

**Volume 60
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Apr/May/Jun 2018**



**Yorkshire
The Big Dig
Mendip Cave Fest
Coniston Copper Mines**



CHELSEA SPELÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Above: Helen Nightingale in Tween Twins (Fester) Hole, April 2018. Photo by Steve Sharp.

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Front Cover: Christopher Tomlin at the 'Blue Rock', Coniston Copper Mines, March 2018. Photo by Matt Voysey.

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Proasellus Cavaticus, Daren Cilau - page 43

10th-12th August
21st- 23rd September
9th-11th November
HRC Daren Camp Weekends 2018

*Contact Adrian (adrianfawcett@outlook.com) or Mandy (mandola76@gmail.com)
 Design by Gonzo*

Editorial

Thanks as always to everyone who contributed stories and pictures for this issue. Please keep it coming! Also a special plea for the photographers out there to take note of the opportunity to shine in a stunning colour cover or photo spread and send me your pictures.

Please submit all material for publication to cssmattv@gmail.com

Remember that as well as trip reports we welcome items of news or general interest, gear and literature reviews, technical/scientific articles, historical accounts and reminiscences, fun stuff, entertaining stories, and anything else you can come up with. Send high resolution photos in JPG or TIF format. For very large files or collections of items upload them to Dropbox or Google Drive and send me a public shared link to the folder, or ZIP them up and send via MailBigFile.

A **FULL COLOUR** electronic version of this newsletter is available to download from the members area of the club website and the club forum. Also, if you would prefer to go 'paperless' and receive electronic copies of the newsletter in future let me know.

*Matt
(and Mandy)*

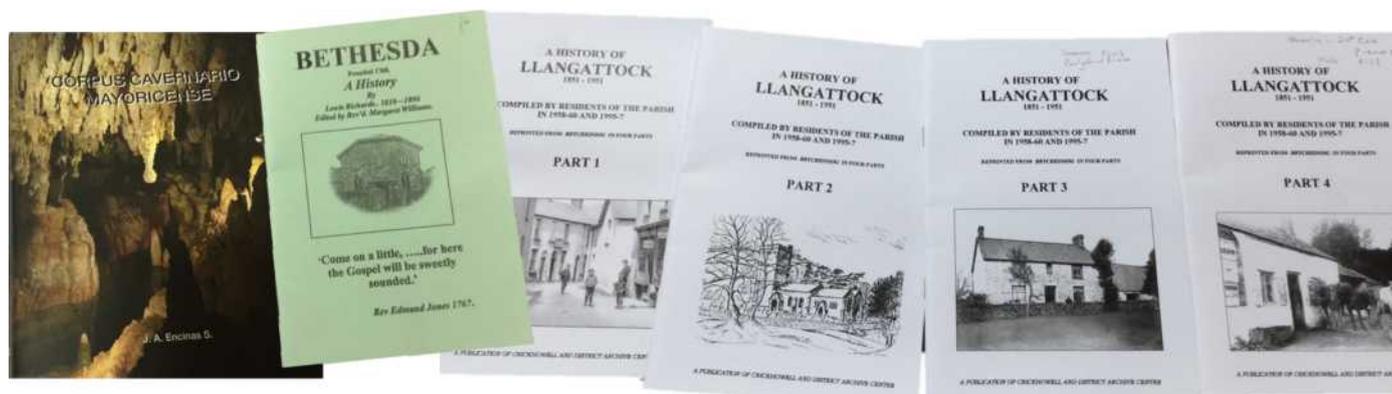
Library Additions

by Paul Tarrant

Five historical booklets about Llangattock and Bethesda have been very kindly donated to the club library by Roy Musgrove. They contain general descriptions of the Llangattock area as well as some observations on caves and also some excerpts from the British Nylon Spinners Speleological Society.

Club member Gian Ameri has also very kindly donated to the club library Encinas' masterpiece, *Corpus Cavernario Mayoricense*. The book describes virtually all the caves on the island and is a magnificent work. At over 1,300 pages long it is obviously not a field guide, but with talk of a forthcoming trip to Mallorca in the autumn, it contains all the location data and surveys of the island's caves. The club is very grateful to Gian for this very generous donation.

Joe Duxbury also donated the Gloucester's 60th Anniversary publication which is well worth a read.



Membership

Current rates: Full: £30, Joint: £40

Plus 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 reference their BCA number and membership club with their payment.

Associate: £18 to receive publications, plus £6 for BCA non-caver insurance.

Provisional: £10 for any 6 months plus BCA active caver insurance to Dec 31st at £4.25 per quarter.

Full membership information and an application form can be downloaded from the CSS website

chelseaspelaeo.org

Please send all subscriptions to:

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

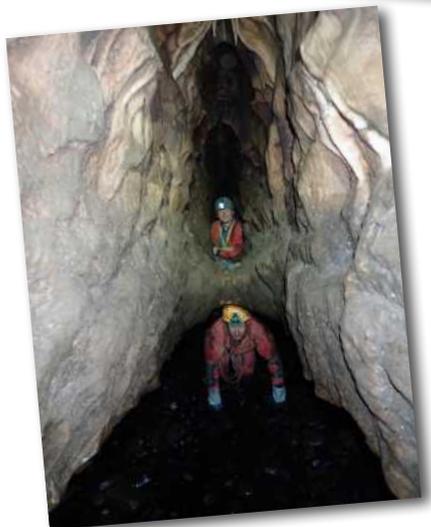
Yorkshire Bank Holiday Weekend

25th-28th May 2018

by *Adrian Fawcett*



A select (well, small) group – myself, John Newton, Jennie Lawrence and Mike Green – travelled to the Yorkshire Dales for three-day weekend, staying at the CPC's Ivy Cottage in Horton-in-Ribblesdale which is conveniently next door to the pub. For a change, the north of the country enjoyed better weather than the south – it was not just warm and sunny (and rather breezy), but water levels were also very low giving us ample caving options. We had a plan for the weekend, and the plan happened!



For Saturday's trip, we took advantage of the Bradford winch meet at Gaping Gill, where all the main entrances were pre-rigged for the week. Two false starts up the hill from Clapham – the first on realising there was someone manning the bottom of the Ingleborough trail so we needed money, and the second on Jennie realising she also needed money for the winch. All three of us abseiled into the cave system via Marilyn Pot, carefully negotiating the very loose main pitch head. Once down in Hensler's Master Cave we explored downstream for a short while and had a bite to eat before embarking on Hensler's New Crawl to South East Passage and hence to Main Chamber. As usual for a winch meet, we met a few of the more adventurous general public exploring the cave beyond Main Chamber, and whose clothes were, by now, liberally coated with mud. We continued to Mud Hall, from where Jennie returned to join the queue for the winch while Mike and I continued towards the Whitsun Series until it became low and muddy. Originally we had intended to exit from Flood Entrance but, after a last minute change of plan, went out via Stream Passage Pot instead, meeting some of my party from Otter Hole the previous weekend along the way. Funny how I always bump into people I know in Gaping Gill on winch meets. Jennie beat us out by half an hour.



Later, an excellent meal in The Crown pub – we all had their "three bird pie" which was rather good. John suggested it could have been called 3.14159 birds.



On Sunday, Adrian, Jennie and Mike set off up the Pennine Way to do Little Hull Pot and Hunt Pot, which no longer require a permit. John meanwhile took a train trip to Carlisle! We located a likely looking hole in the ground, but since it quickly closed down to a flat-out crawl we checked the surrounding area to make sure we hadn't missed

anything – yes, this was indeed our cave. Oddly the OS map marks a couple of ‘caves’ that we didn’t find, and Little Hull Pot is not labelled as anything. Jennie realised she had walked up the hill without her SRT kit, so returned to Horton to collect it and also drink an entire pot of tea, arriving back just as Mike and I had finished in Little Hull and were heading for the second cave. Mike and I took it in turns to rig and de-rig the caves. Neither of these caves is a very long trip, but the two together make for a decent day out. Little Hull Pot has some attractive passage between the pitches, and Hunt Pot has an atmospheric entrance shaft in a rather striking oval pit. Jennie passed her first hanging re-belay with ease.

At Jennie’s request, Monday’s cave was Illusion Pot, and was visited by all four of us since the vertical section is all done on fixed ladders. Because I had stated that I was only caving on Monday if we were out of the cave by midday, John announced that he would be bringing tea to anyone still in bed at 7 a.m., and remarkably we were all on the road just before 9 a.m. None of us had been to Illusion Pot before – I assumed that was because it was nothing special, so was pleasantly surprised! And not just by the huge dimensions of the Expressway. There is a stunningly decorated passage with chocolate, cinnamon and vanilla curtains, stalactites and flowstone. The colours were something very special. Then, the other direction along the Expressway – to Rushton Chamber. The ceiling is covered in straws and stalactites but all are an even shade of brown. From here, an exposed roped traverse leads to a couple of sumps. None of us had bothered to take cowstails, which the description said we needed, but Mike and I went across anyway. Allegedly there is also a 400 metre crawl with ducks – Perfidia Crawl – but nobody felt inclined to investigate.

