

# 1983

1<sup>st</sup> January Carron Lead Mine, Castletown Townland

Up late, lift to Kilfenora from Lisdoonvarna, another to Carran; climbed the road west onto the flat karst lands. Cut across the moor, found the unprotected, open shaft; later, the adit too: a nice example of 19<sup>th</sup> century mining, nice tool work. Got a lift off Sean O'Connor to Limerick; another to Dublin; arrived in less than six hours; nice.

3<sup>rd</sup> January Avoca Mines, County Wicklow

Solo

Borrowed Batty's car to take advantage of the quiet period; in superb weather enjoyed a cracking walk among the many features and Engine Houses. They warrant conservating; spanning over a hundred years. Met John, conducting maintenance work.

9<sup>th</sup> January Eastwater - Lamb Leer Rescue

Ken James

Dolphin Pot and the thirteen, very nice, quite wet. At the Wessex alerted to a callout: arrived Lamb Leer as the party were surfacing; assisted hauling and clearing up.

12<sup>th</sup> January Lung Tonic Pot

Solo

Dropped off a grill to secure opening; someone has trashed the place, kit scattered. Two hours of wet digging: blue with the cold, seven buckets.

16<sup>th</sup> January Eastwater

Ken James, Nigel Burns

Not so wet today; a nice around trip returning the lower traverse; always the snug fit.

19<sup>th</sup> January Lung Tonic Pot

Solo

Pissing down; big stream, hard work maintaining focus in the turbulence; one bucket.

21<sup>st</sup> January Lung Tonic Pot

Solo

Less stream tonight; though still wet digging, gave up after losing feeling in the legs.

22<sup>nd</sup> January Eastwater

Wayne Dawes, Martin Bishop

WD asked to show him the round trip and where he and his pal unfortunately missed their way; initiating the callout.

23<sup>rd</sup> January Reads Cavern

Jim Smart, Neil Scallon

Abandoned main reason for trip: JS eventually appearing at the entrance very late and overhung; headed to the dig in the Brown Stewart series.

26<sup>th</sup> January Trat's Crack – Foxes Hole

Solo

Inspected both sites for potential; TC is worth digging, old evidence of others having done so. FH is interesting, the remains of Home Guard usage a window on the past.

30<sup>th</sup> January Lung Tonic Pot  
Solo

Quite a high flow, managed an hour before forced to retire; a good bit removed along with the spoil left previously. Three buckets.

3<sup>rd</sup> February Swildons Hole, Cowsh Avens  
Ken James

Evening trip via Blue Pencil to Cowsh; cleared spoil from a recent bang, back through sump I, managed to catch a late one in the Hunters.

9<sup>th</sup> February Lung Tonic Pot  
Solo

Another two hours in wet conditions; five buckets.

16<sup>th</sup> February Wookey Hole  
Martin Bishop

Resurgence to chamber 1, then chamber 3, trying out bottles tied across the chest; this is something MB has heard of. Two systems were tried; used elastic cord while MB used a strap; exchanged systems in chamber 20 pool. The elastic cord is by far the simplest to manoeuvre, negotiating snug places.

17<sup>th</sup> February Lung Tonic Pot  
Solo

The cut, trimmed sides of the shale withstand the torrents well. Digging remains wet and cold; only managed an hour before losing feeling in the extremities. Three buckets.

20<sup>th</sup> February Avon Gorge  
Martin Bishop

Early start. Bitter cold, light rain, decided to expand experience on wet limestone. After squeezing through the grill into the railway access tunnel, made several climbs, adjacent the adit and horizontal traversing; hands seriously frozen: terrific experience: lunchtime pints in the Cumberland Tavern.

23<sup>rd</sup> February Lung Tonic Pot  
Solo

Progress slow, but steady. Minor bit of excitement, a small fall temporarily pinned the right arm. Received a minor cut from a piece of glass that punched through the boiler suit into the right forearm. One hour; three buckets.

26<sup>th</sup> February Avon Gorge  
Martin Bishop

Seconded MB on the route from the underpass beneath the bridge; arriving at the top detained for public disorder; names taken. Fed's arrived, questioning sanity in present weather conditions; let off with a, please boys, don't do it again.

