



CAVING LOGBOOK 2005

Acq. No. 04251

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Date 02/01/05

BOX MINES THE TEAM SUPER TROOPERS = PHIL H, AYRIAN, JUDITH, GRUMPY (B.P.)
 and BOBBY BABY - HEROES GRUMPY & BOBBY BABY. Maria & Barry Wilks + SHERICA (P)
 THE STALWARTS. Preparation coffee at Bob's + Nigel G.

Through Jack's workings to the Art Gallery and beyond. We saw a crane, and we saw some bats - so many it was a proper battry. Abandoned Shelters in the case of Barry and Maxine, then Brian and Bob turned round and led out the way they had come. Phil, Nigel, Adrian and Judith went on through Peris Crawl to the Cathedral, then out via the Back Door.

Revived with tea and Christmas cake at Bob's. ← THANKS GOLLY

* NOTE BOBBY BABY BEHAVED VERY GENTLEMANLY!

SWILDON'S - MAYPOLE AVENUE 3-1-05

ALI, JODE, RICH AND NIK NAK

RETURN TRIP FOLLOWING THE BANG WE DID TWO MONTHS AGO. LOTS OF SOIL, BUT UNFORTUNATELY ANOTHER BANG WILL BE NEEDED TO BREAK THROUGH TO TERMINUS CHAMBER. WILL RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WHEAL TEMPLETON 3-1-05

Nigel joined Phil Hendry + 3 other regulars (Jonathon - , 2 ACI members ^{Elaine} Eileen? ^{Hugh?} Hugh?)*. Steady floor-lowering at the 15-fathom level, where Mine Captain Morrison has started to install the next set of staging. The North End crew were demolishing boulders choking the rift, whilst the S. Enders uncovered more of the ledge. The N end is noticeably dry - the boulders are even clean! - whilst the S end is glutinous mud with lots of clints from boulders down to small, rounded, sandstone cobbles.

Fortunately flooding is not a problem, as enquiries to pumping-engine builders Hayle, Harvey & Co have so far drawn a blank.

Your correspondent expressed hope that the Christmas illuminations in the climbing-shaft have been recorded for posterity, using Mr. Fox-Talbot's process.

4 - skip loads up.

* Names - sorry, perhaps PH or Prew could oblige?

- NG

SWILDONS - SMP 2 7-1-05

NIK NAK SOLO

HAD THE CAR TO MYSELF, THE VIZ IN SMP 1 AND 2 WAS CRYSTAL. DEEPCED A CYLINDER AT SMP 2 READY FOR SUNDAY'S TRIP TO 12.

past Maest South wales.

8-1-2005.

Malc Foyle, Mike Thomas, Jon Beal, Laura Trabridge
Jon Williams.

TRIP TO THE CANAL BOTH UPSTREAM AND DOWN photo's along the way with the model! very windy up the hill!

SWILDONS 9

9-1-2005.

Jon Beal, Mike Thomas. 3½ hours.

TRIP TO SHOW Jon the delights of 7 to 9 ready for a photo trip with due notice in two weeks.

Jon Beal. stopped dreaming of tits and legs for a few seconds in strip five when the driver had a moment with the wife and a Regulator not going off! lots of small swimming things in me now!!!JB

HILLERS TO FAIRY 8-1-05

GEOFF BAWARD, HELEN RIDER, NIK NAK

HELEN'S FIRST DOCK AND THROUGH TRIP. A GENTLE STROLL FOLLOWED BY A FEW PINTS IN THE OAKHILL INN.

SWILDONS 12 DESOLATION ROW 9-1-05, PHILL SHORT, GREG BROOK, NIK NAK JRAT SAID - 'IT'S F***ING HORRIBLE, A GHOST, DONT GO THERE!' HE'S RIGHT !!!!!!

9-1-05 = Priddy Green Sink survey trip then pulled through - 9 hrs - kev & em still stinkin' Buntington Combe 15/01/05 lots of empty cars in the car park and one Mr. Weston approach, looking slightly around him, went to his car, opened the drivers door, took all around, and received

(Not - not a No 2)

Date

himself. He did not realise Mrs Golly Scamell was constituency in the truck while all else were playing down Goolchurch. On realising he was not actually alone, he then asked Golly not to tell anyone - ho ho. ho BS.

15. 01. 05 Many thanks to Ali for organising "playing down Goolchurch" - those who made the cakes etc - & the Vd. Ps for their anniversary barrel! JG

16. 01. 05 G. B. Adrian, Jude VdP, Barry & Marion W, Nigel G.

Very gentle wobbles with lots of stops to admire the pretties & a few big moths, as far as far end of White Parrage to make sure it's still there. JG

15-01-05 HOGWARTS QUIDDITCH MATCH IN GOOLCHURCH.

A motley collection of Wessex Wizards assembled at the Rock of Ages car park, apparating, arriving in Rock of Ages with the use of Floo powder or really arriving in disguised Ford Anglias. They then mounted their Nimbus 2000's, but dark arts ensured that they were unable to lift off, so all had to walk to the cave sacred to goats. The muggles were amazed. Amongst the wizards, we spotted Mr & Mrs Weasley, two Fluffies, a spider, two Dementors, Lucius Malfoy, Hagrid and his brother (? Hagrid?) and many Hogwarts students, including our heroes, Ron Weasley, Hermione Granger and our hero Harry Potter. Control was kept by the staff, including Prof. McGonagall and Prof. Moody.

Passing the baleful gaze of the dementor at the entrance, the school made their way to the Chamber of Secrets, and explored the netherworld for trophies. These included bats, frogs, weeping willows, snakes and of course Golden Snitches.

After a while we assembled again in the Chamber of Secrets for a midnight feast, washed down with home-made Butterbeer, of a fiery gingery nature. Amusement was had when a rooster essayed a tight squeeze, only to be rescued by Hermione, who made it shed its' outer skin in order to pass the constrictions.

Trophies were counted and displayed. Slytherin was judged to have won the Quidditch match by a large margin, but Dolores Umbridge and Cornelius Fudge of the Ministry of Magic lead an appeal, where they found that Slytherin was to be disqualified due to the inappropriate use of the Dark Arts.

The school returned to Hogwarts, but the house elves were left behind to restore the castle to normal, including the removal of many discarded Muggle artifacts.

Back at Hogwarts, the school learned from Dolores Umbridge that it had failed its OFSTED inspection due to poorly-maintained broomsticks and poorly-chaged wands. It was too late, however, for the second feast to be cancelled. Later the school were given an evening holiday, and returned to Hogsmeade, where they played the Muggle game of darts in the ~~leaky~~ Cauldron. Three ~~rooms~~ ~~rooms~~ ~~rooms~~

To complete the evening, a barrel of beer was supplied by Mr & Mrs Weasley in the Gryffindor common room, to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary.

M. I. Moody,

16.1.05 Kev, Em - Haskins world of House & Home: Bedroom CHAMBER

A nice hours bimble. Didn't have a Haskins survey so had a job finding the way out. Luckily the exit signs helped.

22.1.05 Swallows sumo 12 to help Clive on a photographic trip for the book. Clive, Mike T, John B, Boog (frome cc), kev & Em.

Excellent fun. Sumos 6 & 9 are much more grovelly than expected (Em). Luckily 9 was larger than expected so my fat arse fitted through OK. (John B) Thanks for showing us around guys! - kev

9/1/05 - Swolden's Faw

Ali, Jude and Adrian VDP. Rich Carey.

Trip to inspect the passage in the roof of the bedding chamber above the Faw Dig for the book description. Interesting thrutch up a slippery lift to enter this passage and then about 12 m of fairly small tunnel ^{with a squeeze} where it ascends steeply and becomes too tight. No real digging prospects and doesn't seem to be associated with Watergate.

Tuesday 18th January 2005 - Goatchurch

Nik Nak, Geoff Ballard, Jude UDP and Rich Carey + Ali

Trip to find various objects (spiders, owls and snakes) that had escaped capture on Saturday.

Saturday 22nd January 2005 - Swildons Nine and Damp Link
Ali, Nik Nak, Rich Carey.

Trip to complete the description of various odds and sods from Swildons Five to Nine. Tumbledown Dig (Swildons Five) looks interesting and is a mud choked tube with an airspace over the top. It is obviously a continuation of the passage at the top of Jubilee Aren. In Swildon's Seven we achieved a good vocal connection between Nik Nak's dig in the Second Boulder Chamber and the boulder pile in the side passage, off the First Boulder Chamber. The rope hanging out the roof just before Sump VII does not seem to go up to anything of significance - just a muddy 2m climb from the top of the rope to a tight ascending passage. Also went through the duck leading to Sump VIII - well impressed with the size of the passage - a high rift before the sump. The holes in the roof at the top of the muddy slope in this area probably link with the descending passages in Badlands. We also found that the duck could be bypassed by a keyhole shaped rift in the left-hand wall about 3m upstream of the duck. The day was completed by a trip out through the Damp Link to check some points for the book. The stream that flows out of the Damp Link was very similar in size to the one flowing down the blind pot between Candy's Calamity and Shatter chamber. Eventually exited the cave at 9.30pm after a 10½ hour trip into a white world! - excellent trip, a real pink and fluffy experience!!

23.1.05 Priddy Green Sink - kev & Em: Trip to carry on with the survey. Huge flow of meltwater was chundering down the entrance. Kev built a large snowball & managed to block up the drain hole, ~~for~~ just long enough for us to get through the unpleasantness & into the first dry chamber. Found a Wessex (rat in the entrance)! Clitoris (rat is a pig to survey (as expected), guess we'll be going back in the very near future then!!

23-1-05 Swildons to Top of 20.

{Pauline} Kathy and Stu. Set off in snow clad fields. Rushing water from entrance to Jacobs ladder came to a halt - met a group who were exhausted and cold, ill equipped some in summer boots! A Scout Leader called Frank had difficulty in getting up Jacobs ladder - severe panic attack, leaving his party of young scouts at bottom. Stu calmed him down + led him up - followed by a 14 year old girl - "assistant leader" apparently who was very cold and frightened. She too followed Stu up.

Kathy + I got to bottom of J. ladder + met another party '2nd lot' of scouts - who had split-up from 1st lot unaware of the situation.

We let them go on up - Kathy + I waited for Stu to return - seemed for ever. We carried on to be waterfall - I decided to call it a day - power of water too much for me to go down, but Stu became a human plug and held back the water to allow me time to get down. Once he released the 'plug' Kathy + I got a drenching.

Continued to the 20; met more youngsters who ~~were~~ were cold, crying and not moving. They moved slowly towards the exit direction - Stu de-rigged the ladder for Ali. Came on up - at just 40 minutes. Had a bit of trouble getting back up the waterfall! Stu - plugged it again for me to get a couple of foot-holds + hand-holds - got wet again! Snow still about - sunny, freezing. Eventful afternoon,

✓.

AfG.

28/1/05 - Swildons to Sump II and Mud Sump.

Mike Wooding + Ali Moody

Very pleasant warm up trip before Preddy Creek Sink tomorrow. Also checked the Mud Sump - not much air space so will exit via the Troubles tomorrow.

29.1.05 Rich Carey, Noel Cleaver, Mike Woodring, Nik Nak, Ali. So got the calligraphy and for ten bones points guess who got detailed to write up this epic trip - Basically this was part of the process of dotting the "i's" and crossing the "T's" of parts of the Svaldors book project. In we Preddy Green sink, down the 4, out via the Troubles and rump 1. We encountered Kev & Em in Preddy Green above the junction but we (ie. Nik Nak) rigged and pulled-through independently. For Noel and Mike this completed the Preddy Green - Cowsh link which they hadn't done before. For Nik Nak, Ali and Rich it was a ~~treacherous~~ training & hand-holding exercise (for Noel and Mike). I'll write this one up for the journal but it was an excellent post-Christmas Wake-up call! Noel.

29-1-05 TEMPLETON

Phil H with John Hill in his new Series 1 Landrover, took the old 3rd Landrover which and a stack of tools to Level 2, while I was fitted the genny (again) in the shed. Rock walls not suitable for bolting the wall, so devised a system for fixing it to the handset using scaffold pipe and clips. Hunt for clips - then spent ages freeing the bolts. To Johns for brush and 8mm bolts.

Back at the dig, started fixing the wrench, then, Tusha, Tim Young and Dave Speed arrived, with a new bigger gable down for the petrol wrench making our wrench obsolete. Decided to fix it anyway, Tim will weld steel stays from the wrench to the RST frame supporting the wall.

Cleaned up, song stat at the bottom with a sprayer and brush.

Tim tested the hydraulic drive on the new drum - it works, but has to go back to Dave Speed's for modification. With more cable we can keep running the ship to the bottom of the dig, but some rock will need removing to allow the rails to be extended.

John and I levelled some recently - dumped apart. Not as much achieved as hoped, but some progress made.

3rd platform is at - 82 ft, deepest part of dig is 93 ft.

29/1/05 Priory Green Sink → Swallows (Kev, Em).

Trip to carry on with the survey. Now got to kens Crawl (not too far to go now). Exit via the troubles owing to Ali's ingenious pencil in the mud signal system meaning mud sump was probably shut. 10 hours in total, Kev won 6 wee wees to Em's 2. ~~██████████~~

2/2/05 Weston Bass. Investigated two stone mines, north of the M4 near Acton Turville.

One entrance filled, other open. Photographed / explored I started Survey. Interesting small mine few artifacts. Late 1800's. Had interesting chat with Mark at Quayman Arms later. It seems that Hanson workers are investigating taking stone out of cliff workings again. They have been seen going in / out of the welded up steel deer pen.

2/2/05 A possible extra dig at Whitestown Farm. Bob & Paulah. In the field next to Stakes, and also the field next to Crook's Hole dig, there's a depression with scrap metal, a small rock face, and a hawthorn tree - all good signs. Had a look at it last year, this time, an all-day look, dug the bank and scrap away from the rock face, shifted a lot of dirt. The rock has a layer of red ochre and crystal over some of it. It looks promising as a summer dig alongside Crook's. Nice spot for a BBQ, so we had one, ~~and~~ it was, first of the year.

30/1/05 Aubrey came over to Crook's Hole dig on Sunday eve to pop the three shot holes Steve & I had drilled during past two Wednesday nights. 12 mtrs of cord he said he put in. If was a bit more than a pop. Shortly after there was either an echo above ground, or a rumble underground. Bob S.

2/1/05

Date

Crook's Hole: No caverns of great size, but a lot of broken rock. One piece Steve tied on and the winch with all its ballast tried to go down the hole while the rock stayed still. A snapper is required here. Lot of broken rock up and the way on down is still open.
Bob S., Carmen & Steve.

26-1-05 UPPY + GNESS -

GB - Quick trip to bat passaei, as pretty as ever, must BE PUTTING ON WEIGHT AND TO TAKE BELT OFF IN LADDER DIG SQUEEZE - Bloody Christmas!

1-2-05 UPPY + GNESS -

EASTWATER - HAVIN BEEN FOR 12 YEARS WONT BE GOING BACK FOR AT LEAST DOUBLE!

3-2-05 UPPY + ELAINE P. SWINDONS.

DOWNTON 2 + BACK, ELAINES FIRST TRIP IN 2 YEARS. 1ST TRIP IN LOWER SUMP! NO PROBS, NICE TRIP.

5-2-05

PINETREE POT

Christine G. & Helen Rider.

Muddy, damp trip to this unfragmented cave. Rigged both pitches on ladder & wollowed off in deep mud to find the bypass, easy street & Moonlight grotto. Quite pretty but a bugger to get into. 40 ft ladder climb to finish off & walked back in rain.

P.S. the MCG were very helpful & hospitable & even offered us a cup of tea! No difficulty obtaining key - just £10 deposit & make sure someone is around.

6 - 2 - 05 SINGING RIVER MINE.

ADRIAN & JUDE VDP & BARREY & MARION WILKINSON

SUNDAY PLOD AROUND ALL THE IMPORTANT BITS 2 HRS.

4-2-05 SAT

Fiona + Ben to Swildons 4

SUN

5-2-05 Fiona + Rob to Swildons 5

Saturday 05 Feb.

Ken Dawe, Joe Candy, John Hurst, Alistair Gordon (Craven), Noel Cleave.

Wessex Geriatric Group OFD outing. We hoped to get into OFD3 and possibly up to Smiths Armoury, but either underestimated the time, or overestimated our speed (or both). We had minimal route-finding delays but reached the traverses too close to our turn-round time to continue. We got back to Salubrious quite quickly, so did a swift bimble down the Maypole into OFD2 so that Joe and John could just get a taste of the streamway. Neither had been into OFD at all before. Out after 7 1/2 reasonably strenuous (for us) hours. On the way out we met the Andy Morse family. Pretty impressive to see Andy's parents enjoying OFD! All in all, despite failing to reach OFD3, a most enjoyable trip. Noel Cleave.

Incidentally it was good to have Joe Candy along for his first proper Wessex trip since rejoining the club. He is impressively fit, but protests that he doesn't do climbing or heights. I think we can add the word "Yet" to his protests and he coped just fine with the climbing in OFD.

12-2-05

Swildons to Sump 4 with Ben, Rob, Mark, Fiona today was quite entertaining as the water was very powerful. Sump 1 was quite different then normal full of froth* and ~~more~~ longer went to Sump 4 and found there was a high current running through it so called it a day at 4 a fun very sporting trip

*?

Fiona

+ ? froth

12-2-05 kev, em : Priddy Green Sink out Swildons.

Final surveying trip. Very druggy in P.G.S. 4 Streamway was quick flowing! Finally came across Lawrence the leech resting on a ledge in the rift above the final drop. 11 hours in total. out via mud sump (small airspace).

13-2-05 Kev, Em, Andy (the Apprentice) & Bobble (BEC). Good fun
 ☺ Sunday bimble round 13 Pots. ☺ Boulder ruckle wet.

16/2/05 Crook's Hole dig Steve, Carmen & Bob S. At last, we've found the spirit level that went on down ahead of us last year. It must have been the mentioning of it in the lastest journal (from the log). Good few skips bucket loads up t'night. Large piece of ex. wall on the floor resisted a 14lb sledge hammer and will now have to succumb to more vicious tactics.

