



CLUB NEWS

Club Officials

The posts of Hut Harden, Editor, Librarian and Hut Booking Officer are not nominated and voted upon at the Annual General meeting, but are appointments made each year by the new Committee. At a Committee meeting on 21st October, 1962, the following were unanimously re-elected!

Hut Harden - George Pointing

Editor - Christopher Hawkes

Librarian - Jim Hanwell

Hut Bookings - Eb Hanwell, who has very kindly offered to continue these duties from outside the Committee.

Hut Bookings

Postal bookings can be made with E. Hanwell, 8 Hooper Avenue, Wells, for both the Hillgrove and Eastwater huts, or by entering your name in the diary kept for the purpose at Hillgrove. If you have booked and have not been sent a key the hut will be open at the time you stated for arrival. If you have not booked and decide at the last minute to visit Mendip then by all means just turn up - if there is bed space you are welcome to it, if not the floor can be comfortable. You can make urgent last minute enquiries regarding hut bookings by phoning Howard Kenney, Wells 2468.

Tackle

Thanks to the energies of our Tackle Warden 500 ft. of ladder is now available for use by Club Members. However, only sufficient for normal use on Mendip (about 140 ft.) is kept at Hillgrove. This may be booked in much the same way as hut reservations, either postally at the same time as writing to Eb Harwell or by booking in the diary. If you have booked tackle and have not been sent a key then, like the hut, you will find it unlocked when you arrive.

Members wishing to take tackle away from Mendip should make application to the Tackle Warden or the Secretary, giving plenty of notice so that Committee approval can be obtained if the period of loan is at all extended.

NOTE: A 20 ft. length of ladder has recently been reported missing from Hillgrove, any news of its whereabouts would be welcome.

Subscriptions

The Hon. Treasurer is looking forward to receiving subscriptions, which are now due.

Affiliated membership 3/9

Full Membership 15/-

Joint Membership 17/6

### Survey Scheme

The following surveys are now available. The cost includes postage, and the surveys are sent in 12" x 15" envelopes. Members requiring unfolded copies should send a tube and 9d. extra to cover additional postage, orders, with cash, to: C.H. Kenney, Tudor Cottage, Beryl Lane, Wells, Somerset.

Swildons Hole 1/1500	4s.0d.
Swildons Hole 1/2000	3s.0d.
Eastwater Cavern (2 sheets)	7s.0d.
Stoke Lane Slocker	4s.6d.
St.Cuthberts Swallet (B.E.C. Caving Report No. 8)	4s.3d.
Lamb Leer Cavern	4s.0d.
Balch Cave – Plan	4s.0d.
Balch Cave – Cross Sections	4s.0d.
Holwell Cavern	3s.3d.
Quaking House Cave, Milverton	2s.9d.
Threaplans Cave	3s.6d.
Pate Hole, Yorkshire	2s.9d.

### Found

Gent's wrist watch at Cow Hole during September. Please apply to the Secretary.

### Club Ties

Several members have expressed interest in wearing a Club tie. The price is obviously directly related to the quantity ordered and is likely to be over the 17/6d. mark for the sort of numbers we would be likely to sell in a reasonable time. The Committee feel unable to make an order without being sure of the demand, so, if you are interested, place a definite order with the Secretary now, send no money until requested. If insufficient orders are forthcoming the idea will unfortunately have to be abandoned.

### New Members

Re-elected 30.9.62: J.C. Candy, Dept. of Geology, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Elected 30.9.62:

- J.W. Brittain, 52 Rotherwick Rd., London, N.W.11.
- J.E. Buckingham, 7 Birstall Green, South Oxhey, Herts.
- J.M. Calvert, 16 Weatherly Avenue, Odd Down, Bath.
- D.W. Carlton, King George's House, Stockwell Road, London, S.W.9.
- J.R. Johnson, "Green Mount", Mendip Hospital, Wells.
- R.A. Lee, Brookhan House, Bracknell, Berks.
- R.H.C. Markham, "Wetherby", Locking, Nr .Weston-Super-Mare.
- F. Morland, 4 Church Street, Westbury, Wilts.
- M.G. Simmons, 10a Berwick Road, Shrewsbury, Salop.

Elected 21.10.62:

- Mr. & Mrs. L.C. Bridges, 62 Wentworth Road, Barnet, Herts.
- F.G. Darbon, 43 Arthur Henderson House, Fulham Road, London, S.W.6.

Mrs. J.T. Manktelow (Joint), Heathbourne Cottage, Heathbourne Road, Bushey Heath, Herts.  
C.A. Taylor, 59 Warwick Gardens, London, W.14.  
D.A. Waddington, 30 Clyde Road, Redland, Bristol 6.  
C.R. Wellard, 17 Wandle Side, Wallington, Surrey.

### Charterhouse Caving Committee

The Committee's business is nearing its final stages and it will not be long before permits to enter the Bristol Waterworks controlled areas will be required. The Club has the necessary insurance and will have the power to issue to members three-year permits on behalf of C.C.C. Little actual restriction of caving within the area should be encountered by members though it is intended to put an effective gate on the Longwood/August Hole system, the key to be held by Mr. Young of Lower Farm- This will be obtainable on production of a valid permit. Further details will be announced before the scheme comes into operation.

### CLUB MEETS

2nd December Cheddar Caves- Opportunity to visit some of the lesser caves of Cheddar Gorge, many possibilities, depending upon demand and access. For details see "The Caves of Mendip" by N. Barrington. Leader L.W.E. Devenish. Meet outside Goughs Cave 11.0 a.m. No limit on numbers.

7th/8th December Cow Hole. The dig progresses satisfactorily. Alan Surrall, the organiser (25 Beverley Court Road, Quinton, Birmingham 32), expects a spectacular entry to the cave within a short time if support is forthcoming. Teams of 8 are now desirable owing to the depth reached.

16th December Wookey Hole. Leader L.W.E. Devenish, Washingpool, Chilcote, Hornington, Wells. Besides visiting the Show Cave members will have the opportunity of exploring the upper levels by kind permission of the management. Limit - 20. Meet in the Lower Car Park 10.30 a.m.

5th January Pine Tree Pot (Cave recently discovered by M.C.G. Two pitches, both relatively straightforward and dry.) Names to Leader; P. Davies, "Morley", Silver Street, Nailsea., Bristol. Meet at the Stirrup Cup, 3.0 p.m.

### U.B.S.S. SESSIONAL MEETINGS

All meetings are on Mondays at 8.15 p.m. in the Geography Lecture Theatre.

3rd December "The Changing Face of Neolithic Britain" by Mr.G. Sieveking, M.A., F.S.A.

21st January "The Caves of N.W.Clare" by B.R. Collingridge, B.A.

4th February "The Mineralisation of the Mendip Hills" by Dr. Ian Ford, Ph.D.

18th February Title not yet known. Mr. Leslie Adcock. M.A., F.S.A.

4th March Annual General Meeting.

9.0 p.m. Presidential Address "The Mythical Massacre at Glastonbury Lake Village"  
As in previous years, Wessex members are always made welcome.

### Fund for Jack Waddon's Widow and Children

Your attention is drawn to the fund which has been opened jointly by the three Clubs to which Jack belonged on Mendip - Wessex, Cave Diving Group and the Bristol Exploration Club. It has the support of other Mendip Clubs and a target of £500.

Any member who has not already been approached personally by the Hon. Secretary or his wife is asked to support this fund for Jack Waddon's widow and two young children. Donations to the Secretary, please. Cheques made payable to "P.Davies" on behalf of the fund.

Response has already been very encouraging. The Secretary, however, although he would like to acknowledge every donation, intends to devote the time to raising further funds so please accept his thanks as a matter of course.

Hon. Secretary: P. Davies, "Morley", Silver St., Hailsea, Bristol.

Phone: Nailsea 9.

Hon. Asst. Secretary: D.J. Causer, 19 Kennore Crescent, Filton Park, Bristol 7.

Hon. Treasurer; Mrs. B.M. Willis, 3 Cathedral Green, Wells, Somerset.

Editor: C.J. Hawkes, 147 Evington Lane, Leicester.

Hut Bookings: E.R. Hanwell, 8 Hooper Ave., Wells, Somerset.

## OBITUARY

### E.J. WADDON

Jack Waddon joined the Club 14 years ago, but his interest in caving began while he was still at school. His inquiring mind soon caused him to take a serious interest in the scientific aspect of caves and caving, and his study and knowledge of geology, particularly in its application to caving, qualified him to speak with authority on the subject.

A large part of his National Service was spent in Germany and he took this opportunity of visiting and studying the caves and limestone areas of both Germany and Austria. About this time he began to take an interest in cave diving and it was not long before this became his major caving interest. He was an active diver of the Cave Diving Group and it was while practice diving in Mineries Pond that he met his tragic death.

Jack, who was 30 years of age, possessed a wonderful personality. He was utterly sincere in all he said or did and endeared himself to everyone he met. The large number of friends who attended his funeral at Taunton was a measure of the high regard in which he was held by us all.

The bearers included members of the Bristol Exploration Club, the Cave Diving Group and the Wessex Cave Club.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family, his wife and two young children.

F.W.FROST

## SECRETARY'S REPORT 1961/62

The year has been a very busy one for the Committee, who have reviewed almost every aspect of Club activities. The general membership, too, has been more active both underground and with help on the administrative side.

The Committee have met nine times during the year; attendances have been excellent and were better than 90%. Committee minutes have run to 28 closely typed foolscap sheets.

During the year the Assistant Secretary was forced to resign (Temporarily) owing to his imminent departure with the Trans-African Expedition, but his place was temporarily but amply filled from the ranks of the Committee. The resulting Committee vacancy was soon filled.

