

## 2011

1<sup>st</sup> January Kilcorney One  
Solo

First of the year. Called to the Davoren's, no one about. Left greeting card. Pleasant trip around the upper series; a grotty enough place.

2<sup>nd</sup> January Northwest Slieve Elva  
Cheg Chester,

Prospecting; located a small, active sink, just west of Pollapooka 3, on the west of the green road, elevation approaching 870ft. The area needs much more attention.

3<sup>rd</sup> January Doughbranneen, Black Head  
Solo

Prospected northwest of the summit, a small enough area before the steep edge to the road; several minor sites noted. Nothing too inspiring.

8<sup>th</sup> January Poulgonzo  
Robin Sheene

Asked by Clare Caving Club to advise on their dig's safety. The narrow, north rift has been dug down vertically, passing two, now unstable boulders, (washing machine size). Viewed from below, digging has created a significant gap underneath; serious concerns crawling back up over them. The entire upper slope to the entrance urgently requires stabilizing before removing both these boulders. A place with prospects; the recently entered, southern development is some ninety metres deep.

9<sup>th</sup> January Inagh River, Ennistymon  
Barry Sudell

Negotiated numerous silt banks at low tide and water flow conditions, turned about near Ennistymon. No limestone observed anywhere along either bank; cobbles examined were either a form of sandstone or a hard shale.

11<sup>th</sup> January Poul Eilbh - Poulmagollum  
Solo

SRT refresher; two ups and three downs; left kit tied to the rope. Low stream, no one about; free climbed the small entrance.

20<sup>th</sup> January – 24<sup>th</sup> February Panama  
James Cobbett, Roger Day, Dig Hastilow  
Panama (See Report)

Train to Dublin, stopped overnight at Parnell Rd. Taxi 03.30. (21/1/11) KLM to Schipol, met Dig at departure gate E4; boarded. A comfortable trip to Tucumen. Picked up by JC and MC, straight to the Explorers bar, Casa Cobbett; quite a catchup session. Panama 2011 report on Pegasus website. A cracking trip with fine pals.

27<sup>th</sup> February Doughbranneen, Black Head  
Solo

Returned to the northwest area, more minor sites found; little to enthuse about.

1<sup>st</sup> March Poulnagrai  
Solo

Weather awful, driving rain. Bumped into Jim Fitzgerald. Stream a bit high; so wet crawls. To sump 1, slow trip out; the traverse tiring on the arms; getting old?

20<sup>th</sup> March Poulgonzo

Eoin? Robin Sheene, Ralph?

Carried over scaffold poles, after reviewing the scaffold framework assisted RS with lifting out some boulders. Carried over five more poles, used a line to drag them.

23<sup>rd</sup> March Poulgonzo

Robin Sheene, Terry Casserly, Ralph?

Continued to remove floor consisting manageable boulders and scattering of gravel, concerned about the scaffolding methods. Suggest the top section, rock etc. removed to reduce weight; some naturally reticent to do so following the effort so far. Pointed out it will end in tears.

13<sup>th</sup> April Poulgonzo

Robin Sheene, Quentin Cowper, Ralph? John Sweeney

18:40, did several trips taking over acro's, RS & R below. Began to remove the steep fill at the entrance. QC arrived, insisting a Z rig be set up as part of a hauling system; not a good an idea in the circumstances; with men working below. Respectfully tried advise, acro props have no strength, used as lateral supports; robustly informed by QC otherwise. JS arrived 21:00, PC departed 21:15.

22<sup>nd</sup> April Pouldubh

Martin Grass, Martin (Basher) Baines, Martel Baines, Sally Glanville

Photographic trip for MBB; to the old terminal choke; low water conditions.

25<sup>th</sup> April Poulmagollum

Solo

Through Muddy Links to Branch Passage cascade; pull through on the pitch, out via main junction, water levels normal.

26<sup>th</sup> April Fergus River Cave; I.C.R.O Callout

02:00. phone call from Robin Sheene, (sherpa), reporting Artur Koslowski overdue, diving sump 3. Met Conor McGrath at the Doolin Rescue Store; took ICRO trailer to the cave; CMcG assembled comms: arrived as AK was climbing over the gate.

