

CHELSEA SPELAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 54 Nos 7 & 8 July/August 2012



**The Caves of
the Lesser Garth**

**Upper Flood
Swallet**

CONTENTS

Midweek Trips	56
Visiting some Caves in Thailand	58
Ogof Ffynnon Ddu 1-2	59
Pollution in the Clydach Gorge	59
The Caves of Lesser Garth	60
Sang Hoi Cave near Vang Ven	63
Digging in Upper Flood	64
Fossil Passages	67
Pottering about on Mendip	68
Meets List	71
Officers of the Society	71

Cover Photo:
Andy Snook in the Water Chamber, Swildon's Hole
Photo: Steve Sharp

Membership

Please send all subscriptions to:
Gary Jones, 4 Glebe Close,
Bookham, Leatherhead,
KT23 4DJ

Current rates are:

Full £25

Joint £33

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 £21 (BCA Non Caver already included)

Provisional £20

Provisional members made into Full members this year have to pay the Full member rate.

New members wishing to join should send a cheque payable to **Chelsea Spelæological Society** along with their membership application form to the Secretary. Members who are renewing a subscription should send 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.

Membership

Welcome to new provisional members:

Shaun Hill

Elizabeth Winstanley

Editorial

Thanks to all those who have provided material for this newsletter, please keep it coming.

 **Mark Lumley**

Please send all material to:

mark@creativeedge.me.uk

Mark Lumley,

The Creative Edge

7 Langleys Lane,

Clapton, Radstock,

Somerset BA3 4DX

Caving Matilda

To be sung to the tune of “Waltzing Matilda”.

Once a jolly caver camped down by a swallet hole, Under the shade of an old rowan tree,
And he sang as he tied his ladder to a stalagmite “Who’ll come a caving Matilda with me?”

Caving Matilda, caving Matilda, Who’ll come a caving Matilda with me?”

And he sang as he tied his ladder to a stalagmite “Who’ll come a caving Matilda with me?”

Deep beneath the surface, far inside a bedding plane, Where oh where can the way on be,
And he sang as he listened to the murmur of the waterfall, “Who’ll come a caving Matilda with me?”

Caving Matilda, etc.

Up popped a cloud burst, flooded down that swallet hole Down into the bedding plane, a turf brown sea,
And he sang as the water flowed into the bedding plane, “Who’ll come a caving Matilda with me?”

Caving Matilda, etc.

Up drove the rescue, seated in an ambulance, Out jumped the wardens, one, two and three,
And they sang as they sat and they waited for the sun to shine “Who’ll come a caving Matilda with me?”

Caving Matilda, etc.

Deep beneath the surface, far inside that bedding plane, There lies a caver, ne’er to be seen,
And you might hear him singing, should you wander by that swallet hole,
“Who’ll come a caving Matilda with me?”

“Caving Matilda, caving Matilda, Who’ll come a caving Matilda with me?”

And he sang as he tied his ladder to a stalagmite “Who’ll come a caving Matilda with me?”

Andy Watson

Midweek Trips

The recent series of weekday evening trips is something of a new departure for CSS, so deserves recording in the newsletter.

If you are free for midweek evening trips check the members forum on the website.

Ogof Craig-a-Ffynnon Hall of the Mountain King

12th March 2012 - 3.5 hours

Adrian Fawcett, Paul Tarrant, Frank Longwill, Sarah, Ewan (both from Chesterfield CC)

This was the first of the evening trip series. It was Sarah and Ewan's first trip in the cave, being associates of Frank in the Outdoor Activities business. The pace was very steady, allowing plenty of time to admire and photograph the many impressive formations along the route to Hall of the Mountain King.

Porth yr Ogof

27th March 2012 - 2 hours

Dan Thorne, Lisa Boore, Frank Longwill, Paul Tarrant, Tim Gibbs

The water levels were very low. We entered via the Tradesman's entrance and followed the streamway to sump 5 which was now a duck (approx 1 inch of airspace) due to the water levels. We all went through downstream at least once. Dan went back through upstream against the current. We then followed the river to the White Horse pool and then swam down the passage to the great bedding cave. We had a look at the Letterbox squeeze, Hywel's Grotto and The Creek amongst other things, before heading to the Great Bedding cave and out through the resurgence pool which was straightforward given the low water levels. We then retreated to our cars where we slowly regained our core temperatures.

Ogof Draenen Big Bang Pitch and Gilwern Passage

18th April 2012 - 4.5 hours

Dan Thorne, Lisa Boore, Frank Longwill, Adrian Fawcett, Tim Gibbs

The conditions at the parking point were a tad hostile and Frank's suggestion of bringing a van to change in would have made things more comfortable. The entrance series was also on the damp side. We chose to follow the Darling Rifts, a very pleasing passage, leading to the Big Bang Pitch, which had a rope in place. We all descended and regrouped at Cairn Junction. We then set off down Gilwern passage which is well decorated and after while we squeezed through to the Galeria Garimpeiros Extensions. We had a quick look around but by now time was getting short. So we headed back the way we came to Cairn Junction where Lisa and Adrian went back up the Big Bang Pitch and the rest of us, when we had regrouped, went out through the pitch bypass meeting Lisa and Adrian with exceptional timing at the start of the entrance series. We had a good soaking on our exit and a chilly and exposed change into our clothes back at the cars.

Ogof Pont Gam to Nant Rhin Through Trip

24th April - 2 to 3 hours

Adrian Fawcett, Tim Gibbs, Paul Tarrant

Following recent works to reopen Ogof Nant Rhin after a collapse in the entrance passage, this was the first opportunity in maybe 18 months to undertake the through trip. I had another motive too - to retrieve my ropes from the cave.

Although a relatively short cave, the passage between the pitches is quite narrow with a lot of jagged rock. The rock constantly catches on all the rope loops on your SRT gear, and sometimes progress seems to be an inch at a time. Having successfully emerged from the Gorge entrance, Tim and Paul elected to return overground to the cars. It's actually quite a long way - all the way down the main road to the Drum and Monkey and back up the old road. I returned through the cave to Pont Gam entrance so I could de-rig from the cave.

Llanelly Quarry Pot

8th May 2012 - just over 3 hours

Adrian Fawcett, Tim Gibbs

Judging by the shower of small stones that accompanied us down the entrance rift, I think nobody had been to Llanelly Quarry Pot for a while. There was a fair amount of water going down the main pitch, but the streamway itself was not especially high.

We went in the upstream direction first, stopping short of Ryan's Duck (as most people invariably do), and admiring the variety of formations and sediments along the way. With time to spare we then went downstream for 15 minutes, until the passage starts to reduce below a comfortable size. One day I must come back here and get to the bitter end... I'd forgotten how nice the first part of the downstream streamway is - classic phreatic passage with vadose trench.

Shakespeare's Cave

16th May 2012 - 2 hours

Dan Thorne, Lisa Boore, Tim Gibbs

After an uncomfortable walk down in wetsuits we arrived at the entrance guided by Dan's GPS. We entered the first chamber and then followed the rift passage to the right, that is the way on, until we met the first duck. We continued to the sump 1 but it looked uninviting so we elected not to free dive and use the sump by-pass a few meters back and to the right. The bypass was a bit of a grovel and an awkward climb over a boulder had to be negotiated. After a greater distance than was anticipated we came to duck at the end of the bypass. This was cold and sporting giving a some of us ice-cream head. We then continued the end of the cave where we could hear the waterfall at the end of Llanelly Quarry Pot. We then exited the way we came getting a good soaking in the process.

Having been in Llanelly Quarry Pot the week previous it is easy to see that the two caves are one system by their similar character and formations in the Limestone. A thoroughly enjoyable and sporting trip, just right for an evening underground.

Little Neath River Cave

29th May 2012 - 3 hours

Adrian Fawcett, Dan Thorne, Lisa Boore, Will Kilner (Gagendor), Tim Gibbs

We took advantage of the settled conditions to visit Little Neath. The farmer was particularly happy with this trip having received double payment. We entered the cave and were we discovered the remains of an unfortunate caving chicken that had perished on a recent expedition. We checked the carcass but there was no indication of Fowl play. We proceed through to sump 1 and then down the canal which was relatively warm as Adrian had predicted. We followed the stream to sump 2 and then retreated using the canal bypass. We exited to the seemingly stronger smell of cave aged chicken, emerging just after sunset.

