

Membership

It will considerably assist the club in its post-war reorganisation if all who intend to continue their membership would sign the attached form and send it to the Hon, Secretary.

Mendip, 1945-46

During the war years, very little caving by members has been possible, and so it may be of interest to those who have been divorced from Mendip, to learn of the discovery of three new caves, two by the Bristol University Speleological Society, and the other by the brothers Stride, while at Sidcot School.

G.B. Cave, Charterhouse on Mendip (B.U.S.S.).

This cave has a series of caverns, which continue for a distance, nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, with a vertical descent of approximately 500 ft.

Rods Pot, Burrington (B.U.S.S.).

The cave has been penetrated to a depth of about 200 ft., and contains several large vertical avens, one of which is over 60 ft. in height.

Longwood Swallet (Stride Bros.)

An interesting cave, with a sporting entrance shaft. Some parts of this cave may be regarded as rather unsafe. The club is acting with R. Stride, as Trustee of the cave. Club trips to these caves will be run this summer.

Headquarters

Most members will be aware that the club has lost the use of the "Grange" as H.Q. G. Platten has kindly given us a small hut, now at "Springfield" near Red Quarr. This hut will be erected on a more suitable site in the near future, and it is hoped to obtain a larger hut, so that the club may possess a permanent headquarters on Mendip. Members are invited to help in the work of erecting these huts, and the committee will be pleased to hear from anyone who will be willing to help.

Tackle

All the pre-war tackle is now useless, and P. Dolphin and J. Lander, have undertaken the task of constructing 100 ft. of ladder.

The committee suggest that an attempt be made to enter Cow Hole, and if possible, the entrance to be made safe.

Interest has been shown in the lost chamber(s) of Lamb Leer, and it is hoped to make an attempt to find these.

Cave Trips

Most of the caves of Mendip will be visited this summer and the committee will be pleased to

hear from members who will be willing to lead parties.

Finance

The Club possesses about £60, and a detailed statement will be issued in due course.

South Wales

A meeting was held at Easter, to consider the formation of a Welsh Caving organisation, consisting of caving clubs and kindred bodies, working in Wales, and the club has promised its full support to the scheme.

H.Q.

The hut mentioned in the last circular has been erected at Eastwater, and it is hoped that it will be ready for use by the end of July. It will be equipped with cooking gear, etc. but the sleeping arrangements have not yet been decided. As the hut is small, the size of any party staying overnight must of necessity be limited, and the committee is trying to obtain another hut, to be placed near the existing one. They would like to hear from any member who knows of such a hut.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

There will be a camp at EASTWATER over the August Bank Holiday. In addition to the hut, it is proposed to erect a Bell tent, but members can, of course, use their own tents. Final catering arrangements cannot be made until the actual number of members who intend to be present is known. The question of the lines on which future work at Lamb Leer will be undertaken is to be investigated.

CLUB TRIPS

A full Swildon's was run on Sunday, June 30th; 13 people attended, and 6 of these, with the aid of the "Landor" pump and a service respirator, passed the sump to Swildon's 2. The time taken for the complete trip was six hours. Included in the party were several members who were making a full length cave trip for the first time.

GIFTS

Early this year, when the subject of a new headquarters on Mendip was raised, Professor E. K. Tratman gave a cheque of £5 towards the cost of same. Other members have generously offered financial help towards the re-establishment of the club. All these members are sincerely thanked by the committee.

Brig. E. A. Glennie has promised 150 ft. of ladder, and R. Smith has given a 40 ft. ladder.

New Members.

Cushing, W. R.

Glennie, E. A.

Tamplin, Miss F.

Downs, C.

Brunt, M. A.

Kill, A. H.

Tudor, Miss G.

Champeney, E. R.

Fisher, W. J. K.

Hazelton, Miss A. M. .A.

Forthcoming Events.

Sept. 15th. Visit of South Wales Cave Club to G. B. Cave.

Sept. 28th. Longwood Swallet.

Sept. 29th. Stoke Lane

Oct. 13th. Visit to a Somerset Coal Mine.

Excavations

Cow Hole The entrance to the cave was completely blocked, but the members working there have made good progress, and most of the fallen material has been removed.

Lamb Leer. Professor L. S. Palmer's Electrical Survey, 1938/39, suggested the existence of a new cave near the Main Chamber, and work has been commenced in an attempt to reach this cave. There appears to be a mud filled passage running in the direction of the 'new' cave, but a huge quantity of material will have to be removed from it before we can hope to strike the new cave. The London Group is taking a major interest in the work, and will visit Mendip to continue the dig, on Sept. 7-8th.

H.Q.

Four folding beds, complete with mattresses, have been fitted, and cooking gear including two stoves will be found in the hut. There will be an overnight fee of 1/-. Membership Cards are being printed, and when these are available, the key will be obtainable from Eastwater Farm to members possessing a current card.

London Group

It is suggested that all members living in the London and district area should get in touch with the Hon. Sec. of the group. It is hoped to arrange visits to Mendip from time to time, and the pooling of available transport would greatly assist to this end.

Speleo-Biology

Members interested in the above subject may care to act as collectors, and Miss Mary Hazelton, Hon. Sec. of the Speleo-Biology Section of the B.S.A., will be very pleased to hear of such members.

If at any time members find new caves, or new chambers in known caves, it is earnestly requested that any pools of water found are not contaminated with spent carbide; Miss Hazelton should be contacted and arrangements will be made to examine the pools.

Barrows.

P. A. Rahtz has been excavating a barrow at Butcombe, and has found some interesting material.

South Wales.

The new cave at Ffynon Ddu discovered by members of the South Wales Caving Club is a find of major importance, and has been visited by several members of the W.C.C. The underground river can be followed for half a mile.

New Members.

Fisher, A. H.
Parsons, D. W.
White, D.

Browne, M. P.
Hooper, John, H.D.
Prater, G. O.
Withey, C. R.

Davies, H.
Hooper, Mrs. J. H. D.
Tranter, H.

Officers and the Committee

The Officers and the Committee for 1946-47 are to be elected by postal ballot if necessary. Members are urged to forward their names if they are willing to take an active part in the affairs of the club.

The Annual General Meeting.

This will be held at Wickenden's Restaurant, Wells, on Saturday December 14th at 4.0 p.m. sharp.

Annual Dinner

This will be at 7.30 p.m. following the A.G.M. Tickets 5/- each. Members are particularly invited to bring their friends.

Forthcoming Events.

Lamb Leer, Sunday, December 1st.

London Group

A meeting of the ;Group was held on November 7th. 10 members were present.

Hon. Sec. Frank Frost.

Hon. Sec. London Group: Major Murrell.

Hon. Treas.: G. Williams.

Meeting on November 29th. E. A . Glennie will speak on "Development of Caves"

Lamb Leer. The London Group under the leadership of Hywel Murrell continued the "dig", in the main chamber, and report good progress was made.

Officers for 1947

President, H. E. Balch, F.S.A.

Chairman: K. Humphries

Hon. Treas. G. Williams

Hon. Sec: Frank Frost.

Members of Committee H. Davis, P. Dolphin, K. Fisher, A. E. Glennie, T. Thomson.

London Group Hon.Sec. H. Murrell.

The following alterations in the Rules to the Club have been made:- "That the Club year should end on July 31st, and the A.G.M. and Club Dinner should be held in Aug./Sept.

"The annual subscription be raised to 7/6, but the amount payable for the year ending July 31st, 1947 be 5/-.

Committee's Report for 1946

This year the Wessex Cave Club has resumed active caving as a club, in the full sense of the word, trips have been run to all the major caves of Mendip and generally speaking these were well supported. Several nursery trips were attended by large numbers of the younger members of the caving fraternity, 40 Lamb Leer and 20 G.B. Work has been going on at Cow Hole and Lamb Leer; the latter by the London Group.

Most of our active members were in the Forces at a very early date in the war, but we are very pleased to report that the majority have safely returned, but the passing of the war years and the advent of other responsibilities has prevented many from taking as prominent a part in the club's activities as in pre-war days. Furthermore, a number of our members who were formerly resident in the West Country, have moved to districts out of easy reach of Mendip. The Membership of the Club is now 70, but this figure does not include the membership of any affiliated clubs.

We are pleased to report that the Grand Old Man of Mendip has again honoured us by accepting the Presidency of the Club.

As most members are aware, we lost the use of the Grange as our H.Q, early in the war, and it was therefore necessary to find alternative accommodation and after a protracted but unsuccessful search for some permanent building we were fortunate to be presented with a small hut by Gerard Platten. With considerable labour by a very small party of enthusiasts, the hut was moved from Chewton Mendip to a site near to Eastwater cave. We have to thank all concerned and in particular John Lander who made himself responsible for the design and erection of the folding bunks. Our ambition is to find a larger building and the search still goes on: but it has been suggested that we supplement the hut with a further temporary structure.

As has already been mentioned, a number of our pre-war members have left, the district, and one of those coming under this category is Hywel Murrell, who is at present living in the London District. He, with characteristic enthusiasm has formed the London Group, the membership of which is now 15.

Finally, the committee urge all members to assist in the work of running the club, the burden of which has so far fallen on one man, and they hope that some will come forward with offers of help. Any suggestions for the furtherance of our common interest, i.e. the wellbeing of the Wessex Cave Club, will be more than welcome, and it is hoped that before long we shall see our new members taking an active part in the government of the Club.

Forthcoming Events.

March 8/9th. Dig at Cow Hole.

March 22nd. Rods Pot & Reads Cavern.

South Wales Caving Club's Easter Meet.

Provisional Programme.

April 4th. Dan-yr-ogof/Ogof-Ffynnon-Ddu. Annual Meeting of Cave Association of Wales.

April 5th. Ogof-Ffynnon-Ddu.

April 6th. Porth-yr-Ogof. Pant Mawr Pot. Dan-yr-ogof.

April 7th. Ogof Pwll Swnd

April 13th. Full Eastwater.

London Group

March 14th. A talk on The Devon Caves will be given by J. Hooper. It will be illustrated by lantern slides.

Mendip Rescue Organisation.

Procedure in event of accident.

1. A member of party will go to the nearest call-box and ring Wells 97 (Police). Give number of call-box for instruction from Warden.
2. The police will ring Wardens in rotation. To the first Warden in touch, they will give the name of cave and number of call-box.
3. The Warden will 'phone call-box and ascertain the exact locality of the accident, what injuries are known and how many in party. He will call up Wardens and Squad-Leaders as necessary.
4. At the scene of the accident, the Senior Warden will take charge. In the event of the Senior Warden not being a doctor, he will collaborate with the doctor called out and follow his instructions, in so far as to the treatment and removal of patient.
5. The Wells or Bristol ambulance to be called out only on instructions of doctor. The M.R.O. will not be responsible for expenses incurred.

Proceedings of the Spelaeological Society of the University of Bristol, are available for purchase by members of the W.C.C. price 5/-.

New Members.

E. J. Mason.

Bristol Grammar School Cave Club, (Affiliated Club) W. L. Budd, P. Holland, M.A. Peters, H. J. Scawin, J. Camlin, P. J. Ellis, C. W. Scott, E. Steward, K. Hodgson, J. A. Dwyer, P. D. Spence.

Pwll Dwn

During the Easter Meet of the South Wales Cave Club, four members of our Club were fortunate in finding an interesting new cave. The 6 ft. entrance which was dug with very little trouble, lies on the 1300' contour, about half a mile N.W. of the entrance to Dan-y-Ogof. The cave as explored to date consists of five vertical pitches, of which the first four have been negotiated, and the total depth from the surface reached is now 300 ft.

Progress is at present stopped by the 5th vertical, estimated at 60' to 80', but further ladders are being prepared, and there will be another attack in the near future on which at least 250 feet of ladder will be required.

The position of the entrance has been accurately determined and there seems little doubt that the cave connects with the Dan-y-Ogof system, but not with any known part of the existing cave.

It is hoped to arrange a club trip to the cave some time later in August or early in September.

PAUL DOLPHIN COLIN LOW
NORMAN PADDOCK JOHN LANDER

New Headquarters at 'Beechbarrow' near Hillgrove,

Members will be interested to know that after a protracted search we have at last been successful in securing permanent headquarters.

Conveniently situated at "Beechbarrow" on the main Bristol to Wells bus route about half a mile past Hillgrove in the direction of Wells, it is ideally suited for our purpose. The building consists of a well-built modern stable, is clean, dry and in good repair. There are two good size rooms, the larger to be used for living and sleeping quarters the other for washing, caving gear, is fitted with an Elsan latrine. There is a water boiler heated by two primus type stoves and a two burner pressure type cooking stove.

Although the place is habitable, a considerable amount of work has still to be done and it is hoped that members will come forward with offers of help as so ease the burden of the few who have worked extremely hard in making the place usable.

The original working party found plenty of evidence of the late occupants in the form of about 3" of very 'ripe' stable manure - one member brought his wife and it is believed that since her experience of helping to clear it, she has started a campaign for a "one day week" for the Land

Army!. Another member was highly delighted with the 'muck', and took a trailer- full home - he reports that his marrows have outgrown his neighbours' by about 6 feet.

It is hoped that the members will use the headquarters - it is quite suitable for a prolonged stay. If members have any suggestions regarding improvements, the committee will be very pleased to receive them.

The Club would like to hear from any member who may have available one or more of the following items:-

Portable Bath
Chairs

Mugs Cups & Plates
Cutlery

Milk Can
Dish Cloths

Knife Box

3rd June, 1947.

Further to Circular No. 6 New Series, posted to you yesterday, unfortunately the typist omitted the following:

Forthcoming Events.

June 7th - 8th

Dig. Cow Hole

June 22nd

Full Swildon's

New Members.

A. K. Bradshaw	P. E. Burt	G. N. Butt
G. C. R. Button	P. A. Densham	L. H. W. Devenish
G. Fertel	L T. Hughes	C. H. Kenney
R. R. Kenney	G. J. Mackay	D. A, Parsons
L. W. Millward	Miss P. E. Powell	K. Stafford
Dr. Occhialini	D. A. Willis	

Yeovil Group

Miss M. Barber	B. G. Coswell	P. R. Douney
D. C. L. Lovell	J. Tupman	R. J. Barnard
S.H.L. Thorne		

A scale of fees for over-night use of H.Q's and Eastwater Hut have been worked out, and are as follows –

1 night	Member 1/-	Visitor 1/6
2 nights	Member 2/-	Visitor 3/-
3 nights	Member 3/-	Visitor 4/6
4 nights	Member 3/9	Visitor 5/8
5 nights	Member 4/6	Visitor 6/9
6 nights	Member 5/3	Visitor 7/10
7 nights	Member 6/-	Visitor 8/-
8 nights	Member + 6d.	Visitor + 8d.

Officers & Committee 1947/48

Nominations for the Committee should be in the hands of the Hon.Sec. by September 14th.

The present Members of the Committee are:-

Chairman: K. W. Humphries Hon. Treas: G. Williams Hon. Sec: F. Frost. Hon. Sec. London Group: H. Murrell. P. Dolphin, H. Davis, K. Fisher, A. E. Glennie, T. Thomson, D. W. Parsons, H. Tranter.