As luck would have it, an ice cream van was conveniently stationed on our walk back to the car. It was there to pick up trade from tourists on the Ingleton Waterfalls Walk, but fortunately they served dishevelled cavers, too.



Photos by Jennie Lawrence

Coniston Copper Mines

Paddy End to Hospital Level Through-Trip

John Stevens, Mike Read, Chris Tomlin, Mandy and Matt Voysey, 4th March 2018

by Mandy Voysey

As the beginning of the year tends to feel a bit dreary, a bunch of us decided to have a trip to the Lake District for four days of mountain walking and mine exploration. Well that was the plan anyway, but as it happened those of us living in the South had to leave a day later than planned due to unprecedented amounts of snow (Matt and I actually got to wear our snowshoes cross-country walking in Westbury!). An unexpected bonus from this was that when we did decide to take the plunge and travel up, ignoring the warnings that everyone should stay at home, we had the best run up North ever with barely anyone on the roads. Excellent! We arrived before dark and had plenty of time for chatting before walking down to Coniston for pub grub with Mike, Dawn, John, Helga, Chris and Judith.

Our base for our stay here was the Barrow Mountaineering and Ski Club hut in the Coniston Coppermines Valley, which is fantastically situated with mountains, mines and the pubs of Coniston all within easy walking distance of the cottage. The weather on our first day was quite overcast and seemed unlikely to

yield any views other than white mist and rain on the summits, so we decided that the Coniston Copper Mines was definitely the best place to be. We opted for a Paddy End to Hospital Level through trip as it's something that Matt and I had been interested in doing for quite a while, also quite conveniently it was the route that we had the most information about, which also influenced our decision. This trip includes three abseils to access four different levels of the mine workings. Doing this as a pull-through trip is quite the norm and chunky eyebolts have been fitted at the pitch-head for this purpose. It also looked like there was plenty to see in between, so I was looking forward to it. John and Chris had already been told by a BMSC member that the pitches were now permanently rigged, but we decided



it would be wise to bring the necessary kit anyway so we could rig it ourselves if needed.

So after a bit of kit faff the five of us set off up the track to Levers Water. We passed by what was to be our exit on the way up. This is Hospital Level, an obvious mine entrance close to the Miners' Bridge. Today this was shrouded with ice where cascades of water had frozen over the entrance, but there was a hole big enough to crawl through that had been knocked out by John and Chris the day before when they'd been out

for an explore. We looked at this for a bit, then realised we'd lost Chris. He hadn't gone into the entrance, and scanning the horizon didn't shed any light either, so we plodded onwards and hoped he might just appear further on. Luckily he did, we spotted the blighter cruising along the easy route that we hadn't noticed, while we were struggling up a steep, snowy, sheep-track. Mike was moaning incessantly, he had a cold, didn't like going uphill, and had the wrong gloves on. The rest of us were shocked, usually it takes something severe like a tightly chaffing wetsuit to make Mike un-upbeat!



Mike, John, an ore wagon and a mighty wall of deads

Up at Levers Water we regrouped and soon found ourselves at "The Crater", which looks just like the name suggests. Here there are three routes into the mine complex. Levers Water Mine is the locked gate on the right. Below this is "The Funnel" which looks like a veritable pit of doom. From here it is possible to abseil down to Middle Level and beyond, but it's not recommended as the risk of falling rocks makes this a particularly hazardous way of getting there. Our route into the mine was via the nice safe looking cleft on the left, and we donned our SRT kits in the shelter of the open roofed stope at the entrance before heading into depths of the underworld and the realm of copper miners of a bygone age. Matt and I had previously explored the Top Level Extensions on our holiday to

The Lakes the Christmas before last, but on that occasion we had lacked the kit to access the other levels. [As this trip was written up in CSS Newsletter vol.59 no's 1/2/3, I won't reiterate too many details about the route for this part of our journey, as we basically went the same way as before.]

Once inside, it didn't take long to reach the junction leading to Arete Chamber and the site of our first abseil into the levels below. Here we ditched our bags in order that John, Mike and Chris could first experience the delights of MAGS Catwalk (aka "The Stemples of Doom"), and the various points of interest that lay beyond. This airy stemple traverse is definitely not for the acrophobic as the stope is apparently some 27m deep, but we all made it across without problem, though nobody seemed as excited by the experience as I thought they would be. On the contrary there were lots of comments about the thinness of some of the stemples, the slackness of the rope, and the awkwardness of the spacing. However all agreed that the overall situation is quite unique, and I'm sure they liked it really. We then sauntered about looking at a variety of blue and green formations, mine trucks, rails, a jackroll, and various other bits and bobs, along mostly stomping passages with a couple of little climbs before heading back to our bags and having a spot of lunch to energise us for the descent to lower levels and what would be new terrain for all.

Arete Chamber was just a few paces under a false floor away. Here we crossed the gaping voids, glad that there was a nice steel cable to clip our cowstails into. The pitch was indeed already rigged, with nice shiny orange rope. So after checking the rope was in good condition we abseiled the 29m to reach Top Level. This was actually a very pleasant straight abseil of comfortable dimensions, with no rub points or obvious loose rock. Matt was first down, followed by Mike. They had both disappeared when I touched down, leaving their bags behind to indicate that they'd gone off to explore down the passage on the left. Our next point of descent was only about 10m away on our right, but we wanted to explore everything there was to see in this level first. I waited for Chris and John, then we too followed suit. An initial stoop became quite roomy passage and continued to end at a T-junction where there was obviously some connection to the surface above as it became much colder and windier here, and there were some impressive ice formations on the walls. Here we turned right, concluding that as the water looked browner Matt and Mike must have gone that way too and disturbed the sediment. Our deductions were correct and we soon met up with them by a large stope. Here the floor ahead dropped away and there was no safe route down. The walls were streaked with blue and it all looked quite dramatic. They recommended that we follow the continuation along the passage on our left (which was a nice looking tunnel with a white bloom that made it look snowy), and then turn right.

Which John, Chris and I duly did, and saw some right fine blue formations. The walls were festooned with marvellous blue deposits in a multitude of shades, some of which were probably the deepest blue I've ever seen.

Beyond this, the passage soon closed down. So we headed back and took the left-hand route, which went on for quite a distance before also reaching a dead end at a small pool. There wasn't much of note here, but it was nice that the rocks in the watery floor had bands of blue and white around them from the mineral deposits in the water. It's probably even nicer if you get to see it when the water is clear and not muddied by four cavers going before you. This section sorted we returned to the ice formations with a brief nose into a side section with more blue aspects and what may have been a rubble slope of doom that Chris seemed keen to descend before deciding that it was probably a stupid idea. By this time Mike and Matt had already seen everything, so they decided to crack on with Pitch no.2, while Chris, John and I took the other route from the windy, icy section to look at some impressively deep and lofty stopes at the end. At the pitch-head we were pleased to find that this descent was also fully rigged, complete with rope protector to save from a really nasty rub point close to the top. Chris and I were chatting while waiting at the top while John descended down to Middle Level, when we were suddenly confused by a strange squealing noise. It kept occurring, and knowing that John didn't have a pig to squeeze we just couldn't figure out what the noise could be. That was until I got on the rope and started heading down myself, then it all became clear. Gripping harder as the rope got wetter and faster made my gloves loudly squeak as I went. This was quite a quick rope. Though it was in good condition, it had become more oval than round.

The area we landed on turned out to be a pile of deads on a timbered roof over the passage below. On this was a broken sign saying "NO ARCHITECTS BEYOND THIS POINT", and better still a pile of sweeties left for us by Mike. I saw Mike popping out from beneath



where I was standing and asked what was there, "you don't want to know" was his reply. Obviously though, I did want to know. It turned out to be a short tunnel ending in a rock pile with blue in which was actually quite nice, but to get there we had to cross a very deep chasm on a rickety bit of wood, followed by two equally deep looking sumps bridged by thin planks. I

followed John across figuring he could be the guinea pig to test the strength of the timbers. Apparently the first void we crossed is the “Old Ladder Way” which has an interesting old wheelbarrow at the bottom. Though I’ve no idea how this would be rigged, at the time I didn’t think to look.

This fun over with, we continued onwards and soon found our way to a marvellous spectacle, the Green Pool. This was truly beautiful, and quite a while was spent with Matt trying to get a nice picture while John and Mike were posing in a really dubious manner. No problem at all with Mike’s “about to dive in the water” pose, but John hugging him from behind just looked dodgy. Undeterred they posed for a number of shots in



this manner. Then we moved on to the next item of wonderment, the Blue Rock. We also spent quite a while snapping pics here as it really was quite splendid. Imagine a large boulder, ladled with many splendored lumps and streaks of blues and greens and that’s basically what it looks like. There are also some really deep blue and green straws overhead which were just spiffing. Just beyond here there was a parting of the ways, to the right there was a traverse that John investigated but didn’t like the look of. I’d seen pictures of this kind of traverse, it seems there are a few of them in the Copper Mines, basically they consist of a series of long loops along a sheer wall, with the idea that each loop acts as a foothold. (This might be a route to Paddy End Shaft, but I’m not sure). Exciting as this looked, it certainly wasn’t the way, so we took the left-hand passage leading to a scruffy rope climb instead. This led to Pinnacle Rock and a rocky slope called “The Gully” with a traverse line in-situ to reach the third and last pitch.