27<sup>th</sup> April Poulgonzo

Colin Bunce, Terry Casserly, Robin Sheene; later Adam de Ayto & John Sweeney

Moving debris from base of shaft; the sloping rift is assuming a stable roof. Strongly suggested, at the very least, the quality of the scaffolding desperately requires timber wedges fitted as tell-tales indicating any movement.

22<sup>nd</sup> May Poulgonzo

Tony Boycott, Quentin Cowper, John Duncan

Only four; lifted a little debris and capped a few rocks. Increasingly concerned about safety; the floor of the dig is now just below the bottom edge of the dodgy scaffolding; some receptive. Expression of concern perceived as a personal affront. The individual overlooking PC was asked by the Clare Caving Club member to advise on safety.

25<sup>th</sup> May Pouldubh

Tony Boycott, Pete Glanville

An evening of photography; cave quite wet, steady trip to the old terminal choke.

2<sup>nd</sup> June Poulfaoicaislean

Cheg Chester, Tony Boycott, Pete Glanville

Began belting the boulders using a 14lb sledge; some damage. TB & PG arrived, drilled boulder to plug and feather; successful until the battery ran flat. To the

Roadside micro brewery; very nice ale; TB hopes to drill more holes tomorrow. CC looks really well, the best since surgery.

6<sup>th</sup> June Cullaun 5

Tony Boycott, Pete Glanville

In via "Main Entrance"; this area of forestry just harvested; steady trip to Red Carpet Series. PG took lots of photos: Roadside for more decent ale... very nice.

9<sup>th</sup> June Upper Poulmagollum

Solo

Laddered entrance; landing in small stream flow; to Pollbinn and back.

12<sup>th</sup> June Poulfaicaislean

Solo

Spent an hour scrounging a trailer; back home for pallets, then back to dig. CC rang to say it's wet; delayed digging until rain eased. Next visit, likely Thursday.

18<sup>th</sup> June Cullaun o

Solo

Undergrowth quite dense; issues finding the entrance. Went too far, found Cullaun I. Noted ladder in the entrance. Likely belonging to the two parked cars. Headed northwest about one hundred and fifty metres, encountered a shallow gully, turned north, found a small canyon. Fixed handline to a piece of rebar. Descended, canyon, tight in lots of places; underground, found daylight entering; progress halted among loose boulders. Followed general direction across surface; found another canyon. Got underground; followed a passage, along a narrow rift; stopped at decorations: far too nice to damage; nice trip. Changing, saw others appear; all University College Dublin. Met them in O'Connor's, for a cracking session.

19<sup>th</sup> June Coolagh River Cave

John O'Dwyer, Joe McCarthy, Enda Fitzsimmons, Aoife O'Callaghan

Only four of the eight turned up, the others suffering. Nice to have company. Their plan; enter and exit Polldonough. Suggested exit Pouldonough South, expanding experience and knowledge. Nipped home for a ladder; scampered down Pouldonough South, rigged pitch, descended. Met them upstream of the little pot in Polldonough passage; turned and followed them to the sump. JO'D the only one having done the cave before; minor issues with EF in the canal. Until shown the water is often slightly shallower at the sides. At the pitch, each had issues climbing the ladder; having never used one. A little spooked in the canal near the field entrance, but happy knowing the surface was close. A nice trip.

30<sup>th</sup> June Poulfaicaislean

Cheg Chester, Barry Sudell

Set up the borrowed generator and drill; CC's mining gads worked supremely well, demolishing a good bit of the Monster, partly destroyed last year.

2<sup>nd</sup> July Poulmagollum, ICRO Rescue practice

From near the entrance to Gunman's began to erect a Tyrolean. After installing the bolts changed plan to a suspended rope traverse with floating pulley. Utilized three, one metre steel stakes to secure the west side belay, east side secured around the tree above Upper Poulmagollum entrance. Repeatedly hauled up stretcher and brought it to the west side of the shaft. Stretcher laden with rope bags; exercise successful, all present saw and used the system.

4<sup>th</sup> July Cullaun 2  
Cheg Chester

A pleasant, steady trip to the terminal pitch; CC delighted at his improvement.

10<sup>th</sup> July Cullaun 5  
Cheg Chester

A trip to locate the passage to the other entrance for a through trip; found it and wriggled along for some 50 metres, noting its increase in size. Sharp floor scallops made for a painful traverse.

