

CLUB NEWS

It is with regret that we announce the recent death of Mrs. Dinah Dobson-Hinton, who has been a Vice President of the Wessex Cave Club for many years. An obituary will be published in the August issue of the Club Journal.

You too can be a St. Cuthbert's Leader. The B.E.C. is now prepared, possibly even anxious, to widen the leader system to include cavers who are not B.E.C. members. The scheme is being run by Andy MacGregor, Alan Thomas, Gordon Tilley and Dave Irwin. Guest Leadership is to be a status granted to individuals, not clubs, although leaders will be expected to lead one trip a year on behalf of the B.E.C. To learn the system, prospective leaders are invited to tack on to convenient B.E.C. trips, and five trial visits will be arranged to test candidates. Owing to difficulties about key security guest leaders will not be able to run trips mid-week. Certainly the Wessex could do with having some of its members on this list.

Attention is drawn to an erratum concerning subscription rates as published in the April Journal. The period subscription for Joint Members should have read £8.8.0., and is of course valid for five years. Members paying at the "single" rate are reminded that they too can opt to take out a five year subscription for £7.7.0. Should any member have paid a period subscription at an incorrect rate, they should forward the balance to the Hon. Treasurer.

The August Journal No. 118 will contain an up to date list of the Club Membership. Please forward any changes of address to the Hon. Treasurer so that the list appears complete.

The Committee has found it necessary to raise Hut Fees. These have been unchanged for years, but now, with the H.Q. accommodation at saturation point and rising maintenance costs, it is necessary to increase the rates to:-

4/- per night for guests.
2/6 for members for the first night, and
1/6 for subsequent nights.

Please do not forget that your guests are liable to a tackle fee of 1/6 per trip when Club tackle is used.

While on the subject of funds, the non-ferrous metal collection at Hillgrove has now realised £15. Apparently there is a considerable profit in old gold pen nibs if you have any!

The Club is hoping to acquire a further supply of Nife cells complete with headlamps. These are ex-National Coal Board, and have been ten hour tested, and drained. They will be on sale at 30/- each. Several enquiries have been received already from members about the availability of such cells, so if you want one please contact Steve Causer, The Cottage, Rectory Lane, Trinsbury, BATH.

There will be another Barbecue this summer "at home" with the Hon. Secretary Donald Thomson. Come

to "Pinkacre" during the evening of Saturday 6th July next, and join everyone round a log fire in the orchard. All are welcome, but please park in the road unless you want to stay to the very end. A collection will be made during the evening for the Hut Fund.

There is still difficulty over access to some Mendip caves. The situation seems to change frequently these days, and certainly since the announcements were made in the last issue of the Journal.

1. Longwood Swallet/August Hole: The cave may not be approached through Lower Farm as previously. While the farm land has been sold to a local horticultural company, the buildings have been bought by a gentleman who does not wish to be bothered by cavers in any way. This includes parking on the approach road to the farm. It is best to reach the cave by walking up through Long Wood from the Velvet Bottom end. Thus, the nearest convenient points to leave cars are at the Nordrach Minery or Black Rock Gate in Cheddar Gorge.
2. Stoke Lane Slocker: The land around Cook's Farm which contains the cave entrance has been purchased by Mr. Marks at Stoke Bottom Farm. The farm lies 200 yards north east of St. Dunstan's Well along Fernhill Lane at N.G.R. ST.6604.4802. You must go to see Mr. Marks before your trip to pay the usual goodwill shilling. From here the cave is best approached by car along Green Lane, skirting Cook's Wood Quarries to the north, and parking at the nearest access point along Bector Lane. A stile has been provided in the fence which you must use. This route avoids the village and does not trouble Mr. Simms at Cook's Farm. Should you wish to change in the cow shed provided by Mr. Simms in the farmyard, you must give him advance notice (by letter or phone) and pay him a further shilling on arrival. On no account must cars be parked in the yard, or the old barn used for changing. New arrangements are always delicate at first and cavers should comply with Mr. Marks' wishes as the new cave owner, and Mr. Simms of course if you require changing facilities.

Members who would prefer to see the access routes in map form should purchase a copy of the revised Council of Southern Caving Clubs "Handbook" to be released in a few weeks time. The cost will be somewhere about 3/-. The Hon. Secretary of the C.S.C.C. is Dr. Oliver C. Lloyd, Withey House, Withey Close West, Bristol 9., and the Assistant Secretary is Ray Gilson, Naphill Cottage, Forge Road, Naphill, High Wycombe, Bucks. The 1968 issue of the "Handbook" is well worth having since it gives up to date information on access arrangements to all caves in the region. A copy will be made available at Hillgrove in due course.

Do not forget that Roy Staynings is now dealing with the keys and permits for the caves in the Charterhouse Caving Committee area, and also for Lamb Leer.

We welcome the following new members elected 26-5-68:-

G.O.S. Ansell. 21 Moseley Road, Naphill, High Wycombe, Bucks.

A.J. Anderson. 725 Bath Road, Cranford, Hounslow, Middlesex.

J. Childs. 17 Linthorpe Road, Poole, Dorset.

Penelope Hansford. 1 Cross Street, Winchester, Hants.

A.J. Lawrence. 9A Castlehill Terrace, Maidenhead, Berks.

J.R. Letheren. "Rickstones", Venus Lane, Clutton, Nr. Bristol.

M.J. Sharpe. 52 St. Matthew's Road, Cotham, Bristol 6.

Erratum; Journal No. 115. Vol. 10. p.10 (February 1968)

In the "Read's Cavern statistics", the N.G.R. of the entrance was misprinted. It should have read as quoted on the survey of the facing page, viz. 46825844.

Index to Journal Volume 9 (No. 105 March 1966 - No. 114 December 1967)

A complete index will be published in the next issue of the Journal due out in mid-August of this year.

Hon Secretary. D.M.M. Thomson, Pinkacre, Leigh-on-Mendip, Bath, Som.

Caving Secretary. R.J. Staynings, 8 Fanshaw Road, Hengrove, Bristol 4.

Hon. Treasurer. T.E. Reynolds, 23 Camden Road, Southville, Bristol 3.

Subs. Treasurer. A.E. Dingle, 32 Lillian Road, London S.E.13.

Hut Warden. M.W. Dewdney-York, c/o Hillgrove Hut, Hillgrove Farm, Priddy, Wells, Somerset.

Journal Distribution. P.R. Cousins, 3 Kinver Road, Sydenham, London S.E.26.

Editor. J.D. Hanwell, 50 Wells Road, Wookey Hole, Wells, Somerset.

Club Projects 1968.

Digging at Hillgrove Swallet

John Cornwell has been digging at this old Wessex site over the past few weeks with some success. So long as the prospects continue fair, he will be at Hillgrove most weekends in future. Any members interested would be most welcome. You are invited to contact John direct at 419 Whitehall Road, Bristol 5, or enquire for his whereabouts at the Hillgrove Hut.

Georesistivity Surveying

The Club has been fortunate in managing to borrow an "Earth Tester" from the instrument's manufacturers. While it is in our possession it is hoped that as much use can be made of it as possible. The device has been used on several occasions to date, above promising sites on Central Mendip, with interesting results. Once the interpretation of the data recorded has been understood for this area, it is hoped to locate promising sites to dig.

John Church is organising a series of resistivity prospecting weekends this summer, and any members interested should contact him at 35 Rayens Cross Road, Long Ashton, Near Bristol. John would like any member with expert knowledge to be responsible for the field work some weekends since he is unable to devote all his spare time to the prospecting. The weekends to book are:-

8th/9th June.

