

UBSS

Newsletter www.ubss.org.uk

Series 3

Number 16

ISSN 1756-2988 (print)

ISSN 1756-2996 (online)

Type to enter text

Summer 2014

Editor's Piece



Quick trip down Hunter's Sink before the 2014 AGM

Just when you thought there would be no more UBSS newsletters...here's another to brighten your day!

It's been a while since the last one...over a year and a half, although you can't blame me for that. I stepped down as editor at the 2013 AGM, as I felt that being mid-week caving officer, SRT trainer & tackle store warden were probably enough roles to have already.

So I passed on the role to someone else, who, I think I can safely say, they are the worst editor that club has ever had. They managed a grand total of ZERO newsletters, and haven't even been spotted in months! (You know who you are).

Since no-one else was overly keen to take on the role of continually pestering people for content and I now only occupy a single role on committee these days, I thought that I would do it again for one more year.

Hopefully this newsletter will be the first of several, as we have 17 months to make up for

and many exciting trips and expeditions planned for later this year. I've already had some "willing volunteers" to write up various weekends and trips, although a few are still to actually put pen to paper!!! (hint hint).

Read on for adventures in Ireland, CHECC, new sections of cave, flood preventing, treasurer reports and Christmas dinners!

Once again, thank you to everyone who has given me something to include, and those who have promised me bits for the next edition.

Enjoy,
Stuart Alldred

Update: It has actually taken me a good while to put together this edition. I aim to get future editions done in a much shorter time frame. My apologies for a extra delay in getting this to you.

Photo on front cover taken by Stuart Alldred whilst on a conservation trip in Dan Yr Ogof, South Wales.

Above photo taken by Stuart Alldred. Back left to right: Ruth Briggs, Cat Hulse, Anya Keatley, Jon Hauser & Sara Karbassi. Front left to right: Stuart Alldred & Steven Hulse.

Photo on back cover taken by Cara Turner, while on a photo course in Moss Chamber, Peak Cavern, Derbyshire.

CHECC 2013



Badgers against the cull

This year the CHECC forum was held in Castleton, Derbyshire. Lots of time had been spent in/around the trees in Victoria square before this weekend, so we had a good bunch of freshers keen to get stuck on a rope in a whole new environment! 16 of us went up for the weekend, with an advance party heading up on Thursday night to take advantage of pre-rigged caves!

Friday saw rigging in Eldon Hole and a descent of Maskhill, taking the easy way up Oxlow. Then of course, the badgers fighting back against the cull were all sensible enough during the night to be able to face caving the next day, right?? The bravest soul, Elliot went escapading with SUSS down nettle pot, whilst Alex led a few of us to wander the bottom of P8 after a thorough soaking from dead sheep water in the entrance.

At the end of that trip, Tex was coming to terms with what being a caver is all about, I don't think he'd ever been anywhere as cold as the peaks, with frost on the ground, covered in water, having to get changed at the side of the road, with hands no longer able to open up a central maillon.



Sunday was a proud day for UBSS, We were awarded the grand title of Ultimate Caving Club! Trophy now on display in the pub! Taking away prizes for photography, ladder climbing, best club t-shirt, and of course, the best club photograph*. The takeover was complete when 2 CHECC committee roles also went to UBSS.

And of course there was more caving to be done before heading home! Elliot must have dropped something on Saturday as he returned to nettle. Another group stood at the windy, exposed entrance to Eldon Hole while another club decided to get strung up on the ropes. Blue hands = run away and leave the rope behind!

Adam Henry

Editor's Note:

***This photo deserves a page all to itself. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the club photo, and assume that you won't mind it being included since it's already been accidentally printed in Descent! Whoops!**

UBSS CAVE CONSERVATION: DON'T TOUCH THE WHITE BILLS!



Cheddar Gorge Flood Relief



Cavers digging the Main Sink - May 2013

Anyone living in the Bristol or Somerset area over the winter of 2012/2013 will no doubt remember the rain that led to severe flooding in Cheddar Gorge and elsewhere in the Count. The surface of the road in Cheddar was damaged to such an extent that it remained closed for several months as repairs could not take place while a stream was still issuing out of the Longwood Valley at Black Rock Gate.

