



**CAVING LOGBOOK
2013**

Acq. No. **05836**

© Copyright WESSEX CAVE CLUB 2013

31.12.12. Sandford Levy.

Jevan, Jordan, Tina Scott and Sheila Pitua
Phil Hendy

Quick trip to the end and back.

very wet

cave pearls and green man at end.

2013

1/1/2013

Swildon's Hole

Rachael and Stephen.

A cold unsure start for Rachael but the paird us soon got going, exploring every little hook and cranny!

Steve: "Remember what you go up, you must come down!"

Rach: "It'll be right."

Up to mudsump, fun climbing! And then belly sliding. Unsure of St Paul's squeezes but they got done in style!

Mudsump was very full, lots of water in the dry. Rach interested in the bailing techniques at hand and how much effort was going into it. First time coming out into the night sky, not scared of the dark anymore! (St Paul's Grotto is beautiful!)

4 hr trip. Only scary part was coming down the 8ft (for Rach) as Rach had a little freak out by the strong water flow and was calmly put right and told the moves by Steve. (Makes a person strong)

1/1/2013 Gough's Cave

Tina Scott, with Jevan and Jordan, to look at the flooded cave. With Phil Hendy as guide, paddled though to the chimney, well impressed.

plat

2/1/2013 - Read's Cavern.

Pete Buckley, John Cooper, John Giskerne + Ali Moody.

Sand and cement moved from Pipe chamber down to Splash Pot so that John G could start building a retaining wall. A large amount of mud and spoil moved back from the end of the ~~Windpipe~~ ^{Windpipe} Several hours spent lying in a puddle - it is such a fun dig! A how trip.

Ali Moody.

03/01/2013 - Swildon's Hole

Gary Kelly, Stephen Newton, Stephen Muncaster, Rachael McRaham, John Cooper + Emma Gishorne.

Gary, Stephen, Stephen + Emma - went to Sump Two and everyone came out various ways.

Emma Gishorne

4/1/13 - Swildon's Hole

Hadn't really planned on a solo trip but hadn't factored in the idea that all my friends might be working on a Friday afternoon. No matter, caving in Swildon's is like caving with an old friend anyway. Having not been down here for quite a while it was lovely to feel that friendly familiarity with the place. The polished hand & footholds, every swirl & eddy of the streamway & the sneaky handholds on various climbs. Waded round to the mud sump (blocked), then re-traced steps & onwards to sump one, up the landing to the fist of the Double Troubles (blocked) then back sawing a bootful of welly water for the landing slide (yee-hah), I knew PVC suits had a use on Mendip. Up & out & was enjoying myself so much I decided to try my old nemesis, the climb into Barnes Long... victory! I don't often wander up there, after Mr Horsford told me on my first ever trip to rarely go there, to try & preserve what's left of its beauty. I listened, I haven't been to BL for years. Back up the zo (one of those days there'll be no stal left in the ladder-shaped flintstone groove), up the soft drop below the old 40 (must have been feeling strong today as I usually do a big barn-door swing when avoiding high water). Then out via the long dry, except not as I couldn't remember the way, so

back to the short dry way for a speedy exit.
Swildon's mi old badger, it's good to see you again 😊 Emrys Hearn

5/1/13 - Read's Cavern

John Gisborne, Pete Buckley, John Cooper + Ali Moody.

A happy 1½ hrs spent clearing the remaining spoil from last week. Then continued with work at the end of the Wind pipe. JG did some more wall building at the base of Splash Pot. PB broke up and moved the boulders that JC had left at the turning point in the Wind pipe. A large amount of mud removed from the dig face + AM, JC + PB managed to get plastered in the stuff in the process. The stream through the Windpipe had stopped flowing - but it is still a nasty, horrid squalid place. Exited the cave to spend ½ hour washing off in the Read's stream. - 4 hrs.

Ali M.

06/01/13. Swildon's Hole.

John Cooper & Emma Gisborne.

Through Sump 1, looked at step into Approach Passage then up into Vicarage Passage & looked at Birthday Squeeze. 2½ hrs.
Jel Cooper

6/1/13. Spider Hole.

Pete Hawn, Adrian & Duck Udp.

1 mix of cement, 3 rocks capped. Less water than of late!

Adrian

8/1/13 EASTWATER CAVERN

JOHN COOPER, EMMA GIBSONNE, JOHN GIBSONNE

Upper Traverse, Hallelujah Hole, Lower Traverse and
out via Canyon and Woggle Pits. Good flow of water
through the boulders. fantastic trip, especially
for the larger chested! I hear. Phew! John Gibsonne.

09/01/13 Swallow Hole

John Cooper & Emma Gibsonne went & watched Mark & Dean
bailing the dam. They didn't manage to empty it because John &
Emma kept filling it up so eventually they gave up & went out.
John & Emma then emptied it and left everything neat & tidy. 2nd 4hrs.
John Cooper

12/01/13. Spider Hole.

Pete Hann Aubrey Newprot, Neil. Maine Adrian Vulp.

20 buckets + hauled out, whilst Pete continued
building a retaining wall at the top.

One rock capped, but not completely removed,
lots of gaps, between the rocks and lots of draught!
Cementing at the bottom as well!

Adrian,

12/1/13 Read's Cavern - The RATs strike again!
(Read's Assault Team)

Ali Moody, John Cooper, John Gibsonne, Pete Buckley
& Emma Gibsonne.

Usual system, completed clearance of spoil stashed
from last week and then more digging at the end.
Exited the cave to find that it was snowing

Ali Moody. 4

P.S. - For the second week on the run I've knocked my ascent -
no patches possible. Mud, mud, muddy mud & bloody sharp rock is
wrecking my gear. Oh yes - it was also cold & draughty. Pett
(and you enjoyed every minute of it!!).

12/1/13 EASTWATER (2nd SATURDAY TRIP)

Tim Rose, Nic-Nak, Hassland, Richard Carey, Andrea Russe, Wayne Starnes

Entrance way rather damp. Pre-rigged Dolphin Pot + Dolphin Pitch. Then pull through abseil down twin verticles. After some faffing found big bolt at top of 2nd verticle which was ideal for pull-through. All down muddy abseil and up thirteen pots. Some encouragement needed at 'bold step' and bolt all up safely. Tim and I took a detour to Hard Rain Area and met up with the rest at Dolphin Pitch. All out via canyon and Woggle Press. Entrance even damper on way out!

Wayne.

12/1/13 Pictures Kev, Mark, Claire

Pushed the top of the climb in Turtle Chamber and laid line (somewhere between 10 and 15m) in the terminal sump (which is still open).

13/1/13 EASTWATER (AAAH!).

Kev, Claire, Merik, Tim Rose, Mart Nadler, Wayne Starnes

2nd trip of weekend to Eastwater. Upper traverse to Sinter Chimney bypass then down Canyon to 2nd Rift Chamber. Climbed up above entry point and immediately into tight verticle chimney. At top turned down hill to first gleye Stare chamber. 30 foot free climb down into chamber with 40 high curtains and grotto with straws and helictites. Followed down dog tube to 30 foot ladder pitch into 2nd chamber with more impressive curtains and crystal pools. Quick look at Sump and roll out via Woggle press. Top trip and nice to see formations in better

Wayne.

16.01.13 Swildon's Hole - Upper series 13 1/4 hours
John Coope and Emma Gibone went in via Zig Zags - through Long Dry Way + up to Boulders Chamber + into West Crottoes. Then back to Old Crottoes + into Water Chamber - climbed into lower Oxbow and turned right into Lower Lowbow and Upper Lowbow. Proceeded to Lower Oxbow to the tight bit. Then back down to Wet Way + through Lavatory Pan. We then climbed up into Middle Oxbow - turned left ~~at~~^{Oxbow} junction into Bratcombe Chamber. Climbed up wall into tube leading to parallel ~~tube~~ rift. Back down wall & feet first into upper ~~entry~~ ~~into~~ Upper Oxbow. Through rift back into wet way + out.

Emma

17.01.13 GB Cavern. John Coope & Emma Gibone.

Up into Baddey Dig but water level just beyond gate was high so turned round. Out along the Balcony rather than up the climb. 1 1/4 hrs.
John Coope

19.01.13

wootney Hole 3-22 Diver: Mike Thomas
Solo dived from 3 to strong connect Inlet in wootney 22. Flow high and visibility around 4-5m. Dive Lines need some TLC after floods.
In via Deep Route out via Shallows.
Thanks to claire cooke for baby sitting me while I was diving. 

Spider Hole

(Saturday) 19/01/20

Pete Hann NIK Nak Jude & Ade Vdp

Very Snowy landscape, but the roads were relatively clear. We were surprised not to see the Roads digging team, but perhaps it was too cold for them!!! Our Upper Flood trip was cancelled by the MCG! The usual down Spider, Capping, Cementing, & hauling. Hey Ho and down we go.

Adrian.

26/1/2013 - Read's Cavern.

Pete Buddley, Ali Moody, Rich Marlow, Peter Alencar.

Excellent trip ~~was~~ with more work at the end of the Windpipe. Very efficient spoil removal back to the base of Splash Pot, which is now 1.5m shorter! Amazing cold draught blowing through the cave - 4 hours.

Ali Moody.

26/1/2013 - Swindon

Andy Morse, Charlotte Hilton, Vlad Tonercue, Kelly Tryp to the old 40 via long dry way - we ran escaled London before exiting in the wet way & a nice amount of water, but cold. A.M.

26-1-13 Spider Hole

Ade + Jude V.D.P, Nigel Graham, Nick Helsone

A tale of pirates out of the lower Digs. lots of spoil removed even after one of our diggers was spouted away. Capt Hook and her band of reprobates, have Prozent added and the Shaft is now 11.7m deep. Pete fl.

26/01/13 OGOF CNWC

John Cooper, Joe Darbury (Gloucester S.S.), John Newton & Paul Tarrant (Chelsea S.S.). A trip into Basman's Holiday counting bats. 119 Lesser Horseshoes counted. We stopped at the climb down into Antler Passage. 2^{1/2} hours.
John Cooper

27/1/2013 BATH

Ade, Murray, Rich Marlow, Barry W. & Aubrey
VERY wet and cold due to rain and snow
Melt. Water coming out of holes everywhere.
Dig taking lots of water so worth continuing.
Murray applied some rift widening to
give access to more stacking space.

31/01/13 Swildon's Hole (2^{1/4} hours)

John Cooper and Emma Gibbons went to dump the
and mud dump (holes dig completely overflowing).
Emma.

1/02/13 Hunters Hole, Claire Cohen, Michael Thomas
Connor Roe,

Rigging practise to make sure Connor
is ready for Mexico!

2/2/13 Spider Hob.

Jude, Charlotte, Sarah, Tom, Pete Rich M, Aubrey, & Myself
(Barry Wilkinson Sand Transporter).

26 bags of sand + 1 bag of cement taken down
the cave. A good draught today, and two
buckets of cement used at the bottom.
Boulders at the bottom getting larger!

Saturday 2nd February 2013. Upper Flood.

Bob Pete Buckley, Ben Cooper, John Cooper & Ali Moody removed spoil from last digging trip & went through into Neverland. Carried in AND OUT loads of "stuff" that wasn't needed. 5³/₄ hours.

2-2-2012^{3!} Uobster - Driving Michael Thomas concrete Roe. Line laying and lost line drills for concrete. Two 50mm drives in 6°C water Temp. Two cold drives but some good line work from the new boy =). 

3-2-2012^{3!} Rhine Rift. Michael Thomas, Clare Collier concrete Roe. First two pitchis and looked down at 3rd pitch. 

Monday 4th February 2013

John Cooper & Emma Gibbons. Mud Swamp 2 hrs.
John Cooper

{ Tues. 4th Jan 2013. Terry Waller & Derek Sanderson. Her 5 min. Swindon's
Tues. 5th Feb '13 Swindon. Mud Swamp 1hr 45. Very wet!
Waller

Thursday 7th Feb 2013 Swindon's Hole

My First Trip INTO SWINDON, Guided By CHRISTINE.
WHAT A FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE IT! WOULD LOVE TO COME BACK AND SPOT
SOME UNBED

JP Bresser
THE NETHERLANDS

9/2/2013 - Read's Cavern.

John Cooper, Pete Buckley, John Osborne + Ali Moody.

The connection between Zed Alley and Browne-Stewart-Serie had been made on 26/1/2013 but as half the normal team was not present only a quick recce had been made as far as where the stream enters Stream Passage. On this trip we tried to find the sump, but very wet and ~~this bottom section~~ was very choked with cobbles. Then spent a very long time searching through extremely nasty loose boulders looking for the route back up cave towards Lad's Luck. After much fruitless searching we eventually managed to find a section of cave that I recognized and from there the entry squeeze to Lad's Luck. Phase 3 of the Read's Project is now complete!

Complete? It's still tight, wet, muddy, Ali Moody. dangerously loose + (did I mention) tight. I managed to scare myself in the loose stuff + I've come out with bruised ribs + bloody cold. Pete But you enjoyed it!! 3½ hours.

9/2/2013 - MANOR FARM

Darren Chinnery, Jude V.P., Pete Miller, Creek Brown, Aiden Morrison, Ben?, Wayne S., Beth Beerman CURTIS

Rigged entrance with ladder + life line + SRT. All down safely to curtain chamber. Beth, Jude and Ben took bypons and went free climbed waterfall. Streamway very smelly after Albert's King Eye. Air fresher in NHASA gallery. Jude + Ben rested and headed out, the rest struck off for zooclimb extensions. Beth had a moment with a loose boulder and decided it was an omen so returned to NHASA.

Pushed on through mud, boulders and artistic scaffolding. Pete pushed down muddy take but everyone else had ~~man~~ enthusiasm failure except Darren who was 'very disappointed' to have to turn back.

Returned to NHASA and made way out. Took opportunity to wash mud off in streamway, Darren failed to levitate up September Rift so used brute force and the magic words 'fixx', 'cxxx', and 'Baaaa'. Streamway floor very loose between entrance pitch and S Rift. I caused a bit of a collapse and had a moment 'boulder surfing'. All kit thoroughly cleaned back at Hut.

9/2/2013 PRIDHAM'S LEIGH CAVERN

NAOMI SHARP, CLARE COHEN, JOHN VOLANTHEN & JONATHAN PRICE

CC, JV & DP DIVED THE LAKE IN EXCELLENT VIS. (DP SURFACE)
IN PRIM 2 WHILE THE OTHERS SEARCHED THE BOTTOM. MAX
DEPTH 36m. NS CARRIED GEAR^{FOR} STRUTCH (AKA Simon Price)

10/2/13 GB Cavern : Tim, Sas, Mike, Julie

The usual route - down the oxbow up the waterfall with a quick trip to boulder chamber before exiting. A few photo's & video taken en route. A decent stream flowing, however not as wet as expected. Tim.

Tuesday 12th February 2013. Reservoir Hole

Pete Buckley, Nick Chipchase, John Coape, Nigel Cox & Ali Moody
A working trip preparing the cave for the tourist season starting in April. Nick & Nigel added a bracing bar to the platform on the pitch dropping into Frozen Deep. Pete, John & Ali did tapes in Grand Gallery, Topless Area & Reservoir when John Coape

Friday 15th February 2013 - Estimated (2½ hours)
Emma Gibbons and John Coape - water going into the entrance. Upper Traverse-Hallekijah Hole-Land Tunnels then down the cave + took a left into 1st Rift Chamber. Then through crawl into 2nd Rift Chamber. Climbed up

and riggled up a vehicle tube. Then used fixed vehicle
hard line to drop into chamber with broken curtain.
We continued down a flow stone 'tight' crawl into final
 rift. fixed a 10 metre ladder climbed down rift + descended
 into final chamber with pretty sump pools. Out via Waggle
 Press.

Emma Currie

16/2/2013 - Read's Cavern.

Ali Moody + John Coape.

Entered via the new Zed Alley connection and then back up
through Browne-Stewart Series to Lad's Luck. Spent 3 hours
digging out the squeeze into Lad's Luck - but John still
does not fit! 4 hours.

Ali M.

16/2 Spider Hole.

Adie + Jude Vanderplank - Pete Hann

3 buckets of cement and a lot of Capping =
one rock was a right bitch - Rock 10 - Van Plank 0

13/2/2013 - Longwood Valley Sink.

Stuart McManus (BEC), Ali Moody, Rich Witcombe, Chris
North (ATLAS), Bob Cowe (Natural England), Charles Billingham (Somerset-
Wildlife Trust).

Dug out the original entrance* to Longwood Valley Sink
and diverted the Longwood stream down this in
order to stop the water flowing to Black Rock Gate
and then down Cheddar Gorge, which has resulted in the
road being closed for the last 2½ months.

A. M.

* The location of this was remembered by Rich Witcombe

14/2/2013 - Longwood Valley Sink.
Ali Moody, Stuart McManus + Mike Kerby (SWI)

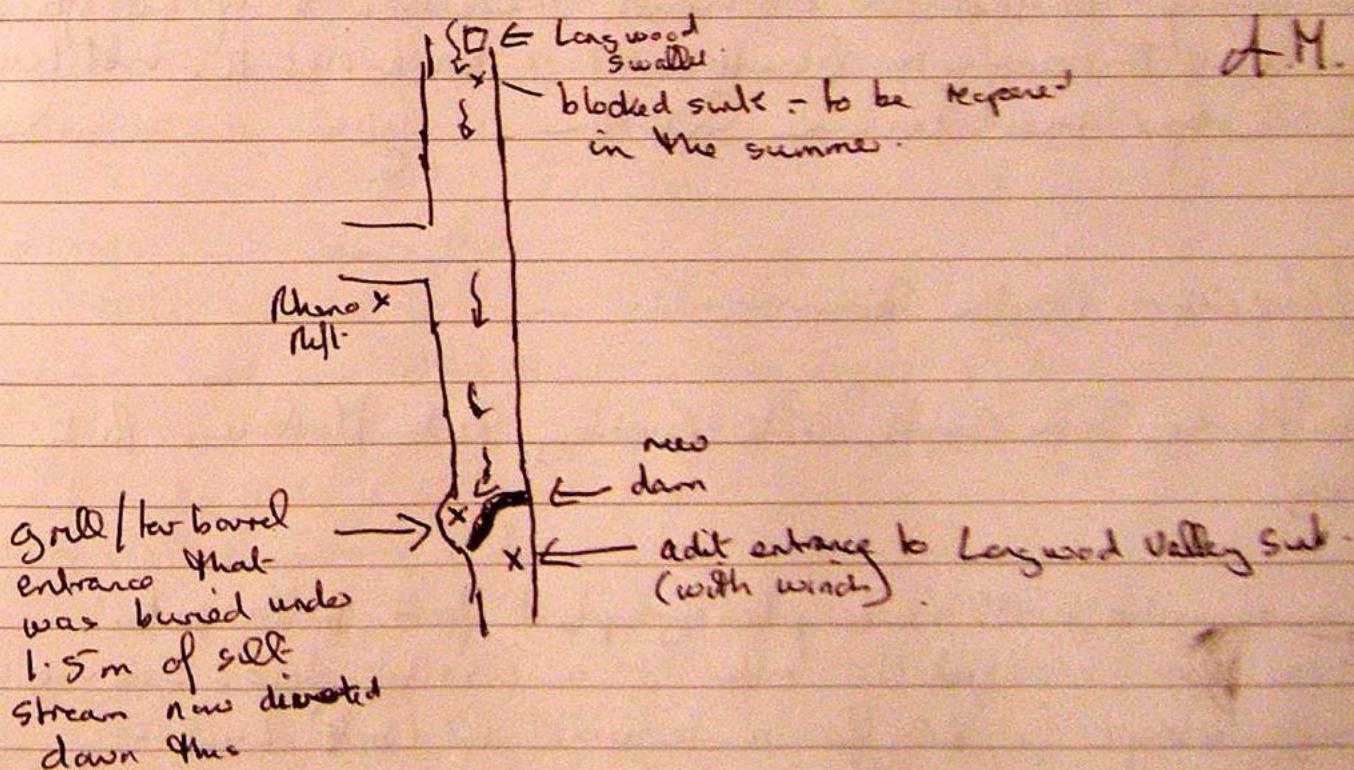
No water flowing out of Black Rock Gate and valley is now dry as far ^{up} as LVS. A 1.5m deep pool has formed above the grill/tar barrel entrance but it is still taking all of the water. Spent a couple of hours reinforcing the dam. All leakage from the dam is flowing down the adit.

