



FOREWORD.

The result of the appeal to members for help towards the cost of the new Club hut was indeed magnificent, members contributing in all about £145. The balance of the actual cost to the Club of the hut, £160, has been met by a member, so there will be no call on Club funds, but the lining, stove and other fittings have had to be met from these funds, so if any member who had intended to send a contribution but has not yet done so, would care to send it to the Hon. Treasurer, we will be pleased to receive the gift.

Work on the hut and site has continued on most weekends and at one time it was hoped to have it ready for the general use of members by Whitsun, but unfortunately this was just not possible. It is planned to have an all out drive the weekend after Whitsun to try to make the place habitable, and it is expected that it will be available for use by mid June or thereabouts. The following items of furniture, etc. would greatly add to the comfort and convenience of the place, and if any members could help us by providing some of them we should be very pleased to hear from them.

Folding camp beds.

Tilley lamp.

Bookcase with glass door (for Club Library).

Floor covering.

Water tank.

The membership of the Club continues to grow in a most gratifying manner, and we do hope that all of our new friends will join in as many Club events as possible.

David Willis, who has undertaken to open up Cow Hole on behalf of the Club, reports that he is beginning work on the site by putting up a strong fence, and will then commence work on the swallet.

Hon. Secretary

Hon. Secretary.

F. Frost, 22 Wolseley Road, Bishopston, Bristol.
'Phone Bristol 44221.

Hon. Treasurer.

G. Williams, 1 Redhill Drive, Fishponds, Bristol.

Hon. Asst. Sec.

Mrs. P.E. Millward, Court-de-Wyck, Claverham, Nr. Bristol.
'Phone Yatton .3211.

Hon. Sec. London Group.

Mrs. J.H.D. Hooper, 92 Station Crescent, Ashford, Middx.

NEW MEMBERS.

We have pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

R.G. Cave, Towers Cottage, Evercreech, Somerset.
M. C. Clinch, 39 Abbey Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.
G. Falconer, 21 Birchgate Grove, Bucknall, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.
C.A. Gloyn, "Dunromin", Flowers Hill (off Bath Road) Bristol 4.
A. G. Hill, Little Bays, Sandford, Nr. Bristol.
J. Lewins, Crofton Lodge, Orpington, Kent.
C.C. Maitland, Orchard Hill, East Harptree, Nr. Bristol.
L. Sancha, Heatherdown, Blagdon-on-Mendip, Somerset.
A.M. Wring, 76 Kensington Park Road, Bristol 4.

Joint membership:-

Mr. & Mrs. F. C. Bryant, 15 Filton Avenue, Bristol 4.

Affiliated members:-

Beecham Cliff Speleological Society, 4 Kensington View, Upper East Hayes, Bath, Somerset:-

D. Ford, Hon. Sec.

K. Attryde	D. Horner
M. Bayley	K. Iles
J. Bennett	B. Long
J. Blackman	G. Matthews
G. Candy	R. Morgan
C. Cooper	P. Morley
M. Crouch	R. Page
D. Deans	F. Richards
W. Dowden	B. Swift
B. Ellis	B. Weston
G. Gibson	S. Wilton

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

W.E. Tudball, 2 Charis Avenue, Henleaze, Bristol.
R.T. Sellars, Bell Bank, Skyrethornes, Threshfield, Nr. Skipton, Yorks.
B.B. Salmon, 13 Varo Terrace, Yarm Lane, Stockton-on-Tees.
P.E. Burt, 3 Manor House, Rothamsted, Harpendon, Herts.
J.C. Broadley, c/o Mrs. Bathard, 24 Green Lane, Frome, Som.
I. Mackintosh, c/o R.E's Office, New Power Station Site, Portishead, Bristol.
D.A. Willis, 18 Church Road, Hanham, Bristol.
Mrs. D.A. Willis (nee Miss B. Gilchrist) 18 Church Road, Hanham, Bristol.

LONDON GROUP.