Thanks for the donation of the spirit level, Bob!

18-2-05

Swildons Hole. Phil H to less boulder. Noted more anomalies in the survey near the entrance. Pleasantly wet, glad of the respite.

Goatchurch Phil H with newer tribe (Brian, Helen, Paul, Becky and Izzy) Easy trundle to the Boulder Chamber, then Phil, Helen and Paul to the Drainspipe. Phil - Helen though (I don't think I'll bother again) Out via the Tradesman's, rope-assisted.

Avelines Hole Much look at the impressive gate leading to Mullion worked. If the ancient "inscriptions" it is protecting (do not be fooled by the notice about disturbing bats) are as old as the ones at the top of the Giant's Stair in Goatchurch, it will have been a complete waste of money - the Goatchurch X is close to some recent scratched initials, and looks as fresh? If they gated Avelines to protect the "inscriptions", it begs the question, why did they not gate Goatchurch?

(PMA)

Sa 19-2-05 Simon ☺ Swildons

Still 'humming' from this morning's MRI Scan so thought a trip to Sump one was a good idea to see if ...

- I could still remember the way.
- I could get back out again.
- Whether I glow in the dark or not.

Great fun - Good job I took a torch ! SF

Sat 19th Feb Ocean & Swallows

AM Bloody peaceful great & sun was had if Phil was down as well no sign just a light rain falls on the way back out. Water low at entrance but quite reasonable down. Good trip.

20-2-05 Post - last surveying trip in Priddy Green. Took in the passage beyond Dawe-Thompson Traverse. It's worth a visit. Out & back to the hut by 9:30 pm & were very surprised to find no one here! Tea, crumpets, home. Don't have to go back to PGS for a while.

Keve, Em

21st Feb 05.

Just had a very nice dive in Linley Caven. This is quite a funny place because its on an industrial estate with all the Workman and Lorries running around and there you are hitting up in full diving gear. The looks we got were of disbelief. You enter this dive through a ~~hole~~ muddy hole then a short way down more mud you hit the water. You would never believe what lies in store for you. The first 2 meters was 0 vis then after that it was excellent. The passages are as large as streets I went in for 273 meters. It seems to go on for ever. It gradually drops down to a max depth of 40 meters - but that only happens much much further along. I believe this site is still ongoing. - my next trip will be with 10⁵ or 12 LT bottles. Looking forward to more exploration of this site. -

FIONA CROZIER - CLIVE WESTLAKE - BEN HOLDON - JIM LISTER

20-2-05

PEAK CAVEN Resurgence + Treasury Sump
JIM LISTER - KEVE BAGE - BEN HOLDON - FIONA CROZIER

19-2-05 Holme bank

BEN HOLDON - FIONA

Sat 26th Feb

Date

Follow-up of possible entrance noted last year in FCCQ, Phil H and Adrien VSP negotiated difficult access to a hidden alcove filled with quarry-bang debris. 20 minutes spent hauling rocks (giant disposal much easier than at Terpstra) allowed a way into the top of a phreatic tube running parallel to the face. Small straw, flowstone and slight outwards draught. Further engineering needed to remove rocks in floor which may be supporting a loose roof. Good potential, another visit planned soon. Provisional name "Quonigrie" Phil H

SAT 26th Feb

Stone Lane Slicker to Sump 2
Fiona + Ben

SUN 27th Feb

Hutton Ludwell - Tried to dive through the resurgence but found it very tight. So dived through the cave entrance I got in a fair way but then found I was unable to continue on as it became very very tight and would of needed digging to get through. Not sure if some boulders have come down - will need to have another go later - Fiona + Ben —

SAT 26th Carmen, Patrick TASH, Downhole Series Dredging to visit Geryon in the underwater surveyors series.

SUN 27th Aggy - Turkey Streamlet - over some of us as others were last seen heading in the direction of IKEA!

26-2-05

Sell Gill

Nik-Nak, Christine G & Helen down Goblin route & Geoff B, Simon Exley, Rich Carey & Jude Vanderplank down fossil route :- exchange.

Lots of snow on the ground. Helen decided to leave her SRT introduction till another day & turned back at traverse to wait. C.G & Nik-Nak exited amidst a barrage of snowballs & a collapsing snow bridge !!!
(lunch at Berries, then...)

Alum Pot - Dolly tubs.

Evening trip to follow Sell Gill. Simon rigged till bottom followed by Chris. All down to bridge except Rich who stayed with the cars. Simon & Chris derigged - walked back in snow & dark!

27-2-05

Lancaster → Wretched Rabbit "exchange".

Same crew as above, except C.G & S.E decided to do Wretched Rabbit → Lancaster to save time. We made excellent time, meeting others beyond miners, at oxbow corner & continued on the high level route until it became quite unfamiliar & we spent a lot of time looking for the way on at Fall Pot. We had actually looked up the correct rift, but discounted it as it looked a dead end & too small. We continued searching & on returning the time, thought that someone would soon be searching for us; at least dropping the pitch for a look - so we returned to a well-trodden, main stream route & made ourselves warm & comfy to wait. Existing Wretched Rabbit would have been a very slow process & due to the late time of day, we had made the right decision. The others had called C.R.O & from the Lancaster Pitch took all of 10 minutes to find us & we made our

way out unassisted, very embarrassed & feeling a little tired & stupid. But hey-ho...
 Chris & Simon xx *

3-3-05

Swildons - 9

Clive Westlake, Christine G & Simon Exley

Having done absolutely diddy-squat for last 3 days - recuperating in hiding - we set off on a previously planned trip to 9. Cracking trip - no problems & in good time.

* Reference Lancaster resume. Geoff Ballard has placed an accurate version of events on the message board on the CDF website should anybody wish to read it. Unfortunately, in response to our apology for inconveniencing the rest of the team, Nik-Nak has placed an inaccurate, ill-informed version of events on the e-mail list. We have discussed this and it is being dealt with. C. GROSART 4-3-05

(NO COMMENT - NIK NAK, MAKE YOUR OWN MIND UP!)

4-3-05 Singing River Mine. Mike Thomas, Ian Bell.

Inspecting dive site's for Ian Bell's Frome Boys. Had a look at most of the mine including C&G's concrete dig!

5-iii-05

Ogof Agen Allwedd - Grand Circle - Sean, Clive Westlake, George Taylor (NPC) - 5 3/4 hours - very fine cloudscape over the Black Mountains as we walked back along the Llangattock escarpment.

8/3/05

King Mine (Sandford).

Nik Nak Aly M. Jude & Adrian Vanderplak.

Rich Carey.

An evening trip down this newly rediscovered mine in the same region as Sandford Leevy. This had been located by Dave Upton and Surveyed also.

The Mine Starts with a 7.5 metre ladder pitch to a cross rift where the left hand side closes down fairly quickly. the right hand side continues passing a bird and possibly a Badger Skeleton. The passage forks and then down to the right slopes into a roomy chamber (almost the same size as the Boulder Chamber in Greatshurlock.) To the right upslope a short passage is lined with calcite crystals. down slope ends in a dry mud choke. The mine is at the moment probably like the last mines before it with visible shot holes, Pickmarks and candle scorch marks on the wall.

There is a 10 figure grid reference for G.P.S. and the entrance is covered with branches to try and stop small things falling down it.

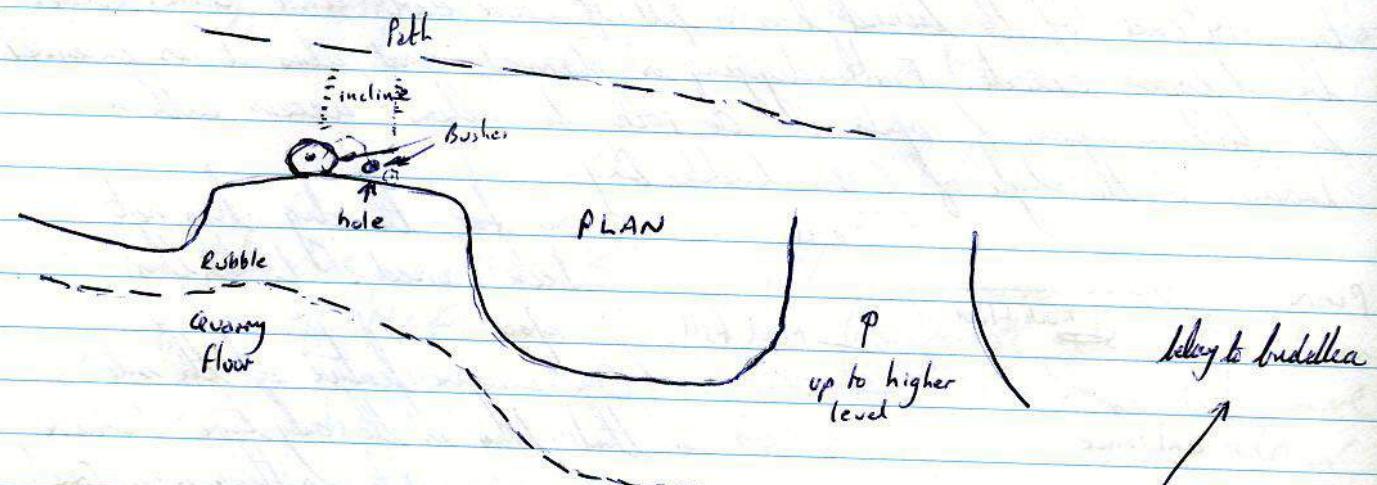
Dave V. has named this King Mine in memory of a family friend Tony King a helicopter pilot who died in the second Iraq war. Tony lived in Congresbury Adrian Vandepark

12-3-05 Phil Henry, Adrian Vandepark, Brian Prewer to the secret dig in Fairy Cave Quarry. All can now be revealed. From the quarry entrance, keep to the right, into the main quarry, passing the incline to the higher level. At an alcove into the main quarry face, a buddleia bush is seen halfway up and in the middle of the alcove. The dig is behind this.

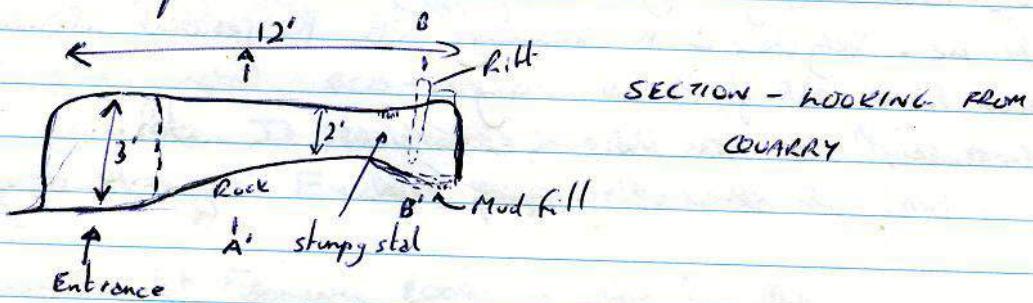
Current access involves abseiling down a rope tied to trees at the top of the face. Walk up to the higher level and on, parallel to the face, until a muddy cutting leads to a bush on the edge of the face. Drop the rope just to the left of the small thorn bush to the

left of that. The rope usually snags in trees and the bushes, which makes for an interesting descent!

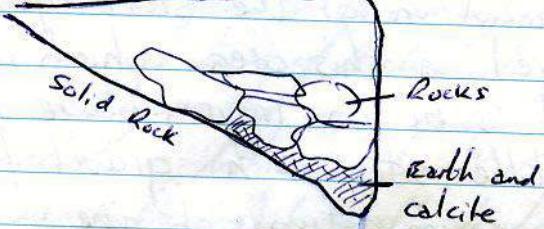
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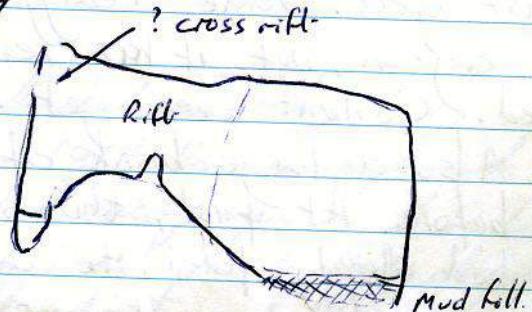
Adnan rigged the rope and descended, then pulled up a 7.5m ladder* for us lesser mortals. He then started pulling out the rocks which had bouldered us two weeks ago (26/2). A lot of this was an angular limestone mass cemented into layers of calcite. After that, a lot of crumbly broken calcite was removed. Spill disposal consists of shovelling it out of the hole and down the rock face.



Eventually we could wriggle in - there are stumpy remains of staves in the roof, a black end wall and an ascending very narrow rift to the left. This has a small stal遵, and may

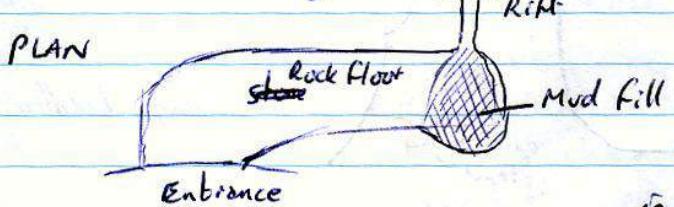


CROSS SECTION
A - A'



CROSS SECTION AT ENN
B - B'

open out slightly into a parallel rift. There was a noticeable draught. Although the floor of the tunnel was dug to show it is solid rock, the very end of the tunnel has a fill of cave earth and stones under the loose calcite. Further digging is planned, and also it is intended to drill a series of apertures in the rock to allow access with a ladder, in the style of G8's Ladder Dig.



Date
So far, the dig has not been named. Watch this space.

(One unique feature of the site is that this is the only time I have ever dug a cave while sitting in a tree!

Phil H

12-3-05 OFD 2 - Smiths Aranry

M. Thomas, J. Beal, A. Judd, S. Pierce, N. Campbell

Steady trip to OFD3 with lots of scary bits for everyone - traverses for Mr Judd, squeezers for me. Very clear in the streamway with the resident alburn trout & superb erosions in the end of the streamway

My LATIN IS A LITTLE RUSTY But I'M SURE TRAVERSE

Jan B.

MEANING "GET ME THE FREE! off of ME". Aranry Sun.

Early March Llygad Lluncur.

First trip to the end since the breakthrough in December of last year. Some redigging was to be expected to pass the Slot again, but it has refilled far more than when I first started. Couldn't even get my head in at the start of the Slot. Also a large bank of gravel in this area which wasn't there before. At first, this seemed to be an insurmountable problem as I had already filled the only suitable site with gravel from last years digging. However, upon examination of the walls prior to the Slot, it was realised that some accurately cut scaffold poles could be wedged across the passage with the

large 1 ton gravel bags suspended from these, 2 poles were duly cut and proved to be a good fit. Further bags can then be belayed to these as and when needed.

Mike Barnes

Crook's Hole dig: Steve & Bob's 16/3/05 If you have any snappers off Mr Fielder, I would suggest you try them out before leaving his premises. The one he gave us went phut! and not bang, and the boulder remained almost totally unbroken apart from a drill hole.

Saturday 5th February 2005 (sorry Brian late entry again!).

Swildons - Swynne-Puko.

Andrew Atkinson, Juliet Morse, Ali Moody, Nik Nak, Rich Carey.
 (UBSS) (UBSS)

Trip to install eco-anchors on the 11m and 15m pitch in Swynne-Puko. It is now possible to do this round trip as a pull-through. Excellent trip well worth doing!

Tuesday 1st February 2005 - Bos Swallet.

Nik Nak, Rich Carey, Ali Moody.

A little 'gem' of a cave - comes highly recommended.

Sat 19th March

Having been foiled in the morning in my attempt to get underground (and into the inner sanctum of Arctiney Hole (when Mr Mulligan failed to make the r.v.) Jude kindly enabled me to fulfil my wish by accompanying me to Swildons so to replace a tether with small C-links. Despite Mr Mulligan's absence (a mixed blessing) I was able to take full advantage of the warm sunny springlike weather by walking round a few of the lesser sites in Barrington Combe.

Phil H

FRIDAY . 18 MARCH.

AM. Ken Daws, Noel Cleare & Joe Candy of the WGG - had just Joe on the scaffolding tower and tried to confuse him utterly by way of intro to SRT, was failed. In the afternoon, joined by John Hunt (also wgg) we went to RHINO where Joe proceeded to rope faultlessly and calmly with the left hand route (rugged by Ken). John rigged the right-hand bolts for the first time, also very competently but we then discovered that our rope was about 2 metres short! Luckily Ken, at the bottom, told John they before John got too far down the pitch. Noel was responsible for this mess-up, but he took a rope known as ~~about~~⁵⁰ metres which should have been ample.

Saturday 19. Joe, John, Noel to Manor farm saddle. Cave virtually bone dry - very pleasant at the end! Admired the lignum-nanum shelves from a safe distance. Out by mid-day so Joe did some more SRT in the afternoon. It was a roasting hot day all quiet, sleepy & peaceful when Kevin Pyromaniac "Hikan" arrived & suggested that we open the BBQ season. Yes, well, it was a BBQ + + + a mega bonfire is well. all we lacked was a Ox to roast! Noel Cleare.

11-13th MARCH DERBYSHIRE WEEKEND.

~~Mr~~ Mr. Dave, Mel, Bif, Lou, Simon, Kev, Em, Andy J, Mike, Wayne Sheldon (GSC) & Anne Soulsby (GSC) & Rob Heron

SATURDAY: Peak Cavern → White River Series 2 trips in. Mel, Lou & Simon went for walk. Meal at TSG.

SUNDAY: Kev & Wayne had early start & rigged JH as Wayne needed to do some taping in the Tearooms. This lead the way for a very lazy trip for Simon, Bif, Em & Rob who were bussed up to JH, dropped down the pitches, left some SRT kit for Kev (thanks!) & mooched on out via Peak. Kev, Wayne & Anne then de-rigged JH.

Chips in Castleton then home.

