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You May Start writing your own trip:

President's Invite 17/04/26 - 19/04/26

Lost Johns (Chris, Jason, Rosa, Michael, Phil, Paul, Tom Maarten)

We successfully did an exchange trip! 4 cavers went down Centipede route, got down to the streamway, spotted the connections to Death's Head and Boxhead, and went up Dome route. Another 4 cavers went down Dome route, saw some of Babbleaxe traverse, and went out Centipede route. Success!!

We were pretty efficient heading down Centipede route and got onto Babbleaxe traverse OK. When Chris had almost finished rigging it, we met another group of 2 coming up. We had to wait for them to prussik Valhalla and had an interesting time passing each other on the traverse. We heard the group and asked them to wait until we'd finished the passing exercise but they'd gone by the time we were done.

We got down the final two pitches and looked at the stream. The water levels were fairly low but we saw some scum showing it had been higher recently. We spent quite a bit of time exploring the streamway which went on for much longer than I remembered. It was a lot of fun! We even saw a cave shrimp which was much bigger than ones I've seen before, about 2 cm long.

On the way out we found a particularly awkward climb that didn't look like anything much but was quite a bastard. Apart from heavy backlesacks (and that climb) it was a brilliant trip. Lovely formations, streamway, and traversy bits.

(74)

Lost Johns - the other team (Maarten, Tom, Phil, Paul)

I hate how these caves have been refurbished that little bit tighter, and how they have increased gravity in some bizzare well meaning attempt to add challenge.

Away from hut by 10 am, which is far too early - we are clearly out of practice when it comes to faffing. Our team made a quick stop at Ingletheef so I could obtain suitable footwear. Met Becca, (who also has size 8 feet) also purchasing wellies, and found there was only one pair for sale of that size. Issue resolved when Becca determined that she needed a larger size to accomodate wet socks,

Progressed onto Leck Fell, for a grade III change (7.5°C, horizontal rain), disturbingly efficient change and in cave by 11.00 am - having given the other team a strategic head start.

Tackle by dumped on me - 'Paul - you're the youngest?' - I lacked the immediate wit to suggest that experience (or its proxy, greater age) should be the determining factor.

Dome route turned out to be already rigged (by aforementioned group of two), so Maarten rigged first two pitches (ropes) with our ropes, I took on the second two - quite easy when we were just duplicating the bright yellow rigging already in situ.

Maarten & Phil leaded thru Battleaxe traverse, Tom & I had a look at the start, then 'took one for the team' and made a start out and up centipede - just so that waiting around would be avoided.

plenty of puffing, emerged to fair weather and happy to lull around the entrance until all our group out. Dry change for the efficients before rain came in again as the tardy where struggling with socks.

Off the fell by 3pm - leaving the better part of the afternoon for tea drinking.

Gavel Pot

On Sunday my Dad and I went to Gavel Pot with some KCC cavers. I don't think I've been there before. I enjoyed the going in and out of daylight on the first couple of pitches. After the pitches there was a climb where we used a 15m rope. It was fairly easy. The two of us weren't intending to do the 3rd and 4th pitches so we left our SRT kits here. It made the streamway crawl a little more pleasant, apart from manipulating the tacklesack with nothing to clip the donkey's dick to. After not long it was time to climb up into Glasfurd's passage. Even those who wanted to do the last pitches left their SRT kits here. You need to crawl through a bit of mud before seeing the very delicate formations, so this is a good idea. The pretties in the newly discoverd passage are absolutely amazing. 2m long straws and other lovely formations. We were out after not too long and on our way back to Oxford by about 3pm. I would highly recommend this trip and think we should visit Gavel more often.

(16)

Wales Weekend 08/05/26 - 10/05/26

Rosa Clements, Grace Joshy, Tom Hale, Isaac Markovitz, Lisa Klimscha

Dan Yr Ogof

Well, we did not die... got lost a few times, but thats part of the adventure I guess. Between crawling swimming and walking around the cave, ther were quite a few cool passages. while crawling was not one of these the short canyon passage, were we could float in inflatable rings was pretty nice. Best part will remain getting out in one pice without resque the

My first time being at Dan Yr Ogof warden. We did indeed do a *lot* of getting lost, and did an unnecessary hard climb. Lisa did really well at the climbing through. No issues with water levels, they were lots lower than last time I was there. Must have been 50 cm different or so.

OFD I Round trip

I hate wet caves! and usually I would've said no to a trip like this however as we did Dan yr Ogof the day before - how much worse could it get? The streamway was really cool and ofcause we dragged around our full so wet wellies the entire trip. I was jealous of Tom as he got away with it until that final wet crawl. Overall had a great weekend and thanks ofcause to Rosa for taking us around and cooking all the breakfast ♡

Grace

~~DALES~~ Peak District weekend 22/05/25 - 24/05/26

Rosa Clements, Zsuzsanna Mozsary, Vlad Cătină, Theo Adams
Isaac Markowitz, Tom Spriggs, Frances Pope, Grace Joshy
Jessica Radcliffe, Viktor Verebely

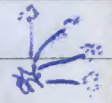
Oxlow

Isaac →
Zsuzsanna →
Theo →
← Grace
← Jessica
Rosa →

Maskhill

← Tom
← James
← Viktor
← Vlad
Frances →

OUCC successfully completed an exchange trip!



