

Founded 1954



MCG NEWS

Newsletter of the Mendip Caving Group

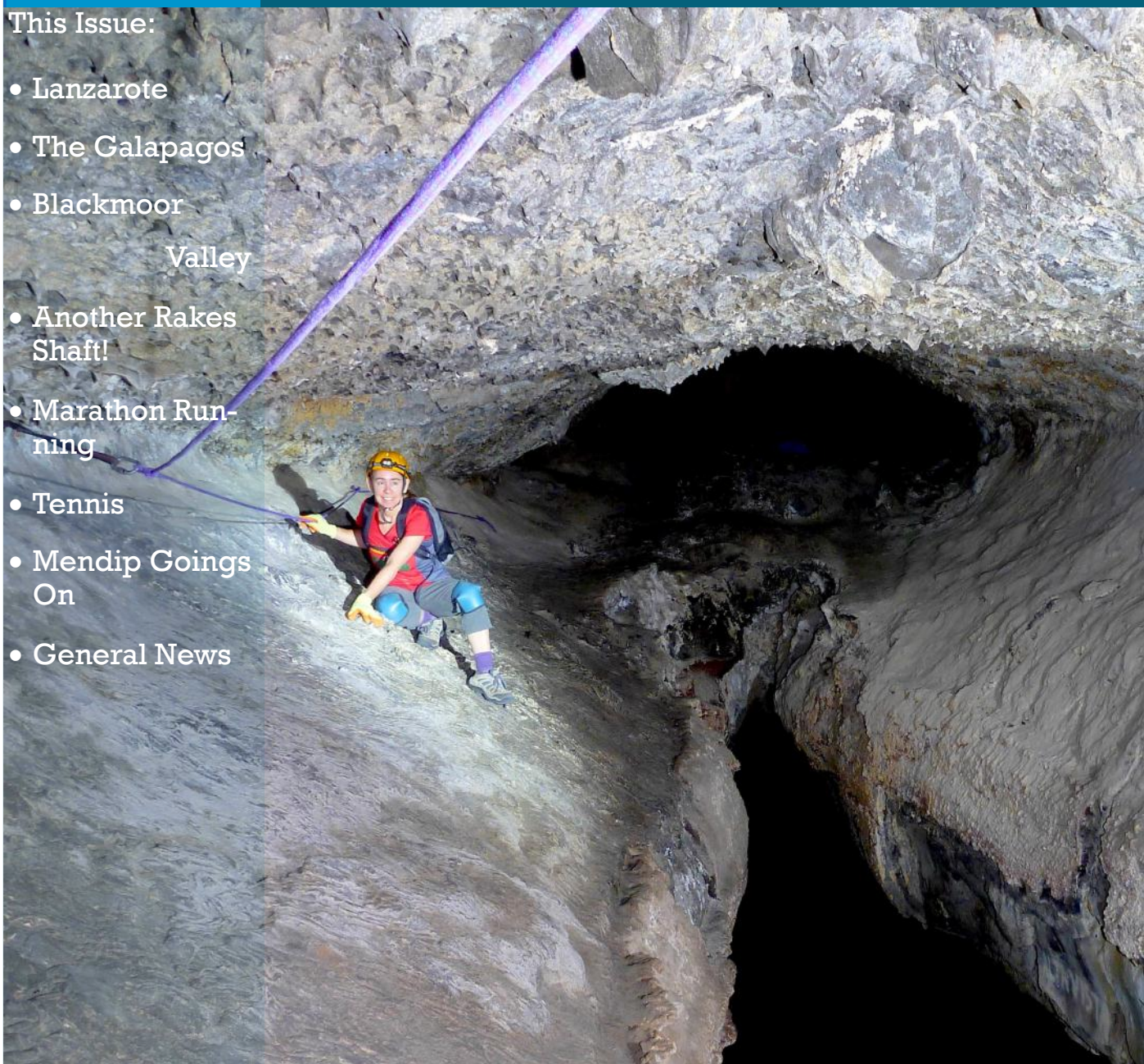
Number 374

May 2014



This Issue:

- Lanzarote
- The Galapagos
- Blackmoor Valley
- Another Rakes Shaft!
- Marathon Running
- Tennis
- Mendip Goings On
- General News



Andrea Russe at the Rope Traverse in Los Lagos, Lanzarote

SPRING 2014

EDITORIAL

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Spring Sunshine on the Rakes

With the 60th Anniversary upon us, this issue was only intended to be a brief accompaniment to the special edition publication!

That was until 2 large expedition articles arrived in my inbox in April.

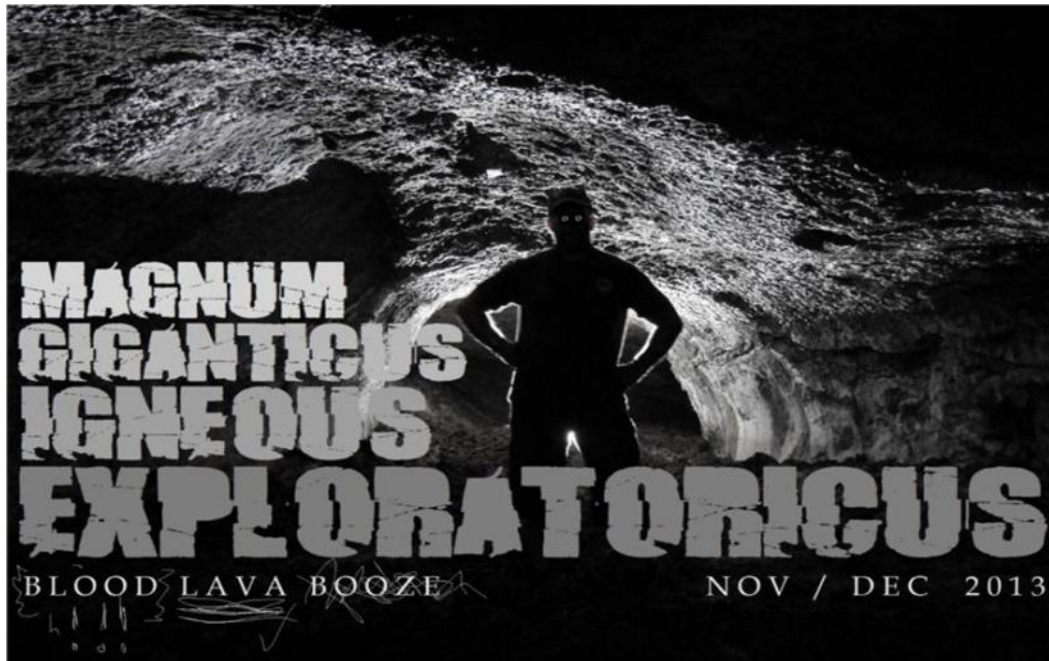
Chris Binding has produced a whopping and very entertaining and humorous account of the winter trip to Lanzarote, including some beautiful photos and excerpts from the 'logbook of mirth.'

Tim Francis reports from the Volcanospeleology Conference, in the Galápagos Islands Which he attended with Ben Cooper, Peat Bennett and Caroline Suter. There they got to enjoy some caving in an extinct volcano as well as many other interesting adventures!

I was lucky enough to go along on Joan Goddard's historical walk in the Blackmoor Valley, on what turned out to be a beautiful sunny and reasonably warm day, more so after all the walk. Some pictures from the walk and logbook reports, illustrate the trip!

Finally news of Ian McKechnie's son and his marathon attempt in the club news section along with goings on at Nordrach and another new shaft found on the rakes!

Tom Harrison April 2014
Get2_tom@hotmail.com



Abstract: A handful of MCG members joined a large contingent of Wessex cavers in this significant group event on the sunny Canarian holiday isle of Lanzarote which ran over three weeks in November and December 2013. A communal notebook contained anecdotes, trips, thoughts, tips and scandal, and here is the transcribed version without any censorship whatsoever!

The cast:

Chris Binding (MCG, Wessex)
 Chris Castle (Cheddar CC)
 Richard Carey (MCG)
 Alison Churchill
 Noel Cleave (Wessex)
 Nicola Dennis (Cheddar CC)
 David Foster
 Pete Hann (Wessex) plus Sandy and daughter Sarah
 John Hurst
 Aubrey Newport (Wessex)
 Andrea Russe (MCG)
 Chris Smart (BEC) plus Julie
 Carmen Smith (Craven)
 Andy Sparrow (Cheddar CC)
 Paul Stillman (Wessex)
 Rachel Sparrow (Cheddar CC)
 Tommo (Wessex)
 Barry Wilkinson (Wessex)





21-11-13 (Thursday)

Chris Castle: Nicky and I, having arisen at 3:30am, took a lighter than air machine to here on 21-11-13. Taxi was e21.50, Chris B said that was worth noting. We looked at the town viewing many tatty tourist shops. Dinner at Casa Felix. I ate too much.