20th/21st July.

17th/18th August

6th/7th July.

3rd/4th August.

31st Aug./1st September

Other dates will be published in subsequent Journals, under the Programme of Events.

Survey of Tatham Wife Hole, Yorkshire

Because of lack of support during the aftermath of the Foot and Mouth epidemic it was found necessary to cancel the Club Trip to Yorkshire at Easter. However, a further trip is proposed from July 12th to July 15th next. The main aim will be to survey the relatively new Tatham Wife Hole system.

Arrangements will be made for the Club party to stay at The Golden Lion, Horton-in-Ribblesdale, or nearby for those who prefer to camp.

Please contact John Church (address on page 76) for further details and bookings if you intend joining the party. You will be welcome for all or part of this long weekend as convenient.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

| | |
|--|---|
| <u>Sunday June 16th.</u> 1030 hrs. | <u>Caves of Western Mendip</u> ¹ . Leader: R. Woolley, 64 Devonshire Road, Bristol 6. |
| <u>Saturday June 29th.</u> 1430 hrs. | <u>Longwood Swallet/August Hole</u> . Leader: H. Pearson. 129 East Dundy Road, Bridge Farm Estate, Bristol 4. |
| * <u>Sunday June 30th.</u> 1000 hrs | <u>Swildon's - Shatter Passage</u> , etc. Leader: A.S. Dingle 32 Lillian Road, Barnes, London, S.W.13. |
| <u>Saturday July 9th.</u> 1900 hrs | <u>Barbecue at Pinkacre</u> , Leigh-on-Mendip, Bath. |
| * <u>Weekend July 13th/14th</u> | (a) <u>South Wales</u> . Leader: R.A. Phillpot, 3 Kings Drive, Bristol 7. (b) <u>Yorkshire</u> . Leader: J.R. Church, 33 Rayens Cross, Long Ashton, Bristol. |
| * <u>Saturday July 27th.</u> 1500 hrs. | <u>Stoke Lane</u> . Leader: H. Pearson (address above). |
| * <u>Weekend August 3rd/4th</u> | <u>Agen Allwedd</u> . Leader: P.R. Cousins, 3 Kinver Road, Sydenham, London S.E.26. |
| <u>Saturday August 17th.</u> 1400 hrs. | <u>"Smaller Caves of Central Mendip"</u> . Leader: D. Warburton, 20 Beverley Court Road, Quinton, Birmingham, 32. |
| * <u>Weekend August 24th/25th.</u> | <u>South Wales</u> . Leader: P. Duck, 13 Goodymoor Avenue, Wells, Somerset. |
| <u>Saturday Sept. 7th.</u> 1100 hrs. | <u>Lamb Leer</u> . Leader: H. Pearson (address above). |
| <u>Wednesday Sept.11th.</u> 1830hrs. | <u>G.B.</u> Leader: R. Woolley (address above). |
| * <u>Weekend Sept. 14th/15th.</u> | <u>Agen Allwedd</u> . Leader: (to be announced in August Journal). |
| * <u>Weekend Oct. 12th/13th.</u> | <u>South Wales</u> . Leader: P. Davies, "Morley", Silver Street, Nailsea, Bristol. |
| * <u>Weekend Nov. 23rd/24th.</u> | <u>South Wales</u> . Leader: T.E. Reynolds, 23 Camden Road, Southville, Bristol 3. |

Please give notice to the leader if you intend to join any trip.

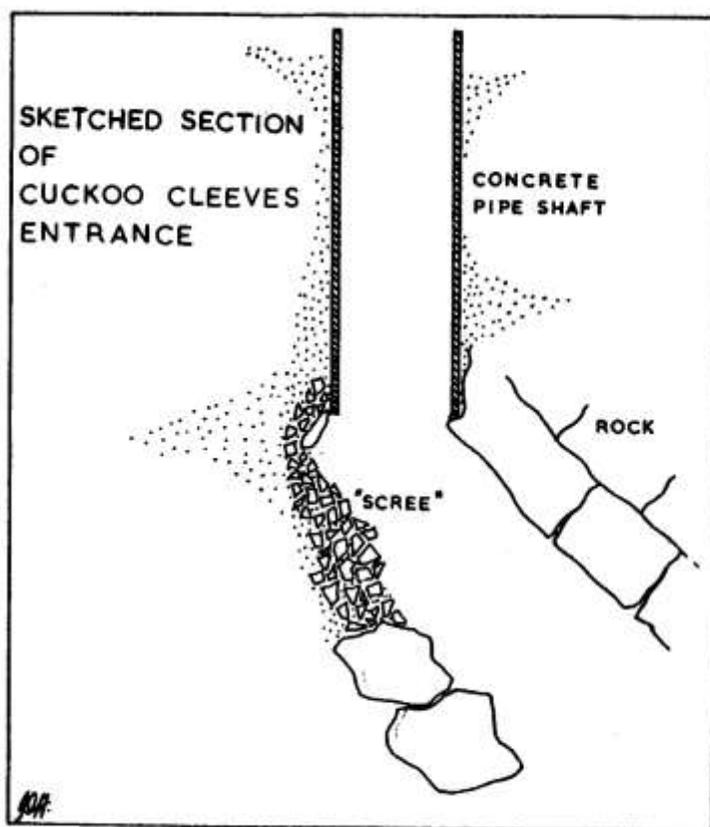
* Denotes Nife cells, wet or "goon" suits essential.

If you are willing to lead a Club Trip anywhere please contact the Caving Secretary.

NOTE ON THE ENTRANCE SHAFT OF CUCKOO CLEEVES

by A.S. Dingle

On Boxing Day 1966, whilst a party was down the cave, a fall of loose material at the bottom of the concrete entrance shaft so alarmed bystanders on the surface that they called out the M.R.O. believing that the entrance was about to collapse. (See M.R.O. Report W.C.C. Jnl. 116 April 1967). This was a wise precaution but, a year later, the concrete pipes are still undisturbed. However, the bottom of the shaft was clearly not in a satisfactory state and I felt that much could be done with bricks and cement to improve the stability. As the accompanying diagram indicates a great deal of the weight of the pipe is supported by the solid rock on one side of the pipe. Under the pipe on the other side is a loose scree of mud and small stones which becomes semi-fluid in wet conditions. On stepping off the ladder the scree is disturbed and, after a party has descended the cave, there is liable to be an inflow of mud and small stones. This is unpleasant but does not appear to undermine the pipe seriously. During the summer of 1967 the boulders below the pipe were stabilized with brickwork which reaches to the pipe itself at one point. The second stage of the work will be to remove the scree during a convenient dry spell and to replace it with concrete over one or more weekends. If this should prove practical the entrance to Cuckoo Cleeves should be in a satisfactory state by the end of the summer of this year.



A NEW SURVEY OF CUCKOO CLEEVES

by Denis Warburton and Phillip Davies.

This survey of Cuckoo Cleeves was carried out in March 1968 as part of a general programme to survey, or resurvey, a number of smaller caves both on Mendip and elsewhere. The ultimate intention is to publish the resultant plans to a uniform style as a new series of Wessex Surveys which will be available through the Survey Scheme in the usual way. Sheets already drawn up, awaiting the preparation of printing plates are:-

No. 1 - Nine Barrows Swallet

No. 2 - Rod's Pot

No. 3 - Sell Gill Holes
(Yorkshire)

No. 4 - Browgill and Calf Holes
(Yorkshire)

No.5. - Withybrook Swallet

No.6 - Cuckoo Cleeves

It is hoped that these six, and possibly others will be available at the 1968 A.G.M. The uniform style of presentation of these surveys will lend itself to incorporation in Atlas form.

