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Journal 340
January 2017





EDITORIAL

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Every journal seems to throw up a new challenge; 340 started with one. Mark Burkey's fabulous shot, looking up from below the Dihedral ledge, simply had to be our front cover. The challenge was to add the Wessex title elements without detracting from the composition. The associated note from Duncan Simey reveals that this was the high note of his personal EuroSpeleo. Further on, Connor Roe describes how the Wessex contributed to the EuroSpeleo advance rigging in Ireby Fell Cavern, and if there are any further articles from EuroSpeleo they would be most welcome. It's hard to imagine that the 17th International Congress of Speleology (17th ICS) in Sydney will generate a similar level of mass participation..... Sydney is a long and costly journey from Europe.

Needing his permission to use his Gaping Gill photographs, I contacted Mark Burkey, suggesting that the Wessex Journal would now be an ideal publication to showcase more of his work. Bearing in mind that Mark is not a Wessex member, had just won the EuroSpeleo premier award, and is, by any standards one of the world's foremost cave photographers - scarcely in need of further publicity - this was a cheeky suggestion, to put it mildly. To my delighted astonishment he immediately gave me permission to reproduce any of his work, and access to his entire portfolio. His photograph of Duke Street in Ireby Fell Cavern on page 191 makes an ideal complement to Connor's article and photographs.

History may not repeat itself, but the Wessex is acquiring a reputation as THE place to announce an engagement. Following on from Rich and Adrea (Journal 337) we offer our congratulations and felicitations to Duncan and Miri. It's difficult to imagine a more dramatic proposal than Duncan's: more on page 177.

Noel

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**Volume 34
Journal 340
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**Cover: Gaping Gill
Dihedral descent.
Photo: Mark Burkey**



MORE FROM EUROSPELEO



Duncan Simey reports: “While descending Dihedral into Gaping Gill, I proposed to Suvi Miri Päivikki Pihlaja. She accepted my proposal we are now living in Ousel Lodge, Priddy.



Photo: Mark Burkey

Ed: Given the presence of Mark to photograph the occasion, it may not have been entirely spontaneous. “Well I just hanging around not doing much at the time.....” But on that subject, where and how was Mark himself hanging??

Duncan “Taken in Porvoo when I flew to Finland to fetch Miri :)”

Oh... in the photo you can see I'm wearing a ring. Finnish custom is that the bloke gets to wear an engagement ring too. The bride gets the expensive ring at the marriage ceremony.





As part of the preparations for Euro Speleo 2016, I (Connor Roe) volunteered on behalf of the Wessex Cave Club to rig Irbey Fell Cavern. The aim was to have it rigged the weekend before the event, which resulted in myself and two other WCC members (Tom Chatterton and Maria Lynch) heading to the lands of the North, once I had fuffed around with the ropes that were less than ideal.

It was to be one of those times, when all seemed to be against us, but we somehow pulled it out of the bag. The ropes were all the wrong length, as per CNCC guide. I had not managed to sort out the ropes till the weekend before going, along with me forgetting my descendeur and another member their furry. However, the trip went as well as we could have hoped. With the ropes not being ideal we made a plan which would involve cutting ropes, using

vast amount of optimism and generally causing havoc.

Finding ourselves at the entrance, we were determined to get the cave rigged to a high standard, for with lots of cavers coming from overseas we



wanted to set good standard for the WCC.

Using the longest length to rig Ding, Dong and Shadow then making the most of what lengths of rope we had to cover the rest. This end up with one of the team cutting the rope at the bottom of Dong. It was then decided that we should rig the rest of the cave before completing Shadow, so with much haste we headed down to get the string in for both Pussy and Well. With one of our team members feeling a touch cold already (they had forgotten their furry!) it would be myself and Tom polishing off the last section, while Maria headed back to rig up shadow! I decided that the sun was calling my name and left them to it.

Seeing as we had driven all that way, we decided to make a weekend of it on the Sunday. As we knew that both Alum and Dican were rigged, we could not miss the chance to do a tackle-bag free exchange of these to fantastic systems.

Having massively enjoyed the grand event, I have had nothing but positive feedback. Which is saying something, because I

have heard lots of complaining about other caves!

Connor Roe

(Photos: Connor Roe)

The 8th. Annual J-Rat Award

FESTERING PAYS OFF!

The 2016 J-Rat Digging Shovel was held on 19th November at Priddy Village Hall. A joint event to celebrate 80 Years of the MCR the evening was well attended, including an opening welcome by local MP James Heappey. Presentations were given by a number of local digging teams including Hobnail, Tankard Shaft, Vurley, Templeton & our very own Fester Hole. At the culmination of the evening the winner was announced as Fester Hole with a total surveyed length in 2016 of 201m. **Jonathan Williams**



Photo: Phil Hendy

And from Phil Hendy:

The annual J-Rat Award evening celebrates the life of veteran caver and digger Tony Jarratt, who died in 2008. Tony spent much of his life digging for caves in Mendip and Scotland, and the award is given to the team which has found and surveyed any cave more than 50 metres long in these areas. The event was held



Photo: Pete Glanvill

at the Village Hall on November 19th, as it coincided with the 80th anniversary of Mendip Cave Rescue. MCR so far have turned out for 410 rescues on Mendip (411 after the following Sunday), involving cavers, walkers and animals, and assisted at 25 in other areas. Proceedings were opened by local MP James Heappey, who spoke of his traumatic experiences in Swildon's Hole, and





expressed admiration for those cavers who rescue other cavers, especially the corpulent ones!

Updates were given on progress in several digs. The Wessex extension to Tween Twins Hole in Burrington Combe is 201 metres long, and has superb calcite formations including stalactites, stalagmites, curtains and gour pools. Since its discovery in February, the cave has been gated, and exploration has ceased to avoid damaging the pretties.

Tankard Shaft is another Wessex dig, near the Hunters' Lodge Inn. This is a rift cave, much altered by miners, who left rotten stemples, but nothing by which the mine can be dated. There are lots of calcite crystals, but no signs of any ore. The cave is on one plane, aligned with the nearby Tankard Hole, which was filled in and lost in the early 60s. Unfortunately, there is no possibility of the two sites connecting.

