

*Paul Dold*

*Euro Speleo 2016*

*Ogof Ffynnon Ddu*

*Pwl Dwfyn*

*A non caving trip*

*Gonzos and Mandys combined  
100th Birthday Bash*



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The views expressed in the Newsletter are those of the author of the article and do not necessarily represent the views of the Society. Photos and illustrations not accredited are by the editor.

## Membership

Subs are now due. Please contact Gary Jones to select and pay your membership.

Please send all subscriptions to:

Gary Jones, 29 Canney Close,  
Chiseldon  
Swindon  
SN4 0PG

Current rates are:

**Full £30**

**Joint £40**

**PLUS your BCA subscription per person of £6 for non cavers and £17 for cavers.**

Members who have BCA membership via another club need not pay twice but should include their BCA number and membership club with their payment.

**Associate £24** (BCA Non Caver already included)

**Provisional £10**

for 6 months + pro-rata BCA membership (depends on date joining). Provisional members made into full

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members pay pro-rata subs for the period up to the start of the next membership year (1st October). Full membership information and application form can be downloaded from the CSS website

**New members** wishing to join should send a cheque payable to **Chelsea Speleological Society** along with their membership application form to the Secretary. Members who are renewing a subscription should sent the payment to the Treasurer. The committee will normally consider voting provisional members up to full membership after 6 months by which time they should have become known.

Provisional membership can be extended for another 6 months, but only once, if a Provisional Member has been unable to become known socially and as an active caver within the club. Please contact the Treasurer with any queries.

### Cover Photo

Paul Dold in Mangle Hole  
Steve Sharp



# A Not Trip

*A short reference to a "not-trip" at Easter proved that my memory banks are still functioning. If you can use the note below, please do. Talking of ghosts from the past, the proposed new full member shares a name with a Hereford Caving Club member Paul Hartwright of Kington, Herefordshire, who was active in the opening up of Turkey Series and Summertime in Aggy in the early days. I knew him and Kingsley Hawkins of "Hawkins Horror" quite well. I believe he is still active with HCC.*

*Chris Tomlin's account of his visit to Washfold Pot reminds me that I visited the cave over 50 years ago.*

*For the record, the original exploration by northern cavers took place in the nineteen-thirties, when they wore the stereotypical shellac'd bowler hats with candles attached in lumps of clay. The original account reports that the entrance series needs to be approached "like a tram ticket sideways"! Chris's account confirms this. The narrow rift changes quite suddenly into a short bedding plane squeeze, and it is difficult to envisage how this arrangement came to exist. It was tricky carrying in ladders as this was prior to the advent of SRT. They were nearly as wide as the squeeze is high.*

*The purpose of our trips was to insert a rawlbolt in the left-hand wall above the first pitch for the easier hanging of said ladders. Here I learned that if two of you are doing the job by turns, make sure the other one isn't left-handed. Hand drilling a hole for a rawlbolt above the top of a significant pitch with little to hang on to is problematic, even without a left-handed location. If the bolt is still in place, remember that it is 50 years old.*

*Roy Musgrove*

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## Subs are now due!

*Contrary to popular belief (or so it would seem) the club's membership year runs from 1st October to 30th September. Please pay promptly, i.e. this side of Christmas. One important reason is so that Gary can send in the BCA insurance premiums and we all get our cards without delay.*

*Current rates are – Full: £30 (add BCA insurance at £17 active caver, £6 non-caver, or nothing if you have BCA insurance through another route); Joint: £40 (add insurance); Associate: £24 which includes non-caver insurance. Payment by cash, cheque or bank transfer (Lloyds account no. 00591115 sort code 30-90-02) but please email Gary (chelseatreasurer@gmail.com) to let him know if you send your subs this way.*

# Editorial

Thank's for all this editions contributions and photos Due to work comittments I will be standing down as journal editor at the end of the year.

My final journal will be Oct-Dec so together lets make it a great edition.

Please send in your photos and trip reports etc

Please send all material to:

*Steve-Sharp-Photography@virginmedia.com*

Or put on a CD and send to:

*Steve Sharp  
43 The Crescent  
Sea Mills  
Bristol  
BS9 2JT*

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You could alternatively zip your work and send in as a .rar file using

[www.mailbigfile.com](http://www.mailbigfile.com) (Free version)

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## Paul Dold

*Paul Dold a very close friend and caving companion tragically lost his life on August 30th 2016 in a diving accident in Portholland, Cornwall. Paul was a excellent photographer and would never miss a good photo opportunity. Paul's zest for life was infectious, he always made friends wherever he travelled with his fun and very entertaining antics. I met Paul in 2008 at the photo salon at Hidden Earth, I remember Paul's friendly smile and encouraging approach to photography, we became good friends and enjoyed many trips together including my first trip to Matienzo in 2010 with the West Sussex caving team, Paul was also a keen Scout leader, he often took part in organising caving weekends for the scouts in Mendip.*

*Paul was also a member of the Royal Photographic Society.*

*Paul will be a great loss to the caving community.*

# Eurospeleo 2016 Caving Camps By Adrian Fawcett

The idea of holding pre- and post-Eurospeleo caving camps at Whitewalls was born out of two conversations last autumn, one between committee members, and one between myself and Robin Weare who was coordinating these events at national level. John Stevens suggested we could run camps both the week before and the week after. Nobody disagreed, so it was settled – there would be two Llangattock camps.