The initiative for this survey came from Phil Davies, who, hearing that W.C.C. Journal No. 116 (April 1968) was to contain articles on Cuckoo Cleeves, bullied and cajoled me into a survey trip. In one way it was unique to us in that we surveyed from the entrance inwards, and the fact that I had never been in the cave before made the positioning of suitable stations surprisingly more difficult.

The underground survey was carried out by John Alder, Phil Davies and myself in one trip. A plan was made the same evening (in lieu of a visit to the Hunters!) and the plan taken down the cave the next day. Further detail was added on the spot, the party consisting of Phil Davies, Pat Smallwood and myself. This is a scheme we have adopted several times recently; it enables outlines and details to be added more precisely if an accurate framework is available actually in the cave.

The instruments used were a small prismatic compass graduated in degrees and read to the nearest ½ degree and an Abney Level which was read to the nearest 0.2 degrees, the two instruments being mounted on a composite head which carried its own illumination. The intention was to use the instruments tripod mounted throughout the survey, but an unfortunate incident when the ball and socket joint disintegrated into small pieces meant that the instruments had to be hand-held for a number of readings. It is considered that in actual fact the precision of reading was very little affected, but only Grade 5 is claimed owing to the greater position error of hand held instruments. Distances were measured with a 100 ft. long Fibron tape, read to the nearest inch.

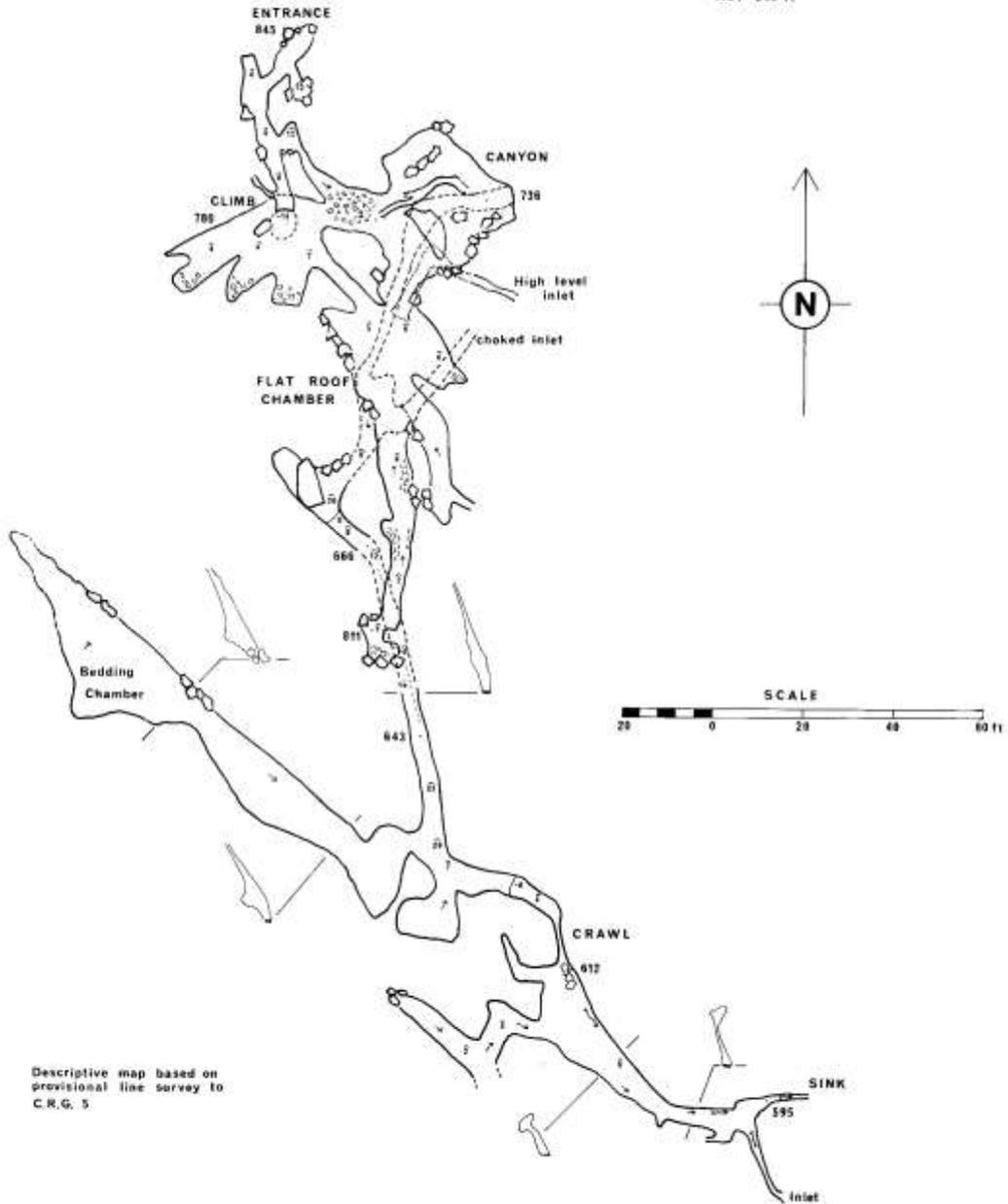
Following the recommendations of the Mendip Cave Survey Colloquium (in press) the plan as published conforms to the requirements of the Accurate Outline Survey, and a certain amount of descriptive detail has been incorporated within this framework. This note refers to the full size sheet, but the plan in the Journal is a photo-reduced copy and hence fully true to scale. It should be noted that the survey in the Journal is referred to as provisional; it is our intention to run a survey line out of the cave to form an artificial closure. This can be expected to alter the plan very little, if at all.

