

# CHELSEA SPELAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



*CSS Golden Oldies Meet*

*Armchair Caving in Port Quin Bay*

*Return to Boreham*

*Peak District Weekend*

*Another small find in Agen Allwedd*

*Paul Cornelius*

# Chelsea Spelæological Society Newsletter

Volume 56  
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2014



Gary Kiely Absorbing at the Avon Gorge - Photo by Steve Smith

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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

It's the end of the financial year so subs are due at start of October. Members who have become Full during the year should contact the Treasurer to find out how much to pay.

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** - Lisa Boore  
in OFD 1 Streamway

Photo by Dan Thorne

# STOP PRESS

## Upper Keyhole Extended

*By John Stevens*

### *Full article in next newsletter*

1 Nov 2014, A party of Mike Green, Mike Read, Alan Brady and myself went to Upper keyhole to survey it. Previously Mike Green and I had helped carry a maypole from Flood Passage to Keyhole to help set up the trip.

The plan was to look at this passage as I could not recall anyone having been into the passage since I have been a member. The survey was dated 1963, so this may have been the last visit. Since then we have found and extended Crystal Gallery which runs parallel to the passage but at lower level. It was surmised that if there was a hole down in the southern branch of Upper Keyhole, we may get into the continuation of Crystal Gallery, which is a large abandoned phreas heading south into a large blank area of the mountain.

Theory almost right but it was the north end which Mike G and Alan pushed while Mike R and myself surveyed the south branch.

A dig through a boulder choke reached a 9m pitch down after 25m. A traverse and second short dig led to a second pitch down. This time the traverse over the hole was too exposed to continue.

The passage at the base looks large!

If it was not for Jackie's cooking and the bonfire we would have stayed and dropped the shaft as we had all the equipment with us. 7hr trip.

A return is planned very shortly



*Mike Green installing bolt at top of Maypole*

# Editorial

Thanks for all the contributions this month making this edition my biggest to date!

This will be the last journal for 2014.

A big thanks to John Cooper for checking each months journal for any errors and apologies to John Stevens for overlooking inclusion of his survey in last months edition!

**I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members a Happy Christmas and New Year.**

Please send in your photos and trip reports etc

Please send all material to:

*Steve-Sharp-Photography@virginmedia.com*

Or put on a CD and send to:

**Steve Sharp**

**43 The Crescent**

**Sea Mills**

**Bristol**

**BS9 2JT**

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

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

*Steve Sharp*

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## *Chelsea Speleological Society Annual Dinner & AGM*

The club will be holding the annual dinner in the Bear Hotel, Crickhowell on Saturday 24th January 2015. The menu is included in this newsletter and the price for the meal is £26. Entertainment on the evening will probably include film of recent discoveries made in Llangattwg and plenty of time will be available for people to socialise. Accommodation can be booked at the Bear, and the Britannia Inn [the older generation of CSS will have fond memories of this place] can offer bunkhouse accommodation. A mini bus will be laid on for those staying at Whitewalls but you will have to indicate you want one on the booking form.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place on Sunday 25th January at 10:00am and will be held in the Church Hall at Tretower.

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*Congratulations to Gary and Lucy Jones on the birth of their new baby - Millie Anna Jones.*

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# *Subs Are Due!*

It's that time of year again. Subs are due!

This year, I'd like to break with tradition and get all subs in nice and early rather than by the AGM which seems the traditional way of things! I'm not just being grumpy (well, maybe a little bit!) but there are a couple of good reasons why we should all pay promptly.

Firstly and most importantly, it makes my life much, much easier! If subs come in in dribs and drabs then either I have to wait for sufficient numbers to submit the data to bca and those who do pay on time then get penalised or I have to submit several updates all of which takes time and extra expense for the club.

Secondly, as in previous years, we do not know the exact amount bca will levy for their subs yet - they normally tell us near the end of the year, it may or may not go up. The deal is if you pay on time, before bca announce their subs, you get to pay at this year's rate regardless.

So what do you owe?

Full members £25 Joint members £33 (per pair) Associate members £15
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<b>PLUS</b>
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Caver's bca £17 per person or Non caver's bca £6 per person or Bca via another club then £0 *
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\* You do not need to pay bca twice so if you have cover via another club then you only need to pay CSS subs however you must let me know which club you have cover through and your bca number.

Please pay either via cheque (payable to CSS) to the address on the inside cover or pay electronically (30-90-02 00591115) but please e-mail me (garyrobertjones@hotmail.com) as well so I can keep track of your payment.

Finally, thank you to those members who do pay promptly, it's much appreciated!

Any questions, just get in touch!

Gary Jones  
CSS Treasurer



CSS Golden Oldies Meet  
12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
In Crickhowell  
Celebrating 50 years of White Walls



Past and present members of CSS met up again for our annual get together and especially this year, to celebrate 50 years since the purchase of White Walls, which began the long and continuing renovations of the fine caving cottage we have today.

We all drifted into town on Friday to meet up at various venues to get down to the serious business of reminiscing. Over the weekend Bruce reminded us again of how Titch would arrive at the cave with a cardie box of wet suit pieces ready to borrow Clive's Evostic glue, just before going into the caving.

Clive reminded us again of carrying the overflowing Elsan bucket through the kitchen of White Walls to empty it outside, that was before we had a flush toilet.

Pete recalled again how we carried all Dave Dudley's scaffold poles into Turkey Chamber and he established Pete's Cafe at the top to encourage people to come and dig.

Brian showed the recent wedding photos of his marriage to Hedi and some old black and white photos of Mac and Bart when they had black hair and cherubic faces.

For the erudite, Roy, our Latin scholar, explained the derivation of place names and peoples names from Latin roots.

Sorry blokes, just pulling your leg, honest, as is my want on these occasion.

People did their own thing during the day on Saturday. Jan, Wendy, Trevor, Pete, Ian and I went up to White Walls and had a walk around the Tramroad to Aggy then went up the Aggy Screens where Jan found a likely cave entrance near the top and Trevor dug it until he nearly disappeared inside as there was a promising strong draft. The other highlights of the day was seeing the two peregrin, the ravens, a red kite and a fine adder on the top of the escarpment.