27<sup>th</sup> February Wookey Hole  
Ken James, Nick Pollard

Training for NP; to 20 to show him around. Back after a useful two hours, confronted by OCL demanding what was going on and expect censure not following training protocols. Robustly, pointed out that this group had privately arranged the trip booking via Wookey management and therefore fuck all to do with him.

2<sup>nd</sup> March Lung Tonic Pot  
Brain Court

To the dig straight from work; BC arrived an hour later, relieving one frozen digger. Six buckets worth.

3<sup>rd</sup> March Lung Tonic Pot  
Solo

Removed spoil collapsed from the undercut dug last Tuesday; a fair chunk had fallen causing the stream to pond. A cold, wet, one hour session; four buckets.

5<sup>th</sup> March Barrow Tanks  
Solo

At the agreed time no other divers appeared, either from BSAC or CDG. Used a pair of chesterfields, blagged by Bishop, laying a route of two hundred metres; ran out a second reel then returned to base. Donned MB's chest arrangement to experience the drag and effort over distance and see if significant weight re-distribution was needed. Made the circuit, repositioning 1lb lead weights to adjust trim, resultant trim was good, effort of maintaining position reduced significantly. Returned to base, donned an eighty, using Rob Palmers stab jacket. Again, completed the circular route; the difference in weight required, less by about two pounds. The only issue, depth never exceeded a negotiable six metres. This site is useful for many training aspects, particularly checking calculated air consumption and allowing ease of adjustment to buoyancy practising with different gear layouts.

6<sup>th</sup> March Barrow Tanks  
Solo

After negotiation conducted with Bristol Water and talk from BSAC Club No. 3: of the need BSAC and CDG have a shared winter diving location. Neither BSAC No. 3, or CDG attended. Introduced self to the grounds man, exchanged pleasantries; David suggested parking closer, reducing the carry distance: a really nice bloke. Initially used the heavy steel eighties, completed a circuit and found buoyancy good, without lead; when all but depleted, buoyancy of the steel 80s remain acceptable. Repeatedly repositioned weights to adjust trim as required. Surfaced after ninety minutes beneath a watery sun; over tea and a warm up chatted to John, just finishing for the day. He kindly proffered his home phone number should the key be required other than over a weekend; a nice bloke. Compared estimated air consumption to that actually used, delighted at the calculation's accuracy. Estimate the safe side of that consumed, amounting to fourteen bars less in either bottle. Dived again with a back mounted eighty, two fifties and an eighty across the chest. Travelled the circuit twice, monitoring air consumption; deployed a fourth reel; circuit finally totalled eight hundred and sixty metres. Submerged for almost one hundred seventeen minutes; recovering all line. Surfaced for more tea, a warm up and assess reserves; surprizing. Intentional expected effect of wearing equipment to increase drag and by design increase overall physical effort; air consumption was 18% less than that calculated; delighted with the overall experiment. Examined normal breathing rate, at surface, in kit, over a five-minute period. An average breathing rate of twelve breathes per minute work as 21 litres per minute. Nice to see the numbers work. Frozen solid.

March undated (12<sup>th</sup>?) Ogof Hepste, Wales  
John Adams

Once JA had his photographs, took the opportunity to make final adjustments to the lightweight diving kit in preparation for the imminent Irish trip.

23<sup>rd</sup> March Ireland

Solo

Ken James rang; required attend Westland's urgently. So, unable to come to Clare. He's very pissed off. He's required to investigate a helicopter incident. With a half full motor rang Martyn Farr, suggesting he utilize the spare room in the motor for any extra kit he might need over there; called on enroute, picked up 2 x 100s, plus other sundry items.

24<sup>th</sup> March Grey Hole, Ballaghaline Townland

Solo

Arrived late afternoon to O'Connor's, having had issues with the car outside Inagh. Over pints Doll mentioned a pothole had appeared on the terrace, above Hell. Found an open rift, twenty feet deep to sea water; needs a ladder. A few pints, then to the Irish Caving Club hut; a rented cottage, a hundred yards north of O'Donaghues; the arranged key did not appear, nor did the man who has it; back to O'Connor's: slept in the kitchen.

