

# YUCPC



**York University Cave and Pothole Club**

**Journal Number 1 - 2008-2009**

## **Editor's Note**

**Editors:** *Alastair Gott with some help from Kevin Francis*

Welcome to the very first York University Caving and Pothole Club journal. Given that as far as we can tell the club has never before had a journal we have tried to initially produce a summary of the academic year 2008 to 2009. We hope in time that the journal can perhaps be produced more regularly with more input from all club members. The plan had been to produce the journal before the start of the 2009-10 academic year, but here we are a term and a half later! Humble apologies to those that had expected to see a copy earlier but the whole project has been a great learning curve – we certainly didn't expect it would take so long to edit and compile!

As this is the very first journal we weren't expecting a deluge of articles and we are grateful to those that have penned something for the journal. One of the great lessons with this edition is that it would be much better if more people contributed and volunteered articles. Hopefully in future editions there will be more stories from you guys! We are pleased to announce, as you read this, that the second journal is already underway. Time, enthusiasm and circumstance allowing the next journal should be created over the Easter period and with the whole club's input it will be bigger and better.

Suggestions will always be welcomed, whether it be in the form of an idea for an article, a different way of laying the journal out, or simply a change in font etc. If you would like to add or suggest anything for the next journal please email Alastair Gott on [AJG508@york.ac.uk](mailto:AJG508@york.ac.uk).

## **The Future of the Journal...**

As indicated above there are a lot of plans for the journal and it would be great if the journal became a Bi-Annual production, a change from this edition, which we felt should be tackled as an almanac of the academic year 2008-09.

Currently the vague plan is to have one edition that covers activities in the summer, the first term and the Christmas meal (published either before or after the Easter holiday) and a second edition to include the second term, Easter activities and the third term (to be produced in time to show off at the fresher's fair.)

One major change we would like to see in future editions would be the addition of pictures. We implore any budding photographers (or cartoonists!) to submit and images you would like to see included to my normal mail address above.

Currently trip reports are taken from the website and we would like that to continue, but obviously we cannot take every report from the site so we have tried to include a variety of reports in a variety of styles. If you would like your own trip report to be included there is no harm in sending it to us for inclusion because we are only going to have to find it and then have to ask you whether we can include it!

At the end of the day this is a YUCPC journal, to chronicle YUCPC events for YUCPC members. This is YOUR journal. If you want to make it better, it is as much down to you to submit articles as it is for the editor to get them printed...

## The President's Story

*Mark Sims*

Before I came to uni my sister had sent me off with instructions to make sure that I sign up for the caving club - 'They'll be a great bunch of people' she assured me, as she'd joined the Exeter club a year previously. I was sceptical to say the very least, not so much about what the people might be like, but about the caving itself; I got cold easily, hated heights and the last thing I could imagine myself doing was crawling along a passage below Inglebrough or hanging off a 100m rope underneath the Peak District. Nevertheless I thought I'd at least give it a try, so come the freshers' fair I quickly spotted the huge banner and people hanging from the ceiling, and headed over to see what it was all about. The next thing I knew I was in a minibus to the Dales and sitting down to my first breakfast at Bernie's...

The people had seemed nice so far, but I was still really sceptical about the caving itself...wouldn't I get absolutely freezing? Will I turn out to be claustrophobic? What if you get stuck? Once we finally did get underground it wasn't really what I'd imagined, although it's difficult to say why...although it has to be said that once we were back in the minibus my main thoughts were ways I could warm myself up! I was pretty disappointed when I got home; I'd enjoyed the day but it seemed that it was more down to the people than the caving which certainly hadn't been my highlight.

Week 1 saw my first caving social and the first training session. The social was great (from what I can remember!) and the training session was also a good laugh if a bit busy. Having enjoyed both the midweek caving activities I decided I'd give it another go, so I put my name down and the next weekend saw me off to the Peak District this time, down a cave called Giant's Hole...

Breakfast in the rain didn't live up to the expectations Bernie's had given me a week previously, but the food was good and quickly disappeared! Soon we were all changed, standing in the gloom. It's safe to say that I didn't feel too optimistic. The first section of the cave went pretty quickly which led us to the top of Garland Pot, my first bit of vertical caving! The ladder was great fun & the waterfall next to it added to the excitement. I'd always been a bit of an outdoors person & enjoyed walking/cycling etc. but nothing I'd done quite matched this! We were soon on our way through the Crab-walk, up to the much talked about 'Giants Windpipe' which wasn't half as bad as I'd expected, before being lowered down the rift to the ladder. Before long we were back outside, and seeing daylight was such a great feeling, not because I wanted to leave the cave but because I suddenly realised why all these people enjoy caving so much. 100+ trips later & every trip is still fantastic!

## **The Editor's Story**

*Alastair Gott*

I came along because I thought caving must be fun and had always wanted to give it a go, I was thinking that I couldn't go caving without ropes as this is what we spent training doing (which is by no means true; you can't go potholing without ropes though). Coupled with having to go home every couple of weekends to do lifeguard training which was needed to pass the 2 yearly reassessment, unfortunately this meant that three weekends were out of the first term (plus one for a sailing event sshhh).

I realise now that going to CHECC would have been a good idea and would have got me out there caving on a friendly weekend sooner.

This led me to only one solution, going caving after Christmas (shock, horror) so on the training session before Bull Pot Farm weekend I pulled out all of the stops and learnt how to pass a re-belay (whoop, whoop). Which put me in good stead for my first trip down Lancaster Hole where there are about 2-3 re-belays. This got me down to the main part of Lancaster hole either the muddy glory of slug world to one side or down to what would have been the colonnades if our team hadn't got lost. Where we ended up was even more muddy glory of the graveyard, presumably because if there ever had been stalagmites they have been long since covered in mud. Much fun was had wallowing in the mud and 'trying to find the colonnades' needless to say they weren't down there and we had made a wrong turn, so we went out and back at the hut looked at the massive survey to find out where we had gone wrong.

After The BPF weekend there was not much stopping me going on several trips after and then on to the wales week in easter which reinforced the wonders of caving after getting on the train at home at about 6 in the morning to get to south wales for 10 and down the prettiest cave I had visited so far ogof craig y ffynnon at 12, to be in flat boring Cheshire in the morning and then near the rugged black forest mountains of south wales by midday was awesome. This joy of caving was good, seen as I had already signed up for a Slovenian caving holiday.

## **Committee Questions**

For this article I decided it would be a good idea to ask the committee to tell me about some of their trips and the feeling they got from these; whether they liked them or indeed if it was the hardest trip they have been on, in order to give you a little insight into the caving style of each of the members of the committee. With varying degrees of decisiveness I got some answers.

### ***Mark Sims - President***

UK:

Favourite - The Trapdoor bottoming trip almost without question. Having been halfway down previously it was great to bottom it, and the lower section massively exceeded my expectations.

Most strenuous - has to be the Daren trip to the Restaurant with Rich & Tom, especially coming through choke after choke in Prices...I'm guessing I might not be the only person to put that trip down!

Abroad:

Favourite - the Berger trip with Steve & Andy V. Heading down 400m of prerigged pitches, followed by the Grand Galerie was superb. To then follow Steve rigging the canals and getting down the next pitch was just fantastic, especially because it was further than we aimed to go on that trip, and further than I aimed to go at all.

Most strenuous - Again, that'd have to be down the Berger, but on the tackle sack hauling trip. That trip in itself wasn't ridiculously hard work, but having done three 14 hour trips in the past 6 days, the last one having finished at about 4am that morning, I wasn't quite at my peak! Oh, and the learning experience from that trip? 5 tackle sacks is too many

If I had to choose between them...I couldn't I'm afraid! They're just too different!

### ***Chad Bullivant - Tacklemaster***

Favorite trip's: Dihedral, Titan, Notts Pot, Logarcek and Easter Grotto trips were fantastic, but top of my list would have to be Ireby Fell Cavern to Jupiter Cavern, having said that Marble steps was a quality trip. I haven't even said anything about Wales, OFD 1 was awesome.

Most Strenuous: Easily my most strenuous trip was Washfold Pot, mainly because of the longer than anticipated trip down Aquamole the day before. It was a fine challenging trip though, I wrote a trip report for that one.

### ***Anna Barnard - Tacklemistress***

Least favorite: trip would easily be Giants, not because its a particularly hardcore cave, the opposite in fact! But because it was a trip led by someone from another club who showed me just how miserable caving can be if you go as a fresher without someone prepared to watch out for you, help you and generally motivate you on the trip!

Favorite trip: is a harder one to answer but I think Logarcek in Slovenia wins out. It was a brilliant cave in itself and seeing a proteus in the wild for the first time made it well worth it but the thing which makes it my best trip is that I have never laughed so hard on a trip before (I was reduced to tears at one point, Mark can tell you why!) and more than big pitches and pretty formations having a giggle is what I love most about caving!!

### ***Catherine Moody (Cat) - Social Secretary***

Most Strenuous: The Swinsto-Simpson's exchange. We were underground for 10 hours which was my longest trip to date. I'd done most of the rigging of Swinsto and by the time we got to the bottom where it was very cold and wet I was already getting pretty tired. Going out Simpson's, especially when having no idea how far from the surface you are, was pretty draining both physically and mentally. This was the first time I'd claimed to hate caving, and I seem to remember swearing at both Mark and my tackle sack an awful lot!! I'd never been so happy to see the sky when we exited and I was thoroughly exhausted, but at the same time had a great sense of achievement.

My Favorite: well that's a bit more difficult. As many people will tell you, I'm utterly useless at making decisions, hence I'm afraid I'll have to give you multiple answers! There are many trips that I've enjoyed for completely different reasons.

The Lancaster round trip at Easter is one highlight, as it's a really nice route and I rigged and led the entire trip for the first time which I felt quite proud of.

The Ribblehead train caving was also thoroughly enjoyable – not just cos of the caving, we did very little of that – but because it was just a really different and fun day out with two great friends (and ridiculous amounts of food!)

From a caving perspective, the descent down Dihedral has to be the most breathtaking experiences I've had underground. A spectacular trip, and standing alone on Wingfield's Ledge was quite magical.

There are many more but I should probably stop there....!

### ***Thomas Blakey - Training Officer***

My Favorite: The first time I did Titan Shaft, has to be my favorite trip. I remember being really nervous before going down, but the second I went onto the rope all that fear disappeared. It was far bigger than I was actually expecting. I also enjoyed the rest of the cave, but I became worried if I would be able to handle going up. I handled going up Titan just fine though, it was easier than I was expecting as well in fact. I preferred going up to going down, as going up gave me more of an opportunity to admire the size of it. I feel I enjoyed that trip most because I felt really proud of myself after doing a cave I was quite nervous of doing.

Most Strenuous: Ogof Daren Cilau. Just thinking about that cave gives me nightmares, yet I still want to go back. I suppose though looking back the cave itself was not bad up to Hard Rock Cafe, after that it got really difficult, especially acupuncture passage or whatever it was called. But obviously the hardest part was trying to leave via prices dig, which has to have been my worst cave experience to date. We ran out of water, we were all feeling dehydrated, we were tired, we were hungry, and we had no idea how far it was going to go on for, we didn't turn back though which turned out to be the right decision in the end. Getting out of that cave was such relief. I hope never to have to go into prices dig again.

### ***Imogen Shepherd – Non-Undergraduate (Old Fart!) Rep***

My most strenuous/difficult trip was a JH to Peak exchange that several of us did with members of Kent Uni and the TSG. It's a fantastic through trip and we had been given the easier route (out of Peak, no prussiking). In itself it doesn't pose too many difficulties, just a bit of rope work and a very long crawl through Colostomy / The Trenches. However, this trip taught me the importance of a good breakfast. I hadn't eaten enough as we'd only gone to Peveril Stores for breakfast. As a result my energy was drained and that combined with getting wet in Speedwell meant I was more susceptible to hypothermia. Looking back, I was early stage hypothermic, and it was pretty grueling and difficult getting myself through the crawl. I had Kevin and Andy V talking me through it, but my energy was totally sapped and I had even turned blue. I got out though and learned some valuable lessons. As a result I was put off a return trip to Colostomy, but a year later I had another go and since then there's no stopping me. I'm a colostomy convert, and it definitely gets you to some of the best places in Peak I just make sure I eat more now, and who needs an excuse for that?!

My favourite trip is a bit more difficult but is probably Otter Hole. It really was one of those more 'once in a lifetime' caving trips. It was a really special, awe-inspiring place, which involved a challenging trip to get to, so felt like a real achievement. We had a fantastic team, which definitely made the trip that extra special, and our warden was great too, someone good to chat to. It was definitely one of those trips that affirms to you just why caving is so ace. And also, we got absolutely caked in mud, probably the muddiest I've been, which is always fun

## ***Alastair Gott – Membership and Archives Secretary***

My favourite trip is Ireby Fell, no, Ogof Ffynnon, wait, no, it's Ogof Craig y Ffynnon! Yes Ogof Craig Y Ffynnon is my favourite trip, why because it has to be my most fulfilling trip. After a four hour train ride from Cheshire I was picked up and whisked off via MCDonalds for a milkshake. We parked next to some limestone kilns then wandered into the cave. Followed were a couple of hours of varied caving including mud, climbing, sliding, wriggling up boulder chokes and last but not least viewing formations.

The hall of the mountain kings lived up to expectations with massive chandeliers of stalagmites and a mountain of calcite flow as a centre piece. There were 2 ways on, I think one was a sump where the water disappeared off somewhere and also a passage that if this was a real hall for mountain kings then I suppose it could be the servants passage off to the kitchen. Although not an easy passage due to the crawley nature of it, we did not go down it, although ben had a quick look. Then we turned around and looked at all of the wonderful formations the other way around as we were walking out.

### **Most Strenuous / Hardest Trip:**

St Cuthbert's Swallett has to be one of my most strenuous trips. It was my very first Mendip cave and a rather different cave at that. The first part was a chimney down a rift with the aid of a ladder, I hadn't used a ladder before that point however we were only using it as an extra safety. We would have definitely got lost through the next part if we didn't have a guide because of the amount of side passages that weren't the way on and the fact that the way on was hidden. Followed by the only rope in the cave which our guide flew down as if the walls were made of powerballs. Stompy passages brought us out into chambers with fantastic formations of the purest white and others that looked like streaky bacon especially because they were curtains plus some of the biggest formations in the UK. To get out we went a different way to the way we went in and had to climb up one very hard climb (for non climbers) and another not as hard but still difficult climb along shelves of rock.

----- Your Photo Here Next Edition!-----

## Cherry Tree Hole

A glance at the Descent list of adopted caves shows that YUCPC is linked to a cave in the Darnbrook area of the Yorkshire Dales with a depth of around 60m and a length of a little over a kilometre. Asking older members why we are connected to Cherry Tree Hole - a cave that we rarely visit – often results in puzzled looks and shrugged shoulders! Some digging by A Gott has revealed that the reason dates back to a trip in the early eighties when the newly formed YUCPC was still in it's first year of existence.

"What hole?" "Pot-hole?" "Never heard of it!" "Where is it?" "Dunno. Underground somewhere I guess" "Oh well, we'll find it ok....!" - Dave (unknown if this was Dave Lloyd, or Dave Drury!)

An old club logbook records the conversation prior to agreeing to attempt the trip, a conversation that wouldn't be too different to how trips are planned on Thursday nights in nowadays!