Annual General Meeting. This will be held at Wells Museum, on Saturday September 27th. Friends of members are cordially invited to attend.

Annual Dinner Saturday September 27th 7.0 p.m. at the Wookey Hole Restaurant, Wookey Hole. The dinner will be followed by a visit to the Wookey Hole Cave. Inclusive charge, dinner and cave trip 8/6d.

Club Trip to South Wales

September 13/14th. With the co-operation of the South Wales Cave Club a- visit to the caves of the Swansea Valley has been arranged for this weekend. It is intended to do two major cave trips, namely Pwyll Dwfn and either Dan-y-Ogof or Ffynon Du.

If sufficient support is forthcoming the party will be split so that those doing Pwll Dwfn on Saturday will do Dan-y-Ogof on Sunday and vice versa.

Accommodation The S.W.C.C. have kindly offered us the use of their H.Q. at Pen-y-pont for our visit and members are advised to bring their own sleeping bag or blankets, food, cutlery, plate and mug.

Digs.

Lamb Leer Hywell and Mrs. Murrell with A.E. Glennie, on a recent visit to Mendip continued their attack on the mud filled passage, and have excavated to a distance of 23 ft. According to Professor Palmer's Electrical Survey, the 'new cave' should have been reached at a distance of about 12 feet from the Main Chamber.

Cow Hole Work has continued here and a depth of 12/14 ft. had been reached when it became apparent that it was too dangerous to excavate any more material, so an attempt is now being made to sink a shaft vertically from the bottom of the swallet.

Cuckoo Cleaves C. P. Weaver, L. Millward and P. Harvey have opened up an interesting new system. A shaft was dug to a depth of about 15 ft when they broke into the new cave. The first exploration was carried out on the 31st May down 400 ft. of Eastwater type passage to a depth of approx. 250 ft. About 700 ft. of cave is known, and with the assistance of C. Low, T. Tander, and P. Dolphin work is now proceeding in an effort to pass a barrier, and so enter an open system that can be seen beyond. This work consists of drilling and blasting rock, so progress is of a necessity rather slow.

New Member. R. ClarkeOfficers for 1947/489

President

H.E. Balch, M.A., F.S.A.,

Vice President

Prof. E. K. Tratman

Mrs. D. P. Dobson

M. P. Ageron (Club Alpine Francais)

M. Dujardin-Weber (Societe Speleogique de France)

Chairman

P. Dolphin

Hon. Treasurer

G. Williams

Hon. Secretary

Frank Frost

Members of Committee

G. Button, K. Fisher, A. E. Glennie, K. Humphries,

C. Low, D. Parsons, K. Stafford, M. Withey.

London Group

H. Murrell

Yeovil Group

S. H. L. Thorne

Committee's Report for 1947.

The past year has been notable in several respects, one being that we now have a membership of over 100. Amongst the new members were a number from the Yeovil district, who have, under the leadership of Mr. S. H. L. Thorne, formed themselves into a Yeovil Group of the W.C.C. Another group of new members have shown great interest in cave photography, and a third have undertaken to dig near Pen Hill. In our report for 1945/46 we mentioned that we were seeking a building suitable for use as a permanent H.Q., and as members know we were very fortunate, through the good offices of Mr. White, in obtaining such a place at "Beechbarrow" near Hillgrove. This has now been provided with bunks for 12 people, and is fitted with heating and cooking stoves. We would like to place on record our thanks to all who have helped in making the place the success it undoubtedly is, and will welcome offers of help from any members who would care to give a hand in some of the outstanding work. Mr. White, has on a number of occasions, been a very good friend to the Club and we are indebted to him for his kindness.

The cost of the equipment at "Beechabrow" has been quite heavy, and but for the great generosity of a member of the club, our balance in hand would have been very small indeed. This member wishes to remain anonymous, but we know that all will appreciate that it is only through his overwhelming kindness that the Club's finances are in such a healthy condition.

During the first week, in August the Club acted as host to a party of French Cavers, members of the Club Alpin de Francais. The visit was a singular success - the party of 15 visiting Lamb Leer, Swildons Hole, G.B., and the three show caves of Mendip. All the arrangements had to be made at very short notice, but due to the help given by John Lander with his jeep and Colin Low acting as reception officer on our guests' arrival in Bristol, everything went very smoothly indeed. Mention must also be made of Brig. A. E. Glennie's kindness in meeting the cost of the trip to the show caves, which included a tea at Wookey Hole Cave.

The leader of the French Cavers, M. Pierre Ageron, invited the Club to make a return visit to France, and all members who had the pleasure of meeting our guests, hope that the time is not too distant when this will be possible.

During the year the London Group Members, H. Murrell, Mrs. Murrell and Brig. A. E. Glennie continued their Dig at Lamb Leer, but so far have not met with any success. C. P. Weaver, L. Millward and Peter Harvey, with help from P. Dolphin, J. Lender, and C. Low opened up a most interesting system at Cuckoo Cleave. At one time there were hopes that it would lead to a master system, but these have not been realised. The club having received permission from the owner of Hillgrove, Mr. White, have begun to dig in the main swallet, and the work is being pushed forward with good speed. Devenish, and the Kenney brothers have put in some good work on one of the digs that was commenced by members of the M.N.R.C. and the W.C.C. in 1936.

Our members have also been active in South Wales; P. Dolphin, C. Low J. Lander and N. Paddock discovering and exploring a deep pot-hole type of cave situated above Dan-yr-Ogof in the Swansea Valley. The cave has been names Pwll Dwfn, (Deep Pot), and in September a Club visit was made to the cave. This week-end was a great success, 15 members making the journey to South Wales. Other caves visited were Dan-yr-ogof and Ffynon Du, and our thanks are due to the South Wales Caving Club for placing their Headquarters at our disposal. On a visit to Mendip earlier in the year the S.W.C.C. made good use of "Beechbarrow" and some of -our members joined with them in a very energetic week-end's caving.

Members have received the announcement that the basic ration of petrol is to be discontinued, with dismay, as this must of necessity reduce our caving activities during the coming winter months, but some are already planning to use public transport and other methods to get to Mendip. We suggest that full use be made of the facilities of "Beechbarrow"; its nearness to a main bus route being a decided asset. The committee hope to run a series of informal lectures in subjects of interest to cavers, and they would like to hear from anyone who could give such a talk, or who would like a talk on any particular subject.

Finally the committee would like to thank all those members who have given their help in the form of both time and energy in the furtherance of the Club's interest, and couple with this the hope that some of our new members will come forward to help with the business of running the Club.

Forthcoming Events.

November 1st. August Hole, + Longwood Swallet.

November 15th. Full Eastwater.

+ August Hole.

This new Mendip cave system was discovered by members of the B.U.S.S. and access is obtained to it via Longwood Swallet. It is about 1400 ft. in length.

Winter Lectures.

The committee have drawn up a programme of suitable subjects which include Cave Diving, "Bug Hunting" in caves, Yorkshire Cave, Cave Surveying, Mendip Geology, etc. Particulars later.

Forthcoming Events.

December 13th/14th. "Field Weekend". This will take the form of organised visits to some of the swalleted districts of Mendip.

January 3/4th. Mendip Mine Shafts.

Club Lectures

December 16th, Cave Archaeology. E. Mason (Illustrated by slides)

January 6th. Some general aspects of the collection of cave Fauna. H.Davis.

January 20th. Cave Diving P. Dolphin.

B.U.S.S. Lecture.

Monday 8th December. Underground in Eire. D. T. Donovan. B.Sc.

Hillgrove Swallet.

The Club started digging in the Hillgrove main swallet on August 4th and progress has now reached a stage where an account of the work to date may be of interest.

The first shaft was sunk at a point about 10 yards to the East of the site of Mr. J. H. Savory's original dig, and after quarrying to a depth of 19 ft. a sloping solid floor blocked further downward progress. Tunnelling horizontally a few feet to the West, a small open system was reached, the chief feature of which was an open rift which it was estimated reached almost to the surface.

From this system a small fissure led back under the sloping floor of the shaft, and through this fissure could be seen a horizontal tunnel running north and south.

To reach this tunnel it was decided to dig down through a mud choked rift at the east side of the shaft, and after excavating about 8 ft. the horizontal tunnel was reached. This was negotiable to the south for about 12 ft. and a narrow slot sloped down steeply to the west into a further tunnel.

This tunnel appeared to be directly below the floor of the west system, but before excavation could begin down through the floor a second shaft had to be dug to provide a direct lift for the spoil.

After digging downwards for a further 8 ft. bringing the total depth from the surface at the second shaft to 38 ft. his second was entered but was found to be the upper portion of a choked rift.

A windlass has now been set up above the second shaft and excavation is continuing, but progress must necessarily be slow due to the depth of the shaft and the narrowness of the working space.

WITHBROOK SWALLET P. Browne reports the discovery of a small cave, and has names it Withybrook Cave.

New Members.

J. E. Burleigh
Miss S. Price
D. G. Jago

W.T. Edwards
C.S. Rogerson

N. Gardner
E.J. Sandeman

Forthcoming Events.

Sunday February 22nd	Lamb Leer
Sunday March 7th	Eastwater

Club Lectures

Saturday February 28th. John Hooper, Devon Caves (Illustrated by slides)

Tuesday March 2nd. Brig. E. A. Glennie. Caving. (Including a description of some of the caves of India). Illustrated by slides.

Tuesday March 16th. John Parkes, Yorkshire Caves. Illustrated by slides.

Tuesday April 6th. Dr. Wallis. Mendip Geology. Illustrated by slides.

London Group A meeting was held on January 30th, and Hywel Murrell gave a talk on "Cave Photography". 14 Members were present. The next meeting will be on 12th March. John Hooper on "Recent developments in Devonshire, and A.E. Glennie on "Some Indian Caves". Illustrated with slides. Wessex Club Members are invited to two meets of the L.S.G. Dene Holes. Bexley, February 22nd, and March 14th meet Hosey Common.

Club Visit to France. If circumstances permit we hope to visit Southern France this summer. M. Ageron suggests the early part of August, but several members find that the middle of the month would suit them better, and we are therefore contacting our French friends to discover if it is possible for them to accommodate us during the third week in August 14th - 21st. Cooks have quoted a fare of £7 18s. 11d., for 3rd class return ticket, London to Valence via Newhaven/Dieppe, for a party of not less than 10 adults.

New Members.

G. B. McQueen

J. G. Parkes

D. M. M. Thomson.

Lecture Friday April 16th. John Parkes, Yorkshire Caves. Illustrated.

Club Trips

Saturday May 1st. Full Swildons.

May 22nd/23rd. Headquarters weekend. Painting etc. at Beechbarrow.

May 29th/30th. Mine Shafts.

June 5/6th. Stoke Lane Swallet.

June 19/20th. Longwood Swallet & August Hole.

Club Library and Recorder.

It has been decided to reform the Club Library, and K. Humphries has been appointed Hon. Librarian. He will be pleased to hear from members who can donate any books that would be of interest to our members. In addition the committee would like to have members suggestions re any books suitable for the library.

Mr. Humphries has also consented to take on the task of acting as Recorder. Members are urged to forward reports of their caving activities; individual, group or club events. These need not be concerned with Mendip only.

May 15/18th. Whitsuntide. The Craven Pot Hole Club are visiting Mendip during this weekend and the Club are placing the accommodation at "Beechbarrow" at their disposal. Members will be welcome on any trips that are arranged, but there are not likely to be any spare beds at the above. Eastwater hut however, will still be available for the use of members.

Headquarters.

Members wishing to use Club gear should always make an application to the Hon. Sec. If it is used in an emergency this also should be reported. Anyone wishing to leave gear, boxes etc. at either of the H.Q's should ask the Hon. Sec. if it is in order to do so, as the amount of space available is rather limited. Any remarks regarding the condition of the gear should be addressed to the Hon. Gear Curator, C. Low.

Club Visit to France.

The date of the above has now been fixed, as suggested in the last circular for August 14th/21st. M. Ageron suggests that 600 to 750 frs. a day per person while we are not camping or caving, should cover expenses, so that £10 in addition to the fare should about cover the cost of the trip. The party will be limited to 20 and so far more than that figure have stated that they are interested in the trip, but all are not yet certain if they can manage to get away at the dates fixed.

New Members.

P. Gahill

A. F. Gould.

Forthcoming Events.

July 11th. Lamb Leer

July 25th. Eastwater (Old route).

Digs.

Hywel Murrell is visiting Mendip July 9th - 19th and he and Brig. Glennie are going to make a final attack on the dig in the Great Chamber of Lamb Leer. They also hope to commence a dig near Red Quar.

Peter Harvey would like to hear from Members who would care to assist him in the re-opening of Cuckoo Cleave, and he intends to work there during the weekend of July 17th/18th.

Several members are contemplating starting a new dig in Mendip and would welcome offers of assistance.

Club Library.

The Committee would like to place on record their grateful thanks to K. Stafford, D. Parsons, and C. Downs for the gift of books.

The Librarian, K. Humphries, would like to obtain a bookcase suitable for the club's library, and if any member knows of one will he get in touch with him. He will also welcome suggestions and gifts of books.

Visit to France.

Final details are not yet to hand but M. Ageron states that each member of the party should bring blanket or sleeping bag, meal utensils (we take this to mean knife-fork-spoon, plate and mug), also personal caving gear. It is expected that the programme will include a visit to Paris.

Headquarters.

The number of members who turned out to assist with the painting at Beechbarrow was very small, but those who did must be thanked for a very fine job, done under vile weather conditions. It is suggested that, later in the year, the inside of the building be re-decorated, and it is hoped that other members will come forward with offers of assistance.

Circular No. 13 (New Series)

September, 1948.

New Members.

T. R. Shaw

Miss E. Monro

Fairfield Spel. Soc. W. H. Ashman.

Cmdr. P. B. Lawder

Forthcoming Events.

September 25/26th Club trip to South Wales.

October 16th. Annual General Meeting and Dinner.

Officers and Committee 1948/9. Nominations for the committee should be in the hands of the Hon. Sec. by October 1st.

New Members.

M. R. Cooke
R. E. Lawder

F. C. Hucker
G. S. G. Stickels

R. Ellis
R. J. Whiting

Officers and Committee, 1948/49

President:	H. E. Balch, Esq.
Chairman	A. J. S. McMillian
Hon. Treas.	G. Williams
Hon. Sec.	F. Frost
Hon. Sec. London Group	H. Murrell
Committee	L. Devenish, N. Gardner, K. Humphries, H. Kenney, T. Thompson, G. Tudgay, M. Withey, J. Wilkins.

Secretary's Report, 1947/48

1947/48 was the 14th year of the Club's existence, the inaugural meeting being held on Sept. 29th, 1934. It is of interest to note that we still have with us three of the founder members, namely Hywel Murrell, Wyndham Harris and Jack Duck, and included on our list are the names of a number of people who have been members since those early days.