The serious business got underway at the Dragon Inn on Saturday evening over good food, good wine and excellent company.

We all signed an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday card to Bob Fish for the 1<sup>st</sup> October.

We remembered absent friends, especially Paul Cornelius who has had a long battle with cancer and wasn't well enough to join us along with Pat this time.

We all thought of Bob Fish who is still suffering with the stress of post stroke and infected foot and leg, so he couldn't be with us.

Others sent their best wishes as they couldn't make it this time around, like Mac and Jean due to Jean's ongoing medical problems, (hope to see you next year mate.)

Colin Holdsworth, Carol, Wendy and Sally Paine, John Tooke in Australia, Julia James in Australia (and around the world), John House and Jane Bonner. We hope to see you next time.

We toasted "Absent Friends" and got on with the reminiscing for the rest of the evening before the final goodbyes and breaking up.

Some of us stayed over on the Sunday and did various activities and we met in the Bear for a meal together in the evening to even more reminiscing and amusing story going back?????????. A great weekend filled with great memories, thanks to all for your support and hope we can do it all again in 2015.

Breast of duck, Geo

# Armchair in Port Q



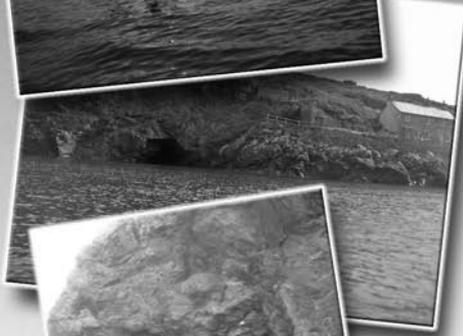
A few miles west along the Cornish coast from Port Isaac, Port Quin is an absurdly picturesque, well-sheltered cove that offers a safe launch for kayaks and superb opportunities for coasteering.

My wife Karen and I (together with our dog Dylan as a surprisingly tolerant passenger!) recently paddled out from Port Quin and headed west along the coast for a few miles, stopping off on the secluded sands of Lundy Hole and Sandinway Beach.

The rugged cliffs of this stunning coast are festooned

with numerous sea caves and abandoned mines (amongst other things lead, slate and antimony were mined around here).

Some of these caves are quite large and, weather and swell permitting, you can paddle in at high tide, one between Doyden Point and Gilson's Cove being particularly impressive (but take care of rollers driving you in on lower tides). Others can be reached on foot at low tide from the beaches (both Lundy Hole and Sandinway Beach can be reached from the coast path as the tide goes out).



# Caving Quin Bay North Cornwall

by Mark 'Gonzo' Lumley

We noted a number of dramatic arches along the coast from Com Head, Pengirt Cove, Downhedge Cove and possible through trips on a more favourable tide. There is also reputed to be a long tunnel near Carnweather Point.

Many of these caves and mines would only be accessible by climbing or abseiling and ropes were noted by one large entrance.

If anyone has information on the caves and mines here I'd be most interested as I'd be keen to make a visit.

As an alternative to the Gower

this might make an entertaining venue for the CSS kayaking/caving weekend one year. There are a number of campsites within a few miles; in early September we stayed in one at Carlyon, overlooking the river Camel near Rock - cheap, clean, scenic and we had the place to ourselves.

If you plan to visit Port Quin be warned that the free car park is small, so get there early or do a late afternoon/evening trip.

The fishing's not bad either!



# CSS Evening Trips By Paul Tarrent

## Porth yr Ogof - Wednesday 17/9/14

Six CSS members managed to do the planned evening trip to PYO. We were joined by Claire Vivian of the SWCC who lives just down the road from me. We first went in via the Tradesman's entrance going upstream in what must be the shortest through trip in the whole of Wales, then rejoined the Upper Stream Passage, exploring the very aqueous passage taking the stream way off to the left. The water levels were very low and sump4 was reduced to a six inch duck which some of us entered feet first to explore and rejoin with the main flow. We carried on exploring the left hand side crawling through deep water until we came to Sump5, and again it was reduced to a duck. We followed this until it brought us out into White Horse Pool. Dan was keen to explore Sump 6 but changed his mind on seeing that it was largely choked with flood debris - it looks to me as though it is a perched sump in any case so apart from being mucky, it is unlikely to break easily.

We were just preparing for the swim through Main Stream, when Dan noticed the small passage at lake level just past the White Horse. This looked like it was a duck and Dan, Tim and Claire decided to explore whilst Liz, Becky and I swam the deep water of Main Stream, with its attendant obstacle course of washed in trees. We met with the others downstream. We had a quick warm up by exploring Hywel's Grotto which is approached via a wetting crawl. The formations, whilst not being the best I have seen, are in remarkably

