

Checked to end of 8/8/75
Tony Jarratt's Caving Log

Volume 2, 1974-1981

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Hywell Ball (Leader)		Gouffre Berger 1975 Expedition		Paddy O'Reilly (Secretary)
Jeff Phillips (Treasurer)				
BERGER SONG '75				
<p>Hywel led our Berger trip. A MASSIVE expedition. Way haul away, we'll haul away Jo. O'Reilly got his balls cut off Ag'in a rock projection Way haul away, we'll haul away, Jo.</p> <p>Chorus: Way haul away, we'll bottom every pot together Way haul away, we'll haul away Jo.</p> <p>Now Mike Orr was our Doctor, With tons of medication. With pills for diarrhoea And pills for constipation.</p> <p>Jeff and Pete they bottomed fast It was their one ambition The rest of us we can't compete Through alcohol condition.</p> <p>The South Wales lads they left their 'ome Against their best tradition. On pitches deep and passage steep they met some competition.</p> <p>The Mendip lads they took their time Their muscles to improve upon. They said the cave was bloody great But not as good as Swildions.</p> <p>De Irish Boys in Rubble Heap They met a great obstruction. The boulders they surmounted With a scaffolding construction.</p> <p>A load of Ozzies they turned up All filled with expectation. But a Whaletail jammed in rope It causes castration.</p> <p>The wine and food and French women Gave thoughts of fornication. The rest of this I cannot read Through constant masturbation.</p>				
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Denbighshire	White Quarries Caves 20/5/74 Terry Large, Crisp Ebbs (NWCC)	10 m	Pantasaph	A rubbish-choked hole at the end of the quarry was dug to reveal a hole dropping into about 80' of large natural (?) rift blocked by mud and some 30' deep at the end. It is not listed in "Caves of Wales and the Marches". Several other grotty little holes were briefly looked at and may be worth digging. Looked for the Holywell Boat level in vain.

Flintshire <i>discovery</i>	Ogof Hesp Alun 21/5/74 Pete Appleton	4 hrs	Cilcain	Surveyed from Bowl Passage junction along main route to chamber with cone shaped blockage in floor –where I climbed up into some 60’ of new, muddy inlet passage (could possibly be dug further). Surveyed on through the sandy crawl to finish in the large dome chamber. Pleasant trip.
Denbighshire	Tan-yr-Ogof Caves 23/5/74 Alone	1 hr	Abergele	Took “won” rigid steel ladder to No.5 and after balancing this on a pile of boulders I succeeded in reaching the high level connecting tube to No.4. Had a look at this (finding a dead crow(?) just inside) then exited – leaving ladder hidden in Dig No.2. Sling left to assist in climb to tube.
Denbighshire	Tan-yr-Ogof Caves 23/5/74 Alone	1 hr	Abergele	Dug in Digs Nos 1 and 2 for a short time. Had a look at the extension and grotto and decided that Cave 5 is finished with for a while and any digging should now be undertaken in Cave 4. Photographed the six entrances and spent some time searching along the cliffs as far as the watchtower, looking for holes – in vain.
Shropshire	Blists Hill Mine (Tar Tunnel) 27/5/74 Peggy	5 mins	Ironbridge	During a visit to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum we visited the sites of Blists Hill coalpit Upper and Lower Shafts and did a tourist trip into the Tar Tunnel – once the haulage level for the Colliery and also “mined” for its natural bitumen deposits. Some 300’ of brick lined level are accessible to the public. The shafts are filled in and used to display three types of headgear – one of which has a working steam engine in situ which was brought to the site from Milburgh Tileries, Broseley. A superb museum and area – well worth a visit. (See mining notes for description of Blists Hill Mine).
Denbighshire	Ogof Dydd Byraf 30/5/74 Terry Large, Colin Roberts, Chas Ryder (NWCC)	1 hr 20m	Minera	Illegal evening trip to this superb easy cave system. Fine 92’ shaft leads to large dry and very well decorated chamber. Scores of possible digging sites and some really excellent formations.

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Flintshire	Ogof Nadolig 30-31/5/74 Terry, Chas, Crisp.	1 hr 50m	Cilcain	Looked at the new extension (25’ pitch and 100’ of passage). Crisp poked at a clay and boulder choke and I had a look at a collapse blocking the “Old Man’s passage” – both to no avail. Came out around 1.35am.
Caernarvon-shire	Ashton Mines 1/6/74 Terry Large	1 hr	Abersoch	Dropped into the main level via the 12’ shaft at the side of the track (to avoid asking permission as the level is somebody’s water supply!) We climbed over the dam and followed the level – neck deep and with some 8” airspace – for around 600’ to a waterfall over a flowstoned collapse. A climb up a 15’ winze (raise) led to around 100’ of stoped workings including a pool and the base of a rubbish filled shaft. A drop back into the deeply flooded level could not be descended due to lack of ladder – but didn’t look very promising anyway. Very sporting and interesting level. It would be great to remove the dam and try to explore further. (c.195 metres to blocked shaft at SH31884/26302(?)) Other filled in shafts at SH31900/26270, 31947/26249, 31995/262459, 31941/26162, 31958/26041, 31959/26034 and 31966/26006.)
Caernarvon-	Nant Iron and	5 mins	Rhiw	Visited this interesting mine, noting open level

shire	Manganese Mine 3/6/74 Paul Parsons (OS)			entrances and photographing a winding drum (similar to ones at Dinorwic Slate Quarries). One or two levels were partly explored (the highest level I had to dig into!). Open levels were found at SJ21213/26832, 21174/26752, 21133/26733, 21147/26677, 21185/26663, 21148/26658 and 21091/26607. An open stope working with several radiating levels was found at SJ21185/26725. Hope to re-visit and explore the wet levels. Several ruined building and incline winding drums in situ. Ore was originally discharged from a pier directly onto boats – including ore from the mines at Rhiw which were connected to Nant Mine via a long incline.
Caernarvon-shire	Nant Iron and Manganese Mine 4/6/74 Alone	50m	Rhiw	Explored all open levels. All levels on the east side of the brook (apart from the most northerly – a couple of hundred feet of low, apparently old, hand-picked workings) connect in a very large stoped chamber. The floor in this chamber consists of deep, flooded stopes giving a large underground lake (Dinghy needed for full exploration). Several levels and galleries leading off the chamber were explored. Many tramlines etc. in situ. A good little trip. Levels on the west side of the brook are all very small – probably mere trials.
Denbighshire	Level (SJ909/777) Tan-yr-Ogof Caves Gwaenysgor Cave Dulas Cave 6/6/74 Cris Ebbs (Terry)	1 hr 35m	Llanidloes Llanidloes Prestatyn Abergele	Had a brief look at Crispin's trial level at Llandulas and then went to Tan-yr-Ogof to look at the rift cave above No.1 and the shaft leading into No.1. My ladder was missing from No.4 – some dishonest sod had picked it! We then went "sink-hunting" around the St. George area, finding a few interesting sites. After a pint or two we went to Crispin's "fantastic potential" digs in the Fynnon Asaph area – enuff said! A visit to Gwaenysgor Cave finished off the afternoon – a very interesting small cave with two entrances (one of them having a manhole cover and fixed ladder – not mentioned in the "book") In one of the passages Crisp was nearly overcome by a heavy concentration of CO ₂ . We then met Terry at Llandulas and had a very enjoyable trip into Dulas Cave – exploring the vertical mineworkings to the left of the main passage. This is a complex series of vein workings and winzes leading to within a few feet of the surface. A dig at the end of the main cave passage may be a good idea. Oh yes – found my stolen ladder in the winze leading down into the mined section. An interesting day's festering.

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Caernarvon-shire	10/6/74 investigated several sites of manganese ore shafts and levels in the Rhiw area, Lleyn. Blocked shafts occur at SH22135/27823, 22191/27995, 22145/27813, 22147/27772 (partly-filled – may be passable), 22219/27630. A concrete-capped shaft occurs at 22179/27913, a filled in trial level at 22151/27627 and a rubbish-filled "manganese pit" at 2220/2765. A deep (?) open incline (?) shaft was noted at c. 2218/2820 which would be well worth descending. These workings belong to the Rhiw and Benallt Mines.
Caernarvon-shire	11/6/74 Visited the Penrhyn Slate Quarry at Bethesda – noting a very fine circular, ginged shaft complete with superb water-balance cage system and headgear in situ. Winding flat ropes are still in situ – as is the cage and water tower. Depth of shaft was difficult to estimate. Another complete headgear was noted near the edge of the active quarry. Both were duly photographed.
Denbighshire	16/6/74 Surface: rescue techniques practice for NWCRO at Pot Hole Valley, Erryrys. Had a swift look at one of the adit level entrances to Belgrave Mine. Also visited, and dropped burning paper

	dow, Thomas Evans Shaft, near the Erryrys Youth Club (130')			
Merionethshire	Chwarel Hen Llanfair 19/6/74 Peggy	25 m	Harlech	Show mine trip. Very interesting, though comparatively small slate mine worked on three levels. Usual slate mine layout of large chambers with dividing pillars. Visitors have a helmet each and are guided round by a woman with a torch. Very little interior lighting.
Merionethshire	Prince Edward Mine 22/6/74 Peggy	35 m	Trawsfynydd	Explored main level for most of its length, plus a few crosscuts and stopes. Very interesting. Exited and entered via stope (200 yds further up the hill) – through trip. Festered round surface remains admiring ruined waterwheel etc.
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Anglesey	Parys Mine 25/6/74 Alone	½ hr	Amlwch	Found and explored the inclined climbing shaft 800 ft SW of windmill. Ladderway descends for some 80 ft with several muddy levels branching off and leading to extensive and complex series of levels and workings. There are many ochre stalactites and “snotactites” in various browns, yellows and ochres and a really good exploration seems necessary. Most interesting.
Caernarvonshire	Nant Peris Copper Mine 26/6/74 Phil Ford, Tony and Arthur (xxxx)	1 hr	Nant Peris	First trip for Tony and Arthur. Along adit level to the deep stope in the floor – which has been pumped out by someone for about 50ft. Up to top level where Phil and I spent some time “gardening” the top of the stope leading to lower workings. Phil lost our “won” crowbar and the shaft was too hairy for a descent. We’ll try again sometime.
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	Swildon’s Hole Lamb Leer 29/6/74 (S) Phil Ford (NWCC) Tony Knibbs, Luigi (L) Bob Everton (Dr), Prew, Jim H, MB, Chris, Gordon P, BN, PM, AC, BQ, WW, RB, CN, SMK, PE, JW, etc etc etc	1 ½ hr 2 ¼ hr	Priddy Harptree	Swildon’s – Took Phil down on a gentle fester to Sump II – through I (Phil’s first sump). Call out at 6.15pm to Lamb Leer. Black Wal (not using a lifeline!) had fallen some 50-60ft down Main Chamber pitch – onto Rich Bainbridge(?) WCC below. Wal was only shocked and bruised but RB was severely hurt – semi-paralysed and unconscious. When we arrived Dr Everton had just turned up and I followed him down as far as the Winch. An ambulanceman and later another doctor (both never having caved before) were also taken down. A fantastic turnout of cavers soon got Wal out and the victim a couple of hours later. C.North filmed the underground rescue for BBC. Extremely well organised. Victim later heard to be off the critical list but still seriously ill with broken wrist and bruising to part of the brain amongst other things. Wal is pretty OK and bloody lucky to be alive.
Caernarvonshire	Dinorwic Slate Quarry 1/7/74 Phil Ford		Dinorwic	Festered round the old levels, tunnels and open flooded pits on the Allt Ddu (?) section of Dinorwic slate quarries. More tunnels to be looked at.
Anglesey	2/7/74 Cave-hunting on Anglesey. Examined a few rock outcrops and quarries (in vain). Searched for “Ogo Dano” near Mynydd Bodafon finding only a grotty little hole with two impassable rifts leading off. Not even worth a visit! though this may not actually be the cave. Dense undergrowth prevents a good look.			
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Caernarvonshire	Penrhyn Slate Quarry 3/7/74 Phil Ford	1½ hrs	Bethesda	See below
Entered the drainage adit level near the river bank behind Bethesda. We then walked up this large, straight level for about ¾ hr! [fast flowing, knee-deep water in the adit is pumped from the bottom of the enormous opencast quarry				

(once the largest hole in the world!) some 200' below adit level]. After a few bends the level opens out into a junction area of four or five tunnels and a large underground pumping engine-room with two water-powered hydraulic engines in situ (c. 1850). The engines are superb – their age being well illustrated by the “Georgian pillar” style castings. Many pulleys, tools etc are all still on the site. Near here a view can be had into one of the water-balance winding shafts where water is at present being pumped from. The “rubbishy” shaft near the quarry offices comes in at this junction also and another level leads to the third, and most impressive shaft. The level opens onto a hairy wooden ledge some 200' up the shaft. Looking up, one can see the shaft headgear about 60' up with a cage in position. The shaft is some 25' square with pump rods, rising main, timbering, cables and ladderway all in situ. At the bottom of the shaft (just above water level) we could see an electric light indicating another entrance – presumably from a level at the quarry bottom. We exited via the quarry looking at a further collapsed level en route. Definitely needs another visit with a camera – and lifeline to descend the ladderway. FANTASTIC!

Flintshire	Ogof Hesp Alun 5/7/74 Neill (Gwynedd MEG)	2hrs 10m	Cilcain	Tourist trip for Neill and also laddering trip to the 25m pitch in preparation for weekend pushing trip and rescue practice. Had a quick look at a rift below the “25m” which didn’t go. Back out in time for a few pints in the Miners’ Arms.
Flintshire <i>rescue practice</i>	Ogof Hesp Alun 7/7/74 Total 38 underground (SMC, NWCC, NCMC etc)	6 hrs	Cilcain	Graham, Jerry and Terry took stretcher to “25m”. Phil, Rusty (SMC victim) Mik, 2 and myself followed with stemples, rope etc to rig the rope climbs and dig out sand crawl. Other SMC, NCMC teams followed for hauling, digging etc. The rift pool and rope climbs presented difficulties but were eventually passed (3hrs from “25m” to Sand Crawl! – this could be much improved upon). Opening time drew near and victim set free. All in pub by 8.00pm. A reasonably well organised practice with a very good turnout by cavers from as far apart as Bangor, Aberystwyth, Birmingham, Nantwich and Liverpool.
Caernarvon-shire	Nant Peris Copper Mine 9/7/74 Phil Ford	½ hr	Llanberis	“Broke into” the locked main adit at lake level and explored a few hundred feet of levels and stopes leaving several ways on (up stopes) untouched. “Cementation” had pumped out an 80 metre shaft but this was now flooded up to around 10 metres from adit level. Found several useful things including a helmet, gloves, harness and sledgehammer.

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Derbyshire	Dr. Jackson Pot 14/7/74 Mik Durdy, Cheg, Icarus Gill, Ratarse	2 ¾ hr	Perryfoot	Supposedly a digging trip to the end of the first part of the cave in order to dig through to the terminal sump. Much grovelling about showed that this point is too difficult for a decent dig. My whole trip hampered by “light pox” – served me right for not charging my cell.
Caernarvon-shire	Allt Wen Mine 15/7/74 Neill, Arwel, Shon Scheltinga, Ratarse, Steve, Phil Ford		Llanrwst	Digging and siphoning at the entrance to the adit level near Nant B.H. Outdoor Activities Centre. Heavy rain put us off from much digging so a length of plastic tube was “borrowed” and left in to siphon overnight.
Caernarvon-shire	Pandora Mine 16/7/74 Ratarse, Steve	1¼ hrs	Llanrwst	Through trip from top level, down various winzes and climbing shafts, to adit level. Admired 120' single span fixed ladder, several pump rods and shafts etc en route. Found an old miner’s felt hat in excellent condition.
Caernarvon-shire <i>mine discovery</i>	Allt Wen Mine 17/7/74 Phil, Shon Scheltinga	¾ hr	Llanrwst	The siphon had lowered the water level by some 18” – 2’ enabling Phil and I to crawl in for a few feet until we could stand up in chest deep water. We followed the adit for some 500’ approx until it rose out of the water leaving some 2 ft of porridge-like silt. After a sharp left hand bend we reached a chamber with a winze in the floor (10’ to water) and with a complete windlass lying in

				the mud. A short way further on a large, rubble filled shaft entered from above, near some narrow stopes. Here we found a small wooden kibble in excellent condition. We turned back at this point, with the main level still continuing, to give the others a chance to explore. Met Shon at the entrance and he and I did a swift tourist trip to the winze chamber. Then on to Cobden's Hotel for a pint (or two).
Caernarvon-shire <i>mine discovery</i>	Allt Wen Mine 18/7/74 Neil Watson, Arwel Roberts	1 hr	Llanrwst	Continued along level from previous limit (after finding an old oil (?) can near the winze). Unfortunately the level finished at a roof fall after some 80 ft or so. It could be dug as it appears to consist mainly of thick red mud in a flowstone like cascade. Two holes in the floor lead to a large area which may be a stope, chamber or level – not connected with the flooded winze. These could not be descended and may need to be dug. One has a ten foot wood and iron ladder in situ. On our way out we found an old, tin-plated “hip flask” which we took to the surface for display in the local museum. It appears that the entrance to this level has been blocked since at least 1907 according to a local source.
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Caernarvon-shire	Aberllyn Mine 23/7/74 Shon, Phil, Arthur, (Tony, Neil, Arwel)	1 hr	Betws-y-Coed	Into No.2 level where Tony turned back when the water went down his wellies! We carried on to the 30' winze to No.3 level where Phil and Shon went down for a look around. Arthur and I stayed on No.2 and pottered around the crosscuts and levels leading off, finding a pick-axe head and meeting Neill and Arwel on their way in. Hope to return to explore down and along level No.5.
Caernarvon-shire	Parc Bach Mine 24/7/74 Shon, Arwel	50m	Llanrwst	Explored some 500' of adit level ending in a well-flowstoned raise which we climbed for about 30ft to a total blockage of timber and deads. Found a wooden stick used for making detonator holes in explosives and also an iron rail fishplate. An old waggon was found outside – in very bad repair and minus wheels. A nice little mine.
Derbyshire	Hollandtwine Mine 27/7/74 Ratarse, Teapot, Cheg, Bill, Mouse	5 hrs	Castleton	Cheg started to build a scaffolding platform across the main shaft at the 150' level. Meanwhile RA and myself climbed up the climbing shaft and put two ACRO's and an iron bar beneath the choke at the top. At this point we distinctly heard a jet aeroplane pass overhead! Also, we could hear Steve using the pick somewhere nearby.
Derbyshire	Hollandtwine Mine 28/7/74 Cheg, T'pot, Steve, Bill, Mouse, ANOther.	2½ hrs	Castleton	Cheg completed his platform while we went to the bottom. I had a short dig in the circular winze at the beginning of the collapsed Hazard(?) workings. This could possibly be pushed further with an iron bar, though the deads above the winze are decidedly “rank mank”. On the 220' level I had just removed my head from a nasty looking hole when an equally nasty looking roof fall occurred in it! At the same time Mouse and friend had sunk into the floor near the bottom of the winding shaft when a 25' ginged shaft ran in!
Derbyshire <i>rescue attempt</i>	Merlin's Cave 28/7/74 Tom Brown, George Cooper, Dave Draper, BSG etc etc Hugh	3 ¼ hr	Stoney Middleton	Rescue callout at about 6.00pm from farm. Divers and gear needed for an incident in Merlin's. I went to the site to find that Shag had dived in a tight, unexplored sump at 3.00am and after giving three tugs on the line, failed to return. Tom Brown

	Kidd, Teapot.			<p>arrived with two valves and eventually a large 60 cu ft bottle arrived. We went in with GC, DD and PB at 8.00pm. Tom kitted up and dived with hand held bottle to find Shag some 15' in – without mask. He pulled the body back to the sump and after some three hours we succeeded in bringing it out. It seems possible that because he had ditched his weighted belt he may have knocked off his mask and panicked. His bottle (of fire extinguisher variety) was empty.</p> <p>Shag will be greatly missed by all of us in Derbyshire. He was one of those blokes who are “always around” and his death has saddened us all.</p>
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Merionethshire	Oakley Slate Mine 4/8/74 Phil	5 mins	Blaenau Ffestiniog	Tourist trip into one of the smaller levels of the Oakley – fitted up with coloured lights and gnomes – enough said!
Caernarvonshire	Parc-Llanrwst-Cyffty Mines 15/8/74 Shon Scheltinga	2½ hrs	Llanrwst	Aim of trip was to weigh up the chances of removing the old Cornish Steam Sinking Pump from the Cyffty workings. We took in several spanners etc and went in via Parc No.2 level, through the workings of Llanrwst Mine and down to No.3 level. The climbing shaft up to Cyffty was not as wet as expected. The apparently “rusted-solid” bolts and nuts on the engine unscrewed easily and were in fabulous condition. We spent about ¾ hr on the pump and came out with forty nuts and a couple of small engine parts leaving several larger bits for the next carrying trip. This superb pump will be a lovely sight when it's cleaned and restored.
Caernarvonshire	Cyffty Mine 16/8/74 Shon	1¼ hrs	Llanrwst	Laddered 100' engine shaft to top of inclined ladderway. Shon waited here while I climbed down the 40 ft or so of manky timbering and ladders. Removed five valve plates, a spanner and a bearing from the engine and hauled then to surface.
Cardiganshire	Bwlch Mine 17/8/74 Neil Weston (NCMC hauling)	¾ hr	Goginan	Descended the 300' East Shaft to blockage. Stopes to both right and left were blocked. Rope worn grooves in the walls showed it to be a hauling shaft and the bottom was crawling with bloated, blind flies. Yechh. (Also visited the superb lead mining museum at Llywernog Mine and were given a free look around).
Cardiganshire	Goginan Mine 18/8/74 Steve (NCMC) Neil	1¼ hrs	Goginan	Dug in a collapse at the end of the “26 fathom” level, some 200 yards in. After clearing about four feet the sides caved in again showing the level to be at the base of an extensive stope. Timbering would be needed if access to the extensive workings beyond the choke is to be gained.
Caernarvonshire	Cyffty Mine 20/8/74 Neil Weston	1½ hrs	Llanrwst	Abseiled Cyffty shaft and removed several nuts etc from the pump. Took several bits and pieces to surface and laddered out.

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Caernarvonshire	Cyffty-Llanrwst-Parc Mines 26/8/74 Sue, Phil Ford, xxxx etc	4½ hrs	Llanrwst	Sue and I abseiled Cyffty shaft and began more work on the pump. After about an hour we man-handled the small, heavy casting about thirty feet up the shaft, from where it was hauled out using the Tirfor winch. Phil joined us from the Parc entrance, and the large cast dome from the top of the engine was hauled up. We all then exited via
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				Parc with several other small bits of engine, nuts, bolts, etc. Good trip.
Anglesey	27/8/74 Visited and photographed the site of a small coal mine near Pentre Berw, Anglesey. Two filled in shafts were found at SH462/722 and 463723, and a fine chimney and remains of engine house, buildings etc near the latter.			
Ireland Co. Dublin	30/8/74 Pat Cronin, Pauline McDermott, Peggy and I visited the old lead smelting chimney on Ballycorus Hill, some 8 miles south of Dublin. A most impressive piece of industrial archaeology, and well worth a visit. The remains of the old flues can be seen leading away from the chimney.			
Ireland Co. Clare	Polldubh 1/9/74 Jim Shannon, Neil Danagh(?), Pat Cronin	1¾ hrs	Lisdoonvarna	Very pleasant trip along the nice, wet stream cave. In top entrance and out of third entrance (after a bit of grovelling).
Ireland Co. Galway	Pigeon Hole Priests Hole (cave between above two) 7/9/74 Peggy	¼ hr	Cong	Had a swift look at these caves on our way through Co. Galway. Pigeon Hole is an impressive pot into a short section of the underground waterway connecting Lougha Corrib and Mask. Priests Hole (which was not fully descended due to lack of ladder or time) is similar, though one cannot actually reach the streamway. A small cave was looked at between these two pots. This area is worthy of a more detailed examination and may well provide some fine, wet caves.
Ireland Co. Clare	Kilcorney Cave (the Cave of the Wild Horses) 13/9/74 Sean O'Connor, Jim Shannon	2hrs 10m	Kilcorney	An interesting though rather muddy system. We first descended the tight 60' pitch in the east part of the cave. Then on down the main passage for a brief look at the lower series beyond the 40' pitch. It's a pity to go down this cave when there are so many nicer ones nearby!
Caernarvon-shire	West New Pandora Mine 16/9/74 Shon Scheltinga	1¾ hrs	Llanrwst	Entered the 60 yard long Loveridge Adit and dug out an old mine truck from the base of a 60ft shaft. Inflated inner tubes were tied to the wheels and we half floated – half dragged the waggon to the adit entrance ready for removal at some future date.

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Caernarvon-shire	20/9/74 Shon and I recovered the c.1890-1900 ore truck from the adit (Loveridge Level) of West New Pandora Mine. We had to dig down the sides of the old trench where the portal of the adit had collapsed, and fill in (or rather bridge over) the four feet of mud in the trench. This truck was then carefully "floated" along the cutting using corrugated iron sheets. It was then trammed in this fashion for quite a distance along the line of the old mine tramway and eventually loaded onto the back of Shon's Landrover and taken to his house.			
Caernarvon-shire	21/9/74 More cleaning of pumping engine parts.			
Flintshire	Ogof Hesp Alun 22/9/74 Shon, Sue Hepplewhite, Les (NWCC)	6¾ hrs	Cilcain	<i>See below</i>
Turned up for supposed NWCC "pushing trip", which as usual was aborted. Only one bloke, Les, turned up and the four of us then carried two ropes, six 25' ladders etc on down the cave. 25' of ladder was put on the "80" and the rest abseiled. Shon and Sue waited at the head of the "40" while Les and I laddered the "15" below the boulder ruckle. This led to a sumped area – presumably the prevailing water table. We then found the main way on via a "window" at the end of the ruckle. This led to a large cross passage with a funnel to the right which we did not descend. To the left we followed a large, wide, slightly descending passage to a flat out crawl over mud and worms! A vertical squeeze led to a chamber containing a large (25' diameter) sump pool with a good sized stream entering at the far side. I waded across and followed the stream passage in a canal for some 50' to a sump. This should be re-investigated in drier weather. A high level tube on the far side of the pool should also be looked at. We all then exited after a very good trip.				
Merionethshire	24/9/74 Shon and I visited the valley of the Afon Oernant, south of Penmachno. At the head of the river were several very old lead levels and a couple of shafts. Three of the levels were blocked/flooded and needed digging out and a fourth appears to close down some 25' in. The shafts are blocked. These are almost certainly the site of the "Salopian Adventurers" workings.			
Somerset	Ludwell Cave	2½ hrs	Llanrwst	Removed several nuts, bolts, etc from the engine.

	29/9/74 Ken James, McAnus etc, Peg, Cheg etc			The last three large castings are almost separated. Lots of water on the Cyffty climbing shaft made life interesting.
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Somerset	Thrupe Lane Swallet 19/10/74 Tim Gilbert, Martin Bishop	2¾ hrs	Thrupe	Superb wet trip to streamway below Atlas Pot. Abseiled and prussicked Atlas (almost a 90° vertical free-dive). A superb cave. (Attended equally fine Wessex Dinner on Saturday evening).
Somerset	20/10/74 Peggy and I visited the incredible, automated Hillgrove Swallet Dig (at a cost of 10p each!) A fine engine powered winch brings trucks up a railway from the bottom of the dig and a turntable, etc is to be built at the top. Well worth 10p a visit.			
Caernarvon-shire	Klondyke Mine 8/11/74 Shon	1 hr	Trefriw	Explored several levels in the side of the stream gorge. In one we found the uprights for a windlass (alas removed) and a small drill end was found in another. Then explored "Aspinall's Level" – part of a famous mining "con-trick" and looked round the remains of the Klondyke lead mill. A superb building and a fabulous bit of country.
Caernarvon-shire	Coed Mawr/Pool Mine 9/11/74 Neil Weston	1 hr 50m	Betws y Coed	Entered "Level Fawr" – some ¾ mile of monotonous adit – to the crawl and shaft chamber at the end. I then climbed some 60-70 ft up the shaft via the 5" compressed air pipes until I was able to reach a c.20' blind level where I belayed a ladder. Both the "belay" and wall of deads over which the ladder hung were extremely dubious! As was the climb itself. At least one more acrobatic trip is needed in order to cross the shaft into the level which we hope lies beyond the large waterfall pouring into the shaft from above. Not a nice place but looks promising. Ladder, slings, rope and crabs left in – along with a few nerves, grey hairs etc.
Denbighshire	Tan-yr-Ogof Caves Dulas Cave 10/11/74 Neil, "Mutton Duster" (DOG)	1 hr 1 hr	Llandulas	Looked at caves 6, 5 and 4 – spending an hour digging at the end of cave 4. A JCB would be the most useful thing here! Then to Dulas Cave where we climbed to the upper level and investigated the terminal boulder choke – most interesting. A tube on the right here could be easily dug. I then fell about 6 ft while climbing down to the level, getting a bruised arse in the process.
Anglesey	Parys Mine 12/11/74 Neil	2¾ hrs	Amlwch	Explored several hundred feet of levels and stopes entered via the incline level near the windmill. Found several flooded shafts and a great amount of ochre stals, "snotgobblies", copper crystals, etc. A very pleasant and thorough trip.
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Derbyshire	Duce Hole 17/11/74 Steve Watson, McAnus, Cheg	1hr 50m	Gt. Hucklow	A small swallet entrance leads to some 200' of large walking passage with a superb dig at its end. A sand/gravel filled rift is being excavated by the club – a railway is soon to be installed. I dug through some 5' of gravel enabling me to squeeze through into 8' of open passage. A further 6' of partly choked rift could be seen leading on. Most promising – the water is believed to come out at Bagshawe.
Caernarvon-shire	Cyffty/Llanrwst/Parc Mines 30/11/74 Cheg, Paul Deakin,	4hrs 10m	Llanrwst	Cheg, Mik and I abseiled down the shaft and continued stripping the pump. The others carried on to Parc on a photographic trip. We only succeeded in parting the pump in two pieces and

	Mac, Vic, Mik Durdy, Arwel, Steve, Tim (Plymouth)			freeing it from the base. We then carried on out via Parc Mine, admiring the scenery en route. Shon and Co spent the afternoon preparing the surface for the following day's winching.
Caernarvon-shire	Cyffty Mine 1/12/74 Neil Watson, John Turner, Robin Weston, Anne Sweeney	3hrs 20m	Llanrwst	Winching day! After Anne had abseiled down (and had to be hauled out again!) we attached the smaller casting to the rope and it was hauled out with only a few difficult moments. The second piece (man sized and solid cast iron!) was attached and some 20ft up the hauling rope snapped – the tension was so great that the rope flew up some 140ft of shaft and stood on its end in the air! Luckily no-one was below the pump, which ended up about 10ft below the pump platform. It was fortunately still in one piece. After a welcome drink of soup we retired to the surface – exhausted. (Luckily I had just removed a guiding rope from around my wrist!)
Caernarvon-shire	8/12/74 Neil and I (and “Mutton Duster”) carried one of the two windlass supports from Klondyke Mine to the main road, where it was “Landrovered” to Shon’s. Some pump cleaning was also done.			
Cardiganshire	10/12/74 Visited the site of Cwm-Mawr Mine (SN736673) near Pontrhydfendigaid, Cardiganshire. At one point a stream disappears down a stope and nearby a partly choked hole seems to lead into the workings. Adit level not visited.			
Caernarvon-shire	Cyffty/Llanrwst/Parc Mines 15/12/74 Sue Hepplewhite, Neil Weston, Mike Charlton, Graham Woolley, Chris Williams, Llyn Willies (PDMHS) Shirley and Pete (CLOG) (S.Hughes, J.Ashton, P.Wild, Shon etc on surface)	3hrs 50m	Llanrwst	Final pump lifting session using Shon’s L/Rover as a travelling winch. A couple of exciting moments occurred (as usual) during the lifting of the last two pump sections, Mike almost getting crushed by one piece! Out via Parc No.2 (very wet trip). Finished at last!!!! (see photo opposite).

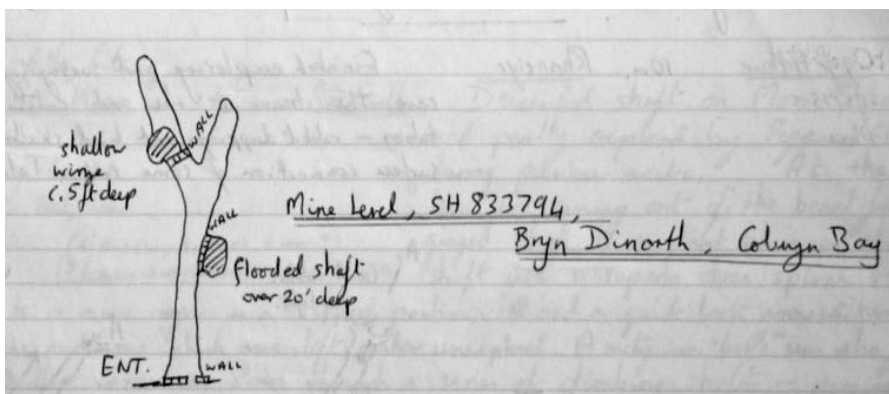


 *Aberystwyth*

Llywernog Silver Lead Mine

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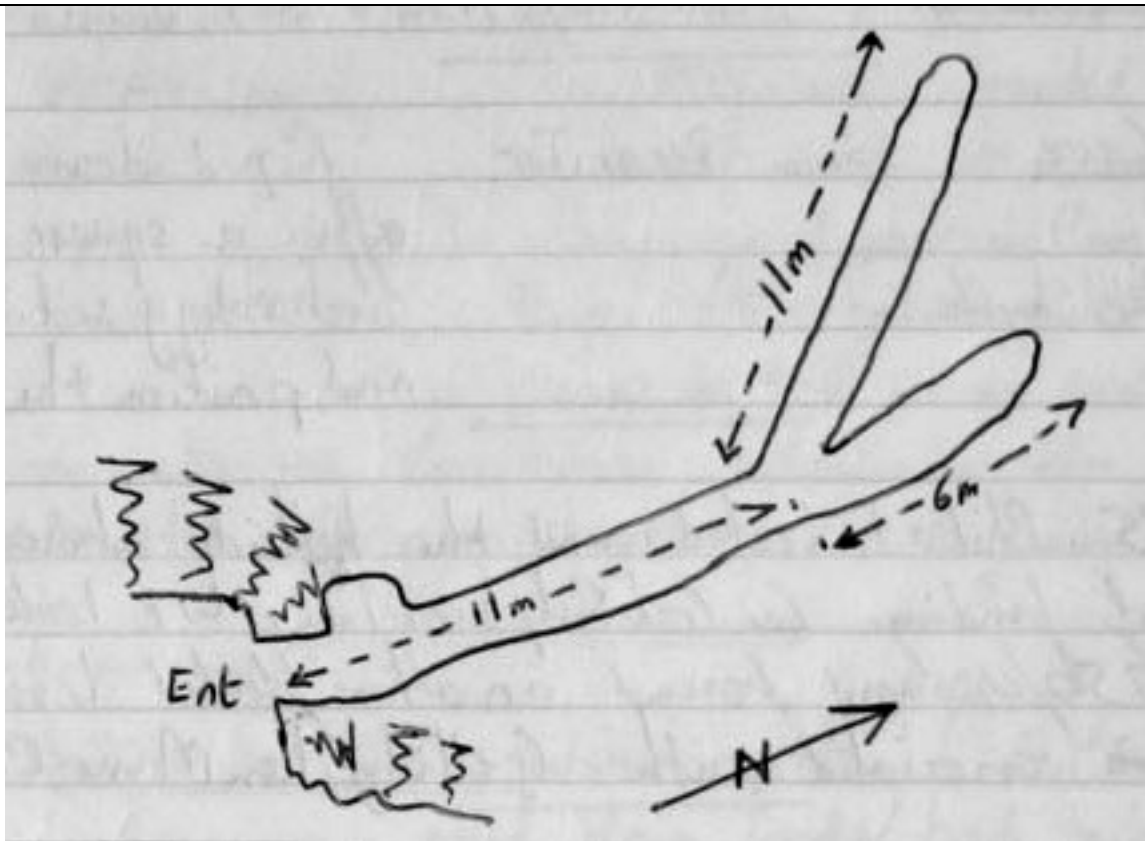
Ireland Co. Clare	Cullaun 5 29/12/74 Noel Danagher, John Parker, Pete Lord, Jeff Phillips, Guyxxx (CCC)	2¾ hrs	Lisdoonvarna	John, Pete and Jeff pushed an inlet passage just downstream of the first pitch, for some 700ft – not fully explored due to thrutchiness. We three explored a known roof passage a few hundred feet further down and then wandered on to red carpet passage where we returned before bottoming the cave.
Cardiganshire	Jan 1975 – Visited the entrance to a mine at the roadside near Pontrhydfendigaid, Cards. Two shafts (c.200' and c.50') various buddles, engine mounts, etc noted.			
Staffordshire	Lynx Cave 19/1/75 Phil Nuttall, Cheg Chester	5 mins	Beeston Tor	Roped down cliff/slope to reach the cave and affix a square of orange bunting to enable the archaeology section of the Ordnance Survey to pinpoint and position the entrance on the plan. Interesting area.
Caernarvon-shire	24/1/75 Phil and I looked round the hillside above Trefriw Chalybeate Wells in the hope of finding Cae Coch Sulphur Mine. We looked at a 60 foot wet level at SH7750/6420 and found another flooded level nearby (not explored). These may be associated with Gellilydam Mine(?) – doubtful.			
Denbighshire	Tan-yr-Ogof Caves Mine Level (SH833794) 25/1/75 Pat Cronin, Phil Nuttall, Peggy	1½ hrs	Abergele Colwyn Bay	Much digging in Cave 4 and a swift look at Cave 5. Demolished a brick wall sealing off a mine level near the roadside at Bryn Dinorth, Colwyn Bay. This led to about 100 ft of passage with a walled off flooded shaft and shallow flooded winze in floor.



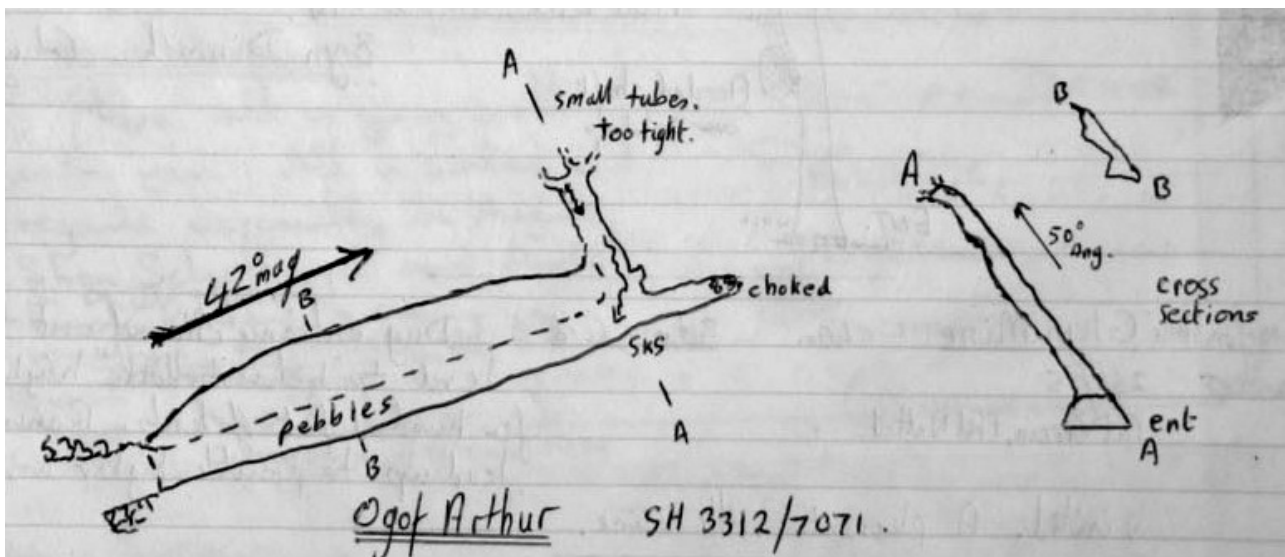
Caernarvon-shire	Glyn Mine 26/1/75 Pat Cronin, Phil Nuttall	40 m	Betws-y-Coed	Dug entrance channel out to lower water level to “below-bollocks” height. Explored a few hundred feet of levels. Raises and stopes lead up to possible higher workings – not visited. A pleasant little mine.
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Caernarvon-shire	2/2/75 Phil Ford and I visited the site of an iron mine (open workings and levels/shafts) near Llandegai. One open “shaft” on c.15’ seemed to be the only hole worth exploring. A flooded adit level with “incline windows” contained a submerged ore skip or truck. (SH5950/6990)			
Anglesey	Trial Level 5/2/75 Arvon Price, Frank Shephard		Menai Bridge	Small level near the Gazelle Inn, Menai Bridge. No sign of minerals and no way on. (SH5810/7415)



Anglesey	Ogof Arthur 12/2/75 Alone		Rhosneigr	Quick exploration using a burning "Daily Mirror" for illumination. This interesting sea cave lies in the northern cliffs of Porth Tre-Castell near Rhosneigr at SH3312/7071. A fairly low entrance (only passable at low tide) leads to some 50 ft of shingle floored rift passage with a small stream entering from an upper passage at the far end. A more thorough exploration is needed.
Anglesey	Ogof Arthur 18/2/75 Alone	10m	Rhosneigr	Finished exploring and surveying this short sea cave. The stream at the end enters from impassable tubes – rabbit droppings and bird skulls testify to a surface connection of some sort. Total length 60 ft.



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Derbyshire	Hollandtwine Mine 1/3/75 Arwel, Sue Hepplewhite, Bill McGuinness, Steve Watson, Jim Smart	2¾ hrs	Castleton	Tourist trip as far as the aven in the natural series. Arwel took several photos and in the grotto. Several fine fungi noted growing on the rails at the bottom of the winding shaft. (Superb Pegasus Dinner at the Palace Hotel, Buxton on Sat. night) Surprise guest speaker – in Welsh was Arwel!
Caernarvon-shire	Coed Mawr/Pool Mine 8/3/75 Sue Hepplewhite	1¾ hrs	Betws-y-Coed	Boring slog up the level to a surprisingly dry shaft chamber. I climbed the ladders and managed to traverse across to the continuation of the shaft where I re-rigged the pitch with fresh ladder – lowering the old ladder to Sue. A look up the shaft showed it to continue on up for at least another forty feet – liberally stacked with wrecked pitwork and ladders. No obvious sign of any levels leading off. I then returned to the shaft bottom and shinned back up the compressor pipe to retrieve the krabs left there. The small level some 50 ft up was explored into open stopes but not fully pushed – could be worth another look. Next step is to continue climbing the shaft! Hairry in the extreme!
Caernarvon-shire	“Fridd” Mine 11/3/75 Sue, Shon, Neil	1 hr	Nantbwllch-haiam	Evening trip. Entered via large open stope near Fridd Cottage – 30’ deep. A scramble down rubbish and deads led to a short level with a 30’ stope in the floor. From here a small hole led to another undescended stope. This was laddered and found to be 25’ deep – the level at the bottom being completely blocked at both ends. No other way on from these workings. Retrieved two old chisels. It was hoped that this shaft would lead to the Coed Mawr/Pool workings and so other shafts in the vicinity are to be tried instead.
Derbyshire <i>Cave discovery, Mine discovery and Rescue!</i>	“Moss Rake” Mine (Raddle Pits) 15/3/75 Paul, Cheg, Steve, Phil, Bruce, Vic, Neil, Mouse, T-Pot	4½ hrs	Bradwell	<i>See below</i>

Descended shaft on Moss Rake found and partly explored by Pegasus/Eldon lads during previous weeks. At the 180ft level we swung out of the beautifully ginged shaft to a point where a climbing shaft with a superb stone spiral staircase leads to a mine waggon in a tipped position. I had a quick look around here noting a winze and raise which were left unexplored. A rusty iron “bottle” was also found. We all then carried on down through a series of climbing shafts – passing a landing on the main shaft containing a superb iron kibble with a wooden base, and a piece of the shaft hauling wheel – to the “bottom” level and the foot of the main shaft at c.380 ft. A flooded level below this was pushed by Mouse but didn’t go. Two more mine waggons were found en route.

During our trip to the “bottom”, Teapot and I explored a level some 50ft up which had several ginged ore chutes in its floor. The furthestmost of these was descended, followed by a 25’ climbing shaft down into another tramming level containing a wooden kibble. It was here that I found a magnificent pottery miner’s water bottle in perfect condition and at least 100 yrs old (now in Matlock Mining Museum). A drop in the floor here led directly into a considerable natural chamber with very well decorated roof and walls and miners’ initials smoked on the ceiling. At least three ways led off here which we did not explore.

At shaft bottom Teapot decided to climb into a ginged climbing shaft nearby. A mighty rumble heralded the arrival on the level of a few cwt. of deads and Teapot got both ankles and shins severely bruised. This necessitated a rescue operation by us – the little sod having to be hauled physically up the main shaft from a point some 250 ft down. A fantastic mine with great potential for both natural stuff and well-stocked mine workings. (Unfortunately on the following day we were just about to descend when an enormous and most irate spar-man appeared and in no uncertain fashion threw us off his land!)

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Anglesey	17/3/75 Visited the site of a trial coal shaft near the viaduct at Malltraeth, Anglesey. A slight depression in the ground is all that remains. The “gruffy” ground on the other side of the river, near
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	Viaduct Terrace was also noted.			
Anglesey	Pentir Sea Cave 22/3/75 Phil Ford		Pentir	Spent some time "cave hunting" in this corner of Anglesey. Nothing of any interest was found on the limestone, and this sea cave is not worth a second visit, though it is somewhat photogenic. It runs due east for around 70 feet. (SH625/816)
Caernarvon-shire	Gorlan Mine 23/3/75 Neil, Shon		Nant BH	After a hard day's pump cleaning we searched for and explored several small shafts and adits in the vicinity of Gorlan Mine. In the entrance of one we found two Allsopp's beer bottles c.1910 vintage. Nothing of great interest noted, though Gorlan adit may be worth a dig.
Caernarvon-shire	"Llandegai Iron Mine" 26/3/75 Alone		Llandegai	Explored only accessible hole on the workings. A 15' shaft led to a blocked and flooded level with a choked 40' level just above. Once used as a child's "den". No further prospects.