Bookings for the camps opened in January 2016. The Ghar Parau Foundation collected the money at a national level, with the organisers of each camp claiming back their expenses and accommodation costs retrospectively. Bookings very slowly trickled in. By early May we had 6 bookings for the pre-ES camp and 4 for the post-ES camp. Then in one week we suddenly had 12 for the first camp – and hurriedly closed it to new bookings. Fortunately three people elected to camp in the garden, so our concerns about how we could manage to sleep everybody were allayed. And with mostly fine weather during the week, others camped in the garden too, and space was not an issue. Participants in the first camp included 3 Belgians, 1 Swiss, several from Australia / New Zealand / USA, and even two from the UK.

With another 10 weeks to go to Eurospeleo we felt sure we would get a few more bookings for the second camp, but sadly none materialised. At the last minute, one more person (who had previously arranged to stay at the GCRG depot in the Forest of Dean) joined us. That should have made 5, but there were two no-shows – an American couple – who it turned out had returned home early for family reasons, but they hadn't passed on any message to say they wouldn't be coming. So our remaining 3 guests, Fred, Henrik and Uros, had an individually tailored caving service for the week!

We provided continental breakfast – cereal, toast, jam, cheese, sliced meat, fruit, tea and coffee – and the second week added yoghurts as well. And on the Friday of each week we had a barbecue. Altogether I think we got the catering side of things exactly right – not much effort for us to organise and well within our budget, yet everyone seemed happy. The barbecues were especially appreciated, and we had good weather for them both weeks.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August started with a cleaning session at Whitewalls. In fact, some work started the night before with some last minute redecorating and a few other jobs. The grass in the garden was strimmed the weekend before. Actually, the first three of our guests had already arrived by the time we got up on Saturday morning and were camped in the garden. The others started to arrive from midday onwards, and all 12 were there by early evening. Since it was a beautiful day, we took half a dozen of them on an orientation walk along the escarpment, and later that evening John Stevens gave them all an illustrated introduction to the local caves.

Those who thought my plan somewhat optimistic that we should be ready to go caving at 9:30 each morning were proved wrong, when on Sunday we all headed off for Craig a Ffynnon at 9:20 for trips of varying length. Monday's trips were to Aggy (including Grand Circle), followed by a Daren through trip on Tuesday, Draenen round trip on Wednesday,

and Otter Hole over-tide trip on Thursday. There were also a couple of trips to Little Neath during the week. By the time we got to Friday nearly everyone was worn out, and the only trip that day was to Ogof Clogwyn. Others took a stroll down to Crickhowell for a pub lunch!

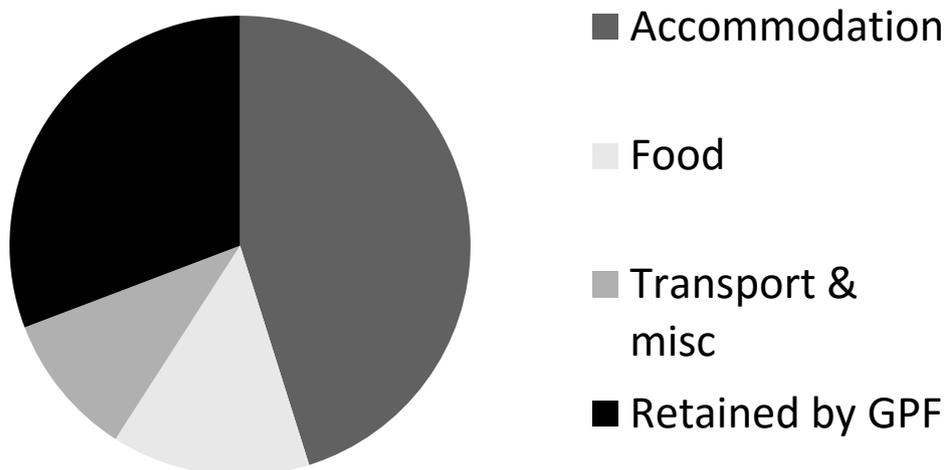
The second week followed a similar pattern, except on a much smaller scale. Craig a Ffynnon on Sunday, Aggy Sand Caverns on Monday, Daren Bonsai and Half Mile on Tuesday, Draenen round trip on Wednesday, Otter Hole on Thursday, and... Eglwys Faen on Friday!

It was interesting to see how cavers of different nationalities coped differently with our caves. I think it's fair to say most of them found the Llangattock caves quite challenging! The Australians were used to big dry dusty caves, so damp caves with crawls and boulder chokes were not really their thing. The Belgians, on the other hand, were used to small and damp, and it was climbing and traversing which was more of an issue, for example Indiana Highway (even before the rope traverse). And for the French and Serbians, water was a problem! On the other hand our guest from Switzerland commented on how warm the water in our caves was. But did they all enjoy themselves? Yes, I think so – but perhaps in varying degrees. Certainly everyone got on very well together, and Whitewalls really is a superb place to spend time in the summer.

Although quite a few people contributed to the organisation and running of the camps, including work to prepare Whitewalls in advance, we owe a particular debt of gratitude to John Newton and Mandy Voysey who were both there for nearly the whole of the two weeks. John gained the title “logistics manager”, looking after expenses, replenishing communal food supplies, keeping track of who had gone caving where and when, and even managing to go caving himself! John Stevens, Joe Duxbury and myself did about one week each, and Sion Way, Jann Padley, Matt Voysey, Chris Tomlin, Andy Tyler, Mel Reid and Gary Jones also helped out.