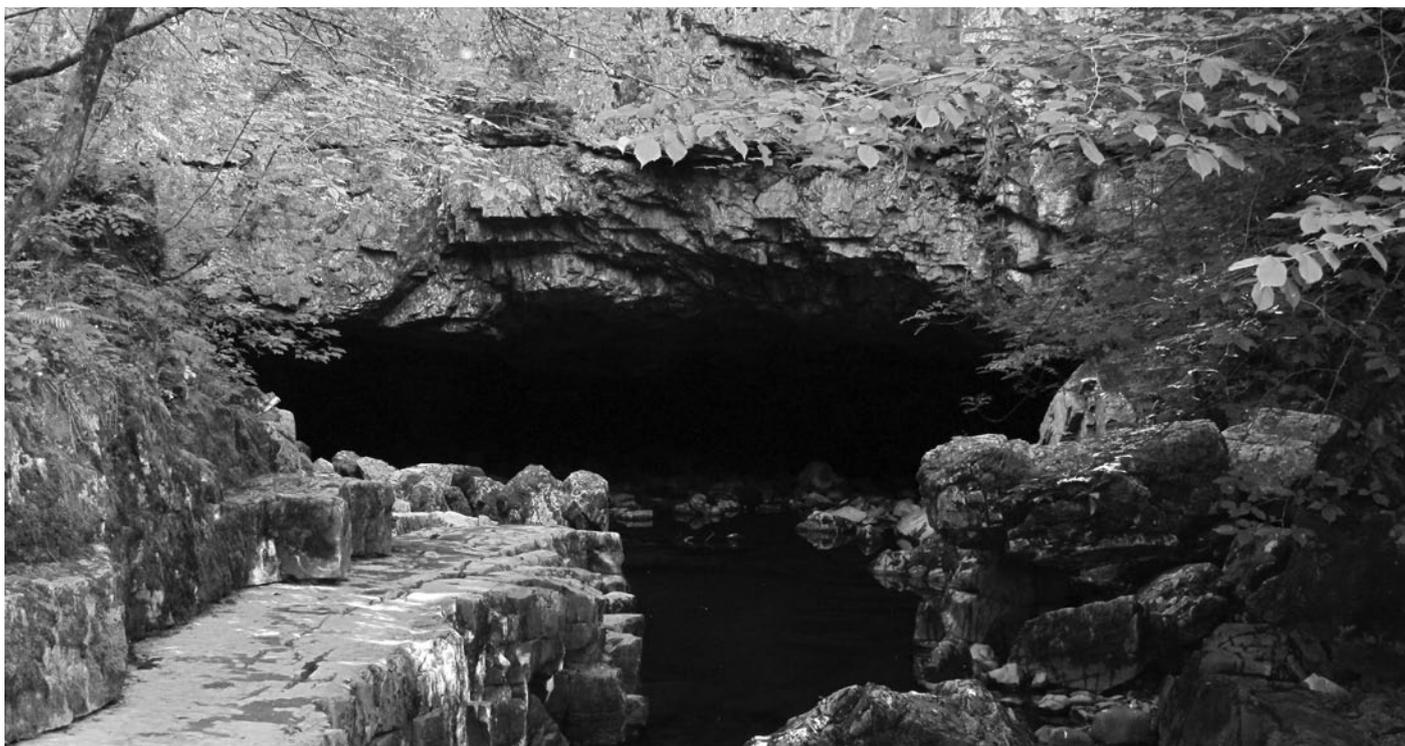
good condition considering the caver traffic PYO gets. Seems like it is too much effort to get there for most and that is probably a good thing. They were worth the effort.

A quick explore of the aqueous Lavatory Pan in the Creek Series was fun and then we progressed to the next fun bit, The Great Bedding Cave with its massively bedded roof. This is an impressive piece of cave passage, made gloomy by the inwash of old tree debris. We wanted to exit through the resurgence and so we were wearing full wetsuits and had buoyancy aids. Dan also had a throw line which was paid out across the deep water for everyone to follow and we all ended up, clean and wet on the other side of the resurgence pool. The water levels were so low you could have sailed HMS Dreadnought through it.

It was a squelchy return to the car park where we discovered a hedgehog exploring the exterior of my car. He was made safe and that was the end of the trip.

PYO has an unenviable record of being the most visited, and dangerous cave in Wales. The former is avoided if exploring at night, and the latter is totally avoided if you use common sense and take precautionary gear like a wetsuit and extra buoyancy. We had a good three hours worth in this fascinating river cave.

Participants: Dan Thorne, Liz Winstanley, Becky Phillips, Claire Vivian, Tim Gibbs, Paul Tarrant



## Ogof Twll Clogfaen

We visited this relatively new discovery on Tuesday 30/9 as a CSS Welsh Section evening trip. Frank Longwill, one of the original diggers along with Tony Donovan and Roy Morgan, arranged to meet Claire Vivian and me. Finding the cave was dead easy. From the A465 take the A470 towards Brecon and turn off left on the first turning, going over a cattle grid. There is plenty of space for 2-3 cars. The cave is found by going into a wooded valley nearby that carries a small stream. Follow the left bank for about sixty metres and you find the top of the small gated shaft which is locked with a grill and chain which is secured by bolts which require two spanners to undo.

The dug shaft quickly descended amidst sandstone blocks held back by scaffolding which continued down along the passage which was snug. We quickly came to the first short pitch which descended about five metres into a chamber via a splendid ladder that had been left in place. We followed the floor of the chamber which descended through very large blocks with some calcite formations and small attractive grottoes. A small rift went to the head of the pitch which boasted a very solid twelve metre ladder made of scaffolding tubes. Whilst descending this shaft your eyes are drawn to very attractive tan coloured flow stone that adorns the shaft wall. This turned out to be the highlight of the cave as the passage leading off at the bottom of the shaft had been blasted and was small and very snug. I got so far along it and confess I was not keen to follow Frank who was ahead of me so I reversed back to the pitch. Claire who is half my size also declined to follow Frank who was thrutching away in the continuation of the crawl which apparently eventually meets a stream way that goes for about fifty metres in both directions.

On his return, Frank gave us a brief history on how the cave had been dug, with his main efforts having been made in February when the cave was much wetter and colder than it was on this occasion. We returned to the surface after taking about an hour and twenty minutes to explore the bits we saw. This is worthy of a quick trip and could be done in conjunction with Ogof Pont y Meirw lower down in the valley at Cefn Coed y Cwmmer.

Participants: Frank Longwill, Claire Vivian (SWCC) and Paul Tarrant.

## Mendip Trip Reports

By John Cooper

Lime Kiln Dig. This is dug Wednesday and Sunday evenings for a couple of hours. The time depends on how long it takes to clear the spoil from the dig face left from the previous session of drill/bang, and then a fresh drill/bang. The objective is to tunnel under a track to intersect a shakehole in another field. However some pessimists say it's a surface quarry not a shakehole! Dug this on 1st, 5th, 8th, 12th, 15th, 19th, 22nd, 26th and 29th.

Longwood Valley Sink. This is my main Saturday dig. We are currently enlarging a small tube, having given up on a lower rift because of ponding. We clear spoil from the previous session of drill/bang and then drill/bang ready for the next weekend. Usually a bit over 4 hours. Dug this on 4th, 11th and 25th.