13<sup>th</sup> July Poulfaoicaislean  
Cheg Chester

Arrived first, set up the generator, began drilling. CC arrived soon after and stacked the deads. Dispatched the rest of the boulder using the gads. An excellent evening's work clearing all but the last three lumps prior to the others arriving from the UK.

15<sup>th</sup> July Poulfaoicaislean  
Mark Lumley, Mandy, Matt, Pete Eckford

The Team had dug out a lot, exposing a hole in the north side. PC removed a few stones and exposed what appears to be solid rock; if only this is true.

16<sup>th</sup> July House warming

Organized by Mac Big Al & Sue, RatArse and Gill, Paul and Judd, the Cobbett's, the Collett's, Nigel, Conor, Ray, Roger & Rita Day, Cheg, Eckford, Mark Lumley, Mandy, Matt; McGann's supplied all drink and catering; refusing take payment.

18<sup>th</sup> July Poulmagollum – Knockuansmountain - McGann's  
James Cobbett, Stuart McManus, Nigel Burns, Roger Day, Paul Thompson, Cheg Chester

Nice walk inspecting entrances; overcast, but stayed dry, three hours to the bar.

20<sup>th</sup> July Poulfaoicaislean  
Cheg Chester, Tony Boycott

Delivered pallets and commenced installing them as outer shoring, joined soon by CC, later by TB. The whole affair looking tidier and safer, able to accept a vertical pipe if dig successful or shaft deepens significantly.

21<sup>st</sup> July Poulfaoicaislean  
Tony Boycott

Continued squaring and levelling up the shoring; found large boulder; TB plug and feathered it, remaining bit requires a large crow bar. On departure met Joe's son John, explained dig, he seemed content. He's an American Lawyer: potential issues?

22<sup>nd</sup> July Poulfaoicaislean  
Tony Boycott

Another two-hour visit, the boulder previously dealt with by TB removed, in two pieces. The section remaining pried out, TB used the feathers to reduce it too. Had a look behind the shoring, deciding leave well alone; stability questionable. Removal of this boulder means the base of the shoring is now virtually level with the depth reached by the others. A large boulder removed from behind the shoring, so it's ready to be lowered that bit further; top of the pallets is now 1/2 metre below the working area, need more pallets to rise the shoring above ground level.

24<sup>th</sup> July Fergus River Cave

Robin Sheene, Ralph, Tony Boycott; later Dave Drew

RS & Ralph? to No Mercy Hall aven, TB & PC walked the surface area to locate.

14:01, located signal; established an axis. After ten minutes lost signal, underground battery likely failing; couldn't get a second axis. First cross, estimated GPS position. A small hazel tree, set against the wall, appears/maybe directly above the beacon.

24<sup>th</sup> July Poulfaoicaislean

Cheg Chester

18:00. TB called in enroute from another Fergus radio location attempt. Fitted the rest of the shoring after CC assembled the inner frame. Locking wedges installed to firm up the entire assembly. Screw gun batteries low; not all fixings were secured.



Photo Pauline C

“Big Al”, “Mac”, “Thomo”, Pat, “RatArse”, Roger Day

25<sup>th</sup> July Poulfaoicaislean

Cheg Chester

Arrived early to complete securing of pallets, joined soon after by CC. TB dropped by and left his shovel before going on to test the radio location gear prior to another trip to Fergus. Both CC & PC somewhat miffed at the off-square appearance of the pallets, excavated around the base of the shoring, managing moving the entire unit some five inches east with crow bars and brute strength. Vertical timber rails installed between the shaft and the shoring to assist vertical downward travel. The upper pallets were loosened and re-fixed to accommodate squaring up. Once completed, discovered a large boulder within the lower spoil area had caused this mis-alignment. This was removed with others during the shift. The short shovel TB left is excellent for this sort confined work. Will replace his lost one during the visit to the UK next month. A lot of spoil removed, considering only two at work. Shoring was sunk a further ten inches tonight. To the Roadside, met John Duncan and friend.

28<sup>th</sup> July Fergus River Cave  
Tony Boycott, Quentin Cowper  
Further attempt to radio-locate No Mercy Aven; successful. Demonstrated to QC how system worked.

29<sup>th</sup> July Poulfaicaislean  
Cheg Chester, Tony Boycott, Barry Sudell  
Dug beneath the pallets, eventually dropped them level with the floor board; a depth gained of some 14 inches. In the course of digging, exposed two sections of rock, apparently solid; both of light grey nature. In contrast to the darker cobbles; TB away early tomorrow so dropped him off and sped to the Roadside where CC & BS were established. Concern arose about the eastern side collapsing into the gap behind the shoring, CC & PC to return the weekend and install a further barrier or support.



