



RED ROSE CAVE AND POTHOLE CLUB

NEWSLETTER



Vol 58 No 1

June 2021

Winner!

Giles Barker Award – 2021 RRCPC Photographic Competition



Greensett Cave

Photo: Paul Swire

Introducing a new book of her own poems, which Susan Osborne has recently published. Her introduction to the caving section is produced below together with one of her non caving poems. Seek out the one about our very own Jim Newton. As well as caving poems, there are some semi autobiographical ones and some general ones, all in a non-offensive humorous Pam Ayres kind of style. A copy will be donated to the club library for the amusement of members with the following request; Should anyone wish to recite from the book by way of entertainment on upcoming socials, please feel free to do so

with a suitable Lancashire accent. Should anyone wish to purchase (and thank you very much in advance) books are available to order through Amazon and most common outlets. The recommended retail price is set at £6.99 although different retailers might list slightly different prices based on their own shipping and distribution costs.

A Venture Underground

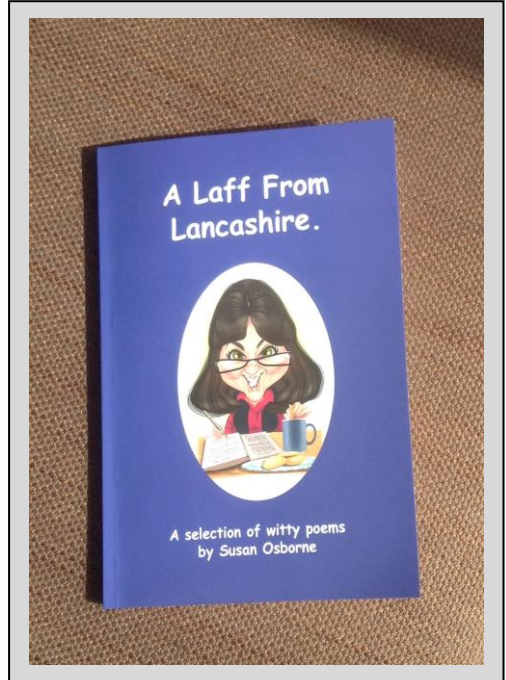
Under the protective eye of my caver husband, my first venture underground felt like playing 'Tomb Raider', or being an extra in, 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth!' It definitely had a 'wow' factor. So I joined the club!

Hopefully, I won't offend caving buddies at Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club with my cheeky beginner's look at their sport.

It is essential to wear the 'right gear' of course, which loosely consists of a woolly onesie under caving overalls, the all-important torch-bearing helmet to light the way, knee pads for crawling through narrow passages, plus various harnesses ropes and ladders to help you safely descend death-defying routes, wearing wellies for the wet, muddy terrain below.

If my flippant look at this odd activity doesn't put you off, I can recommend the organised chair winch into Gaping Gill in the Yorkshire Dales, which will safely transport you 98 metres down into the largest underground cavern in the country.

The next section has a bit of a 'laff' at cavers and their antics. 'Sunday Mornin' Show', ridiculous as it seems, is actually based on a true story. No wonder folk think cavers are a weird bunch!



Where's Mi Glasses?

They're round 'ere somewhere, just 'ad 'em in mi 'and.
Must have put 'em down. I really don't understand
How they could 'ave disappeared right before mi eyes.
Could 'ave sworn they'd be in 'ere, I really am surprised.

Can't see 'em anywhere, thought I'd put 'em on mi desk,
But if I had, I couldn't see 'em, this is such a mess!
Feeling about makin' targets of anything that shines,
But everything's so fuzzy with eyes as bad as mine.

A stapler, a paper clip, some scissors and some keys,
Owt but mi glasses. Oh give me strength, please!
Back-track, think, 'Now where 'ave I just been?'
Garden shed, bathroom, kitchen, I could scream.

I can't keep making circles in out-of-focus space,
With a screwed up, swallowed-a-wasp, sorry, frowning
face.

Pointless squinty searches fill me full o' dread.
Hands raised up, I give up, then find 'em, on mi 'ead!



Contents:

Contents		3
Savouring Lockdown	<i>Ray Duffy</i>	4
Raising funds for the C.R.O.	<i>Susan Osborne</i>	5
Roy Breakell Literary Award – How it was made	<i>Susan Osborne</i>	6
Roy Breakell Literary Award – The Casting	<i>Bill Nix</i>	8
Stories in Stone	<i>Mike Appleton</i>	10
Squalority Street	<i>Andy Pringle</i>	12
Blast from the past – Jim Newtons Diary entries	<i>Jim Newton</i>	13
2021 RRCPC Photographic Awards		14
Ingleborough and Raven Scar Cave	<i>Carol Makin</i>	19
Library Additions	<i>Sandra Wilkinson</i>	20
Jim's busy day, Saturday 15 May 2021	Jim Newton, Dave Creedy	21
Publications for Sale		22

Editorial:

I have to tell you now that there has been some bitter disappointment at this desk during the first half of this year. Yes, we know that we have been in lockdown for the majority of the year, but recently caving activity has resumed with some gusto, and yet I have received very few trip reports from members caving activities. If you want another Newsletter, then it will depend upon me, or some other future editor receiving sufficient material to make a publication worthwhile. It's your choice!