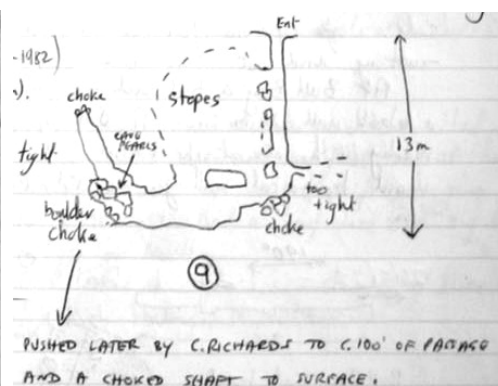
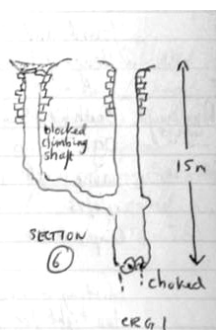
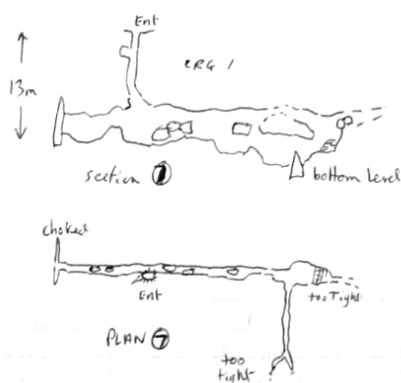


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Somerset	Wookey Hole 28/3/75 Phil Ford and tourists	½ hr	Wookey Hole	Tourist trip to the new sections of Wookey 7,8 and 9 via blasted tunnels. An excellent job has been done on the development of this part of the show cave and the old paper mill downstream.
Somerset	Mineshafts 29/3/75 Phil, Martin Bishop, (Fish)	1 hr	Buddles Wood	See below

Descended several old shafts near Eaker Hill (on other side of road "Buddles Wood?") All had traces of natural passage, though nothing very large:-

- 1) Completely choked shaft – ½ m deep
- 2) Completely choked shaft – 2m deep, taking a stream
- 3) Completely choked shaft – 15m deep
- 4) Completely choked shaft – 12m deep
- 5) Completely choked shaft – ½ m deep
- 6) 15m shaft – choked. 5m from bottom a raise leads to a slabbed-over climbing shaft to surface.
- 7) 13m deep shaft to c.100m of tight, rift-like vein workings – probably fire-set. Some hopes of extension.
- 8) Not found (10' deep, double shaft, choked – 1982)
- 9) 13m shaft to large, decorated passage (20m) Boulder choke at end with fine nest of cave pearls above. Passage on far side of shaft too tight but way on can be seen beyond and could be banged into. (250' passage found by Pete and Alison running N-S. Natural with mined areas – 1982)

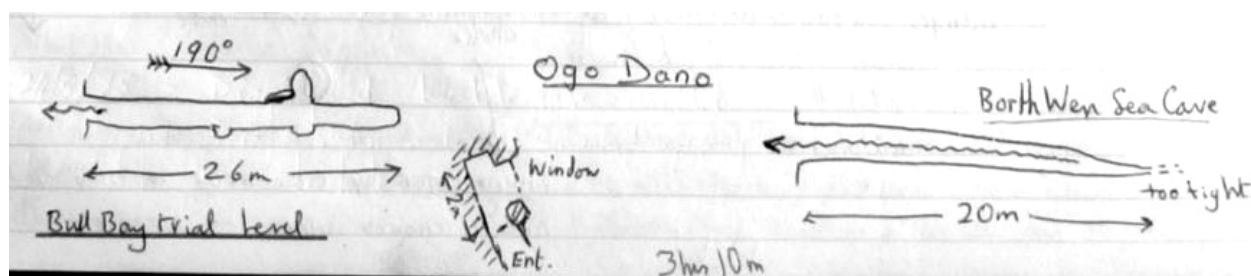


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Gloucester-shire	Old Ham Iron Mine ("Clearwell Caves") 31/3/75 Alone	20m	Clearwell	Quick flash around these tourist "caves" – lit by electric and gas lighting. The show "cave" is only a small route through what must be miles of passages, chambers and tunnels. A very poor display of old mining equipment is on show in the "cave", but once the place becomes more popular it should improve considerably. Most entertaining – especially as there is no guide and you can happily wander off into the deeper workings! Apparently they were real caves infilled with iron ore.
Caernarvon-shire	Parc Mine 4/4/75 Ratarse, Brian and Deirdre	1 hr	Llanrwst	Festered up No.3 level to just beyond "chain-ladder chamber". Found some bits of galena for Deirdre and then festered back out via Hafna Lode. Nice little trip.
Denbighshire	Penarth Slate Mine 5/4/75 Ratarse, Jane, Peggy	1 hr 50m	Corwen	Wandered around these extensive workings, on two levels, near Corwen. Large chambers connected by Haulage levels – mostly with rail in situ. Several working hand winches found and the remains of the "bang" store. An "explosives" notice was removed. Very pleasant and easy trip.
Anglesey	Borth Wen Sea Cave Ogog Dano Mine level 17/4/75 Crispin Ebbs		Benllech Parciau Bull Bay	<i>See below</i>

A 20m long sea cave at the south end of Borth Wen was first explored. It consisted of a beautifully smooth walled tube, some 2m high, ending in a too tight rift choked with boulders and seaweed – emitting a small stream. Some 200m S of this is a 15' long cave emitting a small stream and heavily coated with stal – nice flowstone and gours. Becomes too tight for further progress. SH521/838 and SH522/835.

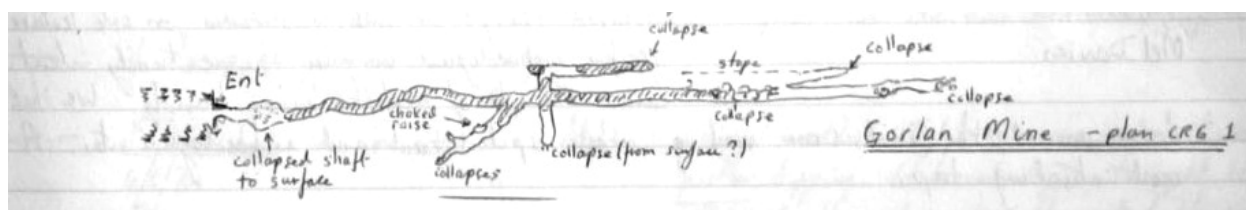
The elusive Ogo Dano was eventually found after a prolonged slog through the undergrowth. It was located at the top of the cliff on the line of the production of the front door of a ruined cottage on the hill. It consisted of a rift entrance into a small, room-like chamber (2m square) with a collapsed "window" at one side. Of no further interest as it is merely caused by rock slips and undercutting and not in true cave style. SH486/848.

At Bull Bay a trial level was found in the cliffs – presumably for copper – ending in a blank wall, 26m in. A 6m deep, ginged shaft was found on the top of the cliffs nearby with water at the bottom. The ginging was rather strange – vertical instead of the usual horizontal walling. We did not descend due to lack of time. Level at SH4250/9460.



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Yorkshire <i>rescue</i>	Disappointment Pot 14/4/75 Arwel, James Cobbet, Phil Nuttall, Alan Stein (Vic)	¾ hr	Ingletton	Got as far as the bottom of the 1 st pitch when Vic appeared, to shout that "Bill had fallen down Bar Pot!" With thoughts of a paper-bag job we rushed out and over to Bar (Myself pausing to get completely lost in thick mist for some 15 mins or so). It then transpired that Bill had fallen some 30' down the Bar 1 st pitch (50') and had a compound fracture of the ankle. In a very short time the Clapham CRO arrived, laden down with gear, telephones etc and rescued him in a couple of hours. We had a brief look at G.G. then

				headed back down for an alcoholic tour of Craven (with Bob Cross, Jim Abbott etc).
Yorkshire	Swinsto Hole – Valley Entrance (KMC) 20/4/75 Alan Gamble, Dickie Dickenson	2½ hrs	Kingsdale	Abseiled down the superb series of wet shafts of Swinsto Hole into the impressive Kingsdale Master Cave. A very sporting “cresta run” was performed in the flooded main streamway and we then emerged via Valley Entrance. Nice trip.
Caernarvon-shire	Gorlan Mine 23/4/75 Sue, Neil	1 hr	Nant-BH	Explored the adit level to Gorlan Mine which Neil had recently dug open. A hundred feet or so of knee deep level led to a small stope (with wooden kibble) and crosscut. Some 150 feet further on, after an upward traverse in a narrow stope, the passage terminated in a major collapse of roof and deads. A small tin and a wooden/metal rimmed wheelbarrow wheel were found. Sue found a c.1910 Ind Coope beer bottle. No hope of further progress.



Caernarvon-shire	Trial Levels 25/4/75 Alone		Bangor	Inspected two short trial levels near Bangor Pier. One is choked with shingle some 15 feet in and the other ends in a blank wall after 35 feet.
Denbighshire	Dulas Cave Tan-yr-Ogof Caves 3/5/75 Arwel Roberts, (Phil Ford)	1¼ hr	Llandulas	Late start due to usual alcoholic lunchtime. Had a look at the boulder choke and mud-filled tube at the end of Dulas Cave – not much hope for digging. Then Arwel and I had a brief look and dig in Tan-yr-Ogof Cave no. 4. Also looked at engine house and chimney of Pennant Mine and the headframe of Pen-y-bryn Shaft on Halkyn Mountain.

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Flintshire <i>discovery</i>	Ogof Hesp Alyn 4/5/75 Crispin, Phil H, Mick M, Arwel, Roy Shields (?)	6 hrs	Cilcain	<i>See below</i>
	<p>Intention was for Crispin and Co. to push a tube in the lowest main passage while Arwel and I had a crack at the inlet streamway at the end of that passage.</p> <p>When we reached to 20' climb below the ramp leading to the 40' pitch I had a look at the bottom of the mud choked funnel there. A small hole could be seen to the right, and a piece of rock, which I had broken off the wall, was duly pushed into the hole – causing a loud splash! A few minutes work kicking the mud floor into this hole made the way large enough for me to squeeze through into what appeared to be some 50' of new passage – a low canal. Meanwhile Crispin could hear me splashing about from the top of the 40' pitch.</p> <p>Not being inclined to wet my ears I carried on down the 40' pitch with the others only to find the large bottom passage half full of water – and no passable way on. Leaving Crispin to listen out, I returned to the new passage and found myself back in the flooded main route and only 50' from Crispin and Co. Thus was the 40' pitch bypass route discovered! Not a wasted trip after all. N.B. During the two hours we were in the area of the “water table”, the water level dropped two feet or more. It was almost possible to see it going down.</p>			
Derbyshire	Mine level (near Sallet Hole) 11/5/75 Cheg, Paul	¼ hr	Stoney Middleton	“Sunday morning festering session”. Noticed a newly revealed level down the road from Sallet Hole Mine. We followed this dry, stooping level for c.250 feet to a diggable collapse. May be worth opening up.
Caernarvon-	Ogof Pant-y-Wennol	½ hr	Llandudno	Levelled to cave entrance for Mel, who returned

shire	14/5/75 Mel Davies			the favour with a detailed on site lecture of his archaeological work in this extremely interesting cave – the site of Neolithic human burials. We then drove around the Great Orme visiting other speleological and archaeological sites. A most interesting trip.
Anglesey	Castell Mawr Caves 17/5/75 Peggy		Red Wharf Bay	Looked at four interesting and roomy phreatic caves in an isolated block of limestone near the hotel in Red Wharf. At least two of the caves are worth digging. It seems that much larger and well decorated caves once existed here – as can be seen by the extensive stalactite and stalagmite formation on the cliffs. It is unfortunate that these caves are frequently used by tourists as shithouses. At last – genuine caves on Anglesey – giving promise of better things!
Somerset	24/5/75 – Digging at Waldergrave Swallet – with J.Jones, P.Hendy, C.Batstone, A.Van der Plank, P.Ford, R.Stephenson etc etc. Smashed up a few boulders and cleared a fair amount of clatch from the hole.			
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Somerset	25/5/75 – fantastic fancy dress party at Martin Bishop’s – Mint!			
Somerset	Flower Pot 26/5/75 P.Ford, K.James	1 ¼ hrs	Priddy	Dug some 8 feet of muddy tube at the end of the main passage and trending down dip to the right. Looks promising, though fairly long term. An inlet on the left also looks good. Fabulous Whit on Mendip. Extremely alcoholic and festerous!
Montgomeryshire	Nant-ddu Mine 29/5/75 Alone		Dylife	SN 8325/9315 – Worked from two shafts (1 totally blocked, one c.100’ deep and dry) and a level c.35 ft to roof collapse – no water draining out. This mine is presumably connected by a deep adit to the Dwfn Gwm workings? The shaft would be well worth a descent.
Denbighshire	Moel Fferna Slate Mine 29/5/75 Alone	20m	Corwen	Nice fester around the upper levels and chamber and the superb underground bridge. There only seems to be one open (accessible) level and a shaft on the hillside above. All other levels run in.
Somerset	31/5/75 – More digging at Waldergrave Swallet . Spaces are opening up in the floor, though the sides of the dig are beginning to collapse and urgently need shoring.			
Somerset	Flower Pot 1/6/75 Ken James, “Sab”, Mike Wheeldon(?) BEC	2 hrs	Priddy	2 hrs of digging in the left hand passage of the junction dig. A small black space can be seen beyond the extremely awkward boulder which is blocking the way on. Then over to Waldergrave Swallet to find that MB and Co. had opened up the top of the open rift – some 20-30 feet deep.
Somerset	Flower Pot 6/6/75 Alone	2h 25m	Priddy	Removed boulder – 3’ of passage beyond – not worth further digging. Continued digging to right then got pissed off and explored the rest of the system instead.
Derbyshire	Dr. Jackson’s Pot 7/6/75 Jim Smart, Claire Chamber, (Phil, Bill, Graham, Linda, Phil N, + 2 BSG)	2 hrs	Perryfoot	Lurked to within some 100’ of the end and festered back out. Yeuch!
Derbyshire	Harrybecca Mine 8/6/75 Bill (Pk), Ratarse, Paul, Cheg	10m	Calver	Festered into a couple of small levels and stopes. The others later explored the main workings while I sunbathed with the ladies.
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Merionethshire	Foel Ispri Mine 12/6/75 Alone	35m	Dolgellau	Explored (or partly explored) a variety of levels and stopes around the summit of Foel Ispri. The mine was worked for gold and copper. Several

				other workings and “damp” sections should be looked at. One level contained a nice little iron kibble and in the farm nearby is an old metal mine wheelbarrow in good condition. The views from the old tramway (now New Precipice Walk) are superb.
Ireland Co. Clare	Pol-an-Ionain 16/6/75 Pat Cronin, Lingi, Henry, Martin, Harriet, Maria, Jonathan	1¾ hr	Doolin	Tourist trip for the Bangor contingent. Apart from the rotting sheep in the entrance all was fine and everyone enjoyed the experience. The rest of the week was spent festering, drinking, eating, going to Pat’s wedding etc. GREAT!
Ireland Co. Wicklow	Glendalough Mines 22/6/75 Enda and Peggy		Glendalough	Quick fester around a couple of surface workings and adit entrances. Not enough time for a good look round though.
Cardiganshire	24/6/75 – Inspected the surface remains of the Frongoch Mine , near Devil’s Br, Cards.			
Somerset	Sludge Pit Hole 29/6/75 Clare Chambers	1½ hrs	Priddy	Festered down to the sump (6” deep). Pulled 1½ buckets of gravel out then festered back via Four Pots Rift.
Somerset	Swildon’s Hole 6/7/75 Clare, Rich Stevenson	3 hrs	Priddy	Festered to Shatter Pot and out via the Long Dry Way. Very pleasant trip. Used Wolfe Carbide Lamp and Goon Suit in preparation for Berger trip. Also dug at Waldergrave Swallet .
Somerset	Flower Pot 13/7/75 A.Bishop, K.James, R.Sabido, C.Chambers, R.Stevenson, C.Batstone	1½ hrs	Priddy	Small amount of digging at high level terminal passage. Martin then laid a charge on a squeeze halfway up the aven. A passable bedding plane can be seen beyond.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 19/7/75 Gordon Parkin	3¾ hrs	Priddy	Very pleasant trip down to the Terminal Rift where much work has been done on the dig. Inspected several holes on the way out but missed the route to Mud Escalator. It appears possible that water flowing down the “13 Pots” Route may have turned abruptly to the left when reaching “Terminal Rift” and the way on may lie in this direction. The “Terminal Rift” being merely an underwater solutional passage.

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The Great Irish / Welsh / English / Australian Gouffre Berger Expedition 1975!

France Lot	Gouffre de Padirac 27/7/75 Rich Stevenson, Martin Bishop, John Parker, Gxxx “Chi” Jones	1 hr 10m	Rocanadour	Very fine tourist trip to this mega show cave. A fine 300’ circular shaft leads to a kilometre or so of canal passage – traversed by several boats – and a section of well decorated chambers and roof climbs. Superb. We then headed up the extremely fine Bourne Gorge – several miles long and hundreds of feet in height; and SOLID LIMESTONE!! Slept there the night.
France Isere	Cuves de Sassenage 29/7/75 As above	½ hr	Grenoble	Another fine tourist trip in the resurgence cave to the Berger. A labyrinth of sporting little tunnels, bridged across in places, and a couple of fine streamways. Well worth a visit. The guide showed us the survey which had tempting “siphons” shown in several places.
France Isere	Grottes de Choranche (Coufin) 30/7/75 As above	½ hr	Choranche	Best show cave of the lot! A small entrance high in the side of the Bourne Gorge leads directly into a huge, flat lake chamber with two large inlet passages. The whole lot is festooned with thousands of excellent straws and some good flowstone formations round the edges. Well

				worth a visit.
France Isere	Grotte de Bournillon EDF Tunnel 30/7/75 As above (+ Phil Collet)	3h 40m 10m	Choranche	The huge 300 foot high entrance of this resurgence cave leads to approx 2 kms of straight, boulder floored passage averaging some 90-100 feet in height. This terminates in a most inviting sump pool. Chi, Phil and I entered a large passage near the “300’ entrance” and after crawling and thrutching for a km or so, found ourselves back in the main passage, just before the sump. Looks a promising place. (Later found out that it is the resurgence for the new “deepest cave in the world” – see below – though not as yet connected.) The three of us also did an illegal trip into one of the hydro-electric tunnels in the area. Completely sealed after a couple of hundred feet. A fascinating area with tons of promise.
France Isere	Gouffre Berger 1/8/75 JP, RS, PC, Paddy O’Reilly, Mike Orr, Hywel Ball	8½ hrs	Vercors	The Irishmen had gone in earlier to rig to Camp 1. We followed up with food and a 500 ft Terylene rope. The entrance series of dry pitches, meanders and more pitches was most impressive but even more so was the Grande Galerie and Bourgin Hall. We thought these were big until we reached the top of the Great Rubble Heap, with a couple of boulders each the size of the “Hunters”!! Next came Camp 1 (well strewn with rubbish and goodies) and the fantastic Hall of the Thirteen, with its enormous rocket shaped stalagmites and gour pool floor. We turned back here and at last reached the surface <u>absolutely knackered</u> . A magnificent cave.
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France Isere	Gouffre Berger 3-5/8/75 JP, MB, PO’R, MO (D.Drew, P.Lord, Sue Jordan, Chi,M.Farr, HB, D.Mullen, PC, etc etc)	46hrs	Vercors	<i>See below</i>
	<p>The five of us entered around 3.30pm Sunday. I had a “nasty” in the Boudoir, half way through the Meanders when an impatient John Parker succeeded in exploding my carbide gobbler, which was attached to my waist. In a state of near panic I danced around trying to beat it out before my nylon boiler suit went up. The others eventually got it off me and covered it in sand, much to my relief! Other “nasties” en route consisted of Paddy O’Reilly hanging almost upside down on Aldo’s Shaft, Martin’s light exploding, some of my hair being burnt off etc. Nice trip to the Balcony, below Hall of the 13, where we set up camp for the night on the flowstone floor and after a good meal got some well deserved sleep.</p> <p>Up around 8.30am Monday after a damp but reasonable kip. Cooked breakfast (including Berger Breakfast – stewed apple flakes and raisins) and set off to finish rigging to the bottom. The cave below the Balcony is even better than above, boasting fine canals, superb sections of mega Swildons-type streamway, vast descending boulder chambers, traverses and roaring wet cascades and pitches. We rigged from Claudivies to the top of Little Monkey Shaft where we unfortunately ran out of rope with only a few hundred feet to go to the sump. Standing around had made us very cold so we retired to Joly (sic) Hall and brewed up tea and foul cheese and onion muck. Back up the wet pitches (Grande Cascade being the best – the complete stream entering your ear as you pass a ledge!!) and so to bed. NB Gibbs ascendeurs working excellently.</p> <p>Awoke around the same time on Tuesday and after eating and packing most things up we headed out, pausing to win a DCC sleeping bag from Camp 1, and wake up Martyn Farr and Co. Knackered again at the surface. Out 1.30pm Tuesday.</p>			
France Isere	Gouffre Berger 8-9/8/75 JP, PO’R, RS (PL, J.Phillips, M.Day,	28hr 50m	Vercors	<i>See below</i>

	D.Tringhen etc)			
	<p>Bottoming trip. Fast trip to Balcony where we ate and changed into our cold, wet wet-suits. Then on to the sump. Little Monkey and it's continuation, the impressive Hurricane Shaft were easily descended and another great boulder slope led down to a large inlet cascade and eventually the superb and deep final canal. The O'Reilly affixed his little red water wings and off we went, Rich Stevenson almost sinking to the bottom in the process. The inviting Sump 1 was reached and "Irish Tricolour" and "Mendip Boot Boys Drink Humpty-Dumpty OK" flags were tied to the wall, inscriptions written and back we went. (NB An "Amazin Raisn" chocolate wrapper also adorns this far off and secluded spot!)</p> <p>Paddy took several photos both in and out. We reached Balcony Camp, donned our comfortable Polar Suits and got some very welcome kip.</p> <p>Woke up the following morning to be visited by Pete (Gee) Lord and Jeff Phillips en route for the bottom. They ended up doing the complete trip in 9¼ hrs, beating the previous record by ¾ hrs, one Witch Doctor etc.</p>			

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France Isere Drone	Grotte de la Goule Blanche (?) Grotte de la Luire 10/8/75 RS, MB, JP, CJ	½ hr	Bourne Gorge La Chapelle	<i>See below</i>
	<p>Had a brief look at the large resurgence cave near the head of the Bourne Gorge. It has been extensively altered by the hydro-electric men and boasts a concrete floored streamway, catwalks, bridges, EDF Tunnels, etc. It looks as though there is a fair amount of passage beyond this area. We then drove across to La Chapelle area to see the Luire Show Cave. A large semi-active resurgence entrance led to a somewhat short and unimpressive visit, although deep holes in the floor and vast avens in the roof testified to somewhat more interesting regions beyond. The entrance area was used during the 2nd World War as a Resistance hospital, until found by the Germans who machine-gunned the place.</p> <p>We found out later that this cave is now a section of the deepest cave in the world. It seems that a system way up on the hills has been connected to this bottom entrance to give a depth of over 1200 metres. There is still much potential here as the resurgence for this system is the Grotte de Bounillon, several miles away and some hundreds of metres lower down.</p>			
France Isere	Goufre Berger 12/8/75 TP, CJ, Jean and Roger Laurent (Speleo Club de Nancy) (MF, DM, PF, T.Keely, etc)	9 hrs	Vercors	De-rigging trip. The two Frogs (Batman and Robin) turned up at camp hoping for a trip so we took them with us as far as "Hall of the 13" where we picked up a load of rope and ladder and headed out. The French lads were overjoyed to find two discarded wet suits at Camp 1 so these came out as well. Jean was most impressed with our ascending techniques – especially the Mitchell Boxes and Gibbs Rope-walkers. I ended up being christened "Meester Jeebs". Another excellent but tiring trip. The French are good and well equipped, wearing a wool-type combination, then an orange plastic boilersuit and wellies. Very smooth. (The French lads later introduced me to <u>Fernand Petzl</u> from whom I bought a new caving helmet.)

An excellent three weeks holiday balanced with several long, hard trips in a bloody magnificent system. Much festering, eating, drinking and shopping also done. Several days were spent in the company of the NCC, who challenged us to various "football" and welly-throwing sessions and some good booze-ups were held with the Irish and South Wales brigades. (Expedition song inside the front cover of this log!)

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Sutherland	Brora Colliery 20/8/75 Alone		Brora	<i>See below</i>
	<p>Had a look round the surface remains and buildings of the Brora Colliery. Loads of mine papers, books and accounts in situ – several removed relating to Ross No. 2 Pit. A miners' bathhouse is still full of helmets and boots (another visit needed!). The partly rubbish filled incline shaft (?) near the mine chimney was explored for a few feet to a level leading to the right. This appeared to continue but finding it very difficult to breathe slowly I hastily retreated. This may have been due to apprehension but I am more inclined to believe it was CO₂. Another visit is needed here.</p> <p>The mine seems to have been working for several hundred years, on and off. At one time it was</p>			

	owned by the N.C.B. but when it didn't pay it was sold to a Welshman, one Pritchard. The Norht Sea Oil boom attracted many of the miners away and caused labour problems. When Pritchard died (I believe naturally, although underground at the time (?) the mine closed down and as the men began to have pay problems they stopped the pumps, leaving several thousand pounds worth of equipment in the now flooded mine. The workings are well below the river and below sea level with, I think, two vertical shafts and a relatively new incline shaft. To be continued:-			
Sutherland	Allt a'Chalda Mor Stream Cave Cripples Canyon Glenbain Hole Cnoc nan Uamh System 23/8/75 Trevor Mulvaney (OS)	20m 10m 20m ¾ hr	Inchnadamph	Interesting and generally wet caves in a really beautiful area. Out of this world. Allt a'Chalda Mor doesn't deserve another visit, or Cripples. Glenbain is definitely deeper than stated in "Caves of Assynt" and shows a lot of promise. We only visited the lower section of Cnoc nan Uamh but it is superb, the "Waterslide" being a real collectors' piece. It goes down at quite a slant and is completely covered by a fine cascade. The return trip in the stream is most sporting. Lots more to be done in this area.
Sutherland	Allt Nan Uamh Stream Cave 24/8/75 Bob, Pete Dowsard? (GSS)	1 hr	Inchnadamph	A complex and roomy system with nice walking passages, sandy crawls, streamways, sumps etc. Good potential. Several large shakeholes lead down valley from here towards the rising. A more thorough exploration is required and I may have a dig or two in the cave.
Sutherland	Uamh an Tartair/Uamh Mhor? Uamh cul Eoghainn 25/8/75 Alone	20m ¾ hr	Elphin	Got halfway down "Tartair" to find it flooded to the roof a few yards beyond the open pot. Exited via the pot. Pushed "Eoghainn" to its very limit – yechh. Very tight at the end with limited prospects for extension. If the final rift was banged it may go. Also had a couple of recce digs in shakeholes en route. Both looked worthy of concentrated digging.

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Sutherland	Smoo Cave 30/8/75 Christian (Frog hitch-hiker and caver)	¼ hr	Durness	Drove to Elphin via the north coast (!) and looked at Smoo Cave en route. Superb large entrance leads into a nice sandy chamber with a view into a fair-sized lake chamber to the right. Not looked at due to lack of wet-suit. Several holes leading off main chamber were looked at but didn't go. The 70' wet pot entrance was also looked at but not tackled. Needs another visit.
Sutherland	Creag Nan Uamh Bone Caves (4) Otter Hole 31/8/75 Alone	½ hr ¼ hr	Inchnadamph	Explored all the Bone Caves noting that they are just asking to be dug. No.1 has a strong draught in one of the right hand passages. An extensive system must exist beyond these impressive and remote caves*. To sit in the entrances of these caves is to experience a profound sense of timelessness. It is easy to imagine the old hunters and their families who lived in these not uncomfortable shelters. Otter Hole was descended as far as the wet passage. A howling draught testifies to the unexplored system which must lie beyond here and below the Bone Caves. * It does – Uamh an Claonaite, c.2 miles long by 2000.
Sutherland <i>discovery</i>	Otter Hole 7/9/75 Chick Calder	2¼ hrs	Inchnadamph	After much cursing and hammering we managed to remove the offending boulder in the lower passage. Chick returned to surface with a crunched finger and I carried on into virgin territory. A grand slope dropped some 2 metres into a nasty little muddy pool with a suspended rock flake dividing it. After trying to remove

				some of the RH wall I gave up and forced the LH side – a most unpleasant wet squeeze – leading into some 8 metres of grotty, loose passage. A small rift-type hole at the end emitted the usual howling draught but digging here is pretty much out of the question due to the lack of space and insecurity of the roof. I think the best way now is to dig in the upper choke which should either join the new bit avoiding the wet squeeze or by-pass it completely.
Sutherland <i>discovery</i>	Otter Hole 21/9/75 Alone	2¼ hrs	Inchnadamph	Had a look at the sandy crawl then continued to the upper choked passage. An hour and a half's Kamikaze digging under boulders opened up a hole into the base of an extensive tilted bedding plane chamber – some 20' wide, 20' top to bottom, and 2-3 feet high. A passage to the right at the top emits the usual draught but looks loose – not pushed. A lower passage is also loose but needs a bit of gardening for further progress. Didn't take too many chances due to being on my own and the collapsible nature of the entrance squeeze. This is the largest bit in Otter Hole so far and may turn out more promising than it looks. It could also prove to be bloody loose and dangerous. There may be a way on under the floor as well.

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Sutherland	Otter Hole 27/9/75 Bob Meyhew, Andy Parkes, Donald Henderson	2¼ hrs	Inchnadamph	Visited new section and attempted to push the two possible ways on – to no avail. Both end in the same highly unstable boulder choke with no ways on. The draught appeared to disappear upwards into the boulder choked rift at the top of the inclined plane. No hope here so bye-bye Otter Hole!
Sutherland	Cnoc nan Uamh System 28/9/75 Bob, Andy, Don	1¾ hrs	Inchnadamph	Visited practically all of the cave upstream of the top entrance – to Tony Boycott's terminal sump. Back via the Rabbit Warren and down to bottom of the Waterslide. Excellent and extensive cave and a very fine trip. Put a rivet in the entrance of Glenbain Hole in preparation for levelling from the entrance.
Sutherland	Golspie Fissure Cave (No.1) 3/10/75 Alone	20m	Golspie	A reasonable sized fissure passage liberally coated in shitty peat mud. Not much hope of pushing it any further. Worth a visit though. Searched for No.2 entrance in vain.
Sutherland	Sea Caves (Geodha Meiril) 18/10/75 Bob, Andy, Don, Carol, Julian Walford.		Loch Eriboll	Festered round part of the coast line of Loch Eriboll finding a few small and generally uninteresting sea caves. The main group of large caves near Whiten Head were not reached due to the long walk in. A boat would be the best way of reaching these.
Sutherland	Smoo Cave 18-19/10/75 As above	12hrs!	Durness	Spent the night bivouacking in the large entrance chamber. If I hadn't rolled into a puddle it would have been a good night's sleep! (11 hrs) Sunday was spent abseiling in via the 70' pitch, swimming across the loake and exiting via the short sump. We also festered and snorkelled round the coast eastwards for a mile or so investigating small sea caves. Nothing of any great interest. A jar of fluorescein placed in the Allt Smoo Sink was not located in the cave so another test must be done in the future. Excellent festering weekend.

Sutherland	Cnoc nan Uamh System 24/10/75 Paul Sainsbury (OS)	1½ hrs	Inchnadamp	Paul's first trip. Festered around as far as terminal sump then back out via wet bits and Waterslide. Paul enjoyed the trip.
Sutherland	Firchose Cave 26/10/75 Andrew (Pegasus) Bob Meyhew	35m	Inchnadamp	Sobering-up trip! A real cold wet semi-aquatic little trip. A real classic in fact. Followed by SUPERB Grampian Dinner – Much drinking, singing, cabaret etc.
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Sutherland	Uamh an Claionaite 16/11/75 M.Bishop + 2 climbers	¾ hr	Inchnadamp	Superb, though somewhat short, cave. Very roomy streamway and a few nice pretties. Excellent walk back across the hillside in snow blizzard. Superb.
Sutherland	Smoo Cave 19/11/75 C.Melrose, (A.McKenzie)[OS]	10m	Durness	Vast quantity of water hurtling down shaft and filling entrance chamber with spray. Four times normal amount coming from LH tributary stream. Most impressive! Colin fell in the stream but was undeterred. Alex gave up at the entrance. No chance of dye testing the stream.
Co. Fermanagh	Shannon Pot 23/11/75 Peggy		Black Lion	Whilst on flying tourist trip to Fermanagh, we managed to visit the pool-like resurgence of Shannon Pot – the source of the River Shannon. Not really very interesting but indicative of a large system somewhere behind it. Also visited the “Bush Bar”.
Somerset	Swildon's Hole 30/11/75 M.Bishop, Ali, Chris Batstone, Jim Smart (J.Widley)	1 hr 50m	Priddy	Silly trip to Barne's Loop in tweeds and using candles, ice-axe, rope etc! Hanging around at the “20” made us quite cold so Ali and Chris went out. Below the “20” we overtook several people in wet-suits and nife cells. Surprisingly good light – will definitely carry candles as spares in future.
Sutherland	Ach a'Chorrain Caves 12/12/75 Alone		Durness	Looked at all the entrances and dye tested the sink successfully to the three risings at the valley junction (all between 21 and 29 minutes) indicating an interesting and complete system, though relatively small. Dug at a couple of the risings but they were totally blocked with large boulders.
Sutherland	Allt Nan Uamh Stream Cave Bear Cave Lower Otter Hole 13/12/75 Julian, Bob, Carol, Kevin Sinclair	1½ hr	Inchnadamp	Good fester round ANUS cave, mainly to introduce Kevin to the delights of caving. Then I did a swift trip into Bear and Lower Otter. The latter is only diggable with bang and doesn't look too hopeful at that!
Sutherland	While the others went down Cnon nan Uamh, Bob and I went swallet hunting on the hillside between there and Glenbain. One excellent looking sink was found near the NW corner of the small forestry plantation – taking a small “Swildon's size” stream and with open passage at the bottom. Almost certainly visited before but definitely worth another look. <i>Footnote</i> – “Pol Eighi”			
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Worcestershire	144 Steps Cavern (Castle Hill Mines) 26/12/75 Tony (?)	1 hr	Dudley	General fester round this large limestone mine. Had a quick look along the semi-collapsed canal tunnel at the far end (no longer than an previous visit). The canal tunnel at the entrance end was presumed to connect with the Dudley Canal Tunnel, as a survey mark could be seen at the junction. Pleasant little trip.
Orkney	The Gloup 2/1/76 Frances Gillan		Deerness, Mainland	Large, wide and deep (70') “blow hole” with a waterfall entering at one end. Completely flooded at bottom with a large cave passage continuing into the hill. Enterable using ladder and dinghy (or swimming). Not descended.

				Large flooded cave passage in cliffs nearby and doubtless many others close to. (Also looked for Gailnip Cave, Scapa Flow in vain – presumably only attainable by boat. A blow hole at Halcro Head, South Ronaldsay. Roughly 100 feet deep and passable by laddering. Conclusions are that a small boat is essential for this type of sea cave work.)
Sutherland	Smoo Cave 10/1/76 Bob Meyhew	6½ hrs	Durness	Bob and I commenced the survey of the cave. Vast amounts of flood water prevented work in the lake chamber so we surveyed in a loop around the entrance chamber (using B.Ellis' Mendip Survey Unit). Very wet and blustery conditions.
Sutherland	Smoo Cave 11/1/76 Bob	3½ hrs	Durness	Continued with the entrance chamber survey and part of the surface traverse – which we had to curtail due to the high winds. Quite an enjoyable and useful weekend's work.
Sutherland	“Smoo Cave” 15/1/76 Alone	2 hrs	Durness	Dug at the two entrances near the steps down to the cave. The lower one was pushed for a couple of feet before a decaying rabbit's corpse and a view of the thoroughly choked continuation curtailed progress. The choked bedding cave above this was then dug and what at first appeared to be an easy dig involved some fifteen feet of excavation in sand, gravel and boulders – leading to an open cross rift closing down in both directions and not worth further work. A bit disappointing.
Sutherland	Otter Hole 17/1/76 Bob Meyhew	2 hrs 20m	Inchnadamph	Surveyed to Grade V standards (hand-held Suunto Compass and Clino) as far as the wet bits where Bob's continually extinguishing light and the general nastiness of the place forced us to give up temporarily.

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Sutherland	Smoo Cave 18/1/76 Bob Meyhew	1¾ hrs	Durness	Bob re-observed the compass bearings on all the stations due to previous readings being in error on account of metal deflections from our lamps.
Sutherland	Ach a'Chorrain Caves 21/1/76 Alone		Durness	Investigated the line of sinkholes near the main road. All are well-choked and most probably drain to the line of small resurgences on the river bank. Not really worth further work. The No.1 cave was visited with the intention of digging at the end – but a dead sheep made this inadvisable. A terrific draught was blowing out of this cave, doubtless entering from the shattered cliff-face outside. A couple of holes near the sink were looked at and some stream diverting attempted. Basically a waste of time, though a dry, sunny day may prove fruitful.
Sutherland	Smoo Cave 31/1/76 Bob Meyhew	12 hrs	Durness	Completed main survey of Main Chamber and surface. Measured roof heights using OS Spirit level, hanging from ladder. Spent night in the cave. Possible sump passage found – not investigated.
Sutherland	Smoo Cave 1/2/76 Bob (Andy, Kath, Graham)	13½ hrs	Durness	Completed main survey of Lake Chamber in excessively cold conditions. Thawing ice didn't help matters. Large amount of fluorescein put in sink failed to appear after five hours! Bloody cold day's work!!
Sutherland	Inclined Rift Cave Uamh Cailliche Peircag	½ hr	Inchnadamph	Inclined Rift Cave could show promise with “bang” – UCP is an interesting little system of tubes and natural arches. A small hole was

	Cuil Dubh Dry Entrance 7/2/76 Bob Meyhew			noticed leading off the dry stream bed and this was dug into some 25 feet of dry, gently dipping passage ending in a fork and two chokes of flood debris and gravel. Immediately voted as a promising dig. The heavily choked entrance to Cuil Dubh was reopened and a quick look revealed the cave to be totally sumped at the bottom of the drop from the first chamber. A fairly lengthy examination of various sinks and shakeholes in this area was also undertaken.
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peircag 8/2/76 Bob	2 hrs	Inchnadamph	More digging in the new passage showed that the route to the left is well choked but worth continuing with. (6" of airspace and open for perhaps another 8 feet). An awkward knob of rock growing from the right hand wall is a good candidate for some chemical demolition. A wall of large boulders was built partly around the entrance to help deflect flood debris from the dig.
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Perthshire	Jeannie Barrie's Cave 27/2/76 Alone	½ hr	Carlops	Interesting but mucky little cave. Formed along a fault (?) in the conglomerate – phreatically developed – and then breached by the valley leaving the entrance as a small resurgence. There is a small fragment of aligned passage in the knoll opposite. A couple of shotholes were noticed in the roof of the entrance passage. Digging may reveal further sections of this long, straight crawl – but probably not really worth the effort!
Sutherland	1-2/3/76 - Prospecting immediately behind Grampian Hut. Many small holes and a couple of tiny underground streams found – but nothing worth returning to, with the exception of a swallet near the top of the hill behind hut (which may be Calcite Cave) <i>footnote</i> – “Black Finger Swallet Dig” - 1977			
Sutherland	3/3/76 – Prospecting in and around Morefield Quarry, Ullapool. Nothing found and there is also nothing remaining (at least visible!) of Wilson's Cave			
Sutherland	4/3/76 – Prospecting behind hut – nothing found.			
Sutherland	5/3/76 – Prospecting in area behind Creag Sron Chribaidh (Stronecribie Crags) . Nothing of any real interest found, though the shallow workings behind Pete McNicholl's cottage might be worth further examination.			
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 6/3/76 Bob Meyhew, Andy Parkes	2½ hrs	Inchnadamph	Digging – using new “sauce boat” sledge. Much progress made and several large airspaces opened up below the peat filling. The way on is now fairly obvious and we should be into a passage tomorrow. Andy's sledge performed admirably.
Sutherland <i>Minor discovery</i>	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 7/3/76 Bob, Andy	3½ hrs	Inchnadamph	An hour's digging opened up some 25 feet of small, (dry) stream passage – choked by cobbles and boulders. Two small passages led off but don't appear to go anywhere. Draught from end of main passage. Vast amounts of passage enlarging were then undertaken in preparation for the next burst of pushing digging. A bloody good weekend's work!
Sutherland	Cnoc nan Uamh System Uamh Cailliche Peireag 10/3/76 Bob Thomas (OS), Ian Anderson (Ghillie)	1¾ hrs ½ hr	Inchnadamph	Tourist trip for Bob and Ian – most enjoyable. Also cleared several sledgeloads of grot from the entrance of the dig.
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 13/3/76 Bill Ritchie, John	4 hrs	Inchnadamph	Digging and enlarging passage as far as the “tonsils” where another 6ft or so of open passage can be seen and possibly a passage junction. Bill and John turned up (as far as the rutted field

	(Assynt Police)			beyond Glenbain) in a POLICE CAR!
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 14/3/76 Andy Parkes, Bob Meyhew and Julian Walford	6 hrs	Inchnadamph	More digging etc. Reached a T-junction just beyond the “Epigglotis” (?). Way on is a low, gravel floored passage to the right – with c. 8” airspace. When will it ever end!!

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Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 15/3/76 Andy, Bob, Julian and Carol	5 hrs	Inchnadamph	Enlarged the area around the Epiglotis and also the chamber at the base of the entrance passage. Much rock floor and roof has to be removed from the end before progress can be made – some 15 feet of passage can be seen beyond. And still it goes on
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag (Cnoc nan Uamh System) 17/3/76 Bob Thomas (OS), John Habgood (OS)	1½ hrs 1 hr	Inchnadamph	On entering the dig it was found that the LH inlet passage was emitting a good trickle of water which was flowing down to the “working face” and forming a pool about a foot deep! We then decided to clear more crap from the entrance passage. About ¾ hr later a sudden rushing of water was heard and it was found that the inlet was now a fair sized stream – which did not back up. This was due to a sudden thaw of the snow above. This was also obviously the same stream sinking in the ladder dig chamber. We then did a quick tourist trip to Cnoc nan Uamh to introduce John to the delights of caving.
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 20/3/76 Bob M, Bob T, Andy P, Julian, John Gregory	5½ hrs	Inchnadamph	More bloody digging. Andy widened the squeeze somewhat and we also continued opening up the RH passage below the entrance. Digging at the end is now very arduous.
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 21/3/76 As above	2 hrs	Inchnadamph and more! Continued digging on both faces. Gained some 6’ on the LH face – quite a large passage area can be seen but very lacking in height! Work continues.
Derbyshire	Blue John Mine Caverns 27/3/76 Rog, Sue Biddle, Frances Gillan	½ hr	Castleton	Tourist Weegie Trip! Great. Afterwards attended an excellent Pegasus Dinner, with Mico Russell as guest Much ale quaffed.
Sutherland	30/3/76 – Noted an interesting series of risings on both sides of the river in the small gorge near the FBM, Ledmore. An open, though small, swallet cave was also noted on the other side * of the main road. Needs another look. * “LEDBEG CAVE”			
Sutherland	31/3/76 – “Recce” dig at one of the twin risings at the beginning of Knockan Cliff, just up the road from the hut. Needs more work – easy digging. Also went to Uamh Cailliche Peireag to find that flood water had removed the spoil heap and presumably had flooded the dig, but the inlet stream was disappearing without backing up. Also looked at various caves, sinks and risings en route back to Glenbain Cottage.			

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Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 3/4/76 Bob Meyhew	3 hrs	Inchnadamph	Terminal dig contained large pool which Bob bailed into the “working face” – effectively flooding it. We then transferred our attentions to the “entrance passage dig” – moving some eighty sledge loads of muck (some 24 cu.ft.) This passage is still going big and wide but with little or no airspace.
Sutherland	Creag nan Uamh Bone Caves Rana Hole 4/4/76 Bob, Jim Smart	1 hr	Inchnadamph	Pottered round all the caves and then began a tentative dig in the draughting RH passage. Needs “bang” or hammer and chisel. Investigated a couple of open shakeholes on the moor above the caves. The highest needs another

				look in drier weather and will probably go. The lower was pushed through a vile peaty squeeze into some 15' of 6' high passage, the floor of which is totally peat choked (at least 6' deep). Probably a fully choked pitch. (31/10/95 later known as Rana Hole and probably the top of a c. 100' + deep pitch into Claonaite!) – (Still being dug over 30 years later!!!)
Sutherland	Betula Hole 6/4/76 Jim Smart	10min	Elphin	Long moorland walk to this short and uninspiring cave. Plenty of small formations but not much else. Jim also looked at Uamh an Tartair and both of us searched in vain for Elphin Hole (well, it was nearly dark!)
Sutherland	Uamh nam Breagaire 11/4/76 Bill Lindsay, John Grindle (?), Bob Meyhew	5hr 10m	Applecross	<i>See below</i>

Clandestine pirate trip to this major Scottish system (discovered and explored(!) by “West Highland School of Adventure” (13/4/74) and strict access control practised by their “supervisor”. A smallish, loose entrance in the side of a steep burn leads into a large, walking passage carrying the foot deep stream for c.100' to where it disappears in a low passage on the right. The main, dry passage continues roomily down-dip to a collapse chamber with at least two passages off. The main route descends through collapsed roof-blocks and chambers to a low, extremely well-decorated crawl ending eventually in a heavily stalagmited 12 foot pot – at the base of which two possible ways on are blocked with formations, and the third is partly blocked by gour pools. Water disappears easily here and banging would almost certainly open up the way on. Before reaching the head of the pot, a passage on the right leads through a couple of awkward squeezes into a large and superbly decorated chamber. A beautiful, streaked 5' curtain hangs from the roof on the left and on the right is complemented by a group of 4-5' long straws (and one of almost 6'). These must be easily the best group of cave formations in Scotland! The obvious way on here is choked with break down and would be a major dig. From the floor of the chamber a dodgy boulder ruckle can be penetrated for about 30' into a large, mud floored passage carrying a small stream. Two side galleries lead off and in one of these a large stream can be heard through a hole in the floor. This must be the way on! Total length c.1400'. Bob and I attempted to survey out but soon gave up due to tiredness, lack of time and our clumsy movements which broke off a couple of fine formations. A full survey would need a fairly long trip. At least one passage was not even looked at – this leads to a second entrance lower down the burn. Several photographs were taken.

