



Hampshire Scout Caving Club



Newsletter January 2006



photo - Sally White

Neuf Gorges - Ardeche

HSCC web site URL : www.scouts-hants.org.uk/hsccl

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Administrator

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Equipment Warden

Phil Candy 10, Drake Road Bishopstoke SO50 6EU
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Programme 2006

Date	Time	Activity	Venue	Contact
14 Jan		Christmas Meal		Sue
28-29 Jan		Phils Birthday Trips	Mendip- MNRC	Sue
1 Feb	20:00	AGM	12th Eastleigh Scout Hut	Dave
1 Mar	20:00	Meeting + caving	Reading	Andy Watson
18/19Mar	10:00	Caving Days	Priddy Green /MNRC	Dave
5 Apr	20:00	Meeting - First Aid	Basingstoke	Dave/Stephen
14-17Apr		Wales	Brecon Scout Hut	Dave
3 May	20:00	Meeting - SRT practice	Lyons Copse	Dave/Phil
13 /14 May	10:00	Caving & Climbing Days	Priddy Green / MNRC	Dave
27 May -4 Jun		Scotland		Sue
7 Jun	20:00	Meeting - treasure Hunt		Dave
5 Jul	20:00	Meeting -BBQ	John Dawe's - Andover	Dave/John
8 /9 Jul	10:00	Caving & Climbing Days	Priddy Green	Dave
9 Aug		Walk		Dave
25-30 Aug		Yorkshire	YSS	Dave
6 Sept	20:00	Meeting - Climbing	Fort Purbrook	Dave
4 Oct	20:00	Meeting - talk (Bill)	12 th Eastleigh	Dave
7/8 Oct	10:00	Caving & Climbing days	Priddy Green / MNRC	
1 Nov	20:00	Meeting - Training	12 th Eastleigh	Dave/Phil
18/19 Nov		Wales	Brecon Scout Hut	Dave
6 Dec	20:00	Meeting - Quiz	12 th Eastleigh	Dave

HSCC News

Clare Murray is back in the area - well the IOW - we look forward to her joining us on some trips underground soon.

Andy Watson and Dan Carter passed Cave Leader 1 Core Skills just before Christmas.

John Crowsley is not around for a few months, so it may be difficult to arrange Cave Leader assessments before May.

Gavin Bancroft has gone to Australia to avoid having to take Scouts caving!

Another of our former members, James Bennett is going to New Zealand soon. James' claim to fame was that he was the person who Richard stood on to avoid going into one of the OFD streamway pools. James had fallen into the pool and as he surfaced Richard stepped onto his helmet and leaped (successfully) for the other side, leaving James gulping and gasping for air!!

HSCC Members:

Gavin Bancroft	H 02380 614301	Darrel Instrell	H 02380 692778
	M 07717 177744		M 07766 654167
Ralph Candy	H 02380 696156	Susan Lynch	H 02380 641736
	M 07986 701790		M 07773 912050
Chris Carter	M 07966 055078	Bill McArdle	H 02392 599097
Dan Carter	M 07788 671545		M 07739 427704
Michael Chase	M 07837 828695	Anne Parker	H 02380 652388
Gavin Clark	H 01256 468240	Graham Sutherland	H 01252 628075
	M 07831 733805		M 07774 189245
John Dawe	H 01264 362761	Kirsty Sutherland	H 01252 628075
	M 07979 012957		M 07789 983191
Lewis Goodfellow	H 02380 693962	Andrew Watson	M 07781 420048
	M 07796 932635	Ros White	H 01425 654025
Richard Gulvin	M 07813 941946	Sally White	H 01425 654025
Tony Harris	H 01425 470438		M 07929 422285
	M 07771 806161		

