

Volume 64
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Jan/Feb/Mar 2022



Wookey Hole
Rampgill Mine
ODSS Progress
Aggy Bat Count

CHELSEA SPELÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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*Front cover: Wookey 24, downstream of Sting Corner
by Clive Westlake*

*Above: Mandy Voysey in Dali's Delight, Dan yr Ogof,
March 2022 by Matt Voysey*

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A Meets Secretary may be co-opted during the year if a suitable volunteer is found. In the meantime, the meets programme will be coordinated by the committee.

Editorial A massive thank you to everyone who supplied articles and pictures for this edition, and remember we **always** want more. Keep it coming!

Please submit all items for publication in this newsletter 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, the Facebook group and the club forum. Also, if you would prefer to go paperless and receive electronic copies of the newsletter by email in future let me know.

Editors: Matt and Mandy Voysey

CSS Annual Dinner Weekend



28th-30th January 2022 by Joe Duxbury

There was a good deal of caving done during this weekend. Several trips were made into Agen Allwedd, including the annual bat count, and Ogof Cnwc, Ogof Craig a Ffynnon and Eglwys Faen were also visited.

On Saturday the club's Annual Dinner for 2022 was held at the Old Rectory Country Hotel, a place where we haven't been for many years. For some reason, the local taxi company was unable to provide transport this year, so several people walked down (and back up again), and others were given lifts by people generous enough to abstain from alcohol. But everyone got there on time, and here are photos of the happy diners just before the food arrived.

I thought the dinner was very successful. There was plenty of food, it was well-cooked, and the veg came quickly. There was a small selection of beer on tap. After the dinner, Martyn Farr gave a talk on the recent visit by him and Rachel to Vietnam, primarily featuring Hang Son Doong, the world's largest cave, illustrated by stunning photos at his usual excellent standard. It was good to see Rachel vying for position as Miss Vietnam.



Photos by Joe Duxbury



Membership

Current rates:

Full: £30, Joint: £40, plus BCA subscription per person of £20 for cavers or £6 for non-cavers.

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.

Members who have BCA membership via another club need not pay twice but should reference their BCA number and membership club with their payment. Full membership information and an application form can be downloaded from the CSS website www.chelseaspelaeo.org

Subscription renewals become due 1st October yearly. Please send all payments to:

Andy Heath, 28 Brookfield Road, East Budleigh, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 7EL.

Email csstreasurer@chelseaspelaeo.org

A Trip to Rampgill Mine Horse Level

by Mandy Voysey



So, while sort of in the general environs of Nenthead while on holiday in Cumbria last September we thought we'd investigate one of the mines of the area. We had very little information about any of the mines here or what exciting trips could be had within them, but after a bit of internet browsing we opted for Rampgill as our destination of choice. The reason for this was that a) we had managed to find out where the entrance was, b) we also knew it to be unlocked and c) the photos I'd seen of it looked nice. A commonly photographed feature of the workings is the Horse Whimsey in Scaleburn Vein, which looked like as good a destination as any, so armed with a printout of a trip report plus a survey from AditNow we headed underground.

Something that surprised me about this mine was how soon formations are encountered, with flowstone of many shapes, textures and colours adorning the walls of the passage almost immediately. There was a good deal of variation in the stal scenery, showing that there must be a bounty of interesting minerals within the rocks. The growth rate must also be significantly faster than you get in the average cave. The walls and ceiling also changed as we went along and varied between exposed rock and neatly built walls and arches. One constant feature however, was the water which was generally somewhere between shin and thigh deep.

After wading along the straight passage for a while, we reached the first fork of the route. Here we headed right, down a very short level leading to Brewery Shaft. This shaft is apparently 100m deep from the surface down to Rampgill Deep Level and Nent Force Level where there are many artefacts and also one of only 2 waterwheels still in-situ underground (the other being in Ystrad Einion Mine in mid-Wales). I've heard that sometimes there are winch trips to the bottom, which must be quite an interesting descent. We however just peeped down and continued on our mission to find and photograph the Horse Whimsey. So after much more walking back along the straight passage we met the next parting of the ways. Our route was along the left-hand level which is the



Scaleburn Vein, and we knew we were definitely at the right place as there was a handy sign there to tell us so.

More strolling through shallow water followed, a bit like being on a conveyor belt with ever changing scenery presented as we went. The next notable feature was a flight of steps curving up to a higher level on the left. This seemed worth a brief investigation. These steps were installed so that the ponies that worked this level could be used on the level above too. This part of the workings is the Top Sills Level and is very different in character to everything encountered thus far. No more lofty heights overhead or neatly constructed arches giving a feeling of safety and security, instead everything is low, grey and looks decidedly crumbly. Much of the roof had big cracks and some of it had relocated to become the floor. We took the first passage on the left, to have a look at the sump as both our description and the hand-written sign told us that this was where it was. This led to a small chamber with a flooded shaft full of clear blue water. After this we nosed about the other workings for a short distance and spotted some nice formations that were like mini antlers mixed with some gory blobs. One day they may be large multi-limbed wonders like the Geryon, if the ceiling manages to stay up that long. We then decided to head back down rather than delve further in this area, as we still had a mission to accomplish and also the lower levels were decidedly more pleasant.

So back to Scaleburn Vein, which after a while reached a short crawl through a dug-out collapsed section before reaching the next fork. Here we turned left and were thrilled to find ourselves at the Horse Gin Room. Usually this kind of thing in mines would just have a few bits and pieces of wood and metal remaining, but this one still had the wheel (or whimsy) used for hauling up the shaft nearby. Hoorah, we'd succeeded in finding it and still had plenty of time left. So after taking some snaps and eating some snacks we headed on to see what other wonders were to be found in Scaleburn Vein. The answer to this is that we still don't know, as what we found was a low crawl with lots of dripping water and a sign warning of 'bad air' ahead. The date on this sign indicated that it had only been written a couple of months earlier so it seemed likely that the problem would still be remaining. Still it saved us the discomfort of a wet grovel, so we didn't really mind. We also knew there were loads of passages we could look at instead so we headed back to regain the junction at the start of the Scaleburn Vein and here we turned right to reach the other major veins of the Rampgill complex. A short distance of stomping brought us to Whisky Bottle corner, which also had a sign on it. A whisky bottle of some historical note used to reside on the stone pillar here, but unfortunately this got pilfered some time ago so now the exhibits are far more contemporary. Here we had the option of heading right to Hangingshaw Level or left to Rampgill Vein. We had no idea which one would be best, so opted for Rampgill as it looked bigger. This was again a really scenic mine passage full of visual interest and continued on in a sizeable easy-walking manner for quite a way. As the sound of falling water became louder we found ourselves in an engine room with a very large shaft. This is exactly the sort of thing that Matt is instantly drawn to and keen to lean right over for the maximum view of the depths below, while I grab his belt to prevent him from plummeting. Beyond this we were soon upon the NORPEX digs; a collection of low, shored up sections gaining access to the passage beyond areas of collapse. This starts with a sign saying 'NO ADMITTANCE except on business.' From here on the nature of the mine changed somewhat with a lot more in



the way of man-made structure and fewer formations. Much of the passage still had metal pipes running along the walls and there were sections where the walls had been stabilised with cement cladding. A bit further along we came across a ladder made of scaffold bars, this was only short, but at an unusual angle and quite bouncy. Obviously we went up it and got to a small working with a couple of artefacts and mounds aplenty of rusty orange coloured formations with a waterfall of white flowstone behind. This was quite nice. After this we continued on for a while passing though more NORPEX digs before deciding to call it a day. For all we knew this passage could continue for an eternity, and we weren't even sure that we hadn't strayed into one of the other mine workings connected with Rampgill. So we headed back and nosed into any passages that we'd missed along the way. Overall this was an amazingly easy trip, though I did find the final bit of wading through water on the way out to be rather taxing on the thighs, but I'm blaming this on the long walk over the fells the day before.

