



No. 169

December 2017

JRat Award – Flood Cave (Uamh nan Tuil) and Liar’s Sink (Poll Breugair)

The combined efforts of Alex Latta and Toby Speight (and various other diggers from the GSG) were recognised in the JRat awards on 25 November, this year, with the opening up of Alex’s dig at Flood Sink (now Flood Cave) and the discovery and survey of passage connecting with Toby’s dig at Liar’s Sink. The 2017 dig and the new passages found by Alex and surveyed by Toby added up to 302.5 m. The full length of the cave now surveyed is 598 m with a vertical range of 25 m (but almost half of that was discovered during 2016). This is the second win for the GSG, but was closely contested by the MCG team who have been digging, exploring and surveying extensions to Pearl Mine, on Sandford Hill, Mendip who were behind by a mere 3 m. Although not in the running for the digging award, surveys of UNCABAC and a part of the 2017 survey of Claonaite were presented as examples of other digging and surveying in Scotland.

Based on information from Toby Speight

GSG Annual Dinner

The 2017 Annual Dinner at the Kindrogan Field Centre at Enochdhu near Pitlochry was a departure from our normal arrangements with meal and accommodation being part of a single package in the field Centre. The all-inclusive cost of £82 may have put off some members but for two night’s accommodation the dinner itself and two days breakfasts and packed lunches the cost was reasonable. The accommodation was good and the only caveat would be that we had to share the Centre with two other groups which made breakfasts a bit rushed and regimented.



Mike Todd struggles valiantly to remove the ‘Little Rock’ from the entrance. Assisted by Goon, Preston White and Iain Greig.

Although the weather was very cold, the skies were clear and a good time was had wandering the hills around Schiehallion and Trinafour. Exploration of the narrow band of Limestone at Trinafour discovered a few more holes associated with the Limestone pavement around Upper and Lower Trinafour Caves and one longer passage closer to Ossicular Hole (now measured at 26 m) which has been christened Little Rock¹.

John Crae

¹ This was surveyed on a very cold day in November.

Golden Gnome

Those of you who attended this year's GSG Annual Dinner will be aware that this year's Golden Gnome was awarded to Stuart Lindsay and the team of diggers who over the past few years have assembled often in appalling weather to dig at UNCABAC in the sometimes dry bed of Allt nan Uamh surface stream (particular mention should be made of the contributions of Duncan Butler, Derrick Guy and Julian Walford).

John Crae

I am extremely proud of the Golden Gnome award being presented to me as the figure head of the UNCABAC digging team. Without the assistance of the Mendip Migrants, north and south of the border, it would most likely still be only within the range of a few metres. The opening lines of the poem that introduces the nominated Gnome winner ... "caves be where thee find them" ... is often accompanied by the adages of "a second pair of eyes makes a lot of difference" or "a circumstance causes a change of plan". All three are applicable in this case, with 2009 the finding, July 2015 the circumstance and rather tenuously the second one when a comment was made along the lines of "that's a lot of effort you are putting in, but maybe leaving this and working on that would be better....", the retort being ... "yes it is good to have someone else keeping an eye on proceedings as often afterwards you wonder why you spent so much effort on a thankless exercise"

I really would like to thank without reservation those team mates that have helped in attaining the progress to date and will hopefully be able to navigate around holiday allowances and work commitments to make a return in the near future to savour the fruits of their labours.

New cave passage always incites a bit of "fever," whether 20m or 2 miles long, and the digging process is often wet, cold, mucky, tiring, time consuming and costly! As it develops there is often the need to supplement the team and UNCABAC has never shirked from doing that. In fact, at least 2 newbies got to the present end before I did and on their first visits. However, digging is also sometimes a boring exercise where certain things that need to be done do not have the same charisma as "poking a hole in the mud, moving a rock and eureka". It comes in many guises: housekeeping, hauling and getting the worst place in the line!! In a team you get to do it all.