CUCKOO CLEEVES

Priddy
Mendip

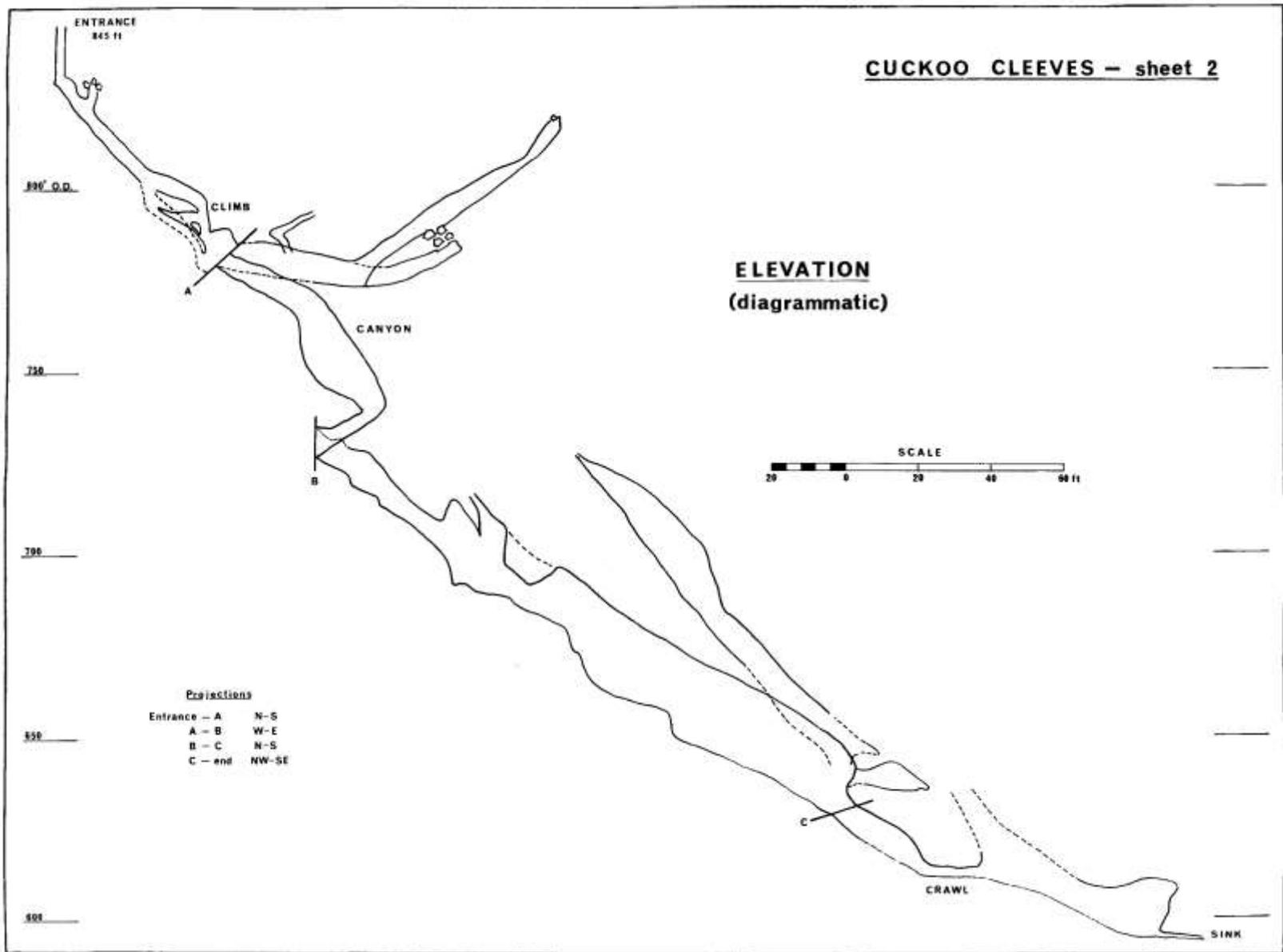
PLAN

NGR 559,595
ALT 845 ft



Descriptive map based on
provisional line survey to
C.R.G. 5

surveyed 1968



Concurrently with the underground survey, John Church and Mike Lawrence ran an accurate level from the entrance to tie in with part of the levelling network we are establishing in the area. This is based on a Bench Mark near Priddy Green and has been used to establish altitudes of all cave entrances in the area. The levelling is done with a "Quickset" level, and as two members of the team are professional surveyors it can be assumed that the surface measurements, at least, are of the highest accuracy.

The cave was surveyed in 33 legs, totalling 652 feet, with a number of offsets. The depth below the top of the entrance pipe is 250.5 feet, a very respectable figure for a minor cave. (A notable feature about Cuckoo Cleaves in fact is the very considerable gradient). In view of the small length of the cave, no system of permanent survey stations was considered worthwhile, but a prime point is located near the end of the cave, and this could be re-located if any extensions are discovered.

CAVES OF MERTHYRMAWR

by John H. Jones.

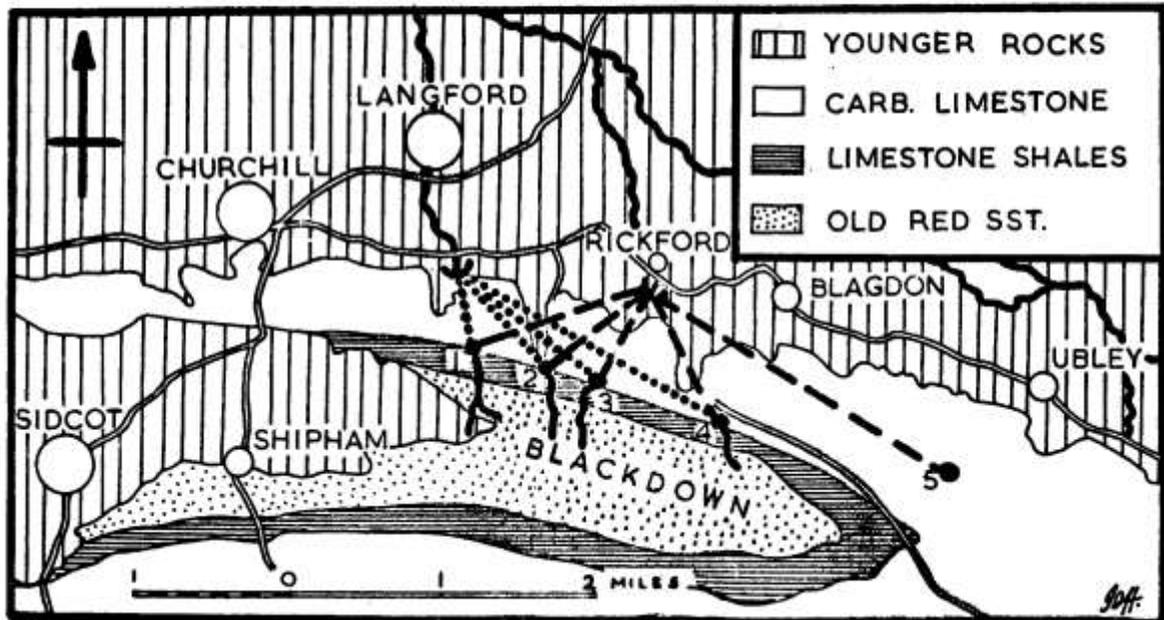
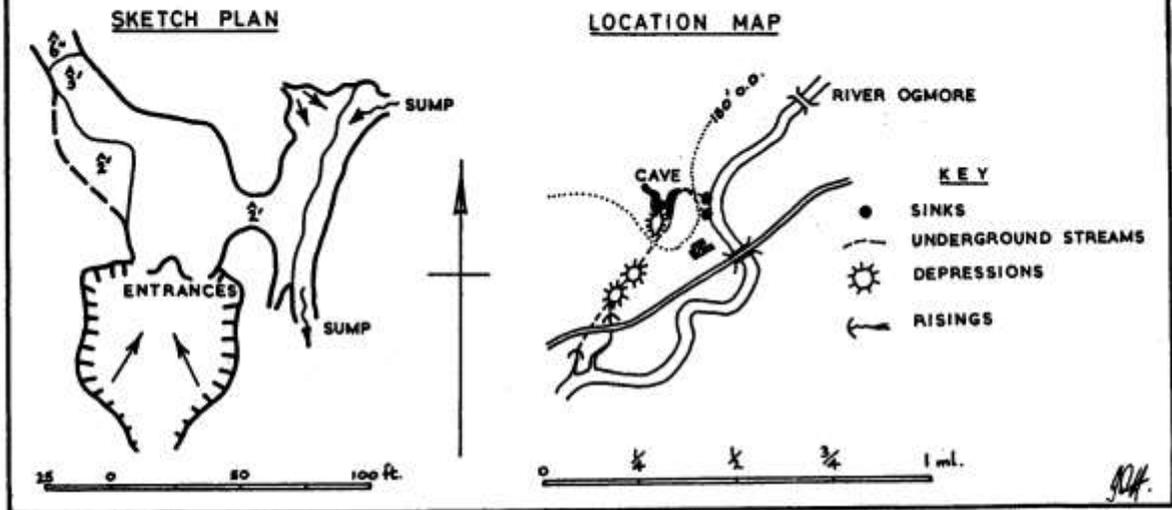
Situated on Merthyr-mawr Warren, Glamorgan, South Wales, at National Grid Reference 21/856774 is a fairly large resurgence amongst sand dunes. For some time I have been trying to find the sink connecting with this resurgence known as Pwll Schwyll. Two miles east is the Ogmere River which cuts through the limestone that underlies the sands.