Sludge Pit. A tourist trip with Emma Gisborne and Geoff Newton. Geoff was left checking out a potential dig site which he's been back to several times since. Emma and I did a tour round for a couple of hours. Done on 5th.

Spider Hole. This is dug on a Saturday, Monday and Thursday but I only help out when they are shorthanded on a Monday. Usually hauling spoil up cemented boulder shafts for a couple of hours. Dug on 27th.

Swildon's Hole. The old faithful that Barry Weaver and I normally do on a Sunday morning. However he's been absent this month so only two trips. The first (with Richard Carey, Emma Gisborne, Chris Seal and Wayne Starsmore) was the bold step into Approach Passage and a round trip to exit via Howard's Dig. The second was a trip (with Emma Gisborne and Barry Weaver) into Vicarage Passage to peer down Vicarage Pot and at Wet Ears Squeeze. A couple of hours for each trip. Done on 17th and 26th.

I make that 16 trips for the month.



*John Cooper*

# Reservoir Hole Diary *Nick Chipchase*

## **2nd September.**

Three of us digging at Skyfall. A little progress made but boulders in the roof proving difficult.

## **9th September.**

Having trouble with a hernia so showed Martyn Farr around and took photos with my “ selfie stick “. A one metre collapsible stick ( monopod ) joined onto a mini tripod gave me 2 metres of reach to get photos of stalagmites high up the wall and beyond the tape. Martyn joined the other two for a session at Skyfall where a large slab fell on Peter Glanvill.

Peter then did a bit at his dig near The Silo. We now call it WOT Plan B.

## **16th September.**

Peter went to WOT the rest of us doing demolition at Skyfall. We then returned to WOT to clear up Peter’s mess.

## **26th September.**

A Friday for a change. Nigel attempted to get a large dummy pelicase down the cave but failed at the entrance. The pelicase proper will house the drone Nigel has built to film the high balconies in The Frozen Deep. All the in flight testing has been done and the lighting system and camera built in. Nigel has worked with drones for many years and was once a qualified pilot. The hard part is getting it all down the cave. I went to TFD with my little brother for a photo session. Mainly for him to put daring do images on Facebook.

## **30th September.**

Back again for the regular Tuesday session (hernia still grumbling). Peter and I digging at Skyfall when again the roof fell down but Peter got out of the way in time. Nigel working to get the dummy version of the drone box down the cave. This time he used a collapsible box to work out where all the problems would be.

## **7th October.**

Two down to Skyfall where a load was dug out revealing more dodgy slabs in the roof. Nigel and I doing modifications along the route to enable the drone case to get through. Nigel cementing and drilling at the original break through point. After a lot of wear this scaffolded section needed a revamp. One loose large boulder drilled for subsequent removal. It should be gone by the time you read this. Me digging solo at the top of Hard Times. The horrible constricted area was dug out. It should have been done when we broke through originally. Humping boulders annoyed the hernia.

Saw the surgeon after this and am now on the list for an operation. Decided to give caving a break for a month as things are getting worse. Funny he said its OK to go caving but don’t lift anything heavier than a kettle. I am not sure he understood what I do. In any case a short break wont hurt. I will be off again for a while post op. Still a trip planned by the others on 14th October. I shall have to sit it out.

The cave closes for tourist trips at the end of October.



Self taken photo of me digging in Hard Times.



High angle stick view showing the side of the thin column not available to be photographed in the usual way



My brother looking heroic in TFD



Nigel gets the dummy drone box stuck in the entrance

***CSS wish Nick Chipchase a speedy recovery from his broken arm :-  
Full Story by Pete Glanville***

A very wet night preceding the trip. First feeder torrenting out. Stream inside entrance and GG stream going well. 14 LH's seen throughout the cave. Most in FD. Team of Chris, Nigel, me and Nick Chichase (all trussed up). Bags cement and batteries transported in. Work done included clearing some loose material at base of TA, cementing in Hard Times and cleaning of stal near the column and near the short ladder climb. Pete was doing this whilst Chris, Nigel and Nick went over to Skyfall to drill and snapper a boulder. When Pete arrived he found Nick and Nigel just above the stal climbing, Nick groaning piteously. Apparently Nigel was clearing boulders and edged one over the top climb as Nick started to climb the top ladder. It fell striking Nick's right arm and head. On examination he had loss of function of the right arm with severe tenderness over the forearm. Pete went back to first aid to collect bandage and ibuprofen but the team started to make there way out and he met them at the pendants. Here a triangular bandage made Nick more comfortable plus 600 mg of ibuprofen was administered. We then slowly made our way out, lining Nick up the pitch which he managed with a little difficulty on the top part. He then made his way out. Nigel did some cement work en route and Pete did some rock shifting near Happy Snappers as well. All emerged about 3.15pm and after short stop at Martin's we shipped Nick back home (Nigel picked up his car and drove it back).



Nigel working in Great Expectations.

Nick reports that he had fractured his ulna and has a plaster to just above his elbow. This means he may have trouble posting pictures for a while. Sadly he will be out of action for a few weeks but he might be able to get all his working parts repaired during that period.



Nick Chipchase nursing a broken arm

# Return to Boreham

You may remember an article I wrote recently detailing my less than successful trip into Boreham Cave. The trip involved various minor gear failures eventually leading to one spectacular one and my retreat out of the cave. That trip proved to bear out Duncan's philosophy that if I was on a trip, he felt safe from gear problems as any such calamities would befall me instead...

Not to be beaten, I returned to Boreham and on this second occasion, after some overdue gear overhaul, safely made it through the initial sumps to the much talked about dry stuff. I finally visited the China Shop and experienced its delights for myself. The climb up to it is somewhat of an adventure in itself!

Although I enjoyed the China Shop, I was more than pleasantly surprised by the rest of the cave. This consists of some rather impressive passage, well worth a trip in itself. Dave Ryall took some photos of this area on this trip and some of those are included here for you to savour as well. No laughing at the fact that my wetsuit seems to have shrunk....