Finally, what happened to the £100 that each of our guests paid for the experience? The biggest chunk (£745 altogether) was for accommodation, i.e. income for the cottage account. About £30 of every £100 was retained by the Ghar Parau Foundation – maybe a good time to apply for some expedition funding...

## Caving Camp Finances



# CSS Golden Oldies Meet Report.

Weekend 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September 2016



## Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

Our group, known as The CSS Golden Oldies, gathered again in The Bear Inn for the start of our annual weekend get together and to renew old friendships, catch up on the latest news and views. We then went straight into the old caving/potholing reminiscing routine.

Our numbers were down on previous years especially, our “Essex Contingent” as the accommodation at The Dragon Inn was fully booked at the beginning of February and a number of B&B venues around the town centre were in the process of selling their businesses so there was a lack of accommodation in town but we hope to see you all next time around.

Julia James, (a renowned international speleologist,) who was over from Australia to attend the “Eurospleo Conference,” just missed our gathering on her travels. She did get to go down Gaping Ghyll on the winch as part of the conference arranged activities. I managed to catch up with her and Pat Cornelius at Crewe Railway station after their walk along Hadrian’s Wall. I reminisced how the CSS made all the ladder for the Triglav Expedition and lowered 400 feet of it down GG main shaft and a number of us; life lined by Clive Calder, climbed down and up in the wind and spray of the stream as a training exercise for the CSS Triglav Expedition.

John Tooke, who is also resident in Australia, couldn’t make it this year as his daughter Natasha gave him a new grandson called Rex to indulge but he hopes to be with us all next year.

John House and Sue couldn’t make it this time as their boat has been dropped and damaged in France so they have to deal with that.

Trevor and Wendy Kneif were also absent as they were celebrating a special Golden anniversary, congratulation!

Colin Holdsworth couldn’t make it due to his business commitments but sends us all his best wishes.

No Bob Fish this time but we remembered his coming 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday by all signing a card to him.

## **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September.**

RAIN !!!!!!!!

Roy Musgrove planned a day's walk and led Jean, Pat Cornelius, Jan Butterley, Jane and Ray on a walk around the Partrishow area and stopped off at the quaint little 11<sup>th</sup> century church of St. Islow; Welsh, St. Issui, (see photo) with its unusual carved oak gallery. A date of 1055 A D is on the font. A Scotsman was practicing the violin (no not the bagpipes) in the church for a wedding ceremony. They thankfully had their picnic lunch under cover in the 14<sup>th</sup> century porch before continuing their walk in the rain again.

Brian Plimmer, over from Germany, managed a round of golf in the rain at the Abergavenny course to practice with his left handed clubs. Did you start the course from the other end Brian!

Pete Thompson, who has recovered well from having a new aortic heart valve operation went off with his son Ian on an exploration of the Glanusk Park Estate and canal via the river path.

Geo had poorly feet so had a tour of Crickhowell coffee shops and information centre making good use of the umbrella Julia gave him before she went off back to Australia.

Bruce Bedford was undergoing his kidney dialysis ably supported by Lesley before arriving and later Clive and Beryl Calder settled themselves into their room at The Bear.

### **7.00 p m. The Main Event.**

We all gathered at The Dragon Inn and enjoyed an evening of good food and great conversation with heaps of reminiscing of our caving and potholing exploits and the events around obtaining and rebuilding of White Walls. Later in the evening Bruce entertained us with his "Google" translation of the description of the Triglav Ice Cave/Pothole in former Yugoslavia, (now Slovenia).

## **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2016.**

SUNNY!!!

We all gathered at The Dragon Inn in the morning to say lots of goodbyes, some to go home, some to do their own thing and a group of eight of us, encouraged by Jan, drove over towards Merthyr Tydfil to the Pontsticill Brecon Heritage Narrow Gauge (1' – 11 3/4") Steam Railway, "Brecon Mountain Railway". We paid our concessionary fees and boarded the train at Pant Station and had a journey up beside the Pontsticill Reservoir with lots of steam and whistles from the engine up to Torpantau Station where the engine changed ends with the carriages. We stopped on the way back at the halfway Station of Pontsticill for coffee and eats (thanks Pat) and finally returned to the train again and back to the beginning at Pant Station.

Thanks to Roy who helped us with his local knowledge and all the Welsh pronunciation.

We didn't get to go caving or even find the time to visit White Walls again but we sure gave it all a good dose of talking about.

More goodbyes and see you again next September.

Thanks to all for your support and good company.

Geo Fletcher Sept 2016

# Ogof Ffynnon Ddu By Alan Gray



Photography - Alan Gray

26 June 2016 – Ogof Ffynnon Ddu - Upper Swansea Valley – Pete Flanagan, Steve Sharp, Cliff & Keisha Dockrell, Alan Gray

Met up at Aust Services and Steve left his car in the nearby village so we could travel in two cars rather than three.

On arrival at the South Wales Caving Club cottage at Penwyllt we found it locked with on-one inside. After playing "search for the mobile signal game" contact with Mike, a club member who lives close by, and he drove up with a key.

After a ten minute uphill walk the cave was entered via Top Entrance to the Brickyard. Keshia did not seem too happy here as she carefully picked her way over the slippery boulders, but on arrival at Gnome Passage she cheered up. We took photographs here then on to the Wedding Cake formation that looks nothing like a cake more like a flattish volcano. Then on to the Corkscrew and when we were half way down Keisha was very unhappy so we all agreed that the best solution would be to slowly make our way out. More photographs were taken at the Big Chamber Near The Entrance and we exited the cave into a foggy drizzle.

