell then pulled the ~~MORNING~~ TRICK OF ALL in the Quaymans Arms by declaring that HE HAS NO MONEY. (Not only that but he failed to offer to share his two day slices of toast smeared with Marmite underground!) However he IS a "likeable scoundrell" and we took pity on him to and bought him beer.

We may go underground with Bobby Scammell again in the not too distant future.

P.W.

8-10-03 TERRACON

NASA still digging downwards in the main pit. AGC have dug a pit in the bottom - still in sticky mud and stones. We have dropped the ship about 18". More wall-brushing - no rock stal found, but lots of gaps between boulders.

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 LEE, KAREN SUMMERSKILL (CPC), PATRICK WARREN (CPC)

Shorts, T-shirt and sandals trip into this cave which meant we didn't get into the water and through the duck!

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It seemed a bit lower than last year. Ownership of the campsite has changed - the new people were friendly enough. Paul went

## YORKSHIRE AGAIN!

FRIDAY - PIC NAK, CARRIERS, DRAGGED KIT UP TO GAPPING MILL TO PK STREAM PASSAGE AND! DISAPPOINTMENT POT FOR ROUND TRIP FOLLOWING DAY. STREAM PASSAGE - EXCELLENT TRIP, WE RIGGED WELL, OUT OF THE WATER, STAYED DRY + DRY, ..... DISAPPOINTMENT HOWEVER. . . . HMM. . . . TIGHT + U.WET. 100 YARDS INTO CAVE . . . . "SOUTHERN POOPS" TO QUOTE A YORKSHIRE CAVER (NO NAMES P.L.) WIMPED OUT, DECIDING THAT MARK, ROSIE + VERN WOULDN'T WANT TO DO IT. (IT'S MY EXCUSE AND I'M STICKING TO IT)

SATURDAY. - PIC NAK CARRIERS, ROSIE VERN MARK + MR WESTLAKE - HIGHLY ENCOURAGED BY THE OTHERS THAT WE'D MADE A GOOD SOUND TACTICAL DECISION IN NOT RIGGING DISAPPOINTMENT, WE HAD A PHOTOD TRIP DOWN STREAM PITCHES DOWN TO MAIN CHAMBER. THE MAJORITY DECIDED IT WAS BETTER TO DRAG WITH LADDERS BACK DOWN THE HILL ONCE THEM OUT THE CAVE. SORTED!

SUNDAY. PIC NAK CARRIED ROSIE VERN MARK CLIVE PHOTOD TRIP INTO LANCASTER STREAM CAT OR A LANCASTER → BRENTWOOD RABBIT THRO TRIP, EXCELLENT SUNDAY TRIP - BUT DRIVING BACK DOWN AFTER 6PM WITH NO TRAFFIC HOLD-UPS.

15/10/03 Crook's Hole dig Steve (www) & Bob S. women found the weather a tad cold tonight. It was cold with a cold wind. The snagger from last week had done its job, and the bucket hauling is now unhampered by jutting-out walls. A few buckets of rock up, but hands were too cold to pull on the rope, gave in at 9pm collected Paula and returned to the horses fire to join Carrion who had checked out the Hunters in the mean time.

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SAT 18 Sept. The Wom Donors appetite seems fair.  
Nick Glanvill, Bob Pyle, John Alder, Roy Guilliam  
Ave Donors, Total 258 yrs. Caving total 179 years.  
All of which showed in an immaculate technique and  
economical gas! doesn't曩t stop! Swildon nostalgia  
reigned for Roy & John who hadn't been down  
Swildon for about 33 years each!!! Met  
everyone who is anyone on our way out. The early  
start was a big advantage.

SUN 19/10/03. F. Felstead walked from field gate to Templeton  
dig. Descended dig. Very impressive. Took then gear  
on a lift back to Upper Pitts.

18/10/03 Kev, Em + Jim (I don't need neoprene I go  
ice diving in my swimming trunks) Swildon 9.  
By passed 15 novices on 20 on way in and 20 on  
the way out - well we had a coach to catch!  
Good trip.

19/10/03 Em, Dave - Swildon to Sidcot U tube Friday evening trip to  
find the U tube. Good fun trip nice to explore off the beaten track.

21/10/03 Em, Kev - Com Dwr to Top Entrance - OFD.

Steady route finding trip. Water in streamway very low - nearly  
made it all the way through dry from the waist up. There's just  
no getting past that 1 particular man trap.