Then to Cueva de los Verdes and had a guided tour. ~~AB~~ Finally to Mirador del Rio for a nice view.

 - actual size of the white hind crabs from Jameos del Agua.
 • actual size of crab in my pub!

SATURDAY 23RD. **CAVALRY ARRIVE!** 
 AUBREY, CARM, PETE, SANDY & SARAH, PLUS CHRIS & TURN UP! FLYING @ 11:40AM & ARRIVING @ 3:30PM. SUNNY & 24C. THEN TO HOTEL & CARAMEL VODKA, SUNSHINE & VERANDAH. SOON FIND CHRIS & NICOLA & @ 7PM HEAD OFF TO MOLINO DE GUACHINCHE FOR TAPAS SUPPER @ ~EUR 10 EACH INC. DRINKS. BACK TO BASE & DRINKS @ PETE'S - LOOKING GOOD FOR SOME LAVA TOMORROW... GENTES TO PUERTA FALSA....??

SUNDAY 24TH. UP @ 8AM. CARMIE HAVING A LIE-IN. GOT WIFI ON VERANDAH. ELAINE TUCKER WANTS LOTS OF WARM/SUNNY PHOTOS ON FACEBOOK. FINGERS CROSSED! A BIG CLOUD TO THE NW. CAVING LATER....

10:30AM. CHRIS C, NICOLA & PETE (+ME) SET OFF TO DO THE **GENTES TO PUERTA FALSA** THROUGH TRIP, TAKING A FEW PHOTOS EN ROUTE. LUNCH & ARRIETA FOLLOWED AND SOME SLIGHT DRIZZLE KEPT US KEEN FOR MORE CAVING SO WE DROVE (PETE DROVE, ACTUALLY! - THANKS) TO **NATURALISTAS** & DID SOME MORE PICS. HOME BY 5PM. DAVID AT MOLINOS.

Nicky and my first proper lava tubing trip. Not a great caving

Our Lanzarotian Club Hut: free wifi was the clincher

Extract from t'calligraphic logbook of mirth

22-11-13 (Friday)

Chris Castle: Hired a car, drove to Timanfaya National Park, fascinating place. Also the Interpretation Centre. Camels. To Playa Blanca and went snorkelling, very cold. Nicky saw some fish. Went to some live music, first choice no good as over 30s. Traditional Canarian meal at a Chinese Restaurant.

23-11-13 (Saturday)

Chris Castle: Drove north to Jameos del Agua, with Manrique architecture and blind white shell-less crabs. Then to Cueva de los Verdes and had a guided tour. Finally to Mirador del Rio for a nice view.

Chris Binding: CAVALRY ARRIVE!.... Aubrey Newport, Carmen Smith, Pete Hann plus Sandy and Sarah, and Chris Binding turn up, flying at 11:40am and arriving at 3:30pm. Sunny and 24 degrees. Then to hotel and caramel vodka, sunshine and verandah. Soon find Chris Castle and Nicola and at 7pm head off to Molino de Guachinche for tapas supper at e10 each including drinks. Back to base and drinks at Pete's apartment - looking good for some lava tomorrow. Gentes to Puerta Falsa trip?...

24-11-13 (Sunday)

Chris Binding: Up at 8am. Carmen having a lie-in. Got wifi on the verandah. Elaine Tucker (FB friend, Axbridge CC) wants lots of warm/sunny photos on Facebook. Fingers crossed! A big cloud to the North West. Caving later.... 10:30am Chris Castle, Nicola Dennis, Pete Hann and me set off to the Gentes to Puerta Falsa through trip, taking a few photos en route. Lunch at Arrieta followed and some slight drizzle kept us keen for more caving so we drove (Pete drove actually - thanks) to Naturalistas and did some more photographs. Home by 5pm. David has arrived at the hotel.

Chris Castle: Nicky and my first proper lava tubing trip. Not a great caving challenge but the tubes were most impressive, indeed, dramatic. I was surprised that the roof was so stable with such a wide span.

Thanks to Chris and Pete for the trips.

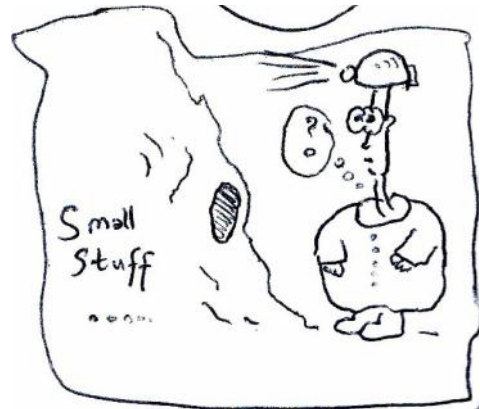
Nicola Dennis: Thank you Chris and Pete for my first lava tube experiences. Not what I expected – much more impressive. Really like the pleasing shapes of the passages and enjoyed the changing terrain. Two very different tubes – who said all lava tubes look the same?



Naturalistas cave – impressive arched roof section

25-11-13 (Monday)

David Foster: What a day! - thus speaks the “occasional caver”. So much to see, wonderful formations and stunning views. OK, there were some bits I couldn't do, so whilst the others took the high road, I took the low road. A good day for all so it's a win:win situation.



Carmen: Puerta Falsa downflow with Miguel to climb up “the bridge” into NEW passage found 6 years ago by Miguel et al. Necky climb not for the faint hearted, i.e. men. Easy climbing for nails women i.e. Nicky and Carmen. Me gusta. No problemo. :-) Weeeee

Nicola Dennis: Fun fun fun! Visited my 3rd and 4th lava tubes today – upstream of one we did yesterday. We took a lot of pictures and I had real fun boulder hopping! :-) After lunch in Arrieta (I didn't eat as much this time) headed to where Carmen said above. Great white gypsum and crystals finer than hair. All in all awesome.



Chris Castle in the new extensions discovered by Miguel Caballero and his team, circa 2007

Chris Binding: Today was Jameos Gentes upflow with David, Chris x 2 and Nicola. Carmen drove and read her book. Did a few photographs but not to Pete's standard. He, Aubrey, Sandra and Sarah went up towards Mirador del Rio. We met up at Arrieta for 2pm lunch with Miguel Caballero then he, Chris x 2, Nicola, Carmen and David went to Puerta Falsa downflow to look at “new extensions” - stunning, extensive and pretty freakin' awesome. The climb was much easier than it looked at first. Beers at Miguel's with film and photos later. Great day

26-11-13 (Tuesday)

Chris Binding: Up 8am, blue skies and sunshine so..... circular crater walk at Montana Blanca on the cards. Big group of 8 – Sarah, Sandy, Pete, David, Chris x 2, Nicola and Carmen. 3Hrs+. Very good very very windy! Lunch at tapas bar La Mareta, at Tinajo afterwards then.... Pico Partido cave!!

Nicola Dennis: Well what can I say? A very impressive crater to rival Chris Castle's "hairy ring" (Ed: SRT route in Goughs Cave pioneered/created by Chris Castle) – a very enjoyable walk with stunning geological views. Saw some goats (home from home) and got very wind blown, adding to the excitement! The lava tube (Pico Partido) was short but sweet – my first actual crawl since being on the island. A very interesting geological treat, with a textbook perfect example of a lava trench leading into the tube itself.



Amazing colours – blues and golds. Found the olivine too. A fantastic day! :-)

Chris Castle: Best crater I've seen since Kilimanjaro. Name-dropping again, I shouldn't do it; indeed, the Queen told me the same thing. Blew the cobwebs away again. Pico Partido was short, interesting but very uncomfortable.

David Foster: Another good day. Very very windy on the walk. Cave was interesting though only very short. Got a few more cuts, scrapes etc. on legs. Left leg is beginning to look like a mosaic.



