

1970

1st January Eastwater Cavern

Ted Meek, Roger Marsh, Bob Cross

A sober up trip to Bakers chimney – squeezed in a lunchtime one at the Hunters.

2nd January Dolphin Pot, Eastwater

Sam Davies, Paul Hyton, Bob Cross

A cracking tourist trip down this lofty pitch and on following the thirteen climbable pots below: a superb trip.

3rd January Mine shaft, Charterhouse.

Ken James, Sam Davies, Dave Bromwich, Brian Collins

Walking about Charterhouse came across a boulder beneath which KJ found a shaft. Went to the Axbridge and borrowed 25' ladder and lifeline; the shaft is forty foot deep, KJ easily climbed down the rest of the way to a almost choked base; the top of a rift can be seen along for about ten foot.

4th January Mine Shaft, Charterhouse

Ken James, Sam Davies, Paul Hyton, Mike Jay, Brian Collins,

A dig was started to remove the spoil blocking the potential passage; by opening time interest faded. Most abandoned KJ and PC for drink. It's a choked passage and will need a better set up to remove spoil than just two people, a bucket and rope.

17th January Mine Adit, Brendon Hills

Jim Smart, Ted Meek, Roger Marsh, Nigel Burns

Jim had located an adit, possibly one of the Colton adits so went to explore. Unfortunately it only went for about fifty yards to a collapse. Had a look about the wooded area and found another level also blocked about thirty yards in.

18th January Raleigh Cross adit, Brendon Hills

Ted Meek, Roger Marsh, Nigel Burns, Jim Smart

Not far from the pub of the same name an adit was followed for some thirty odd yards to a brick and stone seal, through from which protruded a large diameter pipe and closed Saunders valve. There is supposed to be a shaft associated with this mine, if this is flooded the head of water behind the seal could be as much as eight bars, (120psi). Tried to open the valve but it was stuck firm. Outside some anonymous stonework may be the remains of associated buildings.

1st February GB RESCUE

Greg Pickford, Julian?

Arriving at the gate found a guy from London Poly who was concerned about his party. Though not really overdue he expected them back after their proposed three hour trip. GP suggested it may be a lock issue so took a tyre lever and a hacksaw. Found them inside the entrance blockhouse unable to open the lock, passed tools through to remove lock. Carried on down to ladder dig found the gate open so had a swift trip up into great chamber.

13th February Ystradfellte

Stuart MacManus, Jim Smart, Nigel Burns

Jim's epic driving minivan got through the deep snow following the narrow gap along the snow ploughed lane between Glyn Neath and Ystradfellte; drifted snow well over height of the van and had filled the road to the shop: Arrived very late after stopping for pints en-route. Cleared away the foot of snow top erect tents: sub-zero conditions: no sewn in ground sheet to the tent. The sub zero conditions were character apparently building.

14th February Afon Mellte valley & waterfalls

Stuart McManus, Jim Smart, Tony Jarratt, Nigel Burns

Found Jarratt who had somehow managed to hitch to the village from his posting in North Wales. With only the main road open no chance of caving! Bright and clear the crew went for a walk along the Afon Mellte: afterwards enjoyed a superb night in the New Inn; even though Owen, the landlord, kept complaining about being so busy.

15th February Silica Mines

Stuart McManus, Jim Smart, Tony Jarratt, Nigel Burns

Roads remained choked with up to two metres of drifted snow; Jim's Farm is cut off. Jarratt suggested a trip into a big partly flooded mine complex close to the river at Glyn Neath: climbed up stope to find several high level openings several nice pieces of mining remains lay about.

1st March Rock of Ages

Martin W, Ted Meek, Roger Marsh, Terry Edwards, Nigel Burns

Testing the recently made ladder; only one rung slipped out of the four 25' ladders.

7th March Pen Park Hole, Bristol

Terry Edwards, Roger Marsh, Jim Smart, Stuart McManus, Stu Reid, Brian Hayward, Bernard?, Martin Waller

The plan began to unravel meeting in Aunties, Clifton triangle. As people were delayed in arriving more drink was taken. Eventually got back late to Jim's bedsit, Camden Terrace and carried on the party until around 01:00, when someone suggested it was time to get going.

02:30; trying to remain inconspicuous the cars were parked some hundred yards away.

Unfortunately the hysterical laughter continued whilst the group tried to hide in the bushes and then to commando crawl across the open grassy area toward the entrance, but heading in the wrong direction. This minor issue corrected, the stifled giggles drew the attention of couples walking home from their own evening out but none sought to investigate the noises further. An alternate entrance had been previously excavated, and camouflaged by TE and others; finding a suitable belay on the main pitch took some time, eventually most reached the lake which was apparently high. As first man down JS stopped saying he'd heard ghostly unnerving laughter; perhaps because the belay bolt was moving around in the crumbling stall boss. A great trip extended enormously by the volume of drink taken and frolics.

