



Hampshire Scout Caving Club



Newsletter Summer 2009



Lancaster Hole

photo: David Chadwick

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

Notes on Cave Access, News etc.

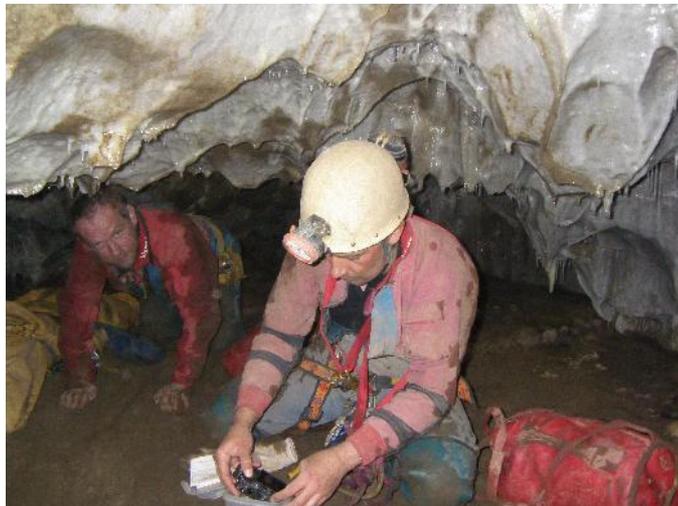
New booking procedure for Scout Caving days is at the back of the Newsletter, with and a copy of the new booking form and details of Explorer days

CaveClimb.com - New shop with caving equipment in Union Street, Cheddar. Also online.

Bill and Jane got married in August - congratulations.

Sally went on an expedition to Dachstein (Austria) - she will write about it for the next newsletter.

Amelia passed her driving test - look out if you go near Fordingbridge!



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

Caving news and updates on information can be found on the UK Caving Forum :
<http://ukcaving.com/board/index.php>

Caving UK (in association with Descent magazine) page at :
<http://www.caving.uk.com/Resources/Pages/frame.html>

Mendip caves map :
<http://www.ukcaves.co.uk/map-mendip>

HSCC Officials

Chairman David Chadwick

The Roost, Abbotswell Rd, Frogham, Fordingbridge SP6 2JA
H 01425 654025 M 07768 040088

David@theroost.Demon.co.uk

Administrator Sue Chase

10, Drake Road, Bishopstoke, SO50 6EU
H 02380 616056 M 07817 636655

Equipment Warden Phil Candy

10, Drake Road Bishopstoke SO50 6EU
H 02380 616056 M 07891 826195

Bookings Secretary Andrew Watson

H 01256 354510 M 07881 420048

lemoncandy@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary Sue Watson

H 01256 354510 [M 07766 523694](tel:07766523694)

HSCC Programme for 2009/10

Date	Time	Activity	Venue	Contact
7.10.09	20.00	talk	12th Eastleigh, HQ Bishopstoke	John Dawe
4.11.09	20.00	First Aid	Sue Watson's	Ros White
14 Nov	7:30	Explorer Day	Tesco at Winnal	Dave
21/22.11.09		Wales trips	Brecon Scout Hut	Sue Chase
2.12.09	20.00	Quiz	12th Eastleigh, HQ Bishopstoke	Dave
20 Dec	10:00	Caving	Thrupe Lane	Dave
6 Jan	20:00	SRT Practice	Sandleheath Scout Hut	Ros
30-31 Jan		Caving	NMRC	Phil
3 Feb	20:00	AGM	12th Eastleigh Scout Hut	Dave
28 Feb	7:30	Explorer Day	Westbound Rowans Services	Dave
3 Mar	20:00	Training	12th Eastleigh Scout Hut	Phil
20 Mar	10:00	Caving Day	Priddy Green	Andy
21 Mar	10:00	Caving Day	Priddy Green	Andy
7 Apr	19:30	Treasure Hunt	Tesco at Winnal	Richard
24 Apr	7:30	Explorer Day	Gosport	Dave
5 May	19:30	SRT Practice	Lyons Copse	Phil
15 May	10:00	Caving & Climbing Day	Priddy Green	
16 May	10:00	Caving & Climbing Day	Priddy Green	
29-31 May		Wales	Brecon Scout Hut	
2 Jun	19:30	Cycling		
13 Jun	7:30	Explorer Day		Dave