Blaen Onneu Quarry Pot

13th June 2012 - 2.5 hours

Paul Tarrant, Tim Gibbs

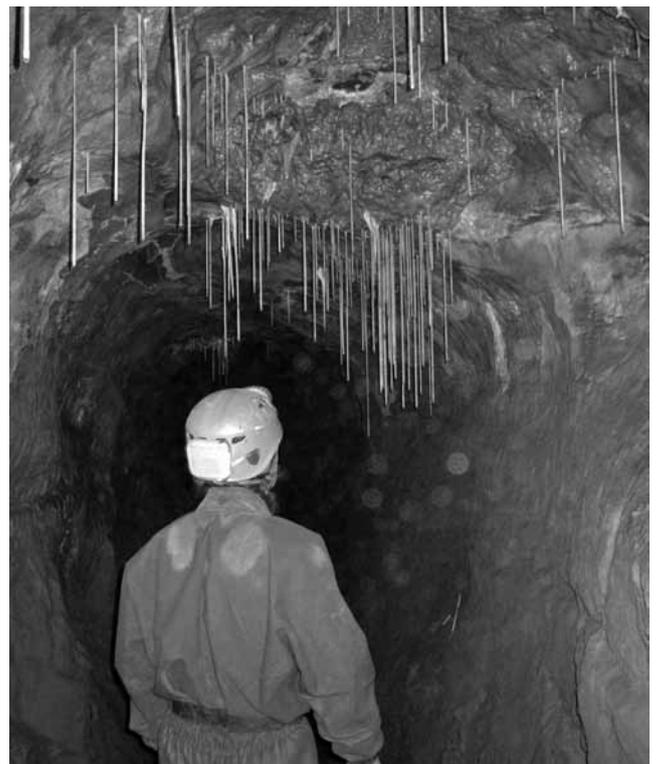
Prior to our visit there had been reports of a large boulder migrating down the boulder slope in the Northern series of the cave. Both Paul and I hadn't done this cave before so we did not know what to expect. After locating the spit for the ladder we descended the entrance pitch which was shorter than it appeared from the surface. We went to the Southern series and it was evident that the recent disturbance had occurred here and not in the Northern series as reported. The boulder was firmly wedged and was resting on a large tree trunk. Negotiating the new obstacle by climbing over it was easy enough and we then proceeded down the passage. We then returned to the entrance and did the first 10m pitch in the Northern series. We explored the passage below for a while but time was getting short so we returned and exited.



Above:
The Duck, Shakespeare's Cave

Right:
Formations in Canal Bypass, Little Neath River Cave

Photos: Dan Thorne



Visiting some caves in Thailand

April 2012

by Sue and Andy Watson

I had two days work in Bangkok and this landed over Easter, so we decided to include a holiday on Krabi, a beach resort area in South West Thailand with some good limestone karst, just over one hours flight from Bangkok.

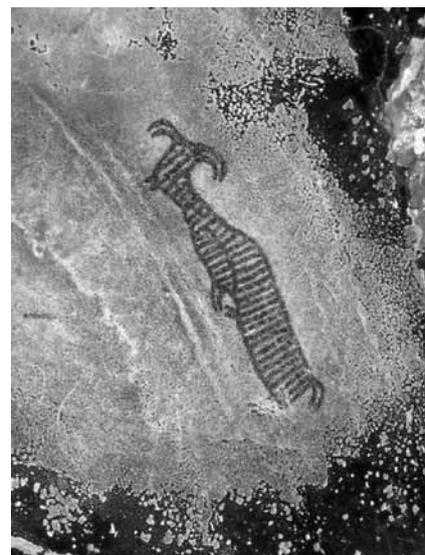
As it was our belated honeymoon of five years we went to a lovely beach resort called The Tubkaak Krabi Boutique Resort. It was up a quiet dead end road ending in jungle about a one hour drive from the airport.

At the hotel we booked a full day canoeing excursion run by Krabi Nature Centre, that visited some of the caves around the mangrove forest swamps.

So at 08:00 prompt we were picked up at the hotel. There were eight of us in total. We were driven north from Krabi to AoLuek, quite an extensive karst area with many show caves, many of them within the Thanbok Koranee National Park. Just before Ao Luek you take the main road on the left and then after 2 miles turn left again then second right again after about 2 miles and you end up at a popular adventure tourist canoe and boat centre on a meander in the river. The pier is located 2 kilometres from Amphoe Ao Luek on the way to Laem Sak

The first cave we visited was downstream and called Tham Lot, a pretty, decorated cave that we canoed through on the river and joined another tributary and then back again. We then canoed about 500m further downstream to some landing steps where we disembarked and walked up to a dry cave Tam Pee Hua Toe (Big Headed Ghost Cave or Skull Cave) that was suitably impressive and has been occupied over many thousands of years from the early cavemen and by sea pirates, I can understand why as it was a great place for a party with three entrances and it had some impressive formations, deposits and cave drawings.

The plan was back up stream for lunch, but as the river has about a 1.2 metre fast flowing tidal height change our guide (he was really good at communicating the need for conservation and care and was good at looking out for the group) decided that we should drop off the 'half dayers' and continue to paddle up stream to another cave at a guess about 800-1000m. This one was slightly off the beaten tourist track as the motor boats etc. cannot get near it. We canoed through a low split tunnel and came out in the base of a doline with many exotic plants and a pair of white tailed monkeys.



Ogof Ffynnon Ddu 1 - 2

another Chelsea epic
by Joe Duxbury

Saturday 5 May 2012

Richard Dewsnap, Rachel Dearden,
Richard Dearden, Matt Dunn, Joe
Duxbury, Adrian Fawcett, Tom
Foord, Tim Gibbs, Jason McCorris-
ton, John Newton, Stephen Newton,
Helen Nightingale, Chris Tomlin.

Yet another turnout worthy of Cecil B DeMille! We had to split into not just two, but three parties to cope with the numbers.

Adrian was the nominated leader, and we all trooped along behind. The boulder choke was easily passed (the supporting scaffold bars were interesting!), but there were several junctions at which it would have been easy to make a mistake, without an experienced leader.

At the letterbox, a stream of people slotting themselves in the horizontal crack and disappearing. Three or four of us at the back lost contact with the people in front, and did a short loop in the tubes that followed. We found the squeeze to the right, leading into an even smaller tube, but Jason, just behind me, couldn't get through. The combination of the horizontal squeeze and immediate turn upwards to the left was simply too awkward. Reluctantly he was forced to turn back. I had done this trip a few months earlier, so I didn't mind going back with him. Stephen Newton, who was last in the party, very considerately agreed to accompany us.

Between us we coped well enough with finding the route back, and then all we had left was the walk back up the hill.

Does OFD 1½ twice count as 3?

Pollution in the Clydach Gorge

by Adrian Fawcett

On two occasions during April, while working at the entrance to Ogof Nant Rhin, the Clydach River suddenly turned opaque grey. This was accompanied by a strong smell of sewage. The first incident lasted for about an hour, and the second was actually two shorter discharges about half an hour apart. On the day of the first incident, Gary Jones and Tim Morgan were diving in Pwll y Cwm. Fortunately they didn't arrive in the Gorge until a couple of hours after the pollution had passed downstream, but nevertheless noted that visibility was poor in Pwll y Cwm.

I reported these incidents to CCW who passed on the information to the Environment Agency. They in turn have asked Welsh Water to investigate. Apparently Brynmawr Sewage Treatment Works is unmanned most of the time, and although Welsh Water said they hadn't deliberately discharged any untreated sewage they were going to check whether their monitoring system had recorded anything for the dates in question.

Meanwhile, the Environment Agency have asked us to report anything similar in the future that we notice, via their hotline phone number 0800 807060.

Carno Adit

The Ogof Carno trip scheduled for 6th October will now take place on Sunday 15th July, the proposed destination being the Littoral Zone.

There is now a CSS Carno Adit key which will be kept in the Whitewalls key cupboard for use by members only.

Hopefully this will inspire more cavers to explore and extend the cave!

The caves of the Lesser Garth

by Tim Gibbs

The Lesser Garth Hill is positioned on the Northern fringe of Cardiff. The hill has been extensively quarried and is now all but hollow. The hill bears many scars from its industrial past and contains an impressive shaft excavated by iron workings and is dissected by a old railway tunnel (both ends can be seen in the quarry). More recently the quarry has blasted a new tunnel on the south –East corner to allow better access for quarry vehicles.

On the southern slopes of the Lesser Garth lies the SSSI of the Little Garth Beechwood. The caves are located here at the top of a steep slope at the south-eastern corner of the quarry. There are currently three caves of significance to explore. It is thought that all the caves are part of the same system but have not been connected. The caves contain a large amount of flowstone and it is likely that any natural connections may have been sealed by mineralisation.

The main cave system is the Lesser Garth Cave and is thought to have been a former resurgence of the river Taff now located some 100m below in the Taff gorge. Connected is the Ogof Fynnon Taff which is accessible from the Lesser

Garth Cave but a 10m pitch and an unpleasant rift must be negotiated first. The final cave is Ogof Pen Y Graig, which seems to have formed on a lower level than the Lesser Garth cave and is difficult to find. (it took me 12 years!).

