



The new committee has decided to go ahead with a plan which it is expected will make the Hillgrove Hut very much more comfortable, particularly during the winter months. Final details have yet been worked out, but the scheme we have in mind includes lining the ceiling of the sleeping quarters, and the extension upwards of the kitchen partition.

All this will mean quite a lot of work, and the Secretary will be very pleased to receive offers of help from members.

Your committee would like to call members' attention to the advantages of using the club's huts during visits to Mendip. In particular, we would take this opportunity of extending a welcome to cavers from other areas who are planning to visit Mendip. Anyone wishing to bring along a party of friends should contact the Secretary, and if accommodation is available we will do our best fit them in.

The journal sub-committee consists of the Secretary, Asst. Secretary, Oliver Lloyd and Phil Davies. There is a little material in hand for future issues, but we hope all who can, will send along articles, reports, notes, etc, on caving and allied subjects.

The latest news of the Chairman/Treasurer is that he is much better, and we all wish him a speedy return to his normal good health. He has asked us to remind members that subscriptions for 1954/5 were due on October 1st, and if you have not already done so, would you please send yours to him as soon as possible? The subscriptions are 10/- full membership, 12/6 joint, (man & wife), and 1/6 affiliated. Contributions from members for the Balch Testimonial Fund should be sent to the Treasurer, and not to the Secretary as stated in the report from the A.G.M.

Finally, the officers and committee send to all members and friends, their good wishes for Christmas and the coming year.

Secretary. Frank Frost, 22 Wolseley Rd, Bishopston, 7. (44221).

Asst. Sec. D. Thomson, 4 St. Joseph Rd, Weston-super-Mare.

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

Sec., London Group, D.Willis, 129 Broxholm Rd, West Norwood, London S.E.27.

Gypsy Hill. 1332.

WESSEX CAVE CLUB.RECEIPTS AND
For the period 1st August 1953.
1953

To Subscriptions (£1.10.0. in advance)	67.	7.	6.	60
Affiliation Fees	5.	2.	6.	4
Entrance Fees	6.	0.	0.	9
Donations	3.	15.	0.	2
Headquarters Fees	35.	18.	0.	24
Eastwater Flat Fees	6.	13.	0.	8
Gear Fees	4.	10.	6.	6
Lamb Lair Fees	1.	4.	0.	0
Sundry Sales	1.	2.	10.	3
Deposit Account Interest	1.	2.	0.	1
Annual Dinner 1953 (Surplus)	2.	15.	6.	1
Total Receipts	137.	10.	10.	118
Balance at 1st August 1953	43.	14.	7	45
	<u>£181.</u>	<u>5.</u>	<u>5.</u>	<u>£163</u>

PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
to 30th September 1954

							<u>1953</u>
By Headquarters:- Rent	5.	0.	0.				5
Lighting & Heating	18.	8.	5.				5
Repairs, Renewals & Sundries	<u>6.</u>	<u>14.</u>	<u>6.</u>	30.	2.	11.	48
Eastwater Flat:- Rent	2.	10.	0.				2
Repairs & Renewals		<u>13.</u>	<u>3.</u>	3.	3.	3.	6
Tackle Expenditure				1.	8.	3.	2
Club digs				4.	0.	0.	1
Insurances - Third Party	6.	1.	4.				6
Flats	<u>3.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>0.</u>	9.	1.	4.	3
Cost of Circulars (£15 previous year)				63.	11.	5.	12
Postages & Telephone:- Secretary	3.	8.	11.				7
Treasurer	1.	7.	1.				1
London Group		<u>9.</u>	<u>0.</u>	5.	5.	0.	1
Stationery				2.	11.	8.	1
Library additions				2.	15.	0.	2
Cave Research Group					10.	6.	0
Imperial Cancer Research Fund				1.	1.	0.	0
Carbide Lamp Spares				1.	8.	0.	0
Bank Charges & cheque book					10.	0.	1
Membership brochure							7
Share of expenses of M R O expenses							2
Lamb Lair rents							1
Tackle hut							20
Badges							7
Total Expenses				125.	8.	4.	120
Balance at 30th September 1954:-							
Economic Building Soc. Deposit A/C	45.	2.	8.				
Midland Bank Ltd. Current A/C	<u>10.</u>	<u>14.</u>	<u>5.</u>	55.	17.	1	43
				<u>£181.</u>	<u>5.</u>	<u>5.</u>	<u>£163</u>

I have examined the above Receipts & Payments Account together with the books, vouchers and records, and in my opinion the same presents a true and fair view of the Receipts and Payments of the Club for the year ended 30th September 1954

C.H. Kenney Incorporated Accountant Wells, 26th September 1954

We welcome the following new members:-

The Rev. C.H.D. Cullingford.	Dr. R.E. Davies.	W.A. Dowden.
A. Fincham.	H.F. Evered.	N.W. Tuck.
<u>Affiliation.</u> Monmouth School Caving Club.		