Date

19th March. Judith, Adrian, Pauline & Rich, to Swildons Sump I.
 At the 20' had a 20 minute wait for 7 people coming up the ladder - Adrian + Rich went on ahead to sump II and Adrian on to meet Nik Nak + bring back diving cylinders. Had a sit down + wait for 10 mins. at sump I, Steve & I started our way back - met Rich just before the 20' + he life-lined me to go up the ladder - I used a different technique this time, not seen before by anyone else! lovely warm sunny walk back across the fields - ended up with a warm reception around the B.B.Q. Mad Phil's returned from Tasmania, turned it into a party. Brill evening.

P.M.

18/3/05 Weston Brothers. Swan Mine.
 Very thorough visit to locate appropriate sites for the ISSA w/e in May.

17th March 2005 Priddy Green Sink.

Ali Moody, Nik Nak, Andrew Atkinson (UBSS) Juliet Moore (UBSS)

Trip to inspect the Eco-anchors in Priddy Green sink and the Bladder Pot Route NB Key - Shit Sump was covered in purple 'blobs' which on closer inspection turned out to be whitish masses on tiny purple worms. Phil would like a sample if you would care to oblige Kew! (I promise that I won't ask you to go through it again) Leeches by Sump IV seem very hungry today, didn't want to let go of Ali's finger - I think that this one should be called Dracula instead of Lawrence P.T.O.

23/3/05 Steve, Paula & Bob S Not all of Mr. Fielder's snappers are duds, the one tonight needed very little encouragement. The howling draught at the bottom of the dig (Steve reckons) did not disperse the smoke within the half-hour we waited, over -

cont'd - but the boulders in bits; one piece slammed into the door, which was half closed. Some spectacular thundersounds seen from deer leaps from Shepton direction right round to Weston Smare way.

24-3-05

Porth Yr Ogof

Chris Grosart & Andrew Dawson-Maddocks.

Womble through Porth, pleasant swim. Back in dry route to Hywels Grotto & back out main entrance. Took photos in resurgence.

25-3-05

Rods Pot

Rich Casey, Helen Rider, Chris Grosart & A.D.M.

All down to main chamber, R.C & C.G up into eyeball chamber. Then all off down to the bear bit - R.C & C.G went in - then climbed out again! Helen & C.G round a cranny, completely pointless side passage & out. Ice-cream in Burnington to finish off. Lovely!

19/3/05 continued

Many thanks to Andrew Moon and the Tuesday nighters for replacing the lower 5 gall container at the Mud Sump with a silt trap. This connects directly with the 4" pipe and should make bouldering the Mud Sump much faster.

Ah.

26-3-05 Fairy Carr Quarry Secret Dig (until we can think of a decent name)

Phil H, Adrian V, Brian P. Adrian gained access and began digging, while Phil put in bolts as we can bodge from the bottom. Wesser rod drill worked well, but put few hours of combat when a stone chip went in his eye.

We are 1 spit short, but the last hole has been drilled ready for it. Digging at the end cleared a hard packed mud floor, with

embedded stones. Digging is slow, but there is potential.

GPS data:- Floor level below dig 65586 47625 Alt 555'
cave entrance at 600'.

Hilvers Cave NGR 65662 47716 Alt. 539'

27-3-05 Sandstone Hole. Barry Manor, Judith to ~~lode~~ 20' Pot very long dry way, only way short dry. Adrian, Phil and Sue on to Survey I (Phil's first visit since the last attack - it hasn't changed) Out via lode way. A pleasant Sunday morning trip, not too wet, and cave nicely wege-free.

Phil H.

East Wall. OFD / Dyo. Found g could still remember my way around these caves after a 6 year gap since I last visited them. Two trips into each with many CPC in tow, many had not been in before and we mildly impressed. Rio Hollis.

11 APRIL '05

western Brothers plus the entire population of Bathampton / Bathgate + neighbouring unemployed, M.P.s, skinheads, teenagers, bouncers, labourers, students all fully equipped with spray cans, gloss paint, drills, hammers, shovels etc to SWAN MINE to re-arrange the entire workings, cave pearls, footprints, mineheads, cranes etc and one complete JCB.

Nice one Bob.

P S G. Weston

What?

SAT 27TH MARCH

had a lovely dive into Stoke Lane
we went to Sump 3 - the stuff is
lovely just after Sump 2 really fine
stuff. The Sump was in good condition
well worth all the effort getting here.

FIONA + BEN HOLDEN

1-4-05 NEWS FLASH

ROBIN MAINE HAS INTRODUCED A SLIDING SCALE FOR SWILLOW'S HOLE.
TO SUMP I £1.00

EACH SUMP THEREAFTER + £5.00.

ROUND TRIP £2.50

LONG ROUND TRIP £4.00.

RENAASCENCE £3.50

N.W. STREAM PASSAGE £5.00.

TURNSTILES WILL BE PLACED AT RELEVANT PARTS OF THE CAVE,
CAVES ARE ADVISED TO TAKE PLENTY OF 50P PIECES WITH THEM.

MRO RESCUE RATES MIN. 1 BARREL BEER PER RESCUE

+ 1 BOTTLE SCOTCH PER HOUR AFTER FIRST 4 HOURS.

3-4-05 Buddleia Hole (Fairy Cave Quarry) Phil H, Adrian V, Tomo.

Adrian climbed up using a ladder and the spots pub'd 2 weeks ago.

He says more spots are needed.

Digging (easiest with a shovel) revealed the end to be a mud filled hollow, with some stones. The left wall dips into a flat, but only about halfway across the hollow. Digging is easy, getting it back from the dig to the entrance is difficult.

The ladder (2.5m) when hung from the top spot is in about a 10m ladder is needed, but in the interim, we built a tottering pyramid of rocks.

The dig is slow to reveal its secrets, but is still worth digging.
Strong draught from up on the left

(AA)

4-4-05 Templeron. 5 skips out, setting secured to log rails.
 Skips modification stops it catching on the way down, but the safety catch on the bottom trap is very stiff. Beginning to excavate new (as opposed to previously - stacked) mud

Photo 6

2-4-05

Ireby Fell

Chris Grosart & Simon Exley

Rigged Shadow route & stomped off down the meanders to the Sump & back in time for beer. (And no, we didn't get lost, so no need to start sending out e-mails...)

4-4-05

Chris G, Clive & Tim - Holme Bank Chert Mine

30 mins training dive. ~~PERFECT~~

8-4-05.

G.B.

Mike Thomas, Jon Deal, Laura Troubridge.
 Went to find the big staff beyond Ladder dg 33.3%
 of us did not fit!

2/4/05 North West Stream Passage.

Rich Carey, Ali Hardy, Adrian and Jude Underplank.

Tourist trip for Rich and Jude, and for Ali to finish the description of Heaven and Hell Arven. Also for Adrian to teach how for Phil Hendry.

Trip got off to a good start with 4 Lawrence's found in the inlet stream that feeds Wet Ears Squeeze. During this trip Rich had his fears confirmed that caving with the Pink and Fluffy Team wrecks caving trip (ie the demise of his relatively new wetsuit). It was a good job (for the rest of us) that he was wearing caving shorts and Heaven and Hell Arven has now been renamed 'Shredded Arse Arven'. I think "Full Moon Arven" might be a lot more PC .

5/4/05 - The 'Unlost' cave of Loxton.

Rich Carey, Nic Mack, Geoff Ballard, Adrian and Jude Vanderbank
Ali Moody and Nick and Nick (BEC).

Excellent trip thanks to the two Nicks. Very interesting cave/maze and well worth a visit, particularly for the tally marks, the pieces of clay pipe and the graffiti.

9/4/05. Wooley Hole

Mike Thomas, Jon Beal, Andy Judd.

Two dives today for MT and JB one for AJ. over the last few weeks a platform has been built in Edwards Rift near 22. Today seven scaffold planks were dived in with a little difficulty. The platform is near completion and then the fun can start. Re-climbing Edwards Rift to get back into the horizontal passage at the top. This has two potential dig sites for Geoff Ballard and Nick-Mack. Although it's not sure if we have told them yet! ~~not~~

9-4-05

Fiona + Ben Holden A Trip down to Sump

7 nice conditions in the sumps today

met Nick Mack + John digging at # there dig water levels were low -

7-4-05 Again Allred - Grand Circle

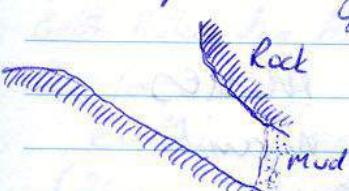
Chris Grosart, Vern Freeman, Clive Westlake, Emma Heron, leg

Team 'Green & Smelly', formed today for some midweek caving in 'Ogof Slobby'. Southern Stream was nowhere near as bad as reported & leg only had to get addressed once! (Clive's pre-care ritual involving a kettle (and he wasn't making the tea!) caused much hilarity. About 8hrs,

9-4-05 Ogof Draenen - Dog-leg passage & 'helectite grotto'.
Tav, Emrys, Kevin, Clive Westlake, Chris Grosart

10½ hrs to very pretty grotto somewhere in Oxford
Extensions. Lots of food & a very civilized trip. Fantastic
pretties at our terminal stop. Cracking trip.

10-4-05 Buddleia Hole Phil H, Adrian VDP. haddled up to dig, put an
extra spit in. Digging continued in soft mud, occasional stones. Eventually

 we could not reach in any more, we were lying
head-down in the pit. The dig tends to the right,
about 8" high, mud-cloaked. It is probably a
continuation of the bedding plane, the roof of which in
the entrance crawl has been loosened by blasting and fallen.
It is heading back towards the quarry face. Dig abandoned.

4m long VR 1m.

(RPH)

Fiona #

HAD A Good Trip down ST Cuthberts -
NICE FORMATIONS GOUR Hall -

Tuesday 12th April. Sandford heavy.

Pauline, Nic Nak, Alison, Judith & Rich Carey, the latter 4
had not been here before, may be a bit too tame for
the 'Pink Fluffies' but they ventured up the excavated
upward extensions - and explored for an hour before returning
to a waiting H.W. Jude returned after 30 mins + kept me
company. Explored all 2 cross roads → ended up in a little old
pub the 'Crown' - then home. Pleasant evening. P.H.G.

16-4-05 Pridley Green Sink - kev & Emrys

Well ok, perhaps one more trip. This time to survey Mairas & Great Aliens.
Have now surveyed it all (we hope!). 7hrs.

18th April. St. Cuthbert's S wallet. Chris Grosart, Clive Westlake and Vern Freeman, who led the way through the Rabbit Warren Extension and to Gour Rift and all sorts of other places which I can't remember, but he'll tell you all about. 2 3/4 hrs.

19th April Ogof Draenen - Gilverns Passage.

Chris Grosart, Clive Westlake.

Short (2-3 hrs) trip to the pretties in Gilverns. Clive had lamp problems so we cut the trip a little shorter & set off home to find it had been snowing!

23/4/05 Weston Brothers - Box Menes
obscure areas 'unscripted by man'.
Doesn't it all look the same
brother, we don't know where
we are?

Later visited Ridge Mine to
check that its now closed.
This is fact. One of the
large blocks of stone has
been moved to close the
entrance gap. Even Alison Wailey
now finds it difficult! RW

25th April. Templeton

radio control of winchmen is sorted, and slave winching is compensated by faster ship-filling. 7 okims out from centre of dig around the rails.

RW

1-MAY 05

HAD AN Excellent TRIP down to
Sump 9 IN SWILDONS A Really nice
trip with BEN H. MARK JONES, FIONA CROUCH

23/4/05 Newbydon, Nidderdale.

Jonathan, Kathy, Steve, Russ, Mick "Pony Tail" (Black Sheep).

Original Plans to investigate Hardy pools sums ended prematurely when Mick hurt his back. JW was then volunteered to dive main inlet sump. After 20m in a zero viz boulder choke the diver had given this up as a bad job. A good trip was had by all.

1-5-05 OFD I BEAMS MEADOW, BLENDON MEADOW, NOEL CLEEVE, ANNE VANDERPLANK, AMY HENRY
 Moderate water flow, via Toast Rack and the step to the streamway. B+C a little way upstream, the rest to Boulder Choke, through and to Dip Sump to watch Jonathan Williams and Geoff Ballard dive through from Hush Sump. Only Jonathan came through as Geoff had no air. Back to the surface, walked up the track to Penwyllt.

Excellent evening meal in the Angel, followed by the Red Lion

(26 WCC in 5 trips into OFD today, only meeting Kent (incl 2 WCC members anyway))

PHOTO

3-5-05 A Quick Skip to Barnes Loop.

Fiona + Ben

4-5-05 Stoke Lane 3 & 4

Claire Westlake + Chris Grossart

Try to dive sump II or explore the passages beyond. Very impressive streamway for a time & we spent a while looking for some reported cave pearls or drew a blank. It wasn't until the return journey, that CG spotted some sparkly bits twinkling away above & to the right. We scrambled up some boulders to find a mighty impressive stal flow about 5m high, & very pretty. Got a feeling there might be a photographic trip coming on---

23-~~4~~-05 to 7-5-05 SCOTLAND
 OCT AYE THE NOO

Penderyn Weekend

Saturday 30 April.

Cwm Dwr - Top Entrance

NikNak, Anne Vanderplank, Noel Cleave.

NikNak wanted to get the CwmDwr entrance fixed in his mind, which meant, in effect, map-reading his way to Piccadilly, although we did get some useful hints from SWCC members first. He also wanted to consolidate his knowledge of the exit routing from the Maypole series. Noel had never been into CwmDwr and wanted to, but knew the exit to the top entrance well, so the attractions of the through trip were complementary. Anne came along to add some civilisation, tone and class to the proceedings. NikNak's map reading was faultless. The only error came from Noel leading into the boulder ruckle at the top on the left. Since the correct route starts at the bottom on the right this was a classic (but not rare) example of Cleave fallibility. 15 minutes of thrutching and cursing ensued. After Piccadilly, however, there was a genuine moment of confusion at the main stream. Everything looked completely unfamiliar. It finally dawned on us that the normally dry flood bypass had a foot of floodwater cascading down it and that this was going to be one seriously sporting trip upstream. In fact it was magnificent. All the inlets pummelled us as we went under them. Marble Showers was a maelstrom of spray which made looking up difficult, and even Noel's searchlight barely showed the inlets through their waterfalls. The noise was stunning. Because of the water depth, turbulence and colour, it was much, much harder to find ones footing or stay out of the deeper water, so it was also appreciably colder and more tiring. The whirlpool pot presented a major problem, but after several failures, Noel floundered out and could then use a few metres of safety lifeline to help NikNak and Anne to get across more elegantly. Although the Maypole inlet was cascading down the ladder, from there on upwards it was more normal, more peaceful and less exciting. But not before a final mini-drama; Anne peeled off under the impact of the Maypole waterfall. The lifeline again proved its worth as NikNak held her professionally and the slight swing only resulted in a barked shin and a last adrenaline rush.

All in all a superb trip. 6 ½ hours of fun and excitement. Noel.

Sunday 01 May 2005

OFD1

Brian and Brenda Prewer, Phil Hendy, Anne Vanderplank, Noel Cleave.

This was intended to be a gentle Sunday outing after the Saturday's more serious trip, and so it proved. The SWCC looked like a Wessex AGM by mid-morning on Sunday. All the usual suspects were on parade and we even flushed Spanish Pat out of hiding (in the SWCC....!). Anne and Noel volunteered to carry cylinders into Dip Sump for the divers, but when the great cylinder distribution took place, their offer proved to be superfluous as there was ample Sherpa muscle amongst the divers involved. So flushed with self-righteous virtue, but otherwise unladen, Anne and Noel walked down to OFD1, where they were shortly afterwards joined by the aforementioned Wessex AGM. We draw a discreet veil over the subject of leaders and numbers at this point. Westlake Sahib and his cohort disappeared into the further reaches on a through trip, then Jonathan and his divers (including Geoff Ballard, whose cylinders were the new (suspiciously) ultra-lightweight kind. Finally Phil, Brian, Brenda, Anne and Noel ventured underground. At this stage it should be emphasised that

Brenda doesn't "Do" caving (other than the occasional Ali induced appearance in Goatchurch treasure hunts). Now, with Brian to advise her, there was no real excuse for her turnout, but a pair of baggy track-sit trousers was, frankly, not what we of the active Wessex expect to see on our members when caving, in public, overseas. And Brian hadn't even bothered to put on a tie. A perfectly acceptable Vyella shirt and Wessex badged sweat-shirt, but tie-less. Well, no point in dwelling on the subject, and, as it happens, I don't think that they were seen by any of the natives.

However, comma, apart from the sartorial foxes pox, Brenda was fantastic. Something seems to have clicked, caving-wise, and having reached the main OFD streamway, she set out upstream with serious determination, only desisting when the combination of deep water, stature enchallenge and baggy trousers, allowed wisdom and common sense to exert some influence.

Phil, Anne and Noel wandered upstream in water levels so low that Saturday's flood was hard to imagine. The odd photo pause allowed us to arrive at Hush Sump just too late to help hand cylinders through the boulders, so we pressed on to Dip Sump. 10 minutes or so later we switched off our lights to enjoy the dramatic underwater arrival of Jonathan from downstream; with the news that Geoff Ballard hadn't carried in quite the weight of air that he needed..... The entertainment over, Phil, Anne and Noel departed downstream to complete a delightful Sunday bimble. Safely out, Anne and Noel refused to allow Phil to use his mobile to summon the taxi. Mistake. As we joined the road after the long track up, the endlessly and ever-kindly Prewer Taxi Service appeared on a rescue mission.

Noel.

Ogof Ffynnon Ddu 1 - Top Entrance . 1st May

Alison Moody, Rich Carey, Ursula Mead, Leg, Clive Westlake.

The leader stranded two of his charges transportless at Penwyllt, but the ever kindly Foyle Taxi Service appeared on a rescue mission and took them down the hill. There followed a straight-forward, but still highly enjoyable through trip with water at a more reasonable level than the day before as told above. CW.

