

1988

9th January Wookey Hole

Martin Bishop,

An evening trip; once again taking advantage of winter visibility; Chamber 3 to 9:1, Coases Loop and straight to Chamber 22. Returning searched the boulder floor, again.

10th January Wookey Hole

Dave Pike

DP wanted company for a dive; Chamber 3 to 9:2, followed DP to the Slot, then on to 20; gave DP plenty of space to do what he wished, as far as he wished.

16th January Swildons Hole, Assistance

John Compton, Ian Parsons

Exiting the round trip, 12:30, encountered a party of six; some obviously very cold: water conditions high. One woman unhappy having just descended the Water Shute. Cautioned the leader, unwise to continue in such conditions. The three females with him, at the bottom of the Water Shute, were shivering; one violently. As there was no clothing above the collar of the thin, green plastic boiler suit, asked Lynda, what was she wearing; she replied, a swimsuit. This caused the other females to voice their unhappiness. Ignoring the leaders' daft comments; swiftly pushed the group up the climb, out to the surface. Changing in the barn, watched the display as three very pissed off women screamed at their leader, who very wisely sat in the locked car. Met with Jonny Shaw and Sid Perou, asking for help with the movie tomorrow.

17th January Swildons Hole

Many, many people

Sid's movie extravaganza moved to Swildons, SP asked for assistance carrying kit to II, great to catch up with Rupert, Fred and Sid; a long day.

Illegible entries

13th February Wookey Hole

Mike McDonald

Training for MM, resurgence to Chamber I, instructing line laying; slow and methodical is good.

14th February Swildons Hole

Mike McDonald

Training for MM, single kit, free diving to IX, replaced rope in six; MM composed. Let MM lead the way there and back.

20th February Port-yr-Ogof

Mike McDonald

Training for MM; Tradesman's to rawlbolt, to Cwmbran entrance; returning the same route. Minor issues with buoyancy control in the strong current near the pot. A good experience where unexpected conditions approach a difficult to control situation.

21st February Bridge Cave – Little Neath

Mike McDonald

Training for MM. Uneventful dive through sump I; completed the round trip: water high in the canal.

27th February Peak Cavern

Martin Bishop, John Kelly, Geoff Pickering

A late start owing to a very late session in the Peak: few survivors. Cracking trip in to Great Cascade; other chambers and Ink sump pool.

28th February Knotlow - Hillocks

Martin Bishop, Derek (Teapot) Stables, Geoff Pickering, John Kelly

Handy having someone in the Team who knows the way; DS had rigged Knotlow waterfall pitch. Abseiled Hillock, exited by ladder from Knotlow: nice finish to the weekend.

12th March Pegasus AGM and Haddon Hall Stomp

Pauline Cronin et al.

A fabulous, riotous affair at the Haddon; Hut and barn packed; stopped with many others in Paul and Judd's place, 32 Green Lane, Buxton.

19th March GB, RESCUE - Wookey

Martin Bishop

In the BEC; about to leave for Wookey: called to GB to assist a female with a suspected busted leg. Set up a hauling party at the waterfall pitch whilst the casualty was being prepared. Place in the hauling party, a minor issue; un-lifeline, Jim Smart, Stuart MacManus and PC required to clamber about the pitch guiding the stretcher among numerous obstructions; with such a large group the woman was soon brought to surface. Carried on to Wookey, kitted up with sevens; the plan to test new light containers. Made of solvent weld plastic pipe, fitted switch and plugged the cable gland. Secured the three canisters to cast iron sash window weights, leaving them on a line secured in the Slot. Plan to retrieve them next week.