Hobnail Hole near Thrupe Lane Swallet was dug to try to divert flood water away from the main stream sink, which is also the cave entrance. Unstable rocks were blasted and removed, and larger passages were found last year, with a slot at the bottom. This was blasted, to open a 4 metre drop to King Cobble Hall, a roomy chamber dominated by a large black cobble. The stream was followed down for three metres to the Waiting Room, a large passage with a hole in the floor. The diggers thought that they would follow it to enter Thrupe Lane Swallet at Marble Streamway, but they broke through to Upper Butt's Chamber. Some of the Hobnail diggers were responsible for the original discovery of Thrupe Lane Swallet, but had not entered Butt's Chamber since. Hobnail Hole now permits easier access to the main cave entrance in all but highest water conditions.

The far reaches of Wigmore Swallet have been extended thanks to the discovery last year of a route into the cave via the nearby Home Close Hole, which bypasses nine sumps to enable non-divers to reach the end. The diggers, mainly from the BEC, have passed the terminal choke above a sump to enter 120 metres of passage, ending inevitably in a sump which has yet to be dived.

At Cutler's Green Sinkholes near Chewton Mendip a digger was used to excavate the main shaft in a Jurassic limestone pavement or wave-cut platform, exposing two digging areas – a bedding plane, and a large choked hole at the bottom. Around this shaft are eight smaller satellite shafts. The depth reached so far is 17metres, with 232 metres of passage found to date.

Work is progressing slowly at other Mendip caves. Spider Hole and Vurley Swallet near Cheddar are gradually getting deeper, while at Templeton, digging has stopped while ladders and rails are installed to allow excavation at greater depths. Some more passage, filled with large ochre boulders, has been discovered in Iron Passage in Upper Canada Cave. The original miners' entrance has also been found and opened. Several leads are being investigated in the 20th Chamber at Wookey Hole and in Upper Flood Swallet at Charterhouse. Alan Gray described a new laser survey of Redcliffe Caves in Bristol, which correlate very well with the 1960s survey, although it took hours rather than weeks to complete.

Although Scotland is not noted for its long cave systems, there was a contender for the award this year from the far north. At Applecross, south of Sutherland, The Cave of True Wonder, dug by the Grampian Speleological Group in 2012 won the award for that year. Also in the area is the entrance to The Cave of the Lion, in a dry streambed. It is 300 metres long, and very pretty. The stream itself sinks at the foot of a waterfall, and the water was diverted to allow digging. It was thought that this cave, Poll Breugair would connect with Cave of the Lion, only 30 metres away, but it went in a different direction. Upstream led to the largest chamber in Wester Ross; the cave is well decorated and ends after 185 metres in an impressive terminal choke. Only three caves yielded more than 50 metres of passage this year. Wigmore Swallet extension was 120 metres long, while Poll Breugair was 185 metres at the cut-off date. Another 20 metres has been found recently, but too late to be entered in the competition. The clear winner was Tween Twins Hole, popularly known to the Wessex diggers as Fester Hole. At 210 metres, the discovery and award was a fitting vindication of the efforts put in over many years by many cavers, usually of the senior persuasion. It was particularly satisfying for veteran caver and digger Maurice Hewins; it is a pity that Jim Rands, who also put a lot of time in at the dig, died a few years before the breakthrough.



THE DIGGING SCENE Continued.....

Since the Awards were instigated in 2009, more than five kilometres of new cave has been found and explored on Mendip, and no doubt more will be found in 2017. There is certainly no shortage of cavers looking for it. The inner caver was satisfied with a plate of sausage mash and peas, which was worked off later at a disco

Phil Hendy

Tween Twins Hole, alias Fester Hole. They also served.....

Now that the dig has been successful, and the 2016 J-Rat digging award has been won it is time to acknowledge the work of Wessex members, who toiled there in the 1980's. Fortunately, many are still with us today and most have been rewarded with a trip in this fantastic cave. The following extracts from log book entries published in the Journal give an idea of how complicated the site was and how it became known to the Wessex as Fester Hole.

W.C.C. Journal, Vol 18, No 210, Sept 1986 pages 50-51

5th May 1986 P. H. (Pete Hann), D. F. (Duncan Frew). Looking at various small holes; - TUNNEL CAVE, WHITCOMBE'S HOLE and TWEEN TWINS HOLE which might be worth a dig. Also found something horrible down GOON'S HOLE - the Moodys and Mr Newton!

19th July 1986 P. H. and D. F. What better way to spoil a good day's festering in the sun than start a new dig? An inauspicious start to a new chapter in the search for the Burrington Master Cave. 1) Both of us forgot our helmets and lamps. 2) We couldn't find the stupid hole. After parading up and down the Combe with pickaxe and shovel we finally found Tween Twins and set about it. Much gardening around the entrance and 20 boats of spoil removed until lack of illumination stopped play. B. M.C. here we come.

W.C.C. Journal, Vol 19, No 212, Dec 1986, p.21-22,

6/7 September 1986 Tween-Twins Dig. J. and M. R. (Jim and Mairi Rands), M. F. (Malc Foyle and Duncan Frew) Two hours digging (24 buckets) before going to pub.

WCC Journal Vol 19, No 213, p 45, Feb 1987.

1st January 1987, Tween-Twins Hole. P H (Pete Hann), D F, G N, Malc Foyle, Rob Taviner, Jim and Mairi Rands, Fiona Lewis. Post New Year Burrington dig. Left-hand hole 5ft deep in water, right-hand just a bit damp. Good progress with enthusiastic and appreciative team. More gloop came out on suits and wellies than in buckets. Tav won 1st nomination for Muddy of the Year. Lack of foliage meant visitors at the entrance.

WCC Journal, Vol 19, No 213, p. 80-82. May 1987

31st January. 1987. P. H., D. F., Pete Watts, M. F. Dunc to RH hole, working in weird atmosphere of back current; going under the mini entrance, eyeballing the spiders, "interesting progress" Pete W out in the cold; Malc playing at being a winch for Hann confusing the issue in the L. H. hole. Much spoil removed before we had to quit so Mr Foyle could go for his tea.

1st February 1987. D. F., Tav, Geof Newton, Rich Websall. Confusing the issue still further, now a question of dig and see; potential for a few more entrances yet- and if we are lucky a bit of passage.

14th February 1987. D. F., Tav, Jim Rands, M. F. and Fi, Matey-in-a-Capri (Paul Lambert) further confusing the issue. Digs a bit moist. The spoil heap is getting bigger. Tav did a through-trip from the top to the R.H. entrance. The L.H. must go somewhere: we are not the first to dig here- (That was Camelot C.C. ED.) we're now following a mole hole into caverns measureless to mice. Malc had to go for his tea early.

