

1979

12th January Caegynon Mine

Nigel Burns, Sean Edwards, Andy Porter

Arrived late; ambled into the main adit behind the Smithy, a short distance to the collapse, stopped out to surface. Alas the timber supports continue to decay and collapse.

13th January Cwmystwyth

Sean Edwards, Andy Porter, Nigel Burns

Walked up Copa Hill; following the Nant-yr-Onnen stream. The idea, to investigate the vast reservoir constructed to scour, (Hush), the flanks of the hill exposing the veins of ore. The low dam wall is not that defined; it is slowly morphing to the moorland. Lower down near the Kingslode found more stone malls by the many, small processing areas.

14th January Caegynon Mine

Sean Edwards, Andy Porter, Nigel Burns

Walked across the river to the south side of the valley to look at what appeared to be workings mid way up the mountain side; found small trials; little of note. Returning looked for an adit recorded as driven north near river level; unable to find evidence of its mouth among the extensive field of mine and river flood debris. To Simon Hughes place for information on the mines further up valley.

20th January Standage Edge

Martin Bishop, Geoff Newman, Gordon Parkin

The planned dive trip into Giant's was abandoned following GP's announcement of a climbing opportunity at Standage. His suggestion to climb in these severe conditions a great idea: a large sheet of ice had formed: a painfully cold day but great fun; poor clothing. Heavy snow promised tonight; left the Stags in a bitter wind, but no snow as yet; clear sky. Need leave early; left the Landrover in the village to avoid delay from snow falls in the farm lane.

21st January The Roches

Martin Bishop, Geoff Newman

No snowfall last night. Wickedly icy on the roads; tried stopping at the junction but slid across the road hitting the kerb opposite, by the church. Beautiful conditions at the Roches, bright sun; deep drifts obscured much of the start of the climbs, constructed a snow hole to keep warm; wind chill horrific, MB and GN made the first ascent. Made a brew laced with poteen to keep out the cold. PC led the next scramble, MB the next; three good climbs made today; bitter cold but great experience.

28th January Box Mines

Jim Smart, Nigel Burns

To Cliff works and Admiralty; alas vandalism is increasing.

4th February Stock Hill – Charterhouse

Andy Porter, Nigel Burns

Spent the morning searching the areas east, northeast and southeast, to the foresters hut; several examples of choked shafts; need speak to Jarratt. After the Hunters headed over to a new mine found behind Brian Prewer's place at West Horrington. Found it easy enough, to the dismay of those present. To Charterhouse to take photos intending to record the mine winding machinery, found the place locked; removed lock to find

machinery gone; saw that Willie had manufactured stone steps in a descending passage leading to a short level passage; work in progress.

7th February

Lost Dave Woods

14th February Charterhouse

Jim Smart, Andy Porter, Nigel Burns

En-route to Mendip, via pints at the Wellsway, lost the Landrover in a snow drift, dug it out travelled further but found road ahead totally blocked; returned to the Wellsway.

20th February Pollballiny

Solo

Doll related that little rain had fallen recently; the ground quite dry. Picked up ladders left with Noel Walsh and scrounged a shorty surfing wetsuit off him; NW kindly gave PC a lift to Faunarooska Cross. Small stream, water cold; reached the duck, which looked sumped. Limited airspace meant no visual ability to follow route, felt the way by hand; wandering about a bit, dragging the tackle bag on a waist length became a real ballache. Minor delay finding belays for the pitches: finally reached the chamber -passage and the boulder choke; big and impressive. Climbed up the right side looking in numerous gaps, no real luck; moved over to the left and found a hole with evidence of caver. Wriggled in its length, ten feet, stopping beneath a dodgy looking area; digging is possible but needs caution and possibly supports. The stream volume hereabouts seems larger than sinking at the entrance. Slow trek out, again kit bag presenting issues through the duck. Knee pads and knees shredded from the crawls. Emerged on pilot light; even though both breather holes were well covered with tape water managed to penetrate the cell, passing the duck. Experienced a painful walk to the road; delighted to get a lift to Lisdoonvarna on Jim Fitzgerald's tractor; waddled into the Roadside: agony from the knees: got a lift from the Roadside to Doolin; both knees a mess; serious scolding from Doll and Susan.

21st February O'Connor's Bar

Solo

Can barely walk; can only lurch along like Frankenstein, extensive piss taking by sympathetic locals. Over breakfast scolded further by Doll; knees swollen neither will bend. Sat out the day on the end of the bar making sandwiches.

