(81)

Nich Cahlina Alice Steph Carrie Cretta

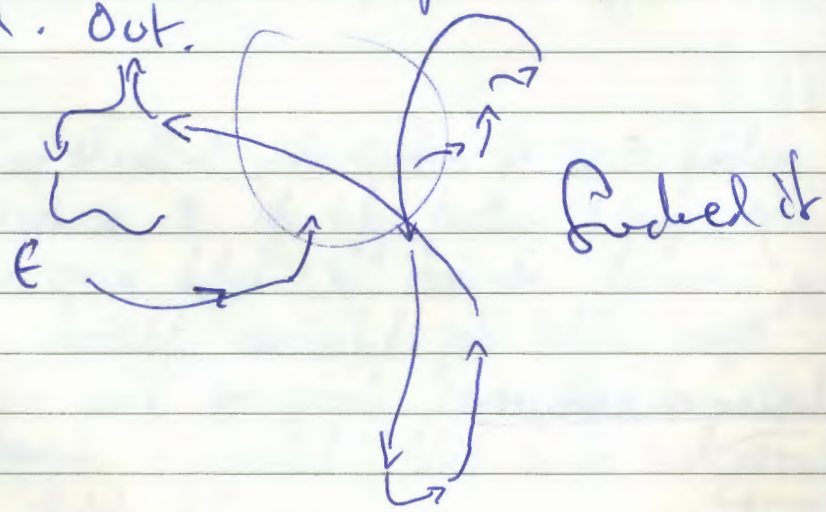
Non-photography trip.

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

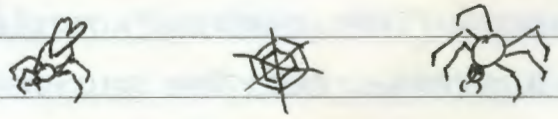
- My first ever trip today! First Goatchurch, which was a nice way to get used to being underground. The squeeze was a little scary, but the rest was fun.
Sidcot Swallet had a lot of squeezes, but they weren't scary anymore. Also had trouble escaping the shrine of the ducks, but Rory pulled me out in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

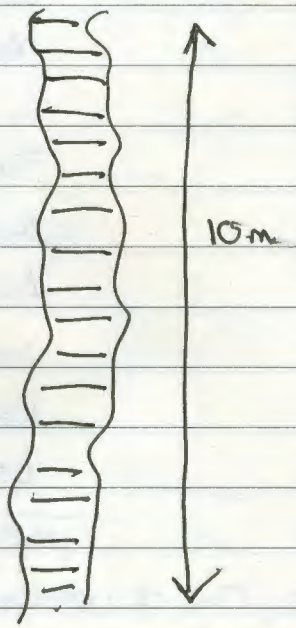
C: ... but the music was worth putting my life in danger for...

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

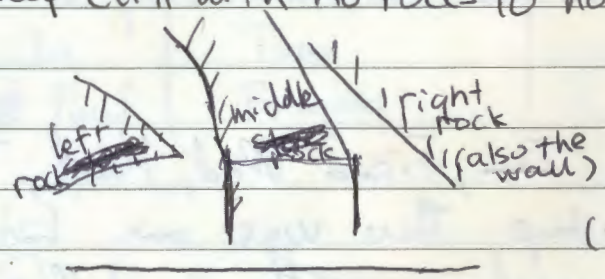
Devon weekend 3rd – 5th September

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". ~~The~~ 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 Tulam & being pulled up by Fiona.

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