I became involved in the problem as I'm the Conservation Officer for the Charterhouse Caving Company Ltd, of which UBSS is a constituent member. One possible solution was to get the water underground, rather than running on the surface, but this had to be done in a way that didn't risk damage to the caves as both Longwood – August and the valley itself are Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

On 13th February 2013, local caver Rich Witcombe was able to relocate an entrance to a short section of cave passage known as Longwood Valley Sink (LVS) that had been hidden under the bank of the valley for in the region of 20 years since a dig there was

abandoned. With the assistance of a group of cavers including Ali Moody, the entrance was dug out down to the level of an old grill and the stream was dammed to divert it down this sinkhole, preventing the water running down to Black Rock Gate.

At a multi-agency meeting held in Cheddar in February 2013, I ended up agreeing to co-ordinate a project to make the temporary dam permanent and re-pipe the entrance to LVS. In addition, we intended to dig out the blocked upper sink just downstream from the main Longwood entrance. Sedgemoor District Council agreed to underwrite the costs of the works up to a limit of £5,000.

Our first objective was to dig out the Top Sink. At that point, the stream was still running, so we toyed with various plans, including piping the stream past the sink, but that would have involved a lot of labour lugging pipes up there, so instead we opted to use the brute force and ignorance method and dig it by hand. This involved an awful lot of poking at the silted up sink with a very long iron bar in the hope of getting the water level to drop slightly. When it



Before: Water filling Longwood Valley sink and flowing off down the valley



After: Longwood Valley Sink debris grill and gate

did, we then dug like mad, getting as much mud and silt out as possible. With five people working usually twice a week for several weeks, we finally started to make some progress. Things improved when we finally uncovered the top of the enormous tree trunk that ended up in the swallet some 20 years ago, which meant that over time, debris consisting of wood, stones, leaves and silt had built up in layers until the sink became totally blocked.

The main digging team consisted of me, Graham, Tony Boycott, Ali Moody and Graham Price (from CCC Ltd). After numerous digging trips, the swallet has now been lowered to the depth it had some 30 years ago and for the majority of the past winter, it has successfully taken all of the stream water.

After the time and work taken to clear the upper sink, we knew there was no way that digging out Longwood Valley Sink (LVS) by hand was practical. Agreement was obtained from Sedgemoor District Council to cover the cost of a mechanical excavator for up the three days to enable the original pipework to be removed and a new entrance pipe to be installed. We hired a large digger, and the pipe was transported up to LVS on a Land Rover. Thanks to the skill of the digger driver, Kevin, the old pipework was removed and a larger hole was excavated in order to install the new pipe. This was by no means an easy task at any stage of

the work, but the combined efforts of the caving team from CCC, plus Neil Watson from SWT and Kevin, ensured that the job was completed in two days rather than three, and the area around the new pipe was back-filled and the stream bed was deepened to allow for the building of a dry stone wall in accordance with the plans submitted to Natural England. This took two days work, during which we were almost eaten alive by the biggest and nastiest horseflies any of us had ever encountered! The whole thing was neither healthy nor safe, but we did manage to get the

pipe in place.

A permanent gate, incorporating a debris grill was made by local metalworker Dave Speed and, over summer, Rich Whitcome built a dry stone wall along the edge of the dam.

From start to finish, the flood relief project took six months, with at least a full months work



The first temporary dam at Longwood Valley Sink

put in by both cavers and Somerset Wildlife Trust. In addition, many hours were spent on project coordination and liaison with all interested parties. The total cost was under £2,000 (not including the cost of the pipe supplied by highways), rather than the original rough estimate of £5,000, with the majority of the expenditure going on the digger and the gate/grill. The digger and materials were paid for by Sedgemoor DC and the gate/grill was financed by Cheddar Caves.

The project was brought to a successful conclusion on time, to plan and under budget. Immediately after, the winter rains caused some problems, as in November 2013, the first major rainfall of winter was so severe that a flood pulse hit LVS sink, damaging the dam, however the dam held, and the water didn't reach Cheddar Gorge. Remedial works have been undertaken and LVS itself is now the subject of an active cave dig under the aegis of CCC Ltd. So if you'd like to get involved with this dig contact me. It's open to anyone who wants to take part.

As a result of the cavers' efforts, I've been asked by Cheddar Parish Council to accept an award on behalf of the team at their annual meeting on 17th April. At a time when Somerset has suffered the most horrendous flooding problems, it's nice to have one success story to report.

meeting on 17th April. At a time when Somerset has suffered the most horrendous flooding problems, it's nice to have one success story to report.