23/10/03 Em, Mak & Dave - Swildon. Approach Passage

This mid week caving malarkey is great. And its a place in Swildon  
that kevs never been! Outrageous behaviour! (kev)

18-8-03 Mr DAVE, BIF & low, male G.B - everywhere nice little trip, not much water, haven't been here for a while - Devils Acre in (only way) Great drawbar & Bat Passage - including high level activation not noticed before -

18-10-03 Club trip to Goosnary's Hotel, N. Cottles. I called in main entrance to bar chamber for refreshment (Rum & coke £2.30!!!) Then to Dining Room. Excellent rep., good speech by GOS Sid Penson Navigator of the Year Chris Grossart for becoming geographically challenged on a mountain in France. Runner-up Bob Scamell for trying to find path to the W. of Penderyn. Tiger of the Year Gordon Kaye for dying in a 'puddle' in France which suddenly became a deep pitch. lucrative auction - and the 2004 calendar sold well. 2 new drafters elected - Alison and Enzy - presented with forty hats incorporating bells and make-up mirrors. A good time had by all - the hotel even asked if we would return!

19-10-03 Phil H, Brian and Sheila Pitman - Templar to look at the R53 placed to support hanging deaths by Twista or Endy. Then to Sandpit to show Brian it is still in the same place. Still lots of interesting holes, but infested with badgers and murderous nettles. Phil H

19/10/03

Chris Grossart, Stu Waldron, Kev Hilton  
Swildon's 40.

Trip to give Chris & Stu some rigging experience. Chris rigged the 40 first, abseiled down & refused at the puddle on the old 40, only to prance back up complaining about not wanting to get a wet bum! Stu then had a go at the Y hang & denrigged. Many thanks Kev - much appreciated!

22-10-03 TEMPETER. A cold windy night with the rain really  
hurting - Phil H, Brian Po + NASA stonewalls excavated an alcove below  
the wall and built it up. Continued taking out the floor of the big  
pot - started uncovering large clear rocks - we seem to be leaving  
the mud behind and possibly coming to the collapsed cave roof (according  
to the collapsed cave theory of Tempeter Speleogenesis). Expected tourist  
party of Brian Harford and Big Steve could off and sought shelter  
underground at Bath Swallet. The moral high ground (and muddy  
lao ground) is ours PH

23-10-03 SHATTER CAVE Phil H and Brian Poers excavated Edith  
Kemey's daughter and grandson, Diana and Daniel, around the  
delights of said shat cave. Most impressed. A photographic record  
was made PH

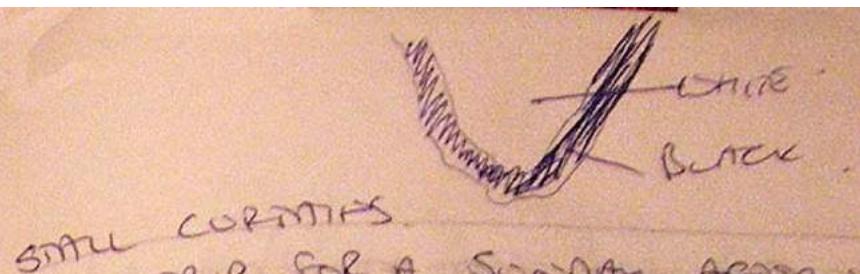
ONLY 8 DAYS TO INSURANCE DEADLINE - MAKE THE MOST OF IT.

25-10-03 SHATTER CAVE, Phil H, Pauline G and Big "Bloody Hell" Stu.  
First ret fence never feeding cattle from the quarry. He was trying to locate  
Fernhill Cave entrance from old photos.

A slow tramp round the cave. Stu employing "Bloody Hell" as he  
rounded every corner, taking 100+ digital photos. In to Pillar Chamber via  
2 Squeeze - exit via Ring Road was reckoned to be tighter. Both  
Pauline and Stu very impressed. About 2½h. PhilH

25-10-03 LIP POT → SERENDIPITY - KAREN-LANE (AKA  
SUMMERSKILL, LEG, CARMER), PAT DAWSON CPC - KAREN  
+ CARMER PARADING BRAND NEW MENSWEAR SUITS IN  
MATCHING YELLOW - U.TRENDY - GOOD FOR THE P.

