



RED ROSE CAVE AND POTHOLE CLUB

NEWSLETTER



Vol 59 No 2

Summer 2022



Photo: 'Serena Povia Admires Formations in Fossil Trunk Passage' by Bill Nix

Contents

Your 2022 Committee	2
Editor's Note	3
News	3
Weather Station at Bullpot Farm	3
Women's Weekend – Spring 2022	4
Ogof Craig a Ffynnon	6
Ogof Pant Mawr	7
P8	8
Water Icicle Close Cavern	9
Marylin to Small Mammal	10
The Borehole	11
Field Meeting: Making a Record of Caves, Historic Graffiti and other Markings	12
Big Meanie – It's a Cracker Exchange	15
Notts 2	16
Swildon's Hole	17
Eastwater Caverns	19
Hardrawkin Pot and High Douk Holes	19
Giants Hole	20
Caving in Applecross	21
A Grand Day Out at Sunset & Great Douk	23
Rollerball Update	24
Hazeltop Dig Goes!	26
The Crumbles have Crumbled	29
Spain June 2022	31
Other Underground Adventures in Spain	33
K Brook's NSS trip to the NSS convention 2022	34
Caving in France in the Doubs Region	37
Running Shoes vs Wellies	39
Ingleton to New Zealand by Bicycle	40
Library Additions: May – August 2022	42

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Editor's Note

Welcome to another RRCPC Newsletter! Since the last Newsletter, my inbox has been flooded with trip reports for this publication. I am sometimes concerned our newsletters will become my personal diary, so I was very pleased with the constant trickle of new material. It seems that everyone has been busy caving and writing over the summer months. Thank you and keep up the good work!

With international travel on the rise again, it is unsurprising that this newsletter includes a number of caving reports from abroad. I know that many members have very recently returned from sporting caving holidays and expeditions, and I am looking forward to hearing more about these trips in the near future (hint, hint 😊). I myself returned from my first CUCC Expo earlier this month. It was an experience I will never forget. Special thank you to Nat Dalton (a new RRCPC member) for leading such a great expedition. I will certainly be back next year!

Gwen Tawy
Newsletter Editor

News

Weather Station at Bullpot Farm

We now have a weather station at the Farm, which feeds data automatically to the Met Office. It means the current and historic weather at the Farm can be viewed online before you head over there. Just go to:

https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/observations/details/?site_id=d6168de4-e117-ed11-b5cf-0003ff597f35

Or go to www.metoffice.gov.uk and search for 'Bull Pot Farm'.

The weather station is on a pole at the top of the bonfire field. Please don't disturb it! Hopefully this will help people a bit in working out whether a 50% chance of showers on the forecast for Ingleton actually means showers or sun over Ease Gill. It should also help improve the Met Office forecasts for the area a little.

Philip Withnall

Women's Weekend – Spring 2022

7th-8th May 2022

At our last Women's Weekend (August 2021), it was decided that our next destination would be South Wales, seeing as the first two events had been in Yorkshire. Being someone who caves primarily in Yorkshire, I had completely forgotten about how mind-bogglingly complicated it can be to obtain permits for caves in other parts of the country. While booking the venue was a breeze, I spent the 3 weeks leading up to the event frantically emailing and calling friends and friends of friends to work out how I could get 20-25 women underground without breaking any rules. To complicate matters, most female cavers I knew in South Wales were unavailable that weekend, so leaders and keys for some caves were out of the question. In the process of trying to obtain a permit for OFD I almost got Kent University Caving Club banned from the system, as I had not realised their permit could only be used by KUCC members. Just as I was losing hope, the permits and instructions on how to obtain the keys for the entrances arrived in my inbox. The weekend was saved! Let this be a warning to you if you are planning a big event in South Wales with cavers from multiple clubs (this was the main issue)...getting the permits may take longer than you think!



A kick to the face

Photo Credit: Meg House

With permits printed, Rachel Turnbull, Rhiannon Hobbs (MUSC) and I made our way down to SWCC, where we met everyone else. We spent Friday evening catching up and playing Nadia Raeburn-Cherradi's (ULSA) new caving game. This involved two people (the table legs) holding a third person by the arms and legs (the tabletop) and a fourth person traversing the tabletop (see photo). I especially enjoyed having to apologise to women I had never met before for kicking them in the face.

After a delicious breakfast on Saturday morning we organised ourselves into different trips. This took far longer than it should have, considering all trips were going into OFD that day. I put my name down for a trip to Northern Lights with Sioned Haughton (WCC), Becka Lawson and Sarah Parker (ULSA).

I was pleased that Sarah and Sioned knew where they were going, as I had only been in OFD once before, and my previous trip had been in the opposite direction. After the 35-foot climb, we veered off the trade route towards Northern Lights. We were thankful we had a survey with us, as we had to use it a couple of times to get to Midnight Passage. From here we crawled along many similar passages, climbing over and under boulders in our way. There were some technical climbs and then a miserable wet squeeze that took us into the Moonmilk

Series. The walls here had a distinct white stripe along them. From here we explored all the remaining paths in Northern Lights; some of which had many beautiful formations. The return journey went quite smoothly; we only got lost once! When we were back on the trade route, we decided to take a quick look at Trident and The Judge. As we were nearing the entrance we bumped into Nadia's group, who were also on their way out.

Back at the hut we enjoyed another evening of caving games, featuring a squeeze machine and an eye-watering version of the pan and sling game: The pan-on-top-of-another-pan & sling game, where you win if you don't die after falling off the two pans that definitely should not be stood on. Despite the constant injuries, everyone got involved in the games and it turned out to be a great evening.

On Sunday, one group went caving in Ogof Craig a Ffynnon, while the remaining cavers (who hadn't succumbed to their caving game injuries overnight) went back into OFD. Sioned, Aila Taylor, Rachel Lawson, Jess Shaw (KUCC), and I decided on a trip to the Waterfall Series from OFD1. I was happy to find that I actually remembered some of the route finding on this trip. We passed the ladder used for the round-trip, continuing upstream to an exposed traverse into the Waterfall Series. This was quite picturesque and easy walking. Soon we reached an awkward climb in a rift, which led to a chamber with a lovely crystal pool. It wasn't clear from the survey if we could do a round-

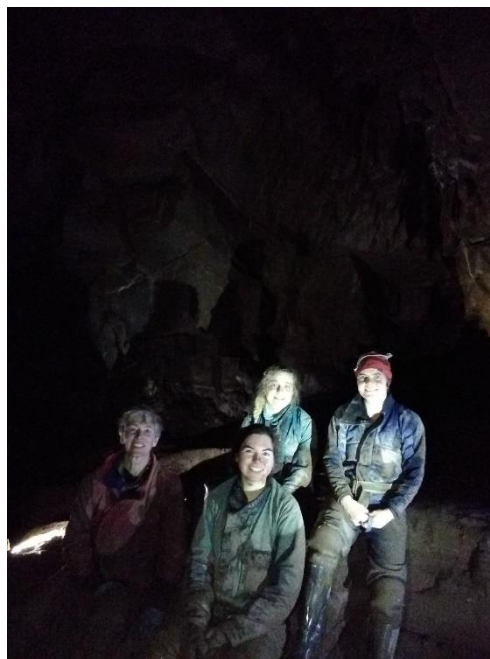


Visiting the Trident

Photo Credit: Elif Okutan

trip here to avoid doing the awkward rift again. We decided it looked like we could wriggle down a steep tight passage into something that would take us to the bottom of the rift. We were dismayed to find that one way on here was a pitch and the other closed down to a hole that only a rat could get through. We struggled back up the steep tight tube, but thankfully found a much easier way to negotiate the rift on the return journey. We returned to the traverse via the wet route, which was surprisingly pleasant. We then retraced our steps back to the entrance.

Back at SWCC we caught up with the other cavers and promised to keep in touch. It was wonderful to see so many cavers from different clubs caving together. The next Women's Weekend will hopefully be in Yorkshire in October/November. Please let me know if you are interested in coming along.

Gwen Tawy

Northern Lights

Photo Credit: Sioned Haughton

Ogof Craig a Ffynnon

14th May 2022

Gwen Tawy, Tarquin Wilton-Jones (MCC)

Having missed out on a trip to Ogof Craig a Ffynnon the previous weekend, I knew this was where I wanted to visit after a stressful conference in Newport. Back at SWCC for a second weekend in a row, I was surprised to find the place deserted at 9am; a stark contrast to the previous weekend. It turns out most members had left early to attend a training event.

It was a gloriously sunny day, so it almost felt a shame to be going underground. Although I soon forgot about the sun when I stepped foot into the first chamber. From here we continued down phreatic passage to the first boulder choke, where we ascended a ladder and thrutched our way upwards through the boulders. We then followed the conservation tape to the next boulder choke, which was even harder to negotiate...maybe this wasn't the relaxing trip I had envisioned...Beyond this lay the thickest and stickiest mud known to man. Tarquin very much enjoyed seeing me struggle with this, taking great pleasure in shouting at me if my foot accidentally overstepped the conservation tape. How he could actually see the mud-coated tape is beyond me.



Enjoying the Pagoda

Photo Credit: Tarquin Wilton-Jones

Next up was Travertine Passage, which had some amazing gour pools and formations. This led us to Hall of the Mountain King, which was absolutely spectacular. We spent some time admiring the view here before pressing onto Hurricane Passage through a tight calcite crawl. After slithering through another precarious boulder choke and climbing one more ladder we entered Promised Land. We took a detour here to look at the beautiful Helictite Passage; this passage is so fragile, only two people can visit it at a time.

Finally, we made our way to the Pagoda, a beautiful formation that is well worth visiting. We retraced our footsteps on the return journey and were out early enough to enjoy a sunny walk around the Clydach Gorge before returning to the hut.

Gwen Tawy

Ogof Pant Mawr

15th May 2022

Gwen Tawy, Tarquin Wilton-Jones (MCC)

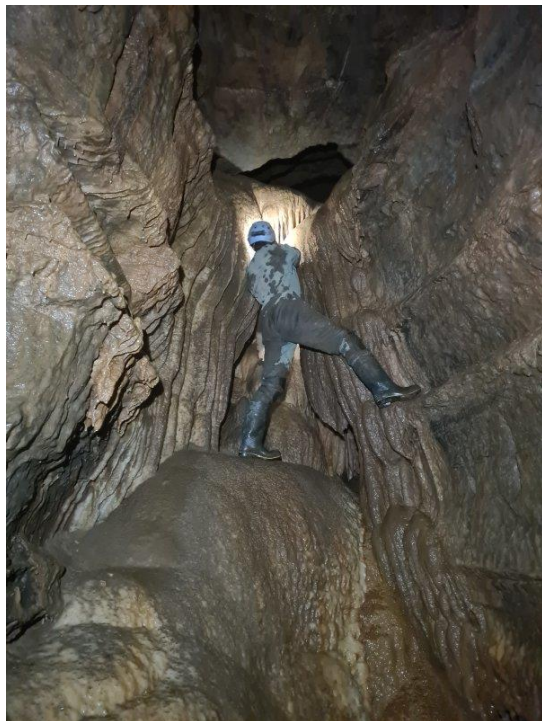
I only knew two things about this cave before this trip: 1) It's a long walk from SWCC, and 2) It can only be done in dry weather. It had rained overnight, but by morning the sun was shining.

The walk to the entrance was as long as promised. By the time I reached the entrance pitch I felt like I was in Yorkshire again. When I reached the bottom, Tarquin told me to close my eyes and put my hands out. I agreed tentatively, worried that he was going to place a giant spider in my hands. It turned out to be a newt. Unfortunately, the newt was much heavier than I was expecting, so I ended up screaming my head off anyway (the newt was fine, by the way).



Examples of the coral fossils in Pant Mawr Pot

Photo Credit: Tarquin Wilton-Jones



Climbing into the Organ Loft

Photo Credit: Tarquin Wilton-Jones

After calming down, we made our way upstream and climbed into the higher level. There's not much caving to do this way, but the coral fossils are truly stunning. After crawling as far as we were willing, we turned around to head downstream. The main passage was surprisingly large. We took a few detours on our travels, one of which took us to the Chapel, which is a very well decorated passage. The helictites here are well worth a visit. Towards the end of the cave, the passage narrows and splits in two. One way goes to Dead End; a muddy dig, and the other to the sump. We visited both before returning via the Vestry and Organ Loft. To get to the Organ Loft we had to negotiate a very awkward climb on slippery flowstone. I somehow managed to get into the chamber from the climb on my back. Once back down at stream level, we spotted a small frog that Tarquin took out of the cave in his oversuit pocket.