7th May

Phil Hendy and Gavin Newman on a film location trip to Shelter and Withyhill Caves, Pleasant pre-lunch amble, but caves are not suitable for what Gavin has in mind (panning round large clusters of stalagms). So will be off to boring old DYO!

Withyhill very muddy in the entrance part, flooded debris about 8' up below broken Corian Chandelier

Phil H

Cant be this,
we didn't have
a lime kiln DTF

Don't be silly, we wouldn't call it 'lime kiln' - far too cheap & common.
(It never was a lime kiln anyway)

Date

11/5/05 Whitestone Farm (another dig) Sometimes referred to as a 'lime kiln', sometimes as a 'quarry', and occasionally as a 'scraps heaps'; due to the large amount of scrap metal disposed there. Following a solid cliff face (small though it be) downwards. Why? Because half our crew had gone AWOL. Steve with the sniffles and Carmen man hunting, which only left Me (Mr S), & Paula. The BBQ was pleasant on a fine spring evening in a nicely sheltered depression, & fine new moon to wash things off. Crook's Hole sat quietly in the next field, I felt it didn't really approve of our diversion somehow.

Sat 16-5-05.

2.45 - Call out for Cardiff student who fell 20' in Piddly Green Sink Good turn-out, with a splintile man was able to get out via the scrubs. Since yesterday baked Mud Slips dry. Good progress was made - the rescue party overtook a novice group in the streamway. Stretcher not needed! Heyphow working at Slips, but not at Lemon's fog. all out by about 8pm! student taken to hospital with broken leggs. Phil H.

SWINDON.

SUN 17th May. (Big) Littlestn. ROZE Fisher GORDAN Fox Arrived @ upper parts just after 9am. Most disappointed only rare people here! Only to find out every body had gone home after yesterdays RESCUE so sat about & had a coffee & morning chat with Phil H Gordon & Pauline. Then decided to make a social call on Keith & Rose as I had not seen them for a while.

Gordon arrived shortly after me. and we had coffee & chat. Rose was AMAZED by how much weight I had lost and was saying how I could do the short round trip. Now

Any way I ~~said~~ said Saigl I was going back to upper pits if no body was about I would done @ quick solo trip in the top to 20' & back.

She spoke up & said that she would come & to make ~~a~~ a good ~~the~~ trip to do the short Raynel trip. O.K. so off we went Gordon was respect in as well.

GREAT going well ~~that~~ map, mud sump, green chumby, so far & so good. (No bailing THANK JOM RESCUE) thru the troubles series No prosperity (what troubles?) how water is good is it not? then "Demi Roll"

Birthday," SQUEEZE CHRIST I Thought To Myself As Gordon Took off His oversuit & shivered though & we passed this kit after him, then Roze said YOUR TURN off CAME the oversuit & typed, pushed & heaved, NO go, Furry would not slide so off CAME the Furry Down To swimming trunks. PUSHED Heaved Stop-Breath/Rest try again (I WAS NOT GOING ALL THE WAY BACK OUT OF THIS CAVE). Could have done with a squirt of washing up liquid to help! Furry noise like ~~had~~ a sink plunger showed Plop! I WAS OUT Yes I DID IT! Yes I Was ON Chonel q got going Roze & Gordon ~~leaving~~ missed.

The hole in the Boulder Rudee To top off the handing so Detracted for 5 min's, found way out. Slide down sliding like ~~a~~ a young kid in a playground sumo I ~~am~~ out. Very respectable time ~~as well~~ 2 3/4 his. Many thanks to Roze & Gordon.

P.S. Does this mean that I am
NO LONGER ~~a fat boy~~

SAT 14th MAY (NOXON)

BEN HOLDEN + FIONA CROZIER DID A TRIP TO NOXON PARK IRON MINE Forest of Dean Both of us had the best dive we have ever had to date. Ben found the main line and main shaft and followed line to - ~~at~~ 40 metres and then returned to dive base. I followed a current course and landed up at 25 metres — nice large passages and many junctions. Has returned to base, may be I will be lucky and stumble across the main shaft next time though the course I was on. Was going down so not sure how far it would of gone - We look forward to another visit soon to explore further it was fun getting all the kit in!!! We were lucky as Northgate Cottage Caravan park opposite the nursery let us camp for the weekend. The weather was excellent —

Ben + Fiona

13-5-05

Dan yr Ogof

Clive Westlake, Chris Grosart, Jim Bister
Should have known better than to try & dive on
Friday 13th! Attempted 15m sump to connect with
Battle of Britain series & bolt a climb to top out in a dig.
However, the sump had chewed the line & spat it out
so that it was a big tangled mess. Aborted mission, with the
aim of coming back & re-lining it. And the cafe was shut!!

14-5-05

Pant Mawr Pot

Chris Grosart, Clive Westlake

C.G finally got her chance to do this fine trip. Laddered the entrance & set off on a very pleasant journey to the sump, stopping on the way back to photograph the very impressive helictites.

21-5-05

Templeton dipping wet after all the rain, but draining well. Measured up, and found scaffold poles for hanging the wooden platform, and took the ropes back to the pits to wash them.

King Mine Photographic tips with Adrian + Jude, and Richard Clegg. Poked around looking for possible dig sites - a few, but nothing too inspiring.

P.M.H.

28-05-05

VERN, ROSIE, MEL B, DAVE M, EMSY, KEN, MAD PHIL, NICK NAK, JUDE + ADRIAN VDP, LEG, PETE GLANVILLE, MARK MCNAMEE

11 PEOPLE, 3 TRIPS UNDERGROUND, 1 ABOVE GROUND AND 5 DISASTERS!
TRIP

- 1) VERN, ROSIE, DAVE LEG, MARK + PETE - Longwood to photo in FANNYS RIFT
- 2) NICK NAK, JUDE + ADRIAN - RUSHING FOR SRT PRACTICE
- 3) MAD PHIL, KEN EMSY - EASTWATER, BECAUSE THEY CAN
- 4) MEL B - WHEELS FORO FOR BBQ.

After a later start than expected all set off in high spirits (a.k. the Eastwater lot went in ~~very~~ early before everyone else was up!) photo disasters

TRIP

DISASTER 1: PETE'S CAMERA WASN'T WORKING (NO SURPRISE THERE)

2: POSIE ON CLIMBING DOWN IN AUGUST SLIPPED
AND ~~FELL~~ HEAVILY + AWKWARDLY ON RIGHT ANKLE.
LUCKILY 2 MRS WARDENS + A DOCTOR WERE
INSTANTLY IN ATTENDANCE AND AN ASSISTED EXIT
INSTIGATED. ~~RESCUE OF ROSE~~
~~RESCUE OF ROSE~~
~~RESCUE OF ROSE~~
LEG HAD GOT NO FURTHER THAN LETTERBOX AND
STAYED OUTSIDE. VERN WENT OUT EXPECTING TO
SEE LEG TO GET A ROPE FROM NIKNAK. BUT
~~HE~~ VERN COULDN'T GET THE PADLOCK UNDONE AND
LEG HAD DISAPPEARED. VERN FINALLY GOT OUT
WENT TO RMND AND FOUND JUPS ^{AT 1ST PITCH}, ABOUT TO DESCEND
SO ASKED HER TO GET A ROPE FROM NIKNAK.
LEG WAS CHANGING AT CAR. VERN WENT BACK
AND FOUND ~~THE~~ THE REST HAD CAUGHT UP WITH
POSIE. MARIE + DAVE THEN HELPED POSIE ACROSS

3: THEN NIK NAK LOOKED DOWN ENTRANCE AND TRIED TO HIT MARKS LIGHT WITH HIS BATTERY PACK LUCKILY HE MISSED AND HIT MARKS FOREHEAD. NIK NAK DIDN'T REALISE HIS BATTERY PACK WAS LOOSE AND THOUGHT A STONE HAD FALLEN DOWN THE PITCH. MARKS HEAD THEN BLEED COPIOUSLY AMONGST POSIE THEN FORGOT ABOUT HER ANKLE AND LET DAVE PAST TO SORT OUT MARK. THEN MARK CLIMBED OUT, LEG TURNED UP AND HELPED WITH GETTING POSIE UP. THE TWO CASUALTIES WERE THEN WALKED TO THE CAR AND BACK TO THE HOTEL WHERE THE DOCTOR SWITCHED ON HIS

Date

COMPUTER AND PAULINE PROVIDED NURSING CARE, BINDING ROSIES ANKLE AND SATURATING MARKS HEAD.

NICK HAK THEN WENT BACK TO RHINO AND GOT JUDE + ARIAN DOWN + UP THE FIRST PITCH 1 SUCCESS.

MEANWHILE: IN EASTWATER KEN SPRAINED HIS LEG AND LEFT DISASTER 4; THE CAVE EARLY.

MEANWHILE: MEL SUCCESSFULLY GOT FOOD FOR THE BBQ,

DISASTER 5: BUT ON HER RETURN WHILST AVOIDING ANOTHER CAR HIT A WALL IN THE BMW. BENDING THE PASSENGER SIDE WING, oops!

THE BBQ WAS A SUCCESS AND THE DRINKING ~~.....~~ WENT ON LONG INTO THE NIGHT*, WHICH CAUSED PROBLEMS IN THE MORNING WHEN....

29-05-05

5.00am - THE CALL YOU DON'T WANT !! FROM BOB CORK. CFD RESCUE 2 TEAMS OF 10 EVERYONE WOKEN UP BY A SEMI-NAKED PHIL HEADY! MANY BEARY EYED AND STILL DRUNK RESCUERS ASSEMBLED AND SET OFF TO SOUTH WALES BY 6.00am. PHIL, PAULINE, MEL, LOU AND FIONA STAY BEHIND AND GO BACK TO BGD.

21.5.05 Llygad Llwydwr

Following a few weeks of dry weather, a marathon digging session re-opened the slot. As the original air lift was well and truly buried under numerous tons of fresh gravel, a new model was installed. This was made from Ø46mm wickes mini downpipe. Going down just 4mm from the original 50mm, the power of the lift was superb. Several 1 ton gravel bags were suspended from the previously installed scaffold poles and a single diver could fill 1 per hour by doing little more than moving the bigger sized rocks out of the way. Once the 2nd squeeze in the

slot was open, somewhat reminiscent of last year, the rains returned. A dive was made to the end of the line laid last year and a new reel tied on. The current however was already on the increase and progress is best described as "underwater rock climbing". The large passage seen to the left had disappeared, not quite sure how that happened! Several possibilities may account for this

1, I was without doubt suffering from mild hypothermia as the line was tied off. Therefore, it was the briefest of glances before a return to base.

2, The bubbles on the roof had ruined the viz somewhat.

3, The floor is blackish rock

4, Wishful thinking!

There is a space of a few meters ~~off~~ to the left, with a possible passage heading back towards the slot. This was not investigated. Continuing upwards, just 9m of line were laid before a partial blockage was encountered. Fortunately, this is largish stones and doesn't appear too big. Some digging was done, but the rising river stopped any future progress. Depth at tie-off point - 9.5m. If the angle continues, the surface should be about 30m away.

Mike Barnes.

Crook's Hole dig 1/6/08 Steve (normal Steve) on holiday, so recruited Tina's Steve as replacement, - hm. good worker, almost wore the winch out with the friction. If he didn't live so far away normally, we'd replace the usual Steve with him. Never mind, at least with normal Steve we've got time for the odd BBQ and tea breaks (him being a Civil Servant and all). A good evening's digging and still had time for one at the Hunters. Aubrey's last bang was a good one but a few rocks were left in over-large state and may need further reduction process to save dragging the winch down the hole. CARMEN, Bob S, Tina, Steve, and the boys.

4-6-05 Shatter Cave Serious photographic trip (ig with tripods) - Phil Hendy Tommo and Juddell V.P. Photographed formations large and small in Eric's Rift and Canopy Chamber.

Phil H

4/6/05

MAC Dave M & Rachel Jones

First trip for Rachel (13) to Gatchurch, to other side of drainpipe. Top performance by Rachel, a budding caver?

5/6/05 Mo, Dave M, Mark H, Biff, North West stream passage. Wet ear squeeze stank & had munters in it! or so I convinced myself. Bad air from the top of the landings.

11-6-05 Fiona + MARK To Sump 6 in Swildons.

12-6-05 Fiona Digging in Rose Cottage is coming along nicely -

15/6/05 Crook's Hole may not be as big as Templeton's, and may not be so technically developed, but it is far less awesome, and the calibre of digger much nicer. This week Carmen introduced Spanish Pete to the gem of Mendip's lesser digs. Got a good bit of rock & infill out. Steve (nw), Bob S, Paula, Carmen & Pete (nw)

17/6/05 Watson BRS.

Thanks Uppry - nice little tip, pity about the mud.

11-6-05 wooley Hole Edwards of R.F.T.

Ian Williams, Ian Beal, Mike Thomas Andy Judd, Charlie Reid - Heavy.

platform in Edwards completed and Mike Thomas started up the wall. Five bolts were placed using a 240 drill to reach the top of the ramp of Masada. The dicet was Runway cut of steam

So the next sections, the Traverse of the Vet was left alone and a return for home followed.

Wookey Hole, Edwards Pitt. Malc Eagle, Mike Thomas.
18-6-2005.

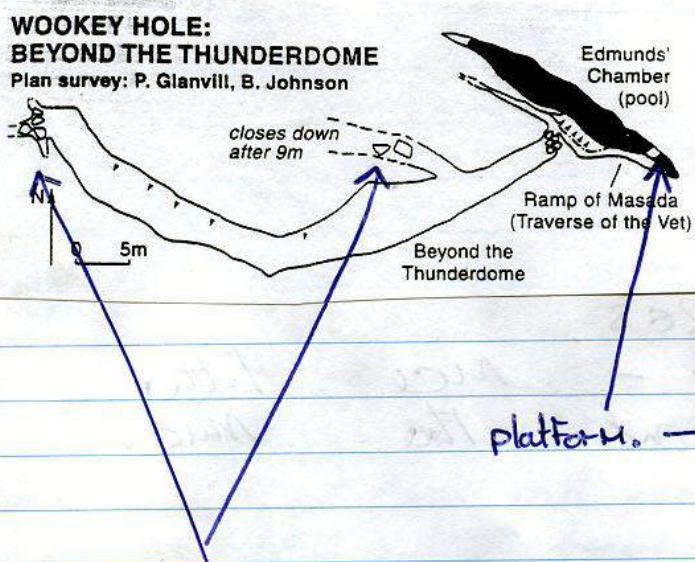
Returning to the top of the fitted rope at the start of the traverse of the vet Malc took the sharp end and crossed the exposed traverse with ease and then moved around in difficult conditions trying to place a bolt! This done and the fitted rope re-rigged Malc crossed and joined Malc on another small ledge. A further 3m of upward progress was made over Rollers Rock before a final bolt was placed and the drivers returned to base. Once more TMP should see us at the top.

see

WOKEY HOLE:

BEYOND THE THUNDERDOME

Plan survey: P. Glanvill, B. Johnson



Geoff Ballard to dig here.

Supported by M. Thomas, M. Fogle, I. Beal.

Date

LUDWELL CAVE (HUTTON) 19-June 05.

I had a good dive in Ludwell today I managed to get through from the Resurgence entrance and exit the cave end - I had to do a fair bit of digging and remove one of my bottles but finally I managed to inch my way through. Over some years it has become quite tight. I then went back in and have dug it out some more, so now anyone visiting should be able to dive through with not too many problems.

Fiona + Mark

17-19.6.05 FOREST 2005. Splendid weekend of talks, videos, slide shows + caving trips interspersed by food + beer at suitable intervals. The Forest cavers provided everything (including weather that was almost too hot) at a very cheap price and gave us a great welcome. Miss Grace's Lane should be visited by all diggers who are depressed with their current dig - it shows what's possible with determination.

Pat + Ric H.

21-6-05 St. Cuthbert's Swallet. Gentle trip to remind us how good it is. Down Wire lift via Pillar Chamber to Katcheyinga - quick look at Fingers + then down to Streamway. Via Rabbit Warren to Great Gouz + back up Stal Pitch + Rabbit Warren extn. Looked at cave pearls + Fingers from other side + then out by same route.

Pat + Ric H.

22-6-05 Pleasant walk down to Wookey Hole for ice creams
- summer continues!

Pat + Ric

Date MA

Waterwheel Swallet 17.6.05 kathy + Anv

A nice Friday afternoon bimble to the head of the pitch, the longer duck on the way down was unexpectedly 'duck like' with the new mechanical bung filling it to the top of the dam and forcing me onto my back for some semi-ceiling sucking. This is no longer a furry trip!! We stopped at the head of the pitch where we discovered that both our ladder and life-line would fall somewhat short of the bottom. So we made a fairly ~~long~~ swift exit through the Ducks, now drained. (Don't worry, we put the bungs securely back in place). And out. An ✓

Manor Farm 19.6.05 Big Stu + An V

(not so big)
Wonderfully Tackled all down with an extra ladder + line for the rift we tramped to the bottom of the rift. With occasional wimpering from me at forgotten drops where that 'just-in-case' bit of tat came in useful. Other noises along the lines of 'I don't think I can fit' coming from the slim-line not-so-big Stu who's self impression is yet to fully adjust to his smaller size however ~~this~~ he did fit all the way to the rift and most the way down. Failing in ^{our} attempts (rift at bottom) to locate the way on ^{the} proceeded out, gently wheezing. A thoroughly enjoyable Sunday trip. An V

26/6/05 3.51 AM.

"Life is about choices!" quotation by
BEC Member
"no comment"

CRACKPOT CAVE, N. YORKS 18.6.05 JONATHAN, TOMMO + RUSS BLOCIC.

DESPITE THE DRIVERS BEST EFFORTS TO LOSE US ALL + RUN OUT OF DIESEL IN THE PROCESS A PLEASANT TRIP WAS HAD BY ALL.

SAT 25th

EASTWATER

HAD A NICE TRIP DOWN MURTONS POT IN EASTWATER O I LOVE THIS CAVE
FIONA + TIM.

