

Tony Jarratt's Caving Log

Volume 3, 1982-1988

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Somerset	1/1/82 Ken James, Fish, Jeanmaire and I drove to Haydon Drove Swallet where we stood by the entrance reminiscing while Alan Thomas, Drew and Quiet John dug and banged in the cave.			
Somerset	Haydon Drove Swallet Swildon's Hole 2/1/82 Alone	20m 1hr 10m	West Horrington Priddy	After missing Drew, Stu Lindsey and Quiet John and being deserted by Mac and Martin Grass I decided to have a quick look down the cave. The previous day's bang had removed a fair bit of the LH wall and it was now possible to see around the corner for some 6' to a large boulder blocking the stream passage. This, and more of the corner, will have to be banged before further progress can be made. Still looking very promising. Due to being soaked in diluted human shit I then decided to wash off in Swildon's. A nice solo trip to Sump 2 in high water conditions, chatting with odd bods en route. Made a balls up of free climbing the "20" in front of two small boys. Almost peeled twice. A most pleasant trip which cleared the festive cobwebs.
Derbyshire	Temple Mine 17/1/82 Terry Worthington (PDMHS), Paul and Jud Thompson, Jane	10m	Matlock Bath	After a quick, drunken visit to the PDMHS mining museum we wandered up to the quarry behind the Fishponds pub where Terry, Dave Williams, Steve and other PDMHS men were working on converting an old mine level for tourist traffic. At the time of our visit they were using a pneumatic rock drill to widen an area inside the level entrance in order to emplace an electricity box. Using one light Terry led us about 150' into the mine – abandoned in the '50s. The passages are low and muddy and will have to be considerably deepened before being opened as a show mine. Little of real interest, but will be suitable for use as an underground museum with the appropriate tools, wagons and equipment.
Surrey	Bedlam's Bank /Chaldon Bottom Mines 20/1/82 Chris Smart	1 hr 10m	Merstham	<i>See below</i>
	We initially looked for the crawl entrance to the Bedlam's Bank /Chaldon series of workings, near the Lodge. This was easily found and was open. We then changed and entered the system via this entrance. Some 100' or so of easy crawling with a few loose bits and roomy sections. This led down into the typical large galleries of these workings. After a couple of hundred feet we emerged at a cross roads near a collapse. This we recognised from our previous trip in from the Bedlam's Bank entrance. Not having any arrows to follow we decided that we should have just enough time to find our route out via this entrance – including getting lost a few times. This in fact proved far easier than anticipated and we reached the other entrance in about thirty minutes. One minor diversion en route led us to a passage with an excellent series of small gours along the passage floor. Well worth a photograph. On reaching the "see-through radioactive" tube we found that a considerable amount of roof collapse had occurred here – presumably due to frost shattering. Not having rigged the tube I was obliged to let Chris use me as a step ladder and once out he lowered a section of handy wire fence for me to use as a ladder! Without assistance this tube would be completely un-freeclimbable. Excellent trip.			
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Somerset	Upper Flood Swallet 23/1/82 Andrew "Drew" George	25m	Blackmoor	Quick trip to look at the potential of this site and check on MCG's progress here. Since Willy Stanton has dug here the cave has assumed the look of Reservoir Hole – plenty of drystone wall

				and steps! Easy going all the way to the end – about 750'. In the large bits of passage there are some fine formations – especially straws. The end doesn't look too hopeful being a solid calcite wall with a small wet drain hole in the floor. Needs a load of banging to progress further but is almost certainly the start of a major system in the typical Charterhouse style. MCG are going to continue here (See page 103!)
Somerset	Buddle's Wood Mineshafts (5,9) 24/1/82 Mac	25m	Tor Hole	<i>See below</i>
<p>AM While Alison, Batsspiss, Mac and Quackers continued with the survey and photography of shaft 9, I conducted a dig in the almost completely filled shaft 5. An hour's digging only dropped the infill by some two or three feet so I gave up here. It would need a proper dig to gain access to this particular shaft. PM – After a quick couple of pints Mac and I descended Shaft 9 for a look in the original section and the extension found by Chris Richards. I had a look at the tight, awkward squeeze into Alison's extension but thought better of it – perhaps another day. Had a quick look around noting several lesser horseshoe bats, nice stals etc. Alison, Batsspiss, and Quackers continued with the surface survey. Several of the spoil heaps here would almost certainly yield easily openable shafts with a little work, if permission could be obtained. It may be an idea to cap Shaft 9 as it is of most interest.</p>				
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Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 30/1/82 Chris Smart, Ron Bridger	2 hr	Red Quarr	Basically a recce trip to prepare the cave for future digging. We found that only the squeeze into Santa's Grotto, and the entrance to Pinks and Posies Passage were blocked. These were cleared and we continued to the end where several bags of grot, boulders, etc were removed and stacked in the "Smoke Room". Chris disappeared for a piss in Santa's Grotto and on his return he noticed a hole in the floor – on the left just before the Smoke Room – where water had been sinking. On closer investigation this proved to be a hole leading into some 10' of open passage with small straws on the roof and taking all of the draught. The entrance to this hidden passage was partially cleared. Next trip should prove interesting. Still a bloody grot hole but most pleasant.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 31/1/82 Trev Hughes	3hr 10m	Red Quarr	Rest of team failed to materialise so Trev and I went down to the new dig. A dozen or so plastic sandbags were filled and stacked in the Smoke Room, alongside various boulders. This left a 1' diameter hole which had to be enlarged by chiselling a bed of marl preventing access. Eventually we managed to make the hole large enough to insert one's head which showed us to be in an approx 5' diameter, 2' high chamber – liberally strewn with boulders and having a few pink straws. Off to the right (down dip) an 8" high bedding plane led off for about 6'. The gravel floor would have to be excavated to progress here. A 1' deep by 3" wide hole led down in the centre of the chamber floor – possibly on a minor joint. Much work will need to be done here to gain access to the chamber and progress further. More digging bags desperately needed and stacking space becoming limited.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 6/2/82 Blitz	3½ hr	Red Quarr	On arrival at the Smoke Room we found that approx ½ ton of ceiling and wall had collapsed, blocking the way on. Some of this was cleared


				<p>and stacked and the route on opened but too dangerous to enter due to at least another ton of roof about to collapse. This may mean the end of the terminal dig. Blitz meanwhile cleared the red passage entrance to enable him to get in up to his waist. I then had a bash here and managed to remove enough rock to enable one to turn around in the chamber. 10' of partially blocked upstream passage could be seen with a few sections of thin calcite false floor and several straws.</p> <p>Downstream the partly mud filled bedding passage led on for another 10'. The stream sinks down holes in the floor. Looking good now and digging should be relatively easy. Smoke Room to be used as spoil dump.</p>
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Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 13/2/82 Trevor "Biffo" Hughes	3hr 40m	Red Quarr	<p>Cleared several bags of mud, gravel and rocks from Blitz Passage, to reveal a 3" wide x 4' deep rift in the floor down which the stream was diverted and rushed merrily away. The area (back up passage) should be investigated further in case the rift opens up. The down dip end of Blitz Passage was dug in soft mud etc for some 6' to a blank wall and muddy pool. The way on here is beneath the floor where small holes can be opened up which draught. The passage also appears to trend to the left. Before leaving the stream was re-diverted into this area in the hope that it will flush out the floor somewhat. Spoil was stacked in the Smoke Room which should be filed up now as it is still in a state of constant collapse. 1 broken hammer, 1 broken entrenching tool and Pete and Alison's sledge removed to surface.</p>
Somerset	14/2/82 Transported Glyn Bolt's welding kit to Cuckoo Cleaves and Twin Titties Hole where he mended and affixed the new gates. Assisted by Phil Hendy, Adrian Van der Plank and wife and Trev Hughes.			
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	Sludge Pit Hole 20/2/82 Quackers, Al Keen, Glyn Bolt – 2 scout leaders, 3 small boys.	10m	Priddy	<p>Julie (WCC) called us out from Belfry. I contacted Police with a 999 call then Quack and I went down to assist the small boy supposedly stuck and frightened. We arrived to find that Glyn and Al had persuaded him to move and were bringing him out. A quick trip!</p>
Somerset	<p>21/2/82 AM. Trev, Mac, Quiet John, Quackers and I had a look at Pete Franklin's dig at Castle Farm II, Superb site: - a deep swallet depression with a double fluted shaft at the bottom. Lots of work to be done here which we hope to commence on the next nice day.</p> <p>PM. Trev and I joined Quack, Al Thomas and Drew at Haydon Drove Swallet where they were banging.</p>			
Co. Durham	24/2/82. While working in the Newcastle area I had a very brief look at the colliery winding engine and house at Beamish open-air museum. Also visited a disused colliery at Killingworth (?) near Chester-le-Street.			
Shropshire	Nesscliffe Cave 6/3/82 Alone		Nesscliffe	<p>After over 10 years (?) a quick re-visit was had to this lovely little sandstone cave. Photos taken.</p>

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Denbighshire	<p>3/3/82 AM. Noted sites of series of lead (?) mine levels and building foundations on the eastern slopes of Berwyn mountain.</p> <p>PM. Crispin Ebbs, Chris Vernon and I attempted to obtain a view of an open cave newly discovered in the Erngrys Quarry to no avail. We then went to a 15' + collapse feature in a field above and behind Ogof Naddig. Between having to hide from the farmer, Crisp and Chris managed to get down through the branch infill to find no obvious way on.</p> <p>Then, with Mike Raw, to the Grosvenor Caving Club entrance to the Cathole Mine – a 20' excavated mine shaft with over 1,000' of passage, both mined and natural. Not descended.</p>			
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	Next job was the descent of a 50' shaft (by Crispin) in the woods above the Alyn Gorge on North (?) Vein. Loose sides and no way on. Back to Cathole Mine to take the lid away for a chain to be welded on it. Returned later with help from Neil Robertson and Brother and various other GCC men. Thence for late session in the Crown at Pantymwyn. Stayed at Mike and Anne Gannon's.			
Shropshire	4/3/82. Took photographs of various mine buildings in the S.Shropshire Lead Mining Area :- Black Tom Shaft, Snailbeach Mine.			
Lancashire	11/3/82 Noted blocked coal shafts (Bell pits?) and ruined building and chimney foundations at Winter Hill, Horwich, Lancashire.			
Somerset	Castle Farm II Dig 13/3/82 Trev, Mac, Quackers, Bob (Bev and Fiona)		Castle of Comfort	Preparation of site for new digging session. Drainage ditches were dug to dry out the depression and a few token buckets of mud removed. Rock bridge lowered by hammering
Somerset	Castle Farm II Dig 14/3/82 Trev, Bob Bev, Graham Bolt, Noddy, Quiet John (Dany and Heather)		Castle of Comfort	Ropeway erected above depression. Several buckets of crap removed. Drains improved. Dig has a good, solid, limestone wall at right angles and takes a stream to one side. (see diagram). 

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Nottingham-shire	Brewhouse Yard Caves Trip to Jerusalem Inn 19/3/82 Jane		Nottingham	Visited these two artificial caves in sandstone (again) while in the city on way to Pegasus Dinner weekend. Unfortunately half of Brewhouse Yard Museum (including some caves) being redecorated and Martimer's Hole timing awkward for a trip. Must try and visit others sometime.
Somerset	Gough's Cave 27/3/82 Dave "Wig" Irwin, Trev Hughes	2½ hr	Cheddar	Wild T2 theodolite traverse from Solomon's Temple to entrance, taking in Wig's compass survey control points en route. Read to nearest degree (centre of matchstick head at 40 metres!) Tourists, as usual, got in the way. Wig was most impressed. A superb method of traversing in such an easily accessible cave as this.
Somerset	Castle Farm II Dig 27/3/82 Q.John, Trev, Quackers, Graham "Bolt"		Castle of Comfort	Quackers and Trev erected aerial cableway to replace rope whilst the rest of us continued digging. Water disappears down holes at side as before. Nice solid walls give the place an air of stability – a nice change!
Somerset	28/3/82. Butch and Aileen (SMCC) accompanied Trev and I on a walk over to Toothache Pot Dig to collect the self-emptying bucket. The shaft here is now some 50' deep and looks quite impressive from the top. We also looked at the superbly timbered, though only partially constructed, incline level into Tusker's Longwood Valley Sink Dig. With its incline, beautifully constructed drystone walls and steps and the steel tube-lined shaft it is due to become yet another classic Mendip digging memorial!			
Somerset	Castle Farm II Dig 28/3/82		Castle of Comfort	Bucket added to haulage system but lack of large krab made the emptying system very poor.

	Mac, QJ, Trev, Quack, Ted Humphries, Wormhole, Barrie Wilton, Rob Harper, Fiona			Despite this a fair quantity of earth, clay and boulders were removed from the floor and walls of the dig. Other shakeholes in the area also visited.
Kent	Artificial cave 30/3/82 Alone		Tunbridge Wells	Situated in a small sandstone cliff directly under the folly of Salomon's Tower in the grounds of Broomhill House Hospital, is a 15-20' length of c.6' high by 4'6" wide hand picked tunnel, or grotto, leading to a partly boarded up archway with a flight of narrow steps presumably going up a shaft into the tower above. NGR TQ 568417. The head gardener also mentioned that there are a couple of other openings nearby, but these were not investigated due to lack of time and of official permission (possibly difficult to obtain?)

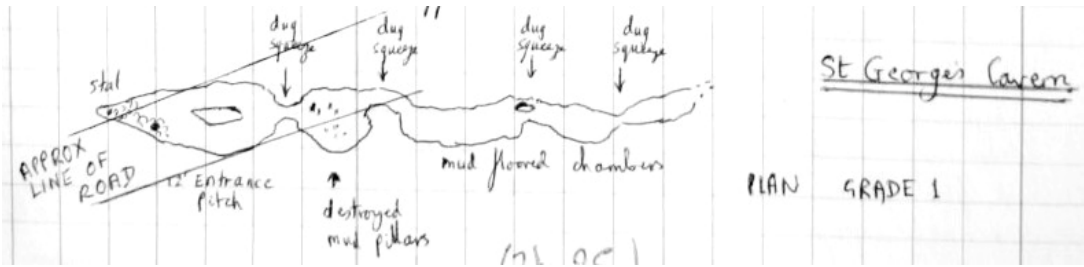
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Surrey	Bedlams Bank / Chaldon Bottom Mine 31/3/82 Chris "Blitz" Smart	1½ hr	Merstham	Crawl entrance entered and then passages followed from here up slope to eventually come across a 30' + upward shaft of oil drums, covered over at the top. Various passages then followed down dip revealed little of interest apart from numerous other passages which were not explored. Back out via a "round trip" and the crawl entrance. Rather nice new notice here saying PRIVATE PROPERTY THESE CAVES ARE DANGEROUS KEEP OUT. It was diplomatically left in situ!
Kent	(Snape Mine) 6/4/82 Alone		Wadhurst	NGR: TQ 633302 Ref: Wealden Iron – Ernest Straker (1931) p.290-291. Searched Snape Wood (both sides of railway line) in vain, for open entrances to this 1857 iron mine. An obvious filled shaft, a section of infilled "rake" workings and two possible blocked adit entrances were found*. A third (possibly) blocked adit is near the road where a pool may be drainage from the workings. Minor tracks in the wood may have been tramways and an overgrown spoil heap behind a house was also noted. Several pieces of wrought iron trolley rails – as mentioned by Straker – were spotted stuck in the ground near an old Nissen hut. One was liberated for Cheg's collection. The Miners' Arms pub is now a private house. Another visit may yield more remains or local knowledge. * (Reopened many years later by KURG).
Glamorgan	Ogof Craig y Ffynnon 10/4/82 Martin Grass, Trev Hughes, Alun Pryce-Stevens (R&FCC), Martin Gray, Geoff Crossley (BPC), Mac	5¾ hr	Clydach	Superb trip in a superb cave. Interesting route through various boulder ruckles and crawls leading to typical enormous Welsh passages with some fine gours, straws, helictites, selenite crystals and the excellent pure white "pagoda" stalagmites. Had a brief look at the Promised Land and at the huge passage leading to the 5 th boulder choke. Most of the trip spent bantering about the usual caving tales. Much passage remains to be found all around the system. A far more interesting cave than Aggie and would be incredible if connected to it!!

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Somerset	Castle Farm II Dig 13/4/82 Quackers, Batspiss,		Castle of Comfort	AM. Quack, Batspiss, and I removed the boulders left by Pete Franklin after Tim's weekend bang. PM. Tim arrived and demolished
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	Tim Large, (Al Mills)			a further boulder – just as Al turned up with a crate of home brew! Several more rocks and buckets of crap were then merrily removed. Site looks very good now with “solid” on two sides and water sinking into 3’ deep holes under the mud.
Somerset	Castle Farm II Dig 18/4/82 Pete Franklin, Quackers, Batspiss, Barrie Wilton, (3 Dunstable) (M.Bishy, Joyce and kids, Jane, Jen etc)		Castle of Comfort	Mainly removal of mud and small rocks. Drainage hole blockage caused minor problems but was eventually cleared. “Bertie” kite was a bit of a failure as well!
Kent	Another brief look around the Snape Mine area. Nothing of interest found. The open level certainly does seem to have been that behind the house at the side of the public footpath where it crosses the railway. Much of the level would in that case be collapsed. Also had a look at the entrance to the rock hewn chamber beneath St. Helena House in Tunbridge Wells. The manhole cover was open and a drop of c.10’ down a concrete tube leads to the cave opening. Hopefully this will be investigated. Referred to as Tunbridge Wells Cavern in CSS Records Vol. VI p.82.			
Kent	Tunbridge Wells Cavern Cowden Caves Cowden Mine Level Westerham Ragstone Mines 21/4/82 Alone Chris Smart	10m 1hr 50m	Tunbridge Wells Cowden Cowden Westerham	<i>See below</i>
	<p>AM. Parked OS L/Rover in Tunbridge Wells, at the side of the manhole entrance to this old stone mine (?)/Stable/air raid shelter. A rope was tied to the back bumper hoops to aid in descent and more so, ascent of the 10’ entrance pipe. At the bottom was a fairly roomy chamber divided into two parts by brick infilling and containing nothing of interest. Its latest use as an air raid shelter is evident from the brick supports etc. TQ 582395.</p> <p>TQ 449399 – Cowden Caves. Visited PM en route to Godstone. Four hand-picked shallow caves in sandstone were visited. These are presumably those referred to in CSS Records Vol. Six. They are at the side of the minor road alongside the tail of the ancient furnace pond and I assume to have been worked for sand or iron ore. Luckily a local policeman caught me looking at these and after a chat he told me of another open hole further down the road at TQ454400, in an open area near the sluice from the furnace pond. A visit here revealed a 3m high, 1.5m wide and 16.0m long mine level in the local layered sandstone(?). This is probably the site referred to as mined for furnace stone. There is no evidence of further workings below or leading off from this level. Unfortunately half of the gallery is now full of domestic rubbish.</p> <p>From here I continued on to Godstone to meet Blitz. A look at the shaft into Arch Series at Godstone showed it to have been recently covered over with a circular mound of ash, leaving a small breathing hole in the centre. Access now presumably denied (at least without a spade!) Roman Mine still open. Thence to Westerham Ragstone Mines where the three “bat-grilled” adit entrances were all found to be accessible (plus another three “bat only” entrances). Series 3-4 was first visited – a maze of typical stone mine passages, with a round trip crawl which Blitz did.</p> <p>Series 2 was a smaller, lower version of the above, with much more evidence of collapse.</p> <p>Series 1-5 was the most pleasant, much of it being large, 6’ high, straight galleries. This crosses below the minor no through road. Chris took several photos in these workings. No bats seen anywhere.</p>			
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Somerset <i>Discovery</i>	St. George’s Cavern 24/4/82 Phil Romford, Mac, Jeremy Henley, Al Mills, Pete & Alison, Glyn, Bob Cork, Anne Lavender, Tim Large / Andy Sparrow, Bri	1hr 5m 1hr 20m	Wells	<i>See below</i>

	Prewer, Wig, Trev Hughes (Cerberus visitors)			
	<p>Found by an Irish digger driver (Peter Cosgrove) while excavating a cable trench in the centre of Old Bristol Road, just up from Ash Lane. A 4' x 2' hole drops 12' into a 20' long by 10' wide chamber in limestone/conglomerate. The Irishman had been lowered into this on the boom of the excavator! On Friday night Brian Prewer and Rich West went down to have a look and found old footprints in the mud and a possible way on at the SE end. On Saturday the BEC team went down and I dug mud and boulders from this low point to reveal a squeeze through into a 12' high by 8' diameter chamber with some fine mud/stalagmites (now destroyed) which Phil Romford photographed. Others came down and took photos, poked about and did a rough survey. Known as "the Hole in the Road" but later christened "St. George's Cavern" after the day on which it was found.</p> <p>In the afternoon I returned with Andy Sparrow, Brian Prewer and Wig to start a survey proper. Before we could start Andy had excavated the squeeze out of the second chamber and squeezed some 10' into a third chamber – in fact a 15' wide, low phreatic passage with a mud bank floor. I joined him there but Prew and Trev Hughes couldn't get through the squeeze so we continued onwards through another dug squeeze into a fourth and then a final fifth chamber – all very similar with cracked mud floors and a few old stals, curtains etc. All distinctly phreatic and possibly an old resurgence. The way on at the end is "Alison sized" and possibly will have to be dug anyway. Trevor later cleared out the squeezes. The survey we left until Sunday. Total length at present is about 100'. Hopefully the cave will not be infilled but will be concrete capped with a manhole and storm drain.</p> 			

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Somerset	St. George's Cavern 25/4/82 John Dukes, Biffo, Bob and Dany, Wells Blue School lads, Dunstable lads, Wig, Joe, Chris Hannam, Barrie Wilton and lots more.	1hr 5m	Wells	Dug at the "upstream" end of the entrance chamber. Relatively easy digging in mud under the stal floor. In about 8' but needs a lot more work. The rest of the cave was full of bad air due mainly to the number of people in the cave and so Wig only managed to survey to chamber 2. Lots of visitors, including the Press arrived. (During the morning Pete and Alison pushed for a further 30' on from the end to a presumed surface collapse). Also looked around the arboretum grounds for evidence of the cave but none was found.
Sussex	St. Clement's Caves 26/4/82 Cave guide	25m	Hastings	While on a trig maintenance job I managed a tourist trip around these commercialised sand mines. They are fairly ancient hand picked passages and chambers – several hundred feet in total – and with several wide, high, open natural fissures (said to be formed by earthquakes but more likely of the "windypit" or "gull" variety). Several sculptures, wall carvings etc have been made in the walls during the last hundred or so years. Part of the system is used as an underground ball room / party hall – complete with bogs! The "Norman Arch Passage (?) " is a fine bit of hand picked level with sculptured pillars, arches and candle niches. Another recent connecting passage was hacked out with a Kango Drill. Reasonably accurate and entertaining cave guide despite the usual bull shit of smugglers, etc. Well worth a trip.
Sussex	Beachy Head Cave	20m	Eastbourne	Evening visit during low tide using "Caves and

	28/4/82 Mike Sheridan, Rog Smith (OS)			Caving” magazine as a guide. Half an hour’s fairly awkward walking over shingle and chalk slabs eventually brought us to the twin entrances – close to the lighthouse. The free-climb up to these entrances was so bloody desperate that we chickened out. It appears that the crucial footholds in the last traverse have fallen off. By now it was 8.30pm so we started to head back. Mike spotted another hole about 10’-12’ up an easier section of cliff which he climbed to and proved to be open. We entered this and found it to be the “rubble-choked tube” shown on the survey which had been cleared out to give easier access. We were thus in the main cave. Being now short of time (and tide) we had little chance to explore. I went up the eastern passage until a point just before the old entrance while Mike and Roger stayed in the first section of passage admiring the huge spiders in residence! The western passage was not looked at. The tube is exactly like a phreatic limestone tube, with a sand and chert/flint floor – reasonably comfortable going (apart from the arachnid populace). Well worth another look during daylight and using all of the low tide. Walked back in the moonlight and got a couple of pints in before closing at the Victoria in Eastbourne. Met an ex-Rifleman who fought at Paschendaele and spent 3½ years on the Western Front. 88 years old.
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Somerset	St. George’s Cavern 1/5/82 Tim Large, Lucy Tudway-Quilter, ANOther, Jeremy Henley, Neil Robertson, Martin, Neil Roberts, Jerry Dobbs, Steve (Grosvenor) (Brian Prewer and Jim Hanwell at surface) etc.	1 hr	Wells	Jeremy and the Grosvenor lads went to the 6 th chamber to do a radio location test. The chamber was found to be under a clump of bamboo plants in the arboretum. I showed the delightful Miss Tudway-Quilter around the first chamber (and also her brother? was shown around). Then Tim and I dug below the stal bank for several feet. Much more digging to be done here but we believe the chamber is to be infilled on Tuesday.
Somerset	St. Cuthbert’s Swallet 2/5/82 Alan Butcher, Steve, Jerry Dobby, Neil Robertson (GCC)	4½ hr	Priddy	Carried cement and digging bags to Sump 2 where they were filled with mud and gravel and used as a temporary dam in order to lay the cement for a more permanent dam. This was unfortunately a bit of a failure due to leakage and the soft mud floor. The bailing system worked reasonably well though. Out via Rabbit Warren, High Chamber etc. A very fine trip – must get down here more often.
Somerset	St. George’s Cavern 3/5/82 Trev Hughes, Andy Sparrow, Rob Harper (Trev “Ar Kid”)	1 hr	Wells	After a pissup and music session in Wells we eventually got to the cave. A load of corrugated iron and timber was taken down and a tunnel built against the wall and across the stal pillar to enable us to cross the chamber should it be filled in. A vast amount of storm water was diverted down the entrance hole, which formed a pool in the lowest part of the first chamber but easily drained away. Hopefully we will now be able to reach the end dig if we gain access to the sixth chamber from surface.

Sutherland	Uamh an Claonaite 15/5/82 Nick Milton, Pete Dowswell, Bill Miller, Julie Nelson, Pete Reynolds	4hr 50m	Inchnadamph	Julie went as far as Sump one and then exited due to lack of wet suit. The rest of us went on to Sump Three where I was conned into going down the blasted hole in the floor – a severe squeeze dropping into almost 100’ of roomy, slanting stream passage sumping downstream almost immediately to presumably connect with Sump Three and upstream, after a modicum of crawling above the stream, to the presumed lower end of Sump Two. Fragile ledges were a slight problem – one giving way upon being used as a handhold causing a cut thigh. The return back up through the squeeze was a right bastard. Had to remove the upper half of my wetsuit to get through – using a digging bar as a foothold. Unfortunately Nick’s carbide lamp jet was left in situ. Thence to East Bloc where Pete D found 30’ of passage in the roof of one of the chambers and I had a look at a dig below the chamber. The others looked at the first chamber in Infinite Improbability Inlet. We all then exited to the superb warm, calm weather.
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Sutherland	Creag nan Uamh Bone Caves 16/5/82 Nick, Julie		Inchnadamph	Quick visit on way back to cars. Did not venture beyond the daylight zone though Julie went through a connecting crawl.
Sutherland	Cnoc nan Uamh System Uamh Cailliche Peireag 17/5/82 Julian, Corrin and Mark Walford, Debbie Freeman (Nature Conservancy) (Anne Reynolds)	¼ hr	Inchnadamph	Festered into the stream chamber of Uamh an Tartair for 5 minutes. Then to UCP where we had a quick look around the easily accessible passages. Little change despite terrific floods. Much flood debris (vegetation) in the “Third Time Lucky Dig”.
Yorkshire	Dalebarn Cave 22/5/82 Howard and Debbie, Lugger (NCC) Judith Calford, Ruth (Cardiff UCC)	2hr 20m	Chapel-le-Dale	Tourist cave digging trip. In via the top entrance amd on to ‘Kinnell Rift where we turned off for a look along Wanderer’s Passage. Brief look at Sump 1 then along ‘Kinnell Rift (very like those in Reservoir Hole) to the Elysian Fields(?) where Lugger’s dig was found to be partly flooded and was left alone. An interesting ancient phreatic system with several very pleasant parts and quite a few grot holes. Later that day we had a look at the entrances to Rift Pot, Marble Steps Pot, Little Pot – an unpushed NCC dig – and a camouflaged nearby entrance which has just been pushed by the NPC into a major system – both deep and with extensive, large phreatic development. (Overturned the “Jeep” that night!)
Yorkshire	Scales Moor Pot No. 1 Kingsdale Master Cave 23/5/82 1) Howard, Debbie Limbert, Dick (NCC), Mark, Judith, Ruth 2) Judith	¼ hr 1½ hr	Scales Moor Kingsdale	Assisted the NCC with their dig by carrying shoring materials up on to Scales Moor (via the entrance to Vesper Pot). We all went down the 25’ entrance pitch just to say we had been underground. From here a further 20’ pitch leads to a too tight rift which is being drilled and banged. Good prospects here. Later in the day Judith acted as my conscience and dragged me down KMC for what proved to be a really pleasant trip with plenty of water. Up to Swinsto Great Chamber via Philosopher’s

				Crawl and back to the Master Cave via the normal route. Then up to the Rowten Sumps and back down the streamway. Most pleasant.
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Dunbarton-shire	Linn “Caves” 26/5/82 Alone	½ hr	Milngavie	Small series of limestone workings with the entrances directly behind a small waterfall. Pillar and stall workings some 4-5 feet high with several drystone pillars and rotting pit props. In areas there are masses of cave pearls and many areas of small straws, bosses, mini-gours and crystal pools in a great variety of colours ranging from pure white, cream, grey and black to orange, brown and dark ochre. The formations, though small, would make some superb colour photographs. Various “snot gobblies”, fungi and hydromagnesite (?) formations also in situ. Minor stalled-over roof falls in places. Obviously well-explored by local kids etc – pity they let their porn books get so wet – it makes it almost impossible to turn the pages over! Well worth an evening’s fester.
Cumberland	Levels 27/5/82 Alone		Garrigill	On way from Glasgow to the Dales I had a look at two stone-arched mine levels about four miles south of Alston. Both were blocked by mud collapse after a hundred feet or so. Driven in sandstone/shales with limestone adjacent. Removed an old sleeper to make a stool with.
Co. Durham	Ashgillhead Horse Level 27/5/82 Alone		Harwood	Explored the first 50’ or so of this horse level until a recently inserted length of 3’ diameter concrete pipe entailed lying or kneeling in the water. Being alone I didn’t bother exploring this – I assume it goes right through the collapse. Someone has worked bloody hard to put this in! Part of Ashgillhead Mine.
Yorkshire	Gaping Gill Hole 28/5/82 Alone	¼ hr	Clapham	Drove up to within 5 minutes of GG via Long Lane. Met John (?) and Mick Miller (Motley Crew) at the entrance and after a brew they lowered me down on the winch (free!) Superb descent into what seemed to be the “fires of Hell” due to the two mega orange spotlights in Main Chamber – which lit the place up fantastically – even revealing a 15-20’ long brown stalactite which had never been noticed before. Had a quick ramble around then was winched back to daylight. Superb.
Yorkshire	Ingleborough Cave 29/5/82 Geoff Yeadon, Geoff Crossley, Mac, GWJ, Jane, Martin Grass, Julie, Scoff + 1 (BPC), Brendan Brew.	6¼ hr	Clapham	Sherpaing trip for the Geoffs who were diving into Terminal Sump to survey and radio-locate the end of the dry passages there. The carry was pretty awful – some 400’ + of crawling and wallowing – a real collector’s item. While the divers were away we dug out some 10’ of sand filled passage, threw stones at rocks and generally got cold and pissed off. End successfully located to within 20 metres of Spiral Aven in GG. Grim but well worth a trip.
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Somerset	Swildon’s Hole 2/6/82 Martin Bishop, Stephen Jarratt, Dean	1hr 50m	Priddy	First trip for Steve and Dean. Down to Sump 1 via Binnie’s Link and out via the Wet Way – in dryish conditions. Very pleasant and thoroughly enjoyed by all.
Somerset	Charterhouse Cave 4/6/82 Alison Moody (WCC)	1½ hr	Charterhouse	Crafty visit to this newly discovered system running parallel to GB. An awkward entrance series of tight rifts and crawls leads to a large

	Dave Pike (MEG)			main passage and a chamber similar in size to a cross-section of GB Gorge. Beyond this is a drop into a grotto followed by the final hairy boulder choke. There are several upper passages including one leading to “The Citadel” – a vast ledge halfway up the Main Chamber, covered in ‘chocolate and cream’ stal bosses. The whole of the cave is exceptionally well-decorated with mega stalactites, straws, helictites, cave pearls, peculiar waxy drip formations etc. Will need a leader system to protect the stal as much of it has to be edged past. It seems that a connection with GB could be forced but would endanger the pretties. Much more to be found in this exceptionally fine cave.
Somerset	St. Cuthberts’s Swallet 6/6/82 Butch, Dave, Tony (SMCC) 2 Croydon CC	3¼ hr	Priddy	Carried down two paint tins and two ammo tins of cement. Filled several plastic sand bags of mud and completed the temporary dam immediately before Sump 2. Back out via Railway Tunnel. A practice “Big Push” will hopefully happen next week. Cave very dry.
Somerset	St. Cuthbert’s Swallet 12/6/82 M.Bishop, Quackers, Tim Large, Bri and Lucy Workman, Mac, Butch, Dave, Tony Jennings +2 (SMCC) Bob and Dany, Gordon (SMCC)	5hr 10m	Priddy	“Dress Rehearsal” attempt on Sump 2. All the dams were put in but at least one leaked. Over 3 hrs bailing at the sump still left some 4 foot to go with all available dams filled and so the trip was aborted without the actual dig being exposed. The dams near the sump will have to be heightened before any progress can be made. A useful trip though and quite enjoyable.
Somerset	Wookey Hole Cave 12/6/82 Colin (Pope) Priddle (BEC/CROSH) Bob, Dany, Martin Bishop, Quackers	1 hr	Wookey Hole	Festered about taking photos of Bob, Dany and Martin who dived from 1 to Resurgence and on to 9 and back. Pope was impressed with the tunnels. Water conditions were very clear. 5” of crocodile showing.

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Somerset	Tynning’s Barrow Cave 13/6/82 M.Bishop, Pope, Andy Sparrow, John Dukes	2hr 35m	Charterhouse	Cave is now remarkably clean compared to previously. All down to “A Day” where Martin laid three slabs of plaster on the RH wall just before the bend. After a worrying misfire we connected two cells together to give a satisfying “oomph” with an even more satisfying shock wave. Back out via Peyton Place where muddy handprints on the stal bank were pissed on by Andy in an attempt to clean them. A nice trip.
Somerset	Castle Farm II Dig 19/6/82 Trev Hughes, Axel Knutson Jnr.		Castle of Comfort	Several buckets of crap and a variety of broken boulders removed from the hole – all from fallen in material. Plenty of room and reasonably dry.
Somerset	Castle Farm II Dig 20/6/82 AM. Al Mills, Phil and Lyn Hendy, Axel, Mac, Danny (SMCC), PM. Danny, Mike (SMCC), Pete F, Barrie W, Drew etc.		Castle of Comfort	AM. Removed winch from Windsor Hill Dig and transported it to Castle. Al Mills halved an oolite boulder with Cordtex. PM. Removed remains of boulder. Danny broke the Shepton sledgehammer. Got fed up and went back to Belfry after finding 4 nuts missing from winch – possibly pinched during lunchtime as they were not noticed to have gone during the morning.
Somerset	Chelm’s Combe Quarry Cave Box Cave Reynold’s Rift	½ hr ¼ hr 20m	Cheddar	Three interesting “collector’s items” in the National Tower Testing Station Quarry. Chelm’s Combe Quarry Cave and Box Cave are both extremely well decorated – the latter with a fairly

	25/6/82 John Aylott, Rod, Dave (NTTSCC) Rachel, Quackers.			large chamber. Reynold's Rift is tight and wet- ish with a desperate dig in a choked sump at its bottom. How the hell John manages to drill 3' slotholes down here I will never know! Nice to wash off in the firm's own washroom after the trip.
Somerset	Castle Farm II Dig 26/6/82 Danny, Mike (SMCC) Trevor, Barrie, Colin		Castle of Comfort	AM. Positioning the winch and after re-arranging the hauling tackle we removed several bucket loads of spoil. PM. Despite Trevor's useless comments we managed to remove several more buckets of grot before getting pissed off with the foot deep pool in the bottom of the dig and the continual rain. Desperately needs shoring.
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Somerset	Tynning's Barrow Cave 27/6/82 Trev Hughes, Steve, Tony (Gloucester SS) (Charlie Self + 2 UBSS)	3 hrs	Tynings Farm	Cleared some 6' of wall from Martin's bang of 2 weeks ago. An excellent result. Trev laid 8 x 2oz sticks of Gelamine and this was duly misfired and then fired as tradition demands! A good, loud, earth-shaking bang. Also removed a load of ancient, full spoil tins from bottom of entrance pitches and installed them in the collapsing area below the concrete tubes. A good and useful trip.
Derbyshire	Speedwell Mine and Cavern 3/7/82 Jane and tourist + guide	½ hr	Castleton	Tourist trip. £1.50p. reasonably amusing guide.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 9/7/82 Jim Smart, Nigel Burns	2hr 5m	Tor Hole	Showed Jim and Nigel the cave and removed eight or so bags of spoil from the dig before the dreaded light pox struck Jim and myself. Dig looks good and is easy to work. More bags needed. Tools left in situ.
Somerset	Tynning's Barrow Cave 11/7/82 Tim Large, Phil Romford	2hr 5m	Charterhouse	Little obvious result of Trevor's last bang. Unfortunately we forgot to take a hammer/pick to prise out the loose stuff. Tim laid 5 slabs (1lb 5ozs) of plaster which went off with the usual pleasing boom. Phil's first trip in the cave.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 16/7/82 Alone	1hr 55m	Red Quarr	Dug about half a dozen bags of mud and rocks and stacked them just behind the entrance tube. Also removed a load of boulders and took these out to the Smoke Room where they were deposited in the hole leading down to the end of the cave. This section is too dangerous to enter and should be filled with spoil. I made it impassable with large boulders and bags of spoil. Came out slowly admiring the cleanly washed walls and floor from the flood of the last week. End of dig very roomy with loose spoil and appears to be going straight on and dipping slightly. Looks good but much work needed. Possibly this is the upstream section of the original terminal dig.
Somerset	Tynning's Barrow Cave 17/7/82 Jeremy Henley, Tim Large, Phil Romford, Trev Hughes, Andy Sparrow, Andy Cave	3hr 10m	Charterhouse	Cleared about 6 large poly bags of gravel, silt and bang debris from the dig – also shifted many large lumps of rock. The last bang was very successful. Tim then laid three slabs of plaster which were duly fired. Meanwhile the two Andys had been maypoling in the passage just before Pyramid Pot. Two holes were entered – both of which went nowhere. The maypole was left in the cave for future use. Various odd side passages were also looked at. Trevor succeeded in bringing down the huge roof block just beyond

				the Aardvark Trap – probably creating a new pitch in the cave! Good, useful trip.
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Somerset	Castle Farm II Dig Gough's Cave 19/7/82 (Jimmy [RN], Frank Jones, M.Bishop, Quackers) M.B., Quackers	10m	Castle of Comfort Cheddar	Transported 3 heavy railway sleepers to dig in a Royal Navy lorry. Ready now to shore the collapsing face. Then to Gough's Cave to measure up a few low bits to see if it is possible to get the Suzuki and trailer as far into the cave as Tim's tube dig. Possible with care though it would probably be easier and safer to just push in the trailer by hand.
Somerset	Castle Farm II Dig 24/7/82 Biffo, Tim, Simon Knight, Jane and Brendan Brew.		Castle of Comfort	Removed a few bucket loads of crap from the dig. Transported shoring to site. Hoping to follow solid wall around shaft.
Devon	Kitley Show Cave Kitley Rift Cave 31/7/82 Jane (+ tourists and cavers)	¼ hr	Kitley	Pleasant and interesting phreatic cave system opened as two show caves. A few hundred odd feet of roomy, connecting passage is accessible to tourists and (unfortunately) is lit with coloured lights. Plenty of small but vandalised formations and some excellent, but old and dry, gours. Several local cavers were met in the main cave attempting to extend the passage beyond the boulder choke and the wet, lower series. The Rift Cave is, as its name suggests, a section of well decorated rift passage which almost certainly extends beyond the tourist section.
Cornwall	Botallack Mine 1/8/82 Alone	¼ hr	Botallack	Pottered around various ancient, cave like "flat" workings near Allen's Shaft. Nothing of interest here. Then to the famous Boscawen Diagonal Shaft where I entered the incline to its flooded end at about thirty feet from daylight. The water is fresh, not saline, and is some twenty feet above sea level. Queen Victoria visited here in 1865!
Cornwall	(Geevor Mine) 2/8/82 Jane (+ tourists)		Pendeen	Tourist trip around the surface plant of this working tin mine where the processes of washing, concentrating, flotation etc were seen at close quarters and explained by a pleasant and interesting guide – a retired mine worker. The excellent mining museum was also visited, where various superb models of mining operations were seen.
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Cornwall	Levant Mine 3/8/82 Alone (Jane at surface)		Pendeen	Wandered around the site looking at the Whim and Pump Engine Houses, the remains of the Man-Engine House and the infilled Man-Engine Shaft, the Air Compressor and Generator House, the dressing floors and Goldsworthy Shaft. Photos taken. A level near Boscregan Shaft was explored for a hundred feet or so to a collapse. A very interesting site. Later, two shafts near the trig pillar above Botallack Mine were looked at. One was c.8' diameter, stone lined and with a collapse hole out to the cliff edge about 30' down. The other was above this and of oval shape – again lined with large granite blocks.
Cheshire	18/8/82 After a visit to the excellent Salt Museum at Northwich, I took a couple of photos of Winford Rock Salt Mine No. 4 shaft, on the B road just south of Moulton. This appears to be a ventilation/escape shaft for the main workings which are a mile of so to the west.			
Yorkshire	Yordas Cave 28/8/82	10m	Kingsdale	Quick drunken stagger around the main chamber during the course of a NCC barbecue. Waterfall

	Jane, Nigel Dibben and girlfriend			inlet extremely wet.
Somerset	Gough's Cave 31/8/82 Suzuki, Chris Bradshaw, Nick Barrington, Tim Large, Fi, Paul Hodgson + wife, Piers Barrington, and about 8 others.	1 hr	Cheddar	<i>See below</i>
<p>The ultimate in automated digging!!! I arrived at the cave for the Tuesday night digging session with the vague intention of taking in my trailer (by hand) to remove sand from the dig halfway along the main passage. Chris turned up and decided that we might as well take in the Suzuki as well!! A quick spanner job on the turnstiles enabled us to push in the trailer and I followed in the “jeep”. Slight problems arose manoeuvring down the steps into the cave and avoiding the stone basin just inside – then off up the main passage in reverse to where the lads had pushed the trailer. This was then connected up to the “jeep” and 2/3 filled with the aid of a wheelbarrow and plank while Nick Barrington and Co. took “press” photos. In the meantime other bods were attacking a loose boulder in the dig with a mains powered Kango drill! Despite a leaking tyre and duff lights we were soon ready for off and the trailer was easily towed out of the cave and, with a bit more manoeuvring and “bouncing round” we got it out of the cave and off up to the Belfry after only one minor bump! A motorbike also appeared in Gough’s at one point! An interesting way of spoil removal which I doubt will be used frequently but it shows it can be done.</p> <p>The dig site seems to be very promising – especially in view of the fact that Gough and company dug out most of the show cave in the first place. Hopefully it is not an oxbow – Time will tell.</p>				
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Somerset	Sludge Pit Hole Goatchurch Cavern 3/9/82 Stewart Jarratt (12) Nigel (13), Trev Hughes (?) PM. (Stu and Nigel)	1½ hr 1½ hr	Priddy Burrington	Down to the sump in Sludge to have a look at the NHASA dig. Despite a compressor and rock drill little seems to have been achieved so far. Back out via a round trip in the Upper Series. The lads enjoyed it despite having short legs and appearing to be totally knackered (Nigel on his first trip). After a session in the Hunters’ the brats had recovered both stamina and enthusiasm enough to demand a further trip. Went down Goatchurch (very slippery in parts) and after introducing the lads to the delights of the Drainpipe – ensuing much Black Country dialogue and epithets) I had a look at Geoff Ricking’s Chamber. An excellent little find with a very fine 3’ high stalagmite and 1’ long corresponding stalactite. This must have been a particularly tight and awkward dig. Back out for a beer at Nigel Taylor’s new cottage. A good day out.
Denbighshire	Chwarel Wynne 16/9/82 Rog Smith (OS) Colin Melrose (OS) + guide	40m	Glyn Ceiriog	Excellent tourist trip around these old slate quarries. The developer of this show mine, our guide, was very enthusiastic about the place and knew a lot about slate mining, which really made the visit interesting. A circular route via various large chambers on a couple of levels with assorted model miners and equipment was made. Also, a very fine documentary on slate quarrying / mining was available for viewing in the visitors’ building. This was only partly seen due to lack of time. NB. This just <u>may</u> be the same mine that was a favourite caving trip of mine several years ago. If so it is difficult to recognise.
Denbighsire	Cader Berwyn Slate Mine 22/9/82 Alone	¼ hr	Llanrhaeadr-yn-Mochnant	Walked down from trig on Cader Berwyn (recce for primary observations). Top series of workings was entered via a low passage into a loose chamber with two holes to surface in the

				<p>wall / ceiling above head height. Only way on was a level with some 2' of water. Only having walking gear on this was not investigated. The middle workings were then entered via a level some 200' long and in knee deep water after deciding I wouldn't get anywhere by staying dry! Two roomy chambers at the end – with several sections of plate iron rail in situ (none collected for Cheg due to lack of saw). Little here of interest.</p> <p>Back to meet Steve Nicholas, who had driven down from higher up the hill in the OS L/Rover. I walked down via the old incline, photographing a drum winch en route. Bottom set of workings (to SE) not looked at.</p> <p>Met old farmer who thinks the mine shut prior to 1914 and that it ran at a loss. This seems fairly obvious due to its remoteness and the transport difficulties. He said that the slate was too soft. Worth another look at the top and bottom workings.</p>
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Shropshire	Hawkstone Park Caves 23/9/82 Rog Smith (OS)	¼ hr	Hawkstone Park	Drove down from Whitchurch to pass an hour looking around the Grotto. I had forgotten how extensive and interesting it was. A sculpture of a mythical winged beast was found in the gulley leading down from the back entrance (too large to liberate!) and a 40' length of passage was entered at the bottom of the gulley but was too muddy to walk through as it took the gulley drainage. A couple of photos were taken. Pleasant fester.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 26/9/82 Ted Humphries, Mac, Tim Large, Wormhole	1½ hr	Priddy	Down to the Morton's Pot dig where a large amount of Tim's previous bang debris and other spoil was removed. Tim then laid a 2lb charge and we zipped out to the pub for a swift pint. A very worthwhile trip. Little change at the dig since last visited.
Cheshire	Beeston Castle Well 28/9/82 Dave Turner (BEC) Mark (?) (N.Staffs MC) (Surface:- Angus and Margaret Innes, Pete Stewart, Ian Barnett (OS), several N.Staffs and Bristol lads and a professor) NGR SJ538/592	35m	Beeston	Ancient and historically important well shaft – believed to be some 360' deep but at present blocked with sand, scaffolding etc at about 294'. I arrived with Ian Barnett to while away a morning and was surprised to find Dave Turner and Angus Innes at the site, assisting with Pete Stewart's "treasure hunt" dig in a level some 220' down the well. I managed to get a trip down on condition I had a look for anything of significance and did an hour's digging. I was lowered down the shaft on the superb North Staffs Mining Club petrol winch and bosun's chair. I first went straight to the bottom to retrieve some poly bags dropped from the level (and also a football!) Then up to the level where Dave and Mark (N.Staffs) were clearing dig spoil ready to throw into the main shaft. Several bag-loads were cleared. The level is some 30' long, hand-picked and typical of ancient mining technique. There are stemple holes along the ceiling where beams once held loose rock. The level follows a 2" wide rift and I suspect it was driven to follow a minor water inlet as the well was sinking or as a possible trial level for copper ore (this being mined at Gallantry Rock nearby and other sandstone areas in

				Cheshire/Shropshire). I personally think that Pete Stewart's theories of "gold and hidden treasure" are optimistic, unresearched bullshit.
Denbighshire	Cader Berwyn Slate Mine 29/9/82 Alone	10m	Llanrhaedryr-Mochnant	Top series revisited and flooded level found to end in a blank wall at 20'. Very wet after prolonged rain. Middle level entered to chamber and rail section removed for surface. Section hacksawed off for Cheg. Bottom level is collapsed at entrance and cannot be entered but would be a reasonably easy dig.
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Somerset	Twin Titties Swallet 9/10/82 Jenny Crick, Simon, Kevin, Chris Batstone, Garry Jago, Keith Gladman	50m	Priddy	Assorted drunken rabble trip. Intention was to investigate the hole in the floor halfway down the cave. This dropped about 20-30 feet to a total choke of mud and boulders. A slot to the left revealed a small hole 4" square going down for about 6'. The whole cave is one huge phreatic passage with a glacial(?) infill and a very long concerted digging programme would almost certainly reveal an extensive major cave system. Unfortunately it's such a shit hole that it is doubtful if present generations will be bothered with it* One for the future. (Garry's first ladder climb). * Later dug for several years by NHASA until thrown off by new farmer.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 15/10/82 Tim Large	55m	Priddy	Banging trip to Morton's Pot. Saw a bat in the chamber below the entrance ruckle (flying). Down to the dig where Tim laid and fired 1½ lbs of plaster gelatine with a highly satisfying thump.
Somerset	Gough's Cave 19/10/82 Jane, Jen, Mac, Marilyn, Chris Bradshaw + digging team, Tim, Fiona, xxxxx + bird, MEG, Paul Hodgson, Glyn Bolt etc.	2 hr	Cheddar	Tuesday night digging session. Went first for a brief tour of the show cave as Jane and Marilyn had never been in before. Followed by a host of MEG (?) who went for a look around the far chambers. Then assisted the digging team with transporting wheelbarrows of sand to the entrance where they were tipped into either a pick up van or Glyn's trailer for dumping in the Gorge. The dig site is becoming a fairly large passage now and is being widened and deepened to allow wheelbarrow access. Tim blasted a section of floor/ledge and also loudly destroyed a ½ metre square boulder which had been crowbarred from the wall into the main passage. A quick look after the bang revealed it to be in fist sized lumps and scattered in all directions. Hosed down the cave floor and off to the Cliff Hotel for beer and a video showing of "Flesh Gordon" which we only watched half of. A good evening.
Somerset	Swildon's Hole 22/10/82 Edric Hobbs	2 hr	Priddy	Inspected most of the Oxbows area. At one point we found the initials WIS scratched on a flowstone bank! Near here a blind passage leads to a boulder choke where a view into a chamber can be seen. May be worth a visit with a crowbar. Just before the Water Chamber we followed a passage on the left to find that a recent dig (probably by Pete Hann + Ian Jepson) had "gone" into a few feet of tight rift passage with a nice stalactite in the roof. This was not pushed. A large phreatic area near here looks good for a link to Renaissance Series. Fresh bat

				shit in situ. Then down to the “20” and back out. Nice little trip.
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Somerset	Tynning’s Barrow Cave 23/10/82 Tim Large, Phil Romford, Trev Faulkner (GSS), Bob Mehew (SMCC/GSS) Julian Walford (GSS), Chris Batstone, MacAnus	2hr 55m	Charterhouse	Grampian Dinner Weekend. Digging trip in Tynning’s. Trev and Bob went down via Dragon Chamber round trip, where Bob found an unexplored(?) passage which needs pushing. The rest of us cleared silt and bang debris and when Bob eventually arrived with the ammo tin a charge was duly laid and fired. A new cave for Bob, Julian and Trevor – they were duly impressed and an excellent trip was had by all.
Somerset	Gough’s Cave 26/10/82 Wig, Quackers, Tim, Fiona, Mac, Chris Bradshaw, Paul Hodgson + others	2 hr	Cheddar	Survey trip with T2 theodolite from St. Paul’s to bottom of the steps from the main passage. System of zeroing back on last station seems to work quite well. Diggers loaded several sand bags of earth into OS L/Rover for later use. No dancing girls seen!
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	Eastwater Cavern 26/10/82 Bob Cork, Martin Bishop, Quackers, Jimmy Green (RN) (Wayne and friend)	½ hr	Priddy	“Called out” from Cliff Hotel, Cheddar, just after above trip and just before the Blue Movies – damn it. Wayne (Pat Cronin’s brother in law) and a mate were down either Manor Farm or Eastwater. Mac checked Manor while Quackers and I drove to the Hunters’ via Eastwater – where their car was found at the Wessex hut. A call out was then initiated and those concerned met at the Belfry. The above recce team were despatched and the two lost souls were found at the head of the Canyon, having lost their way out and suffering lamp failure. They had been down over 12 hours but were okay and were soon re-associated with fags and beer. Cave quite damp.
Somerset <i>Rescue</i>	29/10/82. Midday rescue callout from Hunters’. Young lad stuck below the Lobster Pot in Sidcot Swallet. On arrival we found that the lad had got himself out so we retired to the Plume and Feathers.			
Somerset	Hallowe’en Rift 31/10/82 Trev Hughes, Phil Romford		Wookey Hole	Accompanied Trev to his newly found dig in the woods above Wookey 22. Initially the site was a 6’ square hole which Trev had dug for some 3’ or so in loose fill. The hole is in conglomerate. After an hour or so’s digging Phil broke into an open hole. This was cleared to reveal an 8’ deep stal covered rift some 3” – 12” wide (with a couple of resident spiders). The rift was too tight to enter and so we continued to clear the top section in preparation for next time. It is likely that it widens out to passable size on the right. Looking bloody good. My first thoughts that the site was a mineshaft were proved wrong. Named Hallowe’en Rift in honour of the date.
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Somerset	Gough’s Cave 2/11/82 Wig, Tim Large, Jane, Dany Bradshaw, Quackers, Fiona + diggers	1½ hr	Cheddar	Continued with theodolite traverse back along main passage (towards entrance) as far as the dig.
Somerset	Tynning’s Barrow Cave 3/11/82 Tim, Phil, Graham “Bolt”, “Nurse” Martin, Keith (Gloucester SS)	1hr 50m	Charterhouse	Transport by Royal Navy 3 ton lorry. Evening digging trip. Quickly cleared the excellent results of the last bang and inserted a fresh one. Satisfying thump.

Somerset <i>Discovery</i>	Hallowe'en Rift 5/11/82 Trev Hughes	¾ hr	Wookey Hole	Spent 3½ hours in the afternoon clearing roots and clay from the foot of the rift. Trev dug and I hauled the paint tin out (in continuous rain!) Eventually Trev managed to open up a 15-20' long bedding plane crawl which he excitedly pushed into a low, phreatic bedding chamber/passageway in dolomitic conglomerate. Much of this had a mud/sand floor with drip pockets, small botryoidal stal, a couple of cave pearls etc. Plenty of old formations exist around the walls and ceiling. Tree roots and many spots of white fungus are evident so we must be reasonably close to the surface. No obvious ways on were found (apart from a possible dig) which was a bit disappointing considering the excellent draught in the entrance. Hopefully we will survey and dig further tomorrow. A bloody good afternoon's work.
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 6/11/82 Trev Hughes (Batspiss at surface)	1¾ hr	Wookey Hole	Chris was defeated by the squeeze at the bottom of the entrance rift. I went on to the "bottom RH" dig and spent an hour or so clearing infill but much more work will need to be done and probably it will be in vain. Trev attacked a rift/bedding near the entrance crawl. With similar results. Not really any obvious prospects in the cave though it does give one the impression of being part of something much larger. Time will tell. Very similar to St. George's Cavern.
Somerset	Gough's Cave 9/11/82 Quackers, Wig, ChrisB, Paul H, Tim, Fiona + various diggers	1hr 40m	Cheddar	Completed theodolite traverse as far as bench mark on shop outside cave. The diggers loaded the OS L/Rover with ½ ton + of sand bags. At least one active bat in evidence.
Somerset	Sandpit Hole 11/11/82 Alone		Priddy	Wandered across to Sandpit and looked at all the open holes. One of these (the longest) has been relatively recently dug and some tools are still in situ. An interesting site but needs a hell of a lot of work to find anything.

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Somerset	Gough's Cave 13/11/82 Wig, Colin(?) Jane + tourists	40m	Cheddar	Went down to check a couple of possible errors on the theodolite traverse which turned out to be Wig's deciphering errors! Had a quick tour round the cave listening to the excellent commentary.
Somerset	Tynning's Barrow Cave 16/11/82 Tim Large, Phil Romford, Edric Hobbs, Chris Palmer	1hr 40m	Charterhouse	Despite really foul weather we managed a fast trip to "A Day" where Tim fired 1 lb of plaster gel. Edric's lamp (and almost his boots) fell apart!
Somerset	16/11/82 (PM). Edric and I recovered various digging items from Castle Farm Swallet which is being rapidly infilled with debris and rubbish. A shame, but lack of enthusiasm and generally lousy weather, plus too much else to do, brought this to be.			
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	G.B. Cavern 21/11/82 A cast of thousands	½ hr	Charterhouse	Called out late afternoon from a PU at home. Several persons were believed to be trapped by flooding in GB. I started off on control at the Belfry with Phil Romford but was eventually requested to assist with the badly needed bailing parties. Seven Essex scouts and four QMC students had gone into Ladder Dig Extension where they were trapped by water filling the entrance passage of the series as the main cave stream rose. Another caver had reported them as

				being trapped as he was the last out as it was flooding. Four pumps were supplied and manned by the Fire Brigade and Glyn Bolt's hand pump was taken down the cave. The superb efforts of the firemen managed to divert all of the cave stream off down the valley into Charterhouse Cave and the water started to subside. Chris M, Trev, Harpie and the Ugliers had attempted to dive through to the unfortunates but hadn't got through due to silting of the passage. When I arrived the water had been lowered and contact made – everyone was okay and were all soon out. I did a quick half hour trip to help retrieve bailing cans. A fairly impressive rescue – good turn out and reasonably smooth running. A hell of a good atmosphere at the Belfry afterwards impressed a couple of newsmen. (What a birthday!)
Somerset	Gough's Cave 23/11/82 Chris Bradshaw, Tim Large, (Fiona) Adrian?, Martin Bishop, Paul Hodgson	1hr 20m	Cheddar	Pleasant evening's digging. Much sand was shifted – mainly from the sides of the passage. Thence to the Cliff Hotel for beer and pool. Thence to the Hunters' for last 2 pints.