Gwen Tawy

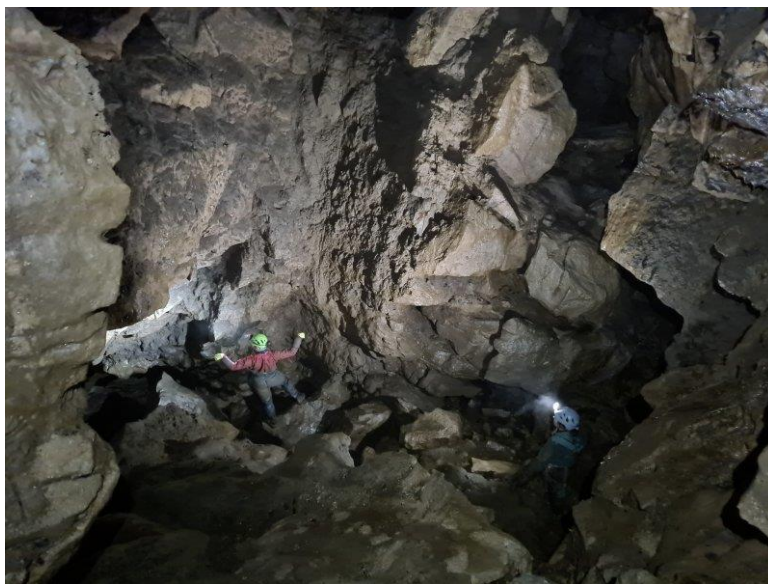
P8**21st May 2022****Jack Overhill, Gwen Tawy, Tarquin Wilton-Jones (MCC)**

I had been itching to get back to P8, having not been in over a decade. Despite being so very excited, I could remember nothing of the trip...not where to park, how to get to the cave, nor what the cave itself was like. It was therefore a miracle we actually made it to the cave without any serious problems. However, we did have to question Jack's sanity in the car park when we spotted him squirting water onto his oversuit. Apparently, this is necessary to make it supple enough to put on...

Jack agreed to rig, so he set off first. The entrance was prettier and drier than I'd anticipated. Beyond the first pitch is a chamber from which we followed our noses to the second pitch. We climbed above the streamway here into the rift, leading us to Mud Hall. We first explored the closest passage, which didn't lead anywhere of note. We then made our way from Mud Hall to T'Owd Man's Rift, which was a spectacular rift that I had absolutely no recollection of (despite having been in P8 about 4 times previously). Jack found some flippers at the end of the rift, near the sump. This entertained him for a while. We later found out that Louise McMahon (TSG) had fished these out on a recent dive. From here we climbed up one side of the rift using the slipperiest rope in the world. This would have been extremely entertaining to watch had it not been utterly terrifying. Unfortunately, our efforts were near wasted, as the grotto to which this climb leads has been largely destroyed.

Next on our list was Ben's Dig. This should be renamed as Ben's Immense Dig, as it was much more extensive than we were expecting. Much of what we found we left unexplored because we were unable/unwilling to hand-over-hand climb the free-hanging 'handlines' up the tall avens.

On the way out I agreed to derig. As I was derigging the second pitch, I heard Tarquin squeal for help. I couldn't quite hear what the problem was so told Jack to find him. I then heard a lot of shuffling and grunting. Frightened that he'd fallen down a rift, I stopped derigging...only to find out that all the fuss was over a mobile phone that had been dropped down a hole. The exit from here was thankfully free of screaming.



Jack and Gwen in Mud Hall

Photo Credit: Tarquin Wilton-Jones

Gwen Tawy

Water Icicle Close Cavern

22nd May 2022

Gwen Tawy, Tarquin Wilton-Jones (MCC)



Great Rift - South Passage

Photo Credit: Tarquin Wilton-Jones

I had never heard of Water Icicle Close Cavern before, so I was surprised when Tarquin said it was a place he wanted to visit whilst in Derbyshire. After reading the description I decided it would be a pleasant Sunday trip. We changed in a layby near Monyash, scaring some cyclists who were trying to concentrate on a local race. I don't think any of them had ever seen cavers before.

Once changed, we made our way to the entrance, which is a mined 30-40m shaft. Rigging the entrance pitch was quite tricky as it is at ground level, and there were a lot of sheep in the field; all of which were interested in the big void below my feet and what was in my tackle sack – not sheep feed, sadly. After scaring the sheep away (with similar tactics to the cyclists), I carefully made my way down the shaft. Care was important partly because of the terrifying signs at the entrance about high CO₂ levels and partly because I wasn't 100% sure our rope reached the ground.

The entrance pitch dropped us right in the middle of a 3-way junction. As soon as I was off rope, I went to the 'safety box' to check the notes on recent air quality and grab a lighter. Worryingly, there was no lighter in the safety box, only unnerving entries about parts of the cave that had bad air. In true British style, all entries were rather wishy-washy and didn't fill me with confidence for the trip ahead – "Air quality in NW passage not great...but maybe it's my fitness. Yeah, probably my fitness, so nothing to worry about...". So, without a lighter and any true understanding of what the air quality would be like, we carried on caving.

We first explored the North Passage, which gave me my first taste of what the miners had taken from the cave...all of the pretties! Suitably upset, we returned to the junction and went up the Northwest Passage. This passage was littered with even more ruined formations. It led to a climb to the gated part of the cave, which we couldn't access on that day, as we didn't have a key. Next time! Finally, we explored the South Passage. This is much more extensive than the others, and includes new passages discovered in 2012. Tarquin found some crystal here, so we ended the trip feeling quite pleased with ourselves.

Gwen Tawy

Marilyn to Small Mammal

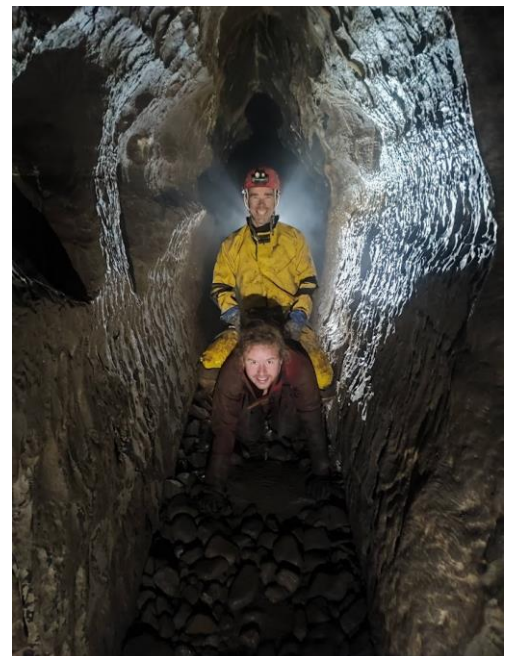
31st May 2022

Mike Butcher (ULSA), Dinny Davies, Alice Shackley, Gwen Tawy

We had heard the BPC winch meet was in full swing, but as we didn't know which routes were rigged, we decided to do some further investigation before heading to Clapham. After a quick conversation with Aila Taylor we settled on a Marilyn to Small Mammal trip – two routes I had never done.

It was late by the time we arrived, with most cavers finishing up for the day. As we were getting ready to go underground Dinny bet Mike that he could be on rope by the time Mike was changed (Mike was the only person who hadn't changed beforehand). While Mike was writing our trip on the whiteboard Dinny snuck away to win his bet. By the time Mike realised, it was too late; although I was impressed by his efforts to try to catch Dinny up...I've never seen a man sprint so fast.

The entrance to Marilyn was tighter than I had expected. Having found out a few nights prior that my chest is bigger than Mike's, I wasn't surprised to overhear Dinny telling Alice he hoped I would fit! Once off rope we head to Hensler's Stream Passage. Mike and I got rather wet pursuing a couple of passages that led to a sump and a duck. We then retraced our steps and climbed up into a higher level. We soon found the ladder to Echo Aven and made our way to the Blowhole. This was an awkward squeeze (especially for someone barrel-chested like me) that made my knees bend the wrong way. Alice and Mike slipped through without an issue, of course. Dinny sensibly decided against coming through. Despite the torturous squeeze, it was worth doing to experience Echo Aven. Side note – When I told Kristian about this trip, he told me this was first descended by the Brook brothers, using someone's welly as a belay anchor. He first told me this story a few years ago and it had made me laugh. Now knowing what Echo Aven is like, it only makes me shudder. I suppose there is a very fine line between stupidity and bravery!



Horseplay

Photo Credit: Alice Shackley

We then made our way to the Main Chamber, where we saw the final visitor being winched out. When the lights in the chamber were turned off, we decided it was time for us to leave too. Alice left us at Bar Pot, while Dinny, Mike and I climbed into Wildcat Aven. Mike was so engrossed by the aven, he completely missed the wildcat! After getting back down from Wildcat Aven safely we walked to South East Aven. Dinny shot off after the big pitch, leaving me to work out which rope I needed to be on. I ended up going the wrong way, but thankfully realised my error when I heard Mike go another way. Mike and I then found our way to the Small Mammal pitches. Near the surface, Mike decided to prolong his trip by coming out of Styal.

Gwen Tawy

The Borehole

2nd June 2022

Kristian Brook, Anthony Day, Serena Povia, Toby Speight, Gwen Tawy

The original plan was to finally bottom Sylvester Pot. Toby and I had been waiting for a dry day to complete the trip for a long time, and today was going to be the day. We found the entrance easily, but as I crawled in, I felt something move. This was the first sign of things to come. Thankfully, Kristian managed to move the offending rock to a more stable place. Unfortunately, as soon as he started to follow, more rocks displaced themselves on top of him. Kristian shouted to the rest of the party for help, but Anthony and Toby were deep in conversation about the cost inflation of fish and chips. Serena finally heard our shouts and came to the rescue. Once Kristian was freed, the two of us made our way to the head of the pitch. The other three stabilised the entrance before following.

I was very excited to see the new P-hangers that I was certain had been recently installed, after reading something about it on the CNCC website. Toby tentatively agreed to trust me, so we didn't pack any of our own hangers for the spits. I was very confused when I came across the pitch head with only one P-hanger. After spending some time exploring, I had to admit that I must have been wrong after all. I now had to deliver the bad news to the rest of the team. I must admit, I still find it hard to believe that I literally dream about reading about Sylvester Pot being P-hangered!



Anthony on the Borehole pitch

Photo Credit: Kristian Brook

Feeling defeated, we decided to change our call out and head to the Borehole. Toby was the only one who had been before, so we let him lead. Much to my dismay, it was almost immediately very wet. It was also smaller than I had imagined. We generally followed our noses on the way down, and I was impressed when we got to the pitch without any navigational errors. The passage was much larger at the bottom of the pitch. From here we walked to Mottershead Chamber, where we turned right towards 4-Ways Junction. A left here led us to another chamber which had a turning to Stal Passage. We missed the way from this chamber to the connection with

Pool Sink, so didn't make it as far as we had hoped. Nevertheless, it was nice to see a different part of Ease Gill.

Gwen Tawy

Field Meeting: Making a Record of Caves, Historic Graffiti and other Markings

4 & 5th June

Venue: Lower Winskill Farm, Settle, Yorkshire Dales

Introduction

This field meeting was re-arranged following the postponement, due to the covid pandemic and subsequent lockdown periods, of an earlier planned event to be held in May 2020. Prior to the planned 2020 meeting a field visit by Tom Lord, Vince Simmonds, and Roz Simmonds in 2019 to Attermire Cave (NGR SD 841, 642 Alt. 427m OD, length 183m) set out to assess the historic graffiti and other markings in the cave as a potential CA SIG project to record these historic features.

Saturday Morning Session

The morning session was spent at Lower Winskill where Vince S gave a quick introduction to the event before handing over to Tom Lord. He explained how there is plenty of archaeological evidence for the use of caves from pre-history right up to about one thousand years ago. Then there is a gap until the advent of tourism from the 18th Century onwards. Little is recorded during this time, yet we know that people went into caves.

He showed examples of caves in the area where changes have occurred to the sites in relatively recent times. Photographs from Greater Kelcow Cave on Giggleswick Scar show how the floor has been lowered and steps removed since 19th Century. Victoria Cave near Settle has had later graffiti removed. Some marks on caves may even be due to animals. Bears have been shown to produce scratches and rub marks to polish rocks.

Then Linda Wilson, Publicity Officer for BCRA, gave a more detailed history of graffiti underground going back 35,000 years to Neanderthals and early man right up to the present day. She explained the conservation debate with examples of removing more recent graffiti. What should be removed in areas where there are lots of graffiti? Using examples, she made a number of other points.

