

Squeezes at Jo's flat, 17.10.96

Chris : ' ... but boobs squash, don't they ?'
 Jo : ' Not if the force of gravity is acting against them.'
 PAUSE
 Chris : ' Oh yes they do ... '



Grotte de la Luire

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Draperie de la salle Oscar Descombaz
20/10/96 Le Weekend au Vercors

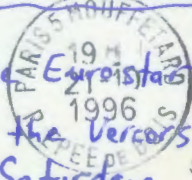
Dear All,

Caught the Eurostars
to Paris, arrived in the Vercors
Friday night Spent Saturday
abseiling and bolting
2500 ft. cliffs looking for
cave entrances in the Gorges de la
Bourne. Found Graham Naylor digging
on the surface at 10 p.m. Today
I borrowed an inflatable boat to
revisit Grotte de Gournier - a classic
trip. Introduced French cavers to
large amounts of malt Whisky.
I return to Paris tonight.

photo: Yann - reproduction interdite. See you Wednesday

Conçu et réalisé dans le Parc Naturel Régional du Vercors.

Yours to the terminal sump, James.



Y. LURAND, St-Martin en Vercors - © 75 45 50 65 • GRAPHIRIN 4 Montagne

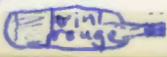
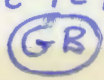


O.U.C.C. logbook.
c/o N. Mumford
53 Cranham St.

Oxford

OX2 6DD

ANGLETERRE



Chris : ' ... but books squash
To : ' ... Not if the force of gravim
PAUSE
Chris : ' Oh yes Harry do

(22)

26/10/96 SWILDONS

James, kev, chad, Bul, Fleur, kev

My 2nd jaunt down Swildons and compared to last weekend it was very dry. In by the short dry way making quite ~~off~~ quick progress via Barne's loop and Trapner's Temple. It was good to see some more of the cave including the pretties. - kev and I took a quick look at sump 1 before we headed out.

Picked up the welly that Arthur lost in the double pots last weekend. Must have looked very silly with a third foot at my waist! The ladder and dinky bits seemed to pose no trouble and I think a good time was had by all.

27/10/96 James → Swildon's Sump 1
It still exists!

3/11/96 W/ed drives over bump, radio ceases to work.
Solution: insert tape, angled obliquely and slightly upwards then jam in place with old bits.

We did 4 more trips over 3 w/ends and took a total of 26 eager young cavers down Swildons.

Thanks to: Will, Olly, Fleur, Alison, Tim, JC,
James, Kevin, Ian, Steve, Jo, John, Rob,
Kevin, Tim, Terry, Katrina and anyone else
who helped by lending gear.

Don't forget the CHICKEN !!!

Wales Weekend at SWCC 9-10 November 1996

Alison's list of instructions

- 1) Here is the logbook - look after it.
- 2) With it should be a) 1 FX2 ^{partly charged} with helmet belonging to JC - please lend this to a particular individual with instructions to look after it and bring it back together
- b) Another FX2, ~~charged~~ charged belonging to Mike Dollinger
- c) A Speleotechnics Unicharger belonging to ME - you can use this to top up the FX2's on Sat. night
- 3) There should be 4 club lights charged, possibly 5 if we have found the other one by then. Don't forget to take the club charger.

4) You will by now (hopefully) have met at 8am at the hut. With you should be Mike Dollinger
Chris Vernon

! needs gear explaining

- Kim Hawkins

Florian - needs boots, hat, belt
~~Terence~~
 Terence
 Richard Popple } Need gear
 Dan Harris }
 Kevin - in his van

Rob Gerritt

(Kevin might be a bit late) - + someone might want to travel over with him ~~so~~ so he doesn't get lonely

5) I'll also leave my copy of laws of S. Wales. Take some gear - ladders, ropes, knots etc just in case