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British Speleological Expedition to Mexico, 1982

Mexico, Chiapas (San Cristobal)	Grutas de San Cristobal 1/12/82 Carl Maxon (UWFRA), Gail Searby (MUCC), Steve Foster (MUCC) + tourists	¼ hr	Rancho Nuevo	Previously known as the Gruta de Rancho Nuevo, this cave was “discovered” and explored (for over 20 years) by Vicente Kramsky, a local photographer and character. It is now a show cave for approx the first half kilometre with possibly three KMs of explored and partly surveyed cave system beyond this. On our arrival in Chiapas, following a long drive down, from Mexico City, we went straight to the cave in order to find the rest of the expedition – who were not there! We managed to find out that we could have a free tourist trip so we jumped at this chance to see what the San Cristobal caving area had to offer. The show cave section consists of a huge, dry canyon-type tunnel with many impressive but dead formations. It is fairly poorly lit and there seems to be little control over the tourists. The whole trip is traversed on a timber footway of dubious stability. Met a Canadian bloke who helped us as an interpreter with the old cave guide at the entrance.
Mexico, Chiapas (San Cristobal)	Grutas de San Cristobal 3/12/82 Ian (Walto) Watson (NCC), Mark Robson (NCC), Laurens Smets (Speleo Limburg)	3½ hr	Rancho Nuevo	Our intention was to find if the sump at the end of the surveyed section of cave had dropped enough to enable us to enter the possible kilometre and a half of unsurveyed passage beyond. We followed the enormous main passage beyond the show cave – with Mark falling through the rotten wooden flooring – to the unfloored cave beyond. This mega passage was followed for a kilometre or so, past hundreds of huge living and dead formations of all types – the best being a 20 metre plus curtain. Eventually we reached an impasse when no obvious way on could be found. It seems we missed the RH passage completely and also the tight route through to Salon Kramsky and so never found

				the sump. We found the trip really hard going due to lack of altitude acclimatisation and our wearing nylon oversuits in the surprisingly warm climate of the cave. Laurens took several samples of silt and water from various pools in order to check for “bugs” though no obvious life could be seen. An impressive system with tremendous potential if we can get into the lower passages. Got a lift back to town with the cave guides. NB. Many broken formations throughout the cave could be evidence of violent earthquakes and/or volcanic action (i.e. – from the recent eruption of the El Chicon volcano some 40 km away).
Mexico, Chiapas (San Cristobal)	Caves on Liebrich’s ranch 4/12/82 Mark, Walto, Liebrich O’Shaughnessy Schriebel		Rancho Nuevo	“Libra”, our agent and a local restaurant and ranch owner, took us to his land to investigate entrances thereon. In the afternoon we checked several of these. See below.

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	<p>No. 1: was 12m long and 3.5m high – a hopeful looking dry swallet that ended in a too-tight rift. Could possibly be dug but contained an interesting assortment of flies, spiders, etc.</p> <p>No. 2: An opening beneath a large rock blocked at 3m depth.</p> <p>No. 3: 150m at 240 deg from No. 2. An unstable sink. Just above in the stream a small hole was entered for 5 metres to a sump which connects with the entrance sink below. Little hope here.</p> <p>No. 4: 100m S of No. 3. Small oval pot next to track, 1m x 0.5m. Descended to 5m depth in waterworn rock and loose boulders which eventually become too dodgy to pass.</p> <p>No. 5: 10m deep, stal choked shaft on hill above ranch. Rat in situ. A hard walk up through the bush with machete clearing necessary.</p>			
Mexico, Chiapas (Tenejapa)	Sumidero de Tenejapa 7/12/82 Barry “Baz” Davies (DCC) Dave “Grotty” Gill (EPC) Steve Foster	5hr 20m	Tenejapa	<p>The entrance to this previously explored river cave is immediately below the large village of Tenejapa and acts as a drain and sewer for the inhabitants! It is in a huge deep sinkhole which is a bastard of a walk to descend into and three times as bad to get out of. Two large and several small waterfalls hurtle into the vast entrance chamber which is the home of hundreds of swifts. Frogs, bats, insects etc also live in the cave. The swifts (Golodrinias) are particularly noisy and active when disturbed. We laddered and roped the c.70m (20m?) entrance pitch and proceeded to follow the huge river passage down via a series of laddered climbs and water chutes, rope climbs and sections where wading and swimming were necessary. We eventually ran out of tackle at the head of a (possibly) 25m pitch and did not reach the terminal sump found by the Canadian team. This river passage must be one of the most sporting anywhere – and compares favourably with El Choncadero (see below). The river must be some five times the size of the Axe at Wookey and you are in it all the way. The possibility of its flooding horrifically is always on our mind (especially as it rained all the time we were down there!) It is difficult to hear anything due to the constant roar of the water. On the return up one of the roped water-chutes I spent a long time directly under the complete flow as I desperately struggled to attach my ascendeurs under the waterfall. It felt like being beaten with sledgehammers and it was only on the second try that I succeeded in climbing up through it to airspace. The cave is</p>

				also inhabited by numerous gnats which annoyingly cluster around one's light and at one point I was about to use a nice knobby handhold when I spotted its eyes. It was a 3" long bright green frog! The almost vertical slippery mud path out of the depression just about finished all of us off and though it was a really mind blowing trip I think we were all pretty relieved to be out of it – especially as it was still pissing down. What a trip!
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Mexico, Chiapas (San Cristobal)	Grutas de San Cristobal 8/12/82 Grotty, John "Kiwi" Beteup (NZSS), Bob Cork (BEC), Dave "Skunk" Newson (Wyoming)	3¼ hr	Rancho Nuevo	General fester into the large dry stuff, partly a photographic trip. Grotty and I borrowed a rope from the party who had visited the sump (which was still full) – Walto, Lugger, Terry etc – and pushed on down the side passage on the RH side called the "Caracol Del Diablo". We were stopped by lack of equipment at a 10m pitch into a large chamber. This passage is fairly "British" in character with plenty of excellent stal, flowstone etc. Will return and descend the pitch hopefully tomorrow. Grotty took a few snaps in the upper series.
Mexico, Chiapas (San Cristobal)	Grutas de San Cristobal 9/12/82 Bob Cook (Ciel Morgan) (US)	4hr 10m	Rancho Nuevo	Followed Syd Perou's film crew into the cave then Bob and I set off on our own down Caracol del Diablo. The 10m pitch was free-climbed by Bob and laddered by self into the large chamber from which 30m of passage led to a deep sump in a rift. I was persuaded to don my wetsuit and have a look. A low, impassable slot led over the sump into a roomy chamber beyond. With much fear and bugging about I managed to free-dive some 4' into the chamber where a roomy passage led on. Elation turned to disappointment as I spotted boot prints in the mud. I followed the roomy passage for some 20m into a huge sloping chamber with a 7m diameter sump pool at its end. This whole area floods in wet weather – probably to about 10m deep in the chamber. Feeling cold and generally pissed off I returned to Bob and we made our way out. The passages beyond the first sump have been visited at least twice before but are unsurveyed. Nipped back into the show cave later with Ciel (Jeff Morgan's wife) to look for the others. Also played on the slides outside and drank Coke! I suspect that previous explorers of the Grutas have missed very little!
Mexico, Chiapas (Ixtapa)	Cueva de El Chorreadero 10/12/82 Jeff Morgan (EPC/US), Steve Foster	5m	Chiapa de Corzo	Had a look at this tourist spot on way back from a fruitless "lost baggage hunt" in Txxsla. Large entrance below 70m cliff resurging a 13m waterfall. Steps give access to the cave beyond and the surface pools are a well known tourist picnic and bathing area. This beautifully waterworn cave is the lower entrance of a major system which we hope to do the through trip in sometime.

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Mexico, Chiapas (Las Margaritas)	Caves near the oil rig 14/12/82 Bob Cork, Dany Bradshaw (BEC) Walto, Howard	30m	Ignacio Zaragoza	Visited two caves here which we were told of by the site manager and which were shown to us by a foreman driller "Johnny". Situated at approx XJ 172084 (local military 1:50,000 map) the first of the two looked superb. A large entrance at the
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	Limbert (NCC)			<p>base of a tree and bush filled depression some 10m deep led into a bat infested and well decorated chamber some 8m in diameter. A huge stalactite at one side was about 8m long and its lower half hung partway down a deep looking pot in the floor.</p> <p>After erecting our tent nearby a few of us kitted up for a look. Dany and Walto descended the pitch for 20m to a blocked and guano stinking chamber. I looked at some alcoves in the entrance and Bob climbed into a further alcove above and over the pitch. By this time we were being dive-bombed by the bats. Disappointingly there was no way on in this cave.</p> <p>Bob and I looked at the second cave adjacent to the rig area and partly filled with rubbish. A 2m drop led into 8m of 1m high by 2m wide bedding passage with no way on. Other sites, including shafts were later looked at in this area but none went far. The large green and yellow spiders hanging at head height between the trees tended to put one off prospecting a bit!</p>
Mexico, Chiapas (La Trinitaria)	15/12/82 Looked after vehicle and investigated large sumped swallet while Bob, Dany and "Johnny" visited the entrance of Cueva de San Francisco near La Trinitaria. Also later looked at large "cenote" type lake some 70m below the cliffs on which lay the ancient Maya temple of Chincultic and similar, larger lake at Monte Bello near the Guatemalan border.			
Mexico, Chiapas (Las Margaritas)	Grutas de Arcotón Cueva del Roblé "Rift Cave" 16/12/82 (Dany, Howard, Debbie Limbert (NCC)) Dick Ellis (NCC), Mark, Oscar Jimenez (MEX)	10m 55m 55m	Colonia Artículo 27	<p>This area had been visited previously by Howard and Co who had given a lift to Oscar – a local, young farmer. He turned out to know of many local caves and became our guide for several weeks. Situated about 1½ kms in the fairly dense forest near the village they are very difficult to find without local help. We first visited the entrance to the c.170m long through cave of Arcotón (Spanish/Tzoltol mixture meaning stone arch or cave) which Dany, Debbie and Howard surveyed. This appears to be one of the smaller caves of this area.</p> <p>Oscar then took Mark, Dick and I to Cueva del Roblé. A relatively small entrance led into a well decorated chamber with passages to the left and right. We followed the RH passage for some 30m of beautiful chamber to a sloping pitch head. Mark descended this by rope for some 17m to the head of a deep shelving pitch – estimated to be some 50m deep – not descended due to temporary lack of ropes. In this cave were a couple of BIG spiders and the usual few bats - murcilagos in Spanish. This site will definitely be revisited. Oscar accompanied us down Roblé and seemed pretty confident and obviously interested in the place. Named after a local type of tree.</p> <p>He then took us to what we later named Rift Cave – a large canyon/rift passage with three obvious roof collapse shafts giving access. These were some 8-12m deep and surrounded with vegetation. After checking all three we decided to descend the first of those visited and a 10m ladder was lowered through the fairly exotic plant life to the passage floor. Dick descended, followed by Oscar, who seemed delighted to be invited to come with us, then myself and Mark. We followed the c.13m high and superbly</p>

				<p>decorated passage for about 200 metres – passing beneath the other two entrance shafts – and into a large and beautiful chamber with a fourth hole in the ceiling and several bats flying about. All this part of the cave had previously been visited by Indians/locals as was evident by a section of drystone walling and several broken ollas – pottery vessels used for collecting water. We became really enthused over this place due to its strange, almost eerie atmosphere and jungle-like situation. Returning back down the passage a deep pitch below the drystone wall was looked at. Stones thrown down rattled for several seconds – another one needing to be explored at a future date. Beyond our entry point was a further large and well decorated chamber with a dark mud floor. In the middle of this was a 2.5m high carved wooden cross of fairly recent date which added greatly to the spookiness of the cave. Beyond this the cave closed down into low complex areas – again probably all previously visited by the Indians. We then exited after a short but most entertaining trip. Oscar, in his best shirt, trousers and straw hat seemed to have had a good time and was a competent caver. Much remains to be done in this superb area. (Walto and Bob were stopped by lack of tackle in the nearby wet cave system Sumidero de San Nicolas).</p>
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Mexico, Chiapas (las Margaritas) <i>Discovery</i>	Cueva de Dos Entradas 20/12/82 Oscar, Debbie, Howard	1¾ hr	Colonia Articulo 27	<p>Surveying trip in this extensive and, as usual, well decorated phreatic cave system. Some 500 metres were mapped and two squeezes were pushed. One of these led to a large passage with a 10m pitch and the other to a small chamber where an eyehole gave a view into a further chamber. Hammer and chisel work will be necessary to enter this. Howard took several photographs especially of the main section of impressive phreatic tunnel in the further reaches of the cave. A very pleasant system with good potential for more passage.</p>
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Mexico, Chiapas (las Margaritas)	Cueva del Roblé 20/12/82 Oscar, Deb, Howard, (Grotty, Mark, John “Geordie” New (DCC))	25m	Colonia Articulo 27	<p>Nipped into the cave to borrow the bolt kit from Grotty and Co who were in the process of descending the unexplored pitch but they were still using it. They had also surveyed the LH series of the cave to find another entrance. While they continued with the descent of the c.50m pitch I had a quick run around this LH series. This area consisted of a couple of huge and beautiful chambers with a couple of dug 2m pits in the floor – probably excavated by Indians as water collection points. I then returned to the others:-</p>
Mexico, Chiapas (las Margaritas)	Cueva del Zapote 20/12/82 Oscar, Howard, Debbie	½ hr	Colonia Articulo 27	<p>A hundred metre long cave with a large, wide entrance, many fine formations especially immense boulders blocking the main passage and a colony of Vampire (?) bats in residence at the end. Broken ollas were also in evidence. Surveyed the cave then carried on to:-</p> <p>NB Named by us after another local tree.</p>

Mexico, Chiapas (las Margaritas) <i>discovery</i>	Cueva de Arañas 20/12/82 Oscar, Howard, Debbie	1 hr	Colonia Articulo 27	This cave lay in the same shakehole as Cueva de Dos Entradas and is a detached fragment of that cave. It was named after the spiders frequenting it. A low horizontal passage had been previously explored by Howard and Co to a squeeze at the top of a 4m pitch. This was rope rigged and descended by Howard and I into a large sloping chamber full of the usual impressive stal. I had a look along a low, spiky crawl but left this unpushed – mainly due to the hot and claustrophobic atmosphere of the cave and its attendant horrors of enormous spider like insects with foot long antennae and pincers!* Surveyed the cave and then exited rapidly! (All CA27 caves approx at military 1:50,000 map reference XJ 240002) Estados Unidos Mexicano 1:50,000 sheet, HOJA 15Q-1 (49) Las Maragaritas. * Amblypys.
Mexico, Chiapas (las Margaritas) <i>discovery</i>	Sumidero Recuerdo 21/12/82 Howard, Debbie, Geordie, Grotty, Walto, Mark, Bob, Dany, John “Lugger” Thorpe (NCC) (Oscar at surface)	3 hr	Colonia Articulo 27	Actually over 3km from CA27 this cave is at grid ref XJ232019 and was shown to us by Oscar. A long rough track from the “main road” led down to the lake – Lago Recuerdo. This appears to be a large intermittent lake, fed by a fair sized river and the waters of which sink underground in the floor of the lake and at several points around the edge during flood. The Rio San Joaguin is the name of the river and this lake is shown as the only large major sink on the local 1:50,000 map. The most obvious flood sink is reached by following a dry streambed down from the lake edge to a large choke of boulders and tree trunks with a resemblance to a large version of Eastwater Cavern. At first sight we found no obvious way into the large system which obviously lay below but Oscar told us that in times of flood the whole of the ravine leading to the entrance is flooded up and the cave takes a vast amount of water. This encouraged us to take a better look at the choke and Howard and I returned to the Chevrolet for lights while Lugger and Dany removed a blockage of tree debris from a hole in the entrance ruckle. On our return I descended this hole and after a squeeze under a particularly dodgy boulder that seemed to be held up by a twig, I entered a solid waterworn passage where I could stand up. I shouted to the others to get their gear and some tackle and Howard joined me in the cave. We followed the entrance passage for about 18 metres to a 7m pot. This was free-climbed down into a large sculptured passage which soon turned into a wide phreatic ramp descending at about 20 deg and beautifully waterworn with red, white, and brown walls and floor. This was followed excitedly down for over 150m to a point where two green pools, each 5m in diameter and containing many minnow-like fish blocked our route. We then returned to the entrance to await the others – noting that the whole place obviously flooded completely and viciously during wet weather. Very few formations were noted in this upper part of the cave. Walto then joined us and he and I returned to the “Fish ponds” which we traversed around and

				<p>continued following the passage beyond for some 60m to descend a steep and muddy climb into a large phreatic chamber – Salon Sulo Sulomen – liberally covered with white mud. A large pool in the floor took the water from a couple of inlet passages. This appeared to be the end of the cave but Walto followed a large winding inlet passage in neck deep water for some 30m to emerge in a further series of large chambers and passages. I meanwhile checked a few alcoves in the main chamber until Bob and Mark arrived. Walto also returned and I climbed back to the Fishponds area where I assisted Howard, Debbie and Mark to photograph a superb flowstone / mud-floored inlet passage. We all then returned to Salon Sulo Sulomen for more photos and back to Fishponds for even more. Then headed out photographing the ramp passage (Heltero Skeltero) en route. The others had meanwhile extended the passages beyond the canals until stopped by a 10m plus pitch. The cave is still going and has excellent prospects being some 10 km from the assumed resurgence near the Rio San Domingo. A great trip in a superb, novel cave system. Animal life in the cave included another of the large spider / harvestman *, the “minnows”, some white freshwater crabs, beetles, and a tubular caddis fly. Oscar is really earning his pay!</p> <p>* Amblypysid.</p>
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Mexico, Chiapas (las Margaritas) <i>discovery</i>	Sumidero Recuerdo 21/12/82 Grotty, Geordie, Dany, Lugger.	3¾ hr	Colonia Articulo 27	<p>Dany and Lugger continued with the survey while Grotty, Geordie and I pushed on through the canals to the undescended pitch beyond. This proved to be 15 metres deep into a large chamber (Salon Stan Gee) with a steep chute in the floor leading to a static sump – the end of the cave. Dave ducked through into a further small sumped chamber. On the way out we looked at assorted climbs and side passages finding a few minor extensions but nothing of note except a continuation of Salon Stan Gee – reached by lassooing a stal. This was then climbed into by Geordie but didn't lead anywhere exciting. Named Salon Mike Farmer. The passage at the other side of the climb down from the entrance passage was also looked at. This was another long, steep ramp – well decorated and blocked at the bottom. Thought to connect with the inlet passages near the Fishponds but according to the resultant survey this is not so and it goes off in another direction. A great trip followed by a very welcome splash in the lake.</p>
Mexico, Chiapas (las Margaritas)	Cueva de Dos Entradas 23/12/82 Grotty	2½ hr	Colonia Articulo 27	<p>Aims of the trip were to investigate the two undescended pitches and chisel into the chamber noted on the previous visit – 20/12/82. I first descended the pitch at the junction of the main passages. It choked at 10m deep, the walls being completely covered in dry calcite drip formation and somewhat abrasive. Dave then went to the other pitch beyond the terminal squeeze while I hammered at the eyehole for about ¾ hr before gaining access to the head of a third pitch. This was also descended to 10m with small hole</p>

				between flowstone walls dropping on down which would need a lot more hard work with hammer and chisel to pass. The tight entrance squeeze and mud slope at the pitch top proved to be a bit of a bastard. All these minor extensions were surveyed.
Mexico Chiapas (Ixtapa)	Cueva de El Chorreadero 26/12/82 Bob, Dany, Howard, Debbie (+ others)	6 hr	Chiapa de Corzo	Originally explored by the two Mexican caving groups of Cruz Roja and Halcones – with follow up trips by Canadian teams – this superb through trip is 1097 feet deep with a length of 8838’ from sink to resurgence. Several of the lads (“A-Team”) descended a few minutes in front of us and were not seen again during the trip. We entered via a 10m and 70m abseil straight down the canyon into the huge sink entrance. The passage here is high and roomy with deep water. This sets the pattern for practically all of the cave as much of the trip involves traversing directly above the deep active streamway. The whole cave is superbly scalloped and water sculptured with hundreds of pothole pools in the floor – many of which are passed by leaping boldly into them from up to 5m above. This is great sport as one disappears completely below the water before bobbing up and continuing on to the next pool. My mask and borrowed life jacket saved me from many embarrassing situations and added greatly to the comfort and enjoyment of this novel caving trip. During the through trip of the cave half a dozen pitches are abseiled – the longest being about 15m. Two very large chambers, Sala de la Cruz Roja and Sala de los Halcones, break up the streamway before the (previously visited) bottom entrance is reached. Here we impressed a few picnicking Mexicans and a truck load of armed soldiers. The local vultures didn’t seem bothered! This unforgettable cave must be one of the world’s most sporting through trips. Well worth visiting Mexico just to go down here!!

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Mexico Chiapas (Las Margaritas)	Grutas de Arcotón 31/12/82 Debbie	2 mins	Colonia Articulo 27	After completing the surface traverse from CA27 to the caves, Debbie and I managed a quick, lightless through trip (the last trip of 1982). Needless to say I banged my head on a stalactite halfway through!!
Mexico Chiapas (Las Margaritas)	Cueva Grande 1/1/83 John Kiwi, Oscar, Howard, Debbie, Terry Whittaker (NCC), (local Indian guide)	3 hr	Santa Elena	Drove east for c.15 kms along the rough “main road” from CA27 to near the village of Santa Elena where Oscar collared a local to show us a couple of nearby caves. For 100 pesos we were guided for a couple of kilometres up into the forest by Laurence, the local Indian who went barefoot all the way! The entrance to Cueva Grande was situated near the top of one of the “cockpit karst” type hills and was a huge collapse feature with a 20m high by 12m wide entrance at the bottom. A magnificent sight – the floor being occupied by tall trees and bush and tree roots some 30m long hanging down into the entrance from the surface above. The huge chamber leading off ended after some 80 metres or so in a mud choked area with a pool and no way on. This chamber was duly photographed and surveyed. The others then went off with

				<p>Laurence to look at the second cave (having quickly explored a further passage on the far side of the entrance collapse) while Howard, Debbie and I continued with the survey. The entrance shaft area and the other passage were completed. The latter proved to be a superbly decorated phreatic / breakdown tunnel whose major feature was a tremendous cascade of sparkling white flowstone some 17m deep dropping down from the passage entrance. This gallery was eventually choked by mud, guano and breakdown debris. Its impressive formations and general majestic nature ensured that it was well photographed by Howard. A superb cave despite its relatively short length. All previously explored by locals though obviously very rarely visited. A good first trip of 1983!</p>
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<p>Mexico Chiapas (Las Margaritas)</p>	<p>El Nacimiento de Buena Vista 2/1/83 Bob, Dany, Terrie, Kiwi, Debbie, Howard</p>	<p>1¼ hr</p>	<p>Buena Vista</p>	<p>Oscar and his bird, Amanda, accompanied us to the Rio San Domingo area some 10 kms further down the road from Santa Elena. Here we recruited a couple of locals to take us to the nearby resurgence which we assume to be the main rising for the swallet systems of the Colonia Artículo 27 area. After a steep walk down the forested hillside we could see a large river emerging from a deep side valley and joining the main valley of the Rio San Domingo. A steep path led down to this and from here we walked up the river (and occasionally in it) to a huge cave entrance situated at the foot of a c.70m cliff. The river actually resurged from beneath boulders about a hundred metres before this entrance. Unfortunately the large, promising-looking cave closed down almost immediately to a deep, clear and fluorescent blue sump pool with no way on without diving equipment. A series of stal - filled alcoves developed on a fault line at the left of the main entrance seemed to offer a possible way into the system. Attempts at lassoing a stalagmite using a ladder were a failure and so to avoid having to climb back up to the Chevy for ropes, we succeeded in cutting down a 17m high tree with our one machete and using this as a maypole. With all the others hanging on to the tree, I managed to climb a ladder hanging from its top to gain a slippery stalagmite ledge. Dany also climbed up and gave me a bunk up onto the next ledge up. There was no possible way on from here without using protection and/or bolts to gain further height and it looked fairly hopeless anyway. A great disappointment not to gain access to the large and wet system which must exist here. This area is a definite “must” for future expeditions – preferably from the sink end of the system. Had a wash in the tufa-dammed river on way back to the Chevy.</p>
<p>Mexico Chiapas (Las Margaritas)</p>	<p>Cueva de Snajchawuc 3/1/83 José Huerta (local guide), Howard, Debbie</p>	<p>6½ hr</p>	<p>Santa Cecilia</p>	<p>This fine cave is situated on a ranch between Las Margaritas and CA27. We were shown the entrance and accompanied for most of the trip under guard by the ranch foreman, José who proved to be a really good bloke. The system is extensive and roomy and access is gained from</p>

				<p>an entrance in the side of a 30m deep collapse pot. This entrance is guarded by three wooden crosses (where José had a quick pray) and the passage beyond spirals down ledges in a large chamber to emerge through another entrance at the base of the pot. Several large, dry and typically well decorated passages lead off all around the pot – one dropping down through large boulders to an active, slow moving streamway and still developing phreatic area. Another passage from the base of the pot also contained a couple of wooden crosses and José told us that a subterranean fiesta is held here on the 3rd May. This would seem to be a somewhat secretive and semi-pagan affair – hence some of the trouble we had with the Chiapan Indians who have venerated certain cave sites since the times of the Mayan civilisations.</p> <p>Much of the cave contains ancient drystone walling and there is broken pottery in plenty – indicating possible use as a water collecting site. José was somewhat suspicious of the warm and dusty passages in the cave as he believed these to contain bad air – though they seemed okay to us despite their oppressive stuffiness.</p> <p>Bats, large moths and millipedes were noticed throughout the system. José left us after an hour or so to carry on with his cattle moving and the three of us undertook a survey of the whole cave – a minor epic of 34 stations – including the taking of a series of photos by Howard.</p> <p>One of the most exciting parts of the cave was the lower, active passage – El Rio Subterraneo – a roomy phreatic tunnel heading off from below the dry passages and containing a 2m wide sluggish stream winding along between deep mud banks. This flowed into an ominous looking low sump after some 180 metres. Many small bats were hanging from the ceiling here until we disturbed them. The mud coating on the walls and ceiling were evidence of total flooding in this area. A particularly mucky passage to survey. The water from here is believed to resurge about 1 km away in a pool in the valley bottom and there is little hope of a through trip by cave-diving.</p> <p>Once again much more cave awaits discovery here but the usual massive collapses, stal blockages and flooded areas prevent access. A good day's work and very interesting trip followed by coffee and fags with José and his señora afterwards. Also helped him unload a bullock cart full of maize. (Origin of name unknown – Spanish / Tzoltal mix).</p>
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Mexico Chiapas (La Trinitaria)	Cueva de Los Craneos 4/1/83 Terry, Dany, Bob, Kiwi, and locals :- Alfredo, Antonio, Marin, Roberto, Humbert, Oscar and 3 others!	1 hr 20m	Angel Albino Corzo	After failing to get permission sorted out from the presidente of Las Margaritas for continued caving in the area we went to La Trinitaria where permission was freely given. We then drove on to Angel Albino Corzo, in pouring rain, to find a local teacher called Alfredo who had previously informed us of this cave. Alfredo and four other young “maestros”, plus a couple of locals then drove 1 km up the hill above the village. An

				<p>800m walk into the scrub brought us to the entrance. Here another couple of locals and a dog joined the audience! A 10m entrance pitch dropped into a chamber some 60m long and inhabited by Vampire bats (?). The floor was liberally covered with human limb bones and skulls – an incredible sight! I counted about 100 skulls and there were almost certainly many more. No smaller bones i.e. finger, rib etc were obvious and Terry proposed, from piles of ash in the cave, that the bodies had been burnt before interment and that the ashes were actually burnt bone fragments. This would account for the lack of soot on the cave ceiling above the ashes and for only the more massive bones being whole. One of the teachers found a 3” long glass-like blade at the end of the cave which Terry believed to be made from obsidian. Unfortunately we didn’t realise the significance of this find and it was broken by the teacher before we could liberate it from him. The only other obvious artefacts were several broken decorated ollas and a few ancient wooden items resembling small stools and troughs. A partly carved wheel and hub (?) were lying below the entrance pitch. (ENG: Cave of the Skulls).</p> <p>Many photographs and a rough survey were made before we left for the fresh air – the nine visiting locals having stirred up much of the guano and bone riddled dust on the cave floor. A shed snake skin was also noted halfway down the chamber in a niche. The visit to this cave was a rather amazing experience. It is a pity that the supposedly well-educated teachers have so little respect for such an archaeological site, even though it has been well disturbed by locals in the past. The remains appear to belong to an ancient Maya Indian tribe though some bones seem more modern than others. Five other caves are known in this area including a “rabbit hole” at the side of the road shown to us by Marin. This could be seen to lead to an approximately 7m deep shaft.</p>
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Mexico Chiapas (Las Margaritas) <i>discovery</i>	Cueva de Ratones 5/1/83 Debbie, Howard	1½ hr	Colonia Articulo 27	<p>Last trip in the CA27 area before our lack of caving permission caught up with us! Removed the logs from the top of the shaft near Grutas de Arcotón – spotted on the surface traverse – and after laddering the hole I descended the 12m pitch into a large and beautifully decorated chamber. A couple of passages led off – one containing rats’ nests(?) hence the name Cave of the Rats. A 0.5m squeeze at the end of the cave was pushed into a roomy, blind rift passage with another of the large harvestman-type spiders in residence. In the main chamber were several broken ollas (one half complete) – again proving that Indians had previously explored this cave in their search for water and presumably entered via the 12m pitch. The cave was duly photographed and surveyed. A nice addition to the caves of this area which fills a gap in the survey of the relationship between this fragmented ancient system and the surface features. Also an excellent parting trip.</p>

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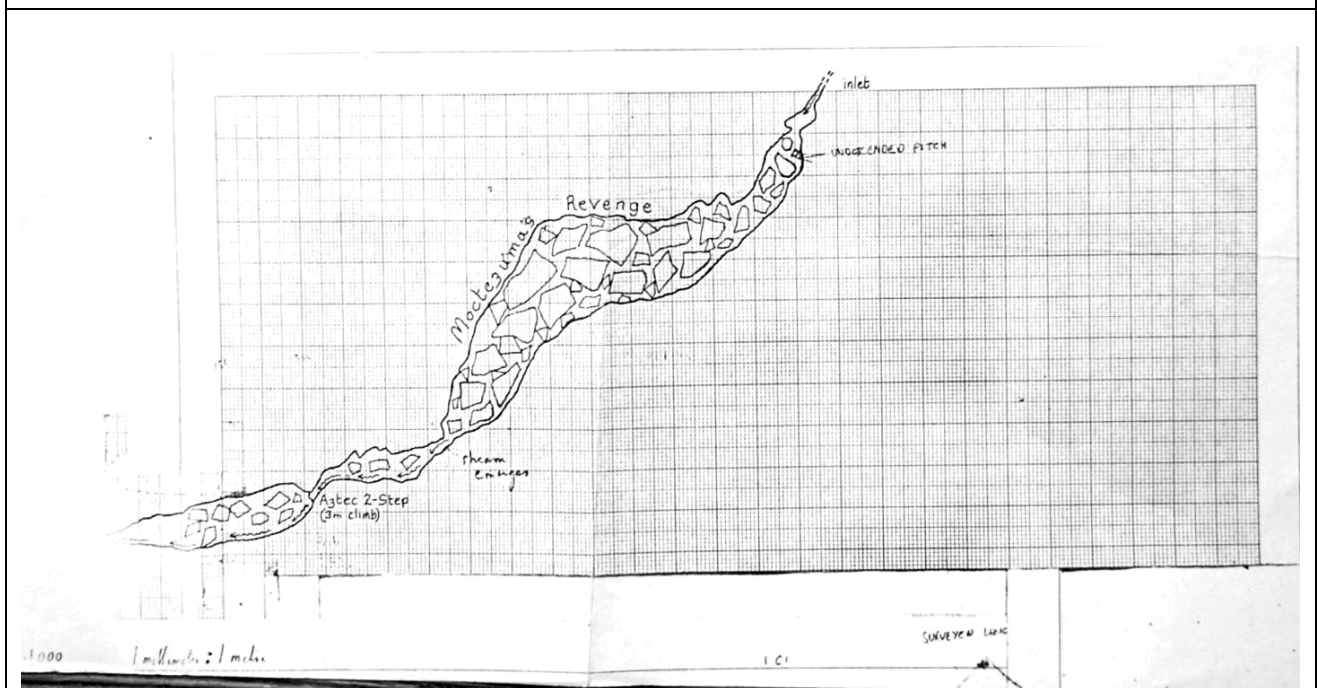
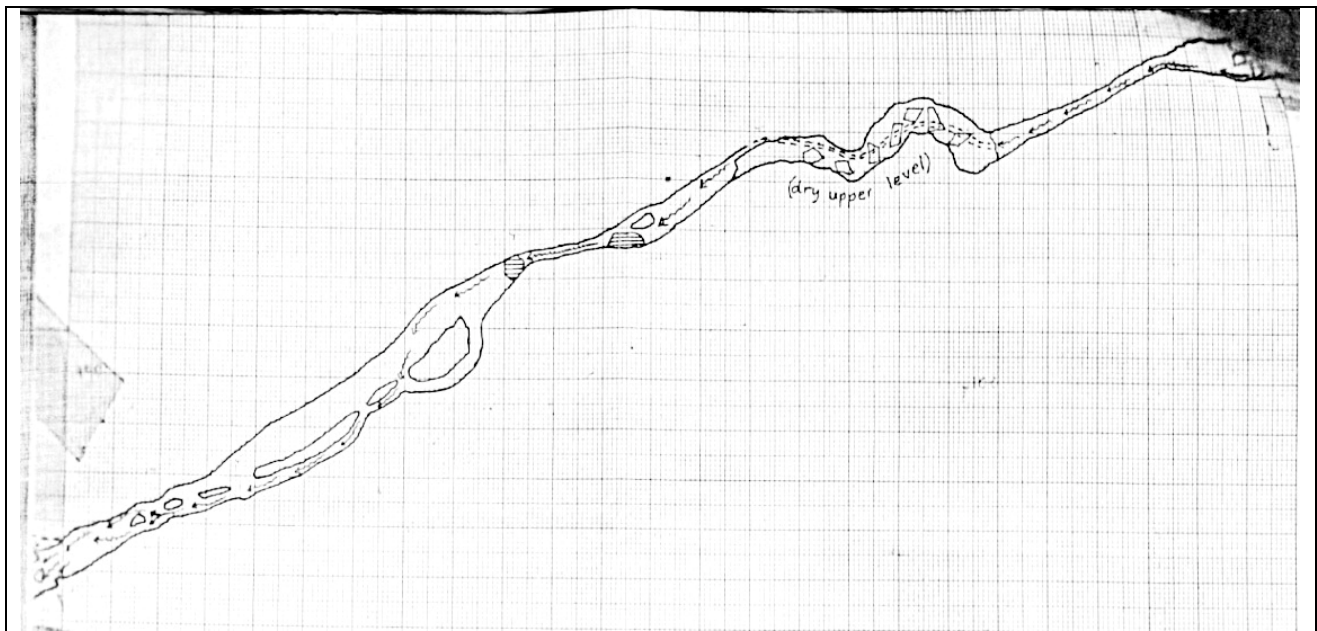
Mexico Chiapas (San Cristobal)	<p>8/1/83 With Bob, Kiwi, Lugger and Terry to “Spaceman’s Pit” (Sima Maramar?) a few kilometres below the San Cristobal drainage tunnel exit. A local woman told the lads that people “of another world” had landed nearby and descended into the shaft several years ago!</p> <p>The two Johns, and later Bob and Terry, descended into a Gaping Ghyll-sized chamber with an impenetrable boulder choke and some fine gours. I did not go down due to lack of time. As it had been a very long, hot walk in Terry and I took a shorter route back to the Chevvy by cutting across the hills and valleys. In one of these valleys we found an open swallet cave entrance which Terry looked at the following day but which closed down to a tight squeeze which was not pushed. This whole area deserves further investigation as it could be a key point in the San Cristobal / San Lucas drainage systems.</p>			
Mexico Chiapas (San Cristobal) <i>discovery</i>	<p>Grutas de San Cristobal 11/1/83 Bob, Dany, Lugger</p>	5½ hrs	Rancho Nuevo	<p>Essentially a photographic trip to obtain advertising shots for our supporting equipment firms. Also a first caving trip for Lawrence – an English voluntary worker based at Frau Blom’s anthropology museum. The photography was accomplished in the “El Bosque de Piedra” chamber whilst Lugger and I carried on down through Salon Krumsky to check if the sump had drained yet. Sump level was still the same so we started to return when Lugger (searching everywhere as usual) noticed a hole between boulders at the RH side of the main passage. Stones rattled down this for some distance. I managed to find another nearby hole which connected with Lugger’s and led to two 7m drops followed by a low section and short boulder pile opening into a large chamber – some 25m high and 12 m wide. The bottom could be vaguely discerned some 15m below. Not having tackle for the almost vertical mud slope which would have to be descended we returned to the others and brewed up Cuppa Soup and Pot Noodles before exiting.</p> <p>Lawrence enjoyed his trip and was fairly competent. Another excellent trip helped considerably by me only wearing T-shirt and shorts and by the bloody fantastic formations in El Bosque de Piedra. These are some of the finest to be found anywhere with massive, tall pillars in great proliferation. No wonder Vicente Kramsky got such brilliant photos!</p>
Mexico Chiapas (San Cristobal) <i>discovery</i>	<p>Grutas de San Cristobal 12/1/83 Terry, Lugger, Kiwi</p>	6½ hr	Rancho Nuevo	<p>Straight down to the new chamber which we named Salon Winge in honour of all the moaning on this expedition! (Stopped for a brew at El Bosque de Piedra). We surveyed the extension as we went with Kiwi being first down into the chamber to report no open way on and two static sump pools. The passage up in the roof also led to a perched sump and an inaccessible void above. We buggered about for a bit and then exited, after another brew-up, removing all the gear, stoves, ladders etc. Fast trip out. Our hopes of this passage by-passing the sump were dashed and so further trips into the Gruta seem hopeless without extremely dry weather conditions. Or diving gear.</p>

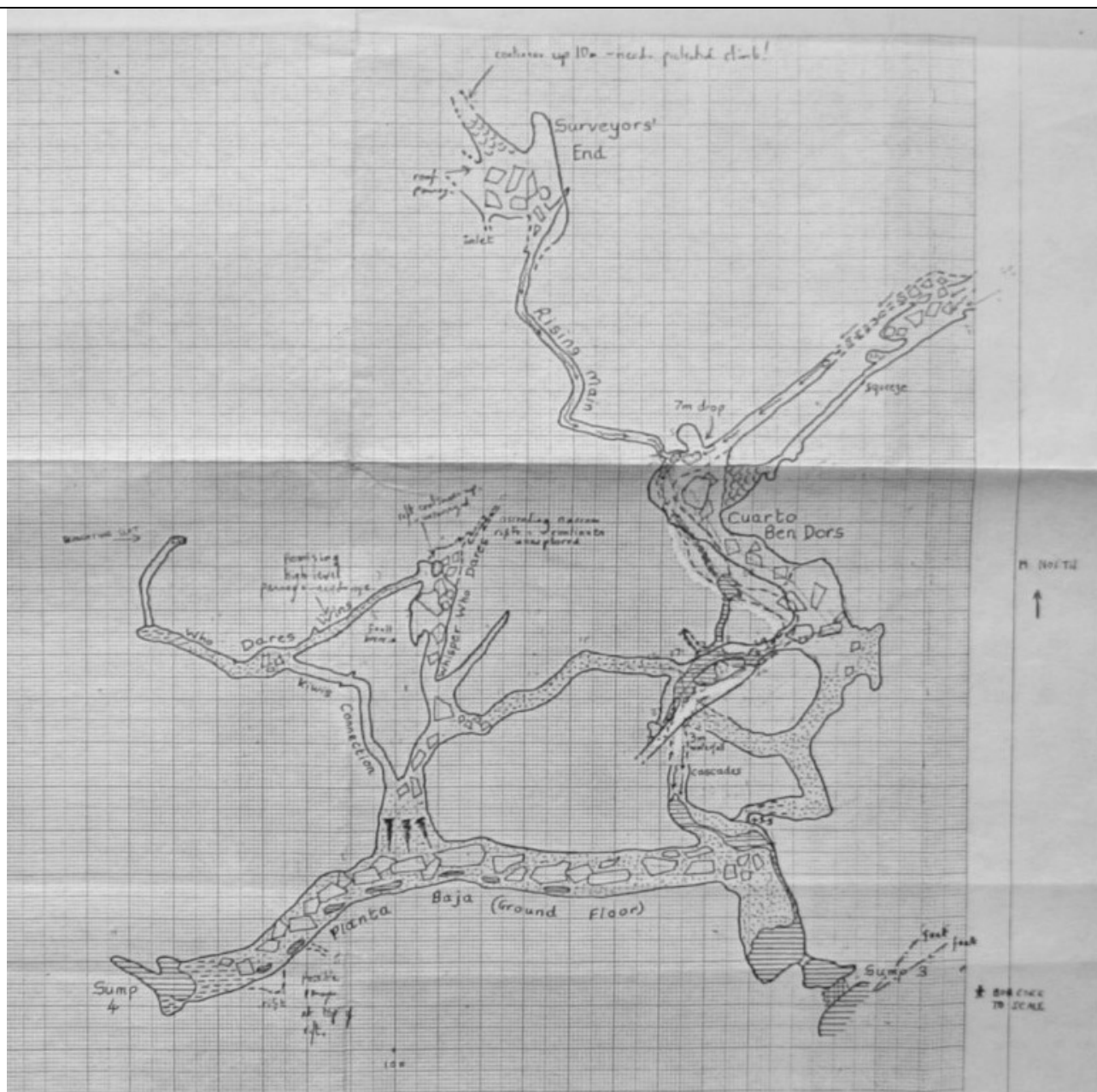
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Mexico Chiapas (El Zapotal) <i>Major Discovery</i>	<p>Veshtucoc 14/1/83 Terry, Bob, Dany, Dick Ellis (NCC), Kiwi, Andy Davinson</p>	7 hrs	El Zapotal/ San Lucas	<p>This superb resurgence cave situated on the flank of the main limestone range above the village of El Zapotal / San Lucas was first entered by Dave Gill and Gail Searby after a recce trip by Guy Meauxscone (?) and co. Dave courageously free-</p>
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	(no club), Lugger			<p>dived the entrance sump to emerge in a large, railway-tunnel like passage with a sandy floor and gently meandering stream. Beyond this the team found some 4½ kms of streamway, inlets and huge chambers. This included Sump 2 – another one free-dived by Dave and somewhat more dodgy than the first sump. They terminated their exploration at the deep, ominous-looking Sump 3 which Dave and Laurens Smets attempted to free dive but its length and depth forced them to give up their attempts without a mask.</p> <p>After some problems of getting the others to let us have a fair crack of the whip at this area we eventually got a trip into Veshtucoc. After a pleasant and somewhat jealousy-inspiring trip through the cave we arrived at Sump 3 – bringing with us the only diving mask on the Expedition. I had a look at the sump first (it was my mask) and found it to be some 2m deep and, though obviously rising again within some 3m, it looked to be a fairly long and committing free dive. I then handed the mask over to Bob and after a few tentative recce dives he took the plunge and disappeared into the sump. After a few moments of worried waiting we received the signals to say that he had made it. Some time later he returned to base after tying the line off below water level on the far side. Dany and I then followed him through to explore some 180m of superbly waterworn stream passage including a 7m cascade and a 10m canal. This ended in an ascending rift bringing in all of the main stream but becoming too tight and full of jammed boulders. A large, dry roof passage was also noted. Our allotted exploration time of 15 mins had well and truly passed by now and so we returned to base leaving exploration of the new series until the following day. Lugger, Kiwi and Terry then had a quick dive through to familiarise themselves with the sump. Lugger lost Dany's Aquaflash en route.</p> <p>On our return to the entrance Dick took a series of photos of the stream passage and Salon Shenker - the mega chamber on the downstream side of Sump 2.</p> <p>An exquisite and worthwhile trip in a superbly sporting cave system. God smiles on the righteous!! We will return.....</p>
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Mexico Chiapas (El Zapotal) <i>discovery</i>	Veshtucoc 15/1/83 Lugger, Bob, Dany, Terry, Kiwi	7½ hr	El Zapotal/ San Lucas	<p>Survey and pushing trip beyond Sump 3. Immediately beyond the sump we walked into a large passage on the LH side which we had not noticed on the previous visit. Bob and Dany continued with the exploration of the streamway and upper levels while John Lugger, John Kiwi and I surveyed the new passage and Terry annoyingly took photographs. This lower gallery (Planta Baja – Ground Floor) finished in a deep static sump pool after some 184 metres. The sump was later dived to 3m+ depth by Bob and found to be not free-diveable. We then continued up a steep and muddy side passage and into several score metres of loops and upper series</p>

				<p>passages which were surveyed as we went. A large ascending rift, Whisper Who Dares, was looked at by Terry. Its piles of unstable boulders were something of a collector's item and it was left still going up but decidedly hairy. Several other ways on need checking and there is probably over 300m of passage to survey. A bolt route up a flowstone cascade in a large chamber (later named Cuarto Ben Dors) is one of the most promising sites as it may go above the impassable section of streamway. Following the long (but bloody fine) trek back to the entrance it came as a pain in the arse to find that our kit had been rifled by the locals. Luckily (!) only Terry's new Mexican fell boots and a few pesos had been pinched. All this despite the holy crosses above the entrance!</p>
<p>Mexico Chiapas (El Zapotal) <i>discovery</i></p>	<p>Veshtucoc 16/1/83 Terry, Kiwi, Lugger, Bob, Dany, Andy</p>	<p>8hr 40m</p>	<p>El Zapotal/ San Lucas</p>	<p>Continuation of the survey of the dry series beyond Sump 3. Commenced by surveying "Whisper Who Dares" and at the top of the initial climb up through the boulders we followed a descending rift passage – "Who Dares Wins". This dropped steeply down to a muddy chamber where Lugger found a small high level passage on the RH side which ended in a too tight, draughting hole. On our return Kiwi found a passage on the LH side which, after some 90m connected through to the start of Whisper Who Dares. This was duly surveyed to give us a useful closed traverse.</p> <p>In the meantime Bob, Dany and a particularly time-wasting Terry had succeeded in bolting / free climbing the 20m flowstone cascade in Cuarto Ben Dors. This led through a squeeze and well decorated rift passage into a roomy continuation of the stream passage above the boulder-filled rift. Some 400 metres were explored. Other ways on were noticed during our survey of the dry passages.</p> <p>The cave is now wide open with half a dozen possible leads. We have now doubled the length of the system and it doesn't look like stopping! Once again – a superb trip which was made tolerable by the presence of Rington's Tea Bags and the dreaded Pot Noodles!</p>





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Mexico Chiapas (El Zapotal)	Boruhuix 17/1/83 Bob, Dany, Kiwi	1 hr	El Zapotal / San Lucas	Also probably spelt as Borohuix or Bolomhuiz. This is the local Indian name for Jaguar Cave. A huge cave entrance formed by collapse of a resurgence cave drops steeply down in a series of impressive rimstone / travertine gours to branch off into two passages to the left and right. (These were not visited on this trip but contain both loose, hairy boulders and many Vampire bats). The cave is a religious shrine and there are crosses at the RH side of the entrance. At the time of our visit there were many lit candles on the shrine and a selection of small grass crosses which we believe were left to counteract the effect of our visits and placate the god(s). A local legend states that anyone climbing down into the cave via the RH side and entering the RH passage is going to speak with God. Conversely those following the LH wall and entering the dark LH passage are going to speak with the Devil. Anyone standing in the sunbeams which
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				<p>pierce through the forest to illuminate the entrance chamber floor at midday is likely to be struck down and die! The local presidenté, though, suspects a character called Marcello to be the hidden voice of the Devil. We assume that he is a local “barrachico” or drunk who creeps into the cave to frighten the very superstitious local ladies!!</p> <p>The huge chamber was photographed to death – especially the strange obliquely hanging stalactites festooning the walls and ceiling. Well worth a visit.</p>
<p>Mexico Chiapas (El Zapotal) <i>discovery</i></p>	<p>Veshtucoc 18-19/1/83 Terry, Bob, Dany, Andy, Kiwi, Lugger, Syd Perou, Chris Gibbs, Guy Meauxfoone (Group Speleo Alpin de Belgique), Steve Wood</p>	<p>13hr 40m</p>	<p>El Zapotal / San Lucas</p>	<p>Initial aim of the trip was for Syd and his film team to document a reconstruction of Bob free-diving Sump 3. Unfortunately Syd almost collapsed from a severe dose of Histoplasmosis just beyond Sump 2. He was too knackered to go any further so sat down and rested while the others continued on to Sump 3 and filmed under the leadership of Guy. Several hundred feet of film was shot showing Bob entering and emerging from the sump and the rest of us waiting in fear and trepidation for his return. Guy even lay on the sump floor and filmed Bob swimming over him.</p> <p>They then returned to collect Syd and head out while the rest of us carried on to Cuarto Ben Dors for a brew. Lugger, Andy and I surveyed a loop passage on the way in.</p> <p>We all then climbed the now laddered flowstone cascade and Lugger, Andy and I continued the survey as we progressed up the superb stream passage beyond – some 400m of fabulously sculpted streamway. The water-carved potholes and pendants are mostly in a bed of calcite which must have partly filled the passage at some time. Certainly one of the most impressive bits of cave scenery that I have seen anywhere. By the time we reached the large and desperately unstable chamber at the end (Montezuma’s Revenge) we were just about knackered. Here we met up with the exploration party whose only success had been to reach the end of the chamber and penetrate parts of the huge unstable boulder ruckle to find a couple of possible ways on – one being an inlet and the other needing a ladder. While Lugger was looking at one of these there was a nasty sounding thud from further down the chamber where a large rock had fallen and narrowly missed Dany. With the poor acoustics of the chamber I assumed that he had been injured and called back Lugger from his explorations. When we caught up with the others we found that all was well and we all then returned down the stream passage with Terry taking a couple of snaps at the lower end, near the 10m cascade.</p> <p>Another brew up restored us a bit and we headed out – suffering a series of minor mishaps on the way. Terry fell off a climb down to the streamway and narrowly escaped being hurt; I swallowed half of Sump 3; Bob went off route in Sump 2; etc. We were all fairly tired and suffering from poor coordination by now.</p>

				<p>The entrance was reached with great sighs of relief until Bob shouted back to warn us of a water snake which Dany had noticed on a ledge at the side of the pool!! Three of us hurtled through all together and at great speed but didn't see the offending reptile as by now it had probably swum across the sump pool itself. In retrospect a bloody good trip but hard work at the time. The usual desperate climb down the slabs and steep path to the village added the final touch to make sure we slept well that night.</p>
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Mexico Chiapas (El Zapotal) <i>discovery</i>	Veshtucoc 19/1/83 Lugger, Kiwi, Bob, Dany	4hr 40m	El Zapotal / San Lucas	<p>Syd (feeling slightly better) filmed us changing at the entrance before we set off into the cave, keeping a wary eye open for the sump pool dwelling snake. We went directly to Cuarto Ben Dors where Bob and Dany collected up all the brew kit, slings etc. and headed out, collecting Syd's dumped filming gear on the way. The two Johns and I then finished the survey of Rising Main Inlet. Only a couple of stations beyond our previous survey termination Lugger squeezed off to the left into a 30m high by 10m wide chamber with a boulder floor and a fine flowstone cascade at one end. I climbed this for 20m until stopped by a slippery and exposed section while Lugger found a similar exposed climb nearby. Both would need protection. Surveyed the chamber and then thankfully buggered off out of the cave – worn out.</p>
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Mexico Chiapas (Comitan)	Cave at roadside 23/1/83 Lugger, Terry, Gil Ediger (AMCS), Guy, etc	5m	Comitan – Tzimel road	<p>While driving back to San Lucas from a cancelled small plane flight from Comitan, we noticed this cave at the side of the road – probably first entered during construction / widening operations. A phreatic and dry but well-decorated chamber ended in a squeeze between stal which Lugger pushed into a further small chamber. A small hole leading on would need a hammer and chisel to gain any further passage.</p>
Mexico Chiapas (El Zapotal)	Veshtucoc 24/1/83 Kiwi, Guy, Bob, Dany, Terry	5 hr	El Zapotal / San Lucas	<p>Filming trip beyond Sump 3. Most of the film crew were ravaged by Histoplasmosis (and possibly Typhoid, Amoebic Dysentery, Laryngitis etc !!!!) so Guy did the filming alone with the aid of the rest of us holding the lights. I was filmed emerging from Sump 3, in the canal passage and in the squeeze leading to the upper streamway. The others were filmed in various sections of stream passage, on the climb and at the main cascades. Should be a superb bit of film if it comes out okay. A pleasant but tiring trip. Dany recovered his lost aquaflash in Sump 3 and Guy was very impressed with the extensions.</p>
Mexico Chiapas (Tuxtla Gutierrez)	Cueva de Lamon(?) Cueva de Colores(?) 25/1/83 Guy, Terry, Andy, Bob, Lugger, Dany, Ian "Tomma" White (QPC, NZSS) Kiwi, guide/boat driver	5m	Sumidero Canyon, Chiapa de Corzo	<p>Superb motor boat trip along the flooded Sumidero Canyon with cliffs possibly 300m high and 1-200 metres(?) of dammed up river beneath. A couple of kms along the canyon our boatsman took us and the boat straight into a 2m high by 5m wide cave entrance in the canyon wall. Inside we stopped in a flooded chamber with a brecciated ceiling and a few flying bats. No obvious ways on but is probably part of a larger</p>

				cave system now flooded by the reservoir. Further along the canyon we entered another shallow cave in the opposite wall with pink and other pastel-coloured flowstone on the ceiling and walls. A possibly way on was noted in the roof. A couple of highly novel and totally unexpected caving trips! Many other entrances were noted at various heights all along the canyon and others almost certainly exist below the water.
The following day we returned to Mexico City – closely followed by Steve, Gail, Chris Gibb, Laurens and Grotty who we left in hospital with severe Histoplasmosis. Syd and Jeff Morgan were too ill to travel! A superb and eventually successful Expedition. “Howay the Lads!”				
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Yorkshire	9/2/83 While engaged on trig recce in the Teeside area Paul Robbins (OS) and I investigated the surface remains of Upsall Pit – an ironstone mine that was working in the 1930s. Little of note remains here. Several iron mine drifts exist in the flanks of the hill below – above Eston village. These may or may not be open. Ref. Cleveland Ironstone (Upsall – p.21, Eston – throughout).			
Durham	10/2/83 Photographed large working colliery near Kelloe – East Hetton Colliery – sunk 1836.			
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 19/2/83 Trev Hughes, Phil Romford, Andrew “Wonder Boy” Trafford, Pete and Alison Moody	2 hr	Wookey Hole	Assisted Trevor with his ongoing dig at the bottom of the entrance pitch. After an hour's digging Trev opened up a black, promising space and decided bang was needed. Andy volunteered to go back to Priddy and find Pete Moody who was the only easily obtainable “bang man” at the time. He duly arrived and successfully disintegrated the offending boulder.
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 26/2/83 Trev, Wonder Boy, Mac (Quackers at surface)	1¾ hr	Wookey Hole	Trev removed the totally destroyed boulder to find that the calcite flow continued just as solidly beyond. A large amount of debris was moved out of the cave but another bang will be needed to progress further.
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 5/3/83 Mac, Wonder Boy	2 hr	Wookey Hole	Digging trip at the new end of the cave – Trevor having found some 20' of passage – flat out crawling ending in the usual mud and rock infill. While Mac and Andrew sorted out the sledge system I had a kip! We then shifted several sledge loads of grot. The way on can be seen for about 12-15 feet with some 4” of airspace and a slight draught. Much work to be done before open passage will be gained.
Somerset	Tynings Barrows Cave 6/3/83 Wonder Boy, Tim Large, Phil Romford, Alan and Ric (new members)	2 hrs	Charterhouse	Previous bang results were excellent and a large boulder was removed. With only a few feet to go to the small chamber things are looking good. 2lb of plaster gelatine was laid and fired.
Somerset	Tynings Barrows Cave 13/3/83 Tim, Martin Grass	2 hr 50m	Charterhouse	Tim managed to push through the last low section into the chamber found several years ago. He then succeeded in draining the crawl a bit and I followed him through. After a look around we returned to Martin and then Tim laid 2½ lb of bang on the wet squeeze section. Duly fired.
Kent	Chislehurst Caves 18/3/83 Guide + school party	¾ hr	Chislehurst	Very entertaining tourist trip into these extensive chalk mines. Dating, I believe, from the middle ages and used at various times as munitions stores and air raid shelters they are well worth a visit. The crap that the guide spins about Druids, Romans, Saxons, ghosts etc adds to, rather than detracts from the visit. Parts of the system have been used for rock concerts (Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix etc) and other areas used for film and

				TV sets. In one area the appropriate music and a full scale “Tardis” police box show where a “Dr Who” programme was filmed. The passages themselves are roomy and well-shaped with a rippled rock floor – presumably a bed of harder material below the chalk and flint layers. Well worth a visit (even just to see the tatty old fashioned surface layout, wooden shack café/ticket office etc!)
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Surrey	Godstone Mines (Roman Rd / Godstone Hill Quarries) 24/3/83 Brian Workman	1½ hr	Godstone	Pleasant fester into the “Main or Roman Road” series to show Brian a bit of the underground South East. He was fairly impressed – especially when I managed to get us lost for some time in the area where the plate rails are situated. Brian and I each removed a section of rail for preservation elsewhere. The entrance to this mine has recently been excavated with a digger and it is now possible to walk straight in – why? Another change that I noticed was the appearance of several new roof falls blocking passages that had previously been open routes. Also we visited a new (to me) area with a brick-lined arch in situ.
Somerset	Tynings Barrows Cave 26/3/83 Tim Large, Sue Jordan, Chris Batstone, Judy (Sydney SS) (Paul Hodgson, Miles Barrington, Paddy?)	3 hr	Charterhouse	Carted a large quarry “blasting” notice as far as the hole down through the boulders near the breakthrough point but couldn’t get it further on my own. Paul later got it beyond here. I then carried on down meeting the others at A Day. A vast amount of large rocks and debris was removed after the last successful bang. The end squeeze is now quite roomy and we are progressing well along the end passage. Tim laid another charge which was duly fired before returning to the surface.
Somerset	Gough’s Cave 28/3/83 Jane, Chris Bradshaw	5 m	Cheddar	Following a walk from Charterhouse to Cheddar – where the entrances of Upper Flood, Grebe, Longwood Valley Sink and Timber Hole were looked at – we met Chris Bradshaw at Gough’s Cave. He showed us the supposed pre-historic wall engravings in an alcove near the Fonts. They consist of a row of between 12 and 15 vertical score marks a couple of inches long and with stalagmite covering their lower ends proving their age. It would seem almost certain that they are artificial and probably date to the same period as an engraved bone “tally” found nearby. Britain’s first ever authenticated cave wall art?