Linda Wilson



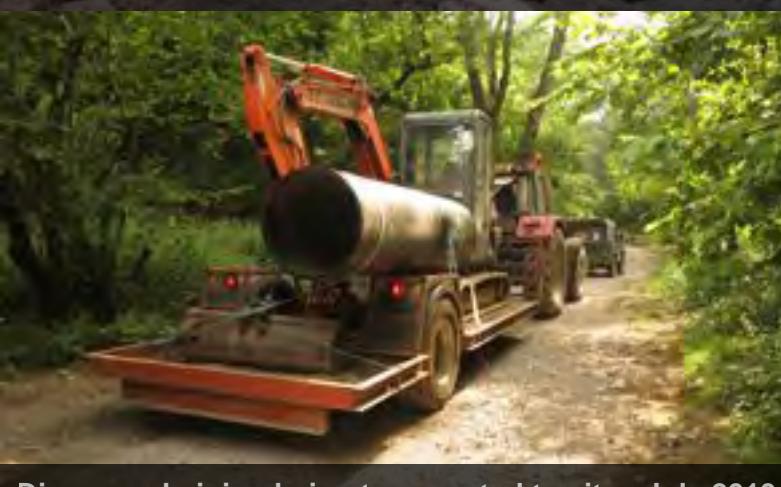
Clearing the Main Sink - May 2013



The permanent dam - September 2013



The digger in action - July 2013



Digger and piping being transported to site - July 2013

Longwood Main Sink, silted up and flooding - April 2013

Top left: Taken by Graham Mullen. Top right: Taken by Ali Moody.

Middle left: Taken by Graham Price. Middle right: Taken by Graham Mullen.

Bottom left: Taken by Graham Price. Bottom right: Taken by Ali Moody.

UBSS Xmas Dinner 2013



Enjoying take-away Christmas dinner

Suffice to say, that this is one tradition a budding caver simply cannot miss. After a few ventures to the Coach & Horses, the talk of Christmas dinner was in the air.

It had been floated about for a few weeks before Simon started the incessant pestering. "You should all attend", he said. He found hope in the weaker ones first. Sara was the first of the fresh faced to cave. She departed with her dearly earned and joined Simon on the other side of the table, the 'club' side that is. As more and more fell to the whims of Simon, the insistence became more substantial. Stu was amongst the more abrupt, Sara claiming she couldn't be left alone the likes of seasoned cavers.

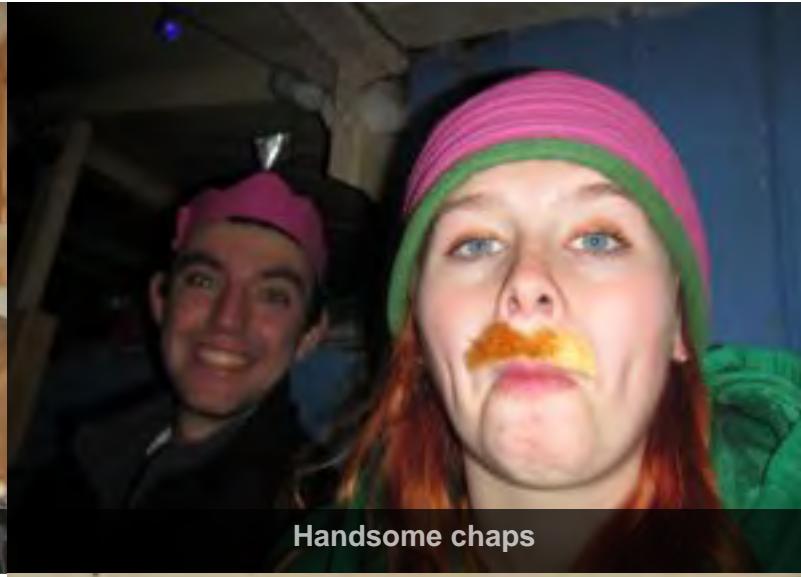
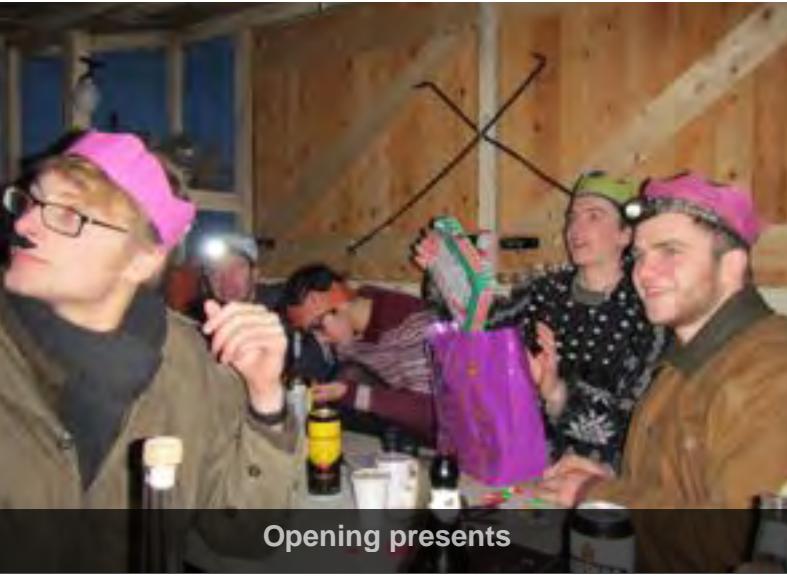
After a few pints, it really doesn't take much to convince a student hankering for a snack and to sit on the other bench. Simon simply smiled and added my name to the growing list as I fumbled about with my £5, insisting I would deliver the rest of the costs next week.