Poulfaicaislean: Pat securing shoring with Toe overseeing work.

31<sup>st</sup> July Poulfaicaislean  
Cheg Chester  
Picked up CC, 10:15, armed with chainsaw arrived at the dig and commenced clearing the area; installing sections of telegraph poles to brace the pallets from impending slump of the eastern cobble and mud slope, tidying the surface around the top of the shoring. Two other sections of pole were installed to surround/support the top; this should also assist installation of a decent working platform. To the UK the 4<sup>th</sup> Aug; suggested tomorrow to expose the rock to better assess what its status is.

1<sup>st</sup> August Poulfaicaislean  
Cheg Chester  
Fixed slats to assist vertical hauling up the south side of the shoring also secured intermediate struts, cross bracing the shoring span. Exposed limestone block which with weathered surface. Still removing cobbles. CC took a photo of the shaft once

work was finished; cobbles are appearing and occasionally mud of a much denser consistency, oddly enough. Likewise, the occasional appearance of a gritty sandy deposit. CC did his back whilst hauling; should have kept an eye on him. Went to the Roadside; very nice session.

5<sup>th</sup> August Cathedral Cave, Dan-yr-Ogof.  
Martyn Farr, Helen Ryder and many more.  
Best man for MF on his marriage to HR, in the grandeur of the cave, to the musical accompaniment of the waterfall. Surprized MF & HR appearing in Irish Coast Guard uniform. A great day, full of fun and laughter.

14<sup>th</sup> August Poulfaoicaislean  
Cheg Chester  
Someone has dug under the northern wall; leaving a large unsupported cavity which has subsided. CC dug; PC hauled. A good bit cleared. Five inches of rain this month; two inches last night. This area doesn't look at all good; a lot moved; sense problems.

15<sup>th</sup> August Poulfaoicaislean  
Cheg Chester  
Dropped shoring a further four inches; further concerns over north side stability.

18<sup>th</sup> Aug Poulfaoicaislean  
Cheg Chester  
Borrowed Mattie's trailer, delivered four more pallets, installed same, secured all together with the timber locking wedges CC had prepared. Removed a big boulder and a couple of buckets worth of debris; plan another visit Saturday night.

20<sup>th</sup> August Poulfaoicaislean  
Cheg Chester  
Completed installation of more bucket runners and locking wedges. CC commenced digging, the space where the boulder was cleared Thursday inspected and a sizable space noted. Further preparation for dropping the shoring down, exposed more holes allowing a visual into the cavity; being some 2m long x 1m high x 1.5 wide. Photos were taken at arm's length through the gaps. This area is 0.75m below where the others exposed the first cavity in the soil-cobble margin. More spoil removed and stacked. The shoring constantly driven downward using the telegraph pole thumper. After 150mm it caught against some of the other timber, set down the side to align the pallets. This firmly stopped the pallets, cleared debris, dropping a further 50mm. Reviewed progress; will return Sunday 18:00. Found Joe G. cutting his grass, happy to see us. However, exhibited concern regarding people falling down holes; showed SUI insurance card, Joe happier; perhaps his son John, spoke of possible litigation? Most satisfying is the appearance of what seems a solid roof with scalloping.

21<sup>st</sup> August Poulfaoicaislean  
Cheg Chester  
Installed next set of cross braces to deal with obvious pressure, continued exposing the cavity on the north side. Careful inspection showed the previous "solid roof" is, in fact, another very large, (two tonne?), boulder supported by sod all. Secured shaft lid, went to the Roadside; considered options. Intend to drop the floor at least a further 0.6m. Hope to enter firmer or more stable ground. If not, will need fill the shaft, as this area is too far above stable ground; the task to reach it, is too great for two men.

31<sup>st</sup> August (2008)

Lost Jarratt

1<sup>st</sup> September Ardnaglasha  
Cheg Chester

To check a cavity CC found last week. An interesting, developed joint; it may repay a dig in the floor just inside the entrance.