This descent is done against the wall of a vast open stope, with big views of open dark space opposite. This is the continuation of Middle Level leading to the Twin Tunnels. Access to this section of the mine can now only be gained via an alternative descent from Top Level. Looking down from the pitch head it looked like we would land on the foot of the massive rubble slope

leading up to this continuation, but in fact we continued down much further to land at Grey Crag Level. This pitch also had a rope rigged, which yet again became quite wet and fast, though this wasn’t actually a problem and this time my gloves didn’t squeak... possibly because my descent was slowed by Matt’s photographic demands.

Now at our final level, we had landed on top of a reinforced tunnel with a short climb down. This mighty structure had been put in place by CATMHS to re-open the through trip route after a surface collapse at Simon’s Nick Crag caused a huge amount of debris to hurtle through the mine workings to land here some 100+m below, completely blocking the route to the exit. I was the fourth person down and found that Chris had already gone when I landed. He and Judith were heading home that day and he’d promised that he wouldn’t be too late. So when Matt joined us at the bottom we continued our explorations as a foursome. From here the route out was straight forward, just head through the tunnel, follow your nose and you could be out in 10 mins... but we wanted to investigate what lay in the other direction first. So we bounded off down the easy walking passage along the Belman Hole Vein. John had been along here some way the day before on his foray with Chris, but hadn’t had time to venture too far. One of the most interesting things about this level was the introduction of different coloured formations on the walls. Not only were there still swathes of blue and green, there were also patches of red, pink and lilac (Red Strontium staining). As we went along the passage became more uniformly mine-like with shot holes and metal brackets in the walls and rails on the floor. Parts of this section of mine were a bit watery, but not a problem for anyone wearing normal height wellies. Unfortunately my boots are a little shorter than average (a bit like me really), so I had to totter about on rocks and rails in order to stay dry-footed.

We then found ourselves at a fork in the passage and some points in the track. We took the right-hand passage which had some very fine walling on one side and led to the Triddle/Bonsor Vein. This went on for ages and concluded with a dead end. We then returned to the junction and tried the other way, which also seemed to go on quite a



Mandy descending the third pitch



Heading towards the Paddy End Old Workings

way before reaching a collapse. This had a wriggly route over the top which lead into a big open stope of the Paddy End Old Workings. The passage we were in did continue past the blockage, but being low and wet didn't look appealing. John tried it out on the way back, but only by accident as he didn't spot the correct route, and he didn't like it well enough to push far. Up at the big stope we

continued on for a bit past a massive shard of rock peeling away from the walls and beneath a wedged boulder of doom laden with deads, I really hoped that Mike wasn't going to let loose another one of his very loud and over-dramatic sneezes here. John's now constant stream of farts were also becoming a bit of a concern. At least Matt was safe to stand near, but he wisely stayed on the safe, dry side while I continued with "Stenchy Stevens" to wade through some water that also released a smell when disturbed and got in my boots. I wasn't very happy about this. John then confirmed from up ahead that it wasn't worth progressing any further, so back through the stinky water we went and back down the passages to regain the reinforced tunnel under the rope. Somewhere along the line we investigated another side route that had some rotten wood over a very deep pit that John danced about on while Matt took his photo. This had a really good green and orange formation on the floor, which being quite unique we all made efforts not to accidentally tread on. Then with exit in mind we took the main route out passing the Paddy End Engine Shaft, and a very dramatic looking stope with a rusty chain hanging down called "The Great Open". The Horse Gin room (storage chamber for equine booze) didn't have much remaining of its horse powered mechanism, but there were some items of metalwork left around to look at. We also passed by Hospital Shaft before reaching some collapses in the false floor with some very dark voids below. I think this would drop into Deep Level, but not wanting to do that myself I was pleased about the sturdy planks and traverse wire to safety our crossing. Just after this is a another CATMHS construction making safe passage through a collapse point, this time

To rig this trip would need the following rope lengths: P1 - 30m, P2 - 25m, P3 - 25m; or 1x 60m for a pull-through trip. Note P2 has a nasty rub point near the top that requires some rope protection.

made of sturdy timberwork and on this occasion liberally covered with ice stalactites. At the end of this was a wall of ice with a hole at the bottom (courtesy of John and Chris earlier in the weekend). Then we were once again wading through water, but this time it was lumpy with large sections of sheet ice colliding with our feet and shins. Just as the end was in sight John decided to wander up a side passage with even deeper water. Mike was revolting. He was still banging on about his cold and wanted to get back. I wasn't keen to do the frosty descent with boots full of icy water so joined the revolt, and Matt wisely did likewise. Instead we listened to our overly keen (idiotic) companion wading through ever deepening water until he eventually returned with news there was nothing to see. Just one more obstacle in the form of the wall of ice hanging over the exit portal and we were back on the snowy mountainside, with a nice short walk back to the hut for tea and hot showers.

I thought this was a fantastically varied trip, combining the sportiness of caving with an awe inspiring spectacle of what can be achieved by human endeavour. It's hard to believe that this complex network of huge open chasms and deep stopes is entirely man-made, though nature has certainly played a part in ornamenting the system as the water running over the mineral rich rocks have made some fantastic colourful displays over the rocks and timbers within.



Crossing the planks over "Deep Level"

Some of the colourful flows in the lower levels have their origins in un-worked ore way up in the levels above. There's plenty more to see in the Coniston Copper Mines and other through-trips worth doing, so a return visit, again combined with mountain walking, may well be on the cards for some time next year. If anyone else is interested in coming along let me know.

The Whitewalls library has a copy of 'A Pictorial Tour of the Coniston Coppermines' on CD-Rom. This has loads of interesting info about the trips, history and minerals of these mines.



After many trips surveying, Mike and I decided to do a bit of a digging trip instead. As Mike had not returned to Recharge Passage since we found it on 11th January 2014, this would be our final destination. A Friday trip, so a nice early start on the 21st of April, and underground by 10am.

On route we stopped in Turkey Chamber for about an hour and a half to pull some 16 trays of spoil out of the dig there. This had been looking promising as the roof was beginning to go back up. Unfortunately this was only a short feature and the dig is continuing to descend. There is still a bed of coarse sand with clay fill above it. By following the sand layer I hope this may start to show more promise at some stage.

We continued round to Selenite Needle Passage, Eastern Avenue into Midsummer Passage. Midsummer always seems to have a bit more crawling than I remember. It was not long before we took the side passage up into Recharge Passage.

We headed to the western end to continue the dig there. We also wanted to examine a small side passage that had been noted on the survey as this seems to lie above a high level feature in Coal Cellar Passage. Even though the floor heights are some 22m apart, a roof feature reduces this by over 8m. On inspection of the side passage Mike found it totally mud filled, which was a bit disappointing. It would have been nice to create a possible bypass to the squeeze from Midsummer Passage into Coal Cellar Passage. We still have to take some climbing gear to finish the climb from the Coal Cellar side, just in case it does do something interesting.

The end choke was first dug by me and David Stevens with a follow up session by Gary Jones. This had discovered that the choke went straight up with a scalloped wall above the entry point. The fill was dry and made up of small rocks in a loose matrix of clay.

As we progressed up we stacked the material to one side with just enough larger stones to create a good neat spoil heap. By the end we were in need of a drag tray to move it from the base of the shaft as it was becoming quite a distance to throw and drag it.



Spoil management

Recharge *by John Stevens* Passage Dig

Looking up the dig we have gone up some 3m and the air is still fresh and the clay/sand getting less with areas of open gaps between the rocks. It seemed that each layer we brought down could be the last and a black space would present itself to us. So the digging just kept going for another 10 minutes, then another 10 minutes, until the time was really getting on. The last black space was investigated and then we called it.

We left a bar and hammer at the dig as we expect to return a bit sooner than the previous gap. An exit was made by the lovely Coal Cellar Passage to finish off the Outer Circle and clock up another 12 hours in Agen Allwedd, getting back to the cottage to be greeted by John Newton, just 30 minutes before our ETO.

Recharge, we think, flowed from its eastern end, which is roughly under the surface feature of Waun Rudd, westward. Some of the flow will have been captured by Midsummer Passage at a later date, but where it went to the west is for conjecture. The scallop marks along the passage are confusing at times but generally support a flow to the west, so interesting times could be ahead.



Looking vertically up the dig with the scalloped wall

The top of the shaft and the next rock to come out



The Big Dig

Making the concrete footings for the septic tank



DO NOT USE THIS BOARD UNLESS YOU HAVE CHECKED THAT THERE WILL BE SOMEBODY HERE WHEN YOU RETURN.

