



RED ROSE CAVE AND POTHOLE CLUB

# NEWSLETTER



Vol 58 No 2

December 2021

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*Jim Newton at 90*

*Photo: Hazel Hewitt*

## *Stop Press:*

### **BOXING DAY WALK**

This years' Boxing Day walk will again be held in the Yorkshire Dales. We will be meeting at the Hoffman Kiln car park near Langcliffe at 10:45am for a prompt 11am start. Hopefully weather dependent, going via Stainforth and visiting Jubilee Cave and Victoria Cave. Afterwards we will retire to the Helwith Bridge Inn nearby, where both food and drink will be available. Paul the landlord is offering a full menu, details of which are/will be posted in the November and December News-sheets. However, food will be on a pre-order basis, so I will collect your menu choices together with payment before the event. See you there?

Send your menu choices to Sandra Wilkinson:-

[m.wilkinson@btinternet.com](mailto:m.wilkinson@btinternet.com) **by 12<sup>th</sup>. December latest** and deposit meal price in club account:

**HSBC: Sort Code: 40-27-02 A/c. No: 31807927 with your "Name" and marked "Meal"**

**Hoffman Kiln Grid Ref: 823660** On the Settle Horton in Ribblesdale road (B6479) Turn right on to a small road opposite stone factory, 700 m past Langcliffe village, under railway bridge and follow road to car park above new works buildings .

Sandra Wilkinson [m.wilkinson@btinternet.com](mailto:m.wilkinson@btinternet.com) Tel. 07904717495

(Please note old landline number no longer active)

***Saturday Afternoon 8<sup>th</sup> January 2022***

*Jim Newtons re-scheduled 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party at Bull Pot Farm*

*Hope to see you all there.*

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***Congratulations to James Henry Newton at 90!***

*Congratulations to Jim Newton on his upcoming 90<sup>th</sup>. birthday on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. It had been hoped to celebrate his birthday at Bullpot Farm in late November (Christmas being too near his actual birthday) but unfortunately Storm Arwen intervened which cut off all electricity and water at the farm, together with atrocious road conditions. It is now planned to celebrate his birthday with a party at the farm on the afternoon of Saturday January 8<sup>th</sup> We hope to see you all there!*

***Your 2021 Committee:***

**President:** Sam Lieberman  
[president@rrcpc.org.uk](mailto:president@rrcpc.org.uk)

**Chairman:** Steve Gray,  
[chair@rrcpc.org.uk](mailto:chair@rrcpc.org.uk)

**Secretary:** Carol Makin,  
[secretary@rrcpc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rrcpc.org.uk)

**Membership Sec:** Emma Key,  
[membership@rrcpc.org.uk](mailto:membership@rrcpc.org.uk)

**Treasurer:** Bill Nix,  
[treasurer@rrcpc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@rrcpc.org.uk)

**News-Sheet Editor:** Gwen Tawy,  
[news@rrcpc.org.uk](mailto:news@rrcpc.org.uk)

**Newsletter Editor:** Mel Wilkinson  
[newsletter@rrcpc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@rrcpc.org.uk)

**Permit Secretary:** Dinny Davies,  
[caving@rrcpc.org.uk](mailto:caving@rrcpc.org.uk)

**Meets Co-ordinator:** Bill Nix,  
[meets@rrcpc.org.uk](mailto:meets@rrcpc.org.uk)

**HQ Warden:** Andy Hall,  
[HQ@rrcpc.org.uk](mailto:HQ@rrcpc.org.uk)

**HQ Engineer:** Alan Martin,  
[engineer@rrcpc.org.uk](mailto:engineer@rrcpc.org.uk)

**Librarian:** Sandra Wilkinson,  
[library@rrcpc.org.uk](mailto:library@rrcpc.org.uk)

**HQ Booking Secretary / Web  
Site Administrator:**

Andy Hall,  
[andy@rrcpc.org.uk](mailto:andy@rrcpc.org.uk)

**Conservation Officer:**

Holly Bradley,  
[conservation@rrcpc.org.uk](mailto:conservation@rrcpc.org.uk)

**Social Secretary:**

Martin Fagan,  
[social@rrcpc.org.uk](mailto:social@rrcpc.org.uk)

**C.N.C.C. representative &  
Ease Gill Project Officer:**

Sam Lieberman,  
[cncc@rrcpc.org.uk](mailto:cncc@rrcpc.org.uk)

**Tackle Master:**

Toby Speight,  
[tackle@rrcpc.org.uk](mailto:tackle@rrcpc.org.uk)

**Training Officer:**

Jack Overhill,  
[training@rrcpc.org.uk](mailto:training@rrcpc.org.uk)

**Journal Editor:**

Mike Appleton,  
[journal@rrcpc.org.uk](mailto:journal@rrcpc.org.uk)

## ***Little Lechuguilla***

### ***Digging report: - Little Lechuguilla***

Situated in the Graveyard Series near Skittle Alley the most westerly point of Easegill.

### ***History:***

The Jason Pitman 1994 report in the RRCPC newsletter states that Little Lechuguilla was discovered by Hugh St Lawrence, dug open by Wot Dabney, Pete Hall, Nigel Jennings and Phil Luff on 13.03.94 after approx. 20 hours of digging over 3 days.

In Newsletter Vol 31/2 The Ease Gill Diary reports that Hugh had a look at the blind pitch on the corner upstream towards Aquamud Sump. A dig was started at the bottom of the 35' pitch with the real muscle power being provided later by Pete and Jason, Phil and Nigel. A hundred and odd buckets of sloppy shit later 20' of mud sucking passage had been revealed heading west into empty territory. Little Lechuguilla is about as revolting a dig as you can get, but is probably worth continuing. On the same trip an interesting aven was also noted above the Skittle Alley junction and Phil Luff swore to return and bolt up. Phil?

### ***More recently:***

Lacking muscle power, a couple of years ago I used a garden hose to use the Aqua Mud sump water to flush out some of the mud at the bottom of Little Lechuguilla. After returning a couple of times with different members of the RRCPC and the Combined Services Caving Club (CSCA) to restart the siphon Chris Michell (CSCA) and I followed the short passage at the base of the pitch and the mud floor suddenly dropped a metre to provide a lower level 3 metre passage that has a tight section and still a lot of mud getting in the way. After the tight section it is possible to see a more reasonable sized clean passage about 3-4 metres long where is does a left turn to ? or as Jason Pitman said, "see at once the magnitude of this new discovery".

In October 2021 with Mick Lloyd (CSCA), I installed a siphon pump on the hose and a toilet cistern type valve on the end of the hose in Aqua Mud sump to hopefully switch the siphon off in times of low water to try and flush out more of the mud of out the bottom of the pitch.

### ***Future trips:***

Improve the rigging with new rope and bolts. I have bottled trying the squeeze a couple of times, so saving for a decent drill to try and chisel a bit off the side or find someone who knows how to Hilti cap. As a backup I am planning to measure the tight gap and have a practice at home using a wooden frame set to the same size.

Take a scaling pole and bolt up the Aven above the Skittle Alley Junction unless someone can tell me Phil Luff did return, and its blind.

### ***You can help?***

If in the location – please, try not to stand on the Siphon in Aquamud Sump or fiddle with the hose and if going down the pitch check, or possibly change the rigging before use.

If anyone wants to join in who knows how to cap, has a drill or is a thinner than me – please get in touch.

***Paul Thomas    07950 845553***

**Long Churn – Upper and Lower to Alum Pot window****24/07/2021***Bill Nix, Adele Ward & Conner (novice)*

It has been a while since I have done any training with anyone or taken a novice underground, so following a request from Adele, the date was set.

We met in Alum Pot Lane on a slightly cooler Saturday morning, following a very hot week with temperatures up very high (*not pleasant in a foundry*). I was very grateful for the chance to cool off in the Churns.

I arrived at the lane early ahead of the others to find Alan Brook awaiting his party of cavers whom he was caving with. It has been some time since last I saw Alan and one or two of his group, so it was really super to see them and have a chat. Adele and Conner arrived soon after, so following more conversation, we made a start to get ready. However, rush hour came with the farmer and daughter moving a large herd of sheep to the pasture that surrounds Alum Pot.

I parked in my usual spot, slightly closer to the cave after rush hour had passed. Conner and Adele were soon with me, so we set off up the fell-side past Alum to Diccan Pot entrance and on to Upper Long Churn entrance, with me giving a hopefully informative talk about the caves.

I had also realised on this occasion that soon it will be 28 years since I first went in there as a very excited schoolboy doing yet more caving. In fact, a whole weekend of it! (*The Churns and Borrins Moor being the Sunday trip*).

