



**CAVING LOGBOOK**  
**2006 - 2007**

Acq. No.05084

1<sup>st</sup> JAN 2006.

... AOS VP IS OFFICIALLY THIN! — SO SAYS 'THE PIEMAN'

See above — Lionele Round Trip.

Adrian + Jude VDP, Nick Nak, Rich Covey, Geoff Ballard, Ali Hoody.

First squeeze just before the Tent = Cave 1. Adrian O, so Geoff and Adrian round the bypass. Then all onto West Low Level and up the Duck Bypass. Adrian had no trouble with this one and 'floated through' the squeeze. On to the Sump Chamber where Geoff gave the sump a close inspection and found that it was possible to feel through into an airspace, on the far side of a thin plate by the sump pool. This could be removed with a hammer and looks worth further investigation. Round trip completed by exiting via the Boulder Buckle Route. On the return Nick Nak talked Adrian into having another go at the first squeeze and this time he managed the squeeze with no trouble at all in both directions — hence the statement at the top of the page. Pierres Pot is next!!

1-1-06 KINGDOWN (SWAN) MINE.

Phil H, Brian and Sheila P, Jackie and Lee. New Years Day trip to show Sheila the cave. In the main entrance, old workings, then all main passages ending at the cave. B & S out via the main entrance, the others through the desks, seeing 2 L.H. bats en route. Good London Pride in the Swan afterwards.

Phil H

2.1.06 Heavens Door, South Wales

A new year, a new book, and a new cave, and a Master Cave no less. The surface depression recorded in the last log revealed cave passage a mere 3m down. Whilst laying

still at the final bit of the choke, with awkward but open passage visible beyond, a deeper, more powerful sound could be heard than the wind blowing through the trees. The following day, with my digging companion Bob, the last of the choke was removed and indeed, the roar of the River Lougher was coming from the base of a shortish looking pitch. Once down, the river passage was entered but soon sumped upstream and downstream. The Downstream sumps, there are 2, was inevitable. Upstream was a surprise 'cause the cave has a superb draft. Descending the submerged, restricted passage, a tight horizontal silted slot was found at -3m. Going in feet first without fins, after about 3m, emerged into a much larger passage. The following day, this was followed to an arch at -12m, where the passage became much larger. A few meters further, I ran out of line. Joel Carrigan was next to dive and took a new reel to -27m doing some superb route finding. This turned out to be the elbow and I continued laying line to -22m where once again, ran out of line. After Christmas, a return was made, where a vast passage was followed to -6m where a rock wall prevented me from surfacing. In 4m viz, was unable to see either walls or roof. The following day, the entrance of the sump was dug out to enable drysuits or buoyancy jackets to be worn. Going up the wall will then be no probs. A most exciting find.

Mike Barnes

5-1-06.

Had a really nice Caving trip into St Dunstan's Well Cave with Alison Moody. Situated above the Rising. This Cave is Very pretty and is well worth the effort. We went down to the Sump Pool and this was crystal clear. We both had a swim round then ascended the muddy bank saying goodbye to the now muddy pool - This Cave is nice as its small interesting big bits. Tight bits. Narrow bits. A Great trip.

ALISON M  
FIONA C

We also went through all the St Dunstan's Well Tunnels they were really good fun

3/1/06 SWILDON'S HOLE.

Nik Nak Geoff B Jude & Ade Vdp. Rich Carey & Bob (the builder). All down to sump I to wash kit, after Lionel's round trip. Kit clean, streamway muddy!

7/1/05 ALI, RICH CAREY, ADRIAN & JUDE V.D.P., NIK NAK

A TRIP TO THE BLACKHOLE TO CHECK ON A PASSAGE HIGH ABOVE FOR THE BOOK DESCRIPTION. JUST BEFORE THE CHOCK STONE BEFORE THE BLACKHOLE CLIMB UP TO A LEDGE, 3M UP, AND TRAVERSE OVER THE BLACKHOLE. THE LEDGE IS A LITTLE EXPOSED AND REACHES A CONTINUATION OF THE MAIN RIFT - APPROXIMATELY 20M OF PASSAGE ENDING IN A DANDY CRAWLWAY SQUEEZE UP. ALI WAS ABLE TO CLIMB UP TO SEE A 3M POT DOWN BUT WAS UNABLE TO GET TO IT. THERE IS A STRONG COLD DRAUGHT.

7/1/05 Vern (THE DADDY!) FREEMAN, LEG, MR DAVE, KEV, MAK, EM

Dan yr Ogof - Round trip after wrestling with dinosaurs, snowmen, reindeer & guitar playing Santas. Vern found the way - he's the Daddy!!

14-1-06 Phil H, Jackie A, Lee & Prew

Showed Jackie and Lee White Woman's Hole - a short through-trip - then on to Fairy Cave Quarry. With Lee to the oil down above with Cave to look at Open Chamber. Very wiggly to a squeeze, where I got stuck as my light failed. On to the head of a 50ft phreatic aven, which Lee descended using a handline, having a good walk round - some formations and GH bats.

Meanwhile Jackie and Prew had rigged a ladder to the streamway in Shatter Cave. We gassed the top, then Lee went down. It is necessary to change sides on the ladder about 5' down - I failed, as my cell kept jamming. Lee found 2 short stretches of streamway, both pumped at both ends.

On to Shatter Chamber for photography, then out  
Phil H.

14-1-06. The day I nearly died. Pauline Crösbair.  
(I scared Rich Trip).  
Rod's Pot plus Rieherd.

I managed to persuade Pauline to try Rod's Pot instead of Goatchurch Caven. I don't think she realised that Rod's is a lot more vertical and although she arrived at the top of the Bee Pit experienced some difficulty on the climb back up to Main Chamber. From here not too strenuous although she didn't believe she would come out alive. On the way in she decided that rather than step across the top of the pot she would jump. This gives me a scary novel.  
Too tired to smoke!

Thankyou for being so patient.

13-1-06 western Brothers, Sally in The Woods area. 'Searching'. Another entrance found. Back next week with our kit PW

14. 1.06. Mike & Anne P. O., + 4.

GB. Main Chamber Orbow, EXW entrance, White passage etc  
Good trip with a couple of rivers well 2 or 3 trips in.  
Beautiful afternoon when we came out and pleasant walk  
back to farm -

13-1-06 Axbridge Hill - surveyed Axbridge Ochre lower Mine, and located  
Flint Crevic, Letherbox Cave, Triple-H Cave and Large Chamber Cave, ready for  
Sunday's expedition

Phil H.

15-1-06. Axbridge Hill - Phil H, Pete + Ali Moody.

According to Pete's GPS, I was one cave out in my reckoning, eg Letherbox Cave =  
Flint Crevic, Triple-H = Letherbox etc.

Finally sorted it out with the GPS. All caves located and explored, some dig  
sites noted.

Ali got a good heap beyond (to the W) of Large Chamber Cave. This was  
associated with another mine - two large entrances, to short passages  
connected by a handshak link, and in poor-grade gravelly yellow ochre.  
There were two short crawl-sized passages beyond.

Then up to the 10' shaft found on 26/12 - Alison found that it  
continued to 20', ending in a small chamber and an impassable choked  
off. 2 bats and a Toad which we rescued, and allowed us to call the  
mine "Toad Pit". The area is worthy of further investigation.

Phil H

29-12-2005 - 10-1-2006

Florida Springs. Jon Beal, Mike Thomas, Andy  
Judd, Mark Fogle, Jon Williams.

24 hours plus of driving for some! over 19 drops.  
Some classic underwater pot-holing in  
peacock Springs, Granite Springs, Cold Hole,  
Telford Spring, Madisons Blue, Bampton. A very  
nice way to start the year.

21-1-06 CUCKOO CREEVES

Wayne Starnmore (new owner) with Ali Moody, Jo Wisely and Phil Hendy to have a conducted tour of his new purchase

The gate being recessed is filling up with sand - another concrete pipe needs to be added.

All to the bottom of the main passage (only a trickle of water) where Phil waited 2h while the others went in via MK2 dig to Lake Chamber (Dr Jo Wisely did not try to get to the end).

Phil huffed and puffed on the way out, claiming high levels of  $CO_2$ , but the others put it down to decrepitude. All out safely

Phil H

Followed by NASA Dinner at the Mendips Inn. 42 Templeton diggers and associates sat down to an excellent a la carte meal while Eric Dunford showed various digging slides and videos.

28-01-06 Sing Rita's Minnie, Geoff, Pauline, Rich, Adrian + Jude

TEA DRINKING WAS INTERRUPTED WHEN PAULINE ARRIVED WITH A CAKE BRIBE AND HER CAVING KIT!

So, they wouldn't tell me where I was going, but told to get ready or else! The word "harness" was mentioned, but nothing about a plank!! When I got to it I botched up, thinking the climb down was an easier option. How wrong I was to make this decision. At the bottom there was a bit of a blockage by rockfall - so we could not go through - Now, I had to climb back up, assisted by Geoff, giving me a 2 handed push on my arse! Continuing on to further tunnels to stream way + deeper 'Blue Holes' - deep - avoiding them, into the swimming pool where Geoff kitted up to climb it. Even realised he had a problem with the valve on my and said it was a no go. After giving his hose a quick 'tweak', fixed the problem + gave it a quick draw, crystal clear water, looked very inviting. Passing

be bottle + mark to Adnan, he had a paddle +  
quick look around, then got back out. Going back  
came to a nearby drop down but when I asked for  
the rope - Geoff threw the rope to me + it went  
directly down to the bottom of the pitch!

"I needed that!" Passing the rope back up I  
managed to get back down being talked down  
by Geoff + at the bottom it didn't seem so bad,  
but I would not have done it without the rope.  
Getting to the ladder back up was my worst  
dread - but helped on + held firmly by the  
rescue party at the top, the climb up was much  
less daunting than I had imagined. Once at,  
relief + grinning from ear to ear. Really enjoyed  
the trip. Thanks gang!

→ Tasha + xx  
xx

28-01-06

Manor Farm

Ali Moody, Jo Wisely, Chris Grosart

Cracking little afternoon trip to the end +  
up to NHASA gallery. Freeclimbed the oxbow + September  
rift which was energetic. Jo out in time to meet the newest  
addition to her family! Quote of the day, on denigging  
the ladder pitch, "we don't need blokes do we!!!" - (Ali  
Moody)

30-01-06

Wookey 3 - Coases loop - 9 ii).

Clive Westlake, Chris Grosart

Various dines back + forth from 3 → 9 ii) to check out  
new belay points + suss out the old line with a view  
to replacing it. CG dined into coases loop from 9 i) with the  
new line + laid it through to 9 ii). There are now  
two lines here - project should hopefully be completed + old  
line pulled out soon.

7-1-06

Rowten Pot

John Biffin, Laura Trowbridge, Bean, Clive Westlake, George Taylor (NPC) Dave Wilson (NPC)

This began as a Pennine trip, but the Wessex was just as well represented. This large pothole contains a large stream, but the P-bolted route allows a descent that's barely sprayed. 3 1/2 hrs vertical pleasure enjoyed by all.

8-1-06

Link Pot

Laura Trowbridge, Bean, Clive Westlake, George Taylor (NPC), Lee Parkin (NPC) Dave Wilson (NPC)

Another Pennine trip, reinforced by the Wessex. Down the narrow entrance pitch into Hilton Hall, past the Black Holes to China Dog Chamber and so to Cairn Chamber. Then a bit of a crawl and down the Serendipity Pitches (20 m and 6 m - bring your own hangers) to several hundred metres of spacious streamway, Easy Street. 3 1/2 hrs caving slightly off the beaten track.

14-1-06

Alum Pot

Geoff, Adrian, Jude, Richard, Paul, Suntan, Nik-Nak, Clive.

In striking contrast to the Pennine crack - of - noon starts this trip got under the ground not long after dawn. The Long Churn and Main Shaft direct routes were rigged and the sumf reached without much effort in water conditions a bit above normal. There was superb slanting sunlight across the Main Shaft.

After refreshment at Bennie's Adrian, Gordon, Suntan, Nik-Nak and Clive went to

Ireby Fell Cavern.

This clean and splashy classic with its short pitches and lively stream passages kept us entertained for 2 or 3 hours.

24/1/06 GB.

Tom Stern, Andrew Mann, Steve Turner, Sarah Mawadzwe, ~~and~~ Ali Moody and Dick Crano.

Very pleasant evening trip to Great Chamber, enlivened by one of the main handholds falling off the climb down from Great Chamber. Fortunately Dick was shaken but not hurt. Cave pretty dry but there was some recent flood debris in Ladder Dig.

29/1/06 Nancy Camels Hole

Pete and Ali Moody and Copper.

The aim of this year is to visit some of the smaller Mendip sites. The cave was found without much difficulty and basically consists as a walking-sized phreatic tube which after a short distance lowers to a flat out crawl. Probably not a very visited cave but we were somewhat surprised to find a lighted night light at the end!

Sat 28th

Had a great Caving trip into Easgill Yorkshire with Dave Morris

What a Lovley Cave.

Fiona & Dave Morris

Sun 29th

A Pleasant dive into Joint Hole Yorkshire did Sumps

1 & 2 Nice passage clear vis.

Fiona & Dave Morris

29/1/06 Winspit Mines, visit to the Spiritual Home of the Dorset Karst plains project! very little caving done but Managed six sport climbing Routes in the Sunshine over Looking the sea.

Mike Thomas + Andy Judd.

4/2/06. DRAEVEN - MIKE MADE ME DRIVE AS WELL. RIFEMANS  
T.A.P. ONLY 2 NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE AND ONE  
WASN'T EVEN MY FAULT IS WAS HUMAN BEHIND  
A BUS.

MICHAEL THOMAS ANDY JUDD (MIA PRESUMED AT DINNER  
SON GETZ)

DINNER

5-2-06

Wookney Hole - allsorts of people doing allsorts of things....  
Mike Thomas, Geoff Ballard, Jon Beale, Chris Grosart,  
Charlie-Rud-Henry, Mark,  
Surface support :- Clive Westlake taking photos, Mark Foyle  
carrying kit, Andy Judd putting a sickie!

That afternoon :-

Wookney Hole

Clive Westlake + Chris Grosart

CG half finished removing old line. Poor viz stopped  
play, so CG + CDW swam off in very good viz to  
have a look at Geoff Ballards efforts at retuning the  
shallow route, which is mighty impressive. Returned via  
deep route in stunning conditions.

4-2-06 CLEARING LOFTS FOR WOODWOOR TREATMENT.

Of 200+ members, the following did the work :- Pauline, Brian, Phil,  
Cookie, Tasha, Judy, Barry, Maria W, Jackie, and Lee (MEG!), Mark H.  
However, the first job was loaded and away by lunchtime, and a  
pile of junk and fibreglass was left on the lawn by dusk.

6-2-06 8pm. Woodwoor company arrived (1 man) - left at 3.30pm.

Job done (apart from putting everything back in the lofts)

THIS IS A CAVING LOG! (SEE FRONT COVER!)

GONG INTO THE LOFT IS

NOT COUNTED AS CAVING !!!

Phil H

6-2-06

Wookey Hole : - Coases loop retuning.

Clive Westlake, Chris Grosart

CG dived first from chamber 3 to protect the visibility upstream. This turned out to be a wise move & she picked up the line reel to continue removing the old line. This now done, she returned to chamber 3 via coases loop extension. CDW now entered the water once the silt had cleared to inspect CSG's previously laid new line, before swimming off on a round trip via deep & shallow routes. He returned to discuss coases loop. Another tidying up dive is required, hopefully finished soon.

**"Saturday 21 Jan 2006**

**August Hole - Longwood Swallet**

Graham Candy, John Hurst and Noel Cleave.

In the absence of Bob Pyke and Ken Dawe, both crocked at the moment, the above trio of WGG decided to kick off our 2006 caving with an August / Longwood trip. It was also our first weekend at Upper Pitts this year and reading the log we were astonished to see that Adrian VdP is now "Officially Thin". What? Adrian was ever officially fat? As if. We looked at our current girth-to-height ratios in some dismay. Is it permissible to factor in some AD (anno domini, not avoirdupois)?

So we lugged our post-Christmas waistlines down the entrance shaft, round the S bend, through the letter box and the nasty thrutches above the 10' drop before we really relaxed and got into the swing of things. The water levels were low, but enough to pummel us nicely in the water rift and on Swing Pitch. It was 44 years (!! ) since Graham and Noel had been into August streamway, and it was new to John. We had a splendidly sporting trip to the final sump, and then back past the fault and right to the top of the upstream galleries. We came out through Longwood. The move onto the ledge at the top of the main chamber is as interesting as ever and getting back up the entrance shaft is still good cursing territory, particularly if one drops the rope coil right down to the bottom.... as one did. All in all, a splendidly sporting (read knacker) start to 2006.

**Sunday 22 Jan 2006**

Same guilty parties. Played around on the tower with some deliberately awkward rigging and Graham's new Etrier (made by Dragon). This is a brilliant piece of kit - vastly superior to a simple tape loop. We were impressed to see the Kent University cavers doing some really professional rescue training, pulleys and improvisations, nice work. **Noel"**

→ but it is a log for hero's & ruffly-tuffly's  
hmm... sour grapes all round that-tut!

28-1-06 JONATHAN, MALC FOYLE + RUSSELL BROOKS.

IREBY/ FELL CAVERNS.

Quick inspection of the sump for a future trip to Ireby II.

SAT 11th Feb.

Nice Caving Trip with SWCC into OFD 1 Stream Way then into the upper levels. Traverse shows the escape route. Carried kit into Gothic Sump on the way in so was able to dive Gothic on way out. Nice dive into Gothic Sump. There seems now to be a fine layer of silt that covers the floor that was not there on last visit. Thanks given to SWCC members on trip that helped get kit to dive site. -

Fiona.

SUN 11th Feb

excellent trip into OFD 2 with SWCC really interesting place with large square boulders everywhere. Nicely decorated passages. great trip.

Fiona.

3/2/06 Westin Brothers

Took assorted genetic members from the MCG to Box Stone Mines with the strict promise that 'they' provide transport and beer, which 'they' did!

27/1/06 Westin Brothers, Burns Folby + Markon Fenhegh.

Reservoir Hole

Vern, Cookie, Christine, Anne, Clive.

First visit to this fine cave for all but our leader, Vern. The civil engineering impresses, as does the gynomity of the soaring rifts at the end. There are some notable formations too. Clive wasted plenty of everyone else's time with paralytically incompetent photography - Cookie was infinitely more successful! 3 1/2 hrs

Wookey Hole.

17<sup>th</sup> February

Diver: Clive. Sherpa (because of cold, Legionnaire's Disease, pneumonia, bird 'flu, sinus failure and much else) Christine.

The diver blundered around, dispensing bricks, ring-bolted boulders and silt tubes along Coase's Loop in the hope the sherpa will recover and use them to perfect the new line.

17-2-06

Location trip to Arbridge Hall. Located Callow Cave and confirmed the existence of Callow Crevice - a short unreachably rift. Up to Chard's Well. They spent ages walking up and down the hill through bracken and gorse, eventually finding the rift, an ACG dig. An impressive rift, 30m long, 3m wide, and 6m deep at the back, with two dips, a low one on the left and a higher one on the right. There is an old trackway running along the hillside to the south.  
Phil H.

18<sup>th</sup> February W.C.C. Trip to Clearwell Mines

Two Mini Buses plus various cars departed Wesssex Car Park on a clear sunny morning. The Severn Bridge was completely covered in fog, only top of towers in view. Arrived Clearwell 11.30-ish. Divided people up into 4 groups. "Tiger Trip", "Medium Trip", "Kiddies trip" "Showcase" + Tea shop trip.

Medium Trip consisted of:- Our Guide Andy, Pauline, Maroon, Barry, Philip, Brian Pitman, Nigel, Rosse, JO Williams, Jo Diamond, Jacky, Lee, Ann. (13).

The Tiger trip entered the cave 1<sup>st</sup> followed by us a few minutes later. We were led by our Guide Andy "its a fairly straight forward trip we can't really get lost, but if we stay together, and don't wander off.... there is a little bit of crawling, one boulder to crawl under, one easy-ish drop climb down - and the rest is walking. Seemed OK, but it wasn't long before we came to a deep hole, with 2 iron bars to traverse across - (he never mentioned that). We all safely climbed down the 'drop' - but there was NO way anyone could go back up it if we had to. A little bit of crawling turned out to be 3/4 of the trip, our guide became unfamiliar with the route and admitted he was unsure of the way out --- we 12 waited on a resting area, crouched under a low unstable roof, got continually falling down Philip's necks, we had 3 complete light failures, and at this point Brian P. decided to try & fix Phil's light, anyone got a screwdriver? Only JO Williams saved the day by having a tiny pair of scissors with her - and the light was repaired so now we had 10 working lights at 13. The guide returned after a long absence

reporting that he had not found the correct path, and he went off alone into 2 other directions. neither was correct. Pauline was having a serious panic attack that if we didn't get out soon, the cake shop would be closed and all be cakes gone.

Andy returned for the 4th time asking us if any of us might have any idea which way to go?!

We all got up + went back a little way, avoiding the last crawl which upset one person, and found a passage which looked ok, it was another long crawl, eventually passing lots of bats we came to a large chamber full of bats - and cold air began to rush on. Following the air flow eventually came to a vertical mud slope to be exact, gated, fenced, and the guide had the wrong key! After much fumbling in pockets he found a key which unlocked the gate and freed us. Walked back through the prettiest wood I've ever been through, a scene out of Lord of the Rings, complete with unicorns and elves and walking talking trees.

The shop was still open, and one slice of cake left. I bought it, I ate it! Fabulous day out.

Pauline  
xx

Tiger Trip to Pit Bottom.

Mole (RFDC), Les, Mark, Vera, Alison, Kev, Emsy, Paul, Morse, Pete, Sarah, Corinne, Chris Binding (chc), Andy Chamberlain

Thanks to Mole for arranging by special permission to descend into the depths of the mine for a Lamp Handling training course. There are CO<sub>2</sub> problems and if the sacred flame in Mole's battered Davy Lamp failed the trip would be over. We each took the lamp in turn careful not to knock or bump it. Thankful when

handing it on to the next person that you hadn't caused the termination of the trip. The flame stayed alight, the air was good and we made it to our objective. The bottom of Old Ham shaft, now blocked by rubbish and worse. Mole told us of the, so far unsuccessful, discussions with the Environment Agency to clean-up and unblock the shaft. Highlights of the trip was the nest of nellys. A nelly was the ball of clay that held the miners candle to the stick that was clenched between the teeth - hands free working. Also the clay village and Mole's illuminating anecdotes.

Out to find the tigers trip had beaten the Medley trip to the surface.

Maurice and Judy with Mr Weldon videoed show cave with help from an excellent show cave club. He ~~also~~ also took us to surface workings and reconstructed iron age village across the road.

Kidder's Trip

MH and son Pete, Tomma, Biff, Lou and Twins Pete H, Chris Williams, just ~~could~~ wander around the entrance but 1 1/2 hrs of fig 3's photos taken some photos to see plus some Black moths hanging about.

25-Feb-06 OFDI <sup>slater</sup> Andy Morse, Niall Slater, Simon Richardson, Ian Fung-Timney, Met second group just inside entrance. Dave Cooke, Dave Merideth, Peter Jenkins, Jessica Jenkins, Ant Walters. Streamway to swamp den up Railton wild series. Good explore round and an out flood escape route.

26-Feb-06 G-B Andy Morse, Niell Sclater, Ian Timney, Peter Jenkins, Ant Walker, Jessica Jenkins. Straight down to ladder dig. After a bit of a struggle getting through the ducts, it was decided to split up. Niell and I (ADM) went to Bit passage and Great chamber Niell climbed up to Great chamber. The others went out via exchew.

4-3-06. The Lost Cave of Hoxton.

Adrian, Jude, Pauline, Tommo.

A very pretty drive down through Cheddley, plenty of snow on hills in trees, deer, and turrits are coming out.

The entrance to the mine looked rather worrying to me, a typical vertical mine shaft with unstable bars in places, lifelined to a tree + Adrian + I descended slowly to the bottom + climbed over a corrugated metal sheet, over a bar onto loose rocks. Turned left into a crawl, onto a rift, somehow made my way across it, trying not to slip down through the gaps to a long drop down. Into a chamber could stand up at last, one area covered off with stones, displaying tiny little animal bones, higher up a little nook with more bones in. Managed to do the whole cave system, coming back up the rift climb, a bit tight and awkward, 'thrust + crutch' as I call it, to the top of the rift and out.

(At the bottom final chamber were imprints of coverdery kneeling areas, old leather boots + a sole.) Cave Pearls were red taped off, very pretty calcite and straws, candle smelt mark on ceiling - one bat. The climb back up was not so daunting as going down. Brilliant sunshine at surface, temp. reached 10°C. Back to the hut and a round trip in the loft for 3½ hours laying insulation. Very tired, Tommo cooked a marvelous stew. Very nice trip. Thankyou

Ally. x.

SAT 5th <sup>March</sup> ~~FEB~~ EASTWATER MORTONS POT

Had a great trip down eastwaters MORTONS POT a cracking place allways an interesting place to visit as it gets slowly more and more interesting the deeper you go. Very Rifty with endless bottle-necks and interesting ~~ways~~ ways the body has to go to get through foot by foot very sharp all the rocks like very little traffic has been through making it look very new further in it gets even more sharp ~~and~~, I would call it an endless traffic Jam where the Jam just keeps going with no green light. one of the finest trips on menship.

Fiona & Stuart

SUN 6th March LOXTON CAVERN

Had a really nice cave trip down LOXTON Very nice formations an interesting trip managed to get some very nice photos.

Fiona & Stuart

Hunters Lodge inw Sink Tue 7th March

Nice trip down Hunters Lodge explored all the summer digging sites. Fairly dry even with the rain. Grate fine down there must soon revisit my Watery Hole.

Fiona - Stuart & AT

NORTH HILL SWALLEI FRIDAY 10th March

Continued digging at the end of North Hill me & waf Good trip.

Fiona Stuart & ANT

Sat 11th March Paddy Green Sink

Ali, Kev + Phil H - to try to establish an aerial connection between J-Rat's dig just before Hamwell Hall and Cow Piss Area area of Virgin Series. Ali was also going to tidy up her description of the series for the book.

Wanted alone (evidence of presence of Roland but no sighting) for 70 minutes, nothing heard apart from the constant drip, drip, drip - and maybe the odd pitter of tiny feet. I wish I'd taken a book!

Out in 6 min - the route is very slippery, and the mud and goo is a lot more visible on the way out. Not too pretty though.

~~Thoroughly~~ Thoroughly enjoyed my first albeit short trip into P65, but not ready to repeat the exercise.

Phil H.

Tuesday 14th March Eastwater Twin Vents to Sand chamber.  
Derek Sanderson & Terry Waller. The 50 mins of bliss for D's 59th birthday.  
His turn to buy the curry!!  
Terry Waller

WENS 15th March Swildons inlet Sump (Birthday Sump) had a good trip into Swildons dived through Sump 2 & 3. Then had a look at birthday Sump. Just before Sump 4 it went for about 25 foot then closed down. He Vis was great until I dropped into the pool then it went to 0.

Flora

4-3-06 Agen Allredd - Maytime → sump 4.  
Malc Foyle, Mike Thomas, Chris Grosart, Clive Westlake, Emma Heron, Kevin Hutton, Andy Judd.

Fine trip to this superb & remote bit of Aggy. Full trip report to follow in journal.

11-3-06 Holme Bank Chest Mine - Bakewell, Derbyshire

DCRO & DCDG rescue practise.

Superbly organised & executed search for 'missing person'. The 'dry' cavers searched the maze of tunnels whilst the divers paired up to search the flooded sections & airbells. 'Dive controller' Jim did an excellent job & everybody took their turns to learn to use the key-phones & set them up etc. A large turnout & good organization led to the 'stricken' casualty being found & brought to the surface. Divers conducted searches of flooded passage. Chris Grosart diving with Dave Ryall, reported nothing on the main line inclusive of airbells en route. Other divers continued the search & we were all very well looked after. If only all rescue practises were as well organized & attended as this one ...

12-3-06

Peak Cavern - Resurgence → Swine Hole  
Buxton Water & Master cave.