HSCC trips 2009: include : SRT practice at Sandleheath Scout Centre, Agen Allwedd, Alum Pot, Animal Den, Aveline's Hole, Bath Swallet, Bridge Cave, Bull Pot, Bull Pot OTW, County Pot, Crag cave, Craig a Ffynnon, Crex Coulon, Cwm Dwr, Dan yr Ogof, Draenen, East Twin Swallet, Eastwater Cavern, Eldon Hole, Foel Fawr, Gavel Pot, GB, Giants Hole, Goatchurch Cavern, Goughs cave, Gouffre Gros Gadeau, Gouffre de la Baume des Cretes, Gouffre des Griffes, Gouffre des Faviere, Grotte ge Balerna, Grotte de la Champs Gillibot, Grotte des Planches, Hilliers, Hillocks, Home Close Hole, Honeymead, Hunters Hole, Hunters Lodge Sink, JH, Jingling, Knotlow, Lancaster Hole, Little Crapnell Swallet, Little Neath River Cave, Llygad Lluchwr, Lost John Pot, Manchester Hole, Manor Farm, Marble Steps, Miss Graces Lane, Mitchelstown cave, New Goyden, Notts Pot, Notts II, OFD II, Otter Hole, Peak cavern, Pierre's Pot, Pwll Dyfn, Radford Cave, Rhino Rift, Rods Pot, Rumbling Hole, Sell Gill, Sidcot Swallet, Singing River Mine, Slaughter Stream (Big Sink & Wet Sink), Swildons Hole, Symonds Yat Caves, Through & Through cave, Thrupe Lane, Titan, Town Drain, Tynings Barrow Swallet, Waterwheel, White Lady, Wigmore Swallet.

HSCC trip to Jura / Doubs - April 2009

Stayed at Gite in Mesney, near Arbois - Phil, Sue, Dave, Ros, Graham, Claire, Kirsty, Richard, Susan, Lewis & Gavin

Grotte des Planches - Sat 11 April

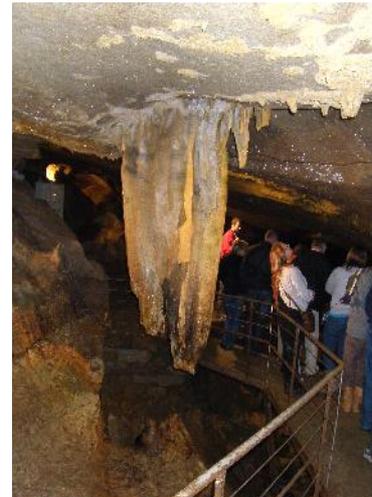
(Dave, Ros, Graham, Claire, Kirsty, Richard, Susan & Gavin)

Guided tourist trip. Quite an interesting cave, the limestone beds were initially quite thin and the roof had been bolted to keep it in place. There was a museum in the first chamber which included the boat used for the initial investigation of the cave.

Lower down the cave the limestone became less friable and there were numerous swirl holes and gour pools. We also saw a large phreatic passage which contained a huge amount of guano.

On the way out of the cave we were shown where there had been a scientific study of an area of the cave and human remains from 800BC were found.

Apparently some French people had taken refuge in the cave, had been found, killed and burnt by their enemies.



Gouffre Gros Gadeau - Sun 12 April (Dave, Ros, Phil, Sue, Gavin, Kirsty)

Excellent description of how to find the cave, it could have mentioned that it was on the lower path, to save us a couple of minutes. There was a set of spits on one side of the pot (under the stream) but we decided to rig the pitch from a pair of trees on one side with a long deviation to a tree on the opposite side. This required a sling so that the deviation could be retrieved and to prevent it from going too far down the rope. Ros and Sue found a salamander on a ledge, Dave was more interested in the P hangers which we used to descend the next two pitches. The first with two Y hangs and the second with a Y hang, a two bolt traverse and a dangle rebelay Y hang. The lower part of that pitch was a trifle damp and Dave thought he must have missed some spits so he came back up in search of them. There were some on a ledge as a rebelay, but no other way on, so he tried to swing into a rift to no avail as the rock was quite slippery. Phil took over and had no trouble finding the spits in the rain at the bottom of the pitch. We then had several pitches in quick succession, eventually running out of rope and having to tie all the spare deviation cords together to get down the last slippery climb and into the streamway. We followed this for a while encountering a number of smelly putrefying frogs as the passage got lower and more slippery.