A.M.

15/2/2013 - Longwood Valley Sink.
Ali Moody.

Visit to check the dam - this is fine and the water level in the pool has dropped by 10cm.

The Highways Agency have started repair on the George road, so hopefully this will be open again soon.



Sunday 17th February 2013. Smidgen Hole

John Cooper, Emma Gibbons, Tom Gibbons & Barry Wearne.

Spent half an hour building the Mat bags. Will take several more hours to get an air space through 2 hrs.

John Cooper

13

Sun 17th Feb Hunter's Hole
Naomi, ^(new) Gordon, Geoff, John & Rachael (cccc)
A quick trip, lead by Gordon who rigged to the ledge and down Sago Pot rigged by Naomi. Had a look down some holes at the bottom & came back out. Gordon & Naomi derigged and came out to a sunny day for tea & medals at the hut.

Friday 15th SWINDONS.

Scumpl + back Tew & D.Sanderson. Walk start due to diversions at Green Ope.

Mon. 19th SPIDER HOLE (fate bitter end)

(helmet trip) - spent some time gawping. Well done diggers yet again! (h25) Waller & D.Sanderson

Wed 20th February 2012 - Swindon's Hole (3 hours)

Mud Scumpl - braked for 1^{1/4} hours. There was 8" of air space so we went through to Shutter Pot + back out the Wet hole.
John Cooper and Emma Critchmore.

EG.

23/2/2013 - Lad's Cavern.

Ali Moody, John Cooper, Pete Buckley, Rich Marlowe, Rich Carey.

Squeeze into Lad's Luck photographed from both sides. It was then modified to make it a sensible size*. Everyone through except for RC for a tourist of Lad's Luck - same impressive and very different type passage - but still some very nasty boulders. Identified the new dry site and look forward to starting work on this - extremely draughty mft - 1 3/4 hr trip.

* it's still tight!
Took me a while getting through.

Ali Moody

23-2-13 Spider Hole.

Sude Vanderplank, Nigel Graham, John Osborne
3 buckets of cement still going down.

23-2-13

WEYMOUTH SCOUTS (CROPS)

SWILDONS

MARY WILSON (UNCONTACTED) ALICE HOBBS DAVE MARSH YOUNG
MILL ROAD MEVAN DALEY.

2 X VIGINS TO SUMP 1 - 1 TO SUMP 2.

IF I CAN DO IT ANYONE CAN! signed *binding*
SCOUTS CAVE AMBASSADOR (FAT)

24/2/13 Swildon's Hole

John Cooper & Barry Weare. Mud Sump for later bail. 1½ hrs.
JL Cooper

25/2/13 Charterhouse. Mark Helmore, ADS

Pleasant evening trip to Portal, plus sump low water but clearly has been wetter recently. Perfectly charming, will be good to see more come the summer.

28/02/13 Swildon's Hole

John Cooper & Emma Osborne. The magic wand was waved and the Mud Sump is now dry. 2½ hrs.
JL Cooper

26/02/13 Reservoir Hole.

Chris Binding, Nick Chipchase, John Cooper, Tony Bryant,
Nigel Cox & Ali Moody.

Nigel climbed Skyfall again and another 200m of white tape was run in Frozen Deep. 5½ hrs.

JL Cooper

02/03/13 RCAF's CAVERN

All Moody, John Cooper, Pete Buckley, Rich Morton
Photographic and description trip to Browne-Stewart
Scenes. The two John's exited while the others continued
towards Lad's Luck. The horrible climb up and boulder
bridge between the tubes and the over has now been
bypassed by digging out the original scree slope. I (mo)
was also spent digging out the Lad's Luck squeeze. (phew!)
We concluded that the final point that we reached in
Lad's Luck is not the sumpt and will have to dug out
under drier conditions. Another 5 hour suit wrecking cold trip!

All Moody.

02/03/13 G-B

William Reed, Alison Crowther-Smith, Florence Crowther, Lauren O'Neil
Charlie O'Mahoney

Round Trip:- water level low but was told ladder dry
was sumped still so saved it for another day, 2 hr. trip
came out in sunshine, feels like Spring might be
starting.

Sunday 3rd March 2013 Swindon Hole - Sideot U-tube.

John Cooper, Emma Gibbons, Tom Gibbons, Jude Vandepland &
Barry Weaver.

TG to Twenty & SW to start of crawl from bottom of 42 ft rift.
Rest to U-tube amp 2 1/4 hrs.

John Cooper.

Sunday 3rd March - Burrington, Naomi & Duncan

Pierret's Pot - Had a quick look at the rift to see if DP would fit and decided that he would not.

Sidcot Swallet - After braving the man-eating spiders near the entrance we had a good look around. Decided against going down the lobster pot without a hand line but will go back.

Goatchurch - To the drainpipe but not through it and out again.

Quite a few bats in each hole. A pleasant day out.
Naomi

3/3/13 Wodkey Hole Keri + Steve

Gentle bimble from resurgence to chamber 20 with a loop in shallow/deep routes. Dives slightly lacking in lead, lie and worth but it's a dive for the fog boat 04/MAR/ Nael Cleare - quick visit to phoning the fog boat.

5/3/13 EASTWATER Terry Waller & Derek Sinden

To Unlucky Strike. Great little trip.

Tuesday 5/3/13 Reservoir Hole

Chris Binding, John Cooper & Ali Moody

Another taping trip into Frozen Deep. 4 hours

John Cooper

Wednesday 6th March 2013 - Charterhouse (1½ hours)
Mark Helmore, John Cooper + Emma Gisborne went
down and had a look at Splatter Chamber (in chamber
saw stompie and shot hole in boulder on floor).
Continued on down in cascade into Citadel and
then to Grotto of the Singing Stal.

On the way out we looked at the pearls in Citadel
Chamber then drove up into Chiroscuro Passage +
admired more cave pearls. Took in formation in
Midsummer Chamber + looked into forbidden Passage on
the way out

Emma Gisborne

9th March 2013 - Swildon's Hole (2 hrs 6 mins)

John Cooper, Rich Carey and Emma Gisborne caught
up earlier party of 12 at Greasy Chimney. Then
had a chat to all the people going down Blue Pencil.
Carried on through the tumbler (without having to bail).

Then out.

Emma Gisborne

9/3/2013 - Lionel's Hole

Ali Moody, Rich Marlow, Andrea Russe.

Description trip for MVS - Few hours were spent going
around in circles in the Labyrinth and East Low Level
and we are now more confused than ever! (only joking)

Ali Moody.

9/3/2013 - Swindons Hole - Blue Pencil - 2nd Saturday.

Very well supported 2nd Saturday trip.

Julie, Beth Berriman, Tony ^{Molokai} Wayne Stasmone, Karen Chapman - went in first as Beth wanted to rig - she carried the bag in, but the pitch was already paddled. The following group were. flos (Cawthon-Smith), Will Reed, Adam Harrison, Noel Clave, Tim Rose, ^{water} ~~sas~~ ^{water} Boxford -

First group found the mud sump totally dry (many thanks to John Cooper, Emma for bailing it over the last couple of weeks). We got to Blue Pencil & heading into IV streamway by the time had visited Sump III & IV the next group were on their way down into the streamway. The groups split with most people finishing the round trip while a few came out by the Mud Sump. ~~the~~ Very enjoyable trip (round 4½ to 5 hrs for not bad).

Indole.

9-3-13 Spider Hole

Ade Vanderplank, Nigel Graham, Pete Harris
Pete Capping and 3 buckets of Cansat,
dry draughtsies well still going down

9/3/2013 BluePENCIL IV a round trip: NOE.

I arrived at BP at about 1030 to find most departing to DP and E. A little later I set off after them also -- but only as far and as where there was a not watery gully. United with "My" abt. Renewed acquaintances with the mud sump (larks down-pile) virtually bone dry, and the regions beyond the mud somewhat a rope down the Greasy Chiney and at the tip of BP there was some re-grouping. I hadn't been up a down BP for several years, & a 5. It remains a bit of an acquired taste, though the 2nd tourist trip through it, back on the west of town but from this in and more flexible than; but BP was truly horrid after

Now it is bigger on the corner, and polished smooth. We did IV and met Darren who had re-condensed and made a second attempt. This was his ~~second~~ certainly big ball. But was the trouble (the frost was almost dry). Not having been underground for 6 months or so, this was a rude re-introduction to the bearing qualities of sandstone. The word "Squashed" sum up everything East of the stream! Noel.

10/3/13 Swindon's Upper Series
Dale Vanechplank, Barry Weaver, Emma Gisborne,
John Gisborne.

Short dry way, Oxbows and a high ceiling climb.
Cistern Dig - inspected rope climb. Back out via long dry way and new grotto. Great fun and good company. 1.5 hours. John.

11-3-13. C.B.

Kev Wilcox & Nigel Graham assisted Clive Westlake on a short trip into the forge so Clive could acquaint himself with a new camera - using various flash combinations. 1hr

Tuesday 12th March 2013 Reservoir Hole.

John Coop & Ali Moody taping in Frozen Deep 5 hours.
John Coop

Thursday 14th March 2013 Swindon's Hole

John Coop, Emma Gisborne & John Gisborne.
To Sump 1. Looked at high level passage near Sump 1 & also Rolling Thunder. 1½ hours.

Saturday 16 March 2013 - Read's Cavern.

Ali Moody, John Coop, Pete Buckley.

After 20+ trips we are now at the "start" of where

we wanted to be 6 months ago! Started work on enlarging
the inwardly draughting rift near the end of Lads' Luck.
P.S. John got lost in Lads' Luck on the way out and we are
considering putting a ~~guide~~ ^{of the cave} guide line ~~all the way~~
from the entrance, to the end!
 $3\frac{1}{4}$ hrs.

Ali Moody

Saturday 16th March. Spider Hole (Ed.)

Tuck, Andrea Petrelli, Nigel Jr. & Adrian Velp.

10 buckets of spoil removed from the bottom. 3 buckets
of cement, and small amount of capping done.
Bottom shaft measured @ 14 metres. Overall depth
of the cave is now +2 metres. (A bit of
horizontal open passage would be nice!)

Adrian Velp -

Saturday 16th March

Mel Grawther-Smith, Will Reed, Ellen Cooper, Jo Mamanamari, Paul Brown
Eastwater Cavern, Upper Series Hoppy Plym

We headed down a very wet entrance ~~saw~~ choice
and followed Paul past the Woggle Press (which we
did not see) to the slanted bedding plane and on to
Baker's Chimney. We weren't sure it was the right way
so we turned around and eventually found the
Woggle Press. Didn't go down Dolphin Pot due to a
big group on their way up. We went down to the
first mt chamber through the S-bend, then turned
around. A v. confused, disorientated trip! (Also wet.)

Sunday 17th March 2013 Swindon Hole. Sump 1.

John Cooper, Lee Hawksworth, Amanda Grindley, Chris Seal & Karen
Turner. 1^{1/2} hours.

Tuesday 19th March 2013 Reservoir Hole

John Coop & Ali Moody. More taping in Frozen Deep. I think we have now completed it. 3^{1/2} hours.

Also in were Nick Chipchase & Nigel Cox who were doing more work on the fixed ladder of Aranui. Pete Glanville also in - not sure what he was doing.

John Cooper

Thursday 21st March 2013 Sidders Hole

John Coop & Emma Gibbons To Shatter Pit. Mud Sump had about 6 buckets of water in which we removed. 1^{1/4} hours.

John Cooper

Saturday 23rd March 2013 Read's Cavern.

Andrew Atherton, Pete Buckley, John Cooper, Simon Flower, Ricki Marlow & Ali Moody. Lad's back digging*. 4"- hrs.

John Cooper

* More work on enlarging the narrow rift that is the continuation of the Main Drag. Ali had a look at the 'scum' in the side streamway - water flowing well but back towards us. Also had a look at the Lad's 'sump' - followed the roof / right wall down, all solid. Small space on left. Floor appears solid & couldn't feel water flowing. Walked the water flowing back & up cave! 3ft

23rd March 2013. Spider Hole.

John Hill, John Riley, John Coisbourne, Aubrey Newport, Pete Hann. Adrian & Jude Venables.

30 bags of sand } carried down the cave,
1 bag of cement } John H & John Riley to
the very bottom, 17 buckets of clatch hauled
out. The bottom of the cave was quite

damp, and the draught was indistinguishable but then, it seemed to be blowing in the cave, not out.

Adrian.

After returning to the hut had to wait in our hut for 30 mins as the Reads digging team were just there etc. This was because JC had a mind blank and put 16.00 as an E.T.O. We are never back to the hut by 4pm!!

24/03/13 - Swildon's Hole (2 hours)

Barry Weaver, John Cooper, Emma Gibbons + John Gibbons went to Sidcot V-Tube. BW + JG went out the short dry way + JMC + EKG went out wet way
Emma Gibbons

Tuesday 26th March 2013.

Andrew Atkinson, Chris Birdling, John Cooper (Ali Moody), 5½ hours
Ali will write up trip below:-

Completed the retaping of Reservoir Hob including the High Country. It has only taken over 80 working hours and used 100m [✓] of tape! (1kg!)

AM.

Thursday 28th March 2013 - Swildon's Hole (2¾ hr)

Darren Chapman, John Cooper, Emma Gibbons & John Newton DC + J.N. went to look at Sidcot V-Tube + D.N. EKG + JMC climbed up ~~the~~ Maypole Aven. JMC + EKG went on to Lone Terminus Chamber to retrieve Ali's mattock.

Emma Gibbons

Friday 29th March

Two Mendip virgins discover the delights
of G-B....

Having made the effort to get down here, Ric had suggested that we actually *do* some caving today. GB was suggested as a gentle introduction to caving on the mendip. Reasonable progress was made to the Gorge. Pretty awe-inspiring stuff compared to much Yorkshire caving. Having turned round at the sump, Ric offered us the option to exit via the 'wet way' which we spectacularly failed to find. Eventually, taking pity on us, Ric was kind enough to escort us back to the surface.

Simon (CPC) Mark (CC) Ric (CC)

29-3-13.

Dorset - Ebbor Walk. (CPC/WCC)

Pat Halliwell, Steve & Barbara Pickersgill, Bob Cross, Nigel Graham. Day but very cold wind - over to Dunston Drove / Milton Lane. Then, along flank of hills & down Ebbor Gorge to Wookey for revitalising juice. Back up Ebbor to the car-park where by sheer co-incidence Ric H happened to spot us as he was driving by (after the G-B trip above). Pat joined Ric - rest of us walked back across to Upper Pitts. V. enjoyable, seriously now. DJG

Friday 29th March EAST TWIN SWALLET, SIDCOT SWALLET,
GOAT CHURCH, SWILDFONDS \Rightarrow S1

A Danish cave diver in British caves!

This being my first ever dry caving experience, he
promised to give me an introduction to UK Caving.

We started out in East Twin, not as much for the cave
But to take a look at the impressive engineering
which have taken place in this cave. the tiny crystals
in the roof of the entrance really made this a great
start - suddenly having the time to appreciate the beauty
of the cave, and not just swimming through to reach
EOL.

Sidcot and Goat church were meant to test
my climbing and dry restrictions, especially the
restrictions in goat church were very "educational"
but a great experience! - nice cavers and fun experience

Swildfonds \Rightarrow S1 was the afternoon/evening trip.
Plan was to drop bottles at S2 for tomorrow, but
we ended up doing the bottle drop just before S3.
Some sections of this cave are truly amazing!
formations I was never expecting to see in
Europe, some places almost reminded me of my
caves in Mexico - can't wait to be back and
take a look behind S1.

Thank you for your hospitality and a great
adventure.

Anders Knudsen

Sat 30 March. Buntington pensioners triathlon. Sort of water wine
Competitors (75) Claggy Thorpe (74) Doggy Thomas (73)
Nora Batty-Hewin (70) Nigel (the boy) Graham (60). Revisited
sites of former glory viz:- Fester Hole, Boatshard (show
cave section) and avilines, until stripped by UKSS Cave
Spotted rare, rare fauna and damaged stall.

Total age 352. Batting average ~~22.66 per year~~.
22 years per moth. PS Doggy claims he finished
6 ft of Sidcot. ^{we} Also pronounced Pierre's Pot precludes pensioners

30/3/2013. Read's Cavern.

Pete Buckley, John Coape, Ali Moody + Andrew Atkinson.

Managed to pass the constriction at the end of the narrow
rift in Lad's Luck and found about 20m of steeply
descending rift that dropped to a sump pool. 2³/₄ hrs

Ali Moody.

21/3/2013 Reservoir Hole

Ali Moody Pete Halliwell Gordon Coldwell Nick Gymer
Trip to see the pictures at the Frozen Deep.
Washed off the cement dust of some of the
bolts holding the tapes.

Very impressed at the pictures.

Thanks Ali for leading the trip

Nick Gymer

Saturday 30th March 2013. St Cuthbert Swallet

Pic Halliwell, Mark Bransbury, Simon Elliott

Wee morning on from our trip into 68 cave we decided to take Mendip caving to the next level. Pic informed both Simon and myself that the trip would be interesting and offer us the opportunity to look at some of the better formations found within Mendip.

The start required us to unlock the manhole covers and access the stopcock to turn off the water. I was intrigued having seen this in the club journal.

Having gained the aforementioned item I was given the task of turning the handle, once stopped we could then descend into the gloom without taking a "shower". Once we had gained the top pitch it became obvious why we were going to be treated to spectacular vistas. The rock seemed to a vertical "cheese press" on a bloody ladder!

Simon decided to postpone his visit and backed off to rejoin Pic Halliwell at the surface. I then braved the ladder and descended into the gloom.

Kissing the rock the squeeze yielded to allow me space to move freely. Game on, pic then joined me at the bottom and we began to move like men possessed. Several fixed ladders made progress rapid. Acute chamber quickly gave way to wine rift.

Wine rift required bridging left and right to avoid the drop. The two early sections of cave gave way to ~~the~~ upper mud hall which then placed us in pillar chamber. Now this was the start of some very interesting access to ~~varied~~ varied and extensive calcite formations. This chamber gave way to boulder chamber I was interested in finding out where the boulders lay that had names based upon the 8000 m peaks of the Himalayas.

