



*Windsor Hill Flood Sink*

*Withyhill Cave*

*Speleo Focus*

*Little Neath River Cave*

*A Mid South Wales Caving Trip*



# Chelsea Spelæological Society Newsletter

Volume 56  
Nos 7 & 8  
July/Aug  
2014

Man in a hole! - Photo by Paul Stillman

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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

The committee are proposing Richard Frost and Rebecca Healey for Full membership. Any comments to the Secretary, Stuart France. Welcome back to Mike Green as a full member

Please send all subscriptions to:  
Gary Jones, 6 West Down, Bookham, Leatherhead,  
Surrey KT23 4LJ

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.

**Cover Photo** - Mel Reid in Little Neath River Cave

Photo by Steve Sharp



## German Cave Rescue

Munich, Marktschellenberg (June 19th 2014 11:44). After 11 days 10 hours 14 minutes, a total of 274 hours Johann Westhauser was today successfully rescued from the "Riesending" cave in 1000m depth. "This operation was only possible because the best of the Cave Rescues from Europe helped together here," said Clemens Reindl, operations manager of the rescue.

A total of 202 cave rescuers were in operation, 194 of them from abroad, from Austria, Switzerland, Italy and Croatia. The successful rescue is due to them. They were supported by a total of 728 rescue workers in the field who have taken over the particular logistical services. There are also forces of fire, police and armed forces, which also have given the support with helicopters.

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the rescue please type the following link into your internet browser - <http://www.xn--stiftung-hhlenrettung-qec.de/eng1.html>

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## Archive CSS records for sale

Adrian Pearce has a number of old CSS Records that he no longer need as he has given up active caving and moved north. He was wondering if the club or a member would like to make him an offer for them? They are :-

Records of London Speleological Group  
Vol 1 Oct 1956 (Xeroxed)  
Vol 2 Oct 1958 (Xeroxed)

CSS Records

Vol 3 Secret Tunnels in Surrey reprint 1977  
Vol 4 Deneholes reprint 1970  
Vol 5 More Secret Tunnels in Surrey 1968  
Vol 6 Caves & Tunnels in Kent undated  
Vol 7 Caves & Tunnels in SE England Part 1 1976  
Vol 8 Caves & Tunnels in SE England Part 2 1978  
Vol 9 Caves & Tunnels in SE England Part 3 1979  
Vol 10 Deneholes Part 2 1979  
Vol 11 Caves & Tunnels in SE England Part 4 1982  
Vol 12 Underground Gazetteer of SE England 1983  
Vol 13 Caves & Tunnels in SE England Part 5 1983  
Vol 14 Caves & Tunnels in SE England Part 6 1984  
Vol 15 Caves & Tunnels in SE England Part 7 1987  
Vol 16 Caves & Tunnels in SE England Part 8 1988  
Vol 17 Caves & Tunnels in SE England Part 9 1990

For details please contact Adrian via email

[adrian.pearce@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:adrian.pearce@blueyonder.co.uk)

# Editorial

Thanks for a great response this month. Please send in your photos and trip reports etc Please send all material to:

[Steve-Sharp-Photography@virginmedia.com](mailto:Steve-Sharp-Photography@virginmedia.com)

Or put on a CD and send to:

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

Send your text for your article in Microsoft Word format or email.

Covert photos. surveys and other images to decent sized .jpeg, .tif, .psd files

You could alternatively zip your work and send in as a .rar file using [www.mailbigfile.com](http://www.mailbigfile.com) (Free version) (use the classic uploader)

*Steve Sharp*

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## Special T-Shirt For Northern University Caving Clubs



Available in all sizes, S to XXL.

Alternative special electronic version available with 'MAIN STREAM PASSAGE' and 'SOUTHERN STREAM PASSAGE' in flashing red led lights. Contact Joe Duxbury for full details and prices!



# Windsor Hill Flood Sink

by Mark 'Gonzo' Lumley

Windsor Hill, above Shepton Mallet has huge potential and a number of small caves are known. A number of sinks have been dug sporadically over many years.

Having worked in 2012 with Chris Pollard in Ham Hole (Ham Woods), ATLAS have now directed their Wednesday night dalliances to sites further up the hill.

In 2012 a few weeks' work at Windsor Hill Quarry Cave brought us to an on-going, draughting rift with a massively unstable roof requiring much shoring to gain practical access to continue.



Wall of dig spoil around Windsor Hill Quarry Cave 2012

Elsewhere, an initial foray was made by Naomi Sharp and Duncan Price in an unstable cliff-side collapse taking a small stream next to the long-abandoned spoil heap for Windsor Hill Flood Sink 2.

The site is just a few metres away from the Windsor Hill Flood Sink which was dug by NHASA in the 1980s. This follows a steeply inclined bedding for about 100ft before becoming impenetrable, horizontal, squalid and sumped in winter. A small stream enters through a tight fissure part way down. This may well come from WHFS2 but is not the main flow.