ASSYNT is littered with hundreds of caves that be "where thee find them". Traligill, the plateau betwixt that and Alt nan Uamh holds a myriad of enticing leads. In the future it is to be hoped that our younger generation will have as much fun as the GSG has had over the past 25 years. Disappointment is simply a springboard to the next one and finally success will come. Knockan, Trinafour, Schiehallion, Applecross, Skye and Appin are all hiding that little, or big gem... I wish future diggers the best of luck.

Stuart Lindsay

Rana/Claonaite Survey Week

The Claonaite Survey Week, in late 2017, was an attempt to review and if necessary to correct the existing survey of the Rana Hole/Uamh nan Claonaite cave system. This original survey had been assembled over several years by the cavers and cave divers exploring the caves. Although reasonably accurate it consisted of surveys starting from several disparate locations which did not quite match up. The original surveys covered the whole cave system from the upstream entrance in the dry valley through sumps 1 to 6 and the larger passages beyond sump 6 to Great Northern Time Machine and after 20008, the passages from Rana Hole downwards were added. As survey equipment and techniques have improved considerably over the last 20 years it was decided that it was time to resurvey the known passages.

The weather in September was extremely wet and so in the forelorn hope that things might improve later in the week, it was decided to begin by entering via Rana surveying outwards from Belh Aven leaving the passages upstream of sump 3 for another time. Out of 9 days in Assynt, 5 whole days were spent surveying over 2.3 km of passage in the area between the Rana Hole entrance and Great Northern

Time Machine². On separate days, with two teams surveying, surveys were made from the connection to Rana Hole at Belh Aven to the furthest extent of GNTM via the upper dry route and the streamway (including Night on the Tiles) and from Belh Aven through the Palatial Abode of Edward Concretehead to the lower end of sump 3. A leg was surveyed from sump 6b into Tibesti and along Derick Pettiglio's dig. Two more legs were surveyed from the connection point to Two B's chamber and from the same point to the entrance to Rana Hole. The survey teams over the full week included: John Crae, Martin Hayes, Simon Brooks, Julian Walford, Chris Gallagher, Toby Speight, Roger Galloway, Annie Audsley, and Andrew Morgan. All digital information and copies of the paper survey sketches were collated by Thomas Arbenz and will be turned into a complete survey in due course.

Sections still to be surveyed include the areas upstream of sump 3, downstream of the Twin Falls of Jaberoo (past sump 7 to sump 8) and the passage beyond Antler Chamber..

John Crae



Vale - Fraser Simpson (1964-2017)

Fraser Simpson, a GSG member since 1990, died on Friday 15 September.

Fraser was old school - caving was for 'ard blokes, huts were for crashing in not chintz curtained holiday homes for sedentary members - and having discovered caving with his best mate Graham Marshall in the late 1980s, he threw himself into this activity over the next 30 years.

After joining the GSG and a few years caving all over the UK, he gravitated to cave diving but this was not his only skill: professionally he was an AV man, the technical sound and vision expert at Fife College. Here he developed his photography and film making. He built up a vast body of work which has still to be properly analysed and archived. His technical knowledge allowed him to become deeply involved in Hidden Earth. He lent and donated equipment to the BCRA and was a familiar face at every conference for the last ten years.

In 2000, Fraser was part of the UK team travelling to Meghalaya and after that hardly missed a year, his final trip being in 2015. As well as the many caves he helped explore, he contributed a memorable series of video films recording not only exploration but camp life, encounters with the locals and the silly theatricals the team occasionally indulged in.

He travelled widely, caving in Lebanon, Peru and China and his caving interests extended into literature, avidly collecting issues of Descent to complete an entire set and seeking out early accounts of cave exploration. He recently married Dawn, his partner of many years.