As the next few weeks lulled by, with packs of mince pies and mulled wine becoming a staple of most evenings, the idea of an earlier Christmas dinner couldn't have been more welcoming. The

idea of sharing a room with 15 people having eating Brussels sprouts was not quite so. Never the less, December came around and frantic Secret Santa gifts pulled from whatever corner of Bristol, or someone's scrap bin, that could be reached. On meeting by the tackle store, an optimistic amount of kit was added to the load and we set off.

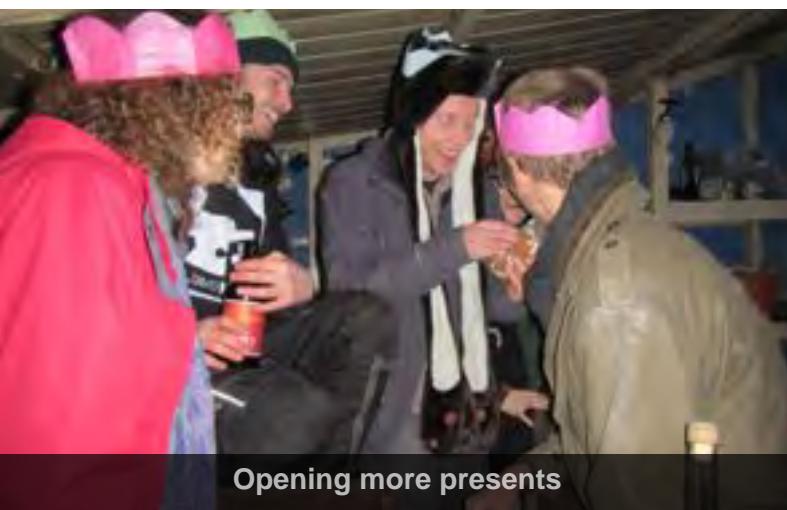
On reaching the Hut, a few set off to collect the glut of food as promised. As most members know, the hut is somewhat cold this time of year and this evening proved the same as any other. Without a layer coming off, tables were scraped about with positions as close to the soon-to-be-lit fire of prime importance. On seeing what must have been 8 bags of food come hurriedly through the door, chairs swiftly met arse and the green eyed monster that is hunger surfaced in most. As ever, bowing to overhead food, cracker pulling and the shout for the need of a bottle opener came from every corner of the tables.

After most had had their fill, the dustbins set to work and the mention of Secret Santa sent a few running to their bags to 'subtly' smuggle their offering into the sack of presents. As could only



be expected, gifts ranged from hip flasks, to scrap metal, and aptly sized notepads to what I believe was a novelty clock. At this point the fire was finally lit and leftovers swiftly disposed off. The evening was seen off with full stomachs, (some) good beer and best of all good company, with most realising that caving, as ever, is an optimistic and strictly non-compulsory event on most Mendip weekends.

Elliott Smith



The Cave That Isn't Under The Chateau



The fill rises to the ceiling. Here we will dig.

One of our neighbours in Coly, in France, works for an English couple who own a chateau, which is situated south of Perigueux, on the way to Bergerac. He has told us that there were 'tunnels' under the chateau and, as old good cavers do, we wanted a look. Alex had been fairly vague about the details, but kindly organised with the landowners for us to visit the site and take a look underground.

We've done this sort of thing before and were expecting, most probably a mix of small cave passages and cellars that would extend for a very short distance away from the chateau itself. We were wrong.