The stream sinks in a number of small holes in the vicinity and it would be interesting to know how drainage has been altered due to construction of the long-abandoned Somerset and Dorset Railway whose embankment is nearby.

It is notable that there is much more water sinking in the immediate area than is seen at either site. The stream dries up in

a long summer but in winter is a spectacular sight.

Water sinking at Windsor Hill Flood Sink resurges at St. Andrew's Well, Wells in 24 hours. That's faster than flow-through times from Thrupe Swallet, Thrupe Lane Swallet and Viaduct sink despite the fact that it is higher up and further away.

ATLAS regulars have spent many months consolidating the secondary site next to the cliff, building a dam and have sunk a shaft through large slabs for about 5 metres to a couple of rifts which take the stream without backing up. Work continues down the main rift.

A protective wall has been built around the site and there are plans to put a safe cover on NHASA's long abandoned dig.

Other sites in the area have been looked at with ongoing digs at Horseshoe and Matt and Mandy Voysey's new discovery 'Pigworld'.



Looking down the shaft of the WHFS2 dig



Clive North and Dave King at Windsor Hill Flood Sink 2  
Note the dams and the main stream sinking in the old NHASA dig.

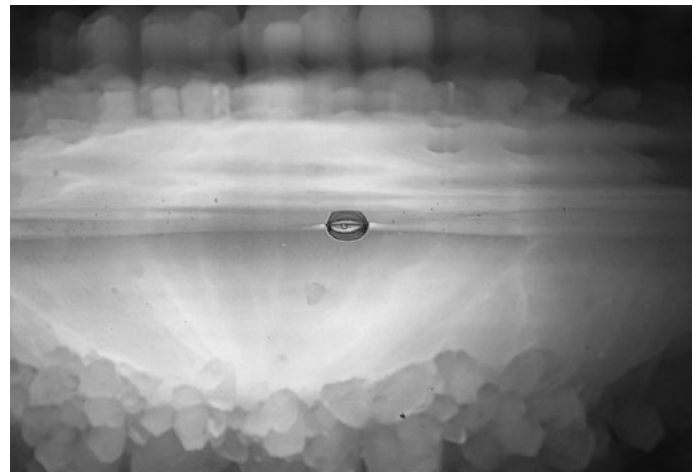
Photos  
Mark Lumley

# Withyhill Cave *by Nick Chipchase*

My first trip in two years with Laura Everett of the Wessex Cave Club. Although one of the original explorers of the cave I still find the formations stunning. We ambled up to Jonathan's Chamber which I discovered when my son Jonathan was one year old. He is 43 this year. Gosh how time goes on. I had permission to go there as normally the tourist trip carries on past Pearl Chamber to enter Column Chamber.

We saw a bat in Pearl Chamber hanging on the tape. He was a long way from the entrance so perhaps there is another surface connection in Glistening Pool Series. The section of cave beyond Pearl Chamber is, I believe, a fossil extension of Shatter Cave which has been captured via the narrow rifts between Pearl Chamber and the start of Glistening Pool Series. The phreatic roof tube is much larger near the end here and equates in size to the tube at Pisa Passage in Shatter Cave. The Withyhill tube is much smaller and more sinuous. Beyond Jonathan's Chamber the old Cerberus dig carries a very noticeable draught which signifies a link with the two caves somewhere. Our photo trip ended back in the main cave at Green Lake Grotto, another of my early finds. A stunning little chamber and to my mind one of the best small grottos in the UK.

I got in there two years ago but the two year lay off defeated me this time around so Laura went up by herself. Quite a few of the over 50's Mendip Cavers are finding the squeeze a bit tough now. I took 213 photos using my usual "photobomb" technique. About 30 were great including an underwater shot of a water drop hitting the water surface. Quite by chance actually. Laura and I will be back at the quarry later on as I want to take a few Shatter Cave photos next time around.