Young Caver

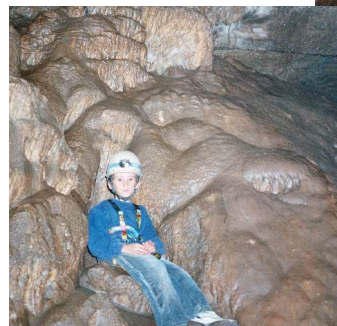
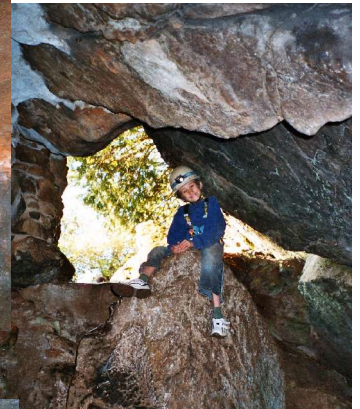
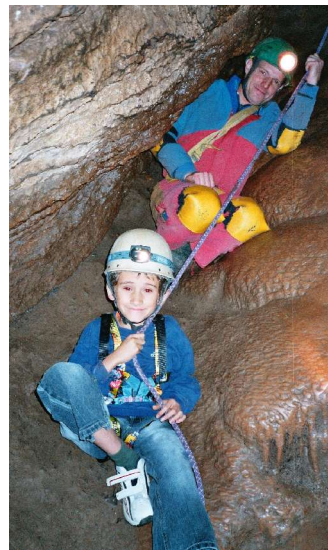
On Saturday 15th October I took Sam, my youngest caving with myself and a slightly 'under the weather' Dave King. Sam is 11 years old, is a Scout and has a rare bone condition, commonly referred to as Brittle Bones (or technically Osteogenesis Imperfecta Type 4 that is essentially a collagen issue). Therefore any slight mishap or slip or bash or impact against a rock could result in a bone fracture. Sam has had over 20 fractures over the last 10 years.

We visited two caves; Goatchurch where we went in through Tradesman's Entrance using a rope as a hand line and along past 'bloody tight', up the Giants Staircase and carefully back up through the Main Entrance.

We then drove up the track to near Drunkards Hole and visited Read's Cavern. I then carried Sam back from the cave on my shoulders to 'Lady Matilda' (My loyal 18 year old Suzuki SJ413 Jeep) as he was pretty tired. The photos show what a great time we had.

My thanks to Dave King for making this breath taking trip possible.

Andy Watson



HSCC Trip to Yorkshire

Sue and I decided not to drive to Helwith Bridge over the August bank holiday weekend and so I used some air miles to fly from Southampton to Manchester and pick up an Easy Car for the long weekend.

I was a bit worried about caving stuff in our luggage, wires/batteries and all that. But hey-ho off we went in Matilda my Suzuki Jeep to Southampton Airport with my SRT rope and harness kit as my hand luggage. The customs people thought it was a bit odd but smiled sweetly! When we arrived in Manchester I expected a tiny Easy Car super mini but got an Avis Vauxhall Corsa for the same money - good deal I thought. Sue and I had fun negotiating the Manchester ring road motorways up to Settle and Helwith Bridge - found the pub - must be okay. Then to YSS, the Yorkshire Subterranean Society caving hut, which is an old school house and is well looked after.

Day one a drive down a long and windy (is that wind'dee or wine dee?) road then a walk over the edge of the moors took us to Lancaster Hole. A small metal cover revealed an already rigged pitch. Phil Candy rigged alongside and we descended a 35 metre entrance shaft in three 'bites'. It is an impressive pothole from the bottom.



A walk and short climb leads to the Colonnade Chamber where the famous columns are.

We then wandered off down some other bits to explore. This is a big system over 66,000 metres of passage and very pretty.