Our membership now stands at 125 an increase of 22 for the year.

In some ways the past year has been a notable one, firstly because of the series of lectures held in the winter months, and secondly because of the Club's trip to France. In connection with the former, we would like to place on record the Club's great appreciation of the hospitality of A. J. S. & Mrs. McMillian, as it is due to them, that the series of talks were such an undoubted success. The trip to France will be the subject of a separate report.

There is nothing outstanding to report about the activities of the Club members on Mendip. Messrs. Dolphin, Low and Lander with the regular help of other members continued to dig the main swallet at Hillgrove, but this was finally abandoned in the late summer. The shaft that was sunk was probably the deepest made on Mendip in search of a cave since the time in the late '80's when a reward was offered for the re-discovery of Lamb Leer. The London Group has, from time to time, continued its work at Lamb Leer, and Hywel Murrell reports that the dig now appears to be very promising.

Beechbarrow continues to be a great asset to members and during the year a great deal has been done to improve the place. All the work has been done by the same small section of Club members and it is felt that others could have come forward with offers of help and so ease the burden that has been carried by a small group of members.

The Committee would like to thank L. Devenish for his work in acting as H.Q.'s fuel watcher at both Beechbarrow and Eastwater.

Whilst not wishing to anticipate the Hon. Treasurer's report we would like to point out that owing to continued capital expenditure Beechbarrow showed a loss for the year, and it is hoped that the outlay for the next year will be much smaller.

For some years the burden of running Club trips has fallen on the shoulders of a small number of members, and the people in question feel that they have had to give up too much of their valuable spare time, and in fact the running of Club Trips has become, in their case, rather a duty. It has been hoped that some of our new members would have, by now, taken over the task of leading club trips, but that has not happened, and in fact they have tended to associate themselves with groups rather than the Club as such.

From the secretarial angle both the lectures and the French trip meant an increase in the amount of work, but it was felt that the results made this well worthwhile. In an effort to co-ordinate the work and interest of members the Committee elected a Recorder but so far very few members have sent in reports of their caving activities. From certain quarters there appears to be rather a lack of interest in the Club as such but it is hoped that there will be a revival in that spirit that existed amongst members in those early days of the Club's existence.

Members are urged to come forward with suggestions, as it is obviously impossible to formulate a policy to suit the wishes of members unless we are aware of these interests.

The coming year will see Mr. H. E. Balch reaching his 80th birthday and we, as a Club, would like to proffer to him our heartiest congratulations and very good wishes. We would also like to thank him for his continued interest and support. We are indeed honoured to have him as our President.

FEES It has been necessary to review the charge for sleeping overnight at Beechbarrow. The committee have approved the following scale:-

Members	1/6 per night
All visitors	2/6 per night.

Claims for Members Expenses. All members with claims outstanding against Club funds are asked to send in their accounts to the Club Treasurer giving relevant details.

Accumulation of Old Clothes. Large stocks of old clothes – too old even for caving - have piled up at H.Q. Members are asked to recover any items they wish to save from the flames within the next two or three weeks.

Gear Curator: Howard Kenney has been appointed Gear Curator and will deal with all future tackle arrangements.

Messrs. N. Gardner and D. Jago have kindly offered the use of their headquarters at Burrington to members wishing to stay overnight in that part of Mendip. Anyone wishing to avail themselves of this offer should contact D. Jago,

Annual Dinner. This involved the Club in a loss of over £5 and this was due to the fact that the arrangements to hold it at Cheddar were made at very short notice.

The committee has decided that there shall be a "free for all" dig at Barrow Rake. Any member with some spare time, may like to "have a go" so to speak, and particulars re the actual situation of Barrow Rake can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

Forthcoming Event Sunday Dec. 5th. Lamb Leer.

CAVE SCIENCE Members may be unaware of the existence of "Cave Science" a quarterly caving journal published by the British Speleological Association.

No. 7 will be published in January, 1949. Included will be an article on Lancaster Hole, Eldon Hole and 5 surveys.

Copies price 4/6 (non-members of B.S.A.)

New Members.

G. Applegate	+ J.Hampton	S. B. Hosegood
R.J. Gosling	W. Mankovsky	E. Vowles
S. Chambers	+ London Group	

Committee Member. The name of P. Harvey was omitted from the list of Committee members in circular No. 14.

Forthcoming Events.

Tuesday January 25th. Lecture. Club visit to France. This will be illustrated by over 100 slides from photographs by L. Devenish, P. Harvey and the Hon. Sec.

Friday February 4th A Club Supper will be held, if sufficient is forthcoming, at the "Happy Pig", off North Street, Bristol, cost 2/3d.

Tuesday February 8th. Dr. B. A. Crook. Cave Rescue Work

MENDIP CAVING EXHIBITION

A reception was given by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress in the Bristol Museum on Wednesday, 24th November to mark the opening of the Mendip Caving Exhibition.

Mr . H. E. Balch, M.A., F.S.A., our President, and the dozens of Mendip cavers, gave the vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor.

The exhibition covered general equipment, animal life, caving cartoons, archaeological exhibits, a striking collection of cave photographs, caving literature, geological information and cave diving equipment.

Lighting at H.Q.

For some time it has been felt that lighting at Beech barrow - at present provided by a rather erratic Primus Lamp - ought to be improved. An ideal form of lighting would be provided by Calor Gas equipment.

The quotation for an installation having two burners fixes the cost at approximately £8. As the committee do not feel justified in adding this burden on the club funds, bearing in mind a forthcoming heavy expenditure for tackle, several members have kindly offered to give a donation towards the cost. Further offers would of course, be very welcome.

DALLIMORE'S CAVE

From time to time there are rumours of new caves on Mendip, usually highly secret and of enormous size. Dallimore's cave, within 400 yards of the Club H. Q. alas, has neither of these romantic attractions, and in fact, its chief interest lies in the tightness and discomfort of its 150'

of passage.

The entrance is in a shake hole about 50 yards to the west of the Bristol-Wells road on the main Hillgrove depression, and 18' shaft, which was opened on October 3rd after only four weekends' work, is clean and self-supporting.

So far the operation had been very satisfactory but subsequent exploration was disappointingly short and a long low horizontal squeeze prevented further progress until the following day when two of the Club's thinnest members squeezed through and reached the lower of the two bedding planes.

The prospects for further progress are not very promising and it is proposed ultimately to cap the shaft with a concrete slab, in which a manhole will be left for the benefit of posterity.

C.C.L.

It is hoped to publish a survey of this cave at a future date.

DIGS IN LAMB LEER

Before the war Prof. Palmer's Geophysical Megger indicated a cavity of comparable size and adjacent to the Great Chamber of Lamb Leer. This account deals with the series of digs which have been prompted by this evidence.

Hwyel Murrel, assisted by other members started to dig about 3 yards to the west of the north-east corner of the main chamber.

The excavation was in clay?, and on an incline for the first six feet; the roof then levelled out and work continued for a further four feet when a large boulder was encountered. This was bypassed and digging continued onward for a short time.

The decision was then made to follow a clay filled passage, bounded on the left by the boulder and on the right by a sagging slab of rock. Owing to the danger of undermining this slab the working had to be kept narrow and deep; this enabled a pool of water to collect at the right angle round the boulder.

Five more feet revealed a rock face and the excavation swung right into what seemed to be a solution passage, complete with rock studded roof and a slight draught, both facts lending great enthusiasm to the work.

Later (Sept. Oct. 1948) the boulder slipped sideways into the section between the two bends and halted digging.

A more recent dig started by Brig. Glennie is in a horizontal fissure below the wooden ladder on the far side of the Great Chamber.

A thin stalagmite floor was removed and good progress was made as a thin bank of manganese

dioxide allowed the clay to be undermined with ease. After 3 days digging (12 feet in) a fair sized solution pocket in the roof was reached. Two feet further the manganese deposit increased to a dome two feet high and gave off sufficient quantities of carbon dioxide when disturbed, to slow up the work.

At this spot the fissure appears to have been cut by a semi-vertical shaft and drilling with a thirty inch auger reveals rock only on the extreme left.

REL.

LIBRARY LIST

Alps & Men	Arnold
Ancient Map of Mendip	Savory
British Mountaineers	Smythe
B.U.S.S. Vol. 5 No. 5 (3 copies)	
Caving (two copies)	Baker
Caves & Caving Vol. 1. Nos. 1-5	
Cave Research Group publications.	
Dauphine Souterrain (Mainly photos)	Andre Bourgin
Kamet Conquered	Smythe
Mendip Caves	Balch
N.A. Mendip Caves (latest edition)	Balch
Mountaineering Holiday	Smythe
Netherworld of Mendip	Baker and Balch
North Staffs. Field Trans. Vol. 52 1918	
Natural History of Sheffield Vol. 1.	
Over Tyrolese Hills	Smythe
Picturesque Touring Areas in the British Isles	Wellbye
Scientific Aspects of Cave Exploration (Paper. Rogers of Sheffield University)	
Ten Years under the Earth	Casteret
Torquay Natural History Vol. 2 No. 1	
Waldegrave Swallet	Balcombe
Wookey Hole Divers	Balcombe
Yorkshire Ramblers Club Journal.	

New Members.
G. Ross

A. H. Buchan
T. S. Stanbury

T. Driver
W. I. Stanton

FUTURE EVENTS

10th April. G.B. Cave.

EASTER VISIT OF STOKE-ON-TRENT SPELEO SOCIETY TO MEN DIP.

Note: Beechbarrow and Eastwater hut are fully booked for Easter. It is hoped however, that members will be able to contact our visitors during their stay on Mendip.

30th April. Full Swildons

Whitsun. London Group's Mendip Camp.

PAST EVENTS.

Club Supper.

The supper held at the "Happy Pig" was attended by 20 members who spent a good evening. The arrival of Bill Weaver who had travelled from London for the occasion was a very pleasant surprise.

"Club Visit to France"

LECTURE by The Hon. Secretary.

The Lecture attracted a record attendance and was well received. The Hon. Sec. dealt with the week's activities which had an international flavour due to the presence of the Swiss Speleo Society, and covered an area in S. France embracing Valence, Vercours, and the Cevannes.

The talk was illustrated by over 130 slides from photographs by Devenish, Harvey and the Hon. Sec.

The reception from Proprietors of Show Caves was mentioned as being overwhelming and complete freedom to explore the caves was given. This spirit of hospitality and co-operation was evident throughout the stay in France and the Club owes a debt of gratitude to the French hosts, M. Argeron and M. de Joly.

"Cave Rescue"

LECTURE by DR. B. A. Crook.

Dr. Crook opened his lecture by recalling the major caving accidents (most prevalent in Yorkshire) and causes; mistakes in the past were largely due to lack of knowledge of First Aid and poor rescue organisation. Attention to these points would go far towards simplification of cave rescue.

Hints for treatment of various injuries were given and illustrated by numerous triangular bandages plus volunteers. Dr. Crook had with him a canvas stretcher (St. John Ambulance type) which he recommended for cave rescue.

'Shock' which follows almost every accident and revealed by acceleration and "raggedness" of pulse rate, needs prompt and constant treatment. The Patient should be kept warm and removed to

the surface as quickly as is practical. The lecture finished with a discussion on the Mendip Rescue Organisation.

"Water Divining"

LECTURE by G. Applegate.

Mr. Applegate, a professional dowser gave a highly interesting account of his experiences and results with the dowsing rod.

He described how after years of research and practice, he can estimate not only the position of moving underground water, but can also estimate the depth and flow with, a high measure of success.

London Group

The group had three meetings this year. Brig. Glennie talked on his findings on cave formation in Ffynnon Ddu, Prof. Palmer on his electrical surveying methods, and Eric Hensler gave an account of his experiences while caving for the army in Germany. The attendance at each meeting was about 15.

CALOR GAS. INSTALLATION AT BEECHBARROW

The appeal for donations towards the cost of installing a Calor Gas lighting equipment had an excellent response. Installation is now complete and the system is in operation.

The Club is indebted to the following members for the donations which made this possible.

G. APPEGATE	1 10 0	K. HARDCASTLE	2 6
G. BUTTON	10 0	Mrs. KIDD	6 0
P. DOLPHIN	15 0	C. LOW	15 0
J. DUCK	10 0	K. STAFFORD	10 0
F. FROST	10 0	J. WILKINS	10 0
P. HARVEY	10 0	A. WADSWORTH	£1 1 0
		M. WITHEY	10 0

GUIDE TO BEECHBARROW

KEYS for window shutters and tackle room are hanging beside a window.

DRINKING WATER can be obtained from a tap beside the cattle trough in the corner of the field, near the road.

WASHING WATER If the weather obliges, this will be found in the tank outside. We would like to keep this clean, so don't wash anything - especially tackle - in the tank itself.

MILK can be obtained from the farm down the lane opposite the PRIDDY turning ½ mile along the road towards BRISTOL. Unless you rise very early, let them know in advance if you want milk next morning.

LIGHTING THE "GARDNER" STOVE is not as difficult as it sounds, give handle half turn anti-clockwise, remove chimney, wait for wick to flood, then light it all round. Replace chimney making sure it rests properly, then turn handle back clockwise till horizontal, and be patient.

PARAFFIN is stored just inside the Tackle Room door.

METHYLATED SPIRITS Bottles are to be found under the bench on which the Primus stoves repose.

COKE AND COAL are stored outside.

TACKLE Dirty tackle should be washed and any wet ladders or ropes stretched out to dry in the Tackle Room.

CALOR GAS The main valve is on the cylinder in the Tackle Room. This must be turned off before leaving.

FEES are posted in H.Q.

CLUB LOG Other members like to know what you have been up to. Please leave a note in the log.

RUBBISH Should be burned or put in pit outside. Flatten tins first - it eases things for the Sexton.

THE PARTING GUEST is asked to leave all as he would find it, and to lock up.

SCOUTING UNDERGROUND The following report has been received from G. Tudgay.

"In November 1946 'The Boy Scout Association' approved of underground Exploration as part of the training for Senior Scouts.

It is an activity which can provide opportunities for the Scout to put into practice the knowledge he has gained since his enrolment into the movement.

Approximately three hundred scouts have been taken into the various caves of Mendip since 1946, and every year the number of Scouts who wish to cave grows larger.

This means that more guides are required. If any member has the time to spare and would care to lead a party into any cavern his assistance would be greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the "Boy Scout Association" I would like to thank all members who have so kindly given time in helping with this worthwhile activity.

CAVING IN MALAYA

In a letter to the Hon. Sec. Richard Kenney serving with the Colonial Survey in Malaya, mentions that he has access to Government Reports dealing with caves.

"One report" he writes, "States that all Malayan caves are dangerous, owing to snakes, tigers, poisonous bats and Communists. The latter are by far the worst"!!

Nearby a village called BATU CAVES, there is a limestone hill with a 600 foot vertical cliff. This hill is riddled with caves (one is used as a Bhuddist Temple) and most of them are occupied with communists.