Clive Westlake & Chris Grosart.

CDW showed CSG the delights of Peak Cavern, despite an inch of snow on the ground & some still falling. Dived in the resurgence through to Swine Hole in good viz. Then carried kit to the dive base before Buxton Water sump where the viz was nil. CSG lost a cylinder boot whilst scraping through the boulder choke just after the airbell. De-litted on the far side & stomped upstream in filthy water, to the inlet from Ink sump. Returned through Buxton Water in foul viz, unable to locate the rebellious boot & walked home from the showcase in the snow. (John Taylor has since found the boot in much better viz!)

13-3-06

Lindley Carems

Clive Westlake, Chris Grosart

CSG's first visit to this spacious & clear dive site. An ideal introduction to using 12l tanks & CSG & CDW swam off in comfort for 1/4 km until CSG thought she had done enough & got bored. Mission accomplished - 12s at the ready for France!

21-3-06

Swildons Round Trip & Blue pencil

A great evening trip down into Swildons Not done Blue pencil before so it made a nice change to do it. Really enjoyed it. Visited Sump 4 Fun to go there with no kit and no bottles. Back through Sump 1 and Birthday

FIONA & STUART + ANT

20-iii-06

Wookey Hole

Christine Grosart, Clive Westlake.

Conditions were excellent with about 10m visibility. Diving from Wookey 3 to preserve this visibility, Chris dived to Coase's Loop and perfect the line and belays. Clive dived to confirm then did some maintenance on the underwater lights in 3 and 4.

21-3-06

Wookey Hole - Chamber 24

Christine Grosart, Clive Westlake

Took advantage of the good conditions & dived to 22 to get on with gear-swapping & set off to the ladders & static sump. The platform was underwater at just the right depth to kit up on. On through the next two short &

Wooking 24 ctd

muddy sumps before stripping off dive gear & ambling off down some really quite fine & historic passage. Visited the divers campsite & had a quick bite to eat before swimming as far as we could to the next dive base. Straightforward & easy journey home was made before dinner at the Blue Bowl.

25/3/06 Western Brothers, Brynnes Folly.  
Enjoyable here or so. Unfortunately at the (Crommings Arms we learnt that Mank (the manager) had been airlifted to hospital and is in a critical condition. Mank has been taking people into Box for many years and has always been interested in the mines/quarries of the area.

31st

1/4/06 Noxon Iron Mines, Jon Beal, Mike Thomas, Andy Judd, Geoff B.  
After a double trip carrying diving kit through the mine to the water, all had a pleasant dive with Mike checking his previous lines ready for continuing with rebreathers in the summer.  
A steady exit for all, the only excitement being the dropping of a TV sized rock about 10 seconds after Andy crawled out of the entrance.  
WHY IS ALL MY KIT RED NOW?????

31/3/06 MOD SECTION, TUNNEL QUARRY, CORSHAM, WILTS. 3-hours wander around the old underground rail station, munitions storage areas, the lake under Box Tunnel; underground engine shed (with turn table), generator Hall, and the war time canteen with the now quite world famous murals. Also Cold War areas. Courtesy of my old employers. Bob Scammell & others Lucky BASTARDS!!!

1/4/06 Brynnes Folly, Western Brothers & Dee Weston  
MS Weston expected us to know where we were at! Silly Woman.

4/4/06 Bob S & Paula Rich: He started the dig in the field next to Crook's Hole dig & Rocket Drop. Quite a bit of water has run between the boulders over the winter months. As much as it tried, the bitter cold biting wind did nothing to enhance the first BBQ of the year in the evening, eaten with numb fingers and stinging ears.

Wokey Hole 5-4-06

C. Westlake, John Taylor, C. Grosart

John's first dive in wokey. Training dive from chamber 3 to 2 ii) & back. CS & in the meantime had lots of fun and games trying to measure & tag the Coase's Loop extension line ready for surveying. The job got done but not without a lot of swearing! Day ended with ice-cream in the afternoon sun!

St. Cuthbert's Swallet 6-iv-06

Vern Freeman, Christine Grosart, Sean Howe (BEC/SMCC), Clive Westlake.

We went to Canyon Series. Vern showed us to and round this less commonly visited, but superb part of the cave. It is excellently decorated and involves some moderately energetic caving. We took only photographs, but left fewer foot and handprints because we did some stal. cleaning. We also rescued eight frogs. 5 very good hours.

Wokey Hole 8-IV-06

Christine Grosart, Clive Westlake.

As usual we dived from Chamber 3 - excellent conditions with nearly 10m visibility. Chris fettled the Coase's Loop line and belays for the ? final time, then just managed to return without foundering in her flooded drysuit. Clive started surveying round the

Extension, making erratic progress until running away when the pencil burst for the second time.

Swildons Hole.

8<sup>th</sup> - April 06

Nik Nak & Adrian Vulp.

Both of us down the streamway through I, II III & IV to Tumble down in V. Fifteen skips of small polished cobbles & mud removed, where we thought the passage was continuing to the right turned out to be a round alcove in the pot we have been digging.

With passage direction looking inconclusive we started digging directly in the front wall of the pot we've been following down. The gravel became quite soft & loose and was quickly opened into an arm length air pocket which due to its angle we couldn't see into, at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  metre of floor needs to be removed before we can have a good look at it, but seeing its the first airspace for at least 5 metres of passage it was a welcome site, with time running out we reluctantly headed home, with only a brief respite for Nik Nak playing with migrating leaches in Sump III!

6 hours.

13-4-06

G.B

Chris Gossart & John Taylor

John's first trip into G.B despite being ultra-hard Eldon member. CG rigged ladder dig & showed him the delights of Bat passage & Great Chamber. Not a lot of airspace in the crawl in ladder dig.

Saturday 08 April.

**The Great North Road.**

Geoff Ballard, Mike Wooding, John Hurst, Graham Candy, Noel Cleave., Bob Pyke

Following a sensationally wet and exciting DyO "Round Trip", on Saturday 22 Oct. 2005, Geoff unwisely volunteered to lead a quorum of WGG towards the Far North\*. In the meantime he finally visited the Far North himself for the first time, in the company of sundry of the Wessex ultra hard, such as NikNak, to name but a few. SunTan, who was also one of the guilty parties, opined that one visit would suffice for one lifetime. On the rewards/efforts scale, the Far North barely registered. Geoff, who shared this opinion, nobly disguised his lack of enthusiasm and dutifully made good his promise to the WGG. We met up at the DyO car park, as planned, at 1000. Noel had filled in an exit time of 1800 at the SWCC. Graham, who had taken 7 hours for the trip with the aforementioned Ultra Hards foresaw a slightly longer trip, but somehow these times remained undiscussed as we changed and got underground with just the 8 hours between us and all sorts of potential embarrassments. The caving up into the Great North Road is magnificent, as is much of the GNR itself. However, apart from shingle banks and meanders, there are also lots of roof falls and boulder piles to negotiate and route finding amongst the boulders took time, as did the SRT involved\*\*. We plodded on happily until in the course of a five minute Mars-bar-break, we looked at the time\*\*\*..... And had one of those Oh Shit! moments. Time to haul arse out of there, and plodding was not an option. Route finding and bouldering were far faster as we returned, so at the junction we decided to go for it and exit via the lower route. This was definitely the icing on the cake, but by the time we got back to the show cave they had turned off the street lights and locked the doors. Needless to say, Geoff had the exit keys, so we reached daylight in a vicious blizzard of sleet and hail. At 1815. Ahem. Er. Luckily, back at the SWCC nobody had even noticed our exit time chit, so we need not have worried except that we were now time critical for our 1900 table booking at the Abercrave Arms, where they most certainly would notice. We made it on time. Caving with the WGG offers lots of such additional excitements. Huge thanks to Geoff for putting up with this farrago of professionalism. Noel

\* Keywords here are:

\* "Towards"

\*\* "However"

\*\*\* "Plodded"

Good Friday 14-4-06 Shatter Cave

Party of 5 CPC incl Tom Thompson, 2 beer fairies, Mr & Mrs Eeyore. Standard trip in to Pillar Chamber, via the King Road after Z-squeeze, lots of foods and aahs, pity no-one took a camera. Beer fairies led out.

Phil Halliwell took Tony and Rowan into W/L Cave and Shatter as far as Dried Chamber, then led Eeyore and JD into Wallyhill Cave

Phil H.

14<sup>th</sup> April 2006 Good Friday  
Easter Saturday. Goatchurch.

Fairwell trip for Rich Carey, Mad Phil, Rich (M.R.O)  
Geoff Ballard, Jack, Dawn, Jude, Adnan, Pauline.

First warm sunny afternoon in 6/12 and off we went  
to the entrance - photo shot before descending,  
ambled down an unknown route to me, following  
Geoff and Jack down all the slides, got to the  
drainpipe - went along to the end, it seemed quicker  
this time and not so far ... at the other end

Adnan showed me a small narrow crawly but which  
Little Rich went through followed by Jude. I had a  
looked and it was a definite no no.

After 5 minutes contemplating, I decided to have  
another attempt, seeing Jude at the far end  
didn't seem to be too bad so I gave it a go -  
very tight and sloping, Jude went on and Mad  
Phil came to be 'turn' to talk me through to  
the end, got very awkwardly stuck and breathing  
difficulties occurred, commonly known as a panic attack!

But Mad Phil was calm + cool and coaxed me  
through to be drop down into a pool of water where  
I could just about turn around - then he said

'now you go through that'. That was the narrowest  
tightest gap between two rocks I've ever seen, and  
only tiny people can go through. No way was I  
going through that, but me thinking, well, it's the way  
out so I'll have to try - wiggled and pushed my  
way between this horrendous gap, getting shoulders,  
arms and head stuck, lodged firmly and having  
to reverse several times to adjust my body to  
somehow fit + squeeze through - eventually after  
much noise I did get to the end to be  
met by another nasty crawly but up a  
'chimney' like aren, needed help from Rich C.

to be pushed up through to the end. What a relief - to be out in a reasonable sized chamber - photo shot taken of the survivors, funny thing was, Rich C. & Adrian were not going to bother to go through this area, called the Dexians Extensions, but after I disappeared one said to the other, "Oh, shit, now we'll have to go!" After all, they were the rescue party! But the joke was on me, I looked around and asked where the way out was. "The way you just came in!" Seeing a bucket on the corner gave me hope, there must be a way out down there. No, it's a dig. The way out is the way we have just come in, we have to go back.

Apparently the facial expression on my face saved it all, I know it's Easter, but I was not a happy Bunny. Mad Phil thought it was hilarious - and took lots of photos of me looking cross.

Going back was well + truly difficult, the reverse was much harder through this Dexians Extension, but I got so jammed in - well tight, my helmet had to come off, suit needed to be unzipped, steam poured out fogging up the cave - eventually having more tight squeezes through I got out to the end to be relief of Rich C. who then admitting he thought he may have to tie me to a rope and pull me out backwards. I'm not sure who was more relieved, me or him.

The return crawl through the draupipe seemed like a piece of doddle after that little lot, and the climb up via tradesmans entrance was held up by 4 young novices, not moving or going anywhere. Overtaking them I used their rope and made a fast exit using the rope, Mad Phil was quite surprised to see how fast I could make the final exit.

Returned to the car park, Geoff was waiting for us, Mad Phil had told him where we had all been, and he saw words like, "I don't believe it". I can tell you I have bruises galore to prove it, plus photos, and a wide grin from ear to ear. The Ice Cream van waited for us, and we finished the evening by dining out at the Indian in Wells.

Last Trip for Rich Carey, he's gone to China for a year. Maybe on his return we can think-up something else to do, is there anywhere wide, High and Safe?! ~~8~~\*

Phy.

Sept 05(!) & Feb 06. Mendip Geology.

Just because I've not been at Upper Pitts much lately doesn't mean I've not been on Mendip! :-)

Tedbury Camp & Vallis Vale - Walked up Melts part cave which I was able to identify for later report as Spleenwort Shelter (exposed fossils of Lithostrotion coral, extinct by Permian).

Rock slides nearly on very steep N dip. On up to Tedbury Camp, & then to the "de da Beche Unconformity" (same formation, of horizontal Jurassic limestones on the planed Carboniferous.)

February trip to see the exposed Triassic breccias & conglomerates on S flank of Mendip & in Burrington ~~gate~~ <sup>to Combe</sup> ~~of~~. Then to disturb security at quarry near Wells - where the unconformity is well shown at the gate. Finally - Nyland Hill (by arrangement as 1st exposure, of Carboniferous L.S., is in a garden, and there's no footpath to the top of this fine viewpoint.

1st trip: Dorset Geologists' Association Group.

2nd: Open University Geological Society (as I am guest from DGAG)

Nigel G.

15<sup>th</sup> April 06

## Swildons

As a rehearsal for the 16<sup>th</sup> (Easter Sunday), the Vanderplank's, my dad (Phil Hendy) and I took a trip to sump 1. I had only been to the top of the 20 before hand but rising to the challenge I descended with relative ease. Once at the sump, I decided to follow Adrian through, unfortunately I became wedged half way so decided to frantically panic and wriggle backwards but there will be a next time (hopefully more successful). ~~It~~

We met five parties of mixed ability whilst underground so the 20 got bottle nosed with people, after waiting five or ten minutes I was up the 20 and rattled my way to the entrance for warmth only to find a sunny warm spell to take advantage of. All in all the trip was a welcome change and in just under two hours which I thought was good going and can't wait to go for round two against sump one again, bring it on!!

Don't be

over and out!

\*

\*

April 16<sup>th</sup> 2006 - Easter Sunday!

Charlie Burridge, Phil & Dan Hendy - Swildon's, to the 20.

Today was my 1<sup>st</sup> trip and it was really fun, I'd love to come back and do sump 1. We went to the lavatory pan & the grotto where I saw the drip where Phil got water from the cave for Dan's christening 17 years ago! After borrowing kit & doing the trip, it was lovely to come back and go to the Hurdles & have a sandwich - homemade by Pauline in the wessox. Thanks guys it was wiked! xy

~~Clair~~ xy

Ps. Cant wait to come again! xy

17-4-06 With Han Sargent to W/L Cave (take camera next time) Pool Passage/Bullrush Way in Balch Cave (bats, spiders and located low exit at the end) and Fairy Cave (part). Felt justified in lunching at the Hunter's afterwards.

Phil H

12-14 April. Easter Visit by CPC

Started with Tompton digging, Swildon, Fairy Quarry visited caves, 4 groups in Swildon, Eastwicks, 2 groups down to Catabax, Hunter Lodge Inn lunch and finally G.B. Some 20 CPC visiting many of whom got to see caves they hadn't visited before. Very successful visit thanks to trips led by Phil Hendy and Alison Moody and access arrangements helped by Brian Power.

Paul Wallis

22-4-06 Templeton

Replaced 2 platform slats blown up by Tasha 2 weeks ago - what do you expect when you pop them up 5' from the blast?

Tried photography, but camera pxx as usual

(152' is a long way down - it's even longer coming up!) Phil H

25-IV-06 Grenade Shaft (Stump Cross)

R.A. Mallinwell, C.D. Westlake and several Craven P.C. Photography in this short, but well decorated cave.

29/4/06 Swildons Hole

Mad Phil & Adrian Udp.

Trip down the streamway through II III ~~IV~~ ~~V~~, with Phil going through the VI Bypass and myself through VI we continued to IX Phil was trying to work out the fault planes and the bedding, <sup>bed</sup> then turned his attention to looking for holes in the roof M.P. enjoyed his first trip through the swamps getting more excited the further down the stream he went.

I hope the Swildons book comes out soon, or else M.P. might be adding to the length of the cave and messing up Phil Hendry's Surveys III

DAV-YR-OGOF 30-4-2006

Clive Westlake, Mike Thomas, Jon Beal, Christine Asast.

Superb trip to the Far North and out via the Roundtrip - Abyss, Baketoo straight ect. The maximum of equipment made for some fun on the aid climbs as did Clive's Round and Round the 'Mostest' came on the way in! Another grand day out.

—————

4-5-06

Joint Hole - Yorkshire

C. Westlake, C. Grosart

Superb weather & conditions made an excellent dive possible & we made the most of it, diving as far as the Deep/Shallow Route junction. Both turned well within 3rds in sump 3 on 121 tanks. Some trout & lots of albino weaver fish for company. Good exercise for C.G. for using larger tanks. 4m viz.

5-5-06

Hurtle Pot

C. Westlake, C. Grosart

Be rude not to, since conditions were so good. Big rays of sun reached down into the sump pool & we dived as far as the slope just before Blottapress squeeze. CDW hit 3rds due to a mammoth decanting exercise the day before (Ingleton pump broken) so we turned & enjoyed equally as good viz - 5m - on the way home, doing a safety stop in vertical daylight. Stunning!

6-5-06

Simpson pull through → West Kingsdale Master Cave

C. Westlake, C. Grosart, John Taylor, Dave Wilson.

Lots of fun & games - superb little cave. C.G. had problems at slick Pot, having to remove all but her absailing gear! C.G. a little weary after Dan Yr Ogof Far North 5 days before, but everybody else in good shape to drink large amounts at the CDG 'dinner' at Helwith Bridge.

13-May-06

Swindon round trip. Andy ~~Moss~~, Simon, kev, Niall. Good round trip, sumps and ducks bailed for us. Simon stayed at sump one, suffering from roof rack surfing injuries. 3 hours, good trip.

14-May-06

Rhino R-je , Andy & Niall

After a lot of mincing and playing on the SRT training tower we set off for Hunter's Hole. Hunter's too crowded so did first two pitches of Rhino R-je instead. 3½ hours excellent first SRT trip for Niall.

Excellent weekend.

SAT 13th MAY

BAR POT

Great trip down Bar pot with Nevel from Crown pot hole club. Good fun SRT and tourist trip. good time sliding in. The most Excellent mud of Yorkshire. we were lucky on the way out it was not Pissing it down for the walk back to the car.

Fiona & Nevil

SUN 14th MAY

Nidds

Had a good working trip into Nidds. trying to make the entrance to the duck bigger drilled some holes for a later Bung trip. then we dived to take a look at the line. The lines were in poor condition lots off them tangled and not going anywhere. we got 80 m in to find the line broken managed to find other end but was unable to re connect it as it lay in bits. So next visit we will work on re-lining it and removing the old.

Fiona & Dave Morris

SAT 20th May

Nice trip down Swildons down Blue pencil on to Sump 4  
Then back out

Fiona & Stu

Sun 21st May

Eastwater upper traverse and top level sections. really  
fun trip. Quite dry considering all the rain.

Fiona + 4?

Sun 21st May Swan Mine, Kingsdown (Wilt) Barry  
Wilkinson & Roger Robinson (de Vicar) took Bob S on a  
wander around his local, incl. a pint of  
London Pride at the Swan pub. A pleasant afternoon  
in a Bath Stone mine that doesn't resemble a  
whitewhole.

wednesday 24th May -

Gates (in the form of grilles) are now being fitted to the  
entrances of Box Mines by a contractor. Keys  
of the Allen type, will be held at clubs and at the  
Quartermen's Arms, Box, so I am told. B.S.

Wookey Hole - 11-V-06 Chris Grosant, Clive Westlake

CSG surveyed Coase's Loop whilst CDW looked at various rifts and  
grovels in Coase's Loop Extension. Loop and Extension are not separate all the  
way through as the divers could see each other. CDW swam around the rarely-  
visited Wookey 10 then CSG surveyed through Coase's Loop Extension. Out to sun-  
shine, ice creams and survey drawing.

--12-V-06 Chris Grosant, Clive Westlake.

To Wookey 22, in excellent conditions - 8m visibility, also both with bright  
lights. In via Deep Route, out via Shallow Route, doing various  
training exercises towards COG test.

3-6-06 Wookley Hole - Jon Beal, Charlie Reid-Henry  
2 working dives between 9 - 20. The new line has now been completed  
and the old line removed.

3-6-06. Swildons Hole - short round - Emma. + Howard.

A nice easy trip to ease myself back into caving. low  
water levels in the ducks so bairns required. I had  
an interesting time at birthday squeeze for a couple of  
minutes (much to Emma's delight), a fine trip.

26-V-06. Christine Grosant, John Taylor, Bob Dearman, Ailie Westlake went to Full Moon  
Bagshawe Cavern. Series, where the eastern end has been visited by fewer people than have  
been to the Moon. We surveyed and photographed about 100m of fine  
cave.

27-V-06 Christine Grosant, Ailie Westlake, Jim Lister, John Taylor. Useful training  
Lirley Caverns dive in the usual clear (10m visibility) conditions.  
Limestone Mine

13 JUNE - "FATSEE LITTLE MOBBIT CAN GET THROUGH WATER"  
ADG & JOB, GARETH, GENE & MCUPPY. SWILDONS SHORT ROUND TRIP...  
WEN ALMOST! JOB & GARETH SWID THROUGH BIRTHDAY SQUEEZES  
FOLLOWED BY DAVE WHO DID A VERY GOOD IMPRESSION OF 'THE  
NOTTY PROFESSOR' - DOES MY BUM LOOK BIG IN THIS, "ITS MY BEST  
FEATURE" ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY WHEN YOUR MUDDY Y FROSTS  
ARE WEDGED UP YOUR ASS LIKE A MESSEX GIRLY PIS UP!

GEORGE.

- "I DONT KNOW SUMO WRESTLERS WENT CAVING?" -> ADG.

16/6/06 Brownes Folley. Weston Bros. Paula plus 'Mr Bob' who meandered into distant parts regaling us with stories of his hoodlum "youth". It's surprising that Box Hill or Solly in the Woods is intact at all due to the artillery methods Mr Bob and his chums have used for entertainment!! (P.S. THE 'NEW' ENTRANCE IS AT PRESENT LOCKED WITH A HEFTY PADLOCK (NEW), WHICH MEANT A MEANDER BACK TO THE 'OLD' ENTRANCE INSTEAD OF A SUNNY HILLTOP RETURN). ALSO NEW PAINTWORKS (2006) SPOILING THE MINE FURTHER. WIRE BRUSHES NEEDED DESPERATELY, OR IT WILL SOON LOOK LIKE BOX (I.E. INNER CITY REDUNDANT LAVATORY BLOCK) BS.

Cligga Mine Cornwall.

17<sup>th</sup> June 2006

Nik Nak Adrian & Jude Vandepoelk.

Day trip to Cornwall to visit the Wesssex emmet at the Camborne School of Mines

Cligga mine is situated on the westerly cliffs above Perranparth, after some random searching the upper entrance was located and all three set off to explore the top level. As with all mines winzes and shafts lead to lower levels (CARE!), and with most of the upper passages explored ("No I'm not climbing round the edge of that 60 metre shaft thank you very much")

We then abseiled via a 30 metre inclined shaft to the middle level and by a sloping passage to the lower levels a large slope 7 metres wide 30 metres plus high and 200 metres long was a superb finale to this trip

and a short passage then leads to a lower entrance on to the beach

Cligga was mined <sup>for</sup> (tin) e wolframite (Tungsten ore) up until 1945. The main shaft was deepened to 150 metres in the 1970s but again the price of tin collapsed, and work stopped!

21-6-06

NHASA BBQ - to be held at Templeton, but too windy to keep the burgers on the grill or salad on the plate. So re-located to Upper Pitts, where a good time was had by all NHASA/Templeton diggers plus wives and camp followers (except Jonathan and Rose, who arrived too late). Bob Seaton claimed the moral high (?low) ground by going down the dig to platform 4. At least he used the front of his shirt to wipe the ladders clean!

Phil H.

## Dordogne / Lot - Caving / Driving Trip

Participants :- Clive Westlake, Martyn Farr, Helen Rider, Christine Grosz, John Taylor, Anne Vanderplank, Jim Lister, Jon Beale, Charlie Reid-Henry, Neil & Rachel.

Christine's log (cos I can't be bothered to write yet another article...)

12-6-06

### Fontaine Du Truffe

Clive Westlake, Christine Grosz

Both dived sump one & had 30m+ of crawling & stooping to get to sump 2, due to low water levels. Flopped into sump 2 and had an

enjoyable dive, which was more like canyoning underwater. Surfaced at end of sump 2 and on asking Clive what we should do next, he replied 'we're going home'! The water levels were so low that getting out would have been a ridiculous struggle, though John Taylor & Jim Lister managed it with a pair of 7s. Absolutely beautiful cave.

13-6-06

Fontaine de Saint-Georges

Clive Westlake, Christine Grosart

Both dived 380m to the Salle de Lavaur, a huge 'wooley-like' chamber. Pleasant dive home in 10m viz.

14-6-06

Emergence de la Reessel

Clive Westlake, Christine Grosart, John Taylor

Recessed dive to top of the shaft via deep route & returned deep route. Clive returned to take John in for a short distance. Excellent post-dive pic-nic followed by a jaunt round l'adivac.

15-6-06

Saut de la Pucelle

Clive Westlake, Christine Grosart, John Taylor, Jim Lister, Anne Vanderplank, Jon Beale, Charlie Reid-Henry, Neil Rushton.

Highly entertaining trip. Straightforward ladder pitches & good kit organization the night before, meant everybody got to the sump in good time. After a brew & a late to eat here, all returned back up the streamway with various tactics to negotiate the slippery cascades employed. Lots of fun.

16-6-06

Source de Landenouse

Jon Beale, Christine Grosart

Support - Anne Vanderplank, Clive Westlake, Charhe Reid-Henry

After the initial ball-ache of getting up, J.B & C.G swam off for about 170m until C.G was unable to equalize at -17m. C.G made her excuses & left whilst Jon continued on to caverns measureless. Much to C.G's delight, her faithful friend Miss Vanderplank was seen to be shimmying down the ladder in her swimming costume and got in to give C.G a hand with her gear whilst treading (13°C) water !!! The look on the D.I.R divers' faces was mildly amusing.....

17-6-06

Emergence de Meyraguet

C. Westlake, J. Ister, C. Grosart, A. Vanderplank, J. Taylor, N. Rushton, Rachel.

Though technically a canoeing / kayaking trip down the Dordogne, we did venture 100m into the Meyraguet in our canoes with barely a fog lighter or a glow worm between us! Clive did have a torch, but this appeared a little dim, possibly due to him still wearing his sunglasses.... A grand day out!

18-6-06

Emergence de la Bessel

Jon Beale, Charhe Reid-Henry, Christine Grosart

All three divers to the 440 corner at -47m, where C.G was sent home & J.B & C.R.H

continued to the 700 corner & God knows where else. C. G. came home alone & sat for a while decompressing only metres away from 'too shallow but very warm' river water! Excellent dive.

19-6-06

### Gouffre du Briant

C. Westlake, Anne Vdp, C. Grosart, Neil R, Rachel

Very pretty cave with large formations & chest deep wading. Clive took photos of the more impressive bits.

20-6-06

### Gouffre de Cabony

Clive Westlake, Chris Grosart

Having located the existing line, CDW & CSG dived in for about 400m until we got fed up & came home. Tidied some crappy belays & cleared away some large nests of dental floss just left lying on the side....

21-6-06

### Trou Madame

Clive Westlake, Chris Grosart

CDW thought this would be a good place for CSG to do her first km. dive, so dived to the halfway point of sump 6 & then a km return journey. A little tiring, but fantastic geology in an ever-changing cave:- And an albino shrimp was spotted in sump 5!

22-6-06

Fontaine du Truffe  
Christine Grosart (Solo)

CSG wanted to see sump 1 again before she went home, so located existing line with reel & connected it to existing line, before going for a swim to end of sump one & back. Stunning place. And then we went home. The End! (Harent got a clue what everybody else got up to, but I'm sure they will write up their trips / Dives in due course!)

30-6-06 FREE BEER AT THE VIC!

John and Heather Taylor's leaving bash - all beer free, + pig roast. Wesssex represented by Phil H and Brian + Brenda

2-7-06 Birthday hangover clearance (thanks to Adrian's birthday 800 + beer!) to survey rolling thunder with Aubrey. Approx 75' long, ascending 12'. A lot more than I had been led to believe. At one point, it is possible to stand, albeit lying on a cascade. Good trip, but no rock to return.  
Phil H

SAT 8th July 06 Swildons 9

a nice jolly down to Swildons 9 sump pool I have never done the Sump 6 Bypass so we dumped all the kit at the start of 6 and had a nice trip through the bypass and on to 9. had a swim round in the 9 sump pool then back on jolly on the way out

From A to Stuart

8-7-06 Draenen - Round Trip  
Clive Westlake, Chris Grosart, Mike Thomas, Kevin Hutton, Jon Beale

CTD from overleaf

Superb & sporting trip - Most have been to Draenen but not completed the round trip, so this was another 'tick'. About 6 hours.