Lic managed to point out Kandanjunga but there was too much to take in. The guidebook was complex but I had managed to map it myself during the early stages of our expedition. This had been the ability soon faded. Thank god Lic had enough knowledge for both of us. From boulder chamber we continued on into main stream. Main stream took us into the area of cave known as rabbit warren. on to Plantation Junction and down to ~~cross~~ Great Bow.

Although there wasn't any white calcite Great Bow was an impressive formation of flimestone. Lic climbed via a fixed chain to the top section before climbing down using classic layback technique. I followed and copied Lic's technique to the bottom. Looking back at this fantastic feature left me awestruck.

Leaving Great Bow we moved on to the first of many 'civil engineering' projects designed to stem the tide from the stream way. The dam was made complete by the use of a bucket. Lic had climbed over and after inserting the bucket into the pipe I climbed over to join ~~him~~ him.

A little further on Lic gave me the option to pass into Swamp 1 and follow it downstream alone.

A couple of wet squeezes later I was standing in the streamway on route to swamp 2. I turned around to rejoin Lic before we moved back to Great Bow. After a short attempt to squeeze under the flimestone I retreated back to once again climb up over the feature to try and find Lic who had moved on. I finally managed to rejoin Lic at this point I cannot remember

exactly where we were. I do remember assisting Ric up one a difficult section of the cave at Stat pitch by use of a shoulder. On and on we continued gaining sections of the cave that would demonstrate exceptional examples of speleothems that one only reads about but rarely gets the opportunity to see first hand. The exact location is hard to recall but Ric allowed me an extended glimpse of Cave pearls in High Chamber. I was at this point getting tired, Ric however was just getting his second wind. At some stage we stopped and shared a quick snack in the form of a chocolate bar. Moving on news of the cascade in Cascade Chamber was pure white in places and stretched up for what seemed forever. Once again I was astonished by the secrets contained within the cave.

There are several other sections of cave we visited but I cannot recall in order which sections we sojourned along and the knowledge that Ric displayed cannot do this entry any good. I was lost. At some stage I was standing back in Railway Tunnel looking at the "Fingers". We then made our way to the fountain and I had a welcome drink from the metal mug filled with sweet water that was ice cold. We then made our way back along the streamway to the fixed ladders and on to leave the cave via the "Hatch" that we would find. On arrival at Arctic Chamber we met water that was cascading down from the entrance. Pat was scheduled to "turn off" the water at 13³⁰. Both Ric and I were early so we had to wait below the last pitch before the water ceased. This rest was welcome as I was

knackered. We both sat in the dark and this was an opportunity for me to reflect on my efforts.

The cave had been an interesting place to visit and had extended my experience both in terms of caving skills but of also the access to some of Mendip's hidden treasures.

Sitting in the dark what was evident was that St Cuthbert had one last sting in its tail the "ladder pitch sandwich". Moving off the tone up the ladder and gained the pitch head with consummate ease. Now began my turn to gain the surface. Buggar as I had difficulty staying on the ladder. The crux move also required me to break out slightly to avoid becoming wedged.

Eventually, I joined Ric on the top of the pitch and stripped out the gear. The karabiner ~~starters~~ had become locked and wouldn't move.

A lantern was produced at the surface so I returned to ease the hold of the lock on the gate. Before we left the cave.

This had been a rewarding expedition - to the gloom. Along the way I had been impressed by the ~~other~~ problems encountered the speothrew we had observed and the capacity of Ric to navigate at warp speed. I will hopefully return one day with a camera!

31.03.13 Swildons to sum, one (or a tale of two ill-fitting wetsuits)

Dave King, Ric Halliwell, Mark Bradbury, Simon Elliott

"You've got to do Swildons" was the cry!

Mark and I are the proud owners of new wetsuits. Mark's wetsuit was a little tight, mine required me to hold my breath for the trip in its entirety.

Dave had offered to tag along with us at the last minute and his local knowledge was most welcome.

As I am rapidly learning, caving is great fun on the downhill bits. Sliding down the water chutes, down-climbing waterfalls and plunging into pools makes for fine sport. Even the 'Twenty' was not a problem!

We were soon at sump one. I had been agonizing "Will I, won't I?" for almost an entire week but after watching Mark vanish underwater I decided to stop thinking about it and just get on with it. A deep breath, a couple of tugs on the rope and the deed was done. I was no longer a sump virgin. After a quick poke around we turned back. It's much easier second time around!

Of course, what goes down must eventually go up. I am not as fit as I would like to be and found the 'getting out' to be hard work. No where near as much fun as the descent! My fellow cavers, being perceptive souls could tell that I was knackered and offered me the proverbial 'tight-line' up the twenty.

I can tell you, it was very much appreciated!

We didn't encounter any other cavers till we had sight of daylight.

Great trip. Great company. Simon (SC)

31-3-13

SHATTER CAVE

Ric Howmell, Simon Emott
and more Blasbrey

Following an earlier raid into Swildon's Hole the decision was made to take a look into what can only be described as an "Aladdin's Cave" on Mendip.

Contained within the Fairy Cave Quarry is without doubt some of the most spectacular scenes of calcareous decorations to been found within the caving world or at least within the UK caving forum. For me it was an opportunity to linger a while and enjoy a privileged grandstand. Access via a padlocked steel door is the first line of defence against any potential marauders. Once inside what is waiting is a foray through tens of thousands of years of natural chemical activity.

We all walked, crawled and crouched our way through caverns that no superlative could ever do justice.

Once again Ric had led both Simon and myself into a Mendip cave with its own charm quite separate from the other caves we had explored. The crystal formations were pristine and easily accessible once a short crawl had been completed. At the caves terminus I sat and peered into the Crystal pool. The reflected light from my lamp shone back at me as vividly as the constellations do at night. Fantastic.

We withdrew gingerly to avoid accidental damage as treacherous crevices binned from a weekend of hard caving.

Safely back at the surface the bleak quarry was a stark contrast to the beauty below. A real delight. Go and have a look if you

get the opportunity. Outstanding.

Mark (etc).

30.3.13

Bob Cross, Steve & Barbara Pickersgill (CPC) on B3134 near Nerdwack walked Blackmoor Minories and up onto Black Down. Down to Tyning's Farm to Cheddar + cuppa + cake. Large edge to Slack Rock, Velvet Bottom to car. Pleasant walk in reasonable conditions i.e. no precipitation.

31.3.13.

Parked at Buntington walked to Dolebury Warren, Rowberrow Warren to Black Down. Back via Cothelstone to Buntington.

Present: Bob Cross, Lawrence Elton and Judy Clark, Nigel Graham, Steve & Barbara Pickersgill.

Lovely day (but still cold in wind), superb views and excellent company.

1/4/13 The first "official" (©) tourist trip to the Filton Deep — Ric Halliwell, John & Miranda Foster, & (leader?) King David. This was a superb trip, & we take our hats (helmets?) off to the diggers — what a brilliant find. A very enjoyable trip. Took a few snaps. [John Foster]

31-3-13 Working trip to Filton Deep with Ali - connected a couple of tape pins — Nick's already written it up
Pat H

1/04/2013 Vicarage Passage
John Cooper, Pete Buckley, Stuart Hayley, John Gisborne,
Emma Gisborne.

Superb trip to Vicarage pot and beyond. Inspected
Vicarage Passage dig. Lots of mud and a few laughs
en-route. Out via the wet way. 3.3/4 hours. John G.

02/04/2013 - Cuckoo Claves

Steve Muncaster, Josh White, Heather Bell

Late evening trip down to the pipe to the lake. Steve too fast to
fit and air not great at the bottom, so gave up and headed
back to the hut. Arrived 40 mins past call-out thanks to
Steve forgetting to charge his watch for daylight savings.

03/04/2013 - Swildon's hole to sump 2

Steve Muncaster, Josh White, Heather Bell

A lazy start after some very tasty pork + apple sausages
sandwich 😊. In via short dry way down to sump 1,
Heather waited here, while Steve + Josh went down to sump 2.
Air space most of the way through but chickened out at the
final duck. Came out via the wet way to make sure Heather
got a soaking. ~2.5 hours.

3/4/13 Bush line. Rio & I had a quick look at the local animal life.

04/04/13 Swildon's Hole (2½ hours)

Darren Chapman, John Cooper + Emma Gisborne went to
fault Chamber via Airless Oxbow and climbed up 1st Aven
into South East Inlets + on to fault Chamber.

Emma Gisborne

6/14/13 Pigtte chamber + Shatter chamber
Jack Ballard, Geoff Ballard, Emma. better off
bridge chris Halls, Tids, May
To start we set off down to the
Mudsump then on to the shatter pitch
it was very high when we got
to the 1st duck we had to
paddle it out a little bit you
had to go on our backs head first
on the 2nd duck we spent
about 20mins bailing* out water
and the when we got to the
Pigtail chamber it was a bit
disapointing because it was boring
and then went on to shatter chamber

* Dad went through first and
bailed from the other side.

good trip but a little tiring and
now hungry hungry. Jack Ballard

6/4/2013 - Read's Cavern

Pete Buckley, Ali Moody, Nick Marlow, John Cooper

Draught hunting in Lads' Lick. Also checked all the sumps.
The water level in the new sump has dropped slightly since last
week. Ali Moody

6/4/13 Thrup Hole Naomi & Claire

A quick look to see if Perseverance Pot was dry enough to go down, which it was not. After a desperately wet climb down and back up the aqueous rift, we doffed set kits and went to have a look at the railway series. Met with one of the original diggers on the surface and made plans to divert the stream to see if this will help.

Sunday 7th April 2013. Swildon's Hole

John Cooper & Barry Weaver visited Sump 2.

John Cooper

Wednesday 10th April.

A day off for my Birthday - a gentle SAGA trip around Goughs - the Adventure Trail with a family of 5 + the leader SAM. It's funny how you forget certain holes and crawl - then you come out the other side and then "Yeah! I remember this bit" now! Fun trip - sunny + warm - then Monday drizzle - Oh well..

Paulie.

~

Thursday 11th April 2013. Swildon's Hole

Pete Buckley, Darren Chapman & John Cooper.

Tourmous Chamber via the 42 ft. Rift. Darren rested a while part way up the rift before deciding he'd gone up far enough. Other two to the end. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours

John Cooper

13/4/2013 - Read's Cavern.

John Cooper, Pete Buckley, Ali Moody, Andrew Atkinson

John drilling holes at the end of Browne-Stewart Stream Passage, Ali and Andrew digging a choked tube in the alcove above the aven. Pete to Lad's Luck to collect equipment and check the levels of the sumps. He returned with the news that the water had dropped by about 0.6m and that there was now open passage visible in the new extension found on 30/3/2013. All of the team to Lad's. Checking the original bottom we ~~can't go back~~ can now probably see the start of Dog End, but water levels were too high to enter this. The 3m pot to the original sump now appears to be completely filled with silt. In the new extension 5m of very aqueous passage pushed to what appears to be a deep sump pool. 3 hours.

Ali Moody.

13/4/2013 Thrupp Lane Swallet
Naomi & Duncan

A couple of mid-week, preparatory, trench digging trips has ~~had~~ the water going down a hole upstream of the cave in the hope of a drier trip.

There was no sign of water in the entrance pitch ~~*~~ or the rift leading to Perserverance Pot*. The stream was only seen again at the bottom of Perserverance. Naomi rigged the route at the end of the pretty marble streamway, across the rock bridge to the airy Y Hang, which was descended to almost the bottom of the cave. It was * despite the rainy weather!

decided the last free climbable decent was a bit too wet to bother with this time. Fantastically pretty cave with nice scallopy, water grooved rocks and a lovely bit of streamway. Well worth the visit.

Note: Caution still needed re water, as if the surface stream debris were to block the hole it is currently going down, Perserverance Pot would ^{become} ~~be~~ impassable again.
**and overflow into the surface depression pond Naomi :)

12/4/12 Ali C + S.D. visit GB

Trip down to Laddres dig and up to the 'cans' exploring the side passages. A moist enjoyable trip.
Rel. - .

12/4 Spider Hole Nigel Graham, Adrian Vanderplank, etc
3 buckets of Corant used on North wall, had to take the crow bar off Von Plank as the naughty boy started digging holes in the floor Feb 10.

14/4/13 Reverser Hole. Alison Meadly, John Cooper, John Griborne Berry Weaver.

Third trip to the frozen Deep, courtesy of Ali and John. Breakfasting experience and Berry and I were amazed at how much work has been done around every corner. Good excuse cleaning out too!
2½ hours. Subsidiary! John G.

14/04/13 - O.F.O. (4 hours)

Ben, Jo Newman, Simon Richardson + Emma Gibbons went in Top Entrance into Big Chamber. Then into Bagpipe Chamber - climbed around the 'Wall of Death' (lives up to its name but worth doing!). On to Bhoami Junction - went to the top of Pendulum in the traverse. We went to visit 'Straw Gallery' and 'Poached Egg' (Kannabasooritwad ~~Wad~~) then onto Timo's Table - then climbed down ^{into} Arête Chamber. On to Chasm and through Salubrious and looked at the streamway pouring down Swamp Creek. We then visited the Trident and Judge + Gnome Passage - back out via Brickyard and Out. Learnt a lot on the trip re: traversing. Good company + an excellent trip!

Emma Gibbons

Wednesday 17 April 2013. Rod's Pot

John Coop & Emma Gibbons helping Andy remove ten
tons of spoil. Emma also looked into Bone Chamber. 2 hours.

John Coop

Wed 17th April Thrup Lane Swallet
Naomi Sharp, Duncan Price & Tony Seddon

"I can see clearly now the rain has gone..." was the song of the evening as the water diversion is holding nicely.

100m of rope was wrestled through the railway series to the head of chimney pot, which had a convenient in situ handline down it.

~~Wuthering heights~~ Wuthering heights was rigged (albeit rather incompetantly) by NS, fortunately followed by TS who tidied things up as required. The plan was to go down

Pebble to have a look

New Atlas Direct to the bottom but there was a waterfall in the way; so a pendulum was made into the marble streamway & the traverse to ledge pitch was rigged instead. ~~Came out via the pros~~ TS. descended lateral pitch to the bottom of the cave to retrieve a BDH dropped from the head of NAD which was in many pieces but did bring out the radio it contained (which survived). An exit was made out of marble streamway & up the pre-rigged Perseverance Pot.

Naomi

Tuesday 16 April - Reservoir Hole.

Ali Moody, Pete Clavell, Andrew Atkinson, Nick Chipchase.

Digging trip to Jill's Siphon. Digging out side passage on the right pathway down Jill's. This is where the water from Grand Gallery and Pulsation Avon disappears. A large quantity of boulders removed and about 4m of progress made.

Ali Moody

Saturday 20th April 2013 - Read's Cavern

John Cooper, Pete Buckley, Ali Moody, Tony Seddon.

Lower water conditions and more work will be required to find the Brown-Stewart Series sump. Also visited Lady Luck but the water levels in these sumps has risen by about 30-45cm and the new duck found last week was no longer passable.

Ali Moody

Sunday 21st April. Sunshiny

John Cooper, Barry Weaver, Emma Gisbourne, John Gibbons.
Sump two and back via approach passage and a look
at the Bold Step. Out in 1³/₄ hrs, clearer and a tiny
bit fitter! John G.

21st After S.D + A.C to EAST TUNNEL
PASSAGE Sampled at bottom then a bit of BARRACUDA
and YOKING up VALLEY, S.D.

21/4/13 Thistle Lane Sucklet - Naomi Sharp, Steve Sharp
Duncan Price, Tim Morgan, Andy?, Sue Gardiner & Pete
Hollier - photos in Atlas Pot etc for Mendip Underground.

24/4/2013 SLUDGE PIT - RADIOLOCATION.

SURFACE TEAM: BRIAN & BRENDA PREUER, EMMA GISBOURNE, MARION WILKINSON

UNDERGROUND TEAM: PETE HANN, JOHN COOPER, JOHN GISBOURNE, BARRY WILKINSON

THE UNDERGROUND TEAM SWITCHED ON THE TRANSMITTER AT 08:15pm INITIALLY
THERE WAS LITTLE VOICE COMMUNICATION SO THE 'P.P' WAS STARTED. AT
APPROXIMATELY 08:45pm THE UNDERGROUND TEAM WAS ADVISED VIA A GOOD
VOICE COMMUNICATION THAT THE TASK WAS COMPLETE. ALL OUT OF THE CAVE
BY 09:20pm FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS AT THE HUNTERS.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS EXERCISE WAS TO TRY TO ASCERTAIN THE
ACCURACY OF THE PAPER SURVEY (MSA 1932) IN RELATION TO THE SUMP.
THE RESULTS SHOW THE RADIO SURVEY DIFFERING IN THE SUMP POSITION
RELATIVE TO THE SURFACE DRY STONE WALL BY APPROXIMATELY 9 METRES
TO THE SOUTH. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE RADIO INTERFERENCE AT
THE TIME OF THE EXERCISE BUT IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT THE
RESULTS COULD BE CONSIDERED AS ACCURATE.

(SLUDGE PIT ENTRANCE ST 53692 51249, SUMP ST 53631 51176)

THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED, ESPECIALLY BRIAN FOR THE LOAN
OF THE RL EQUIPMENT.

B.W.

24/4 Keith ad Derek Sanderson.
G-B. Nearly all parts prior to Laddering
including Bertie's Pot - Keith reckons its over 25 years
since he was last here. D.S.

25/4 Keith ad Derek.

Spider Hole - Impressed!
Swildon's to Sump One. Good. Airspace in
the sump. D.S.

Thursday 25/4/13. Swildon's Hole

John Cooper & Emma Gribone.

Short Round Trip. Bailed & explored first trouble for
about 10 minutes. About 4-5 cm of airspace through Sump 1.
2½ hours John Cooper

Tuesday 23 April 2013 - Reservoir Hole.

Ali Moody + Andrew Atkinson.

Surveyed SKYFALL - Show trip and 104m of passage
surveyed, although this included about 20m length linking
it into The Frozen Deep.

Ali Moody.

Saturday 27 April 2013 Reed's Cavern

Andrew Atkinson, Pete Buckley, John Cooper & Ali Moody
Andrew, John & Ali moving from above Splash Pot to
Bonne-Stewart Sump * whilst Pete checked other sumps (lower than
last week) I worked on Bonne-Stewart Sump. 3½ hours.

John Cooper

* Just over 100m surveyed. AM.

27/4 Spider Hole -

Pete Hann, Adrian Vdp, Simon Richardson, Jude Vdp.

Bolic ropes out for washing then 3 mixes of cement in the bottom, & took over a couple of buckets of clunch.

A bit of a dilemma at floor level? Where is the best arclight coming from? Looks as though we are keeping options available for now, but Pete could do with some more rock for walling. JV.

27/4/13 DRAKELOW BUCKERS. ~~near KIDDERMINSTER~~

Les Williams (organised for us), Barry & Marion Wilkinson, Tommo + ~~MATT SLADE~~ Tommo - please add name J, Dave King, Nigel Graham.

Good start playing Heist -The-Wallet. . . Site was first a WW1 & 2 "shadow factory" underground - by end of Cold War a Regional Seat of Government. Though looting thieves have removed a lot enough remains in the big tunnels & chambers cut in the sandstone to give a flavour of this intriguing once secret site.