Another interesting place is KAKI BUKIT, near the Siamese frontier. Here, there is a unique tin mine, the ore lies in the deep caverns and underground passages in the series of limestone hills in the area.

Richard sends regards to all his friends in the Club.

CLUB-BADGE

The committee feels that Club badges should be available to members, and if sufficient support is forthcoming, steps will be taken to have a quantity manufactured.

GIFT OF ROPE

The Committee wish to thank G. Platten on behalf of the Wessex Cave Club for the gift of 100' of climbing rope.

New Members.

D. Atkinson	A. E. Dingle	P. J. Sheath
Miss B. Tomlinson	S. J. Wadden	E.H. Williams
J. M. Davies	C. Hill	

Thornbury Grammar School Cave Club (Affiliated)

Future Events.

Sept. 10th	Burrington Combe
Sept. 24th	Cheddar District caves
Oct. 9th	Water Divining field day
Oct. 15th	A.G.M. & Dinner (Provisional date)
Oct. 30th	Mine Shafts

Peter Harvey is running a weekend trip to South Wales in September.

VISIT TO FRANCE

A party of 18, consisting of members and wives, will be visiting the Pyrenees towards the end of August. They will travel by car and be joined there by Dr. & Mrs. Crook and Miss M. Hall. It is hoped to also visit Andorra and Spain, time permitting.

COMMITTEE JOTTINGS

Several notes in the log books at Beechbarrow and Eastwater huts have complained of the shortcomings and in some cases, the lack of equipment. It is felt that the correct procedure would be to repair faulty equipment, if possible, or report the matter to the Hon. Sec. or Gear Curator.

Concern has recently been expressed about the lack of cooperation between various active groups of members. Perhaps this is due to the lack of opportunity for 'getting together' and efforts are being made to increase the number and frequency of club caving trips social functions etc.

New and prospective members are particularly invited to participate in Club activities, and are reminded that a club 'dig' at Barrow-Rake is now in progress.

Articles and caving data of general interest are required for inclusion in future issues of this Circular. It is hoped to publish the Circular in the recently enlarged form at two monthly intervals, but this will only be possible if members supply sufficient material.

KEN. W. HUMPHRIES

Ken Humphries has permanently removed from Keynsham to Leicester and the club library has been temporarily transferred to A. J. MacMillan.

Ken has recently suffered the loss of his Mother, who was well known to many members. The Club wish to express sincere sympathies for the sad bereavement.

THE MAYPOLE - Equipment for negotiating vertical and overhanging pitches. A device for climbing vertically upwards was found necessary while studying the stream passage in Ogof Ffynnon Ddu.

The equipment developed for this operation, named 'The Maypole' consists of a pole of the appropriate heights, guyed in position and having a rope ladder attached to the top: it is an improvement on the slippery steel pole which Casteret climbed on several occasions

The pole is a section of light alloy scaffold tubing (see details below). 8 foot sections have been found most convenient for use in the South Wales caves; longer lengths being obtained by joining sections with a standard scaffold joint which can be bought or hired with the equipment.

The device has been tested to a height of 25' in open air and it is thought that this is the limit for a single pole. This limit could be increased by using several poles or building a structure similar to normal scaffold work.

This equipment has been successfully used in the stream passage of Ogof Ffynnon Ddu, on the 17th April, 1948, an interesting little system being reached, situated about a hundred feet above the 3 ft. waterfall. Length of pole used was 16 ft., and it was tethered upstream and downstream. Nevertheless some difficulty was experienced in stepping off into the high level passage as the pole tended to move away as the climber's weight was transferred forwards.

P. HARVEY.

Details of light alloy scaffold tubing - ex Northern Aluminium Co.

Outside diameter 1 29/32"

Wall thickness 0.176"

Specification: Normal 51 ST. (0.1% PROOF STRESS 15 TONS/SQ. INS. ULTIMATE TENSILE STRESS 18 TONS/SQ. INCH)

Weight: 1.13 lbs./ft.

Price: (Dec. 1948) 1/8d. per foot.

CLUB DIG (BARROW RAKE)

Bill Weaver excavated the swallet several years ago, but the war prevented him continuing his work, and the hole soon filled with water borne debris.

G. Button and J. Wilkins obtained permission to dig the swallet and it was decided to make it a Club dig. L. Devenish proceeded with the work of designing a portable derrick, but when he and the Hon. Sec. erected it on the site it was found to be unsatisfactory, and Devenish therefore provided 'bucket hauling' tackle of a more orthodox type.

At Whitsun, Messrs. Whitting and Gosling with the help of Com. Lawder and Son, commenced digging, and sunk a shaft to the depth of 12 ft. Weaver's old shoring was uncovered, and as it was found to be in good condition, this was left in position, but more will have to be provided before digging to a greater depth. The latest news is that the stream has deposited more debris at the bottom of the hole.

The London Group has begun a dig at Hillgrove and from reports received it appears to be quite promising.

STOKE LANE SWALLET.

Members contemplating a visit to Stoke Lane Swallet are warned that two accidents have occurred there recently, due to falling boulders.

CLUB LIBRARY

This consists of a small collection of books, a list of which was published in Circular No. 15.

CLUB BADGES

These will shortly be available for full members. They are in cloth and can be sewn to caving clothes etc., and in addition some are being printed as pennants. The price of both types will be about 3/6d.

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE 1949/50

These should be in the hands of the Hon. Sec. not later than October 1st. A list of present committee members was given in Circulars Nos. 14 and 15. G. Applegate was elected to fill an outstanding vacancy.

CAVING HELMETS.

Mr. White of Beechbarrow, Hillgrove, Nr. Wells, has a small number of caving helmets for sale at a price of 5/-d.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WESSEX CAVE CLUB will be held on Saturday October 15th at the Museum Wells.

THE CLUB DINNER will be held at "The Star", Wells. Price 6/-d.

A current list of the Club Rules is enclosed with this circular.

Several amendments are now necessary. All members wishing to propose amendments to the club rules should notify the Hon. Sec., F. Frost.

Proposed amendments will be brought up at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

With Circular No. 18.

WESSEX CAVE CLUB RULES

1. That the Club be called the Wessex Cave Club.
2. That the objects of the Club shall be:
To promote the sport of caving by,
 - (a) initiating newcomers into the best traditions of the game.
 - (b) gating caves which are likely to be despoiled.
 - (c) publications.
 - (d) organising gatherings to explore or excavate.
 - (e) arranging for members to visit caves in districts other than their own
 - (f) erecting and maintaining huts where members can stay while cave hunting.
 - (g) by maintaining gear for the use of members.
3. That the Club shall consist of Hon. Members and Ordinary members who may be of either sex.
4. That the President, Vice Presidents and Hon. Members shall be entitled to exercise the privileges of ordinary membership.
- +5. That the affairs of the Club shall be conducted by a Committee which shall consist of a Chairman who shall retire annually and be ineligible for re-election for the following year, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Assistant Secretary, Gear Curator and nine other members, and that an Hon. Secretary of any group within the Club be eligible to attend a committee meeting in an ex-officio capacity, and may nominate a substitute to attend any meeting which he cannot attend personally.
6. That the Election of the Committee shall be by Postal Ballot and the Club Year shall end on July 31st., and the A.G.M. and Club Dinner shall be held in Aug/Sept.
7. That any person desiring to join the Club must be nominated by two members and elected by the Committee.
8. That the subscription for Ordinary Members shall be 7/6d. per annum due on July 31st each year, and every new Ordinary Member shall be required to pay an entrance fee of 5/-d. Any member whose subscription has become more than three months overdue shall automatically

cease to hold membership of the Club.

9. That a charge of 1/-d. (exclusive of any gate fee) shall be payable by any non-member who takes part in any trip on which Club Gear is used, or in any trip organised by the Club. The size of the party shall be at the discretion of the leader.
10. That every person whether a Member or not, making use of the services of a guide or guides, or taking part in any activity or expedition organised by the Club, or in which any Member of the Club shall take part, shall do so at his or her own risk, and that he or she or his or her legal personal representatives or assigns or dependants shall have no claim or right of action against the Club or any Member thereof in respect of any damage loss or injury sustained notwithstanding any negligence of the guide or any Members, or the body of Members of the Club.
11. That an extraordinary general meeting may be called at any time by the Hon. Secretary when required by the Committee, or in writing by 10 members of the Club. Two weeks notice must in all cases be given.
12. That members using the Club's H.Q.'s shall leave same in tidy and clean condition.
13. That no alteration shall be made in these rules except at the A.G.M.
14. That Members who take up temporary residence abroad shall have their subscription suspended until they return, on notification to the Hon. Secretary.
15. Any person whose membership is deemed to be undesirable by a three quarters majority of the Members present at a general meeting at which the member concerned shall have an opportunity of being heard, shall be expelled from the Club.

+5 The committee shall fill any casual vacancies.

Annual General Meeting to be held at Wells Museum on 15th October, 1949

AGENDA

1. Presentation to the President, H. E. Balch, Esq., by Hywel Murrell on behalf of the Club.
2. Minutes of previous meeting.
3. Treasurer's statement for 1948/49.
4. Amendment of rules. The main rules were drawn up at the founding of the club, and a number of amendments and alterations have been made which are not necessarily consistent. The committee considered that the rules should be modified and altered where necessary to deal with present conditions. A rules sub-committee has been sitting during the year and the following amendments have been submitted by the committee and by members of the club in accordance with rule 13.

<u>Amendment</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>To</u> <u>Rule</u>	
1	2	After "To promote the sport" add "and science" Proposed by L. Devenish.
2	2	Add "(h) by maintaining for the use of members a library of books, literature and maps." Proposed by C. Low.
3	5	After "Gear Curator" add "Hon. Librarian." Proposed by C. Low.
4	5	After "Chairman" delete "who shall retire annually and be ineligible for re-election for the following year". After "nine other members" insert "Who shall retire annually and be eligible for re-election". Proposed by Committee.
5	6	Delete "July 31st" and substitute "Sept. 30th" Delete "Aug/Sept." and substitute "During October" Proposed by Committee.
6	8	Add at end "The committee shall have the right to waive the subscription of persons joining the club near the end of the financial year when they consider it desirable to do so". Proposed by L. Devenish.
7	8	Add at end "Any member whose subscription has become more than 3 months overdue shall be named in the next circular, and if within one month the subscription has not been paid, the member's name shall be removed from the list of members and notice to this effect shall be sent to the member." Proposed by E. A. Glennie.
8	8	Add at end "That the wives of members accompanying their husbands shall be entitled to the full facilities of the club but shall not be entitled to vote."
9	11	Delete "10 members" and substitute "20% of the membership". Proposed by Committee.

- 10 14 After "abroad" insert "or who are 'conscripted into H.M. Forces."
 After "return" insert "or who are discharged from H.M. Forces."
 Proposed by Committee.
- 11 New Rule New Rule "Rule 16. The committee shall have the right to refuse the
 Rule use of club possessions to members when they consider it desirable in
 the interest either of the club or the member concerned, but the
 member concerned shall have the right of appeal to the committee
 against this decision."
 Proposed by Committee
- 12 New Rule New Rule "Rule 17 Caving clubs or societies attached to schools,
 Rule youth or scout organisations etc., may become affiliated to the club on
 the approval of the committee. The subscription shall be 1/-d. per
 member per annum. Only one copy of each circular will be sent to
 each affiliated body".
 Proposed by Committee.
- 13 New Rule New Rule "Rule 18. Members of affiliated bodies may become
 Rule ordinary members of the club when their application has been
 approved by the committee and the annual subscription has been paid.
 The entrance fee will, be waived for members joining the club in
 accordance with this rule."
 Proposed by Committee.

5. Hon Secretary's report for 1948/49.

6. Election of Officers and Committee for 1949/50. The following members were nominated for the committee in accordance with rule 6 and are therefore automatically elected.

L. Devenish	D. Parsons	R. Murrell
P. Cahill	P. Harvey	E. Hensler
C. Weaver.		

The following offices are outstanding:

Chairman	Hon. Sec.	Hon. Asst, Sec.
Hon. Treas.	Hon. Gear Curator	3 Committee Members
Hon. Librarian (if rule 3 is amended.)		

7. Election of Vice President.

8. Headquarters report.

New Members.

D. J. W. Bernard

J. F. Denny

W. H. Donnan

R. E. J. Hunt

A. Mason

P. H. Murrell

Future Events.

Lectures.

Wednesday 57th December. "Greenland" D. T. D

Dates not yet fixed:

"Visit to France" P. B. Dolphin.

"South Wales" C.C. Low

"Development of Landscape in the Karst Region, Dalmatia". Dr. Scott Simpson.

Officers and Committee for 1949/50

President

H. E. Balch, Esq.

Vice Presidents

Prof. E. K. Tratman

Mrs. D. P. Dobson

M. P. Ageron

M. de Joly

M. N. Casteret

Chairman

A. J. S. McMillan, Esq.

Hon. Secretary

F. Frost, Esq.

Hon. Asst. Secretary

Mrs. P. E. Millward

Hon. Treasurer

G. Williams, Esq.

Hon. Gear Curator

L. Devenish, Esq.

Members of Committee

Mrs. R. Murrell, Messrs. P. B. Dolphin, P. Cahill, J. Tudgay,

P. Harvey, E. Hensler, H. Kenney, D. Parsons, C.P. Weaver.

Secretary's Report, 1948/9 The past Club year has, in the caving sense, been fairly uneventful. The Club membership is now 137, 17 of whom joined during the current year. In addition the Thornbury Grammar School Caving Club has affiliated to the W.C.C.

Club trips have, in general, been fairly well attended, and we have had visits from Stoke on Trent Caving Club, The South Wales Cave Club and the Cambridge University Caving Club.

Members of the London Group visited Mendip on several occasions, and some of them continued the dig at Lamb Leer. Other members of the Group have begun a dig at Hillgrove and hope to continue with the work on future visits. It is indeed pleasing to note that the Group which contains a high proportion of members who have been connected with caving and the W.C.C. for a good number of years, continues to be as enthusiastic as ever.

By it's trip to France last year the Club may be said to have started something, as two parties of members again visited that country. A jeep load of six members toured parts of the Pyrenees, Cevennes and Vercor, travelling in all about 2,500 miles. The other party, consisting of 18

members, visited the Pyrenees district and while certain members of the party were content to be merely sightseers, the others got in some serious caving and, from reports received, appear to have upheld the prestige of the Club and British Caving.

Beechbarrow continued to be a great asset to members, but there have been complaints regarding the condition in which certain members have left both it and the Eastwater Hut. We feel it our duty to point out to members that use of the Club's Headquarters involves them in certain obligations, one of which is that of leaving both the premises and the contents in a clean and tidy condition. There have also been complaints about the way in which tackle has been left in the gear room. Carelessness in the storage of ladders and ropes may have serious consequences, so it is hoped, and expected, that members will take every precaution to prevent damage to the gear by careless storage.