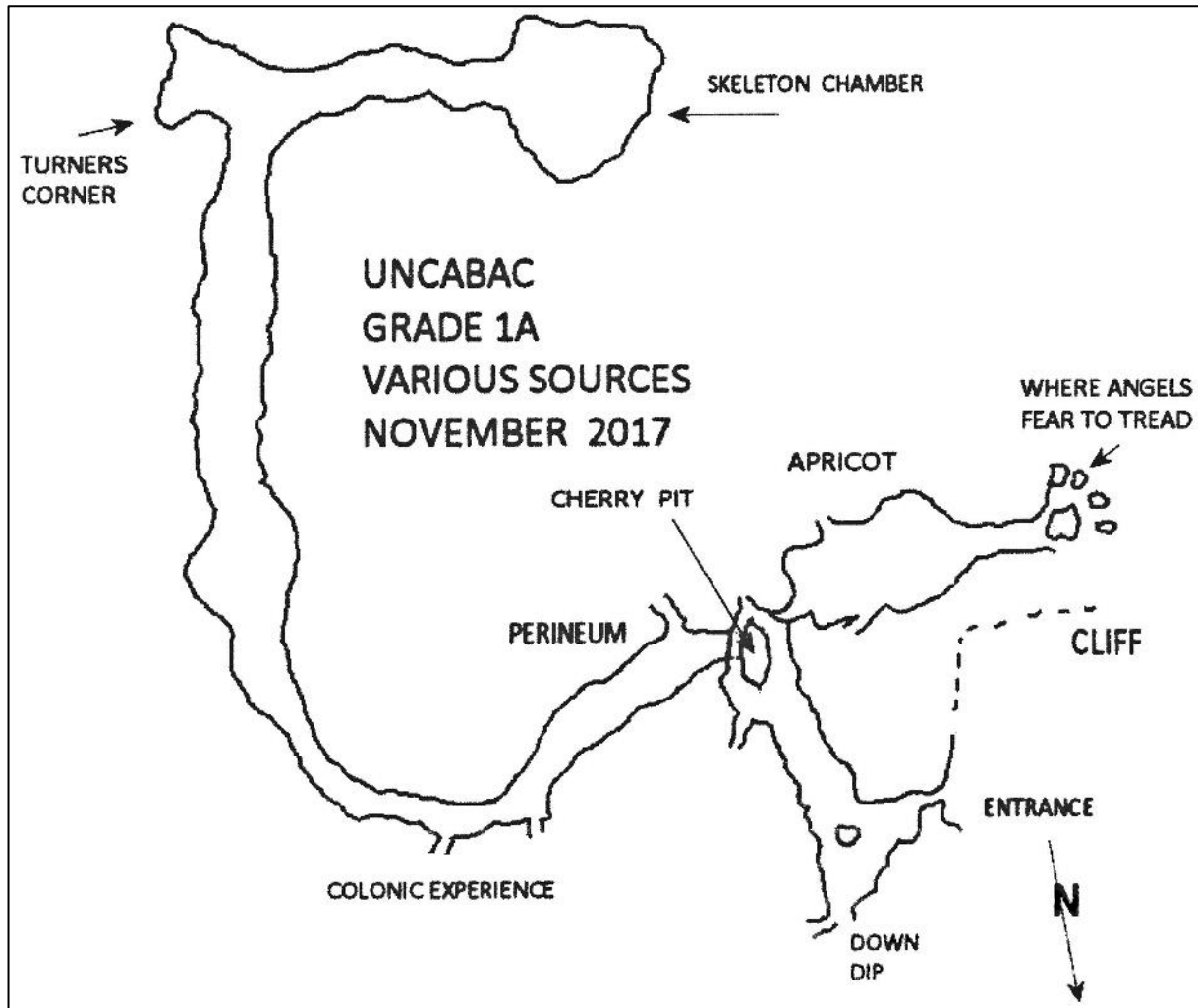
He was diagnosed with terminal cancer earlier this year and had been undergoing chemotherapy. Towards the end, he became increasingly frail but he still managed to get out for one last kayak trip although a promised 'one last wander' through Long Churn was cruelly denied. We have lost a great friend and a stalwart supporter of British caving. Replacing him will be impossible.