I think there were several reasons why Keisha became concerned –  
She was wearing walking boots that may not be so grippy as wellingtons.  
Being short she found difficulty bridging between the rocks.  
After feeling unsafe on her feet her anxiety probably

increased.

The drop at the Corkscrew was probably intimidating.

Last but not least the further she travelled into the cave the more she realised that she would have to repeat the whole trip in reverse to get out – increasing her sense of isolation.

Still when we returned to the cars she was happy and stated that she would go caving again.

A wonderful cave – the first time I have visited it – must return to explore it a bit more

All in all a good trip.

The one low point was that on reaching the M48 the sign stated that the "old" bridge was closed so we had to take a very long detour to return Steve to Aust and reunite him with his car!



# *Swildon's Hole* by Joe Duxbury

17 July 2016

Joe Duxbury, Matt Dunn, Lee Hawkswell,  
Jennie Lawrence, Jann Padley, Freya ?

*After the exertions in Fairy Cave Quarry the day before, some of us were still prepared to venture underground.*

*We changed in the Main's barn, and set off across the fields. When Lee and I got to the entrance, there was Christine Grosart leading a Belgian family on possibly their first trip underground. They let us go in front, and we crawled into the chamber the other side of the big block. Jann and Matt joined us, and we waited for the others. We waited while the Belgians came through, and passed us. And we waited some more. Eventually Jennie and Freya arrived. They had been so engrossed in conversation they had walked completely past the Swildon's shakehole, and continued into the next field! At the Twenty we managed to put the ladder*

*and the pulley for the lifeline on the wrong hangers, which gave the first person down some difficulty. After we'd put that right, we all reached Sump 1. Chris Binding arrived with a party of guests, and he gave us a demonstration of passing the sump. But none of his punters wanted to copy him. Jennie then developed a case of asthma, so we turned back, giving her assistance where needed. Lee and Freya took her very speedily back the way we'd come, and were out of sight when the rest of us got to the Water Chamber. So I suggested we go out the Wet Way, for a change, which we did. I made a slight route-finding error near the end, but we got out ok. Jennie had recovered once she got out into the warm, dry air of the surface, and Freya had enjoyed her first Mendip cave.*

Joe Duxbury



*The Mendip BBQ meet*

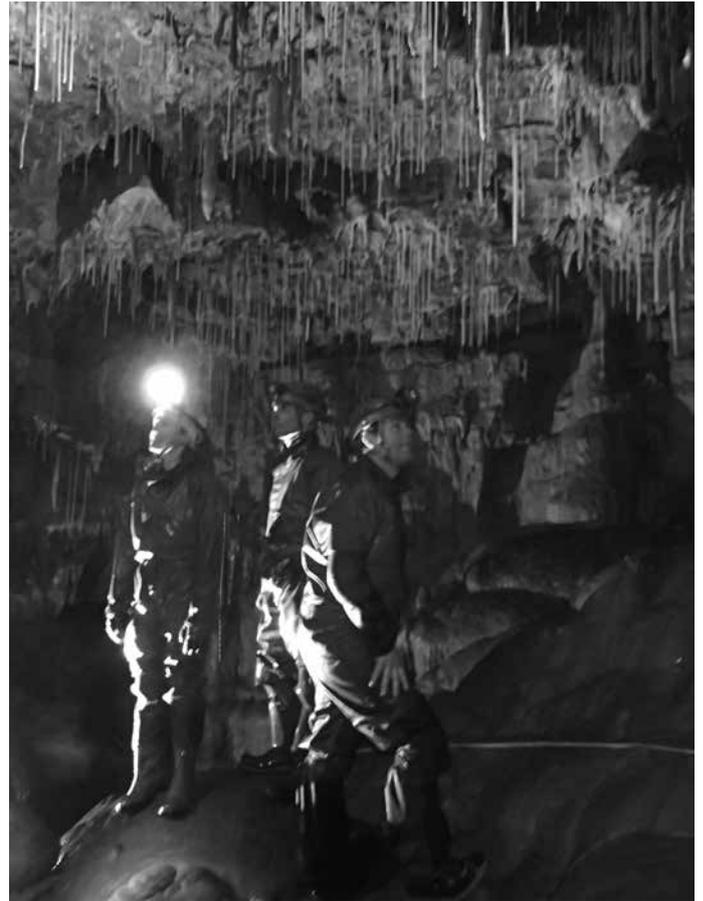
# Ogof Craig a Ffynnon By Paul Tarrant

A group of six, comprising mainly CSS members, did an evening trip to OCAF when we visited the Hall of the Mountain King. The trip was a first for two people who were very impressed by what they saw, especially when they got to HOTMK chamber with the huge calcite cascade tumbling down from the top of the rear wall. I took a few photographs which are included here, which were taken using a handheld Olympus Tough TG-4 camera set on Auto program mode and lit by a selection of Scurions, Sten and Hope lights and a SkyRay light.

Our trip was uneventful, especially the climb down the pitch from second choke as there are these wonderful Via Ferrata plates (placed by Stuart France) which make climbing and life so easy now, and we emerged to a howling gale which lashed us with rain that threatened to turn to snow as we changed. On the trip were Claire Vivian, Adrian Brown, Lisa Boore, Dan Thorne, Mark, and me.

Trips in Ogof Craig a Ffynnon were not always like this and I remembered how it was, back in the day, and thought I'd share early memories of the place.