We owe a debt of gratitude to L. Devenish, for his work on behalf of the Club during the past year. He has, without doubt, been the mainstay of the Club. J. Tudgay has continued with his work initiating Scouts into caving, and up to the present has taken, or arranged for cave visits, over 300 boys. Norman Paddock has completed one survey for Eastwater, and we had hoped to circulate a copy to each member but it has, so far, not been found possible to duplicate it in such a manner that it could be understood.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate L. W. Millward on his marriage to Miss "Pep" Powell, and C.C. Low to Miss E. Monro. We wish them all every happiness.

Finally, we would like to congratulate our President on his approaching 80th birthday. His interest in caving, and particularly Mendip Caving, is as great as ever, and we are very fortunate indeed to have his continued interest and support.

Gifts to the Library. The following gifts of books for the Library have been received.

<u>G. Platten</u>	<u>MEES</u>	"Somerset"
<u>D.A. Willis</u>	<u>BALCH</u>	"Caves of Mendip"
	<u>NORTH</u>	"The Scenery at the Head of Vale of Neath".
	<u>U.B.S.S.</u>	Proceedings Vol. 5 No. 3
	<u>CASTERET</u>	"My Caves"
	<u>THORNBBR</u>	"Pennine Underground"
	<u>ATKINSON</u>	"Field Archaeology".

New Members

A.M. Johnson

B. B. Salmon

P.A.E. Stewart

FUTURE EVENTS

Lectures.

31st January P. B. Dolphin "Visit to France 1949"

28th February Dr. Scott Simpson "Development of Landscape in the Karst Region, Dalmatia.

Trip: H. Kenney, trip to Eastwater.

We would like to see more new faces at the lectures as well as old friends. A jolly, intimate evening is enjoyed by all who attend so do come along and bring any of your friends who may be interested.

All members of the W.C.C. are cordially invited to attend the following lectures arranged by the U.B.S.S.

23rd January

R, A. Bendall

"Caving in Co. Clare".

13th February

A. Hill

"Caving in South Wales".

6th March

M. C. Burkitt

"The Beginnings of Neolithic Times".

The Primrose Path in Eastwater Swallet - Interim Report.

If the Traverse is entered from the Rift Chamber, the initial crawl after 40 ft. drops into a narrow disused stream bed crossing it at right angles. This way may be followed upwards to Kentish's Cairn, and downwards in a roughly southerly direction, through a tight and twisting way to a muddy pool. The total horizontal distance from the end of the crawl is about 100 ft., the descent being about 70 ft.

Until 1946 the way on was blocked by a tight fissure, which was first passed by Mrs. Murrell. Immediately on the other side of the squeeze was a small chamber, with a rift like passage leading sharply up and back to the left, a tiny hole vertically up, and a horizontal slot, near floor level, about 4 inches high. Stones rolled through this slot made a most encouraging sound, evidently falling into a pot after a steep slope. Apart from this, there was reason to expect that such a streamway, 200 ft. above saturation level and further south than any other point in the cave, might lead to something worthwhile.

Work was begun on this slot in earnest in 1946 by Low, Dolphin and Paddock. It was first necessary to remove the tight fissure, which could at first be passed only by Paddock. This was done with the help of using pounds of gelignite, the charges being fired from near the top of the Primrose Path, as the streamway was now called. When this had been cleared sufficiently, the horizontal slot was attacked by the same method. Few natural cracks were available and drilling was difficult in the cramped conditions.

Active help in this part of the work has been given by John Lander, John Wilkins, George

Button, Paul Burt, and Phil Booth, all but the last, being Club members. About 20 trips extending over three years have been made, the net profit to Farmer Weeks in the neighbourhood of £4. Other people have also been interested in trying to make their way through; mostly their visits were considerately timed, so as not to coincide with the working party's.

By the middle of 1949 the way was clear for bodies of normal size, except for one shoulder of rock 10 ft. down the hole. Drilling was impossible, as there was no room to swing a hammer, and natural cracks had run out.

While new techniques were being considered, Howard Kenney found that he could get through the squeeze, which widened a little beyond and on down a 45 slope for about 20 ft. to a pot requiring ladder for its descent. A further trip with 50 ft. of Devenish's light ladder brought him to the rocky bottom of this pot, (30 ft. deep) and 20 ft. down another one, of estimated depth 50 ft.

The latest trip was made on Sunday 18th December, 1949, those present being Low, Devenish and Paddock acting as a hauling party Kenney and Vincent Stimpson going through the squeeze with the total available light ladder, 150 ft. in all. The second pot (depth 50 ft) communicated directly by a vertical squeeze with a further one 20 ft. deep, and from there a rock platform leads directly to the fourth pitch, which, like the second and third, is in the form of a rift, but appears to expand continuously to the bottom. The ladder was unfortunately long enough for only the first 50 ft of this pitch, leaving an estimated 20 - 30 ft. still below. Stones dropped from the bottom of the ladder evidently land on hard mud or sand, and there is considerable echo, as well as a draught. This suggests further passages below, which are unlikely to be vertical, as the bottom of the fourth pitch must be at about saturation level. A strong stream was running into the cave at the time of the expedition, but no running water could be heard at the bottom.

The party emerged after 7 hours in the cave. The descent of the four pitches by Kenney and Stimpson is a particularly fine performance, and their discovery of a pitch of far greater depth than any other on Mendip justifies all hopes. There is more to come and further trips are being actively arranged by Kenney in co-operation with the original diggers.

The work will consist of two parts.

- (1) The manufacture of more ladder and
- (2) The enlargement of some of the more critical bits of the upper passage.

At the moment it is not safe for a party of small men to work on the other side of the initial squeeze, and the consequences of an accident might be serious. A plan and section of the addition will be published when the bottom has been reached.

M.L.P.

Future Events.

Sunday 30th April Stoke Lane.

Headquarters.

During the Easter Bank Holiday members of the Stoke on Trent club will be using our headquarters. All accommodation is fully booked for this period.

We would like to congratulate David Willis on his effort in cleaning and repairing the Eastwater Hut, this is all the more creditable in view of the fact that he has a 4 hour cycle ride to and from Mendip. Members now have no excuse for leaving the place in any but a clean and tidy condition. We would also point out to members that L. Devenish has made an excellent job in arranging the tackle at Beechbarrow, and all tackle after use must be returned to that place, and hung up in its proper position. We find that a couple of ladders have been left at the Eastwater Hut. This must not happen again.

Mice are again causing trouble at Beechbarrow, and beds must be left on the top of one bunk, which will be put in the middle of the floor. No eatables should be left exposed, and this includes potatoes etc. It is not advisable to leave too much food in the boxes. On a recent visit we found boxes of oats and bags of flour and the latter was almost 'alive'. It was also noticed that the main tap of the Calor gas cylinder was not turned off, and members are reminded that this should be done before locking the gear room when leaving the place.

Enclosed with this circular will be found a list of members, and it will be observed from the names that some people who are no longer members are still leaving gear at Beechbarrow. Will members who are in touch with the people concerned, please ask them to remove their possessions as soon as possible. We shall be having a spring clean soon, and we cannot hold ourselves responsible for the ultimate fate of non members goods.

Beechbarrow is due for a new coat of whitewash and the Hon. Sec. will be pleased to hear from members who will be willing to give a hand with the job.

Congratulations to Colin and Mrs. Low on the birth of a son.

Caving in Yorkshire and Derbyshire By the Hon. Secretary

When Roy Midwinter, the Hon. Sec. of the Stoke-on-Trent Pot Hole Club, heard that I would be staying near the Potteries for a couple of weeks, he very kindly invited me to stay with him over the weekends, and also suggested I joined him and his club on a visit to Yorkshire.

On the Tuesday of the first week of my visit I had the pleasure of meeting members of the club, and we had a talk on Mendip and South Wales. The talk was illustrated by slides of Gerard

Platten and Peter Harvey, and the Lamb Leer film was also shown. In passing, it may be of interest to members to learn that Roy Midwinter and Dick Fletcher have made a very interesting film showing a descent of Eldon Hole, Derbyshire.

The following Friday five of us left the Stoke district about 7.0 p.m. and after a journey of just over 100 miles arrived at our destination near Ingleton, a little before 11.0 p.m. where supper was laid on for us.

Saturday morning was dull and misty, but Dick Fletcher cracked the whip, Dick being the Asst. Hon. Sec. of the Stoke Club, and we left the Inn at about 9.00 a.m. for Kingsdale. Yordas cave was our first stop, and was, at one time, a show cave but is now open to all cavers. If one is to judge by the article by J. L. Hamer, which appeared in Vol. 14 British Caver, and entitled 'Yorkshire Caves and Potholes', the reader is given to understand that Yordas "is one of the most wonderful in the British Isles". My comment to that is I can hardly think that Mr. Hames is or was very familiar with many other caves. The Yordas consists of two chambers, the larger being 180 ft., by 48 ft., and the other, the Chapter House, is much smaller, but is certainly rather fine, and has a grand waterfall in it.

We now turned to the main objective of the day, Bull Pot. This is about a quarter of a mile further up the side of the hill, and for a complete descent 230 ft. of ladder is required, and these with belays and lifelines, have to be manhandled up to the pot. Three of the party went on ahead but unfortunately Roy Midwinter and myself rather lost our way, and eventually found ourselves at Jingling Pot.

The mist had turned to fine rain, and it did not add to our peace of mind to hear the sound of shot guns from the direction in which we were travelling, We at last found Bull Pot, and its near neighbour (as one would expect) Cow Pot. We put a ladder down the latter, and examined the bottom to see if it would be possible to blast a way into its masculine neighbour, but we decided this would not be a practical proposition, so made our way to Bull Pot. The first two pitches had now been laddered by Dick Fletcher. We climbed the first pitch, 40 ft and made our way to the head of the second. One ladder is used for this and the third, and the climb down the second pitch, is, to put it mildly, rather awkward. I got to the bottom of the third pitch, but we had lost a lot of time, (and enthusiasm) and only one of the party managed to descend the fourth pitch. On returning to the surface we had a most interesting 15 minutes or so watching Dick Fletcher, (who may I mention, is not a very thin man) literally forcing his way out of the pot at the top of the first pitch. There was a touch of a 'strip tease' act about it.

We had expected the remainder of the party by now, but we heard after that they had gone on to Bull Pot of the Witches, Casterton Fell. We now returned to the car and made our way back to the Inn, and the evening was spent in the usual manner of cavern, holding up the bar. I had the pleasure of meeting Norman Thornber of "Pennine Underground" fame. We had a most interesting talk and he mentioned that the number of pots and caves in Yorkshire must run into the thousands. He has a very fine card index of a great number of these caves. The evening was cut short at 12.0 p.m. by a power cut, and the party, now 10 in number groped their way to bed.

On the following morning the party made its way to Alum Pot, The direct descent via the main shaft was laddered, and about half of the party made the descent, the others going around by Long Churn cave, and laddering the Dolly Tubs and Greasy Slab pitches, so making a round trip possible. There was a fair amount of water, and the Diccan Pot waterfall into Alum Pot final chamber was most impressive. The pot was unladdered not without difficulty I may add, and we returned to the Inn for dinner.

The return journey to the Potteries was made in good time and I was in bed a little after 11.0 p.m.

On Wednesday of my second week I again met the Stoke Club's members, and this time we had an illustrated talk on France and French caves.

My final weekend, in the district included a trip with Roy Midwinter and Dick Fletcher to North East Staffs, and Derbyshire. It was- very fleeting but my hosts tried to show me as much as possible. A visit was made to Frog Hole, where the Stoke Club has a dig, and Giants Hole. At the former place we did a spot of blasting and we had hoped to try the effect of 8/10 lb. of gelignite and powder at 'High Dig', but we decided that there was little point in blasting at that particular point, and much to Dick Fletcher's disgust, he had carted the explosive through the cave, we brought the stuff back with us unused.

It was very cold outside and we changed in record time. We spent the remainder of the hour of daylight in driving to Castleton via the Winnats, and had a look at the entrance to Peak Cavern, returning to Newcastle via Mam Tor, and as we passed round this we had a good example of the way the "Shivering Mountain" is being disintegrated by winds and frosts. At one point the car was bombarded by the grit as it was swept off the mountain side.

I would like to thank the Hon. Sec. of the Stoke Club for his own and his club's kindness to me during my stay with them. Speaking for myself, I shall most certainly be returning to their territory in due course.

Frank Frost.

List of Members 1949/50

Ageron, P. (H)	Applegate, G.	Atwood, H.C.	Atkinson, D.
Bernard, D.J.W.	Balch, H.E. (H).	Balcombe, F.G.	Bradshaw, A.K.
Bradshaw, A.J.	B.G.S.C.G.	Buchan, A.H.	Bruleigh, J.E.
Burt, P.E.	Butt, G.M.	Cahill, P.	Chambers, S.
Champeny, E.R.	Cooke, M.R.	Dancey, R.	Crook, Dr. B.A.
Cooper, Dr. N.C. (H)	Davis, J.M.	Dell, R.	Denny, F.J.
Devenish, L.E.W.	Dingle, A.E.	Dingle, L.S.	Dolphin, P.B.
Dobson, Mrs.D.P. (H)	Donnan, W.H.	Downs, C.	Duck J.W. (H)
Dunncliffe, H. J.	Edwards, W.J.	Frost Mr. & Mrs	F Frost, Fred.
Fairfield Speleo Soc.	Gardner, N.	Glennie Brig. A.E.	Goaling, R.J.
Greenwood, W.	Hampton, J.	Hardcastle, M.	Harris, C.E.
Harvey, P. I. W.	Hazelton, Miss M.	Hensler, E.	Hill, A.H.
Hill, C.	Hobday, F.J.	Hooper J.H.D.	Hooper, Mrs. J.
Howell, P.	Hucher, F.C.	Hughes, L.T.	Humphries, K.W.
Hunt, R.E.J.	Jago, J. G.	Jewell, M.C.	Johnson, A.M.
Johnson, Miss M.M.	Kenney, C. H.	Kenney, R.R.	Kid, Mrs. I.A.
Lawder, Com. P.B.	Lawker, R.E.	Lines, J.	Low, Mr & Mrs. C
McLeod, W. H.	McMillan, A.J.S.	Mason, E.J	Midwinter, W.R.
Millward, L.W.	Millward, Mrs. L.W.	Murrell, H.	Murrell Mrs. R.
Murrell, P.H.	North, Dr. (H)	Occhialini Dr,(H)	Paddock, N.
Parker, J. G.	Parsons, A.J.	Parsons, D.A.	Parsons, D.W.
Peters, M.A.	Pick, S.J.	Flatten, G. (H)	Rahtz, P.A.
Rogerson, C.S.	Salmon, B.	Shaw, J. R.	Sharp, W.
Sheath, P. J.	Stafford, K.	Stanbury,H.	Stanton, W.I.
Stewart, P.A.E.	Thomson, D.M.	Thomson, T.E.	T.G.S.C.C.
Tomlinson, T.E.	Tudgay, Mr. & Mrs.	Tudor, Miss G.	Tupman, J.
Vawdrey, W.	Vowles, C.	Waddon, E.J.	Wadsworth, A.
Waldegrave, Earl	Weaver, C.P.	White, P.R. (H)	Whiting, R.J.
Wilkins, J.S.	Williams, E. H.	Williams, G.H.	Willis, D.A.
Withey, M.	Weber, (H)	Wallis Dr. (H)	

New Members

M.P. Glenister

H. Jelley

Miss P. M.M. Simon

Future Events

June 10th	C.R.G. General Meeting.
June 28th	Evening trip to Sandford Levy.
July 2nd	August Hole or Longwood.
July 15th	Ebbor Gorge.
July 22/23rd	South Wales Weekend.
August 5/7th	Club Camp at Beechbarrow.
August 18th	Water Divining Field Day.
October 7th	Provisional date of A.G.M. and Dinner.