Date/Time	Cave + Route	Leader + Party No.	E.T.R.	Car No
All Weekend	Septic Tanks + Pumping STN	Task Master LOTS	When it's finished	

Laying out the pipework



Getting ready to lower the new septic tank



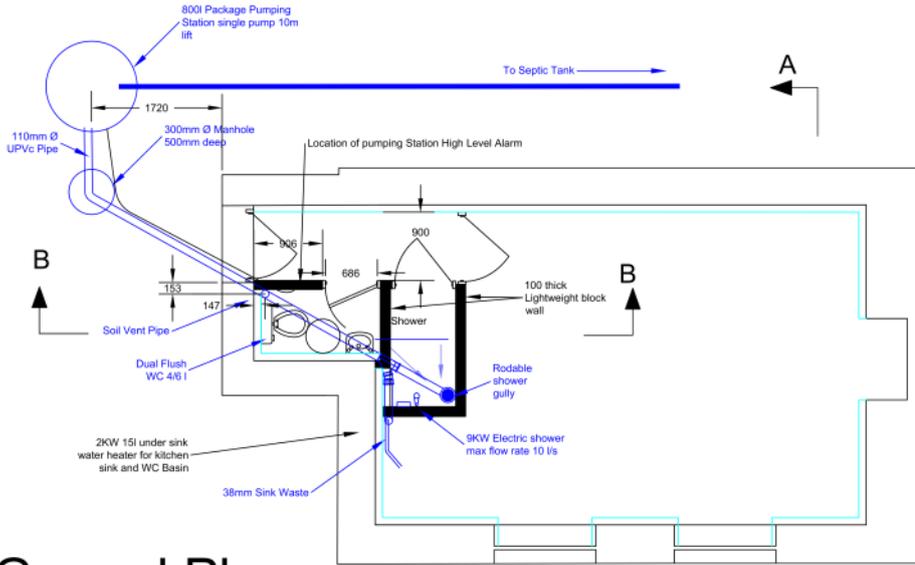
ODSS pumping station installed



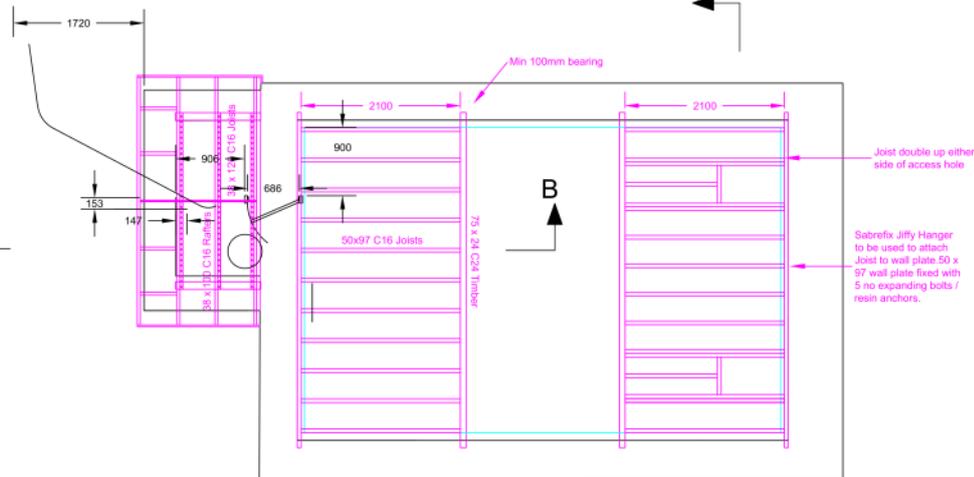
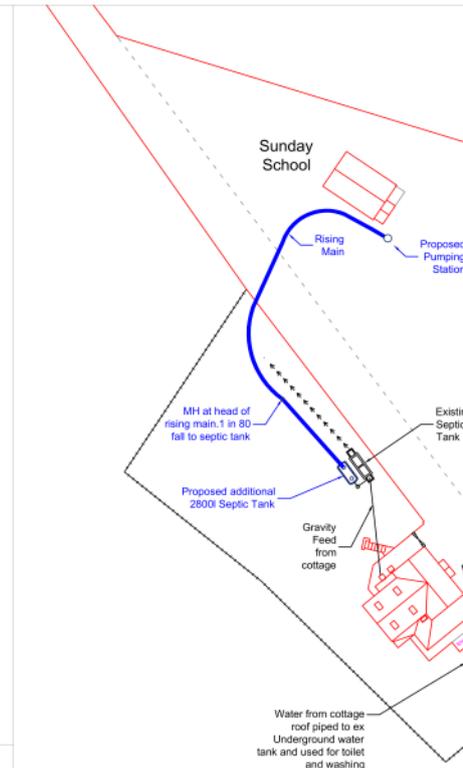
Pipe fettleing in the trench



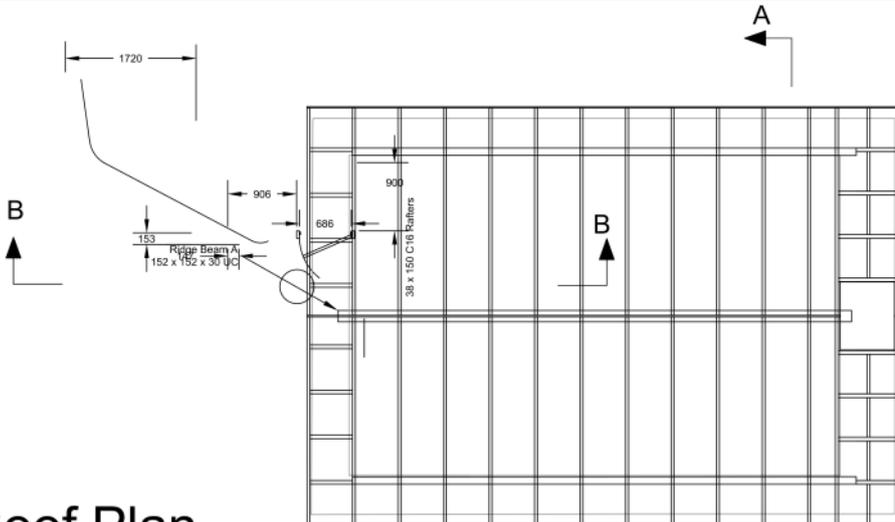
Sunday School Renovation Plans



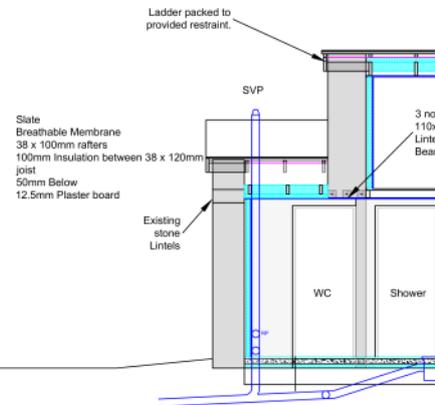
Ground Plan



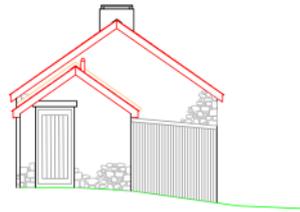
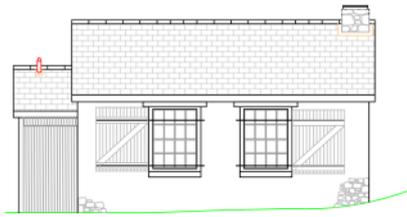
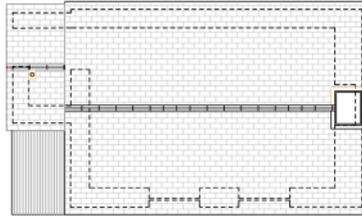
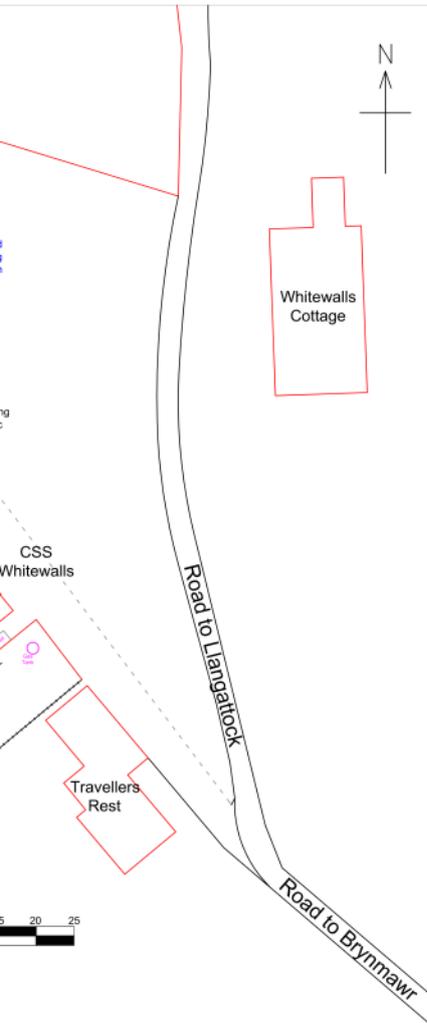
Joist Plan



Roof Plan



Section



NOTES

Ventilation

Extractor fans operated by light switch to be provide in WC and Shower room with a minimum flow rate of 15 l/s with overrun timer.