*The climb up to the China Shop*



*Clive and Gary*

## By Gary Jones

On this occasion, I again failed to get to the bitter end, this time due to concerns over the weather outside and the possibility of some of the streamway becoming impassable if the forecast rain materialised (it didn't on this occasion but why risk it unnecessarily?)

So I may have to visit yet again especially as there have recently been significant extensions made to the cave beyond further sumps at its end. The team involved have explored around 500m of large and impressive passage over the last year. Those of you at Hidden Earth may have seen Dave Ryall's talk and photos of this exploration.

Access at Boreham remains sensitive. The cave should not be entered or even approached outside of these pre-arranged trips to ensure future access.



*Preparing for the dive out*



*Clive Westlake in Boreham Cave*



*Claire Cohen, Clive Westlake and me*

# Peak District Weekend *By Adrian Fawcett*

The weekend 17th to 19th October saw 8 members (Adrian Fawcett, Matt and Mandy Voysey, Andy Heath, John Stevens, John Newton, Chris Tomlin and Jason McCorriston) gather in Derbyshire for trips into Peak Cavern. Accommodation for the weekend was the TSG in Castleton, which benefits from its proximity to several pubs but lacks other amenities such as car parking. While not everybody's first choice in caving accommodation, the TSG does have some handy features such as cave surveys painted onto the walls of the kitchen and a spin dryer, drying room and indoor rope washer.

Saturday morning, bright and early, the TSG duty officer arrived and we duly completed the paperwork and other formalities for our trip into Peak Cavern. On arrival at the cave, I discovered my helmet was still at TSG so made a quick dash back through the streets of Castleton while the others waited. Mandy was quite happy about this as it meant I could also collect her gloves which she had decided not important enough to go back for.

The showcave had been decorated for ghost tours, though the spookiness of the occasion was hardly overwhelming.

The two Johns, Chris and Jason opted for a standard tourist trip to the Peak streamway and sumps, with John Stevens doing some photography along the way.

The other four of us visited the White River Series, which is extremely pretty. There is a white calcite "river" along part of it, and lots of stalactites in a very shapely phreatic passage. We didn't quite make it to "Heaven" as it's taped off... Reaching the White River Series involves a fair amount of ropework to reach it. We prussiked up about 100 meters of in-situ ropes, and used our own rope to pull through on the way back down at the other end. Before descending we used the rope to rig a traverse to the start of White River Passage which had been the original entry point to the series. It was quite pretty and seemed to have recovered from earlier abuse, so we decided not to enter. The low point of the trip was the several hundred meters of squalid muddy crawling, including the aptly named "Colostomy Crawl".

Everyone was back at the TSG by about 5 p.m. so there was time for a stroll up Cavedale before dinner, and we failed to find most of the 8 cave entrances described in the guidebook.

Sunday dawned bright and breezy, but without any concrete plans for a caving trip. The trouble with caves in the Castleton area is that they tend to be either vertical or not really worth getting changed for. And not everyone had brought SRT gear. So, after some deliberation, we opted for a walk following a route Andy proposed – past Speedwell Cavern, Treak Cavern, Blue John Cave, the subsided (and abandoned) section of the A625, then on to the ridge from Hollins Cross to Lose Hill, where the weather was quite bracing. An excellent conclusion to a successful weekend.

*All Photo's - John Stevens*



*Main Stream passage Peak Cavern*



*waterfall at Squaw's In, Peak Cavern*



*Surprise View, Peak Cavern*



*Main Stream passage Peak Cavern*



*Lose Hill, with a slight breeze*

# Another small find in Agen Allwedd

It was way back in about 1992 that I had a conversation with John Parker, he said that he had climbed up in Southern Stream into about 200m of passage. This was between 200 and 400m upstream of Waterfall Chamber. During my many traverses of Southern Stream I kept an eye open for this climb and I soon identified one that led to a squeeze almost immediately upstream but a passable but small rock tube in the downstream direction.

This is how the position remained until I started on the redrawing of Agen Allwedd. In February 2010, I went on a solo trip to see if I could find anything else in the area. This led to the discovery of a second climb up. This was more exposed but did reach a larger section of passage. This was followed upstream towards the other climb but reduced in size. Downstream acquired a solid floor and passed a fault before I gave up at another tight squeeze. I started to get the survey gear out, but thought that this passage would be very hard to survey solo.

This passage would be interesting as it is about 100m upstream of the Waterfall, so if there was about 200m of passage, then it should intersect the fault that crosses at Waterfall Chamber. A dig on this fault may make a reasonable find. The fluting in Waterfall Chamber has suggested to me that there must be something above this chamber, but how much?

On the 2 August 2014, Mike Read and I decided that the 15mm of rain over Friday night may have mucked up the water levels to do the top part of Flood Passage. After a bit of thought, we opted for Southern Stream, with the plan of doing the high level passage mentioned above, and then finish the day with a resurvey of High Traverse Passage. Water levels were still very low, the ground must have soaked all the rain up, rather than being so dry, that it all ran off. We had a steady trip in, picking up a crowbar, just in case we find a choke to have a go at. We reached the first climb up and Mike was soon past the squeeze and awkward bend in the upstream direction. As he had to move a few loose rocks, it seems we were already in new passage. This passage had cracks in the floor to view the stream below in places. On the whole it followed the course of the streamway but was uncomfortable going. The passage shape was a vertical oval with a pointed top and bottom. This point at its base was so narrow that it squeezed the sides of the knee, which is painful. It eventually has a couple more squeezes before splitting and

getting too small after 50m of new stuff.

In the downstream direction from the climb up, was still this nasty shaped passage with many small scallops on the walls. Being slightly larger it was easier going and had a solid floor for most of its length. Again a squeeze was followed by a tight bend and squeeze where the passage seemed to be splitting up. After a couple of attempts at the corner we left a survey mark and made our way back to the stream.

At the next climb up, we headed in the upstream direction towards the previous climb. It was easier going and we soon found the survey station we had just left. Mike then past the squeeze to complete the circuit, while I chose to return along the knee wrecking passage. This loop was 128m, containing 40 legs with an error of 0.34% (or 1cm per leg). Considering the type of passage this high level is, we are pleased it is still well within the BCRA grade 5 standard.