- There is a tendency for people to add graffiti to what is already there.
- To make graffiti at the limit of their exploration.
- Graffiti in mud tends to be lost over time.
- Plenty of evidence for children and women leaving marks in caves so be careful not to make assumptions about gender or age.
- An apotropaic mark, meaning to avert evil, often called in the press a 'witch mark' or 'anti-witch mark,' is a symbol or pattern scratched into the fabric of a building believed to be intended as a form of protection at a time when superstition and the belief in evil spirits was common. The term 'protection mark' is preferred rather than the term 'witch mark' as the association with witches was simply something picked up by the press, and although this has become popular it gives the misleading impression that such marks relate solely to protection from witchcraft. Protective marks are common across Europe in old buildings and churches and in caves have been found above and below draughting holes.

Final morning session from Vince Simmons, cave archaeologist, who gave a practical session on the recording of graffiti in caves backed up by Linda. This involved his designed "Cave Record sheet" for use in the field. The data includes cave location and orientation, geology, description, sketch and photographs. The importance of photographs cannot be over emphasized. They stressed the use of oblique (raking) lighting when taking photographs and the use of some sort of scale marker in the shots.



Looking out of entrance

Photo Credit: Andy Hall

In the afternoon we set off from the car park at Winskill Stones, NGR SD 8427, 6657, for the field visit to Attermire Cave (NGR SD 841642 Alt. 427m OD, length 183m) famously excavated by Tot Lord (Pig Yard Club, Settle) in the 1920s. The cave is 183m long and is fairly easy to explore involving a small amount of crawling. The site yielded Neolithic and Romano-British material. After a scenic 2km walk the cave is reached by a traverse below Attermire fault scarp. The site was chosen as it contains numerous items of graffiti of various ages throughout the cave. The cave starts with a 8m high by 2m wide passage lowering to a crawl to a low blasted section, beyond which is Pool Chamber and a larger high well decorated Graffiti Passage. We split into small groups at the start and went to various parts of the cave recording the graffiti using photographs and record sheets. Rob Stevens and I went to the far end beyond the blasted crawl (must take some knee pads next time). Graffiti Passage has numerous types of graffiti inscribed with various materials including chisel, some sort of red writing and black writing. Some of the writing is quite ornate and looks at least Victorian in age,

possibly older. Some of it was quite high up and would have taken some effort to produce. Did they take something in to stand on? Rob and I took numerous photographs. We found Tot Lord's signature but no date. The other groups worked nearer the entrance using the record sheets and Linda Wilson was taking obliquely lit photographs as we returned.

In the entrance section, AG climbed up to a jammed boulder in the entrance to further investigate inscriptions seen from below. In red pigment were the initials 'WC' which might relate to Wilson Cuttriss who c.1900, described the boulder as "basal conglomerate with Silurian pebbles". It could only have arrived at its current location by ice transportation, a glacial erratic. Within the daylight zone of the cave entrance are a range of incised dates associated with initials ranging 1790 to 1948, and some possible 'protection' marks including a pentagram. Linda Wilson felt that the two Ws are likely to be initials rather than having any protective function, something that was discussed on several occasions over the weekend. Pentagrams are a very common mason's mark, and also appear frequently in protective contexts. The later



Erratic Boulder

Photo Credit: Andy Hall



Rob with red graffiti

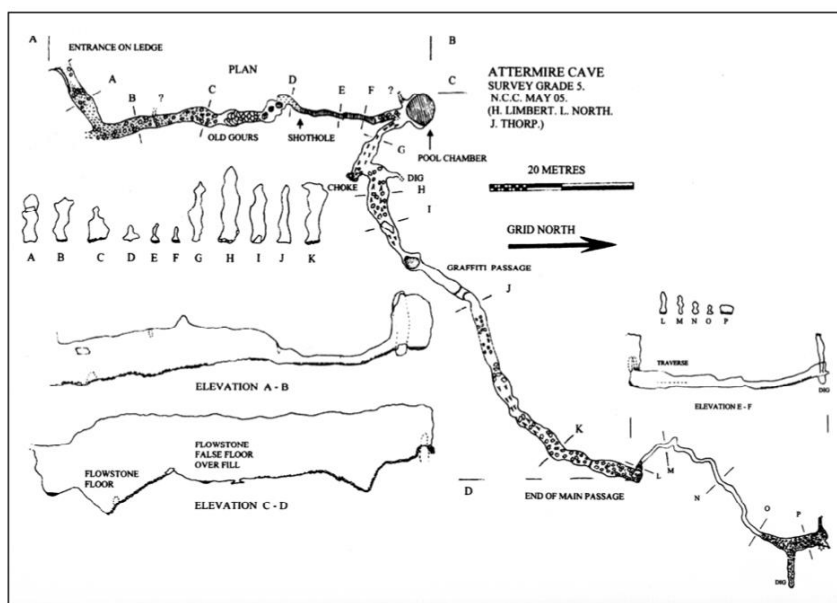
Photo Credit: Andy Hall

associations with 'black magic' came much later, in the 19th to 20th centuries. As a possible context for protective marks. It is interesting to note that looking out of the cave there are extensive views westwards to Pendle Hill, with its witch associations. In the brief time we spent at the cave it is apparent that to fully record the historic markings contained within will require multiple trips. Everyone was still full of enthusiasm and keen to continue the project into the future.

On returning to the car I had a discussion with Tom Lord and he mentioned a cave in Ease Gill Kirk that he had been told about, by Dave Checkley (now deceased) that contained historical graffiti. Rob and I made a note of this for a future trip.

The weekend continued on Sunday and again started at Lower Winskill with a shorter indoor session to discuss yesterday's outcomes and TL gave a presentation on the historic markings found at Lower Winskill during restoration and building works (recorded by the Vernacular Buildings Group). These markings included a group of concentric circles, marks which appear frequently as protective marks. A short break while we got ourselves ready for the field trip.

Late morning field visit to Dead Man's Cave, NGR SD 8005, 6704 Alt. 325m OD, about 1km north of Giggleswick Scar. This has numerous graffiti.



Survey of Attermire



James written in red

Photo Credit: Andy Hall

Andy Hall

Big Meanie – It's a Cracker Exchange

4th June 2022

Kristian Brook, Nat Dalton, Rachel Turnbull, Gwen Tawy (+ Sarah Parker (ULSA), Nadia Raeburn Cherradi (ULSA), Rob Watson, Philip Withnall)

With enough people and good weather, we decided today would be the perfect day for an exchange between It's a Cracker and Big Meanie. Rob, Nadia, Sarah and Phil went in It's a Cracker, while the rest of us went in Big Meanie. Nat decided to rig Big Meanie, with Rachel closely following. I slowly made my way down behind Kristian. Progress was slow because I struggled to feed the rope through my stop at the awkward squeeze on the entrance pitch. Kristian waited for me in the large passage below while the other two went to the connection with Death's Head. I was very upset when I saw the connection...small and wet. Kristian showed me how to best negotiate it on my back, and after much swearing and sweating I was birthed into Death's Head. We were reunited with the other two at the pitch head, which we all descended quickly.

I knew the way to Groundsheet Junction from here, so led the way for a short while. We first visited the sump to kill time (and delay the inevitable) before turning around towards the much-dreaded canal. Kristian led the way through while I complained about my increasingly cold bits. Shortly after emerging the other side, we bumped into the other team. We handed an empty tackle sack to Nadia to use as a flotation aid in the canal, then briskly marched to Lyle Cavern. Here we used an in-situ handline to climb into a passage that would take us to 'The Tube'. This passage was longer than anticipated, so we stopped often to check the description. We eventually reached 'The Tube'. It looked much worse than I had imagined. Very wet, tight and curved – making it both miserable and technical. We decided it best to remove our SRT kits before tackling it. Nat went through first without much of an issue. Rachel then had the bright idea of stringing all 4 SRT kits together and hooking them onto her foot to drag them through together. In theory, this made sense. In practice, everything snagged. With Kristian feeling cold, I was left to unhook the gear. This proved quite tricky with the water slowly damming around me. When I finally freed the gear I heard Nat whisper to Rachel, "Be careful when you move. You might drown Gwen". Very encouraging.



Apricots in Lyle Cavern

Photo Credit: Kristian Brook

Once all safe we head out as quickly as possible to warm up. Rachel and I agreed to stay behind to derig as a team. The bottom pitch went smoothly. When I reached the next pitch, I thought it strange that Rachel had disappeared up a rope in an unusual place. I was sure I had always walked left up the slope here to get to the next pitch. When I approached the rope that Rachel was on, more alarm bells rang. This rope was very thick and muddy. Rob's rope is 8mm and relatively new. Ignoring my gut, I thought "They must have come down a route I'm not familiar with and used ULSA rope". When I reached a rebelay 30-40m later, my fears were realised. This was not the way. There was no way Rob would be rigging on maillons in this state! I called up to Rachel that we needed to descend, at which point she agreed that she did think it was strange that Rob was rigging on gear that had "barnacles" on them! We quickly descended, embarrassed. We later tried to convince the rest of the team that we had purposefully gone up this blind aven to get some more training in for expo.

The moral of this story is to always trust your gut when caving...unless you're training for an expedition, of course.

Gwen Tawy

Notts 2

25th June 2022

Mark Ashby, Colin Jones, Steve White

Myself, Colin Jones and Steve White arrived at the Cowan Bridge carpark to meet any others joining the trip. Unfortunately, it turned out to be just the 3 of us. This was mine and Colin's first trip down Notts 2 since before lockdown, and Steve had never been down there. I was secretly hoping it would be a little warmer and drier than our last visit. Thankfully, it turned out to be a lot drier. After the initial climb down the entrance shaft, we made our way across the small rift and down into Mincemeat Aven, and descending into Inlet 13, and onto the mainstream way. When we got to junction we headed left and downstream towards the Kleine Scheidegg Chamber. The last time we were there it was extremely wet, but today was very dry, so we had a short climb down the waterfall into the chamber. Colin and Steve headed down a passage on the right towards Sump 2. There was only a slight trickle of water, so they managed to get a good way to the sump. Heading back upstream past the junction, we continued towards the Curry Inlet. Colin and Steve climbed up into several of the upper passages and the flood bypass section for an explore, and to take some obligatory photos of the formations before we hit Nick Point where the cave opened into a wider streamway with reasonable deep pools. After wading waist deep for a while, we made our way to Curry Junction, and headed left down Curry Inlet to look at some of the stunning formations. Steve was shocked by the sheer volume of them. After that we headed back to Curry Junction and



followed the streamway towards Inlet 5. We got to a point where the water became very deep, very quickly, so we chose not to continue. I'm assuming this was the point on the survey where it says 'swim' on the way to Sump 1. Following that we made our way back to the main streamway junction (Colin had left a Hi-Vis vest there, as we had missed it last time out), and started the long climb back to the surface, and headed back to the car for food and coffee. All in all, it was a great trip, and we spent a good 4 hours underground.

Mark Ashby

Notts 2 Curtain

Photo Credit: Mark Ashby

Swildon's Hole

9th July 2022

Adam Baldock (ULSA), Kristian Brook, Dinny Davies, Gwen Tawy, Rob Watson

As I am very rarely in Mendip and very scared of sumps, Swildon's Hole was still a place that was a complete mystery to me. On this weekend the weather was very dry and settled, so I agreed to attempt the short round, with the knowledge that I might not make it all the way round.

We had a pleasant walk in the sun to the entrance, passing a lake we had swam in at 3am. It looked much less inviting in daylight, as we could see the tentacles that were trying to pull us underwater only hours previously. We were all relieved to be underground, as it was getting a bit too hot on the surface. We made our way down to the streamway, losing Kristian on the way. We eventually found him at the pitch head; he had taken the dry route down. We descended a ladder and followed our noses down a couple of awkward climbs (for me) towards Sump 1. Someone had decided it would be a good idea to show me how



Climbing down a cascade

Photo Credit: Kristian Brook

friendly it looks. This did not work. Despite the fear of the sump looming in the back of my head, I decided to press on with the trip and see how it went.

We retraced our steps to Trapman's Temple where we turned off towards Mud Sump. We were stopping regularly here to check the complex description. The group dynamic was tested here with Kristian getting increasingly frustrated by the description and Dinny becoming increasingly agitated by the constant stopping. Eventually, Dinny broke and stomped off, following his nose up and down different levels. We all scurried after him, hoping we would end up at the right place.

We found the Double Troubles, which I had been dreading. Thankfully, due to the dry weather, there was no need to bail the sumps and we all sailed straight through. Later we began to hear the streamway below. We wriggled through some boulders to get onto a slide that took us to the streamway. This accidentally turned into a competition, to see who could descend the slide fastest without dying. Rob initially won the competition, but then Dinny demanded a second go, taking the lead. Rob then repeated his run to put Dinny in his place.