The Primrose Path in Eastwater Swallet
 (continued from Interim Report in Circular 20)
 by C.H. Kenney

Some time has elapsed since the last report on this passage, but it must not be imagined that nothing has been done in the intervening months. A further attempt was made by the original workers to enlarge the passage and an experiment was made in the use of thermite besides gelignite. The former only altered the colour of the landscape, and the latter caused a small stone to jam in the smallest part of the final squeeze which effectively blocked it until persistent efforts removed it. The general effect was nil. So once again it was left to the 'midgets'. After several visits during which several poor unfortunate individuals were pushed into the crawl (and some of them nearly left there) a team of half a dozen cavers were found who were capable of getting through the squeeze and at the same time were competent to climb a possible 200 ft. of ladder. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining duralumin, more ladder could not be manufactured but 210 ft. was scraped together as a result of borrowing 60 ft. to add to Devenish's 150-ft.

Sunday, the 16th April, 1950 saw a most unenthusiastic crowd assembled outside the cave. Those who knew the drop were suffering from nervous dyspepsia, and most were quite content to bathe in the sun. There was a great discussion as to who should take two bundles of tackle, there being eight for seven people. One of these included a tin box (almost a trunk) which Devenish insisted on taking and was said to contain a 'light lunch'. The party eventually reached Primrose Path where Devenish provided some light entertainment by getting stuck every few yards.

The laddering of the vertical was a lengthy job, every bit of tackle having to be unrolled for passing through the final squeeze. Eventually it was done, and five members of the party including the writer were able to assemble on the first landing stage 30 ft. down the drop. The duty of the hauling party, two in number, was finished for the time being, and they amused themselves for the next three hours eating, and reading 'Lilliputs' produced from the metal box.

The drop party refuelled their carbide lamps causing much disgust above, as all the fumes seemed to go in that direction. Two men then descended to the second ledge 95 ft. down to operate the life-line for the writer to descend in search of the elusive bottom. This last stage proved to be 80 ft. clear, bringing the total depth to 175ft. The descent was through a rift about 15 ft. wide and often as much as 30 ft. to 40 ft. long. The floor was strewn with rounded stones of varying size the majority of which were old red sandstone, some of which were heavily stained with iron. A small passage in rift form about 8 ft. high led off with the dip, access to which was by means of an awkward twisting squeeze, but closed down after about 30 ft. The walls of this passage were completely covered with globules of wet shining mud and gave the impression that the passage is occasionally flooded. On the up-dip side of the floor of the rift, there was a small pile of scree and this together with the unexplained draught up the vertical leads one to believe that there are incoming passages on this side. The rift on this side is quite narrow and it might be possible to 'chimney' up from the bottom, but personally, after the vertical, I had no energy to spare for this. Climbing the ladder I found my back turned in this direction, and therefore had little opportunity of carefully examining that side. The ascent of the bottom 60 ft. was not so easy, ladders with a 12 in. pitch and movable rungs being used, often presenting a gap of 24 ins. The ascent of the drop by the party was made with only one hitch, when the iron bar preventing the ladder from slipping into a narrow gully came out of place, and as a result the top 10 ft. of the vertical had to be climbed without ladder or safety line by the writer to put things right. Having woken up the working party we got ourselves and tackle back through the crawl, a process which took about an hour and a half. The whole trip lasted nine hours and a very quick change had to be made to reach Hunters Lodge before closing time. The drop is still as inaccessible as ever, and indeed the number of cavers who can visit it is limited by its small approach. It is doubtful whether anyone will have sufficient enthusiasm to undertake the extensive blasting needed in view of the unpromising finish, and the drop may soon have legendary fame only. Or do I underestimate Mendip Cavers?

Impressions of a first caving trip to Devon

Perhaps the pleasantest recollection of my visit to Devon, were the happy hours spent above ground. This is not intended as a derogatory remark to the Devon Caves, but rather as a compliment to the beauty of the countryside. The party I was with made Buckfastleigh their Headquarters, a small town with a population of 2,600. We stayed at the Kings Arms, and to any caver who prefers a little more comfort than sleeping in tents or barns, I can thoroughly recommend it as being excellent accommodation at a very reasonable price. To the above ground type of caver (as we were that weekend), Buckfastleigh makes an excellent centre; the blue sea of Torquay, the wilds of Dartmoor, the architectural interest of Totnes, the modern Benedictine Abbey at Buckfast, and the general beauty of the Devon countryside, being close at hand. All this was appreciated by the party despite the wettest and wildest Easter for some years.

But this is not good enough for a caving article and I must hasten to convince the reader that we did find the caves. Our first visit was to Kents Cavern, Torquay, a cave famous amongst Archaeologists for its Palaeolithic discoveries. It was excavations here, together with the contemporary dig at Hyenas Den, Wookey Hole, that first persuaded the general public that man was considerably older than most theologians insisted. The visitor must remember that it is an

Archaeological site rather than a cave of interest to Spelaeologists, otherwise he is likely to be disappointed. In view of this it was unfortunate that our guide's knowledge of the subject appeared to be very scanty, but it was rather refreshing to find that his powers of imagination and originality of conversation were rather superior to the stereotyped tone of most cave guides.

A visit to Reads Cave was our first serious cave trip, and in the company of two B.E.C. members whom we met down that way, we spent several hours crawling round passages which either brought us back to where we had started, or became impossibly small. The cave can certainly boast some fine formations, but its rather aimless wanderings left us feeling rather unsatisfied, so we went straight on to Bakers Pit, in an adjoining quarry. From purely the sporting side this proved far more interesting; the upper series with its large chambers rather reminded me of some of the French caves, and its lower series (the entrance of which is indicated by a Ministry of Transport road sign) provides crawls and climbs, typical of Mendip.

Our last visit was to Pridhamleigh. Before entering we sought the farmer's permission. This paid us dividends as he let us change in one of his barns, it was still pouring with rain outside. The entrance is quite impressive, being a huge archway which gives the impression that progress is going to be easy. The only entrance we could find however, was a miserably muddy passage. As we entered, the rumble of a passing train on the nearby track gave us quite a fright. The local cavers had assured us that we would get lost - and indeed it was a maze - but we were rather proud of ourselves when we found our way to the lake at the end of the cave and back again without difficulty. The lake struck me as being particularly beautiful and is ideal for a swim, (for those who like swimming underground).

There are, of course, other caves which I have not mentioned, and, judging by what Mr. & Mrs. Hooper had to tell us (we met them in Devon) are capable of keeping the most serious of cavers busy for some time. We were much interested in the considerable amount of work being done by the Hoopers and others in the task of ringing and recording the presence of bats, a study for which the Devon cavers seem to be particularly suited.

As we left Buckfastleigh for home on our various motorcycles it stopped raining and the sun came out.

C.K.H.

SINK 'A101' HUNTERS LODGE

A group of club members recently carried out a dig at the above sink hole. (The party consisted of Bill Donnan, Peter Harvey, J. McQuire, Mr. & Mrs. L. W. Millard and Peter Stewart) The sink hole is situated in the field immediately to the south of the Hunters Lodge Inn and is the deeper of the two near the road wall.

It was decided to dig this sink hole when the landlord of the Hunters Lodge mentioned that it had taken a large quantity of water during a cloudburst.

Work was started on Saturday May 6th, 1950, and during the weekend a shaft 5' x 4' x 14' (measured) was sunk in clay and stones at the lowest point in the sink hole. During the course of the weekend, as well as the usual bones two worked flints were unearthed. These were at a depth of 10'. At 14' the dig was beginning to look interesting.

Work was resumed on the following weekend. After a small amount of work a small chamber was entered from the south east corner of the shaft. The dimensions were 6' x 4' x 4' high the roof and three walls being solid rock. There were a few stray stalactites about 4" long. A slot in the side of the chamber was opened out to a depth of about 5 ft. The depth of the dig was now about 25 ft.

Another visit was made on Wednesday 17th and it was found that the floor of the chamber had sunk 18".

On Saturday 20th May after making little more progress, the entrance to the chamber was blocked up and the shaft was filled in

Before this dig was started a time limit of two weekends and depth limit of 20' was agreed and as both these figures were exceeded the dig was terminated.

P.W.H.

A 17th Century Visitor to Wookey

"Oackey Hole is a large cavity under the ground like Poole Hole in Derbyshire only this seems to be a great hill above it; its full of great rocks and stones lying in it just as if they were hewen out of a quarry and laid down all in the ground; the wall and rooffe is all a rocky stone, and there is a lofty space they call the Hall and another the Parlour and another the Kitchen; the entrance of each one out of another is with greate stooping under rocks that hang dowi almost to the ground; beyond this is a cistern allwayes fullof water, it looks clear to the bottom which is full of stones as is the sides, just like candy or like the branches they put in the boyling of copperace (copperas - ferrous sulphate) for the copperice to crust about it, this in the same manner so that the water congeales here into stone and does as it were bud or grow out one stone of another; where ever this water drops it does not weare the rock, in hollow as some other such subterranean caves does, but it hardens and does encase the stone and that in a roundness as if it candy's as it fell, which I am of opinion it does, so it makes the rocks grow and meete each other in some places.

They fancy many Resemblances in the rocks, as in one place an organ, and in another 2 little babys, and in another part a head which they call the Porters head, and another shape like a dog; they phancy one of the rocks resembles a woman with a greet belly which the country people call the Witch which made this cavity underground for here enchantments; the rocks are glistening and shine like diamonds, and som you climb over where one meetes with the

congealed drops of water just like iceicles hanging down; some of the stone is white like alabaster and glistens like mettles; you walk for the most part in the large spaces called Roomes on a sandy floore the roof is so lofty one can scarce discern the top and carry's a great echo, soe that taking up a great stone as much as a man can heave up to his head and letting it fall give a report like a Cannon, which they frequently trye and call the Shooting the Cannons; at the farther end you come to a water call'd the Well, its greate depth ani compass tho¹ by the light of the candles you may discern the rock encompassing it as a wall round; these hollows are generally very cold and damn by reason of the waters distilling continually, which is very cold as ice almost when I put my hand in the Cistern".

From the "Journeys of Celia Fiennes" 1698.

WHITSUN CAMP

The members of the London Group who visited Mendip over the Whitsun Bank Holdiay continued with their dig at Hillgrove. They have introduced a new technique in swallet excavations by sinking two holes in the same swallet (with eight feet of each other) and working both together, each party swearing that their particular hole is by far the more promising of the two. Michael White the 11 year old son of Mr. White our landlord at Beechbarrow gave a hand with the work, but showed complete impartiality by helping with both excavations.

Headquarters (Beechbarrow)

The privy is being removed from the gear room to an outside situation. It is hoped to fit glass windows in three of the doorways, and the Committee are investigating the possibilities of extending the drinking water to the actual building.

Congratulations to John Parkes upon the recent birth of a daughter.

New Members.

British Cellophane 21 Caving Group
J.W.W. McOmie

Miss P. Hardwidge
Miss J. Phillips

Miss J. Knight
R. Straker.

Future Events.

August 5/7th. August Bank Holiday Camp at Beechbarrow. D. Parsons.

August 20th. Water Divining Field Day. G. Applegate.

September 15/17th. Derbyshire. Joint meet with the Stoke-on-Trent Pot Hole Club.

October 7th. Provisional Date for A.G.M.

MANOR FARM SWALLET

P. Harvey

The Swallet is situated at Charterhouse in the grounds of Manor Farm, and in wet weather takes a lot of water. It had previously been dug by P. Stewart and members of the ACES Speleological Group but on several occasions the dig was filled up with mud and debris due to flooding.

Members of the Club recently made an attack on the swallet, the object of which was to dig down to the rock face that had been observed on the downstream side of the swallet.

Work was commenced on June 3rd and during the week end the existing timbered shaft of 5 ft was extended to 12 ft. The work was hard going as the excavated material had to be hoisted to the top of the swallet which was another 10 ft. above the top of the shaft. Work was continued on the following weekend but progress was very slow, and it was decided to abandon the dig. The total depth reached from the top of the shaft was approximately 15 ft. The rock face commenced to slope under at about 10 ft.

During the course of the dig some interesting bones were unearthed and our President, Mr. H.E, Balch identified them as BOS (i.e. cow).

The shaft has not been filled in as Peter Stewart intends to carry on with the dig at a later date.

Those members taking part in the dig were Bill Donnan, Peter Harvey, J. McOmie, Leslie and Mrs. Millward, Harry Jelly, and Peter Stewart.

GEOPHYSICAL PROSPECTING

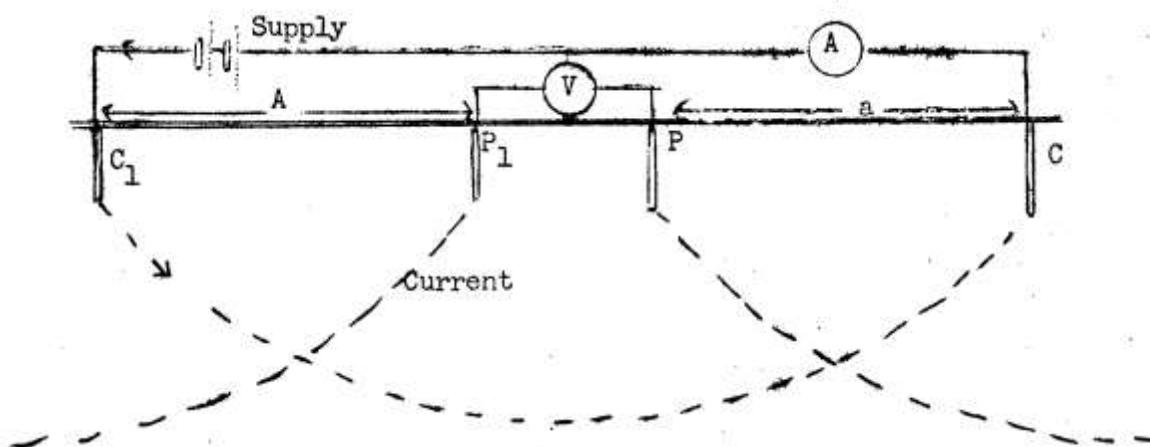
G. Applegate.

The electrical resistivity method of geophysical prospecting is probably one of the best known methods in use today. It depends on one factor, that different rocks and strata have different electrical resistances, and by measuring these resistances over a given area, and correctly interpreting them, a skilled operator can calculate the depth of strata, water tables, faults, caves, etc.