Phil's Toilet ! - Sun 12 April (Phil, Dave, Ros)

Before doing Gouffre Gros Gadeau, Phil had found another hole in the woods which had some in situ hangers, so we had to try it. We took 30m of rope and went for an investigation. The top pitch had three hangers (one installed the wrong way round) and led to a small, loose chamber with another pitch (2 in situ hangers). That ended in another chamber with a bat, hundreds of small spiders, more loose rock and some new looking spits. The way on was a tight crawl to a pitch head which opened out, we elected to call it a day and headed out.



Gouffre des Griffes - Mon 13 April (Phil, Sue, Dave, Ros, Graham, Claire)

This was the only cave which we had trouble finding. The problem could have been in the translation as it said abyss, so we were looking for a large hole. We eventually found the cave lurking under a small pallet.



The first pitch was rigged from a tree with a root deviation. The second pitch had a single bolt traverse line (backed up to the first pitch) with a low two bolt Y hang. This led to a short scramble and the third pitch which had an angled (down) traverse which we started from the stal boss instead of the spit into a Y hang. It was supposed to have a rebelay in the middle of it, but we rigged it as a deviation to make it easier, the pitch was a little snug in places and we had to avoid the sleeping bats. The fourth pitch had an entertaining take-off with a natural and spit back up to the pitch head crawl where there was a two spit Y hang, the short pitch ended in a chemically enlarged passage with a sleeping bat and a lot of

white spiders, we think they were decomposing. There was another pitch (unfortunately we had run out of rope) and an unpleasant looking climb down. So we started out of the cave, Graham first, Claire second – she got stuck at the top of the bottom pitch and Dave went up to rescue her and in the process had to cut one of her cow's tails. She was then lined on all the other pitches. Sue de-rigged and passed the rope up the for use in the lining process.

Creux Coulon - Mon 13 April (Phil, Sue, Dave & Ros)

Excellent directions again to a much larger abyss. We used two trees (one outside the fence and another inside) to backup the main (dead) belay tree. This gave a reasonable hang direct to the floor some 30m below, passing some useless spits on the way. We landed on the top of a large pile of debris that had fallen into the pit. Found a short side passage with sparkly rocks and some large bones and an aven which was shorter than that shown on the topo. Phil and Dave descended the side pitch to the sump which was surprisingly clear. Going back up the pitch we were showered by moss as the rope caught it. Phil spotted a nice red mushroom on a ledge half way up.

Gouffre de la Baume des Cretes - Tues 14 April (Dave, Ros, Richard & Susan)

Directions were accurate again and we had no trouble find the concrete shelter which we were meant to park next to, and the cave in the field opposite. There were lots of P hangers showing the line of the initial traverse. Having changed we started to rig missing some of the P hangers as we were going to be short of mailons if we continued with this number of hangers. There was a six bolt traverse into the first Y hang, the last part of which was a bit short on ledge on which to stand.

Having got to the bottom of the pitch we went to look at the "Salle do Chein", which had an interesting climb down into it and was well decorated. We climbed out and started down the boulder slope, there were loads of pagoda stalagmites with strange limestone leaves sticking out of them. This started in a huge chamber which suddenly lost height and presented us with a choke, we navigated our way through this by following the soot arrows to find some more P hangers (2 Y hangs), following a short drop we found some more P hangers (another 2 Y hangs) and another drop, leaving the choke we entered a descending passage. We used the tail of the last rope on the mud slope but that was unnecessary as it turned out to be quite easy to climb. This led to another decorated chamber and a non-obvious climb out on the right hand side, this had spits at the top, which we used in conjunction with a natural to protect the climb down, probably not necessary. This ran quickly into some more P hangers and the second longest pitch of the day (2 Y hangs and a single bolt traverse). This dropped into the beginning of the streamway and the point at which we took a wrong turn.

Continuing down stream we found a pair of spits for the next descent, we used a stal boss and the better of the two spits to descend into the impressive mud at the bottom of the pitch. Richard found an interesting, pre-rigged climb which he ascended to the first hanger before coming back. Meanwhile Susan was practising for the triathlon by swimming in the mud. Having abandoned Richard's ascent we found the correct way on from above the last pitch (2 Y hangs with a 2 bolt traverse all in P hangers). The team were getting



tired so we headed out, stopping for a snack at the picnic bench. Richard and Ros both lost their right hand glove on the way out. Richard ascended first and announced the imminent arrival of a thunderstorm as Dave appeared. We rigged a safety line to make it easier for Susan and she appeared just as the thunderstorm struck. One of the first strikes starting the landrover's alarm and several of the others being remarkably close. Ros (still at the bottom of the pitch) complained of the cave shaking with the thunder, we were more concerned by the proximity of the lightning. Having all got out of the cave we sheltered in the concrete shelter until the storm subsided, when we went back to de-rig and get the safety kit bag including the landrover key.