8-7-06

Wookey 20

Clive Westlake, Mike Thomas, Chris Gossett, Jon Beale, Kevin Hilton

All dived to 20 so that Clive could take photos of this fine chamber. All had pleasant & uneventful dive home.

15/7/06 Phil Hendy, Sharon Reynolds (SEC - South Africa)

GB - pleasant tangle via Mud passage, Oxbow to bottom, out via Waterfall and Main Chamber. Sharon impressed with a) size of place b) not as cold as imagined. More water in the Oxbow than the Gorge.

12/7/06 Templeton - core on in, the water's lovely!

Quick swim in 5' of water (7' + a week ago) retrieving board and digging tray. Team then started preparation for digging the pit near the top.

Phil H.

16/7/06 Phil Hendy, Sharon Reynolds

SUILDON'S to the 20'. Sharon's first wet cave - very impressed, even though water levels were low. Lots of weage.

Phil H.

18/7/06 NIKNAK, SUNTAN

SUILDON'S SHORT ROUND, 56 MINS. 1/2 A STONE LIGHTER NOW.

24-7-06 TEMPLETON

5 SKIPS OUT BUT RAPID FILLING OF SKIPS → HYDRAULIC OIL OVERHEATED → SKIP WOULD NOT COME ALL THE WAY UP. SOLVED WITH ROPE AND MUSCLE. THEN DUMPER PARKED AWKWARDLY, WOULD NOT REVERSE OUT OF LOADING BAY. IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED -

SOD 17, LET'S GO FOR A PINT.

26-7-06 TEMPLETON

DUMPER EXTRICATED WITH DIFFICULTY, BROKEN TOW ROPE AND DEMOLITION OF 2 WALLS! WOODEN PLATFORM #2 INSTALLED, SO ONLY 3 SKIPS.

Phil H

22/7/06 - Fault Chamber - Swildons.

Pete and Ali resumed work on our old dig - Upper Fault Chamber Dig at the top of Right Hand Aven. Dig site was flooded to a depth of about a metre. Fairly quickly managed to remove about 70 gallons of water before deciding that we really ought to call it a day and check the pool at the top of the aven - before we sumped ourselves completely in! The dig appears to have levelled out to a horizontal passage which bears left. Unfortunately the digging conditions have not improved since the 1980's - it is still HORRID!!

Ali

12/8/06 Maurice, Judy and Paul Watson. Visit to Steep Holm with the Kenneth Allison Trust. Spouting beach landing with a strong ~~rip~~ rip-tide. Interesting wild life, particularly hostile gulls. World War 2 gun emplacement using 1867 batteries platforms. Highly recommended trip.

12/8/06 Eastwater - Southbank.

Ali, Pete, Macphil, Emsy.

Very "pleasant"? tourist-trip to Southbank via the Martens Pot route.

It must be about 15 years since Pete last visited the Black Friars sump. Whole trip only takes 3 hours. Definitely a much easier and quicker way to the terminal sump than the original Blackwall Tunnel route.

Ali.

43

10-VIII-06

Charterhouse Cave.

Alison Moody, Christine Grosant, John Cooper, Clive Westlake.

To the Citadel to take pictures, which may well come out as the slaves electronic and human were not revolting. The place is huge, so used big flashbulbs passed on from John Cooper, Alison's late father. 2 1/4 hrs.

19/8/06 DAREN CILAU

Geoff B, Jude, Stu & Nik Nak

Entrance Crawl in 30 minutes, through to "Man in the roof", "Urchin Oxbow" looked at the antlers & "White Company" Went up the fixed ladder & across the traverse towards "Time Machine". Back the same route. Trip time 6 hrs.

Stu

28/8/06. - NORTH WEST STREAM PASSAGE - SWILDONS

STU & ANT. - Sump 1 onto the landing & along to wet ears Squeeze (very muddy!!) over traverse and down 8m pitch, looked along Heaven & Hell passage & onto Sumps @ bottom of rift. Explored many side passages & an interesting cross rift.

2hrs 45mins.

Stu

27 and 28 - VIII - 06

Ogof Fynnon Odu.

Christine Grosart, Clive Westlake.

Carried in some gear on Saturday, even more on Sunday, then dived Dip Sumpf, which was all very pleasant. Problem is a layer of silt, just like Gothic Sumpf so not as pleasant as mid-90s exploration. No other covers underground so two trips to carry gear out. And so to excellent BBQ at Dudley Thompe's.

02/09/06

Goatchurch Cavern

Dave M, Male, Clive, Tommo, Mathew, Hatstand, Becca, Pauline ~~with~~ Bev,

Trip to take 3 x novice cavers to Goatchurch, met amorous couple in top entrance, we have interrupted something! We made our way to Water Chamber where Hatstand Clive Bev Becca & Dave went through the Drain Pipe. Out via the Coal Skute & the Tradesman's Entrance.

02/IX/06 SWINDONS

MAX, JUDE, DAN, NICOLA, MARK, TING TONG

Trip for 2 new cavers to show Mendip has more to offer than Goatchurch & Sidcot. Both thoroughly enjoyed it. Dan was taken through Sump 1 & down to Sump 2, he even managed to keep up with Max when returning to catch up with the others who turned around @ Sump 1. Caught up near 20 & out via wet way (long dry on way in).

4-9-06 Templar Only 2 ships - bottom flooded, but pumped out in 1/2h. Pump is noisy and surreal, but efficient - at 50y old, it is one of the youngest members of the team

PHH

8.9.06. EASTWATER - MORTONS. POT.  
PULL (MAD) & MAX.

NOT NEARLY AS BAD AS MARK & BEAN HAD WARNED ME SUGGESTED TO ME IN THE HUNTERS, THE NIGHT BEFORE.

BACK ON THE SURFACE, I THOUGHT THAT WAS A REALLY GOOD TRIP!  
SO GET DOWN THERE, NOT TOO FAT THOUGH!

MAX: "BUTCH'S ASS LOOKS TIGHT, BUT DADY BEEN THERE!"

16/9/06 GRAND DAY OUT ON MENIP

NIK, NAK / STU / FI

Entered Priddy Green Sink at approx 9:25am, once in Swildons 4 Fi collected dive kit and exited the Cave via Sumps 3, 2 and 1. Stu & Nik & Nak dived Sumps 4 & 5 to set the Syphons off in the Damp link. Returned back through Sumps 4 & 5 and entered the Watergate and upto Shatter pot. Continued to airless exbow & up the 42' ript to Swine pipe, 2 pull throughs to Shatter Pot onto Mud Sump & muddy exbows, down to Trammans & through Sumps 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 to enter the Damp Link, (CRAWL, CRAWL, CRAWL, MUD, CRAWL & CRAWL). Into Shatter

Passage, through both locks & up Shatter pot, Continued around the Round Trip in traditional Style (Troubles, Banc, Belay) & to the Landing onto Streamway & upto Water Chamber, entered outbows (Soft Squeeze & Bulcombe Chamber) re-joined wetway took connection to Jacobs Ladder before the Shower bath, Continued down short dry way to water chamber then up the wetway to Shower bath, through Billy's\* Link down Jacobs Ladder to the short dry way, up the long dry to complete the Zig Zags & at the entrance at 7.20pm. Total time 9hrs 55mins.

Excuse the hand writing as I've hurt my thumb on the trip.

\* Binney's

Stu & Nick Nahr.

30/9/06 JUDE ADRIAN CLAIRE + HELEN

TOPSERIESROUND - EASTWATER  
TRIP

DON'T LISTEN TO THEM, WHO EVER THEY ARE, ITS NOT AS BAD AS THEY TELL YOU!!

30-9-06 Phil Hendy, Chrissie Price. After much walking along the edge of Brockley Combe (with forays down to the crags) found YORREHOUSE CAVE. Bloody obvious! 9ft "Lord of the Rings" portal in the cliff, leads to square chamber, almost like a room, with tight chimney up to the surface. At the back, a steeping passage runs for about 45ft from the entrance, ending in a bland wall, 1 doorthole, 1 LH lat, and white hard calcite "flow" down the left hand wall. A cave to visit, to "tick" the book - not worth a return.

Phil H.

## Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Swildon's Lower Fault Chamber

Pete and Ali Moody

Trip to leave a ladder on Lower Fault Chamber in preparation for next Saturday's Grand Tour and to check that the connection to Watergate – Link Pool was fully open. There was a small amount of water in this so bailed it completely dry before exiting.  
Ali

## Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September Swildon's

Suntan and Ali Moody

Another prep trip – this time to leave some items at Trat's Temple and to take Ali's diving gear down to Sump II. Suntan had already taken his gear down on previous trips and we were somewhat shocked to find that between the 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> September, someone had rifled through his things (that had been stored in the alcove by Sump II) and removed several items. These included a yellow tackle sack, diving mask, neoprene hood, shorty wetsuit, and a diving harness (of sentimental value as it had belonged to Rich Websell). Fortunately they had not touched his valve or bottle. In the light of this I was not prepared to leave my gear by Sump II and hid my gear in a very obscure part of Swildon's Two!

Ali

## Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September Swildon's – The Grand Tour

Suntan, Ali Moody, Mark Madden, Paul Swire (Beardy)

The aim of The Grand Tour was to create a new and much more challenging trip in Swildon's Hole, which would combine the four original classic trips: Short Round Trip, Watergate Connection, Long Round Trip, and the Priddy Green Sink to Swildon's Hole through trip. The Grand Tour has been designed to repeat as little passage as possible. Only three fairly short sections of passage are done twice. These are Swildon's Four - between Cowsh Aven and Watergate, Paradise Regained - between Fault Chamber Junction and Shatter Pot, and The Landing to Tratman's Temple, but each time they are travelled in the opposite direction.

We descended Priddy Green Sink at 10am and no real problems were encountered except for Mark cracking a rib on the right-angled bend near the start of Barrel Passage and the team getting caught by the flood pulse that roared through the cave at about 11.30am! Shit Sump is certainly quite impressive with a wall of water coming out of it and as this is the second time that Suntan and I have been hit by a flood pulse in PGS in about 6 trips, perhaps someone is trying to tell us something. Fortunately the water subsided after about 20 minutes allowing us to continue down a fairly damp El Krapitan, after which we descended to Swildon's Four via the Bladder Pot Route, arriving approx two hours after entering PGS.

From Swildon's Four a fairly speedy trip was then made up through the Watergate Connection but with Mark finding his rib extremely painful in any crawl. Lower Fault was then detackled and a ladder and lifeline left on Shatter Pot, while passing enroute to the Mud Sump. Excellent timing as we reached at Trat's Temple at the

same moment as Dave Crane and Bruce Fraser who had very kindly volunteered to support the trip and had brought down the sandwiches, and also a mask and hood for Sump II to replace the items that had been "stolen" or "borrowed" from Sump II. Unfortunately by this stage Mark was in too much pain to continue and had to make his way out. The remaining members of the team turned downstream to go through Sumps II, III, IV, Paul free-diving II and III for the first time. We continued to Swildon's Six and then up through the Damp Link. (Note that new buckets are essential for Grit Sump as the ones in place are virtually unusable).

We arrived at the top of Shatter Pot at 5.45pm and then turned left towards the Troubles to complete the Short Round Trip. At Swildon's Two it was a real pleasure to find that Adrian and Jude Vanderplank, Dave and Bruce had already taken most of the gear out. Adrian had met Bruce and Dave in Swildon's Four and these three had then carried all the SRT and diving gear back to Sump III, after which Adrian did a very heroic job of getting everything back to Swildon's Two. This included about 18kg of lead, so if there is anything you want to know about bottom crawling through sumps - he is the man to ask! Adrian thinks that he has probably left a deep groove through Sump II and III.

From The Landing a pleasant bumble to surface at 7.20pm and it was still light! Brilliant trip, which took only 9 hours if you take off the time lost as a result of the flood pulse in PGS.

Many thanks to our excellent sherpas who certainly made the trip considerably easier than it would have been without their support and a special mention to Dave and Bruce who carried a weight belt (complete with 7kg of lead) all the way out of Swildon's in the mistaken belief that it belonged to one of us!! Apologies to the rightful owner and it will be returned to Sump II asap.

Ali

### NOTE

The 4th October was the 70th anniversary of Sump I first being passed - by "Jack" Sheppard in 1936.  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY - SUMP I



10.9.06. WIGMORE SWALLET. MAX + BEAN.

SHOWS BEAN THE DELIGHTS OF WIGMORE. HE DID NOT SEE ANY!

SAT 6<sup>th</sup> OCT.

SIMON, JOHN HUST, IAN TIMNEY, PETE JENKINS  
BLACK HOLE EXTENSION.

UNHURRIED TRIP TO END OF EXTENSION. MINIMUM  
TACKLE CARRIED. NO TRAFFIC IN, ONLY ONE  
PARTY PASSED ON WAY OUT. BACK TO HUT FOR  
CHICKEN SOUP!

Saturday 07 October 2006 **Thrupe Lane**

Andrew Atkinson, Chris Binding, Jan... ? and Joanna.....? Noel Cleave. So Jan and Joanna are Polish and I couldn't even pronounce their surnames let alone spell them Some years ago I found, and reported, that the spits above Atlas Ledge were stripped. Simultaneously I volunteered to assist whoever might replace them. This was the purpose of today's episode. I should have known better. I have considerable previous with Thrupe Lane, almost all ignominious. I thought I would ingratiate myself with Chris, and impress him with my rigging skills by taking a Wessex rope and stringing the entrance shaft. He promptly handed me a rope, with an assurance that it was the correct length. Thus armed, I rigged the entrance, but my Y hang was imperfectly adjusted when Chris arrived, so I departed downwards with Chris saying that he would sort it out. I arrived at the end of the rope before the end of the shaft. There was no stopper knot. It is rare for me to offer advice on matters caving, but listen in folks, **do not copy** my Thrupe Lane entrance technique. 6 feet of free-fall comes as a bruising shock to the system and the ego. When I next saw the rope it had a nice fat knot at the end, and the end was nearer the floor because Chris had rigged the top properly. With this start, my Thrupe Lane background became foreground. Chris and I decided that we would push on to Atlas the quickest way - Butts and the stream. We admire, and approved, the new, 'freshly-scoured' 'mud-free' version down to the foot of Perseverance, and I was highly impressed by Chris' rigging. Seeing it done professionally is a humbling pleasure. Since I was along, in theory, to help, I was carrying a pack at this stage. It contained 60 metres of rope for cavorting in the Atlas area - and my own spares bag. At the foot of Butts I suggested that I wait for Andy, Jan and Joanna, in case they went off-route. So Chris took the pack and departed while I settled down to wait. And I waited, and waited and waited. Finally I gave up and trundled off down to Chris, who was feeling equally lonely looking over the Atlas shaft. I reunited myself with my spares pack and went back to Butts, and then to the foot of Perseverance. It was a people-free zone. Back towards Butts and suddenly a lost, thrutching and cursing Andy appeared from the boulders, with Jan in tow. At this stage it became yet another Noel / Thrupe farce. With Jan's English comprehension under stress, he departed towards Perseverance while I led Andy towards upper Butts and onwards. Jan had the battery pack. Thankfully he left it at the foot of the pot as he departed upwards. Joanna had decided that she and Thrupe were incompatible much earlier on. I should have done the same. Instead I led Andy to the Streamway, judging that he couldn't get lost going down it (and, indeed, he didn't), and decided to follow Joanna's excellent example. Thrupe and I are plainly incompatible, too. So Andy went on clutching two handfuls of kit, which I should have been carrying, while I arrived back to Perseverance to find Jan still on the rope. Presumably snoozing? Give or take my deafness, Polish diction and the Perseverance echo, it is possible to create superb mutual incomprehension and cross-purposes over the simple call of "Rope Free" I've decided that I almost enjoy Perseverance now. It is certainly easier with practice. I must have gone up smartish because when I arrived at the entrance shaft, Jan was still on the entrance rope.... snoozing again? Current score: Thrupe Lane 3. Noel 1.

WED 11. OCT. 06

SHILDONS - OLD GROTTO

SUNTAN, ALI MOODY, KEN DELACOUR (SUNTAN SENIOR)  
76! GOOD EFFORT.

THE 'OLD CHAP' WANTED TO SEE SHILDONS. SHORT TOUR DOWN PRETTY WAY TO OLD GROTTO AND BACK UP SHORT DRY WAY. I THINK HE LIKED IT....

WED 11 OCT 06

NORTH HILL SWALLET

JUDE, STU, GARETH, CLARIE

Went down to the end. Clarie found a hole, & even managed to get out of it, after praying :)

19.10.06

EASTWATER

PHIL (MAD) + MAX.

NEVER COULD SAY NO, SO GAVE  
PHIL A HAND TO CARRY  
SUMP PUMP DOWN MORTONS POT.

21-X-06

GB

Jo, Max, Bean

Jo went caving!! - Bimble trip down to bottom of ladder dig & back out. Jo even said she enjoyed it!! - Bumped into Mark, Leg, Sue, Tony & Jane.

23/9/06

Leg, Max + Richard Acton

Diana pull through from Trois Belas. 9 1/2 hrs despite rope not pulling down on 'Big Pitch'. Leg persisted up to free it. No other major problems.  
Rope Job.

Bagshaw Cavern 20-OCT 2006.

did some tidying up at the bottom of the pot Clew  
Several bags of rubble  
Fiona

Ink Sump Peak Cavern 22-OCT 2006

had a really good trip through Ink Sump this is the best cave dive I have done to date the passages are just amazing it was crystal clear on the way in with a nice blue tinge to the water Jim has done a great job with the line.  
~~we~~ we then continued up all the ladders and then investigated the boulder choke at the end I was able to inch my way into a small cavern through the choke. will take a lot of work to make more progress.

Fiona & Jim Lister

24-10-06 Agen Allweedd

Pauline, Christine Grosby, Clare Westlake.

1<sup>st</sup> - trip to S. Wales for me, "to give it a go".

got to 1<sup>st</sup> choke, then narrow rift squeeze-passage and wondered do I go on? continued to the entrance series, quite a bit of water on the stream, on to the main passage, stopped + looked at the crystals, continued on to southern stream passage, quite far enough for one day. Returned, taking a wrong turn at the boulder choke and retraced steps crawling through soft sandy mud - back over boulder choke - drop - and returning through the tight narrow rift - got delayed at a stumbling point - took a while to negotiate my way back across, I'm just 3" short of leg stretch & eventually pushed myself across this particular awkward bit and back at to early

evening sunshine. Hobbled back to the Whitewalls Hut and spent evening in the Bear with Fire Company.

(Later in evening, a familiar face stuck his head through the door, SUNTAN and son Brad came to join us!

Good Day out.

Dave.

27/10/06

### Sulton's to Sump 1 & Back.

Ken Dawe, Stuart Genders plus guests Len Dawes & Chris. Baker on a gentle generative trip to Sump 1 & back. Average age of the three older members 71, the overall average dentur by young chryslers, only 42.

It was a fun trip & great to be in Sulton's again

Dave

28/10/06 SWILDONS ONE

ALI MOODY, CLIVE WESTLAKE, RACHAEL HORRIS, NEIL RUSHTON, GARY DEWIL LLOYD, DAVE WILSON, NIGEL GRAHAM.

ALI & CLIVE NEEDED MORE PHOTOS FOR THE BOOK, SO WE PAUSED AT THE TWENTY & IN TRATMAN'S TEMPLE, WHERE WE HAD TO WAIT FOR ANOTHER GROUP & THEIR ACCOMPANYING MUST CLOUD TO CLEAR. THENCE TO THE SUMP, WITH ITS FOAM "MUD". RACHAEL'S 1ST VISIT TO SWILDONS. VERY PLEASANT TRIP - 1st TIME I'D BEEN BELOW THE TWENTY FOR YEARS, & ~~AGE~~ 33 YEARS TO THE MONTH IF NOT WEEKEND I'D DONE THIS AS MY SECOND CAVING TRIP! SO THANKS TO ALI & CLIVE FOR V. ENJOYABLE TRIP - AND TO ALI FOR SHOWING US A TRATMAN'S TEMPLE VANTAGE POINT I HADN'T EVEN KNOWN WAS THERE DESPITE MANY TRIPS ~~TO~~ BEYOND THERE!

Dave

29-10-06 G.B.

Same group as yesterday's Swildons Tri, except Ali. Clive left a lamp on the Bridge, shining down-cave. With lamps of people below, this gave wonderful lighting effect from life-line stance at head of the waterfall.

Underground from clay, emerged to warm sunshine, even saw butterflies!

if

1 NOVEMBER

Crook's Hole Dig. Pete, Steve (future member?) & Bob & There were the four dead animals down there tonight. Voles or shrews or similar, must be the sudden cold weather. - ah! nice and cosy under this bit of stone - oops! buggers! smacks!!

01-11-06

Hilliers Cave, the red room, with Richard, Adrian, Jeff, ~~Adrian~~ <sup>Jude</sup> <sup>Sorry Jude</sup>, Stuart & (last) My first time (Charlotte) caving - absolutely amazing experience. Saw 2 bats. It was a bit wet down there! nearly didn't make it out but Adrian & Jeff 'literally' pushed me out! will do it again.

WENS 1st NOV Wooky 22

Really nice dive to Wooky 22 to take pictures

■ clear water good vis

KEN + FIONA

1st Nov. OFD 1 → top entrance

Chris Goss, Chie Washlake

CSG didn't like the trip the first time - and didn't like it this time either! Chie pointed out that CSG must be the only person in Britain to not like OFD - CSG pointed out she must be the only person to LOVE aggy! Nuff said...!

2-11-06 Porth Yr Ogof  
C. Westlake, Chris Grosart.

Dived to Fourways airbell sussing out new belays for the forthcoming retuning effort - the existing line is 9 years old and looks it! About 3-4m viz + very strong current requiring the divers to push off boulders to actually get into the sump!

1-11-06 Petett, Colin & Aubrey Rolling Thunder  
Cleared spoil from Sunday's load event! caused  
by Adrian

4-11-06 SNATTER CAVE

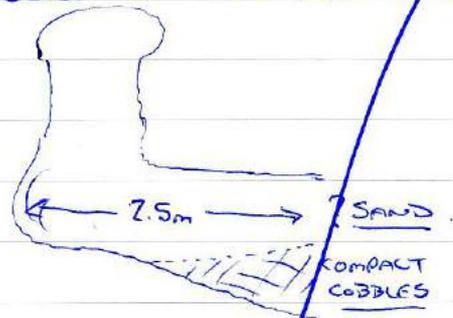
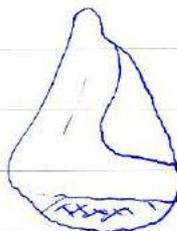
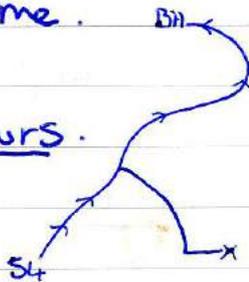
Fixed resin anchor above pitch to streamway just inside entrance (to give the ladder a better hang). Looked at various holes/passages leading off from entrance chamber - interesting. Phil Hendy / Brian Pinner.

4-11-06 - Tumbledown (Scaudons S).

Solo digging trip as Fi's 1<sup>st</sup> Stage failed @ Sump 2, made good progress along from KE for into a very sandy layer, Air still very bad & after only 22 minutes the headache started and general movement became laboured, Spoil left at end of dig as no one to take up. Exit uneventful although a 30 minute wait at the 20' did not amuse me.

Trip time - 4 hours.

Stu



SLACKER!

11-06 Trevor Faulkner or Aubrey - Berth

Cave very dry & no signs of recent wet weather having any effect. Quick tour of all of the big bits. Trevor declined Echo Aven.

### Terminal Sump MORTONS POT (EASTWATER) 5-11-06

had a really good trip down to terminal Sump

This Cave is really very impressive. passing through mortons pot then a drain hole & the pointless pots you then get to the technical masterpiece and it really is too. This really is some place is like and endless red traffic lights a place where movement only goes one way your body has to be able to twist turn and double back on its self. As we dropped further down the rift it got smaller & smaller the rocks were very sharp looks very crisp. then through a place called Hells gate a wonderful spot if you get it wrong it would be a long weight Mill Breakfast. I make my decent towards Terminal Sump.

Suddenly the cave changes it becomes much larger passage and the mud is thick ~~at least~~ we then tested out the lighting quite funny turning on a light switch all that way down the cave to have electric light to work with the pump was also tested. and some cement was brought down to make a dam. I want to say many thanks to Phill & Emsy for making the trip possible it was one of the best trips on Mendips I have done.

MAD Phill + Emsy + Fiona X 2 others.

7-11-2006

Wooky 23 A Great trip with Ken to 23 to take pies

Fiona + Ken

Tuesday 11 Nov.

Non Caving: - Came out to transcribe from the log for the Wansic Journal. My laptop failed so I spent a quiet 90 mins at the Club's computer which worked just fine. I burnt the doc onto a CD to take with me. The raw transcripts are in "My Docs" as logtrans01 so if anyone else should feel like typing up for the book don't bother to re-do those. I'll tidy them up, of course, at home and at leisure. Noel Cleave

P.S. Found a friendly pony cutting the grass for us. Gave it a peppermint but don't see it as a future new member!

'wibble' - to be scared + not want to do something. like turn vests. :)

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov

Swildons Sump 2 - Jade, Adrian, Stu (The hero), Geoff, Fi, Rich, Clarie + Charlotte

Good trip down to Sump 2 - very impressed with Charlotte as it was her second trip ever. And I didn't wibble at Sump 1 which I'm quite glad about - it's got ever easier since I was persuaded to do it by Adrian 2 weeks ago.

Fi & I took a quick detour to BDH rft - still not convinced it's actually possible to get any further than I did, despite Geoff's most convincing attitude. One for 'next time', I think!

Clarie

widdle? :)



11/11/06 Tumbledown (Swildons 5)

Stu & Ade - Removed 20 buckets of Spoil from previous trip. Passage now seems to be widening & the floor is still dropping away, the air was noticeably better than last week. (30-40 mins)

Tried rescuing a frog from the foot of Mains Aven but he escaped from the tackle bag in Sump 3 (oops!). Found another frog in the short dry way and placed him in the Daren Drum - Released into a bog near North Hill Swallet.

Stu ARSE  
(Amphibious, Rescue & Search, Establishment)

Wed. 15<sup>th</sup> November. To Goatchurch.

Adrian, Jude, Rich, Pauline, Charlotte, Claire, Jonathan, Geoff.

First cave trip ever for new Jonathan, I think he enjoyed it! Through the drainpipe to end... Jude and Claire went on to do the Dexion Extensions. Charlotte enjoyed the trip said it was a nice gentle cave and she was not out of breath or aching! Finished off in the Birmington Pub.

Pauline

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. Shatter Cave. Phil Hendy, Brian Prewer

I started cementing rocks at the top of the drop to the streamway (just inside the entrance) to stabilise the loose stones. Job about half done.

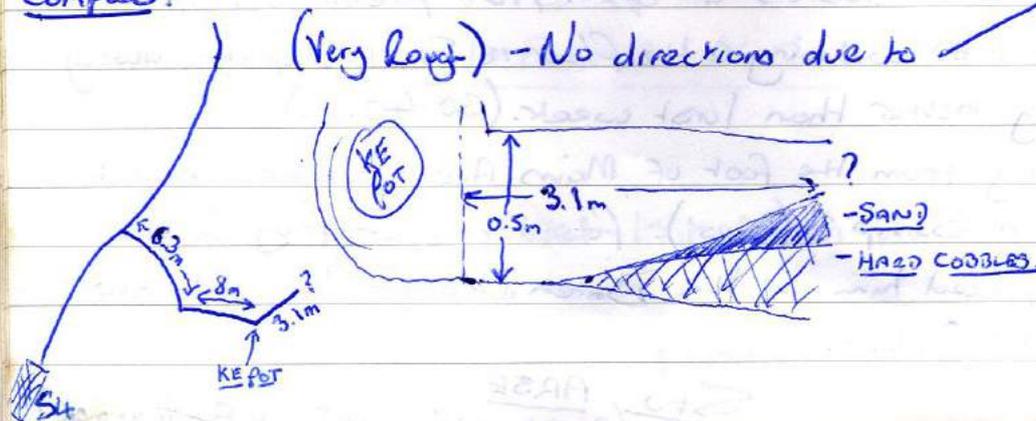
Prew played with his camera in Shatter Chamber. Ended the session by abusing MEO wardens (playing with rock damaging devices) and I lent them the wheelbarrow to carry their kit back to the car park.

