OLC

LOGBOOK

2017 –

2018 too!

&

2019!

+

2020 ...

+

2021...

+ 2022

+ 2023

(1)

Wales Freshers Weekend 17/11/17 - 19/11/17

Capers: Rosa Clements, Clemens Hutter, Felipe Moser
little si. Vicky Avanzato, Jack Williams, Lauren Beel,
Will Irvine, Justine Huang, Aaron Gunning
Nick, ~~Shane~~ (Shane Clark)

Will & Shane won the can placing contest

Vicky won the squeeze contest!
till Iain entered

OFD 1	Northern Lights	Top
Simon	Nick	~~Jack~~
~~Will~~	Clemens	Rosa
Shane	Vicky	Justine
~~Lauren~~	Jack	Felipe
Aaron		~~Aaron~~ Lauren
		Will

Shane: I had a great time for my first trip. I really want to go again

"DUCC alumni" go caving - OFD top entrance 18.11.17
Hil, Tim, Alex, Harry & Iain Greaves

An extreme trip to the cake cafe in the Big Chamber. Only got overtaken by 2 groups between the entrance & turn off the main passage. We got home first though.

(SQUEEZE MACHINE)

ALEX

Tun. →

Felipe: First caving trip with the OUCC. It was a fantastic experience! The caves around here have a large amount of different structures and colours that are really beautyfull.
Top tip: get a suit that fits you properly! Trust me...

Vicky, Nick, Clemens, Jack → Northern Lights

We went to northern lights - first trip NOT as novices for me + Clemens. I believe Nick said he was going to "give us some hell". We came down the top entrance, down the Orichyard → Salubrious (there was a corkscrew somewhere) → cross roads → cross rift → midnight passage → then up to explore Northern Lights. We had a tricky rope climb, and some cold water streamways - but it was a great adventure. This cave had lots of climbing that was like a nice puzzle. We also got some great pics and the formations were great. Very intricate. I really enjoyed this cave! But actually I have many bruises so don't think this was easy.
Also having only half of your body submerged in a freezing stream way is a fun experience, :o

Nick - It was a good return to Northern Lights, managed to secure a backlit picture of the columns in the keyhole-LIKE(!) passage; I've left exploring 'Keyhole passage' (as on survey) until I'm there next.

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Justine, Rosa, Felipe, Lauren, Will — Top Entrance

Justine — I didn't know what caving was before this. But now I can say I've scrambled up & down rocks — climbed over them, ducked under them, squeezed between them, slid down them, & held on to them for dear life. I've drunk from underground streams and sloshed through rivers that left water sloshing around in my wellies. I've seen delicate stalactites and cute stalagmites, ~~only~~ but been left in utter blackness when we switched our headlights off (or are they head torches?). How cool is that.

Top Tip: Wear your knee pads the right way, and don't learn this the hard way. I wore them backwards and slipped on a rock and low-key twisted my knee — [redacted] my knee pads were not on my knees — needless to say, they were useless for me.

Sunday trip planning

OFD1 round trip	Top Entrance photography
Rosa	Nick
Jack	Aaron
Vicky	Justine
Clemens	

(sorry for bad spelling - I do physics - please forgive me)

(4)

Aaron G ⇒ So basically I expected the whole caving experience to just be one long crawl / squeeze - due to one freaky ~~[illegible]~~ unregulated & Polish 'caving' experience when I was 12. Although there was a ten minute period in which I had to crawl continuously, needed to pee very badly, and coincedentaly couldn't stop thinking about the slow, ~~[illegible]~~ agonisingly painful death that would be caused by the passage we were in flooding due to sudden, heavy rainfall - it was overall an awezing encounter with the sub terranian world.

We saw massive formations, drank ~~[illegible]~~ (apparently) mineral-rich water from an underground stream (which tasted delicious but also slightly like dust somehow) and jumped ~~[illegible]~~ over deep potholes. We were nicely dry and actually quite warm the whole time.
~~The wonders of being under the~~ The amazement of being under the earth actually inspired me to write a poem.

Being under ground, ground
You won't believe the shit I found, found
We had to climb up a tall mound, mound
To enter under-ground, ground

~~We~~ I had to scramble over stone, stone
No reception on my phone, phone
To enter the passage off the grove, grove
Had to scramble over stone, stone

To quench my thirst I ~~was told~~ knew I must, must
drink water, tasted like dust, dust
~~It~~ It was healthy; I wasn't that fussed, fussed
~~Anyway~~ Regardless - I knew I must, must

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Everywhere, 'pretties' I could see, see
Made me disregard my ~~[illegible]~~ need to pee, pee
Suddenly in a crawl-space I be, be
No more 'pretties' here to see, see

My bladder made me invision a ~~flood~~ flood, flood
A horrific death - there in the mind, mind
My heart sped up the pumping of blood, blood
Couldn't stop thinking of the flood, flood

Then it opened into an ~~expanse~~ ~~ex~~ expanse
Felt so happy I could dance, dance
Felt I'd been given another chance, ~~chance~~ chance

Overall it was good, good
A world away from the (Oxford) hood, hood
If I could come again, I would, would
Yeah - it was good, good

20th Nov: We met the most amazing caving society Ever. Exeter University ♥ Unfortunately, they were all carry ting knives.
Love you, Maddie, Sophie, Ari, Charlie, Sarah, Chris, Dave, Susanne, Vick, Rob
p.s. Nick kissed two of these people, guess which ones!

CHECC Weekend 24/11/17 - 26/11/17

Jack Williams, Rory Rose, Simon Goddard, Chris Densham, Will Ivison, Tom Springs, Rosa Clements

25/11/17 Rowten Pot

We had some trouble picking a cave for Saturday. It seemed a shame to go to Easegill the one time we weren't staying at the farm, and we considered Bar Pot or Christmas Pot until we remembered our experience trying to do Stream Pot from CHECC and failing to derig due to nearly missing our callouts. My Eurospeleo guide said good things about Rowten so we decided to try that. Rory was keen to rig, so even though he'd only rigged one cave before

12/1/18

Rope
- 64m x2
- 37m
- 55m
- 32m
- 85m
- 40m
- 42m
- 24m

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Mendip Caving -- Pre-Freshers - Fresher Trip. 3/8-5/8/18

Nick Adams; Becca Miller; Ritu Rathi

Swildons — Oh my fucking god!!

So Ritu chose caving over hiking as she finds hiking too hard...
... enter a swildons sump bounce trip!

This was Becca's 2nd time down swildons after a lazy, hungover visit to the upper series lasting 30 minutes; a good chance to learn how to use electron ladders & see a sump. There was a typically mollified enthusiasm, overshadowed by a lax effort to walk towards the cave. Ritu travelled at a pace not often seen outside of cave homes, looking tired but not exactly out-of-the-norm for her movements. By the cliff/water traverse it became clear that her energy was actually sapped.

FUCK

We travelled slowly back towards the ladder, with Becca making a foray into creative diving as she fell from the 1st of the double pots. Ritu made it halfway up the ladder before climbing back down. She was tired, but there weren't many options.

Fuck.

This reminded me of a discussion regarding the caver's ethos of:
"I will get through this" - tiredness, cold, pain are not really concerns when exiting a cave. Ritu did not share this ethos.

On her 2nd attempt, Becca playing "good cop" (shouting) and me

Reprising my classic role of "bad cop" (SHOUTING), we inspired her to climb the ladder with purpose (although ~~the~~ the delivery was still unremarkable). I grabbed her belt and ~~Pulled~~ pulled her up & onto the pitch head, then picked her up and onto a shelf ~~to~~ to relax.

The exit was similarly frustrating, and hitch left by public transport for Oxford! - Recognising cavity ~~is~~ is as hard as hiking.

Actually one of my most miserable trips.



Nick.

PS - we all did our best and my intention is not to be mean, the trip was sincerely terrifying.

Sunday (well, actually Saturday still) - The Wessex Challenge.

The water chariot race began from the BEC with an obstacle course. Slag's (Succ Leaves and ...g?) charioteer was angered by a water balloon to the face, and followed his up with a "Lewis grunt" at a later stage of the race - Slag last. Collecting their inflatable from the Mineria & chariot from the Shipton, The Wessex came first.

Becca - This was my second ~~attempt~~ visit to Mendip & Swildons; although I managed to get further than last time, my word it was s...l...o...w! A good trip to get 'leader' experience however, coaxing & looking after someone less experienced than me - up until now I have always been the 'novice' (NB - I am still very much a novice!) Despite the cold, slow & generally ~~crazy~~ scary trip, I am looking forward to

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actually making it to the sump on my next visit here! The water chariot race at the BEC in the evening was good fun too, always fun to party with SUCC/SRAE/BEC!

Made it through the caving trip/day relatively unbruised / damaged ... till pushing my body through the squeeze machine at the Shepton — cue beautiful blue/purple bruises allllll over my thighs!

On Sunday, Nick & I walked to Ebor Gorge viewpoint, then down into Wookey Hole for a much-needed pint & ice-cream! Would recommend the walk, though maybe when it's a bit cooler than 30°c+! ☀☀

Overall, an enjoyable weekend (mostly), with a decent picture taken in Swildons! (Before the terror + panic began).

Becca ☺ 05/08/2018

Saturday 11th August - OFD: Top → Nothern Lights (and back)

- The Big Chief (author)
- Lil Si
- Crazy Nick
- Becca M (Queen of all)

Today's trip left a sour taste in the mouth.

As de facto leader, I felt that the onus was on me to keep the group of unruley Vagabonds under control. Alas, this proved a task too great for even the Good Lord Himself!

Ok, where to start?

The day opned with a cruel prank - Nicholas and Becca taking advantage of Si's slow canter and sneaking ahead into the cave's entrance, and pretendly to lock the door from within! This ALLEGED Lil Si, who vowed to get his revenge - by any means necessary.

Becca, in similar vein, allowed the devil to get the better of her. She purposely saddled me with a heavily soiled undersuit, and a headlamp battery so weak that a candle atop my head would have lit a better path! Equipment most foul!

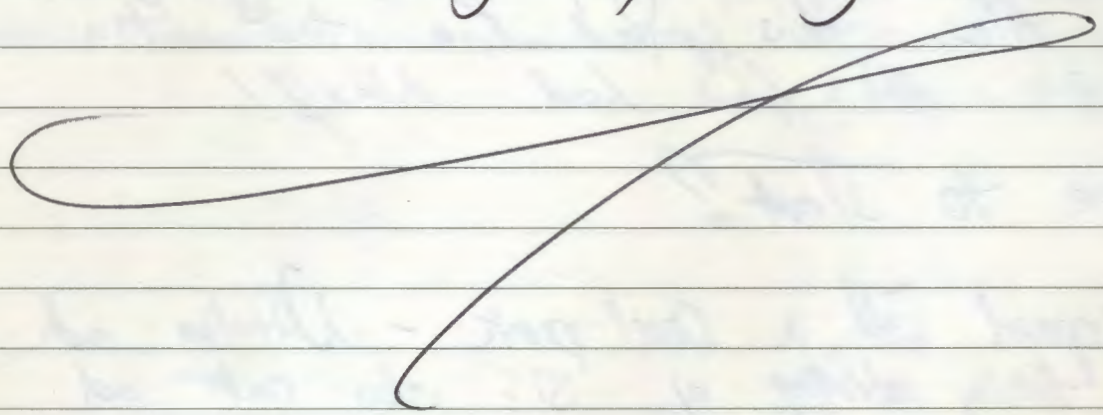
Si spent the trip contemplating his revenge - and, upon reaching a rock that adumbrated Nick, found his perfect opportunity. He removed his boot - riddled with dirt

(11)

and disease, - and flung the watery innards toward Nick's eyes! Oh, how he cried!

My only consolation was that, amongst all the childish bickering, I managed to hook off a vigorous and emphatic cave wank. First of the season!

- Big Chief Cheesy 11/08/18



The trip was ok, steady progress in & made it to the Northern Lights. Little sit balled on a climb & waited in the cold for 1hr 4m. - Then a quick explore of Midnight Passage preceded the journey out.

Not particularly adventurous but - nah, I have no butt.

Nick.

(He do got a booty though! :c BM)

First trip over 4hrs - trying to train up for longer trips like otter hole etc. Making it to Northern Lights was fun - lots of sightseeing! Very muddy getting in & out, always a laugh trying to climb up a wet muddy slope (especially

I closed the pace... the... s's?
Nick.

after someone tips the watery contents of their boot down it first...) I also learnt that narrow shoulders were useful when squeezing through the gap at the top of the rope climb to NL — a significant advantage over the guys! (helpful in caves too!) Nick made up a hilarious 'joke' at an awkward climb — "you've made no progress at all!, you're doing great though" → in THE. MOST PATRONISING. voice EVA. Not helpful. I fell down twice. Jon of course, made it up like a f*ckin' squirrel. Show off.
Saw a sheep with a sassy tail swing on the walk back to the hut — additionally, did not know that sheep shake off water like a dog. Very pleasing to watch.
Food isn't done till 9pm as the pubs are busy — cue the drinking!

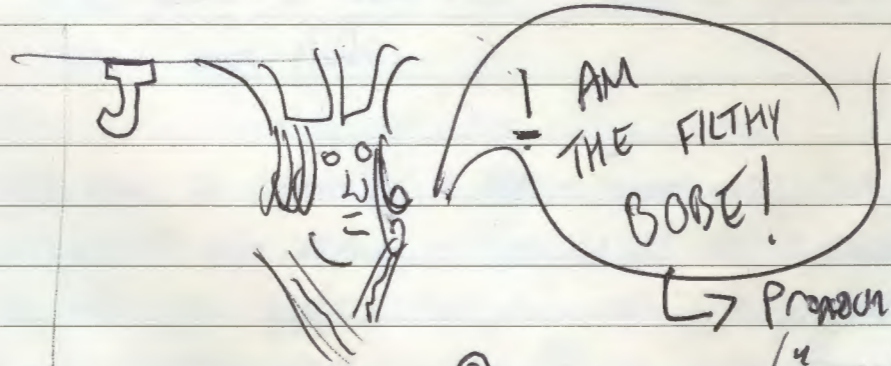
Rebecca 11/8/2018

~~20:24pm~~ ⇒ 30 members of SUSS here → 4 members of OUCC have cleared the lounge — WINNING.

Simon —
I struggled throughout — caving isn't for me! I'll stick to paragliding in a sleeping bag!

20:03pm → Jon has a light knee,
A worry for us three,
'oh ouch!' says he,
+ Simon has arse-ache.

Nick finds this cute — a real quote.
20:05pm.



↳ Pronounced —
("Fill-fee Bo-Bah!")

Dinner is @ 9pm @ a pub...

(13)

"Simon, you Silly Tosser" or "Swirlies Short round"

By Nick Adams
September 2018

Me, Will & Little Simon went to tackle the short round trip; it had been blocked @ the mud sump the last three times I went, so was excited to get through.

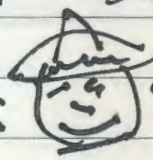
Navigation was good, the sump was clear and all ducks were easily passed. Simon was impressed by the speedy progress, with this being the hardest trip he has taken it a while (I'll you do not count his attempt at the Northern Lights in 2FD).

The return journey met with Simon dislocating his shoulder on the last of the Double Bots. We valiantly (VALIENTLY) rescued the silly tosser, and all was fine.

The end...?

28 - 30th September 2018
Student INVite.

Jack Snow, Rosa Clements, Dan Kent, Thomas Miller
Little Si, Nick Adams, Rory Rose, Becca, Phil Rose
Jason Clements David Horsley Tom Houghton
Paul Sargent Philip Sanger Pete Ranger Sargent
Chris Denham Phil & Ditta Rose Toby Sanger
Reuben Harding Calum White

Friday 28th September 2018 - Becca's 1/4 Centenary:
BM pst the Witches  Issa witch!

Classic trip, took some photos to allure sassy freshers.

Saturday 29th September
Clapham to Hillinn via Ingleborough.
Simon & Ditta to Ingleborough show cave & back
Phil and Dave all the way to the Hillinn.

Nick, Becca Miller, TOM HOUGHTON. 29/9/18
LANCASTER = CAPE KENNEDY.
Nick: Been here a few times, still a good trip and I took some nice photos.

Becca: First time to Yorkshire & BPF - popped into Bullpot & the Witches yesterday - nice varied trip today - lots of SRT near the entrance & lots of caves the closer you get to Cape Kennedy. Super pretty trip - I felt like I was pointing out lovely things every 10mins! Highlights were the straw chamber just after Cape Kennedy & feeling like an upturned beetle

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I beached turtle trying to climb up onto a rock. I like to bring grace & elegance to all that I do. Attempted to Navigate the way out & wasn't *too* bad! Only needed a few corrections from Nick".
Very good trip - very enjoyable!

My first trip. Some comfortable time - really nice, bit of everything - SRT, crawls, squeezes, pretties, enjoyed it a lot. Thanks!
Tom

Saeks now - W PETCHED RABBIT - Sep 29

Good spirit Cave, tight passages - lots of crawling, - Crawling and 3 Rope Climbs - odd fun - make SURE YOU CAN FIT OR YOU'LL GET STUCK

Calum White - Top sink Sept 29
"Pitch" is stream dropping away.
Upper passage goes into boulder
Choke route avoiding beyond
Nogizuki hard. Good trip

Jason Clements - Top Sink Sept 29

Found entrance surprisingly easily. Made the mistake of putting SRT Kit at entrance. Meandering passage to first pitch is MUCH easier with Kit off, and meanders on and on. First pitch has 'interesting' take off - you have to perilously swing over the pitch to a ledge where a dry (ish) hang could be rigged.

Then lots more awkward meandering passage, on and on and on to short 2nd pitch.

More meandering passage, not as tight now to Limerick Junction a very complex area which we inadvertently explored thoroughly, then followed the stream until it disappeared in a disgusting bedding plane.

Retracing our steps we found the route above the 'Bridge of Sighs' a rock bridge high over the streamway. This led up into a huge chamber which we hoped was Nagasaki (and, after looking at the survey - it was!) We had a good look round, and wandered down a passage which may have been Far Eastern - probably headed towards Hiroshima though we didn't notice the connection. On the return we had a moment of concern around Limerick Junction, but eventually Rosa found the way.

Underground c. 4 hrs.

Dan, Chris D, Beardy - Pyt Pot, Eastern Front 29/9/18

Attempted to get to the Eastern Front with guidance from Beardy. Made it down all the pitches and started the squalid muddy crawling through towards the bottom of Large Pot. It turns out a neoprene hood is an excellent investment - after going through the first duck, I started feeling really dizzy while squeezing through the next section. 10 minutes of holding my head in my hands later, we decided it was for the best to head back out and not risk me getting worse while getting deeper and deeper. Upon reflection, water in my ears and a freezing head are most likely to blame. Disappointed to have not gone further but there's always another day.

- Dan K.

(17)

29/09/2018

Quaking Pot. - Thomas Leung, Reuben Harding, Rory Rose

↳ to Crux.

Many cavers descript the Crux in Quaking Pot is very challenging, and being told several times, it got on my to do list. However, finding someone to go with is a bit difficult, as well as the club seldom go to yorkshire. Finally, the day has come, and a master plan come up, very ambitious aiming to get to the bottom. In fact, we only got to the Crux, and it was already harder than anything I have ever done. We made a very good decision not to carry on further beyond the Crux, since I was lying in the streamway for at least half an hour waiting Rory and Reuben took turn to try get through the Crux. Although Reuben tried very hard, he didn't pass the Crux after two attempts. Rory passed the Crux, struggling getting back to stream level at the end, eventually done it. However, out of the Crux, he had to stand on my head several times to get into it. I took the stream level on the way out of the Crux, which to me was 100 times easier, but I have to take my helmet off. The rest of the trip was basically a lot of tight crawl traverse, side way narrow rift caving, and tonnes of tackle bags stuck everywhere. But there were some pretties to look at while suffering in the cave, especially from the bottom of 3rd pitch to the top of the 4th pitch. Quaking is really a tough cave, and it will be very committing to get to bottom, may be one day we will make it. Will be back.

Thomas Leung

I didn't achieve anything I set out to achieve, and was very disappointed with myself. Like Thomas, I intend to go back.

Reuben.

Lost John's with Chris Densham (on Sunday) was good. I rigged most of it!

Good trip, tight though! We will be back!

Amy

October 14th Swildons Novice Trip

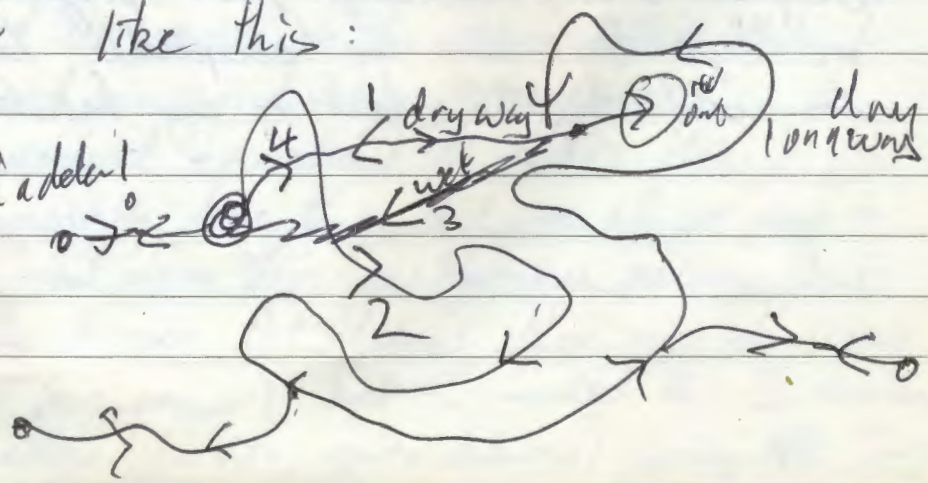
We had a 'BIG' minibus. I drove it. After a major hit issue in the rain, we went debating the while whether the tumultuous rain in the day before - all day - would have rendered Swildons a bit beyond merely 'sporting' into 'deepsarse' even further into 'a bit wet' and beyond into 'that was not a good idea'. Goatchurch was the more likely plan.

We got to the BEC. Hey Mr BEC. Man, tell me true should we go down Swildons or no? Will it be a bithard'. He said that even the sump (#1) had been a duck all year gone.

So - Sump'n Swildons - your favorite mix.

Of team hard core, I can say nothing. They shot off but quick, led by Rosie & Thomas & sumped a lot.

Rosa led me, Nicole Claire, Eileen round the various entrance series. It was a bit like this:



(Met Tony Seddon @ the BEC.)

Then I sat in the van & got cold.
Then we drove home.

Steve

The Pres.

A New Thing! In the wet way, you can now crawl along the base of the passage just after the 2M. turn & come out at the base of the awkward climb before the lavatory pan. Nice!

Trip to Swildon's Sump 1

Dan?

Thomas, Reuben, Unknown guy wearing green Protex helmet (fresher), Roland Whiteley (fresher), Keith [redacted] Yardley (fresher), Giri (fresher) ↓ unknown surname. Clare Ballatyne (fresher)

Took the short dry way. Some congestion at the ladder. Got to Sump 1. Everyone but Giri went through the sump. Spent ~10 minutes in Swildon's 2 before turning back (Thomas had already turned back to keep Giri company). ∴ Time for photoshoot. On the way back, Giri hurt her ankle and required assistance over Double Pots, Ladder etc. Despite this, reasonably fast progress was made and we left the cave in acceptable time. Nobody got too cold to the best of my knowledge.

Mendip Weekend Nov 2

To start with, Becca broke the minibus. This is what I can say at the moment, and hopefully shit doesn't happen anymore. Good luck.
Nicki, Kevin, Rebecca, Chi 3. Nov

Four of us went to Swildons for a [redacted] beginner's trip. Cave was much drier than usual but still quite wet in places. Too many novices at the ladder so we avoided that during this trip.

Chi: The most fun was watching other people wiggle and squirm like worms while I could just walk on slightly bent ♥
Also, realizing that it's not just a light horizontal wall in a broad canyon.
Also, realizing that I was literally half a meter away from the ground when I was scared of dying from falling

Will Notts-Dixon: B & Dolphins pot - boiling hot and surprisingly dry given the weather. The 45° was gnarly as hell - my knees somehow survived but my elbows didn't. Also, note to self + other cavers: avoid things saying danger!!
W/ Rosa + Reuben, Oxford Caving

Nicki forgot to let us enjoy the [redacted]

November the 4th, 2018 ~~(assuming they got the previous date correct...)~~
↳ missed change of date (2 entries above)

Reuben, Rosa Clemente, Tom Spriggs, Linh Chi Nguyen, Karim Alzaka.
freshers.

Rosa and Tom trained the novices on the Wessex tower, while I provided tea, coffee, and jam sandwiches for support.
After this, we all proceeded (proceeded?) to Hunter's Hole.
The rigging took a surprisingly long time, but we all got down to the bottom fine. We went down the Sanctimonious passage but were initially stopped by Rover Pot (c5m). Now one else was keen on climbing down (a exposed) but I wanted to. I climbed down, extending the handline (in situ, quite dubious) using Chi's

chestharness (because she had fortunately decided not to remove her SRT kit). After doing this, and pointing out some footholds that were not obvious from the top, I left them to make up their own minds while I went to explore "Gas Street".

Gas Street is a tight and awkward blasted crawl, finishing at a blocked rift that marks the present limit of exploration in the cave. The air was quite bad — hyperventilating while sitting still, (↳ high CO_2...) sound of heartbeat in ears, 5~10 mins of limb weakness after exiting.
It wasn't so bad on the way in, which I think is most likely attributable to greater motivation on getting to the end of the cave. There is nothing to see — all the formations are covered in mud / destroyed during exploration — with the exception of some insignificant stal / curtains at the end. There's a liquid mud crawl and a fun face-first climb down a (short!) pot on the way in.
On getting back to the bottom of Rover pot, was very impressed to see Chi climbing down (Tom already down). I was very glad no one had followed me into Gas Street, because there were very few places to turn around, and reversing it wouldn't always be easy. No one else wanted to explore Gas Street so we turned around and exited the cave after Tom + the novices had a look at some digs.
All-in-all, a very enjoyable "Introduction to SRT" trip. Chi and Karim both proved to be fast learners, and competent. They also washed their gear very thoroughly.
We had severe transport issues getting home, and notably, we had to break Tom's seatbelt mechanism to get it to extend (not safe?)
↳ loss of leverdy things that should not be levered!
I was quite unhappy about this situation.

PEAK WEEKEND 16-18 NOV 2018

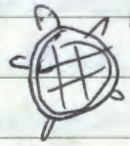
Rosa Clements, Nick Adams, Rory Rose, Reuben Harding, Thomas Leung, Greg Horvath & Clare Ballantyne, Nicole Aw Yuang, Will Horton, Mario Nakamura SIMONE?

Peak. Moss & Bug Stream.
Bill Yung Mario Nick Clare Rosa Ali

We did the trip described above, it was quite fun: muddy & crawly - I liked it.
Nick

As my first proper caving trip it was extremely enjoyable and fascinating. As a climber I had guessed it would take some sort of zen like mentality to overcome the insanity of crawling through the ground but I had not expected it to be so sustained over many hours. What kept me going was trust in the more experienced cavers who were total strangers until yesterday! With my life in their hands and in completely new environments I was extremely how free and alert my senses felt. Filtering out meaningful sound from echoes of running water, footsteps and scuffles whilst crawling. Or focusing entirely on weighting your body whilst climbing muddy, jagged rocks... Experiencing total darkness and seeing limestone formations, millions of years in the making which not many get to see. Moments of privileged thoughts and then transforming quickly to an animalistic instinct of "get to the other side" "don't get left Behind" whilst contorting your body through the earth. Muy Loco. TO REPEAT!

Thanks and look forward to learning more tomorrow!
Mario Nakamura



NICK TOLD ME THAT THERE WOULD BE A TURTLE FOSSIL. HE LIED. I WILL NEVER TRUST AGAIN.

nice caves tho.

(22)

Today

~~Never~~ have I ever : Crawled for hours through mud and rock... annihilated my knees on said rocks... Hit my head on a ladder... Smothered My face in mud... had a scrub down from nick... Submerged myself in freezing water... Questioned my life choices. All in all, no regrets.

17 NOV 2018 Gerg, Thomas, Reuben, Rory
JH → Block Hall → White river → Ventilator (Pull through) → JH

The original plan was to just go down JH, since I am the only one who done it before. A very enjoyable and relative short trip went downhill when Gerg, Reuben and Rory looking extremely [redacted] determined, requesting for a long and hard trip. So, intended to be only a joke, I came out with the master plan of going down JH → white river → JH [redacted]. While everyone were very keen, I was worried about the chest deep canal swimming before bung hole. Not ideal when soaking wet and cold, while continue the trip. Anyway, sticked to the master plan, rigged down JH just fine. Got to the canal, and thank god, the water level was extremely low !! It was such a big relief for me at that point. So carried on up Block hall, down ventilator, did the crawl, and back to the bottom. We did a short detour to see the "Source of Perfection" requested by Reuben on top of the ventilator shaft. Reuben and Rory then derigged JH while I took a tackle bag and went ahead. [redacted] when Reuben, Rory and I gathered at the bottom of the entrance shaft (Gerg was out), the two nutters felt like they hadn't done enough for the day, and thinking of going back straight down JH, and did a through trip out Peak Cavern! [redacted] I didn't say a word while they were discussing about how much water and food they got, and the route finding out Peak. Since they had only done Peak

once, they decided to go back to the hut first, read about the survey, had some food, and see how it goes. In the end, they decided to do a [redacted] titan → Peak through trip, and disappeared in the darkness again with gears and ropes before mid night ..... Zhaowang

Reuben: The J.H. round trip was pleasant, but, ~~as Thomas~~ +Rory ~~alludes to~~ as is alluded to by Thomas, it felt like we'd only really started caving. The possibility of re-rigging JH and doing a Peak cavern through trip was seriously discussed. However, a lack of food and uncertainty re: route finding stymied this plan. Therefore, we went back to TSG, to eat (hot) food, ~~and~~ replenish chocolate, and revise our knowledge of peak cavern.

Sadly, fags made Thomas' departure time quoted above rather optimistic. We left at about 0[redacted]5. Into Titan at about 0130. Alistair Gott had informed us that there were some in situ ropes, but fortunately we had packed our own (significant ropewear!). for reasons that are complicated to explain (or not—mistaken rigging) we decided to use the in-situ rope anyway for Event Horizon—floor. Getting onto it wasn't great, and it was incredibly heavy (trying to push my descender through the braking [redacted]rab) and slow. Other than that, we had no problems and got a out a 0500 for an ~~effective~~ efficient and reasonably rapid trip → Through

Having been awake for 24 hours, and caving for a bit more than half that, I'm very sleepy and I'm not sure how much sense this trip report will make in the cold light of day. (Probably also many spelling and grammar mistakes) I'm sure Rory would prefer to have gone faster through Colostomy Canal

A good day's worth of caving. Now we just have to derig Titan.

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18 Nov 2018 Titan De-rig (Reuben, Rory, Mario)

So this whole trip for Will and me was inspired by a Youtube video of two cavers descending through Titan, filmed on a ~~Go~~ Go-Pro. Never had I imagined that my second caving trip and first real SRT trip would be in Titan!