*Photos  
Nick Chipchase*





# Little Neath River



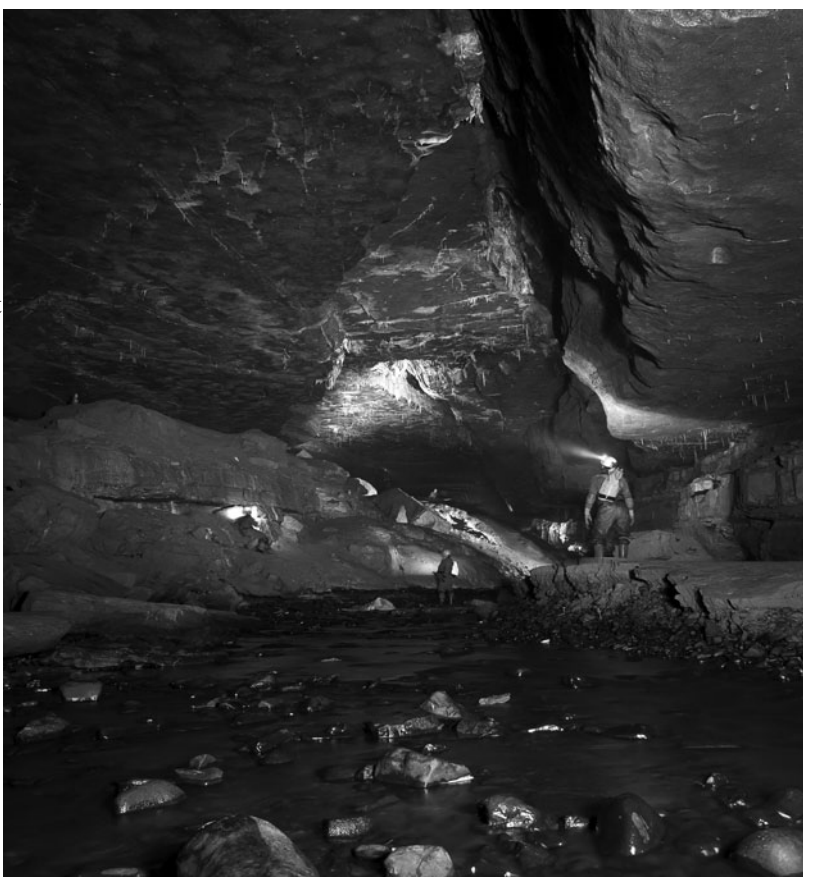
Saturday 21 June 2014

Joe Duxbury, Gary Kiely, Jason McCorriston, John Newton, John Stevens, Naomi Stevens, Mel Reid, Steve Sharp, Holly Sharp, Matt & Mandy Voysey

A convoy of three cars left Whitewalls for the Little Neath River, and two of them managed to get there directly. After changing by the bridge, we made our way along the river bank to the cave. Another, smaller, party went in ahead of us. The water in the entrance was delightfully warm, but the idea that getting underground would enable us to escape the midges was baseless – they were present right through the cave.

The duck was passed by various means, and the group spread out down the passage. Holly was assisted on the several climbs that she couldn't manage; Steve took photos here and there; and we admired the fine formations that are spread out through the cave. As the water was so warm, we chose to enter by The Canal; even in furry suits it was comfortable enough. But it does go on!

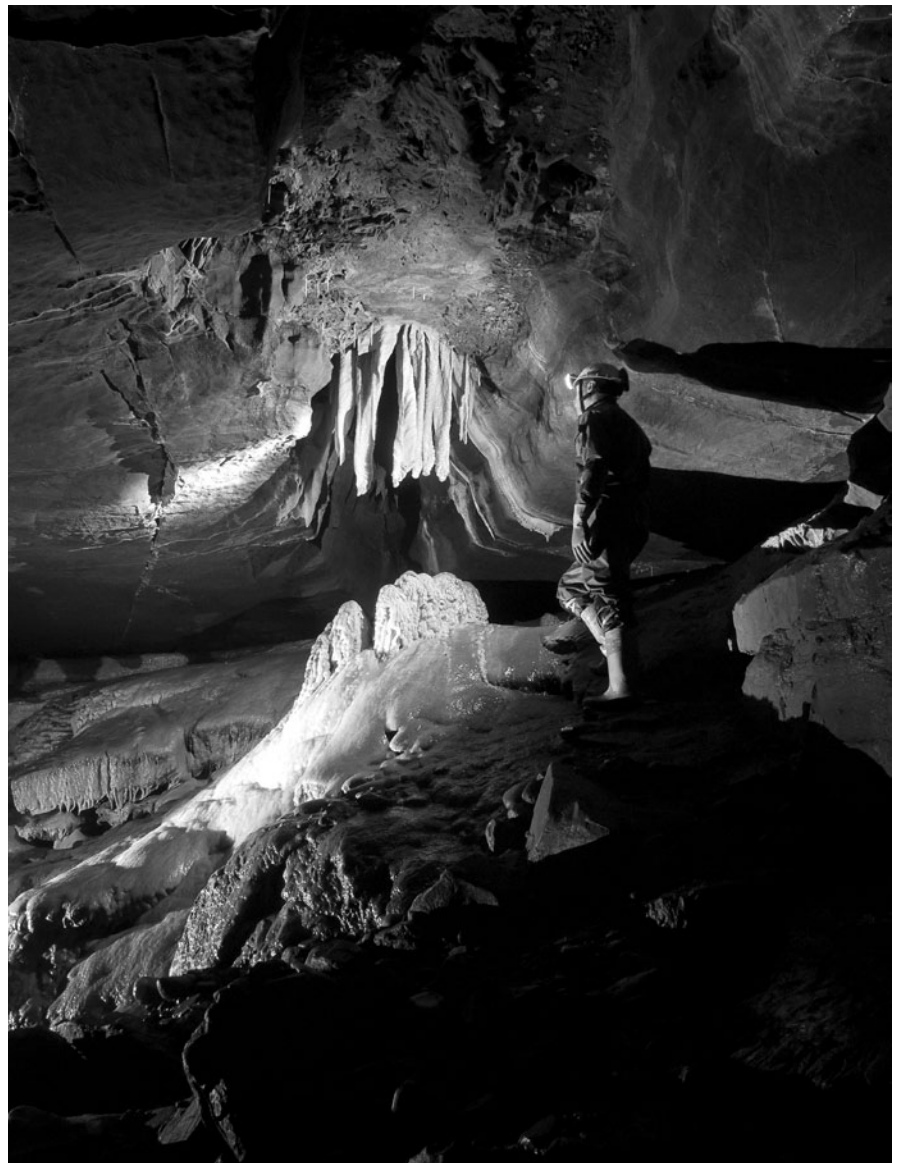
Back in the Main Stream we continued, and a select group of six decided to go to Sump 2. The water level was low, and the sump smelt a bit, so we didn't feel the urge to wallow in it. We didn't really know where Genesis Gallery was, but Mandy followed an obvious path up over a mud bank, and along a hands-and-knees crawl. Matt followed her along the high level passage, and I dropped down into the slot between the wall and the floor, to find a squeeze through rectangular blocks. This seemed to match what Gary had mentioned, but I didn't push it. To complete the circuit, we returned via the By-pass, with a couple of unintentional detours along the way! Then John Stevens led us astray towards the entrance, into a tunnel against the right-hand wall. This must have been Blaen Nedd Isaf