8th March Sandford Dig, Sandford

Ted Meek, Nigel Burns

Left Jim Smart's flat early afternoon and headed for the dig Worked for two hours removed a lot of the overhanging rubble from the side entrance.

13th March Cotham Caving Club meeting

Nigel Burns and Pat Cronin elected to membership.

14th March McCavities Cave / Hades Hole, Avon Gorge, Bristol

Nigel Burns, John? Stephen?

Explored these two sinuous caves, nothing too inspiring, briefly joined by two curious climbers

15th March Eastwater Cavern

Stu Reid, Ted Meek, Roger Marsh, Nigel Burns

Ted led us a cracking round trip.

21st March Dundry Stone Mines

Nigel Burns

Interesting network of passages, the entrances all off of a deep channel cut along the top of the hill.

26th March Foel Fraith, South Wales

Martin Waller, Jim Smart, Stu Reid, Nigel Burns

Parked at the quarry loaded packframes and walked off to the saddle between the peaks; made camp in heavy rain.

27th March Foel Fraith, South Wales

Martin Waller, Jim Smart, Stu Reid, Nigel Burns

A damp day was spent examining various holes across the moorland; one went to twenty foot depth, a immature joint with no other development. Several depressions were dug but all seem long term digs; not a convenient place for digging, a little too remote.

28th March Foel Fraith, South Wales

Martin Waller, Jim Smart, Stu Reid, Nigel Burns

Snow, rain and mist: another day of digging without any good results; prepared for the Easter meet tonight in Ystradfellte: Jarratt, Mac and another fifty odd cavers arrived, filling the bar and causing Owen to become really pissed off serving such numbers. A Welsh climbing club arrived suggesting a singing contest; Climbers versus Cavers. Their female "Chapel" friends became increasingly upset at the volume and content of the cavers repertoire demanding their female partners depart: further problems occurred when the wife of one climber was found having a knee trembler in the car park with a caver. A local woman offered the assembled cavers the use of their old barn for the night, AKA Pine Lodge: locals warned beware of both the farmers daughters. Awoken by crash and screams; Jarratt had got up for a pee and had fallen through the open trapdoor into the farm stock area below; no limbs broken, farmstock discommoded.

29th March Dolaucothi lead mines.

Martin Waller, Jim Smart, Stu Reid, Nigel Burns

Back to Foel Fraith to strike camp and head for the Roman lead mines at Pumpsaint. A great day out prospecting the area found several other adits, shafts and mining industry remains; eventually located the end of the seven mile aqueduct.

30th March Llygad Llwchwr

Martin Waller, Jim Smart, Stu Reid, Nigel Burns

A superb river cave of chambers and high passages; much climbing about above the river, very deep in places, and dam cold.

5th April Eastwater - Swildons Hole

Stu Reid, Ted meek, Terry Edwards, Martin Waller, Sue Howard, Roger Marsh, Nigel Burns, 2 of RM's mates

Suggested doing two round trips in a day; first the round trip in Eastwater followed by the round trip in Swildons Hole: TM and RM disappeared to the Hunters between the two trips.

11th April Reads Cavern, Rods Pot, Bath Swallet and Drunkard Hole

Nigel Burns

A day enjoying some smaller Mendip caves: each with their own personality.

19th April Reads Cavern - Sidcot Swallet, Charterhouse Mineshafts

Stu Reid, Nigel Burns

Visited Reads cavern again to look at an interesting passage; it proved disappointing. Then on to Sidcot, again what looked good a good lead actually proved otherwise. On to Charterhouse to look at two more mineshafts both almost three feet diameter, twenty feet deep and alas choked.

26th April CSCC meeting New Inn, Priddy

Ted Meek, Roger Marsh

A view of Caving club committee governance of the caves, farmers and cavers, quite a lot of nonsense spoken, and larger club muscles flexed! I can't understand, if the farmers want the caves closed then give all cavers a key and reduce administration & frustration.

3rd May 380 foot way, Eastwater
Stu Reid, Sue Howard, Martin Waller, Nigel Burns
First to the bottom of the 380' way to have a dig in Morton's Pot, after moving a good bit of spoil decided to do the round trip, again, before leaving for the Hunters.

10th May Sandford Dig
Roger Marsh, Ted Meek, Nigel Burns
The morning spent setting up equipment to improve removing the spoil, the afternoon was spent digging until NB cut a finger, badly.

23rd May Percolation Pot, Foel Fraith
Terry Edwards, Stu Reid, Nigel Burns
A weekend of prospecting was temporarily abandoned when NB found a fine looking pothole beneath a large boulder.