26-10-03 NOTTS II - AMAZING EXCAVATION 110FT  
DOWN A SERIES OF LADDERS / SCAFFOLD + WALKING  
TO A STUNNING STREAMBED WITH WHITE + BLACK



SMALL COTTAGES

GOOD TRIP FOR A SUNDAY AFTERNOON - HTR  
LEG / KAREN / CARMEN / PAT / GORDON (ACA FLASH) / MOOKIE  
RANDOM YORKSHIRE BROCK

Crook's Hole dig 29.10.03 Steve (now) & Bob S. Drilling shot holes. Weather was pleasant and warm at the start. By the time Steve had drilled his three (1 metre deep) holes, Mr S was soaking wet and freezing cold on generator watch duty, and did not fancy changing his hat in a down pour. 3 holes drilled and a hot cup of chocolate at Burleyton Cafe. Daytime for a change, but just as wet and cold as night time digging, probably because its the same field.

2/11/03

RHINO RIFT - Tommo, Chris G, Stu Waldron

Educational trip. Chris rigged left hand route and Stu rigged the right hand. Much confusion when, approaching the Y hang, Chris discovered a mouse wedged in the P-hanger, with its tail tied to it! We found the culprits and took the mouse as a souvenir! Many thanks Tommo!

1/11/03

LOST JEWELS - SIMON R, STEVE? CARMEN, NOEL, KAREN,  
PATRICK (CPC)

RIGGED MONASTERY + FOR THE EXAMINER  
TO BE DONE, EXPLORED OBSCURE WORLDS OF DUN,  
SOME FINALLY DECORATED POSSIBLY,

2/11/03 POTTS II + CLIMBING WALLS - CHANGED TO  
POTTERY

Quick Photo TRIP v SPORTING IN HIGH WATER, EXCAVATE  
CLIMBING WALL, REBUILD EXPANDED, + UPGRADED

newspaper

4/11/03 Eastwater Appreciation Society returns after 2 yr break.  
Eastwater - to terminal sump Mad Phil, Em, kev.

Not sure we can technically call ourselves 'appreciation' society any more. A hell of a trip. Even managed to do a bit of digging in a side passage close to 'chamber of horrors,' we'll be back to finish that off. Cleared out some tubes & ammo boxes from old MRC dump as much & contents had spoilt.

1-11-03 Kev + Rob Heron - Shatter and Pirate and round trip in Swildon. Slight stiffness in the knees experienced.

8-11-03 Carmen Patrick (ic) Irish Fan Cavern, ERIN SMART AT SOME UNEXPECTED HOUR, WHICH PAID OFF, AS WE BEGAN TO EXIT CAVE HEAD HAD OBVIOUSLY TRAVELLED THAT THE 'N' TEAM WERE CAVING, & DROVES HAD COME TO SEE US, THAT IS ABOUT 50 RANDOM STUDENT CAVERS, PHOTOS CLOSE SHOT THERE.

9-11-03 Little Hell Pot. Carmen Patrick, Dave, Dave Goff, Dave (Dave<sup>-3</sup>) 2 Random B.C. members, Tom, Butti Butti Butti - THE CRITTERS MEET TRIP - ONLY 3 TO THE BOTTOM - Carmen, Pat + 1 Random B.C. person, THE OTHER ONE COULDN'T MAKE THE PACE - HAH! B.C. WIMP!

9.11.03 Crook's Hole Aubrey, Pete Mr F, Bob S & Gally & Aubrey's son nothing done with 30' of cord, nothing looked at and didn't even speak to each other. We weren't even there, ~~2~~ no. definitely not. Keith didn't even bring his battery.

Filder

Damien

+ visitors  
MR Filder  
& Gordon X

12.11.03 Some place, Steve (NWM) Bob S, Carmen & Fred F. Same sort of thing, no loads of buckets and boulders up - No

Paula

31/10/03 - 02/11/03 OGOR DUNN LION - PHIL SWEAT, ANDY CHELCH, NIK NAM, GREG BROCK, STEVE MARSH AND TASH MURRAY WENT TO HANNOCK FRIDAY EVENING, SET UP THE CAMP AND COOKED, THEN WENT DOWN TO THE TERMINAL SURF AND IT WAS A SWELL SURF, BACK TO THE HANNOCK FOR ANDY CHELCH'S BIRTHDAY, CAME AND A GLASS OF PORT OR 2 DREW TO BED IN THE WORKERS REST RESTAURANT SLEEPING BAGS WOKE UP AT MIDNIGHT AND HAD BREAKFAST SET UP FOR THE RESTAURANT. MURRAY AT THE CAMP AND STEVE, ANDY AND TASH SET OFF BACK TO HANNOCK WHILST PHIL, GREG AND NIK NAM WENT ON TO THE END OF FRIENDS ISLAND VIA A LENGTHY & UNPREDICTABLE RETURN TO THE END OF THE WHARFEN. WE GOT BACK TO HANNOCK AT 11:00 TO FIND STEVE, TASH & ANDY FAIR ASLEEP, BUT THEY SOON GOT UP AND PUT A MEAL ON AFTER A BIG PIECE OF PORK. WE SPENT ANOTHER NIGHT THEM HEATED OUT OF SUMMER REFLECTIVE SURFACE AT 16:00.