1st April Swildons

Martin Bishop

Work increasingly frantic; arranged Easter off. Talked MB into a XII trip; planned to use his Seba bottle and a two litre, for the trip. For insurance, suggest MB replace both "O" rings and cleaned the seatings. Tested the high-pressure seal whilst drinking tea; all good. Free dived to nine; standing in the IX pool MB turned on his bottle, as he fitted his mask, experienced a loud bang accompanied with screaming from a high-pressure leak. Very little air lost, MB replaced "O" ring with spare and continued. Exiting the X pool MB said it had blown again and that he had no spare. Used one of PC's, continued to XII. Concerned of the loss of air, neither had the urge to climb Desolation Row; uneventful exit. Got Roger Dors to measure the O rings; though exactly the same size, MB's seems of a much softer material. Cracking curry in Wells and a fine night in the Hunters

2nd April Tunnel Cave, Dan-yr-Ogof, Wales

Phil Romford, Ian Caldwell, Mike McDonald, Martin Grass

Straight forward through trip; no issues with descent of the pitch: traversing ever a pain.

3rd April St. Cuthberts
Arthur Griffin, Mike McDonald, Martin Grass
Pleasant enough trip to places numerous with their many names.

8th April West Virginia, USA
Stuart McManus, Mike McDonald.
A fortnight of fun, including involvement with an insane caver who screamed up the shaft to “Cut the Rope”: an amiable Ex-CIA operative, cave owner: turning up at the “Greenbrier Grotto Meet” with cases of beer, to be told sharply, this is a training event, and we’re tea total. After drinking several pitchers of “this is really weak beer”, drove into the night, the wrong side of the highway, much to the annoyance of other road users: MM arrested by Police Officer K Rudd, on a trumped up, bullshot traffic offense. Confronted, the judge gave the team the option, “Pay a fine or He spends the night in jail”. Decisions, decisions, decisions....

Luray Caverns; show cave
Skyline Caverns; show cave
Organ Cave; with Greenbrier Grotto members
Friars Hole system; with Greenbrier Grotto members
Scott Hollow Cave
Roaring Water Hole
Warm River Cave
Norman Cave
Unnamed sink near Norman Cave: exploration.
Unnamed pothole near Norman Cave: exploration.

25th April Wookey Hole
K Wills, Phil Churches, Tony Boycott
A dive to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the eventual passing of the resurgence: frolics and champagne. Went to the Slot to pick up the light containers, left the 19th March. Opened in the car park; none of the tissues packed within were wet or damp. Hooray.

Illegible entries

28th May Smallclough, Nenthead, Cumbria
Cheg Chester, Jarratt
An eight-hour tour for Toe, in through Smallclough up into Middleclough, Ballroom Flats, into Cowhill Cross vein. Toe beside himself with delight at the extent and superb condition of the many features and items. To complete the trip nipped into Rampgill to show Toe, Brewery Shaft; now approaching delirious, enjoyed a fine evening, starting in The Miners, finishing in The Crown; a cracking night.

29th May Killhope Lead Museum - Park Level Mine
Toe and Jane Jarratt, Cheg and Aileen Chester, Pauline Cronin
All the team set off early for a look around the vast expanse of the outdoor mining museum features, including the Park Level Mine portal; a superb area.

29th May Brownley Hills Mine, Nenthead, Cumbria
Cheg Chester, Jarratt
Though under a little pressure to return home, (four hours to Nottingham, six to Mendip), squeezed in a trip to check the status of CC’s and Laurence Hurt’s dig. Beyond

the dig the passage is wide open with very deep water. Lack of time stopped the trip two hundred metres beyond the breakthrough point; the way on is wide open; as discussed, the potential huge. For most of the trip, deep water meant swimming, (TJ recon a mile), light failure going in added to the ability to cave in Braille.

Undated, Hunters Lodge

Approached by Jarratt. Asked to consider become an M.R.O Warden. Commented "Do they know what they're getting?" Felt a little bit of pride; acknowledged by peers.

11th June Swanage Pier, Devon

Mike McDonald, Dave Pike

Persuaded to dive on the reputed remains of a WWI U-boat; in fact an old dredger.

Wandered off to the coastline to investigate the geology, it might be limestone, but?