Hywel Murrell has now left the London area to take up a post in the Midlands and on behalf of the group I should like to say how much we appreciate all he has done for us while he was Secretary and how sorry we are that he has had to leave us. In addition, we have been very much indebted to Mrs. Murrell, his mother, who most kindly allowed a room in her flat to be used for meetings.

In future I hope it will be possible to arrange for meetings to be held in a small lecture room in Imperial College, South Kensington. Any new members of the Club who are resident in the London area and who would like to be informed of meetings of the London Group are asked to send their names and addresses to the new Hon. Secretary:-

Mrs. W.M. Hooper,
92 Station Crescent,
Ashford,
Middlesex.
Tel. No. Ashford 2168.

C.H. KENNEY.

Members were very sorry to learn that as a result of an accident on his motor cycle, Howard Kenney sustained a broken leg and wrist. We sincerely hope that he will quickly recover, and we look forward to seeing him back amongst us in the near future.

CONGRATULATIONS.

To David Willis and Miss Brenda Gilchrist on their recent marriage. We wish them every happiness.

FUTURE EVENTS.

CANCELLED. July 12/13th. South Devon.

We regret that owing to an accident to the trip leader, C.H. Kenney, this event has been cancelled.

Saturday, July 26th. Stoke Lane.

Meet at Cooks Farm, Stoke St. Michael (farmer Mr. Stock) at 2.30 p.m. There is a short sump less than three feet long and beyond are five large chambers containing the finest stalactite formations on Mendip.

Names should be sent to the leader Ian Mackintosh, c/o Sir William Halcrow & Partners, R.E.s Office, New Power Station Site, Portishead, Bristol, (telephone Portishead 2048) who will cancel the trip if less than three people are coming.

G.B. Cave. Guest days.

Sunday, July 6th and Saturday, September 6th. Further information regarding the above can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

Further Club trips are in the course of being arranged and members will receive in due course full details by post.

CAVE RESEARCH GROUP OF GREAT BRITAIN.

A General Meeting will be held on Saturday, 21st June, 1952 at Wells, in the Lecture Room of the Wells Museum at 5 p. m. The Meeting will last for two hours and two papers will be read followed by discussions. The papers will be illustrated by lantern slides.

The papers read will be:

Cave Photography	by	Mr. P.I.W. Harvey.
Caves in Norway	by	Mr. C.L. Railton.

W.C.C. members will be welcomed.

LATE NEWS.

The new Headquarters is now available for the use of members. Application for accommodation should be made in the usual way to the Hon. Secretary.

MENDIP RESCUE ORGANISATION.

PROCEDURE IN EVENT OF ACCIDENT.

1. Person having knowledge of accident will go to the nearest call-box or telephone and ring the Police. (Wells Police Tel. Wells 2197).
2. The Police will require the following information:
Name and address of caller.
Number and situation of call-box or telephone.
Nature of accident.
Name of cave.
Position of accident in cave (if known).
Number of people in party.
Whether experienced cavers.
3. The informant will remain at Phone for further instructions.
4. The Police have been requested to ring Wardens in list order until one is located.
5. The police and Warden will jointly decide what action is necessary.
6. The Warden will in all cases contact Dr. Crook at TIMSBURY 13 who will provide medical assistance or advice.
7. If the assistance of cave divers is required, ring a Diving Warden.
8. Any further action will be at the discretion of Wardens and Police.

WARDENS.