(2) 26/10/03 AND DREW (2) 31/10/03 LL76HA LUNCHES  
 PHIL SWEAT, STEVE MARSH AND ANDY CLELL  
 DREW THROAT RESURGENCE IN CLELL CLELL WHALE AND FOLLOW THE SURFS, STREAM AND LAKE CLELLS TO CLELL'S BIG SITE (THE BIG IS BLOCKED NOW). DREW BACK AND INTO CLELL 6 THEN PHIL WENT ON TO THE SCOT, PASSED THE FIRST SCOT AND FOUND THE SECOND RECENTLY AT USUER.

(2) RETURN TO ASSESS POSSIBILITIES OF HAVING SCOT BUT FOUND IT HAD FLOW AND ALMOST 2000 m³ BUT TO A WEEN OF RIVER. WENT TO THE SURF AND DREW AND FOUND IT TO BE EXISTING LINES OF ONE, BIMINI AND ROCKS TO CARVE OUT AND WHAT TO DO.  
 Paula

20/11/03 SWILDCATS HOLE : PITILL SILENT, STEVE  
MARSH AND ANDY CHELL.

DROWN TO SUMP 12. PITILL DRAINED 12 BUT SWIMMING  
THROUGH THE OLD SQUEEZE AND INTO THE NEW  
SECTION TO FIND A SECOND BATH DEBRIS LAYER,  
THIS WHEN GIVEN A PORE SPANNER TO COLLAPSE  
PROVING THE NEED TO REMOVE ALL BUT R OF R BACK  
OUT THROUGH THE SQUEEZE (I'M GOING TO THINK  
THIS PLACE DOESN'T LIVE -E.) LOOKS LIKE WE CAN  
GO OVER THE TOP OR THIS ONE WITH SOME  
SWIMMING THOUGH. HERE WE GO AGAIN! ON EXIT HEAVY  
FLOC OF DISINFECTANT LUMBED FROM COWSH AUTOM, SWELL OF BOREDO,

22/11/03 SWILDCATS HOLE ANDY CHELL, PETE NOTTHOLLAND, PHILL SHONT

Went to mud sump very full so decided not  
to bail went to black hole series and north west  
stream inlet had great fun on way out  
free climbed 40 nice caving trip on horrible  
dump day. ONE OF THE SMALL INLETS THAT FLOWS  
INTO WET ENDS SQUEEZE WAS FLOWING A WINTER /  
COWSH AND DISINFECTANT MIX. A VERY STRONG SMELL  
~~(SEE MOVE THIS)~~

2/12/03 PITILL SILENT : SWILDCATS HOLE.

SHONT SOLO TRIP TO PUT LADDER IN FOR TOMORROW'S  
TRIP. THEN TO CAMP 1 & OUT

3/12/03 LINDA HENRY, GREG BROOK, FRITHA SPENCER, PITILL  
SILENT : SWILDCATS HOLE

FUNNEL MED FOR GAWIN TO SUMP 1 then later FOR  
GAWIN.

3/12/03 Crook's Hole dig. Digging resumed, with care, in fact, not a thing was dropped on Steve at the bottom - still a lot of broken rock to bring up. Bob & Camus & Steve (me) It was bitter cold on the surface.

5/12/03 SWILDONS HOLE : TASH MITCHELL, ANDY CHELL AND PHILL SHORT.

TOOK A COUPLE OF CYLINDERS DOWN TO SUMP 2 FOR A FUTURE DIG. THEN WENT UP TO BLACK HOLE & CROSSED IT TO THE SERIES BEYOND. DESCENDED BLACK HOLE ON RETURN. THEN WENT UP LANDING TO VICTORY POT, DESCENDED THIS THEN UP THE OTHER SIDE INTO ITSELF PASSAGE.

30/11/03

### Ogof Rhod Sych

At Moody, Clwyd West Lake, Geoff Ballard, Chris Grossat

Duck was more of a sump but went on through tight kts & bedding planes where water levels were too high in streamway. We retreated to drier shores & abandoned trip.