After crowning Rob king of slides, we ambled down to Sump 2 before retracing our steps to the dreaded Sump 1. Dinny, Rob and Adam slipped through quickly, while Kristian stayed behind with me for moral support. I was relieved to see that it was so dry that there was a tiny bit of airspace...not enough to be useful, but enough for me to be able to see lights on the other side. I spent some time trying to 'acclimatise', by shoving my head into the water. This made things worse and I started to panic. I briefly thought about returning the way I came, but this would add hours onto my trip. I then got concerned about my teammates waiting for me in the water, so passed my helmet through to Dinny and took the plunge. I made it through in once piece but did smack my head on the roof...which in hindsight was probably better than drowning!



The best of a bad bunch of photos

Photo Credit: Kristian Brook

Gwen Tawy

Eastwater Caverns

10th July 2022

Kristian Brook, Dinny Davies, Gwen Tawy

I wasn't quite sure what to do with my Sunday, and with most people heading to the Priddy Folk Festival my chances of getting underground were looking slim. However, after a chat with Mike Butcher, Kristian, Dinny and I decided to do a round trip in Eastwater Caverns.

I had no idea what to expect, having not read the description. A large boulder choke which was negotiated by following a piece of string was not something I had imagined. At the end of the string, we found ourselves in a large slanting rift that we had to traverse across. This was quite challenging, because the angle of the rift made it easy to slip down to the bottom. At the end of the rift, we turned right following an old water shoot downwards. Dinny had assumed the popular method of following the polish, but we eventually realised this was not the correct way when he stumbled across an unexpected pitch. This meant reversing back up the narrow shoot. After a quick read of the description, we found the correct turning. The passage then became more spacious and comfortable. Dinny and I popped into Boulder Chamber on our way round, while Kristian started on a climb that avoided an old pitch. From here we continued along a passage until we reached the top of another long slope. There was no other obvious way on, so down we went. At the bottom we saw the end of the string we had followed through the boulder choke. We had completed the round trip! We ended the day with one final swim in the Mineries Pool.

Gwen Tawy

Hardrawkin Pot and High Douk Holes

10th July 2022

Becka Lawson, Fleur Loveridge

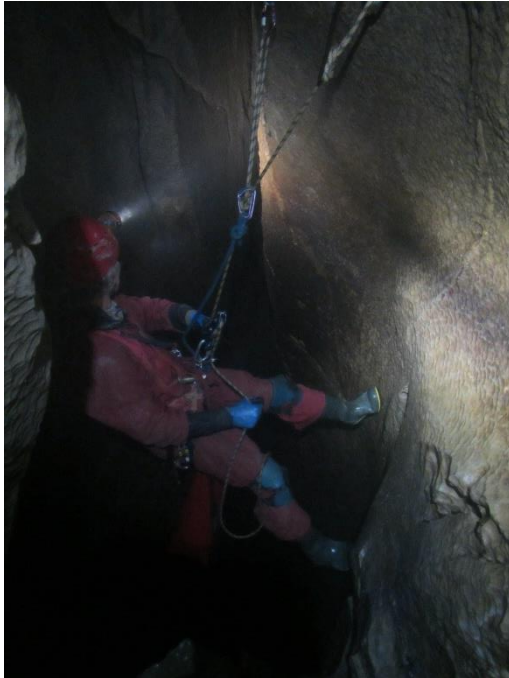
Fleur had firmly insisted that she would only come caving with me if it was somewhere nice. I'm not sure that my idea of nice precisely matches Fleur's idea so I let her choose our destination and she came up with a fine Sunday jolly. We parked by Hurtle Pot and had a mildly sweaty slog up the flanks of Ingleborough to the obvious shakehole in a wall. First we descended Hardrawkin Pot. This comprises easy, sinuous, streamway passage then two straightforward pitches which were pleasant in the low, warm water conditions but would be miserable or worse in wet conditions. We reached the sump then efficiently derigged. At the surface we spread the rope out in the sun to dry, dumped our SRT kit and went on to explore the three upstream sections of cave from Hardrawkin (High Douk Holes - though it seemed odd it isn't just named Upper Hardrawkin). This is mostly walking in windy streamway



Becka in Hardrawkin Pot

Photo Credit: Fleur Loveridge

with some decent formations and a couple of clammers to daylight over collapses to the final boulder choke with bang wire. Note for parents: all the non-vertical parts of the trip would be great for kids! We retraced our steps and got back to the car just in time to find Ben Wright and Andreas Klocker finishing their dive in Hurtle so we got some extra exercise helping them carry out their many tanks.



Becka in Hardrawkin Pot

Photo Credit: Fleur Loveridge

Becka Lawson

Giants Hole

24th July 2022

Kristian Brook, Dinny Davies, Gwen Tawy

The first task of the day was to cobble together a safe SRT kit from mine and Dinny's semi-retired piles of metalwork, as my primary SRT kit was making its way to Austria. Once we were happy we all had the kit we needed we set off to Giants in the pouring rain. It took a lot of willpower to get out of the car and change, especially as I knew Kristian had his new GoPro out and was already filming; he claims he was worried he would miss out on 'prime banter' while we got undressed in the rain.

Although it was raining, I was surprised to find Garland's Pot empty. I rigged the pitch with background commentary from Kristian for the big movie. Once down the pitch we proceeded down the crab walk, which always lasts longer than I remember. When we reached the vice, Dinny was extremely pleased to see that I could only pass the squeeze

by submerging my body in the cold water below the tightest part. He later smugly commented that he slipped right through the tightest bit.

From Great Relief Passage we turned right into Maggin's Rift. We then spent quite some time looking for the traverse towards Geology Pot. Kristian eventually found it after Dinny completely failed to look up 30 minutes previously. We followed our noses until we reached Geology Pot. After some crawling we reached Far Curtain, a short duck followed by some deep pools. We finally reached a very smelly East Aven. The water levels were so low that we found a lot of booty, including an old helmet.

On the way out we decided to complete the round trip to avoid the long crab walk. The Windpipe was as wet and miserable as always. When we reached the top of the streamway, Kristian continued along the top to a downclimb above Garland's, while Dinny and I descended on a bouncy shoelace to the streamway. At Garland's we bumped into a family who appeared to be having a bad time with a ladder. They allowed us to go first, which was probably a mistake because my cobbled-together SRT kit was highly inefficient. The rain had finally stopped by the time we emerged, and Kristian's GoPro had run out of battery, so I could change back into my damp clothes in comfort.

Gwen Tawy

Caving in Applecross

6th August 2022

Todd Rye (BPC), Toby Speight, Aila Taylor

My plans to go caving abroad this summer were thwarted by an unfortunate van crash, so I decided to visit Toby in Applecross and see what the Scottish caves had to offer. I was a day late in arriving due to losing the key to the brand-new car whilst canyoning on Ben Nevis, and after a bumble around the Kishorn caves the day before I was keen to spend the whole day underground.

We parked up in Applecross under a grey but dry sky, and set off towards the caves, accompanied by a random BPC member. I was not in the finest of moods and felt rather groggy due to period cramps and a mild headache from the cheap whisky that I had gifted Toby the previous night (which he was very unimpressed with). Upon arriving at the entrance of Ashery, I realised that I had forgotten to put a battery in my light, so we dropped the tackle



Toby underground in Kishorn

Photo Credit: Aila Taylor



Toby emerging from Ashery

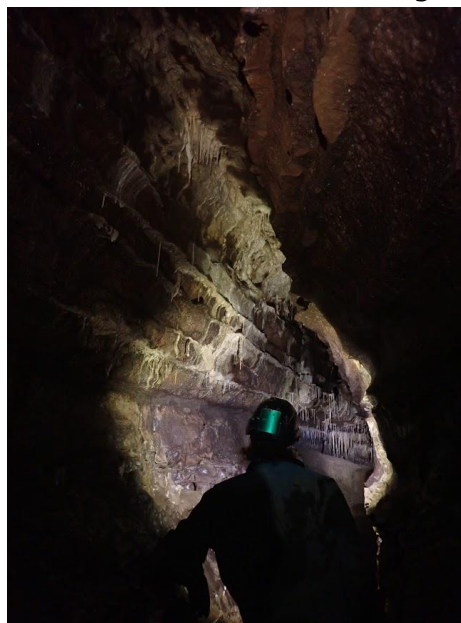
Photo Credit: Aila Taylor

sacks and headed back to the car to get it. However, when we reached the car Toby realised that the key to the car was actually in the tackle sack by the entrance, so off he went to retrieve it. After lots of back and forth the three of us were once again stood outside the entrance and ready to cave this time, albeit somewhat later than planned.

The entrance was an enjoyable slither down the rock and round a corner into a sloped rift that led to a crawl. Further crawling ensued and I started wondering if the cave was as lacking in redeeming features as a grotty Mendip hole. Oh, how wrong was I! Soon we emerged into a fantastic streamway, which we joyfully stomped down, admiring some lovely formations en route. I had a good look at the duck, which I was told nobody had ever been through. This, along with my fanatic love of neck-deep water, meant I was very keen to go through it, but unfortunately it was sumped. After a brief immersion we progressed back upstream, with

me feeling more uplifted now that I was no longer dry. Further splashing about in the stream ensued, followed by a free-climb where I learnt that shale does not make for good handholds, and then more crawling. Finally, we exited out of Steve's Arse (an alternative entrance), which turned out to be brimming with local wildlife. Whilst I was halfway up the exit climb I heard the random BPC member shout "ARSE!" from below, and that was when I knew it was time to don my rescue hat. We formed an assembly line along the free climb and passed two frogs and a newt along it, Toby thus becoming a member of ARSE (Amphibian Rescue from Subterranean Environments).

After all this arsing around, Toby and I headed up to another cave (Liar's Sink) whilst the random BPC member napped outside, who couldn't be arsed with anymore crawling. This was a shorter trip, but I was extremely impressed with the formations, along with a huge chamber that was bigger than anything I'd expected to find in Applecross. At the end of this chamber was an equally big and impressive waterfall. We then finished of the day back at Toby's with beer and scrabble (Toby once again expressing disdain at my low-quality alcohol choices).



Lovely passage in Ashery

Photo Credit: Aila Taylor

Aila Taylor

A Grand Day Out at Sunset & Great Douk

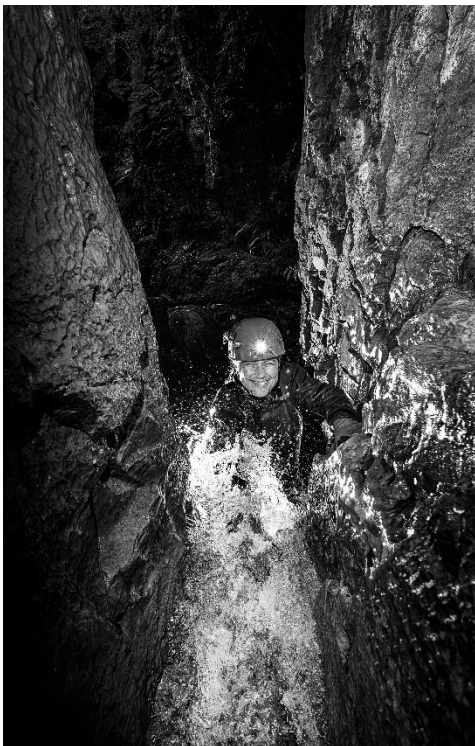
7th August 2022

Emma Key, Bill Nix

We had both had a busy few weeks at work so fancied a nice leisurely caving trip. After a bit of discussion we settled on Sunset Hole as I had never been and always thought it sounded like a nice trip.

We had a very sociable breakfast in Inglesport chatting with some of the Leck Fell digging crew and having a few extra cups of tea. Eventually we drove up to Chapel-le-Dale wondering if we'd be able to find a spot to park with it being a sunny day and us being a bit late, fortunately we were in luck there were a couple of spaces left.

I packed a rope and Bill sorted his camera gear, after a quick change we wandered up the track in the sunshine to find the entrance to Sunset. I was very impressed with the little rock bridge by the entrance and, not having been before, took a few moments to explore the surroundings. I found the alternative entrance and followed the passage way to pop back out by the bridge.



