

UBSS

NEW SERIES

NO 11



An Informal Vehicle for
Le Sport
Good food and Drink
Photography
Camping
Survey work
Diving
Gossip
Snobbery
Archaeology
Tackle and Technical Expertise
Fine art and Critiscism
and other Concerns of the spelaological
Society

OCT 1979

EDITORIAL

And so yet another UBS Newsletter obeys our call to appear and tell us the news. Many of the articles are about Ireland proving, yet again, our fondness for that country. But I know that many visits have been made to South Wales and to the Mendips too; why not write to me about them? And what of our long-gone-from-Bristol ex-student members? Where have you all been caving?

Which brings me to the main point of this Editorial. The same old names always appear in this Newsletter because these same familiar names get the most enjoyment out of being members of the club. The more you put in, the more you can get out - just like a bank account. Why not treat the Newsletter this way too?

The next Newsletter will be published early in the New Year. All articles to me before Christmas.

Lots of love.

Charlie Self

TREASURER'S NOTE

Student members are reminded that their Union Levy has to be paid by December 31st, 1979. The sum is 35p. Anyone failing to do so will cease to be a member of the U.B.S.S. Those who need to take note of this are students who were members last year. If they are no longer students, they may apply for ex-student membership before the end of the year. After that it will be open to them to apply for outside membership. Applications for ex-student membership should be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary, University of Bristol Spelaeological Society, c/o Dept. of Geography, University of Bristol, University Rd., Bristol, BS8 1SP. To save postage they may be sent through the internal mail. The annual subscription is £3. Student members Union Levy of 35p. should be paid to the Treasurer, Dr. Oliver Lloyd, or to the Student Treasurer, Paul Harvey at the same address.

Oliver will be in attendance at the Spelaeo Rooms on Mondays and Thursdays at one o'clock and will be prepared to give access to members to the Library, while he is there. Why not bring your sandwiches, too?

O.C.L.

AWAY MEETS - AUTUMN 1979

| | | |
|----------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| October 6-7 | Mendip | Staying at the UBSS club hut |
| October 13-14 | Mendip | Staying at the UBSS club hut |
| October 26-28 | Yorkshire | Staying at Greenclose House |
| November 3-4 | Mendip | Bonfire party at the UBSS hut |
| November 10-11 | South Wales | Staying at White Walls (Chelsea S.S.) |
| November 24-25 | South Wales | Staying at White Walls |

SESSIONAL MEETING

Held in the Upper Lecture Theatre, Geography Dept.

Wednesday 21st November, 7.30 pm

DAN YR OGOF - A slide / sound sequence by GRAHAM CRISP

FRIDAY NIGHT TALKS

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------|
| October 12 | Basic Caving Equipment | Sally Britton |
| October 19 | Carbide Lamps | Graham Mullen |
| October 26 | NO MEETING | |
| November 2 | The formation of caves | Charlie Self |
| November 9 | Belay Techniques | Clive Owen |
| November 16 | South Wales caving | Sam Moore |
| November 23 | Cave Photography | Ken Baker |
| November 30 | Wetsuits | Geoff Riding |
| December 7 | Caving in the Mendips | Bob Peat |

These Friday night talks are all held in Meeting Room 2, Union Building.

PUB MEETINGS

| | |
|---------|---|
| Tuesday | Upper lounge, CROCKERS - a pub on Cotham Hill |
| Friday | Students' Union, Meeting Room 2 (with beer from the Long Bar) |
| Sunday | Upper Lounge, CROCKERS |

THE TRATMAN AWARD

(Reproduced from Caves and Caving)

This new award, in memory of Professor E.K. Tratman, will be made each year to the author of the best published article, paper, report or book in the field of British Speleology. It will carry a cash award, which will be £25 for 1979, and the winner will be announced in "Caves and Caving". Deadline 10th Jan 1980; submissions are invited now.

The award has been funded with the surplus from the 7th International Congress of Speleology; of which Prof. Tratman was the very active President until the day he died. Consequently, it will be administered by the Ghar Parau Foundation. The rules are as follows.

