

1994

2nd January Pickwick and Westwood Quarries.

Nigel Burns, Martin Bishop, Kevin Wills

MB rang; informed access available into each mine. On arrival found Westwood open. Very pleasant trip around the extensive workings, the modern machinery superb, especially the Samson Coal Cutter. Understand Westwood was used as a WWII factory: Royal Enfield motorcycles was mentioned?

9th January Seven Sisters Quarry, Collapse Mine, Devil's Mine, Single Way Mine; Bathampton.

Nigel Burns, Martin Bishop, Kevin Wills.

Once again, MB guiding the visit, which saved a lot of time, ensuring most seen in the day. Interesting to see removal of stone conducted so differently between the mines. Care and precision shown in some, brutal removal in others: could the employment contract be so different between these neighbouring mines?

19th January Officially invited to join the Northern section CDG membership.

29th January Parc Mine, Llanrwst, N Wales

Cheg Chester, Dave Gough, Darren Hind, Neil Scallan, Steve Emery, Nigel Burns

Neil Scallan, Steve Emery, Nigel Burns, Cheg Chester, Dave Gough

Clandestine trip to this enormous Lead Mine through No3 level; encountered seismic experiment apparatus; likely the stomping about upset the readings. Descended to No2 level, an extensive, stoped section of the mine. Found the park area barrier locked for the night; removed the lock.

30th January Coed Mawr Pool Mine - Cyffty Mine, Betws-Y-Coed

Cheg Chester,

Coed Mawr Pool. A large mine; adit a little way upstream of the Swallow Falls, a main tourist attraction. Iron ochre deposits reach chest deep along the adit. Ventured a long way to a point of collapse; the pile of timbering suggesting a long climb to workings far above. None of the timbering sound. Exiting, found the adit discharge had turned the river a bright orange. Fortunately, on far side from the village; changed quickly and ran away. Met up with DG and DH who witnessed the event among the tourists. Later on, with Neil Scallan and Steve Emery examined the surface remains around Cyffty Mine.

19th February Lost Micho Russell

19th February Westwood Quarry & Box

Nigel Burns, Cheg Chester, Dave Gough, Big John Cooper, Darren Hind, Martin Bishop, Paul Thompson

Most stopped at Lilymead Ave, Bristol; after feeding them, headed for Norton-St. Phillip to meet with MB in the George. At the mine found it tight shut; bugger. Decided to go to Box to ensure the visitors did not have a wasted weekend. In Back Door, to the Cathedral and out Jack's Workings. To numerous Bristol Bars for a cracking night of drink and fun.

24th February Lost Luke Devenish

12th March Brownley Hill – Bloomsbury Level, Nenthead, Cumbria
Barry and Ceily Sudell, K Wills, Darren Hines, John Addison, Cheg Chester Dave Gough.
Long, oh so long aquatic trip into the furthest reaches; dug a blockage, unsuccessfully.
Exited frozen, warmed up in the Crown.

28th March Lost Ian Rolland, to San Agustin

5th April Avoca
Cheg Chester, Nigel Burns, Barry & Ceily Sudell, Darren Hind, Dave Gough & Liam Gough
Modern mining has been recently landscaped, sort of. Found a small opening, laddered off dodgy timber into a large stope; cracking place but not extensive. Older, early levels noted high in the sides of the modern opencast; in reality, inaccessible from below.

6th April Lost Sheck Exley, to El Zacatón

6th April Greystones.
Cheg Chester, Nigel Burns, Barry & Ceily Sudell, Darren Hind, Dave Gough & Liam Gough
CC led to small adit on a beach near Bray; just inside encountered a shaft, blocked above, flooded below. Of note, the beautifully cut garland around the shaft, capturing the water running down the walls. On to Ballycorrus, processing works, it's long, huge flue and unique chimney, with its external spiral staircase. Here, Pauline announced engagement to Jarratt and Peggy: August 1974.
Attempted source map ref; ITM 726352 x 725694: "cave" found in cliff north of White Rock, (Scalpswilliam Mount Malpas TD). Need check with Cheg if correct location.