*John Stevens demonstrating the art of a self rescue!*



# *Cave* by Joe Duxbury



Passage, which does actually connect back into the entrance area, but we didn't know that and returned to find the usual way back. The entrance duck was quite appealing on the way out – it wasn't such a shock to the system now that we'd all warmed up.

Back at the car park, some of the others had had time to visit Bridge Cave. There weren't so many midges about that we weren't able to stop for a group photo, and then we set off back to Whitewalls. Although the ice cream van wasn't in its usual place, the car with route-finding difficulties managed to find a source of ice creams.

An easy-paced, enjoyable trip of about 5 hours.

Joe Duxbury



*Photos - Steve Sharp*





Steve Sharp, Hollie Sharp, Gary Kiely, John Stevens, Naomi Stevens, Joe Duxbury, John Newton, Jason McCorrison, Mel Reid, Matt & Mandy Voysey.

## *Swildon's Hole 15th July 2014.*

*By John Cooper*

Tuesday 15th July 2014. John Cooper and Emma Gisborne. One of the less popular circular routes this evening. With a 10m ladder and a 20m rope in one bag, the usual smaller bag with the Twenty tackle and a small personal bag we entered the cave at 18.45, being already hot from the walk across. I had on a 3mm wetsuit and oversuit whilst Emma wore a neo-fleece and oversuit. Took the Short Dry Way in, but I took every opportunity to get wet to soften my oversuit and cool down. No-one else in the cave so we set up the ladder and double lifeline on the Twenty. On to Tratman's Temple and along St. Paul's Series to the Mud Sump; it's actually the second mud sump but no-one ever goes to visit the first one nowadays. Very dry still. Through into Paradise Regained and then just before Shatter Pot took the climb up on the left into South East Inlets. Along to the base of the 42ft Rift where a drink was started by Emma, most being left for the return. Through the flat-out crawl ahead and Maypole Aven was reached. To ascend this, the 10m ladder was hauled up on the in-situ double rope and, with Emma acting as an anchor, I climbed up it and then secured it over the lip of the ledge. I life-lined Emma up using the in-situ rope rather than get ours out of the bag, which now contained my personal bag in place of the ladder. Once Emma was up onto the ledge I secured the ladder 3m higher, at the start of the tight rift, using the

in-situ tape sling; I'm not sure how many years it's been there. Shoving the bag ahead of me and with Emma following we made it through the rift; not got any nicer since I was last there; still about 20cm of water in one of the pools. With Emma now in front we climbed up through the banged connection into Lower Terminus Chamber. Climbed the wall to the base of the final rift and then I fastened on the end of the rope and climbed up the rift. Once through the squeeze at the top I hauled the bag up and then life-lined Emma up. Packed the rope loosely in the bag before continuing into Terminus Chamber and then off down Swynne-Puke Passage. I think there has been some digging activity off this passage since my last visit. One slightly tricky climb down and then a left turn and up through a short flat-out section and the head of the 42ft Rift was reached. After a short discussion I used a double Fishermans's knot to form a sit harness on the end of the rope for Emma. One she was down I used the rope doubled to slide down. Leaving Emma to tidy up the rope, have some chocolate and finish the drink left earlier I went back through the flat-out crawl to Maypole Aven, ascended and then lowered the ladder. Rearranged the in-situ rope before sliding down the double rope. It's there ready for the next party. Having coiled the ladder I returned to Emma, packed the ladder and rope into the bag and we set off out. An uneventful trip out using the Wet Way to wash off a bit, although not as thoroughly as usual. A very pleasant 3¾ hours.