Debrief in the Hunters'

Phil H.

19/11/06 - Tumbledown (Swindon's 5)

Solo trip to Survey & do a little digging. Upon arrival decided to Crackon with the digging straight away to get the best use from the little air that is present. Without a second digger the Spoil was pushed to one side for a future trip, the face is still very loose & Sandy with fine Shingle in the ceiling. It has now become impossible to dig out the very end as the floor needs lowering to gain more passage height (hard cobbles). Once the floor is lowered digging will be much easier. forced to exit dig after 45mins due to headache (CO<sub>2</sub>). - Went onto Survey but had somehow lost the Compass.



Wed. 22<sup>nd</sup> November. To: G.B.

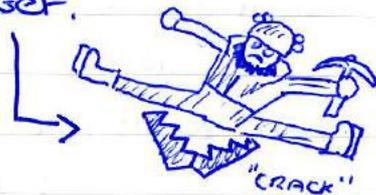
Adrian, Jude, Rich, Paulie, Charlotte, Cleve, Jonathan,  
Geoff, Adam, Fiana, Stu.

Unusual detour in the dark to the entrance!

Adrian + Paulie went down mud Passage to the gorge  
to top of the waterfall, the other went to White Passage  
via Devil's Elbow. fly.

## 25/11/06 - Tumbledown (Swedons 5)

Geoff, Ad, Stu, Fi & Pete Eckford (Guest digger). Transported 30m of  
35mm pipe to construct our Convection chimney at a later date.  
Removed 19 buckets of Spoil from the dig face. until the air got  
to bad. Water levels were high with blue pencil a Watergate  
producing water into the streamway. A good trip although our  
guest managed to break the bucket.



Stu

18-11-06

## Ogof Draenen - 'War of The Worlds'

Clive Westlake, Mike Thomas, Christine Grosart, Kevin Hilton,  
Jon Beal, Charlie Reid-Henry.

Everyone as far as the low section just beyond  
the 'snowball', where Charlie ceased to fit. Remainder of  
team continued to W.O.W North to admire some  
helictites in Sendero luminosa & then a brief wander into  
W.O.W South, the second largest passage in Britain.

Superb trip. 11 hrs.

## NORTH HILL Swallet. SAT 2nd dec 06

Sam start to catch the best of the sun for the long walk to the entrance!!! hang over still hanging when reached the bottom of the entrance shaft. This wonderful place is the best cure for a very bad hang over. I suggested, I said as we turned on to our bellies for the flat crawl don't worry you can bring it up at the end into the skips provided. We moved further in then approached Rumble plank kit sorted and the floor approached us quickly some more grunts and the end of the cave was in sight. I said handing the nice blue skip to Matt its all yours. Fill it if you can. Today there was a particularly good strong menthlp from Swallett smell to add with the dig. The digging was persponed for a better day. got back out for tea and some bacon butties & Beer.

Matt and front

## Sat 2-12-06 Shatter Cave

More stonewall on the shaft inside the entrance. One more session should do it

Phil H.

## SAT 2-12-06 Swildens Hole

Bardrac Gobi Denesha & Tom

This is our first caving trip, and we enjoyed every minute of it. We didn't have any knowledge on caves but we were fascinated when we really saw it. It was well maintained and clean. we will not keep this experience to ourselves but will make sure to tell others to try it out.

"How wonderful God's creation is!"

Denesha A Gobi

Saturday 2nd December 2006 - Ramsplit  
Pete + Ali Moody, Kate Lawrence.

Started clearing the broken glass etc out of the entrance as a conservation exercise on behalf of the Somerset Wildlife Trust. Very close encounter with a baby "Hissing Sid" (an adder).  
Ali

Swildons - Sump 2

Fi, Clairey, Adam, Charlotte, Stu, Andy, Rich, Jude, Jeff, Adrian, Beany,  
Da

Awesome trip to sump 2, good introduction for me to wet caves, sump 1 was a 1st in underground submersion for me, even though was just a few feet, it was really enjoyable, saw some cool formations, a top first trip to Swildons  
Adam.

Sat 9th Dec Shatten Cave

White Ben photographed, I cemented the last of the rocks around the shaft. It now has a good collar, which should prevent debris from falling down the hole. All it needs now is a lid....

Phil Hendy

Sunday 3rd December and Saturday 9th December - Ramsplit

Pete and Ali

More clearing of the entrance - much glass removed and fortunately no sign of young Sid.  
Ali

As a result of these trips the cave was reentered and Phil Hendy's digging tools (which were lost when the farmer bulldozed the entrance) were rescued.  
approx 30 years ago 61

Fig 15-Dec-06 Eastwater

Eastwater part of the Short-Round Trip through upper traverse and Hallaulia hole. Then back same way then down 380 way and Morton's got a short way down.

Jane & Fiona

16-Dec-06 Hunters Lodge

had a good trip with Jane down hunters Lodge to retrieve electric cable from the bottom of Rodney's Ruddle. got most of it out but another trip needed to finish the job

Fiona & Jane

13-Dec-06 Cuckoo

Pete H, Colin & Aubrey - Bit of a problem with the lid covered in mud. Like several other caves we have visited recently Cuckoo seems to have been stretched - longer or tighter!

Mon 18-12-06 Shatter Cave

Dropped the lid for the drop into the cave and assembled it. All done!

Phil H

Wed 20-12-06 Templeton

Pumped dry, with the water pump fed by a submersible, topped up with a Patay. Initial problems included an 80 psi pressure washer when an O-ring blew at the bottom because there was a plug of ice at the top.

The depleted team celebrated afterwards with mulled wine, mince pies and sausage rolls before returning to the Hunters to throw out

Phil H

22/12/06.

JOHN THOMAS, MIKE THOMAS & ROBERT THOMAS.  
TOOK MIKE & ROBERT DOWN UPPER SWILDENS FOR THEIR  
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS. ROBERT'S FIRST TRIP IN  
SWILDENS VERY ENJOYABLE 1/2 hrs. IN GOOD WATER  
CONDITIONS JT.  
J.T. was get again helped by R.T. MBL

22/12/06

Clive Westlake, Chris Gossart  
Wooking Hole

After a minor deviation, so that CG could see some  
real live reindeer, CG & CDW dived from chamber 3 &  
cleared up some gribby lights. Dived the 'round trip',  
in deep, out shallow to get CG used to cold water again  
after a week basking in 24°C in Egypt!

23/12/06

Clive Westlake, Claire, Jude, Rich, Geoff

Eastwater, 13 pots. VRA TWIN VERTS.

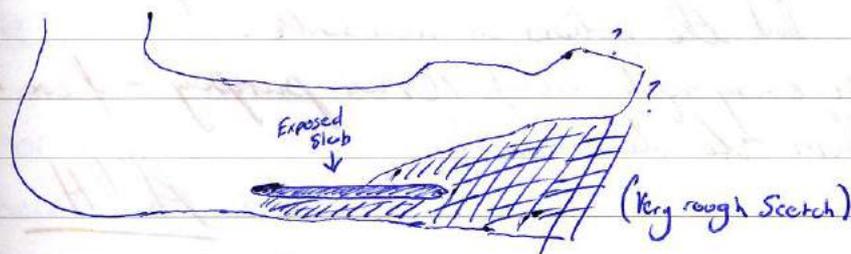
Nerve-wracking (for me) trip down to Bpots, going down & up  
the twin vents. Explored the dig down the bottom of sand  
chamber, found it hard work on the way up, and after  
going up the twin vents I have a new found gratitude  
and appreciation for the floor. Any floor. Just nice, hard,  
stable, floor. It's great.

Claire.

27/12/06 - Tumbledown (Swildens 5).

Solo trip to take some bags down & of course do a little digging.  
Down to Sump 2, reg onto bottle, tap on - "BANG" "BANG" "BANG". -  
Bolxxcks. The Seating had gone in the 1<sup>st</sup> Stage, I Stripped the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Stage incase an O-ring had gone, cleaned everything and reassembled.  
But it wasn't to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage Continued to pop & free flow.  
Not to be beaten on ditched the bottle & reg, clipped the bags to my  
harness & free dived Sumps 2 & 3. Having never done Sump 4  
without air I was slightly nervous, but after some wriggling &  
some left & right manoeuvres I made it through to the dig.  
Dug for 1 1/2 hours filling 3 large bags (to be taken out later).  
The air was exceptionally good and I could of carried on digging  
if more bags were available.

At full reach with the Crowbar prodding the sandy section at  
roof level, the passage "seems" to be rising slightly & the spoil  
is becoming very loose & nowhere near a compacted as previous  
sections.



Trip time - 5 hours.

Stu

28.12.06 Pete & John Hurst & Simon sk?  
Swildens short round trip

Pete & John had seen the survey and "knew the way",  
got to Tratmans Temple and then keeping turning  
right, no problem. Simon who had been at his way

Uomo offered to go with us. Though of course he wouldn't be required to lead. Pete and I have developed a fool proof route finding method today. Where ever there is an option let me decide which way and then take the other. If there is more than one option I decide which one I wouldn't take and then we take that one.

With Sumar's assistance we surfaced after two and a half hours, without Sumar I estimate it would have taken at least ten hours longer.

An enjoyable trip

John

29-12-06 Templein

Solo trip to look at the results of "The Final Solution" (a 4kg charge of nitro set off on Xmas Eve in a cannelot, 10' down in the mud, courtesy of Nigel Taylor)

The bottom wooden platform has been re-arranged to resemble a piece from Tate Modern. There is about 18" of water in the floor at the S end, in a pit, but the bottom is accessible.

Digging would be easy after about 10min pumping - if we had a decent platform to load from!

Phil H

29.12.06 GB Pete & John West

To visit Bat passage & the Great Chamber, a lot for both of us. Not a great start as we couldn't find the entrance to GB and spent several minutes huddling around. On finding the entrance we raced down to hadder dig, no problem. We eventually found Bat passage but despite repeated efforts, three extra we still hadn't found the Great Chamber and gave up, settling for 50% of our objectives.

John

## HURTLER POT 24th Dec

had a good dive into Hurtle many thanks to Malc Foyal and Stu for their support. kitted up and started my way down the wall is not quite what I thought it was more of a slope. I swam down a fair way before it started to drop. The passages were really big my lights did not cut through the darkness on and downwards you can feel the cold at the depth creeping in against the dry suit the vis was really good and the line was great wow what a place.

Fiona (Solo diver) MALC FOYAL & STU  
Surface Support

## HURTLER POT 27th Dec

Really enjoyed the dive on xmass eve in Hurtle wanted to do it again had another Louley dive with John Cross & Elaine John continued down to the bottom with myself then did a shorter dive with Elaine  
John Cross Elaine & Fiona

## Joint Hole 28th Dec

Was off to Malham Cove but due to rain it was called off so went into joint instead many thanks to John Cross & Elaine for support dived to the first air bell then came back vis was great even though another diver had been here in the morning

Fiona (Solo diver) John Cross Elaine Hill  
Support

## 30/12/06 Swildons Sump 4 via Blue Percil

Jude, Rich, Elaine, Geoff, Nigel

Went to investigate Sump 3+4 through Blue Percil. Nice & wet coming up, as Geoff had set the siphon going, & did some strategic hauling as well. Nigel stayed up the top too, in order to clean out carbide. Carried on round the short-round, appreciated the nice new rope

in Sump 1. I was tired coming out - it's either the furthest I've been or a week of no-exercise over Christmas has taken its toll.

Claire.

31-12-06. Ali Moody, Nigel Graham, Phil Herdy to Cook Peak  
Good look round Denny's Hole, all explored. Though Phil did not fit the corkerew squeeze, and the others were stopped by a <sup>m</sup> drop into the terminal chamber. Down to Sandy Cave, in and out, they Ali found a low crawl in a cliff, about 100' up the track from Sandy, near the top of the bank. Not Beeches Hole. Round Supra Sandy Cave, a low shelter with extension to low chamber with smelly deep bones. There are low choked arches and potential digs all along the bank.

A pleasant afternoon stroll, to end the year and blow away the cobwebs of the excesses of the real last night.

Phil H.

26/12/06.

Pete + Ali - Swildan's

Intention had been to do a SRT but Mud Sump, <sup>was</sup> wild and truly sumped. Returning through St. Paul's fortunately (or rather unfortunately) met up with Jon Whiteley and a party of 5 OSS. All back to Mud Sump for a good bushing session. Continued round the SRT with Pete + Ali collecting 5 lengths of misc hose pipe, a broken bucket, and part of an old pump en-route. Excellent trip with most of this rubbish removed from the cave. A few items were left by Sump I and Barnes' Loop for later collection.

[Some items taken out on trip of 30-12-06, + bits from Blue Pencil area - Nigel G.]

28/12/06

Pete Hann + Ali - Chaterhouse.

First trip down here for Pete Hann for probably about 10 years.

Purpose of the trip was to see if Pete's theory that Mendip caves are getting longer and therefore was correct. Also to check out potential dig sites. End choko was extremely draughty so work will re-commence here in the New Year.

30/12/06

- ST. Cuthberts

Pete Hann, Ali, Wayne Stansmore, John and Pete Hurst.

First trip down the cave for Pete Hurst. Very pleasant tourist bundle. Mr Hann tried to find an alternative route out of the entrance series - not a good idea! This resulted in Flying ~~Down~~ Mark II.

31/12/06

Phil Hendry was re-united with his digging tools from Ramspit. (wrapped up as a Christmas present). See log entry 3rd and 9th of December.

2007

1-1-07 Walk round Cook's Wood Quarry while it is still open. Stone Lane Slacks in near-flood condition. Wandered into Browns Hole, reputed to be housing a Daubenton's bat - if so, it was hiding.

Phil H.

1-1-07 BERRINGTON FORD.

Ali M. Richard Carey, Clarie, Nigel C., started from top car-park: Elephant Hole, Lizard Hole, Frog Hole (exchange!), Boulder Shaft, Forces, Trout's Crack (lower end flooded), Whitcombe's Hole, Tunnel Cave, Tween Twins - all 4 cots between us! (AKA Fester Hole), Toad's Hole. 10 caves in about 4 hrs! Used Barrington & Stanton to follow down-Coombe.

Nigel C.

3/1/07

Swildon's

Rich, Clarie, Ade, Jude, Geoff, Stu, Nik-nah, Andy, Michelle, Pauline (who said caving numbers were on the decline?). Decided to all tinkle off down Swildon's (well, Geoff did, & the rest of us followed coz we couldn't decide on anywhere better).

Geoff, Stu, Andy + Michelle went to Sump 1 - Michelle's first time caving with the Wednesday-nighters, & her first time to sump 1 too. Jude, Ade, Pauline + Nik-nah went to top of the 2nd double Pots + back. Rich & I went round all the squiggly bits in Upper Series - saw loads of pamage I never knew existed, & a bat. Nice squeegy trip.

Clare

P.S. I can't get through the overflow pipe, but I tried.

6/1/07 Ogoj Draener

Geoff, Stu, Jude, Clive, Elvira

Nice day trip to Wales. Splashy entrance, Nen traipsed off to find knees up Moller Broom. Slight navigational difficulties between the two pitches, not helped by Stu who 'saw the rope', but didn't think it was the way on we were all looking for.

Very pretty glittery passage when we found it, white limestone & crystal trails. Alice ~ Wonderland style passage (getting smaller & smaller), crawls, rifts, & Nen found 6<sup>th</sup> Heaven with some pretty wchm formations.

Going out was quicker Nen going in, so went with Clive to T-junction to fire flash guns whilst he took photos. Lots of boulder clambering.

Exited to a beautiful mild sunny day (for Draener!) for getting changed.

Clive

10 Jan Wednesday eve EASTWATER UPPER TRAVERSE

We all had an excellent trip along the upper traverse and down to the start of primrose pot came back up then continued along the traverse to the T Junction. Started climbing the impressive rift. Wow what a great trip.

Andy Clair Fiona

13-1-07

Woolkey 22

Clive Westlake, Kevin Hilton, Chris Grosart

All to 22 in almost zero viz - certain zero viz if you were at the back - and strong current. Surveyed some dry stuff above & around the sump pool. Good training exercise for k.H. & C.G. and C.W.!

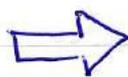
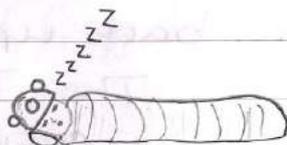
14-1-07 Box Mines Gareth + Paul Weston (gallant guides) led Phil Herby, Brian Brewer, Jackie Anheiman and her Hawkswell on a tourist trip - Jack's Entrance to Back Door via REM's Crawl and the Cathedral. Very pleasant trip, saw LH and SE. bat.  
Lunch was partaken of on the Quarryman's forecourt - very convenient.

Phil H

17/1/07

Geoff, Fi, Clarey, Andy, Michele + Jonathan went to Eastwater upper traverse. Michele was very apprehensive of the entrance but managed it in the end after much complaining (Michele) and cajoling (Andy + Geoff). Michele needed quite a lot more help on the way down (thanks Fi!) but once we'd passed the lower traverse it was plain sailing! I find it difficult going into (down) + much, much easier climbing back out! Michele X.

20/1/07 - TUMBLE DOWN



Down to Sump to drop some kit off for a future trip then dived through to Swildon's 5. Straight to the dig face where the air was noticeably poor from the start, after Nik Nak had removed a ledge from a previous trip I started to remove the right hand wall revealing very water worn stone. 2 large sacs were filled before Fi had gone filling 1 bag. At this point I was feeling extremely bad with flu like symptoms (Nausea, headache, shivers, hot sweats & dizziness) - If I had a sleeping bag I would have curled up & slept for a week.

The passage is now approx 1m wide x 0.75m high with no signs of it closing down or changing direction. - Stumbled out in high water levels.

Stu.

20-1-07. Shaker Cave. After my efforts ginging the top of the shaft to the streamway, I thought I had better go down it - and test the rain anchor.

Thrusting through the constrictions near the top, in a shower of loose stones, I joined Ric Halliwell, who had bravely gone down first. Waggled down the rift to the downstream pool - good flow, but over welly-depth so did not drop in. Ric did similar in the upstream rift. Quite a muddy white-hole, no prospects, a one-off collector's piece.

Meanwhile Prew led Graham Bowden and Wayne Starnmore into the cave. Ric and I met them at Dried Chamber, and took them on as far as Pica Passage, while Prew photographed his way out.

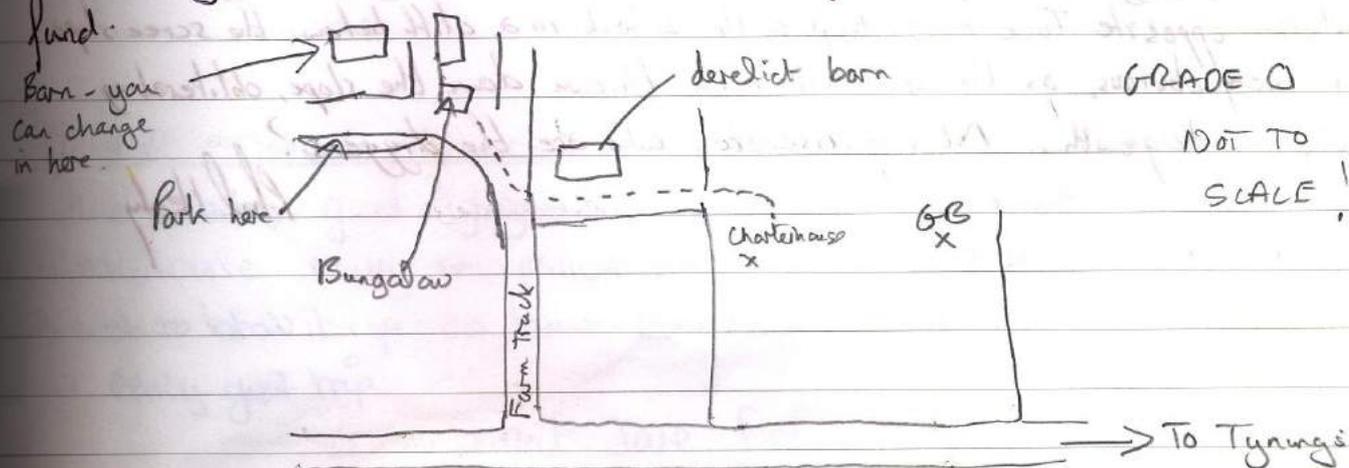
Generally pleasant afternoon trundle. Phil Hendry.

20/1/07 Charterhouse

Pete Harr, Aubrey Newport, Ali Hooday.

Trip to start work on the boulder choke again. Hopefully one large boulder is now no more. Cave very draughty. Trip enlivened by the sight of a semi-naked man passing through the squeeze by the old gate! I would have given anything for a camera.

Parked at Piney Sleight Farm. The farmer is very happy for anyone to park in his yard while visiting GB or Charterhouse. Just put £1 per car through the letterbox of the bungalow. The kids have this for their Sunday ice cream fund.



22-1-07 Spent the diggers at Templeton for a chilly Monday night. Bailed out the water in the bottom in about 10 mins and then removed about 4 strips of mixed gloop & rocks. I'm told this is about twice what has been removed so far this year. Everyone seemed very happy that progress downwards has resumed.

Rin H.

### EASTWATER UPPER TRAVERSE 23rd JAN 07

A quick blast round the upper traverse. Just love this cave it has so much to offer.

Stuart & Fiona

LOST Charterhouse gate squeeze 20/1/07  
Several ~~pages~~ of skin AN

20.1.07 Stainsbury's\* Shaft Charterhouse  
Banged the bottom dig - Aubrey, Adrian & DP  
+ 2 MCA.

\* Stainsby's

### FAIRY CAVE 24-JAN 07

A nice trip to the Red room with Jeff, Stu, Claire, John, Richard, Fiona

27-1-07 Off-piste in Ebbor Gorge (paths take you to where people have already been). Good view off Tower Rock, then up the Narrows. Lion Cave is just a shelter, and for the second time I could not find Outlook Cave. Query - are the bunny-huggers filling the caves in? The archaeological dig in a shelter opposite Tower Rock, high on the L bank in a cliff below the scree slope is very obvious, as the spoil has been thrown down the slope, obliterating the undergrowth. Not very discrete. Who are the diggers?

Phil Herby

27/1/07 Swildons. Andy Mose, Steve Burchmore, Niall Slater, John Watson. Trip down to sump 1. Steve and Niall went through to sump 2, others are older and wiser.

28/1/07 Longwood.

Andy M, Steve B, Niall S & Anne Vdp

Nice trip down to stream way and back again. (Quite wet so no August). We went up ~~for~~ stream for a bit with the faster & fitter (Andy & Niall) going as far up stream as possible. Then down stream with Anne & Steve turning around before getting too wet. Then back out, where the cave seems to have struck <sup>(around the top of the ladder)</sup> for certain people who displayed fantastic talents at excruciating noises sounding particularly painful but with an audible 'pop', an sigh of relief for Andy behind all exited safely.

SAT 27th JAN <sup>↓e</sup> Woody Hole

TRAINING dives with ~~Geoff B~~ and ~~JONATHAN~~ Williams  
Stuart & Fiona

30/1/07 Swildons.

First ever solo trip, down 20' + back. It's a different experience on your own - the water sounds louder and I was much more aware of how the passage way looked. Turned off head torch to see what I'd do if lights failed - took 3 steps, remembered Simon's broken back & decided I'd just sit tight :-)

Clarie

29-1-07 Stock House Shaft

Had a really good digging session at the bottom of Stock House really impressive mud dug for 2 hours was too wet to blow it up so bang came back out the way it came in really good trip

J. Rat. Jane, Fiona

## SWILDONS 5

Had a great little trip down to tumbledown  
to drop off bottle and supplies for my  
little tiny trip on this coming Sat  
Ladders has been left on the 20 for Sat  
the wens group all had a good trip down  
to Sump 2 -

Geoff B, Richard L, Claire, Andy, John X  
Fiona

My first wet cave + first time I'd been through a sump.  
Was great!

Jonathan.

Thruppe

## Thrupp Lane

2-Feb 07

A Great little trip into thrupp down ladders into  
perseverance pot then down marble stream  
way down to the drop off. Really nice  
trip.

Ann, Hannah, Fiona + Jane

3-2-07 Mfr Flood Prew and Phil spend a pleasant day in brilliant sunshine  
on Charlotte rakes, trying to radio locate parts of the cave. Only 2 of 3  
locations tested, and inconclusively. Poor and aberrant signals gave a  
series of "nulls" roughly parallel to the rakes, but no nulls at 90°. So  
positions could not be given for anything. We suspect the presence of lead  
ore bodies is distorting the signal. We wanted by Canal Shaft and  
two other gated shafts nearby in case smoke released underground drifted  
up to the surface - but it didn't.

(Oh, nearly forgot - half a dozen MCC were also there, plus ~~the~~ Tim Francis  
and his team underground, and an MCC team checking Heggham location  
points.

Phil Herdy

Swildons - 9 12      3-Feb 2007

had a really good trip to Swildons 9 was hoping to go through 9 to make 12 Stu came to 9 went through Me bypass. I started through 9 and came across a constriction 4 attempts but failed to pass it. Jim went through and on to 12 I tried again but no luck I think I had not got in the right position and did not drop low enough to pass it so 12 was not happening today. Will have another go again soon. many thanks to Stu & Jim for a pleasant trip

Jim Lister, Stu, Fiona

3-2-07 upper flood      Paul & Vern + Doug & Mike MCG  
Trip to the end of west-end with keyphone to check reception and working. Then back to Royal King and on to departure lounge. All three locations had good comms with surface.

Boulder choke has some ~~comm~~ committing bits but in whole ~~not~~ not too bad.

Main passage very much like something from Wales. Formations are out of this world and the MCG should be very pleased with their find as all their hard work has paid off. (well done lads).

Shame about their showers!

Finished off the day/night with some beer for Ann's BDay then on to the Shepton for a pint or two with Butch.

Back to the Wessex for a midnight bounce under the moonlight!!!

(Ladies location attempt by Per, Phil H and MCG not so successful due to supposed presence of ice bodies diverting the signal)

28/1/07 Warren Farm.

Ali Hoody, Rich Marlow.

Trip was delayed for an hour as the entrance gate was buried under 2' of flood debris including a few large rocks. There must have been a considerable amount of water across the fields recently. Gate is also very stiff and needs some attention.

3/2/07 Charterhouse Cave.

Pete Hann, Ali Hoody; Malc Foyle (entrance series)

Quick trip to inspect the remains of the boulders <sup>demolished on</sup> 20/1/07. Unfortunately plenty more boulders to go! Cementing session now required. Extremely cold and strong draught at the dig site. Both of us were freezing within about 10 minutes. Must wear some thermal underwear next trip! (Perhaps we could divert some of the draught to Tumbledown.)

"Saturday January 27th 2007. Rhino Rift.

Stuart Genders, Tigger (alias Alan Alsop), Ken Dawe plus Ian X and Alistair Gordon, both DMC.

Trip was a triumph of geriatricity over efficiency. Alistair forgot both his boots and oversuit! Ken supervised the rope selection, but completely forgot karabiners or rapides for the direct route! Eventually all was resolved. Stuart and Ken did the direct route with some aplomb. Alistair did fine with the first pitch of the R.H. route but then lost the way. However, all got to the bottom (less the final wriggly bit - never done it and don't intend to) and out by a combination of routes. A B.E.C party there at the same time were nostalgically impressed by the smell of my carbide"

## Swildons 5

Had a great little trip down to tumbledown to drop off bottles and supplies for my little tiny trip on this coming Sat. Ladders have been left on me to for Sat. The wens group all had a good trip down to Sump 2 -

Geoff B, Richard C, Claire, Andy, John & Fiona

My first wet cave + first time I'd been through a sump. Was great!