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Somerset <i>dive</i>	Swildon’s Hole 30/3/83 Ross White, Quackers	3¾ hr	Priddy	Our aim was to dive to 12 and push the open passage above Desolation Row. I felt physically capable of the trip but was definitely dubious psychologically as I had not been through sumps 6-9 for a long time and was out of practice with diving gear. After initially getting stuck in a silted up Sump 1, I was even more apprehensive. Fairly easy dives through 2, 3, 4 and 5 followed and I was even almost beginning to enjoy the trip. At Sump 6 Quackers dived first and I followed but couldn’t clear one ear, leaked water through my mask and generally fucked it up necessitating a quick retreat. Another try proved
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				similar and so I told Ross to go through and tell Quackers what was happening. Ross then found out that he couldn't clear his ears and his sinuses hurt like hell at depth – so it transpired that he couldn't pass the sump (or Sump 9) anyway. We called it a day at that and signalled for Quackers to return. Festered gently out to the surface after a not particularly enjoyable trip.
Ireland Co. Kilkenny	1/4/83 BEC Ireland trip. Ross White, Jane and I went to Dunmore Caves, Co. Kilkenny but it was closed although having such a large entrance it would have been easy to explore it. This was not attempted as a local arrived.			
Ireland Co. Clare	Doolin Cave System (St. Catherines I – Fisherstreet Pot) 2/4/83 Wormhole, Ruth Jacobs (UCCU), MacAnus, Ross, Phil Romford	1hr 35m	Doolin	A superb and fast through trip in reasonably high water conditions which everyone enjoyed. Those on their first visit to Clare were most impressed.
Ireland Co. Clare	Pouelva-Pollnagollum 3/4/83 Mac, Barrie Wilton, Colin Dooley, Wormhole, Carol Walford (UBSS)	2¾ hr	Lisdoonvarna	Exchange trip with Phil Romford and Co. who entered the system via Pollnagollum. We laddered the 100' shaft of Pouelva and after losing Wormhole in the connection series for a half hour or so we carried on through to Pollnagollum main streamway. Several Irish cavers were met en route as a practice search and rescue event was in progress. Again a fine trip, but not as exciting a cave as Doolin.
Ireland Co. Clare	Faunarooska 6/4/83 Wormhole, Ruth, Ross, Brendan Brew + Jenny, Sean O'Connor, Mac, Graham 'Bolt' Johnson	1hr 40m	Fanore	To the end of the cave except for the dry and wet pitches. I had forgotten what excellent formations are to be found in this sporting cave. Most of the party (including Sean!) missed the way out on their return. On our way back to the Roadside Tavern, Mac and I had a look at Coolagh River Cave entrance.
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Ireland Co. Clare	Poulsallagh, 53,54 8/4/83 Alone (Colin, Angie, Jane Jenny at surface)	5m	Ballyryan	Brief look into this short coastal cave before being put off by the marine insect life in residence – large woodlice-like insects and sand fleas. Looks an interesting site for a dig though. Also had a look into the "grike-like opening" of 54. Views down a boulder choked rift show there to be a deep flooded area below. This may be worth a push next visit. 53 – the resurgence for the Coolagh River and associated caves, was not located exactly due to high tide.
Another superb boozy and hospitable holiday in Co. Clare.				
Somerset	Tynning's Barrows Cave 17/4/83 Tim Large, Andy Sparrow, Chris Castle	3 hr	Charterhouse	Banging trip as usual. Also took "Blasting" road sign to end of cave and put a warning notice in entrance. Removed four sections of maypole from the cave on the way out. It will not need many bangs now before we are at the end and real progress can be made.
Yorkshire	Lancaster Hole-County Pot 23/4/83 Howard and Debbie Limbert, John "Lugger" Thorpe, Dave (Noddy), Alan, Steve Foster	2hr 10m	Casterton	Fast, drunken through trip. Abseiled down Lancaster and followed the large, dry upper route through to County Pot. Sobered up about halfway through. An impressive series of passages with some nice stal in places. Especially attractive sections were the Minarets passages and County Pot streamway.
Yorkshire	24/4/83. Digging trip to Scales Moor with NCC and friends:- Derek Crossland, John Thorpe, Dave			

	and Alan (the Geordies), Howard and Debbie Limbert, Sam the dog and JJ (Liverpool University). I assisted with surface operations while the bottom of Lichen Pot, near Scales Moor Pots, was dug. This 50' pot is choked at the bottom though a tight cross rift can be seen with slim possibilities of it being enterable without banging.			
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 30/4/83 Tim Large	35m	Wookey Hole	Drunken trip again! Tim laid a few ounces of bang on the flowstone / conglomerate at the end of the crawl – now some 80' in – and bloody horrible! An unpleasant pool of water has transformed this once nice dig into a miserable shithole.
Somerset	Tynning's Barrows Cave 2/5/83 Geoff Rickings, Tim, Mac, Steve Griffiths, Chris Castle	3 hr	Charterhouse	Yet another banging trip. Quite a lot of rock successfully removed by bag hauling. A very useful trip in high water. Slight problems caused by a break in one strand of the bang wire. Geoff and Steve enjoyed their first visit to this cave. The previous Friday to this the stream was dye-tested with Rhodamine and was proved conclusive to Cheddar after a through time of 55 hrs in low water conditions.
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Somerset	Tynning's Barrow Swallet 7/5/83 Tim, Chris Smart, John Turner, Martin Grass	3hr 20m	Charterhouse	Usual trip but with the added bonus of actually getting to "Alison's Arch". I managed to squeeze up and over the tight bit to where Alison had previously reached and gained a view along the continuation of the passage – some 15' long and 8" to 3" high with a gravel floor and triangular ceiling. The passage appears to widen out just below gravel level. Digging will be difficult and so banging out the roof may be necessary. New bang wire put in and much spoil moved back along the passage. Good trip.
Somerset	Tynning's Barrows Swallet 22/5/83 Debbie Armstrong, Steve Lane (ICCC)	2hr 10m	Charterhouse	Not enough of us to do anything really useful but we did clear a fair bit of debris from the LH wall following the last bang. Found a couple of interesting passages on the way out – one of which would yield a new chamber or passage with a bit of hammer and chisel work.
Somerset	Tynning's Barrows Swallet 28/5/83 Tim, Phil, 6 Crawley Caving Club	3½ hr	Charterhouse	Dragged down two 8' sections of plastic water pipe which were inserted in the floor of the terminal rift in order that debris can be piled on top. 2½ lbs of bang was placed at the end – our first progress bang. On the way out we carried on chiselling the small passage above the stal climb. I managed to squeeze through into about 15' of chamber with too tight rifts above. A very useful and enjoyable trip.
Somerset	Longwood Swallet/ August Hole 29/5/83 Tim Large, Mac, John Riley, Doug Bradshaw	2 hr	Charterhouse	Excellent sporting trip to the start of Reynolds Passage in high water conditions. Out for the pub.
Somerset	Gough's Cave 31/5/83 Dick + assorted diggers (Tim, Fiona, The Prewers, Howard Beck, Bruce Bedford, Chris Bradshaw, a dog, etc)	1hr 10m	Cheddar	Tuesday evening digging trip with H.Beck and Co. taking various photos for forthcoming set of postage stamps. I helped the lads in removing 14 wheelbarrow loads of sand from the dig in 40 minutes. A three-wheeled wheelbarrow can be easily pushed to the end – 80' in. There is fixed electric light all the way. A railway line and dumper truck are to be used in future. Superb, easy, well organised dig.
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Somerset <i>Major</i>	Eastwater Cavern 5/6/83	3½ hr	Priddy	<i>See below</i>

discovery	John Watson, Phil Romford, (Mac, Rachel, Tim, Keith Gladman, John Turner, Phillip, Darren, Glyn Bolt)			
	<p>Phil, John and I had an afternoon trip to visit Keith and Andy’s new 600’ series of passages off Ifold Series – West End Series. We met the others at the entrance to the new stuff. They had pushed a few odd passages and an 80’ aven and were on their way out. There was no water sound in the cave until we got there as a flood pulse occurred while we were descending. We went first to the bottom of the second rift where a good sized shower was entering from the previously dry aven. This disappeared off down the inclined bedding and could be heard rushing away beyond though it could not be followed due to a tight section. John decided that this could be passed with 10 minutes of hammer and chisel work. Phil then followed a dry crawl passage heading off across the dip. After a hundred feet or so he got to a previously visited chamber with a very tight and awkward unpassed squeeze at the end. He was too large to pass this so I had a go and managed to get through into a standing sized rift – well decorated updip and so not entered. Downdip an awkward bit led into more across dip rifts and crawls – liberally decorated with superb helictite and a selection of bat turds. A roomy downdip passage could be seen through a blockage of large calcite slabs. The sound of the stream could be heard coming from this and there was a good draught. John then decided to join me and successfully squeezed through. By this time I had moved a couple of the slabs and another awkward squeeze was negotiated into this. We followed this fine rift/bedding passage for 50’ or so to a small eyehole at the head of an at least 60’ pitch with the roaring of water beyond! Could this be the 380’ Way stream boring off to Wookey? Highly excited we then came back up the passage a few feet to descend the c.20’ free climbable pitch in the floor. This appeared to close down but at the bottom a passage in the wall led for a few feet into a c. 40’ deep tight rift which probably also connects with the streamway! This was left for another day as was the eyehole – which may need bang or chiselling. We then elatedly returned to Phil and exited tiredly to gloat at the Belfry. Bloody marvellous trip. Could this be the big ‘un?</p>			
Somerset Major discovery	Eastwater Cavern 11/6/83 Keith, Andy Lilly, Quiet John, Tim, Mac, Glyn.	7½ hr	Priddy	See below
	<p>Pushing trip to the pitches found on last trip. I managed to descend the 30’ tight rift after hammering some flake off at the top. Below this the rift enlarged and led to an evil inclined squeeze which looked desperate. The others came down and I had a bash at the squeeze – passing it after c.15’ of severity to emerge 25’ above the floor of the estimated 60’ eyehole pitch. Keith joined me after a struggle and we laddered the 25’ drop to pitch bottom. From here a tight rift led on. A 10’ drop in the floor was left for laddering as it would have been too awkward to reverse. An inlet on the RH side closed down. The obvious way on was in the roof of the rift where a wider section was blocked by a 2’ stal column. We decided to sacrifice this and broke it up with a rock. Beyond this a large rift passage was entered with a couple of possible ways on between boulders at high level. Keith and I preferred to follow the floor which we did for about 200’ to a point where the passage developed into a small canyon and became too tight to pass easily. A hammer and chisel or bang will be needed here. No sign of a stream today. Where is the 380’ Way water? We then returned to the 60’ pitch where Tim and Glyn had been attempting to enlarge the eyehole. No joy with this and so we were forced to return up the inclined squeeze. We only just managed this and everyone in the party had thoughts of having to use bang to enlarge the eyehole and rescue us!</p> <p>All then returned absolutely knackered to the surface after Tim had fired 3lbs of bang at the eyehole. The West End Series now has about 1,000’ of passage and is roughly 150’ below Dolphin Pot Pitch making it at approx. the same level as Terminal Rift and Primrose Pot. It is one of the hardest and most strenuous trips on Mendip. Definitely a collector’s item.</p>			
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Cornwall	14/6/83. Jane and I had a quick look at the well preserved winding engine house of Ding Dong Mine on the hills some 1½ miles NW of Madron. Several open shafts were noted in this area.			
Cornwall	17/6/83. Land’s End and Botallack areas. We spotted several interesting looking sea caves all around the Land’s End cliffs while flying over them in a light plane. Some look accessible. Also wandered around the mining area above The Crowns at Botallack looking at shafts and ruins visited previously.			
Somerset Major discovery	Eastwater Cavern 18/6/83 Tim, Glyn, Andy Sparrow, Ouiet John	8¾ hr	Priddy	See below

	<p>First aim of this trip was to visit the 500 odd foot extension found by John and Darren on 12/6/83. This superbly decorated area is entered by going up-dip from the Greek St. area and is the roomiest part of the West End Series. Formations include thousands of helictites, straws, curtains, cave pearls, drip pockets, cracked mud floors etc., the pride of the lot being a group of sugar loaf shaped crystallized stalagmite bosses in a dried out pool. Rather unique formations. Several side passages, rifts etc were looked at in this area which gained about 100' of passage in all. In the meantime I taped off all the vulnerable areas of formations though by the nature of the place a lot of these will be destroyed eventually by the clumsy. A beautiful area emphasized by its location in Eastwater. Glyn and I then carried on to Greek St. at the top of which we heard Andy's voice. He had descended a rift in the pretty area and could be seen by us from the S-squeeze which indicates that the two extensions are in the same major joint, one below the other. He couldn't physically get through but left his helmet and lamp and went round. The eyehole blasted the previous week is now easily passable and leads to an awkward 25' descent in a rift followed by a nice 50' pitch – total is 70-75'. We carried on to the end of the cave and after hammering off a few projections I managed to pass the squeeze into a section of small, vadose, dry streamway. Andy joined me and we set off to explore. After only about 20' the passage turned sharply right to a most unexpected sight – the head of a 20' long by 8' wide pitch. Glyn was summoned and asked to return to the 70' pitch to get a couple of ladders. This he did by leaving Tim at the top to haul them back up. Using Glyn's belt as a belay to a convenient flake we all descended this exactly 50' pitch and then followed a descending phreatic bore passage, keyhole shaped, for 100' to a too tight section with a howling draught entering. This will need either digging and/or blasting to pass but at an estimated depth of 430' below the entrance it is extremely promising being below the rest of the known cave. There must be more big stuff beyond (though this area sumps). The climb back up the muddy keyhole passage was a real bastard. We all then gradually made our way while Tim laid a charge at the squeeze above the 50' pot. Lack of tamping mud was a nuisance. Detackled on the way out. Definitely one of Mendip's most arduous systems. A total of about 360' found on this trip giving us an overall length of some 2,000'. A bloody good trip with a touch of everything satisfying. All totally fucked as usual.</p>			
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Somerset	Netherwood Swallet 19/6/83 Quiet John Watson		Charterhouse	Wandered over for a look at the MCG dig at this old Axbridge site. They have opened up a solid rift and are some ten feet or so below where we stopped. Total depth is about 25'. Looks very promising.
Cornwall	21/6/83. Visited two engine houses on the Ding Dong Mine sett at Tredinnick, 1½ miles north of Madron. Neither appears to be associated with shafts (?) and are possibly stamps engines – though I am probably wrong here! There seems to be little available published information on this mine.			
Cornwall	23/6/83. Wandered around the Botallack, Wheal Owles and Boswedden setts noting a possible incline shaft near Wheal Owles engine houses (?) * and a possible level on the shore below. No other obvious adits at sea level here. * This is Wheal Edward incline shaft.			
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 25/6/83 Tim, Mac, Quiet John, Brian Prewer, Matthew Tuck, Phil Romford.	6 hr	Priddy	Surveying trip. Tim and I went to the squeeze above Lolly Pot and after Tim had laid a 11lb 10oz charge on an inward draughting hole above the squeeze, we surveyed out to Trevor Hughe's survey mark of the previous Wednesday. The line survey consisted of eleven stations – some good long legs being achieved. In the meantime Phil and Co. had surveyed from Trevor's mark out to the ladder at Dolphin Pitch thus completing the survey of all the main passages. Several hundred feet of side passages remain to be added. Usual knacker trip but made much easier by wearing a furry suit instead of a wetsuit.

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Cornwall	28/6/83. During lunch break I had a walk across the Wherry Rock at Penzance to look for remains of the famous undersea workings of the Wherry Mine – nothing obvious found and I suspect that the mine was on rocks slightly further out to sea and still surrounded by the tide during my visit. In the evening I visited the ruined pumping and winding engine-houses of Carn Galver Mine at Rosemergy near Morvah. Several "sunset" photos were taken. This mine was part of the Morvah and Zennor United Mines – all of which should be dry above sea level due to a deep adit driven in from the cliffs. This should be investigated for possible access to the workings.			
Cornwall	29/6/83. Evening walk along the coast path with first stop at the almost totally ruined Morvah Consols Mine engine house. A desperate scramble down almost to sea level was attempted in a vain			

	attempt to find the adit level but the last 15-20' of cliff defeated me. Then on to Carn Galver Mine sett (via a few trial workings) to look for the deep adit. Again foiled by a cliff – this one about 40' Still not certain that either of these adits are where I think they are as views down into the coves could not be gained.			
Cornwall	Mousehole Cave Tinney's Hole (level) 30/6/83 Alone	10m	Mousehole	The “famous” Mousehole Cave consists of a large entrance sea cave formed in a joint (?) in granite with a roof of loose granite / earth overburden which appears to be gradually collapsing. A steep slope of boulders lead up to a draughting passage heading up into the cliff but not very accessible due to the loose rock and large spiders! I suspect it goes through to a “blowhole” and it is possible that much of the loose rock here has been tipped into the cave from above. The theoretical top entrance was not looked for due to dense vegetation. Tinney's (Tinner's?) Hole is a 30m long “coffin” level driven presumably as a tin or copper trial. It commences in a small sea cave overhang a hundred foot or so south of Mousehole Cave. Of little interest. Ref: Mines and Miners of Cornwall Vol.4 p.17
Somerset Discovery	Eastwater Cavern 9/7/83 Tim, Quiet John, Dave “The Skunk” Newson (USA), (Pete Hann, Glyn Bolt, Julie)	5½ hr	Priddy	Radio location trip to Wardour Street. On the way in Tim and I pushed a bedding plane passage at the top RH side of Solo. Later – when Glyn arrived, we made a physical connection here to Ifold's Series above the Magic Fountain. With a bit of work this could be an easier route in – useful in case of rescues. A steep boulder-filled bedding plane above here looks most interesting and could give us a route into the entrance series. Once in Wardour St we laid out the coil and set it going at 2.30. On the surface Brian Prewer and Co. instantly located the point with an excellent signal at a spot near the site of the old WCC hut. While the coil was transmitting Tim, Skunk, John and I had a look at the series of phreatic, helictite filled rifts to the right of Wardour St. John gained 30' of new loop passage. Any further progress here would need digging or blasting. Turned off the coil at 3.30pm and headed out, picking up Julie at the top of Dolphin Pot Pitch. Useful trip and also enjoyable. Skunk was suitably impressed.
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Cornwall	Boswedden Mine 12/7/83 Alone	5m	St. Just	Visited the surface workings of Boscean Mine (with its superb capped chimney) and Boswedden Mine. At the latter is a massive wheelpit and a recent looking stone shed near sea level containing a Pelton Wheel and other machinery. Near this is a 200' level which I explored to a blockage. This level also appeared of fairly recent origin and was full of poor timberwork. A flooded winze and blocked roof shaft were noted. Other odd stopes etc in the beautiful valley were also looked at.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 23/7/83 Tim, Martin Grass, Steve Lane, Debbie Armstrong, Chris Castle, Chris Birkhead, Mark Bound (ICCC)	6 hr	Priddy	<i>See below</i>

	<p>All down to West End where Martin, Bollix and Debbie went into Regent St to photograph the pretties. The rest of us carried on down Greek St – luckily finding some ladders left in the week by Jim Smart as ours had been lost/abandoned en route. Tim laid a 4lb charge on the squeeze before Lolly Pot. This went off with a most satisfying “crump”. Other jobs done:- the calcite slab at the top of Greek St was smashed up with a rock and removed to allow easier access than via the “dog leg”. Several passages at the top of Ifold’s Series – above Magic Fountain – were looked at. One gave an easier access to the other route into West End Series. Others led to draughting boulder chokes in the roof. One was dug for about 6’. These should be investigated further as it seems there is extensive passage development above here. The usual long, slow drag out was enlivened by Steve’s continuously eclipsing carbide gobbler. The BEC/ICCC contingent were suitably impressed by the trip. Gets easier every time.</p>			
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Cornwall	Carnglaze Slate Caverns (mine) 28/7/83 Guide + tourists	½ hr	Carnglaze	Show mine near St. Neets. A fairly interesting trip around three typical (medium sized) slate quarry chambers. No extra embellishments and a well informed young guide. Methods of working, geology, mining tools etc are all very lucidly explained. The site is very peaceful and not over well signposted. Worth a visit if one is travelling through Cornwall.
Somerset	Wookey Hole 29/7/83 Jane, Al Mills, Dany, Pete Hann,?, Bob Drake, Jeff Price, Colin the Screw, Tony Boycott, Rob Palmer, Jonathan Roberts	50m	Wookey Hole	The divers were practicing with the Kirby-Morgan equipment and stretcher – for use as sump rescue equipment. Jane and I took the opportunity of a free trip. Had a look at the lads trying to drown Colin and then wandered through the cave – safe in the knowledge that Pat Bryne (my builder) had erected most of the catwalks in the “Divers’ Caverns”. A pleasant little fester enlivened by the sight of Pete Hann pushing a bicycle around the 3 rd Chamber!
Somerset	Swildons Hole 30/7/83 Michael, Leroy, Pete Bolt (Cardiff UCC)	55m	Priddy	Took Mike and Leroy on their first trip – the Upper Series of Swildons. Went to the top of the “20” and into one of the oxbows. The lads enjoyed themselves and we didn’t lose Leroy in the dark as he was wearing a yellow boiler suit! Very dry conditions but just enough water to make it acceptable.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 6/8/83 Graham (UG) Summers (NCC) Matthew Tuck, Quiet John	4hr 40m	Priddy	Usual long slog to the bitter end, losing Quiet John and Matt at the squeeze before Lolly Pot. Graham and I dug about eight bags of gravel/mud from the superbly draughting terminal crawl and then staggered out again – meeting Jim Smart, Neil and Mark on the way. Knackering trip. John found about 100’ of avens/passage below Gladman Shaft. Possible connection with the side rifts off Regent St. UG wasn’t over impressed!
Hampshire	Fort Widley underground tunnels 9/8/83 Guide + tourists	10m	Portsmouth	A series of 8’ high x 6’ wide tunnels carved in chalk below this 1860 Portsmouth defence fort. They were dug to provide communication from the central underground magazine to the gun positions around the perimeter. They are both bricklined and natural chalk walled and were dug by Cornish and Welsh miners. A very interesting guided tour around the fort (which was never used as Napoleon III’s forces were defeated by the Prussians before they could attack Portsmouth).

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Isle of Wight	15/8/83. Brief visit to Freshwater and Watcomb Bay to look at their respective caves. Unfortunately the tide was right in and all entrances were unapproachable, though Watcomb Bay was easily reached via:-			
Isle of Wight	Tunnel		Watcomb	Roomy artificial tunnel in chalk about 60’ long

	15/8/83 Alone		Bay	from a brick/concrete “bunker” leads down to the bay. On the land of Fort Redoubt so perhaps it was driven to provide access from a gun emplacement or similar.
Isle of Wight	Tunnel Watcomb Bay Caves Freshwater Cave 16/8/83 alone		Freshwater	Unfortunately the tide was still too high for proper exploration of these caves. The highest entrance of Watcomb Bay Caves was entered but the boulder chamber could not be reached without waist deep wading or swimming. I then visited the much illustrated Freshwater Cave – a Victorian tourist attraction – but could only get into the two most westerly sections – the second being entered by a short but flat out crawl over shingle with an eye-level view of the English Channel! Luckily there were no surprise waves to make it even more exciting. Returned by wading knee deep round the edge of the buttress. Photos were taken of the entrances. Another visit would probably be worthwhile in low tide conditions. Ref: Caves and Caving 15 (Feb 1982) p.21. “Sea caves of the Isle of Wight” – Terry Reeve. Note:- A recent cliff collapse at the eastern end of Watcomb Bay may have destroyed Anemone Cave unless it is further around the headland. (Later found – but main entrance collapsed).
Isle of Wight	The Nostrils 17/8/83 Alone		Bembridge	Two adjacent 100’ long sea caves in chalk at the SE point of Culver Cliff. Ref: T.Reeve’s article above. Pleasant walk and interesting caves. Best to visit on a hot day when the bikini tops are dispensed with!
Isle of Wight	Tunnel Watcomb Bay Caves Anemone Cave Arch Cave Freshwater Cave 18/8/83 alone	½ hr	Freshwater	At last – successfully explored all of the easily accessible caves – the Boulder Chamber in Watcomb Bay Caves being the most impressive section. The new landslip has definitely covered the main entrance to Anemone Cave – only small hole through hairy chalk boulders letting in daylight. The rest of the cave was entered by waist deep wading. The “phreatic domes” in Arch Cave noted by Terry Reeve may merely be unfinished blowholes. As for Freshwater Cave – there is no modern resemblance to any of the 19 th century engravings (Brannon) as far as I could see. It would appear that a seaward development of the system has collapsed over the last hundred years. Another print which I have of Watcomb Bay also has features no longer visible i.e. a rock “needle” and a flight of steps to the beach. How long will the rest of these caves last?
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Somerset	Tynings Barrows Swallet 22/8/83 Tim Large, Edric Hobbs	2hr 50m	Charterhouse	Very fast trip to “A Day” where Edric and I shifted a considerable amount of spoil from the LH wall where the bang of 28/5/83 had blown the proverbial “Seven barrels” out of a bed of shale – giving us some 4-5 foot of progress. Tim meanwhile constructed a silt trap upstream and then laid and fired 2 ¾ lb of bang. Usual satisfying crump. Reasonably fast exit noting that the sump below Velcro Passage had practically dried up in the prevalent weather conditions. Useful trip though late out for tea and the pub. Some 30 foot of low passage can be seen and if the shale bed continues it will be relatively easy banging.

Somerset	Gough'sCave 23/8/83 Jane, Fiona, Tim, Harry Bennet, Nik and Peirce Barrington, Richard, Chris Bradshaw, Paul Hodgson, Terry? + many others.	1½ hr	Cheddar	Intentions were to remove some building sand for the fire breasts. On arrival I found that NB and Co. were filming for BBC and TSW and a still photographer was doing an article for the Western Daily Press. This was because the team were installing a £1,000 purpose-built railway line. Assisted Nik with his filming by holding and aiming the battery lamp. Gave up on the sand idea due to lumps of clay in it and the general melée. Entertaining evening.
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Eastwater Cavern 27/8/83 Tim, Pete Bolt, Howard and Debbie Limbert (NCC) Al Box, Noddy (The Georgies) (NCC)	7hr 20m	Priddy	<i>See below</i>
Digging trip to the end of Greek St. Bloody awful digging conditions in thick / thin mud and gravel banks – lying full length and poking with one hand or even one finger! Eventually, with the aid of Howard and the Geordies I managed to squeeze up a slope of sand in a phreatic tube to emerge into some 20’ of roomier, sloping phreatic rift. A small hole at the downslope side possibly dropped down to water – certainly to the dry streambed while the RH wall was composed of thick mud banks – evidence of severe sumping in this area. At the far end a body sized hole led on but I was too tired to attempt it. I assume the draught goes through this but due to misting up it was not obvious. We all then made a slow, knackered retreat – stopping at the Lolly Pot squeeze for Tim to fire 1lb of bang as he was still unable to get through. “Light Pox” attacked most of us on the way back and Noddy lost his carbide lamp. Pete Bolt, having photographed the pretties, lost himself – three times. He also lost most of his overalls and the arse of MY furry suit. NCC were suitably derogatory about the cave but were impressed by its potential. What a lousy bloody hole!				
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Somerset	Tynings Barrows Swallet 17/9/83 Tim Large, Howard (DSS) Dougal (GSS)	2 ¼ hr	Charterhouse	Digging trip to the end. Smelt of WD/40 all the time due to having had it sprayed on an errant wetsuit zip. About 10’ of progress made by Tim digging out shale and gravel by hand. No bang laid this trip but it will be used again in future to provide headroom above the streamway. Headaches and heavy breathing at the end could indicate CO ₂ or bang fumes build up. Used rope for entrance pitches which made coming out quite sporting.
Somerset	19/9/83. Quick look at Horseshoe Hole dig entrance. Nice timber platform/bridges and wooden incline have been erected by Robin Gray and Co. Obviously takes a lot of water in flood. Looks good.			
Somerset	Compton Martin Ochre Mine 21/9/83 Alone	25m	Compton Martin	Quick visit and ramble around the workings with the intention of “mining” a bag of ochre for use as a fireplace mortar dye. This was duly accomplished, as was the retrieval of an 8’ length of curved tram line. An identical piece was left in the mine.
Somerset	Ebbor Gorge walk with Jane, Jenny, Vin Garbutt, Edric and Sandy. Looked at two caves, one on RH side below the Narrows and the other further down on the left. Merely rock shelters.			
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Eastwater Cavern 3/10/83 Tim Large, Barry Wharton	6½ hr	Priddy	<i>See below</i>
Sporting trip to the end in wet conditions. Water was first heard at the dig into West End Series. There was no water coming down the 80’ aven but a good stream could be heard in the Soho passage area. We carried on down Greek St to find that a torrent of water was pouring out of the roof on the LH side and disappearing into a tight descending passage where it emerged at the 25’ aven lower down. From here it flowed on down to the end. We removed a few bits of rock from the squeeze and Tim and Barry successfully passed the obstacle. The 50’ pitch, Lolly Pot, was nice and wet – very refreshing! A rawlbolt was then inserted at the head of the “6 foot” climb and a piece of gash ladder permanently installed. The dig at the end was half full of water so, while Tim stood guard, I pushed				

	<p>through into the extension enlarging the water outlet en route. At the end of the 20' rift I followed a high level solution tube at the top of the rift. This had a 2" layer of sticky mud on the floor making progress difficult. After some 20' of unpleasant progress the tube turned sharp right and bored up at an angle parallel to the main passage. After some 70' it turned left and closed down to a 4" gap. Low passage could be seen beyond but there was little draught showing that the main howling gale follows the stream. The streamway will now have to be dug but in the present conditions this would be difficult, dangerous and unpleasant. We should now concentrate on the upper levels. On the way out we set off some "smoke bombs" at the draughting hole near Tim's squeeze. Regent Street was checked as far as the Serpentine but no smoke was detected – this may show that the draught goes into a so far unentered extension of these upper levels.</p> <p>Smoke bombs were also lit in the Strand area (and almost choked to death). No sign of the smoke was detected on the way out though we may have beaten it. Good sporting trip but very hard work.</p>			
Devon	14/10/83. Photographed a copper mine chimney at Owlsfoot, S.Tawton, Devon. Very little else here in the way of remains and no obvious open entrances or shafts.			
Cornwall	18/10/83. Working in the Redruth area. Visited open shaft at Higher Rosewarne, between Redruth and Camborne. Nothing remaining of interest.			
Cornwall	19/10/83. Camborne-Redruth areas. Noted various mine sites such as South Crofty, North and South Roskear, West Wheal Basset, Wheal Grenville, Basset United Mines, Mount Wellington Mine and Wheal Jane. There are so many sites and surface remains that it is difficult to take it all in. There are scores of immense and well preserved engine houses – many of which will hopefully be preserved.			
Sutherland	Creag nan Uamh Bone Caves Uamh an Claonaite Allt nan Uamh Stream Cave 22/10/83 Mac, Rachael Clarke (Ivan Young, Desperate Duncan, Butch and family, Pete Pryce, Pete Reynolds, Nick Milton, Goon, Paul Saville, Murdo McLeod, Milche, Julian Walford, Bill Miller)	5m 1h 25m 2hr	Inchnadamph	Once again – GSG Annual Dinner Weekend! Another superb "do". Mac, Rachael and I visited Claonaite via the first Bone Cave – Down to Sump 3 then back via the loop through Mud Chamber in Capital Series – an excellent bit of passage. The cave was nice and wet and in fact was sumped off the following day. Met Ivan and the maypoling party at Sump 1 by-pass where Desperate had just knocked the ladder into the sump then aborted their trip! The three of us, plus Ivan, then headed over to ANUS to join the team pumping out the static sump dived by Martyn Farr. Julian and Milche had dragged a Suzuki generator and a borrowed Dounreay pump to the cave and a strong team were engaged in pumping and siphoning operations – unfortunately to little avail due to the high water conditions at the time. After stopping for a fag a few of us visited nearby sink chamber where a muddy passage above the sink was excavated. Paul, Ivan, Rachael and I returned to the main series for digging kit, doing a couple of the usual tourist loops in the process. Back at sink chamber the new dig was excavated for some 4 feet before boredom set in and everyone returned to the surface – the pump having broken down also. A bloody pleasant day's caving but somewhat disappointing as to results from the projects.
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Sutherland	Cnoc nan Uamh System 23/10/83 Sav + family, Mike (?) + Jane, 3 dogs, Mac, Marilyn, Jane, Butch, Ivan, Pete D, Rachael etc etc	15m	Inchnadamph	Sunday hangover – clearing walk up the Traligill valley as far as Cnockers where we looked at the very wet Waterslide and stood around in the dry entrance avoiding rain and hail. Some actually went properly underground – notably Rachael.
Somerset	Gough's Cave 27/10/83 Tim, Ian and Lisa Henderson, Paul and Elsa Hodgson + 2	1½ hr	Cheddar	Thursday evening digging trip. Took Ian and Lisa on a tourist trip through the show cave, noting several flying bats in St. Pauls. In Solomons Temple Ian produced his Northumbrian pipes and played a selection of

	dogs, Harry Bennet, Chris Bradshaw + 4 others.			tunes – made really fine by the superb acoustics of the chamber. At the dig a huge amount of sand was removed (to the sound of the pipes) and taken out of the cave to be dumped in a skip. The railway is very successful and the dig is going well.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 29/10/83 Tim Large, (Alan? + lady – WCC)	3¾ hr	Priddy	<i>See below</i>
<p>Tim and I took down a 6’ poggling bar and a hammer and investigated several sites between the entrance and the Boulder Chamber. In the entrance ruckle itself there was nothing obvious heading towards the “upstream” sections of West End Series, though some interesting avens and tubes were found. Likewise the Dining Room and top of 380’ Way yielded nothing of interest. Two places at the base of the Upper Traverse were prodded and there could be extensions off these, though blasting would be necessary – this could be a route into the unknown course of the 380’ Way stream.</p> <p>We then carried on to Boulder Chamber to check on the chances of re-opening the dangerously loose route to the Boulder Ruckle. Several hairy passages and avens were looked at and eventually we arrived at the MRO “DO NOT PASS THIS POINT” notice. Just beyond here the LH wall was solid and the streamway and passing cavers could be heard. Not relishing the return through the Traverse we dug and crowbarred at this site for about half an hour. Suddenly a voice was heard in front and Alan (Wessex) appeared and he was able to reach us and take the hammer. With digging from both sides now possible we soon enlarged the crawl to enable me to get through followed, after more digging by Tim. This route is fairly horrific and will need a lot of stabilising before it is a safe “trade route”. Earlier in the trip things were enlivened by my (actually Tim’s) Nife cell cable shorting out and giving off two hissing jets of smoke! The cable had actually melted but was fixed with the aid of Tim and a bit of old neoprene found in the Traverse. A useful trip.</p>				
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Cornwall	7/11/83. Tolgus Mount trig, Cornwall. Ruins of surface buildings and deep shaft noted. Odd drill bits lying in hedges nearby – one of which was retrieved on 8/11/83. This site appears to be Morccom’s Shaft of South Wheal Tolgus.			
Cornwall	8/11/83. As above, plus a visit to the portal of Dolcoath Deep Adit near Roscoggan, driven in the late 1760s. The entrance is open and would be well worth exploring as, amongst many other mines, it drains part of South Crofty.			
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 12/11/83 Quackers, Tim Large (Brian Prewer and Jim Rand (WCC) on surface)	2 hr	Priddy	Radio-location trip to the c.70’ high aven above the Baker’s Chimney by-pass. This had previously been climbed by Quackers and Co. to a point where large boulders blocked the way. After finding a goat skull at the top the place was christened Goatskull Aven. A successful location was achieved using Brian’s gear and we could actually here the surface team banging rocks together. It is estimated that there is 27 feet of overburden. The fixed position is in the field SE and above the entrance and is where deprssions have been infilled. It could be dug using a JCB and putting in a back-filled adit. It would be a superb pitch entrance into the cave.
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	St. Dunstan’s Well Cave 12/11/83 Pete, Alison, Tim, Glyn, Pete Hann, Al Keen, Sarah, Kev (CSS), Pete Glanvill + 3 + victim, Fred Davies	2½ hr	Stoke St. Michael	Call out at around 8.30. Bloke caving with Cerberus is stuck in a squeeze at the cave. I picked up Pete and Alison and headed off to Fairy Cave Quarry. Tim Large had gone underground and Pete, Alison and Pete H followed. I then spent a couple of hours ferrying kit, running messages out, gardening the entrance passages. The victim, 25 years old and supposedly “experienced” had taken the wrong route at the end of the cave and became jammed head down in a tight rift. He was very shaken up and his legs were getting badly numbed. Luckily he could be reached from both sides and after a lot of struggle his belt was cut off and he was extricated – a very lucky bloke. This rescue

				could have been very serious and potentially fatal due to his position. Once he was okay the trip became fairly enjoyable despite having missed the Hunters!
Devon	14/11/83. Working in the Plympton area. Visited the surface plant at the Hemerdon Mine near Plympton. This large site is to be, hopefully, re-worked for tungsten and tin. New dressing equipment etc has been installed. Several capped shafts were noted on the hill above the plant. Two old mine chimneys were also noted in this area – those of Bottle Hill Mine and Wheal Sidney.			
Devon	Pixies Hole Cow Hole 15/11/83 Quackers		Chudleigh	Drove across to Chudleigh from the DSS hut with the intention of one hour or so's caving. On arrival at Pixies Hole we found that the entrances had been closed with steel grills and notices erected inside saying that the cave was now a locked bat reserve and access could only be obtained by contacting the Clifford Estates. Pissed off by this, we looked at the short but roomy Cow Hole nearby. We were then collared by a bat enthusiast who checked for our having got permission and then was quite reasonable after a few minutes talk. It seems rather over doing it to completely gate the only large, easy and relatively lengthy cave in this area – considering that it has always been open and regularly visited.
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Devon	Dart River Cave (Black Rock Cavern) 16/11/83 Quackers	35m	Buckfastleigh	Large cave entrances at the riverside below Bully Cleaves Quarry lead to a wide and low bedding cave – well silted up and with the odd heap of rubbish and concrete support to stop the road above from falling in. Downstream – the Lake – is a nice phreatic 7' diameter tube which was not followed to the lowest entrance as we were in dry grotts. From the bedding plane a low, dry inlet passage was followed for about 200' to a grotty little sump. One or two small side passages exit. Interesting in its own way but somewhat uninspiring.
Somerset	St. Cuthbert's Swallet 19/11/83 Pete and Angie Glanville, Tim Large, Martin Delamere, John, Pete, Steve (Southsea SS)	3hr 40m	Priddy	Tourist trip with Pete G taking a few photos of formations. Visited Coral Chamber, Rocky Boulder Series, Pearl Passage and Long Chamber – not necessarily in that order! The Southsea mob were not in a very good state – one was tired and ill and another had light, boot and body failure. Apart from that, and a few close calls with loose boulders, we had a pleasant ramble around this incredible system admiring all the pretties.
Somerset	Twin Titties Swallet 23/11/83 Brian Workman, Fred Davies, 3 NHASA, (Brian Prewer, Glyn Bolt, Phil Hendy + other NHASA at surface)	1hr 40m	Priddy	Wednesday night NHASA digging trip. I was amazed at the amount of clearing which has been done at the entrance. As well as this, a wooden "plateway" has been installed which should make spoil shifting from the end much easier. While those above mended steel ladders, sawed wood etc a few of us shifted a dozen bags of mud and Brian added more wood to the plateway. An excellent evening digging site that looks very promising.
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Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 30/11/83 Dave Turner + son, young lad, Brian Walkman, Martin	1hr 25m	Priddy	Wednesday evening NHASA digging trip. Much work was done in enlarging the area immediately below the concrete tubes and in removing the full spoil bags from the end of the cave. A vast amount of mud and rock was winched to surface

	Bishop, Richard Kenney (Fred Davies, Don Thompson, Chris, Eric Dunford on surface)			giving plenty of room in the entrance chamber. An excellent hauling system and Brian's strong poly bags are superb.
Belgium Namur	Laide Fosse 3/12/83 Josh, John (Speleo Nederland) Barrie Wilton, Mac, Bob Cork, Matt Tuck	1¾ hr	Rochefort	Arrived at the Speleo Nederland hut at Bohon on Friday 2 nd after getting rigid in various bars at Barveau and missing the Dutch lads who were getting rigid in Durburg . On Saturday there were several persons too ill to go underground but eventually seven of us went over to Rochefort and visited this steep swallet cave on the Plateau d'Hamerenne above the town. A descending gallery lead to a 30' climb up with various reasonably well decorated passages beyond, including a 60'+ aven. An interesting system which gives one the feeling that there must be a lot more to be found. Some delay caused by the usual hordes of slow moving novice Belgian cavers. The name of the cave can be roughly translated as "Ugly Shaft".
Belgium Namur	Grotte de Han 4/12/83 Pieter Goosens, Laurens Smets (Speleo Limberg) Mac, Matt, Barrie, Bob	3hr 20m	Han-Sur- Lenc	<i>See below</i>
Following the above trip we stayed in Rochefort sampling loads of bars while Josh and John returned to Bohon for Pieter and Laurens. Sometime after midnight we drove to a field near the main entrance of the Grotte de Han showcave where we got changed into dry grots – Laurens and Bob putting on wet suits so that they could swim up the river from the resurgence and open the locked, steel door nearby. While they did this we sidled from tree to tree around the lit up restaurant building in order to avoid being spotted. All went to plan and we were soon inside one of Europe's premier tourist caves without permission! We followed the tourist track through the cave via the café (where we played with the party helium balloons floating there) and on to the underground river. The atmosphere in the cave was superb – the occasional lit up electric light and mist rising from the river all added to this, plus the illegality. Laurens and Pieter moved a plastic dinghy down to the river and using a rope we ferried ourselves across to the far side where the entrance to the Reseau Sud series led off. The gate here was unlocked so off we trooped along the muddy pathway with an electric cable laid at its side. Several hundred feet of dry and easy passage was followed to a low bedding section where Barrie and Matt gave up – being in their surface clothes. The rest of us went on and after a section of stream passage and loose rifts we emerged in a large, wide chamber full of leaning white stalagmites and columns – a beautiful and impressive spot. After a quick look round we returned to the others and then all headed out, pausing only to switch on the lights in the huge main chamber – a tremendous spot. An incredibly novel and bloody amusing trip! Back at hut 5 am.				
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Belgium Namur	Tunnel de Lustin / Resurgence Lucienne 4/12/83 Barrie, Mac, Matt, Bob, Pieter, Laurens (S.L.) Pieter, John, John, Franch, Josh (S.N.)	2¼ hr	Lustin	Drove across to the River Meuse area, all feeling tired and hungover. First stop was the "Café du Rocher" – a speleo pub with a particular novelty – it has its own cave leading out of the back room. Called the Grotte d'Alexandre it is some 600m long and after being shown the entrance by the friendly "patron" we were told we could go down next time we were visiting. Our planned trip for the day turned out to be even more novel than the pub cave – a system entered by climbing 30' up the wall inside a working railway tunnel! We were told that this was also an illegal trip as the police sometimes remove potential caving parties. The tunnel passes under the Rocheur de Fieff – a rock bastion containing several caves – at least one of which could possibly be linked to the Resurgence Luceanne and will probably be connected by local cavers when the railway line

				is electrified in the near future. On reaching the entrance, a couple of hundred yards inside the tunnel, we were amazed to see a caver's head poking out of the entrance 30' above the tracks. This belonged to one of a German team who let us climb their ladder. From the entrance a tight tube leads to a stream passage (which rises in the tunnel below) and an awkward, small ascending tube. This was followed with difficulty up into a large fault passage where a series of crawls, traverses, rifts and cascades continue. We followed a route through these to a well decorated high level chamber where we called it a day. Many other cavers were in the system and an amazing mixture of German, English, Flemish, French and Dutch could be heard. A very interesting system and definitely a "must" for the visitor. Once again an excellent Belgian weekend with very good company.
Sussex	13/12/83. Noted the entrances to the several short caves in sandstone above the Old Town at Hastings, Sussex. Lack of time and a bad cold put paid to any exploration.			
Somerset	Swildons Hole 18/12/83 Alone	1 hr	Priddy	Quick morning "hangover cure" trip to Sump 1 (16 minutes). Gentle stroll out (¾ hr). Noticed a new entrance above the "flood entrance" – possibly Britain's most novel cave entrance – right up through the centre of the tree near the blockhouse! If it could be passed it should add 15' of depth to the cave!
Somerset	26/12/83. Twenty four assorted NHASA, MRO, WCC and BEC, plus two dogs enjoyed the traditional Boxing Day walk – this year from Priddy Slitter in Cheddar Gorge to the Hunters. Several interesting depressions were noted en route.			
Somerset	28/12/83. "Land Rovered" the NHASA winch to Halloween Rift. Those present – Trev, Mike Thompson, Quackers, Edric, Martin and Glen, Jenny, Alan Thomas, Tricia and 3 dogs. (plus the farmer's son).			
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Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 28/12/83 (Phil and Lyn Hendy, Jim Hanwell)	½ hr	Priddy	No-one turned up until too late to do any useful work. I went down alone and folded and bagged a few grotty poly bags which Lyn and Phil later took to the end. Superb wooden "Cresta Run" in place.
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 30/12/83 Trev Hughes, Quackers, Rachel Clarke (Alan Thomas at surface).	3hr 10m	Wookey Hole	Superb, mild and sunny day! Trev dug about 25 sledge loads of mud and rock from the end of the crawl which we then hauled back and dumped in the LH passage. Alan, and later Quackers, prepared the entrance for capping. A very useful day's work.
Somerset	31/12/83. Trev, Fish, Liz, Sam the dog, Alan, Quackers and I transported compressor pipes to Halloween Rift and Trev and Quack played with the drill in the entrance. Ross and his new lady also visited. (1983 – a very successful year for Mendip caving and cavers).			
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 3/1/84 Quackers, Trev, Edric, (M.Bishop's dogs visited)	1½ hr	Wookey Hole	A good day's work clearing rubble, clay and bang debris from the entrance shaft giving us plenty of room for further work and bucket hauling. 11.30am – 4.30pm with some forty or so bucket loads removed. A bit more work needs to be done to clear the floor down to bedding plane level.
Somerset	4/1/84. Took Luarens Smets and Peter Goosens (Speleo Limberg) on a quick visit to the NHASA Wednesday night digging team at Twin Titties Cave. They seemed quite impressed by it all.			
Somerset	Swildons Hole 5/1/84 Laurens Smets, Peter Goosens (Speleo Limberg)	1hr 20m	Priddy	Quick burn-up to Sump 2 and back to clean off vehicle repair stains etc. The Dutch lads thoroughly enjoyed the cave which was nicely wet and sporting.

Somerset	White Spot Cave Cox's Cave G.B. Cave 6/1/84 Laurens, Peter, plus Jack and Jane in Cox's	- ¼ hr 2 hr	Cheddar Cheddar Charterhouse	Took the lads down Cheddar Gorge on a tourist trip. Went into White Spot without lights then carried on to look at the entrances to Gough's, Cox's, and Waterfall. Decided to pay up and have a tourist trip into Cox's Cave. In the afternoon we went to Great Chamber and Bat Passage in G.B. – both were relatively easily found much to my amazement. Again the lads were impressed with Mendip caves.
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Kent	Canterbury Cave Ness Point Sea Cave Bay Cave 16/1/84 Peter Blower (OS)	½ hr	St. Margarets-at- Cliffe	Surveying in the Dover / Folkestone area. Wet Monday afternoon visit to St. Margarets Bay to explore this very interesting phreatic chalk cave – some 350' of hands and knees passage with flint nodules and scalloping – similar to Beachy Head Cave but with larger passage diameter. The end looks fairly uninspiring for digging, though CSS cleared some 45' in a passage off to the left during the 70s. Pete's first caving trip which he seemed to enjoy. Also looked at two nearby short sea caves at Ness Point and gained a view through a hole in a brick wall blocking "Bay Cave". This revealed a walking sized, draughting, mined tunnel, presumably an old military site connecting with similar tunnels higher in the cliff face. (Rather novel to sit looking out from Canterbury Cave entrance and watching the cross channel ferry heading out into a stormy and foggy English Channel!)
Kent	Zig-Zag Path Caves 19/1/84 P.Blower (OS)		Folkestone	Four or five rock shelters in sandstone forming part of a landscaped footpath zig-zagging from the sea road to the town above. Possibly originally sea caves, all have been enlarged by man and provided with cut benches and (now unused) light fittings.
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 29/1/84 Trev Hughes, Edric Hobbs, Gary Lewis	3 hr	Wookey Hole	A concerted spoil clearing trip to remove bang debris from Brian Workman and Dave Turner's trip. Thirty or so sledge loads removed. Gary's first trip for five years!
Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 8/2/84 John, Bri Prewer, Phil Hendy, Bob Wakeman, Dave Turner and Son, Eric + 1 (Surface: Jim Hanwell, Albert Francis, Don Thompson)	1½ hr	Priddy	Removed several bags of mud and rock from the end using a strop and hook system – very effective. Brian went down to lay a shaped charge but in the meantime Dave Turner dug into open passage – though it will have to be dug further to progress.
Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 15/2/84 Dave and Alan Turner, Brian W, Brian P, Eric, John Ham, (Albert, Dan T, Phil H)	1hr 40m	Priddy	About 30 bags of mud and bang spoil removed. Good draught inwards. Extremely cold at surface.

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Somerset	Pierre's Pot 18/2/84 John Chew (MNRC) Robin Gray, Chris Castle	55m	Burrington	Tourist trip into this newly extended system found by Pete and Alison Moody. Some 600' of labyrinthine phreatic passage – generally roomy. About eight bats in residence. A very pleasant, dry and easy cave. Couldn't find the tight and
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				difficult passage which leads to the Pseudo Nash's Hole entrance. Nice trip.
Somerset	Harpree Combe Mines 18/2/84 Jon Roberts (MCG) Robin Gray, Chris Castle	5m	East Harpree	Noted four open mine levels in the very pleasant Harpree Combe. We entered one of the largest for some fifty feet (without lights) until it appeared to be blocked. Must return for a proper look.
Somerset	(Twin Titties Cave) 22/2/84 John Prew, Dave T, Alan T, Don T, John Ham + 1, Albert Francis		Priddy	Stayed on surface emptying and off-loading bags and working the winch. About 30 loads taken out. Pissed down with rain continuously.
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 25/2/84 Trev Hughes, Brian Prewer, Ricky Sellers (PCC) Mark (PCG)	2 hr	Wookey Hole	Continued removing spoil from the end – about 20 sledge loads shifted. Trevor thinks it is possible to continue by digging and that bang is unnecessary for the present.
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 26/2/84 Edric Hobbs, John Chew, Trev Hughes	1¾ hr	Wookey Hole	More spoil removed – about 12 loads. The new sledge then split and we jacked it in, leaving Trev to carry on breaking rock at the end. This place does not improve!
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 3/3/84 Trev Hughes	2 hr	Wookey Hole	Trevor had done some exhausting mid-week digging and had passed the terminal obstruction revealing some 15' or so of impassably low crawl leading on. We went down with the hope of passing this low section. I dug first while Trev cleared from behind me. The flat calcite floor was easily broken up and removed at first but soon became well cemented together and bloody tough – very difficult to remove in the confined conditions. I managed to gain some 6' or so and could see an enlargement of the passage some 8' ahead – this appears to be a cross rift. Trev then had a quick bash before we were forced to retire and prepare for the (excellent) Wessex "Balch and Before" party. With either a few hours hard work with hammer and chisel or a banging trip we will be in to new ground – hopefully Wookey 22.

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Hampshire	8/3/84. While working in the Basingstoke area, Alan Winstanley (OS) and I had a quick look at Little Tunnel Bridge on the disused and partly filled in Basingstoke Canal. Unlike my last visit (Log Book II) the tunnel was not fully accessible, being used as a hay barn! A bloody good idea but what happened to the theoretical restorations?			
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 9/3/84 Trev Hughes	2 hr	Wookey Hole	Trev reckoned that only one foot of chiselling would gain access to the open passage – following a bang by Tim Large during the week. Suitably refreshed we went down with full intentions of reaching Wookey 22. About half an hour's difficult work provided just enough space for me to squeeze through into eight feet of relatively roomy passage with only a 2" high way on at the end. Thoroughly disappointed we cleared a bit more allowing Trev to view the new bit and then headed out. More blasting will be needed to reach the next (possibly) open section some 4 feet beyond the 2" high bit. I hate this bloody dig!
Somerset	St. Cuthbert's Swallet 17/3/84	2hr 50m	Priddy	To Sump 2 carrying poly bottles and got sacks in preparation for the great summer baling operations! Down via the normal route i.e.

	Tim Large, Chris "Bollix" Castle, Neil "Burdie Nonsense" Weston, Alan (BEDROC), Keith Gladman			Rabbit Warren etc. Back out via Railway Tunnel, the Fingers, Mud Hall etc. A couple of the dams will need repairing before operations commence. Very pleasant trip.
Somerset	26/3/84. Jim Hanwell, Tim Large and I met the Ass. Deputy Fire Chief for Somerset, the First Fire Officer (Taunton) and the Cheddar Station Officer. Visited Cuthberts and Swildons entrances in preparation for a forthcoming Fire Brigade pumping practice. Surprised the Wells firemen at Eastwater!			
Somerset	Swildons Hole 27/3/84 James Cobbett	2¾ hr	Priddy	Nice, wet sporting Round Trip. Found the way fairly easily. James fell off quarry chimney and twisted his ankle and, as usual, nearly stayed permanently in Bang Squeeze; apart from these minor upsets a nice refreshing trip. Cobbett's first Round Trip since the late sixties.
Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 28/3/84 Dave and Alan Turner, Phillip, Andy Nash, Bri Prewer, Don Thomas, Eric, Albert Francis, John Ham, Fred Davies, Richard Kenney	1hr 25m	Priddy	Removed 30ish bags of mud and rock from end of cave following major slump of week before. Way on (?) appears to head under boulder ruckle. Vast amount of crap to be removed before further progress can be made.

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Somerset	7/4/84. Trev Hughes, Tim Large, Alan Downlow (BEDROC), Graham Proudlove (CPC) and myself spent the afternoon at Hallowe'en Rift. Trev and Tim used the compressed air drill to put in two 2 foot shotholes which Tim banded. Alan assisted underground while Graham and I looked after the telephone and compressor, mended a fence, collected firewood etc.			
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 14/4/84 Alan (BEDROC), Andy Lolly	1¼ hr	Wookey Hole	Cleared bang debris of previous weekend. Two rabbit burrow sized passages lead off. Much more banging to be done and little space left for dumping spoil.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 15/4/84 Tim Large, Robin Gray, Andy Lolley	7hr 40m	Priddy	The aims of the trip were to survey beyond the squeeze before Lolley Pot and for Tim to bang the eyehole above the squeeze. We all entered via the dangerous crawl into Boulder Chamber – well worthwhile for the amount of time it saves (and effort). Unfortunately, on reaching Gladman Shaft we found that the bang wire had been taken out (probably by me!) and so Tim was unable to place a charge. Andy and I continued to the bottom, Andy being suitably impressed by Lolley Pot – named after him. The whole cave was very dry and so after Andy had been through the terminal wet tube and lowered the pool level a bit, I joined him. We then surveyed out from the end of the inclined inlet tube right back to Tim's squeeze – a foul job in the inlet tube and crawl. The main line of the new series from entrance to end is now complete. After re-joining the patiently waiting Robin and Tim we began the long, arduous drag out – all emerging totally knackered and battle-scarred at 8.20 pm – 1 ½ hours overdue! Fiona and Alan (BEDROC) were waiting at the entrance to see if all was OK. First trip of the Eastwater 1984 season and bloody hard work it was too. A bat was found hibernating in the connecting crawl between Soho and the Strand in the new series. Where the hell do they come into the cave from? It would seem that there is a "bat sized" open route to the

				entrance ruckle area. Usual howling draught at the bottom – most going into the choked streamway and some up the inlet passage. There must be major cave beyond here.
Devon	Kent's Cavern 18/4/84 (guide + tourists)	40m	Torquay	Standard tourist trip done during lunch break (accuracy test at Newton Abbot). Pleasant, informative and factual guide. An interesting show cave with mediocre but nicely pastel coloured formations. Vast amounts of algae, moss and ferns. Well worth a visit if one is in the area. A huge amount of spoil must have been dug from the cave during its archaeological investigations.

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Ireland Co. Clare	Doolin Cave System (St. Catherine's 1 – Fisherstreet Pot) 21/4/84 Barry Wilton, Colin Dooley, MacAnus, Phil Romford	1¼ hr	Doolin	First trip of the holiday. Started off with a few pints in O'Connors where the Bristol Poly lads assumed we would stay instead of caving. They were somewhat surprised when we overtook them (after a couple of more pints!) in St. Cath's 2 streamway. We then hammered on down to Fisherstreet Pot leaving a straggling Colin to delay the Poly lads. Being pissed we hardly saw any of the underground scenery but it was still an excellent trip – as usual.
Ireland Co. Clare	22/4/84. Barrie and I went "Burren Yomping" in the Canon area, near the Castletown River sink. We concentrated on the Glen of Clab and a large depression shown on the Robinson map as Poll an Bhallain. This almost alpine valley yielded nothing but a small rift/rock shelter and the Poll was a partly cliff-walled doline with no related caves. We then walked for a couple of miles through thick scrub/limestone pavement back to the car. Not a thing was found, but we did come across a fox which we watched at close quarters for a while until he realised our presence. The Poll an Lochain area (Coskearn) was looked at but Coskean Cave not found.			
Ireland Co. Mayo	Aille River Cave 23/4/84 Chris Blitz Smart, Karen, Martin Grass, Graham W-Jones, Mac	2hr 5m	Aille, Westport	Drove eighty miles up to the village of Aillee, below the Partry Mountains. A large stream sinks here under an extensive cliff. The cave beyond was dug into by CPC but probably first explored by BEC (Wig and Roy Bennett). A shakehole entrance drops into a wide and very gloomy stream passage. This is followed for several hundred feet to deepening water where the flowing stream is lost. The long, oppressive canal is several hundred feet long – mostly deep wading or swimming – to a sump. Partway along a climb leads to a further series of canals – one being of exceptionally cold water – beyond which further passages and canals lead back to the active streamway. Here it is both deep and sportingly fast – the best bit of the cave. Unable to use the two 11 foot climbs as a shortcut we returned the same way. No eels, trout or "unidentified things" (CPC) were spotted. I was thankful to be wearing a life-jacket in this strange and apparently horrifically flood prone system, even though recent waterworks at the resurgence have lowered the water levels by about 2½ feet. Not the most enjoyable of places but well worth a visit once. Much more pleasant in the convivial bar of Donny Mcging where all the old surveys, newspaper cuttings and CPC journals were shown to us by the landlord – who remembers every caver who has been there.