25<sup>th</sup> March Coolagh River Cave resurgence S4, Ballyryan Townland

Solo

Pauline's car is sick; worked on it outside the bar. Doll regularly delivered pints, which hampered fault finding. Eventually found a pinhole in the carburettor diaphragm, replaced same with piece of fertilizer bag; works well: fed a late breakfast by Doll. At the new cave managed to insert a wheel nut as belay into a crevice, secured ladder. Sea level seemed higher so rolled up excess ladder to avoid salt water. A simple rift; no passages above water level: a decent winter tempest will drag the huge volume of storm debris back across the terrace covering this rift entrance once more.

From Poulsallagh, headed south to S4, searching the wider area around this potentially important resurgence. It's suggested, hydrological route is via Poulanian, which doesn't appear make sense, to then emerge in this area. This site seems too far north. No sign of MF and Sally in any of the bars; great fun searching.

26<sup>th</sup> March Kinvarra Risings, Pollduagh, Fahee Cave, Coolagh River Cave

Solo

8am Left early, long before anyone up and about; curious as to the import of Kinvarra risings with Quinn's cave. Searched the coast around Dungaire Castle, noted evidence of outflow from below the road, obscured by high tide. Later on, witnessed a large volume issuing from boulders; the outflow not just sea water reemerging, a significant amount of fresh water also present. Tasted the outflow; fresh side of brackish, after an hour much fresher. Got to Pollduagh found owner Mick Hayes, requested permission to dive and also park in the track to the river. Returning to Doolin, searched for Fahee Cave, located among the wide limestone karst-scape, set in a low terrace. It's terminal, compacted fill, is likely glacial; a long-term dig: worth prospecting the karst pavement beyond.

5pm Weather quite wet, in though Polldonough South, which had a good size air space. Below the bypass entrance the bedding was wet, cleared away an accumulation of debris lowering the canal level. Used a handline to descend the pitch; downstream, had to swim quite a distance along the canal. Lots of foam, the highest two metres above extant water level, a wetsuit would be useful. At the field entrance had minor issues again, a few large cobbles had moved, slowing a swift exit.

27<sup>th</sup> March Pollduagh, Cloonnahaha Townland

Martyn and Sally Farr

Arrived to dive midday; found MF surfacing from a dive he'd found surprisingly long and deep; needing deco: MF cold. Carried his kit to the Morris Traveller. MF and SF left to

set up camp. Drove the hour back to Doolin; Doll insisting on a shower and decent meal. Clean and shiny walked into the bar to be greeted by a grinning Jim Smart, who had just arrived with the Bristol Poly; a nice bunch. Had previously met Steve Milner and Mark Lumley, these stand out from their group; addiction to caving obvious. Delighted to find Tony Boycott tucked in beside the fire, with pals Linda and Graham; U.B.S.S stopping at Mrs Kelly's place, Kilshanny. Drank and talked of digging etc. into the small hours with ML, SM, Charlie Self and Sean O'Ce; safely delivered a very pissed CS to Kilshanny. SO'C also stopping at the I.C.C. cottage.

28<sup>th</sup> March Poulbehan – Pol-E-Puthe-Kittleon, Carrowkilleen Townland  
Solo

Site previously shown by John Quinn; rigged the climb: kitted up on the narrow edge of the pool. Swam to the right, intending follow the slope down. Submerging encountered a vegetation debris fallen from the pothole sides. Began dive; KJ's line reel was far too full: stupid really. In poor visibility caught on submerged briars; extracting self, line spilled off the reel. Used a lot of air sorting the mess; a complete and total balls up. Hauled kit back to surface, removing the brother-in-law's thick, tight, wet suit jacket, as it passed over the shoulders, it snapped back like an elastic band, pinning both arms to the body. Walking backwards, attempting step on the dangling jock strap, became aware of a man watching this farce from the next field; smiled and said hello, he smiled back, shaking his head. Eventually got the jacket off, carried kit back to the car. Returned onto the karst to relocate Pol-E-Puthe-Kittleon. The slope still very loose, the slab, which almost took Ken James legs off, remains very unstable; below it, the floor has sunk a little. Back in Doolin introduced Martyn and Sally to the others; a great dance session.