The first indication of this came when we were told that Alex and Neil, the owner's nephew, had located the entrance 'in the woods' the next was when we were told to hoist our gear into an ancient 4x4 for the drive across the estate to the site. We stopped, where a fallen tree had blocked the track, got changed – well you never know – and walked across to the entrance with Neil.

And found ourselves at a real cave in real limestone about 450 m from the chateau itself.

The entrance is a roomy north-west facing arch in a low cliff on the wooded hillside. The entrance seems to have been walled up in the past and still has the remains of a wire fence across the passage a couple of metres inside. Beyond is a quite roomy phreatic passage varying in width from about 3m down to just under 1 m which runs into the hillside at roughly 120° for about 30-35 m to a final round chamber where the silt fill rises to the roof. 20 m from the entrance, a side passage on the left leads into a parallel passage, also roomy, being formed on a vertical fracture, as with the entrance passage, and thus having 4 m high phreatic roof pockets. A third sub-parallel passage connects to this second one but is lower. All three terminate at their southern ends in easily diggable silt chokes.

There is no obvious archaeology, apart from a couple of ancient metal buckets that someone has used in a desultory attempt at digging and no rock art except modern graffiti. The one discernible date that I found was for 1954. Apart from the coating of soft stal that is often found near cave entrances in these parts, there is the remains of a calcite false floor in the middle

passage and one piece of this, incorporating a stalagmite boss, has been undermined at some point in the past, whether by water, animals or man is unclear and has broken off. It now rests at 90° to the floor, with one edge buried in the silt.

The cave seems to be wholly phreatic in origin and may, if dug and explored further show the characteristics of a phreatic maze. It clearly debouched water from the south in the past. The valley that it feeds is now some 12-15 m deeper than when it was active. It is a tributary valley to the River Crempse which joins L'Isle at Mussidan. As far as I can tell the rock is Cretaceous limestone. Although it has clearly been known, at least to the locals for some decades it is not mentioned in Pierre Vidal's Cavernes en Perigord (1987).

The really good news is that the owners are happy, keen even, for us to dig it.

Graham Mullen



Linda at the entrance of the cave at La Bertini



UIS Grade 11A
G.J. Mullan
October 2013

Above photo taken by Graham Mullen.

UBSS Ireland Expedition 2013



Tourist trip into Aille River Cave

The driest summer for seven years and UBSS return to Ireland, hopefully to make up for the wettest summer in 100 years the previous time.

That's how weather works. Due to the varying availability of people, the evening of the 7th of September arrived and a mere four cavers, Stuart Alldred, Anya Keatley, Cameron Bullen and Myself, crossed two countries and one sea to explore, map and describe the caves of Co. Mayo with relatively intact sanities, despite the best efforts of a wayward pair of headphones and Cotton-eyed Joe. Delirious with lack of sleep, the second day was spent making our way from the ferry terminal to our cottage near Ballinrobe. Along the way we went for a walk in Pigeon Hole Woods to scout out the caves there. Had we the foresight to bring a torch, this endeavour might have been more productive. The effects of the day and a half's travel were so acute that we also utterly failed to find the café in Cong with free Wi-Fi, a mistake we didn't make again (twice a day, every day for two weeks).

On the beginning of our first fully Irish day, we stocked up the cupboards and returned to Cong

to Ashford Castle, where we hoped to find Lady's Buttery and Horse Discovery. After getting verbal permission to survey the caves in the grounds (and, it seemed, do anything we liked anywhere in the local area thanks to an improvised note on a bit of card) from the manager of the hotel there, we got our first bit of Irish surveying done in Lady's Buttery. Whilst I did not know any better, I was assured that "it was much drier than last year". This sentence would be repeated two or three times daily for the whole expedition, usually in a grateful tone of voice.

The following day we set off in the morning to Westport to see if we could find somewhere we could go kayaking to repeat the previous year's antics. Since we were slightly out of season this proved to be a bit of an ordeal, but we were eventually pointed in the direction of the Petersburg Centre, who would prove to be useful contacts later in the week. We organised the kayaking for the day where the most of us could come, which sadly meant that Anya could not. The rest of the day was spent surveying the muddy, wet and spidery Horse Discovery. Since it was a warm day, and we were muddy, we all



Pigeon Hole, Entrance Chamber



A Spider's Chandelier

washed in the sump before leaving presumably to the irritation of the fish that live in the cave.