We'd spent a good number of hours in Rampgill and still left plenty more to explore. I'd recommend this mine as there are heaps of interesting and pretty things to see with minimum effort. Another bonus is the apparent stability of much of the workings that we saw, overall it seemed much less riddled with doom-laden boulders, sagging roofs, rotten timbers and false floors than many other mines we've visited. I'm sure we'll be back for a return visit.



Photo Captions

Page 4. Top: Top Sills Level - Bottom left: Yellow formations in Rampgill Level - Bottom Right: Stone-lined section of Rampgill Level.
 Page 5. Top: Stairway to Top Sills - Middle: Gory blobs and mini antlers in Top Sills - Bottom: Black and white formations in Sealeburn Vein.
 Page 6. Top Right: Chamber above the scaffold ladder - Bottom Left: The Horse Whimsey - Bottom right: Flowstone in Rampgill Vein.



How to get there - The Nenthead mines are located in the North Pennines AONB in Cumbria near the town of Alston. Nenthead itself is one of England's highest villages, surrounded by wild moorland completely riddled with mine workings. Rampgill Mine is very easy to find, just follow the signs to the Nenthead Mines visitor centre and look for the entrance at the end of the car park, on the left-hand side of the buildings there. The entrance to Capelcleugh Mine is also nearby, over a footbridge crossing the stream to the right of the car park, but this is apparently a much wetter affair and best tackled with a wetsuit.

See CSS Newsletter Vol. 60, Nos. 1-3 for Helen Nightingale's article about Rampgill and the Nenthead Mines.

Mendip Meet

On the 25th-27th February 2022, CSS headed to Mendip for a fun-packed weekend of caving starting with Friday evening trips to Land of Hope and Glory in Wookey Hole and an SRT rigging and short tourist trip in St Cuthbert's Swallet. Three very different leader trips to Charterhouse Cave, St Cuthbert's and Upper Flood Swallet were enjoyed on Saturday, followed by a gentler trip to Sludge Pit Hole on Sunday. The weekend also featured two visits to The Hunters' Lodge Inn and an excellent party at The Belfry celebrating Hannah Bennett's birthday on Saturday night.

Jemima Hanman descending Gour Passage Pitch in St Cuthbert's Swallet

CHARTERHOUSE CAVE

by Adrian Fawcett

Matt Chinner, Alex Randall and I met our leader for the trip, Clive Owen, at the GB layby at the appointed hour on Saturday morning. Charterhouse Cave had been on my 'to do' list for some years, but it seemed for a while that it might remain so...

As we were getting changed, Alex realised he had left his wellies behind at the MNRC hut and, not surprisingly, nobody else had a spare pair. An inconvenience – but not a showstopper. A few minutes later, Clive asked: "someone has brought a ladder, haven't they?" That brought back a vague recollection of something about tackle in an email from Mandy some weeks previous. Without a ladder, we'd be turning back early. So, Alex made a quick trip back to the hut to collect a ladder and his wellies.

Take 2, and we headed across the field to the cave entrance. Clive couldn't get his key to open the gate. I had a try, too. The key wouldn't go any distance into the lock – was it even the right key? Turned out that it wasn't. A phone call to Dave King soon established that the lock had been changed 3 years previously. A further call to someone in France confirmed that Clive was indeed a Charterhouse leader and was therefore entitled to borrow the MNRC's Charterhouse key, and Alex made a second trip back to the hut.

At last we were in. The cave starts as a meandering

crawl, in typical Mendipian style. A small stream is picked up, which is eventually gained by the GB streamway, and this is followed most of the rest of the way. The first part of the cave descends steadily, part of which is the longest vertical boulder choke I think I have ever seen – the sort of digging project rarely undertaken anywhere outside of Mendip. The 2008 extensions were well earned.

The streamway is quite pleasant for much of the way, with some good formations – particularly 'The Blades' where it is necessary to crawl carefully underneath. Further on, the streamway is impassable and it is necessary to follow a bypass. However, this contains a duck which needs to be drained first – using a well-engineered siphoning system. While waiting for the pool to empty, we made a short detour to see some more pretties.

The duck gives access to the 2009 extensions, and it is not long before Diesel Duck is reached. This used to be very wet, but the silt and gravel has become redistributed in recent times, and is now easily passable. Nevertheless, it was still quite wet today. Shortly afterwards comes another wet section that used to be an easy duck. Today, though – as far as we could see – it appeared to be sumped. As Clive had predicted, this would be the limit of today's trip. We were a bit over half way to the end of the cave – so there's plenty to come back for, after a long dry spell, that is.

St Cuthbert's Swallet

We left the hut at 10:45 and it was literally a 5 minute walk to the cave. I had been here before, but it was so long ago I had forgotten most of it. We closed the valve which controls the water flow into the cave; without it the entrance rift would be impassable. After a short ladder climb and crawl you are at the Entrance Rift. My recollections of it from years ago were not wrong; it was still tight, wet and horrible. If you are extremely thin and can go down sideways it was easy, but we all managed to get down without too much fuss. A couple of squeezes and a fixed ladder and you are at Arete Chamber. There are a couple of ways on, but we chose the less-used New Route and quickly came to Pulpit Pitch. Thankfully Mandy, Matt and Kieran had rigged it the night before which saved time. The take-off was not difficult and an airy wet descent of 18 metres followed. It would have been very wet if we had to go back up, but fortunately we were doing a round trip.

Once we were all down we set off down the very clean washed Gour Passage to Gour Passage Pitch, just as well that we had a rope as it was steep and awkward, but



Jon, Jann, Will, Mandy, Martin & Jemima at the entrance

by Martin Lloyd

everyone managed it. The passage continued in a similar way to the very wet Water Chute, where again the rope proved very handy. We continued someway until the passage lowered and the water disappeared through cobbles in a low arch with no way through. To our relief Mandy pointed to the aptly named Bypass Passage. This was literally a passage up over and around the choke. A bit tight and

awkward before you regained the main stream. Nice big passage but not for long, we soon came to the Stal Climb with an awkward traverse and climb down to regain the streamway. The climb was a bit tight on the lower section. I was first down and one way closed down and the other was horribly low and wet. It had to be that way of course; Sewer Passage. It was not very long and we arrived at the junction with normal route. Another very low wet bit (with a dead frog lying upside-down half way through) and we emerged at the foot of the Great Gours and were in the final section of streamway, the impressive Gour Rift to Sump 1. This was a beautiful section of well-washed streamway leading to a large