22nd February O'Connor's Bar

Solo

Waddled, duck like, toward the sea attempting to loosen the knees; found by Cyril Nagle leaning against the wall of the Rocket House: taking pity CN returned PC to the bar; warmed the injuries by the fireside for the rest of the day.

23rd February Poulmagollum resurgence

Solo

Nice bright day; painful to walk too far, scrounged a lift off Martin Dronney to visit this rising. MD obliged in exchange for repairing a leak on his hot water cylinder. Used Sulo's 22cft, and the Titan II, slid into the bedding, the cold water nice on the knees; keeping left, found the area low, eventually too snug for comfort. Backed up, felt right, the passage a little higher; maybe 14 inches? After twenty feet became too low retraced route

tried to shuffle right, without success. During the carry back the knees loosened up, but so painful to the touch. The valley beyond this resurgence warrants a thorough search.

24th February Poulmagollum - Owentoberlea River resurgence area

Solo

Took shelter from a cloud burst in the adjacent church, a handy place to camp; no roof. As best assessed, without a map to check, Poulelva is virtually due north of the rising; about a mile, up valley. Walking up slope one impression is the cave runs beneath the valley bottom; yet it may well follow an elevated drainage route. Top of Poulelva is around 650 feet, (the bottom therefore about 550ft), the rising is around 450 feet, leaving 100 feet between the base of the pot and the rising; a depth all but equal to the entire development depth of the streamway, this offers the potential of similar cave between Poulelva and its rising. Need talk to farmers about water issuing following heavy rainfall.

25th February Toomullin Mine

Solo

Noel Walsh managed to get both bottles filled at Fanore, and kindly dropped them off at Petie Tierney's place last night. Petie's Father worked at the local mine in the 1940s. Tommy, Petie Tierney's brother, is unsure of the numbering; this adit may be No. 5. TT helped carry the kit up to the entrance but wouldn't enter the small opening. Used the 22cft, following the right hand wall, after about 100ft west-ish encountered a passage off to the right at a depth of about ten feet; the roof appears smooth. Passed several side passages all off to the right; features on the left hand side of the passage were unclear; vague shadows suggest other workings. After 50ft the line ran out; recovered it back to the first junction and headed right, north-ish; again ran out the limit of the line, this time down the centre of the passage, to the left were passages leading off; it appears mined by pillar and stall: returned to base in almost zero visibility. Later, in the bar spoke at length with Jack Garrihy, (Winch Man) & Tommy O'Brien, (Carpenter); their stories need recording; between 600 or 700 are said employed at its peak; 1940s.

2nd March Gupworthy Level, Brendon Hills

Nigel Burns

Arrived late; spent the remainder of the day carrying kit up to the mine entrance for tomorrow's trip.

3rd March Gupworthy Level, Brendon Hills

Nigel Burns

The aim was to climb from the floating bus inner tube to a suspected passage some ten feet up the overhanging wall. The trip was a failure as no gaps were found to take a piton. Plan to return with a maypole with a hook on the end.

8th March Pennine Way

Solo

Told none of the trip; went sick at work, visited the doctor and sent in a sick note. In rain rejoined the path at the White House. However, over the next eighteen days experienced surprisingly fair weather and little rain. The entire walk was a pure delight, had time to often wander off route. The only issue was becoming lost on the final stage; starting at 3am for the final leg to Kirk Yetholm. Approaching the border, thick mist swept in conspiring with the darkness to test the skills of the walker. By pressing on completely lost the route; back tracked quite a distance trying to rationalize the featureless terrain to

the map, and memory, both a dead loss; fortunately bumped into another walker, Richard, also lost and dawn a way off. The pair soon encountered the boundary fence and eventually the gate. Arrived at Kirk Yetholm, the bar was shut but no matter; sat with Richard finishing up the food, a trip well worth waiting for.

13th April Agen Allwedd

Al Steams, Mick Durdy, Dave (Icarus) Gill, Phil Nuttall, Gordon Parkin,
Down through Southern Stream, until Al's lamp forced a return to the bar.

14th April Porth-yr-Ogof, (Pegasus – Eldon PU)

Martin Bishop

MB finally arrived around midday, so dived quite late; using uneven twin kit dived to the rawlbolt and back; current quite strong, superb visibility. The US divers valve a nice bit of kit.

15th April Agen Allwedd

Martin Bishop, Gordon Parkin

After last night's serious PU survivors made for Helictite chamber; GP had lamp issues in the second boulder choke so headed on out. Continued on to this fantastic chamber, it's stunningly beautiful; bumped into Dave, (Grotty), Gill and party returning to surface.