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Ireland Co. Clare	24/4/84. Prospecting, sunbathing and watching Phil digging day in the Faunarooska and Pollapooka areas. One hole was found which was dug open to allow access to a chamber with choked passages			
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	leading on. Phil dug this for a while without success. Entrances to Pollapooka 1, Pollapooka 2 etc were looked at. Phil, Mac and I then walked straight down the mountain to O'Donohue's Bar to meet Barry and Colin who had left us earlier. Bit of a wasted day but excellent sunshine and scenery.			
Ireland Co. Kerry	Crag Cave 25/4/84 Mac, GWJ, Martin, Blitz, Karen (John "Ben" Gunn, Pete O'Neill and lady MPCC) (C. Westlake, B. Weaver, J. Cooper CDG) (Daniel ? SWCC)	3 hr	Castleisland	Drove 70 miles south, via Killimer Ferry to this Kerry county town where while sat in a bar, we noticed Clive and Co. passing by. Surprised them by our presence! On to the cave where we met its main explorer, John Gunn, who went into excited detail about the place. A lady friend of his then took us into the old cave entrance below Crag House and we were led to the 1983 extensions where we trundled round by ourselves while the explorers either carried on with the survey, photographed or pushed passages new (some 300 metres + had been found by diving a 2 metre sump). We followed the main passage – past Mines Tirth – a large hall, up to the Northern Wastes where draughting boulder chokes would yield further passage if dug. Then back via the Cliffs of Erbyn Mud to Theorems Road and Helms Deep. Much of the time we were following only a couple of sets of footprints in large and superbly decorated phreatic bore passages with deep sediment and cobble floors. Mac and I then left the others to follow the Crag Cave streamway out through deep pools and silt to emerge at the shakehole leading into J.K's (Lower) Cave. This was followed out through a duck (two ducks in my case) to emerge at the entrance to Crag Cave 2. A superb trip once again and well worth driving down from Clare for. There is obviously a vast amount more passage to be found in this amazing system.
Ireland Co. Clare	Coolagh Rover Cave (Polldonough – Polldonough South – B9A) 26/4/84 Blitz, Mac, Barry, Phil	2¼ hr	Lisdoonvarna	Blitz, Mac and I entered the system via the main entrance of Polldonough, hoping to remember the route down. I failed this at the second bedding plane and after we had retraced our route and bugged about, Blitz tried the bedding again and succeeded in getting through to the main streamway where we met Phil and Barry who had come in from Polldonough South. We left them to head out through Polldonough and carried on to the Terminal Sump. Back out via the rope climb up to P. North. This is a dry, traversing passage eventually lowering to a grotty, rubbish strewn bedding plane where we decided that we had missed the entrance and that a rubbish and broken glass filled hole on the RH side would be the quickest way out. Blitz dug his way up this amidst showers of old Guinness bottles to emerge in a dead thorn bush blocking the hole (B9A). All emerged through the crap to find the real PN bedding plane entrance nearby. This would be reached by continuing along the grotty crawl from B9A. A fine trip in a beautifully water sculpted master cave. Very dry conditions added to the enjoyment as the flood debris 60' up in the roof is not usually conducive to a relaxed trip!
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Ireland Co. Clare	Aillwee Cave 27/4/84 Mac, pretty guide	20m	Ballyvaughan	Ended the week with a standard tourist trip in the show cave. Just Mac and I being guided by a tasty young colleen who belonged to the local "Clare Crawlers" Caving Club. Her delightfully

				innocent nature and reference to “stalactites, stalagmites and colyims” added much to this otherwise somewhat uninspiring show cave. Another bloody good holiday in Clare!
Somerset	30/4/84. With several other MRO Wardens I attended a fire service rescue practice (pumping operation) at St. Cuthberts Swallet. Two fire tenders and the rescue Transit turned up, together with Wells and Taunton firemen and a host of top brass, including the S. of England Home Office inspector. An interesting hour or so watching these very efficient operators.			
Devon	3/5/84. Visited the Pengelly Cave Research Centre Buckfastleigh, Devon. All locked up and no-one about. Has been vastly improved since my last visit.			
Somerset	Eastwater Swallet 5/5/84 Tim Large	3½ hr	Priddy	Surveying trip to West End Series. Followed the Strand uphill from Organ Grinder as far as a 20' aven with no way on. Had a fag break and natter to Mark and Phil Dunk (Shepton) who were passing through with Martin Webster. Then surveyed down dip to the end of the Strand and also into the aven below Morton's Pot (?). I climbed this for some 22 metres to where it is too tight. This is the top and only tight rifts lead off at the sides but it does draught very strongly. A pleasant, useful trip though very sweaty. No water in the cave (except the ever-flowing Magic Fountain).

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Devon	Bickington Pot 14/5/84 Alone	¼ hr	Bickington	A hole at the back of the quarry near Bickington Church drops straight into a roomy chamber leading to a descending rift. The entrance pitch was done with a 25' ladder belayed to a bit of old iron fence wedged over the entrance! The lower part of the cave was not visited due to possible problems of not being able to get out easily and the fact that I was alone. Two or three bats in residence. Unfortunately the quarry is being used as a tip and much of the crap falls into the main chamber where it has created a foul, stinking mess. I assume the lower entrance is closed and that the upper one will also be before long. It would be a pity to lose this interesting, though short cave.
Devon	Little Africa Cave Pridhamsleigh Cavern 15/5/84 Alone	1¼ hr	Chudleigh Pridhamsleigh	Attempted to gain access to Pixies Hole by visiting the estate office at Ugbrooke House – no-one in so had a look at the still firmly locked entrances before festering about in the woods and the grounds of Rock House, finding a hole with a fixed rope hanging down it. This was descended for 12' or so to emerge in a low cave entrance. This is Little Africa Cave – well frequented by kids and appearing to be part of an obstacle course! Then across to Pridhamsleigh where a pleasant and muddy time was had scrambling around the cave. Found the way to the Lake relatively easily where I sat reminiscing and listening to the fine echo. Back to Bishop's Chamber by a different route. Looked at several other passages but could not easily find the route to the Well – I suspect it was beyond a slippery traverse/climb which I did not attempt alone and wearing slippery wellies. Despite the mud this is an interesting system with a very attractive phreatic pocketed grey limestone ceiling.
Devon	Pulsford Cave Three Holes Cave	10m 5m	Torbryan	Pulsford Cave was found to be 160' of relatively roomy phreatic passage – well used by animals –

	Broken Cave 16/4/84 Alone	-		<p>either fox or badger. Several diggable ways on were noted and the end not pushed due to lack of suitable clothing. A surprisingly pleasant and promising site which would be well worth digging if permission could be gained.</p> <p>Three Holes Cave – Archaeological site in the pleasant Torbryan valley. Phreatic rift development with three entrance and usual horde of cave spiders. Painted lines and numbers on the walls date from the 1955-61 archaeological dig. Again, a good cave dig.</p> <p>Broken Cave is not described in “Caves of Devon” but appears to be the segment of 10’ diameter phreatic tunnel just above Three Holes Cave – almost a natural arch.</p> <p>Other local caves were not visited due to dense undergrowth and general debility.</p>
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Devon	Afton Red Rift 21/5/84 Bill Tolfree, Jeff, Chris (DSS)	1hr 20m	Afton	<p>Evening trip to this very interesting phreatic rift system near Totnes. The entrance is 20’ up the side of an old quarry face and leads into a cave formed essentially on one major, winding rift with a couple of large, reasonably well decorated chambers. The ceiling is generally the usual light grey Devon limestone with white and pink tracery of calcite. Much of the walls are coated with bright pink mud and flowstone – hence the name of the cave. There are many small pink and white formations, including helictites. No bats seen but they do inhabit the cave. We visited the short, tight Lighthouse Series – with its short, white-topped stal boss, thence to Cascade Chamber and Mud Hall – coming out via the lower part of the main rift and Watkins squeeze. Entertaining evening’s caving trip – well worth a visit.</p>
Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 23/5/84 Phil Hendy, Dave Turner, Albert, Bob Bri Workman, Al Turner, Fred Davies, Bri Prewer, Mike, John Ham, Don Thompson, Eric, Howard Kenney, Phillip	1½ hr	Priddy	<p>Dave, Phil and Bri shored up the bottom of the dig while Alan and I loaded 30 or so bags from the ledge. Brian, Mike and Co heaved these to the base of the entrance pipe and the others cemented in the shaft and later heaved bags to surface. A lot of work done. Birds’ nest with young just below entrance lid!</p>
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 26/5/84 Quiet John Watson, Nick Hill (SMCC)	5¼ hr	Priddy	<p>Surveying trip to the high level passages above Wardour St – named Upper Wardour St. Plenty of water going down the cave which made 380’ Way a bit damp. We first went down Morton’s Pot where three smoke bombs were let off. Then directly to Snotrom Aven where no trace of the smoke was found – although there had been a distinct smell of the stuff just below the Magic Fountain.</p> <p>We carried on to Regent St and I took Nick on a quick tour of the pretties before commencing the climb up into Upper Wardour St. We followed this to its termination and then surveyed back from here, taking in one major side passage and checking other climbs, avens etc en route.</p> <p>A steep and very interesting series which must get close to the surface. Several holes in the floor</p>

				drop directly into Wardour St – up to a hundred feet below. A tight side passage near the end may be worth pushing – there is passable open passage beyond. Good trip – very worthwhile. I actually felt fit!
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Somerset	27/5/84. AM. Radio location and surface surveying at Eastwater Cavern. Located position of S'notrom Aven – 68.9 metres down. PM. Radio location of Morton's Pot – 41 metres down and 3.5 metres displaced from previous RL position. Interestingly close. Those present:- Bri Prewer, Trev Hughes, Bollix, John Riley, Mac, Tim, Al Bedroc, Lisa, Phil Hendy, 2 dogs. Rain stopped play regarding surface survey.			
France Corrèze	Grottes de Lamouroux 2/6/84 Jane	¼ hr	Noailles	A series of over eighty artificial chambers on five levels excavated in a long sandstone cliff and used as refuges and dwelling places in Medieval times. English crusades and local religious wars made sites like this very necessary. This complete cave town includes stables, houses, a chapel, etc. A rough tourist path goes through most of the chambers, some of which are entered by wooden ladders. Refs: Sabine Baring-Gould – “The Deserts of Southern France Vol.1” and “Cliff Castles and Cave Dwellings”.
France Lot	Grottes de Lacave Gouffre de Padirac 3/6/84 Jane + tourists	1hr 25m 1 hr	Lacave Padirac	AM. Lacave – A reasonably attractive show cave, entry of which is from a natural entrance chamber from which a long inclined tunnel has been mined leading to the base of a small shaft fitted with a lift (and stairs at the side). The mined tunnel is traversed in an electric train – very exciting on the downslope return trip! Above the lift shaft is a large and well decorated chamber with a continuous heavy drip pouring in from the centre of the ceiling. A dry passage is first followed amongst many fine formations before returning to the chamber where a descending passage is followed down to an active streamway. Amongst the superb formations here are excellent active gours. Beyond is a further section of streamway which is very poorly lit with “black light” (ultra violet). This fails to do anything spectacular to the pretties which merely glow slightly white in the pervading blackness. The tourist route ends at a chamber full of helictites – all well protected by wire mesh. Not as wonderful a cave as expected but worth a visit. PM – to Rocamadour for a wander around this fine Medieval cliff town followed by the standard pilgrimage to Padirac. Unfortunately the Dome Chamber could not be visited (closed for re-decorations?) and so only the boat trip to the Rain Lake (Lac de Pluie) could be taken. A hell of a lot of water was passing down the entrance shaft and the whole cave was very wet getting the tourists fairly soaked. An incredible place of only for the highly professional tourist-processing.

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France Dordogne	Grotte de Rouffignac Abri de Gorge d'Enfer 4/6/84 Jane + tourists	1hr 10m	Rouffignac Les Eyzies	Drove across to Lascaux hoping to visit the recently built carbon copy of the cave called “Lascaux II”. Being a Monday this was unfortunately closed but I believe it is well worth seeing. Then across to the cave of Rouffignac
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				<p>which included another underground electric train ride through several hundred metres of huge, almost white walled phreatic tunnels containing many line drawings and engravings of mammoth etc. plus lots of other graffiti of all ages. An amazingly extensive system which must go for miles. Practically no formations were seen. Many bear pits and thousands of cave bear scratch marks all along the walls of the cave. Well worth a visit.</p> <p>During a trip around the outdoor zoo at the Gorge d'Enfer we had a look at the enormous rock shelter/cave near the mouth of the gorge. Many prehistoric remains have been unearthed here and at other shelters nearby. The living examples of bison, mouflon, etc. in the zoo are meant to give visitors an idea of the prehistoric fauna but their imprisoned nature is hardly conducive to this.</p> <p>The fantastically well designed museum of prehistory at Les Eyzies was also briefly visited. This contains many artefacts and sections of engraved rock shelter walls.</p>
France Lot	Grotte Préhistorique du Pech-Merle 5/6/84 Jane + tourists	1¼ hr	Cabrerets	<p>Possibly the finest show cave I have ever seen for its variety of interest. A superbly decorated system in white limestone with many fine outline paintings of mammoth, bear etc and the incredible spotted horses for which the cave is famous. Amongst items of speleological interest are superb cave pearls, helictites, roof tubes, and the rare and spectacular disc formations – semi-circular shields of stalagmite formed on two planes by capillary action/crystallization. The cave was found and extended by local cavers in the twenties, the last chamber opened to the public containing a 20' long tree root emerging from the ceiling and reaching to floor level. An informative and (almost) bi-lingual guide made the trip more interesting. Included in the admission charge was a visit to the well laid out museum and a film show on the local prehistoric painted caves. A must!</p>
France Ariège	Grotte Préhistorique du Mas d'Azil 5/6/84 Jane + Citroen!		Mas d'Azil	<p>Drove through this huge highway cave en route to St. Giron. Must stop one day for a proper look!</p>
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France Hautes/Basse Pyrénées	Grottes de Bétharram 7/6/84 Jane + Italian and French tourist Pilgrims	1¼ hr	Bétharram	<p>Having stayed the previous night in the nearby motel, this cave was an obvious choice to visit. The huge entrance complex includes a teleferique station where tourists board the ski-lift cabins and are whisked a kilometre over the hill to the top entrance of the cave. Here, a large and well decorated trunk passage is entered and a ramble through the large and impressive but generally dry formations is undertaken. A series of tape recorded messages in several languages is very helpful to the hordes of international tourists here, fresh from their visits to the cave shrine at Lourdes nearby. In this upper level there are also very good examples of anastomosis and major roof tubes. From here a descent of 270 steps down a collapsed pothole reaches the lower level – essentially a streamway in a high and narrow</p>

				<p>rift. The short boat trip halfway through here is a complete joke and appears solely of use as an advertising feature to attract tourists, i.e. air trip, boat ride and train ride! A few hundred feet more walking along and above the stream leads to the underground station where a fast exit by electric train is made. An excellent and well presented show cave which must have a vast amount of other passage. The Département border is passed underground.</p> <p>PM. Drove to Tardets and up to the Pierre St. Martin col and border pass. After passing the empty French custom shed the road was completely blocked by deep snow drifts and a view of the Lapineaux shaft could not be gained.</p>
Spain Santander	Cueva de Estalactitas 9/6/84 Guide	5m	Altamira	<p>Camped near the superb old village of Santillana del Mar. The Altamira caves are some two miles from here so off we went for a look, only to find that bookings were necessary to enter the main cave and only 35 people a day were admitted – it was also fully booked until September. We were forced to make do with a look around the uninspiring museum and then I had a visit to the short stalactite cave nearby. Though short, it is very well decorated and free (!). The usual Mother-Child, Pekinese Dog, Teeth etc were admired. The very pleasant Spanish guide received a 50p tip.</p>
Spain Santander Oviedo	Cueva de Altamira Cueva de “Tito Bustillo” 10/6/84 CA, Guide + 4 Spanish tourists CTB, Jane + tourists	25m 45m	Altamira Ribadaseña	<p>AM. Just on the highly unlikely off chance that one of the 35 a day booked up visitors would not arrive, I drove up to Altamira and hung about for an hour or so. At 11.15 the woman attendant gave me the nod that there was a spare place (a small boy being removed from the party of five about to enter the cave). Not stopping to ask questions and very grateful for the chance I joined the group of 4 and guide. Though only a short visit to a single chamber of the cave, it was an experience not to be missed. The more extensive portion of the cave is only open to researchers but the main painted chamber is visited with its incredible polychrome ceiling frescoes of bison and deer in rich shades of red outlined in black. By crouching down and at one point lying on an earth bank, the animal paintings could be studied in all their glory. Fantastic – and with only a handful of people present some of the true atmosphere of the site can be felt. Everyone entering the cave has to don rubber overshoes to aid against possible pollution of the pictures – this accounted for the guide wearing official uniform and bedroom slippers!!</p> <p>In the afternoon we drove along the coast road to Ribadaseña where the fine cave of “Tito Bustillo” was revisited. Since my last trip here in 1970 the beautiful girl cave guides have been sadly replaced by dour young men. The cave is still well worth a visit though the prehistoric paintings at the end are not shown to their best advantage – though this may not be a bad thing. (Drove through Picos d’Europa, Orrión etc.)</p>
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Spain Santander	12/6/84. Drove through the Matienzo area near Santander noting the excellent potential and Yorkshire like limestone mountains of the district. Attempted to visit the Cuevas de Covalanas near			

	Ramales but they were locked and the guide absent - probably in Ramales where he should be contacted in the winter season. A low lying limestone area near Aso, on the coast, was noted and a cave entrance in a roadside shakehole looked at. Hundreds of other dolines noted in this essentially crop farming area.			
Somerset	17/6/84. Trev Hughes completed the first part of his tacheometric contour survey of Eastwater Cavern depression while I held the staff and generally "field assisted". We were interrupted midway by a call out for a lost diver (Simon Brooks) in Wookey Hole – and later stood down when he safely emerged.			
Wales Gwent	18/6/84. Working in the Abercrave area. Noticed a large depression in a millstone grit / limestone area on the higher slope of Cribarth mountain near Dan-yr-Ogof. Probably of doubtful interest.			
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 24/6/84 Tim Large, Phil Romford, Mike (ex MCG)	3hr 5m	Priddy	Digging trip to the boulder choked corner en route to Regent St (banged by Tim and Phil the previous Wednesday). Fast, pissed trip down – 20 min to Magic Fountain. Phil rummaged his way up through the boulders and entered new passage. He then spent about an hour throwing rocks and boulders back down – some of which blocked our exit. One particularly large block sealed Phil in! After about ½ ton had been played with we all joined Phil in the new bit which was unfortunately blocked ahead by hairy looking boulders – though a roomy section of passage could be seen beyond. We then retreated, with me knocking a large boulder almost on top of Mike. Rapid exit.
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Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 30/6/84 Pete and Alison Moody, Rich Webrell, Quiet John	5hr 35m	Priddy	Digging / pushing trip to the bottom. Pete, Rich and I tried to bash off a rock flake at the bottom of Blackwall Tunnel while Alison attempted the squeeze at the top of the Tunnel. Having little success with the flake we passed the hammer and chisel to Alison who, with assistance from Rich, managed to clear enough rock and stal to get through the squeeze. She was unfortunately stopped by a further squeeze which needs banging. There is a tight bedding leading on and it draughts like hell. After another abortive attempt at the bottom flake we decided that also needs bang. Alison then dug at the stream sink to reveal a solid rock eyehole with a tight rift beyond – yet another bang job though she thinks the other two prospects are better. Left all the tackle in and exited via Regent St noting that Tim's bang of Wednesday night had demolished the offending boulder choke – though we left it for him and Phil to explore. Another knacker trip though the Wessex contingent were very impressed with the place.
Montgomery-shire	3/7/84. Noted the workings of Craigymwyn Mine near Pistyll Rhaiadr. A huge mass of spoil descends down the hillside from a large openwork at the top.			
Montgomery-shire	Llangynog Mine 4/7/84 Alone	12m	Llangynog	A brief wander around the mine site noting the infilled Boundary and Chirk Castle shafts and the horse whim circle above these. The old Powys section of the mine, beyond the open quarry, was looked at and the blocked portal of Cady's Level was found. This draughted strongly and a few minutes spent removing loose rock and timber gave enough space to enable me to creep warily under the highly suspicious timbering of the first 10m or so into solid rock passage. The level was followed for 120m to a collapsed area, still draughting strongly but which I thought unwise to attempt alone. 28m prior to this was found a

				crosscut blocked in both directions after a few feet with an open, inclined raise above – not entered. Much of the level still contained sleepers and oblong bar rail. The bar section rail rested in slots in the sleepers which were simple logs of wood. Probably connects with possible open workings on the hillside above.
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Shropshire	4/7/84. Another visit to the superb surface remains of Snailbeach Mine. Photographs of the highest engine house and octagonal chimney were taken. Surface remains (very little) at the Bog Mine were looked at. Landscaping and tree planting is taking place here.			
Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 11/7/84 Dave Turner, Bri Workman, Albert Frances, John Ham, Mike, Rich Kenney	1½ hr	Priddy	Brian and the rest concentrated on removing the last section of runway and replacing it at a steeper angle while Dave and I poked about and dug at the bottom. This is now a large working area at the foot of a shored section. Dave decided to dig down in the floor instead of forward into a calcited choke. After an hour of bagging up mud and small stones, I broke into a gap between larger, clean washed rocks. This was about 4' deep and the crowbar could be pushed a further 4'. The rocks slowly slumped down and one rumbled onwards – looks interesting.
Somerset	Tyning's Barrows Swallet 14/7/84 Tim Large, Alan "Bedroc", Chris "Bollix" Castle, Mark Lumley (LADS)	3hr 20m	Charterhouse	Digging and banging trip to the end, not having been down to the dig for months. On arrival we decided that bang wasn't needed and that we could easily dig out the floor and stack the spoil on the pipe. Tim and I then cleared a good 10 feet of passage and a further 10 feet or more will take very little digging to get into. CO ₂ build-up eventually drove us out and Mark had a quick dig. Before leaving Tim put 12ozs bang on the low section at the end of the (now silted) "canal". This should make the squeeze easier and allow more air flow into the dig. On the way out we spent five minutes or so digging at the dried up sump in the main passage near Velcro Inlet. A possible small way on can be seen and it may be draughting. Will take an entrenching tool down next time as this sump could connect with passages from Aardvark Trap area. A useful and pleasant trip.
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	Swildons Hole 15/7/84 Dave (BEC ex MCG), Alison Moody, 3 Herts Scouts (victims)	½ hr	Priddy	Callout approx 8.40. Four scouts lost (?) in Swildons upper series. Met Chris Batstone on the Green shortly followed by the arrival of a bird from the lost group. They were assumed to be at the top of a 12' pitch. Dave went ahead with spare carbide lamps and found them at the Water Chamber – cold, knackered, lost and lightless. Alison and I turned up shortly after and they were assisted out with no problems. One was the Hertfordshire Scouts County Caving Advisor!! They were duly repentant and thankful, providing ale at the Hunters later. The cave was completely dry. This is what living in Priddy is all about!

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Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 18/7/84 John Ham, Rich Kenney, Bri Prewer, Phil Hendy, Fred Davies, Phillip, Albert	1½ hr	Priddy	Fred, John and I loaded about 40 bags from the base of the shaft. Phil, Brian, Phillip and Fred engineered and trimmed the dig at the bottom. An excellent evening's work.
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	Francis, Mike, Fred Felstead. (GWJ and D.Turner visiting).			
Somerset	Swildons Hole 19/7/84 Derek and Shell Targett	1½ hr	Priddy	Derek’s first trip for 14 years and Shell’s first trip ever. A reasonable stream going down, showing that Sunday’s dry conditions were probably due to pumping. Down to Sump 1 – thoroughly enjoyed by all.
Somerset	St. Cuthberts Swallet 20/7/84 Tim Large, Phil Romford, Barry Hunt (Earby PC)	2½ hr	Priddy	Transported two modern hand pumps to Sump Two, in preparation for the big push. Barry had a hard job keeping up but we still made the pub before 10pm. The pumps were tried out and are excellent.
Somerset	St. Cuthberts Swallet 21/7/84 Mac, Butch, Alan “Bedroc”, Laurence Smith, Dave Cave-Ayland, Barry Wharton, (Bob & Sue Jones (PCG)), Andy Sparrow, Andy Cave, Chris Castle, Trev Hughes, 2 Victoria CG Andy Middleton, Rich Payne, (Jeremy Henley), John Watson, Adrian Bxxx, (Alasdair Neill (PCG)), Peter RaXXage (PCG)	5¾ hr	Priddy	See below
<p>Big Push Day. Mac and Butch’s teams were all in the cave by 11.30 and pumping was soon underway. The MRO telephones were set up and I manned the headphone in the Belfry library – unfortunately it didn’t work until the two Andys went down at 13.00 and found a break near Plantation Junction which they repaired. After a couple of lunchtime pints, Trev and I went down with more phone wire to extend the lines to Sump 2. Met Dave Cave-Ayland and G repairing the Beehive Dam. Extended the lines to the dam below the 10’ pot using already sited bang wire for the last stretch. Very good reception established – even to the extent of my being able to talk to Jane, at home in Priddy, by Tim holding the MRO phone to the Belfry pay phone! She was suitably impressed even though I couldn’t make it out to attend our own barbecue!</p> <p>On reaching the sump it was obvious that there were too many people there – those not pumping were just hanging about and getting cold. The two pumps were set up in series and on our arrival the bottom of the 6’ pot had just been reached. In the next couple of hours or so the sump was drained another 3’ deeper and for about 15’ in length. A point was reached where the passage is a phreatic tube / bedding plane descending with the dip and with a silt and gravel floor. By 8.00pm there was simply not enough air left for the man in the sump dig to breathe properly due to excess CO₂ build up. Also, the dams were practically overflowing at the bottom of the cave and a potentially dangerous leak had already occurred at the second one up. Mac did a “little Dutch boy” act with his knee and the panic stricken sump diggers relaxed a little.</p> <p>Having got further than on previous baling trips we were reluctantly forced to pack in at this point. An attempt was made to force the tied up plastic containers into the sump but these jammed before the 6’ pot. They need to be tied in twos or threes to make this project feasible. The dams were all released and we wearily headed out for the pub. Mac had been in the cave over 11 hours – a bloody good effort.</p> <p>Despite the lack of major progress here the day was a great success in that we have learnt a great deal from it. The pumps were superb – though they need longer hoses and preferably a third or even fourth pump. A better shift system of available manpower is necessary, and many of the dams need repairs or better bungs. Next time we’ll crack it.</p>				
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Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 1/8/84 Bri, Mike + son, Phil, Martin Grass, Fred,	1hr 40m	Priddy	A few bags of spoil were removed from the end and from the bend at the top of the main hauling slope where a winch is to be erected. A section of steel shoring frame and some shuttering was

	Bri P, Richard, Don + 3, Albert, Eric			installed.
Somerset	G.B. Cavern 2/8/84 Derek and Shell Targett, John and Jeremy Riley	1hr 5m	Charterhouse	Evening fester as far as bottom of Gorge. For me it was a lightless trip. John and I – who have been there before – were as equally awestruck with the place as those who hadn't. The cave was very dry and I saw the mud banks at the bottom of the Gorge for the first time.
Monmouth-shire	Otter Hole 4/8/84 Martin Bishop, Bob Cork, Dany Bradshaw, John Riley, Brian Johnson	8 hr	Chepstow	Made it here at last! Over-tide trip supposedly led by John Hutchinson who chickened out when given the opportunity. I can now understand why! Entered the cave at 9.30am to find the sump dry. We fairly rapidly continued on to the sump and up into the main extensions as far as the sump in Tunnels Left, admiring the incredible formations en route. They have to be the most spectacular in Britain, though the usual thoughtless vandalism has been perpetrated on those adjacent to the paths. My favourite area proved to be Great Straw Chamber – an incredible sight with its 15' long straws and superb white crystal basins. Back out by swimming through the Eyehole as the sump dropped. Exit at 5.30pm A rope was used on the 25' pitch as we had forgotten the ladder. This proved to be probably easier than a ladder. I hereby state that the foul, awkward, strenuous and totally shitty entrance series is a definite collector's item. A cave to be done once only. The usual BEC witticisms livened up the trip and in retrospect it was a bloody good day out.

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Somerset <i>Discovery</i>	Eastwater Cavern 11/8/84 Tim Large, John Watson, Pete and Alison Moody	6hr 10m	Priddy	John and I surveyed Soho and the loop passage above the Organ Grinder – the latter being superbly decorated with hundreds of fine helictites. John then departed and I carried on to the bottom, meeting Tim at the 6' pot. Pete and Alison had gone through to the end and laid 2lbs of bang on the terminal squeeze and on the squeeze passed by Alison on the last trip. This was fired as I arrived. After waiting some 20 minutes or so they returned to the site and Alison got through for a further 10 feet before being stopped by another constriction. This was blasted with another 2lb and we all left the cave. The way on could be seen as a tight descending tube for some 25'. Looks good according to the absolutely filthy Pete and Alison. Tim and I avoided going into the grotty bits.
Somerset	Swildons Hole 12/8/84 Stu Jarratt, Rheinhart (Bremen, Germany)	1 hr	Priddy	Swift tourist trip for Stu and Rheinhart as far as the top of the 20' pot. Both enjoyed it despite – or because of – the lack of water. Two points of interest:- 1) Fair sized stream emerges at the base of the old 40' pot, 2) 20' long passage with false floor noted on the left just before the Twenty. Pleasant little fester.
Norfolk	Grimes Graves (No.1 Pit) 15/8/84 Alan Wynstanley (OS), Roger Smith (OS)	10m	Weeting	While working in the area we had a quick look at these Neolithic flint mines – one of which has been excavated and opened to tourists. A covered 30' deep shaft some 20' wide is descended by step ladder. Several open, low passages lead off driven in chalk and show the flint bedrock which

				was sought by the miners for working into high quality tools. The workings were mainly opened out using deer antler picks and stone tools. There are hundreds of other (infilled) pits in the immediate vicinity, many of which would connect underground if fully excavated.
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Somerset	Tynning's Barrows Cave 18/8/84 John Riley, Quiet John	2¾ hr	Charterhouse	Spent half an hour digging at the dry sump which we assume connects with Aardvark Trap passage. Much clay and sand needs to be shifted so we gave up and continued to the bottom where a few bags of gravel were painstakingly dragged out from the dig. Tim's spoil of a previous trip was also dragged back. The passage continues low and wet for another 15' or so. Hard work digging.
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	<p>19/8/84. Call out in the morning to Swildons Hole – three cavers from Evesham supposedly overdue from an overnight trip having come to Mendip by train. Alan Bedroc and Lisa had spotted a party at 10pm on Saturday going down the cave. Tim, Andy Cave, Mac and John Chew went down to check Swildons 4 and the Round Trip – meeting Al Bedroc and Chris Batstone who were just emerging from a 6 trip. They promptly returned to check 4.</p> <p>Lisa stood by at the Belfry and Brian Prewer and I waited on the Green, later joined by Phil Romford. At this point four cavers, who were changing on the Green were questioned by Brian and found to be the victims! They had a car, only one was from Evesham and they had only entered the cave at 8am Sunday morning! It was apparent that there had been a major cock up over callout times. The sister of one of them had phoned the police 12 hours too early! After a suitable bollocking by Brian the callout was stood down. The surface party managed a couple of pints at the Hunters then waited for the underground teams to emerge. Tim's party had actually talked to the victims on their way down – both parties not realising that they were the ones being searched for!!! Such is life.</p>			
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 21/8/84 Phil Romford, Ian McKenzie (ASS Canada)	2 hr	Priddy	The intention of this Tuesday evening trip was to photograph Ifold's and West End Series ready for the BCRA Conference talk by Phil. At Dolphin Pot the camera was produced but failed to fire off the flash units and was abandoned. We carried on to the end of Regent St for the benefit of Ian (Alberta Speleological Society) who was interested in doing a few Mendip caves on his British caving tour. He found it quite sporting.
Somerset	Gough's Cave Sayes Hole 24/8/84 Cheg, Aileen, Katherine Chester, Tim Large, Chris Bradshaw and Co. (Cheg)	1 hr	Cheddar	Tim, Chris Bradshaw and Co. were drilling and blasting in front of Skeleton Pit to allow the public a glimpse of the "underground river". Tim left the job for ½ hour to give us a guided tour of the cave for the Chester's benefit. Very good display of model cavers (by Robin Gray) near the Swiss Village. Cheg and I had a look at the almost completely dry Main Rising and stuck our heads in Saye's Hole, where Rob Harper and Simon Brooks are currently diving. Then into the Caveman Bar for a pint and back to Gough's Cave to listen to 60zs of gelignite going off. Excellent.
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Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 25/8/84 Chris Larkin (SASA Cape), Alasdair Neill + 1 (PCG), Duncan Price (EUSS) Peter	5hr	Priddy	Photographic trip for PCG, EUSS and SASA men and second ever trip for Peter. I intended to survey the rifts off Regent Street. Very slow going to West End Series, due to Peter's inexperience and having to carry all the ammo tins etc. Photos were taken from Dolphin Pot onwards but mainly in Regent St. Did one survey leg in the rifts before realising with horror that all my clino readings of previous trips were taken in the wrong scale (i.e. %) SHIT. Gave up at this point and all wearily headed out, Peter struggling

				most of the way. Not the best of trips but Chris was given a good introduction to Mendip caving and gave vent to a few choice South African expressions!
Somerset	St. Cuthberts Swallet 26/8/84 Keith Gladman, Bollix, Simon Brooks (DSS), Duncan Price (EUSS), 3 (BUSS), Chris Larkin (SASA Cape)	3½ hr	Priddy	Carried several small bags of cement (1 full bag total) to Beehive Dam where it was mixed and laid below the outlet pipe to help stop leaks. Dam left in. While Bollix and I started the mix the others carried a length of pump hose to Sump 2. Simon Bollix and I exited via the streamway following the telephone wire. Very pleasant trip. Chris thought the cave was “lekker”.
Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 29/8/84 Albert, John Ham, Don T, Dave + Alan T, Phil H., Mike Cooper, Eric, Rich? + 2	1½ hr	Priddy	Inserted corrugated iron sheets behind the steel shoring and dug at the base of the shored shaft, removing several bags of mud and an assortment of boulders. Looks good for continued digging back towards the airspace of 11/7/84.
Somerset	6/9/84. Twin Titties Cave – assisted on the surface together with Jim Hanwell, Fred Davies, Fred Felstead, Bri Prewer, Albert Francis, Bri Workman. Underground were Mike, Roger, John, John Ham, Phil Hendy, Eric, Rich Kenney, and Bob Whitaker. Thirty to forty bags of spoil removed.			
Somerset	Rodney Stoke Rising 9/9/84 John Chew, Bob Cork, Dany Bradshaw, Trev Hughes, (Tim Large, Fiona Lewis, Paul Hodge (BWW)	10m	Rodney Stoke	Assisted Trev with his pumping operations at the cave. Bob, Trev and Dany – being the only ones officially allowed in pushed the low, wet bedding plane leading on from the artificial chamber behind the “little green door”. They got in about 60’ to a sump before Paul decided that it was time to pack it in. Much of the rest of the weekend was spent at Wells police station doing an MRO stretcher hauling demonstration.
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Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Twin Titties Cave 12/9/84 Brian Workman, Dave and Alan Turner, Mike Thompson, Bob Whittaker, Roger, Andy Nash, John Ham, Albert, Phil Davies, Jim Hanwell, Fred Davies, John, Bri Prewer, Richard Kenney, Phillip	25m	Priddy	Breakthrough! I arrived fourth on the scene just as Brian, Dave and Alan were clearing rubble from the RH wall at the base of the shaft. Shouting back to tell all and sundry to bring lamps, we entered a 30’ long hading chamber full of straws up to 18” long and with a clean washed rubble floor. Three or four possible ways led on. At this point I left to give others a chance to see the place and Mike Thompson and I went out. Various other bods arrived and some went down for a look. Dave and Brian continued exploring. To be continued:-
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Eastwater Cavern 15/9/84 Pete and Alison Moody (WCC), Pete Watts (WCC)	6½ hr	Priddy	Pete and Alison intended to push the banged squeeze of 11/8/84. After a bit of chiselling this was passed by Alison who then reached a further squeeze. Pete then decided to bang the first section and then let Alison have another go. This was duly accomplished and while Pete W and I cleared mud from the slope at the bottom of Blackwall Tunnel, Alison passed the final tight section to emerge in a 10’ high decorated cross rift. To the left a strong inward draught indicated a connection with another part of West End Series. Fine formations have prevented a better look. Straight on a 6’ wide by 3’ high bedding plane sloped on down but at the time was full of bang fumes. A fourth way on lies above this. Pete M and I both tried to pass the second squeeze but Pete was too big and I decided aganst it as Alison was returning. This section of passage is a foul, muddy, tight, awkward shithole

				and adds yet another “collector’s item” to the West End Series. A second bang was laid on the final squeeze before we dragged ourselves out to the evening air. Now that it’s “gone” again (and big) we are going to have some long and bloody hard trips – let’s hope an easier way to the end can be found.
Somerset	19/9/84. Twin Titties Cave. Assisted on the surface, bag hauling and spoil tipping while about a dozen blokes visited and photographed the new chamber. Fred and Brian Workman fixed up the new winch which worked excellently. Present:- Dave Turner, Al Turner, Bri Workman, Fred Davies, Mike Thompson, Roger and John, Mike Cooper, Billy, Rich Kenney, Eric, Jim Hanwell, Phil Hendy, John Ham, Albert Francis, Bob Whittaker and son.			
Somerset	St. Cuthbert’s Swallet 22/9/84 Tim, Alan, Q.John, Pete Glanville, John Chew, Robin Gray, Howard Price + Mick Corser (EUSS), Dave Cave-Ayland, Butch, Pete Hiscock, Ivan, Phil (SMCC), Andy, Mike, (KEG), Tony, xxxx, Dave, Derek (EDCG), Lawrence Smith	5hr 40m	Priddy	Intentions of pushing Eastwater were thwarted by a rather stupid argument with Pete and Alison Moody, so Tim, Alan and I reverted to the original plan of joining the Cuthbert’s pushing trip. Mac, John Riley and others had gone down early with the pumps to commence operations. Chris Castle fell down Stal Pitch and was assisted out by Bob Cork. Various teams entered and emerged before Tim, Al, QJ and I went down. Pete Glanville and Co were operating the pumps, one of which we attached to the Showerings tubing by cutting the tube with Pete’s Swiss Army Knife. Combined pumping and bailing operations (both pumps in Sump 2) fairly quickly lowered the water level and just as Gour Hall Dam reached its full capacity the sump was down enough for Butch to get a foot or so further than last time and with his boots underwater he could feel loose boulders and was very enthusiastic about further progress, stating that another hour of pumping/digging may have seen us through. At this point all dams were overflowing and we hastily dragged the kit out, crammed the sump with bottles and headed out. Robin, Butch and John C went in front and pulled the plug on Gour Dam so we could see the result of a flood in Cuthberts 2. A fairly impressive little flood occurred but it transpired that only half of the water was escaping from the dam – it should be much better if it all came out at once! An excellent trip and surprisingly useful considering the state of the weather. Hope to get a team down tomorrow to see if the bottle system works. One pump unfortunately became parted from its frame but can still be used.
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Somerset	St. Cuthbert’s Swallet 23/9/84 Chris Batstone, Lisa Taylor, Alan Dainton, Howard Price, Mick (EUSS), John Riley, Mac, Dave Cave-Ayland (SMCC), Phil (SMCC), Ivan (SMCC), Andy (KEC), Dave (KEC)	8hr 20m	Priddy	Continuation of pumping operations. After all the usual hard work, though today with much less water in the upper cave, we managed to reach roughly the same point as yesterday before all the dams were filled. The poly bottles worked admirably and by using the Belfry garden rake a few rocks and bags of mud were removed from the sump. The passage continues on sloping gently downwards with no obvious rise in the roof or airspaces. We desperately need more pumping capacity and bigger and better storage dams at the bottom. It will take a lot of work yet before we crack this bastard. Cleared site up and dragged both pumps out.
Glamorgan	Dan-y-Graig Quarry Mine (1)	¾ hr	Risca	We were invited to S.Wales to investigate a potential Roman mine working recently opened

	13/10/84 Tim Large, Chris Batstone, Jan (Gwent Arch.) + 1 (Gwent), (Norman and Jill Tuck, borough Surveyor and son)			up in an active limestone quarry at Risca. A local man had previously visited this mine and another – probably more interesting one – in the same quarry. Only the one level was open and this consisted of a typical stooping level some 150' long – including various collapsing sections – almost cutting right through a spur of rock. Little of interest. The level appeared to be 17 th -19 th Century as it had distinct roof shotholes. A piece of clay pipe stem and a section of iron crowbar or drill were found. Apart from that it was a bloody good day out and most pleasant lunchtime/afternoon boozing session! See page 121.
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Yorkshire	Dow Cave 18/10/84 John Shaw (OS)	1hr 5m	Kettlewell	Working in the Huddersfield area. John one of our field assistants, fancied a caving trip (his father and uncle being Bradford PC members). We had an excellent evening trip to the superb Dow Cave in very high water conditions. A fabulous section of large stream passage was followed to the unstable Hobson's Choice boulder ruckle – possibly passable in normal conditions but emitting lots of water on this night. A hundred foot or so of Dowbergill Passage was followed to where the normally "ducked" passage was sumped. Some fine helictites noted along this section. Festered round the side passage for a bit before retreating, in foul weather, to the Blue Bell Inn for a couple of excellent pints of Tetleys.
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Eastwater Cavern 27/10/84 Pete and Alison Moody (WCC) Paul Wheybro (WCC + GCC), "Quiet" John Watson	7hr 10m	Priddy	<i>See below</i>
	<p>The aim of the trip was to push the new passages found by Alison on the 15/9/84. Pete and Alison pushed the squeeze first and the rest of us followed into a well decorated cross rift with a loose boulder floor. Up dip, this became tight after about 30' and was not pushed. A low passage led off to the left. Alison then checked a descending, wide bedding plane which choked after about 50'. Straight on a typical slanting Eastwater bedding plane was investigated by Pete and myself. This closed down up-dip and ended in a small sump down-dip. The whole passage had a layer of brown speckled flowstone from top to bottom. The passage from the up-dip cross rift enters here.</p> <p>As I was the only one in dry grotts I was volunteered to check the down-dip cross passage which had a crystal floor. Following this for some 50' or so I reached a 2' column blocking the passage with a view into a much larger gallery beyond. The crystal floor was sacrificed and all then joined me in the large passage after I had demolished the column. We then followed this 5' wide by 10' high, sandy floored gallery for about 40' to a very well decorated section where a c.40' pitch halted our progress. The view into the passage below was impressive, it being probably 15' wide by 60' high with the beckoning sound of a streamway in the distance – doubtless that which sinks below Blackwall Tunnel. Hoping to find an alternative way down we checked the top of a muddy c.30' pitch nearby and also a hole in the wall further back which sloped down to a 15-20' pitch – unfortunately not passable without tackle. Absolutely amazed and delighted we headed back to the up-dip rift where a draughting hole had been noticed under a stal bank. Part of the bank was demolished with the hammer until Alison could squeeze into a tight rift which led to a 3' diameter phreatic tube sloping down to the head of a further 40' pitch. Again, a ladder would be needed for a descent. This passage seems to be heading in a different direction to the main route. It being time to exit we forced ourselves back through the foul squeezes and headfirst descent of the top of Blackwall Tunnel to make our way slowly and painfully out, though the normal agony of the ascent was alleviated somewhat by the success of the trip. De-tackled everything except the top ladder of Gladman Shaft as the karabiner was jammed.</p> <p>The trend of the new passages is that of the rest of West End Series and judging by the size of the</p>			

	main gallery we are on to something big, probably the lower level of the main route Wardour St – Regent Street. It may be essential to try and gain a way in from Regent Street as pushing beyond the undescended pitches will be bloody hard work with very little chance of rescue in the case of accident. Excellent trip.			
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Northampton-shire	7/11/84. Visited the portal of Braunton Canal Tunnel. A gloomy spot.			
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Eastwater Cavern 10/11/84 Pete and Alison Moody, Pete Watts, Scaff Newton, Glyn Bolt (WCC), Tim Large (BFC) (Jeff Price (WCC))	9hr 20m	Priddy	<i>See below</i>
	<p>Aim – to push beyond the pitch found on 27/10/84. All tackle was taken in and the pitches were rigged. Geoff and Tim had a bit of a struggle through Alison’s Squeeze. The 20’ pot was laddered and I descended into the base of the 50-60’ high rift with the pitches above on the left. At the base of these pitches is a thickly mud coated area of huge boulders with the Greek St stream entering from a bedding plane and sinking down a tight rift some 20’ lower. This was not pushed due to its horrific nature. A visual connection with Geoff Newton (at bottom of Blackwall Tunnel) was obtained. This could be blasted to give a much easier way in. Pete Watts then climbed a muddy rift (the continuation of the main passage) for some 20’ to gain access to a fine section of passage, well decorated with muddy stal and with an excellent nest of pure white cave pearls lying on a mud bank. The passage was followed for a hundred feet or so to a descending, very low section. Alison dug her way through this into a small chamber with a wet U-tube beyond which Pete pushed into the continuation of the passage. This went for 50’ or so to a wet, low section where Alison turned back. A tight draughting rift leads on to the left but needs banging. We all then returned to Pete Watt’s pitch, checking various side passages en route. While brewing up at the pitch head Pete Moody checked out a short passage with a duck ending in a sump. A stream flowed here which was later found at the base of a steep phreatic ramp which I followed down from a wide bedding passage near the pitch head. Another steep, muddy ramp led down from here to a mud choke. Again, from the pitch head a steep muddy traverse could be forced through stal and boulders to reach the main dry passage and 40’ pitch head. By now it was late and we were all knackered so commenced our return. This proved to be hard work for Geoff and Tim on the tighter sections, the 20’ pot being a particularly unexpected bastard. Every inch of the way out was hard work, Tim remarking that it was the hardest caving trip he had ever done. Glyn Bolt failed to pass the squeeze above Lolley Pot and Jeff Price backed out at Alison’s squeezes. Alison’s 40’ phreatic pot was not descended due to lack of time but promises to lead to an entirely different series. They hope to explore this next weekend. This place gets worse with every new find. Arguably Mendip’s hardest trip.</p>			
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Somerset	St. Cuthbert’s Swallet 24/11/84 Mac, Trev Hughes, Chis Batstone, Pete Bolt, Henry Bennett, Barbera Hamilton (Cardiff UCC)	4hr 10m	Priddy	Mac and Co took two tackle bags of cement to Cuthberts 2 and Chris and I followed on via Traverse Chamber and Rabbit Warren. Conditions were fairly damp. At the first dam of the terminal dams we cleared the LH side of mud, etc. and re-cemented this with large boulders to 2/3 of its required height. At least one more good concreting trip is needed to finish this off and continue with heightening the dam wall. By this time Gour Hall Dam was overflowing and a wet trip out was made – Barbera having a couple of worrying moments in the ducks and on various climbs. Back out via Rabbit Warren and Traverse Chamber. Chris and Trev went out first and undid the valve to leave the entrance rift dry for our exit. This gave Mac, Pete and I the chance to climb up and down Arrete Pitch in the waterfall – very damp. Successfully extricated Barbera from the Entrance Rift. Good and useful trip.
Somerset	St. Cuthbert’s Swallet	3¾ hr	Priddy	Dam building trip to Cuthbert’s 2. Tom, Peter and I carried a third of the bag of cement each to

	8/12/84 Tom Chapman, Pete McNab Jnr, Mark "Hack" Brown, Adrian, Quiet John			the streamway where we dumped half of it for the others to bring along later. Down to Sump 2 where the main dam was built up to some 4' high and 2' thick. Looks like a good job well done. Pleasantly damp trip.
Yorkshire	Quarry tunnel 10/12/84 John Shaw (OS)	5m	Brotherton	Fifty foot of collapsing quarry tunnel under the Knottingley/Tadcaster road – blocked by roof fall. Probably connected the Fox and Jawbone Quarries.
Nottingham-shire	14/12/84. Visited the interesting National Mining Museum at Lound Hall, Retford, Nottinghamshire. Some fine examples of coal-mining equipment, lamps, etc. A thousand yards of simulated mine tunnels of different eras are well worth a visit.			
Somerset	Middle Engine Pit 23/12/84 Tim Large, Chris Batstone, Jane, Fiona, John Cornwell, Terry Audeley and many BIAS members.		Nailsea	Across to Nailsea to have a look at this colliery site which is being dug by John Cornwell and the Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society. They have put in a lot of work here on the excavation of pits and tunnels connected with a Newcomen pumping engine which was sited here probably around 1800. Their investigations have thrown new light on the history of the engines – especially because of the long and roomy tunnels discovered which provided a good air draught to help the burning of the poor quality coal used in the engine. We assisted them in digging out the filled in main shaft (mostly filled with empty gin bottles!) and also explored a short tunnel leading from the old engine base into the main shaft – a dug connection will be made into the shaft in future. Other features noted are the later engine house – in superb condition, two horse whim circles, a stone capstan base, the pump cistern etc. Various bits of rusty ironmongery have been unearthed including several tram wheels and some huge iron links from the pump. Several fire backs from a firm in Stourport have been find, one of which I have. The site is under the lawn (!) of a large house which is to be converted into flats and it is hoped that much of the stonework which has been uncovered will be incorporated into the landscaping of the area. An excellent days grafting to which I hope to return with more BEC men.
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Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 27/12/84 Ian Jepson, Trev Hughes, Cheg Chester	1hr 40m	Priddy	Back to Morton's Pot dig after a long break. Ian put 1½ lbs of shaped charge on the roof of the bedding plane dig which produced a suitably loud bang. 380' Way very wet but all of the stream successfully diverted down Ian's old dig.
Somerset	Middle Engine Pit 28/12/84 Cheg, John Dukes, Trev Hughes, John Cornwell and BIAS		Nailsea	Over to the site to watch a hired JCB clear the earth from between the engine house and upper horse whim. It was also used to take several feet of rubbish from the main shaft uncovering the tunnel entrance. Trev did a quick "through trip". Most of the day the four of us spent clearing the ventilation tunnel and associated stonework above it. All were very impressed with the site and enjoyed the day's hard work. A couple of fine bushes were removed from the garden and presented to Alfie and the Belfry. Good day out.
Somerset	St. Cuthbert's Swallet 31/12/84 Pat Cronin, Mac	3½ hr	Priddy	To Sump 2 where the pipe through the first dam was cleared and an extra 6" of dam built. Met Rob Harper, Rich Webbsell, Jo, Alison Moody etc who were climbing in and around Pyrolusite

				Series. Signed off my first trip towards Cuthbert's leadership. Back out via the Water Chute and Mud Hall with an ailing and lightless Pat struggling all the way. A good end of year trip to end a good years caving.
Somerset	Lamb Leer 2/1/85 Phil Romford, Tim Large, Edric Hobbs	1½ hr	West Harptree	SRT practice on the newly de-laddered entrance pitch and main chamber. Accomplished a change over on the main pitch. Edric got tied in knots. Much aragonite has been robbed from the ledges just before the Main Chamber and it is hoped that the removal of the entrance shaft ladder will help to curb this practice.
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Somerset	3/1/85. Visited the Charterhouse and Ubley Rakes to look at the sites of the Cornish mine shafts noted by Willie Stanton (UBSS Proc. 17/1 Nov. 1984). New Shaft, trial shaft, the miners' shelter, Somer's Shaft, the caunter lode, the supposed costean pit, Charles Moore's Shaft, Barwell's Shaft, an un-named shaft and Stainsby's Shaft (Blackmoor Swallet Dig) were all visited and several small (gated recently) shafts and workings looked at. Stanton's excellent write up on this area has added a whole new dimension to this interesting Mendip mining region.			
Somerset	Swildons Hole 4/1/85 Alone	2 hr	Priddy	The aim of the trip was, apart from helping to get rid of the post New Year blues, was to investigate the possible new chamber seen on 22/10/82. Entering via Binney's Link I ended up at one of the lower Oxbows via Kenney's Dig. Here I found the low crawl in the wall which led up to Pete Harris recently discovered rift chamber – a 100' or so of high decorated and interesting passage with a possible way on in a side rift and another dug hole back down to a lower Oxbow. Following a fag break in the water chamber I removed a couple of spade fulls of mud from a low tube heading towards Lobo. When disturbed by passing cavers I headed back up the Dry Way and the passage below Binney's Link where I spent an hour digging in the boulder blocked continuation of this passage where water from the main streamway enters. Using the hammer and crowbar I progressed about four feet along here before leaving the ever increasing stream to carry on the good work. Hopefully this could one day be a wet by-pass to Binney's Link. Out to surface after another fruitless search for the hidden chamber Oxbow, though I think I now know its whereabouts. Nice refreshing trip.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 5/1/85 Geoff Newton (WCC)	5hr 35m	Priddy	<i>See below</i>
	<p>Pete, Alison and Tim all failed to show up so Geoff and I decided to go down anyway and have a bash at the large aven found on the last Wessex pushing trip. From the cross rift beyond Blackwall Tunnel squeeze another tight squeeze below a stal block leads to a muddy phreatic tube and 15' pot. This drops into the bottom of a filthy muddy phreatic ramp – choked downstream by mud and later followed uphill by Geoff and I to a tight squeeze and S-bend which Geoff couldn't quite pass despite heroic efforts.</p> <p>Prior to this we followed the left hand canyon passage – under several sections of false flooring – to emerge in the superb soaring aven, some 20' in diameter and at least 60-70' high. It much resembles the bottom of a Yorkshire pot. At the far side of the pot a possible climb was attempted and after a fairly desperate and exposed struggle I succeeded in getting up to a reasonable ledge after about 25'. From here the rift continued up to close down after about 20'.</p> <p>There seems to be no hope here and to climb the aven it will be necessary to bolt directly up the shaft from floor level – a long and tedious job which will need a bloody good climber (who is also a thin man). My next problem was getting back down to Geoff as there was no possible belay point for the rope. After a few bursts of adrenalin I managed to get down to a welcome fag.</p>			

	This extremely interesting series of passages puts yet another new light on West End Series. I suspect that the aven has the best chance yet of giving us a connection with the Regent Street area and if so it would be a swift and fantastic route in – probably the best pitch on Mendip. Following Geoff's push up the phreatic ramp we had had enough and staggered out in the normal fashion to a crystal clear and freezing evening.			
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Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 12/1/85 Tim, Batspiss, Edric, Rob Harper	3hr 10m	Priddy	To the rifts off Regent Street where Tim and Rob had a look at a boulder choked pit in the floor of the LH rift. Tim and I then went up the RH rift and across into the farthest, tight rift where the boulder blocking the way on down was blasted with 1½ lbs bang. Both these rifts are draughting strongly outwards and I am convinced that this is the draught from the huge aven somewhere below. Out to a cold, crisp and clear evening and a walk back to the Belfry in the powder snow. Good trip.
Shropshire	16/1/85. Working in Ironbridge area. Stan Derrick, Alan Carter and I visited the Blists Hill Open Air Museum site (again) and another look at the Blists Hill Clay Mine restored headgear and winding engine house was taken. Much work has been done at this museum since my last visit.			
Somerset	St. Cuthbert's Swallet 19/1/85 Martin Bishop, Trev Hughes, Mac, Tiny (NCC) (Martin Grass, Chris Batstone)	3hr 5m	Priddy	Tourist trip for Tiny and also to add a foot or so to the "Cariba Dam". Both were accomplished. In via Pulpit Pitch (Flying Angel technique) and out via Rabbit Warren, Harem Passage and Wire Rift. Met Martin and Chris at Gour Hall where they were de-tackling the climb above. Jovial trip.
Wiltshire	Monkton Farleigh Mine 26/1/85 Mac, Snablet, John Chew, Tom Chapman, Jane, Martin Bishop, Paul Thompson (PCC) + Guide and tourists	1¼ hr	Monkton Farleigh	Extensive underground ex-ammunition dump dating from WWII. The old stone quarry workings from the 18 th and 19 th century were converted for the storage of mainly naval shells, torpedoes etc, Various bits of period junk (generators, fans etc) are in situ but the most impressive sight is the miles of tunnels and galleries, generally brick and concrete lined and whitewashed. Just an example of the phenomenal amount of interesting underground passage in Wiltshire.
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Somerset	Wookey Hole 2/2/85 Jane, Cheg, Aileen, Katy, Guide + tourists	½ hr	Wookey Hole	Normal tourist trip around the cave and paper mill. Good caving / cave diving section in the museum.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 3/2/85 John Duke, Pete Rose, Snablet, Tom Chapman	3¼ hr	Priddy	To Threadneedle St rifts to remove the bang debris of 12/1/85. The main offending boulder was hammered to bits and "parked". There was no obvious way on below this and another large rock would need banging here. A possible way off on the LH side was looked at but both this, and an eyehole above, were either too tight or blocked by bits of the banged boulder which I had stupidly dumped in them! Left it for another bang and the two lads and I came out via Rift Chamber, Lower Traverse, Primrose Path and the Upper Traverse. Cave very wet.
Derbyshire	Holme Bank Chert Mine 5/2/85 Paul Thompson (PCC), Jeff Attwood (OCC), Andy Grant (OS)	35m	Bakewell	Evening trip to this fairly extensive underground quarry – on the style of Box, Godstone etc. The superbly drystone walled galleries were mined until the 1950s for chert to put in the "slip" of Wedgewood pottery. A pirate trip was necessary as the mine is occasionally operated as a tourist attraction – various bits of junk and wooden notices being scattered around the main passages.

