

Scarborough

News Letter 20th Dec 1998



Caving Club

Dear members,

The recent few months have sadly seen a decline in club activity. The main reason for this is the absence (hopefully only temporary) of two key players, Notably Chalky who has recently moved and Jerry who's continued absence because of work.

Never the less, there have been two notable Thursday evenings, the exploration of a new windy pit discovered by Richard and the memorable guided tour of Coate Moor Ironstone mine led by Rick Stewart (see below).

We are fortunate to have some news contributions from Richard which includes an extract from a letter from Neil Hanan.

Reports submitted by Richard Wilsdon

Scarborough Diving Section - report

This is an extract from a letter from Neil Hanan where he recounts a solo attempt in a Scottish sump (after a couple of trips sherpering his own gear to the cave).

*"Had another crack at 'my' little cave and sump in Appin near Fort William.
Lots of effort, but got no further.
Managed a couple of dives.*

First one was to the end of line I'd laid previous year. Was messing around attaching new line on & when looked forward across the chamber it had been enveloped in white silt. My air had dislodged it from somewhere above. Retreated .

*The next day went back thinking I'd push on, never mind the vis.
But didn't even get through to the end of the line. Had an extra tank along and the rig was so heavy could hardly get (i.e. crawl) into the sump pool. And so cumbersome in the constricted underwater passage that retreated after only a short way.
Tried again with just 2 tanks but the vis was gone and various little problems coupled with fatigue and 'what am I doing here' syndrome led me to abort the job.*

If I go back it'll be after sorting my gear and self out before hand."

The Well

Gerry has accumulated scaffolding tube, clamps and is keen to shore up the walls of the Well. Preliminary inspection of the Well by Gerry last summer revealed an underwater chamber that was big enough to sit up in. Andy and I had a look the following week. We didn't find the chamber but were able to work our way down to the horizontal by backing along into the rift and were then able to see into a bedding plane. This carried a gentle current of clear water on the upstream side, with a few feet of bedding visible.

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Scarborough Caving Club is a member of the Council of Northern Caving Clubs

Vista Pot 506859

Richard, Andy and Peter

This windy pit is entered via an obvious vertical crack in Boltby Scar cliff. The entrance leads to a short crawl where excavation through boulders gained a way down. Andy, who is undaunted by loose rocks was the first to slide down into a chamber below. This led into another chamber with the way on being down a tight rift. The depth is about 30 - 40ft. We have still not been back to survey and photograph due to the availability of the Thursday night crew, but a fuller report will be in a future news letter.

Coate Moor Mine 663099

Rick Stuart, Peter, Andy, D.T & Richard

Rick gave us a guided tour of this ironstone mine. The entrance is in a wood just North of Kildale. It has around 1 kilometre of passage, most of which is dry, warm and in good nick but a pain in the neck and back for those of normal height. The mine was worked between 1875 - 78 in three ironstone beds - the Main, the Pecten and the Two Foot Seam. The mine closed when the price of ironstone fell and it became uneconomic. The rails, sleepers and almost everything else was stripped out when it closed but there are the remains of ventilation doors and pit props. In one place a few sleepers that had been lifted were propped against the wall still awaiting collection.

More recent artifacts are trails of string and more helpfully a polythene marker tape laid to the furthest extremity of the mine. This does violate the historic feel of the mine but it is very reassuring to know you can't get totally lost.

RRW

Free Lecture

The Magic and Mystery of the Ryedale Windy Pits is the title of a lecture to be given by Richard Myerscough and Tony Lane to the Hull Geographical Society, Dept Geography, University of Hull at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th Jan 1999. The talk is likely to cover fossils found in the sediments at the site, which suggests that windy pits are older than previously thought. Non-members welcome, and admission free.

Richard

E-mail news from Lee Vasey

After five years together, and living in sin to get used to each others bad habits, we've finally taken the plunge and got engaged. Sara picked up her ring from the jewellers on Friday 11th so if you'd like a look she should be wearing it (I hope). We haven't set a date yet, we're still saving up !

Regards,

Lee & Sara

Forthcoming Events

Dec 28th Although not in the official trips list several members and a few non members are planning to pay a visit to Hagg Gill in Langstrath Dale on December 28th. Although Hagg Gill cannot be strictly categorised as a novices trip, (because of a slightly awkward ladder climb and vulnerable formations) it is an interesting cave and would make an good initiation for those confident enough to tackle the ladder climb. All welcome!

New Trips List

I have attempted to put together a trips list together from the suggestions voiced at the last meeting and other requests submitted. I have consulted with Jamie & Richard before compiling the list but accept that changes will be inevitable. This should not prove to difficult as many of the trips are non permit. So please feel free to negotiate changes. The two most ambitious ventures Polna Gollum (in Ireland suggested by Jamie) and Drennan (in Wales suggested by Andy) will need preparation and planning. So it will be important to find out how many are likely to take part. I will endeavor to find out about access if we have enough people interested. I suggest members should contact either Jamie or Andy if they are keen to take part in either of these events.

Best wishes for Christmas
Hoping to see you on the 28th

P.R.Fambely

Trip List 1999

Month	Day	Date	PotHole/Cave	Permit	Grade	Requested By
January	Sat.	2 nd	Bull Pot (Kings Dale)	No	3	Andy
	Sat.	9 th				
	Sat.	16 th				
	Sat.	23 rd				
	Sat.	30 th				
February	Sat.	6 th	Simpsons	No	3/4	Peter F.
	Sat.	13 th	Marble Steps	No	3	Sue
	Sat.	20 th				
	Sat.	27 th				
March	Sat.	6 th	Sell Gill Holes	No	3	?
	Sat.	13 th				
	Sat.	20 th				
	Sat.	27 th				
April	Sat.	3 rd	Magnetometer	No	3/4	Jamie
	Sat.	10 th				
	Sat.	17 th	Disappointment	Yes	4	Jerry
	Sat.	24 th				
May	Sat.	1 st	Polna Gollum (Jamie to confirm) Old Ing & Dismal Hall & Red Mire Odd Mire	No	2/3/4	Richard
	Sat.	8 th				
	Sat.	15 th				
	Sat.	22 nd				
	Sat.	29 th				
June	Sat.	5 th	Gaping Gill	Yes	4/5	Peter F.
	Sat.	12 th				
	Sat.	19 th				
	Sat.	26 th				
July	Sat.	3 rd	Quaking	No	5	Jamie
	Sat.	10 th				
	Sat.	17 th	Ogof Drennan (Andy to Confirm)	Yes	4	Andy
	Sat.	24 th				
	Sat.	31 st				
August	Sat.	7 th	Car Pot	Yes	4	Pete Shaw
	Sat.	14 th	Langstrath	No	4	?
	Sat.	21 st				
	Sat.	28 th				
September	Sat.	4 th	Spectacle	No	5	Jamie
	Sat.	11 th	P8 Derbyshire	?	3	Richard
	Sat.	18 th				
	Sat.	25 th				
October	Sat.	2 nd	Grange Rigg Pot	Yes	4	Jamie
	Sat.	9 th				
	Sat.	16 th	Little Hull Pot	Yes		Jamie
	Sat.	23 rd				
	Sat.	30 th				
November	Sat.	6 th	Ease Gill (Lancaster/County)	??	3/4	P.Shaw
	Sat.	13 th				
	Sat.	20 th				
	Sat.	27 th				
December	Sat.	4 th	Tatham's Wife	No	3	Jamie
	Sat.	11 th				
	Sat.	18 th				
	Sat.	25 th				