5<sup>th</sup> September I.C.R.O Dive Officers Incident Log/Report

Gardai Incident No 8236198

Legend

CMcG	Conor McGrath	ICRO Warden
BMcC	Brian Cotter	ICRO Warden
PC	Pat Cronin	ICRO Warden
Dive Officer	Pat Cronin	
FG	Frank Griega	
JW	Jim Warny	
JS	John Sharry	
RS	Rick Stanton	
JM	Jason Mallinson	
JV	John Volanthon	
RS	Robin Sheen	
GG	Gerard Gobalek	

5<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

PC received a phone call from JW around 21:00. JW had received a call from MR and GG. AK had dived that day at 15:00 and had not returned. Further, that he, JW, was awaiting a babysitter prior to driving to Gort to diving and investigate. Called by MR informing JW dived at 23:00, surfacing at 01:03 on the 6<sup>th</sup> Sept, without success. PC regularly phoned CMcG to update, requesting alert BMcC and I.C.R.O. Team.

6<sup>th</sup> September

JW rang PC at 01:10 to inform there was no sign of AK to -48m. PC rang CMcG to update, requesting CMcG alert Brian Cotter and place others on Standby.

PC, CMcG & BMcC arrived at Pollonora 10, late morning, having met earlier at the Doolin Rescue Store to collect the trailer and equipment.

Mid-morning. PC, CMcG & BC arrived on site with ICRO trailer, where several other unknown persons were present. CMcG and BC asked PC to take charge. Secured site. Interviewed all present, apparently AK's associates. An eastern-European, non-diver, was particularly distressed, PC checked if the others knew him, only then sending him home. Informed they believed he had videoed AK's preparations. Sent them home to rest, prepare kit and standby, whilst the overall situation was assessed. Asked CMcG to handle the press and Brian Cotter to act as support manager.

Prepared logistics for JW dive.

JS & FG dived to stage two bottles at the shaft, circa 350/400m at -34m for JW's dive later on and to search from and to surface from those points and not beyond.

JW to search as far as practicable, once others had returned to surface, on confirming having accomplishing their allotted tasks.

JW located AK at 850m; -52m near the restriction AK intended pushing. The missing person incident immediately downgraded to recovery by the Gardai Superintendent.

	In	Out	Estimated dive time	Equipment
JS	13:59	15:23	2 hours	Rebreather
FG	14:03	16:05	2 hours	Open circuit Trimix
JW	16:25	18:33	2-4 hours	Rebreather



7<sup>th</sup> September Gort Gardai Station, Co. Galway

CMcG, BMcC & PC, Superintendent Pat Murray

Met with Superintendent Pat Murray; following AK found deceased, experienced a change in attitude of SPM, who seemed out of his comfort zone. Procrastination by government departments, requesting overseas assistance did not bode well; "this had never happened before in the Republic", (Dave Woods Feb 1981). Finally, go ahead was confirmed by phone, the official request sent to the UK government. Behind the scenes PC spoke to Bill Whitehouse asking availability of RS, JM and JV; knowing they had just returned from Spain; asking as a matter of urgency they travel to Gort. Admitted such to SPM, that JV, RS and JM were already enroute. Superintendent Pat Murray then delivered a serious bollocking for pre-empting an official decision. Took full responsibility as sole culprit. Not important, can live with another bollocking. Returned to site to assess ongoing weather reports, attend to logistics and arrange for new lines through the narrow sections to facilitate AK's recovery.

	In	Out	Estimated Dive Time	Equipment
JW	17:49	17:51	10 minutes	Open circuit air
	17:54	17:57	10 minutes	
	17:58	18:13	30 minutes	

8<sup>th</sup> September

Assembled at Pollonora 10; briefing by PC.

Aim: for JW convey stage bottles as future bail out support: and dive to AK. Attempt preparation for transporting. IF practicable, retrieve any of AK's bottles or computer. For RS & JV to dive on JW's return, moving AK as close as possible toward surface.

	In	Out	Estimated Dive Time	Equipment
JM	12:46	17:16	4 hours ETO 18:00	Rebreather
JW	13:01	13:21	30 minutes	Open circuit air
JW	15:09	15:21	45 minutes	Open circuit air

JW returned with AK's computer, after his second, shorter dive three bottles.

1 x Ali 10L Nitrox	Exhibit PF1
1 x Ali 10L Nitrox	Exhibit PF2
1 x Steel 12L O2	Exhibit PF3
1 x computer	Exhibit PF4

All items of evidence handed over immediately to Sgt Pat Fahy personally by PC. During -6m deco JM passed status of AK to JV & RS, being at 800m at -52m.