Cascade Climbing

Photo Credit: Bill Nix

Filled with enthusiasm from my mini caving adventure I finished getting ready and shot off down the gently meandering passage way enjoying the pleasant caving. I found a nice ledge to sit on and waited a couple of minutes for Bill to catch up. Quickly we got to the cascades and I had great fun scrambling down them while Bill got ideas for photos on the way back. Soon we arrived at the pitch and I tried to remember how to rig (where does that rabbit go again.....?). Bill kept himself occupied taking a few shots of me in action. He had decided not to go down the pitch so I whizzed down and had a bit of a poke around in the bottom before prussiking back up and derigging.

While I'd been exploring, Bill had set up to take a photo on the first climb, fortunately the water wasn't cold and the levels were relatively low so I didn't mind hanging about in the waterfall while Bill took "just one more" shot. At the next climb Bill stopped to take a few more photos, this time I was pleased to learn that I wasn't the only one getting wet as he had to sit in a puddle to get the perfect angle!

Too soon we emerged into the sunshine again after a really fun trip. Earlier in the day Bill had mentioned having a look at Great Douk on the way down, again this was a cave I had never visited, so off we went to explore the second cave of the day.

From the gate we cut the corner off hopping across the impressive limestone pavement to join the track just before the Great Douk shakehole. We climbed down the tree lined slope and I was amazed by the huge shakehole - it was very beautiful and like a secret lost world. I'd not read up on the cave before the trip so it was all a very pleasant surprise.

We carefully crossed the slippery slab and climbed up the waterfall to enter the cave. I really enjoyed the splendid meandering passage way, we paused to admire the lovely foliage in the magical daylight shaft of Little Douk then continued along the slowly lowering passage way. Reaching the point where the cave reduced down to a low crawl in water and Bill stopped, his enthusiasm began to wane. I pressed on still thoroughly enjoying myself. I heard Bill shout to ask if I had got to daylight yet and replied that I hadn't. Very shortly I spotted light and called back. I explored the two entrances and soon heard Bill arrive. He exited the cave and made his way back over ground but I'd had so much fun I decided to return the way I had come.

On the way back I explored a few side passages and near the entrance encountered Bill with his camera kit wanting to get a couple more "holiday snaps". I indulged him and he took a few photos in the passage way and on the entrance climb to finish the day.

I'd had such fun and was grinning for the rest of the day! These two "beginners" caves are little gems! A grand day out!

Emma Key

Rollerball Update

Many of you have been involved to some extent in this epic, so it only seems fitting that the main diggers, Sam, Chris and I, keep you informed of progress. Well there has been some, yeah! Unfortunately, not enough to get us down to the Precambrian Series we were hoping for but hey, every little helps. On Jim's Birthday Do we were hauling stuff from near a drop to The Birth Canal which led to a small drop into Jim's Pit, named so because of Jim's Birthday. However, being a bit fickle the cave then did almost a 180 and headed back underneath where we'd just come from and in a very awkward narrow, low passage. Much capping, hammering and frustration later we



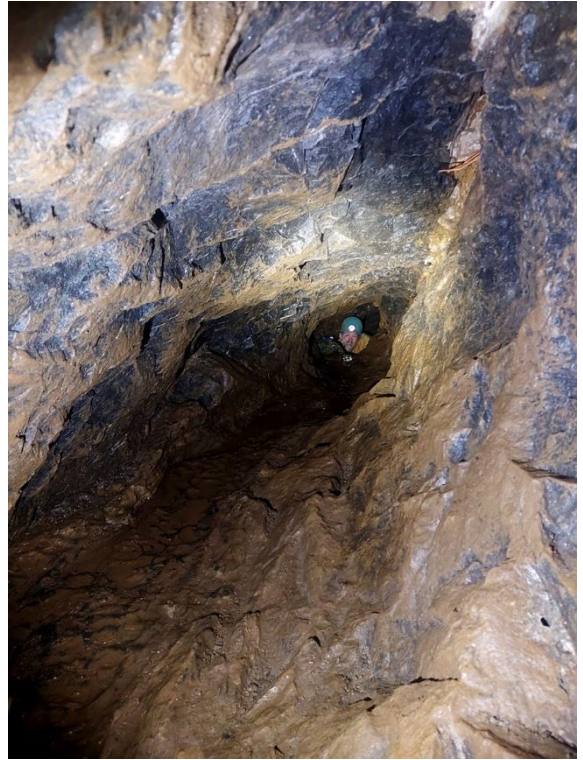
The Christening Pitch

Photo Credit: Ray Duffy

got to yet another small drop, The Font and found out where all the poo we'd washed down from The Birth Canal had finished up, doh! There was a large crack in the floor and a bit of capping, hammering and frustration, (yes I know it's getting repetitive), we exposed a 6 metre pitch. As Chris was given the privilege of descending first, he'd not been first in any of the exploration so far, The Christening Pitch landed in....da...da...da! A huge hading rift, well huge for Rollerball standards.

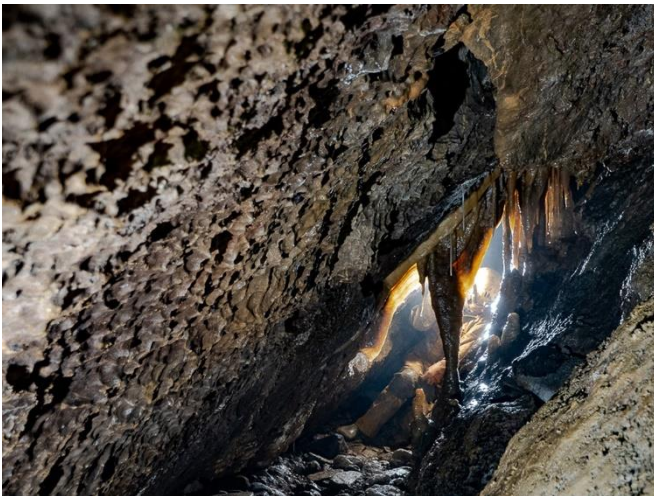
As Sam was isolating, we decided not to push this, showing great restraint on our behalf. When Sam eventually returned to the fray we named the passage Samori, as it was a toss-up whether Sam or I were going to the end first. There was a clean-washed inlet that fed into the hading which took some effort by me to climb up into but it ended in a cobble choke, such is life! Sam pushed the end and came out with little left of his oversuit (hence Mainly Armless Passage) and covered in peaty crap, we had to wash him down before he was allowed out of the hole.

Downstream Samori, the water sinks in a small useful hole for those with full bladders and hence is named The Pissior. Further on down the passage there were some horrendous looking humungous boulders that had to be crawled under to proceed. Lo and behold, there was a beautiful stal grill but then the passage appeared to just end. Well, this being Rollerball it didn't quite. A tight upward thrutch, by only Sam at first, led to a strange piece of passage that again will require work. The Pissior has received attention but is proving extremely stubborn and awkward, no change there then.



Sam in The Font

Photo Credit: Andy Hall



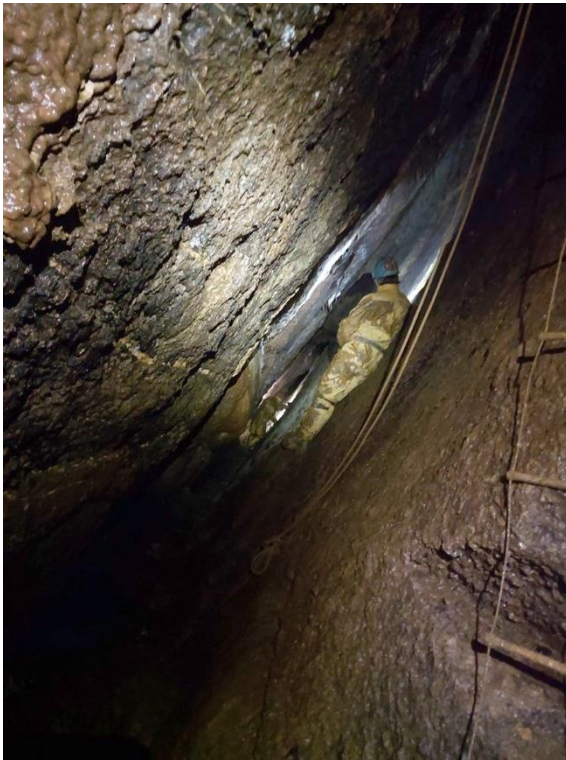
Stal Grill

Photo Credit: Chris Hunter



Mainly Armless Passage

Photo Credit: Chris Hunter



We'd hope people will keep out, unless helping us, until we've managed to complete the next bit of work but feel free to come along on a Thursday night or sometimes even a Sunday. Considering what we've been working along so far, Samori Passage is a joy to behold. The cave is now 33 metres deep, 130 metres long, and believe me a real slog coming out with any heavy gear like drills and batteries. Fortunately, we don't have to haul bags of rubble any more as there's plenty of stacking space now, yeeaaaahhh!!!

Ray Duffy (Chief Engineer)

Samori Passage

Photo Credit: Chris Hunter

Hazeltop Dig Goes!

Hazeltop is a club dig in the upper part of Hazel Sike about a mile north of the Farm. The site has seen several digging attempts over the years, but all petered out and the sink choked up again. During one of the Covid lockdowns Hugh took a walk up and observed the stream sinking down a tiny limestone rift, never seen before. This motivated a more serious assault on the site once the pandemic retreated. After 18 months we'd dug down a 3m shaft with wriggle into a descending rift and 3m climb down to a blockage. A small stream could be seen to one side in an impossibly small bedding. But the walls were loose, everything dripped, and the digging was sloppy. Was enthusiasm waning? A small crawl a couple of metres long was blocked by boulders.

(Adapted from the log book and WhatsApp group notes....author name underlined)

7th July 2022

Hugh St. Lawrence, Johnny Baker, Andy Hall

When the Dark Lord arrived at The Farm he was worried that the RRCPC had turned into the Red Rose Gardening Club, being greeted with Johnny strimming, and Andy mowing the lawn. He was further dismayed when Johnny asked if he was needed for Hazeltop as he had another dig he wanted to visit. The DL stated that plans for the day needed the three of us – what was the world coming to when people tried to pike off to other digs! Johnny relented.



Boss Bypass

Photo Credit: Hugh St. Lawrence

We walked up to Hazeltop in glorious sunshine, and soon set to with allotted tasks, H+A shoring up above the climb down, whilst I fired off some caps to remove a block from the end of the crawl. The next to succumb to caps was a rock pedestal that was holding up the roof of boulders. This was cleared, bringing down two large boulders that required capping. These were dispatched, then retreat to the surface for wee and tea.

By this time, Andy had left, so J+H decided to clear the debris from the boulders, for 'just another hour'. J crawled back in passing the debris back to H, and soon realised that there was now enough space to stand up; as Hugh

had speculated, there was room above the boulders and a way on could be seen for 5m...to some STAL! Crawling under the dodgy roof to the stal, I could see a void ahead. "I'm excited" I exclaimed. With permission granted, I got up into low chamber, 5m x 3m, with straws covering the roof.

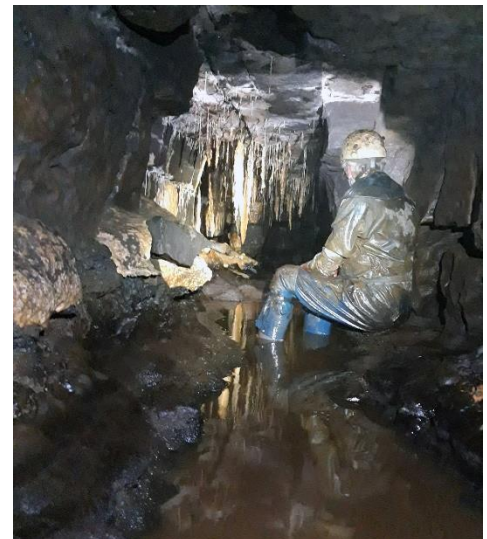
Again, the Dark Lord encouraged further exploration, and at the end of the chamber a drop down was found into a low stream passage. 3m wide, 1m high and stal everywhere. I pushed for 5m but decided that the way on would necessitate massive vandalism. Hugh was called to the front and spotted a squeeze between a boss and the wall which involved getting wet but with minimum stal breakage.

I followed, and found him stopped where the straws got low and the water deeper. Hugh had forgotten his furry suit, so did not fancy the wallow. After discussion, I crawled through, with only a couple of straws being broken. The way continued, hands & knees, below straws. After a while, I stopped to call the Dark Lord back to the front, but he stayed put (and relatively dry) and called me back, we could discuss the plan of attack.

We decided to retreat and return with camera and survey kit – after all, we had said we'd do 'Just Another Hour'! We estimated pretty much 60m of new cave in a straight line in a North-North East direction (down dip). Only another 2.94 km to the rising!