Jonathan.

Thruppe

## Throp Lane

2-Feb 07

A Great little trip into throup down ladders into perseverance pot then down marble stream way down to the drop off. Really nice trip.

Ann, Hanna, Fiona & Jane

3-2-07 Upper Flood Pits and Phil spend a pleasant day in brilliant sunshine on Charlotte's rates, trying to radio locate parts of the cave. Only 2 of 3 locations tested, and inconclusively. Poor and aberrant signals gave a series of "nulls" roughly parallel to the rates, but no nulls at 90°. So positions could not be given for anything. We suspect the presence of lead ore bodies is distorting the signal. We waited by Charal Shaft and two other gated shafts nearby in case smoke released underground drifted up to the surface - but it didn't.

(Oh, nearly forgot - half a dozen MCCO were also there, plus ~~the~~ Tim Francis and his team underground, and an MCCO team checking Hepphone location points.

Phil Herdy

1 → 4 Feb '07

Fontaine de Truffe - 2007 push (Lot, France)

'TWAT'

The 'Technical Weekend Assault Team' (work it out!)  
consisted of =

Pushing Divers - Rick Stanton, John Volanthen

British support divers - Pete Mulholland<sup>(WCC)</sup>, Christine Grosart, (WCC)

Dave Haseldon, Jason Frankes

French support divers - Nader Larsson

Swedish support divers - Johan and his mate!  
(Johan Engvist & Martin Nordin)

The aim was to get R.S & JV to the slot at -30m in sump 12 which they would attempt to pass with minimal kit. Two dives were made. On 2/2 R.S, JV & CG carried to sump 5 where D.H & JF carried forwards to sump 8. All returned home, helped by P.M & 2 x Swedish support at Sump 4.

Dive 2 was the pushing trip. R.S & JV went straight to sump 12 & passed the rift to lay approx 220m line & surface tube until they reached percolation pockets & the end of the system. CG went to sump 5 solo to catch up with N.L & wait for 3 hours for pushing divers to return. In the meantime, amongst lots of pigeon-French conversation, we dug some sand crawls off side passages in Truffe 4 and located about 50m of unsurveyed passage, muddy & mendip-like. Returned to assist R.S & JV home with lots of cylinders. Met at newside of sump 4 by Johan who helped carry home. CG dived the last of the gear home & surfaced in the dark, 9pm. The British effort was treated to a wonderful roast dinner & wine @ Chez Mulholland! Full trip report + photos to follow.

Chris x

Swildons 2 5-2-2007

A Nice trip down to Swamp 2 to do a bottle exchange. Really nice trip

Jane Fiona

Swildons Round Trip in Reverse

Had A Great Trip. did the Round Trip IN Reverse with Geoff, Clair, Sharlot excellent Fun. Jude, Anton, Andy, Jonathan went the other way we all passed in the middle  
Fiona

10-11-07 SE. Cuthberts' Swallet

Jude, Adrian, Rich, Venn, Clive.

Venn took us round Rocky Boulder Series. Coral Chamber goes up for ever and there are several places not much bigger than Adrian. On to Upper Curtain Chamber where Clive took some complicated pictures down to the curtains. Tea served by Pauline within milliseconds of our return to hut. 3 1/4 hrs

10-2-07 Templeton - Solo trip to look at progress since my last visit in early Jan. There is a "beach" of bang debris to the N, and a pool to the S filled with 4 gall containers full of water - removing these will allow rapid dropping of the water level to allow digging. The little pit at the S end appears to be widening.

The bank at the top of the depression has slumped, depositing mud and stones on the bridge and into the Ameyre. A lot of this has been removed. Found some small marmot tail fragments (small fragments, not small marmot) and quartzite pebbles on the spoil heap.

Phil Hardy

Eastwater 12-Feb 07 Monday

Nice trip to upper traverse Lower traverse. Round trip.

Jane Hanna & Fiona

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13/02/07 Swildons upper series

My first caving experience with Andy, Richard, Clare + Simon. An immensely enjoyable time and quite a challenge for a novice. Thanks. (WHO WAS THIS —? ANYONE KNOW? -----)

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13-2-07 Swildons 2

Fun Run to 2 and back

Hanna & Fiona

---

15-2-07 Rods Pot

had a fun trip down Rods pot & saw eyeball Rifr excellent bit of cave passage very distinct Nice Cave

Richard, Geoff, Sharlott, Stu, Jude, Fiona

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17-2-07 Swildon's Hole

Phil Hendy, Brian Brewer, Helen + the terrible twins (Izzy and Becky) via Short Dry Way to Water Chamber for refreshments. Up to look at the Lavatory Pan, then out via S.D.W. Girls enjoyed themselves, leading out, getting cold and wet, but not caring. I always get wetter on this type of novice trip than when I am caving properly.

Phil H

17-2-07 Charterhouse Cave (digging)

Ali, Doctor Jo, Pete H, Nigel. Productive trip - 3 buckets of cement in chole. The ladies visited the Citadel while Pete & I finished off & cleared the tools.

Digel G.

17/02/07 - SWILDONS 6

Geoff, Ade, Fi & Stu. Down the Streamway to Sump 2 & dived 2, 3 & 4. Some 3ltr's were left in 4 for a future 12 trip. Collected some digging tools from the end of Tumbledown before moving along through Boxtons Horror & Sump 5.

On the downstream side of 5 we spent around 1½ hours digging out the streamway in an aid to lower Sump 5, on returning the level in 5 had dropped by over 3 inches.

Stu.

18-02-07 Hunters Lodge INN sink

Had An excellent trip down Hunters Lodge went down the main pitch over the water and onwards. Those pools are just so crystal clear they look so inviting one of the best caves on Mendips.  
Kevin James Fiona

20<sup>th</sup> FEB. SAUDI "TRIP REPORT"  
GB

"TODAY I WILL MOSTLY BE LAYING IN BED, IN HOSPITAL, IN SAUDI, HAVING JUST FALLEN OFF A ROOF AND FRACTURED MY SPIN!"

STU i

21st Feb EASTWATER CAVERN

great little trip the short round trip upper traverse  
Clare Simon Ian & Fiona

23rd Feb Hunters Lodge INN sink

Today it was nice and wet very wet with an added streamway went down Rocking Rutchell

Then the Pitch tried to cross the water but the water was meeting the ceiling other men an inch or so: went men to the other dig site it was Sumped: O what Fun. Went up to visit the bones and end Really good trip.

June & Fiona.

PHOTOCOPIED. Noel 26/2.

Monday 26 Feb. NOVA CLEAR. Dropped off one wife at Lutigate for Geneva flight & came on to Upper Pitts. arrived at 0600 to find everyone asleep slept. Good grief! If people come out to Mendips to go caving, why the hell don't they make any effort to do so at a reasonable hour? At 0720 STILL no signs of life. It's enough to make one despair. I photocopied the log then for, for future journal use. A small lamp of illumination would be welcome in the dark mysteries of "SAUDI" and an earlier (13/02) anonymous entry. 0735, hard to believe but still no life in recognizable form. Either they're no name or they are all dead. Decided to bugger off before Police and Press arrive. Naah the Editor.

Noel - 13/02 entry written by Simon Miles, after his first cave.

20/02 - We received news that Stu had an accident whilst on a work trip in Saudi Arabia. He fell 12' off a roof, + has broken a bone in his back and his ankle. Can only assume the entry was received via text + transcribed here! He will hopefully be returning to England on Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, but not to caving diving or digging for a good while after that. 26/02 - as for non appearance by 0735 this morning, I think that's perfectly reasonable for someone who a) is on holiday & b) was down Swildons 11pm last night (25/02/07) listening to explosions in Rolling Thunder. My first experience of an underground bang - Thanks to Ade + Aubrey who graciously allowed me to tag along and carry their kit for them. Clarie.

SENSITIVE!

Swildons 2 24-Feb 07

Woody was all a wash so went down Swildons to 2. A really good shoot of water today. Andy, John, Mike T, Mark F, Clive W, Fiona C,

Pierre's Pot 26-Feb 07

had a nice trip down Pierre's Pot. Went down to Hanging Garden really nice cave what a place a little bit like eye ball rift in reds. This place is on my must do again caves. Many thanks

Andy Claire Fiona

Dartan Gilau 27-Feb 07

Had a good trip to claren today through Men entrance passage. Fairly wet today then through JIFSAW passage to large chamber no where near the entrance then on to edgieys passage then onto to Valentines chamber continuing preliminary passage. What a large 60 foot ladder awaited us. I ascended the ladder. Wow what a ladder have not seen

one quite like that before you see one section of ladder from the ground then as you climb higher you then see the next section. I climbed to the top. had a look round then came back down then we made our way out. Really looking to going there again the entrance bit was the best.

Jane, Claire, Fiona

Belvoir Castle Cellars: 24/2/07 Bob S. it was lonely, & the walls talk to you, but I didn't cry for help!

27.2.07 Swildan's short round trip

Our intend trip was to include Blue Lencil Passage but our navigation wasn't up to the job. Two months after being lead around we tried it on our own some and was surprised just how little we remembered. An enjoyable trip although it took us half an hour longer this time.

Pete & John Horst.

28.2.07

Eastwater upper series round trip.

A pre breakfast sprint around is Claire's idea of fun, we didn't realise that the day started so early. We were back just after 9.00. It was our introduction to Eastwater and too, a double first.

Claire John & Pete

28/2/07

Singing River Mine

Jude, Geoff, Fi, Andy, Charlotte, Jonathan, Stuart + Ian.

28/2/07

Hunters Lodge Inn

She having made it safely back from Jaudi, complete with dodgy back + ankle in plaster cast, decided to limit tonight's activities to mincing. He, I & Rich therefore just about made it to the pub (after plenty of tea drinking at the hut).

Claire.

1/13/07 Upper Flood Swallet Clarie + Rich

First trip to Upper Flood today (old, not new). It was beautiful! Midnight clamber made no stop + stare. Glad my legs are short enough for the passage to be kneeling not hunking :-). There was airspace in the lavatory pan, all 1/2 inch of it, which I decided wasn't enough (especially - a fleecy & after 4 days of caving). So left the glories of UPS to another day, and returned 'home' to Upper Pitts.

Clarie

Quote of the weekend ....

Clive Westlake hands Chris & a proof-read & heavily marked piece of writing. Seems!

C-G "Bloody hell Clive, I've never had a piece of work back with so many corrections! I'm so glad you weren't my English teacher! ..."

C.W "I'm glad I wasn't either ....!"

27-11-07 Tyring's Barrow Swallet. We went down in company with plenty of water which made the cave quite splashy and fun - my first trip down this moderately interesting place. We were made very welcome by the friendly guard dog at the farm. Carmen Haskell, Clive Westlake.

2/13/07 Swildons Clive Westlake, Alison Moody, Claire Merton  
Last trip of the week - photo shoot down Old Grotto + Water  
crt. Just about all my knees could stand!

Clarie

23-25/12/07 Daren Gtau - Madphil, Ems, Andy Kuszyk, Rhys Davies  
2 night stop at REU to continue with ongoing dig in Painkiller Passage. Entered cave 9pm on the Friday night, nearly sleeping when we started Through Time Machine but woke up again in time to arrive at REU at 2AM. Good days

digging on the Saturday then out by 6pm Sunday just in time to catch the last of the weekends daylight!! Excellent trip!! Ems.

3-3-07 Shatter Cave. Solo photographic trip to Campy and Diesel Chambers. Strong inward draught. Did I get a whiff of diesel in Diesel Chamber? Shot a film, playing with different exposures and lighting positions.

Phil Wendy.

4-3-07 Rhino Rift - RH route for pitch 1 & 2 by kev, then to LH route for last pitch to speed things up. Derigged by Charlie! kev hilton, clive westlake, Jan Beal, Caver Diver-Charlie Reid-henry



8-MARCH

NORTH Hill Swallett or quick trip down to the end

x BACK

IAN & Fiona

13th February (late entry) - Rocket Drop.

Ali Moody, Andrew Moon, Steve Turner, Graham Speed, Steve Franks + Steve?

Very pleasant evening bumble once we had located the entrance in thick fog. Good general poke about and also visit by Ali to the end dig below the third chamber. The air throughout

The cave was absolutely fine - in fact quite fresh.

Ali.

3rd March - Charterhouse Cave

Pete Hann, Ali Moody.

More work at the dig at the end of the boulder rubble. The choke is now becoming much looser, with a disconcerting tendency to throw boulders without warning - Pete can vouch for this after a large rock landed on his ear. Good cementing session and I think that there will be plenty more of these in the next few trips. Absolute gale blowing through the choke, but if either of us wears any more thermals I don't think that we will fit through the entrance series.

Quotes of the trip.

Pete - wrestling with a large boulder in the end dig "My belly keeps on getting in the way."

Ali - trying to get through a squeeze in the boulder rubble with a bucket of cement. "I wish that you would dig the bloody passage bigger."

Ali

19 Feb.

São Vicente Java Caves, Madeira. Fine little slow cave with a volcanism certificate included. Saw first time in a lava tube. Nice but small "stalactites" etc. The stereo film was a bonus.

EASTWATER 9/3/7

Short Round Trip in Reverse

Hatstand, Claire, Johanna, Andy, Fiona, Charlotte  
It convinced that we did this in reverse, (Woggle Press first, VP Hallelujah  
hole, Upper Traverse last) however, conversation over beer with Mr Bean  
had us unconvinced, Bean convinced we did it the normal way around.  
Whatever, a cracking trip, Hat nearly got left in Hallelujah Hole -  
he was finding it rather snug (Fat Git) until Charlotte stepped onto  
the beach and gave him something to push against! Got in time for  
the job so that's alright then.

OFD

Cwmduwr to P

We all had a good trip. The entrance of Cwmduwr  
is excellent. Nearest thing I have seen to the Loo  
paw. Fantastic start to the trip. A nice passage  
had a look at the Sumps - The Streamway  
was good. Condition its \* Great to hit the water

Pony, Geoff John, Russ, Andy Judd, Andy Jackson, Fiona

10-iii-07

Swildon's Hole.

Alison Moody, Claire Morton, Rich Carey, John Cooper (Chelsea SS), Clive Westlake.

Down at the Twenty <sup>we</sup> met Hatstand and Tommo trying out a new ladder, then we  
went on to Tratman's Temple in search of a steam-free picture. Next we did  
a complicated photograph from the bottom of the Black Hole, with John on  
finger / toe tip pose across the traverse. As Claire hadn't been before, we  
caved to the end of Fool's Paradise. Back in Swildon's II we went to the Landing  
for a final picture, when thankfully the film ran out. 5 1/4 somewhat purposeful  
hours - but a laugh a minute. CDW.

14.3.07.

Tynings Barrow Swallet.

Andy, Claire, Charlotte, Jonathan, Ian and Stuart.

Trip down to the fork after stalagmite choke. Some really nice stuff down there that we spotted - bones, guttery stuff etc. First time down this cave for everyone ~~except~~ Andy + Claire. We like it!

Jonathan.

11-3-07

Peak Cavern - Buxton Water, Ink Sump, Doom's Retreat.

Chris Grosart, John Taylor

Superb trip to look at Jim Ister's dig & penthouse! The boulders on the downstream side of the airbell in Buxton Water have moved significantly - care required. Easy carry to Ink Sump where the visibility was amazing - gin clear. 200m or so we emerged in 'chez Jim' and C.G. could not stop giggling at the rather comfy little second home he has built himself! Good effort! End boulder choke still very unstable with +++ hanging death.

10-3-07 Rift Mine

Revisit after 20+ years - 2 parallel rifts with 20' drops. Found a way to the bottom, but did not do all of the drops and squeezes as I was solo. Chamel Shaft now has a nice shiny new gate.

Phil Hendy

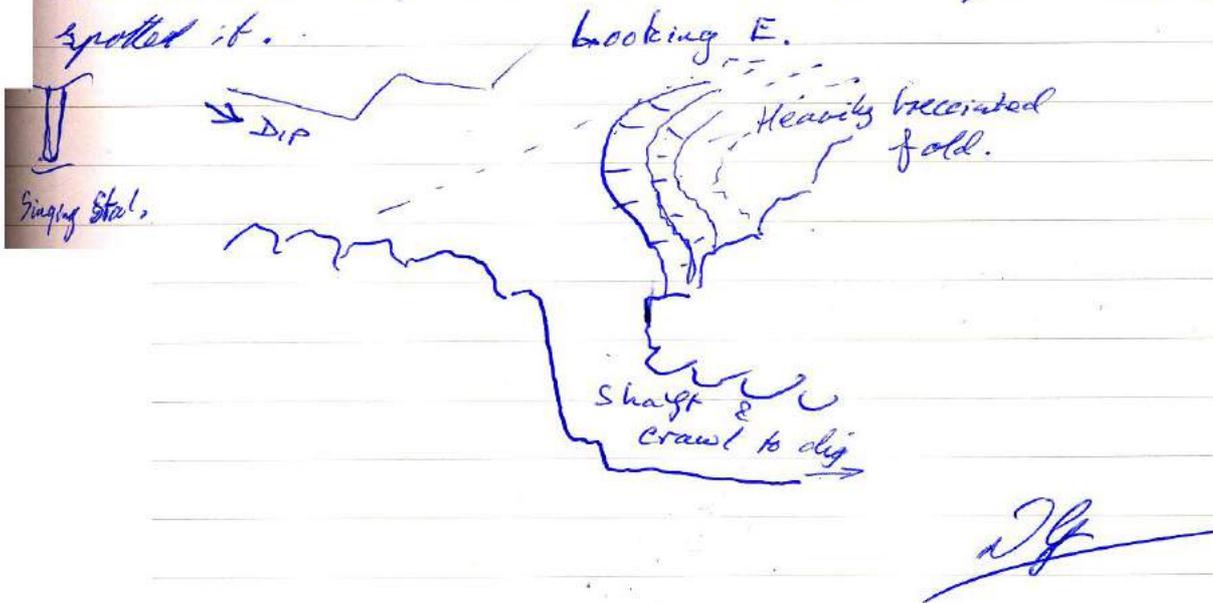
17-03-07

CHARTER HOUSE.

Ali, Pete H, Nigel. More cementing of boulders asked politely to stand aside then reversed before they change their minds.

On way out, received another batch of gravel from the streamway.

It's not surprising this massive collapse is there. Einging Stal Chamber is on the fault seen in the Gorge in GB - Pete printed that out. In SSC though, it's accompanied by a sizeable (dry?) fold with an overturned limb. Many times have I been in there but this is the first time I'd spotted it.



17-iii-07

Ogof Craig a Fynnon.

Jon Beale, Mike Thomas, Mark Foyle, Christine Grosart, Wayne Stensmore, Chie Westlake

Proceeded to Green Ore Cafe - not wholly successful as it's closed. On to Clydach Gorge much more happily as we went down OCAF to see the usual sights of this fine cave. back via darkest Bedminster to visit the World's best spring roll emporium. It was shut. cow

12-3-07. (LAWNSIDE) COUM → WEATHERED RABBIT & MISSING OUT COURTES 2ND PITM, INCLUDING TRIDENT, MARCUSIAN WAM, LAWNSIDE, SPIRAL STAIRCASE, MAIN LINE PASSAGE + OTHER ODDS + SODS.

CARM, PETER PATRICK.

(91)

13-3-07 Red Moss Pot - NEW!! ENTRANCE, DEFINITELY NOT THE OLD-GOOD BIT OF SPERM STOMPING IN A STREAMWAY OPTO TO CARMAN DART BY RUNNING ADJUT. <sup>Rain Pate</sup> + C...

The Cafe With a Candy Store We Continued ON  
but as our Survey had long finished  
decided to turn and head out for the Long  
Road ahead. Looking forward to my Return  
trip with a Survey that goes beyond and can  
guide us further into this wonderful place

Tim Fay & Fiona

SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

Goatchurch - to be Dramppe + return

Photographic trip. Gavin + Pauline.

Saw an Adder drinking from the stream - we watched it  
for 5 minutes until it slithered up the bank into a hole.

Missed the Ice Cream Van.

PHK.

Wed 25<sup>th</sup> April

Swildons Clive, Fi, Andy

Took a wander down to North West Stream passage - nice

& crawly, bit of a pain carrying ladders + rope all that way :) )

Looked at the traverse before the pitch and decided  
it would wait for another day.

Clive

25<sup>th</sup> / 4 / 07

Star Mine, Jude + Adrian, Geoff,

As it seems to be about the only place left  
on Mendip that you can actually still  
play on string and seeing Jude + myself  
had never visited the place we thought  
we'd have a look.

Impressive entrance shaft followed by  
a short piece of mined passage

to a smaller and shorter shaft, to water  
Apparently the water was about 7 metres lower  
than the last time Geoff was there, it could  
really do with either another section of scaffold  
or a "P" hanger to give a nice straight  
hang to the water. Pleasant change to  
the usual Swiddons round trip routine!

Qudp

25/4/07 IREBY FELL CAVERN

Keith & Derek Sanders

Down to the sump at the end of Duke Street.  
The sump had been recently dammed and  
pumped out to give access to Duke Street II  
for non-divers - the dam has now been  
removed and the passage is now a sump  
again.

25-4-07

had a shit trip down 13 pots went down there once  
before and did not like thought I would give it  
another go. Still did not like it 😞

fi & Matt

27-4-07 SLATTEL CAVE. JOHN HAM LED JOHN HILL AND ANDY NASH  
AS FAR AS THE ANGEL'S WING. THEY REPORTED A GOOD TRIP (? SOME  
RECENT MINOR ROCK FALLS?) BUT GOT LOST IN THE QUARRY ON THE  
RETURN, JUST MAKING IT BACK TO THE HUNTERS' IN TIME FOR A PINT.

Re. 25/4/2007.

Please note that the dam was temporary and ~~it~~ would  
be breached by water/washed away when flooded. The  
way was not intended to permanently remove the sump



5/5/07 Swiddons - Sup 1

Jon Baul, Charlie Reid-Henry & Jack Reid-Henry (aged 9)  
Jack's first caving trip - in the wet way, Barnes loop and onto sump 1 for fizz  
& mofs bars.

MAY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND - Valley Entrance & Heron Post on ladders. Good fun  
day with Dad & cousin Iain. Digging in Ireby Fell (Criggle Creek) with Madge,  
Neil Pacey & (Red Rose) & Simon Cornhill. Went in via Bubbles route, which  
is highly recommended (worth leaving set kit off till you get to the head of  
the first pitch). Didn't know there was so much cave at the bottom. Good to  
VHO ??? Ems.

5<sup>th</sup> May Brian Prewer and Phil Hendy took Tommo on his first OFOI trip.  
Low water. Photography - Prew took some good digital pics but Phil suffered a  
triple whammy - the analogue SLR failed, a resistor in the flashgun went critical,  
and the battery in the slave unit was flat. Apart from that, a good trip, as  
far as the rocking boulder

Good evening BBQ at the WSG for some of the party, especially as  
Biff and Lou's boys kept a camp fire going all night for us.

Phil H

6<sup>th</sup> May. Phil H on solo trip to Bridge Cave to clear cobwebs (these  
turned into a horrendous cough/cold. Anyway, a pleasant trip, had the  
cave to myself

Phil H

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> May Shute Shelf Cavern

Official Club Trip, led by Alan Gray (ACC). With Wayne Stansmore,  
Mark and Jo, Paul Wakeling, Claire Horton, Phil Hendy, Jon Lacey  
Down to the bottom, some looked at the dig, others looked  
into Elm Street. Photographs were taken (I suffered flash gun  
pro quinn) and bats were observed. 2h

Phil H.

6th May, OFD II Adrian + Juele, Rich Carey

Andy Snook + Leg.

Day trip to S. Wales to go into top entrance. After a short detour in route! got down to Judge + Tridour - from there route very straight forward to the Nave. We abseiled down - (Andy's first ~~rope~~ SRT underground) pulled through + went down the two other short pitches - into the orbow. Up to Top Waterfall, water levels very low, so you could see all the holes in the streamway. Back down stream and came out at Maypole. + made our way out uneventfully - Really enjoyable trip. J. V. P.

27<sup>th</sup> April. O of Rhyd Sych. Alison Moody, Clive Westlake.

As usual the journey in was something of an effort but the large, well-decorated passages beyond were well worth this effort. 3 hrs.

28<sup>th</sup> April. O of Ajen Allwedd. Alison Moody, Clive Westlake, Christine Grosant, John Maneely.

The next in a series of quality trips down this sometimes maligned cave. We went 4/5 of the way down Southern Stream Passage, climbed into Gothic Passage, found Priory Road and so to 11es' Passage. The sand digs here have been dug to a cover-friendly size. We spent half an hour admiring the awesome formations at the end. On the way out Alison and Clive began to wonder whether two successive knee-bashing trips like Rhyd Sych and Southern Stream Passage were a good idea. 7 hours.

4<sup>th</sup> May. Joint Hole. John Maneely, Christine Grosant, Clive Westlake.

To the Cockpit (475m / -23m) in excellent conditions - 8m visibility.

5<sup>th</sup> May. Magnetometer Pot. John Maneely, Christine Grosant, Clive Westlake with Dave Wilson, Katrina Hawkins, Dave Hounslow, Geoff Ward and Tim Palmer of the Northern Pennine Club.

To Caton Hall on the exact 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of the Pot by the NPC. 3 hours.

Hurtle Pot. John Maneely, Christine Grosant, Clive Westlake. Brilliant conditions again - 10 m visibility. We went up the Hindenburg Wall, turned right at Jingle Junction and went up the Void to Frog Hall. Failing to find a line upstream to Jingle Pot, we dived home. 3/4 hrs

6<sup>th</sup> May. Swinsto Cave - West Kingsdale Master Cave. John Maneely, Christine Grosant, Clive Westlake with George Taylor, Dave Wilson, Dave and Fione Hounslow and Katrina Hawkins of the Northern Pennine Club.

Even in such low water this splashy full pull-through trip was good value. 3 1/2 hrs.

NB - late entry

### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2007 - Watergate

Clive Westlake, Richard Carey and Ali Moody

Many thanks to Clive Westlake who stepped in at the last minute to do a photographic trip to Watergate for the Swildon's Book. Thanks also to Adrian and Jude Vanderplank and Richard Carey who had bailed the Mud Sump last night to ensure that it would be open. Then Christening Pool had a "reasonable" airspace and Clive was soon shooting off numerous photos in the Sac Gang. We then continued upstream to Spectacle Duck where I suggested that Richard would make a good model - but for some unknown reason he wouldn't take me up on the offer! All photos completed we exited via Blue Pencil and the Troubles. Ali

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2007 – Rocket Drop

Pete and Ali Moody

After reassuring myself on the trip on 13<sup>th</sup> February with the “Tuesday nighters” that the air in the cave was ok, Pete and I decided that we should revisit our old dig in the third chamber. We had laid a charge at the end of the downstream passage on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 1984 but due to a very unpleasant experience with extremely high levels of CO<sub>2</sub> on the following trip in September 1984 we had never been back to the end to inspect the damage! This time the air was fine and the charge had done a good job of demolishing the too tight bend at the end where the passage swings hard left. The passage can be seen continuing for at least another 2m but very would require enlarging all the way. No noticeable draught and all very muddy as though the whole area could sump at times. I decided that the dig didn't inspire me and that we have better sites elsewhere. Ali

### Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2007 – Charterhouse Cave

Ali Moody, Pete Hann and Nigel Graham

This was basically a trip to try to stabilise the area that we had got into on the previous trip. I concentrated on the large boulder that you have to squeeze past while Pete worked on the right-hand wall. Five buckets of concrete were used and the area now looks considerably more healthy! It is still not obvious where the draught is originating from so we are keeping our options open by both digging downwards and also opening up a route into a void immediately above us. Ali

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2007 St. Cuthbert's

Ali Moody, Jon Mason, Andy Jackson, Rhys Wickham, James Hassall

The cave was quite wet, so a very pleasant and sporting tourist trip to Sump I. Route in to Gour Hall was in via Boulder Chamber, Everest Passage and the Stalagmite Pitch bypass. Out via Rabbit Warren, Sentry Passage, Lower Traverse Chamber etc. Fortunately the dams on the surface were still holding on our exit when we got out so the Entrance Rift was still dry. However, the party was suitably impressed with the torrent down it once I had let the dams out. Ali

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> May NB This trip is also written up 2 pages back  
Shute Shelve Cavern

Phil Hady, John, Mac, Jo, Paul, Allen, Clave Morton, ?