	<u>Telephones</u>	
	<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>
C.H. Kenney, 5 Vicars' Close, Wells.	2288/9	3211
F. Frost, 22 Wolseley Road, Bishopston, Bristol 6.	81966	44221
J. Ifold, Leigh House, Nempnett Thrubwell, Chew Stoke.	Blagdon 432 or 400	
Prof. E.K. Tratman, Penrose Cottage Blagdon, Nr. Bristol.	Blagdon 274	
P.B. Dolphin, Overhill Cottage, Easton-in-Gordano, Somerset.	Whitchurch Pill 31115 2162 Ext.12. (Police)	
T.H. Stanbury, 74 Woodleigh Gardens, Whitchurch, Bristol.	Whitchurch Whitchurch 2162 Ext. 12 2369	

		<u>Telephones</u>	
		<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>
L.W.E. Devenish, Chapel House, Priddy, Nr. Wells.		Priddy 20	(Post Office)
D. Donovan, 12 Royal Crescent, Bath.		Bristol 24161	(Bath (Geol. Dept.) (5673
L.W. Millward, Avalon, Bishop Road. Cleeve, Nr. Bristol.		Yatton 3211	Yatton 2159
D.M. Thomson, 4 St. Joseph Road, Weston-Super-Mare.			Weston 4638
		B.R.I.	

MEDICAL WARDEN.

Dr. B.A. Crook, Timsbury, Nr. Bath. Timsbury 13

DIVING WARDENS.

G. Lucy, 46 The Crescent, Henleaze,
Bristol. 67838 66478

J. Ifold, Leigh House, Nempnett
Thrubwell, Chew Stoke. Blagdon 432 or 400

FIRST AID KIT.

Stretchers, bandages, splints and dressings will be kept at the following Club Headquarters:-

University of Bristol Spelaeological Society, Top of the Link, Burrington.
Bristol Exploration Club, "The Belfry", The Beeches, Priddy.
Wessex Cave Club Hillgrove, Bristol Road, Nr. Wells.

CONSTITUTION.

1. Committee - The Wardens, with power to co-opt representatives of any Club or Society wishing to co-operate.
2. Hon Sec. - C.H. Kenney, 5 Vicars' Close, Wells.
3. The number of wardens is not fixed and the Committee may add to the list any suitable person.
4. Meetings to be called at the discretion of the Secretary, but not less than one in each calendar year.
5. The Committee will maintain the organisation's Notices at entrances of caves and erect new ones if considered necessary.
6. Lists of Cavers willing to assist in a rescue will be kept by all Wardens.

A CAVE PRESERVATION TRUST.

It is a regrettable fact that the caves of this country which contain displays of natural encrustations have in a large number of cases, been depleted of these irreplaceable sources of interest and beauty. The vast extent of the damage that is being done cannot always be appreciated by cavers who did not see the formation as first found. Take the first Grotto of G.B. for example. In 1940 it was not possible for one to get up from a prone position when crawling through this chamber if one wished to avoid destroying the hundreds of very fine stalactites. Today hardly one remains.

Certain leading cavers have suggested that something must be done by the caving and potholing movement in this country to protect the underground formations of our caverns from accidental and wilful damage, and with this object in view held a preliminary meeting on April 26th at Leeds Y.M. C.A., and elected provisional Officers. An inaugural meeting of the proposed trust will be held on Saturday, September 27th, 1952 at Leeds Museum. and we hope that some of our members will find it possible to attend on that date.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY. FIRST SESSION, PARIS. Sept. 1st to Sept.-5th, 1953.

After the Congress in Paris, several excursions in the limestone districts of France will be arranged. Probably one of about a week's duration to the prehistoric caves of the region around Les Eyzies and the great tourist caves of the Causses. Other shorter excursions to the Alps and the Pyrenees will also be arranged.

At the present rate of exchange the cost including food, lodging and travelling expenses in France should be from £1 to £2/10/- per day.

A limited number of circulars giving more detailed information can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

N.B. Please note - the Congress is to be held in 1953, next year.

AN INTRODUCTION TO ROCK CLIMBING IN CHEDDAR GORGE.

By D.N. Young.

Rock climbing in Cheddar Gorge is recent in its origin. Though a party of the Climbers Club visited the Gorge in 1924 and wrote an article in the journal of that club, it was not till the formation of the Royal Naval Ski and Mountaineering Club after the war that the great faces were really explored. Still there is no route from top to bottom of the so called unclimbable face, but as more than one person has prospected the possibility of routes up its numerous buttresses and gullies, it would appear that it is only a question of time before this too is accomplished.