10th July 2022 Hugh & Johnny

Surveying started through entrance section and J took photos. Surveyed about 80m with more stals and wet crawls. Had a quick look beyond end of survey and was open for another 20m+. Good draught blowing out.



Main Passage

Photo Credit: Hugh St. Lawrence

14th July 2022**Hugh & Andy**

Surveyed the short push from last Sunday and reached the largest bit of passage yet 2m x 2m with a great display of formations. Explored a short way beyond where it lowers again with more formations and a gravel bank choke. Exited after three hours. Andy had taken photos on his phone but accidentally washed it in the stream when he was cleaning his gear – phone dead! Survey data may take some unpicking but estimate cave length at over 140m so far.

(AH - * phone dried out OK and photos recovered! Data shows 180m surveyed so far heading NNE. Cave is certainly flood prone with flood debris right up in the roof.)

18th July 2022**Hugh & Johnny**

Johnny went in early and attacked the mudbank, spent some time dragging the spoil back. By the time Hugh joined the fray it had turned into a slurry mine. Eventually broke through the blockage into a narrow wet crawl, after 10m could see the way on stepped up into dry passage. Unfortunately to get into the passage required one ear in the water. The dry crawl led for 20m to a break down "chamber" but the entry hole was too small. To the left, a crawl led to a passage that continued past some blocks, but this wasn't entered as at this stage Johnny was shivering! (this with a heatwave on the surface!) Back through the wet crawl, the clay floor made movement difficult, as knees and elbows got stuck. Upon describing this to Hugh, a name presented itself – It's Fun Jim But Not As We Know It!

Approx 35m gained in 3 hrs. Exited to a blast of heat, but it still took half hour before I could properly feel my fingers. Better clothing required next time! Spent half hour on cementing the dam.

Several further trips have been made to the current end of the cave in an area of breakdown with a distinctly dodgy roof. This hasn't been passed yet, but the stream runs off ahead.

The cave is about 220m long to date. The main stream passage is generally 1m high and 1.5-3m wide. It would be an easy crawl if the place wasn't festooned with straws and stal which requires a lot of low crawling in the stream to minimise damage. But they do brighten up the surroundings!

The final 50m is pretty much flat out with a canal and mini-duck, and brings a more serious feel to digging at the breakdown area.

The cave is a quite significant discovery. It's the first cave of any real length in a Yoredale bed (Simonstone Limestone) in the Easegill-Barbondale area. It's relatively well developed, beautifully decorated, and has another 2.9 kilometres to run (and about 80m to drop) to its rising at the top end of Barbondale. All to play for!



Breakthrough Brothers

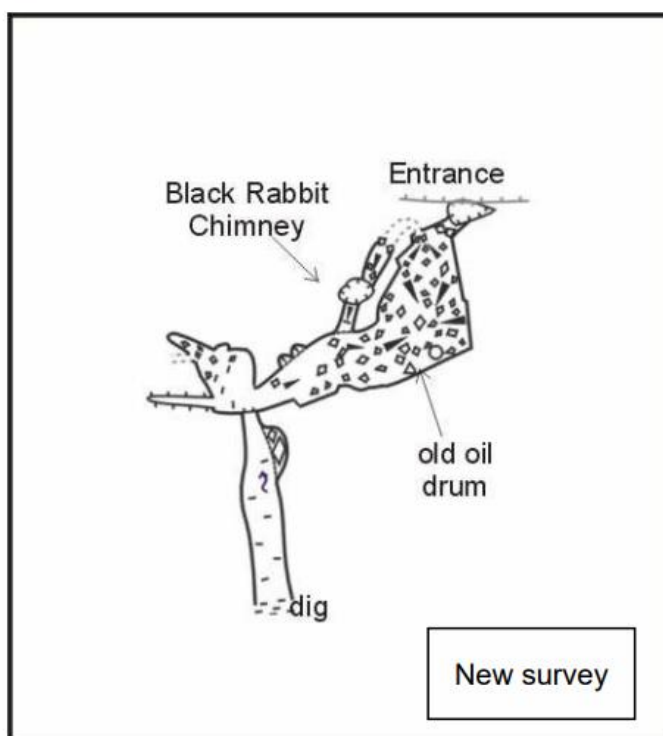
Photo Credit: Hugh St. Lawrence

Hugh St. Lawrence

The Crumbles have Crumbled

Over several years I've visited this strange little place and noticed considerable changes. The entrance is just reachable by flood water when the gill is in spate and this has led to a massive amount of boulders, cobbles and mud being washed into the entrance chamber. When I originally entered the chamber it was evident that there was an iron oil drum that had been used to line the entrance to a shaft in the chamber but this was full of rocks, to the brim. Up the slope from the chamber a short passage had a pit on the right, Black Rabbit Chimney that had a blockage at the base that even Sam couldn't get through. A bit further on was a small step up on the left to a nasty dig with lots of slimy mud leading to

a flat out wet tube with the remains of digging tools rusting away. A look at the old survey showed that things should be a lot more complex than we found, where were Square Cavern and South Chamber? Our re-survey for Sheet 5 didn't find either of these, South Chamber was obviously below the filled oil drum but surely we could get to Square Cavern with a bit of work.



New survey of The Crumbles

The first job was to see where the dig went, so a little persuasion rendered the step up and crawl a little bigger to enable further capping to enlarge the wet bit. We tried to get a place to drain the water/slop away from the canal. Surveying in The Dinnertime Series led us to believe the dig and the end of the Series were very close but hardly worth connecting so we like The Earby gave up on this effort. The next objective was to get down Black Rabbit Chimney and find Square Cavern and by employing a couple of concrete bolts to attach hangers we soon had Sam at the bottom, me hauling at the top and a crawl was excavated but no cavern was found. Sam crawled along but I could hear him near the entrance drop. Heaving boulders out of the way we soon had a through trip from the bottom of Black Rabbit to the foot of the entrance drop, still no cavern though.

So where had the passages and chamber gone? Good question and the answer would probably involve a lot of excavation in an aptly name cave. I did try to prevent any further floods from adding to the debris by building an entrance cover but anyone wanting to take up the challenge should be aware that it's a very crumbly place and flood prone in really wet weather but good luck!

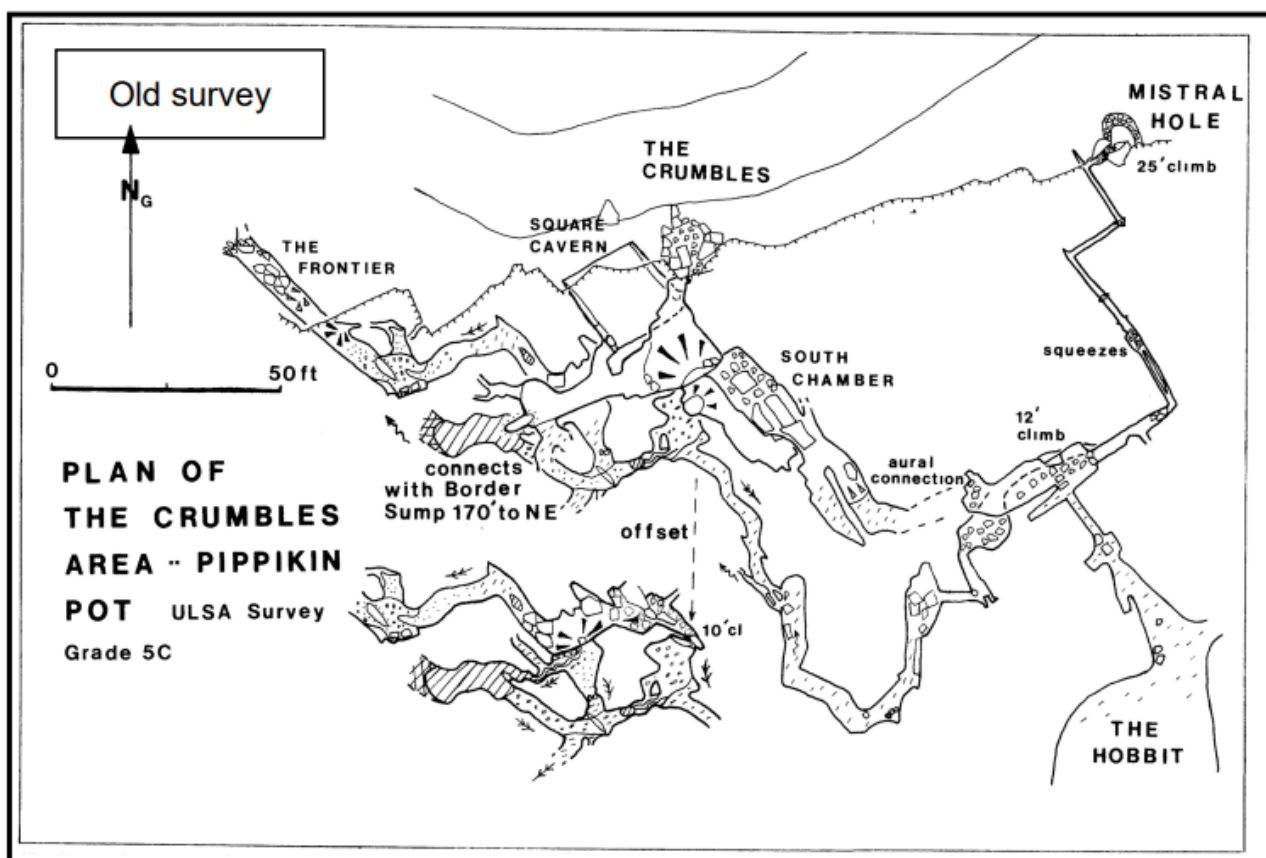


Sam Lieberman
about to descend
Black Rabbit Chimney

Right: Sam in The Crumbles

Photo Credit: Ray Duffy

Below: Old survey of The Crumbles



Ray (the frustrated) Duffy

Spain June 2022

June 2022

Johnny Baker, Sandra Beattie

On the evening of 1st June 2022 we met up with the 'Beardy Tours' gang (Red Rose and YSS) in the Ason gorge, about an hour south of Santander, although for us it had been three days sightseeing from Calais.

Beardy fancied a rest day, so was happy to take us on a reccy trip to Cueva del Escalon, a cave which he knew little about, and had never heard of anyone going in. We walked from the bar/bunkhouse, a sweaty half an hour or so to Coventosa, where we lingered to cool off in the gale blowing out of it, then along the path a few hundred metres. We found a likely looking track going up and ascended, to be faced with a donkey blocking the path! It wasn't for moving, so we had to go around it, despite Johnny's best attempts to ask "Senor Burro" to move.

Our next sight surprised us even more than the donkey, a massive fence around the entrance, with two workmen inside the alcove fitting a solid steel door. Beardy asked if we needed permission to visit the cave, and they responded in such a way that made us feel unwelcome. Beardy did admit that he thought permission might have been needed, but high security fencing? That seemed a little over the top for a grumpy landowner... What was that all about?

Earlier, while we'd been scouting around looking for the right path, Johnny had seen what looked like a cave entrance behind some bushes, so, given that our prime objective was a no-go, Johnny and Beardy decided to have a look inside. A small-ish cave led after about 15m to the bottom of a 10m daylight shaft, and a blind 10m chamber. We both agreed that the draught we felt didn't fit the cave we could see, but alas, we couldn't find a way on. We then decided to walk along the hillside to the next hamlet, Socueva, which would have been a pleasant walk had we not been so hot, so on our return past Coventosa it was a no-brainer to go in to cool down. The draught was much appreciated, and the three of us had a mooch around the entrance series.

Oh, as for the high security at Cueva del Escalon? It turns out that the European Space Agency will be using it for astronaut training! - The trainees will spend weeks down there, to ensure they can cope with working and living in an "alien" environment.

The following day, a mission was planned. Torca de Juciegu – Cueva de Jacillano, a through trip only found a few years ago. We had a survey, and a Spanish description, so two carloads of excited cavers drove off the hour or so to Barcenaciones. Finding the bottom entrance only took half an hour, and Ales went in 100m to confirm it matched the survey, and wasn't sumped. We then drove up to the top and found Juciegu relatively easily.

The entrance pitch was rigged, and I was last but one down. I saw a small passage going off, but decided to follow the bigger passage, eventually hearing voices ahead.... Then Lisa shouted from behind "Johnny, you've gone the wrong way". I shouted back "The others are down here".