22nd February 1987. G. N., J. R., and Aiden Williams.. Very positive day's digging: 41 buckets (estimated 1 ton) of spoil removed. Looking good, J R

Perhaps it ought to be re-named **Fester or Festering Hole**, since everyone uses it as an excuse for not doing something more dramatic when they have hangovers -initiated by several of the team...!??

1st March 1987 “FESTERHOLE” G.N., P.H., D.F. Zippy made a breakthrough after the removal of much sticky spoil. We now have 3 entrances and a bit of cave which really doesn't go anywhere. but we're not defeated just yet. (Oops – this should have been in the classified section, filed under T.T. – see quip on name! -ED)

W.C.C. Journal, Vol 19, No 215, p 134, December, 1987 Tween-Twins Hole

5th July 1987. Jim Rands, Denyse and Garry Shorrocks. Don't give up hope with this one, there's still a chance the left-hand hole will go. Ideal digging conditions: dry and sunny for the haulers; dry and sandy for the digger. Mega session: only the time stopped us, no one wanted to stop digging as the passage was going. It has just started turning into the hill, dipping down at approx 15 degrees and is now approx 10ft long, 2'6'' x 2'6'', rock on two sides. Fifty boats of spoil removed and the site landscaped to keep UBSS happy.

2nd August 1987. Jim, Gary and Den. The early shift joined by Zippy and Dunc in time for the barbecue and last drop of booze. 103 buckets of spoil moved, good easy progress into the hill. A touch of CO2 build up at the end of the 8 hour shift: it must be getting good!

5th August 1987 Jim, Dunc, Aiden and some young lads. Hole still going South. Two. walls and a floor now. Passage approx 5ft wide tow filled will sandstone cobbles, limestone cobbles and sand. Looking good. 5 hours.

W.C.C. Journal, Vol 19, No 216, P 160, March 1988 Tween-Twins Hole.

29th November 1988. Unfortunately there has been a (small?) collapse. After a bit of rabbiting we passed this obstruction into a chamber with a false (stal) floor. As Roz was admiring the formations; Aiden “Is that a snake?” Me: “ Yes, An adder I think”. Roz suddenly tried to push a 4 inch gap with great speed. There was no need as the snake had been killed by the collapse. The air seems to have been cleared by a slight draught. Still worth digging.

13th December 1988. J. R. and Aiden .Stabilised collapse area, making it safer. That took up most of morning. Stopped for a brew and soup, the kitchen was set up on the terrace: the “patio” is coming on quite well. After lunch, we were joined by Nigel G and digging commenced in earnest. Draught intermittent, but air no problem now. 6 hours: its looking good.

W.C.C Journal, Vol 21, No 228, p 21, May 1991

27 January 1991 Mark, Jim, Aiden, **Fester Hole** “ A new entrance-that makes four in a cave 70 ft long” (That was the present entrance. ED)

W.C.C. Journal, Vol 21, No 228, P 22, May 1991

23 February 1991 Aubrey etc Fester; “ If we have to rely on **Fester Hole** to win us the digging barrel we will die of thirst”.

Well we did win, but it took another 25 Years and Aubrey was there when we did!
Maurice Hewins

Ed. This needs no comment from me

08 January 2017 18:00 From: Ed & Hayley Clark
To: Graham Mullan
Subject: Charterhouse Farm, Cavers & Parking

Dear Graham,

Hope you are well and 2017 is developing nicely. We had a rather pleasant trip down GB today, and parked at Charterhouse Farm. We had a chat with the lady at the farm, and she asked us to pass on that someone parking at the farm, probably a caver, in the last few days had dumped rather a lot of litter. When we parked it looked like someone had emptied the contents of a rather dirty car including fast food items, paper etc etc. There was quite a lot of it. Of course we bagged it up and took it away, but it might be worth passing on the CCC clubs that she was rather upset, and to ensure people treat the privilege of parking here with the respect it deserves.

All the best,

Ed

MENDIP CAVE RESCUE

WCC Rescue Practice, Rods Pot, 12 November 2016

Present: Aidan Harrison, Mark Helmore, Mark Kellaway, Darren Chapman, Wayne Starsmore, James Collings, Monica Bollani, Duncan Simey, Suvi Miri Pihlaja, Simon Richardson

(apologies were received from Kevin & Charlotte Hilton and John & Emma Gisborne. Pete Hellier gamely turned up and offered to be surface support as he was unable to cave, but this would have meant a damp wait topside with little to do, so he was stood down)

Rescue kit taken: Drag sheet, Spinal Splint, Frame, 2 Ropes, rigging bag, thermal bivvy bag. Having recce'd Rods the previous week and collected kit the previous evening, all the expected attendees were assembled at the hut at 1000 so an early getaway was achieved, three cars set off for Rods at around 10.15.

Monica bravely volunteered to be the the casualty, and after a briefly outlining the plan, the party set off underground assembling at the bottom of Main Chamber.



The wardens present set about rigging a lifeline and hauling line at the top of the chamber while the casualty was made comfortable and placed in the spinal splint and drag sheet. There was some deliberation about how to use the bivvy bag and harness leg straps. Realising that it would be necessary to cut holes in the bag it was left aside since there was no danger of her being cold.

Finally it was used as padding between the casualty's legs to increase comfort.

Once secured in the drag sheet and splint, with the lifeline connected first to the hauling loop and then to the casualty's belt and harness (integral to the spinal splint), hauling could begin. The casualty was moved to the top of the steep section of the chamber in a series of controlled lifts with the lifeline ensuring there was no danger being dropped.

Once safe in this position the hauling line was re-rigged through the crawl over the blind pots to provide a lifeline. The constricted section over the pots was probably the most difficult part of the operation. With covers protecting the pots, the casualty was then manouevred through the crawl guided at the front and back, with help from those positioned in and around the pots. Although this was done slowly and carefully, it went surprisingly

smoothly with the casualty arriving at the bottom of the next rift still smiling.

By this time, Simon had arrived (after a leisurely breakfast) and he and Mak rigged the line down the right hand (looking up) rift so that the casualty could be safely lifted over the large boulder at the bottom then dragged



up the rift. This route was chosen because despite the alternative left hand route being much roomier, it has a series of awkward obstacles that provide greater risks of slips and falls.

Once the casualty arrived at the top of the rift, just below the entrance chamber, it was deemed the end point since dragging Monica through the smelly puddle and constricted entrance would have got the kit dirty.

Throughout the operation a good level of banter was maintained so we not only learned something but enjoyed ourselves too.