8th April Glendalough Mines
Cheg Chester, Nigel Burns, Barry & Ceily Sudell, Darren Hind, Dave Gough & Liam Gough
Investigated several adits high above the valley; all stoped, none of much length. Likely ventilation for the lower workings, possibly used as escape routes.

10th April Wicklow Gap
Cheg Chester, Nigel Burns, Barry & Ceily Sudell, Darren Hind, Dave Gough & Liam Gough
Day of contrast, sun, rain, snow and sun. Checked several mines above the road, on the northern side; all short and wet. Crossed the river to check visible features and workings. Returning DH fell in, unfortunately DH exited, drenched on the wrong side. Once across swiftly stripped DH of the soaking clothing in the sub-zero conditions.

21st May Alderley Edge Copper Mines. Engine Vein - Hough Level - Wood Mine
K Wills, Paul Wheldon, Barry Sudell, Big John Cooper, Nigel Burns, Paul Thompson, Cheg Chester, Alan Steans: Nigel Dibben, DCC guide.
A rather fine trip in great company, seemingly the accessible length has been extended, continuously exposing artefacts, features and mineral formations.

22nd May West Mine, Alderley Edge.
Barry Sudell, K Wills, Nigel Burns
Accepted the kind offer to visit this extensive mine a second time. All these workings in a superb state of conservation.

18th June Morse's Level – Bixslade Stone Mine, NAHMO Meet.
Cheg Chester, Nigel Burns Big John Cooper
Another very pleasant trip, guided around this working coal mine by the mine owner.

25th June Smallclough, Nenthead
Cheg Chester, Nigel Burns, Barry and Ceily Sudell.
Very nice weather; trotted off to Smallclough whilst Paul Thompson and Dave Gough did a surface tour video recording the surviving buildings, adits etc. Headed in to beyond Baron's engine house; here a vast array of surviving features delight the observer. Started the evening in the "Itching Post", (Miner's), finished in the Crown.

17th July Pwll-y-Cwm
Dig Hastilow, Nic Geh, Martyn Farr
Cleared the route through the squeeze; conserving the others gas; returned to surface. MF and NG through to Daren staging equipment for a push, DH to 250m experiencing the place, PC to 270m, without issue, though a dark and gloomy place; cleared more debris from the squeeze, creating a bigger area for falling debris to collapse into. Dragged other spoil further down the passage packing it left and right.

28th July Pwll-y-Cwm
Martin Bishop
MB arranged this midweek trip. Happy to support him: would like to enthuse over long dives, but find it difficult. Morning: used sevens while digging out the entrance squeeze. Returned to surface to kit up with twelves and unused seven; MB using similar kit, left first. After twenty minutes diving, visibility quite poor, very little to see. Encountered MB returning to base; delighted he'd made a decision to head out. Voiced view on distance diving; just uninterested, unless there's a reason; diving for diving's sake doesn't ring any bells. Discovered among Dark Shamrock previously unrealized, almost effortless abilities to mix gas, service equipment, arrange logistics which is by far much more rewarding.

Dark Shamrock, Ireland
Dig Hastilow, Nic Geh, Martyn Farr, Tony Donovan

20th August Polldeelin – Moran's Cave
Solo
Checked this flooded depression, seventy metres from the main rising; a vast amount of water passes beneath here suggesting a constriction in high flow; much sand thrown up around the surface. Made a circuit of the walls to -4m; poor visibility nothing of note found or felt. Visibility remained poor, will try again tomorrow.
Moran's Cave: Obtained permissions from Pascal and Katherine Quinn to enter and drive across the field to the bottom corner. Carried kit for MF and NG to the upstream and downstream sumps quite a task negotiating the boulder pile.

21st August Polldeelin – Moran's cave
Solo
First dive, aim: connect to the main rising. Checked southeast of collapse; descending to -4 metres, slid over a rock lip, into and descended a narrow rift to a confined sandy area, -8m; no potential.