Kitting up we went into the canyon that eventually closes over, as you approach Dr Bannister's Hand Basin. AB's party had arrived at the bottom at the same time. We descended to find the pool was incredibly clear, as opposed to the normal brown peat stained water.

Hilda was having minor light trouble with the lamp AB had loaned her, so we waited around to shine light up the cascade as she climbed. I used the chance to take one or two snaps to record the occasion.

Afterwards, following inspiration from the others in our party, a picture looking across the pool was taken.

We set off at a steady pace admiring the numerous formations in the roof as we travelled downstream. Eventually, after passing another entrance, we got to the Waterfall Cascade which was also very dry! Resisting the temptation for photos here, we carried on to a bend where pictures were taken just before Double Shuffle Pool.

The water in the pools was again incredibly clear making me want a waterproof bag and extra flash gun to see what effects we could achieve (*next time*). We managed to cross the pools quite dryly and headed on down the well-travelled climbs past the Cheese Press to the top of the Dolly Tubs pitch.

Bill rigged the ladder and Conner was dispatched down it. After a minor reconfiguration the route was rigged for abseiling, with a plan to climb the ladder on the return.

It is a very pleasant ladder climb, often overestimated by the unsure, who see ladders as a huge challenge.



This is often the case by folk who have not been shown how to use them properly and easily. I would add that this pitch is also a fine abseil/SRT route! (*Ladders are just easier if you want less kit to carry if only using it in one spot*).

Regardless of your stance on either or both, the most important aspect is to do it in a way that you are happy with, perhaps pushing the boundaries as experience and confidence is gained.

We spent a pleasant time at the window looking out over Alum Pot and took a couple of pictures. The sunbeams so often associated with this view were absent, except for the odd showing on part of the shaft. No matter how many times I have seen this view it is still superb.

We eventually tore ourselves away, before anyone got too cold, and ascended the pitch. As we reached the first climb up, AB's group had arrived. They used the climb here as a turning around point.

We shuffled on out ahead of them, to return up past Plank and Double Shuffle Pool to a low exit by the waterfall we had previously descended. We found the water in the flatout crawl pleasantly low, and the water was still warm. After a brief peer over Alum Pot north end, we headed down to the cars. The day was ended by a late lunch and a pint at the Station Inn.

Many thanks as always to all those who indulged a pedantic photographer in getting a couple of holiday snaps.

**Bill Nix**

## "Hole Thieves to Supercaver"

The Red Rose Annual Dinner Play (*known at the time as the Tape-Type Show*) was once a highlight of the Club Dinner. For many years the original tapes and the high-fidelity tape recorder on which they were produced, bequeathed by Ron Bliss, were collecting dust in the library. In order to preserve this historic **Red Rose** culture, a selection of the tapes, recorded from 1959-1973, have been digitally processed by Olly Creedy. They can now be accessed using the link below:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mkd0c4embwdr6l/AAAuXvoYFTsDSepxtVrOwHwya?dl=0>

The plays were written and recorded at Ron Bliss's house. Elders of the club may recognise some of the voices. The plots and characters were strongly influenced by the Goon Show, one episode of which is included in the files.

Do listen and let us know what you think.

**Dave Creedy, Mel Wilkinson**

## ***The next big thing?***

In days of yore a caver could walk across the fell and find a stream sinking down a hole and follow it underground for miles (*kilometres hadn't been invented then*). After many years of this really easy exploration technique things began to get a little more difficult and maybe the odd boulder had to be removed to allow access or a little chemical enlargement was required (*Mistral/Pippikin for example*). Roll on a few years and the pickings got less and less simple, explorers then became 'diggers'. The formation of groups within clubs that were dedicated to pushing promising leads, by employing some really dubious techniques with injuries and near misses quite frequently the stuff of bar-room ballads.

By the end of the 1900's there were less easy digs that would bear fruit and amorphous groups started to form outside of the normal club diggers, enter the Misty Mountain Mining group and its offspring's. Digs took on a more industrial look, with scaffolding and shoring becoming more and more frequent but as always, the main problem was how to get rid of the tonnes of spoil with which the caver unfriendly glaciers and rivers had filled our beloved caves. Nowadays it's not the difficulty of the digging itself that poses the problem but that pesky spoil and where to put the damn stuff.

Vertically defined pot development has required various hauling techniques to be brought into play, at which the Leck and Bogart's team have become very proficient. Others have their own problems, narrow passages need more of a chemical solution to gain access. Some teams employ a combination of all the techniques to move forward, banging, digging, and hauling. The use of Tyrolean bucket zip wires and even counter-weighted pulley systems have all been brought to bear on the problems of spoil removal but as the cave got deeper or longer the limiting factor is always where to put the mounting pile of rubble. Walls are built, behind which the spoil is piled, until previous pitches become mere scrambles up dry-stone embankments.

We've come across the problem in the Red Rose on more than one occasion, fortunately as in the case of Avon Pot, the cave played the game properly and just ended, saving us the headache of where to pile any more of the rubbish. Owert Kilns dig has been less accommodating, but we've not yet exhausted all the digging techniques at this point. Rollerball has turned out to be particularly annoying little b..tard as it refuses to die. Just when we thought we'd reached a point where no further progress was to be made, a little space would open up, egging us ever onward.

So, what does the future of cave-finding look like, well I'm afraid it looks a bit like we're in for some long hard work. No easy pulling one rock out of the moor and off you go, I think we are looking at the long haul, literally, like those at Committee Pot or Shuttleworth, but look at the rewards, brilliant entrances and good fun getting there, as well as the camaraderie of functioning as a group of like-minded idiots.

Remember that your dig could just be the next big thing that goes for kilometres!

***Ray Duffy***

## ***Bathroom Tissue, what's that?***

Bathroom Tissue, what's that?

Having been on many rather muddy survey and digging trips, I've noticed that removing the goo from caving suits can be achieved quite successfully by sliding down a steep slope containing lots of moss and in particular Sphagnum Moss (*Sphagnum flexuosum*). Checking for hidden rocks is essential when performing this technique otherwise the cleaning may have saved time, but the suit repair wastes it. A nice bit of *Dicranum majus* is perfect for cleaning off gloves and bags, it's the sort of moss that covers large rocks and forms a mat on them, but don't take the lot, leave some so it can grow back and cover the rock again.

Of course, these are not the only uses to which these natural resources can be applied, they also perform a valuable replacement for so-called Bathroom Tissue. So, when did Toilet Paper become something you'd use in a bathroom and not a toilet? I guess the advertising gurus must have decided that any reference to the toilet was crude and therefore should be omitted. I've never had a dump in the bathroom when there's a toilet available. Some of us do have a toilet in the bathroom but it's still used for the toilet not your bath, it'd get very soggy. I suppose people who changed the name of Vim to Jif and then to Cif, or Marathon Bars to Snickers can get away with anything. However, I've digressed, Moss of all kinds has an expedient purpose when you're caught short in the countryside and speaking from experience I can vouch for the efficacy of a damp piece of sphagnum, it should be package and marketed as the environmentally sustainable alternative to Delsey, Cushelle and dog loving Andrex.

The other positive about this wonder material is that you don't have to hide it under a rock that you've taken from a dry-stone wall, as it blends in naturally with the surroundings and save wallers having to kick over every rock before lifting them back onto the wall, for fear of discovering your hidden deposit under the stone, grrrr!!!!!!

**Ray Duffy**



## ***Bull Pot of the Witches, novice and help the aged expedition***

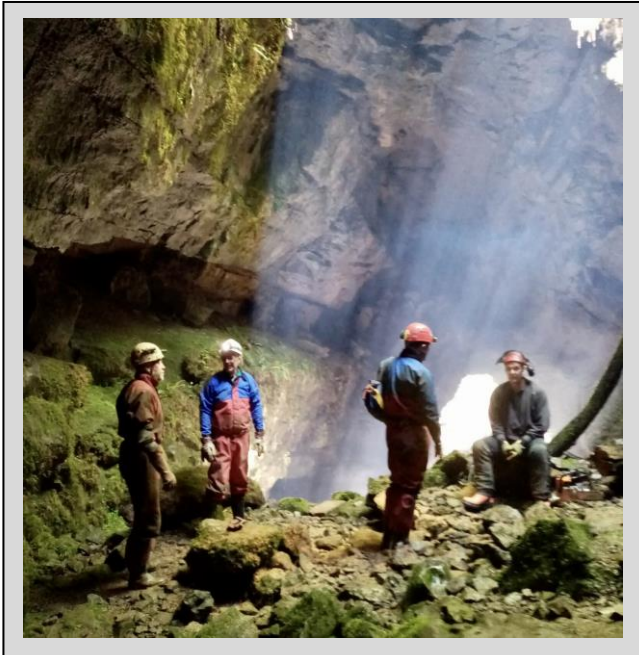
**12 June 2021**

*Present and passing by were: Andy Hall, Colin Jones, Emma Key, Lionel Rice, me, Simon and Isabel Perkins, Dave Williams. Hugh St Lawrence and Bill Osborne.*

My first ever caving trip was to Bull Pot of the Witches on 14 July 1968. Subsequently, I had descended numerous times on various quests. I was now returning after over thirty years in the wilderness, not that I had forsaken the underground environment as my work had involved visiting numerous dark holes in the ground



I was looking forward to this trip with greater excitement than a child on Christmas Eve. In the rush to get ready, and still way ahead of time, I forgot to pick up a "Tunnocks" and water bottle; I later paid the price for this omission, drained of energy and over cooked in my furry suit I only just made it back to the surface and then not without Andy's kind intervention.