# News And Updates by Stuart France

Members are reminded that the Whitewalls library is not a sleeping area nor for equipment storage.

The North Wales trip in September cannot stay at the same climbing club hut as was used last year because it is booked solid. Instead, Stuart proposes a weekend trip to some undisclosed mines in mid-Wales that involve SRT, and this means finding camping or bunkhouse accommodation. If you are interested then please call Stuart for more details.

Legal opinion is being sought by independent cavers in Yorkshire on access rights that the CRoW Act 2000 and related legislation may provide to cavers. This is expected in early July. BCA is finally engaging itself, despite certain people's efforts at their recent AGM to filibuster any discussion or motions being voted on the subject, by reviving its Conservation and Access Committee. This committee has not met since 2009 and will hold a meeting in mid-August of all regional council C&A officers. Stuart France is attending for Cambrian Caving Council. He would like to hear the views from club committees and individual cavers in good time to present a representative picture of opinion and aspirations across our region. There is quite a lot of background on the ukCaving forum which by its very nature is not representative, nor always well informed nor thought out, but nevertheless is worth a read.

The Green Paper on a review and possible relaxation of the CRoW Act in Wales has been put back until at least after the next Welsh Government elections. In practice this will mean 2017 at the earliest. This is a result of well-organised complaints by landowners, and fishermen particularly aimed at paddlers, hounding the Minister. The WG statement on this puts as positive spin as it can on what is clearly a mess. However, this now gives everyone else involved in land-based sports more time to get organised and learn to work together, perhaps forming alliances with and VisitWales and unlikely bodies like NHS Wales that have a public health focus, creating broader appeal for improved recreational opportunities.

Natural Resources Wales, i.e. the former CCW and Forestry, has published its Recreation and Access strategy document for the period up to 2020. A copy of this is available [www.linetop.co.uk/cssdata/nrw-consultation.doc](http://www.linetop.co.uk/cssdata/nrw-consultation.doc) and Stuart France welcomes feedback on this as soon as possible because the consultation period is only a couple of months.

New Cave. Access has been agreed with NRW for a small cave discovery of Tony Donovan and Roy Morgan's called Twll Clogfaen just off the A470 north of Merthyr Tydfil at SO 022084 on forestry land. There is obvious parking off the A470 on a paved area at the start of a farm track, the entrance is only 50m from there. The cave has a gate which is secured with a substantial chain and a bolt (i.e. no padlock). You will need two large adjustable spanners to release it. Please leave the site secure when you leave and notify Stuart or Tony of any problems. The cave is a flood sink for the nearby Nant Sych stream and after a dug out section it has about 200m of clean passages between swing-a-cat and Daren crawl in size with some taped-off formations ending at a 5m wide and 20m high aven which unfortunately appears to be about where you parked your car and first started out as you have gone around a bit in circles underground. Nant Sych means "dry stream" suggesting there are more sinks to be investigated in this locality, and Twll Clogfaen refers to the former boulder-filled entrance shaft. It would make for a mid-week evening or Sunday afternoon trip.

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# A Mid South Wales Caving Trip

*by Andy Watson*

A Mid South Wales Caving Trip with various HSCC leaders 24th-26th May 2014

We stayed at Ystradgynlais Scout Hut which has showers and a kitchen so is caving weekend friendly and not too expensive at £60/night/per group. It was good to stay 3 nights over the bank holiday weekend. Day 1 two teams caving; One was going to do the Ogof Ffynnon Ddu 1 through trip and come out Cwm Dwr but as the rain had been pretty hard in the last 24 hours and the ground was already wet we accepted the local advice at South Wales Caving Club where we collect the keys and submit our permits not to do the through trip. So we opted to join the second team (Dave, Ros, Gavin & Sue) who had plans to do the OFD 2 top entrance and go in via Gnome Passage and work towards Smiths Armoury; they got as far as the Shambles. We decided to go in the top entrance as well but to look around Arete Pot area. It's good getting changed in the warm at SWCC Cottages, as for a payment of £1.00 you can park your car, get changed and have a hot shower when you get back, all very reasonable in my book. Team 2 consisted of Phil, Ralph, Andy & Susie and we went in the same way but took a right turn not far from the entrance and visited the Mini Columns (very pretty) abseiled down a short pitch then popped out of a small hole very near the entrance on the left. We found our way to the top of Arete and went skirted over the top of the aven on the right hand side and explored a few places to the left and right on the continuation passage.