The rock itself is of Carboniferous limestone, varying slightly in hardness. Though in places it tends to be loose, on the recognised climbs it is of good quality. Care should be taken at all times not to dislodge loose rock, partly for the climbers' own sakes, and also for the safety of people and traffic in the Gorge below. This applies especially to the area in the neighbourhood of the village and Cox's cave. For if complaints are made or an accident should occur it is likely that the police permission to climb would be withdrawn.

The general rule as regards footwear is anything but nailed boots. Gymshoes, rope soles or the Itshide Commando soling are excellent. The rock is too soft to give a good grip for a nail, especially of the Tricouni type, the nail biting into the rock easily, but also cutting its way out again far too quickly for safety.

The numerical system has been adopted for the classification of the routes, mainly because it introduces more grades into the lower standards. For the benefit of people unfamiliar with the system, the following key to it is given:-

Moderate/Easy	1A	Very Difficult, medium	3B
Moderate, difficult	1B	Very Difficult, hard	4A
Difficult, easy	2A	Severe, easy	4B
Difficult, hard	2B	Severe, medium	5A
Very Difficult, easy	3A	Severe, hard	5B
Very Severe 6			

When the rock is wet or iced a climb may move up as much as three places, so that a climb shown as "Difficult, easy" may become a "Very Difficult, medium".

There is still much exploration of all standards, from Moderate upwards, to be done. I would be interested to hear of any new routes being made.

(to be continued).

PAST EVENTS.

LAMB LEER TRIP. 16th March, 1952.

This was a thoroughly successful event; even the padlock on the door giving no trouble.

Twenty cavers, only two of whom had been in the cave before, rendezvoused at the quarry in good weather and at the advertised time. Let us hope this last is becoming the rule rather than the exception. After a considerable amount of pen and ink work and stamp licking on the "blood chits" the lid was lifted and the long procession started down. The light weight ladders were very quickly rigged, the cut links being much easier to handle than rope tails, while they also ensure that there is no twist in the completed job.

The steady stream down the ladder to the main chamber was punctuated by flares of magnesium ribbon, without which the extensive formations on the walls cannot be appreciated. Nearly everyone went on to the bottom of the Cave of Falling Waters, and before the last descent was made the first ascenders were ready to come up. The ascents continued steadily members going straight on and out after their arrival on the platform. After the last one was up the ease of making up and transporting the gear was much appreciated, and the lid was closed at 6.00.

Everyone was very pleased with the light weight tackle. A number expressed a preference for the flat rung as giving a better grip to the boot nails, but all agreed that the round rung was kinder to the hands.

Only two incidents occurred - one member found that the lace hooks on his ski boots tended to catch on the ladder and had to put a pair of socks on outside to prevent this; and another got the lifeline twisted round the ladder before coming up. However, by bearing the ladder off on arriving at the overhang the lifeline was enabled to come up without jamming and he was brought up to the platform without trouble. These slight incidents are only mentioned with the idea of saving others from similar predicaments.

Our grateful thanks are due to Luke Devenish, who kindly lent his private set of lightweight ladders and tethers and nylon lifeline.

P.B. Lawder.

CLUB VISIT TO YORKSHIRE, EASTER 1952.

Joint meet at the Marton Arms, Ingleton, with the Stoke-on-Trent Pot Hole Club.

In all nine members of the Wessex Cave Club travelled to Yorkshire for this very pleasant event. The weather was good and it was very nice to again meet our Stoke friends. Four of the Wessex's party joined the Stoke potholers in trips to "The Cavern", but the others under the leadership of David Willis decided to explore Lancaster Hole via Rosy Sink.

Articles on both "The Cavern" and Lancaster Hole trips will be found elsewhere in this issue of the Journal.

Hon. Sec.