Human exploration of the Lesser Garth Cave dates back to the Neolithic, a skeleton associated with two flints has been recorded. It has also been postulated that the cave was used as a early burial chamber. Evidence of human occupation in the late Bronze Age, Roman, Dark Age and early Medieval periods have also been recorded. Perhaps the most interesting artefacts found are bone tools in excellent condition including a weaving comb and a needle and awl dating from between the Neolithic and Bronze Age.

The Lesser Garth cave was also the scene of a controversial rescue in 1986. A 61 year old man fell down a climb and sustained several injuries including a broken arm and ribs and a damaged shoulder. The ensuing rescue was unusual in that it was the fire brigade that attended and conducted the rescue with no contact with cave rescue and themselves having no underground experience. The incident prompted much debate in the belay point section of Descent in the issues following the incident.



Photo: Tim Gibbs

Description of the caves

As you enter the cave there is a drop into what appears to be a dig but is most likely archaeological excavations. The way on is around to the right into stooping sized passage until a rock platform is reached. There are three options here to the left and back towards the entrance is a pitch of 9m. The best way to explore this is to step over the pitch and continue in the high level passage. This pleasant passage continues for a short while turns back and drops, eventually leading to the bottom of the pitch. The pitch is easily climbable but there are eco hangers and spits if a ladder or rope is needed. To the left and away from the entrance is a more serious pitch where rope or ladder is recommended. (I have free-climbed it but never again). Following the passage leads to a tight squeeze. This is best approached feet first. this however, leads your posterior to be unwelcomely submerged into an ever present puddle. This led my friends and I to christen it the 'Butt sump'. On the trip to take the pictures for this article I had to take off my oversuit to get through the butt sump, this was only a minor obstacle in my youth. Passed the butt sump a tight rift passage with several squeezes is followed until Ogof Fynnon Taff is reached.

Back at the rock platform, to the right is the main body of the cave via a short climb down to a large boulder. The way on is away from the entrance and a fairly large passage is followed for some way with the odd climb and drop. Off the main passage to the right is a narrow oxbow with a couple of squeezes which is worth doing to make the trip a little more sporting. The cave finishes where the floor and roof meet. It appears that this area has been dug a little but does not look promising and given the proximity to the quarry face is not worth pursuing.

Ogof Fynnon Taff was originally discovered in 1986 by members of ISCA caving club entering through the quarry. The cave was originally well decorated but some vandalism has occurred, near the former entrance. The cave is formed on two levels and has many interesting features. The cave has some fine curtains and is said to contain the skeletal remains of four domestic felines that had entered the cave and then succumbed. The cave is also almost certainly fairly close to the surface as roots have entered the cave from the woodland above. The cave also contains the rare white Porrbonma rosenbueri cave spider that is only found in one other cave in the UK Ogof-y-Ci on the Central Northern Outcrop also formed by a river of the Taff catchment area.

Ogof Pen y Graig is the smallest of the caves and is the apparently best decorated. It runs below the two other systems but has not been connected. This cave is very difficult to find and is located in an old overgrown quarry face a long way above the quarry floor. It was only recently that I found the entrance despite looking for several years. I have yet to enter the cave as the entrance is in shatter zone of rock and involves a 3m slightly overhanging climb from a scree slope. My last attempt to climb it was aborted when my handhold and foothold simultaneously began to move, given the drop below is some 90m I didn't need much convincing to leave it to another day. I'll make another attempt with some aids in the summer after the freeze-thaw season has well passed.

Exploring the Lesser Garth and Ogof Fynnon Taff should occupy a 2-3 hours and if you like to fill a whole day there is also the iron mines on the other side of the quarry to explore provided you have got a rope long enough. Hopefully, soon I will have found a safe way to enter Ogof Pen yr Graig.

Lesser Garth Cave

by Rachel Dearden

On 29th April 2012, we explored Lesser Garth Cave with Keith Edwards and Brendan Marris from Dudley CC. The description of the cave, published in 'The Caves of South Wales', suggested that it would be an entertaining trip, with numerous squeezes and pitches, but also pretty formations. At a total length of 250 m, we wondered whether it would provide sufficient entertainment for the day; it certainly did!

Lesser Garth Cave is located near Morganstown, north of Cardiff and is just above the Tynant Inn (where we parked). An extremely steep path leads from the far-side of the car park to the cave entrance, which is situated at the top of the hill. The cave entrance itself has a gate, but it is unlocked and there is probably space to squeeze around it if necessary.

The first section of the cave is a small chamber with a hole in the floor (which doesn't go anywhere important). From here a bouldery crawl leads to quite a large 'boulder chamber' with a drop down to another chamber on the right and a drop down a rift on the left. We decided to go right first. We rigged a pitch from a natural belay and abseiled down and explored the passages. The main chamber is quite large with coloured flowstone decorating the walls. The far end peters out into a drafting boulder choke and about half way along there's a passage on the right hand wall that enters a tight rift running parallel with the chamber which re-emerges close to the choke. Apart from that, there wasn't a huge amount of scope in this part of the cave, and it was somewhat trashed from being so easily accessible so we headed back, climbed out of the chamber, discovering in the process that the drop is easily free-climbable (take a handline), collected the rope and then rigged the 9 m deep rift. To be honest I wasn't too happy about the p-bolt here. There was only one useful one, and there appeared to be a crack around the block in which it was situated. We discussed the alternatives for quite a while before sending Brendan down to test it. It was fine, but if I were to ever visit this cave again (which is unlikely), I would take some bolts and hangers to screw into the well-placed spit holes.

In the bottom of the rift there was a ladder! Not just a small ladder, but a proper 10+ rung metal ladder. I assume that some amateur explorers had visited. I doubt they would have continued much further than the bottom of the rift however, because the next obstacle was a really tight squeeze that was passable by thrutching whilst lying on the floor. I was in front and tried first. I went through legs first, and got them through, but I wasn't certain that I could get my hips through. So, I decided to let Keith have a go. Keith also managed to get his legs through, but as he slipped through to his chest, his clothes became bunched up on our side of the squeeze and at the point where his chest was becoming compressed he decided to come back out. Brendan had a go next, and to be honest his situation didn't look very comfortable at all. Next it was Richard's turn. He removed his helmet and with some trouble and grunting he managed to slip through. I figured that I could probably get through if he had and so had another go and managed to get through. Then Keith had a second go, and after unzipping his outer suit first, he managed to squeeze through... and then there was only Brendan on the wrong side. He unzipped

both his inner and outer suit and with some significant effort managed to squeeze through (see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmdSla4rmj4> for the video).

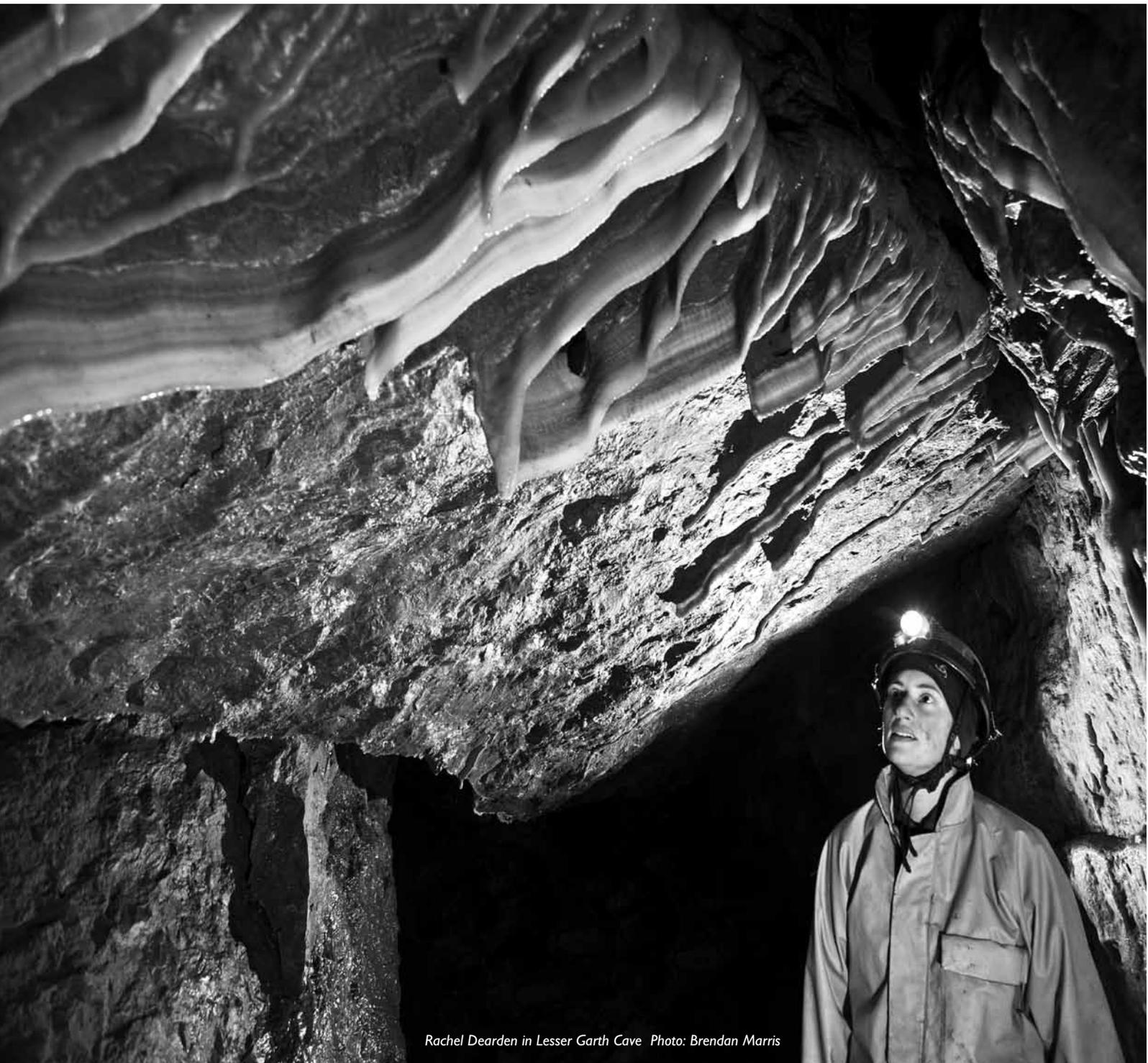
We followed the passage and after a short time we entered a hole in the left hand wall, which led through some zigzagging passages into a small chamber where there appeared to be a slot in the floor that looked like a coffin. Descending into this coffin and then through a fairly tight section was fairly committing, but thankfully the cave soon opened up into another small rift. From here a short climb led into a small chamber with a tight wet crawl continuation. This opened into the top of a narrow rift, but the route continued upwards into a hole in the rift ceiling and onwards to Ogof Ffynnon Taf, a larger passage which used to be accessible from the nearby quarry.

