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MENDIP 8/11 - 9/11

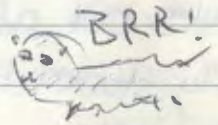
LEADERS	Burrington Combe	
NICK (Swibton's)	BECCA	RORY
2nds PIXIE	KAI	REUBEN
Sara	JAMES	AUTUMN
"The Couple" - Jan & Veronika	TASNIM	VIVIAN
Dan	ALINE	VLAD
	PATRICK	FIONA
		JAI

[redacted]

8/11

SWINDONS - Nick, Pixie, Jan, Veronika, Sarah

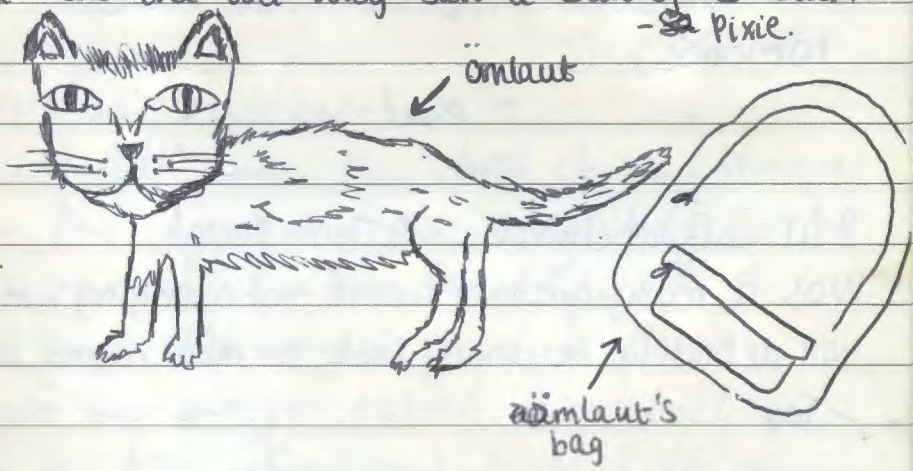
Toured the upper series, Jan & I visited the lavatory pan. There was a rescue cat!



Nick.

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



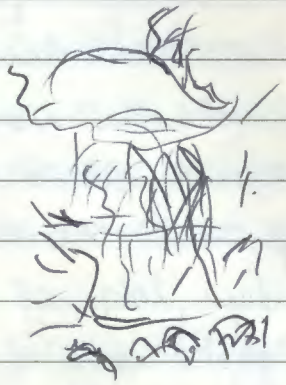


Awesome caving time, both wet and dry, small and big. Couldn't feel my hands on the way back but they're good now (which is why I'm writing this). When I saw that cat in a bag in the cave I thought I'd gone insane. I'd draw it, but Pixie's drawing will just make mine look terrible.

Excited for tomorrow :)

- Dan

Nice waterfalls to climb!



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

"The couple" - Verca & Jan

"Bri ence. Sh (Big)"

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

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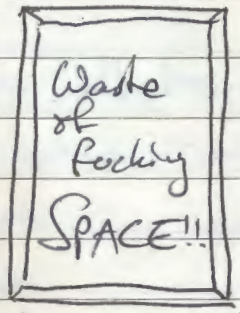
8/11 Goatchurch

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	SWILDONS UPPER
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 ~~chock~~ choke 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~~ us back. We tried Kentish's & 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 ~~to~~ 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 case from yesterday (today Eastwater). 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)

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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 in what to see (formations/ waterfalls/ ...). We went via somewhat ominous looking boulder slope, some 45° slabs, and turned around at the horizontal traverse where Veronica didn't felt certain she would not 80%. Nick led us back and we retraced the same way up.

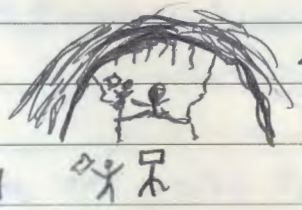
Dan & V. [illegible]

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 solonite. 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 Cwn 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 foam protection works perfectly!! I got a picture of the rock at the confluence, moderately happy :)

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Peak District 29/11/19

Nick "nicholas" Adams; Becca "Rebecca" Miller Aline Linder
Vlad "~~the impaler~~" Cătămea Rory Rose
Laura Warmuth Reuban Harding
Nils M. Realke Ellie Shapiro Dan Kent

Peak Cavern → Moss Chamber 30/11/19
Becca, Aline, Ellie, Nilo, Laura & Nick
Walked up to the cave, almost lost Ann 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 cyphole. Moss chamber was beautiful as ever ♡♡♡ Greatful for the shower afterwards!!
Becca

One of the last trips for my current oversuit, 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? :)
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(s) where I got stuck...). Nice chamber & cool group but my favourite part was the water – maybe I'll stick to exploring caves underwater? =) ☺ – 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.

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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