Switch operated extractor fan to be provided in main room adjacent to cooking area with minimum flow rate of 30 l/s.

Windows

No changes to the existing windows.

External Wall Insulation. Min U 0.3

Existing random stone solid walls 490mm thick

25mm air gap (battened)

60mm insulation board Xtratherm PIR or similar $\lambda = 0.22$ W/mk mechanically fixed over battens. Taped Joints

12.5mm plasterboard 3mm skim

New Roof (unventilated) Min U 0.15

Natural Slate

25x50mm treated battens

38mm treated counter battens

Breathable membrane

50mm Xtratherm PIR or similar $\lambda = 0.22$ W/mk over rafters.

100mm Xtratherm PIR or similar $\lambda = 0.22$ W/mk between rafters

12.5mm plaster board 3mm skim

Flooring Min U 0.25

Existing concrete slab.

60mm insulation $\lambda = 0.22$ W/mk.

DPC

65mm Screed

10mm insulation board (compatible with Underflooring Heating)

Electric heating mat

10mm Levelling compound

Tiled finish

Strapping

Rafters strapped at wall plate. Main roof to have 4 straps / side (2.0m max spacing). Porch wall plates 2 straps / side.

Straps to be 30x5mm galvanised steel 1.0m long

Packing blocks to be installed on gable ladder at not more than 2m centres to provide restraint at gable walls.

Roof Beam

152 152 x 30 UC Grade S355 on 250 x 150mm pad stone / C20 insitu Concrete.

12.5mm fireline with 3mm skim or similar protection.

Drainage

Roof downpipes to connect to existing 2m³ tanks with overflow to existing soakaway and pond.

Electrical Works

Electrical works to be carried out by registered competent person.

Smoke Alarm

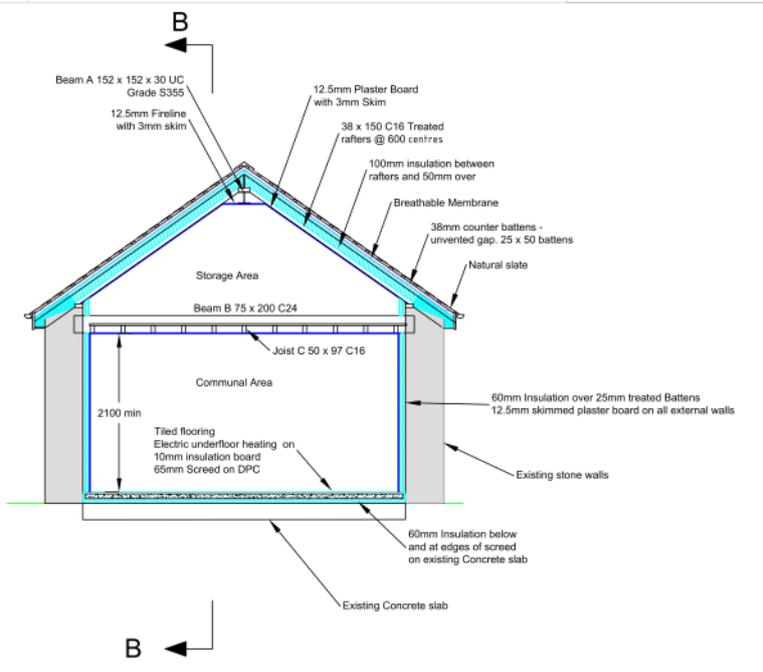
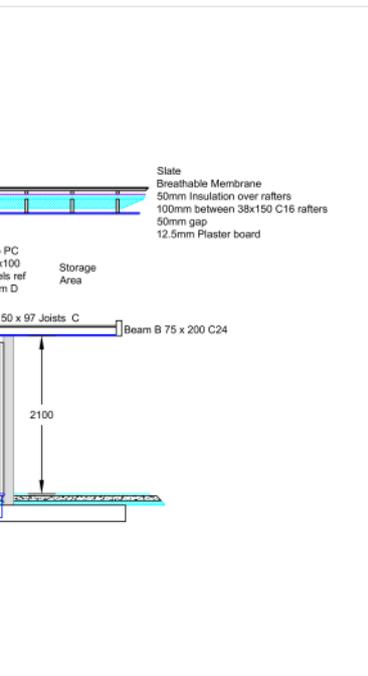
Smoke alarm to be installed in communal area. Alarm shall be mains operated with battery backup and comply with EN 14604: 2005

Pumping Station

Proprietary package pumping station 800 l capacity. Single pump with high level alarm within building. System to comply with BS EN752-6. System SPD UK 800SH (10m Lift) or similar. 63mm discharge pipe to 300mmØ manhole with gravity feed to Septic Tank.

Septic Tank

2800 l shallow dig proprietary septic tank to EN12566-1, twin access shafts, 500mm to pipe invert levels. Installed in accordance with manufacturers specifications. Tank to discharge into existing septic tank and field drainage system; Kingspan Klargester Sigma 2800 l shallow dig or similar.



P2	15May18	Toilet size increased.	MWR
Orig	26Feb18	-	MWR
Rev	Date	Issue / Remarks	Checked



Project Title		
SUNDAY SCHOOL Replacement Roof and Foul System		
Drawing Title		
Building Regulation Submission		
Scale (A1 Size)	Drawn By	Date
1:50 1:500	MWR	15 May 18
Drawing Number		
CSS 200/P2		
Drawing Status		
-		

BB

Section AA

Daren Sunday School The Big Dig!

18th-21st May

Tasks Completed

Ramp formed up into garden.
Pumping station installed.
Rising main pipe laid from pumping station to septic tank.
New septic tank installed and connected to old septic tank.
Old steps to tram road removed and safely stored.
Pipe trench excavated across toilet floor for sink and shower outlet.
Sunday School shower cubical removed.
Plaster board removed from ceiling and wiring ripped out in preparation for roof removal.



All in all a very successful weekend and achieved the ambition objectives. Good team effort with long hours and hard graft, leaving only limited time for beer drinking. Although the odd sip of lager kept us going during the day. [Some of us had a bit more than the "odd sip" - Ed]

My current thoughts are that it may be wise to program to do the roof next spring. In the meantime there are plenty of other jobs to do...

- Build up Whitewalls garden wall by ramp.
- Install lintels above the new toilet and build up walls.
- Install internal sewer and connect to pumping station.
- Tidy up the path to Tram Road and refit the steps.
- Level area around the Sunday School entrance.
- Install manhole covers and concrete surround.
- Paint/repair sash windows.
- Potentially install new shutters - although this may be best left until the roof is complete.

The roof replacement will require at least one very long weekend to remove and install new steel lintel and roof rafters. Another weekend to install insulation, felt and fix battens, and another to slate and install gutters etc.

We also need to rebuild the top of the chimney as badly cracked before slating the roof. Whilst the porch roof is small this will be time consuming. We could potentially carry this out in advance of the main roof this year if there are lots of volunteers, but we are a caving club and need to get some caving in too!

Mike Read



Many thanks to Mike Read, John Stevens, Andy Heath, Adrian Fawcett, John Newton, Joe Duxbury, Roy Musgrove, Paul Tarrant, Mel Reid, Matt and Mandy Voysey, who all worked really hard and moved an awful lot of soil. Luckily the sun was out and we had a fridge full of cold beer, which helped make the whole endeavour quite a fun and pleasant way to spend a weekend. Thank you also to the Orpheus Caving Club and their Australian chums who happened to be staying at Whitewalls and were incredibly useful in helping us to carry and lower our new septic tank.

GIANT'S HOLE AND BAGSHAWE CAVERN

by Charles Bailey

My Nephew Callum spent a few of weeks helping out with jobs at our home in Parwich, and whilst paid handsomely/a pittance (*) I thought some mild recompense was in order. An opportunity occurred due to a short but welcome hiatus in a busy work schedule for a couple of trips.

(* Delete as appropriate)

First up was Giant's. Nothing too adventurous was planned – a bimble down The Crabwalk, a bit of route finding, and a quick peek at Giant's Windpipe before retracing our steps. In reality, Callum found it wetter than expected, partly due to an advanced technique at the ladder on the cascade - allowing the water to flow down his neck and out via his over-suit legs. Nice! Hanging around whilst I fuffed with route finding from the Eating House didn't help, but I made sure we warmed up by failing to turn off so clambering to the top of Maggins Rift.

We retraced to North East Swallet and Poached Egg Passage before heading out. The way out was surprisingly quick, with Callum's cascade technique much improved. Overall, I was impressed by his natural ability and cool attitude as a novice. It became obvious that I hadn't sufficiently put him off a follow up trip - although I did promise an easier trip next.

We didn't see a soul, either on the way in or out, and the car park was empty. Had half term put the usual kid's trips off? So, what better than a quiet trip down Bagshawe Cavern? I'd only been once before, and we'd had the place to ourselves.