1. Entries must have been published for the first time during the relevant calendar year.
2. The author(s) and the publication must be British (or Irish) but the content may be concerned with caves and speleology in foreign lands (eg. expedition reports).
3. Subject matter must concern speleology in its broadest sense.
4. Entries will be judged by the Committee of the Ghar Parau Foundation and the decision will not be open to discussion.
5. Entries must be submitted, by the author or anyone else, without additional comment to the Ghar Parau Foundation Secretary (currently David Judson, Bethel Green, Calderbrook Road, Oldham, Lancs, OL15 9ND) by January 10th of the following year. All papers published by B.C.R.A. and all expedition reports submitted to Ghar Parau Foundation or National Caving Association (in respect of awards from them) within the relevant period, will be deemed to be entries without further submission.
6. Entries will be judged on clarity of expression, interest value, quality of presentation, availability and the informative nature of the contents. Academic papers and club expedition reports will therefore be on equal standing.
7. Submitted entries will be handed to B.C.R.A. Library after judging is completed.

The aim of the award is to encourage an improvement in standards in publication. Prime requirements are that the published material should be readable, informative and available. Too many scientific papers are so detailed that their results are lost to most readers and too many expedition reports are virtually unobtainable or appear so late as to be irrelevant. So, lively, punctual, well illustrated, well written publications will win the award. Unaddressed xeroxed expedition reports, inch-by-inch descriptions of discoveries and jungles of chemical analysis will be right out of it. The rules mean that multi-authored club journals will be ineligible but any individual article in a club journal is perfectly eligible as long as it is noticed by the committee or is submitted to them.

Malcolm Newson and Tony Galtham

PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

Proc. U.B.S.S. 15:2 for 1979 is now in galley proof and we seem to be all set for a punctual publication before the end of November 1979. This will enable members to send out the copies before getting too much involved in sessional examinations. There will be about 65 - 70 pages, a little less than last time. The table of contents will include:

Obituary Notice: Wilfrid Jackson, by Bob Savage.

Diamond Jubilee Oration; Ice age man on Mendip: old finds in new contexts, by Arthur ApSimon.

The Hepste River Caves and a study of the Hepste-Mellte area, by Oliver Lloyd.

The mechanisms of the differential erosion of limestones, by Thorley Sweetman.

Quantitative fluorometric dye tracing, Rickford and Langford resurgences, Northern Mendip, by R.W. Crabtree.

Long Gallery, Upper Poulmagollum (Slieve Elva), by J.A. Heathcote and Mike A.C. Perryman.

Wilfrid Jackson was an Honorary Member of the U.B.S.S. and an expert on pleistocene cave mammals.

Arthur ApSimon's Jubilee Oration, delivered at our A.G.M. in March 1979, will be remembered by many of us as a lucid examination of the way in which our ideas have been altering concerning pleistocene men.

Oliver Lloyd's study of the Hepste-Mellte area has been going on now for about ten years. It is illustrated with ten maps or cave plans and a colour picture.

Sweetman and Crabtree were both Bristol students and these papers are the results of some of their post-graduate work.

Heathcote and Perryman are Cambridge students who valiantly explored, surveyed and wrote up one of the more unpleasant pieces of caving in Co. Clare.

O.C.L.

CHARLIE'S SONGBOOK

Charlie's songbook is now available. 72 pages of caving songs, shanties and folk songs on A4 paper with a card cover front and back. Price £1, payable to C.A. Self, % UBSS, University Rd, Bristol. Please add 25p for postage if you want me to send you one.

MOROCCO EXPEDITION

This summer the authors were fortunate enough to be allowed to accompany an expedition organised by Hades Securicor Ltd. If you are prepared to believe that anything could possibly cap a 1000 miles of harrowing and arse-rendering Landrover travel, read on.