The previous night after hearing about the possibility of joining the de-rig, I furiously went about practicing SRT indoors on a 3m ish rope. Prior Preparation Prevents Piss Poor Performance. However I knew from experience that the real deal is always harder, the environment always throws unexpected and inexperienced problems at you. Today turned out as such but not enough that I ~~returned~~ did not return※! The specifics of learning how to efficiently use your gear on a long wet rope will come to any caver that does SRT so I will skip listing my experience of that here. Just a lot different to a 3m one!

※ Thanks also to Reuben, stopping me descending, ~~not~~ just in time, on a damaged rope which I had not noticed!

Any way I'm writing this on the drive back and its making me slightly nauseous so I will end by describing my best experience from Titan. While Reuben was ascending from the Event Horizon and Rory had finished de-rigging the 3rd pitch, we both turned off our headtorches to watch Reuben up in the distance. Swinging and circling on the overhanging rope, the beam of light from his headtorch lit the cathedral like space randomly but gracefully, slowly getting higher and higher. This made me very aware of the enormity of Titan. (Also Rory's singing echoing in the darkness...)

楽しかった!

Mario Nakamura

18th November Giant's Hole (Rosa, Clare, Nicole, Will)

Kindly assisted by Greg, as Nick was too hungover/drunk/lazy to take us, we were dropped off on some mud and kitted up. The usual disagreements about Rosa's chest harness style ensued but it wasn't long until we were underground, in what seemed like a sub-terranian daycare as it was full of children.

Once the youths had been dispatched, Rosa helped the three newbies on their first in field SRT descent. After we finished patting each other on the back, we began to squeeze down the narrow passageways, with the sleader Rosa and Nicole racing ahead, leaving the slightly thicker-framed me struggling to scrape my fat torso through seemingly endless corridors.

Hope was in sight though as we would soon climb into the upper passage with the promise of more Will-sized pathways. Doubts began to grow, however, as the entrance wasn't quite where our leader remembered it to be, and a few dead ends later we resolved to go back exactly the way we had come.

I considered if waiting to die might be slightly easier for me, but somehow found some energy to carry on living. Thankfully, after an appreciable amount of grunting, my prayers were answered when we decided to climb upwards and traverse the canyon from above. While squeezing through small spaces is not a strength of mine to say the least, climbing fills me with joy and I was happy to be moving vertically again.

Sometimes the unplanned mishaps give you the best memories, and our discovery of some wonderful calcium formations in a hidden space above the canyon, now known as Rosa's creamy Carotto, made the whole getting lost into an adventure I won't forget. Will

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CHECC Peak District 23-25 Nov

Rosa Clements, Rory Rose, Amelia Speare, Karim Alaska
Simon Goddard, Fiona Barker, Will Ivison

Quite the caving debut for me in the devil's arsehole. There were muddy bits, crawly bits and only a mild to moderately stressful interaction with the eyehole. I didn't wuss out first. The mud sliding was a lot of fun. Rory absolutely stacked it into a pool of water on a completely unnecessary traverse. Thoroughly enjoyed.

Amelia.

Nick & Becca's LUXURY HOLIDAY!

AKA

Tales from SWCC

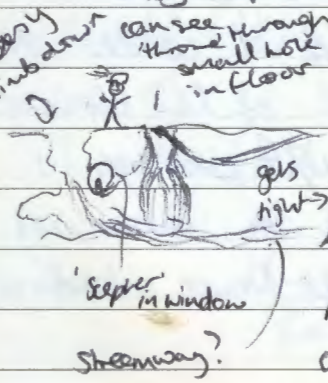
13-17/12/2018

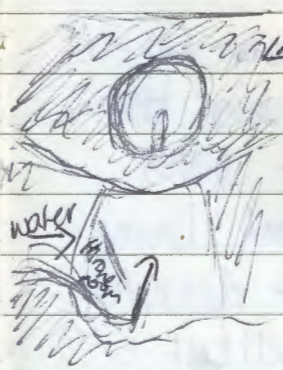
The plan:
- Friday: OFD2 tour & route finding/survey reading training
- Saturday: Joined by Amy & Fiona for OFD2/cwm Dwr trip
- Sunday: More OFD on Gower
- Monday: More OFD or waterfall walk.

& What actually happened...

NIGHT ONE: DRANK lots of cider & played games by the roaring fire. Missed a big meteor shower

DAY ONE: Route finding training, no surveys. Taught Becca the main tourist routes & explored sections near Mr Octopus, interesting space. Oh! we also explored some tributaries to cross cliff! awesome. Learnt the route to Trident/Judge then a bit further to Shatter pillar, as we were taking it slow was a good opportunity to appreciate the ceiling formations in Cross Rift & do some exploring on the way back! Found a lovely stal + mud formation (throne + sceptre) [8630/8640: 1560/1570] just off the Cross Roads.





Found a pitch off cross rift - climbs up 2m + could finish? - will be going back with rope! (+ Hangers!!)

Feeling a lot happier now I can get myself in/out + be a bit more independant/helpful. Good trip! +

P.S - v. cold outside, running down hill helps! ☃

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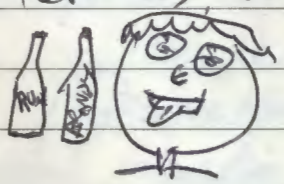
NIGHT TWD: Fiona's a no-show. Becca was Risk, we are finishing the cider (~50ml left :)) but loads of rum & Brandy!!

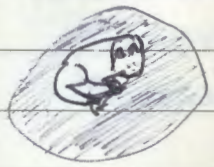


DAY TWO: Amy turned up around 10:20, we had some pancakes for breakfast & were underground about 11:20 – 4pm. OFD1 → Arete → Timms' chasm → Judge & Trident → Shattered Pillar + offshoots → Selenite → Entrance to Northern Lights (gour pools) → Back out. Nice to have a long distance novice trip, & Amy enjoyed the formations. Also, Becca's navigation was really good!

Led Amy & Nick to bottom of corkscrew & Nick took us to Arête chamber & Timo's table – really nice to see a new part of OFD2.
Once back at corkscrew I managed to lead to Trident & Judge then to Shatter Pillar. Dropped off at water spot just beyond shatter pillar & had an explore of the offshoots there. Visited the gour pools by midnight passage + managed to lead back. Very happy to know my main way in/out – also very happy to have introduced my best friend to caving!!

Today was my first day caving and I can say I will definitely be going again! I didn't have too many idea where I was going but it was so much fun and lots of beautiful things to see! The only thing is I will most definitely not be able to move tomorrow... Excellent Exercise hey :)

NIGHT THREE: Toad in the hole for dinner! Lots more cider & Cards Against Humanity. BIG FIRE!!



DAY THREE: Sleepy!! Amy's gone off to Lunch, we're trying to find something "Low impact" to do today...
... We went for a walk & reasoned that we could reach Pen-y-cae, but it started to rain and we realised that the return journey is steep!
Becca is sorting out the fire, at 1:10pm TSK!!
Drinking hot chocolate with brandy!!

Nick + Becca NY 2018.
We stayed at the shepherd in Mendip, and Nick caught the flu:
- Saturday - set up, at hut & drink
- Sunday - Nick gets day long fever (& hangover)
- Monday (NY eve) - Nick walks for 1 hour (with Becca) and is very, very ill
- Tuesday (NY day) Nick feels better & takes Becca on her first Swildon's sump 1 trip, carrying the bag for too much underground 😬
- Becca was too scared to go through the sump...

— Slanderous lies!

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OUCC - CUSS Joint Mendip trip @ BEC

Saturday

St Cuthberts!! Nick A. Rory R. Rosa C. Becca M.

Awesome trip led by Estelle and a quiet man named "Mike" - no idea who he is.
Formations are fucking awesome and the trip was enjoyable with typical Mendip obstacles - like eastwater if God actually put the love & effort in...
Planning a return trip soooon!!!
Nick xo

Really good trip! A bit of a challenge which is great, need to work on upper body strength/climbing... Formations were worth the effort - so many were still pristine and the size of them were mindblowing! We reached the Cow pools before heading back & still had enough energy for a little detour on the way back to the entrance. Super enjoyable trip & will be reading up on where to visit next time!
Becca :) xxx

St Cuthberts was so good I went there on Sunday too! Some BEC people had a spare space on their trip. Pretty cool but best on the Saturday

: Swildon's hole - Karim A., Rory R.

Second trip to Swildons for both myself & Rory. Explored much of the upper series before making our way downstream to Sump 1. Thankfully the cave was fairly wet & the sump was fully sumped. Went through the sump then immediately went back through it again to head to the surface. Shivering from the cold all the way from the Sump to the surface wasn't pleasant but a challenge is always fun - plus we made it out just fine so can't complain. Great & memorable trip, also was my first sump ever!!!
- Karim

WALES WEEKEND WITH NUCC 01/02/19-03/02/19

Rebecca Miller, Nick Adams, Rosa Clemente, Kasim Akaka, Thomas Leung, Reuben Harding, Elena Di Lavore, Linh Chi Nguyen

Becca's First Trip without Nick!

OFD2 → Judge / Trident → Shatter pillar

Becca, Elena, James, Demi, Gus, Natalie

B: First time leading on my own – really fun + great freshers!

Demi First ever time to caving, everything is new to me! – like this experience and thanks for everyone's help. ^^

James Gorgeous Cave, my favourite caving trip so far! :)

Anonymous Golden experience and really enjoy the caving with all you guys!

First caving trip and amazing! Not cold and nice formations. Becca awesome leader :)

Nick & Kasim with Jacob & David (of NUCC)

NORTHERN LIGHTS

We got to NL at a pretty moderate pace, arriving @ Midnight with quite a rush. Formations enjoyed by all, then a big drink @ shattered pillar's drinking spot & on aside to see more formations nearby. Kasim was very tired so we abandoned our plan to exit via Cwm Dwr, instead leaving via OFD II Nick.

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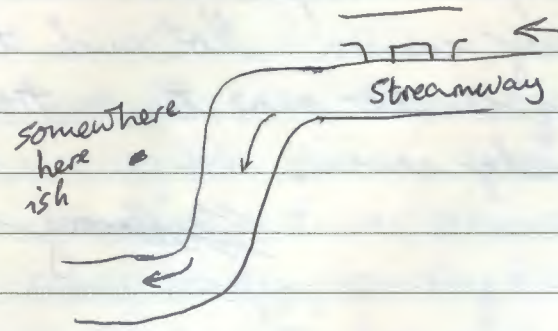
OFDI → Cwm Dwr Rosa with Laura, Ryan, Alex, Ben, and Louisa of NUCC

We went on a route finding trip, no-one quite knew the route from OFDI to Cwm Dwr, but we had a compass and a shiny dominated survey so we went there anyway. The fun started on the way down when in many places the best way to get towards the cave was sliding in the snow. Then we got a surprise when we got to the step - despite the snow, the water levels were normal, fairly low if anything. We made fast progress in the stream, then got lost straight after the wobbly rock. We found a very squeezy route through the boulder choke that Ben didn't appreciate. It was also nowhere near the correct route. We had fun on the letterbox and lots of faff belaying each other on the direct pitch. Then we did a great deal of routefinding trying to get into Cwm Dwr. Thanks to Laura we got through! Cwm Dwr has some beautiful formations. Crettking out seemed to be going OK until Ben got to the boiler shaped pipe at the entrance. Apparently it's not meant for people with really long legs. After ~40min we started to regret our decision to just wait until everyone was out of the cave to go back to the warm hut. Luckily Jacob came out eager to use his microtraxion and we hauled Ben up enough for him to get out. A great trip despite the last bit. Thanks NUCC!

Top to OFDIII / Smith's Armoury. Reuben Harding, Thomas Leung

- Had to dig out top entrance from the snow. Beautiful walk up.
- Some routefinding issues between Poached Egg and the Crevasse.
  - Went up Creek Alley to Boulder Chamber.
- Regaining the route after the detour, everything went smoothly.
- The traverses and climbs are exposed, but manageable
- Saw three blind white trout in the OFD3 streamway
- Got to Smith's Armoury.
- On the way back, went looking for Calcite Cascade and associated

passages. We eventually found it, but it requires SRT gear.
in situ SRT rope.



probably easiest to find by looking for these holes at about knee – body height and tracking back down the streamway for a few tens of metres.

- Exit uneventful.
- Streamway low, but evidence of recent surging (foam on roof etc.) OFD3
- On a personal note, I'm glad to finally get to Smith's Armoury, since it has been a target since my first caving weekend

OFD (TOP) → Smith's Armoury. (OFD III)
Thomas Leung, Reuben Harding.

Second time doing this trip, quite pleased I remembered most of the route finding, except missing a junction and got into Creek Alley (found out when we were back SUCC). Traverses seems a bit better/easier compared to the last time I did it, but the streamway was still freezingly cold !! Saw three cave fishes along the first bit of the streamway. Tried to get to "Crystal Canal" but apparently it required SRT, but still glad we found ~~the~~ how to get there. Another time then. All in all, had a good trip.

Thomas

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03/02/2019 OFD TOP Photo trip Thomas, Nick, Becca.

A rather low turn up for this photo trip, but did have some good photos with my fancy camera. Not much to say, just wonder around Big Chamber near the entrance, the white ~~Arch~~ Arch, and speedy caves.

~~Thomas~~

Yorkshire weekend 15/02/19 - 17/02/19

Thomas Leung, Rory Rose, Reuben Harding, Greg Horvath, Franziska Lechleitner, Rosa Clements

Flood entrance ROSA, FRANK, GREG

After a long hike (we were washed!) ~~in~~ on a busy trail, we started our downward journey. I was quite nervy, not having done SRT in over a years, but Rosa's pro-rigging and Greg's help made sure I got to the bottom without problems. The last pit turned out longer than it would have needed to be, and unfortunately we got a cold shower as well that we would otherwise have avoided. But the following trip to the big waterfall chamber made it all worth it! Going back up was fine too, a bit scarier in parts. We got out when it was already dark, which goes to show how your perception of time shifts underground. Definitely a really nice trip with great companions! FRANK

Quaking Pot → Gormanghast. 2019 Feb 16th (Sat)
Thomas KM Leung, Reuben Harding, Rory Rose 15 hours bounce

We were at the Quaking Entrance at 1240 → 1220, I think. RTH, and the call out was set on 17th Feb, Sun, at 1400. Knowing exactly where to go and how to rig, we were at the bottom of the third pitch an hour later. No problem with the crawling and traversing, we abseil the 4th pitch, down the sky dive, and got to the crux. This is where we stopped back in Sept 2018, and Reuben wasn't be able to pass the crux at that time. This time, I passed the crux by crawling at the stream level, while Reuben followed, and he had no problem! Rory was behind Reuben, and went via the crawl traverse above stream level. We went all lying in the thin stream and shared the same thought - could we be able to pass the crux on the way out? Just because Reuben have never tried

* The "Black Book of Misery" is a very good reference!

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to exit the crux, and there was no guarantee he could do it. But that will be a question for later, so we carried on. After the crux, with a tackle bag each, I found it quite strenuous to progress along Explorers Prerogative, especially the crawl traverse closer to the 5th pitch. Anyway, we got to the head of the 5th pitch which supposed to be a hand line climb. I rigged it, not quite happy with it as a handline climb, no space to put on SRT kit, so used my cow's tails as a belt and attached it to my stop. Not very comfortable, but I could abseil down the 5m pitch, while Reuben and Rory free climb it. Below the 5th pitch, it is not that difficult to get to Gormanghast. The W bend was roomy but quite wet. Rory did something stupid tried to get into the bends. The Fly crawl Aseend was a bit slippery, but ok to free climb up. The prtch leading down to Bridge hall was very loose, and I kicked quite a lot of rocks down. There was no thread under a boulder to belay the rope at the top of the 10th pitch, so it took us a while looking for the thread and eventually belay on the boulder directly. At the Fault climb, the rope was not quite long enough to reach the floor, so we faff a bit to re-rig. It was meant to be a free climbable 5m chimney, but I would rather conserve energy and SRT. It took us around 6 hours to get to bottom (Gormanghast). We explored the muddy and bouldery had chamber for a bit, ate some trail mix, and took some celebratory photos, then made our way out. We were pretty all right at this moment, but already a bit cold and damp. I couldn't remember much on the way out, but it involved a lot of moving ropes from one tackle bag to another, just to make the weight even. Rory and Reuben had a bit of issue at the two climb up between the 5th and 6th pitch, and need to stand on me to get up. There was also a long wait for me at the Crux. The original plan was to let Rory to go ahead, and he could stand on me to enter the Crux, while I could show Reuben how to do the Crux at stream level behind me. Instead, Reuben was behind Rory, and I stayed at the back. This should not be a problem, however, Rory did not regonise the Crux, and kept pushing along

It was quite a lot.

stream level! I kept hearing him yelling and shouting, not until I regonised the turn before the Crux and let him know. So he back out the stream level, and with a little help from Reuben behind him, Rory finally out of the Crux fine. One problem solved and now comes another. Reuben was trying the squeeze out of the Crux at stream level, but he will need advice from me. Being struck behind them, sitting in an alcove above the stream for an hour, I couldn't get to Reuben, but can only rely on my limited memory of the Crux to give advice. Reuben cannot pass the squeeze, and had to backtrack and tried the upper route, after lying in the thin stream for 15-20 minutes. I could see him shivering, and he had two muscle cramp already. After a lot of suffering, pushing, standing on my head and shoulders, yelling, he was finally out of the Crux. I felt guilty to say that Crux was not an issue to me. I passed the Crux even before I noticed and Reuben told me I have done it. It was a less than 5 mins job! Well, may be I am just built for thigh squeeze. After the Crux, we made our way to the bottom of the 3rd pitch slowly. Reuben and Rory were very helpful and stayed behind derigging while I get out of the cave, since I will be cold without any changing clothes outside the cave, and the walk down the hill will be freezing. I was out at 0300, ?. 7th, and ran down the hill, start the engine, and get changed in the MPV. Reuben and Rory were out at 0340, and we drove to YSS, arrived around 0530 in the morning.

bad cramp and shivering RTH

→ agree

SRT kit On / Off

Entrance → Bottom of 2nd On
Bottom of 2nd → Top of 3rd Off
Top of 3rd → Bottom of 4th On
Bottom of 4th → Top of 6th Off
Top of 6th → Bottom of 7th On
Bottom of 7th → Top of FLY Crawl Pitch Off
Top of FLY Crawl Pitch → Last (Gormanghast) On

- There are no in-stu ropes.
- Every pitch is bolted with IC Resin Anchor, no hanger required.
- Glasses is OK for Quaking
- A scout trip to the Crux before bottom it is highly recommended.
- Do the 4th pitch, NOT the by-pass.

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Quaking weekend (because it was the Yorkshire weekend, but who really cares about anything else?)

It was cold and tiring. I had whole body cramps by the end of it, and probably hypothermia (mild).
Probably close to my physical limits, but very worthwhile.
Pleased to make it past the crux. (in both directions!)
Gormenghast is boring.

I would like to go back at some point to do

1. A return trip to Gormenghast via 8th & 9th pitches rather than fly Crawl, and
2. a separate (?) trip just to the Crux and back to investigate the different permutations. i.e. over the top on the way in / stream bypass on the way out. I think that, fundamentally I can do the squeeze & I get the technique down, but best to do it when still energetic and warm.

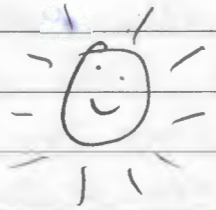
-Reuben

19th April 2019

BEC, MENDIP

Rebecca Miller, Jon Cheung & Nick Adams

We set off with the intention of doing the ~~skeg~~ round trip in Swildons Hole - ended up going a bit past sump one (I have no context of quite how far we went!). It was a very enjoyable trip for me - getting to know Swildon's better & my first time through a sump! It was quite cold - who would've thought!? Before we turned back, Nick & I went for a muddy scramble & a slide down the fixed rope at the landing. As Jon was very cold at this point, we ousted him from the cave post haste. - into glorious sunshine!



Rebecca

BEC Mendip. 21st April 2019

Nick A. Jon C & Rebecca M.

Morning to teach Becca how to rig for a ladder belay - initial tuition goal of the weekend was SRT rigging but enthusiasm is low in the Easter sun!

Yesterday we went to the silty beach of Brean & the military base on the nearby hill.

Today's plan is everyone's first trip to Waterwheel - ladder style.

... Things didn't go to plan

It's Easter Sunday so no access to the charterhouse key for waterwheel via the usual routes. Opted for rigging training in the blistering heat @ the Wessex and then Becca rigged the first leg of Hunter's Hole - 30m rope did not suffice for the

(44)

25m in the the guidebook, I re-rigged but neglected to take the rope bag - was sketchy to not immediately rig the next pitch so we abandoned into sunshine. Jon went for a walk/jog.





OTTER HOLE 11/05/19
Nick A. Becca M Rosa C Harvey S

Nick- 2nd time in otter hole & the muddy return through the entrance series has lived up to my memories. Took a paddle sack from the entrance to the terminal sump - I've had stronger regrets but that ranks highly. Some good pictures and 4 tired cows
A classic trip

Harvey:- 1st proper trip in nearly 3 years, & what a trip ---
A veritable feast of formations. Astonishing quantity of straws, flowstone & cal. Who knew straws could grow to lengths of maybe ~16-20 feet? I could have stayed & stared at them forever - which I nearly did _ I haven't been this knackered since my 1st novice trips in Yorkshire. So, ticks all the boxes - oodles of pretties, plenty of climbs & tricky wriggles, and satisfaction of knowing I've worn out every muscle in my body.
Thanks Nick for organizing!

Rosa - Lots of amazing formations & a huge quantity of mud. Top trip!



Rebecca - My first time to the Forest of Dean - & down Otter hole! A very early saturday start around 6.30am; left for the cave ~7am/7.30am - not my usual cave start time! I was initially following Adrian our guide & got into the cave pretty sharpish - there were some evil looking spiders! Entrance series was an energetic crawl & my introduction to the infamous Otter Hole Mud! Seeing the formations for the first time was absolutely breathtaking - and they kept getting more & more impressive around each corner! The journey to the end of the cave was pretty uneventful - save the final sump & acute little grotto. The way back felt a lot shorter - even with photography ... until we reached the mud again! It somehow managed to seem even more slippy/sticky than on the way in! By the time we reached the entrance crawls I was tired. Made it out intact successfully & absolutely COVERED in mud - something tells me I will be washing out mud for quite some time ... All in all a lovely formation-filled trip - now time for pub & SLEEP!



(43)

Mendip weekend 18th May

Upper Flood Swallet – Rosa, Rory, Becca & Andrew (leader)

Had a great trip! Very pretty cave and water conditions were pretty low. D⁻ – must do better Rory'!.

I was a little worried when we got to the MCG and the leader we were meant to meet wasn't there. We were supposed to get back by a specific time, so would we get to the Pork Pies if we set off late and went at Rosa-speed? But soon enough Andrew turned up and we got going. There was a special puzzle to get into the cave – both hands must be inserted into a small metal box and used to manipulate an awkward lock you can't see. I tried first due to small hands but Andrew ended up doing it due to knowing how the lock worked.

The cave was easier than expected, the entrance crawl was mostly stooping, we reached Midnight Chamber quite quickly, the Lavatory trap was just a short wet crawl, (not a duck or something that required a special technique), and we saw some lovely formations really not very far into the cave at all. Andrew knew all the directions even without seeing them. The Red room had some very impressively red formations. The boulder choke had a very convoluted route through. It must have been very hard to find the way during the early days of exploration.

Before long we arrived at a slope down with a bucket at the bottom. Now was the time to take off our oversuits and get them spotlessly clean. Luckily it wasn't too hard to get my wellies back on (despite everyone taking the piss of them). – Neverland was amazing some really beautiful striped curtains, then some amazing geometric crystals on the floor. They were huge and shaped like strange interlocking triangles. Then the pork pies. They were unlike anything I've ever seen before, it was incredible to

be able to see them. I've no idea how something like that would form

We got some photos and went back much more quickly. Andrew's recommendations that pretty much everything was best done head first caused some amusing situations but still, we got out of the cave by about 3pm, 5 hours after we got in. Overall it was a really enjoyable trip and I'm really glad I was lucky enough to go on it. A* Excellent work Rosa!

Upper Flood was like a slightly easier version of Otter Hole - less mud, shorter crawls + shorter overall..... but I'm sure it's just my fitness improving! ☺ Rosa led on the way in - and did a marvellous job of it! The boulder chokes had some very convoluted / twisty routes ~~the~~ which she managed really well. Andrew had some interesting notes on various areas & when they were discovered etc. We were lucky in that there wasn't 'much' water - ducks were basically crawls - (and there was a lot!) - but the way in was pretty quick. Before Neverland there were beautiful dry pools of crystals & Neverland was simply breath-taking ☺ We took some photos - more practice is needed - but some ~~were~~ came out lovely. The triangle crystals by the pork pie were incredible, props to the conservation efforts that have kept the formations so clean. I led the way back which was good navigation practice, and soon was very tired trying to climb / squeeze / crawl uphill! After ~~a~~ my gloves were peeling all but worn through, the entrance steps were in sight and I was up the ladder & into daylight. A great trip all in all, and another great workout!

Becca ☺ ♡

Nick A. Dmitry P. Frances P. Swildons Hole - Short Round

Decent trip, 2.5hrs (ish) and fun had by all. It was good to introduce Dmitry to "wet" caving, he wasn't keen on the ducks I'd sump-- Nick!

Neither was Nick! It was fun watching their faces as they submerged into the cold water, put their noses into the air gap and then thrashed wildly to get through. A good re introduction to caving after my two years off. Very dry for Swildons.

Everything above is true! Dmitry P.

45

I drank too much so decided to hand over my ticket to Charterhouse, instead planning a Bath-rods / Rods-Bath trip. Bocca is going to lead, but I'll likely rig.

Nick

trip here

Charterhouse 19/05/19

We met up with Jude to go to Charterhouse. Then we realised no-one on the trip had a car. Luckily Jude agreed to give us a lift to the cave as well as leading it. She gave Rory a ladder to carry, mostly to slow him down I think as we made pretty good progress but did not use the ladder at all.

The cave was quite small and wriggly but not as difficult or as catchy as people made it out to be. There was a lot of slithering down through boulders. But there were some fantastic formations starting from really quite near the entrance, and a tiny gate. It was a dry day and the cave was very dry but we had to lie in some puddles anyway so as to have the full Mendip experience.

The cave was very similar in character to GB, which it has been dye traced to. There were some lovely climbs with lots of footholds, impressive big chambers (the Citadel was amazing), some classic Mendip 45° rifts, and some beautiful decorated grottos. The formations were very different to in Upper Flood, they were much spikier. Both were impressive in their own way.

We had quite a short trip, perfect for Sunday, and were out by 2pm, to a carpet of beautiful bluebells. A lovely trip. Thanks to Jude for leading, and thanks to Nick for booking the permit and getting too drunk so I could have a place on the trip

British Reserve

by Dmitry P.

The briefing we got at the beginning of the rotation turned out to be true. If a Brit says the cave is "a bit wet", there is 4 ducks and 1 sump, but that was yesterday. Today the cave was "quite tight". So while everyone else was kindof percollating through the cracks, I was trying hard not to get stuck. To be fair, it was a great trip.

We decided Bothis pot after finding the entrance. I rigged a pretty awkward single hang down and took a rag as Becca and Frances came down. Becca lead on but was quickly flummoxed by the route. I took a look, but (feeling grouchy) I gave up & suggested leaving. Becca was too daring, so I took another rag at the top of the pitch. We trundled over to Rod's pot disappointed, and rescued a baby bird from just inside the entrance.
We got back to the car with 10 minutes left for our callout, I'd not kept track of the horrendous loss of hours due to my rags.
Very taffy, bit dull, poorly bolted.
Nick

(47)

Wales Weekend 22 June

Rory Rose, Thomas Griffiths, William Ivison Frances Pope, Simon Goddard, Karim, Becca Miller, Nick Adams, Amelia [redacted] Stone/Steane, [redacted] Eliza, [redacted] Dmitry P.

And Cambridge.

OFD 1 Roundtrip - Tom, Frances, Will 3.5hr

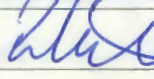
Our able leader [redacted] Will encouraged Tom to take unnecessarily complex routes and ignore ladders. Tom enjoyed the poly-poly through, not so much the Elephant's Arsehole. Ages were spent preparing the perfect photo-shoot only for the camera to die! The Bolt Traverse was dramatic and slippery and the boulder choke was an absolute maze. Almost stacked completely dry apart from a crawl at the end. There were beautiful helictite formations, cryptic crystals and shiny stuff to delight our eyes. Tom was convinced that they had reached a dead end about 10 times and was met with Will's reassuring dead silence. We made it as far as the boulder choke, which we explored (with many more cries of "This is a dead end, wait no, it's actually the way.")
On the way out we bumped into the Imperial/Pennines cavers, knocking one of them waist-deep into the gower pod. They left just before us - we rescued their hat.

Pant Mawr
by Dmitry P.

Simon gave us a map, but between the six of us, lets just say we found it. The cave is by a tree surrounded by a barb wire fence, visible from the road. It is spacious and hospitable, with a lively stream and a horizontal slab layout. Most passages allow to walk upright and generally enjoy life, which I did. Unfortunately, one of our guides, Rory from the Cambridge club, lost some gear, but to me this was a wonderful introduction to the caves of Wales.

Cwm Dwr ⇒ OFD 2 Becca & Nick 12-5ish.

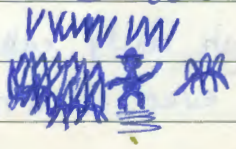
Lovely sunny day - Nick & I popped down to OFD1 in the morning to check the water level at the step - which was fine. After usual uni morning left, everyone had their trips sorted & we decided on Cwm Dwr (I hadn't been in there since my second ever trip - 1 ⇒ CD). Started off well - through the crawls in 15 mins ☺ had some navigation pointers from Nick which is always useful. Forgotten how pretty Cwm Dwr is! Made our way through the connection & noticed how the cave started to resemble OFD more & more. Waterway was fun - exhausted my arms bracing over the pots! Unfortunately when we got to Oxbow neither of us could figure out how to do the climb down safely - Nick had a bit hairy moment with his legs dangling in empty space.... So we turned around. Swam through the pots to save time as we were soaked anyway! Fun bumble back through Cwm Dwr - had a look at big shacks 2 & 2 lead out successfully & re-emerged into the glorious sun around 5pm.



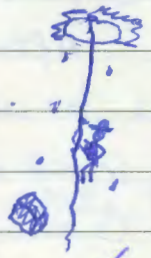
PENT MAWR ~ Eliza

My first ever caving trip was incredibly beautiful. We hiked through fields in the sunshine hunting for our cave. We put on our gear and I did my first SRT-ing - abseiling down into the cave. I saw waterfalls and bones on arrival - teeth. We climbed down, over rocks and trekked through water. I saw some beautiful structures from the ceiling and the floor. We took lots of photos with these. We shined lights behind people as they posed; with smoke coming off of their bodies.





It was very dramatic; like something out of a Sci-fi film - I found the way back the most difficult; I was exhausted and climbing up I found much harder. The most difficult thing was going up the rope (prusiking), I was very relieved when I reached daylight!
Sadly there were no bats in this cave.