Alan Jeffries

² 1 day was spent on Hut maintenance, 1 day was a SCRO exercise and 1 days was used to make a digital survey of UNCABAC. Another full day was used to recover from overexertion (with various team members taking another rest day while most of the team worked).

Progress at UNCABAC

There were three extra visits to UNCABAC in July, August and October. They concentrated on consolidation of existing work done and a bit of hard earned progress. The combatants were Duncan Butler, Derrick Guy, Martin Hayes, Julian Walford, Stuart Lindsay and Richard (forgot his last name). Some of the work done was... access to *WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD* made easier, more on this in the next bulletin. The access into Apricot up from Cherry Pit made less of a battle. The approach crawl up the Cherry pit slope had some rough bits chipped off, an annoyingly awkward lump near the corner is next. Colonic Experience, probably soon won't be! Plans are afoot to add an additional divert for the drips. Work here has been to stop the body sinking 15 cms into a gloop that is the equivalent to adding to much milk to your porridge!



Taped off Turners corner, alas maybe too late, as tools and feet had been trespassing and a lot of it is spoiled. This area had a powdery *oxide* coating over rocks and floor that had oxidised from the small fallen blocks as a fine bright red to pink powder, with areas of a little blackening to boot.

A skeleton was found in final chamber of a "rodent", hence the chamber name.

As has been the trend throughout, work / progress of the past 4 years progress was again curtailed by yet another small hole leading into a void, passing this will be attempted in April 2018 on the Migration. It looks to a major job.

StuL



On 7 December, Storm Caroline (winds in excess of 50 mph?) drove water down the valley into the cave entrance. On the day of the Christmas Dinner (9 December), Julian and John Heathcote dug the entrance open through the snow and went to the end to photograph what may be a poor little baby rabbit!

You can see from the attached picture that there was about 4 foot of snow covering most of the depression, in the canal it was up to 2 foot deep, about 8-9" fell in 2 days. Whilst Julian and John went into the warm, I dug 5 or 6 bags from under the snow at entrance to canal, spotted by Julian 2 days before. A blockage under the deeper snow was left as temp was -4c plus wind chill. We managed to snapper the lump inside the entrance but frostbitten toes dictated a hasty retreat. We made it back in the dark to the carpark. 1 minute later a severe blizzard (horizontal snow) struck, viz back to hut was only about 20m

StuL

A message from the UNCABAC team.

"All the passages and chambers beyond the cherry pit remain 90 % filled with the mud/sand/rock matrix, apart from the access channels already dug out. The cave is now put to bed for the winter, with its entrance back-filled with large boulders to help prevent the winter floods re - filling the entrance passages to the roof with gravel and silt, as happened in all previous winters. The team politely requests that the entrance and deeper parts of the cave are not interfered with, given the risk of unintended consequences to the digging efforts. It is hoped to renew efforts certainly by the Mendip Migration meet, end of April 2018. Please contact Stu Lindsay on 07877 663122 in the first instance for further information or offers of help etc. "

StuL

GSG Christmas Dinner

An intrepid group of cavers braved the weather front of Storm Caroline to reach Elphin for the GSG Christmas Dinner. Those who arrived early had the easiest time with snow on the roads only around Avimore and blizzards only beginning north of Ullapool around 4 pm on the Friday. Those without winter tyres or with traction control needed assistance into the carpark both at the hut and at the fish farm on the Saturday. There were of course several no shows citing either ill health or the bad weather for their non-arrival. Praise as usual goes to Pete Dowswell for the excellent meal. And commiserations for the loss of his car's wing mirror while attempting to pass the snow covered driveway.

John Crae

Scottish Cave Database

The Scottish Cave Database is now up and running on the BCA server. This can be accessed via the following link:

<http://registry.gsg.org.uk/sr/>

No login or password are required. Thanks go to Matt Voysey for all his work on setting up the software. No apologies are made for the disordered nature of individual entries which are still in the process of being proof-read and checked for accuracy.

For the moment, the editing team is being limited but any comments and suggested corrections should be sent either direct to me or via the link in the database.