24th May Percolation Pot, Foel Fraith
Terry Edwards, Stu Reid, Nigel Burns
Continued to clear several jammed boulders from the pothole, reached -30 feet but it bottomed out.

30th May Rock of Ages
Martin Waller, Ted Meek Roger Marsh
More ladder testing, previous rung issue sorted the other two ladders tested fine.

31st May May-lane Mine, Bristol
Nigel Burns
A photo trip for NB to try out his camera

6th June Swildons Hole
Ed Walcroft, Roger Marsh, Nigel Burns
Lots of people strung out along the main streamway resulting in quite a wait at the top of the 20. On to sump two; informed that sump 1 and the ducks are much deeper and larger having been washed out by the 68 flood.

13th June Corpse Cave, Avon Gorge
Ted Meek, Roger Marsh
Getting to this cave is by laddering down the cliff face. TM believed he had the right spot among the bushes. After climbing down fifty foot of ladder PC spent half an hour thrashing about in the undergrowth. Relocated the equipment west by about ten metres and tried again; still no luck. Not sure TM knows its actual location.

21st June Eastwater Cavern
Ed Walcroft, Stu Reid
EW wanted to do the round trip so obliged; after lunchtime Hunters the masses made off to Vobster for swimming. It's a big flooded limestone quarry; the water some two metres below a wide flat working terrace served by a huge truck ramp; need to learn to swim. AM has dived it to almost one hundred and fifty feet.

28th June Swildons and Nine Barrows
Stu Reid, Irene? Pete Hiscocks, Nigel Burns
By the 20 Irene was tired so abandoned trip in favour of Nine Barrows. Out Irene didn't fancy this either so left her while play continued; huge hilarious row on our return.

4th July Mike Jay and Petra's Wedding.
A superb PU involving SVCC, CCG, Axbridge and many others

18th July Cuckoo Cleaves, Lionel's Hole & Nine Barrows
Ed Walcroft, his sister, Joss? Martin Waller, Sue Howard, Nigel Burns
A day of intense caving great fun: much potential in this area.

19th July Sludge Pit and Charthouse
Stu Reid, Nigel Burns
A trip down to the dig for an hour then off to look for more lead mineshafts around Charterhouse.

26th July Hunters Hole
Stu Reid, Martin Waller, Joss?, Nigel Burns
Another laddered trip, six feet short, when will we ever learn? Dug for two hours issues had getting back up, again.

1st August Longwood – August
Stu Reid, Martin Waller, Ken James
A fine trip involving a massive chamber, traverse, streamway: superb. KJ guided the trip to the bottom, Reynolds Rift? Tools left there show it an active dig.

8th August Lamb Leer
Martin Bishop
An enjoyable trip up to the Speleo Rahl dig located at the end of Valentines landing passage then down to the cave of falling waters. MB used a powerful lamp to illuminate the walls; a possible passage up to the right of the landing and a little above it. Hand was injured emerging from the entrance when MB turned to carry kit bag.

9th August Show Caving
Solo
Injured the right hand so decided on a tourist trip to Wookey Hole and Cox's Cave.

16th August Pearl Mine and Sandford Dig
Ted Meek, Stu Reid, Nigel Burns, Dave Harrison? Pete Towndrow?
Met two cavers nearby who joined in the trip, all descended to the 2nd level, and very well decorated the pearls are superb. After a liquid lunch in the Railway back up the hill to the dig for the afternoon.

22nd August Llygad Llwhchwr
Ted Meek, Stu Reid, Nigel Burns
This superb river cave is never, ever boring.

23rd August Bridge Cave
Ted Meek, Stu Reid, Nigel Burns
Nice trip down its huge streamway, noticed the boulder ruckle has new supports.

6th September Eastwater
Ted Meek, Stu Reid, Nigel Burns
Down to the "S" bends, Twin Verts, Ifold series and the thirteen pots Dolphin Pot, a five hour cracking trip.

11th September BSA conference Nottingham
Ted Meek, Stu Reid, Nigel Burns
Met with Eldon, Pegasus, Orpheus, Buxton Speleo's' and other like minded people, and many, many more; the event involving some serious fun. Mac and Jim introduced us to some of the Pegasus; left the "do" for an amazing liver crippling pub crawl around the city, so many jokes, so much laughter so many women, so many pubs; an hilarious night.

19th September Pinetree Pot
Solo

Borrowed ladder from Alan and went to have a look at the dig, spent an hour there moving some rocks after the recent bang.

20th September Ebbor Gorge
Ken James, Stu Reid

Abortive trip to Lamb Leer, no key available, so walked from Upper Pitts to Wookey via Ebbor Gorge; noted a surprising number of cave sites.