This major system is one of the most important in Scotland and boasts possibly the finest formations. Potential for further passage is high, especially along the sections of streamway. The nearest possible resurgence is about ¼ mile away. (beneath a rubbish dump!). Work is in hand to classify the site as an SSSI and to attempt to alleviate the access situation. The two GSG lads in the area are concentrating on this and are also digging and prospecting in the immediate (and other local) vicinities. A superb cave by any standards. Much of the further extensions had been found by a Derbyshire caver – Jim Brindsley – who has done a bloody good job of work.

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Somerset	Heale Farm Cave 16/4/76 Andy Sparrow, Chris Backstone, Clare, Rich Stevenson	1¾ hr	Stoke Lane	Steep and loose cave leading to roomy streamway and extremely muddy rift. Rich laid 2oz of bang and we retired to surface. Interesting collectors' piece of a cave!
Somerset <i>dive</i>	Waldergrave Swallet Wookey Hole 18/4/76 1) Backbone, Phil the Miner, Andy Sparrow 2) Backbone, Hannam, Stevenson, Sparrow	1½ hr	Priddy Wookey Hole	First dig of the season at Waldergrave. Removed several rocks and boulders (using new winch) and started to build rough supporting wall round entrance. Training dive for me in Wookey. Got about halfway out of resurgence and decided to return, feeling not a little disconcerted! Found a fairly old bottle on way back, but nothing special.
Somerset	Waldergrave Swallet 21/4/76 Rog Robinson, Martin Bishop		Priddy	Much digging and boulder removing leaving several small open holes in the floor of the now apparently solid 3' wide rift.

Scotland	27/4/76 – Visited the preserved beam pumping engine at Wanlockhead. Had a quick drive around the old lead mining villages of Leadhills and Wanlockhead. Interesting looking area and worth another visit to look at the underground remains.			
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 30/4/76 Alone	2 hrs	Inchnadamph	Dug quite a bit of crap from the end. The left hand wall needs clearing and deepening to give room for progress straight on. Also found a rabbit burrow close to the descending footpath to UCP (on the RH river bank, some 50' above the pools) which on pursuing along the rock face, led to a diggable passage. This small tube is totally choked with earth but could be dug and probably connects with the maze passages in Cnon am Uamh. Lovely sunbathing weather.

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Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 1/5/76 Rog and Sue Biddle, Bob Meyhew, Frances Gillan	2 hrs	Inchnadamph	Overnight rain had created a pool in the LH dig so we removed several sledgeloads of spoil from the RH dig. A railway is urgently needed as sledge-hauling is becoming tiresome.
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 2/5/76 Rog and Bob	1 hr	Inchnadamph	Cleared RH wall of the entrance passage to allow a straight run for the proposed railway.
Sutherland	Uamh Pol Eoghainn 5/5/76 Alone	¼ hr	Elphin	Searched for Elphin Hole in vain. Gave up in disgust and did a quick, dry trip into UPE. Nice little cave – pity it doesn't go any further (though the sump could be promising?)
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 6/5/76 Alone	1½ hrs	Inchnadamph	Cleared a few armfuls of spoil from the LH dig and poked round in the RH dig. Met a bloke on holiday from Canada who was the original “sink chamber” digger when working at Dounreay!
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 7/5/76 Alone	2 hrs	Inchnadamph	Dug and dragged out five small sledge loads from the LH dig. A poly bag found at the end (!) was set fire to, the smoke showing that there is a slow but steady drought outwards.
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 8/5/76 Julian and Bob	4¼ hrs	Inchnadamph	25 small sledges of grot removed from the LH dig, plus some from the entrance passage. Bob fired 8 ozs bang and some cortex (11 yds!) to remove the rock obstruction at the end.
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 9/5/76 Julian, Bob, John Gregory	3½ hrs	Inchnadamph	20 sledgeloads (small) from LH dig – mostly to remove bang debris. The bang had disintegrated the rock lip and several other obstructions. Due to the entry of a small stream from the inlet passage, John, Julian and I then transferred to the RH dig while Bob prepared a charge to remove the squeeze and awkward corner near the “Epiglottis”. We removed some 30 (medium) sledgeloads from the RH face. And still it goes on!
Sutherland	Tree Hole Lower Traligill Cave Uamh Cailliche Peireag 14/5/76 Alone	2½ hrs	Inchnadamph	Both caves found to be surprisingly interesting – especially Lower Traligill – a long thrust plane passage with loads of excellent helictites. Removed a few buckets of grot from RH dig and poked around in a small side passage.

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Sutherland	Cnoc nan Uamh System 15/5/76 James Cobbett, Andrew, Paul Saville	1½ hrs	Inchnadamph	Tourist trip for Andy and Paul. Both highly impressed. Paul has been recruited for the TURDS digging team.
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Sutherland	Cnoc nan Uamh System Uamh Cailliche Peireag 16/5/76 Chic Calder, Paul, Inga, Mike Phinster, Martin (xxxx Climber) Brook	½ hr	Inchnadamph	Quick tourist trip for the climbers as far as the 1 st waterfall upstream. They seemed fairly impressed with the pretties, water, caving etc. (except Martin).. Paul and Chic dug a few buckets from the RH dig and may have reached another junction.
Argyll	20/5/76 – Noted and explored a small (2m diameter) cave in shales (?) at NGR: NN 0897/0312 near Strachur, Argyll. A pit (archaeological?) has been excavated in the soft, shaley floor. The cave may have been formed by undercutting of the nearby stream. Of no further interest.			
Co. Kilkenny Ireland	Dunmore Cave 30/5/76 Peggy	¼ hr	Dunmore	Interesting and impressive new show cave (though not yet opened or completely finished). We had a free, unguided look around the excellently decorated and well-lit chambers. The “Market Cross” column is rather a fine formation and the new cave buildings are very well designed, unlike a lot of other show caves. Well worth a visit.
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 5/6/76 Rog Biddle, Neil, Bob M., Bill Rxxx, Paul, Martin, John Gregory	2½ hrs	Inchnadamph	Carried Dexion and sleepers to dig and then commenced work on both faces – moving a fair amount of spoil (considering our alcoholic state). The RH face is now going vertically downwards!
Argyll	Loglingarton Cave 12/6/76 Alone	¾ hr	St.Catherines	Explored a most interesting cave formed by land-slip on a steep hillside. A 20’ x 2’ open pot leads via 10’ pitch into some 130 feet of rift passages including a free climbable 22’ pitch. Formed by “gulling” or land-slipping, the system is fairly roomy with some traces of orange and black peaty “flowstone” and also some moonmilk. A couple of passages were too tight to enter (as was a smaller though similar “pot” nearby) but all main passages ended in chokes. Probably original exploration, although cave is marked on old 6” map.
Skye	Kilchrist Aves Uamh CG 19/20? (19-21) Uamh Uamh T-Shelf (31)Uamh Uamh Sloadoch 19/6/76 Alone	10m ½ hr 10m 10m 5 m	Caille Gaireallach	<i>See below</i>
	<p>The first cave visited consisted of some 100’ or so of low stream passage ending in a sump. Plenty of moonmilk-like flowstone.</p> <p>A longtrek through the woods brought me to a shakehole entrance with a slot leading down some five feet into a small chamber. A sump on the left was by-passed by taking a tight squeeze a few feet further on. This led into the stream passage beyond the sump. An inclined rift led down into a roomy canyon passage, becoming tighter (and sharper) as it continued. After a straight section the cave emerged (via small dug hole) in daylight. Eight ft further on the cave continued for c. 8 ft – too tight. The stream emerged frm a small rising just beyond this. Total length c. 30m. Judging by the amount of rock moving and exit-digging I had to do, I would think this is a new exploration.</p> <p>A few feet from the exit of the above, another entrance was found leading to c.20, of sporting stream passage. A nice “Cullaun” type cave with a few stals. This was another through trip and emerged in a collapse area. An entrance in a small dry gorge a few feet downstream failed to re-enter the streamway (though it could be heard under the floor) but led to a cross rift – the LH passage ending in a deep, diveable sump (at least 8’ deep). This may also be new stuff but very doubtful.</p> <p>On the way back to the road, Uamh an T-shelf and two other small uninteresting stream caves were explored. One ended in a sump after 20’ (with a rising just beyond!) The other became too tight after c. 20’. This was on the division between limestone and “other rock”.</p>			

An interesting and very pleasant area which could keep one amused for months. Difficult to find entrances and relate caves to names and descriptions!				
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Skye	Beinn an Dubhaich Cave Camas Malag Cave High Pasture Cave (Uamh an ard Achadh) 20/6/76 Alone	20m ¼ hr ½ hr	Beinn an Dubhaich	<p>Bad Cave, though short, is interesting and attractive due to its excellent variegated rock and its diversity of passage sculpture.</p> <p>I was pretty unimpressed with Camas Malag cave as it was more like crawling through a sewer full of rubbish. The previous rubbish choke at the open pot was passable and so a full through trip was done. Undoubtedly the finest system on Skye, I was sorry to find that High Pasture Cave also contained a vast amount of junk – mainly Export cans and rotting sheep fleeces – all tied together with orange bailing twine and bits of fishing net. Yecch! Apart from that, a good trip.</p>
Cumbræe Island, Buteshire	Claremont Cave 24/6/76 Alone		Millport	Uninteresting small raised beach cave in sandstone conglomerate. Apparently nothing else on the island.
Ayrshire	Cleeves Cove 25/6/76 Alone	¼ hr	Dalry	A most pleasant and interesting system of interconnecting joint-controlled passages which, presumably, were once an ‘ox bow’ for the stream below. No hopes of any extensions as the cave has been completely cleared of infill. Worth a visit.
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Staffa	Fingal’s Cave 5/7/76 Peggy (+ 8 tourists)	5 min	Staffa	Reached Staffa by 12-seater rubber motor boat from Ulva Ferry (45 mins in calm sea). Had a quick look at Fingal’s and we were then shown all the other entrances from the sea. A superb island – well worth a day’s visit to explore all of the caves. Fingal’s itself is quite impressive. (NB 2 old sea caves visited on Arran en route several days earlier).
Mull	Nuns’ Cave Pigeons’ Cave 8/7/76 (Peggy) (Andy and Martin)	10 m 5 m	Carsaig Kintra	<p>Nuns’ – a large, raised beach sea cave which is decorated by carved religious symbols dating from 17th century. Large, dry and an excellent living cave.</p> <p>In the evening the two geology students and I accompanied an old local (Ian) across the moor behind Kintra to the site of Pigeons’ Cave. A geo in granite (c. 400’ long) led to the 20’ high entrance. The cave is a straight rift in granite with a somewhat loose-looking boulder roof and, being the home of several wild pigeons, has a large amount of guano on the floor. It is c. 150’ long and 15’ wide by 40’ high at a point some halfway along. Not in “Caves of Scotland” Murder Cave and Asses Cave nearby.</p>
British Speleological Expedition to the Réseau Felix Trombe, Haute Pyrenees, France. 1976				
Haute-Garonne France	Gouffre Raymonde 25/7/76 J.Cobbet, J.Walford	½ hr	Arbas	Arrived at municipal campsite in Prat, Ariège. Practised abseiling and prussicking on the 110’ entrance pitch of the G.Raymonde. Could not go much deeper in this system as the French were working lower down. Nice entrance shaft leading to large chamber and a rift going on into the depths. A top entrance of the huge Felix Trombe system.
Ariège, France	Grotte de Labouiche 26/7/76	1hr 10m	Foix	Tourist trip (in boat) along impressive canal passages – well decorated and roomy. Exit via

	Big Al, Sue, JC, JW, Ratarse, Jane, D.Gill, Pat, Mark, Fish and Liz			artificial shaft. Well worth a trip.
Ariège, France	Grotte du Mas-d’Azil 26/7/76 RA and Jane, JC, JW (and CAR)		Mas-d’Azil	Quick drive through in the car! The N119 road goes straight through this huge, impressive natural tunnel. There is a show cave leading off which we did not visit. Amazing.
Haute-Garonne, France	Goueil di Her 27/7/76 JC, JW, RA, DF, P.Deakin, Simon, G.Cooper, Fish, Big Phil, Terry and Les (PDMHS)	3 hrs	Arbas	Dragged diving gear into this “resurgence” cave in preparation for JC and Fish to dive the terminal sump. Difficulty was found in finding the high level by-pass to “Sump 1” and when it was located it turned out to be very tight and awkward – ending in a c.60’ pitch back down into the streamway (here some 100’ high). Having no tackle we were forced to ditch the bottles and return to the surface (and pub). Several interesting pieces of eroded rock were found in the cave, including a “flat frog” and a sculpture of Poison Dwarf Parkin (later removed). This cave is very liable to severe and rapid flooding and the mud covered walls and ceiling are extremely oppressive. It is of similar character to Ogof Hesp Alyn.
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Haute-Garonne, France	Goueil di Her 28/7/76 As above + Kevin and Al Kemp	7hr 40m	Arbas	Rigged down to main streamway and followed this for over ¼ mile (occasionally swimming) to the terminal sump. High level bypasses were looked for near the sump, in vain. JC and Fish kitted up and after Fish had experienced trouble with the line being buried in silt, James dived. He reached a depth of 85’ with the passage still going down – so due to lack of air he returned (meeting Fish en route). It was later found that the sump is 140 <u>metres</u> long and about 145 <u>feet</u> deep! Only one diver has previously been through (after dekitting for a squeeze) into the unpushed, large streamway which lies beyond. We then exited and returned once again to the PUB. (The extremely strong draught felt in the tight sections must almost certainly indicate a high-level connection with the main Felix Trombe system above).
Haute-Garonne, France	Grotte de Montespan 30/7/76 Torchy (RA, R.Bridger, 5 members of Felix Trombe’s family)	2¾ hr	Montespan	We arrived at the lower entrance intent on an illegal trip to this fine stream cave with its prehistoric engravings and statues. Torchy soon had the gate open and he and I wandered off upstream – looking at the fascinating clay statues en route. These are not taped off and have obviously suffered from vandalism. We had got quite a long way upstream when I lost Torchy in an oxbow. At that moment I heard the sound of an approaching French party coming downstream! Running back down the cave I missed Torchy completely and decided to give myself up. Luckily, Ratarse and Ron were with the Frogs at the time, who were daughters, grandsons, etc of Felix Trombe himself! Apparently the old man had turned up at the cave as the others were changing. Somewhat irately he pointed out that it was illegal and a scientific team were going in (his relations!). When JC pointed out that we were there to explore the Reseau Felix Trombe, the old fellow came out

				with the classic “I AM Felix Trombe!” All turned out well as he became quite friendly and RA and Ron accompanied the team on a through trip, meeting me on the ay. A finecave, though the antiquities are spoiled. Well worth a visit.
Haute-Garonne, France	Grotte du Pene Blanque 31/7/76 P.Deakin, Kev, GC, Scoop, Poison Dwarf, (Les, Terry, Al Kemp) (D.Gill, JW etc etc)	11 hr	Arbas	Five of us bottomed the cave via the previously rigged “Puits arroses” (basically a set of pitches of 25’, 25’, 100’, 140’ and 200’ ?) The streamway at the bottom is very interesting with loads of possible ways on in the roof. The main pitches are superb. On the way out Paul took loads of photographs, mainly in the Salle Grande area above the pitches. Unfortunately two of hos exposed colour films were lost on the way out when an ammo-tin came apart above a 70’ pitch. I personally found that clambering back out of the system with some 300’ of rope practically finished me off. I was ready to drop when I reached the entrance and we were then faced with the equally gruelling slog back up and then back down the ridge. Dwarf assisted a hell of a lot by carrying the rope back to the road. The Pene Blanque is a very extensive labyrinth of huge passages, tubes, tunnels and pitches – all except the terminal shafts being bone dry. A fine cave but a bastard of a walk to.

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Aragon, Spain	Grotte Casteret 3/8/76 JC, JW, various wogs	1 hr	Gavarnie	<i>See below</i>
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Drove up to the Cirque de Gavarnie, on the border of France and Spain and slept out for the night. The following morning, replete with crampons, ice-axes etc we began the long but breathtaking trudge up the side of the cirque to the Refuge de Breché de Roland. From here a climb up a frozen snow slope leads through the Breché itself – a square gap cut out of the knife-edge limestone ridge which forms the French/Spanish border. A further twenty minutes walk across the limestone and snow desert led us to the cave entrance (already half full of tourist types). The large entrance leads directly to the wide underground glacier – a real frozen lake with huge ice columns rearing up in a couple of places. A party of French cavers were just emerging from an ice lined shaft which led to the lower chamber, but we didn’t visit this. We clambered on over ice covered boulders and smaller frozen lkaes to a point where daylight entered from the top entrance, and then returned to eat our wine and Camembert and paté lunch in the entrance.

A very worthwhile trip as the ice cave itself is a collectors’ item and the walk up to it is very fine indeed, with superb views across the Cirque du Gavarnie on the French side, and the desolate Pyrenean mountains on the Spanish. Only spoiled by the hordes of French, Spanish etc, walkers.

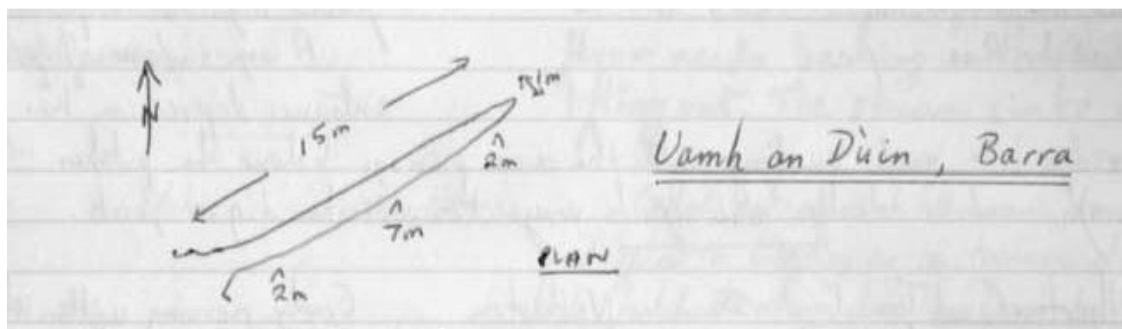
As far as a “Speleological Expedition” goes it was a waste of time. Nothing of any note was achieved though mainly due to lack of information and decent surveys of the reseau Pene Blanque. In this respect it would be worth going back again if good information could be obtained. Especially with a determined diving team. As far as a general holiday and pissup goes it was superb. Within a week we were evicted from our campsite by armed Gendarmerie due to noise and drunkenness. Our topless lady member kept most of our (spirits?) up, and the very frequent visits to the Bar Centrale (St. Girons) and the bar and fête at Arbas managed to make practically everyone very pissed practically every night! Good company, good food, good drink and best of all – good crack. Most enjoyable. Friendly repationships were established with various French cavers and locals and a good time was had by all.

Somerset	Swildon’s Hole 7/8/76 JC, JW, Big Al, M.Bishop, Andy Eavis?, P.Ford, Mitch, Sue and Roy Biddle, Backbone, MacAnus, +2	1hr 25m	Priddy	For most except me this was an after-pub paralytic trip. Some reached Sump 3, some 2½ (Big Al), most reached Sump 1 (me included). Enough said!
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Somerset	Tynning’sBarrow Cave	35m	Tynings Farm	Old timers trip to the recently reopened cave which we explored back in 68-69. The lads have
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	8/8/76 JC, MB, Mac			bribed the farmer with Scottish sheepdogs and pipe music and are now excavating the terminal choked rift. Looks bloody promising and drughts strongly. Quite a few late 19thC beer and medicine bottles are turning up in the entrance fill. I retrieved two.
Argyllshire	Tyndrum Lead Mines 13/9/76 Alone	1 hr	Tyndrum	Investigated several stopes and levels, most of which didn't go very far. One, though, was followed for a considerable distance passing under and over stoped areas of the vein. Another led to a very deep underground shaft. Rather loose workings and probably not worth further investigation. In the longest level an old candle and two 1925 newspapers were found. The mine appears to have been worked on one major vein. Very little in the way of surface remains left.
Sutherland	Cnoc an Uamh System 18/9/76 Anne Ragnhild Mjelva	½ hr	Inchnadamph	Swift tourist trip for Anne into dry passages and down Waterslide. Though she was very impressed, she was quite scared at one point.
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 18/9/76 Bob, Anne, Martin	2¾ hr	Inchnadamph	Dug in LH passage until Bob decided that we were close enough to the sink chamber dig to open up a connection – enabling spoil to be removed more conveniently. This was duly accomplished after a couple of hour's work. The way on is directly below this connection and though lots of spoil have to be removed it looks fairly promising.
Sutherland	19/9/76 – Personnel – Anne, Bob, Julian and I spent a fruitless day digging in a heavily choked depression at an altitude of c. 1000+ feet behind Beinn an Phivain . Although its depth and distance potentialities are superb it doesn't appear to be in limestone! A dig here would be a major undertaking. The depression takes two streams but the actual sinking sites are not obvious. It's a bloody long, steep climb up from the road as well! (900 ft Dig). – Uamh Ard!			
Barra, Outer Hebrides	Uamh an Dùin 15/10/76 Alone		Eoligarry	Abandoned sea cave at alt. 28 metres. The cave is in gneiss and is 15m long by 1m wide. Its height midway is 7 metres. It may be of archaeological interest due to its proximity to the ancient fort of Dùn Scurrial. It is the home of wild pigeons and has a gneiss floor. There is an active sea cave nearby, of similar dimensions but with a collapsing rubble roof. This is also a pigeon cave.



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Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 28/10/76 Bob Meyhew ("Spider" and Mxxx Penman)	4½ hrs	Inchnadamph	Dug into 10' of low, clean washed passage below the "Ladder Dig" entrance. Floor of gravel and boulders needs digging out before further progress can be made.
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag	1½ hrs	Inchnadamph	Removed floor to enable me to see around the corner into an interesting space. There appears to

	30/10/76 Alone			be a comparatively roomy passage heading off at right angles with the LH wall of the dig consisting of only a thin flake. Looks very promising now. SUPERB Grampian Dinner following an almost identical patter to last year's!!
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 19/11/76 Alone	4 hrs	Inchnadamph	Dismayed to find that a stream had washed back the debris from the previous trip, I was forced to clear it all again and load it into sandbags ready for removal.
Sutherland <i>Minor discovery</i>	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 20/11/76 Bob	4 hrs	Inchnadamph	Cleared out the floor of the new "squeeze" and after a few tense moments managed to get into some 10 feet of mansize, clean washed passage becoming partly debris choked at its end. We then cleared much of this new section, stacking most of it in sand bags below the ladder dig entrance. Some rock removal and shoring of the ladder dig entrance was also undertaken. Although partly choked this looks more promising than any previous time. The passage obviously takes the whole stream – is clean washed and scratched by water borne rocks. Before we can progress further it will be necessary to bang the squeeze and parts of the walls. There is a distinct draught.
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 21/11/76 Bob	5 hrs	Inchnadamph	Birthday trip! The mudbank between the new passage and Epiglottis Passage was cleared and stacked in a variety of bags. Very little stacking space left but the water route is now reasonably clear of debris. More shoring erected in ladder dig entrance. What a way to spend a birthday!

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Somerset	Tynings Barrow Cave 19/12/76 Snab, Pete the dentist, Ali, Martin Bishop, Ross	2¼ hrs	Tynings Farm	Assisted with the Grampian dig. Hauled buckets of liquid mud and gravel from the temporarily flooded dig. Looks promising. A large surface collapse has resulted in tons of porridge like mud bursting into the main passage below the pitches. This has to be grovelled through and is slowly making its way towards the dig. Yecch.
Worcestershire	Netherton Canal Tunnel (3027 yard) 27/12/76 Dave Jarratt, Stuart Jarratt, Michael	55m	Netherton	Early morning walk through this interesting old canal tunnel. Were lucky enough to see a barge coming through. Noted several air shafts and plenty of nice flowstone. Handrail missing in parts. On previous day we also looked round the recently partly restored "Cobbs" engine house, just above the Netherton portal of the tunnel.
Worcestershire	Castle Hill Mines 28/12/76 John (Dudley)	1¾ hrs	Dudley	Festered round Singing Cavern and 144 Steps Cavern exiting from the latter via the long inclined squeeze. Fine, snowy weather and a nice trip.
Somerset	Swildon's Hole 1/1/77 Vic, Steve, Bazza (Fish, Jeff Price +2)	2hr 40m	Priddy	To N.W. Passage – stopped at duck. Looked at Heaven and Hell Dig. The streamway was superb with plenty of water. Free climbed the old "40" on way out. A very pleasant trip.
Somerset	St. Cuthbert's Swallet 2/1/77 John Dukes, Andy Sparrow, Pat Cronin, Rich Baker (?)	2 hrs	Priddy	Pleasant "walkabout" to various parts of the system. Nice and wet in the entrance rift.
Somerset	Swildon's Hole 22/1/77	3¼ hrs	Priddy	Photography trip to Sump 1, ostensibly for Wig's forthcoming book. Nice and wet in the

	Martin Bishop			streamway. Cleared much clutter from the floor of the rift just before the well. Streamway deepened by about five feet. Most entertaining.
Somerset	Swildon's Hole 23/1/77 Pete and Alison, Pete Rose, Bob + 1	3½ hrs	Priddy	Digging trip to Sidcot Passage. Removed about thirty buckets of spoil. Also cleared a bit more from the entrance series so it is almost possible to follow the stream right through to the base of the Well. Again, an excellent trip due to the quantity of water.

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Somerset	Manor Farm Swallet 30/1/77 Pat Cronin, John Turner, John Dukes, Andy Sparrow	1 hr 25m	Charterhouse	Nipped down alone to meet the others at their dig in the blind pot at the end. Looks promising. The boulder floor needs bashing with a hammer and lifting out. The stream sinks easily.
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	Wookey Hole 5/2/77 Martin, Jane, OCL, Adrian VDP, Barry Wilkinson and Gary , Richard, Dan Hammel, (Andy Wood) etc. Tony Boycott + bird.	¾ hr	Wookey Hole	Called out at Rich Stevenson's to take bottles and gear to Wookey as a trainee diver (Andy Wood) had failed to return from a "loop" trip on time. Despite being pissed, Richard dived to 20 where he found the lost diver sitting on a rock looking lonely. He escorted him back to 9. Very worrying waiting to find out what had happened!!
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	Swildon's Hole 6/2/77 Snab, Martin, Pete Moody, (Julian Penge, Rich S, Jane Wilson), loads of tossers	6½ hr	Priddy	<i>See below</i>

1 Digging session in Sidcot Passage. Removed about 50 buckets of spoil from the now upward trending passage. Hard work and bad air conditions but looking promising.

2 Visited the thrutchy but interesting new extension to Fault Chamber Aven. A steeply ascending tight tube leads upwards to a height of c.150' above Fault Chamber, where it stops and a parallel tube runs back down to the right for c. 20' to a choke. Diggable but not over-promising. The climb up to the new passage is most hairy.

3 Came out via the very wet "Troubles". Entertainment being provided by Snab who had no zip in his wet suit and insisted on free-diving everything!

4 Met loads of idiots in plimsolls, T-shirts and jeans at the "20". Pissed past them but met another load of them at the Well. Assisted an Indian, a Seikh and a Chinaman up a few climbs then went out. Remembering that we had passed a rather ill-looking girl wearing no boots we decided to go back down and assist. She was found above the Well and was in advanced stage of exposure with badly cut feet. We carried her out and she was "firemans lifted" across the fields and taken to MB's house for a scalding hot bath. Luckily she recovered. A Wessex party went down to assist the group at the "20" who were also in great difficulty and had at least one partly exposed member. These were Oxford students on their first trip apart from three so-called "experienced" bastards in wet suits. Nearly all wore flimsy clothing and plimsolls or wellies. The stream was extremely high. If our party had not assisted the girl she would probably have died.

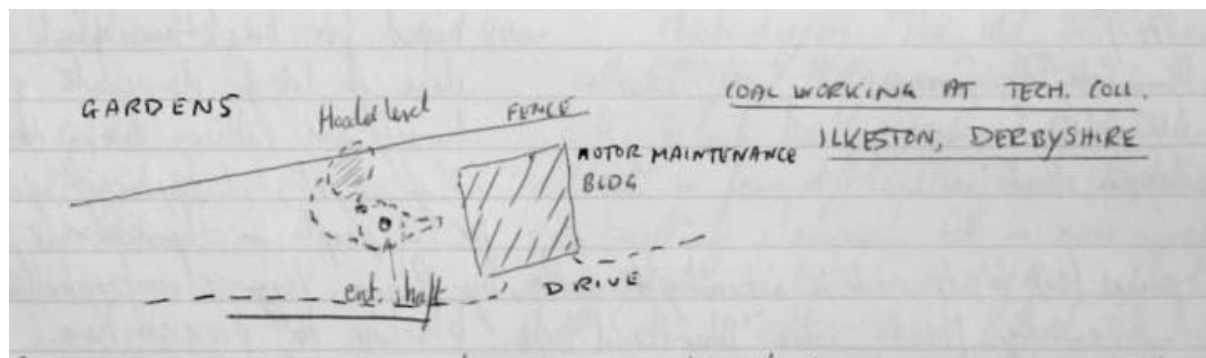
Somerset	Tyning's Barrow Swallet 12/2/77 Alone	3hrs 50m	Charterhouse	Unable to recruit assistance so spent three hours digging alone. Removed large area of RH wall and managed to drain much of the standing water into the rift ahead. Looked very promising as the following day's events were to prove. Read on...
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Somerset <i>Major discovery</i>	Tyning's Barrow Swallet 13/2/77 Ross White, John Dukes, Andy Sparrow, Graham Wilton-Jones	5hrs 50m	Charterhouse	<i>See below</i>
	A couple of hours digging to widen the rift made the hole big enough for me to squeeze through. A slope of rubble led down into a high, narrow passage and a junction with a small stream entering on the left (Griffin Corner). We then followed the stooping passage to the right meeting a large inlet passage coming in from the right and running parallel with the "dig passage". Further on a reasonable			

	<p>stream entered from the left and on we went – over a 20' pit in the floor, through low sections and over constricted bits – meeting several other inlet streams and noting many dry side passages. At one point a 10' deep circular, overhanging pot blocked our way. I managed to climb halfway down this before falling off and the others followed using the shoulders of the previous ones down (On the return trip this was climbed by using a human pyramid – hence the name Pyramid Pot). Onwards along more stream passage – 30' high in places though fairly narrow – to a point where the streamway flattened out and became too small to pass, due to accumulated shingle. It will be an easy ½ hour's dig to remove this and continue on into the depths. This part was christened "A Day" after we had decided to "call it a day"! The return trip was entertaining due to various loose boulders, lack of illumination and general exhaustion – though the latter didn't curb our high spirits and singing. Emerged filthy and knackered but thoroughly overjoyed. There is obviously a great deal more passage to be explored and lots of work to be done in the system. Unlike the other Charterhouse caves, TBS is so far very gently sloping, apart from occasional dips. The joint oriented passages are very noticeable and there is an abundance of excellent fossils. I am sure it will go a long way yet and be one of the largest systems on Mendip. Cheddar here we come!</p>			
Caernarvon-shire	Cae-Coch Sulphur Mine 19/2/77 Neil Worton, Chris Batstone, "Mutton-Duster" (the Dog)	½ hr	Trefriw	Drunk! With great difficulty reached the entrance – wandered in over the crunchy floor and fell asleep on a pile of debris. Woke up later and staggered out again to find both Neil and Dog missing. Neil later appeared minus dog – which he later found still underground. The Dog was the only sober one among us. Batstone reckons it's a fart mine!
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Tynning's Barrow Swallet 26/2/77 G.W-J, "Wig", Nick Helstead, Batbone, Ross, Alison, Dave Walker, "Snab", Martin Bishop, Clare	5¾ hr	Charterhouse	Wig and Co. commenced a survey from "A Day" back as far as Pyramid Pot (833 ft and heading west!!) Martin and Co. took several photographs while the rest of us started clearing the terminal choke. A dam of gravel filled poly-bags was built and gravel and pebbles thrown behind it. Much more work remains to be done here before we can get through. On the way out Alison, Dave and I looked at White Dog Passage and pushed through a stal squeeze into another couple of hundred feet of new passage (including a large chamber) which eventually looped round to emerge at Sheep's Jaw Passage. Interesting but tiring trip. Much mud in the entrance series.
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Herefordshire	Cave SO 534/158 Cave SO 541/158 King Arthur's Cave Caves SO 542/157 1/3/77 Alone		Wyastone Leys Wyastone Leys Great Doward Wyastone Leys	Whilst recceing the trig point at Little Doward I investigated this group of assorted caves. The first consisted of a 6 ft diameter circular, probably artificial, cave in sandy conglomerate. The second was in limestone and was a phreatically developed rift cave some 15 ft long which would go a few feet further with a bit of digging and containing a Greater Horseshoe (?) bat. King Arthur's Cave is very well known (I intended to visit it over 10 years ago!) and is a superb site for a dwelling place. The last group of caves were in limestone and were of the "slitter" type – large, deep rifts and frighteningly loose in parts – not very interesting (Could be Wyastone Whitebeam Cave?)
Derbyshire	Coal Mine 11/3/77 Al Harrison		Ilkeston	Mac and I arrived at the tech college at Ilkeston to pick up Mike and have a jar with Big Al. Here we found that Al was just about to descend an old coal shaft which had recently appeared in the grounds of the college – presumably due to the recent wet weather. A two foot diameter hole beside the car inspection building led to some 15' of shaft in a shaley rock. At the bottom a level to the right was blocked totally with collapsed material while an extremely "gungy" slope to the left led to a 10 foot length of

				timbered level ending in a blank wall and containing a pool of water. The water depth was not checked and it could be a flooded shaft (doubtful). A thin coal seam was visible in the walls. Interesting but unfortunately very short. (NB W/E of 6/3/77 – two days fruitless digging to find Hollandtwine climbing shaft).
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Derbyshire	Poole's Cavern 12/3/77 D.Allsop, E.Hensler, D.Judson, H.Lomas, PB Smith plus loads of others famous and infamous!	½ hr	Buxton	After attending a BCRA regional conference a vast horde of delegates led by Dave Allsop visited this recently re-opened show cave. A superb cavern with fabulous yellow-topped white stal and good lighting effects. Run as an educational centre / show cave and managed by Dave. Everyone scrambled all over the place and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The yellow colours of the formations are incredible. Well worth a visit.
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Derbyshire	Slack Hole Hollandtwine Mine 13/3/77 Alan Steans, Mike, Steve Watson	2 hr 10m	Castleton	Al and I took the telephone to the top of the climbing shaft to contact Mac and Bill at surface. We found that it was possible to hear each other talking without the phone and we must be very close – though several hours strenuous digging failed to reveal any sign of the shaft. Most annoying. The TSG (BSA Scum) dig at Slack Hole (or PB's Folly) was also looked at. A large, square shaft has been engineered and they are at present lining this with large section concrete tubes bought from PDMHS. Situated in an interesting position but looks pretty poor digging. Time will tell.
Derbyshire	w/e 19/3/77 – More surface digging and shoring at Hollandtwine. Extensive collapses of the sides don't help matters. A great weekend though!			
Somerset	Tyning's Barrow Swallet 23/4/77 John Dukes, Ron, Backbone, Jane, Jeff Price, John Turner (4 Surrey Heath lads)	3hr 40m	Charterhouse	Digging trip to "A Day". Shifted about twenty bags of spoil. Plenty more work to do. Also looked at the extremely well shored and impressive entrance to Sidcot School's Read's Grotto dig.
Somerset	Tyning's Barrow Swallet 30/4/77 Ron, John Turner, Martin, Batspiss	4 ¾ hr	Charterhouse	More digging. Another five feet should see us into the open, fairly roomy passage which is in front. Hard work and bloody cold. Also had a look at "Bertie's Paradise".
Somerset	1/5/77 – Ross, Chris B, John T and I filled in the dig at Waldergrave Swallet at the request of the estate. Pity.			
Somerset	Tyning's Barrow Swallet 7/5/77	3½ hrs	Charterhouse	All rushed down excitedly for the hoped for breakthrough! After Pete had done a lot of desperate semi-aquatic digging himself and

	Alison, Pete, Jeff, Sparrow, GWJ, John D, Jane, DFave W, Batspiss etc etc			Alison broke through into some 20' of tight, but high rift passage (enough room for 3 people in the cross rift). This was pushed (20') to its end in a too tight arch, by Alison. Very claustrophobic and misting up easily. Needs some "Blue Pencil" type blasting to progress here. All exited feeling rather disappointed and spent a couple of hours landscaping the entrance.
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Sat night – Great trad. Irish music session in Hunter's with the "MCG Showband", followed by barrel of Fullers at MCG hut, followed by me falling off the top bunk in the Belfry at 7.00 am and breaking my left femur!

This log to be continued at a later date

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Somerset	Wookey Hole 12/6/77 M.Farr, C.Edmunds, B.Woodward and Janet, R.Stevenson, G.Bee, Frank Salt, M.Salt, D.Morriss, "Wig" etc etc, P.Atkinson etc	1 hr	Wookey Hole	Hobbled in to "assist" (watch!) the diving team attempt their "push" into the depths of Wookey. The divers were filmed and interviewed by a BBC unit and dived between 12.00 and 12.30 am. They reached the 25 th Chamber successfully but were then defeated by bad visibility due to heavy rain. A further push is planned for next weekend – if the weather permits. They are optimistic and enthusiastic about the chances of pushing on.
Somerset	19/6/77 – Nig Taylor, Bob Crowe, Ron White and I visited the entrances of the Windsor Hill Swallet Dig (NHASA), The Viaduct Sink (Thrupe Team) and "Bucket Hole Dig" (ex-BEC). The first two are superbly executed digs, in the style of the diggers – and will doubtless yield soon. Viaduct is especially impressive with its superb shoring.			
Somerset	24/6/77 – Bob Cross, Bill Combs (European Grotto NSS) and I toured Mendip looking at mines, digs etc. Visited Wigmore Farm Swallet – a very interesting site in dolomitic conglomerate; Eaker Hill Mineshafts – the double shaft of "All Eights Mine" and two nearby; Brimble Pit Swallets – blocked with rubbish and finally talked with the "Plum Gobs" who are finishing up their operation at Westbury Quarry Fissure.			
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 25/6/77 Nig Taylor, Bob Cross, Stuart (CCG), Lindsey, Ross White, Rod Hobbs.		Red Quarr	Permission given by the farm manager, Mr Booth, to dig. Bob and Stuart went to Bucket Hole to pinch the digging cable while Ross, Nig and I cleared the site of trees, nettles etc. A pulley system was erected and digging commenced in earnest. A fair bit of rock and spoil was removed and built into a walled spoil heap, the sides and top of the shaft walls were "gardened" and the bucket hauling system improved.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 26/6/77 Nig, Bob, Stu, Ross, Rod, Mike Hogg (Orpheus), Rog Sabido, Trevor (Navy), Chris Batstone, (J.Duke, M.Bishop)		Red Quarr	Much digging. The old SVCC winch was collected from Hillgrove Swallet and erected on site. Winch hauling commenced – though not without a few difficulties and teething troubles – i.e. breaking clamps! All is now ready for a long term determined digging effort. The shaft is in a rift – some 6 feet wide by 15 feet long. Reasonably solid sides and all in dolomitic conglomerate. It was dug originally by MNRC (1934-5) and WCC (1938) – both inconclusively.
Tipperaray, Ireland	13/7/77 – While on an Irish Wheelchair Assn holiday in Neuagh, Co. Tipperary, I visited the surface layout of Mogul of Ireland's mine at Silvermines. Willie Troy (IWA member) and I were shown round by John (?) the stored director. The mine is a very large and profitable undertaking and is working extremely rich "flat" deposits of zinc and lead ore below old workings. Unfortunately lack of time and security problems prevented an underground trip – but the shaft top was inspected. Magazine protected by Irish Army outpost! Most interesting.			

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Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 27/7/77 John King (Crawle CC) Ross White		Red Quarr	A couple of hours digging. Making good proress now, helped considerably by the admirable hauling system.
Somerset	Swildon's Hole	1 hr	Priddy	50 feet into Swildon's to assist BBC Points West

	28/7/77 Anita Evans, Ron + 1 (BBC) Chris Hannam, Doug McFarlane, John King, Pete Glanvill, Ross White			camera team to film and interview the “Iran 77” expedition members in an underground atmosphere. Shown in c. 2 minute sequence on 29/7/77 and surprisingly good!
Somerset	Swildon’s Hole 29/7/77 Cathy Couzens, John (?) (Daily Express), Chris, John K, Ross, Trevor	1 hr	Priddy	Assisted the tasty Cathy and the photographer as far as the “40” (I went as far as Water Chamber then later returned to entrance with zero light!) Helped in still photography and interviewing of Iran team for article in Daily Express. The prees enjoyed themselves immensely and bought us a couple of pints each!
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 30/7/77 Milch, Ross, Trevor		Red Quarr	Much digging and deepening of the shaft. Some problems caused by useless ratchet brake onwinch! Some collapse of end wall.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 31/7/77 Ross, Trev, Chris Batstone, Clare, Andy Sparrow, - Jane, Don, Gret (MCG)		Red Quarr	Collapsed debris removed and digging continued downwards. Nearly wiped out Trevor when ratchet failed again! Progressing nicely now and nearing the previous dig terminal rapidly.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 3/8/77 alone		Red Quarr	Investigated several other large, but in general, uninteresting depressions in the vicinity of Wigmore. Erected temporary fence behind dig.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 4/8/77 Stu Lindsey (and family)		Red Quarr	Several bucket loads removed and winch repaired.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 5/8/77 Milch, Jane Kirby		Red Quarr	Shored back wall, cleared overhanging rocks and dug down.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 6/8/77 AM Chris Batstone PM Chris Batstone, Dave and Steve (MEG), Jane and Greg (MCG), Trevor Hughes		Red Quarr	AM – Rain stopped play after 1 bucket! PM – Built “Engine House”, dropped dangerous boulder from far wall and generally pissed about.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 7/8/77 Steve, Ross, Trevor, Nigel, Bob X, Chris, Ian Lewis (Cave Expl. Gp. Sth Australia), Snab and family, Pat and Paul Christie, 4 MCG, several MEG		Red Quarr	Snab opened up interesting rift in the floor but filled it up again with bits of roof! Petrol-driven (MCG) winch installed and “engine house” finished. Table and chairs built! <u>Eventually</u> several buckets were removed!!
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Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 8/8/77 Steve, Snab and family, Alison		Red Quarr	No sign of the unreliable Nigel T! Smashed up several large boulders and widened digat bottom. Unable to start winch.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 9/8/77 Snab and family		Red Quarr	Erected various “mining” notices and messed about with winch. Eventually hauled 4 buckets and a rock.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 10/8/77 Snab and family		Red Quarr	... Dropped rock back down hole! Winched it out again and despite erratic winch cleared all available debris from bottom. Rediscovered Snab’s “500ft” passage – error factor x 100! Actually 5’ deep x 6’ long waterworn and draughting with unstable approach – heading

				back under main shaft.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 11/8/77 Snab and family, Brian Woodward, Linda Hastie (Alberta Speleo Soc)		Red Quarr	More winch trouble but several buckets removed. Tea bar installed! Opened new hole into “Snab’s Doscivery” – now working back under main shaft. Very strong draught.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 12/8/77 Nigel, Steve, Jenny, Ross, Snab and family		Red Quarr	Recovered 15’ sleeper from Viaduct Dig. Dug spoil from floor then decided to rip out near wall of dig and put in vertical shoring. Dug vast amount. Also planted rock plants in spoil heap wall!
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 13/8/77 Bob X, Chris B, Milch (and touriss – Keith, William et al) John Turner and Jill, Snab and Peter, Steve, Chris Smart, Jerry etc. Mario Vitale (Gruppo Speleologica c/o Club Alpino Italiano – Napoli)		Red Quarr	More clearing and shoring. Buzzer working off nife cell installed. Half of near face excellently shored and dig looking much safer. Winch working well.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 14/8/77 Batspiss, Bob X, Ross, Chris Smart, Ken Baker, Rich Barker, Christine Greenall, John T and Jill, Martin B and Liz, Admiral, Ian Lewis (oz)		Red Quarr	Shoring, clearing and digging. Near face now shored down to floor. Looking altogether a nicer place to be than ever before!!
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 17/8/77 Snab family and dog, Bob X		Red Quarr	Removed several buckets alone, then, joined by the others, proceeded to remove several more!

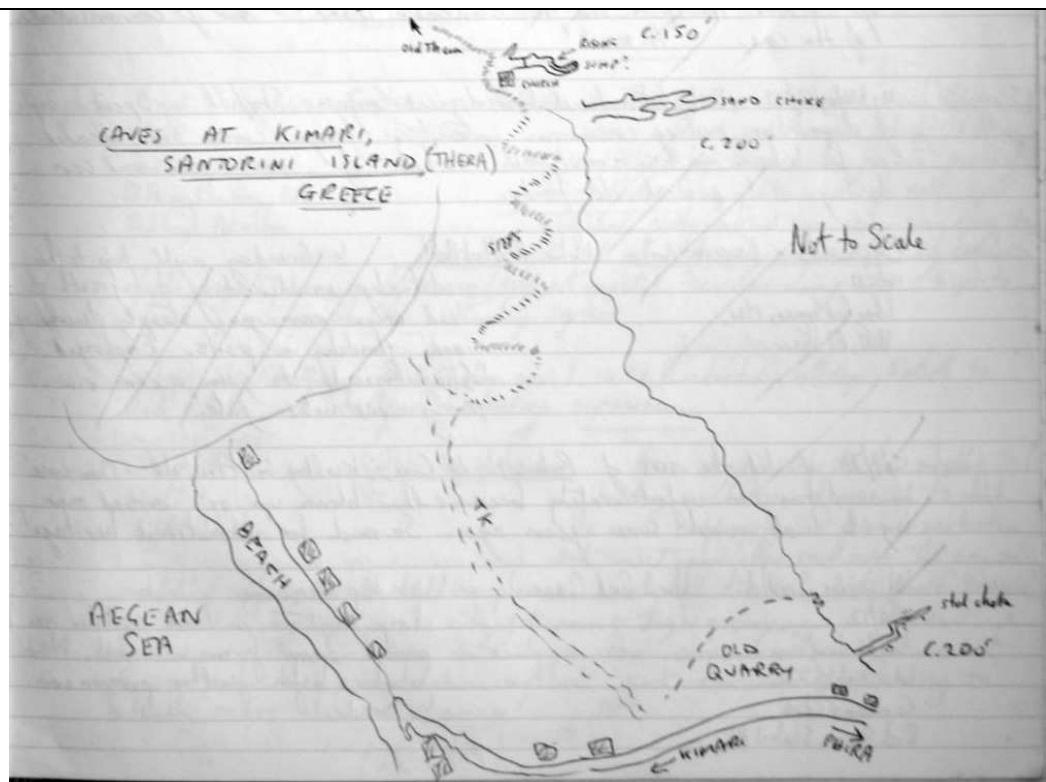


A.R.T.

