

APRIL 2018

FRIDAY 20/4

While no caving was done today it was still an interesting afternoon. The Physics students had a wine reception to mark the completion of our projects, I had taken the liberty of inviting Abe along to this as well, myself and the PHAs (Physics with Astronomy) had been having this reoccurring idea to ask Abe to the NuBar. So at the wine reception we put this to him and he said he "wouldn't be opposed to this", well then there wasn't much more to be said about the subject other than that we all ended up in the Slipper rather than the NuBar. More interestingly, myself and Abe were first to arrive at the Slipper quickly followed by Feljin, where we bumped into Colette of all people who politely insisted on buying a round for the whole year.

Not much else happened that night that I recall, other than Shane being very intrigued about my ancestor who invaded Canada not once but twice with the Fenian Brotherhood. For me it was a one pint and into bed kind of night. Despite having slept for fifteen hours the night before.

SATURDAY 21/4

Much to the pleasure of Erin and most probably to the shock of everyone else, I may have become a morning person! But I highly doubt the longevity of this lifestyle. We sent all four groups to Cuilcagh today; a Fresher group to Pigeon Pot II, a more experienced group to Poll Prochlaise for an alfresco style lunch in the dark, and then a group heading each way on the "Tagha Prochlaise" through trip. Myself, Angela, JP, and Orla went down Poll Tagha and crossed over with Adam, Erin, Jill, and Patrick coming the other way. The passage between the two caves could be considered by some to be a cherty hell hole, but it's not that bad really. The passage was remarkably tight in places, even for me. Maybe a few parts of that passage could be tidied up, mainly the loose bits where the "mud based ready mix concrete" has begun to fail. I derigged Poll Prochlaise with JP and we exited into glorious sunshine which warmed our bones as we all washed our gear in the river. JP proved himself to be world leader material by having two lagers in the car waiting for our weary souls.

SUNDAY 22/4

Despite having an essay on gravitational waves that required my attention I chose to go caving on the Sunday since after all it would be my last official DCU trip as a student...hopefully. Shane offered to bring us to Poll na gColm of the Boats which none of myself, Adam, Jill or Patrick had been to previously. Not

having realised that 'Boats would be on offer this weekend I had not brought a wetsuit with me, luckily Shane had come prepared for such an eventuality. To say I wasn't expecting the lake to be cold would be an utter lie, we all knew the water would be incredibly cold, and that it would be a shock no matter how psyched we were.

I was however unprepared for how utterly amazing the formations in 'Boats are. I have never seen such a number of formations in such a small cave. Sadly I didn't have a camera with me on this occasion so no photos but a revisit will occur in the future. It's also a very clean cave mainly I would suppose because everyone get's a wash on the way in. We strolled and swam to the end of the cave, some of us even doing the duck on the return journey.

When we exited the cave we went for a walk up to Pollasumera. At the time I was a little bit curious as to why we were doing that, I figured that Shane was just showing us how to get there. But a closer look at the satellite map (Shane's Top Tip: Bing Maps are the best for the Marlbank Loop) and survey indicates the closeness of the end of 'Boats to Pollasumera. In writing this log entry, I read an entry on the Shannon Group website by Petie about the possibly under explored nature of the cave, the search for the streamway reported by the Yorkshire Rambler's Club in about 1959.