29<sup>th</sup> March Poulelva – Poulmagollum, Caherbullog Townland  
Martin Farr

Arranged a joint trip with Bristol Poly; they didn't appear. Abseiled in Poulelva with the aim of photographing places various. Light issues from the very start. Reduced to using a miserable cyalume, missed the junction. Exiting a climb, head first, pulling a tackle bag through the squeeze, MF overbalanced falling ten metres to the shallow stream. Unable to pass the squeeze, back tracked to reach him along the Low Road. Found a concussed MF, with blood issuing from two parallel scalp wounds; on closer examination blood flow had all but stopped. Made MF comfortable out of the stream and draught; went to see if the others had followed. Heard voices, found them descending the roof traverse. Spoke to Rupert Cavendish, apprizing of the incident, RC took the news in his stride. Then explained the situation as the others arrived. That whilst coherent, any head injury was of concern, so a swift exit was required. The group appeared a little nervous. Assured them, MF, though stunned, was coherent, and able to answer questions, so things were not as bad as they appeared. What was needed was the group to accompany the casualty in an unhurried manner, and if required carry him; but most importantly, a steady exit be maintained. Arriving at MF's location, the blood covered face caused the group to go silent. Shouldered MF's camera tackle sac and took up station immediately behind him, whilst encouraging the others. Constantly engaged, MF's speech remained clear, no mumbling or stumbling was noted. At surface the group were visibly relieved. Back at Mrs Kelly's, Drs. Boycott and Glanville discussed who would stitch MF's cuts and who could take the photographs. Some difficulty finding antiseptic; MF eventually stitched after Sally Farr vigorously cleaned the cuts with washing up liquid and a nail brush.

30<sup>th</sup> March Quinn's Cave, Poulawee, Moy Townland  
Solo

Am convinced this site responds directly to the effects of the Atlantic Ocean, though two miles away. The aim: to visit the pots previously visited. Martin Droney decanted from a friend's 80cft; managing to partly fill Sulo's 2 x 22cft's: the compressor at the Admiral's Rest, Fanore, still broken. Both bottles a little over half full, returned to review the site. The cliff face is impressive. Fritz Krauser, a local, (German), fisherman in Kinvarra, said low water would be around midday; as guestimated, found the sand bank eight inches above water level. Carefully waded around the cliff face to reduce disturbing silt, swiftly gaining water depth. Submerged, moving along the south side of the slope, could make out the slope and edge of a pot. Approaching the edge, could feel boulders move, inverted self to look down the pot; other boulders moved, suggesting the entire area's stability is suspect. Lost visibility, settled near the edge of the pot, -6m to improved visibility. Some clarity returned but not before contents gauge showed twenty bars; cold penetrating the kidneys. Surfaced for an hour to warm up and change bottles. Returning, the shaft edge was still obscured by poor visibility. Could not see or feel any sign of the smaller shaft, it is likely the steep debris slope has moved, choking it. Exited frozen; packing the motor Mrs. Quinn insisted on a hot meal before departure. In the toasty warm cabin sat down to Bacon and Cabbage; just like mother makes. Saying goodbyes, John Quinn arrived, Mrs. Quinn teasing her son, as he was late, she'd given the dinner to the visitor; a nice family. Found Bristol Poly in O'Connor's; Sean O'Connor loudly regaling MF's incident. Met cavers from Crewe Caving Club who related, MF had fallen twenty metres. Rumours run around the world before the truth got its trousers on: a cracking night.

31<sup>st</sup> March Quinn's Cave, (Poulawee) – Pollanovett, Moy Townland  
Solo

Over superb mugs of tea, John Quinn gave open permission to prospect northwest from Quinn's cave toward the sea; two miles or so. Spent the day prospecting, found several flooded hollows where the water tasted brackish, the pools had no discernible openings. Much of the land, into the distance appears flat, featureless. Conducted a zig-zag search pattern along 280°; no luck locating sites that potentially access or remotely suggest a possible aquifer. At the Quinn's, JQ mentioned a hollow near the junction, half a mile south. Pollanovett is another bowl-shaped depression; similar to nearby Poulkinaff in depth and diameter; filled with hazel bushes, no opening found; the hollow regularly grazed. Noted the grass in the lowest area of the depression was of a slightly lighter colour, may be from an elevated water table after bad weather. Could these bowl-shaped depressions suggest the aquifer has sought alternate routes over time to reach the sea?