Back to YSS for food in the pub and socialising. A very pretty location

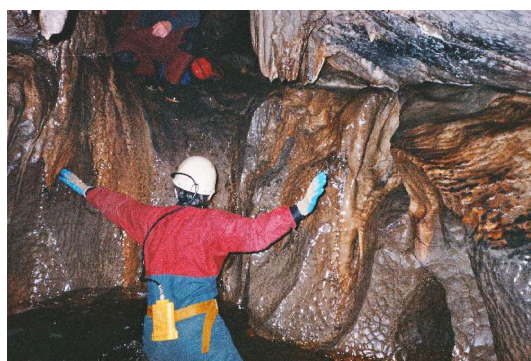
with pleasant Yorkshire mist (rain).

Day Two - We decided to 'do' the famous Gaping Ghyll Cave as the winch for tourists is run over the August Bank Holiday weekend. For £10 and an hour or so wait you can descend into the main chamber on a winch wire and a Bosun's chair. It gets very busy so we set off early and had to wait about 1½ hours to get down.

When down we went off caving to Mud Hall to see the mud models (a large impressive chamber with a traverse line along the edge) then on further to the first pothole before turning around. We also explored a very muddy

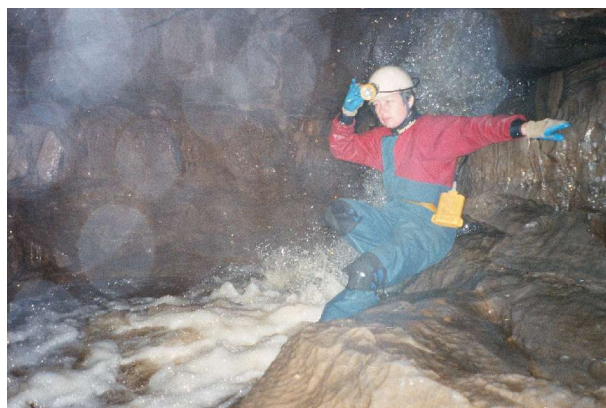
side passage and got plastered in liquid mud of very entertaining consistency and laughed a lot as we slipped and struggled to climb up out of the hole. Back the other way we visited Sand Chamber via some nice walking size tubes (almost phreatic but not quite I think). Back into the Bosun's chair leaving it exceptionally muddy for the next tourist (tee hee).

When out we squelched back down the two-mile walk in caving boots giving me blisters. Halfway down we stopped near the Ingleborough Show Cave and washed our muddy kit in the river, much observed and smiled at by the general population out for a nice walk, with many of them stopping to ask questions about 'real caving'.



Heather in Long Churns

Day Three - Bank Holiday Monday - Saw Phil and Sue, myself and my Sue and my sister Heather (ex caver of long ago) to Alum Pot and Long Churns where we had fun watching Heather SRT for the first time (bong boing).



Heather again - enjoying Long Churns

During the weekend others went off and did various caves and young master Conner had his first caving trip. A new recruit I think.

Andy Watson

'A By the By' from Wally Watson!

On a Friday towards the end of the summer I took my eldest son Steve caving with two of his friends Ben and Jake (novices) to Goatchurch, Sidcot and Swildons Hole in the Mendips. Three weeks earlier I bought a new Timex Expedition Watch on Ebay from the United States after I lost mine on an MNRC weekend. One week earlier the watch was running slow so I popped into a watch shop while in Northampton. He tested the battery and said the voltage was low and that these watches were sensitive to voltage. He put in a new battery and reassured me it would now be okay.

So off we go to Goatchurch and Sidcot with Sue on callout duty. Estimated Time Out 11am as we started early and 12 noon for Call Out Time. My watch said 11.35am as we exited the caves and strolled back to Burrington Coombe Car park. We get changed and at 11.50 I call Sue to say we are out okay. She speaks to me in a very stressed and high voice and says "Where on earth have you been" as Cave Rescue are now on standby, after she had dutifully called the Police 999 and asked for Avon and Somerset Police and then Cave Rescue! It was in fact 13.40 not 11.50. I will take two watches next time.

Watch for Sale: Timex Expedition Indiglo ideal for caving (not) runs slightly slow, very cheap, bargain £3.