SUN 26th

ROSE COTTAGE DIG

Good digging trip pushed another 2 meters
it going very well

FIONA + TONY

MON 27th

LUDWELL CAVE/HUTTON) SURVEYING

FIONA PETE + KEN

25.6.05 Swildon's short round trip (kent) Andy, Marion, gimpie,? + Anv
A nice, fairly uneventful trip, starting late
and taking our time. Mud Sump was open, but the
first trouble was sumped after 15 min's syphoning I went through
but had a slight wait before the kent ventured
through. An V

30/6/05 WESTON BROTHERS

Surveyed + photographed floccy
BUSH MINE near Chapel Place
(WITS). which closed approx 1902,
This is a small L shaped
mine shaft with a partially filled
slope

Llygad Llachar

Date
Mid June 05

Accompanied by fellow ICDG Martin Groves & Joel Corrigan, A return was made to pass this most stubborn sump. Fortunately, very little gravel had built up in the slot and a return was made to the choke discovered on the last push. Several dives soon had the way on big enough to get through. The current here was a bit daunting, trying to keep hold of the reel, helmet, spare valve and protecting the 1st stages needed more hands than nature provides. JC actually had his helmet swept back down the passage. This had been anticipated with a dive torch on each arm as back-up.

After a couple of meters the passage enlarged and started to rise more steeply. At -4m a large, clean washed rift was entered with a mirrored surface overhead. About bloody time thinks I, (this was my 82nd dive in the cave). However, upon ascending, it turned out to be an airbell. Reeling back in to -4m, the rift led to another 'mirror' after 5 meters. Upon entering this passage a stream could be heard but alas, coming through a boulder choke. Underwater, the continuing rift was also boulder choked. Bugger, thinks I.

On a subsequent survey dive, it was noticed that the current at the end had diminished. Equipped with a powerful light, a further rift was found soon after passing the 2nd choke, named 'Son of Slot'. This pindled in, but a hole was seen in the wall. Looking through, a much larger passage could be seen, with a strong flow. Whether this passage leads to the same choke, only time will tell. On the way out, the bright light also revealed a nice airbell with a dry passage leading out of the roof. This was inbetween the start of the sump, ch 4 & ch 6, the next bell. This ^{section} was first dived in 1947 with the trip being called 'Operation Archeron', therefore it was named 'Archie bell'. This passage will be looked at soon.

Llethridd Swallet, Gower

Date

22nd June 05

Sump 3 is described as a 2m diameter pool, clear & inviting, and still undived. The recorded information shows that it has only been reached on 1 occasion by M. Farr, sump 2 being the reason. Digging is required in both directions to pass. Sump 1 was easily passed, replacing the dreadfull thin line popular in the 70's. Sump 2 turned out to be a spacious rift with, at best, 6 inch viz. Alas, the bottle reel ran out of line at -9.4m so was tied to a lead. Upon chatting to Martyn, he tells me he made a 2nd attempt to get through but got tangled in his thin line which had broke. After hearing that, not too sure if I want to go back.

OGCF clogwyns

Mike Barnes.

Clydach Gorge south wales

2-7-2005.

Iolo Thomas, Mike Thomas, Sarah Walton

Robert Thomas (Age 5)

TRIP TO TERRIFIC SUMP WITH PHOTOS ON THE WAY.
All in, All out, Robert asleep after 5mins in the car!

Goughs cave, cheddar, ~~---~~

8-7-2005.

Mike Thomas, Iolo Beal, Iolo Williams, Malc Foye,
Russell Brookes, Chris Castle.

Aim to produce a line survey beyond the upstream sumps in goughs. This evening was to survey from the entrance, through the show cave and up ~~the~~ into Malc's progress then down to Lloyd Hall. All out in 2H then off to amuse ourselves in the local pub!

Wootton Hole, Edmunds Rift. 9-7-2005.

Malc Foye, Mike Thomas, Iolo Beal, Iolo Williams
Geoff Ballard.

Malc and Mike back to the high point and then Malc

took the lead for a few meters up followed by a few meters back down to the belay. After a brief chat Mike then took the lead and after an interesting 8-10 meter climb up the Rift the top was reached with rather a lot of relief! Bolts were placed and then we re-rigged as the way down. Jon Beal turned up to aid us the climbing and rigging and Jon and Geoff drove to Edmunds to have a look at the high level artics. Next time Geoff goes up!

✓
 07/07/05 Grove Cliff Caves (Portland). Nigel Graham & Stephanie Warren (guest with CPC connections). Short evening bimble - haven't been in these dry rift-caves for some years myself. Steph's 1st visit to Dorset, let alone caving there (has G.G. experience).
 11/07/05 Wookey Hole - Steph & I visit as tourists on way back to her home. Guide based on the old Witch story a bit to entertain school group in tour.

Wookey Hole, Edmunds Rift. 10-7-2005
 Mike Thomas, Jon Beal.

Both divers to top of rope in Edmunds. Jon Beal impressed with the climb but not the passage at the top! Mike Thomas to the end of Beyond the Thunderdome to look at the diggs. Most interesting!

✓

Gough's cave 16-7-2005

Date

Mike Thomas, Jo Williams, Jo Beal, drove westlake.
with help from Mark Foye Chris Birdsong, Kathy Williams.
Annie Underplant.

All fit into Lloyd Hall on Friday night. Divers into
Bishops Palace then Mike Thomas into Sump 2
to work on the Sump 2 toilet Agars! Then a
base survey of Bishops Palace ensued followed
by the usual Ball ache of Pemocing driving hot
From the cave.



20-7-05

Noxon Park Iron Mines

Clive Westlake & Chris Grosart

Still aching a little from previous evenings rock climbing,
lugged everything into Noxon, had two good training & navigation
dives & lugged everything out again. Unfortunately, diving
midweek does not produce many sherpas! nor does diving at weekends

21-7-05

Please restrict your "comments" to your
own log and stop 'Adding' to mine!!

Slaughter Stream Cave =

Clive Westlake, Chris Grosart, Anne Vdp, Leg, Vern Freeman

Team 'Green & Smelly' on tour again - this time
to the Forest of Dean. Straightforward ladder patches
led to impressive stream passage to the sumps, which went
on... and on... and on... So we headed 'the end' and
returned via the round trip. $3\frac{3}{4}$ hrs.

P.S. the 'Waterside Hotel' 5 mins up the road does
excellent beer & chips! CG x

24/7/05

Swindons.

It took three years to build up the courage to do
this and thanks to Stuart, Simon and Anne, this has
ranked as one of my top ten moments in life!

Cheers guys (and archaeology) Ro Davis.

24/07/05

SWILTON'S HOLE

TOTALLY AMAZING!! THANK YOU STUART, SIMON & ANN. ALWAYS WANTED TO HAVE A GO AT CAVING & THIS WAS FANTASTIC! WILL BE GOING AGAIN NEXT YEAR (PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE!).

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

TABBY LEIGHT (UCW ARCHAEOLOGY)

24/07/05

SWILTON'S HOLE.

FAB! Really enjoyed it - scary @ moments but an amazing experience. Thanks again to Stuart, Simon, & Ann who helped us out with ~~help~~ helpful advice + tips. UCW Archaeology Students will be here next year - all going caving!. yay!

Thank You very much,

STEPH PRIEST (UCW ARCHAEOLOGY).

24/07/05

SWILTON'S HOLE

Brilliant!! It was a fantastic experience, I was so nervous before going but really enjoyed it once I was there. Thanks so much to Stuart, Simon and Ann who kept my confidence up! What is up with this pen?! Anyway I'll be back next year!

Thank you

Becky Matthews (UCW Archaeology)

24/7/05 SWILTON'S HOLE

A GREAT EXPERIENCE DOWN TO THE END OF THE TUNNEL.
A FEW NERVOUS moments GETTING THROUGH TIGHT GAPS, BUT
STUART, SIMON AND ANN WERE GREAT WITH ADVICE
THANKS NIGEL CUTTBORN (UCW ARCHAEOLOGY)

Date X

Ah ---- the joys of taking 'Swildon's Virgins'
up the entrance series - - - ! 

Goughs cave 30-7-05

Mike Thomas, Malc Fogle, Phill Short, Andy Judd,
Jon Beal, with help from, Jon Williams, Russell
Brookes, Chris Birdling, clys (ccc)

All trips to Lloyd Hall on Friday night. Divers in the
cave at 9.30 am Saturday. Jon Beal and Andy
Judd surveyed Sump 1B at 130 meters long. Mike
Thomas and Phill Short diving in sump 2, Phill
pushed the inlet passage on the left going
upstream to a final conclusion 3-4 meters of
new cave ending in a very low very tight
and very muddy bedding. Phill fell most at home!
Mike Thomas took water samples around the inlet
area and Malc Fogle supervised in Bishops Palace.
A very slick trip as all divers were in the cream
tea shop by 2.45 pm!

6/8/05

J THOMAS RETURN TRIP TO SWILDONS AFTER A
COUPLE OF YEARS ASSISTED BY M THOMAS J WILLIAMS
R BROOKS. DOWN TO THE 20' AND OUT IN TIME.
FOR THE BBQ.

6-VIII-05

Stoke Lane Locker. Adrian Vanderplank, Christine Grosart, Nik-Nak, Clive Westlake

This trip fell together after several mistakes, such as Nik-Naks' chronological
dyslexia, then nearly fell apart when Westlake forgot half his neoprene.

X

Eventually went underground at 1330. Sump 2 was no problem despite gaining another low hit at the deepest point. On to Sump 4, then came back taking pictures. One of these was in the foetid duck that bypasses Sump 3 where Nik-Nak asked, "Shall I put my face half underwater?" only to be told "No - three quarters!" At this precise moment Adrian found a comfortable, and totally dry bypass to the duck. Back to Sump 2 taking pictures of this seriously handsome stretch of cave. Westlake next distinguished himself by smashing his face mask - Nik-Nak relayed one kick through the sump. The mildly punishing carry out was eased by the anticipation of the BBQ - one of my better birthdays. ADW.

Sunday 07 Aug.

Thomps, Lane, Swallert. Nad Cleaver & Joe Candy (both w/o). Chem. Er. Not sure how to put a gloss on this episode. We rigged the entrance pitch brilliantly. So far, so good. Then we arrived at Perseverance Pot, caving fabulously well - an astonishingly professional performance. Then, um, er. Well it was like this: Nad had forgotten just how wide the walls are, and that the top and bottom are sort of squeeze rather than easy.

Joe, half way down, encountered his tackle bag jammed solidly beneath him - which is when it stayed immovably, as he climbed back up - until the big strap went nice and taught. + his descendeder was jammed like his teaming, against natural thrags. So Nad thrashed up that bloodsome pitch and disengaged the packs. Joe retreated to the top when, eventually, Nad and three tackle bags joined him. At which stage we said sod this or words to that effect, and went back to our brilliantly rigged entrance pitch - and out. Heigh Ho. Another Nad cock-up.

N.B. GUAN I CAN EMAIL THIS TO YOU TO SAVE YOU POUNDING YOUR KEYBOARD.

Date

Geoff

Sunday 7th August. EDMUNDS RIFT - WOOLLEY HOLE.

Geoff Boulard & Mike Thomas.

OBJECTIVE: To explore the merits of fishing dig.

- IN AT 9, WITH A PLEASANT DIVE WITH EXCELLENT VIZ TO EDMUND'S RIFT. (nr.22). FROM PLATFORM WE BOTH DUMPED SRT KIT AND UPPED THE PITCH. MIKE RE-BEDDED PITCH WHICH I EXPLORED....

(VISIONS TO MURK).

THE MAIN RAVINE IS THRU A 45° OBTUSUS BENDING, VERY MUCH IS INTIMATELY 'CHESTY'. AFTER A SHORT DISTANCE A 'PASSAGE' DEVS FROM THE RAVINE WHICH BECOMES CONSTRICTED AFTER A FEW METERS. IT APPEARS THAT THE WAY ON CONTINUES HAVING ~~THE~~ THE WAY ON CROSSES DOWN. ~~COMES~~

CONTINUING THRO THE 'MAN RAVINES' ~~THE~~ FOR ABOUT 20 METERS THE 'CHEST' IS REPLACED BY SCOLLOPED CONGLOMERATES, ~~THE~~ CAVING AND THE 'CROWN' TAKES ON THE APPEARANCE OF FLOWSTONE. AT THE CURRENT END THERE ARE IMMEDIATELY THREE OPTIONS, LEFT (DOWNSLOPE) STRAIGHT OR RIGHT (UP SLOPE). LEFT IS CHOKED ~~BY~~ BEYOND WHICH IT APPEARS TO CROSS DOWN AS THE RAVINES MEST. STRAIGHT ON IS TOO NARROW AND WOULD REQUIRE BANCING TO EVALUATE FURTHER. TO THE RIGHT (FAR LEFT CORNER) IS TOO NARROW AND ALSO REQUIRES BANCING. BY CLIMBING BETWEEN BARRIERS ONE DISCOVERS A DRAFTING INLET ~~AT~~ CAVING HEIGHT WITH A PROMINENT CHIPOLATE. HEADING DOWNSLOPE TO THE ~~THE~~ BREAKDOWN AT THE CURRENT END. CONCLUSION: DUE TO THE NUMBER OF 'BANCING' TRIPS REQUIRED ~~THE~~ WEIGHTED UP WITH THE OTHER POTENTIAL DIGGING SITES IN WOOLLEY I WOULD NOT RECOMMEND EDMUND'S RIFT AS TOP OF THE LIST.

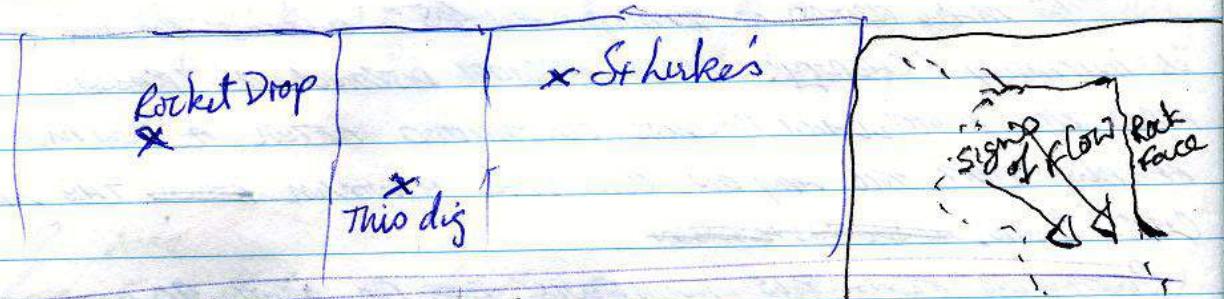
14/8/05 I was rung up on 6/8/05 by Mr Thomas ~~and~~ (Denis) announcing his return to Bieldens. Not to be out done I un-retired again and with Jonathan Willmott and Phil Hendry returned to Bieldens - armed with video camera. We arrived in the old Gothic only to find some fastidial has knocked 6 inches off the largest stalactite in the chank. It's rather spoilt my ~~my~~ ~~the~~ nostalgic trip! However we were able to shoot some useful video ~~on~~ on our way out via the Long Dry. We were down about 1½ hrs Maurice Hendry

16/8/05 Tuesday evening

Date

Bob S & Paula: digging the spare dig in the next field to Crook's Hole dig field, following a rock face down in a deep depression with a Hawthorn tree. We're through the scrap metal layer and now deeper than the centre of the depression and have come to a rock floor - packed boulders, rock ledge? Widening the dig to find out which it is. Plus, we had a BBQ.

✗ Crook's hole



17/8/05 Bob S & Steve: Same dig as yesterday, seeing as Carmena is still off on her Spanish tour. Cleared more of the rock in the floor, seems to be bedrock, but water worn with the flow going off to the right of the rock face. The cliff face at this point is also curving under. Another 2 tons of shifting and it should be either delight or disappointment - still we've got Crook's, and that's looking reasonable.

Saturday 20th August. To Brean Down, to locate a cave somewhere on the North side / Western-S-W. side of the beach.

Adrian + Judith v.p. Rich, Paula, Mark H + Bean.

A very hot day to start with, walked up the steps to top of Brean Down, gasping! Superb views all around, S. Wales clear - sea very rough, heavy 'Race' at end by the fort. Walked along the top of the Down at centre - 3/4 way along took a right turn to a lower path - found a tiny white mouse on the pathway, alive + tame, eating grass - didn't run away. Took another right downward route through high bracken, thorns, prickles and stingers, steep and towards edge of cliff. Found the beach, climbed down rocks to beach - tide coming in quickly. Could not find a cave or Mark H.

Dan yr Ogof - The Far North (LHS)

The 'totem pole' (think about it) was: Geoff 'Badger' Ballard, Simon 'Nik Nak' Richards, Dave 'Butch' Meredith, Rob 'Suntan' Delacour and Jon 'Suitcase' Edwards.

Going to an end is always an option for a trip and with this in mind we decided that Far North Choke was calling. With none of the team having been beyond The Rising and having heard tales of desperate climbs and rumours that we would fail to locate North Aven we set off with tackle and survey determined to reach the end.

Swimming the Green Canal in just a fleecy would not come as a huge surprise to those that know Suitcase, albeit funny to watch, however the realisation that had had done so with his electronic car key in his pocket was amusing especially as he had tackle in a dry bag.

On reaching The Rising Dave decided to free climb up the right hand side, rather than using the in situ hand-line, unknowingly volunteering himself for any suspect climbs we were yet to find. Unfortunately there were none. Now everyone's role within the group was clear. We had The Gatekeeper, The Climber, The Young Oaf, The Old Dodder and or course The Eye Candy (thanks Noel) - it's at this point that you may be wondering who's who - be kind.

The obstacles on route were easily passed and we reached, in comfort, the Far North Choke after about four hours of caving. The return journey was not without its humorous moments.

We climbed the ladder from GP Hall and entered the Long Crawl; Geoff, NikNak, Suitcase, Dave and Suntan yet by the time we reached the first 'enlargement' the order had changed with Suitcase at the rear - now that's magic! This was easily explained; he'd taken a side turning?????