Your 2021 Committee:

President: Sam Lieberman
president@rrcpc.org.uk

Chairman: Steve Gray,
chair@rrcpc.org.uk

Secretary: Carol Makin,
secretary@rrcpc.org.uk

Membership Sec: Emma Key,
membership@rrcpc.org.uk

Treasurer: Bill Nix,
treasurer@rrcpc.org.uk

News-Sheet Editor: Gwen Tawy,
news@rrcpc.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Mel Wilkinson
newsletter@rrcpc.org.uk

Permit Secretary: Dinny Davies,
caving@rrcpc.org.uk

Meets Co-ordinator: Bill Nix,
meets@rrcpc.org.uk

HQ Warden: Andy Hall,
HQ@rrcpc.org.uk

HQ Engineer: Alan Martin,
engineer@rrcpc.org.uk

Librarian: Sandra Wilkinson,
library@rrcpc.org.uk

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

Andy Hall,
andy@rrcpc.org.uk

Conservation Officer:
 Holly Bradley,
conservation@rrcpc.org.uk

Social Secretary:

Martin Fagan,
social@rrcpc.org.uk

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

Sam Lieberman,
cncc@rrcpc.org.uk

Tackle Master:

Toby Speight,
tackle@rrcpc.org.uk

Training Officer:

Jack Overhill,
training@rrcpc.org.uk

Journal Editor:

Mike Appleton,
journal@rrcpc.org.uk

Savouring Lockdown

Many of you are probably tearing your hair out as the third imprisonment hit us at Christmas, not me though, I am loving it but really missing the caving. Still, there is a lot to do once you start looking closely. For instance, I've mended almost all my over-suits and here are my top tips for that process:-

If you're mending a plastic one, Meander etc.

It is best to put the patch on the inside of the suit, so turn it inside out to make life easier.

- First make sure the repair area is really clean and dry
- Mark the area to be patched with a felt pen
- Cut a patch the same shape as the marked area
- If the hole is ragged, then cut away the torn bits to get a solid edge
- Take sandpaper and remove the shiny surface from the patch and suit (very important)
- Put a solid flat surface inside the suit, bigger than the hole and make sure it's wrapped in a plastic bag so it doesn't stick to the glue
- Spread the glue thinly to just outside the mark (Bostik 3206e @ about £25/, but if the lid is closed properly will give lots of repair glue.)
- Firmly touch the patch over the marked area and then place another hard/ flat/plastic bag wrapped surface over your patch.
- Lastly put a very heavy object on top to squash the surfaces together while the glue sets (I use an old car battery)
- Leave for a day for the best result and then carefully peel the plastic bagged surfaces away and you should be good to go

After repairing many suits I've found it better to cut away rather than patch over the top when the hole is large, otherwise the suits become very much like a 'tin man' suit.

That's taken care of a fair bit of time and then there's your SRT kit. How long is it since you replaced your strings and WD'd the karabiners and maillons? Well get to it! You know it makes sense. Cows tail knots get frayed on the outside and wear away with constant rubbing on the inside, so let's replace them while we aren't hanging on a 50 metre pitch hearing that horrible creaking sound and worrying about their strength.

- Unclip everything from the harness and undo the knots on the cows tails
- Measure how long they are without the knots and buy some new dynamic rope for replacing them
- Re-do all the knots and fix back with a real good tug as you don't want the knots coming undone
- I tend to thread bits of cut off cycle inner tube over the loose end so it can't work free
- Check your foot-loop if you use the 'Frog' method, as the SRT rope sliding between your feet can wear through your loop pretty fast especially if the rope is dirty. Maybe worth replacing this with a new piece of static rope if it's worn
- Have a good look at your harness to check that the stitching is intact and the webbing hasn't worn too much
- Give your krabs and maillons a little WD TLC to make sure they open and close smoothly

My tackle-bags have taken some hammer (literally – usually a lump hammer and drill etc.) so I took the opportunity to reinforce the bottom edges where they were getting a little on the thin side. Again it was out with the Bostik and patches. This required the use of clamps as the edges were rounded and not as easy to squash with a heavy object.

I've worn out, I don't know how many, glove fingers and I eventually came up with a little money saving tip. Use a rubbished glove and cut off the thumb end and glue it onto the glove finger that has a hole in it. Yes it feels a bit strange but it'll last for long enough for another finger to wear out. You nearly always wear out your dominant hand first so keep it to repair your next dominant hand wear-out.

Finally the under-suit got a good looking at, lo and behold, the stitching needed some repair. The needle and thread was required for this job and though it wasn't needlepoint stitching it has stopped the hole getting any worse and saved money into the bargain.

I would have given my 'capping' gear a good sorting but unfortunately that's still stuck down the cave I haven't been able to reach for months, bugger!

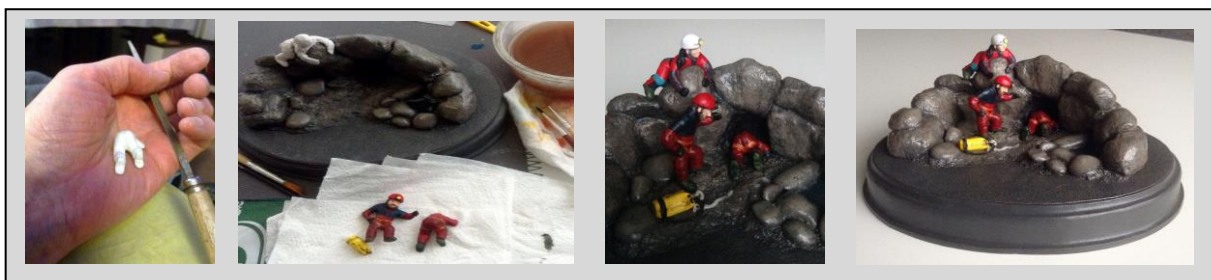
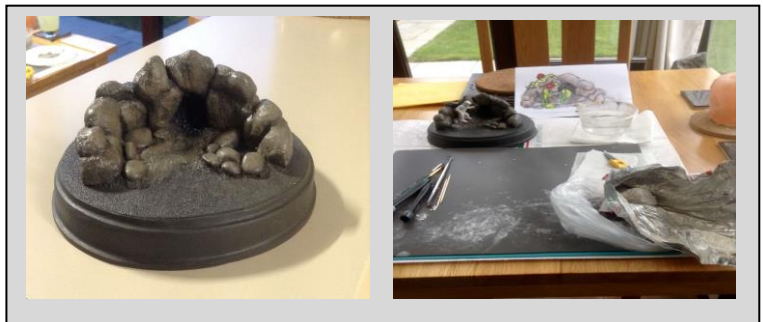
Ray Duffy

Raising funds for the CRO

Pursuing various art projects, as I'd promised myself I would do this year, designing the Roy Breakell trophy gave me the taste for more cave related art. I already had a rough sketch drawn out of a little caving scene I was planning to make in 3D along with ideas for a couple of other caving scenarios.

