Eliza Mei 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'm these~~ because I'm 4'10 an sitting, observing ~~the~~ adult men ~~are~~ 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~~ bit scattered-brained to be writing sensibly!) At any rate, ~~the~~ Earlier today I strapped on my suit and totted my way up the hill to ~~the~~ enter the cave! I have never seen the countryside and it was the most green scene I have ever observed! Their day was organic! No powerlines in sight. I crawled my way down, saying goodbye to light for four hours. Rory, Amelia, Steph, Alexander were the team cavers today. ~~and~~ We ~~have never~~ 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 ~~was~~ hand was a pulley for my moving foot, ~~a~~ 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 ~~am~~ in a new place ~~doing~~ comitting to new activities in a different scene. ~~I'm~~ I didn't expect a warm environment. I have never had this luxury, in my life, to see the world's true beauty: the rocks we wet, smooth, etc. We went down Elephant - 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 fit all the details on one page, but I wish I could. Thank you for this book. Caving was dangerous, fun, collaborative, chocolatereste filled, etc —

29/5/2022. MangNelaAlfaro

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.

~~Step~~ 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 CVCC. 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 OVCC!

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

Rosa Clements, Reuben Harding, Fiona Zhang, Dave Hosty, Mary Rice, Oliver White, [illegible], Ditta, Steph

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

↳ Having spent over 5 years succesfully 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 OFD 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 (~~[illegible]~~ they look like fabric / sea creatures). The team was very nice to help, and we all got wet & muddy, really enjoyed it!

Vic

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↳ 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 into a squeeze before surfacing – 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 shambling ladders aiding our descent. Before long, we arrived at more natural passageways where the squeezing, clambering and bum-sliding began with relish. Spirits were high, boots were dry, and Rory was singing all the powerballads 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 it 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 boiler suit by the end of the trip.

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

left by the progress of the river. The bed of the Stream housed 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 prompt 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 properly wet for the first time. The route ahead demanded wading through a pool only just above tsnee height but this demanded a fundamental rethink of the welly-integrity I had been enjoying thus far, as well as a rethink of "oh I feel quite warm right now." That being said, ejecting the excess water via my knees and slowly heating the remaining 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; hashing my knees repeatedly was always fine while my kneepads remained on, but I was particularly apt at knocking them down at every opportunity; and getting soaking crawling in the water, after Rory said no crawling, was not okay and demanded calls for a mutiny.

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 II)

Jason Clements, Rosa, Graham Naylor, Fiona, Reuben

I had originally suggested attempting the LJ – 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)

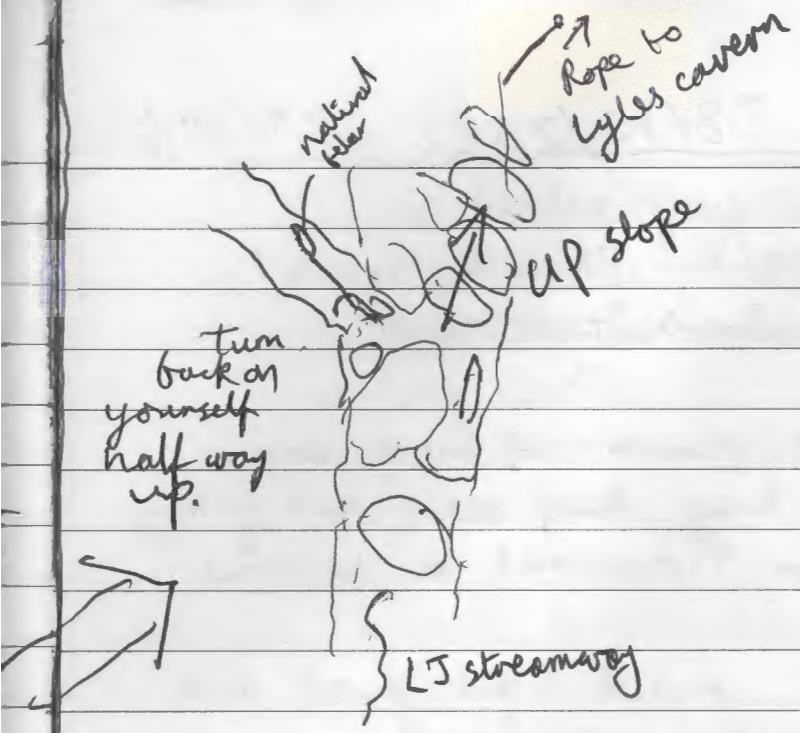
The derigging party emerged ½ an hour or so later.

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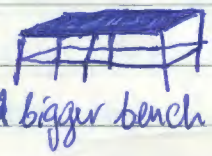
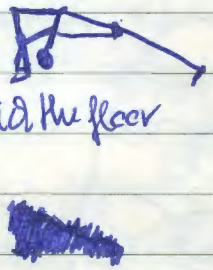
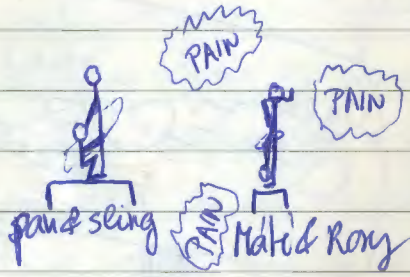
Wales Weekend 08/10/2022 - 09/10/2022

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

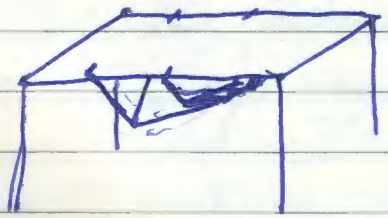
I was taken to a hut full of pictures of naked men. At what age does this stop being funny and start getting a little bit odd? Hut ratings: 9/10. Could be improved with an air fryer.
Spent several hours in a physical and mental dark space. The caves were breathtaking - actually a 10/10 cave - formation - 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

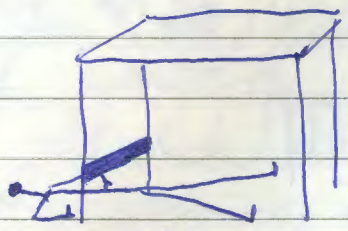


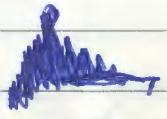












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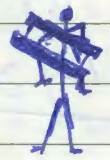
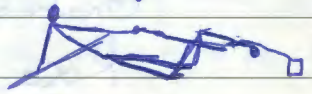
23:30 two Reading guys are doing the sling challenge backwards.
A girl already got injured.
Rory says human traverse!
I am tired.
My arms are shaking.
Squeeze the booty!
Lots of cider.
They managed!
Squeeze machine makes an appearence.
Vlad goes.
Reading guy (almost) stuck in the squeeze machine
Now 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