17/8/77

Wigmore Swallet

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Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 18/8/77 Snab and family and dog, Lord Waldergrave, Ross, Mr Major (estate man.)		Red Quarr	Removed 5 buckets solo. All then removed loads moer. Lord Waldergrave arrived to inspect dig. Was quite impressed and very pleasant. Requested fence round shaft and offered to give us all materials for same.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 19/8/77 Nigel, Ross (Keith Williams, Mr Major etc)		Red Quarr	Erected excellent fence round the site in pissing rain.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 20/8/77 Ross, Bob X, Nigel, Keith, Steve, Phil Ford, Batspiss, Chris Smart		Red Quarr	Spent several hours digging in foul conditions – pissing rain, fog and mud everywhere. All collapsed debris now cleared out and pressing on down. Depth c. 35’
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 21/8/77 Batspiss, Snab family and dog, Phil (visitors – MB, Liz and dogs, Ross, Andy Sparrow)		Red Quarr	Dug more spoil from floor, opening up 2’ high bedding passage on left. Holes beginning to appear in floor. Looking good. Clean washed gravel and a very strong draught.
Somerset	Mine shaft 21/8/77 Snab etc, Ross, Phil, Batspiss		Tor Hole	Investigated collapsed shaft in Tor Hole gruffy ground. 6’ deep entrance leads to about 25’ of mucky level – choked and containing remains of a dead sheep. Shaft obviously goes on down but not worth digging. Shown to us by Mr Major of Waldergrave Estates.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 23/8/77 Snab et al, D. Vosper, Ross		Red Quarr	Spoil removal – also trundled large wedged rocks at top of dig. Hurtled down shaft without much persuasion and smashed bottom section of shoring!
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Santorini, Greece	Three caves at Kimari 4/9/77 Alone	1 hr	Kimari	<i>See below</i>
	<p>Whilst on holiday on the volcanic island of Thera (Santorini), I had a brief look at these interesting caves in marble above the tourist beach of Kamari. The first is situated in an abandoned quarry near the road and consists of some 200’ or so of phreatic maze-like rift passage ending in stal choke. It is well, but drily decorated and infested with assorted bugs, spiders etc (and one bat). Two names were inscribed at the end – one in Greek – and the other saying “Jack Sigalus – 1963”. 60’ up cliff face. Behind the small church 2/3 of the way up the steep ravine leading to Old Thera, I found a large gated entrance leading after some 100’ to a short section of actual underground streamway – the only flowing water seen on the island! This rose from the floor and appeared to sump around the corner. Not pushed due to lack of time, energy and clothing. A short cave near the entrance led nowhere special. The third cave visited is to the right, and above the church. A large bore phreatic tunnel – heavily choked with (volcanic?) sand leads up at an angle for c. 200’ before becoming totally blocked. All three caves are most interesting and doubtless loads more could be found here. All conveniently situated above nude-bathing, scorching hot beach with assorted cafés!</p> <p>(also, on the island, several typical colcanic ash caves – artificial – were looked at. These are carved easily from the soft pumice ash and used for hen-houses, stables, homes etc. Millions of them all over the place.) Also visited small sea cave at Ia. The active volcano of Nea Kaimeri – in the centre of the bay or “caldera” – was also visited. Several craters were examined and sulphur fumes found emitting from cracks. No open holes to creep down, but a fascinating experience. Remarkably similar to Parys Mines, Anglesey.</p>			



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Antiparos Island, Greece	Grotte d'Antiparos 6/9/77 Peggy (+ tourists)	50m	Antiparos	<i>See below</i>
	Amazing tourist trip to this famous cave – explored in the 1600s by French government officials. We caught a boat from Perina on Paros Island, reaching the small harbour near the cave (on Antiparos Island) some 1½ hrs later. From here we hired a mule and rode “two up” along the steep track leading to the cave – about ¾ hours ride into the hills. Very fine! The large cave entrance was reached and a minimal charge paid. A series of spider-web like concrete stairways (with one handrail if you are lucky) leads down in mid air to the bottom of the steeply inclined main passage 400’ down. The cave is a vast inclined rift copiously decorated with (mainly old dry) stal. Curtains, stalactites and ‘mites’ abound. Palette formations were plentiful and the whole cave is extremely impressive. Unfortunately, many of the stals were broken and defaced with graffiti – both ancient and modern. A Greek guide gave a lecture on the cave from halfway down the steps - alas it was all Greek to me! After a reasonably good look round we headed back up the steep climb out and caught two mules down to the boat. A really worthwhile visit, made especially enjoyable by the novelty of mule transport and the remoteness and lack of commercialisation of the cave. A must!			
Sheffield	12-13/9/77 – 7 th International Speleological Congress – Sheffield. Spent a couple of days here meeting numerous interesting foreign cavers and attended a few lectures on international methods of cave rescue and cave diving. Met several old friends.			
Derbyshire	Devonshire Cavern (Mine) 14/9/77 Cheg, Paul xxxx , Mac, Bill, Al Steans	1¼ hr	Matlock Bath	Wednesday night trip to this relatively uninteresting labyrinth of lead mine passages, steeply descending and thrutchy in parts. Employed “Stean’s Removals” to gain access via poorly constructed gate!
Nottinghamshire	15/9/77 – Visited the SITE of Robin Hood’s Cave, Kirkby in Ashfield. This cave is sandstone has unfortunately been either blown up or covered over by the local council some years ago. So much for our national heritage!			
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 17/9/77 Stu Lindsay, Ross, (Mac, Bish, I.Dukes, German visitors) Rich Round, Snab et al.	1 hr	Red Quarr	AM Spoil removing PM Spoil removing. Vast boulder was pulled down from LH wall. Needs blasting before further progress can be made.

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Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 18/9/77	1 hr	Red Quarr	AM – Alan very efficiently banged the offending boulder. This was then removed which took most
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	Stu L, Phil Hendy, Nigel (Sparrow, Ross, Jeff Phillips, Batspiss, Bish, Rich Round, Llyn, Tony and Sue Tucker and dog)			of the day. Phil Hendy took loads of assorted photographs of the dig and diggers. It is now possible to dig under the LH overhang STANDING UP. Work continues.
Derbyshire	Great Masson Cavern Complex 21/9/77 Paul Thomson, Al Harrison, Al Steans, Mac, Cheg, Bill, Rich Gough, Pat and Chris	1hr 40m	Matlock	Evening trip into complex via Masson Cavern entrance and through Black Ox Mine and High Loft Mine workings into parts of King's Mine. Amazing labyrinth of multi-sized mined and partly natural passages – very easy to get lost in. We only explored a tiny corner of the complex shown on the survey (itself not complete). Deserves many more trips to become familiar with this interesting system.
Nottinghamshire	22/9/77 – Whilst working in the Nottingham area I visited (Cinderhill) Babbington Colliery, Northall to check a bolt on the headgear. Interesting experience.			
Derbyshire	Longshot Cave 23/9/77 Big Al, Rich, Mac	1 hr	Middleton-by-Youlegreave	Recce digging trip to this small bedding cave – one of several to which the name could apply. A boulder was broken and removed, plus other small rocks. The way on consisted of a flat, 3” high bedding plane in nearly all directions. Not worth any more work in my opinion, as the (at present dry) resurgence is of identical dimensions. There is certainly a small cave system there but I am sure it is impassable without vast amounts of blasting to actually MAKE the cave passage!
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	24/9/77 – Attended meeting of Derbyshire Section CDG. Plans for re-organising the section and establishing training meets were arranged. In the afternoon, we heard that one of the members – Mike Nelson – had drowned in Ilam Risings.			
Staffordshire	25/9/77 – Ilam Risings – Most members of the section – along with several others - went to the site to offer what assistance they could in the recovery of the body. Ken Pearce had found Mike some 150’ in on Saturday night. Jerry Murland and Mike Jeanmarie dived to recce the situation. Tom Brown arrived and removed the kit from the body and moved the body a few feet to where it became jammed by a rock flake. PM. A team of Yorkshire divers arrived and Phil Poppard dived to remove the flake and move the body further towards the entrance. Oliver Statham and Phil then removed the body from the cave. Rescue over at 8.00pm. Returned to Miners’ Arms. It is possible that the diver’s line (Glowline) became undone as he was laying it. In the nil visibility he attempted to turn round and his gag became dislodged causing him to panic.			
Derbyshire	Masson Cavern Complex	1½ hr	Matlock	Descended via 50’ shaft into Kings Mine. We then explored the workings of Princess Mine,

	27/9/77 Big Al, Mike?, Cheg, Terry (PDMHS)			noting several nice pools of cave pearls and fine, white flowstone. Another part of this extensive and labyrinthine system. Exited via Masson Cavern entrance.
Derbyshire	Masson Cavern Complex 1/10/77 Al, Al, Cheg, Mike, Terry (xxx) Dave Barker, Ron, Pete (PDMHS) Dave Gough etc.	4 hrs	Matlock	Combined meet with PDMHS to investigate the possibility of connecting the recently investigated series of workings (“Yhudes” level) with the bottom of Gentlewoman’s Pipe in Queens Mine. We entered via the 230’ “Day Shaft” on the PDMHS winch. The shaft is a fantastic example of a hand picked haulage shaft. Approx 6’ x 3’ it is perfectly vertical and clean washed and drops into some 1500’ of fantastic coffin level – possibly the best in Derbyshire. We headed up the workings to a collapsed area some distance in where digging, letting off detonators and burning fuel for smoke ensued. (A smoke connection was in fact established with the collapsed winze in Queens Mine). We exited via the coffin levels and sough emerging in a back yard in Matlock Bath! Fantastic mine and superb trip. The through trip, when connected will be over a mile in length and some 700’ deep, making it an extremely fine system.

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Derbyshire	Hollandtwine Mine 2/10/77 Terry Worthington (PDMHS) Jeff (PDMHS) Al Steans, Mike O’Toole, Bill, Jackpot CC (4) (Les Riley, John, Sue, Ray – SURFACE, PDMHS)	6 hrs	Castleton	Recovery trip for digging equipment and old mining equipment. The Jackpot lads were abseiling main shaft to bottom. We used the PDMHS man rider to 150’ and then headed down the climbing shafts. Al, Mike, Bill and the Jackpots cleared all gear from the natural series while the three of us loaded stuff onto the PDMHS gear-hauling winch at shaft bottom. All the platforms and scaffolding were demolished and removed. The superb mine tram from the 340’ level was removed (along with rail sections and other artefacts) and all fixed tackle pulled out. The PDMHS did a very fine job. The trip was necessitated by the fact that the spar man is going to remove the top surface layer – including the tops of both shafts! All gear was removed in case it became impossible to re-open the mine. The tram is to go to a display at the new mining museum in Matlock.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 8/10/77 Mac, Snab et al, Rich Gough and Jerry, Chris Smart, Andy Sparrow, Phil Hendy, Batspiss.	1 hr	Red Quarr	Cleared more rocks and mud from bottom and re-opened the tight open rift in the floor. A very strong draught comes from here and things are beginning to look very promising. Plenty of space at the shaft bottom for shovel and hammer wielding, etc.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 9/10/77 Martin Grass, Batspiss, Mac, Chris Smart, Mr. Nigel. Visitors (MB, Jenny Sandecott and friend, G.Pxxx, Andy Sparrow, Bob Meyhew, Julian Walford)	1 hr	Red Quarr	More clearing and digging. Broke up and removed several large boulders in the floor and enlarged the working space. Next trips should concentrate on digging straight down into the floor in the hope of hitting the tight open rift at a lower, wider level. Far wall needs ginging or shoring up.

Nottingham-shire	October 1977 - during the course of work visited surface remains ie pithead baths etc of Bestwood Colliery, Notts. Interesting engine house and headgear in situ and impressive Victorian colliery village.			
Nottingham-shire	Salutation Inn 12/10/77 Al Steans, John? (ACC)	¼ hr	Nottingham	Got pissed and attended an “Antares Caving Club” meeting. One of ‘em kindly took us on a guided tour of the artificial and ancient sandstone caves below the pub; these consist of a series of hand-picked, oval chambers and shafts with other shafts in the ceiling boarded over. Various reasons for their existence are put forward - hideouts, brewing and storage cellars, monastic chapels, gambling dens, sand mines etc. Not very extensive but most interesting and worth a visit if only for the fact that the entrance is in the BAR!
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Nottingham-shire	Mortimer’s Hole Western Passage Brewhouse Yard Caves 14/10/77 Various others	½ hr	Nottingham	Guided tours around these artificial caves and passages below Nottingham Castle and the Brewhouse Yard Folk Museum. Mortimer’s Hole (dating from the tenth century?) is famous for its historical connections concerning King Edward I and Queen Isabella – and the murderous and amorous Mortimer. It also contains gun positions for defence of the castle. The Western Passage includes a soldiers’ garrison room cum prison, a dungeon which once held a Scottish King and the food cellars of the Duke of Newcastle. Excellent guided trip for a mere 5p. Fantastic value and extremely interesting. The caves below the museum contain exhibits on Nottingham brewing and on the use of many of the local caves as air-raid shelters during World War II. The museum itself is superb. A most worthwhile afternoon’s “caving”.
Derbyshire	Duce Hole 15/10/77 Andrew, MacAnus	¼ hr	Foolow	Swift inspection of the Stockport CC digs. We may re-commence our dig at the end of the terminal rift. Also looked at Swevic House Swallet and a collapse nearby. The collapse was visited on 16/10/77 and found to end after c.10’ in a too tight rift in limestone with cherty sides. Not really worth digging. We hope to get permission to dig the main swallet cave but it is doubtful.
Derbyshire	Cumberland Cavern / Wapping Mine 19/10/77 Cheg, Chris, Mac, Andrew, John Bacon, Big Al, Al Stean, Dave Gough, Tommo	20m	Matlock	Very quick, drunken rush through the system from Cumberland entrance to Wapping entrance. Large, rambling pipe workings – part once a show cave. Nice easy trip and out for more booze.
Derbyshire	Duce Hole 22/10/77 Cheg, Bill, Mac, Andrew, Batspiss	1½ hr	Foolow	Cleared loads of spoil from the terminal rift using paint cans – stacked in sandbags to form a dam in the main passage to deflect water into the first sink. Superb Grampian Dinner on Sat. night followed by usual excellent Sunday pissup in the Packhorse.
Derbyshire	Good Luck Mine 25/10/77 Al Steans, Mac, Cheg, Big Al, Dave Gough, Thommo, Terry (PDMHS)	1¼ hr	Via Gellia	Very interesting visit to this “show” mine being gradually opened up and vaguely commercialised by PDMHS members. Parts of the workings date from the middle 19thC up to the 1940s. Fine examples of original “herring bone” stone stempling and iron tramway in situ. PDMHS have added displays of tools, ore chute, winches, trams, lead ore measure, ladders etc to give

				adventurous members of the public a chance to see what lead mining is (or was) all about. Well worth a trip.
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Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 29/10/77 Robin Sheen, Batspiss. AM Al Thomas (Ross, Mac, Jane, Sparrow etc VISITORS) PM	1 hr	Red Quarr	AM. Cleared two buckets of debris until the bucket began falling apart – necessitating a halt. Work then commenced on the construction of a ginged wall halfway up the back of the shaft to act as permanent shoring. Large slabs were cemented in on top of a layer of railway lines and iron mesh. Lots more work needs doing on this. We also dammed the dry streamway to the collapsed sink nearby in the hope that enough rain will send a nice stream down the dig and give it a wash. PM. Al Thomas put two sticks on an obstinate rock in the floor. Very loud bang and it appears to have been converted to gravel. No more work done this weekend due to superb stomp (fancy dress) at Priddy Village Hall.
Derbyshire	While working in the Worksop area, passed by Cresswell Crag – noting the now gated entrances to the Cresswell Caves – famous archaeological site. Did not have time to stop for a proper look. Alas. Interesting area.			
Worcestershire	Castle Hill Mines 5/11/77 Al Steans, Mac, Steve, John SAmith, Bob Proctor	1 hr	Dudley	Visited “144 Steps Cavern”. Very pleasant fester followed (and preceded) by vast amounts of fine ale.
Worcestershire	Castle Hill Mines Dudley Canal Tunnel 6/11/77 Bob, Mac, Al, Steve	1¼ hr	Dudley	Superb fester around “Mud Hole”, “144 Steps Cavern”, “Flooded Mine” and the mine used as a concert hall. Much floating about in inner tubes. Climax was finding a polystyrene settee and sailing it along part of the Dudley Canal Tunnel with three of us sitting on it! Excellent weekend.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 7/11/77 Zot, Mac		Red Quarr	Transported vast quantity of sand and cement to site in preparation for ginging work. Pissed down with rain.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 8/11/77 Mac	1 hr	Red Quarr	Removed several buckets of spoil despite malfunction of tipping device.
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Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 9/11/77 Mac, Tom Temple (RN) George Dixon (RN)	1 hr	Red Quarr	More debris removed and much of the boulder in the floor smashed up – STREAM going down shaft and rushing merrily away into the small, draughting open rift. Looking promising (again).
Wiltshire	Midford Mine / Hayes Wood Mine / “Montana” Mine 9/11/77 Mac, Bish, Tom, Jane Kirby, Tony Comer, “Prew II”, Andy Sparrow, Clare, Neil Weston, Batspiss	1¼ hr	Midford	Highly entertaining evening visit to these superb stone mines. Many old cranes and other relics in situ. Large labyrinthine areas of brick pillar supported workings – prepared for MOD but never used. The antics of the team (especially the Pegasus contingent!) somewhat amazed “Prew II” the leader. Good night’s boozing afterwards at the smoothies pub nearby!
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 10/11/77 Tom, George, Mac, Jane, Marilyn, Stu Lindsey, Rog Marsh	1 hr	Red Quarr	Several more buckets removed and a fair bit of concreting accomplished on the ginging. Lost my bloody watch somewhere. It is now either buried in the spoil heap, crushed underfoot at the shaft bottom or permanently concreted into the ginging! Tent erected over engine house.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 11/11/77	1 hr	Red Quarr	Digging. Opened small hole in floor which revealed c. 8’ drop into open rift. Looking better

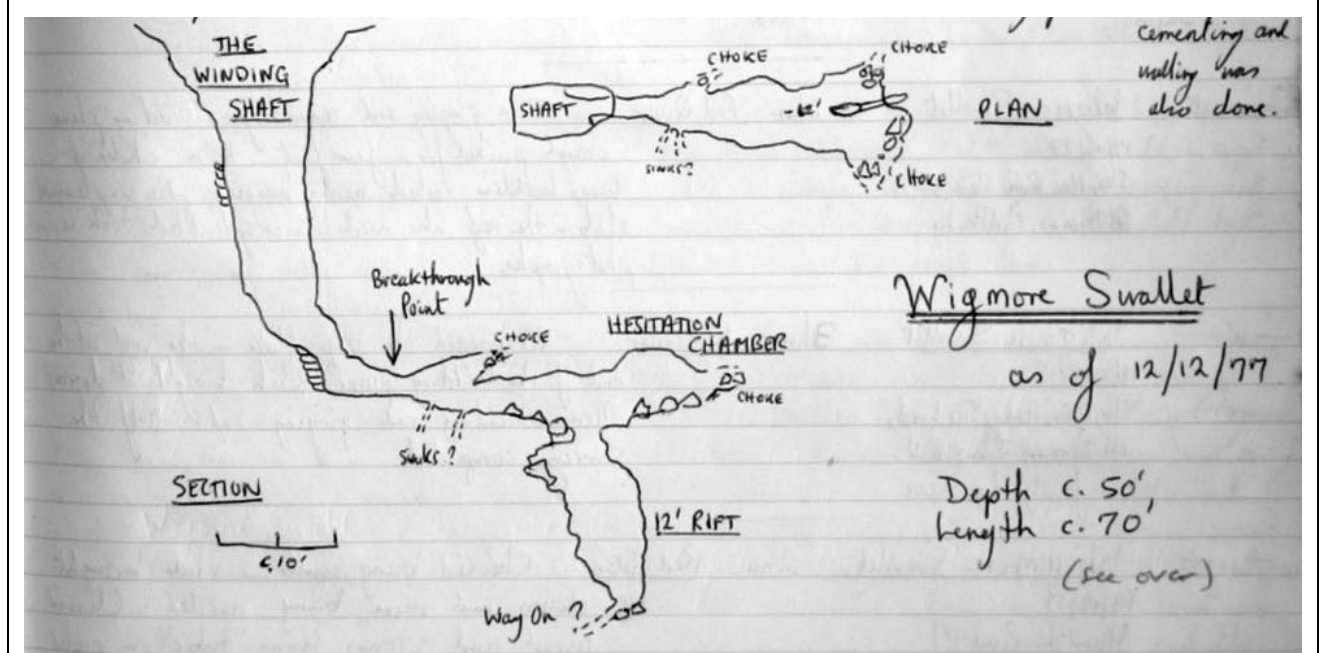
	Mac, Stuart L, Ross			than ever!
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 12/11/77 Mac, Jane, Batspiss, Steve, Prew II, Jerry, Al Steans, Al Thomas, Steve and John (PCG), Stu L.	1 hr	Red Quarr	Digging and pushing open rift in floor. To make access easier, Alan banged the sides of the rift, with excellent results.
Somerset	All Eights Mine 11/11/77 (Batspiss lifelining)	15m	Red Quarr	Descended c. 100' (?) to flooded shaft bottom. Stopping and loose deads off to sides and bottom of square shaft seen. Old railway lines sticking out of water. In limestone. 2' straws on stemples.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 13/11/77 John T, Jane, Mac, Stu L, Batspiss, Prew II, Jim Dunton	1 hr	Red Quarr	General digging and clearing of bang debris from the rift.

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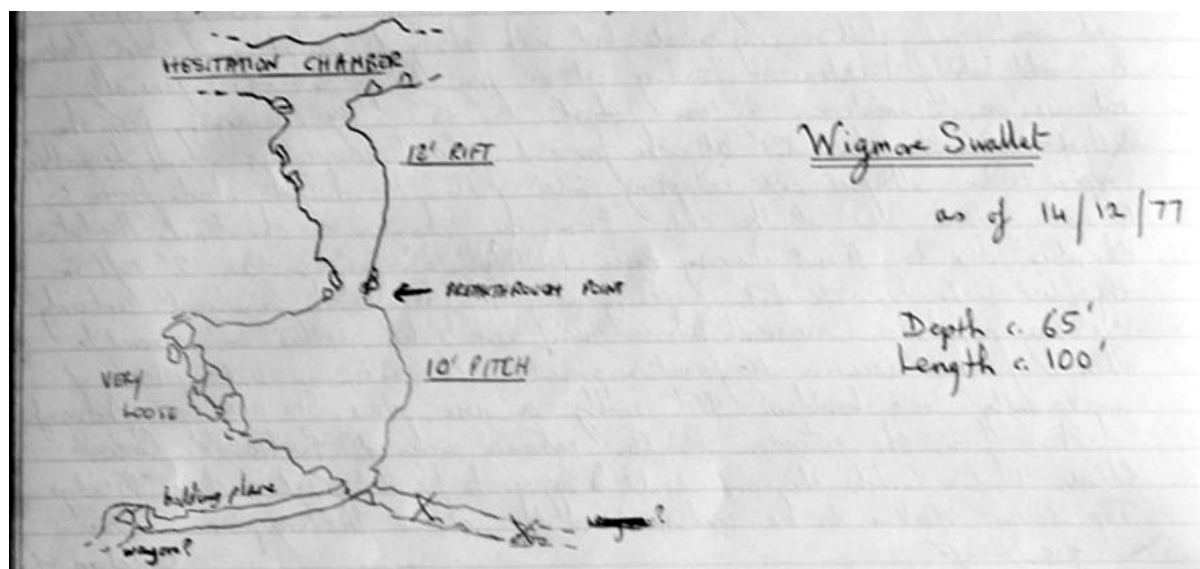
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Wigmore Swallet 12/12/77 Stu Lindsey, Jane Kirby	2 hrs	Red Quarr	<i>See below</i>
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The previous day, Stu had opened up a hole from the rift at shaft bottom which appeared to open out beyond. We moved several blocks which had been removed from the roof and I crawled in to obtain a view into what seemed to be a roomy chamber. I offered Stu a chance of going in first but he was a bit apprehensive of the state of the roof above the sandy crawl leading in. As it happened, he was quite right! I crawled in and deepened the floor a little before giving the roof a bash – most of which promptly fell in! This was soon cleared and Stu and Jane joined me to explore the find. (entered at 4.15 and explored for ½ hour).

The chamber was of a rather dubious nature in a series of rifts and joints, and still in conglomerate but with plenty of protruding chert flakes and odd bits of limestone standing out as grey lumps in the generally red conglomerate matrix. It was about 15' long, widening from the initial 3' to about 12' at the far end. Small openings round its walls appear to be collapsed and collapsing inlet rifts. Its height starts from c. 4' up to about 10' at the end. From the chamber – christened “Hesitation Chamber” due to Stuart having twice hesitated to enter it – a 12' rift in the floor leads to a choked opening at floor level which is almost certainly the way on. Large loose wall blocks will have to be smashed and removed to allow further access. No formations present in the extension but plenty of unpleasantly loose boulders. Not really a nice place. Stu took epic photographs. In form, the extension resembles entrance areas of Pinetree Pot, Cuckoo Cleaves, Foot and Crutch etc, and would appear to be typical of these “Mendip Top” caves. Work is to be continued at the choked “bedding plane” Some cementing and walling was also done.



Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Wigmore Swallet 14/12/77 Stuart, Snab, Anita, Jane, Sparrow, Batspiss, Clare	4 hrs+	Red Quarr	AM Stu, Snab, Anita, Jane and I carried on cementing and ginging the back wall and clearing and enlarging the entrance passage. In the evening Stu, Jane, Clare and I carried on while Andy and Chris bashed boulders at the bottom of the 12' rift. About 8pm cries of excitement issued from the depths and we all joined them to push a further roomy 10' pitch (with plenty of loose rocks about which led to a flat out crawl descending some 15' to a pebble choke – an awkward and tight place to dig but obviously the way on. We are stillnot in limestone but it can't be far away. Depth now around 65', length c. 100' – quite a respectable bit of cave and one in the eye for the "Doubting Thomases".
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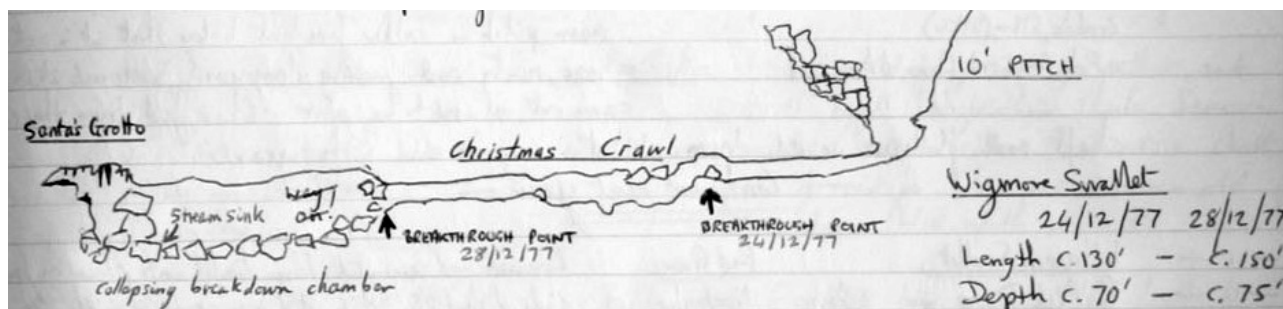
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Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 17/12/77 Stu, Mac, Ross, Steve, Al Thomas, Phil Hendy	4 hrs	Red Quarr	More ginging and cementing. Bedding plane crawl pushed for a few feet to a choke of large boulders which needs banging. An unpleasant slab in the roof also needs removing. Phil took several photographs.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 18/12/77 Stu, Chris, Andy, Sue Lord, Al Thomas, John and Jill, Snab, family and dog, Steve	3 hr	Red Quarr	Al banged the large flake – the roof at the end of the bedding plane, which brought it down. More cementing and ginging and half the survey completed.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 19/12/77 Stuart L, Paul (?)	2 hr	Red Quarr	Checked bang results – slab brought down and more bang needed. Cleared gravel and stones from "tube" on right. Also installed concrete lintel on nearside wall and stole Christmas tree for Belfry.
Somerset	Swildon's Hole 21/12/77 Jane, Stu, Paul Herbert, Ross White	2¼ hr	Priddy	Tourist trip to Sidcot Dig extensions. Looked around the first hundred feet or so (quite pleasant) and then headed out for a quick pint. Nice trip – had the cave to ourselves.

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Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Wigmore Swallet 24/12/77 Ross, Backbone, (Zot, Jane, Mac, Steve at	3 hr	Red Quarr	Cleared bang debris at end of cave and after trundling the large boulders beyond I squeezed into a bout 6' of passage with a large rock blocking the way on. Ross managed to clear
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	surface)			debris from the right side of this and passed through into some 20' or so of low, wide bedding plane passage with a squeeze midway, and ending in a rift leading to a boulder collapse with a view into open passage beyond. A couple of hours digging and crawbar work should let us into this. The draught is strong and the way on appears to be higher and possibly joint-controlled. Looks good! Named "Christmas Crawl" in honour of the occasion – Christmas Eve. (Let's hope we find Santa's Grotto at the end!)
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Somerset	26/12/77 – Concrete lintel for shaft bottom lowered down shaft – Ron, Jane, Chris, John Dukes			
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 27/12/77 Ross, Chris, Jane, Pete and Alison, Mac, John Dukes, Pete Rose, 3 Speleo Holland, Alan Thomas	3 hrs	Red Quarr	Alan banged a constriction in the bedding crawl – possibly the wrong one! Pete M, Ross and Chris went down to remove the debris. Much ginging and cementing was also done, including the lintel at shaft bottom. A reasonable day's work.
Somerset discovery	Wigmore Swallet 28/12/77 Chris Batstone, Stuart Lindsay	2 hrs	Red Quarr	A few minutes digging and pushing boulders by foot (!) gave access to the open passage beyond Christmas Crawl. This led to a c. 15' square breakdown chanber with loose walls, floor and ceiling with a nicely decorated grotto (Santa's Grotto) off one corner. This contained several short straws, twin stalactite of c. 9" length, two areas of stal flowing over mud and various mud/stal, mini-formations. Quite pretty. Because of the collapsed floor there is no obvious way on and the draught disperses here. At least one small stream obviously sinks in the floor when wet. Digging will probably stop here temporarily until shaft lining is completed. Also did some token digging and infilling at Tynings Barrow Cave – PM.
Bristol	Pen Park Hole 28-29/12/77 M.Bishop, Ross, Stu L., Chris Hannam + 3 MEG, Mr Nigel, 2 Speleo Holland (+others at surface)	2¼ hrs	Bristol	Traditional mega Christmas Trip! Rog Mank, Ross, Martin etc dug open a new entrance as the old one had been plugged with concrete! Entered at 12.30 to emerge at 2.45am after much time-wasting on the pitch due to the crowds. All were suitably impressed.

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Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 30/12/77 Jane, Chris, Stuart (visitors – Cobbet, Bishop, Neil Simpson, Rog Dors)		Red Quarr	Mainly shaft ginging – unfortunately grit supplies have been curtailed due to a meeting with PC Brice at the lay by! – "if I'd been a REAL policeman you could have been in trouble".... Tidied up the site and removed old winch to Wessex. Stuart commenced a dig in the entrance squeeze.
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Somerset	Wigmore Swallet Cow Hole 31/12/77 1 Chris, Garry, Dave, Graham, Steve (SHCG) 2 Fish, Sue Lord, Chris Batstone	2¼ hrs	Red Quarr Nordrach	The Surrey Heath lads gave welcome assistance with ginging and cementing. They also went down in the afternoon and photographed the place to death. PM – we descended Cow Hole – AT LAST! The main pitch is rather fine but below that it is extremely loose, nasty and fucking dangerous! Bottomed it and came out, relieved to be alive. Chris fell down the entrance shaft and flattened an oil drum. What a way to end the year.....
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet Rocket Drop 2/1/78 1 Jane, 4 SHCG members 2 Jane, Ross	¾ hr	Red Quarr Nordrach	Lowered and cemented large lintel into place on far side of shaft. SHCG did more ginging in the afternoon. Rocket Drop is a horrible muddy grovelly hole in relatively solid limestone but with some fine pretties (mostly straws) – in its upper parts. The end is an unpleasant “Easy Street” type passage – being banged.
Wiltshire	Browne’s Folly Mine 4/1/78 Chris Batstone, Jane	1 hr	Bathford	Interesting wander around this nicely preserved stone mine. Very impressed by “Clapham Junction” and the place where “Shake Browne kept his ferrets in this place, 1899”. Very pleasant trip.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 7/1/78 Stu Lindsay		Red Quarr	An hour or so spent in ginging the shaft.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 6/1/78 Stu		Red Quarr	Ditto – ginged on both sides. Far side only about 5’ below top ledge. Work continues.
Somerset	28/1/78 – Very large stream going down Wigmore so cementing abandoned. Chris, Ross and Claire went to the bottom and did some digging, following the sinking stream. Jane, Martin B, Mark – Mark and I lowered a few rocks down to the wall and played with the surface stream.			
Somerset	Sandford Levvy Mangle Hole 29/1/78 Barry wilton, Mike Wheedon, Chris Batstone, Martin Grass. (+bloke +3 kids)	½ hr ½ hr	Sandford	Intention was to explore Mangle Hole but doe to another party going down we first visited the Levvy (in company with a middle aged bloke who had been dragged down by his three kids!) We festered along the Levvy looking at just about everything of interest and tyingto instill some “cave sense” into the 7 and 9 year old boys. Thence to Mangle Hole where Martin, Mike and I descended to about 2/3 of the way down the main rift passage before returning to surface. Very impressed with the size and phreatic nature of the place. A real classic cave and definitely warrants a return visit.
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Wiltshire	Swan Mine 1/2/78 Chris Batstone, Jane Kirby	1 hr	Bathford	Pleasant and interesting fester around this (relatively) short freestone mine. Photographs were taken by Chris of the working crane and also of the crane crushed by a roof slab.
Somerset	Compton Martin Ochre Mine 4/2/78 Martin Bishop, Jane Kirby, Stu Lindsay, Stella Matthews, Martin Grass	1 hr	Compton Martin	Interesting system of “pillar and stall” type. Labyrinthine levels. Several assorted bats in situ. Recovered a short piece of rail for Cheg andalso an old steel wedge. Well worth a visit.
Somerset	Reservoir Hole Wigmore Swallet 5/2/78 1 Chris Batstone, Brian Prewer, Dave?, Martin Grass 2 Mac, Chris, Ross,	1 ¼ hr	Cheddar Red Quarr	Excellent trip around the fantastic Reservoir Hole. 2,500’ of passage, much of it beautifully stone walled – shafts both up and down through boulder chokes, causeways, etc – nearly all drystoned. The main phreatic tunnel and the huge rifts are very impressive. There are several nice formations. The whole dig(s) show fantastic hard

	Jane, Barry Wilton, Colin Dorley (Angie, Brenda)			work and expertise over many years. Superb. Wigmore: The concrete fence posts were carted to the dig and a couple of feet of ginging concreted in. (Also did a small amount of ginging, alone, on 3/2/78)
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 6/2/78 Chris Bradshaw	35 m	Red Quarr	A foot or so of ginging completed. Also a tourist trip to the end for Chris. He was impressed. Great dinner time session in Hunters' after meeting Rod Robbins (since 10 years!)
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 28/2/78 Chris Bradshaw		Red Quarr	Pissing rain! Diverted huge stream down shaft and cleared some of the large cracked boulders from shaft top. Unfortunately most fell down the hole!
Somerset	Bone Hole 2/3/78 Lin Williams, Di (WCC) Martin Bishop	1 hr	Cheddar	Interesting and well decorated archaeological cave. Developed in a typical Cheddar-type rift it looks a promising dig. Many human bones etc in situ.

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Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 3/3/78 (Stu L, Mr N, Willy Stanton, Pete Smart)		Red Quarr	(AM. Recording session for Radio Bristol in the Hunters' concerning forthcoming Austrian Expedition) Cementing and dye-testing at Wigmore. Willie put a litre (?) of Rhodamine in the stream in two bursts with a 4 hour difference. All possible resurgences were sampled over the next three days and a positive result was achieved at Cheddar! The dye took just under 43 hours to reach there in fairly high water conditions. It can be assumed that the Wigmore stream must connect with the Tor Hole water – and there is now over 11 kilometres of passage to be found!! (Fairman's Folly and Vee Swallet were also tested.)
Somerset	Cadbury Camp Mineshaft 4/3/78 Graham Wilton-Jones (J.Dukes, R.Sabido)	40m	Congresbury	The shaft had recently opened up in the central embankment of Cadbury Camp, directly above the Country Club. It is some 8' diameter at surface and 6' at bottom. The top 6' is ginged with blocks of mortared sandstone(?) but the rest is in solid limestone and shows nothing except shothole marks. Depth is around 140-150 feet and the bottom is blocked with earth and stones, doubtless much being from the original capping. It is relatively dry and there are no obvious signs of backed-up water. Its purpose is unknown but it is either a large well or trial mineshaft – both being very doubtful in such a position. Digging would require a winch to surface and would be tricky. It is hoped that when the shaft is capped, a lid can be fixed as it is the next practice SRT site around Mendip!
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 4/3/78 Paul Heodgson, Stu L, J.Dukes, GWJ, Michael (Swiss caver) and SHCC lads.		Red Quarr	More concreting. The Swiss caver was suitably impressed.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 5/3/78 Graham, Garry and other SHCC bods, Stu L + various Cotham		Red Quarr	Completed ginging of far wall and wall facing ladder. Only near wall needs finishing before capping is attempted. Looks good.

	bods, Jok Orr and wife, Tim Large, Darnie			
Somerset	6/3/78 – Snab, the Shepton secret weapon and I fenced the new dig site at Tynings.			
Pegasus Dinner – 18/3/78 – excellent				
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 23/3/78 Liz Bishop	1¼ hrs	Inchnadamph	Inspected collapsed ladder dig and decided that to reopen it needs drier weather and plenty of enthusiastic diggers – though hope is not yet completely abandoned. Commenced clearing operations in the decorated alcove at the end of the main chamber – above ladder dig. Cleared some 3’ of passage of peat, rocks and gravel to reveal a view into some 3’ of passage with 6” airspace above wet peat and gravel. Nice to know that this “alcove” actually goes. Named it the “3 rd Time Lucky” dig. Will continue with this as my next personal digging project.
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Sutherland	Uamh Nan Uamh Stream Cave 24/3/78 Jim Campbell, Liz Bishop	2 hrs	Inchnadamph	Jim showed us several interesting digging sites around the cave. We cleared some spoil to enlarge the dig at Drip Chamber and also shifted a few rocks in the stream sink chamber. Much work remains to be done in this extremely pleasant system.
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 25/3/78 Roger Biddle	1 hr	Inchnadamph	Dug quite a lot of hard clay (?) from the “3 rd Time Lucky” site. Biddle insists it is only an inlet but I am not convinced. Also retrieved a “sauce boat” for use in ANUS dig.
Sutherland	Allt Nan Uamh Stream Cave 26/3/78 Jim Campbell, Rog Biddle	2½ hr	Inchnadamph	More widening of “Jim’s Drip Chamber Dig”. Cleared much spoil from the sides and floor of the entrance but made little forward progress due to boulders (bedrock?) in floor. Crowbar would be useful in attacking these.
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 28/3/78	3 hrs	Inchnadamph	Dug about 3’ into the “3 rd Time Lucky” passage. 4” of airspace above soaking peat with no sign of the roof lifting. Quite a bit of water coming out of the passage and the main chamber, waterfall growing continually due to the continual rain outside. From what I could see of the Ladder Dig it looks fairly open and well washed. May be worth a close look in case the stream has cleared a way on, though this is doubtful.
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 29/3/78 Alone (+ visiting Lanc. Caver – John)	2 hrs	Inchnadamph	Length of dig c. 15’ Passed water inlet from ceiling on right. Dry going from here in gravel, rocks and peat. Airspaces appearing above and below peat, and digging still easy though a sledge would be useful. Passage bearing slightly to the right and still large. Needs deepening.
Sutherland	Allt Nan Uamh Stream Cave 31/3/78 Neil Stuart and Rebecca	3hrs 35m	Inchnadamph	Took the Welsh couple on a touristrip round the cave. Duly impressed. After they left I continued digging in “Jim’s Dig”, removing 16 sledgeloads of spoil and various boulders, one of which was extra large economy sized and took nearly an hour to evict. Plenty of digging tools at the site.
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag Cnoc Nan Uamh System 2/4/78 Alone	2 ¼ hr 10 m	Inchnadamph	More digging and clearing in “3 rd Time Lucky”. Shoulder rheumatism did not help. Got fed up and washed off with a swift Cnocers through trip. No draught or airspace in the dig. Needs two people (preferably) and a sledge. Still big though.
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Wester Ross	Revaig Caves		Balmacara	NGR NG808272 – 812272. Several small and

	6/4/78 Alone			extremely uninteresting abandoned sea caves. All bar one under 3m long. Most easterly – 7m long and ending in too tight rift. Rubbish.
Somerset	21-23/4/78 – wall building at Wigmore Swallet. About 12' of shaft lining remains to be completed, followed by a shaft capping of some sort.			
Somerset	23/4/78 – Rescue of 5-bar gate attempted at Cadbury Camp Mineshaft. Too buried to haul out.			
Sutherland	Uamh an Tartair / Uamh Mhor 30/4/78 Richard Gough	½ hr	Elphin	Searched for Elphin Hole in vain so decided on a quick trip into Tartair. Went as far as the top of the 2 nd pitch (low water). I assumed this was the end and we really needed tackle anyway. Must go back in the summer and bottom it. Also poggled in various shakeholes.
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 2/5/78 Alone	1½ hrs	Inchnadamph	Went to end of Epiglottis Passage and was surprised to find how little the winter floods had affected the dig. Although some 15' or so has been partly filled in it would be a reasonably simple matter to re-excavate and continue. The main passage has been nicely clean washed and an orange/brown pear staining left along the floor. I then cleared some ten poly-bags of spoil from the “3 rd Time Lucky Dig”, basically widening the passage to allow room for movement.
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 4/5/78 Alone	1h 50m	Inchnadamph	Shifted several bags of spoil then decided it is now a two man dig. Little airspace but still big passage. Definitely needs a sledge.
Sutherland	Creag nan Uamh Bone Caves 6/5/78 Alone	2 hrs	Inchnadamph	Investigated the draughting RH passage in cave No.1. Animals of some sort (rabbits?) had been burrowing in the tube. Shifted a load of sandy gravel and commenced “fire-setting” experiment on the rock walls at the end. The camping gaz blowlamp was held against the rock until the latter was well heated, and water was poured on. This worked, but only after a very long time. Much work remains to be done to open up this very promising hole.
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 7/5/78 Bob Meyhew, Julian Walford	1¾ hrs	Inchnadamph	Took large sledge to site and cleared spoil from the “chamber” at end of dig. Also brought back the “railway” dexion from old dig.

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Sutherland	Creag nan Uamh Bone Cave (No.1) 10/5/78 Alone	1 hr	Inchnadamph	Had another look at this site. Shifted a fair bit of spoil to reveal a descending hole below the draughting hole. Decided it needs too much work and would look too obvious if properly dug. Left for a future generation!
Sutherland	Allt Nan Uamh Stream Cave 13/5/78 Rog Biddle, Chris Watson, Bob Neyhew, Julian Walford.	2¾ hrs	Inchnadamph	Wandered in, dug a bit and fell asleep. Later joined by the others who brewed up cardboard flavoured soup and did a token amount of digging. All due to beer as usual.
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 15/5/78 Alone	2 hrs	Inchnadamph	Shifted several loads of spoil, both widening and extending the dig. Much needs to be done, especially in enlarging the passage. Minute airspace at end, but definite draught.
Sutherland	Cnoc Nan Uamh System Uamh Cailliche Peireag 16/5/78	1¼ hrs	Inchnadamph	Tourist trip around Cnocers for Phil – whose first time it was in a cave. He enjoyed the trip and is a natural caver. Had a swift look at UCP afterwards, but didn't dig.