John Crae

GSG Newsletter Editor

As of February 2018, I will be resigning as Newsletter editor. Work commitments, the need to supervise the editing of the Scottish Cave Database as well as some private projects mean that I no longer have the time necessary. Unfortunately, despite repeated requests for someone to take over there is still no body willing to step in. Unless someone volunteers before the AGM it is therefore possible that the publication of the Newsletter will cease.

John Crae

GSG Treasurer

As of December 2017, Mike O’Driscoll has resigned as Treasurer. Ivan Young will be stepping in as temporary Treasurer until further notice.

GSG Committee

New entrances at Pwll Du Cave/Ogof Draenen

In 2017, a fourth entrance was formed allowing access into Ogof Draenen. This was dug without permission on CRoW land within in a scheduled ancient monument (MM189 – Garnddyrys (site of) and adjacent tramway). Regardless of the issues involved with the interpretation of the C Rights of Way Act, the forge and tramway are a nationally protected monument, protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979, as amended by the Historic Environment (Wales) Act, 2016. It is an offence under the legislation to cause damage or disturbance to a Scheduled Monument without Scheduled Monument Consent from Cadw³. No consent was sought, or granted, for the hole to be opened. In line with the advice from the BCA, the Pwll Du Cave Management Group and Cadw (the Welsh Government body responsible for the protection of Historic Monuments), the exact position is not being publicised. A statement from the Cambrian Caving Council also posted on the British Caving Association website calls on cavers not to use this entrance and further asks cavers to refrain from “making any remarks in any place which might encourage anyone to use or seek out this cave entrance.” They go on to say: “Important lessons need to be learned in the light of these developments” and that they “look forward to working constructively and collectively with Cadw, and with all the other interested parties, to resolve this and have a positive future relationship.”

The BCA’s new Minimal Impact Caving Guidelines state that: *“Modification of cave entrances and passages [...] should only be undertaken after all possible effects have been assessed and the appropriate permission obtained from the landowner. Any modifications must be the minimum required. The long term impact of any work and materials used must be considered. If the site is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest or a Scheduled Monument, a ‘Consent’ will also be required from the Statutory Conservation Body.”*

³ Full details of the extent of the scheduled area can be found on Cadw’s online mapping portal, [Cof Cymru](#) or on the [Welsh Government’s Lle portal](#).

For further information see:

<https://darknessbelow.co.uk/news-statement-from-the-trustees-of-pwll-du-cave-management-group/>

<https://darknessbelow.co.uk/news-ogof-draenen-update/>

I would point out to cavers in Scotland that the issue of digs on Scheduled Ancient Monuments applies also to several well-known Scottish sites, particularly to Smoo Cave⁴, the Bone Caves at Inchnadamph and that section of the Claonaite System which falls within the scheduled area below the Bone Caves (including Otter Hole and Lower Otter Hole) [I make no comments about the issues involved with the interpretation of the CRoW Act which has little to do with caving in Scotland and has been discussed at length elsewhere. JC]. I would suggest that as well as obtaining permission for any digs from the local land owner, anyone seeking to dig checks with SNH and Historic Environment Scotland

John Crae [Based on Information from Darkness Below and Descent]

GSG Subscriptions for 2018

It is essential that all members read this.

GSG subscriptions are due on the 1st January 2018 and with BCA rates unchanged are exactly the same as 2017's. For those paying by standing order please check that the correct amount is paid. If it was correct for 2017 it will be correct now unless your circumstances have changed.

If you were one of the eight who paid an incorrect amount last time (down from 14 in 2016) then please check that you have corrected it.

All GSG members must also be members of BCA. BCA subscriptions are unchanged at £17 for caving members, £6 for non-caving members and £8 for caving student members. The GSG part of the subscription is £17 for full members and £22 for joint membership. Members who are receiving full time education, who are unemployed or who have retired and are over state retirement age all qualify for a £5 reduction. Life members get a 100% discount on this part and only need to pay the BCA subscription.