HSCC Scout Cavers Badge Weekend....

Having had hassle from certain quarters it was decided that we should try to run a cavers badge weekend for (up to) 12 scouts as a trial.

The unenviable task of running the event fell to Phil, Sue, Dave, Ros, Dan and Lewis. Five of the six leaders made their way to sunny Mendip on the Friday before the designated weekend (26/7 November), it was cold. Ros appeared on Saturday morning with 6 scouts in tow, 4 others appeared from Baisingstoke. So we only had 10 of the expected 12 scouts.

The plan was to cave twice on Saturday and once on Sunday, which with the prerequisite trip was enough for the caver's badge. The Scouts decided to stay in their groups and they were allocated leaders for the weekend.

Burrington Coombe was the venue for Saturday morning's caving with trips in Rod's Pot, Sidcot Swallet and Pierre's Pot. After lunch we had a change of venue as Phil and Sue took their group to Waterwheel while the other two groups staggered their entry to Tynnings Barrow Swallet. The evening turned very cold as we waited for what seemed like an eternity for the second group to leave Tynnings and de-rig so that we could retrieve the ladders and ropes and avoid overburdening the poor hire car with all that extra kit.

Following our return to MNRC the Scouts were washed and fed and we attempted to give them the required theory sessions, but as with all Scouts on the first night of a 'camp' and the attention span of a gnat we

were fighting an uphill battle. The caving games were more appreciated with several Scouts completing the table traverse, broomstick challenge and the coat hanger challenges.

On Sunday all the groups went into Swildon's Hole, they all descended the ladder and went varying distances past it. Following the Scout clean and feeding, there was a last theory session and presentation of badges and the Scouts went home leaving us to tidy the hut. The Scouts enjoyed the caving but were not interested in the theory and were probably not overly concerned about getting a badge.

We did some trips we don't normally manage, this was because of the group size and the level of experience of the Scouts.

The transport was a problem which would have been worse had all 12 scouts been present.

We made a small loss with the cost of £40/Scout.

The only economically viable method would be to have groups of 6 scouts with 2 leaders each with a car which would increase the cost to £48/Scout. This would limit the trips you could attempt as a group with 6 Scouts is significantly slower than one with 4 Scouts (especially on ladders).

The Scouts were a pain in the evening and the leaders got no down time. This is probably best solved by running badge weekends for Scout Groups where they lay on the catering and sleeping for the Scouts at a venue other than MNRC (where we would be staying). We would only have contact with the Scouts for caving and cave theory sessions.

The question of which age group the activity was aimed at was also raised, it was generally felt that Explorers should be targeted instead of Scouts, but the format of a weekend for Explorers was not discussed.

Dave

You know you are a caver when:

You take a copy of Mendip Underground to the Pub.

You have belay points on your house gable end or in a tree for SRT practice.

You have a roll of gaffer tape instead of a first aid kit.

You have two washing machines.

When everything you own smells slightly of mud.

You practice first aid techniques under a table.

When white is never a good colour to wear.

When you visit the Hunters Lodge and enjoy the conversation.

If you test the brightness of your new 'petzl' lamp under the duvet.

When the inside of your car is as dirty as the outside.

Australia - somewhere near (in Australian terms) Eneabba
- Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th October 2005.

We spent an interesting day caving in Stockyard Gully and Aiyennu caves on Saturday, in an area several hundred miles north of Perth.



This looks like typical limestone pavement, but the limestone in this area is only $\frac{1}{2}$ million years old, is not a very thick layer and sits on sand.



Roots going through the limestone enable water to percolate through and form solution tubes. As these get larger they form larger holes in the limestone layer and several may end up linked together with the middle falling out. Water going through these solution tubes can wash away the sand underneath, leaving a cavern with a network of lace-like holes in the roof (Aeyennu Cave).



The whole lot may fall in, especially in places where water flows underneath, leaving gullies and tunnels (Stockyard Gully).



