

Dave Green – Culture Show 2011 – Ozzy’s Mens Hair Salon, Bideford

North Devon Coast

I have been exploring the North Devon coast for the last three years. My study is of the hidden coast found only through a vertiginous climb down a cliff path or by leaving the sandy beach and trekking over seaweed strewn boulders at low tide. This is a wild coast, unpopulated by holiday-makers, the domain of seagulls that can make you feel quite unwelcome. It is also an historic coast where millions of years can be seen in the layers of strata of an eroded cliff face and the more recent past can be found in smooth rusting ship parts, in memorial of hundreds of wrecks, littering the rocky shore.

The Constructed Image

These photographs have only been made possible through the technology of digital imaging. To hold the bright highlights and dense dark shadows in these caves I have taken up to 100 photographs then combined them together to make the finished print.

All frames photographs are limited to editions of 50 and printed on archival matt paper with pigment ink. The frames are solid oak. £95 each

Baggy Point



Baggy Point, the headland on the east of Croyde in North Devon derives its name from bag, meaning hole or cave. The headland is full of caves, and February’s extremely low spring tide lured me to explore Baggy Hole. This photograph was made from 75 separate frames, then stitched together in Photoshop.

The image shows how heavy threatening and foreboding the place is. It's no wonder that there have been tales of ship wreck, smuggling, mermaids and secret passageways associated with Baggy Hole. Baggy Hole is the largest of the sea caves in Baggy Point. This was our first destination and involved a slippery descent down a little used fisherman’s track to the beach, a scramble over wet boulders; then a climb up, over and down a ‘camelback’ of rock to another beach, the entrance to the cave. The cave, unseen from the cliff path, is huge it’s entrance must be 50ft or higher and the distance from front to back must be 100ft + but I’ll get these confirmed and update once I know. I just wanted to get as far into the cave as possible and see the full extent of the cave from it’s dark depths.

Secret Cave

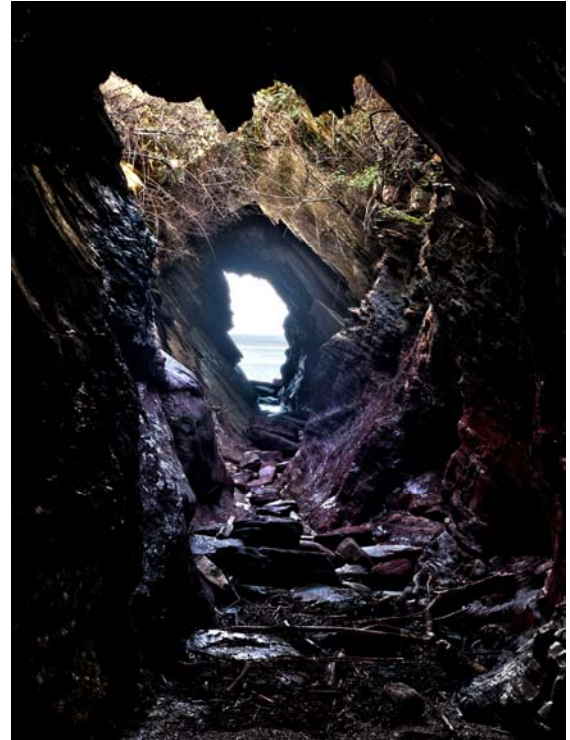


Secret Cave is truly special, everything you might want of a cave, lot’s of passages, a huge skylight, opening to the sea with small beach, and a large lake-like rock pool. The only problem is it’s so hard to find that I am always losing its small hidden entrance. You might want to live here if it didn’t fill with 30 feet of water twice a day. This image shows the scale of Secret Cave with the skylight top left.

This leaflet is available as a free download:
www.greengallery.co.uk/ozzys.pdf

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Briery Cave



Most photographers will look forward to sunshine, the weekend, or a time of day like sunrise or sunset. I look forward to the full moon and the new moon and note these in my calendar. A day or two after these moons heralds the highest and lowest tides, or spring tides, which occur every fortnight. A spring low tide, which always falls around 1 or 2pm in North Devon, gives me access to places at the waters edge that would be impossible to get to on any other day or time; places which are often totally hidden under the waves.

At the end of April on such a tide I went to the Combe Martin coast. The inspiration for this image was an old postcard of Briary Cave at Watermouth. Postcards of caves are rare, this being the first I'd seen, and although I'd photographed this cave before I find that every time I explore a space the image comes out differently. Often this is because of that ever changing tide, light, season and the wave action on the interior of the cave.

**there is an accompanying image to this in my exhibition 'Ghostcards' at Walter Henry's Bookshop.*

Bird Count



Cave at Wringapeak, Woody Bay, 2010

This is not an easy place to get to, and with Spring rain making the grass cliff edges wet and slippery and no sunshine or wind to dry the treacherous climb down I was glad of a rope and harness. When you're sliding down slimy boulders to the rocky shore you have gravity on your side but getting back up with a tide which has turned can be perilous. This wonderfully shaped, boulder sculpted cave was dripping wet and is more than full with water at high tide.

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Bird Count

My friends Kester and Liz Web do a bird count on this small remote peak on the Exmoor coast once a year, counting mainly Guillemots, razorbills, fulmars and kittiwakes. The 'rapture' like scene outside the cave is of Guillemots, Kester's name for unidentified black flying seabirds, returning home to their cliff edge nests.

This image is taken from the same beautiful Wringapeak cave that I've named decanter cave. A place I wouldn't recommend anyone trying to find if they have any fear of dear ticks, and the bracken of the precipitous goat track we followed to get here was full of them.



Lead Mine, Combe Martin 2010

The Combe Martin area has a very long history of mining. This cave seen on the same day in April as Smallmouth Cave, was a former mine; which probably starting out as caves before it mined for silver, lead or manganese. It's accessible, like many others, from the beach.

The overcast day and wet cave walls helped with the balancing of highlights with shadows. I was forever using bits of my hands as a shield to prevent light flare spilling into my lens, which nearly always points towards the light.



Great Hangman through Smallmouth Cave 2010

This huge cave is very close to the popular Briery Cave at Watermouth near Ilfracombe

Photographic Workshops in Bideford, Autumn 2011

Introduction to digital photography 10am - 5pm - £50

A practical days workshop learning to gain control over your camera, shutter speeds, aperture, ISO, flash etc, setting it up for optimum quality under any given lighting, and making better pictures through composition.

Tuesday 27th September, Tuesday 25th October, Saturday 19th November

Introduction to Photoshop - *Participants will need to be computer literate i.e. use a computer on regular basis and understand the basic controls. Small group (max 4).*

Thursday 3rd November, 10am - 5pm - £50

Workshop gift vouchers are always available for that special present and with this in mind I'll be offering some workshops after Christmas for those people with new cameras so that they'll get to know them better!