Ffynnon Taf is very close to the surface--close enough that

we could feel wind gusts from outside--and there are roots descending from the ceiling everywhere. The formations are also very pretty; there are loads of straws, the walls are covered in flowstone and there is a spectacular curtain feature in the lower part of the passage.

After 40 minutes of photography we turned around to head back out. We were much quicker on the return journey, but there was significant grunting at times. The coffin did look impossible in the return direction, but actually it was just awkward rather than hard. Everyone even managed to get through the squeeze on the first try!

It was a fine trip that kept us occupied for 5 hrs 30, despite the short length of the cave. We feel that the cave should be renamed however; 'Lesser Girth Cave' is a much better description of the cave, and the sort of person to whom it would suit.



Rachel Dearden in Lesser Garth Cave. Photo: Brendan Marris

San Hoi Cave near Vang Vieng

by Frank Longwill

Over the winter I travelled to Laos. The country appears to be mainly limestone. It contains 1000s of caves. I started my caving odyssey nr Vang Vieng, a popular trashy backpacker town surrounded by beautiful jungle -smothered tower Karst. The locals used the caves as refuges and bases during the war. Many of the caves nr Vang Vieng have been developed as tourist caves. Fortunately this development is generally limited to putting the cave on a map, having a sign to it and one of the locals sitting outside with some lamps.

Over my 6 weeks in Laos I explored 28 sites, traversing about 20km of passage. It was a most excellent caving adventure. The caves are warm and the roof is generally at least 5m above your head so all you need is a couple of lights.

“King” the old guy says pointing at a kettle resting on a charcoal burner. He seems pretty convinced so I pour myself a cup. In Laos Ginger tea is king. Breakfast ingested (endless coffee, king, pathetic fruit salad and hearty rice 'n chicken soup) I head out to the meeting point for today's speleological adventure. Checking the time I realise that I am an hour early so drop Internet and upload some pics. Returning to the meet point I am joined by Nate (US) Dean (Aus), Portugal, Melody and Florence (Bel). I met Nate and Sean at my hostel in Vientiane. Happily everyone has taken my advice and turned up in sensible shoes. The recruitment was completed in a bar last night. Melody and Portugal opt for the moped option while the rest of us go for girls bikes. We all rendezvous at the turn off and the push bikes prove better off road than the moped.

At the cave we pay the 10000 kip (80p) entrance. We are issued with Laos 2 quid caving lights... Actually pretty good. Chat with the guide a bit. Says we can go in up to a lake. Says it will take 1 hour. Enter the cave and stroll along 5x15m easy fossil passage. After a bit we reach a corner. A small holes goes down and the main passage continues through a large puddle. “won't take long for shoes to dry” and we continue. A little bit later and the passage shrinks. There are a few short crawls bends and a little climb. Where the passage is small (5x1m) a strong outward draught can be felt. Someone enquires about finding the way out. “Don't worry it's still easy and we can follow the draught.” I reassure them.



Photo: Frank Longwill

The passage opens out with fine flowstone and stals as we start to traverse 2 m high gour dams. The lack of water inside indicates that even in flood a stream no longer flows through the passage. We pause for a bit in what appears to be a dead end admiring the formations including some small helictites and dried up crystal pools. I scout around and find the obvious continuation as the passage doubles back on itself. We clamber through a trench in the floor the sound of running water drawing us on. Suddenly the passage breaks into a huge stream chamber. Looking down a muddy bank we can see a 5m wide stream cascading over a series of gour pools on the floor. downstream the water flows into a 4m diameter tunnel. Upstream it continues wide and high with stalactites and flowstone cascading down the walls.

It's breath taking and I am off upstream like a gazelle. The water deepens and I move to the side carefully traversing to avoid the deep water. Traversing becomes impossible as sheer flowstone walls line the stream but by climbing up a flowstone ramp to the left I gain a balcony overlooking this magnificent chamber. Pinpricks of light in the distance indicate that I have totally forgotten my companions but they're a plucky bunch and soon they join me. A short flat out crawl under stal leads back to the stream. Me and the lads take it, the girls preferring to chill out. We rejoin the stream and follow it for a little till the water deepens and we return to join the rest of the team.

There is another way on which appears to end. Find some fine argonite crystals and then a continuation. We

follow this for a bit past a huge white stal. Then my leg disappears as my foot goes through the false floor. It's a small hole but there must be more. Call a halt to the trip as things are now becoming dangerous especially for a partially-equipped mainly absolute beginners group.

I take a few pictures and catch up with the rest of the team heading downstream from our entry point. I redirect them towards the exit. It is likely that the stream continues to Tham Nan the cave I explored a couple of days ago. We should have checked out the downstream but I was a little freaked by the near miss with the false floor. We return to the warm and feast on grapefruit from the plantation outside the cave. After a quick look round Tham Loup we head back to town.

I returned later on in my trip and did a solo foray. Went further up and down the main stream. Upstream was a mixture of nipple deep water and shallow sections flowing over small gour. Sadly definite death with zero chance of rescue in the event of a problem caused me to bottle it and turn back just before the upstream 1998 junction.

(see survey)

<http://laos.eegc.org/grotte.php?id=23>

Downstream was beautiful decorated streamway. Also found a side passage near the entrance that linked to the downstream streamway via a pitch.

Was met by the locals on my way out. I had tried to ell them I would be a while. They didn't seem bothered.

Digging in Upper Flood

by Mark Lumley

On a tourist trip into Upper Flood Swallet this winter I became interested in a narrow rift at the end of the impressively large East Passage. At 130m depth, in good limestone and boring off into no-mans-land the site is a digger's dream and there is a suggestion of open space about 4m ahead beyond a narrow, calcited rift.

Having gained permission to dig from MCG via Mike Richardson, on April 14 Matt & Mandy Voysey and I went back with Mike to haul in an arsenal of drill, batteries and various means of persuasion. The dig went well and on May 26 I returned with Adrian Fawcett and Helen Nightingale taking more tools. We were taken in by Mike Waterworth MCG. The weekend before, we had managed to drop the main drill battery down the 12m Frog Street pitch in Daren, smashing the Pelicase and cell connections in the process, so I was relieved to see that Adrian had managed to repair it.



Adrian Fawcett clearing debris in the dig at the end of East Passage.
Photo: Mark Lumley

Adrian set about clearing the dig and then left me to drill and prepare for the next two hours. Meanwhile Helen and Mike had gone off to join MCG members Kev Speight and Tom Harrison who were digging out a muddy duck nearby. Helen takes up the story . . .