YUCPC was very much in it's infancy - only officially 9 months old - when on Sunday 24th of January 1982 the club had a good trip down Cherry Tree Hole. Thirteen YUCPC cavers went that day, split into 3 groups. The logbook entry describes the delights of the cave, from wriggling down the tight entrance under the defunct cherry tree to the funny figure eight shaped passage to some tight masochist crawls. The author of the report was obviously a little sceptical of the cave, describing passage "designed for yoga fanatics" and "uninspiring muddy rift climbs" before reaching "the only major entertainment" - a wet cascade with a pool at the bottom which you land in when falling out of a climb. As appears to be a long running tradition in the club, the team reached a low crawl with limited airspace that they knew led to a sump and "made half-hearted attempts" before deciding not to bother. Instead they ate Mars bars before retracing their steps.

All 13 cavers met in a chamber "said hello's and goodbyes, and went their own sweet ways" before splitting up with one group off to explore a boulder ruckle that led to a stream with a pitch. With a similar level of faff and inefficiency that has blighted the club throughout it's existence it was realised that no one had thought to bring the required ladder and so there was "much cussing." The weather upon exiting was as familiar as a winter Dales trip can be - freezing fog and wind.

Not mentioned in the trip report was the rubbish that had been left in the cave by other groups, but obviously it was so bad that in February 1982 the Chairman of the club, Roo Walters, wrote into Descent magazine complaining that they ""were surprised to find litter in some areas" and after a club meeting had decided to offer the clubs services to take part in to Adopt-a-Cave Scheme to look after the cave. The club reasoned "We have chosen a fairly lesser known cave because we are a new club, less than one year old, and although we have some experienced members, feel we should not take on too big a responsibility."

In March the adoption was made official and in April Roo (and apparently) the entire electronics department returned in April and "Got through t'wet crawl- on t'other side were 3 grottos of really stupendous quality- well worth another visit - one needs cleaning." Finally in Descent Issue 51, printed in October 1982, YUCPC's first adoption was reported and the caving world was made aware that we had our own cave to look after.

## Some Top Dales trips

Some inspiration for trips in the Dales for freshers, or those who perhaps haven't done that many trips! The point of this is to make a list of trips that are not super-hardcore, but instead are worthwhile and fun trips within the ability of most people before the end of their first year in the club.

\* Long Churn. It's fun. It's not hard once you've learnt how to adjust your eyes to the dark, decided that crawling isn't really that bad and you don't mind the water filling your wellies but it serves as an excellent early trip. Did it in the first week? Why not try to go down the pitches at the end - Dolly Tubs - and have a look at the massive Alum Pot.

\* Bar Pot. It's a long walk up a big hill but a good place to practice your SRT skills, or to practice rigging. The best part of any Bar Pot trip is a visit to the huge Gaping Gill main chamber, where you can see the biggest waterfall in the UK. For the more experienced that have done Bar several times before there is always the option of an exchange trip taking a different route out - Corky's, Stream, Dihedral, Flood - there's loads of choices.

\* Goyden Pot / Manchester Hole. It's not far from York so you don't have to drive all the way to Ingleton. Manchester Hole is a short trip close to the road ending in a wet crawl that you can use to take you into the Goyden system. Alternatively you can cheat and use the big walk-in entrance of Goyden. Once in Goyden you can be prepared to be impressed by the large stream passages and the debris they contain. There are a number of exits, and the CNCC have recently bolted some pitches near the entrance so you can practice SRT. You need to be careful as this isn't a cave to do on a rainy day.

\* White Scar Cave. This cave requires a permit to be applied for in advance and needs an early start but the club has managed to wake up early enough to go here many times over the last few years. The entrance is a show cave, perhaps now best known for the well decorated Battlefield Chamber (which bizarrely you enter through a PVC door!) The trip then requires a fair bit of swimming (wetsuit preferred!) in the canals to reach more pretties. A rewarding trip and it's always satisfying to get further than the tourists.

\* Tatham Wife Hole. The site of YUCPC's first rescue, but we don't like to go into that! A quality SRT trip on Ingleborough to try once you are happy with your technique. Tatty Wife has various short pitches mixed in with short climbs reaching a little over 150m in depth. You'll also get the opportunity to try a duck.

\* Notts Pot. When YUCPC get the permit for this Leck Fell cave we tend to go all out to send as many people down on a variety of different routes - there are a lot of choices and you don't have to come back the same way you came - as long as someone takes the ropes out! Notts 2 is a newer cave and relatively nearby.

\* Rowten Pot. One of the best SRT Trips you can do in Kingsdale and indeed the Dales. You'll learn to trust your ropes and cows tails on this trip as you can be quite exposed. This takes you to the bottom of a massive pothole.

\* Ireby Fell Caverns. This can be a long ropey trip and provides some fun rigging. The pitches are named from a nursery rhyme: Ding, Dong, Bell, Pussy and Well. You'll see some impressive passage and do a fair bit of abseiling (and sadly prussicking too...) Places like Duke Street and Jupiter Cavern are there to be visited at the bottom.

\* Lancaster Hole to County Pot. A long trip that requires some careful navigation. A classic trip to attempt when staying at Bull Pot Farm and a great way to see a large amount of the UK's biggest caving system, Easegill.

## **Plans for 2010 expedition**

YUCPC will be visiting Montenegro in the summer of 2010, although this may be abroad this is no holiday it will be three weeks of intensive searching for and expanding caves in the Durmitor mountainous region. When it comes to expeditions we work hard but enjoy ourselves as well by sampling the local tipples and food. Being out of the caves allows us to get to know the groups that we are on the expedition with by sharing home delicacies.

As you may be aware the more the better when it comes to expeditions making light work of searching for and in caves, this is why we are on expedition with ASAK a caving group based near Montenegro. We will be also looking at geology and hydrology in the Durmitor region, being experienced and knowledgeable on these subjects ASAK will be a very useful partner. This will also not be the first time we have joined ASAK on an expedition there have been 2 recent previous expeditions with them in 2004 and 2007.

2004 saw 5 members of YUCPC take part in an international expedition in the Durmitor National Park, along with over 50 participants from a wide range of European countries including Serbia, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Russia, Slovenia and the UK. This resulted in further expansion and surveying (mapping) JVB a significant cave in the National Park.

A return journey in 2007 had double the York input but less of the help from European Caving groups, nevertheless we pushed and surveyed X3, and found some minor caves T34 and K1.

With any luck we shall have similar successes in 2010, if not better.

Facilitating the trip taking place are the committee- President: Tom Blakey, Secretary: Toby Buxton, Sponsorship: Jonny Booth, Tacklemasters: Chad Bullivant and Luke Brownbridge, Grants/: Mark Sims, Travel: Alastair Gott.

## Take A Look in a Book! A Brief Summary of Some of Our Library Contents

In the main library, when they are not refurbishing, there are many resources about caving that have been gifted by our caving club, some of which have been long since forgotten or simply not read for a while. This is not to say that they aren't worth reading as there are many classic books that many cavers would like to own themselves (or already do) and the library gives you the chance to read them without going to the trouble of finding and buying them.

Before the refurbishment Alastair had trawled through the books, found out that there were books in the library and for the purpose of this article has loosely separated them out into 3 categories: inspirational books, technical stuff and guide books.

Since this article was written the librarian has contacted Alastair and said that the books have been put into "external storage" and are unavailable until after refurbishment, this is a bit of a disappointment. However with any luck we will find all of the books back after refurbishment.

The Inspirational - Awesome stories of past caving glories!

*One Thousand Metres Down* by Jean Cadoux tells the story of the team that grew up exploring together and after initial adventures in finding new cave passage discovered the Gouffre Berger and were the first to explore it. This is a must read for anyone who has been to, or wants to go to, the Berger and shows an excellent insight into the formation of the team that found the cave.

*Cave Men New and Old* and *My Caves* by Norbert Casteret both tell tales of one of the forefathers of French caving and his bumbling adventures discovering and exploring many new caves at a time when the sport was young and many amazing caves were easier to find.

*Subterranean Climbers : Twelve Years in the World's Deepest Chasm* by Pierre Chevalier documents the exploration of what was at the time the world's deepest cave in the mountains of Dent de Crolles in France. This is seen by many of the older generations of cavers as the ultimate caving book!

*Caves of Adventure* by Haroun Tazieff. Why are all of our inspirational caving books French? Anyone want to donate any on Yorkshire? This is another book written enthusiastically about an expedition charting new ground in France, this time into the Pyrenees caves over 2,000 feet underground.

*Caves and Cave Diving* by Guy De Lavaur charts the beginnings of possibly one of the crazier applications of caving as well as some of his explorations, once again in France! We've got the feeling that some of the original members of YUCPC like their French cavers...

Technical – About the gear we use, and how to add another dimension to your caving.

*British Caving: An Introduction to Speleology* by Cecil Howard and Dunstan Cullingford. This weighty tome dating back to the 1960's discovers techniques used at the time and has sections on cave exploration and formation in the UK.

*Cavecraft* by D Cons explains how to go about caving. 'Nuff said.

*Cave Photography: A Practical Guide* by Chris Howes has helped many an aspiring cave photographer. Possibly now dated due to the increased use of digital cameras this still explains the principles for a discipline that many cavers get into after a few years caving.

*Caving Practice and Equipment* by David Judson was written when Silly Rope Techniques was becoming a force in the UK and helped to win over the doubting ladders users! A very good book for learning how we do what we do.

Guide - Looking at the caves in specific regions.

*Selected Caves of Britain and Ireland* by Des Marshall has pretty much been the bible for YUCPC members over the past decade describing tons of trips all across the UK. If you aren't sure what an advertised trip will be like, go take a peek at this book.

*Caves of Mendip* by Nicholas Barrington is an old guide to the Somerset region of caving. Now superseded but still worth a look before the August Mendips meets.

*Celebrated American Caves* (edited by Charles E. Mohr and Howard N. Sloane) Apparently there are caves in America and some big ones at that. Maybe we should arrange an expedition.

*Caves of Assynt* by T.J. Lawson documents a region we never go to. Well, almost never go to. Maybe we would be more likely to go there is some of us got inspired by this book. It's probably prettier than going to the Mendips too...

*Limestones and Caves of Wales* as edited by Trevor D. Ford is a meaty book detailing Welsh caves, their hydrology, their cave life and contains some surveys and history too. Pictures are pretty nifty too – check out the scary traverse on page 236 or Chad's doppelganger on page 192.

All of our books and other items such as old expedition journals, log books and surveys should be in North Room One, behind the 'social' area of the library, using the code of WA 1.44.

We are hoping to trawl through the library a little more to discover more gems to share - we will keep you posted.

\*\*\*\*\*STOP PRESS\*\*\*\*\*

New discoveries have been made in the library in addition to the contents of above. These new discoveries can be found by crawling out into the North rooms. If you can find aisle 36 in "North room 2" amongst all the other boring non-caving bits and bobs is a section of caving journals and a plethora of other caving stuff. More details as to the exact content of this newly discovered hoard will be revealed later but I can say that there are several issues of Caves and Caving and also some (rare?) foreign journals. Don't be put off by the fact that it is hidden within the history stuff and have a peep!

## Selected Trip Reports

If you would like to see your trip reports in the next version of the journal, please let me know. Obviously we can't print 20 reports on Lancaster Hole etc, so please don't be disappointed if yours doesn't get in! Beware, in this journal the spelling and grammar has been kept as we found it on the public website – popular consensus will have to be used to decide if this method is carried through to the next journal.

### Black Shiver Pot - 25th Jul 2009

Having sampled the Christmas meal catering (again) the night before, the caving day started later than usual with us already in the Dales... the 8am alarm still felt early though! It somehow took us until well gone 9 to get to Bernies and several courses of breakfast later we had parked by the marshals setting up yet another 3 peaks walk. The sun came out and after an amazingly long time sorting out gear (I don't think any of us quite knew how it took so long) we wandered up the path, quickly deciding against the planned en route Great Douk trip in favour of the sunshine. After pacing out (amazingly accurately) the 450m from Meregill we found the entrance pretty quickly and decided it was time for some cake, the eating of which again proved to be a lengthy procedure!

Anyway, soon after one (oops!) we finally got underground into the entrance crawl which was taking a bit more water than the last time I visited – one of the less forgiving entrances around. The first couple of pitches were pretty damp and the whole lot needed rigging as rebelay to keep us out of the water. Sadly, though, I looked up at the wrong moment when Cat's tackle sack swung round sending a tidal wave over me - so much for trying to stay dry! The p-hangers seemed oddly placed, being entirely on the right hand wall all the way down with not a Y-hang in sight, but I'm sure there was a good reason! Soon I was flailing around for the ledge at the bottom of Black Dub, wondering where on earth the way on was.

At this point I voted that Andy should take over the rigging, so he picked his way round the side and discovered the (slightly wet) crawl on. By the time me & Cat got down the next little pitch we found Andy heading out over the hugely impressive Black Rift and he was quickly on his way down towards the boulders. A bit of indistinguishable shouting followed by a more audible 'rope free' saw me abseiling towards Andy's lights admiring how impressive the rift was.

The situation at the boulders was slightly odd, with plenty of spits around, but only one that looked good enough to rig off. A single deviation was out of the questions with a massive amount of rope rub above us. In the end we found another one and created a sort of semi-Y-hang with an extra sling backup that served it's purpose to get us down to the very draughty bottom of the rift. A couple of p-hangers by the boulders would have been really handy!

Below the rift a short low section lead into crawling streamway until we reached the window at the top of the next pitch where the extensions are. We kept on descending though, going down the pitch and down a fantastic section of streamway, before reaching the 3m climb round the corner from the sump.

We were all pretty chilly & totally drenched so we had a quick turn around, with Andy rushing back to get up the big pitch early and Cat & I following sorting the derigging. The first few prussiks on the big pitch were a struggle before my 2 tacklesacks emptied their water, and derigging the improvised

rigging half way was not exactly your standard stuff, but overall we were making good time at this point.

The Black Dub pitch head proved to be a lot harder on the way up, and as I was waiting in the bottom suddenly I saw a light flash past me into the water in front. I assumed it was one of Cat's (awesome!) Fenix lights and there wasn't much option but to get in the pool and do a bit of fishing! Annoyingly the light went out as it hit the water so I turned my lights up as much as I could and waved my helmet around under the water to try and see something. I had about as much chance using that tactic as having no lights at all so I gave that up and just wallowed around, feeling blindly for a torch. I found a fair bit of vintage metalwork during my brief swim, but was completely drenched so it wasn't too long before I gave up the hunt. When I finally got off the top of the pitch I realised that it was actually the smaller light that had fallen down which was at least the cheapest light that could have gone!

The top couple of pitches went pretty quickly, but (again) I wasn't impressed by all the single bolt hangs meaning all the knots were stupidly tight...or perhaps it was the amateur rigging... The entrance crawl wasn't half so bad on the way out when we were already soaked, and it turned out that it was still lovely and sunny when we got back up the climb. What a marvellous day's caving!

**Report By *Mark Sims***

## **Bagshawe Caverns – 13 December 2008**

I went to bed on the Friday content in the knowledge I was off to do a bimble in Peak the following morning to sooth my rapidly approaching hangover. Five hours later and I was woken by Chuck's dulcet tones informing me I was off to Bagshawe instead. Naturally I just rolled over to try to go back to sleep. A little later I was awake again and struggling to get up. Still half drunk I made it downstairs and tried my best to get out of it, but I still had a small amount of enthusiasm in me, so a bowl of porridge and lots of glasses of water later my name was on the chalk board and I was marched to a car.