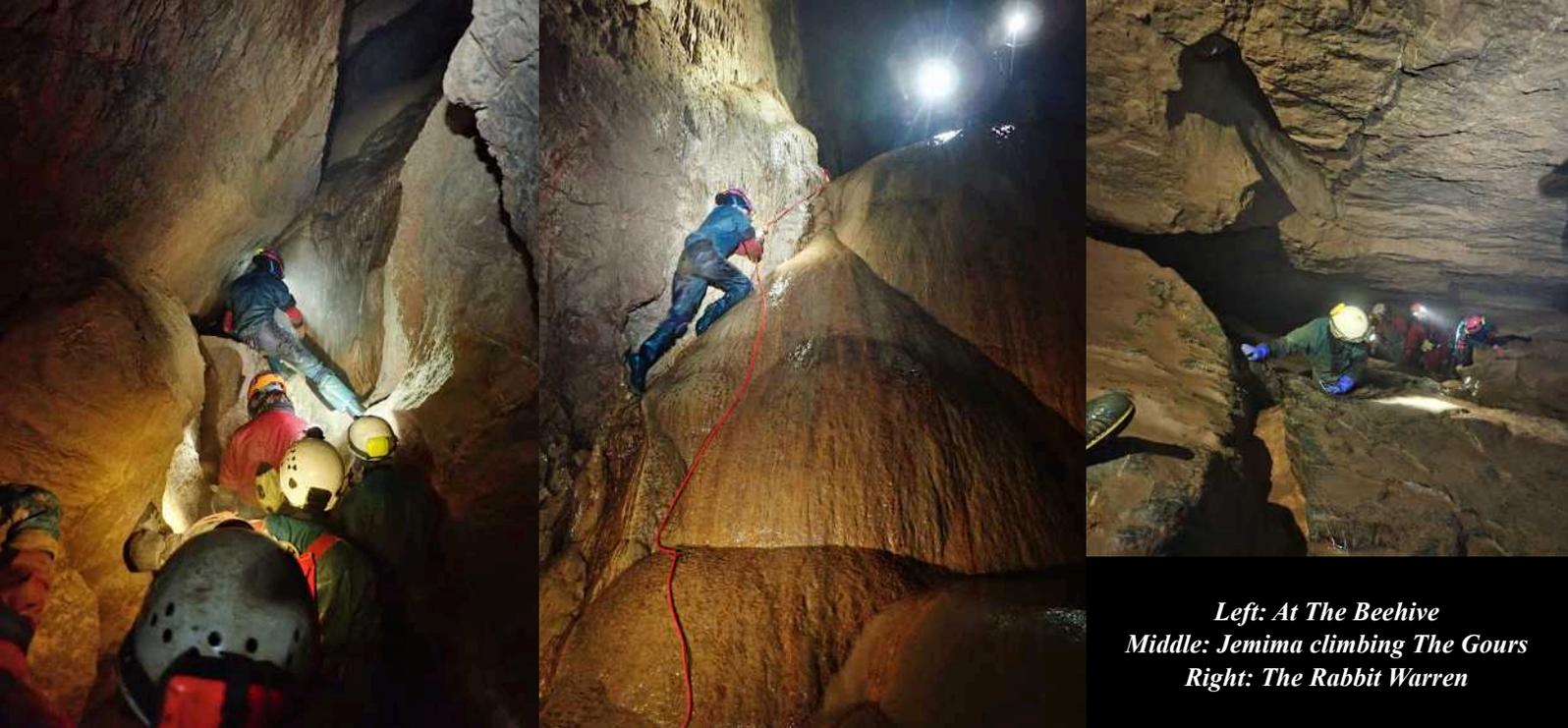
Left: Jann on Pulpit Pitch



Middle: Descending the Water Chute



Right: Jemima in the Main Streamway



*Left: At The Beehive
Middle: Jemima climbing The Gours
Right: The Rabbit Warren*

dam which had to be climbed over, the dams were built to hold back the water at this point.

On the return, to avoid the last wet crawl and dead frog we climbed up the Great Gours. A bit tricky as it was wet, but Mandy threw a rope down which helped. The Gours continued at the top of the climb and arrived at the other side of dead frog wet crawl. Then another tricky climb down a fixed chain back to Beehive chamber and its Beehive shaped stal and on to Plantation Junction, the alternative way out which we were taking.

A couple more tricky climbs and we were at the Rabbit Warren which did not deviate as far as its name suggests; a lot of ways on that go nowhere. We were going to the Dining Room for lunch but settled for lunch at the Railway Tunnel. After a quick bite and drink we were on our way. We looked at The Fingers formation, which are stals in a straight line, and then went to The Cascade, a big wall of white calcite, and on to Strike Passage to catch a glimpse of the impressive Curtain Chamber. We then continued out, first Boulder Chamber which had a really awkward climb. I would've gone the alternative very tight squeeze, but Jemima was the only person who could do it. We were on the 'Old Route' now and more boulder clambering to Pillar Chamber and the short

tricky climb to Mud Hall and the fixed ladder climb. We were now at the start of Wire Rift, but not a wire or traverse line in sight just a narrow very wet steep upward traverse. The trickiest section was to traverse over a very deep hole, the only protection was an old ladder placed over it, not nice at all. Two more fixed ladders up the Ledge Pitches and we had completed a round trip. An awkward retrieval of the rope at Pulpit Pitch and we were back at the dreaded Entrance Rift. The rift was now a torrent not a dribble as before but as they say; onwards and upwards. I was fourth to go. The ladder climb was horrible, I had to go up with one foot on the ladder and the other foot feeling for a foothold on the rock whilst the water was pounding down. Thankfully Jann was behind me stopping me sliding back down. The rest of the party quickly followed. We hauled the ropes and ladder up and were out after nearly five hours. All that was left to do was open the tap and watch a torrent turn into a raging 'Niagara Falls'. Impassable.

Thanks to Mandy and Matt for leading us.

Party: Mandy and Matt Voysey, Jann Padley, Jemima Hanman, Will Leszynski, Jon Abbot and Narrator: Martin Lloyd.





Two quid. It's better value than the Pepsi Challenge, but not as good as Nemesis. The screams of the passengers are very convincing, but I'm not sure that bloke is really a professional photographer...

Jann Padley - St Cuthbert's Swallet

Left: Jann at our lunch spot by the Railway Tunnel

Photos by Matt Voysey

An Uphill Struggle

by Andy Watson

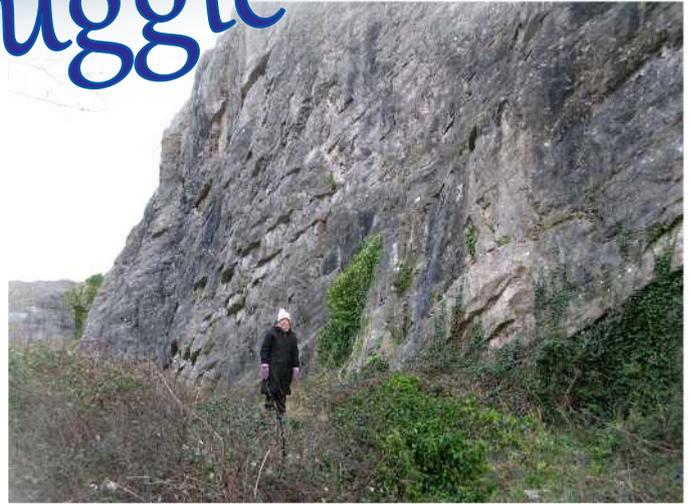
Looking for something to do and a walk to go on pre- New Year we drove from Andover to Weston-super-Mare to look for the small caves at Uphill, a 170 mile round trip. This was probably excessive, but as Covid-19 had restricted most activities it seemed like a good thing to do. WSM is on the far western end of the Mendip Hills with its long beaches. So along the M4, down the M5 to WSM and along to the village of Uphill at the southern end of the WSM bay. I had just begun reading a Christmas book/present the 'Mines of Mendip' by J W Gough 1967, and this suggests that Uphill was a Roman port for shipping lead mined upon Mendip and some Roman coins were found in Uphill Cavern and another hoard of Roman silver coins nearby in 1888.

So what is there to see at Uphill I hear you ask?

Well a small marina, lots of camper vans, a walking/cycle path (which is the start of the West Mendip Way, a footpath that apparently goes right through to Frome), St Nicholas' Church above the Uphill Quarry face with a great view looking out to sea and the base of an old windmill at the top of the nature reserve/SSSI area.