I had been experimenting with fast drying mortar to form rocks. It was quite successful if I timed it right and shaped and sculpted the 'rocks' just as the mortar was setting. Pleased with the result I mixed more mortar with glue to make my cave mud and added some pipe bedding to represent the smaller rocks. The little pool to the side was created by painting a slight blue colour to the base and then bit by bit over several days adding a clear nail hardening varnish to represent water. When everything was in place and firmly glued to the plinth, I painted the little scene and gave it a protective coat of semi matt varnish.

Three mini cavers and a mini rope bag were sculpted from clay, sanded, painted and glued into position. If you look carefully at the female figure on top, you might notice she was loosely based on our Club Membership Secretary, Emma Key. Thanks to her often being coaxed into modelling for Bill Nix's caving photography, there were some good shots available for me to use as reference. I suppose the guy disappearing down the hole could be Andy Hall, as he is very keen to investigate any holes he comes across, but he would probably tell me his a**** isn't that big



I have to admit I was pleased with the effort and wondered how best to dispose of it. After a quick chat with Heather Eastwood, who consulted with colleagues at CRO, an online art auction was arranged.

Bids came in fairly quickly and the piece raised a promise of over £100 on the first evening. With the reserve having been met, we just had to wait for the deadline. Needless to say I was more than chuffed when the piece made £150, for a very worthy cause.

I sincerely hope the generous new owner enjoys it as much as I enjoyed creating it.

Susan Osborne

Roy Breakell Literary Trophy - How it was made

For those who don't know me, my business was entertaining at weddings, corporate functions, and parties etc. drawing live caricatures of guests. I say was, because 2020/21 was to be my last year before retiring but sadly, it turned out to be a very unproductive one, as all my work was necessarily cancelled due to Covid restrictions. So, I decided that this year I would concentrate on a host of more personal artistic projects that had been sitting on the shelf for far too long.

As you can imagine, I was pleased and flattered to be asked to design the Roy Breakell Literary Award Trophy for the Club and also glad of the opportunity to busy myself with something artistic.

My remit, after discussing my design idea with Bill Nix, was to come up with a model which could be used to make a mould for casting, as the trophy was to be cast in metal at his foundry, so it was very much a combined effort, with detailed consultation about the process and what was achievable, plus a good dose of online research as I had never made a model for a casting mould before. Unfortunately, travel restrictions prevented a trip to Bill's foundry to see things in action, so our collaboration on the project had to be online.

After research, I chose to make the model from air drying modelling clay, which I have used for years and already had a stock of in my studio cum office.

The open book design was proving a bit difficult to shape in the clay until I stuck two Ikea storage jars together with plasticine and draped the clay over till it dried out. (*pictures 1 & 2*) I now had a basic shape to work with and there followed much careful sanding with several grades of sandpaper (raided from my husband's garage/workshop.)

The Lancashire red rose was made next and added to the now dried and sanded open book. (*picture 3*). It had to be added while the clay rose was still damp and pliable to follow the curvature of the page. After drying out for a few days, I applied a couple of protective coats of varnish.

Next came the lettering.... this posed a problem at first, which was admirably solved by Bill Nix. Being 'in the trade' of metal casting, Bill was already aware of reusable lettering, used in the casting of church bells, and managed to call in a favour from a friend so we could borrow the letters we needed for the trophy. (*picture 4*)

Now provided with the letters, I had the ominous task of sticking them to the model with something that would allow them to be removed afterwards, as they had to be returned. I was told Copydex would do the job, but unfortunately it didn't stick very well to the varnish I'd applied. Some experimentation followed and eventually, I found that nail varnish held the letters nicely in place, allowing them to be removed fairly easily with either nail polish remover or thinners.

With the open book now complete with Lancashire rose and lettering, some kind of stand would be needed to angle it for display. I came up with the idea of making a mini scaffolding to rest the book on as it would give the piece a caving theme. Once again I raided hubby's workshop and found some galvanized steel rods which were easy to hacksaw to size. Making the mini scaff required a bit of welding, which Bill (my hubby) kindly volunteered to do. (pictures 5 & 6) I also used metal putty to wrap round the cross bars to represent clamps. It was a bit fiddly, but we got there in the end. Next thought, was how to fix it to the plinth, so I hacksawed some pre-drilled brackets which my Bill had to braze to the steel rods to form feet which could be screwed down for a secure fix.

After this I set to work making a mini caver to stand on the mini scaffolding. Forming him from the clay, then waiting for it to dry hard so I could sand him into shape. (picture 7)

As he is only about 5 cm tall, sanding the little fellow was a bit of a problem, even with the tiny files my husband lent me. (picture 8) Back to the make up drawer! Oh yes, once again fingernail cosmetics came to the rescue. I cut an emery board into tiny slithers so I could sand the little nooks and crannies, which worked a treat. Finally, he got a protective coating of varnish and I was now ready to hand my part of the project, the open book, mini scaffolding and mini caver over to Bill Nix for the next stage. (picture 9).



1



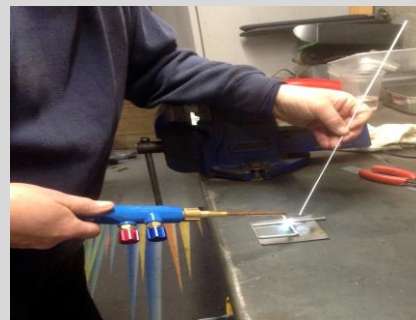
2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

Roy Breakell Literary Trophy – The Casting

Having known Roy for a number of years I was saddened to hear of his passing. An idea was floated to use some of the money that came to the club from him to create a new trophy for an existing award that didn't have one, such as the literary award.