				From the main entrance two galleries on the RH side lead down to flooded workings where Derbyshire CDG members hold cave diving training sessions. We rambled through a lengthy section of the mine, past several working faces and a blocked exit at the bottom of an incline passage, to eventually exit through a short vertical hole up into a quarry. Interesting and dead easy ramble. Andy's first trip and he enjoyed it, as he did the four pubs visited afterwards.
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Swildons Hole 16/2/85 Tom Chapman, Rich York, Pete "Snablet" MacNab	5 hr	Priddy	Tourist and digging trip to the new passages found over the last week by the new BEC lads. They have found a total of about 2-300 feet off Approach Passage, including a 100' long rift – Valentines Rift. Various ways on here were checked out to no avail and a dig started at the far end. After a lot of hard work digging by hand through stiff mud I managed to squeeze through into a disappointing 30' of phreatic passage with no way on, though a tight 15' rift in the floor may have an exit at the bottom. A sound connection with Black Hole was attempted again to no avail. A good little breakthrough for these extremely enthusiastic lads. Nice trip out in wet conditions.
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 2/3/85 Trev Hughes, John Dukes	1hr 20m	Wookey Hole	This trip heralds a return of interest in the site! Trev and Co had checked the state of the compressor in the morning and so in the afternoon we transported the drill and pipes down the cave and started the compressor. Unfortunately this ran out of fuel after about two seconds so nothing much was achieved! So little happened that I went to sleep for about ten minutes and Trevor complained of my snoring!

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Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Eastwater Cavern 9/3/85 Andy Cave, Tim Robbins (SVCC)	5 hr	Priddy	To Threadneedle Street, where the offending boulders of 3/2/85 were removed with the aid of a crowbar. I managed to squeeze through the lower part of the eyehole to enter a vertical rift which I climbed for 20' over loose boulders to a short level section containing a superb solitary stalagmite – cream with an orange top and about a foot high. No way on from here. Andy joined me and then Tim managed to reach the same spot by squeezing through the tight rift above the dug way in. Much bang needed here and there are better things to do in the meantime. I suspect I now owe Pete Moody a bottle of rum as I seem to have lost my bet! Removed all tools and bang wire and proceeded down Greek St to de-ladder Lolley Pot and Gladman Shaft, meeting Reading University types just going down Dolphin Pot some 4 hours after entering the cave! (It took us 16 minutes). Very strange.
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 16/3/85 Trev Hughes, (Alan Thomas)	½ hr	Wookey Hole	Fired four sticks of bang in one of the shotholes drilled by Trevor the previous week resulting in a pleasantly dull explosion. The compressor was then turned on to help clear the air.
Somerset	24/3/85. Trev, John Chew, Edric and Lisa cleared the spoil from the last bang while I wasted my time on the surface for an hour or so.			
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 30/3/85	½ hr	Wookey Hole	Six sticks of bang fired in shothole drilled by Trevor on his last trip. Dominic let it off, giving

	Trev Hughes (Edric, Al Thomas, John Chew, Simon and Dominic Knight)			a nice dull bang. It is to be hoped that this bang will see us through the calcite blockage and into diggable passage.
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Hallowe'en Rift 6/4/85 AM. Alone PM. Trev, John, Lisa	3½ hr	Wookey Hole	<p>Walked to the cave from home and commenced clearing the bang debris. The calcite had been thoroughly shattered and came out like large sugar lumps making digging reasonably easy but spoil stacking a problem. Open spaces began to appear in the debris and after a couple of hours of bloody hard work I reached a point some 6'-8' in where I could look along the top of a small rift to blackness beyond. It seemed that only one boulder was blocking the way on but I was now too knackered to continue so went out to inform Trev and Co.</p> <p>In the afternoon, and fuelled by my excited descriptions of the discoveries to come, we all returned to the hole. Trev and I cleared a couple of large boulders plus a host of small ones and Lisa and John stacked rubble, back along the passage. Eventually we could see on into an approx 30' wide, 20' long bedding chamber – unfortunately only about 6" high with a mud and calcite floor. My initial hopes had vaporised and we can now only progress by digging a trench through the floor, and disposing of the spoil in the sides of the bedding plane. By this time we were fairly tired out and suffering badly from CO₂ – Trev and I panting continuously and Lisa having a headache. Defeated in our hopes of marching through huge tunnels to Wookey 22 we left the dig and staggered down the hill for tea and a bath. Despite the disappointment of the find it is very encouraging and gets us another 25' at least towards Wookey. The draught is also encouraging. A most useful day's work.</p>
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Somerset	Swildon's Hole 13/4/85 James Cobbett	1hr 35m	Priddy	Nice gentle fester down the streamway in wet conditions, to sump 2. On the way back I climbed into the grotto above the 20' pot to see the three superb columns. Very difficult to get out of without falling down to the Streamway (Easter Grotto).
Somerset	Swildon's Hole 27/4/85 Alone	¾ hr	Priddy	Early morning run to Sump 1 (17 mins) to refresh myself for Wedding Day! Cave empty, clean and thoroughly friendly. Having made sure the foundations of Priddy Church were okay I rambled gently out. Nice to have my old mistress alone.
Greece Crete Heraklion	Mátala Caves 1/5/85 Phil Romford	10m	Mátala	A series of over fifty man-made cave dwellings on three or more levels in the sandstone (?) cliffs above Mátala Bay. Most consist of one room apartments with carved shelves, bed spaces and other niches in the walls. They were probably excavated and inhabited by early Christians and have fairly recently been the home of an itinerant hippie population who have left several of them painted with psychedelic patterns. Some have small solution pockets and a couple of longer natural cavities can be found near the cliff top – and all around the Mátala area. They all stink of piss and are of very little interest apart from the splendid views they give of the naked, nubile

				ladies on the beach below.
Greece Crete Heraklion	2/5/85. Looked for the Gortys Labyrinth, near Mires, Heraklion in vain. This is supposed to be an ancient underground stone quarry dating from Roman times and was used by the Germans in WWII as an ammunition dump. Suspect it is now in Greek Army hands but difficult to understand the locals.			
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Greece Crete Heraklion	Artificial caves Sarchos Cave 4/5/85 Phil	- 1hr 40m	Prinias Sarchos	See below
	<p>On the road across from Mátala we stopped to look at twin artificial caves cut in the limestone at the roadside near Prinias. These are identical to the Mátala caves – including the stench of piss. Sarchos, Sarhos, Sárchos Cave, Chonos or Spilios. At the village here we questioned the locals in an ethnic (grotty) pub who told us that the cave was 500m up the track behind the pub. A 6m wide by 8m high entrance led to approx. ½ KM of undulating phreatic passage which eventually dropped down a phreatic ramp to a clear, green, static sump pool which looked to be a cert. with diving gear – or even a wet suit and face mask. I pushed a small hole above the sump to emerge after a 30’ upward grovel in a previously visited chamber above thus creating a small “round trip”. From this chamber another hole led to a chamber with a very active resident bat where there was no obvious way on within easy reach. The whole cave was bat inhabited and obviously floods in wet weather. There are no obvious side passages as such but many small tubes and phreatic pockets. Back in the entrance chamber we found masses of small animal and bird bones and a quantity of bird pellets. The owner of the nesting site here – a large buzzard – was then spotted wheeling above the entrance and keeping an eye on us. Other residents here were a colony of bees which I disturbed and necessitated a hasty retreat. During the revolution of 1866 the residents of the Province of Malrvisi hid here from the Turks and were besieged in the cave. A flood resurgence, the alternative name Chorios means “funnel”.</p> <p>Bushwacking up the nearby stream failed to reveal any other obvious caves but yielded plentiful reptile and insect life. The miles of lofty limestone mountains of the Psiloritis range must contain vast amounts of cave passage if only ways in can be found.</p>			
Greece Crete Lassithi	Kronio (Trapezas) Cave 6/5/85 Phil, Lil, Jane Jarratt (!) (2 Germans)	5m	Tzermiado	Kronio, Trapezas, Trapéza Cave. A miserable little “guide yourself” show cave situated in the cliff wall of the immense Lassithi Plateau doline. Of archaeological interest as finds here indicate the cave to have been used as a burial site since Neolithic times until post Byzantine times. The cave consists of a couple of small chambers with old, massive and muddy stal. A crawl at the end was not pushed due to the presence of a 2” scorpion. In Greek the name is spelt Σπήλαιο Κρόνιο.
Greece Crete Lassithi	The Dictaeon Cave 6/5/85 Phil (Royal Navy officer and tourists)	40m	Psychro	Dictaeon, Diktean, Diktaean, Psychro Cave. According to Greek myths this was the birth place of the god Zeus, where he could be protected from his cannibalistic father, Kronos. The cave then bacame a Minoan temple to the god. Phil and I arrived at the tourist car park to be confronted by a guide. We persuaded him that we were famous speleologists and were just getting changed when his fluent English speaking boss – the guardian of the cave – arrived. After a bit of discussion he accepted that we weren’t going to vandalise the place and allowed us a free trip on our own. A steep rock “staircase” led up the mountainside to the 4x20m entrance – a typical huge collapse feature leading to a vast inclined chamber, well decorated with huge but old and soot covered stalagmites. This is furnished with stone steps giving a tourist route right around the chamber. A young guide was showing a tourist party around by candle light. We escorted a holidaying Royal Navy officer around the entrance chamber before we scrambled around the walls to find a continuation

				of the main cave on the RH side. This was gained by a short climb into a better decorated incline chamber with clear pools of water and huge collapsed boulders through which the daylight above entered. This was followed to a boulder choke, probably to the surface. A BEC sticker was left under the guide's table before we left. An impressive cavern which would benefit greatly if it was a bit longer, but marvellous if only for the views over the superb Lassithi Plateau.
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Greece Crete Rethymnon	7/5/85. While driving from Rethymnon to Chania we stopped to visit the Gerani Cave a few miles outside Rethymnon. This was unfortunately closed by a locked and rusty steel door and may have been affected by construction of the main road above.			
Greece Crete Chania	8/5/85. Whilst walking the 10 mile+ length of the superb Samaria Gorge we noted many small and large cave entrances in the cliffs – none of which appeared of any interest due to the highly compact and chert riddled nature of the local limestone, though the Tzani Cave situated near Omalos is reputedly long and deep and the main swallet exit for the waters of the doline/plateau of Omalos.			
Greece Crete Heraklion	Kamáres Cave 10-11/5/85 Phil	12 hrs	Kamáres	<i>See below</i>
	<p>Kamáres, Camares, Black Cave, Spliliára or Mavros Spilios. Walked up from Kamáres village on the afternoon of 10/5/85. Three hours of hard and steep going carrying heavy packs eventually brought us to the entrance after stopping to enquire at a smaller cave 2/3 of the way where a goatherd, his wife and young lad were in residence. Their cave had a drystone walled entrance where goat cheeses could be seen maturing. The blare of a radio and a nearby donkey seemed to be their only connections with the world below.</p> <p>The huge entrance to Kamáres Cave, 60m wide by 80m high, was seen an hour later when the mountain-hugging wet mists swirled clear for a few minutes. A group of choughs darted in and out of the wide black patch in the cliffs.</p> <p>On reaching it we found that over a hundred choughs, a colony of bats and some swifts all shared the huge entrance chamber. Goats also used it as a shelter and patches of small, light blue flowers grew well inside the threshold.</p> <p>We levelled a couple of patches of assorted guano for our sleeping bags then returned to the fading daylight to eat rye crispbread with sardines – washed down with hot whiskies brewed over a fire of twigs which the choughs had dropped on the cave floor. The misty view over the Matala, Mires, Tymbakion and Aghia Galini were gradually darkened and twinkling house lights appeared. In the distance the islands of Nisi Paximadia and Nisi Gardos slowly merged with the darkness. We retired to our flea pits at 8.45pm as the bats began to emerge from the cave for their evening hunting flight. A fairly fitful sleep was enjoyed broken by the odd squeak of bat, cry of chough and drip of water. Woke to the sound of departing choughs at 6.00am, the flurry of their beating wings all over by 6.30. A clear sky with odd patches of drifting cloud was framed by the huge entrance and the noise of the choughs was replaced by birdsong. Cold and breezy outside and still misty down at sea level. Breakfasted on hot chocolate (with whisky!) cheese on rye crispbread and biscuits. As we ate the local goatherd appeared just below us gathering up the flock.</p> <p>Two hours were then spent exploring the main chamber, the massive boulder ruckle which forms its floor and a totally dark extension of 200' or so at the back of the entrance chamber. Several interesting pieces of Minoan pottery including bits of the famous Kamáres Ware were found. Much more must lie between and beneath the loose boulders and drystone walls at the sides of the main chamber.</p> <p>We then climbed to the top of the mountain above the cave, Séla Digeni or the Saddle of Digenis. From here we got cloud interspersed views of the main peaks of Psiloritis (Mt Ida) and the Idean Cave – both a long way off. Back to Kamáres Cave where the cawing choughs wheeling through the mist in the entrance created a most atmospheric scene.</p> <p>Walked down to the village (seeing a group of six Marmot cubs playing near the path) and headed for a local pub where we met the girls and got well pissed with the landlord Michaelis (an ex-WWII flyer), Geogio the local Greek Orthodox priest and two French and one Dutch couples. A good night to round off a good excursion!</p>			

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Greece Crete Heraklion	13/5/85. Phil and I looked for the Gortys Labyrinth in hot sun and in vain. Sod the Gortys Labyrinth! An army lorry passed us on the track which may confirm that the site is under their control.
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Greece Crete Heraclyon	Skotino Cave 14/5/85 Phil, Lil, Jane	20m	Skotino	Also called Aghia Paraskevi Cave, Hagia Paraskevi Cave, Scoteinos Cave, Skoteino Cave and Agia Paraskeve. This also took a lot of finding, our only real help being three or four old show cave direction signs. Cave eventually found near a chapel on top of a barren limestone hill up a long rough track. Obviously a failed show cave (due to its location) the cave is yet very impressive. The typical huge collapse entrance below the chapel, 36x47m, leads to a huge chamber containing massive dead stalactite and stalagmite formations. Due to our having good clothes on and only one poor torch we were unable to reach the end of the descending chamber so retired to the delightful dell outside the entrance. Worth another look if ever back in Crete. The end of a superb holiday.
Somerset	Wookey Hole Cave 17/5/85 (J.Kettle, A.Macormack + 1: - Points West) N. Barrington,, (a Radio Bristol bloke), his bird +1, Jef Price, A.Mills, Dany, Bob, Tim, Rich West, Bob Drake, Dan Hazel	1¾ hr	Wookey Hole	Helped the diving team kit up for their demonstration of the Kirby-Morgan Sump Rescue Equipment. Filmed by Andy and Nick for TV and the benefit of the British Cave Rescue Council conference weekend. Tim was also interviewed by the Radio Bristol man. This took place in the 1 st Chamber and later, in superb weather, at the resurgence.
Somerset	Gough's Cave 17/5/85 Tim, Chris Bradshaw, Sandra, daughter, Tom Chapman, Rich York, 2 Pete McNabs, Nick Barrington.	1hr 20m	Cheddar	In the afternoon we retired to Gough's where Nick Barrington took still shots of practice rescue hauling in Black Cat Chamber. Sandra's tarty daughter was the "victim". Several "improvements" have been made to the cave.
Somerset	Swildon's Hole 18/5/85 Tim Gould, Pete Christian, Garth, Garry (RUC Mtn Rescue Team)	3hr 35m	Priddy	Took the Ulster lads on a quick sobering up trip around the Short Round Trip. They thoroughly enjoyed it though Garry at least, was a bit knackered. Excellent cave rescue stomp at the village hall in the evening.
Somerset	19/5/85. The Great St Cuthberts Pump In! Using a Copco Atlas pump, 3000' of fire brigade hose, 2 compressors, the Som. Fire Service Rescue Tender and a fire engine (!) a mixed team succeeded in pumping Sump 2 dry and digging some 12' of silt from the passage before stopped by lack of time and overflowing dams. I acted as a surface coordinator for most of the day.			

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Somerset	St. Cuthbert's Swallet 23/5/85 Bob Cork, Dany Bradshaw, Phil, Max, Glyn (SBSS)	1¾ hr	Priddy	Fast trip to Kariba Dam to unblock same with the aid of the Belfry drain rods. In via Wire Rift, out via Pulpit Pitch. Nice.
Somerset	St. Cuthbert's Swallet 25/5/85 Jim Burdge, Andrew Milsom, Butch, Mac, Tom Chapman, Dave Turner, Dany, Tim Gould, Dave Shand, Mike McD, Andy	5 hr	Priddy	Took "Mills's Men" on a tip to the bottom. They were both impressed and knackered. Assisted with bucket hauling at the sharp end. Vast amounts of muck removed, bagged and tipped on the Kariba Dam. 20-30' in from the pot at present and still going – hopefully level. Easy to make progress but God knows how long the bastard is. Back out via Pulpit Pitch.

	Lovell, Mark Lumley, Steve Milner, etc.			
Somerset	St. Cuthbert's Swallet 1/6/85 Alisdair Neill, Mark Vinall, George (?), Julian Davis, Dave Jeffrey (PCG), Butch, Dave Cave-Ayland, +2 (SMCC) Robin Gray, Martin Grass.	5¾ hr	Priddy	Took the PCG lads down – most on their first Cuthbert's trip. Mark took Julian + Dave back from Sump 1 and the rest continued to 2 where we assisted the first team with digging for a short time in the sump. I got in feet first to find that the sump was still descending and showing no signs of going up. It has less silt in and may just be passable by a very thin, determined, crazy diver. After shifting a few buckets we got pissed off and packed up. George and I came out via Pulpit Pitch – George going well but fairly worn out. A disappointing but quite a good trip.
Merionethshire	Bryneglwys and Cantrybidd Mine 4/6/85 John Shaw (OS)	1hr 20m	Aber-gynolwyn	Ref: p.308 "A History of the North Wales Slate Industry". Also called Abergynolwyn. This was the underground slate quarry that gave birth to the Tal-y-Llyn Railway. We first looked at a large entrance chamber at the top of the workings. This had two fine waterfalls entering – a replica of a Yorkshire pothole! Unfortunately the way on was decidedly dicey due to vast roof collapses so we retreated to a nearby level about 200 yds to the east. This was some 300' long and intersected at various points a large worked out chamber which we descended to its choked bottom. Small piece of rail removed for Cheg. Rambling around on the surface we found various collapsed chambers and a couple of partly filled in shafts – one square, ginged shaft probably being the 200' haulage shaft. A short level below the road near Cantrybedd Level was next entered but was blocked after some 50 feet. Continuing down the valley we followed the stream up to the mouth of the Cantrybedd Level itself which we followed for several hundred feet until, after passing a collapsed shaft, it became too deep to keep the balls dry and we headed back out to the sunshine. Wet suit trousers would be useful to continue here. Pleasant excursion.

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Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 8/6/85 Snablet, Biffo	1½ hr	Wookey Hole	Removed the limited amount of bang debris at the end and attacked the calcite bank with hammer and chisel before deciding that it will need at least one more bang to progress further. 15' of too low passage can be seen and there is a definite cool draught. Dragged out the rock drill, hosepipe and a couple of loads of spoil.
Somerset	9/6/85. Phil Romford and I commenced site clearing at "Orribile 'Ole" dig – the last depression in the rake near the East Somerset Hut, Eastwater Lane. Shifted the top layer of farm rubbish in preparation for concerted digging during the summer.			
Merionethshire	13/6/85. During a scrounged 1 hr flight in an Ordnance Survey hired helicopter I took photos of a couple of small slate mines(?) in the mountainous area to the west of Bala, N.Wales. Later flew to the top of Cader Idris to build T.P.			
Somerset	14/6/85. Dug for an hour at "Orribile Ole" dig, removing more rubbish which is obviously from the old Wessex Hut days.			
Somerset	St. Cuthbert's Swallet 16/6/85 Mark Lumley, (Dave Cave-Ayland, Andy	2hr 5m	Priddy	Mark and I went down to assist in retrieval of equipment after a forlorn pumping weekend which achieved nothing. We dragged out the NHASA pump (leaving the heavy awkward hired one for the others!). It now looks like the

	Cave, Snablet, John Chew, Robin Gray etc)			pumping of Sump 2 is out of the question with our present facilities. A great shame.
Merionethshire	17/6/85. John Shaw and I visited Garwen (Gaewern) and Braichgoch (Braich Goch) Slate Mines near Corris, Merionethshire. Very little of interest was noted. The mines appear to have worked vertical beds of slate and the main chambers are collapsed, collapsing or inaccessible. Braichgoch has been almost obliterated by removal of the spoil heaps. Also had a quick look at the surface plant and entrance to the roadside level of the working Aberllefenni mine.			
Somerset	St. Cuthbert's Swallet 22/6/85 Andy Cave + 4 Frome CC, Banet ? and Jane ?, Martin Grass, (Rob Harper, Rich Websell +1)	1¾ hr	Priddy	Solitary trip down to the streamway via Ledge Pitches, Pillar Chamber, etc. Met Banet? and Co there and picked up two rolled hoses. Dragged these back to Quarry Corner where I met the Frome lads and Andy who then assisted in removing the hoses from the cave. Also removed the hose from entrance pitch to the entrance rift.

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Caernarfon-shire	27/6/85. John Shaw and I briefly looked at the surface remains of Hafna and Cyffty Mines in the Llanrwst area. Cyffty pumping shaft appears to still be open but the ginging at surface is somewhat unstable. Little seems to have been done to turn this site into an "interpretation centre."			
Somerset	Swildons Hole 30/6/85 Nick Fluke	1 hr	Priddy	Took 12 year old Nick on a tour of the Upper Series, including a visit to the top of the "Twenty" and a couple of the Oxbows. Lots of people in the cave including a girl who fell off the wet climb near the entrance right in front of us! Nick enjoyed it but was fairly tired by the end of the trip. Quite wet.
Caernarfon-shire	Brittania Mine 2/7/85 Alone	10m	Snowdon	(Also known as Cwmdyle Rock + Green Lake, Glaslyn, Snowdon Copper or Cwm Dyli). While en route to repair the Snowdon trig pillar, John Shaw and I stopped off at this mine, having got to Glaslyn by Landrover and walked from there up the Miners' Track. I first looked at the level behind the ruins on the shore of Glaslyn. This was an apparently trial level a few hundred feet long with a fork to the left. I also looked at various other stopes and workings on the way up the track. Little of interest but a superbly situated site. We later walked back via Carnedd Ugain trig (which we repaired), Crib Goch and the PYG Track. A superb day's work!
Merioneth-shire	Gloddfa Ganol Slate Mine John Shaw (OS) + Tourists	¾ hr	Blaenau Ffestiniog	While travelling from Snowdon to Cader Idris we visited this tourist show mine. A large main level leads to a series of chambers in the slate connected by levels. These are poorly lit with coloured lighting but this, when one gets used to it, gives quite a good atmosphere – reminiscent of candle light. Odd bits of machinery and information boards in situ culminating in a continuously playing video tape of slate quarrying in the final chamber. This apparently "40s" film is excellent – showing the quarries when they were still working on a large scale. The museums, shops, exhibitions etc make this a "good value" visit at £1.70p.
Breconshire	Porth-yr-Ogof 4/7/85 John Shaw (OS)	1 hr	Ystradfellte	General tour round the cave. In via upstream entrance, dry way to main entrance – down the Lake to dry passages – Hywel's Grotto etc – downstream to look at resurgence then out via one of the "safe exits" (well signposted these days!) Pleasant little fester in this excellent cave.

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Somerset "Rescue"	Eastwater Cavern 6/7/85	1 hr	Priddy	Unofficially called out whilst practising SRT on a tree near the Belfry! Geoff Newton had entered
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	Mark Lumley, Snablet, Bob Lewis, Mike, Rosella, Pete Watts, Geoff Newton			the squeeze to Primrose Pot and got jammed solidly by his lamp. Mark Snablet and I went down to assist but Bob Lewis and Co were already there and Pete Watts had succeeded in cutting Geoff's belt. With some concentrated heaving and a lot of struggling by Geoff he eventually managed to get out. We then helped detackle the cave.
Breconshire	Ogof Gam / Agen Allwedd 8/7/85 John Shaw, Phil Romford	3hr 50m	Llangattock	Evening trip using the SVCC key. Our intentions were to possibly do the Inner Circle route but due to lack of time we turned round in the approach to Coal Cellar. Also looked at the crystals in Main Passage. An enjoyable dash about.
BEC Gouffre Berger Expedition (50th Anniversary Trip) 1985				
26/7/85. Jeremy Henley, Bob Cork and I left Mendip – 6.30pm.				
27/7/85. Arrived Calais 2.30 am (French time). Very pleasant drive across France including breakfast at a hotel on the banks of the Seine, to arrive at La Molière about 3.00 pm. Set up tents and went to Lans to shop followed by excellent meal and piss up at the “Auberge of the Two Wallies”. A good start!				
France Isère	Gouffre Berger 28/7/85 Jeremy Henley, Dany, Bob Cork, Mac	2hr 20m	Vercors	Did Ruiz and Cairn Hall Shafts as a warm up and practice SRT trip. No great problems except cold due to wearing T-shirts and shorts. Several rigging teams were below us heading towards Camp 1. While waiting for people to go up the ropes I tidied up the rubbish in Cairn Hall.
France Isère	Grotte de Confin (Choranche) 29/7/85 Jeremy, Bob, Mac, Dany, + tourists and guide.	½ hr	Choranche	Tourist trip into this beautifully decorated, though short, show cave. (See previous trip of 1975). The cave is most notable for its superb proliferation of beautiful straws. Also went shopping at TSA Marback, Autrans etc. Met ULSA in the Bourne Gorge.
France Isère	Gouffre Berger 320/7/85 – 1/8/85 Matthew Tuck, Bean Johnson, John Whitely, Bob Lewis (SVCC) (+ others)	44h 40m	Vercors	<i>See below</i>
	<p>Matt, John, Brian and I entered at about ½ hrs interval, Matt and I going in at 7.50pm on Tuesday evening. Met Pete Glanville and Ken Gregory who were on a photo trip near Lake Cadoux. Also met Keith and Rosella Fielder (WCC) at Aldos' -going out. Further down we came across Dave Turner and Brian Workman who were sorting out the telephones down to Camp I – to where they accompanied us. At Camp I we found its only resident – Bob Lewis – who later came with us to the bottom. On arrival at Camp I we all had a snack and brew up – enlivened by Dave and Brian's attempts to manufacture a hot air balloon from a black plastic dustbin sack. This successfully rose about a foot in the air before melting. Dave and Brian then left to unroll the telephone wire and keep Brian Johnson awake until 7.00 am with test calls.</p> <p>I awoke at 9.30am Wednesday and after breakfasting festered about until 1.30pm when we left camp to rig from Camp II to the bottom. Despite much pissing about on the lower wet pitches, Little Monkey and Hurricane Shaft we eventually descended the latter with Bob Lewis and myself reaching Sump 1 at 9.08pm, the others waiting at the far side of the terminal canals. Bob did exceptionally well as he was only wearing a furry suit. At the sump I was surprised to find my name still clearly defined in the mud after 10 years. Removed a couple of caving club plaques – one from above and one from below Hurricane. Also noted Ken Pearce's tadpole bottle but couldn't be bothered to bring it out. Hurricane was not as wet and noisy as I remembered but still very impressive. On the way back from the sump we met Bob and Dany on their way to the bottom.</p> <p>Then began the ascent of Hurricane and the long drag up to Camp I. The technically rigged lower pitches – Claudines Cascade to Little Monkey, were actually very enjoyable to re-climb, taking both technique and energy. A brew up at Camp II gave us the little bit of extra energy for the long uphill slog on the Grand Canyon. From here to Camp I I lost touch with the others and struggled on alone – missing the rope climb just below Balcony for a time.</p> <p>I arrived at the Camp at approximately 3.00am – very tired and aching all over – the rubbed skin on the inside of my elbows caused by wet suit rubbing being particularly sore. Had a brew and a natter with Dave Shand and Steve Milner who were attempting to sleep before their trip later that day. Woke about 9.30am to meet Mark Adams and Martin Buckley (SVCC) who had just come in and who carried on to the bottom with Dave and Steve. Matt and I set off for the surface at 11.30am</p>			

	(Thursday). While struggling up the wrong side of the Great Rubble Heap I found the lower part of a pram (!) which I carried up to the next cascade for a photo by Matt of an “underground chariot race”! At Aldo’s Shaft we met Pete and Alison Moody and further on Lisa, John Chew, Robin Gray and Paul Hodgson. Beyond them were Jim Smart and Mark Lumley. The entrance series shafts came thick and fast – and very tiring – until I eventually gained the relative comfort of the Meanders. Here I met Pat Haliwell (CPC) and Dave and Alan Turner. The last couple of pitches almost “broke the camel’s back” and I was more than delighted to see the glimmer of daylight at the head of Ruis Shaft. Dragged myself out of the hole at 16.30 Thursday, completely knackered but glad to have bottomed it again (almost exactly 10 yrs on).			
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	2/8/85. Festered about and got fairly paralytic at the “Auberge of the Two Wallies”.			
	3/8/85. Drove gently back in the Showering’s Volvo stopping at Chablis and Calais for excellent food and wine. Back on Mendip in the early hours of Sunday morning. An excellent week – hopefully enjoyed by all.			
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	Swildon’s Hole 4/8/85 P.Cronin, B.Churcher, A.Boycott + UBSS, P.Hann, Tony (MNRC), Snablet, Tom, Fred Davies and many others. (Jim, Dave Turner, Brian on surface)	25m	Priddy	Got up, went to the pub and then decided to have a quick one with the UBSS etc at Oliver Lloyd’s wake in Swildons. With Berger lamp and wet suit on I cycled down to the green to find Police cars and a full scale rescue in progress! The exceptionally high water conditions due to a week of rain had caught a party unawares and two girls were being assisted out. With polar suit/goon suit pack I cycled right to the entrance (an MRO first?) and met the rescuers and rescued in the Water Chamber – surrounded by a singing mob of “mourners”. The girl victim (one was already out) was escorted back up the now active streamway of the “dry ways” to the surface followed by most of the assembled. Others checked to Sump 1 for a possibly missing party. At the entrance the pool was almost overflowing into the blockhouse despite which a couple of parties of fucking idiots were queueing for a trip into the cave. All quickly over and the rescuers headed for the drier WCC hut to continue with the wake. Lost my watch in the entrance pool. Looks like Oliver arranged all this as a last laugh!
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 25/8/85 Geoff Newton, Duncan Frew (WCC)	3hr 40m	Priddy	Aims were to take tackle and some food down in preparation for any future assaults and to see what the cave is like in very wet weather. Directly opposite the dry crawl a tiny waterfall in the roof of the descending passage was noted. Wedged in the (draughting) rift here were bits of grass and poly bag, probably indicating a connection with the 380’ Way water – and maybe Morton’s Pot. On down to Lolley Pot, gardening some loose boulders en route. Just below the 10’ climb the passage was thoroughly sumped up by a brown, smelly and filth-covered pool. Judging by more froth on the ceiling and walls here the sump has been about 15’ higher recently. Not over-disappointed by this we headed gently out. A very pleasant trip made better by the active streamway.
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Glamorgan	Big Pit (Blaenavon Mine) 28/8/85 Len Vaughan (guide), Steve Nicholas (OS) + tourists		Blaenavon	Standard tourist trip down this recently opened “show” coal mine. Much like Chatterley Whitfield Colliery, this late 19thC colliery is of most interest due to the retired miners who act as guides and add much humour and the benefits of their experience to the visit. The trip takes in essentially only the haulageways around the pit

				bottom but is well worth doing if one is in the area.
Somerset	Longwood Swallet / August Hole Longwood Valley Sink 31/8/85 Dany, Howard and Debbie Limbert, Tim Allen, Bob (NCC) Jeremy Henley, Carl Maxon (UWFRA)	2hr 25m 5m	Charterhouse	Extremely pleasant, refreshing and sporting trip to head of Reynold's Passage in fairly wet conditions in via the "dry" way and out via the wet chimneys – VERY wet! Also looked at the superb tributary passage near the bottom. Carl and I later went down Longwood Valley Sink to see how the dig is progressing. The very professionally shored "drift" entrance leads to the head of c.40' deep rift similar to Longwood Swallet entrance. The end of the dig beyond here was not looked at due to a fresh collapse partially blocking the way on.
Pembrokeshire Carmarthen-shire	Wogan Cavern Hoyle's Mouth Cave 4/9/85 Alone	5m 10m	Pembroke Tenby	The Wogan Cavern (or Wogan's Cave) is entered from inside Pembroke Castle by a spiral stairway and was used as a boathouse / storehouse for the castle – the front of the cave being walled up and fortified. As I hadn't been in the cave for over 20 years it was almost a pilgrimage to visit it again. The large chamber has no obvious passages leading off and was exactly as I remembered it as a kid. Hoyle's Mouth Cave (Welsh – Ogof Geg Hoyle) is a 159ft length of ancient phreatic passage with old stal flows and a possible, though difficult, dig at the end. Famous for its archaeological contents.
Glamorgan	Bob's Way Cave 6/9/85 Alone		Oystermouth	Quiet look in the entrance but "deturd" by the amount of human shit. A grotty looking cave but with a possibility of further extensions.
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Eastwater Cavern 7/9/85 Dave Nicholls, Mark Lovell	3½ hr	Priddy	To Soho in West End Series where I searched in vain for a route up towards Morton's Pot while Dave and Mark went photographing in Regent Street, I then went to the "upstream" end of Soho and dug at a couple of boulder chokes – one of these was soon removed, with the assistance of gravity, and I squeezed up into some 20' of roomy up-dip bedding plane completely blocked by hairy boulders. Mark joined me and we then returned to Magic Fountain to drink Dave's tin of beer. On the way out I climbed the 55' aven in Ifold's Series. This easy but exciting climb was rather wet and would make a superb way into this series if the too tight rift at the top was pushed. Bang would be needed and it is still a long way up to the entrance series. A fairly useful trip adding a bit more to my knowledge of this fascinating system.
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Breconshire Glamorgan	Dan-yr-Ogof Ogof-yr-Esgyrn Cathedral (Tunnel) Cave Port Eynon Point Cave Culver Hole 10/9/85 (tourists) Alone	½ hr ¼ hr └ ¼ hr └	Abercrave Abercrave Abercrave Port Eynon Port Eynon	Working in the Ystradgynlais area so took time off to visit the show caves (£2.50 the lot). This turned out to be a horror show due to noisy, gobby, ignorant, inconsiderate, uninterested fucking tourists and the generally poorly managed and displayed caves themselves. Dan-yr-Ogof was atrocious, the Bone Cave better but overdone and Tunnel Cave beautiful as ever but ruined by displays which have gone "over the top" and excessive lighting. So much for this "award winning" tourist trap! In the evening I drove over from Neath to the Gower to settle a c.25 year old score with Culver

				Hole i.e. getting into it! After a quick visit to Port Eynon Point Sea Cave I reached Culver Hole and gained entry using a stout rope hanging down from the lowest “window”. The “fortified” area inside was explored except for down at floor level. Trip made interesting by many huge “sea-woodlice”, pigeons, a bat and the old plank bridging a 20’ pitch. A particularly unpleasant place.
Monmouth-shire	Pwll Du Quarry Cave No1 (A) Pwll Du Quarry Cave No2 (B) 2 caves in millstone grit	½ hr	Llanfoist Fawr	<p>Main aim of trip was to visit the Black Cavern (Siambri Ddu) but the description of its position in Oldham’s book is rubbish – it being in a totally different quarry! Because of this I spent a lot of time getting into horribly small, muddy and loose parts of the two grotty caves in millstone grit not mentioned in any of the guide books in the misapprehension that one of them was the Black Cavern. The other two numbered caves held little of interest, No1 looking remarkably like a mined adit level to work the limestone and the other not being pushed due to a puddle in a squeeze and me being in dry grots. Interesting to see cave development in this area though, and there doubtless will be other stuff found around here in the future.</p> <p>[later note] A – Outer Quarry Cave ? B – Moth Cave (Ogof Gwyfyn) ? Oldham 1990 p.27</p>

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Montgomery-shire	(Plynlimon Mine) – 23/9/85. Quick look around the surface workings. Recovered a few bricks from the site for my garden path and a piece of rail for Cheg’s collection.			
Cardiganshire	25/9/85. Llywernog Silver-Lead Mine, Cardiganshire. Had a quick look over the tourist fence at the Thomas Evans Steam Sinking Pump which we removed from Cyffty mine some years ago. Looks disappointingly rusty and uncared for and is sitting on a wheeled trolley!			
Radnorshire	26/9/85. Brief visit to the surface remains of Nant-y-Mwyn Lead Mine near Rhwdwmwyn. No open levels noted but I believe the boat level has been entered for a long way by John Parker and Co in the past. Worth a good look sometime.			
Somerset	Wookey Hole 4/10/85 G.Balcombe, J.Sheppard, J.Buxton, S.Wynne-Roberts, J.Hanwell, F.Davies, W.Stanton, A.Rogers, A.Mill and wife, J.Pxxx, P.Drake, D.Bradshaw, R.Cork, R.Palmer, R.Parker, J.Parker, P.Ifold & wife, M.Wooding, J.Savage, B.Woodward, B.Bedford, C.Batstone, M.Urwin, R.Mansfield, J.Woodward, B.Woodward, E.Hensler, K.Kelley, B.Workman, M and L Jeanmarie, A.Boycott, J and M Cobbett,	2½ hr	Wookey Hole	50 th Anniversary Celebration of cave diving at Wookey Hole. Three barrels were laid on in the cave (one to celebrate Pat Cronin’s birthday) and about a 100 cave divers and friends turned up to drink them. Photos were taken and a demonstration of sump rescue equipment took place. Many of those present had travelled from great distances i.e. Bob Davies and Oliver Wells and many had not been on Mendip (or caving) for decades. A superb time was had by all followed by more beer at the Hunters. It was a great privilege to have attended.

	P.Collet, J.Hanwell, A.Thomas, R.West, S.Tucker, M and G.Glan(?), J.Henley, T.Hughes and Tricia, S.MacManus, R.Pyke, K.Davies, D and S Hazell, R.Churcher, P and L Romford, O and P Wells, P.Eckford, P and A Glanville, C.Westlake, K.Gladman, C.Howes, J.Calford, S.Brooks, D.Morris, J and C Abbott, L.Devenish, B.Prewer, R.Harper, P.Cronin, K.James, R and M Hill, C.Edmunds and friend, K.Gladman and full supporting cast (over 100 people).			
Somerset	5/10/85. BEC 50 th Anniversary Dinner. This followed a boozy AGM and in turn was followed on Sunday by a boozy 40 th birthday party at Barrie Wilton's. All in all an excessively alcoholic weekend. The dinner was enjoyed immensely by all and rates as one of the best and most successful ever.			
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 12/10/85 Tim Large	1hr 40m	Priddy	Dig hunting trip. The two digs at the bottom of the main passage are choked up and look pretty hopeless. The "Uglies" dig on the LH side is extremely muddy and uninspiring. The best bet is the end of Sanctimonious Passage where a narrow slit could be banged. There is no obvious draught.
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Somerset	Upper Flood Swallet 13/10/85 Johnathan Roberts (MCG), Jennie Gilbert (ICCC), Steve Lane	1hr 5m	Charterhouse	John kindly took us on a tourist trip into the new series. A thoroughly magnificent section of superbly decorated stream passage. The profusion of white and ochre formations, with hundreds of fine, long straws, is really excellent. This is enhanced by the gently flowing Blackmoor stream. There is an upper level dig at the end but the sumped streamway itself looks a very promising site. This discovery is the key to a hopefully extensive and beautiful cave system which will rival anything on Mendip. A highly deserved reward for all the work and perseverance put into this long term project. Well done MCG.
Devon	(Kit Hill Great Consols Mine) 16/10/85. Visited the site during trig maintenance programme. Many open shafts and ruins of buildings can be seen but I didn't have enough time for a proper investigation.			
Somerset	St. Cuthbert's Swallet 19/10/85 Mac, Mark Lumley, Steve Milner, Mick McD.	2hr 25m	Priddy	Training trip for four of us as prospective Cuthbert's leaders, led by Mac. To Pillar Chamber, September Series, Catgut, Rabbit Warren Extension, Rabbit Warren, Railway Tunnel, Harem Passage and out. A good run round the east side of the system.
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	Swildon's Hole 20/10/85 Rich West, Phil Romford, Brian Prewer, Dany, Phil	20m	Priddy	Callout at home to say that a Coventry student, Paul Downes, was stuck in the small passage behind the climb down near the entrance. Phil Underwood, on the same party, had called out the MRO. We nipped down and Phil Romford

	Underwood, victim and others.			tied a rope to the lad's ankles and with the assistance of Dany he was pulled with no problem. I rescued his helmet and lamp and we returned to the tea and scones.
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 1/11/85 Nigel Graham (WCC)	¾ hr	Wookey Hole	The idea was to dig the end in preparation for a bang but on arrival we found that Trevor had already done it. Removed a few slabs of calcite from the end then retreated to the surface via the lower passage where we had a look at Quiet John's dig. This is in a large passage but is extremely muddy and it is difficult to decide the correct way to continue. On the surface we removed the last sections of NHASA compressed air pipe and delivered them to Twin Titty's Dig.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 2/11/85 Mark Lumley	2½ hr	Priddy	To the Rift Chambers to inspect Mark's new dig at the end of the first chamber. Where the rift narrows down the floor is choked with gravel and rocks. We dug down a couple of feet to reveal a dipping bedding passage on the RH side with a nice white curtain on the roof. The route straight on closes up but the bedding may by-pass this. A good dig site which will be continued with. From here we could also plainly hear Tim Gould at the chamber above Primrose Pot. Also, from a tight canyon passage on the RH side just back from this dig is another clear vocal connection with Primrose Path. I squeezed along here for 20' or so and got very close to Tim. With a bit of work a useful connection could be established here which would be of great use for rescues. Interesting trip.
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Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 8/11/85 Alone	3¼ hr	Priddy	Took down tools and digging bags and carried on with the Rift Chamber dig. The bedding on the RH side was cleared out to a width of about 6'. It is very tight but just passable and needs digging or preferably blasting to continue. The rift straight on closes down but may continue down in the floor. This also desperately needs banging to enter the hopefully open continuation of the rift ahead. All spoil was bagged up and formed into a stable spoil heap. Removed a few bits of litter on the way out. Useful trip.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 9/11/85 Tim Large	2 hrs	Priddy	To Rift Chamber dig to show Tim and assess site for future banging. I then went round to the Weaver-Bowen Extension and climbed up it as far as possible to establish a very close vocal connection with Tim in the side passage before the dig. This would need a lot of banging to make it passable and would not be the easy rescue route envisaged. Then to 2nd Rift Chamber where we looked at various sites previously dug by Pete and Alison Moody. More litter cleared on way out.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 23/11/85 Tim Large	3hr 15m	Priddy	To Rift Chamber dig to remove bang debris and chisel the shattered rock from the walls. The 2lb of bang placed by Tim last Wednesday had done a very good job. A few more bangs will be needed yet to enter the open(?) rift ahead. Then down to the 55' Aven in Ifold's Series where I climbed about two thirds of the way up. Tim didn't fancy the climb so we packed in and came out, removing odd bits of litter en route.

Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 30/11/85 Tim Large, Snablet	2¼ hr	Priddy	Removal of bang debris from bang of previous Wednesday. There was little spoil so much chiselling was necessary to give any result. Rock walls are very shattered and another bang should give a good result.
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Eastwater Cavern 14/12/85 Mark Lumley, Tim Large, Jim Smart	3¼ hr	Priddy	To the Rift Chamber dig which Tim and Mark had banged again on Wednesday. After a bit of hammer and chisel work Mark managed to squeeze through into a mere 30' of rift passage ending in a grotty little sump pool with a couple of small impassable inlet passages above. The RH wall of the rift is very unstable and highly dangerous. A poke with the digging hoe in the sump pool revealed it to close down after about 6'. Not much hope of further progress here. Names "East End Series" with great irony! Meanwhile I dug a lot of spoil and boulders from the "oral connection" passage to Primrose Pot. This could be passed with a few bang sessions. On the way out we retrieved two ammo cans jammed in the bottom of the Upper Traverse – with great difficulty, including me actually squeezing down to the very bottom of the Traverse. The cans contained a full first aid kit, watch, camera, 2 carbide lamps, Mars Bars, Marathons etc etc. A good haul which made up the disappointment of the dig. Met Snablet and Tom on the way out.

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Ireland Co. Clare	Doolin Cave System (Aran View Swallet – St. Catherine's 1) 23/12/85 Cheg, Dave Gough, Phil Romford	3¼ hr	Doolin	Fisherstreet Pot was sumped at its bottom so we went in via Aran View Swallet. In the main streamway we went down to the Aille River inlet cascades then forced our way back up river to St. Catherine's 1 Swallet in very high water conditions – it being almost impossible to stand in the stream in a couple of places. By the time we dragged ourselves out into the night we were fairly knackered but a lot more sober than when we went in!
Co Clare	Coolagh River Cave 26/12/85 Cheg, Dave, Phil	2½ hr	Lisdoonvarna	Very drunken trip after long lunch time session in O'Connors Bar. In via Polldonough (the normal) entrance. In the region of the Four Foot Pot I became lost from the others who had hurried on in front without waiting for me. They assumed I had gone back out so continued on their trip to leave the cave via a different entrance. Meanwhile I was completely lost and did not recognise the upstream parts of the passage I was in, so I ran/crawled around 500' of passage for the next two hours until the others came in via the main entrance again to find out where I was. I was definitely not amused on this trip but I think we all learned a lesson about caving when completely paralytic! (Also, in the morning, I looked at an unrecorded sink on the N side of the road up to the phosphate mine from Roadford Bridge and the main shaft of the mine itself – open for about 50')
Co. Clare	29/12/85. Cycled from Doolin to Ballynalacka via A12 at Cahermacrusheen. Here there are various small cave sites in the cloud valley below Cregg Lodge. Nothing easily diggable though. Then on down the green road to the main road. Up to Coolagh River area, Faunarooska and across to Pollnagollum via the green lane. Then back to Doolin. Superb ride.			

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Somerset	Manor Farm Swallet 31/12/85 Quiet John, Bollix, Tim Large, John Dukes	3¼ hr		To Quiet John's dig at the very end of the cave, taking 2 Acro jacks and some bang. Both proved unnecessary as the loose boulders along the LH wall of the rift passage are too dangerous to either shore up easily or bang. Both Tim and I crawled down through the dodgy section at the end to where it choked completely. The passage draughts here but to dig along it would mean a major shoring project. John's old dig, which is some 15' below this area, may be the best solution. On the way out we dug a trench and built a dam in the streamway below NHASA Gallery to try and divert the stream into a hole on the RH side – with little success. Pleasant trip.
Mendip	Eastwater Cavern 3/1/86 Phil Romford	3¼ hr	Priddy	Excellent and useful trip to commence yet another Eastwater project and look at a few items of interest. Down to Harris's Passage (in very wet conditions) via the Twin Verticals. Then up Harris's Passage to the 55' Aven, which I climbed and rigged with 60' of ladder from a natural belay at the very top (making the Aven now 60' and not 55'!) The flowstoned area of the aven was also climbed to a stal blockage at about 35' – scratched initials on the wall showing it to have been previously looked at in 1965. We then descended the aven for a Murraymint break (fags are now out!). Then back up to the top ledge where Phil installed a Troll bolt and hanger for future use. The two ways on at the top of the aven may be passable with a bit of chisel/crowbar work. Then on back down Harris's Passage and down 13 Pots to do the "round trip" via the Muddy Oxbow, tidying up heaps of rubbish en route. Out via Twin Verts and 1 st Rift Chamber where Phil had a look at "East End Series". More rubbish removed on way out.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 4/1/86 John Duke	3hr 35m	Priddy	To the 60' Aven with a selection of tools. Much hammering and chiselling failed to reduce the offending lump very much and it was decided to bang it at a future date. It is possible to see up a passable rift for some 5-8 feet beyond the tight section. I then decided to try for an aural connection with the Wind Tunnel area so left John at the top of the aven and departed for the Canyon. Soon after arrival at Wind Tunnel I distinctly heard John hammering – the sound appearing to come from every direction but definitely louder in the area of the avens plotted position on the survey – vaguely close to the Bakers Chimney By-Pass. A tight squeeze below the By-Pass led to a length of tight tube which looks as if it is being "actively" dug. This was not pushed to a conclusion. I then entered the Boulder Chamber and after a look around found a black space below the boulders at the lower end. A hole was easily made through these and I was able to drop down some 8' to an area with a solid wall on one side and exceedingly hairy boulders on the other. In the solid side of a tight rift taking a trickle of water emitted a very strong draught and stones could be dropped down for a few feet. This will be dug in future and may be the missing link we are looking for. When John

				turned up we moved a few rocks before forcing our way out of the Boulder Ruckle in almost flood conditions due to the thawing of the icy fields and heavy rain which had occurred during our trip. Another excellent and educative trip. Eastwater is slowly giving up its secrets!
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Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 10/1/86 Alone	2hr 20m	Priddy	Down to the Boulder Chamber dig in extremely wet conditions following the heavy rain of the previous night. Took down a sledgehammer, rope-puller, hammer and entrenching tool. Two large boulders were winched away from the top of the dig and I then set to work on the cobble and gravel choke in the draughting rift some 8' below. After a couple of hours the rift was almost large enough to squeeze down into to where much of the gravel had banked up below. Rather damp, fed up of digging upside down and with discretion being the better part of valour I returned to the surface – full of enthusiasm for another session tomorrow.
Somerset <i>Discovery Rescue</i>	Eastwater Cavern Longwood Swallet 11/1/86 J.Chew, T.Large, H.Price, M.Lumley, S.Milner, J.Smart (Rescue: J.Chew, T.Barnard, J.Price, G.Price, L.Smith, Jenny, F.Felstead, H.Price, B.Wallman(?) , T.Hughes, B.Prewer, etc. etc.)	3½ hr 2½ hr	Priddy Charterhouse	Reasonably early start to the dig in Boulder Chamber where after a brief digging session I managed to squeeze through into some 20' or so of roomy descending passage, leading to a pitch or rift of about 15'. Unfortunately this could not be attained due to really horrific boulders bridged over the top of the rift. Tim came in for a look and then returned to Boulder Chamber where he noticed smoke pouring from a tight rift immediately below the Wind Tunnel. This was from a smoke bomb fired by Jim Smart at the top of the 60' Aven in Ifold's Series. We hammered at the offending rock here until defeated by the lack of a chisel. To obtain one we went on down to the Aven and retrieved a crowbar and iron bar which were used to smash up the boulder. Just as we had managed to split it there was a shout from Howard, who had left the cave earlier, to say that a rescue was in operation and we were to come out and stand by at the Belfry. It transpired that a 16 year old lad had been hit by a boulder at the bottom of Longwood main chamber and was presumed dead. We stood by for an hour or so then were called out and entered the cave at 5.00 pm to relieve one of the hauling parties. On arrival at the 10' climbs we met the hauling teams and victim and were given the job of going on down to the main chamber to collect all the MRO kit which was lying about. Conditions were very wet and sporting. Back at the top of the 10' climbs the lads were having great problems getting the body through the low squeezes. I assisted them for a short while before heading out as was beginning to feel the strain. I then acted as liaison man at the entrance rift. A fresh team of Wessex lads eventually got the body through the squeezes and out of the cave by around 9.30 pm. A very sad episode.

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Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 23/1/86 Alone	1hr 40m	Priddy	In the morning Mac and I took a 30' length of 8" diameter plastic pipe over to the entrance. I then built a small sand bag dam and placed the pipe so
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				<p>that about 90% of the stream was captured and diverted to the site of the old cave entrance – as used in the '60s. The water easily sank away here and did not appear to be re-emerging at the bottom of the entrance shaft.</p> <p>I returned later with wet-suit and lamp in order to go down and check where the diverted water entered the cave. The normal route down was fairly dry until just before the new crawl into Boulder Chamber where much of the stream was pouring in from a rift in the roof. At the far side of the crawl the rest of the stream appeared from the Boulder Ruckle above. There was no water pouring in from the roof of Boulder Chamber as suggested by Balch, but a small stream trickled off down “Keith and Andy’s Folly Passage” towards the Canyon.</p> <p>I then spent an hour digging at the smoke-tested hole. This will need to be shored and then opened out horizontally to progress any further as it chokes with gravel – some of which is actively falling in from the Boulder Chamber Floor.</p> <p>Bored with this, I decided to have a look at the new passage with the horrific boulders at the end, provisionally named “Death Row”. I reached the boulders easily and after poking and prodding for a bit decided they were safer than they looked and managed to squeeze down through them to enter the wider rift below. Where the LH wall is composed of loose calcite the way on below is an open hole into a larger section. Before entering this I prodded the boulders forming the arch ahead. They promptly collapsed! A bit of judicious prodding was attempted but suddenly the world started to move as a lump fell on me from above at the same time as the arch collapsed further. I hastily started out and while squeezing back up through the horrific boulders above, something large and heavy dropped off, brushing my leg on its descent. Panic almost set in as I squirmed out of the last bit with the adrenalin shooting out of my ears! Hung about at the top for a bit throwing stones and listening to collapsing noises from below. A lucky escape from a rather foolhardy situation. The chances of passing this area get slimmer!</p>
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Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 25/1/86 Tim Large, John Dukes, Andy Sparrow	2¾ hr	Priddy	To the top of the 55’ Aven where Tim laid 11b of plaster in the LH rift. This gave a mighty bang which to us, at the base of the aven, was very loud. To the poor bugger who was sat on his own near Baker’s Chimney, and nearer to the bang than us, it must have seemed like the world had come to an end! Unfortunately the bang fumes dropped down the aven and chased us all out of the cave, so no results could be immediately known.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 26/1/86 Trevor Hughes, Pete “Snablet” Macnab.	2hr 25m	Priddy	Back to the 55’ Aven to check the results of yesterday’s bang. The main nodule had disappeared and much of the LH rock wall was shattered and fairly easily removed. Both I and Snablet managed to squeeze up into the rift to find that it closed down after about five feet.

				Needs more bang, though it may be better to try and follow the stream. Back via Boulder Chamber where some scrabbling took place at the “connection dig” before imminent collapse of the sides forced us to withdraw.
Somerset	Swildon’s Hole 2/2/86 Howard Price, D.Malcolm Lyons	1hr 10m	Priddy	Re-familiarisation trip for Malcolm who has previously caved in New Zealand with the Waitomo Club. He was very under-confident and not quite “with it” but hopefully he will get over this and end up as a new MRO doctor. The cave was quite busy and in the process of flooding with snow meltwater. Quite a sporting and enjoyable trip and out in time for a few pints!
Somerset	Ninebarrows Swallet 22/2/86 Brian Prewer, Adrian Finch, Mark Lumley, Tim Large, Trebor, Steve Milner, Dave Pike, Jim Gould, Kangy King, Mary Rands	2hr 10m	Priddy	Practice rescue – supposedly for the younger BEC, with Mairi as “victim”. Pulled her out on the old drag sheet from the end of the cave with very few problems. A useful exercise where everyone learnt something.
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Scotland Sutherland	Uamh Cul Eoghainn Uamh an Tartair Uamh Pol Eoghainn 8/3/86 Rog Biddle (GSG), Rune Gaven	20m	Elphin	Essentially a visit to the drier (entrance) passages of these three caves to give our Norwegian guest an impression of caving. Spent a long time looking for UPE only to find it very wet just inside the entrance and unsuitable for our dry grots. Superb Assynt skylscapes. Must get back up here and do some proper caving!
Scotland Midlothian	11/3/86. Accompanied by Andy Grant (OS) I investigated a 26m long by 0.8m diameter brick lined culvert at Penicuik, Midlothian. This narrowed at its end and was blocked by a thick steel “door” and pile of bricks beyond, probably up to the surface only a few feet above. It seems this is nothing to do with the coal mines of the area but could be related to the paper mills once existing in this area.			
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	St. Cuthbert’s Swallet 15/3/86 Tim Large, Mark Lumley	3¾ hr	Priddy	To the horrific boulder ruckle above and beyond Marble Hall where Tim and Gonzo had been digging but had not pushed the resulting passage as it was somewhat loose. We entered the continuation finding some 50’ or so of “hanging death” before it became too dicey to progress further. We then climbed up above the ruckle into the loose chambers which exist there. Off one of these Tim found a very tight rift that he and Mark couldn’t get through. I managed to pass this into roomy, solid passage that had obviously been entered before and was, in fact, the trade route from the main cave to Marble Pot and Marble Hall, though I did not realise this at the time and had to go back round the long way with the others. We thus have a new “round trip” but I personally don’t wish to visit the boulder area again! A good trip.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 22/3/86 Tim Large	4hr 10m	Priddy	Digging in Boulder Chamber (55’ Aven connection dig). Shifted loads of gravel etc before realising that the “bedrock” bridge was in fact a huge boulder. We decided to try and drop this into the hole in front of the dig to act as shoring and to give us room at the dig face. To accomplish this I had to go back out to the surface and bring down a jack from the Land Rover. Unfortunately I hadn’t got a handle but we managed to get away (just) with using a peculiar double spike we had found on the

				surface and taken down to dig with. Eventually the boulder was forced into the hole leaving just enough room to dig (head first and upside down!) at the face. Behind the boulder was infilled with large rocks and spoil. A few buckets of spoil were removed before exiting. There were still large areas of ice in the entrance and the boulder ruckle just before the Traverse by-pass which has to be avoided. A useful day's digging.
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Wales Breconshire	Ogof Daren Cilau 29/3/86 – 30/3/86 Tim Large, Duncan Frew (WCC), Wormhole, Snablet	7¾ hr	Llangattock	The aim of the trip was to transport food and sleeping kit for the LADS to their dig off the King's Road. It seemed like a good idea to go in on an overnight trip after a lunchtime session in the Beaufort! This turned out to be a bad idea. We entered the cave at 5.45pm and struggled through the desperate entrance series, meeting a selection of NCC, BEC and DCC cavers en route. The impressive Jigsaw Passage was followed to Big Chamber and the ladder climb into the roof. Here Wormhole decided that he had had enough as his polar suit was thoroughly soaked and his (my) gobbler was playing up. It was decided that without Snablet to guide he wouldn't get out so we all turned round and headed back (somewhat reluctantly on my and Snablet's part) to emerge at 1.30am into a freezing cold night. On the way we brewed up mushroom Cuppa Soup to revive our spirits to the gruelling, knee-wrecking entrance crawl. Definitely a collector's piece but I expect I will return, though the section of the cave which we saw wasn't particularly inspiring.
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Eastwater Cavern 5/4/86 Tim Large	3½ hr	Priddy	To the dig in Boulder Chamber where a vast amount of paint tins full of spoil were removed and stacked behind the dig. As we progressed the passage widened and holes began appearing on the LH side. Eventually we removed enough debris to enable us to get in feet first instead of standing on our heads as before. The floor was then removed to give access to a sloping "bedding plane" which Tim entered for about 8 feet to a constriction. I then had a go and passed the tight bit to a further 8 feet or so ending in a hole in the floor with a muddy pool and impassably tight rift leading on. A bit of a disappointment after the sudden spurt of enthusiasm when we realised the dig was "going". A smoke/aural test will now be necessary to stablish the distance and proximity of the top of the 60' Aven and whether it is a feasible proposition to blast it open.
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 12/4/86 Tim Large	1 hr	Wookey Hole	Tim laid and fired 11b of bang at the working face – some 8ft further than my last visit thanks to Pete Eckford and Trev Hughes' efforts. There was very little draught and plenty of pools had formed in the passage to add to the sport of the place. We must be getting near to halfway towards our ultimate aim of Wookey 22. This dig should be the main project for 1986 so that we can get on with something else!
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Somerset	13/4/86. AM. Callout to Priddy Green for rescue of Hades CC member who had suffered an epileptic			

<i>rescues</i>	fit and fallen into the lower of the Double Pots Swildon's Hole. Before a full scale rescue could be mounted the victim recovered enough to get himself out with assistance. PM. Callout from the Hunters at 10.30pm! to assist the Cheddar Cliff Rescue Team with the recovery of a climber stranded halfway up Coronation St. This turned into a rather hilarious spectator event with abseiling "Spider Man" climbers, piles of "knitting", falling rocks, giggling policemen and cavers etc etc. Most enjoyable despite the lateness of the hour.			
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 19/4/86 Andy Middleton, Richard Payne, Matt Tuck, (John Chew)	2hr	Priddy	To the top of the 55' (60') Aven in Ifold's Series where a voice connection was established with John Chew who was in the new bit of passage at the bottom of the Boulder Chamber. De-rigged the 60' Aven leaving just the lifeline in situ. Interesting trip for the others as none of them had used the by-pass route before.
Somerset	Waterwheel Swallet (Middle Flood Swallet) Upper Flood Swallet 26/4/86 Jonathan Roberts (MCG) Tim Large	50m 55m	Charterhouse	John took up on an afternoon's guided tour of these two excellent little caves. Waterwheel is surprisingly deep and extensive – some 200' deep and 600' long – ending in a sumped rift below a 25' pitch and artificial lake. The cave bears the unmistakeable Willie Stanton digging hallmarks – flights of stone steps and pack walls, plus numerous other odds and sods of plumbing etc. A most impressive digging project and an undoubtedly promising site for further pushing. Then to Upper Flood for a tourist trip through the superbly decorated streamway and a look at the MCG's highly promising dig. This looks as if it would "go" with a good digging session. An excellent couple of trips.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern Swildon's Hole 7/4/86 Tom Chapman	1hr 1½ hr	Priddy	AM To the two dams at the head of the 380' Way where we cleared the silt in preparation for summer digging projects at Morton's Pot and the sink prior to it. Assisted a large young lady out of the cave. PM. To Bat Dig in Shatter Series to give Tom my profound opinion of the site! It is a muddy sump above a high aven and could probably be drained with siphon tubes as pumping soon makes the air bad. Looks like quite a good site. Had a job keeping up with Tom as usual. Must be getting old!