	In	Out	Estimated Dive Time	Equipment
RS	17:13	21:23	ETO 20:43	Rebreather
JV	17:21	21:38	ETO 20:51	Rebreather

Visibility horrendous, unacceptably high risk: total loss of visibility between divers; each unable to communicate or read instruments. Divers and PC confer, deciding on one dive/diver per day; but only if the conditions improve; overnight. Otherwise, PC will suspend operations until visibility or weather improves. Concern of approaching westerly, weather pattern. Residual effects of the recent U.S. hurricane. Torrential rain, with associated storm force winds predicted throughout the next six hours.

9<sup>th</sup> September

JV to dive to assess state of visibility to decide on whether to postpone recovery.

	In	Out	Estimated Dive Time	Equipment
JV	12:14	15:34	ETO 16:14	Rebreather

JV reports poor visibility, but of a level where it is just possible to function. JV moved AK to the area of the shaft; quite a remarkable achievement. Increasingly confident of a successful outcome; unless further deterioration of present weather system.

10<sup>th</sup> September

RS to dive today to move AK to the narrow section, where, if successful JM will dive and bring AK to below the entrance pool. Have suggested to JV, RS and JM, that JW brings AK to surface, where JS and FG, in dive kit, will enter and assist extraction. PC believing this simple act will contribute to their future mental wellbeing and recovery.

	In	Out	Estimated Dive Time	Equipment
RS	11:10	12:49	ETO 14:10	Rebreather
JM	15:01	15:32	ETO 16:01	Open Circuit air
JW	15:41	15:43	ETO 15:45	Open circuit air

15:22, PC asked Sgt Fahy to request presence of a doctor for certification of death.

15:30, Stretcher team chosen to convey AK from site depression to Rescue Base.

15:37, PC to cave entrance.

15:43, AK's body brought to surface. PC present.

15:45, AK identified by RS and JW to Garda Sgt Pat Fahy.

15:46, First Doctor, (male), arrived; refused to wait for casualty.

15:48, PC requested of Sgt Fahy the presence of a second Doctor.

15:59, AK arrived incident base; PC asked Sgt Fahy request private ambulance.

16:03, Second Doctor (female), arrived, thanked and accompanied by PC to AK.

16:05, Life confirmed extinct, AK dignity maintained by tent, obscuring view of reporters and public, successfully corralled beyond the farm gate.

16:09, Congratulated, thanked by all present; feel drained, wrung out, emotional.

Instructed the area be cleared; all equipment recovered; pneumatic tents emptied for Civil Defence to recover. Crates of beer and bottles of whisky delivered in person by Gardai Superintendent Pat Murray; instructing drink up and thanks. Loudly adding no cars present here would be stopped that afternoon. Sgt Fahy informed PC of the arrival of AK's mother and sister, arriving from Poland. PC asked could the Gardai driver be instructed to take a long way around, allowing preparation of the site, but particularly for PC to slip away before their arrival, avoiding the emotional upset at being thanked by yet another grieving family; just too much to bear.

National outpourings of sympathy and assistance were overwhelming; though some suggestions for AK's recovery extended from the insane to the ridiculous. These kind well-wishers couldn't comprehend the actual, practical problems of AK's recovery.

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16<sup>th</sup> September Cullaun 2

Barry Sudell

Steady trip to the terminal pot, via the high-level route, out into rain storm; residual effects of Hurricane.

September undated Mullagh Mór

Solo

Prospecting; parked to the west, ascending the eastern flank; cold, blustery day. Encountered a narrow, little used path near summit of col, followed it to the summit, fantastic view. In the area covered there is very little evidence of water flow or cave.

2<sup>nd</sup> October Killa Patch, Atlantic Ocean: Christy Healy's Guinness World Record

Christy Healy

CH previously approached PC to plan logistics for his attempt to swim underwater for ten kilometres, in the shortest possible time.

Started 08:38, position 53° 06.800 N x 009° 27.111W. Weather overcast; rain easing. Sea almost flat calm, Wind SE, veering SSW. Fog; land obscured throughout, until three kilometres off shore. At 7.9k from start, at the Killa patch CH forced abandon attempt due to vomiting. Nutritionists at Galway University had provided incorrect glucose percentages for his high energy drinks. Called boat three for CH be checked over by paramedic, on landing CH exhausted but recovering.