What the Muck?? – Its Muddy Hell! by Helen Nightingale

Until the weekend, my caving experiences on Mendip have been nice. Gentle bimbles in GB and Goatchurch, avoiding hoards of children queuing at the 20 in Swildon's, playing in the ball pits and slides that make up the fake cave after a few beers at the BCRC anniversary, socialising with friends in front of the fire or at the Hunters, or trying not to fall through the toilet seat at the Shepton. With this in mind, when Gonzo asked if I'd like to join him digging in Upper Flood, I said yes please.

Then I made several elementary mistakes.

I didn't get round to reading up much about the cave before I went.

When Gonzo told me to bring some lunch, I brought carrots.

We met up at the MCG hut, and as I pulled out my thin base layer for under my salopettes – it would be warm doing a tourist trip, a bit of digging training with Gonzo, and bailing a bit of water, right? – the leader for the trip, Mike Waterworth, pulled out his wetsuit, as did Adrian and the others we'd be helping bail, Kev and Tom.

While we were waiting for Mike to arrive, we had a look at the survey and I discovered that there is a duck and some wet crawly bits, and some squalid bits in the middle. Oh well, at least my base layer drains quickly. We were soon walking over to the cave in glorious sunshine. It was far too nice to be above ground. I forgot that Gonzo is the sadist who pointed out that *sympathy* can be found between *s**t* and *syphilis*.

The cave is very well decorated, and we took great care while carrying in digging tools. Mike pointed out the names of various different places and impressive formations. After passing masses of calcite in a very short space of time, in relative comfort by Daren standards, we arrived at the dig. Gonzo and Adrian set to clearing the spoil, and Mike

took me down a nearby side passage called the liquid mud tube, to meet Kev and Tom for some bailing. This side passage started off a bit muddy, and got progressively muddier, becoming a great fun slide. I rounded a bend to see 2 men in front of me, each sat in a pool of mud, passing a welly from one man to the other. The man nearest me tipped the welly and out flowed mud. I could not tell which man was Kev and which was Tom, as they were both brown.

From this point onwards everyone shall have to be referred to as Mr Brown. They had made a dam out of what little solid mud there was, and the water I had thought we'd be bailing was in fact liquid gloop. I dived in and started bailing. I quickly realised that although it was more comfy working without wellies on, you can fit more mud in a size 11 than a size 4, so somebody kindly donated me one of his.

Gradually, the low arch at the back of the second mud bath began to gain airspace. Mr Brown stuck his legs through to see what may be the other side. It felt hopeful, so we continued bailing.

The airspace continued to lower, and Mr Brown decided it may be worth trying to go in head first to try and see what may be the other side. We scabbled about in the piles of mud, wellies, gloves, mud, mud, solid mud, knee pads and more mud, covered in liquid mud splatter, to find a tikka. It was brown and emitted a dull brown glow. Mr Brown heaved himself out of the mud pit and went to try and find some slightly less muddy liquid to wash it in. He then handed it over to Mr Brown, who then discovered it had been pointless, because as his head went through the arch, the mud flowed over his eyes and he couldn't see. We pulled him back out again and wiped the mud from his eyes. Mr Brown passed Mr Brown back the tikka, and he went off to de-mud it again, and the rest of us continued bailing. As the mud was threatening to lap back over the mud dam, Mr Brown decided it was safe to give it another go. Nose sucking the ceiling and eyes closed, pushing off Mr Brown, Mr Brown made it though, with much elation

55800

55700

55600

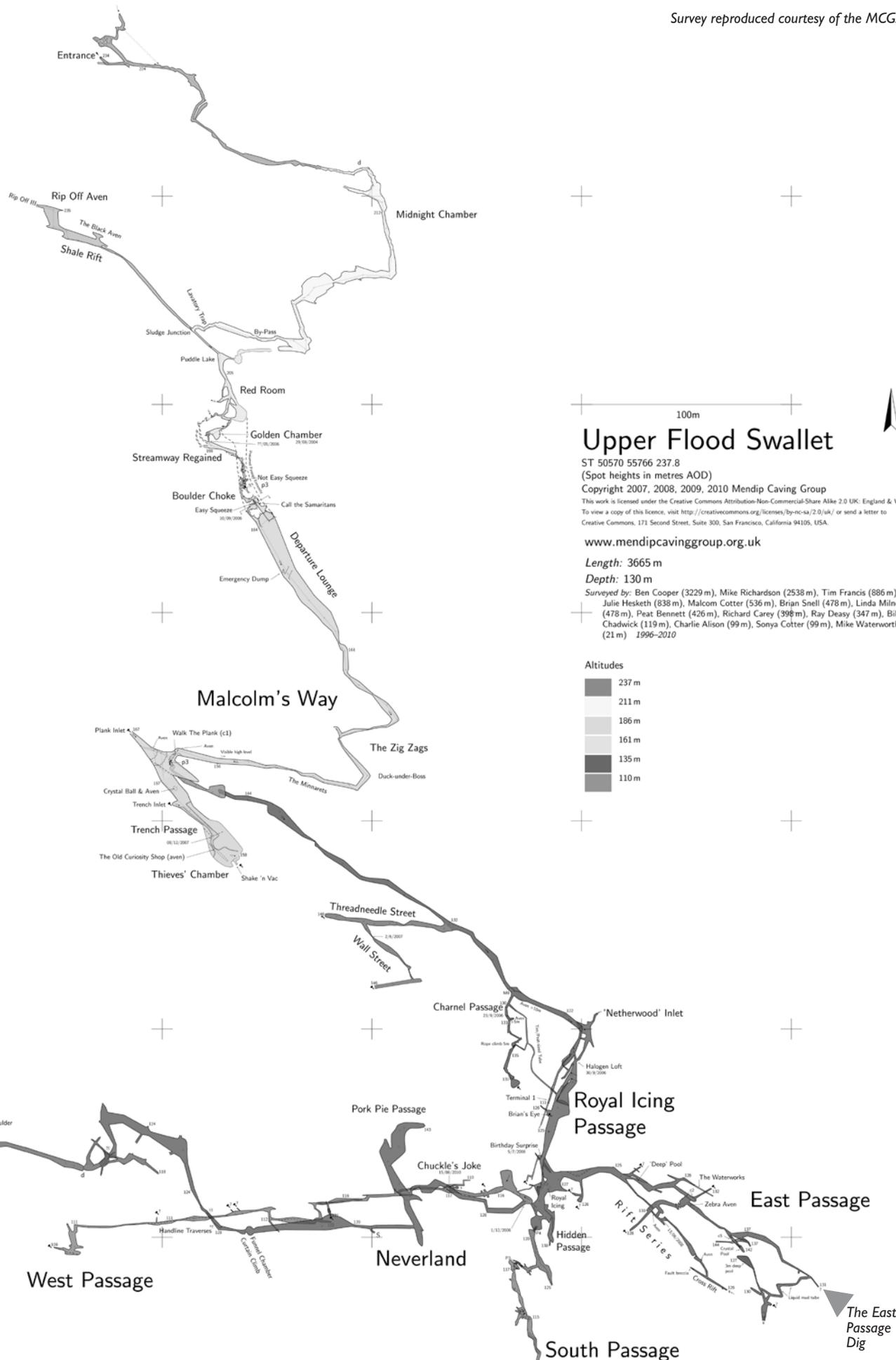
55500

55400

55300

55200

55100



Upper Flood Swallet

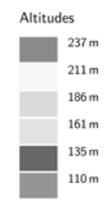
ST 50570 55766 237.8
 (Spot heights in metres AOD)
 Copyright 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 Mendip Caving Group
 This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 2.0 UK: England & Wales Licence.
 To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/uk/> or send a letter to
 Creative Commons, 171 Second Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, California 94105, USA.

www.mendipcavinggroup.org.uk

Length: 3665 m

Depth: 130 m

Surveyed by: Ben Cooper (3229 m), Mike Richardson (2538 m), Tim Francis (886 m),
 Julie Hesketh (838 m), Malcom Cotter (536 m), Brian Snell (478 m), Linda Milne
 (478 m), Peat Bennett (426 m), Richard Carey (398 m), Ray Deasy (347 m), Bill
 Chadwick (119 m), Charlie Alison (99 m), Sonya Cotter (99 m), Mike Waterworth
 (21 m) 1996-2010



ST 50500

50600

50700

50800

50900

once he could see again. We bailed a bit more, and he came back to tell us what lay the other side. He said it was well worth us all having a look, but we agreed somebody must always stay behind to guard the dam in case it gave, as it would not be bailable from the other side. I stayed behind, and gave Mssrs Brown, Brown and Brown something to push against to get them through. It was good to hear the grunting noises turn into excited noises, and it reminded me very much of a scene in *Trainspotting* involving lavatory diving. All the mud wrestling had taken its toll on the dam, so I wallowed about and set to an attempt to rebuild. It was fairly futile, as the only solid things I could get my hands on were wellies, gloves and kneepads that looked like mud. It was marginally preferable to sitting still and waiting – as it's not that warm sitting in a gloop hip-bath.