The main question was what to make and what out of. I came up with the idea of casting something. As the award was going to be a literary award something book shaped seemed appropriate! However, the final design was a combined effort from a lot of interaction at various stages between myself and the artist. Making a casting is simple but the tricky part is making, or getting made, a pattern with which to form the mould to cast into. I had given the matter some thought before suggesting it. Sue Osborne, a club member, is a talented artist so what better person to ask.

Over a period of time we came up with an initial design and a medium from which to make the pattern from. Sue did her research well and determined that air setting modelling clay was the best medium to use, being rather pliable and easy to fettle when dried. The biggest challenge of making a pattern is having and allowing time to let things go off. The clay mould was made in stages, allowing for drying in between. Over this period numerous discussions took place. Once the plaque was complete, including a little caver figure to look down into the book, collection was arranged for when I was next out and about for work as we deemed it too fragile for postage! The pattern and the casting are unique. Though we could cast another book, it would be slightly different, as would the caver.

I collected the valuable treasure and transported it carefully to Congleton. The timing was great as we were doing a run of silicon bronze the following week. A good friend from another much bigger foundry came over to see the plaque and helped with the moulding of it whilst on site. Another nice connection as he had lent us the lead letters for the lettering on the pattern. To make a sand mould you first have to decide how to get metal into it, and out, so it fills the mould (risers and feeders). The plaque was easy, whereas the caver slightly more tricky due to his shape and capturing the detail of him. The feeder head probably had as much material as he did!

Feeder heads are where metal is introduced to the mould and risers are where air/gas escapes as the liquid surges through. To allow the pattern to be extracted moulds are made in several parts, the sand is later cleared away from the casting after it has cooled. The bigger the casting the longer the cooling period. After moulding, the mould is painted and dried to ensure no moisture is present it is assembled and weighted ready for pouring. The mould was cast and later sand removed from the casting.

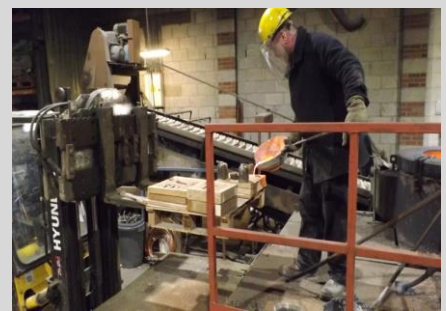
The next stage is to fettle the casting, this involves removing the feeder heads and any unwanted material. Fine fettling takes away the joint lines and makes the casting look whole. The initial fettling was done by me, but we sent it away to a chap at another foundry, who is a very experienced fettler for church bell lettering for fine fettling, to bring up the detail. It was then grit blasted to clear away marks from the sand casting.

We had decided to patinate it in a very traditional colour, London Black, with a waxed finish to protect it from deterioration. Patination is a heat and chemical process that uses the copper in the metal to create a long lasting finish. This was kindly done by my good friend Terry, who helped with the moulding. The transformation is quite noticeable from when the casting left the sand to the nearly finished piece. After patination the red rose was painted in its three colours by Emma Key, along with the caver's helmet, to add a splash of colour. The letters are to be finished with a bronze top, showing the actual colour of the metal underneath.

The final stage is assembly. A piece of wood for the platform will be moulded into a suitable shape then the scaffolding, caver and plaque will be mounted and assembled on it.

The plaque was carefully designed so the names of recipients can be added on the facing page. A consideration was made for when this is full as it is a book a page could be added, but it is planned to leave the mounting plinth to take a bronze plaque to record future winners on there.

The trophy will be presented annually at the RRCPC dinner as will the other awards. Having known Ray for a few years it was a privilege to be able to work on this memorial to him.



Bill Nix

Postscript:

Inspiration from this project has grown. Sue Osborne and I have been plotting together to build a bigger pattern for a life size casting, details to be revealed at a later date. We have got a pattern for a mini statue, four of which will be cast in bronze.

The work is just being finished at the time of writing – newsletter deadline beckons.

My thanks go to:-

Sue Osborne for designing and making the pattern.

Terry King from Westley Group for help and advice.

Emma Key for painting the red rose.

and to the committee for the opportunity to do this special project.

It is hoped that it will be well received by all those who are fortunate enough to win it.

Stories in Stone

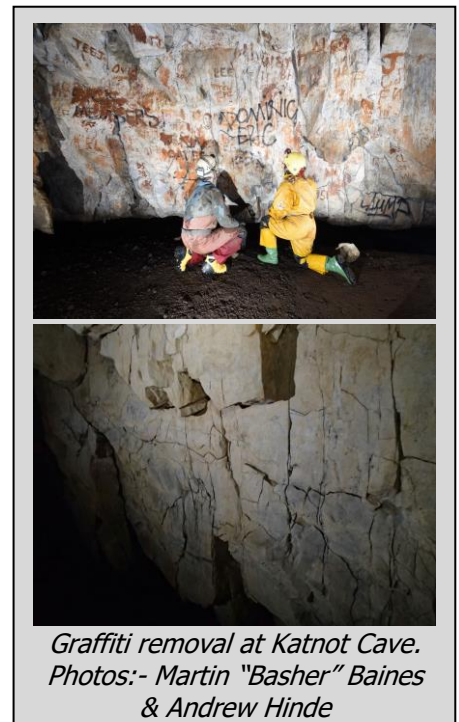
Caves and their environment across the Ingleborough area have been conserved thanks to a partnership between cavers – including those from RRCPC – volunteers and Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT). Here Red Rose member Mike Appleton writes about the "Stories in Stone" project.

Close to 30 projects have been completed, including graffiti cleaning at Katnot Cave, scrap removal from Alum Pot, track repairs at Gaping Gill, and capping and entrance work at Great Douk and Pen-y-Ghent Pot. The work was carried out as part of Stories in Stone, a scheme of conservation and community projects concentrated on the Ingleborough area. The scheme was developed by the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership, led by YDMT, and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The cave conservation project was managed by Andrew Hinde at Natural England in partnership with the Council of Northern Caving Clubs.