In all we have lost 28 members; the most grievous was that of the veteran Mendip caver, Harry Savory, who died after a short illness. He was to the last actively associated with Wessex, taking a keen interest in the affairs of the affiliated clubs. Five others (including a joint member) have resigned due to diminishing opportunity and waning interest in caving, 22 failed to renew their subscriptions; this latter figure is about the same, I think, as in previous years. A total of 61 new members has been welcomed to the Club (including 4 joint) bringing the total membership up to 264 - to my knowledge the highest it has ever been. Several applications for membership were received from persons under the age of 16 during the year. In view of the increasing frequency of such applications, particularly in recent months, the Committee have latterly asked all such applicants to await a decision pending discussion of the whole subject at this meeting. I hope that Item 9 on the Agenda will give the new Committee some guidance on this real problem.

Eleven caving organisations are affiliated to Wessex, an increase of two since last year. Some difficulties were experienced earlier in the year with affiliation, but the Committee hopes the proposed new rule will help to avoid such misunderstandings in future. They wish it to be known that the principle of affiliation has never been seriously questioned and that their aim remains to encourage and help recognised clubs attached to educational establishments and youth organisations to cave safely and responsibly.

The outstanding feature of Club activities this year has been the number and diversity of its weekend meetings. Twenty-five have been arranged (excluding Club Dig dates) and have been attended by some 390 members. Apart from meets on Mendip, the Club has visited Yorkshire, Derbyshire, South Wales (4 times), Devon and Steep Holm. It is obvious that no one person has been responsible for organising all these meets and the Club owes its gratitude to many individuals, from outside the Committee as well as from within it, for the tremendous amount of work and energy (particularly in the case of away meets) that they have put into them. The organisers have the satisfaction that their efforts have been crowned with success and have been appreciated. 'The Club Dig', a phrase missing from the Wessex vocabulary

in recent years, has been equally enthusiastically supported. Inevitably the burden of decision and technical work and in some cases spade work too, has fallen on two dedicated diggers, the similarity of Christian names has been confusing on occasions. On something like ten weekends during the spring and summer they have been amply assisted by quite a large proportion of the active membership of the Club. In the early days when spoil was being removed bodily from the shakehole, and more recently when concrete pipes were being installed, it was a common sight to have 20 or more helpers during a weekend. Members of Bristol Grammar School Caving Club, an affiliated Club, have been prominent amongst the helpers. Although the cave is not open yet success, I feel, is near and undoubtedly deserved.

Exploration of caves generally is becoming less and less the prerogative of one Club. It is, therefore, not disturbing, or a matter for disappointment, to find that Wessex have made no startlingly new discoveries during the year. Rather is it a matter of pride that we have been associated with most of the recent advances, particularly in Swildon's. More recently members have contributed to the exciting new extensions to Stoke Lane, Sidcot School Speleological Society, another affiliated club, has contributed to the work of discovery in Swildon's, much to their credit.

Wessex members have kept up their output of new cave surveys, probably redoubled them with the production of a new survey of Lamb Leer, and surveys of Balch Cave, Quaking House Cave and Withybrook, as well as several minor caves in various parts of the country. It is hoped that those responsible for their production will have the surveys on display after this meeting.

The Club Huts have been well used again this year. Thanks largely to the strenuous efforts of the Hut Warden, big changes at the Hillgrove site are noticeable, "Gash Swallet" has been opened and is in use, an elegant incinerator greets one's emergence from the kitchen door and one no longer stumbles to the car park over muddy, boulder-strewn paths - concrete paths make the journey much less hazardous. Hut maintenance has not been neglected, Creosote and tar have been applied to walls and roofs; windows and doors have been painted. Running water within the hut has not yet become fact, but is far less of a luxury only to be dreamed of than it was earlier in the year.

Eastwater Hut has been used considerably more this year. Hardly a weekend goes by when it is not inhabited. This must be mainly due to the improved comfort, and, of course, the calor gas, installed by a retiring Committee Member. It was proposed during the year to renew and extend the roof of this hut to form a porch and toilet. Nothing has been done to date in view of the estimated cost of £12-£15, but the problem will have to be faced by the new Committee.

Arrangements for Hut Bookings have proceeded very smoothly throughout the year. Inevitably a little inconvenience has been caused to members by parties of visitors at Hillgrove, but when possible these have been limited to weekends when few members have booked in. The huts need to be occupied,

particularly in the winter months, as they keep much dryer and comfortable the more they are used. The Hut Booking Officer retires as a Committee Member this year, but has generously offered to continue with his valuable work from outside the Committee if he should be asked to do so.

Insurance generally has been thoroughly reviewed by the Committee. The Assistant Secretary has negotiated further cover on behalf of the Club, particularly in respect of the huts, which are now covered for damage by storm and tempest as well as fire and theft, to the tune of:

Hillgrove Hut	£1,000 – contents	£250.
Tackle Hut	£30 – contents	£50.
Eastwater Hut	£100 – contents	£50.

The Club now possesses nearly 500' of lightweight ladder. The Tackle Warden has devoted much of his spare time to this laborious job. To him we owe the fact that members can, and have, taken away from Mendip enough tackle to do most Yorkshire and Derbyshire Pots, whilst still leaving enough for everyday Swildon's, Eastwater and Lamb Leer visits.

Every member can see and appreciate what the Editor has accomplished during the year. Five Journals and a Newsletter, all of wide interest and high quality. The increase in Journal size simplifies production considerably - however it is still a big job, made easier by owning our own duplicator and by passing on the work from person to person as each stage proceeds. What we really lack is a "Production Manager".

The Librarian has spent a lot of time cataloguing and sorting books and publications that the Club has accumulated over the years. Lists of literature kept at both the Reference Library at Hillgrove, and the Lending Library at the Librarian's home, have appeared in the Journal. Both libraries have been considerably augmented recently by several gifts from members and a few purchases. I hope the library will continue to grow as steadily in the future.

One of the services introduced for the benefit of members during the year is the Survey Scheme. The Assistant Secretary has been looking after this project, and holds stocks of surveys for sale at a small profit. Tracings or duplicate tracings are held by the printers on behalf of the Club. It is hoped eventually to increase the coverage of the scheme considerably, both by acquiring new surveys of our own and approaching other clubs for tracings of their surveys. The Club provided the initial capital necessary to provide stock, and such is the demand that this has been recovered already. Future profits will be used for the furtherance of the scheme, the production of new surveys and for buying better instruments.

It is a long time since the Club has held stocks of fabric badges. The decision to re-introduce them was made despite the fact that six dozen, an economical order, seemed rather a large quantity. However, sales have been excellent and more than half have been sold. The price, 5/-, seems very reasonable for this quality of woven badge.

At about the same time metal and plastic car badges were made available and here, too, sales have justified the effort. The capital necessary to purchase economically was provided by a Committee Member - the Club has benefitted considerably from his investment. A car badge will be on display after the meeting, orders can be taken, and woven badges will be for sale.

Friendly relations have been maintained with other caving bodies, we have received invitations to, and been represented at, several Club Dinners. No difficulties with cave and land owners have been experienced. I feel it is appropriate here to wish Mr. Sealy a speedy recovery from his recent illness. We now exchange publications with most clubs caving in this area, as well as C.R.G., and the National Speleological Society of America.

Many members have taken advantage of the new arrangements made by the U.B.S.S. for visiting G.B. Cave. I wish to thank those responsible for keys and booking of the Cave for their patience and help during the year.

This report would not be complete without mentioning a very ambitious project that has been given Committee approval during the year, namely "The Mendip Atlas". It is proposed that Wessex produce an Atlas containing descriptions and surveys of all major Mendip Caves. It is to be a duplicated publication, the surveys being simplified and scaled down versions of the detailed plans that will still be available through the Survey Scheme. Eventually, for we realise how big a task it is, it is hoped to cover the whole of Mendip, but to begin with an Eastern and, later, a Central Mendip, edition is to be produced. Wessex surveys are to be used where possible, obtaining permission to print the surveys of other clubs where they exist and where it would obviously be impracticable and undesirable to produce our own. A start has been made on preparing photographic reductions of existing surveys and filling the gaps in the list of surveys of the Eastern Mendip Caves. However, this is only a start, a lot of work remains to be done before results can be seen.

The Club, I am sure, will join with me in thanking the three retiring Committee Members for their valuable services to the Club during their years in office:

Eb Hanwell since 1953

Bob Woolley, intermittently since 1956

David Willis since 1952.

Space obviously does not permit a catalogue of the ways in which they have helped the Club, but they have set a high example to those who take their place.

In closing this, my first report, I wish to say how much I am indebted to the co-operation during the year of all Officers and members of the Committee, also to thank my unofficial secretary for all the number of hours spent assisting with Club business.

I feel sure that everybody will contribute towards an equally successful year in 1962/63.

Phillip Davies,  
October, 1962.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1962

The A.G.M. of the Wessex Gave Club was held at the Cave Wan Restaurant, Cheddar, on Saturday, 20th October, 1962.

The President, looking thinner, but with all his old sparkle, took the Chair at 3.35 p.m. Brenda Willis, the Lady Treasurer, was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Mrs. S.P. Yeo. There were 72 members and guests present.

Apologies for absence included Alan Ash, Graham Balcombe, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Berrill, Eric Giles, Ken Humphries, Commander Lawder, Mr. P.H. Smith, Geoff Tudgay, Jack Waddon, Dr. Gordon Warwick and George Williams. David Causer had written from Ethiopia expressing his keenness to be home in early December after his trans-African expedition.

The President warned us to behave ourselves at dinner, as we were receiving a Very Distinguished Guest. His warnings were not noticeably unheeded.

The Minutes of the 24th A.G.M. were then read and signed by the President. There were two Matters Arising.

Water Supply at Hillgrove. The Committee had been asked to investigate the possibility of getting main water supply to Headquarters. Mr. G. Pointing reported that this would cost £250, which was considered rather a lot, particularly since the Club did not own the property. An additional tank of 250 galls. was to be installed for rainwater and Mr. Sealy had promised us the catchment area of his new Dutch barn. He could not promise to pump water for us from his own supplies in time of drought, because this was just when he most needed it himself. It was proposed by Dr. O.C. Lloyd and seconded by Mr. A.D. Oldham that the Committee be asked to pursue the matter of rainwater supply and not consider getting piped water from the mains. This was carried with one dissident (Mr. Pointing!).