16th April Agen Allwedd

Al Steams, Mick Durdy, Dave (Icarus) Gill, Phil Nuttall, Trevor Roberts, Gordon Parkin,
A trip to the Cliffs of Dover, lots of bodies either dead, lying down or wandering around underground, in various states of bemused hangovers.

17th April New World Series; Little Neath River Cave.

Martin Bishop

Through Bridge sump, water levels normal, no problem finding the line. MB first into sump II, PC surfaced to the music of escaping high pressure air; MB had a blown O ring. Having been told and previously bollocked by Alan Mills, PC always carried spares. MB had lost a lot of air as the ring blew around halfway through the sump; turned the trip.

4th May Cwmystwyth

Nigel Burns, Andy Porter, Chris? Antony Cronin

Swift trip to Rhayader, gaining height encountered low temperature and a light fall of snow. Set up camp at the old mill, heated stones and buried them to sleep upon, suspect a bitter night.

5th May Cwmystwyth - Level Fawr - Copa Hill

Nigel Burns, Andy Porter, Chris? Antony Cronin

Woke to a covering of four inches of snow; the youngsters amazed and delighted at the warmth emitted from the buried stones, enjoying a cosy sleep throughout the night. Cooked breakfast on the tailgate enjoying the clear sky and intense sunlight; waited until John Widley eventually arrived. Laddered Kingslode, with difficulty, the heavily timbered hauling shaft inclined at 80°; water level today at around 80 feet, here a semi-flooded passage was followed; by now the others were complaining of the cold, so left for the surface. The howling gale along the main level didn't help matters; JW and the youngsters showed signs of hyperthermia; once out all changed swiftly and warmed with gallons of tea. JW left for Llandaniel Fab at 5pm. Fed the boys, then walked up the east side of Graig Fawr around the top of the Nant-yr-Onnen valley to the summit of Copa

Hill to further research the huge dam constructed to Hush, (scour), the surface of Copa Hill to expose ore veins; followed the stream back down then over to the mill, visited King and Queen adits en-route; Queens entrance being a collapsed stope. Early ore processing remains and features are everywhere; this must once have ranked as an important, ancient mine.

6th May Cwmystwyth – Alderson’s – Taylors Level

Nigel Burns, Andy Porter, Chris? Antony Cronin

Left the youngsters to explore whilst NB and PC climbed the near vertical stream gully to the west of Graig Fawr, to investigate levels recorded above. Once up a hairy 50 foot climb three of the seven levels were found and entered, all were short trials; one being a beautifully cut coffin level. On returning to base the others emerged from the mill, sheltering from the incoming heavy weather. Offered them the chance to climb back up the Nant-yr-Onnen valley to Alderson’s Level then afterwards Taylor’s Level closer to the mill; most declined and returned to the fire in the mill.

AC, NB and PC entered Alderson’s, the Nant-yr-Onnen stream now a torrent cascading down the open stope filling the passage with a huge waterfall, passed the cascade and reached the forefield; exited for Taylor’s Level. At Taylor’s Level the portal is just visible above the migrating spoil tips; straight into chest deep water, then a long cold journey following compressed air pipes and ventilation ducting to its present limit; found a superb compressed air drill, (widow maker), in situ. AC violently shivering, without complaint, swiftly existed into torrential rain.

7th May Cwmystwyth

Nigel Burns, Andy Porter, Chris? Antony Cronin

Weather continued to deteriorate throughout the night. Around 5am storm force winds and torrential rain peaked; woke to find the boys huddled in the mill; visibility almost zero. Made them breakfast and gallons of tea. At 8am took left to take them into the café in Builth Wells to warm up. During this trip the boys experienced snow, difficult sleeping conditions, sub-zero temperatures, gales, torrential rain, intense cold from deep water and seriously exposed climbs. Enroute home, when asked, they replied they had enjoyed the entire trip; surprizingly camping without a tent, but especially the volume of tea.

9th May Compton Martin Ochre Mine

Andy Porter

A return trip to enjoy the place, it really is a superb example of mining, unique among surviving Mendip mines.

12th May CDG Dinner, Railway Hotel, Buxton

Dozens

The AGM became tiresome; several strayed off into the main bar, bumped into Bob Cross and some Mendip people; the early evening session eventually finishing at the Stags.