After our arrival at the port of Centa a 150 km drive saw our arrival in Bab Taza, a less than notable village. After the overwhelmingly magnanimous (Cristian?) giving of gifts to the understandably suprised locals, the whereabouts of the cave Kef Togabiet was located. The cave entrance was an hour's walk up a steep hillside, not to be recommended after sun-up. The entrance shaft proved to be 300 ft deep and none too solid, with two rebelayes. A short dry streamway led to massive chambers floored with enormous boulders covered in dryish mud. A short pitch through boulders led one to the start of an extensive tract of difficult passage, a delight to the connoisseur of loose boulders. The correct way becomes gradually tighter and more devious, until one emerges into a series of large muddy chambers apparantly supernaturally constructed amongst massive blocks, in the manner of a bizarrely developed Rift Pot and much looser. Throughout the previous section the cave continues to drop and involves several short pitches. After the aforementioned entertainment, which includes a bastard bit of route finding, an awkward squeeze into a small chamber and a climb 40 ft down through a menacingly loose pitch. Groined from a mud and shale compound leads one to the good stuff. A series of large, clean and solid pitches follows, make sure YOU ! have enough rope to progress beyond this point.

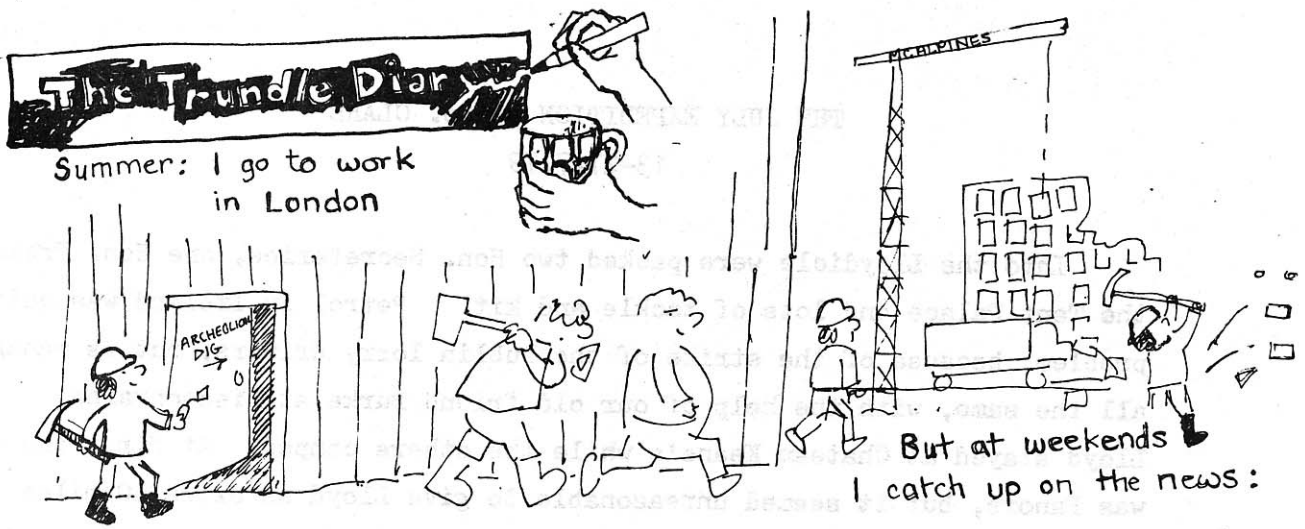
Besides this trip a number of other systems were explored. These included Chikka River Cave, Chara Resurgence a Vernian epic and Snake Pot a new system with a reptilian menagerie in its entrance that turned ever our god fearing welshman a little yellow (rendered spineless).

Tim Lyons and Clive Owen

PHOTOGRAPHY

The U.B.S.S. Dark Room has now been reconstructed, so as to make possible the processing of colour prints, as well as of black and white pictures. There is a new enlarger and a lot of expensive equipment, which makes it necessary to guard access closely. Access may be obtained through the Member in Charge of Photography, Ken Baker, who may be contacted by pinning a note into the notice board in the Spelaeo Rooms.

O.C.L.



Ireland



and back home another of the Bristol Unemployed Martyrs to Spaeliology has got a job with:



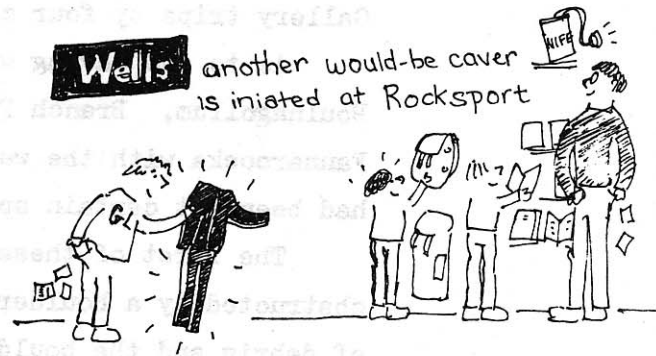
Manchester

Caving conference:



Wells

another would-be caver is initiated at Rocksport



and lately, someone (who used to be C.A.S.) has come back from an exigesis weekend

(a what?)