Not anymore! There were literally dozens of cavers atop and underground, mostly guided school trips. We did ponder hiding in the dark on the main drag and leaping out at unsuspecting children, but the prey was too easy. Instead, we spent the trip looking at a few of the quieter nooks and crannies. We grovelled down the Glory Hole, splashed to Sump 1 and dropped the pitch to wade into the Lower Series, just so Callum had another chance to get wet. He didn't shirk the opportunity – I think he's getting used to caves being wet. However, we ignored Agony Crawl as an option; you can get too much of grim caving.



The two of us just prior to descending Giant's. I told Callum the photo could prove useful in case we didn't come back. He didn't take the bait.

Congratulations!

... to members **Helen and Trevor Pemberton**, who got married in Cathedral Cave, Dan Yr Ogof showcaves on 23rd June.



BRADSHAW'S CAVE

by *Andy Watson*

The finding of Bradshaw's Cave took place back in December 2014. Whilst looking for leads in this area of Asham Wood near Whatley Brook and Seven Springs, I found three potential sites to probe. At one, not subsequently prodded further, I travelled some 4 feet on a rather large rolling boulder balancing with my chest on the top of it like a clown balancing on a big ball, but this one hurt and left a suitable scar. I digress, but oh what memories... of the pain.



Later on in February 2015, I cleared the entrance of a hole that Tav had suggested was perhaps the best option. It looked promising, and I was looking into a water worn passage 1 foot high and about 3 foot across. In April Paul Stillman came to push the hole and dig out some old and very smelly badger poo - they were not resident any more, if they ever had been, at this time. Distance in 1 metre! Further digging sessions and an enticing draft in May, June, and July eventually led through a squeeze to open virgin passage! Then in August I opened up a second entrance. Then a separate dig initially called Dead Birdie Cave finally linked in November 2015, making the find a rare Mendip cave with three entrances! Further exploration added another 60-70m or so. Many thanks to Paul for his assistance and patience with me. Anyhow here is the full description...

Bradshaw's Cave, Asham Wood Quarry, ST 71004 45416, Length 151m

Introduction: Named after Dr. Reg Bradshaw who was in the Geology Department at the University of Bristol and informed Willie Stanton c.1970 about several 'open tunnels' in the lowest part of the quarry closest to Seven Springs. He apparently made a considerable contribution to Mendip regarding geology and its caves.

Location: In Asham Wood Quarry lower section not far from the Main Spring (of Seven Springs) into Whatley Brook. Locate Main Springs resurgence (often dry) at ST 7102 4528 and back track walking down slope on the obvious old vehicle track for about 100m turn left into a quarry entrance area with large rocks across the entrance to prevent vehicle access. Stay to the left of the open area for about 35m and enter the unkempt hedge area through an obvious gap/rough path over some rocks to a flat area. Turn left and walk towards the cliff face and climb over some large rocks and brambles and you will find a low arch down a 1m drop at the base of the cliff. This is the entrance to the cave. Just to the left is another hole that is choked after 1.2m. There are two other entrances further to the west along the quarry face both about 1m above the floor.

Road Access: Park at Dead Woman's Bottom at ST 715 462 (do not leave valuables in your car) and walk up to the Seven Springs Main Spring on the vehicle track alongside Whatley Brook. This takes about 20-30 minutes and mobile phone reception is poor in the quarry.

Description: A low arched entrance at the base of the cliff behind a pile of large rocks. A drop of 1m to the entrance that is 1 metre wide and 0.5 metres high and it slopes downwards into a low water worn tunnel 0.75m high with a soil and loose rock floor with some small rock shelves on the left hand side some 3 metres in. The main entrance tunnel is sometimes frequented by badgers (see text for the other entrances options). The length of the initial entrance tunnel is 7.5m where it rises up and meets a cross bedding. Looking back to your right, a low bedding passage leads back out towards the cliff face near the entrance and is too tight and choked. Forward is a small low chamber with a fallen slab and a water worn boulder. This area has a strong draft. Straight on is Sid's Squeeze requiring a push and twist to the left. A clamber over a small boulder leads to an easy crawling passage for 12m to a sharp right hand turn, Chest of Drawers Corner, and right is the start of a 30m passage, The Long Straight. A careful climb is required over a low large balanced boulder about halfway along. The end straight ahead closes down in size in some boulders, but on the left under an immature curtain on the edge of a roof slab is a muddy downward slope 1.5m wide and this drops about 2m over a 5m length. At the top of the slope on the right as you look down it and just past a pile of bones with an animal skull (please do not disturb these) there is a second cave entrance out to the quarry face which can be used if the badgers are in residence in the first entrance tunnel. At the bottom of the muddy slope there is a low muddy puddle to the right, which may sump at times of flood, leading into the base of a small aven, 3m high, 1m wide and 2-3m long. Straight ahead and slightly right at a height of 1m from the floor the crawling passage continues for another 5m until you reach some large boulders blocking the way on. With a careful manoeuvre low on the left

past these boulders and by sitting up and twisting without disturbing these (the rather unstable Corkscrew Connection) the passage continues on to an obvious left hand rift. Straight on continues but becomes too tight and closes down to a impassable rift after about 1.5m. The 2m long left hand rift rises up (Note: there are some lovely black crystal nodules on a right hand shelf, please be careful not to get these dirty) into a good sized cross passage, named Hoveringham's Chamber after the quarry company operating here in the 1960's. To the right after 3-4m is an area of boulder breakdown and also on the right here is the third entrance (ST 7070 4531) - a short squeeze past another short bedding plane section (2m) leads out to the quarry face by a tree.



Turning to the left in Hoveringham's Chamber there is a rising muddy slope which reduces in size to about 0.5m wide. This 8m long crawling passage, named Fat Lip Rift due a caver banging his lip on a boulder, has two slight squeezes and leads past some nice flowstone to a 3m climb (passing a short 2m small deviation and immature passage on the right) up into Bat Roost Breakdown Chamber that shows some evidence of winter bat activity. This is over 8m long, 2.5m wide and 2m high with no immediately obvious ways on. There are some good formations and flowstone hidden away in some areas of the chamber and on some of the walls. The roof slabs have historically collapsed into this once very pretty and good sized chamber. There are some voids under some of the larger boulders that can be entered with care and in one of these a squeeze leads to about 6m of low stream passage with a sticky mud floor about 1m wide which closes down under more large boulders at the western end.

At the eastern end of Bat Roost Breakdown Chamber (BRBC) an enlarged calcited shelf over the top of a large boulder (2m) leads to a short climb down of 1.8m that opens up into a small chamber which is an extension of BRBC, which has a fragile calcite floor in its centre (take extreme care please when bridging it). Back towards BRBC between large boulders a pretty calcite wall with nice formations can be viewed. The way on is straight across this chamber and by carefully bridging the calcite floor and by worming for a short distance under some large calcited boulders you arrive in April Passage, an open continuation of the nicely shaped stream passage seen in Hoveringham's Chamber back near the 3rd entrance. After 3m a climb down off two big boulders this passage leads to an open rift passage for about 12m passing some vulnerable cave pearl collections on the muddy floor. The roof lowers to a flat out muddy wriggle and after another 3m opens up into Thank Aven which is 2m wide at the base, 5m long and has a high point of 10m. The mud bank at its base bears left around Trickle Bend at crawling height and after 7.5m this passes some exceptional black sedimentary and petrified infill formations on the floor called Blackstone Stationary Engine (care required when passing). After another 5.5m a second aven is reached, Incline Aven 1m wide, 4m long with a high point of 3m. At the far end an easy climb up of 2.5m on the left (please avoid some large water worn crystals on the right) leads to a short Upper Passage which is going due south and slopes down to a too tight section at present. Probably in the general direction of Pineroot Spring along Whatley Brook.

Following a nocturnal experience with the shutters on the top floor of WW this month, due to the wind being in an unusual direction, I have penned this little whimsy...

Musica foricularum

The 6th century philosopher, Boethius, wrote 'De Musica', a treatise on music. He considered that music could be divided threefold into:

- *Musica instrumentalis* — instrumental music.
- *Musica humana* — harmony of the human body and spiritual harmony.
- *Musica mundana* — music of the spheres/world.

The latter is sometimes referred to as 'universal music', but the expression 'the music of the spheres' is more commonly known.

Fortunately for Boethius, he was fifteen hundred years too early to visit Whitewalls and experience 'the music of the shutters', or 'musica foricularum'. To paraphrase the hymn 'This is My Father's World':

"This is the world of Whitewalls,
And to my listening ears, all nature mutters,
And around me rings the music of the shutters."



Bwlch Glas Mine

by Mandy Voysey

Grid ref SN 7097 8765 - Parking SN 7099 8780 - Bont Goch, Ceredigion

Matt and I did this trip as part of a combined BEC, SMCC and GSG Mines of West Wales Weekend. I thought it was a trip worth writing up as information about this mine is scarce and it might be of interest to others.