25th June Bowery Corner Swallet

Chris (Blitz) Smart, Mark (Gonzo) Lumley, Jarratt

A large team of people; unfortunately, Jarratt was firing on three cylinders, ill. Focused removing debris and water from the rift; tough work, though immensely enjoyable in excellent company: unceasing laughter. PC brought two hand pumps, via a hose pumped the standing water into five-gallon containers which were then poured into a seemingly, carefully prepared reservoir. Unfortunately, the plastic lining had been damaged and leaked badly, containers were scrapped for. The situation became hysterical. Suggested spreading the water over a wide area in the adjacent dry field, fifty metres from any stream channel; this worked. All debris removed amounting to six sledges worth, and thirty x five-gallon containers of water, (150 gallons/750 litres/ $\frac{3}{4}$ of a tonne). The way on is a mud choked rift which has a small airspace, hence the draught, Jarratt proposes creating a small chamber in the narrow crawl from which to progress forward from.

26th June Bowery Corner Swallet

Jarratt, Chris (Zot) Harvey, Mark (Gonzo) Lumley

Whilst ML cleared the debris created by Jarratt, preparing to fit the charge to the pillar, completed the reservoir overflow hole through the concrete pipe.

1st July Wookey Hole

Nick Geh, Bob Drake many others.

The swimming pool remains closed so training in the resurgence; NG ran a line around the right side of the pool conducting lost line drill, whilst only two of the others ran out another line through to chamber I

8th July Swildons Hole

Solo

10pm. unrolled a coil of polyethylene pipe across the field; a lot of effort threading it down to the water chamber, then to the top of the old forty. Scampered back and forth adjusting heights and levels and form a catch pond to collect the stream flow. Secured the pipe with mud. Positioned end to issue water directly above the Forty, invisible from below; cut off surplus, removed from cave. Ideally, should surprize and delight.

9th July Swildons Hole

Stuart MacManus, Martin Grass

SM rang saying he and MG were rigging the Forty with ladder, for the 20th anniversary of its passing; accompanied them; said nothing. Both delighted to see water cascading once more. Asked them keep it secret: especially from Jarratt.

10th July Swildons Hole; 20th Anniversary of Great Flood

Cast of thousands

Jarratt beside himself; delighted at the “cascade”. Though suspected, would not admit installation, blamed the Faerie Folk.

13th July Swildons Hole

Solo

Trip to recover pipework installed for the celebrations; surprized to find it gone. No sign of it, anywhere. Neither at any of the huts: some sods nicked it.

14th August Wookey Hole

Controller Pat Cronin

Dave Pike, Pete Brooke, Nick Pollard, Mike McDonald and Sebastian Prince

Management requested confine training to the resurgence as filming was taking place in Chamber 3. Had each diver lay line around the pool and through to chamber 1; also had them survey and recover each other’s lines. Some have difficulties with task loading.

17th August Wookey Hole

Mike McDonald,

The aim, to 20. However, the visibility was so good, suggested take the opportunity to search between 3 and 9:1, for the metal route markers and original copper cable guide line; found a two-foot length of the original, and tag; nice. Presented to Barney Butter.

23rd August Wookey Hole

Martin Bishop

Evening dive to 22; visibility poor.

25th August Wookey Hole

Pete Brookes, Mike McDonald

Training dive for PB and MM: uneventful trip to chamber 20.

31st August Wookey Hole

Mike McDonald

Training for MM: Chamber 2 to 9:2, via Coases Loop Extension.

4th September Wookey Hole

Controller; assisted by Dave Pike

Sebastian Prince, Mike McDonald, Steve Milner, Phil G Churches, Malcolm Foyle and Rich Websell

Most dived resurgence to chamber 1; MM between 3 and 9:1 and 9:2 to 20.

Note some trainees are developing their skills and confidence. Others seem not so much, tending to talk a great deal rather than actually conduct dives.

7th September Wookey Hole

Mike McDonald

Training for MM. Chamber 2 to 9:2, Coases Loop Extension; laying line and searching for lost kit, blacked out mask tasking. Explained Boyles, Charles and Daltons Laws.

9th September Wookey Hole

Controller; Dave Pike, Nick Pollard and Phil G Churches

Sherpas K Wills and Mike McDonald

Requested PGC assist with changing light bulbs in Chamber four. Task complete; NP and PGC, 3 to 9:1. NP had a minor issue when line caught around his kit; a little phased, but recovered well; good experience. DP and PC to 20.