Chelsea used to meet and drink in the wonderful Britannia Inn in Crickhowell High Street back in the seventies and Roy and Dot who ran the Brit were keen to welcome cavers, probably because they were a thirsty breed back then. The Brit used to be the place that cavers from all over south east Wales would gather and drink and swap stories of their trips and digs. There was no Internet or mobile phones then so the pub was the place for gossip, divers getting their Sherpas, and people spreading stories of their latest finds as Descent only came out once or twice a year if you were lucky. I remember one night the beer was flowing and John Parker telling us about this fantastic new discovery he and his small group had made and Mike Starr brazenly asking him 'How about a trip in there sometime John, show us what you've found?' Remarkably, John agreed and entrusted the key to us and some of us did the trip a few days after its initial opening, going as far as Anne's Pantry and the pitch up to the



second choke which was still being dug back then.

There was a horrible tight duck not far from the entrance where Pete Bull who was on this first trip, almost drowned on a subsequent trip. I had to hold Pete's nostrils out of the water so he could continue breathing! The duck was a serious obstacle to anyone with a chest broader than 38 inches and thankfully Parker removed this later on.

We were truly amazed by the profusion of straws and flowstone that we saw in the earlier parts of the cave, it being a change to the sort of formations we had, at that time, come to expect of a cave on Llangattock/Clydach Gorge as Daren Cilau had not been extended then and things like the Courtesan in Agen Allwedd or Ogof Capel were still to be discovered.

Our trip on that day back in November 1976 noted the presence of North West Inlet but we did not explore it. We carried on to Anne's Pantry, had a look at the roped climb up to second choke, realised it was not going to go



*Photography - Paul Tarrant*

*without a lot of effort and hard work, and then retraced our steps towards the entrance.*

*The return through the first choke was traumatic because it fell in behind us after Pete Bull had just dropped through it! A mighty rumble had Pete and me looking at each other and thinking, 'That don't sound good' and it wasn't. An electron ladder was used to climb through the choke and this had been chopped in three bits by a grand piano sized boulder which had slid down into the hole down through the choke. We learned this from Parker who removed the boulder a few days later. He did not hang about in doing this!*

*The trip report was never written up for the newsletter, but I think it was done by Mick Starr, Dave Mills, Bas Slade, Pete Bull and me.*

*The cave is still lovely as ever and modern day lights enable you to see much more than we ever did with our Nife Cells and Oldhams.*

*Paul Tarrant*

*Apologies to Paul Tarrant*

*This is a re-print of the original text as we accidentally didn't print the end of the story.*



**NEW**  
**Chelsea T-Shirt**

**£7** each or **£12** for two of the same size & colour.

Available in S, M, L, XL, XXL

Printed in White on a variety of colours:  
Black, Green, Navy Blue, Orange, Red, Royal Blue, Grey

To help the CSS committee determine how many to order  
and to make sure that you don't miss out

please send your size, colour and number required  
before **August 31** to Mel: melrei@hotmail.com

The order will be placed in early September

so that T-Shirts are ready for  
distribution at Hidden Earth so **HURRY!**

# Pwll Dwf n By Gary Kiely

*I found myself with a free pass for the weekend and had no trip planned in advanced, so White-walls was a good start for these sort of week-ends.*

*Matt and Mandy V offered to do their care in the community bit and came over to WW to keep me company and to make sure cave rescue had a weekend off.*

*I had not done any SRT for a long time so I suggested Pwll Dwf n.*

*I had been here once before as had Matt and Mandy and we thought with the power of collective opinion, memory and gut feelings we would be able to find the cave entrance. I'll tell you now, that stuff does not work. What a stupid stupid place to put a cave! Top of a big bloody hill, miles away from any ice cream van! and limited 4G signal.*

*Following a long walk, lots of .... Admiring the view, checking the internet and ignoring Mandy when she said "I found a hole over here" , we eventually found the cave entrance. Funny enough it was just where Mandy has suggested. Bloody women and always having to be right!!*

*I have never rigged in a cave before so as we had no time constraints and I knew 2 x knots, I rigged the cave.*

*An old hanger immediately as you enter makes you think, I should have a rope on this, so the first climb down was a bit tentative and was totally unjustified. It was level passage for about 4M to the pitch head.*

*The P Bolts are in good sensible places and rigging was easy. Mind you my first few alpine butterflies were a bit ropey and I was glad of Mandys diplomatic ways of dealing with the situation.*

*P1 was a simple straight drop to a sloping boldery floor and P2 is only about 5M beyond the landing area, the same rope did both pitches.*

*P2 has a secondary Y hang about 2M forward and 2M below the main Y hang. This is a very wide, pretty pitch and half way down out of*

*the corner of my I spotted a P bolt deviation point, disappearing into the darkness above me. I paused for a moment to see if I would have to change over and go back to it, but I couldn't see any rub points etc so I continued to the base of P2. It was a touch damp at the bottom of P2 but thankfully the water levels were low so not so bad.*

*Note to self, nobody puts in a deviation on a whim.*

*P3 easy to rig, nice decent, nice solid flood to land on ..... and no way on! I climbed into the next chamber, nothing. Squeezed into those crevices that the stream ran in and nothing. Then Mandy arrived and pointed to the gaping big hole in the rock face 5M above our heads that I had whizzed past.*

*I prusiked back up and did the mission impossible swing through a window thing to get into the eyelet disgracefully. You may find it hard to believe but my days as a stunt double for Tom Cruise are over. So all in all P3.5 was an interesting manoeuvre.*

*Being attached to the rope clambering over the boulders to the head of pitch 4 was tedious, added to that the new bobbins on my stop were working annoyingly well.*