1<sup>st</sup> April Poulbehan – Poulnanaher, Carrowkilleen Townland  
Solo

John Quinn mentioned another hollow, a possible cave, about a mile east of his farm; JQ unavailable. Walked in from the Quinn's cabin; the landscape, mostly karst pavement and pasture. Encountered another farmer, Gerard Nyland, who showed a pear-shaped depression, fifteen metres wide by twenty metres long. The only cavity, a rock shelter, ten metres wide and a metre high. GN also described several other such sites on his farm, used to water the cattle. His willingness to guide to them was clear, but unable to do so today. Walked to Moy for the motor. Cracking session finishing up at Noel Walsh's party.

2<sup>nd</sup> April Poulacapple Pot, Poulacapple Townland  
Solo

Walked to this moorlands summit, (900ft), from the Ballyvaghan – Lisdoonvarna road; relocated this important sink. Slieve Elba a mile west. A big stream sinks here; managed to remove two large cobbles from between the wall and a huge boulder: got a thorough soaking for the trouble. Didn't count on getting this wet; no dry kit handy. Crossed over the summit to the southwest; no other sites found; this heather covered terrain hard to search. Found Mac, Jarratt and other Mendip types in O'Connor's; a great session.

6<sup>th</sup> April "Cave", Sally Gap, Dublin Mountains  
Pauline Cronin, Batty McDermott

Searched in vain for a cave reported being near the summit of the pass; a nice walk though. Saw spoil tips down valley, high up the east side; need return for a better look.

29<sup>th</sup> April Gower

Steve Emery, Jim Smart

JS rang; Nigel Burns taken to hospital after a car drove into him whilst he was stopped at a junction on his motor bike. Trip in abeyance. Update, NB OK, the leg busted; NB says to go have fun. Rang Mike Thompson who agreed represent NB.

30<sup>th</sup> April Bovehill Pot, Gower

Steve Emery, Jim Smart

JS had a map ref, but was of no use, no sign of an 'ole anywhere on the hill. Rain arrived in torrents, headed for the car and camp site; into a bar in Llanrhidian; great place.

1<sup>st</sup> May Bovehill Pot, Gower

Steve Emery, Jim Smart

Light showers; cannot find this dam cave: something is seriously wrong with the data. A nice walk on the hill; lovely country, wonderful expanse of salt marsh to the north.

2<sup>nd</sup> May Lesser Garth Cave – Ogof Pen-Y-Craig, Garth Wood, South Wales

Steve Emery, Jim Smart

Two nice caves, a welcome reward for such an, at times, tough weekend; there could be other caves in the upper quarry face.

7<sup>th</sup> May Swildons Hole

Charlie Watkins, Ken James

Sump one; just for the hell of it decided to ladder the 40, good fun. Jarratt disgusted at not telling him.

14<sup>th</sup> May Swildons Hole

Charlie Watkins, Ken James

Intended short visit, changed to a round trip, in good company; troubles a little full.

21<sup>st</sup> May GB – Lung Tonic Pot

Ken James

Many people about, found a queue up Ladder Dig: chose to exit. At LTP a slide rather than tripod was tried, as was a better arrangement to stem water flow during operations; a wet end to the day. Nine buckets.

28<sup>th</sup> May Bar Pot, Yorkshire

Ken James, John Kelly, John Compton, Ian Parsons

Normal uneventful trip to GG main chamber, exiting same route. JC had a superb lamp able to light up a lot of the main chamber roof.

29<sup>th</sup> May White Scar, Yorkshire

Ken James, John Kelly, John Compton

Offered a chance to join a trip to the Battlefield, superb. Bumped into Dave Morris, Martyn Farr and others in the Station; a fun night.

30<sup>th</sup> May Thornton Force, Yordas Cave

Ken James, Dave Lennard, John Compton

Cracking walk in bright, chill conditions to this superb waterfall. Joined DL and JC for a swift trip through Yordas; third ever caving trip for DL, a nice bloke.

1<sup>st</sup> June Lung Tonic Pot

Solo

Prepared a frame of dexion, a slide to pull the skids up; it works ok, but it's not quite right; needs more work.

4<sup>th</sup> June Eastwater

Ken James, John Kelly, John Compton

Primrose Path, after a bit of thrutching slid through, but only with the ladder removed. And only with foot loops in the short rope, to push against, could the team get back up; KJ the only one not needing to remove any bit of clothing.