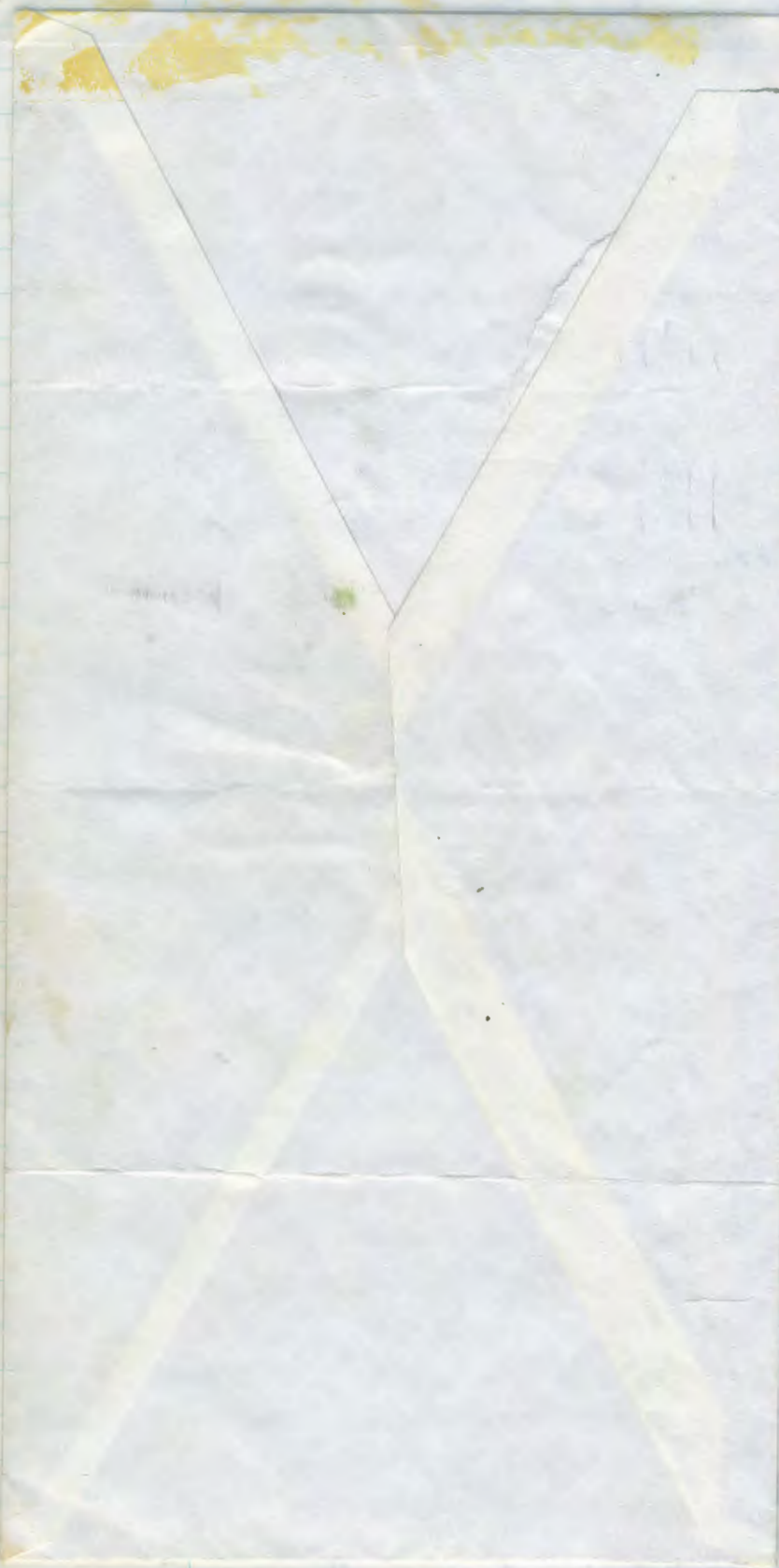
6) The van should be full of food. If not, panic. - the keys will be ~~with~~ with Chris

7) You're staying at SWCC which is at Perwyllt, up the valley from Dragon - Abercraf. Someone will probably have to pay for it - if no-one has a chequebook, fob them off + tell them to phone me.

8) You've got to meet Martin Lowery (a man of great vision and even greater beard) at Whitewalls (Chelsea SS HQ) any time after 11am today (Saturday) - try not to be too late

(174)

9) Here is an envelope full of lovely permits :



a) Agen Allweedd for Sat / Sun.

b) OFD for Sat / Sun

c) Craig a Flynn on Sunday ONLY

NO NOVICES down OFD, or we'll lose our access rights.

What I thought could happen is:

Sat. Martin leads Florian, ~~Melissa~~ Kim Richard + Dan down Aggy with Chris Vernon. Chris then drives the van to SWCC, where he meets up with ...