Now the trouble with doing a cave for the first time is that you have to find it. We cunningly left our OS map at the Chapel and embarked on a voyage around rainy Bradwell and surrounding area, taking lots of opportunities to stop, admire the view, perform a three point turn and head off in another direction. After about half an hour of driving we decided to try and buy a map. Cat had called shotgun and so it was her job to brave the rain (and the locals) to head into the nearest post office. Her mission was a near success. She had been given directions, and confirmed that our initial forays up a steep hill were in the right direction. Excellent. However whilst she was away we decided we could also do with a cave description and so almost immediately as she had returned we send her back into the cold murky morning in search of a photocopier, whilst we enjoyed the relative warmth of Laura's car.

Five minutes later she had returned, description in hand. Off we drove, with Josh's baby wagon in tow. Back up the steep hill, down a turn off we had missed before and we were away. Cat was being sent out regularly to scout for "a small hut in a field." A little later we were hurtling back the way we had come. Evidently we had missed something. Then Josh's car (after some fun kangaroo style reversing) spotted something. An obvious car park.. with what looked like caver cars in it... and it was next to a hut.. and on that hut was a sign, confirming to us, an hour after we head set off from Castleton (probably only 5 miles down the road) that we had found Bagshawe Caverns.

George's cunning (and shoulder barging) proved too much for the lock to the hut and soon we were inside, being amused by the fact that we were about to descend a flight of stairs to get into our cave. Sod SRT! In a spurt of keenness I donned my Tikka to check out the stair well. It did indeed go down somewhere and seemed pretty sturdy. I stopped when it looked like I would get mucky. My head throbbed as I began ascending (without jammers) the exceptionally deep the stairs. I noted that the people who had built them in must have had abnormally long legs with very small feet attached. Why so steep??

Changing turned out to be a long and arduous process. George had amusing wetsocks, lots of maillons refused to open and there was quite a standoff for tacklesack carrying duty. We were all really keen to lug it down, but as Matt Chubb was on holiday we decided he should have the pleasure. For a cave which only had a 5m pitch we had an awful lot of gear...

Our intrepid explorers headed down the stairs into the unknown, admiring the new looking concrete slabs that were protecting our heads from the perils of the rift above. The staircase led immediately to "the dungeon" a threatening looking hole in the floor. Well, not that threatening, but it was a hole in the floor and we had expected it, so at least we hadn't mucked up the route finding on the stairs! Ben and Chubb led the enthusiastic types off to explore whilst me and Laura had fun coaxing Josh into rigging, and rerigging the ladder. Imogen was suffering more than most and took the opportunity to have a nap on a nearby large slab.

Once the exploring team had returned we were almost ready to send our first victims down the ladder. Through tired eyes we watched as Josh learnt to belay and one by one send the advance party to greater depths. Matt and Ben were amongst the first down and set about exploring. There were complaints that it was wet, but we encouraged them on. Eventually everyone was down and we could see the reason for their shouts. It looked very much like the lower cave was flooded. We weren't going to let this discourage us, and after the journey down the epic pitch we weren't to be beaten easily. I urged Chubb back into the water. Like a fool he went in, cue more girly yelps. He swore that there was no way on, and so with some remorse I followed. He wasn't wrong. We were both soaked and cold, there was no way I was going to let the others get away dry and comfortable! With the lure of Super Snap we coaxed all but two people in to join us in a rift. Suitably drenched we set to launching people up the rift, George easily reaching highest.

As fun as the water was we knew that the cave did continue elsewhere, so after a crash course in belaying George was sending us up the ladder. Once all up the team headed off up the boulder strewn streamway to look for some kind of Glory Hole. I gallantly stayed at the pitch and derigged, before rushing to catch up. It didn't take long! I found them by taking an easy obvious route into a huge chamber. My lights were dimming (honest!) so I sat out the trip to the end. Instead I went and sat in a sump, enjoying it's serenity. I headed back up to the route the others had gone to find Hannah, who also hadn't gone on. We were very amused by cheers as the others slid down slops and by the girly shrieks that could only have been emitted by Ben (who had spent the entire trip shouting, singing and squeaking in general) as he headed through the duck.

Eventually they made their way back, all glory-holed out, complaining they had reached another shaft but their tackle sacks were devoid of gear. We made good time out, and didn't get lost once. Chubb, Cat and Ben took time to explore some of the myriad of side passages, but we were aware of the need to get the lights back to HnH. The change was pleasant and good natured, everyone had remembered their pants. We paid our £2 and headed back with plenty of time for the Christmas meal, hangovers fixed.

The route we took through Bagshawe was easy, with little scrottyness. It's a shame we didn't get to see the lower system and didn't have a better description. I'm sure there is much more to do in there than we looked at, after all it is the longest cave in the Bradwell catchment area(!?) With more enthusiasm I would love to return and see what we missed. An ideal Fresher cave this one, less hard than Giants, less crawly than Carlswark and a much more pleasant change!

**Report By *Kevin Francis***

### **Big Meanie to Death's Head – 31st Jan 2009**

Despite the fact that we didn't complete the trip as intended it was still quite enjoyable. Ade, Tom and I went down Big Meanie and Andy G and Lauren went down Death's Head. Unfortunately for the other team we couldn't find the connection to Death's Head. This was despite an extensive search (although you could say that it was not extensive enough!) through every muddy horrible passage we could find – and my word it was muddy at the bottom of Big Meanie. We discovered after the trip that one of the nasty wet crawls that we went through feet first while bending to the right turned out to be the correct route; ;@ Ade was convinced that there wasn't anything like this when he did this cave the other way through, so more fruitless searching ensued. Fortunately for the other team we had agreed a time to abandon the trip if we didn't reach them. By not finding the connection it meant that we had to go back up Big Meanie through the squeeze!

Going down was good fun, to get past the squeeze at the top I put my Rack onto my short cows tail loop as not to constrict me, then I just used my weight to get through. Down at the first rebelay I fuffed around for ages to get my rack back onto my main maillon. It was a nice 50 metre descent down to the bottom, encountering another rebelay and a deviation. After our 2 hr muddy excursion we came back out, this is when you realize that you are in a big hole on a single rope lol! The squeeze wasn't too hard to get out because of some nice rigging at the pitch head, a nice long loop from the traverse meant you could put your hand jammer onto it to not get constricted and to haul yourself out. It was certainly a case of move up a little...than take a few minutes to have a breather...then move a little more.

The change was cold!!! The wind was up in the Leck Fell area before we went into the cave, after it was blowing a gale! Absolutely no feeling in my hand during that change!

Would love to go back and do the full trip – I have unfinished business with this cave!

**Report By *Chad Bullivant***

Getting into the cave was such a relief to get out of the driving icy wind. Rigging such a big open shaft was pretty cool, I enjoyed it. Didn't much like all the loose rocks and crap which completely covered every inch of floor though. Sitting down in a cave for 2 hours is pretty cold, but it was quite fun. It's amazing what you convince yourself you've seen and heard.

Once it hit 4 o'clock we headed right out. We had discussed the possibilities of what could have held them up and were preparing to get into rescue mode!! Being so cold left my hands pretty useless, and I couldn't get my hand jammer off the rope. After about 5 minutes of struggling I managed get it off, only to have the same difficulty at the next bit!! Still got out though didn't I!! Most likely driven on by the thought of saving somebody's little cotton socks.

About a third up the main shaft I heard Ade shouting Andy's name. It sounded like it was coming from below me so I just looked at Andy with a pissed off face thinking I was going to have to reverse prussik back down because they'd made it through. Andy wasn't responding to Ade so I shouted for him to respond. Then he told me to respond because I was closer. I didn't understand his logic so most likely called him an idiot or something then shouted back to Ade. Anyway, it turned out Ade was at the top of our pitch because he "couldn't find the way in". I assumed he meant he couldn't find the entrance to Big Meanie so we laughed a bit at that. Weird how the sound seemed to come from elsewhere though.

Once at the surface and shanking rope we saw a muddy caver drawing near. That muddy man was none other than Chad. I wondered why he was so muddy and still in his caving gear if they hadn't even found Big Meanie. Then he explained that it was the connection between Big Meanie and Death's Head that Ade couldn't find... Whoops!!

I think everyone had a really good time though, and I'd definitely like to try this again and actually get to do the exchange - even if it's to satisfy my curiosity about where the Big Meanie guys drop into the bottom of Death's Head!!

PS Faff level is on behalf of the Big Meanie group, me and Andy were completely faff free :P

**Report By *Lauren Ellis***

### **Hillocks Mine – 8th November 2008**

The trip got off to a good start, with all four cars leaving the container at 8:30am. I was in Chuck's car and we made it to Outside in easily under an hour and a half. We'd got our breakfasts in front of us as the other groups started to arrive.

After all gorging ourselves suitably, we zoomed off to Hitch n Hike to pick up the lights. The speedy departure was only slightly marred by Chuck forgetting to close his boot. Still, if any caving gear did fall out on to the road, we didn't notice, so that was all fine and dandy.

Hitch n Hike went pretty quickly, and soon all three cars were pretty close to Monyash. Hold on, all THREE cars? Didn't I say we started off with four cars? Yup, we'd managed to forget about a car. Whoops. Worse still, we then realised we didn't have the mobile numbers of anyone in the missing car, and they didn't know where the cave was. Faff points begin to accumulate. After some rather optimistic driving around Monyash in the hope of spotting a blue estate with some abandoned cavers in, we returned to the lane by the cave and resorted to technology. Several phone calls and web pages later, Chuck managed to convince the uni security office to give him a mobile number and the missing persons were found. Turned out they had a silver saloon not a blue estate, but that was just in the detail (faff points continue to rise).

1:30pm - let the trip commence! It rained quite heavily for the exact five minutes when we needed to get changed and then stopped. Thanks for that. We entered the mine via two routes - one abseiling down the mine shaft, the other going in through a pipe of oil drums at the bottom of a sink hole. I was in one of the oil drum groups. This immediately turned into crawling over some nasty sharp gritty mud - wish I'd remembered some gloves! However, we soon came to the first pitch, which went down through a narrowish hole at the bottom. Shortly afterwards, there was another pitch with an odd rebelay

onto a very short drop. There was quite a bit of waiting here as we'd caught up with the group ahead of us so plenty of people needed to get through. Ade managed to make himself look extremely comfortable, lying down on the floor whilst waiting. Obviously a seasoned professional!

As we made it to the bottom of the shaft, the group ahead of us were just starting to srt up, so we set off to explore. We found quite a few alarming anti-gravity devices in operation, so decided to try and keep our heads well away from the roof! The most notable feature was a tiny squeeze, which we all considered then decided was only for the insane. Happily though, it turned out that we did have an insane member in our group - step forward Louise. After removing harness and all gear, she put in a truly impressive attempt to fit herself through the tiny gap. She got as far as getting her whole upper body through before deciding her hips wouldn't make it and so being dragged out backwards. Good effort! I still kept looking longingly at the squeeze, but decided it would be too much effort to take all my gear off. That's my excuse, and I'm sticking to it!

At this point, Chuck decided he really needed to pee. Poor Chuck - we had at least another hour and a half before getting outside. Much fun was had watching him jiggle, sing, squirm, swear and walk purposefully around. Eventually though, the time came to SRT out. Chuck tried to man it out before finally giving in and asking if we wouldn't mind if he didn't go last. It was a long pitch out, so it still took some time, but eventually we were all out. Much relief was offered by walls right by the top of the exit shaft.

A fairly pleasant, if dark change, and it was time to head off to Pizza Hut. Once we'd pushed Ade's car up to another car so it could be jump-started, we set off in a convoy of four (count em!) cars, with only the front car knowing the way. This led to much fun, including three cars going round a roundabout in Bakewell twice, completely blocking it to any other cars. We finally got to Pizza Hut, we ate pizza, we went home.

Quite a fun trip in retrospect, but definitely a lot of faff. :)

**Report By *Max Spicer***

## **Ireby Fell Cavern – 1st March 2009**

The faff rating started low for this trip with Chuck arriving at my house at about 7:40. Sadly I couldn't match Chuck's efficiency & spent the next 15 minutes sorting my gear out, but we did manage to be at the container before 8. The biggest surprise of the day came next when Ade arrived before (yes, before!) 8 as well! All 10 of us were there within about 10 minutes and by half past we had the ropes packed for all three routes...so far so good! We couldn't find any rigging guides, though, but reckoned we knew Ireby well enough that we could get away with it.

An uneventful trip to Ingleton later and we were all enjoying breakfast in Bernies, and despite kneepad/sling/rope/krab buying by various people we were out fairly quickly and parked up ready to get underground. Again, more efficiency followed (I was beginning to really enjoy myself by this point!) and we decided we'd split into three groups, Ade myself and Anna heading down shadow with the ropes for the bottom few pitches too, Chuck, Luke and George heading down Bubbles, and Andy, Cat, Alastair and Jennie going via Ding Dong Bell with Cat rigging for the first time.

By the time I got to the start of the rope Ade had already rigged the whole of the top traverse and was off down the pitch (how does he rig that fast?!) and Anna was just heading down. Having done the same route the previous week I was quite surprised to find the bottom pitch under a significant waterfall below the deviation, so after some very swift descending later (aided by my simple :)) we were at Pussy pitch. With only 1mm or so of rain forecast we decided water-wise we'd be fine, so headed down this pitch and made hasty progress down the streamway. After Ade had negotiated the calcite duck Anna and I followed into the chamber preceding it, but having got absolutely soaked on shadow and being a non PVC-wearer Anna decided that the passage back upstream was much more appealing than the duck. After a brief bit of decision making we decided to head back to meet some of the others and decide what to do from there.

On reaching the junction with Bubbles route, we could hear Chuck's group fast approaching and within no time they were down. Their group decided they also didn't fancy the duck (Chuck & George having been there with me the previous week), but having wanted to get to Ireby 2 for quite some time I wasn't prepared to head straight out. After a fairly short amount of persuading (bullying?!) later Ade was convinced to continue towards Duke Street, so off we headed to the duck once again. Now in a two we were much faster, and Ade continued his lightning rigging on Well pitch and the rope climb at the bottom.

I found it slightly worryingly that there was a fairly long section of cave I'd completely forgotten from a year previously, but before long we were in Duke Street, just as impressive as I'd remembered it. Before heading into Whirlpool dig we stopped for a much needed hot cross bun and water stop, studied the Ireby 2 survey on my camera, left out SRT bags at the bottom and prussiked up into the dig. I headed up first and was a little concerned to find the bolt at the top wasn't even finger tight, but at least it was backed up well. I didn't have my spanner with me, but tightened it as best I could before Ade followed. The last time I'd been here there was about 20m of crawling before the end of the dig, but it was clear how much work had gone in since! What was 20m to a dead end had turned into a 135m crawl - it was obvious where the huge pile of sand in Duke Street had come from. Abseiling down into the stream at the end was interesting with the grit and mud in the rope: I reckon my descender probably got a few trips worth of wear in that few metres of descent! Heading upstream we endured the less than pleasant waist-deep wading towards Duke Street 2, but once we got there it was well worth it. It makes Duke Street 1 look distinctly unimpressive in comparison, both in terms of size and formations (don't forget to look at the ceiling!).