With the resistivity method a measured D.C. electric current generated by means of a small hand operated dynamo is passed through the earth, usually between two electrodes, and the potential difference due to the flow of the current between two other electrodes can be measured. The quotient of the potential difference and the current gives a resistance. From this resistance, and the difference of the spacing of the electrodes a value can be calculated for the resistance of the soil.

The resistance calculated is usually termed "specific resistance", and is not the true resistance to the earth surveyed, due to moisture and other factor.

The following diagram will illustrate the resistivity method:-



Between the two outer electrodes C1 and C, electric current is passed, and is measured in amps (A), and the voltage set up between P1 and P can be measured. From these measurements the resistivity of the ground can be calculated by the formula $P = 2AV/I$, but the voltage P is an average value, and as stated above, can be affected by the nature of the strata and their depth in relation to the distance of the separation A; and it is therefore possible to measure the specific resistance of the strata to any depth, by varying the electrode separation, provided of course, the correct technique is employed and the instrument is capable of sufficient measurement.

From the resistance values obtained over a given area, a graph can be drawn, but the curves can then only be used and interpreted correctly after much experience, especially when the layer consists of more than two layers of different strata. The form of the curve depends largely upon the number of strata present, their thickness, and the resistance characteristics of each stratum.

Electrical resistivity methods enable measurements to be made to calculate the depths of porous formations that would yield water supplies, and it is also possible to calculate the amount of fissuring in any compact formation.

In a very porous rock, changes in the degree of saturation cause much wider fluctuations in resistivity than would variations in texture. The presence of clay etc., also complicates matters here. The Writer has no experience in the use of the resistivity method for locating caves in

limestone formations and would be interested to meet members who have been successful.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Club year ends on July 31st., and under Rule 5, the Officers and Members of the Committee will retire but are eligible for re-election.

The Officers and Committee for 1949/50 are as follows:-

Chairman	A. J. S. McMillan
Hon. Sec.	F. Frost
Hon. Treas.	G. Williams
Hon. Asst. Sec.	Mrs. Millward
Gear Curator	L. Devenish
Committee:	L. Dolphin, p. Cahill, P. Harvey, E. Hensler, H. Kenney, Mrs. Murrell, D. Parsons, D. Thomson, and G. Tudgay.

The Hon. Sec. and Hon. Treas. have expressed their willingness to stand for re-election and also the following members of the Committee.

D. Parsons and G. Tudgay.

Hon. Secretary's Notes.

I had hoped to include one or two more articles of caving interest but they are not to hand yet. I therefore, thought it may be of interest to give members a few short (caving) biographies of some of the leading members of the Club.

Mr H. E. Balch

Our President's name is so famous in the annals of Mendip cave work that he undoubtedly deserves at least a full article to himself so I intend to ask him for an autobiography to be included in a future circular.

A.J.S. McMillan. Chairman 1948.

Mac joined the Club in March, 1937 and from the first took a keen interest in all things connected with caving and the club, so much so that he was elected a member of the Committee in November of the same year. After joining the R.A.F. he kept in constant touch with the club through the Hon. Sec. and when he returned to civilian life took up the reins of office again by joining the Committee. In 1948 he was elected Chairman, and proved to be the right man for that office, so much so that a club rule which prevented any member being Chairman for more than one year was rescinded, and Mac. was again elected in 1949. It is at Mac's house that the Club holds its informal lectures and most of the Committee meetings, and we are very much indebted to him for this privilege.

HYWEL MURRELL Hon. Sec. London Group

Hywel was one of the five people who met on September 29th, 1934 at Ashlev House, Crosscombe, Somerset, and thereupon formed the Wessex Cave Club, but previous to this he had caved with his school's (Sidcot) caving club. He was a member of the M.N.R.C, but had realised that a club to cater for the "man in the street" caver was a necessity on Mendip. From then on he put his heart and soul into making the new club a success, and it was mainly due to his energy that the club became soon the largest of its type in England. His outstanding work was in connection with cave photography and it was for this that he obtained his F.R.P.S. He was one of the small group who discovered 'Cow Hole', and keenly interested in the South Wales caving districts. Early in the last war he volunteered for service in H.M. Forces, resigning the Hon. Secretaryship in January, 1940. During the war he moved to Capel in Surrey, since when he has used his energy to form and keep alive the London Group, but his dearest wish is to return to the Mendip district to live.

FRANK FROST Hon. Secretary, 1940

His interest in caving in the adult sense was due in the main to E.K. Tratman, who invited him to attend a lecture by Prof. Fawcett to the U.B.S.S., this being about 26 years ago, although there are faint memories of a visit to the then "People's Palace", Bristol, with his father to hear a lecture on 'Mendip Caves' by Mr. H.E. Balch. This was before the 1914/18 war.

He enlisted the help of two of his brothers and explored all the then known caves of Mendip, the mode of transport always being cycles. It was soon seen that rope ladders were necessary and these were made, all light enough to be carried on cycles together with caving kit. On one occasion, that of a full Swildon trip with brother Fred, he, Fred, fell from near the top of the 40', breaking his wrist and a couple of ribs. All this had been 'free lance' caving and from known caves he turned his interest to the 'lost' cave of Lamb Leer, which unbeknown to him the Wessex Cave Club were digging. This was late in 1934 and he was elected a member of the Club in January, 1935, continuing his digging interest by assisting Graham Balcombe at Waldegrave Swallet. The diving at Wookey Hole then became his main caving interest and this continued until the end of the operations (a worm in the drinking water of a Wookey Hole 'native'). In 1936 he was elected a member of the Committee and in 1939 was elected Chairman. When Hywel Murrell resigned the Hon. Secretaryship in 1940, Frost was elected to that office and has continued in that capacity up to the present. During the war he managed to keep the Club alive, and with the coming of peace was instrumental in initiating the attempt to bring the club back to its pre-war position. In 1948 and 1950 he arranged trips to the French caving districts and so introduced the idea of foreign caving travel, which is continuing in the case of certain members this year. His caving activities have covered Mendip, South Wales, Yorkshire, Derbyshire and France.

GEORGE WILLIAMS Hon. Treasurer, 1940.

George joined the Club during December, 1938, and very soon after took an active interest in the running of the Club, and in November, 1939 was elected a member of the Committee. The following year he took on the post of Hon. Treasurer. Whenever the question of the purchase of any major item of equipment arose George would often dip deeply into his pocket, and to show its appreciation the Club elected him an "Honorary" Member in 1947. As most of us are aware

George has not the perfect figure for tight squeezes, but he is certainly a trier, as witness his attempt to pass the tight spot at the bottom of the August Hole entrance shaft. He failed, but spent about 15 minutes in the attempt.

His interest in the Club is as great as ever but as with most of us, does not find he always has available all the spare time he would like, but will always help with transport if he can possibly do so. I think we can sum him up as 'A jolly good sort'.

New Members.

C. Jenkins

I Mackintosh

T. Rowsell

R. A. Whitcombe.

Future Events.

October 7th Annual General Meeting, Wells Museum.

Dinner Wickenden's Restaurant, Wells, tickets 10/6d., including beer or 7/6d., without drinks.

WATER DIVINING FIELD DAY

August 20th, 1950.

By the Hon. Asst. Secretary.

As a departure from the usual type of Club event it was decided to combine this demonstration with a social "Get together", and a high tea was therefore provided at "Beechbarrow" to wind up the day.

Unfortunately the day selected was about the wettest Sunday of a summer of wet Sundays, but by 11 a.m. a number of members and friends had arrived, so in spite of heavy rain it was decided to start. Ample transport was available to convey the party to the scene of the operations - the field adjoining the Hunters Lodge, George Applegate quickly located water, and he then showed members how to use the divining rods and within a very short time most of the party could be seen solemnly pacing up and down the field. George informed us that there was a fairly strong stream of water running at a depth of 50 feet running near the line of depression in the field, and so from this Peter Harvey and his party of diggers should in due course get their feet wet.

At about 1 o'clock we adjourned to the Hunters Lodge where we had a room entirely to ourselves in which to eat our sandwiches and drink beer.

After lunch we drove to Velvet Bottom, Charterhouse, and walked along with all the divining rods in operation. By this time a number of the party found that the rods were working well in their hands. Others felt a very small reaction and the remainder none. This was what George Applegate had told us to expect. The results obtained suggested that a very large flow of water existed under Velvet Bottom and Longwood Valley.

Returning up Velvet Bottom many of the party thought what a good locality for a dig but being in the Bristol Waterworks Catchment Area, permission is impossible to obtain.

On arriving at Headquarters the party did justice to the meal provided and a vote of thanks was proposed to George Applegate and the organisers. Mr. White was also thanked for providing the necessary tables and chairs to accommodate 19 people who sat down to tea.

My Impression of the event H. Kenney

Sunday the 20th August was wet, not unusual for this year, Somerset's worst summer for 25 years. What persuaded me to get out of bed I do not know, but once up I suddenly realised with great disgust that today I was water divining? I envisaged no difficulty as I listened to the gutters roaring with water. I tried to think of a good excuse, and not being a very clever fellow decided that I had not got one. As I ascended the hill out of Wells and ran into typical Mendip mist, I became even more disgusted but all this depression was swept aside as I swam into the Headquarters at Beechbarrow. A blaze of colour met my eyes; there were flowers in every direction neatly placed in jam jars on tables laden with 'grub', and things looked definitely 'gay'. For a moment I thought I had wandered into a high class cafe by mistake, but no, there were the familiar rain bespattered faces, and what was even more pleasant some of the not so familiar ones. The arrival of our diviner put paid to my idea of getting on with the feast straight away. A description of our 'success' in finding water is given above, and it is sufficient to say that the party during the whole day was a very happy one. Lunchtime saw the Hunters Lodge "heaving" with Wessex, a description heard at Wells.

Having found enough water to keep us all happy (and me in bed for a week with flu) we returned to Beechbarrow, where the women quickly got busy serving us with a meal fit for the Gods. Mr. White who joined us must have been quite surprised that we were competent at something other than caving.

It was a most enjoyable day and the mixing of social and caving activities had been most successful.

I must pay tribute to the Asst. Sec. and her band of helpers who not only provided the food, but presented it in such an attractive manner. Let us hope that this will be the first of many such meets.

Notes for Primrose Path Vertical.- Eastwater Cavern.

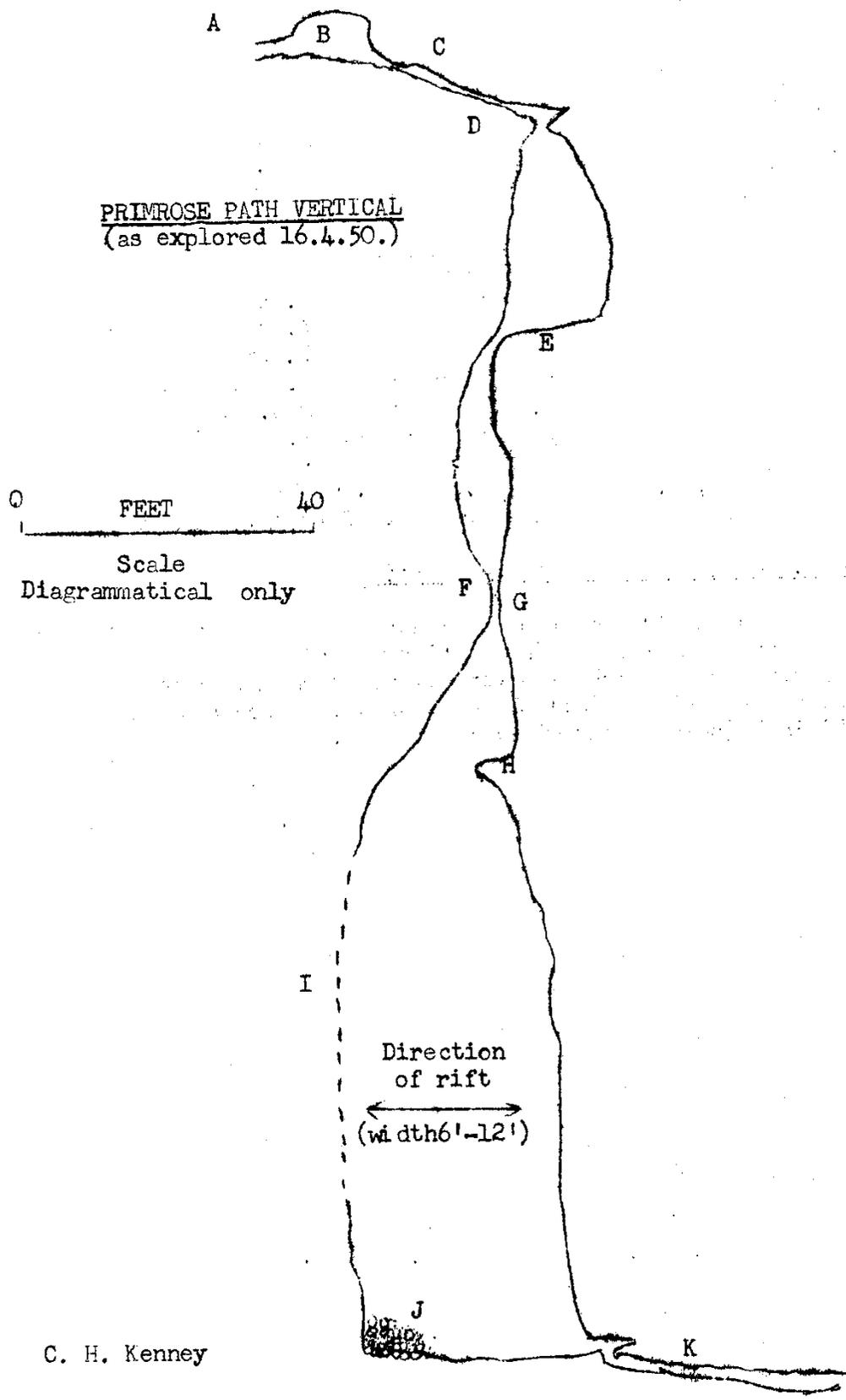
- A. Miss Johnson's squeeze (now Mrs. Murrell).
- B. The 'Stooges Chamber' where those who have dined too well have to await.
- C. A 20' very narrow squeeze, the return through which is impossible without a rope, known as 'Featherbed Lane'.
- D. A very awkward hole giving access to the 'Pot'. The ladder inclines to slip into a 6" gully running back into passage C. A bar is necessary to prevent this. The rock at this point is rather unstable, but everywhere else is exceptionally stable, and free from loose material.
- E. The first landing stage 30' below point D, approximate size 12' x 4'. Covered with loose stones.
- F. A tiny ledge with room for one person only, 70' below point D.
- G. A moderate squeeze.
- H. Landing Stage 95' below D, 6' x 2'6". The descent over the lip to the last stage of the vertical is difficult and a bar is again needed to prevent the ladder slipping into a gully.
- I. The features of this wall are uncertain. Owing to the presence of an unexplained draught up

the vertical and a pile of scree at J, it is suspected that there are incoming passages on this side. They would be with the dip.