11<sup>th</sup> June Lung Tonic Pot - Browne-Stain Series, Read's Cavern

Solo

Morning: early, managed three hours in wet-ish conditions, before shagged out. Eight buckets. Arranged to meet the others, lunchtime, in the Hunters.

Afternoon: Jim Smart, Mark Lumley, Neil Scanlon, Steve Milner.

Took down a British Telecom whale pump to attempt pump the sump; low flow meant diverting the small stream was achievable. Pumping had little effect on the water level.

15<sup>th</sup> June Lung Tonic Pot

Solo

Amazed at progress, soft shale meant fourteen buckets in three hours.

18<sup>th</sup> June Lung Tonic Pot

John Widley

Refitted the tripod, slightly off-centre; it works better, but needs dismantling after digging, it's too obvious to passing road users. Nine buckets.

19<sup>th</sup> June Mine shaft (NG 522552)

Mark Lumley

ML told of a collapse. An obvious mine shaft, maybe 50ft deep? In a surface rake; 20m south of Castle of Comfort to Burrington Rd. Looks good, need obtain permission.

23<sup>rd</sup> June Nordrach Mine?

Mark Lumley, Martin Becket, Jim Smart, Pauline Cronin

Twenty metres south of the Burrington to Castle of Comfort Road. In a surface rake in Jack Parrets field; one hundred metres west of the cross roads, adjacent the tumulus. An excellent example of 19<sup>th</sup> Century mining; lots of tool marks; appears a trial: some ochre and galena examples present; well worth clearing the debris out, to see what's below.

25<sup>th</sup> June Lummy Daze, Emborough

Mark Lumley

ML and Steve Milner found a draughting hole near Emborough Lake, near Downside Swallet. In the field below the lake; Mr Killian, Masters Farm granting permission. Some one tonne of spoil removed. By the lake, a short, horizontal hole was noted; Gurney Slade Rising is some twenty metres lower. However, not sure GSR is the proven rising.

29<sup>th</sup> June MNRC hut - Eastwater

Tony Mintram

Lunchtime: used oxy/acetylene kit to prepare metal reinforcing for hut steelwork.

Afternoon: TM to work. Solo trip to the thirteen pots; nice.

2<sup>nd</sup> July Goatchurch

Pete Williams, Terry Smith,

Work mates evening trip, pleasant wander, taking in the drainpipe.

3<sup>rd</sup> July GB – Lummy Daze

Ken 1? plus his 2 Finnish girl friends, Ken James

Morning: a swift trip down to the waterfall, one of the women unhappy about the smaller passages. Once outside, said goodbyes; relief.

Afternoon: met Mark Lumley and Steve Emery at Lummy Daze. Demolished a huge boulder with a 4lb lump hammer and muscle power, much to the amazement of SE.

9<sup>th</sup> July Swildons Hole

Pete Williams

Introduced PW to the joys of Shatter Pot and Paradise Regained.

10<sup>th</sup> July Horseshoe Hole, MNRC dig

Tony Mintram

Spent a day preparing the site to recommence digging; a place with good potential.

15<sup>th</sup> July Trenance Farm, St Austell, Cornwall

Solo

Colin and Claire Williams, nee Chambers, bought the farm. Outside the barn, a manhole accesses an adit running from the China clay workings to a nearby harbour. Followed the passage for about quarter of a mile; collapsed at either end, unsure if purposefully.

24<sup>th</sup> July Horseshoe Hole

Tony and Val Mintram

Steady digging for three hours, a good bit removed.

31<sup>st</sup> July Horseshoe Hole

Tony Mintram

Digging for two hours; it's a long-term project, requiring, ideally, a little more help.

1<sup>st</sup> August Nine Barrows Swallet – Sludge Pit

Anthony Cronin

AC's first caving trip, which he enjoyed immensely, took every aspect in his stride.

31<sup>st</sup> August – 3<sup>rd</sup> September MNRC hut building

Tony Mintram

Erected the two masts, obtained the new windows, laid blocks for the back wall.

September undated (14<sup>th</sup>?) Lamb Leer

Pete Williams, Terry Smith, Anthony Cronin

Cave of Falling Waters, no issues for any climbing down or back out.