The morning of day 5 was spent filling in the gaps in Lady's Butterly and Horse Discovery after which we set off in search of Pigeon Hole but instead found Wolves' Hole, a cave that was unknown to us at the time. The army had been training in the area and asked us what we were up to. Upon finding out we were cavers, they directed us to Wolves Hole and wished us luck. Sadly we were ill equipped for the ten metre entrance pitch, so had to save it for after the others arrived with a ladder. When we arrived at Pigeon Hole we discovered we were ill equipped to survey that too, as we had left the PDA in Stu's car. A clammy dash in wetsuits back to the car and a quick cool off in the river later and we finally began surveying. We finished up when the batteries died, sadly rendering the previous 100 splayes more or less useless. We made better progress the next day, but found an extension in the back of the cave which more than doubled what we had left to do, right before we picked up Adam from the airport.

The rest of the group arrived the next day but that morning was troubled by bad calibrations and a dwindling supply of batteries, meaning that no actual surveying could actually be done before they arrived. Never mind! It was Cat's birthday so we had to have some kind of party, even if we were all in a different country.

As we left to go kayaking, Anya left for home. After kayaking we asked around the centre, which also runs caving trips, to see if we could get any leads. We were directed to the person who runs these trips who, whilst slightly evasive, did direct us to Church Cave in Ashford Castle. In the afternoon Stu, Cameron, Simon and I

continued to explore Pigeon Hole, concluding that there was a lot more than two weeks' worth of work down there, whilst Adam, Rosie and Alice scoured Co. Mayo for lithium ion batteries

Now that we had a ladder and ropes, we could at last explore Wolves' Hole. Adam, Rosie, Simon and Alice spent the day in Pigeon Hole Woods exploring Wolves' and getting coordinates for some other caves in the woods. It turned out that Wolves' Hole is quite extensive, and Stu, Cameron and Simon would spend most of the next three days underground surveying it.

Meanwhile, Cameron, Stu and I took a break from surveying to go for a tourist trip down Allie River Cave, to see what it was like in the drier conditions. On the way back to Cong, Stu rescued some kittens, the hero. In Cong we did some plain clothe caving to survey the microscopic Priest's Cave before revisiting the Guinness tower from last year.

The next three days were spent surveying Wolves' by Stu, Cameron and Simon and searching for leads and information on the surface for the rest of us, the most exciting being the entrance to Church Cave, in the canal under the Church of Ireland.

Alice and Rosie left at the end of day 11, and the following morning the rest of us met with the manager of the Petersburg Centre, who we were told has an interest in the caves of the area, to hopefully get some more leads. The chat was very helpful and she seemed very interested in what we were trying to do and we said we would try and contact her again for information next year. After that we drove back into Cong to buy postcards and see if we could get any more information. A chance conversation with a bookseller led to Simon getting some useful



Canine bones in Wolf's Hole



Simon in Ballymaglancy

information; apparently the bookseller had been compiling all the literature on the caves of the area for quite a while.

To ensure that Adam did not leave Ireland without getting to see the extent of Pigeon Hole, we went on a quick tourist trip there on Adams last day. A small dog attempted to accompany us, but lost its nerve at the last moment and didn't show up for our surveying trip to Teach Aille, a tiny cave which almost immediately sumps. After Adam left, we went on a night time surveying trip to try and link up the entrances of Wolves', Priest's and Pigeon Hole, so that they could all put together on a 3D map of the area.

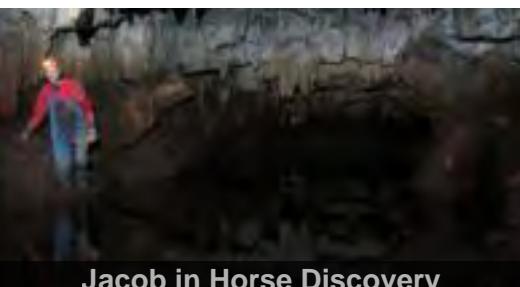
With two days and four cavers remaining, we went off on a relaxed surveying/photography trip to the short but very pretty Bunnadober and then returned to Cong to say thank you to the lady in the tourist information office, who had been helpful throughout the expedition. After this, we split up and Stu and Cameron finished the Teach Aille survey whilst Simon and I searched for the elusive Lost World Cave. Lost World turned out to appropriately named, as the now collapsed cavern made it a hidden nook in the woods with a sump at either end, and would have made a pretty good spot for a picnic.

The last task for the day was to survey a section of Horse discovery we had missed the

first time. The section was the other side of lake which turned out to be almost exactly six foot three deep. Due to my failure to successfully swim one handed (keeping the DistoX dry at all costs), a pair of wellies now lie stuck in the mud at the bottom of this lake, there for any brave and water competent caver to claim. The extra surveying did reveal a potential lead at the back of the cave however. The cave gods can be generous when provisioned with adequate gifts, it turns out.