Thanks to all those who turned up, to Monica for volunteering as casualty, the wardens for sorting kit and ensuring it didn't turn into a real rescue, and Duncan for taking pictures to prove that we didn't just drink tea all day.



Aidan All Photos: Duncan Simey

On Saturday, 3rd. December, Maurice Hewins arranged a cinema evening featuring rarely seen caving films from the earliest days of underground cinematography to the present day. These films are part of the Wells Museum / U.B.S.S. Cave Cine Archive, which has been collected over the last 20 years and are now converted from their vulnerable and ageing celluloid stock and video tape to digital storage. To ensure survival, 3 copies have been made on D.V.D.

Jonathan Williams was the “Projectionist” for the evening, which was technically faultless. Maurice provided a commentary for the earliest, silent films, while some of the later ones had explanatory voiceovers dubbed in. (Step forward John Thomas, who appeared in the 1962 Lamb Lair colour film, as well as speaking the original commentary which was made on a synchronized audio tape.)

The venue was Wells Museum, and the projection room was pretty full, with over 50 people attending. It might have been oversubscribed had not the publicity poster, produced by Gonzo, arrived just too late for inclusion in Wessex Journal 339. So it’s retrospective, but as the poster is absolutely superlative, it surely deserves a permanent home here! The following films were shown:

1 Goatchurch and Read’s Cavern,	1933	From U.B.S.S.
2 Lamb Lair,	1937	From U.B.S.S.
3 GB,	1951	From Axbridge C.G.
4 Axbridge Ochre Cave,	1952	From Axbridge C.G.
5 Lamb Lair,	1962	From Wessex C.C.
6 "3 Digs",	1962 – 1968	From Wessex C. C
7 Cow hole and Long Churn ,	1962	Dennis Warburton
8 Manor Farm,	1960	From U.B.S.S.
9 GDG at Wookey,	1974	Phil Hendy
10 St. Luke’s,	1997	By Pete Hann
11 Box Rescue Practice,	1994	By Pete Hann
12 C.D.G. in Wookey Hole ,	1996	By Pete Hann
13 Fester Hole,	2016	By Maurice Hewins
14 The Frozen Deep,	2014	By Pete Glanville.
15 Grebe Swallet,	2016	By Chris Binding.



I think it’s fair to say that because the audience was drawn heavily from our senior caving citizens: there were frequent recognitions of faces from the past appearing in the films from the 1950s and 60s. Quite a few of the audience had carried car and lorry batteries underground for these films, where dull lights and slow film speeds meant that a long day’s work might yield a mere 2 minutes of useable footage.

The final film from Grebe Swallet (by Chris Binding and Andrew Horeckyj) provided a vivid demonstration of the revolution wrought by LED lighting and digital cameras, such as the ubiquitous “Go Pro”. To help the evening along, Martin and Nicola Grass provide a bar, which was much appreciated and helped boost the profits, which went to the Wells and Mendip Museum.

Maurice

Jon Da'Casto's marvellous poster for this event -
Definitely worthy of displaying here !

Wells & Mendip Museum proudly present
a Maurice · Grass · Museum production

CAVING FILM SHOW

A SELECTION OF OLD AND NEW FILMS
ON CAVING COMPILED BY MAURICE HEWINS.
A LOT OF THE FOOTAGE HAS
NEVER BEEN
SHOWN
BEFORE.



Saturday 3rd December

Starting at 1930hrs. Doors open at 1900hrs. Bar.

All profits to Wells & Mendip Museum.

£3 per person entry



WELLS & MENDIP MUSEUM

and Visitor Information Service
"Home of Wells City Archives"

8 Cathedral Green, Wells BA5 2UE wellsmuseum.org.uk



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Ed: *Having heard from Dave “Flip-Flop” Barrett that he had moved to France from his long abode in China, I dropped him a line suggesting that he get in touch with Francois. As always, I was well behind and Dave replied:*

“Hi Noel,

Good to hear from you.

I have met Francois in Caen. My wife and I spent a day with him there in September. Caen is 50 minutes drive from our home. When we move in permanently to our French home (end April) we will hopefully see him more often. I am hoping he can help to network me into French caving and hiking activities. Once we are settled in, I will be looking for interesting trips which may lead to some articles having free time will allow me to do this. It has been a difficult past few years stuck in a city (Shanghai) with limited outdoor options.

You’re right that Normandy doesn’t have any caves but it has realistically priced farmhouses! I wasn’t prepared to pay an over inflated price for a UK home so decided to buy in France and retire there instead. It is easy to get back to UK for trips when I need to.

If there is a Wessex Euro caving trip in summer, will hopefully see you there!

Regards,

Dave”

Ed: *In early December, at Upper Pitts I saw that Clive was reading up an account of a high-level access to Wookey 9. Having only seen Wookey 9 from water level, in about 1963, this was fascinating news to me and I queried the matter later with Clive. He replied, and attached some typically glorious “Clive” photographs of their day’s exploring the high level passage in Wookey 9.*

“Dear Noel,

The Wookey Hole pictures were taken in the heights of Wookey 9. Adrian features in 02 and 03; Jude is in 07. Tom Chapman is out of sight, firing flashes.

This part of the cave was discovered in the early 1970s by John Parker, who dived from 3 to 9:2 and climbed upwards - a long way.

In the mid 1970s his high point was radio-located, found to be within 3m of the surface and opened by mechanical digger. The route down to 9:2 was surveyed at the behest of Madam Tussaud's, who then owned Wookey Hole and soon extended the show cave to Wookey 9. This period of exploration involved Brian Prewer and Willie Stanton, who wrote the Wessex Journal article we were looking at.

Tom Chapman and Chris Binding were able to arrange our trip a couple of weeks ago.

Yours to the final sump,

Clive.”

Photo Showcase. Jude in Wookey 9. By Clive Westlake



Ed: *John Cooper, who recently described his work in putting the entire Wessex Cave Club Journal "On-Line" is not the only person multi-tasking for the Wessex. Michael Kousiounis - Mike K - or Kushy to one and all - has been sorting out the Wessex Web-Site with considerable success, and extending our presence and use of the internet to improve our club communications. Since he seems to spend his entire life digging down into Sludge Pit, or climbing up it..... where does he find the time???*

From Mike Kousiounis

Updates to the Wessex Cave Club Online Presence

As some of you may have already gathered from emails received recently, we have now been publishing Wessex announcements to our members through email. So far we have sent emails to any paid member who has supplied their email address to us. There is an option to unsubscribe if you do not find the new system useful. If the email address originally provided is not the one you wish to use, or you have not received an email at all (your email address we have may be incorrect) but you would like to receive updates, please contact webmaster@wessex-cave-club.org.