Uphill Cavern at ST 31514 58425 is the main cave of interest, of which only the back section remains with most of the cave having been quarried away.

The obvious entrance is now visible in the quarry face from the cycle path and it is well fenced off to stop people straying off the very popular walking and cycle route. The remaining cave entrance is about 1m high and 3m across and diminishes to a height of about 30cm at the back some 5m in. This may be an old sea cave when the sea level was higher or may have had some flow of fresh water drainage from the hill above, or a combination of both aspects? Lots of bones and historic remnants were found in the cave in the 1820s to 1860s or so, and it



Sue by the main quarry face

was probably a hyena den for some time judging by the chewed bones found then. The iron stained sandy infill is still found in the remaining cave. It is a careful brambly and fence challenge to get to the entrance and not really very easy with all the walkers, doggies and cyclists, I still have all the scratches and scars.

Most of the other caves have been completely quarried away: **Uphill Quarry Caves (UQC) numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10** cannot be located and are assumed as quarried away or lost/buried, most were quite small. The historic details can all be found

in Somerset Underground Volume 1 by Rob Taviner.

UQC 11 & 12 ST 31594 58328 are up the cliff face some 10m or so and are not accessible as they are within the securely fenced enclosure and you would need ladders to access these up the cliff, these may be worth a wriggle if you could get permission.

UQC 13 ST 31503 58439 is up in the quarry face behind the Uphill Wharf Café-Bar some 9m-12m off the quarry floor behind fencing and a very

overgrown area, but is probably accessible if you are very determined and this is the first cave you can see from walking along the cycle path from the road when you look back north along the quarry face after passing the nicely preserved lime kiln.

The South Quarry Cave so-called is in the shallow quarry behind the car parking area opposite The Dolphin pub and is now very overgrown and hard to identify exactly (see Somerset Underground Vol. 1 for details), but to be fair it was only a small blind alcove anyway.



St Nicholas' Church



Andy in Upton Quarry limekiln

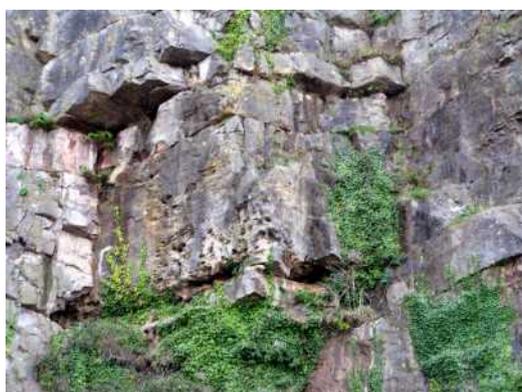
We drove back via Sandford, Churchill and up Burrington Combe but were disappointed not see the ice cream van at the top layby, but it was a very dull day, although Burrington was quite busy.



Uphill Cavern Entrance 1



Uphill Cavern Entrance 2



Uphill Quarry Caves 11&12



Uphill Quarry Cave 13

CSS MEETS 2022

April 22nd-24th – West Wales Weekend

Staying at the South Wales Caving Club hut in Penwyllt and including trips that are a little too far afield to be comfortably done from Whitewalls. Saturday's caving will include Llygad Lluchwr 1 and 2, and Tunnel Cave is a suggested trip for Sunday.

April 29th-May 2nd (Bank Holiday) – Whitewalls

Trips to be decided, but with plenty of caving options and other activities available there should be something for everyone.

May 23rd-29th – Yorkshire Week

A full week of activities in the Yorkshire Dales staying at the YSS hut from Monday to Sunday. The general plan is to have a range of trips for all abilities and maybe venture to some more unusual caves further afield, there's also scope to include some non-caving pursuits too. If you can't make the full week, then come along for a few days instead. Contact Adrian for more information

June 2nd-5th – (Bank Holiday) Whitewalls

Four days at Whitewalls and a mix of caving and work on the Old Daren Sunday school. Trips and task list to be decided closer to the time.

June 24th-26th – Whitewalls Summer BBQ

Caving trips TBD, followed by flames and food in the Whitewalls garden. As usual there'll be a barrel of beer, and BBQ accompaniments including buns, salad, spuds, sauces provided (for a small fee). Just bring your own meat/veggie lumps to cook on the BBQ.

July – North Wales (date and hut to be confirmed)

A weekend of mine exploration. For more information contact the meet organiser – Matt Chinner.

August 19th-21st – Whitewalls Family Weekend

A fun weekend of family friendly caving suitable for children. Note – This is a provisional date and may change.

August 26th-29th – (Bank Holiday) Whitewalls

Caving trips to be decided. Cavefest should also be happening this weekend and will be based in Crickhowell. CSS members may want to help out by leading trips, see Cavefest website for more information.

September – Hidden Earth

Date and venue yet to be announced.

September/October – Derbyshire Meet

Caves and accommodation to be confirmed. For more information contact the organiser – Andy Heath

November 4th-6th – Whitewalls Bonfire Weekend

Fire, frolics and caving fun. Caving trips to be decided, but it will include a range of options for all abilities. As usual there'll be a communal feast for after the fireworks, barrels of beer and a huge bonfire to enjoy.

December 2nd-4th – Whitewalls Curry Weekend

The annual evening of home-made culinary curry delights with a selection of caving trips on offer to work up an appetite. Bring along a curried concoction to share, be it a vat of curry, a spicy side-dish or some tasty sundries.

Additional trips may be added during the year, so check out the CSS website and members' ProBoards and Facebook page for updates.

Wookey Hole

Update

by Duncan Price



Since the discoveries in 2020 of several extensions to Wookey 20 (*'Land of Hope and Glory'* - CSS N/L Vol. 62, Nos. 7-9, p. 68-71 and *'Dry to 24'* - CSS N/L Vol. 62, Nos. 10-12, p. 97-101) there have been a few developments but no significant discoveries despite our best efforts. Immediately after the connection to 24 had been established the country was once again in a lockdown which was very frustrating for many of the digging team who had not had chance to see the results of their labours. Fortunately, restrictions were lifted just before Christmas 2020 just long enough for a tourist trip to 24 to take place. The cave was in full flood at the time and the normally dry passage downstream of Sting Corner was chest deep in water. Normal progress upstream would have been impossible, and I doubt that cave divers would have

been able to get to this part of the cave under these conditions. Fortunately, we had brought a ladder and were able to climb up into an oxbow on stream left which bypasses the river. An airy 10m free-hanging descent of the upstream end of the oxbow deposited us at the base of the rope climb up to the campsite. Here the water level was almost at the landing point: a good couple of metres higher than normal conditions. We did the trip in an evening, but it was apparent that more time is needed to visit this part of the cave and working trips here are best reserved for weekends.

In the Land of Hope and Glory, a lot of time was spent searching for potential sites to push onwards into the hillside. The impressive terminal rift chamber has a floor of large boulders with no obvious place to dig. Max Fisher and Tom Chapman



bolted up into the roof into what looked like a large inlet passage to find that it closed down in small tubes roofed by a layer of loose tea green marl. Several other climbs have been looked at as well as a squalid crawl down a hole in the floor of the large passage reached at the top of the climb out of the first rift chamber. This appears to be heading towards 'Pleasant Valley Sunday' in 24 – more about that later.