More cars arrived, banter was batted to and fro creating a friendly team atmosphere that was to be a highlight of the trip. Simon and daughter were noisily playing hide-and-seek with their vehicle keys as we prepared to leave. The merry band departed to find that a handline had already been placed along the entrance traverse to the chimney. The utmost care was taken by Andy our leader, with ropes and ladders at every pitch, the first time I've seen such devices in BPW but the passage of years made them welcome.

We emerged into the open pot to the sound and scent of a 2-stroke motor massacring a tree. After a brief foray into Cavern 32 and posing for photos in the sunlight, the team followed the obvious downward route to

Robert's passage, halting at some desecrated flowstone for photos; a safe method of cleaning should be sought. The first challenging destinations, eagerly followed by the lither members of the team were the Gour Chambers. I slid down the narrow rift to follow them and then decided that I ought to see if I could get back up. Amazingly I could, but it did require some effort and encouragement from Lionel who filmed the debacle; a smart phone takes excellent underground video and a waterproof box ensures its survivability – the feeling of loss when parted from a screen for more than 10 minutes is also resolved. The team then set off along a muddy crawl in search of Burnett's Great Chamber. Exploration complete, the exit route back to the open pot was via the dry streamway climbs which had been laddered earlier. It seemed to me that, due to the passage of time, the narrow bits have got narrower, the climbs trickier and the crawls more knobbly.

I remembered parts of the cave vividly from a previous life. Bull Pot was, and still is, a tease in that despite countless man hours of effort and brief moments of hope, it has failed to reveal the overland connection to Lancaster Hole that surely exists....and a dry link to Aygill Caverns.

The final chimney section was full of ropes and ladders and very slippery. My head was level with the top when I slipped down a few feet. I climbed up again and repeated the fiasco.

Andy could sense I was cream-crackered and had stopped cursing which was most unsettling. My mind flashed to the movie "The Last Descent" – John Jones tragically never made it out. A pull up from Andy and I had survived. Strangely, I left wanting more.

I had missed the camaraderie that accompanies every caving trip. I'll be back – fitter and better equipped. Must sort out my SRT rig. Thanks to all who participated and made it such a memorable and enjoyable trip.

**Dave Creedy**

*Picture courtesy of Lionel Rice.*

## ***Library Additions: June – December 2021***

### **Journals:**

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| BCRA                              | - CREG: Journal: Issues. 114-115.<br>- Transactions: Vol. 48 No. 2<br>- 2020 Review |
| Bradford Pothole Club:            | - Bulletin Vol. 7 No. 7   |
| Cave Diving Group:                | - Newsletter: Nos. 220-221. (2021)  |
| Chelsea Speleological Society:    | - Newsletter: Vol. 62 Nos. 7-9, 10-12,<br>Vol. 63 Nos. 1-3, 4-6.                    |
| Council of Northern Caving Clubs: | - Newsletter: Issue 11.   |
| Craven Pothole Club:              | - Record: Nos. 143-144.   |
| Derbyshire Caving Association:    | - Derbyshire Caver: No. 155.  |
| Descent:                          | - Nos. 281-283. (2021)  |
| Grampian S. G:                    | - Bulletin: Fifth Series Vol. 4 No. 1. (2021)                                       |
| Mendip Caving Group:              | - Journal: Issue No. 387 (August 2021)  |
| RRCPC:                            | - News-sheet: Nos. 374 – 377.<br>- Newsletter: Vol. 58 No. 1.                       |
| Shepton Mallet Caving Club:       | - Journal: Series 13 No. 10, Series 14 No. 1.                                       |
| Speleologia:                      | - Nos. 83-84.   |

### **Other Publications:**

- Alum Pot (*Recent Descent*) *extract*:- The Chronicle - A Journal of local interest for Settle and District - No 5 August (1894) (*photocopy*)
- Cave Hunting in Yorkshire: *extract*:- Chambers Journal of popular Literature, Science and Art No. 146 (1886)
- Stump Cross Cavern: Extract from Proceed. of Yorkshire Geological Soc. (1865)
- Caves of the West: Henry Harrison Davis (1838) (*transcript*)
- Henry Harrison Davis and his visit to the Ingleton Caves in (1838).  
*extract*: from BCRA Bull. 3rd. February 1974
- Speleological Literature of the English Language 1794-1996

### **Sheet Surveys:**

- Bye George Pot  
Lancaster Hole – Saturday Afternoon Series  
Pippikin Pot – Beelzebubs Hairy Ringpiece

### **Books:**

- Aquanaut by Rick Stanton (2021)  
Thirteen Lessons that saved Thirteen Lives by John Volanthen (2021)  
Somerset Underground Vol. 2 by R. A, Travinier (2020)

*Members wishing to use the library please contact any committee member who hold a key. The library is an excellent reference facility, please respect it - but above all please use it.*

***Sandra Wilkinson - Librarian: [m.wilkinson@btinternet.com](mailto:m.wilkinson@btinternet.com)***

## ***A mooch in Ease Gill***

With the prospect of the first in person committee meeting in about 18 months, Bill and I decided we needed to go caving to reduce the chances of shocking the committee with Bill arriving on time.

After the still novel experience of being able to enjoy a pre-caving Inglesport breakfast we headed over to the farm where there were lots of folks about, getting ready to go and help out digging at Roller Ball. Dave Ottewell kindly offered us a rope already packed to rig Lancaster Hole as he planned to nip down later in the day with his son, Dan. The catch was he had decided to select a slightly excessive 95 metre rope..... ah well all good training!

Of course, most caving trips with Bill also involve taking a few "holiday snaps" and the plan was to take some photos at the Painter's Palette.

We headed down Lancaster Hole and along the high-level route where I realised that we needed to surmount the death-defying obstacles of not just Fall Pot but also Stake Pot. These are not my favourite bits of cave and no matter how many times I do this route I seem to block out the fact that they are necessary. The advantage to this being I didn't have time to fret about them and got up and down the climbs without too much wailing and gnashing of teeth!

We stopped at Bob's Boss so Bill could set up and take some photos, after taking a few which he was happy with we decided this didn't leave us enough time to carry on to the Painter's Palette (*tea drinking and chatting in the morning had meant we set off a little later than planned*).

As it had been very dry in recent weeks and water levels were low, we decided that we would make a nice round trip of it and come back via Waterfall Passage. We dropped down to the streamway at Stake Pot and made our way downstream with another brief photo opportunity. No matter how many times I visit the Main Drain I am always in awe of this spectacular bit of the system.

Amazingly I correctly identified the way off to Waterfall Passage and found that as hoped it was dry enough to climb up. This is a bit of the system I have never been to before, so it was good to visit. We got to the junction at the end and Bill had a moments doubt about whether to turn left or right but decided it was "definitely left.....or is it right??!". He did select the right passage and we headed down Portcullis Passage to Montague West eventually reaching the awkward edge up and back down to the main passage. We quickly headed out and met Dave & Dan when we weren't far from the pitch. They allowed us to go out first while Dave showed Dan Slug's World.

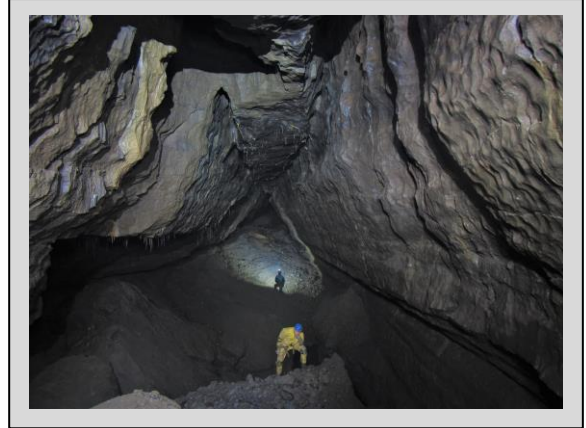
We made it back to the Farm only a bit late for the committee meeting (*standards have to be kept!*) and a fun evening celebrating Steve and Sam's birthdays.