An unusual & worthwhile excursion - surprised none didn't take the opportunity. Many thanks Les.

-Df

23/4/13 FAIRY CAVE / HILLIER'S THROUGH TRIP

Ollie Halls, John Wahl & Ross How

Started in Fairy & headed directly for concretion through the big muddy puddle and on into Hillier's. Squeezed, crawled & wriggled our way all the way down to Red Room. Extracted a muddy white later out of Hillier's, all pretty and fluffy but well worth every smear of sticky mud!

28/4/13 EASTWATER CAVERN

John Walsh, Ollie Halls

A quick trip to get our bearing for future reference. Headed straight for the traverse, which was 'interesting' terrain! Across, then up, past Baker's Chimney a bypass as far as the unnamed pot down into Boulder Chamber. The now soggy map (photocopy) a thick red was fog of John's memory were leading us up as we "braved ~~and~~^{treaded top of}" and shuffled our way back across the traverse, up to Dining Room and popped into Boulder Chamber to have a look down the Canyon as far as the crossroads.

Sunday 28th April 2013 Swallow Hole

John Cooper, Emma Gisborne & Barry Weaver.

Went and looked down the pitch in North West Stream Passage. Emma says she can't wait to go back & sample the delights of Wet Ear Squeeze again!
2¹/₂ hours.

30 April quick visit to Shatto Dig. Found Tommo working 'Ned

30/4/13 Swallow Hole

Ollie Halls & John Walsh

Quick trip as far as Shatto Pot, peered down & vowed to return with a ladder. Headed back up via a quick look at the start of Reference Series as far as Keith's Chamber. Hasty exit to get out in time for a pint.

01/05/13 GB (2hrs) Cooper

Emma Gisborne and John ~~Gisborne~~ went via Ladder Dig to see Great Chamber - found it surprisingly easily but got a bit lost coming out. Boulders looking a bit the same. Water still in Ladder dig gate about @ 2".

Emma

Thursday 2nd May 2013 READ'S CAVERN
Andrew Atkinson, John Cooper & Ali Moody. More surveying. 4th trip
John Cooper

Friday 3rd May 2013.

Ali Moody, Linda Wilson, Graham Mullan.
Spent an afternoon digging out the normal sink for
Longwood Swallet. Good progress made and managed to
lower the water level in the pool by several inches.
Ali Moody

Saturday 4th May 2013 - Read's Cavern.

Pete Buckley, John Cooper, Ali Moody

Alzheimer's Pool had dropped sufficiently to pass the constriction and gain access to the deep pool - this was found to be deeper than PB and the underwater passage appears to be very sizeable. Then down to Stream Passage to continue work on clearing a route to the ~~dead end~~ ~~old entrance~~. LADS swap. We can now see through a narrow fissure into an enlargement in the passage (or chamber according to John!). Further work ~~needed~~ to open this area out. Also on the trip a visual connection was made between the end of the old 5555 dig and the base of the climb in Fag Chamber.

4 hour trip ..

Ali Moody

Saturday 4th May. Spider Hole.

Pete Hann, Nigel Graham, Adrian Vandepol

Survey up date on Monday 29th April. Total depth of 72 metres. Measured.

4 buckets of cement mixed and a lot of the north wall has now been stabilized. Bottom of the

Sunday 8th May. Swildens Hole
John Cope, John Cibbone, Emma Cibbone.
dig is dropping rapidly, with a strong draught coming from under the North wall. QD.

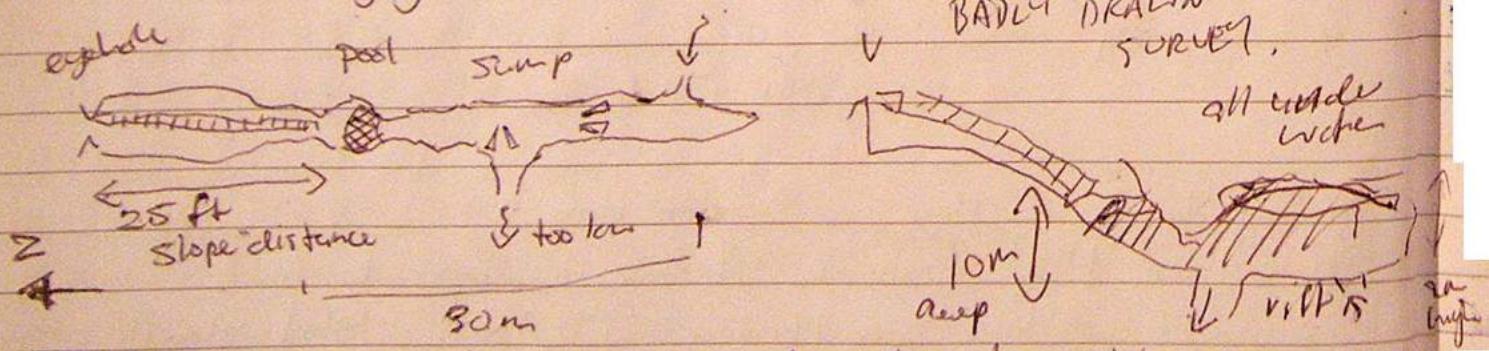
Sunday 8th May. Swildens Hole
John Cope, John Cibbone, Emma Cibbone.
A pleasant trip to Vicarage Passage to see if John G would fit. Verdict 'Maybe'. We'll go back another day! Thanks to John C for having lots of persistence. Out in time for the hunters. John G.

Saturday 14th May Ogof Draenor -
Clive Westlake, Rich Caney, Andrea Russe, Rich Marlow
Jude Vanderplank

A return trip for me, having done the round trip once before, nine years ago. Luckily for us Clive did an excellent route finding job, as my memory was definitely misty! Strange how you forget some of the more interesting sections of the cave!! A few photographs were taken en route, and we emerged to a pleasant sunny hillside. (still quite chilly in the car park though!) Jude

Sunday 15th May Reservoir Hole Naomi Sharp

Nick Chipchase, Rob Harper, Clive Cohen, Connal Reet & Deonna Price
The sump in Dingley Dell was dived by DP. oops.



The underwater passage enters an active flow but the inlet and outlet are too tight to follow. The exit from the cave was quite exciting!

Tuesday 7th May 2013 Gough's Cave

John Cooper, Christine Grosart & Clive Westlake. Carried about 10 loads of diving gear (cylinders etc) to Lloyd Hall in preparation for dive on Wednesday. Other divers turned up as we were coming out! 2 hours.

John Cooper

Wednesday 8th May 2013 Smeed's Hole

John Cooper & Emma Gislaine short road trip. Water conditions low - no backfilling done at all. 2 hours

John Cooper

Wednesday 9th May 2013 Gough's Cave.

Christine Grosart, Tim Chapman, Clive Westlake

Tim was unable to dive because of a severe migraine, so just the two of us filled up on the platform in Lloyd Hall and dived upstream through Sump 1b (135m / 105). Conditions were excellent, allowing Christine to video the sump. She took more video in Bishop's Palace and we returned without incident. Tim had recovered enough to help out with the gear - many thanks; also to John Cooper (see above) 5 3/4 hrs

C.D.Westlake

Friday 29th March 2013 Grotte du PN77, Hérault, France

Marc Gayle, Pete Mann, Clive Westlake, Jonathan Williams; Jean-Philippe, our accompagnateur.

Several hours drive along a route forestière led us to La Salle, the remote and picturesque hut of the Bigles cavers. Jean-Philippe took us along the short walk down to the entrance. Just inside the gate is a 12m fixed ladder. Various other fixed aids ease progress through this fine cave. There are excellent formations and a handsome streamway which Pete and Clive photographed. Down to Olargues for a beer. 24 hours underground.

C.D.Westlake

Sunday 31st March 2013.

Grotte de la Tragolle, Corniou, Hérault.

Marc Foyle, Pete Mann, Clive Westlake, Jonathan Williams.

A steep path up through woods brought us to the entrance. The first few hundred meters of passage are well-tramped, even battered, but lead easily to a ramp / pitch of 30m. Marc rigged with some bemusement caused by the very large number of sound P-bolts - most unusual for France. At the bottom a large, deep canal stretched into the distance, from fitting a desperate search for another way. This failed, but the chilly wade led to some large and scenic passage with plenty of gours and flowstone. Pete and Clive took pictures and we surfaced after 3½ underground.

C.D.Westlake

Tuesday 2nd April 2013

Grotte de Calmuspire, Aude, France.

Marc Foyle, Pete Mann, Clive Westlake, Jonathan Williams; Jean-Claude et Alain, our accompagnateurs.

We went into the show cave and looked over a balcony - below is the most colossal chasm stretching far out of sight. Then we descended by fixed ladders, staircases, handlines and boulder slopes till we reached the river some 145m below the balcony. We went downstream for about 2kms in huge and superb passage with rushing water and mighty formations. We stopped for lunch - as is the French custom - near where there's a connection to an upper entrance the Matte Arnaud. Jean-Claude declared this way in is 'un peu physique'. Not far on we reached the Gallerie des Dômes, which are similar in size and quality to the Gouffre Berger. On the way back Pete and Clive took a few pictures; this brilliant cave is worth many more. 5½ hrs.

Saturday 27th April

Pwll-y-Cwm (the resurgence for Ogof Agen Allwedd and Ogof Baron Cilau) Claire Cohen, Clive Westlake.

Claire laid a line through the choke, which Duncan Price had kindly

enlarged the evening before. Visibility was a reasonable 1.5 m, allowing Clive to dive 200m upstream and Claire to go nearly as far and sort out the way to Elm Hole.

C.D.Westlake

Sunday, 28th April.

Porth-yr-Ogof.

Claire Cohen, Duncan Price, Cline Westlake.

Conditions were good with 6m visibility, but at this time of year the water is still cold (7°) and current noticeable. Claire went to Forways, Duncan to Esvis Passage and Clive to the Upper Cave. The new 8mm green line from Top Extremis to the Upper Cave is excellently laid and a definite improvement on the previous tangle.

C.D.Westlake

Thursday 9th May 2013 Read's Cavern

Andrew Atherton, Jol Coop & Ali Moody. Continued survey from where we stopped last week (start of LADS hole). Surveyed down to Algleines ^{pool}, ~~pool~~(dry) via Cough Drop and Cancer Council. Then finished by surveying down to Dog Leg End Sup. Interesting that all three "supi" are about the same level and in a line. 5 hours.

.. Jol Coop

Saturday 11th May 2013 - Read's Cavern.

Ali Moody, Pete Buckley, John Cooper.

More work on the Browne-Stewart streamway. Moved back and bagged a considerable amount of loose cobbles and gravel. This makes access to the work face much easier. Further enlargement on the fissure before leaving - 4 hours.

Ali Moody.

SAT. 11th MAY 13 SPIDER HOLE

Ade V de P., Pete Haan, Nigel Graham - another 4 bucketfuls of mortar gluing boulders together. Three or four buckets of spoil out.

Df

Saturday 11th May 2013 - Brown's folly Mine
2nd Saturday Trip

Jude Vanderplank, Lee Williams, Rich Charlton, Jason Pain, Sarah Payne, Chris Davies + Emma Gibbons drove to Monkton Farleigh.

Chris Davies led the trip and we went in Thunder Hole and dropped into front passage. Then we climbed onto the falli series - looked out of a grille that overlooked the surface into an open area (that overlooks Bath). We then back tracked to the entrance with the Iron Door. Dropping down then into a low area with a stone arch where there were older mine workings. Through door back to loading bay in Table Passage (stone/wooden tables in it). Then via high hole dropped down to wide tracks where "allegedly" it in 1960's blew up part of mine. We then went to the large square pillar dropping on to front passage - where there was a trough + climbed up to see a calcite floor and crystal pool. Front passage through to Shakespeare's - dropped down into middle passage.

We all then crawled for 30/40 feet to the Stables.

Crawled back and stopped to look at a manmade connection through to District 19 'Monkton Farleigh' - now blocked off!

The route then went up Clapham passage (on left Breakfast Hole) - saw 3 troughs. Up then to Clapham Junction (leaders I didn't recognize it as it had been cleared by 'Brian C').

On then to Pit Prop Chamber - Railway Passage. Then turned left to look at the Square Well (filled with beautiful blue water). We also looked at the Ferret Cage - crooked to Breakfast Hole - back to Pit Prop Chamber. Then back to Clapham Junction. Dropped into Middle Passage heading

Cart

back in a Northwesterly direction - turned left into Calcite tracks into Calcite Chamber. Heading back then to front Passage (had a look into Hong's Passage at wooden hand rails). Finally we climbed up the stone steps and back out Muddy Hole.

EKG.

11/5/13 Reservoir Hole. Bob + Mark Pyke + Tim Reynolds, led by Rich Martone.

First time in Hillier's hole for us. Fortifications FINE -- engineering totally awesome! To an old Swildon's git, the end looks a tad too like Pirate Chamber 9 - which way to the Cheddar Moderate?!

15/05/13 - Swildon's Hole (Blue Pencil) (3 hours)

John Cooper and Emma Cibone went to Blue Pencil - looked @ Sump 4 and then Sump 3. There was a smell of diesel in the four streamway coming out of Watergate. Sump One had None of air space - so water level is higher than it has been lately.

EKG.

18/05/13 - Hilliers/Fairy (3h30) Tim, Sas, Paul, Matt.

Onion rings, chilli & beans lead to a windy start to the trip. Have never noticed such a strong draft in there before and unusually some bad air was encountered. Many photo's & video's later we reached the red room & decide to leave without stopping. The squeezes before the duct proved interesting for Paul and consequently Matt & Tim exited via the Fairy entrance whilst Sas & Paul retraced steps. The puddle had ~ 8 inches of air space (drier than expected / hoped - we like to see Matt get moist.).

Saturday 18th May 2013: ~~ROBB'S READ'S CAVERN~~
Aidan's CAVERN

Ali Moody, John Cooper, Pete Bratchley & Adam Moyce.

More work on the Brone-Stant streamway. Shifted a few large rocks + the debris & filled a few bags with soil. Couldn't shift a very large slab in roof - but need to make safe. Water level has risen ~ 60cm from last week, giving a lovely pool to sit in & wait. The rift we're trying to enlarge is now underwater - will revisit when dry weather drops water level.
Pete.

18th May 13. Spider Hole

Pete Hawn, Aubrey Newport, Jonathan Riby, John Hall, Will Read, Floss Crother-Smith, Adrian & Jude Vdp, Nigel Graham
Lots of willing helpers - including Barry Watkinson, who did the surface moving. We took in 32 half bags of sand & 1 bag of cement. Then pulled out about 20 buckets of clunch. 1 bucket of cement used. The Jicar is about a foot lower than when we arrived today. Big thank you to everyone for their help!

Jude.

19/05/13 Swildon's Hole (2 hours)

John Cooper, John Gibbons, Emma Gibbons + Barry Weaver went to fault chamber. 2 kg.
Swildon's was extremely bony - good to see!

2013
13th May Reservoir Hole Tourist Trip.

Ali Moody, John Bratchley, Mike Waterworth,
Adam Moyce.

Good fun! Ali checked dinghy dell and we moved some precarious boulders in the main chamber. Good photographs from the trip to Josh B.

18th May Swildon's, to Swildon's 7.

Josh Bratchley, Thom Skinner, Mike Waterworth

Josh + Mike followed streamway to past 6, Thom dived to 6 and bypassed 6, got lost and recharted.

14th May 2013. Reservoir Hole Digging in the Silo.
Josh Bratchley, Aidan Moyse, Pete Glenville,
Muddy and gritty! Hauled some rocks and grit out to the
junction. Some sparks popped out from the ^{right} hard tunnel wall!
Josh-B.

15th May 2013. Grebe Swallet.

Chris Binding, Josh Bratchley, Mike Waterworth,
Aidan Moyse, Graham Price, Naomi?

Muddy! Got a fair bit of soil out, some big spiders in
the entrance! Eugh.... Josh-B.

16th May 2013. ^{Withybrook} ~~Withy~~ Field, through trip

Josh Bratchley, Aidan Moyse, David 'Cookie' Cooke,
Graham Price, +1

Josh, Cookie & Aidan first through trip of withy.
Brought 107 bags up close to surface.

17th May 2013. Longwood, Rhino.

Josh Bratchley, Mike Waterworth, Aidan Moyse,
Luke Edwards.

New swallet just upstream from entrance blocked + unblocked
while Josh was in-cave. No noticeable difference
in cave access at bottom of entrance series.

19th May 2013. Hunter's Hole.

Josh Bratchley, Ellen Cooper, Aidan Moyse.
Ellen's first underground set. Direct route (main pitch)
missed by Josh. Adam descended to the ij heel
on rock bridge. Ellen bottomed the pitch. Josh
free-climbed out while Ellen ascended via set.
Had to go back down due to rope twist caught on
boulders.

23/05/13 - Swildon's Hole (2 hours)
John Cooper, Emma Gisborne + John Gisborne
went to look down ~~at~~ The Black Hole.
*On the way - going through 'Old Crotto' + before 'Water Chamber' there was stat that had fallen off the wall (just below the calcited boulder drub). EKC.

23/05/13 Spider Hole. Trip with the Thursday night team. Impressive Lootring shaft guys.
28 Buckets according to Mark Helmore.

Scaldors Hole
24/05/13 Spent the morning Rebubbling Miss Cohen's Rebreather! Then a solo trip to Sump 2. Very relaxing wonder around. Some water and cave to myself. ~~fun~~

21/05/13 - Reservoir Hob.
Ari Moody + Peter Glanville.

Digging in Jill's Slither. A large quantity of mud + rocks removed - now just two large blocks preventing access to a few metres of open passage. Disgustingly muddy.
A. Moody

23/05/13 - Long Hole.
Ari Moody, Andrew Atkinson, Clive Owen + Tony Boycott.

Resurveyed the cave for the Cheddar Catchment Survey Project. ~~298m~~ (298m of passage surveyed with one passage still to complete)

A. Moody

25/05/2013 - Paul's Cavein
John Cooper, Pete Buckley + Ali Moody

The large hanging death was still in situ, but dropped when attacked by PB. Fortunately this could then be broken into manageable pieces & removed from the digging area. We can now look through a 5cm wide crack into "open" passage above the pool, and this is probably the left-hand branch of the extension found by the LADS in 1983. Further enlargement work done before leaving - 3½ hours try.

Photo to Paul. Noel. 26/5/13.

Ali Moody

25. 5. 13 GOATCHURCH Bean, Mark, Jo, Luci, Tess + Vanessa

Fist trip ever for Luci, Tess and Vanessa. Nothing to worry about because Bean and Mark were looking after everyone! Through the drampipe! Far too much giggling. On the way one Bean left us all to find for ourselves as he had to go and lose at cricket!! (104 all out and they still lost).

26. 5. 13. SWILDONS BEAN, Jo, Luci, Tess, Vanessa + James

20
Lots of fun to the ~~SE~~, short dry, back out wet way, long dry, short dry. Tea and shoneen wen fabulous. Lovely sunny day :D

26th May 2013 (3 hours) - Sutildon's Hole
Barry Weaver, John Cooper + Emma Osborne went over
the Black Hole hole (did the scary step across) to the 2nd
chimney. Saved exploring the wall for a return trip.
EKG.