From here we headed upstream passing some of the most impressive mud formations I've ever seen. Along the true right bank were a huge number of layers in the mud, the most impressive section being where a large amount had broken off and all the layers had peeled back. It's quite difficult to describe here but it really was impressive, honest! On reaching the upstream junction we met another group who had had a brief look around and thought they were possibly already in Jupiter Cavern! Jupiter Cavern was in fact where we at least wanted to head towards so turning left at this junction we headed towards where Ade had remembered the rope climbs to be. We headed up the one he thought was the way on, but having since looked at the detailed survey I didn't have a photo of, I'm not sure the way on here is a rope climb. Nevertheless, without this knowledge, upwards we went past one deviation to the next rope, after which several more ropes followed (one of which with an auto-locking krab on a deviation...why?!) until just when I thought we might break out on to the surface the ropes ended. Throughout the ascent the formations had become more numerous, and from the top of the rope there was an impressive calcite flow to the left. The way on, however, seemed to be a crawl on the right, so I headed on through, not sure what to expect. Whatever I had thought might be through there was

definitely far exceeded by what I actually found - this was one of the prettiest and impressive sections of cave I'd ever seen! OK, there wasn't as much calcite as the Hall of Thirteen, and it wasn't as awe inspiring as Titan, but there were formations absolutely everywhere! Great care was needed in the crawl to avoid damaging the formations and long time was spent just looking around, and even longer time spent once I got my camera out! At the time we were also conscious of how long we'd been there and a quick time check told us it was nearing our turn around time of 5:15. We decided due to time that sadly it was time to turn around, so after much care we both managed to squeeze round in the passage and crawl cautiously back to the top of the ropes.

It's fair to say that the trip back through Ireby 2 was somewhat faster than the way in - I was conscious that the others who had turned back at the Bubbles junction would be some way ahead of us and despite having more people in their team, they'd easily beat us out of the cave and wanted to minimise the time they were waiting outside for. It was on arriving back at the Whirlpool dig that Ade remembered he'd left his glove on a shelf by the streamway, but much to his relief they were there on our return; Kor so he thought - one glove was still there, but one must have slipped off and had been washed away, but there wasn't time for searching so back through the dig we headed. This time I thought I'd try and get through a bit faster than I'd come through, but regretted it slightly afterwards with the pain in my shoulders. I'm not quite sure which muscles are used for crawling on your elbows, but I am sure I don't have them! Once again we stopped for refreshments in Duke Street, this time polishing of the second of my hot cross buns.

Kindly the other team had left us a creative message saying to de-rig Bubbles, so from here we (I?!) decided we'd speed things up a little. We sped our way back up to the rope climb and after a brief stop to remove stones/grit from our wellies I was nominated as de-rigger and up we went. This whole section up to the bottom of Bubbles seemed to fly by - I always forget how brilliantly efficient it is to cave in a pair! Not knowing what to expect we entered the Bubbles crawl and soon found the rope. Again we were quickly up to the top of the rope and had the rope packed before Ade realised that he now only had one kneepad! Not knowing where he had lost it (we suspected on the pitch, but weren't prepared to re-rig to have a look!) we didn't hang around and we pushed on towards the exit. By this point we'd not had a break for a while and had really been pushing it all the way out which made some of the squeezes and tight climbs really quite awkward, but very soon we emerged at the scaffold entrance to find all the other routes had been de-rigged. When we surfaced a minute or so later we checked the time to find it was now 6:30 - we'd taken just one and a quarter hours to the surface from the far end of Ireby 2 - no wonder we were feeling tired!! This should go some way to explaining the high hard ratings Ade and I gave this trip!

The moor was now in thick mist, but thanks to some handy reflectors we had no problems finding our way back to the cars where great food (thanks Anna!) awaited. Whilst we were changing, the others kindly shanked our ropes for us and we were soon heading to Bodrums accompanied by Dire Straits.

Back at the container, we had packed away all the gear by 10:30 and could head home to be for a reasonable time.

All in all it was a fantastic day's caving - definitely one of my top 3 trips :)

**Report By *Mark Sims***

## **Lancaster Hole Round Trip - 4th April 2009**

Lancaster hole is my second trip in the Easgill system and certainly less confusing than the County pot side. This was Angela's first trip! Cat was leading.

Lancaster hole SRT was fairly straightforward; Cat rigged all of this and then it was off to the Colonnades first (I think those on the process of cleaning this section appreciate people who go here while they are clean i.e. not after going into slug world), after Wales week it was nice to see some pretty stuff in the dales. It was then off to Kath's way – Bill Taylor's passage going past the downstream sump to Montague West (if I remember there was what we thought was a silly little ladder, but the joke was on us as we actually did need it to get into the passage. Climb down to Waterfall Passage round to Wilf Taylor's passage where we then had good fun at Double Decker Pot, Cat rigged normal SRT then a pull through for herself, meanwhile Ade and Chuck tried out some cave-bathing, there was also a very dodgy in-situ rope which I suppose you would have to use if you went the other way round. This actually came into play when the rope got snagged on the p-hanger when pulling our rope through. Ade started going up this rope – predictable our rope finally came through, quite funny. We then dropped into the main stream way (drop being the right description) to Fall Pot – a very muddy place. Ade, Chuck and Cat climbed up and around to rig a rope for myself and Angela to prussic up, I was happy to have some bonus SRT and a spot of de-rigging to do. Then all of a sudden we were back where we started Cat and I went crawling off to Slug world while the others went out and got nice and muddy! I got to de-rig which I managed to do really quickly so I was happy with that. So much fun the trip didn't seem like 6 hours, looking forward to my next Easgill adventure

Also the route up to the entrance is now sign posted so people walk around the edge of the field for conservation and Bull Pot farm seems to be double glazed now!

**Report By *Chad Bullivant***

-----**Your Trip Report Here Next Edition!**-----

## **Lancaster Hole Round Trip - 4th April 2009**

I'd finally convinced Angela to come on her first caving trip!! She'd done some training in the sports hall but was yet to go down a real cave, so I wanted this trip to be relatively short and easy, yet inspiring and slightly challenging.... It had to be Easegill!

As I was going to be leading, I decided to repeat the route Chuck, Tom and I had done a few weeks previous. This involved going in Lancaster to practice a bit of rope work, then a short detour to see the Colonnades before heading into Kath's Way and Bill Taylors passage, then a round trip via Montague West and Wilf Taylors Passage up to Fall Pot.

We had arranged to meet at half 8 for a leisurely start.. Ade was actually early picking me up (shock horror!) but I then had to remind him we were supposed to be collecting Chuck as well...

We got to Bernies at around 11, where Angela was pleasantly surprised at the array of veggie options... so far so good! I also decided I was finally going to buy myself an oversuit.

When we got to Lancaster there was another team on their way down so we had a bit of a wait at the top before I went in to rig. It was a little slow as at the second rebelay I managed to get myself tangled in the other rope a couple of times, but got there eventually!

Remembering the way from last time, we made speedy progress as I led the way to Double Decker Pot. I could definitely notice the difference caving in pvc – I was roasting! At the pitch, I rigged normally for the others, then Chuck shouted up instructions from the bottom while I re-rigged as a pull-through. It was a little scary, but I got to the bottom incident-free! Retrieving the rope turned out to be a little tricky and caused some faff. The stiff plastic at the end of the rope was abnormally long and it didn't want to come through the p-hanger... it eventually took chuck putting all his weight on the rope and giving it an additional tug for it to come free. (Note to future tackle masters: keep the labels short!)

Shortly before entering the main streamway is a small drop – I seemed to remember last time simply sliding down into the pool below. However when I did so, I discovered the water was a lot deeper than I remembered and ended up being up to my waist (Hence a rating of 3 for personal scummyness! Thank goodness I chose to buy that oversuit!) Ade, who was just behind me, naturally found this absolutely hilarious.

This time we found the way up from the streamway to Fall Pot with no problems at all. At Fall Pot itself, Ade Chuck and I went up the awkward climb (which seemed a lot easier than last time), so that the pitch could be rigged for Angela. Chad stayed behind to derig.

Back at Lancaster, I took Chad to see Slug World whilst the others ascended. On the surface it was still daylight and I had a nice lounge in the sun as we waited for Chad who managed a speedy bit of derigging. The trip was quite a bit longer than originally anticipated, but we hadn't been intending to be particularly efficient. It was a nice leisurely and fun trip – and Angela seemed to enjoy her first caving experience so bonus! :)

**Report By *Catherine Moody (Cat)***

## **A trip from the archives (or memories of “fun” with minibuses...)**

When I was asked to provide something for the journal, I couldn't at first think what to do. After a bit of thought, I decided that it would give me a good opportunity to do a bit of skiving and look back through some of the old log books for an amusing story. What I eventually found was the following report from October 1994 (chuffin' 'ell! That's 15 years ago!!). It involves a trip down Sell Gill which was, in itself, fairly uneventful. What made it memorable, was the minibus breaking down!

### **Sell Gill, October 1994**

Present: Laurence Abbott, Dave Nightingale, Pete Dodd, Steve Gilbert, Ian “The Gardener”, Dave Betteridge, Ralph Harwood, Mima Eve, Brian Clarke.

T'was a fun trip! Down first pitch and had to wait for another group coming out. Waited a bit more as one bloke came up and told us there were only two more in his party to ascend. About seven cavers later, we proceeded down the second pitch and then (funnily enough) the third. Got to the bottom and everyone stood under the waterfall (why did we do that? [It was fun! Pete]). Several people went for a crawl in the stream for some reason.

Started on the way out as yet another group began to descend the second pitch. When we eventually got to the entrance pitch, we had to wait for hours as some very fresh freshers learned to abseil and do a rebelay on the entrance pitch. Went for a bit of an explore and found a dig. Returned to entrance pitch and waited again. Ralph went for a scrot down a muddy hole so we bricked up the entrance to it for a laugh! The other group were still farting about so Ralph and Steve discovered a new way out involving a free-climb.

Eventually got out and back to the minibus. We got past the Hill Inn and the minibus died. Not only was the door knackered (woops!), now the engine was FU\*\*\*D! Mima's mini was also shagged and had no headlights. Rang the AA at about 9.30 pm. The very nice man arrived at 10.45 pm. He spent about 2 hours pulling the carburettor apart and putting it back together again, several times. He eventually gave up and called for a tow-truck. Mima's car was mended and left. Tow-truck arrived at 3.05 am. Got back to York at 5.30 am. To bed by 6.30 am, into the lab by 10.00 am.

It would have been a complete nightmare but we got lots of tinnies and crisps from the pub and played cards by the light of 6 Oldham lamps.

This was the second week in a row I went caving. Wonders will never cease!

*Laurence*

Nice cave with not too much ice cold water. I could think of better ways of spending my night than freezing in a minibus, however.

*Dave B*

Try putting halogen light down your jumper!

*Anon*

Next time, come home with me in my van!

*Ian*

Hopefully, we have had enough epics to last us for a few weeks. Waterfall was excellent! Stood under it several times. Now that's what I call a real POWER SHOWER!

*Anon*

Batman [Ed: Steve Gilbert, named after his upside-down hanging behaviour in Calf Holes the previous week!] has also discovered the fun involved with crawling in water. He's learning!

*Pete*

Well...no one noticed that I dropped Dave's spanner down the entrance pitch!

*Anon*

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I'd totally forgotten about Steve being called Batman!! Some of the other people on the trip are still around York and turn up occasionally.

This wasn't my first trip down Sell Gill and I've been down there quite a few times since, although I've always done the "normal" route rather than Goblin. Sell Gill has the unfortunate feature that a lot of university clubs do trips down there on the same weekends because it's a fairly simple SRT trip. On several occasions, we've been stuck on the surface for hours in the wind and rain whilst freshers from other clubs are learning how to do their first rebelay on the entrance pitch!

On another occasion, we were stuck at the bottom of the entrance pitch, waiting for a similar thing as another group of freshers learned how to do a rebelay going up the entrance pitch! On this occasion, several of our group managed to free-climb the entrance pitch! The rest of us went off exploring to find a dig at the end of a crawly bit.

On yet another occasion, we were stuck waiting between the second and third pitches, waiting for the huge group of freshers in front to negotiate down the third and final pitch. We managed to explore quite extensively in the small area between the two pitches. This was quite good because no one ever stops there for a look. I seem to remember that we found some bones from a long-dead small animal that had done well to get this far into the cave before expiring!

Next time you're down there, go and have a look at the dig between the first and second pitches and have an explore between the second and third! Not to mention the dig right at the end of the final chamber, although that does tend to make one somewhat soggy...

*Laz*

## Notts Pot – 7th March 2009

Really enjoyed Notts pot! Notts pot is often described as the most complex vertical maze in Britain, due to several routes to choose from. On this adventure Matt G led Alex, Mike, George and I through the centre route to the bottom of the cave, the bottom section being for me the best part of the cave system.

Finding the cave was an adventure in its self, we were told it was about half a mile from the road with George on the look out for a post with a yellow sticker on. Every hole we came across, the most prominent been that to Lost John was pondered over. Drizzle was in the air but the cave entrance was totally dry, I even commented to the others how dry the cave appeared at the entrance (how things changed nine hours later). The entrance pitch was relatively short and simple with a rebelay, following this was a crawl through a small hole to a free climb that had tat rope rigged to help us get down, useful as this had no obvious foot holds to talk of. Then it was another abseil to the main chamber, from where the cave diverges into three different routes, while Matt rigged the centre route the other teams were hot on our heels, who went down the left and right routes.

The first pitch of the centre route consisted of a Y-hang off a sling draped around a protrusion on the cave wall, Matt was convinced that there should have been a P-hanger off the roof to rig off but there wasn't. This was followed by another two Y-hangs, all good fun. It was quite surreal hearing other voices coming from other teams in the cave, not really being able to tell if they were above or below us in respect to the routes they were on. The last pitch here leads you into the point where all three routes join, by the time I had got down all the member on the left hand route were down, not sure if any of the right hand team had got down at that point. Once Mike came down with the bad ass tackle sack containing ~ 130 m rope our team left the other and ventured off the underbelly of the cave.

Upon leaving the main chamber we came across the fist sign of a stream, we saw the duck where if you did the BT route you would emerge from, wouldn't fancy that one. It looked like you would have to be totally submerged! From here it was a shuffle through a passage with a streamway below us; we seemed to have gone too far along. Matt shouted back 'can anyone see any P-hangers. We all looked up and saw them, so we all had to shuffle back to the position of the first P-hanger and free climbed up it. What followed was quite a lengthy traverse, some of which was a little awkward with quite a sizable drop below. A lot of it was just trying to find a comfortable position until the next part of the traverse line became free. Then came a little bit of hold up with a little bit of debate between Matt and Alex as to the rigging and some possible P-hanger dodgyness. All seemed fine by the time I reached the pitch head. Another fine abseil, although I was getting the impression that this cave has a few points where rope rub could be an issue. The next bit of traverse involved a free climb in the centre of it. The last main pitch was awesome, respect to Matt for rigging this one, the Y-hang seemed to be miles away from ledge at the end of the traverse with a large drop below. My approach to this was to lean over put my hand jammer of the pitch rope, move my long cows tail into the knot, leaving my short cows tails on the traverse then load and lock off my rack and then to gingerly lower myself off the ledge. The abseil that followed was amazing, certainly my fastest abseil yet, although I didn't realise the rock protrusion near the bottom of the pitch, which my backside went straight into lol! During the whole of the lower section all you could hear was water crashing at the bottom, and at the bottom of this pitch you could see the ferocity of the water going into the sump to Notts 2, quite a sight!