We were promised a day in the bush cave-hunting on Sunday, to complete our weekend with the Western Australian Speleological Group. A breakfast of bacon butties was provided by Paul at Lake Indoon and after packing up our camping gear we were installed in Jay's 4wheel-drive vehicle, with absolutely no idea what to expect. After a scenic drive on various sandy, bumpy and dusty 4wd tracks (I had lost all sense of direction but if signs were to be believed were somewhere in Beekeepers or an adjacent reserve) maps were consulted.



Jay and Paul got out to compare a map of the area, the sketched topographic map of where the cave was supposed to be and the surrounding slopes and hills.

Apparently not quite the correct place, so we moved on a little, parked and consulted maps again.

They then grabbed their caving helmets, lights and a bottle of water and dived off into the surrounding mass of scrub, thorns, prickles and other herbacious growths that looked intent on doing us damage. We took this to mean we should follow. Des attacked the area with gusto, David plunged into the tangle with enthusiasm and Suzanne and myself followed with considerable apprehension.

We spent the next few hours desperately trying not to get torn apart by bushes, bitten by snakes, bounced on by kangaroos, or too far separated from the others in the group such that we should never be found again. We found a wonderful assortment of bushes and flowers, admired the fauna which was duly photographed, found vast tracts of limestone pavement, but sadly no sign of any hollows beneath.



Various dips, mounds, areas of slightly different scrub and clumps of trees were all considered as possible locations, but rejected after inspection. Eventually we gave up and headed back to the vehicles to compare scratches.



The problem was that the map of the cave's location had no scale or grid, just some contours! The scrub was

such that we could have been within a few metres of a huge cave opening and not seen it. In fact there could have been almost anything hidden there!



We may have been disappointed at not finding a cave, but not by the experience. We saw an amazing variety of wild flowers of all shapes and colours, the whole scene looking quite stunning.



There were lizards and cockroaches, kangaroos and emu and just one snake (quite a small one, but I still kept well away). We had forced our way through almost impenetrable growth, sauntered down "kangaroo highways", admired the flora and been a little apprehensive if meeting the fauna (everything in Australia is poisonous apparently). Hard work it may have been, but not to be missed, an unforgettable part of our Australian experience.

We returned to England a few days later with lots of photos, a few scratches, a considerable number of insect bites itching and swelling, bumps where ticks had been removed and an impression of Australian cavers being full of enthusiasm, very knowledgeable on geology and cave evolution, slightly mad, but very kind, generous and friendly. With thanks to Jay and Paul for looking after us.

Ros White and David Chadwick

Name the Cave



Cave A



Cave B



Cave C



Cave D



Cave E



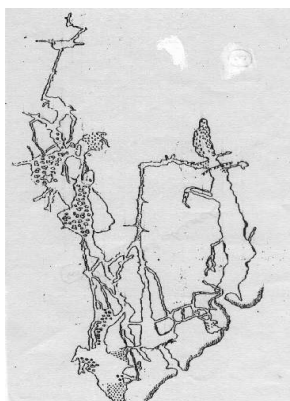
Cave F

Answers to Quizzes etc from last year's Newsletters.

Identify the Caves :