Sunday 23rd June 2019

OFD2, Prokofiev series & explore around.
& Becca, Dmitry & Nick.

Nice to be back in OFD2! Nice quick moving down to the corkscrew, then turned right to go up to ~~Brekky Tinnis table~~ Poached Egg way. Lots of varied caving, some big climbs & muddy crawls. Took some pictures at Straw Gallery, had a shout up Nant Cam. Stormed over to Tinnis table & had a poke around Prokofiev before heading back to Gnome Passage & exiting via Speedy Corner / Cappochino Grotto. Good fun work out!

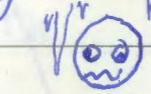
Becca

Escaping Reality
by Dmitry P.

I go caving to work out, meet new people and to forget for one weekend who I was. Inside the cave there is only who I am, living in the moment. And considering that in real life I fix things, accidentally breaking the van door handle was the icing on a cake. A completely successful escape from reality. Although duty calls me elsewhere, OUCC will be the first thing on my mind if I ever return to UK. Guys, thank you very much!

Saturday 22nd June 2019

It was rather A sunny day. Went down OFD. Don't remember the rest!



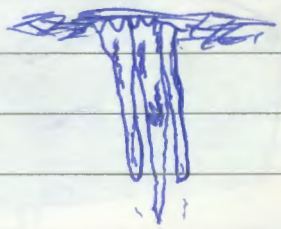
Sunday

OFD Top Entrances

Will, Tom, Frances and Eliza 3.5 hrs

Another wonderfully led trip by Will. He navigated by buff survey and found all the places he meant to and some more by consulting his scarf map. We saw all the classics: Corkscrew, Gnome Passage, Trident, Judge and Big Chamber by the Entrance. We did some great traversing over the streamway. We saw shells in the walls, crystals in the floor and two tiny shrimp in a clear pool.

This trip the camera battery lasted until the end, we hopefully got some great photos of us (a) in front of the Trident, (b) eating (c) exiting the cave into the warm Welsh rain. However the headlamp batteries didn't last so well and we got a bit short of light on the way out. Luckily Tom found a random bike light in his oversuit so we made it out safely.



51

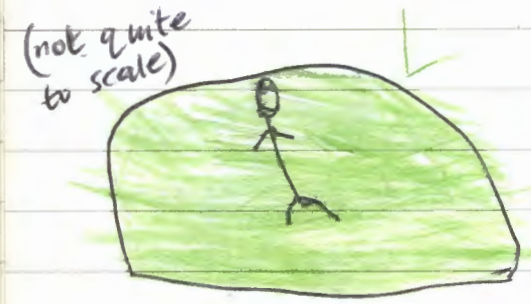
STUDENTS INVITE 04/10/19 - 06/10/19



5.10.19
Runscar cave
by Harry Greaves, age 5

Football Cave 5.10.19

Harry Greaves (a bit), Iain Greaves (a bit less), Tim Greaves (a bit more), Hilary Greaves



We were told there might be footballs. Harry, Iain & Tim investigated and deemed it Mummy's job to go and find them. It was low and wet. I got wet. There were no footballs.

HIL

ROSY COOPER

IN SUNSET

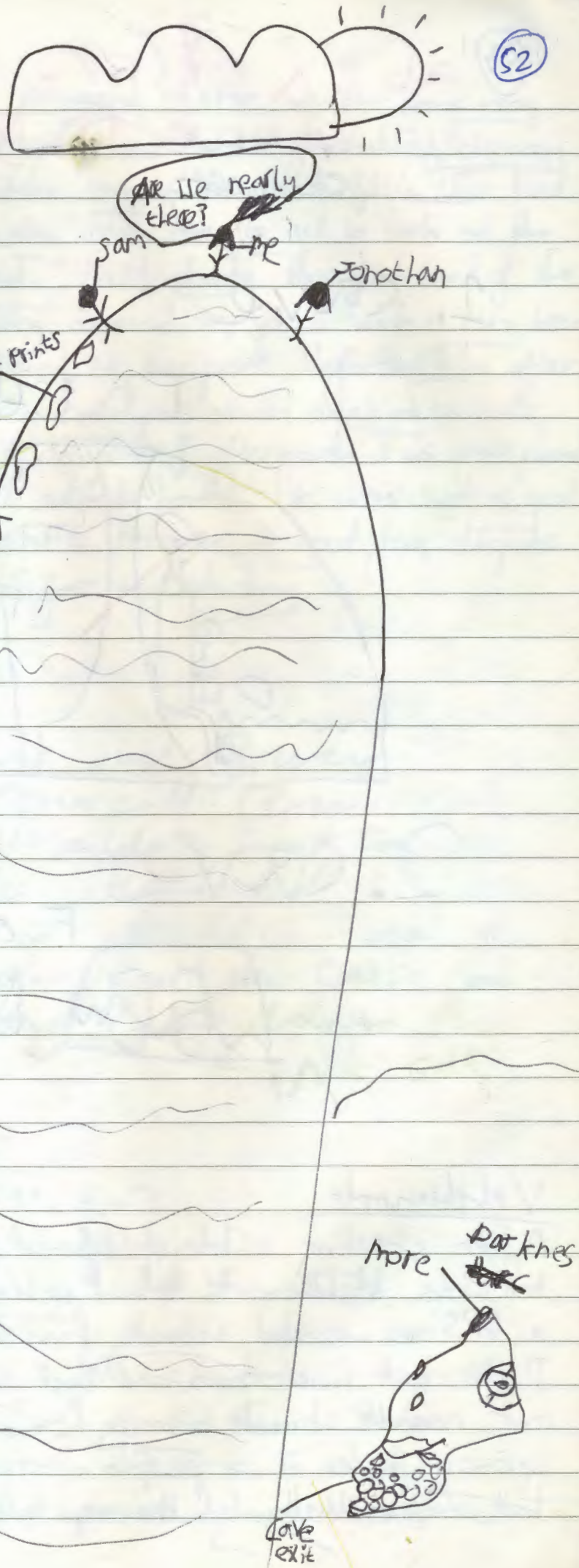
5/10/2019

First we went up a hill to get to the ~~rock~~, it felt like hours.

When we finally arrived we saw the cave ~~entrance~~ entrance, ~~in~~

I in the cave – it so cold a wet but exciting in case.

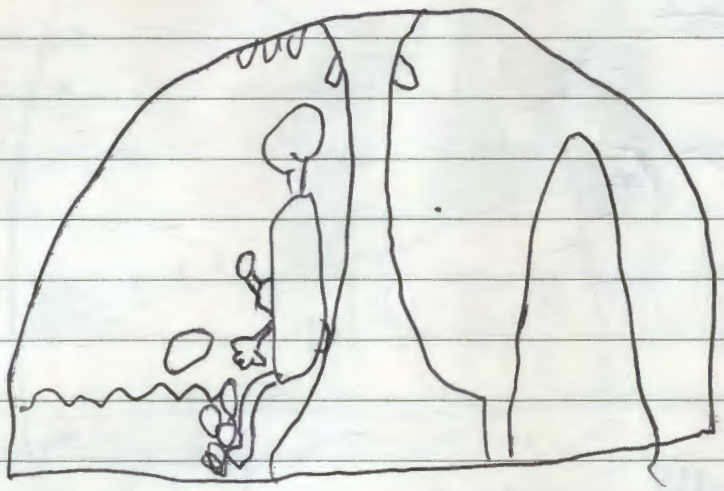
When we got out we decited to go back down. I ran and climbed on rocks



(53) ALEX & Greaves
We went in 2 caves.
I got wet.

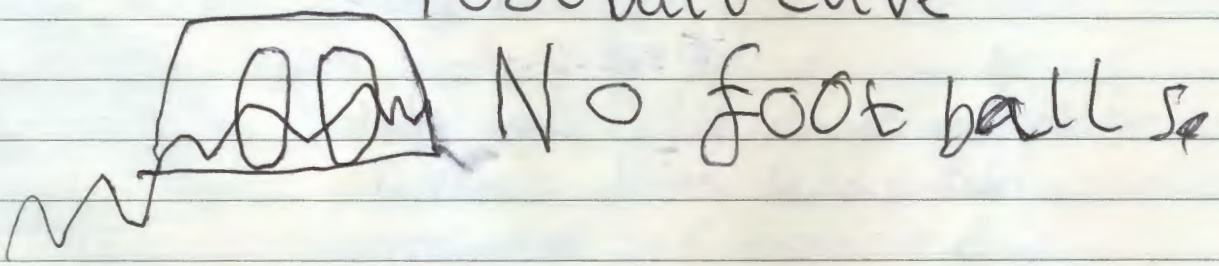
1. cave

Thistle cave



2. cave

Football cave



Voldemort

After creating a lot of different plans, a lot of people headed towards Voldemort Hole. Luckily Thomas was with us and he had a GPS so we did actually find it. Rory forgot his helmet and Ditta lent him hers and did really not caring. We changed our minds about bringing Rona's camera and hid it in a grassy hole. Two people turned back at the sight of the pitch but we eventually got the rope to the same place as the ladder and went

down the pitch. The pretties were as amazing as ever, we saw some very long straws, some very clear curtains, some carrot formations, zigzaggy helictites, and a ghostly ghost hidden among the straws. We also had some interesting shenanigans passing each other to get to look at the end. The way out was quite tricky, particularly the pitch head of the ladder. I had a lot of trouble flailing around in space with a very loose belay trying to get onto solid ground at this point. Unfortunately after hearing the fuss I made about this, everyone started making excuses about why they didn't want to go to Notts 2 afterwards (as was planned). Then the buckle on my helmet adjuster broke. It was not a good trip for helmets. Then we went to Bernies. So good fun, despite being a really very short trip for a Saturday.

Great dook; water was just slowing over ledge on right. Power cut flow in stream. Soon 'Wouldn't want to do any higher water. abandoned plan to through trip. Ended in crawl through water but due to high water in upcoun Cave Caber heads prevailed.

Box Head to Notts 2
Phil R, Rory R, Thomas L, Chris D
What a great trip A1 shaft, good grovels + grubs and then the airy pitch down Lyell caverns to stomp in the Lech Fell Master Cave. Then back to the Notts 2 connect-> - a mini masterpiece -> probably easier from last Jokes

to Notts 3 and did as it is mostly down hill. Then a second tremendous slog up Notts 2 stream before hauling ourselves up the Notts 2 mineshaft.

05/10/2019.

Boxhead Nott2 through trip via the connection.
Thomas Leung, Chris Denchan, Phil Rose, Rory Rose.

We arrived Leck Fell around 11ish with another group planning to get down Voldemort. My memory was rubbish, and was thinking it was only a very short trip to the pretties. It turned out there was quite a lot of muddy passage and crawling before you actually get there! Fortunately I was not there, but only used google map to show the others where the entry was. Then, I went to rig Boxhead. Half way walking to Boxhead, I was joined by Chris D., who gave up down Voldemort since there was a long queue in there, and would rather join me.

When Chris and I got to boxhead, we could hear the water rumbling under the rubble tube leading to the first pitch. It was not too bad when I was down there rigging. The main shaft was a bit tricky to rig since we were doing the Kendal flyover, and there were bolts at strange places. Locating the first ledge to swing into was also not obvious at all. However, all worked out fine eventually, and Phil and Rory joined us just in perfect timing when Chris and I got to the entry of the Kendal Extention.

Following the extremely well written description of the Black Book, including some flat out crawling in a muddy streamway, we

made ~~out~~ our way successfully to the pitch head of Lyle Cavern, and droped ourselves to the Master cave streamway. We explored the inlet to the bottom of Lost Johns', went further down stream a little bit, and turned around to find the connection to Notts 2. The connection was not descript in the black book, and the other description only mentioned the route from Notts 2, so we had to work backward from the description which is quite confusing. For reference, at the junction (decorated, large) between Avens Passage & ~~Notts 2~~ Helictite Rift, turn left if you are coming from Avens Passage OR go straight ahead if you are coming from Helictite Rift, then follow the passage to the very end.

The connection from Boxhead end involves a lot of dropping down calcite tube, flat out crawling, and crawling among scafoldings. The engineering is pretty impressive. We ~~are~~ eventually pop out and got to the Notts 2 streamway, and made our way out to the surface. Chris, Rory and I ~~walki~~ walked back to Boxhead and made an super effecient derigging, Rory got to the bottom and Chris was half way down, while I was at the bottom of the entrance pitch transport tackle bags. It took around 30 - 40 mins to finish the job. An hour later, it stant to rain heavily, and we are glad we had derig the cave rather than doing it for another day.

A very good trip indeed.

(57)

MENDIP WEEKEND 25/10/19-27/10/19

Present: Rosa Clemenbs, Thomas Leung, Nick Adams

Shaobo Gao

Jasmine Reinecker
Sarah Day
Rory Rose
Chloe Hutchings
Kan Keemtimahat
Greg Horath

Can placing - winning team: Rory & Thomas
overall farthest place: Greg & Rory

Rory's game idea gave Chloe a nosebleed

BUCKETS TO MARS - WINNER WAT RORY'S TEAM

Pat & Sidey won by Rory & Nick

26 Nov 19
→ Nick, Chloe, Pixie (Sarah) & [redacted]: Best team ever... but the ladders was quite an obstacle... deffo require more prob-ups (quoted Pixie) AND KNEE PADS AND GLOVES!!! Thanks for the adventure
P.S. It really [redacted] destroyed by hooks and [redacted]
-Kan

The knee pads really helps! and it's a shame that I lost my way on my why back. Should try to pay more attentions to the turns other than weird rocks along side!
Shaobo

Slumps are epic, ladders are not. Very fun and I will be back thank you so much for the motivation and putting up with me! (especially Chloe + Nick.) ♡

We did a relatively quick but very fun trip in Eastwater, which made me (Otto Norland) very happy. We then headed over faster than a frog seeing a tasty fly to Swildon. We ideally would have liked to go through the muddy sump but alas it was full. We instead headed to Sump 1 where I (Otto Norland) was initially too scared to go through but was inspired by the courage of my best friend Benedict who easily hopped into the Sump a Great Trip.

26/10/2019.

Thomas, Greg, Otto, Benedict, Jasmine.

The entire weekend is wet, and Eastwater was pretty drippy when we get there. The boulder choke was like rainning. Killed the Upper Series round trip in less than hour and a half, so we have to find some other things to do, and Swildon's is on the list obviously. Was planning to do the short round trip, but the mud sump was closed. The waterfall climbs were quite sporty because of the water level. Got to sump 1, did the sump one last time. It is good to round my caving in UK with Swildon's and Eastwater, two of the very first caves ~~since~~ when I started caving since 2008. This time, I am really leaving, on 1st of Nov. I had a really great time with the Oxford club in the last couple of years. Hope one day I will be back!

Otto Norland

P.S. Been to the Hunter's one last time on Friday night!! Had a mushroom and Ham pasta bake, Hunter's never changed!.

59

Sat Trip planning

Swildons (Upper (Rosa + [redacted] Rory)	Swildons S1	E-Water-R-Trip (Nick + Greg)
Shaobo	Nick ~~(Thomas~~ + [redacted]	Thomas
Vlad	+ Otto +	~~Amelia~~
Amelia	+ Sarah +	~~Rory~~
	+ Kym +	
	Benedict	
	Jasmine	
	Chloe	

Sun Trip Planning

GB	SRT + Hunters
Rosa + Nick	[redacted] Rory
& Otto	Sarah
Ben	Kym
Jasmine	Shaobo
[redacted]	
~~Shaobo~~	
Chloe	

27 Nov. 2019

SRT first time! Not difficult at all, love the hole deep down when look around. When I look at the darkness, the darkness is looks you back!

Shaobo

GB 27/10/19 Rosa, Nick, Otto, Ben, Jasmine, Chloe

I used to know GB very well but haven't been in a while, due to the newer stricter definition of 'novices". Luckily Otto, Ben, and Jasmine started caving a few years ago and were thus not novices so we could take them there. Unfortunately the time passed since last trip became apparent when I forgot the right place to cross the fence... We did get to the cave eventually though, and handled the fiddly lock. The cave had lots of boulderly floors and climbs which my foot objected to (sorry for being slow everyone!) but it was as beautiful as ever and the water level was surprisingly low given how wet it's been. We did almost every detour available (most of them on purpose) making it into quite a decent trip. Ben took some photos with his GoPro. We saw some wriggly helictites. We didn't find the pretty much entirely disintegrated car. It was a good trip. Thank all.

Bye Bye!

T. Leung.

31/10/2019

(61)

MEETUP 8/11 - 9/11

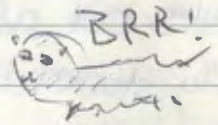
LEADERS	Swibton's	Burrington Combe	
	NICK	BECCA	RORY
2nds	PIXIE	KAI	REUBEN
	Sara	JAMES	AUTUMN
	*The couple - Jan & Veronika	TASNIM	VIVIAN
	Dan	ALINE	VLAD
		PATRICK	FIONA
			JAI

[redacted]

8/11

Swildons - Nick, Pixie, Jan, Veronika, Sarah

Toured the upper series. Jan & I visited the Canadian.
There was a rescue cat!

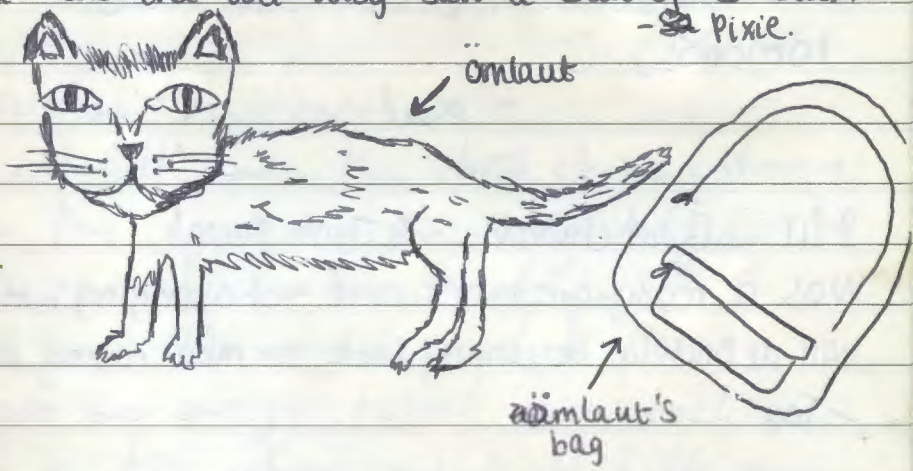


Nick.

Found a cat that was better at caving than me, his name was ..., went the short dry way and back the wet way. Saw a total of 3 bats!

-Pixie.



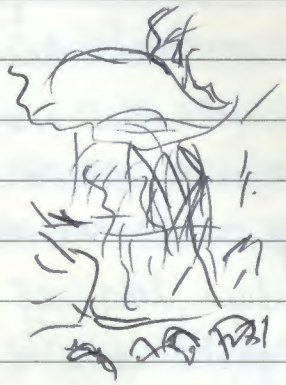


Awesome caving time, both wet and dry, small and big. Couldn't feel my hands on the way back but they're good now (which is why I'm writing this). When I saw that cat in a bag in the cave I thought I'd gone insane. I'd draw it, but Pixie's drawing will just make mine look terrible.

Excited for tomorrow :)

-Dan

Nice waterfalls to climb!





A very nice trip to Swildon's hole:
we went through 'waterfall, small hole, ...
we saw 3 bats, 2 snails, 2 spiders & 1 cat!
we got wet
we had fun and we enjoyed the time lots!

"The couple" - Veron & Jan

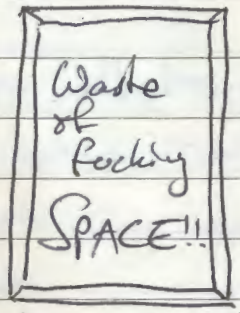
Brilliant. Sh (Big)

TEAM BECCA: KAI, ALINE, TAS, PATRICK, JAMES, AUTUMN, JAI

(63)

8/11 Goatchurch

This was my first time caving so I wasn't sure what to expect. I was a bit nervous for the first few minutes but after a few climbs and crawls I really started to enjoy it and I had such a great time.



"Kai's shame"
2019

Southampton ↙

We met some nice people from SUCC and some excited children as well. Looking forward to our next cave tomorrow :)

- Kai

First caving experience was a blast! I didn't expect the first trip to involve crawling and vertical drops. Becca was an awesome guide, and I'm looking forward to future trips.

-Patrick

8/11 Goatchurch - ~~Be~~Team Becca!
Was a really great first cave - challenging but fun!
Will definitely be coming back for more caving and crawling.
- Tas

Great first trip! - Team Becca ☺
Seeing children in the cave so enthusiastic made me feel old and unfit. Can't wait to do some more and have fun!

My first time leading in a cave & don't know - probably the safest cave choice ever! Everyone worked well together and didn't panic on the Jacobs ladder or climbs. Went down the tradesmans entrance, muddled our way through + found the main entrance. Went back & found 'bloody tight' - shimmied down jacobs ladder to water chamber for snacks + a photo, returned via the 'coffin' + left via the main entrance - Saw lots of kids, adults & SUCC (shock! they care!) - also saved one of their fleeces.

Becca

10/11/19

	EASTWATER	SWIRLDONIS WATER
LEADER:	NICK	BECCA
SECONDS:	~~PIXIE~~	KAI
	JAN	ALINE
	VERONIKA	TAS
	DAN.	PATRICK
	SARAH	VIVIAN
		VLAD

Eastwater - Nick/Jan/Veronika/Dan/Sarah

Very wet entrance today, waterfall down the ~~climb~~ chokie entrance. Veronika didn't manage the upper traverse so I guided them (Veronika & Jan) to the entrance and returned via the upper traverse to Sarah & Dan. We almost reached the cross roads before concern over energy turned us back. We tried Kentish's 8 cairn on the return, but I got badly stuck. Rather than forcing on and getting either a) free or b) more stuck I wiggled back - only one leader on the trip meant it wasn't worth the risk. We returned via upper traverse and back out through the waterfall boulder choke.

Nick

Swildons - short dry way to 20 foot + back.
Becca/Viv/Tas/Vlad/Patrick/Aline/Kai
Had fun finding our way through to the 20 foot - waterfall climb was particularly aggressive today but everyone managed it well - lots of teamwork + lots of fun! Becca

Very different cave from yesterday (Eastwater today). There were a lot of big boulders we had to climb down/up through and a section we had to shimmy through the crack of two parallel slabs at a 45° Angle. I got stuck under a small waterfall on the way out! Good trip. Was certainly an experience. Sh (Big)

(63)

Eastwater

Incredible cave, best one of the weekend. The boulders and cave walls made for some really interesting passages, and as an added bonus it was dry (.. mostly). Walking at a 45° angle along a wall and climbing between two walls with a drop beneath you were amazing experiences. Shout out to Nick for being cool!

– Dan

Swildon's - Amazing trip today, very different from yesterday. The atmosphere with all the water and seeing the waterfall was really nice. Really fun trip with an amazing group!

Aline.

Eastwater – unlikely to become my favourite cave. Compared to Swildon's, not much interesting to see (formations/waterfalls/...)! We went via somewhat ominous looking boulder slope, some 45° slabs, and turned around at the horizontal crawl where Veronica didn't felt certain she would not get stuck. Nick led us back and we retraced the same way up.

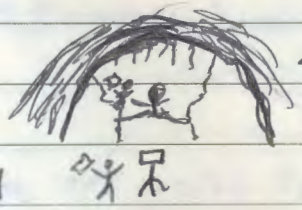
Dan & Veronica

CHECC - South Wales

Nick, Becca, Rory, Amelia, Kai, Steph, Anna, Vlad, Stefan, Megan, Rosa, Kevin, Pixie

Trip 1 - Nick, Pixie, Kai - OFD 2

My first time down OFD - the prettiest cave I've been to so far! We saw lots of amazing formations including the trident, the judge as well as some helectites and mr octopus and the associates. Nick carried two bags of photography equipment so we were able to learn some photography skills and get an idea of how cave photography is done. It was really great to get to help with some of the photos which we took in Solocite. The trip was really good fun, I'm looking forward to hopefully returning to OFD and exploring more - Pixie :)



← me and Kai with Flash guns, Nick modelling.

Trip 2 - Nick, Becca, Pixie, Kai

On Sunday, we went to Cwm Dwr and spent a lot of time crawling which I enjoyed a lot. Nick and Becca took bags of photography equipment with them so we were able to take some photos at a waterfall and a very cool rock. After the crawling, the cave had a lot of really beautiful open spaces. On the way back we met ABBA at the entrance. I'm very grateful that Nick and Becca were carrying the bags it looked like hard work - thank you! Really really great time - can't wait to cave in South Wales again!

Trip 3 → Rory, Amelia, Anna and Steph

On Saturday Rory & Amelia took up to Draeren for our first ever caving experience. We were joined by some Irish friends who were good fun! Had an incredible time crawling up and down waterfalls and getting slightly lost! (thanks Rory). We'll definitely be coming back for another trip, thanks for such a good time!

Nick - photography was fun. Lots of effort to carry the gear but not impossible. Between two people it was fine, & the team pitches worked perfectly. I got a picture of the rock at the entrance as understood happy :)

67

Peak District 29/11/19

Nick "nicholas" Adams; Becca "Rebecca" Miller Aline Linder
Vlad "~~the Impaler~~" Cătănea Rory Rose
Laura Warmuth Reuban Harding
Niks M. Realbe Ellie Shapiro Dan Kang

Peak Cavern → Moss Chamber 30/11/19

Becca, Aline, Ellie, Niks, Laura & Nick

Walked up to the cave, almost lost Ana en route. Water was very cold in the ducks — very refreshing! The crawl lasted longer than I remembered. - aching shoulders MUST GET STRONGER. Managed to help people up the climbs & through the syphon. Moss chamber was beautiful as ever ♡♡♡ Grateful for the shower afterwards!!

Becca

One of the last trips for my current owersuit, feeling a bit exposed & my knackers were unprotected from the icy ducks. Was nice to go to moss chamber without a bag, but held close to zero challenge. Not sore, not tired, a bit cold.

Nick

Very nice trip today - a bit cold and the crawling was long :) Also less pretty than Swildon's but it seems more easy today, improvment or easy cave? :s
Great spaces and very nice chamber & nice group! Aline

Didn't know what to expect and was not so sure about the long crawling stretch in the beginning but I really enjoyed it (except for the part where I got stuck...). Nice chamber & cool group but my favourite part was the water - maybe I'll stick to exploring caves underwater? =) ~~or~~ - Laura

I really liked getting covered in mud and actually went out of my way to coat my face. I didn't think ahead to the fact that I would have to wash it all off with freezing water. Even still, I'd do it again ☺ Becca and Nick were wonderful guides and helped a lot with motivation and encouragement. Nice first trip! Erin Shyvers

J. H. Rory, Reuben, Dan, Vlad

It was my first SRT trip. I descended on the first pitch, and I also did a re-belay. Then we did some horizontal caving, and we had to walk on some walls to avoid some very deep water. Then we started descending on Bitch Pitch, but I got too cold before very close to reaching the bottom. We turned back. The re-belays were easier ascending, but I soon got tired. The entrance pitch took quite a while because I was exhausted near the top, so the last 10 m took about 10 min.

Vlad

Went down JH to top of Leviathon. Was a lot of re-belays for a fresher trip but good practice. NOTE: rope lengths in the guidebook are only JUST enough, better to bring 5m longer ropes to allow for more 'freindly' rigging without running out of rope. - Rory

→ more recent topos reflect this
→ use 60m, not 55m.

We went down JH. Not particularly notable. I was pleased with my rigging of Bitch Pitch, though Rory thinks it was too light. I post facto justify this by noting that, despite tight rigging, the rope only just touched the floor. I waited around in the Workshops for ages, but they turned around before the bottom of Bitch Pitch because Vlad was cold.

Reuben.

69

James Hall Over Engine Mine (JH)

After finding the topo, we discovered we didn't have long enough ropes with us. We then found an alternative one, which promised we needed much shorter ones. Result. At the entrance, Rory rigged the first pitch, a few minutes later came a call of "I'm almost at the bottom... but there's no more rope" Fuck.

A short free climb later he was down and we sent Vlad after him, he struggled getting on the rope, but after some coaching from us and Reuben, he was on and slowly dropping down the shaft. Reuben and I followed, shifting the top rigging to something more sketchy, but that would be easy to get to at the bottom.

Moving on to some horizontal caving, we crawled through and scrambled over stacks of boulders held up by plastic and traversed over some seriously deep water - most exciting part of the trip (but that's not saying much).

Progress stood to a halt at the top of the next pitch. Reuben rigged it to the bottom and Vlad made a good attempt at it for his first SRT trip. ~~[illegible]~~ 30 minutes later Rory had coached him past 3 of the 4 rebelays, I decided to start dropping down to catch up near the bottom. As I hit the first rebelay I found out we'd given up (FFS) as Vlad was getting cold and tired after a valiant effort.

More of the same on the way out, got nicely damp which made the wait in a cold December* hill top breeze outside the entrance fucking freezing. Half an hour later Vlad was out and my hands were unable to move. We left Reuben and Rory to make their way out and carry most of the bags, stumbling through the fog back to the warmth of the car.

Dan

*Dan is ahead of his time!
only NOVEMBER!!
- Becca

30/11 - The Per game rules

1) Per starts & ends on the glass aside one sip. (no hands in the per) & replace to table

2) Per must be picked up with lip before sip

3) Place the hair band on the per after ~~it has~~ the drink is replaced to table.. No hands

4) Say "chin-chin" while the per is between nose and lip.

5) You must maintain eye contact with someone whilst saying chin-chin

6) You rest hand the previous person for handing over the per+hairband

7) Pick up your drinking vessel with your non-dominant hand. pm

8) Feet on chairs, not your bums!! At all times of competition

V-I
N-II
R-III
B-III

9) Grab the ~~glass~~ drinking glass with your hand backwards (pointer finger to the lowest ~~small finger~~ points the highest)

10) Players must always speak with an australian accent

11) Salute the person to your right once you have passed ~~glass~~ per hairband on

12) While drink is in your mouth, touch every other player's face

(71)

13) Don't touch the table for stuff on the table (except the drinking glass and hair band)

14) One hand up at all times

15) No hand on chair

16 - Flip a coin with your mouth & land it on heads. Take near go. Get the round card on table only

Peak District Jan 31st – Feb 2nd

Giant's	Peak	Peak 2
~~Rory + Amelia~~	Nick + Becca	Rory + Amelia
Rosa + Tom	Jan	~~Becca~~
Stefan	Veronika	· Vlad
· Chi	James	· Fiona
		· KEW

64
40
25
42
20

Peak Cavern – Becca Miller, Nick Adams, Jan Kulveit, Veronika + James Fitzgerald

After a relatively leisurely morning of getting ready, we set off for peak at 10am. (Along with thousands of MUSC & another group of OUCC). We visited the sump at the end of the 'washing place' to kill some time before heading off to the ducks – water was quite fresh! We went towards the streamway before running into MUSC, so took a detour whilst they got down the ladder. I found some lovely rocks in treasure (?) aven, then we visited colonoscopy crawl for a 'laugh'. That laugh was exceeding muddy. James called it a day about 20 mins in, so we didn't go all the way. Streamway was amazing! Beautiful passage shape + such fun splashing down the hill. Went back up upstream + did a loop, once more bumping into OUCC. Nothing remarkable on the way out, poked my head into a dig – but most importantly we were out in time to watch the 6 Nations!