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Austria Upper Austria	Dachstein – Rieseneishöhle Dachstein – Mammuthöhle 26/5/86 Jane + tourists	¾ hr ½ hr	Obertraun	Met Siegfried Gämsjager on the Seilbahn (cave manager) who let us in for kids' prices and bought us a beer! Jane was suitably impressed with the 'ice' cave and suitably bored by the Mammuthöhle. Excellent new caving museum built near the café. A monster three-dimensional model of the Mammuthöhle System is a work of art (and dedication by its builder). From the caves we took the seilbahn to Kuppenstein hut and then were amongst the first people this year to walk (stagger) to the Weisberghaus – mostly up and down steep, hard snow slopes in boiling sunshine. A bit of a minor epic! Following day walked down to Hallstatt and met Peter Scitoller who showed us photos and survey of the now 47 km long Hirlatzhöhle. Arranged things for the summer trip.
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Yugoslavia Slovenia	Pivka Jama Postojnska Jama 29/5/86 Jane + tourists	1½ hr	Postojna	Camped in a concrete floored campsite at Pivka Jama but was only able to see the entrance shaft as far as the gate due to the cave not being open to tourists for another four days. At last managed
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				to visit the famous Postojna! After a long wait with hordes of international tourists we entered the cave and boarded the train. Then followed a lengthy spell of high speed travel through seemingly endless chambers and passages, richly adorned with formations – sadly all soot covered from the efforts of Yugoslavian patriots destroying German installations during the Second World War. One chamber was lit by antique chandeliers and wall lights – most spectacular. The train eventually halted in a large chamber and the literally hundreds of tourists sorted themselves out into groups speaking the same language – as advertised by numerous signs. The whole mass then followed their respective guides through several hundred feet of spectacularly decorated chambers and passages in a figure of eight loop. This included the famous Russian Bridge and an artificial pool containing several Proteus Anguinus. This part of the tour ended in a large chamber with souvenir shops, bar and railway station where the train was boarded for the rapid exit. An absolutely bloody amazing showcave, well deserving of its fame and reputation for processing tourists.
Yugoslavia Slovenia	Predjama 29/5/86 Jane + tourists	¼ hr	Postojna	Visited the cliff castle of Predjamski Grad situated in the upper series of this cave system and built in front of the earlier Jamski Grad castle of the robber knight Erasmus. After rambling through the rooms of the castle one enters the vast upper level for a short while. Similar to the entrance of Peak Cavern. A spectacular thunderstorm added to the atmosphere of this incredible place. The upper cave is called Erazmora Jama.
Yugoslavia Slovenia	Škoejamske Jame 30/5/86 Jane + tourists	1 hr	Matavun	Situated in the Trieste Karst this has to be one of the biggest show caves in the world. A mined passage descends gradually into well decorated high level passages and chambers many being very large. After a considerable time wandering through these the visitor hears the rumbling of a river and abruptly appears in the side of a vast passage, several hundred feet above the floor. The whole place is full of mist from the somewhat smelly River Reka hurtling along below. The next 45 minutes is spent walking along incredibly well constructed walkways blasted out of the passage wall about 150' above river level in a passage some 300' high by 100' wide! Real Mulu stuff! The route eventually emerges in a huge pothole and a lot of steps bring one back to the surface. The river sumps in the cave and resurges near Trieste in Italy, some 40kms away. This place is a definite must for any tourist especially cavers. The Karst area of Yugoslavia is unfortunately uninspiring – as are the villages, town and people – but the caves are unbelievable.
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Switzerland Bernese Oberland	St. Beatushöhle 2/6/86 Tourists	50m	Interlaken	A fairly uninspiring system of smallish passages with a few formations going steeply up dip from the spectacular resurgence. The first couple of hundred feet and the last couple of hundred feet make up for this however due to the swift

				flowing, noisy river passages. Really exciting stuff for a show cave, with the visitor walking on paths only inches above the thundering water. One of the early classic tourist caves of Europe with a very good caving museum at the entrance.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 14/6/86 Tim Large, Steve Milner	1½ hr	Red Quar	Dug several bags of fine silt from Blitz Passage to enable Tim to place a 1½ lb charge (cone charge on top and the rest in the rift). Cave bone dry – very different from the last trip! Mark Lumley and Quiet John commenced digging in the swallet adjacent to Attborough Swallet. They say it looks good but a couple of very large boulders need removing.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 14/6/86 Chris Castle	1hr 25m	Red Quar	Removed the spoil from Tim's superbly effective bang of the previous day. Probably shifted some 20 bags of rock and silt altogether to leave a clear site ready for the next bang. Smoke Room almost full up. In the afternoon we (Tim, Zot, Q.John, Chris C) went to the surface dig at Red Quar (His Lordship's Hole?!) and shifted a fair amount of boulders to reveal holes between more boulders and a definite cool draught. A very promising site though shoring may be necessary. A good day's work.

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Wales Glamorgan	Dan-y-Craig Mine 21/6/86 Bob, Dany, Tim G, Andy L, Snablet, Wobbly, Arthur Millett (CSS), Steve M, Gonzo, Tony (?) (+ others) Norman and Jill Tuck	1hr 55m	Risca	The BEC were called out en masse by the quarry tip foreman to survey a large lead mine in the lower part of the quarry with the intention of making a new entrance as the main entrance will be covered by the tip. This is the working which we tried to get into on our last visit (Page 85) but could not find. The quarried entrance led directly into a large, stoped out chamber with a couple of flooded shafts in the floor and a roomy adit level heading off to the right (downstream). This right hand level was later surveyed by me, Tim, Andy and Wobbly for 157 metres to a mud choke. Just before the choke the stream sank in a small but open cave passage in the vicinity of other impassable natural tubes. No hope of gaining access to anything cave-able here unfortunately. Beyond the main entrance chamber a couple of levels continued into further upper workings (which I did not look at) and a couple more flooded shafts suggesting an extensive series of workings below. Arthur Millet and the lads made a detailed survey of the dry main workings. Quite an interesting mine, though not as wonderful as original reports suggested. Another good session in the Railway Tavern Hotel finished the day off!!
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 28/6/86 Tim Large, Blitz	1hr 55m	Red Quarr	Afternoon digging and blasting trip. Moved several bags of spoil from the end and Tim fired 2lbs of bang in the rift in the floor. Sounded good.
Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 9/7/86 Brian Prewer, Fred Davies, John Hann, Albert Francis, Andy Nash, 2 others	1hr 20m	Priddy	Back to the NHASA dig at last! Brian and I dug several bags of spoil from the new underground shaft which is to one side of, and the same depth as the collapsed shaft. It is superbly "ginged" with rocks and cement and is only a few feet from the lost chamber. Looks good for a re-entry within the next couple of weeks. The underground "works" are superbly well

				organised.
Somerset	G.B. Cave 11/7/86 Janet Woodward (SMCC), Kevin Downey (USA), Håkan Wungquist, Peter Glaas (Sweden), Jane Anderson (Soton)	2 hr	Charterhouse	Tourist trip for the foreign visitors and Jane. Peter Glaas on his first trip. Håkan is a Swedish caver who seems to spend most of his time in the Stockholm sewerage system! Kevin took a few photos of the larger bits of the cave using mega flashbulbs. A very pleasant and slow fester around the Oxbow and Main Chamber etc. Everyone suitably impressed.

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Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 12/7/86 Tim Large	3¾ hr	Red Quarr	An extremely useful trip to consolidate the digging area and check the potential at the end. Tim and I carried down 2 Acro-jacks, 5 baulks of wood, a haversack of ready mix cement, 2 gallons of water and a wood saw! At the working face Tim decided that very little more had fallen from the ceiling following the bad roof fall of Wednesday night and that we could easily shore the rest and carry on digging. Several bags of spoil were filled and all loose rock removed from the rift – much of being stacked in the end of the passage and later cemented in to assist the stabilising process. We hammered much of the LH wall off and made it easy to work in the hole. Some 4' from the top of the small rift in the floor we reached an open bedding passage – typical Wigmore stuff and almost full to the roof with the usual gravel, mud and rocks. This goes both up and downstream and would be easily passable if dug out. Hopefully it will be dug downstream following the line of the rift where it appears to enlarge. There is a good draught and everything looks really promising for future work. One bag of spoil was dragged back to the “main chamber” and a toad and a small frog were rescued. A bloody good day's work. More shoring or cementing will be necessary and more digging bags are needed.
Yorkshire	15/7/86. Accompanied “Lugger”, “Tomma”, Andy Quinn, John ?, Alan Box and later Thomas Lord to “Stainforth Cave 2” – a short flood resurgence dig above Stainforth village. Lugger drilled two shot holes using a Bosch self contained drill and banged the end. We all went down to the Craven Heifer for a few pints before returning, in pitch blackness, to the cave. Lugger pushed the dig for some 50 feet or so before it became too tight. A bit of a disappointment for the NCC lads.			
Yorkshire	16/7/86. While working on the tiny pillar at Parson's Pulpit, north of Malham, I looked at a few shakeholes and rifts near the hilltop. Nothing of great interest though Lugger knows of promising sites in this area.			
Yorkshire	Pippikin Pot / The Mistral 16/7/86 Andy Quinn (NCC), Lugger (NCC) (Steve)	1 hr	Easegill	Supposedly a de-rigging trip to recover ropes left by the Red Rose CPC after their barbecue weekend. Steve (of Bernie's Café) and two mates were joining us but the two got lost en route – Steve finishing up following us down and detackling on his own! Meanwhile we had an excellent fast through trip abseiling down Pippikin and exiting from the newly enlarged Mistral entrance. The Pippikin squeezes were no problem and I found it a very pleasant pot. We reached Mistral via Hall of the Ten, Dusty Junction and the Hobbit. Then off for a boozy night with the CRO at the New Inn, Clapham.

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Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 19/7/86 Tim Large	2hr 40m	Red Quarr	Removed ten or so bags of spoil and a heap of large boulders from the end of the dig. A new cemented ginging wall was erected in front of the
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				last one. The draught seems to be coming from a series of narrow rifts which we opened up in the floor. Much more straightforward digging needs to be done before we know what we are up against.
Yorkshire	21/7/86. John Shaw (OS) and I assisted Geoff Crossley and Rupert Skorupka to kit up for a Keld Head dive. They intended to push Marble Steps inlet but were defeated with weight and leaky dry suit problems. Also looked at an interesting dig site near the wall on the way up to Whernside from the pass at the top of Kingsdale.			
Yorkshire	22/7/86. Looked at promising shakeholes and sinks at the N end of Whernside above the ruined shooting hut between Dent and Ribbleshead.			
Yorkshire	Swinsto Hole / Valley Entrance (Kingsdale Master Cave) 22/7/86 Lugger (NCC), Steve (Bernie's Café) Mike, Simon, John Shaw (OS)	2 hr	Kingsdale	Excellent through trip abseiling the series of pitches on one rope in dry conditions. An impressive and friendly pothole (which I had totally forgotten that I once did with Alan Gamble and Dickie Dickinson!) Some superb rock, scallops etc and an impressive flowstone covered rock pillar near the bottom. A good evening's trip.
Yorkshire	Thaw Head Cave 23/7/86 Lugger	1 hr	Chapel-le-Dale	Assisted Lugger with his archaeological dig in this small cave above Dalebarn Cave. Little of interest was found on this visit despite John's energetic excavations! Remains of Bronze Age have been found here by John and Co including a human skull. There is also a visible settlement site just below the cave on a terrace.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 26/7/86 Tim Large	2hr 35m	Red Quarr	A disappointing trip. Went down to push the open passage (bedding plane) found by the Wednesday night team. I squeezed into the new bit head first to see that the bedding continued for some distance, seemingly wider on the RH side. Large boulders in the squeeze prevented access but we managed to move most of them and were working on the last one when a large bit of roof started to slip onto Tim. I extricated myself from the end and together we managed to drop the offending rock and remove it. Back at the squeeze I noticed that a massive loose block made up the whole roof of the squeeze and for safety's sake would have to go. Tim eventually prised it down but it was too large to break up and was left completely blocking the way on. When it is eventually banged we will have plenty of room to get on with the exploration.

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BEC/NCC & FRIENDS DACHSTEIN EXPEDITION 1986

Germany Swabian Jura	Bärenhöhle 1/8/86 Tim Gould, Andy Lovell (Guide + tourists)	20m	Erpfingen	Tourist trip to this famous German show cave. Fairly unimpressive tunnel through a small hill, well decorated in places with the pièce de resistance being a complete cave bear skeleton wired up into a standing position. Tim took a few photos on the way through the cave. The next two days were spent getting to Hallstatt, getting paralytic in Hallstatt or Obertraun and making our way to the Wiesberghaus.
Austria Upper Austria	C33 (Mittendorfer Höhle) 4/8/86 Tomma (NCC), Pete (DCC), Dave (SWCC), Bob Reilly (Burnley CC)	1¾ hr	Wiesberghaus	After prospecting in the area behind the Wiesberghaus seilbahn hut we had a look down this cave supposedly originally found by Siegfried Mittendorfer and Co and also looked at by our teams in past years. It was followed for a few hundred feet, down a couple of pitches to a point where Tomma pushed it to a very tight, low

				section in a Z-bend. It draughts strongly here and this may be a new area of the cave, as others seem to have stopped at a boulder choke in a largish chamber which has since been dug through (possibly by a Yorkshireman on last year's trip?) This cave needs another look in dry weather. Dave (Vagrant), Tim G, Andy L, Rich Payne looked at and dug a variety of sites in the immediate area finding little of interest.
Upper Austria Höhe Dachstein <i>discovery</i>	Wiesberghöhle 5/8/86 Vagrant Dave, Trebor (Tomma, Pete)	4hr 10m	Wiesberg- haus	Robert Pilz, landlord of the Wiesberghaus, led us to this cave entrance hoping that we might find a water supply for the hut. 4 mins walk from the hut, it was to yield a fine cave after some digging by Tomma and Co. Dave tried to get through a squeeze beside a large boulder but was worried of the boulder slipping onto him. I had a look and with adrenalin flowing, passed the squeeze into some 50' of walking passage leading to the head of a c.40' pitch, Trebor following behind. Dave joined us and from the base of the pitch (Laura Schacht in honour of Robert's wife) we followed some 350' of superb, old phreatic passage – well decorated with ancient stal and multi coloured rock to the head of a c.60' pitch (Robert Schacht). Several large boulders were “gardened” and trundled down the pitch before we retreated, checking for side passages en route, (more adrenalin was burnt up in the trundling). Dave left the cave to get some rope whilst Trebor and I attacked the choked entrance squeeze from below using up masses more adrenalin until the large boulder began to move, by now assisted by the returned Dave complete with scaffold bar borrowed from the side of the footpath above. Meanwhile bolts had been inserted in the roof of the entrance crawl and in the boulder and a rope stretched tightly between the two to hold the rock when its support was removed. With fear, trepidation and a crowbar, Trebor and I eventually took all the debris from below the “Henry” until it was held only by the rope, whereupon Dave cut the rope to allow the offending rock to join us in the passage below. A superbly efficient bit of technology!! This is a superb find with great promise – very attractive, draughting passage with many old formations, berg milch (moonmilk) etc, and large areas of yellow, pink, red and brown rock. Almost certainly a winner and seems to be heading towards the area of yesterday's prospecting.
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Austria Upper Austria Höhe Dachstein	Wiesberghöhle 6/8/86 Trebor, Pete, Dave, Rich Payne, Tim, Andy	5½ hr	Wiesberg- haus	Trebor and I surveyed to the bottom of the 3 rd pitch, (Bergmilch Schacht) pushed by Pete and Dave and leading off from halfway down Robert Schacht after 50' of large passage. It is about 40' deep with a large area of thick, diaphanous moonmilk at the bottom. Pete and Dave also pushed a couple of hundred feet from the bottom of this to a pitch which closed down and also to a similar site directly below Bergmilch Schacht. Bad news – we have missed something somewhere.
Austria Upper Austria	Wiesberghöhle 7/8/86	3hr 20m	Wiesberg- haus	Tourist trip for the two Austrian cavers – Peter being impressed and Kurt offhand and piss-

Höhe Dachstein	Blitz, Trebor, Steve Milner, Bob Riley, Kurt Sulzbacher, Peter Seethaler (Vevein für Höhlenkunde Hallstaat/Obertraun) and Peter's dog!			taking, as is his wont! (Peter's dog went as far as the first pitch and was left there wingeing!) We went to the bottom of Bergmilch Schacht where I pushed a tight, sandy bedding plane passage for c.30' to emerge in the side passage found by Pete and Dave the previous day. All then back up with Steve taking snaps of Robert Schacht and Trebor re-arranging the loose and dangerous RH wall en route. The Austrians and Bob left the cave while I had a go at traversing across the head of Robert Schacht to an obvious high level passage on the far side. I succeeded in swinging around the LH wall to reach an armchair sized alcove – horribly exposed some 60-70' above the floor of the shaft. As I landed in it the back wall collapsed onto my back (swift surge of adrenalin) and was eventually dislodged, to hit shaft bottom with an echoing bang. The 8'-10' distance from here to the open passage was beyond my capabilities and using up the very last adrenalin reserves I clambered back to base using a wedged SRT rope for vague protection – this was left stuck in an eyehole near the ledge as it would not pull back. Blitz and I then wandered out looking at the scenery.
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Austria Upper Austria Höhe Dachstein	Wiesberghöhle 7/8/86 Sacha (Vienna), Dave, Andy, Rich	2¼ hr	Wiesberg- haus	First caving trip for Sacha – holiday time seilbahn driver at the Weisberghaus. We carried down a 10' length of expensive, light aluminium pole donated by Robert. This was cut off by Rich at 7' when it failed to negotiate a Z-bend. Dave got round to the ledge and propped the pole across from here to the open passage lip. He then tried hard, and in a series of ways, to get across but was defeated by lack of places for bolts or other protection due to the nature of the rock. We will have to think again. Sacha enjoyed his trip and did well, probably due to his previous climbing experience. (Note: - Dave finally got across the shaft some days later to find a few feet of passage and (I think) a too tight aven. Bad luck for the effort involved. We have still missed something in this cave – possibly the traverse across the head of Bergmilch Schacht).
Austria Upper Austria Höhe Dachstein	Dachstein – Riesenhöhle 8/8/86 Rich, Tim, Andy, Blitz, Trebor, Steve (Guide + tourists)	¾ hr	Obertraun	On way down from W'haus to Hallstaat we stopped for a tourist trip in this superb show cave. All were suitably impressed.
Austria Upper Austria Höhe Dachstein	Hirlatz Höhle 10/8/86 Kurst Sulzbacher (VFH H/O) Tim, Andy, Blitz, Trebor, Dave, Rich, Tomma, Pete, Gary Jones and 8 SWCC	4hr 40m	Hallstaat	Kurst very kindly led this huge mob on a tourist trip of the old series of this now 46km long system to the point where Blitz and I had been previously on a trip with Herman Kirchmeyer. Here Dave, Blitz and a SWCC lad pushed on up a small, wet inlet passage for some 200' to a choke (probably previously explored). All then raced out of the cave at high speed to leave a sweating and confused Kurt to look after a tired member of the SWCC party. To reiterate previous thoughts and comments: - a fantastic, huge system with one of the great cave draughts of all time issuing from the entrance grovels. Amazing Austrian fixed aids. Incredibly fine

				sand in hundreds of tons up the vast, sloping, phreatic tunnels at the end of this series. A bloody fine trip where Kurt was rewarded with a bottle of Teachers!
Austria Upper Austria Höhe Dachstein	11/8/86. Trebor, Dave, Rich, Blitz and I walked down to just above the Tiergarten Hütte where we left the path to walk for 2 mins to the huge open shaft of Tiergartenloch. This enormous, impressive doline is surrounded by vertical cliffs – some c.250’ at one side and c.80’ on the lower side. Trebor and Dave abseiled in to report the finding of a low, descending passage with an ice floor eventually becoming too tight. This must be an ancient inlet or collapse feature associated with the Hirlatz Höhle system.			
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Austria Upper Austria Höhe Dachstein	Jägerhöhle (S104) 12/8/86 Trebor, Blitz, Rich, Tim, Andy (3 SWCC, Tomma, Howard Limbert (WCC))	7hr 35m	Wiesberg- haus	Situated some 200’ behind one of the old hunters huts in the Wies Alm, below the Wiesberghaus, this superb pothole was originally discovered by Chris, one of the SWCC lads while his mates were prospecting close by. An old stream canyon, well scalloped, leads after a few hundred feet to the first of a series of really fine pitches (22 to date) boring down through the mountain to over 1300 feet with no sign of stopping. At the present end (15/8/86) a huge chamber or passage has been reached similar to the development in Hirlatzhöhle to which it will almost certainly connect. This would bring Hirlatz to over 50kms and be one of the deepest trips in Austria. Definitely the major find of all our expeditions to this area so far. Blitz, Rich and I descended the first 120’+ shaft to meet Trebor, Tim and Andy in various positions on the next, deeper pitch. Blitz and Rich returned to the surface and I carried on down (via the horrific 4 changeover rigging) to join up with Trebor at the bottom and carry on down the cave. Andy and Tim, having finished their photography, set off out. Trebor and I then followed a marvellous series of pitches and short climbs to the base of the 9 th pitch where we met Howard and a honking Tomma who had just jacked in their surveying trip. They started out and we took over to survey some 10 stations of reasonably horizontal and well decorated rift passage until we lost the way on. Three Yorkshire lads were ahead of us pushing the cave deeper. Eventually I found the correct route and followed this for a hundred feet or so to the head of the 10 th pitch where I returned, having only an FX2 for light and worried that it could fail before we regained the surface. The long climb out was hard work but perversely enjoyable, a major event being the springing open of my harness some 20’ from the top of the 2 nd pitch which made me realise that I had foolishly prussiked some 150’ with an open maillon! In fear and trepidation I solved this by doing up the maillon and connecting it to the askew harness with a spare krab – feeling decidedly shaky!! Met the Welsh lads at the top who were re-rigging the pitch and pointed out the sudden tremendous increase in the noise of the stream below. All then left the cave as rapidly as possible with thoughts of flooding in mind. I nearly lost my top set of teeth at the head of the first pitch when I began to honk with fatigue and

				<p>stress. Trebor came up behind me rather slowly due to slippage of the fairly tatty rope in his chest jammer – a problem which we were all now suffering.</p> <p>Back out to the surface with no problems to face the long drag up the path to the safety and comfort of the Wiesberghaus. The Yorkies appeared later having met the floodwater near the bottom of the present known cave but having no problems with it. I must have smacked my right elbow somewhere in the pot as the following day it swelled up with fluid, became very painful and put me out of caving for the rest of the trip. A bloody marvellous pot and a credit to all involved in its discovery, surveying, rigging and exploration.</p> <p>(Further progress here: - Down to 600m approx with some 25 pitches, ending in another pitch and G.G. size chambers/passages heading off. Polish cavers also found some good stuff in the same area. Let's hope the miserable Austrian shower let us go back next year!)</p>
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Belgium Namur	Grotte de Han 16/8/86 Tim, Andy, Blitz, Rich, Duncan Frew (WCC), (Guide + tourists)	1hr 25m	Han-sur-Lesse	Our two car loads co-incidentally met up at Han to enjoy a tourist trip in this famous show cave and end a superb expedition in style! Luckily we joined the French-speaking crowd, the guide of which turned out to be a real character. Like a bearded Andy Sparrow he spoke English, was a caver and hang-glider enthusiast and the fifth generation of his family to explore and guide in the cave. His derogatory attitude to tourists and the commercial exploitation of the cave was very refreshing. All those who hadn't seen the Grotte de Han before were suitably impressed. So ended a fine holiday and Expedition. We shall return.
Somerset	G.B. Cavern 30/8/86 Mac, Pete Eckford, Carolyn, Dave Allsop (BSS) and 4 Pooles Cavern guides	1hr 35m	Charterhouse	Tourist trip for Carolyn, Dave and Co. Usual route with Dave taking snaps on the way. Enjoyed by all.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 7/9/86 Tom Chapman, Gonzo, Tim Gould	1hr 25m	Red Quarr	After pub digging session to the horrible, wet, slimy end of the cave. Wide, low and extremely unpleasant. Chickened out fairly quickly – not being in the mood and suffering from bad elbow. Still looking good but needs the floor removing to make life easier.
Yorkshire	Sea cave 3/9/86 Alone		Flamborough	It was impossible to get to nearly all of the Flamborough Head sea caves – especially Robin Lythe's Hole, due to both high winds and sea so I walked along the cliff top taking photos of the caves in the actual process of being formed! – i.e. bashed out by the pounding waves. Looked at a small and uninteresting sea cave on the beach at North Landing.
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Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 10/9/86 Prew, John Ham, Evie Dunford, 2 Yeovil men, (Albert, Jim Hanwell)	1¼ hr	Priddy	Assisted the NHASA men in cementing up the wall at the bottom of the internal shaft directly above the "working face". The base of the old, collapsed shaft can be seen and another way in to the "lost" chamber should soon be found.

Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 13/9/86 Chris Castle	2hr 20m	Red Quarr	Cleared some 10' of passage in the incredibly muddy bedding passage at the end of the cave. Most of the mud was poked down the rift in the floor halfway along the bedding plane – hopefully never to be seen again. I managed to squeeze along the passage, widening it en route, until I reached an area of dry silt with loose boulders blocking the way on and black spaces beyond. Looks good. The LH wall needs to be cleared of silt to gain enough room to remove the offending boulders and get into the hopefully man-sized passage beyond. Draughting noticeably today but no echo. Needs a good flood to clean up the passage. Very shitty.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 14/9/86 Snablet, 'Enri	1½ hr	Red Quarr	Very wet! Dug sporadically at the end until cold – wet got the better of us. Must get that fucking boulder out. 10'+ of bedding plane passage visible.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 19/9/86 Alone	1¾ hr	Red Quarr	Took down a haversack of concrete mix to apply to the area around the Acro-jacks. Unfortunately I put too much water in so the resulting slurry was just poured between the stones. Then to the end of the dig with a cut out 1 gallon plastic bottle to act as a sledge. Removed several loads – finding digging face down to be eventually better than on one's back. The floor comes out nicely and will give us more room to work here with a bit of effort. Also took a rock out of the ceiling – I do not trust the roof in this bedding plane! Man-handled the offending boulder at the end but failed to pull it out on a rope due to slippage / bad tying of sling and rope. This object could be achieved with a bit of thought on the next trip. It may need a bolt in the end of the boulder. Got fed up and came out – causing a collapse on the way when I tried to make the passage easier! Worth the trip but could have done better!
Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 24/9/86 Prew, Fred, Eric, John, Albert, Don, Ian McAdam (OS)	1½ hr	Priddy	Brian and Fred removed boulders and clay from the shaft bottom until Brian could get his hand into the “lost” chamber. More digging and wall building needs to be done before entry can be safely gained. Ian enjoyed his first “caving” trip and is keen to go again!

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Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 29/9/86 Alone	2¼ hr	Red Quarr	Aim of the trip was to bolt and remove the boulder blocking the way on. With great difficulty a bolt and hanger were inserted into the offending rock and the rope-puller was arranged in the nearest roomy “chamber”. Upon “pumping” the rope-puller nothing happened. The boulder is loose but needs a man to lever it with the crowbar while another man works the winch. Gave it up as a bad job and returned to the entrance in the company of a large toad who was duly returned to the pond from whence he had presumably come. A successful trip in a way as bolting the rock was (hopefully) the worst part of the job.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 28/9/86 Mark Lumley, Tom Chapman, George, Fiona McFaill, 2	1hr	Red Quarr	Gonzo and Tom managed to pull the boulder forward about 6” before the sodding bolt pulled out! Attempts were made to put a sling around it to no avail. Got pissed off (again) and came out with intentions to got Tim to bang it on

	others			Wednesday.
Devon	Napps Cave 30/9/86 Ian McAdam (OS)	¾ hr	Ilfracombe	Evening trip to this short and confined but spectacularly decorated cave system in an odd bed of limestone outcropping above the scenic headland to the east of Ilfracombe. A low series of phreatic passages terminate in the RH series in a walking sized tube with masses of crystal flower clusters (anthodites) and vast, intricate bunches of helictites. All I can compare it to is photos of American caves. A unique British site, sadly much vandalised and prone to the attentions of idiots who can obtain the cave key only too easily from the farm. The usual Devon array of spiders infested the place and a single bat was seen flying around in the highest chamber of the cave. Well worth a visit. What else could exist in this out of the way area?
Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 1/10/86 Ian (OS), Dave T, Mike E, Brian P, John H, Rich Kenney, Albert, Jim, Fred, Brian	1hr 40m	Priddy	An excellent evening's digging was carried out to eventually reveal a passable route into the "lost" chamber – the only problem being the 20 foot of "hanging death" above it which will need to be shored before entry can be safely gained. Ian and I spent most of this time on the bridge above the shaft, using the small winch and attaching spoil bags to the line from the middle winch.

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Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 3/10/86 Alone	1½ hr	Red Quarr	After pub (lunch) trip to remove the remains of the boulder banded by Tim on the previous Wednesday. Got most of the lumps out with difficulty and also brought down two large bits of roof (adrenalin job). Came out leaving one large lump of roof to be removed. The way on is almost completely blocked with mud and debris and much digging needs to be done to progress further. Still don't trust the roof! Brought out the rope winch. A very tiring and filthy trip – not over enjoyable.
Somerset	Gough's Cave 4/10/86 The BEC including: Dan Hazell etc (about 100!)	½ hr	Cheddar	All to Solomon's Temple but we forgot the words (FISH) This sums up this year's BEC dinner!
Shropshire	The Tar Tunnel 9/10/86 Ian McAdam (OS)	10m	Ironbridge	This "show mine" has still not been extended beyond its former limits – a pity as 50p to see 300' of adit level is hardly worthwhile.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 10/10/86 Alone		Priddy	Following permission from Pat Cronin to dig at this site I wandered over and spent an hour or so removing washed in debris from the 6' of entrance passage. A grotty little pool now occupies all of the available cave passage! It looks like this dig will be a widening job with hammer and chisel as it is in shale/limestone bands and seems to be very undeveloped. There is no airspace or draught and it obviously backs up in wet weather. The entrance collapse/swallet desperately needs shoring and a couple of lengths of concrete tube may be the answer. Removed a frog! Makes a nice change from Wigmore anyway.
Somerset	St. Cuthbert's Swallet 11/10/86	3hr 10m	Priddy	Took the Swedish lads on a tourist trip down to Sump 2 via Stal Pitch route – back out via Railway Tunnel. Removed various tools and

	Mac, Ray Mansfield, Haakon, Per + 2 other Swedish cavers			rubbish from Sump 1. Everyone got very wet as Gour Hall dam was still in. Enjoyable trip for all, including Per – on his first caving trip!
Derbyshire	P8 (Jackpot) 14/10/86 Ian McAdam (OS)	1hr 5m	Perryfoot	Dryish trip to Sump 1 and Ian's first "proper" caving trip. I had forgotten that this is not the world's most inspiring cave – and I'd also forgotten where the entrance was, having to ask a passing farmer! Ian enjoyed the trip.
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Somerset	Gough's Cave 18/10/86 Tim Large, (Chris Castle of "Adventure Cavers")	1hr 35m	Cheddar	Interesting afternoon trip to view the recently discovered Lloyd Hall airbell via the blasted crawl from Aladdins Cave. We slung three ladders down the pitch and I went down first as I had the wetsuit. The pitch is a fine, vertical phreatic rift dropping straight into the underground river at 70' depth. Unfortunately the ladder was 5' short of the water and swinging about failed to gain a ledge so I had to return to Tim (with somewhat tired arms). Tim then went down for a look. An impressive spot but not as large as described. A possible dig from Makin' Progress (Olly's Attic) could give an easier way in. Then for a quick run (20 mins) round the Adventure Caving route meeting Chris and customers en route. An entertaining, grotty series of crawls and fixed aids which has little to inspire the prospective caver – and a good job too! Sporting little trip and well worth a visit but muddier than expected.
Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 22/10/86 IanMcAdam, John Ham, M.Cooper, Jeremy Henley, B.Prewer, B.Workman + 2, F.Davies, Albert, H.Kenney	1 hr	Priddy	Filthy night but large turn out of diggers. Unfortunately not much use as it was a concreting night! Ian and I emerged just before 9pm to meet Jane and Rog Dors who summoned us all to a rescue at G.B. ! Read on.
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	G.B. Cavern 22/10/86 B.Prewer, B.Workman	40m	Charterhouse	A lad from Knowle had fallen 10-20' off the waterfall at the bottom of the Gorge. He had landed on his back and was pretty shaken up. The first team reached him within 1½ hrs to find him recovered enough to help himself out of the cave with assistance and ropes on all climbs. No stretcher etc needed. All over by closing time (sod it!) The weather had by this time got 500% worse – with hailstones some 2" deep in places and mega thunderstorms! What a night for a rescue.
Scotland Sutherland	Allt nan Uamh Stream Cave 25/10/86 Jane, Aileen, Butch, Goon, Bob Mehew, Julian Walford, Paul Saville, Dave Warren, Ivan Young, Murdo McLeod and large supporting cast.	2 hr	Inchnadamph	GSG Dinner weekend digging project. Bob and Julian had previously lugged a generator and pump up to the cave so that the club could get stuck into Julian's sink dig. Unfortunately the very high water levels made this unfeasible so only a relatively small amount of debris was dragged up the inclined railway from the dig. Meanwhile Paul, Murdo and Co were setting about the nearby inlet sump with the intention of draining it down to eventually reduce the depth of the main upstream sump. I assisted with this by creating a massive dry stone embankment with the rocks and boulders dug out of the streamway. Quite a satisfying and hopefully useful couple of hours. Jane, Aileen and Butch

				came in for a quick tourist trip. The terminal chamber was made all the more homely due to the 100 Watt light bulb powered by the generator. Then followed a successful and boozy dinner!
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Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 1/11/86 Trebtor, Steve Milner	1 hr	Red Quarr	Very wet trip to assess the conditions at the end with a stream flowing. Pulled a few rocks out which had fallen from the roof (leaving some useful head room). Steve was “last man in” and reported that the passage carried on low and straight for some 8’ or so with the stream rushing off into the distance. No signs of backing up and a good inward draught. A fantastic sporting little trip in high water but too cold, and potentially dangerous for digging. This place has GOT to go!
Somerset	St. Cuthbert’s Swallet 15/11/86 Chris Castle, Icarus Gill, Tony, Chris	3½ hr	Priddy	To Cuthberts II to assist in the removal of assorted artefacts. Also the first Mendip trip for Chris or Tony. Nice wet trip down to the sump where we gathered up a load of buckets and took them to Sump 1, leaving a few there and taking the rest out together with a crowbar and acro-jack. Good trip - the Derbyshire lads enjoying it.
Derbyshire	Treak Cliff Cavern 18/11/86 Ian McAdam (OS) and Scottish guide	¼ hr	Castleton	£1.60 a head! Quite expensive for such a short trip but the marvellous honey and ochre formations must be some of the finest in Britain.
Scotland Dunfriesshire	Bruce’s Cave 20/11/86		Kirkpatrick-Fleming	Having pulled off the A74 to get petrol we came across the signs for Bruce’s Cave and decided to have a quick look. A tatty caravan site in front of the sadly collapsing Cave House marks the start of the visit. Here a short, fat Scottish lady appeared and proceeded to reel off a 5 minute screed about the history of the house and cave - parrot fashion. She then left us to get on with it. A short path into the valley leads to this artificial chamber via a suspension walkway above the river. The cave is small and uninspiring – a typical “cell” cut in sandstone. If Robert the Bruce really did doss there then I expect he found it quite pleasant – though doubtless a bit cold. Didn’t see any spiders!
Somerset	Goatchurch Cavern East Twin Swallet / Spar Pot 22/11/86 Tim Large, John Chew	40m 1hr	Burrington	Nipped down Goatchurch to have a look at the new passage found by the Axbridge lads. This starts halfway down the Giants Steps – a low crawl leading into some 130’ of well decorated tube passage ending in a small hole with an aural connection back into the main passage further along from the Giant’s Steps. The formations are quite fine for Goatchurch but are very vulnerable. Part of the passage was once a rimstone pool and has an attractive ceiling. No hopes of further progress unless digging at the lowest point may yield a way on. Then to East Twin Swallet via the collapsed upper sink dig. The cave was quite wet and several bats were in residence. The amazing South Bristol diggers’ aerial ropeway was inspected and the dig here, though apparently temporarily abandoned, is obviously extremely promising. A small squeeze on the RH wall was entered past some suspicious shoring to enter the

				<p>maze like Spar Pot. This is an incredible system of interconnecting rifts and tubes heading down dip at about 60 deg with millions of superb shell and crinoid fossils. Two low points were reached where digging may yield further passage. This place needs a bloody good going over and a way across the strike may be possible to enter the continuation of the East Twin main passage. A route to Lionel's Hole could probably also be engineered to give a sporting through trip in a good length of cave passage. Well worth a visit.</p>
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Somerset	Grebe Swallet 23/11/86 Pete Hann (WCC), Mac	1¼ hr	Charterhouse	<p>Managed to get a trip down this cave/mine/dig by courtesy of Pete. Willie Stanton and Co have been digging the site for several years and have, as usual, put in a hell of a lot of work. A series of mined out natural rifts goes steeply down to a choke, meeting several roomy mined passages en route with a selection of superb "artefacts" relating to lead mining on Mendip. The most notable examples are the signatures in mud banks of John Clark and Henry Young 1753. A pair of rotted miner's boots, a chiselled out drip channel and the cracked sediment floor dating to the 19th century workings of the MHMC are also present. All significant features bear little notices written by Willie, including that of a "conservation officials" footprint obliterating a miner's original footprint below. An amazing example of Mendip mining but unfortunately very fragile and so the present limited access arrangement should be rigidly upheld.</p>
Scotland Mid Lothian	27/11/86. Paul Robbins (OS) and I visited the Scottish Mining Museum at Lady Victoria Colliery, Newtongrange, near Dalkeith. The museum trust are in the process of preserving and restoring this disused Victorian colliery surface workings. Little to see here at present but should improve.			
Somerset	29/11/86. Andy Lovell, Mark Lumley, a KEG lad and I went over to Wigmore Swallet where we dug out the water diversion trench to drain the stream into the adjacent collapse/swallet. Spoil was bagged up and used to dam the stream. Hopefully this will inspire the digging teams again.			

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Somerset	Eastwater Cavern Swildon's Hole 30/11/86 (Steve Milner), Mark Lumley, Phil Romford, Pat Cronin, Mac	1hr 20m	Priddy	<p>At last – the grand re-opening of the Priddy caves. We were the first team in to have a look at Eastwater with our main aim being to check out the stability of the Ruckle etc. The main boulder ruckle was okay but the far side of our dug connection to Boulder Chamber had collapsed and was decidedly dodgy. This was partly cleared but more work needs to be done to make it safe. Also looked at the two digs in the floor of Boulder Chamber, the loose one still looking desperate! Out via the short cut and after a quick look at a possible passage in the entrance (immediately below the "dug" entrance hole) we went over to Swildon's for a quick refresher to the head of the 20' Pot. Despite only being officially open since the previous day there were plenty of people in the cave. Quite wet. Nice to have things back to normal.</p>
Scotland East Lothian	1/12/86. Ian McAdam and I visited the other half of the Scottish Mining Museum at Prestongrange Colliery near Musselburgh. The Cornish beam pumping engine was inspected and various other colliery related items looked at in one of the surface buildings. Lots of work to be done here before it becomes a viable "tourist trap". Unfortunately most of the surface plant was demolished just prior to the site being designated as a museum!			
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet	1hr	Red Quarr	The stream diversion was noted to be working

	6/12/86 Alone	10m		well. Down to the end tidying a few things up on the way. Flood debris throughout the cave but no sign of backing up at the bottom. The terminal bedding plane was well blocked with inwashed gravel and stone – desperately needs a digging/bagging team. Cleared it out and had a look at the end. Still not happy about the roof. No chance of doing anything useful so came out removing a few bits of entrance shaft shoring. Also dug upwards into a few feet of dodgy passage in Hesitation Chamber. Beautiful weather (NB BM on barn near gate – 891.98ft)
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	Eastwater Cavern 6/12/86 Fred Davies, Pete Hann, Zot, Pete Moody, victim	1hr 10m	Priddy	Call out to retrieve “stuck” caver in Primrose Path. No problems, the victim being brought out via Lower Traverse and “Woggle Press”. Lost Zot, Jeff Newton and Alison Moody but all reappeared later! Rescue hardly helped by Zot and I being full of whisky?
Wales Breconshire	Agen Allwedd / Ogof Gam 21/12/86 Mark Lumley, Tim Gould, Blitz, Karen Jones, Snablet	5hr 5m	Llangattock	Digging trip to the end of Midnight Passage (near the 2 nd Boulder Choke). This dry, roomy passage ends in a choke below a loose area and is identical to the Hard Rock Café extensions in Ogof y Daren Cilau. Mark is convinced that they are one and the same passage, though there is a gap of over a mile! We removed some 30 skip loads of mud and boulders from the dig. This is going to be a long term project but is extremely promising for some big extensions if not a connection with Daren Cilau. The digging is easy but there is a lot of piled up “hanging death” in the aven. All spoil has to be brought back about 60’ through a “U-tube” to a wider section of passage. An excellent trip with some good work carried out. It would have been a musical event but Snablet’s stereo system batteries ran down! Must return here at any opportunity to continue this exciting project.

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Somerset	St. Cuthbert’s Swallet 27/12/86 Mac, Laurence Smets, Arand, Franz, Eline (Speleo Nederland)	2hr 5m	Priddy	Tourist trip for the Dutch lads. Abseiled down Pulpit Pitch then went as far as Gour Hall before returning via Rabbit Warren, Railway Tunnel etc. All a bit hungover following Mac’s Spanish Christmas party of the previous night. Removed some junk from the head of Pulpit Pitch.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 29/12/86 Alone	2hr 10m	Priddy	Firstly to the (hopefully) connection dig in Boulder Chamber (to the 55’ Aven in Ifold’s Series). Definitely needs bang. Then to the area at the top of the Canyon and below Baker’s Chimney. Had a look round for possible digging sites to aid in this possible connection and dug down in sand/gravel at one point for a couple of feet. This goes on down deep. Back to the “Woggle Press” in Boulder Chamber where some joke shoring was put up. Cleared out various bits of rubbish and covered up a few carbide dumps. Not the most useful trip ever. Cave quite damp.
Wales Breconshire	Agen Allwedd / Ogof Gam 30/12/86 Mark, Butch, Mac, Martin Grass, Bob Cork, Henry Bennet	3¾ hr	Llangattock	Original plans of going to Dan-yr-Ogof were thwarted by flooding. After a breakfast in Hirwaun drove across to the Chelsea Hut and met Mark and Henry. After a debate on the merits of the dig versus the Beaufort the former surprisingly won and off we went. Water

				conditions were amazingly high for Aggie – waist deep at Flood Passage. We got to the dig in an hour and removed about a dozen shuttle loads and a heap of boulders from the far side of the U-tube. Then followed a fairly swift exit with Butch threatening to have a coronary any minute. A good, useful trip.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 2/1/87 Tony Williams (Mark, Henry, Bee (OC4))	2hr 50m	Priddy	To the “55” Aven in Ifold’s Series which I once again free-climbed and laddered. We then waited for Mark and Co to reach the dig in Boulder Chamber. Eventually they arrived and a good voice connection was established – the distance seeming about 20’. All my light sources started to fail so we returned to the surface via the dig in Boulder Chamber. Left the ladders in and also my fag, lighters and wristwatch! Cave very wet. The Aven needs a good dose of bang.
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Scotland Dunfriesshire	5/1/87. Quick drive through Leadhills and Wanlockhead in snowy, bleak conditions Museum closed. Looked at the beam engine from the van window!			
West Lothian	Becraigs Mine 6/1/87 (Paul Robbins OS)	20m	Linlithgow	Working in the immediate vicinity so managed a quick run around the workings – avoiding the low and grotty bits. These mines are a small-scale version of the Dudley limestone mines. A lower level is flooded and can be seen in a couple of places. Several large entrances connect these sloping pillar and stall mined workings. Paul stayed on the surface. Met three small boys carrying a torch and two “carry out” bags of booze who were heading into the mine for an illegal piss up! A typical touch of Scottish culture!
Somerset	Swildon’s Hole 31/1/87 Garry Jago, James Cobbett, Nigel McKay	2 hrs	Priddy	First caving trip for Nigel – an oil rig doctor and first trip below the “20” for Garry. Garry and I went as far as Sump 1. A gentle stroll both ways – very pleasant. James and Nigel went on to Sump 2. Cave very busy.
Somerset	Gough’s Cave 1/2/87 Rich Stevenson, Rob Palmer, Snablet, Tom Chapman, Quackers, A.N.Other	3 hrs	Cheddar	Boulder clearing trip to Mackin Progress. The “Lost Cave” team are stabilising the entrance boulder ruckle and the boulders above the pitch into Lloyd Hall. We shifted a vast amount of the former using a Tirfor winch, crowbar and sledge hammer – at one point being trapped in the chamber for about an hour! Just before leaving Rich fired off a stick of bang in the Lloyd Hall pitch which went off with a most satisfying crunch – followed by a great trundling of boulders down the pitch. The way into the chamber is now clear and much better for carrying diving kit.
Somerset <i>Discovery</i>	Eastwater Cavern 7/2/87 Edric Hobbs, Tom Chapman, Hugh (Cardiff UCC)	2hr 40m	Priddy	Took down ½ lb of Nigel Taylor’s new “nitrate free” bang and wired it up at the top of the 55’ Aven. Tom and Hugh went to Bakers Chimney area to warn off passers-by and watch for the result. An excellent bang was followed by a shower of rocks and then Edric and I went back to have a look. Dense fumes made seeing anything impossible so I spent a few minutes breaking off rock blocking a crawl passage leading off some 10’ below the ladder belay. I then managed to squeeze through into a tightish aven some 30’ high which will need banging to progress further. Named this “Aven Skavinski”.

				<p>This new aven runs parallel with the upper part of the “55’ Aven” and is now another contender for the connection to Boulder Chamber area. Then up to check the results of the bang. A marvellous job had been done and the offending rocks were completely demolished allowing an easy squeeze through into another 15’ or so of tight aven ending in a too tight section with open aven beyond again. A small stream cascades in from above. All in all a very successful trip with 55’ of new passage found.</p>
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Scotland Fife	Court Cave Doo Cave (Eastern) Well Cave No.1 Jonathan’s Cave Newbigging (Nine Lums) Limestone Mine 10/2/87 Ian McAdam (OS)	¼ hr	East Wemyss East Wemyss East Wemyss East Wemyss Burntisland	<p>The Wemyss Caves are ancient, abandoned sea caves in sandstone. Court and Jonathan’s Cave are famous for their Pictish, Bronze Age and possibly Viking wall carvings, including “Thor and his goat”, a many oared boat, various animals, cup markings and a variety of abstract symbols. Doo Cave has many niches cut in the walls to accommodate doves – presumably dating from the Middle Ages. Well Cave No.1 is fairly lengthy and is obviously used as a local kids den and barbecue / piss up site. Unfortunately this goes for the whole area and these archaeologically significant and interesting habitations caves are very prone to vandalism and general decay. Little seems to have been done towards their preservation and conservation despite a “fighting fund” being maintained by Kirkaldy Museum.</p> <p>After some problems getting the key to Newbigging Mine due to vandalism by “adventure” and school parties we managed to chat up the farmer enough to allow us access. This is a very extensive limestone working drained by a series of levels. The main pillar and stall chambers are similar to a sloping version of Box Mines but with higher galleries. The first chamber is used by the local farmers as a hay and equipment store and also for the storage and “winnowing” of potatoes. Tractors regularly drive around these impressive workings. It also seems likely that they have been used for military purposes in the past. We went down to the main drainage level, going upstream to the area around the 200’ airshaft and downstream to the GSG diving site. Most of the pillar and stall workings were not looked at as without a guide little of interest would have been found. Well worth a visit. (Also looked at various old coal mine sites N. of Dunfermline and two grotty little artificial caves in Pittencreff Park during my stay here.)</p>
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Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 14/2/87 Duncan Price, Pete	1hr 50m	Priddy	<p>After desertion by my “bang man” I eventually went down with Pete and Duncan for a recce around the area at the top of the canyon – nothing of great interest found and no sign of a small stream to correspond with that in the “55’ Aven”. Then on down to Rift Chambers area where the two others potted around while I crept into a side passage for a suddenly desperately needed shit – so bad that I had to use</p>
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				the leg of my thermal long johns for bog roll! Staggered back out feeling sick, cold and generally miserable. Ruckle very wet due to melting snow outside. Not a very nice or useful trip.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 21/2/87 Nick Sprange, Jim, Pete, Simon (C.O.W.)	2hr 50m	Priddy	Took OS Motorola radio down and Jim and I established contact from Boulder Ch/Canyon area to Nick in the 55' Aven. Much banging on the rock from both sides seems to indicate that the present top of the Aven is somewhere below the "Bakers Chimney By-Pass". Had a look at Pete and Alison's old dig near here – ends up choked and tight but might be the key to something. Out via "Upper Upper Traverse". Pete and Simon played at SRT on the 35' Pitch. Would have been a more useful trip if the bang men had been reliable! The best way to see Jim in the dark is to look for his teeth!
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 7/3/87 Martin Bishop, Steve Milner, Rich Stevenson	2 hr	Priddy	To the end of Sanctimonious Passage where Steve and Martin smashed some rock from the terminal rift before six sticks of gel were placed and fired from the Main Chamber. There is a distinct draught coming out and Steve thought it would take very little to make the rift passable. He could see some 20' of silt floored passage leading on. A bloody good site which is bound to go and it's not before time that it is being worked on. Useful trip.
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 8/3/87 Martin Bishop, Steve Milner, Mark Lumley, Snablet, John Chew, Happy, Viv (Marines)	2 hr	Priddy	Large team assembled - early! To check the results of the previous day's bang. We found that this was excellent with all of the RH wall totally demolished for a length of some 6 feet. This left a gap of about 3' wide by 3' deep – the only problem being the large lumps of rock left by the bang. A couple of hours was spent rope hauling the larger bits and passing the small stuff out by hand to the bottom of Rover Pot. There was a distinct draught and the place looks really promising. Five of us left early and Martin, John and Snablet continued with the clearing work. Hopes are high for an easy breakthrough at this site.
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Somerset	Hunter's Hole 15/3/87 Nigel Taylor, Martin Bishop	3hr 25m	Priddy	Went down early, alone, and cleared more debris from the last bang. Managed to drop the hammer out of reach! Came out at 11am to wait for Nigel who was traditionally late. Back down again to the dig where Nigel laid a 11lb charge of the new bang. Martin then appeared and all retired to the start of Sanctimonious Passage to fire the charge. An excellent dull thud promises the complete evaporation of the offending boulder and LH wall! The rift passage beyond looks like a minor long term blasting job. Time will tell.
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 21/3/87 Snablet	1hr 40m	Priddy	After a great struggle we managed to crowbar the large slab at the start of Sanctimonious Passage over the edge, making access much easier. Then on to the dig where several bags of rock and gravel were removed. The site is now ready for another bang.
Somerset	Hunter's Hole Twin Titties Hole	1hr 50m 25m	Priddy	Met the lads down Hunters after a delayed start. Down to the dig where we found that no one had been down to bang mid week so we cleared a

	28/3/87 Snablet, Tom Chapman, Robin Brown			few bags of gravel and then set about the large boulders above the entrance to the dig. After a lot of hard work we managed to remove two or three and to loosen a couple of very large ones which will need the rope puller to remove them. Useful bit of work – out in time for a couple of pints. Then to Twin T's as the lads had not been down before. Went down to the well decorated final chamber to inspect the current dig. Decided that the infamous “snail holes” are purely solution pockets – Willie is definitely wrong! God knows why and how they were formed though. A good day's caving.
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 29/3/87 Mike Wilson (KEG)	2hr 10m	Priddy	Took down the rope winch and an iron pole for removal of the two large boulders left from yesterday. After great trials and tribulations we eventually succeeded in dragging the two rocks back to the foot of the pitch. Staggered out for a couple or three of very well deserved pints.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 11/4/87 Mark Lumley	1hr 10m	Priddy	Fast trip to the 55' Aven which I detacked and removed the digging tools from. Now we must blast it from Boulder Chamber. Nice and wet and very refreshing.
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Somerset	Hunter's Hole 12/4/87 Andy Middleton, Mark Lumley, Phil, Tony Boycott	1½ hr	Priddy	Tony B fired 1lb bang at the dig (the non-headache variety). After a quick look down the main passage all headed out for a pub session and an afternoon sitting in the garden in the first decent sun of the year.
Cornwall	13/4/87. Working in the Penzance area so an obligatory visit to the Crowns Engine Houses of Botallack Mine was made. Since my last visit these have been considerably repaired by the Carn Brea Mining Society who have done an excellent job to prevent their further deterioration. Also went to check if Geevor Mine were still doing underground tours – sadly not.			
Cornwall	14/4/87. Quick walk around the surface remains and engine house of Ding Dong Mine above Madron. One of my favourites.			
Wales Breconshire	Agen Allwedd / Ogof Gam 18/4/87 Bob Cork, Buster Wright & Kym (TSG), Craig (KEG), (& Ken Pearce!)	5hr 20m	Llangattock	Digging trip to Midnight Passage. Removed several loads of crap and a selection of large and small boulders. The LH side seems to lead to a minute side passage so Bob then concentrated on digging straight ahead under the overhanging debris. Just after he had vacated the dig a 2' square boulder dropped from the pile onto the place where he had been digging! Decided to let it dig itself for a while. On reaching the 1 st Boulder Choke we met a lost apparition in 1950s caving gear. As we accompanied the gentleman out of the entrance series we suddenly realised who it was – the infamous Black Pearce himself! Buster was delighted and we spent a pleasant few minutes at the entrance talking about various digs in Peak Cavern. A good trip – Buster's, Kym's and Craig's first visit to Aggie.
Wales	Chartist Cave 19/4/87 Bob Riley (Burnley) (Bob Cork, Jane)	½ hr	Trefil	Windy walk across the moor and a long time spent desperately trying to locate the entrance. At one point I was blown over a 10' cliff! Eventually found it and Bob and I had a good root around in the SVCC extensions – big and wide phreatic passages just below moor level with a good draught in places and I suspect plenty of potential. “Cousin” Jeffrey Thomas and his mates from Crickhowell are supposed to be digging here. Good luck to them.