Lisa-"No, they've gone down the pitches here". Me "No they're just in front of me". Now, of course, the inevitable farce began....Those in front thought I was talking to them, and when I shouted to them, Lisa thought I was talking to her. After a few minutes the state of play became clear (as mud). The first few down had gone down the small passage, and rigged two pitches, whereas the rest of the group had gone straight. I'd heard the latter group, Lisa had heard the first group. A stalemate of half an hour ensued, whilst me and Lisa relayed messages from one end to the other. Both teams adamant that they were in the right place. Eventually the first group relented and ascended the pitches, so we were all assembled. Around the corner was a pitch that the others had traversed around, I followed, and was definitely out of my comfort zone, - at least I wouldn't need to reverse the manoeuvre on a through trip. Lisa was now at the head forcing a way down a dodgy rift climb, and some of the team were expressing concerns about the trip. By now we'd been underground almost two hours, and were barely 20m from the entrance.

Sensing rebellion, our leader spoke: "We would almost certainly be the first British team to do this through trip". Those inspiring words settled the disgruntled team members (even the non-British ones!). The description was consulted and rechecked. 'The route is interrupted by two pitches'- clearly doesn't say descend the pitches, the implication is that you traverse them. Besides, we'd been told the trip could be hard rigged with two ropes, one was on the entrance, and we knew there would be an 18m pitch to come, so the way on can't be down the pitches where we were.

Meanwhile, the traverse was worrying others, so a hand line was rigged around the corner, which spontaneously turned into the pitch being rigged. I think they had decided that if the trip was to be abandoned, they may as well get another pitch done.

Then the shouts of "Not this way" from Lisa, and "This way" from the boys down below. So we all descended, 12m pitch, then 8m pitch and then down the 18m pitch. (Fortunately, despite being told that the trip could be done with two ropes, we had brought four!).

OK then, should be straight forward now we knew we were on track. It was my turn in the front, and I found the in-situ rope to go up, great, we're properly on course now. The lack of wear anywhere was put down to the "newness" of the through trip. "Follow the obvious route" was the translation of the description, so follow the obvious, largest passages is what I did, finding myself at the top of another pitch. But there shouldn't be another pitch! Back to regroup, where the others had found the way on, a small crawl off the walking size passage, - hardly following the 'obvious' route as the description said. This led to a climb down a rift, where Beardy and Mark had to jam themselves in, to provide footholds for some of us mere mortals.

By now, Ian who had managed to climb down an even dodgier climb had returned after a scout around. His news was a bit of a shocker. Around the corner was the foot of the 18m pitch! We'd spent two hours caving on a big loop! We'd been in the cave for about 4 hours, and the bottom of the 18m pitch could be got to in half an hour on a good day.

The team were, I think, united in the decision to abandon. The caving we'd done wasn't the best, I was one of the few, perhaps the only one, to have actually enjoyed the trip (apart from the unnecessary traverse over the 12m pitch).

On the drive back, the discussion revolved around whether the description was all a sick joke. That night the description was scrutinised. Pretty much everywhere we went had fitted the text.

Then the hammer blow.... The description continued...'Now we have taken you on a tour of our favourite places...'

The absolute buggers! In their article about the through trip, the first half of their description was of all the esoteric gems in the entrance series! Coupled with the poetic language used, it was no wonder that we misunderstood their words. I turned to the team, "Oh well, we're probably the first British team to fail to do that through trip!"

Thanks to the team! Beardy, Julia, Ian, Emma, Mark, Stu, Ales & Lisa.

Johnny Baker

Other Underground Adventures in Spain

June 2022

Johnny Baker, Sandra Beattie

We spent time sightseeing in north western Spain, visiting Cueva de la Pena de Candamo, a UNESCO heritage site for the prehistoric cave art. We were very lucky, as they only allow 45 people a day to visit, only in the summer, and you need to book online (although it is free!). We actually stalled our travels so that we were in the area for the first day of the season. The cave art is deteriorated (not surprising given it's 18000 years old), but it is the real deal. Unfortunately, my Spanish wasn't up to understanding the guide, but fortunately before going in we spent an hour in the museum to familiarise ourselves with the paintings. One interesting feature is that a lot of the animals are drawn with 5 legs, in an attempt to show the movement of running. The paintings are about 30m into the cave, so were painted by firelight. Upon returning to Cantabria, we went to find Cueva de las Aguas, which is another cave with cave art. We didn't find it (It is almost certainly gated anyway), but on the walk I went 20m into a resurgence cave. This cave had a concrete path and railings! No way was it a show cave, and it didn't seem to have anything to do with hydro power, so the railings are a mystery to me. A few hundred metres away was a mine adit with a strong draught blowing out, and a small stream issuing from it too. I walked in there about 100m, until it was gated. Strange that the gate wasn't at the start!

Johnny Baker

K Brook's NSS trip to the NSS convention 2022

June 13th – June 17th 2022

Kristian Brook

It was leg week, because it's always leg day. So, my mother (Carolina Shrewsbury, nee Brook) and step-father (William Shrewsbury) run a shop in the USA called On Rope 1 and running this shop involves going to all the various conventions that happen all over the USA. They are getting close to retirement now and needed some help getting stuff shifted during the NSS convention and there was no one willing to help in the US so they needed some immigrant labour for heavy lifting. Enter me, due to my skills of shifting shit and not pure nepotism. The plan was to meet them in Chattanooga, Tennessee and load up a bus to drive to Rapid City, South Dakota.

I had received rumour of some caves in the US so I bought the plane ticket and off I went to see what the new world could offer.

Landing in the US I felt the sweltering heat of the deep south greet me and I stripped off my British garb as soon as I breathed in the air. Border security was not impressed but the rule is that "if the sky's out, the thighs' out" and who am I to argue? Dressed in my finest shorts and wife-beater I felt the Georgia sun and was reborn a sunburnt-ginger.

The Convention itself was hosted at a place called the Central States Fairground, where its primary function is rodeos. The first night coincided with a local rodeo so we had nowhere to setup the On Rope 1 bus (which is also where Mum and William sleep; I would have a tent).

Monday

Monday morning I met up with Carl who drove to meet up with the others on the trip at Haggard's stores in Black Hawk. There were four other cavers joining us that day, Shawn Hogbin, a West Virginia caver, Phil Rykwald, who I remember as Texas-based but don't quote me on that, Michael Haley, a Missouri caver, and Lloyd Morrison.

When we got to the cave entrance, I saw that this cave was a former show cave with concrete and wooden steps leading up to it. We actually had the land owner come up and speak to us. Initially he was a bit peeved as he has a speed limit on the gravel road of 15mph. Carl kept to this speed limit with the exception of the one straight bit of road in front of the landowners house as he did not know the limit existed (oops). Besides that the owner was happy to see us and he actually needed our help with the electrics in the cave.



Michael Haley in Rushmore Show Cave

Photo Credit: Kristian Brook

The electrical lighting for the show cave are still intact, working and there was a family reunion coming up so he knew a couple of crawl spots where light bulbs had gone and he simply wanted us to change the bulbs. It would be nice for the family to have a big tour of the cave and see what the granddaddy had created. This was a fantastic bit of news as it meant we could turn the electrics on and see all of the show cave lit up. Looking at the electrics in this cave I am amazed they still work as there was water running down a lot of the cables but from what I saw the sheaths has not been damaged and there was no water ingress despite no containment or IP-rated equipment. In fact there were several switches that had plastic bags on top of them in order to protect them from water drips. There were several legs of wire that were clearly running through unstable rock that will go at some point but it didn't go that day. Cowboy country, cowboy electrics. Love it.

Lamps changed, we set off into the cave proper and at this point I should describe South Dakota caves for those who don't know. I will probably get the geology wrong. Most caves I have ever done are solution caves where the water flows in from the surface. Not these caves. They are dry as OFD upper series with only a couple of drops here and there, average temperature of the caves is 9°C so trousers and t-shirts are the order of the day. They had some kind of unique phreatic development and as a result they have formations such as Boxwork that does not occur in such abundance anywhere else to my knowledge. The walls of the caves are covered in nail head spar which have broken off in places and these seem to be the only places where this spar is not. In regards to the layout of the caves they are vast maze passages much like Knockfell Caverns on a larger scale.

This trip was an in and out trip to a place called The Halls. These are three large trunk passages that cut through the maze network of the cave. The way there from the show cave involved a 45 minute crawl which was much like the ones at home except no water and there was much more friction due to the spar and popcorn formations on the floors and the ceiling. The crux of the trip was a 4m long bedding which was 22cm high. This



Meeting a genuine cowboy

Photo Credit: Kristian Brook

required some work to get through but was easily passable for most of the group. Lloyd had some trouble on the way in but with some quick reassurance he got himself through. Mike however was at his size limit here and required some serious effort to get himself through. He was wearing a lovely yellow REI base layer that by the end of the trip had so many holes in it he ended up looking like Swiss cheese. On the way back I had to physically pull him out of the bedding as he was having difficulty overcoming the friction of the popcorn on the roof.

The Halls are thumping great trunk passages 10 to 15m in height and with some obstacles such as traverses and pits. We covered the main walking-size passage before encountering chokes at either end. The Halls are called Leviathan, Behemoth, and Short Rib. The naming convention seems to only work 2 out of 3 times it seems. The cave carries on past this point and exploration is ongoing. The passage past the Halls is much like it was before

according to Carl with 8-9 hours needed for a return trip, not including surveying. Great cave. Would do again.

Wednesday

It is Wednesday my dudes. Met up with Larry and a couple other cavers, Stephanie Marie Stanton and Helen Hicks for the drive to Jewel, about an hour and bit from Rapid City. The drive through the Black Hills was amazing and to see so many undeveloped crags was staggering. Back in the UK, the worst of them would have at least 50 polished routes but out here there was not a climber in sight. We passed the Crazy Horse monument and arrived early at the cave to meet Ron Miller and Cathy Borer to complete our group. Everyone besides me and Larry were Georgia cavers and both Ron and Cathy were involved Lechugilla so between them and Larry I got to hear about loads of caving politics, since Jewel has its own unique management style.

For those who don't know Jewel cave is a big massive show cave with an elevator. So after getting changed into freshly-washed, dry caving gear (white nose decontamination and all) we got into a marble lined elevator to head down into the show cave.

No words will be spoken with the show cave visitors. No eye contact will be made with the show cave visitors. The show cave visitors will not see you. We snuck through the show cave and got to our boot changing location. Jewel requires two sets of boots as the wider cave has loads of manganese, a black mud that will stick to you and cover everything if you so much as look at it. Understandably the show cave does not want to get this on the visitors so we keep it clean by changing shoes before going off the beaten (concreted) path.

Jewel was much like Stagebarn with nailhead spar all over the walls and the unique phreatic development. There was not much boxwork on the route we did and Larry informed me that Wind Cave is the more famous for that type of formation. The main difference is the sheer size of the place. The tallest passage in Stagebarn was 15m; Jewel has 'canyon' passages that I would estimate at 70m in height. The cave is another maze with 4 main levels and extends to over 200 miles and is still very much still going.

This trip was a loop called the Hub Route. On this route saw many interesting formations such as Spiders, which are gypsum crystal that have formed under a layer of mineral which remained when it was pushed away by the gypsum growth. Other notable formations were positive moulds of ancient tree routes, massive fist-sized nailhead spar growth and crystal growth with pink impurity through to the core. I could not describe these formations in print to do them justice.

We had our resident scientists on this trip, as Ron was geologist and Cathy a biologist so we could get answers for most of the nitty gritty questions when it came to the cave formation and life. None of these answers I remember, however as I am just a simple man and there is only so much my mind can take in one day. Larry commented that having one geologist is always interesting, but having two is insufferable. The sporting aspect to the trip were loads of climbs where it is either pure friction on spar or slippery shite on manganese, with some awkward sections of moderate gymnastics.

Unfortunately Stephanie had to duck out of the trip early due to feeling unwell which was a perfectly respectable decision. All trip members performed well and we got out after 5 hours which was done at a relaxed pace due to the sheer amount of talking. Needless to say we all got on very well and I'd gladly go with any of these fine cavers again.

Kristian Brook

Caving in France in the Doubs Region

July 2022

Bill Nix, Jack Overhill

Bill Nix originally asked me to come on this trip about 3 months before, and I said yes. I don't think he told me were in France though. He sent me a flight and I booked them; at this point I knew I was going to Geneva on the border to France. Once we got to Geneva and sorted the car hire, I plugged the Sat Nav for Villesexel, which wasn't user-friendly (Keep reading!) Villesexel is a town about 40 minutes from the city of Belford. We arrived at the campsite and met up with the Meghalaya Exped team which Bill is a part of. The team was a real mix of nationalities we had, Australian, Serbian, Indian, Dutch, Austrian and British.