***Emma Key***

## ***Illusion Pot – 66<sup>th</sup> Birthday Do***

*People participating: - Dinny Davies, Emma Wilson, Fleur Loveridge, Adele Ward. Chris Armitage, Lee Smith, Malcolm Hughes, Jeff Croston, Ben Wright and myself Dalek.*

What a surprise this was! Met all at Inglesport, I was surprised at the number of people that were interested in going down. The walk over from the base of the hill along the track to the ice cream van and over the rough grass was the hardest part of the day! Fleur said it was nearly 1pm and we were out at <3pm. The magnificent trip consisted of the entrance climbs down the concrete tubes, down to 4 lengths of steel ladders which led to lowish crawls and stooping through more and more muddy passage to reach a duck/sump.



This required much bailing out with 2 using buckets! Fleur was happy with the outcome and eventually we all pulled ourselves through. The passage then got bigger and more pretty with straws and occasional stals. Some climbs were encountered; where Dinny, Emma and Fleur (*with Dinny's help*) got down to a large chamber and poked around a bit. Back to the fray and I was pleasantly surprised when it was announced that I had a Birthday Surprise.

Emma had diligently and very carefully carried down a Birthday Cake for me to celebrate, and Fleur documented the occasion with the odd photograph or 2 (*or 3*).

We got down to the route over the canyon using the "Slack Traverse" lines and passing the "knotted" handline down to the sump using the handline down the slope. More photos and then out, inside a 2 hour slot!

A quick wash in the stream (*No Swinsto Hole trip*) and then back to the cars.

An excellent day and a memorable trip.

***Dalek*** (your ever loving cave dwelling Trog!)

*Photos: Fleur Loveridge*

## From the Log Book – Recent trip reports

**Monday 7/6/21:**

Inconvenient work schedule means I can't come to the farm on the weekend ... not that it truly matters as we are still in the grip of Covid-19 ["corona virus"] – only 6 people allowed to stay at the farm – and this only for the past couple of months. We are in very strange times! Anyway, today I went over to my surface dig but unfortunately my drill/battery was u/s so I only fixed one hole – it split the boulder though, so I cleared a bit of space. Unfortunately, much more work required. On the way back to BPF I spotted a drystone wall which looked in need of some 'TLC' so, in order to earn 'brownie points' with the farmer I spent 2 hours digging up stones to shore up (*buttress?*) the wall. Can't believe I spent over an hour carrying rocks across the fell!! I did however have the foresight to dig the rocks from nearby shake holes thus achieving two goals simultaneously!!

AND, I "found" TWO draughting shake holes.

**Backdated 5/6/21**

OK, I lied. I can come to the farm on a Saturday ... OK, Where do I start? At the beginning? NO! skip to the end!

**Smokey Hole:** I have been slightly obsessed with this place ever since Svengland was found, even though I had nothing to do with the Svengland discovery. Anyway, I have dug down about a metre (*or was it three feet?*) and found a small void under the cobbles. Strange.

OK, OK. More info for you (*don't*) cry.

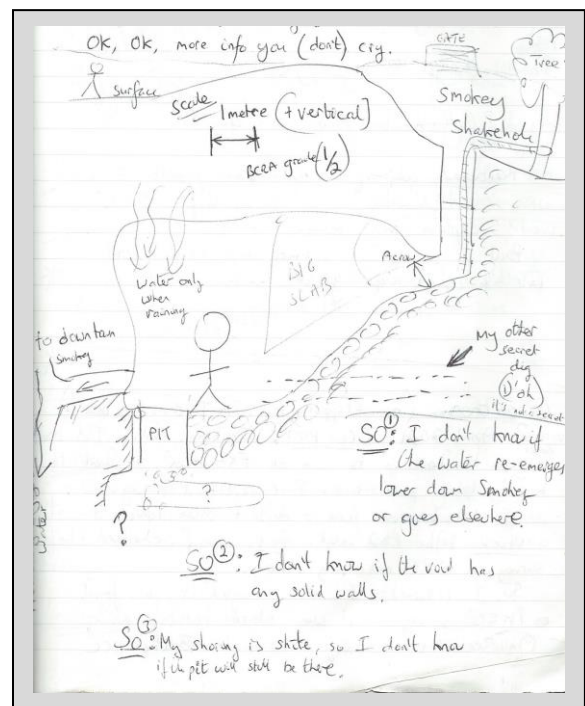
(*cont*)

Sorry I can't help but skip back to the middle of the story. I'd gone down Smokey in April 2021 (*Covid-19 restrictions lifted slightly*) I'd walked across the

"chamber" and my foot sank a, well, a foot. So, I thought to myself "Why"? Why did the chamber floor give way? As mentioned above I have 'seen'/'felt' a void under the chamber so a collapse there would explain my missing foot. But I wonder ... where did that foot worth's of void go ? ...

Go on then (*no stopping me when I've had a beer!*)

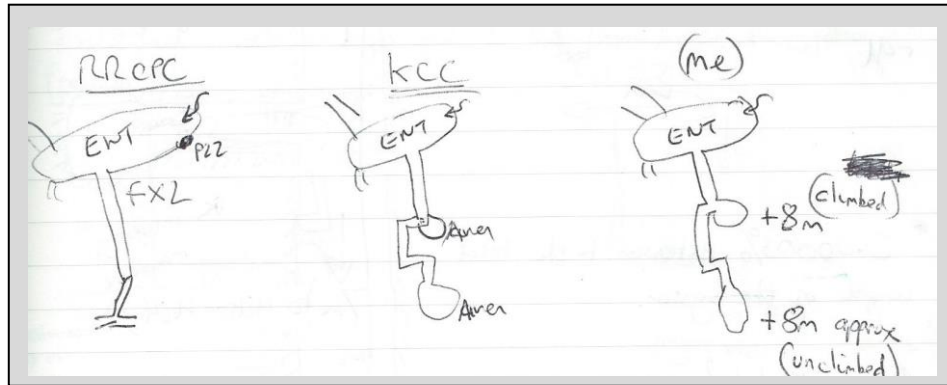
Various dates? April 2021 COW POT: Johnny (*solo*) I'd been given the 'heads up' to look at FX5 aven, so went to have a look .. needless to say, I couldn't find the way! I did however find a different inlet which I assumed to be FX2 inlet BUT, when I checked the survey, it didn't match my memory. So, I returned: I'd also "googled" it and found a 'KCC' survey which was





closer to my memory. My second visit confirmed that the KCC version was right and the RRCPC version wrong! [BLASPHEMY!!]

I have informed Ray, who said that he used the original explorer's data. (*so blame them*) It's only a small difference, barely worth pointing out, but for the record .... **Johnny Baker**



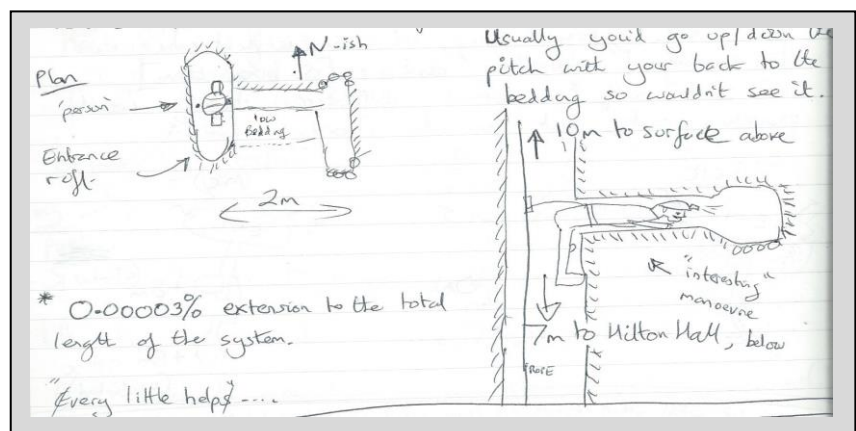
*I wonder what other errors there are, which could lead to rediscoveries? Or new ones*

\* I must state that I think Ray "et al" did a superhuman feat in surveying the system. \*  
I am merely pulling their legs (*pardon the pun*)

#### Link Pot 5/7/21

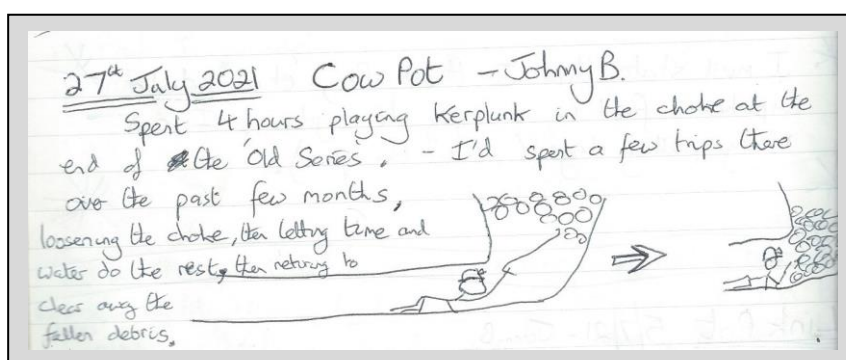
On a previous trip I'd noticed a bedding going off from the entrance pitch about halfway down. A few caps were fired off and lots of chiseling, but I still couldn't fit into the bedding.