You, Mike, Terence + Kevin, who has driven over to SWCC straight from Whitewalls after meeting Martin. The four of you will have been in OFD (Terence is not a novice)

Make sure:

i) You remember to take the OFD permit with you, so that you can get a key from SWCC

ii) All those in Aggy have lights - if you're short you can hire some from Dragon in Abercraf

Hon Sec.: Jeff Hill,
11, York Avenue,
Ebbw Vale,
Gwent. NP3 6US

Telephone: E.V. 304413

14/7/96

Dear Nathaniel,

Regarding your request for a trip into OCAF I can offer ~~one of the~~ following dates ~~either~~ Sunday 10th Nov, as requested. ~~or Sunday~~. ~~If either of these are convenient then please reply as soon as possible.~~

The provisos for such a trip are

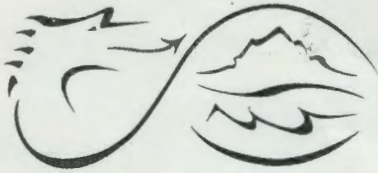
1. Electric lights only
2. Experienced cavers only
3. Only walk on taped footpaths to avoid unnecessary damage to mud, stals, etc.
4. Max^m 6 per party
5. Use your own ropes & ladders.

The meeting place will be at the Old Lime Kilns, approx 1/4 mile west of the Rock & Fountain Inn on the Old Brynmawr - Gydach road at 10.30am.

All the best,

Jeff Hill

I will regard this trip as confirmed unless I hear otherwise off you



CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

OGOF FFYNNON DDU NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

PERMIT TO ENTER OGOF FFYNNON DDU **x 2**

_____ is granted

permission to lead a party of not more than 7 members (inclusive of the leader) of

Oxford University CC into the Ogof Ffynnon ddu National
Nature Reserve on 9th-10th Nov 96

Via the entrance: OFD II (top) / CWM DWR

Signed Sue Mallett Date 6/11/96
(Permit Secretary for the OFD Cave Management Committee.)

ON PRODUCTION OF THIS PERMIT AND THE SIGNED SLIP BELOW, A KEY MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB HEADQUARTERS.

VISITORS ENTER ENTIRELY AT THEIR OWN RISK AND SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS OVERLEAF.

TO BE SIGNED BY THE LEADER:

I have read and understood the conditions overleaf, and I understand that I am responsible for the safety of my party. I have made the members of my party aware of the conditions of entry.

Signed _____ of _____ club

Date of Visit _____

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS

1. UNLESS the SWCC HQ is closed (when other arrangements must be made) a key-ticket which includes the name of each person entering the Cave must be completed. The destination Board by the main door of the HQ must be used. Parties are required to leave the Cave by 5pm. on Sundays.

2. The leader is responsible for the conduct, safety AND the provision of the equipment necessary to complete the trip. He must draw attention to the conditions relating to the use of any fixed equipment within the Cave which are displayed on the board in SWCC HQ. (A copy of these will be given to mid-week users).

3. This permit is for ENTRY ONLY. Camping, digging and the use of explosives, dye traces and other research projects require special permission.

4. Marker tapes must not be crossed or moved, under any circumstances.

5. ~~ONLY electric lighting is to be used. Carbide MUST NOT be taken into the cave.~~

6. The gates are to be locked at all times.

7. No litter whatsoever is to be left either inside or outside the cave.

8. Installations, apparatus and equipment must not be damaged. If accidental damage occurs this should be reported immediately upon return.

9. Access to the land surface of the reserve is unrestricted, but visitors are asked to help protect the wildlife and natural beauty of this reserve by :
Avoiding damage to trees, plants, fences and walls.
Preventing Fires.
Avoiding disturbance to grazing stock.

10. Failure to observe these conditions may result in any future application to the Management Committee for entry to the NNR being refused.

OGOF FFYNNON DDU II STREAMWAY: Please note that:

- a) CAVERS ARE ADVISED TO WEAR WETSUITS IN THIS STREAMWAY.
- b) IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT NOVICES SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN INTO THE OFD II STREAMWAY.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY CONTACT SWCC HQ, OR DIAL 999 AND ASK FOR CAVE RESCUE.

Countryside Council for Wales
Unit 13B, Mill Street Industrial Estate
Mill Street, Abergavenny
Gwent NP7 5HE

+ Rob

(75)

10) Hopefully Tim (or pass. Martin Hicks) will be able to lead a trip on Sunday. Note that if you ~~like~~ want to do Craig you have to be at the hineskins at 10.30 on Sunday. If you don't do this then you'll have to either turn up there anyway, or phone the guy ASAP (pref. Sat. night) on Ebbw Vale 304413, otherwise he'll turn up to give you the key and you won't be there - Don't DO THIS!!