Rob had a cramp hit on the way out. Having just cleared the Cattle Trough, with Jon close on his heals, the pain struck leaving him momentarily disabled and Jon left lying in a crawl of cold water. Unaware of this, as Dave, Nik Nak and I were further up the passage, we heard Jon pleading "No, no, don't stop", and Rob's reply - "just come all over me", which was soon followed by "arh, it's gone hard. Rub it".

It was a good trip in good company, well within everyone's capability - shame there was no ice cream when we got out, but the curry and chips at the Copper Beach went down well, as did the beer.

or Bean. They were there somewhere, but always ahead of us - several mobile phone-calls were made to locate them, they didn't find the car either. Tried to walk towards the Fort along the beach but tide coming in very fast, so we climbed back up the rocks to top of cliff edge + back up through thigh bracken, thorn bushes etc. again I found it hard going in hiking boots + jeans. Adrian had open-toe sandals on and suffered quite badly.

Re-threading his laces back through damaged eyelets in his boots he returned in better footwear and we even found the little tiny whale mouse again, on the return, he had not ventured far.

All had an ice cream at the beach shop, drove back to Chez Vanderplanks estate where we were served tea on the lawns overlooking rabbits and wheelbarrows. Most people have fairies at the bottom of their garden. The Vanderplanks go one better, they have a fire engine at the bottom of theirs!

Good afternoon all, superb weather, maybe find the car another day, its there somewhere.

Found Bean later on in the flinters. Where else?

~

PML.

27/8/05 - Swildon's (just for a change!!)
Adrian + Jude Vdp and Rich Carey.

A trip down the streamway, first time for Rich through Sump III, and for me through IV having looked at it, and thought about it for twelve months. Rather smelly (diesel, not the usual) All went O.K and at least now I've seen Adrian, McKee & Geoff's dig in fine, so now I ~~don't know~~ ~~would have seen~~ how much progress they've made; a good 12 metre crawl!

JVV.

Wednesday 24 August 2005

John Hurst, Joe Candy and Noel Cleave met up with Mike Wooding (Ex. Wessex and now an honorary WGG member) at Clapham car park at 0815. We walked up to GG in drizzle and rain. The winch wasn't running at 0845 simply because there were no customers and nobody downstairs yet. We seemed to be the first potential users. Ric and Pat Halliwell gave us a great welcome and we changed, and left our kit, in the beer tent. The day plan was for "Downhill Only". Fell Beck was mid-level on the damn, but falling slightly. Stream Passage, our first target, was predicted to be seriously damp. In fact the pitches were rigged beautifully clear of the water, so we had drama without dramatic suffering. Joe had one of those moments on the big deviation at the foot of the final pitch, and we all got hammered running under the waterfalls into Stream Passage. So, finally wet, we did the usual confused route finding into Sand Caverns. Neither John nor Joe had seen Main Chamber before, and, floodlit and with this much water thundering into it, it was a stunning sight. There some visitors ambling around so we had a short wait before winching up into a welcome surprise - bright sunshine and blue skies.

At this point we initiated a quality chaos involving tally-tags, re-entry plans and winch charges. The £10 winch fee was not, apparently two usages, but a paired one up, one down. Pat read the riot act but finally relented with a deal for us to do some guiding before we finally exited. We were given scripts to swot up, and welcome cups of coffee suggested that we were not completely beyond the pale. So we toddled over to Wade's entrance and did the Flood Entry. That final pitch is a honey, but the whole place is a delight. Back at Main, Mike took John and Joe off to see Mud Hall while Noel did the honours with a borrowed tabard and a Tilley Lamp, and took visitors around the chamber for an hour and a half. It stirred memories of Cave Guiding at Wookey some 45 years previously and was thoroughly enjoyable. You could say that the tips were lousy, but it saved us £40! This downhill caving caper really is the business. We wrapped up what had been a brilliant GG excursion by noshing at the Royal Oak in Settle. Not bad at all.

Thursday 25 August 2005

J²+N did retail therapy and breakfast at Inglesports before parking at Masongill for a splendid tramp along the Turbarry road. We peered down Rowten, Bull Pot and Gingling, but didn't find Swinsto. To polish it off we walked over to Marble Steps, which looked as gloomy and intimidating as ever.

We owe huge thanks to Pat and to Mike Wooding for sorting out hut keys and permission to use the Craven rigging. They gave us a perfect outing in every way. Noel

27/8/05 Swinsto IV Alison tried, with limited success to fire us up for a Watergate trip, and came along to put the boat in --
Bob, J Noel, Iken, G Candy + John Hurst + Ali.
The Watergate pitch was laddered at Faint Chamber and the duck said to be o.k for exit.
Unfortunately, John tried some subterranean aerobics from the chain into the 4 Streamway, lacerated his hand quite nasty, +扭ed an ankle. Alison

X

Then tore off her T-Shirt -- and bravely staunched the bleeding! John, Noel + Alison Doctored Sat, and the others did the tour of the Showway, before following, all thoughts of to abrogate providentially abandoned. I think someone pushed John.... Most of us had a great time, including Dave, on his second caving trip.

Bob

31-8-05

Clive Westlake, Chris Gosnat, Andy Richardson
Swindon to Barnes Loop.

Took Andy on his first caving trip following failure to get on any rock in Chepstow amidst thunder & rain. Pleasant trip to Barnes loop and steady exit out.

1-9-05

Chris Gosnat, Andy Richardson
G.B.

Andy survived his first trip to do G.B which he appreciated & enjoyed a lot. Went to the viewpoint in the gorge & down to the waterfall, out in time for lunch at the New Inn.

20-28th Aug CFC Gaping Gill w/camp meet

A week of variable weather - from tropical to pea-sized hail and gales. 4 trips into GG as Whittle's Ann, also visited Sand Caves (doing some spontaneous exploration on the way) and beyond Avabank Pot with the Cavers CIA agent. Good (i.e. successful) trip to Glory Chamber with Niggleghan. Very well decorated roof over liquid grey mud floor. Very beautiful, you can see why it is usually hidden.

Gaps - cave included 2 birthday parties (including one for a dog) excellent bat macks, fireworks 'fin blowing', and of course copious amounts of good ale in the Frenchfoot Arms. Pleased to see the Wessex physicians outing (complete with folding Zinni-poles) on the 24th (Cocacobles) Phil H.

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Goss - cave included 2 birthday parties (including one for a dog) excellent bat mashes, fireworks 'fin blower', and of course copious amounts of good ale in the Frenchfoot Arms. Pleased to see the Wessex climbers outing (complete with folding Zinni-poles) on the 24th (see above). Phil H.

Gough's cave 3-9-2005.

Mike Thomas, Jon Brad, Malc Fogle
Chris Castle, Mark Jones, Chris Brooking.

All divers to Bishops Palace and across to Sump 2. Malc Fogle then went to sleep while M.T. and J.B. started the line survey of Sump 2. 130m of the Sump Survey during a cold dive. All divers then out in good time.

12.5

Woolley Hole

6-9-05

Clive Westlake, Chris Grosart

Christine's first dive in Woolley & we were not disappointed!! Dived from chamber 3 to 9(i) & dived round the extension to 9(ii). Continued from 9(ii) towards 20 & dived through the slot, reaching -20m. Turned here & returned to chamber 3 via same route. 10-15m visibility.

6.9.05

New dig, next field to Shuker's & Cook's Hole, Bob & Paola, started digging further along the rock face and looks promising, small joints in the bedrock are open (without infill) & the bedrock is dipping toward a deep depression 12mtrs away.

Otter Hole

7-9-05

Clive Westlake, Sarah Payne, Tom Chapman, Emma Heron, Anne Vanderplank, Chris Grosart.

All went to Hall of 30 & a bit beyond. Successful

trip without incident, though we had to wait 20 minutes for the swamp to open. + Chris

Bloody hell, Good trip!! mud, Glorious mud, Nothing quite like it.. Knackered gloop! Then sparkly stal-weird ~~shir~~. That hill on the way back!

North Wales Meet - August Bank Holiday Weekend.

Excellent hospitality at the pub in Dolphyn courtesy of Pepe & his staff within easy walking distance of 'campsite'. ~~This~~ was a very sloppy paddock with flat area at top & an excellent death slide of which we made full use over the weekend.

Saturday - Some to Spar mine, others to Milwr Tunnel via Olwyn Goch Shaft. A trip to the lake & cut via the limestone workings was the route & choice. Much time was spent at the lake while those with SRT kit went to look for new passage. While waiting, Mad Mick Murphy of the Gravnor regaled some with tales about stuff. I can't say I knew what he was on about as some of us were busily concentrating on freeing up the wheels of the ore trucks & riding them as far up the passage as we could. Excellent!! The return trip up the tunnel was fun with a few songs & then it was time for the train. This was brilliant fun & well worth a visit les! Out via the limestone workings & on to Prestatyn for a dip in the sea, kite flying & chips. Another good evening in the pub followed with the late-stayers finally leaving for bed at about 3:30 am.

Sunday - The shaft in the campsite was opened & the winch operating for the day down half of the 500ft shaft^{to a platform & mine workings}. Some opted to SRT down. Tash got off to good start by abbing down the safety line by mistake only to find it was a few metres short of the platform. Thankfully there was a knot in the end & the transfer to the correct rope was eventually made. The tunnels to explore are largely uninteresting but the highlight for me was getting to throw a rock over the edge & hearing it boom on its journey to the very bottom of the shaft (scaring kev who was prussiking up at the time). A hazy afternoon followed with some ^{people} manning the winch & a table football tournament in the evening..... pro

SWILDON'S

Sunday 28 August 2005

Ken Dawe, Bob Pyke, Steve, Joe Candy, John Hurst, Ali, Noel Cleave.

A full quorum of the WGG met for a nostalgic revisit to Blue Pencil and Swildons 4. The quorum was youthened (?Vb. Trans) leavened and improved by Bob's son-in-law Steve, and by Ali. Ali had long nagged Noel to enjoy the pleasures of Watergate, and this seemed to be an excellent opportunity. Plus it would cut Blue Pencil out of the uphill equation. The Watergate option only attracted John, Joe and Noel: Pete and Ali gave us a good description on Saturday evening and Adrian V said that it was enjoyable and not tight..... but there were all these codicils about the entrance being a thrutch. Judging by the horrible little tube leading down to the head of link pool pitch, so is the exit. Ali rigged this and inspected the pool for airspace while Noel retreated towards BP, more than somewhat spooked. Ali reported ample airspace and we variously enjoyed the Blue Pencil experience. And events reminded us just how fine a line separates an unpleasant incident from a full-scale rescue. John lost his grip on the chain and fell out of BP into the streamway. This must be about 10' - more than ample to break something. In fact he was extremely lucky. He badly bruised one ankle and sustained a badly cut left hand. Ali contributed a silk T shirt, and she and Dr. Pyke bandaged up the wound, with a caving glove to protect it. Plainly Watergate was out. John seemed to be remarkably unshocked, so to get things moving again before tackling BP out, we went upstream to Sump 3. It was sobering to reflect that if the fall had broken a limb, then this was rescue route out. As it was, John got out without any help other than a precautionary lifeline on the 20.

Back at Upper Pitts Christine raided the first aid box and did a very professional job of pressure bandaging the wound and Pauline made multiple pots of tea while we all relaxed in perfect sunshine. All in all, despite the accident, an excellent day's caving for the WGG. **Noel**

15-9-05

Wookey 19

Clive Westlake & Chris Gossart

Training dive to 19 & short swim round to 9i). excellent viz.

16-9-05

Wookey 20

Clive Westlake & Chris Gossart

Training dive just short of Edmonds chamber & some fun in 9→chamber 3.

10.09.05

Simpson's Pot to Valley Entrance

Nik Nak, Geoff Ballard, Tash Mitchell, Jude & Adrian Vdp.

After a short "French" moment where we temporarily misplaced the top entrance, we started down in clean washed, grey, scalloped limestone. The top half of the cave is relatively low but soon becomes more stream-like as we descended a series of cascades. Some short pitches (max 15 metres) led to Storm Pot, followed closely by an uninviting duck though the cool off was quite welcome!

Three more pitches and then Slit Pot which is described as "very awkward for some". Techniques vary as to how you get through the squeeze at the head of the pitch. Firstly you must attach yourself to the rope before the squeeze, Jude and Tash could tackle it at floor level, but I found it easier to push my chest through at head height then Nik Nak picked my legs up and pushed the rest of me through!

Being first down a major pitch was a superb feeling and to watch everyone else coming down was excellent if rather damp!

One wet pitch later and we were into Kingsdale Master Cave, a fairly flat piece of streamway, we soon reached the pitch we had previously rigged and crawled/stooped our way out of Valley Entrance.

11.09.05

Lancaster Hole to Wretched Rabbit

Geoff, Nik Nak, Tash, Jude and Adrian

Such a fine sunny morning no one (except Nik Nak) was in any hurry to descend this fine 30+ metre abseil! Once at the bottom we made the short detour to the Colonades. I had a quick go at trying to photograph these with my new digital slave gun but for some reason or other it didn't want to play! Shame it would have made a good picture.

After some thought provoking traversing in a high level passage (the thought being "I'm not sure I want to be here") we crossed a boulder bridge and up a dry mud slope with steps carved in (I knew an ice axe would be useful – they had them in "The Cave" didn't they!)

We went along Montague West and Wilf Taylor's Passage noticing foam tide marks on the roof – but it's well worth a visit. We followed the main streamway

(I wish this was on Mendip) up cascades, past pools and over boulders until a huge boulder choke blocks the continuation then climbed up to gain the fossil series and the Minarets (aptly named) and finally down into Wretched Rabbit, which people call tedious but I thought was quite fun. You have to walk a bit like a crab but after all I am a Cancarian! Two rope climbs to test the arms are still working and we were back in the sunlight in Easegill Valley.

15-9-05

'The Cave' - Wells cinema

Clive Westlake, Chris Gorst, Andy Richardson, Tony Jarrett, 'Wig', General riff-raff heckled the locals during this 'entertaining' film including some excellent cave-diving shots & lots of 'scary' gestures. 2½ hr trip!

16-9-05 To Wookey to assist Christine & Clive carry in & out gear.

P14t.

17/9/05 To Totty Pot with Philip ~ followed by the Donkeys.

One donkey almost pushed Philip down the depression!

Then the Blackboard Fissure ~ little crawl in only - no room to swing a cat.

P16-

Then 2 pm to Goughs - to help carry out diving gear for Mike + Jon, etc. Quick free trip.

P16-

∞

16-9-05 Coughton Cave

Mike Thomas, Ian Read, Jon Williams, Mark Jones (BEC) & Pauline

Mike, Jon & Jon to Bishops Palace - Jon Williams then went in search of caverns measuring while Mike & Jon Read finished surveying Survey 2 (which has shrunk by 50m) and sheepards crook. Met by Mark at the top of Lloyd Hall a acoustic Pauline to help with the carry out. And all for a picture of a wriggly line.....

15-9-05 Box Mines

Weston Bro's.

GATHERING HAS BEEN DELAYED. MAY BE
NEXT SUMMER. KEY HOLDER NOT RESOLVED.

MANY NEW ROOF FAILS. NEW SCULPTURES

AT JUNCTION OF B12-B11. STONEHENGE
AND ~~REDWALLS~~ DWARFS!

Ridge Mine RE-OPENED.

23-09-05 Box ~~■~~ Mines. Bob Scammel, Steve(NW), Pete Smith

Trip from Jack's Workings to BackDoor, via MOD constructions and the sculptures. BackDoor has a gate (unlocked) and Bob found 5 bat wings in front of this. The bats get used to entrances being open and will crash into new gates. So at least 3 have been killed here.

Llethridd Swallet, Gower

14 July

Equipped with several dig sacks and a line reel, progress was made along the 'very muddy passage' to the base of the gravel slope. 4 bags were filled and pulled back down passage at a depth of -11m.

15 July

2 more bags were filled before squeezing up the slope to see if it would go, (zero viz is the norm here after about 3 seconds). Was surprised by a boulder blocking the floor but could feel a space maybe big enough to get into. However, on feeling around a largish piece of rock came out of the roof causing a rapid retreat.

17 July

Hoping that the viz would have cleared enough to get a brief glance at the roof proved futile. Pulling several rocks out of the roof seemed to make it feel fairly stable. Decided that if sufficient gravel could be removed then the roof wouldn't be touched, except by air bubbles. However, as the 2nd bag was being pulled back, heard a strange thud. On returning to the start of the slope, the brown glow from my lights turned ink.

black. The gravel slope itself was^{now} covered in numerous branches, twigs and decaying leaves and lots of new gravel, making where I'd just been unpenetrable. Thankfully, I'd tied the line reel off, so was able to haul it out, deciding the place was a little too dangerous for my taste. I can't say exactly what happened. It may have been an avalanche coming down the gravel slope, but the thud heard, combined with the fact that the roof was a little unstable suggests the roof, or part of it, collapsed.