So it was prussic out time, as Mike and George were getting a little cold they went out first with Alex and Matt de-rigging, I was to wait in the main chamber and take the bad ass tackle sack back up the centre route. On the first pitch of the bottom section I was being so paranoid about rope rub; it was also a little constricted at top. Once I had the large tackle sack getting out of the centre route became my most difficult and intense caving experience to date. Also the cave had totally transformed by this point. There was water everywhere, an upside to this was having a nice cooling shower at the bottom of each pitch but it was amazing how different the cave was now. That tackle sack was not my friend, it was trying to get stuck every way possible, at the top of the 2nd Y-hang my hand jammer then decided it did not want to come off the rope. Then it was off out the entrance series, again plenty of water, it was a stream at the top of the bottom entrance pitch. The free climb section almost killed me lol! Thankfully there was an extra sling now rigged, a combination of using this, my hand jammer on the tat rope and the tackle sack as a foot hold finally saw me up this on I think on my third attempt. Then on getting out the cave it became clear the reason for the cave transformation, it was raining, hailing, wind, the works. Thankfully I had ropes to shank while waiting for Matt and Alex to come out. Once they were out it was a bracing walk in a dark, foggy hail storm lashing against my face back to the car. The change was my most horrific to date, no feeling in my hands whatsoever, I could feel the wind going through my bones, instantly my clothes were saturated with water, I was still shivering in bodrums.

A remarkable days caving with the bottom section being my highlight! :)

**Report By *Chad Bullivant***

### **Lancaster Hole to Maracaibo Inlet 25th May 2009**

Originally we were supposed to be doing Ireby II but Matt wanted a short trip and we couldn't be arsed packing ropes so we changed to Maracaibo instead. Matt and Andy were already in Ingleton so we met them in Bernies before 10 after a super-quick start and drive, despite having to collect the car from Ollie's after beerage! We told the others we had changec plans, and convinced Andy to buy an Omni (I want one too!), and one ruthlessly efficient breakfast later we were off to Bull pot farm which was eerily quiet! Shame as we wanted to test out the showers (we currently dont have one!).

We set off for Lancaster with Andy carrying a umbrella to shield his glowing red neck and looking very special (luckily there was noone to see us!). He then proceeded to rig by getting Matt to do the start for him then faffing around until rich took over. Old age dementia setting in i think. Very warm outside so i was very happy to get into the cool!

A quick stomp down Kath's way and Fall pot and we were in the main drain. Really nice to do pretty much all of this. Its a very fine streamway indeed! After a quick wee stop we found the obscure hole on to Maracaibo. Maracaibo is mainly a small straight rift, with Bloody Thigh passage at the start (no bleeding this time though) and various tight bits and squeezes along the way (I lose track). We made matt go first, who wimpered at the tight bits until we forced him through (its character building!). Lots and lots of pretty stuff down here which its very hard to avoid. We eventually got to a bit where we'd have to climb up and squeeze very carefully past a very white stal, which turned out to be quite hard so as this was virtually at the end we decided to call it quits and head out before breaking anything!

Nice quick exit and out to sunshine, although the dark clouds were massing! Got changed before the rain started and headed back to Bernie's which was unfortunately shut. Off to Bodrum's for about half 5. Earliest ever I think! They now give you wooden platters for your pizza instead of wasting boxes. Very civilised! Back in York super early but really quite tired and battered! My elbows and knees still hurt!

All in all a good trip, hard but short and very pretty. Don't go twice though as it's too easy to break stuff.  
**Report By Nicola Topham (Nikki)**

### **White Scar Cave 10th May 2009**

We arrived at the car park just after 10 and after double-checking with the manager that it was "dry" enough to go in, we all set about changing into our wetsuits. At the end of the show cave we let the keen early-bird tourists past then hopped over the railing into the underground lake. Swimming with an oversuit on was very bizarre, even more so was trying to swim with wellies! After maybe 100m of swimming we reached the boulder choke. Some interesting contortions were required to get through in places and with a wetsuit, manoeuvre-ability was somewhat decreased. A lot of laughing at each other later, and we were out of the boulders and into the streamway.

It was a very impressive streamway, with a high canyon roof and lots of pretty flowstone. Wading through the water and staring up at the ceiling I felt a bit like Indiana Jones (minus the whip).

Towards the end of the streamway was a roped climb up to some impressively long straws. Bit of a pain to get up (I'm really not good at climby things) but it was worth it!

On reaching the sump series, Mark was getting quite cold so went back with Gary to explore a couple of inlets while the rest of us continued. It was quite relaxing floating along, using my hands on the bottom to propel myself. We went past about 4 cross-rifts before deciding the airspace was too limited to bother going any further so back we went.

Back in the show cave, we debated whether or not to wait for the tourists to come back past so we could go up to see Battlefield Chamber, and whether those who were cold should go back while the rest of us waited. Eventually it was concluded that we would all go. It was definitely worth the wait – much bigger and more impressive than I'd anticipated. We spent a while taking a few photos before the next gaggle of tourists came in and we thought we better leave.

After changing we had hot chocolate and muffins in the café whilst waiting for the Tatham Wife group. Yummy.

**Report By Catherine Moody (Cat)**

## **Bar Pot – 3rd May 2009**

A big and enjoyable, sunny, walk past tourists heading for Ingleborough cave or mountain brought us to the canyon of death, a wall of darkness ensued as the sunlight passed the tip of the rock climbers paradise and the first of the dead bunny rabbit's. Sunlight could be seen at the other end of the canyon..... to be continued

.... waiting by the entrance to some unknown pot was quite funny as we were describing to families of people why we actually WANTED to go down these potholes, Chuck descended, along with Anna and Cat to assess this unknown pot and came out saying it wasn't, next one looked quite jerky to go down judging by the dripping moss outside.

We then went round the corner to a big depression in the ground and wandered down to find guess what another hole but this one had another dead rabbit on the way down (another ominous sign of things to come??)

We gave up trying to find wades/flood entrance and opted for Bar Pot the very first hole you see when you walk into the field, while Chuck, Anna and Cat were setting up the first pitch, me and Jonny were outside watching a chafed up beetle with two tone colours impress us by walking in circles.

It was time to descend the first pitch and what a pitch it was, quite tight at the top but you just had to wriggle and you were down into the main body of the pitch, letting off your rack and descending into the first cavern and then wandering down to the greasy slab, be careful, treat it as if you were vertical by lowering yourself down on your arms, looks like a super happy fun slide but it's made of rock!!!

One traverse later and we were at the second pitch head 35m of glory the descent of this was rather pleasant, following the descent was another traverse and then some crawling, much crawling for someone without gloves, doh why did I leave them in my flat.

Arriving in the hall of dihedra was amazing I have never seen anything so pretty in my life as the water coming from the heavens was tinted by a golden light, I had the dying urge to stand underneath it which I would have done, definitely if I was given the chance and didn't have the threat of falling rocks on my head.

We then returned but not before seeing where Chuck spent last New Year's, in a very dry passage way, with relatively no breeze, but according to Chuck it's eerie as when you sleep in there you expect no noise but you get the drips of some water from the ceiling.

We then returned, as always going up the 35m pitch was much harder than coming up it and it is my longest pitch to date, what can I say I haven't been caving much, but I have done the long prussik now and am still showing the signs on my shins!!

and the first pitch was also much harder but we had been warned about this before and Chuck gave us pointers to "put your foot here and there etc". Long walk back saw us get back to the car at about the same time as some people we saw before going down the cave, consisting of two young kids who proceeded to stare at us when we were getting changed, I didn't see this but was told about it when we got back to Bodrums.

**Report By Alastair Gott (aquamole fish)**

After a nice drive and a pleasant walk up to the moor we then spent a while watching Chuck poke his head down several shakeholes looking for Flood entrance but eventually we just decided to do Bar Pot, so off we went. After several late nights looking at pictures of the gaping gill main chamber and daydreaming during lectures about standing by the waterfall I was excited to be going there, a place I'd wanted to go to since I saw a picture of somebody abbing down dihedral when I was younger.

A downward crawl led to our first pitch, a constricted pitch head that opened out into a chamber with the rope hanging free away from the walls, my favourite type of pitch. A stomp with the odd squeeze and a greasy slab led down to the second pitch, into quite a cool chamber. Exiting this we stomped on until we reached a long crawl, the anticipation growing with the draft as we shuffled on.

Even after seeing so many pictures I wasn't prepared for the main chamber, a beautiful and powerful place, the afternoon sun breaking in and turning the body of water into a living sculpture of frosted glass. Certainly more impressive than the York Minster it's often compared to when you consider that it was made by just water and gravity.

The journey back was quick and efficient, pausing to look at the chamber where we spent the new year and to admire some cave-pearls, and we were soon out into the sunny world of 'upstairs', the next big 'must do' being dihedral!

**Report By Jonathan Booth (Boothatron)**

### **Miss Grace's Lane Cave – 6th June 2009**

It rained so Otter Hole was out so we ended up going down this one. It's a great cave. VERY easy to get lost as there are loads of different promising-looking routes to go down. Our main focus of the trip was to go down the La La slide (yes that is the one next to tubby hall) and also to see the white crystal pool (or something like that). Most of the cave is completely dry, except for a particularly muddy (and I mean squelch squelch) crawl to what we soon realized led us to the BOTTOM of the La La slide. Once almost all of us had got up there (after several attempts as we were completely covered in wet mud), I decided we'd seriously missed out on the fun of a slide so had to go down it... which led to much struggling, squirming and giggling on the second attempt to get back up (I think if it had taken me any longer they might just have left me there!) ... although it wouldn't really have mattered as after some further exploration past the slide we decided our best option after all was to go back the way we'd come!

There have been several attempts to push the cave and there is scaffolding in various places which is NOT to be trusted (I found this out after losing my grip when climbing down some, and falling down with a scaffolding pole following shortly after!!) There are little crystals throughout the cave, Ade said the pool thingy wasn't much to look at, but something I thought was really cool (apart from the dodgy ladders, of which there are many) was that there are places in the first entrance bit where insects have obviously died while still attached to the walls and the stuff that forms stalactites (calcium is it? can't remember!) has formed on them. They are quite pretty (in a weird sort of way) I've got some pictures which I will upload soon.

Oh yeah, and on the way back up the entrance ladders we saw THE cutest newt in the world, it was about a centimeter long!!! Anyhow, that is my little schpeel of this funky cave!

**Report By Charlie Dixon**

## **Marble Steps Pot 16th May 2009**

Our intended trip was to do Flood entrance, but this was not an option after finding out in Bernies that the caves around Gaping Gill were been set up for the winch meet. Naturally I was disappointed as I had spent much of the previous evening studying the rigging guide and descriptions as I was to rig. So I hope I get the chance to do this cave in the near future. While deciding what we were going to do instead we met two members of MUSC who were of to do Marble Steps Pot, I have only done this cave two weeks previous, so initially I was not so keen. However they were up for doing a Gully – Sidewinder exchange and get as far as Stink Pot. This sounded reasonable as it was going to be a slightly different trip to my recent one and I could still rig the cave. Ade, Ben, Toby and I went down Gully and George, Ben and Craig went down Sidewinder.

Since rigging Pwll Dwn I had been looking forward to my next chance to rig a cave, especially as I had learnt so much from my first rigging encounter. I was much more comfortable on this occasion, with better selection and quality of knots, while identifying that I did need to improve my traverse line lengths and smaller figure of 8 loop sizes. It was also interesting to find out that caves can be rigged in different ways, for example on my previous trip Matt G rigged a deviation half way down the Gully route first pitch, I instead decided to rig a re-belay; there was a choice of p-hangers in any case. Rigging the traverse line immediately before the second pitch was a little daunting. I remember re-rigging this a few weeks ago with a little difficulty due to the length between p-hangers and the small ledge, and alas I found it just as interesting rigging it, really good fun! After every one was down both routes we all went off to the top of Stink pot, the journey via the hand line was so different to how it was the previous week, again different rigging. In general the cave was very much wetter than previously, beyond the top of Stink pot there is a horrible muddy crawl, so a little bit of exploring was carried out.

So our team went up the Sindwinder route and I was certainly having an involving caving trip as I de-rigged this. It was itself quite a fascinating route, plenty of deviations and re-belays to de-rig. A bit of a tight section towards the top, the connection back round to the Gully route was a really fun traverse section.

A really fun trip had not caved with people from other clubs; they were as keen as we were. Its the second time that I have been totally shattered at the end of this cave, the rigging itself is involving in itself, de-rigging as well just added to the intensity of the trip due to the concentration levels required compared to a 'tourist' trip. Hopefully I'll have another chance to do some more rigging very soon as it is a skill that I would like to become proficient at.

**Report By *Chad Bullivant***

## Trapdoor Pot – 16th May 2009

Trapdoor has to go down as one of the best trips I've ever done. I had been lead to believe that it would tight, wet and horrible with death around every corner; however I found it quite the opposite.

An efficient breakfast in Bernies (and purchase of a new Omni main mallion for quick release of the SRT kit in the promised awkwardness of trap door) lead us to the cave for about 12pm. Nice sunny weather (contrary to the report) for getting changed and a brisk walk up the hill. Naturally the heavens opened and it was time for hoods but it didn't last long.

I had opted for a tourist trip, leaving Mark to get on with the rigging while I followed leisurely behind. A small entrance hole in the bottom of a shake hole lead on to the short descent into a roomy chamber, the way on dropping down to the lowest point in the floor to an interesting limbo under a ledge. This dropped into another roomy boulder filled chamber with some interesting expanding foam holding some otherwise gravity defying blocks in the rift right over the way on. An easy climb down leads up to the head of the first pitch – “That's Better” – via a tighter-than-it-looks squeeze known as “The Ripper”. This was the first of several removals of my SRT gear.

“That's Better” pitch drops down onto some very dodgy looking boulders propped up with wood of dubious vintage directly above a dug route down to a narrow shaft. This drops on to the very awkward head of the second pitch – “FTSE pitch”. Some squirming leads onto a scaffolding bar for a free hang down the short pitch into a spacious area with water entering (sadly above the way on). Hoods up and SRT gear down for the drop through a tight slot into a short crawl to emerge at the head of the next, far more spacious “Ready to Roll” pitch.

Some welcome easy SRT down to the floor to sounds of Matt attempting the crawl at the bottom (anyone who knows Matt will know what kind of sounds I mean!) I arrived at the crawl in time to see Matt reversing out to remove his SRT gear. He also decided that he didn't want to face it head first so entered the other way dragging a very full tackle sack and his SRT gear. After more ‘Matt’ noises, Tom and I followed (Tom having no trouble fitting with his SRT gear on) to emerge at Millennium Pot.

Next came much discussion about how to tackle the tight bit ahead referred to the Not For the Faint Hearted as an “esoteric squeeze”. Despite yet more even louder ‘Matt’ noises, it wasn't half as bad as it seemed at first. The biggest pain was getting the two tackle sacks through.