26 May (SUNDAY). Sutildon, Sun! Noel Cleone.

Fed the addiction out with a quick solo to Sump 1. Not
very solo - lots of friends in the cave! lovely sunny
day, probably better spent swimming at GP, but good to be
underground again. airspace in Sump 1. Photocopied log to
her. Noel.

27-5-13 Sutildons XII

Christine Gross, Osama Gobara.

Canned 4 cylinders + 2 bags of 'stuff' in last night. Awkward
carry in, rapid ladder + dropped gear at Sump II.

Very fast exit. Oz on his first mission to XII + Chris on her 2nd.

Today, rapid progress to SII + kitted up + found the way
to Sump XII in good time but a sensible pace. Oz dived
Sump XII - Chris knew it was shit + did not feel the need
to prove it to herself! Instead, Chris photographed + filmed
Sump XII + the results look worth the effort.

Sheya-less on a bank holiday Monday (!) both divers
self carried 3 bags + 4 cylinders, plus camera equipment
out of the cave. Excellent trip rewarded with a Chilli + a
print!

CSG.

28/5/13 Sutildon's Ulcer series

Peter Noel Buckley, James George Cockayne.

Quick intro trip to Sutildon's. Had a look at the 20ft then back +
looked down to 40ft. Had my first look into Rolling Thunder. Out the
ret way - didn't fancy following the antwall the way. Nice to be able

1

to stand up for most of the trip! Care at clear as well - bonus. Please can all caves be like this? Pelt.

28/05/13 Reservoir Hole.

John Coops. Went in with Peter Glencross & worked on the Silo for an hour before Ali Moody co-opted me to help deal with a couple of boulders in Jill's Silo. After an hour back to continue in the Silo for another hour & a half. 3 hours total.

John Coops.

30/05/13 Swildon's Hole - Short Round Trip $2\frac{3}{4}$ hours

Pete Buckley, John Coops, Emma Gisborne, John Gibson, Lee Hawksworth & John Newton.

A military mission of Strong Men (and Emma) with the objective of getting John G through Custard Cavern. A successful result and a very enjoyable trip had by all. Thanks as ever to John + Pete for talking to me on both sides and taking my hat off! Good fun and good company. John.

1/06/13 Northwest Stream passage or ~~the~~ thereabouts!!

Jack B, Geoff B, Emma B, Tids, chris
Stu, nicknak,

We arrived at camp 1 I was through mucky but all right we trudged along to the landing then up to bangsqueese and then went to a really muddy bit called wet course and chris went first and got a face full of mud and all laughed! after that we carried on to the traverse it

look terrifying!! we got to the pitch
but could not go down because
dad forgot the 10m ladder he only
had a 7m one so it was 3m from
the ground so we had to go back.
Jack Ballard

Saturday 1st June 2013 Read's Cavern.

Pete Bradley, Jol Cooper & Ali Moody. Can see into
a massive bedding with stream but can't reach it - yet!
3¹/₄ hours Jol Cooper

Saturday 1st June 2013 Eastgate Cavern,

Nik Nak, Jol Cooper & Ali Moody. 30 minute trip to
visit a stuck cave. Soon out.

Jol Cooper

31/5/2013 - Great Oases + Long Hob.

Andrew Atkinson, Ali Moody + Tony Baycolt.

Re-surveyed Great Oases - it is now 100m longer
than the stated length in The last Mendip Underground!

Also surveyed (solo) the body-sized passage "Once
Only" accessed by the scalded chimney of the
over chamber in Long Hob -

Ali Moody.

1/5/13 Souldair's Hole - Claire Coker, Paul Fairman, Duncan
Price & Naomi Sharp - Swap 1 and back

Saturday 1st June 2013 Star Shaft. Tim Rose & Sas Watson.

A mixture of playing with string & talking to a few moo-cows who at times wanted to say hello. Had a look at second pitch but decided against due to time (lots of falling!).

Tim.

Sunday 2nd June. Swildons. John C, Lucy Weaver, John + Emma Gibbons
A pleasant Sunday bumble to Swamp 2 and back.

Returned with a grateful frog who was also trying to exit from below the 8 foot drop! 1 3/4 hours. John L.

Saturday 2nd June Swildons. Tim Rose & Sas Watson.

Even more leisurely than John's trip above! Only got to swamp 1 spent time en route taking photo's and looked at a few chinks above the streamway to see the pretties. No further adventurous frogs found, Tim but we did rescue a very dead & rusty battery pack from the oxbow.

2/5/13 - Wigmore Swallet - Claire Cohen, Chris Jewell + Duncan Price - cleared entrance but got no further than first flat out crawl due to run in. Spent c lot of time digging this having previously built a wall to retain an earlier dump.

06/06/13 - Upper flood Swallet (5 hours)

Emma Gibbons and John Cooper were taken on an amazing trip by Richard Cary. We went through Upper Flood Passage to Midnight Chamber and along Midnight Passage. Then to the Red Room - aptly named after the wantonly red formations. Then we went to Golden Chamber and on to the Boulder Choke and its many squeezes! We then arrived at the Departure Lounge or through Brothers Lounge - on to Walk The Plank

Chamber. Next came the Royal Living Chamber and went via West Passage and Link Passage (recently connected) into Neverland. We took off our overkits + dived gloves but etc and before hitting the bottom of certain ditch and back to Pork Pie Passage. Steady climb out back in our muddy overkits and back out.

416.

8/6/2013 - Lad's Cavern

Pete Buckley, John Cooper, Ali Moody, Kev Hilton, Mirek

After clearance work we were able to enter the bedding passage that we could see into last week. This is pretty damp and must be the left-hand branch of the T shaped extension that the LAOS entered in 1983. Dwindles this ends in a pool and we now need the local water table level to drop another 2m in order to reach the original sump! While John drilled the rest of the party went for a tourist to Lad's Luck. The water level in Alzheimer's Pool was surprisingly high - it was high!

Ali Moody

Sunday 9th June 2013 - Swildon Hole - Short Round trip.

John Cooper & Chris Seal

Troubles all low - looked like someone had been round yesterday as it's not completely settled.
2 hours.

13/6/13 - AGEN AUNWOOD

John Cooper, Barry Weare, John Cawson, Emma Gibbons.
In via Cgat Gant and to the end of the Main
passage. Returned inspecting Souther Stream passage,
Inlet passage and Main Streamway. Weathered
trip, taking our time en-route. 3.3 hrs. 16.

13/6/13 Swildons Hole Sump 2. After work
exercise with claret colours. Care to ourselves
water in stream very clear.

14/6/13 Hunters Hole, solo trip for a bit of SRT/
Rigging practice. Both Ringers Rigged In and out
1st. next stop Yorkshire. Mitch Thores

Saturday 15th June 2013 Read's Caves.

Pete Buckley, John Coop, Ali Moody & Steve Draper.

Photo trip to Main Drug for Steve to get a photo for the new
Madip Undergound. Looked at all 3 ad with a final descent
at the main Drove Street sump. Now needs a drought & a diver
4th hour.

Sunday 16th June 2013 - Swildon's Hole (2 hours)

Matt Thrast, Richard Cawsey, Barry Weare, John Coop
& Emma Gibbons did the Shallow Trip. Really
excellent Trip!

ELH.

Thursday 20th June 2013 Chaterhouse Caves

Richard Cawsey, John Coop & Emma Gibbons.
Down as far as the road gate.
1st hour.

Friday 21st June 2013 Snildon's Hale.

~~for~~ Josephine Kaualele Makalani Mawae
Robert Alexander Kukunaokala Macree

Kaela Pereira - Amazing! Thank you so much.

Bob Monroe - About 40 yrs since I did this but the kids had fun. Quite different to that of riding the waves and the ocean smells of the Pacific. We all had fun, so thank you i + ran SEEGAR

Saturday 22nd June 2013 Chaterhouse Cave.

Pete Buckley, John Cooper & Ali Moody.

Intention was to go digging in Rhino Passages but in the event we opted out so we had a tourist / tiling up trip. Collected tools from the River dig and a frame, small chisel & crow bar left in the Tideline. (Long chisel & 2 bars brought out). A 100m reel of new bang wire was taken in and left at Squiffy Toilet. We went along Route 66 checking out what the water had done over the winter. There were no footprints once we were about 100m past the crossing. Quicksand Chamber had lots of extra sediment in it but no signs of the buckels that usually end up there. Diesel Duck had an inch of sand over the floor so was very pleasant - no water/no mud. We turned round at the Falso Cone area. I wasn't going to mention the Great Wall of Chaterhouse but my opinion of Pete's wall building skills is going down - only half still standing! A pleasant 3 1/4 hours.

John Cooper

Saturday 15th June 2013 Bortham Cave.

Wessex Cave Club: Emma Heron, Claire Cohen, Clive Westlake. The rest (co)
Dave Ryall, Jason Mallinson, Gary Jones.

Emrys and Jason went off ~~the~~ through Sump b to assault a constricted slot with hammer and chisel. As Sump b is 4.57m long this is quite

a long way to go to assail a constricted slot with hammer and chisel. Anyway Jason says the cave beyond Sump 6 is horrible - so it must be.

Dave wished to photograph the 600m of handsome passage beyond the Kendal CC choke. Unfortunately G loopy Twirl Inlet on the way to the Kendal choke is flood liable and the prevailing and forecast weather was not good. Thus Dave started photographing with Clive between Sump 5 and G loopy Twirl, whilst Gary and Claire went to see the China Shop. The four of us spent a further hour photographing, then dived out through Sumps 5-1 without incident.

Emrys and Jason caught up with us later at Breckonbottom. They'd made some progress with hammer and chisel at the slot, but further progress will need heavier weaponry.

Clive Westlake

Sunday 16th June

Rift Pot.

Claire Cohen, Mike Thomas, Clive Westlake.

During some interglacial a couple of winters ago we found our way through soft mist and thawing snowfields to the entrance, but failed to find the best way down the last pitch. Today conditions were more temperate and we did find the best way down the last pitch. Rift Pot is not P-bolted, but Mike did some inspired and creative rigging. There's not much else apart from the fine first and last pitches of this pothole, but they are both very fine. 3½ hrs.

Clive Westlake.

Sunday 23rd June 2013

Sniddon Hole.

John Coop, Emma Gibbons, Ida Gibbons, Lee Haworth,
Chris Seal, Karren Turner & Clive Westlake.

Whilst most went & watched while Clive went through Sump 2 the two John's went through Wet Ear Squeeze.

Still lots of airspace in Sump 1.

2¾ hours.

John Coop

Monday 24th June 2013 - Rhine rift Tom Rose & Sas Watson.
First time in Rhine for the two of us, to get an idea of what the place is like. Played strong on the first pitch to practice rope dangling. Will return to do the rest at a later point.

Tuesday 25th June 2013 - Upper pits, priddy farm shop round trip.
Tom Rose & Sas Watson.

Swift progress was made to the farm shop where a jar of strawberry jam, 4 scones & a tub of clotted cream were rescued. These were quickly returned to the start of the round trip & consumed with suitable quantities of tea. Total trip time 10 mins.

Tuesday 25th June 2013 - Swildon's Upper Series
Florence Howther-Smith, Alison Howther-Smith
Route - binding for Flo, her 2nd trip all round the Upper Series, leading me. In via zig-zags, from top of Jacob's ladder, down the Long Dry way (?) Climbed up to the top of the Old 40, & back down out via the Wet Way. Short trip, steady pace for route consolidation purposes ~ also, great fun!
Total trip time 1 HR 35 Mins.

Saturday 22nd June 2013 ~ Hilliers
Florence Howther-Smith, Alison Howther-Smith, William Read
Birthday caving trip for me (Ali). Plan was to go in via Hilliers & out via Fairys, but made such good progress that at the Duck, we decided to turn round & came out of Hilliers too. Went to entrance to the Red Room, had a look, didn't go in this time. Took lots of pics of the pretty bits & took our time so I could try & find the route & make a map of it from memory later at home.
Total trip time 2.5 hrs.

Tuesday 25th June 2013 - Shute Shelve Cavern

Tim Rose, Sas Watson & Elaine (leader)

New cave for the two of us, great little trip well worth doing
Took a few rubbish photo's.

Thursday 27th June 2013 - Hilliers / fairy Cave 1³/₄ hrs.

This is a Mendip classic - brilliant trip that's well worth doing.
Richard Carey, John Cooper and Emma Gisborne.

We entered via Hilliers down the hand line and turned right downstream. Went to Tar Hall then on to Cambridge Croft passing the climb up to fairy cave. Then on to Red Room via boulder choke (?). Climbed up in the Red Room to a high level section with large curtains. Then back through boulder chokes and out via fairy cave.

ECC.

Saturday 29 June 2013 - Charterhouse

Ali Moody, John Cooper, Pete Buckley.

Trip with Autostey's CO₂ monitor with the aim of digging Rhine Passage south. It was rather alarming that a level of 2.5% plus was measured at the start of the Aragacite Crawl below The Citadel. From this point the alarm went off continually with levels of 2.5 to 3.4%. A short time spent working on the Rhine dig but with levels of over 3% in this area this was hard work. Exited via Flyt Rift and Chocolate Chantier, but as the monitor had turned itself off by this point we were unable to take readings in Route 66. Stakehouse.

Ali Moody

Swildons Hole Recovery Project

29th June, 2013

-Footleg, Badger, Paul Dodd, Ben Kent, Josh White.

We've had a few trips surveying with Disto X and sketching underground on a PDA. About time we wrote about one in the log book. Previously we have cored from the entrance to Water Chamber via Zig Zags, Long Dry Way & Short Dry Way routes. Training a number of people in survey techniques in the process.

Today we had two new faces on the project, so decided to focus on training rather than trying to get as much data as possible. We started in Water Chamber with a Disto X calibration test (we had 2 Distos with us, so 2 teams). Then how to recalibrate and retest to prove the calibration worked. Next, a sketching lesson in Water Chamber while Dodd gave Josh a rigging lesson at the old 40 foot head.

We then set 2 teams off surveying downstream. One staying in the stream and one taking the original route to the top of the 40 foot pot. Descending the pot, to close the loop with the other team. We surveyed on downstream to the corner with the folded strata.

Back at Upper Pitt the data was quickly processed by Footleg and the total error in closing the loop between the two teams was 16 cm! Good work, and two trained up sketchers ready to be unleashed on the rest of the system.

Paul Dodd took some nice photos of the training in Water Chamber so we have a record of the activities too. - 6 hours underground.

Swildon's Hole 30th June 2013 Short Round Trip

John Cope & Emma Gibbons.

Lots of people in the cave today but no holdups.
1h 40 mins.

30 June Sandford Levy mine

Florence, William & Alison C-S

Obviously, this was one of the most challenging trips I have undertaken in my extensive (16 months) of caving. It was sheer luck that we had all the kit we needed, food, spare lights, ladder, SRT kit & dingy (inflatable). Quote of the day:
Will: I never want to crawl that far, ever again. Me neither.
Most notable incidents of extreme peril: at the top of the pitch (where we leaned over and had a quick look); and back at the club house, when the wind blew William's cider can over, but luckily, it was empty. Too tired to write more now, except to thank the thoughtful "caver" who left a severed (ceramic, green) alien head at the end of the last passage. This enabled us to fully test the echo-quality of the mine, because it made William scream like a girl.

Time: 13.5 hrs *

Alison C-S.

* 32 minutes.

30 June Swildons Revisited

Survey team returned to sort out entrance area loose ends. Connected our surface GPS fix point to the entrance with some challenging daylight Distorsing.

Working as two teams underground we completed 5 interconnected loops around Stoneball, garage and Kenney's Pig. Curiously Dold & Badger met lots of people on their section while Ben & Fortley seemed to be the only group following our route! Amy Sparr passed through with a group of giggling girls, they later said Chris Binding came through with some rougher tongued men!

Lots of loose ends tied up as we damaged to the very limits of Disto X endurance.*

Fortley, Paul Dold, Badger, Ben Kunt.

= Tony Rodwell

* This meant the bottom was at

2 July 2013 SWildon Upper Series

Florence, Alison C-S

Route finding in upper series: zig-zags \Rightarrow long day way
 \rightarrow top of old 40 \rightarrow out via wet way.
V Quick caving but plenty of time spent observing
& memorizing route. 1.5 hrs. ac-s.

4th July 2013 - Swylden Sidcot U-Tube.

John Cooper, John Gibbons, Emma Gibbons.

Afternoon trip to the Sidcot-U-tube to investigate
amount of air space with the intention of refilling
10-15cm of space through the tube and clear
water locking jutting. Out in 2 1/4 hours ready
for an Independence Day celebration at the thunders!
John G. (one frog needed as well - again!) 'JG.

6th July 2013. Head's Cavern

Pete Buckley, John Coop & Ali Moody

Water levels still dropping. Brown-Stewart the only one
worth diving. Dog leg just mud. Altydeiness could see salt floor
with no way on. Spent an hour digging a loop at the end of
the LADS back squeeze then another hour digging mud in a
nice plateau take on the way out.

4 3/4 hours.

6th July 2013. Spider Hole

Pete Hamm, Nik Nik, Jude Vdp, Adrian Vdp.

3 buckets. of cement, Good Draught,

6 July 2013 GB

AC-1, Flo, William, John Berlin

Standard trip 1h.20m

7th July 2013 - Swildon's Hole (1.28 mins)

John Cooper and Emma Giborne - short round trip in furries (br). Water levels still really low (no building req'd)

Emma

8th July 2013 - Eastwater Cavern, (Primrose Pot).

Josh Bratchley & Mike Watersworth

Carried 80m of rope (R15) and our SRT gear down via Upper Traverse into Primrose Path to the squeeze. Realised that neither of us could do the return under our own steam. First trip there and not sure what to expect on the other side. Josh tried twice to get through attempting to get out at every stage, got to the slight bend in the tube and could not climb out, needed hauling via fixed rope. Leave this for another day! Return trip ~~out~~ was fun with such a large bag.

09/07/13 - Hunter's Hole (1½ hrs)

Mark Easterlinn. and Emma Giborne down both SRT pitches to the bottom and out.

Emma

11/07/13 - Swildon's Hole (2 hrs 20 mins)

Rich Carey, John Cooper and Emma Giborne went to North West Stream Passage - through wet east squeeze (de-gloped the other side ready for 2nd Saturday trip). Went across slippery traverse to look at pitch and then out the wet way.

Emma

13/07/13 - Smildon's Hole (3½ hrs) '2nd Saturday Trip'
John Cooper, Pete Hellier, Tom Harrison, Beth Bernauer, ~~Tom~~
Waterworth, John Giborne, Emma Giborne, John Hurst
and Lukasz Rybacki went to North West Stream Passage
via "Wet Cave Squeeze". Explored ~~to~~ downstream sump and
then inspected the dip tubes (up stream). Bailed wet duck
in North West Stream Passage. Really interesting lovely.
phreatic tubes and a challenging pitch. Will write a vint!
Emma

13/7/13 - Bad's Cavern
Ali Moody + Pete Buckley.

Removed the boulder blocking the high level continuation
near the Lad's Luck squeeze, but some more work is needed.
They spent a couple of hours digging the tube above the
over. Made about 2m of progress and we have now
excavated about 7m of passage. The tube was draughting
well. The level of the Brown-Stewart sump had dropped
by another metre and we are now about 3.5m
below our final survey point. 5 hour trip.