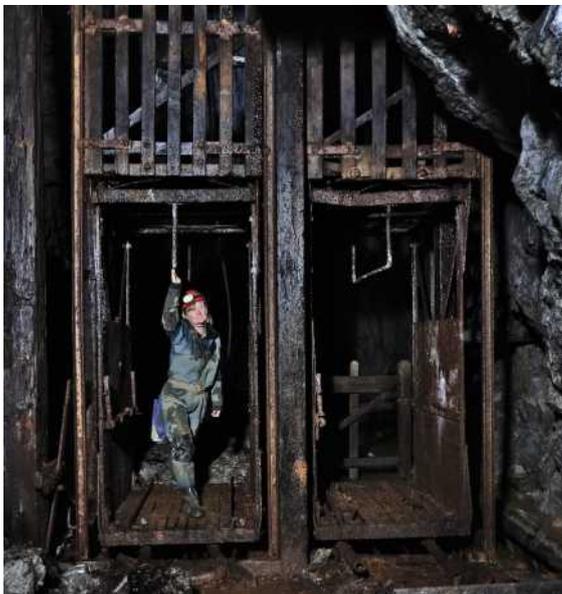
From the car park, the route to the mine is up a vague track past the ruins of old mine buildings. The entrance is located behind a mound of scree. The tunnel entrance is initially wet, but at a depth that is supposedly below welly height. Not so if you're a wearer of Asda boots from the children's aisle as I found out. Shortly after the passage becomes dry, and a wooden platform with ladders descending through a hole the shape of a toilet



seat is reached. There are a few side passages to explore on the upper level. One opposite the wooden platform had a very clear blue and deep lake pool on the day we were there, which prevented us from forging down it. Apparently the water accessing this tunnel wouldn't usually involve a swim, but it had been raining rather a lot prior to our visit. The other routes are interesting enough, but mostly either loop round or come to an abrupt end. The rock here seemed to be unusual, with noticeable folding and soft white formations, but it was down in the lower levels that all the spectacular stuff was to be seen...

The initial descent is down a series of fixed wooden ladders, these are originals that have been re-installed and repaired to make a pretty solid and safe route down. However it is still wise to rig a rope for safety, which is what we did, treating it like a standard abseil but walking down the rungs of the ladders. At the foot of the ladder there is choice of two ways, one of which doesn't go far before ending at a solid wall, the other soon reaches a pitch head. This pitch also had a descent through a wooden framed hatch, but this time surrounded by plenty of loose rocks to be wary of. Care is definitely required here to avoid knocking any down while anyone is on rope below. There are some in-situ hangers in place at the pitch head which we did use, however it is best to treat them as suspect and also do a back-up Y hang and safety line using the studs put in for that purpose.

The abseil down is truly spectacular, not overly long, but very dramatic. Initially the pitch is fairly enclosed with a nice tidy walled in section to look at, then after a deviation the side walls disappear and a fantastic panorama of the huge chamber below presents itself with stemples bridging the huge void and old ladders sticking up at angles where they'd fallen to the bottom. It all feels very vast and airy.



Turning to the right at the bottom and clambering up over the pile of fallen stemples and ladders there's a view down to a lovely clear blue, and also very deep pool. This appeared to be far too long and deep to contemplate crossing, and any approach made to it was also very dangerous, as the slope dropping down to it was very unstable. This was made even more unstable on our visit when Matt headed down to have a look and sent a veritable landslide of rocks splashing into the water, twice!

Following the passage in the other direction soon reaches the main spectacle that people come here to see, two miners'

lift cages perched above the flooded shafts below. This is really quite a large construction with a lot of winching machinery, and metalwork towering above, and it's in pretty good condition too. There are also some miner's artefacts and a few tunnels to explore here, with some rusty stal formations. Nothing really goes a great distance, but it's all rather nice.

Then it's just a case of heading back from whence you came. All in all this is a very enjoyable and photographic trip. If enthusiasm for more is high, then an outing to Ystrad Eonion Mine in Cwm Einion could easily be tacked on to this trip. This is another mine full of features including a huge waterwheel, a large kibble, flooded shafts and a variety of colourful deposits [grid ref SN707938, walk up grassy slope behind car park to find the gated (but not locked) entrance].

Tackle Requirements for Bwlch Glas

Laddered Pitch - 28m and 20m/or 48m Rope, 2x 12mm hangers and nuts needed to back up dubious in-situ hangers (look for fixed 12mm studs), plus 1x 12mm hanger and nut for rebelay at lower platform.

Main Pitch - 35m Rope, 3x 12mm hangers and nuts needed to back up in-situ hangers with additional Y hang and safety line, 1x karabiner for deviation.

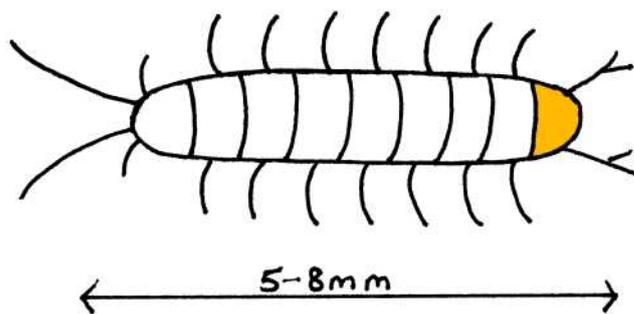
An appropriate spanner is also essential!

CAVE BEASTIES IN DAREN CILAU

by Mandy Voysey

A few years ago I happened to spot some interesting creatures in the stream that meanders down White Passage in Daren Cilau. These water dwelling fellows looked at first glance just like grains of rice, being white and roughly about the same size, but on closer inspection it was possible to distinguish features like antennae, multiple little legs and a yellow bum. There was quite a collection of them gathered where the stream emerges just below the rope climb. At the time I had no idea what they were, or if they were even a cave dwelling species or creatures that were accidentally just passing through. They definitely weren't shrimps anyway. So I made a mental note to see if they were still there next time.

Since then I've consistently checked this area when passing through and have always managed to spot the colony in the same place. I've also seen them at the pool of water by the HRC camp, so it's likely that they could be present in various places in-between. As the other Daren Diggers that I'd pointed them out to also had no idea what they could be, I thought I'd ask an expert. Luckily I knew of one as I'd been caving with Andy Lewington and his magnificent magnifying camera looking at micro water beasties before. So I sent him a description and he came up trumps with a classification. They are Proasellus Cavaticus, which is a species of Isopod, making it a relative of the



Woodlouse. This species is fully troglotic, living only in caves or similar subterranean environments. As such it has no need for eyes, so doesn't bother having any. These creatures are actually quite widespread in the Southern regions and can be found in most of the major Welsh systems, but apparently they don't do anything in a hurry so are very easy to miss. They are very vulnerable to water pollution, so seeing them in our caves is good news... especially if you're a cave shrimp then you can eat them for dinner.

For a proper picture and more information see the "Cave Life" section on the Cambrian Caving Council website^[1]. This has a wealth of information about all kinds of fascinating cave flora and fauna, and is well worth looking at.

[1] <http://cambriancavingcouncil.org.uk/cavelife/index.html>

Cave Fest Mendip

by Helen Nightingale

Despite nobody else wanting to go, I decided Cave Fest sounded good, so I went anyway. Seeing as I was Billy No Mates, I cooked up a fine plan – get to the hut, get sorted, go to The Hunters to sign in and check the meeting times for the trips, maybe have a quick pint, then go back and cook some dinner and have an early night, ready for some decent caving. What could possibly go wrong?

We have just had new carpets fitted at home, so had to clear a load of space. Thursday night, I discovered that keeping some space clear meant that my soggy caving kit from the Slaughter Stream trip was still in the back of Trevor's car, and there was no telling where my stash of caving food was hiding. Never mind, I thought, I can always find a supermarket on the way to Mendip after work. I eventually found a Lidl, and was promptly steered towards the checkouts by security pretty much as soon as I found the beer section. Maybe I would find another shop further on. There was a very tempting looking Sainsbury's, but it didn't have any way to get into it. Never mind, there would always be Priddy farm shop for a decent breakfast. The faffing meant that I got to the Shepton hut a bit later than planned, and it was quite deserted, so I wandered down The Hunters. Nobody I spoke to there knew who was leading the Upper Flood trip, and being The Hunters I didn't dare get my phone out to look it up. It was very warm in the pub - Roger must have had the fire going all day, just in case the bank holiday weather suddenly reverted from glorious sunshine to snow. My first pint evaporated. I got another one, as I had found some people to natter to. The sensible side of me decided I should really go outside and look up what was going on the following day, so somebody could point me in the direction of the leaders or organisers. Then this voice called out "Oi! Stop being antisocial!" It was a bunch of Northern cavers I used to cave and drink with years ago. 6 pints later, Roger decided it was time we buggered off. Time to go back to the hut and get some food. People from Southsea Caving Club had appeared at the hut, so it would be antisocial not to stay and talk to them and have another beer. 3am was not quite the early night I had planned.