Final day and we return to Pigeon Hole Woods for the last time, to survey the entrance of Pigeon and so that I could have a look in Wolves'. We found some workmen erecting a fence around the entrance pitch of Wolves' Hole. Apparently someone had hurt there ankle a few weeks before. Thankfully they were cooperative and gave us a number to organise some kind of access arrangements, making sure we had a tree to rig the ladder off of for the time being. One last trip down Ballymaglancy to clean off our kit and it was back to the cottage to tidy up and pack before we left the following day.

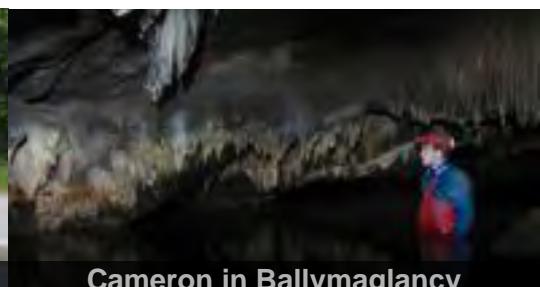
Jacob Podesta



Jacob in Horse Discovery



The Motley Crew



Cameron in Ballymaglancy

Treasurers Report 2013

Last year I was unable to give a report to the meeting as I was in hospital, but, in my absence, you voted a significant increase in subscriptions. Maybe I should have stayed away this year, as well!

That injection of new funds has stabilised our position for the immediate future, we have, this year, run a current account surplus akin to the deficit that we accrued the year before. I have thus enabled us to do what George Osborne cannot & have paid off our deficit in one term.

Most of our costs have remained fairly stable over the past year and reflect activity levels rather than gross changes in charges, especially for major items, such as insurances and the printing of *Proceedings*.

A few individual figures do deserve individual comment. As far as subscriptions go, I am, as ever, delighted by the support that our members give us. There are a few who have yet to change their standing orders to reflect the new figure, but we only had two resignations as a result of this increase. This is wholly remarkable and shows how much affection the Society is held in by its members. The miscellaneous income figure has two parts, one was the return of an outstanding accommodation deposit that I had covered, whose coming and going spanned two financial years, the other is a figure of £95 which we

received in compensation from NatWest owing to their utter incompetence at the beginning of this period. This brings me to another change; you will see that we now have a substantial part of our cash invested with Barclays. This bond matures in March and will give a substantial return, especially compared with the paltry interest earned elsewhere these past few years. I am hoping that we shall be able to find a similar home for this money later this month. The donations figure of £550 includes two substantial sums from the Oliver Lloyd Memorial Fund, towards colour printing in *Proceedings* and for the provision of a drill for underground use. That fund also matched the Tratman Fund in providing a grant of £500 towards last summer's Irish trip. Finally you will see that in 2011/12 we sustained a loss on the Annual Dinner. This has been covered in 2012/13, but as I have had, again to cover the deposit required for the 2013 dinner it does not show as having come back to us. Such is life and accounting.

Finally, you will see that the CoCCSG fund has had no income this year. Because we have sold out. Actually, there is a little income that'll show in the 2013/14 accounts, but that'll be it until the next edition can be produced.

Graham Mullan



UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SPELAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST JANUARY 2013

2011/12	<u>Receipts</u>	£	£
2,304.00	Members subscriptions		3,420.00
624.00	Student member subscriptions		480.00
1,000.00	<u>Union Grants:</u>		
	Capital	365.00	
	Current	<u>0.00</u>	365.00
400.00	Tratman Grant		500.00
18.36	<u>Interest on investments</u>		0.00
563.57	Sales of Publications (not C.of CC)		541.83
85.00	Donations		741.52
602.20	Tax refund on Covenants		549.58
16.50	Sales of Charterhouse Permits (net)		15.00
564.00	Personal contributions to PI Insurance		459.00
0.00	Key Deposits		120.00
0.00	Miscellaneous		170.00
6,177.63	Total Receipts		7,361.93