Becca

(23)

Peak Cavern - Vlad Catanea, Rory Rose, Fiona, Kevin, Amelia

We went inside the cave. We found a slide which didn't really work. Then we found the muckey ducks, which I expected to be worse since I haven't been through any ducks before. We went in the round trip. We saw the place through which some cave divers discovered the cave. Then we went through some long crawl where I got very tired. Afterwards, we did some interesting climbings and the eyehole, which I found easy to squeeze through but hard to not arrive on my head at the other side (I did arrive on my legs though). We almost stoped to run away from Moss Chamber because we were tired, but luckily we realised how close we were and got there. Then we went back and successfully climbed in the mud between Moss Chamber and eyehole, which I enjoyed.

Vlad

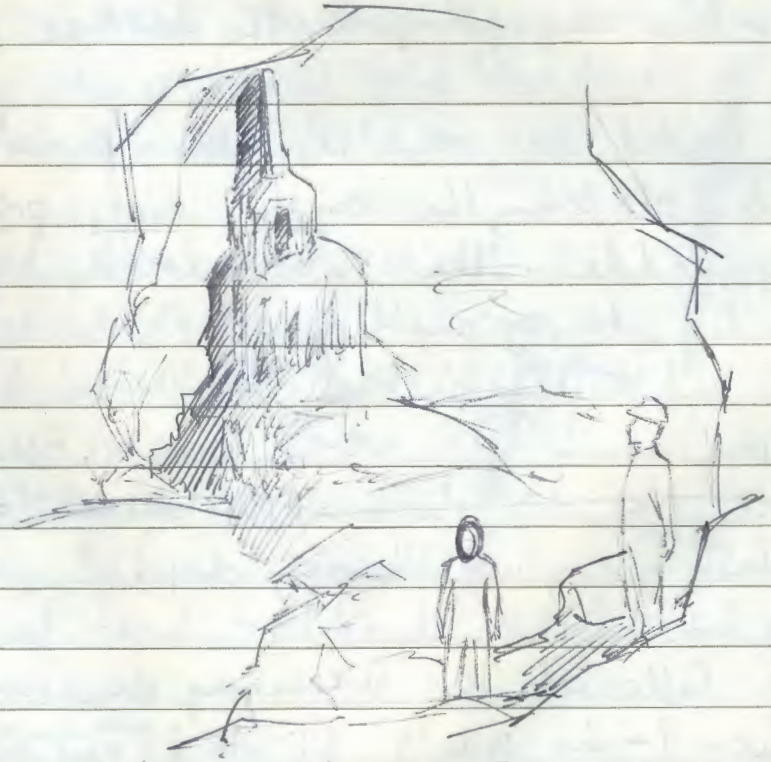
Keywords of this trip: Muddy, water, ~~etc~~ cold.
(Sometimes you need to get through some deep pools).
Challenging. rope climbing (up and down)
squeezing.
(we experienced a long tunnel). ~~take~~ took about 5-10 mins).

- FS

3rd day ever of caving - think it's my most challenging day yet. Visited peak cavern with Vlad and Fiona, led by Rory and Amelia. To sum it up, I got very acquainted with "The Devil's Arse". To visit Moss ~~cavern~~ chamber, where a previous OUCC caver had passed away, we had to crawl through a tunnel around 100m long. Elbows, knees, and arms were all aching if not on the way there, then on the way back. I felt slightly in danger while doing some of the rope climbing sections, as I was tired and cold after 3 hours in the cave. But being patient and with the coaching of Rory, each time I managed to find a foothold and stabilise myself. ~~I imagine~~ Imagining the mirror journey back from Moss, I & imagined I could relate to what it felt like for Moss to be trapped deep in a cave and exhausted. I had 3 ~~choccy~~ chocolate bars to warm myself on the trip back (1 Mars, 2 Caramel wafers).

-KEVIN





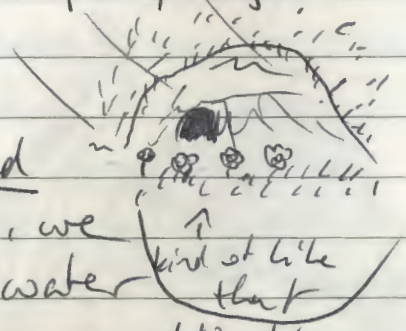
(25)

Giants- Chi Nguyen, Rosa Clements, Tom Stefan

We had a great & fast some really exciting & terrifying trip! On duty were:

- Experienced caver that hadn't caved for the last 1.5 years & didn't fit into his gear anymore - oops.
- Experienced caver still struggling with one of her feet from an accident with a ~~nicy~~ nice shiny new suit
- One person who's phobic of (cold) water which he revealed after we had driven to the ~~what tube tantalising~~ giant wind pipe containing ~~caves~~ cave
- One person terrified if she has to trust her own feet to not fall down 50cm on the way to the above — 20m - traverse (who changed in the hut, just to unchange again to get into the car... Novices)

Everything started nice and chill with none ~~of ex~~ of our adventurers - except for half of them - knowing what they were getting into. The entrance looked pretty enough!



We started our round trip down the latter! Instead of taking the empty, nice, prerigged dry ladder that was already there, we decided to rig another one right in the water fall and do that instead! While more caving groups (North Irish women?) were lining up behind us ~~That was nice~~ ~~That was one down~~ (That was when water-phobic had to start giving up staying dry)

We followed the streamway downwards where experienced caver 1 - who didn't fit into his gear anymore - had to make lots of interesting flat through the streamway manoeuvres to get through the tight spots while our 1.50m dwarf didn't notice ~~it was tight~~ anything.

It followed: Really wet iron ladder, swamp-peating, out-of-stream-way getting, lots of hand rope climbing, being happy about drying again until

we got to the bit with the giant wind pipe. Our water-phobe was in for quite some screams (~~last~~ ~~not to the~~

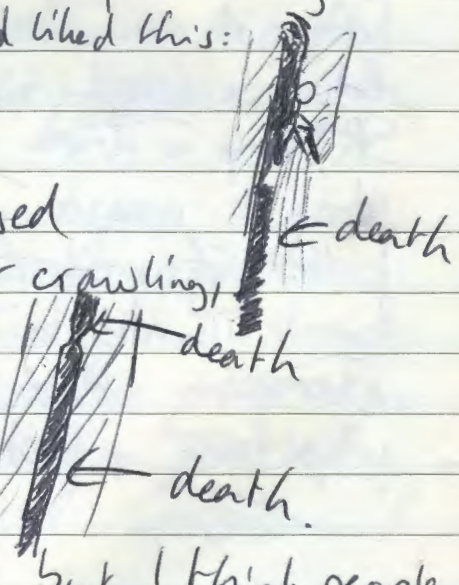
Quote: "I hate my life right about now" while ~~scared off~~ dwarf had to pretend to be super tough in order to make fun of him.

More ~~rope~~ hand rope climbing, more getting wet etc. until we got to the bit where you need to traverse over the stream-way. (~~10~~ 3 (15-30 meters high?)

TER~~R~~Y-FY-ING. (You can guess who wrote this)

So, yeah. ~~Not the top to know that's how you're so~~

It was a bit challenging. Lots of hand holding. Lots of wishing we had brought an SRT kit to go down to the streamway instead, to Some heavy breathing & shaking esp. at the part that looked like this: (~~right~~ a bit before the eye hole)



Well. we managed. Somebody promised there'd be an eye hole which is just crawling, but then instead looked like this:

It was ~~great~~. Afterwards, my memories are fuzzy because I zombied along (with lots of hand holding), but I think people had a blast on the streamway

So, back to the point with the ladders! This time taking the dry one. Some shivering, ~~fast~~ fast walking, changing ~~cl~~th in the wind by the car & that's concludes this thrilling adventure!

Giant's	Peak + SRT(?)	Nettle
· Roy SRT	· Rosa	· Nick
· Amelia SRT	· Tom	· Becca
· Dan	· Chi	~~· Dan~~
· Veronika		
· Vlad		
· Fiona		
· Dan today		

Oxlow

We took Chi to do SRT in Oxlow, which seemed like a useful step for someone who's so keen to do Titan after only having done Hunter's Hole. It was quite a deviation themed trip. Chi did very well, despite me having to threaten to tell the cautionary tale of my second SRT trip about not letting go of the rope with your right hand. It was nice to see the different views in Oxlow. I mostly carried the orange bag and we turned around just before it was about to be used. I think the moral of the story is that doing a lengthy SRT practice in the hut followed by quite a faffy SRT trip a drive away from the hut on a Sunday is it the best idea. It was an enjoyable trip but probably would have been better if we'd done it on Saturday and been able to do the whole thing. Thanks to Tom for rigging and derigging. Oxlow is an interesting mix of mine and natural cave. Beware of farmers who hang up dead moles from a fence like trophies.

SWCC Trip

Nick + Amelia	Jonathan + Rory	Rosa + Tom
• Vlad	• Steph	• Catalina
• ~~Aidan~~ Aline	• Carrie	• Fiona
	• Greta	

Today I went on my first caving trip. I was excited and nervous at the same time, especially nervous about being in a tight space. But it was all fine. We saw a lot of cool landmarks, like shattered pillar, the trident, the carrot. However, I still don't get how they don't get lost in there. I'm really grateful for the leaders I had because I felt in good hands every moment. It was certainly a great new thing to try and I love finding 'new' landscapes (Earth is a pretty interesting place, isn't it?).

- Catalina

We! Love! Caving!
↳ we did the longest ~~tour~~ trip of the weekend (Full shelf.) had an amazing time, but did almost kill JC. Thanks for a great weekend. (Steph)

I spent a long time/effort traversing, before I got wet enough to realise that this was good for fun but pointless for practicality. Maypole was really cool and twisty. I was squealing from excitement regularly through the trip.

Greta ♡

Caving is something I never ever thought I would find myself doing as I have a massive fear of heights and tight spaces! However, thanks to some persuasion from Steph and Rory, I am so glad and proud to have completed my first trip and enjoyed it so much more than I could've possibly expected. Thanks for pushing me out of my comfort zone, Carrie xxx

It was a fun trip. We did some interesting climbs, like speedy caver, but also some crawling and a little squeeze with water. We saw a lot of nice formation, more than in any cave I've been before. I especially liked the unnamed ones near the entrance. We saw the judge, which I found pretty funny, because it was just a blob that looked nothing like a judge. Nick also teached us to hate the hateful way.

Vlad.

Came back for a 3rd weekend! Yay! ☺
It was a challenging but absolutely amazing trip. We stayed for quite some time underground, saw some very nice chambers, stalagmites and ceilings. We changed plan several times, which allowed us to explore a bit. It feels so rewarding to see how afraid I was of tight spaces on my first trip and how fun caving is actually!

Aline.

Had an excellent introduction to route finding, I gather the general procedure is 1. identify feature (large, noticable, ~~not~~ easily identified) with a spicy label 2. remember forever. Saw nice formations. Did reasonably successful job helping people up climbs. No one slid to their peril on speedy caver, which was ideal. ~~Made Nick do the traverse~~ Persuaded Nick to do traverse he has avioded in the past. Solid stuff.

Amelia

ps. the twiglet-shaped formations were my fave.

We tried to get to the Northern Lights but loaded at the first wet crawl. The next things included:
- Hayabi's dig + all of the bad bits & digs
- Lugubrious
- Stellerite
- Presidents leap
- The hateful way
- Speedy crawl

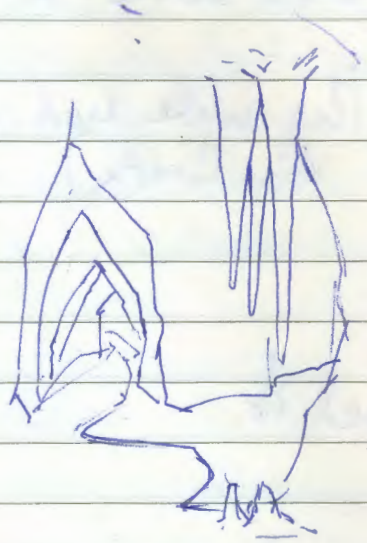
It was ok.. Nick. Vlad fell..

(Also I did presidents leap - so proud)

CWM DWR to OFD II tomorrow.

This was a Beautiful trip! Many extrodinary formations.

— Fiona. 7/.



Photography trip	Bedding chambers
Nick	Rory
Greba	Ametha
Carrie	Fiona
~~Steph~~	Vlad
	Rosa
Catalina	~~Tom~~
←	A Cire

(81)

Nich Cahlina Alice Steph Carrie Cretta

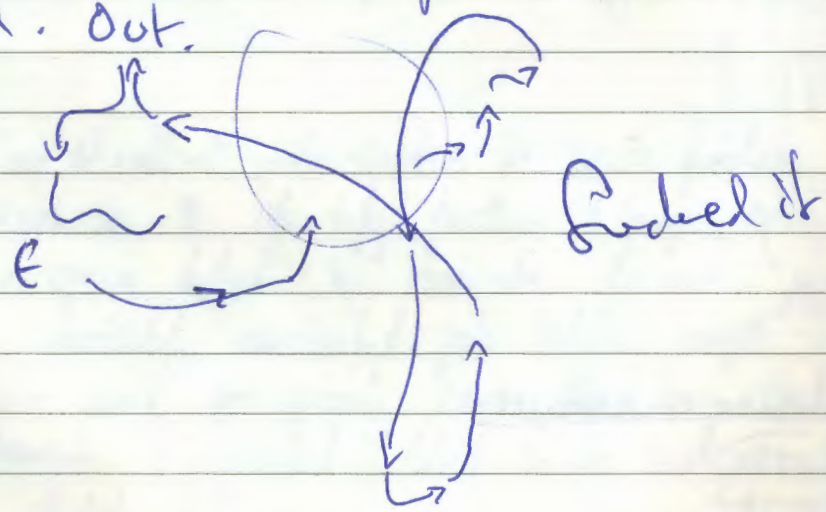
Non-photography trip.

Novices were seeking an easy, dry, non-crawly trip (except Steph) and photography seemed like a bad option.

Instead we took up a series of loops across OFD II.

1. Cairn Chamber via Big Chamber NTE & traverse;
2. Labyrinth to midway down Salubrious;
3. Upstream to Chasm passage;
4. Poached egg - dropped a knob and couldn't find it. Catalina needed a piss so we abandoned Nant Brath Series and instead went to:
5. Arête chamber via Tino's table
6. Up the corkscrew
7. Towards exit via White arch series & the muddy passages;
8. 4 of us went to the white mud chamber (Nich Steph Carrie & Cretta)

a. Out.



• Maze! —fiona. 7y.

well yeah. get used to it. lol

(83)

22/05/21 - CAVING IS BACK!!!

- trip to Mendip 2021, Trinity Term

Saran

- two trips in one day! First we did Goatchurch with a few funky detours. The weather was the best we've seen in weeks (but I still enjoyed spending it in a damp cave.) We also did Sidcot Swallet and made it down to the ducks. Had a bit of trouble with the climb back up the rope but Rory makes an excellent cave feature to put feet on. Very enjoyable first trip back with a lovely lunch! ☺



Steph

- What a lovely return to the underworld! kind of funny that the whole world is opening up post-pandemic, and we are crawling down away from it all into the ground. Really nice trip, beautiful caves - although I got stuck for the first time! The ducks down Sidcot were funny, and I really enjoyed Goatchurch.

Olaf

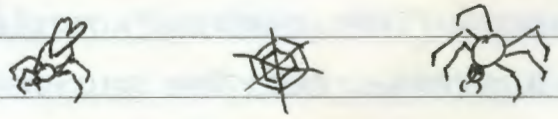
- My first ever trip today! First Goatchurch, which was a nice way to get used to being underground. The squeeze was a little scary, but the rest was fun.
Sidcot Swallet had a lot of squeezes, but they weren't scary anymore. Also had trouble escaping the shrine of the ducks, but Rory pulled me out in the end. I'll probably be going caving again! ☺

Barbara

- Awsome cave and my first trip! It was great to be able to get underground and I really enjoyed sliding down Goatchurch on my butt. Definately easier going down than coming back up, and on the way back I'm fairly certain I did more people-climbing than cave-climbing! Had a good time looking for fossils on the path and in the stream near Sidcot Swallet - found some crinoids, brachiopods and a coral. Great day, I really enjoyed it.

Sing 

- Honestly couldn't ask for more! Very refreshing and rewarding trip. It's my first time caving, and I immediately got in love with it. I especially love the uncertainty — you'll never know where you are crawling to (unless people tell you ☺)! Also this is so wholesome, crevasses, narrow gaps, riffs, rope climbing — everything (beginner level) is included, and I'm definitely up for another trip!
Tripmates are nice, views are splendid, caves are exciting
— what else to ask for??

Cezar 

It was hardly one of the best experiences I've had since coming to uni and I can't wait for future trips. The skin on my hands suffered tremendously, but it was a sacrifice I'd make again any time.

FUN: 9/10

NATURAL LIGHTNING: 0/10

SPIDERS: infinitely more than the /10 comfortable baseline

85

28/05/21 - TRIP TO PEAK DISTRICT

Mystery Cave creatures Seen Here, In Peak District

BY IZZY, CEZAR, VLAD & MABEL

PEAK DISTRICT, ~~APRIL~~ MAY 28 - VLAD, OF OXFORD CAVING CLUB, SAID THAT HE FEELS THAT THE CLUB HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETELY FRANK WITH THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE UNIDENTIFIED CAVE CREATURES.

VLAD MADE IT PLAIN THAT HE BELIEVES THAT SOME OF THESE STRANGE BEINGS CONSTITUTE SOMETHING REAL, SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE EXPLAINED AWAY AS FAMILIAR ENTITIES MISTAKENLY IDENTIFIED.

"THEY WERE DEFINETY NOT CROCODILES"

SAID TIM, ONE OF THE EYE WITNESSES OF THE RECENT SIGHTING, AFTER CONFIDING THAT OXFORD CAVE CLUB DOES HAVE PAST FORM IN SEEKING OUT THE ELUSIVE CAVE REPTILES.

"I SAW ONE OF THEM SLIP AND FALL INTO THE WATER; IT DIDN'T EVEN RESURFACE AFTERWARDS. I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EYES."

SAID MABEL.



A ROUGH SKETCH OF THE ENCOUNTER

"SOMETHING WHISPERED IN MY EARS: 'I'M THIRSTY.' I FELT COLD CHILLS DOWN MY SPINE. NOTHING HAS EVER TERRIFIED ME THE WAY THIS ENCOUNTER HAS."

SAID CEZAR, A SELF-DESCRIBED SURVIVOR OF THE TRIP, AITHOUGH AS HE WAS HYPOTHERMIC AT THE AT THE TIME WE AREN'T SURE HIS ACCOUNT CAN BE ENTIRELY TRUSTED. SO, LIKE THE ENTIRELY RELIABLE AND TRUTH-SEEKING NEWSPAPER WE ARE WE ASKED IF ANY OF THE OTHERS HAD HEARD IT SPEAK. FRANCIS, AN EXPERIENCED CAVER, HAD THIS TO SAY

"WHILE WAITING OUTSIDE THE CAVE, SOMETHING SNUCK UP BEHIND ME AND STARTED SEARCHING THROUGH MY BAG; HEARD IT MUTTER SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF 'COULD REALLY GO FOR A FOSTER'S RIGHT ABOUT NOW."

THESE SIGHTINGS ARE YET TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE AUTHORITIES. THERE IS SOMETHING RATHER PECULIAR ABOUT THIS RECENT JUMP IN THE NUMBER OF ALLEGED SPOTTINGS OF SO CALLED 'CAVE CREATURES.' WE HERE AT OUCC LOGBOOK PROMISE TO KEEP YOU POSTED!

P.S., One of us- VLAD- is worried about the actual lack of 'log' in our account, So, we went down Ps which was really fun and pretty (well by a first time caver's standards). We went down two ladders (one in a waterfall) got to the bottom (by a non-cave divers definition). Went back up. Had to straddle over a river - Izzy fell in - had to climb up the ladders - the one in the Waterfall Was hell!!! And then we made it back out, SUCCESS!

87

19/06/21 - Trip to Forest of Dean
Slaughter Stream /
Wet Sink

By Izzy, Cezar, Mabel

I: Cezar and I agreed to go in Tom's car. What a mistake! He drives as though he's playing a computer game ...

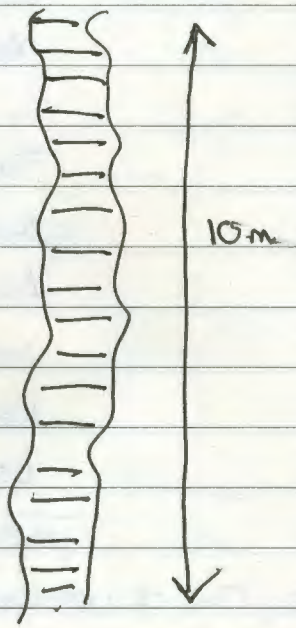
C: ... but the music was worth putting my life in danger for...

M: While, I tried to navigate the other car, the key word being tried :)

I: So, we were all at the cave entrance and then realised that Tom and Rosa weren't with us. Half an hour later they arrived...

C: And to clarify the cave was a 5 min walk from the car

M: While, they were waiting for Rosa & Tom, I went into the cave with Rory, Olaf, Charlie (who described himself as a first and last time caver), Georgie (who dragged Charlie along) and Graham. There were many fixed ladders and then two swinging ladders...



I: yes, those lovely ladders ...

C: Izzy bricked it when she saw them!

M: Meanwhile, We'd moved onto the crawl ... with Cezar's ole friends the Spideys and cockroaches...

C: Their presence was minimal though, so the cave was acceptable

M: And then there was water ...

C: Although that was acceptable too because it was only at hip level

I: But it was sewerage water!

C: Yeah couldn't drink it like last time

M: Eh I still tried some. So, we splashed about in the stream for a bit, saw dead dog bones...

I: ... apparently they're not prehistoric...

C: ... and there was also a pretty rain shower!

M: So, I'd had some chocolate down the cave and managed to get mud all over my face and then got slagged off by another group of cavers for not upholding Oxford standards!

C: Meanwhile, I'd found a kindred spirit ~~in Sophie~~ who didn't like water in Sophie

M: My group began heading back out and I got to lead! After ploughing through the water for a bit, we got back to a dry bit at which point Graham (Who'd ~~been~~ following me) informed me that we'd lost the others. We carried on regardless until we saw a bright light emerge out of the darkness...

C: That was us (me, Sophie, Rosa & Tom)! We told the others of Izzy's fate & that she'd bottled out in favour of a country walk with Steve.

I: Yeah I got ~~there~~ sneezed on by a ram!

M: We then heard Rory yelling for Graham and we continued onto the LADDERS

C: And we went down stream. I couldn't see the bottom of the water, so I kept hurting my ankles and grunting.

I: Nice...

M: So, by this point we'd reached the ladders and I was freaking out after watching Charlie making all sorts of inhuman noises climbing the ladder. Olaf offered me a cereal bar because comfort eating always helps. Later, I offered him a piece of rain soaked bread in return, which he ate for some reason...

I: Steve & I met the others at the cave entrance and we walked back to the cars. We were all chatting and then those ~~who~~ ~~with~~ who knew about caving began getting concerned about the other group. So, Rory and Graham went back down to see if they needed rescuing.

M: Izzy and I drew the logical conclusion that Cezar

had died from hypothermia and figured we'd be there a while, so, we went to the pub. C'est la vie!

C: What had actually happened was that Tom was charging through the cave, so that by the time we got to the ladder she was tired out. So, we were just chilling out.

I: But how were we meant to know that? Anyway 3 pints later (that most reliable measure of time), they came to get us.

M: And for some reason they'd still left the navigators seat in the car for me...

WALES WEEKEND 6TH-8TH AUGUST

Rosa Clements, Thomas Spriggs, Isobel Innes, Reuben Harding, Tulum Cruz, Fiona Zhang, Mabel Rice, Sophie Holland, Sharron Jin

CAVES VISITED: OGOFF FFINON DDU, AGEN ALLWED

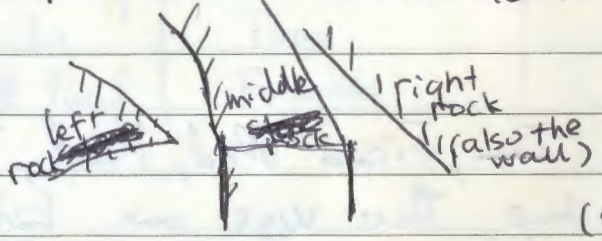
Devon weekend 3rd-5th September

Rosa (Clements), Thomas Spriggs, Ziyang Zheng, Sophie Holland, Isobel Innes, Fiona Zhang, Tulum Cruz

Ziyang Zheng, Sep. 4th — Baker's Pit

It was my first caving experience. I had no idea of what caving was, and I even told my friend that I was going on a vacation. It turned out to be far from my expectation of "vac". Every time we got back to some place we had been, my confidence and endurance were affected a bit. But thanks for everyone staying with me & cheering me up, I started to enjoy each obstacle we encountered.

The hardest part was that when we got back, we climbed a steep cliff with no rocks to hold (as follows)



(Sorry for poor drawing)

← Sophie fit through this squeeze! →

ö wow!

And I ended up stepping on Tulum & being pulled up by Fiona.

I was so grateful for standing on the ground again after spending nearly 5 hours underground. Phew!

Wales weekend 15th-17th ~~September~~ October

Rosa Clements, Tom Spriggs, Greg Horvath, Vlad Cătănea, Mabel Rice, Fiona Zhang, Emily Brannigan, Fenke Vulto, Nick Adams, Will Tuxson, Tomasz Pitrotz, Steve Roberts, Kelly Lee

~~Top entrance~~ to Top Waterfall

We went down Maypole Inlet. We took a ladder just in case. Going down was easy, until we got to the last climb down into the streamway. Surprisingly hard, and surprisingly I'd forgotten all about it. But we got into the streamway OK and had a fun splash around. A mysterious old rope appeared from the ceiling. No one had the kit or any desire to go up it. Top Waterfall was impressive. Getting up the first climb again was hard. The other climbs were not too bad - even Maypole Inlet itself somehow! Vlad and Mabel opted to use the ladder and that did not look like the easy choice. Then on the way back we saw the cave shrimps in the drinking pool. Top trip.

OFD 1 round trip - Rosa, ~~Tom~~, Fiona, Vlad, Mabel, Tomasz, Will

We had a fun round trip. There was one hard traverse where we had to secure ourselves with cowstails. I found it impossible to have a solid foothold / handhold without using the rope and even then, my arms did most of the work. On the way back we found the bouncy rock. We also found a mud slide. Mabel was keen to go swimming so we found a place with deeper water where she got all her kit off a swam in the very cold water. Impressive!

Vlad

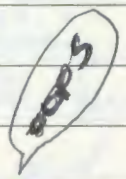
On Sunday we all went to OFD 1 and had fun with the elephants arsehole.



Wales weekend 29th - 31st October

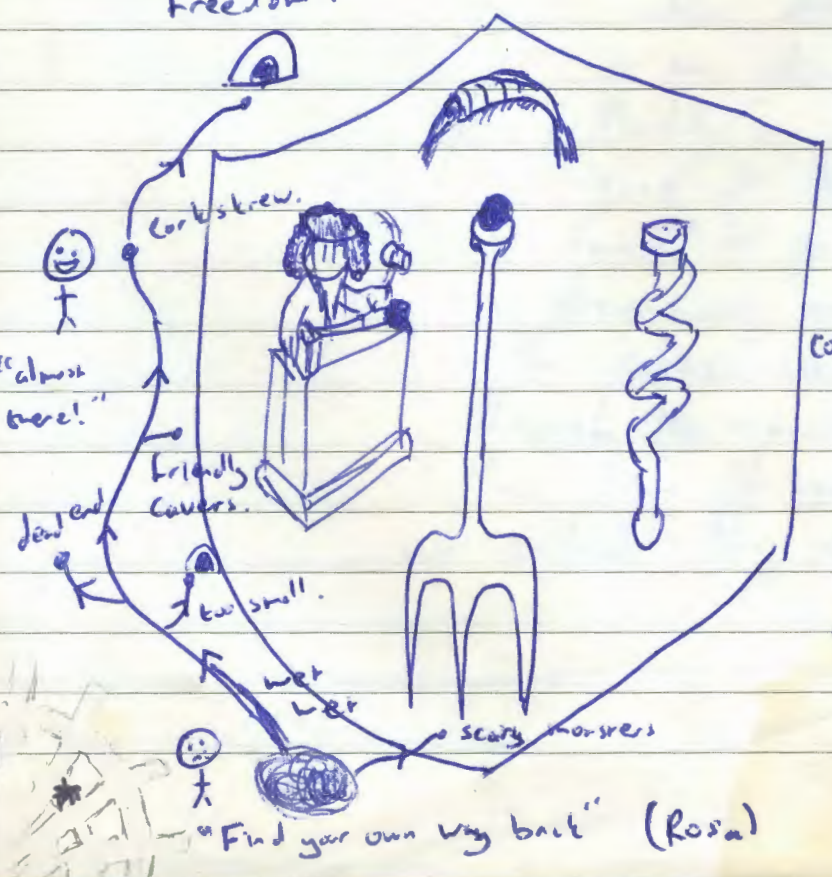
Rosa Clements, Maddy Tung
Tom Orton, Dyon
Judit Gulacsi, Shi Hao Foo
Brigitta Dorminto, Olaf Czarnecki
Isabel Ines, Mabel - conspicuous through her absence..
Thomas Spriggs, Paul Scarr, Alexander Heeres
Vlad Catanea
Alex Brandts

Paul fit through this squeeze!