Membership Cards. Mr. T.H. Stanbury again pointed out the advantages of having these cards. He said it helped to identify oneself when with other clubs, especially on the continent, and to get reduced rate visits to show caves (Not in Cheddar!). Mr. J.D. Hanwell, who had been looking into the matter with a Wells Printer, told us that cloth-covered cards (blood-donor type) with gilt crest would cost £21.17s.6d. for 500. Leatherboard cards (driving licence type) £12. to £14. depending on whether one had gilt lettering or not. Cardboard with ordinary printing £9. to £10. After discussion, during which it was pointed out that the Club could afford the expense and that Members would not be charged individually for their cards, Mr. Stanbury proposed, seconded by Mr. D. Willis, that the Club should spend not more than £21. on membership cards. The motion was defeated by 28 votes for, to 30 against.

The Hon. Secretary's Report for 1961/62, which had been circulated, was taken as read. He regretted that he had omitted to mention in it the President's recent illness, and expressed his hopes that the good progress

would continue. The President said that we ought not to have overlooked the death of Prof. L.S. Palmer, one-time Vice-President of our Club. He recalled Prof. Palmer's boyish enthusiasm on being appointed Curator of the Wells museum in 1954. With a slight difference of opinion about the colour of the Wessex Dragon, Mr. H. Murrell, seconded by Dr. Lloyd, proposed the adoption of the Hon. Secretary's Report. This was carried and followed by a vote of thanks to the Hon. Secretary for all the work he had done, proposed by Mr. Stanbury.

The Hon. Treasurer's Report. The President pointed out that Mr. C.H. Kenney had in previous years not only audited the accounts but had practically presented the Hon. Treasurer's Report. This year he had again been of considerable help to the Treasurer, although the audit had been done officially by the President. It was desirable that some official status for Mr. Kenney be granted by the Meeting, so that he could once again present the Report. The Chairman (Mr. L.W.E. Devenish) proposed that Mr. Kenney be appointed General Dogsboddy to Assist the Treasurer and this was carried. The President circulated a "Break-down" sheet prepared by himself in his capacity as auditor. This is reprinted further on in this Journal, together with the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account.

Mr. Kenney said that the surplus (£31.) had not been great this year because the entire cost of the duplicator (£54.) had been written off against the year's income. This meant that we could confidently expect a larger surplus in future years. The Hut Fund stood at £131. and it would be necessary for the Meeting to decide what was to be added to it. Headquarters was paying for itself and the Eastwater Hut was bringing in more income. He then explained the purpose of the Survey Fund. This was to make cave surveys more generally available, to prevent them from getting lost and to sell then at as low a price as reasonable. The surplus was not to be used for the Club's general purposes, but was to help to finance a stock of surveys, to buy surveying equipment and to help the production of surveys in other ways, and to reduce prices. A list of the available surveys is published in this Journal on page 108.

Mr. D. Warburton explained the object of the Mendip Atlas Fund (see Hon. Secretary's Report). The cost of 500 to 1,000 copies would be about £120., but the profits, based on a realistic selling price, could reach £100. Mr. Murrell warned that if we made profits we could get taxed and suggested that the Club should look into the possibility of being registered as a charity and thus avoid taxation. Mr. Kenney admitted that, if the surveys were sold to the general public, the question of taxation might arise, but if they were sold to caving clubs and their members we might be able to wriggle out of it. Mr. C.W. Harris said that it was easy to apply to the Charity Commissioners for registration as a Charity, and that there were other advantages to be had besides the tax angle. Whether the Club would be recognised as a Charity, however, was not so certain. The test was, " Are members making a profit out of it? " If not, well and good. On being pressed for a definite opinion by Dr. Lloyd, he said that it should not be difficult for this Club to be on the right side. Mr. Murrell said that registration as a Charity would enable us to accept covenanted subscriptions, and Mr. Kenney said that

it would be accepted by the Inland Revenue Authorities. The President, finding that nobody was against the idea, said that we ought to take advantage of it, and asked the Committee to look into it as a matter of urgency in view of the impending new Act.

The Hon. Treasurer told us that good care was being taken of the duplicator. Other Clubs were only allowed to use it under supervision of one of our competent operators. Mr. E. Hanwell proposed the adoption of the Report, which was carried with a vote of thanks to the Hon. Treasurer.

Hut Fund. The President then asked Mr. Kenney to speak regarding transference of monies to the Hut Fund. Mr. Kenney suggested that we should give only £10. or £15. this year as the surplus was down. The object of this fund was once more discussed. As set out in the Rules it " is to be used only for major repairs or replacement of the main hut at the Club's Headquarters. The administration of the fund is in the hands of the Committee." The Meeting accepted the necessity of adding each year to the Hut Fund as a matter of policy. Mr. D.A. Willis suggested that the wording of the rule should be altered to make it possible to use the fund for additions to the main hut, and gave notice that he would propose a motion to this effect next year. (The Eastwater Hut is of course not covered). Mr. Kenney pointed out that whereas General Funds could be spent on the hut, the Hut Fund could be used for no other purpose, so that we need not be over-generous to it. Mr. R. Woolley asked the Committee to look into the possibility of purchasing the site, so as to prevent the question of hut replacement from arising, Dr. Lloyd, looking at the Accumulated Funds, seconded by Mr. E. Hensler, moved that £30. be transferred to the Hut Fund. The Hon. Secretary, looking at the Balance for the year, seconded by Mr. Stanbury, moved an amendment that the sum to be transferred be £15. The amendment was carried by a large majority.

Officers and Committee. There had been an election this year for the Committee and 127 valid, unspoilt votes had been cast. The President announced the votes given to each successful candidate (they are given in brackets).

Officers: President, Mr. F.W. Frost. Vice-Presidents, M. Norbert Casteret, Mrs. D.P. Dobson Hinton, Dr. E.K. Tratman, Dr. F.S. Wallis, Mr. G.H. Williams, Mr. C.W. Harris, Cdr. P.B. Lawder. Chairman, Mr. L.W.E. Devenish. Hon. Secretary, Mr. P. Davies. Hon. Asst. Secretary, Mr. D.J. Causer. Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. B.M. Willis. Gear Curator, Mr. D.J. Berry.

Committee: Mr. T.C. Bryant (85), Mr. J.D. Hanwell (102), Mr. C.J. Hawkes (100) Mr. C.R. Hobbis (65), Mr. C.H. Kenney (117), Mr. G.H. Pointing (106), Mr. R. Pyke (75), Mr. T.H. Stanbury (58), Mr. D. Warburton (105).

The President thanked the three old Committee Members who had stood down this year. Old chaps keep out new blood.

Election of Auditor. Dr. Lloyd proposed Mr. C.H. Kenney, who declined, as he will now be handling part of the Club's money (Survey Fund). Dr. Lloyd then proposed Messrs. Hucker & Booker, but the President said that this, too, had been suggested and rejected, on the grounds that it would come to the same

thing. Mr. Willis, seconded by Mr. Oldhan, then proposed that the President should do the job again. The President said he found the work interesting and was willing. He was elected Auditor for 1962/63. Mr. Devenish then proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Frost for the work he had put in and for the breakdown he had made. Mr. Frost said he did not deserve this but hoped that next year he might enlarge the breakdown so that members could get a fairly full picture of the Club's position.

Alteration of Rules. The following alteration, proposed on behalf of the Committee by Mr. Kenney, and seconded by Mr. Bryant, was passed nem. con.

Delete Rules 7 and 7B and substitute the following new Rule 7:-

"That any person desiring to join the Club must be nominated by two members and elected by the Committee. All applicants for full or joint membership or members of an affiliated club, who are under the age of 21, must obtain the permission of their parent or guardian, who will be required to sign a special form supplied by the Club. Adult members of an affiliated club must sign a form accepting the provisions of Rule 10."

Mr. Kenney said that the last sentence was new and that the motion stressed the fact that members of an affiliated club are not members of the Club. At the request of Mr. Oldhan the Hon. Secretary read out the form to be signed by parent or guardian.

The motion for altering Rule 16, as proposed on behalf of the Committee by Mr. Kenney and seconded by Mr. Bryant, with one small amendment, read as follows:-

Delete Rule 16 and substitute the following new Rule 16:- "That caving clubs or societies attached to educational establishments for minors or youth organisations may become affiliated to the Club on the approval of the Committee and subject to the inclusion in the rules of the club to be affiliated certain rules as approved by the members of the Wessex Cave Club and compliance with regulations as laid down from time to time by the Committee of the Wessex Cave Club for the time being. The subscription shall be one quarter of the subscription of an Ordinary Member of the Wessex Cave Club for each member of the affiliated club. Each affiliated club shall have one vote and receive one copy of each Journal and other Club communications.

NOTE: The concession given by this rule is normally intended for minors under 18 who are not wage earners and who are still pupils at the educational establishments concerned or active members of the affiliated youth organisations. Adults attached to an affiliated club will normally be expected to join as full members."

The President and Mr. Kenney explained the position. Affiliated club members tended to crowd out our own members at Hillgrove, so that it had had to be ruled that each club could only use H.Q. or tackle not more than six times a year. We are not trying to discourage affiliation of school groups; on the contrary, ours was the only Club which offered this kind of help, but the problem was growing. In 1960/61 the Club received 48 affiliation fees; in 1961/62 it was 137 from 11 clubs, some with only 3 and others with over 30 members. The affiliation fees came to £17., whereas the subscriptions from our 264 members came to £175. It thus appeared that one-tenth of

the income was being contributed by 34% of those able to use H.Q. facilities. To help increase the H.Q. facilities the new rule 16 proposed that the subscription of affiliated members should be one quarter that of an Ordinary Member. This meant an increase from 2s.6d. to 3s.9d., or less than a penny a week. Regarding the regulations, it was necessary for the Committee to have power to make laws applicable to affiliated members only, particularly with regard to the use of H.Q. facilities. These might have to be different for each affiliated club. It was not to discourage then but to make sure that the Club facilities were fairly shared.