Top: Pico Partido lava crevasse Above: The crater rim walk Right: David's War Wound Collection

27-11-13 (Wednesday)

Chris Binding: Pete, Chris x 2 and Nicola with Carmen driving. Down to El Golfo and off to Cueva Covon and then across the National Park to Cueva Paso to Esqueleto. Photographs etc.. Abseiled out to the shore and climbed back up to the path. Four hours total. Very good. Beer at El Golfo afterwards. Supper at Casa Luis – table for nine! - Tapas!! :-)

Nicola Dennis: Another fantastic day! A short walk along the El Golfo coast watching the waves and then we dipped down to find a cave entrance. In silence (Ed: National Park trips are clandestine!) we ventured in. A nice sunlit entrance soon led to our first photo stop. We carried on in and climbed up through a small gap – then led to some awesome white stuff! Found the bench with the squeeze. I went through, had a quick look, then back. Out into the National Park. After a clandestine walk we found the second tube. Another awesome cave – very aesthetically pleasing and topped off with an abseil out down the sea cliffs! A fantastic end to a brilliant week! Thanks Chris B for showing us round!

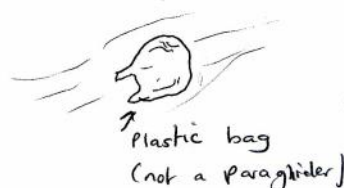
Chris Castle: Had to do crawling today! And small holes! Back to Mendip tomorrow so we'll never have to crawl again.

David Foster: A lazy day today. Sat in the sun with a copy of The Times and a glass of wine. Back to the caving tomorrow? Friday? Or both.



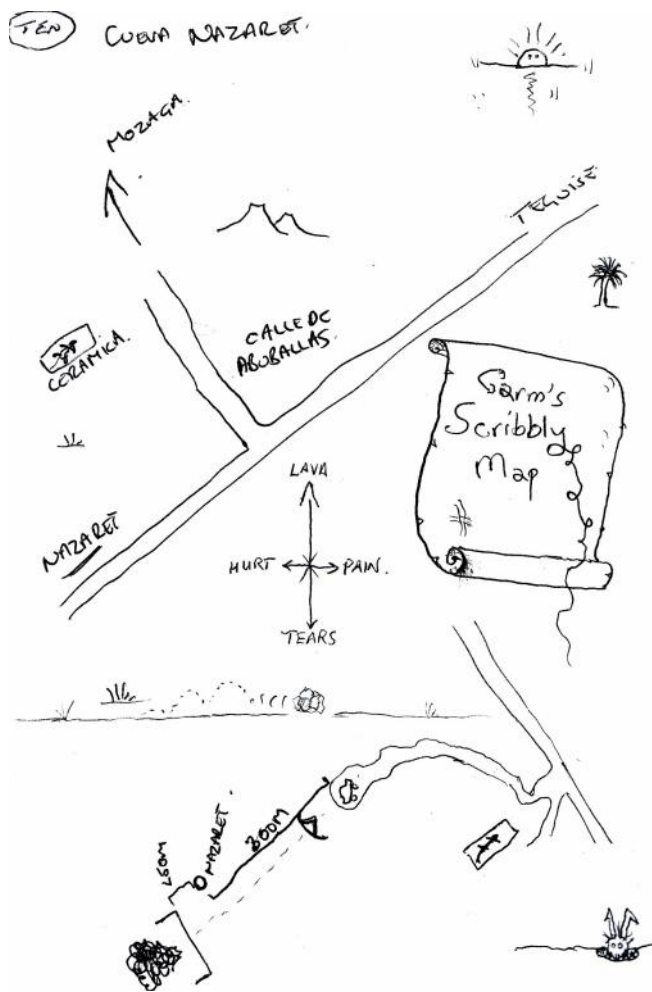
Pete abseiling out of Esqueleto

28-11-13 (Thursday)



Chris Binding: Chris C and Nicola flew back so we cried and felt sad. Two seconds later* we drove to Famara cliffs and had lunch at “our” tapas bar (El Chiringuito) before heading off to look at Cueva Nazaret. Back to the pool side for sun and drinkies. [*We did sunbathing by the pool – plus swimming – for about an hour, really]. In the evening David, Aubrey, Carmen and me did our own home-made supper – yummy! - Pete's family had theirs too. Then..... beverages! Yay! :-p

[Ed: while driving between Tahiche and San Bartolome past the Zonzamas farming area, Chris Castle noticed a large array of old pallets (they were being used to create a windbreak for plants) and pointed out the “Zonzamas Pallet Museum” (there are a lot of museums on the island). Meanwhile Chris Binding, driving, noticed a paraglider making some daredevil manoeuvres in the windy conditions and said “He's brave doing that”, until Castle pointed out it was just a polythene bag].



29-11-13 (Friday)

Chris Binding: Sandy, Sarah, Pete, David & Chris. Sandy and Sarah visited Cueva de los Verdes (showcave) while the intrepid trio strode off to Cueva Los Lagos. Photographs and humidity were the order of the day. Emerged to daylight and lunch at Arrieta. Baldy oddball expat "Motion-Lotion" David Penney was spying on us there but we ignored him! Ran away pronto back to base for some beer and sun fun.

David Foster: This was another good day – and yet it was very very humid. Lunch of grilled sardines. Dinner with Aubrey, Chris and Carmen of chicken and chips. This was my last trip of the hols (sob sob!) but at least my legs didn't suffer any more battle scars.

Carmen: Carminski con mi tia Joy. Girly day out. Started at 9am with "Spinning" at the gym, muchos sweatiness. After breakfast and being too slobby to shower we then went shopping to Arrecife to collect an old clock that had been cleaned, followed by chicken/chips purchase at Tias, a quick politics discussion with some geezer we shared our table with at the bar next door, ending with curing all the world's problems and imperfections with my Uncle John over "a few" glasses of white wine. Poor Uncle John is clearly getting on a bit as on this occasion I outpaced him on the wine. A monumental first! Then fixed the .co.uk/.com problem on their computer, did some washing in the machine and came home.

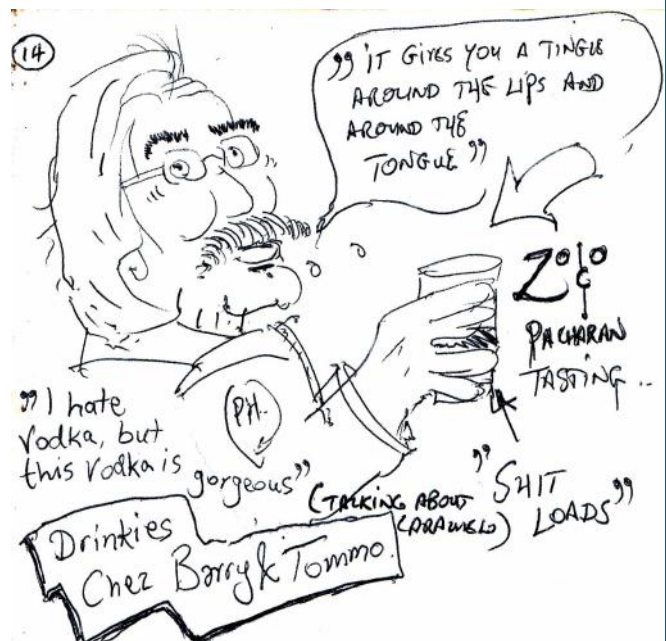
..... and then Barry and Tommo arrived

30-11-13 (Saturday)

Chris Binding: A leisurely start, sitting by the pool, swim, sunshine etc.. Popped out for a coffee at Bruno's with Aubrey and David. Light lunch around 12:30 and then a team of six went towards Monte Corona to do some photographs of Jameos Cupleados. Finished up around 3:15pm and drove to airport to meet Barry and Tommo but their flight was early and we had just missed them.

Back to hotel where B&T turned up and supper at Molino de Guachinche. Tired, so back to base around 8:30pm. Bloaty pig!

David Foster: Coffee at Bruno's with Aubrey and Chris. Those two had the yummy (fattening) cake. Cave was short but worthwhile except that I have lost my hat! This was my last cave of the holiday but at least no more battle scars. Now having a last drink after a very nice meal. Off in the morning so it's: THANK YOU AND GOODBYE – a great week, really enjoyed it. How much have I enjoyed it? - shitloads!!



1-12-13 (Sunday)

Chris Binding: By prior agreement Miguel Caballero whisked me and Carmen off to "do" his aerial traverse route in Gentes to Prendes, taking about 3 hours. (1 hour of ropeyness, approximately). Two others joined us – Paul (an expat UK climber) and Oscar (from Gran Canaria). Took photographs. Good fun and a nice bit of technical lava caving. Me gusta. Late lunch at Arrieta where we were joined by Barry, Tommo and Aubrey who had done the Gentes to Puerta Falsa through trip...