Once reunited, we continued the survey towards Waterfall Chamber. The going was now solid floored with the streamway out of earshot for most of it. It was still small but occasionally we could stand/crouch. We past a fault, which I had also picked up in the streamway survey. Unfortunately there had not been much development on this fracture, so we continued and hoped for something better on the waterfall fault. We reached the place I had been to previously, a standing point with a crack in the floor which kept threatening to eat equipment as we needed to rearrange stuff to get through the next squeeze. I made it on my second or third attempt but what followed was worse for me. Mike being slightly slimmer was able to shuffle vertically along the rift and round the tight bend. For me the rift was too tight so I approached, feet first at an angle, but then my legs would not go round the bend. This seems to be the previous limit of exploration as Mike could not find any signs of a visitor beyond. There was the odd bat poo in many places in these high levels. Mike continued the survey for another 25m to reach another squeeze.

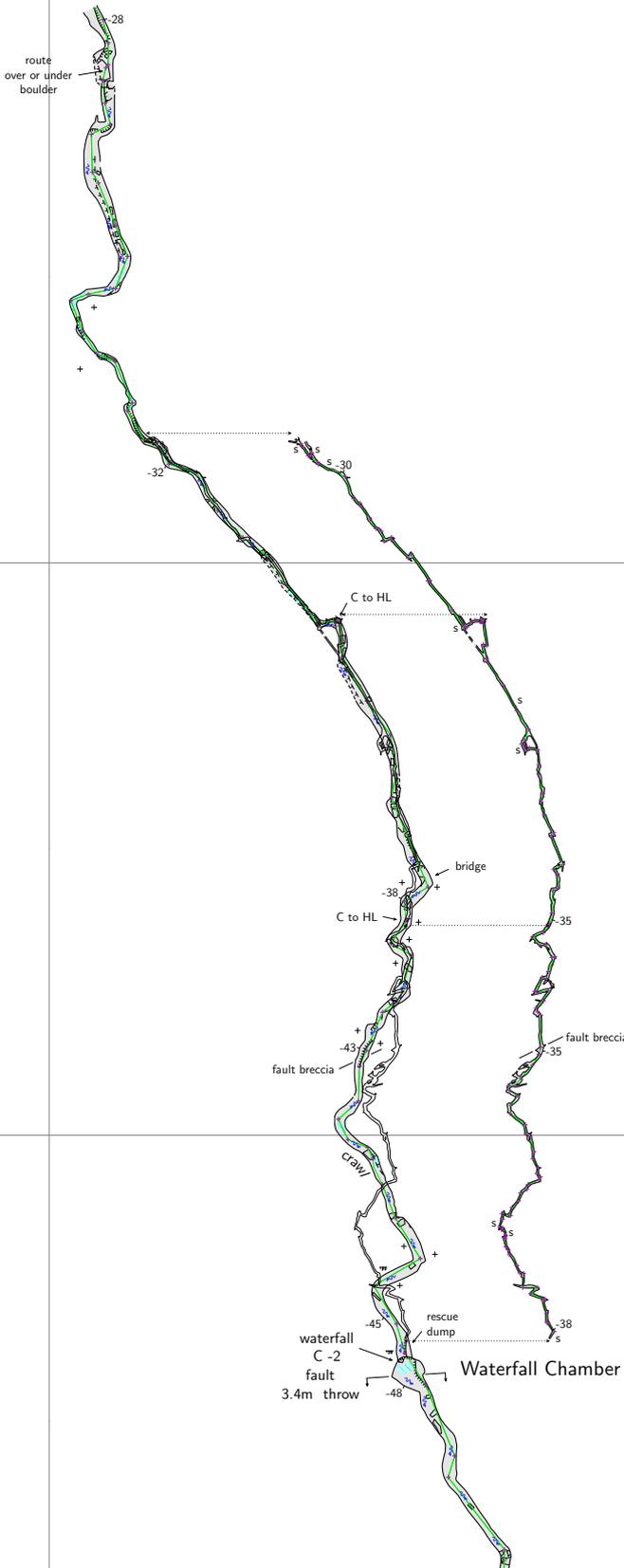
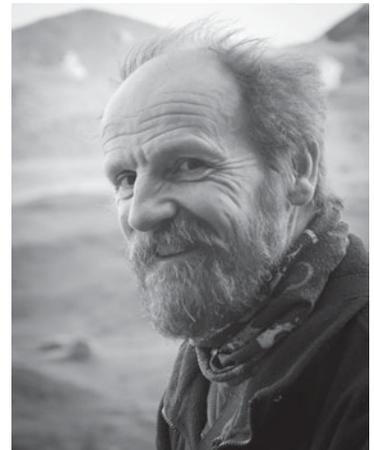
Mike had had enough of small places that day and he could see forward for 2-3m before it turned left. The lower part of the passage was too narrow but it was slightly larger at the top, however it did slope down hill and there was no signs of being able to turn around. It did not look too hopeful as the height was increasing and Mike recalled that it would at the very least be a real struggle but he certainly did not completely rule it out.

In the mean time, I was having fun reversing the previous squeeze as I had used gravity to help me get through it. Pushing back up through it was altogether a lot more work, and not dropping stuff down the floor crack to boot. Mike returned and we double checked a couple of legs through the squeezes, before heading back to the huge passage called Southern Stream.

Even though I had dragged a crowbar all day we never used it once, nearly lost it several times in floor cracks but the choke on the waterfall fault eluded us. We had been some 7 to 8 hours crawling in high levels, no time to go to High Traverse now. We exited after 11 3/4 hr trip. The survey now shows the end squeeze is only about 6m from the fault (if it is in the vertical plain). Sound of water can be heard at the end, so we will look to see if there are any climbs up to high level in Waterfall Chamber. I had done one previously that seemed to get too small but it may be useful to have a fresh look at it now we know about the high level passage.