Our Announcement emails will consist of content such as reminders of second Saturday trips, changes at Upper Pitts and local events. If you think you have an announcement that should be sent out to all members of the club by email you can send your message through webmaster@wessex-cave-club.org

You may well have noticed some changes to the wessex-cave-club.org website recently, such as the Diary, the Forum and the Gallery. We have also added Trips Abroad and Digging areas to the site with the aim to upload any reports that people would like shown on these pages in the future, again you can send your information or contact the webmaster@wessex-cave-club.org to discuss this.

The Diary has been replaced with a simpler system that is easier for the webmaster to maintain.

We have done away with the old forum in order to concentrate users onto our Facebook page, for a general caving forum you could refer to ukcaving.com. At present our Facebook site is public but we are looking into the possibility of having a closed group for members to openly and confidentially discuss Wessex Cave Club related topics.

We are still looking as whether to have a Gallery (it takes space which costs money) or whether to just have links to photographs on other sites such as Photobucket.

Once we have our website background software fully updated 2017 will see more changes.

We are also open to any ideas or queries that you may have with our current or future online presence.

Your feedback to anything mentioned in this notice will be most welcome.

Kushy

Ed: With this project ongoing there will plainly be developments to detail in coming journals.

Ireby Fell Cavern.

Duke Street

Photo: Mark Burkey





Nostalgia corner, more caving memories



A letter from Dave Walker:

Hi Noel, Hi Paul,

Paul's account in Journal 337 of caving in France in 1978 reminded me that I have a photograph that I think was intended for his article in Journal 174 (Vol. 15) but for some reason was never published.

I assume it was taken by one of Paul's Speleo Orions friends. Paul, do you recall the cave and the photographer? I don't know as Di and I had returned home by then.

All the best

Dave

You can see in the photo that Paul is using Gibbs Ropewalkers. The rig offered three points of attachment and was good for long pitches with few re-belays. *Dave*



Ed: *Back in Journal 336, we had a report of “One of those Weekends.....” where plans and achievement differed radically. I remarked that most of us have a few of these buried in the memory box, and invited you to air them on the pages of the Journal. I decline to believe that Josh is the only person whose caving experiences are occasionally, shall we say, more entertaining than professional. But they are entertaining, so “Thank You” Josh, for another mini-classic! And come on, the rest of you, more, more, more.....*

Josh White

It was day 2 of a scout caving weekend run by WSCC and the dawning realisation that I might be leading a quick Eastwater trip for 3 scouts, who had been on several caving trips before, including trips down to sump 1, was setting in.

The three amigos seemed enthusiastic, as did my number 2, Tobi. Having had a decent day's caving with Tobi the day before, and with glowing recommendations for the 3 scouts from their cave leaders from the day prior, I was confident that it would be a good trip, and we'd be out in time for tea.

We proceeded in through the boulder chamber, allowing the youngsters to lead on with instruction to follow the string and try not to fall too far. All going without a hitch too far as the scouts correctly found the turn off for the upper traverse.

I lead this bit and asked Tobi to stay at the back as I knew he was perfectly capable of handling the traverse, and because I'm lovely, volunteered him up to carry the tackle-bag for this section.

As I got to the far end of the traverse, through the little squeeze, I attached a sling to assist the youngsters in pulling themselves through, as I know it can be tricky at this point.

The first scout got across without too many troubles, but clearly found it slightly more challenging than the Rods Pot and Goatchurch trips from the day before. I sent him upwards towards the route to the canyon. 1 down 3 to go.

Next up a young lady, by the name of Holly, one of the Scout leader's daughters, who I've caved with before and have been majorly impressed. She'll do this with no issues.....Of course those were famous last words. Despite my advice of lay on your back and shuffle yourself across, I could see from the far end of the rift that Holly's light was no longer facing the 'roof' and she was attempting to shuffle across face-down. 'whatever she's most comfortable with' I thought, 'I'm sure she'll be fine.'

Second later and the light seems to be travelling downwards, and that familiar sound of cordura rubbing on limestone, and Holly has dropped about 10ft down the rift. Before she's had a chance to stop herself, I've rocketed from the far end of the rift and I'm now supporting her from underneath by wedging my legs in. For a few minutes Holly tries using me to climb up to get herself on the correct level, but it's just not happening.

Being the prepared Cave leader I am (more about that later) I've brought kit with me for just this instance. I'm currently stuck underneath Holly, so I send Tobi to the end of the rift with the rope to tie 'any knot that holds, Tobi'. Holly tries again for several minutes to use this rope to pull herself up, and manages to get herself up to the correct level goes through the slot with assistance from Tobi and climbs to the top. 2 down 1 to go. A sigh of relief as I don't have to set up an assisted handline.

Finally, the most enthusiastic of the team begins to make his way across. He had at this point tied the tackle-bag to himself and it was dangling down. Good lad, I thought to myself, until it dawned on me that it was just too much to ask, and I ended up with the tackle-bag myself, down one rope, but still full of metal work. I grabbed it off him and he manages to work the distance across and works his way up with Tobi, leaving me to de-rig. To my surprise the 'any knot' Tobi chose was a perfectly dressed bowline with a stopper knot. Despite my happiness at this I was beginning to wish I'd stood my ground and done a Swildons upper series trip.

After taking plenty of water on board (all 3 were feeling this trip, as were Tobi and I), we made a move down towards the canyon. I showed them how if they got some speed up it's a great big slide They all had a go, and I gave them the news they now had to work their way back up again.

Having made our way most the way back up again, I was suddenly plunged into darkness as my El Speleo decided it had had enough of Eastwater. I use the residue light from the group (all now ahead of me) to complete the climb up the canyon before sitting for a tactical rest, whilst I have a look at why my light's decided to die. I could turn it on, in my lap but then when replacing my helmet it would die again, not great. To add to this, my spare light was in my jacket, having been used for the wander down to the Queen Vic the night before. I told you I'm Mr Prepared.

This was turning into a bit of an unwanted epic.

Using all my technical knowledge, I unscrewed the battery cover took out the battery and replaced it, and this seemed to do the job.

We made our way out through the Woggle Press, being careful as possible, as this caving trip seemed to be throwing up surprises. The scouts instantly recognised the string and worked their way out. I followed, and between me and Tobi, got the tacklebag out.