Second dive, west end, from the end of Dig Hastilow's line at twenty metres, headed downstream encountering a 1.5m diameter shaft, descended to -5m: much silt: poor visibility. Moving forward encountered the rear of a fridge and a washing machine. To the right, more domestic rubbish, to the left a 0.7m gap between fridge and solid south wall; squeezed through. After two metres the passage widened, (no more white goods), floor began to slowly rise, 0.3m visibility; some concern over stability of domestic crap; feeling around found had entered an alcove. Secured line, returned to base.

Moran's Cave: another carry for NG and MF: NG had a severe deco penalty; hence the long wait for him to emerge. Together, total passage some 500m, the boulder choke "The Bastille" is yielding slowly.

22nd August Polldeelin

Solo

Dived to the line reel. Believe fridge has moved slightly; the squeeze seemingly smaller. Zero visibility; from the alcove felt around, moving right, followed left wall which slowly turned away left into low bedding, moving right, obtaining increased head room, found water temperature plummeted. Continued moving right, up a gentle cobble slope, roof lowered significantly, reversed three metres, moved right two. Suddenly emerged into good visibility, in excess of five metres, at -13m. The 6mm main rising line appearing directly in front the diver, sloping away down to the left. The passage dived runs beneath the central depression which has been filled and levelled, covering the domestic rubbish and made into pasture. Connection is an eighty-metre dive.

2nd September Pwll-y-Cwm into Darren Cilau (*Darn Near Killed I*).

Martin Bishop

MB finally convinced it was a dive to tick off the Bucket List. Late summer; before the rain. Repeated previous method; dug out the slot using two sevens. Left a 10 litre inside the squeeze, just in case needed to dig out exit on the return. Kitted up with 2 x 12s, staging a 10 around half way: thanks to BSAC No. 3 branch, Bristol for loaning the extra bottles. Visibility almost metre; considered this a Bilbo trip, "*There and Back Again*". Got to Daren, wandered around for two hours; a gloomy place: enjoyed a drink and mars bar; headed back. MB following after five minutes. Found the squeeze had filled, a little; dug until squeeze large enough pass without removing the large sidemounts; saw MB floating patiently behind, applauding the effort. Suggested MB stop in Bristol for pints and a curry. Dropped off by Pauline at the Cotham Balti House, cracking curry and Kingfisher pints.

3rd September Swildons

Martin Bishop

Last night, drink suggest doing the long round trip. The late breakfast meant a change of plan; free dived to IX. A busy place going in, the place desolate coming out. Dinner at MB's place, cracking night in the Railway, Radstock.

22nd October Nenthead, Cumbria, Notts climbers annual visit.

Paul Thompson, Cheg Chester, Nigel Burns, Big John Cooper, Dave Gough and the Notts Climbers

Waited in the Crown for the others to arrive, continued the session in the Miner's. Mid-afternoon, headed into Rampgill for wander to the Whimsey and beyond. Many artefacts found and left in situ. A cracking evening of drink, food and pool; great fun.

Business manic

23rd – 28th December Nenthead

Nigel Burns, Cheg Chester, Barry & Ceily Sudell, Dave Gough, Darren Hines, Pauline Cronin.

Five superb trips; Cappleclough, Rampgill and far beyond Baron's engine house. Smallclough; some superb processing areas. Again, many artefacts. Unable to find a route around a collapse; began to clear the immediate spoil up to the start of the ore bin; it'll need forepoling from here. Walking back could not remember where the team had previously left an errant pile of wood, to forepole the Bogg Shaft spillway.

Had to vacate the cottage for the 29th; suggested celebrating New Year in Ireland? Arranged meet up in Holyhead. Assembling at the ferry, noted the sea state; very rough. Found that the ferry, just arrived, was the last for the next two to three days. Turned about and made for the Pegasus Hut; had a cracking New Year in the Devonshire. Called over the road to Sulo's grave.