"Tommo and Barry had their first trip of our week in the above system. Barry's first trip into a lava tube (the lava won!). Very interesting rock structure. Hot and dusty – many thanks to Aubrey for his guidance. Note! Tommo looks around and says not many trees but a lot of large lava flats ?? and tubes. Suffer a bout of cramp but Barry says he was sticking pins in a doll after he locked himself out of the flat. Been told".

Chris Binding: Carmen and I popped over to Miguel's for a snack/drink/chat and to copy over today's photographs – all very friendly. Back to base for beers till 11pm.



2-12-13 (Monday)

Chris Binding: Supposedly a rainy/cloudy day so the plan is/was to do photography at Naturalistas. However it's 9am and sunny with blue skies instead. Off to meet Paul and Alison for 10am coffee & cake at Bruno's in a bit..... Hasta Luego!

Cueva Las Naturalistas: a team of six. Barry, Tommo, Aubrey, Alison, Paul and Chris. On the drive over Alison asked while passing through Tahiche "Is that where Cesar Wossischops lived?". I guessed correctly that she actually meant Cesar Manrique. She was right of course. Photos at the cave. Lunch at Yaiza. Then on to Timanfaya. Then the olivine volcano. Home/drinks, supper at Casa Luis. Hann's later for drinks.

"During yesterday's Gentes to Falsa trip Barry was taking photographs so I took off my backpack saying the red t-shirt shows up better in pictures. Thanks, said Barry, but I'm using black and white film".

Carmen: Went to Auntie Joyce's for the day and had a hair cut by Gervais the camp hairdresser (aka Jim).



Tommo modelling this season's must-have ensemble

3-12-13 (Tuesday)

Chris Binding: Coffee n cakes at Bruno's at 10am with Barry, Tommo and Aubrey. Hatched a plan to find the Gallerias de Famara and parked at 11am. Sunny but windy. Altogether a 9km hike down the rocky track to the beach beyond the hippy house "Casa de L'Agua" - the woman pointed us in the right direction. There's more than one galeria but we went to the easiest one, up a roped ramp. Very very very warm and amazingly humid. An adit. After around 150m there's a dam. Going further would have entailed swimming so we didn't. Photographs and return to Famara by 2:30pm. Lunch at Teguisse at El Chiringuito. Home by 3:45pm. Weather a bit crappy this afternoon.

"The Galerias was a very humid experience. The swim at the dam looks 'interesting', with 18 inches of airspace".



..... Andy and Rachel arrive!.....

Rachel Sparrow:

8:00am - Cheddar - cold/frosty/overcast....

4:30pm - Costa Teguisse - 22 degrees, chilling by the pool, discovering amazing caramel vodka! While Sparrow works out how to work his new "Go Pro" camera.

Supper at Casa Luis: Paul, Alison, Barry, Tommo, Aubrey, Andy, Rachel, Carmen, Chris. Back to HQ afterwards for much needed beverages.

4-12-13 (Wednesday)

Chris Binding: To Los Lagos! - Alison, Paul, Carmen, Andy, Pete, Aubrey, Rachel, Chris, Barry. Took some pics, tried to clean some graffiti, did a swim. Lunch at Arrieta followed by a visit to the cliffs at Famara.

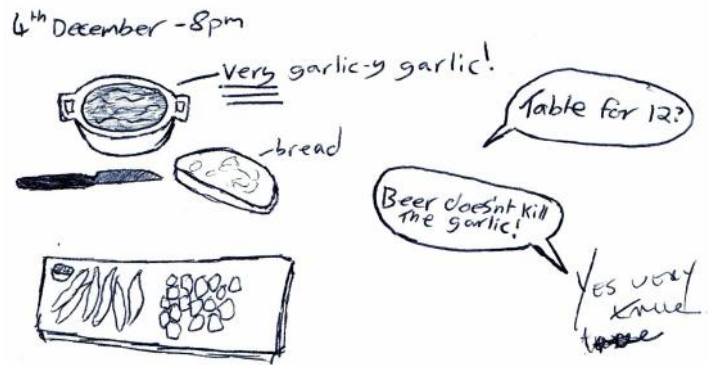
Carmen: My first trip to Los Lagos since the new gate was installed - notably more graffiti with 2013 dates - the cave has had lots of publicity as a result of the gating (in newspapers) and the result is more of the wrong types can enter, whereas before its natural features and the challenge they presented prevented this. Lessons??



Rachel: What she said! Fantastic swim – low tide trip now required to explore past the sumpy bit. Inflatables will be purchased to get our clothing across the lake. (A cossie purchase definitely required) since grade 'c' choice old faded white knickers and an unmatched bra are not a good look!

Paul: today has pushed Alison to try things never done before. Great day, swimming in the lake now is the highlight. The help from all made the day.

Aubrey: Best trip of the holiday so far helped by Chris rigging a line on the second traverse. Swim good, but a light would save cut toes on the submerged rocks. Tide was coming in and got very wet changing stood in the water.



Supper at Cochino Cojo beyond the Pueblo Marinero. They do amazing aoli! (Garlic Mayonnaise). We were hoping that Alison might have expounded on the fabled tale of the gritty gusset, or perhaps the mythical legend of the picon in the pants. We were not to hear of it on this occasion though.

5-12-13 (Thursday)

Noel Cleave: Noel (yay, Mi!!) arrived in hired horrible car – a Citroen something dire. Met Andy and Rachel as I arrived and then Aubrey, Carmen, Chris etc. by pool doing the square root of sod all caving (or drinking, for that matter). What a waste of a day – just lying in the sun. Booked an apartment for John Hurst and I and then hit Mr. Binding for a red wine quaff to wash my sandwiches down. ½ (yes, that's ONE HALF) glass of vino tinto! Some people's idea of hospitality lacks depth, and width, and length. Forgot to say it was -3 degrees this morning by MY pool so I am in thermic shock. Best treated with wine (see above on subject).

Apartments at the hotel:

- Richard and Andrea – No.11
- Andy and Rachel – No. 25
- Chris and Carmen – No.5
- Aubrey – No.33 and later No.3
- Barry and Tommo – No.11
- David – No.2
- Noel and John – No.34 and later No.24
- Chris and Julie – No.29
- Chris and Nicola – No.20



Chris Smart (centre) and Aubrey (RHS) oggle the boggle approaching Jameos Gentes

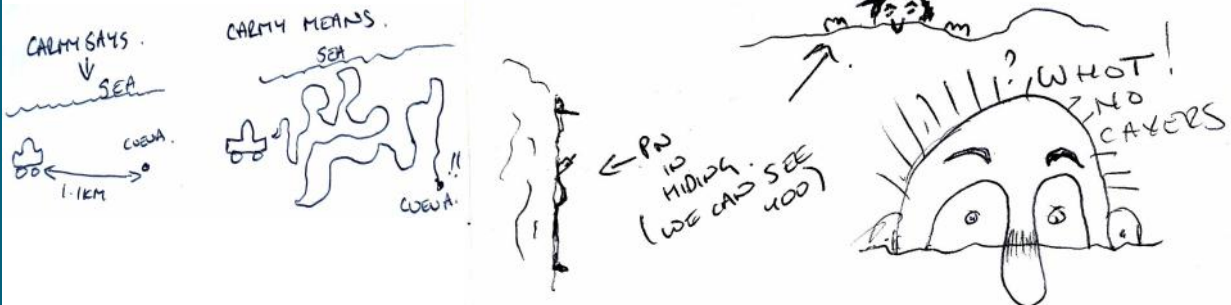
Thursday continued/-

Rachel Sparrow: FAB DAY/EVENING. Gentes to Falsa again because Noel arrived and needed something to do so keep him from drinking all day long (we go out of our way to save his liver, even ride in his hire car, although Chris B had to keep reminding him there are gears). Chris Smart (BEC) joined us for his first real caving trip on Lanzarote (Chris Smart: "And I cut my leg as well. The lava tubes claim another victim! - FAB TRIP!").

Chris Binding: Gentes - Noel drove (thank you squire) at 7,500RPM in 3rd but the engine was sturdy and didn't explode. We then went into "stealth mode", being low-key for all of a minute until I relented and said it wasn't necessary. Smart forgot his socks but found them later. Took some pretty OK photographs using 2-way comms and a couple of flashes. The wit and banter was fast and furious (like Noel's driving). A slick and fun trip with fine company. Returned to well-earned beer.

