OUCC LOGBOOK 2017 -

2018 too!

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2019 !

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2020 ö

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2021...

+ 2022

+ 2023

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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)

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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 ~~[illegible]~~ pulled her up & onto the pitch head, then picked her up and onto a shelf ~~&~~ to relax.

The exit was similarly frustrating, and hitu left by public transport for Oxford! - Recognising caving ~~&~~ 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 leaners and ...g?) charioteer was angered by a water balloon to the face, and followed this up with a "lover's quarrel" at a later stage of the race - Slag last. Collecting their inflatable from the minerie & chariot from the Shepton, the wessex came first.

Becca - This was my second ~~[illegible]~~ 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 ~~[illegible]~~ 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