THE JULY EXPEDITION TO Co. CLARE

13-27.7.79

Into the Lloydicle were packed two Hon. Secretaries, one Hon. Treasurer, the Tent Palace and lots of tackle and kit. Petrol in Ireland was quite a problem, because of the strike of the Dublin lorry drivers, but we managed all the same, with the help of our old friend Burke at Lisdoonvarna. Lloyd stayed at Chateau Keane's while the others camped. At first the site was Fanore, but it seemed unreasonable to give Lloyd an extra 40 miles driving every day, so after the crowd had thinned out the campers moved to St. Catherine's, where the 2nd Folk Music Festival had been held on our first three days.

This festival really is something. Like last year the whole place was crowded with an extra twenty thousand or so teenagers, cheerful, good humoured, noisy, dirty; determined to enjoy themselves; and they had perfect weather. We went there on the Sunday afternoon. Price £3 and your receipt stamped on your forearm. It was possible to sit down, once you had kicked away the bottles, and we lay there for five hours in the sunshine listening to some of the top Irish television stars, all of them darlings to the audience ("Rufus, Rufus" they cried, till they got it) and some of them with really fine technique.

We were joined after four days by Stuart Ingham, a Blackburn friend of Geoff's, who camped with us for eight days. He teaches Chemistry at Geoff's old school there. We were also joined on one of our Branch Passage Gallery trips by four cavers from Leicester University.

As to the caving we notched up the following: Doolin (twice), Upper Poulmagallum, Branch Passage Gallery (twice), three Oughdarra caves, Faunarooska with the wet pitch, Cullaun 2 and Cullaun 5. Besides this we had been set certain specific tasks by Charlie.

The first of these: is the entrance to St. Catherine's 3 still obstructed by a boulder? The entrance was found to be obstructed by a lot of debris and the boulder was not reached.

Second: work in the Pollapooka neighbourhood. We found that Faunarooska Six is opening up in a quite promising fashion. This never used to have a surface opening before they filled up the swallet. Pollapooka is unchanged, but I think the fill has settled a few feet. A1c turns out to be a cave facing south only 10 m. from the green road north of Pollapooka 1, too tight after 2 m., floored with boulders. Certain sites north of the green road numbered by Tratty proved to be of archaeological interest.

Third: plot and have a look at all the openings by the road side south of Bullock Pot, and is it really "Bullock Pot" that was pushed at Easter. We surveyed 300 m. of roadside. The Bullock Pot which was pushed at Easter is the continuation of the genuine one marked by Tratty on his map. The present opening is 2.4 m. from the roadside and cannot be the place where the bullock got stuck; from Tratty's story (C. of N.W.C. p. 29) this must have been a few metres upstream of the present cave opening. The first seven metres of this cave are very nice ---. None of the other openings went.

Fourth: to survey Moonmilk cave, and here the story gets a bit trying. Oughtdarra is not a place to wander in. The thorn jungle is very dense. On the 17th we set out to find the cave in pouring rain and fog. We found four openings one of which was the northerly opening of Through and Through Cave and another close by. We found a new cave only 7 m. long in the place where Moonmilk Cave ought to have been, and we called this Fairweather Cave. We then found a very promising rift opening which we hoped might be the right cave and so we started surveying. We were followed by a howling draught. After 16 stations Geoff saw daylight and announced that we had been surveying Through and Through Cave by mistake.

On the 24th we were turned out of our camping site by the farmer and had to move on a filthy wet day. We had thought of having another search for Moonmilk Cave, but were all so wet that sighs of relief were heard when, after pitching camp, Lloyd said that he wasn't going to drive up there in all that fog. So we kept the fire warm in the lounge of Chateau Keane's.