6/7/71 A bit more capping and a bit more chiseling ... and I managed to post myself into the bedding.



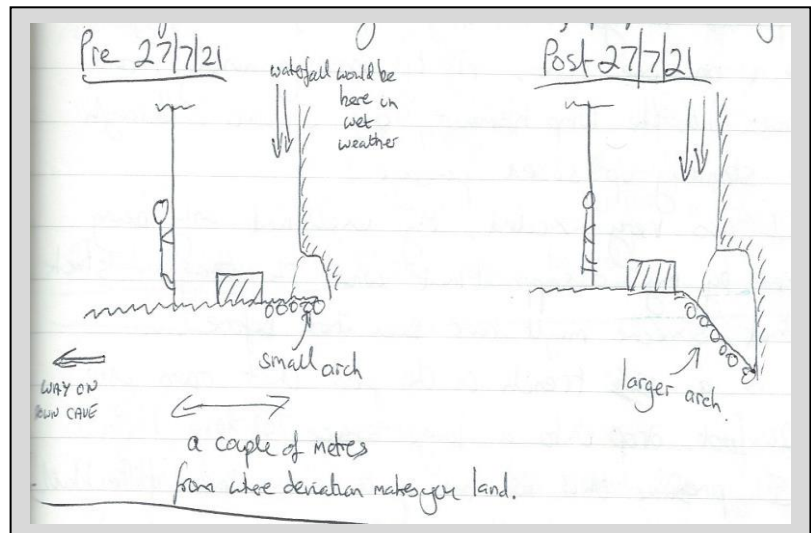
Unfortunately, despite my optimism the crawl did not get any bigger. D'oh! **Johnny Baker**

#### 27<sup>th</sup>. July 2021 Cow Pot - Johnny B.



After removing a ton of cobbles it was time to go. Upon arriving at the bottom of the entrance pitch it became apparent that I had assisted Mother Nature in re-landscaping the cave. No new passage entered but pretty

much proved that the old series choke is directly underneath the entrance pitch – or at least the base of the waterfall. It seems that the 'ton' of cobbles were not spontaneously created in the choke but in fact came from (or more accurately were "replaced by") cobbles from the entrance chamber floor. Could do with a good downpour to let the waterfall sort things out a bit, before further investigation.



Aside: I had to "machete" a path through the ferns in Cow Pot shake hole. Also, the midges were awful!

**Johnny**

**Baker**

### 2020-2021 Rollerball

Due to Covid-19 the team couldn't get in to write up their exploits, fortunately I've been keeping a log of the fun & games so it will be eventually appear in the next journal.

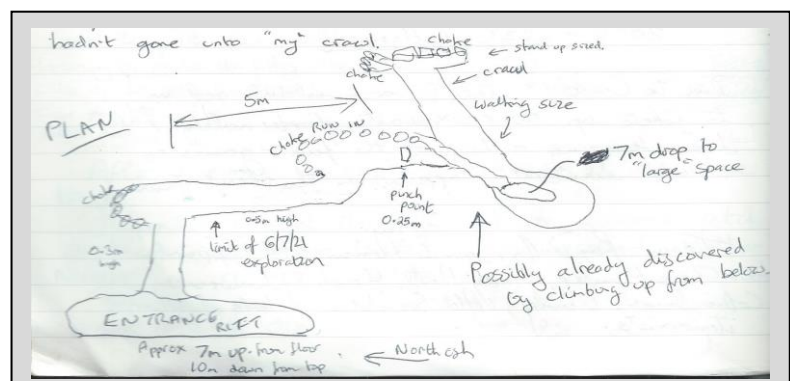
*Team: Ray Duffy, Sam Lieberman, Phil Pappard, Alex & Chris Hunter, Andy Hall, Hugh St. Lawrence, Colin Jones, Dinny, Alan Speight and lots of other 'itinerants'.*

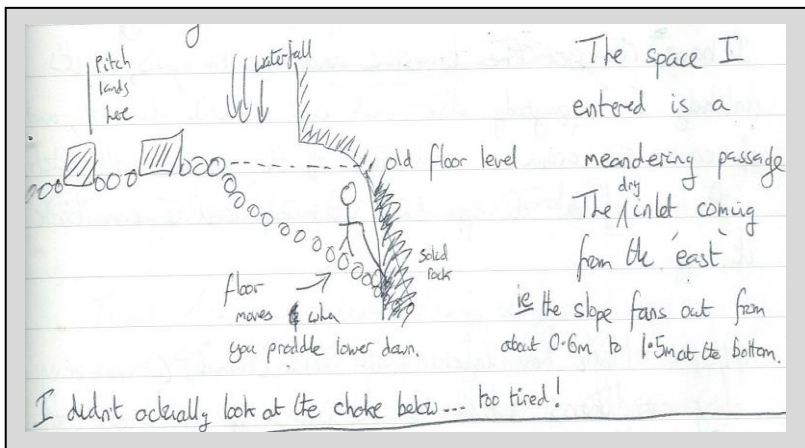
**Ray**

### 9/8/21 Link Pot - Johnny B

Another solo trip to see if I could get any more progress (*see 5+6 July*) I went down the pitch on ladder so that I wouldn't be in my SRT kit in the crawl. [SO much easier on the way out!] Gardened the capped crawl then pushed onwards for another few metres the crawl getting larger. Moved a few cobbles to get into an enlargement, this having run-in on one side. A bit more gardening and 10 minutes with the lump hammer and I was through into standing up passage. I was very excited. My excitement only being matched by my disappointment when the thought struck me that someone might have been there before ... there is a trench in the floor that opens into a 20 foot drop into a large space.

I presume this is one of the avens near Hilton Hall. It took three attempts to get back past the hammered rock! Oh well, another 5m or so of new passage ... I'm confident that even if someone has climbed up there, they hadn't gone into "my" crawl.



**9/8/21 Cow Pot - Johnny B**

No mistake! TWO trips today!!! Went to inspect the floor of the entrance pitch after the heavy rain. [see 27/7/21] Windy so no midges! Had a proddle but retreated when I felt the floor move – This being in the new alcove.

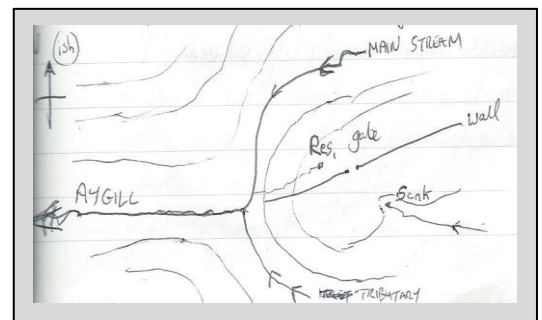
I didn't actually look at the choke below - too tired!

**12/8/21 Link Pot - Johnny B**

Surveying trip to the stuff found 9/8/21. About 20m. The "7m drop" is as expected straight into Hilton Hall, however as it drops in through the roof, I think its unlikely that someone has climbed up – certainly not in the past 20 years as the passage above isn't on survex. Took two attempts to get back through the pinch point!

**Friday 13/8/21 Headwaters of Aygill:**

A few months ago I'd found a prospective dig about a mile upstream of Aygill Caverns. I returned with capping gear to try to enlarge the opening. However - no joy, only a broken drill bit! Both the sink and the resurgence need lots of work, but I think I've decided not to bother as the reward would be a 20m through trip.

**20/8/21**

Friday trip down Link to bolt across the pitch into Hilton Hall. Four bolts and I was across, the promising looking dig looked shite, but the passage did a sharp left into a crawl that got to a cross-roads. Fortunately, I saw a boot print before I got too excited. This series led to the climb at Pybus Bypass. I have removed the traverse and the hangers as its unlikely I or anybody else will ever revisit the loop and of course the crawl is still there off the entrance rift pitch. A bit of a disappointment but at least I can tick it off.