Trips were mainly meeting at the village hall, and as the weather was so nice, I thought I would walk over, see what the plan was, and then drive over to the MCG for a good trip down Upper Flood. The walk was a bit further than I remembered it being, and I was getting a bit worried I would be late. I had managed to set my alarm clock, but for 8pm not 8am, which wasn't very helpful. I had also forgotten about the part of the plan involving going to the farm shop for breakfast. Never mind, it was getting late so I thought I might have missed caving. I could go play on the Wessex SRT tower, or see if there was much else going on. Failing that, it was lovely weather for a run. When I finally got to the village hall, the organisers saw my slightly confused face and quickly asked what I'd been planning on doing. I had missed the Upper Flood trip by 10 minutes, but they said they could ring the leader and make sure he waited at the MCG hut for me, or I could do Eastwater instead. That seemed like a good idea, as I have only been as far as the slanty rift before. (Nobody seems to like the slanty rift, and decides to bail out at that point).

Duncan, the leader, had planned a trip to the 13 pots. He was very enthusiastic and knew the cave really well. You could tell he enjoyed the cave. It turned out the other people on the trip were Louise Hull (a provisional Chelsea member who hasn't managed to come along to a meet yet as the dates have clashed) and Mike, who I met when he and his friends stayed at Whitewalls a month or so back. It was a bit like an honorary Chelsea trip – that can be my excuse as Billy No Mates anyway. Duncan told us about all the different routes as we got to junctions. There were routes I never realised existed. He sent Louise then me through the slanty rift bit first, with instructions on the best technique so as not to slide down, and then where to go at the end. On previous attempts, I have been there with people who have flailed around a bit, got in a bit of a muddle, and decided to turn around at that point, after getting rather knackered. It was a huge amount easier doing it the way Duncan suggested, with some idea of where to head for at the other end. Mike, on the other hand, is larger built and doesn't like exposure. He didn't like the slanty rift one bit. Duncan told him about a rift bypass, which I had no idea existed, and sent him around another way. While he was explaining this, us small-built women had somehow gone a high route, which Duncan said he'd never seen anyone fit through before. But we'd done it, with not too much effort,

and had found the way on. I'm not entirely sure where we went, as it seems to be quite easy to take a wrong turning. I was very glad to have somebody there who knows the place very well. The route involved lots of sliding, a crossroads, and Dolphin Pot. It doesn't look like rigging the ladder for Dolphin Pot is very easy, because you seem to have to perch in an awkward position. This pause left me plenty of time to consider if I had a hangover or not. Apparently if you are not particularly cave fit, Eastwater makes you really hungry. We had 2 cereal bars and a bit of chocolate between us. Had I got any food, it might have turned Dolphin Pot into Carrot Pot. The ladder pitch lead us on to a gorge and a slidey tube, which were great fun. Then came the climbs up 13 pots, to make a little round trip back to the pitch. All the rest of the cave had been nice gnarly and grippy rock. Louise scampered gracefully up the pots in front of me. Then I discovered the 13 pots was the only place in the whole cave where the rock wasn't grippy and there were no hand or foot holds. The slippery tube we had just enjoyed sliding down didn't seem a good way to get back. In my hungover and malnourished state, I had to face either being stuck at the bottom of Eastwater, or getting shoved up. It was quite pathetic, and a harsh reminder of how much my limited climbing abilities have fallen away to absolutely zero. We were soon heading back up towards the gorge and the pitch, after a bit of help. This bit wasn't my favourite part of the cave. Waiting at the bottom of the pitch was again time enough to consider hangover levels – it was good the trips were kept quite small so I couldn't think too hard. Somewhere after the top of Dolphin we took a different turning, and came out the cave via the Woggle Press instead of the slanty rift, which I think is actually called the Upper Traverse. Despite feeling a bit rough, I was surprisingly not knackered, and had a thoroughly enjoyable trip with some lovely people. Duncan did decide it could possibly be an honorary BEC trip not an

honorary Chelsea trip, due the hangover levels.

Saturday night was at the village hall, with a live band, caver disco, plenty of beer, and bangers and mash. This was all followed by cheese and crackers, hummus and olives back at the hut. All remarkably civilised.

On Sunday I had chosen to do a Swildon's Short Round. I have only ever done Sump 1 and straight back out again, and have always sworn never to do that trip again. It's just getting cold and wet for the sake of getting cold and wet, then a bit bored. I was not sure whether to be worried the trip would be a bit pants, or pleased to be seeing Swildon's properly. Also on the trip was a really tall bloke who had driven all the way from Glasgow for Cave Fest, so he could do some of the Mendip classics. He thought the entrance series was great, and massive compared to the caves in Scotland. I cheered up as soon as we turned off at the start of the round trip. I hadn't realised how much pipework has been put in to manage the water flow and sump levels. The mud sump had only recently been opened, but was really quite dry and rather pleasant, and we bailed the Troubles until there was plenty of airspace. The lanky Scot whose name I never did work out had no trouble at all with the Not-Birthday Squeeze, and the water in Sump 1 was remarkably clear. You could almost see the bottom. It was a really good trip, and completely restored my faith in the cave - except the wretched pots in the entrance series that you have to climb up, getting even wetter.

There were plenty of trips available, with extra ones being put on, and spaces becoming available as people changed their mind or hangovers dictated they change their plans. I did a couple of trips I had never managed to do over many club weekends. I had a good catch up with old friends and made new friends. It was a lovely weekend. I'm very glad I decided to go by myself. I will go next year by myself if nobody else can be persuaded to come along too.



CSS MEETS *by Helen Nightingale*

July 27th- 29th - North Wales - Parys Mountain

Staying at the Cave and Crag hut in Tremadag. There's a Mona-Parys through trip confirmed for Saturday-possibly with SRT to some lesser visited areas. This is a very interesting area both above ground and below ground, and there are some impressive snottites underground. Hafna Lead Mine is an option for Sunday's trip.

August 10th-12th - Daren Cocktail Party on the shores of St David's Sump.

A weekend of camping at Hard Rock Café, combined with my Hen Party. With cocktails and a disco at St David's beach, after caving to interesting and horrible places - Blue Greenies, Forgotten Passage, Helibeds - wherever anybody fancies. Dig prospecting, or tourism. Anybody prepared to go welcome, skirts and wigs optional.

August 24th-27th - Bank Holiday Weekend at Whitewalls and South Wales Cave Fest

The South Wales Cave Fest this year is being held in Crickhowell, so there'll be plenty of opportunity to join in with this event (see www.cavefestuk.co.uk for further details). There will also be the usual CSS caving

activities, plus a series of short talks about caving holidays/expeditions on Saturday evening.

September - Hidden Earth - Date T.B.C.

October 15th-21st - CSS trip to Mallorca

This will be a week-long caving holiday, to explore some of the many excellent and well decorated caves on the island. Most of the caves here require srt, but are not too technical. They are also much warmer than those in the UK, so there's no need for full caving kit. There's plenty of do above ground too, with top quality mountain walks and canyoning as well as beaches and sunshine. Contact Helen at if you would like to come.

October 27th-29th - SUICRO Irish Caving Weekend

November 2nd-4th - Whitewalls Bonfire Weekend

December - Curry Weekend -TBC.

January 25th-27th - Whitewalls Annual Dinner and AGM Weekend.

Upcoming SMWCRT Rescue Practices

by Paul Tarrant

Saturday 8th September - Whitewalls, Llangattock

Full scale training exercise in Agen Allwedd to rehearse all facets of a cave rescue incident.

Saturday 1st December - SMWCRT HQ, Penwyllt

Annual Big OFD Training Exercise – proposed cave rescue scenario in Ogor Ffynnon Ddu I.

All CSS members are welcome to join these exercises to gain experience of rescue procedures and use of the technical equipment the team use.

If you have any questions relating to Cave Rescue, Dan Thorne, Lisa Boore, Tom Foord and Paul Tarrant will be only too happy to give you answers.



SUNDAY SCHOOL APPEAL

Donations are being sought to help fund the renovation of the Old Daren Sunday School as a multipurpose building, involving renewal of the roof, construction of mezzanine sleeping areas, installing insulation and underfloor heating, a toilet, shower and kitchen area. The estimated cost of these works is £15,000.

Any amount, large or small, will be gratefully received by the treasurer. Please contact Gary Jones at chelseatreasurer@gmail.com if you would like to make a donation.





NEW LLANGATTOCK FORMATIONS

While on the working weekend, we were all quite surprised to discover that some kind of natural phenomena/eruption had occurred in the DIY cupboard since we were there last and Whitewalls had grown its very own formations! They have a beauty and colour to rival the “Blue Greenies”, but far easier to get to. An elaborate taping programme is being planned to protect these fine wonders.



Holiday Talk Evening

Bank Holiday Weekend – 25th-26th August 2018

As the club is planning a visit to Mallorca in October, we thought it might be a good time to reminisce about trips the club have enjoyed in the past.

If you have been away with CSS and can give a 10 to 15 minute chat about the trip that would be great. We will provide laptop, projector and screen.

Anything from the family trips to France, Montenegro, Norway, France with or without diving gear, China and other venues, or maybe even somewhere you think would make a future club trip, will be good. Popcorn will be provided!

Contact Mel via the forum or melrei@hotmail.co.uk to book your spot



Coniston Copper Mines. Photos by Matt Voysey.