Mr. Coward, for the Wells Cathedral School Affiliated Club, said that the rise in affiliation fees would adversely affect their membership and suggested that members of affiliated clubs using H.Q. facilities should pay overnight fees at the guest rate (3s.6d. per night) instead of at the Club rate (2s. for first night and 1s. for each subsequent consecutive night), so as to increase fairly the contribution made by members of affiliated clubs. He proposed an amendment, seconded by Mr. C.A.J. Beauchamp:-

"That the subscription shall be one-fifth of the subscription of an Ordinary Member of the Wessex Cave Club for each member of the affiliated club, and that members of the affiliated clubs staying at Headquarters should pay the guest rate."

This amendment was not accepted by Mr. Kenney, who saw no reason why affiliated members using H.Q. should pay so very much more than those who didn't. Mr. I. Dear also thought 3s.6d. a night was too much for a non-wage earner, though Mr. Beauchamp thought that it might be subsidized by the group to which the H.Q. user belonged. During discussion it was established that rules were not regulations. Rules can only be made by a properly constituted meeting of Members (e.g. the A.G.M.). Regulations can be made by the Committee at any time. The amendment was defeated by a large majority and the motion carried with only two dissentients. The President then moved that the new Rule 16 be brought into force immediately, and this was accepted by the Meeting. No affiliated club had yet paid its fee for 1962/63. Dr. Lloyd asked that the Hon. Secretary should consult with the affiliated clubs before bringing in new regulations which affected them, and this was accepted.

It was then proposed by Mr. Kenney on behalf of the Committee and seconded by Mr. Bryant, that the following rules should be included in the rules of affiliated clubs:-

A. As a condition of affiliation and its continuance, the Wessex Cave Club (hereinafter referred to as "Wessex") requires all members of affiliated clubs to comply with:-

1. Rule 16 of Wessex and other rules so far as they apply to affiliated clubs.
2. The regulations of Wessex applicable to affiliated clubs.
3. The Hut Regulations and the orders of the Hut Warden.
4. The orders of the Tackle Warden when using tackle.

B. By virtue of Rule A members do not become and must not represent themselves as members of Wessex.

C. The Club shall produce to the Secretary of Wessex a copy of the Rules on request.

D. A list of the members of the Club, giving names, addresses and age, shall be furnished to the Secretary of Wessex in October of each year and the same particulars of any new member within one month of election shall be advised to the Secretary of Wessex.

These rules, which were described by Mr. Harris as natural justice modified by contract, were not controversial and were passed by 52 votes against none.

Application for membership by young persons. The Hon. Secretary opened a discussion on this topic, because the Committee wished for guidance in deciding whether to admit members under the age of 16. The Committee sometimes got applications from boys in their early teens, and unless somebody knew the boy well, it was difficult to know what to do. As soon as one fixed an arbitrary age limit one found a good reason for making an exception. In discussion it was pointed out that the problem scarcely arose in the affiliated clubs, because only the upper school boys were eligible and so they were nearly 16 before they joined. Mr. Bryant said that the problem did not arise either when the parent was willing to give an undertaking to the Club. A son in his early teens might apply because his parents wanted him to tread the right path in contact with reputable cavers. Most speakers agreed that any age limit was arbitrary and unworkable. Many suggested some sort of supervision by older cavers, a parent, "big brother", leader of a Wessex trip, until it could be seen how the applicant was shaping. Mr. R.J. Staynings suggested a junior membership, but Mr. Kenney did not like the idea of different classes of members. Youngsters who were refused membership, Mr. Staynings added, would go wandering by themselves, but the President pointed out that lack of tackle would prevent them from wandering far. Confidential reports to the Committee by the proposers, after the manner of the South Wales Caving Club was put forward as a possibility by Dr. Lloyd. Mr. Devenish threw a strong light from another angle when he asked what these boys were supposed to do when the older members went drinking on a Saturday night. "Shall we have to look after their morals as well?" The last word was with the President, who said he was sorry for the boy whose parents were too timid to let him join a caving club. Dr. Lloyd, "He sometimes gets to know Goatchurch very well." The President, "Yes, and good for him!"

The meeting ended at 6.5 p.m.

The Editor would like to express his sincere thanks to those who produced reports of the meeting, from which this one is produced.

## WESSEX CAVE CLUB 1961/62 AUDIT

### AUDITOR'S "BREAK DOWN"

#### Membership

Full	Joint	Vice-Presidents & Hon.	Affiliated
197	28	13	11 Clubs 137 members

#### Journal

Materials: £62.2.11d. Postage: £21.0.3d. (£83.3.2d.)

On a membership basis (treating each affiliated club as a single unit) the cost of the Journal is approximately 6/- per member.

#### Overnight use of the Club Huts

	Members	Visitors
Hillgrove	671	262
Eastwater	144	22

#### Postage & Phones

Hon.Secretary	£8.	18.	1.
Asst. Secretary	1.	5.	4.
Hon.Treasurer	3.	17.	10.
Editor	10.	0.	

#### Donations

O.C. Wells, J.W. Frame, D. Ford, W.I. Stanton paid £1. for their "Joint" subscription. J. Calvert paid an entrance fee on being elected a full member from affiliation. 7/6 was collected from Hillgrove in addition to the hut fees.

F.G. Balcombe: £1.0.0. Dr. D.M.M. Thomson:£1.2.6.

President: £4.2.6. No record: 10/~



WESSEX CAVE CLUB

Balance Sheet – As At 30th September 1962

Accumulated Funds –

as at 1st October 1961	£213	5	8				
<u>Add</u> Surplus for the year	<u>31</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>				
	244	12	2				
<u>Less</u> Transfer to Hut Fund	30	0	0				
Transfer to Survey Fund	5	0	0				
Transfer to Mendip Atlas Fund	<u>2</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>	206 18 10

Hut Fund

As at 1st October 1961	96	2	6				
<u>Add</u> Transfer from accumulated funds	<u>30</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>				
Interest on Investment	<u>4</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>9</u>	131	0	3	

Survey Fund

Transfer from accumulated funds	5	0	0				
Profit on sales of surveys	5	2	11	10	2	11	

Mendip Atlas Fund

Transfer from accumulated funds				2	13	4	
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Subscriptions paid in advance

23 2 6

Sundry Creditors

17 5

374 15 3

Economic Building Society Deposits:-

Deposit Share	127	5	11				
Realised Preferential Shares(Hut Fund)	<u>125</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	252	5	11	

Midland Bank Ltd.

Current Account				101	16	4	
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Survey Fund

Stock of Surveys	2	17	0				
Cash in hand	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>	10	2	11	

Mendip Atlas Fund

Cost of work to date				2	13	4	
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Stock of Cloth Badges – at cost

7 16 9

NOTE: The value of the Club's Headquarters and Equipment is not included.

374 15 3

Audited and found correct. F.W. FROST. 15.10.62

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Sir,

RE: Bryant, T. Charles. Black Quarrs Caves, Wotton Under Edge (Gloucester)  
Wessex Cave Club Journal No. 86 Vol. 7 pp 97-98 and map opp. p 97.

After reading T.C.B's article on Black Quarrs Caves I immediately proceeded to the quarry complete with entrenching tool and the current Wessex Journal. There I quickly located the features with the aid of an excellent map (ibid). At this point I put away my entrenching tool and concluded that T.C.B. is probably of an optimistic nature.

I am, however, able to give details of a more probable location some 120 yards west of the quarry, on the north side and about 25 yards from the road. It consists of two stone workings; a single entrance and a double entrance, with a passage in one of them, terminating in a roof fall. The general direction of these workings is south, towards and possibly under the road. They have a combined length of 100 feet, approximately, and have the added distinction of being an occasional winter haunt for *Rhinolophus ferrinum*. When these workings were visited (September 1962) the entrances were found to be covered with tipped debris (soil/clay) and would require more than one hour's work to open up.

Trusting to be of service,  
Yours etc.  
Fledermausfanger"

"Dear Sir,

### On the Unknown Course of Swildon's Hole

I have read with interest W.I. Stanton's account in the Wessex Journal No. 86 under the above title. Now I would like to add my quota, which is mainly historical. Perhaps the best start is the bald statement that I had the privilege of going caving with Balch fairly frequently in the decade from 1920-1930 and thereafter more spasmodically.

Stanton is of course quite right about when and why Balch changed his mind about the eventual rising of the water from Swildon's Hole. That Cheddar was the rising was based solely on the direction which Swildon's Hole took beyond the 40 ft. and on down to Sump I. It was also my good fortune to be with Balch on the first occasion when he himself went as far as Sump I. When we reached the small stream on the right not far from the sump Balch stopped, looked at it carefully and then said "this must be the Priddy Green stream". When asked why he replied "it is the right size and coming from the right direction". And that, Mr.Editor, is how the Priddy Green Stream got its name in Swildon's Hole.

I always understood that the deep pool referred to as being on the hill near the Miner's Arms was the mineries pool north of Stock Hill (ST 547516) and now often known as the Mendip Lido. Balch not once but several times told me that on two occasions to his knowledge the water had broken out of this pool southwards and had gone down where there appears to be an extra deep gruff, crossed by the road, at ST 548512 and that the water subsequently became muddy at Rodney Stoke. This is the sole proof that the pool drains to Rodney Stoke. This pool is also the only one that can possibly be called deep and "on the hill", as generally used by Balch, just meant on the top of Mendip. This proof is of course not satisfactory.

If my interpretation is correct then this line of drainage would not cross the Swildon's-Cheddar line but would cross other and well proved lines such as St. Cuthbert's-Wookey. I do not think it does cross these lines. Balch has never stated the conditions under which the break-out occurred but if it was after a heavy rainfall all the risings would become muddy, including probably Rodney Stoke although in this case not necessarily from this pool.