From a good source I learned of a sink into which part of the river flowed. So I set off on 27th April 1967 along with a friend, Keith Jones, to investigate. The area lay on a private estate, and the gamekeeper told us of a cave on 'Chapel Hill'. We climbed the hill to find an enormous pit much bigger than Sandpit on the Mendips. Three sides were vertical, about 70ft. deep, whilst the fourth was a steep slope down to the opposite face that had two entrances at the bottom. Unfortunately the pit had been used as a rubbish dump. Both of the entrances opened into a fairly large chamber with two ways on. The one straight ahead was a continuation of the chamber and sloped into a bedding plane until it became too tight. The other passage to the right went over a mud slope to link up with a streamway. This was about 30ft. long with sumps at both ends. An aven near the lower sump proved too tight to follow for either of us. As we had no waterproof clothing we did not investigate the downstream sump, although there was about a three inch air space and we could see what we thought was a chamber about 15ft. further on.

The next time I was on Mendip I told George Pointing about the Chapel Hill Cave and he, along with Dave Berry, Mike Jeanmaire and a number of others came down on the 12th May to dive the sumps. On this occasion they (Mike and George) dived the upper sump, disturbing hundreds of eels and miscellaneous rubbish. They reported that they had gone down about 20ft. until they came to a small slot which the water issued through. George declared that it was nothing but a sewer and we immediately packed up and went our various ways.

A fortnight later Mike Jeanmaire came down with friends to dive the lower sump. As I arrived there first, the owner, who was very interested in our activities, took me around his estate. He showed me a number of sinks and resurgences. There were four depressions, two of which had slow running streams at the bottom, looking as though they might be one underground drainage. The maximum distance from sink to rising was about 400 yds. as the crow flies. By this time Mike and his friends had arrived.

MERTHYRMAWR WARREN CAVES



There was a great deal more water present as the arch of the lower sump was about 1ft. under the water and the aven only 1ft. above. Some members of the party carried out a survey while Mike and a friend dived the lower sump. Mike's partner dived first and after he had travelled about 50 ft. we could hear his voice coming through the aven. He indicated that he was in a small chamber with a passage leading back. He returned to us via this passage as it connected with the aven. Mike then dived only to return and tell us that in the chamber the stream went down a hole blocked by a huge boulder, making further progress impossible. Later dives proved the other resurgences and sinks too tight as well.

Our conclusions from four visits were that this was probably an extremely old system recently invaded by the present stream. The gradient from sink to rising is slight and there is considerable silting. Also the water is of dubious character. Finally, I am still a long way from finding the source of Pwll Schwyll!

Mendip Karst Hydrology Research Project Phase Three.
Based on A Preliminary Report from Dr. D.P. Drew

From April 3rd to 8th 1968 a water tracing programme was carried out in the Burrington Area. The methods used were similar to those carried out during Phases One and Two of the project (see W.C.C. Occasional Publication Series 2 No. 1 October 1967). Lycopodium spores were put into five swallets in the area, viz. Read's Cavern, West Twin, East Twin, Ellick Farm and Ubley Hill Pot. Sampling was carried out every four hours throughout the test period at eight risings in the district, viz. from Langford to Compton Martin, the Second Feeder at Cheddar, and Banwell.

Positive reactions were recorded at the Langford and Rickford risings, but all the others proved negative. The following table indicates the relationships between the swallets and these two risings. Column A for each rising shows the times taken for the spores to "get through", and column B in each case gives approximate percentages of the swallet flow.

| SINK | LANGFORD RISING | | RICKFORD | RISING |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----|-----------|--------|
| | A | B | | |
| 1. READ'S CAVERN. | +43-47hrs | 40% | +4hrs | 60% |
| 2. WEST TWIN SW. | +15-19hrs | 60% | +17-20hrs | 40% |
| 3. EAST TWIN SW. | +15-19hrs | 30% | +4-8hrs | 70% |
| 4. ELLICK FARM. | +4hrs | 30% | +4hrs | 70% |
| 5. UBLEY HILL POT. | Negative | - | +4hrs | 100% |

This interesting state of affairs, where virtually all five swallets drain to both risings (with the exception of Ubley Hill Pot to Langford), is illustrated in the map of the area shown at the bottom of the facing page 83. The swallets are numbered as in the above table.

A full evaluation of all the data recorded is now being made. This work will be the subject of W.C.C. Occasional Publication Series 2 No. 2 to be published sometime in 1969.

Drainage of Yorkshire Moorland

by Carl Plockstone

Many people who have been active in the Yorkshire Dales within the last year or so will have noticed that the process of Gripping has been started once again. Gripping consists of cutting deep drainage channels into the surface of the moors to assist the run-off of rainwater from the boggy topsoil. The Grips usually terminate at the streams leading to potholes, or in the more obvious depressions. You have to walk across a moor, which has been freshly gripped, just after a moderate rain shower to realise fully the implications of being in a cave system underneath. Normally, the rise in the volume of underground streams gives a fair warning to any party caving since it builds up over a period of hours. Following gripping, however, the character of a cave can alter dramatically in a matter of minutes.

The danger is at a maximum just after the grips have been cut, because initially they are clean and free from obstructions, offering little or no resistance to the passage of water. After a few years they become silted up and overgrown, which reduces their efficiency. A newly gripped moor with an already saturated soil cover will be most sensitive to rain storms: caves within its catchment may flood without warning. Some catchments seem more "sensitive" than others in this respect, especially where there are caves and potholes with long wet pitches, low streamways, and ducks. One such system is Ingleborough Cave, being the resurgence for most of the Allotment Area by way of Gaping Gill.

The writer visited this particular cave on 16th February 1968, together with Dave Brook, Gerald Benn, and Paul Foster, of the Bradford Pothole Club, to carry out a programme of surveying and digging in the Terminal Lake area. There was snow upon the fells, but it was cold and misty and so it seemed safe to undertake the trip. After passing through the show cave portion, the passage continues along Cellar Gallery before dropping down to meet the main stream in the 2ft. 6ins high Giant's Hall bedding plane. The stream was crossed and the 400ft. long, 18ins high, Far Eastern Crawl followed to the Near and Far Wallows. The Wallows are large pools in a flooded 40ft. wide bedding plane for some 300 ft., having airspaces of about 6 ins and 8 ins respectively in normal weather. However, on returning after a couple of hours at the Terminal Lake, the water level was found to have risen reducing the Near Wallows airspace drastically. This gave rise to some concern, as it is difficult at the best of times to find the route through to the Far Eastern Crawl because of the uneven roof. Now the roof had sumped in many places and all the landmarks had disappeared. What bit of airspace remained became rapidly filled with fog to reduce visibility even further. Eventually the route was found, and a very rapid exit made as there was a risk of flooding on the way out in the Giant's Hall bedding plane. Memories of Mossdale take a long time to fade away, especially to members of the Bradford! Although Ingleborough Cave is not as long as Mossdale, it is known to sump for over 2000 feet in wet weather, and Beck Head rise 2 feet in but 1½ hours.