Nevertheless on the 26th, our last caving day, we really did find and survey Moonmilk Cave. It is a filthy place and went for 31 stations. Lloyd chickened out after 14, because he couldn't climb up that slippery narrow rift. But the two Hon. Secs. stuck it out. Garlands to Janet and Geoff!

Now for the bad news; the entrance to Poll Nua has been filled in, so that the only reasonable entrances to Upper Poulmagollum are now by the main pothole and by Poll Binn, which needs a ladder. E3 which leads into Long Gallery cannot be called "reasonable", see Proc. 15:2, which I hope to have out by December.

O.C.L., 6.8.79

CO CLARE - JANUARY 1980

An Irish New Year holiday is being planned by Charlie Self. If enough people are interested I shall book a cottage. LET ME KNOW.

CAS

This article was never intended to be a serious consideration of where once-upon-a-time the water all drained to in County Clare. Quite simply it was a spoof: a ludicrous and yet so almost feasible account of how Poulmagollum and Fergus River Cave were once connected, the only justifying evidence being a scant 120 metres of tiny cave passage newly discovered at the end of East Tunnel in Poulmagollum. No-one could possibly believe it, yet they would plough through all the verbosity and irrelevant detail waiting for the crucial fact to appear and, of course, it wouldn't.

What a lovely con!

But a couple of days after writing this "paper" I began to have my doubts, and soon these turned into serious doubts. Rapidly I sank into the depths of my fantasy and, yes, I was conned! So now I am trying to justify in a serious article the ludicrous theme of my spoof "paper".

"The Palaeohydrology of Poulmagollum etc": the title of both this article and the previous spoof. I have very little evidence to work with but the most useful comes from a time-honoured and respectable source, none other than "Proceedings" vol 9(3), the authoritative paper on the cave by Collingridge et al, published in 1962.

Collingridge considered the present stream to be a missfit; "... it is probable that much of the cave is older than the present cycle of erosion" and "... much of Poulmagollum Main Streamway and The Maze must have been formed before the last glacial advance (Würm II)" are tremendously useful quotations for my present argument. The problem with County Clare is that so many of the caves are obviously juvenile, formed within the last 50,000 years. To imagine a connection between widely separated caves in defiance of the present hydrology (eg the Three Counties System of the northern Pennines) you need old caves, older than the present landforms. You need pre-glacial caves.

So let us accept Collingridge's opinion that much of Poulmagollum - Poulelva cave is pre-glacial in origin. Which way did the water flow? The present stream course from Poulmagollum to Poulelva is obviously a very recent development. How about the Craven Canyon? Take a look at the survey and what do you see - the Craven Canyon running due east from Poulelva to The Maze and emerging at the far side still continuing east as East Tunnel. Collingridge again provides the explanation "It would appear that the Craven Canyon and East Tunnel represent the line of drainage of the bottom of Poulmagollum and Poulelva before the last glaciation, probably to a rising out in the valley floor, but a quarter of a mile further up it than the present rising at Killeany."

Of course Collingridge had to offer an explanation of some kind for this pre-glacial resurgence, but his answer does assume a palaeogeography very similar to the present. However, if the land was much higher than it is now his Killeany valley resurgence would be unrealistic.

It was almost a decade after his paper was published that the sources of the Fergus River resurgences were successfully dye tested. We now know that the Castletown River (the Fergus River Cave water) and the water from Gullaun Five resurge there, and presumably the water from the caves of East Poulelva.

and the Knockavoarheen Ridge also. What a tantalising thought if Poulmagollum once resurged there also. If Cullaun Five drains ten kilometres to the Fergus resurgences why should not Poulmagollum be able to drain thirteen kilometres in exactly the same south-easterly direction?

To turn now to the Fergus River Cave, it is obviously quite an old cave and the evidence of layered sediments give it at least a late glacial age. If my reasoning is not at fault, the possibility exists that Poulmagollum and the Fergus River Cave were once co-resurgent, just as Poulmagollum and Cullaun One are co-resurgent now at Killeany.

The "Central Burren Monster Cave" would then comprise the Poulmagollum - Poulelva System, Cullaun Five, Poll Cahermaan (C6), Poulawillan (G2), Gragan West Cave (H1), Doonyvardan Cave (H8), Poll Cahermacnaghten (G1a) and the Fergus River Cave. Linking in via Killeany we have Cullaun Zero, Cullaun One and Pollcragreagh.