Never mind. Be back again when it's drier.

7/12/03 SWILDONS HOLE PHILL SHORT, ANDY CHELL

After drinks in New Inn went to 20 at midnight without any caving equipment just keeping led lights. Truly fantastic experience just a bit wet and need new phone as it went care diving!

7/12/03. SWILDONS HOLE :- Phill Short, Pauline, Gavin, NIK NAK, STUART, SIMON Richardson, Andy Chell, you tash; what a good excuse to get at of a committee meeting! Frosty + sunny, off we trundled - my long awaited trip that I'll

has promised to me since the summer! 90  
there was a lot of water, the summer tugs  
I had gone with Mark it was bone dry, so  
to me it was very wet, rushing water  
the tide was definately coming in.

Dawn to be 20' - when I was harnessed  
up like a show horse :- + stepped out to  
the ladder in my new wellies, I had not  
got used to them + got my foot stuck  
on each & every rung, took an age to  
get down. Followed Phill all the way to the  
sump I the whole reason for going, +  
put on my 1971 Diving mask to gags of  
surprise & disbelief. (Best Diving mask in the  
world she got!)

Quick visual lesson in how to get through  
sump 1, took a while to slow my breathing  
down & go through water? stealthy but  
not exactly sharp is it? With a tap on the  
head given let me know I was at +  
we had a nice sit down + got the  
chocolate at.

Continued on to Sump 2. There we  
watched NIK NAK "Bottle-up" to go through  
Sump 2, TASH + Andy Chell were already  
beyond (2).

At this point we had made it in 1 hour  
55 mins - Phill said it was good going,  
considering I was taking my time.

Return back via Barnes Loop, Tide still  
coming in fast, used a rope to pull myself up  
Double Pot + Phill helped push me up in his  
usual manner (ask Simon Richardson for full details)

Gavin kept on encouraging me to continue by saying "we're nearly there", he said this at least 10 times.

Anyway got to finish as NIK NAK says to leave a few pages for someone else.

Came out to Sunshine, cold wind, + long stiff walk back. Most enjoyable trip, I may regret it tomorrow at work! Thanks to all for your help + patience.

Paula  $\ddagger$

7/12/03 BIF & PAUL +

Top Sink - ~~Lancaster Hole~~ Lancaster Hole

Took ~~the~~ crow flies route to Top sink & unexpectedly walked directly to entrance. (Don't tell the Farmer). visiting Easter Grotto Pleasant trip, Top sink very dry considering recent weather. Climb out of Fall cat had been P hung & handy climbing rope replaced by greasy SRT stop.

Most amusingly the key hanger ~~was~~ had been placed directly into the boulder that the rope was previously tied around.

The mind boggles. I suppose that at least it distracts the CNCC's attention from 'insurance'.

8/12/03 Aquamole BIF & PAUL +

Helped Clive take a few snaps of Aquamole Aven, an impressive shaft dropping beyond upstream shadis in Kingsdale - <sup>originally</sup> explored from inside out and opened up for diver access.

(31/10/03) Little Hull Pot. Bif, George, Abigail +

~~Scary Pothole~~ Raced ~~out~~ in & out due to late start, encumbered ~~somewhat~~ by 11 mm ~~rope~~ rope. Cold on Fall when we exited. Got cold fingers. Changed in CPC carpark.

1/11/03 Short Drop - Cavel (NPC)

with fine 25m shaft.

Much overlooked pothole. Noels Lexus & Sivons red VW were parked up for Lost Johns when we arrived, but never saw them. ~~and not~~  
~~collapsed as entering~~

2/11/03 Aquanode

Ran out of rope. Should have popped over to the CPC with Dave to visit Noel et al.

2/12/03 Bif & Paul

### EASTWATER

Visited Mad Phil & Jake's new large passage discovery of previous day. Impressive curtain. As if they ~~were~~ <sup>hadn't</sup> won the digging barrel already.

22/12/03 TERRACOTON. Not hot wed. Pre, Phil, Jonathan R, John Hill, + Hugh and Elaine (Acc). 3' chips out, + 6' x 6" "sugar plate" that has been getting in the way for months. Dug out a hump of mud, dropping the ladder by 3 ft. Interesting hole found behind the stone wall. Quickly blocked it with stones and cement.

19/12/03 Ridge Mine.