CLUB VISIT TO SOUTH WALES, 24/25th May.

The ten Wessex members who visited South Wales had a very enjoyable weekend. On Saturday all the party visited Ogof Ffynnon Ddu, but split into two sections, one going by the "Escape Route" and the other via the Stream passage. In the evening most of the party gathered at the "Ancient Briton", and to quote Colin Vowles got down to the "serious business of the day".

It was arranged for the Ancient Briton members to meet those staying at the South Wales Cave Club H.Q. at 9 a.m. on Sunday, but on arrival at 9.30 it was found that breakfast was still in the process of being prepared. After a little 'gentle' persuasion the party of 8 started off for Loughor, and under the leadership of Lionel Dingle, began their exploration of the cave. Unfortunately Lionel had not visited the cave since before the war, so a little difficulty was experienced in finding the way on, in fact after making its way through some very tight squeezes, so tight that George Williams could not pass, it was found that the party was going around in circles. In spite of this the leader still persisted with his story that he had explored the cave in the years before the last war complete with two friends and one hand torch. Further, they were all dressed in gents best natty suiting. Kindly, but firmly, he was delegated to the rear of the party, and following Donald Thomson, a way on through the cave was discovered which eventually led to a small pitch where it was possible to get into the river. Unfortunately time was running short, and it was therefore not possible to explore any of the many side passages of the cave, so the party rather reluctantly returned to daylight, and the journey home. Without a doubt, one of the most pleasant and enjoyable weekends that the Club has had in South Wales.

Hon. Sec.

CLUB TRIP TO YORKSHIRE, EASTER 1952.

IREBY FELL CAVERN.

As a result of a major hold-up in the transport arrangements* a very late start was made in the Cavern on the first day and this gave us no chance of getting to the end as we were due back at the Marton Arms for dinner. The entrance is in a large depression very similar to that of Eastwater. At the bottom is an obvious cave entrance which peters out after some 100 feet. This was the known cave until 1948 when a dig a little higher up broke into a steeply descending stream passage. Soon is reached the first pitch, Ding, a 30 foot ladder with an awkward start, a twenty foot slope and so to Dong, a 35 foot ladder; then, just around the corner in a helical twist, is Bell which is no more than a 45 foot continuation of Dong. Bell involves an awkward step to get on to the ladder and is wet. While half the party stayed dry at the top of Bell, John Wedgwood and I forged ahead to find the next pitch. We climbed down two pots, the second with a rope, then, following the stream passage, we just went on and on with very little change in the features for about 1300 feet. The passage was seldom less than 12 feet high and much of it was two feet or less in width. It was almost horizontal and bent from side to side as can be gathered from its name - the Zigs. The walls were smooth and clean and were scalloped. In two or three places stalactite curtains formed creeps. These formations were larger and more beautiful than anything else we had seen in Yorkshire where the standard of cave scenery is generally much below that of Mendip. John and I at last reached Pussy pitch. We left the rope there and returned to Bell and so out. Thus the first day, unavoidably, was a reconnaissance in force only. This was rather unsatisfactory as the Cavern does not justify a two day expedition.

The second day in Ireby was spoiled by the presence of a large number of strangers who got mixed up in our party below. Firstly, I arrived on the Fell while all my potholing kit lay on the car park at the Marton Arms. Roy Midwinter took me back for it while the other eight from Stoke went below led by a "guest". Messrs. Pawle and friend had waited for us at Dong and with them we hurried along the Zigs in two minds as to whether to go to the end of the cave, which would mean our carrying all the ladders out of the pot and back over the moor as all the others would be out by then. Pussy pitch was the decider. We found that the 35 foot rope ladder acted the dual role of ladder and tether; and lifeline too if you like, because there wasn't one. The ladder was supported wholly on one side although the lie of the ladder against the rock caused it to be sensibly horizontal. I went down the ladder and the