	Phillip Milligan			
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 19/5/78 Alone	1 hr	Inchnadamph	Wet and shitty. Cleared a few sledgeloads then got pissed off and gave up. Back to a two man dig – preferably in very dry weather. (Also opened up and looked at an oval, 6’ chamber in the river bank some 300 yds upstream from the Nature Conservancy notice – of little interest.
Sutherland	Allt Nan Uamh Stream Cave 21/5/78 Alone	3 hrs	Inchnadamph	Shifted several large boulders and slabs and a few sledgeloads of grot. Enlarged to quite a degree. Slight inward draught. Looked at various sites on way back (via hill above Bone Caves)
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 27/5/78 Ross, Stu L, Mac, Steve and Trev Hughes, Jane Kirby		Red Quarr	Ginging. Finished off far wall completely and added a few feet to near wall. Cleared bottom of shaft and removed short ladder. Coming on fine. Stu continued with his capping exercises.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 28/5/78 Stu L		Red Quarr	Ginging. About 6’ left to go.
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Somerset	31/5/78 – Quick visit to Cadbury Camp Mineshaft to check on capping. A concrete bas has been laid, a manhole with 1” bolt installed and the site covered and levelled off. Just the job. 1” ring spanner (or socket) and manhole cover lifting device needed for access. (Ross, GWJ, and Jerry) Also visited the NHASA Men at Windsor Hill Dig, with Tim Large. We were suitably impressed by their £2,500 worth of drilling equipment which they were using to put shotholes some 60 ft in. Assisted in hauling it back up to the old railway track.			
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 1/6/78 G.Wilton-Jones		Red Quarr	Built a couple of feet of ginging, bringing the near wall up to “top of old corrugated iron” level.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 2/6/78 Jack Pearce, Stu+kids, Ross GWJ		Red Quarr	Good session of ginging. Wall now almost to top. Jack was impressed – this being his first visit to Mendip for about 7-8 years!
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 3/6/78 Ross		Red Quarr	Ginging and site-tidying. Demolished engine house. Also had a look at Fairman’s Folly.
Somerset	St. Cuthbert’s Swallet 4/6/78 Tim Large, Trev Hughes, Pete Moody, Alison Hooper.	3hrs 50m	Priddy	To Marble Pot (Rocky Boulder Series) to attempt to push a tight, draughting rift. An interesting series of loose passages, squeezes and sporting climbs leads to the pot. Rift too tight and needs bang to open up. Graunchy trip due to excess of alcohol the night before. Had a kip at the bottom and felt better!
Somerset	Cox’s Cave 7/6/78 Peggy, about twenty eight helpers and members of the Irish Wheelchair Association and Youth Disabled Holidays	½ hr	Cheddar	Tourist trip with an extremely helpful and pleasant guide. The trip was really enjoyed by all – many of whom had never seen a cave before. A fantastic bunch of characters.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 10/6/78 Garth Dell, Trev Hughes, Stu Lindsey		Red Quarr	Completed walling of sides and Stu continued with his capping job. Looking good now and the end of the job is in sight – at last!
Sutherland	Allt Nan Uamh Stream Cave 18/6/78 Paul Saville, Ian Douglass, Mike Phimster (JMC, Inv. Sect.), Andrew Trafford	1hr 50m	Inchnadamph	Drunken tourist trip round the cave followed by removal of 6 buckets of grot from Jim’s Dig. Too pissed to do any more. First trip for Ian, second for Mike. Interesting!

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Sutherland	Allt Nan Uamh Stream Cave 20/6/78 Phillip Milligan	2 ½ hr	Inchnadamph	Tourist trip for Phil around the cave. Despite collapse of carbide gobbler giving us lungs and noses full of soot, we managed to remove 8 sledgeloads from Jim's Dig. Sink Chamber looks to be worth an all out effort.
Sutherland	21/6/78 – Walked limestone boundary from Allt a Chalda Mor – Traligill, noting nothing of interest apart from a couple of depressions/sinks near drystone dyke behind Inchnadamph Lodge.			
Sutherland <i>Rescue(d)</i>	Glenbain Hole 21-22/6/78 Mike Phimister (+ AMRT – 5)	18 hrs	Inchnadamph	<i>See below</i>

I was just leaving the Inch. after a quiet pint when Mike arrived, wanting to do a quick trip. We left for Glenbain Hole (and possibly another cave) descending the former at 9.00pm. 1st mistake – I left no word of our destination or ETR (though Jimmy Mac knew we were going caving. 2nd mistake – I parked a hundred yards further up the track from Glenbain. 3rd mistake – We used only half filled lamps and left our spare carbide at the entrance as it was to be only a short trip. 4th mistake – I let Mike lead the cave and didn't pay enough attention to the route down. 5th mistake – no spare lights, few fags and no grub. We went quickly down to the sump, getting pretty damp in the process and then headed out. At the top of the ramp, Mike's light died due to excess water in the carbide. In the small chamber above the 6' waterfall mine did likewise and then we were really in the shit. We attempted to find the way out (there are at least four holes leading off here) using fags, cigarette lighter and a piece of burning bog roll – to no avail. After an hour or so of this we returned to the Main Chamber and settled down for a couple of hours fitful sleep. The lack of a level floor and plenty of rocks and projections didn't help. After a time I decided to have another bash at getting out so leaving Mike in the chamber I picked up my lamp above the waterfall and climbed up a rift through dodgy boulders using the flint for occasional brief flashes of light. I eventually emerged on a well decorated platform overlooking the Main Chamber some 20' up. I felt it was too dodgy both boulder and stal-wise to return to Mike so spent most of the night huddled on the ledge in the "foetus position" trying to get some kip and feeling bloody cold. At 11.00am I decided to return to Mike, also thought he might not be able to make another night should rescue not happen. Rejoined Mike and we sat and suffered until about 3.00pm when Bill Ritchie's light suddenly flashed into the chamber followed by his shout. We had heard voices and seen lights several times before but these were real and we hastily exited assisted by the Mountain Rescue lads who were stationed along the passage. Thence straight down to the Inchnadamph Hotel where Willy Morrison kindly opened the bar up for us and we sorted things out, answered press phone calls etc etc. We were lucky in several respects. 1 – We both wore fibre-pile polar suit type jumpers which kept us warmer than other clothes would have. 2- Despite heavy rain the increasing Glenbain stream didn't get big enough to affect us too much. 3- Mike, though only on his fourth trip was used to adverse bivouacing conditions as a climber – though I suspect he would have felt symptoms of hypothermia before me as he was shivering much more than I was and exercising less – also lying on the floor rather than crouching to conserve heat. 4 – Jim Stewart, Bill Weaver and Charles Johnson wondered why I hadn't turned up for work and checked at the hut. They then sensibly asked George Morrison at the Inch if he had seen me. He didn't know where we were. Bill thoughtfully looked up valley to Glenbain Cottage and spotted the L/Rover which Jim confirmed by using the Level. They drove up finding the engine cold and checked with Jimmy Mac the stalker on the way down – luckily he knew we had gone caving the night before and luckily he is in the Assynt Mountain Rescue Team. He contacted Bill Ritchie and they swung into action. 5 – The Team, though having practically no caving experience or equipment, were led by Bill who is an experienced caver and GSG member. His efficient organizational ability and the enthusiasm of the Team were magnificent. One man had never been underground before, Hugh the Lochinver policeman had been down once but is a huge man and Jimmy Mac hates the site of caves – but all were decent enough to creep into the tight and unstable entrance passage of Glenbain. (and were prepared to check all the other caves). During our enforced stay we talked little and concentrated mainly on just keeping warm and blanking our minds (which was fairly easy). The noise of the stream got on our nerves – as did the lack of fags. The cold was becoming more than just an annoyance towards the end – especially with Mike, but I am fairly confident that I could have stuck it out until the weekend if necessary, though I would have been badly exposed. At one point a short rendering of "Cats on the Rooftops" cured us both of any ambitions in the duet singing fields. All in all, a complete balls-up on my part but a useful and very successful event for the Rescue Team, who found it a great morale booster and hope it will help gain their recognition with the Scottish Mountain Rescue Council. They also now have a set of police radios which were formerly kept in Inverness (?). May it never happen again, and if it does, may it go as smoothly!

NB. Interesting to note that a helicopter was en route from Edinburgh, containing Goon, Ivan Young and Dave Warren! It was turned back 10 mins from base. Also the Assynt Estate "ARGO" cross-country vehicle was in use. Rescue Team – Bill Ritchie, PC High Adcock, George Morrison, Jim Mackie and Fraser MacKenzie. (Hilariously Willy Morrison charged us 36p for a hot soup!)

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Sutherland	Glenbain Hole 24/6/78 Mike Phimister	¾ hr	Inchnadamph	Quick trip to see exactly where we had been (!) and also to tidy up and wipe fingerprints from decorations and walls. Removed odd bits of litter
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				and the lost carbide lamp. Much more pleasant with a light, and the pretties are very fine.
Sutherland	Allt Nan Uamh Stream Cave Uamh Ard 25/6/78 Phil Milligan, Clive Smith, Mike Phimister, [Bob Meyhew, Julian Walford – both caves]	2hrs 40m	Inchnadamph	Bob and Julian took Clive (a Thurso Rambler) on the usual tourist trip. Phil, Mike and I removed 8 sledges of spoil from “Jim’s Dig”. Bob, Julian and I then went up to the recently opened Uamh Ard (nee High Dig) to check on Bob’s bang of earlier that day. The ¾ lb charge had been too successful and brought too much down. A hole further along the terminal rift will be banged instead. Interesting but dodgy cave in “other rocks”, probably developed in a thrust plane or fault. A good draught can be felt and the streamway entering the excavated shaft can be heard at the end. Dubiously promising!
Somerset	Swildon’s Hole 8/7/78 Mike Coulshaw, Batspiss, Ross, Garth, Wally + Mate, Steve, Stella	¾ hr	Priddy	Great Flood 10th Anniversary trip to top of 40’ Pot. All very pissed. Went down in normal clothes and got rather damp! Toasted the “40” with tins of light ale and pissed on those below who knew not the way!

MOLES (BEC and GSG) Austrian Expedition 1978

24/7/78 – Left GWJ’s house in Aylesbury at 12.00am reaching Hermann Kirchmayer’s house in Gmunden Upper Austria at 13.05, Tuesday 25/7/78. Together with HK, Graham Wilton Jones, Dave Warren, Throstle (Steve Aldred) and I drove to Hallstatt where we met Ross White and Andy Sparrow who had been sitting in the square for a couple of days! Thence to the “materials seilbahn” where the gear was loaded for the Weisberg haus. We all then hiked up several thousand feet to the hut. Very knackered on arrival so couldn’t appreciate booze, food or good musical pissup in progress! Dave and I stayed at the hut, the others camped nearby.

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Austria	26/7/78 – RW, HK and GWJ reced the area at the foot of Niederer Ochsen-Kogel, or Grünberg an hours walk from the camp. The rest of us collected gear from the seilbahn station and set up camp. After a good meal and beer at the hut, HK left for a speleo conference in Czechoslovakia. RW and AS found a draughting hole near the camp and proceeded to dig same. An hour or so gave enough room for AS to squeeze into a 15’ climb down to the sloping head of a roomy but irregular 65’ pitch. Ron and Throstle descended this to find a short keyhole passage leading to a further 60’ pitch (not descended). Cave numbered C4. Good night in pub.			
Austria Hoher Dachstein <i>Discovery</i>	C4 Campsite Hole 26/7/78 Ross, Throstle, Dave, Andy	1hr	Ochsenweis- Alm	Quick trip down to head of 2nd pitch. Checked for belay points and did some gardening (c.1860m alt.)
Austria Hoher Dachstein <i>Discovery</i>	C4 Campsite Hole 27/7/78 Ross, Thros, Dave, Andy, GWJ	1hr 50m	Ochsenweis- Alm	Ross, Andy and Thros rigged the two pitches. 2nd pitch 45’ with small blocked chamber at the bottom. No way on. Graham, Dave and I surveyed to head of 2nd pitch and the others completed survey. De-tackled and left the hole to its own devices (Useful as a “stone-dropper” for visitors to admire!) Good thunderstorm in afternoon, after which we went prospecting. I found C5, an 11m open shaft on a hill above the camp. Other holes also found.
Austria Hoher Dachstein <i>Discovery</i>	C5 Rat Hole (J.rat Loch) 28/7/78 GWJ	50m	Ochsenwies- öhe	(c.1980m Alt.) Descended 11.6m shaft to chamber blocked in floor with glacial debris. A passage from shaft bottom led to a 3m seep rift – choked where it doubled back under the entrance shaft. An inlet passage was pushed for 12m to a solid gravel choke. Surveyed out. (Also looked at C7 (Satteloch) -13m blocked shaft and C8 (Schneekluft) – 80m shaft, snow blocked).
Austria Hoher Dachstein <i>Discovery</i>	C6 (Winkel Höhle) 28/7/78 GWJ	1hr 15m	Ochsenwies- öhe	3 shattered entrances led to some 100m of constricted, meandering passage with short climbs, rifts, squeezes and a tiny stream in one place. Choked downstream (immediately below entrance) Surveyed out. Quite an interesting and

				sporting little system.
Austria Hoher Dachstein	29/7/78 – Day off (?) in Hallstatt. All walked – or ran – down the track, looking at the main resurgence en route. Very impressive and looks diveable. Sizeable river emerging. Also investigated several caves in the cliffs below Weisberghaus. None of any interest. A local forester showed us the entrance of shaft 1546/16/+. After shopping, drinking etc we drove to Obertraun and caught the Seilbahn to the Dachstein Show Cave situated in the Schöberg alpe.			
Austria Hoher Dachstein	Dachstein-Mammuthöhle 29/7/78 The lads	50m	Obertraun	Took tourist trip along part of this 13 mile + system. Huge phreatic passages, practically devoid of any formations and in general fairly boring for a show cave. “Tipped” the guide with several “BEC GET EVERYWHERE” tickets” Then a swift run up the hill to:-
Austria Hoher Dachstein	Dachstein-Rieseneishöhle 29/7/78 The Team	35m	Obertraun	A much more impressive system than the Mammuthöhle (for pretties anyway). Again, large passages and chambers but many practically filled with ice flows and huge ice formations. One lower chamber is completely hollowed out of an ice flow filling the floor of a large cavern. Very impressive and well worth a visit. We then caught the seilbahn to the Kruppenstein and after problems with having to pay an extra 200 schillings, on to Gjmalde hutte from where we walked back to camp – very footsore. Dave was left at Gjmalde with blistered feet and Ross arrived at the Weisberghaus about 9.30pm, having walked all the way from the show caves – much of it exceeding steep and in the dark! Not very relaxing – but a good day all the same!

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Austria Hoher Dachstein <i>Discovery</i>	C1 J.Rat's Leap (Schneervine) 30/7/78 Ross, Andy, Throstle, GWJ	15m	Weisberghaus	Continuous thunder delayed start. Open, snow-plugged shaft some 7m deep with a small shaft and blocked chamber at base and a large snow bridge at surface level. Being clever I stood on the bridge, kicking bits off the corner. Alas, suddenly the lot gave way and I descended spectacularly upside down for 3m into the arms of Throstle – in a flurry of snow !! Luckily unhurt and providing amusement and another story for the lads... Also found to shafts, C12 – descended by Andy for 17m to earth choke, and C13 which Andy and Ross descended for 8m to choke. More tunder and rain forced us back to the Weisberghaus prospecting en route. Found a few holes of dubious interest.
Austria Hoher Dachstein <i>Discovery</i>	C14 (Schmalxhöhe Schacht) 31/7/78 Ross, Andy, GWJ	1½ hrs	Gr. Schmalxgrube	Lifed the lads on the first pitch of this 40m deep, too tight at bottom pot (2 pitches).
Austria Hoher Dachstein <i>Discovery</i>	Schmalxgrubenhöhle (No.7) 31/7/78 Alone	½ hr	Schmalxhöhe	A previously explored and surveyed through cave, c. 250'. Descended a tight, doubtless previously unexplored, 8m pitch some 8m inside the west entrance. Pitch about 2m wide at base but becoming too tight for further progress.
Austria Hoher Dachstein <i>Discovery</i>	C3 (Vierzigmeter Schacht) 31/7/78 Thros, Ross, Dave, Andy	½ hr	Schmalxhöhe	Some 150m E of No.7. a wide entrance slope led to a roomy 100' pitch choked with boulders. Did not descend pitch but spent some time gardening and bugging about at the top. Also found yet another cave en route back to Weisberghaus.
Austria Hoher	C23 C24	½ hr	Schmalxhöhe	Explored three holes in the cirque between Niederer Ochse Kogel and Grünberg C23 – 10m

Dachstein <i>Discoveries</i>	C25 1/8/78 (Andy)			<p>long descending passage with moonmilk – choked.</p> <p>C24 – Large open entrance to head of 15’ pitch – not descended (later descended by others – blocked)</p> <p>C25 – 8m sloping shaft to snow and ice blockage. Also climbed several hundred exposed feet up side of Grünberg to try and reach large cave entrance but missed it and couldn’t get back down or across to it due to steep or overhanging walls.</p>
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Austria Hoher Dachstein	Shaft 1546/16/+ 2/8/78 (Ross, Thros)	½ hr	Weis-Alm	Descended this previously explored 15m shaft to the usual boulder blockage – 3 ways on – two close down and the other was a tight sharp inlet which I couldn’t be bothered to force.
Austria Hoher Dachstein	Fleisch-Keller 2/8/78 Ross, Throstle	10m	Weisberg Haus	Previously explored: large, open rift, snow bottomed, to head of 4m pitch with no way on. Old beams and hooks in place for hanging meat to keep it fresh (or rather refrigerated!) Also looked at several nearby holes with Fritz Platzl, the landlord of the Weisberghaus). Meanwhile, the others struck the JACKPOT at C19) (NB Helmut Planer arrived in the morning and taught us the card game of Schnapsen)
Austria Hoher Dachstein Major <i>discovery</i>	C19 Maulwurfhöhle 3/8/78 The Team	5hr 10m	Ndr. Grünberg	<p>Followed the tight, sporting 150’ entrance passage to the first pitch (85’) which was laddered. From here a 25’ climb up boulders leads to the base of a 100’+ aven. From the floor of the 1st pitch (Platzl Schacht) a descent down a rift was made with a rigged handline and a ladder for some 40’ to a ledge partway into the 2nd pitch (This must be around 200’ but from the ledge is around 160’). Ross went down first placing rope protectors on 4 dodgy points. I followed and joined him in the 8m x 16m pitch bottom after a very fine descent. At the far side of the chamber a shower-like waterfall fell into a further pitch at floor level.</p> <p>Behind and to the right of the rope we descended some 25’ through boulders to a third c.160’ pitch in the floor of a high, meandering rift passage. Further holes beyond dropped into the depths in shorter pitches. (None explored at the time – later joined with lower passages)</p> <p>A slow exit was made back up the 2nd pitch and 1st pitch to join the others at the entrance. A bloody fine pot with great hopes of going further and bigger.</p>
Austria Hoher Dachstein Major <i>discovery</i>	C19 Maulwurfhöhle 4/8/78 Thros, Ross, Dave (Andy, GWJ)	5hrs 25m	Niederer Grünberg	Reasonably rapid trip to head of 3rd pitch. Dave rigged this and descended into a superb elongated shaft some 160’ deep. A fine free hang with a damp shower from the recent rainstorms. When I reached the pitch bottom, Dave had dumped his gear and continued along a tight, meandering rift passage – the only exit at floor level. I followed and caught up with him about 150’ of tortuous crawling and wedging passage later. We continued, following the sound of a healthy stream. Some 200’ from the third pitch the rift widened a little to reveal a small stream flowing some 20’ below us. A few feet further a larger stream entered from the left and the two combined streams (now a moderate Swildon’s

				<p>size) dropped down a couple of 15' pitches and rushed off into a probably impassable rift. Certainly not worth pushing in such a remote place. The wet inlet closed down after 20'. Both disappointed and relieved Dave and I started to return. After a grueling 60' or so we realized we were in the wrong passage (in fact below the main route – following the stream). We reversed this and continued up the correct way out.</p> <p>Joining Ross and Throstle at the 3rd pitch we gradually exited, pausing only for food, fag and broken equipment stops! Exited cold, wet and tired.</p> <p>The bottom route, as far as I can see, is now finished. Various shafts and side passages in the third pitch area remain to be looked at and could provide a high level route (they did!) We are at least in an area of considerable horizontal development. (Andy and GWJ surveyed the entrance passage – 150') Total depth c.200m (650') (Höher Dachstein – 3,004m)</p>
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Austria Hoher Dachstein	<p>5/8/78 – Day out. Kitted up and walked off to the Simony Hutte. Thence up onto the glacier and after a long slog reached the rock summit above the glacier. The fixed wires up the summit were “kaput” so we fearfully free climbed to the peak amongst roped and unroped Austrian climbers and flying rocks! A very swift rest at the top and we clambered back down – much relieved to be back on the glacier. Much of return trip spent on our backsides hurtling down the glacier. Most exciting. Played around with crevasses, glacier caves etc and eventually reached camp some 7½ hrs after starting. Got exceeding pissed after a superb day out.</p>			
Austria Hoher Dachstein	<p>6/8/78 – Festered. Mended overalls etc, met a couple of local cavers and their respective women and generally recovered.</p>			
Austria Hoher Dachstein <i>Major discovery</i>	<p>C19 Maulwurfhöhle 7/8/78 Throstle, GWJ, Dave, Freddy Platzl</p>	<p>7hrs 10m</p>	Niederer Grünberg	<p>Dave and Throstle took Freddy down the laddered 85' pitch for a swift look around. Dave then took him out. We then proceeded to the bottom of the 2nd pitch. Throstle commenced to put a bolt on the second hole in the floor beyond the 3rd pitch. GWJ and I followed the long meandering rift passage to the right. After about 100' we descended a 30' pitch to a junction of passages from where we could see Throstle some 50' above, on the far side of the 3rd pitch. He gave up bolting and joined us while Dave exited. I continued on alone down a high, meandering rift passage (some 50-80' in vertical range and 3-6' wide). After c.200' I decided to return to the others. Unfortunately I couldn't find the return route and got thoroughly lost for an hour or so – feverishly clambering up and down the smooth walled rift trying to find my original way in and leaving various scratch marks for reference. Eventually, after pissing in my lamp doe to lack of water, I heard GWJ in the distance, who later appeared some 30' below me. I very relievedly followed him out. The passage (Belfry Avenue) continues uninterrupted with a strong inward draught. It reaches at least 100' at some points and is sloping gently down dip (?) All along the ledges are small deposits of bat guano indicating a possible other entrance in the past. Looking bloody promising. Exited with the usual difficulties (GWJ dropped his lamp down Platzl Schacht and when I reached the top of the pitch</p>

				both our lamps went out. Considerable difficulty in relighting them. NB. A falling rock on the 2nd pitch bounced on a boulder and ricocheted into my lip, not pleasing me overmuch!
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Austria Hoher Dachstein <i>Major discovery</i>	C19 Maulwurfhöhle 8/8/78 Andy, Hermann Kirchmayer (Austrian CRO)	7hrs 10m	Niederer Grünberg	Took Herman to bottom of Platzl Schacht where he took several photos for a local newspaper report. He was impressed by the main cave but not by the entrance passage or rope climb (which he did not descend). Andy and I carried on to Belfry Avenue which we followed in the usual style for a further 300' (Total c.500') to a c. 100' pitch which we entered some 30' above the floor. Beyond this roomy pitch could be seen a continuation of the rift. Having no tackle with us this was left for next year. (TTFN Schacht)... Returned to entrance of Belfry Avenue and found a tight 40' draughting passage halfway down the boulder slope dropping into the 3rd Pitch. This was not pushed ... Other holes in this area were investigated but only one was significant – leading from the head of the 30' pitch across into the 3rd Shaft. We then made a nice, relatively easy exit – detackling en route. Spent an hour dragging all the gear through the entrance passage (Gargantua Gang) and then staggered back to camp in extreme mist, wind or drizzle. Left entrance at 7.15pm reaching the Weisberghaus at 8.00pm (via camp to change!) A superb final trip and fine end to the expedition. C19 is still going and there remains much to be done next year in the way of exploration, surveying, climbing, photography, etc.
Austria Hoher Dachstein	9/8/78 – Festered and dried gear, tidied camp etc.			
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Austria Hoher Dachstein	10/8/78 – Packed up and left after final booze-up in the Weisberg Haus (despite severe hangovers!). Loaded gear on Seilbahn and walked easily down to Hallstatt. Andy and I got a lift to Salzburg (Gaisberg campsite) with a German couple while the rest went in GWJ's overloaded car. We had a huge grill in the restaurant and a few beers to celebrate the end of the trip.			
Salzburg Austria	Eisreisenwelt 11/8/78 The lads	1½ hrs	Werfen	Drove up to the cave car park along the dreadful road. Then up to the cave on the fine cable-car. Carbide hand lamps were handed out to about every 8th tourist and off we went. The main, upward sloping gallery is enormous – with a huge sloping ice floor becoming almost vertical. Wooden steps lead up the LH side and back down the RH side to allow for the hundreds of visitors on every trip. The length of time and distance covered in the huge passages and chambers and the vast ice formations make this a must for any caver but the poor light from the carbide lamps doesn't do the place justice. Electric lighting, as in the Rieseneishöhle would be far better. One of the most magnificent caves in the world.
Austria Hoher Dachstein and Germany, Bavaria	Saltzbergwerk Dürrenberg 11/8/78 The lads.	1 hr	Hallein Berchtes- gaden	Superb tourist trip in this working salt mine, which stretches below Bavarian territory. A mine wagon with a diesel loco took the party into the upper main level. A short walk along superbly timbered (polygonal) level led to a museum area

				with ancient and modern mining gear, piping etc. and a wooden slide to the lower levels. A large chamber with a saline lake had been excavated here for working the deposits. Along the level from here we passed through (or rather below) German territory. Another slide led to a lower level and display area with an escalator back to the underground station. Out on the loco. All were given peculiar white smocks and trousers to wear which enlivened the trip somewhat. Nice trip on small cable cars both to and from the village of Hallein.
<p>12-13/8/78 – After boozing and sorting out at the camp we headed back, leaving Ross and Andy somewhat broke at Gaisberg. We reached Bonn at 9.30pm after a slow trip through Germany because of traffic. Stayed overnight with Manfred Dünchem who we had met at the Weisberg Haus. On the Sunday morning he showed us around Bonn and took us to a village fireman's PU. Excellent.</p> <p>- Superb trip to a fabulous area. Scenery, possibilities for big stuff, mountain walking and especially the hospitality of the Austrian and German people made this a great place for an expedition. The hospitality of the Platzl family of the Weisberg Haus, of the local cavers, walkers and the Dünchem family was much appreciated. We will be back next year with a strong team. 3.000' to Resurgence.</p>				
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Sutherland	Elphin Hole 16/8/78 Johnathan Meelboom	20m	Elphin	After much searching we eventually found the entrance (nowhere near its description in Caves of Assynt) A nice free climb down into a long, straight and high stream passage ending in a promising looking sump. A few nice pretties en route.
Sutherland	18/8/78 – J.Meelboom, M.Phimister – Abortive attempt to find Knockan Pot. Defeated by vast tracts of featureless moorland, lousy description, untold millions of midges and the proximity of opening time. Found and descended a 15' pot with a peat blockage at bottom – uninteresting. "Midge Pot" if not known.			
Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 20/8/78 Mike Phimister	35m	Inchnadamph	Mike dug for ½ hr in a grotty puddle formed in the end of the dig. Too mucky to continue so we went off to check some other sites:-
Sutherland	Lower Traligill Cave Uamh à Bhrirleadh – Duile 20/8/78 Mike	20m 15m	Inchnadamph	Sump low, no sound of stream. Admired stals. Exceedingly tight squeeze into chamber. Large (main?) stream heard but much banging needed to gain access.
Sutherland	23/8/78 – Wandered up to look for Knockan and Padre's Pot which I found almost immediately! On way back to hut found several small sinks, a couple being tight but possibly diggable.			
Sutherland	Knockan Pot Padre's Pot 25/8/78 Mike Phimister	55m 5m	Elphin	Interesting deepish, but shity and wet pot. The end (?) looks promising for a bang job – or hammer and chisel – a small streamway can be heard. Frogs in residence! In Padre's the tight bit at the end needs banging and possibly opens up beyond. Probably enters Knockan Pot somewhere.
Sutherland <i>discovery</i>	Uamh Ard 26/8/78 Bob, Julian, Paul Saville, Mike	3½ hr	Inchnadamph	Bob and Julian invited us on a trip to descend a new pitch found in the cave. Light pox dogged me throughout the trip and the ubiquitous dripping water didn't help matters. From the new chambers and rifts beyond "Hole 2" the new pitch was free-climbed between horrific boulders for about 20' to a 50' length of walking sized passage (in limestone!) and ending in a couple of nasty, sumped crawls. A possible dig over the top was looked at. Midway a 20'+ aven went up. 10' up this I pushed some 20' of inclined bedding passage ending in boulders and probably leading back under the higher level passages. While Julian and Paul did some digging the rest

				of us surveyed out to “Hole 2”. A cold, wet and mucky trip (and cave). Disappointing end to the fine terminal passage but still hope for a major find. The lads really deserve a big system after all the work they’ve done.
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Sutherland	?/9/78 – Searched for Uamh Ruairaidhe, near Kyleike in vain. Locals do not know of the cave and it appears feasible that it was once there but has either been covered over or dropped into the sea!			
Superb BCRA Conference – Manchester.				
Somerset	13/9/78 – Wigmore Swallet – Stu Lindsey, Tom Temple, and I spent some time organising and preparing the site for capping. A stroke of luck was the presence of a Wells building firm at the barn near the dig, complete with concrete mixer and ingredients. They have agreed to sell us the materials and loan all the gear for this coming weekend.			
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 15/9/78 Chris Watson, Alastair (GSG) Tom Temple	1hr 20m	Priddy	Trip arranged through excess of Marston’s “Merrie Monk” Mild the night before! Entered around 9.00am! Luckily Alastair panicked in the traverse and we all came out to nurse our hangovers and head for the pub again!
Somerset	16/9/78 – Wigmore Swallet shaft capping session. Much support enabled the job to be completed in two hours. Shoring surprisingly held and a beautiful job was done, much to everone’s amazement. Thoese present:- Trev, Ross, Stu L, Batspiss, Throstle + 2 VCC, Martin Bishop, Martin Grass, Nick, 2 apprentices (Tidying up in the afternoon). Dick (RN) + R.Gough.			
Somerset	17/9/78 – Bob X, Batspiss, Ross, Trevor, Stu L, and I went dig hunting in the Wigmore area. I still rate (No.3) shakehole, just SW of Fairman’s Folly.			
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	Read’s Cavern 17/9/78 Pete and Alison, Rich Websall,Batspiss, H&’N’, Sparrow, CCG etc etc	1hr 10m	Burrington	Callout direct from Police to Belfry. Five Boy Scouts lost in Browne-Stewart Series of the cave, with little light. Able to speak to others but not get through. After quite a long search in this evil boulder maze, Sparrow located the lads and Rich and I joined him. We were then able to take spare lights from Pete, but not get out through the tiny hole. Sparrow searched around and we eventually found the correct way back out to rejoin the others in the entrance chamber. A nice little rescue which filled in the afternoon and sobered up the participants in time for more ale! (NB Schemes afoot to re-open Plumley’s Hole).

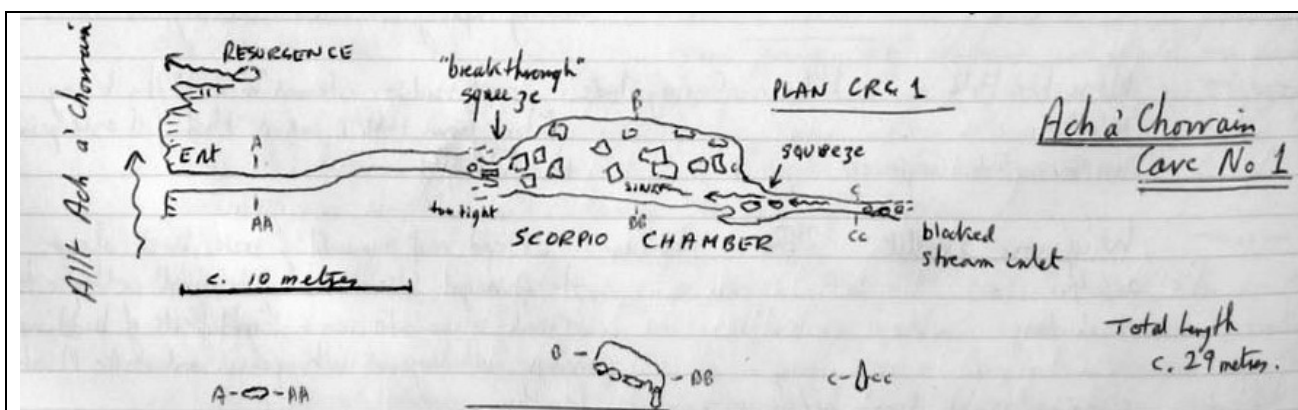
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Sutherland	25/9/78 – Several risings / waterfalls on Stronecrabie Craggs looked at. All are either tiny bedding plane springs or resurge from solid scree banks. No hope of digging. Small rift / bedding plane noted above and to left. Equally uninteresting.			
Sutherland	Cnoc Nan Uamh System Uamh Cailliche Peireag 30/9/78 Andrew Trafford, Mike Phimister	10m 1¾ hr	Inchnadamph	Vast amount of water in Waterslide – too dangerous to descend. Small stream flowing across Tartair entrance and down squeeze into Stream Chamber – itself with a roaring stream. The two crawls into the further reaches were completely sumped and issuing large streams which flowed down to join main stream. Discretion being the better part of valour we headed over to UCP where Mike and Boy Wonder took several photographs and 4 sledgeloads of spoil removed from sides and floor of dig. Fair stream dropping out of skylight and signs of grass and froth showing that cave had recently been flooded – filling the dig passage.
Sutherland	Uamh an t-Sassunnaich 1/10/78 (Andrew Trafford)	5m	Elphin	Tight, awkward and about 35’ long. Slim chances of a minor extension, though it doubtless gets smaller as it trends upwards into the hill. Looked and dug at other odd sites.
Sutherland	Smoo Cave Ach à Chorrain Cave No. 1	10m	Durness	Swift visit to Smoo to check water levels. Huge stream belting down sink pitch and filling the lake almost to the level of the ledge above the

Mendip	Tyning's Barrow Cave 18/10/78 Tim Large, Barrie Wilton, MacAnus, (Martin Bishop, surface)	1hr	Charterhouse	Aims – to continue walling at shaft bottom and to dig mud blockage. Tim and I did the walling while Mac and Barrie dug, shifting five bags of grot – exiting rapidly when bombarded by our rocks!
Somerset	Horseshoe Hole 19/10/78 Dave Morrison, Robin Gray (MNRC)	1½ hr	Gurney Slade	Pissed: - cleared most of the bang debris from 16/10/78 and I then fell asleep in the field!!
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 20/10/78 Stu Lindsey	2½ hr	Red Quarr	Moved vast amounts of rocks back along the passage. Cleared most of terminal collapse to reveal view into some eight feet of bedding passage, well layered with gravel and rocks. Much clearing to be done before progressing further.

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Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 21/10/78 Stu L, Chris B, Woody (Apprentice) (Trev Hughes)	4hr 20m	Red Quarr	Shifted loads of rocks from the collapsing terminal dig. Much more remain to be removed.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 22/10/78 Stu, Chris, Tim Large, Kevin, Lorraine + 2 kids, Fiona	2hr 10m	Red Quarr	Removed another vast heap of rock and mud. A low, clean washed bedding plane continues with a loose, small rift to the right. Draughting well (inwards), but much more work to be done before we see what's there.
Argyllshire	Uamh nan Claig-Ionn Uamh na Mnathan Uasal an Duror 28/10/78 Jim Campbell	½ hr	Bealach	Excellent, traditional GSG Dinner weekend in Glencoe. Managed to at least do one trip! A short but superb system with plenty of wet pitches, a fine duck and superb limestone / phyllite walls. Much of the rock is excellently sculptured and very attractive. Also a few pretties. Certainly one of the best trips in Scotland and a very enjoyable visit was had. (Presented with a 4' high carbide lamp at the Dinner in "honour" of our rescue!)
Sutherland	Smoo Cave 5/11/78 A girl from Tasmania	½ hr	Durness	Very pleasant day out festering round Smoo, Ach à Chorrain, Sango and Balnakiel Bays etc. Plenty of water in Smoo – and tales of geologists having "sonic-devised" (resistivity?) a passage some 5 miles long to Sangrum – verifying the "hairless dog" story?
Sutherland Discovery	Ach à Chorrain Cave No. 1 12/11/78 Mike Phimister	40m	Durness	Some ten minutes or so was spent removing a couple of boulders from the end. This allowed us to squeeze through into a roomy, 10 metres long chamber with a small streamway entering from a 5 metre long rift passage and sinking in the floor. This inlet was unfortunately blocked with small boulders but could possibly be dug. Much of the roof and LH wall of this extension is decidedly dodgy. Christened "Scorpio Chamber" as the two discoverers are both of that species. Needs a decent survey. Cave spider in residence.



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Sutherland	Smoo Cave 12/11/78 Mike Phimister	½ hr	Durness	Pleasant swim about in the lake chamber and geo. Had a look at the stal blockage above the sump, deciding that it is hardly diggable. A dive would be the best bet. Dived out through the sump into the entrance chamber. Looked in a nearby sea cave halfway along the Geo.
Somerset	26/11/78 – Pleasant walk round Harptree, looking at the old smelter chimney and the impressive shakehole of Wurt Pit.			
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 28/11/78 Trev Hughes, Tuska (WCC) Rich Maskell (RN)	2½ hr	Red Quarr	Digging at end. 4' of progress in dodgy, collapsing, Tuska-size passage. Way on is now open. A clearing session should get us into the 10' of passage visible.
Somerset	Horseshoe Hole 29/11/78 Trev, Tuska, Rich Maskell, Neil Wheatley (RN)	3hr 10m	Gurney Slade	Showed WCC how to dig as usual. Shifted loads of banged rocks and muck. Way on is to the left and very small though diggable. Yoh! Coffee at MNRC.
Somerset Discovery	Wigmore Swallet 2/12/78 GWJ, Trev, Batspiss, Steve Short, Martin Grass	4hr 50m	Red Quarr	Removed 3' x 1'6" slab from end using rope-winch. Cleared a further 4' of passage, and all sledged out, including previous spoil heap. A collapse at the "Smoke Room" caused Batspiss to exit very rapidly. This was found to have come from a hole in the roof, which I gingerly dug open to look upwards into some 10' of hairy boulder collapse with open black space beyond, and taking nearly all the draught. As the walls and ceiling continued to collapse we decided to leave it for a settling period. Looks promising if the ruckle can be penetrated.
Somerset	Horseshoe Hole 4/12/78 Tuska Morrison, Chris Milne	½ hr	Gurney Slade	Intention to dig at end. On arrival we found that the last few feet of passage was 2' deep in water, having taken a stream the previous night. I traversed over it and poked about at the end, but got wet and fed up. The way on appears to be a tight rift to the right. Much more banging needed for decent digging. Festered around Gurney Slade area looking for Winter Well in vain. Also looked at old quarry containing ""Yoh Hole" etc. Little of interest.

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Somerset Discovery	Wigmore Swallet 16/12/78 Andrew "Wonder Boy" Trafford (GSG) Malc Foyle, Bob Hill (MEG), Pete and	2½ hr	Red Quarr	More boulder splitting, shit-shifting and crap-clearing. Stream going down shaft and followed as far as Santa's Grotto, where it sinks in the floor – not all of it to be seen again, though very wet at the end. Alison dislodged a large boulder in the "Smoke Room" which missed me by
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	Alison (WCC) Moody, Trev (BEC), Pete "The Block" Hiscock (SMCC)			inches. This area is still collapsing. Much muck to be removed. Way on to end totally blocked off.
SMCC and Friends, Hollöch, Switzerland Trip 1978-79				
26/12/78 – Left Mendip after a very drunken Christmas and arrived at Aylesbury on Boxing Day evening, to meet the GSG and LUPC contingent. Mini-bus loaded and driven on to Calais. Hovercraft boarded at 8.00am, 27th. Usual boring frive across Europe to arrive at Muotatal early on the morning of the 28th. Bivvied outside the Gasthaus "Höllgrotte", being awoken by Frau Sutar at 5.00am (just as it started to rain) and invited to kip in the Gasthaus.				
Schuryß (?) Switzerland	Hollöch 28/12/78 P.Danwell(?), I.Young, D.Warren (GSG) M.Macduff, N.Anderton (LUPC) G.Wilton-Jones (BEC) P.Moody, A.Hooper (WCC) R.Klemperer? (SMCC) J.Watson (WSG)	4hr 20m	Muotatal	<p>Midday start to recce the first part of the cave with the aim of reaching the Wasserdome. A footpath from the road near the Gasthaus led up several flights of steps and over bridges to the smallish, gated entrance. This led into several hundred feet of rather decrepit "show cave" with hundreds of stone and concrete steps following large phreatic loop passages, averaging some 15' diameter and beautifully scalloped. Many very fine "rock mills" and waterworn features were noticed, but practically no stal. The main passage (Hauptgang) was followed along its undulating course – utilizing such fixed aids as ropes, hand-rails, rigid ladders and at one point a 90' length of rigid tubular ladder – to its junction with the Seengang. A few minor route finding difficulties were experienced. We followed the steep, slippery phreatic ramps of the Seengang up into a junction with the Riesengang at Riesen Saal where we met a large party of Swiss climbers and an Australian skier. A larger rising ramp was then climbed to the impressive Wasserdome; a roomy chamber with a waterfall showering down from the ceiling and disappearing into holes in the floor. Photos were taken and Pete Danwell(?) played with his amazingly useless magnesium turnings which produced plenty of smoke but very little light!</p> <p>At this point it was decided to return and a speedy exit was made – all feeling decidedly hot and knackered. First impressions of the cave system were that it was somewhat boring. Its most notable feature being the slippery nature of the floor causing one to fall arse over elbow every few minutes. Only about three poor formations were seen on this trip.</p> <p>A good introductory jaunt which helped to get us over the usual Christmas excesses.</p>
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Schuryß (?) Switzerland	Hollöch 29/12/78 NA, MM, IY, PD, DW, PM, AH	2 hr	Muotatal	<p>Intention was to do the supposed "resurgence system" which we believed was situated near the main rising in the next valley. Fully kitted up we walked down and spent some time in a fruitless search for the cave – finding only a 30' mine level above the resurgence. Defeated, we went back to ask at the Gasthaus and found that the system was actually inside the Hollöch. Much embarrassment ensued.</p> <p>Inside the main entrance a stepped passage on the right was followed and a fixed-aid filled rift was climbed down for about 40'. At its base an undulating phreatic tube was followed for several hundred feet (Widmergang) until it emerged via another climb back in the "show cave" section. Returning to the original climb down, the other</p>

				passage at the bottom was taken. This very steeply descending passage, Saxergang, ends in a roomy chamber and clear static sump pool – Zürichsee. A gour passage nearby containing some pleasant stal was also looked at – Sintergang. Clambered back out of this highly flood prone area to find it pissing down with rain. Another good trip.
Schuryß (?) Switzerland	Hollöch 30/12/78 PD, IY, DW, MM, NA, GWJ, PM, AH, RK, JW, P.Hiscock (SMCC)	6hr 10m	Muotatal	<i>See below</i>
Schuryß (?) Switzerland	Leaving Dave and Ivan to photograph and visit the Zürichsee we followed the Hauptgang and Seengang to Riesen Saal where we turned left to stomp up a large sloping phreatic trunk passage – Domgang – as far as the Glitzertor where we found a bivouac site containing four Swiss cavers who were pushing in the upper series. One of them kindly showed us the route to Himmelsgang – a typical long roomy undulating tunnel with a mud floor. This was followed for several hundred feet until a smaller side passage was reached – Salle Anglais. Here we saw the famous red stalactite and stalagmite which features so prominently in the cave literature. Being little over a foot long it was somewhat of a let-down, especially when only a few feet away in the main passage is a large unnecessary rubbish heap! Several other formations noted en route. Hoping to find the “Gallerie des 1001 Nuits” we pushed on up a grotty crawl passage, past another minor bivouac, until we got fed up. Returned the same way, all very spread out and worn out. Greattrip, and all beginning to fitten up nicely. The more of the system one sees the less boring it gets and the atmosphere of the cave begins to “grow on one”. (Later, met Prof. Dr. Alfred Bögli).			
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Schuryß (?) Switzerland	Hollöch 1-3/1/79 JW, GWJ, IY, PD, DW, (AH, PM, MM, NA, PH, RK)	48¼hr	Muotatal	<i>See below</i>
Schuryß (?) Switzerland	Snow having fallen at last, we were told that it was safe to undertake a prolonged trip without fear of the entrance series flooding (possibly for 9 months at a time!) A very swift and interesting trip of 4½ hours brought us to Bivouac II. The usual route was followed, but a passage leading off left, gave us a short cut to the lower part of the Riesengang. From here a short climb dropped down to the permanent pool of the “Styx”. Only having recently gone down, this pool was crossed in the 8’ long permanent plastic dinghy. The next section involved much hard going up the steep hand-lined ramps of the Innominata. These rise hundreds of feet and are particularly heavy going. A further short boat trip at Burkhaltersa(?) (Grosse) brought us to Bivouac I – a particularly comfortable set-up with chairs, tables, cookers, pots, pans, utensils, mattresses etc, etc. Most impressive of all, though was the rope hanging down from a piton from which one hung when shitting on the vast heap of Swiss crap already deposited! More huge passage in typical Hollöch style led from here to Bivouac II – a newly built site further along (IIb) being our base. On arrival we commenced to cook up a dehydrated meal and had just finished when four Swiss cavers turned up carrying rucksacs full of sand to be used in cement at the bivvy site. Their underground meal put our soya rubbish to shame – soup, fresh salad and spaghetti bolognaise with fresh bread! As they ate we sang low songs and played “Swango” with the Swiss playing cards. For me, the night’s sleep was miserable and, though warm enough, I slept badly and awoke feeling knackered. We had prepared a muesli (yechh) breakfast when RK, MM and NA arrived from Bivouac I. We left them to eat and bombed off along SAG Gang to the impressive Doline – a large dry underground sink hole at a passage junction. After a slight mistake at Lehmschollengang we continued on along SAC Gang to the desolate Bivouac III at Kiesburg. This camp had been washed away by floods at least twice and was now rarely used. SAC Gang now degenerated into a mucky sloping tube with worm-ridden mudbanks and a general atmosphere of floodability and we were amazed and pleased to find that the supposedly flooded Dreiecksee lake was passable by using a ledge on the left. It was decided to press on as far as we could and so the now superb phreatic tunnel of SAC Gang was swiftly traversed. This huge, clean-washed and undulating bore passage must be one of the best examples of its kind in the world, and was thoroughly enjoyable. An interesting rope climb at Munster got well photographed by Ivan. Eventually we were stopped by the SAC Syphon – the by-pass to which could not be climbed to, being high in the ceiling and strangely without any fixed aids. The return trip to the Doline was made more interesting by following the Zwergstollen passage from			

	<p>just beyond Schuttdom. This crawling cum stooping tube was much more like what we were used to at home and even had a short, knee deep canal which spoilt all attempts previously made to keep dry. This short-cut brought us to the mud choked Lehmtal passage – which would be a very promising dig! After a feast of chocolate and “Rise and Shine” we clambered up this huge, sandy tube back to the Doline (via a superb cross-roads of mega phreatic tunnels) and then attempted to return to Bivouac II via Lehmschollengang. An unroped pitch here prevented us doing so, but great fun was had building clay lions, Bertie Bats, phalli etc at a gallery of assorted mud sculptures. Back to the Doline and along SAC Gang to B II, meeting Pete H, Pete M and Alison en route. Everyone stayed at B II that night and a good night’s sleep was had.</p> <p>3/1/79 – Returned along the usual route reaching the entrance in 2 ¾ hours, including a fifteen minute dinner break at B I. The others caught up with us at the Styx and we exited in a motley though fairly well-packed rabble. The view at the entrance was well worth spending two days underground for. Everything in sight was well covered in snow and huge icicles festooned the cliffs and entrance passage. A splendid and fitting end to a great trip in a fantastic cave system. Yoh.</p> <p>- Returned on 4/4/79 in atrocious drifting snow conditions. Drank Trappiste in France and also nearly got stuck. 5/1/79: eventually left Calais (well frozen up) by car ferry as Hovercraft not operating due to storms. Arrived at Dover (pissed) and then dropped Jim and Rich in London, dropped GWJ, DW, IY and PD at Aylesbury – then back to Hertfordshire to drop the van. Then back to London, queue for petrol for an hour, then to Bath to drop Pete and Alison – eventually reaching Mendip at 3.30am on 6/1/79. Good boozy weekend on Mendip.</p>
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Somerset	Tyning’s Barrow Swallet 13/1/79 Martin Grass, Chris Batstone, Graham Wilton-Jones, John Dukes, Stu MacManus, Martin Bishop	3½ hr	Charterhouse	Commenced (or rather continued) with the re-opening dig below the 2 nd pitch. Over ten bags of mud were removed and packed into the rift opposite the ladder. A scaffold platform was also constructed in preparation for more stacking in the hole from which the mud originally appeared.
Somerset	Tyning’s Barrow Swallet 20/1/79 Trev Hughes, Neil Weston	2¾ hrs	Charterhouse	Continued digging in the floor, shifting over two dozen grot bags and stacking these behind the scaffold platform to block the “mud-flow” inlet. Looking promising.
Somerset	Tyning’s Barrow Swallet 10/2/79 J.Turner, R.Lewis (SVCC) R.Gough	3 hrs	Charterhouse	Removed about twenty bags of mud – stacked in usual place. We are now in a cross rift with a good draught - showing plenty of promise.
Somerset <i>dive</i>	Swildon’s Hole 17/2/79 (C.Batstone) Alone	4hr 50m	Priddy	Intention was to dive to 12 and re-climb Victoria Aven. Chris became ill at the Twenty and exited. I carried on alone to 9 and deposited the 100’ rope and my diving gear. Free-dived back, thoroughly enjoying the trip. Noted many evil-looking shrimps in the streamway below 4. Took 20 seconds to free dive sump 3, and also 20 seconds for sump 2. Lost diving knife somewhere beyond Sump 2 and exited from 1 with failing light. A very confidence inspiring and perversely enjoyable trip.
Somerset	Swildon’s Hole 24/2/79 Bob Hill, Steve AKerrear(?) (ICCC)	4hr 50m	Priddy	XII trip off due to miserable excuses from all concerned. Free-dived to 9 instead, basically to show the other two this part of the cave. Looked at various holes en route back from 9, including a c.60’ high, tight rift in 7 – no go. Large passage in 7 sloping up to boulder ruckle needs banging. Enjoyable trip despite getting stuck in Sump 5 on the way back. NB – Rift/Aven in seven is “Lonely Aven”.
Somerset <i>dive</i>	Swildon’s Hole 3/3/79 Pete Moody, Ian and	8hr 10m	Priddy	Free-dived to 9 with the apprentices who were duly impressed. Pete and I continued through the thick murk of Sump 9 and on to 12, carrying the

	John (Apprentices MU II)			<p>100' rope. On reaching the start of Victoria Aven climb it was found that there were two good ropes in place. These were used as protection to climb the 100' or so to the large ledge. From here I continued up the last 40' to the top – this seemed a good deal easier than seven years ago! Thirty foot of ladder and the new rope were rigged and Pete joined me. We continued on along Desolation Row, leaving our SRT kit at the top of Victoria Aven (unfortunately!) Having reached the foot of the Triple Avens which it was our intention to bang at the top of, I commenced climbing the largest – using the fixed rope as an assistance – but not attached to it. This proved a mistake as about twelve feet up I peeled off and hit the deck – my nife cell coming between my back and the boulders on the floor and getting exceedingly dented. Apart from the sore back I also grazed and badly bruised my left wrist. With visions of the long and difficult route back, and the possibility of a cracked or broken wrist, we decided to abandon the banging and surveying of this series and head out. This proved a slow process but was easier than expected – especially in the sumps, which were a joy to swim through. Pete lugged out most of the gear and helped me up everything difficult – for which many thanks. We staggered out around seven (complete with all our diving gear!) and procured coffee and first aid at Martin's:- many thanks. An epic trip. On reflection I was extremely lucky to have got off so lightly. Anything more serious than my minor injuries would present a very great rescue problem – especially regarding Victoria Aven and sumps 9 and 6.</p>
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Breconshire	Agen Allwedd/Ogof Gam 14/4/79 Jeff Price, Rich Websell, Trev Hughes, (Big at the kiddie's Pool, Hugh Dixon, Pete – NWCC) (Ross, Paul Saveille, Pete)	6hr 40m	Llangattock	Jeff, Rich, trev and I left the others to their own devices at the first choke and continued on to the long drag of Southern Stream Passage. We took a chance on finding the Deep Water pools unsumped and continued on up the Main Stream Passage, Biza Passage, 4 th Choke etc, generally being very lucky with route finding and even more lucky to find Deep Water open. The long wet march along the stream passage (occasionally in conjunction with the NWCC who had returned from Turkey Series) brought us all out in time for loads of beer – which was the pattern for the rest of this gloriously sunny Easter weekend. A bloody good trip – all were totally knackered – and an excellent Easter all round.
Somerset <i>Re-opening</i>	Tyning's Barrow Swallet 22/4/79 Tim Large, Ian Calwell (and a bee)	3¼ hr	Charterhouse	After an hours digging, using up our supply of c.30 paint tins, Tim suddenly broke through into open space. A vicious muddy squeeze brought us back into the old cave and away we went to the bottom, retrieving Martin Bishop's spade to prove that we'd done it! Old rotting ladder still on Pyramid Pot. Great problems experienced reversing the breakthrough squeeze. A good trip.