The breakthrough point into Land of Hope and Glory was dubbed (somewhat non-politically correct) 'Fuzzy Wuzzy Squeeze' although its dimensions have been adjusted to accommodate corresponding changes in dimensions of the digging team induced by COVID restrictions. This enters a rift chamber with a mobile rubble slope down to a 2m deep pot. This was dug to enter a few body lengths of inclined bedding developed in limestone rather than dolomitic conglomerate that the rest of the extension is formed in. This was too tight to follow any further, but a mud-filled vertical rift at the top of the pot headed west and seemed to have some air movement associated with it. Excavating this over the past 12 months has been the digging team's main interest with buckets of spoil being chained person to person back from the face. We are currently chiselling away at a calcite blockage with determined effort. It is obvious that the passage once took a large flow of water and given the tenacity of the group, we are not going to give in easily.

In July 2021 I was asked by Clive Westlake if I could arrange a photographic trip to Chamber 24. The show cave had allowed cavers to visit 24 since our breakthrough but had been charging £10 a head for the privilege. I said that I'd see if I could pull a few strings if Clive was able to share the photos with them and so Darren Chapman, Mark 'Bean' Easterling, Wayne Starsmore and I spent an enjoyable Sunday holding flash guns for Clive to recreate some photographs in colour that he'd originally taken in black and white during the 1980s. Since we had time on our hands, I persuaded Bean to climb into a few potential leads that I'd noted on previous diving trips to 24. None of them went anywhere except for a high-level passage on the opposite side of the river passage from the oxbow where the camp is. I had been into it many years ago whilst supporting a dive beyond Chamber 25 but had forgotten about it. It is not long but ends in a couple of digs and needs surveying properly.

At the top of the rope climb out of the river passage to the oxbow where the camp is in 24 lies a narrow rift passage which heads off to the west. This was first explored by Dany Bradshaw and Bob Cork who surveyed it to the top of a climb which was later descended and pushed further by Martin Bishop and Rob Harper who dubbed it 'Pleasant Valley Sunday.' I'd resurveyed the passage with Josh Bratchley to the top of the climb but knew that there was more beyond. A trip was arranged for the August Bank Holiday Sunday for Tom Chapman, Nick Hawkes and I to push on. Tom made short work of the climb and was able to guide Nick and I through a squeeze which bypassed the airy start of the 20m descent to a mud floored passage which obviously floods in wet weather. Having read previous reports I



spotted the way on up a climb up into a narrow rift which brought us to a T-junction on the limestone/conglomerate boundary. This seemed to a good point to start to survey out while I dispatched Nick along the continuing rift to see how far it went while Tom made a difficult climb down into a blind chamber which he describes as being like the bedding plane feature in Beginner's Luck on the route between 20 and 24. Plotting the survey data later confirmed that this part of the cave lies on the same line of development and it might be worth further investigation. Having brought a long crowbar with us, Tom and Nick made short work of modifying the top of the climb so that the next visitors should have a less buttock-clenching manoeuvre to get down. Unfortunately, the heights and general trend of the passages don't suggest a link with Land of Hope and Glory which might not be a bad thing.

One of the things that I had been keen to do since making the dry connection with 24 was to do a circular trip though Wookey Hole by caving to 24 and then diving out. Given the nature of the routes this seemed the easiest direction to go as the climbs to get to 24 would only have to be descended. I needed someone to bring diving gear to 24 for me to exit and ideally, we could do it as an exchange trip if they were keen enough to take the awkward way out. Max Fisher had been my accomplice for much of the work making the connection from the 24 side and has been down to the sump in 23¾ (the other end of the link) so mostly knew the route. He agreed to wear my diving gear to 24 and meet me at the campsite there before going out via 20. On 3rd December 2021 we did the first exchange trip. Josh Bratchley had just come along for a dive, leaving me to cave to 24 wearing a diving wetsuit under an oversuit for protection whilst Max just wore an old wetsuit that he didn't mind getting trashed. I had to go slower than usual up to 20 not to overheat and had a worrying moment in Beginner's Luck when I couldn't find the way through a boulder choke (Max reckoned that it has moved since we discovered it). Reaching camp, I found that Max had beaten me by a few minutes since I had stopped to film my progress en route. After a hot drink we parted company at Sting Corner and I dived out all of the way to the Resurgence where I found Max already waiting for me (he had some route finding issues as he'd not done the entirety of the sump bypass before). On balance we think the overland route is probably quicker than diving, but diving is much easier...



Wookey 24 approaching the upstream sump - photo by Clive Westlake



Duncan and Max after doing the exchange trip on 3rd December 2021 - photo by Josh Bratchley

Previous page photos by Clive Westlake

*Page 12 - Wookey 24 downstream of Sting Corner
Page 13 - The River Axe, upstream of Sting Corner*

OLD DAREN SUNDAY SCHOOL

LOOKING BACK AND FORWARD

by Mike Read

Looking back it was summer 2017 when we started work on the Sunday School; although it wasn't until 2018 that we really got stuck in with the rising sewer and new septic tank. It's strange how the mind gets used to changes and it's easy to forget how much has been achieved in the 4-5 years since. Looking at the photos we've accomplished a huge amount and lots of people have contributed, including passing cavers collared to help move the tank. The downside to drainage works is that when complete all you see are a few manholes, and once the grass has grown you can easily forget all the work involved. The only tell-tell sign is when everything keeps settling and you have to top up the trench line several times.



Installing the septic tank

In order to maximise the available space within the building the thick back wall of the porch was removed and steel beams installed. This proved quite challenging due to the loose state of the rubble walls which made supporting the gable wall above very difficult. During these works it was found that the timber beam above the old doorway 'had seen better days'.

2019 saw a far more dramatic change with the roof replacement. The old roof was sagging and had no insulation, and the rafters were significantly undersized. The old ones were 75mm deep compared with the compliant at 150mm, admittedly the old ones did benefit from sagging purlins but these reduced the headroom space. The deeper timbers also provided space for insulation and air space between them. To meet Welsh building regs and to reduce future heating and greenhouse gas emissions we also laid insulation over the top of the rafters. The roofing session saw a good number of members spending a full week working on the project. The slating took several more sessions to complete but now looks great and will keep out both rain and squirrels. There was a great turn out from the club and lots of people put in a huge amount of work. I don't believe there are many clubs that could achieve what CSS did. Whilst the scaffolding was up quite a lot of the stone work was repointed although there are still more low-level areas to complete.



Rebuilding the roof

With the place now watertight, works moved indoors with the construction of the toilet and shower walls. This really changed the feel of the building interior and the place shrunk inside, but essential to get the building approved for use as a bunk room.

2020 saw works to insulate the floor where we required at least 60mm of insulation. To preserve the headroom we could have broken up the old concrete slab and dug out for a new slab and insulation. This would have been a lot of work and expense, and would result in the finished floor being very close to the surrounding ground levels. It wasn't until we started to lay the insulation that we realised how much out of level the old floor was. There was over 75mm fall from the fireplace towards the kitchen area. We did retain a small fall towards the door but this required twice as much insulation in the kitchen area than the area adjacent to the fireplace. Placing the screed took much longer than expected largely due to the coarse sand supplied. Energy levels were totally depleted by the time we reached the door and well into beer drinking time.



Levelling the floor

Placing insulation on the floor involved full sheets of Celotex, whilst placing insulation between the rafters was a much slower process as each piece had to be accurately cut to the correct width with tapered cuts at top and bottom. Battens were fixed to the walls and packed out to achieve a flat surface for the wall insulation. First fix electrics were then placed with sockets packed out to match the finished surface. This meant that the wall insulation had to be cut to match the various boxes.

Plaster board was then screwed through the insulation into the wall battens. Whilst the location of the battens was recorded in advance there were several areas where we struggled to find the battens and required several attempts. Just like trying to pin a tail on the donkey blindfolded.