Baume des Favieres - Wed 15 April (Phil, Sue, Dave & Ros)

Following a long drive through some pleasant countryside we got to the small village of Arsure-Arsurette (previously advertised as being only 8km away). There was a little snow on the ground but the ski centre was shut. We drove up the hill and over the first set of "Canadian Rollers", turning left just before the second set. We parked just before the quarry mentioned in the description and walked up the hill to find the cave. After a long 300m we found the cut, which we walked through, doubling back to the right at the end we had no trouble finding the cave.

Having found the cave we went back to the landy to get changed and haul the rope up the hill. Having rejected the "Network de Lucerne" route, due in the main to the number of sherpas available, we only had three large bags of rope for the "Big Wells" route. It started well with a tree belay with another tree deviation (ignoring the spits).

Rebelay on the ledge and then as 4m, 8m (which was dangley) with a deviation at 12m to a natural, then down to a huge ledge. Changed ropes, bags and riggers, and started again, spits high above the pitch head which Phil could only just reach (Ros had even more fun derigging). That pitch was 33m to a ledge passing some useless spits on the way, the rope had a gentle rub point about half way down but nothing any of the spits would have helped with. Carrying on down a further 13m to a small chamber and the end of the second bag of rope. There was no obvious way on, after some searching we did find some spits above an unlikely tube which Dave described as snug. It looked as if it would be more fun on the return. Sue says she did fit through but no one would let her as she could not have helped her get back.

Having aborted the trip early we returned to the surface in 3 hours and went to look for Lesine du Champ Guillobot and had a long drive through the woods, but failed to see any deer or wild boars.



Grotte de Balerna - Thurs 16 April (Dave, Ros, Richard, Susan & Graham)

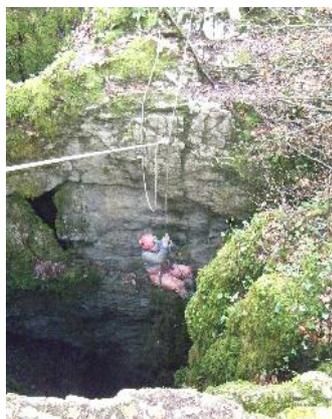
Following heavy rain in the night people were dubious about caving but decided to give it a go anyway.

After an unpleasant drive through Champagnole (the locals had arranged it such that you have to drive through the centre of the town to get to Ney). We arrived at the parking place just as it stopped raining. This cave was to be a long walk so we packed the kit and headed into the woods as the rain started again. The path climbed through the woods to emerge on the side of the cliff about 100m up (the description said the path is committed to the cliff). The cliff face above us was overhanging the path, which sheltered us from the wind and rain so apart from the drop it was quite a pleasant scenic walk. The directions led us to some in-situ tat and a short, easy climb down to the large cave mouth. Following the passage led to some spits (2 used) and a short climb down (5m rope). There was an option to traverse in the roof but we declined and continued on the main route, having jettisoned on bag of rope which was for the two optional pitches which we failed to find.

The passage meandered to an unpleasant duck under a rock, but it was possible to climb over the rock and back down the other side. There were some spits above the pitch so it was duly rigged, though not really necessary (10m rope 4 spits). More winding passage led to another climb up and more spits than we knew what to do with. When we eventually found the pitch it was in a waterfall so we tried the under route with no rope required in the initial stages, though a bit damp in places. Found some more spits at the head of a short climb down before another short pitch (6 spits, 20m rope). Another short walk led to the final traverse and pitch (5 spits 20m rope). The traverse was a little airy in places, but not at all hard, though we were glad of the rope. There was an in-situ rope attached to the last spit (no backup) which took you down to the ledge about 5m above the lake. We rigged our own rope and descended to the ledge where some major bolting had taken place and there was another rope leading into the water and across to the far shore. We declined the chance for a swim but admired the water feature entering the lake under the pitch.

Went to have a look at Lesine du Champ Guillobot but it started raining and was getting cold so we decided to call it a day.

Lesine du Champ Guillobot - Fri 17 April (Dave & Ros)



Having obtained some rigging instruction from Phil (who had done the trip on Thursday) we thought that we would have no trouble rigging the entrance. A simple initial rig (Backup tree (dead), belay tree with deviation tree and a retrieval line) led to a collection of spits for a rebelay at the narrow point of the entrance pot. Dave rigged the rebelay and found a rub point, so he came back and moved the deviation to another tree which reduced the rub. It was difficult to get the deviation tight enough to avoid the rub point but still allowing a caver to pass it.

