

Easter 1969 - April 4th/8th
Whernside Man. & Parks.

Easter was the second mixed caving W/E we had taken part in. As it was a long W/E, we had ample opportunity to find and explore caves new to us all. Camping at Whernside, the National Scout Caving Centre gave us opportunity to meet other Venture Scouts interested in Caving. The caves of Yorkshire proved to be wet, involving various lengths of ladder pitches, but quite different from the caves of Mendip.

The entrance to Friday's cave was in a gorge, and was entered by climbing down a 20' pitch along with gallons of icy water, hence the speed of climbing. Near the foot of this, there was another wet ladder pitch of ?? feet. It followed by more passage which we did not have time to explore.

Saturday, after chatting to the warden we found our way to an almost dried up river bed, where we found two caves, one of which had been blocked by flood debris. The other, Ibbeth Peril II, was found under an old car door! Dropping through the entrance, there was a wet and muddy crawl. We followed the stream until it disappeared over a three foot drop with a 25 foot ladder pitch beside it. At the top of this pitch, exploration found a small grotto with some particularly fine formations of stalagmites and stalactites. At the bottom, the stream eventually blocked by debris. There were large formations also here. The large pool outside the entrance to the cave proved ideal for washing off dirt and was well used.

Sunday, the boys worked for two hours reopening the cave blocked by floods. The work was begun by others the previous day without any success. This cave proved also very wet and at one point opened up into a large chamber with two waterfalls. Climbing down under one of these we followed the stream until it finished in a sump where once again we turned back towards daylight. The entrance proved very muddy and the large pool outside again became very handy.

Monday, morning dawned early for some and late for others, too late for caving but ideal for a romp around in the sun. The van was packed and we left Whernside arriving back at Streatham about midnight after having a thoroughly enjoyable weekend.

EASTER 1969 - April 4th/8th
Whernside Manor Yorks.

Easter was the second mixed caving W/E we had taken part in. As it was a long W/E, we had ample opportunity to find and explore caves new to us all. Camping at Whernside, the National Scout Caving Centre gave us opportunity to meet other Venture Scouts interested in Caving. The caves of Yorkshire proved to be wet, involving various lengths of ladder pitches, but quite different from the caves of Mendip.

The entrance to Friday's cave was in a gorge, and was entered by climbing down a 20' pitch along with gallons of icy water, hence the speed of climbing. Near the foot of this, there was another wet ladder pitch of ?? feet. It followed by more passage which we did not have time to explore.

Saturday, after chatting to the warden we found our way to an almost dried up river bed, where we found two caves, one of which had been blocked by flood debris. The other, Ibbeth Peril II, was found under an old car door! Dropping through the entrance, there was a wet and muddy crawl. We followed the stream until it disappeared over a three foot drop with a 25 foot ladder pitch beside it. At the top of this pitch, exploration found a small grotto with some particularly fine formations of stalagmites and stalactites. At the bottom, the stream eventually blocked by debris. There were large formations also here. The large pool outside the entrance to the cave proved ideal for washing off dirt and was well used.

Sunday, the boys worked for two hours reopening the cave blocked by floods. The work was begun by others the previous day without any success. This cave proved also very wet and at one point opened up into a large chamber with two waterfalls. Climbing down under one of these we followed the stream until it finished in a sump where once again we turned back towards daylight. The entrance proved very muddy and the large pool outside again became very handy.

Monday, morning dawned early for some and late for others, too late for caving but ideal for a romp around in the sun. The van was packed and we left Whernside arriving back at Streatham about midnight after having a thoroughly enjoyable weekend.