Llygad Llwynhur, Trapp

31 July

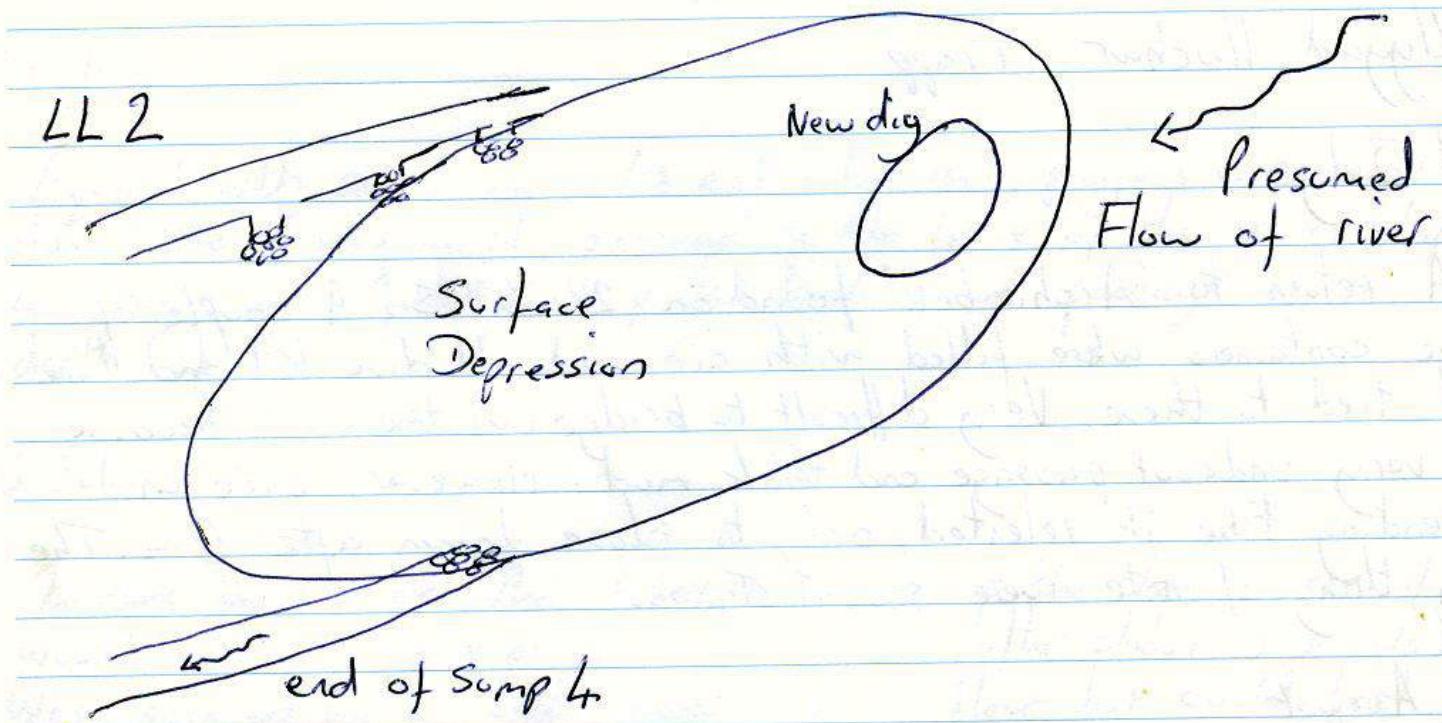
A return to 'Archie bell' found on 24.6.05. A couple of large containers were filled with air and all dive kit and line were tied to these. Very difficult to bridge out the water because of very undercut passage and thick mud. However, once in ascending tube it relented, only to close down after 6m. The only thing of note were several straws.

22 August

Several previous trips to enlarge the opening of the passage seen after 'Son of Slot' with Joel Corrigan had made some progress. In the lowest flow yet encountered, the hole was enlarged enough to get head into. It did appear to choke with boulders a few meters further on though, can't be certain. However, wasn't too bothered or enthusiastic after drawing up the survey data from the new passage in sump 4. Surprisingly, the choked rift at the upstream end of the sump is about 10-12m from some of the chokes found by Steve Marsh and fellow CDG divers in Llygad 2. No radio location work has yet been done but I'm sure these chokes are all below the large depression that had never previously been

80
dug. Teaming up with Bob Battey, a large hole has now been dug in this depression. After the initial soil level, it is all rock and there's a mighty fine draught to sustain interest. By digging on what must be the upstream side, will hopefully lead over the top of the offending chokes

Mike Barnes



1-10-05

Ludwell (Hutton)

Pete Eckford, hen James, Chris Grosart, Clive Westlake

Aim to dive resurgence sump & survey it. Pete & hen relayed the tape while Chris completed underwater survey, made more comfortable by the presence of a small air bell. Water levels very low. Surveyed chamber & dig, which is still rather snug. Dived back out through restriction which requires a little more thought on exit. Clive, pete & hen completed the loop above water while Chris transferred the data. All out in time for pub!

2-10-05

Woolley Hole - Edmunds chamber

Clive Westlake, Chris Grosart

Excellent dive through to this huge chamber. Confused slightly to find the line tied off to some boulders rather than the platform as expected. Had a swim across the chamber to rest on the ladder. Vis not much reduced on return journey & a leisurely swim home.

Monday 3rd Sept

Woolley 22

My First dive into Woolley Hole with Jim Lister and Clive Westlake kindly came with us and helped with kit. We dived through to Woolley 20 got out and had a look around then got back in and continued on to Woolley 22 then returned to base. It was really nice quite strange when you are coming up to base and know see a green glow at the lights above, Good Vis.

FIONA + Jim + Clive Westlake

~~23~~ out of sync

Date

Saturday 1/10/05 Box Mines. Photographic trip with Paul Deakin + 3 good full round trip with lots of photoing 5½ hrs. Bob S.

4/10/05 New dig in field next to Crook's Hole dig St Luke's now cleared rock face right across the depression and are now up to a possible infill of concrete. Strange thing, as it became cold and damp tonight, steam started coming from the area we're just digging. A lot of steam drifting out. Maybe just exposed warm subsoil? ~~Subsoil~~ (A lot of warm air coming from somewhere). The ground has changed from sandy clay soil to stones and small rocks. Bob S & Paula.

Sat 8-10-05 Templer

Raining. John Hill came to Upper Pits - we cut boards for a new swinging platform he had welded up. Took it to the dig. On the way met Tasha, Tim Young and Clive North on their way back from blasting.

Shaft full of fang fumes, go platform lowered by rope to ^{3rd} platform and left with boards in the shaft. So much sump in the shaft it sounded like a stream

Phil H

8-10-2005.

G.B. Mike Thomas, Charlie Reid Henry, Malc Fogle, Tom Beal.

Did most of the nice bits for the benefit of Charlie. Trying to turn a case dover into a cancer! Good trip.

8-10-2005 Various caves of Portland. - Kev & Em

Investigated some little holes on West side sea cliffs, then down Sharbutts Rift & out via Sandy Hole to finish off. Sharbutts is a much easier entrance to the Sandy/Blacknor system although a little bit sappy at the bottom.

14-10-05

Wookey 22

Clive Westlake & Chris Grosart

Support:- Maurice Herwitz & Pauline Grosart

Steady dive straight to 22 where the divers stopped for a chinwag. viz between 5-10m & water levels much higher with recent rains. Returned to chamber 9 before C.G set off on a solo dive to 9 ii) & back. Had to evict a family of very friendly frogs in 9 ii) who had pinched C.G's seat!! Many thanks to Mum & Maurice for helping Sherpa kit.

5-10-05

Wookey resurgence → chamber 1.

Clive Westlake & Chris Grosart

Training dive to practise some skills. C.G laid line through to chamber 1 in appalling viz. Returned to resurgence to find it clearing quickly. Practised various skills with search reel & carrying stage cylinder etc. C.G reeled in line & went off to work!

Notts Pot, 08 Oct 2005.

The Two Bs Rigging Show

Butch and Bean laid on an impressive demonstration of seriously professional rigging. Eight Wessex (Butch, Bean, Mak, Simon, Keith Sanderson, Pete Jenkins, Ken Dawe and Noel) plus Kate ? from the Kendal Caving Club went to Notts Pot. We split into two groups. Bean rigged Adamsons route for the geriatric trio of Ken, Keith and Noel, while Butch rigged the Twilight Zone for Mak, Simon, Pete and Kate. We duly met up at the route junction and Butch rigged on down to the sump. These lower pitches involved some dramatic high level traverses and it was remarkable to be able to look down through the floor slots and watch Butch consulting his rigging diagrams in mid-air. We derigged each others' routes to provide two round trips. The end result was to provide a series of delightfully technical pitches down and up, replete with pendulums, rebelay's and deviations galore. Speaking personally, and never having been to Notts Pot before, I found it completely fascinating and huge fun - and now I know why Notts is described as a vertical maze. Noel

15/10/05 Em n kev-pre-dinner trip to do Damp Link. Air not brilliant in the link and pretty poor in the main stream too! Bring on the rain. Sunup five as grim as ever & Em swallowed the obligatory gritty mouthful - yuk!! Inspected the giant mud mound of tumbledown dig & was going to leave a hello message for the diggers in pebbles (but didn't)

15/10/05 Went walking a Derek Sanderson to Sonit East Tinkers. It's his 62nd birthday present! Both had wobbly knees at the Bang & bad air notice - probably psychosomatic or lack of fitness in old age.

15/10/05

Tour Betas → Dian Leg, Sean Kelly (cpc), Richard Acton.

After fully exploring the surface features of the lapses above the Dian cave system during the summer, we decided to do the through trip!

18 yrs ago this personnel on the trip would have made it a fully fledged. wosse trip. However, this was Richard's first caving trip for 15yrs.

Sean and I flew to Geneva and stayed at Richard's place (which is situated less than 100m from the French border). An early start saw us getting changed at the Dian entrance car park in the dark. It was just getting light when we started walking from the Chalet Angotette. After our summer recce we had no route finding problems to the 3B entrance!

To cut a long story short, we had a fairly uneventful trip through the cave (aparting from throwing various bags of rope and gear down various pitches). The only routefinding problems were just inside the Dian entrance. There are a lot of big chambers round there! Out into the moonlit night after 13½ hrs underground

Leg

Dan yr Ogof. Saturday 22 Oct. 2005

Geoff Ballard, Jo Wisely, John Hurst, Mike Wooding, Noel Cleave.

Reading the Wessex Log Book entries, it's obvious that there are no rules on how caving trips are written up. Style and content are free fire zones.

At its most basic, then, Geoff Ballard took us on the standard round trip. It took under 3 ½ hours and was fun; no big deal. But to three of us, at least, it was a **BIG, BIG**, deal. For John, Mike and myself it was our first visit to DyO, and it was sensational.

For a start, it had been raining for days, and the sky was putting down some serious water on Friday, so the Tawe (like the M4, M5 and M6) was in raging flood. The denizens of Penwyllt made us wonderfully welcome, but opined en masse, and in detail, that with the moorland bogs completely saturated DyO would be a no go area, if, indeed, the entrance sumps were open and the management would let us in at all. At some time in the night, the heavens - plainly exhausted - quit with the raining bit, so on Saturday morning in the course of doing some retail therapy at the Dragon - we took a sneaky peek at the Tawe, and at the DyO and Tunnel streams. All looked civilised and caver friendly. Penwyllt opinion was still so seriously negative that I signed out a top entrance key to give us a fall-back option, but Geoff was much more positive..... to a point. Well, to two points. The first was, correctly, that any shower would see us trapped, and the second that the archway defining the lake sump, would be intimidating and that this had to be unanimous go/nogo decision. The management made the entrapment point again, but let us in, and we variously looked at the arch, which as Geoff had predicted, offered about 4" of airspace. Actually it offered about 4" of flood froth and foam space, with a howling gale blowing the froth away from time to time. Just how much drama do you want with your caving? We went for it. Shortly afterwards, sitting nattering and resting for a moment, there was a noisy flood pulse from a slot in the roof just by us. We looked at this unwelcome waterfall for a while, debated, and went on for some more of it! Such "Conditional" events apart, the "Round Trip" was, I suspect, routine, if anything so varied and enjoyable can be described as routine. I, personally (with memories of the Last Sandwich in Draenen), had expected to find the Long Crawl claustrophobic and demanding. In fact it was... fun. Well, fun-ish anyway. It demanded more vocabulary than endurance!

Geoff (micrometer eyes) Ballard, said that the water level had dropped when we reached the lake arch, but it was a different sensation anyway, wafting downstream on the current with foam blowing up one's nostrils! DyO's own crack cocaine?? Instant addiction and an insatiable need for a fix of the Far North.....

Noel

28/10/2005

Hunters Hole Mike Thomas, Jon Deal, Charlie Reid Henry.

SRT Training for Charlie boy! All well.

30-10-05 NORTH HILL SWALLET KEY, EM & MAK (8STO) b

STO got stuck before Rumble pothole & we escorted him out before returning to the bitter end - Cave was clean - stream was clear - don't know why people don't go here more often superb albeit short little trips.

17-10-05

Aquamole Pot - Yorkshire
Patrick Warren (cpc), Clive Westlake, Chris Grosart

Cracking SRT trip & impressive final shaft. C.G had a stinking cold so no diving this weekend.

28-10-05

Holme Bank Chest mine - Derbyshire
Clive Westlake, Chris Grosart (Support - John Taylor)

30 mins training dive, C.G laid 70m of line with suitable belays & then got a painful sinus squeeze & returned to base in some discomfort. Unable to dive again, so went to dive-show instead where numerous Wessex members could be found spending in excess of £10,000 between them !!.

25/10/05 Crook's Hole dig (last week) Steve, Bob S, Paula & Pete found bones; at least 10 leg type bones, a disintegrated animal skull + a small animal skull, + lots of bits back bones, ribs etc. Also what appears to be a man made dry stone wall. We have had to enlarge the rift on the way down to this ~~stop~~ spot from 30cm wide gap out to its present 1½ Scammonell width (in case he wants to go down ~~it~~ at some point in time). Photographed all bones found so far.

P.S. The bones are really fundamental stuff, being mainly a sheep and a rabbit, but quite old, & some 18 metres down

4-XI-05 Wooley Hole.

Chris Grosant, Clive Westlake

A noticeable current and mediocre visibility - a bit different from the perfect conditions of recent weeks. After the usual faff to exit from the 19 sump pool we went for a look at Chamber 20 and the elegant passages beyond. 3½ hrs

"Pant Mawr. Saturday, 29 October 2005 or on losing one's marbles.

This is going to take some believing, but remember that the protagonists are Bob and Noel, senior citizens, WGG and OAPs etc. etc. So we went over to Penwyllt hoping to blag ourselves a nostalgic mega-bimble around OFD1 (where Bob once had leadership status). We had an opportunity to join a straightforward through trip, but we'd both done several throughs in the last couple of years and decided on a Pant Mawr instead. Bob hadn't done it at all, and Noel not for something like 40 years. Also some 40 years ago Noel had spent three hours blundering around in the mist and failing to find the hole. Nostalgia demanded a re-run. We spent three hours in the mist blundering around with map and compass.... but we did eventually find it. Nostalgia may also have persuaded us that ladders were the way to tackle it. We tethered our ladders from the massive iron post outside the safety fence.... and discovered a perfectly good set of P hangers above, and in, the shaft. The shaft is fun (* see later). The cave is a bit of a curate's egg, good in parts, and ultimately feels disappointing, promising much but petering out rather anti-climatically. With 7 or 8 miles of peat bog under our feet, we were glad to get back to Penwyllt in rain which was becoming torrential. The plus side was that we were completely sure that we now knew exactly and precisely how to find Pant Mawr in future. So on Sunday, in rain way beyond torrential, we went and did just that. And yes, we had lost our marbles but there was a minimalist grain of logic in this madness.

On Sunday, well, think Katrina, think Noah's ark. That sort of rain. OFD streamway was plainly going to be **Out**. In trumps. We'd come a long way and only done one trip. What would be interesting, since we couldn't get into OFD1 just to look at the flood, would be to go up to Pwll Byffre. Pwll Byffre is more than half-way to Pant Mawr, so why not tick off the entrance shaft SRT option? I mean other than little things like common sense? We were sure going to get 'way, 'way wetter walking than we were caving, so we solemnly togged up in caving glad-rags and hiked up to Pwll Byffre. It was worth the effort. The entire quarry floor was a lake, as was the bog on the opposite side of the road. Water was simply pouring into the ground all round the quarry perimeter. The streams and distant river views were sensational. "Roaring. Brown. Floods" would underestimate it. We continued, to check out our Pant Mawr-in-mist-and-rain skills. Faultless. We dropped a rope down the shaft and got the SRT tick. Actually it was worth it, because it was wet and noisy down there, very, both. Then we walked home. Two Pant Mawrs in two days is one too many. We are definitely losing it. Them. Our marbles, I mean. **Noel "**



OBVIOUSLY MISSED THE FANTASTIC *(A)* **HELECTITES***

6-11-05

Wookey 22

Clive Westlake, Chris Gossart and James Abbott A

In continuing poor conditions = 1.5m viz at best, C.G & C.W dived in existing current to 22 where de-latching was much more comfortable. Took the short walk to the sump at the far end off 22 where the final ladder & platform were underwater! Rapid swim out although it didn't require much swimming....

11/11/05 Gough's cave

Mike Thomas, Jon Beal, Mark Fogle, Chris Castle, glyc

House keeping trip: Started to replace all the pulleys ropes etc in the pitch hauling system and made notes of work to be done on the platforms. M.T. and J.B SRT on the big pitch to cut some old rope free.

12/11/05 Wookey Hole, Edmonds Rift.

Mike Thomas, Mark Fogle, Jon Beal, Clive Westlake, Geoff Ballard.

Photo trip to Edmonds with drove, couple of hours in various uncomfortable place's in the name of art! Geoff Ballard continued with his live Lagrang dub's along the way.

13/11/05 North Hill Swallet

Kev, Emrys, Chris, Fiona

Trip down this fine cave to inspect the very end which has been dug & still looks diggable. So we filled up some sacks (5 in fact) and hauled them up the type of streamway that won't let you turn around... Could be the next WCC project....

Date

Phil H, Pauline, Ric + Pat Hawwell, Dick Orlando.

13/11/05

Talk about great weekends this had to be one of the bests!
 I started off by catching up with Dick & Pat H, and Brian & Brenda P. for a fun night of Carnivale. We followed up a night of bright lights, song, dance and food for a couple of days of underground caving.
 I was treated to the fantastic pretties in Blather Cave, GB and Saint Cuthberts. I have only been caving for a year with the Craven Pot hole Club and was amazed at the differences between the Northern caves with their great pitches and crawlles to the most beautiful formations and rifts that are all free plumbed. It was a great experience and I look forward to my next visit. Dick Orlando.

12/11/05 Swildons Hole ~~South East~~ SW Sme Pike RT.
 Ken EMS Wayne Richard Casy Jude VDP.