Payments

2,594.00	<u>Proceedings:</u>	Printing	2,013.00	
463.12		Postage	<u>499.56</u>	2,512.56
1,000.00	<u>Tools & Equipment</u>	Capital	635.52	
106.41		Current	<u> </u>	635.52
119.50	Library Acquisitions			177.00
7.00	Sessional Meetings			0.00
17.96	Other Postages			135.53
70.85	Stationery & Duplicating			127.45
1,505.00	<u>Insurances</u>	Third Party	1,237.00	
539.56		Property	<u>555.75</u>	1,792.75
154.00	Subscriptions			154.00
25.00	Donation to Mendip Cave Rescue			25.00
300.00	(Surplus) /Deficit on Annual Dinner			0.00
6.00	IT expenses			5.98
0.00	Fresh			0.00
85.00	Miscellaneous			0.00
400.00	Tratman Grant			500.00
7,393.40	Total Payments			6,065.79
1,215.77	Surplus/(Deficit) for year			1,296.14

Treasurers Report 2014

Another quiet year, as an old friend of mine used to say when giving his report, elsewhere in the caving world.

We have made a reasonable surplus on the current account, but this only to be expected as the subscription increase of two years ago was made on the basis of not needing to be repeated for some time, which means building a surplus early in the cycle and reducing it later.

Some points of interest: members subs appear to be down on last year but that's because I managed to sort out a lot of backsliders during the previous year, a consequence of the subs rise, and that of course doesn't get repeated every year. It also echoes in the significant increase in our Gift Aid tax rebate this year. Other interesting items of income are a marked increase in investment income thanks to some Barclays Bank treasury bonds, sadly not repeatable in this coming year, and a fairly significant rise in PI insurance contributions, showing that more of our graduate members have stayed caving with us, this year.

You will see, however, no grant income, at all, from the Union. This was partially due to efficient claiming by a previous tackle officer and partially a conscious decision by your committee not to push our heads too far over the parapet. It is in line with a consistent fall in income from this source over my time in office.

In contrast, payments have been fairly steady. Insurance costs always rise a bit, but thanks to Ginny Hope in the University's Insurance office, our property insurance (Library & Museum contents) has actually reduced this time, for no reduction in cover. Thanks Ginny. Publication costs vary with the size of each issue, the overall level of costs remains comparable. The apparent loss on the dinner, although that is meant to be - and is - self funding, comes about because a deposit has to be paid just at the time the financial year comes to an end so this will yo-yo up and down from year to year.

I need to thank the Trustees of the Oliver Lloyd memorial Fund for their continued support, the University's Tratman Fund for supporting the last Irish trip and the executors of the will of our late vice-president Chris Hawkes for passing on his very generous bequest. This has helped us manage the almost complete re-shelving of the Library stack room.

Finally, I must also thank our auditor, Derek Allen, whose sound advice and work are a great help to me.

Apparently, according to the vice-presidents, the president and the auditor, I am willing to stand for a further year. I'm not sure my own opinion counts for very much in this.

Graham Mullan



UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST JANUARY 2014

2012/13		<u>Receipts</u>		
£	£		£	£
3,420.00		Members subscriptions		2,800.00
480.00		Student member subscriptions		615.00
365.00		<u>Union Grants:</u>	Capital	0.00
			Current	<u>0.00</u>
500.00		Tratman Grant		750.00
0.00		<u>Interest on investments</u>	Barclays Bank	560.10
541.83		Sales of Publications (not C.of CC)		431.80
741.52		Donations		1,859.00
549.58		Tax refund on Covenants		701.30
15.00		Sales of Charterhouse Permits (net)		0.00
459.00		Personal contributions to PI Insurance		527.00
120.00		Key Deposits		0.00
170.00		Miscellaneous		0.00
7,361.93		Total Receipts		8,244.20

Payments

2,013.00	<u>Proceedings:</u>	Printing	2,371.00	
499.56		Postage	<u>544.07</u>	2,915.07
635.52	<u>Tools & Equipment</u>	Capital	119.78	
0.00		Current	<u>30.00</u>	149.78
177.00	Library Acquisitions			252.44
0.00	Sessional Meetings			0.00
135.53	Other Postages			0.00
127.45	Stationery & Duplicating			65.00
1,237.00	<u>Insurances</u>	Third Party	1,389.00	
555.75		Property	<u>299.08</u>	1,688.08
154.00	Subscriptions			156.00
25.00	Donation to Mendip Cave Rescue			25.00
0.00	(Surplus) /Deficit on Annual Dinner			275.00
5.98	IT expenses			123.68
0.00	Fresh			0.00
0.00	Miscellaneous			0.00
500.00	Tratman Grant			750.00
	OCL Mem Fund Grant			500.00
6,065.79	Total Payments			6,350.05
1,296.14	Surplus/(Deficit) for year			1,894.15