8<sup>th</sup> October Coastline: (Fraggle Rock): (S10d?) (L94)

Solo

Wanted to check the area close to sea level below Poulnafearbui; two ledges exist. On the mid-level, where it becomes narrow, is located a tube. Searched the wider area after taking a map reference; the site all but due west of Poulnafearbui: some three metres to a blockage of clean washed cobbles. Intend to dig, which may depend on the state of sea and tide. Memory suggests have seen this place; years ago.

9<sup>th</sup> October Cullaun 2

Solo

Gale force winds the last three days, brought warm moist air: dense fog throughout the area. High water conditions. The cascades deafening. At the terminal pitch used a thirty-metre hand line; from the bottom the high flow created a superb cascade. Much foam on the sump pool. Some difficulty ascending. Took a gps reading of the entrance to compare with that in the book.

19<sup>th</sup> October Hole, (Fraggle Rock).

Solo

The plan was to examine the blockage of limestone cobbles. Sky cloudless, sunlight dazzling. The site is almost 200 metres west from Poulnafearbui. Crawled into the entrance, throwing cobbles out onto the bench. Gradually the dry stream channel filled up with spoil; dug two metres, over the top of the cobble deposit, exposing a sand and gravel layer beneath. Finished the session converting what was once a wall of cobbles to a slope. The passage appears turning left, to the north. Outside, tidied the area dropping the cobbles into the inter-tidal zone. A cracking trip, a superb area.

23<sup>rd</sup> October Lough Derg, Guinness World Record

Supported Christy Healy swim underwater a total distance of 10.236k in 6hours 21 minutes. Organized gas mixtures and logistics. Discipline among boat crews, faded, understandably, as the day drew on and 10k distance was exceeded. Without prior warning that morning asked to take over navigation as the Navigator failed to appear.

24<sup>th</sup> October Fraggle Rock

Tony Boycott

Took TB to see this site, he is fairly sure he knows it and will check his Logs, it could be S10d? Dug while TB pulled out trays; half an hour of digging just prior to nightfall. Found clay, grit and sand; TB took some to view under his microscope.

28<sup>th</sup> October Fraggle Rock and area

Tony Boycott

TB wanted to confirm ID of holes adjacent Lackglass cave entrance, plus ID another site. TB did the hole near the Tube, confirming an existing hand drawn survey. After a couple of hours ferreting about did another 1/2 hour at the dig.



After removal of the initial cobble blockage, 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2011

29<sup>th</sup> October Fraggle Rock and area

Tony Boycott

Enroute to dig, looked again at another site that appears eroded away by the action of the sea. The Tube does not appear to have been allotted a reference number nor does the site TB went in yesterday.

30<sup>th</sup> October Poulmagrai

Cast of thousands

Tony Seddon and Pete Mackerel to dive a radio locator through to position near lower end of stream passage; UG beacon didn't transmit.

31<sup>st</sup> October Fraggle Rock

Conor McGrath, Tony Boycott

Dug most of the cobbles down to grit bed; abandoned dig once waves began to break over the bench. Found the area, on the lower bench, where spoil was dumped washed clear; likewise, the skip has gone from the dig face without trace.

1<sup>st</sup> November Fraggle Rock

Tony Boycott

Carried on removing grit and smaller cobbles; waves not a problem today. Took skip and draw rope back to truck.



The Good Dr Tony Boycott; Fraggle Rock 29<sup>th</sup> October 2011

2<sup>nd</sup> November Oughtdarra

Cheg Chester

In response to Peter Curtin's observation of caves, went to the second bench to look about. Had previously visited the area December 1999, recording several sites. Building work has occurred in the orchard, it looks very different since then. Located several sites, some remembered, some not. Listed on Gps as Holes 1 to 6, No 7, is a small short tube, unentered but its end visible.

**Hole One** Alt 98 M10388 02540 a manhole sized opening into a stream just below surface, possibly enterable but in pasture land.

**Hole Two** Alt 97 M10374 02530 a rift like opening with a stream heard beneath boulders.

**Hole Three**, Alt 96 Length 6m, M10335 02484 a horizontal tube in a cliff face, Check!!

**Hole Four** Alt 93 M10145 02488 a small opening in bed rock which takes an overflow from the adjacent copse during heavy weather.