Evening BBQ @ Paul and Alison's gaff - good fun, food, company. Much laughter. The water in the pool was a good temperature with some ad hoc swimming. Home quite late. Paul, Alison, Carmen, Joy, Tommo, Barry, Julie, Chris Smart, Andy, Rachel, Aubrey, Noel, Chris Binding.

Carmen: I had a "Backie" home with Auntie Joyce on the bicycle, mostly down hill all the way. The bike groaned with the weight and packed up 100 metres north of home!! Last day for Aubrey, Carmen, Barry and Tommo - to Golfo, el Clandestino!.... set off along coast, informed Tommo the cave was 1.1km from the car park (Ed: 1.1km as the crow flies, in reality the path is very convoluted so it's probably doubled).... HOWEVER!.... over the hill we spied 'Hombre de Parc Nacional en Clandestino' hiding, complete with radio and binoculars, watching, watching,.... watching. Eventually he wandered up the hill towards the exit of Cueva Covon, most likely to await our arrival there, so instead we returned to El Golfo and went to the pub! "What, no cavers????".



Chris Binding: MEANWHILE, elsewhere on the island.... Paul, Alison, Andy, Rachel, Chris x 2 and Noel went to Jameos Gentes, doing a car shuffle and pre-rigging a rope in Jameos Prendes before heading off onto the "Indiana Jones" Adventure through trip with a load of scary obstacles en route. It was brill. Cool! Lunch at Arrieta "Nomnoms".

Chris Smart: Stunning trip! - Although part of the same system (Gentes) as yesterday it's different again.

7-12-13 (Saturday)

Chris Binding notes: Andy and Rachel are off "Dahn Saaf" today, meanwhile Noel, John, Chris x 2, Julie are to visit Gentes/Falsa with Richard and Andrea due to arrive on the island later today. Alison and Paul are having a rest day.



Naturalistas. (L to R): Chris Smart, Noel-er-coaster, Andrea, Rich

5th to 9th inclusive: Noel writes..... days passing in a garlic scented blur. So far three trips to Monte Corona Lava Tube system = 3 trips to Arrieta = the GARLIC! John arrived in the evening of Friday 5th and we hosted a select soiree of every last Tom, Dick and Harry so that John could meet them all. Two hours, and lots of beer and wine later we visit Casa Felix, very good too. Unfortunately we then reconvened to our top flat to finish off the wine and beer.... and John. Saturday 7th became "Hangover Saturday" for Mr. Hurst so we took him to Monte Corona (middle section) to bloody his limbs (successfully) and to meet the divine Nicole and garlic. Mission accomplished. Next item was to get John registered at the local loony bin AKA Marathon Race Control (Ed: John Hurst was participating in a half marathon while on the island)!!! Yes, he's running the Lanzarote Half Marathon. This has to be a "first" on any caving holiday. [For the record – we've got to here on this holiday and I haven't crashed the car (missing keyword.... "YET") although I did go to sleep at the wheel yesterday. Garlic has a soporific effect which beer only slightly corrects]. (Chris B adds: screaming passengers are a useful driving aid).

..... after being a brave passenger in Noel's car for many days we hired our own

Chris Smart's holiday quote, uttered randomly at impressive vistas, "It's shit here".

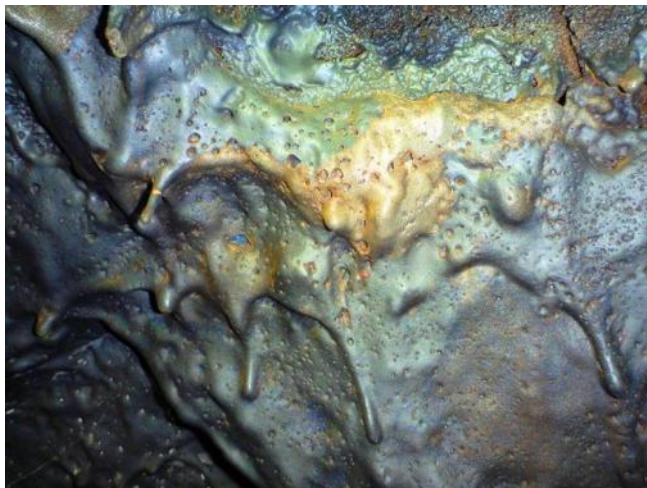


*(L-R) In distance: Andrea, Noel-er-coaster, Chris Smart. Middle, green top: Rich. RHS, yellow top: John Hurst
View downflow in the upflow trip from Jameos Gentes towards Jameos Prendes*

We heard that Paul and Alison had returned to the UK safe and well. We also heard they are already looking at return flights.

8-12-13 (Sunday)

Chris Binding: DAHN SAAF!.... after last night's beverage we rose early-ish and went as a group of seven to Naturalistas, then lunch at La Bodega Restaurant at Uga; and then to Pico Partido and finally the Olivine Crater. Lots of photos, perfect blue sky weather – a great day out! :-)



Pico Partido: iridescent drip features on wall

Molenolio's quotolio's:

Noe: "5th gear; whenever you're ready Binding!"

Noel: "Binding, your driving is boring".

Binding: "I think what you really mean is it's not alarming".

N.B. It was so boring that Noel went to sleep – but Noel asleep as a passenger is a whole lot less alarming than Noel asleep as the driver.

During luncheon Andy Sparrow had ordered baby squids and calamare rings; once served he had one on his fork and Noel chipped in, unbidden, pointing at the wobbling delicacies, saying "Those are the testicles, and those are the foreskins".

John Hurst successfully ran the Half Marathon, not finishing last; afterwards his t-shirt's aroma was less from his sweat and more from all the exuded garlic he'd been consuming since arrival.

Richard Carey: "I'm well and truly sugared; and I've just had a coffee"

(everyone stood up and ran off to avoid the all-too-predictable ensuing bouncy-ness).

Andrea: "It's a bit via-ferraty"

(when reminiscing over the Hundidero-Gato caving traverse trip earlier in the year).

9-12-13 (Monday)

Chris Binding: Julie, Chris x 2, Andrea and Richard Day: to Orzola and on to Famara for lunch, then down through the National Park to Los Hervideros. Ice cream break accompanied with coffee at Yaiza and then back through the vineyard region of La Geria to HQ. Supper, wine and beers – La Cochina Cojo once again. Cloudy, no blue skies! :- (Oooh nooo!

Chris Smart: Excellent drive around the island being a real tourist – Chris B = a very safe driver who scores highly on the "Noel to Ten" scale of driving, and mostly on the right side of the road!!! Wonderful views, lunch, coffee and company – and even better = no caves.

Richard Carey: First attack of gambas al ajillo yummy!

Julie: Enjoyed the drive around the island – enjoying the holiday with great people!

Quote of the day: "Noel-er-coaster", on trying to summon a descriptive term for Cleave's driving style.

Rachel Sparrow: Best bits on Lanzarote
.... Garlic Prawns; vodka caramel;
skinny dipping; scree running; Jameos
Prendes (through trip); volcanoes.



10-12-13 (Tuesday)

Chris Binding: Andy and Rachel have gone today :- (so it's just seven of us left (six cavers plus Julie); cloudy and windy so.... Los Lagos day. Picked up our boat from it's moorings and then took two cars to the car park at Cueva de los Verdes but split our arrival times for added stealth. Noel and John were in the advanced party, the rest of us bringing up the rear. The traverses soon passed and then lakeside photography took place; very happy with the first pic (featured), and the second one looked pretty cool too! Because we had the boat with us it was an opportunity to have a proper look to the end of the lakes so I paddled off into the distance – there's far more cave here than I had previously realised, or anticipated! An efficient return to cloudy surface conditions so we had an "indoors" luncheon at a local bar in Arrieta, rather than the beachfront. Back to base: uploaded pics – very happy. Chris and Julie are going out for supper but the rest of us will meet up at 7pm for beverages and perhaps a trip to Domus Pompeii? If tomorrow's weather is similarly mixed then the Gentes-Prendes trip could well be on the cards..... We shall see!



Los Lagos (L-R): Chris Smart, Noel-er-coaster, John Hurst

Quote: (Chris to Noel, the latter changing into swimming kit in Los Lagos): "Are you on day release from Auschwitz?"



Los Lagos (L-R): John Hurst, Noel, Rich

Unattributed scribbles in the logbook:

"They said
The weather is shit.
The food is shit.
And the caves are shit.
Hey! This is good shit!"