Somerset <i>Rescue</i>	Rod's Pot 25/4/87 Tim Gould, Wobbly, Rich Neville Dove, Pete Hopkins (KEG), Dunc Frew, Pete Hann, P&A Moody, Geoff Newton (WCC) victim and mates etc.	50m	Burrington	Call out from Belfry. Entered cave at 12.10 with Wessex team. Duncan plastered the victim's broken ankle – which had occurred when he fell down the first vertical bit some 60' from the entrance – and he was then put in a drag sheet and taken out of the cave via an upper level tube to emerge at 1.00pm. A very useful exercise for all concerned.
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Somerset	Hunter's Hole 26/4/87 Richard Neville-Dove, Pete Hopkins (KEG)	1hr 20m	Priddy	Nigel arrived to give me the bang and get back to his gardening. Put 1½ lbs of the new stuff on the ledge left after Tony Boycott's bang. Fired it with an FX2 – no problems. Then to pub for sunshine, traditional music and beer.
Somerset	Charterhouse Warren Farm Swallet 2/5/87 Pete and Alison Moody (WCC)	3hr 20m	Charterhouse	Pete and Alison very kindly took me on a tourist / digging trip to this fascinating cave. Some 80' of dug rift is laddered into large sloping chambers with fantastic formations – the most notable being the “candlestick” stalagmites – up to four feet high. Below this a 20' pitch leads to a series of bedding planes and phreatic passages – even better decorated. After a guided tour of the formations we took off our wellies to cross a grotty stal floor to reach the entrance to the filthy bottom passage. Special digging wellies(!) were donned and we crawled through the 80' of ducks and mud to reach the roomier dry stuff where the digs are situated. A couple of strenuous hours were spent crowbarring boulders from a blocked rift – one rock in particular being a right bastard. Eventually this removed to gain access to a 'orribly loose alcove with a possible way on ahead through even more grim boulders. This would be a fairly desperate dig. Pete then laid and fired a charge in another dig nearby and we headed out, pausing to change wellies and don boilersuits in the pretty chamber – this was to keep the mud inside and keep the cave clean! Back at the entrance we rigged up the rope winch in order to haul out of the hole an extremely dead sheep. This was deposited down the old timbered shaft together with a couple of lambs which were 90% maggots – yechh! A good trip.
Somerset	St. Cuthbert's Swallet 9/5/87 Brian Prewer, Ken Dawe (WCC), Bob Pyke (WCC), Phil Provis, Zot	4½ hr	Priddy	To Canyon Series, where Zot was one of the discoverers. An interesting traverse above the 120' drop to Curtain Chamber leads to several hundred feet of superbly decorated beddings and canyons with a distinct resemblance to parts of Eastwater – though much more pleasant. Fantastic curtains, pillars, etc. From here we went back to Quarry Corner and on to the September Series – of which Ken was one of the discoverers. A lengthy route through boulders gives access to the large September Chamber, again with fabulous formations. Zot and I went to Victory Passage to look for a possible dig but this was not found. Also looked at the superb cave pearls off High Chamber and a fine bunch of crystals under the boulders near the Drinking Fountain. An excellent trip – the ages of four of the party added up to 196! Back out for cocktails at the Belfry – honest!

Somerset	Hunter's Hole 16/5/87 Garry Jago, Tony (Stumpy's nephew)	1¾ hr	Priddy	First decent ladder pitch trip for the lads. No problems and they both learnt to tie a bowline. Noticed a Lesser Horseshoe bat in the Main Chamber. Down to the dig where the RH wall was cleaned up ready for the next bang.
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	Rod's Pot 17/5/87 B.Prewer, D.Frew, Tuska, P.Hann, A.Middleton, Alan, G.Newton + 1, and a full supporting cast!	1hr 5m	Burrington	Call out at 11am. to rescue lady with broken leg in Rod's Pot. A carbon copy of the rescue of 25/4/87! The Wessex team went down first to sort out the injury followed by a mixed bag of BEC/VCG. Brian and I spent some time "gardening" the upper level tube used on the last rescue. This ended up with the collapse of the rock bridge in the middle of the main route down the cave! Probably just as well. Victim plastered up and out of the cave in about 1 hr. A case of deja vue. (NB there was another the same a few weeks later!)
Huntingdon- shire	High Lode Culvert 20/5/87 Martin Grass, Roger Smith (OS)	¾ hr	Ramsey	After having been in digs in this Fenland town for about four weeks I chanced to hear that one of the local pubs contained photos of the "underground river" below the main street of the town! Fired with the thought of caving in the middle of the Fens I borrowed the Berger dinghy, contacted Martin Grass and arranged an "on spec" trip with the thought that if it was a wild goose chase we could still have a couple of pints! Roger and I met Martin in the Jolly Sailor pub where he had already chatted up the landlord and studied the aforementioned photos – these showed a very large brick-lined tunnel complete with abandoned underground sluice chamber and a welly deep streamway – it was all true! Fortified by a pint of Pedigree we inflated our dinghy at the downstream entrance, near an old mill, and Martin bravely immersed himself in the river, waist deep, to pull us up the tunnel. This was found to be 2,336 ft long to the top entrance (near the Nat West bank) and completely brick lined throughout. At 1955' from the lower entrance the sluice chamber is reached and the passage enlarges from c.10' high x 8' wide to c.12' high x 10' wide. There are two parallel sewer tunnels in the first section and a tunnel on the RH side (facing upstream) near the top entrance which was not pushed due to the odour and spiders. All along the tunnel are small inlet pipes and rusted manholes in the ceiling. The water gradually lessens in depth and we all walked for the second half. We emerged from the top entrance to have a polite conversation with an astonished local and then returned back down the tunnel and off to the pub for more beer. Here we gathered further information suggesting that the stream was repaired in 1854. It seems to be a fairly popular visiting place for the more adventurous locals. It is hoped to compile an article / survey. An excellent night's entertainment in the most speleo-barren of English counties!

Somerset	Hunter's Hole Bowery Corner	2¼ hr	Priddy	Sunday lunchtime was spent not in the Hunters but down it! Brian and Fred laid 2lbs of "super"
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	Swallet 24/5/87 1) Brian Prewer, Fred Davies (WCC) 2) Mark Lumley, Robin Brown 3) Mark Lumley			bang on the LH wall in the dig. Rover Pot was laddered due to its slipperiness. Then to Bowery Corner where a lot of work was done during the afternoon lowering the floor of the depression. Pat Cronin's concrete erection was removed and the entrance to the swallet made larger and much more "cave like". A very low, scalloped bedding leads off with the stream happily running down it. Looks most interesting but definitely needs concrete pipes putting in as soon as possible. In the evening, Mark and I went back down Hunter's to check the results of the bang. It had done a fantastic job, bringing down some 8' of the wall and widening it about 4'. There was far too much debris for the two of us to move – about 3 hrs work for four or five men is needed. Superb. Then to the pub for a quick pint at 7.45. Left after 11.00! A good day.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 30/5/87 Mark Lumley, Darren Barnes		Priddy	Mark and I continued clearing the bottom of the dig in preparation for the pipes. A visiting Cheddar coach park attendant and wife voiced their opinions as to our madness and wished us good luck. The next visitor was Darren whose motorbike ran out of petrol right opposite the dig. While waiting for a lift to the garage he very kindly took over bucket hauling and shifting the spoil heap. After an hour or so we departed to the pub. Almost ready now for the foundations.
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 31/5/87 Keith "Ben" Bentham (EPC), Steve (EPC), Pete Hopkins (KEG)	1hr 20m	Priddy	Tourist digging trip for Ben to show him latest Mendip techniques! Removed several "space capsule" loads of rock before bailing out to the pub. Another digging session would be preferable before further banging though another bang session would be useful – especially to widen the entrance to the dig.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 31/5/87 Mark, Pat Cronin, Garry Jago, "Ben".		Priddy	AM Took over assorted pipe, breeze-blocks, iron ladder etc with Ben. PM Garry and I took over more breeze-blocks and assisted Pat and Mark to construct one wall of the bottom pipe chamber.
Somerset	5/6/87. Dany, Mark and I collected three 30" x 36" concrete pipes from Mells pipe works and delivered them to Bowery Corner Swallet in preparation for the entrance building operation.			
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Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 6/6/87 and 7/6/87 Mark, Pat, Rich N + D, Pete Hopkins, Blitz, Karen etc + Arthur Millet, Jim Smart, Tom Chapman + assorted visitors		Priddy	Sat. Large team turned out to help clear the site and prepare for installation of pipes. Sun. When all was ready the first pipe was tied to the Landrover from a scaffold pole inserted through and lowered down the hole with ease. Once positioned it was backfilled by digging down the spoil heap and the second pipe was lowered in the same manner and put in place on top of the first. A superb job thanks to all the support though the Chariot Race of the Sat. night sorted out a few prospective shorers!
France Anjou	Les Fermes Troglodytiques de Rochemenier 13/6/87 Alone	½ hr	Rochemenier	On the way down through France we spotted the sign to this place during the evening. We camped nearby at Doué-la-Fontaine and visited it the following morning. Much of the village of Rochemenier is situated below ground level with houses and farm buildings carved from the local "sandstone" which was quarried in pits and underground for use on the fields. This site is composed of two typical adjoining farms with

				<p>various implements and furnishings installed. It consists of some 19 surface and underground buildings including a subterranean church and a “village hall”. Other caves were used as wine-cellars, barns, dwellings, and bakeries. The soft stone is easily carved out and when new caves or rooms were desired they were excavated as necessary. Two underground houses are still occasionally used as temporary dwellings and others in the village are permanently inhabited. A very interesting site well worth a visit though I must admit that my main overall impression was heavily tempered by the overall smell of damp. Sadly the underground “boozier” was not open at the time! The local rock is called “Falun”.</p>
France Lozère Gard	Aven Armand Grotte de Bramabian 14/6/87 1) French and Senegalese tourists + Jane 2) Tourists	1hr	Meyrueis Camprieu	<p>Our first main port of call in France was the Causse area where we camped at Nant. The first show cave visited was the amazing Aven Armand – discovered by Louis Armand – protégé of Martel. Electric tramcars working in an inclined tunnel 220 yards long bring the visitor to a ledge overlooking the enormous main chamber, 100 x 50 x 40m. A hole in the roof is the pot by which Armand entered and the spoil cone below this slopes off into the chamber which sports some 400 superb stalagmites. At least one of these is 30 metres high and most are spectacular due to their splash formation giving a “palm tree” or “pile of plates” effect. The tourist trail circles through the formations and a view down a further shaft can be seen. The lighting could have been better – it was a bit overdone. Aven Armand is situated on the Causse Méjean and not too far away, on the Causse Noir, is the superb resurgence cave of Bramabian (bull-roar due to the noise of the river in flood). A stiff walk down into the valley leads to the impressive entrance (visible from the road above). The tourist trip is to follow the resurging river in along blasted ledges 30’ or so above the water level. At one point the guide uses a megaphone to surmount the noise of the cascades below. The passage is 3-6m wide, 100m long and up to 50m high – a huge rift devoid of any stal formations. The excellence of the visit is entirely due to ones proximity to the raging river below, though a few poor formations are shown at a higher level at the end of the trip. Bramabian has some 11 kms of passage and a fine through trip in damp weather from the sink on the plateau above. In flood it would be a death trap. It reminded me distinctly of El Chorreadero in Mexico.</p>
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France Lozère	Grotte de Dargilan 15/6/87 Children tourists	¾ hr	Meyrueis	<p>Another cheap trip using the “Avez vous un prix special pour Speleologues?” technique! – though I had to be rushed in a bit late to join a school kids trip. No problem though as after the kids had gone the guide gave me a personal tour of the main chamber which I had missed. The first chamber “Grande Salle du Chaos” is spectacularly decorated as is all of this beautiful cave – subtitled the Grotte Rose or Pink Cave. From this chamber a stone staircase leads down into an abandoned stream passage with probably</p>

				the finest cascade on one wall that I have seen. Coloured red, ochre yellow and brown this amazing section of flowstone is one of the highlights of the system. At the end of this passage (which will one provide a tourist exit route) there is a huge and spectacular stalagmite called the Bell Tower. The rapid stalagmite formation rate in the Grande Salle du Chaos is shown by the flowstone covered steps, handrails and two Orangina bottles (1 year and 2 years old). A cave definitely not to be missed.
France Hérault	16/6/87. Due to the continual bad weather we moved on south and called in at the Grotte des Demoiselles in Hérault. As it was lunch time and there was a 2hr wait we carried on to the Ardeche area.			
France Gard	Grotte de la Cocalière Goule de Sauvas 17/6/87 1) Jane and OAP tourists 2) alone	1¼ hr ¼ hr	Courry Sauvas	<p>The Cocalière is a show cave that I have wanted to visit ever since it was advertised in "Complete Caves of Mendip"! Finding it busy on the afternoon of our arrival we went back the morning after to find the owner, André Marti, behind the counter. Asking for the usual cheap tickets and explaining that I was a "speleologue Anglaise", both Jane and I were amazed and amused when he asked if we were from Mendip and did we know "Nicola Barrington?" With our cheap tickets (billet d'honneur) we entered the cave with a large bunch of ancient French tourists. A mined tunnel intersects an upper level passage of this over 40km long system. From here a superbly decorated abandoned phreatic stream passage is entered with an incredible variety of extremely well lit calcite formations and examples of all types of cave scenery. The fantastic cave "shields", active cave pearls, curtains, gours etc are all still in the process of formation and hence much more attractive and interesting than most tourist caves. The footpaths were all laid by André and his mates over hundreds of hours of hard work and obviously reflect the ideas of a real caver's show cave. At the exit, up a spiral staircase to the surface, is a display of prehistoric artefacts and bones found in the cave. From the exit one rides back on a joke train across the scrubby lapiaz of the area which is well endowed with dolmens, ancient walls etc. One of the finest show caves in France and probably the world. Not to be missed.</p> <p>Driving back to our campsite at Barjac we passed a bridge over a dry canyon in the limestone. I stopped for a look and found that just round the corner the dry valley entered a 50' high swallet entrance. Swiftly kitting up I explored this obviously drastically flood prone phreatic bore passage for about 150m to the head of a 5m pitch into a deep pool where I had to abort the trip. The walls bore painted survey figures and an oil drum and old tyre testified to flooding. This system, the Goule de Sauvas is, I believe, connected to the Cocalière system by sumps. (Later found that it was possible to explore a great deal of the resurgence cave of the system but by then I was back in Priddy!) This is an excellent looking caving area and well worth a return visit with the relevant information.</p>
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France Ardèche	Aven d'Ornac 17/6/87 tourists	1¼ hr	Ornac	Complimentary to Cocalière, this cave is completely different – resembling in its initial chamber the Aven Armand. Unbelievably though it is far more impressive, much bigger and with an even more astounding collection of formations. It has to be one of the most impressive of the world's show caves and has been so since 1939 – four years after its discovery by Robert de Joly. The rather novel entry to the main chamber, Salle de Joly, is made by a descent in a lift leading to a mined tunnel opening directly into the side of the chamber below the natural entrance shaft – just as in the Aven Armand. The same enormous “pile d'ariette (?)” stalagmites rear up into the void and a similar huge debris cone dominates the chamber – with a variety of bones on display. After a tour round the huge hall a mandatory group photo is taken and the party then descend a vast number of concrete steps into the depths of the lower chambers. Magnificent and superbly coloured stal abounds on all sides and is almost overpowering in its splendour and grandeur. The tourist trip stops with a view into the Red Chamber (130m down) with its two pillars of 17 and 23m high. The show cave is only a minute section of this tremendous system. A visit to the “wild” parts would be well worth while but I suspect there are access problems. A bloody fantastic cave.
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France Ardèche	Aven de Marzal 18/6/87 Tourists	50m	Bidon	Following the magnificence of all the other show caves visited on this trip the Aven – Grotte de Marzal came as a great disappointment, being generally a dry and dead cave, badly lit and poorly displayed. A deep spiral staircase and steps lead down the natural pothole entrance into the main chamber to a depth of 59m. The dry white and ochre formations are uninspiring and as one descends more stairs to the bottom at - 129m one finds much of the stal to be protected by sheets of wire netting. A few glistening, live formations at the bottom hardly enliven the place, and the dubious skeleton of the murdered shepherd, Mayal (unwilling first descender of the cave) looks dreadful under its ultra-violet light. The cave is hardly worth a visit on its own but fortunately boasts an interesting caving museum containing Martel's boat and one of his ladder rungs, De Joly's personal caving kit and electron ladder, one of Casteret's helmets and other odds and ends, Guy de Lavour's diving gear and the caving kit belonging to Pierre Ageron – discoverer of the Aven Mayal. Other items include the usual bones, flints, skulls etc and a couple of fossilised dinosaurs eggs. (The “zoo” of life-sized dinosaur models was not visited). This cave is situated near the Ardèche Gorge which is really spectacular and riddled with cave entrances.
France Vaucluse	(Fontaine de Vaucluse) 19/6/87 Jane		Fontaine de Vaucluse	Things got worse! On the following day an evening visit to this famous resurgence was made – this is memorable for its horrific commercialisation, dog shit, dreadful caving

				<p>museum and collection of vandalised helictites, gendarme-like parking wardens, and dilapidated mills downstream of the cave. It's a pity this mighty spring doesn't bubble up and flush the whole bloody lot away as it all ruins a quite spectacular natural site – though even the cave itself looked stagnant and grotty in its quiet summer period. The open entrance above the 300m deep sump pool was not entered. All in all a great disappointment.</p> <p>The “Norbert Casteret” Museum nearby consists mainly of a man-made fibre glass “cave” which is most uninspiring followed by a darkened “aquarium” with the glass tanks full of incredible helictites and crystals instead of fish. All of these were removed from various caves by Norbert Casteret and the overall impression given is one of blatant vandalism. This museum was designed and is run by the local caving club who have obviously worked very hard. Unfortunately it doesn't come off (despite having yet another of Casteret's ubiquitous helmets!)</p>
20/6/87. Drove around much of the Verdon Gorge and area. A fantastic limestone canyon but remarkable for the lack of obvious caves.				
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France	22/6/87. Having now reached the Vercors area I decided to pay a pilgrimage visit to the Berger entrance. Probably the first time the walk there and back has been enjoyable. Jane made it to the path junction before the final downward section and sat in the sun!			
France	23/6/87. Paralytic in small Pizza café in St. Julian-en-Vercors with Dave and Chrissy Perkins (WCC) who we met at local campsite.			
France Drôme	Scialet de la Draye Blanche 23/6/87 Chrissy Perkins (WCC) And guide	25m	La Chapelle-en-Vercors	Suffering from an acute “Grappa” hangover I just had enough strength to stagger down this show cave. The 16m entrance spiral staircase didn't help matters! The entrance pitch leads to a large, well decorated chamber with plenty of moonmilk and a good variety of formations. There are a selection of angled stalactites at the bottom. The system reminded me of the Grotte de la Luise nearby and it looks as if it should be part of a much larger system.
France Drôme	Grotte des Gaulois 24/6/87 Dave Perkins (WCC) c.20 Lyons schoolkids and teachers	1hr 5m	St. Julien en Vercors	A vast horde of 40 schoolkids from Lyons, with their teachers, had arrived on the campsite. They were having an “outdoor adventure” week and offered to show us a couple of easy caves behind the campsite. By this time we had both just about recovered from our hangovers, but the 1½ hr walk up the hill nearly reduced us back to stage 1! Eventually, with half the party – the others going to a smaller cave – we arrived at the entrance. This was hidden some 20' up a cliff in a forest high on the side of the Bourne Gorge. A fairly desperate climb up was rigged with ropes by the instructors while Dave and I wandered off down the cave on our own. The entrance seems to be called the Porte du Diable. The cave consisted basically of a low, muddy phreatic tunnel with a reasonable squeeze partway which emerged after some 300' into daylight. This second entrance is obviously the “pièce de resistance” of the cave as it opens onto a ledge several hundred feet up in the cliffs above the Bourne Gorge, presenting a splendid view. On our return down the passage Dave assisted

				<p>several Froglets to pass the squeeze and I looked at various phreatic cross rifts – none of which appeared to go far. At one point both walls were covered with rows of vertical incisions – some being covered in stalagmite flow. At first apparently man made I would think that they are more likely the results of nail sharpening by cave bears, as seen in other French caves. A comical moment was provided by the outraged “Mon Dieu!” as a small girl got water down her wellies! An interesting little caving trip which we would not have been on had the head teacher of the trip been burnt to death in a local farmhouse by the occupying German army during the last war. She was only 1 yr old at the time but escaped together with other villagers partly due to the clemency of the Austrian Kommandant. Walked back via St. Julien and had a highly refreshing drink and wash in the village fountain. Very atmospherique! (NB cave is 308m long) An excellent area well worth another visit with more information.</p>
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France Yonne	Grotte d’Arey sur Cure 25/6/87 Hordes of tiny tot tourists	40m	Arey-sur-Cure	While driving back to Cherbourg via the Bourgogne area we stopped to visit this show cave. It is essentially an 876m long phreatic tunnel full of old, dry and much vandalised formations – though still very attractive. This large system has always been open and in the 18 th century many of the formations were robbed to decorate artificial grottos in Paris. Two or three inch long straws are now growing on many of the stubs so eventually the cave may resume its former glory! The end of the main passage seems to be blocked by gours though there may be a crawl going on. An extensive series of side passages leads off from the area containing static pools and sumps near the entrance. The cave is part of a series of river-carved meander passages cut through the cliffs by the River Cure. This, and other caves are renowned for their prehistoric deposits and important examples of cave art, though none is seen on the visit to the show cave. The local limestone has an interesting chalky texture and is an attractive shade of light grey. Well worth stopping for if only to purchase a 1920s style advertising poster.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 28/6/87 1) Rich Neville-Dove 2) Mac, Pat Cronin, Rich Neville-Dove	1hr 40m	Priddy	AM. Rich and I mined out a couple more feet of passage in the shales. The dig is now over 12’ in with the stream sinking easily on the RH side in shales and limestone bands. PM. Returned with Mac, Pat and a few beers and dug for another hour until lethargy took over. A quite pleasant dig now most of the engineering is completed. Just pray for the shale roof to stay up long enough to make it big enough to shore properly!
Somerset	Hunter’s Hole 3/7/87 Snablet	1½ hr	Priddy	First official bang now I have a licence! Put 1 kilo on the wall at the entrance to the dig to widen the passage for spoil hauling. Tried twice to fire it with an FX2 and was getting desperate when it went off on the third try! Sounded OK. Removed all ladder from the cave. Brian’s bang of c.3 week previously had loosened up about 5’

				of the LH wall. Plenty of spoil now needs shifting.
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 5/7/87 Tom Chapman	2hr 10m	Priddy	Cleared most of the spoil from the last two bangs. Mine had not much damage – possibly due to a layer of calcite on the bedrock which I assume absorbed much of the explosion. Tom valiantly dragged and emptied the sledge on his own and lost about 5 stones in sweat. At the dig there is a way on in the roof on the RH side about 6' from the face. The rift is just too tight to pass but the next bang will demolish the ledge on the right to give us access. A definite goer! Draughting in.
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Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 4/7/87 Nick, Martin Grass, Blitz, Tom		Priddy	A couple of drunken hours digging lying in the sun.
Huntingdon-shire	High Lode Culvert 6/7/87 Roger Smith (OS)	1hr 40m	Ramsey	Surveying and photography trip. Too hot to work so we staggered down the passage – just avoiding a bunch of local yobs who had trawled the culvert for fish and eels! Took loads of photos of everything in sight and did a crude compass and tape survey. Entered the LH passage for about 50' – some of it being a crawl – until the sound of rats in the distance forced a retreat! Quite glad to have finished with the place though ideally it needs a full scale survey, exploration past the rats (yeuch!) and more detailed research.
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 9/7/87 Phil Romford, Alan "Goon" Jeffreys (GSG)	1 hr	Priddy	Eventually tracked down some bang from Pete Moody and we had an evening trip to remove the offending ledge. Phil placed and fired 3/8 kilo of plaster and we then retired for a convivial booze up.
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 10/7/87 Tom Chapman, Snablet	1½ hr	Priddy	Lunchtime trip to try and get into open passage. The bang of the previous night had done an excellent job on the RH wall. Too good in fact, as a huge slab of wall now lying on the floor is a bloody nuisance and needs removing. Access was gained to the open bit but a large, loose boulder is wedged across preventing one from passing or seeing what lies beyond. This was attacked with the scaffold pole but needs more work to remove. Eventually lack of time and "bang heads" caused a retreat to the pub. Had great difficulty getting up Sanctimonious Passage due to the effects of the fumes. Not at all nice. I suspect that the "open passage" may only be a short alcove formed by collapsed blocks but I hope to be proved wrong. At least it will give us a bit more working space.
Hampshire	11/7/87. Flew over the Isle of Wight in Richard's Cessna and photographed Freshwater Cave.			
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 15/7/87 Snablet, Martin Bishop	2½ hr	Priddy	Managed to get over from Ely for a Wed. night trip hoping that the dig would "go" after Fred's bang of the previous w/e. Snablet and Co had removed the first offending boulder and also shifted the second to gain access to c.15' of decorated bedding plane with a mud and boulder floor. Further rocks blocked the way on. We managed to shift a lot more rocks out to Rover Pot but could not get past the end blockage.

				Echoes nicely. Looking bloody good and hopefully will “go” properly with a couple of banging and digging trips.
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Somerset <i>rescue</i>	17/7/87. Call out from Hunters (luckily at closing time!). Bloke fallen off the 20’ Pot in Swildons. A motley crew were at the victim in an hour and he was assisted out under his own steam.			
Somerset	Hunter’s Hole 18/7/87 Martin Bishop, Kevin Gurner, Nick Gymer (Scouts)	2hr 25m	Priddy	Martin, Snablet and Co had been down ‘til 10.40! on the previous night. We carried on digging and spoil removing then put 1 kilo of “liver paté” at the end. Two holes in the roof lead into a passage above with a good echo and draught. The bang was placed on the RH wall and on a large, loose boulder beneath.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 18/7/87 Rich Neville-Dove		Priddy	Sealed the pipe joint for the waterway and generally messed about. Looks great with 3 pipes on and fixed ladder.
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Hunter’s Hole 19/7/87 Steve Milner, Pat Cronin, Rich Neville-Dove		Priddy	Afternoon trip to check results of previous day’s bang. The boulder had disappeared and the roof charge had knocked a 0.5m diameter hole through the false floor. I removed some loose rocks and managed to squeeze up to get a view along some 25’ of open rift/bedding passage heading off down dip, with a good selection of straws and helictites. A solid rock ridge in the floor combined with the angle of access through the “manhole” prevented my getting into the passage. Steve took over and by removing his wellies managed to get into the first 10’ of passage until stopped by a low section about 6” high. He could see on for 25’ in front – the total length of new stuff being some 35’. I tried again to get up the “manhole” but was 2” too tall! With all of us panting from the bad air we decided to depart and arrange for the “manhole” and squeeze to be banged. On way out noticed that the inlet for Sanctimonious Passage is actually on the same wall just up dip from the climb. It heads off back up dip parallel with the main passage and is well worth a look at some future date. Looks good for a major extension at the dig on the next trip but one.
Somerset	Hunter’s Hole 22/7/87 Pete Eckford, Snablet, Lisa, Martin, Andy Sparrow, Tom Chapman	1½ hr	Priddy	Pete and I drove up from Southampton for this Wed. night trip. Martin, Nigel, Snablet and Tom had banged the manhole on Monday and this trip was to clear the debris and hopefully push beyond. Martin, Pete and I went in first to clear the rubble but the bang had not removed a lot and the (presumably) CO ₂ “sump” in the low passage was unbearable so we came out. Snablet and Tom then went in and Snablet got as far as the low squeeze previously reached. Another bang is needed to pass this. Andy looked at “upstream Sanctimonious” on the way out but found it to be well choked.
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Somerset	Hunter’s Hole 24/7/87 Pete Eckford	1 hr	Priddy	Short but classic trip. Lamp pox at the entrance at 9.30pm! Went down using a half dead “Mighty Lite”. Put 2 “liver paté” slabs on the terminal squeeze and Pete fired them with the new firing box. Back in the pub just after 10.30.
Somerset	Manor Farm Swallet 25/7/87	2 hr	Charterhouse	Banging trip for QJ and Lawrence. Put 2 “paté” slabs on boulders in the end rift. Cave stinks of

	Dave Evans, Quiet John, Lawrence Smith			cowsh or silage. A hard slog coming out.
Wales Denbighshire	Gas Pot Reids Shaft 29/7/87 1) Mark, Crispin Ebbs (GCC), Chris Letive (OS) 2) above + Louise, Neil and Pete Robertson, Jerry Dobby, Graham Woolley (GCC)	25m 1hr 5m	Minera	<p>Working with GPS on Moel Famau so grabbed an evening's digging trip with the Grosvenor. First to Gas Pot – a completely natural dig 120' deep down a vertical swallow. Practically all of this has been banged and shored up with Acros and scaffold poles. The whole thing is a highly waterworn boulder ruckle and takes plenty of water from the surface stream in flood. At the bottom a good sized inlet stream can be heard and has been reached but becomes too low. Further work will be to follow the stream at a higher level in order to reach known larger gaps in the boulders and hopefully to eventually emerge in the Pool Park Cave System below. A promising site but with a lot of work to be done. A fantastic amount of work has already been accomplished here. Most impressed, but this was only a foretaste for the next dig!</p> <p>Reid's Shaft (part of the Guter Siani Mine) lies between Pool Park and the Cefn-y-Git cave systems. It holds lots of promise for major mining link systems in this area. The Grosvenor have capped the shaft and erected five stagings hanging on four lift shaft wires and braced into the walls. The bottom staging is 20' from the floor of this, at present, 120' deep shaft (some 6' in diameter). All stagings are connected by fixed steel ladders – a tremendous engineering job. The plan now is to partition the base of the shaft and dig one side – stacking it in the other. There is a theory that 6' (or more) below the rubble is a cross-cut level which could lead into "the natural". The lads really deserve a good breakthrough here after the tremendous effort they have put in. An excellent evening's entertainment followed by a few pints in the City Arms.</p>
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Hunter's Hole 1/8/87 Martin Bishop, Pete Eckford, Gary Jago, Steve Milner	1hr 35m	Priddy	<p>To remove debris from last two bangs and hopefully push the passage. While Pete loaded up the remains of the two boulders I cleaned the final squeeze and pushed on into the open passage. I had previously tested the air all along the dig with a candle to find that it would hardly stay alight. In the new passage it wouldn't light at all and even the cigarette lighter stuttered. Despite this I decided to push on in the hope of gaining an even or larger section of passage with some decent air in it. I crawled headfirst down the dipping bedding passage for some 20' until I met water in a "Drainpipe" size passage. This was obviously a sump as the air was by now non-existent. At this point I got really nervous and desperately fighting panic and panting horribly I began to back out of the passage as quickly as possible. A tightish bit on the way scared me shitless and I fought hard to keep in control and not black out. Pete realised I was in a bad state and got out of the passage to give me room. With great relief I got down the Manhole and struggled back to join the others at Rover Pot. I was in a hell of a state and it took me some time to recover and start out of the cave – needing a</p>

				lifeline on the main pitch. Detackled the cave. (Also put 15' iron ladder in entrance drop.) The fresh air and a couple of pints were more than welcome. I honestly think that another couple of minutes in the new passage would have made me black out and I doubt I could have been retrieved before snuffing it. A very frightening experience. The "sump" at the end needs either diving or pumping out but the 40' or so of CO ₂ filled passage will present a problem. This hopefully will be cleared first. If an airspace can be made through the sump it should clear the air.
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Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 4/8/87 Pete Eckford, Pat Cronin, Terry Edwards, Steve Milner	½ hr	Priddy	Wed. night digging trip. A few buckets of shale and mud removed from the end and a fine set of sheer-legs brought from the Belfry and erected over the hole.
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 8/8/87 Pat Cronin, Mark Lumley, Steve Milner	2hr 10m	Priddy	The aim of the trip was for Steve to attempt a dive at the new "sump". 2 sets of kit (3 bottle) was carried down so Pat could back him up. They both entered the CO ₂ zone fully kitted up but Steve couldn't get through the final squeeze to the "sump" pool. As a gesture all the bottles were emptied into the CO ₂ to aid in dispelling it.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 8/8/87 Mark Lumley, (Martin Grass)	1¼ hr	Priddy	Mark and I continued, painfully slowly, to chip away at the end of the dig and also at the stream sink on the RH side while Martin hauled out the four buckets of spoil which resulted. During the weekend I also dumped two trailer loads of builders' rubbish around the pipe, plus some junk from the Belfry. This now needs tidying up with plenty of dig spoil.
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Somerset	Hunter's Hole 14/8/87 Lisa Taylor, Mark Lumley	1hr 20m	Priddy	½ kilo "liver paté" laid on LH ledge above Manhole. Lisa fired it and found it "orgasmic". Detackled the cave. Air seemed to be a lot fresher at end and there may have been a slight draught.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 15/8/87 Mark Lumley, Bob McNair (+ visitors)		Priddy	Lay about in the sun and pulled up a few buckets of grot while Mark and Bob laboured away below.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 16/8/87 (Mark, Bob, Dick, Pat, Rich N-D)	½ hr	Priddy	Dug out 2 bucket loads from the sink passage while the others erected a fence on the surface. Mark foiled prospective car thieves in the lay-by opposite.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 22/8/87 Mark (Nick, Simon + visitors)	1¾ hr	Priddy	A day's digging and bucket hauling to little avail due to the hardness of the limestone lenses at the working face. Hopefully tomorrow we will be operating Nick's dad's Kango drill. Definite draught and water flows away nicely into the distance though observable passage is minute. Slightly hungover from L.A.D.S. dinner of the previous night!
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 23/8/87 Mark, Steve, Bob McNair, Jingles, Ted	1 hr	Priddy	Another full day at the dig using Nick's dad's Kango drill, Rich Stevenson's generator, Dany's transformer and Mac's ear muffs! I spent the morning bucket hauling while Matt and Nick removed several bucket loads using the drill. A

	Humphries, Jim Smart, Tim Gould, Nick, Simon, Rich N-D, Blitz, Matt Tuck			couple of massive wedges of limestone could not be drilled out so I laid 1 ½ metres of Cordtex on them and fired from the surface. A good loud crack resulted and the lid of the shaft rose a foot into the air! The fumes were cleared by lowering a fire bucket down the shaft. After about 10 minutes I went down to find that the Cordtex had shattered the two rocks enough for them to be removed. Last information from the front was that there was some 6' of impassable bedding plane opening up to the right and that it was looking good. Shoring is fairly urgently needed as we now have a large span of shale ceiling.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 26/8/87 Blitz, Rich N-D, Tim Gould, Ted Humphries, (Gonzo, Martin Bishop, Bob McN, (Mike Sparkes +2 visitors))	35m	Priddy	Wed. night digging. Shifted loads of spoil from the sink passage. Looking good. Appears to be turning into a descending rift. (?)

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Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 28/8/87 Alone (visitor – Steve Sparks)	1½ hr	Priddy	Intended to mix cement and shore the sides of the sink passage but in the end I concentrated on digging, removing half a dozen bucket loads of shale and storing any limestone blocks in the side passage for use in the shoring. Steve dropped in to have a look. The passage goes on trending slightly right for about 8' – still very small but draughting well. A pillar in the middle of the dig will have to be removed and also much of the floor. Looking very interesting. There is supposedly a bench mark on the wall end directly above the dig. The altitude is 266.01m.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 29/8/87 Martin Grass, Graham Wilton-Jones, (Bob McNair & wife, Glenys, Steve Sparks)	1½ hr	Priddy	Dug alone in the morning until I decided that bang was needed to remove the pillar and slabs at the end. I wired up 1 “liver sausage” and fired it from the stile. Used my camping gaz stove in the fire bucket to help shift the fumes but as there was little draught today they were reluctant to go. Gave up and went to the pub. Returned in the afternoon to find the bang had done an excellent job and devastated the pillar and slabs – and some of the roof. Cleared several bucket loads then Bassett and Martin continued to dig up the floor of the sink passage. The dig was particularly damp and sticky!
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 30/8/87 Nick Guymer, Kev Gurner, Ted Humphries, Pat Cronin (visitors Bob Cross + bird, Quackers, Pete Slater)		Priddy	Nick, Kevin and Ted struggled to chisel out the floor at the end while I idled about on the surface and pulled up the very occasional bucket.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 4/9/87 Alone (visitors Janet Woodward & 3 Germans)	1 hr	Priddy	Continued deepening the floor at the end resulting in one bucket of spoil! Draughting well.

Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Bowery Corner Swallet 6/9/87 Nick, Simon, Mark, Pat, Jingles, Babs, Jenny (Canadian) (Snablet, Henry)	2 hr	Priddy	<p>Went over alone in the morning nursing a hangover gained at Batspiss's wedding! Laid a charge of one "liver paté" on a pillar at the end. Returned about an hour later with Nick to find all the fumes had disappeared. On arrival at the digging face it was obvious that the bang had done an excellent job and had disintegrated the pillar. Not only that but it had blown away the opposite wall revealing a roomy open passage big enough to stand in! After a few minutes gardening the passage I crept in to find it was the top end of about 25' of open stream passage heading down dip and ending in a mud choke where the roof came down to the stream level. A few small straws were noted in a tiny inlet tube. It should be easy to widen this rift and dig out the floor. Nick came in for a look then we headed off to the Belfry and the Hunter's to spread the good news.</p> <p>A large team returned in the afternoon and over twenty bucket loads of spoil were dragged out of the extension making it much roomier. Jingles and the girls took some photos. Though only a relatively short extension it is a hell of a spur to digging showing that there is potential for roomy cave passage at this site. The cave will definitely go further without too much trouble. In total now there is some 50' of passage – another bit for the digging barrel. Needs a good flow now to clean the place up a bit.</p>
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Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Bowery Corner Swallet Hunter's Hole 12/9/87 Tom Chapman	1hr 40m 1½ hr	Priddy	<p>Early start at Bowery Corner where I dug out 7 bags of mud and rocks from the end of the stream passage until I was able to look round to the left – to see some 10' of low "phreatic" tube leading off and draughting. This will need clearing of debris to progress along and the digging will now require wet-suits. So much for our "nice dry dig". Still it looks bloody promising. Tom turned up and helped pull out the last 4 bags.</p> <p>Then over to Hunter's Hole with intentions of banging the squeeze prior to the "sump". The last bang had disintegrated a great pile of rock and after a bit of clearing I squeezed back through to the scene of my close demise! By lying in the water it was obvious that there was no sump – just a 10' long pool a few inches deep with a decorated phreatic tube leading on beyond. Luckily the air was quite fresh and after summoning up the necessary courage I dragged myself through the water to enter some 40' of nicely decorated passage ending in a stalled up corner just beyond a small aven. Unfortunately I was forced to crawl through a beautiful crystal pool and also to knock off any straws hanging in the passage. The sad price of pushing new stuff. The passage will go with a bang or two and echoes well at the end. Managed to turn round at the aven and rejoin Tom, deciding not to put any bang in until all the rubble is cleared while the air is fresh. A fairly unexpected bit of luck here but again future diggers will need wet-suits! A good morning's work – 10' nearer Cheddar, 40'</p>
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				nearer Wookey!
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 13/9/87 Quiet John, Lawrence Smith, Ted Humphries, Zot, (visitor – Steve Nicholas (OS))	1hr 15m	Priddy	Afternoon's digging session – removed half a dozen or so bags of mud and gravel from the bend at the end of the dig. Draughting strongly. Steve turned up with Brent Knoll trig pillar which was duly dumped in the entrance depression! Zot pulled the buckets. Beer and lethargy soon prompted a halt.
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Somerset	Eastwater Cavern Bowery Corner Swallet 18/9/87 Alone	1 hr 1 hr 50m	Priddy	Nipped down to Boulder Chamber and put one "liver sausage" in the tight rift leading towards the 55' Aven. Fired it from just inside the Boulder Ruckle and hardly heard the bang! This dig could be a fairly awkward and long job. Then to Bowery Corner where I immersed myself in the pool and cleared a fair amount of muck – dragging 2 loads to the surface and leaving plenty for the next trip. Also brought down a fair sized roof slab from the ongoing crawl. We could have problems here with the looseness of the shale roof. A mucky dig but still very promising.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 20/9/87 Mark, Matt Tuck, Snablet, Tom Chapman (visitors: a local farmer, Cheg, Catherine, Steve Milner, Tim Allen Mongo)	2hr 40m	Priddy	The morning was wasted in a lonely wait for other diggers – got fed up and found them at the Belfry. After the pub we returned in force and those with wet suits on managed to install the hand pump in the pool and drain out most of the water. Several bags of spoil were then removed. Not a very inspiring day's work but when we get past this wet bit things should improve, including enthusiasm!
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 26/9/87 Blitz, (Surface: Snablet) (Visitors: Zot, Ian Houghton, Jane, Jack Thomas)	2¼ hr	Priddy	Spent most of the morning on my own scrabbling for mud to build a sandbag dam just before the terminal pool in which to pump same. Blitz arrived and we half lowered the pool and retrieved one bucket of mud. Hard work for little reward. This pool is going to be a sod but we have the technology. PS Ken Pearce, amongst others, spotted in the pub!
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 27/9/87 Ted Humphries, Rich Neville-Dove	1hr 50m	Priddy	To Boulder Chamber dig where we removed the spoil from the bang of 18/9/87. Not a vast amount of damage done but every little helps.
Essex	Hangman's Wood Daneholes 7/10/87 Martin Grass, Nick Guymer, Kev Gurner	¾ hr	Grays	Visited these deneholes, on a very wet Wednesday night after spending an hour or so getting lost and supping in the wrong pub on the wrong roundabout! Eventually met Nick and Kev in the Oak at Thurrock, right by the deneholes. Changed behind the local garage (in the middle of suburbia) and entered the holes at 9.30pm! A wide 60' deep shaft in chalk, surrounded by a climbable spiked steel fence, drops through the Thanet sands beds into a maze of chambers cut in chalk. These are a series of interconnected deneholes with two open shafts to surface and many blocked ones. Rambled around for ½ an hour covering practically all of the series and wading through the unfortunate piles of beer cans, bottles, supermarket trolleys and stolen bicycles. Tried to rescue a field mouse on the way out but he escaped. An excellent evening's entertainment and another minor ambition

				accomplished. (A pirate trip).
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Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 9/10/87 Andy Sparrow, Tom Chapman	1½ hr	Priddy	Laid 1½ “liver sausages” in the Boulder Chamber dig and fired them from the end of the Traverse (via Baker’s Chimney). This is an awkward site and easier to bang from the other side. I must have a re-think if this bang is not successful. Cave damp.
Somerset	Hunter’s Hole 10/10/87 Andy Sparrow	1¾ hr	Priddy	Intentions were to bang the squeeze just before the pool. We cleared a load of spoil from above the Manhole but as there were only two of us we couldn’t shift it out to Rover Pot. Unfortunately there is still plenty of “bad air” in the dig so we were forced to retire to the pub without banging anything. Needs 5 men!
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 11/10/87 Alone	10m	Priddy	Quick trip to assess flood water results. A fair sized stream was still going down and the dam area bore some 2’ of froth. A bucket and sandbag had been washed down the passage and there was plenty of bits of twig, leaves and froth on the roof of the terminal crawl – though it looks as if any backing up was only temporary. A good sign, making the dig more promising than ever. The floor of the entrance passage seems to be easily eroded by stream water and may have to be reinforced.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 17/10/87 Andy Sparrow (visitors: Wig, Dave and Pete Evans)	1hr 40m	Priddy	Removed the sand bag dam to surface and also cleared a fair amount of flood debris. Chiselled out a couple of rocks from the terminal crawl. Suggest it is now dug without a dam.
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	Swildon’s Hole 17/10/87 Quackers, Andy, John Chew, D&P Evans, Ted Humphries plus many Wessex, ICCC, etc	50m	Priddy	Call out at Hunters mid-day. 47 year old scoutmaster with dislocated shoulder in Blue Pencil. A WCC team were first down and got him as far as the top of the 20, where our team took over. No problems.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 24/10/87 Alone (visitor: Pat Cronin)	3hr	Priddy	Dragged a large amount of spoil out of the terminal crawl. Also removed a couple of large rocks from the floor and a fair proportion of the roof. Taking the roof out is probably the easiest way to progress along the crawl. The stream can be heard running away only a few feet ahead and the site is looking very promising. Another couple of onslaughts should enable us to reach it and hopefully drain the pool. Managed to drag out one boulder to surface and by using a counterbalance system eventually removed one load of spoil. Left about half a dozen bags for the next shift. A very useful morning’s work.
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Somerset	Manor Farm Swallet 25/10/87 Quiet John, Lawrence	1hr 40m	Charterhouse	Put one and a half “liver sausages” in the horrific dig at the end. Definitely one of the worst and most dangerous digs known to man! Cave stinks and it was hard work dragging ourselves out.
Somerset	25/10/87. Mark and I hauled buckets at Bowery Corner Swallet whilst a drunken Ted Humphries loaded them up below. Shifted all the spoil bagged up from yesterday.			
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 30/10/87 Alone	1hr 20m	Priddy	Cycled over in wet suit to probe end of terminal crawl. Managed to bring down a fair amount of the roof over a distance of some 12 feet to give a view into continuing low passage. Not easy to

				see what happens beyond but the next trip should either make it easier to view the continuation or even enter it. Gave up eventually due to the cold. Looks good but now the roof has a greater span it should be treated with a lot of respect. About half a dozen or more loads of spoil ready to be cleared.
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 31/10/87 (All Hallow's Eve) Trev Hughes, John Chew	1½ hr	Wookey Hole	Start of the Hallowe'en digging season – on All Hallow's Eve! Put one "liver sausage" under calcite blockage at end. Excellent sounding bang.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 1/11/87 (Nick Sprange, Pete) Bob North (NCC), Jeremy Henley, (Matt Tuck)	50m	Priddy	After pub digging session. Cold, wet and miserable. Nick and Pete shifted 6 ½ loads of spoil before we got there and we moved another four loads before getting fed up.
Somerset	Twin Titties Swallet 4/11/87 Prew, Albert, John, DaveT, John + Reg Brown, Rich Kenney, Eric	1¾ hr	Priddy	Dug in bedding plane at bottom of third shaft. 3" bedding plane leads on. Straight down in the floor seems to be the best bet. Mucky!
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Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 6/11/87 Alone	2hr 10m	Priddy	An excellent morning's work dragging several loads of spoil from the end crawl. Managed to drain most of the water away and took a few slabs off the roof at the end. Doesn't look as if it will go instantly but is still very promising.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 7/11/87 Alone (visitor Wig)	1¾ hr	Priddy	Another good bash. Dragged out half a dozen loads of spoil and one large slab from the end. The puddle has now gone and the stream flows steadily on down the passage. Good draught. Passage appears to be carrying on in the same format. Needs a few more trips using the digging hoe to progress further, though due to roof collapse the passage is enlarging. Took a couple of corners off near the entrance to make hauling easier and brought out the pump which is now redundant.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 10/11/87 Alone	¾ hr	Priddy	Tuesday evening visit in wet conditions. Inserted the 6" pipe bung into the pipe halfway down the shaft which very successfully dammed up the flow from that direction. I then went down to inspect the results of the previous day's flooding. Some silt had been washed through and the place was nice and clean! Dragged out two loads of spoil and a couple of "gone off" small bags of cement. Too wet to dig in dry weather and possibly even too wet to dig safely in a wet suit at the end.
Somerset	Twin Titties Swallet 11/11/87 Brian Prewer, John Hann, Albert Francis	1hr 25m	Priddy	Poor turn out due to weather and carnival time. Dug in the floor at the bottom of the 3 rd shaft following a solid right angled pair of walls. Going down in fairly loose fill. Cave quite damp with small stream sinking in the floor at the end.
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 13/11/87 Alone	¾ hr	Wookey Hole	Friday the 13 th trip to bang Hallowe'en! Laid one "liver sausage" in hole under calcite at end. Nice quiet thump. Cave quite wet in places.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet	1hr 40m	Priddy	Loopy (South African) and I dug in the crawl. Andy directed the buckets and Henri hauled from

	14/11/87 Loopy, Andy Sparrow, Henri (surface)			surface. Way on is wide but seems to degenerate into two small holes after 10' or so. Floor is still diggable but very awkward to move – especially in wet conditions. May have to leave it until it gets drier.
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Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 18/11/87 Snablet, Tom	1hr 25m	Priddy	Removed 4 ½ sledge loads from the end in damp conditions. Tom and Snablet wore furry suits! Still looking promising.
Somerset	20/11/87. Dave Turner and I collected 2 x 750cm x 70cm pipes from Mells and I transported them to Priddy with the L/Rover and trailer. Brian and Brenda Prewer assisted with their unloading at Dallimore's Cave			
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 21/1/87 Fred, Loopy, Hugh, Jane, Phil (Cardiff UCC)	3 hr	Priddy	Clearing trip to Sanctimonious Passage. Shifted about 20 sledge loads from between the entrance to the dig and the squeeze prior to the pool. An excellent day's work much enjoyed by the team. Perhaps they will come again! The squeeze is now ready for a bang. Phil went to the end but didn't like the lack of air.
Somerset	Wookey Hole 22/11/87 Syd Perou, Tony, Jane, Mark, Mongo, Hugh, Dave Turner	1hr 10m	Wookey Hole	Jane and I wandered in to see how Syd's filming of the history of cave diving was coming on. Not much happening as various people and props were missing! Helped Dave Turner dress in an old dry suit, drank some of Syd's free beer and went off to the pub.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 24/11/87 Alone	1hr 10m	Priddy	Quick evening trip but long enough! Dug out two sledge loads of assorted stream gravel and a few lumps of roof and removed them to surface. Almost within reach of the rock pillar now and the tube is definitely enlarging. Beyond the pillar it seems to widen out to the left and run off downhill slightly to the right. It may be an idea to push the small ledge up to the end and prise off lumps of roof straight into it.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 25/11/87 Pat Cronin, Gonzo, Steve Milner (visitor: Ted Humphries)	1hr 40m	Priddy	Shifted a bit more roof and a couple of loads of gravel before leaving Mark and Steve to carry on. Hard work at the end at present with fairly solid roof and floor. Small stream but bloody cold. Definite inward draught.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 27/11/87 Alone	1hr 50m	Priddy	Cleared the bang wire and a small amount of debris from Boulder Chamber dig. Couldn't move much more as it needs two people. Opened up a 2" wide rift at the bottom down which stones drop for about 4' so subsequently pushed much of the gravel down it. The roof and LH wall are a bit loose. The next bang should open up the rift to make spoil disposal easier and hopefully gain a bit of usable passage or even make the connection with the Ifold's avens. Looks a bit more enticing now, though a bang from below would help matters.
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Somerset	Dallimore's Cave 28/11/87 (Mark, Gurner, Gymer, Fred, Nick, Pat, Matt, Trebor, Prew, Duncan, Frew, Trev + 1 (WCC), Martin, Glen, PC Brice and another PC etc)	1hr +	Hillgrove	Installation of two 750cm concrete entrance tubes. First job was to remove a large boulder with ½ kilo liver sausage while Jerry Brice and colleague held up the traffic for us! The top of the entrance was "gardened" and a drystone wall built up to pipe level. Much of the mud and stones which had slumped into the cave were also removed. A triangle of steel girders was set up and after much hauling and struggling the first

				pipe was erected on this platform. The depression was then infilled around the pipe with broken concrete lumps from the adjacent depression. After lunch more infilling was done and the second pipe installed. A successful job – all went very well except for Mark knacker my towing hitch and trailer ring while reversing. Such is life.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 29/11/87 Mark Lumley, (Karen, Blitz, Martin) (visitors: 2 Speleo Rhal) (later – Dave Turner)	25m	Priddy	Put one “liver sausage” in two bits on the LH wall and floor at the end of the crawl. Nice sounding bang. Hopefully it will be cleared sometime during the day and the way on looked at. Later, Blitz and Martin cleared some of the bang debris and in the evening I returned with Mark and Dave who cleared the rest while I hauled the buckets from surface. They reached the pillar some 5’ ahead of the banged section and got to a point where the passage is heading down to the right and reasonably sized. Another bang is needed to remove the pillar and a section of the RH wall to make this accessible. Blitz and Martin also did a rough survey of the cave and found it to be 80’ long with the present end under the main road 4’ out from the grass verge separating the road from the layby. Looking good.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 30/11/87 Alone	20m	Priddy	Another split charge of ½ kg “liver sausage” laid on the pillar and RH wall at the end. Got away with wearing a furry suit and oversuit!
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 1/12/87 Alone (Snablet, Tom)	1½ hr	Priddy	Evening trip to clear night before’s bang spoil. Pillar, RH wall and some roof had all disintegrated and I was able to easily remove four full sledge loads of spoil and a large slab. The passage is now quite roomy and bearing down to the right. Gained about 6’ of passage with relative ease. Snablet and Tom turned and hauled out one load before going to get changed. When they returned I left for home and they carried on with the second shift. The sledge can now be filled at the end which makes life easier. The way on is low but only needs the floor digging out to progress further (Snablet and Tom made another 4’)
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Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 2/12/87 Rich N-Dove, Gary Jago, Blitz, Steve Milner	1 hr	Priddy	A bit of a waste of time trip. Only 2 sledge loads out in one hour. Blitz and I were on the surface at first but were driven underground by the cold wind. A possible 4’ gain in passage length.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 3/12/87 Alone	1hr 10m	Priddy	Down to Boulder Chamber dig where I placed another ½ kilo “liver sausage” on the LH wall of the rift. Nice muffled bang heard from halfway out of the Ruckle where I fired it. Useful trip.
Somerset	Hallowe’en Rift 3/12/87 Alone	55m	Wookey Hole	Yet again ½ kilo “liver sausage” meets its end! Placed it on the conglomerate boulder blocking the way into a small “chamber” that Trevor has reached. Things actually do look a bit more inspiring here at present and there is a good draught. Maybe this is the big one? Extremely quiet bang – only just convinced that it went off at all! Should have knocked shit out of the place.

				(Eighth trip in eight days – I’m worn out...) [Bloody thing misfired! – see below]
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 4/12/87 Andy Sparrow	1hr 45m	Priddy	2 nd trip of the day, 9 th of the week and umpteenth “liver sausage” fired in the rift at the bottom of Boulder Chamber Dig. The previous bang had not done as well as expected so it had to have another dose. Hopefully this one will take out the LH side of the rift or at least shatter it enough to get through.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 5/12/87 Mark Lumley, Martin Grass, (Karen, Mike (Waters))	1hr 10m	Priddy	Tried to use new white sledge in vain – much to Mark’s distress. Put the new blue sledge back in and Mark dug out 3 sledge loads. Then off to the pub.
Somerset	Hallowe’en Rift 8/12/87 Alone	25m	Wookey Hole	Quick trip to rectify the misfire of 4/12/87. The detonator had dropped off the Cordtex prior to firing due to my using damp masking tape instead of insulating tape (I presume). Taped on another det and got a very satisfactory thump. Trevor will now be able to clear the debris tomorrow and hopefully enter the small “chamber” beyond. There should also now be room to turn around at the end. Trevor, Pete Glanville and Jim Dunton were down at the weekend and apart from clearing a small amount of spoil, Pete took several photographs – the first taken in this cave.

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Somerset	Eastwater Cavern Bowery Corner Swallet 11/12/87 Alone	2hr ½ hr	Priddy	First, to Eastwater where another ½ kilo charge was laid and fired on the Boulder Chamber dig rift. I hung around at the top of the Canyon waiting for the fumes to clear before going back in for a look – about 15-20 mins. Not a very inspiring result despite excellent tamping. The rift is still too tight to pass but it is possible to get one’s head in and look down an almost vertical passage some 4’ deep and choked with debris. It’s now about time to go round to the other side and bang it from there. Spoil disposal and laying the charges would be much easier. Then over to Bowery Corner for a look at the end. The stream was frozen and there was only a trickle flowing along Skid Row which made digging in dry kit feasible. Unfortunately there is a large puddle (sump?) at the end which makes digging the way on desperate at present. There is no sound of the stream flowing onwards and it may be a case of either baling / pumping the pool out or waiting until dry conditions and hoping the pool will drain away. A bit disappointing considering all the work which has been put in. Managed to drag one sledge load out to surface.
Somerset	Hallowe’en Rift 13/12/87 (Jane)	40m	Wookey Hole	Hangover trip following NHASA Dinner! Laid and successfully fired ½ kilo “liver sausage” on calcite blockage at end of cave. The rift leading on should now be accessible. Looks good.
Somerset	Hunter’s Hole 19/12/87 Mark Lumley	1¾ hr	Priddy	Decided it was time to bang the end and the squeeze beyond the Manhole. Took down 2 x ½ kilo “liver sausage” and two separate reels of bang wire. In the end I decided that it could be widened by hammering. I took the 1 kilo of bang to the end and laid it separately on the RH wall.