Soon enough, Mr Brown came back through to see if I wanted a look. He kindly lent me his neoprene balaclava, which was promptly donned, my helmet rammed through the duck, and off I went.

When I stood up on the other

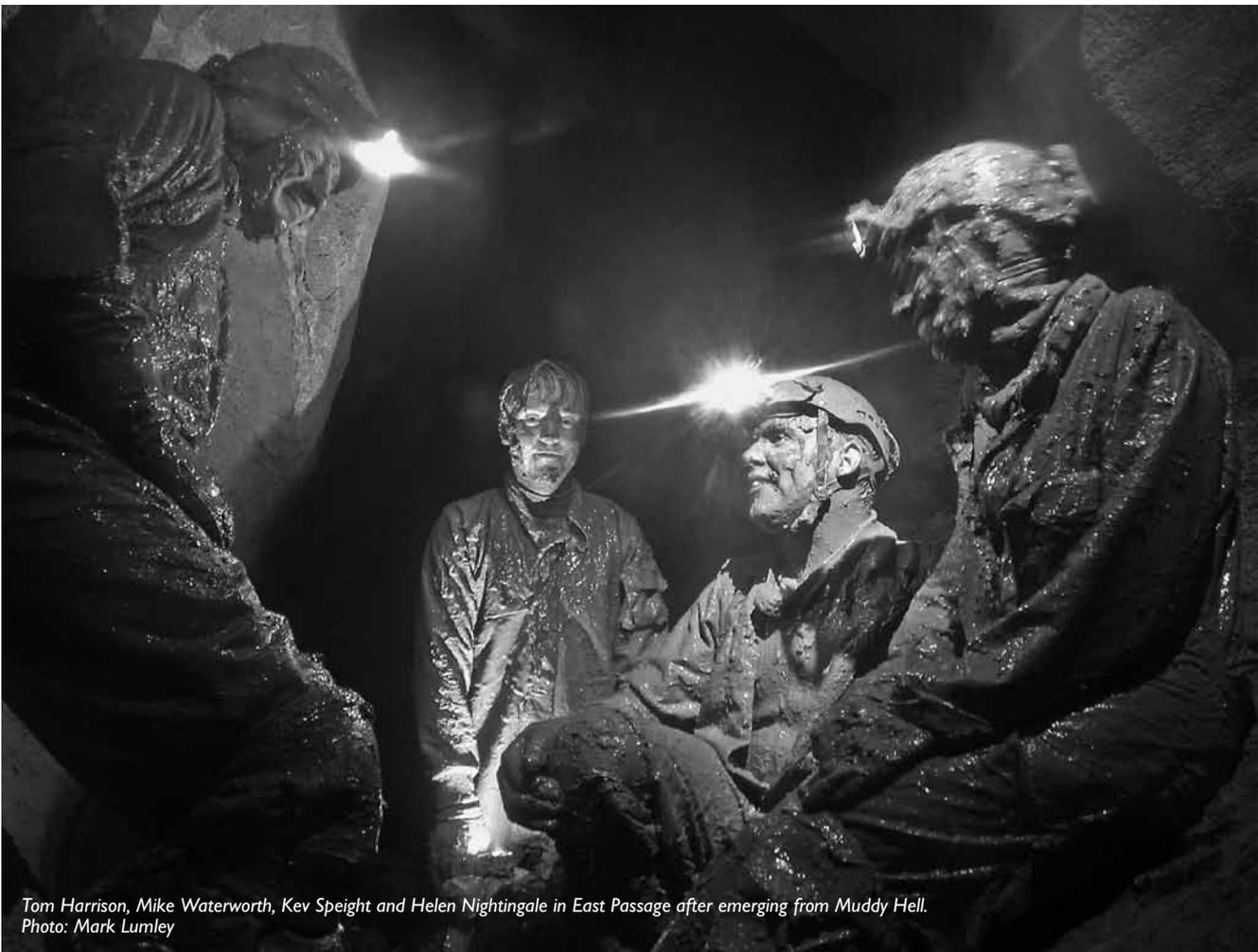
side, my oversuit weighed a ton, but I staggered about grinning anyway. We'd got into a t-junction passage with plenty of room to stand, a nice sandy floor, and a couple of small sump pools. One direction terminated in a sump pool, the other continued as a narrowing rift, heading in a similar direction to Gonzo's dig. Wary of time and the deteriorating condition of the dam, I headed back to the wrestling pit. It was rather more interesting heading back through, as you had to lie on your back, head first, down-hill, and as you eased yourself through, more and more gloop started to flow over your forehead and into your eyes. The mud was trying to suck you down, but as you had to suck the ceiling in order to breathe, you had to try and hold yourself out of the mud. It was very hard to know when you had got through, as you could see nothing, even if you thought your eyes were open, and hearing was somewhat impaired.

Once I'd had my eyes windscreen-wiped, I found my helmet, scooped mud out of it and attempted to ram it on. Then a grand effort was made



to find all items of clothing and kit, before heading away.

We waddled and slopped out way back along the mud tube to meet up with Gonzo and Adrian, big grins on our faces. They were approached by four brown monsters, just showing eyes and teeth, gibbering and shaking slightly – partly through elation on breaking into 80m of new passage, and partly due to the early stages of hypothermia. Gonzo had been going to give me another training session in chemical digging



Tom Harrison, Mike Waterworth, Kev Speight and Helen Nightingale in East Passage after emerging from Muddy Hell.
Photo: Mark Lumley

methods, but I couldn't stop shaking even for a photo, let alone doing anything technical. He kindly packed us up a bag to carry out as it would help warm us up. Our bag had three drill batteries; Adrian's bag had my carrots in! We had a good wash in the streamway, another rinse in the freezing canal and duck, and a final rinse in the warm final stream. On the way we debated the various stages of hypothermia, and agreed we hadn't reached the final stages as we were wearing more than when digging, and had no urges to take anything off at all!

The others were still laughing at me after we emerged. It wasn't until then that I realised I had a limited upper field of vision, there were such large clumps of mud clinging to my eyebrows.

Once back at the MCG hut, I discovered I'd made another schoolgirl error. My wash kit and towel was back at the Belfry, it's a long way to walk, and we were going straight to the pub. I eventually picked most of the mud out of my hair – had I not of had the balaclava I would have been threatened with a head shave – and found a manky old boilersuit does a fine job as a makeshift towel. We were soon at the Centre of the Universe, and the new passage was soon gaining in both length and horror.

The next weekend I just happened to be back on Mendip, and Kev had persuaded the MCG surveyors to go there. Friday night I was shown a video of the dig, and had it explained to me what was going on. I then explained that the muddy patch in the corner was about to move, and that it was me. They looked at me like I was nuts, to be going back and knowing what to expect. At least this time we remembered buckets! And a wetsuit, wash kit, towel and higher energy food than carrots.

Sure enough, when we got back, the dam had completely gone and the route into the new passage had completely sumped. Even with more of us and larger mud receptacles, bailing took ages. We had to bail far more this time around in order to persuade the somewhat reluctant surveying team to go through.

Before heading to the now aptly named Muddy Hell, we'd been to some other rarely visited corners of

the cave for a good poke about. At the end of one passage we shoved some drain rods down a sump, to see if it came out in the new passage. The end of the drain rods was clearly visible sticking out the sump on the new side, and the passage duly surveyed.

Despite quite a lot of worry, the surveying kit survived the mire, and the passage could be neatly tied up with stuff already surveyed. Not

quite the 100m talked about in the pub, and to the relief of any sane caver, it doesn't go anywhere (yet...) but still a great fun 2 days.

The surveying team won't be going back, and the place claimed Mike's girlfriend's new wetsocks and nearly had the leg off my oversuit (still got a few more years life in it...) but it has been well worth it for entertainment value and very enjoyable caving.

FOSSIL PASSAGES

*The following first appeared in CSS Newsletter Vol 1 No 11 August 1959.
It refers to a trip on the first Wednesday in August 1959.*

Fred (Topliffe), Gordon (Parker) and Ian (Standing) went to the third boulder choke. There had been plenty of rain in the previous three days and all the streams were higher. Although they did not know it, a big thunderstorm – said locally to be the worst for years, was brewing outside. On reaching the low arch before the choke, it was found that the dinghies would not go underneath. They left them and waded the last part. A stone was placed in the stream to mark the water level. It became covered but it was assumed it had slipped. A second stone was found. The mud dig was pushed on a further three feet and began to turn to the right. Ian was watching the second stone and saw the tip disappear under water. Fred suggested looking under the arch. They did so and got a shock – there was only six inches of airspace left.

They got out quickly. Acetylene lamps went out as they were dipped in the water and Gordon steered Ian who was in Darkness.