The battened and insulated walls

Then came covid and work slowed down. Whilst doing some work for Peter in connection with the Heads of the Valleys road scheme I did manage to find time to install the new sash windows. This proved quite challenging on my own in sub-zero temperatures, but the benefits were immediately apparent. As restrictions eased, we continued with a number of small working parties. The building inspector suggested that it may be prudent to install a sprinkler system. Whilst not mandatory for refurbishment it is a requirement for all new builds. Unfortunately, the decision was rather late as Adrian had been methodically fixing all the plaster board. Whilst demoralising taking down the plasterboard, I am sure in time we will be very pleased that we made the decision. All the pipe and sprinkler heads are now installed and we are now ready to get the company back to commission the system.

The walls and ceiling have now all been plastered. This took quite a long time as an amateur, but hopefully a bit of sanding and filling will produce an acceptable finish. Joe, Adrian and Roy have applied the mist coat and a first coat of white emulsion. The colour scheme has yet to be discussed but all white is clearly too much!!! Meanwhile outside Andy has made a good job of the wood store where the old water tank used to be hidden behind the rusty corrugated metal sheets. With more funds available it was decided to go for a paved patio area. This required the surrounding walls to be rebuilt to ensure there was



Andy in the new wood shed

minimal settlement which could lead to the paving slabs cracking.

The old inner door threshold has now been relocated to the new external door. As internal works switched from heavy construction to decoration it became apparent how much sheep shit etc was being walked in, so we now have an external grill and pit to remove the worst and it is intended to leave a recess in the tiles for an internal floor mat.

In 2021 it was decided to purchase a wood burner and this has now been installed and certified. The stove, even with a small fire, certainly warms the place nicely and makes it more cosy. We have also assisted John with some ‘tree management’ which gives more light in his garden, improves the view from the Sunday School and will provide firewood once seasoned and dried in the shed.

The primary heating for the building will be the underfloor heating mats. These will take a short while to



Fitting the underfloor heating

warm up so it is likely that a fan heater may be required in the cold winter months when a group arrives when the building has not been used for a while. While working we have found that just one fan heater soon brings the temperature up to a comfortable level. There are actually two heating mats which will be linked together, which means we’ve been able to divide the tiling into two phases. There are 10mm insulation mats under the heating coils to help speed up the heating of the tiles. Having primed the concrete screed, the insulation is glued down and allowed to dry before priming and sticking down the heating coils. Clearly it is vital that the wire is not damaged so the resistivity is checked regularly whilst working on the floor – it is easy to get paranoid and keep checking. The heating wires must not cross or go under furniture so it takes a while to decide the laying pattern. Once fixed down the heating mats are covered with levelling compound to reduce the risk of damage during tile laying. The wires are only just covered so great care must still be taken. The 600mm square tiles aren’t exactly light and getting the correct amount of glue under them is crucial if you want flush joints, and just to make things a little trickier, we’ve opted for a staggered pattern. Once the tile is laid down it is hard work trying to lift it up again if you get the wrong amount of glue.

We have now laid and covered one of the two heating mats which still records the correct resistance. Andy has also grouted up this section.

With muddy conditions prevailing, outdoor shoes were banned inside during the laying – nothing other than mud sticks well to mud!

The next session of tiling will be rather tricky as we need to work our way out along the hallway – I can see a ladder being put up and using the windows. Hopefully this will be completed by the time you read this.



Laying the floor tiles

The chief electrician Gary and apprentice Helen have also been busy installing sockets and lights. It's great to be able to use a switch on the wall to turn on the lights rather than try and find which extension lead has a light on the end and reaches the sockets. Also, there are now far fewer dangling wires, but they are keeping us on our toes as the ring is not yet complete so you have to be in the know as to which sockets actually work.

There is still a lot to do, but the building is definitely taking shape. One of the big jobs left is finalising the line and level of the path down from the tram way. It is intended to lay a concrete path with a light tamped finish

to provide some grip and reduce the amount of muck on shoes. We should have done this before laying the floor as it was extremely slippery wheeling the tiles down and it was amazing there were no breakages. Laying the path is currently scheduled for the Jubilee working weekend and help will be much appreciated.

Tiling of the shower and toilet has yet to be undertaken along with the plumbing. There will also be quite a lot of work installing the kitchen, cupboards and shelving. We also need to sort out ladders and guard rail for the mezzanine level. Andy will resume work on the patio once the weather improves. His last session was 'rather damp' which made getting the correct levels for the capping extremely challenging. We also need to dig out and lay type 1 stone for the patio. This will need to be well compacted prior to laying the paving stones.

Working group sizes are inevitably small – it is surprising how with just three people you get in each others way. Working in the hallway is a pain when others are going in and out and it is a risky business going up to the mezzanine level as somebody is likely to move the ladder to the other side out of their way. There will be more opportunities as summer approaches. I am compiling a list of jobs for the Jubilee weekend although a lot of these will focus on Whitewalls. I will circulate the list in due course but apart from the path I would like to try and install some of the new windows in Whitewalls. Some will be relatively easy with just some localised trimming to square up the stone but others will require some new stone work. Please contact me if there is a specific task that you think needs doing or you have a burning desire to undertake.

See page 23 for an important progress update!

Stay Connected

In addition to this printed newsletter, the club website and the monthly E-newsletter email, the club has two online members-only communication groups.

The CSS Message Board (<https://cssmembers.proboards.com>) is a vintage style web forum which has been running since 2008 and has clocked up well over 3,000 posts from club members. Stay up to date by getting it to send you notifications of new posts by email: To do this log in and click on the Profile button in the top menu bar to view your user information, then click on the Edit Profile button. On the next page click on the Notifications tab and change the Notification Type for New Thread and New Post to 'instant'.

The club has a private Facebook group too (<https://facebook.com/chelseaspelaeo>), created in 2019. This is a much easier place for general chat, arranging ad hoc trips and events, and for posting pictures, news, videos etc. Most of the active club members have now joined this group, but please remember to cross-post to the ProBoards forum if you want your message to reach everyone.

The image shows three screenshots from the CSS Message Board website. The first screenshot shows the top navigation menu with 'Profile' highlighted. The second screenshot shows the user profile page for 'MattV' with 'Edit Profile' highlighted. The third screenshot shows the 'Edit Profile & Settings' page with the 'Notifications' tab selected, showing notification settings for 'New Thread' and 'New Post' set to 'instant'.

AGGY BAT COUNT 2022

by Peter Smith

I counted the Agen Allwedd bats on Saturday 29 January 2022 with John Newton and Tim Morgan. This is the usual annual count on the club's AGM weekend. Unusually, John Stevens was not with us on this occasion but a week later on 5 February 2022 he counted the bats in Ogof Cnwc and found 196 lesser horseshoe bats and three greater horseshoe bats present. John and I both hold Natural Resources Wales bat licences covering us to carry out these surveys.

The January 2022 survey gave a high count being 853 lesser horseshoe bats overall, so just 4 short of the January 2019 all-time high count of 857. The count on the regular route was 847 lesser horseshoe bats, which is an all-time high, beating the equivalent 2019 count by 2 bats. There were 709 lesser horseshoe bats on the regular route in 2020, so it was pleasing to find that was a temporary dip. No count was made in 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

There were also 3 greater horseshoe bats, all without rings so far as I could see, though the one in Angel's Roost was turned such that I couldn't tell for certain if it was ringed or not without disturbing it. One of the greater horseshoe bats was in North Wing – a very long way in for that species. Previously we had not recorded any greater horseshoe bats beyond First Choke. There may be an alternative bat flight route into that part of Aggy.