11) Don't lose the Aggy key. When you go into Aggy - it might be wise for one of that team to sign themselves as me, since on the permit it says that I will be leading the trip.

12) If you're short of gear you could try coming here + getting Will/Olly to lend some of theirs. Don't take mine as I may need it on Sunday.

13) VERY IMPORTANT - Pick Rob up from the station on your way out of Oxford - he will be on the train from Malvern that gets in at 9.10am (hopefully)

Whitewalls - follow usual Welsh route to Abergavenny at start of A465 (Heads of Valleys). From Abergavenny go towards Crickhowell (signposted). From Crickhowell go left straight up the big hill on your left which is Langattock. CSS is at highest point of rd at a junction with old tramway thing - there's a gate. Whitewalls does not have white walls, or didn't last time I was there.

SWCC. Follow Heads of Valleys A465 for miles past WSP, Merthyr etc to Glyn Neath. From Glyn Neath follow signs for Dan-y-r - Ogof Showcave. This rd takes you over the hills through Orlywyr to Abercraf where Dragon is. Then just tiddle up the valley until Penrhynt signposted. Have a good weekend. Nobby.

9 NOV 96

O.F.D., CONFUSION SERIES
OR
INSANE IN THE MAIN DRAIN

And so the blame game has begun, and already, Rob, Terence, Kevin, Ali and me (Oh, I'm Mike D. - that Yank guy) got down the Cwm Dwr entrance at 1544, looking forward to a 3-4 hour trip. Rob and Alison had last been down on the 9th of March, 96* a mere EIGHT MONTHS PRIOR. ~~Also~~ Also, Rob only showed up on condition that he would bear no responsibility for what transpired: a role he performed remarkably well. TB had never been there, and ~~neither~~ neither had I, so we both wash our hands of the whole affair.

And then there's Kevin.

About two hours on we reached that long streamway thing with the multitude of bottomless pools. I was lucky enough to be in front at this point, and had the stream flow vanish with no warning under my extended foot. Taking it for an anomaly, after climbing onto the far side I returned to monotonous trudging, cursing repeatedly, and promptly plunged into the next one.

Anyway, I lost track of those damn pools and soon began desiring the exit post haste. To Ali's memory, when we'd finally left the main drain, she raised my spirits by stating we'd left the horrible bits. Inexplicably, we were soon back in the stream and swimming along in our furries and overalls. There wasn't a wet suit among us. I'd like to quote the permit now, that STRONGLY ADVISED ~~at~~ anyone pursuing the streamway to wear neoprene. Hmmm

Well, I've NEVER been so cold in a cave before, EVER. Not in Kingsdale's main drain, not in Todram, Wife in flood conditions (we retreated at the third pitch), not even in the Swidon's Round Trip.

* see page 11 of this log.

I fully realize our six-hour saga doesn't hold a candle to the assault on Gualtary Pot hold last weekend (18 hrs). But what I found so psychologically disconcerting about this OFD trip is that, after conquering all the really tough bits and being assured we were a half hour from the exit, we were still stumbling around in search of it TWO HOURS LATER. When one's already knackered, doubling back on your tracks is the last thing you want to do. The first time we got lost was understandable, the second was annoying, but forgivable, but the FOURTH TIME we had to turn around I realized we were all going to grow old and die in here.

I can't write anymore. We only came out a little over two hours ago and reliving the experience is giving me uncontrollable twitches. Suffice to say that Rob explained over dinner that a group has to get lost if they really want to EXPERIENCE a canoe. Today, we experienced OFD over and over again

Oh yeah, and don't worry: I'm never writing THIS much in this log again.

Or so you hope,
~~Mike~~ - Mike
I forgot who I was, there

P.S. What exactly is a "category 2 confined space - follow safety procedures"

P.P.S. What safety procedures?

Good trip though.
TB.

Yeah. Now that it's the next day, I can now remember all the fun we had. Great trip! Let's go again!
- Mike

Present were: Rob, Terence, Kevin, Alison, Mike, Chris V, Florian, Richard Popple, Dan Harris, Kim Hawkins, Martins Hicks and Hawerty

Rob & Alison did the first through trip of Dead Dog Dig to Unnamed Hole & the hedges went sunbathing?!



CASCAIS

18th / 19th November 1996

Pat Mann

Not feeling guilty about not coming to the dinner as undergroundist twice in the week.