Pottering About on Mendip

by
John Cooper

Bath Swallett

Wednesday 30th May 2012.

Andrew Atkinson (UBSS), John Cooper and Pete Hann (WCC). Surveying trip starting at the entrance. Got as far as the bottom of the Wessex Dig. Still got to do the route from the bottom of the ladder down into Rod's Pot etc. 4½ hours.

Charterhouse Cave

Saturday 5th May 2012.

Pete Buckley (WCC), John Cooper and Pete Hann.

A short trip to check the level of Portal Pool and measure up for some syphon pipe. Met an MCG party in the Old Cave on our way in. The water levels weren't bad but there were few footprints in Highway 120 and we had to dig our way into 100 Fathom passage. Portal Pool was full, with the start of the guide rope just underwater. A single person was able to operate the Ireby Pump so it obviously wasn't lifting much of a head – it normally requires three people, and one to hold the pump down. After Pete H took a photo we measured up (15m of additional pipe required) and came out. Just under 3 hours.

Saturday 12th May 2012.

John Cooper, Pete Hann and Ali Moody (WCC).

Carried in a 10m and a 5m length of pipe to create the Portal Pool syphon. Unfortunately before it could be tested John broke the end of the pump (!), which is needed to start the syphon going. Pete dismantled the pump and the broken bit was brought out. 3½ hours.

Saturday 26th May 2012.

John Cooper, Pete Hann and Ali Moody.

Took in the new bit for the Ireby pump. Once Pete had connected it up we started the syphon going. It worked well except for a minor leak in the pipe leading down to Portal Pool which let in air and gradually broke the syphon. However once a bit of Denzo tape was wrapped around the leak it could be run for a good 15 minutes before sufficient air had leaked in to stop it working. After three sessions the water was low enough for us to get through. First went to view Diesel Duck. There was plenty of airspace so we went through. Ali decided to check out Quicksand Chamber. However, having jumped down the drop into it, she discovered the crawl out the far side was nearly a sump so was hoist back up the climb by Pete. We continued along Route 66 to check out a U-tube bit of passage that had been a lake on one of our trips. This time it was a proper out of depth sump so we could go no further. Back out. Portal Pool had risen slightly even though the syphon had been left running when we went in. Will need to do a proper repair on the syphon tube to stop the air getting in. 4 hours.

Saturday 2nd June 2012.

Pete Buckley, John Cooper, Pete Hann, Ali Moody and Norman Wright (WCC).

Down to Portal Pool where Pete Hann cut out the leaky bit of syphon tube and reconnected. Once the syphon was started it continued until Portal Pool was empty, never seen it so dry! Whilst this was happening the tube at the highest point was re-routed so

as to be off the caving path. This should stop any future damage. All went through Portal Pool and Ali and Pete H had a look at a high level passage just along Route 66 from the Crossing. This was found by Pete H at the end of last season but Portal Pool sumped off before it could be looked at properly. Ali got along about 25m and it was still going as a small passage. Pete H said he would take a lump hammer and chisel next time! Once down from this Pete H retreated to Portal Pool whilst the rest of us went through Diesel Duck, no water this week! Ali and Pete B continued along to the U-tube which now has airspace. The crawl route into Quicksand was dry this week, water seems to have dropped half a metre or so. Back at Diesel the CO2 monitor was used and read 3%, checked twice. That's why we were puffing a bit! Once we were all back through Portal Pool and the Sand Dig the Ireby pump was resited so as to avoid the cavers path. A steady trek out. 5¼ hours.

Eastwater Cavern

Saturday 28th April 2012.

Richard Carey (WCC), John Cooper, Tony Molski (WCC) and Jude Vanderplank (WCC).

Upper Traverse, Hallelujah Hole, Lower Traverse, First Rift Chamber, Second Rift Chamber then up and over into Unlucky Strike. Through the crawl and down the 10m pitch to the bottom sumps (pools?). Really needed a 10m ladder on that final pitch, had to use a rope tether to make ours reach the floor. Back through the Rift Chambers then up the Canyon into the Wind Tunnel and exit via the Woggle Press. 2 hours.

G.B. Cave

Friday 20th April 2012.

John Cooper, Ali Moody and François Tollemer (visitor from France).

In via the Mud Passage route. Looked at the remains of the vehicle at the top of The Gorge before going down and over the Bridge into White Passage. Climbed up into Art Gallery as we'd not been there before – not worth it, nothing to see. Back down and up to the end of White Passage where someone had recently deposited a massive turd! The smell was horrible and the white fungus growing out was several cm long. We didn't have any means of removing it so I placed a flat stone over it and hope it rots away quickly. Back down and dropped into Rift Chamber and took the Loop into the Hall and out onto the Gallery. Back down to the Loop before we dropped out into the Lower Main Chamber. A quick look at the lowest point before exit directly up the Main Chamber and The Gorge. Out the same way as we went in. 1½ hours.

Thursday 17th May 2012.

John Cooper, Alison Crowther-Smith (WCC), Florence Crowther-Smith (WCC) and Jude Vanderplank.

In via the Mud Passage route. Down The Gorge and over the Bridge into White Passage. Turned off left into Rift Chamber and took the Loop into the Lower Main Chamber. A quick look at the lowest point before exit directly up the Main Chamber and The Gorge. Out the same way as we went in. 1¾ hours.

Monday 4th June 2012.

John Cooper and Alison Moody.

Checking out a nasty link passage that connects a chamber at the start of Double Passage to Boulder Chamber, thus bypassing most of the Devil's Elbow Route. The whole passage isn't shown on the survey, only the very start going inwards. We took the Mud Passage route in and went back up The Gorge. Then took a left and followed the passage up to Boulder Chamber, where the Devil's Elbow route drops in. Looking up slope we followed the left hand wall up and it enters a snaggy rift (not on survey) which is ascended for several meters. About 2m from the top a horizontal slot was followed by Ali back over the rift. Lots of thrutching noises could be heard for about 10 minutes, getting gradually quieter, until there was short silence. Thrutching noises then started again, this time gradually getting louder. Eventually Ali reappeared. She had popped out onto a well travelled route but had no idea where so left her notes from 30 years ago there for us to go and find. We retreated the way we had come and this time took the fixed ladder from the First Grotto up into Devil's Elbow route. From the Upper Grotto we took the usual low crawl through into the rift where we climbed up and took the usual right at the top. Less than 10m further on a small chamber was reached with 3 ways on, the usual route being up the mud/boulder wall on the right then down. Ali had popped out of the middle route, by far the least obvious. Collecting up her notes we came out. The next Mendip Underground can now have an accurate description! Ali said she doesn't plan on going back for another 30 years! 2 hours.

Read's Cavern Saturday 16th June 2012.

Pete Buckley, John Cooper and Ali Moody.

More descriptive work for the next Mendip Underground. Entering with the stream, by far the easiest way in, we went along Main Chamber and dropped down into Pipe Chamber and then into Coffin Lane. This is a cul-de-sac so we went back up into Pipe Chamber where both Pete and I failed to negotiate the squeeze leading into ZED Alley. Back up into Main Chamber and back along to Offshoot and then Pete and I took one route down into Boulder Chamber whilst Ali took the alternative one. Having failed to find any onwards routes here we went back up to Offshoot and took the alternative route to Boulder Chamber. Part way along this we continued horizontally instead of dropping down and eventually found a small chamber with a silted up wet passage leading onwards. After a digging session with my feet I was able to establish it got bigger the other side and I could hear a good drip of water. More digging and eventually it was just big enough for Ali to squeeze through. With her on the far side digging went much quicker and eventually Pete squeezed through and the two of them made it nice and spacious for me. Probably about 45 minutes digging. We followed the passage onwards and eventually dropped down into Junction Chamber. I've no idea why this is called a chamber, it has no solid bits anywhere, it's just a big void in a boulder choke. Still that's a bit like the rest of the cave! After a quick look down the hole in the floor by Ali we came out an alternative route that bypassed Offshoot and lead straight to Water Chamber, although straight is a misnomer as it twisted and spiralled upwards in a very confusing manner. After a few more circles for the description we came out. 2¾ hours.

Swildon's Hole Saturday 21st April 2012.

John Cooper, Ali Moody and François Tollemer.

Short Round trip. Cave much wetter than it has been for the past couple of months. Lots of brown froth in the streamway. Even though a party had done the trip earlier in the day the Troubles had refilled quite a bit, but we still got through without bailing. François's first sump dive. 3 hours.

Sunday 22nd April 2012.

John Cooper and Barry Weaver.

Went to the Mud Sump and excavated a hole at the start to make the bailing easier. In the process discovered the original bucket trap so used that instead. Please do not fall in the hole! 2 hours.

Sunday 29th April 2012.