J. A pile of scree, with several pieces of Old Red Sandstone 175' below D.

K. A narrow passage with mud-coated walls, terminating in the same was as the end passage of the fashionable part of Eastwater.

It is stressed that this Section is diagrammatical only, as one descent has been made of the bottom 80', and observation from the ladder was difficult. Depths are reasonably accurate the lengths of ladders being known.



PRIMROSE PATH VERTICAL
(as explored 16.4.50.)

0 FEET 40

Scale
Diagrammatical only

Direction
of rift
↔
(width 6'-12')

C. H. Kenney

New Members.

Miss E. Brewer	L. Brewer	M. Brewer
R. Bruce	I. A. Dear	D.G. Goldie
E.K. Ham	E.J. Humphrey	F. Mead
Mrs. F. Mead	D. J Read	F. Rhodes
<u>Hon. Member.</u>	F. G. Balcombe	

Officers and Committee for 1950/51

President	H.E. Balch, esq.
Chairman	A.J.S. McMillan
Hon. Secretary	F. Frost
Hon. Treasurer	G. Williams
Hon. Asst. Sec.	Mrs. L.S. Millward
Hon. Gear Curator.	L. Devenish

Committee.

P. Dolphin, W. H. Donnon, P. Harvey, H. Kenney, Com. Lawder, L. S. Millward, Mrs. H. Murrell, D. Parsons, D. Thomson.

Hon. Secretary's Report for 1949/50

The Club's membership now stands at 128, this figure includes 12 Honorary Members. In addition we have three affiliated Clubs, Bristol Grammar School Caving Club, Thornbury Grammar School Caving Club, and British Cellophane 21 Group. There are three cases of "joint" (husband and wife) membership.

Club trips have been run to all the major caves of Mendip but the attendance at these was somewhat variable. At ore meet, Longwood Swallet, the only member present was the leader H. Kenney. Hywel Murrell suggested the reintroduction of the pre war custom of running mid-week evening Club trips, and the meet at Sandford Levy was highly successful, resulting in an attendance of 12 members and friends. Although not strictly in the club year under review, I feel that mention should be made of the Water Divining Field Day. Advantage was taken of this event to hold a social 'get together' and from reports received the whole affair appears to have been highly successful. Our thanks are due to the Asst. Hon. Secretary, who organised the social side of the event and from whom the suggestion to hold this type of function originated.

Perhaps the main item of interest from the purely caving angle was the discovery of the new pitch in Eastwater. The discovery and descent of this vertical completed the work that was commenced by a group of members which included Messrs. Dolphin, Paddock, Low, Lender, Wilkins and others, and it was only the tightness of the passage to the head of the vertical that prevented those named from completing the exploration. As it was, a member of much smaller girth, Howard Kenney was invited to make the descent, and this he did with a party of his

friends. Any disappointment that may be felt in view of the fact that there appears to be no apparent way on from the bottom of the pitch, is softened by the fact that those of us who cannot pass the tight spot are not barred from what may well have been a major cave discovery.

P. Harvey has been the instigator of several digs but to date none have met with any success, and the club dig at Barrow Rake has rather faded out.

The London Group's work at Lamb Leer has continued and it is hoped that their efforts will soon be rewarded with the success it deserves. In addition to its work at Lamb Leer members of the Group have undertaken digs at the Hillgrove Swallet.

In general it would appear that the caving boom immediately following the end of the war has somewhat eased, and there has not been quite as much activity on Mendip during the year, but one rather gathers that important work, of exploration has been proceeding on Mendip and discoveries are pending that will greatly stimulate our interest in the caves of Mendip.

There was no official Club trip to France this year but members continue to be very interested in the caves of that country, both from the prehistoric and sporting angles. At least three parties of Club Members visited the South of France, some for the second or third time.

We have tried to make the circular more interesting to members but we can only continue to do so with the co-operation of members, and we do hope that we shall receive more articles on caving and allied subjects. We are all interested in the activities of each and every member of the Club and in particular we would like to receive from members details of their caving careers to enable the series commenced in a recent circular to be continued. There is also the point that the publication in the circular of work and discoveries of members will go a long way towards preventing the publication in the Press of Distorted and inaccurate accounts of happenings in the caving world.

Finally we would like again to put on record our grateful thanks to those members whose work has contributed so much toward the smooth running and welfare of the Club.

Frank Frost.

ANNUAL DINNER

Wickenden's Restaurant on October 7th saw the club meeting as an entity perhaps, some may say, an all too infrequent occasion. For the benefit of the few unhappy ignorant it was the occasion of our Annual Dinner and get-together.

As usual the former was good, the latter, maybe unusually, was a real get-together and likened to a certain memorable dinner before the war when a wet stream pitch was made of a staircase well. It is a relief ("Disappointment" did someone mutter?) to record that such zeal for indoor caving was not, this time, carried to such heights of realism; doubtless a relief also to Mine Host and our Treasurer! Nevertheless, X-----'s vice or Patent Party Rift Chamber was more than sufficient for those of us who prefer say, G.B., to Longwood. Beyond all doubt this gadget set the evening going and once going, it went, as all will remember, very rapidly (and to confess,

pretty noisily) until midnight and gone.

It was good to have with us representatives from other major caving clubs of the West, and good too was the unanimity that met the plea for more inter-club co-operation and pooling of knowledge without losing a club individuality and that friendly rivalry which is a great factor in the actual gaining of knowledge.

It was a memorable evening and has set a criterion for future similar events and as for future meets, do not let us forget that we are a club and can, as this evening showed gather as one. Why not more often? (Supper fixed for December 13th Hon. Sec.)

R. Dancey.

DERBYSHIRE MEET (Hon. Sec.)

The Club's weekend trip to Derbyshire attracted an attendance of 15 and thanks to the Stoke on Trent Pot Hole Club, the event was a great success. Peak Cavern, Eldon Hole, and Giants Hole were visited, and in addition two "Show Caves", Speedwell Mine and Treak Cliff Cavern.

We are indeed indebted to Roy Midwinter, Dick Fletcher and Reg. Bennett and Company for all their good work in organising and arranging these trips, and the accommodation at "Spital House". To most of us the high light of the arrangements was the provision of hot soup after the trips to Peak, Eldons and Giant Hole. There is a lot to be said for this hot soup idea, even if it does mean that a "Primus" has to be kept going in a car being driven a couple of miles between caves. The only complaint heard was Dick Fletchers "Burnt as usual."

The whole event went so well that requests have been received asking for more of this type of event, and we hope to include a couple of events of a similar nature in 1951.

PEAK CAVERN by T. H. Stanbury

On the evening of 15th September, some 14 members of the W.C.C. travelled to Castleton, arriving at various times. The writer arrived in the early hours of Saturday morning, after being held up by mist and a faulty pilot.

Rising bright and early on Saturday morning we set off together with our hosts, the Stoke on Trent Pot Hole Club, to Peak Cavern.

An advance party had vanished about an hour before ourselves bearing large lengths of armoured hose pipe to the cave to "drain a siphon", and soon we were following in their wake up the entrance path to the cave.

The vestibule of Peak. Cavern is extremely impressive and as we waited for the gate to be opened we could see the old ropewalk apparatus that is set up below the arch. From this entrance chamber our path led along the western side of the ropewalk and looking across to the opposite wall we could see the Swine Hole Passage where the C.D.G. have been so active. The

end of the first chamber has been walled up and passing through the gate in its centre, we found ourselves in the "show-cave" proper.

Passing along the passage and beside the River Styx we entered the Great Chamber from which there is an alternative entrance to the cave from nearby Cave Dale. On our return journey through the cave we saw that it was a large chamber with a large boulder slope running up on the western side. It is above this slope that the Cave Dale passage comes in.

From the Great Chamber we descended a few steps to the Half-Way House and from there followed the stream under the Five Arches to our changing place, which was a fairly level space at a bend in the passage.

Upstream the water deepened into the sump of Buxton Water, also a scene of C.D.G. exploits and the water-sealed entry into the new inner series so recently discovered by the divers. Our entry into this system was to be through the alternative entrance found by the party of attendants and helpers during diving operations, and was, we hoped, going to be far easier than diving through a very wet and cold trap.

Changing into our caving kit we set off at right angles to the main passage through the Victoria Cavern, and shortly afterwards saw a pool of water ahead. This pool or rather series of pools, Speedwell Water Passage, was about three feet deep and extended under the arched roof for some considerable distance. The roof was low, the water was very cold, and we were warm from the exertion of changing and our walk through the cave.

We entered the water very diffidently and emerged with chattering teeth on the further side. A few minutes walk brought us in sight of the two lengths of armoured hose that indicated that the sump was very near.

We climbed up over a slippery pile of boulders and followed the two hoses down through a small hole into what except for the action of the hoses would have been a sump. Paddling on all fours through liquid mud there was soon enough headroom to stand up and we followed an ever enlarging tunnel into the hill. At first the going was through ankle deep mud, but this soon gave way to sand and then to boulders and then passing over a watershed we followed the passage downhill. The downward slope was very different to the other, a deepening channel in the floor showing the action of the still flowing vadose stream. Here in places could be seen the meanders of the stream whilst cutting its present channel.

The passage ended in a 20 ft. drop Ford's Pot into the master cave, along which flowed the stream which we had seen issuing from Buxton Water. Climbing down to this passage we followed it downstream to where the guide lines of the C.D.G. appeared and the roof met the water on the other side of the Buxton Water Sump. The passage had that "hammered" effect noticeable in certain Mendip Caves and we waded in water varying in depth from three inches to three feet all the way. The air temperature in the cave was about 52 deg., three degrees colder than Mendip and the water was likewise colder too; never before in a cave except in the Pyrenees have my feet become progressively colder as they did that day.

Returning upstream we congregated at the foot of the ladder, the tobacco addicts had a smoke and then we proceeded on upstream. The system seemed endless. As we progressed against the flow of the stream, we entered a chamber with a reputed high level passage. Several persons tried to climb it without success and we moved onto the end of the passage which ended in another sump.

Retracing our steps towards the ladder we turned off to the right and climbed up to a smaller passage which led us by way of a number of waist deep pools to the only large formation seen in the entire cave. This was a creamy yellow waterfall of stalagmite that cascaded down from a rift.

Again returning to the master cave we climbed a small waterfall at Squaw's Junction and entered a small muddy passage which forked after a few feet. Taking the right-hand fork we followed this passage until it ended in a very high aven with quite a considerable echo. A ledge at about 12 feet from the floor was investigated and was found to be choked so we returned via the waterfall to the main passage and so to the rope ladder.

The return to the sump was without event but upon reaching it we found that the "demand" had overtaken the "supply" and that the two hoses had drained themselves dry and so emptied with the result that the sump had become partly filled again. Crawling through on all fours with the water up to our chins and about 6 to 8 inches of airspace, we regained the main cave without incident and happily splashed through the pools that had caused so much joy on the inward journey to our base where we were soon changed and imbibing hot soup thoughtfully provided by the S.P.C.

A touch of comedy was provided when George Williams in his scanties completed his toilet in the stream in front of a crowd of sightseers, who no doubt thought that he was an inhabitant of that particular cave.

In all we travelled in the neighbourhood of three miles underground and a very fine time was had by everyone.

"YORKSHIRE"

The official Wessex & Stoke-on-Trent meet having finished on September 17th four members of the party (L. Devenish, H. C. Kenney, C. Vowles and D. M. M. Thomson) set off for Horton-in-Ribblesdale to look at as many of the Yorkshire caves and Pots in the Ingleborough area, as time would permit. Our treatment at the hands of the Proprietor of the "Golden Lamb" proved to be good and we were permitted to dry wet and malodorous caving gear by the kitchen range.

The first evening was occupied in walking to Hull Pot, reached by a stony track east of the village. It is a remarkable hole, with vertical sides, some 60 feet deep and 210 by 60 feet across. A stream flows in from the eastern side.

On the Tuesday it was decided to explore a cave system feeding Alum Pot. Thornber's "Pennine Underground" describes the position. A single stream, formed by the confluence of many

resurgences in the valley flows into Upper Long Churn cave, from this cave to Lower Long Churn, and subsequently into Diccon Pot. Pleasant relief from the irksome duty of caving is afforded here by the stream's coming up for air before entering the next cave. Upper Long Churn commences with a pot called "Dr. Bannister's Hand Basin", where the stream flows rapidly down a chute to enter a deep pot, into which unfortunate potholers (a species similar to the subterranean animal "caver" of Mendip) may carelessly but harmlessly precipitate himself. The remainder of this cave and Lower Long Churn is rather an uninteresting stream passage. From Lower Long Churn a crawl leads to a girder pool and a chamber with concretions. A 40 ft. rope climb leads to a platform in the side of Alum Pot. The exploration of Diccon Pot was terminated by a very wet vertical which gives one no inclination to prove that the stream feeds Alum Pot.

Later we had a look at "God's Bridge" on the Greta River, which the Deity had constructed on clint through which the stream had found its way.

The next day was devoted to climbing the slopes of Ingleborough a looking at the Gaping Gill region. Gaping Gill is well worth a visit even if only a surface examination be made. Two other caves, the Rat Hole and Disappointment Pot were seen and G.G. was adequately photographed. The Rat Hole and Disappointment Pot connect with G.G. and the Rat Hole takes quite a fair stream. Lack of tackle was one factor preventing exploration.

The evening was occupied in the accustomed manner but next day the return journey was accomplished in safety.

D. M. M. Thomson.

NEW CLUB BYE-LAW

"All ladders, ropes and other portable tackle shall be examined and/or tested at six monthly intervals in the presence of the Gear Curator, by a sub-committee consisting of three members, the said sub-committee being appointed by the committee".

FUTURE EVENTS

November 28th. General discussion evening: The Committee hope that members will come along and voice their opinions on caving and allied subjects.

November 26th. Trip to Lamb Leer. Com. Lawder

December 10th. Full Swildons. D. Thomson and Howard Kenney will take any members of the party who may wish to go on to Swildons 2, through sump, 1, and show them the entrance to the newly discovered parts of the cave.

December 13th. Club Supper at the Bell Hotel, Wrington.

December 31st. Longwood Swallet

January 7th G.B. Cave, Donald Thomson.

January 9th. Lecture. Jack Duck, Cave Surveying.

Public Lecture. The Museum Lecture Hall. November 13th. Dr. K. Oakley Fossil Man, Recent discoveries.

B.U.S.S. Programme of Lectures, 1950/51 Members of the W.C.C. are invited to attend the following lectures.

November 27th. John Charlton. "The work of the Department of Ancient Monuments.

December 11th. J. K. Pitts. "The Coolagh River Cave".

January 22nd. W. A. Seaby. "Ancient British Coinage".

February 5th. G. Warwick. "The Caves of the Manifold Valley".

February, 19th. M. A. C. Hinton. "Cave Fauna".