*P4 seemed to be the longest pitch at about 30/35M. It had several rigging options and I think I interpreted them differently to most, I missed the 2nd rebelay on the way down and only saw the deviation on the opposite wall. It was a bit of a swing to get to the deviation, I suppose that would be less of an effort if I was more observant and used the rebelay. Matt said he spotted a potential rub point and tweaked the set up while I was faffing on P5. On the way down P4 I heard a regular un cave like sound, it was a similar sound to a diving regulator being released in the distance.*

*I stopped several times on the pitch to listen but it never got louder.*

*Eventually I noticed it was a drip from above landing on the hot bobbin of my descender and being boiled off on contact. I was surprised at this as I would call myself a feeder on descent and not very fast. It must be the combination of*

*the new bobbin verses pies that caused the heat build up. The way on from P4 to P5 is not the most obvious and requires a little hunting.*

*P5 was a bit exposed and I was glad of the traverse line incorporated in the rigging. Long legs help with this rig as the main Y hang is central to the roof over the drop with a bit of a ledge going around the edge.*

*Take off was nice from here. Just one straight drop from here to the base of P5 and the sand-bags of the sump.*

*I few years ago this was a hive of activity for the divers trying to find a link to some of the many diver only systems within DY0.*

*I'm not sure if this dig is still active.*

*I headed to the top of P5 and waited for Matt and Mandy in the dry interlinking chamber and was itching to have lunch so waited patiently. Then Matt told me he had already has his lunch and to carry on to save time, right then no lunch for me then. Pitch 4 and 3 finished off my legs so I curled up in the corner of the base of P2 and released the fruit loaf.*

*It was the right idea as I felt better almost instantly.*

*Half way up P2 I had a pang of guilt, I had no bag!!! Noooo!!! Matt and Mandy were hauling out all the rope together. I waited apologetically at the top of P2 and took Mandy's full rope bag and headed for the sunlight. I made a meal of it getting off P1 I'm glad nobody saw it.*

*That last bit where you climb out into the sunshine, if anybody has figured a graceful way to do that bit please let me know. I was pleased as punch when we got out, I rigged it and nobody got hypothermia, no ropes fell off, and everybody was still in one piece.*

*This was the point when I was glad it was up hill on the way to the cave.*

*It was a pleasant meandering trip down to the car park in the early evening warmth. I found some pointy looking brown wild mushrooms near the stile, they looked alright so we dared each other to eat them, they were a bit meaty tasting but not unpleasant.*

*All the normal people had gone home from the show cave and my little car was waiting for us all on its own. On our way back we passed the road to Penwlt on the left and called into an odd looking pub that looked like somebodies*

*house called Pen-y-cae Inn.*

*None of us had been there before and as we had no fixed plans for the evening we though why not explore.*

*We pulled into the car park and as I phoned Steve Sharp to off our callout I saw Matt and Mandy staring at fences in different areas of car park. Matt looked .....confused.....Mandy looked happy.....*

*I headed over to see what was going on and there was an enclosure with some burrowing owls, I mean all very cool but in a pub car park in a small welsh village? How random!*

*Then I approached Matt the confused, who was outside another enclosure with some massive white birds in a Rea style, some very colourful ducks and three young wallaby's..... yes I said wallaby's!*

*They were gently bouncing around.*

*Anyhow Mandy no longer wants Matt but wants a wallaby. We could teach Matt to bounce about .....but she still wants a wallaby. Next enclosure had a monkey type chap sleeping in his box. He was twitching so I assumed he was alive. Then 8 more wallaby's, goats and a separate enclosure for merekats who were all fast asleep and not performing. I didn't know that for sure of course, they could have been eaten by some merekat munching carnivore but I'm not sure the 3 metal, life sized giraffes and the plastic gorilla would have approved.*

*We went and had a pint in the pub, it was quite a classy joint with nice looking chips, and dainty portions served to some very well dressed classy folk. I was wearing a muddy stubbly face with cut down raggedy jeans. To be fair everybody was nice and happy and smiling at me. I bet they though I was a bit special, people usually don't smile at me that much. Anyhow I thought I was going to meet Alice in wonderland, then the last half hour would have had made sense.*

*I would like give to thanks to Matt and Mandy Voysey who made it a grand day out.*

*To Adrian Fawcett for his wonderfully accurate rigging topo for welsh caves.*

*And to Steve Sharp who agreed to be my call-out only in exchange for writing a trip report.*

*PS I made up the bit about the mushrooms but it helped make sense of the rest which is true.*

# A not-caving trip: Ibbith Peril II, Dentdale, August 2016 - By Chris Tomlin

*According to the guidebooks, it is well worth doing the caves of Ibbith Peril (I and II) in Dentdale. Ibbeth Peril I is a fine cave. It seems that the neighbouring caves (Ibbith Peril II and Broadfield Cave) are worth a look as well. There is a direct connection from IPI to IPII but I think it silts up often, so it seemed better to go into IPII as it involves only a short crawl from the surface and a short ladder pitch. It connects to Broadfield Cave via a crawl – there is no sign of the oil drum entrance to Broadfield Cave in the stream bed despite a lot of looking.*

*The entrance to Ibbith Peril II is only a few metres downstream from IP I. It is an obscure hole against the stream cliff on the true right bank of the normally dry stream. A 2m drop leads to a crawl through a pool and then the ladder pitch. On a previous visit I had cleared the entrance of flood debris, only to be stopped by a solid blockage of wood and cobbles at the start of the crawl. So on this visit I was well-equipped with tools to clear the crawl out and get to the pitch to see if it needed a ladder or could be done by SRT.*