"The cave conservation scheme is pretty impressive," Hannah Rose at Stories in Stone said. "It empowered volunteers to identify their own projects, seek landowner permission and carry out the required works, often donating materials as well as time. We saw an impressive 2,212 hours, or 306 days, donated to the project, with 119 volunteers contributing overall. There was a core team of around 16 volunteers and the results of the project can be seen above and below ground."

The project began in 2016 with the cleaning of Katnot Cave near Ribblesdale. As a beginners' cave it was important not to give the impression that graffiti is a normal and accepted part of caving. Volunteers completed a photo record and protected any historical markings before removing several years of scrawling from the walls. Skirwith Cave, Slab Cave and Blood Cave were restored during the year too, and a major project was completed to remove a staggering 2.4 tonnes of historical waste from Gunnerfleet Cave in Chapel le Dale. The Philpin Sleights track was also repaired.

In 2017, track repairs and landscaping on the Hurnal Moss area of Ingleborough repaired the damage left by heavy traffic from agricultural use and the Gaping Gill winch events over the years. Over the course of two days, the team improved drainage and restored the surface. 450 trees were also planted at the enclosure to Wilson Cave in Ribblesdale to support the cave dwelling Tissue Moth.



By April, 250kg of scrap metal had been removed from the bottom of the Alum Pot over two days and in July, the dig at Great Douk had been capped and the entrance to Pen-y-Ghent Pot repaired, involving almost 270 hours of volunteer time. 2018 brought ballast spreading on tracks, stock fencing, entrance repair, and capping at Gaping Gill, Foul Pot, Runscar Cave, Squid Pot and Bloat Pot respectively. The clean-up of Roaring Hole at Southerscales saw the removal of several generations of cave digging and exploratory equipment from sites deep within the cave. The material - decomposing timber

and plastic pipe - was removed from the fell and recycled wherever possible. Open shafts were also fenced to prevent livestock from falling in. Inside the caves, speleothems were cleaned and protected. Towards the end of the year, volunteers completed three more projects: the capping of the exploratory cave shaft Smeagol's Pot, track repairs of Hurnal Moss and Southerscales pond clearance.

2019's projects continued in the same vein: clean up at P5 Shake Hole, Christmas Cracker Pot shaft lining and lid construction, Pay Sank scaffolding and Pot Noodle back filling.

The stabilisation of an old cave dig near Christmas Cracker Pot involved nine volunteers who accumulatively gave 123 hours of time. Works included fitting a twin wall pipe to the entrance shaft and fitting a stock-proof lid.

Inside Gaping Gill, in the Old East Passage, degraded conservation tape was removed and replaced with stainless steel conservation pins and orange nylon tape, ensuring important features are protected for generations. The restoration of the Gaping Gill access track also continued after the Bradford and Craven Potholing Clubs' winch meets. The access route crosses a SSSI and SAC designated area which now requires restoration to ensure no cumulative degradation occurs.

Time Pot entrance restoration and landscaping saw the capping of the largest open cave dig on Ingleborough. This involved construction and design of a steel framework to cap the dig and casing with concrete lintels followed by back filling of dig spoil. Finally, in 2020, fourteen volunteers removed derelict fencing around the classic Sell Gill Hole and replaced it with new post and rail fencing, at the request of the landowner.

Andrew Hinde said: "Sadly, during the year, one of the project's most keen and capable volunteers Andy Farrow died in hospital of a heart attack whilst suffering from Covid-19, aged 52. Andy overcame several serious injuries and disabilities throughout his life but was always fully committed in anything he took part in, above and below ground. His toughness and tenacity were an inspiration to all who caved and conserved with him. Since the start of the scheme, Andy had given more than eighty hours of his time to protect the caves of the Dales. This project has been a culmination of the dedication of people like Andy and the other volunteers, giving their spare time to restore these precious caves. The protected environments are a legacy of the scheme, but the people themselves are an important part that will never be forgotten."



Sell Gill Holes.
Photo:- CNCC



Gauber Pot. Photos:- Andrew Hinde

Mike Appleton

First published in Descent (279) April 2021, reproduced by permission.

Squalority Street

In Matienzo the understanding of potential new cave passage to be found is increased with every new find.

So it was that the discovery and exploration of the 7.4km long Sumidero Cobadal added to this jigsaw. The streamway water from this cave was tested and shown to resurge at Aguanaz a large sumped river cave many kms away.

The surface landscape between these two sites is one of rolling limestone hills devoid of surface streams. Hence, I spent many days combing this environment looking for a possible way in to the large system that must lie below.

It was the day before our homeward ferry after our Easter 2008 visit that this tale of new cave passage occurred. As it was our last day people were not doing much. Logistics with vehicles, separation from most of my caving gear and a dinner date that evening all added to this last day scenario which was spent in the gap between Cobadal and Aguanaz. Simon Latimer and I were the first expedition members to find / see a particularly inviting climbable entrance shaft. We waited for his brother John and James Carlisle who were on their way over. So it was that the four of us scampered down the wide 30 foot-ish deep shaft. At the bottom John and James were down to a further drop which would require tackle. Simon and I decided upon a slot at floor level which led to old walking sized passage. Simon carried along this as I investigated an easy climb on the left. This led to easy crawling and the passage got bigger. I passed over a slot in the floor which I could see down for about 20 foot. I soon came to a corner and looked to my left. WOW! I was looking down a walking sized sandy passage that went in a straight line as far as I could see. There were formations and junctions. This was fantastic.