**Retro: 2/9/21 "Unrecorded Cave" Ingleborough**

Spotted this on Beardy's Birthday Bash Walk back in May (June?) [definitely June] Couldn't find reference to it in NC2 so went for a look to see if it was an unmarked 'other' entrance to anything. Surface trench is 3-4m deep choked with mud. But crawl is going off for a couple of body lengths. Another reading of NC2 and still nothing that ties in with grid reference or description. Even The Oracle (Beardy) says it is unrecorded – unfortunately, I need 5m for it to be a cave and I only went in 4m. D'oh! Will return with tape measure to check!!!

**11/9/21 - Magic Roundabout** With York Uni CPC in very dry conditions. Actually found chain and ladder for exit to the route.

**12/9/21 - Boundary to County**

(with YUCPC) Just happy to be back in Ease Gill after 19 months absence.

**Toby Speight**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021 or Stardate 2906.02**

Twas 8am and Steve's Party day, and also an early Jim Newton birthday treat. As a way of burning off a little excess energy the troops were led over to Rollerball for *(sorry a banger has gone off behind me)* for a monster digging session. Ray went in early to do some 'capping' so there was some spoil to get going with. Colin followed closely behind and helped to ferry ten bags of rubble to the boulder.

Eventually, the full team arrived and got rid of the fifty bags we'd left in the entrance chamber on Thursday night. Then the stream of bags started firing out to the surface. Boz acted as photographer *(well it's about all he's useful for)*. Hamish hovered around, whilst Helen and Alistair played in the shake hole. Down in the dark there was, at various stages:- Serena, Toby, Christian, Gwen, Andy H., Dave and Dan, Zak and Danny, whereas Lionel hauled on the surface.

When Hazel, Jim and Dave C. turned up with Terry, a halt was called for, and dinner was taken as a picnic on the picturesque slopes of green, dotted with sheep shit.

A return to the fray was called for, and surprisingly most returned, though some did escape to go on a jolly. Sometime later the committee members 'blobbed' and ran away, leaving a committed team of hard men/women. Finally, enough people had left that a message was sent down to 'Down Tools'. However, three hours later, four of the team had not returned to the farm and some people got nervous and Ray offered to go and see where they were. As it turned out Christian, Serena, Zak and his mate Dan were found still enjoying hauling out bags after a serious bit of digging.

Excellent effort by everyone involved. **Ray Duffy**

**Ingleborough Cave 25/9/2021**

Bill Nix, Emma Key, Hannah Walker, Bill Osborne, Phil Withnell. Trip beyond the show cave to Inauguration Caverns – water was up, but very low until Thursday. Doh! Went to end of Terminal Lake and took pics. 3½ hours of steady caving.

Next to County Pot for 3C's support (Pics) **Bill Nix**

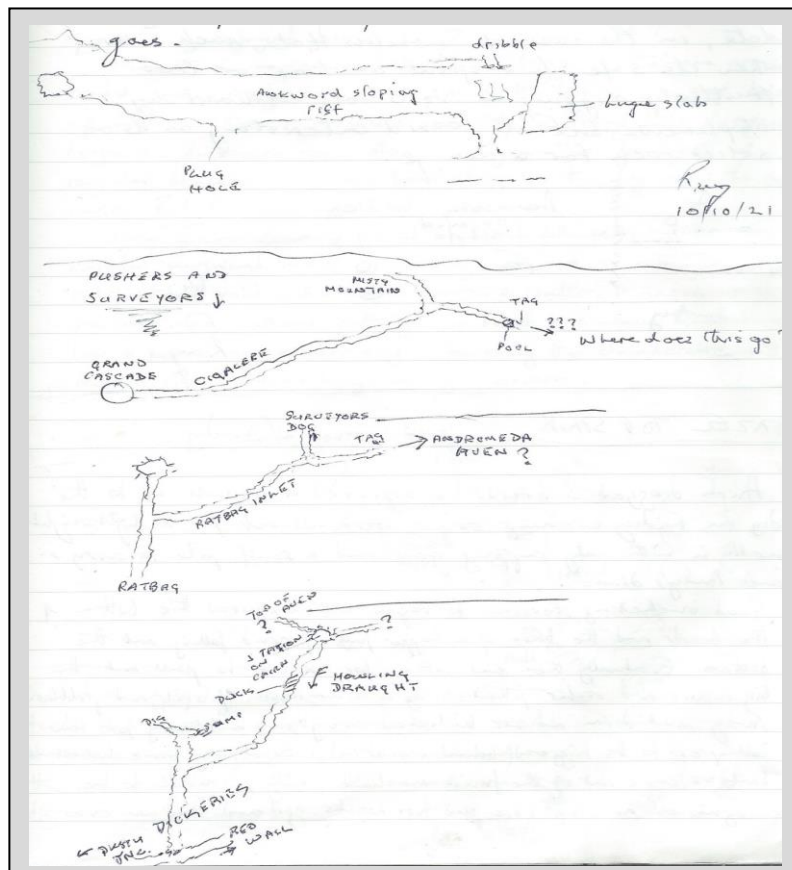
**4/10/21 Hazel Syke - Johnny Solo**

Due to flood conditions, couldn't do much but go for a wander on the surface. Ended up at Hazel Syke *(Dry)*. Went in for a nosey *(25 ish years since last visit)* Not overly happy with the rusty scaff and rotten timbers, but still got to the bottom. *(I think)* Bloody hell! Has anyone

been down there in flood??? Why isn't RRCPC digging there!!!? The rumble of water is enticing!!!

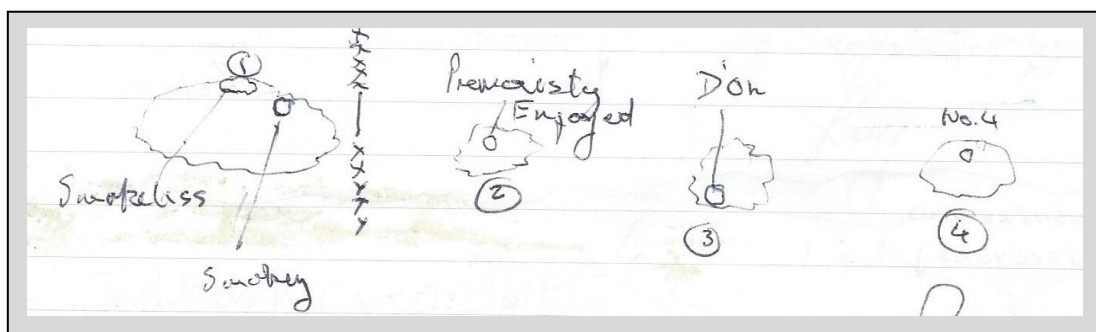
### Rollerball – Moving on

After several more visits and a few hundred more bags removed the end starts going down, which is where we wanted it to go. It's not going to be easy, though it's possible to see spaces below and that's where the draught comes from and also where the water goes.



### 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 Leck Fell

In order to get Johnny's digs on to the next survey sheet I managed to get him to show me them and we surface surveyed from Smokey Hole to all of them, and marked the entrances with some sort of tag. They can be surveyed at a later date. In the case of Smokeless Hole, much later when it's safe. We spent an hour or two fruitlessly digging in No.4 Hole without any implements, but it looked interesting as its in solid rock for a change. **Ray.**





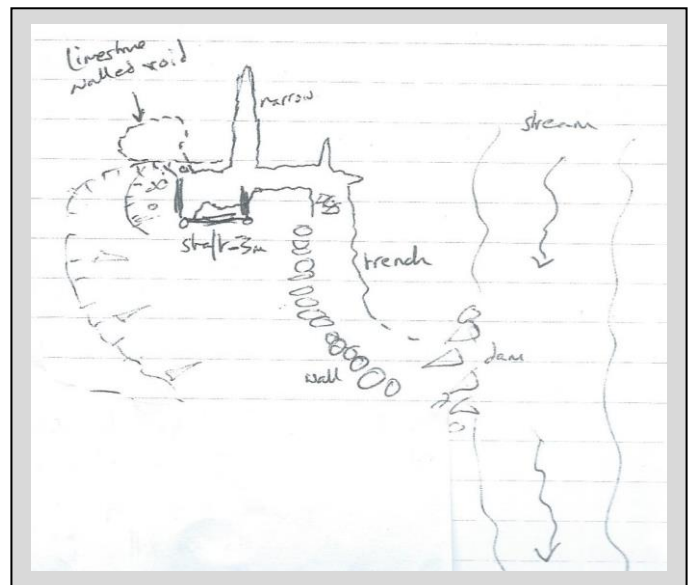
**Hazel Top Sink 16/10 Hugh/Andy**

Hugh dragged 3 boards and assorted ironwork up to the dig on Friday evening, so we were all set for a lightweight walk in with only capping gear and a scaff pole to carry .... and Andy's dinner.