John Cooper, John Gisborn (WCC), Lee Hawkswell and Barry Weaver.

It was going to be a gentle amble to peer up the Four Letter Link then come out. However the weather dictated otherwise. When we arrived at the entrance the water level was about halfway up between the two pipes so we knew it was going to be wet. We'd seen Steve Sharpe's party leaving the Green earlier so they were ahead somewhere. Took the Short Dry Way in. There was a good stream flowing across the bottom of Jacob's Ladder, so much so that the normal sink which takes the water into the Long Dry Way could not cope and the stream continued its merry way to the Old Grotto and thence to water Chamber. First time for a long time that the waterfall from the Wet Way was obscuring the climb down at the start of the Water Rift! We caught Steve's party up where he was rigging a hand-line on the 4m drop at the base of the old Forty. Caught them up again where Steve was rigging his own rope on the Twenty. As it was already laddered we overtook them. As John G had not done much caving since his days in the Scouts we were careful to instruct him on ladder climbing and lifelined him down this very wet pitch. Continued on down as far as the climb down below Tratman's Temple. Decided it would be imprudent to descend this. Two MCG members on their way out were at the bottom and said it would be a tricky climb back up for a novice. Coming back up we let the MCG members past but caught them up at the Twenty where they let us use their ladder before we removed it and hung Steve's in its place (we'd passed him just below Tratman's). Decided to come out the Dry Way rather than the Wet Way as we usually do. We thought the water seemed higher that going in and when we reached the surface found the top pipe completely underwater, the water surface being less than 10cm from flowing into the blockhouse itself. Informed John G he'd probably never do a wetter trip in Swildon's. A rather refreshing 2 hours.

Sunday 6th May 2012.

Antoinette Bennett, John Cooper, Lee Hawkswell, Chris Seal and Barry Weaver.

Down to Sump 1 and back. Rather busy today. 1¾ hours.

Sunday 13th May 2012.

John Cooper and Clive Westlake (CDG).

Short Round trip. In the Dry Way and had to ladder the Twenty. The syphon tube at the first Trouble is blocked, we couldn't get it to syphon at all so we spent half an hour bailing (it was overflowing when we arrived). The third Trouble was sumped when we got to it. We bailed it until the dam was full, which created about 2 cm of airspace. Clive went through first and I passed the bags through to him before diving through myself. There was no way the airspace could be used so it was a proper dive and wriggle through. Sump 1 is still a proper sump. Out the Wet Way. 2½ hours.

Monday 14th May 2012.

Antoinette Bennett and John Cooper.

In the Long Dry Way to the head of the Twenty and out the Wet Way. 1 hour.

Saturday 19th May 2012.

Andrew Atkinson, Pete Buckley, John Cooper and Ali Moody. Inserting permanent hangers for the high-level pipe at the Mud Sump. Just need to cut off the excess bits from the cable ties. 3¼ hours.

Sunday 20th May 2012.

John Cooper and Barry Weaver.

Visited Sump 2. In the Dry Way and out the Wet Way. Party from Crewe with full SRT gear and a rope on the Twenty. Barry found one of their descenders in a pool on our way out! Left it on a boulder for them to pick up on their way out as we'd left them at Sump 1. 1½ hours.

Sunday 27th May 2012.

John Cooper, John Gisborn, Helen Nightingale and Barry Weaver. A repeat of last Sunday's trip but with a detour into Barne's Loop on the way out. Water level going down but Sump 1 is still a sump. 2 hours.

Sunday 3rd June 2012.

John Cooper, Barry Weaver, Marcin (?) and Darek (?).

John and Barry intended to go to the Troubles to try and sort out the syphon tube, which was achieved by turning it round. Presumably this flushed out whatever was blocking it. We tried it when we arrived but it wouldn't work but having reversed it it worked straight away. Marcin was leading as an exercise in route finding and hoped to look at Blue Pencil and the Short Round trip but Darek did not agree (!) so they came back out with us. A short detour to look at Sump 1 on way out. 2½ hours.

Sunday 10th June 2012.

John Cooper, John Gisborn and Barry Weaver.

Went out peered down Shatter Pot. JG's first trip out of the stream-way. 2 hours.

Sunday 17th June 2012.

John Cooper and Lee Hawkswell.

Short Round trip. No delays at all. 2 hours.



*Adrian Fawcett paints over the lingering residues of the CSS no-handed, au naturel, trifle-hurling competition.
Photo: Jo Duxbury.*

Officers of the Society:

Chairman

Tim Morgan
53 Coldershaw Road, London, W13 9EA
Tim@TerminalSump.com

Secretary

Stuart France
The Smithy, Crickhowell, Powys, NP8 1RD
(01874) 730527 (Home)
css@linetop.com

Treasurer

Gary Jones
4 Glebe Close, Bookham, Leatherhead, KT23 4DJ
(01372) 454776 (Home)
07979 854059 (Mobile)
garyrobertjones@tiscali.co.uk

Cottage Warden

John Stevens
14 Kiln Close, Hermitage, Thatcham
Newbury, Berks, RG18 9TQ
(01635) 200879 (Home)
john@k-stevens.co.uk

Tacklemaster

Gary Kiely
22b St Johns Road, Isleworth,
Middlesex, TW7 6NW
07958 039721 (Mobile)
gkiely72@mac.com

Newsletter Editor

Mark Lumley
7 Langleys Lane, Clapton, Radstock
Somerset, BA3 4DX
(01761) 419246 (Home and Work)
mark@creativeedge.me.uk

Librarian

Anna Northover
42 BrynGwyn Road, Newport, NP20 4JT
(01633) 678833 (Home)
anna.northover@gmail.com

Meets Secretary

Paul Tarrant
10 Llwyn y Golomen, Parc Gwernfadog, Morryston
Swansea, SA6 6SX
(01792) 795600 (Home)
07867 820507 9(Work)
07812 110291 (Mobile)
ptpeaty@yahoo.co.uk

Records Officer

John Cooper
31 Elm Close, Wells, Somerset, BA5 1LZ
(01749) 670568 (Home)
csspub@googlemail.com

Web Master

Stephen Newton
68 Myrtle Avenue, Long Eaton, Notts, NG10 2LY
(0115) 972 9029 (Home)
snewton@ukonline.co.uk

Rescue Liaison

Tom Foord
138 Habershon Street, Cardiff, CF24 2LD
07766 605827 (Mobile)
tomfoord@gmail.com

PDCMG Liaison

Chris Seal
c/o 28 Cockney hill, Tilehurst, Reading RG30 4EU
css@chrisseal.net

Committee Member

Mel Reid
3 Bryntirion Terrace, Llangollen, LG20 8LP
07711 943492 (Mobile)
melrei@hotmail.com

Committee Member

Jason McCorriston
72 Christchurch Road, Penmaen Estate
Oakdale, Blackwood, Gwent, NP12 0UX
(01495) 221479 (Home)
jason_mccorriston@talktalk.net

Whitewalls

The Hillside, Llangattock, Powys, NP8 1LG, UK

Meets List 2012

14th July 2012

Camping on Gower

Sea Canoeing, Caving, Walking, Climbing on the Gower Peninsular – Not sure time will permit us to do all these things but we'll have a bloody good try. Sea canoeing will involve easy bay hopping trip along the south Gower coast which is reasonably safe, easy and scenically excellent [*plus a spot of kayak fishing*].

We have at least 5 canoes amongst club members plus it should be possible to hire them locally – We'll be staying at the excellent Nicholaston Farm Campsite and with the beach just a short walk away and the pub [King Arthur] a slightly longer walk over the mountain.

Organiser Paul Tarrant

15 July 2012

Whitewalls **Carno Adit**

Further excursions to this fascinating cave. Organiser Adrian Fawcett

27th July 2012

Mendip Caving

– Staying at the Wessex.

BBQ Saturday night.

Caving to be arranged by John Cooper

8 – 9th September 2012

North Wales Mining Trip

–Gwydyr Forest near Betws Y Coed.

Organiser Stuart France

September 2012

Hidden Earth Caving Conference – Yorkshire Dales – Venue and precise date not confirmed as yet.

Organiser BCRA

3rd November 2012

Whitewalls

Bonfire weekend

Caves of the Sychryd Gorge – Will's Hole, Bwa Maen, Ogof Pont Sychryd, The Silica Mines.

Organiser Paul Tarrant

17th November 2012

Derbyshire Peak Cavern, Bagshawe.

Organiser John Newton

7th December 2012

Whitewalls **Curry Night**

Organiser: Stuart France

29 – 31st December 2012

Whitewalls **New Year Celebrations**

26th January 2013

Whitewalls

Annual Dinner and AGM Weekend

28th February 2013

Whitewalls

Trip to be confirmed



www.chelseaspelaeo.org.uk

Lesser Garth Cave Photo: Brendan Marris