I decided to go and get the other so we could enjoy what I had seen and more together. I soon found Simon. The large passage he had followed finished after less than a hundred meters. Not to worry I said there enough for all of use where I've been. We both went to the daylight of the shaft to collect John and James. We found them alright. John was at the bottom of the ladder they had rigged saying come on down here it's ace. I tried to tell him of the walking sized sandy passage that went in a straight line as far as I could see but he was instant that they had rigged the ladder and were on to a winner. My negotiation was limited in success to agreement that we would do the leads I had seen after we had all been down the ladder and explored what lay below. Simon joined John and off they went. James then life-lined me down. When we were all at the bottom Simon took us to a passage he had been part way along. This was walking sized but going upstream and very muddy.

We surveyed back from a climb that would require bolting and more tackle than we had with us. I mentioned logistics and separation from most of my caving gear earlier. These factors meant that I was dressed in thin Ron Hills, a tea shirt, wellies and helmet with lamp. I also benefitted from a Bernie's bag that had been sacrificed with the addition of a hole for my head and smaller ones for my arms. (Thanks James). Whilst surveying back I started to get cold. At one point we had a clino reading of plus 4. This was unusual as we were going down stream. In fact it was to go up and over one of the many mudbanks. However, + 4 resulted in this section of cave being called The Wrong Trousers. This is only a starter for this cave passage names meal. When we got back to the sight of the shaft I was itching to get back to the walking sized sandy passage that went in a straight line as far as I could see. Oh no the water from The Wrong Trousers continued in to further passage. Moving quicker, now that we were not surveying, and moving along virgin passage increased my morale for a while.

However, walking did not last and soon we were squirming through mud between boulders following the stream we were lying in. A climb, possibly necky, was reached. A good point to

turn round I suggested. The others were having none of it. More misery followed. At last we came to a sump. Well when I say sump - muddy puddle significantly less attractive than the sump in Knacker Trapper would be a fairer description. The good use was that we could all exit and head to the walking sized sandy passage that went in a straight line as far as I could see. Oh yes we had to survey the new find.

Survey upstream was not as pleasant exploring down stream. It was slower and so colder. Also being on the end of the tape I had to ensure a line of sight between stations. Also going upstream meant that the Bernie's bag funnelled the cold water and mud down my back where it soaked my tea shirt before finding my arse crack. I was soon coated in mud. One hazard of this situation was that I had nothing to clean the tape that was also coated in mud. Lying in the bottom of the passage straining to see the other station I had no choice but to lick the tape! My mood sank when I saw the feet and inches markings indicating that I had to lick the other side of the tape as well. The dice was loaded or the tape jinxed. The same thing happen at the next station!! and the one after that, little more than a metre towards the walking sized sandy passage that went in a straight line as far as I could see. I lost it at this point expelling my metaphoric dummy with a gob-full of mud and stream water. We in Squalority Street! I declared and so the passage was named.

Footnote:-

When we returned to the shaft it was almost midnight. I was very cold & we were all hungry. The others were not keen on going to the walking sized sandy passage that went in a straight line as far as I could see. We could do it on the way to the ferry tomorrow. Well we could have done if we spent more time between beforehand sleeping than drinking. The cave we had found is Torca La Vaca with over 27km surveyed now. We have all had far more enjoyable days finding new passage in the Vaca. For a desert of passage names I will leave you with the official name of the walking sized sandy passage that went in a straight line as far as I could see – It is 190m Rift. Look at what you could have won John!

Blast from the past – Jim Newton's diary entries

8 January 1989

Went up the passage off Chocolate Traverse with Frank Croll and his BCC mates who'd tagged along for the ride. After a climb down a rope we came into the upper level of a stream passage (Trident). A good size with nice formations that ended at the top of Three Fag Climb. Went back to Aygill to look at the hole that had appeared in the beck. However after diverting the water in, it blocked up.

5 February 1989

Went down Easegill with Frank to put the chain ladder he'd made on Chocolate Traverse. We had a poke at the boulder choke and rocks started to rumble through the right hand passage of Trident so we retreated and called in at Aygill . The dig was full to the top with water. We deflected it to the new sink and the water level started to decrease quite quickly.

17 December 1989

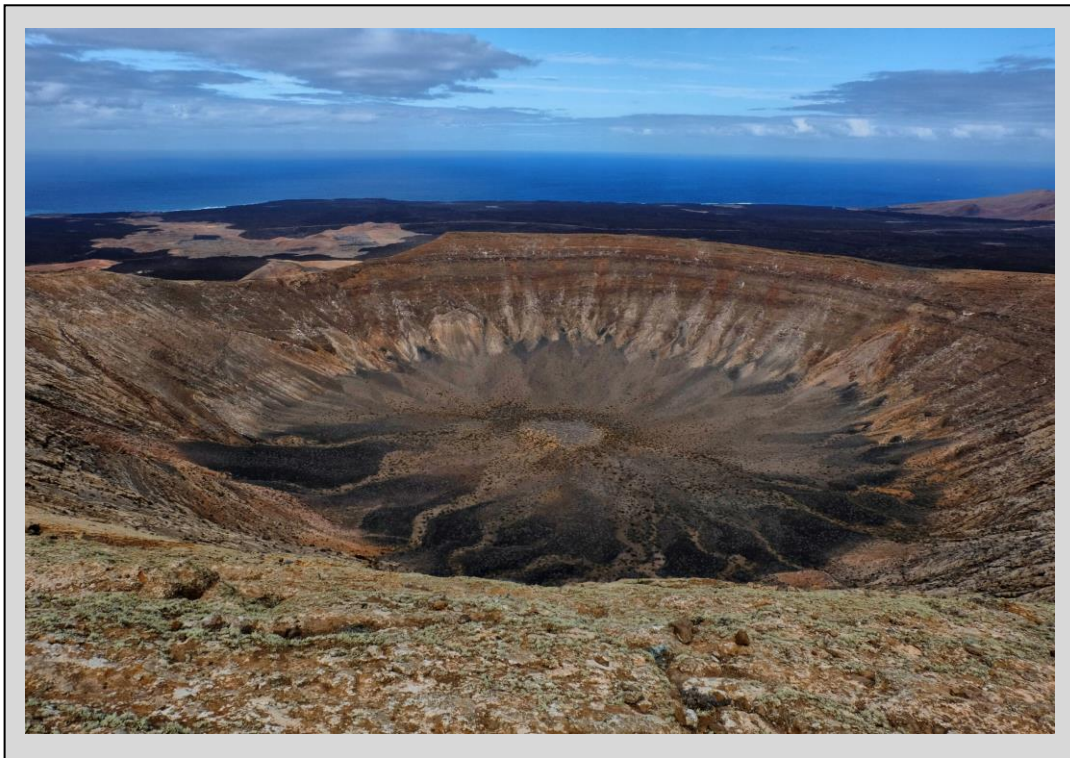
Bill Holden, Paul Wilkinson and I went down Three Fag Passage in Trident. The weather was very wet and everywhere was booming! We came up Trident around Chocolate Traverse and had a look at Butterfields Passage on the way out. The water here was also booming and must have washed down the large boulders that we'd dug out the other week.