When we regained the surface the cause of the rising water was found to be snow melting following an unexpected warming of the air during the afternoon. Gary Pilkington had been walking over the moor during the time we had been underground, and had noticed that all the grips were functioning well, pouring water into Fell Beck and many other active feeders dotted about the Allotment. Had it rained as well the position could have proved serious for us. Fortunately our predicament was not particularly critical as it turned out, but it does serve to illustrate the dangers of flooding from gripped moors.

The flanks of Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent have been gripped so far recently, and more may follow throughout the summer. Consequently great thought should be given to the prevailing conditions, and local knowledge sought, before contemplating a trip beneath any of the gripped moors. Clearly, if there is any uncertainty about the weather, it is wiser to go to a safer pothole rather than risk the now well known consequences of a flash flood.

Northern Notes

by Carl Pickstone

At long last the yoke of Foot and Mouth restrictions has been cast aside, and it is once more possible to feel the springy turf beneath one's boots. Three months of being confined to city life really makes one appreciate the grandeur of the Dales. Fortunately, apart from one or two scares, no cases of the disease were reported within the area; the nearest outbreak being at Carnforth some 20 miles away. The restrictions imposed on caving and fell-walking were lifted on the 24th February. Eight weeks later we bade farewell to Gary Pilkington who flew off to join Mike Boon and Tich Morris for an expedition to The Canadian Rockies. The expedition is being organised by Derek Ford as part of the karst research programme of the Geography Department, MacMaster University, Ontario. After being dropped into the Maligne Basin by helicopter, they intend to survey the six miles of passage in Castleguard Cave discovered by Derek's party last summer. Later they will prospect for caves in a region some 100 miles from the frontier with the United States, and in the winter of 1968-69 will visit the Guatamala-Mexico karst. Gary pioneered "Northern Notes" in Wessex Journals, and it is hoped to continue reporting "what's on" in the Dales during his absence. Perhaps we can look forward to hearing from him in his new role as spelunker.

While attending the symposium on Cave Hydrology at Leicester (see P.R. Cousins W.C.C. Jnl 116 April 1968) I had a pleasant chat with John Drake of Oxford University C.C. They are also crossing the Atlantic this year to do some original caving in the sunny Caribbean. The caves they intend to look at have already been traced from sink to resurgence by means of teak logs! The logs are floated through the cave systems en route from the forests to the lowland saw mills.

Anoraks

Peter Bayes at The Pen-y-ghent Cafe, Horton-in-Ribblesdale, is selling a very good line in cagoules. Made locally, these garments are more durable than the versions in many climbing shops. The material is 4 ozs Nylon, and comes in fluorescent orange or yellow (ideal for walking from Hunters to Hillgrove after closing time at night), and lovat green (essential for secret digs). The cagoule is priced at £3.13.9., and the over trousers £3.3.0. (post and packing 2/6).

Notts Pot Collapse

During the heavy rains early this spring, a shakehole near the entrance slumped in. A party from the White Rose Pothole Club visited the pot on the 24th March and were met by a roof-high black slurry in the winding passage before the first pitch. This effectively blocks the system, as all the alternative routes to the bottom start beyond the fall.

Since Leek Fell is closed until 1st July for grouse breeding nothing immediate can be done, and so we can only hope that further heavy rains will wash a way through.

Robin Hoods Well

Alistair Drury informs me that Northern Caving Club divers have passed the well in Grassington and discovered a flooded bedding plane 300 feet long to a chamber blocked with boulders.

B.B.C. Film of the Sunset Hole Rescue

During the latter months of last year, a B.B.C. T.V. film unit moved into the Dales to produce a documentary about caving. They filmed in most of the large systems, and also at a rescue which took place at Sunset Hole in Chapel-le-Dale (see Northern Notes W.C.C. Jnl 115 February 1968). The film was screened on B.B.C. 1 on 25th April. After a brief introduction to caving, the film concentrated on a factual account of the events leading up to the accident, and of C.R.O. call-out procedure. The film concluded with shots filmed during the ill-fated rescue.

The standard of production was very high, and the underground camera work and sound recording could not have been bettered, but it left me wondering what the parents of the unfortunate boy felt as they witnessed the last moments of their son in such tragic circumstances.

Hull Pot

Sid Perue, the B.B.C. cameraman who filmed the documentary, pushed a passage that was first noted by members of the London University Caving Club last year in the upstream section of the cave. Spurred on by the roar of water ahead Sid smashed a stal barrier only to find that the passage in fact connected with the main streamway higher up. Hard luck!

C.R.G. Field Meet, Gaping Gill Area.

There is to be a field meet in this area over the August Bank Holiday period. The activities are being organised by Dick Glover, and will include water tracing, flood pulse tests, and also (with luck) resistivity detection of cave passages. Dick has planned a fairly ambitious programme, but how much actually gets done will depend upon the support given. So, if you are at a loose end on the week preceding and during the holiday, why not come up and join us? Further information can be obtained from Dick at West Penwith, Over Kellet, Carnforth, Lancashire.

Gaping Gill Winch Meets

The Bradford Pothole Club are putting up their winch at G.G. over the Whitsun Holiday, and the Craven Pothole Club over the August Bank Holiday.

New Craven Pothole Club H.Q.

The Craven have moved into the two cottages next door to the Crown Hotel at Horton-in-Ribblesdale.

Pasture Close Pot

Harold Lord of the British Speleological Association has dug out a new pot near Yockenthwaite in Langstrothdale. It is 300 feet deep and very loose and shattered.

Manchester University Digs

Members of the M.U.S.S. have been very active in the area behind Pen-y-ghent. Notable finds include Foxup Beck and Littlewood Caves in the Foxup Valley. Both caves are approximately 1500 feet long. Another system known as Cosh Cave is now about 300 feet long and is still being pushed.

Ireby Fell Cavern

On Easter Sunday John Childs, with three friends from Leeds, reopened this pot. The entrance boulder choke at the bottom of the shakehole collapsed last September, and sealed the system. John has now gone to live at Poole in Dorset, and so is likely to be a more frequent visitor to Mendip in future.

Easter 1968

I think that last Easter should be recorded as being the best we have had for years. Nice warm weather, long hours of sunshine, and the water levels underground being the lowest since last summer. This is in contrast to the usual foul weather that seems to hang around the Dales over Easter Holiday periods, when the annual invasion from Mendip is imminent. The reason for this exceptionally good weather? Neither the Wessex nor the B.E.C. came up this year!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

May 1968.

THE GIANT'S HOLE SAGA

With the onset of the Foot and Mouth epidemic Giant's Hole, in Derbyshire, was closed, together with most of the other caves in Britain. It has still not been reopened. Mr. Watson, the farmer at Peakshill Farm, was asked, when the epidemic finished, if entry could be obtained. This request was turned down, presumably as an extra precaution against the disease.

It was then rumoured that Giants was being converted into a show cave by the owner. It was said that the door at the entrance to the cave was locked, that a small hut had been erected near the entrance and that steel compressed air piping could be seen entering the cave. A Derbyshire club intended entering Giants via Oxlow Cavern, pegging up Garlands Pot and photographing any work that was being carried out. This was rendered unnecessary when, on March 24th a member of the Sheffield College of Technology Caving Club became stuck in the Oxlow-Giants connection. A D.C.R.O. team was sent into Giants to assist in the removal of the subject from the Giants end of the crawl. They had difficulty gaining access and then had to ensure that there were no undetonated explosives in the passage.