13th May Dirtlow Rake, Peak Forest

Bob Cross,

The place looked pretty after Friday night’s snow flurries; took the opportunity to walk the Dirtlow Rake looking for signs of warm air issuing from the devastated area to relocate shaft positions.

16th May Cuckoo Cleeves

Andy Porter, Chris? Antony Cronin

Asked by John Widley to take Chris caving again; to accommodate the request from Chris's parents; arranged again, for AP and AC to accompany us being of similar age to Chris. Chris is a happy enough lad when confronting hardships, he happily chatters away below ground or when walking the hills, as last week at Cwmystwyth. Yet there is something melancholy about him, as though he is carrying the weight of the world; this fades the further he travels from Bristol; there really is something odd about the parents asking JW to withhold their surname and address from PC. All enjoyed a steady trip to the terminal rift. Chris wants another trip; just not sure of implications: he really enjoys the company of Andy and Antony, and seems settled in himself during these trips.

2nd June Offa's Dyke

Andy Porter

Train via Birmingham to Prestatyn, walked to the Severn; the weather started out well, though throughout the walk the majority of the hills were shrouded in cloud. A nice enough ten day walk; but a little disappointed being unable to enjoy the obvious views.

16th June Swildons

Pete Eckford

Early start to XII dug in the right side of the sump; low water conditions; zero visibility hampering pursuing any clue of flow.

24th June Old Ham – New Dun

Stuart McManus, Barry Wilton, Nigel Burns

A superb trip around this extensive Iron mine; made all the more enjoyable afterwards with a lengthy session in the Butchers Arms; have memories of this trip as opposed to the previous one.

8th July Cow Hole

Martin Bishop, Mike Williams, Andy Porter

A nervous enough trip avoiding touching anything, walls, floor roof, anything at all! The pitch was initially planned as an SRT trip, but decided on a slow gentle ladder. The place is very unsafe but if care is exercised it is possible to emerge alive; but unsettled.

20th July Mid-Wales Mine tour

Sean Edwards, Dave Edwards, Andy Porter, Nigel Burns

Arrived Glaslyn after dark, via pints in the Star at Dylife, slept by the lake under starlight.

21st July Mid-Wales Mine tour - Gwynffynedd mine

Andy Porter, Nigel Burns

Headed to Gwynffynedd mine, after pints the New Inn; up into the north side of the workings opposite the stope previously climbed to surface: slept by the river; superb.

22nd July Mid-Wales Mine tour Glogfa Ganol slate mine

Andy Porter, Nigel Burns

Picked up a series I Landrover worm and nut steering box from a pal of Jarratts; Betws-y-Coed. Drove to Glogfa Ganol; a huge slate working vast and very, very deep. Developed as a show mine; the guides all ex miners, and very nice people. The place is truly vast.

4th August Picos de Europa

Eric Blake, Martin Bishop

MB got a phone call from the new organizer who asked if the four last year could a) return and b) bring their own equipment. It appears that the cost in rope to last year's expedition, dropping short shafts, was prohibitive. Delighted to get the call from MB; this year it was decided to use EB's van, for both room and economy. PC hitched to Bishop's where EB picked up the team and kit. Uneventful, more economic and much faster trip through France; the van flying along doing great mpg; the only issue EB falling asleep at the wheel and clipping the kerb; tyre destroyed and rim bent. On the road up to camp grounded the van a few times but no real damage. Found the main tent with Gosti and Carlo; having a loud exchange; lots of hand shaking and smiles. Asked to extend beyond the area searched last year, northeast: happy to do so as the area was known to each. The fun was infectious; sadly there were personal issues between the Hungarians and the Polish as to who should push the deeper leads. PC suggested let them argue away, as life was too short; our team would focus on working among the mountain landscape, dropping holes, brewing up; enjoying all aspects. The worth of a trip is not only the underground factors; for PC it is so very much more. MB again was the lucky sod getting to a depth of 120 feet on his first pitch; with PC lifelining he descended another two hundred; with another pitch below. Returned the following day; EB rigged the first and second pitches for SRT; EB joined MB and PC and descended en-mass the second pitch to the top of the third. Ladder was deployed EB took a turn and got down a further ninety feet to a wide ledge; below a further pitch was guesstimated as two hundred feet, but closer to one - eighty. Over the next three days depth gained was all but nine hundred feet, to yet another pitch; shagged out left the cave for the others. Prior to departing painted the usual ID mark above the entrance with "MB" in the centre. Returned to base and informed Gosti of the depth and the fact the next pitch guessed as over four hundred feet. Gleefully handed over the site to the lightweight Hungarian team and celebrated for a couple of days.