*Photos - Andy Watson*

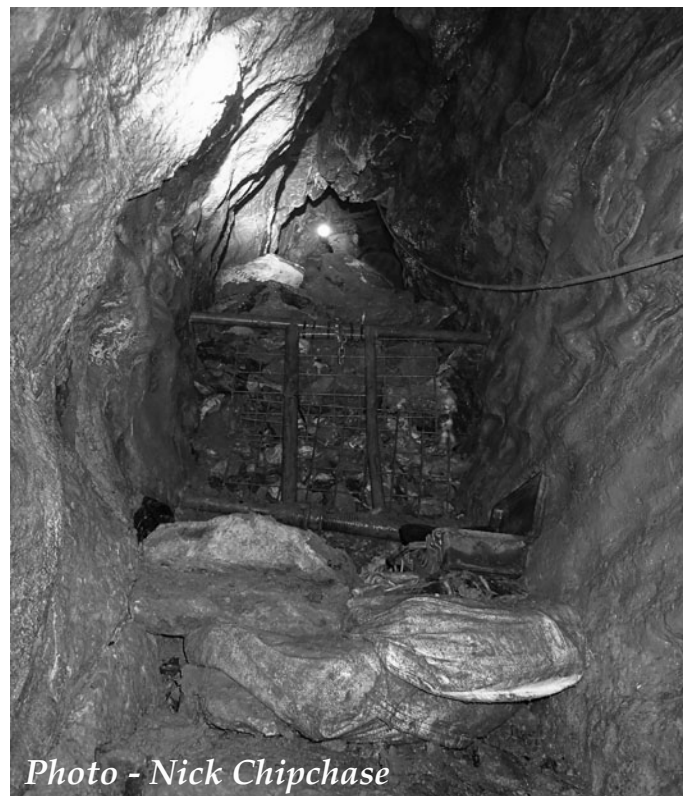
In time and by a strange route we managed to get to the bottom of the Arete pot. Off to the right there was a short climb down over flowstone and we proceeded off down a narrow wiggly rift passage and came out at a place called Timmo's Table a large flat rock sitting high and to one side of a main dry passage (Poached Egg Passage I think). Going right along this for a while we came to a bold step, or rather a bold jump on to ones front at chest height into a left hand rising passage (Susie did not like this manoeuvre much) that led up high above the main rift and into a pretty straw filled passage called Straw Gallery. Turn right here and it leads to an exposed edge that is slippery with the wrong camber that could easily lead to an unplanned plummet (Approach with care). Up another passage from near the straws we found lots of interesting high level passages which we spent a good half an hour exploring and not reaching any end points! We will no doubt return to these sometime. Back down the funny bold step where we used a life line to abseil down over the edge to stay safe.

Finding our way back to the bottom of Arete successfully we then took a wrong turning and got rather lost and eventually had to back track to Arete to then find the correct passage to then find Celubrius Passage which we went straight across and up the corkscrew climbs, without falling down the big hole, and out via Gnome Passage and Sandy Passage to pop out of the top entrance and into the light Welsh drizzle which was very refreshing some four and a half hours after leaving the daylight.

Day 2: We were all rather tired after a meal in the pub the evening before but went west to the Llangattock escarpment and changed at Whitewalls before wandering east along to Ogof Cnwec with the aim of getting to the Antlers. A team of seven entered a very muddy and a bit squashy entrance section that leads into the bigger rift and Price's Prophecy and Busman's Holiday. After extensive small boulder hopping and about a 100 foot crawl we found the way down to the hidden four metre climb, which now has a chain ladder fitted rather than the old knotted rope, then slipped down the muddy slope and into the boulder choke around the bottom of the wet aven and into the end of Antler Passage, a high rift passage for the most part and I reckon perhaps 1000m long. The large boulder 'challenges' along here are fun for the shorter members of the party and slowed us all down and we think we got about two thirds of the way along before deciding to turn around as we had agreed a 14:00 turnaround time and we were all pretty tired. We made good progress on the way out, finally crawling out into the Welsh rain after five hours. All in all a good trip that we will no doubt revisit from the Daren Cilau entrance end.



Day 3: Most people decided they had had enough caving and went walking or visiting places etc but Dave, Ros and Ralph visited OFD 1 with a view of going along the traverses and up to high places and Hairy Fairies but I have no information on that trip yet.  
Andy Watson MNRC, HSCC, CSS



*Photo - Nick Chipchase*

Nigel having lunch on top of the ever expanding spoil heap.

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## Reservoir Hole 27th May 2014.

*By Nick Chipchase*

We have put in four trips to Skyfall since the last account. This trip was my 162nd in Reservoir Hole since we set up the new digging team in Sept 2010. Not bad considering I was out for nearly four months with a squashed hand (5th May 2013 ). I have got most of it working again but the tendons are damaged making it impossible to haul on a rope. At least that gets me out of the skip hauling and I have a good excuse for being slow. Sadly I now have a bruised coccyx as well as I fell over backwards in Withyhill on the last trip. Still bum and hand aside we made good progress in the dig on this trip with three of us digging. Loads of mud and boulders coming out and the rift still heading south on the fault away from The Frozen Deep. The surface is still some 160 metres above choke level so there is room for a bit of passage if it exists and we are bang on the level of the big High Country series. The last job was to snapper a boulder in the roof most of which came down leaving us scope to continue next week.

Nick Chipchase.