Landing was in a large chamber with lots of pagoda-type formations (mainly stalagmites) and some artichoke formations. There was more calcite than we knew what to do with. After a complete

tour of the chamber we found the way on down to the end of the cave, but didn't rig it. Found a couple of interesting looking climbs but again didn't go there. Ros de-rigged - the rebelay spits were at full stretch and the deviation was quite tight. It was a very pretty cave with lots of formations, of which we took lots of pictures.



Mexpe expedition by Andy Chapman

(photographs by Al Warild)

This year, I was given the chance to join the Mexpe expedition to the Sierra Negra region of Mexico, in order to survey and explore the cave Tres Quimeras to it's resurgence.

Myself and Imogen Furlong had arranged to meet the rest of the expedition team in the Mexican city of Tehuacan. The first obstacle to achieving this was getting there without either of us speaking Spanish. The problem was fortunately solved when the plane was landing. I saw a scruffy looking man who appeared to be wearing a t shirt with espeleo written on it, we had met our first expedition member!!

Luckily, Eric could speak fairly good Spanish, so we managed to get to the chosen destination and book a hotel room. We met with the rest of the expedition, (most of which were French speaking, causing hours of confusion for the British team members throughout our time together) and went out for Mexican beers.

Mexicans have a penchant for Chilli and so we were intrigued to taste Michelada, a beer served with Chilli, lime and salt around the rim of the glass. After one sip, both myself and Imo had decided this may be the most disgusting beverage we had ever tasted but having paid just under one pound for it, it was going to have to be drunk. We did not make the same mistake when ordering again.

After spending about 2 days shopping, we headed to base camp near a small village called Buena Vista. This involved being bundled on a 4 by 4 pick up truck, in the blazing sun and being driven up a rock strewn road. Halfway through the journey, I discovered by wedging my legs underneath a pile of tackle bags, I could avoid being unceremoniously thrown out of the vehicle, saving an unwanted visit to a Mexican hospital.



We arrived at the campsite and looked around at our home for the next month and all agreed it looked idealic. Situated at the bottom of a valley, with shelter from trees and a small stream babbling it's way through the campsite, everyone agreed this was an exceptionally nice place to stay. However, this was to be our undoing. The shade of the trees, the protection from the elements of the valley and the presence of the water made it the ideal playground for mosquitoes and other bloodsucking insects, making swatting insects a chief activity of the holiday.

The cave required re-rigging as the rock was fairly loose and any bolts from previous exploration may have fallen out or could be very unsafe so a number of days were spent reaching the last surveyed point which was

at the depth of -500 metres. Once this had been completed, exploration could commence.

Expedition caving works in a slightly different way to normal caving. The cave must be surveyed as you explore so rushing down to the bottom of the cave without surveying would be considered very bad form. However, if a cave has a great deal of rigging to be done then obviously, this must be done before it can be surveyed. Therefore, a pushing team would be split in 2 parts, with one person rigging and the others surveying.

The surveying could be done, using a number of different methods. Clinometers, compasses and tape could used to give the bearings, direction and length of passage which would then be written in a notebook to be drawn as a survey at camp or alternatively, a distometer could perform all these tasks and then bluetooth the information to a Palmtop, cutting out a lot of work.

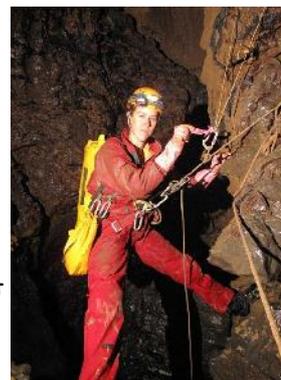
Once a certain depth had been reached, an overnight camp was required to allow further exploration. Luckily, as the cave was comparatively warm, no shelter was required and you could make do with a sleeping bag and a carry mat and enjoy a mosquito free night. Because mosquitoes are fairly reliant on their eyesight to find suitable victims, there was a distinct lack of flying insects underground. However, the alternative was worse!!

The University of Mexico City had offered the expedition a certain amount of funding to capture samples of cave scorpions known to be resident in these caves so most pushing teams had taken sampling bottles full of alcohol and devised ingenious methods to capture the



poisonous creatures without touching them. Some team members had developed a sealing system for their oversuit legs, using car inner tube to prevent any invertebrae scuttling up the trouser leg and causing permanent disfigurement. This ensured that nights underground were spent anticipating scorpion attack, rather than resting for the next day.