On with SRT once again then much easier going to the head of next pitch; an easy descent onto a ledge above what is probably the most impressive shaft I have ever seen. The lights from Matt and Mark at the bottom illuminated the whole thing which looked incredibly impressive; I only wished I'd had my camera! A quick descent down the 38m pitch ends on a huge boulder slope with a tiny stream at one edge.

After some well deserved nibbles, Mark set off back up the rope far too enthusiastically with his foot jammer, putting everyone else to shame. Next was Tom's assent of catastrophe! Half way up he exclaimed that the deviation had come off but we thought nothing of it and let him carry on. Next came a HUGE bang which Matt and I couldn't work out but later found that a massive chunk of the wall had fallen off the top! I started my assent to find that Tom was right; the deviation indeed had come off, in fact the whole anchor had come out of the wall! Thankfully the deviation wasn't required and was one

of the old original bolts so we didn't worry too much. Take care on the top of that pitch though as some of the wall is still quite loose.

A quick and uneventful exit (although rather a lot harder than on the way in) made for a very happy group of cavers. Trapdoor is a very satisfying trip and I was really glad to get to the bottom of it. I found it just the right length with good variation, and not as hard as the description makes out. Defiantly want to return with photography gear.

**Report By Gary Douthwaite**

## **Ireby Fell Cavern to Jupiter Cavern – 23th May 2009**

Along with a recent Easegill trip this has to be one of the most satisfying trips that I have done so far. We had a focussed team of five who embarked on a mission entitled 'Operation Silent Echo' with the aim of getting to Jupiter Cavern. This was a total success ensuring that we were the first members of YUCPC to reach Jupiter cavern. Matt G put so much effort into planning this trip that it became the most organised trip I've been on and every member of the team was very grateful for this.

As we approached the Yorkshire Dales we were slightly concerned by the heavy cloud cover, this was certainly not in the forecast that I saw, after asking at Bernies only a shower was forecast. So we decided to go on and assess the cave which turned out to be damp, more so than when I did it last but of no concern, so we were all satisfied that the trip could go ahead. Thankfully there were no other teams already in the cave so we had free reign to go in and rig the traditional route. One of the good things about getting an early start!

I was in the fortunate position of being the rigger, which was fantastic fun. It was great to rig again only a week after Marble Steps. I knew that for this trip I was left to rig with no input from anyone else which showed I had the confidence of the other team members. Ding-Dong and Bell was rigged in about an hour; the only hold up in was when I was rigging the top of Bell pitch. There was a low and a high set of p-hangers around the traverse to the top of the pitch. I was convinced that when I de-rigged this last time that the top p-hangers were used. This seemed to be the more uncomfortable option but defiantly the correct one. I did a lot of thinking on the knot lengths and how I was going to use a sling to make a better Y-hang; the first sling despite doubling up was way too long so I changed to a shorter one. By the time I had rigged it George had been waiting behind me for some time with Tom, Alex and Matt joining the queue so it did feel like a pressure cooker. After rigging Pussy (how much tat is there!) Well (great bit of swinging) and rope (wet!) I felt like my work had been done. I was now beyond where I had been in Ireby Fell before so I was eagerly anticipating what was to come next.

Duke Street was so quiet; this was a giant sand cavern a world away from what we had encountered before. We weren't stopping here though it was up an in situ rope into skylight passage. The crawl through the dig was no where near as bad as I was led to believe especially when I look back at my solo crawl beyond the Hall of the Mountain Kings in Craig y Ffynnon. At the end of the crawl another in situ rope followed dropping us into a stream way into Ireby 2. A short wade through waist line water led us into Duke Street 2, another fantastic chamber. This one though was even more impressive with the unusual formations that were in the roof. Matt then led us round to Escalator Rift where an in situ rope was going upwards beyond site. We knew from the survey that Jupiter Cavern was on a higher level but weren't expecting to have to prussic up three pitches. Interestingly there was a rock stuck in the rift at the bottom of the first pitch, touch it and you get quite a shock at how easy it moves. Matt

had the unenviable task of going up the in-situ ropes first not knowing how they were rigged above; I followed and was very reassured when Matt shouted down that the rigging was well backed up. While Alex was following us behind us Matt and I went for a bit of a wonder before deciding to prussic up the next rope, this proved to be unwise as this part of the cave was very unstable, I looked on as Matt stepped on to a boulder that was now on the move – it made quite an echo in the cave, so maybe we weren't being silent! Thankfully all was fine and we decided to go up the next pitch and then to our surprise another one. There was yet another one, but rather than go up this Matt went for some more exploring and found a crawl, it really isn't that obvious especially with the formations that you pass. Then I heard from Matt 'I've found it!' so I duly followed and told Alex to follow me. So the trick is not to go up all of the ropes although I believe that there are still some interesting formations to see above.

After the crawl is a slippery slope down in Jupiter Cavern, a spectacular chamber where we couldn't even see the roof. To the left was a slippery climb up where it was clear that a waterfall was somewhere in the distance. There was some nice crystallinity on the wall in this section. I went exploring to try and find the waterfall but I got to a point where you might actually need some rope. To the right was the way out to an alternative and much harder route back to Ireby 1 via Cripple Creek. Just by the ladder out were some surveys just in case anyone needed them. In front of us back at the entrance to Jupiter Cavern was another in situ rope going up to Milk and Honey, this gives rise to potential future trips in this cave. The others came up and Tom said that there was another group of cavers behind us, apparently they had no survey and were just exploring. A few minutes later one of their team came in as they decided to go up the ropes since they saw that we had. I'd admit that it did take away a little of the atmosphere at this point as they had never even heard of Jupiter Cavern and would not have gone in there if we didn't go up the rope.

Nethertheless, spirits were high and it was time to leave and head out the cave, with my SRT kit caked in mud it made for a 4-bar rack decent, a lot less intimidating than going up these ropes though. After a bit of a rest in Duke Street after the crawl Matt, Alex and Tom went ahead while I helped George de-rig. George did a fantastic job! I was using my foot jammer for the first time, it was certainly quicker to prussic and I haven't even mastered the technique yet. After been the first in and last out along with George it added up to 10 hours underground which has to be my longest trip to date, but what a trip. However I was feeling quite fresh really. I think there will be many more trips to Ireby 2 including going into Milk and Honey, I wouldn't mind doing a trip one day via Cripple Creek, that really would be an epic !

**Report By *Chad Bullivant***

## **Aquamole Pot – 4th July 2009**

(aka the birth of the aquamole fish)

I'm not very good at writing trip reports as I can never remember what came where regarding routes. So instead I'm gona take a different approach and explain why I voted the way I did!

Faff;

High level of faff on the way due to a road being closed. Luckily I keep a map book in my car and so with the aid of my sat navs (Anna, Josh and Christian) I was instructed to take various exits at roundabouts and junctions until we were back on track- to which Christain exclaimed "win!" every time he got a direction right...it was a relief when he fell asleep.

We also took a while at Bernies due to various purchases; I got a shiny light and helmet, it's very pretty! Then when we set off for the caves- we went the wrong way- oops! Quick call to Ade and we were once again back on track and finally at the cave. The rest was all good progress.

But then there was more faff later on as the rope from the last series of pitches got ridiculously tangled whilst Anna was de-rigging it. Despite hers and Josh's best efforts it was not coming free, and we were soon joined on the surface by Matt G and John from the other team wondering what was going on. Eventually Chad was able to free the rope and we headed down to the cars to find Christian in his boxers...he'd been this way for hours as he'd managed to leave his clothes locked in my car!

Change;

The change was fine apart from the midges, nasty little things!

Scum;

The cave was pretty much dry and not muddy. I got wet on one pitch due to it raining outside, which managed to find the gap down the back of my suits- brrrrr!

Hardcore;

There's a fair amount of SRT, with plenty of rebelays and deviations which is fun. I had issues with a tight deviation on the first set of pitches due to me having no muscle whatsoever, and my tip for anyone who has a problem with this in future is yell at it- it seems to work! If this fails push off the rock behind you (kindly pointed out to me by Josh!).

Fun;

I really enjoyed this trip as it's been ages since I've done a stringy cave. The aven is really impressive, and great to descend...though just a little tiring going back up. We also saw cave fish in the sump at the bottom, much to Alastair's delight! I didn't even mind the faff as I was with a great bunch of people, though I was pretty tired driving home past midnight.

All in all, a great day out

**Report By *Hayley Clamp***

## Peak Cavern – 11th July 2009

After a few beers, Kev made me think that it would be a good idea to go for a potter about in Peak Cavern at the weekend. This was to be the first time Nikki and Gover had been caving in a long while and so it was intended to be a slow wander around some stumpy passages...

We headed down to the TSG making good time, and sat about chatting while we made a monster breakfast. A few cups of tea later, we thought we'd better start getting changed. A quick change followed by a stomp past lots of tourists and we were in. We did have to "blend into the background" whilst a group passed us in the cave but then headed through the gate and down the slidey thing.

We stomped along quickly through the various pools and the Mucky Ducks to The Treasury, squeezed through the gate, and up the ladder. We slogged it through the Trenches and then Collostomy Crawl, which is OK for a bit but then gets quite tedious!

Eventually, we reached the end and climbed down the ladders in Egnaro Aven, which was even more fun than it could have been due to the copious amounts of slippery mud all over our hands! At the bottom, we headed off in the direction of the Lower Bung Streamway.

On the survey, the Lower Bung Streamway is "interesting" because the first bit contains lots of hidden pools in the floor of the streamway. If you are not careful with every step, you end up going up to your waist or deeper in a small pool with every other step! Quite annoying walking along here...

At the end of the main streamway is a T-junction where we first turned right and headed to the far end of Treasury Sump. Sump seen, it was back to the T-junction and down the other way to the Lower Bung Streamway Sump. This passage is drawn on the survey as wide as the main streamway. Maybe it is. However, it is crawling height, and has lots of water flowing down it! Heading to the sump was relatively easy, just going with the flow. Crawling back was pretty knackered against the flow!

We returned to the ladder at Egnaro Aven and Anne left us here. The rest of us carried on past it but Imogen decided pretty quickly to sit and wait for us to return. We had a quick look in Block Hall and then went to the Bunghole which had absolutely no TP, and also no water flowing down it at all. Climbing up the ladder into Speedwell Cavern, I was amused by the dodgy looking electrics at the top of the ladder! We stomped along for a bit, and had a quick play on the shiny new wire rope traverse line thingy at The Whirlpool. At this point, we thought we'd better head back to find Imogen.

We headed back to Egnaro Aven, collected Imogen, and headed up and back into the joys of Collostomy Crawl. The return journey through here was maybe slightly easier than on the way in because it was downhill but we were all pretty tired after the Lower Bung Streamway. Finally we reached the end and climbed back down the ladder and returned to The Treasury.

Kev, Gover, and I wanted to have a quick look at the main streamway but Nikki and Imogen decided to head straight out (this also meant that they could put the kettle on for our return!). The three of us stomped along and Kev convinced Gover to climb down the narrow rift to have a look at Surprise View Sump. (I don't think we was overly impressed by it!) We then headed down the ladder into the main streamway and stomped quickly to Buxton Water Sump, where we had a quick wash!

We returned up the ladder, and back to the entrance, stopping at the other end of Buxton Water Sump for another scrub down, before heading back to the TSG for a quick shower, tea, and toast.

A fun trip, even if most of it was scrotting about in mud, crawling through a fast-flowing streamway, or continually falling in hidden waist-deep pools! We even stopped off at The Balti King for curry on the way back.

Bonus!

**Report By *Laz Abbott (Lazmatron)***

-----**Your Article Here Next Edition!**-----

## Croesor-Rhosydd Route Description and Notes

### Disclaimer

For experienced cavers this trip is not too physically demanding. Our group of seven completed the through trip (exiting through the West Twll of Rhosydd, not no. 9 adit) in a leisurely 4.5 hours. However, while mostly easy, there are two large pitches, three wire zip lines, two lake crossings and many rock falls (some of which appear to be recent). The lakes are very deep and presumably very cold. The old bridges are close to total collapse. Apparently in the worst sections (Chamber 1 West, Croesor for instance) even a loud noise has been sufficient to trigger further collapses in the past.

### Background

Croesor and Rhosydd are located under Moelwyn Mawr in North Wales. Rhosydd is the larger mine, but both contain over 100 chambers split over many levels. The majority of the through trip passes through Croesor (particularly if you exit through the Twll and not no. 9 adit in Rhosydd). Also, the majority of the obstacles are in Croesor and so this takes up the majority of the description.

Croesor's Chamber 1 East is enormous but only the top third of the chamber remains intact and is very unstable. The rest of Croesor's workings are in generally much better condition, though Rhosydd is in generally poor condition. Both mines are deeply flooded. Croesor drains out of the adit entrance (though apparently there is not a large flow as there is no evidence of this), and Rhosydd out of the no.9 adit.

### Suggested Kit List

- Normal caving gear including full SRT kit (preferably wetsuit or neofleece if you choose to swim the lakes, but as one lake is 50m long it is preferable to take a boat).
- At least two pulleys for the steel zip lines (one as a back up), preferably steel or you will definitely be throwing them away afterwards. One cable in particular is quite thick and a normal Petzl fixed cheek pulley could only be made to fit by slightly forcing the cheeks over the wire. By the end of the trip (seven people over three zip lines) the pulley was worn down to within a couple of millimetres of the axle and the pattern of the wire was deeply engraved into the pulley.
- Two steel oval krabs for back up to the pulley on the zip lines.
- 60m rope (long enough for a pull through on the pitches). The fixed aids seemed in good condition April 2009, but this may change.
- 30m rope for hauling people on the zip lines or fishing them out of the water.
- A few slings and krabs / general other rigging gear.
- A boat plus foot pump and puncture repair kit, or a spare boat (or preferably an inflatable Spiderman jetski).
- Buoyancy for tackle bags, e.g. pack stuff in Daren drums. Also serve as back up to the boat in case it pops and you have to swim the Chamber of Horrors.
- 50m reel of cord to retrieve boats / pulleys (both lakes had cord in place for this in April 2009).
- Compass – invaluable for checking navigation as the chambers run generally North-South and the linking passages East-West.

- Map and / or GPS for getting back from Rhosydd, especially if dark / foggy (NB: if you are exiting in the dark via the West Twll then the route out may well not be so obvious as we basically went up as soon as we saw daylight).
- Rope protector as the rock is very sharp and the existing rope protectors are not always in a good place. Could take some old carpet or similar to tie under the rope.
- 4mm (or more) cord for repositioning rope protectors.
- Life jacket – not strictly essential, but then we didn't fall in.
- Last, but certainly not least, surveys. Separate surveys for Croesor and Rhosydd can be found on the Internet (the connection is marked on each). Try [www.aditnow.co.uk](http://www.aditnow.co.uk) Beware that the surveys are extremely confusing and apparently don't take account of various collapses, or apparently later mine explorations or flooding.

### Route to Croesor

Park in the Croesor village car park (GR: SH 632 447). Walk along the road up the valley (Cwm Croesor) pass the cafe and art gallery. Continue to a row of 4 houses on the left and a single house on the right (marked Bryn on the OS map). From here there is a track heading along the valley bottom and a track heading diagonally up the valley side on the right at 45° to the valley bottom track. Follow the track on the right diagonally up the valley for about 30mins through a couple of gates. On the other side of the valley at the valley head you can see an old incline and building (winch house or power station?). The Croesor entrance is opposite this.