26th September Box Stone Mines, Bath
Axbridge- SVCC - CCG

Before the Bar-B-Que, into the Cliff workings then Admiralty area, chased off by security; out via Jacks Workings

27th September Box Stone Mines, Bath
Axbridge- SVCC - CCG
Eastgate – Cathedral – Wall – Jacks Workings

2nd / 3rd October Eastwater
Stu Reid, Martin Waller, Nigel Burns

The plan was to do as much of Eastwater as possible. Descended the cave, 11 at night, the kit bags held all tackle and food. Dolphin Pot – Ifold Series – 13 pots – Primrose Pot. Exited cave at six o'clock. Went to Eastwater farm and slept in the barn till 08:00. En-route to Bristol stopped for breakfast at the Green Ore Café.

11th October Swildons Hole
Martin, Waller, Sue Howard, Nigel Burns
Down to sump one, uneventful

17th October Black Down, Mendip
Nigel Burns

Camped near Read's; explored two mine shafts near Blackdown summit ridge both around twenty feet deep with no other associated passages.

24th October Snowdon
Ted Meek, his girlfriend, (AKA Little Black Cloud), Nigel Burns
A painfully slow trip to Snowdon in Ted's Ford Pop, arriving 04:00: slept by the side of the road, waking at seven. No sign of the others so had a walk up the Pyg Track. Upon our return still no sign so left for Ystradfellte as the weather deteriorated. Met Stu Reid in the New Inn, who said the others hadn't got their act together in Bristol so he left on his own for South Wales.

25th October Bridge Cave
Nigel Burns

The Afon Nedd was in flood, L.N.R.C. entrance submerged. So went in Bridge to see the effects; stunning, the sound and vibration, didn't chance wading downstream, the flow too great, so stood and admired the event.

6th November Burrington Combe
Nigel Burns

Arrived late and set up camp by Read's Cavern in heavy rain.

7th November Bristol Waterworks adit
Nigel Burns

A stroll down this adit used as a water source for Burrington village and its environs.

8th November East Twin Swallet

Nigel Burns

A cracking day, storm had passed, decided to locate. and do. ETS, the place feels like it's about to collapse. Found a small, possible sump pool in the end chamber.

14th November Swildons Hole

Martin Webster Alan Mills

Sherpa'd for MW and AM down to sump two, really fascinated by entire diving process.

21st November Jarratts 21st Birthday Party

A host descended upon the Hunters then to the Axbridge Hut; many casualties.

28th November Gautries Hole

Ken James, Martin Bishop, George Cooper

Changing a Landrover pulled up the contents shouting abuse to GC who then introduced us to some of the Pegasus. Though short Gautries is an excellent cave: great PU in the Wanted Inn: slept by the car.

29th November Standage Edge

PB Smith, Ken James, Martin Bishop,

Climbing various pitches MB's longer reach repeatedly causes PC problems, resulting in leaping for holds. These antics drew comment from observers, hence encountering Don Whillans, a grumpy bugger who thawed a little when told by MB that PC was a Plumber. Invited by DW to act as his second; repeatedly bollocked by DW, for not moving fast enough up the pitches; at the end of the second climb PC told DW to piss off and get a life. Packing up, back at the car park, DW suggested pints in Buxton, went first to the Eagle, then the Cheshire Cheese, the Sun etc. etc. Bumped into George Cooper, Tom Brown and Tony Dulsondo all waiting for chips; a cracking day.

5th December Swildons Hole

Alan Mills, Martin Webster, Ken James

An early start; carried dive kit down to sump two for their trip to sump twelve; returned after six hours to help carry out. As in dry grotts waited at sump I for their return; waited two hours before the first arrived. A long trip: nine hours: managed to make last orders.

6th December Swildons Hole

Solo

An early start to experience how difficult it's free dive sump two: on the edge of bursting surfaced. May use an airbell next time even though AM warned the air can get a little thin; need a wetsuit.

19th December Nordrach

Jim Smart, Nigel Burns

Went down a mine shaft with a lot of rubbish in the bottom; thirty foot deep, not far from the Axbridge hut. After the Hunters closed went in search of borrowing a Christmas tree and some holly and ivy to decorate the Axbridge hut. Just as JS drove off, with the tree sticking out the back of the minivan, narrowly missed an encounter with Constable Jerry Brice, who drove past going the opposite direction; close.

20th December Black Down

Rick Edwards, Jim Smart, Stu Reid, Martin Waller, Sue Howard, Nigel Burns

The day spent looking for more sites across the vastness of the moorland. Nothing found of note; several small mine shafts no more than twenty feet deep and all choked.