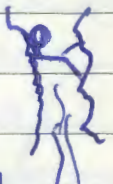


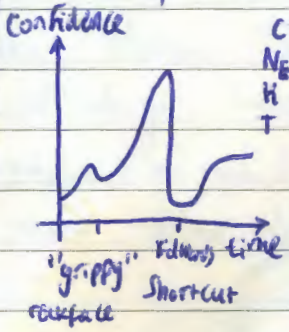
OFD round trip	OFD round trip	IC
Tom	Rosa	~~Rosy~~
Vlad	Izzy	Olaf
Maddy	Dyon	~~Paul~~
Judit	Shi Hao	Alex
Alexander	Tom	
~~Paul~~	Brigitta	





7hrs in the cave on a first trip!! Great climby bits, nobody got stuck in the squeezy bits, a few fun slidy bits :) :) !! -Maddy

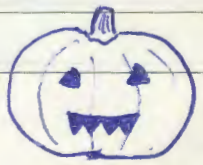




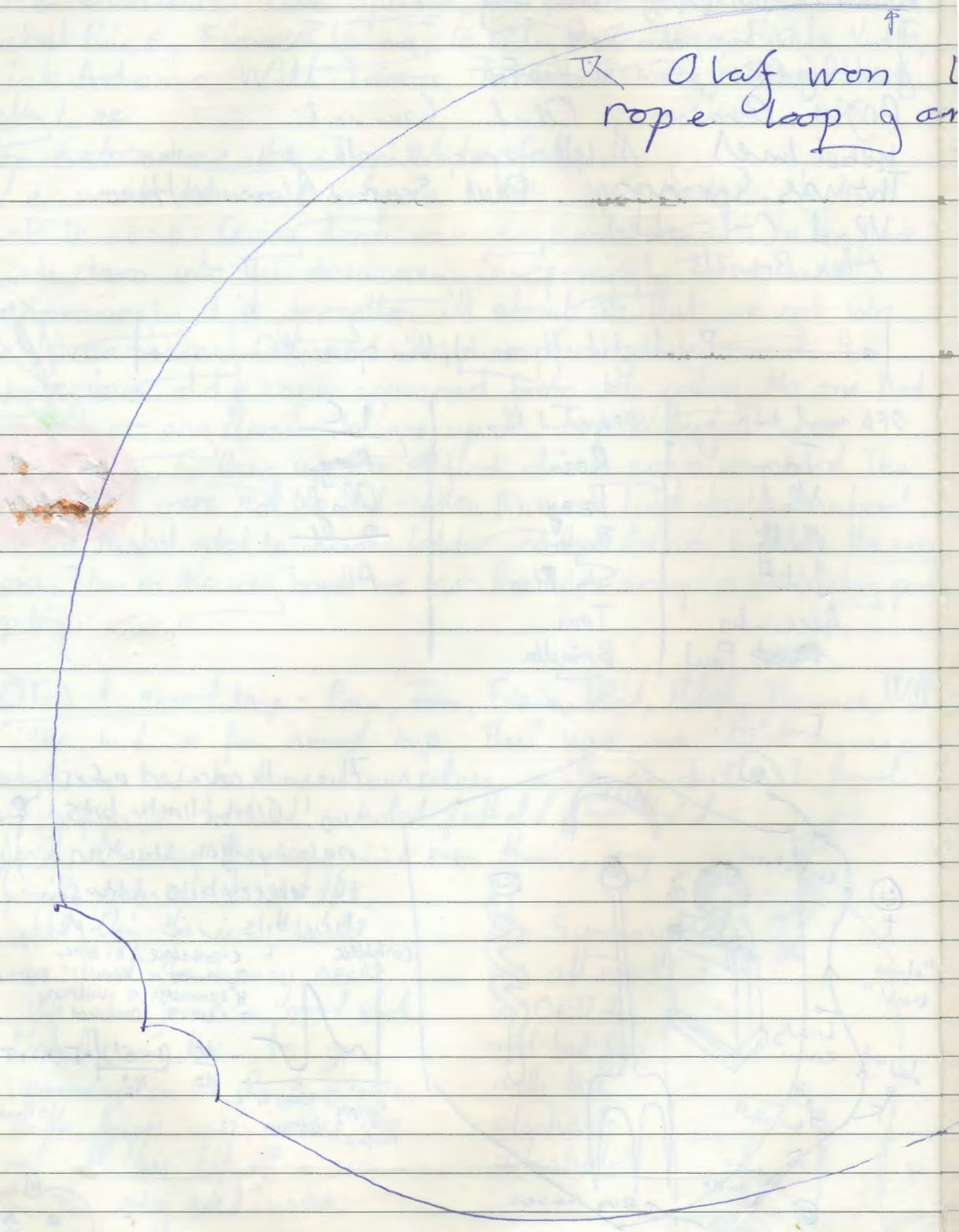
C = confidence, t = time,
N_E = Number of Edwards' shortcuts
K = Knowledge of location
T = time spent

$$\frac{dC}{dt} = \frac{(1-e^{-t})}{N_E^2}\left[+T(K)+T^2\frac{1}{N_E}\right]$$

-Paul



(a3)

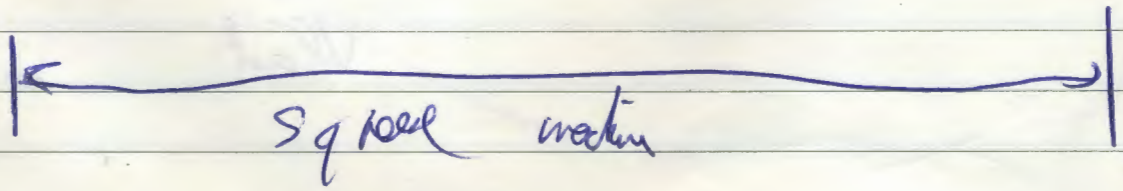


There were very keen freshers on this trip! We did a 7h trip - first Tom showed us a round trip near the entrance, which ended up in Gnome Passage instead. From there, using a survey from my packet, I managed to navigate to the wedding cake, trident, judge, and then the cross rift. Then people were keen to do some exploring in the midnight passage. We turned back after all ways seemed to end in pitches. We decided to go to Edwards shortcut at which point Tom took back the lead. I was quite proud of some successfull navigation, considering how terrible I normally am at cave navigation. Paul found Edward's shortcut a bit difficult but everyone else did fine. I also found the 2 m climb at the end quite scary. Maddy on the other hand was very good at climbing. After this, we tried to go upstream through ~~fabulous~~ streamway and somehow ended back at the corkscrew. Then Tom took us through the round trip near the entrance (this time it was a round trip too!). When we exited, the sun was just setting.

Vlad

(45) The SWCC Imperial VS Oxford VS Cambridge Varsity Competition!!!

Game	OUCC	ICCC	CUCC
Squeeze Machine		1st 2nd	2nd
Pan + Sling	1st	1st	
Cereal box game	1st	1st	
Sock Wrestling			
Table Traverse	1st	1st	
Human Traverse (Both ways)			
Scoop through the loop			
Pumpkin		1st	



Pumpkin Contest

1C	OUCC	CUCC
1st		
2nd		
3rd		
4th		
5th		
6th		

Table tennis

	OUCC	CUCC	ICCC
R	13522		

Sunday caving	Maybe	Sunday not caving
Rosa	Tom S	~~Alex~~
~~Tony~~	Olaf	Tom O
Vlad	~~Rory~~	Brigitta
Dyon	~~Ben~~	Judit
Shi Hao		~~IZ~~
~~Rory~~ Alexander → Muddy, Rory, Paul		Jan

OUCC

5 ~~6~~ x non-leader caves

6 x ICC non-leader caves

4pm ETB

~~T1~~	T2 → Swamp Creek + Arch	T3 →	T4	~~T8~~
~~Matti~~ + Vlad	Ana + Diss	Jennifer + Fiona	~~Ben~~ + Jan	Rosa
~~OFD2~~	OFD2	OFD2	Rosa	
	Vlad	Dyon	Linas	
	~~Phillip~~ →	Shi Hao	Alexander	
	Tairan		Paul	

Especially short trip

TOM + IZ

T6 → Moonlight chamber → Round OFD2

Rory + Anita + Keiran + Matti + Muddy

(17)

OFD - Vlad, Jennifer (ICCC), Fiona (ICCC), ~~Phillip~~ Phillip (ex ICCC)

We only did a short Sunday trip looking around near the Chamber near the entrance. It was nice meeting some Imperial people though.

Vlad

Mendip weekend 5th - 7th November 2021

Rosa Clements, MATILDE MAARDALEN, HÅVARD HEM TOFTEVAAG
Samuel Mayer, Tianyi (Tiger) Guo, IRENE TORREGGIANI (IT)
Su Xijia, Fan Xilin, Steve Roberts, Vlad Cătănuș, MÁTÉ SOÓS
Sophia Ungermann, Fiona.

Trip planning

Matilde
Tiger
Håvard

Samuel
Sophia

Eastwater

Rosa
Vlad
Sophia
Máté
Xilin

Swildons sump!

Steve
Perry
Tiger
~~Xijia~~
Matilde
Håvard

Swildons Top

Tom
Fiona
Irene
Samuel
Xijia

Early	Late
Sophia	Mate
Matilda	Vlad
Håvard	Rosa
Sam	~~Fiona~~
	Xilin
	Xijia

Eastwater	Swildons
Håvard	Xilin
Matilde	Máté
Xijia	~~Xijia~~
Rosa	Vlad
Fiona	Tom

99

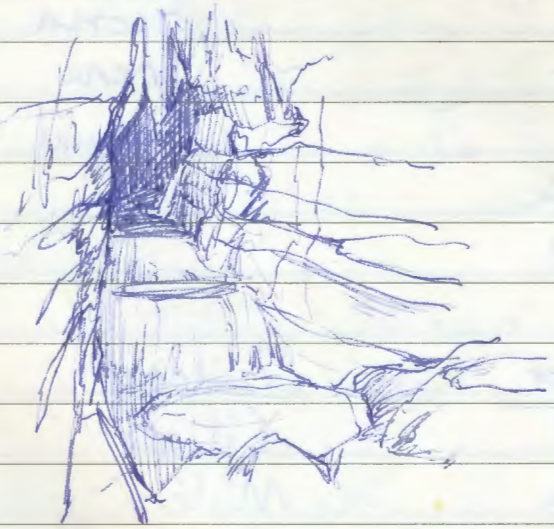
Swiddens hole - to snap 1.e back

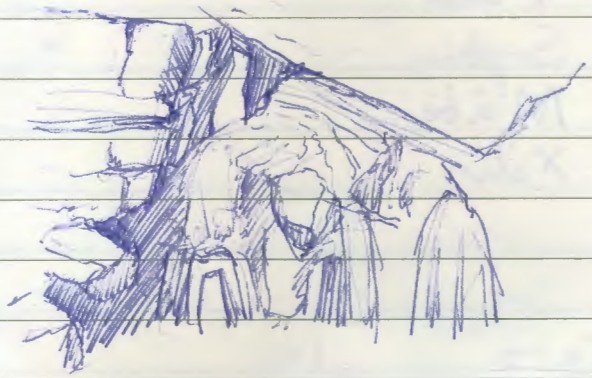
Steve Roberts, Perry (CCCC), Tiger, Mathilde, Håvard

A very pleased amble; down the wet way, back up the ~~stem~~ short drop. It's been so long since I've done below the 20' that bits of it felt like ~~a~~ a new cave. No probs with the climbs; a decent quantity of water. Perry, Tiger & Håvard did the sump & back. I decided that ~~for~~ I could do without the time & M. wisely decided to stay warm. A quick diversion to Tvatt Temple to add a bit of spice to the trip.

A grand day out!

Steve





Eastwater

Sophia, Rosa, Vlad, Xilin, Máté

Trip was approx. 30% traversing, 30% climbing down, 30% climbing up and 10% getting lost. We wee three (kinda) new cavers plus two amazing seniors who led the way! Dolphin pot doesn't really look like a dolphin. As a climber I was not used to my holds being as muddy as they were. Panicked once but never got cold!
Love to my amazing group! ♡
Sophia

Very interesting entrance, after some quite big spaces last trips, it was nice to go through tight spaces again. Sophia got quite scared on a squeezy traverse, and she had to come back, but then we found out that was the wrong route anyway. After this we did some fun caving until we got to what we think is Dolphin pot. That was a fairly difficult climb for me, but I did it with Rosa's help. We then climbed down a ladder and made an ~~unsuccesuff~~ unsuccessfull attempt to find Thirteen Pots. We started going back as time was an issue. The freshers took the ladder very well, with no difficulties. After I made a horrible ladder coil, we had to go back Dolphin pot. Rosa went first with a rope on which we later attached our big tacklebag so she can pull it up from the top of the climb. As the second, I had to stay last and help the others. After I helped Sophia I fell. No injuries as I landed well from a small height, but it got me a bit scared, which became worse as I had to do the climb with nobody helping from below. It was a frightening experience, but now I am a bit more confident in my climbing abilities. Return was uneventful, Sophia ran ahead after we got out the cave and got to the hut 2 min before callout!

Vlad

101

It was a super interesting cavy experience for a first timer like me. I wasn't expecty this level of bouldery and climbing but definitely loved it. The narrow traverse was quite difficult for me and I almost got stuck. Thanks to Maté's help I managed to squeeze my self out. We kinda lost our way at some point (which was not the correct way) Rosa and I forced ourselves past a very narrow place, while Maté, Sophia and Vlad stayed behind. Rosa and I had to travel a circular route back to before the narrow part to meet the rest (we couldn't travel back through the original route because it was too narrow. But everything turned out fine! The climb down dolphin pot and the ladder thig were both super exciting. Took some pics & with my gopro and hopefully they are good!

Xilin

Mendip Swildon upper series

Xilin Fan Vlad Máté Tom

A wetter trip than I expected. We went in through the dry way and went out throught the wet way. The wet way is deserves its name, We were climbing inside an underground river. The climbs up the water fall was especially difficult for me and thanks to Tom's help I was able to get up the rock. Maybe because of the underground rivers, the rock formations in Swildons are much more diverse than that of eastwater. They are really pretty and I took lots of pictures. Luckily it wasn't too cold despite the wetness. Looking for wards to the next trip ☺

Xilin

East water –

Fantastic trip for me as a first-timer! Lots of thrill when we tried to figure a way through the traverse section. For me, getting stuck there was thoroughly challenging – but the help from Rosa and Haavard was able to get me forward.

Really enjoy the darkness beneath the surface and the re-boost after

coming back to the surface again: rewarding risk-taking and great experiences of teamwork and trust.

Xijia.

(103)

CHECC Yorkshire Dales Weekend 27-28 November 2022

☆ Sarah Vlad Chris Cezar Fiona Mabel Zeus Olaf Maté

This marks my very first caving trip and it has been nothing less than an adventure. Arriving at 7pm to the hut, we had buttered potatoes. With Chris' instruction, we set up tent on the North Wall in -3°C. Being the newest member, I was given the only bunk bed that the 10 of us had. Then, it came time for caving games, from table traversing (which I tried!) to SRT wrestling. Our very own Tom DJed with the finest Eurobeat until 3am.

The following morning, we headed into the snowscape. Our original routes were hard to drive up to and we headed to the Long Churn instead! True to its name, the cavern system famous for the Cheese Press had my tightest squeeze. On top of that, there were a waterfall for SRT, multiple circular paths with 3 exits. The bravest must have been us bringing an (my) iPhone 11 Pro in. Props to Fiona and Cezar for accompanying me, Rosa for guiding, Vlad for the gear and Sarah for making it happen!

Sincerely,

Zeus Cha.

Freezing cold!

Vlad

North Wales 21/01/22 - 23/01/22

Vlad Catanese, Fiona Zhang, Rosa Clements, Mabel, Krishnakanth, Raheema, Alexander, Harvey, Thomas Spriggs, Irene, Kelly, Clarissa

One person brought 2 left wellies from the hut and one person brought 2 right wellies. Luckily they were the same size...

Trip 1

Tom
Harvey
Mabel
Alexander
Irene
Raheema

Trip 2

Rosa
Vlad
Fiona
Kelly
Krish
Clarissa

We got lost finding the entrance and took an extra 2h. We were extremely slow with so many beginners. We struggled a lot to find the exit, and in the end cave rescue found us and got us out. A 12.5h fresher's trip. On the other hand, the cave was fun, and I really enjoyed the canoe.

Vlad



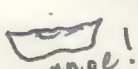
It was my first ever caving trip - until now I've only ever been in show caves before. It was incredibly beautiful with so many clear lakes of water - some were so deep yet you could still see right to the bottom. First there was a scramble with traverse lines which I found quite intimidating having never scrambled before. Next, an abseil which was straightforward followed by an abseil that had a diversion in it where you had to abseil a portion with the rope to the left of you and then reclip the diversion Karabiner which was more challenging.

After that, there were a series of interesting obstacles to cross caverns and lakes. First a Zipwire over a lake which was really fun, and then a wobbly ladder across a lake that was such an unbelievably bright blue in colour. Next a few more nerve-wracking traverses - one across a broken bridge, one around the walls of a cave, and lastly one across a single wire which really challenged our balance. At last, we arrived at our final abseil pitch in which we descended into a canoe! I'm very thankful for Vlad bailing water from the canoe as I abseiled (slowly) and we crossed a lake by pulling on ropes and steering with an oar to return to the dry ground. Next was a tough scramble (for me at least!) to the ascending pitch which required leg strength I was already running out of at that point. Many thanks to Krish and Fiona for helping me undo my chest jammer which had gotten stuck as my hand jammer got too close to the knot.

At this point, things started to go awry - earlier (when both teams were at the zipwire) we realised that we were not going to make our call out time of 9pm so Tom, Alexander, and Mabel went ahead as a separate team to reach the hut before call out. The guide of the cave also went with them so the rest of the team in the cave now had to navigate out without a guide. We managed to make our way to the turntable before losing our way. Rosa, Krish, and Fiona explored many routes only to be met with dead ends - the rest of us huddled together and tried to stay warm, awake, and in good spirits. By the 18 hour mark, cave rescue finally arrived - bringing with them snacks and hot juice which was very needed! They led us out to the Khazyd adit in an hour and we emerged from the cave at 06:30 in the faintest daylight.

Overall, an amazing experience with such wonderful team mates < I owe everyone so much gratitude for helping me through! Hopefully, I shall go caving again soon 😊

- Clarissa

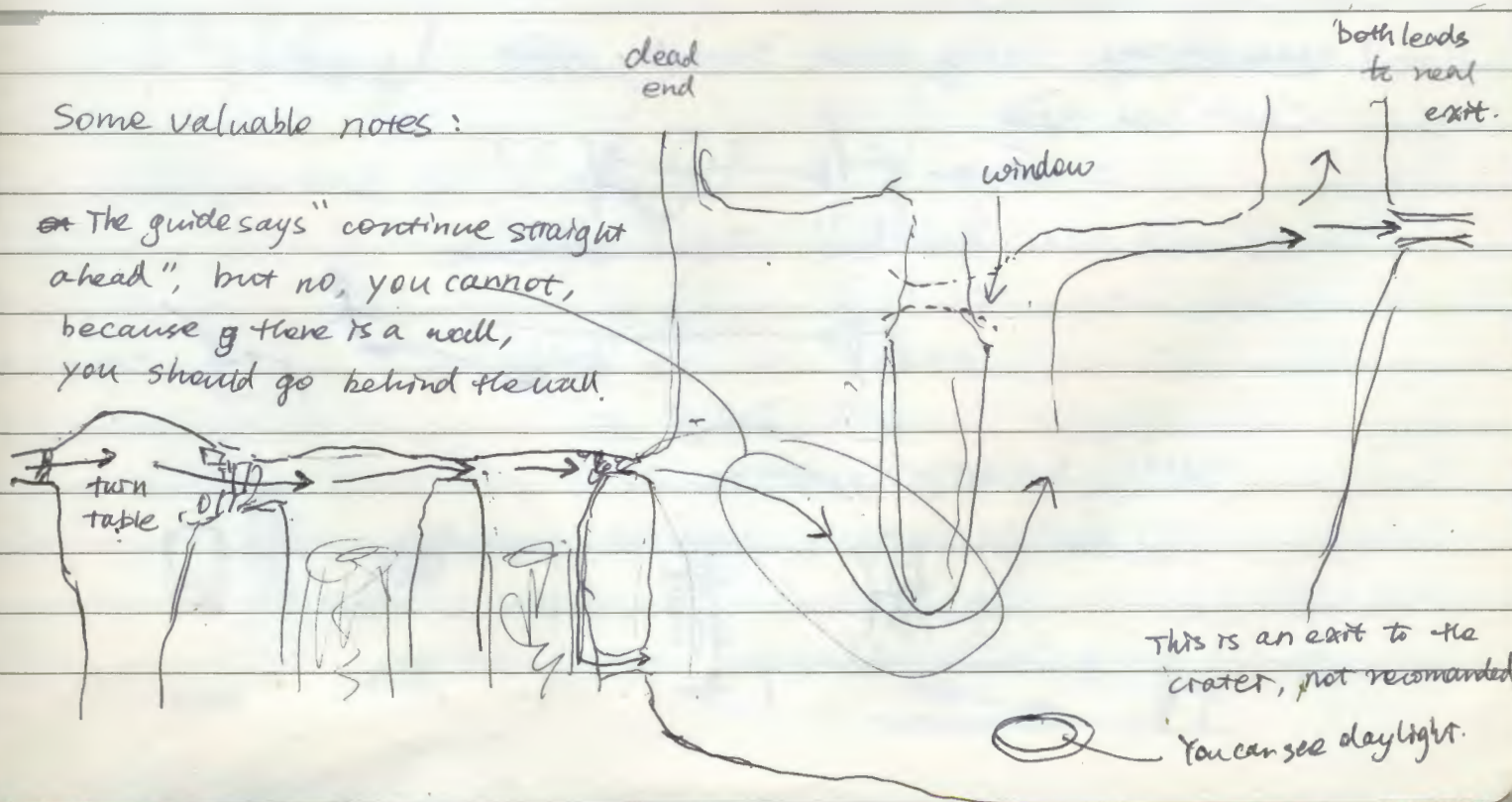


First ever caving experience - honestly didn't know what to expect. Turned out to be my scariest yet coolest experience. Couldn't quite believe some of the abseils + obstacles we had to do - honestly found them super stressful + challenging but so glad to say 'I've done them now'! Cheers to my team mates / leaders for really showing me the ropes! Was in awe of the whole mining cave - such an incredible creation - and it was so fascinating seeing the remains of train tracks + turn tables, honestly intrigued to research its history now. I'm so glad Rosa allowed 'complete beginners' to come on this trip, (tho it did slow us all down) because I've honestly had such an out-of-ordinary weekend + can't wait to go back to tell family / friends all the stories! Also was so lovely meeting new people + also (over) hearing Harvey's caving stories whilst lost in the cave - ended up leaving at ~6am ö since we couldn't find the exit! What an adventure - still can't believe it all happened but am so grateful to have had the chance to cave such technical obstacles on my first trip. Would love to come back for a more relaxing trip in the summer + to experience the whole caving ~~com~~ team-spirit once again. Overall, definitely a trip to remember ü

Raheema 23/1/22

Some valuable notes:

~~Or~~ The guide says "continue straight ahead", but no, you cannot, because there is a wall, you should go behind the wall.



South Wales - 4.02.2022 - 6.02.2022

Vlad Catanea, Steve Roberts, Yigishi, Benoit Casseau, Máté Soós, Ștefan Mondache, Arthur Roberts, Vlad Tocaman, Fiona Zhang, Ștefan Ewscu, Rosa clements.

Saw a bat today! (my first time) - Vic



sleeping bats, shrimps, crawly bits
and wet wellies
not bad for the 1st time
of caving, quite easy really
- Stefan M.

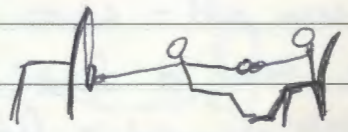
like this adj



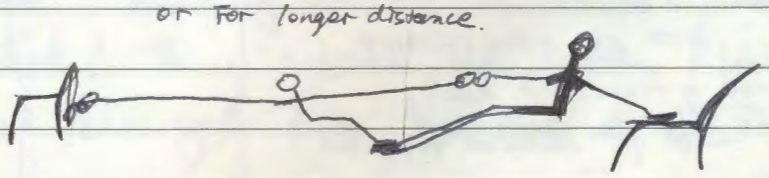
~~Chair carving~~ Caving game Saturday night :)

'Chair and sling

2. reach out.



or for longer distance.



rules: 1. starting position.



side



front



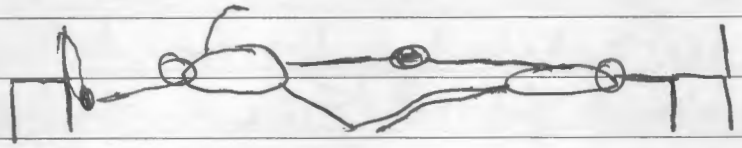
above.



below.

Record chain end sling:

- 9.[redacted] book rotations (long side) Vlad + Vlad



- 9.75 lbs [redacted] + Stefan

Side technique

100 lbs — " —

" — —

10.5 lbs Fiona + Vlad T.

11 and an edge Fiona + Vlad T.

Tightened sling

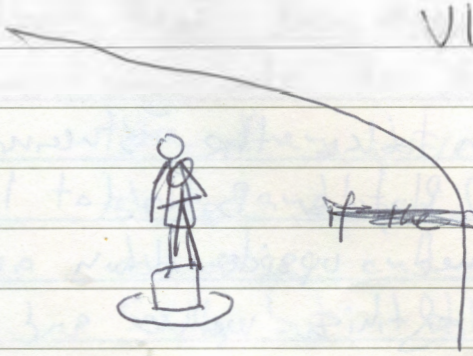
the new dream team ☺

Winners: Vlad C. + Vic

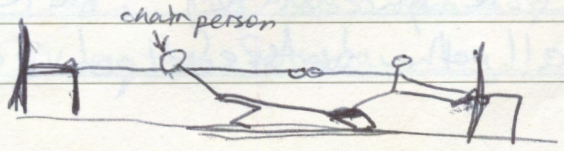
9.75 logbook rotations

Vlad T. + Fiona

9.75 lbs



~~If the~~ For tightened sling, do this:



Saturday:

We splitted into two teams: 1. Steve, Vlad C., Yiqi Shi, Benoit, Stefan and Arthur; 2. Rosa, Fiona, Mate, Stefan and Vlad T. The second team, led by Fiona with some help from Rosa, started from OFD 1 and, on the way to the step, Mate crawled through a small shortcut. From the step we continued up the stream and at some point we exit the stream and found a small ladder. At that point we deviated by continuing going further than where the ladder was. At the end of that passage we squeezed through a boulder choke at the end of which we found a nice diving spot. Going back we took the ladder up and continued climbing there. On our second chocolate brake — near the end of the ascent, we turned our lights off for a couple minutes. At the volly polly we stopped and took pictures: 1st of the second, left the camera, second of the third and left the camera and so on. The elephant asshole was really fun and there Fiona started questioning whether she is fit to explain how to slide there - she did a great job, it was probably just me not being impetient to give it a try. After that we took a wrong right turn and squeezed through a tall and very narrow passage until Fiona was said it's getting too narrow even for her. We turned back and found the correct way. Slided both face first and feet first for a while. We then got back at the junction where we came from. Then took the stream down and swam through Pluto's Bath (at least Vlad and Mate). Mate turned upside down and all the water poured out of his wellies and suit

through the neck opening and wellies. We also had a traverse (with eagle) at some point - I forgot about it. For the first caving experience, me and Mate were really happy with how much we've done!

Back at the hut we had dinner and then saw the Kent University cave club playing chair and sling. Because of the Oxford complex - always to prove we're the best, we started playing a game against them: Vlad + Vlad, Stefan + Stefan and Vic + Fiona. We started easy and at some point they left for supper. Of course we moved the chair a full meter back and started "researching" and "experimenting" different techniques. The best team by far - unbiased writing here, was Vlad T. + Fiona which was also the most innovative team. We managed to do a full 11 leghack rotations - about 3.4 meters. When the Kent Uni people came back, they seemed quite afraid to compete against us. We made new teams by order of height - tallest with shortest and so on. Again I was with Fiona, Vlad C. with Vic, Stefan with Mate and Stefan with a Kent guy. Me and Fiona showed off for the first couple of rounds but unfortunately lost in the penultimate game. Vlad + Vic won the competition followed by two Kent Uni guys. Me and Fiona then tryed a new theniques and easily got the crab out at the ~~furthest~~ furthest distance - could probably have done about 30 cm further with that technique.

We then played a bunch of other games like the sling and pan (Vlad + Vlad winners against Vic + Fiona), human traverse and cereal box. This was probably on ~~Sunday~~ Sunday but it still goes into the Saturday log.

·Vlad 2nd

Unfinished writeup - completely

(11)

It was a really fun trip with 7 hrs of caving. Got wet on Sunday but was totally worth it. Really enjoyed the wire traverse & the sliding. Steve and Rosa are good and nice leaders (Vlad as well) and I wish to go caving with them in the future.

The sky was so pretty when we came out the cave - the only similar place I could find in Oxford is Port Meadow, but that's just petite in comparison with the meadow here in South Wales.

No scary or claustrophobic moments at all this weekend. felt like I got a step closer to the heart of the Earth and myself too.

VIC

First time leading. All went well. People were very competent. Went to shatter pillar and back.

- Vlad

XETUL PKOW HGCVEPI LKQ! YWHN, TGQIJAU.
GZHHQTWZ PGO LCUKWIGK (HGHL)

- BKQFW

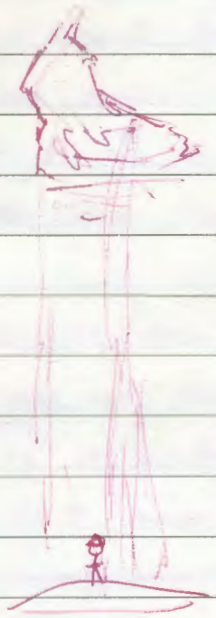
SWCC

YORKSHIRE WEEKEND 04/03/22 - 06/03/22

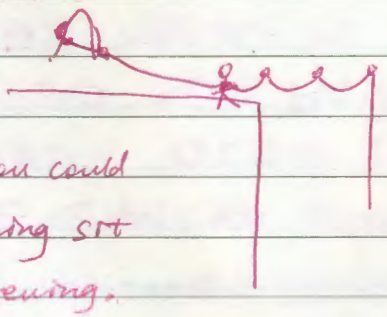
Rosa Clements, Tom Spriggs, Vlad Cătănea, Fiona Zhang, Máté Soós, Vlad Turcuman Avelina Kuenzel

Saturday:	Bar Pot	Flood Pot
	Avelina	Rosa
	Vlad.T	Tom
	Máté	Fiona
		Vlad.C

	Dolly Tubs	NorthWest route
Sunday.	Tom	Rosa
Alum Pot	Fiona	Vlad.C
	Vlad.T	Máté



Dolly Tubs was very crowded that day, we spent quite a lot of time waiting for other people to climb up the pit. While waiting Tom taught me rigging, it was fun. To making things faster. Tom did the rigging for the second pitch.



There was a giant opening, you could see the sky and other cavers doing SRT on the other side of the opening.

We saw Rosa's team ascending up the pitch, and took some wonderful photos of them.

— Fiona.

(13) 12th March — 13th March

Swildon (Mendip) Weekend

Fiona, Vlad.T, Vlad.C — swildon ~~to Sump~~ Sump I
(+Steve as driver. Thanks!)

The group was just us three (Vlad x2 + Fiona), so ~~we~~ it was quite fast. ~~to~~ We made ~~to~~ it ~~to~~ Sump I in like 2 hours, ~~but~~ climbed a ladder on our way. Everyone did well. I was the first to go down the ladder, Vlad.C ~~rebi~~ rebelayed ~~to~~ me, and ~~we~~ I did the same for him when he came down (~~we~~ using another ~~tech~~ technique, sorry I forget its name). The ladder was right next to a waterfall, so we all got showered.
We went through some slightly tricky climb. (great fun!) arrived at the end of Sump I at around 1pm. This was where the fun begins!
~~On the~~ It seems there ~~was~~ is no where to go but actually ~~there is~~ all we need to do is to swim through a short underwater tunnel. (8 seconds) (turned out you ~~don't really~~ need to hold your breath for like ~~10~~.