Wenex members trip to Shute Shelve ~ Axbridge. Really interesting trip - Allen gave us lots of history about the oche mining. Took photos, thoroughly explored. Great to go somewhere new & cave w different people.

Clare

16<sup>th</sup> May

Lionel's hole, Clare Morton, Andy Snook

Went on a route finding mission down Lionel's, & found our way admirably well. Good fun, & came out feeling 10' tall :-)  
Clare.

16/5/07 - Tetley Cavern. (Eastern Mend.s.p.)

Jude, Stu, Geoff & Ann - An interesting trip to Tetley Cavern where we negotiated hobnob rift before arriving in the impressive Kettle Chamber.

4 hours.

16-5-07

EASTWATER Round Trip then Round Trip IN Reverse  
all good fun      Charlott & Fi

19-05-07 SHORT-ROUND TRIP - SUDWORTH. NOT GEOFF SALVANO.

Recon S.S. GEOFF & PATRICK, WCC, HATFIELD.

My first ever short round, and second trip past the sump. First time the sump was so dry didn't need bailing and went through on side with helmet, didn't get very wet. Not so today! After much bailing by party of 7 (4 went to Watergate) a re-examine air exp. soggy. humm. Not looking forward to 2nd trip to sump I however Patrick bless me never been through before. committing. On arrival at double trouble started siphon and set for a rest. after about 20 minutes water hardly dropped so we started bailing to keep warm - we made excellent progress, rather too good in fact, another wesser party to Cawshens complained later we nearly drowned them in blue pencil! We did get rather carried away - we only stopped when a bucket floated through from the other end!!! Not BIRTHDAY SQUEEZE was fun - Geoff pulled something going through, I got my big lazy overpaid drivers arse stuck, and Patrick pushed me out.

Patrick ~~the~~ however got utterly stuck with his chest. Much  
pulling & sawing later however he was through. In discussion  
with Alison Moody on return she claimed NBS is only 'savg'.  
However after some discussion and inspection of Patrick Alison  
did suggest she might <sup>(downgrade)</sup> upgrade it to 'fairly' savg! We shall wait  
& see whether Patrick got to change history! Anyhow, unusual  
and unusual, though Sump 1 which I made a big deal about  
being a cross but then found not nearly as bad as last time,  
and was then utterly ~~shamed~~ shamed by Patrick who without  
any fuss completed his first sump one experience from the wrong  
side!! A cracking trip. Time for the pub. HAT

22/5/07 Alfi Collins came in the Hunters tonight. He was  
old when I was young, or so it seemed. Bob's

Sun 21st May Peak Caven Doms Retreat had a Fun Working  
Trip. Nice dive through Buxton Water then Ink Sump. to  
do some work the otherside cracking weekend.

Jim, Jewles, Simon, Fiona

24/5/07 Crook's Hole dig. Bob's Pete & Steve, good digging until  
a very large rock (boulder to Steve who was below it) decided  
to move downwards by approx 1ft and a tad forward. This  
gave Steve a bit of adrenal in rush as he move very quickly  
with a shaky voice - to safer places. After stamping on it  
to ensure no further threat, he regained his composure  
and digging position move to the side as under was  
no longer the option. I'm glad Aubrey & Pete have  
recommended him for Wesssex membership, I've been  
digging with him 10 years, and I wouldn't, he's  
not safe with himself!

22nd May Welsh's Green -  
Anne + Jude Vap - A quick evening  
trip as I'd never been there before - May  
not be going again too soon! Entrance  
pitch followed by a crawl to second ~~new~~ pitch,  
very impressive, + well worth a look. Followed  
by lots more crawling which gets progressively  
muddier, we saw lots of selenite crystals  
embedded in the mud!! Well worth a visit,  
though kit cleaning takes a while, + don't  
forget your knee pads!!

J. Vap.

27th May Balch Cave - Aven Chamber. 20m ladder is not  
enough to bottom the pitch, though the rest of the cave can be reached  
by a traverse about 12m down. Pitch can be done on a handline,  
but an extra line would be useful for the several holes in the  
floor. Aven Chamber is impressively large. Some formations, many  
vandalised by breakage and hand prints. A few helictites. Full  
exploration (of holes in the floor) not possible due to lack of  
a handline (safely stored at the top of the pitch).

A good Sunday morning collector's trip.

Phil Hendry, Jackie Anderson, Phil Hendry

23rd May Templeton

Approx 30 dumper loads of spoil excavated, we had to use 2 dumpers.  
Don't get excited - we were using a JCB to dig out a new dumper  
position under the new ship run and winch. A good spectator sport.  
Also sprayed the docks

Phil H.

30<sup>th</sup> May 2007 Coopers' hole, long hole & somewhere we don't know the name of.

Wednesday night cavers: Dopey, Grumpy, Sleepy, Doc, Bashful, Sneezy & Happy

Parked down in Cheddar Gorge, & climbed up a goat track to visit an unnamed hole. Then across the road for a quick peek into Coopers' Hole, Bashful getting incredibly muddy, & Dopey doing the through trip.

Next was a fun scramble up to Long Hole, & a good investigation right to the end. Doc, Happy & Sneezy contemplated shutting Dopey in at the end but thankfully thought better of it.

Fun slide down the hill at the end.

Dopey

#### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2007 - Charterhouse Cave

Party 1. Pete Hann, Nigel Graham, Ali Moody

Party 2. Pete Moody, Richard Carey

It is now proving too time consuming to sieve the amount of sand from the Charterhouse streamway that we need for cementing in the boulder choke. Mr Hann has now purchased a pallet of bags of sand for this purpose - hands off! Although it is hard work lugging BDH containers full of sand through the entrance crawls there is not really any alternative. Fortunately Pete M and Richard kindly offered to come down the cave to do a delivery for us. Other than this it was an ill-fated trip as Mr Hann's drill went up in smoke, nearly asphyxiating the digging team in the process. Unfortunately this meant that we couldn't break up the boulders in the floor and therefore concentrated on cementing the right hand wall. From Singing Stal it is now nearly 20m to the work face and lugging buckets this far through the ruckle is becoming a real pain. Consequently we have decided to move the cement mixing area forward to the Ice Box (named after the freezing draught that blows through this section of passage) asap. Ali

#### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2007 - Charterhouse Cave

Ali Moody and Pete Hann

What else is there to do on a Saturday? We struggled down the cave (accompanied by much cursing) with a BDH of gravel, a large container of cement and a very large Peli case containing a drill. The later may have gone down the cave (a close fit in places) but I am going to be busy elsewhere when it comes out again - either that or we cement it into the boulder ruckle. A slightly more successful trip with Pete breaking up some of the boulders in the floor but unfortunately displacing some large slabs which were supporting the right hand wall in the process. Never mind, back to cementing, although it might be a lot easier just to cement up the entrance to Charterhouse! The draught is definitely coming up through the boulder floor at the end and it is possible to look down about 3m through the boulders. Ali

30 - MAY 2007

Wooky 20 KEN & Fiona

31st MAY 2007

Wooky 22 KEN & Fiona

2/6/2007 Goughs cause, M. Thomas, J. Beal, M. Fagle

All Gear into Lloyd Hall Friday eve.  
M.T checked the line to Bishops palace and was found to be ok after some work. J.B and MF followed. MT trit was then moved to sump 2 and MT drove to Sheppard's creek also checking line's. A bit of Fans was had uncovering the line in the thin thing, the deep point of sump 2. Vis 2-4. with thanks to C. castle, Kiowa, Stu, Geoff for the carry and for Charlie for getting lost in the stews cause.

~~was~~

3/6/2007 Swildons Shatter Series

Stu, Fi, Clarie

My first trip to Shatter series. Interesting swing off onto the ladder at Shatter Pot - thank goodness for ladders eh? Not at all what I expected - lots of smooth wormy mud passages which were a joy to slide down and made ~~the~~ me & Fi laugh a lot as we went up on our backs like overturned woodlice (lots of wagging legs, little achievement) on the way return.

1st duck - rather interesting duck - rose to the ceiling, mild panic as the water goes over your face on the way in, slightly more panic on the way out (thank goodness for Stu to pull you through eh?)  
2nd duck was sumped, so we decided the bailing wasn't worth it

and headed out. Great trip on a lovely day.  
Clarice

### Hunters Lodge INN SINK

Had an excellent trip down J.L. went down the pitch & then through the cystle clear pool the fun part is getting across without going head first into it. If you get wet up to your knees then you have done well. Anton & Lutcho went for a swim, we then went up to the large part of end of the cave. Came back thru the now muddy pool and then to a visit down Rothen Rudolph to view the old dig site. had a great time

Lutcho Anton Claire Fiona

Swildons Hole,  
Jude Sta e Admain Dolp.

07-6-07

Down to Rolling Thunder, 2 skips of gravel removed. One drilled hole drilled, 750mm. ready for the next time!

### Charthouse Cave.

4 BDH of gravel dragged in 1 bucket of cement used and a couple of blocks to a large rock. Slight draught but very cold.  
Pete Mann - Nigel Graham.

4th JUNE 07 Swindons, HARSTAD & JOHN ASHOY (Guest)

Quick trip down to soup & back, John's first time down Swildons in 32 years! Discovered it's true what they say about ~~of~~ hoes on walking boots sagging on ladders - oops. John fixed this by putting his knee pads round his ankles. Says he enjoyed it but think he's looking forward to getting back to mines!! 113

13.6.07 Slaughter Stream Cave

Niknak, Suran, Adrian Bennett & ~~at~~ Jude & Helen

An interesting cave with very black limestone in places. Apparently the water was fairly low, still deep enough to cool you down though, and even though Mr Suran was wearing his negligence he didn't offer to carry us ladies over the deep bits!! We mistook a rather nasty, low & very sharp hobble crawl for kumbur passage, but soon realised our mistake and found ~~at~~ the sandy much pleasanter passage, just a bit further back. otherwise quite uneventful, & pleasant trip. J. Vulp. otherwise

FRIDAY GREEN SINK / SKULLDOLLS. 16-06-07

A last minute change of plan for me & a trip into the "mine". All the stories I had heard about the unpleasant conditions in PGS were always enough to push it toward the back end of my 'caving list'. However, as a new member no trip could be refused! member

After about an hour & a half of wriggling through some interesting passages, we arrived at the first 'pitch' which is actually an easy free climb. The other pitches were pull thro's & abseil on a pitch (if one can remember how to tie a hitch that is!). It was blowing a good draught in Cawsh & it felt a little cold as we were wet, but at least not covered in slime. Overall, the trip in was very clean. some

Dropped into the streamway & out via Troubles to complete round trip.

Dave (peanut), Eric, Simon   
(Chip flop) W's h's approx

17th June CAIN HILL digging trip.

Fiona J. Rat, Duncan + Z

20th June Lionels an excellent trip through the wonderful array of chocks and Bolders, this is a cracking cave

Andy & Fiona

21st June Swildons S

had a great trip with Charlott I went to Swildons S to tumbledown to collect bottles, and bring them out Charlott kindly assisted from Sump. Many thanks.

Charlott & Fiona.

22nd June CAIN HILL Shaft

Good Progress made at the end of the Shaft 20 Bags filled Air was good to start with at the end. I took down a 2LT diving bottle + Reg so then was able to continue working when Air became bad. The bottle made digging a breeze excellent fun

Tony & Fiona

23rd Sat

23/06/07 Swildon's Hole.

Mike Thomas, Jon Beal, Claire Cohen, Fiona.

A nice little walk down the Swildons streamway! Fiona to Swildons 7, MT, JB and cc to Sump 12 All out 5½ hours.

Sun 24th June

Cain Hill Shaft Digging Good Progress 47 Bags of Soil Hoisted out Both bottom & middle dig looking excellent felt a draft

Tony & Fiona

Sat 23-6-07. Club Meet - Gonghi's Cave. 38 members, wives, children and camp followers explored and photographed most of the known system as far as Lloyd Hall, where the divers worked on the platform. An excellent time was had by all, preceded or followed by fish and chips. Many thanks to Chris Castle for getting us in.  
Phil H

24/6/07 White Pit Nihalak, Clarie, Kev, Amy  
Nihalak led a lovely Sunday afternoon trip to White Pit. We peered through the window, travelled down to the very pretty pretties at the end, dropped down coffee pot & up forty backs. CO<sub>2</sub> levels were fine, no problems. Kev & Clarie did the squeeze at the entrance to the field. Clarie

24/6/07 - SWIMMERS - THROUGH SUMP 2!

Helen & Stu. - After sobering up from a late night we made the short walk across the fields with a pony bottle & associated equipment. Made our way down to the 20 pitch where we took a ticket & waited our turn in the queue "Number 852 to the pitch head please" we were off at last, through Sump 1 & down to the lead bucket at Sump 2. Helen was then dressed with said pony bottle, reg, mask, hood, gloves, & harness. - A crash course in Sump diving then followed - "keep breathing & don't let go of the rope" - oh & you won't see a thing! Helen then approached the Sump 2 rope, lined herself up & made her way through, shortly after 3 hugs were received & Stu freedived through to meet her in St Johns Bell. - After a brief "How was that" Helen made her way back through & Stu followed. Everything was then packed away & we made our way out.

From Helen - "I was quite scared, but exited at the same time, and proud of my achievement afterwards!" - Sump 3 & Tumbledown  
Next.....

Stu & Helen = 2 hours.

~~WTF ???~~  
WTF ???

## Lot, France (by Chris Grosart)

17-6-07

### Gouffre de Saint-Sauveur

Clive Westlake, Chris Grosart, Jerome Meynie (FR)

Conditions weren't great in the Lot, so decided to dive here before it deteriorated further. A dead dive-light, strong flow & a broken line didn't help matters, but after some support from Jerome, we got under way & dived to -50m on air, Jerome on Bots to -30m & decompressed amongst beaches, weed & other bugs. Viz 5-6m at best.

18-6-07

### Fontaine de la Pescalerie

Clive Westlake, Chris Grosart

We were given the go-ahead to dive here, so took a pair of 7s each to dive sump 1, about 200m long and 17m deep max. Unusual dam & ladders to negotiate underwater before the cave proper, which is well decorated and very clear. Wiggled up the rift and to the end of sump 1 & dived home, still in 6-7m viz.

19-6-07

### Gouffre de Roque de Cor

Rick Stanton, Jon Volanthan, Pete Mulholland,

Clive Westlake, Chris Grosart

Rick & Jon planned to dive to the known limit in sump 4 & needed some gear carrying. CDW & CSG dutifully did this, whilst Pete opted to rig the pitches in his own, er, interesting style. Much alteration required, including Rick & Chris cutting one of the ropes to make sure they would reach the bottom!! Top tip - always check the rope lengths! Sump 4 didn't go....

Lot ctd

19-6-07

Fontaine de Saint-Georges

Clire Westlake, Chris Grosart

Both divers to the Salle de Laveur, 380m in. Viz no more than 4m & the dental floss tethering from wall to wall, taking off across outer space with no walls or floor, was a little intimidating & CSG took a few compass bearings as a broken line in these conditions would have been quite serious. Other resurgences in the area now undiracable due to prolonged, heavy rain.

20-6-07

L'Oeil de La Done

Clire Westlake, Chris Grosart, Pete Mulholland

This site was reported to still be in good nick, so we carried the 700m to the impressive resurgence at the foot of the cirque & chuff. Many giggles as the night before, Max Higginson (Derbyshire section) told a tale of when sump 1 was dry and they nicknamed it the "L'Oeil de la DON'T".... Anyway, CSG & CDW dived 100m to air surface and walked the next 200m with gear to dive 340m to airspace in the next, clear & scenic sump. Pete turned back after sump 1 saying he had to go shopping....

21-6-07

Gouffre du Briant

Rick Stanton, Jon Volanathan, Chris Grosart,  
Clire Westlake

Smashing trip, about 2km downstream in this well-decorated & wet trip. Came across a fresh-water crayfish in the streamway, who had his five minutes

of fame when Clive photographed him. Rick got on with him particularly well (he's called George!)

Many photos taken & shares, both human & otherwise worked impeccably.

22-6-07

### Source de Landenouse

Rick Stanton, Chris Grosart

Both dived together, Rick on his breather & CSG on twin 12s + 2 x 7l stages. Both dived to 500m & had 4-5m viz. Very pleasant. Jon Volantien had a long dive separately & handed his scooter to CSG to play with during deco. Many fun & games, such as Rick free-diving in the entrance, Jon jumping off the bridge & bonking into the pool (water level half way up ladder!) & a frog hitching a lift on various bits of kit (we rescued him) & CSG getting bullied into jumping in as well - top tip - leave drysuit dump valve OPEN....!

23-6-07

### Fontaine de Truffe

Chris Grosart, Clive Westlake (support - Jerome Meynie)

All scooterable sites were washed out & the Tron Madame was hearing with German D.I.R types... so we decided that it would be best to have scooter lessons somewhere familiar, clear & quiet and the Truffe was a great idea. Jerome damaged his drysuit trying to get Boris through the entrance, so CSG was left to her own devices. Shoved the scooter through the restriction & wriggled through with a twinset & spent the following 45 mins getting the hang of it & terrorizing Clive, up & down sump one. Lots of fun!

Lot ctd

24-6-07

### Émergence temporaire de Crepols

Clive Westlake, Chris Grosart, Martyn Farr

Sump 1 was straightforward enough. Getting out & up the boulder choke + 100m gear carrying with high CO2 levels between sumps, was unpleasant.

Pleased to get into the water and breathe some proper air! Dropped down the awesome shaft in 15m viz and swam close to the roof to save on no-deco time.

Clive turned back first and CSG & MF continued down to -45m. Must come back with bigger cylinders next time! Fantastic dive. The dive home was straightforward.

Because she's Nexsex, wind your neck in!

↗ No! keep winding it out - until your head falls off!  yey

30th June 2007 Wigmoor - BEC trip - why is it in this log book?

The day started at 9am sorting all the kit. The rain was raining hard making this more inviting. got down to the farm & made peace with the farmer. Slotted through the mud and changed 4 bags of ladders & ropes in to go. got to the cave entrance and started on our marny way down. Water cascading with us all to the bottom at first pitch and the bag chain beg pushed on this place gets better by the mile. There was 4 of us then there was 3 then as buclures Ass there were 2.

We continued on down the pitch and went to the Sump. tire in back at the start of the Sump. We found lots of old dive kit that did not make the return trip. had a look at the streamway then started the trip home. the bags moved slowly through dewels Ass  what a pig those. clam bags nearly stangled at the bottom with the diving kit

Continued

Finally through levels Ass o what a Relief. The rest of it was great. The 2 of us made it out, with a view to diving the sump at a later date - excellent trip.

Duncan Matt Chris J Fiona

01/07/07 - SIDCOT U TUBE - SWILDONS.

(WCC) (BEC) (SWCC).

Stu / Chris Jewell / Helen Brooke. - Down to the 20 in high water, rigged the pitch & Helen left us to continue whilst getting lost in the upper series!

Reached Mud Sump in around 30 minutes which was VERY Sumped, a good 8" above the crack, bailing would have taken for ever with just 2 so we dressed our 3's & dived through. We then took the climb up on the left & headed towards the RENAISSANCE<sup>(SPELLING?)</sup> Series, bottles were handed up the small climbs before we eventually arrived at the U-Tube. The water was remarkably clear with a very nice blue tinge to it, but we knew as soon as we even stood in it the vis would vanish.

We both kitted up with 3's, hoods, mask etc. & even cutters (you never know - we are trainees!). So we slid down on our bums to the entrance & Chris went first & after what seemed an age the 3 kys came, I then proceeded downwards in ZERO vis kicking off the roof as we were positively buoyant to say the least, under the arch and up the other side where a slippery climb up the slope using the guide rope is needed (That's why Chris was so long!). At the top of the slope our gear was coated in thick gloopy mud, which was soon ditched before we headed off & explored the series beyond.

Entering back into the sump was interesting, a feet first approach & then a hippo style roll over lines got us up nicely. We kitted we headed on out to a streamway that was VERY HIGH & VERY LOUD, climbing the 20 was an effort & Chris had a side light taken off, the 40 was a challenge & needed team work to <sup>pass</sup> kit up. - Apparently it had rained !!!

Stu.

## 5th July Upper Flood

had the most excellent trip into upper Flood never been before this cave has the most stangy things I have seen in a while - we went through midnight chamber, then the red room, Golden chamber then the best Boulderchoke I have seen for a while then the Depture Lounge on to walk the plank Royal icing on to west passage and ended up at chuckle Sump. This cave provides an excellent crawl and plenty of water. We went pas a passage off to the left that was very white that required all the kit to come off looked very wide we did not do that part of the cave. an excellent trip many thanks to Sonia

Sonia Fröna

5<sup>th</sup> July Emoy, Madghil (NOT EASTWATER!!) ☺

Took day off work to come up & push our mucky, horrid tube in the ~~terminal~~ sump. Chance would be a fine thing. Water flowing down entrance & more rain to come this afternoon. RUBBISH!! Bring on the dry spell.

5<sup>th</sup> July Emoy, Madghil (EASTWATER!!) ☺

Too wet all day so bummed around till 7pm then a quick trip down to the top of Lolly to retrieve Phils ladder from there, plus a BEC ladder from Gladmans. Quite wet but not horrid. 1.5 hrs.

## 7th July 07 Turnstledown

Left the Wcc at 10am and the 4 of us headed over the Rolling hills towards Swildons the Sun was shining. headed towards Turnstledown this time a pump was taken with hose to help with the Air problems. We were able to dig at the end for an hour then the pump was turned on and another hour of digging was done. made good progress end and excellent progress was made at the elbow.

There was a very unusual pong started coming up from very near the ladder it got worse and worse

continued

IN the end I dug it out but it still stank like the  
Content of someones doggy bowels !!!

An excellent trip.

NIK NAK

~~Kate NAK~~, Ade, Geoff, Fiona

WHILST NO ONWARD PROGRESS WAS MADE THIS TIME, THE PASSAGE WAS ENLARGED  
FOR A PUSH ON THE NEXT SESSION. WE SPENT THE LAST HALF HOUR DIGGING AT  
THE ELBOW FINDING THE TRUE LEFT HAND WALL, IT IS NOW TWICE AS WIDE. WE  
NEED TO DIG IN THE FLOOR TO MAKE SURE THIS ISN'T WHERE THE MAIN PASSAGE  
CONTINUED. NIKNAK

07/07/07 - HUNTERS HOLE

CLAIRE C, JOHN M, JON BEAR, ANOTHER JOHN +  
SRT GOD - MALCOLM F.

MY FIRST SRT TRIP (CLAIRE C) - ALL PREVIOUS  
TRAINING HAD BEEN THE EITHER IN A SCHOOL HALL  
OR ON THE SCAFFOLD STRUCTURE OUTSIDE.

I TRIED TO WORK MY WAY OUT OF THIS TRIP BUT  
JON BEAR THREW THE SPARE SRT KIT AT ME.  
TRIP ACTUALLY WENT V. WELL. LOTS OF HELP + NOT  
AS DIFFICULT AS I EXPECTED. GOOD LAUGH &  
AN EXCELLENT FIRST TRIP. CREWS ALL!

07/07/07 - OFD1 - Top via Stream way.

Hellie, Stu, Robiel Shore, Katie Dent, Jane Rigby, Alan  
(SUCC) (WCC) (SUSS) (SUSS) (SUSS) (SUSS TSG)

Into OFD1, through the dry section to the Step (water quite  
high). Up the Streamway where Stu was posted in to various  
sections, through the connection to ~~the~~ Gym Dur through the  
letter box and down Divers Pitch. Made our way <sup>up</sup> down the  
main Streamway, during this Robbies took some v. nice photos

at Marble Shavers & another dramatic section of the Streamway. Continued up the Streamway (still pushing Stu into deep pots that went over his head). Through the ~~great~~ oxbow, then back into the Streamway & out via Maysdale Inlet, after climbing up Robbie decided to take some photos in Cairns Tunnel. - Slight navigational errors finding top entrance, but finally we exited after around 5 hrs.

Love

Hellie, Stu      X+X

08/07/07 - Dan Ya OCAF (Cloud Chamber)

(ucc) (succ) (swcc)

Stu, Hellie, Lizzy - Quick trip to Cloud chamber with Lizzy (the girl who broke her back in OFD). - Streamway was sporting the recent signs of flooding.

Hellie, Stu. xx

11/07/07 GB

Stu, Rich (work colleague of Stu's), Fi, Clarie

Quick trip to the gorge via mud passage

At the end of Devil's elbow is a small, low, potential bypass (very squeazy, ~~was~~ completely unnecessary) into the <sup>gorge</sup> canyon. A while back Stu + Geoff bet me I could never squeeze through it.

After a failed attempt on 4/4/07 I decided to follow Castrech's advice on reputation, stripped off down to my swimming costume & wetsocks, & went through feet first (from ~~end~~ gorge to Devil's elbow passage). It's about 3m.

I repeated the feat for the proof photos. Fi attempted it in her oversuit but decided it wasn't for her. Stu & Rich wisely didn't feel the need to try. We've called it wage packet squeeze  
Clarie.

14-July 07 Peak CAVERN INK Sump DooMS Retreat

Luckley the Water levels did not wreck our trip we went through Buxton water then onto ink sump. Jim with drill in a very large dry box. we dived ink the work commenced the other side. I took down the tent and helped mend the floor of the platform, in readiness for our new shelter that is going to be built equiped with new hot showers and a drying room and food storage space. Next up we hoisted a large steel frame up the pitch for its onward trip to the end. We then both made our way out the walk in never does get any shorter. O He joy. had an excellent trip. It was Pooing with rain on the way back but it actually felt really nice

Jim Lister x Florida

15-7-07 Templeton

Fishing trip to retrieve leatherman tool which fell out of my pocket on Wednesday - clang, clang, clang, clank, sploosh!

Baiting my line with a magnet, I soon had a catch and went back. After heavy rain last night the water was up about an inch - probably now about 10' deep. Heavy dips. 144 steps from water to ground level. Rescued a toad. Admired Tushas latest engineering - the killing ramp at the top of the ship run.

Phil H.

15-7-07 DARRENCILAN HARD ROCK CAFE HOTEL (daytrip)

had a excellent trip with CLAIR to hard rock started out with stove food water for a Gourmet dinner on arrival at hard rock. the trip went very well entrance was nice and wet then through time machine and on down bonzi streamway kept going and going then past the sign then arrive at hard rock. O wow what a place it really has been done out well even the England flag to greet you on entry. we both settled down round our stove and I cooked dinner A nice Beef Stu then mars bar for afters with hot chocolate

We spent 1 hour at Hard Rock before heading on the 2nd part of our trip. headed out and had a very enjoyable second part of trip that impressive entrance passage waiting to greet us. With its Warm Waters, it took us 10.5 hours to do the complete trip ~~with~~ including a one hour stop at hard rock. my next trip will be with a sleeping bag.  
Clair & Fiona

### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 - Charterhouse Cave

Pete Hann, Nigel Graham, Ali Moody

Cement mixing area finally moved forward to the Ice Box. Good digging session with Nigel being in charge of concrete mixing and Pete and myself working at the end. Solid left-hand wall covered in flowstone but everything else pretty loose and nasty. Ali

### Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2007 - Charterhouse Cave

Nigel Graham, Ali Moody, Pete Hann, Pete Moody

Two full bags of sand carried in - we will soon have enough for a beach. Book here for exclusive holidays at [www.charterhousecavehols.co.uk](http://www.charterhousecavehols.co.uk)! Nigel on cement mixing duties again, Ali on cement work and Pete H digging downwards in the floor accompanied by much twittering when the boulders (that he was straddled on) dropped on there own accord on several occasions. This might account for why by the end of the session that the Wessex Dwarf appeared to be getting even shorter! We seem to be digging ourselves a pitch - we are already down 2m and can look down at least another 2 to 3m. This area will need stabilising all the way and the next little challenge will be to bring in a fixed ladder! Ali

PS we are in desperate need of some more large BDH containers for transporting sand. If anyone has any that they are willing to donate or sell, please contact Ali

Giant hole - Derbyshire.