So in conclusion, John Parker may have over estimated the distance upstream from the waterfall but got the length about right at 200m instead of the 150m that we surveyed. To this we added another 75m. The name needed to be descriptive and we had various words to juggle to get the name: Southern, Upper, Middle and Lower. So it is Upper Lower Southern Stream Passage. At the upstream end it is only about 2m above the streamway but slowly increases this distance as the streamway falls faster. This enables it to get a solid floor and meander off route, until it is some 7m above the streamway. The end squeeze is in an intriguing place with the fault so close by. More to follow ??

**John Stevens**



# Upper Lower Southern Stream



# Paul Cornelius

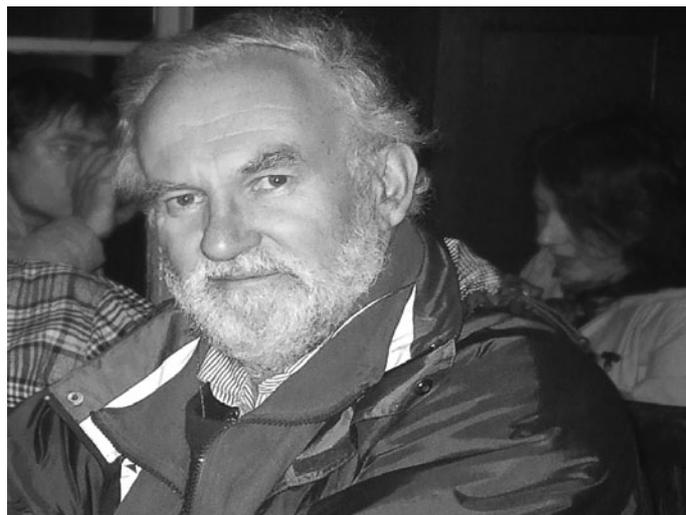
I shouldn't be writing this (no-one should), but I have to report the death of Paul on October 26th. Largely through dogged determination, he had kept prostrate cancer under control for years, but was outflanked in the end. What follows are just a few of the highlights of the life of this much-loved man.

In October, 1962, Paul was in his second year at Exeter University studying Sp Hons Zoology. His Hall of Residence bedroom lay adjacent to that of a dedicated beer brewing group, the chief brewer being Mick Butterley. Mick and Jan Day enticed Paul (plus John Steere) into the Exeter University Spelaeological Society. Soon, all four had the underground bug, with trips to Devon and Mendip plus, occasionally, South Wales, Derbyshire and Yorkshire.

Paul's first foreign caving trip was to France and the Spanish Pyrenees in the summer of 1964, with Jan, Chris Hogg and Mick. One night, during a storm Paul was convinced a bear was trying to get into his tent. No doubt to help him over this trauma, once back home Jan and Mick made Paul a full-sized stuffed bear; this accompanied him to many pubs, before being spirited away to New Zealand.

In October 1965, Paul went to Bangor University for a year; he explored some mines but did little caving. In 1966 he was at Queen Mary College doing his PhD, and in the summer of that year he went on a joint CSS/Leicester Uni Caving Club/Manchester Uni Caving Club month-long expedition to Slovenia. The objective was to trace the waters of the pots and cave systems in the Postojna region. A highlight was when Paul fell off a traverse in Predjama show cave; encountering his prone body, Mick assumed this was just Paul's usual way of cadging a cigarette and gave him a healthy kick.

A trip to the Ardenne followed later that year – transport courtesy of the Queen Mary ambulance, and a discount for bulk drinking at the local Auberge de E'Eglise.



Paul became a temporary member of Chelsea in September 1965, and a full member the following March. He went on to become club Secretary in 1968; his future wife, Pat Browne, was Treasurer.

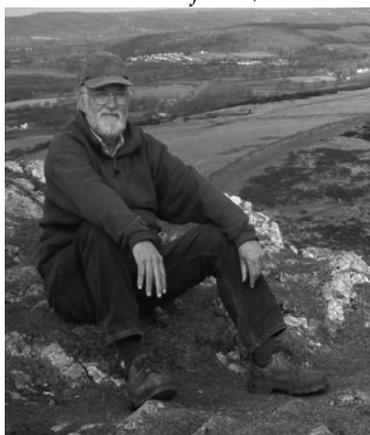
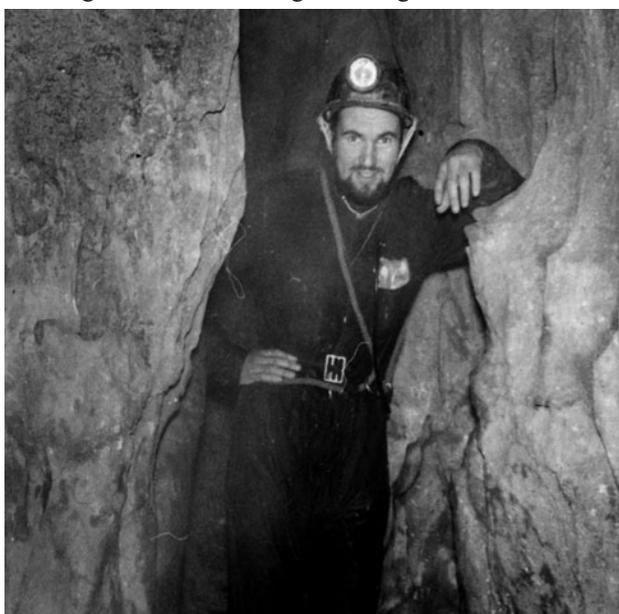
With CSS, Paul caved regularly in all the main regions. He was one of the very few who, in those days before the big breakthrough, went to the end of Daren Cilau more than once!

Then, in the Spring of 1970, Paul was at the blunt end of a big boulder collapse in Juniper Gulf. Both his legs were smashed, and the initial diagnosis was he would be crippled for the rest of his life. They didn't know Paul. Though he wasn't able to do any serious caving afterwards, he remained active and together with Pat enjoyed many years of bird watching, making an annual visit to Lesbos to witness the bird migration there.

Paul's scientific career progressed to the point where he became the Natural History Museum's top man on the hydra genus. If it was barnacles, Paul was your man – a point underscored when he was visited by another person keen on the subject: the Emperor of Japan.