*It had been raining on the drive up from Preston, and was still raining hard when we drove past Ribblehead and down Dentdale. Parking up in the rain, I checked the stream bed before changing into caving gear. It was totally dry, so I got ready then looked again at the stream bed and noticed a small amount of water starting to flow down it. I smugly thought nothing of it, assuming that the dry catchment was soaking up the rest of the rain. I climbed down into the stream channel and made my way up it to the entrance to IPII. Since I had last been there someone had covered it over with flat rocks. Even so I had to clear flood debris from around the entrance before I could move the flat rocks and look down the drop. There was slightly more water coming down the*

*riverbed by that time and the waterfall about 20m upstream was looking a bit larger than before. However I noted the way to IP I was still clear - there was a large flat ledge that was well above water level that led right to it. So I checked my light, got the tools ready and prepared to descend the drop. And paused. Now the waterfall that was dry when we parked up was really starting to roar, it was still raining hard and flood water was lapping at the edge of the slab. At this point I went and made sure it was possible to climb out of the gully as the stream bed I had walked up was beginning to disappear under flood water. Back at the entrance I sat down to think, noted that the slab over to IP I had completely disappeared underwater, and dangled my legs down past the entrance. In a few minutes the flood was starting to lap at my feet like a friendly puppy, so I decided not to go caving that day. Instead I replaced the slabs over the entrance of IPII and watched the flood come up ever faster to pour down the drop into the cave, followed shortly after by a small whirlpool to show where the entrance was. Glad I wasn't underground! I climbed out of the gully and made my way back to the car.*

*I didn't take any detailed timings of the flood pulse, but I was away from the car for 28 minutes, and it was still rising when we retreated to the Sportsman's Arms further up the dale (you can keep an eye on the river from the bar). That means that both the entrances to IP I and II went from bone dry to completely underwater in about 30 minutes. Not much water gets into II as the flood is rising as it has to filter through boulders, but there is a sudden large increase in flow when it starts to pour straight down the entrance shaft. A good reason to really check the weather forecast. I'll be back but not if there is rain forecast!*

# Daren Cilau join 100th Birthday Bash



Mark Lumley  
Photo - Andy Watson

*The combined 100th Birthday bash of Gonzo and Mandy turned out to be a great success with the usual suspects and a few new faces. The celebrations started on Friday afternoon, Mandy had baked a surprise Birthday cake for Dave King who was also celebrating a birthday. After a few cups of tea and a large slice of cake we made our way up to the entrance, the journey in was good and we arrived at camp in good time to set up and for Charles to make a superb evening meal for around 12 people, the food was washed down with some fine cocktails, exaggerated caving stories and my rubbish music.*

*On Saturday we prepared a filling breakfast and split into two teams, team 1 led by Mandy visited*

*Psychotronic Strange ways while team 2 led by Gonzo continued digging in Kilburn High Rd. The dig made some good progress but did not draught well so digging was split into small shifts. The evening entertainment was a trip to the sumps in the formation of the Conga with a couple of disco lights, we were hoping Gary Jones would dive in as promised but unfortunately the visibility in the*



Charles Bailey  
Photo - Mark Lumley



Mandy Voysey

# Vurley Dig. Summer 2016.

By Nick Chipchase

Although Vurley was started as a Summer dig back in May last year a few hardy souls continued digging over the Winter months. This turned into a foul exercise as the fine silt through which we were digging turned into a sloppy mess when the dig ponded up during wet weather. Hauling the muck up to the top chamber got everyone covered from head to foot. In April things improved as three metres down into the silt we hit gravel which allowed the dig to drain. Polypropylene bags were filled with gravel and used to build retaining walls in the shaft and the return of the Thursday crew saw the lining of the shaft with a fine cement and stone wall. This included an arch to support part of the crumbly roof. At the end of April it was possible to see an undercut developing at the bottom of the shaft and the Thursday crew cleared a section to see a bouldery passage leading off. This occurred on May 1st so it was decided to call this bit " Maidez ". On our return the following Tuesday