Good bucketing session to begin with exposed the bottom of the boards and the base of a hopper full of crud falling out the bottom. Eventually there was nothing for it but to pull out the big cobbles and rocks followed by a bumrush of soil and pebbles. Andy went down and we bucketed everything out, only for new collapses to be triggered behind the boards. Eventually some limestone boulders came out of the fruit machine, only for them to be recognizable as stuff I'd capped two weeks ago and thrown over the top of the boards – it was a recycling dig, so why take out new boulders when you can just recycle the old ones!!

To try and stabilize things one of the poles was extended down and the boards knocked down further. But, we still kept getting three cherry's on the fruit machine and a cascade of previously enjoyed boulders. However, in a pause between winning on the one-armed bandit and sorting out a cross pole at the bottom, a gap briefly appeared on the solid wall side with a strong hint of space beyond. This was soon observed by another jackpot of recycled boulders and more bucketing as the day drew to a close. But the gap appeared again.

Some micro-cleaning around a cobble followed by its very careful surgical removal suddenly allowed a look into a substantial void with clean limestone walls. It was hard to see any more without putting your head in Madame Guillotine, but it looked very encouraging. Assessing the chamberette will require some daredevil engineering, however.

**Hugh St. Lawrence****25/10/21 Trafalgar Day ! (?) Braindead and Chis Ed**

After discussions with the Dark Lord it was agreed that the entrance to Hazel Sike Cave (?Molly Pot?) was needed, to check its altitude.

JB + Mr Chris Edmundson (*a non member*) did a surface survey from Aygill Caverns ... Hmmm, lots of potential 'stations' had small cairns erected ... too many for coincidence! Methinks SOMEBODY has already done this chore WITHOUT TELLING ME THAT THEY'D ALREADY DONE IT. No matter, it was a lovely walk. In the rain. Even better in the sun.

When we got past HSC I looked down upon HS gill - Aahh... maybe I was wrong when I spoke to TDL about Aygill. Maybe the water was literally 10m upstream of HSC ... (D'oh)... (Oh well) ... at least it got me down HSC a couple of weeks ago ... and I heard the lion roar.! Honest!

**Johnny B**

**Retro Entry 19/10/21 (give or take a week)**

Molly Pot/ HS Cave. Had another look/hear in less floody conditions to 4/10/21. Scaff + shoring still a bit worse for wear (20?, 15? Years old) No lions roaring but had a couple of frantic half hours in the upper boulders. Methinks the way on is up + then down the R/H wall, rather than straight down. But what do I know?

**28/10/21 Hazel Top Sink H. St. L.**

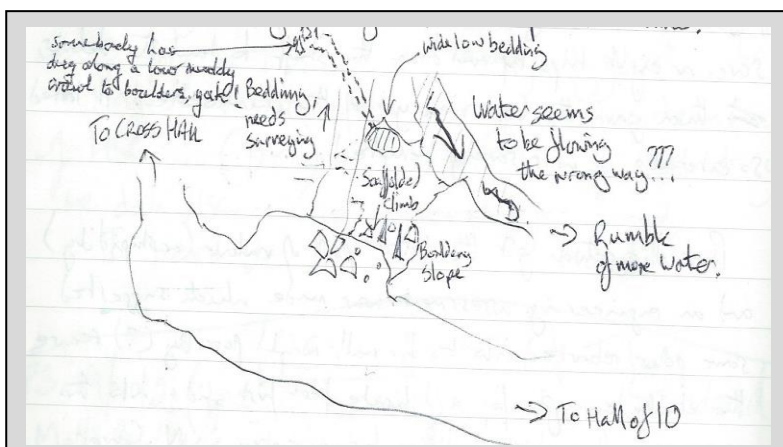
Pfizer jab in the morning, coffee at Ray's after, where I handed in my sick note and got an absentee pass for Rollerball. Not because of the Pfizer jab but the bursitis has gone down, but now left a tender elbow. So, it was a jaunt up to the HS dig in the gathering gloom.

Predictably the hanging boulders behind the boarding were not hanging anymore – or only partially. The scaff I had jammed into the choke and supported at one end with a clamp to an upright had done me proud and the big 'entry' was resting on top of it. Good enough for the moment. Additional cleaning out the bottom of the hopper and seven or eight trips up and down the shaft to haul the debris, then gave the best view yet of the chamberette. It looked so enterable. I was sorely tempted ....

But discretion got the better part of valour (*or stupidity*) and an engineering assessment was made which suggested some poles rebarred into the far wall would possibly (?) secure the choke enough for a delicate feet first slide into it. It probably qualifies for an entry into N. Caves as the length is just over 4m. But I'm not counting this a success until the first 400m are in the book. Well maybe 40m, then ... 10m even!

A walk back by Hazel Syke Cave, and then risings in the gorge left me plenty to discuss with Mr Braindead who is quickly being wooed by prospects this side of the farm !!!!

**Sat 30<sup>th</sup>. Oct. Mistral – Surveying the new route to Pippikin Sump**



Ray Duffy, Sam Lieberman, Colin Jones. Having cocked up last week with Colin laying fiberglass rather than going caving I had to forgo my Saturday morning lie in. Met at the farm in torrential rain and off to Mistral. Colin hadn't been before and could hardly contain his excitement. Soon found our way past Hall of 10 and on to where the new route goes

down (*happens to be where a bedding in the wall is, that also needs surveying*). Dropped down through the scaffold climb to find a wide brow fast flowing river in a low passage. It appeared to be flowing the opposite way to what we expected?? Didn't fancy surveying up to our necks in water so abandoned ship to head back out with Colin. Little aside towards Red Wall chamber on the way out to find much improved weather.

**Sun 31<sup>st</sup>. Oct – Hugh Dent and Hazeltop**

Collected detectors from the dye test in Dentdale then returned to the farm in worsening weather. Walked over to beck sinks in Aygill (*Booming*), Hazel Syke (dry), Middle Sinks in HS (*overflowing*) and top sink dig (*small stream flowing through dam*). On the way back I noticed stream now flowing further down from Hazel Syke but got dry again at the sandstone gates. But not for long! .... Realised I was just getting ahead of a flood pulse so went down a bit further and waited at the Floodgate Sink. Got the camera ready and a couple of minutes the pulse arrived and fell down the entrance! Got a video of it.

It might eventually flow on to Hazel Syke Cave, if it gets really wet I guess, but I wasn't waiting in the pissing to see how long that would take! Got back to the farm and let some bedraggled looking cavers in to get changed out of the maelstrom. Turned out they were Craven P.C. but they buggered off without putting anything in the honesty box!!

**Tues 2<sup>nd</sup>. Nov - Hugh Hazeltop Sink**

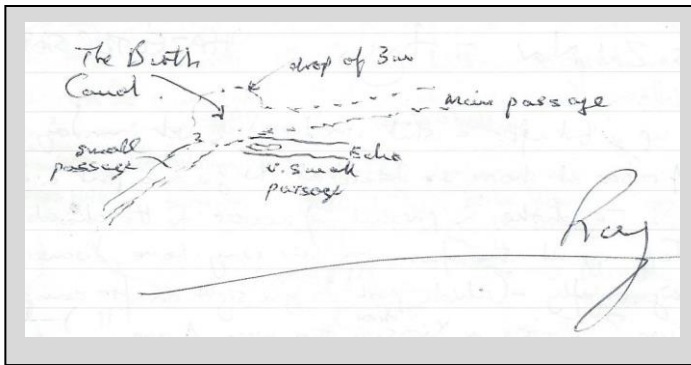
Dried up a bit after a shit weekend and wet Monday. Found a bit of rebar at home so decided to go and put a couple of poles in the choke in pursuit of access to the chamberette. Met Johnny at the farm on his way home, discussed surveying briefly – (*which post do you sight on for compass calibration?*) There's an xmas tree in the way of one!! Then set off with a bagful of drills at 4.30.

Problems up at the dig as the overhanging 'brow' above the shaft had partly collapsed, so first hour spent bucketing and sorting entry. Then had a happy couple of hours playing chicken and kerplunk in the choke. Rebar inserted, poles fixed, and a psychological semblance of security attained – sort of! It was hard to resist the temptation of sliding into the very visible chamberette – the stream flowing into the dig turns right and ponds up in a 6" wide rift. But looking into the chamberette the water re-enters from a shelf and falls 18" to the floor and flows off out of sight to the left.

Found I could get a mobile signal just up on the fell from the dig, so rang Mr Hall to check out and got back to farm at 8.30. A good evening.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>. Nov. 2021 Rollerball**

Sam, Colin and your correspondent entered with a view to removing all last week's bags and then some capping. WE got down enough to look into the low passage but while there I looked in the opposite direction and 'to & behold' the passage also heads back towards the entrance with a load echo!