Otter Hole

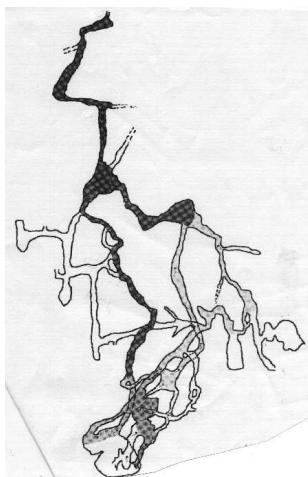


Goatchurch Cavern

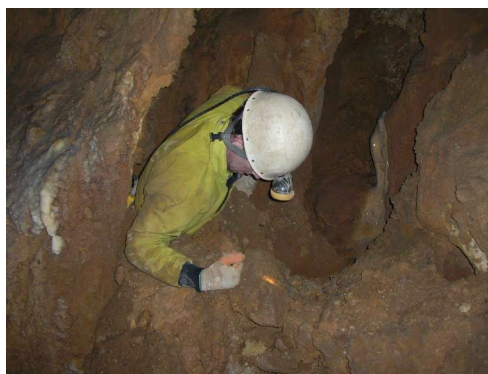


Tynings Barrow Swallet

Swildons Hole - top



Caption Competition



Winner : 'Trogite is a rare type of rock, formed by the compression of cavers over many millions of years'.- Geoffrey White

Identify the Cave

The entrance resembles an enlarged rabbit burrow and leads immediately to a Z-bend, followed by a small inclined rift with muddy pools on the floor before a 'bold step' across a 3m deep rift into a small, flat-roofed chamber.

Rod's Pot

..... then a further 2.5m drop reaches a passage which continues steeply down between boulders and bedrock wall. Levelling out the way on passes a short passage on the left to an ascending aven, and a narrow stretch leads on to an 18m descent through a well consolidated boulder choke. A brief scramble finally drops into a second section of steeply descending passage where care is needed in passing some rather vulnerable straw stalactites overhead. Skirting a most attractive sweep of black-stained gourls on the right the character of the cave changes abruptly to a horizontal tube **Waterwheel**

A 10ft scramble down the entrance rift presents the option of following a short rift passage or descending a steeply sloping passage in the floor to a small chamber. - **Pierre's Pot**

For its modest extent ?? is an unusually interesting cave - visually and as a sporting trip. The deep entrance pitch provides a rather technical descent to a roomy and impressive chamber. awkward descent in a steeply-sloping narrow rift in knobbly Dolomitic Conglomerate. **Mangle Hole**

..... crawl with short inlet to left and two short drops to a further crawl becoming wet where a chink of daylight is seen to the left. **Simpson's Pot.**

Development of Caves - a brief outline only - part 1

Most British caves are in Carboniferous limestone which was laid down about 300 million years ago. It was formed from the remains of dead sea creatures, the sediment of which was compressed to form layers (beds) of limestone. Pressure caused it to become naturally fractured in a grid pattern, vertically by joints and horizontally by bedding planes.



The landscape slowly changed, tectonic activity (collision of large plates of land) caused uplift of mountains and sinking of other areas and so the angle of bedding planes of the rock did not necessarily remain horizontal. Fractures in the bedding planes (faults) resulted in large blocks of limestone slipping and misalignment of the bedding planes in places.



Water takes the path of least resistance through substances. The fractures in limestone provide a weakness through which rivers and streams can sink, down the joints and then run along beds, filling voids until it finds a way on or out.

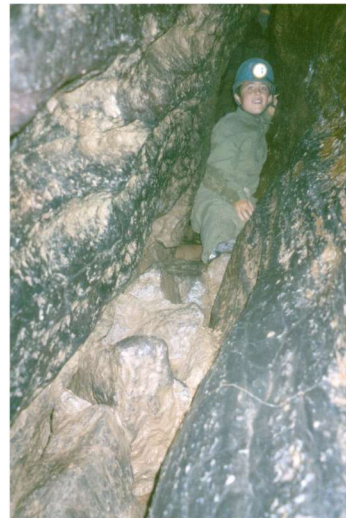


When water finds a way out (usually into a river valley

via a resurgence) the water table in the system drops.



Limestone is different from other rock in that it is soluble in weak acid. Slightly acid rain-water (carbonic acid) going through the system dissolves the rock as it goes and so enlarges the fissures. It can then go faster in the enlarged ducts. Where water runs along a channel there may also be a corrasive (abrasion by particles carried in the water) effect as well as the chemical corrosion.



The opening up of the natural joints and weaknesses left voids - caves - in the rock.