**Hole Five** Alt 95 M10117 02393 a small opening where an overflow sinks during heavy weather.

**Hole Six** Alt 91m M10087 02385 a rift opening blocked by boulders, would repay digging.

**Hole Seven** a short, small tube, its possible end visible.

3<sup>rd</sup> November Poulfaicaislean  
Cheg Chester, Tony Boycott

Heavy rain; small stream in the base of the shaft joined by roadway runoff. On arrival CC removed a good bit of spoil. TB was next and dug like a man possessed, exposing a boulder, or possible floor? The stream sinks in the southwest corner and that appears to be the way to go. Plan; return Sunday 10:00 with more shoring to advance a shield above the offset from the main shaft shoring.

4<sup>th</sup> November Fraggie Rock  
Tony Boycott

Picked up TB and straight to site; quite a sizable area now cleared. At five o'clock a fantastic sunset period lit the digging face up: superb.



Poulfaicaislean partly completed

6<sup>th</sup> November Poulfaicaislean  
Cheg Chester, Tony Boycott; later Barry Sudell

Picked up TB and delivered blocks and timber for shoring. Fantastic sunny day; commenced digging and exposed a collection of big rocks, once the loose debris had fallen away. The way is difficult to assess, NW appears to be the only practicable way, owing to the loose nature of the ground. BS arrived at 12:30 as the team packed and prepared to move to the Roadside Bar; bumped into QC and RS.

10<sup>th</sup> November Poulfaicaislean  
Cheg Chester

Decided to have a go at shoring prior to the trip on Sunday; arrived 18:30 to remove lid to find that a massive slump had occurred from the area beneath the original "Boris" on the west side of the shaft. Quite a lot of debris, fallen including several boulders, one of which is immense. Started to dig and haul the debris out but only managed two before CC arrived, at the end of play the area to the northwest was

excavated and a better view obtained. The plan for Sunday, much the same. On reflection the falling debris has made the decision as to the level of shoring, on the other hand, it has exposed several very large boulders that scream respect. Sunday hope to dig down the side of the limestone the shaft has exposed, to follow it around to the N/W and perhaps beneath the ominous Piano Lid.

12<sup>th</sup> November Farm, outside Ennis

Christy Healy, Barry Sudell

Call from CH to inform he had found a resurgence; BS & PC met to look. An ancient walled spring with crystal clear water is situated behind the garden of the farmhouse. The area is at a lower level than the surrounding area, being agricultural. Asked CH to ask around of more holes. Its appearance is not unlike a Holy Well.

13<sup>th</sup> November Poulfaicaislean

Cheg Chester

Arrived early; CC arrived shortly after. Noted the large fractured boulder moved when thumped. CC made another inspection while PC went down the shaft to inspect below. Bad News; the circumstances present a serious problem for shoring. At the moment the shoring is bowing inward with the pressure of the largest boulder, the shoring has not collapsed, because of the cross bracing. Must finally abandon, fill in and make safe. Bugger, bugger, bugger.

18 – 19<sup>th</sup> November Mendip Cave Rescue 75<sup>th</sup> Celebrations

Cast of thousands, a fine time; great pissup.

Spoke to Phil Collett of information on Iceland as Shepton have often been there.

27<sup>th</sup> December Cullaun 2

Cheg Chester

Great trip: high flow rate crashing over the terminal pitch. Fantastic noise level, nice to see CC in great form.

29<sup>th</sup> December Coast (L94)?

Solo

Following various searches and a look see some months before, walked from the “Gate” north to west of Josepha van de Anker’s house. Google Earth suggests a cliff face, which rang true with previous long-distance view from coast walk. Located the house, then dropped over the cliff, something similar hereabouts, possibly from a mid-1990’s visit with Mark Lumley. A choked rift was GPS’d some 20 metres before the cliff was reached. Surprised to find the area not a bench at all but a shallow valley separated from the coastal benches by a long ridge. From one vantage point could make out a silver ribbon, standing water, perhaps a stream? Descending, forced a route through hazel thicket; difficult to penetrate and finally impossible: the “ribbon” still distant. Deteriorating weather and a little frustration forced a trip home.

31<sup>st</sup> December Poulmagollum

Cheg Chester

Last of the year; steady trip to Branch Passage cascade: water levels quite high. The sound reverberating. Great to see Cheg delighted with the trip; called into the bar.