Grotte de la Malatière

Photo Credit: Bill Nix

The first cave we visited was called Grotte de la Malatière which has an entrance pitch of 10m and then around 2km of big passage caving with a massive amount of formations. We did around 10mins of crawling in the whole 7 hours. At the further end of the cave is a place called the Metro. This is probably the longest straight-line passage I ever walked/climbed along. The formations and cave development were amazing to see.

On the second day, me and Bill spit up. Bill went to Réseau de Chaland which had amazing formations as well and was a slightly less vertical trip, but I feel Bill chose this cave so that he can be on top form for the next day! Meanwhile, I went to Gouffre de Pourpeville which was my favourite cave. It had a mix of good SRT with a 2nd pitch needing 60m and most of it was for the 35m free hang drop which drops you into this massive bellowing chamber. From here the cave gets more horizontal and very wet! We traversed deep pools with around a 1m airspace to meet the main streamway and we explored for around 30

minutes and then decided it was best to return. This trip took around 7 hours again and we explored around a quarter of what was on offer. This cave does not have so many formations, but it does have a massive amount of Gour Pools, but is classed as one of the best sporting trips in the area.

On the last day, we went to Grotte Du Crotot, this is a locked cave and needs a leader. In the past, a leader was never needed but it got vandalised by another caver so now there is a door and leader system. We were lucky enough to be guided around by the original explorers. This cave is around 2km and is full, and I mean full, of formations. I don't think you could walk around 10m and not have passed some kind of formation. It really is a special cave! I stayed with Bill and Thomas Arbenz (a member of the Meghalaya team) to support with photos.



Large Cut off Curtain - Grotte de la Malatière

Photo Credit: Bill Nix



Jack caving in France

Photo Credit: Bill Nix

At the end of this trip I was generally really sad to be leaving these guys I had only known them for around 5 days but felt like 2 weeks. The memories and people that I met were generally really lovely and supporting people, just like our club! Anyways, it was time to go, and I plugged Geneve in the Sat Nav and off we went. 1 hour and a half later Bill said, "Are we going the right way it feels wrong". Who knew there was a French Geneve with almost the same spelling as Geneva, after a waterfall amount of sweat from both of us we made the flight with 15mins to spare!

Bill Nix is planning a club trip to the Doubs caving region
28th July – 6th August 2023 with the hope of being
based at Villierssexel.

Jack Overhill

Running Shoes vs Wellies

15th August 2022

Toby's birthday weekend was earlier this year, and for various reasons I turned up by public transport, coming from doing a run earlier in the day. I could only realistically carry one bag, so was looking for things to avoid packing. Wellies seemed like a bit of an unnecessary decadence, so I didn't pack them, and decided to try caving in my fell running shoes instead.

tl;dr: Caving in fell running shoes is alright, and I'd do it again in similar circumstances, but I'm going to stick to wellies for most trips.

I did two trips in my inov8 shoes: a dry one into County, and a very wet through trip from It's a Cracker to Big Meanie.

The good:

- Easier to pack than wellies
- Drain well and don't hold kilos of water
- Dry out faster once you're out of the cave
- Easier to fit in small cracks while climbing

The bad:

- Likely to be destroyed by sharp limestone
- Not very grippy on wet limestone, as the lugs are designed for grip in mud, not friction on frictionless wet surfaces
- Bit tricky to fit on over wetsocks
- Wetsocks are mostly pointless anyway as any water in them is constantly flushed out when wading
- Not so good for bridging over small cracks or wedging in rifts, as the sole is more flexible

So on the whole, caving in running shoes worked, but was a little less practical and a little less comfortable than caving in wellies. I guess caving in boots would be better for grip, longevity and retaining some warmth. Perhaps I'll try them another time.

In terms of fitting things into a bag for walking to the Farm, I still can't think of a better thing to drop than wellies though.

Philip Withnall

Ingleton to New Zealand by Bicycle

2020 – June 2022

March 2020 my world fell in as for all of us - lockdown was on. Everything was stopped. What was I to do? I would soon pile on the pounds sit and lose mobility and age to +90.

Well you know how it is. In the garage was an EXERCISE BIKE I had got for £10 in a charity shop and despite good intentions NOT used hardly in years. Yes, that was the way on. I started going on it shutting my eyes and picturing bike trips say up Kingsdale to Dent and back via Barbon or Ingleton. The good thing was in my imagination I meet All the RRCPC NPC CPC U3A and lots of others all enjoying the day. Thanks all for being so nice and happy. Oddly one night I had a vivid dream I was passing the Marton Arms; there was a HUGE PARTY. It was like 10 Downing street it was so full the door was wide open. HI ANDY they shouted COME ON IN. THERE WAS JIM EYRE GORDON BATTY ETC WOW WHAT A PARTY. I knew them all, good to see them but they had died long ago. I woke up and decided I better go elsewhere. THEN I had a brainwave I would use Jim Newtons +co. book on a trip to India By Bus, a day to day full account of the trip -100 miles a day - 100 miles would take a week on the exercise bike, but each day I would have a good idea of where I was and what it is like - My goodness Jim what a hard time you all had a daily hardship but what fun.

After a year I was at Kanderhar in Afghanistan, where I decided to deviate from Jim's trip to go across to India via the border town of Quetta where my dad was born and then down the spectacular Bolan pass where my granddad had built the bridges for the railway!

I had half thought of going on the same and to Quetta when some local smashed planes into the NY twin towers and that put the kibosh on visiting there!! However, I now used you tube and google Earth to view videos of even the smallest places almost anywhere!!

The railway station was much the same from +100 years ago but after an extreme earthquake and development it was now gone from a small army town to a huge modern city! They even had a caving club!! I was able to see it on you tube and a car trip down all the long Bolan pass a place not unlike the Cheddar Gorge (it now has a road as well as the railway both "fly in and out of tunnels and over bridges for miles). Impressive and scary I was now in Pakistan and soon India.

This part of the world is known for surprises. One quite small place (the size of Preston) had a cobbler who became bankrupt and out on the streets somehow got and sold land -10 years later made millions and had built a 100ft gold leaf covered statue of the local Monkey GOD. He was famous but a young girl's letter and he was cast out to be a beggar again!! One place was far away from anywhere but had "The Seven Wonders of the world" but done in 1/4 to 1/10 size with a mock cruise ship on dry land as a hotel - wonderful!!

I decided all this was too good. It was now May 2021, and I was near Jim's destination. Lockdowns carried on so stuck at home on and off I carried on TO THE FAR EAST AND BEYOND!!

India continued to surprise. They had Glass bottomed bridges over deep gorges - some you could and should drive a car over- Jeremy Clarkson would have a fit!! The further I went - Being used to M6 and spaghetti junction + London, as special it is nothing to the vast magnificent roads, bridges ,buildings and huge modern cities I was gobsmacked!!

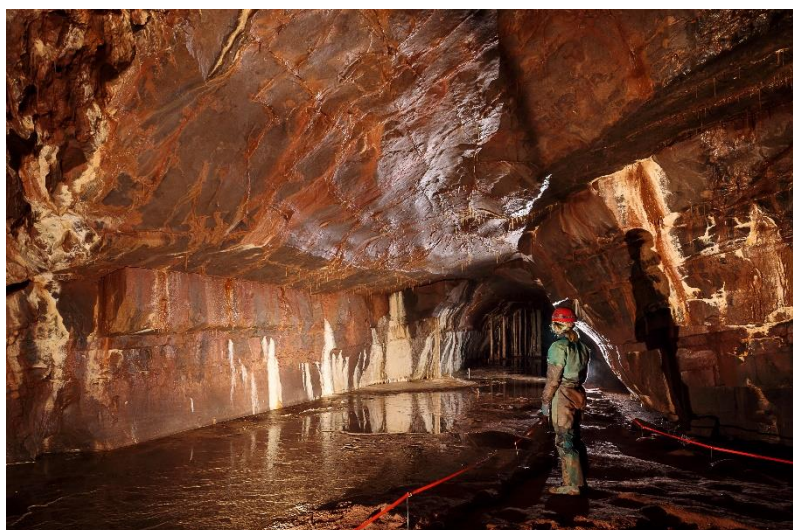
The statues new and old + temples were big I mean big -a man would stand by one and be as tall as the statues big toe. Often they were covered in gold leaf and of monkey Gods or in one case to mark the spot where a female Gods private part hit the earth.

The next country was Burma, as I had a yen to go "on the road to Mandalay'. Now it is rapidly being linked to part of "the salt road "by road and rail to ports by the sea, India, UK +Europe and the World!! Mandalay was good, but soon I was in China.

I 'entered 'China on September 2021 soon getting to one of the most awesome bridges I have seen in the middle of nowhere all part of their Salt Road/rail link. It may be or was the backend of beyond, but the country and villages were stunningly awesome like nothing before. Four months later (Christmas Eve) I was in Shanghai! Now I would need to cross seas. I went due North or South on an imaginary plane with a bottomless pit of imaginary a money, then went to Northern China where each year people came from all over the World to build and carve a 1/4 size ice city just for fun.

Next after Vladivostok to Hiroshima + cycled to Tokyo. I took an imaginary Lear Jet due South to the small airfield at Birdsville Australia 2/3 across this huge place. Australia was full of Dinosaur bones, ghost towns but surprisingly good roads. Arrived at Brisbane 15th April 2022 and by fast jet to New Zealand same day.

Andy Walsh



OFD Columns

Photo Credit: Bill Nix

Library Additions: May – August 2022

The latest library additions include a large number of donations from Anthony Brown (Northern Boggarts) who has passed on some of his large collection of caving journals to the Red Rose. Thanks. We recently offered to members a large collection of duplicate caving books which raised over £130 in donations. This money will be used to either buy newly published books for the library or help towards the upgrade of our library web pages which hopefully will include a new search facility.

Journals:

- Alpine Karst: Newsletter: Wilderness Caving No. 1
- BCRA: CREG: Journal: Issue. 118.
- Transactions: Vol. 49 No. 1.
- Bristol Exploration Club: Belfry Bulletin. Nos. 577-580.
- British Speleological Association: Conference Prospectus, Birmingham 1967
- Cambrian Caving Council: Newsletter No. 3 (June 1997)
- Journal, The Red Dragon. Nos. 1, 6, 7, 8, 10.
- Canadian Caver: Vol. 17, Vol. 18 No. 2, Vol 19 No 2.
- Cave Diving Group: Northern News - March 1989, August 1990
- Newsletter: No. 224. (2022)
- Cave Rescue Organisation: Rescue 2021
- Cave Research Group of Great Britain: Newsletter No. 39 (1952)
- Chelsea Speleological Society: Newsletter Vol 64 Nos. 1-3, 4-6. (2022)
- Descent: No. 286-287. (2022)
- Devon Caving Club: Journal No. 127 (new series) (Feb. 1984)
- Gloucester Speleological Society: Special Publication No. 1 – An Introduction to Speleology.
- Hereford Caving Club: Newsletter No. 42 (1988)
- National Speleological Society: Speleo Digest – 1968, 1970, 1971.
- News. Vol. 27 Nos. 3-12; Vol. 30 Nos. 1-9, 11; Vol. 38 Nos. 5-12; Vol. 39 Nos. 1-3; Vol. 40 Nos. 7-10, 12; Vol. 41 Nos. 2, 4; Vol. 43 No. 11. Vol. 31 Nos. 1-3, 5-12.
- Bulletin: No.9 (1947), Vol 42 No.3, Vol 44 No 2.
- National Assoc. for Cave Diving (USA): Hand signals for Diving (1986)
- Northern Speleological Group: The Newsletter 3 (1986)
- RRCPC: News-sheet: No. 385-386.
- Newsletter: Vol. 59 Nos. 1 & 2.
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White Scar Cave – A Picture Guide (1959)

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Chartist Cave: - Llangynidy, Brecon (1982)

Maps:

Jeskyne Na Morave: - Eastern Czechoslovakia - Location of caves

DVDs:

Wild Majorca - Off the Beaton Track - Caving & walking in Majorca
Exploring Caves & Mines - A compilation of four short films by David Webb
The Hollow Hill - The story of Ecton Mines - A conducted tour of Clayton, Salts level and Deep Ecton Mines.
Goodluck Mine - A living Legacy (1831-2012) - The history of Goodluck Lead Mine including VIA GELLIA

CDs

Northern Cavern and Fell Club: - Log Books, Photographs, Notes

Members wishing to use the library please contact any committee member who hold a key. Log out any publication you either borrow or browse in situ. The library is an excellent reference facility, please respect it - but above all please use it.

Sandra Wilkinson - Librarian: m.wilkinson@btinternet.com



Main Passage - Hazeltop

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