

Info Log – February 2013

Church Beck gorge, Lake District: an update

The issue

A group were caught by a sudden unexpected flood pulse in Church Beck in August 2012. They had to escape onto the island at the old dam. After a short time levels dropped and the group could safely get off the island.

The outcomes

On investigation it turned out that United Utilities (UU) were doing a test release from Levers Water. They do this twice a year (February & August) and have been doing so for 20 years. Fortunately the August 2012 release was only half the usual volume.

Roger Ward representing the Church Beck Users Group has met with a representative from UU. The UU rep. was unaware of groups using the ghyll at all! (She is new in the post which includes the overseeing of Levers Water.) She said they needed to test the release valves so that if there was a problem with the Levers Water dam the lake could be lowered rapidly.

United Utilities say they will put up warning signs at access points, and email members of the Church Beck users group before scheduled releases. They also say they will ring users if they need to do an emergency release and station UU staff at access points.

All Church Beck users should send Roger Ward their phone numbers and email addresses and he will pass these onto United Utilities.

Roger Ward can be contacted on 01229 885456 and
waterpark@ericwright.co.uk