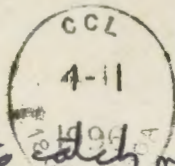
Monday, dragged to look at a freshly uncovered sea cave in Plymouth, (the roof had just been quarried away). No real excitement, but didn't stop me spending the afternoon taking samples & drawing sections.

~~Monday~~ ^{Wednesday} cosmic hangover, explored adits of Great Post Mine, Henrich, Devon Bay complex, we looked at about 8 adits, 3 left on going. Turned around because of scary stemples suggesting backfilling overhead in one case, in the other two couldn't traverse shafts in floor (approx 20m deep). Nearly lost a local farm dog that had joined us down one of the shafts!

C16A

CASCAIS: Praia dos Pescadores

Dear All,



COLECC
E' DES



As you can see I managed to catch my plane after struggling out of your party. Staying in a rather plush hotel next to the beach - plenty of Marble Sinks around, but the only navigation problems involve getting into the right lift - one goes to the swimming pool, the other to the beach. Swimming in the Atlantic is great to cool down a bit, 'cos it's pretty hot here. Managing to fit in a bit of work into the 4 hour lunch breaks. Hope you're all working hard & the Suidown trips are going OK. Cheers, Seedy

O.U.C.C
 c/o 53(?) Cranham St
 (the one with lots of bikes)
 Oxford
 U.K. - INGLATERRA

15-17/11/1996

SOUTHERNSCALES

PRESENT: AMOY, Will, Ros, Julia, LEU, KEVIN, Kitti
 BERNARD, JAMES (NOT HARRY), Peri, Fleur, Alison,
 Jo, +youngst ПAАAATEU: Пич, Andy, Vera, Fabienne, Ollie,
 Ian B.

16/11/96 - Juniper Gult - derigging

→ Ollie, Kevin, Fleur.

The first challenge was finding the cave. After an hour & 20 min walk across the moor we finally made it. Fortunately the rigging party (Will, Julia, Ian) had also made it, so we were ok. It was a cave of pitches and traverses. Pitches was good as I'd wanted to do an SRT trip, but traverses I don't like. But it was good practice for me and it helped my confidence. It was just a shame that ~~was~~ there had not been enough rope to reach the bottom, and we met the riggers near the top of the last pitch, before heading out. Then just the task of navigating back to Clapham with only one electric light. Well done to ker and his compass!

Fleur

16/11/96 - Juniper Gult - Riggig. (Will, Ian, Julia.)

Well this was only my 2nd ever British cave (after Swilston's short round trip) & I'm still to be completely convinced about the merits of mad-chiotic LOTS OF WATER - everywhere - type caves. Call me spoilt, but... in France or Italy, they don't call essential, serious bits of equipment "cow's tails" or "donkey's dicks" or "junkies"... Still, I'll get used to it.

Yes, Swilston & my first sump were WET; yes, Juniper was a little uncomfortable in places & would still class as wet by continental standards; & yes, the walk back to Clapham across the moor was... you've guessed it, WET. But, hey, I'm British really spoilt or not, & I'll continue in the wet tradition!
 Julia

80

Reserved for low Pot writeup ...

POST A POTHOLE

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The Director of Environmental Services,
Oxford City Council,
FREEPOST,
Town Hall,
St. Aldate's,
OXFORD OX1 1BR.

Tim G. "Never resurvey a snag - that's
what I say."



To enable speedy repair of potholes and other road or footway defects in Oxford, especially those that are a danger to cyclists or pedestrians, please provide exact details of the defect and its location.

Your name LEV BISHOP

Telephone No

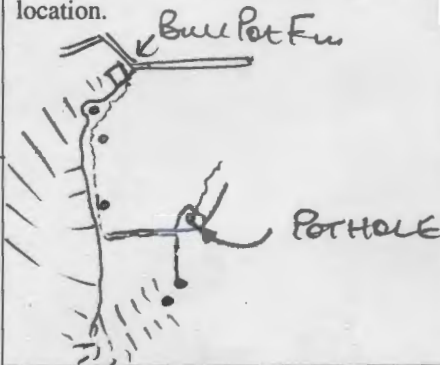
Address QUEEN COLLEGE

Exact location and type of defect
(e.g. pothole, broken grating etc).

CARTERTON FELL

LARGE OPEN POT HOLE -
EXTREME DANGER TO CYCLISTS
AND PEDESTRIANS. FENCED ON
ALL SIDES

Please provide a sketch showing the location.



POST A POT HOLE

↓ TO COUNTY