WCC → Stu, Helleie, Rob Evis, Katie Dent, Robie Shaw, Mark  
Wile, James (Suss), Adam (Suss/Ewan), Joe.

Big group into Giants to take naked photos for the 2008 Suss Calendar, whilst completing the Round Trip in lowish water levels. My first caving trip in the Peak a very enjoyable too.

Love

Stu + Helleie x x x

Why is this in the  
WCC Log Book?  
(because I am a fucking wessex member - where else do I write it)....

## 21st July 2007 Honey Mead

Honey mead I have never done this Cave before but it shore is a muddy little pit its right up my street small Crawley muddy pritty in places Well worth the trip.

Adrian, Jude, NIK NAK, Richard, Fiona

## 21st July Little Crapnell

Well this is more like it its small, Crawley, tight in places and with added pleasure of a streamway so we were going to wash the mud off from Honey mead but this place was worth the full tour as you move further down it really gets more sporting then just before the Sump you arrive at a comitting Sausage then a L shape bend then a few feet more and you then arrive at the Sump the fone all piled up.

NIK NAK, Fiona

## 14 July Agen Alwedd - Broadside North West (digging) Emsey.

Had a dig with the Aggy diggers (Tom Ford, Allan Brady & Keith Pearson on this occasion) while the rest of the Eastwater & Daren crew are in Austria. Good fun, impressed with the Courteson. Will definitely go with them again. 12 1/2 hrs

## 5 July DAREN CLAU - Time Machine. Emsey, Christine.

Tourist trip for Christine to see the Time Machine & experience the infamous ladder. Good fun & a good old ~~blether~~ blether all the way. 7 hrs

## 21st July. Swildons Hole.

NIK NAK Jude & Avclp.

All down to Rolling Thunder to clear debris from the previous visit. Six large skips of spoil cleared. some larger boulders

moved halfway down but still need to be taken out completely. About 2 metres of forward progress made.

Adrian Vdp.

22 July 07 Rolling Thunder - Yes they had done a fine job (see above), but some spoil still to be moved, Hope there is a lot more after tonight's bank!

Aubrey, Adrian + Jude Vdp.

Swildons Wed.

had a good trip with Andy we had planned on the Round trip but it was very very sumped after a good while with another group that was bailing we decided it was going to take too long so continued towards North West Stream passage went up to the pitch head and then came back nice wed eve trip.

Andy & Fiona

Swildons 27/7/2007

Robert Thomas, Mike Thomas.

nice and wet trip down to the 20'. In the wet way and out via Long dry. one small boy washed away in the wet way and recovered P.D.Q.!

28-7-07 SWILDONS, TUMBLDOWN.

GEOFF B, ADL V.D.P., JOHN W, NIK NAK.

A VERY SUCCESSFUL SESSION, AROUND 30 DRIPS TAKEN ALL THE WAY OUT TO THE SPOIL HEAP IN FINE. WE DID STRUGGLE WITH THE LUNCH ON THE 12FT PITCH, THE ROPE HAD BECOME THICK WITH MUD AND GLOBED THE POLLEY. DECIDED NOT TO PRESS THE LEFT PASSAGE AS ITS

BECOMING VERY MUDDY, NEEDS A PERIOD TO DRY OUT, STRAIGHT ON CLOSED DOWN AFTER 15m SO WE CONTINUED IN THE RIGHT PASSAGE - IT APPEARS TO BE INCREASING IN WIDTH. LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT TRIP!

NIK NAK.

### 29-July CAIRN HILL

excellent afternoons work at Cairn Hill good progress made vacume cleaner working well to suck out CO2 made a really big difference.

Tony Paul Jane Fi°

### 1st Aug DAREN CILUA HARD ROCK

Tuesday morning the sun came out so packed up the tent mum & the kitchen sink and headed for the Leungattack hills. arrived and was greeted by wall to wall sun. tent put up and a large meal for 2 prepared and demolished in mins. an excellent night camping to the sound of sleep outside - next morning sorted all the kit to go into daren. this time my big thick sleeping bag had to go in bags and persons ready we headed up the hill towards the cave - we pushed and pulled the bags through the entrance then on to hard rock. wow it was a nice meal when we got there enjoyed hot chock and lamb stew meals are always better here. ate up and looked at each other and decided it was time to go prodded back and then had a good few time back through the entrance with the remaining bag. another couple of trips with kit to be done with the Egyptian Cotton LINNIN and feather pillows to the hard rock hotel should then see a good nights sleep at the camp.

Clair & Fiona's

### 4th July 07 Tumbledown

Had an excellent time digging at Tumbledown good progress made at the side passage great company of NIK NAK & Stu

NIK NAK Stu & Fiona

Sat 4-8-07 Swildons.

Quel trip to the 20' via SOW, SOW, taking in rolling thunder.  
I am not very fit! - but at least I got my oversuit clean  
Phil H

5 August 2007 CAIN HILL

Made good progress with the bottom dig 20 bags  
out the hover extractor fan is working very well  
we now have clean air at the bottom and can  
now work for several hours at a time.

Tony & Fiona

7 Aug Swildons Sump 1 Fi

8 August 07 Locket Drop. Steve (New Boy) Watson & Paula to  
check if anything had moved, as the centre area of the  
large depression close-by appears to have sunk further,  
recently. No sign was seen underground of any new  
movement, Bob's lifeline and watched the sky get  
darker. A pleasant evening. Bob S

8 Aug Swildons North West-Stream passage

An excellent trip to North West-Stream the  
muddy wet ear was full of mounds best ever  
mud - nice place

Andy & Fiona

5-8-07

Lost John's

Chris Grant, Rich Stanton, Elizabeth, Martin

Very relaxed & chilled out trip to the 'arm-pit deep'  
bit at the end. Rich rigged, CSG de-rigged. A couple of  
pitches very wet.

6-8-07

Alum Pot (Dolly tubs)

C. GOSWAMI, R. STANTON, Elizabeth, Martin

Cracking shafts of light & lots of water - too much water for a stream exchange, so all down dolly tubs (eventually) & CSG had a go at ripping.

9-VIII-07 EASTWATER HARPRAIN AUSW LES, MAK, LES  
MAK went thrutching with ~~the~~ a couple of LES's !! LES down Eastwater! honest it was even his suggestion!, t'other LES was one of LES's work colleagues who is fairly new to caving so thought we'd show him the delights of harder caving & yogic levitation through boulder chokes.

12th Aug Wigmore Swallow

had an excellent trip transporting diving kit down to the Sump. really enjoyable time dry conditions this cave grows upon you each time you do it. Thanks to Nic'nik and Geoff for ladders. another trip next week for Chriss J to dive. through some of the Sumps. We brought out some dead bottles.

Chriss J, Richard, Duncan, Fiona + 1 out <sup>Perked</sup> Name

Saturday 21st July 2007 - Charterhouse Cave

Ali Moody, Pete Hann, Nigel Graham

This was mainly a cementing session to try to stabilise the top area of the final section before we continue working downwards. Cave very wet and at the lowest point at the end it is now possible to hear a steady trickle of water (perhaps this is Upper Flood coming in as a "drip")  
- apologies to the MCG. Ali

## Tuesday 24th July 2007 – Great Swallet

Ali Moody, Jon Tulling (UBSS)

A trip to investigate how our rivals the UBSS are getting on in Great Swallet and to compare their part of the Charterhouse boulder choke with ours. Great Swallet is extremely choked with boulders and a considerable amount of mud. The UBSS have done an impressive amount of work and installed a large amount of scaffolding to reach a depth that I estimated to be about 45m. They have also found a short length of horizontal passage that leads off about 8m above the deepest point reached. In Charterhouse the ruckle is much cleaner but with considerably larger boulders. We have avoided the use of scaffolding but have used a large quantity of cement. Both digging teams appear to be following a solid, near vertical left (east) wall.

In Charterhouse we estimate that we are now 80m below the entrance, making the height difference between the two digs about 25m (allowing for about 10m in the difference in altitude of the entrances). However, until a high-grade survey of the Charterhouse dig is completed it is not possible to compare the horizontal distance between the two digging sites and it is therefore not really possible to calculate at present which of us is further "down cave".

The Charterhouse site has a much stronger draught and it would be very interesting to carry out a smoke test between here and Great Swallet.

In the near future Jon will be doing a return trip to inspect our dig. Unfortunately as carrying a BDH of sand is now a mandatory requirement, I think that he gained the short straw of this exchange! Ali

## Saturday 28th July 2007 – Warren Farm

Ali Moody plus three MNRC - Dave King, Mandy and Matt Vousey.

General tourist

## Saturday 4th August 2007 – Charterhouse Cave

Nigel Graham, Ali Moody

With a third of the hardcore digging team away on his hols Nigel and Ali did a conservation trip replacing and cleaning tapes where necessary throughout the cave. To prove that we weren't completely slacking we also sieved two rocket tubes of gravel from the streamway and carried them down to the start of the Aragonite Crawl, at the bottom of the Citadel. Ali

18?  
OFD 19/8/2007

Clive Westlake, Andy Judd, Claire Cohen, Mike Thomas.  
First plan: OFD TOP to ONE, Failed high water.

Second plan: CWM DWR to ONE via escape Route -  
Failed at Hash sump where Boulder choke found to  
be under water! All back out CWM DWR, CWM DWR  
Streamway knee to thigh deep in water. Miss Cohen  
with an 'H' cut a feat of climbing on drivers pitch,  
both ways with ease!           

19/8/07 Mole Hole A farmer reported losing the back wheel of a tractor in  
a hayfield at house Ellich Farm, when an unsuspected hole suddenly opened  
up. We were told that the bottom could not be seen! Brian Prewer  
organised a team - self, Barry Wilkinson, Roger Robinson, Brian Pitman, Steve  
Scott and Brenda to investigate. We were a little bit directionally  
challenged, but eventually found the hole, and were joined by  
Richard Carey.

As the two members with heart problems, Barry and I were deemed  
expendable, so we huddled up.

A 4ft diameter hole in loose rock and soil led to a  
rft about 10' down, and we landed on a pile of loose mud, rock and  
twigs. The N. end of the rft was carefully packed with small  
stones. At the bottom, a too-tight extension of the rft (heading  
about 10° to the W) went on for about 6ft. The 18" rft opened to  
the N into a 4' wide "chamber" about 10' high, roofed with loosely packed  
rocks. The rft continued for about 25 ft from the bottom of the shaft,  
ending in a vein of mineral - calcite with ochre.

There were pick marks in the walls, but no shot holes. On the  
right hand wall of the chamber there was a cup-shaped stemple hole,  
and opposite and a little higher, a rectangular slot cut about 1/2" into  
the ~~per~~ rock.

Photos were taken, and we exited in a shower of debris. The hole  
will now be filled.

(article in journal to follow)

Phil H

18/08 - SWILDON'S - SIDCOT U TUBE.

Return trip to Sidcot U tube to collect a previously Staked 3ltr cylinder, Mud sump was low (6" airspace), cave very busy with several groups passed en-route.

Trip time 1.5 hours.

Sto.

Cwm DWR 18-AUG-07

Had an excellent trip into Cwm Dwr went to escape route Failed at Hush sump bolder check along with cave Andy chair mine so went out back Via Cwm Dwr a cracking trip.

Stuart France & Fiona

OFD 1 19-Aug-07

Went into OFD 1 up the toast Rack and along lots of flow shoe passages then down a climb into stream way back up the climb and had a rite about photos.

Geoff (mcf) Fiona & X 3

19/08. OFD. - UPPER GREAT OXSW SERIES.

A FIRST FOR BOTH OF US - ALWAYS THE BEST TRIPS, A BIT OF SURVEY, ROPE, SLING AND CROSSED FINGERS!

- INTERESTING TRAVERSALS AND DROP DOWN TO PICK UP THE FIXED LADDER (WITH "FLOATING RUNGS"). GENERALLY TOP TRIP - OUTRAGEOUS ~~TRAVELS~~ TRAVERSALS, CLIMBS AND PRETTIES. WORTH DOING (HOBS) GEOFF & NIK NAK.

Little

Wed 22 Aug <sup>^.</sup> Crapnells Cave

had an excellent trip down Crapnells quite dry  
Conditions What a cracking little Cave  
Charlotte, Richard, Fiona

SAT 25th Aug DRYNAN

An excellent Boulder Hopping trip into Drynan went into  
Glowen passage. mega drive a visit to a place very  
near the surface through a choke than other places.  
This place is quite interesting it's either hours of boulder  
hopping crab walking traversing that seems to  
last ages before the next type of movement and  
Fun all day trip.

Stuart France (Whitewalls) &  
Fiona

Sun 26th Aug Darren Cilva

Well this was a short trip into the second entrance  
of Darren after some crawling arrived at a  
very sumped sump. Lots of bailing and more  
bailing did not lower the water enough to  
go through. So came out. |

Stuart France & Fiona

Swildons, Rolling Thunder

27<sup>th</sup> August.

Aubrey, Jude & myself, down Rolling Thunder to  
drill and bang the end. The shattered rock at the  
end made for interesting drilling but eventually two  
satisfactory & half metre shot holes were produced.  
Thanks to Geoff and Shupot for clearing previous  
debris, and Anton for carrying the drill down.  
Hopefully extensions will be found in time for  
the second edition of the Swildons Book Adrian Volk 135

## 28th Aug Swildons Short Round

had a good trip with Rich C doing Round trip.  
Fiona & Richard C

## 29th Aug Thrupe Lane

had a cracking trip down Thrupe its a cave that has its own character one large ~~is~~ RIFT.

I enjoy this cave every visit Went down Marble Streamway Will have to do Atlas soon

IAN Charlott & Fiona

## 1st Sept 07 Short Round Trip

This trip allways provides and excellent Run about all the Sumps wide open Sump are good as ever

Richard C & Fiona

## 1/9 Charterhouse Cave

Solo trip to finish an ~~effor~~ relationship with a boulder, every time i gave it a Cuddle it would slide away. Gave it a tickle with a drill bit then a Slap with a snapper, now we have Split up - until the next one  
Peter H.

1-9-07. Swildons Hole A genative team consisting of Bob Pyke, Ken Dawe, Kevin Malone, Paul Allen, Pat Horton, Nick Hart, Jim Giles, Tim Reynolds and Noel Cleve entered the ~~unknown~~ forgotten recesses of the cave, joined by Charlie Reid - Henry (lifeline), Jeremy Horton (Pat's son) and Phil Hendy, to lend tone and reduce the average age.

Down to the Old Grotto via the Short Dry Way, and on to the Twenty. Three returned to explore the Upper Series, and the rest, after a long wait behind a party of wege, descended the 20' and

made it dry over the Double Pots, via Barnes loop to Sump I, where we watched the wege dive through.

We made our seventeenth way back via the Inland Rift to the 20', where Jeremy entertained us by falling off, and having to be hauled up. A good 3<sup>rd</sup> trip. After hot showers, replacing colostomy bags, and the application of various haemorrhoid creams and ointment (do not get these mixed up!) most of us repaired to the Queen Vic for victuals and rehydration therapy.

We darkened the Vic doors again that evening, when the party was joined by Jim and Andrea Hamwell, Fred and Andy Davis, Brian and Brenda Prewer, Doug MacFarlane and Jim and Nick's wives. A good time was had, then the party split: some to visit the Hunters, the rest to deplete Mr Prewer's Malt Reserves.

Sun 2-9-07

The group, less the Hortons, were led by Jim <sup>Hamwell</sup> on a walk from Cheddar Head to Paddy, via Middle Dam Drive Swallit, Front Slights and Westbury Fort. How conveniently the Queen Vic is situated for the relief of weary travellers!

Phil H

6-9-07

Wooley Hole

Chris Gosart, Chire Westlake

Both divers trying out new torches & doing some housekeeping. Dived from 3 to 22 and back via shallow route. Very pleasant & good viz 10m +.

7-9-07

Porth Yr Ogof

Chris Gosart, Chire Westlake.

Up to no good again, continued laying line upstream from where CG left off in May. Ran out of line, ran out of air, so came home! Job well done, to be continued. Conditions very good.

5-Sept Daren Cilua

Had an excellent trip to Hurd Rock with Clair C  
For lunch got through the rest of my dry kit  
to the camp in prep for my first sleep over  
Fiona & Clair C

8.9.07 Perth Jr Ogd.

Training dive for Ems, Madghil, Clare Cohen & John Manely with designated  
grown-ups Mike T & Jon B. Good trips had by all & with good vis.  
Ems

09/09/07 WOOKEY HOLE - VARIOUS TRIPS

CLARE COHEN, MIKE THOMAS, JOHN MANELY, JOHN BROWN  
CHARLES NEED, CLIVE WESTRAE.

VARIOUS TRIPS UNDERTAKEN MAKING GOOD USE OF THE  
SUPERB VIZ. (10 METERS IN PLACES). MYSELF & MIKE  
DECIDED TO DIVE FROM CHAMBER 3 TO 22. I HAD BEEN  
WELL INFORMED OF THE SLIP SLIDE BODY FORWARD APPROACH  
TO ENTERING THE WATER @ CHAMBER 3. I DID TRY, BUT  
FAILED LOSING HALF A TOOTH IN THE PROCESS BUT AT  
LEAST IT'S A BIT STRAIGHTER NOW. OK LET'S DIVE,....  
NO WAIT ANOTHER SMALL PROB OF MIKE'S HIP HOSE  
BLOWING.... THAT SANTED.... NOW LET'S DIVE, & WHAT  
A DIVE IT WAS. SUPERB VIZ & GOT TO SEE REEF 1  
HADN'T DIVED BEFORE + LAID A FEW ROCKS IN PLACE  
FOR FUTURE LINE LAYING PROJECT.

CHANNÉ

## Woody Hole

03-Sept 07 did some line Laying through the Resurgence with John excellent Vis. until I pulled the sump back out with me : John W & Fiona

## Wigmore Swallet 9-Sept-07

Had an excellent trip helping Stu & Chriss J get there dive kit down to the sumps. This cave is one of Mendips best gives a really good days caving Stu & Chriss had a very successful time diving the up and down stream sumps.

Stu Chriss, J Andy Richard Ian & Fiona

## Hunters Lodge Insink Wed eve

A nice trip down Hunters Lodge to inspect the fixed aids, Jane & Fiona

## 06-09-07 Charterhouse Cave.

Pete Hann, Nigel Graham. Short trip to carry sand down the cave, including sieving sand / gravel from the streamway, & to assess next move ... on-

15-0-97 PH, NG, Ali Moody, Pete Moody - get more sand & cement in, 3 bucketfuls of mortar placed in boulders in what is now a pitch within the choke.

- PJ

## Stoke Lane Shocker

15/09/07 - AFTER A TRIP TO SWILOONS Sump 1, RICHARD CONN (NEW CAVER) FELT GOOD & READY FOR A BIT OF PAIN & MISERY BY THE NAME OF STOKÉ LANÉ SHOCKER. RICHARD, AS OF ALL EIGHT OF

US ENJOYED ~~OUR~~ TIME ~~ADVERTISING~~ OURSELVES INHERBY.  
WENT A GOOD LOOK ROUND PRINCESS CHAMBER (GASTO)  
TOOK SOME PICTURES THEN BACK AND IN TIME FOR  
LAST ONIONS. NOTED AT ENTRANCE NO STREAM WHAT SO  
EVEN (2 WEEKS WITH NO RAIN).

CLAIRE

CLAIRE C / DAVE E / RICHARD C / BRUCE / DANNY / PAUL F / PAUL

### 15-9 J-H derbyshire

had an excellent trip down JH for some SRT  
First time down there a very impressive passage as you  
slide down it seems to just keep going the walls  
of the passage were really interesting only did part  
of this trip as only have limited SRT skills.  
did a little caving at the bottom then climbed the  
Rope out - Jim Lister Fiona Richard

Jim & Richard continued on further and came  
out much later

15-9 Holme bank a very pleasant swim exploring  
most of the passages, excellent vis. as always  
Fiona

### 16-9 Peak Caves

Today's work was transporting scaffold clamps  
through buxton water sump. was hoping to  
continue on to ink but not enough air in bottles  
to continue. excellent trip.

JIM L & FIONA

18-9 SWILDONS. DUMP 2A - THE CRAP TRAP.

A NEW DISCOVERY IN SWILDONS BY THE DISE LINE JOOT ~~BE~~ BEFORE DUMP TWO.  
NIK NAK NOTICED A POSSIBLE INLET ON SATURDAY WHEN VISITING THE SWAMP  
TO PICK UP A BOTTLE. ADRIAN VDP, GEOFF B AND NIK NAK MADE QUICK WORK  
REMOVING A RATHER SMELLY ORGANIC SILT TO REVEAL A SMALL SUBMERGED  
PASSAGE. HEAD FIRST UNDERWATER DIGGING IN COLD ZERO VIZ IS AMUSING!?!?  
WILL INVESTIGATE FURTHER, 7 FT OF PROGRESS SO FAR

NIK NAK.

19/9 Swildons 20 - Charlotte, Claire, Jude, Rick  
ladder + rigging practice trip down to the 20. Good to be  
back Wed night caving.  
Claire.

<sup>sed</sup>  
23/9 Wigmore Swallett

had a nice tourist trip down to wigmore it was James first  
trip she really enjoyed it cracking little trip.

James & Fiona

29th Sept

Birthday.

Graham Bowden's 70th trip to Sculder's Hole - with nephew Garry, and Phil H to Swamp I.  
A slow, gentlemanly amble over 3h, stopping for chocolate refreshment at the swamp.  
All other parties were going the other way, so they did not hold us up.

Phil H

29th Sept 07 DYO

Had a really nice time IN DYO went through the Green  
Cannel then did some exploring of the other parts of the  
Cave completed the Round trip. This trip is always  
a real fun place to Cave

Stuart France & Mad FIP

30TH SEPTEMBER 2007 - GIB LADDER DIG. BIG STUART LITTLE & HATSTANT.

Really nice lit' trip to But Passage. Found a large group had just rigged the ladder & very kindly let us through first... Fun trip. But Passage really really nice, Stuart now wants to go back with a camera!!

30/9/07 - Stoke Lane Stocker III & IV Clive W. & Emoy.

Dived through 2 & had a look around III & IV. Left 8 x 2kg weights & 1 x 3kg at the home side of 2. Thanks to Clive for a nice dive.

3rd OCT 07 Lower Fault Chamber

Had a great trip with Rich C Andy & Jude. We went down Lower Fault Chamber and laddered it. We bailed for 30mins in readiness for our trip on Sun to Water Cate really looking forward to Water Cate as not been before.

Andy, Rich, Jude Mad Fi!

5-OCT 07 Swildons Short Round

Had an excellent trip with Jane to get the weekend off to a good start nothing like a good Friday night trip to

Jane & Fiona

1-Oct-07 - OFDI → top.

Ian Timney, Michelle Frost, Katie Frost, Louise Frost, John Hurst, Peter Hurst, Peter Jenkins, Cookie, Les, Hatstand, Iknown, Andy Morse. Finally met at SWCC, a late start as Timney had to be dragged out of bed. Split into 3 groups and had an excellent trip OFDI to top through the streamway. Time 6 hours.

29-09-07 } SWILDONS { Ali Moody & cast of lots!  
06-10-07 } BOAT-RACE }

29th: Installing pipe along original Water Rift from the Water Chamber, to put water over the Old Forty-Foot Post. Impressive even though flow through pipe less than that still using the post-1966 Flood course.

05-10 (Friday evening). Installed rope & wood-runged ladder on the original pitch, and the Dragon's Head ~~gargoyles~~ gargoyle Ladders by Tommo. Head sculpted by Phil Henty.

06-10 (Morning): Ali & Keo. Hinton ~~fixed~~ <sup>toned</sup> the plumbing.

" (Afternoon) About 60 Boat Race participants, <sup>(WCC + guests)</sup> assembled on Prielly Green in assorted caving & nautical/piratical fancy-dress for photo call prior to launching themselves down the Dry Ways & their boats into the entrance pool. Winning boat in Water-Chamber: Aubrey Newport's. Many sampled wet descent of the Forty.

Excellent hot meal @ Upper Pitts, courtesy of Jon Williams and Brenda Prewer.

Two-hand each skittles in New Inn - 3 highest scores Ali and Nigel (15 each) and Pete -? (MNRCC?) 19 by (12) + 7. Ali & Pete played-off, the guest won.

\* The pipe is still in place, the ladder will be put back, for the Dinner w/e.

An excellent event thoroughly enjoyed by all!

- Nigel

## 7-OCT 07 Watergate (Swildons)

Well I must say this is the best trip in Swildons I have done in a good long time. We pre-laddered Lower Fault & bailed it on Wed eve. Today the water level had stayed low. We started out went down blue pencil dropped into the Stream Way and had a look at 4 then headed up Watergate. What an excellent entrance up a narrow rift then into a slot. Continued then hit a sharp right turn then we stumbled into ~~Surprise~~ <sup>Pool</sup> Christening duck. We bailed for about 10 mins then took the plunge. Nice duck then some more warming around to Sargang this brought a few smiles to our muddy faces. Then into clabble ducks those were great. Then Spectable duck it sure was a Spectable then the long duck taking all the mud with us then some more bailing of the Sump. This was interesting my lips kissed the Roof and my eyes saw water some very slow movement and was through then all the others slid there way forward enjoying every minute of it. Covered in thick glutinous mud from head to toe in your eyes mouth and every other hole that you could think of you cannot escape the mud. Then we slid up into Lower Fault the ladder now inviting us to climb mud and all our up safe and well. Then headed off to the Streamway for a very well earned wash. continued on and headed out into daylight. Looking forward to doing this again very soon.

KEV, Andy, Richard, Fiona

Wookey Hole

6<sup>th</sup> October

Jon Beale, John Mancey and Clive Westlake went to 20, which duly impressed John on his first visit here. Pleasant diving conditions with 5-6m visibility.

Thruppe Lane Swallet

7<sup>th</sup> October

Clive Cohen, Emma Heron, Mark Kellaway, John Mancey, Clive Westlake. We went down the usual way, Perseverance Pot and Marble Streamway, then down Slither Pot - all good practice for John who was doing his first rigging trip. 3<sup>3/4</sup> hrs. Excellent apples in the orchard at the entrance.

### 10th Oct Short Round Trip

Had an excellent Jog Round the Round Trip with Andy. Made good time at 1h 40min a Reuley nice little trip for a wed night. Just hits the spot. Keeps you fit, it's fun, sporting, keeps your kit spick & span. You get your share of the mud but then it's all off as you get your free wash through Sump 1.

A hop skip & jump and you're out looking up and the moon if you're lucky it's not raining then back to the hut for a special brew of tea good old TeHey Cavern.

Andy & Mad Fi<sup>o</sup>

13th Oct. Longwood - August.

Second Saturday trip. Went down to chamber and had a look at the waterfall climb. Then carried on downstream until where it degenerates into crawling.

Had a look at two side-passages, and also went up the upstream passage. Then opted not to take the wet way out. A great sporty trip, ~~Met~~ two other groups as we came out.

Colin Charles (leader), Pete Smith

15/10/07

15/10/07 Please note that on Tuesday nite (after the pub) Mr Scammell and Mr Weston sr. practice their respective musical instruments in the large set upper Pitts. There is no change. JW

13 OCT 2007 Darren Cilua

Had an excellent time in Darren today we went to visit other parts of the Cave. We headed to the time machine then to the meeting room through Nameless Canyon onto Aggy passage then Half mile Passage then headed to Western Fly over to visit the old Camp back into Bonzi Streamway to Crystle oxbow continued up to the water pipe and to the end. It was excellent to visit new parts of the Cave a really nice trip even better as had no large tackle bag to carry.

Adrian Forcett, Fiona

Pierre's Pot

17 OCT Pierre's Pot

Had an excellent trip down Pierre's this Cave provides excellent entertainment its got the lot from all the small bits to the climbs and the prittys very nice all round trip.