17th September Wookey Hole

Oliver Wells, Mike McDonald

Chamber 2 to 9:2 via Loop Extension, to the "Slot"; a delighted OW surfaced smiling.

Illegible entries

2nd October Wookey Hole

Mike McDonald

For training, directed MM repair belays from 3 to 9:2. Checked same; very tidy.

Illegible entries

22nd October Rampgill, Nenthead, Cumbria

Dave Gough, Cheg Chester, Laurence Hurt, Nigel Burns

Cracking wander guided by CC and LH, superb examples of mining skills, methods and long-term planning. Excellent night in the Crown.

23rd October Smallclough and Killhope Mine, Nenthead, Cumbria

Dave Gough, Cheg Chester, Laurence Hurt, Nigel Burns

CC supplied in-depth knowledge of this vast lead complex; another lengthy trip. En-route Bristol stopped again at the Killhope Mining Museum and superb water wheel.

29th / 30th October Somerset Dive Camp; Croydon Hut, Ystradfellte

Mostly Somerset Section, with Mark Madden, (NS): Martyn Farr made a passing visit. Two-day event planned around the Silica Mines, Porth-yr-Ogof and White Lady Cave. The suggestion of an organized "Dive Camp", met with enthusiasm. Many delighted at the opportunity to visit other sites: remain surprised how few divers - cavers travel between the various caving areas in the UK.

6th November Wookey Hole

Mike McDonald, Dave Horsley, Steve Roberts, Phil G Churches, K Wills, Mark Lunn, (WS), and Robin Brown; sherpa Carol Tapley.

MM to 20 via shallow route to check lines, DH and SR to 20 via deep route to check lines, KW and PC 3 to 9:2 photography, RB to 20 and Edmonds Rift, ML and PGC resurgence to Chamber I line laying practise.

18th November Bowery Corner

Jarratt

A good size stream chilled the digger, clearing the debris from Tony Boycotts recent charge. Jarratt took a shift laying a further charge; the place draughting well.

25th November Wells Natural History and Archaeological Society, Centenary Dinner
Pauline Cronin, Martin Grass, Glenys Grass and many more
Wells Natural History and Archaeological Society 100th year; speakers a little stuffy, fair meal, headed to the Hunters, cracking night.

29th November Tynings Barrow
Martin Bishop
Late start; steady trip to the bottom; the brand-new troll suit torn asunder in minutes.

4th December Wookey Hole
Controllers, Dave Pike, Pat Cronin
Sebastian Prince, Mike McDonald, Mark Lunn, Murray Knapp and Keith Savory
KS & SP in the resurgence pool; linelaying
MM 9:2 to 20 to 9:1 then back via Coase's loop extension to 9:2 securing belays
SP joined MM 9:2 to 20.
ML, MK and KS from 3 to 9:1 then via Coase's loop to 9:2.

21st December Wookey Hole
Mike McDonald
Found a few belays adrift, which MM dealt with. In 20, whilst MM climbed out to explore, installed two rawlbolts for a washing line, from which to suspend kit. After two hours digging returned and dived to 22. Surprized at MM's gas consumption; discussed the situation.

30th December Ogof Ap Robert, Trefil
Martin Grass, Mike McDonald, Stuart MacManus, Jeff Hill, John Parker, Joss? Tim Large, Steve Milner.
This unstable, boulder ruckle of a cave dig has been superbly engineered by JH and JP due to its immense potential; an excellent job. Split into two parties; one visited the lower streamway, the other to the present dig: here a charge was laid and fired. Both groups exchanged places, superb. Swiftly back to Wells for drink, a curry and more fun.

31st December Wookey Hole
Mike McDonald, Pete Bolt
PB operated independently, testing his rocket tube. Uneventful dive to 20; PB returning to base. In 20 MM and PC prospected digging sites; several places have promise. Near the "Green Lake", is an aven with a rope, likely the one Rich Websell presently scaling, if so, am sure it's one MB climbed a good while back. After two hours returned to the pool; kitting up MM used a surprising 20 ats doing so. Dived on to 22, in crystal visibility; searched among the huge boulders, littering the floor, for any sense of a current; none found, as yet: superb session. A cracking night at the Hunters.