My own view of the destination of the Swildon's water is the same as Stanton's but Rodney Stoke is a distinct possibility. Now here I am putting up another hare, not altogether a fresh one though. On geological and geomorphological grounds it is possible that Wookey and Rodney Stoke risings are directly linked. This possibility becomes a probability when the results of the 1939 test (Frost 1939\*) between Hillgrove Swallet and the risings are considered. St. Andrew's Well, Wells, was entirely negative. Wookey Hole was strongly positive, Rodney Stoke was positive - faint but definite. Very obviously this is a test which should be repeated.

Finally, just to stir things up thoroughly, may I add that there are old risings at Rodney Stoke and at least one of them functions under fairly high water conditions, and I have them marked on my maps. These risings are fairly certainly choked for long distances but not necessarily so. So perhaps with these and the Hillgrove-Wookey Hole-Rodney Stoke line to attack it may yet be shown that the author of the pamphlet reviewed by Stanton under the heading "Election Fever" was right and that doubting Thomas' like "Clayfoot" are wrong. These are the places which might yield double the length of caves already known.

Yours faithfully,  
E.K. Tratman

\*Frost F.W. 1939 "Hillgrove Swallet 1939" Report Wells Nat. Hist. & Arch. Soc.  
& Annual Report Mendip Nature Research Comm. 1939 p.40-41."

"Dear Editor,

On the Unknown Course of Swildon's Hole

You have in the past permitted Willy Stanton and me to use the pages of the Journal for the exchange of ideas and arguments between two distant continents. I beg your further indulgence in these émigré games, to allow me to comment upon Willy's recent article, "On the Unknown Course of Swildon's Hole".

I would agree with him upon the desirability of Swildon's ultimately discharging at Wookey Hole, for broadly the reasons that he quotes. H.E. Balch's idea that Swildon's fed to Cheddar is now seen to be weakly founded - though it is supported to some extent by a favourable geological structure, the Cheddar syncline, which guides the surface valley from Priddy to the Gorge.

There are, however, problems besetting any simple link between Swildon's and Wookey Hole. In his discussion of the unknown underground water connections of the general region, W.I.S. omits two points. Firstly, concerning H.E. Balch's "known link" between the Miners' Arms and Rodney Stoke. We are not told the site of the tested sink in sufficient detail, but if it was one of those in the valley leading to St. Cuthbert's Minery (and it is in this valley that the local sinks all seem to occur), then the underground water would most probably be constrained by structure to pass through the St. Cuthbert's cave area at some level. Confluence would be likely to occur. St. Cuthbert's Swallet is known to connect with Wookey Hole. Thus the Miners' Arms sink may do so, as well.

Secondly, the M.N.R.C. report for 1939 describes a fluorescein test that Frank Frost made far to the east, in the Hillgrove sink. Samples from risings were analysed by the late Leo Palmer, who found strong positive results at Wookey Hole, and weaker coloration at Rodney Stoke.

Concerning the St. Cuthbert's Minery test, it must be pointed out that the testers were concerned only with a connection between the Minery and Wookey Hole, for the purposes of litigation. St. Cuthbert's may also connect with Rodney Stoke rising.

It would be very worth while to repeat those tests and, especially, to carry out a new series on Swildon's. But, as the only information that we have to date, they do suggest that the underground water distributes at some unknown point(s). Swildon's Hole, if it goes to Wookey, is likely also to go to Rooney Stoke, though the Wookey connection should be, volumetrically, the larger.

In his final paragraph, Willy misreads my intention in a previous article, (Journal 83, p.15). This is due to my own imprecise use of terminology. I spoke of a link up between the old phreatic route of Swildon's water, through Shatter Passage, and the modern sumping drainage downstream of Swildon's VI. This was not meant to imply any early confluence of the two systems but merely that interconnections between them might be expected to continue to occur. The low lying, (main stream), passages probably developed originally as

relatively lengthy oxbows, dropping from the Shatter Passage line and ultimately returning to it. This happened in Swildon's II, for example. A link is indicated by the draught in Shatter Passage, which blows when the main stream cave is flooding up in its lower regions.

If the two sets of passage do go, principally, to Wookey Hole, then an ultimate confluence is to be suspected. W.I.S.'s article can be read to advocate high and dry links from Swildon's to the upper, dry, discharge levels of Wookey. From our knowledge of the latter, such links are very unlikely. The old, high levels were created by water lifting upwards from the First and Second chambers. There is no sign that they extend back beyond these chambers. In the upstream, divers, sections of the cave there is, apparently, no trace of consistent high, dry levels. Local segments between chambers 9 (1), 9 (2) and 12 and 13 occur. Thus the Wookey discharge appears at all times to have gone below the present water table. If they are headed towards it, so must the Shatter Passage and main stream routes of Swildon's.

The high levels of Wookey stand only 100' or less above the water filled portion of the cave. At the Gough's complex, Willy has postulated (M.N.R.C. Annual Report 1931-2) similar ascending discharge over a vertical amplitude of 200' plus. By analogy, the Wookey rising, back of the known limits, could go much deeper below the water table than it does at present. A Swildon's-to-Wookey link is likely to remain a major diving problem.

To change the subject, it was gratifying to read (Cheramodytes, Journal 86 p.93) that the link between the "Vicarage Bend of Swildon's II and Double Trouble has been established. The discovery of the Vicarage Passage extension comes as a pleasing bonus.

What might be the relation of Vicarage Passage to the rest of the cave? In my opinion the two most likely bets are - (a) that it is an independent inlet that may lead to a new series in the Northwest area of the map, or (b) Vicarage Passage is a very roundabout link between the Black Hole Series and Double Trouble.

If Vicarage Passage were an independent inlet, it should show strong effects of vadose downcutting following the lowering of the water table to Swildon's II. As I understand the accounts of the Passage, there is only minor vadose activity. This increases the likelihood that the source of water was the higher Black Hole. Approach Passage and others captured this source (and were formed by it), whilst the water table was dropping towards II but before significant vadose cutting could occur in Vicarage Passage.

Vicarage Passage served to lift water to the Trouble Series. Analysis of the Series and Paradise Regained suggests that the lifting occurred under a stable water table, locally at 435-500 feet O.D. Across the Black Hole, the cave profile is very flat between the pitch itself and the First Boulder Choke, i.e. between 520-540 feet O.D. This and other local evidence suggests that it developed as a sumpy system along the same water table, here a little higher than in Paradise Regained.

If Vicarage Passage and the Black Hole Series are genetically linked, the connection would most likely occur in this sumpy section. A search of the Black Hole ceiling, Well Chamber and the passages between these points might repay a visit.

Abandon Hope and the northerly end of Mayday Passage probably both drew their formative water from this hypothetical passage between the upper Black Hole and Vicarage Passage.

Yours sincerely,  
Derek Ford"

"Dear Editor,

Baited by Messrs. Stanton and "Clayfoot" for indiscreet politicking I can but reply that the former has shown us the way to double Mendip's caves before October 1971. In his paper in your last issue he says that Swildon's goes to Wookey. From my 1" map I would estimate that 8% of the total distance between the two caves has been discovered so far. This has yielded, what, 15,000 feet of passage? Averaging, as Mr. Stanton does, you will see that this gives us 172,500 feet, (or 32.5 miles) of cave to be discovered in the unknown 92%, plus all of the minor tributaries such as St. Cuthbert's, Eastwater, etc., in their unknown courses.

With the increasing number of adherents that we have in Swildon's nowadays, and with the sort of effort that was put into the Cooper's Hole dig, can we doubt that this will be attained before the decade is up? In any case, we have a margin to spare over Clayfoot's required 70,035 feet in this small area of Mendip alone.

Yours sincerely,  
'Clayhanger' "

## MENDIP NOTES

### Cheramodytes

#### Jack Waddon

Your Scribe is very upset, and he knows that all the other people who knew Jack Waddon were equally shocked, when they heard that he had died after a diving accident in the Mineries Pool. Jack had been a caver for longer than me. I first met him at his 21st birthday party in the Hunters' Lodge. When he became a keen member of the Cave Diving Group I saw him quite often, and to see him was always pleasant, because he was such good company. On Saturday, 3rd November, 1962, the second assault by the divers on Stoke Lane III was to have taken place, but heavy rain made this impossible. Jack went instead to the Mineries Pool to do some diving, when something went wrong between him and his apparatus, so that he experienced acute lack of oxygen. This may come on with very little warning, and although Jack tried to free himself from his weight belt he failed to surface and flaked out. This made it very difficult to find him and Fred Davies and Mike Boon did a magnificent piece of rescue work, reviving him by mouth-to-mouth respiration, even though he had been under water for well over an hour. But strong though he was, he didn't quite make it, and died in hospital about an hour and a half later without regaining consciousness.

#### Stoke Lane III and IV

The first assault on Stoke Lane III was on the 16th September, 1962, when a further 1,000 ft. of streamway was discovered and many chambers of untold beauty. This was not the first time Sump II had been attacked. In 1956 (This Journal, Vol. 4, p. 159) John Buxton was beaten to it by getting water into his soda-lime. In 1959 (This Journal, Vol. 5, p.267) Phil Davies got half way, but found his apparatus was too bulky. Since then the divers have been making their apparatus much smaller, and this is why they have been so successful in Swildon's Hole.

Steve Wynne-Roberts was the first to get through. He was away on a rope for longer than expected and returned just as the second diver was preparing to go and look for him. He found the sump to be about 25 ft. long. The first half narrows towards the apex of a pyramid, where there is the small air space noted by Phil in 1959. After this the sump passage becomes tight with a gravel floor, and is obstructed by chert nodules in the roof. The divers rather hope to enlarge this passage, so as to make a free dive practicable. At present it is rather difficult even for them.