others, on a closer examination of the rigging which our "guest" leader had fixed when it was discovered that tethers and lifeline had been left at Bell, were not long in deciding that the pitch was most dangerous. Soon the other seven returned, and using a rope that they had used at a lower drop, they were all lifelined up this hazardous Pussy. Strangers kept popping up and in a large caravan we returned along the Zigs. With much delay owing to our number, we unding-dong-belled to the surface, but not without one bit of excitement. Roy Midwinter looked around for his ammunition box which was nowhere to be seen at the bottom of Ding. He had sent it up on the line and one of the strangers had kindly taken it on up for him. He was bewailing on the moral that the only safe way was to have it on one's person. It only contained two watches, his Bell and Howel movie camera, a microptic photometer and other what have you. Most fortunately it was found at the entrance but the strangers had vanished.

Below Pussy we were told that the Zags stretch for about the same distance as the Zigs. Then comes Duke Street - a long hall some twenty feet high. There was also some vague talk of a sump. The Cavern is an interesting pothole well worth a visit by a party not exceeding eight, and should be done in one day. Our thanks are due to all members of S.P.C. for their good company. They are to be congratulated on the marking of their tackle. Every item has a disc fixed to giving the length and a code which indicates its age.

* See paragraph four of David Willis' article "An East visit to Ease Gill".

Ian Mackintosh.

AN EASTER VISIT TO EASE GILL

A party of four members - Keith Chambers, Alan Ash, Brenda Willis and myself - travelled up to Ingleton by Buick, regardless of expense. It would have been cheaper by British Railways! Denis Warburton joined us there.

The Northern Pennine Club's excellent publication "The Caverns of Upper Ease Gill"* aroused in me a great desire to see something of the wonders of the farther reaches of Oxford Pot. On the evening of our arrival Denis and I contacted members of the N.P.C. at their H.Q., "Crow Nest" at Austwick, and were greeted with the news that both the main and Rosy Sink entrances to Oxford Pot had been blocked by falls of rock. This left only Cow Pot and Lancaster Hole - both impractical due to the distance from the entrance to the far reaches of Oxford Pot and because the B.S.A. 'control' access to Lancaster Hole. Rosy Sink and Oxford Pot are just outside their leasehold - the former by about one foot. The N.P.C. planned to work on the Rosy Sink blockage on the following day, so we decided to await results.

Saturday. Four early risers visited the beautiful glens and waterfalls of the famous Falls Walk at Ingleton, leaving their chauffeur in bed. It was a glorious morning and we stopped to feed the red squirrels at a little tea chalet by Thornton Force before returning for breakfast.

All hands were called to assist the main party in carrying tackle from the road to the Cavern, Ireby Fell. On the way up over the moor we managed to get the Buick bogged-down beautifully near Marble Steps. All attempts to move it proved useless and Alan and I approached a farmer in the nearby hamlet of Westhouse for assistance. With typical Yorkshire Dales" hospitality he brought out his tractor and towed the Buick half a mile on to firm ground. His price was so reasonable that we felt sure it would have been cheaper to have the car towed everywhere than to run the engine.

The morning having been spent testing our strength and ignorance we decided to tackle something easy and chose the cave systems feeding Alum Pot - Upper and Lower Long Churn which require little tackle (only one 50' ladder) and give good sport with practically no crawling. This system is too well known to merit description in the limited space available. We descended as far as the Bridge (further tackle is necessary to continue), where the great rift was an impressive sight with the spray from the falling beck forming a heavy mist.

We returned to the Marton Arms for dinner, afterwards phoning the N.P.C. party who reported good progress on the Rosy Sink and suggested we join them next day.

Sunday. 5. a.m. saw three super-optimists set out for Ingleborough mountain by way of Crina Bottom in the hope of seeing the view from the top. We reached the summit before seven o'clock but picked the wrong morning for we could hardly discern the nearby Whernside. However, we had a glorious scramble down the steep scree into Chapel le Dale and returned to Ingleton by way of the Greta section of the Falls Walk, having covered eight miles.