Eventually the track goes rounds a corner and passes a winch house above an incline heading over to the top of the incline on the other side of the valley. Continue past and through a gate into an area of obvious old mine buildings. Immediately through the gate on the right by a building with a circular metal bar embedded in the wall is the adit entrance (GR: SH 657 457)

### Route Description

Croesor's adit entrance is mostly walled over (you can just see a side of the red gate). Next to it is a barred up window with a few missing bars. The adit heads straight for a few hundred metres, through an old steel gate (ignore the left hand turn by the gate). A small amount of water may be flowing out of the adit. The level continues straight for a few hundred metres to where it widens significantly. From here a number of exits lead off.

To the left a major tunnel heads towards Chamber 1 East, but now ends after 20m at a wall of rubble. To the right is a brick-built room. Behind the office is an entrance to Chamber 1 West which is large and flooded to the level of the floor you are stood on. The remains of a bridge can be seen halfway up.

Straight on leads to the main incline. Heading up the incline begins with a traverse (fixed line in place April 2009). Follow up the incline alongside a 50cm diameter ceramic pipe on the left. Passages lead off the incline to the left and right. To the left leads into the collapsed Chamber 1 East again (a wall of rubble blocks the way in). To the right opens into Chamber 1 West halfway up.

Pass a short partially collapsed section of the incline. Shortly after this, you reach the top of the incline at a steel gate (the No.3 Airshaft may be behind the steel gate). On the right is another opening into 1 West, now at the top of the chamber 50m above the water.

To the left leads into Chamber 1 East, but this time above the collapse and 25m above the rubble strewn floor. A fixed rope is in place. At the chamber floor, and with your back to the pitch, head diagonally left and over the collapsed boulders, generally heading downwards through the chamber away from the pitch. Carefully scramble over the boulders to the opposite wall of the chamber (the chamber is actually two or three chambers quarried together). Keep going past an enlarged part of the chamber dropping away on the right and after 100m or so you will see a dark window into another chamber straight ahead. Aim for this. Another pitch of 25m heads down into the next chamber. Beware in April 2009 the rope was a little short for small people and there was no knot in the bottom. NB – the survey on the Internet marks the approximate position of the second pitch – this is wrong and it is at least one further chamber along.

At the base of the pitch the chamber floor slopes down to the left. Follow down the slope to reach a lake. A steel cable heads across the water (about 20m). Over the water walk through the tunnel in the wall for about 5m into the next chamber where there is another lake. Cross the lake by boat (about 10m).

The far side of lake is a large open area with several ways on, including a ladder and other fixed aids at the far end. However, taking the tunnel on the left about 30m from the lake soon picks up obvious cart tracks, with some metal rails still in place. Nearly the whole of the rest of Croesor follows these tracks. Follow the tracks through 2 or 3 smaller chambers as it winds left and then right, ignoring small openings on either side (some with tracks heading in), until the tracks enter a smaller (but still walking height) tunnel. The tunnel heads straight for a very long way (almost until you leave Croesor) but is interrupted by a number of obstacles where bridges have collapsed.

Follow the straight tunnel for a few hundred metres to reach the first bridge. The bridges are a series of railway bridges suspended from the ceiling over chambers which were later worked downwards. They are in a very poor condition. Most of the deck of the first bridge is missing, but can still be crossed with the aid of a fixed traverse line.

Continue along the passage away from the first bridge heading in the same direction. The second bridge soon follows. The second bridge has completely collapsed except for the central support still hanging from the roof. A steel cable is in place. A rope to help pull the second and subsequent covers across is useful.

Again continuing in a straight line, carry on along the tunnel passing through a few chambers opening out on the right (some flooded down to the left) to reach the “Bridge of Death”. The central support is in place but only one of the main timber baulks remains loosely balanced across the chamber. Between the nearside and the central support are two old tram rails. Edge across the tram rails clipped in to a steel traverse line and a rope traverse. At the centre support there is a dangling chain to clip into. You then need to transfer to a very high steel traverse, preferably with a pulley (short people may need a sling to extend cow tails to reach the pulley), backed up to the much lower rope traverse, and swing across the last 5m over a 10m drop to the water (so clear you can see down a very long way). As an alternative, there are static ropes down into the water at either side of the Bridge of Death and at least one popped boat, so this clearly is an alternative route. Also there appears to be a traverse line going round the chamber. On balance the Bridge of Death looks the easier option.

After 10m the tunnel opens into the Chamber of Horrors. From the tunnel abseil 10m to the lake on a fixed rope. Abseil down and into a boat (you may find one already there, but there are at least 10 popped boats lurking about). Beware – no knot in the bottom and the rope was a little short April 2009. Pull across on the fixed cord for 50m to the far shore. At the far end of the lake a static line is in place to reach the continuation of the tunnel.

Follow the tunnel for about 10m to a partially dismantled wall with steel reinforcements. This looks modern. Climb through. There may be a strong draft as this is close to the Rhosydd connection. Follow the continuing tunnel (slightly smaller) through a couple of slight turns for maybe 50m. There are two obvious steep slopes up to the right. The first one quickly stops. Go up the second, following the draft, for about 20m until there is a 1m climb into a level passage heading left. Follow this through one or two chambers opening to the right (one having a stone staircase heading up to the right).

Following the tunnel leads to an old low wall (originally blocking the passage between the two mines). Climb over and continue straight ahead into Rhosydd.

After less than 100m you reach the bottom of a haulage incline going up to the right. From the bottom of incline there is a passage going East (following straight across the incline chamber from the passage previously followed) crawl over a collapsed heap of rock to enter the tunnel. Continue East along the bottom of several other big chambers to a chamber with faint blue light up to the right. In this chamber following down the slope to the left gains an old tunnel, possibly a tram level. After 20m this is blocked with what looks to be a recent collapse. This may have been the old route to the number 9 adit, but if so it is now impassable. From where you enter the chamber the tram level continues straight ahead but is at the top of a 10m climb that looks very difficult, if not overhanging.

Scrambling up to the right for 20m gains an entrance into a massive collapsed chamber open to daylight. Daylight can also be seen straight ahead and down to the left from other parts of the West Twll. Heading down to the left or straight ahead may be the way to no. 9 adit (though it may be necessary to head into the main part of the Twll and then re-enter the mine).

Heading up the chamber towards the opening at the top emerges into the West Twll. Heading left leads to the rim of a much larger part of the Twll. Climb out of the Twll (don't take your SRT gear off till you are fully out as one person may need to climb the last 10m and rig a rope).

Route from Rhosydd (Western Twll) to Croesor

The Western Twll (GR: SH 664 461) is in a flattened valley head generally down the valley past old mine workings. The valley you can see straight ahead is the one you walked up earlier. Trend slightly left and go down slightly until you see the Croesor workings (careful not to descend too far). If you see an old dam with a small lake (Llyn Croesor) then walk past it and down the hill, heading half left along a vague path. If it is dark or foggy and you don't have a map and compass or GPS then this will be very difficult to find.

**Description** By *Richard Gover*

## 2008-2009 trips

<b>19/10/2008</b>	<b>Long Churn - Yorkshire Dales</b>			
Nick Wright	Chad Bullivant	Oli Roberts	Victoria Binns	Louise Bell
Mike Emra	George Bunyan	Ben Wilmott	Max Spicer	Anna Barnard
Jaydene Halliday	Gary Douthwaite	Chuck Holder	Charlie Dixon	Matt Ewles
Matt Gosling	Mark Sims	Adrian Turner	Debbie Flowers	Simon Herrod
Laura Bennett	Richard Gover	Nicola Topham	Kevin Francis	Imogen Shepherd
Thomas Blakey				
<b>25/10/2008</b>	<b>Carlswork Cavern - Peak District</b>			
Adam Wilkinson	Antti Turkia	Bassam Jundi	Catherine Moody	Charlie Dixon
Chuck Holder	Clara Davies	Diana Saggese	Ellie Jones	Gary Douthwaite
Gemma Platt	Hayley Clamp	Henry Rotzoll	Imogen Shepherd	Kevin Francis
Laz Abbott	Mark Sims	Matt Ewles	Mike Rippon	Phillip Blaen
Richard Parry	Sarah Donnelly	Toby Buxton	Gonzalo Gonzalez Abad	
<b>26/10/2008</b>	<b>Carlswork Cavern - Peak District</b>			
Adrian Turner	Alexander Stelfox	Becky Harrison	Chris Maughan	Chuck Holder
John Kendrick	Kevin Francis	Max Spicer	Thomas Blakey	
<b>01/11/2008</b>	<b>Giants Hole - Peak District</b>			
Mark Sims	Matt Ewles	Gary Douthwaite	George Bunyan	Phillip Blaen
Tom Evans	John Singleton	Matt Gosling	Adam Wilkinson	Ben Scothern
Christina Cartaciano				
<b>02/11/2008</b>	<b>Giants Hole - Peak District</b>			
Chuck Holder	Kevin Francis	Imogen Shepherd	Jennie Hill	Lauren Ellis
Andrew Gilmartin	Christian Benton	Alex Solkin	Katie Jolly	
<b>08/11/2008</b>	<b>Hillocks Mine - Peak District</b>			
Adam Wilkinson	Adrian Turner	Alexander Stelfox	Catherine Moody	Laura Bennett
Mark Sims	Hannah Dade	Chuck Holder	Ivan Alvarez	Max Spicer
George Bunyan	Toby Buxton	Mike Rippon	Matt Gosling	Louise Bell
<b>09/11/2008</b>	<b>Hillocks Mine - Peak District</b>			
Ben Scothern	Chuck Holder	Hayley Clamp	Laura Woodbridge	Thomas Blakey
<b>15/11/2008</b>	<b>Bar Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b>			
Gary Douthwaite	Matt Ewles	Matt Gosling	Max Spicer	Richard Gover
Thomas Blakey	Andy T	Andrew Gilmartin		
<b>16/11/2008</b>	<b>Bull Pot of the Witches - Yorkshire Dales</b>			
Adrian Turner	Anna Barnard	Ben Scothern	Chuck Holder	Jaydene Halliday
Kevin Francis	Mark Sims	Matt Gosling	Phillip Blaen	
<b>16/11/2008</b>	<b>Simpson's Pot - Valley Entrance - Yorkshire Dales</b>			
Ellie Jones	Andrew Gilmartin	Lauren Ellis	Steve Gilbert	
<b>22/11/2008</b>	<b>Maskhill Mine - Oxlow Cavern - Peak District</b>			
Adrian Turner	Mark Sims	Ben Wright (MUSC)	Rose Wilson (ULSA)	Sally Joseph (ULSA)
<b>22/11/2008</b>	<b>Peak Cavern - White River Series – Peak District</b>			
Nicola Topham	Kevin Francis	Laura Bennett	Adam Wilkinson	Katy Dent (SUSS)
<b>22/11/2008</b>	<b>Giants Hole - Peak District</b>			
Anna Barnard	Diana Saggese	Jaydene Halliday	Mike Rippon	Toby Buxton
A CHECC Leader				
<b>22/11/2008</b>	<b>Water Icicle Cave - Peak District</b>			
Alexander Stelfox	Catherine Moody	Charlie Dixon	Hayley Clamp	George Bunyan
Louise Bell	Thomas Blakey	Adam Mango		
<b>22/11/2008</b>	<b>Bagshawe Caverns - Peak District</b>			
Elizabeth Boggett	Hannah Dade	Some other people from CHECC		
<b>22/11/2008</b>	<b>Bagshawe Caverns - Peak District</b>			
Elizabeth Boggett	Hannah Dade	Some other people from CHECC		
<b>22/11/2008</b>	<b>P8 / Jackpot - Peak District</b>			
Christina Cartaciano	John Kendrick	Some other people from CHECC		
<b>23/11/2008</b>	<b>Eldon Hole - Peak District</b>			
Christian Benton	Mark Sims	Matt Gosling	Thomas Blakey	
<b>29/11/2008</b>	<b>Gavel Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b>			
Richard Gover	Thomas Blakey	George Bunyan	Louise Bell	Mark Sims

<b>06/12/2008</b> Max Spicer	<b>Aquamole Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Alexander Stelfox     Matt Gosling     Thomas Blakey	Mark Sims
<b>07/12/2008</b> Anna Barnard	<b>Sell Gill Holes - Yorkshire Dales</b> Catherine Moody     Chuck Holder	Mark Sims     Thomas Blakey
<b>13/12/2008</b> Mark Sims Christian Benton	<b>Maskhill Mine - Oxlow Cavern - Peak District</b> Matthijs Bouwman     Thomas Blakey	Adrian Turner     Alexander Stelfox
<b>13/12/2008</b> Ben Scothern	<b>Eldon Hole - Peak District</b> Chuck Holder     Mike Rippon	Matt Gosling
<b>13/12/2008</b> Laura Bennett Catherine Moody	<b>Bagshawe Cavern - Peak District</b> George Bunyan     Matthew Chubb Ben Reynolds     Imogen Shepherd	Hannah Dade     Kevin Francis Josh Vale
<b>13/12/2008</b> Richard Gover	<b>JH Over-Engine Mine - Peak District</b> Steve Gilbert     Max Spicer	Andrew Gilmartin
<b>14/12/2008</b> Thomas Blakey	<b>Nettle Pot - Peak District</b> Adam Wilkinson     Martyn (TSG)	Anne (TSG)
<b>14/12/2008</b> Catherine Moody	<b>Mandale Mine - Peak District</b> Chuck Holder     Mark Sims	
<b>21/12/2008</b> Adrian Turner	<b>Trapdoor Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Mark Sims     Matt Ewles	Natasha Durham
<b>04/01/2009</b> Imogen Shepherd Richard Gover	<b>County Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Kevin Francis     Nicola Topham	Matt Gosling     Max Spicer
<b>04/01/2009</b> Adrian Turner	<b>Long Churn - Yorkshire Dales</b> Catherine Moody     Chuck Holder	Jaydene Halliday     Kyle Halliday
<b>10/01/2009</b> Adrian Turner	<b>Ireby Fell Cavern - Yorkshire Dales</b> Ellie Jones     Matt Ewles	Matt Gosling     Steve Gilbert
<b>10/01/2009</b> Andrew Vick	<b>Lathkill Head Cave - Peak District</b> Imogen Shepherd     Kevin Francis	Laura Bennett
<b>11/01/2009</b> Andrew Vick	<b>Giants Hole - Peak District</b> Imogen Shepherd     Laura Bennett	
<b>17/01/2009</b> Adrian Turner	<b>Sell Gill Holes - Yorkshire Dales</b> Thomas Blakey     Jonathan Booth	
<b>17/01/2009</b> Chad Bullivant	<b>Bar Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Kevin Francis     Lucy Dablin	Mike Rippon     Matt Gosling
<b>17/01/2009</b> Lauren Ellis	<b>Flood Entrance - Yorkshire Dales</b> Andrew Gilmartin     Mark Sims	
<b>18/01/2009</b> Andrew Vick Kevin Francis	<b>Wretched Rabbit - Lancaster Hole - Yorkshire Dales</b> Ben Scothern     Catherine Moody     Chuck Holder Mark Sims     Max Spicer	Imogen Shepherd
<b>24/01/2009</b> Adrian Turner	<b>Sell Gill Holes - Yorkshire Dales</b> Alexander Stelfox     Chad Bullivant	George Bunyan     Mark Sims
<b>25/01/2009</b> Anna Barnard	<b>Jingling Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Hayley Clamp     Matt Gosling	Thomas Blakey
<b>31/01/2009</b> Adrian Turner	<b>Big Meanie - Deaths Head Hole - Yorkshire Dales</b> Chad Bullivant     Andrew Gilmartin	Lauren Ellis     Thomas Blakey
<b>31/01/2009</b> Andrew Vick Nicola Topham	<b>County Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Andy T     Catherine Moody Richard Gover	Imogen Shepherd     Matt Gosling
<b>31/01/2009</b> Alastair Gott	<b>Lancaster Hole - Yorkshire Dales</b> Christina Cartaciano     Chuck Holder	Luke Brownbridge     Marianna Wilde
<b>01/02/2009</b> Chad Bullivant	<b>Bull Pot of the Witches - Yorkshire Dales</b> Matt Gosling	