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Derbyshire	Duce Hole 24/4/79	½ hr	Gt. Hucklow	Intention was to continue with the extremely promising Pegasus dig. Lack of equipment, diggers and brain cells effectively knackered this
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				and so we just had a brief look at the site. The streamway is disgustingly foul and there are rats (!) in the cave but I think that a few good digging sessions will produce something new.
Staffordshire	3/5/79 – During the course of a trig. Scheme at Stoke-on-Trent I visited the surface buildings of the huge Hem Heath Colliery, near Trentham – a superb example of a modern, clean, well-organised pit.			
Derbyshire	Duce Hole 5/5/79 Alone	1 hr	Gt. Hucklow	Lack of support necessitated a lone visit which accomplished little. A few buckets were filled and a small amount of track cleaning attempted. An old bottle was found.
Derbyshire	Magpie Mine Sough 7/5/79 Teapot (EPC) Terry Worthington, Les Riley, Jeff Rose (PDMHS)	3hr 20m	Sheldon /Ashton	Out of season trip along the sough to bottom of shaft in order to emplace a “Cwmystwyth” type “donging engine” in Magpie Mine. Mission was reasonably well accomplished. A fine trip – nice and wet.
Derbyshire	12-13/5/79 – Excellent CDG Dinner weekend in Derbyshire. Surface visits to Thistle Pot, Eldon Hole (containing c.120' of snow!) and a possible back entrance to Speedwell Cavern from a mineshaft near Rowter Farm! Time will tell, as this is a SUSS exploration.			
Staffordshire	15/5/79 – In the course of the Stoke area trig scheme, I visited Holditch Colliery, near Newcastle-Under-Lyme, reputed to be the deepest worked pit in the country.			
Worcestershire	Castle Hill Mines 17/5/79 Paul Deakin, Bernie (PDMHS), Ian and Ian	1¼ hr ½ hr	Dudley	Recce and photographic trip for Paul. We first visited “144 Steps Cavern” where he took various snaps of the chamber, canal basins, etc. Thence to “Flooded Mine” where Paul photographed the “main chamber” and the orange/red rimstone pools. An excellent little Wednesday night trip, finished off with a few pints of Batham’s.
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Somerset Discovery	St. Cuthberts Swallet 20/5/79 Tim Large	2½ hr	Priddy	Went to Tim’s dig at bottom of Marble Pot Series with intention of pushing a banged squeeze. Although excessively tight I managed to force the downwards sloping passage into a tiny 6’ high chamber and a few feet of passage with little hope of an extension without a major blasting project. Reversing this passage was a real bastard and at one point I became very close to a claustrophobic panic. I only got out with Tim’s assistance – pulling me bodily out using a rope round my wrist! An unfortunate result for all the work than Tim put in here.
Staffordshire	Cave (artificial sandstone) Devil’s Den (artificial sandstone) Dunsley Tunnel (25yd) Cookley Tunnel (65yd) Cave (artificial sandstone) 6/6/79 R, S, R and S Biddle, F.Gillan, C and M Watson		Kinver Kinver Dunsley Cookley Cookley	All visited while on canal holiday. The cave at Kinver is 2 x 3m in cliff near upper lock, as with the 8½ x 3m cave near Cookley it was probably used as a lock keeper’s hut. The Devil’s Den is an artificial cave once used as a boathouse.. Both tunnels on Staffs and Worcs Canal.
Warwickshire	Brandwood Tunnel (King’s Norton, 352yds) Edgbaston Tunnel (105yd) 11/6/79 As above		Brandwood Edgbaston	On Stratford Canal On Worcs and Birmingham Canal Other “tunnels” visited included the roofed over Broad St (B’ham) and Summit (B’ham)

Warwickshire	Curdworth Tunnel (57yd) 13/6/79 As above		Curdworth	On B'ham and Fazeley Canal.
Flintshire	Pont Newydd Rising Cave, Ogof Hen Ffynhonnau, Dyer's Adit 23/6/79 (alone), Jerry Dobby, Crispin Ebbs (NWCC)	½ hr 2hr 50m	Cilcain	The dig above entrance sump pool in PNRC had partly filled with mud. This was cleared and the small tube at the end again confirmed to be a "bang" job! Then to OHF alias Poacher's Cave! The entrance (above lid) was cleared of recent collapse debris and a fine trip had in this superb phreatic system with its impressive streamway, dome chamber and formations. Some poking about was done in the lower series and a climb up a very wet rift brought us to a few feet of possibly new passage – (doubtful). Fine trip.
Denbighshire <i>Discovery Dive</i>	Ogof Llyn Du Ogof Cefn-y-Gist (1) 24/6/79 Mike Gammon, Jerry Dobby, Tim Belfield, Stuart Saum (NWCC) (+ Crispin Ebbs)	1½ hr 1 hr	Minera	The superbly decorated new cave of Ogof Llyn Du was visited and the new upstream section, beyond a drained sump, was inspected. The really superb gour dams and pretties in the central section were duly admired. We then headed for the undived downstrweam sump. A large, diesel-coated sump pool abruptly fills the phreatic bore passage. I kitted up (minus weight belt) and undertook a reconnaissance dive on a base-fed thick courlene line paid out by Jerry. The sump immediately became around 4' high and of unknown width due to silt brushed from the ceiling as I "hunchbacked" into the passage. The large shallow (c. 4-5' deep) sump made going very easy and I went further than intended. When loneliness began to set in I was some 80' into the sump, with no sign of imminent airspace. The return was easy – though I had thoughts of ending up in possibly tighter side areas. The passage seemed to be relatively straight and the lads at base thought that I had kept to the LH side of the passage. Exited feeling fairly triumphant and knowing that the sump will almost definitely go on the next dive – it is believed that only some 150 feet or so lie between here and the Llyn Du System (?) sicovered 200 years ago in Minera Mines. Should the sump fail to dry up in Summer it is hoped to return with a decent team and push it properly. Great cave, great dive, great trip! (Bumped into Pete Appleton when leaving – embarrassing!) After a few beers at the City Arms we headed for the short thrutchy but well-decorated swallet cave of Ogof Cefn-y-Gist. Little to note about this particular, boulder-choked system but the multitude of other diggable swallets in this area make it one of great interest and potential. Much more to be found up here. Great weekend.
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Caernarvon-shire	Gilfach Mine 26/6/79 Alone	5 mins	Cwm Pennant	While engaged on accuracy test in the Beddgelert area, I visited this fine little mine site with its old Cornish-made waterwheel and pump bob. The remains are an outstanding piece of mine archaeology and well worth a visit. Three levels were inspected, but not having suitable boots I was only able to explore one of these for about 200' to an approx. 20' deep winze – with a probable extension of the level continuing on the

				far side. (A small flooded shaft above the old slate quarry at the head of the valley on the left was also visited.)
Caernarvon-shire	Moel-hebog Mine 27/1/79 Alone	5 mins	Moel Hebog	As above: Main adit explored for around 200' to collapsed shaft from above and wet level beyond, not entered. Some patches of green flowstone in evidence. Also looked for Ogof Owain Glyndwr. Various odd holes in cliffs and gullies may be this place but all were small, miserable and useless as a long term hideout!

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Flintshire	The Hole in the Wall Dig 30/6/79 (C.Ebbs, P.Ford, M.Mcarthy)	1 hr	Pantymwyn	A recce of the river upstream of Cilcain Bridge as far as Leet Caves was undertaken. Several promising digging sites were noticed and the afternoon was spent at three of these, all close together, about 50 yds downstream from the Gorge. I christened mine "The Hole in the Wall" and cleared some 2m of clay infill from its scalloped rift entrance. Much digging remains to be done here, but it shows some promise, being near the theoretical end of the system beyond Poacher's Cave (OHF).
Flintshire	Ogof Hesp Alyn 1/7/79 Phil Ford	3 hrs	Cilcain	Dug some 3m of sand and clay from the continuing passage at the end of the right hand chamber in OHA's entrance series. Though totally blocked with clay, this phreatic roof pocket almost certainly continues through into passages beyond, hopefully running parallel or away from the main system. A good dig.
Flintshire	Grange Cavern Military Museum 2/7/79 Alone	20m	Holywell	Interesting new museum of military vehicles (trucks, jeeps etc) housed in old, pillar and stall limestone workings – used during 2 nd World War as a bomb store.
Caernarvon-shire	Ogof Owain Glyndwr 3/7/79 Alone		Beddgelert	(Ditto – OS Accuracy Test job). 16' long "cave" used by the Welsh rebel as a hideout. Obviously either completely mined or enlarged as the shot-holes mentioned in (Oldham) are very obvious.
Somerset	7-8/7/79 - Mendip – Attended Pete and Alison Moody's wedding reception. A superb PU. Also transported the old hand winch from Horseshoe Hole to Longwood Valley Sink, for Tuska.			
Somerset	Manor Farm Swallet 13/7/79 James Wells	25m	Charterhouse	Took Oliver Wells' son on an abortive tourist trip! Knackered lamps, lack of knowledge of the route – and suitable tackle forced us to retreat. Friday the 13 th !
Somerset	Sludge Pit Hole 14/7/79 James Wells	1 hr 10m	Priddy	Tourist fester. Very pleasant. Had a look at the sump dig, which should be continued and festered round the upper series. This really is a fine little cave. A good long-term concentrated effort at the sump dig would almost certainly break into further passage – probably by following the rift/joint to the left.

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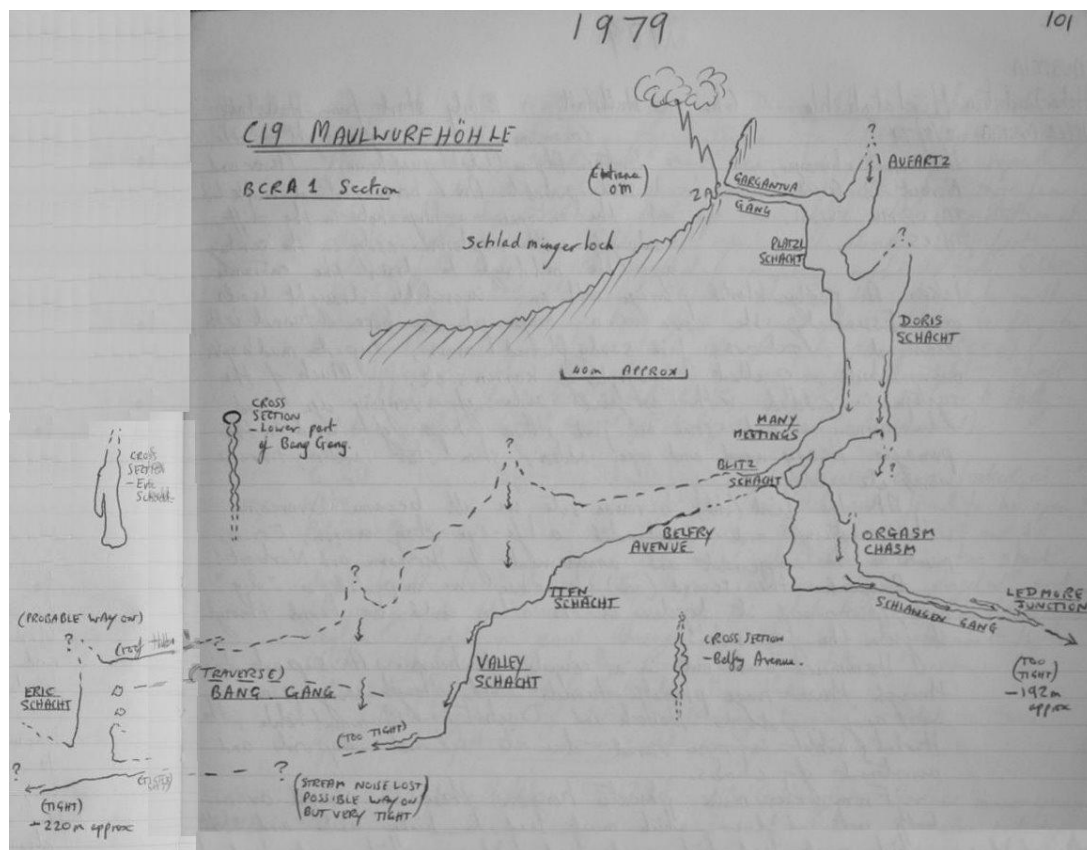
BEC/VCC Austrian Expedition 1979

20/7/79 – Left Dover at 8 o'clock (after GWJ and I took train down from Aylesbury) – reaching Hallstatt about 8pm on 21/7/79. Drove Trev Hughes' motor bike for a hundred miles or so through Germany. A pleasant journey. Had an excellent Mackerel supper near Hallstatt and after a few beers dosed down in Throstle's car below Seilbahn (material). Others dosed in woodpile sheds nearby.				
Austria	22/7/79 – Much farting about getting all the gear up to Weisberghaus on the material seilbahn. Jim Watson, Chris Smart, Stu Lindsey and I then drove to Obertraum and travelled up to the plateau on the military seilbahn – Graham Wilton-Jones and Trevor Hughes following soon after. Moved into the hut outside Weisberghaus and christened it "Der Glocken" (The Belfry).			
Hoher Dachstein, Austria	C19 Maulwurfhöhle 23/7/79 Steve (Throstle)	2hr 50m	Ndr. Grünberg	Jim and I followed the other three down – Jim bailing out in the entrance passage due to his size. I met the others at the top of Dorisschacht

	Alldred, Dave Plant, Mervyn Keys (Valley CC) Jim Watson (BEC)			where Throstle was having trouble with the Hilti bolting kit – the bolts being too long for the receivers. I then rigged the shaft with over a hundred feet of ladder which I promptly dropped over the edge! Pissed off, we all made our way out. Meanwhile, CS and GWJ rigged a telephone wire from the Weisberghaus to C19 entrance (nearby) and TH and SL had found three interesting holes near Weisberghaus.
Hoher Dachstein, Austria <i>discovery</i>	C19 Maulwurfhöhle 24/7/79 MK, JW	9 hrs	Ndr. Grünberg	<i>See below</i>
<p>Descended with vague intentions of heading down to TTFN Schacht and exploring this. Others were to follow installing bolts, telephone cable etc. Dorisschacht was rigged with ladder and we descended and pushed on down the 25’ pitch (later christened Blitz Schacht!) and along Belfry Avenue – very hard going for Jim due to his size and weight – and much smaller and more awkward than I remembered from last year! Time was rapidly gaining on us so we ditched a ladder and grotbag and hurried on down to TTFN Schacht which we rigged from a belay back along the rift. I descended, followed by Merv and Jim and we were on new ground. Unfortunately only about 80’ further along this high rift passage, a tight 15’ drop was encountered needing a rope or ladder. Just beyond this a black hole could be seen from which thrown rocks gave an estimated drop of well over 50’ including a ledge part way down.</p> <p>We turned back here and struggled wearily back to the surface – Merv suffered light problems on Dorisschacht and Jim cursing all the tight bits.</p> <p>Walked back to the hut in the dark, reaching it about 11pm. A tough trip. Some 40’ of depth gained.</p>				
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Hoher Dachstein, Austria	<p>25/7/79 – Cave hunting day. Walked to the top of Niederer Grünberg via Schladmingerloch with intentions of abseiling down to the large entrance in the cliff face (C60). Lack of suitable belays and an excess of incautious idiots knocking boulders and stones over the cliff failed this plan. A couple of small holes were noted on the grass ledge above C60 and several depressions on the hill top examined. Fabulous views in all directions from the top (SL, TH, GWJ, MK, DP, CS). Throstle and Chris then joined us and we walked on down the ridge towards Gams-Kogel and back up the valley to the “Titans” boulders and across to Weisberghaus. Several promising shafts were noted, but not pushed, en route.</p> <p>All got either partly or totally pissed on Peach Brandy provided by local Austrians, some of whom we knew from last year. SL spent much of the night honking and sleeping in the bog, whilst TH went outside and thought he was in a car park (at 1873 metres!)</p>			
Hoher Dachstein, Austria	Dachstein- Mammuthöhle 26/7/79 Siegfried Gamsjager CS, GWJ, TA, DP, MK, SL, JW, TH	6 hrs	Obertraun	<i>See below</i>
Hoher Dachstein, Austria	<p>Walked across to Gjaid-Alm in the morning and after a beer, took the Seilbahn down to Schönberg-Alm (Trev, Graham and I getting a mysterious free trip!) The others followed us down, apart from Jim who got lost by going to the military seilbahn and arrived an hour late together with the 100m rope.</p> <p>We rendez-voused with Siegfried and wandered up to the cave entrance where we nipped in front of the tourists and kitted up in the first chamber. We then followed tourists and tourist route to about halfway where we left the main gallery, Palaeotraun, to follow an old show cave path which led to a large dome chamber containing an ice lake and other ice formations.</p> <p>From here we followed the main route to the 100m deep (in three separate stages) Theseus Schacht. All abseiled to a large dry passage with an “art gallery” of carbide-coated clay lumps suitably engraved and autographed. H.Franke’s name appeared several times as did Siegfried’s and various others. Several masterly inscriptions and drawings were produced and left here and we then headed off along the main passage of the Minotaur Series – an undulatory steep phreatic tube, very reminiscent of the Holloch but with a floor covered in sand and clay.</p> <p>After passing the disused Bivouac 1 we arrived at a chamber with a five foot stalagmite bearing Hermann Bock’s inscribed signature from the 1913 expedition, when he pushed the series alone from Theseus Schacht, leaving his companions as safeguards on the ledges. Photos were taken and we returned to Bivouac 1 and the “art gallery”.</p>			

	<p>A different route back was taken through the Edelweiss Labyrinth – up a 20’ fixed ladder and a climb up steep canyons and rifts. This steep route eventually brought us back to the main passage just before Theseus Schacht. While GWJ, SG, CS and JW went to retrieve the rope the rest of us returned to the ice dome chamber where SL took several photographs.</p> <p>All then trudged along the immense phreatic bore passage leading to the West entrance (old show cave) which we could not exit from due to lack of a key. Back to the ice chamber again and out of the cave via the other half of the tourist route.</p> <p>A very pleasant, festerous ramble in this 32km phreatic system. The cave is very much on the style of Holloch but has much more in the way of glacial deposits – sand, clay, conglomerate etc and is generally dry, though muddy in parts. The main passages are huge phreatic tubes – very impressive. Roughly a kilometre of new passage is found each year and a connection with a higher cave, Wasserschacht is imminent. Good trip. After a meal and a slide show from Siegfried, we all got rapidly pissed and stayed in a spotless Alpine style caving hut nearby.</p>			
Pages 98 and 99				
Hoher Dachstein, Austria	27/7/79 - Sat outside caves restaurant while six of the lads visited the ice cave. Thence back up to Gjaid-Alm and walked across to Weisberghus. Festering day.			
Hoher Dachstein, Austria <i>Discovery</i>	C19 Maulwurfhöhle 28/7/79 TH, DP, MK, JW (+ others)	8¼ hr	Ndr. Grünberg	See below
	<p>Fairly EPIC trip:- Dave, Merv, Trev and I went straight down to TTFN Schacht and placed a bolt above the next 15’ pitch. Merv descended this tight awkward rift to the head of the next section – a 40’ fair sized shaft to a ledge, dropping away for another 40 odd feet. The whole shaft from top to bottom being over 100’ and called Valley Schacht in recognition of VCC. Due to excessive spray from the aven above, we all got cold and wet while putting in the bolt and so Dave and Merv returned to the surface. Trev and I stayed to bolt the lower shaft (Valley Schacht proper) but the bolt broke off in the tool and knackered this operation. We attached the ladder to the top bolt and I abseiled down for a quick look. This beautiful damp shaft has a large flat floor and beyond a c.100’ high x 3’ wide meandering rift passage continues in the manner of Belfry Avenue – this has since been christened “Bang Gang”. I traversed along here for a few feet to confirm that it still continued – and also carried a reasonable sized stream in the floor. At its start there is a high inlet aven. It could be possible to traverse Gang Bang high up in the roof with more ease than at floor level.</p> <p>After getting pretty wet I returned to Trevor and we started off out, meeting Jim at the lower end of Belfry Avenue bringing in more tackle. The three of us continued on to Many Meetings, where the telephone was now based. Jim talked to Chris Smart (at the entrance) for a minute or two and then I took over. I had just explained about the new pitch when (unknown to me) lightning zapped the entrance and presumably travelled along the cave air and telephone wire. Both Chris and I were zapped and instantly knocked unconscious – Chris for about 20 seconds and myself for a few minutes. I had fallen over and screamed in the process (hurting my elbow), staggered up once to shout “Oh, my God” and falling again. Jim didn’t know what had happened and rushed to pick me up, thinking I had been felled by a boulder. Trev also rushed up the ladder, to help.</p> <p>After a few minutes I regained consciousness and din’t know where I was or who Trev and Jim were. I forced myself to think and after a couple of minutes could realise where I was, etc. My left index finger and thumb were paralysed for a few seconds and my ear felt burned and was very sore (as also happened to Chris). Otherwise I felt okay and we were soon on our way out again and facing another trip in the dark across the lapiaz – scattering with fear at the occasional burst of thunder! The others had already gone back. (At the same time as we were struck, Stuart, by the entrance, felt the static, saw a flash and heard an instantaneous bang. He ran to help the zapped Chris. Graham and Thros at the head of Platzlschacht saw the flash and heard the bang echo down the cave – Thros having tingling hands, Dave, at the head of Dorisschacht saw a flash at the bottom but Merv, halfway up, saw and heard nothing).</p>			
Hoher Dachstein, Austria	29/7/79 – A well deserved festering day at the Weisberghaus partaking of beer and food and indulging in the manly pastime of crib.			
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Hoher Dachstein, Austria <i>Discovery</i>	C19 Maulwurfhöhle 30/7/79 JW, GWJ, TH, (SL, CS)	8 hrs	Ndr. Grünberg	See below
	<p>After reaching the bottom with little difficulty Jim and I headed off to explore while Trev and Graham inserted a bolt at the top ledge of Valley Schacht. First, I followed the lowest possible level of the winding stream rift of Bang Gang, but this became excessively tight after a hundred feet or so.</p>			

I returned to Jim and we climbed into the roof and again followed the passage – this time traversing over sixty feet up for at least three hundred feet to a dry shaft (Eric Schacht). The latter part of this route was in the roof proper – a 4' diameter phreatic bore tube (beautiful!) with a really deep downcut floor. This dry shaft was some 50' deep from this point but we traversed down until we reached a point about 25' above the floor. Due to lack of lifeline this probably free climbable shaft was left for later in the expedition.



Deciding that we had lost the stream route we listened for its noise as we traversed back. The stream was again heard at a point 2/3 of the way back. GWJ, Jim and Trevor later investigated this but equipment would be needed to descend the rift to stream level. Meanwhile I headed out with Stu and Chris and 100' of ladder to re-rig Doris Schacht. This was accomplished after some problems as I sat in a small, bouldery alcove a hundred feet up with very cold hands and a great bundle of “knitting”! A gentle exit for me followed, getting back to the hut before tea. The others appeared at intervals later, until 10 o’clock. Shagged out as usual!

Hoher Dachstein, Austria	31/7/79 – Festered at Weisberghaus all day during the periodic rain.			
Hoher Dachstein, Austria	1/8/79 – Walked down to the Waldbach valley and, feeling reasonably fit, we decided to carry on up to Salzberg and the Salzbergwerk Hallstatt (Salt mine). Accomplished after a fair slog!			
Hoher Dachstein, Austria	Salzbergwerk Hallstatt 1/8/79 GWJ, TA, DP, MK, JW, SL, TH, CS (and tourists)	50m	Salzberg	See below
A couple of adit entrances had been looked at during the walk down through Salzberg. The tourist trip involved first a walk along the Christina – Stollen – an egg-shaped adit level, beautifully timbered and concreted in parts in the Austrian “octagonal” style. This was followed by a wooden slide (thoroughly enjoyed by all) leading down to worked out salt chamber where the guide lectured in German. Then back up the slide and further along the main level, and a further slide, to a large lake in a salt chamber decorated with coloured lights. This was walked around to a circular raise shaft with a spiral staircase and leading to the upper levels where a fast and exciting exit was made on a modern man-rider train. Quite a good show mine though I think that at Hallein is better. All got well pissed at a German old age pensioners’ evening in Hallstatt after calling in at a local				

	restaurant with Hermann Kirchmayer and his mate Norbert. Much Austrian folk music and dancing, arse-kicking, audience participation (mainly US) etc. Devious deal done concerning an Austrian drinking vessel, apprehension in the streets of Hallstatt, denial of guilt and later collapse due to excess of urine. Great session and a great bunch of Grannies!!!!			
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Hoher Dachstein Austria	Hirlatzhöhle 2/8/79 Hermann Kirchmayer, Norbert (?), GWJ, TA, DP, MK, JW, SL, TH, CS	6 hrs	Hallstatt	See below
	<p>Early start from Hallstatt (moan, moan), after rigid night in the Austrian Alpine Club guest house. Trevor and I still pissed! An hour’s vertical walk led to the entrance – a large hole in the cliff, enlarged with explosives early in the century by the military to drain the entrance lakes. A partly blasted passage with an incredible draught leads on. Essentially the cave is a huge phreatic bore tunnel with occasional oxbows, fine sandy floored areas, superb mudbanks metres thick, excellent examples of karren, etc. Much of the system is riddled with artificial aids of varying age and dubiousness – and some are just rotting heaps of wood in the passages. Heavy wood and rope ladders, slim steel ladders, traverse wires etc abound.</p> <p>At the first (old) bivouac site we all became overcome with emotion and constructed a life-sized clay woman, Erica, much to the amazement and amusement of Hermann and Norbert! Beyond the second (new) bivouac we inspected a “dig” and pronounced it hopeless as the others could be heard through it from the other side!</p> <p>Hammered back out in a couple of hours. A superb trip through these huge phreatic tunnels and, though very similar in many respects to Holloch and Dachstein-Mammuthöhle, the Hirlatzhöhle is more varied due to its sediment deposits and assortment of climbs.</p> <p>From the main phreatic horizon there are several avens, both wet and dry, which must lead to higher levels and shaft systems.</p> <p>Back out to superb weather and one of the finest views from any cave entrance. (Hermann spent much time trying to count us (!) and was totally confused by the addition of the mythical Eric to the party!) Back to hut via Dachstein Seilbahn.</p>			
Hoher Dachstein Austria discovery discovery	C54 C60 3/8/79 Alone	40m	Schladminger loch	<p>The large entrance in the cliff (C60) had been reached at last by Bucket Tilbury, Andy Sparrow and Dave (?) the previous day, but they had not explored the cave. I traversed up to the grassy ledge and abseiled down 30’ or so in fear and trembling due to lousy belay, sharp rock, climbing rope and the several hundred feet of fuck all below me! The 2m pot a few feet inside was abseiled and a winding 5m high x 0.5m wide dry, meandering rift passage was followed for 50m to a second entrance lower down the cliff. No other ways on. Disappointing in that we assumed the cave to be a top entrance to C19. Upon emerging thunder could be heard and mist was closing in so a rapid dangerous and disgraceful return was made with far more fear and trembling by climbing back up the cliff with no protection at all from my chest Gibbs as rope was about fifty feet sideways from belay ! No hopes of prussicking with two Gibbs. Before reaching this cave I had checked the two holes on the grass ledge – one closing down quickly and the other leading to a small chamber and a few feet of side passages (C54). Back via the entrance of a strongly draughting shaft in Schledmingerloch (C51?) which GWJ, Siegfried, Bucket and Andy had been pushing. (Tight exposed rift leading on and not pushed).</p>
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Hoher Dachstein Austria	C20 4/8/79 Andy Sparrow, Merv	50m	Schmalthöhe	Investigated cave looked at last year (snow filled) and found to be open the previous day by SG, GWJ, and AS. They had climbed down two

<i>discovery</i>	Keys			short drops to the head of a c.18' drop. This we "flying angeled" and the passage at the bottom found to be choked with boulders. No way on despite a good draught. Otherwise a pleasant little cave with horizontal body-sized phreatic tubes, moonmilk and interesting red bands in the limestone. (The beginnings of a "German Granny Disease" started to take effect as I felt a lousy cold coming on.)
Hoher Dachstein Austria <i>discovery</i>	C19 Maulwurfhöhle 5/8/79 Jim, Andy, GWJ, Bucket	12½ hr	Ndr. Grünberg	<i>See below</i>

Another minor epic. A pushing, surveying and detackling trip. Jim, Andy and I went straight down to the bottom and I "flying angeled" Eric Schacht – a 30' drop to a continuing, descending rift passage becoming tight and containing a small stream. A small side shaft (part of Eric Schacht) was also descended for 15' where it was blocked and a window led into the main shaft. Surveyed from here back out along Gang Bang, suffering light pox all the way. Jim tried dropping down to the stream at one point but it became too tight. All were cold, wet and fed up by the time we reached the bottom of Valley Schacht so we headed up this, detackling. The Valley Schacht ladder was jammed at the bottom so I went down again to free it. We dragged the gear to TTFN Schacht where Bucket and Graham were waiting and they hauled it up. Then followed a couple of hours of very tedious gear chaining up Belfry Avenue and to the base of Doris Schacht where all were totally knackered. I went first up the shaft to give light for Andy who was to follow. A long wait followed as Andy "freaked out" (to use his own words) halfway up. Bucket and I "talked" him up the shaft from above and below and on we went. I left Andy at Platzl Schacht where he decided he had recovered considerably, and exited, walking back in the starlight and warmth watching the almost phosphorescent light of the moonlight on the surrounding hills. Most were out around midnight, though Graham and Bucket stayed to heroically hoist all the gear to the head of Doris Schacht and derig the pitch. A superb effort on their part. They got back around 3am. Stuart had provided very welcome coffee and spag. bol. A totally knacking trip, as by this time we were nearly all feeling the effects of the dreaded "German Granny Disease". A good trip to reminisce on though. – The Bloody place still goes on in at least two places, though no-one feels much like ever seeing it again! Amen.

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Hoher Dachstein Austria	6/8/79 – Festered and slept all day. Lovely. Norbert Leufner, local caving club boss and area expert turned up and Graham showed him the entrance to Bärengasse Windschacht – and extremely promising new shaft system found by GWJ a few days previously (and the object of next year's trip).			
Hoher Dachstein Austria	C19 Maulwurfhöhle 7/8/79 CS, GWJ, BT, JW, SL	4 hrs	Ndr. Grünberg	De-tackling trip from top of Doris Schacht. No problems apart from the "disease" having struck even more of us. Delighted to see the back of the place – though I say that with a hint of perverse affection !
Hoher Dachstein Austria	8/8/79 – Packed up and after farewell drinks with Fritz, Mitzi, Freddy and the Professor we wandered off down to Hallstatt, where we got traditionally rigid with drink. This time in the local disco.			
Hoher Dachstein Austria	Koppen brüller Höhle 9/8/79 JW, CS, GWJ	1 hr	Obertraun	Interesting show cave system. One of the main passages is an exceptionally fine straight fault(?) gallery. The cave boasts of its few small poor formations but to compensate for these it has some impressive small waterfalls and section of rapid streamway with a couple of sump pools at the end. Lighting is by hand held carbide gobbler. Beyond the show cave section there is some 2 kms of explored passage. The cave floods badly in wet weather, being an active resurgence for a large area. We then drove to the Gersberg (nr. Salzburg) campsite to oggle the waitresses (Via Gimurden??? Police station to drop off a bottle of whisky for Hermann.)

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10/8/79 – After a morning’s shopping in Salzburg (bought 2 superb cave prints), we visited Mike Meredith and Augustine Kaufmann at the latter’s caving shop then down to Saarlouis in the Ruhr.				
11/8/79 – Saarlouis – Luxembourg (unimpressed) – Belgium where we visited the:-				
Belgium Namur	Grotte de Han 11/8/79 Jim, Stu, Chris (+ tourists)	1½ hr	Han-sur- Lesse???	<i>See below</i>
	<p>Tram ride from centre of this horrible tourist trap takes one to the furthest entrance where the appropriate language speaking guide is collected. The show route leads through a series of passages and chambers, partly excavated, and fairly well filled with old, dirty and dry formations. Eventually the pretties improve somewhat and several very fine, tall columns and pillars can be seen (up to 15’ high). From here on the stal improves and the passage size increases in proportion. A superb section of phreatic slanting canyon passage with many inlet and outlet rifts. Part of the river Lesse ??? is then crossed by a bridge – fairly impressive – and a lower, flood-prone and very muddy section is passed.</p> <p>Next comes the utter spoliation of what has gradually become a pretty good trip. As one rounds a corner, again over a section of the underground river, a huge chamber is entered. This must once have been an impressive and dignified spot but is now sadly ruined by an underground cafeteria full of poxy tourists and screaming serving wenches – yeechh. Declining the offers of drink and waffles we sat it out in misery while the goons stuffed their faces and then continued on our way.</p> <p>Fortunately the next chamber – far bigger than its bastardised companion – is (relatively) unspoiled. The lights are extinguished and a boy runs from the highest point to the tourist path bearing a flaming brand in the manner of the early cave guides. Quite novel.</p> <p>The passage then leads on to the last section of underground river where large flat boats are entered and one sails serenely down the magnificent and well decorated river tunnel to the exit. One further novelty being the firing of a “cannon” as one approaches the exit.</p> <p>Despite the atrocious commercialization of the cave, village and surrounding area, the Grotte de Han is definitely a system to be visited – once.</p> <p>Later we also visited the interesting archaeological/speleological museum situated in the centre of the village.</p> <p>Drove on to Brussels, Ghent (Trappiste stop!) and rushed to catch the early morning boat from Ostende to Dover.</p>			
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Conclusion: A good holiday and plenty of caving. Unfortunately several days were wasted for various reasons and the rigging, exploration and detackling of Maulwurfhöhle took too long and was extremely arduous. The finding of Bärrengasse Windschacht holds the main promise for next year and several other holes need exploring. Still plenty of work to be done and relationships with locals and Austrian cavers couldn’t be better. A good expedition.				
Buckingham- shire	Hell-Fire Caves 12/8/79 Stu Lindsey (+ tourists)	20m	West Wycombe	Stopped en route back to Aylesbury to have a look at these old chalk mines / artificial caves. Excavated by order of one Francis Dashwood and with debaucheries of the Hell-Fire Club or Mad Monks of Medmenham, this peculiar underground passage is well worth a visit (though expensive). Essentially a single descending passage with oxbows and a few chambers the “cave” contains wax models of historical Hell-Fire Club figures, various statues, artificial stal and “River Styx” and assorted historical notices. Recorded speeches guide the visitor. A good trip for the kiddies and anyone fancying a quick grope in the gloomy bits! (Last trip of the Expedition!)
Flintshire	Ogof Hen Ffynhonnau 25/8/79 G.Wilton-Jones, T.Hughes, R.White, T.Large, P.Ford, C.Batstone, M.Grass, G.Dell (BEC), Gareth Brvan (NWCC)	2¼ hr	Cilcain	BEC weekend in N.Wales. Pleasant trip in “Poachers”, including a pushing session at the draughting collapsed passage to the left of the main chamber. This was forced over boulders for about 6’ but the way on is still tight and bouldery for another 15’. Needs a few good banging sessions to progress further. Back via lower series. Everyone very impressed and want to come again.

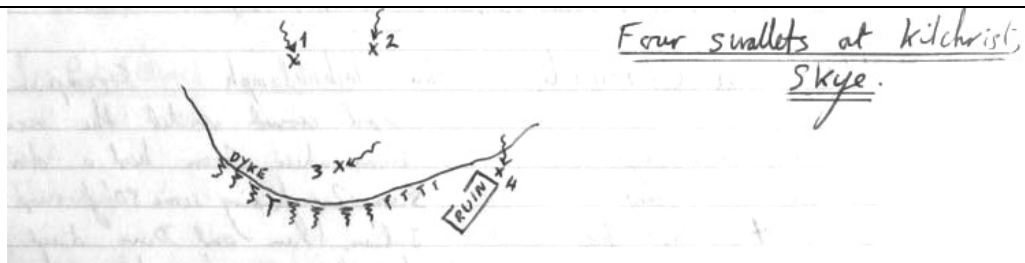
				Rest of the weekend dedicated to boozing. Great free barbecue near Nercrys???? And drinking session in Loggerheads Inn and Miners' Arms. A few of the others did Cefn-i-Gist and Waen-Las Mine. Great holiday weekend and good PRO with NWCC. Others present:- R.Goss, Fiona, Glen, J.Turner, Jill, P.Barker + other NWCC.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 1/9/79 Ross White	2½ hr	Red Quarr	Bottom of entrance shaft and squeeze into Santa's Grotto area needed excavating due to flood debris. We then carried on to the collapse at the Smoke Room and filled a few bags with rocks and liquid mud. Stacked these in the Smoke Room. Much digging needed to clear the collapse. Impressed with the flood washed passage as far as this collapse. Superb PU at Dave and Di Walkers wedding barrels – good music by MCG.