Future Events.

The following communication has been received from the U.B.S.S.

G.B. Guest Days.

Sunday, 16th January. 1955. Meet 2 p.m. at Cave.

Sunday, 6th March. 1955 Meet 2 p.m. at Cave.

Monday, 11th April. 1955 Meet 2 p.m. at Cave.

Saturday, 11th June. 1955 Meet 2 p.m. at Cave.

There will be the usual entrance fee of 1/- per head.

Secretaries are reminded that the full list of names of those intending to descend should reach me at least a week before the Guest Day concerned. The number over the last few Guest days have been unmanageable because we have not been able to arrange extra guides to cope with the extra numbers whose names arrived late or not at all. It will be necessary to refuse admission to parties unless the names reach me the required week in advance.

Hon. Sec. U.B.S.S.

Addendum.

Will secretaries please remind affiliated clubs that we cannot accept lists direct, but they must come through the affiliating club.

U.B.S.S. Lectures (Geography Lecture Theatre. 8.15 p.m.).

January 24th. Mr. Geoffrey Fuller. "Ireland 1954".

February 28th. "Climbing". Speaker to be arranged.

Eastwater Survey

Denis Warburton has offered to let members have 'true to scale' copies of this survey at the cost price of 9/- for the sheets, the cost to non-members being 12/-. Orders from members and others must be received by the Secretary before January 30th. Please send cash with order. Denis Warburton and Oliver Wells are trying to draw a simplified version for inclusion in a future issue of the journal.

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner.

The Meeting.

The Club held its Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 23rd October 1954 in the Annexe of the Cliff Hotel, Cheddar. Prof. L.S. Palmer took the chair at 4.30 p.m. About 50 members were present. It was a matter of great regret to us that our Chairman-Treasurer, George Williams, was unable to be present owing to a severe illness, but a message of greetings was sent to him at the close of the meeting, wishing for his speedy recovery.

The minutes of the last A.G.M. were read and confirmed. The only matter of import arising from them was a statement by our Auditor, Mr. C.H. Kenney, that owing to the illness of our Treasurer it had been decided for this year not to depart from our previous custom of presenting only a receipts-payments account, instead of a complete account for income and expenditure.

The Secretary's Report for 1953/54.

"I have again to report that there has been little change in the size of our membership from that of recent years. We have 172 members including 13 joint memberships. During the year we have, under the club's affiliation scheme, elected 3 additional school caving clubs, and now have a total of 8 such affiliated clubs. Twenty-seven new members have joined the club during 1953/54. It is interesting to note that of the 6 people who were present at the meeting when the club was formed, 3 are still members.

"There seems to be little demand for club trips, although the number of members visiting G.B. cave on "Guest Days" has been quite large. It has to be admitted that a high proportion of these have been members of our affiliated clubs, and it can be assumed that there would be little demand for an organised trip if it was possible to obtain access to the cave in the usual way. The Easter trip to Yorkshire was highly successful in every way, but we seem to have failed to run the usual club trip to South Wales, although a number of members visited this district with private parties.

"Our members have been very active on Mendip. Of outstanding importance, both on account of its accuracy detail and good draughtsmanship, is the Survey of Eastwater Cavern, recently completed by Denis Warburton. Derek Ford and his friends have been

digging in Eastwater, and the joint dig of Hywel Murrell and Phil Davies at Whitsun Hole has attracted the attention of a number of members, including Robert Lawder. The excavation had shown considerable promise, but so far it has not been possible to find a way into the huge underground system that we all hope exists under this part of Mendip. David Willis reports that work at Cow Hole has gone well, and he hopes soon to get into the cave. Oliver Lloyd has used every willing (and unwilling) caver in the district to help blast and dig in the so-called Priddy Green Stream Passage of Swildon's Hole, but Oliver Wells, due to his accident in S. Wales, was not able to reopen the shaft of Cuckoo Cleaves. He did however, by his discovery of the Mayday passages, add some 150 feet to the Black Hole Series in Swildon's. A new cave was discovered during blasting operations at Fairy Cave Quarry. This cave has been named Hiller's Cave by one of our young members, David Penrose, who with other members of the Midsomer Norton School Caving Club was the first to explore the cave.

"The most interesting event of the year was the investigation by the cave divers, Graham Balcombe and Bob Davies, of Sump II Swildon Hole. Without any doubt Oliver Lloyd's terrific enthusiasm and drive in organising the party that assisted the divers, contributed in no small measure to the success of the trip, which resulted in the divers discovering that it is not possible to pass the sump.

"Turning from actual caving, I think we should place on record our appreciation of all the work that David Willis done on the Hillgrove Hut and site. Unfortunately he has left the district to live in London, but he still hopes to try to help the new hut warden whenever he can. Our professional 'Earth Remover', Luke Devenish, has, with a little persuasion, came to our rescue when 'mechanical aids' were required, and only recently he laid 60 tons of hard core on the path leading to Hillgrove hut as well as making a 'car park' nearby.