My first attempt was to reach out with my hand and see if I can feel the air on the other side, (well ~~its~~ it was ~~not~~ further than I expected.) Vlad.T offered to go first. (bravo!) ~~The signal to~~ He would send a "safty signal" once he made it by pulling the guide line 3 times. ~~Honestly, me I was~~ ~~little~~ slightly worried ~~seeing haven't~~ I ~~to~~ The water was very cold. It took me ~~to~~ 10 minutes to make the ~~fin~~ desi decision of diving. I don't like burying my head in cold water, ~~some~~ especially when water stuck in my ears after I resurfaced. ᒣᒪ ᓂᐯᒣᐯᒣᐱᐯ ᕆᑐᓂᑐᒧᒍ. I was the second to go in. followed by Vlad.C. ᕆᑕᑕᒪ ᐁᐯᒣᐱᐯ. ᑐᐯᒣ ᕀᕆᕘᐯᒣ ᓭᑐᒪ ᒣᐯᓭᒣᐯᒣᕆᓭᒪ ᐁ ᕘᒣᕆᓂ ᓭᕀᕀᐯᒣ ᐱᕆᑐᒣᐯᒣ ᐱᑐᒍᒍᑐ, ᐱᑐᓂᐁᐦᐦ = ᒍᒪᐱᐯᒣᒪᐁ!
ᘐ ᔑᕀᐅᐁᑐ ᕁᐁᐃᐧᐁᐁᒥᐁ ~~Vlad~~ Vlad.T ᑭᐧᘐᑭᑐ ᕀ ᑐᒧᘐᘐᒥᑭᑐ ᑐᐧᘐᐅᐁ ᑐᐃ ᐅᕆᒍᐧᐅᒣ. (Bravo again)

[illegible] Miraculous!

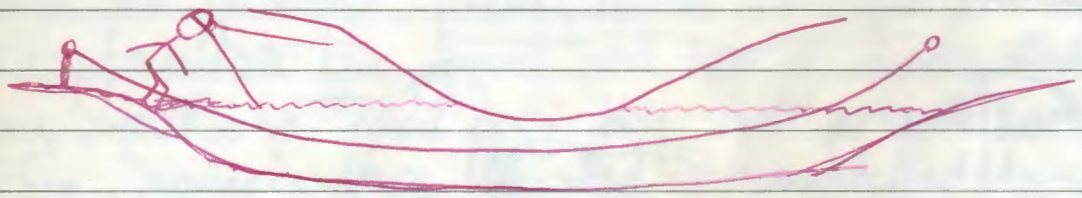
we got out the cave at around 3 pm. just in time! I got my own SRT kit from Tony. Yay!

Also, one more thing...

TSGNI [redacted] EHT ESU ELI! hahaha. Oh. They exist for a reason ya know

—Ainfo

Good trip anyway



MENDIP. 15th - 17th Apr.

Rosa Clements, Vlad Cătănea, Vlad Turcuman, Kelly Lee Frances Pope, Fiona Zhang, Rory Rose, Phil Rose, Alexander Heeres, Liv Farrar

Saturday

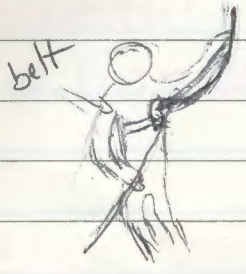
~~Swildons~~	GB
Phil	Rosa
Liv	Vlad T
Rory	Vlad C
~~Kelly~~	Fiona
Alexander	Frances

After GB



Italian hitch. (very useful. used it in a GB twice).





We also saw some bats! → 

Friday Hunters Hole

On Friday we faffed a lot as we thought it would be easy to get a GB permit and then it was not. We did get some SRT practice in (mostly Vlad T faffing with prussik knots). Eventually we decided to go to Hunters Hole so we did actually get underground. In the pub car park we met Steve and Arthur! They were coincidentally in the Mendips on the way back from relatives. We got underground! Vlad C did the rigging and did a good job of it. Although neither of us could figure out where the deviations were meant to go so we opted for the Sago Pot route instead. Luckily the rigging guide had given rope lengths quite a lot in excess of what was needed so there was plenty of rope for any route.

At the bottom we had a good explore both up and down the passage, pretty much everywhere except Gas Alley. We found a big fossil and lots of mud. ~~[illegible]~~ On the way up Fiona tried prussiking with prussik knots and discovered why jammers were invented. She switched back to jammers halfway up. Vlad T derigged and had no problems at all. We walked back in the sunshine.

Saturday GB

It's a long time since I've done GB, never mind the Devils Elbow route. It was good to get chance to do that again. There was a lot more to Devils elbow than I remembered, and it featured two bits where we had to abseil with Italian hitches on belts (one pull through, one fixed rope). I'm glad we didn't try it on the way out! We also had a bit. He did it very effectively. The duck was nowhere near as bad as I remembered, just a crawl through a puddle really. Then we saw Bat Passage which was very beautiful indeed. A shame the waterfall wasn't climbable so we couldn't do the round trip, but a great trip all the same.

Vlad T rigged the ladder, after I copped out of rhumba alley detour!

YORKSHIRE WEEKEND 06/05/22-08/05/22

Vlad Cabarea, Rory Rose, Mabe Soos, Alexander Heeres, Xilin Fan, Rosa Clements

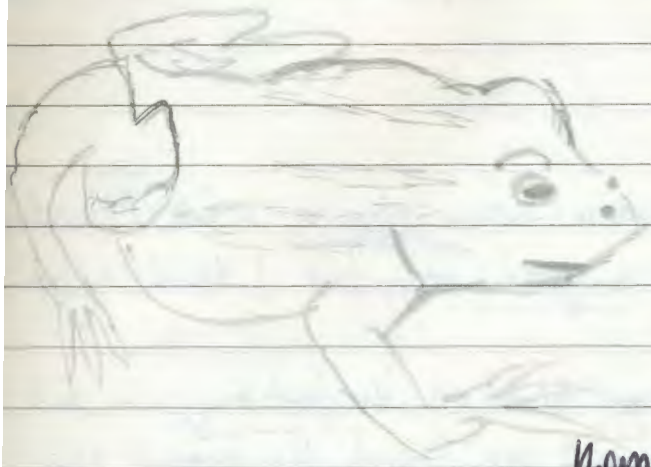
Pool Sink

We went to Pool Sink so Vlad could learn some rigging while Alexander and Xilin learnt some SRT. It wasn't a speedy trip but I think a fair bit of learning happened.

After the SRT, we found the streamway. Not on the first try we did have a particularly muppetish episode where we found the wrong way then all four of got the way we hadn't tried confused with the way we'd come and went right back to the bottom of the pitch. Second time lucky....

We were getting somewhat close to our callout and slightly embarrassed to see Rory coming to meet us having done a ~~[illegible]~~ much harder trip in less time. We would have got back on time really.

SLAUGHTER STREAM / WET SINK (DAY TRIP - 21/5/22)



Izzy Innes, Tom Shaw, Rosa clements, Arthur, Laura, Benoit, Matthew, Tulum Cruz, Rahima, Alexander.

we found a toad! & lots of bugs ^_^ good for a toad, not for us!

3 beginners on this trip, all of them did very well!

Tom's group (arthur, tulum, rahima & alexander) completed the round trip of the cave, using instructions from some local cave rescue (on a casual trip) members we bumped into at the bottom of the pitches.

Rosa's group (Izzy, Laura, matthew, benoit) potted around the streamway & explored some side passages, before turning back & pushing up to the entrance again.

All groups exited the cave by 9:30 pm, callout was at 10 so just as well! (sorry for worrying you, Rory ;))

WALES WEEKEND 27/05/22 - 28/05/22

Rory Rose, Tom Spriggs, Rosa Clements, Alexander Heeres, Ametha Steane, Steph Dudenberg, Maddy Torreggiani, Eliza White

OFD 1 → Top through trip

Tom and I embarked on a slightly ambitious attempt to learn the way for the through trip from OFD to Top. We invited Alexander to come with us, but he'd seen our attempts at routefinding on the North Wales trip and wasn't keen on a repeat. So Alexander joined the beginner trip and we tried to make our joint weekend with CUCC an actual joint weekend and invited some Cambridge cavers, acquiring Birk.

We got through OFD 1 efficiently, despite a brief stop to teach Birk about conservation tape (CUCC need to educate their Freshers better! Boo!) and actually got as far as the Letterbox without too much trouble. Then we explored every possible route between the Letterbox and Diver's Pitch, short of actually going down the Pit. Eventually we found that the tight well worn crawl was not too bad and was in fact the right way. We stayed on track for a good 5-10 minutes before spending about an hour getting lost and finding several ways of going round in circles in Cwm Dwr. Maybe Alexander made the right choice... We got back to the streamway and found that the stoopy/crawly bit we'd decided against long ago was the right way.

The streamway had lots of deep pots as expected, low water levels did not prevent everyone from getting soaked. It's a shame Mabel wasn't on the trip, she might have liked the swimming. We did a bit of abseiling coming out of the Oxbows because the traverse/climb looked dodgy.

When we reached Marble Steps, I thought we were done routefinding. No, we tried about 5 different climbs before we got the right one.

I was pretty tired by the end but I really enjoyed this trip. The streamway is fantastic. Not 100% sure I'd refind the route but it's a step in the right direction. Top trip!

Sumps count: 5

Eliza McI White
05/27/2022

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I am currently witnessing my first caving games between Cambridge and Oxford to settle the friendly feud among the universities. It's entertaining for me ~~because I~~ because I'm 4'10 an sitting, observing adult men stepping up as contestants to squeeze in small furniture cracks of furniture. I'm Oxford of course! (It's quite late and I'm a bit scattered-brained to be writing schoolily!) At any rate, Earlier today I strapped on my suit and toted my way up the hill to enter the cave! I have never seen the countryside and it was the most green scene I have ever observed! The day was organic! No powerlines in sight. I crawled my way down, saying goodbye to light for four hours. Rory, Amelia, Steph, Alexander, ~~and we have never~~ were the team cavers today had never really met up until this point. They were lovely mates. I have never received such kindness and generosity in my life. Rory pulled me up and through a hole, his hand was a pulley for my moving foot, his back was a stepping stone, etc. Amelia was my flashlight in the dark. She guided my every step and flashed her artificial photons my way to provide perception and direction. ~~this~~ these might be minute details to many, but not to me. I am studying abroad here, you see I'm in a new place doing/commuting to new activities in a different scene ~~I am~~. I didn't expect a warm environment. I have never had this luxury, in my life, to see the world's true beauty. The rules we set, breath, etc. We went down ~~Elphens~~ -Shortcut, (whatever that means) — Rory got lost, many-a-time. The geographical formations were stunning! ~~It felt like~~ I was seeing the inspiration of chandeliers. I grew quite tired after that because it was the beginning! It was absolutely, an opportunity of a life time! I can really say that I'm just happy to be here. I couldn't put all the details on one page, but I wish I could. Thank you for this book. Caving was dangerous, fun, collaborative, chocolate-esque, filled, etc —

29/5/2022. NantNetHalfCan

This was my first time doing caving, I loved it. It was amazing, eventhough there was some scary parts I think I did a good job. I'm glad I came. Hopefully will see and visit this place in another moment.

28-29th May, 2022 - Steph

Came caving again - first time as an alumnus! As always - it was delightful - crawling into the belly of the earth with a full dose of adrenaline is pretty great.

Spent saturday wondering around OFD top - Rory got us consistently lost (this is becoming a theme in my caving life) - but a delightful novice trip. This was followed by a walk in the Welsh hills in the sun, and many questionable caving games in the evening.

Sunday - woke up early to do OFD top to bottom - incredible cave. Joint trip with CUCC. That streamway is so beautiful. I could keep going down it forever! Great trip - my most challenging yet - feeling very good about it!

As always - delightful adventure and a great weekend away. Thanks OUCC!

On Saturday we went with a group of six in the OFD top cave. We had two beginners but still we made good progress. The cave was had many

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Beautifull geological formations, the crystal pool and many stalagmites and stalagtites. We were out of the cave relatively early, so we had plenty of time left to make a hike in the late spring sunshine. This walk was not less adventerous! Wandering in a boggey field with bosses off the footpath, we did have a beautiful view over the village and the surrounding hills.
On Sunday we went with a group of five in a very wet cave. Our group followed a fast flowing streamway and then climbed over a to a higher and drier part. There was also a little bit of exploring. This involved a very narrow, short passage downhill where it was not possible to move your head. Where we came out of the cave, it was raining, which didn't matter because we were already very wet. It was a great adventure again in this weather! Thanks OUCC for this caving trip and all other trips I've been to this year, I've enjoyed it a lot! - Alexander Heeres

Students' Invite 23/09/22 - 25/09/22

Roza C Legrents, Reuben Harding, Fiona Zhang, Dale Hardy, Mary Alice, Oliver White, Mr Finn, Ditta, Steph

⇒ Trip 1 → Novice trip. Rory, Steph, TX, Ollie, Vic

↳ Having spent over 5 years successfully managing to avoid caving, TX and Ollie have eventually succumbed to peer pressure in the name of 'Rory's birthday weekend.' Really lovely cave down Notts II - some truly beautiful formations, definitely some of the most beautiful I have seen, potentially only trumped by CFD top to bottom! Went in the Iron kiln, then hopped along the streamway until Poppy Passage, turned around and went over to Notts III - lots of crawling, and calls for a mutiny against our leader, Rory, after an hour previously there had been a promise of 'no more crawling, promise!' Then, hopped on out of the cave and emerged into a beutiful day in the Yorkshire Dales. Great first cave of the weekend.

24/09/22

Another caving trip with ~~OC~~ OUCC! 1st time in Yorkshire and it's absolutely beautiful. Saw some stunning formations inside as well (~~lots~~ they look like fabric / sea creatures). The team was very nice to help, and we all got wet & muddy. Really enjoyed it!

Vic

(125)

↳ Exceptionally enjoyed my first caving trip – makes delaying it for 5 years all the more self-defeating. Notts II perfect for it, great mix of scrambling, climbing, crawling + water. Beautiful cave and formations too!

– Only thing is that it showed me up as thoroughly unfit to go in lead – got lost twice, once down the way we meant to go at the Streamway junction by accident – the second in a last minute attempt to get myself onto a squeeze before Rory – (just didn't want to leave, truth be told.

Rory's driving had me more worried! (sorry birthday boy.)

VERY COOL FIRST TRIP

– OLIVER WHITE

Well, I finally went in a cave after many years of friendship with Rory – truth be told, I don't know if he could have forgiven me if I had put it off any further – and it was a fantastic experience. Entering via the Iron Kiln was not how I had imagined entering my first cave though. After popping off the lid, we ended up descending via a chimney of stone and iron with a mess of metal limbs and stumbling ladders aiding our descent. Before long, we arrived at more natural passageways where the squeezing, climbing and bum-sliding began with relish. Spirits were high, boots were dry, and Rory was singing all the pave ballads necessary to inspire us further into the ground.

Notts II itself was in gentle form when we reached the junction connecting it to the Iron Kiln and notions of remaining almost completely dry foolishly entered my mind. Alas, God (read = Rory) had other plans for us! Perhaps it was punishment for Ollie and I delaying our trip caving with him for so many years; perhaps it was his form of hazing for new cavers; or perhaps he was his honest belief that caving just wouldn't be caving without it, but Rory made absolutely sure there would not be a clean or dry area on anyone's body by the end of the trip.

We progressed up the Streamway proper for a while, characterised by high ceilings and winding walls pasture save for the fish-scale texture

left by the progress of the river. The bed of the Stream homed shallow, sharp runs that cut into deeper pools, creating an irregular rhythm set by the accidents of the rock. Clearings eventually appeared, allowing us to finally appreciate the roofing above us properly for the first time and the sea of stalactite stars that twinkled back at us. (Thanks Steph for the imagery provided at the time). Amid them, columns occassionally appeared as suggestions of the rock reclaiming the area the water had slowly been robbing from it.

Then we got our wet for the first time. The rate ahead demanded wading through a pool only just above knee height but this demanded a fundamental rethink of the welly-integrity I had been enjoying thus far, as well as a rethink of my OH. I feel quite warm right now. That being said, ejecting the excess water via knees and slowly heating the remains dregs made me embrace the wading and further access to the gems of the Streamway.

Other compromises were easier after that: Crawling in the mud was well worth the access to a particularly beautiful curtain where a bright torch revealed how delicate its texture truly was; bashing my knees repeatedly was always fine while my kneepads remained on, but I was particularly not for knocking them down at every opportunity; and getting Sarah crawling in the water, after Rory said no crawling, was not okay and demanded calls for a rewting.

This is far too long already but, jokes aside, I had an absolute blast and Rory has succeeded where he has always wanted to — I will come caving again.

24/9/22 LOST JOHN'S' (TO NOTTS I)

Jason Clements, Rosa, Graham Naylor, Fiona, Reuben

I had originally suggested attempting Re L.J - Notts II trip as a pull-through. But Graham volunteered to de-rig if we rigged it properly. He said it was so Fiona could have a proper SRT trip, but really he didn't fancy getting marooned down Lost John's with me.

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not finding the route through. Just as well, as it turned out. Rigging the Centipede route was shared and went fine until Reuben ran out of rope 3m above the bottom of the final pitch. (The CNCC rigging guide has 30m on the topo, but 25m in the text, and we had taken 24m)

A bit of creative rerigging saw us at Groundsheet Junction, then turning upstream to search for Lyle Cavern. Long story short - my memory of the route didn't match the cave, so we spent a while finding Lyle Cavern. For future reference, look for a rope hanging down on the left, after about 200m, then turn to the right at the top of the rope. (Not the first rope on the left)

I ascended the pitch and announced that this was probably the way on at which point Reuben decided to join the LJ derigging party.

Rosa + I went up ~~the~~ Helictite Rift at the top of the pitch, then on in West Passage, at the end of which is an obscure muddy climb via a couple of chambers. There is then a small slot going down to a series of small twists and turns which constitute the connection. It's 140m and I found it fairly gruelling, although never really tight. At last we could hear the welcome sounds of the Noots II stream and soon we were on our way out. (Time underground ~6 hr)

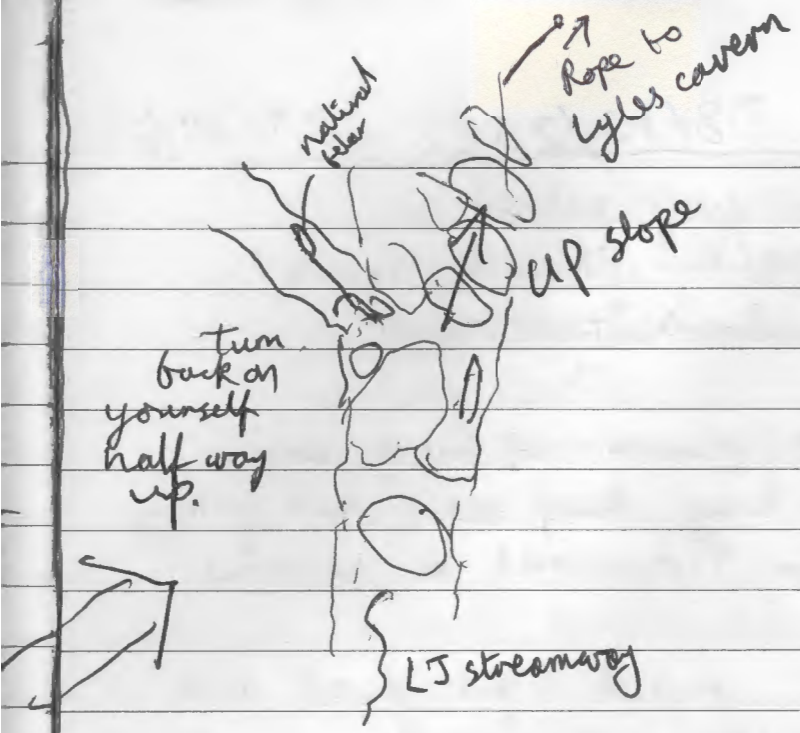
The derigging party emerged ½ an hour or so later.

Thanks to all for bearing with my failing memory!

2022-09-24 My takeaway from today's caving was always ensure the rope has a knot in the end. I would, potentially, have been in quite a bad situation otherwise.

The other conclusion is that I am much less fit than I used to be.

- Reuben



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24/9/2022 GREAT DOUK. Penny, Henry, Sarah, Harvey Smith



Penny's 8th caving trip, Henry's 3rd trip.
Penny (age 5) lead us to the cascades, Henry, now 3, displayed excellent caving techniques.

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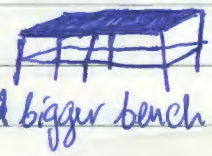
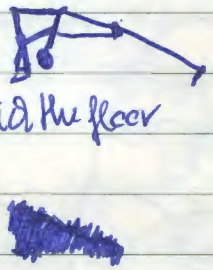
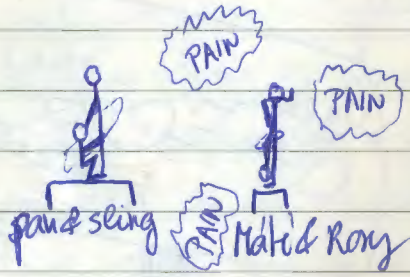
Wales Weekend 08/10/2022 - 09/10/2022

Rosa Clements, Vlad Cătănea, Tímea Csaba, Anudhati Wuppalapati, Matthew Harris, Alex Lee, Máté Soós, Fiona Zhang.

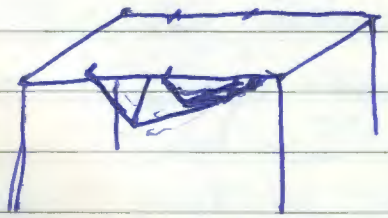
I was taken to a hut full of pictures of naked men. At what age does this stop being funny and start getting a little bit odd? Hut ratings: 9/10. Could be improved with an air fryer.
Spent several hours in a physical and mental dark space. The caves were breathtaking - actually a 10/10 cave - formation - attempt - at - the - female reproductive anatomy (much more accurate than anatomy textbooks) - The rest of the formations involved a lot more squinting / imagination but the journey really was amazing. Such a lovely introduction to caving with OUCC, excited for more adventures

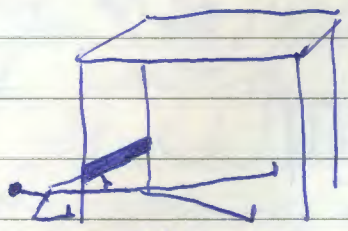


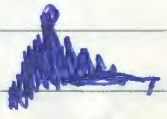












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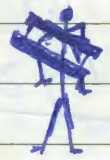
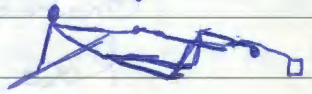
23:30 two Reading guys are doing the sling challenge backwards.
A girl already got injured.
Rory says human traverse!
I am tired.
My arms are shaking.
Squeeze the booty!
Lots of cider.
They managed!
Squeeze machine makes an appearence.
Vlad goes.
Reading guy (almost) stuck in the squeeze machine
Now he's stuck
Solution: shipping „extract juices from the ass"
Gave up :-
"I'm not breaking my hips for this game"
someone passes 6 inches all lubed up
the skinny guy slides right through
for him the limiting factor is the head

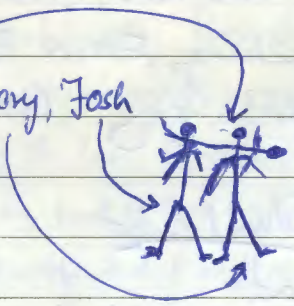


0:54 HUMAN TRAVERSE!
infinite human traverse
can challenge





Máté, Rory, Josh



(131)

Short trip: Rosa, Vlad, Timi, Matthew, Arundhati

Nice trip, a corkscrew, fair bit of crawling, complete darkness - really a fantastic experience -, cool traverses and tricky climbs clean water, corkscrew squeeze - after a while everyone got through except Matthew who didn't try - and in the end even us freshers knew the way out!

South Wales Weekend 29/10/2022-30/10/2022

Vlad Catanea, Anagha Krishnan, Rosa Clements, Máté Kós, Luke Spajic, Cayla Bicoasa, Sam Hollowood, Joshua Jones, Mag Adriaan, Anna Rouvière, Victoria Buckland, Carl Hentges
Fiona Zhang, Emily Rowland, Yunbei Ku, Ziyu Hu
Mark Burkey, Graham Naylor

OFD 2 Edward shortest	photography	OFD 1
Vlad	Mark	Graham
Máté	Fiona	Rosa
~~Sam Anagha~~	Sam	Victoria
~~Adrian~~ Cayla	Adrian	Anna
~~Carl~~ Ziyu	Carl	Josh
Emily	~~Luke~~	~~Matthew~~
Luke	Anagha	Yunbei

We went to the cave for about 6 hours. We did lots of traversing, some crawling and the rest walking. We saw the trident, crystal pond, shattered pillar, and some other stuffs. It was a more difficult than expected introduction, particularly the traversing, but was a varied and unique experience. Potential room for improvement would be going a bit slower, particularly the first hour or two, when there are people in the group who are new. Overall good fun.

Vlad, Luke, Cayla, Ziya, Emily, Máté

(top entrance to shatter pillar via Edouard's shortcut)

OFDI - Rosa, Graham, Anna, Josh, Yunbei, Victoria ☺

I was expecting a light stroll through a cave with the occasional splash in a puddle. That was not what happened. The trip was a lot more intense than we were expecting, but very exciting. We climbed, crawled, rolled, scrambled, traversed, hooked on to a line, slid etc etc. We went into a big chamber (π chamber), and sat in the darkness for awhile, appreciating the darkness and silence, and that was fantastic. There were scary bits, especially in tight spaces, or when a sheer drop was present, but all very exhilarating. Honestly I'm surprised I didn't die. Favourite part - "falling" down a vertical tunnel, by spreading elbows and knees. I think some hated it but I loved it. Least favourite part - when we weren't sure which way to go, or when I realised we had to turn back to exit. But honestly looking back I'm so glad we went and actually did it and didn't die. It was also interesting to see how different people enjoyed different parts e.g. tall people found traversing easier, shorter people found squatting easier etc. And major shoutout to Rosa & Graham. Thanks Rosa for being a great leader, and thanks Graham for saving (and letting me step on you) my butt multiple times, and making sure my boots didn't fall off on those steep climbs. My body is sore but I want to go again!

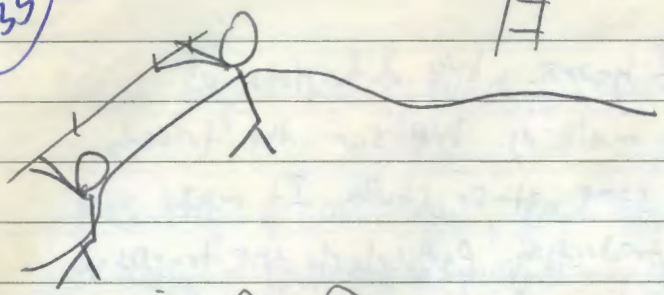
Anna ☺ -Victoria ♡

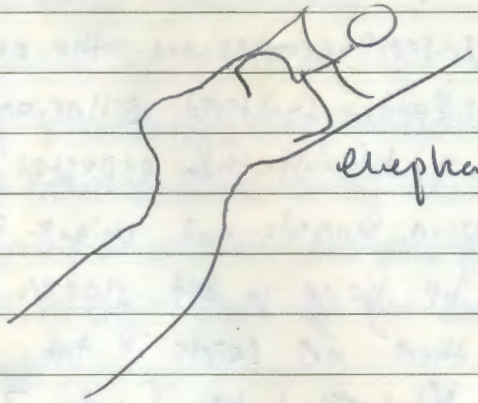
Rosa

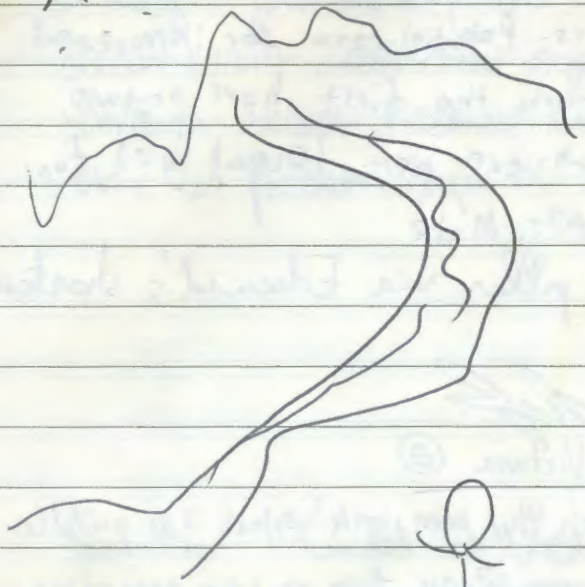
Illustrations here → by Yunbei.