If you are already a direct individual member of BCA (a DIM) or a member of BCA through another caving club you don't pay BCA twice. You only pay the GSG part of the annual subscription to the GSG. Please tell us your BCA membership number if this applies to you.

To calculate your payment, decide whether you want to be a caving (£17), a non-caving (£6) or a student (£8) member of BCA, or whether you will be a BCA member via another route (£0). Add on the GSG portion £17, reduced to £12 if you are a student, unemployed or retired, or zero if you are a life member. Joint members must decide independently if they want caving, non-caving or student status in BCA and add on £22, or £17 for the GSG part if BOTH qualify for a reduction.

Examples:- A caving member pays $17 + 17 = £34$
a non-caving member $6 + 17 = £23$
a student pays $8 + 12 = £20$ (caving) or $6 + 12 = £18$ (non-caving).
Joint members pay $22 + 17 + 17 = £56$ if both cave, $22 + 17 + 6 = £45$ if only one caves
and $22 + 6 + 6 = £34$ if neither cave.

Make your cheque payable to "GSG" and send it to:-

Ivan Young, 45 Maitland Road, Kirkliston, West Lothian, EH29 9AP

To pay by Internet banking you need the following information:-

Sort code:- 80-02-19

Account Number:- 00246373

⁴ Colin Coventry specifically sought and obtained approval for his dig at Smoo and a dig in antler chamber at the end of Claonaite also specifically obtained permission.

Please ensure that you clearly identify yourself as the person making the payment when you set it up, and send me an email so that I can check that it arrives. It isn't always obvious from the bank statement who made the payment. If you have any questions about subscriptions please contact me.

The BCA is gathering data about the age distribution of its membership. After asking about a year ago I collected year of birth for almost 85% of GSG members. It will be helpful if the remaining 15% could email their year of birth to me to forward to the BCA. Note that this does not have same security implications that would arise if BCA asked for full date of birth.

Some Legal Stuff you need to read and agree to

When you joined the GSG most of you will have signed the application form which included agreeing to the GSG's use of the information you supplied on that form. The UK Data Protection legislation is being reinforced by the European General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) during 2018. This does extend your rights and the GSG needs to inform you of the use it will make of information you have already supplied or will in future supply to it. Your name and contact information (address, telephone numbers, email addresses et cetera) as supplied on the GSG membership application form or later updated by yourself is made available to other GSG members on request and (unless you specify otherwise) in a password protected database on the GSG web site that should only be accessible by GSG members. Some of that information (name address, email address, year of birth) is supplied to the BCA when the GSG registers you as a BCA member. The BCA's use of your data is described in the July 2017 BCA Newsletter at:-

http://british-caving.org.uk/wiki3/doku.php?id=news_events:jul16

You can request that the GSG supply BCA with only your name and address, or just your name, in which case the BCA will send any communications for you to the GSG secretary to forward to you at their leisure.

Any other personal information you might supply will only be used for the purpose it was supplied for and will not be divulged to anyone else including other GSG members. This might, for example, be your bank account details. If you leave the GSG you can request that any personal information we hold on you that is available to more than the office bearers be deleted. This proviso is so we do not need to disturb archived data, and its legality does need to be checked.

The legislation also covers images. Before supplying images that show recognisable people to the GSG for storage in an image gallery or for use in publications, you should first get the agreement of all those in the image. This is not a transfer of copyright. You retain that and the GSG will, as now, seek your permission before supplying images to any third party. It will assume, however, that any images supplied can be used in its own publications without further permission.

Your renewal of GSG (and BCA) membership for 2018 will be taken as your full agreement with the above paragraphs. If you wish to restrict use of your data please check with me before renewing.

Note that the preceding section is my first attempt at what appears to be necessary for the GSG to meet the requirements of the GDPR. If (or should I say when) it proves inadequate, you'll receive a copy of the next improved version to read and accept.

It should be noted that due to the amendment Data Protection Regulations, it is no longer permissible to pass on member's information to the BCA without a positive statement of their approval (you must opt in rather than being asked to opt out). All members will therefore have to complete a new form authorising this [JC].