Down a fairly wet steamway to discover a team already baking. He mod sup. We joined in and after a further 1/2 hour we were through. Up into the S.E. Inlets to the bottom of Sme Pike Rift. Some energetic thrutching saw all but Jude at the top of the rift and we headed off down Sme Pike Passage to pull thru the two pitches to regain Jude waiting for us at the top of Snatch. The pendulum across isn't difficult although the head of the pitch is a bit hairy. X

Crook's Hole Dig 16/11/05 Carmen, Pete, Paula, Steve, & Bob S excavated the rest of the bones, the 'sheep' with 10 leg bones also appears to have had knuckle bones, - we'll think about this one. The "wall" was no more than 2' high but open rift began appearing underneath it. Lot of scary rocks and infill to shift out now before looking further. Also wood pieces appearing - all at 56 ft depth?

19/11/05 Sandford Hwy + King mine

Phil Hendy, Jacky Ankerman, Lee Hawksue

Quick bumble into Sandford. One lesser
horseshoe bat and lots of water. Then over
to King Mine - loads of fab crystals. Well
worth a visit. Cheers Phil! Jacky.

19.11.05 - Swildons Sump 1/2 - Adrian + Jude, Rich, Rosie

Invalid recovery trip for Adrian + Rosie, ably assisted by
'fitter' members. A pleasant amount of water, but otherwise
a normal trip with the addition of a virgin for Jude + Rich....
Christmas crawl (a tad damp!).

Rosie -

SAT 26 Nov 2005.

~~NOEL GRAHAM (JOE") CANDY, JOHN HARST, NOEL CREASE.~~

THRAPE LANE SWALLET. This trip needs a cross-reference to
Noel + Graham's TRIP on 07AUG05. It transpires that
on 07 Aug, Noel + Graham had, er, um, confused SIT 705
with DEDSEVERANCE. SIT 705 is a right B.....d to come
up. Anyway, today we did the real DEDSEVERANCE Pot
which, while easier, is still a myth b.....d to come up!
Our intention was to do SCATTER POT, but the two
sites for the short drop to the ledge ~~off~~ after
the traverse round from Marble streamway are both
shut with trapped threads. There is one natural ~~pot~~
flake ledge for a shing, but (a) it's very sharp and
(b) there is no second anchor point if any rot, so
we retreated. A nice trip, actually, but NHM needs
more P hangers now. Noel. P.S. sorry about the
calligraphy but I am sober!!

Sat 26 November: John Cooper & Gary Kielty (CSS).
 Swildons hole. ~~My~~ My 1st time in Mendip.
 entered via dry way to Sump 1, looked at Vicarage Passage, Also looked at Sump 2 & Mud Sump. Returned via Upper Barnes Circuit (Loop) and back out the Wet way: Verdict. awesome! Never seen such extensive flowstone. a bit like busmans holiday in Darren cilai Picked up and folded into a V shape!
 1st time in a sump, no problems. If only there was a pot at the bottom of the rope leading to Vicarage. that would be fun. hours of amusement! Excellent engineering for Mud sump. I so wanted to have a go!.

Gary Kielty (CSS)

Sunday 27 Nov 2005. Swildons Hob. John Cooper, Barry Weaver & Gary Kielty (CSS).
 Similar Route to yesterday. dry way. (Somebody really needs to think of a new name for this one!) on to Sump 1 having Passed a Group ankle biters with their leaders. Bw Was leading. Took the easy way up to the black hole; Just to look! Wow! next time im hounding John to bring more tackle so we can do that. I Was leading coming back. that's it got the newbie to make a fool of himself. I made all the obvious mistakes. and really went for it; well beyond the point that I didn't recognise. but JC. kept following without saying a word & Bw was just Resting and would catch up.
 the Way back was Slower as I was still leading the ladder pitch was a right result for us there were people going down when we went down & people going up when we went up so no need to rig etc. 3 hours. + 2 hours in the hunters. Brilliant. Mendip has certainly made a good impression on me. P.S. Great facilities at Wessox.

Gary (CSS)

Sunday 27. Took Graham & John to RHINO
for SRT practice/training. The key to rhino was
marginal - it's on its last legs, but eventually
we got it to work. Graham rigged the 21+ wall
for pitch one (his first ever rappel) then John
rigged pitch 2 (his first rappel of that pitch).
Both did very competent jobs. I fussed
around being a nuisance and giving needless
and confusing advice. All good fun! Noel

3/14/05 ~~sat~~ G.B. Cavern.

Ate Jude Vdp & Rich Carey route, over the bridge down Muds passage
water levels down the cave were impressive
water was backing up at the bottom and
flowing into ladder dig. The waterfall from
the bottom was awesome, so we came back
up the arbow! 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours

3-12-05 SHATTER CAVE

Took Han Sargent (CO_2 lady) on a tourist trip - slow, photographic.
In to Pillar Chamber via 2 squeeze, out through the Ling Laird ~~slant~~
Strange low level "electromagnetic" buzzing noise heard by both of us in
the large Ling Laird gallery - not audible beyond, but still there when
we returned. Metal Grass, there without can how, heard nothing.

Quick look in Easter Passage for bats, only 1x LH, 1x GH. Very
difficult getting out as the entrance slope was so muddy and slippery.
2 1/2 h Phil H

29-11-05 Porth Yr Ogof

Clive Westlake, Chris Grosart

Snowy day in wales. C.G & C.W braved thousands of school children - none of which wanted to carry our cylinders - and ventured into Porth, tradesmans entrance. C.G basefed the line whilst Clive located existing line. Both dived in moderate viz, surfacing in Rawbolt airbell & Four Ways airbell. Returned with much fun carrying gear back up the hill, on snow & in the dark!

30-11-05 Agen Allwedd - Summertime & Inner Circle.

Clive Westlake, Chris Grosart

Cracking trip to summertime series. C.G very impressed by Turkey streamway & selenite needle passage. C.W had not been here for many years & appreciated the revisit. Both navigated well, with only one minor error when, whilst hunting for the way on, CG was presented with a boulder in her lap! Went to look at Swiss Village, completed Inner circle & came home via Turkey passage.

10-XII-05 Wookey Hole.

John Vdanthen, Duncan Price, Gavin Newman, Chris Grosart, Rick Stanton, Clive Westlake.

Diluent and deco cylinders from this summer's fuses needed bringing back from 24. In poor conditions - rubbish visibility, strong current in active sumps, high water in static sumps - JV, DP, GN and RS brought everything back to 22, where CG and CW showed up and helped on the way back to 9:2. Dashed good time had by all.

10-12-05 Fairy Cave Quarry

A hole had opened up by the ground piled against old quarry buildings. We sealed the hole with wiggly tie, then backfilled with rocks and gravel, with a topping of earth.

Walk round the quarry. No sign of Willyill Cave flooding despite recent heavy rain. Looked at a few potential (not very promising) dig sites.

Phil H. Price.

10/12/2005. Swildons Hole

Jude Vdp Adrian Vdp & Rich Carey

All down to Maypole Aven ~~Four~~ shot holes drilled ready for next Being. ~~the~~ Less than endearing piece of passage.

5½ hours.

17-12-05 Upper Swildons.

Ken Dave, Bob Pyke, Phil Hendy, Pauline Green

Afternoon trundle to (re)visit some of the lesser known parts of the cave above the Water Chamber. Very dry, good look at both Boulder Chambers, entrances to Oxbows off the Water Chamber. Out via the Web Way, going up to Autcombe Chamber. Got soaked in the crawl to the fence entrance chamber, any dry bits remaining were drenched on the Showebath. A hot shower and mug of tea revitalised the party and staved off hypothermia. Phil H.

21-12-05 Templeton

Another 4 ships dug out, ready for the next blasting operation. Work ceased at 9-10 in order to partake of berry and mince pies. The team were joined by the Crook's Hole diggers in the spirit of seasonal goodwill. Later, the scraps were distributed at the Hunter's Lodge to less privileged cavers and diggers. They seemed truly grateful,

they bless them!

17-12-05 SWILDONS FIVE ADRIAN VDP & NIK NAK

DIGGING TRIP TO TUMBLEDOWN. THE DUG PASSAGE IS NOW APPROXIMATELY 15M AND THERE IS AN ARCH TO THE RIGHT AT THE END - COULD BE A BEND OF ABOUT 30°. THE AIR LASTED ABOUT 1½ HOURS BEFORE WE HAD TO GIVE UP.

20-12-05 SINGING RIVER ADRIAN, JUDY & ANNE V.D.P., GLOOF B, RICH C & NIK NAK
GENTLE EVENING JOLEY TO THE BLUE HOLES AND STINKING B GOLF.

23/12/05

Swildons Hole

Jude, NikNak & Vdp.

Up to may pole Aven, SE inlet. Four shot holes drilled on 10/12 filled with bang, and successfully detonated!! KABOOM! (maybe one more needed!). 2 hours 50 minutes

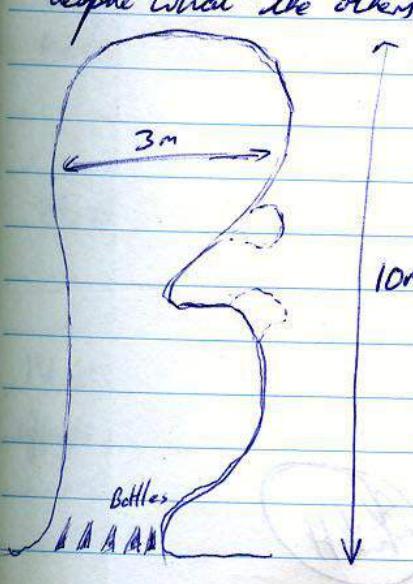
17-12-05 Manor Farm. - Rich & Jude

A pleasant trip to the lower reaches below NHASH gallery - some nasty smelly slurry right at the bottom, but generally fairly clean washed and no nasty after effects.

24-12-05. Axbridge Ochre Cave - Adrian, Jude, Richard, Nick-nah, Phil, Alison. Cave quickly located and explored to the end of the rift. Then Richard managed to reach the end of the rope hanging from the upper series and attached a ladder gradually working up to the top (in the style of G.S. ladder dig). All except Adrian and Phil went up and looked at the stal and pools. 2 bats, one lesser, one greater horseshoe.

(ideally the climb needs 2 ladders, 2 spreaders and 2 crabs. One ladder is detached at the top, and used to get up to the very top).

On the way back down the hill, directly below the spring, about 150m and 10m lower, Alison showed us a small hole under a rock face in a shallow cutting. 15 minutes digging allowed a squeeze entry (I thought it was a squeeze, despite what the others said) down into a roomy, walking-height mine, about



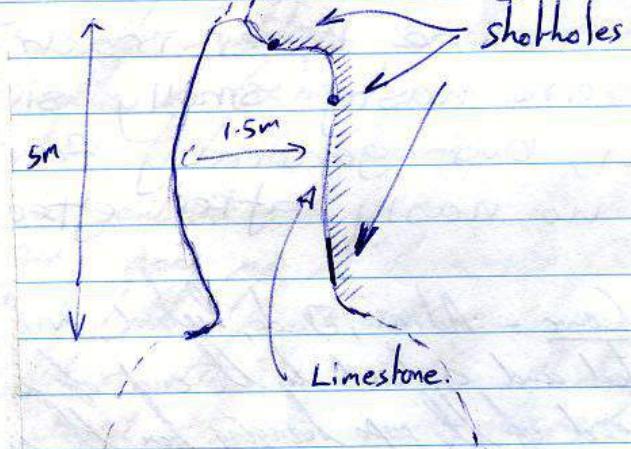
10m long and 3m wide. The entrance is blocked with earth and stones, and a lot of random bottles have been thrown down the slope. The mine is in limestone, and ends abruptly. There are some small holes in the floor on the right, but no prospect of extensions. There was one L.H. bat, and the name JULES on the roof, in carbide soap. Approx NGR 4318 5504

About 100 ft (30m) further down the hill, and 8m lower, Adrian found a similar hole also in a shallow cutting. This was wide

Date

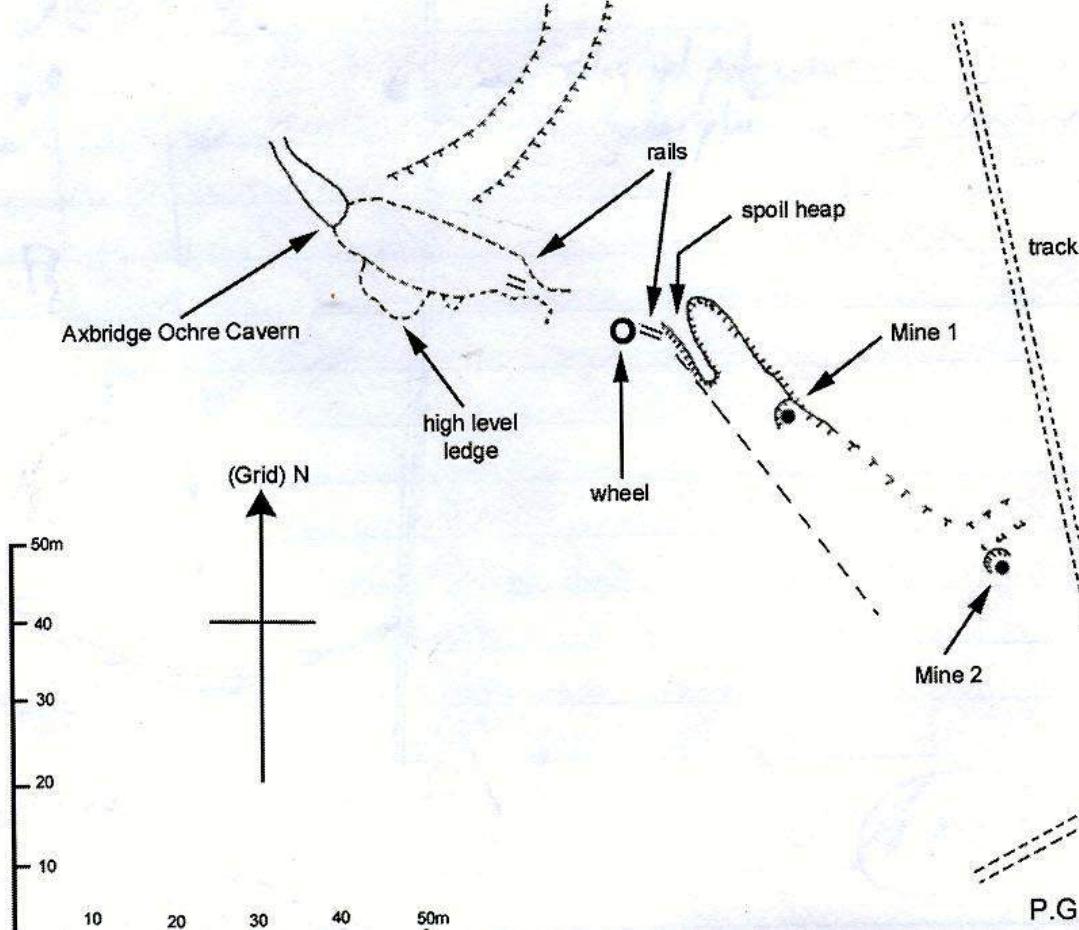
open, about 5m long and 1.5m wide, and 1.5m high. Although there was limestone with traces of large shotholes on the right (one of which was coated in fluorite) most of the mine was in cemented (marl?) breccia, very angular and with fragments of yellow ochre. Small stal-coated holes could be seen in the fill at the far end, but again there are no prospects of any continuation.

Approx NGR ~~437 5502~~ 4320 5505



Mines below
Axbridge Ochre Cavern

Mine 1 NGR 4317 5507
Mine 2 4320 5505



17-12-05

Agen Allwedd - Isles inlet, dig 9 → Courtesan.

Clive Westlake, Chris Gosart, Mike Thomas, Kevin Hilton, Mark Foyle

Excellent 10½ hr trip to take photographs of the newly found formations in the extensions of Isles Inlet, just off Priory Road. This involved 4 hours to get there, down Southern Stream & much fun trying to make Foyle fit through the sand crawls & snug U-bends. Reached a pretty passage and spent 2 hours photographing fine helictites and then through a small, narrow rift into the chamber with the 'courtesan', a fine, 1m long helictite almost adjoining a 1m long stalagmite below. Marvelling at these with care before making good progress home up Southern Stream again & stomping along the fine main passage. Excellent moon shining down on us during the frosty walk home.

16-12-05

Port Yr Ogof

Clive Westlake, Chris Gosart

Excellent dive in good conditions to 4-ways airbell. Brown Trout & rockfish observed & fine, spacious passage. C. & laid the base-fed line at the entrance & an easier exit made with the assistance of a good flow.

29.XII.05

Swildon's Hole. Clive Westlake

I'd not free dived Sump 2 for a decade or three, so went and did so; it feels longer without a cylinder and no way was I continuing through Sump 3.

29/12/05

OFD. Top to I.

Geoff Ballard, Nik Nak, Rich Carey, Martyn Farr, Uncle Ade Udp. After a short mix up with the keys all down through the top entrance down main route and down to Maypole inlet. Water conditions low and pleasant trip through to I, where upon exiting the cave it was found to be gently snowing 4 hours.

30/12/05

OFD In/out Top. Pendulum Pull thro' Simon , Mark, Paul, Mak, Dave.

Seemed like a good idea until we hit the streamway! Water depth varied from waist to over head height and might just have been a tad dangerous. We spent an hour in the maelstrom before reaching may pole inlet and even this was a raging torrent. Having died several times already and long since lost all feeling in my willy I volunteered Dave to fight the water up the ladder and drop a rope for the rest of us.

As near death experiences go, this one was quite exciting  won't go there again!
This year!

31-XI-05

Longwood Swallet / August Hole. Kew + Emay, Fiona, Cookie, Clive

After a long fight with the padlock it was master-safebreaker Cookie who saved the day. He also disentangled a knot of thimbles, wire and C-links on ladder, which would otherwise have scuppered the trip. Meanwhile rather large volumes of water were crashing down everywhere in the cave - Swing Pitch a bit wet + exciting. A quick look downstream, but not very because of all the water, then upstream in search of a large chamber, which located - eventually. We made a quick exit and go to the hut for the last tea and cakes of 2005. 3½ hrs