September undated (25<sup>th</sup>?) Goatchurch - Nine Barrows/Sludge Pit

10am, Goatchurch

Anthony Cronin; pleasant trip, AC delighted testing himself

2pm. Nine Barrows/Sludge Pit

Pete Williams, Anthony Cronin, Terry Smith

A return trip for AC, to build on his confidence; nice seeing him develop the craft.

1<sup>st</sup> October Jingling Pot, Yorkshire

Pete Williams, Ian Parsons, John Kelly

Threatened rain held off; enjoyed a fine trip, refreshing the SRT; much needed.

2<sup>nd</sup> October Rowten Cave – Jingling Cave, Yorkshire

Pete Williams, Ian Parsons, John Kelly

Stopping in the Happy Wanderers kindly offered an exchange trip; IP found Rowten easy enough at the entrance, PW had difficulty wriggling here and there, but the cold water was his real issue. Emerged freezing; a fine decorated place.

9<sup>th</sup> October Lung Tonic Pot - Rhino Rift - Swildons Rescue alert

Martin Bishop, John Kelly

Showed the sinking stream to an unimpressed team; headed for Rhino. In the Hunters alerted of a possible callout; stood down after twenty minutes; beer tasting all the better.

12<sup>th</sup> October Lung Tonic Pot

Solo

Two hours digging the shale floor, five buckets.

19<sup>th</sup> October Lung Tonic Pot

Solo

Digging the floor; the shale layer below seems harder, four buckets.

26<sup>th</sup> October Lung Tonic Pot

Pete Williams

Two hours of heavy rain, falling in torrents; conditions similar to the West of Ireland. PW exited the trench drenched and cold; five buckets.

2<sup>nd</sup> November Lung Tonic Pot

Solo

Cold, normal stream; need enlarge the area in the base of the shaft, three buckets.

9<sup>th</sup> November Lung Tonic Pot  
Solo

Shaved the left side of the crawl, minor roof collapse of crappy shale; four buckets.

10<sup>th</sup> November Pierre's Pot  
Pete Williams, Terry Smith

Digging in a promising rift, spoil stacking an issue, the boys not too interested in digging.

12<sup>th</sup> November Stream Passage Pot – Bar Pot, Yorkshire

Martin Bishop, Ian Parsons, Geoff Pickering, John Compton, Terry Smith

An exchange with the NPC, they rig Bar Pot, we SPP. Got to SPP to find it rigged by Eric, from the Craven, preparing for their trip tomorrow. Kindly offering the use of their kit; arrived at Bar Pot much swifter than planned: no sign of the NPC. To main Chamber, so GP could take more photos, returned, found the place rigged, exited into rain. A superb night in the Hill Inn; TS disappeared, hijacked by a Leeds siren called Susan.

13<sup>th</sup> November Yordas Cave, Yorkshire

Martin Bishop, Ian Parsons

TS suffering, walking like a duck; left him whimpering in the motor. The normal sober, freshen up trip; in the top, out the bottom. Huge tailback on the motorway, back 11pm.

16<sup>th</sup> November Lung Tonic Pot  
Solo

Focused on the right-hand side; shaving the wall in from the entrance; six buckets.

17<sup>th</sup> November Pierre's Pot, Burrington

Pete Williams, Terry Smith + Anne, and Janet?

TS enjoyed the girl's company immensely, helping them at every opportunity throughout Pierre's. Needed a tyre lever to separate him from Anne.

25<sup>th</sup> November Wookey Hole  
Martin Bishop

Management rang MB asking if the lights in chamber three could be cleaned. Apparently, the request to CDG was over two weeks old. Accomplished after twenty minutes. Given permission to dive and play afterwards; once again common courtesy and mutual respect with management shows how the two can co-exist: sod OCL. Had planned for 24; MB led off by five minutes. Again, traversing in 24, the shortness of legs proved a hinderance. Uneventful exit: cracking trip, good visibility and a fine party back at MB's place.

22<sup>nd</sup> December Fergus River Cave, Roughan Townland  
Solo

Train to Fishguard. Hitched Rosslare to Limerick, picked up by a lorry going to Galway, dropped in Ennis, another lift to Corrofin; walked the rest. Martyn Farr had passed the choked crawls, (dug one in 1975), pushing sump III. Entered at 5pm, over three trips had all the kit at sump I, delighted; all set. Exited for a good night's sleep, camped near the cattle crush. Permission off Tony Killeen to camp in the area anytime; a real nice bloke.