Ivan Young

Drying Room Efficiency

Please note that the cost of running the drying room overnight can be reduced by using the drying room for damp items only (excluding oversuits). Excess water can be removed from wet items by using the spin drier before they are placed in the drying room. For those unfamiliar with it, the spin drier is the small barrel-like machine by the back door. Please place a basin below the lower outlet to collect the removed water. Relatively clean wet oversuits can be hung up to dry in the drying room lobby and should be almost dry by morning. Remove dry items from the drying room as soon as possible and do not leave the dehumidifier running when it is not required.

John Crae

Hut Fire Safety

The gas fire in the front bunkroom has been disconnected and is awaiting replacement. The replacement unit has been supplied but the CORGI registered fitter is not available until 12 December. The unit will be fitted as soon as possible. Visitors are asked to check the alarms when they start their stay and follow the instruction notices.

Pete Dowswell

Trips & Expeditions

Imo Furlong is arranging another family trip to Thailand.

Andrew Morgan will be taking part in this year's Meghalaya expedition.

There will be a week of exploring, surveying and generally wandering around on the island of Lismore in Loch Linnhe, Argyllshire on the 9th-16th June. Trevor Faulkner wants to check out the geology and attempts will be made to visit as many as possible of the caves around the island. As the west coast of the island has some very steep cliffs this could be difficult. At present 6 of the 8 places in the self-catering cottage have been filled. Cost will be approx. £100 per person plus food and travelling expenses.

John Crae

Hut Maintenance

Construction of new ventilated wood store (in progress).

Floor cupboards and workbench to be fitted in Tool Shed extension. Design required. The wall cupboards have been fitted to the back wall of the shed. Shelving is to be fitted between the cupboards.

Replacement of door and window at drying room lobby (by joinery contractor). Replacing the bargeboard/soffit at the edge of the roof above has also been suggested.

Replacement of door to conservatory (by joinery contractor).

Box shelving to be fitted in drying room lobby.

Replacement of kitchen cupboards and repositioning/redesign of shelving.

Re-grading of driveway. Concrete surface suggested with cross drain at upper gateway.

Peter Dowswell is looking for local tradesmen to do the work not suitable for DIY.

Leaking roof at gutter above door from kitchen to conservatory, possibly due to blocked gutter to be investigated in dry conditions.

AGM

This year GSG AGM will take place in the function room of the Scottish History Mezzanine at the Central Library Edinburgh from 2-4 pm on Saturday 17th February.

Amongst other issues to be discussed there will be the election of Office bearers and volunteers are needed to take the posts of Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.

John Crae

2017/2018 Meets List and Events

December	28-29	Assynt	GSG New Year's Meet
January	26-28	Assynt	Hut Meet
February	10-11	Assynt	GSG Haggis Fest
	17	Edinburgh	AGM
	24-25	Assynt	Hut Meet
March	3-4	Assynt	Joint Meet with GUPA
	10-11	Assynt	GSG Family Meet
	18		Daytrip to somewhere eg Appin, North Pennines, Cleaves Cove, or a mine in central belt.
	30-2 Apr	Assynt	Long Easter Weekend Hut Meet
April	14-15	Yorkshire	
	26-8 May	Assynt	Mendip Migration
May	4-7	Mendip	Mendip Cave Fest
	19-20		GSG Family Meet
June	9-16	Lismore	Survey Week
	23-24	Assynt	Midsummer BBQ

GSG Publications

'Caves of Assynt' still delayed.

Copies of Jim Salvona's "A Guide to the Awe-Inspiring Raasay Fissures" are available from Raasay Post Office, or Goon may be persuaded to print a copy on request.