It was decided for two teams to push the cave, one from the main entrance and another to aid climb the resurgence to try to meet in the middle. A pushing team went down to -800 metres and marked their last survey station with some pink marking tape and started back on the 12 hours trip back to the surface. The team reached base and collapsed, shattered from the arduous return journey only to be greeted half an hour later by the resurgence team, clutching the pink tape and a box of Mexican beer. They had been 15 minutes from the resurgence and had turned back!!



The cave had been connected to the resurgence and surveyed in just under a month, so it was decided to spend the last three days in Mexico City, relaxing, celebrating and drinking, all of which were done to a high standard and level of accuracy!!

To conclude, expedition caving is slightly different from normal "tourist" caving, but it does give the opportunity to explore virgin passage and to see some of the most spectacular caves. I would recommend going should you be given the opportunity to participate. Just remember to pack insect repellent!!

photographs - Al Warild

more photos at: <http://home.exetel.com.au/alw/> - and look in : tres quimeras

Expedition Training by Sally White

I attended a cave expedition training workshop based at a climbing wall in South Wales. The workshop was arranged by one of the organisers for the annual Dachstein expedition in Austria and whilst the workshop was primarily based for Dachstein attendees, anyone was welcome.

The main areas covered included surveying, SRT, first aid and expedition kit. I already had experience in some of these areas but I had never surveyed before. They patiently showed me how to survey and how not to do it. I had more than one blond moment, such as when I was looking through the inclinometer and I was instructed to "read the bigger number of the two". I read the number of greater value, rather than the one written in larger digits! The first aid session was less constructive as the message was to avoid accidents, a fair point but little help once an accident has happened.

On the whole we had an enjoyable day, met other cavers and picked up some tips, some through the workshop and some through discussions with the other cavers.

Heale Farm Cave, Mendip - Andy Watson

It was discovered in 1974/75 by Beechen Cliff School Caving Club. The cave is in Eastern Mendip near Downhead and there are a series of small caves developed in swallet holes along the Downhead fault that runs almost under the road. It is the biggest of the collection of caves here. In the same swallet hole is Heale Farm Dig which was dug during the 1960s by various clubs to no avail, this has now been abandoned and a metal grid fixed just to allow protected bat access to the 20 feet deep hole.

Heale Farm Cave is on the left of the swallet hole and has a length of some 140 metres with a depth of about 60m. The best description is in the Belfry Bulletin from 1977, it is also in Mendip Underground. Access is strictly controlled now by Aggregate Industries and when the current gating is finished, expected to complete Sept 2009 (check with Andy Watson) then the key will be available at the security gatehouse at Torr Works and you will be required to sign an indemnity form.

It is on the Downhead road past Heale Farm (with its big horse arena) but before the Methodist Chapel on the right. The best parking spot is a gateway on the right after Heale Farm House; try not to block the road or the gateway. Please keep the noise down too, historically a complaint caused the shutting of this cave. Cross the road and go through the field gate at the end of the hedge almost opposite. Follow the track down and round to the left. The swallet hole is some 200m in front of you and is obvious. The actual small stream sink is some 20 metres up the valley.

The cave entrance is obvious by the dry stone walling stepping down to the entrance in the left corner of the swallet. A 5 metre steeply sloping entrance passage gives way to a sloping bedding plane. Both areas have loose boulders and are steep, a handline may be useful. Please look out for bats.

At the bottom of the bedding plane a small chamber with a stream in the floor leads to the top of a 4 metre waterfall, this needs a ladder and lifeline secured to the very large boulder that overhangs the climb which is made of loose shale type rock. The base is in the main chamber with water and loose rocks underfoot.

At the bottom of Main Chamber a muddy squeeze behind large rocks leads to a muddy rift with a stream in the bottom (Alimentary Canal). This can be followed for a short distance before the stream sinks into a muddy choke. Back in the main chamber, at the bottom of the obvious chimney (rift), can be climbed to a short section of passage which ends over a choked pot above which is a difficult traverse and a 3 metre climb to the final 10 metres of passage which becomes too tight to follow.

The cave still has about 30m to drop before reaching its final resurgence at Seven Springs in Asham Wood.

The Main Chamber has been known to half fill during flooding so this is possibly seasonal by the obvious glutinous mud deposits.