They found that a man sized passage was being driven through the cave and that it had reached Pillar Crawl, the Curtain having been removed in the process. It was possible to walk out of the stream, either on planking or on rocks and pebbles, under which the stream flowed.

It would seem, from these observations that the original rumours were correct, but Mr. Watson stated, on being questioned by reporters from the Sheffield Telegraph that he had no intention of opening the cave as a show cave

at present.

All these facts first became public during the "Les Salmon Memorial Lecture" on the Giants-Oxlow system, given by Clive Westlake and organised by the B.S.A. More recently, at the D.C.A. annual general meeting, it was stated that Pillar Crawl had been removed together with the Backwash Sump and that the passage had almost reached Base Camp Chamber. Presumably this chamber and Garlands Pot will be the main attractions of the show cave.

Apparently there is no way of preventing the continuation of this work, even with the assistance of the Nature Conservancy and the Peak Park Planning Committee and we can only hope that future access to the further reaches of the cave, via the main entrance, will be allowed, though naturally it will be almost impossible to prevent access through Oxlow.

Yours etc.,
Jeff Phillips. University of Sheffield.
10th April 1968.

Dear Sir,

Article on Coed-y-Mwstwr Wood Cave

I have just seen a copy of your Journal for December 1967 in which J.H. Jones makes a number of claims regarding Coed-y-Mwstwr Cave which are inaccurate.

He has not "added about 300ft of passage" to the cave. 50ft would be a more realistic figure because 3 of us from this club explored as far as the end of the upper boulder chamber on Sunday 11th June 1961. We looked down into Jones' pot but were unable to explore it due to an accident. The third man in the party was climbing the chimney mentioned by Jones when he pulled a boulder out of the wall on to his chest. He was unable to free himself and the boulder was too heavy for us to lift. Later on it took 4 men and lifting tackle to remove it, but by this time the third man was dead.

To get out of the cave to get help, the second man and myself had to excavate another route, and this route is one of the "number of small passages coming off" mentioned by Jones in his 4th paragraph.

The exploration was described in Signpost report No. 150 of 15th June 1961, published by my club, and the accident was described in the 'Western Mail' of 12th June. Accompanying the latter report was a diagram of the system which, although rough, supports what I have written.

Jones apparently failed to notice the archaeological trench 15ft in from the entrance of the cave. The dig here was described in the Transactions of the Cardiff Naturalists Society, Vol. XVI, 1884 and the cave was visited by our old friend William Pengelly in that year.

It is a pity that cavers who are unable to determine from boot marks, etc. whether a cave has been entered previously, do not enquire from local cavers whether a particular site has been explored before. This is the second case that has come to my notice; in the first one a Mendip club claimed a cave discovery and named it, when it had already been thoroughly explored, named and written about in a Newsletter by the South Wales Caving Club.

The Cambrian Cave Registry*, The South Wales Caving Club, and my own club have records going back as far as August 1813. You are invited to make use of them - and to add to them when you make original discoveries.

Yours sincerely,
Melvyn Davies.
Secretary, Speleology Section ICI Fibres Club, Pontypool, Monmouthshire.

*The address of Noel Christopher, Keeper of the Cambrian Cave Registry, is- 9, Somerset Road, FROME, Som.

CAVING IN THE LAUBENSTEIN AREA OF CHISMGAU, GERMANY

Derek Tringham

The Laubenstein caving area lies about 80 km south-east of Munich, by the Munich-Salzburg Autobahn. The best access point is Frasdorf. The caving area is fairly small and runs to the south-west as far as the Austrian border. Many of the mountains in the northern edge of the Alps are formed of limestones of the Dolomitic type, and in the Laubenstein area Carboniferous Limestone is also present.

I was on a language course in the Inn valley about 10 km from the nearest caving region, but did not manage to get caving for five weeks, owing to lack of time, transport and good weather. My first trip was on a sweltering Sunday when I eventually got down the Schlüsselloehöhle (roughly translated as Agen Allwedd), with two friends also on the course, who I managed to persuade to try caving. This was caving in the raw, as I had no caving equipment with me, only climbing tackle, and a maze-like Survey. We parked the car at Frasdorf and walked in to where the entrance should have been. This walk-in involved about two hours uphill walking and a climb of about 1300 ft. with marvellous views over Chiemsee and the Bavarian plains.

Eventually the cave entrance was located after $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour's search in a semi-wooded grassy slope on the south-western flank of Laubenstein. This entrance is inconspicuous from all angles, and completely invisible from a distance of 4 yards, although of man-sized proportions. Without a survey we would have been hopelessly lost, but with a survey we were hopefully lost.

This cave has everything except a final sump. It has climbable pitches, unclimbable pitches, avens, an active streamway of mini-Yorkshire style with pools, pots and waterfalls, an upper phreatic maze, a lower streamway with magnificent formations, large chambers and excellent 'pushing' potential.

The final depth shown on my survey was 142 metres below the entrance, at a height of 1274 metres. The passage sizes are not large, but the cross-sections vary from keyhole to vadose-trenched solution tubes of greater size and rifts of unknown height.

The route we followed avoided all pitches requiring tackle and involved the phreatic maze (at an angle of 30° down), the Bärenhalle (with its pathetic little pile of undernourished bones), the Höhe Kluft and the lower streamway with its pools and formations. The lowest point on the survey, the "Schatzkammerl" (treasure chamber) was passed through a wet, tight right-angle bend in stalagmite to a 13 ft. waterfall which we couldn't descend without tackle. The passage continued on as far as visible with more good formations. With a lifeline the fall may have been free-climbable, but it overhung a bit, and climbing with one hand holding a torch is not too reassuring! The stream was absolutely minimal and at the lowest point only amounted to 2 or 3 gallons per minute. I have read, however, that in winter and very wet conditions it can be very much more. The formations above the lower streamway were reminiscent of the better formations in August Hole, and the Schatzkammerl had some beautiful banks of dripping stalagmite flow. We did not visit the Sinter Paradies (an oxbow off the lower streamway) where the formations are reputed to be as good as anywhere in Germany.

Our trip lasted four hours and we emerged at about dusk and were still fit enough to enjoy the walk downhill to the car, which took about an hour.

The next weekend as the weather was too bad to climb anywhere we (Bill Perry and myself) decided to return to the Laubenstein area and have a look at the Grosse Spielberg Höhle. The survey of this hole was so complicated as to be incomprehensible, but it appeared to be possible without tackle to a certain depth. This cave was much more commodious but unlike Schlüsselochhöhle was solely phreatic with a very steep gradient. Bill and I reached the alternative to a 15 metre shaft, a nasty looking tube called the "Rosenheimer Schluf" before turning back due to light and weather problems. Although only the beginning of September there was ice present at a depth of about 150 ft. below the entrance. In winter ice formations abound and no doubt the whole cave becomes more attractive. In summer, although fairly dry, what drips there were, were ice cold, and lack of suitable caving gear was a limiting factor, as I was clad in shorts and Anorak.