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Somerset	Manor Farm Swallet 2/9/79 Ross White, Sue Yea (J.Dukes, J.Turner, C.Batstone, T.Large, R.Hill (BEC) A.Newport, A Noxxxxx, C.Milxxx, Anne, Steve and Pauline Gough {VC???)	2½ hr	Charterhouse	Digging at Magic Roundabout. Ross, Sue and I joined the others after a great music session in the pub. Consequently we were fairly pissed. Met the BEC coming out. Shifted a few token rocks and norped a boulder. Exited with the Wessex who were on a tourist trip.
Somerset Discovery	Tynning's Barrow Swallet 8/9/79 Tim Large, Garth Dell, Chris Batstone	2hr 50m	Charterhouse	Pushed the extremely hairy boulder choke at the end of Drunken Horse Inlet. Up and straight on led after a few feet to a tiny sump and more loose stuff – no way on. Directly up through the choke we moved a large slab and I gingerly crept up and through a tight squeeze over a slab to enter Mountbatten Chamber – some 30' long x 20' wide x 15' high. We then moved the slab and Tim followed me through. The chamber is fairly stable and is formed on a rift or fault. Two tight avens in the roof lead nowhere and there is no hope of any way on. Interesting mud drip formations in places. Gave up hope then and headed back out, reflecting all the time on what an excellent system Tynning's is. The muddy entrance series was not as bad as usual. More work should be done on the side passages in this cave as there must be more to be found here. 50' gained towards barrel competition.
Staffordshire	Chatterley Whitfield Colliery 14/9/79 6 tourists +1 guide	1 hr	Stoke-on-Trent	Very interesting visit to this recently opened mining museum and "show" mine. The museum building is the old colliery lamp house and here we were kitted out with a helmet, belt and self-rescuer each. An ex-miner then took us into the pithead building of the Winstanley Shaft where we cramped ourselves into the low cage. We then descended some 700' (at slow speed to keep visitors happy!) to pit bottom. An hour's walk was then taken around the workings in the immediate vicinity of the pit bottom, which appear to be very much as they were left when the colliery closed down. One section, the Holly Lane Seam, has been set up as a reconstruction of three types of coal getting ie picking by hand, automatic chain type face machine and fully

				automatic “ripping” machine. Various other bits and pieces of equipment etc are inspected before a return up the shaft is made. Well worth £1.25p, though the rest of this proposed major museum is not yet fully operational.
15-16/9/79 – Excellent annual fester and piss-up at the BCRA Conference in Manchester, meeting all the usual crowd and getting traditionally pissed in the Stags. Great.				
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Somerset	Manor Farm Swallet 23/9/79 Tim Large, John Turner, Steve Short, Jerry Crick	3½ hr	Charterhouse	Digging in Magic Roundabout. Cleared a vast amount of rubble resulting in some 10 feet of descending rift passage ending in a tight wet squeeze. To progress further the floor will have to be dropped a few feet. The stream disappears into the floor after forming a 3” puddle.
Somerset	Wookey Hole Cave 29/9/79 Dany Bradshaw, Bob Cork, OCL, Deirdre, A.Thomas, M.Bishop, D.Hasel and friend, etc	25m	Wookey Hole	Assisted with bottle carrying to the 9th Chamber from where Dany and Bob set off to radio-locate the 24th Chamber (They also found 250’ of new passage for digging competition). We all then left the cave to assist Brian Prewer with surface receiver. J.Hanwell, Jill and J.Turner and M. (Quackers) Duck also turned up. A good time was had by all, though hobbling about on my recently stitched leg was a bit painful. Located 24 in the field on RH side of drove road. PM. M.Bishop, C.Batstone, J and J Turner, R.Hill and I investigated Welsh’s Green (Kangaroo) Swallet which is being dug by one of the “Mills Foundation”. * An interesting site though perhaps too low down for the Wookey catchment. * Graham Johnson (Jake).
Somerset	1/10/79 - Martin Bishop, Quackers and I looked at Emborough Swallet – partially infilled by the farmer and of little interest to me.			
Somerset	2/10/79 – Quackers and I prospected down Rookham valley, finding a 20’ mineshaft (probably previously investigated by BEC. Thence to Wigmore to clear rubbish heap.			
Somerset	Toothache Pot (Mine) 3/10/79 (Quackers, Fiona) Tim Large, Stu Lindsey	40m	Charterhouse	Evening digging trip. On arrival I realized that the site was a mineshaft. Pulled a few buckets and then went down to find a couple of shot-holes near the bottom, confirming my theory. Shifted a couple of feet of dirt and hazel nut shells then exited to the pub in pissing rain.
Somerset	4/10/79 – Quackers, Tim, Fiona or Martin and I to Barrow Rake area where Barrow Rake Swallet and a nearby collapse were looked at. The collapse is very interesting. Then to H.E.Balch’s old bungalow/shed and afterwards, a quick look at a small hole behind Mike Thompson’s traction engine. The Barrow Rake area needs a more extensive search.			
Somerset	6/10/79 – BEC AGM and Dinner – Damn good PU			
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Somerset	7/10/79 – Dave Irwin, Chris Batstone, Clare and I surveyed the surface location of Wookey 24 back to the location point for Wookey 20.			
Somerset Dive	Manor Farm Swallet 10/10/79 M.Bishop, T.Large, I.Caldwell, J.Watson, “Quackers” Duck	2hr 20m	Charterhouse	Intentions were for Martin and myself to dive in the newly discovered pool (Florence’s Bathtub) some 20’ from the dig in the blind pot. All reached there relatively easily and while Ian and Quiet John attacked an inlet passage above the 6’ diameter pool, Martin and I kitted up. Martin dived first to find after a careful search that there was absolutely no way on from the bottom of the pool – some 6’ deep at its deepest part. The floor and a small rift at one end were totally blocked with mud, silt and rocks and would require much underwater digging in nil visibility and probably to no avail. I had a short dive to confirm his findings. Strangely, this pool does not back up easily despite the steady stream inflow. I suggest

				that the down dip area – where one enters the pool from the squeeze – takes the drainage through the infilled gravel and silt. A dig in the mud choked alcove above here may possibly yield results. On the way out, Ian fell off the 20' climb below Curtain Chamber getting a good bruising for his pains.
Wigtownshire	Looked for the “Caves of Kilhern” (NX197645) near New Luce in the Galloway moorland. A vain search ended in my asking a young farmer who revealed that the “caves” are merely excavated burial chambers. To the north of this area at NX193665 is an area of presumably lead mines (disused). Not looked at.			
Sutherland	Uamh an Claonaite 27/10/79 M.Phimister, Helen, A.Jeffreys, J.Salvana, D.Warren, I.Young, M & K. Mills, 4 GSG “lads”, J.Walford, R.Mehew, Jackie.	3 hr	Inchnadamph	Grampian Dinner trip. A vast crowd visited the recently opened extensions where Goon had a dive in the virgin Sump 2 – finding some 80' of sump and streamway, and Julian, Ivan and Dave dived Sump 3 and attempted to dig down the far side. This fine system is now probably Scotland's most sporting – and one of its longest caves. The superb streamway has a wealth of cascades, canals, pools, crawls etc. and a selection of phreatic domes and sizeable inlet passages. A fine trip in a bloody good cave. Much remains to be done here in pushing from Sump 6 onwards and in attempting to by-pass Sump 3. (Alternatively, digging in the Bone Caves may reveal other high level parts of this system). Excellent dinner (as usual) at the Inchnadamph Hotel. Usual copious quantities of venison, beer and whisky. Great weekend.
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Sutherland	Uamh Cailliche Peireag 9/11/79 Alone	10m	Inchnadamph	Delayed by dinner time session with Jim and Hugh of Assynt Mountain Rescue Team. Nice walk up in snow to have a very brief look at the lower and upper digs. Epiglottis Passage still open despite much cobble debris at entrance. “Third Time Lucky” dig also still open, though obviously lately flooded – there being much vegetable debris etc. in the passage. Then to Loch Maoloch Coire sink – same as ever – and back via Cnoc nam Uamh to look at the Waterslide.
Sutherland	11/11/79 Boozey weekend. Toby, Jo, Mik, Helen McPherson and I festered over to look at Paul and Mik's resurgence dig, then walked back via Uamh an Tartair. Great weekend.			
Skye	Camas Malag Cave 15/11/79 Alone		Beinn an Dubhaich	Essentially, a recce of the Kilchrist Area near Coille Gaiseallach. Four good sinks were found immediately SE of the ruined sheilings. All worth digging and the combined waters must be quite a large amount, hopefully flowing in a reasonably sized passage. Other odds and ends in the area were looked at and I also poked my head into Camas Malag Cave, and a short hole nearby.
Skye	16/11/79 Kilchrist Area, Tourin, Skye. Spent much of the day excavating in three swallets to the SE of the ruined house. Swallet 1 was dug down in three places along a limestone face – the most S.Easterly point being the most promising but I gave up due to the large amount of boulders and cobbles.			



... though I think this one could go with a couple of hour's digging by two or more blokes. Swallet 2, taking the largest stream, also needs a good session by an enthusiastic team – the water sinks easily and rapidly under a wall of “other rocks”. Swallet 3 is, I think, the most promising and I spent a couple of hours on this one, moving many large and small boulders. The stream could be heard running noisily away and a body-sized space could be seen under the flat limestone roof. This could not be entered with the time, manpower and equipment available due to very large slabs of limestone blocking the entrance. Again, a couple of blokes could be in quickly with a concerted effort.

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Skye	Uamh Cinn Ghlinn (Valley Head Cave) Beinn an Dubhaich Cave Camas Malag Cave 18/11/79 Helen Macpherson	10m 20m 10m	Allt nan Leac	Very wet weather on Saturday prevented caving. On Sunday we headed up to Valley Head Cave, hoping to do a through trip. The very unpleasant, low passage and intimidating ducks were not quite what I, or Helen, expected and as Helen was unused to this form of caving we retreated – wet and cold! A brisk walk back down the valley brought us to Beinn an Dubhaich Cave in which we had a thoroughly enjoyable little trip – admiring the waterworn, variegated rock. Thence to Camas Malag Cave for a quick through trip of the upper section. This was enlivened at one point by Helen attempting to swallow the stream at a rather low section! Dead sheep destroyed enthusiasm for the lower parts of the cave. A superb weekend on Skye despite the dreadful weather. Magic!
Somerset <i>Rescue</i>	24/11/79 – Early evening call out to Manor Farm Swallet where a girl from CUCC had fallen most of the way down the entrance shaft (and had been caught by a bloke). She had a gash under the chin and was shaken and bruised. Tim, Trev, Dave Glover, Chris Batstone, Ross, Garth, Woody and I rushed across, rigged a hauling line and lifeline and pulled her out. Back to Belfry for grub, Hunters' and a good rowdy two barrel piss-up. Idle, drunken weekend.			
Somerset	Tynning's Barrow Swallet 15/12/79 T.Hughes, “Quackers” Duck	3 hrs	Charterhouse	Fine, wet and enjoyable trip, doing Sheep's Jaw – Dragon Chamber – Peyton Place round trip and then down to “A Day” and back. On reflection I was very impressed with the cave. The Upper Series needs another good going over. Sadly, there was much evidence of shitty hand prints on stals in Peyton Place. The end needs blasting as it is at present sumped up. Removed a bucket, rope and scaffold bar and were met at the surface by an extremely friendly sheep! Much water and very little mud left. Great trip.
Somerset	G.B. Cavern 28/12/79 Helen Macpherson, Mike Phimister, Edric Hobbs	2h 10m	Charterhouse	Pleasant fester down to the newly formed lake which commenced at the drop down from the Oxbows – Ladder Dig presumably flooded. Back via several wrong inlet passages. MP took several photographs. A dying badger found near the entrance (outside!) was later found to be dead and given a watery grave. (Superb Christmas and New Year in Belfry/Hunters')
Somerset	Swildon's Hole 2/1/80 Brendan and Jane Brew (ULSA), Quackers, Chris	2h 10m	Priddy	Nice damp trip to Sump 1 via the new “Binnie's Link” route and dry way. Helen's first ladder climb – not too impressed! B & J.B., CB, Q on to Sump 2. Nice little trip.

	Bradshaw, M. Phimister, H.Macpherson, J.Dukes.			
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Somerset	Tyning's Barrow Swallet 4/1/80 M.Phimister, Quackers.	2hr 10m	Charterhouse	Quackers and I to end of Paton Place where we commenced digging in a rising choke. A lump of mud landed in my eye and I had to reverse back to streamway to clean it out. I then went to end of Velcro Passage to hunt for a connection with Hare Chamber – to no avail. Quackers carried on downstream to find Mike. All exited together. Grotty trip. Helen went for a walk to top of Blackdown.
Somerset	Tyning's Barrow Swallet 13/1/80 Chris Milne, Trefor Roberts	1¾ hr	Charterhouse	Chris and Tref to the bottom, both on their first visit to the cave. I went to the dig of the previous week and after an hour's hairy boulder poggling I decided to leave it to "dig itself". All out together to a freezing night and a welcome can of ale left at the entrance by Pete and Alison Moody!
BEC/ Geriatric CG Belgium Weekend 18-20/1/80				
Friday evening ferry from Dover to Ostend, reaching the immense fridge-like edifice of the Speleo-Club du Gerny near Rochefort at about 3 a.m. Saturday. On Sat. morning we drove to Rochefort and Han-sur-Lesse where we met the rest of the team. A mix up in communications about meeting our Belgian guide was responsible for us consuming a couple of bottles of Trappiste and getting a visit to the caving museum in Han, courtesy of Monsieur Albert Hénin, local veteran caver. In the meantime our guide was found in his local hut...				
Belgium, Namur	Grotte de Pere Noel 19/1/80 Dominique (Belgian guide), Pieter Staal, Josh, Edmond (Speleo Nederland), Bucket Tilbury, GW-J, A.Thomas, M.Bishop, C.Dooley, B.Wilton, Trefor Roberts, Jeff Price, Mac, Dany, Bob Cork, Jim Watson	2 hrs	Han-sur-Lesse	Hydrologically, part of the Grotte de Han system but not yet connected. This cave consists essentially of one huge passage with loads of excellent and generally huge formations. Columns, bosses and curtains abound and despite the well beaten path and fingerprints on many formations, it is a most impressive cave. The local club are making a film of the cave and so we did not go to the end but had a good ramble around the pretty bit while the photographers did their bit. Belgian clubs all seem to have little contact with each other and are very jealous of their finds – gating and access restrictions being very prevalent. Back to Dominique's hut (or refuge) for a welcome Trappiste afterwards. All then went back to the Speleo-Nederland hut at Sinsin for an excellent meal of Sauerkraut and Wurst provided by the Dutch lads. This was followed by extensive field trials of various potent beers in Rochefort and, for some, a wine-swilling session with a bunch of French cavers. A good night!
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Belgium, Luxembourg	Grotte de la Fontaine Rivir 20/1/80 Several members of 2 Belgian clubs, J.Price, GW-J, Jim Watson, Bucket.	1½ hr	Sy	Early(ish) hungover trip across to Sy where we met our Belgian guides and a bunch from another Belgian club. The cave visited consisted of a series of well decorated crawls, rifts and chambers ending in a large chamber containing a superb underground lake. The wet-suited BEC contingent enjoyed themselves swimming about and playing on traverse ropes around the lake while the majority of Belgians went back out, assisting one of their number who had fallen in the lake, dislocating his arm! I followed these out, not having a wet-suit on and feeling like the bottom of a parrot's cage! A short but pleasant

				cave, the main interest of which is the lake.
All back to Dover on the 8.30 p.m. Sunday boat after an excellent weekend. Must do it again sometime.				
Somerset	Tynning's Barrow Swallet 3/2/80 Dave Glover, Tim Large, Mike Hogg	2 hrs 50m	Charterhouse	Good PU at Priddy Village Hall on Sat. night (John and Sue Duke's wedding) provided suitable hangover for the trip. Intentions were to push the choke beyond Paton Place which Tim and Quackers had banged during the weekend previous. The bang had done a good job and the choke was soon cleared. I clambered up the sloping, moving rubble into a standing sized rift with a total boulder choke on top. No way of pushing or digging this, so gave up here. A real "adrenalin courser." Then to Hare Chamber where no obvious connection to Velcro Passage could be found. The site needs another look at from the far side with diggers at both sides. Other odds and ends were looked at in the roof from here down to Aardvark Trap. Nothing of note found.
Somerset	Gough's Cave 10/2/80 Martin Bishop, Barry Wilton, MacAnus, Batspiss	1½ hr	Cheddar	At the invitation of the "Geriatrics", Chris and I joined them to visit the chamber above King Slomon's Temple. Much to the delight of the tourists we clambered up over the stal carrying a 12' rigid ladder. Martin checked out a couple of possible leads above the flowstone, neither of which went and we continued on into the high breakdown chamber beyond. In the floor here, at the end, a hole leading downwards between boulders was attacked with a large iron bar. After removing a couple of rocks I managed to squeeze down some 10' to where a c.15' deep, solid rift could be seen going on down. Loose boulders at the top prevented access. It looks a good way on and will be pushed as soon as possible, though much rock needs to be removed. Back to the surface with a small detour into Sand Chamber and a look down the pitch to Boulder Chamber. Followed the tourists out and had coffee with the cave guides. Nice trip (considering sofa rugby bruises!)

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Northampton-shire	February 1980. During the course of O.S. Accuracy Testing in the Northants area I visited the portals and air shafts of Blisworth Canal Tunnel. No access possible due to repair work in hand in the tunnel.			
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Gough's Cave 16/2/80 Martin Bishop, Mac, Barrie Wilton, Quackers	4hr 40m	Cheddar	Continued with the previous week's dig which had been enlarged mid-week by Chris Bradshaw & Co. The Rope-Puller was suspended from bolts above the shaft and M.M.T.'s Tirfor winch from a bolt on the wall. In conjunction these two were fantastic and we soon had about four ton of armchair-sized boulders out of the hole. By this time it was 4.45pm and we were forced to leave the cave with the open rift ready for exploration. BW had a brief look and reported that it seemed to be totally choked. Helictites were noted on the RH wall. Great day's digging – all due to the excellent winches.
Somerset	Gough's Cave Gough's Old Cave Saye's Hole 17/2/80 MB, Mac, Quackers, Tref Roberts, Garth	4hr 20m 15m 5m	Cheddar	The open rift was descended for some 15' – 20' to a point where it was possible to see under a c.8" high arch to a possible widening beyond. Slight draught and echo. Unfortunately in the arch arc one of the finest groups of almost transparent stalactites and helictites I have seen. Further progress here will entail digging down in

	Dell, Dany Bradshaw			<p>the floor to try and pass beneath this group but it is almost certain that they will have to be well photographed and removed. A great shame. We then moved across to the LH passage above Solomon's Temple where a hole in the wall halfway along looked promising. The cave-earth floored passage below the hole was dug in the hope of finding a way in to the opening which could be seen. Just before dinner we found a way in (and also built an exceedingly lewd mud and stalagmite "fester") Traditional dinner time session at the Gardener's Arms then back to the dig. After an hour or so it was found that the opening was merely a phreatic solution pocket and the dig was abandoned. We then exited and headed for Gough's Old Cave where we had a brief, damp and ill-lit look around – despite great problems with the two keys needed to get in! Several bats in residence. Well worth another look around here, though it seems to be a rather grotty, vandalised hole.</p> <p>The day was rounded off with a quick look in Saye's Hole – a large entrance hall and grotty passage to a semi-static sump pool. Another bloody good day's caving and digging.</p>
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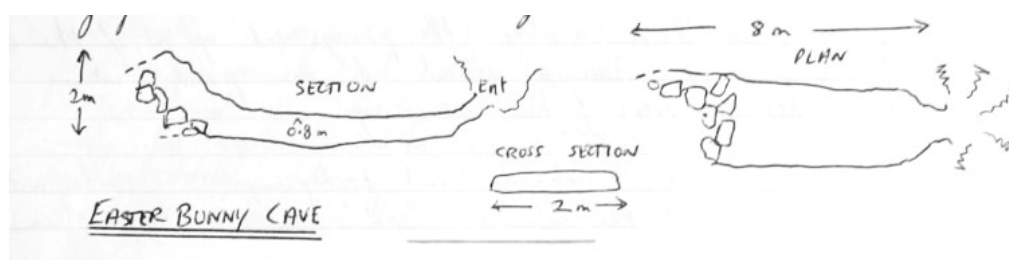
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Somerset <i>rescue</i>	Cuckoo Cleaves 23/2/80 Bob Cross, Rob Harper, Quackers, Jerry Crick, Nick Halstead, Colin Williams, Derek Foster, Don Thompson, (+ Nick the rescued)	1hr 40m	Priddy	Call out to the Hunters' (whilst on my 3 rd pint of Butcombe). 15yr old schoolboy had jumped down the 2 nd (13ft) pitch and was suspected to have a broken leg. Bob, Rob and Quack went down to recce the situation while M.Bishop, Jerry and I collected kit from the MRO store and with Nick H followed on down. The lad was splinted with an inflatable splint by Bob (The Vet!) and strapped in the carrying sheet. Within an hour he was hauled up the pitch, dragged along the passage and up out of the entrance shaft. A plucky kid. Amusing interval at one point where he asked Quackers (who had fallen over) if he was okay!
Derbyshire	29/2/80 – 3/3/80. Pegasus Dinner weekend. Usual good pissup(s). Together with Helen and Rhona Macpherson visited the entrance to Peak Cavern and Magpie Mine site.			
Somerset	Roadside Hole Cooper's Hole Gough's Cave 15/3/80 Andy Sparrow plus (M.Grass, M.Bishop, Jeff Crossley (BPC))	- 10m 45m	Cheddar	Roadside Hole – totally uninteresting rock shelter. Had a swift look in Cooper's then joined the others at Gough's where Martin Bishop dived Skeleton Pit. A possible way on along a rift was apparent but bad vis necessitated a retreat. Andy, Jeff and I had a quick look round the show cave and oxbows. We all then went to the Main Rising which the two Martins dived to find that digging and boulder removal could yield an open route.
Somerset	16/3/80. All hungover due to Martin Grass's wedding barrels! MG, MB, GW-J, B.Cross, J.Watson, I.Caldwell, T.Roberts, D.Bradshaw and I returned to Main Rising where much boulder and rubble removal was accomplished. A major underwater dig is to be attempted here and the site is extremely promising. A good weekend.			
Sutherland	Cnon nan uamh System Uamh Cailliche Peireag 23/3/80 (Helen Macpherson, Mike Phimister) Helen and Ruth (IMC)	15m	Inchnadamph	While Mike and Helen visited Cnockers and Paul Savill took photos of hills and snow, the rest of us festered about and ventured into the easily accessible bits of these caves. UCP shows much evidence of flood water depositing and disturbing boulders and debris.

Ayrshire	Cleeves Cove 29/3/80 Helen	20m	Dalry	Helen and I armed ourselves with over-trousers, boots and torches and spent a pleasant 20 minutes wandering around and looking at the spiders! The passage shapes of this interesting small cave system are really classic and it is unfortunate that it is not longer or holds any further promise of extension. To round the day off we got officially engaged !!! Like a Twat! [added later]
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Sutherland <i>discovery</i>	Easter Bunny Cave 5/4/80 (Helen)	20m	Elphin	Found by Helen and myself the previous day. A slimy squeeze led into a dry, earth floored bedding chamber 6m long, 2m wide and 0.8m high ending in a roof collapse with a slight draught. This was climbed up for 2m on the RH side but closed down. Digging down through the whole choke would be necessary for any possible continuation. Of little real interest. Also walked some of the limestone in the Loch Urigill area finding nothing significant. A nice walk though!
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Sutherland	Balnakiel Gloup 6/4/80 Mike Phimister, Paul Savill	1¼ hr	Durness	Descended blow hole (60' slope, 40' pot) by ladder into the sea cave. Halfway out towards the sea entrance we looked at a couple of side passages, one of which was extremely well decorated. Then into the chamber which Mike and Paul had found by digging. This very well decorated rift chamber is some 35' high at the end. Small helictites and calcited seaweed and "fern" were noticed. I climbed up the rift at the end to find no way and came across an old flash bulb. This upset the lads who thought they were in new ground. Mike took several photos and we exited to bright evening sunshine. A fine cave, beautiful coast scenery and fabulous weather.
Sutherland	Smoo Cave 7/4/80 Helen	¼ hr	Durness	Usual tourist trundle around the entrance chamber. Not very wet.
Sutherland <i>discovery</i>	Uamh an Claonaite 12/4/80 (Helen, Mike P, Mary Roberts, Paul Savill) Julian Walford	3hr 40m	Inchnadamph	Visited Roger Brandon's new extension beyond Mud Passage. A squeeze led to a low, boulder-floored bedding passage at a T-junction. To the left a hundred foot of ascending crawl led to several hundred feet of large, dry, sand and boulder-floored chambers aligned along faults. Several choked ways on and a large boulder choke were noted. In the first chamber there were several fine drip pockets and a couple of small but nice "candlestick" stalagmites. A very impressive series of passages for Sutherland and a good find and exploration by Roger. To the right at the T-junction a descending crawl led to a low, bouldery area where the sound of the main stream could be heard. A loose choke was removed which enabled us to enter some 20' of

				passage with a large boulder and peat choke along one wall – possibly going up to the surface in the area of the valley below UAC entrance. A stream doubtless enters here in wet weather. An excellent trip to a fine extension. Claonaite must now be well over a kilometre in length.
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Breconshire	Porth yr Ogof 11/5/80 Dany, Bob Cork, Andy Sparrow, Alan Thomas, and “Kipper”	10m	Ystradfellte	With no gear and one torch we went in main entrance to the Lake and out via an easy aven. Bob and Dany later retrieved a video cassette player (£1000+) and £58 from a pool below one of the Mellte waterfalls! Good CDG Dinner.
Island of Arran	19/5/80. Whilst returning from a climb up Goat Fell, Helen and I visited the entrances of the Glen Sannox Barytes Mine and the Corrie “Caves” Limestone and Sandstone Mine.			
Island of Arran	King’s Cave King’s Stabe, Kitchen etc 20/5/80 Helen	½ hr	Blackwater-foot	The gated, ancient sea cave was visited and various inscriptions and carvings noted on the walls. Legend says that King Bruce once lived here. Many other nearby caves both north and south of the main cave were also visited. There must be at least a dozen of them here, of all shapes and sizes and relatively interesting for abandoned sea caves.
Island of Arran	Coal level 21/5/80 (Helen)		Cock of Arran	While on a walk from Lochranza around the north part of the island we came across a ruined mill and a considerable area of outcrop workings and flooded coal shafts – at least one of which was beautifully ginged. All ore only some 8’ above sea level and right on the coast. A small partly collapsed level led into a collapse chamber – total length c.20’ Some walling and rotten timbers in place. Very little else to show that coal mining had taken place here, though diving in the shafts may well reveal artefacts. The coal was used to evaporate sea water to produce salt.
Island of Arran	Corrie “Cave” Mine 22/5/80 Helen	½ hr	Corrie	Two large entrances behind the harbour lead to several hundred feet of boring limestone/sandstone mineworkings. Top level collapsed but all the mine can be reached from the long lower level. Often visited and hence no artefacts. Plenty of fossils and red mud. Top level used as a boathouse. Refs: Caves of Scotland, NCMRS Mem. 1968 p.75.
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Island of Arran	Glen Sannox Barytes Mine 27/5/80 (Helen at surface)	40m	Glen Sannox	Ref. NCMRS Mem 1968 p.75. A return visit was made here after a visit to the newly established Arran Isle Museum failed to provide any useful information on the mine. While Helen sunbathed and removed sheep ticks I explored several levels, both wet and dry. The dry levels were generally short and well-visited. The wet levels (explored in shorts, boots, shirt and cap) were waist deep and longer. One of these led to an area of high stopes and flooded shafts and workings below adit where discretion prompted a return. A complete drill rod, 2 broken drills, a spade head and an iron hook were removed and donated to the Museum (their only mining artefacts). More exploration and removal of old kibbles etc, could be done here. The remains of a waterwheel lie near the concrete engine foundations.
Somerset	Biddlecombe (Knapp Hill) Swallet	½ hr	Biddlecombe	Assisted the others with their dig. An aerial ropeway was fixed up but found to be too slack –

	31/5/80 Bob and Gilly Scamell, Brian Prewer, Tim Large, Fiona.			cable being needed instead. Brian fired a charge at the tight rift terminating this nice 30' long dig. A good site. Much work done since I last looked at this site.
Somerset	1/6/80. Bob Cross, Brian and Brenda Prewer, Steve and Andrew Prewer, Mac and myself returned to Biddlecombe Swallet and erected a cable in place of the rope. This worked very satisfactorily and about a dozen buckets of bang spoil were removed from the dig.			
Somerset	Cooper's Hole Gough's Cave 7/6/80 Tim Large, Graham W-Jones, Mac, Chris Smart, John and Jill Turner, Martin Grass, (Jim Watson)	3hr 20m 35m	Cheddar	Digging in loose choke at top of 30' aven in Cooper's, following a bang by Tim. As the roof was attacked vast amounts of boulders, rocks, rubble, gravel and mud hurtled down. At one point a vast avalanche of infill continued for several minutes leaving a 20'+ hole in the roof. Adrenalin flow becoming over strong, we exited and spent half an hour in Gough's looking at the results of another of Tim's bangs above the Boulder Chamber. Very loose and needs a poggling stick. A good day, most exciting.
Somerset	Cooper's Hole 15/6/80 Jerry Crick	10m	Cheddar	Quick trip to check collapsing aven visited on previous weekend. Only half a dozen or so rocks had fallen down and the aven was only about 15' high. Difficult to know where to dig now. (Off to Africa – back later)

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Lesotho Berea	Ha Baroana (Ha khotso) Cave 25/6/80 Taelo Maleka Guide and herdboy		Roma	Long overhanging sandstone rock shelter, protected as a historical site by Lesotho government and having a rich decoration of Bushman rock paintings in red, black, mauve, etc. Eland, horses, oxen and warriors are portrayed. Well worth a visit.
Lesotho Guthing	Rock shelter/cave 10/7/80 alone		Sehlabathebe	Situated in an aven of natural rock sculptures and pools in the beautiful Sehlabathebe National Park. A couple of sizeable caves, rock shelters and fine natural arches were investigated. In sandstone, they appear to have been formed by water scouring by a lake or river which makes them all the more fascinating as they are at an altitude of 2,400 metres in the Drakensberg Mountains!
Lesotho Qacha's Nek	Rock shelter 16/7/80 Taelo Maleka 13/9/80 Modibedi Phoofolo		Matebeng	Shallow rock shelter near road with many despoiled paintings and some evidence of flint knapping. Flint "scraper" found. In Matebeng (Qutu) valley.
Lesotho Qacha's Nek	Rock shelter/cave 18/7/80 Alone		Ha Mashebi	Large rock shelter with smashed rear wall where presumably the paintings have been bodily removed.
Lesotho Qacha's Nek	Cave and rock shelters 18/7/80 Alone		Legooa Ha Edward	In gorge below village. 60m wide by 30m deep, semi-circular sandstone cave. No paintings but drystone animal-pens and a herdboy's hut. A pleasant scenic spot with many pigeons in residence. Large rock shelter adjacent. Also looked at shallow rock shelters in the Legooa Gorge, nearby.
Lesotho Qacha's Nek	Rock shelter 18/7/80 Alone		Sehlabathebe	Situated near research station in National Park. Shallow shelter with fine paintings of antelope, bovines and human figures. Evidence of flint-knapping.
Natal, RSA	Cave 19/7/80 Alone		Barra-ba-bararo	On way back from climbing the highest peak of the "3 Bushmen" I investigated a 20' long cave in basalt just inside the Natal border. It contained a 6' ice formation. On way back to lodge via various rock shelters I saw fifty baboons!

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Orange Free State, RSA	Rotskun's Cave 29/7/80 Graham Groom (DOS)		Ladybrand	Shallow rock shelter with red, purple and orange paintings of eland, cattle, snake(?), human figures and symbols. Not over interesting.
W. Transvaal, RSA	Sterkfontein Cave/Grotte 24/8/80 C. Priddle, Guide	¾ hr	Sterkfontein	Interesting archaeological show cave near Knigtersdorp. The cave is basically a phreatic maze system in Dolomite – situated in unusual type cave country – arid scrubland with low hills and few obvious karstic features. A few good formations (but many broken by early visitors and guano collectors) and some fine phreatic rock pendants. Tempting static lake at lowest point, beyond which is supposedly several hundred feet of passage. This pleasant trip whetted both our appetites!
W. Transvaal, RSA	Simmer and Jack Gold Mine 25/8/80 (guide and tourists)	40m	Germiston	Tourist visit to this early twentieth century mine – one of the earliest, most extensive and deepest of the Reef mines. Much of the 1920's style corrugated iron houses and buildings are preserved as a living museum. Displays of early workings, dollies, stamps etc can be seen. An Aldebele native village built by miners is still inhabited. A visit to the 200' level reached by shaft was undertaken and a short ramble along a couple of levels – where black miners operated a rock drill and a gold-bearing vein was inspected. A visit to the reduction plant, a demonstration of the pouring and moulding of a R60,000 gold bar and actually holding a couple of gold (?) bars worth this amount were also enjoyed! Tea and biscuits to follow. Photos taken. Rather overdone on the tourist side but most interesting and well worth R10.
E. Transvaal, RSA	Sudwala Cave 27/8/80 (Guide and tourists)	1½ hr	Schagen	After a day in Pretoria I got the overnight train to Nelspruit and hitched to Sudwala. The show cave is a superb, roomy phreatic tunnel with a large chamber – P.R. Owen Hall – half-way. The cave is in dolomite with some impressive, but dry stal, columns etc and a most entertaining and fairly clued-up guide, Frank Niven. Occupied by Sobhuza I, a Swazi king during times of Ndwandwe Zulu invasions, the cave has yielded much historical and archaeological artifacts. It was also partly mined for bat guano. A nearby "Dinosaur Park" was also visited and photographed. Excellent. Hitched to the original gold-mining town of Pilgrims' Rest. Corrugated iron buildings, good hotel and bar and entertaining graveyard! Touristy but well preserved and interesting example of gold rush days.
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E. Transvaal, RSA	Bushman Rock Shelter Echo Cave /Eggogrotte 28/8/80 "Boy"	10m 1 hr	Ohrigstad	<i>See below</i>
	Hitched alongside Blyde River Canyon in rain and mist to Echo Cave, visiting a tatty archaeological "show cave" in a rock shelter en route. This contained assorted bones, artifacts, and formations which I believe were mainly gathered from parts of Echo Cave nearby. Notable mainly for its interesting digging derrick which operates like an old Roman ballista! Thence to Echo Cave where a quick 15 min trip into this dry show cave was done. Not to compare			

	<p>with Sudwala, the show cave has plenty of stal, but much is broken and dead. Bare light bulbs and unhidden electric cable plus odd bits of rubbish detract from its scenic value. Noticing several unlit passages leading off I asked about the possibility of a trip beyond the show cave and was instantly sent back in with “Boy” – the 10 yr old Masuto cave guide, for a trip. Clutching his “Tilley” lamp he led me through a low and partly blasted passage into the West Series of the system. Here we travelled through large mud-floored phreatic galleries with many side passages. Many bats in residence. A sudden glow of light revealed the shaft entrance from which we emerged after a ¾ hr trip. Much better than the show section and I was also impressed by the agility of my small guide – in shirt, shorts and xxxx and clutching his unwieldy lamp.</p> <p>Pitched tent then met Steve Sehoombe – ex professional boxer and cave owner who invited me to stay with free board and meals if I explored the cave for him! He had recently bought the place and had been told of 16 kms of passage leading to the Stridjom Road Tunnel. From the only survey he had I estimated it to be more like 2 kms. Got rigid with Steve, Johnny (his brother) and a bunch of Afrikaaner blokes.</p>			
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E.Transvaal, RSA	Echo Cave /Eggogrotte 29/8/80 alone	6½ hrs	Ohrigstad	<i>See below</i>
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	<p>AM – Bad hangover but explored the North Series beyond the show cave. The passage was followed along an old tourist path and up and down various iron steps. Huge tree roots emerged from the RH wall and bored off down the passages like fossilized anacondas or water mains – eerily disturbing to a lonely caver! A labyrinth of large, well decorated galleries and small, maze-like crawls was looked at before I found where I was on the copy of the survey I carried. At one point a crossroads of 2m high tunnels was found not to be on the plan and so I investigated the two unmarked routes. One led for 30m or so to small choked inlets. From a passage on the RH wall a tree root came vertically down, crossed the floor of the X-roads and bored off down the other unmarked passage. I chose the lower of two crawls and continued into a major tunnel with stal ceiling and large chamber containing stal and bats. A small passage straight on led to a low, too tight crawl. To the right from the chamber a slope led to a lip where a choked “sink chamber” pit lay 20’ below. A small crawlway to the left led to a high, well decorated dome chamber with no way on. This area had been little visited. A nice bunch of helictites was observed at top of chamber. Time down 4 hrs. Burnt by Tilley lamp!</p> <p>After a break in the sun I went back in to the West Series (2½ hrs) for a look around. Much quartz(?) boxwork was seen in these large gloomy tunnels – which the wet mud floor and flying bats helped to give an eerie and oppressive atmosphere to. In one long side passage were text book breakdown areas and I got a perfect scalpel cut in the leg from a piece of rock which hardly drew blood but left a nice open gash. I definitely felt lonely and nervous, especially around 6pm when the flying bat population increased and I was surrounded by beating leathery wings, suddenly realising that I was now in the middle of the nightly hunting exodus, so exited rapidly amidst several hundred bats! Sat outside for 5 minutes watching the bat flight. (Noticed 1 possible dig and 1 possible climb). A fascinating 6hr 20m trip.</p> <p>Pope arrived at 7pm after taking a hurried and unplanned afternoon off work and rapidly driving the 361 kms to the cave. We had a swift 10m trip in the show cave.</p>			
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E.Transvaal, RSA	Echo Cave /Eggogrotte 30/8/80 Pope, Keith, Johnny	4 hr	Ohrigstad	<i>See below</i>
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	<p>Took Steve’s nephew and his friend to end of N.Series checking all possible ways on. No go. Back at the X-roads Pope found an ascending sandy crawl which led to a well decorated upper level chamber. An ancient false floor here was broken in the centre and the several hundred foot long tree root noticed previously, bridged the 15’ gap, indicating that it had been there before the floor collapsed. It was strong enough for Pope to swing on while I took photos!</p> <p>We exited via the small labyrinth tubes and right through West Series – the lads thoroughly enjoying themselves despite sharp bumps on unprotected heads and poor lighting! Pope went back into W. Series later than evening with Michelle – a strange girl hitch hiker with an interest in caves. They returned in time for us all to watch the 6pm bat flight when we estimated that c.100 bats a minute were emerging. We watched and took photos for ½ hour then got fed up with bats still flying out – at least 2,500 in residence! Most impressive to stand in the entrance at dusk surrounded by hundreds of spiralling horseshoe and other, smaller grey bats! All got very rigid that evening. Boozing with Zulu nightwatchman – Issac.</p>			
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E.Transvaal, RSA	Echo Cave /Eggogrotte	1 hr	Ohrigstad	Quick trip to long side passage in W. Series where Pope had found a promising passage –
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	31/8/80 Pope, Michelle			unfortunately I had already checked it out on a previous trip. Saw clusters of the small grey bats. Gave a fond farewell to Echo Cave, Steve and family, the bats, etc and headed for Blyde River Canyon and Sudwala, where we met Alan Loubscher, Phillip Own and “Pikkie” of CROSA. Got rigid again and amongst other things were treated to a couple of spontaneous strip shows by Phillip on the restaurant table!!!
E.Transvaal, RSA	Sudwala Cave 1/9/80 Pope, Pikkie (CROSA)	1½ hr	Schagen	Dragged out of tent at 7am (!) by Pikkie for a trip to Crystal Chamber, beyond the show cave. With stinking hangovers we dragged ourselves through tight, bouldery and muddy passages and gradually sobered up on seeing the excellent crystal formations in the area. The lads sometimes take parties of up to 30 novices through here – best of luck to ‘em. Very decent of Pikkie to show us around as he had to go out with his family that day. So ended a superb few days boozing and caving in Transvaal (See later for the dire results!!)
Lesotho, Qacha’s Nek	Moshebi’s Shelter 12/9/80 Modibeli Phoofolo		Ha Moshebi	Shallow rock shelter. Poor paintings in red of figures and eland (?)

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HISTOPLASMOSIS :- While camping near Sehlabathebe some 12 days after the Echo trips, I developed a bad headache and felt generally nauseous and lethargic. A rough, windy night’s camping left me feeling lousy and disinclined to move. When I did move it was with difficulty as I rapidly got out of breath. Modibeli Phoofolo and I did a day’s work at Matebeng then drove to Sehonghong where we took over a grotty corrugated iron rest house. The following day I hoped to fly to Maseru but as it was Sunday – no hope. I lay in my pit most of the day, almost unable to get up and without an appetite – but very thirsty. I had a hot/cold fever, a high temperature and was sweating very profusely. On Monday I felt okay to drive and the general symptoms went after another week or so. Tried a hill walk in between but no way could I make it. Returned VERY slowly. The Pope got a worse dose than me and was off work for three weeks. He lay in bed most of the time and couldn’t walk fifteen feet without being out of breath. X-rays revealed lungs full of white spots and his specialist would have given him two months to live if Pope hadn’t informed him that he had Histoplasmosis and not chronic T.B.!

Lesotho, Mohale’s Hoek	Motlejoa’s (Cannibal) Caves 26/10/80 Alone		Mohale’s Hoek	Interesting, though shallow series of sandstone caves connected by small (solutional?) crawl passages. Inhabited by one, Motlejoa (and others) in the 1820s. These gentlemen are their colleagues. Found a scorpion under a nearby rock...
Cape Province, RSA	Cango Caves/Cango-grotte 17/11/80 Pope (+ tourists)	1 hr 50m	Oudtshoorn	8.00am visit to Michael Schults – Town Clerk of Oudtshoorn, Cango Caves Manager and IUS representative for RSA. We were offered a Wednesday trip into the beautiful Cango 2 Series (with a high court judge’s party!) but couldn’t make it for time reasons. Instead he gave us a complimentary admission ticket for Cango 1. Van Zyl’s Hall, the first large chamber was most impressive – with the huge stals which characterise the cave. A fine blue dolomite ceiling shows occasionally through the masses of stal. From here a series of roomy chambers and passages leads on for some 1,000m+ - all well decorated with pillars, cascades, curtains, palettes, gourds, helictites etc. Generally rather dull from early visitors candle and lamp smoke but still very impressive. Occasional bats were seen. Near the end of the tourist route a 1m high passage (Lumbago Way) led to a series of crawls, rifts, chimneys and small chambers almost completely undeveloped. These were for

				the adventurous weegie, visiting BEC member et al. We did these in company with 2 Swiss girls who got reasonably mucky and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Bloody good spot for a show cave! All in all a most excellent trip – especially for free....
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Cape Province, RSA	Strandloper Cave Strandloper Midden Cave 20/11/80 Pope	10m	Storms River Mouth	Two 120' long abandoned sea caves in a Nature Reserve on the south African coast. It would seem that both were inhabited by the "Strandloper" prehistoric beachcombing people – the latter having a sectionalised midden with fish, game and shell remains in situ. Beautifully scenic area.
Somerset	Gough's Cave 17/12/80 M.Bishop	½ hr	Cheddar	Quick visit to retrieve Martin's wrecking bar and my brewing kit. Also looked at the "Rocksport" dig and was amazed at the plastic prehistoric animals!
Wiltshire	Sally's Rift 18/12/80 M.Bishop	1hr 20m	Bathford	Interesting trip in this joint developed "windypit" cave – in oolite. Series of roomy, tall rifts with some nice flowstone and several highly sporting traverses and squeezes. Very pleasant.
Somerset	Cox's Cave 19/12/80 M.Bishop	50m	Cheddar	Good look around the cave in the hope of finding possible extensions. Nothing of note found apart from a load of 1p and 2p coins! Used wooden ladder to check avens.
Wiltshire	Box Stone Mines 23/12/80 Edmund (Speleo Holland), Batspiss, friend (Bob), C.Hannam, T.Hughes, Joe(?), Quackers, Terry Worthington, Dave Williams and Nick (PDMHS).	2 hrs	Box	In Back Door Entrance and out of Quarry Entrance. Much of Clift Mine and Admiralty areas looked at including part of the Wind Tunnel. Many excellent cranes, saws and other relics shown us by Chris. Nice little trip despite grim looking areas of ceiling.

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Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 30/12/80 Quackers, Dany	3¾ hr	Priddy	Start of Morton's Pot dig. Very damp trip through the "Blotifce" and boulder ruckle. The wet squeeze in the 380' Way led to Morton's Pot where we started digging the boulders, rocks and gravel from the sink in the floor. Some 4' of crap was removed and various holes opened up. The main way in the floor to the left was squeezed down by yours truly into what appears to be the partially open bedding plane seen after we had re-opened the cave in 69 (?). About 8' depth made on this excellent trip with good prospects for digging to continue. Spoil lifted in bags and dumped in open rift at top left of Morton's Pot.. Looks good! (<i>Connected to West End Series in October 2004!</i>)
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 1/1/81 Quackers, Fish, Peiter Staal (SN)	2½ hr	Priddy	Continued with Morton's Pot dig. Using paint tins and hauling rope we removed a large amount of spoil which gave us roomy access to the choked bedding plane. Much spoil needs to be removed to progress further but digging and spoil removal are easy. Possible CO ₂ concentration in the spoil dumping rift. Work will continue.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 2/1/81 Quackers, Fish, Edmund (SN)	3½ hr	Priddy	Bolt and pulley installed at head of pot. Large quantity of grot removed from bedding plane to reveal further bedding plane on right taking the stream. Left to dig itself due to coldness and

				wetness of diggers. Some further work here should gain access to this bedding plane. Loks good.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 3/1/81 Jan, Jos (SN) M.Grass, MacAnus, Jepswine (Wyn and Phil H)	2hrs 25m	Priddy	More digging. Hole on right partially filled with gravel from 2/1/81. Cleared much of the working space until all got cold and wet. Wessex came to visit. Dry dig straight ahead. Still looks good.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 4/1/81 Bob Cross	3 hrs	Priddy	The two of us went down carrying some 15' of plastic pipe to divert the stream. We expected to be joined later by others, but Chris Batstone was refused entry by the Blotifice. Bob left after an hour or so and I continued on my own – hard work. Left to dig itself. Pipe not used.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 9/1/81 M.Bishop	1½ hr	Priddy	Re-lined boulder ruckle with thick courlene and proceeded in high water to Ezelzijk (Donkey Piss) Passage. Removed 25 buckets of spoil. Very wet at end.