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## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### *Lightly Poached Bats served on a bed of fresh sediments*

“Greater Horseshoe bats choose warmer temperatures than many other bats.

Temperatures of 11 deg C [sic] are suitable, but in February they will choose temperatures closer to 70 deg C”, at least according to the BCA Cave Conservation Handbook.

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### BCA C&A subcommittee meeting - August.

Please see my article in the July Cambrian Newsletter here:

<http://www.cambriancavingcouncil.org.uk/newsletters.html>

and let me know if the committee or individuals have a position they want communicated to this committee regarding CROW etc.

Stuart France



# CSS BBQ - June 21 June 2014



*Photos - Steve Sharp*

Once again the CSS BBQ was a great success with various caving trips taking place including Little Neath River Cave, see page 62, followed by a fantastic BBQ at Whitewalls, above members pose for a group photo.



*The fantastic view from Whitewalls cottage*

# *SPELEO FOCUS* by Joe Duxbury

In the “NSS News” there is a regular series of articles called “Spelean Spotlight” in which Big Name Cavers are interviewed and describe how they came to take up caving. I thought it would be interesting to do something similar for British cavers. So here is an interview with a well-known figure in Mendip caving circles, best known by his caving name, or nom-de-grotte, ‘Daffy’.

Q How did you get started in caving?

A Daddy used to lock me in the coal ’ole. It was supposed to be a punishment, but I found I really liked it down there. I remember it clearly – it was quiet and cool, and I didn’t have my big sister pestering me.

But I started caving proper when I found out from my sister’s boyfriend that the Lads’ Legion were going into real caves. I joined like a shot. The commandant made out it was character-building, but it was just an excuse for him to work off his sadism. He couldn’t understand that I actually liked grovelling in cold mud. It was ironic really – me and a couple of the other kids, whose characters, or at least their bodies, had actually been built up, sloped off and crawled through a low bedding plane, far too small for him. He went absolutely spare when he found we were missing. He was so angry he had an apoplectic fit. That put an end to his underground career.

Q Where have you caved?

A Oh, only on Mendip.

Q But weren’t you on the 1973 expedition to Morocco?

A Oh yes. I forgot. That was when the entire team got laid down with heatstroke, three people got bitten by snakes, and the expedition bus broke an axle in the Anti-Atlas. We didn’t have enough money, so we sold the youngest member of the expedition to pay for the repairs.

Q And in 1977 didn’t you go to Norway? In winter?

A Oh yes, I forgot that too. The idea was to spot the cave entrances by the snow melted by the warmer cave air. But we all got snow blindness. Couldn’t see a thing.

Q Weren’t you in on the discovery of the extensions to X Cave?

A No, that wasn’t me. That was Jim Urth. He was the only one mad enough to go into the 3rd boulder choke. Loose as hell it was. Then when it fell in behind him he expected us to come and rescue him. Some hopes. Every time you pulled a rock out, 2 more fell in from the top. So we left him.

No, I discovered the Attic, the dry gallery over the top, 2 years later. Just climbed up a nasty little chimney and popped out into this high level rift. When we dropped back into the main passage, there was Urth – his body covered in white mould. His lamp still worked. I’m still using it.

Q Can you tell us what happened at Y Cave in 1982?

A Y Cave, yes. The problem there was that the perched sump was allegedly “protecting” the Gallery of Angels, and Marvin Nierr was insisting that it stayed. I wasn’t going to have him telling me what I couldn’t do, so me and Arnold Oate and Jon Stodds got in there with a decent length of hosepipe and drained it. We then dug out the mud and some rocks, so it would drain naturally. I dare say the Gallery has suffered since, but I’ve got plenty of the best bits in the shop, and what’s more, the extensions on the other side would never have been found.

Q Tell me more about your interest in cave minerals.

A I was absolutely fascinated by the marvellous shapes and colours. I still am. You should come to my shop, “Rock On”, and see the wonderful range of stals and stuff I’ve got for sale.

Q Tell me about your studies of bats.

A Bats? I love ’em. Trouble is there’s so little meat on the little blighters, they need a lot of work in preparation. Also they tend to be a bit stringy. It took me ages to find the right recipe. I find they’re best casseroleed with onions and a pinch of fennel. That makes them tender and brings out the flavour. Now the big ones, the fruit bats that you get in the tropics, they’re best spitted and done on a rotisserie, with plenty of garlic.

Q You’ve been involved with cave photography for a long time now. How did that start?

A I just borrowed a camera (well, Batlake shouldn’t have left it lying around, should he?) and shot off a few. My pictures were loads better than Chas Wise’s. If the stals don’t look right, just move ’em about till they do.

Q You were involved in cave diving for several years. What made you give it up?

A Well, you see, I’d developed my rebreathing system, only for Malcolm Worth to nick all my best ideas, and it worked a treat. I would have stayed at the bottom of the Olympic Pool in Bristol for twice as long, but they chucked me out. It wasn’t my fault their filter system couldn’t cope with the cave mud. Anyway, after I’d connected Swildon’s 12 to Wookey 19, no-one believed me, and the line got washed away in the floods the next week, so I couldn’t prove it. So I packed it in.