Investigated a body sized hole at the top of the boundary wall in the corbeling area. We had got up to this previously some months ago & looked down into a rubble filled area but couldn't get down into it. This time we took one of our ladders together plus a short length of rope. Tethered ladder to a fallen concrete beam before climbing up to the body sized hole at roof level. Greywolf made two attempts, with his boots on to turn around in the hole to descend first - no go. Weston The Younger (and alpine climber) then had a look to see if a headfirst descent was possible. "Bugger that". (He said)

Greywolf then got up to the hole again minus his wellies - Eureka - and turned around - descended & investigated the rubble filled void - no further passages - bugger.

Still we enjoyed the fun - and the visit to the Quaymans Arms where we met a woman we last saw 45 years ago!

Weston Brothers

CEILING		HOLE	W	A	L	L
Stacked wood	□		8° 8° 8°	8° 8° 8°	8° 8° 8°	8° 8° 8°
	□		8° 8° 8°	8° 8° 8°	8° 8° 8°	8° 8° 8°
	□		8° 8° 8°	8° 8° 8°	8° 8° 8°	8° 8° 8°
Beam	□		8° 8° 8°	8° 8° 8°	8° 8° 8°	8° 8° 8°

Rubble!

27/12/03 OFD PHILL SHORT, AND LIZZIE, GAVIN NEWMAN  
& STEVE MARSH.

TOP ENTRANCE TO SMITHS ARMADY THEN TO 1 AND OUT  
OF BOTTOM ENTRANCE. WENT HIGH WITHIN LEVELS IN  
2 STREAMS AND HAD TO USE THE ESCAPE ROUTE  
IN OFD 1. 8.5 HR TRIP.

28/12/03 SWILDRON'S HOLE PHILL SHORT, AND LIZZIE &  
JOHN VOLANTHER

DOWN TO 2 TO RETRIEVE COLUMNS THEN DUE TO 7  
HAD TO PICK UP 2 BIGGER COLUMNS AND PINE TIPS  
TO A FAB FUTURE DIG. 10HR WENT ON TO 12 FOR  
A BRIEF LOOK AT OUR BRO FULL OF ROOMS THEN WE  
HEADED OUT. 3HR TRIP

31-12-03 Templeton. Phil, Dan Herdy, Rev. Short session to see out the Old  
Year. Top lip removed (+ dead mouse). lots of wet stony mud, and some large  
rocks.

20/11/03 Crebs

Ali with Martin Grass + Chris.

Trip to celebrate <sup>The</sup> 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signature  
in the mud by ~~Henry~~ <sup>Henry</sup> Young in Young Clark Passage.  
Also onto Waterwheel. \* Henry ~~Young~~ Young - 20th Nov. 1753

7/12/03 Honey mead.

Ali with Geoff Ballard, Gonzo and Henry.

First trip down this cave for Ali and Geoff. Some  
of the belay points are interesting. ~~Not many~~  
rehearsed. Rather overkill on the tackle <sup>Only 1 bolder required</sup> for Keen's Pot and a very short one for Chalice Well.  
Worth a trip, but it a pity that the cave doesn't

quite live up to its name. (Honeymond' - sounds nice!)

6/12/03 Daren Cilau.

Ali, Nic Nak, Geoff Ballard and Dr. Jo.

Excellent trip to Hard Rock Cafe and St. David's Sump.

~~20/12~~ 28/12/03 Swildens - Abandon Hope

Pete and Ali Moody (yes really Pete!) and Geoff Ballard.

Memory Lane Trip (must be about 20 years) to sort out the description for the new Swildens Book. This area is still as lovely as ever, and Good Staff Dig has not dried out yet! Managed to find the alternative route down to the Z streamway which avoids the Old Approach Route + the climb opposite the Ten Foot Overhang. Good route but slightly snug in places. - This is the 4 Letter Link, found by Snobolt.

24/12/03 - Swildens - II

Geoff Ballard, Adrian Vanderplank and Ali Moody.

Was supposed to be a trip to Sump 2, but ended up going to the top of the Black Hole and general grot around in a passage off to the right, downstream of Howards Dig. (on 28/12/03 this was found to be ~~a~~ a connection with Abandon Hope area).

31/12/03 Bath Swallet.

Pete Hann, Colin Shapter Rose well  
⑧ building and spoil removal.

31/12/03 Mendip Mechanix

Patrick (PLC) + corner - Hunter Lodge by ~~the~~ <sup>Sid</sup>, Tyndall, Manor Farm.

The rock is pink!