There was also one crevice bat, which Tim spotted in the entrance series. It was so deep in a crevice that it was hard to be sure of the species. We were a bit short of time and didn't spend time carefully searching crevices in the entrance passages. We would normally check the start of Guano Passage until stopped by risk of disturbance to bats in the low passage. However, there was a bat roosting on the rope on the climb up that would have been disturbed if I had proceeded there so no entry was made to Guano Passage.



Greater Horseshoe Bat artwork by Mark 'Gonzo' Lumley

Mark Lumley 2022

Date: 29/01/2022 – Recorders: P. Smith, J. Newton, T. Morgan

	Lessers	Notes	Other Bats
Old entrance in to old gate	-		
Old entrance out to old gate	1		
Entrance to trays	0		
Trays to toolshed	7		
Toolshed (junction with Ogof Gam) 65m	22		
Toothpaste Tube	4		
Toolshed to Stream Passage Inlet 65-230m	27		1 crevice bat
Stream Passage Inlet	1		
Stream Passage Inlet to First Choke 230-400m	223		1 gtr hs
High Level Passage (not entered) 255m	0		
Guano Passage (not entered)	3		
Guano Passage (entered short way until bat in the way)	-		
Angel's Roost (to start of final crawl) 280-370m	159		1 gtr hs
Queer Street 240-370m	46		
First Choke	0		
First Choke to Southern Stream 400m-	215		
Southern Stream to Trident Junction -1310m	77		
Trident Junction to and including Music Room 1310m-	20		
Southern Stream Passage (start only)	9		
Erse Passage 65-645m	14		
Trident (start only)	10	f	
Music Room to North Wing -1525m	10		1 gtr hs
Far end of Angel's Roost after long crawl	4		
Midnight Passage	-		
Main Stream Passage – start only	1		
Main Stream Passage, 2nd Choke to Main	-		
Sand Caverns	-		
Sum overall	853	f	3 gtr hs, 1 crevice bat
Sum on regular route only *	847	f	3 gtr hs, 1 crevice bat

* Cave regions and counts in yellow are those included in the regular survey route since Sean Heaver commenced his bat surveys in December 1981, though Angel's Roost and Guano Passage were not included until 2 years later.

f = including one flying

lessers: lesser horseshoe bats (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*)

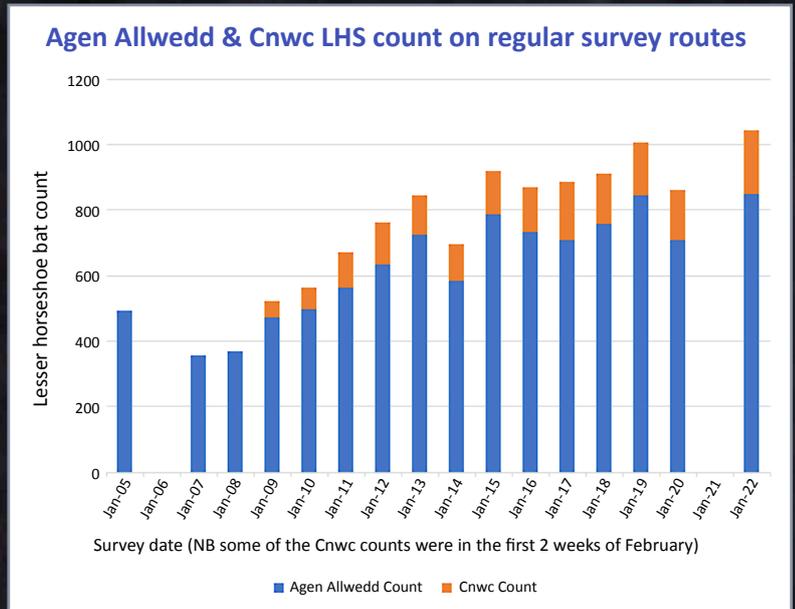
gtr hs: greater horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*)

crevice bat: bat so deep in crevice that species ID uncertain

AGGY & CNWC BAT COUNT RESULTS 2005-2022

Agen Allwedd and Cnwc Lesser Horseshoe Counts on Regular Survey Route		
Month/Year	Agen Allwedd	Cnwc
Jan 22	847	196
Jan 21		
Jan 20	709	152
Jan 19	845	163
Jan 18	757	153
Jan 17	708	176
Jan 16	732	136
Jan 15	785	135
Jan 14	584	112
Jan 13	726	119
Jan 12	635	125
Jan 11	562	109
Jan 10	497	67
Jan 09	471	51
Jan 08	370	
Jan 07	357	
Jan 06		
Jan 05	493	

* NB Some Cnwc counts were in the first 2 weeks of February



Data and chart compiled by Peter Smith

New OFD Callout System

by Helen Nightingale

Many of you will, I'm sure, have been used to turning up at SWCC on a Saturday morning, and wandering around trying to find a warden to issue you with a key for OFD, followed by filling in bits of paper for the familiar peg board for callouts. Covid has meant this system is no more, and keys need booking in advance.

Info on how to request a key can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/swcc-ofd-access>

You will be given a key code to access the changing rooms, and a code for the key box allocated to you, which can be found near the men's changing room. There are now 12 visitor's keys, so there's no need for 2 groups to share 1 key and risk being told off for more than 6 people going on a trip. One word of advice – don't stick the door code on your phone, then go caving and leave your phone in the changing room, completely forgetting the code. This tends to result in getting very cold.

Instead of filling in the bits of paper for the peg board, there is now a new app for callouts, which can be monitored by wardens from the comfort of their sofas at home. It's called Digital Destination Board, and is available from Google Play for Android. You just enter all your trip details and group info into the app, and then tell the app when you've exited the cave. Just don't forget to do the cancelling the callout bit, or you'll have the police out looking for you.



Wendy Camp Cleared!



by Mandy Voysey

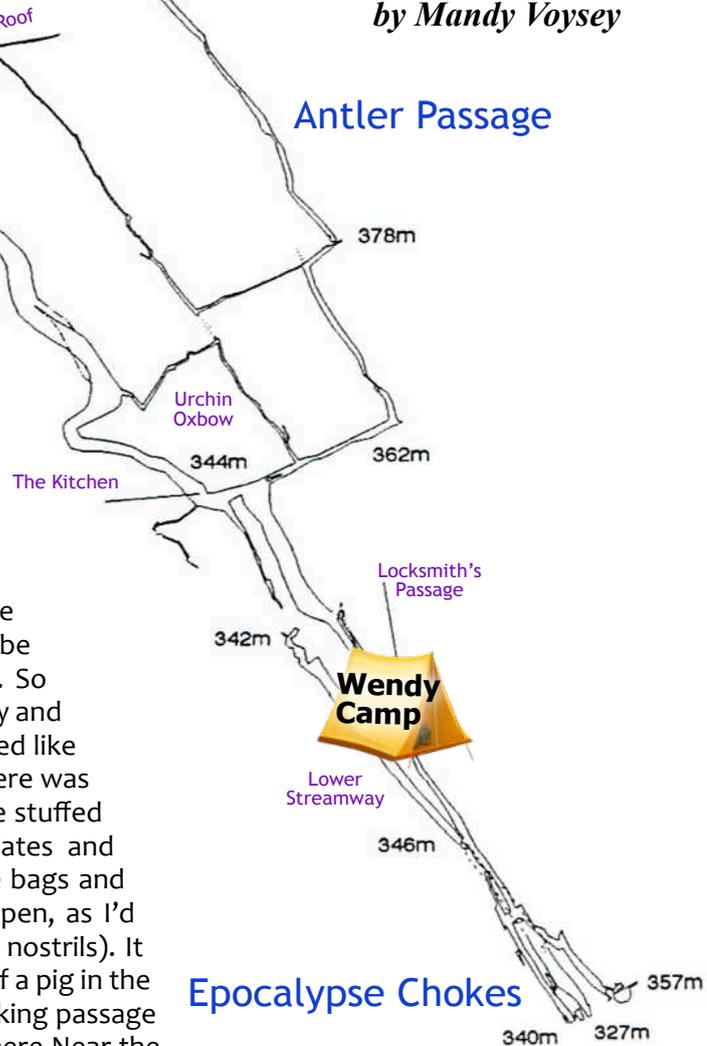
Epocalypse Way

The Epocalypse Chokes area of Daren Cilau is now back to being a place of resplendent wonder devoid of all rotting camp detritus from yesteryear, as the remains of the long abandoned 'Wendy Camp' has been completely cleared.