<b>01/02/2009</b> Alastair Gott	<b>County Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Andrew Vick      Chad Bullivant	George Bunyan	Mark Sims
<b>01/02/2009</b> Andrew Gilmartin	<b>Pippikin Pot - Mistral Hole - Yorkshire Dales</b> Imogen Shepherd      Lauren Ellis		
<b>01/02/2009</b> Catherine Moody	<b>Lancaster Hole - Yorkshire Dales</b> Chuck Holder      Thomas Blakey		
<b>14/02/2009</b> Andrew Gilmartin Thomas Blakey	<b>Titan Shaft - Peak District</b> Imogen Shepherd      Kevin Francis	Lauren Ellis	Mark Sims
<b>15/02/2009</b> Anna Barnard	<b>Rowten Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Catherine Moody      Chuck Holder	Jonathan Booth	Mark Sims
<b>21/02/2009</b> Adrian Turner	<b>Sell Gill Holes - Yorkshire Dales</b> Christina Cartaciano      Laura Bennett		
<b>21/02/2009</b> Chad Bullivant	<b>Jingling Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Chuck Holder      George Bunyan	Hayley Clamp	Luke Brownbridge
<b>21/02/2009</b> Gary Douthwaite	<b>Rumbling Hole - Yorkshire Dales</b> Mark Sims      Matt Ewles	Matt Gosling	Thomas Blakey
<b>21/02/2009</b> Imogen Shepherd	<b>Hagg Gill Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Kevin Francis      Max Spicer		
<b>22/02/2009</b> Imogen Shepherd Chuck Holder	<b>Ireby Fell Cavern - Yorkshire Dales</b> George Bunyan      Matt Gosling Mark Sims	Max Spicer	Chad Bullivant
<b>22/02/2009</b> Adrian Turner	<b>Walk up Penyghent - Yorkshire Dales</b> Laura Bennett      Luke Brownbridge		
<b>22/02/2009</b> Hayley Clamp	<b>Diccan Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Gary Douthwaite      Matt Ewles	Thomas Blakey	
<b>28/02/2009</b> Chad Bullivant	<b>Vesper Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Jonathan Booth      Max Spicer	Steve Gilbert	Thomas Blakey
<b>01/03/2009</b> Adrian Turner Chuck Holder	<b>Ireby Fell Cavern - Yorkshire Dales</b> Alastair Gott      Andrew Vick George Bunyan      Jennie Hill	Anna Barnard Luke Brownbridge	Catherine Moody Mark Sims
<b>07/03/2009</b> Adrian Turner George Bunyan Mike Rippon	<b>Notts Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Alexander Stelfox      Anna Barnard Laura Bennett      Luke Brownbridge Natasha Durham      Thomas Blakey	Catherine Moody Mark Sims	Chad Bullivant Matt Gosling
<b>14/03/2009</b> Catherine Moody	<b>Notts 2 - Yorkshire Dales</b> Jennie Hill      Mark Sims	Nicola Topham	Richard Gover
<b>14/03/2009</b> Chad Bullivant	<b>Rowter Hole - Peak District</b> Chuck Holder      George Bunyan	Kevin Francis	Thomas Blakey
<b>15/03/2009</b> Ben Scothern Kevin Francis	<b>Peak Cavern - Peak District</b> Chad Bullivant      Chuck Holder Thomas Blakey	George Bunyan	Jonathan Booth
<b>21/03/2009</b> Matt Ewles	<b>Llethrid Swallet - South Wales</b> Gary Douthwaite      John Singleton	Luke Brownbridge	Ben Reynolds
<b>21/03/2009</b> Adrian Turner Matthijs Bouwman	<b>Little Neath River Cave - South Wales</b> Adam Wilkinson      Chad Bullivant	Hayley Clamp	Kevin Francis
<b>21/03/2009</b> Imogen Shepherd	<b>Ogof Ffynnon Ddu 1 - South Wales</b> Chuck Holder      Laura Bennett	Chris (CCC)	Paul(CCC)
<b>21/03/2009</b> Mark Sims	<b>Ogof Daren Cilau - South Wales</b> Richard Gover      Thomas Blakey	Lauren Ellis	Andrew Gilmartin
<b>22/03/2009</b> Matt Ewles	<b>Little Neath River Cave - South Wales</b> Gary Douthwaite      John Singleton	Nicola Topham	Imogen Shepherd
<b>22/03/2009</b> Adam Wilkinson	<b>Ogof Ffynnon Ddu 1 - South Wales</b> Kevin Francis      Luke Brownbridge	Clive Westlake (SWCC)	Emma (SWCC)

<b>22/03/2009</b> Adrian Turner	<b>Pwll Dwfn - South Wales</b> Matthijs Bouwman    Chad Bullivant			
<b>23/03/2009</b> Chad Bullivant	<b>Dan yr Ogof - South Wales</b> Hayley Clamp    Kevin Francis    Matthijs Bouwman			Clive Westlake (SWCC)
<b>23/03/2009</b> Nicola Topham	<b>Ogof Ffynnon Ddu 2 (top) - South Wales</b> Imogen Shepherd    Laura Bennett    Ben Reynolds			Chuck Holder
<b>23/03/2009</b> Gary Douthwaite	<b>Ogof Ffynnon Ddu 2 (top) - South Wales</b> Matt Ewles    Adam Wilkinson    Adrian Turner			Luke Brownbridge
<b>24/03/2009</b> Mark Sims	<b>Ogof Ffynnon Ddu 1 - South Wales</b> Matthijs Bouwman    Chad Bullivant    Thomas Blakey			Andy Freem (SWCC)
<b>24/03/2009</b> Ben Reynolds	<b>Ogof Craig y Ffynnon - South Wales</b> Lauren Ellis    Alastair Gott    Andrew Gilmartin			
<b>25/03/2009</b> Gary Douthwaite Mark Sims	<b>Ogof Craig y Ffynnon - South Wales</b> Matt Ewles    John Singleton    Marianna Wilde			Chad Bullivant
<b>25/03/2009</b> Hayley Clamp	<b>Ogof Ffynnon Ddu 1 round trip - South Wales</b> Alastair Gott    Adrian Turner    Ben Reynolds			Gary (SWCC)
<b>25/03/2009</b> Lauren Ellis	<b>Big Pit - National Coal Museum - South Wales</b> Andrew Gilmartin			
<b>25/03/2009</b> Adam Wilkinson	<b>Ogof Ffynnon Ddu 2 (top) - South Wales</b> Luke Brownbridge    Thomas Blakey    Chuck Holder			Ian (SWCC)
<b>26/03/2009</b> Lauren Ellis	<b>Ogof Ffynnon Ddu 2 (top) - Ogof Ffynnon Ddu 2 (Cwm Dwr) - South Wales</b> Andrew Gilmartin    Mark Sims    Alastair Gott			Chad Bullivant
<b>26/03/2009</b> Gary Douthwaite Adam Wilkinson Ben Reynolds	<b>Big Pit - National Coal Museum - South Wales</b> Matt Ewles    Adrian Turner    Thomas Blakey John Singleton    Chuck Holder    Hayley Clamp Matthijs Bouwman			Luke Brownbridge Marianna Wilde
<b>29/03/2009</b> Matt Gosling Steve Gilbert	<b>Gaping Gill (Dihedral) - Stream Passage Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Nicola Topham    Richard Gover    Kevin Francis			Max Spicer
<b>04/04/2009</b> Adrian Turner	<b>Lancaster Hole - Yorkshire Dales</b> Catherine Moody    Chad Bullivant    Chuck Holder			Angela Ballantyne
<b>10/04/2009</b> Nicola Topham	<b>Pool Sink - Wretched Rabbit - Yorkshire Dales</b> Richard Gover    Lauren Ellis    Andrew Gilmartin			Max Spicer
<b>11/04/2009</b> Matt Gosling	<b>Peak Cavern - Peak District</b> Kevin Francis    Imogen Shepherd			
<b>12/04/2009</b> Matt Gosling	<b>Peak Cavern - JH Over-Engine Mine - Peak District</b> Kevin Francis    Imogen Shepherd			
<b>18/04/2009</b> Andrew Gilmartin Richard Gover	<b>Croesor - Rhosydd Through Trip - North Wales</b> Imogen Shepherd    Kevin Francis    Lauren Ellis Steve Gilbert    Spiderman Jet Ski			Nicola Topham
<b>25/04/2009</b> Imogen Shepherd	<b>Peak Cavern - White River Series - Peak District</b> Kevin Francis    Max Spicer			
<b>25/04/2009</b> Dave Betteridge	<b>Tatham Wife Hole - Yorkshire Dales</b> Jeff Gardner Steve Gilbert    Mike Adey			
<b>26/04/2009</b> Catherine Moody	<b>Roger Kirk Cave, Thistle Cave &amp; Runscar Cave - Yorkshire Dales</b> Chuck Holder    Mark Sims			
<b>02/05/2009</b> Matt Gosling Chad Bullivant	<b>Marble Steps Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Mike Rippon    Toby Buxton    Mark Sims Josh Vale			Jennie Hill
<b>03/05/2009</b> Alastair Gott	<b>Bar Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Catherine Moody    Chuck Holder    Jonathan Booth			Anna Barnard
<b>09/05/2009</b> Mark Sims	<b>Wretched Rabbit - County Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Catherine Moody    Anna Barnard    Chad Bullivant			

<b>09/05/2009</b> Gary Douthwaite	<b>Lancaster Hole - Wretched Rabbit - Yorkshire Dales</b> Matt Ewles                      John Singleton                      Thomas Blakey	Jonathan Booth
<b>09/05/2009</b> Chuck Holder Laura Bennett	<b>Cow Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Matt Gosling                      George Bunyan                      Matthew Chubb Luke Brownbridge	Alexander Stelfox
<b>10/05/2009</b> Laura Bennett Catherine Moody	<b>White Scar Cave - Yorkshire Dales</b> Matt Ewles                      Gary Douthwaite                      John Singleton Chad Bullivant                      Thomas Blakey	Mark Sims
<b>10/05/2009</b> Matt Gosling	<b>Tatham Wife Hole - Yorkshire Dales</b> Alexander Stelfox                      Jonathan Booth                      George Bunyan	Matthew Chubb
<b>10/05/2009</b> Chuck Holder	<b>Lancaster Hole - Yorkshire Dales</b> Anna Barnard                      Luke Brownbridge	
<b>16/05/2009</b> Adrian Turner	<b>Marble Steps Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Ben Scothern                      Chad Bullivant                      George Bunyan	Toby Buxton
<b>16/05/2009</b> Mark Sims	<b>Trapdoor Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Matt Ewles                      Gary Douthwaite                      Thomas Blakey	
<b>23/05/2009</b> Andrew Vick Anna Barnard	<b>Simpson's Pot - Swinsto Hole - Yorkshire Dales</b> Jonathan Booth                      Josh Vale                      Luke Brownbridge Mark Sims                      Chuck Holder	Catherine Moody
<b>23/05/2009</b> Alexander Stelfox	<b>Ireby Fell Cavern - Yorkshire Dales</b> Chad Bullivant                      George Bunyan                      Matt Gosling	Thomas Blakey
<b>25/05/2009</b> Nicola Topham	<b>Lancaster Hole - Yorkshire Dales</b> Richard Gover                      Matt Hobby                      Andy T	
<b>30/05/2009</b> Chad Bullivant Lots of people from WSG and TSG	<b>Titan Shaft - Peak Cavern - Peak District</b> George Bunyan                      Imogen Shepherd                      Kevin Francis	Thomas Blakey
<b>31/05/2009</b> Adrian Turner	<b>Meregill Hole - Yorkshire Dales</b> Alastair Gott                      Catherine Moody                      Mark Sims	
<b>31/05/2009</b> Matt Gosling	<b>Bull Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Jonathan Booth                      Toby Buxton                      Mike Rippon	Josh Vale
<b>31/05/2009</b> Matt Gosling	<b>Yordas Cave - Yorkshire Dales</b> Josh Vale                      Jonathan Booth                      Mike Rippon	Toby Buxton
<b>31/05/2009</b> Chad Bullivant	<b>Peak Cavern - Peak District</b> George Bunyan                      Imogen Shepherd                      Kevin Francis	Thomas Blakey
<b>06/06/2009</b> Andrew Gilmartin	<b>Bar Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Imogen Shepherd                      Kevin Francis                      Lauren Ellis	
<b>06/06/2009</b> Adam Wilkinson	<b>Miss Graces Lane Cave - Forest of Dean</b> Adrian Turner                      Charlie Dixon                      Josh Vale	
<b>20/06/2009</b> Matt Gosling Chuck Holder	<b>Gaping Gill (Dihedral) / Flood Entrance Exchange - Yorkshire Dales</b> Mark Sims                      Catherine Moody                      Chad Bullivant                      George Bunyan	
<b>27/06/2009</b> Andrew Vick	<b>Washfold Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Catherine Moody                      Mark Sims	
<b>27/06/2009</b> Alexander Stelfox Matt Gosling	<b>Crouching Badger, Hidden Beaver Party - Peak District</b> George Bunyan                      Imogen Shepherd                      Kevin Francis Mike Rippon	Louise Bell
<b>27/06/2009</b> Alexander Stelfox Matt Gosling	<b>Eldon Hole - Peak District</b> George Bunyan                      Imogen Shepherd                      Kevin Francis Mike Rippon	Louise Bell
<b>27/06/2009</b> Adrian Turner	<b>Long Churn - Yorkshire Dales</b> Chad Bullivant                      Chuck Holder	
<b>04/07/2009</b> Chad Bullivant	<b>Aquamole Pot                      Yorkshire Dales</b> Anna Barnard                      Josh Vale                      Hayley Clamp	Alastair Gott

<b>04/07/2009</b> Matt Gosling Christian Benton	<b>Rowten Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Louise Bell	Alexander Stelfox	Jonathan Booth	Mike Rippon
<b>05/07/2009</b> Adrian Turner	<b>Washfold Pot - Yorkshire Dales</b> Mark Sims	Chad Bullivant		
<b>11/07/2009</b> Imogen Shepherd Ann Soulsby (TSG)	<b>Peak Cavern - Peak District</b> Kevin Francis	Laz Abbott	Nicola Topham	Richard Gover
<b>18/07/2009</b> Anna Barnard Matt Gosling	<b>Bar Pot – Small Mammal Pot – Yorkshire Dales</b> Catherine Moody	Chuck Holder	Hayley Clamp	Mark Sims
<b>25/07/2009</b> Andrew Vick	<b>Black Shiver Pot – Yorkshire Dales</b> Catherine Moody	Mark Sims		