Paul is missed enormously by all those who knew him, and our thoughts are with Pat and their two sons, Justin and Graham.

*Bruce Bedford (with thanks to Jan Butterley)*

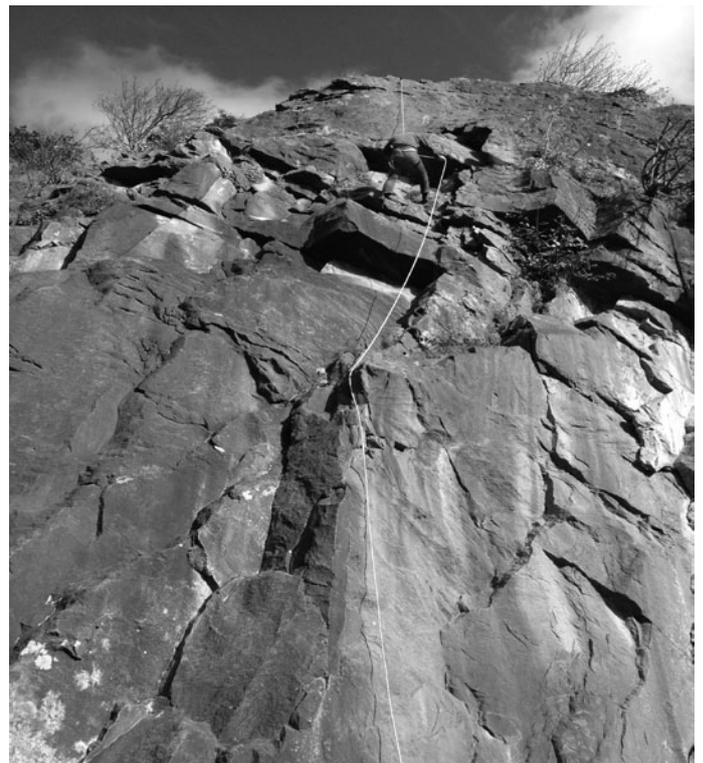


# *SRT In The Avon Gorge* By Steve Sharp

The Avon Gorge lies between Wales and Mendip, it is an ideal location to practice SRT and Rock climbing. It has parking next to the climbing routes and beautiful scenery to match. Gary Kiely and I set off for a few hours of SRT practice, on this particular day the wind was blowing rather hard which made our descent rather interesting. From the bottom of the cliffs a winding path leads up to the various routes set at various heights. The location is a good starting ground to try out the basics of SRT. For the experienced climbers in the club a website exist showing all the climbing routes in this location.

<http://www.wikitopo.com/crag.php?cragId=1>

<http://www.ukclimbing.com/logbook/crag.php?id=31>



*Gary Kiely*

# CSS Meets List 2014- 2015

## By Paul Tarrant-Meets Secretary

This note is a reminder of trips we have organised in the forthcoming months. The trip to Yorkshire is a recent addition to those previously advertised and you might like to consider joining this. You are reminded that the Club's Annual Dinner takes place on 24th January in the Bear Hotel, Crickhowell, with the AGM being held Sunday 25th.

### Yorkshire Dales

22-23rd November. Staying in the YSS Hut, Helwith Bridge. Organiser: Adrian Fawcett. Actual trips have not been booked but an Easegill through trip is a strong possibility. The Dales have hundreds of caves to explore at all levels of difficulty. Some of the easy grade one caves give immense fun. Just pick from the guide books and go! Get in touch with Adrian if you want to go.

### Curry Evening

6th December. Caving in local caves and a curry tasting session in the evening. Learn to distinguish the difference between a Daal and a Phaal! Chilled loo roll available for Sunday!

**Annual Dinner** - The Bear Hotel, Crickhowell. 24th January 2015. We again have the large room booked for the dinner on the Saturday evening. If you want to stay in more luxurious surroundings than Whitewalls, make your bookings sooner rather than later. Note the Britannia Inn offers bunk house accommodation at a reasonable price.

Any questions about club trips, feel free to contact me,

Best Wishes

Paul Tarrant

CSS Meets Secretary.

---

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



*Andy Snook and Adrian Fawcett brave the ice covered hills of Llangatock - Curry Weekend Dec 2008*

Having sent out the reminder note about forthcoming caving trips, it would be good to receive your feedback as to what sort of trips you want to see organised in the future. We organise several 'themed' weekends based on Whitewalls with the annual dinner/AGM, bonfire and BBQ weekends and the Mendip BBQ, Hidden Earth, Curry and Whisky Tasting weekends, with the majority of the Welsh based events focussing on our local caves or the Forest of Dean. This year we have had trips to Cwmystwyth Mines, and the Gower weekend, which takes the tally of trips/ social weekends to about ten. Add in the extra Derbyshire and Dales trips taking place in the Autumn and it means there is an organised event virtually each month.

You might say that the above trips are enough as the core social weekends throughout the year. On the other hand, you might want the club to lay on more than this with trips further afield. We used to visit Co. Clare in the past and made good discoveries. France used to be a popular holiday destination for several of the older generation of members (Messrs Price, Stevens, Tarrant) and Norway attracted a hard core cadre of people in the last twenty years. Do you want to see such trips organised again?

So, what sort of trips would you like see arranged and which trips would you be keen to support?

---

## New Club Rope

Hello folks!

I took delivery of 200 m of Edelrid SRT rope at Hidden Earth this year.

I have cut the 200 m of 10.5 mm Edelrid rope into the following lengths:

**68m, 49m, 29m, 19.4m, 2 x 15.3m**

They are strange lengths, but I'm not convinced the rope is fully

shrunk yet, and so I hope that if they do shrink more, it will be to

rounder numbers, particularly the shortest ropes. I have only

temporarily marked them - "CSS" and length - with permanent marker.

The next steps will be for them to be used, then remeasured, and

proper heat shrink, marked, sleeving to be added to the ends.

Joe Duxbury

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Please contact John Stevens to make a booking  
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Andy Snook

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

# *Forgotten Passage*

*Delegate Ballot for Best Art -Hidden Earth 2014*

*Artwork - Mark Lumley*