Returned to the mountain; ascended a further five hundred feet into a fractured area. A lot of holes were looked at but many too tight. EB found one tight fissure and fancied the stone fell seven seconds. While MB set up camp, EB descended sixty foot of ladder to a small ledge, looking on down the fissure now some three feet wide, and twenty feet long; no real room to lifeline so set up two pulleys and a descender on the surface, the plan MB would act as comms at the top of the second pitch. EB still believed it a big drop. After two long days all three got to the bottom of the final eighty foot, wet pitch opening into a reasonably sized streamway, averaging fifty feet high, after a hundred feet the passage was choked with big boulders; depth gained a conservative and very satisfying 1180 feet. Throughout the trip EB and MB were as ever consistent, excellent companions, never a cross word, particular when things became tough; with only three to carry all the kit, exploring this vertical stuff became exhausting; water often an issue. Sleep came easy and late night drinking disappeared. Yet fatigue evaporated as the cave deepened. Each delighted that this small opening was bottomed to a conclusion rather than having to hand it over to the others, a little selfish perhaps, yes indeed. To celebrate invited the others to join the team for a Pegasus pissup in the village. MB and PC sang most of the evening, which delighted the locals and offended the priest. Before the poteen appeared, the team informed Gosti about heading off to do some sight seeing en-route home with the two "spare" days. He was pleased with the contribution the "curious three" had made: he related he was impressed that he had simply asked our team to continue searching the previous area, after which had heard no demands or complaints, whatsoever, only a lot of laughter, and did we know others who might be interested

joining the expedition next year? He very kindly extended an open invite to return next year. Thanking him the team pointed out that other places awaited exploration. En-route home the open invite was discussed at length; PC listed several places to explore as did MB, EB is up for going anywhere.

September

Lost Oliver Statham

15th September Cherry Tree Hole

Martin Bishop, Eric Blake, Dave Collins

MB rang EB to arrange access; enjoyed a very nice tourist trip guided by DC who ensured the long trip looked into every nook and cranny. MB really delighted with the trip.

16th September Hurtle Pot – Midge Hole

Martin Bishop

MB had arranged permissions and borrowed 6 x chesterfields from the Somerset section.

The plan: to experience the deep route. PC dived first with MB three minutes behind.

The ascent of the wall was uneventful, ascended the wall, passed out the first junction and continued to the rift. Pondering the descent MB arrived; an air check showed good reserves, dropped off the chesterfield being used and descended. The plan called for

reassessing air reserves at -30m. MB arrived indicating his bottle contents as good, PC likewise; continued on to -35m; the appearance of the junction indicated the final limit

for the dive. A steady return to base: used US tables and watch for deco purposes.

4th October Doolin River Cave

Solo

Birthday trip: laddered Fisherstreet Pot, found stream levels much lower than previously experienced. Instead of heading to St. Catherine's turned downstream to follow the large airspace for some two hundred feet till the airspace became unusable. Several narrow, immature crevices noted in the roof; deep silt underfoot: worth checking the roof further for possible avens? Found Doll had arranged a surprize party; an evening of great fun.

5th October Cullaun V

Solo

Got a lift from Noel Walsh; walked over to the fence entrance. The bolt on the pitch is loose. Swiftly down and through the beddings, low water conditions, into the Red Carpet series. Prospected the collapsed chamber area without much success; emerged to rain.

6th October Upper Poulmagollum

Solo

Had difficulty locating the opening previously described "as near a tree", it's actually among roots; secured ladder to the truck, descended into a swift running streamway. Struggled up several short, awkward, wet climbs to where the stream enters a small chamber cascading from bedding at a height of around six feet; also struggled to climb this against the flow. Got to Pollbinn entrance, attempted the climb out reaching the edge of the overburden; couldn't trust the integrity of the overhanging grass and reeds. Exited; recovered kit, took a rope for the pull through from Branch passage; descended main entrance into Gunman's, through Muddy Links; Branch Passage stream also quite high. Unsteady trip in a high flow: very wet conditions before the pitch. From main junction continued downstream to where the passage was entirely flooded: (Colman's

Bath?). Exiting climbed into Gunman's passage down which a good sized stream was falling; great fun. Offered a lift to Joe McHugh's in Liscannor, wonderful music and dance; a superb, late session.