The stream passage of Stoke Lane III is large and resembles that of Stoke Lane II, both in type and in the fact that many beautifully decorated chambers open off it. It was explored by Steve and by Fred Davies and Mike Thompson. Jack Waddon's apparatus was rather bulky, so he couldn't get through, and Phil Davies was in reserve. They found it to be 700 ft. long and with no obstruction before it sumps. A high level route over Sump III brought them into Stoke Lane IV, where the character of the streamway changes to become much narrower, with abundant evidence of extensive and total flooding. Only a few inches of air was available in parts of this passage,

estimated at 300 to 4-00 ft. in length. Sump IV was not quite reached as the going was getting very difficult. At one place near the furthest point reached a cross rift rose overhead beyond the range of the lamps to 4.0ft. or more.

These new discoveries still need to be surveyed, and when that has been done it may be possible to find surface depressions corresponding to the caverns below. I hope history does not repeat itself, but after Marriott's accident in Wookey Hole there was no cave diving on Mendip for five years.

### Cow Hole Progress

On the 3rd November 1962 the Wessex diggers began to rejoice because of direct evidence that they were on the right route. They found the bang-wire which was used in 1940. The story of this bang, as told to me some years ago by our President was, if I remember rightly, as follows. The opening in the floor of the boulder ruckle which led to the first ladder pitch was rather narrow and the boulders rather unstable. It was considered necessary to give one of these a jolt, in the hopes that it would go down through this opening. So they clubbed together to get as much banger as they could, laid it under the boulder, arranged this wire which has now been found and fired it from a safe distance. Their disappointment was great when they heard hardly a sound. After an interval our President went down the hole to see what had happened. The answer was in the imperfect: it was still happening, so he retired rapidly. A further visit some days later showed that the shaft through the ruckle was considerably shorter than before, and that the cave had become effectively closed

This wire can now be seen hanging from a space amongst boulders in the roof of a fair sized chamber and disappearing into a loose choke in the floor. The main shaft cannot now be far away and digging continues on a life-line. All spoil has to be removed from the cave, which means that one needs a large team: one digging, five guiding the buckets, two hauling from the head of the 15 ft. deep entrance shaft, and the rest lazing about on the surface.

### Fairy Cave Quarry

Yet another cave has appeared in this quarry and was explored by a Wessex-Cerberus party on the 11th November, 1962. It consists of a steep bedding cave, 12 ft. from floor to roof, 25 to 30 ft. deep with a boulder pile at the bottom, where a "very strong stream" can be heard below. It looks as if there will be a race between George Pointing and David Berry on the one hand, who want to make it deeper, and Mr. Garlick on the other, who wants to fill it in, for fear of losing machinery down it.

### Annual Dinner

This was a very good dinner, as well it might be, considering it was the most expensive we have eaten. The record number of 132 dinners were served and guests were present from all of the main Mendip clubs and the South Wales Caving Club. Speeches were short or non-existent, since those were the instructions given by the Club's Officers. It was singularly appropriate having Oliver Wells propose the toast of "Absent Friends", since he has been among their number for the last three years. Alas, he has gone to join them again. Our Guest of Honour was the Marquess of Bath and we had the unexpected pleasure of receiving the Marchioness also.

Dr. Lloyd, acting as Toastmaster, said that we hadn't invited him because he had the finest state coach in the country or because he was in the Stately Homes Racket, but because he was a Cave Owner. In the South of England the relationship between cavers and cave owners was good, and if Lord Bath was half as nice to us as Mr. Main or Mr. Weekes, or Mr. Stock or Mr. Young, we would like him very much. Lord Bath gave a racey and entertaining address in reply, in which he told us, perhaps unnecessarily, that he didn't like making speeches, and recounted to us his adventures in an expensive retreat, where he was fed on cabbage soup without the cabbage and felt all the better for it. He also told us how much he had disliked his experiences in Cooper's Hole and congratulated us on our subterranean courage. After this Colin Paynter took us on a very free tour of Gough's Cave.

#### As other see us

I wonder whether it is better to receive a back-handed compliment or to see your contemporaries being run down. Schadenfreude! This is what the Chelsea bods think of us."Also in the first rank is the Wessex Cave Club Journal which appears three or four times a year." (I wonder where the rest went.) ...."The Club has big resources in the form of active, literate cavers and makes full use of them. Wessex men go caving with a shovel in one hand and a notebook in the other it seems; to say nothing of a compass and tape in the side pocket. The result is that anything of interest that happens beneath Mendip will be fully documented in the next Wessex Journal. In the second rank I would place the Craven Pothole Club Journal, the South Wales Caving Club Newsletter and the U.B.S.S. Proceedings ..... U.B.S.S. print annually with photographs. Cave discoveries get full coverage. Rather a mass of archaeological detail fills in the rest of the publication. In the third rank .... the Belfry Bulletin .... Contents witty and chatty, a sort of poor man's Wessex Journal."

That's the back-hander!

## QUAKING HOUSE CAVE, MILVERTON, SOMERSET

T. Charles Bryant

### INTRODUCTION

Luke Devenish, who visited this cave on 17th September 1947, recently drew my attention to it and suggested that I might care to pay a visit. The cave is on land owned by the Hon. Mrs. Edward Kidd, who gave me permission to visit it and make a survey. Applications to visit the cave must be made well in advance to the Farm Manager, Mr. P. Compton, of Milverton Stud Farm, Milverton, Somerset, specifying the proposed time of arrival. I would like to place on record my thanks to the owner, Mr. Compton and Mr. Stevens (Farm Manager of Farthings Farm) for their cooperation which made the survey possible.

### THE SURVEY

As the passages are mostly level, it was decided to save time by surveying to C.R.G. Grade IV and vertical heights are not recorded. The full survey, at a scale of one eighth of an inch to one foot (obtainable from Howard Kenney) shows major differences in floor level, but not gradual slopes; it also records a number of roof heights at significant points.

My daughter, Mary, who does not claim to be a caver, assisted with the survey and recorded the field measurements; later she checked all my computations. Measurements of length were taken to the nearest inch using a 66ft. linen tape. All offsets and roof heights were estimated. The bearings were taken to the nearest 0° 30' using a hand held prismatic compass and the line survey was computed using 4 figure trigonometrical tables. This resulted in all traverses closing with an error of less than 1% (excepting one which showed a closure error of 1.25%). These errors were adjusted in the usual way over the traverse. I am, therefore, reasonably satisfied as to the accuracy of the long unclosed traverses in the western part of the cave.

The line survey consisted of 38 major stations and the field work was completed in two visits (on 21st July and 18th August 1962). The length of the (underground) line survey was 635 ft. giving a total passage length of just under 800 ft.

### THE CAVE

The cave is situated to the north of Farthings Farm, Milverton, in a very overgrown quarry; the National Grid Reference is ST. 103258. The only printed references which I have seen are in British Caving (2nd Edition) at page 170 where one reads "The same group (East Devon Spelaeological Society) discovered ..... a small system in the Dolomitic Conglomerate near Milverton but details have not yet been published." See also Winch: British Caver XXXII pp. 13-16.

Mr. Fred Shattock of Milverton told me, in a letter, "I have often heard in my childhood days that it (the cave) led up to Quaking House, but I am inclined to think that it was fiction. With my father I used to quarry stone and burn lime there from 30 to 50 years ago and I never knew anyone go into it only a few yards."

The rock, which is a rose-red colour, is quite distinctive and I have never seen similar colouring in a cave elsewhere. With the exception of the most westerly parts, it is exceptionally dry and the whole floor is covered with cave earth which produces clouds of choking dust when one moves about.

The cliff face of the central section bears evidence of being covered, at one time, by a stal flow, and I feel certain that this was the wall of a chamber from which the present entrances led off as passages. If I am correct, this would present a picture rather similar to that encountered in South Devon (cf. Pridhamsleigh and Reed's Cavern) in which one finds a large chamber fairly near the entrance from which a number of passages lead. There is no sign of a stream and the flat nature of the roof with abrupt changes in floor level and width of passage suggests to me that the cave is of phreatic origin. The height above sea level is now about 500 ft.

Further west, in the cliff face, are a number of tiny fissures (too small to enter) and these have been ignored as they are not in the portion of the quarry face covered by the survey. The cave is described from west to east.

The first entrance consists of two tiny squeezes (one above the other) giving place to a high rift sloping upwards towards the east. A narrow passage, at a higher level, connects the upper part of this rift with the quarry face, as shown in pecked lines.

The main passage runs in a northerly direction with several side passages. One of the most interesting is called (by me) "Stal Avenue" and contains some pleasant formations and a nest of cave pearls. Further along this passage is a lake. Another side passage (also on the eastern side) contains a small pool (dry at the time that I was there), otherwise there does not appear to be any water in the cave.

