



Trip Report

Wye Valley: 15th to 16th March 2019

Introduction

Due to bad weather, the trip to Shorn Cliff was cancelled and the trip was turned into a day trip to Wintours Leap only on Sunday. Nonetheless the trip was surprisingly well attended by:

Simon Arbache, Ross Garfoot, Jiggi Button, Jill Slicher, John Ripley, Chris Haynes, Basil Rawlison, Jon Gill, Adam Baker, Amy Louise Johnson, Steve Moore, Heather Loosemore, Steve Appleyard + Daughter, Saad Rehman Ahmad, Shaun Egglestone and a surprise appearance from Chris Lyness

for a total of 18 on the first trip!

For those who are unfamiliar with the area, Wintours Leap offers short multipitches on quarried limestone of varying type and style with a grand view of the valley from the top.



Unknown climber on Liquid Leather / The Perfumed Garden, source: UKClimbing

The Climbing

For most people attending, this was their first trad climbing day of the year. The cold weather didn't help but everyone got on enjoyable climbs, it just took a few moves to warm up to the cold rock.

Jiggi and Jill climbed together for two multi pitches, starting with Left Hand Route (HS 4b) and finishing on Psychotic (VS 4c, more fun than it sounds). Jiggi lead all the pitches as it was Jill's first multipitch in 3 years.

Nearby, Ross and Simon started the day with the classic multipitches of Nibelheim (Vs 4c) and Joe's Route (VS 4c)

Ripley, Chris and Basil climbed as a three, starting with Right Hand Route (HS 4b). In Ripley's words: "[we]...then did a combination of first pitch of Nibelheim (VS 4c), followed by The Wrong Tap (HVS 5a) which should be two pitches but when it started to rain we decided to try and get up and off the crag as quickly as possible so I led both pitches in one, 40 metres, interesting crux moves in the wet with no protection except a very rusty peg, followed by about 10 metres run-out. All a bit cold and damp by the time we topped out but it was fun in hindsight - I think (although Chris described the top section as "intensely horrible"!)"

On top of that, Basil, having never climbed trad outside, wanted to get the full experience and wore his full trad rack whilst on second... he quickly learned how heavy it all becomes!

So... they had fun at least!



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Steve Appleyard took his daughter on her first multipitch ever, and Saad on his first outdoors climb ever, climbing the classic Central Rib Route as a three.

Jon and Chris Lyness climbed Surrealist (E1 5b), but not before spending the best part of an hour trying to find the start as they needed to make sure they were correct, all the other routes were E5! Jon describes the third pitch as superb and worth 3 stars! Bit of a baptism of fire for Chris being his first trad climb since summer of 2017!!

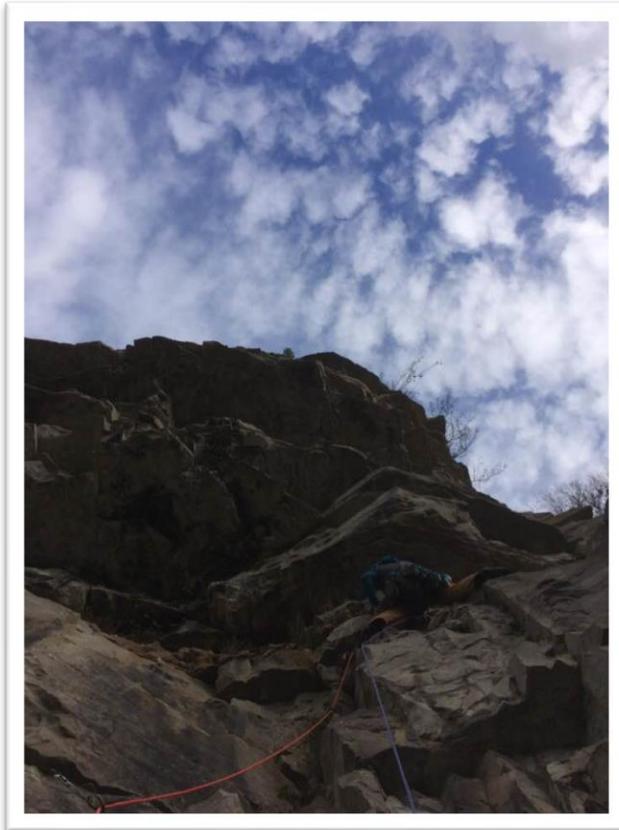


Photo – Chris and Jon on Surrealist

Shaun, Adam and Amy J climbed Zelda which is the classic Hard Severe 4a route of the crag, a very sought after route which tends to see many ascents a year.

Notable climbs from the trip or achievements:

The trip was a first for a few people, with Basil and Saad experiencing outdoors climbing for the first time.

Jill did her first multipitch in 3 years

Epilogue

After a few short shower spells, it was time to finish for the day and head to the nearby pub for some R&R which included a visit to the Ostrich Inn.