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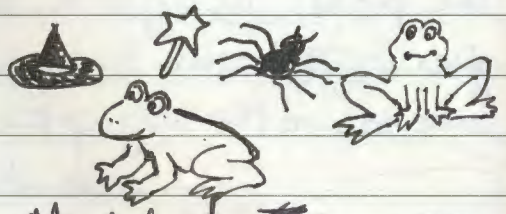
Mendip CHECC weekend, 25/11/2022 - 27/11/2022

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

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

Rosa Clements, Fiona Zhang, Tom Spriggs

Too many people (~~Cambrian~~ CVCC ~~[illegible]~~) so I did ~~[illegible]~~ camping. Vlad lend me his ~~speed~~ sleeping pad. but it leaks. So ~~I [illegible]~~ I ended up sleeping on the freezing ground. lol.
The last day ~~the~~ air temperature dropped to minus ~~zero~~. and ~~my [illegible]~~ 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 ~~[illegible]~~ Pool Sink and County (permanently rigged at the moment due to Wretched Rabbit being unstable). This was not very effective, it's 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 tacklesacks 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.

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

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

21/01/23

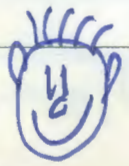
First caving trip here. It's pretty interesting by trying to pass/walk/crawl in my own way. Time down in the cave seems to slow down, and I can see dust flying in my head torch light. It feels like a world far from the world we're living in. If I want to experience travelling back to the very early history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



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.

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

Rosa Clements, Máté Sós, Ștefan Eveson, Fiona Zhang, Vlad Cătămea, 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
chris its to Moss Chamber before exploring The Tube
& looping Galena 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 peli case, pure seems to have survived but will have to wait for tomorrow for the final verdict [stay tuned].

Oxlow

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

Criants

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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President's Invite 31/03/23 - 02/04/23

Rosa Clements, Steve Roberts, Tom Houghton, Jason Clements
Margot Sargent, Chris Dersham, Kitti, Penny, + Phil S. (a bit)*
Paul Mann, Jeanne Whistler, + Oliver, Rose, Pippa
Gail Smith - did buggerall
Sandra Bailey
Brian Derby - was here. Alison Corey
Maarten Krabbenhoft
Ursula & Tony
Katie, Molly, and Theo Ingledew

Callouts

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

1/4/23 Saturday

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

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 further up the pleasantly scrambly

back 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.

We nobly drove past the Martin on the way back, despite its massive gravitational pull. WIMPS!

Steve

1/4/23 Sat Notts 2 Kitti, Maarten, Oliver, Doug, Tom

Intermittent sun and a bit of drizzle at the entrance – this was not the Leck Fell I know – where was the Arctic blizzard? :) After secreting 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 & pretties. 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 :) Tom

* 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 issue. No problems going out at all – fine pitch (24m) & lonely hole.

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

Phil S. nice.