After breakfasting we released Chambers from the Stocks outside the Church, pushed the Buick off to a good start and took the Kirkby Lonsdale Road. We turned off on to the lane which runs steeply up the side of Casterton Fell and then along the top of it, giving views over Leek Fell and Ease Gill valley, until the lonely Bullpot Farm is reached. At the farm we met members of the N.P.C. and walked over the moor to Upper Ease Gill valley, reaching it at a point just above the spectacular waterfall and pool of Cow Dub.

The Ease Gill stream begins to find its way underground as soon as it reaches the limestone (at about 1200' contour) and in about half a mile until the final sink at Cow Dub (1000' contour) numerous sinks feed the Master Drain which links the Oxford Pot series with that of Lancaster Hole and the resurgence at Leck Beck Head. The known passages of the whole series total over eight miles and contain the finest caverns in the country. The valley below Cow Dub is dry except during heavy flood - until Leek Beck Head is reached over a mile further down.

Many sykes (drainage 'cuts') and small streams feed the sinks above Cow Dub. One of the sykes by Oxford Pot (cut only four years ago) has eroded a deep gash in the side of the valley some fifty feet deep and one hundred yards long - a fantastic scene.

Arriving at Oxford Pot we, found it blocked effectively by a great fall of rock from above (which hardly looked the work of nature). One or two people were working on the rock blocking the Rosy Sink entrance,** just below Oxford Pot and in the valley bottom. Using a hand rock chisel they prepared a hole for a charge of explosive. Meanwhile the host of spectators (waiting in the hope of getting in) were entertained by a lad in a waterproof suit who performed in the Cow Dub pool. Presently we were treated to a large bang and the way was open! Everyone began to change at once and one by one the crowd disappeared below ground.

Led by Ron Bliss (Red Rose C.C.) we crawled through the first tight stretch of the Rosy Sink entrance into a small stream-cut passage known as the Slaughterhouse Drain, after which there was very little crawling. The passage became higher, terminating quickly in an easy ladder pitch of 15 feet, followed by a short traverse and a ten foot climb down into a large wide passage (the Broadway) running back towards Ease Gill. A small stream runs down this passage towards a boulder-strewn chamber (Oxford Circus) and branches down a passage terminating in a sump.

We turned into a passage past a waterfall (the Showerbath) and on through Showerbath Passage to the junction with the passage from Oxford Pot at Confusion Corner. Here the main passage is fairly wide and covered with boulders (Spout passage). We continued into Spout Hall where we ducked under the right hand wall and climbed up a chimney into a bedding-plane packed with straw stalactites. The formations in Oxford Circus and Spout Hall were very good but this bedding-plane (named Poetic Justice) was breathtaking. It ended in another small pitch of 20 ft. into a boulder chamber leading to a very fine stream passage (very like that of Ffynnon Ddu) with small pools and waterchutes. This, Pierces Passage, was discovered by B.S.A. members from Lancaster Hole in 1948 and Poetic Justice is the link-up from Oxford Pot.

In some 600 ft. Pieces Passage reaches the Main Drain (or Master Cave) of Lancaster Hole at Aureka Junction. Downstream the Main Drain soon ends in a sump, upstream (wading in the stream and scrambling over fallen boulders) the way lies through Stop Pot, a high boulder chamber which must be climbed to enter Lancaster Hole, until after some 500 feet Holbeck Junction is reached. Here a passage runs off towards Ease Gill. Another high-level passage continues to the Gypsum Cavern, containing many beautiful Gypsum crystallisations, and the stream passage continues as Thackray's Passage for about 1000 feet, rich in stalactites, curtains and straws and some very fine pure white flows of stalagmite.