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Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 10/1/81 M.Bishop, T.Hughes, D.Bradshaw	2¾ hr	Priddy	More digging. Not as wet as previous day. Hard work clearing the spoil rift. Trench in floor of dig lowered considerably. Stu Lindsay failed to get through the “Blotifice”.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 11/1/81 M.Bishop, B.Wilton, D.Vosper (MCG), G.Smith (MCG) Glyn Bolt (WCC)	1hr 50m	Priddy	Cleared more of vadose trench in floor and part of working face, despite backing up of pool at end. Stream diverted through small hole into dig to stop it pouring from ceiling. Cold and wet.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 17/1/81 Don Vosper (MCG), John Miriam (MCG)	1hr 50m	Priddy	Cave crowded and WET. End of dig sumped so we removed approx. 60 buckets from floor and back wall. Froth 4' up in rift above dig. Spoil hole unfortunately almost full. Standing room!
Breconshire <i>rescue</i>	Agen Allwedd 18-19/1/81 A CAST OF THOUSANDS	9½ hr	Llangattock	<i>See below</i>

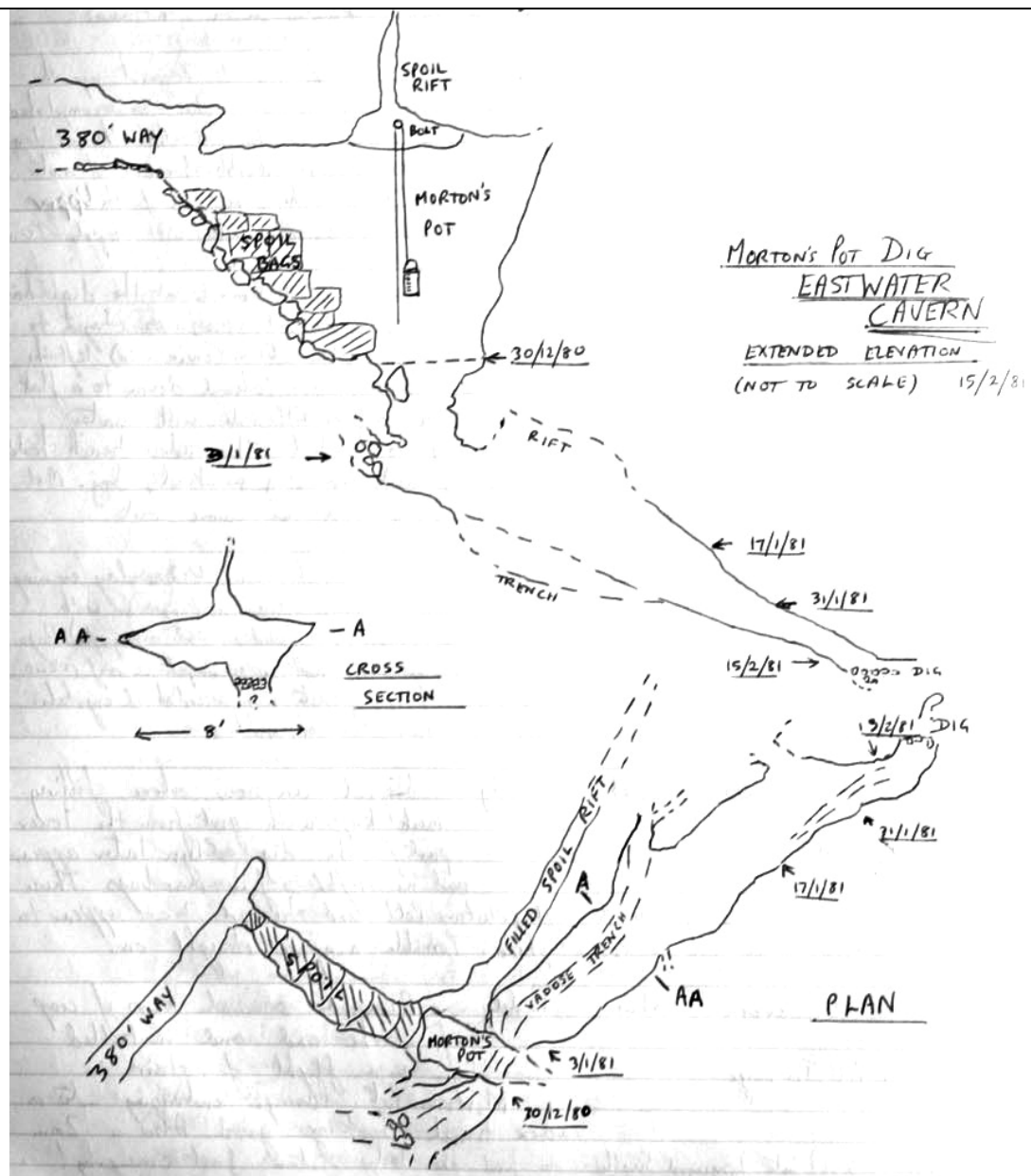
Called out at Belfry on Sunday morning. 20 BEC, etc drove to Llangattock to rendezvous at Whitewalls. Tim, Quackers, Malc Foyle, Rich Webrill, Chris Bradshaw and I entered the cave at 5.30pm with instructions to “garden” the entrance series. (It transpired that a Croydon member had sustained a compound fracture of the lower leg at the far end of Southern Stream Passage on the previous day!) After a brief session we headed to the entrance to SSP where we had coffee, provided by 4 beautiful dolly birds, and met Rob Harper operating the telephone. Rob and I then took a drag sheet along SSP to the patient. Here we met Bucket Tilbury and Basset. We then retreated, “gardening” en route. Bob returned with Tim to the patient while I continued with Rob (of Orpheus). We cleared almost out of SSP as far as the “Kitchen” – meeting Bishop, Dany, Bob Cork, Al Keen, Batsspiss, Mr. N. etc en route. After more coffee and soup I exited with Batsspiss, 3 South Cards lads, the Welsh “Reviva” and a reel of cable. Back to Whitewalls by 4am Monday.

- The patient came out at midday Monday after 52½ hrs underground. A tremendous effort was put in by all involved from many areas – who worked well together in lousy conditions. The tea girls were a special treat. Organisation was pretty good but communications could have been better. It was incredible to see such a vast number (c.250) of assorted cavers all with one object in mind and getting it together so well. A great experience.

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Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 24/1/81 Barry Wilton, Colin Dooly, Jane Clarke, Tim Large, Quackers, Mac, Martin B,	1 hr	Priddy	Conditions extremely wet so only an hour's clearing was accomplished. Water backed up but taking all of the stream easily. Glynn Bolt has put steel plate dams at the head of the 380' Way in order to divert the stream into the main cave. These need cementing. Quackers, Mac and Martin attempted to open a new “Blotifice” in the entrance.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern	1 hr	Priddy	Swift evening trip to connect up the pipes on

	30/1/81 Tony Mintram (MNRC) Glyn Bolt, Phil Hendy (WCC)			Glyn's dam. This was accomplished with ease and despite the fact that the LH dam had a leak, a considerable amount of water was diverted off in the direction of the Upper Traverse, making the dig reasonably dry. Walked back to Belfry, changed and walked to pub – 20m.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 31/1/81 Batspiss, Tim Large, G W-J, Martin Grass, (and 5 Orpheus)	2 hr 25m	Priddy	Chris and I joined Tim and Co. at the dig. Chris couldn't pass the wet squeeze so stayed to dig it. The Orpheus (Brian Cowie and Co.) left the cave. The dig was followed down to a flat out crawl on the RH side with water draining to the left. The vadose trench should be dug to link up with this. Dams working well and dig relatively dry. Met the night shift – Glyn Bolt Irregulars – going in as we came out.
Glamorgan	Garth Iron Mine 11/2/81 Phil Nuttall (Pegasus) Steve (NCCM), Ian	1 hr 10m	Taff's Well	Pleasant, festerous Wednesday evening trip into these dry workings with 180' deep flooded pits, (used as CDG training site). Huge vertical workings with shaft to open pit in roof (c.240') Some phreatic (vugh) pockets with vandalized crystals. Followed by a few pints of Brain's excellent dark ale. Most enjoyable.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 13/2/81 Glyn Bolt	2½ hr	Priddy	I spent an hour, alone, filling mesh bags with grot from the lower part of the dig. Glyn later appeared and we shifted a few more bags. These need to be taken up into the rift (Morton's Pot) and stacked. We appear to be in a wide, low bedding plane. Possible airspace straight on.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 14/2/81 Glyn Bolt, Tim Large	3 hrs	Priddy	Removed several bags of crap from the end and installed them as a flight of stairs in Morton's Pot. Passage enlarging into a vadose trench. Looking good. Also a 2 min trip (rescue) into Longwood Swallet to find the lady victim just emerging!
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Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 15/2/81 Snab, Jeremy, Brian Hansford, Glyn	3 hrs	Priddy	Entrance full of ice formations and squeeze tight due to ice. Cleared several tins of mud from the dig to reveal a horizontal roof. Looks good but is bloody cramped and awkward to dig. Trench in the floor could be dug out to give more space.



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Breconshire	Porth yr Ogof 18/2/81 Steve Nicholas (OS)	20m	Ystradfellte	Working in area. Tourist trip to main stream passage and out via climbable aven. Helped the day go by!
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 20/2/81 Mac	1½ hr	Priddy	Cleared spoil from left and right hand sides of working face, giving enough room to lie down and dig. Bags left for Glyn and Co to clear.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 28/2/81 Tim Large, John Dukes, Glyn Bolt	3 hrs	Priddy	Spoil removed from LH rift and RH dig using hessian sandbags. Awkwardness and tightness of the RH dig means that bang will be needed to lower the floor.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern Sludge Pit Hole 5/3/81 Alone Tim, Fiona, Martin B.	1 hr 1 hr	Priddy	Lone and miserable afternoon digging trip to Eastwater. Filled three or four bags from the LH rift and then, suffering a rapidly diminishing light, I pissed off out. No real further progress possible here without banging the floor. Evening trip to Sludge to enable Tim to fire two 8oz sticks of bang in a pair of shot holes previously drilled by Stu Lindsey and the Cotham above the sump. A pleasant trip was had and successful explosion induced. It's about time that this long running dig was finally pushed to its limits.

Somerset	Sludge Pit Hole 6/3/81 Martin Bishop	40m	Priddy	Quick trip to assess bang results of previous evening. 4' x 4' x 18" of shale/limestone removed from ceiling above sump. Much work to be done here and automated drills almost a necessity.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 7/3/81 Tim Large, G.W-J, Paul Hodges	1hr 40m	Priddy	Intentions of banging floor of dig aborted due to flood conditions. Dig exceeding wet but not backing up. Nothing could be done here so we continued on through Traverse and down Primrose Path to the head of the Pot. No sign of stream. Thence through Lower Traverse to Rift Chamber and out via Canyon and Kentish's Cairn. Very wet and sporting trip.
Somerset	Gough's Cave 8/3/81 Tim Large, Paul Hodges	1hr 20m	Cheddar	Tim laid plaster and 2 sticks in his boulder choke dig. It was at first thought that only the det had gone off but after a wait of 20 mins bang fumes appeared.

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Lancashire	10/4/81. Jane Thomas, Jenny Sandicott, Chris, Don and I looked at levels and surface remains of Coniston Copper Mines, while on a walk from Coniston to Little Langdale.			
Lancashire	Hodge Close Quarry (Mine) 11/4/81 Don Vosper (MCG), Terry Wright (PC), Trev Hughes (BEC), Chris (Star – alsatian!)	1¼ hr	Coniston	Drunkenly played in several levels and open pits of this nicely situated slate mine. Nothing of great interest found but a pleasant afternoon had by all. Some fine examples of stystone (slate) arching in the levels.
Breconshire	Shakespeare's Cave 17/4/81 Phil Nuttall, Trev Hughes, Jane Clarke, Blitz, Ross, Wormhole.	1hr 10m	Clydach	Horrible, wet, unpleasant shithole. Water very cold. Pissed about in the free diveable sumps then got fed up and came out.
Breconshire	Agen Allwedd 18/4/81 Jane Clarke, Wormhole, Axel, Quiet John, Ross, Trev H, Stu L, Dave Glover, Edward, Drew, Bob Hill, Jeremy, Herr Blitz.	8hr 20m	Crickhowell	Mega Grand Circle trip with far too many people. Stu nearly chickened out at the squeeze in 4 th Boulder Choke but eventually was coerced through – thank God. Got lost in several places on way out. The usual superb Easter was had by all!
Somerset	Swildon's Hole 2/5/81 Trev, Ross	2½ hrs	Priddy	Uninspiring and brief digging session in Priddy Pool Passage after a trip to 12 failed to materialise. Worth continuing preferably with bang.
Lancashire	18/5/81 – Visited headgear of Parkside Colliery, Newton-le-Willows, whilst on accuracy test job. Interesting modern 200' double concrete headgear houses – No. 2 with a 50's electric winder with cable speed of up to 40' per second.			
Lancashire	20/5/81 – ditto – Astley Green Colliery. No.1 headgear. Now a disused mine it is to be opened as a museum/exhibition centre. Fine old headgear, of which photos were taken.			

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Yorkshire	Ingleborough Cave 21/5/81 Tourist party + (Guide – Chester)	1 hr	Clapham	Tourist trip in long, interesting but not particularly pretty show cave with fine roof tube, bedding plane passage etc. NPC cave guide with very droll "spiel" and a wooden leg made the trip far more interesting than it would have been otherwise!
Yorkshire	Link Pot/Pippikin Pot 23/5/81 Lugger, Howard, Debbie Limbert.	4¾ hr	Easegill	Accompanied the NCC on a trip to continue with their bolting ascent of the aven in Hall of the Damned in Pippikin. John, Howard and I each put in two bolts, gaining approx 15' and leaving about 18' to go to a "passage". Other holes could

				be seen further up. The Link Pot crawl proved to be a real pain in the arse (and knees).
Yorkshire	Link Pot/Pippikin Pot 24/5/81 Lugger, Howard, Graham Somers, Syd Perou, Alf Latham, Dick Ellis, Frank Rayner, Bob Cockeram, Sue, (and other NCC characters).	5 hrs	Easegill	Trip to continue with bolting exercise. Left Howard, Sue and Graham at Hall of the Damned and headed off with Lugger to Gour Hall to inspect a banged dig. Looks very promising. Also looked at a promising choked rift in Gothic Series. Some fine columns and stalagmites all around this part of the cave. A site in Goss Hall was also looked at. Then, with Frank, we returned to the bolters (where a group of 12 had by now gathered) in time to watch Graham reach the first passage. Some gardening and a desperate series of bold steps enabled him to get in here – unfortunately to find that it closed down after a few feet. He then literally jumped off the ledge onto the ladder – barely held by Alf! After this fine bit of cabaret we all left the cave by way of the by now familiar Link crawl.
Ireland, Tipperary	Mitchelstown Caves (New Cave) 1/6/81 Jane Thomas, girl cave guide	25 m	Mitchelstown	Tourist trip with nice ginger haired girl cave-guide. A rather primitive show cave but probably more attractive because of this. A series of large phreatic chambers with some very fine stal bosses and columns. Plenty of passage beyond the tourist section.
Ireland, Clare	Ailwee Cave 3/6/81 Jane, (+ tourists)	25 m	Ballyvaughan	Tourist trip. Elderly woman cave guide (variation on a theme). Long, straight and typical Clare-type cave with a few stals. Superb “stone fort” like entrance building.
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Ireland, Clare	2-5/6/81. Due to continuous rain most systems in Clare were flooded, but surface visit/photo trips were taken to the entrances of Fisherstreet Pot, Pollapooka, and Pollnagollum. The usual (and almost forgotten!) superb time was had in Clare!			
Derbyshire	Duce Hole 28/6/81 Dave Epton, Cheg Chester	1hr 50m	Foolow	An initial recce turned into a couple of one hour digging sessions with the mud being parked in tins and bags and installed as a “pack wall” just before the working face. Below the too tight open rift we now have a solid walled, chert roofed passage with an infill of tailings. Looking as good as it ever has.
Somerset <i>Practice rescue</i>	Cuckoo Cleaves 5/7/81 UND. OBSERVERS:- F.Davies, B.Prewer, M.Bishop, T.Large, Jenny?(First Aid) VICTIMS:- Ken Shepherd, John (Casualty Union) Hill, UND.RESCUERS:- S.Gough, GW-J, Jane Clarke, Bucket, A.George, A.Thomas, D.Aubrey, Butch, P.West, P.Romford, R.Hill, R.White, Quackers, C.Bradshaw, Dany, Bob Cork, etc. i.e. (T.Hughes, C.Batstone) SURFACE:- Mac, J.Hanwell, Wig,	2hr 50m	Priddy	<i>See below</i>

	N.Taylor, P.Hendy, Eric Dunsford?, DMM Thompson, J.Dukes etc. BEER:- Jane and Jenny, Pauline, Lil, Annie etc.			
	An MRO arranged practice rescue using two members of the “Casualty Union” as hugely convincing injured cavers. Call out at an unspecified cave to an unspecified incident. GWJ and others went first to cave to recce. Several of us then followed with stretchers, reviva and jacking equipment to remove a boulder from the broken leg of 1 st victim. Whilst this was being done a 2 nd victim (supposedly an injured rescuer) materialised – unconscious. I became involved with a defunct telephone so missed much of the first aid treatment and “stretcherising”. The 2 nd victim was then removed from the cave (from 13’ Pot) and I joined in the stretcher hauling (and kit removal) of the victim from the Canyon. All went fairly smoothly, apart from a bad moment when a c. 6lb rock hurtled down from the “oxbow rift” to land straight on the 1 st victim’s helmet! He was bloody lucky not to have been a real victim with even more convincing head injuries! The whole event took just over 3 hours and went quite well with, unfortunately, nearly all the usual bods learning a bit more about rescue techniques. A lot of people who needed the practice were noticeably absent or doing their usual jobs. Much needed booze provided at the entrance by the girls. Quite pleasant considering the dreadful hangover from which everyone was suffering due to Phil and Llyn Hendy’s party of the previous night!!! NB. Phone wire suspected duff. Hopefully to be replaced.			
Lancashire	6/7/81. While working on minor control in Lancashire, I visited the headgear (No.3 Shaft) of Golborne Colliery, near Wigan. Both this headgear and that of No.2 shaft were photographed and a visit to the winding house made where the man/materials cage is wound from 650 yards (while the winchman sits with feet up on the controls watching cricket on a portable telly!) This pit is connected to nearby Bickershaw Colliery where the coal is hauled			
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Lancashire	7/7/81. Visited No. 2 headgear (200’ concrete tower-type) at Parkside Colliery, Newton-le-Willows. Went in top winding house where 15 ton skips of coal are wound from over 800 yards depth at 42’ per second. The winding operator gave us a demonstration. Most impressive.			
Somerset rescue	Swildon’s Hole 11/7/81 M.Bishop, T.Hughes, Quackers, Ross, Roger Gosling, Al Thomas, P.Hendy, G.Bolt, etc. (Victims – Phil)	1¼ hr	Priddy	Callout from pub at 2.20. Man with broken lower leg in streamway below Old Grotto. Apart from this he was in good spirits and we put in the frag sheet and speedily removed from the cave via Bennie’s Link. No problems.
Somerset	Twin Titties Hole 12/7/81 M.Bishop		Priddy	Recce of shaft to assess capping possibilities and the check if way on into cave is open. The latter was confirmed and capping/digging is planned in the near future, all being well.
Somerset	Twin Titties Hole 17/7/81 MB		Priddy	Cleared site of nettles, etc. and prepared top of shaft for capping.
Somerset	Twin Titties Hole 18/7/81 MB, Quackers, Batspiss, Val, Beverley, Farmer Bert Boddy		Priddy	Concrete and ginging top of shaft in preparation for capping.
Somerset	Twin Titties Hole 19/7/81 MB, Quack, Batspiss, Rich Warman and Missus, Val, Bev, Colin and Angie Dooly, Barrie and Brenda Wilton, Tim and Fiona, Mac.		Priddy	Tripod erected over shaft and several buckets of spoil removed using lager keg. Several toads, frogs, newts etc rescued. Pulley and rope hauling system changed several times to get best result.
Somerset	Twin Titties Hole 20/7/81 MB		Priddy	Front lip of shaft brought up to railway sleeper level with rocks and concrete.
Somerset	Twin Titties Hole		Priddy	Construction of framework and steel sheets to

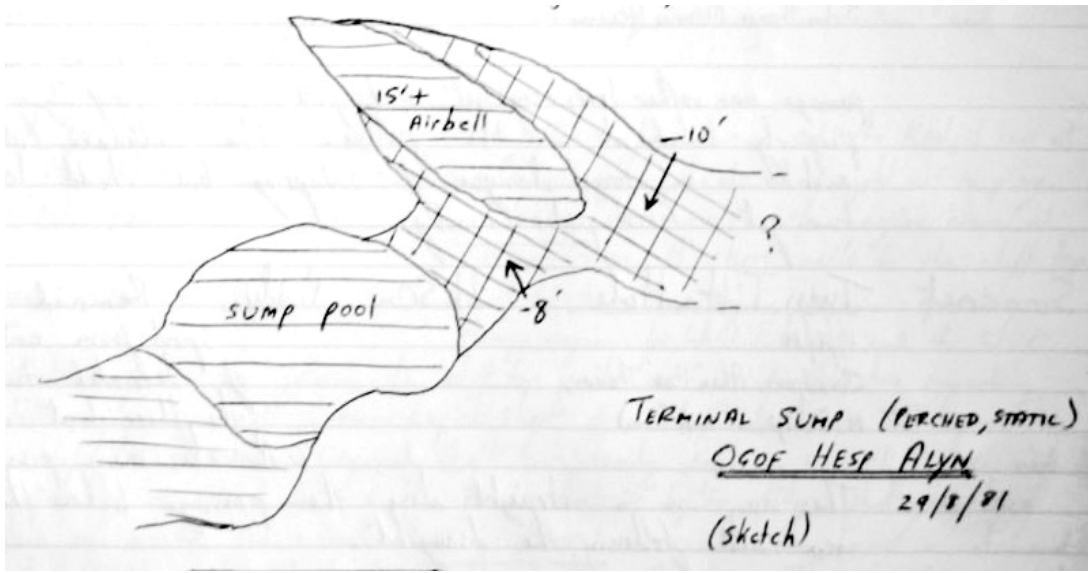
	25/7/81 MB, Tim, Fiona, Liz – dogs.			contain concrete base at far side of shaft top.
Somerset	Twin Titties Hole 26/7/81 MB, Tim, Fiona, Val, Bev, Catrin , Quackers, Liz, Bernie and Debbie , Phil Collett, Mr. N.		Priddy	Laying of 1' to 8" of concrete on base at far side of shaft. Superb job.
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Somerset	Twin Titties Hole 27/7/81 Batspiss, Quackers		Priddy	Rigged tripod and shifted a few buckets of grot before getting rigid to celebrate the Royal Wedding.
Somerset	Twin Titties Hole 1/8/81 Batspiss, Quackers, Ross, Tim, Fiona, Rich Warman. Visitor: Avril Buchanan!		Priddy	Shifted many bucket loads of boulders and dross from the shaft bottom. Installed and used the fixed blue winch to haul out an old NHASA digging kibble. Also used the Suzuki as a motorised winch. The way on into the cave appears to be below the horribly blast-shattered wall behind which is the old shaft. Looks really grim and great care will be needed when working under it. It must be shored or backfilled sometime.
Somerset	Twin Titties Hole 2/8/81 Tim, Fiona, Mac, Ross, Rachel Clarke, Honk (Mark Brown)		Priddy	Used Suzuki to haul many buckets of rock-spoil. Also installed timber shoring to help support (or fend off!) the RH lower wall of the shaft.
Somerset	Twin Titties Hole 4/8/81 Alan Thomas, Don Vosper		Priddy	Took three planks of wood to site.
Somerset OCL's 70 th Birthday	Swildon's Hole 4/8/81 OCL, N.Barrington, Rog Dors, Bats, Mac, R.West, J.Hanwell, B.Prewer, C.Hannam, Les, Rachel, Mandy, Qak, C.North, R.Bradshaw, R.Cork, Dany, Nick and Jed (WCC), Phil Davies and wife, A.Van der Plank, wife and dog, B.Davies, J.Price, Al Thomas, M.Grass, Pete and Alison Moody, + MANY UBSS, and others. Pete and Joyce Franklin, Kangy King , C.Hawkes	2 hr	Priddy	Oliver Cromwell Lloyd's 70 th Birthday Party! All met on the top green at 5.0pm and headed off down the cave bearing loads of sherry, cider, cake etc. The Old Grotto was lit up with candles and a meal layed out and prepared for OCL, to the strains of taped music. Our host appeared and was duly photographed and interviewed. We all then sampled the sherry, etc. and sang a few songs and got generally pissed. After a suitable time the cave was cleared up and all headed out to the Hunters'. An excellent session.
Yorkshire	Great Dowk Cave 8/8/81 Jenny Sandescott, Martin Bishop (Scoff and A.N other (BPC))	50m	Chapel-le-Dale	Photographic fester into this pleasant, meandering and roomy stream passage. MB took several photos. Rest of weekend spent festering, with a quick visit to Alum Pot by Jane, Jen and myself.
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Somerset <i>reopening</i>	Twin Titties Hole 15/8/81	1¾ hr	Priddy	Bob, Tim and I commenced digging the draughting hole below the collapsing wall.

	Tim, Bob Hill, Phil Romford (Fiona, Claire)			Several deep holes were soon revealed showing the way on into the cave. We removed a large amount of the LH wall and floor by hammering shattered lumps off until a passable squeeze was opened. Due to the highly unstable nature of the RH wall we inserted half an oil drum in the hole and dug below it to enable me to squeeze down into the first chamber – a roomy, extremely well decorated grotto. Hundreds of fine straws and miniscule helictites decorate this area. Tim and Bob came through and we were also joined by Phil (an original Twin T's digger) and a complete investigation of the cave took place – showing the terminal boulder ruckle to be decidedly hairy and not over promising. Two possible digging sites were noticed – a descending, muddy hole about halfway down the cave and the inclined bedding passage immediately below the entrance squeeze. The latter seems the best bet and will be dug as soon as concrete tubing is installed in the llose area. A good day's work.
Somerset	Twin Titties Hole 16/8/81 Tim, (Phil Romford), Bob, Zot, (Claire and Fiona), Mac.		Priddy	Phil went over first to arrange a pulley system for lowering the CSCC 3' diameter x 3' deep concrete tubes. Zot then arrived in his brother's Landrover and two tubes were collected by trailer from Upper Pitts. These were taken to the dig and lowered by L/Rover into the depression. Using the Suzuki and MB's rigid winch, one of the tubes (with a suitably chiselled hole in its base) was lowered to the base of the shaft where Tim and Bob spent much time in positioning it and digging inside and below it to enable the tube to slide down into the squeeze. This proved more time-consuming than was originally thought and was left till next weekend to complete.
Hampshire	Greywell Canal Tunnel 20/8/81 Dave Glover		Greywell	1.13 km long disused canal tunnel near Basingstoke. The water at the eastern entrance appeared shallow so Dave and I attempted a trip. Unfortunately, just inside the portal, it got rather deeper. Not being suitably equipped for swimming we chickened out. Meanwhile a small dinghy with three blokes in had appeared from the tunnel. They told us that there was a complete chalk blockage after several hundred yards. Must return with an inflatable dinghy and do both ends. (Dave, Jock Orr and I then got pissed).
Somerset	Twin Titties Hole 21/8/81 Jem Pogue, Bob Hill		Priddy	Jem and Bob spent an hour bashing the walls below the concrete pipe to help it to slip down.
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Somerset	Twin Titties Hole 22/8/81 Jem Pogue, Bob Hill	3 hr	Priddy	Dug and chiselled below the 1 st pipe until it settled further into the hole. The squeeze into the cave was reopened. The formations in the first chamber were taped off to avoid damage and then the 2 nd pipe was lowered down the shaft, and fitted onto the 1 st . A third will be needed to complete the job. The entrance squeeze was enlarged and a couple of hessian bags of grot were removed from the inclined rift dig in the first chamber. An excellent job of work. Haydon Drove Swallet Dig also looked at. YECHH!

Somerset	Twin Titties Hole 23/8/81 Tim, Fi, Phil Romford, Bob Hill, Jen, Bob and Pat Cork, Terry, Dave Aubrey, Tarka and Penny, Brendan and Jane Brew.		Priddy	Tim, Fi and Phil went over in the morning to continue digging the inclined rift. The rest of us gathered in the pub previous to Bob collecting a third section of concrete tube in his L/Rover. This was transported to the cave and lowered into place on the first two sections (after some chiselling of its base to make a lip). The next step was to backfill and consolidate the ground around the pipes and this was achieved by hurling all the dug out boulders and spoil back down the shaft! This was easily accomplished to within a couple of feet of the pipe top. The site was tidied, rigid winch and tripod removed and the compressor base lid was temporarily arranged over the shaft top. A bloody good job has been done here – let's hope the cave below proves a worthwhile dig.
Hampshire	Greywell Canal Tunnel Little Tunnel Bridge 26/8/81 Alone	½ hr	Greywell Nateley	Defeated again! Having bought an inflatable air bed expressly for the purpose I made a solo attempt on the Greywell end of the tunnel using wetsuit, flippers and the airbed. By lying face down and finning I moved at a slow rate along the tunnel, noticing that the water didn't get any shallower (approx. 6' deep). After 800 feet there was still no sign of a blockage or anywhere to get off and rest. Being most uncomfortable and with thoughts of cold and cramp (fins too small) setting in, I decided to beat a retreat. I got the hang of the finning on the way out but my feet were getting somewhat painful by then. Exited to nice sunny evening, a tin of cold coke and afag. Inflatable dinghy and paddles definitely needed here. Also looked at the short tunnel a couple of miles further up the canal towards Basingstoke. Possibly a cut and cover job, this c. 100' brick lined tunnel is of similar dimensions (but with a towpath). It is dry but shows an old waterline of exactly 6 feet.

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Flintshire <i>Discovery Dive</i>	Ogof Hesp Alyn 29/8/81 P & A.Moody (WCC), B.Hill, J.Pogue, N.Dibben, P.Ford (BEC), J.Dobby, C.Ebbs, Tony, John, Richard, Humphrey, N.Roberts, Pete(?), Tony, G.Davies (NWCC)	7 hrs	Cilcain	The intention of the trip was to get a couple of "pushing" divers from Mendip to investigate the perched static sump at the end of the cave. As they didn't arrive – and as NWCC had already rigged the system and turned up in force as sherpas, I decided to have a go. Jen and Bob retired early due to an excess of Bass. Phil dug in "Bushmill's Passage" and Garth, Tony and Pete (MWMEC) only went partway, but a good team eventually got to the end. I kitted up with a "20" and "15" as spare and using base fed line descended for some 8' depth and 15' horizontal to rise into an airbell some 10' x 4' with a c.20' rift above it. This would be a muddy climb straight from water so was left alone. I then returned to base. A second brief dive was made, keeping at floor level below the airbell to find a low arched passage going on at around 10' depth. Vast amounts of silt here caused zero visibility and so I gratefully returned to base. The trip out was a long, muddy drag. At one point (near the sump) I found an unclimbed 25' aven with a fair sized passage at the top – not entered due to extreme muddiness of the holds. On my first
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				attempt I slipped near the top and fell about 12' onto a ledge – most unpleasant. Exited with Pete well in front of the detackling party and spent the rest of the evening getting pleasantly rigid. An excellent trip. Though OHA is an extremely impressive and fascinating system the sheer bloody hard work of clambering up and down filthy, muddy slopes and climbs makes it a definite “occasional” trip. A great deal of exploration work needs to be done in all parts of the cave but it will require real enthusiasts. (Sump needs baling, siphoning or re-diving).
				
Flintshire	Ogof Hen Ffynnon hau 30/8/81 Phil Ford, Tony King, Gareth Davies, Pete and Alison Moody, Bob Hill, Jem Pogue, Nigel Dibben	2 hr	Cilcain	General ramble around. Jem and I dug into a small chamber near the end of the cave – no way on. Pete and Alison had a look at the main inlet and also dug into a hundred feet of clean washed, scalloped stream passage in the lower series. As with OHA, much remains to be looked at and dug in this system.
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Derbyshire	Duce Hole 6/9/81 Bob Hill, Jem Pogue	45m	Grindlow	Hangover trip after Eyam Wakes and PDMHS bonfire session. Made a token gesture of filling three “half bags” at the end and removing two to the main chamber. Noted the excellent bit of shoring by Cheg and Co.
Nottingham-shire	The Trip to Jerusalem Inn 12/9/81 Mac, Benny, Colin, Bish, Hannam, Jim Smart, Nig, D.Gill, NCC and many others.		Nottingham	BCRA Conference, conscience and thirst easing trip to the cave – bar in this pub. Beer lousy but a nice setting. Good weekend – conference not very stimulating but the stripper in the Clinton Arms was!
Somerset “rescue”	14/9/81 Callout from Hunters at 10.15 on Sunday night after Batsspiss and Bob Hill went to search for two “lost souls”. On arrival and after having half changed, I found that the others had found and evacuated the two (Singing River Mine, Shipham).			
Surrey	Mother Ludlam’s Hole Father Foote’s Hole 14/9/81 John Thomas, Maurice Hewins.		Farnham	Two interesting caves in sandstone. Father Foote’s was explored to its end – about 30 feet but only the entrance chamber of Mother Ludlam’s was looked at as the continuing stream passage was rather low, very wet and full of junk. Hopefully it will be properly looked at in the future. The entrance (above the stone arch) is

				in some danger of collapsing but should last a year or two yet. Good pubs nearby.
Somerset	Twin Titties Hole 19/9/81 Quackers, Alan “Hess” Thomas, M.Bishop, (Frank Jones)	1 hr 50m	Priddy	Removed a few bags of spoil from entrance dig. 6’ of decorated tube was pushed in the floor but merely connected with the main passage lower down. The “way on” is straight along the passage below the collapsed area and following the draught.
Surrey	23/9/81 Looked at swallow holes in chalk in the “park” at Farnham. Interesting non-limestone swallets. In evidence – Messrs J.Thomas, M.Hewins and Rodger Smith (OS).			
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Surrey	Mother Ludlam’s Hole 29/9/81 Alone	½ hr	Farnham	Donned wetsuit and reached the “end” of the cave. Basically a flat out crawl in the stream for c.150’ to a fork – both routes on too tight. Some digging was attempted with an entrenching tool but it seems that tightness prevails beyond the fork. After having studied this place at close quarters I am now convinced that it is 90 % natural – a stream passage (and stream junction) in a waterworn bedding plane in sandstone. Certainly modified and enlarged for the first 80 feet and with a possibly deepened floor beyond that. Quite a nice little trip – like being at the seaside with your sandwiches full of sand!
Cornwall	Sea Cave 5/10/81 Jane		Mullion Cove	Some c.80’ of tunnel sea cave through a small headland.
Cornwall	Wheal Roots (East Pool Mine) 6/10/81 Jane (+ tourists)	½ hr	Wendron Pool	Wheal Roots is the “show-mine” section of “Poldark Mining Co’s” tourist trap near Wendron. A series of levels connecting small stopes and shafts is open to the public. With displays of implements etc and a mining museum, displays of pumps etc at the surface. Worth a visit once just to say you’ve been in a Cornish mine. Thence to Redruth and a visit to the East Pool Whim engine and the 90” engine on Taylor’s Shaft. The whim engine being in motion and superbly silent.
Cornwall	(Wheal Owles) (Wheal Edward) (Botallack Mine) 8/10/81 Jane, Jeni, Trev, (Jason)		Botallack	After a fine session at the Radjil Inn at Pendeen, where the locals taught us to play “Yoker”*, we drove to the engine house at Wheal Owles. A short walk to the cliff top led us to two engine houses – possibly a stamps engine for Wheal Edward and the West Wheal Owles engine. By following the cliff top path we reached the two superbly situated engine houses at Crowns Engine Shaft of Botallack Mine. The open entrance of the Boscawen Diagonal Shaft is clearly seen in the cliff face and could probably be entered with a bit of a climb. After duly photographing the place we visited the ruined dressing floors account house (now a restaurant) and the recently renovated (by Geevor Mines) Allen Shaft. The headgear at Geevor was also noticed. A heap of new steel girders at Allen’s Shaft appears to be the makings of a headgear. Plenty of wind and rain provided an appropriate atmosphere to this visit. Must return with caving gear. * (Euchre?)
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Cornwall	(Halwin Adit) 9/10/81 Trev, Jane, Jes, Jason		Porkellis	Went to look for the portal of the adit which drains Boswin and Balcoath Mines. This was found at the side of the lane leading south from

				Porkellis church but the entrance was blocked by rubbish and probably collapse – though a short dig would probably give access. Water drains out from the blockage. The concrete stamps tramway supports of Basset and Grylls Mine and the picturesque Tyack's Engine House on Tyack's Shaft of Porkellis United Mines were also noticed.
Cornwall	(Porkellis United Mine) (Medlyn Moor Mine) (East Wheal Lovell) 10/10/81 Trev Hughes		Porkellis Porkellis Wendron	Looked first at Tyack's Shaft engine house on the workings of Pokellis United Mines. Duly photographed. After a fruitless search for entrances to Wheal White Alice we went to the engine house of Medlyn Moor Mine where we were pleased to find that scaffolding was erected and some restoration work was in progress – we didn't know by whom. A "BEC Sticker" was left at the top of the engine house. Then to the engine house of East Wheal Lovell where nearby old burrow workings were examined.
Sutherland	Uamh an Claonaite Allt nan Uamh Stream Cave 25/10/81 Peter Reynolds, Peter "Ratarse" Webb, MacAnus, Barrie Wilton, Bob Mehew, Julian Walford. (as above but minus Bob and Julian).	2¼ hr ¾ hr	Inchnadamph	Superb trip to the dry series (East Block) and Sump 3 in Claonaite. Conditions were fairly wet and the cascades were most spectacular. Barrie took photos prior to Sump 1. Not out in time for the pub so we wandered over to ANUS for a brief trip around the dry series and a quick look into the first streamway. Barrie again took several snaps. Some carbide graffiti was removed from entrance passage. A good, but tiring day's caving followed by GSG dinner at the Inch – a relatively quiet "do" but as enjoyable as always.
Sutherland	26/10/81 Pre-pub walk up Traligill valley as far as the sheep food hut. Took several snaps of the valley including one of Glenbain Hole entrance. Great weekend despite the expence of travelling from Surrey!			
Somerset	Swildon's Hole 31/10/81 Stuart Jarratt (11), Graham Hipkin (8), Jem Pogue, Trevor Hughes	1 hr	Priddy	Took Stuart and his mate on their first caving trip. Conditions were very wet and Graham decided he didn't like it at the start of the Long Dry Way so I took him out. Stu continued and thoroughly enjoyed himself as well as showing very good promise. Down to the Water Chamber via the Short Dry Way and vain attempt to come out via the Long Dry Way – but having to retrace our steps and out via Binnie's Link.
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Hampshire	Greywell Canal Tunnel 4/11/81 Chris Smart, Brian Hansford	1 hr 20m	Greywell	Using Chris' brother's 12-foot inflatable boat we traversed the tunnel to the collapse at 3,000 feet. A very pleasant way to travel with much interest being provided by scores of bats which weren't impressed with the intruders and flew all round the boat and in and out of small niches in the brickwork. The terminal collapse is a total one of extruded clay and chalk – one hell of a dig to shift. On way back Brian lassoed a camping gaz globe lamp from the bottom of the 6' deep crystal clear water. A large water-vole and various fish – including a foot long pike – were seen at the entrance. Great trip.
Surrey	11/11/81 Vain attempt to visit Barons' Cave in the park at Reigate. This is "closed until further notice". A brief and necessary visit to the underground GENTS in Tunnel Road tunnel was the next best thing. It was noted that the caves below Scutt's Caves Wine Bar are open for private parties.			
Hampshire	Greywell Canal Tunnel 11/11/81 Chris Smart	50 m	Greywell	Used the inflatable to visit the western end of the tunnel – located in thick woodland at Up Nately. This was found to have deeper, muddier water than the east end due to its collapsed portal. This

				section was only 450 feet to the extruded clay and chalk blockage and had a far more eerie atmosphere than the other part – with an area of black and ochre flowstone and small stalactites. Chris took a few photos and a BEC sticker was left at the end. Later met Dave Glover and Edward in the pub.
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	Goatchurch Cavern 14/11/81 Bob Hill, Paul +2, Jem, “ CSS and others.	55 m	Burrington	Call out from pub at 2.20. Venture Scout leader with suspected broken/dislocated ankle below the Coal Chute. Tied up, inserted in Major stretcher and removed via Coal Chute with ease.
Surrey	Merstham Hearthstone Quarries (Mines) A Merstham Hearthstone Quarries (Mines) B 17/11/81 Chris Smart, Graham Nye, Neil Nye, Gary? (SHCC)	1 hr 1 hr	Merstham	The first series visited was entered by a c.30’ steel tube shaft with fixed iron ladder. This led to a few hundred feet of walking and crawling passage with several walls of stacked “deads”, a lower, water-floored series and another 30’ concrete shaft to surface. Rotting remains of tram wheels in situ. The other series was entered via a c.10’ concrete/corrugated iron shaft and tight, descending squeeze to several hundred feet of roomy pillar and stall passage. A lower, wet area is pleasantly decorated. To the left of the entrance a passage leads to the original entrance (blocked) where a section of hearthstone arched level can be seen. Worth a trip (once). A – The Football Field Quarry B – Quarry Dean

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Somerset	22/11/81 Quackers cut lid on Twin Titties Hole for emplacement of gate. M.Bishop, Sweeney (WRPC), Graham (NCC), Rachel, Bob Hill, Jean, Jane, J.Abbot and Trev assisted in moving lid later in day. Good Mexico stomp Sat. night.			
Surrey	Godstone Firestone/ Hearthstone Mines – Roman Road Quarry - Godstone Hill Quarry 25/11/81 Roger Smith (OS), Chris Smart, Graham Nye, Neil Nye, Bruce Glocking, (Steve Woolven) + 2 lads and 1 girl from Croydon.	2 hr	Godstone	Roger and I made a fruitless search for “Arch Series” earlier in the evening and so after 4 pints we decided just to do Roman Road Series. A five foot drop led directly into a main haulage level – roomy, relatively clean and stable but unfortunately well “graffitied”. A maze of similar passages led off down dip and despite worries of getting lost it was easy to find the return route(s) using exit signs and following the workings up dip. Some older looking passages ended in concrete fill. The whole place was similar to a smaller version of Box Mines. Roger took a couple of snaps. On reaching the entrance after a 1½ hr “round trip” we met three torch-carrying youngsters from Croydon who then took us back into the workings as far as a c.12m concrete shaft which exited via a manhole cover at the side of the main Croydon-Godstone road. We then exited via the main entrance. A pleasant trip and well worth doing, though the workings can become monotonous after a time. Only artefacts noted were several broken barrels, many sections of gas (?) pipe and some rails near the manhole exit.
Somerset	Twin Titties Hole 28/11/81 Paul Hodgson, Andy Nash	2½ hr	Priddy	Cleared a fair amount of exceeding sticky clay and boulders from the dig below the entrance tube. A black space was revealed which eventually was reached and looked into. A descending, partly choked, 8’ long passage led to a presumed total blockage. Much loose crap from

				the entrance collapse formed the LH wall. There is little hope of this dig going further without lots of digging and shoring and so the other sites in the cave will be tried.
Surrey	Godstone Mines – Roman Rd/ Godstone Hill Quarry Bedlam’s Bank West Quarry 2/11/81 (C.Smart) C.Smart, G.Nye, N.Nye, B.Glocking (SHCC). Steve, Pete, Martin +2 (lads from Croydon)	½ hr 2 hr	Godstone Merstham	Chris and I zipped down the “Roman Road” series to obtain a section of tramrail for Cheg’s collection. A suitable piece was eventually found, and also a short section of “points” rail. We then exited to the “Hare and Hounds” to meet up with the lads from Croydon – two or three of whom were on their first trip. The “Arch Series” entrance being newly locked, we headed over to Merstham area and down the plastic tube entrance of the “Bedlams Bank Quarry”. Once inside the LH or West series was explored – a maze of interconnecting pillar and stall workings with a few small formations. Fluorescent arrows left at junctions helped in our return. This series is older than those at Godstone and has more collapsed areas – the pressure flaking of roof pillars being very noticeable. Pleasant ramble about with plenty of fag stops. Will probably examine the RH or East series on our next visit.
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Surrey	Godstone Mines – Roman Rd/ Godstone Hill Quarry 9/12/81 Chris Smart	1hr 10m	Godstone	Early evening fester on which we explored much of the left hand series of passages as far as the manhole entrance. Found various interesting items ie:- small formations, a very long length of rail, rope cut grooves in corner pillars and a section of passage with several lengths of rail across the ceiling. Then out and to the pub to meet the Croydon lads. They went off to do the same mine and we, being knackered, went home. Pleasant trip with nice exit to moonlit, snowy conditions.
Surrey	Bedlam’s Bank West Quarry 16/12/81 Chris Smart, Bruce Glocking, Graham and Neil Nye	2hr 10m	Merstham	Investigated the RH series of passages. An initial fairly low and, in parts, narrow series, led to a labyrinth of “main drives” with a good draught. Various types of survey markers were followed and fluorescent arrows were laid to aid in our return. One up-dip and fairly damp passage was found to be extremely well decorated with straws, curtains, bosses etc. Interesting “helictites” were formed where flat areas of calcite ceiling bearing straws had peeled off to hang at angles from the roof. The way on to the alternative entrance was not found on this trip, though we suspect we were fairly close. An excellent trip and a very interesting quarry.
Somerset	Twin Titties Hole 19/12/81 Trevor Hughes	1hr 40m	Priddy	Removed a few boulders from, and dug below, the terminal boulder choke. Little hope here in my opinion, though there are possible ways on under the choke to both left and right – but hopeless without lots of difficult and possibly dangerous digging. A shitty hole. Got pissed off and pissed off out.
Somerset	Clutton Old Pit 21/12/81 (Tim Large, Chris Bradshaw, G.W-J) [Rachel and Jane Clarke], a surveyor	5 m	Clutton	Arrived late to assist Chris and Co with their investigation and descent of a coal mine shaft actually situated inside a barn at Hillside Farm, Clutton. The barn is to be converted to a house and the owners were worried and surprised by the discovery of a manhole over the open, 6-8’ diameter shaft. On my arrival I found that Chris,

				<p>GWJ, Tim and the surveyor had already been down the shaft. It was brick-lined and 90' deep with muddy walls, small straws in holes in the ginging and various small water inlets. Blocked at 90' by infilled rubbish. After a few pints in a Clutton pub I did a (very) swift ladder descent/ascent. Nice day out and a novel trip. Probably much more of interest in this area. Possibly a climbing shaft.</p>
<p align="center">Page 146</p>				
Somerset	<p>25/12/81 Early AM:- Jem and I took the Suzuki ice-skating on Waldergrave Pool and upon reaching the far side – sank! Rescued by MRO rope winch several hours later.</p>			
Somerset	<p>Haydon Drove Swallet 28/12/81 “Drew” (Andrew George), Quiet John,</p>	1½ hr	West Horrington	<p>Trip to remove bang debris made by Alan Thomas earlier in the day. One of two offending boulders at the end of the c.30' of streamway had been demolished and the bits were duly removed, along with several other slabs and rocks. An almost passable stream passage can now be seen for about 10' – possibly dropping and turning to the right at this point. One more bang to remove a large floor boulder and about half a day's hammering at protruding flakes should open the place up – at least as far as the last visible section. Unfortunately the place stinks of sewage.</p>
Worcestershire	<p>144 Steps Cavern Flooded Cavern 30/12/81 Quackers, Stuart Jarratt</p>	1 hr ¼ hr	Dudley	<p>After a pint in the “Bull and Bladder” and a pint in “Mr. Pardoes” we picked Stu up and visited 144 Steps Cavern. A general fester round the main chamber with Quackers taking various photos of canal tunnel sections, deads, etc. Quack and I then did a quick tourist trip into Flooded Cavern to find that the end section, beyond the formations had been infilled with rubble due to drains being installed above. Luckily the formations are still in excellent condition.</p>
Somerset	<p>Haydon Drove Swallet 31/12/81 Drew, “Quiet” John Watson.</p>	40m	West Horrington	<p>Earlier in the day Alan Thomas had twice banged obstructing boulders at the end of the dig. Drew and John had cleared the resulting debris by the time I arrived. Some ten feet of passage had been gained along the streamway to a tight section caused by jutting ledges. Beyond this the passage drops a couple of feet and turns to the left. One is not quite able to see around the corner but it appears to go for about another ten feet – possibly passable at high level. Several small, old formations can be seen in the bedding plane below ceiling level. A couple more bangs should clear the obstructions and yield a way on. Looks very promising.</p>

'SNAB' CARTOON!
RE- MY BROKEN FEMUR.