Ali Moody

14 July. Committee meeting. Photocopies to lose. Nod.

16/07/13 Smildon's Hole (2½ hrs)

John Cooper and Emma Giborne short round trip
with a detour to look at the first pot in Blue Pencil.

Emma

18/07/13 - Longwood. Swallet (3 hours).
Rich Carey, John Cooper and Emma Gilborne dropped down the entrance rift and watched Rich negotiating the Letter Box Squeeze (feet first) + I decided to go head first. Then Rich rigged 5 meter ladder - slightly awkward approach. Then into water chamber (non-existent) shows Bath Chamber (very dry). - into easier passage 'Great Chamber'. We avoided the bold step and climbed down the dry waterfall - before traversing across to the other side. Crawled then through into the Argus Stream - ay which was very noisy. Down to the spring path following the streamway - bottom 2 metres was very wet. We then followed stream down fault chamber to main streamway at the bottom. We then headed up stream and took right hand branch to the top of Dry Gallery and then back down + looked at wet gallery - further down to stream gallery. Retreated back down to fault chamber and went down stream which is beautifully decorated! followed the stream to the spring but DID NOT DO Roger Rendell's Passage (just looked at it). Back out.

Emma

20/07/13 Read's Cavern. Ali Moody, John Cooper & Pete Smith

Removed the rest of the boulders at high level take over ladder squeeze. Now an interesting tube type passage goes on forever! (at 6m over). Had a look at 65m up - water level dropped a further 0.5m - didn't have wetsuit on, so can't confirm it's about 2m deep straight down (as it looks). Lots of wildlife on the rocks + a rat slumped itself on the way out. Ali tried to catch it but it, sensibly, ran away. Quick look into Mylne's End. No further water level drop; silt + mud just off bottom. Lovely. Continued digging, roughly ploughed hole - another 2 metres (for 2 hrs digging) made. John ran off with a deadate. Tortuous Sh.

SWILDENS.

21/07/13 John Cooper, Berry Weaver, John + Emma Gisborne
Inran Khan, Perry Hall.

Swildens to Sump 2. Circumlocution trip for Gary + Inran
who enjoyed seeing all the way down to Sump 2.
Inspection of Berne's Ledge en route. 2 hrs.
John G.

25/07/13 Eastwater (3 hours)

John Cooper, Richard Carey + Emma Gisborne - in
via wiggly pitch down to the Crossroads. JMC went to
put a rope down Dolphin Pot and Ladder Dolphin
Pitch. RC + EIG went to rig the 1st vertical for
SRT. All 3 descended to the ledge - bounced across to
connecting rift. Using the same rope tied the tree to
a high up ring bolt rigged 2nd verticle using the same
rope. But following on decent rope refused to pull
through so left harnesses + tackle sack tied to rope
and went across the Bold Step back up to Dolphin Pitch
then pot - de-rigging on the way. Back to crossroads
back down St Bend and re-rigged 1st verticle with a
ladder tree + retrieved the offending rope.
Excellent trip - thoroughly recommend!

Emma

Saturday 27th July 2013. St Cathberts.

Ali Moody lead a party with John Cooper, Adrian
Fawcett, Duncan Price and MICHAEL KASTOUNIS™

From the bottom of Arctic Pitch a quick detour to peer
down Polyp Pitch before the normal route down Ledge Pitches,
Wire Rift & Mud Hall Pitch. Then Peter Chamber route to
Boulder Chamber and Custer Chamber. Then down to Everett and a
detour to view the Fingers. Back in Everett took a right into
Cobbers Series and a look at the Lake. Back and through the
Rat Hole & Mud Bell Chamber to the Dining Room and the Steamway.
Followed it down via Slab Pitch System to Plantation Tunnels.

On down and up the chain over the Gove and down through Sup 1 to Sup 2 - very low. Back to Planter Street via a chocolate stop at Gove Hall. Up into Rabbit Warren and the two steel bands were denuded. Octopus to view the Fingers from the other side. Continued up into the Fairy Tunnel. Up Haven Passage to High Clamber to view the Potholes. Back down to Fairy Tunnel and took Shrub Passage to Cavers Club. Down Ewart to the streamway. Rich & Ida did the Dutch while the others took the bypass. Up Watergate trail to Low Ward Hall. Then out the same way we went in. All recorded 4 frogs from Supp 2. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

27-7 Spider Hole.

Nigel Preston, Sude Vanderplank, John Riley, Alan Brady, Pete Haze and a Short Visit by the Late Connor Ade Vanderplank

Lots of rock + Clatch removed. The rift has dropped into a phreatic development full of rocks. North has punched out while South appears to be the way on. Too far to be had with the Boulders.

30/7. NOEL OCTOME, KEITH GOODFELLOW, GEORGE SCHLESINGER

First fl to RHR to Blood George on real, enlarged SRT. Good left-hand wall + Pitch 1. I couldn't find the middle nebelay. I thought I was in Thayer's Mortar, going straight down. Then saw only a plateau not on smooth calcite. Per or L EB p com "gathters" caving. Had excellent trip. Can completely buy a no drama coming up the waterfall sheet

7/5/13 SWILDON'S SHORT ROUND TRIP

OLIE HALLS, JOHN WALSH, RUSSELL HOW

First time on the round trip for two of us a first sweep for me (Ollie). Good, smooth going all the way, and among a bunch all in fine condition. Popped down to the top of camp 2 for a quick look, then back up above to do camp 1. I'd be lying if I said I wasn't anxious, not being a water baby swimming out my idea of great fun, however,

CONT...

The idea of going all the way back the way we came was enough to inspire fore us through the wetness. Easy peasy in the end, just a bit cold. OLIE

23/7/13 STOKE LANE SLOCKER

OLLIE HALLS, JOHN WALSH

After a ~~couple~~ couple of months off we took a steady hand & knee trip as far as the ~~soggy~~ sump & back, appreciated the warmer water that flows in half way there. Must come back & do the sump to see the wonders that lie beyond. OLIE

30/7/13 BLUE PENCIL PASSAGE

OLLIE HALLS, JOHN WALSH, RUSS NOW

(Nearly) there & back again. Mud sump clear of water, headed straight on down to Blue Pencil, sheltered & squealed our way down only to find an 18 ft (or so) pitch that John didn't remember - it has been about 15 years to be fair to him. ~~Plan~~ With Russ not being a big fan of heights we showed restraint & headed home with the heavy legs of the ~~soggy~~ seriously unfit. Troubles were far too flooded for us to consider backtracking tonight.

OLIE

01/08/13 Gildon's Hole Blue Pencil. (23 $\frac{1}{4}$ hrs)

Michael Batchelor, Richard Carey, Tom Cooper, Michael Kousounis & Emma Gibbons. Blue Pencil up to the downstream end of Sump 3 - then explored Sump 4. Looked ^{up} at the Priddy Green Sink Caves Aven and admired the climb up to Watergate. Back up Blue Pencil until the first trouble (more water but not by much - can't understand the 2017/13 report!). Excellent trip!

Emma

30/7/13 - CHRIS BINDING, COLIN ROGERS

Scudger got hole. Epic! Colin almost died.

I filmed everything. Movie will be premiered at Hidden Gary 4hrs.

1/8/13 CHRIS BINDING, JACK OVERHILL (GUESS).

Swindon's Hole. New extensions, SRT. All fast. 3 hrs

2/8/13 Maurice and John T. go caving (again) ~~Best~~ Decided Sandford Levy would still fit within our climbing abilities, and John had not been there before. Once we found de etrusca, we had a pleasant 3/4 hr wobble. Lot of nice white ~~white~~ mini formation, cave pearls and moon milk glistening in the beams of our Cox Comps. nostalgic feelings for the place of long ago.

Saturday 3rd August 2013 Dartmoor Cave.

John Cooper, Michael Kousounis & Ali Moody.

A trip with the CO₂ meter to the 2010 cave. Stopped at Sandworm Crawl (downstream end) and High Time Aven (upstream end). 4¹/₂ hours.

Please leave a couple of lines space
for results

John Cooper.

Sunday 4th August 2013. Swindon's Hole

John Cooper, Emma Gibbons, Tom Gibbons & Lucy Moore. Stage II then a detour to look up the 4-litter link. 2 hrs

Wednesday 7th August - Charterhouse Cave (3hrs)
Richard Carey, John Cooper and Emma Osborne. This was my third trip and best so far! I actually went through the entrance rift without hesitating this time as it didn't seem quite so daunting - or I'm getting more familiar with it. Gated squeeze, calcite squeezes 1 and 2, Waller 1 and 2 - just like old friends now. Walked down boulder slope of Splatter Chamber and Citadel - through Aragonite crawl into Crotto of the Singing stal (had a drink). Then into Chill Out Choke and passed my previous limit (2008 Gate) - followed the Obann Route + String. Crawled on down boulders + descended down Gloop Pot. Then on to the Narrows which weren't as bad as I thought. Down the small canyon to the top of Dragon Pitch - here we used the ladder which we'd carried in, and dropped through some boulders to the Confluence (where the G8 water comes in).

We then walked + crawled down Highway 120 - past the Blades to frozen cascade, where we had intended to stop. However, Rich encouraged us to carry on along 100 Fathom Passage to Sand Dig where we started the siphon going. After a quick look at the sump we went up sand dig into The Timeline and looked at the Gour pools (which were dry today).

Then down through Portal Pool into 2009 Series - along and through (H) our Chamber and down to the crookly - went upstream and looked down into crystal clear sump pool + then down stream into Route 66 where we called it a day. Back to frozen Cascade for food and a drink - then up hill all the way back out to the entrance.

Emma

FAT 10 Ave

TRAINING TOWER: selected group, Chris, Jack, Rich, Noel, Mike, Josh
met in 50% of total Andalucia band members who did not
do 2 day rescue/emergency training in the town country
+ Chris B. Very good fun. Highly instructive for all.
Noel. T.S. for added realism rich foliage must be badly

SATURDAY 10TH AUG 2013

Swildon's short round - Tim & Matt.

After Matt successfully made it through the sump 3 weeks ago
he had to be fully certified as a water baby by completing the
round trip. No bailing, queuing or rigging required - a rarity
on a saturday! Approx. 3 hrs. Excuses about water no longer
accepted. Tim.

10/8/2013 - Read's Cavern

John Cooper and Ali Moody

Another digging session at the mud choked tube near
the oven halfway up Browne-Stewart Series. The dug
tube is now 8m long. Ali Moody

6/8/2013 - Read's Cavern

Ali Moody and Andrew Atkins

Surveyed the very unstable section of boulder rubble
below Junction chamber while the cave is still bone
dry. This will allow us to get a closed loop between
Main Chamber | Zed Alley | Browne-Stewart Series | Junction Chamber
and Main Chamber. Exited via the Offshoot route but had
to re-excavate the V-tube again.

Ali Moody

SAT 03 Aug. GOATHURCH - everyone!! HELEN PEAR,
TONY ROBINSON LILY WILLS TOBY FURNESS ANDY NOEL GARNER
Rec over to caving & all enjoyed the 'goathurch experience' in depth. came back to up for lunch and then did swallows Upper - long day in, wet out. Huge catherines it sounds & doesn't do a boy to Eng! on Sunday - 26

Sunday 04 Aug. Same team less Abby, plus went to Swap 1 --- and then Swap 2 !! lots of bodies in cave so didn't move our rope or ladder. All in all a hugely popular and successful 2 days caving for us at least. Noo!

Saturday 10th August - 2nd Saturday Trip
Barnwell Bone Cave + Stalactite Cave (1hr 10 mins)
John Osborne, Emma Gibbons, Inde Vanderplank,
Beth Bennett, George ^{Frost} Carol Kenward
We went in the Bone Cave first and then visited stalactite Cave - both short but really well worth doing! Emma

Sunday 11th August 2013. Swallows Hole.

Joh Cooper, Emma Gibbons, Joh Osborne (Hastard), Chris Seal & Kevinn Turner.

Short Round Trip. Water levels all low. 2 1/4 hours.
Joh Cooper.

Sat, 10 Aug 2013 Frozen Deep
Wayne Starsmore, Flora Will, Aubrey
4 Hours Very hot

Monday 12th August - Spider Hole (1½)

Jude Vanderplank and Emma Osborne - SRT training session. Jude went down both pitches to the bottom + Emma did the first one only. Can't wait to go back and do both and maybe offer my assistance digging on a Thursday or Saturday? Emma

Thursday 15th August 2013 - Sludge Pit (1 hr)

Rich Corey, Emma Osborne and John Cooper. We went down the ladder (all life lined as per instructions). We followed main rift down to the two bottom puddles. Came out via Aragante Rift - enjoyed several small loops and ended up at Strike Chamber. Emma

Saturday 17th August 2013. Spider Hole.

Nik Nak, Pete Hann, Jude Vdp, Rich Markow, Andrea Russe, Ade. Vdp.

A good digging session, with 15 buckets of spoil cleared, 3 buckets of cement mixed.

Pete wants to progress the dig "Down & South" but the dig seems to have a different idea to this, than us.

The Draft is coming from the South side, still with holes in the floor.

Action.

Saturday 17th August - Reid's Caving

Ali Nandy, John Cooper & Pete Buckley

Cleared out the new passage at 1st level over last slack. Nice 'tube' for about 7^{ft}; Ali says Reid's solid walls on left & right. Best option due to calcite cobbles - passage appears to continue afterwards - so needs noting. Also spent many happy hours trawling mud along in lovely plastic tube

Path being dug. Now it's 200000 long, it's hard work getting spoil out.
Now stream let entrance rift. 4 hrs.
This is a good sized 'tube' - all R team can access to the restriction.

Pete

Sunday 18th August 2013 Swindon's Hole

John Cooper, Emma Gisborne & Barry Weaver. Went & looked at the Sidcot 4-tube. It's ruined again - roof 2-3 inches under water. Came out. 2 hours.

John Cooper

Sunday 18th August 2013 GB.

Allan Knight, Kit Gibbons, William Lee, Rich Marlow, Jelle Van der Plante.

Down through chambers, up ladder passage and into main chamber. Nice goetto in far corner.

Knight

Sunday 18th August 2013 Hunters Lodge inn sink

Tim Rose, Matt Wadler, Stephen Dickinson, Julie Fudge.

Fairly uneventful; Matt got stuck at the top of the pitch & said some naughty words. Steve took swimming lessons in the puddle down the bottom. Breast stroke yet to be perfected. Puddle quite deep for the summer. Much enjoyment was had carrying ladders out the entrance crawl, surfacing to sunshine 3 hrs later.

Tim.

Thursday 22nd November 2013

Goatchurch Cavern + Sidcot Smallet (2³/₄ hours)

Rich Carey, John Cooper and Emma Gisborne.

Went in from entrance + along Giant Stair to Traverse. Just before the Coal Shute we went down on the right to the Terrace. Along to Boulder Chamber and

Then down Jacob's Ladder into Water Chamber. Along the Drain pipe into Dexion Extensions (starts out as a flat out crawl leading to a sharp left hand turn - leading into a narrow rift which then opens up & into a small chamber) then onwards & upwards to a large chamber with tapped off formations). Returning back from Drain pipe into the Water Chamber - had a look at Hellish Tight (which Emma completed in downward direction - lots of excavation from both John + Rich at either end!). Returning to Boulder Chamber via the Coffin Lid - kept to right hand wall reached the chamber with the Coal Shute in it & duly climbed out. (1³/₄ hrs)

We then all crossed the stream to Sidcot Smallet.

All entered via the entrance rift and because another group was at the Tie Press - we went to Purgatory for a swimage. Had a look at the bottom of Peter Hawn's wall - very muddy! Back up and through Tie Press and into Boulder Chamber. Drop down into Water Chamber & The Lobster Pot (Emma's decent quicker than intended!). We went to the end pool to see all the little yellow ducks. Built out for lunch at the Water. (1 hr)

Emma

Monday 19 August 2013 - Read's Cavern.

Ali Moody + Andrew Atkinson.

Completed the survey of the offshoot to Treadie Chamber route so we now have a closed loop through the cave. Also surveyed Boulder Chamber and the Annex. It will probably take another 6 trips to complete the survey of the whole cave. (4 hours)

Ali Moody.

Saturday 24 August 2013 - Read's Cavern
Pete Buckley, John Coope and Ali Moody

~~10.00~~ More work digging both ends of the tube near
Lads' Luck - 4½ hours.
A bypass was also dug. Ali Moody
open to the bottom section of
the Chattering Slope which is collapsing.

Saturday 24th August - Swildon

Kev & Merik

Kev had cleverly made his cylinders inaccessible so no
Pierres. What to do when the Maypole - Shatter pull-
through was suggested. Sounded good so 40m rope, 3
ladders and off we went. The start of Maypole was
easy to spot with a bright green rope. Less inviting
was the squeeze with a deep puddle just a bit further on!
Working up through the three little chambers if it didn't
look like the way on in a 'what up there?' type of
way then it was the way on. Good abseiling (although
only one belt and one sling between us made the
abseiling rather quick) and then out for tea. A great
sporting round trip - well done team for opening it up.
Merik was hard to say that it was too wet and too
muddy... I don't know - divers!

Sunday 25th August 2013 Swildon's Hole

John Coope, Emma Gisborne, John Gisborne & Barry Weaver.

Down through Sump 1 & Creep 1 then up and the step across the
"Bold Step" into Approach Passage. Up this then down the 11ft drop
where a minor route finding error took us into A branch hole.
Fortunately Barry retrieved the situation & we were soon back on
the correct route & down the climbs to the bottom of the 10ft overhang.
Out after a pleasant 2½ hour trip.

John Coope.

Sunday 25th August 2013 Limekiln

John Coape, Emma Gibbons, SD Gibbons, Roger Robinson (Limerick), John Thomas (Toronto) & Barry Wilkinson. Soil removed from end of first crawl to surface. 1 dm.

Monday 26th August 2013. Swindon's Hole.

Susie Tuck, Will & Marcus Smith from Bladdon Ridge Bucks. (friends of Lyn from Priddy). John and Ali very kindly took us down Long Dry Way as novice cavers. I was really rather apprehensive especially since it seemed that the opening was very small! But once I got over my mild panic attack (the kids were fine!) I really enjoyed myself & felt I had accomplished quite a neat feat! Thank you so much for exposing me to a whole new ~~whole~~ world.

Great fun and a good form of exercise for anyone; a full workout. Gets progressively more exciting through small gaps and jumping down waterfalls. A great day out. Many thanks!

Tuesday 27th August 2013 - Read's Cavern

Ali Moody + Pete Buckley

Trip to dig out the down cave continuation of The Lad's Luck squeeze tube. About 1.5 m of progress made and this is definitely a high level water level but unfortunately the tube ahead is completely choked.

We also checked the Brown-Stewart sump and this had dropped another 0.75 m and is the lowest level we have seen. 4½ hour trip.