Jonathan, Andy and Fi

17/10/07 Crook's Hole dig. I think the dig has taken on a whole new meaning for Steve (Not digger at pit bottom), as he came up looking more like a gargoyle than any gargoyle I've seen. Luckily Pete the winch and Bob the dumper got off lightly with minor soiling of the hands, but we smile and keep going.

Bels S

13/10/07 CHARTERHOUSE CAVE.

Ali, Pete H, Nigel : stabilising only - more mortar! Ali's birthday, so cake with candles, in Singing Stal Chamber.

Built up appetite for Ali's birthday meal in the evening - complete with superbly well cake brought along by Kev. Milton.

(Horse & Jockey @ Binegar).

*RF*

20/10/07 Maurice with Simon and a Camp Borrowed from Thomas to Swildon to view alpine engineering. Good to see water pouring over the ~~40~~ again. Wall seems just like yesterday. When we went down that pitch with carbide and gun suits

20/10/07 STONE ANE SLOCHER , JOHN MANLEY, CLAIRE COHEN



A trip into Stone to go a little further than previously. Wrestling our gear to Sump 2 we made reasonable time. We did get a little confused in a choke en route. We geared up a dived sump 2 with a single 3 CTR bottle. We admired the pellets just beyond 2 and made our way downstream. We ~~quite~~ eventually made it to sump 6 before heading home.

Having a poke about on the way out saw us out with a trip time of 4.5 hrs.

21. 10. 07. SWILDONS - Sump 1. BISTU. CLAIRE, KNOXME, <sup>BEX</sup>~~BECCAH~~, HATSTAND, NOEL, "Blow-away-the-night-before" trip to sump 1 using the 40 rope rig. First Swildons for Bex (and only for second ever caving trip, following a goatshead). Gopal & Kev "inadvertently" jumped the 40 queue but by their own <sup>books</sup> got stuck "2 way down the 40 when big Stu got the lifeline jammed. They had luck! At Sump 1 big Stu & Knoxme did a sump down, but a vent party appeared from ~~the~~ Swildons 2 as we watched. Cave nice and wet

and overall a very trip a hopefully will see lots of  
Bex in the future. Noel

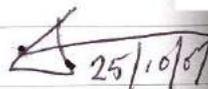
21.10.07 Swildons Sump 2. Kev, Simon, Cochie  
Quick trip to clear the hangover. Went via the old 40  
which was rigged with rope ladder and took the  
diverted ~~stream~~ Great to see the 40 how it was.  
You could see how it used to be a major obstacle -  
wet and windy. I failed to follow Kevin down the  
small tube that by-passed the pitch and found  
myself on the ladder at the front of the queue.  
Sorry lads - it wasn't intentional.

22-10-07

Agen Allredd - Grand Circle, clockwise.  
Clive Westlake, Chris Gossett, Denny Lloyd, Katrina<sup>Hankins</sup>, George  
Taylor, John Biffin.

Did the trip backwards, for a laugh. Bit more 'up' than  
expected & various human totem-poles & stings deployed.  
Did trip in reasonable time until CSG got a pounding  
headache & felt rather unwell - never had this problem  
going the other way -----

C.S.G.

Excuse Me Fi  25/10/07

(See p. 149)

27th OCT ST Davids Sump (Daren) Hard Rock Cafe

Had an excellent trip into Darren to take a look at  
ST Davids and Terminal Sumps. Stopped off at Hard Rock  
for lunch then took a look at the Sumps. The water was  
very peaty stained quite impressive sump pool. On the  
return I replaced one of the fixed ropes on the climbs.  
It was quite chilly in the cave today. It was a really  
good trip.

Fiona & Andy S

(See p. 148)

25/10/07 Kingsdown Quarry (Swan Mine) Bob S, Graham Bowden  
Graham's Brother, & Brother-in-law. In June 2004 Carmen & Bob  
cleaned newly spray painted 'dashes & dots' from every 20 paces  
of the passage walls; one afternoon's work, 2x wire brushes, and  
none has come back. It's a pleasure to walk round somewhere  
that doesn't resemble a public lavatory i.e. Box Mines.  
A good wander round all the spots of interest and a  
pint in the Swan, on a nice day. twas good. Bob S.

3rd Nov Cain Hill 91 Bags Halted, out, dig making  
good progress

MIKE W. DUNCAN B. ~~And Fi~~

03-11-07

03-11-07 Charterhouse.

Ali, Pete H. Nigel. Another 4 loads of mortar holding Mendip  
together. Pete had worked out this was the 19th digging  
session this year, and about 121 since starting the dig!

"We are not as young & flexible as we used to be" -

Mel C quoted recently in The Sun, about the Spice Girls  
worried if their "ageing knees" are still up to their dance  
routines. Ah, poor old dears - give 'em each a tub of  
sand to carry down Charterhouse, says I, that'll sort  
'em out. I'm old enough to be Mel C's father!

Hopeful  
Sugar Daddy - Nigel

3.11.07 Bob S, Tina, Steve, Devan + Jordan Scott + Alex Hall.  
Browns Folly.

Fantastic trip, a first for the 3 boys. Got to  
prop chamber and the well. Very little sign of spray  
painting thanks to Bob and the Weston Bros. Met two  
others who also spend their time cleaning and  
clearing. Spotted 4 bats too!!  
(1x Lesser Horseshoe, 1x Long Nosed, 1x Spotted & 1x Cricket) BS. Tina. 149

4th Nov Wigmore Swallet

An excellent trip to help Criss take some diving kit down to dwe base.

Chriss J, MAD Fi°

7/11/07

Not usually one for writing in books, but am off down cuthberts in a minute, with Vern, so am starting to get a little nervous! Bif

A couple of hours later were out in one piece, and to be fair it should be noted that Vern is still fairly agile.

7.11.07

Swildons, Jonathan, Jay + Andy. Jay's first trip to Swildons  
2hr trip to sump 1 and back. Very enjoyable!

7-NOV 07

CAIN HILL 93 Bags of Spoil Removed  
Paul B, Siss, Tony, Mike W. MAD Fi°

9-11-07

Swildons 12

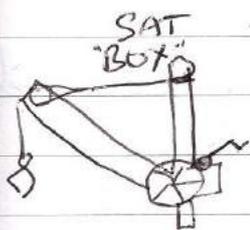
Clare Cohen (her idea!) Kevin Hilton, John Moneely,  
Christine Gossart, Mike Thomas.

Clare, Chris + Mike took cylinders to sump 2 the night before, assisted by Duncan Price.

All straight to 12 + the end in good time. Steady return journey. Excellent curry afterwards thanks to Clare. Good trip.

10-11/11/07- DARKPLACES & 2 DAYS TRY CAVING WEEKEND

ORGANISED BY CHRIS DAVIES (root)



SAT — SPEED ROUTE MARCH AROUND BOX MINES  
CORSHAM. IN AT 1130PM, JACKS ENTRANCE,  
ALAN NUTS LOOP, TT, QTR, TOWARDS BIZ TO  
ROBOTS, TAKING IN THE GRILLED MOD AREAS AND  
KNOCKING ON DOORS. HEADED FOR WESSEX STORE  
STAIRS THEN ~~SEE~~ X-DEADS TO SEE OLD PICTURES  
UP TO THE WATER TANK AND BACK DOWN TO CATH.  
OUT AT 3.30am. 7pm WE ARRIVE AT THE WCC

"SWILDONS"

HUTCH AND HEAD DOWN SWILDONS FOR ~~AND~~ AN  
INTRODUCTION TO WET CAVING. BACK OUT FOR  
10pm AND HEADED TO THE HUNTERS FOR FOOD  
AND LOTS OF BEER. WALKING BACK AT AROUND  
MIDNIGHT WE WERE COLLECTED BY COOKIE  
AND TAKED TO THE BEC HUT FOR AND EXTENDED  
PARTY. WE DRANK MORE BEER AND LEFT AT  
ABOUT 3am. 3.30am SAT IN THE WESSEX COMMON  
ROOM DISCUSSING SLEEP, SLEEP ABOUT 4am.



SUNDAY.

WOKEN AT 10am BY OTHERS ARRIVING, BREAKFAST,

"GOATCHURCH"

LEFT FOR GOATCHURCH AT 11.30am. A BRILL  
TRIP WITH CRAWLS AND DRIPS I SHOWED EVERY-  
ONE THE COAL SHUTE WHICH WE DID A FEW TIMES  
FOR A GIGGLE AND THEN WAITED IN WATER  
CHAMBER FOR 15 PEOPLE TO PASS THROUGH, THEN  
HEADED DOWN TO THE DRAIN ~~PIPE~~ PIPE. ONCE  
EVERYONE HAD CRAWLED IN I SHOUTED FOR THEM  
TO COME BACK AND SO WE HEADED BACK  
OUT. GOOD TRIP.



POB'S LOVE  
HEARTS

- Great trip, thanks to root. Sure I'll be back. Winchester
- Cheers to root for re-joining the group. Brilliant days - Hairy.
- Excellent days thanks to root and the  
Wessex for the hospitality - "Summerman".
- Great weekend. Will be back for a revisit. Thanks to  
Root and the rest of the gang. - POB.

WT

10/11/07

Slaughter Stream Cave.

Ben Sanderson and Terry Waller -  
took advantage of low water conditions and  
went straight down to Sump three. Good  
sighting of a cave trout in a pod just  
before Dryslade Passage.

14-NOV GB LADDER DIG

Had an excellent trip to Bat passage

Really nice pike very pretty.

Andy, Jay, Guy, Rich, Jule, ~~AAAF~~FP

16-XI-07

Rhino Rift.

Christine wanted to rig a substantial pot without a queue of impatient SRT enthusiasts offering contradictory advice. Despite bats roosting everywhere, we sorted out the first three pitches (left hand route) having no problems with the infamous bolt. On the way down Clive sat around doing not a thing whilst Christine rigged efficiently, but on the way out had to do all sorts of crippling tasks like undoing maillons, stuffing ropes into bags and even carrying said bags up pitches. Pleasant relaxed day, but it might lead to Diccian Pot, Growling Hole, Rat Hole and worse. 3 1/4 hrs Clive

17-XI-07

Swildon's Hole

Kevin Hilton, Bob Toogood (Elson PC), Dan Hibbett (Elson PC), Stuart Gardiner, Clive Westlake.

First the Long Round Trip and then the Short Round Trip; 5 hrs and a few minutes - not for the fainthearted. Clive.

Darren Cilia Prices entrance Sat 16-Nov

Had an excellent trip into Darren, we started off at Prices entrance Baildill for 40 min passed easley then headed down Busmans Holiday down a few Rope climbs on to the Antlers then to within Oxbow through Epocalypse way to the end chokes we then headed for Big chamber no wave nr the ent then did man in the roof to the climb down then back to big chamber and out through the main entrance

Adrian F & Mad Fi°

21st Nov <sup>Swildons</sup> ~~Roundtrip~~ ~~Wed eve~~ ~~Wed eve~~

Had an excellent trip today ~~at the~~  
no Bailing needed

Rich, Andy Jay, Mad Fi°

23 Nov Brown's Gilly Mine Weston Brothers & Mr. Scammell. No real reason

24 Nov <sup>Swildons</sup> Roundtrip + Blue pencil passage Sat

AN excellent trip down Blue pencil passage to Visit 4 & had a look at Sump 3

Serena, Steve, Sarah, Mad Fi°, Jay, Rich,

25 Nov Ashwick grave Rising Middle

Re looked at this site today. I was met by some large boulders and rubble in the entrance to the passage underneath that continues. I dug removing some of the many boulders for about 30 mins until my little bottles would yield no more - Really pleased. I think after a few more visits and boulder pushing & shoving I will be able to continue along the passage Excellent stuff

Graham P, Chrissy P, Mad Fi°

25 Nov Withybrook

My first visit to Withybrook today had an excellent digging

Withybroad Continued 25 Nov

Trip. I was quite surprised this cave is quite big with all the new passages that are in there, its like one massive bolder choke very sharp and small. Just my type of cave. It certainly has a lot of potential  
Chrissy P. Graham P. Mad Fi<sup>o</sup>

28<sup>th</sup> NOV LIONELS HOLE

1h 20 mins really enjoyable caving tonight lots of mud and squeezes very interesting muddy puddle at the bottom came out very muddy.

RICHARD FIONA GUY JAY.

Dec 1st Sudden's Hole

Solo trip - long dry to water chamber, out via short dry, to take some photos. Pleasantly wet, and I had the cave to myself. lovely!  
Phil H.

1-DEC CRAIG-A-FFYNNAN

Had an excellent trip into Craig Fyn on Sat went through the first bolder choke then through second bolder choke this choke was excellent very well formed then through travertine passage then long crawl through the 4th bolder choke on to the promiss land helped replace some bolts for the ladder pitch. then headed into delicate passage the stall is so white and very nice. An excellent trip with elements of caving involved a very well decorated cave

Adrian F & Mad Fi<sup>o</sup>

## Eastwater Short Round 5th Dec

Had an excellent trip in the delights of eastwater  
did Round Trip Men in Reverse. Looked some  
other passages Men went down this excellent  
tight slide. an excellent time

Jay, Andy, Mad Fi

SATURDAY 7th December 2007 50.64 SWILDONS (ADE, JUDE, HAISTAN) (2 STARTAN 1 BEU FOR A BIT)

Swildons was a total clamp today 😊 Water entering through the overflow pipe on arrival, I had FINALLY got my neoflores jam. But so this seemed a fine moment to test it!  
In via the route formally known as the short dry. (Today rechristened the slightly shorter decidedly soggy way. The waterfall as you exit downstream of the water chamber was very exciting simply because you couldn't see where you were going. The 8' drop was very easy to descend, however I have done so in a more controlled manner previously! Jude & I had a lifeline on the 20, then Jude stopped at the double pots - Mark & Ben who had already been to soup I suggested jumping in being best method of descent. Jude decided it was too much like jumping into a washing machine! Ade & I continued via Barnes Loop then Ade went back to keep Jude company while I went down to the soup. It looked like a very lively pint of Guinness (im) & I couldn't find the rope. Getting back up the normally easy climbs was "interesting", rejoined Ade & Jude @ double pots. I climbed most of the way up then Ade said "Have you got a good handhold?" before moving out of the way of the water!! The 20 was easier getting up than down. Didn't bother with line. The 8' was equally sporting! Some silliness then followed while we attempted the route formally known as the wet way - Jude & I both struggled up

the lavatory fan but eventually we were beaten by the water so were quickly "flushed" back to the water chamber & out the way we came in, only now there was white water flowing down Jacob's Ladder!! On exit we used Andy Sparrow and used my Arse as a plug for the pipe - the water very quickly ran over and down the manhole. The neoprene works. ☺

A fabulous trip in some exciting conditions - Hatstand  
PS - Sorry if my nomenclature down Swildons is a bit rubbish & now if only someone would write a book.....

8/12/07. Fred Felstead. Swildons upper series. Good look around, very sporting. I was very surprised to find that, on the way out, I went blind. However, it turned out to be a screwed lamp, the battery of which I hadn't charged for nearly a year. All was well as I had a chemi light stick in my ammo box. They are shite but it got me out and I shall make the Hunters after all!

7/12/07 G3 - HATSTAND, IAN TURNER, PETE (DON'T KNOW HIS SECOND NAME BUT ARRIVED WITH IAN!

A quick Sunday trip to see where the water was to - foam on walls suggested 3 high levels, the highest just at top of ladder dig but probably not enough to sump it. Water today at bottom of ladder. Waterfall very sporting so Ian & Hatstand went over but via a pretty but convoluted route - this was not intentional!

SUN 9th Dec AGGY (South Wales)

Had an excellent trip down aggy today. Went down Southern Streamway then down piracy Road then to the eligs at their end. This is an excellent cave a bit like Darren but larger and much easier caving.

I Loved The Southern Stream passage similar to The entrance crawl in Darren but gentle in comparison. Looking forward to doing the other trips in there.

Adrian F (css) Mad Fi

### 15 Dec PRIDDY GREEN SINK

had an excellent trip down Priddy Green today it was a most enjoyable trip. it was very clean really enjoyed Tin Can ally and CLIT Crawl its definitely the best way into Swildons, its a nice site as you absail into the Sump 3 Stream Way its very impressive. Blue pencil passage is one of my favorite parts of Swildons in its formation. I would recommend this trip its crisp clean and definitely one of Swildons best.

Andy S, ~~NIKNAK~~, Mad Fi

12 Dec 07 Creek's Hole dig. Pete, Steve & Bob S. Its handy that the drop is now around 60ft, as a hastily called **Below! below!! Below!!!** gave Steve ample warning to dance out of the way, as a couple of heavy stones decided not to remain in situ behind the entrance tube and relocate at pit bottom. Later, and a good shower of smaller stones on Steve as he came up the ladder, plus, two more quite large rocks he assisted to free-fall on the way past, has convinced us we need to do a tad reorganisation of our defences. A bit of work needs doing the way on is still straight down.

Please include the following details when you write up your trips. The date. The names of everyone on the trip. Your own name as the writer.

~~Will only get it wrong in the journal's~~  
wenker!

Swinsto 15/12/07 - Stu, Helle, Katie Dent.

My first SRT trip since my "accident", so reluctantly I was slightly nervous. Dropping into the cave the water was icy cold with outside temperatures around  $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Katie rigged the pull throughs & we descended the pitches with few incidents. Arriving at the streamway we decided to venture upstream to have a look at the Rowton Sumps as the other group were attempting to free dive them, although we did not locate them we did find the dive line to "White River Series." We exited the cave around 16:00 & quickly changed into warm clothes, upon picking the websuits up off the road they had frozen & stuck to the tarmac (Cold!!!).

Stu.

Drunkards Hole 19/12/07 Pete Smith + Carm

Trip to survey the cave and take some pics. Length surveyed was 148m, Depth is 36.5m. We also had a look at Andy Sparrow's dig at the bottom, heading east away from the rest of the cave. It looks like a good lead, but very squalid - and it may still need a lot of work.

17th Wooky

Had an excellent dive into Wooky the Vis was great and it was just nice to have a relaxing dive without having to bring out the dihole sump with me. AS you come up into chambers & its a lovely site with clives lights behind me

It LIF UP the passages Really nicely.

Clive W & Mad Fi

19-Dec Throug Lane

Excellent trip down marble streamway craching trip.

JAY & MADFP

### Saturday 17th November 2007 – Charterhouse Cave

Ali Moody, Pete Hann and Pete Moody (Nigel had been given "digging leave" to go to the Craven dinner)

The end dig continues to descend rapidly and we appear to be digging ourselves a pitch. This shaft is now 4m deep, belling out at the bottom and as the floor also has a disconcerting habit of dropping of its own accord it was thought prudent to install a ladder ready at the top – just in case. The left-hand wall of the shaft is solid but all other sides are "cement" supported boulders. A useful session with two buckets of cement used and we are now at the same level as the "inlet" that we could hear several trips back. This can be seen about 3m away to the left of us (in an upstream direction). Although the ruckle is fairly open (but also exceedingly dangerous) in this direction it is not possible to reach the inlet at present thanks to an extremely large and not very well supported boulder. We are not joking when we tell anyone on cement mixing duties in the Ice Box (5m above this Point) that it is not wise to wriggle around too much! Pete M on one of his regular guest appearance seemed suitably impressed with the way that the dig is progressing and stated that the site was worth digging!! Ali

### Saturday 8th December 2007 – Charterhouse Cave

Pete Hann, Ali Moody and Nigel Graham

An extremely wet Mendip with streams flowing in all directions across the roads. Charterhouse Cave was taking a Swildon's winter sized stream – very impressive. The first section of the Aragonite Crawl (from the Citadel to Singing Stal) had turned into a respectable duck with only about 20cm of airspace, which provoked much muttering from Mr Hann who complained that the water was flowing up the legs of his fleece and out the neck! Only a short digging session on this trip but it this interesting that water could be heard flowing beneath us through the ruckle. A new inlet passage was noted near Splatter Chamber on the way out. This was pushed for a couple of metres and a return visit will be made with a lump hammer! Ali

**Please include the following details when you write up your trips. The date. The names of everyone on the trip. Your own name as the writer.**

### **Saturday 15th December 2007 – Goatchurch by Candlelight**

An excellent turnout of approximately 40 people for a candlelight party/festive trip down Goatchurch Cavern. It was great to see so many people enter the spirit of the occasion and the party included a Christmas Fairy and at least 4 Santas. Chris Binding, suitably adorned with flashing antlers was heard to remark that this was the weirdest caving trip that he had ever been on – he obviously hasn't done enough caving with the Wessex! Everyone arrived safely at the Boulder Chamber where Noel and Carm etc had set up a Christmas Tree complete with LED lights. After refreshments many of the party continued the exploration of to the end of the Drainpipe. A very impressive show by the "Bifflets" (Andrew and George Biffin – aged 5) who managed to walk most of the way along the Drainpipe! PS at the end of the Drainpipe, Carm demonstrated her hot wax skills – but you had better ask her about that! – Happy Christmas. Ali

### **Saturday 22nd December 2007 – Charterhouse Cave**

Ali Moody, Pete Hann and Nigel Graham

We now have sufficient room at the bottom of the shaft for two of us to continue with the cementing work. Pete continued with digging on downwards while I finished stabilising the bottom half of the shaft. Nigel on cement mixing duties in the Ice Box. Excellent session with five buckets of cement used. Ali

### **Friday 28th December 2007 – Swildon's Hole – The Oxbows**

Ali and Pete Moody and Richard Carey

After the Forty had been "unplumbed" Pete and I had temporarily stored the pipe in The Oxbows in preparation for an experiment to see what would happen if we filled Lowbow with water. In theory this water could find a route into Renascence but if we ended up permanently flooding Lowbow we didn't think that anyone would get too upset! After much pipe fighting – it is amazing difficult and hard work to manhandle a 40m long 10cm corrugated pipe we were able to run the pipe through the bottom of "Soffe" squeeze, up to Oxbow Junction. We then fed it up the Upper Oxbow to where a dam was built and the pipe plumbed in. The Lower Oxbow looks impressive with a stream flowing down it but unfortunately with the pipe in position and rather blocking the squeeze through the puddle this passable is not really passable at present. A further 20m length of pipe will be needed to get the water down Lowbow and we hope to complete the work in the next few days. Ali

~~24~~ - 12-07 WITHYBROOK SLOCKER - "new" cave and old memories.  
Graham & Chrissy Price, Nigel Graham

Their cave now! Plus a bit of surrounding field the Prices intend as wild-flower meadow.

The entrance is a civil-engineering object lesson. Graham explained to me how the large silt-trap in the swallet stream-bed, built by the County Council decades ago to help the brook drain freely away from the road under which it passes, had silted up. Consequently the cave was full of sediment and rubbish the Prices *et al* are still cleaning out. The trap and culvert are also subsiding, with the stream sinking in a small "side passage".

The cave lies in steeply-dipping bedding-planes across the Black Rock / Vallis Vale Limestone boundary. The main passage descends past entrances to series including a complex, clean-washed, boulder-ruckle, and becomes a strike tube heralded by an elegant, cardioidal cross-section. The Prices and Dave Cooke are currently digging beyond the heart-shaped passage and in the boulders.

Chrissy took me on a 3-dimensional tour through lots of awkward wriggly squeezey boulder bits with greengrocery-themed names, then down the nice phreatic tube bits, and pointed out the many exposed, good fossils, mainly solitary-corals. Graham cleared digging spoil.

It was the first time I'd visited Withybrook Slocker, and I emerged feeling a bit more confident about negotiating unfamiliar awkward wriggly squeezey bits.

We changed at the Cerberus cottage, my first view of the well-appointed new one, although I have stayed at the CSS' old quarry cottage. A poster in their club photo display was familiar to me! It advertised a public film-show given in St. Pierre-en-Chartreuse in 1980, by a local club of their explorations for and within Chartreuse caves. I had watched that same show with my first club, Dorset Caving Group, on what became the DCG's swan-song tour.

Many thanks to Graham & Chrissy for the invitation, tea and toast!



### Saturday 29th December 2007 - Charterhouse Cave

Pete Hann, Nigel Graham, Ali and Pete Moody

Pete H brought up another 20 bags of sand to Upper Pitts and we estimate that this year in Charterhouse that we must have used approximately ½ ton of sand (in addition to what we have sieved from the streamway) and about 6 bags of cement. This was the 24th digging trip of 2007.

Pete M came down to ferry sand and then exited. Pete H started working at the bottom while Ali tried to do some stabilisation just above this point. However a change of plan had to be rapidly adopted when the boulders at the bottom of the shaft, which both Ali and Pete were standing decided to start moving. The cave was quite wet again and we could hear water dripping and flowing somewhere below us. The shaft is now 7m deep and we can see down at least another 4m - watch out Templeton - another 25 years of digging Chill Out Choke and you may have competition yet! Ali

Please include the following details when you write up your trips. The date. The names of everyone on the trip. Your own name as the writer.

Me and me mates done a fantastic trip today.  
Bonesie had a spot of trouble getting past the under and over post squeeze thing — and Charlie lost her pants in the muddy wet bit. All in all was a fantastic trip and can't wait for the next time. F.

26th Dec Joint Hole

Had a Louley dive into Joint hole today really pleasant passages not much vis but still nice.  
Mad Fi & Hillary

C.P.C, K.A.C. Twin Verts exchange trip

Was a bit boring really as no-body did anything really stupid. Didn't get lost ~~and~~ or flooded in and all manner of interesting things didn't happen.

Big C reckons the whole group is close to become expert at this caving lark.

Oh and I wasn't there S.

Today

Me + them down Surlchors playing with water good fun P.

29/12 Fraise to look at noisy passage  
- needs more noise?

Yesterday,

Me, Him, and Older Him down Cave and Shower  
got to dig. Me and Him crowbarred out a larger  
boulder, and were then visited by some more  
Wessex visiting from another system.

Older Him and little Him (who was in the visiting  
party) can't decide whether it is best to dig  
the left or right of the passage. So  
we're going to continue straight up the  
middle and defer any difficult decisions  
to a later date.

—Nova boy—

Same day Frase or Fire Man went  
or made noisy passage very noisy  
for a short time.

**Please include the following details when you write up your trips. The date. The names of everyone on the trip. Your own name as the writer.**

### **Sunday 30th December 2007 – Rod's Pot – Bath Swallet**

Pete Hann, Carm Smith, Ali Moody and Pete Smith

Sunday afternoon bimble to sample the through trip – all very straightforward and easy and the connection point – Purple Pot was descended with a doubled handline. Many thanks to Aubrey Newport, Adrian Vanderplank and Nik Nak, digging in Bath and who had laddered Shower Pot for us. – Very enjoyable trip. Ali

### **Monday 31st December 2007 – Swildon's Hole – The Oxbows**

Ali and Pete Moody, Pete Hann, Richard Carey and Nigel Graham

We took down two more lengths of pipe. A 20m length for extending the Lower Oxbow pipe into Lowbow. The second pipe – 14m was used to take extra water from the entrance chamber and to feed it into the Upper Oxbow catchment. With the pipes in position we were able to achieve a good-sized stream flowing down Lowbow. Some of this water disappears down a small passage on one of the bends partway down Lower Lowbow, while the majority continues down into the final cross rift. Ali then continued to the end of Lowbow to inspect what was happening – everyone else declined the invite to join me (pussycats). I had hoped that the water would find its way through to the base of the pot at the downstream end of Lower Lowbow, but this was dry. More worrying was the fact that the water was rapidly ponding up just outside of the small tube that gives access to the final passage and having no wish to become sumped into Lowbow I made a swift retreat. Note that this body-sized tube is extremely sporting to exit with a stream flowing down it!

In the meantime Pete Hann had continued down the main streamway to check the inlets. He found that a considerably increased amount of water was flowing down the drippy stal that you duck under a short distance downstream of the Eight Foot Drop, and just before the bend with the folded strata. This water was also noted to become muddy. Pete M had detoured off to Water Chamber Dig and found that water was now also flowing into this from a small passage two-thirds of the way down the dig. The new plumbing system was left turned on overnight to see what would happen. PS Stu Waldren exiting from a Sump II trip a couple of hours later reported that there was now a large inlet stream flowing down the right-hand wall (looking downstream) of the main streamway 15m downstream of the strata bend. Ali