8th October Poulisallagh - Doolin
Solo

Dropped at Poulisallagh to continue prospecting the coastal terraces; searched for the choked rift previously visited. Found it, though had to back track north from the southern beach about two hundred yards. There are a lot of boulders to be considered; but it may be that the Coolagh River, said to resurge a hundred fifty yards away, may well pass beneath here. Scrabbled about but after moving rocks always found larger ones beneath. Continued south; found a sea cave some ten feet wide and thirty feet long, about a mile south. Managed to climb down the northern end, entire surface slippery underfoot, the area slopes steeply toward the cliff face opening; no potential found heading inland; appears entirely created by wave action; had difficulty climbing out. Close to Lackglass found a small tube wriggled in about twenty feet to a choke, the soft fill might repay digging; though looks a long term site. Rainfall increased, cut inland toward the church and into McGann's to dry out.

9th October Doolin River Cave
Solo

Since the previous trip spoke to some locals who suggested looking in this area of the cave, so close to the coast, an hour or so after low tide. The sandy area to the north of Fisherstreet regularly subsides! Entered mid afternoon supposedly three hours after low tide; waded downstream for some three hundred feet before airspace could be seen to all but disappear, found a small cross rift on the right and finished kitting up. Secured dive line to a flake of rock, and a back up to a climbing nut jammed in a crack; followed the right, north, wall in zero visibility until a jolt from the reel indicated the one hundred and fifty feet of line had finished; a low roof and a lot of silt; no current felt.

10th October Pouldubh
Solo

Digging trip to investigate the terminal choke; previously noted as gravel and cobbles. Excavated a body sized trench following the four inch air space at roof level, into which managed to pack some of the loose gravel spoil. The larger cobbles and small boulders were dealt with by digging a hole in the gravel and burying them, then packed this spoil into the air space; quite a draught issuing. Dug for six body lengths when realized the stream noise was getting louder over the adjacent boulders. Headed out the waterfall from the eye hole, now much larger than earlier: out into glorious sunshine?

11th October Pouldubh
Solo

Continued digging the trench for another two body lengths the solid wall on the left pushing the excavation to the right. Thousands of pine needles cover the roof throughout this place; this might well indicate the trench will be filled again during the next flood.

10th November Sally's Rift (Sally-in-the-Woods, Bathford, Bath
Nigel Burns, John Widley

Another photographic trip to this wonderfully curious cave formation in Bath Stone

17th November Eastwater

Ken James

Urgent call to meet up; after enjoying a superb evening trip stopped at Bishop's.

18th November Cow Hole - Thrupe Lane RESCUE

Andy Porter

En-route to Cow Hole stopped by MCG boys departing Nordrach, told of callout at Thrupe. Several other cars tore off; PC asked to wait for stragglers and bring them over. On arrival at Thrupe asked to standby. Sent back to pick up extra kit from the MRO store; returned and told to wait with others; ultimately not required underground.

28th November Swildons Hole

John Widley, Andy Porter

JW wanted a trip to sump I; out the dry ways; an uneventful trip.

11th December Swildons Hole

Andy Porter, Nigel Burns

Steady trip to sump II in high flow; stream welly depth at the twenty using mask found elderly carbide lamp in sump I.

18th December Goatchurch – Sidcot Swallet – Waterworks adit

Nigel Burns

For some reason decided to return here, enjoyed a leisurely, nostalgic trip to beyond the drainpipe, once outside scampered up the open waterworks adit; emerging had the daft idea to do a circuit of Sidcot; good grief.

21st December Pouldubh

Solo

Returned to the terminal choke found the trench filled in, the area smooth. Dug forward two body lengths; the pine needles are pain down the back of the neck; need a scarf.

22nd Pouldubh

Solo

Rain last night produced a high flow in the streamway; the dig showed evidence of water flow. The stream sinks among boulders to the left of the choke; today a pool had formed? Dug another two body lengths, regularly emerged to check the stream level reference mark. Departed when the tell-tale submerged; exited into rain.

23rd December Pouldubh

Solo

Left wall has become a real pain so directed the trench away from it to make use of the air gap as a spoil dump. Another body length achieved: the draught impressive.

31st December Star, near Shipham - Hunters – Swildons - Bishops Party

Jim Smart, Nigel Burns, Andy Porter

This small valley near the Star Inn was visited again and a further three shafts found; this makes a total of six. Each is vertical or steeply inclined; JS has the surveys.

To the Hunters for a fine evening finishing at Bishops party; The Last Blast of The 70s!! Crazy evening; eventually arrived at Bishop's do, changed and ran down to sump I and out via the dry ways. Yet more dance, fun and drink; Happy New Year.