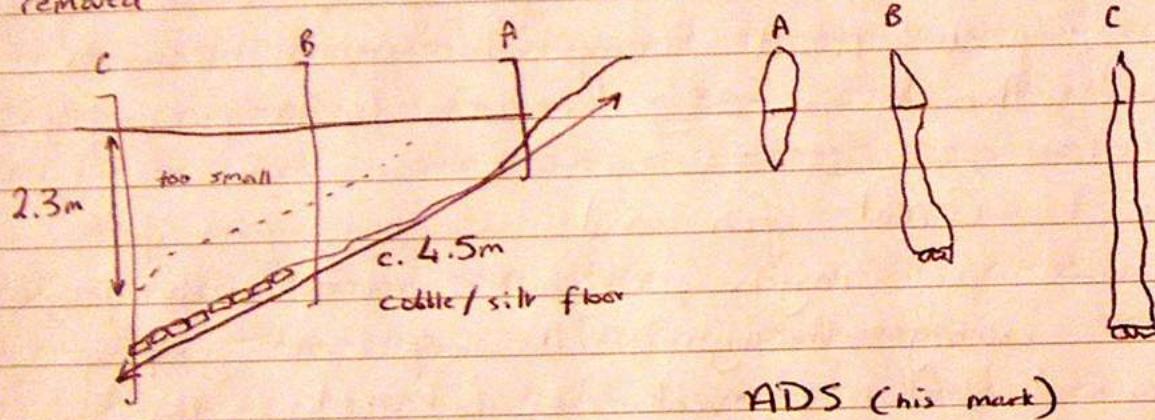
Ali Moody.

Wednesday 28th August 2013

Tol Cooper & Emma Gibbons joined Andy Sparrow's digging team (Pete & Thomas?) for the evening digging session.
2 hrs. Job

31/8/13 PB, JC, AAM, ADS Read's Cavern

Diving Browne-Stewart sump. Diver whisked to the dive site with ruthless tea-fuelled efficiency. Using 1x 1.5 and 1x 31 cylinders the sump was pushed along the base of a submerged rift. Sump left at a constriction where progress possible with streamlined kit and more floor excavation. No line required at this stage, so removed.



1 SEP 13 Tony Sparrow, KATE AND RECKY SWILLOWS

TOP TRIP. IN ON THE WETWAY, VERY LITTLE WATER ABOUT, SO TECHNICALLY I GUESS THATS THE NOT SO WETWAY. THE JUMP STILL HAS A GREAT AIRSPACE ON IT, DEFINITELY A DUCK, OR ARE SOME MUSICAL/THEATRICAL MOMENT OF ME SINGING MY WAY THROUGH, IT CERTAINLY MADE THE LAOS SMILE.

DOWN II STREAMWAY TO LOOK AT THE MASSIVE AIRSPACE ALONG II, I WONDER HOW LOW THE WATER LEVEL WOULD NEED TO BE FOR IT TO BE A NICE SNORKELLING ADVENTURE.

TOP TRIP, GREAT COMPANY. RECKY "do"

Sunday 1st September 2013 - AB (2 hours)

Ivan Khan, Gary Hall, Neil Woodward, John Cooper and Emma Ciborne went in via Devil's Elbow into Gorge over the muddy passage to look at the burned car. Then back down then up and over the Bridge into White Passage to the end boulder choke. Back down the The Devil then in Dark Passage - climb down into Gorge. Then down to Ladder Bay and down to the bottom. Climbed back up the waterfall (very dry today). Then we went out the mud passage out.

Emma

Monday 2nd September, 2013 Swildon's.

John Cooper, John Cuthbert, Emma Ciborne • 1½ hrs.

Up the Sump and back. In via same dry way as

they had missed Sunday's trip. Very little water throughout. John G.

August 2nd 2013 Sainte Pucelle.

Three generations Wallers visited this great streamway in the Lot. Kit 6, Hal 13 grandsons, Nicksson & new grandfather 69. An enjoyable walk in the entrance passages. Terry Waller.

Thursday 5th September 2013 - Swildon's Hole (2½ hrs)

John Cooper and Emma Ciborne went to Shutter Pot - descended the ladder. We went through the Oxford Chamber. Then went through Junction Chamber up the 10 foot overhang (drill bit used to pull up on walking since it's pressed down on!). Entered Shutter Passage and had a look at the first duck that had 3" or 4" of air space - turned round + headed back to the ladder through the squeezes (more fun + gained). Back up the ladder + out.

Emma

Saturday 7th September 2013. Spider Hole.
John Cooper, Nigel Graham & John Cooper. Counting 3 hours.
John Cooper

7th Sept Lead's Cavern PB

Digging out the mud filled phreatic tube - reached a pool in
point of a fault (across). Perhaps the rock layer has dropped. The sandy
unfill in the phreatic tube seems to continue downwards, but I didn't have
time to investigate further (it still caved in 10 mins over 600g - oops!). 4 hrs left

31-8-2013 post yr off Michael Thomas
John Thomas. First a dive in upstream
sumps for a nice look around - then a
through trip with the old man in the dry
man's case. Good to see my dad
underground again. ~~me~~

6-9-2013 Snildens Hole sump dive.

Michael Thomas dive coher.

Bit of exercise after work but of note
was the very very low water in
the cave. Been a few years since
I have seen the short dry actually
dry! ~~me~~

8th September 2013. Snildens Hole

John Cooper, Emma Gibbons, John Gibbons & Barry Weaver
to Sump 1. In long dry way & out the wet way. Still
very dry. 1½ hours.

John Cooper

08/09/13 Limetklin

Aubrey Newport, Barry Wilkinson, Tommo, John and
Emma Gibbons - digging.

(3 hrs)

12/09/13 Smildon's Hole - Blue Pencil / Short Round Trip
John Coopel and Emma Gibson visited both ends of
the fav streamway. Rescued a young frog from just
above the laboratory Pan.

Emma

14/09/13 Second Saturday trip. White sp., Long Hale &
Great Ones. 15 anesthetized cows ably led by Sudi.
Jill Coopel

14/09/13 Eastwater Cavern. Both at Dennis, Jill Coopel
& Wayne Starmore. Unlikely Strike. In Troubles & out
Woggle Pots. 2 hours.

Jill Coopel

14/09/13 Eastwater Cavern - James C., Maxine C., Paul Dodd
Emily spelunker, Aleister Smith. 13 Pots

Emily's 2nd trip ever - the rift was well negotiated but hard
work. Maxine discovered new position that she didn't know
existed! Met up with James + Ali at top of Dolphin Chimney
as they had avoided the rift. Paul + Emily went out at this point.
James, Maxine + Ali continued to Bspots. Quick trip back
to find Paul + Emily waiting for us. Paul had a photo
idea in the rift so back to the rift for some faffing +
photography. Out in plenty of time for the party. Good trip
~~Photographs to come. Well~~

15/09/13 Smildon's Hole (2 3/4 hrs)

Claire Pike, Chris Seal, Barry Weare, John and Emma
Gibson went to Sump One - back up Bower Loop
and out the Wet Way.

Emma

* Browne-Stewart series Sump.

16/09/13 Readi R Carey, J Cooper, ADS

Back to sump. One 1.5l and one 3l cylinder; former on ~~last~~ left hand side, latter hand held. Passage continues down. Sump entered feet first, progress made by kicking gravel/silt/cobbles down-slope. Depth 3.5m, penetration c. 7-8m, perhaps a body length further than previous dive. No line used. Return is planned.

ADS.

19/09/13 Smidgen's Hole - 2½ hours

Rich Carey, John Cooper + Emma Cistrome went through sump One (2cm air space) up to the Black Hole - down to the bottom and explored around. Rich was returning after 20 years + his lights didn't fail on this trip! (First time on ladder too). We examined the sump that leads to Priddy Pool Passage + then looked at the other parallel passage. Back out west way. Emma

21/09/2013 Spider Hole.

Pete Hann, Nigel Graham, Jude Vanderspek, Adrian Vandekopplek, John Riley, John Hill, Will Reed, Flos Crowther Smith, John Cooper, John Cistrome and Landrover.

Another Major Sand hauling trip with especial thanks to John Cistrome for transporting the sand to the entrance. Thirty two bags of sand taken down and five largish rocks currenlty at the bottom but left down these due to time constraint.

The majority of the drought was coming out of the south end of dig which is encouraging but we have some large rocks blocking progress forward!

(Spider Dwarf), P.H.

21/9/2013 - Read's Cavern.

Ali Moody + Pete Buckley.

Another session at the tube near the over. About 2m of progress made and the tube has broken out in a bouldery area. There is open space over to the left that cannot be entered at present and the tube may continue in this area. At the start of the breakthrough point a visual connection was made with the top of the climb into one of the entry points into Brown Stair Series. It will not be feasible to engineer a passable route between those points.

On the way on met a tourist party near Waterfall Chamber. We also spent $\frac{1}{2}$ hour digging a large mud filled tube off the Boulder Maze. - 5 hours.

Ali Moody

Sunday 22/9/13 - Swildon's Hole - Fault Chamber, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

John Cooper, Emma Gibbons, Tom Gibbons, Lee Hammett & Barry Weaver. After visiting Fault Chamber went and poored down the pitch into Lower Fault Chamber.

John Cooper

Thursday 26th September 2013. Swildon's Hole Short Round Trip 3h
Richard Carey, John Cooper & Emma Gibbons. Took a look at the top of Lower Fault Chamber ladder climb. Bailed the tanks even lower - didn't get a wet ear in any of them. Ditchling Spur still as wet as ever though. Airspace still high. Sup 1 air streaming still very low.

John Cooper

Sunday 29th September 2013. Swildon's Sup 2.

John Cooper, Emma Gibbons & Barry Weaver.
Water levels still very low. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

John Cooper.

Wednesday 2nd October 2013 Rod's Pot
John Coope & Emma Gibbons joined the Andy Sparrow
claving squad for 2nd Den's Banking socks.
John Coope

4/10/13 Swildons Hole. Phil & Dan Hendy.
After the thunder and lightning the night
previouse our small trip was moist but
pleasant. We rattled down the entrance,
through the pretty dry route and down
to the head of the twenty. We debated
going all the way unfortunately the Hunters
would be closed so we made the executive
decision to head back out, through the
wet way and back to the hut to get
showered & changed in time for a ham pasta
and a well earned pint of Roger's best!

5/10/13 - Swildons Upper Series John Cooper, Jude Vipf Anna Rudolph
James Waldegrave
We had a wonderful experience exploring an underground
world we never knew existed.
Just the right amount of excitement! Thank you!
Anna Rudolph
fantastic - wonderful. Many thanks
James Waldegrave

6/10/13 Swildon's Hole (2 hours)

John Cooper, Chris Seal, Emma Gisborne, Raisin Darn, Kemin Turner.

Went in long dry way, down to sump one, back out the wet way. Kemin Turner

Wednesday 9th October 2013 Sludge Pit Hole

John Cooper, Max Fisher, Emma Gisborne, Tricia Kendall, Andy Sparrow & Rachel Sparrow.

Once down the entrance and into Bouldo Chamber we headed down to the start of Fault Passage and took the route into Shale Series. Waited at the bouldo choke at the end whilst Andy went round to the other side & we established light and voice communication. To dig through best to dig out the mud rift at the bottom & try to leave the bouldos above alone. We all then joined Andy to look at the other side. Then a quick look at the over at the end of Tributary Passage. I had a quick look along Shleton Passage to the Upstream / Downstream junction. Then all down into Four Pots Rift to another possible digging site.

Out through Triple Arch into Fault Passage. Took Aragonite Rift route out. Met a load of BEC in the Triple Arch area & another Warren party "lost" in Aragonite Rift. Whilst I lifeline'd everyone up the arban the rest of the party visited Back Passage. 2^{1/2} hours.

John Cooper.

Thursday 10th October 2013. Swildon's Upper Series

John Cooper, John Gisborne, Emma Gisborne.

A pleasant explore around the upper series, squeezing JG past way into New Grottoes. Inspected lower exbow & lowbow and out via the wet way. Not bad for a Thursday! 1^{1/2} hours. John Gisborne.

Ridgeway 11th Oct. Sludge Pit

Derek Sanderson and Terry Waller.

Last week we did Bow Pots Rift and Shale Series - this week we went to the end of Skeleton Passage. Worth a visit. Surprised by bat droppings near the end. Also surprised by formations.

The ULSTA survey gives the end over so nearly at the surface and not so far from Nine Bartsow.

Saturday 12th October 2013. Hunters Lodge Inn Sust.

Joh Cope, Gary Hall, Zorran Khan, Allan Kingstott, Gerik Rhoden, Neil Woodward.

We were the second party, Jude leading the first. We dropped down the entrance ladder and followed Pel Crawl into Happy How Highway to where we could walk and admire the formations. Through the deep out section and up again into bigger passage. A crawl past the top of Pewter Pot and we were into Maid's Bedrooms.

Saw the bones that were still there before we squeezed along the last bit of passage off to the left - too tight.

Back down to Pewter Pot which we descended ($2 \times 7.5\text{m}$ ladders just a bit short) before we went into Slops 2 & 3. Zorran decided to test the depth instead of using the footholds just below the water surface. We ascended Brown Ale Bedroom until we reached the warning notice at the end (loose boulders!). Back out - only difficulty was getting the lifeline to reach the bottom each time.

3 hours.

(See Document 174 for Survey)

Joh Cope.

Saturday 12th Oct 13. 2nd Saturday Trip Hunter's Lodge
Inn Sink

Jude Vandepolants, Andrea Russo, Charlotte Hilton, Dave Walker
Christine Broshart, Magda Molksa & Kris

1st Party into cave - Chris & Dave both with
cameras - Charlotte and Andrea helped with flashes
while Jude, Kris & Magda went down the ladder.
Kris went through the water first, ~~Magda~~ Magda & I
decided to traverse over using ledges, ~~so~~ so after
a quick look at Broonate Boulevard we went back
up the ladder & explored the remainder of the
upper cave. We exited while the others ~~did~~ took a
few more photographs.

Jude

5/10/2013 - Read's Cavern

Oli Moody, Pete Buckley, John Coop

Started the new dig at the end of the Annex off Balde
Chamber. Enlarged the squeeze into a blind chimney. The way
on appears to be a narrow rift but the passage may widen
at a lower level. Another trip needed to determine whether
this site is worth digging

Oli Moody

8/10/2013 - Read's Cavern

Andrew Atkinson and Oli Moody

Survey trip, but the Disto X was playing up so only
managed to survey 17m! At least Waterfall Chamber can finally
be added to the new survey - still at least 300m to survey.

Oli Moody

9/10/2013 - Bramble Pit

Oli Moody & Martin Cross

Very pleasant trip looking at a potential dig site.
Rescued 2 frogs and 3 newts from the bottom.

Oli Moody

12/10/13: Chard Lane Warren low Smallet. Al Moody, Kev Hilton & Peter Brabbs. Part of RL Smallet has been rasled out near the old staff - so care needed to dig out gate. Rescued a worm or two. Used a variety of ladders, tethers, ropes & ingenuity to rig all pitches. Lots of boxes. Lots of stal. Absolutely fabulous lower section. Stunning - despite having a yellow light! Spent some time looking at the crystals & pack p's in the Secret Grotto. The expected 'fun' get out/up the pitches was not quite as 'fun' as I feared. Although we added wood to the Corkscrew pitch needs replacing now. A thoroughly brilliant trip! My nice new 'Sunday best' climbing suit is now, er, dirty. Petx

12/10/13 SPIDER HOLE. Ade Val Plant, Tom Chapman, Nik-Nak, Nigel J. Steady session saw good deal of former boulders raised, & another converted to a kit ready for next session. 29g

13/10/13 Swindon's Totem Pole, Lee Hammett, Barry Wood, Cavin Blake, Imran Khan, Gary Hill. A quick trip to start of Sump 2. John and Imran turned back at an open Sump!. John took me back on through the zig zags. J+I ~~exited~~ exited via Long Day.

15/10/13 SWINDON'S SE / NLETS

Dave Sanderson and Terry Waller. Had a paddle in the Sidcot U-Tube to celebrate Terry's 70TH. birthday - 1HR. 55MDS. Dave.

16/10/13 Rod's Pot. 2^{1/2} hours.

John Cooper & Emma Gibbons joined the Andy Sparrow digging team (Cheddar Caving club really) for another spoil clearing session. Several more still required.

John Cooper

19 Oct 13 Swildens 1. Hawry lost th will to live during th AGM. I took myself down to Sump 1. Caves th same as ever and just as nice. lots of people. 58 mas - I'm getting old and slow. But... it was a great contribution to AGMits! Noel

Monday 14th + Tuesday 15th October 2013.

Gough's Old Cave.

Ali Moody + Andrew Atkinson

Surveyed Gough's Old Cave and Champion's Hole for the Cheddar Survey Project. Very impressed with the size of the passage in Gough's Old.

Ali Moody.

Sunday 20th October. Swildens Upper Series

John Cooper, John Gibbons, Barry Weaver, Emma Gibbons.

Multiple loops around the upper oxbow, taking in Buttercombe Chamber and parallel rift. Cistern Hg and Middle oxbow. Out via long dry way and JG pushing into New Castle 1 entrance again. Sunday Constitutional!
John G.

Tuesday 21st October 2013. Swildens Hole

John Cooper & Emma Gibbons. Short Round Trip. Really nice to see a good flow of water into the cave again! Mud Sump still dry. First Trouble wet. Started the sump going then spent 25 minutes bailing a well. Got it down so just got one ear wet. Didn't bother with the mat. Sump 1 a proper sump again and a good ascent going through it.

2 1/4 hours

John Cooper

PAS

Wednesday 23rd October 2013. Rod's Post
John Coape & Emma Gibbons joined the Cheddar
cave surveying team. 70+ bags removed from the end to
an abandoned dig - 2 hours.
John Coape

Saturday 26th October 2013. Longwood Valley Sink.
Pete Buckley, Andrew Atkinsen, Ali Moody, John
Gibson, + John Coape

Trip to investigate the two dig sites. The upper tunnel
looks the most promising dig at present - although working
at this point involves lying in a disgusting and very
smelly, deep puddle. The lower dig site - a very narrow
rift might be worth investigating in the future. Two
holes drilled at the end of the upper tunnel before leaving.

Ali Moody.

Saturday 26th October 2013 - Read's Cavern.

Pete Buckley, John Coape, John Gibson + Ali Moody.

The team divided into two with Pete Buckley making
a metre progress in the Maze Tube in Zed Alley.
The rest of us to the Annex Dig ^{where we} ~~and~~ spent an hour
using a drill on the left-hand wall to open out the
approach to the work face.

Ali Moody.

26-10-2013

Susilclon's Survey 1 - Mike Thomas, Andy
Judd, Chris Westlake, Sarah Payne.

Good to see Andy Judd underground
and some water in the cave.

Followed by —

Sludge pit - 26-10-2013
Andy Tudd, Mike Thomas, Sarah Payne.

First trip for myself and Andy thanks to Sarah for guiding!! Rather impressed with this little cave. Andy's 2nd caving trip of the day and the year :) yes.

26/10/13 - Reservoir Hole (5 hours)

Barry Wilkinson, Murray Knapp, Emma Osborne were led by Aubrey Newport on an excellent trip. The writer felt like an ant in a sugar bowl in the frozen Deep - totally blown away by huge formations that were superseded by even larger ones just around the corner. A trip of a lifetime!
(There were two roosting bats in the Emma entrance series - which couldn't be recorded because the paper bat register was too soggy - one of the bats was tagged).