Wales - May 2009 by Sally White

Ros, Dave, Andy C. and I went to Aggy (Agen Allwedd) on the Saturday. After a while we came to a climb down which confused me greatly I was quite adamant this climb belonged in Draenen. We later came to a place called Deep Water, which is reported as only being waist deep. It was, so that was fine. However, round the corner it unexpectedly went up to my neck and I was swimming. We climbed up and started traversing across, but the shock of getting a full dunking made me feel a bit weak and I protested all along the traverse. Eventually Dave relented and carried me along the last bit, a technique I fully recommend! We passed boulder choke number three and realised completing the round trip as planned might take so long that a cave rescue would be called, so we decided it was best to return out.

On Sunday we went to Draenen and they had returned the climb that belonged there, but they had forgotten to replace a passage that bypassed it! We potted around, which included a visit to the pretties in Gilwern passage. We used 'bottle openers', 'sharks' and all sorts of random objects we imagined in the rocks to help us navigate.

On bank holiday Monday we went to OFD 2. Armed with a survey, we went off searching for the columns as the gate to them is unlocked on bank holidays (supposedly). After a few dead ends we located them, only to find the gate was locked.

Slightly to my surprise, I successfully navigated us to Gnome passage and Edwards shortcut. Dave took us to



Selenite Tunnel with some added (intentional!) detours, such as trying to find a place Andy had wanted to have a look at. I'd recently bought a bright back up light which Dave was finding more useful than our main lamps to light up the pretties hanging down from the ceiling for photos.



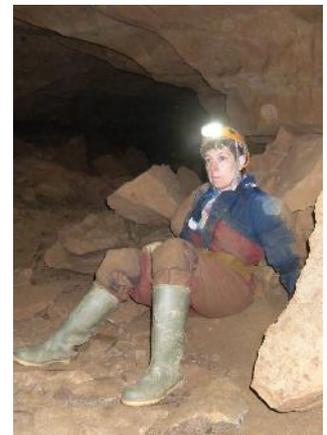
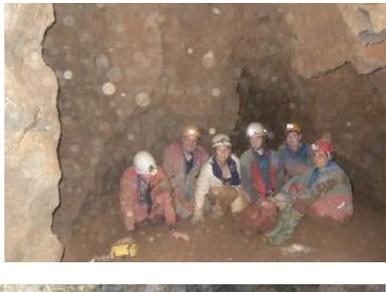
We proceeded past The Judge and Trident to a place called Swamp Creek that none of us had been to before. We headed up stream then took a turn and started a non-intimidating traverse along a meandering narrow passage. Dave found some very impressive selenite crystals bursting out of the wall. I then led us out of the cave from the Judge and Trident and again was pleasantly surprised to realise I actually remembered it rather well.

Saturday 13th June 2008 - Sue and Andy go to the Goatchurch Cavern nether reaches, or the bits you don't take Scouts to.

Firstly, if you go in the main entrance there is a climb up opposite the Giant's Staircase which is a bit exposed, but then a tight squeeze (send Sue first) into a pretty little chamber. Next, down the rift by pass into Water Chamber, then down the recently restored route to the Drainpipe. Through the Drainpipe and then onward through the squeeze flat then sideways then down through the tight rift (send Sue first), kept a sling over a bolder so if I got stuck I could give myself a pull. On the way out through this and up through the Dexion framework and up a short climb into a small but pretty chamber. There is also a tight (too tight for me) climb up over a ledge into a short crawl that slopes up steeply. Back out and along Drainpipe I climbed up to Hellish tight, the climb in is exposed over and above the metal ladder and then the tube inclines and eventually gets too tight (for me) before it pops out into Water Chamber. We also went down the metal ladder and through the wet squeeze (which I fitted through) at the bottom. As Sue said this is pointless. Back out via the Rift climb that Sue wanted to practice on. Out via the back rift route via a couple of Scout bypasses we use sometimes to tire them out.

All in all two hours of fun and I did well on my 'thinking thin' mantra. Some bits were still pretty tight.

Sue and Andy Watson





Hampshire Scout Caving Club Booking Guidelines



1. Obtain a booking form and permission forms from the Booking Secretary (see below).
2. Select a date and check availability with the Booking Secretary. This will provisionally book your places for 4 weeks. If you fail to complete sections 3 and 4 in that time you can request an extension, otherwise the places will be reallocated.
3. Fill in the booking form, get permission from the **home** District Commissioner and organise an appropriate home contact.
4. Return the booking form with payment (see below or booking form) to the Booking Secretary at least 6 weeks before the event.
5. You will receive confirmation of your places and directions to the meeting place.
6. Arrive at the meeting point at the designated date and time with a completed permission form for every participant.