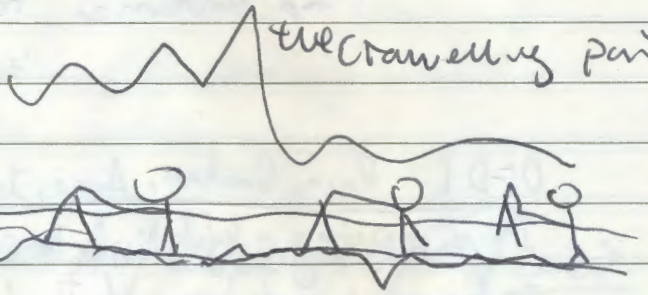
(133)

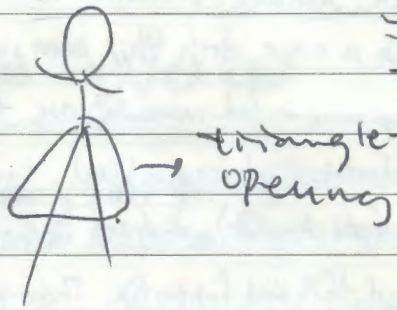
Very scary hook-on-to-a-tree thing

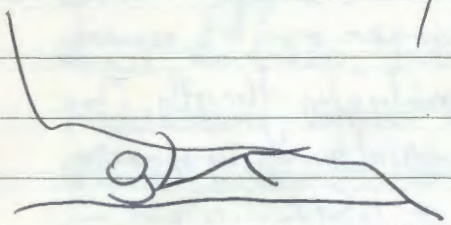




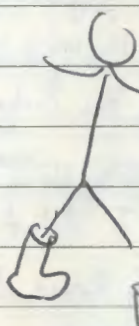








"rony-polly"



Victoria's & Rosa's boot

B does fine! sorry

The Step

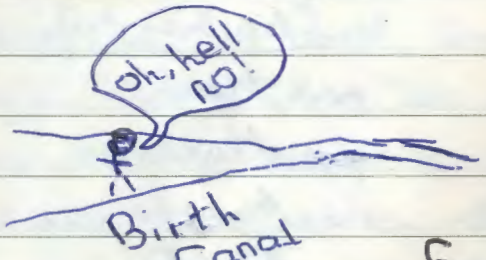


Water completely over my boot, streamway not a good idea

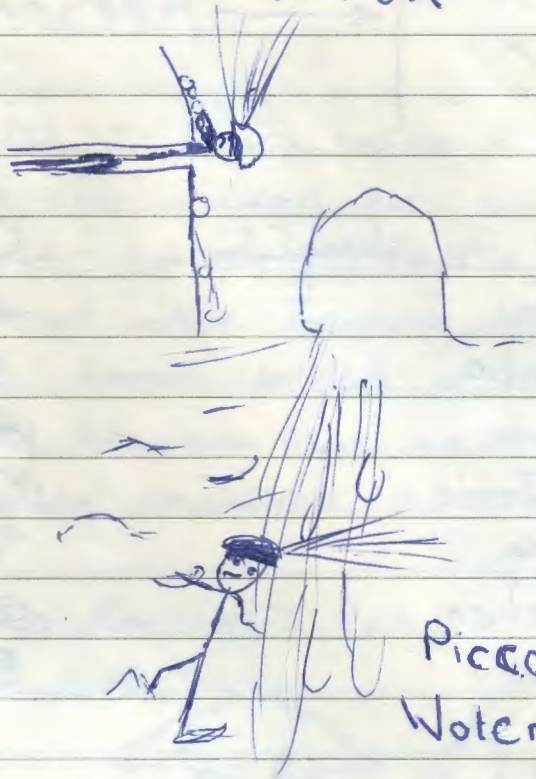
Com dor

Level 5



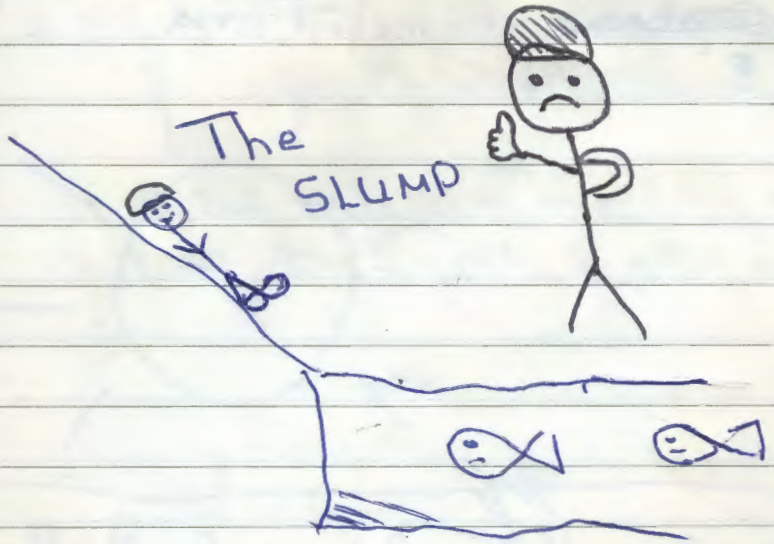


The Letter Box

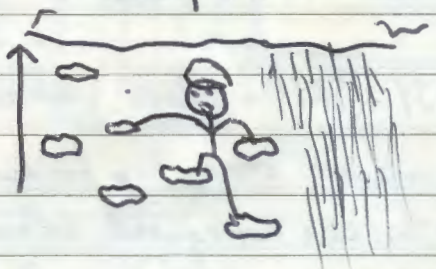


Piccadilly Waterfall

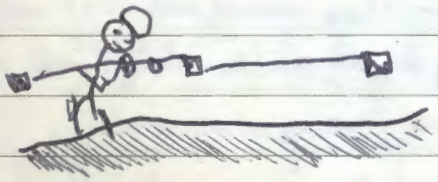
Sams photoshoot



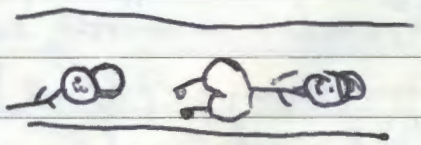
Free climb waterfall

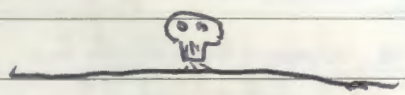


Emergency Exit



Adrians scrumptious ass

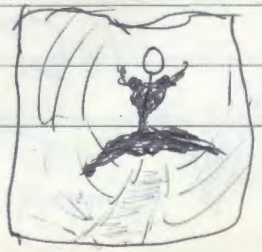




Elephants asshole



Streamline



(13)

← Adrian fit through this! →

Easy Gop ~~entrance trip~~	Caving	Climbing trip
Rosa	~~Adrian~~	Mark
Yumbai	~~Amrutha~~	Máté
Ziyu	~~Emily~~	Ahagha
Victoria	Cayla	Adrian
Anna	Vlad	Emily
Graham	~~Graham~~	Fiona
	✝	

Hiking
Josh
Carl
Luke
Sam

flag.

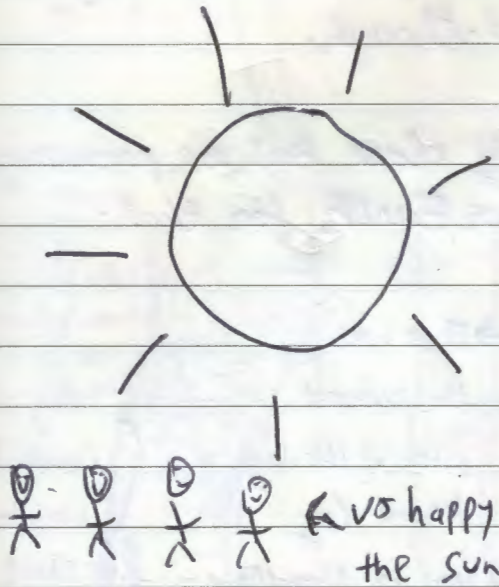
EASY-TRIP: Rosa, Graham, Yunbai, Ziyu, Victoria, Anna

Second ever caving trip for me. This trip was very engaging – a lot of diverse elements in the cave that required different styles of climbing/scrabbling. The cave ceilings were really high most of the time and made it really fun to look around. We traversed over steep crevices and that was scary but in a good way – we were probably more confident today in our abilities which ~~make~~ made things easier. There were some really fun bits, like squeezing into a tight hole, walking along a stream, and navigating! Which I am apparently not too bad at (whoop whoop) ☺. We were also allowed to lead a bit, which is an amazing experience because then you decide which path to take. I think I favour shimmying up a wall ⌧ as opposed to climbing up, because it's amazingly fun. Shoutout again to Rosa and Graham for guiding us all through (definitely hesitated at the big scary step, but helped again by Graham!) We saw lots of cool skull, caverns, rives etc. All in all a great trip, no regrets.

Hike - Sam, Carl, Luke, Josh

We set out to reach the summit of Mynydd-y-Fawr, crossing hills, valleys, more hills, and more valleys. We never reached the summit, fearing the bus would leave us behind, but the journey is more important than the destination and along the way we saw a wide variety of typical welsh ~~bioethos~~ wildlife including red kite, robins, rhea ... llamas. Cutting the walk short we traded the trail for the pub. This was widely considered a very good idea.

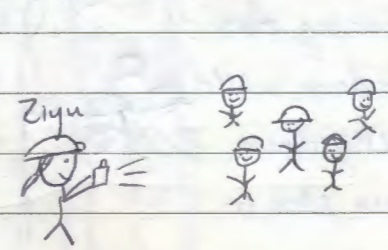
Tafarn-y-Garragg → Garragg's Pub.

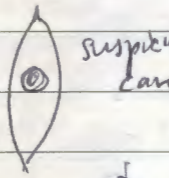


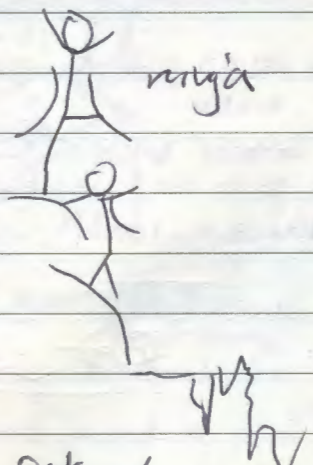
very happy cos the sun

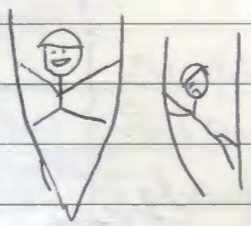


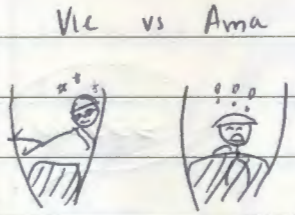
We also saw a majestic goat

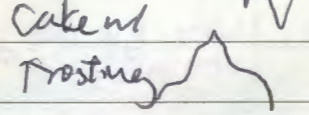


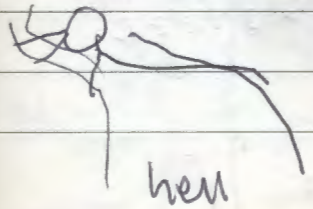


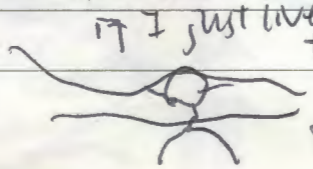


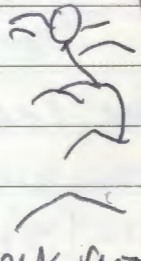














We also saw a vulva-shaped small cave-thingie

(137)

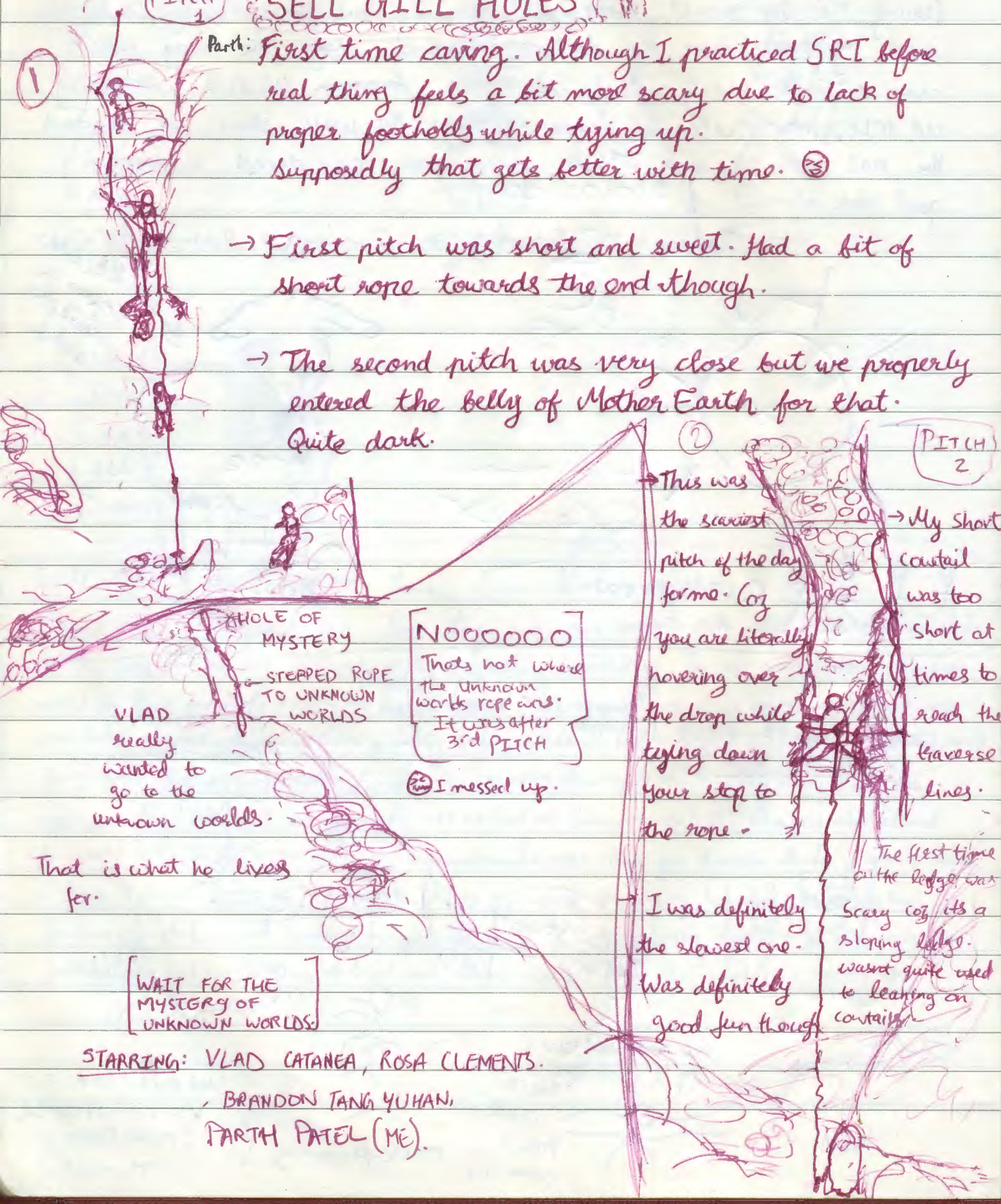
YORKSHIRE WEEKEND

PITCH 1 — SELL GILL HOLES

Parth: First time caving. Although I practiced SRT before real thing feels a bit more scary due to lack of proper footholds while tying up.
Supposedly that gets better with time. 😅

→ First pitch was short and sweet. Had a bit of short rope towards the end though.

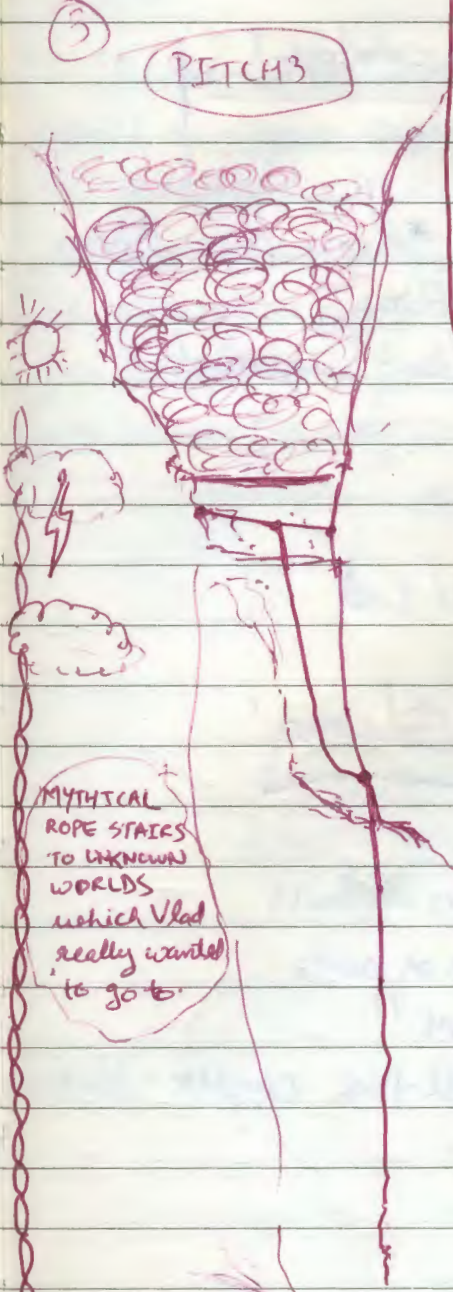
→ The second pitch was very close but we properly entered the belly of Mother Earth for that. Quite dark.



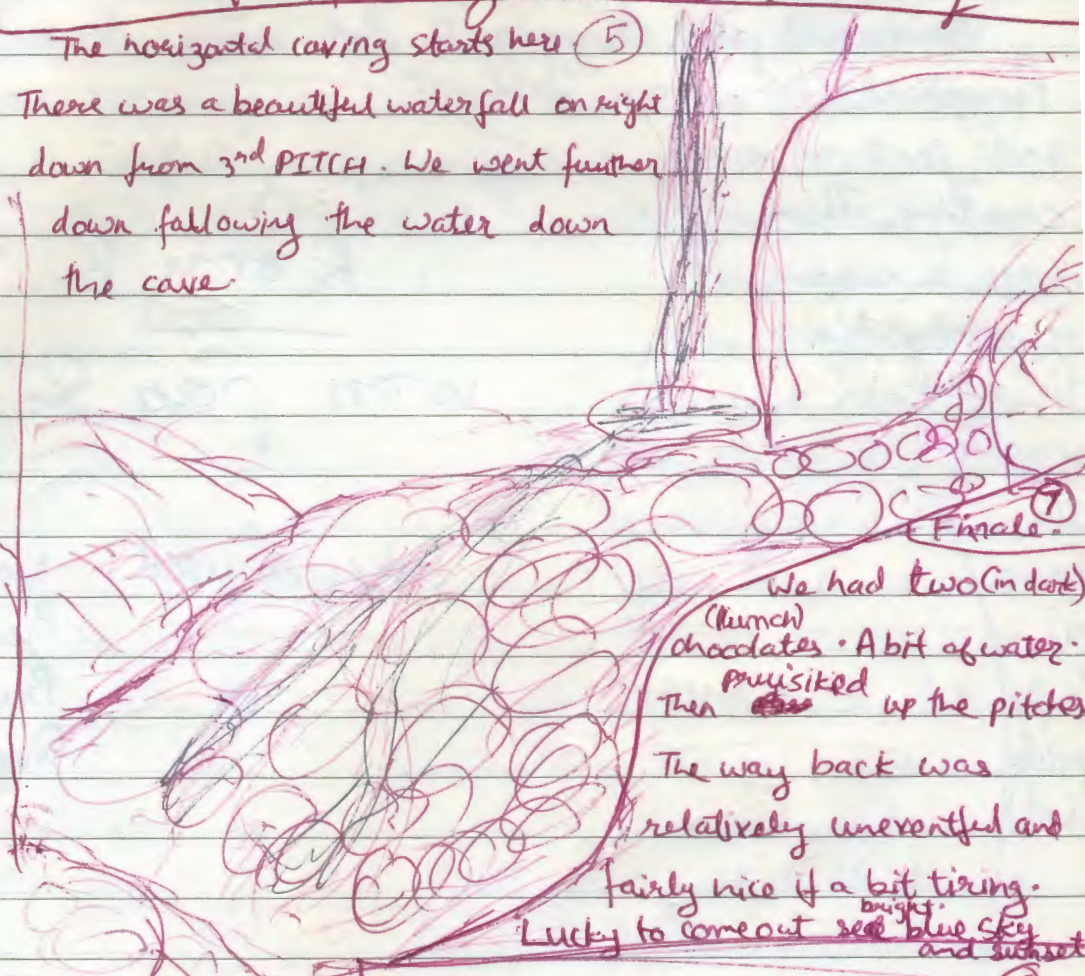
STARRING: VLAD CATANEA, ROSA CLEMENTS, BRANDON TANG YUHAN, PARTH PATEL (ME).

YSS Yorkshire Weekend, 11/11/2022 - 13/11/202

Vlad Catinca, Rosa Clements, Roy Ma, Reuben Harding, Frances Pope, Fiona Zhang 2, Parth Patel, Brandon Tay



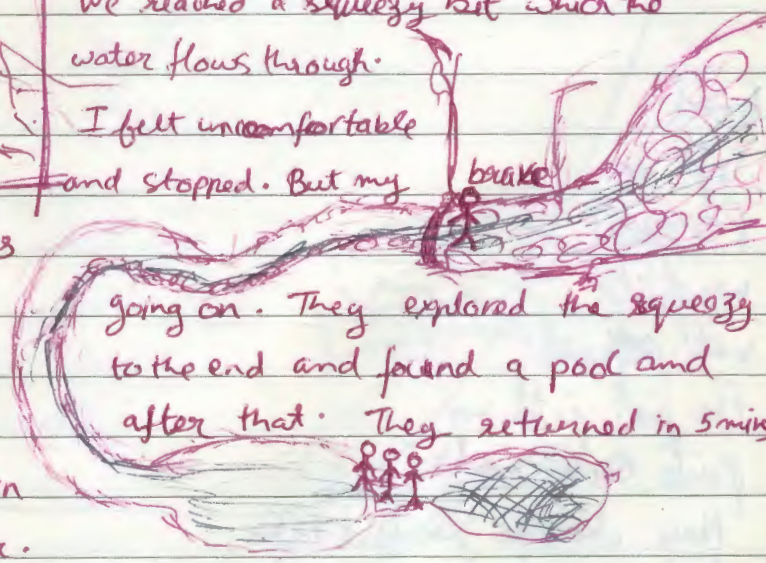
The horizontal caving starts here (5)
There was a beautiful waterfall on right down from 3rd PITCH. We went further down following the water down the cave.



We had two (in dark) (lunch) chocolates. A bit of water. Then ~~crawled~~ bruisiked up the pitches. The way back was relatively uneventful and fairly nice if a bit tiring. Lucky to come out ~~see~~ bright blue sky and sunset



6
We reached a squeezy bit which the water flows through. I felt uncomfortable and stopped. But my comrades kept going on. They explored the squeezy to the end and found a pool and after that. They returned in 5min



route to main chamber.
sump

← Brandon won the squeeze contest! →

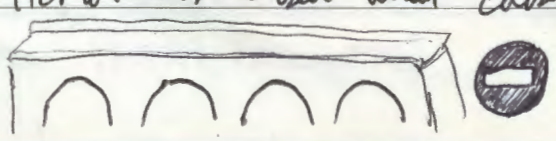
2022-11-12 Penyghent Pot. *Reuben Hercling, *Rory Rose, *Fiona Zhang, *Frances Pope

The walk to Penyghent Pot was long, but uneventful. Penyghent Pot was cold, wet and featured much crawling. There were a number of good pitches. We didn't complete the bounce trip (a few pitches short.)

Rory & Vlad won pan & sling!

Techniques used: Knees on boots
Bum on boots
Bum!!
Single-foot complete - Vlad - p

Good trip in Penyghent, was quite wet and the first pitch was quite entertaining! Main challenge was that the bridge in Horton was closed which caused a big detour and longer walk in (2/4)





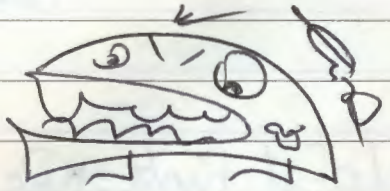


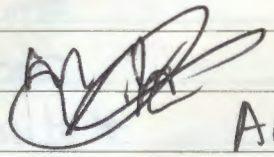


FP: A long walk, mostly uphill, to find the cave. We wore our warm clothes and carried our gear, ropes and SRT kits, which made it heavier. I saw lots of mushrooms. The cave started with a lot of crawling, up to our elbows in cold water, which would have been interminable if we hadn't been warned about this cave's "challenging" nature. The pitches, as rigged by Ray, were very manageable on the way down, although often we fell into a pot under the water upon landing. One lovely long waterfall. Somehow on the way up the rope swung me into the stone blades of the cave and into its waterfalls much more often.

For the final crawl out we were pretty tired and ~~we~~ crawling like 20 year-old dogs. The final challenge was the gang of spiders guarding the entrance. After that we were out! 12:30 - 18:00 All that was left was the 40 minute walk ~~across~~ across the moors and back down to the definite Crown.

passover





Who said: "I've never used a bin opener before!"
"What's a parsnip?"

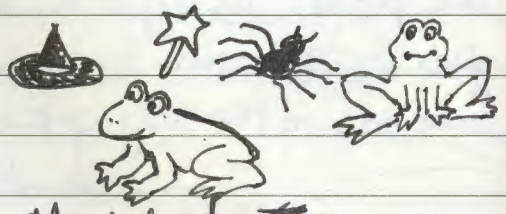
Alum Pot on Sunday! SE Route which was new to me☺

(104)

Mendip CHECC weekend, 25/11/2022 - 27/11/2022

Vlad Cătănea, Murshed Shahriyar, Xianming Liu, Rosa Clements ~~Eastwater~~ Fiona Zhang, Frances Pope, Vlad

Witches and wizards fancy dress!



Eastwater - Rosa, Vlad, Cayla, Yumbei, Murshed, ~~Fiona~~

Murshed: I'm told by Rosa that this was slightly harder than a beginner's trip was meant to be. It was tricky at times - the squeeze had me re thinking all my decisions up to that point. On the way out we basically had to climb out a waterfall but that was pretty cool, and very pretty! Other than that, I have soggy socks and met interesting people at Reading and Exeter. Will I come again? Not if we're camping. MShair

Helpful hints: * Do not try to cook a full English breakfast on 3 small camp stoves in a damp windy field with no cooking oil while hungover.

* Hunters Lodge Inn opens at 7pm. Don't load 12 people into a 9 seater vehicle to go there at 6pm.

* If trying to do the Eastwater round trip, keep an eye out to the left rather than just going down Primrose Path & getting stuck.

Ester water : Fiona. Vlad T, Mable. Olaf.

There was a chock between boulder chamber and the entrance passage. Due to a rockfall earlier. people have put a ~~sign~~ warning sign ~~the~~ saying "Danger, do not pass". Fiona ignored the sign and passed it, ~~after~~ ~~pat~~ and asked ~~people~~ other carers on the other side " There is a 'danger, do not pass sign', should I pass ?" after passing the chock squeeze.

No caving on Sunday, putting on wet kit was not appealing

(143)

New Year at Ball Pot Farm 29/12/22 - 02/01/23

Rosa Clements, Fiona Zhang, Tom Spriggs

~~Too many people (Cambrai CVCA core)~~. So I did ~~camping~~ camping. Vlad lend me his ~~speed~~ sleeping pad. but it leaks. So ~~I slept in the~~ I ended up sleeping on the freezing ground. lol. The last day the air temperature dropped to minus zero and ~~my~~ the tent zip was frozen. It took a while for me to get out.

30/12/22 Pool Sink - County Pot

Toby took us on a routefinding trip, I was supposed to be learning the main route between ~~Cow~~ Pool Sink and County (permanently rigged at the moment due to Wretched Rabbit being unstable). This was not very effective, its super complicated and I was doing a lot of just keeping up. Maybe Fiona learnt more though...

It was good fun anyway, interesting to do Pool Sink as a pull through and we did a circuit through gypsum caverns. They were beautiful! And it was nice to put the backtlesacks down for a bit. Poetic Justice is much nicer on the way down.

31/12/22 Lancaster Hole

We were planning to go to Cape Kennedy, but when we asked who else wanted to come on the trip we acquired a bunch of Cambridge cavers who had done little to no SRT before. We took a very long time getting down the entrance pitch. For Fall Pot, we split into two groups, with some doing SRT and some the climb. That was more efficient at least. We had a pleasant stomp in the upper series and saw a group abseiling down Cow Pot. We all got lost in the Rabbit Warren and didn't find the ladder to Cape Kennedy. On the way back, I volunteered to wait at the entrance to supervise the Freshers since I had a PVC suit, I got my foil blanket out but actually they were all fast prussikers!

We saw a frog on the walk back and were in good time for the party

01/01/22 Bull Pot of the Witches

After an excellent 40th birthday party (thanks for bringing the sound system and excellent cider, Tom!) I was not feeling up for a particularly long birthday caving trip. Luckily Hannah and Ian (plus Anthony from Cambridge) were taking a friend of theirs on a confidence building trip in Bull Pot of the Witches. We went down all the pitches and explored the Long Gallery. It was good fun! I did the derigging and Anthony helped me carry the tackle. It was a good birthday.

Wales weekend 21/01/23-22/01/23

Rosa Clements, Fiona Zhang, Greg Horvath
Brandon Tang, Tilly Joyce, Sakina Amin, Raman, Christina Scheuer
Joanna Li (Jung Li), Rocky Yu, IZZY INNES

21/01/23

First caving trip here. It's pretty interesting by trying to pass (walk/crawl in my own way. Time down in the cave seems to slow down, and I can see dust flying in my head torch light. It feels like a world far from the world we're living in. If I want to experience travelling back to the very early history of homo sapiens, I might go for another caving trip! :)))

21/01/23 Sakina & Raman

Have never done a caving trip before this. It was quite intense but everyone was so helpful and lovely. The cave & the hiking was unforgettable. Quite intense but unforgettable.

21/01/23 - IZZY

Good trip. I navigated and was confident finding my way around the cave. I managed to lead someone back who wasn't feeling too great.

Mendip weekend 10/02/23 - 12/02/23

Rosa Clements, Tom Spriggs, Vlad Cătănea, [redacted] Li Ai Bo Mábé Soós, Clarissa Pereira, Tamara Tardos, Anya Sochaka

Swildons

We went in the short dry way and had a look at the ladder. Another group were there so we decided to give it a miss. We went up the long dry way and had a detour into New Caverns which was fun. Tom and Anya and Bo went down the wet way, investigated the Oxbows, and went back up the wet way while Clarissa and I went out and started dinner prep.

Eastwater

Sludge Pit

On Sunday we combined everyone who still wanted to go caving and tried a new cave - Sludge Pit! After we failed to follow the directions to the cave, one of the Wessex members walked us to it. The ladder was very near the entrance. Once we were all down we had an explore and found some cool fossils and a mini streamway. It was fun! On the way out, Mabe climbed up without using the ladder at all! Clarissa tried a few different techniques. We all got out just in time for our callout.

Swildons bonus - Vlad, Máté, Tamara

We set our callout this min later and went for a very short Swildon's trip in the time left. We went in through the ~~way~~ wet way ~~and got~~ to the ladder pitch and came back through long dry way. The trip took 1h.

(44)

Peak District weekend 24/02/23 - 26/02/23

Rosa Clements, Máté Soós, Ștefan Eneșcu, Fiona Zhang, Vlad Cătănea, Frances Pope, Rory Rose, Amelia Steane, Chris Martin, Tommy Spriggs

Peak Cavern - Vlad, Rosa, Chris, Ștefan

25-02-2 - Great first trip out led by Rosa & Vlad. - made it to Moss Chamber before exploring The Tube & looping Galaxy Chamber.

Titan → White River → Peak - Rory, Amelia, Fiona, Máté

Great trip as always - so varied and pretty! I had forgotten how long the bit is from Titan to JH - even didn't remember the streamway! Made the mistake of trying to take a phone in pelican case, pace seems to have survived but will have to wait for tomorrow for the final verdict [stay tuned].

Oxlow

Rosa, Vlad, Frances, Ștefan, and Chris went to Oxlow and met many other cavers. We made it down the first two pitches.. Well done to Chris and Ștefan for dealing with a surprise rebelay on their first SRT trip.

Crianlarich

Fiona destroyed all of her electronic equipment.
Round trip completed though.

Titan

Rory and Amelia derigged Titan.

~~Yorkshire~~ Mendip weekend 10/03/23 - 12/03/23

Rosa Clements, Frances Pope, Andy ~~Hall~~, RoryRose, Vlad Catarea, Fiona Zhang, Mabe Soos, Rocky Yu, Isaac Au, Reuben Harding

We were all set for a Yorkshire trip but got a message from Crale Gurth farm that the farm track was only accessible to quad bikes. So at the last minute we decided to go to the Mendips instead. Most people went on a day trip but Frances and Andy were invited to a BEC party, so the rest of us in their car stayed at the Wessex

Eastwater (team 2)

A first trip for Isaac and a second trip for Rocky. We successfully found our way round the bottom half of the Round Trip! I thought we were lost until Frances spotted team 1's rope down Dolphin Pot. Isaac and Rocky did great on the Dolphin Pot climb and the ladder. We very nearly found the 13 Pots but got confused at the Bold Step and didn't realise it was a bold step. Climbing down it isn't helpful. We headed out and had fun in the canyon, but then when we got to the big boulder chamber, I was convinced it was on the main route out and spent a lot of time trying to find the way to Kenbish's Cairn (which was of course, back up the slope rather than in the chamber...) So we cheated and went out of Woggle Press past the Danger sign. It was a round trip even if not exactly the round trip we were intending to do. We also saw a bat flying around the boulder chamber! Fun trip.