Wednesday 30th October 2013. Head's Pit

John Cooper & Emma Osborne joined the Cheddar cc team on another spoil clearing session. 2^{1/4} hours.
John Cooper

Saturday 2nd November 2013. Head's Cavern.

John Cooper, Emma Osborne & John Osborne.
Continuing the dig in the Avenue. Can we dig the mud floor in the final "chamber". 3^{1/4} hours.
John Cooper.

Monday 28th October 2013 - Read's Cavern.

Ali Moody + Andrew Atkinson.

Completed the survey loop between Tuckia Chamber and Water Chamber. Cold damp trip as the boulder rubble was very drippy. Just over 50m surveyed and the length of the cave is now 800m with about 200m still to complete.

Ali Moody

Saturday 2nd November 2013 - Charnelhouse Cave.

Pete Buckley, Ali Moody, Alice Roberts + Adam Fletcher.

Trip with Aubrey's CO₂ Monitor to Portal Pool. There was a draught in the old cave, but levels of CO₂ seemed to be at the 2.5% to 3% level from The Citadel downward. Portal Pool sumped and the initial water pulled through the siphon was extremely smelly. Diving stuff and ladder removed from the 2008 Extensions and brought out of the cave.. 3½ hours

Ali Moody.

Sunday 3rd November 2013 Swildon's Hole

Ed Cooper & Barry Weaver. Wet at last. Sump I - rope under 10cm under water. Lots of froth. 1½ hours.

Ed Cooper

Monday 4th November. Becky, Hatstand, AIDS SWILDON'S HOLE Direct route to Sump IV using daggers and goggles and oxygen bottles (to the tune of 'These are a few of my favourite things'). Water below level of upper pipe, but conditions underground suitably sporting. Interesting to note that sections of the II stream passage had sumped overnight.



Saturday 9th November - 2nd Saturday Trip (3 hrs).

Singing River Mine

Kate Brown, Alan Kingshott, Dave Walker, Wayne Starssure,
Rich Marlow, Simon Richardson, Cheryl Lingard, Trude
Vanderplank, Adrian Bennett — + Emma Gibbons.

Went down the entrance shaft - found a way to the T-junction and headed up the West Gallery to the bitter end. Had a look at Root Shaft and back to T-junction. Then explored the East Series and looked at striking golf + walked the wobbly plank into Great Chamber (Wayne, Alan + Kate went across) the rest of us watched. Across the other side there's an extension to Great Chamber + dead-ends after 20 feet. Then we all managed to find our way out without getting lost!

Emma

Saturday 9th November 2013. Read: Caves. (3 Years)

Party 1. John Cooper, John Gibbons (& later Tom Harrison).

Another session digging the Annes dig. 4^{1/4} hours.

John Cooper.

Tourist trip for Ian H & Rob Atans. Looked e ss sang-brk to water level. Up into LADS - dug end sang brk to h2 level + being fed by a huge cascade of water entering a right. Up into Alymer's - water level brk to h2 level. Collected spare dry kit + went back to Maze Dig. Rob + I made ~1-1.2m progress in phreatic like. It's beginning to turn right. Nice like. Exit to clean mud off kit. Pott.

St. Moody, Andrew Atkinson - Another 80 m surveyed - all of the western side of the cave is now complete!

St. Moody

Sunday 10th November 2013 Snidels Hole
John Cooper & Barry Weaver. Went & spent 30 minutes
bailing the Mud Sump to leave the bucket exposed. 2 hrs.
John Cooper.

Wednesday 13th November 2013 Rod's Pot

More bailing spud by Emma Gibbons & John Cooper.
Assisted Andy Sparrow's team. 2 hrs.
John Cooper

Sat 16th Nov.

Maurice and Tommo In memory of J-Kat we returned
to Darter Hole to continue our search for cavities measured to man
it started looks when I arrived at Burroughton without a
light and Tommo forgot his helmet! With two torches we
passed^{on} and to re-re-assess the dig. Today it looked
more promising. We decided that the roof at the end is solid
and there is a slot and about 6 ft from the end. So we
walked forward, following the roof. Noises suggested we are
past more or less under the extreme end of the little
grotto so road to the right. The fill we ~~are~~ removed
contains broken pieces of calcite, probably from
a ~~false~~ false floor. The roof is the ~~the~~ same pink
colour seen in the grotto to the ~~as~~ right of the
further old & entrapped - Tommo, & Maurice.

Saturday 16 November 2013 - Longwood Valley Sink.
Pete Buckley, Ali Moody, John Gibbons, John Cooper

Cemented up the disgusting pool at the end of the
blasted tube. John kindly volunteered to bail the water
out. Cement ($1\frac{1}{2}$ bags) mixed with the "sludge" and
then plenty of large rocks added. Makes a change to
fill in a dig!! Ali Moody

Saturday 16 November 2013 - Bramble Pit.

Pete Buckley, Ali Moody, Andrew Atkinson, John Cooper, John Gisborne.

A charge placed in the bottom rift to widen it.

Ali Moody.

18/11/13 - Drunkard's Hole (1 1/2 hrs)

John Cooper, Rachael Sparrow, Trisha Denning Kendall
Andrea Russe, Nikki ^{Dennis}, went through entrance rift. Into
a couple of chambers then across a couple of
traverses to look at a couple of digs. Excellent
company and a really fun trip!

Emma

20/11/13 Rod's Pit 2 hours.

John Cooper & Emma Gisborne joined Andy Sparrow &
Pete : spoil clearing. Now nearing the end.
John Cooper.

19/11/13 - Langwood Valley Sink.

Ali Moody + Andrew Atkinson.

Surveyed cave and drilled 4 shotholes.

Ali Moody

23/11/13 - Bramble Pit. 2 hours.

Pete Buckley, John Cooper, John Gisborne + Ali Moody.

Cleared debris from last weeks charge. Drilled and set off
new charge. One frog and one worm rescued from the cave.

Ali Moody

23/11/13 - Langwood Valley Sink. 30 minutes

John Gisborne, Pete Buckley, John Cooper + Ali Moody

Set charge of using the holes drilled on Tuesday.
One frog rescued from the bottom.

Ali Moody 46

Sunday 24th November 2013 Snildon's Hole 1½ hours.
John Cooper, Emma Gisbone, John Gisbone & Barry Weaver.
A photo trip around the Upper Series.
John Cooper

Wednesday 27th November 2013 Rod's Pit

John Cooper & Emma Gisbone joined Pete & Andy
(Cheddar cc) & Steve (unattached) for another session
clearing finally. Finally made it to the end of the dig.
Emma was No 9 & I was No 10. 2" hours.

John Cooper.

Tues. 19th Nov. Fault Chamber Holes 2½ hrs.

Terry Waller & D. Saunders

Thursday 29th Nov. Spider Hole 1½.

Terry & D. Saunders

Both trips good fun.

Saturday 30th November 2013 Brimble Pit

Pete Buckley, John Cooper, John Gisbone, Ali
Moody & Adrian Vanderplank. Soil clearing, drill &
fix. 2 hours.

John Cooper

Saturday 30th November Longwood Valley Sink.

Party as above.

Soil clearing from the bottom. More widening
of the bottom soft. 2½ hours.

John Cooper.

Tuesday 26th November 2013 - Longwood Valley Sink
Andrew Atkinson & Ali Moody, John and Emma Gisbone.

Scaffolding work on the unstable end of the end.
Redrilled and place charge in the top tube.

Ali Moody

Sunday 1st December 2013 Smidsons Hole.

John Cooper & Barry Weaver. Mud Sump now dry.
New buckets taken in and a couple of old broken ones
removed. 1½ hours.

John Cooper

Sunday 1st December Smidsons

Andy Mone, Rhodri Meredith, Daniel Meredith

Took to sump then back up to a bone dry mud sump and
through to Shatter Pot. 3 hours.

Wednesday 4th December 2013. Rod's Pot

John Cooper assisting the Cadder CC digging team
with more spoil removal (slurry!) 3 hours
John Cooper.

Friday 6th December 2013. Smidson's Hole.

Chris Castle, John Cooper, Tricia Denning-Kendall, Nicky
Dennis, Emma Gisborne.

Went & looked at the new P. Rangers at Shatter Pot.
Only for the life-liners it seems. Then on past Greasy
Chimney & did a little round trip through the puddle &
back over the top. 2½ hours.

John Cooper.

Wednesday 3 December 2013 - Canyon Caves

Ali Moody + Andrew Atkinson

Surveyed this interesting cave - 88m of passage and the
cave rift is quite impressive. We have now virtually
completed all of the caves on the north side of the gorge.

Ali Moody

Saturday 30th November. HODGILL MINE CAVE (Moldyworks S.G.) near Alston, Cumbria. One of the distinctive phreatic labyrinth developed in the Yoredale Series, & known only by a 19c lead-mine hitting it. Strange maze in which every joint seems to hold a passage. Guide-line along main passage! Between us, several new leads found, about 2-300m known passage surveyed (5km + surveyed so far), photos taken - the MSG Reunion & celebratory dinner in local hotel.

Nigel G

Yorkshire weekend 30th Nov / 1st Dec:

Nessica party staying at the Bradford: Maic Foyle, NikNat, Simon Richardson & Cheryl, Jude Vdp, Naomi & Duncan, Pete Hellier, Rich Carrey, Andrea Russe, Frank Tulley, Dave Wallcer, Wayne Starsmore & Clive Westlake or Kev Hilton

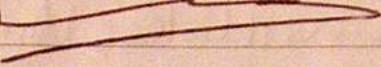
Simon & Cheryl got to Yorkshire a day early so had been to Alnm on Friday for a Dolly Tubs trip and left roposin. Saturday morning Sam Kev rigging Diccan so we could then come out as a through trip. NikNat also rigged diccan so there were plenty alternatives.

It was a lovely sunny day and whilst some of us caved a few chose to go walking. We had Alnm to ourselves early in the day, but alternative routes out proved useful later in the day as it was well busy! NikNat, Dave & Pete had headed off to do Treby for the afternoon.

By the end of Saturday Dolly Tubs was de-rigged - NikNat & Pete returned on Sunday to drop direct & de-rig Diccan. While Clive, Wayne & Frank went back to Treby and de-rigged. The rest of us took advantage of the lovely weather

and wear walking before heading home.
A ~~thank~~ A big thank you to everyone for an
enjoyable weekend - Jude.

7-12-2013.

wootley Hole 3-22 Michael Thomas, Clare Cates.
Fantastic conditions for diving both dives
upto 22 mts as a drysuit class in wetsuit as
drysuit at the Menders. Mike was not snug
at all! ☺ 

7/12/2013 - Longwood Valley Sink.

Rich Witcombe, John Cope, John Osborne, Pete Buckley,
Ali Moody, Andrew Atkinson, Tony Boycott.

Lengthy but very worthwhile session at LVS. A
considerable amount of debris removed from the reef.
Rebuilt the dam wall destroyed by the floods in
early November. Lane rift drilled and a charge set
off before leaving.

Hard session and bad backs for everyone! Shows.

Ali Moody

7/12/2013 - Swildons 12 - Kev. Mirek, Chris J.

12 was dived down a descending tube to gravel banks. 12a
was dived to the end of the current line* and then on returning
a passage in the floor was noted. New line was attached and
the hole was dropped for ca. 3m to a cobbler. Due to time
this was not pushed. Line was removed. Probably had back to 12.

* Definitely no further progress can be made here. Note - there
is old line that has been washed in in this passage not yet
removed.

Thursday 12 December 2013. Rod's Pot

John Cooper joined the Cheddar cc digging team for yet another spoil clearing session. Must be nearly clear by now. 2½ hrs.

John Cooper

SATURDAY 14. Photocopied by & Mrs. Noel.

Saturday 14th December 2013 - 2nd Saturday Trip

Rod's Pot / Bath Smallet Through Trip (1½ hours)
Simon Richardson, Clive Westlake, Andy Chamberlain,
Emma Gibbons, Beth Berriman, Jude Vandeplassche,
Florence Cowther-Smith, Will Reid (two of their friends
? Charlie and ? Mike - prospective members?). Admired
the New P-hangers at the top of pitch in Bath Smallet.
Half went in via Rod's Pot and half in Bath - exchange
at the bottom of the ladder.

Emma

Saturday 14th December 2013 Brimble Pit

Pete Buckley, John Cooper, John Gibbons & Ali Moody.
Spoil clearing - can now see onwards & downwards for 3+
bit reeds enlarging. 1½ hours.

John Cooper

Saturday 14th December 2013. Longwood Valley Sink.

Whilst Pete & Ali moved spoil back from the dig face the two Johns installed some more shoring.
Then drilled and barged more along Tennis Ball Rift. 2 hours.

John Cooper

Sunday 15th December 2013. Swindon's Hole.

John Cooper, Emma Gibbons, John Gibbons & Barry Weaver. Sep 1.
1¼ hrs. John Cooper

Wednesday 18th December 2013 Rod's Pt

John Cooper assisting Cledwyn & team stacking bags
of spoil. It was wet!!! 2nd 4 hours.
John Cooper

Saturday 21st December 2013 Longwood Valley Sink.

Ali Moody, John Cooper, Pete Buckley, John Gibbons,
Rob Adams

Trip to inspect extent of stream sinking into LVS and
to measure prototype winch arrangement. Stream head
filled depression immediately below pipe and was
flowing tightly into pipe and cascading off rock at the
base of the tribe. Cascading water in the rift prevented
further investigation. No piping visible at the bottom.
Winch will fit but need to consider whether it can be
made more collapsible for storage. 1 hour. John Cooper.

Saturday 21st December 2013 Brimble Pt.

Rob Adams, Pete Buckley, John Cooper, John Gibbons
and Ali Moody. Drill & bang. Small stream flowing
off at end. 1 hour.

John Cooper.

Tuesday 17 December 2013 - Reservoir Hole

Ali Moody, Andrew Atkinson + Clive Owen.

Chipping in Skyfall - Andrew + Clive pushed the top of
the oven to a conclusion. Further progress would require
HF and is not really practical.

Ali Moody

Sunday 22nd December 2013. Sirdar's Hole - Mud Camp

John Cooper & Barry Weaver. Built inflow not full but
emptied it anyway. Top dam full & overflowed at 10am.
Dug no build dam. 1st hour John Cooper

monday 23rd december 2013 Swildons upper series.
Pete Buckley, Noah Buckley, Jake Hammacott, Alex
Bush Dick. A nice wet trip. Went to see 20ft. Didn't
get dry. Shot by rain on the way back. very
enjoyable. Less water than I had thought.
Mushy bats were yummy. Met chris down
his kit at the entrance. Saw two bats. Noah.

Wednesday 25th December Swildons Hole,
Rich Carey, Andrea Russe Duncan Price, John Cooper
Adrian + Jude Vanderplank.

Cave in damp condition, water over the top
of the bottom pipe*. All down to the top of the
Twenty, where Jude and Andrea turned around, (some
thing to do with peeling sprouts potatoes etc).
The rest of us continued to the bottom of Barnes
Loop, where Duncan turned round, (allegedly to
with needing to visit Roger Dars and sample the
christmas ale, more likely he wanted to help peel
sprouts) Rich, John Myself continued to Sump I
to look at the very large amount of foam on top.
and then a steady pace out.

Behav

* Nonsense. After removing the twigs it was only a couple
of inches deep flowing into the pipe. John Cooper

WY

Friday 27. December - King Miss + Trip 1bb.
Adrian Vanderplank, Jude Vanderplank, Rob Harr,
Nigel Atahan + Ali Moody.

Excellent day out. King Miss located without
any problems. Good look around this interesting 108

mine and a few photos taken. Two frogs and ~~three~~ three nests rescued from the bottom of the entrance shaft.
was eventually

Triple Hole located (with more difficulty) as the grid reference in MU appears to be ^{incorrect} ~~old~~. ^{It was poor} The ~~context~~ ^{at} ~~reference~~ is ST 42682 59063. ~~Heads~~, the descriptive for finding the entrance is fine. Fairly impressive site and we laddered the western shaft - 8m ladder down to a level area where the middle shaft/rift enters. The second pitch, beyond the breeze block wall looks horrendously unstable and was not descended.

Ali Moody

Saturday 28th Dec. Boimart Pit

Rick Coop, Andrea Russe, Ali Moody, John Coop & Pete Hanlin.

Dropped down to the bottom to clear debris & fill holes. Lots of debris shifted. The Rick & Andrea enjoyed the crystalline nature of the cave.

SATURDAY 28th Dec. LVS

Ali Moody, John Coop & Pete Hanlin

Quick look to see water going down the entrance pipe. Am I AS to let a lever rift - very wet! Water level at bottom is flooded & dig, but out was 'fun' against full flow of the LVS stream. The water on surface getting lost to work (or stayed wormy!) Pete

Saturday 28th Dec Spider Hole

Pete Hanlin, Adriin & Jude Vandorpunkt.

Today's plan was to "investigate" the boulders at the front of the dig. Pete's investigation required a small amount of use of the long crow bar which promptly got buried as Pete moved swiftly backwards accompanied by the sound of boulders rattling downwards. Crowbar was extracted, there's now plenty of rock to be hauled out! Jude

Sunday 29th December 2013. Sudden's Hole

John Cooper, Emma Gibbons, John Gibbons
& Barry Weaver. Normal winter water level (couple of
inches deep) flowing into bottom pipe. JG to top of Twenty,
BW to Sup I whilst other 2 to Sup II. 1½ hours.
John Cooper.

Monday 30th December 2013 - Buntington

Tom Rose & Allan Kingshott.

Fun in Buntington....

1. Grottochuck - the usual + orange peel passage & dexion extensions
2. Sidcot - to the bottom & back
3. Pierre's - Round trip in top series & had a look a squeeze to lower series
4. Lions - short round trip + excursion to see streamway - lots of water.

Tom.

Tuesday 31st December 2013. Ogof Ffynnon Ddu.

Nik-Nik, Rich Carey, Jude Vanderplank, Clive Westlake, Kevin Hilton, Charlotte Hilton

The rain was lashing down on Mendip, but at Penwyllt the sun was coming out: unusual! Nevertheless there was so much water above and below ground that we certainly weren't going into any streamway. Entering by Top Entrance we went to Salabmon's Passage which was a lively place today. We turned off past the Trident and Judge and laddered the two pitches down to Nave - superb wall formations here. The climb down to Second Oxbow was a bit character-building, but the Oxbow wasn't an oxbow as the stream was flowing through it! After a quick look at the raving cascade just upstream, we turned round and exited efficiently by the same route. On the surface it was a magical afternoon of bright, low sunshine. And so back - with an unplanned detour into some side passage called Cardiff - to Adrian + Jake's for tea and cheese & biscuits. 3½ hrs.

Munday 30th December 2013 - Read's Cavern.
Pete Buckley, Ali Moody, Scott Williams and Steve Bartho.

A tourist trip with the aim of "getting to know the cave" for Scott and Steve. This started with the Junction Chamber Round Trip followed by the Boulder Chamber Round Trip. We then went down the Zed Alley route into Brown-Stewart Series. The water level in the BS Sump was about 2m higher than in the summer and there is a large pool right across to the passage that descends to the normal sump pool. Continued to LADS' Luck and a 6ft 4in. - 15 stone blocks has now been there - There are no squeezes in Read's! Finally a quick detour to Waterfall Chamber on the way back out of Zed Alley. An excellent 3 hours run around.

Ali Moody