At the end of Thackray's Passage we climbed up over unstable boulders into a series of bedding-plane chambers known as the Easter Grotto (1951). Each chamber was packed from side to side with straw stalactites and erractics. In the first chamber there were several red-coloured formations, stained by ochre which could be found in pockets in the calcite floor. Another chamber contained a fascinating pool with "cave-ice" floating on the surface. Yet another, some really remarkable stalagmite bosses. Everywhere the straws hung down in profusion dazzling one with their brilliant whiteness. Denis, our photographer, was almost beside himself with excitement - in every direction the scene cried out for photography. Wisely he had lugged a heavy motor-

cycle accumulator through the whole cave for illumination and was thus able to take numerous photographs without "fogging" the place up completely.

The end of the Grotto is only 20 feet from the far reaches of the Gypsum Cavern and a useful through-link is anticipated.

It was with great reluctance that we left the Grotto for the return journey to the surface, although it was a considerable relief to be able to raise one's head again without fear of destroying a dozen or more of the straws. Unfortunately we did not have time to visit the Gypsum Cavern or any of the many side passages. For details of these it is better that I refer you to the Northern Pennine Club's own account, which is well-produced and accompanied by an excellent survey.

We spent four hours in Oxford Pot and could quite easily have spent another twenty four, to say nothing of the adjoining five miles of Lancaster Hole.

The light was fading as we came down from Casterton Fell, still dazed by the grandeur we had seen and filled with the determination to come back as soon as possible to see something more of the finest caverns in England.

We would like to express our deep gratitude to the members of the N.P.C. and Red Rose C.C. for their hospitality.

D.A. Willis.

* "THE CAVERNS OF UPPER EASE GILL". 6/6 Post free from:-

A. JOWETT, WESTCLIFFE, TOWN STREET,
MIDDLETON, LEEDS 10.

** The Rosy Sink (discovered by the Northern Pennine Club in September 1951) provides an easier alternative way into the Oxford Pot series to the main entrance itself (which starts with a 50 ft. pitch and a tortuous crawl known as the Snake). Oxford Pot was discovered (B.S.A.) in 1947, some nine months after the discovery of Lancaster Hole. The link-up between Oxford Pot and Lancaster Hole (far series) was discovered in October 1950 by the N.P.C.

CORRESPONDENCE.

My apologies are due to E.A. Glennie and to other observant readers for the careless use of the limestone symbol in the diagrammatic section through Ludwell Cave. The mistake was admittedly original, and was somewhat exaggerated during duplication so that the combined error was very noticeable.

With regard to scalloping, or current marking, none was observed, and I think it probable that there is none of any value, since the water appears to well up through the jumble of Trias stones and boulders on the floor. The actual exposure of limestone is poor, and little can be deduced from it apart from the dip of the strata.

My money (figuratively speaking) is still on the upper shelter, assuming that it does not connect with the resurgence, in the hope that the postulated up-and-down-stepping passage will continue high and dry for some distance into the hill.

May I digress to comment on Don Thomson's informative article on cave photography. I view him with mistrust, since the print resulting from my one appearance before his camera, in Wookey Hole, depicts a scandalous lengthening of my nose to almost double its normal, allegedly Grecian, proportions!

I too had a good deal of trouble with touch papers; the main objections being their slow and irregular burning and their failure to ignite slightly moist powder. Quite by chance I substituted a strip of celluloid on one occasion and found that it filled the bill perfectly. Probably the most satisfactory type is inflammable 35 mm cine film. A strip of this is sufficiently wide to be bent in a right angle down the centre, when it can be stood vertically in the heap of powder and ignited at the top. The film burns downwards at a rate of about one inch in three seconds, and the heat of the flame will ignite almost anything. Its light is sufficient to prompt the question; "Why bother with the flashpowder?" from onlookers, but it seems to have little effect on the negative.

Celluloid has of course the great advantage of being one less thing to keep clean and dry. In this respect it is preferable to even the mechanical devices which employ a percussion cap or a sparking wheel to ignite the powder, although given suitable conditions the first-mentioned is very effective. I have not experienced the other.

W.I. Stanton.