Quite a cave!

Charlie Self

POSTSCRIPT : Oliver has asked me to explain why I think a Killeany valley resurgence "unrealistic" if the land was once much higher than it is now.

The Craven Canyon is vadose; its altitude is a scant 15 metres above the present valley floor. If the valley floor was once higher then the presumed resurgence would be at a higher altitude. If it was substantially higher, then the Craven Canyon would be entirely phreatic.

IRELAND, JULY 1980

We have booked the cottage with the green roof, c/o Denis O'Loughlin, Cash Stores, Lisdoonvarna, for the fortnight from Friday 11th July to the 25th July, 1980, for the sum of £45 a week. It will accommodate ten cavers. We are provided with beds, mattresses, cooking facilities, calor gas and electricity (electric kettle), some turf, modern sanitation, washing-up facilities, some cooking pots and crockery. There is no bathroom. Bring sleeping bags. We buy our own food, which is no dearer than it is in England.

I hope that many student members will take advantage of this. Transport is usually provided by the Old Lags, but some prefer their own motor-bikes or even hitch-hiking. Lisdoonvarna in Co. Clare is about 180 miles by road from Rosslare. We generally use the Fishguard - Rosslare crossing.

Co. Clare caving is among the finest obtainable anywhere in the British Isles. Also we still have some work to do there.

O.C.L.

THE EXPLORATION OF BULLOCK POT - PART ONE

Bullock Pot wasn't really discovered last Easter, it was just extended. Two days before we went down there Charlie had shown me various reports in Proceedings and the S.E.P.C.C. newsletter which all had unsatisfactory limits of exploration. So on the Wednesday after Easter Bob Peat and I decided to have a look, after a trip down Poulnagollum. The entrance was easy enough to find, level with Poulelva but on the west side of the road, and was about 4' x 3' (1 metre x 17 apples). It went under the road through a shattered area and immediately into a very narrow vadose canyon with a small stream flowing down it. Well enough for the stream but we were having trouble. After a squeeze over a jammed boulder I decided that the best way down this cave was in the upper level. This soon closed down and at about the same time I became stuck. From the marks on the wall this must have happened to quite a few people. Bob, meanwhile, had followed the stream but had stopped when he came to a duck - true son of Mendip that he was he carried on through and claimed that it went. When I arrived there (torn and battered) I went through to find Bob holding a helmet with CSG written on the side and an ingenious electric light with a plug in the back of the helmet for it (or for the wearer's microprocessor). Baffled I strode onwards in the flat-out crawl which was the streamway. Bob was miles in front and as I rested on a convenient chert nodule I realised that everything we had seen so far was nothing like any of the published descriptions - could Charlie have been wrong? (not possible!).

The streamway began to drop down through chert layers which collapsed when we leaned on them to leave sharp spikes of limestone to crawl on. We called this section "Acupuncture Crawl". After a squeeze past a stalagmite I heard Bob shouting "xxxx, xxxx, xxxx" and thought that at last he was stuck but to my dismay he had found a pitch. I crawled into a bigger crawl which overlooked a 25' pitch (3 metres, 2 dials .7 digital watches).

I groaned; I didn't come to Ireland to carry tackle down tight caves! I could go to Yorkshire for that! Bob suggested we go out, so I led the way. He thought we were going out to get another ladder - I was changed by the time we got out.

- PART TWO

The next day we dragged SAM out of his armchair and set off to do the rest of this, so far, awful cave. We thought that the pitch in Bullock Pot led into Upper Poulelva, so Bob was sent to rig the 40 ft pitch into that system. SAM and I went to the pitch in Bullock and waited for Bob (who had the tethers etc.....). We descended the pitch and walked (!) down a narrow canyon. This eventually began to get more and more convoluted and reminiscent of

the upper section of the cave. Chert ledges appeared in great profusion. This was named Thin Man's Gallery.

Suddenly we came to a corner that I could not get round, so Bob and SAM carried on with the ladder to a broken 75 ft pitch but could not reach the bottom. We lost the surveying gear, of course, and did not do the survey.

No-one has been persuaded to go down since.