A quick wander back to the Wessex to my car, and with me slightly concerned I may have put them off for life, the group of 3 discussed how Eastwater is their favourite cave, and it was their favourite trip ever. I even had one of them asking how to go about joining the caving team. Job done

Four major lessons learnt:

- 1)having a second who you can trust and is competent is absolutely key;
- 2) always check and double check you have your spare light with you if you've taken it out to get to the pub;
- 3) The woggle press is incredibly sketchy, and I'll probably leave it alone now
- 4) Even if things don't go entirely to your plan, kids love the adventure, and as long as they're smiling I'm smiling.

Josh White , Tobi Woods + 3 eager scouts



Ed: *Given the start date - 17 May - it's obvious that the log-book extracts are a long way adrift. Trying to catch up means some draconian editing. I am trying to include a fair, balanced selection of the many dig reports, but it can still only be a minority of them. Similarly many routine minor trips to our local caves are being omitted. I try to retain all reports involving our younger family members, and those involving guests from other areas and overseas. If your dramatic masterpiece is missing..... I apologise.*

Tuesday May 17 2016 **Sludge Pit** Mike K

Clearing spoil. Video look at further passage. Not wider, but floor dropping away. 5 hrs. **Mike**

Monday May 16 2016 **Spider Hole** James Collings, John Cooper, NikNak, Ade & Jude VdP

While Adrian cemented more boulders on the wall at the top of 4 Ton Shaft, the rest of us hauled another 35 loads of spoil up the bottom shaft (and split the bucket!). 2 hrs. **John**

Thursday May 19 2016 **Sludge Pit** Mike K, Duncan Simey

So many leads in Sludge: not sure what this is called, but it might (or should be) called "Mud Tube". Dragged buckets from Intermediate to Strike Chamber and Junction to Intermediate. Then tourist trip down to the lake (tight and awkward). What an amazing cave! **Duncan**

Wednesday May 18 2016 **Lime Kiln** John Cooper, Mike Hewins, Aubrey Newport, Colin Shapter.

Whilst Aubrey worked in the bottom tunnel the rest cleared most of the spoil from the bottom of the railway to the surface. 2 hrs. **John**

Saturday May 21 2016 **LVS** Ali Moody, John Cooper, Chris Milne, John Gisborne, Lee Venning, Pete Buckley, Sylvia Auth.

39 buckets of spoil removed from the ongoing Triassic Tunnel. The passage continues as an infilled phreatic tube with a filled rift in the floor approximately 4" wide. A good draught was felt throughout the cave, particularly at the top of the rift (entrance). 4.5 hrs. **John**

Saturday May 21 2016 **Mitchell's Dig** Pete Hann, Ade Vdp (Jude joined us later), Nigel Graham.

Drill, Bang. Wait an hour for fumes to clear (the air was slowly pulsing in and out). Removed 21 buckets of spoil - mostly Breccia *** rather than pure limestone - then second dose of rapid erosion to finish the session. ****"Breccia - Dolomitic Conglomerate. Strictly speaking this stuff is Breccia because the fragments are sharply angular, rather than rounded pebbles in a conglomerate. **Nigel**

Saturday May 21 2016 **2016 Stereo Photography Competition** Maurice Hewins, Barry Wilkinson, Jonathan Williams.

The old method versus the new. I got the old Edixa 3D camera out of its 15 year retirement to compete with Jonathan's new, high-tech camera. Lots of lights, flash-guns etc. The results will be compared, and comments welcome. Got all the way to Diesel Chamber - about my limit these days. **Maurice**

Sunday May 22 2016 **Sludge Pit** John Cooper, Barry Weaver

A steady wander around, carefully avoiding Strike Chamber and any nearby digs! 1 ½ hrs. **John**

Sunday May 22 2016 **Lime Kiln** John Cooper, Andrew Horeckyj, Barry Wilkinson. Murray Knapp, Aubrey Newport.

Cleared the remaining spoil from the bottom of the railway. Murray and Aubrey worked the bottom canal. 1hr. **John**

Tuesday May 17 2016 **Thrupe Lane** Terry Waller, Derek Sanderson.

We were thwarted by the water down the Ferret Run, seeing how now it is permanently wet. Need a wet-suit next time. The way on to High Atlas has been cleared mostly, but at one point it was not open enough for us. **Derek**

Monday May 23 2016 **Spider Hole** John Cooper, Ade VdP.

The hanger for the ladder going up to the spoil dump above Four Ton Shaft was moved up the wall a couple of metres. A hanger was installed for a ladder on the bottom shaft - below Four Ton Shaft. Holes were drilled at the very bottom to allow removal of an intrusive buttress - very drippy conditions tonight. Draught test using magic smoke showed draught coming out of the loose boulders at the bottom. 2 hrs. **John**

Saturday May 28 2016 **Mitchell's Dig** Barry Wilkinson, Pete Hann, Jude & Ade VdP.

Spoil clearing at the bottom. Interesting mixture of rocks coming out of the bottom: Dolomitic Conglomerate boulders stuck to Clifton Down Limestone & Black Rock Limestone! 3 holes drilled at end of digging. Retired and fired. **Adrian**

Sunday May 29 2016 **Swildons** John Cooper, Chris Milne, Dan Milne (age 9), Barry Weaver.

Dan's first trip below the 20. Turned round at Sump 1. At present about 5 cms of airspace and a nice outward draught. 1 3/4 hrs. **John**

Sunday May 29 2016 **GB** Mike K, Lee Venning, John Gisborne.

In through lower route, pictures of the bridge, up White Passage, far end, look at Bertie's Pot (good draught), viewing spot, Ladder Dig. Very dry (no backed-up water), up waterfall and out. 3 hrs. **Mike**

Monday May 30 2016 **Swildons** Terry Waller, Derek Sanderson

To Sump 2, then up the landing to Vicarage Passage, and then back to the last duck of the round trip, Birthday Squeeze. No one else there!! **Derek**

Monday May 30 2016 **Cross Swallet** Chris Binding

Preparatory work for Digfest on Saturday. Very noisy! 3 hrs. **Chris**

Thursday June 2 2016 **Brimble Pit** Ali Moody, Pete Buckley.

Played in the mud at the bottom (aka the Dig-Face). In fact got stuck in the mud, hit some rocks and they turned into sugar crystals.

“Enlarged” the approach to the constriction. Way on looks interesting, steeply downwards, nice echo and draught. Drilled some holes and made some more rock debris. A very tiring 4 hours.