"Had a good day's caving in Los Lagos, enjoyed the traverses. It was a fun trip! Thanks Chris. Was asked to be Lara Croft in a film Chris might be planning – sounds fun!"



Los Lagos: Andrea on the roped traverse

Chris Binding: Los Lagos day review.... "It was positively military..... Tide times? = check; roped traverse? = check; boat? = check. Apart from.... trying to remotely unlock the car but finding we were stood beside the wrong one in the car park (the perils of uniformly-coloured hire cars); at least our car was unoccupied while doing this, whereas Noel had earlier tried to open the wrong car while the real owner was still in it".

11-12-13 (Wednesday)

Chris Binding: Windy, mild and cloudy = no Caldera Blanca walk. Chris and Julie were doing their own thing so the rest of us went towards El Golfo but a huge film crew were there and the roads were closed so we had to veer wildly (Noel was driving) and went bouncing towards Los Hervideros instead, doing some photography at Cueva Bermuja (Russet Cave) and then having tapas in Yaiza; then moved on to sample the delights of Cueva Aubrito (sharp and swarf-like) and then finally for a look-see at the Tinguaton Shafts (El Diablo) – one of which is 90m down a fumarole (story for another day, perhaps!). Home. Beer. Food. :-)

Andrea: Enjoyed visiting Aubrey's cave – a bit small and crawly, but fun – Noel's driving was OK! Not scary at all. The weather was a bit windy – but still warmish. Also looked at the six shafts at Tinguaton which looked exciting.



Cueva Aubrito: Noel inspects the slippery floor



Cueva Bermuja (geothermal cave): John Hurst, Andrea, Rich

Day Quotes:

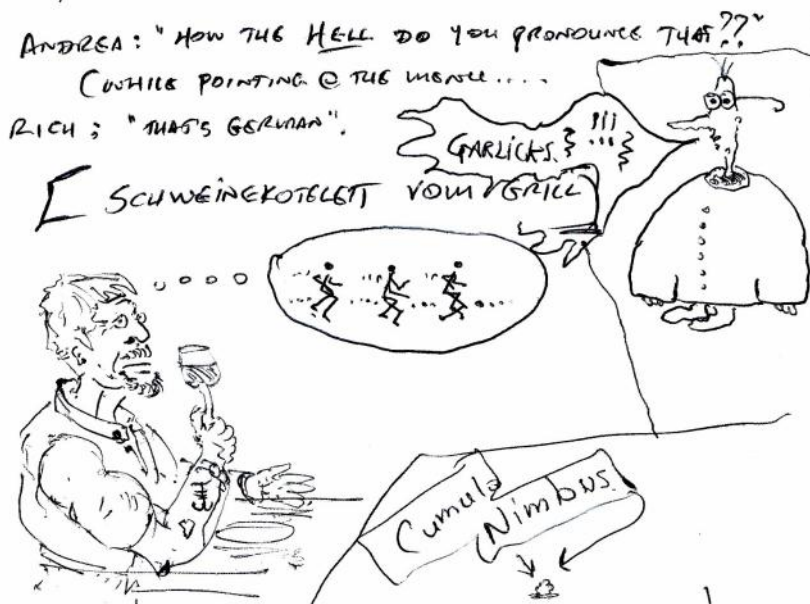
"Bermuja = warm caving!

Aubrito = owie caving!

You just pop along there and get comfy.... yeah, right!"

*(IV IV) THAT EVENING.....
GROUP OF 7 @ CASA FELIX.*

Noel: Noel went to sleep at the wheel as we entered Costa Teguse. John ordered "Windows Open!" and Noel woke up. During lunch at the excellent tapas bar at Yaiza we decided to go and do the Golfo walk because the film stars had effed off. Our decision was immediately cancelled when it started to RAIN!... hence our visit to Cueva Aubrito, which was PAIN central. Mr. Binding "I have a full diagram of Los Molinos (the hotel) with every room number and the direction for morning and evening sunshine".... Noel: "Chris you have a sad little life". That evening.... Group of seven at Casa Felix.... Andrea: "How the HELL do you pronounce that???" (while pointing at the menu).... Richard: "You're looking at the German language page in the menu". [Schweinekotelet vom grill].



Chris Smart: This is such a dreadful place! The caves are shite, the food is rubbish and don't get me started* on the wine or the beer. Thankfully it rained today which meant there was at least some respite from the clear blue skies and the endless sunshine.... and to cap it all, well don't get me started on the people on this trip – I can't wait to come back! [*Ed: "I didn't realise you'd even stopped"].


12-12-13 (Thursday)

Richard: Excellent through trip from Gentes to Prendes. Impressive passage with great photo opportunities. Pitch abseil and climb went without a hitch. Shame Noel forgot his car keys so we had to walk back down the road to the other car (how embarrassing!). Few minutes spent at Cueva Tahiche; photos taken in the big stuff; low crawl does continue but may well require body armour.

Chris Binding: So that's it now for caving during this trip... or is it? The plan, if sunny tomorrow, is to do the Caldera walk but if it isn't sunny then what?.... Anyhoo, meeting Miguel Caballero at Casa Luis shortly. PS: a REALLY good day today.

Chris Smart: Hooray – going home tomorrow! Only one more day to endure. What a complete waste of the last nine days – who needs enormous well decorated lava tubes, cheep beer, excellent food and agreeable company?

Meanwhile, elsewhere on the Island⁽³⁾ |
 Paul, Ali, Andy, Radul, Chris x 2 & Noël
 went to Jameos Gentes, doing a car
 shuffle & pre-rigging a rope in Prendes,
 before heading off on the "Indiana Jones"
 Adventure through trip with a load of
 Scarey obstacles en route. It was brill.
 God!!
 Lunch @ "Nom Noms"
 Arrieta. Nom Noms
 Stunning trip! Although
 part of the same system (Gentes)
 as yesterday it's different
 again.
 Rich Candy
 07794




I'll fit this illustration and photo in here –
 harking back to the Jameos Gentes to Jameos Prendes through trip on Friday 6th December.
 Photo: Andy Sparrow abseiling last down the pitch

13-12-13 (Friday)

Chris Binding: Caldera walk. Two and a half hours!! Wow, that's fast!

Julie: My 50th year I went underground in Swan Mine.... in my 60th year I went underground in a lava tube... Cueva Naturalistas.... a "shite trip" - wearing Blitz's (Chris Smart) helmet, light and size 8 boots and 1 glove!!.... Amazing. Managed 1½ hrs underground without getting nervous. Photos taken to prove that I did it.... wonderful experience. Can't wait for the next one?! PS I also fell over; the lava grabbed my boot and back I fell in slow motion – didn't bounce – 1 small scratch on my hand... so much for my war wounds!

Chris Smart: Julie really enjoyed the trip – and was especially fascinated by the helictite/lavamite "twiglets". I was also really pleased she found the entrance for me!

Joyce Norton (Carmen's Aunt): See you both back here soon.
 Love Joy xx.



THE HISTORY OF THE BLACKMOOR AREA

Joan Goddard picked a glorious day to take a group of us on an interesting and enjoyable tour of Charterhouse and Nether Wood. Joan led the walk with Bryan Pittman, Mark Ward, Russ Porter, Mike Moxon, Angie and myself.



Walking down the lane to Nether Wood. TH



The Old Condensing Flues. TH

From Joan's logbook report:

"I was quite prepared for no one to turn up for this walk but 7 of us came along. We walked past Nordrach House , Willoughby's (the 3 storey house) and down the old lane into Netherwood. Turned right to go through the wood past Victorian reservoirs, buddles, and the condensing flues, to the ruins of MCG's first cottage, where Bryan and I reminisced about the old days (1950/60's).

We looked at the slag dam across the valley and walked across the spoil heaps to Blackmoor Car Park, (where Mike had to leave us). On past Pattinson's (desilverisation) Plant and followed the flue up to the site of the chimney.



Joan and the group, amongst the remains of MCG's 1st Cottage. TH



Bryan, Angie, Joan and Mike. TH



Near Velvet Bottom. TH

We walked on to Stainsby's shaft and down past Grebe Swallet, to the road. Through Wicket Gate and up to Charterhouse Rakes where we looked down ICBIN Charnel Shaft. On through the gate to Ubley Rakes, where we saw the Miner's shelter and the 2 horse Whims, the grilled shaft with tree and looked for oil drum shaft but missed it. Walked down to Barwell's shaft and horse whim, quick look at MM mine, Bleak house and back along the muddy lane to the cottage.