2021 RRCPC Photographic Awards

Winner: **Above Ground UK** - The road to glory, Toby at Loch-an-Loin, Glasnock, Strathcarron. - *Sam Lieberman*



Winner: **Above Ground Abroad** - Cladera Blanca, Lanzarote - *Paul Swire*



Winner: **Underground UK & best Overall** - Greensett Cave, - *Paul Swire*



Winner: **Underground Abroad** - Pete in Som Hein, Myanmar - *Fleur Loveridge*



Winner: **Humorous Category** - Did someone say Fish! - *Alex Anderson*



Winner: **Pocket Camera** - Aileen in Gavel Pot - *Fleur Loveridge*



Above Ground UK:

2nd. Wishing on a star
- *Alex Anderson*



3rd. Frost flowers on Moss
- *Sam Lieberman*



Above Ground Abroad:

2nd. Airbrakes deployed
- *Alex Anderson*

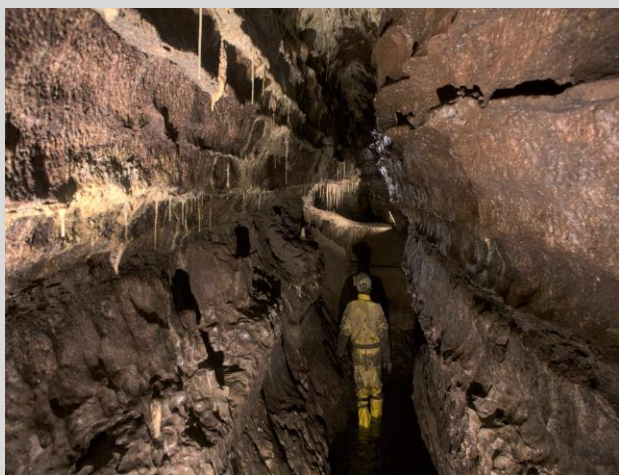


3rd. Seascape Lanzarote
- *Paul Swire*

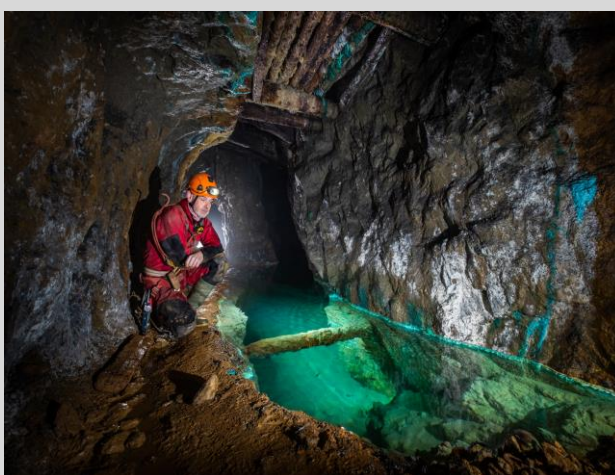


Underground UK:

2nd. New Discovery in Ashery Pot, Applecross
- *Toby Speight*



3rd. Coniston Copper Mine
- *Alex Anderson*



Underground Abroad:

2nd. Cueva del Covon, Lanzarote
- *Paul Swire*



3rd. Jameo de la Gente, Lanzarote
- *Paul Swire*



Humorous:

2nd Silly Hat
- *Toby Speight*



3rd. I'm sure I felt a draught as I felt for the Branston Pickle
- *Jim Newton*



Pocket Camera:

2nd Breakthrough at Dam Waterfall, Strathcarron
- Sam Lieberman



3rd. Delph Mine - Colin Jones



Ingleborough and Raven Scar Cave

A recent trip up Ingleborough from the Hill Inn turned into a hunt the cave day....

Very cold given it was the end of April and with a snowstorm on high ground. Should have taken my winter gloves....

After the summit we came down towards Crina Bottom then turning into the many escarpments on the flanks of the mountain. Shake Hole City!

Bog - (Northern Boggarts and Bradford) had the idea of looking for Raven Scar cave which he had visited eons ago.

From somewhere he found a 6 figure grid reference which gave us a fair amount of searching latitude! A lot of steep ground and possibilities but eventually we got there...

A better one...SD 7292 7566

The entrance is at the bottom of a scar and cannot easily be seen.

From the entrance you have great views across the valley which might have appealed to ancient peoples.

Artefacts from the cave include an Upper Palaeolithic blade; late neolithic and early bronze age pottery flints; and animal bone. Excavations (1973 to 1985) found up to 20 individuals, mostly numbered by the volume of teeth, and said to be late Neolithic in origin.

We continued along the escarpment with views of Whernside and the Ribbleshead viaduct coming into view. Lots of bonsai trees growing in a difficult environment.

A great day out.