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Presidents Invite 31/03/23 - 02/04/23

Rosa Clements, Steve Roberts, Tom Houghton, Jason Clements
Mayor Sargur, Chris Densham, Kitti, Ruy, Phil S. (a bit)*
Tom, Sarah, Jonne Winston, + Other, Rose, Pippa
Estelle Smith - did Huggerall Sandra Bailey
Brian Daly - was here, Alison Casey Maarten Kraakman
Ursula & Tony Katie, Molly, and Theo Ingledew

Callouts

Rumbling Hole Chris, Graham, Ursula ETB: 5pm ~~Callout: 7pm~~
Jason, Rosa, Phil S. FX66 ZLO
Up 10:50

1/4/23 Saturday

Bimble Trip - Yordas & then Valley Entrance
Steve Roberts*, Harvey Smith*, Jo Whistle*, Paul Mann+
Sandra Bailey+, Katie Ingledew+, Molly Ingledew+,
Theo Ingledew+, Pippa* & Rose+ Whistley-Mann -
Penny* & Henry* Smith

* Valley Entrance + Yordas
\+ Yordas Only

The Yordas venture was for Theo's benefit, as Katie had been taken down Yordas when she was 3 weeks old (in a car seat), so he also had to have an early trip: not quite that early, but he is now just over 1 year. First trip underground! ever

A pleasant wander around the cave. We first had group photos taken by a pair of walkers who'd happened by, and then invited them to follow us. They were well impressed by the big chamber & the waterfall.

Various of us wandered up to find the Middle Entrance, which Jonne went up to pleasantly scrambly

beck than I had thought.

Valley Entrance, just as far as the pitch & back, was the usual pleasure for children (& adults!). The duck was ½ full, so the children were given piggy-backs through. Much climbing in & out of the entrance dustbin to finish off, then

We mostly drove past the Marton in the way back, despite its massive gravitational pull. WIMPS!

Steve

1/4/23 Sat Notts 2 Kitti, Master, Oliver, Dory, Tom

Intermittent sun and a bit of drizzle at the entrance – this was not the lack fell I know – where was the Arctic blizzard? ☺ After searching the car keys in a Tupperware box just inside the entrance, we clambered down the scaffolding & ladders to get down to the Streamway. Despite the recent weather the water was low, and we sauntered easily down to the sump before coming back & going upstream to the upper decorated passages. Very scenic trip with clean-washed Streamway & pothers. Back up the scaffolding & out, all feeling old & creaky except for Oliver who looked totally unaffected. Excellent trip!

↳ He was out with lots old futies ☺ Jon

* I jacked at the bottom of the first pitch in Rumbling as I was a bit concerned at how much trouble I'd had with the deviations on the pitch & thought I'd better do them again going out before I got tired – upper body strength poor. No problem going out at all – fine pitch (24m) & tunnel hole.

Got back to cars & decided to go down Notts 2 – I passed the party in the entrance ladders & solved to last climb by sump.

Phil S.

mile.

So 6 go down Rumbling and have a crackin time Have to say its a bit draught and ~~to~~ quite drippy but some impressive situations. Entrance waterfall is spectacular. Chris felt a need to engage with the link to lost Johns and got coated in foam as the reward. So a great trip and you do feel as though you've been caving (well at least if you are a crusty old fag).

Presidents
Invite
S ~~warm~~ peleological
Special
Offering
For
Friends

Callout 2/4/23

Sunset Hole Rosa, Jason ETB: 2.30pm ~~Callout: 4pm~~

A pleasant ~~break~~ family bimble down Sunset. Water levels moderate but no problem. Very nice emerging into the sunshine. A chap in an expensive looking Lexus sports car had broken down outside - one would have had a heart of stone not to have laughed at his predicament.

But we did let him use our loos

2/4/23

Sunday - Waterfalls Walk

Steve, Sandra, Gail, Dory, Tom, Phil, Margot later joined by Maarten & Kitti

Lovely walk in glorious warm sunshine.

Quite crowded - at least anyway - in slow single file. Lots of water in the various Falls.

Steve





1 - Molly Ingledew
2 - Margot Sargent
3 - Rosa Clements
4 - Dory Florence
5 - Gail Smith
6 - Brian Derby
7 - Alison Carey
8 - Oliver V-Mann
9 - Jason Clements
10 - Paul Mann
11 - Maarten Kraakendam
12 - Joanna Whistler
13 - Ursula Collie
14 - Tom Houghton
15 - Theo Ingledew
16 - Katie Ingledew
17 - Harvey Smith
18 - Henry Smith
19 - Penny Smith
20 - Pippa Mann
21 - Steve Roberts
22 - Rose V-Mann
23 - Philip Sargent
24 - Chris Denham
25 - Kitti von Ramshorst
26 - Ceraleen Naylor
27 - Sandra Bailey

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DEVON WEEKEND 05/05/23-07/05/23

Rosa Clements, Rory Rose, Vlad Cătănua, Jason Liu, Steph Nicholas, Rocky Yu)

My very first cave. Purposefully went in with as little information as I could. Some incredibly incredulable sights and caving techniques. Much time spent in wistful contemplation in the beautiful forests that surround.

- Jason
(Student at the * Superior university ;))

It was a good muddy trip down Pridhamsleigh and Dog hole with a few tight squeezes for me but the curtain at the end was worth it. A good reintroduction after a four year hiatus.

- Nicholas

* Not so superior university that once accidentally lost someone in OFD

Pridhamsleigh was fun but involved lots of going round in circles 😐 A nice fenix light made its escape in the really very deep duck. Lights were a bit cursed in general this trip. But we made it out with teamwork.

Dog Hole key was marked as working but in fact didn't work. The rest of the cave was nice though, we saw a curtain. 😊 And we found where it was, we didn't get lost forever in the wild garlic.

Thanks to Rory for catching people on a climb that involved either very long legged spidery traversing or sitting on Rory.

First trip caving in a while - and a really delightful reintroduction in a stunning part of the country! The smell of wild garlic as I walk up to the cave was truly magical! Great trip, and enjoyed the card games in the evening!

- Steph

Sunday - Baker's pot

It was a pretty cool cave, it has a lot of pretty stuff. Not as challenging as Saturday but that is not bad for a Sunday trip.

Vlad

Yorkshire Weekend 19/05/2023 ~ 21/05/2023

Rosa Clements, Rory Rose, Vlad Cătămea, Fiona Zhang
Rocky Tu.

Rocky's First SRT Trip (Pool Sink).

This is my first SRT trip after a 2-hour SRT training weeks before. Fortunately, I still remember "some" of it. The trip began with a long hiking towards the entrance, where we got burnt by the sun for half an hour. After that, we entered with a short but exhausting squeeze.

The cave is not particularly muddy as I expected before, and we made slow progress as Vlad rigged the cave. The first SRT descending was not as high as I thought, though there is no way to descend with free climbing. Took a "long" time to put up the kit in narrow tunnel, and some time to mess with the rope.

The first descending was not easy for me as I probably messed up with the rope, so that I had to push the descender's handle "extra" hard to move. However, the second pitch's descending (which is after some simple traverse) went pretty fluently.

After 4 pitches, we reached the "bottom" of the cave. This is where I thought the trip should end soon, but it ~~turned~~ turns out to be the "beginning" of the actual "trip".

We explored a lot staring from the main stream way, which I won't describe (as I have wrote a "lot"). The straws are impressive though, never seen something

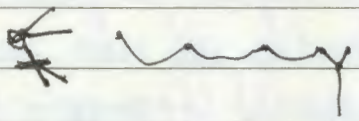
like that before.

However at that point, I was basically exhausted, and it was a miracle that I got back alive. ☺

The ascending was generally OK. The technique itself was fine, but as I was exhasted, it was particularly heard to ascend when the ropes was not hanged vertically (like ~~when~~ when they lay against the rocks). I should excercise more before (and °after!) the expedition.

Generally, this trip is the first ~~ad~~ advanced (hard) trip I have and is like 3 times longer than the previous trips. Tough experiences, but enjoyable.

I am not particularly good at the language :)



Fiona:

I did derigging, carried a full bag of ropes ~~out~~ out of pool sink. ~~It~~ Incredibly miserable ~~at~~ the entrance of pool sink. A lot of squeezing, ~~turning~~ points. Hate it!. Will do it again lol.

24/05/2023.

Rosa. Rory. ~~Tod~~ Vlad, Rocky —— Jingling Pot.

Fiona — BPF for her ~~via~~ viva on Monday. and claimed the hut.

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AGEN ALLWEDD day trip 03/06/23

Rosa Clements, Daniel Shapiro, Yushi Li, Parth Patel, Jungyi Li, Buzz Lanthier-Rogers, Olivia Atkins, Andy Harris, Frances Pope

My first time ever caving! Such a fantastic and fascinating experience. Being underground is so surreal and peaceful. I hope to be back someday to Agen Allwedd.
- Daniel Shapiro

What a great first-time experience. After getting over the initial apprehension it was an exciting and completely different thing to do - will definitely go caving again
- Olivia Atkins

This was a wonderful first caving/spelunking experience! Will definitely go caving again. Big thanks to Rosa, Andy, and Frances.
- Buzz Lanthier-Rogers

It's something unique that one should all do in life. It is a test of trust, wisdom and physical fitness. Like in life, there are ups-and-downs in the journey. Where the highlights make the trip unforgettable and should be treasured. Thank you very much for Rosa's organisation, and Frances & Andy's help! Best wishes, Yushi Li

First Non-SRT trip. The squeezy crawly entrance did scare me a bit. As you can tell, I dont like squeezy crawlies, however after the 1st choke bit, it opened into big caverns which was a lot of fun with mud formations. I prefer SRT but this was certainly an experience to be had.
— Parth Patel.

We saw a bat, Cavern's chamber, selenite crystals, the Music room and Cliffs of Dover

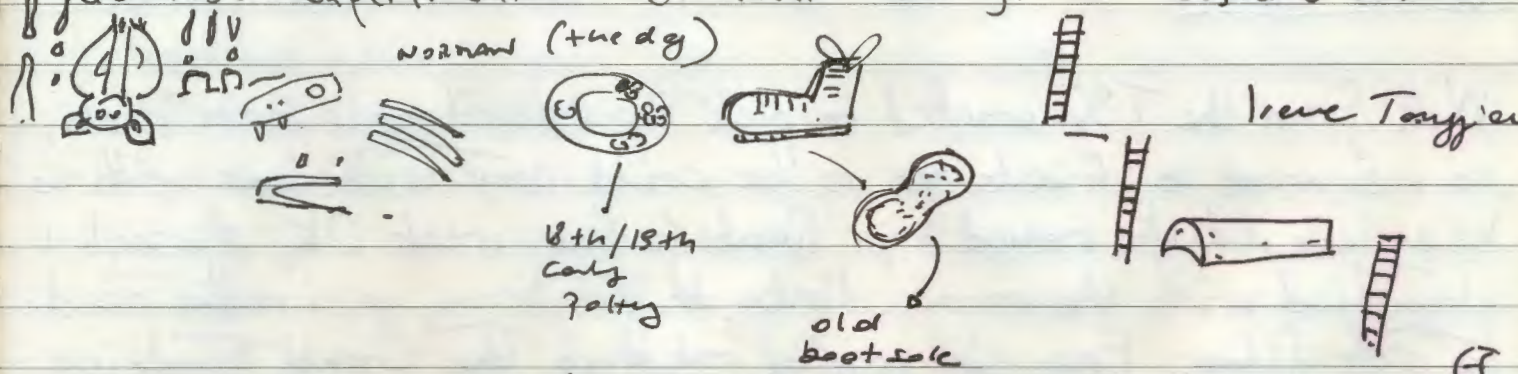
SLAUGHTER STREAM day trip 17/06/23

Rosa Clements, Fiona Zhang, Rocky Yu, Stefan Mandoiu, Vlad Cătănua, Tom Spriggs, Andy Harris, Frances Pope, Irene Tonziani, Gustavo Alfaro, Brendan Retter, Megan Godfrey

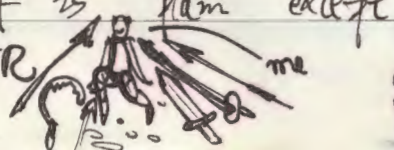
First time caving - it was quite the experience! Being faced with the ladders going down the big drop at the start was a bit terrifying. Had to come out again and calm down. Tried again being bileted* (spelling?) down, then had a good time from then. Favourite ~~bit~~ part was climbing down the rapids in the streamway. :) - Megan Godfrey *belayed

Great first caving trip. I feel like I got to try a bits of everything: crawling, climbing, ladders, water (crawling and walking)! It was a lot of fun, and I really appreciated the help and support from Tom and Vlad after I panicked at the entrance! - Brendan Retter

Caving fue una experiencia increible, algo unico en la vida. Para ser honesto si se requiere cierta habilidad y coraje para hacerlo, pero vale la pena. Hubieron momentos en que me asusté un poco pero al final todo salio muy bien. Muy feliz de haber experimentado el hacer Caving. :) Gustavo A.



From a technical point of view, this cave is a good practice for staying efficient. There are some long scrawls, and the passageways are not usually high enough to stand upstraight. Good practice before expedition. The cave itself is plain except the bones — Rocky.



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Peak District. TSG.

Rosa clements. Andy Harris. Frances Pope. Jack Snow. Fiona Zhang

Saturday: Peak Cavern. All.

Sunday: Giants. Round trip. All except Jack.

Peak Cavern

My suggestion of a trip to Moss Chamber and/or the Streamway was rejected so we set off to find the bottom of Tiban or at least Leviathan. We completed Colostomy Crawl (albeit with an unintentional detour to Treasury Sump) then got a bit lost. Finally we found the way on - another crawl! There were some on the trip who had had quite enough crawling for one day so we went back. So basically we spent the trip thoroughly appreciating Colostomy Crawl in both directions. Not quite the intention... Bathtime was fun though, there are lots of new scrubbing brushes. And unlike some other caving clubs (Plymouth) we didn't accidentally leave someone behind in the cave.

Giants Hole

Will from the TSG wanted to pick up a datalogger from Giants, so we went to Giants too so he could come in the car with us. We just did the round trip. Roubefinding went OK, though I struggled with the rope climbs on the way up, I really need to get fitter. Frances pointed out that the Giants Windpipe should be called the Grants Oesophagus, it is more like being digested than anything windy. It was a fun trip, I think Will managed to sort out his datalogger.

Sign up Here:

sifei.zhang @ some.ox.ac.uk.
mans4498@ox.ac.uk
Jack.burnam@bnc.ox.ac.uk
alec.xu@manstead.ox.ac.uk
lina4392@ox.ac.uk
phineas.hubbard@ccc.ox.ac.uk
phineas. hubbard @ ccc.ox.ac.uk
phillip.counsell@gmail.com
declan.koh@exeter.ox.ac.uk
will.dereham@stcatz.ox.ac.uk
omarAdaoud@hotmail.com
JFKLEVYWORK@gmail.com
Beila.chen@st-hilda.ox.ac.uk
chri6661@ox.ac.uk
chri6661@ox.ac.uk
Mans4961@ox.ac.uk
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Sophieekendall@gmail.com
Sgarbus@ucsc.edu

M.

0th week

NORTH WALES 06/10/23-08/10/23

Rosa Clements, Mabe Soos, Brandon Tong, Frances Pope, Fiona Zhang, Rocky Yu

Craesor Rhosydd Through Trip. (Rocky)

An extremely fresher-unfriendly trip.

We set off for the mine following an obvious hiking track, but we chose ~~an~~ a wrong way around a hill. The barely-working signal helped us figure out that the right way was directly up the mountain. Thus, we went off-track with great determination and arrived at the correct track (as a miracle).

The entrance was inconspicuous, and we entered the cave at around 1 pm. The cave features loose rock, as it's a slate mine. We descended two pitches, and started to follow the minecart tracks. Frequently we encountered pounds (ponds), which was blue ~~in~~ in color. The minecart tracks brought us through the tunnels which connected chambers that ~~were~~ were really similar in appearence.

We soon arrived at the main spectacle of the mine: successive blue ~~lakes~~ lakes that we went past via different means. ~~If I recall correctly, the order is~~ I cannot remember ~~all~~ all of them in order. but there were: metal ladder extending across the lake, "single traverse line technique", "double traverse line technique", rowing underground, ---.

People seemed to become overly excited at throwing

rocks into the "blue diamond" lakes, and some rocks sounded like people falling into the lakes.

After passing through the main destination, we started the search for the exit. On the way out, we passed a long track that went a long way up. We spotted a platform resembling a station and a steam-punk styled machine. This is off-route, but as we are "long-standing" cavers, we still managed to exit promptly.

The search for the exit was went smoothly, and we found some holes to the outside world that would lead to the middle of nowhere. We went past it, and were deep underground again. After some climbing, we finally spotted a distant light spot on the other side of a tunnel.

Following the stream through the "tunnel towards freedom", we exitted the cave at around 6 pm. (Btw, it was a long tunnel).

The long lasting north wales round trip idea is finally realized, and we returned earlier than I expected.

Tips on finding Croesor:
- Follow the main path to the right of the waterfalls until Rhosydd Quarry
- At Rhosydd Quarry, follow the little yellow signs about the 'State Trail' even when they leave the main path, not the big obvious sign to Croesor that goes downhill (this did lead us to a cute little frog, but not to the entrance)
- Mobile signal is terrible, if bringing a phone, try to look at maps on it beforehand.

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MENDIPS 10/11/23 - 12/11/23

Rosa Clements, Haeun Park, Toby Mann, Rocky Yu. Hazel Fu.
Linter Gunn Andrada Tomoni, Máté Szűcs
Swildon's Hole - Upper Series.

This was my first caving trip, we explored the Upper Series, first taking the long "dry" (supposedly, it was in fact rather wet) way towards Eight Foot Drop. My chocolate fell out of my pocket, but after I had picked it up it had become quite soggy. At Eight Foot Drop, the water had become more intense. We were all quite wet at this point, unaware we were about to get a lot wetter. Rosa and Rocky rigged a rope (after some delay establishing communications between 5 people in a line) and we made our way down. I screamed (twice...) as I lost my footing; Hazel and Haeun were far more graceful in their descent, despite also being on their first trip. Once down, I tried not to think about getting back up...

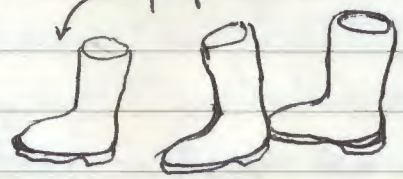
We traversed further to the Twenty Foot Pot, where the other group had rigged a ladder. I was certainly grateful that Rosa decided to turn back here, correctly deciding that we (or I) were not ~~skilled~~ sufficiently skilled* (even if we were the other group might have derigged the ladder whilst we were down)

If going down Eight Foot Drop had been challenging, going ~~down~~ up would be approaching impossible. Of course, it was not (as I am here writing

this), but it was more difficult. Hazel was ~~then~~ had the misfortune of losing both of her wellies, which had to be recovered by Rosa on her ascent. ~~Hope~~ Surely mine will stay on though...

On the return we took the short dry way, which was short... ~~there~~ and only short... This concluded with Jacob's Ladder, a "relatively easy" climb completing the shortcut. I enjoyed this climb, and did surprisingly well compared to earlier in the trip. The final exit involved a climb with water running down over the rocks, in which I caught my foot, ~~and~~ between two rocks. The only option I was left with was to abandon my boot to free ~~my~~ my foot. The boot was fortunately recovered by a group from Southampton we had met at the top of Jacob's ~~the~~ Ladder.

— Toby Mann



* Not really because anyone was insufficiently skilled. More because a) We'd already decided not to do the ladder and hadn't brought our own. b) It was a very wet day and I didn't think anyone ~~on~~ would feel their trip was enhanced by doing a ladder for the first time while being blasted by a massive waterfall.

Agreed!

We tricked the freshers to do Dolphin Pot lol ~~also~~ we already spent 3.5 hours ~~@~~ caving from entrance to DP and our callout is ~~@ 2:30pm~~. in 5 hours. Sounds like enough time so why not. @ We just did it haha, it went well. 5.5

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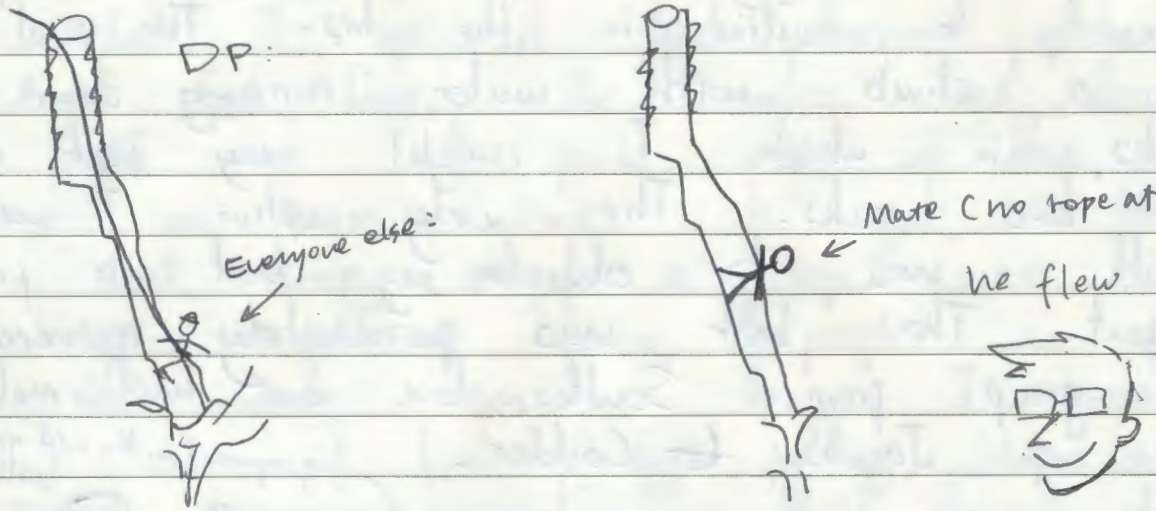
Mate said freshers can do DP without a rope. ~~I know where~~ I ~~don't~~ ~~didn't~~ know where his confidente comes from. (actually I do, but still. I ~~do~~ did not hold the same confidence he had)

we spent one hour going down, then realized we are ~~a~~ not as good as we thought so we ~~to~~ started climbing up immediately after my feet hit the ground. After a lot of struggle, we made it.
Ooo yeah. hahahahahahahahaha



The most adventure I've had in a while!

On an absolutely perfect November Saturday, with sun shining down, no cloud in sight and warm temperature, we decided there was no better way to celebrate than head down a very wet Eastwater entrance. Things started out good immediately, as right before we went in, we helped Tiara adjust her gloves and in doing so, Jesse lost hers down the waterfall at the entrance. I spent a good 10> looking for it in the puddle right below as I got a thorough soaking, only to find it 1 min later in a much drier part of the cave.

Things were more or less manageable until we reached the traverse, where I suddenly realized that was very much acting out my worst (literal & recurring) nightmare - being squeezed between two walls with a huge drop below! Was quite surprised I held myself together long enough to make it to a wide chamber and have some chocolate.

Another manageable bit followed, until I found myself at the front of the group with an excited Fiona right behind me, telling me a small but hairless corridor ahead was Dolphin's Pot. Turns out, Dolphin's Pot was right at the end of it - and rather less straightforward! How on earth Máté managed without any rope or lifeline I will never know, that's definitely a goal for the future.

After lowering down a rope to reach the bottom (with considerable difficulty towards the smooth, grip-less end), we decided there was not enough time to press on and we'd be better off turning around. As Lin Fei attempted to get up, she got herself stuck, to the point we had to remove her foot from her boot and readjust. The boot was fully jammed, and I'm afraid it broke as I tried to wedge it out - sorry OUCC!

I was rather hippitened going back up as I'd never done this on just a rope (and only ever climbed with a harness once before, 15 years ago!). I did slip at one point and "just" almost managed to hold on, but was very thankful Máté was at the other end.

The way back was narrow and uncomfortable at times, but rather stereotypical of what one would expect of a cave; although, note to self, if I train some weight off my hips, it would make these trips a lot easier!

The final traverse was tricky due to the mental element - being so close to the entrance but also wet, cold and tired added to the challenge. I was thankful for Jess's encouragement, and later for hers and Máté's body heat (I realise this sounds akin to an innuendo, but really we just put on our best penguin impressions and huddle up for warmth). One final soaking at the end for good measure soon washed back on, how before call-out time.

Definitely one for the adventure books. Top tip - if you're a pond with a Molgne Lottie to your left, you can carry quite a few snacks with you, and keep them fairly intact. Just don't let it hinder your climbing...

Andrada

* ETA: As Lin Fei made her way up, Jenny, Fiona and I devised a foolproof routine to keep warm, starting with our best attempt to imitate an unidentifiable dolly to doing the cha-cha slide and last but not least, the macarena. Ask one of us for details.

EEEEEEEEH MACARENA AYYY!

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The most eventful ~~week~~ weekend I've ever had in Oxford and the longest 8 hours I've ever experienced.

I got my feet wet before entering the cave — when ~~I was~~ I was waddling through muddy grassland. Everyone else seems normal, so I ~~didn't~~ didn't want to make a big deal out of it, just carrying ~~on~~ on — until later, ~~when, we~~ Máté shouted at me: "you have a hole on your wellies!" To be fair, it wasn't so bad, water can freely flow out of my welly just like they flowed in, which ~~was~~ was particularly useful when everyone's ~~my~~ shoes were soaked with water. ~~I~~ I remained the driest :)

The supposedly "dry cave" has got a great name, with waterfalls right at the entrance. The showering was a warm welcome for us ~~freshers to caves~~!

Climbing, descending, passing through crevasses... it seemed to ~~be~~ drag on forever (although we did spend ~~so~~ forever in the cave). I got my oversized wellies ~~stuck~~ a few times, The worst time was at dolphin's pot, when I ~~had~~ forced to give up my right shoe to get free. Thanks for my mates, Jesse, Andrada, Fiona and Máté, I would ~~be~~ have to hop on one foot if it wasn't for them :(To be honest, if it wasn't for them, ~~it~~ I would be staying on the entrance, wet and miserable, waiting for rescue for 8 hours. They really helped me a lot.

I can't get my ~~word~~ mind straight right now, so that's it! zzz...

Linfei



Sludge Pit: Rosa, Rocky, Toby

The pit is 10 min walk from the hut. We set off relatively early before 11 am, with Rocky forgot to take his helmet. After he returned, we entered the cave.

It wasn't long before we encounter a pitch, which we descended with a ladder. It was Rocky's first time belaying, he liked it.

The cave felt so much like the "dog hole" a few pages before: a lot of squeeze, awkward climbings, and mud. The passages form a maze, and we usually find ourselves somewhere familiar after crawling out of a passage.

After few hours of cave-climbing trainings we headed out and up the ladder quickly. The cave was quite plain, but it was always fun to navigate through the maze.

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WALES weekend 18/11/23 - 19/11/23

Rosa Clements, JEROME 'THE GREAT' OSWALD-JONES, Rocky Yu.
Anya Sochacka, Julia Granato, Muchen Zhao
Dom Nugent, Frances Pope, Pare Hadfield, Máté Soós
Alana Heneslaka, QUYEN TRAN, CALVIN YIXIANG CHENG
Fiona Zhang, Nicole Yoon, Clarafane Gregory,
Nicole Hirt

18th Nov
10:00 Leave Oxford. 13:00 Arrive at Godre Penfro 13:30 Lunch at SWCC.

An Adventure with Máté and Jerome

Two eccentric people lead an expedition with four people who have never been caving before. What could go wrong? Actually, not a lot. We all, except one, had to stand on Pare Jerome's shoulder to climb down a tricky spot. The first traversal was frightful. Nothing in worse than spreading one's body over a pitch-black hole. Alas and my welties got flooded. Unrelated, but as I'm the one writing, I deserve to complain about it.

But it wasn't all stalactites and rainbows. Jerome and Pare, insane lads they are, went off in a tunnel on their own. The others and I stayed behind. Máté stripped and Clara and I sang in the darkness (like 'fucking angels' according to Jerome). Pare got himself lost! Jerome had left him behind! And then, in the distance, a shout.

Not to worry. He was recovered.

Signed, an American
(Nicole Yoon)

Rory Rose
Amelia Steane
Katerina Sandoval
+ Dom
+ Anou

Headed in from upper entrance, through Edward's shortcut and into Northern Lights. Had a bit of a crawl Some had to get in water to get there. and an airy chimney step close to a rope. On the back we saw the gudge and the trident, as well as a big chamber next to the entrace.

Fiona	
Frances	stream way
+ Calvin	Group.
+ Quyen	.

Sat Nov 18. [1-5 star]

Difficulty ★★★★★
Leadership ★★★★★
~~Pleasur~~ Fun ★★★★★★★★★★ ..... $\times 10^{100000}$
Time 5.5 hrs
Call out No needed
Waterlevel ★★★★★ [flooded].
Skills ★★★★★ traverse line x2
rolly rolly x1
crawl x a lot [dry, pod, wet]
(soft) ladder climbing x 1
shoulder + Belay climbing x twice.
squeeze x a lot
Walk in the stream x 2-3 times
stream speed -> can't stand confidently
& stream height -> to the butt

We had a short but nice trip both days. Top Entrance - Corkscrew on Saturday and OFD1 to the Step on Sunday. The water at the Step was as high as I'd ever seen it! Rocky brought a camera and the beginners had fun taking photos.

General Comment: No one went to the stream, but we did. Challenge accepted [while did not finish]
Quite an amazing novice caving experience & Other best part = sitting in the completely darkness for a while, disconnected from the civilization, only peaceful & nature. And great teammates. Bravo. Thanks Nouis very much
— Calvin

(A1)

PEAK WEEKEND 24/11/23-26/11/23

Rosa Clemente, Linfei Guan, Panyao, Mário Saás, Frances Pope

Brandon Tang, Arran Chambers, Leona Renard Kouame, Qianhui Xu

Saturday: Peak Cavern 10am-4pm

I would like to say that it must be the most exciting weekend I've experienced after coming to Oxford. Actually at first I'm sort of nervous about this totally new activity. but the amazing world I saw in caves and nice friends I met during the trip make me firmly believe I make a correct decision to come to peak caves Weekend.

The most unforgettable part was when we turned off our lights to experience total darkness and the sound of water. It can be scary ~~to~~ not being able to see anything.

~~walk~~ ~~Crawl~~ ~~creep~~ in the deep water and crawl through the tight and narrow space was tough for me. Thanks to my friends, they always gave me a hand when I was in difficulties and it felt awesome when ~~at~~ finally conquering various barriers and made a long distance in the cave

It is a really nice ~~very~~ trip and I will come back again!!

Qianhui Xu

Stop reading the back cover of our prestigious Journal!

you cheeky Pig!