				Plenty of mud in the vicinity made tamping nice and easy. Mark got 2/3 of the way through the duck on his face before deciding that his hangover had won! Fired the bang from the bottom of Rover Pot – most impressive. We will now have to leave it for a week or so in the hope that the resultant bad air will clear.
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 23/12/87 Alone	1hr 20m	Wookey Hole	Trevor failed to turn up so I struggled on alone to place ½ kilo “liver sausage” at the end – in a nice hole directly under the calcite floor. The way on is apparently open after about 4’ of calcite covered boulders. Two or three bangs should do it. Crawled back to the entrance with a sledge full of rocks which collapsed halfway! Back again to the end with a new length of bang wire then back out again to fire the charge off successfully. We should be into new passage over this Christmas.
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Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 24/12/87 Trev Hughes	1hr 50m	Wookey Hole	Yet another “liver sausage” in the rift at the end, after clearing the debris from yesterday’s bang – which had been quite successful. One or two more bangs will be needed to gain access to the passable passage which can be seen beyond. Dragged out two sledge loads and a couple of large rocks.
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 27/12/87 Trev Hughes	2¼ hr	Wookey Hole	Cleared out five skip loads of debris and fired two “liver sausages” at the end to remove the RH wall and hopefully shatter the calcite covered conglomerate boulders blocking the way on. Double “light pox” caused a few problems. Came out to a miserable, wet and foggy afternoon – brightened up with French beer and mince pies!
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 28/12/87 Dave Turner	2¼ hr	Wookey Hole	Cleared the debris from yesterday’s bang and fired off another kilo. 99% certain that will be in next time! Dragged out three skip loads, the bang having demolished the RH wall. Temporary misfire due to bad connection of the white/black wires.
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 29/12/87 Phil Romford, Trev Hughes, John Chew	1hr 40m	Wookey Hole	Yesterday’s bang had shattered the face but not enough to allow us entry to the tantalising passage beyond. Very frustrating. We cleared about four skip loads and a few loose rocks. Very disappointing. Needs another bang which we can hopefully get someone to do later today.
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift Twin Titties Cave 30/12/87 1 John King 2 Brian Prewer, Jim Hanwell, John Hann, Mike Thompson, Dave and Alan Turner, Albert Francis, (Eric Dunford + dog)	¾ hr 1hr 20m	Wookey Hole Priddy	1) Hungover banging trip – two “sausages” in at the end. Next trip planned for tomorrow morning. Only one day left before we lose the digging barrel to the Wessex! 2) Then over to Twin T’s for the Christmas digging day. Hauled out loads of bags from the bottom in preparation for the “big push” next Wednesday. The dig at the end has revealed a boulder filled rift which is supposedly very promising. “Elevenses” were indulged in underground with wine, mince pies, Christmas cake, sandwiches, etc. and on the surface I opened a bottle of Orgnac red wine with a picture on the label of what we expect to find in Twin T’s – 50’ tall stalagmites! The team have planned to let Albert go in first when the dig goes as it will probably be his last chance for glory before

				his legs go duff.
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Somerset <i>Major discovery</i>	Hallowe'en Rift 31/12/87 Trev Hughes, John Chew, Rich Williams (Dick, Fred)	3½ hr	Wookey Hole	Last ditch attempt this year to win the digging barrel. Dick and I went in first with the MRO solo pick (which we didn't really use). I sat at the end and hammered away the debris of the last bang, which had done an excellent job. After about an hour I let Trev take over and he eventually made the resulting hole large enough for me to squeeze up into Domdaniel – a 10' long, 3' wide and 15' high rift/aven liberally decorated with splash formations and old, dead stal. A long mass of roots hung down from the roof. Unfortunately there was no obvious way on though the bedding plane may continue below the heap of rocks and stal on the floor. There seems to be a slight draught here. Trevor came through after I had enlarged the hole a bit and when John joined us (Dick having gone out) we "celebrated" the discovery with a bottle of sparkling cider. All then retired to the surface dragging skips, bang, rocks and solo pick to commiserate with each other on the outcome of 5 year's digging. Such is the life of a cave digger!
1988				
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 5/1/88 Alone	3 hr	Priddy	First trip of '88 due to hangover, lack of time and a virus infection! No-one else around so took over 4 ladders, 200' rope, self-lifelining kit, bang, spare lights etc and did it on my own. At the dig it was obvious that the last bang had wreaked havoc on the RH wall – totally demolishing the corner and leaving the remains in 8" square lumps – slightly too big to throw down the rift but suitable for a false floor halfway up. All of the loose rock was dropped to this level with the smallest bits being thrown to the floor of the rift. I then laid ½ kilo "liver sausage" on the LH wall and retired to the bottom of Rover Pot to, eventually, fire it after several tries. Must clean up the battery and test it. New wire needed in this dig also. No sign of bad air despite my candles going out in the duck (knocked out) and the smell of fumes giving me a minor panic as I came out the other side. Drained about 1" of the pool. The way on is a c.5' high x 4"-6" wide meandering rift. It is not clear if it widens out at floor level but for the time being it will be necessary to bang along it just below the roof and hope to hit a wide bit. It is a pity that it is such a difficult and grotty place to get to as it holds great promise despite the lack of a strong draught. Managed to detackle the lot on the way out. A fairly gruelling 3 hour trip but better than being idle!
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 7/1/88 Andy Sparrow, Tom Chapman	4¼ hr	Priddy	Completed successfully an interesting programme of events! 1) Down to the Boulder Chamber dig where I put ½ kilo charge on the LH wall. This was fired from a point halfway down the Canyon. 2) We then continued on down Dolphin Pot and the 3' Pitch to Harris's Passage where Tom free climbed the "55' Aven"

				<p>and belayed the ladders to the bolt. Andy and I joined him and we all had a good look at the possibilities for a connection with the Boulder Chamber dig – eventually deciding on an untried boulder choked hole directly above the main part of the aven. Another ½ kilo “liver sausage” was laid here and after dekitting the pitch this was fired from Harris’s Passage resulting in the usual epic sound effects. 3) Back up the pitches and Canyon to the Boulder Chamber where the results of the first bang were checked. With a bit of hammering it was possible for me to pass the squeeze and (only just) enter the rift beyond. This was just large enough to stand up in and it was impossible to bend down and remove debris from the floor. Three or four bucket loads were cleared from the top of the slot before I laid two more separate ½ kilo charges in the squeeze in the hope of enlarging it to enable us to dig. This was fired from the far side of the “Woggle Press” on the way out. As usual there is no sign of this dig “going” yet and another trip to re-establish the aural connection would be a good idea before continuing much further.</p>
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Somerset	8/1/88. Misty day. Spent some time attempting to dowse the Bowery Corner Swallet streamway. Gave up and took advantage of the mist to investigate the shakeholes and rake in the fields opposite. Found three open mineshafts, one 2’ drop, one 8’ drop and a third about 30’ deep underneath a large limestone slab. The latter needs a return visit with assistance and ladder – though I doubt very much that it has not been previously explored. NGR ST 5342/5276			
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 9/1/88 Snablet, Loopy, Dick Fred, Nick Sprang	3hr 40m	Priddy	<p>Loopy and I went down to the “55’ Aven” and both of us free climbed it in stages, gardening as we went. At the top we established radio contact with the others who were in the Boulder Chamber dig. (Used the Ordnance Survey 2 way radios again – excellent). We then able to establish voice contact through the tiny bedding plane but nowhere else. It seems this awkward section may have to be banged – pity. I then cleared most of the debris from the bang in the roof of 7/1/88, throwing it all down the pitch. A few large boulders still need to be banged here but the way on upwards doesn’t look very inspiring. This bloody connection is getting to be the usual very long term pain in the arse! Loopy and I then descended the Aven gardening vast heaps of rubble en route and leaving the rope in for future use.</p> <p>Back at the Boulder Chamber dig I laid another ½ kilo charge to widen the vertical bedding plane. A group of about a dozen tourists were warned of the impending cataclysm so as not to give them all heart attacks. All out through the decidedly dodgy looking “Woggle Press”. Cave quite wet.</p>

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Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 15/1/88 Tom Chapman	¾ hr	Priddy	<p>To check on the results of the winter floods. Nothing inspiring has happened – the terminal pool was still there complete with silted floor. Dug out two sledge loads of silt before getting fed up and retiring to pub. Definitely a summer dig. Lump of roof fell on me on the way out. The stream still runs away ahead and there is little</p>
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				sign of it backing up except for some froth on the roof.
Somerset	Swildon's Hole 17/1/88 Syd Perou, Rupert Skorupka, Fred Winstanley, Matt Tuck, Mongo, Gonzo, Lisa, Dee, Fiona, Dick Fred, Loopy, Tom Chapman, Steve Milner etc.	2½ hr	Priddy	Sherpaing trip for Syd who was continuing with his cave diving film in Swildon's 2. Ambled down to 2 without kit, drank a tin of Syd's beer then staggered back out of the cave with a pile of lead weights and a diving bottle. Cave quite damp. Nice trip to remove a few cobwebs and remind me how pleasant Swildon's is.
Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 20/1/88 Brian W, Brian P, John Hann, John, Rog, Justin, Eric, Andy Nash, Al Turner, Albert	1½ hr	Priddy	Had a look at the new flat roofed, 25' long extension to the cave then winched out several bags of grot and assorted boulders. Looking much more interesting and a bit cleaner but still a lot of work to do before any more progress will be made.
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 23/1/88 Andy Middleton, Rich Payne	3¼ hr	Priddy	Laddered in direct and all went to the end where a good bit of work was done. Rich drained out much of the duck turning it into a foot deep mud wallow: but at least it is a bit less claustrophobic. I cleared the debris from the last bang on the LH wall. Not as much off here as expected but it all helps. I then put two "liver sausages" in – one on each wall, stuck into a small bedding plane. Andy organised the bang wire and we all scrambled – or rather slithered – out to fire the charge from Rover Pot. A bit too loud but it should have done the job. More banging will be needed here. The water drained out of the duck could be heard rushing off into the distance. This place will definitely go. Brought out the digging sledge and various bits of rubbish. Cave quite wet with a fairly heavy drip on the main pitch. Useful trip.
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	23/1/88. Swildon's Hole – Call out at 9.45 for one or two girls suffering from hypothermia. All out by 10.15. One girl came out with assistance from her party and the other was helped by an MRO team of WCC, ACA and Cambridge UCC cavers. She was un-wetsuited and the cave was very wet. I stood by at the entrance with portable radio.			
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Somerset	Swildon's Hole 24/1/88 Vin Garbutt	¾ hr	Priddy	Introductory caving trip for Vin. Inside the entrance he decided it was not for him and left the cave. I carried on down as far as the 20 looking at the "Rolling Thunder Dig" en route. This contained a large stream and I didn't push it to its end. Cave nice and wet. A few wazocks in evidence. Most refreshing.
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 30/1/88 Bassett, Snablet, Kev Gurner, Nick Gymer	2½ hr	Priddy	Cleared the debris from the last bang which had gone so well that we made a good six foot of progress. Much of the gravel was dropped down the rift and the larger lumps were dragged back by Snablet and stored in the crawl just before the end. Put in another 2 "liver sausages" on the LH wall and after finding that one of my battery terminals had fallen off I fired it using Snablet's 4 ½ volt Petzl head lamp battery. Out in time for 3 pints!
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 6/2/88 Snablet, Andy Middleton	2hr 10m	Priddy	Last bang had done little damage but had loosened up some of the LH wall. As we weren't very enthusiastic about lying there removing bits of rock I went in and laid a 1kg charge to shake it

				up a bit more. Sounded really good as opposed to last week's too loud bang. Dragged ourselves out in the usual misery.
Somerset	Welsh's Green Swallet 7/2/88 Graeme Johnson (WCC)	¾ hr	Milton	I was invited on a "work's outing" to this dig by Graeme, and was well pleased with the visit. The cave is very wet, some 200' long, 90' deep and all in Blue Lias – a soft creamy coloured rock not unlike Bath stone. About 2/3 of the way down the crawling sized stream passage is a fairly excellent 20' pitch right in the stream – a minor classic. Set off a square of plaster at the terminal tight rift, having lost the other lump of plaster en route. Hopefully it will get swept away by the stream and eventually dissolved. A superb little cave with high hopes of going soon. The resurgence is St. Andrew's well, about 1½ miles away and some 400' lower. Good luck to the Wessex lads who are digging here. They have worked hard on this place for several years now.
Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 10/2/88 Brian Prewer, Eric, John Han, Albert, Dave and Al Turner, Andy Nash, Fred	2 hr	Priddy	Removed loads of bags of spoil from the bottom of the cave to the surface – and various places en route. Looking good – clean washed boulders, draught and is dry at the end between rocks.
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Somerset	Hunter's Hole Bowery Corner Swallet 13/2/88 Brian Van Luipen, Duncan Price	1¾ hr ¼ hr	Priddy	Down to the end of the dig to put in another charge. Unfortunately, on reaching the spot it was obvious that last week's bang had misfired. The two charges were still stuck to the wall with the joined up Cordtex protruding – it looked like the detonator had actually blown the end off the Cordtex without setting off the charge. Wired up a fresh det and got a satisfactory result (I hope). A bloody nuisance – one trip completely wasted but at least the place had two weeks for the fumes to clear! The other two then went off to Swildon's for a wash and I drove round to Bowery Corner to collect most of the tools from the dig as it is not really feasible to dig here in wet weather. Left the hoe and a thin iron bar in the cave. The pool at the end is pretty well silted up and backing up must have occurred. Interesting vertical "spider webs" noticed in side pockets – almost like Waitomo glow worms.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 19/2/88 Alone	2hr	Priddy	To Boulder Chamber dig, with bang, to check on progress since Andy Lolly's clearing trip. The rift before the final drop had been scoured of debris giving plenty of working room. Unfortunately the dig itself involved digging almost upside down and it was very difficult to get out of. I cleared a small amount of rubble and retrieved a crow bar then spent an hour or so hammering away the shattered rock in the tight section to make it easier to reach the end. Did not use the bang as more digging would be useful to reach a definitely "bangable" section. Waste not, want not!
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 20/2/88 Brian Gilbert	1½ hr	Priddy	The idea was to clear the debris from the last bang and put another 1 kilo charge in. Unfortunately the last charge had suffered yet another misfire. This time the LH lump of bang had gone off but the RH lump was still in situ

				with a frayed ended bit of Cordtex poking out! There must be a jinx on the bloody place. Removed the old bang and stuck it back on together with another sausage. Put the second sausage further in, wired it all up and set it off. A very mute bang resulted so I hope it hasn't happened all over again. Out in time for a couple of lunchtime pints.
Worcester-shire	(16/2/88). Evening ramble around Wren's Nest Hill and was amazed to find that the "Seven Sisters Caves" were still open, albeit surrounded by an (almost) impenetrable steel fence. The way in is under the fence at one end and I hope to use this route in the not too distant future!			
Worcester-shire	(17/2/88). Another evening stroll around Castle Hill. "144 Steps Cavern" is completely fenced off by the company who are investigating the safety of the old mines. Didn't check any other entrances.			
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Worcester-shire	24/2/88. Another walk around Castle Hill to check on access to the workings. Singing Cavern is totally sealed off with massive steel sheeting, bars and padlocked door. The nearby mine leading directly to the canal is also completely fenced and covered. Flooded Mine is open and I went in up to the top of welly level to confirm this. The small cave near the canal basin is completely sealed off with welded plate. Mud Hole entrance could not be found but the crawl out from 144 Steps Cavern may be open – there is a small open hole near a "cave" used as a kiddie's den. Hopefully these workings can still be entered by getting a key from the local authority.			
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 27/2/88 Chris Proctor (DSS), Brian, Bill, Slug, Jungle	2¼ hr	Priddy	Yet another sodding misfire! Must be due to the Cordtex getting wet in the duck. Wired two dets to the old Cordtex and stuck the lot into two new liver sausages – making a total of five (2½ kilo) Fired the lot off – a definite "goer". Getting a bit fed up with this.
Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 2/3/88 Brian P, John Hxxx, Eric, Andy Nash + 1	2 hr	Priddy	Small turnout but we got a fair amount of bags shifted from the bottom up to the top of the second shaft after Brian and I had put in a rawlbolt above the last shaft. This was for the pulley from the new gear-box winch. A pile of large boulders now need to be removed from the end of the dig.
Somerset	Hallowe'en Rift 4/3/88 Alone	1hr 50m	Wookey Hole	To assess possibilities at the end. Took in hammer, long chisel and big crow bar. Found that someone (Pete Eckford?) had been very busy and walled up the entrance end of the Domdaniel chamber, back filling it with rubble. I dug up the floor for a while and added another couple of foot to the wall before deciding that spoil clearing here would be much easier using a couple of gallon paint tins or plastic containers. Not much hope in the floor at the far end as it seems to be fairly solid just below the rubble – time will tell. Came out dragging a skip load of rubble. Cave quite wet with a big pool at the last low bit.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 5/3/88 Graham Johnson, Nick (WCC) (Jim Smart, Snablet)	4¾ hr	Priddy	Ambled down to West End Series on my own, meeting Graham and Nick at Gladman Shaft. We carried on to Cenotaph Aven, admiring the vast amount of work that the Wessex have put in in clearing the sumped duck into Blackwell Tunnel en route. At the aven Nick climbed the 20' of ladder hanging on the RH wall and I lifelined him while he put in two more bolts to gain 3-4' in height. I then left the pair to carry on as Graham was climbing up to take over. Back out of the cave on my own, not even seeing Jim and Snablet who were surveying somewhere in the Jubilee Line area. The usual hard grind getting out, made worse by the fact that I haven't been down there for ages. Completely knackered on

				exiting and dying of thirst. I was forced to drink a bottle of low alcohol lager! God forbid. "Nice" to be back down the old place – it's much cleaner in places than it used to be and some of the squeezes seem easier. Still bloody hard work though.
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Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 9/3/88 Prew, Fred, John?, John Ham, Dave and Al Turner, Eric, Albert	1¾ hr	Priddy	While the other hauled bags, fettled winches and ladders, and built walls, Dave, Alan and I smashed up and removed rocks from the bottom. Needs some bang to smash up the huge boulders at the bottom on RH side.
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 16/3/88 Alone	2½ hr	Priddy	An inauspicious start – I fell halfway down the entrance climb and my lamp faded out at the top of Ledge Pitch. Back out for another lamp and a re-try! Down to the dig to find no trace of explosives (thank God) but also very little in the way of bang debris – obviously much of the five "sausages" had been blown away by the newest stuff. Cleared what I could then stuck in another 1 kilo charge, fired from Rover Pot and headed out – meeting Robin Brown and Carol at Ledge Pitch (just after having rolled up the bloody ladders on Main Pitch!) Hopefully a useful trip.
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	G.B. Cavern 19/3/88 Jim Smart, Snablet, Tom, Dave Pike, Martin (UCG), Sarah, Henri, Trev, Nigel, Pete and Alison, Mac, Prew, Dave Turner, Tony Boycott, Pete Glanville, Phil, plus a cast of thousands! (Fred, Rich West, Jenny, Phil Hendy, etc) Vanessa (victim) and friends.	4 hr	Charterhouse	Called out from the Belfry – a 19 year old girl novice had fallen down the waterfall pitch and had a suspected broken ankle. After bump starting a police car at Mendip Heights(!) we headed for the cave with Jim and Co going on down to assess the damage. When I arrived the girl's leg and ankle were plastered (suspected broken shin and ankle) and we then waited for a doctor as it was possible that she had back injuries. Unfortunately I had made the mistake of taking down the Paraguard stretcher which was unsuitable but the time she was ready to move the Mayer stretcher had arrived. With over thirty cavers in situ the carry out went very smoothly and it was all over in four hours. Despite being in a fair bit of pain the girl, Vanessa, was in good spirits throughout and did bloody well. The whole event was quite enjoyable and a very useful exercise for all involved – several of whom were on their first rescue. Surprisingly, the press did not appear – maybe the atrocious weather put them off. Everyone in good spirits after the event.

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Somerset	Hunter's Hole 20/3/88 Graham Johnson (WCC), Nick Pollard, (WCC) Geoff Newton (WCC)	2hr 5m	Priddy	Working tourist trip for the Wessex diggers in return for my "works outing" to Welsh's Green. The bang of last Wednesday had shattered the wall but there was little debris. Because the air was still foul I decided not to spend too much time hammering at the wall and so I laid a 1 kilo charge (2 liver sausages) on the LH wall. On the way out Graham and I laid another 1 kilo charge on the roof of the awkward squeeze just before the duck. The first charge was fired from Rover Pot and the second from above Rover Pot. Both sounded excellent. I now hope to give the place a rest for a few weeks to let the air clear up a bit.
Co. Durham	While working in the Sunderland area I took some time off to look at Ryhope Caves – three small caves in magnesian limestone located in an old railway cutting. Unfortunately the area had been			

	landscaped and partly built over – the three caves being completely buried in the half of the cutting which was filled in. A few small phreatic pockets nearby were looked at and the possible back entrance to the largest cave can be found in an old quarry face nearby but would need to be dug out as it has been deliberately blocked by bulldozed earth.			
Somerset	St. Cuthbert's Swallet 26/3/88 Martin Grass, Kev Gurner, Martin Wisbey (scout)	3hr 5m	Priddy	To Marble Chamber to look at a prospective digging site at the lowest point where a small stream sinks in a choked passage. While Kevin and Martin Grass started to clear the gravel out I had a look at a dry dig in the floor of a nearby passage and a muddy crawl above it. These would both require a lot of work. Kev meanwhile had made about 10' of progress and could see some 10' further along a gravel floored inclined rift. Although we fished out a few large rocks he couldn't push it any further due to the thick gravel floor. We decided that this is an excellent site and we will return with an entrenching tool, sandbags, rope and paint tins and start a full scale dig. Looks like it could go fairly quickly. This area is the nearest point to Eastwater Cavern and it is just possible that passages may be found which could provide a connection. There are several interconnecting joints and faults (?) here so it is most promising. In via Mud Hall, Coral Squeeze etc. Out via Coral Chamber, Chockstone Rift and back to Mud Hall. Very pleasant trip in some impressive passage.
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Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 29/3/88 Alone	2hr	Priddy	Dug several mesh bags of gravel from the end of the dig which I left for the next team to pull out. On the way up to Boulder Chamber for a fag break I decided to move the loose boulder at the entrance to the dig. Despite much crow bar work I only moved it enough to prevent access to the dig and so was forced to remove it with one "liver sausage". The Boulder Chamber floor has slipped again and there are a couple of very ominous huge rocks which, if they move, will probably block off the dig and the Wind Tunnel. The place is getting dangerously unstable.
Breconshire	Limekiln Dig? Cave 31/3/88 Alone	5m	Craig-y-Castell	Short but roomy phreatic passage situated at approx. SO 172167 in a small quarry behind two old lime kilns on the Beaufort – Llangattock road. It is blocked with mud after some 30' and would make a good but long term dig. It is obviously part of the Agen Allwedd system.
Breconshire	Dead Dog Cave 31/3/88 Alone	15m	Llangattock	Situated at SO 220137 in an old quarry at the side of the tramroad. 100' or so of typical, tight Llangattock rift passage full of spiders, flies, moths, and at least one bat. Evidence of an old dig at the end – probably abandoned. The best way to progress here would probably be by blasting away the flowstone barrier at the end. An unpleasant little cave.
Breconshire	Ogof Gam / Agen Allwedd 2/4/88 Mac, Jeremy Henley, Rich Yeo, John Dukes, Trev Hughes, Andy Carruthers, Martin Bishop – Paul Deakin, Chris ? – Nick Sprang,	5½ hr	Llangattock	The aim of the trip was to do a Grand Circle – going in via the Main Stream Passage to make life easier should the route be sumped. Paul and Chris left us at 2 nd Boulder Choke and went off to Summertime. We continued to Deep Water where there was a foot high airspace at the end of the first long swim. Unfortunately, beyond the next swimming section the passage was totally sumped just prior to the 3 rd Choke. After having

	Loopy, Simon, (Dickhead), (Tim Gould, Wobbly, Erica's Dad)			a fag and messing about between the swimming bits we were joined by Nick, Loopy and Simon before deciding to beat a retreat, looking for Jeremy's lost welly boot en route! I was last through the duck which had by now been reduced to 6" or less of airspace and tried to free dive it whilst swimming against the strong current. This misfired and I ended up with a throat full of water and thrashed about on my back trying to get my breath and swallow the water and not panic or sink. Luckily Trev grabbed me and pulled me to a shallower section where I could recover. Trev, Andy and I then started swimming out but Andy was making no progress so I swam back to him and he held my foot as I doggie-paddled him to Trevor and safety. Another ten minutes or so and the duck would have probably sumped, causing us to miss our beer! A fairly gripping four minutes! All then staggered back upstream against the powerful current which gave everyone aching thighs. Met Tim and Co taking snaps in the Main Chamber and a few of us became temporary models. Back to the campsite by 6pm for a good night's boozing after a fairly epic trip.
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Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 6/4/88 Pat, Ric, Steve Pickersgill, Tony (CPC), Fred, Jim, Prew, Brian W, Hohn Ham, Albert, Don + Jason Thomson, Rich Kenney	1½ hr	Priddy	The team hadn't really recovered from the pissup of the night before – held at Upper Pitts, courtesy of Ric and Pat Halliwell. This was a meal and gallons of wine event, enlivened by the appearance of P.C. Jerry Bryce to announce a possible Swildon's rescue! He ended up taking five drunken Wardens to the Hunter's in his van and delivering them back to the Wessex after they had talked everyone out of a rescue and downed a pint – a bloody good evening's entertainment! Dragged loads of bags of mud from 3 rd pitch to surface. I worked on the 1 st underground winch and loading bags from the 2 nd . Steve took a full photo record of the dig. Went over by cycle as spring has arrived!
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Somerset	Photographed the Sump or Glebe Shaft engine house at Dodington Mine, near Nether Stowey. This mine was worked for copper in the early 1800's In the evening I drove around the iron ore mining area of Brendon Hills finding little in the way of surface remains. The West Somerset Mineral Railway incline is very overgrown and not easy to approach. A disappointing area, though there may be a few accessible adit workings.			
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Somerset	8/4/88. Found the open Main Adit portal of Dodington Mine and took a couple of photos. The adit is a couple of feet high and a foot or so wide and opens directly onto the roadside of Sandy (Cures) Lane. It has a few inches of water on a sandy floor and has "ginged" red sandstone sides. It looks to be in excellent condition and though not obviously draughting or emitting much water it looks to be well worth a visit sometime in the future. There are supposed to be open, natural caverns in this mine. Note:- This is the adit for the "Garden Mine" section of the Buckingham or Dodington Mine. It was driven by John Bull and a group of North Somerset colliers and in 1954 was entered by two explorers for a distance of 50' to the first ventilation shaft. Ref:- Men and Mining on the Quantocks page 32. It would be interesting to find out if any local cavers have done any work here as there would seem to be a good opportunity of finding some internal cave and mine passages.			
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Somerset	Hunter's Hole 9/4/88 Brian, Tulip (the Hippies)	3¼ hr	Priddy	Laddered straight down the main pitch. Down to the squeeze just before the duck where I cleared a small amount of rock from the last bang. The roof is well shattered and will come away with a bit of hard hammer and chisel work. It is
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				<p>certainly easier to get through now. Then on to the end where we found that the last bang had done an excellent job and all the LH wall was well shattered. I removed quite a lot of it and threw the debris ahead, down the rift. While Brian and Steve cleared rocks behind me to uncover the trapped bang wire, I tidied the place up and laid 3 “liver sausages” (1 ½ kilos) along a ledge on the LH wall. It was tamped down well and fired from Rover Pot, sounding very good. A pleasant trip and hopefully a productive one. I have a feeling that this dig will go soon – if the rift widens out underneath we’re on a winner.</p>
<p>Somerset <i>Near rescue!</i></p>	<p>Eastwater Cavern 16/4/88 Trev Hughes, Nick Guymner, Kev Gurner, Simon, Dick-Ed, Snablet, Tom Chapman, Nick Sprange, (Geoff Newton, Graham Johnson, Nick Pollard (WCC))</p>	<p>7¾ hr</p>	<p>Priddy</p>	<p>An epic trip! On the way down I took Nick G, Kev and Dick Ed to see the stal in Regent St. Nick Sprange couldn’t pass the final squeeze before Lolley Pot and returned to the surface. The rest of us pressed on through an almost dry Blackwall Tunnel into Charing Cross. From here I joined Snablet at his dig and laid ½ kilo “liver sausage” on the offending rock at the end. After warning the Wessex bolters at Cenotaph Aven we fired the charge from Charing Cross hoping it didn’t destroy the superb 3’ straws near the boulder. Just prior to our bang we heard a sharp crack – this seems to have been caused by Pete and Alison Moody banging in Threadneedle St. Snablet and I then joined the others who had been surveying and digging in Jubilee Line. I gave Tom a hand with the dig until we decided to head gently out. On reaching the Chamber of Horrors, which Trev was surveying, we heard the roar of a large stream! This had suddenly erupted from the inlet about 5 minutes previously (roughly 4.30pm). An equally loud roar was heard from Blackwall Tunnel so Tom went down for a look at the crawl while I went to Cenotaph Aven to warn the Wessex and cadge a cup of tea. Graham returned with me to Charing Cross, though they were loath to leave the cave as they had only put in four more bolts to reach the apparently free climbable 40’ slope at the top of Cenotaph Aven. On reaching Charing Cross we found everyone gathered but no sight or sound of Tom. Nick G and I went to check Blackwall Tunnel which I found to be a swirling, froth covered pool with about 3” of airspace. I watched the water very gradually drop for some time while Nick went back to inform the rest. On his return I plucked up courage and easily passed the Tunnel, though not without a few worries of it backing up as I got into the tighter section. Nick and Simon joined me and, leaving the others to sort themselves out we carried on up to Lolley Pot. This was the next shock – a thundering waterfall practically filled the base of the shaft (on the way I had mentioned to Kevin that it was a much better pitch when it was wet!) As Simon obviously needed a lifeline I gathered up my strength and started up, going very slowly and using a rock rib in the LH wall to pull myself out of the water for the occasional breather. Eventually reached the top and lifelined Simon and Nick up, Nick in turn lining Kevin. The three</p>

				<p>of us carried on out with me using a Mighty Lite as both my FX2 cells had given up. From behind us we could hear Trevor hurling loose rocks down Lolley Pot and just hoped that the others were okay. There was no point in our going back down and we had to liase with the presumed rescue team called out by Tom. The rest of the way out was the usual drag, enlivened by the occasional wetting from streams coming in where they don't normally exist, especially in Ifold's Series. On passing the "Woggle Press" into the entrance ruckle it was obvious that the water levels had now dropped. We emerged to a misty night and no sign of life until we reached the road when Jeff Price and other Wessex appeared, on their way to get diving bottles! At the Belfry there was a full (but unofficial) call out in progress and Wormhole was also on standby with diving gear. It seems there had been a couple of tremendous downpours in the afternoon concentrated on the North Hill/Priddy area and we had got the flood pulse. At least two other parties had been trapped in the cave as the entrance had sumped. Three men had to sit in the stream and dam it up in order for Pete and Alison to get out. It seems there were no problems reported from other local caves. All the others, including the Wessex all made it out for the pub where we managed to dominate the conversation all evening! (PS. The storms occurred at about 2pm and 3pm).</p>
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Scotland Argyllshire	<p>2/5/88. Drove up to Glen Croe and looked at the several entrances to the talus cave of Glen Croe Cavern – the water conditions being seemingly low as heaps of flood debris testified. Didn't feel like caving after a 460 mile drive so dossed down in the OS Subaru for the night, just upstream of the "cave".</p>			
Argyllshire	<p>Glen Croe Cavern 3/5/88 Alone</p>	10m	Arrochar	<p>Entered in dry gear through one of the holes between boulders nearest to the road, forcing my way between the piles of flood debris, trees and vegetation into the "main chamber". Admired the view and the imagination of J.C. Nattes who drew the original picture of the cave which was published as a lithograph in 1801 and 1803. Exited via the dry entrance to the left of the main stream passage. Quite an impressive little "cave" even though it is merely a pile of huge boulders. Took a couple of photos of the stream entrance and exit for posterity.</p>

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Scotland Argyllshire	<p>Uamha Thoull (Ockle Pothole) 4/5/88 John Shaw (OS)</p>	5m	Ockle, Ardna- murchan	<p>Spent the morning in this very interesting area looking at assorted small sea caves including Ockle Pot – also stated in Oldham, Jeffreys and GSS publications (?) as being Uamh Chloian Iaian or McIan's Cave. From various local guide books it seems evident that this is not McIan's Cave but Uamha Thoull – the cave of the Holed Rock. It is also called Columba's Cave to add to the confusion. In Oldham and Jeffreys the grid ref is also slightly wrong. The cave consists of a roomy sea cave, with three entrances and a shallow pool – Columba's Font – "where the saint converted and baptised a gang of robbers". A low section at the back of the sea cave drops</p>
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				into c.100' of apparently stream worn cave passage ending in a gravel choke. There are some clean flowstone and straw formations. Quite a pleasant little cave but somewhat lacking in potential – as is the surrounding limestone area.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 6/5/88 Andy Sparrow	1½ hr	Priddy	Took down the other BEC pump and several sections of piping. The long pipe was immersed in the terminal pool and attempts made to pump from the rift section – to no avail as the connecting pipe had a split end. This will be remedied and pumping should then be successful. Dragged out two sledge loads of silt from the end. The stream can be heard flowing on beyond the pool and there is a distinct draught.
Somerset	Upper Flood Swallet 7/5/88 John Beauchamp (MCG), Paul Deakin (EPC), John Eyre (EPC), Martin Bishop	2¾ hr	Charterhouse	Photographic trip for Paul. John and I carried on into the newer series and I had a look upstream along a very silty streamway ending in a boulder choke. Then John and I went downstream into the continuation of the main streamway which ended in a tight sink and roomy chamber with a fine orange and black flowstone formation. Back out to the main cave where we assisted and modelled for Paul who took several snaps of the formations in the streamway. Pleasant trip and everyone impressed with the pretties.
Somerset	Swildon's Hole 9/5/88 John Shaw (OS)	1½ hr	Priddy	Quick tourist trip to Sump 2 to introduce John to Mendip caving and sumps. He was suitably impressed. Very pleasant trip apart from the smell of something dead from the 40 to the entrance.

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Somerset	Hunter's Hole 10/5/88 John Shaw (OS)	2hr 20m	Priddy	Cleared the debris from the last bang and laid 1 kilo on the LH wall. Looking vaguely more promising. The recent floods seem to have cleaned up the entrance “pitch” and had brought down at least one large rock.
Somerset	Twin Titties Cave 11/5/88 John Shaw, Bri Prewer, John Ham, (Jim Hanwell) (Don Thomson), Al Turner, Albert Francis, John, Roger, Andy Nash, Dave Causer, Richard Kenney	1hr 50m	Priddy	Removed several bags of spoil from various places and cleared a few boulders from the end. One of the Taunton lads crushed his finger. There is an open hole under the boulders at the end but much stabilisation will be needed before this can be pushed.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 12/5/88 John Shaw (OS)	1hr	Priddy	Swift morning trip to try out the pump. Took it to the end with a short length of hose which was inserted in the pool. The thick black hose was attached to the outlet and it reached John at he bend at the start of Skid Row. John primed it from his end and we successfully pumped out a 5 gallon drum of water in about 2 minutes. We are now all ready for a push at the end.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 13/5/88 Mark Lumley, Tom Chapman, (Andy Sparrow ex “Rags”)	50m	Priddy	AM. Got the pump working and by dint of a lot of hard work removed about 12 gallons of water. This had no apparent effect on the pool and so it was decided to leave it for another suitable day and try and get a powerful surface pump. Retired to the pub to discuss professional caving. PM. Returned, drunk, to cement in the B.W.W. valve provided by Mongo. This was completed

				with the aid of piss, windscreen washer water and radiator water – and beer!
Somerset	<p>14/5/88. Met Tony Blick from the Craven Pothole Club. As he is heavily into dowsing he was pleased to trace a few sites for us flowing his successful tracing of Charterhouse Cavern that morning. As we were ensconced in the Hunter's we started off with Hunter's Hole where he traced the known passages and then followed Sanctimonious Passage to a junction with a 15' wide passage at (120' or so?) depth. This would seem to be the continuation of Railway Tunnel and there is a large inlet on the LH side. The whole cave descends steeply and there is water present – possibly pools or a small stream. The sink at the end of the Hunter's was traced into the field at about 30-35' depth. Thence to Bowery Corner where Tony followed the known passage at about 30' depth and suggested that we have some 12' or so to dig before reaching a small chamber. Beyond there the passage again narrows down before – to Tony's amazement – breaking out into an enormous chamber – possibly over 150' wide at a depth of over 200' and with at least one large inlet of some 60' width. The way on appears to be heading under the firing ranges. If we ever find this chamber we'll call it Blick Hall. Our last visit was to Twin Titties Cave where Tony again located large passage at a depth of 275-300' heading towards the parking area. It could be 80' high at this point.</p> <p>A very interesting afternoon with both Mark Lumley and I also getting some good results. Only time and a lot of hard work will disprove or prove Tony's theories. If he is right we're well on the way to the winning of the 1988 Digging Barrel.</p>			
Worcester-shire	Dudley Canal Tunnel / Hurst's Cavern / Singing Cavern 22/5/88 Jane, Steve Jarratt, Zot + tourists	½ hr	Dudley	Tourist canal boat trip from the Tipton portal of Dudley Canal Tunnel – where the Black Country Museum is set up. An electric powered 60' long narrow boat takes parties in as far as Singing Cavern, which has been reached by a newly driven section of tunnel. Hurst's Cavern is passed by on the way and now contains odd bits of mining equipment instead of a polystyrene settee! Effective lighting and poor sound sequence enhance the visit. Various items of interest are pointed out by the guide – fossils, roof shafts, formations etc. An enjoyable visit which helped clear the hangover left from Dave's 50 th birthday party of the night before!
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 26/5/88 Alone	2hr 50m	Priddy	To the end of Sanctimonious where I spent a couple of hours clearing debris from the LH wall before putting in a 1 kilo charge of "liver sausages". A few more bangs should do it. Echoing well and looking better every trip. Quite a pleasant trip apart from a major struggle to get up the 6' short ladder on Ledge Pitch!
Cumberland	Smallcleugh Mine Rampgill Mine 28/5/88 Cheg Chester, Pat Cronin	5hr 20m 10m	Nenthead	Cheg gave us a superb guided tour of this huge lead/zinc mine, where we probably covered over four miles of passage. We went in via Smallcleugh level entrance and then followed the Hard cross-cut to the Smallcleugh flat workings. From here the Gullyback Crosscut brought us into the Smallcleugh Cross Vein which was followed "inbye" to the workings on Middlecleugh Second Sun Vein, looking at the massive Ballroom Flat chamber en route. Upper level workings on Browngill Vein were visited and some digging was done at the collapsed level here. This was left to dig itself as a sturdy long bar would have been needed to avoid burial. The more modern concrete-lined level of the Vielle-Montagne Co (as opposed to the older workings of the London Lead Co) was inspected and then we climbed up through the concealed winze into a large amount of superb passage above Cowhill Cross Vein. Here I found an old detonator for Cheg's collection. Back out down the full length of Smallcleugh Cross Vein to the level entrance. A superb mine, much of which has been beautifully arched with dressed stone brought

				<p>into the mine from surface quarries. Cheg laddered part of a deep shaft to reach a level part way down but this proved to be uninteresting. Various bits of galena, zinc ore and pyrites were found but most good pieces have been removed by “rock-hoppers” who have replaced their winnings with empty pop tins and other assorted rubbish. Bastards. Much of the mine has excellent flowstone deposits and the bright red and yellow formations developed from rust-laden water are particularly attractive. Scores of winzes, raises, shafts, stopes and collapsed levels will give future explorers plenty to go for. A hell of a mine and well worth a visit.</p> <p>On the way back to our cottage in Nenthead we popped into Rampgill Level as far as the 320’ deep Brewery Shaft which is intersected about a 100’ down from the surface and is some 12’ diameter. All the pipe work is still in place and this was part of a system to provide compressed air for several of the interconnected mines of the area. A most impressive shaft.</p>
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Co. Durham	29/5/88. Cheg, Aileen, Catherine, Pat, Pauline, Jane and I visited the Killhope Wheel lead mining museum, including the portal of Park Level Mine. A very interesting site.			
Cumberland	Brownley Hill Mine 29/5/88 Cheg, Pat	1hr 40m	Nenthead	Donned wetsuits and entered Brownley Hill with intentions of doing a quick trip to push the very wet level previously dug out by Cheg and Lawrence Hurt. In neck deep water we followed the level for about 500 feet until running out of time with the level still boring off into the distance. The potential here for miles of “new” passage is tremendous. Much of the level was decorated with incredible erratic formations formed over roots hanging from the roof. In the first part of this level a foot deep deposit of bright red ochre mud, “bolge-mange”, added to the interest. We reckon to have got in at least a mile with Pat doing practically all of the trip with no light and having to swim in the deep bits! Another excellent trip in another of the amazing mines of Nenthead.
Derbyshire	Boat House Cave Church Hole Cave Alone 31/5/88		Creswell	A short afternoon’s stroll around the Creswell Craggs gave me a chance to look in the entrances of these two famed archaeological caves. Unfortunately I just missed a guided tour and all the caves in the gorge are well and truly gated to protect them from vandalism. The entrances to Pin Hole Cave, Robin Hood’s Cave and Mother Grundy’s Parlour were also noted as well as a host of other minor caves and fissures in the gorge walls. It is a shame that guided tours are not more frequent as this is a very pleasant and interesting area and obviously very popular. The caves are in Magnesian Limestone and appear to be surprisingly roomy and relatively extensive with doubtless possibilities of further passage to be found by judicious digging.

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Somerset	Hunter’s Hole 4/6/88 Martin Bishop, Brian the Hippie	2¼ hr	Priddy	Martin and I went to the end of the dig after clearing the loose roof at the squeeze before the duck. The last bang had done an excellent job and a load of spoil was cleared from the LH wall
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				before three “liver sausages” were laid on a rock shelf and fired from Rover Pot with a very satisfying noise. There is a chance that this bang may blow a way into open passage. There is a “going” feeling about the place. Martin removed more of the squeeze on the way out and it is now dead easy. Met Brian at the top of the first pitch and he helped us out with the tackle. Another useful trip. Also rescued a toad from the entrance climb.
Somerset	Hunter’s Hole 11/6/88 Steve Milner, Snablet, Martin Bishop	3¼ hr	Priddy	I carried on to the end to clear out the last lot of bang debris while Steve and Snablet surveyed the dug passage using a Suunto compass and tape. They made it 40m from Rover Pot to the RH bend. The last bang had done a hell of a lot of damage to the LH wall and most of the rubble was thrown forward along the rift to a point where it could be pushed over the edge of a c.6-8’ drop echoing nicely. The larger lumps were passed back to Steve who stacked them in the corner. Eventually realised that there was some 3’ of solid rock between us and open passage so laid 1 ½ lbs “liver sausage” on the LH wall at the end. Came out bloody slowly and feeling like death as CO ₂ poisoning had set in. Fired the charge from Rover Pot and Martin kindly lifelined me up the pitches as I felt the possibility of blacking out. Made the pub for a couple of pints. This dig will almost certainly “go” on the next trip but the lack of fresh air – despite a good fluctuating draught – is a real worry. Left the cave rigged.
Somerset	Jane and I drove and walked around the Litton/Chewton Mendip area looking at various interesting sites. The line of “shafts” between East Harptree and Litton are all access shafts for a waterworks culvert, the entrance of which appears to be near the pond at ST577549. This may be worth a visit with kit. The waterworks line up Watery Combe was followed and the cool draughting entrance of Willets Lane (Ife) Hole looked at – a very interesting site currently being dug by Trev Hughes. There would seem to be good potential for cave development in this area.			
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Surrey	Father Foote’s Hole Mother Ludlam’s Hole 16/6/88 Alone	5m	Farnham	Very brief inspection of the first part of Father Foote’s Hole as the end can be seen from the entrance. The banding in the sandstone is very attractive. Spent a little longer in Mother Ludlam’s Hole inspecting it for signs of natural passage. I am still convinced that the streamway is at least partly natural and the two side rifts at each side of the entrance chamber are certainly so. There appears to have been little collapse since my last visit. It is a great shame that someone doesn’t restore this site to its former glory and also to dig out the stream passage. There were a large number of frogs living in the first section of the streamway. I did not enter the stream due to lack of adequate clothing but judging by the remains of a pair of wet suit shorts (!) somebody else has been up there recently.
Somerset	Hunter’s Hole 17/6/88 alone	1¼ hr	Priddy	Solo Friday evening trip to assess the results of the last bang. Only a limited amount of the LH wall had been removed and there is still three feet or so of solid rock before the way on can be entered. By lying down with helmet off and a Mighty Lite I could see an extra few feet into what appears to be a larger rift – possibly a cross

				rift. The drop in the floor is very close now and echoes well when rubble is pushed down. Cleared some of the LH wall and the rubble from the floor and then headed out for a pint. Abseiled in and self-lined out.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 19/6/88 Snablet	1 hr	Priddy	An Hour's "token gesture" of digging out the end of Skid Row. Shifted five loads of assorted mud and debris from the sides of the passage to make life easier in future.
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 24/6/88 Mark Lumley	2½ hr	Priddy	Mark entered the dig first and cleared spoil from the LH wall and floor. I stayed at the corner breaking up rocks to pass forwards. Took over from Mark and tidied the place up before laying three ½ kilo "liver sausages" on the LH wall. Out for two pints!
Somerset	<p>Digging and pumping day at Bowery Corner Swallet. Blitz, Pat and Gonzo did all the underground work and I hauled buckets and barrels of water from the surface, with the brief help of Andy Sparrow, Pike, Jingles, Babs and A.N.others. Jane and Eldon the Dog also visited. Pat fixed up the larger of the two hand pumps and attached it to a length of small diameter hose which was inserted in the pool. The pump was operated from the rift and the water pumped into two 5 gallon barrels which were hauled to the surface and poured into the polythene-lined dam until it was realised that this leaked!</p> <p>From then on the water was stored in various receptacles and eventually taken into the field and thrown about on the dry earth. Some thirty barrels were removed during the day and some six sledge loads of muck and stones from other parts of the cave were removed. The way on is mud choked (with airspace) for at least another 20'. Blasting will now be necessary to bring down the roof and create a working chamber. I also started to chisel a hole in the concrete pipe for the overflow from the dam. A good day's work despite the fact that I felt awful having got either a bug or delayed CO poisoning from Hunter's Hole!</p>			

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Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 26/6/88 Pat Cronin (Mark, Zot)	20m	Priddy	Fired a ½ kilo "liver sausage" on the rock pillar at the last bend. The overflow hole in the entrance pipe was also enlarged.
Derbyshire	27/6/88. Accompanied Buster Wright and Dave Nixon (newly/nearly? Pegasus CC) on an evening's mineshaft digging in Conies Dale, near Thistle Pot. Two almost full climbing shafts were inspected and one dug out for four feet or so to reveal a choked rift continuation. A bucket and entrenching tool would be needed for further work. Also looked at the entrance to Thistle Pot with its tripod and winch in situ. This dig is again idle at present. A broken winding wheel was found in Conies Dale but was too heavy to retrieve. This is presumably from the large, sleeper-capped shaft near Thistle Pot.			
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 1/7/88 Mark Lumley	1hr 40m	Priddy	Afternoon trip to check results of last bang and lay a fresh one if necessary. The air was too bad to stay down long so rather than clear the shattered LH wall I put another 1 kilo charge on the wall at the end which I hope will loosen up the last bit of tight rift. Decided to leave the site to clear for at least two weeks and so we detackled the cave. Had a look at the sink at the end of Hunter's Lodge back room which Roger has recently cleared. Looks a really promising site with a square sided, mud filled shaft going on down. A heavy downpour while we were there revealed how easily this sink can take a good sized stream. Hopefully Roger can be persuaded to dig it himself or even let us have a go at it. It must tie in somewhere with the Hunter's Lodge system, though the stream is not seen in the present cave.

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Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet Eastwater Cavern 2/7/88	20m 1½ hr	Priddy	Intended to bang Bowery and took one "sausage" down, only to find that it was unnecessary and that the roof could be easily removed with a crowbar.
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	1) Snablet, Graham, Nick) 2) Snablet, Graham Johnson (WCC), Nick Pollard (WCC)			Then over to Eastwater to bang Graham and Nick's dig in the upper reaches of the 1 st Rift Chamber. Put one "sausage" in between two offending boulders in a very interesting site which seems to be above the BEC "East End Series" extensions. Snablet took his skateboard down the cave and descended the slope to the Crossroads in this manner! Pleasant trip. (N.B. The following day Graham and Co found the boulders to have been reduced to gravel and the way on as a squeeze leading into c.200' of quite impressive passage. Perhaps I should only bang other people's digs!
Somerset	8/7/88. Commenced installation of overflow pipe at Bowery Corner Swallet. Brought 4m of pipe from the Belfry and laid it on bricks and stones from the sluice to the entrance pipe. It now needs backfilling and sealing with concrete at the entrance pipe end.			
Somerset	Swildon's Hole 10/7/88 H.Bishop, GWJ, J.Dukes, N.Taylor, Zot, F.Dove, J.Hanwell, T.Hughes, Tricia, T.Boycott, C.Self, G & L Mullen, P.West, A.Watson, Mac, Trebor, M.Grass, T.Williams, various Yorkshire, UBSS, G.Johnson, M.Hearn, P.Cronin, J.Beaucham, A.Newport, Dick Fred, Simon, N.Sprange, and countless others!	2hr 10m	Priddy	Twentieth anniversary of the washing away of the Forty Foot Pot on July 10 th 1968. Practically everyone on Mendip rambled down Swildon's in assorted states of historical dress to celebrate the event with Champagne and strawberries and cream. The Forty was rigged and water was piped from the Water Chamber to return it to its former glory. Trebor did sterling service lifelining all and sundry while everyone took a turn at directing the flood pulses on to the unfortunates climbing the ladder. I wore a "cardboard" helmet, carbide lamp and Ian Dear's old battledress top and got thoroughly soaked. An excellent morning's entertainment was had by all. Martin and I went in via the Long Dry Way and out via the Wet Way. One or two persons failed to get up in time to go down the cave due to hangovers from the excellent chariot race of the previous night!
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 15/7/88 Alone	1hr 40m	Priddy	Took down a long crowbar and continued removing the roof. Dragged out one skip load and a few extra rocks then returned and eventually dislodged a huge slab which I man-handled to the surface. Needs a lump hammer.
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Somerset	Hunter's Hole 16/7/88 Trev Hughes, Gonzo	2¼ hr	Priddy	I abseiled down and continued to the end while Trev and Gonzo rigged the ladders. The last bang had done a reasonable job but it was still too tight to get into the new stuff. I removed a fair amount of rock and threw it forwards until Trevor arrived and took over at the face for half an hour. We then decided to bang it and head out for the pub. 1 ½ kilos fired on LH wall. It is almost guaranteed to "go" on the next trip. Retrieved my lighter from the sink at the end of the Hunter's Lodge Inn party room, which Rog Dors has recently cleared out. A rock filled water-worn rift drops away at about 6' depth from the car park. Hopefully Roger, or preferably us, will continue to dig this site and not let it get too silt filled as usually happens. It takes a hell of a lot of water from the road in wet weather. In the afternoon Gonzo and Trevor dug in Bowery Corner Swallet while I hauled the buckets from the surface. About four skip loads removed – better than nothing. Trevor was not enthused by either of his digging trips!

Somerset	Hunter's Hole 22/7/88 Alone	2hr 10m	Priddy	Après lunch session trip to assess results of last bang. Quite a lot of the LH wall removed and shaken up. Air conditions reasonable. Cleared enough to enable me to get the lower half of my legs into the new stuff. Needs either a tough young skinny bugger like Snablet or another drop of bang – preferably the latter! The way on still sounds good but doesn't look over roomy. (Met a couple of Russian circus trampoline artists in the pub lunchtime!)
Yorkshire	Caphouse Colliery 26/7/88 Guide + tourists	1hr 20m	Overton	Tourist trip around the publicly accessible workings at the bottom of the 450' deep 1795 shaft – supposedly the oldest coal shaft in Britain if not Europe. The descent is by slow moving cage to an area of "exhibition workings" made up in the galleries around the shaft pillar and including a section of the drift level – in my opinion the best part as it is one of the few authentic looking areas. The tour is well done and our guide was a very knowledgeable ex-miner. Various items of coal cutting machinery on show underground and at surface. The old chimney and wooden headgear of especial interest. This mine worked until 1985 and connects with the still working Denby Grange Colliery. Worth a visit and displays etc will hopefully improve as it gets more popular.
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Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 30/7/88 a.m. Mark Lumley, Matt Tuck p.m. Trev Hughes, Matt Tuck	2hr 20m	Priddy	The day was spent clearing various bits of roof and floor at the end in fairly wet conditions. About 16 sledge loads were removed in all. May need a bang at the end to remove the large roof slab. Prepared the entrance tube for cementation of the overflow pipe.
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 31/7/88 Gonzo, Ted Humphries, Matt Tuck, Quackers	1hr 40m	Red Quarr	After pub trip to check on the present situation, and sober up! The crawl into Santa's Grotto had to be dug open and we then found that all the cobbles in Pinks and Posies had been washed down to the end of the cave, silting up the terminal crawl. A few bags were filled and sent out by skip to Santa's Grotto. There was a very distinct cool draught. Must get back down here and dig it seriously.
Yorkshire	4/8/88. Visited the Marsden end of the Standedge Canal and Railway Tunnels. There are two disused and one active railway tunnel and the canal appears to be un-navigable and is locked. A television crew were filming an episode of "Last of the Summer Wine" near the canal tunnel portal with the three stars sitting in a boat, seemingly hunting for coins dropped in the canal!			
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 6/8/88 Gonzo, Snablet, Henri Bennett	2¼ hr	Red Quarr	Removed about 20 bag loads of spoil from the last section of Blitz Passage – all this had been washed in by the winter floods. All debris was dragged back to Santa's Grotto area and stacked. We are now hopefully ready for the next onslaught. The afternoon was spent clearing reeds in the Mineries pond. Summer has come at last!
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 12/8/88 Gonzo (Jane at surface)	20m	Priddy	Quick evening trip to lay a half kilo "liver Sausage" in the small roof rift above the terminal pool. This was tamped with wet mud which hopefully stayed in place long enough to hold the bang in. Jane was allowed to press the button and a surprisingly muted bang resulted. Dead mouse removed from entrance.

Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 13/8/88 Gonzo, Snablet, Robin Brown, Steve Milner (Zot at surface)	1¾ hr	Priddy	I went down early to check the results of the bang – which were excellent. The large roof slab and heaps of mud and rocks had been brought down exactly as hoped. I dragged back three or four skiploads until the others arrived when I took over bucket hauling. A total of some twenty loads were dragged out and dumped. I also sawed the concrete pipe end of the overflow pipe in preparation for cementing it in. Once Gonzo had cleared the end I went in with a detonator and a length of Cordtex and wrapped this around the fallen roof slab in order to break it up so that it could be removed. Gonzo, Trev and Co went back in the afternoon while the rest of us went to:-
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Somerset	Hunter's Hole 13/8/88 Snablet, Robin Brown	1hr 35m	Priddy	Down to the end to place 1kg of "liver sausages" on the LH wall. Though the way on is almost passable at present this will make it a lot easier. Robin did not like the passage beyond the duck so he returned to Rover Pot. He was also quick on the trigger finger when firing the bang box! Detacked the cave as we won't be back down for at least two weeks. A bloody good day's work all round.
Derbyshire	20/8/88. Steve Milner, Jane and I walked down Darn Dale, Peter Dale and Monks Dale (between Peak Forest and Millers Dale) noting a possible swallet dig near Dogmanslack Farm and an open, disused spar mine in Peter Dale (?) the name of which I know not. It seems to have been a relatively recent working as there are rails etc in situ and may be worth a look in one day.			
Derbyshire	P8 (Jackpot) 23/8/88 Jon Shaw (OS)	1¼ hr	Perryfoot	Pleasant evening fester and general tourist trip. Down the streamway, descending both pitches then up into main route down to Sump 1. Quick fester up the muddy climbs then back out via the Upper Series. All followed by curry and beer at the Wanted Inn – now an acceptable caving pub. Nice refreshing trip.
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	Hunter's Hole 27/8/88 Snablet, Brian the Hippie, Stuart Laing, Mike Martin	3hr 10m	Priddy	Mike bottled out at the first pitch. Snablet and I carried on the end to clear the debris from the last bang. I then entered the squeeze feet first and managed to get through to drop down into a nice circular 8ft deep pot with a rubble cone and way on. We then spent some time clearing the squeeze and waiting for the others. Several rocks were also removed from the crawl further back and dumped in the new stuff. Eventually I carried on down the open passage, gardening as I went. The new passage is clean, scalloped and well decorated in places and ended in a roomier section after some 30'. Here I waited for Snablet before looking into a low crawl which was the only way on. This was open but choked with mud and gravel and looked like a long term dig. Snablet had a look and decided that it would go with a bit of work so we started excavating the floor and a large mud bank on the RH side. Brian and Stuart joined us and stacked the mud. The crawl was dug for an hour or so until Snablet managed to squeeze through, followed by myself. We entered some 20' of muddy rift passage which ended in another mud and rock choke which Snablet pronounced to be pretty hopeless. The air in this final rift was definitely lacking in oxygen so we decided to head for the surface. Meanwhile Brian and Stuart had cleared

				more rocks from the crawl before the blasted section, making the passing of this bit much easier. So – the great breakthrough consisted of some 50' of well decorated, roomy passage – probably the best bit of Sanctimonious but with a very disappointing finish where it would be very inadvisable to use bang. I don't much feel like continuing with this dig but time will tell. Left all the ladders in for the use of other diggers over the weekend. Didn't bother to open the champagne!
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Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 28/8/88 Alone	½ hr	Priddy	Brief trip in fairly wet conditions. Took down the plug and feathers and a lump hammer and removed 2/3 of the roof slab left by Trevor. There is no need to bang here as the roof comes away easily. Went into the end feet first for a body length and there appears to be an airspace some 6' ahead on the LH side. An ongoing situation! Pulled out one skip load of rock.
Yorkshire	Mother Shipton's Cave 31/8/88 Guide + tourists	5m	Knaresborough	A single 5m long chamber formed between tufa and magnesian limestone – supposedly the birthplace of the 15thC prophetess, Old Mother Shipton. The Dropping Well adjacent is probably more interesting being a quick forming tufa deposit. For those only interested in the cave the admission price works out about 31p a metre!
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 3/9/88 Gonzo, Bassett	1hr 20m	Priddy	Gonzo and Bassett dug at the end and a dozen or so skip loads were removed. The water was quite high and the end still sumped. A good morning's work.

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Somerset	4/9/88. Spent half an hour or so assisting Zot, Gonzo, Henri and Seb at Bowery Corner Swallet. Several good sized slabs were removed.			
Somerset	Hunter's Hole 5/9/88 Alone	2hr 35m	Priddy	Took rope-puller, rope, Gas St sign and digging bags down. At the crawl before the final section of new passage I filled several bags of mud to act as a barrier to stop the spoil slumping into the crawl – which is now several inches deep in water. I then went through the crawl to have a look at the end. Apart from the desperate lack of air it looks like it will be a bloody awkward dig here. A small hole goes on down to what appears to be a small pool or sump. Large amounts of mud and a big rock will have to be removed and it is too lacking in oxygen for the use of bang. It would probably be a good idea to leave the dig for the winter and concentrate on something else. On the way out the tackle bag hauling rings broke off so the rope-puller was abandoned in the 8' pot. What a shit-hole! Bassett turned up but didn't get underground due to the lack of a helmet! All tackle left in.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 6/9/88 Alone	25m 1hr 25m	Priddy	a.m. Laid and fired one ½ kilo "liver sausage" at the end of the dig in the roof. Removed one skip of spoil. p.m. Found that the bang had done an excellent job and brought down loads of roof. I prised off another great heap and was able to lie in the pool and look into continuing open passage on the LH side. Due to the angle I was unable to see how far this went and the duck into it is slightly too small to pass though I got a fair way in

				backwards. Some hard hammer and crowbar work or one more bang will gain access to this continuation. Dragged out one skip load leaving plenty more for the Wednesday night team. A good day's work.
Somerset	Bowery Corner Swallet 7/9/88	3¼ hr	Priddy	A totally exhausting digging session to try and reach the open passage beyond – in vain. There is a solid limestone pillar right in the way which will probably need to be banged to make access easy. It might be possible for Snablet to squeeze through the duck into the new section but it is still a bit small. Got very cold due to lying in the water and the steady draught coming out – a good sign. Bagged up several loads of spoil and removed two skip loads to surface. Also fitted a lifting bolt to the ARDC manhole cover which will eventually be the cave lid. I bet the bugger goes while I am in the USA.