Pete

Thursday June 2 2016 Sludge Pit Geoff Newton, Mike K, Andrew Atkinson, John Cooper.

Mike and Andrew surveyed the extensions, while Geoff and John moved spoil from Monday's bend to the lower chamber. Then Mike and Geoff moved spoil from the lower chamber to the middle (Stacking) chamber. **Geoff**

Saturday June 4 2016 Sludge Pit Geoff Newton, Mike K, Neil Maine + five of Neil's friends (Tom, Ollie, James, Dave, Glenn)

Working the wet way, good session - broke into small chamber/pool with water going off straight ahead narrow, too-tight rift. A mud choked rift with small air-space is probably the way on, left. A wall was built in Strike Chamber to retain spoil. Jonathan Williams came in towards the end of the session to drill holes for Sunday's bang. **Geoff**

(Quote: “Congratulations, it's not a sump!”)

Saturday June 4 2016. “Digfest”

Dig 1. LVS John Cooper, Ali Moody, Pete Buckley, Lee Venning. Approx 40 loads of spoil removed and stacked in Triassic Tunnel - but still plenty at the end. 4 holes drilled and demolished. **Ali**

Dig 2. Brimble Pit Ali Moody, Pete Buckley.

Trip and quick dig to assess the results of last Thursday's charge. This dig looks more promising than LVS at present. **Ali**

Dig 3. Mitchell's Dig Ade & Jude VdP, Pete Hann, Barry Wilkinson, Nigel Graham.

Intensive bang-spoil clearing. 83 buckets including some sizeable blocks, mainly of Dolomitic Conglomerate due to the cave being in an in-filled wadi. Drill, bang and then retire for tea and cakes. **Nigel**

Dig 4. Grebe Swallet Chris Binding, Mark and Jess Burkey.

Small team because not much needed moving just bang spoil. At Perdition dig-face Jess cleared away and found a gap. We had taken it in turn, but she found the gap. Soon broke through into 5 metres of passage, named “Parallel Universe”. So Grebe had delivered a nice mini success in time for Digfest. Hurrah! Photos taken, already posted on Digfest Facebook page. Perhaps more tomorrow..... perhaps. Yay! **Chris**

Monday June 6 2016 Spider Hole Mike Butcher, John Cooper, NikNak, Tony Seddon, Ade & Jude VdP.

Hauled 51 loads up Four-Ton Shaft. A long session. 2 ½ hrs. **John**

Sunday June 5 2016 Hymac Hole Mike K,

Dug out rift. Heading towards 18 Acres. Made black space appear & rift is actually quite wide (passable if dug out). Nicely waterworn rock. Bad air! **Mike**

Tuesday June 7 2016 Sludge Pit Mike K, Tom Terbet (Guest).

Clearing out spoil. Much better with 2 people. (Glad I got an extra team member from the weekend's antics). 1 out of 6 isn't so bad. 2 ½ hrs. **Mike**

Saturday June 11 2016 Eastwater Jude VdP, James, Chris, Damon, Liam

Our first trip down Eastwater. We did a round trip, climbing back up the 13 pots. We finally finished off by coming back along the Upper Traverse. It was a brilliant trip. Both Liam and I thoroughly enjoyed it. **Damon F.**

Thursday June 9 2016 Brimble Pit John Cooper, Pete Buckley, Ali Moody, Lee Venning, John Gisborne.

Fixed ladder placed on the awkward drop. Big mud clearing session followed by drill and bang. Extremely high level of CO₂ near the dig face, probably due to the black organic matter in the mud. 1hr. **Ali**

Sunday June 12 2016 Eastwater Terry Waller, Derek Sanderson

Down the 380 Foot Way, Morton's Pot down to the bottom of the scaffolding, dangled our toes in the start of the Technical Masterpiece. Hot work. **Terry**

Wednesday June 15 2016 Reservoir Hole Chris Binding, Andrew Atkinson.

6 shiny new bolts placed on Wish You Were Here pitch into Frozen Deep, specially for Noel's visit next week. It needed doing. **Chris.**

Thursday June 16 2016 Swildons Chris Binding, Andrew Atkinson.

Swildons 20, 2 new bolts installed. 2 “Wobbly” ones eventually came out after pulling then with about 20,000,000 Kn. & drilling out the resin. No traverse above the 20 as the rock is rubbish., so that idea can be forgotten about now. (Old spit drilled out, too). **Chris**

Friday June 17 2016 Grebe Swallet Chris Binding, Mike K

Taking Mike K in today so that he can clear bang spoil and find the way on.... as he is thin! **Chris.**

Saturday June 18 2016 Brimble Pit Pete Buckley, John Cooper, Mike K, Geoff Newton, Ali Moody.

The air in Brimble was initially slightly better than on Wednesday although the CO₂ level rapidly increased as soon as we started working at the bottom. Useful session shifting bang debris and mud before drilling and banging again. We will now give Brimble a rest for a couple of weeks in the hope that the very high CO₂ might disperse. **Ali**

Sunday June 19 2016 Swildons Emma Gisborne, John Cooper.

Went to Swildons Hole and did the Short Round Trip. Water level very low - first trouble only just covering the syphon pipe. We suspect another party may have been round before us, and saved time on bailing. There were 2 inches of airspace in the sump. **Emma**

Monday June 20 2016 Spider Hole James Collings, NikNak, John Cooper, Pete Hann, Ade and Jude VdP.

Whilst Pete was cementing and drilling at the bottom, the rest of us cleared the spoil (36 loads) from the bottom of 4 Ton Shaft. It was very wet in there tonight. 2 hrs. **John**

Wednesday September 21 2016 Lime Kiln Dig John Cooper, Aubrey Newport, Colin Shapter, Barry Wilkinson.

Went and admired the lake at the bottom of the entrance shaft. Aubrey said that it was deeper than his wellies, so we came back and drank tea. 5 mins. **John.**

Thursday June 23 2016 (Brexit Day) Swildons Derek Sanderson, Terry Waller

To South East Inlet and up to Keith's Chamber. Had to turn back there because we had to vote! **Derek**

Thursday June 23 2016 Reservoir Hole. Chris Binding, George Schlowsky (Guest from the USA), Noel Cleave (I voted early).