It was supposed to be a 1 1/2 - 2 hour jaunt but we were out for 4 hours!!"

Also From the logbook:

"I'm so glad to meet people like Joan who showed us the history of Mendip. Thank you very much for that Joan! I liked to know how the cavers lived around the 1960's. It was a lovely walk around this area and we could see so many caves. Thank you all for that great day!!!"

Angie

From the newsgroup:

"Big thanks to Joan today for a fascinating, informative and lovely walk to see the original MCG hut, Charterhouse and the Rakes. Gorgeous weather to make a lovely outing."

Mark Ward



Searching for Mine Shafts in the Rakes. TH

“TUBES AND TORTOISES”

VOLCANOSPELEOLOGY CONFERENCE, GALAPAGOS 2014 BY TIM FRANCIS



Palion del Diablo Oriente

As always it doesn't take much of an 'it's of speleological interest' excuse for some of us to head off around the world on a caving jaunt. But I think the idea of a caving trip to the Galápagos Islands has to be up there on the list of top excuses. A MCG contingent had previously attended a Volcanospeleology Conference back in 2008 which was held on Jeju Island, South Korea so we are well versed in the whys and wherefores of aa and pahoehoe lava. Indeed at that conference I had managed to cobble together a paper on the lava tubes of Payunia in Argentina. So pretty much as soon as we heard rumours that the 16th Volcanospeleology Symposium of the UIS Commission on Volcanic Caves was to be held in The Galápagos Islands we were enthused. And indeed we were not alone - this year's conference was the most heavily attended in the Commission's history with around 80 delegates attending. The dramatic volcanic landscape of the islands combined with its unique fauna and flora, famously highlighted in Charles Darwin's 1859 book "On the Origin of Species", proved to be an irresistible draw.

The week-long conference, held on 15th to 22nd March 2014, was hosted (almost single-handedly) by the highly personable Prof. Dr. Theofilos Toulkeridis from the Centre of Geology, Volcanology and at Universidad San Francisco in Quito. MCG delegates were Peat Bennett, Ben Cooper, Tim Francis and Caroline Suter with the British deputation enhanced by a few Shepton Mallet miscreants. As it was only a week in duration most people chose to do other things either before or after the conference to take full advantage of the wonders of the Galápagos Islands. Ben and I tagged along with a post conference tour of numerous limestone caves situated in the Amazonian lowlands of Ecuador.

The Symposium itself was based at the Conference Centre of the Galápagos Islands National Park's Service in Puerto Ayora, and it delivered a rich lecture programme and poster submissions. Obviously we didn't want to sit in an air-conditioned conference room for the whole week, so this formal programme was combined with field trips to a mix of above and below ground sites on Santa Cruz and Isabela Islands. This catered for the various interests of the delegates such as spelaeology, volcanology, mineralogy, entomology and palaeontology. We managed all the classic fauna 'ticks' without straying too far from our volcanic itinerary: giant tortoises, plenty of finches of various hues of brown, bright red Sally Lightfoot crabs, sulphur butterflies, sealions, blue-footed boobies, flamingos, lava lizards, iguanas...

Enough of that fauna nonsense, what about the caves? A bit of geology is required. All of the Galápagos Islands have been formed by upwelling magma from a volcanic hotspot out in the Pacific Ocean. Over time a

chain of volcanoes has formed as the crustal plate has crept over the hotspot. So the islands on the Eastern side of the Galápagos are the oldest ones (circa 7m yrs) and the volcanos now extinct whereas those on the Western side of the chain are younger and still active. Unfortunately none of the volcanos erupted on our visit but we still got to feel still very warm air venting out of the lava fields from the 2005 eruption of Sierra Negra, and Volcán Chico fumaroles.

The caving highlights included descending into the interior of an extinct volcano, Triple Volcán; traversing the extensive and lava fields of the Sierra Negra shield volcano; and visits to the lava tube complexes on Santa Cruz Island. Indeed most of the week was spent rummaging around in the semi-wild caves on Santa Cruz. Although not great in length and often fragmented the size of the caves' cross sections is impressive. Most consisted of large stomping passages with plenty of flow features and all manner of lava speleothems to keep our interest. Knee pads did come in handy on occasion but nothing was especially taxing. We also had the added bonus of experiencing the caves in the company of distinguished scientists who themselves were visiting the lava tubes of the Galápagos for the first time. It is probable that some of the troglobites and troglaphiles that we saw are as yet incompletely documented by science. The MCG contingent soon gained a reputation for being the most enthusiastic of the delegates when it came to speleological endeavours and thus making up for our lack of hard scientific grounding. In particular we led the way on a pointless hour long walk between two caves in the blazing mid-day sunshine along a hot dusty road when a five minute amble through the scrub was the usual route. Let's just say that those less familiar with the ways of South America and the manaña manaña approach to life struggled a little as the week progressed. As they say; *"Tomorrow is another sunny day in the Galápagos"*.

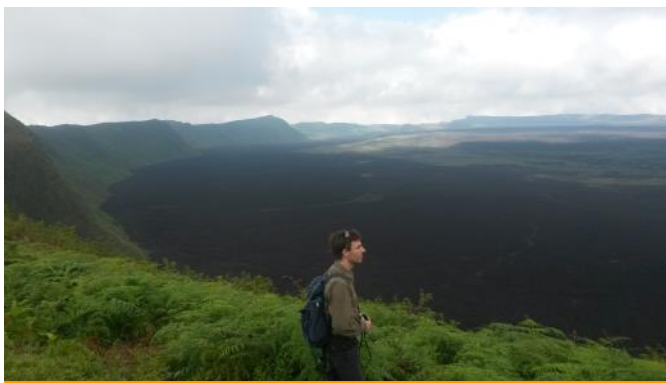


Puerto Villamil on Isabella



Ben Cooper and Peat Bennett on Isabella

For me the highlights were towards the end of the week when we took a boat over to Puerto Villamil on Isabella. Logistics took a nose dive - getting everyone accommodated, fed and back off the island proved a challenge - but the scenery and ambience were fabulous, and the excellent final conference meal made up for any minor grumbles delegates might have had. What an experience. Peat, Ben and I had dragged our SRT kits half way around the world so we were determined to use them in anger at Triple Volcán. Rather than a lava tube this trip involved descending into the drained magma chamber of an old volcano, which was a first for me. The local landowner has rigged up a sketchy mix of ropes and fixed ladders but we chose to abseil in rather than join the 'choir invisible'. On our last day Peat and I went on a big walk in the nearby national park to look at the extremely impressive volcanic crater of the Sierra Negra. This crater, with the largest caldera in the Galapagos at 6 miles across, is a dramatic site. The whole crater is full of huge lava flows, the most recent being from 2005, so is rather devoid of vegetation below the crater rim. We traversed the barren lavascapes along the other side of the volcano. Some of the small voids and tubes in the most recent flows were still venting hot air so aren't perhaps yet ready for exploration... Whilst Peat and I were on the walking trip, Ben went horse-riding on the other side of the caldera to visit the active sulphur fumaroles from which we could see fumes rising from six miles away. Our final cave on Isabella was Tunel del Estero, a small lava tube right on the beach partially flooded by the sea. It was an eerie feeling swimming in a lava tube and hearing waves crash above you.



Peat Bennett at Sierra Negra

After Isabella the conference delegates went their separate ways. Peat and Caroline enjoyed the rigours of a luxurious cruise around the islands, whereas Ben and I had an aborted start to the second week when we missed our flight out of Baltra airport. We finally made it back to Quito a day late, but still in time to meet up with the small party who were heading off to the Amazonian low-



Tena Oriente

lands – The Oriente - for a spot of limestone caving. Again we were led by Theo and this time it felt like we were on geography field trip complete with a minibus and driver, but an extremely fascinating one nonetheless. The contrast between the upper reaches of the Amazon rainforest and the Galápagos was

marked. To get there we had to drive up over the Andes via the Papallacta Pass which at 4064m is the highest paved road in Ecuador. The drive took us through dramatic mountainous terrain, high level glaciers, glacial lakes, the Antisana volcano and past the famous hot springs of Papallacta. We were based in a couple of locations during the week: a hostel in the humid ‘frontier’ town of Loreto and a hotel in Tena, a loud, stifling sort of place.

