

Provisional Programme for BCRA Talks and Activities

on

Saturday 14 June 2014

meeting at

Dalesbridge Centre, Austwick

Summary Table

Either ...

Morning (9:30am) – Talks		Afternoon (1pm) - Walks
Main Drains and Percolation Flows in Chapel le Dale (<i>Ric Halliwell</i>)	lunch @ Dalesbridge	Beating the bounds of the White Scar catchment in Chapel-le-Dale (<i>Tim Atkinson</i>)
Cave Diving Exploration in Chapel-le-Dale - from sinks to risings (<i>Emma Heron</i>)		From God’s Bridge to Gatekirk Cave
Water tracing around and above White Scar Cave in Chapel le Dale (<i>Tim Atkinson</i>)		Ingleborough Cave Tour (<i>John Cordingley</i>)
A Pictorial Ramble through a Century of Gaping Gill Winch Descents (<i>Dave Allanach</i>)		Gaping Gill Main Shaft (<i>Dave Allanach</i>)
If Caves Could Talk - An Archaeological Tour of Local Caves (<i>John Thorp</i>)		An Archaeological Cave Tour in the local area (<i>John Thorp</i>)
Abusing Ropes (<i>Bob Mehew</i>)		

Or ...

Cave Biology Field Trip to Ingleborough Cave (9am) Graham Proudlove

NOTE: pre-booking required (see details below)

Details

MORNING TALKS (starting at 9.30am)

A series of talks will be given about a number of fascinating aspects of cave science.

Main Drains and Percolation Flows in Chapel le Dale – Ric Halliwell

Ric will give a talk based on the studies he did for his PhD thesis. It will cover the hydrological links in Chapel le Dale, the flow through times and the influence of the rocks below the limestone.

Cave Diving Exploration in Chapel-le-Dale: from sinks to risings – Emma Heron

The talk will provide a brief history of cave-diving exploration in the area, as well as current exploration projects and will highlight the important underwater links yet to be forged.

Water tracing around and above White Scar Cave in Chapel le Dale – Tim Atkinson

This talk will review the results of water-tracing experiments around the Whitescar area, carried out over a twenty-year period. It will complement the companion talk on the hydrology of White Scar Cave by Ric Halliwell.

A Pictorial Ramble through a Century of Gaping Gill Winch Descents - Dave Allanach

For just over a century, spanning the early pioneered years of the YRC and YSA to the modern public events today run by the BPC and CPC windlasses, winches and gantries of ever increasing complexity have been used to provide assisted descents of Gaping Gill's Main Shaft.

This short presentation aims to draw together a pictorial history of winching operations at Gaping Gill to illustrate the incremental development of the equipment and techniques used to stage this unique event.

If Caves Could Talk - An Archaeological Tour of Local Caves (John Thorp)

A presentation of selected caves and shafts and their stories past to present. The presentation will cover several archaeologically interesting sites of diverse character. The history of the excavation of these caves and shafts and the significant discoveries unearthed will be told in words and pictures, their faunal accumulations will be touched upon, some interpretation will also be given as to when and why they were visited. The talk will begin at the beginning, that is with Victoria Cave, the key archaeological site in the area, then progress to other less well-known, though significant sites.

Abusing Ropes (Bob Mehew)

The talk will cover the strengths and weaknesses of rope and touch on how ropes fail. Some results from many years of work will be presented and intended future work will be outlined. Following the talk, an opportunity will be provided to see the Bradford Rope Test Rig with its instrumentation in action. It is planned to break a few ropes and show how the raw data is converted to meaningful results.

AFTERNOON WALKS

The morning talks will be followed in the afternoon by a walk or a visit to see many of the cave-related aspects highlighted in the morning session.

People should sign up for these at the end of the morning talks and we will then set off after lunch, which will be available at the Dalesbridge Centre. Participants will need suitable walking gear and waterproofs.

Beating the Bounds of the White Scar Catchment in Chapel le Dale (Tim Atkinson)

This will be a walk over the surface, starting and ending at the White Scar Caves car park (subject to permission), and taking in Skirwith springs, Boggarts Roaring Holes, and Crina Bottom sinks, then following the shale-limestone boundary to Tatham Wife Hole before descending to the road at Granite Quarry and returning to the start. Estimated time 3-4 hours, depending on speed and inclinations of the party.

A walk from God's Bridge to Gatekirk Cave.

Ingleborough Cave Tour (John Cordingley)

There is a pleasant walk to the cave that will be followed by a special cavers' tour by John, who is an expert on the system. Admission to the cave will be at a special discount price.

A walk to Gaping Gill Main Shaft (Dave Allanach)

The walk will attempt to identify some of the historic features around the shaft head and the course of the Birkbeck and Martel ditches used by early explorers to divert Fell Beck and “dry out” the Main Shaft.

An Archaeological Cave Tour in the Local Area (John Thorp)

CAVE BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP TO INGLEBOROUGH CAVE

Graham Proudlove the BCRA Biological Recorder will be leading the first activity in the morning which will involve a visit to Ingleborough Cave.

The group will visit Ingleborough Cave to search for animals and to examine a cave biology experiment on earthworms from the 1970s. They need to go into the cave when it opens at 10.00am so they need to set out for Clapham car park at 9am in order to get to the cave and change for 10am. The trip requires no more than ordinary caving gear and Graham will supply tubes etc for collecting. A maximum of 10 people can be taken into the cave so please contact him by email on: cave-biology@bcra.org.uk as soon as possible if you are interested: first come, first in. They will not be going beyond Giants Hall, so all of the caving is very easy and is aimed at biology rather than caving. Once there are ten (or fewer) people signed up Graham will circulate further details including the fauna list for the cave and a further reading list for those interested.