The total surveyed depth is over 170 metres, and involves 3 shafts of 7m, 15 m and the 'Grosse Schlucht' which has a depth of 30 metres. We saw the 7 and 15 metre shafts. The 7 metre shaft we found free-climbable (as well as being bypassable), the 15 metre shaft is bypassable and the Grosse Schlucht requires tackle, as far as is observable from the survey. The total surveyed passage length in 1962 was 1050 metres, and at that time it was the deepest cave in Germany. Progress we found very sporting, climbing and chimneying down being the main method. The one place that sticks in my mind is the Übersteig (stopover) where the passage doubles back under itself, and an exposed confidence move has to be made over the drop. Although the spot is furnished with artificial handholds, I needed a good ten minutes to build up the confidence to swing over the space and plant one foot on the other side. Although only in the cave for 3 hours, we unintentionally descended an unsurveyed way down past the 7 metre shaft. This was a dripping chimney that led from the top of the Sinterkammer through boulders to the chamber below the 7 metre shaft. Lower down in this system, according to the book, there is a lot of crystal and stalagmite deposit, although on not such a large scale as the Schlüsselochhöhle.

On the same day we had a cursory glance at the "Kleine Spielberghöhle" and "Laubenstein Ponor" (swallet), the latter appearing to have good digging potential in a very active stream sink. The depth followable is about 10 metres, and the length about 40 metres of well developed passage. The whole area has a good potential, water resurging at a height of 700 metres about 1¼ miles away, I think determined digging would give good results.

The area's chief disadvantage is its nearness to magnificent mountain scenery which often successfully competes for attention. However, its nearness to the Munich-Salzburg and Munich-Innsbrück roads makes it worth considering for a few days stop-off for the "holidaying" caver as well as the "hard" man.

If anyone wishes to know more about the area, they should purchase a German-English dictionary and the "Jahresheft für Karst und Höhlenkunde 1962" (Das Laubensteingebiet in Chiemgau) which is obtainable for DM 11.50 from: "Verband der Deutschen Höhlen-und Karstforscher e.v."
744 Nürtingen a.N., Jusistrasse 4/2, Germany.

BOOK REVIEWS

Neue hydrometrische Verfahren. "Beiträge zur Begründung der Elektrohydroraetrie by Horst Andreae, 4th Edition 202 pp. 67 figs. Published August 1966 by R. Oldenbourg Verlag, München 8, Rosenheimer Strasse 145, Germany at DM 38.-

This is the fourth edition of a book previously published under the titles of "Grundwassermessungen" (Berlin 1959) "Hydrometrische Verfahren" (Berlin 1961) and "Neue Hydrometrische Verfahren" (Berlin 1963)- (Reviewed Wessex Cave Club Jnl. Vol. 8 No. 95 P- 96). The latest edition is a most authoritative and comprehensive handbook by the onetime Professor and Director of the Hydrological Institute of the Mathematics and Natural Science Faculty of the Humbolt University of Berlin.

Prof. Andreae introduces his book on Hydrology with a section on the importance of water to industry and to a countries economy and points out that it is not until times of drought that the importance of ample water resources is fully realised. The human body requirement is at least 2 litres of water a day, apart from its use in washing, swimming, water-sports and hygiene. He continues with descriptions and illustrations of the latest electronic instruments used in the field to record temperatures, moisture content, water level etc. Other tools such as the auger for the collection of soil samples are also described.

The book is concluded by short papers by Prof. Andreae and his colleagues on field work using these instruments.

Much work has been carried out in the field of hydrological investigation in German caves, and the author includes a chapter on his own researches in Hermänn's Cave (Rübeland) which involved recording the subterranean temperatures of water, rock and air by remote control.

This volume is without a doubt a standard work on this subject and consequently a book that no Hydrologist can afford to be without.

A.D.O.

THE COURTESY OF DEATH by Geoffrey Household. 206 pp. Published by Michael Joseph Ltd., London at 25/-d.

Geoffrey Household is already renowned for such novels as Rogue Male and Watcher in the Shadows, the former having appeared in a film version. His latest book is an action packed thriller, fully equal to Rogue Male.

Set largely underground in the Mendips it will have a special appeal to cavers. A retired mining engineer looking for a Somerset pub to buy stumbled across a fanatical religious sect (no, not a caving club) which holds its meetings in a secret cave whose walls are covered with palaeolithic paintings like those of Lascaux.

Fearing that he might disclose and commercialise their secret cave they lure him underground and leave him to starve. Needless to say our hero escapes after a fortnight's captivity only to be tricked into being trapped in the cave again. Does he get out alive? Well, perhaps you had better read the book and find out.

A.D.O.

Lummelundagrottorna (Lummelunda Cave) by Leander Tell. 44 pages 5 illustrations 2 plans. Published by Centrocommerce - Norrköping (in Swedish with English, French, German and Esperanto summaries.)

The booklet concerns a cave in Silurian limestone, situated on the Baltic island of Gotland, about eight miles north of Visby. Although it has been known for many centuries it was not until 1925 when the author first visited the district that any attempt at a full exploration was made. The original entrance consisted of a small resurgence (flow 5 litres/second). After overcoming numerous obstacles, including tight rifts that needed blasting and loose stones in the roof, Tell finally pushed the cave to a length of 600 ft.

In 1959 a private company blasted a passage which intersected the cave near its midway point, thereby permitting the tourists to visit the inner reaches dry shod.

The booklet is well produced and its multi-lingual summaries will ensure it of a favourable reception the world over.

A.D.O.

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Shorter Notices

"Riddle of the Welsh Caves" by Alan Coase. The Geographical Magazine. Vol. XI No. 14 pp. 1200-1209 (June 1968).

A concise clearly written history of exploration in Dan-yr-Ogof, South Wales. The cover picture of this issue is an impressive colour print by the Author, and the article itself is profusely illustrated with a good selection of colour and black and white photographs. A full page survey and location map of the system up to the chokes in the Far North figures on page 1203. The Wessex Cave Club is credited with having helped in the discovery of Dan-yr-Ogof III in September 1966 (Cf. Derek Tringham W.C.C. Jnl No. 109, Vol. 9, November 1966, p. 140).

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A Catalogue of Caving Publications held by Bristol Central. Reference Library. Published by the Mendip Cave Registry (March 1968).

Ray Mansfield can take the credit for having initiated the only collection of caving publications readily available to the general public in this country. The Bristol Central Reference Library collection was started in 1965. Three years later his wife Kay has compiled a comprehensive 14 page catalogue of the impressive collection that is rapidly building up at Bristol. The Mendip Cave Registry have sponsored this booklet, and over 100 copies have been distributed to interested organisations. Certainly, most clubs will have received the catalogue. A small number are still available for clubs or individuals who would like to have one for their bookshelves. Enquiries should be made to Mrs. Kay Mansfield, "Tiny Knott", Little London, Oakhill, Bath, Somerset.

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"Karstic Morphology" by M.M. Sweeting. A contribution to a paper by Peter Furley on "The University of Edinburgh British Honduras-Yucatan Expedition". The Geographical Journal (of the Royal Geographical Society) Vol. 134 Part 1 March 1968. pp 38-54.

Dr. Sweeting, who was Survey Leader of the expedition, first gives a regional description of the various types of cone and tower karst relief in the area visited, and latterly assesses the influence of different limestone lithology on the distribution of these landscapes. Water analyses are used to establish rates of solution at selected localities in the different limestone districts.

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Levant Mine, by R.M. Hazard. Account.No. 3. 12 pp. (Xeroxed) pub. by the Shropshire Mining Club at 3/6d. from 2 Princess Gardens, Newport, Salop.

In 1919 the Levant Mine was the scene of one of the worst mining disasters in Cornish Mining history when a man-engine, loaded with men coming to the surface at the end of the day shift, broke, and thirty-one men lost their lives.

The author also describes the working of the mine from 1820 until it was closed in 1930.