The limestone caves we visited were all active streamway caves which, from what I could work out underneath the dense vegetation, seemed to have formed on a limestone / shale boundary. Both above and below ground we saw excellent fossils including huge ammonites in the cave walls of Usturcu Hurco. The people of the area are noticeably more indigenous than the inhabitants of Quito and the central Andean belt and thus most of the caves have both Spanish and Kichwa names. Some of the caves have been used for religious purposes, as safe refuges in the fight against the conquistadors and many also have strong mythologies attached to them. At Soupai Hurco in the foothills of Volcán Sumaco we were shown several Kichwa petroglyphs and an underground burial site and shrine.

As one would expect in the jungle the caves are teeming with life and every cave we entered was crawling with tarantulas, fruit and vampire bats, frogs, and all manner of bugs. We even saw catfish swimming and climbing upstream against the current in Usturcu Hurco (near Archidona) and a bat-catching snake in El Castillo (Eastern outskirts of Tena). The caving was fun rather than technical with pleasant streamways and gentle ambles. But we also did a spot of pushing in the complex of caves at Pasohurco (near Narupa) and extended the cave downstream along a chossy rift and under some skylights. I left a small cairn for the next explorer. For the most part the caves we were shown are very much on the beaten track although finding the entrances to Usturcu Hurco took the local farmers / guides a while to re-find. So we spent several hours over two days thrashing around in the scrappy secondary forest cover getting hot and scratched. I’m sure there are more caves to be found in that segment of limestone we were introduced to in the Oriente although I suspect they won’t be huge in length. Access would also be tricky as there is only one road in the forest so walks into the jungle would be a very serious undertaking. In the confusion in looking for Usturcu Hurco we were shown another fine looking stream resurgence cave but we didn’t have a chance to explore it.

The team’s final night was spent relaxing in Baños, a mountain town that is very popular with Ecuadorians for adventure sports – zip wires, rafting, horseriding and climbing. We went for a look at the spectacular Pailón del Diablo waterfall which crashes down into the Rio Verde Canyon. You can look at the falls from below by walking across a rope footbridge but the highlight is to actually clamber around the back of the falls themselves and get a thorough soaking in the process. Our final site was a brief stop to look at the Volcán Tungurahua and hear Theo’s account of the 2006 eruptions and associated ash falls. From there it was a long drive back along the Andes to Quito where our symposium colleagues dropped Ben and I off at the new airport so that we didn’t miss our flight.

Words and Photos by Tim Francis



Ben Cooper near Beaze Oriente



Tortoise, Santa Cruz

MCG CLUB NEWS

London Marathon 2014

Ian McKechnie's son James has been raising money for charity. James, who some members may remember as a small boy with a twin-like sister, who regularly attended barn dances and other Mendip weekends in the late 1980s and the 1990s, completed the London Marathon this month. He did this in a very respectable time of just over 5 hours. James was running to raise money for Parkinson's UK.

If you would like to read his story, you will find it at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JamesMcKechnie>. And if you decide you would like to make a donation to Parkinson's UK, you can conveniently do so on the same page. Ian joined him on his final training run: a 10km circuit of Richmond Park. Ian sent this trip report from caving with him in 2001:

TRIP TO G.B. – November 2001

Party: Ian McKechnie, James McKechnie, Roy Kempston, Ellen Kempston and Andy Reeson.

Mine (Ellen Kempston) and James (McKechnie)'s first trip into a "grown up" cave (!); a rite of passage as our 16th birthdays are both around now. An enjoyable scramble though a bit tight in places (for the parents!). Over the bridge, we saw a little bit of White Passage before turning round and going down to the viewing gallery. Foolishly conceding to doing Devil's Elbow – lots of water somehow managed to get in our gloves and boots.

The entrance to Devil's Elbow was challenging, but we managed it with a rope and lots of encouragement. I (James) got very wet crawling through the Elbow but the trip was very enjoyable.

A very warm welcome to the following new members:

Eva Andrades Garcia, Andrew Horeckyj, Glyn O'Shea and Micheal Perryman

New Shafts Found

Following on from last month's news of a new shaft being found in Velvet Bottom, Mike Moxon has also been down a newly found and deeper shaft on Charterhouse Rakes. Mike reports it as; narrow but over 90ft deep. A secure lid is in the process of being fitted on its entrance at the western end of the reserve.



These are pictures of the shafts and some others from Mike Moxon can be seen on the newsgroup.



MCG Tennis Society

Another good turn out at the members weekend in March. SRT, Swildons, Digging, an invigorating and interesting walk in glorious sunshine and an excellent chilli cooked by Karen and assisted by Brian and others!

During the Saturday evening a new cot-

tage game (as far as I know) was invented. Frying pan tennis.

A game of mixed international doubles then ensued complete with a net, umpire and a ball boy. With some a great deal of practice, the MCG Tennis Society will be ready to take on other caving clubs.



James at the half-way point of the Surrey half-marathon Photo from Ian McKechnie

MENDIP & GENERAL NEWS



Rod's Pot Update By Andy Sparrow

Over the last few months work has concentrated on stabilisation of the dug passages to prevent the recurring slumping that has caused liquid mud to accumulate at the lowest points. This now seems to have been achieved, allowing us, at last, to work on the leads in Erratum. Our best lead, a narrow rift was successfully enlarged but proved a disappointment, becoming too-tight within a couple of metres.

Enthusiasm for the dig was beginning to wane but then, just over a week ago, Peter Hall made a solo trip to another choke in the extension and quickly uncovered a draughting airspace. Pete managed to burrow forward 3 metres to a visible enlargement. Another solo trip by Pete followed two days later when the small rift was entered and a upward dig with airspace observed.



Templeton March 2014 By Elaine Tucker

About 15-20 tonnes of rocks and mud has been removed from the bottom of the South Pot which has lowered the floor by 10ft. However, the floor area has gradually reduced and the outlet for the water has been found. Unfortunately it is very small, you wouldn't fit a football through it. After this week's sessions, the beginning of this outlet (which is horizontal) is now person sized, moving in a bit further next week! Not to be deterred by minor details like that we are currently trying to enlarge it to be able to see round the next corner - which will surely be caverns measureless etc..

CSCC Dig Fest 2014

The Council of Southern Caving Clubs is holding a 'Dig Fest' weekend from the 6th—8th June where 'The diggers of Mendip will be opening their digs for you to visit and have a go.'

As well as digging there will be all kinds of other events, talks, films, BBQ & stomp.

More can be found at www.csccl.org.uk/digfest

BCA/BCRA Party

See the poster below or in the cottage!

BCA / BCRA Party
Dalesbridge Centre, Austwick

- Cave-Science Workshops / Activities
- Fully Catered (by cavers)
- Disco & Late Bar
- Reasonably-Priced Accommodation (incl. camping)

13-15 June 2014

Provisional Programme

Friday 13 June
20:00-01:00 Cavers' Bar & Food

Saturday 14 June
09:00 - 09:45 Cavers' Breakfast
10:00 - 17:00 Cave Science Workshops / Activities (free)
18:00- 19:00 Talk: "The Three Counties System" by Dave Brook (free)
19:30 BBQ & Buffet
20:30-01:00 Disco (free) plus Late Bar

Sunday 15 June
09:00 - 09:45 Cavers' Breakfast
10:30 BCA AGM

www.british-caving.org.uk
secretary@british-caving.org.uk

Background image: Jungle Pookay Dave Chesley
Thurmond (Top) Gungah Gill (L) & Angeworth (Right) by (c) C. G. D. H. W. E.
Bottom: Heather photograph by (c) H. W. E.

MENDIP CAVING GROUP

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Thanks to all the contributors.

Special Thanks to;

Joan Goddard
Tim Francis
Chris Binding

And to all the photographers contributions, as acknowledged.

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Mendipcavinggroup.org.uk



Founded 1954

The Mendip Caving Group consists of some 120+ members of all abilities who have banded together to share resources such as ladders, ropes, caving library and accommodation on Mendip.

The Group is registered as a charity in the UK, and our objectives are: For the benefit of the public, the furtherance of all aspects of the scientific study and conservation of caves and their related features.

Membership is open to anyone over the age of 18 years with an interest in the objects of the Group.

Members have use of the Group's cottage at reduced rates, free use of Group equipment and free access to the library. They also receive the newsletter of the MCG and Occasional Publications (a journal-type document published infrequently.)

Please send any submissions, photos, comments, letters to Tom Harrison

Get2_tom@hotmail.com or Flat 4, 15 Bodorgan Road
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MCG Committee until May 2014

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