Q Well, thank you Daffy, for your insights into caving history. We hope to see you active for many years yet.

A Thank you. Do I get to choose my luxury, and one book, now?

Novel rope ascender?



## CSS Meets List 2014- 2015

*By Paul Tarrant-Meets Secretary*

This year's Meets List includes details of other events that CSS members may wish to participate in. Apart from Hidden Earth, rescue practices held by SMWCRT, and the NAMHO conference and associated field trips are listed as members may be interested in these events

### 25/7 - NAMHO Conference

Bangor University. Mine exploration seminars with field trips to North Wales mines.

### 23/8 - August Bank Holiday at Whitewalls.

Trips to DYO and OFD.

### 13/9 - Mid Wales walking and mine exploration.

Limited places available at Stuart France's mountaineering hut. Camping available nearby. Contact Stuart for details.

### 26/9 - Hidden Earth Leek.

4/10 - SMWCRT rescue practice 'Wargames' at Penwyllt.

### 17-19th/10 Peak Cavern

staying at TSG hut at Castleton

### 1/11 - Bonfire Party at Whitewalls.

Bats and fireworks.

### 6/12 - Curry evening.

Whitewalls. Caving in the local caves or a trip over to OFD to participate in the SMWCRT rescue practice in OFD.

24/1/15- Annual Dinner -The Bear and AGM on the Sunday

### 21/2/15 - Whisky Evening

Mike Read is prepared to arrange a w/e in Dorset, dates TBA.


Don't get wrecked at the

# MCR STOMP

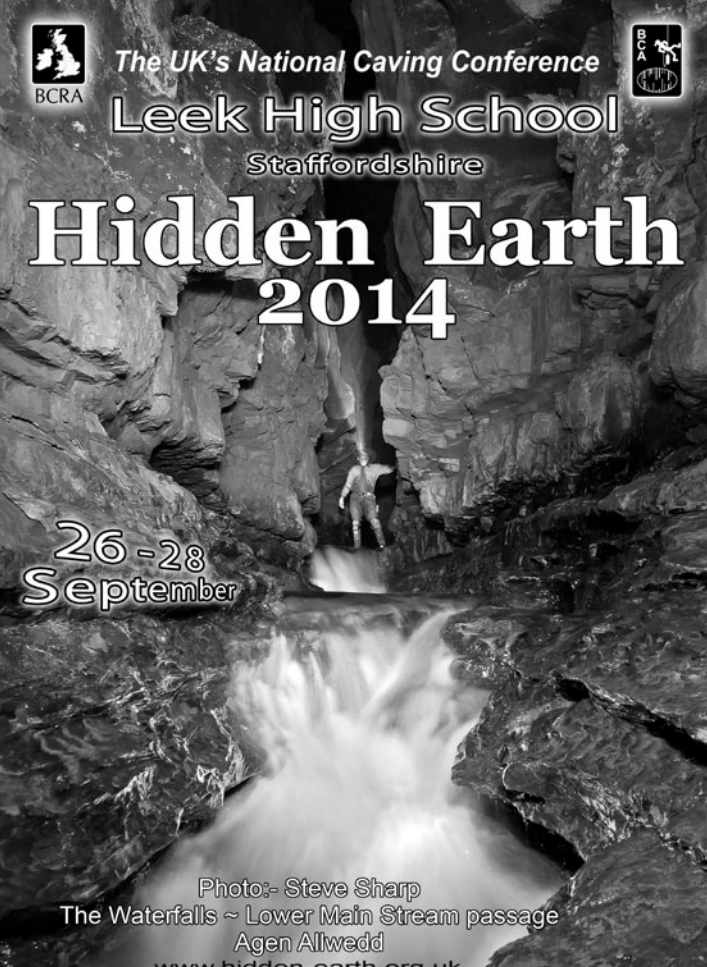
Saturday  
13th September



From 7pm at Priddy Village Hall  
Music · Live Band · Bar · Food

Fancy Dress: anything so long as it's ship wrecked!



The Pad of the MCR by T. G. Jones. (17) - 1825, with apologies to MCR members, major participation for a good cause.



 *The UK's National Caving Conference* 

## Leek High School

Staffordshire

# Hidden Earth

## 2014

26-28  
September

Photo:- Steve Sharp  
The Waterfalls ~ Lower Main Stream passage  
Agen Allwedd  
[www.hidden-earth.org.uk](http://www.hidden-earth.org.uk)

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## Whitewalls

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## Cottage Bookings

05/09/2014 York CC (4 bunks)  
17/10/2014 Bristol EC ( 10 bunks)

*Send in your trip report  
with pictures, the CSS  
Journal is a great place to  
tell your story. Old or new  
we'd love to read about it.*



# *Pearl Chamber - Withyhill Cave*

*Photography - Nick Chipchase*