Notes:

- **Any member of the party with no permission form or insufficient/unsuitable clothing will not go caving. If they are under 18 they will be the responsibility of the person who brought them for the day.**
- The payment will be refunded at the discretion of the Caving Club, this will normally only be if the Caving Club has cancelled the trip.
- It is the cave leaders discretion to refuse to take any member of a party or to abort a trip due to safety concerns.
- Drivers will be required to move their group between venues on "Caving & Climbing Days" and for split venue caving.
- Under 18s are the responsibility of the people who brought them all the time that they are above ground.
- Before a trip a member of the club can visit your group to talk about caving, suitable clothing and what to expect.
- Special considerations can be given to Scouts with special needs. Please advise at the time of booking.
- Cheques should be made payable to 'Hampshire County Scout Council'.
- The minimum age of participants is 10 years.

Payment:

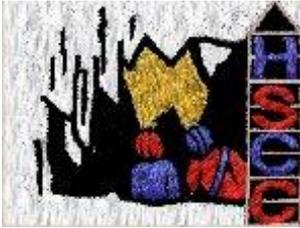
The cost to caving club is mainly the cost of getting cave leaders to the caving area, to this end we have revised our charges as follows:

“Caving” or “Caving and Climbing” days (organised by HSCC) £90 / group of up to 6
Other caving dates requested by groups in Mendip £108 / group of up to 6
Other venues or special requests are costed on request by the booking secretary.

Also due to groups dropping out, or turning up with vastly reduced numbers the complete payment is now required with the booking 6 weeks before the event.

Booking Secretary:

Andy Watson, 11, The Limes, Shrewton, Salisbury, SP3 4BW.
Email: lemoncandy@btinternet.com



Hampshire Scout Caving Club Booking Form



Contact Name Group

Address

.....

Email Address.....

Telephone

Home Contact Telephone

Trip Date Transport by Minibus (Y/N)

<i>Group</i>	<i>Number of Previous Trips (Cave Names if Known)</i>
1	
2	
3	
4	

Caving takes place in groups of up to six participants with two cave leaders (for more advanced trips a smaller groups are preferable). The booking secretary needs to arrange two leaders for each group, this will only happen once the booking form (with payment) has been received.

This form must be returned with the non-refundable payment to the Booking Secretary at least 6 weeks before the trip.

A completed permission forms for every participant must be given to the caving leaders on the day of the activity.

For activities on Mendip the fees for 2009/2010 are:

HSCC organised Caving or Caving and Climbing Day £90 per group of up to 6
Group requested date in Mendip £108 per group of up to 6

For other venues or special requests please contact the booking secretary.

District Commissioners Signature Date

Make cheques payable to 'Hampshire County Scout Council'.

Please return to Andy Watson, 11 The Limes, Shrewton, Salisbury, SP3 4BW



Hampshire Scout Caving Club Explorer Scout Caving 2009/10



Hampshire Scout Caving Club is running a number of Explorer Scout Caving Days. These will be a single day's caving based in Mendip with a pickup point in Hampshire. To book a place send the attached form with full payment of £25 per person to David Chadwick (details below). There are only twenty places available for each date and these will be allocated individually on a first come, first served basis. If there are insufficient applicants to make the date viable four weeks before the event it will be cancelled and the monies returned.

Initial dates and pickup points are:

Sat 14 November 2009	Tesco at Winnal
Sun 28 February 2010	Westbound Services at Rownhams
Sat 24 April 2010	TDB near Gosport

If the format is successful there will be further dates in June, July and September.

Pickup will be at 07:30 and you will be returned to the same place at about 20:00. The cost includes transport to and from Mendip, caving kit hire and any cave access fees incurred. You will need to provide your own lunch, some food to eat on the way home, old, warm clothing (including Wellingtons or Walking boots with ankle support) for caving, a complete change of clothes for the journey home, a bath towel and a dustbin liner. Oversuits (pvc boilersuits) will be provided if the trip requires it. It is recommended that you have a substantial breakfast before attending.

Applicants must be at least 14 years of age, be current members of the Scout movement and have caved before. If you have not caved before it is suggested that you arrange for your unit to attend one of our "Caving Days" details of which can be obtained from Andy Watson (lemoncandy@btinternet.com).

For further information on Explorer Scout Caving contact David Chadwick

Address: The Roost, Abbotswell Road,
Frogham, Fordingbridge, SP6 2JA
email: hsc@theroost.demon.co.uk

Please make cheques payable to
"Hampshire County Scout Council"