23<sup>rd</sup> December Fergus River Cave, Roughan Townland  
Solo

9am. Uneventful trip to dive base; kitting up, found 55bar lost from one bottle, (165bar); decided press on. Swiftly along the crawl into larger passage; reached sump III. Couldn't

find MF's, or any line; tied off Ken James reel, with 120m of orange 3mm line; dived off north-ish. Three metre visibility, followed the east wall for some fifty metres to a scatter of boulders across the floor. Moved left, secured the line around a long, slim boulder; like a leg. Lost walls; moved northwest, descended a gentle slope for thirty metres; wanted a wall to reference. Returned to boulder belay. Swam due north until KJ's reel ran out; the increasing, sloping silt covered floor continues. The place feels it'll continue to deepen; returned to base; recovered line. It's a place that needs a good team. Dozed for a couple of hours; woke frozen. Started moving kit; making short journeys, fifty metres or so, then return for next, a slow process. All kit to surface; shagged out at 11pm. Moved the kit to the road gate; changed and repacked the kit. Knackered; tucked down by the gate for the night. Morning; hitched to Doolin; left kit with Martin Droney. Lift off Sean O'Connor to Galway; caught a midday train into Dublin for the Family Christmas.

27<sup>th</sup> December    Black Head, Aghaglinny North Townland  
Solo

Altered plans after hearing huge cascades issuing from the mountain opposite Gleninagh Castle. The steep face is slippery, in the less greasy areas the climb is often in the stream; this north facing cliff likely never gets much sun. Climbed down, moved twenty metres west to a less dodgy, but more vertical area. Gained fifteen metres to a loose, grotty part; still far below where the water issues from among bushes; the actual resurgence possibly higher by another ten metres? Difficult to assess. Cracking night in McDermott's.

29<sup>th</sup> December    Boulder Pot, Cahermacnaghtan Townland  
Solo

Located west of Poulawillin. Used a ladder; a stream sinks in a boulder/ shale/clay floor. Unsure where to start; chose the southwest corner: stacked spoil around the north side. After a while heard voices, emerged to be confronted by three stern men. Who are you, what are you doing etc.? Explained digging a hole to get into the cave that exists below; their exchange of glances, during questioning, did not convey any clear message as to what they wanted. Repeating, their questions; who are you, where are you from, who are your family, where are you staying, who gave permission to be here. After fifteen minutes they left walking back along the track to the road; one returned, asking how I got here. The answer, walking and hitching from Dublin, was listened to with poker faced silence. After more scowling they turned to leave. Called them to stop, asked what, exactly was the problem? How had I deserved such ignorant, rude behaviour? No reply, they turned and left. Returned to the dig, continued stacking the lumps of spoil like a wall, with the smaller stuff packed behind. Dark holed the tools in bushes twenty metres northwest from the pot; walked to the Ballyvaghan road, hitched to Doolin.

30<sup>th</sup> December    Boulder Pot, Cahermacnaghtan Townland  
Solo

Gus O'Connor kindly gave a lift to Poulawillin junction, giving the session a two-hour head start. Continued removing shale lumps and cobbles, gained two metres: stream still flows away. Mid-afternoon heavy rain; unable to dig as it flooded. Packed and stowed the tools, walked to the road. Near the Poulawillin junction a car slowed and stopped. Driven by one of the characters from yesterday. Today, smiling broadly, suggested "It would be a good idea if you weren't around here for the next day or so": wished "Good Luck" and drove off. Considered the situation, time remaining in Clare etc.; recovered kit, hitched to Doolin. Left kit with Martin Droney.

31<sup>st</sup> December    Poulmagollum - Ballyshanny  
Solo.

Lift off Martin Droney into Kilfenora. Dropped off near a farmyard. Got directions from the farmer; nice guy. Ten-minute walk north to a crossroads; stream sink on the right as the road bends northwest: in dense foliage. Laddered the pitch; large cascade entering. Found the crawl to the rift as described; squeezes the limit for the chest. Slippery climb down to the sump pool, ideally needs a handline. No sign of reported boulders; perhaps water level is elevated following the recent rainfall. Quiet roads; managed to get a lift at Ben's Cross. Cracking night for New Year's Eve's.