4 hours of frolicking in this awesome cave. Rigged new in-situ traverse line at Wish You Were Here Pitch. I think Noel and George were suitably impressed with it. Noel has promised to write something about it for the journal. **Chris**

Thursday June 23 2016 Reservoir Hole As above:

George is a skiing colleague of mine from the USA. I introduced him to the sport and now when visiting he likes to do some caving. Taking us to Reservoir was a generous gesture from Chris, and he made the trip extra enjoyable with a historical commentary as we progressed. George confessed to finding the entrance passage somewhat claustrophobic, but we soon got our "Crawling" and "Mendip" heads on and enjoyed the thrutching. We dropped into the Frozen Deep on rope - a couple of Italian Hitches, and took our "Mendip" heads off. WTF is that hole doing, lurking around under Cheddar Gorge? It's too monstrous by half - dwarfs the huge formations. We did the grand tour and managed not to stumble, touch or tread on, any of the pretties. Chris dropped a ladder for our exit (Gentleman's Caving indeed), and we ambled out into the sunshine and stinging nettles above the reservoir. Altogether a 100 carat trip. Thank You, Chris. **Noel**

Friday June 24 2016 Blake's Farm Swallet Mike K, Graham Price, Jack Overhill.

Pushed a lead, looks promising, chucked around some mud and rocks. Definitely going back. **Mike**

Saturday June 25 2016 LVS Ali Moody, Pete Buckley, Geoff Newton, Lee Venning, John Cooper, Mike K, Sylvia Auth, Chris (Krsztian) Balogh, Tibor Nagy.

Long session to clear the last two bangs. 88 loads of debris removed.... then drill and bang again!

Ali

Sunday June 26 2016 Sludge Pit Geoff Newton, Mike K.

Rootling around in the Boulder Chamber in a lead found by Mike K and Duncan Simey when surveying. Forcing a squeeze gave access to a couple of 4m high avens and a dig which draughts well. Unfortunately, continuing the dig will require engineering and the spoil will probably block the avens. **Geoff**

Sunday June 26 2016 Swildons Hole Emma Gisborne, Sylvia Auth, Chris (Krsztian) Balogh, Tibor Nagy, Citron.

From the entrance went down to the Old Grotto, went through the Mud Sump, up through the Greasy Chimney. Down Blue Pencil and

at the main stream passage went to Sump 4 and Sump 3. Checked the first Trouble but there was lots of water in it, so decided to go back the way we arrived. Great 5 hours in the cave! Thanks Emma, it was great. **Anon** (Possibly Citron ?)

Thursday June 30 2016 Sludge Pit Mike K, Tom Terbret.

Again, no injuries.... Hurrah! Tickled and moved offending boulders (thanks to Les Williams for the use of your crowbar) out of the dig face to allow more room to work. Streamway is washing the passage out nicely. Cement and poles doing an amazing job of making everything feel safer. New passage found, also, approx 4 m on far side of dig face, bright orange in colour (ochre), purple rock underneath and a wafting gale from the top of this orange aven blasting back into the cave! 2 ½ hrs. **Mike**

Friday July 1 2016 Sludge Pit Geoff Newton, Mike K.

Started the dig in Boulder Chamber, moved a fair amount of mud and rubble, but the mud was washed back into the dig, obstructing the draught temporarily. **Geoff.**

Sunday July 3 2016 Sludge Pit Geoff Newton, Mike K, Duncan Simey.

Boulder Chamber. Mike dug at dig face, passing boats to Geoff in Aven 1, then on to Duncan at Aven 2. Duncan built retaining wall, which gets flooded so needs drip catcher or tipping system installed. After removing as much mud infill as possible a healthy draught was coming from a hole heading towards Strike Chamber was discovered. Mike and Duncan surveyed out and found that the dig face in Boulder Chamber is 10m away from Strike Chamber and currently 6m below Strike Chamber floor. Also the dig face looks to be at the roof level of whatever passage is ahead. 3 ½ hrs. **Mike**

Tuesday July 5 2016 Sludge Pit Mike K, Tom Terbret

Concentrating on making the approach to Back Passage Dig more comfortable / unconstricted. Did a fine job, too! What looked to be silver and gold coloured veins coming through some rock we broke up. Also cleared a new route back towards Strike Chamber. Space can be seen, water can be heard. 3hr. **Mike**

Thursday July 7 2016 Sludge Pit Mike K

Dug at new dig, 12" high slot tapering from 2" to roughly 4". Can see an aven going quite high. **Mike**

Friday July 8 2016 Sludge Pit Geoff Newton, Mike K.

Digging in the Boulder Chamber Dig. We have now entered a low "passage" with a roof, floor and one wall which runs along the bottom of the chamber and is blocked by a run-in of mud and rubble. After the session we went to Main Rift, looking for muddy water entering the rift. Water at the head of the rift was clear, but the only significant feeder on the right-hand side, which enters near the "Little and Large" Dig was running very muddy. We now know where the water sinking in the Boulder Chamber goes! The water enters from narrow cracks, so it has clearly escaped from whatever passage it was running in, so it has not killed off the dig completely. However, the Boulder Chamber Dig now has a lower priority. **Geoff**

COMMITTEE & ADMIN MATTERS

Under club rules anyone who has not paid their subscription by 1st January will no longer be entitled to membership privileges and will not receive further journals until they do. There will be a delay in obtaining BCA cards for any late payers, because on the 1st January 2017 the treasurer will have ordered BCA insurance cards for everyone who has paid for their 2017 BCA insurance with their club subscription. They take a while to arrive. In the meantime if you need a certificate to prove to a landowner, etc. that you are insured, email either: insurance@british-caving.org.uk or membership@british-caving.org.uk and you will get a confirmatory document.

The full BCA policy document is available for download from the website at www.british-caving.org.uk.



WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Suvi Miri Paivikki Pihlaya
Josh Yates

AND WELCOME BACK Adrian Dorney (returning member)

Diary Dates

January 2017

Hut Booking

20th January 2017 - 21st January

KUCC (9) Friday & Saturday night

Hannah Bailey

Library Booking

22nd January @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

WCC Committee Meeting

February 2017

Second Saturday Meet

11th February @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Hut Bookings

KUCC (9) Friday & Saturday night

Hannah Bailey

24th February - 25th February

Sheffield Uni SS (15) Friday & Saturday night

Natalie Greenwood

24th February 2017 - 25th February 2017

March 2017

Second Saturday Meet

11th March 2017 @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

March 2017 (Cont)

Library Booking – WCC Committee Meeting

12th March @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

April 2017

Second Saturday Meet

8th April 2017 @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

May 2017

Second Saturday Meet

13th May @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Library booking

WCC Committee Meeting

21st May 2017 @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Back Cover

Lava minerals from Lanzarote

Lava tubes. Photos: Chris Binding