Got my head stuck for a while. The poo that made the passage 'The Birth Canal' was almost all removed thanks to the hosepipe.

Lots of bags for Thursday's group but Chris had arrived, so some had moved up the passage.

### 13/11/21 Casserole Pot

*Andy H, Emma K, Mark Asby, Colin Jones.* Went to the end and cleared loads of bang debris back up the crawl, up the climbs/The biggest blocks were all brought out to the surface. We removed all the bang wire as instructed by Steve. Emma even said she had enjoyed herself!

*Andy Hall.*

### Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>. November 2021 - Rollerball

Epic cleaning trip solo. Everything is spotless again, so no dirty over suits please.

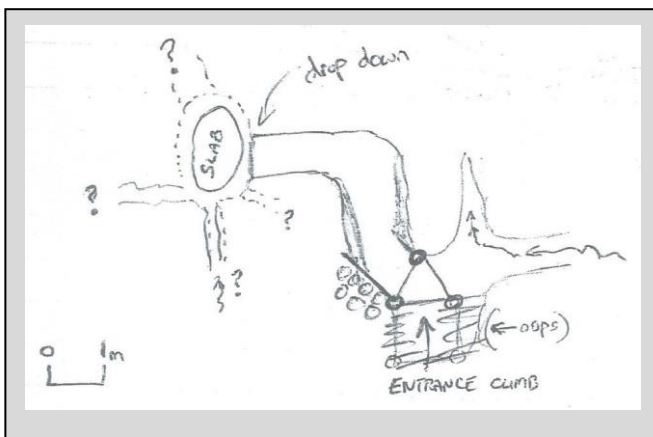
*Ray.*

### 18<sup>th</sup>. Nov '21 Johnny & Hugh - Hazel Syke Extravaganza

With a promise of "some cloud cover" we met up for a trip to survey Floodgate Sink, and then go up to Hazel Top Sink ... So off we went in the cloud and drizzle. Aygill sinking at the kilns, it wasn't looking good, got to Floodgate where the stream was sinking 20m. upstream. Hmm. Not looking good at all. Hugh stated that it wasn't the best place to be on a flood pulse, - the entrance climb being snug and awkward. I suggested that I just see if I actually fitted in the hole. Which I didn't.

"Well, we've got our capping gear with us." said Hugh. So, one shot hole later, I was in. Then out again to check how the stream was doing. Fortunately, it was retreating, so we decided to go for it. Had a poke around but couldn't see anything obvious – there are a few "maybes" but not the recently cleared by floods cave passage we'd dreamt of.

About seven legs with the disto and we'd surveyed out to the tag, and the even thicker cloud and heavier drizzle. Johnny weezed down Hazel Sike Cave but the lion wasn't roaring.



Up to Hazel Syke Top Sink, where Hugh quickly sorted out the 'bothy' with a tarpaulin over the trench. At least we had our lunch on relative luxury. Hugh sent the new boy to the sharp end, with instructions to fire off 2 shot holes. These took the lip off the drop down and with the Dark Lord's permission I dropped down.

Unfortunately, there was no possible way on. It dropped into a chamberette which was half filled by a huge fallen slab. We swapped positions so that Hugh could have a look and he fired off a few shots to clear the way a bit. We both felt that bang or snappers would be better than trying to cap the slab, partly due to its size, but mainly due to access for capping. If we can get somebody to blow up the bugger, then maybe a way on will be seen? Hugh also fitted some rebar so we could get a scaff pole in to help support/shore up a boulder slope.

*Sun 21<sup>st</sup>. November 2021 - Rollerball - Ray Duffy (Solo)*

The top of the drop to The Birth Canal was piling up with rocks too big to get in the codpiece so I went in to try and cap them to bag size. 8 boulders capped and some of them bagged but ran out of bags. Went down the hole and set off 3 lots of caps and then quite a bit of chisel work produced masses of rubble so quite a bit to clear out next visit.

### ***Blast from the Past***

I found the article below in one of my old notebooks. It wasn't dated but was addressed to Dave Ryall's email - I can only assume he was newsletter editor at the time - maybe a clue to the date?

Javelin has been going on and off since 2/8/03. We started going down following the cliff face and eventually came to numerous draughting rifts too narrow to enter, until one weekend we were backfilling the centre when Lionel came to a man-sized rift. He crawled in 6 feet to a small space and turned around to tell me it went down a narrow rift. At that moment, a large 5 foot slab fell down between the two of us! As this made a useful flat floor and jammed the passage open, we left it and continued down about 20 feet until the passage became blocked by boulders. Since then, we have continued downwards in a rift that at times is draughting. Johnny Braindead and Bling offered helped, vying with each other to widen the passage, which did eventually drop 15 feet into a cross rift with inlets.

Later, heavy rain and flooding filled the drop completely and we thought we would have to give up on the dig, however, the next day Johnny - not knowing it had flooded - went down to do some capping and it was dry! Subsequent trips were few and far between due to a sparsity of willing diggers, although Bling kindly organised a 5 man team to clean out all the mud, rock and gravel embedded in the crevices.

Lionel and I have since returned to the job and found a pool blocking the way on. I had the big bar with me and tried in vain to get it to drain. Lionel then took over and soon had it gurgling away. Unfortunately, we left it thinking it would stay open ..... it didn't, and progress over the next couple of months came to a halt. Last week, Lionel returned and found it was blocked by clay. His crowbar was still in the hole but solidly stuck. So, it now looks like a mud wallow, and trying to move bags of wet clay out of the hole has turned a normally clean dig into a morass. It's going to be an even longer job than we thought! **Jim Newton**

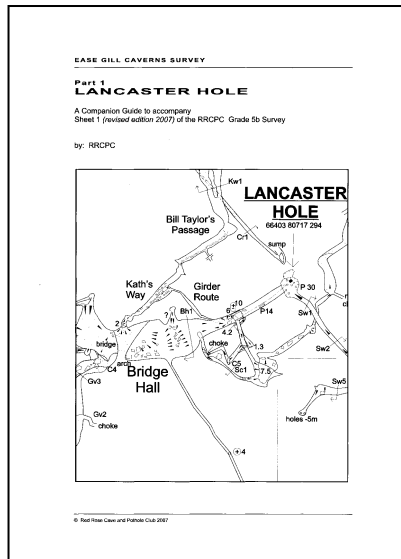


*That's all for now folks, Hope you all have a great Christmas and New Year – Don't forget the **Boxing Day Walk** (let Sandra know what food you want) and, in the New Year its Jim Newtons re-scheduled **90<sup>th</sup>. Birthday Party** at Bull Pot Farm in the **afternoon of Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>. January** Hope to see you all there.*



## Publications for Sale

### Easegill Caverns Survey



#### Sheet 1 – Lancaster Hole Area (2<sup>nd</sup>. Edition 2007)

with accompanying guide, covers the Lancaster Hole area and eastwards to Stake Pot.

#### Sheet 2 – Stake Pot to Snail Cavern Area (2<sup>nd</sup>. Edition 2011)

with accompanying guide, covers most of the Stake Pot Inlet series (Earby Series) and the main drain and high level routes eastwards to Oxbow Corner

#### Sheet 3 – Snail Cavern Area to Holbeck Junction

with accompanying guide covering also County Pot, Wretched Rabbit and Snail Cavern to Holbeck Junction

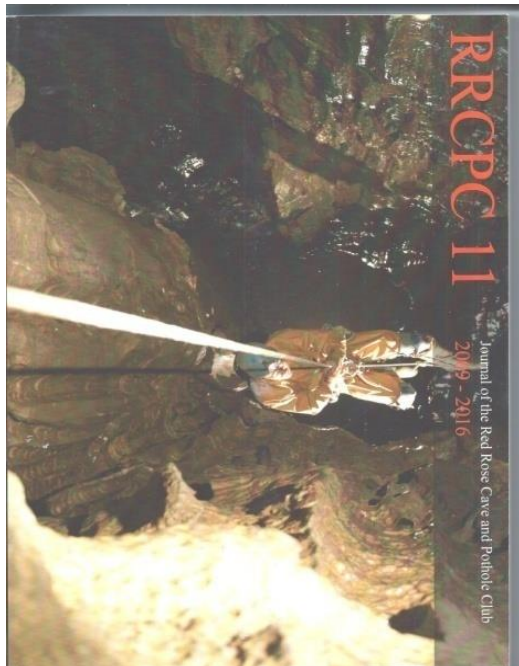
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with accompanying guide covering Far Series of Easegill Caverns, Boundary Pot and Pool Sink

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**NEWSLETTER Editor:** Mel Wilkinson [m.wilkinson@btinternet.com](mailto:m.wilkinson@btinternet.com)