It had been at the back of my mind for a while that it would be a good idea to do this, and I'd also concluded that it could be achieved relatively easily on a day trip with enough people. So when Charles Bailey, Adrian Fawcett, Alex Randall, Matt Voysey and I planned a Cnwc-Daren through trip on 15th January, it seemed like a good opportunity to put this into action. As it happened, there was a lot more to clear than we'd all expected, but undeterred we stuffed all manner of rotting fabrics, cooking equipment, cups, plates and general knackered looking camping paraphernalia into tackle bags and rubble sacks and gathered all the BDH's (which we didn't open, as I'd done that once before and discovered a smell that burnt my nostrils). It worked out as 2-3 bags or drums per person, which was a bit of a pig in the crawl back to Antler Passage, but not too bad in the easy walking passage beyond. We then dumped half the load in Big Chamber Nowhere Near the Entrance with an explanatory sign and exited with a bag each through the Entrance Series.

I believe some of the remaining pile may have been taken out by good-spirited cavers, but the remainder was cleared from Big Chamber by Matt and I on a day trip on 19th February with some much appreciated help from Oli Hill, Alex Hannam and Callum Simmonds from the Shepton Mallet Caving Club who very generously took out the remaining BDH's – and hopefully survived the smell if they opened them.

Thank you very much to everyone that helped.



HRC Daren Camp Dates

April 8th-10th

June 10th-12th

September 9th- 11th

November 18th-20th

As always, digging is the primary focus of these camps and we have a number of interesting projects going on. New diggers are always welcome.

For further information contact Mandy (mandola76@gmail.com), Adrian (adrianfawcett@outlook.com), or any other member of the Daren Diggers team.



Hard Rock Cafe by Mark 'Gonzo' Lumley

A TO Z of Caves

Part 3
by Andy Watson

S. Scragg's Hole, West Mendip -

On Crook Peak, kind of behind Denny's Hole, and a good place to have a bath (see pic). This is a cave/rock shelter that's rarely visited and also near Foxes Hole. The Entrance is a rift beside the footpath covered with short logs to stop doggies falling in. I once found some dodgy European pornography that had been dumped down the entrance rift when I went to see if it was worth digging! No doubt no one will believe this story.



Scragg's Hole entrance and tin bath inside



Pom pom formation in Tween Twins

and is now gated with some good pretties. See CSCC for an approved leader.

U. Upper Flood, Mendip -

In Velvet Bottom, Ubley Warren Nature Reserve. Leaders for this cave can be arranged via MCG. Quite a lovely trip if I recall, with pretty formations. Two knee pad layers advised for the long rocky stream way crawl.

V. Vallis Quarry Cave, Mendip -

Located near Frome in the Egford Brook valley. To find the cave, park at the bottom then go into the first fenced quarry on the right of the public footpath. On the right-hand side of the quarry, at the base of the cliff face near some graffiti, is the entrance crawl. It was gated, but the padlock is



Sue near Neverland, Upper Flood Swallet



Sue at Vallis Quarry Cave entrance



Vallis Quarry Cave fossils

often broken off, so it's mostly open access - you will need to check. Inside a crawl leads to 3 quite good chambers with lovely fossilised scallops in the red muddy Oolite. If you walk up through the quarries you'll see the unconformity of Oolite over Carboniferous limestone.

W. Welsh's Green Swallet, Mendip -

Quite a fun cave with two short pitches (1 ladder each), then a climb down into a muddy hands and knees crawl. This is one of Sue's favourite Mendip caves. We did the pitches in fairly high water once, and at the second one Sue went down first and the water hit her on the head and went down inside her yellow waterproof oversuit and out via her feet. It was most amusing. I decided to move the ladder over a bit to be out of the water before descending, but then it was a bit too wet to go down the short climb and along the muddy crawl. If there is very high water in the muddy crawl, apparently the water can back up behind you as you crawl along. Then you'd have to turn around in the March of the Gherkin's, the first aven on your left.



Ray and Ann covered in mud in Welsh's Green Swallet

X. The X Roads in Eastwater, Mendip (a bit of a cheat) -

A good trip from here is to turn left up the side passage, then turn left again to reach the free climbable Dolphin Pot. This is 10m and best rigged with a bit of rope 15m, as it's a bit of a 'what's it' to get back up from the bottom chamber to start off with! Then go through the sloty bits and a left turn to ladder the 35ft Pitch, which has an awkward take-off point but is a good photographic pitch from the bottom with someone climbing the ladder.



Ralph at the bottom of the 35ft Pitch, Eastwater

Photos by Andy Watson

Y. Yogi Pot, Mendip

Access is being lost shortly to this lonely, short, free-climbable pothole due to the adjacent Westdown Quarry re-opening again. A very constricted horizontal dig of about 60 foot with a strong draught even when dry before it closes down at a tight right-hand bend. This is a strong resurgence in Asham Wood Quarry in the winter, and it floods to the roof completely in wet weather - if the bottom of the pot hole has water in it when you drop a pebble down it don't bother trying to descend. The water pressure then can be so great it humps in the middle at very high flows. You may need to dig out the sandy sediment that collects at the bottom of the pot to get in, even then it's a bit Houdini like, and rather flat-out, but just manageable through to a crawly bit and not easy to turn round.



Yogi Pot entrance



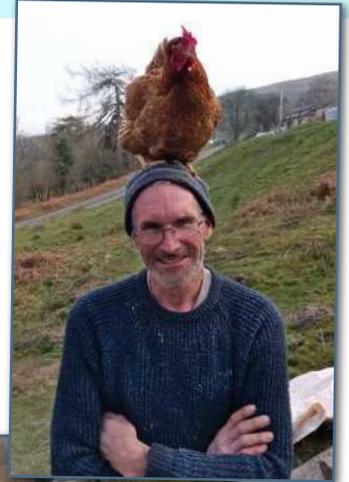
Zulu Cavelet side chamber

Z. Zulu Cavelet, Mendip - A bedding chamber collapse to the left of a Neptunian Dyke in Cloford Quarry, I tore my first MNRC rugby shirt looking in here, wearing full caving kit, honest!

If anyone else has an idea for an A to Z of their own, then please send it in as we'd like to see it!

OLD DAREN SUNDAY SCHOOL - UPDATE

Work continued on the ODSS floor with Mike, Andy and John putting in plenty of hard graft to complete the task of laying the flooring from 28th March - 2nd April. Here are some photos sent in during that week of the team's progress.



Photos by Mike Read

CSS Yorkshire Week 2022

Monday 23rd - Sunday 29th May

Come along for as many days as you like and enjoy a mix of trips for all abilities and inclinations. We may also visit a cave or two in more outlying areas and there's plenty of options for anyone wanting a day off from caving too.

Trip suggestions are welcome, so if there's anything in particular that you'd like to do, let Adrian know.