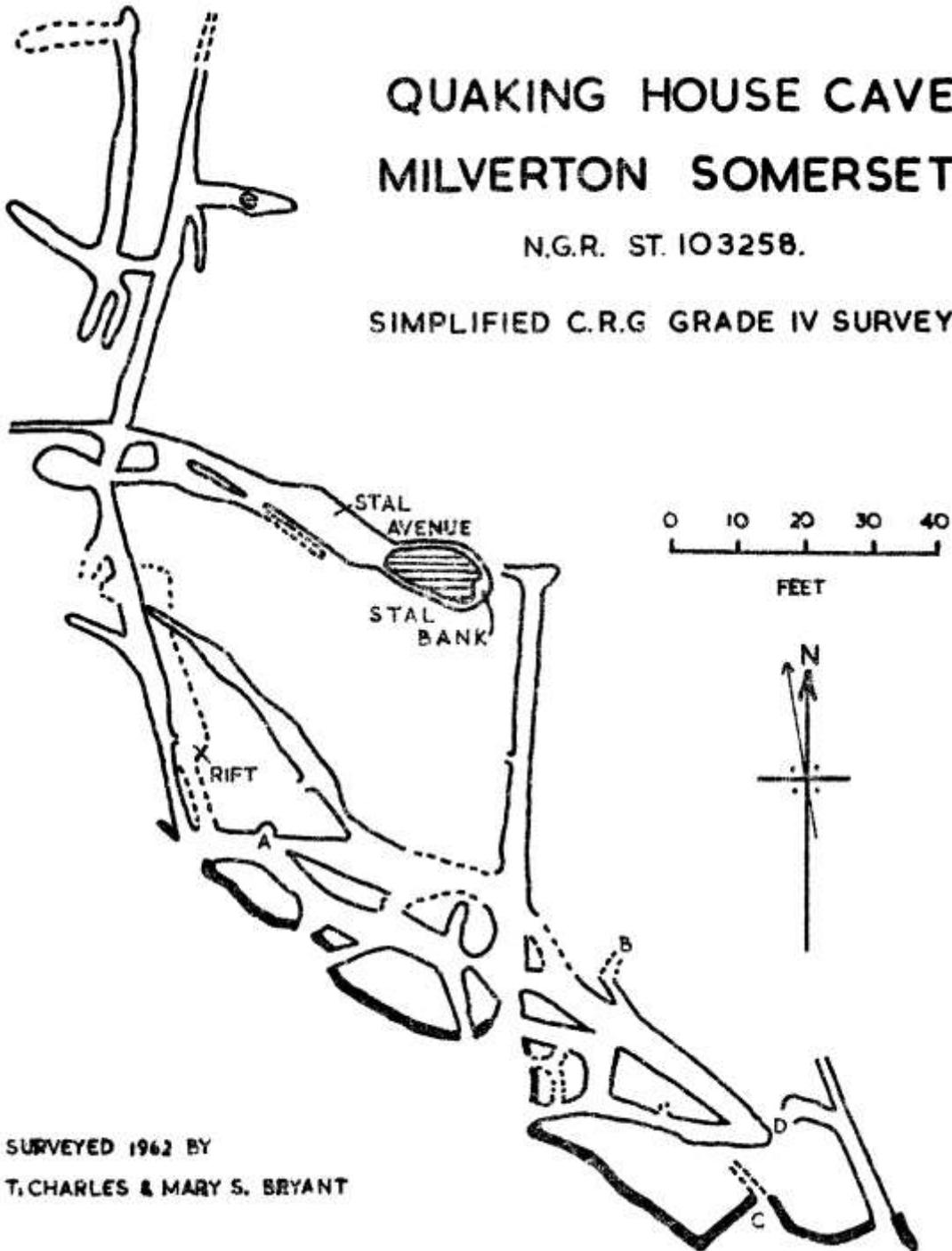
Continuing along this main passage, which becomes tighter towards its northern end, one finds some initials carved on the wall. This is practically the only sign that the cave has previously been visited. The passage continues beyond the farthest point which I could reach. There is an important side passage on the western side which intersects a deep trench forming a passage approximately parallel to the main one.

The central part of the cave consists of a number of separate entrances and a maze of passages, the most interesting being one running approximately north-west. This does not connect with the rift previously

# QUAKING HOUSE CAVE MILVERTON SOMERSET

N.G.R. ST. 103258.

SIMPLIFIED C.R.G GRADE IV SURVEY



mentioned and is the only place in the cave where two passages are superimposed. The section near the centre of the survey (slightly to the east of the last mentioned passage) which was not accurately surveyed (shown in pecked lines) has only a few inches of roof height and I found obvious signs that an animal used this as a lair because there were recent remains of half eaten animals (not identified). I could not detect any smell of fox and it may be the home of a wild cat. On the subject of animals, Mr. Shattock says "Foxes and badgers used to take refuge in there and the last time I saw it the hunting people had stopped it up at the entrances with wire netting to keep the foxes from entering." This wire netting is still in place in some minor holes but has been removed from all the major ones.

There are signs of a small excavation having been made to a depth of about 3 ft. at the point 'A' but I have been unable to discover who did this and the reason is not clear.

The other long passage running north (from one of the central entrances) is rather tight and does not appear to connect with Stal Avenue although the survey shows that they are very close at this point.

Further east, are a number of low passages almost filled with cave earth in which are a number of bones, which I did not disturb. They do not look ancient. The passage at 'B' would repay investigation! I did not feel that it was prudent to try to force this but a stronger party might well do so.

The little entrance at 'C' is partly blocked by a nest (?Jackdaw). I think that it is too small to enter.

The entrance on the extreme east of the survey, almost at the end of the cliff face, has a short passage which soon divides into two. The more western branch has a wide hole at floor level at point 'D' (roof height about 5 inches) through which a powerful draught was blowing inwards. This part of the cave is used for storing timber.

Bat droppings are found almost everywhere! I saw a small dead bat (badly decomposed) which may have been a Lesser Horseshoe - it was unringed. I also saw three larger ones in flight (coming out of Stal Avenue) but they surprised me so much that I did not positively identify them although I think that they were Greater Horseshoes.

### CONCLUSION

This is not a "caver's cave" and the sporting enthusiast will not wish to visit it. Persons who are interested in cave fauna would find it worthwhile and bat-ringing should be attempted as the cave lies in a mid-way position between the Mendips and South Devon with Holwell Cavern within bat migration range. The archaeologist might be interested in digging away some of the cave earth in case early bones are to be found.

The passage at 'B' should certainly be investigated and, if possible, surveyed to add to my present plan.

## MENDIP CAVE REGISTRY

Hywel Murrell

More than half a century has passed since organised caving started on Mendip. Many of the early pioneers are now dead, and except for those who were associated with H.E. Balch their knowledge has died with them. Later, in the 1930's, there was a second wave of activity on Mendip and many of those who took part are no longer caving or have lost contact with present cavers. It is to avoid losing also the knowledge contained in their written, personal records or held in their memories that the Mendip Cave Registry was started.

The object of the Registry is to record for all time the work which has been done on any site (successful or unsuccessful) so that if in the future someone is interested in trying again they may know what has gone before. Caves are found and are lost again and it is of value that their whereabouts should be recorded. Several caves entered from mine shafts have been closed through bulldozing or collapse of the shaft, whereas other features have become covered over during the war and their present location is uncertain. Some caves have even been 'discovered' on several occasions! For instance, Ife Hole was shown to me in 1933 by John Morley, was visited nine years later by Balch and Howard Kenney and named Willets Lane and rediscovered in 1950 by B.E.C. and renamed Ife Hole. Or again extensive exploration in the Hillgrove area was undertaken by Savory before World War I, between the wars by members of M.N.R.C. and Wessex and in the immediate post-war period by other groups from Wessex. Very little written record of this work survives.

The compilation of the Registry falls into two parts, (1) The searching of published records and personal diaries, supplemented by what can be remembered by former cavers, for what has happened in the past, and (2) the recording of on-going activity. At present the main effort is concentrated on the first of these; the organisation of the second is still to come.

The form of the Register has been settled. Three copies are being maintained; one each will be placed in the Libraries at Bristol and Wells and the third will be kept by the Secretary to be brought up to date. Each register will contain alphabetical lists of sites as well as sites arranged by areas in order to simplify search. Individual sheets are colour coded so that types of site (e.g. mine shafts) can readily be identified. Each Register will also contain quarter sheets of the O.S. 2½ " maps and records of all sites located on each quarter sheet will follow it.

To facilitate the work of recording, Somerset has been divided into seven areas. Two of these cover the county to the north and south of the Mendips respectively, while the other five cover the Mendips themselves. Registrars are responsible for each area. In addition, there is a Registrar responsible for map references and another for the searching of the literature.

Although a good start has been made on preparing the record sheets and most of the better known sites have been recorded there is still an immense amount of work to be done. Offers of help will, I am sure, be most welcome to

the Secretary, Brian Ellis, whose address is 41 Fore Street, N. Petherton, Bridgwater, Somerset. In particular, he would be glad to have notes of work carried out in the past, of unsuccessful digs and reason for abandonment, of investigations of mine shafts and so on. Once the Register has been brought up to date the work of maintaining it will be comparatively easy, but we can achieve our objective only if we have the collaboration of all Mendip cavers past and present.

15 YEARS AGO

"Taperer"

In October 1947, Circular No. 8, the Committee made its report for 1947. The following extracts may be of interest:-

"We now have a membership of over 100."

"In August the Club acted as host to a party of French cavers, members of the Club Alpin de Francais, led by M. Pierre Ageron."

"The Club having received permission from the owner of Hillgrove, Mr. White of Draycott, have begun to dig in the main swallet."

"Devenish and the Kenney brothers have put in some good work on one of the minor swallets at Hillgrove, and are opening up 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 pothole type of cave situated above Dan-yr-Ogof in the Swansea Valley. The cave has been named Pwll Dwfn (Deep Pot)."

The discovery of August Hole was announced in this Circular.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### AVENTURES SOUS TERRE Vol. 1 FLAMBEAU AU POING by N. Casteret

(Librairie academique Perrin, Paris 1961)

8vo., 363p., map, section, illus. £1.0.6.

Perhaps this book should be described as "The Best of Casteret" or a "Gasteret Omnibus", for it consists entirely of chapters reprinted from seven of his earlier books. There is no acknowledgement of this fact, either on the jacket or in the book, and one wonders how many French cavers have been misled into buying it. An English reader will be familiar with two-thirds of the contents, which has already appeared in translation; the remainder is available more cheaply in 'En Rampant' (1943) and 'Profondeurs' (1931). A second volume in the series is announced for the future - "Abimes et Cavernes".

T.R.S.

### JOURNAL (OF THE) WHITE ROSE POTHOLE CLUB, VOL. 1, 1961

4to., (x) -i- 122 + (i) p., maps, plans, sections, illus.

(Obtainable from D.T. Richardson, 5 Calton Terrace, Carleton Road, Skipton, at 6s. 2d. p.f.)