Publications (prices to non-members in brackets)

Decades in the Dark	£20.00 + £2.00 p&p	De Profundis	£3.00 + £0.58 p&p
Caves of Skye	£6.00 (£8.50)		
Jim's Festschrift - A Wanderer in Dens and Caves of the Earth	£5.00 + £0.75 p&p	Buddy Reading (Caving in Couplets)*	£2.00 (£2.50)
Caves of Applecross and Kishorn	£4.00 (£6.00)	NAMHO Field Booklets	£2.50 (£4.00) set
Mines in Scotland	£4.00 (£5.00)		
	GSG Ties	(Old)	£5.00
		(2012 Vintage)	£10.00

* out of print – photocopies available.

AND –	Cave Pearls of Meghalaya – Volume 1	£26.00 or £30.00 with postage.
	Cave Pearls of Meghalaya – Volume 2	£35.00 or £39.00 with postage.

Alan L. Jeffreys, Recorder

Sutherland Hut Logs

The latest transcription volume of the Elphin Hut Logs (Vol.13) has been published, covering the year Jan-Dec 2016. These publications allow infrequent visitors to Assynt to be informed of field work there. Copies are available from Goon at £1.50 plus post (all merely to cover production costs).

Alan Jeffreys

Elphin Caving Centre

Confirmed Taigh nam Famh Bookings (contact Hut Warden Pete Dowswell or Deputy Hut Warden Imogen Furlong for latest information)

Date (nights)		Group	Size
2017			
December	28-2 Jan	GSG New Year's Meet	??
	30- 2 Jan	Lost Sheep, New Year	TBC
2018			
January	19-21	Inverness Mountaineering Club	15
	26-28	GSG Assynt Meet	??
February	9-10	GSG Poets Supper	??
	13-18	JMCS London Section	10
	23-24	GSG Assynt Meet	??
March	2-3	Joint Meet with GUPA	??
	9-10	GSG Family Meet	??
	29-2 Apr	Long Easter Weekend Hut Meet	??
April	7-15	Derbyshire Caving Club	15
	26-8 May	Mendip Migration	8-10
May	11-17	CPC: Robert Scott	10
	18-21	GSG Family Meet/SCRO Meet	??
	25-28	Lost Sheep Mountaineering Club	10
	31-4 June	WRPC: Andy Cole	10
June	4-9	Frank: Tartan Challenge	(?)
	9-15	Red Rose CPC	12
	22-24	Midsummer BBQ	??
	27-30	CPC	3

Unfortunately due to lack of time and several communication failures the hut booking table is not complete. There will undoubtedly be bookings by groups and individuals which have not been included. If you intend booking accommodation please check with Imo Furlong.

Note: '??' for GSG/SCRO events means the entire hut has been reserved for members and guests.

Hut fees are £8 per night for non-members and £4 for GSG and BEC members, students, unemployed, children and OAPs. Camping is permitted at any time but the reduced rate of £4 applies only when the hut is full. Day fees are £2 for members and £4 for non-members.

If you want to stay in the hut, please contact Imogen Furlong who is responsible for hut bookings (Tel. Home:- 07532 388474. E-mail:- imo.furlong@gmail.com) – to check if there will be space. For any other hut related issues contact the Hut Warden – Pete Dowswell. (Tel. Home:- 01463 229250, e-mail:- hutbookings@gsg.org.uk).

REMINDERS

1. **Inform the membership secretary (Ivan Young) of any changes of address or contact details, check what appears on the GSG web server and send any corrections to Ivan.**
2. **Send news items to John Crae for the Newsletter, longer items to Alan Jeffreys for the Bulletin. If in doubt send to both.**
3. **Borrowed kit should be returned clean and dry. If possible record the length of time lamps are in use (do not recharge lamps before returning them). Do not allow lamps to remain in wet bags.**
4. **Consider standing for election to the GSG Committee at the AGM, attending committee meetings as an ordinary member or shadowing a committee post (acting as deputy committee member and becoming familiar with the duties of one or more of the committee posts).**
5. **Digital versions of all Bulletins, Newsletters and other official communications can be downloaded from the GSG website as alternative to paper (saving the GSG money on both postage and publication costs).**

Photo credits: - John Crae, Stuart Lindsay, Alan Jeffreys.