Library Additions: January – May 2021

Journals:

BCRA	- CREG: Journal Issue. 113. - Transactions: Vol 47 No. 3 & Vol. 48 No. 1
Bristol Exploration Club:	- Belfry Bulletin: Nos. 574 - 576
Cave Diving Group	- Newsletter: No. 218 - 219.
Chelsea Speleological Society	- Newsletter: Vol. 21 No. 12
Craven Pothole Club	- Record: Nos. 141 – 142.
Derbyshire Caving Association:	- Derbyshire Caver: No. 154.
Descent	- No. 278-280. (2020-2021)
Grampian S. G.	- Bulletin: Fifth Series Vol. 3 No. 5.
Mendip Caving Group:	- Journal: No. 386
RRCPC	- News-Sheet No. 367 - 373 - Newsletter: Vol. 57 No. 4.
Westminster Speleological Group:	- Bulletin: Vol 10 No. 5

Other Publications:

British 1962 Expedition to the Gouffre Berger – 2nd. Edition (donation by Paul Saville)
A Laff from Lancashire – (donated by Sue Osborne)
Matienzo Caves Project 2010-2019

*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

Jim's busy day, Saturday 15 May 2021

Changing climatic conditions are impacting our lives in many different ways. Heavy rain and a destabilised slope had made Aygill caverns inaccessible, fortunately, while no one was underground. The situation greatly concerned Jim, almost as much as an associated typographic error. As Jim's apprentice, it was my pleasant duty to drive him to the Farm to supervise the recovery operation. He was keen to see the Red Rose in action to check that none of the dash and fervour, which marks the RRCPC above all others, had not been diminished by the multiple lockdowns.

Jim was awake at the crack of dawn, keen to get to the Farm and meet old friends for a chat before they departed for Aygill. Hazel had prepared a sumptuous picnic. Jim and I leapt into the car and we were off. We talked of old friends, past trips and caverns measureless to man - the dream never fades. We arrived at the Farm among a steady influx of cavers. Jim marched among the troops, his hapless apprentice in tow to ensure no harm befell him. Andy Hall was rushing hither and thither issuing instructions and searching for kit. Hugh stuffed a load of dubious looking equipment into his rucksack. Piles of scaffolding were loaded into the back of a 4x4 Ranger. Plumbing and lawn mowing were completed and gradually the expedition creaked into gear.

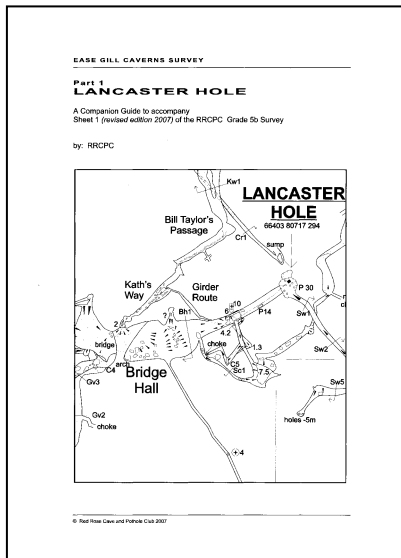
Jim set off with his apprentice as navigator until driving rain forced a retreat. Coffee and shelter soon had the mountain man once more fighting fit. The apprentice checked the weather and pronounced it fine for a second push. Jim was determined, failure was not an option. A course was charted and we soon arrived at a superb vantage point. Jim gazed in admiration at the Red Rose surface team. A massive shout rang out as he entreated the cavers, using a colourful turn of phrase, to work harder. All turned and hailed him before redoubling their efforts. There was much heaving and hefting of rocks, hammering and digging. Hugh demolished a large rock with a succession of percussive caps without causing any major injuries. Jim and I looked at each other. "Do you wish you were down there shifting rocks," I said. He nodded, "Me too, Jim," I added. Soon, the path of the stream was successfully diverted into a new channel where it could do less mischief.

Meanwhile, out of sight, a fearless team was working to regain access and stabilise the cave, a first step in its reopening. Satisfied that good progress was being made, we repaired to the Farm for lunch. What a magnificent day, we both felt honoured to be members of such a dynamic club. The RRCPC was always special in Jim's mind and this day confirmed to him that it was going from strength to strength.

Jim Newton & Dave Creedy

Publications for Sale

Easegill Caverns Survey



Sheet 1 – Lancaster Hole Area (2nd. Edition 2007)

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

Sheet 2 – Stake Pot to Snail Cavern Area (2nd. 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

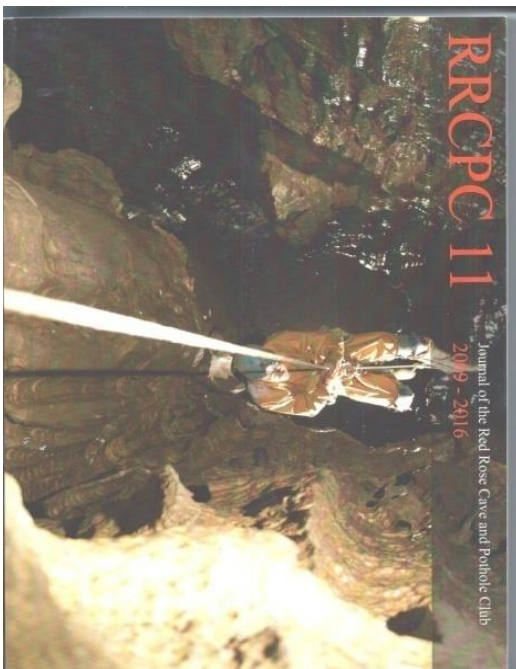
Sheet 4 – Top Sink to Holbeck Junction Area

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

All Priced @ £7.50

- All now available at Bullpot Farm or Inglesport in Ingleton.

Journal 11



Journal 11

245 pages stacked full of recent explorations, photos and surveys.

Reduced Price now only £10

Also available now at Bullpot Farm

All publications are obtainable from Inglesport, in Ingleton, Bullpot Farm, or direct from:-

Mel Wilkinson:

m.wilkinson@btinternet.com