The White Rose Pothole Club was founded in 1954 and by now it is quite widely known in the north of England. This, their first journal, covers the seven years of their existence; from the contents it would seem to be an enthusiastic club which has nevertheless avoided most of the really big potholes. Some 36 pages, or over a quarter of the journal, describes new discoveries, illustrated with surveys which range from C.R.G. grade 4 to sketch plans. Of the thirteen new caves mentioned the longest is 300 yards and several are 30 feet long or less. There is a useful article on the maintenance of lamps, mostly ones supplied by alkaline batteries; also several reminiscences of club life which tend to duplicate each other.

T.R.S.

### THE CAVES OF MENDIP (2nd Edition) by N.R. Barrington

(Clapham, Dalesman Pub. Co., 1962) 8vo., 81 p., maps, 6s. 0d.

This new edition of the Mendip 'bible' will have been welcomed by hundreds of local cavers before ever this review is printed. Though the book appears fatter now, due to thicker paper, there are only seven more pages of descriptive text; these are accounted for entirely by the expansion of the Swildon's account from 3 pages to nearly 6, and the doubling of the St. Cuthbert's section. The eight caves which appear in this edition for the first time find room at the expense of several less important holes and digs; caves now lost or quarried away have been relegated to a separate list at the end of the book. The maps have been redrawn and are greatly improved by showing footpaths and cliffs.

Some faults can be found, of course, which it is a reviewer's duty to mention, but they are few and appear generally to be the results of hasty editing. This does not alter the fact that this is a most valuable book, sold at a ridiculously low price.

It is to be hoped that the author will continue to labour at collating information on all the new finds that are made so that we can benefit from a third edition in due course.

T.R.S.

THE CAVES OF FRANCE AND NORTHERN SPAIN by A. & G. Sieveking

(London, Vista Books, 1962)

8vo., 269+ (iii) p., maps, plans, illus., index, bibliog. £1.10s.0d.

Written by two professional archaeologists, this is not just another popular book about cave art. It is a reference book, a superior guide, an annotated index to the caves. There are concise and clear descriptions of almost every cave containing paintings or engravings in the area, not only the most celebrated, but some 102 in all. They are intended to provide a visitor with all the information he needs before his visit and during it - location, where permission can be obtained and details of any charges, sufficient description of the cave to allow access to the paintings (with plans of the more complex systems, showing the whereabouts of the pictures) and brief descriptions of the principal items to help in their identification and interpretation. A system of starring indicates the relative merits of the various caves and a brief survey of each cave area points out which are most important.

This book can serve several purposes well. A caver for whom the painted caves are the object or the excuse of a continental holiday is provided with enough information to choose his caves and plan his route in some detail. Once in the area the book would have to accompany him in the caves as a detailed guide. For the non-tourist it is an excellent reference book; its near-completeness increases its value considerably and the synonyms given (particularly for the Spanish caves) are important for anyone collating other information on the caves.

T.R.S.

MERVEILLES SOUTERRAINES by J. Baurès

(Paris, Editions Albin Michel, 1961) 4to, 27 + (92)p., illus., £2.2s.6d.

Baurès's new book follows the recent European tradition of luxurious (and expensive) albums of magnificent photographs. It is complementary to his "Aventures Souterraines" (1958) in that the caves illustrated - all in Ariège - are the ones described in the earlier book. Ten large pictures, including those on the front and back covers, are reproduced from colour photographs; the 73 photogravures in black and white include many of whole page size and three which spread across the double page. The author has achieved some striking pool pictures in which the surface of the water is disturbed by the rings of an expanding ripple; & photographer's trick, perhaps, but effective nevertheless. There is a 20 page introductory essay and the pictures are accompanied by sentences and poems which emphasise the appeal of caves to the true devotee.

T.R.S.

ANNALES DE SPÉLÉOLOGIE. VOL, 17. No. 1. 1962

(Laboratoire Souterrain du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Moulis, Ariège)  
8vo., 203p., plans, sections, illus, bibliogs. (£2.7s.0d. for one vol. of 4 numbers)

Several articles in this issue are of interest outside France. Jeannel gives an account of the late Abbe Breuil's activities in collecting cave animals; less celebrated than his prehistoric work but nevertheless considerable, particularly in his earlier years. Henri Roques, in a long article, discusses and correlates some 116 papers on the chemistry of carbonates - relevant to many studies of cave formation and cave deposits. More than half the issue is devoted to biospeleology and there are some 45 pages describing French caves.

T.R.S.

THE BRITISH CAVER Vol. 36,1962

(Obtainable from G. Platten, Rotherfield, New Milton, Hants., at 8s.6d. p.f.)  
4to, (vii) + 96+ (ii)p., plans, sections, illus.

This latest issue is again a collection of reprinted matter with a few original reports. Of local interest is a sketch plan and description of the January extensions in Balch's Hole - some 1500 feet reached after a Maypole climb. Tony Oldham has contributed a report on some mines in North Somerset, and there is information on several swallet digs in Mendip. There is also a most unworthy return to what resembles the squabbles of some years ago.

T.R.S.

SOME SMALLER MENDIP CAVES VOL.2 by J.H. Tucker

(Bristol Exploration Club Caving Report No. 9, 1962)  
4to., 24p., plans, sections, illus. 2s. 6d.

The caves described are mostly the little ones near Crook Peak; also part of Banwell Bone Cave and two small caves at Biddlecombe. There is very little new in the text and the plans are all sketches or low grade surveys. The author is evidently not a member of B.E.C.

T.R.S.

SPELEO DIGEST (for 1960)

(Pittsburgh Grotto, National Speleological Society, 1962)  
4to, 468p., maps, plans, sections, illus., indexes, bibliogs.

The 1960 Speleo Digest is even bigger than previous issues but, like then, it consists of articles and papers reprinted from the publications of some 26 local sections of the National Speleological Society (of America). Nearly half the volume comprises descriptions of individual caves, many of them with plans, and inevitably those are of limited interest to English cavers; Oliver Wells has contributed a short article on diving at a resurgence in Pennsylvania. There are also articles on more general subjects, including new exploration techniques, cave formation, fauna, and (alarmingly) the use of Ethyl Mercaptan for establishing connections between caves.

An excellent article deals with a natural hazard encountered by cavers in several parts of the world - a lung disease called Histoplasmosis, which has sometimes been confused with tuberculosis.

Perhaps the most important item in the whole book is a 15-page translation from a paper on Norwegian caves by Gunnar Horn. It was published originally in 1947 but this is, to the best of my knowledge, the first English translation. Horn has been known for many years for his important work on cave formation and his ideas are developed further here than in previous publications (e.g. the 1937 paper, translated in *Cave Science*, No. 17, 1951). He quotes evidence that water may flow in the rock beneath an ice cap, with a consequent possibility of cave formation below the ice.

The cumulative index, covering all previous *Speleo Digests*, is not altogether free from errors.

T.R.S.

CAVE SCIENCE, Vol. 4. No. 32, 1962.

(British Speleological Association, Settle)

4to., 50p., plans, sections, illus., 10s.0d., p.f.

*Cave Science* No.32 appears less than 6 months after the previous issue and completes volume 4 with the same high standard of production.

King writes a lucid account of Carleswark Cave, where recent B.S.A. discoveries have nearly doubled its length; he relates its passages to neighbouring caves and mines and includes a detailed survey. Marsden-Ley has examined specimens of cave mud occurring some 20ft. to 40ft. inside a Belgian cave and he deduces from the plant remains the climate at two periods of the Pleistocene. There is also a long reprint from Walter White's book of 1858, describing Clapham Cave and the Chapel-le-Dale potholes.

Kenwick's attempts to estimate the age of a water-filled Norwegian cave are worthless; he admits that his method of water analysis is not accurate enough to give measureable results and yet, by combining a number of unjustified assumptions, he arrives at a conclusion! The calculations involved are given in painful arithmetical detail.

T.R.S.

WIRE ROPE SPLICING by N. Pratchett

(Cave Research Group Occ. Pubn., No. 8, 1962) 4to., 3p., illus. 2s.0d. p.f.

Pratchett's article, originally contributed to the Bradford Pothole Club, covers the splicing of small wire ropes concisely and adequately. But splicing technique is described in easily accessible handbooks and it is surely out of place to reprint this article in a national publication. The Cave Research Group has better things to do than spoon-feed its members.

'Sewing' on page 3 should be 'serving'.

T.R.S.

MÉMOIRES D'UNE CHAUVE-SOURIS by N. Casteret  
(Paris, Perrin, 1961) . 8vo., 284p., illus. £1.1s.6d.

Seventeen years ago Casteret published "Une Vie de Chauve-Souris" a 'biography' of an individual bat. Though essentially imaginary, the story was based on the author's detailed knowledge of bats and their ways; only one fact - regular migration to North Africa - has not been definitely established.

It is this seventeen-year-old book which has now been reissued, without acknowledgement, under the title "Memoires d'Une Chauve-Souris". One new chapter has been added and there is some minor rearrangement of the text. The older book is still available at one-fifth of the price but it has paper covers and is not illustrated.

T.R.S.

THE MANUFACTURE OF LIGHTWEIGHT CAVING- LADDERS - THE SHEPTON MALLETT CAVING CLUB METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION by B.M. Ellis  
(Bristol Exploration Club Caving Report No.3A, 1962) 4to., 23p., illus.  
(Obtainable from the author at 41, Fore St., North Petherton, Bridgwater, at 3s. 3d., p.f.)

The original version of this report was written in 1957 when 100 feet of ladder had been made. Five years and 1900 feet later only minor developments have occurred in the design. Basically, in the S.M.C.C. method, the rungs are secured on the wires by chamfer pins driven parallel to the axis of the rung - not through the wire, but to one side so that the wire is squeezed hard against the inside of the rung. The ladders are narrow - only 5¼ inches between the wires - and consequently light, but the test results show that a steady load of 1100 lb. can be supported without failure or safety factor. The report gives details of jigs and construction methods, materials (and where to get them) and cost.

A report on the Bristol Exploration Club method of ladder construction is announced for December.

T.R.S