It was a sunny day - so naturally - by the time we got to the Maskhill entrance we were all soaking wet. This time it was due to the sun, rather than ugly rain clouds, that was more than welcome though. The season of summer caving has just begun. Once in the cave it took me more than an hour to cool down and acclimatise to cave temps. James started on rigging and once he ran out of rope. ~~[illegible]~~ We agreed that Tom would do the rest of the rigging, so I can follow him and watch him setup the Tyrolean traverse, as I've only ever seen one in books. My excitement was ~~quickly~~ soon gone though as I saw the loose rope already in-place. To make it clear, crossing the traverse was great fun. However I was expecting a complicated ~~[illegible]~~ system that would require the leader to magically cross to the other side then use their ascender to setup a tensioned line. On the bright side I learned that loose tyroleans are a thing, and still had great fun. Soon after this we promptly got to the bottom chamber and started wondering if we'd missed the other team, as the only arrangement we made was that either team would wait 30 minutes before turning around without any other provisions. Our doubts quickly went away

When I saw some headlights at the top of the Oxlow slope. Once everyone got down we sat around ~~eating~~ enjoying our snacks and feeling satisfied about actually succeeding at an exchange trip. ~~Apparently~~ I did get a snarky comment about bringing a sandwich to the cave. Apparently its the French that bring a full picnic and around here we only do chocolate bars. This was my first time bringing a sandwich, not sure I'll do it again. Won't deal with criticism. Other than that our trip climbing up through Oxlow was textbook and we made it out with still plenty of sunlight left.

— Viktor

Peak Cavern

We went down and up the streamway. The Far Sump was not sumped at the start so Viktor, Isaac, and I went through to Bronn's Chamber. Not all that impressive but still, not something you often get to see. We saw Ink Sump and Isaac free dived Lake Sump (no-one else wanted to), I failed to find the round trip because I forgot there was a climb up a rope and thought that was the wrong way. ~~Zsuzsanna~~ Isaac and I found a different round trip back to the stream through. We went back up the ladder. Isaac still wanted to get to Moss Chamber, so Viktor and I went with him while Tom, Jessica, and Zsuzsanna went out. It was a good Sunday trip, I think we saw quite a lot of Peak Cavern.



Isaac winning the tankards



Meeting in the middle – Masklill / Oxlow exchange.

L→R: Jessica, Theo, Zsuzsanna, Grace, Vlad, Frances, Isaac, James (TSG), Tom, Rosa, Viktor

Dales Weekend (Easegill Open House) 05/06/26-07/06/26

Rosa Clemenbs, Vlad Cătănea, Lizzie Glanville, Frances Pope, Rose Xu, Rocky Yu, Carlos Tapia

Top Smk – Lancaster Hole 6 June 2026

Rocky, Carlos, Lizzie, Vlad, Chris (TSG), (Luke, Kate)
HSI

The trip is ambitions, but fortunately Rocky knows the way from ~~that~~ Holbeck Junction, so the real difficulty is only top smk – Holbeck Junction.

We set off from Bullpot Farm at 11:00, 30 min later than I planned (Sorry Chris!). The way to Top Smk is long, but smooth. We got ~~to the~~ near the cave and saw some covers, which gave us a hint on the entrance's location. We were not sure whether the entrance is Boundary ~~Hall~~ or Top, but a short exploration confirmed it was Top.

The cave features lots of tight "Crab Walk", and sometimes even crawling, but the ~~first~~ pitches poses no difficulty in nevigation except waiting. After the bottom of 2nd pitch, we enter a rather complicated place, but the strategy "~~to~~ follow Rocky's nose" worked well, and we identified all the correct oxbows to walk in.

Then we stepped over stream way for 3 times, made it to the bottom of Nagasaki boulder choke. The way onward enlarges a lot. After this, we ended up in the Main Drain via "White Way". Rocky succesfully identified the bypass ~~to~~ along the Main Drain, and the Holbeck junction. The way onward was quickly nevigated through, thanks to Rocky's excellent memory.

Along the way, Rocky found some mistake in his photoed description near Stake Pot, which turned out to be hard climb. The group slowly made their way up the handlines, while traversing some big holes without clipping in (DANGER!) Nevertheless, everyone made it to the bottom of Lancaster, and then out of it, alive.

The whole trip took ~8 hrs. but the distance walked is incredible. Rocky is really happy with the trip: yet another navigation masterpiece this year.

Kate, Luke and I (Lizzie) went to visit Slag world just by the Lancaster Hole pitch. Much enjoyed by all, including feeling slightly sluggish (quite tired + a bit of smoking)

— Terminator — at Main Line Terminus.

Pool Sink to County Pot

Rosa, Rose, Frances 6 June 2026

Nice SRT trip ~~at~~ in a crather)) lovely weather? Pool sink started out really nice, where the SRT parts being friendly and enjoyable, but ~~having~~ pondered around straw chamber and tried ~~a few~~ literally all the possible routes before finding the right one (cave surveying experience +1) WE MADE IT. That's what matters. Chocolate bars tastes much better when you eat them in a cave. We creatively and ambitiously managed to bypass the 'poetic justice' by squeezing through a sinisterly narrow passage (Frances & Rosa ~~has to~~ had to take their SRT off XD). After 7 hours of maneuvering we made it out as planned from the county pot, ~~and saw some~~ with a black fat slug greeting us.