Apologies for brevity.

Phil Buckberry

IRELAND - AUGUST 1979

Rain and yet more rain. Does it ever stop? Perhaps it's a monsoon! Slieve Elva was enshrouded in mist and the Knockauns Mountains were disguised as a raincloud. An average party would have been quite content to go armchair caving in O'Connor's - but not the dynamic trio (Bob Peat, Jenny Peat and Chris Pepper) - they went caving (poor demented fools!). Still, the weather did have some compensations - Bullock Pot was far too wet to even look at, let alone survey ("Phew what a relief" sighed JKP and CJP).

Disaster number 1 occurred on Friday August 3rd when CJP announced that he had no road map (one of Rob Roy's acquaintances had cleverly forgotten to take it out of his truck!). So from Rosslare we followed Irish road signs and got hopelessly lost - Tipperary went missing and we found Michellstown Show Cave instead (quite a worthwhile detour).

On our first night in County Clare we found a convenient camp site - right opposite O'Donoghue's bar. Here our second disaster struck - a frisky bullock took a fancy to CJP's tent and rubbed its snotty nose against it and broke the pole! Luckily nosey parker Bob had spotted a deserted 6 berth caravan in the neighbouring field - so we moved in. The caravan had no mod cons but who needs them when you're equipped with primuses and carbides and the heavens are issuing gallons of water per minute! The place soon looked cosy and home-like - soggy socks draped the windows, wetsuits adorned the bog and the furry-wondersuit hung in the living room.

And now for what we came to Ireland for - caving. Here's a resumé :

SAT : A poke around Pollapooka.

SUN : Pollballiny down to the BIG extension. Water was entering everywhere. Perhaps its raining on the surface!

MON : Vigo Cave has disappeared - or perhaps it's camouflaged by where we've parked the car!

TUE : A fine trip down Poulmagollum's Branch Passage and out via the Main Streamway.

WED : One for connoisseurs - Glensleade Cave (all 15 ft of it) and Ballymihil Cave 'til rain called off play!

THU : Doolin - in St Catherine's 1 and out Aran View amidst the tin cans, bottles, polybags etc - Bob had a look for a replacement wetsuit but was out of luck.

FRI : Aillwee Cave cafe (don't tell me that doesn't count as caving!). In the evening we were entertained by three Limerick-ites who came back to our caravan for coffee armed with 36 bottles of Guinness! It was a fine dawn on the Saturday.

SAT : The Gentleman's Cave.

SUN : By this time CJP was really missing Buggery - there was no one there to give CJP moral support in telling the Ferrets that "going down those holes in the ground is not good for the soul". So JKP and RP went down Peeling Onions and gawped at the stal whilst CJP remained on the surface muttering "I must leave something to do in Ireland next time" (How about Bullock Pot?!).

MON : RP thought it might be an idea to have a look at Bullock Pot!! CJP and JKP nearly had heart attacks!! - but after a much heated discussion they eventually appealed to the compassionate side of RP's nature - "Just think how upset SAM will be if he's deprived of surveying Bullock Pot this Autumn" - so they went down Faunarooska instead. (Phew!! That was a close one!!).

TUE : CJP suggested for our last day a quick through trip in Upper Poulmagollum and out Pollnua. Well it would have been quick if we'd mastered the "Art of Stinkies" but we seemed to be in the dark most of the time! Eventually after much agro we got to Pollnua entrance - but there was a slight snag to our exit via Pollnua - the pothole didn't exist any longer! - the farmer had ploughed it in!! So we had to retrace our steps past the gunge of Pollbinn. Rumour has it that the farmer is going to plough in Poulmagollum Pothole!!

WED : Farewell to Ireland. We only had one disaster on our way home - we ran out of petrol at Carmarthen - a mere trifle at 2am!!

Still our delayed journey home gave us plenty of time to think up good excuses as to why we hadn't surveyed that masterpiece of a cave - Bullock Pot. "If we say we had lousy weather the whole time, do you reckon they'll believe us?"

"I do!"

By Jen - (in parenthesis?!!) - Peat

Editor's Glossary - The Gentleman's Cave : Cullaun 2

Buggery : Phil Buckberry

Peeling Onions : Pol-an-Ionain