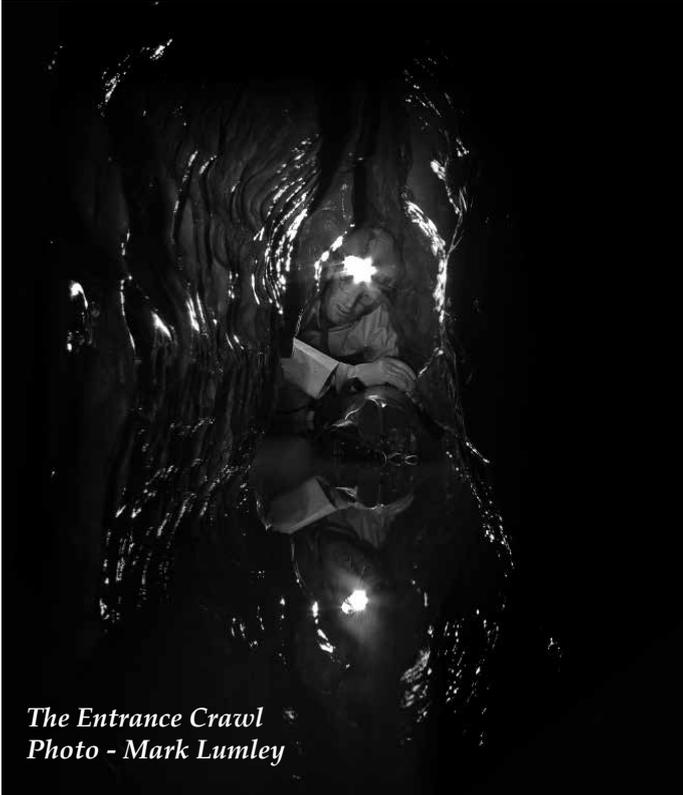


Ankle Grinder  
Photo - Mark Lumley

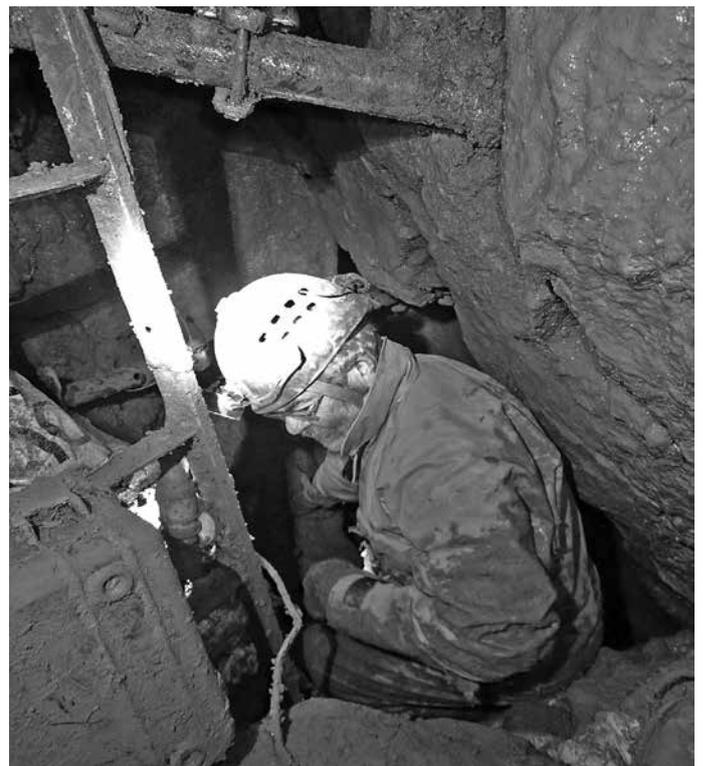
water was poor so Gary made the sensible decision to abort. Charles cooked up some fine cuisine and cocktails were plenty full.

Sundays trip out was easier than expected up until the dreaded crawl which offers its own set of challenges.

All in all a successful trip full of good fun and surprises, why not join in on the next camp.



The Entrance Crawl  
Photo - Mark Lumley





*was solid bedding wall with huge boulders piled against it. It was blocked two metres down but we could see open spaces beyond. The encouraging draught was ever present. Several sessions , the latter using forty Hilti caps, enabled us to reach the bottom some six metres further along. The dig closed down to mud and clean washed boulders following the solid bedding wall into unknown depths. Currently we are working around " Damocles " to make the area safe. Our centre line survey shows that we have nearly 80m of cave running down dip to a depth of 36m. Our final dig point is some 50m S.W. of our entrance and all of the cave appears to be within the overthrust between the major faults.*

*Nick Chipchase July 2016*

*we cleared out the new passage to enter a roomy chamber beyond a squeeze. This was our third natural chamber each saving us the effort of transporting rubble from a new dig site. The new chamber was about four metres long and four metres high. On each side of the solid walls a huge boulder sat, seeming unsupported, both of which kept the boulder roof in place. The largest boulder was christened " Big Bertha. " A three metre deep hole at the far end of the chamber looked promising but our ever present draught came up through boulders by the breakthrough point. A shaft was dug down against the wall at this point but at three metres depth entered boulders with no sign of bedrock. Scaffolding was used to line the shaft. A kind dive shop man we knew donated fifty metres of tube which we cut into two metre lengths half of which we carried into the cave. Using the generator powered angle grinder in the chamber created some nice spark effects for photography but filled the place with smoke. Some scaffold clips came from another free source.*



*Some dodgy digging episodes continued at the bottom of the new shaft until another breakthrough occurred in June. This time whilst digging in the floor a hole in boulders appeared going straight ahead. This was cleared under horrible hanging death ( " Damocles " ) to enter our fourth natural chamber with a rift in the floor. The rift*

*Photography  
Nick Chipchase*

# CSS Meets List 2016 *By Mandy Voysey*

**October 14th-16th - Derbyshire** - Staying at the Orpheus hut in Monyash. Proposed trips are Giant's Hole Round trip or Maskhill/Oxlow exchange on Saturday, and Water Icicle on Sunday (organiser Mandy)

**November 4th-6th Whitewalls** - Bonfire Weekend with local caving

**December 2nd-3rd Whitewalls** - Curry Night and caving

## CSS Club Stand at Euro Speleo 2016



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## Cottage Bookings

*Imperial College Caving Club - 14 – 16 Oct 2016*

*South Wales CC - 21 – 23 Oct 2016*

*Imperial College Caving Club - 28 – 30 Oct 2016*

*CSS - Bonfire - 4 – 6 Nov 2016*

*CSS - Curry - 2 – 4 Dec 2016*

*Bristol Exploration Club - 16 – 18 Dec 2016*

*CSS Dinner and AGM weekend - 27 – 29 Jan 2017*



# *Jingley Pot*

*Photography - Steve Sharp*