"Our experience this past year has shown us that it is not easy to turn out a neat well printed journal and still keep solvent. Two issues were duplicated by a professional, but the results were far from satisfactory. The last issue was a great improvement, and in this case only the stencils were cut by a duplicating firm, the rest of the work being done by two members.

Unfortunately the bulk of the work has been added to the normal secretarial duties; it is not easy to obtain help at the time it is required. I think members will agree that the standard of the articles has been quite high. We hope to continue publishing an interesting journal, but can only do so if members help by sending in articles and reports.

"We have little news of the London Group, but David Willis is rather keen to get the London members together again, and we may hear of increased interest in the group.

"The Club's good samaritan the Chairman and Treasurer, is at the moment lying very ill. The latest news is a little more reassuring. We all hope that he is soon restored to full health. Perhaps only I know the full extent of the club's indebtedness to George, for without his help it would not have been possible to have obtained many of the facilities now available to members.

"Two new metal ladders were completed in the spring, and at least two of the existing ladders completely remade. Through the good offices of Ian Dear we have purchased 110 ft. of alloy tubing for extra ladders. The new gear curator has given me a lot of help in ladder manufacture and, if all goes well, we hope to make some new tackle before next year.

"I would like to take this opportunity of thanking those members who have co-operated with me during the past year. There has been an almost complete absence of those incidents that are the bane of a secretary's life, and if the coming year is as happy a year as 1953/54 I shall be more than satisfied."

Hywel Murrell said that the Club would be 21 years old next year and that a celebration was called for. He claimed that five of the original members were still alive: Wyndham Harris, J. Duck, N. Clark, K. Griffin and Murrell himself.

The Treasurer's Report.

The Secretary rose to present the balance sheet (published on another page) and pointed out that owing to his illness there was really no Treasurer's Report. We had no outstanding debts (this was later challenged by two creditors, who were assured

that their claims would be settled in the ensuing year) and even the expenses for the Journal incurred in 1952 had been paid off. The Journal now cost about £10 per issue, and this could not be reduced without substantially lowering the quality of the publication. Income from club hut fees had increased from £32 to £42.

The Auditor said that the cash balance had increased by £12 in spite of paying off £15 of arrears, and that therefore the actual balance on the year's workings was £27. Members appreciated the provision of spare parts for carbide lamps at the hut, which were paid for in cash, and expressed the hope that this facility might be extended to a cwt. drum of carbide. Eric Hensler pointed out that there were certain regulations concerning the storage of carbide, and the Chairman promised that the committee would look into the matter. The accounts were then accepted.

Election of vice-Presidents and President.

The Secretary pointed out that there was no club rule governing the election of these officers from time to time. The vice-Presidents were: Prof. E.K. Tratman, Dr. F.S Wallis, P. Ageron, M. Norbert Casteret, Mrs. D. Dobson-Hinton, and to these it was proposed to add the name of Prof. L.S. Palmer. Luke Devenish, seconded by David Willis, proposed that these six should be elected and that the committee be instructed to investigate the position and prepare a rule to be submitted to the next A.G.M. This was carried. The same formula was then proposed for governing the position of President, to which Mr. H.E. Balch was then reelected with acclamation.

Officers and Committee.

The new officers and committee for the year 1954-55 were as follows:

Chairman and Treasurer:	G.H. Williams
Secretary:	F. Frost
Assistant Secretary:	D.M.M. Thomson
Gear Curator:	J. Swithenbank
Committee:	P.Davies, I.A. Dear, L. Devenish, D.Ford, M. Glenister, C.H. Kenney, Cmdr. P.B. Lawder, O.C. Wells, D.A. Willis.

The Balch Testimonial Fund. The Secretary first introduced this subject, and the Chairman then asked Kenney if he would outline it to the meeting.

Kenney said that the Wells Archaeological and Natural History Society, had, in conjunction with a number of other Somerset organisations started a testimonial fund for the benefit of Mr. Balch on his retirement from the post of Curator of the Wells Museum. Mr. Balch had wide interests, which included not only archaeology and spelaeology, but historical research, bee keeping, church affairs and certain charitable organisations. It was hoped that all who had benefited from the interest he had shown would wish to subscribe to the fund, both as individuals and as organisations.

After some discussion it was decided that the Secretary should be ready to receive donations from members for this fund, and that in addition to these the Club would subscribe five guineas out of its own funds.

Depreciation Fund for the Hut.

The Secretary said that Prof. Tratman had drawn attention to the fact that the Club was laying by no money for the eventual replacement of the Hut at Hill Grove, when the time came for that to be done. A similar lack of thrifty foresight was even now embarrassing the University Spelaeos. He suggested that if 10% of the income from hut fees were put into a special fund this might be enough to replace the hut in twenty years time. Devenish replied that a new hut would cost between £300 and £350, and that this would need 50% of the yearly income from hut fees. Kenney suggested that the amount annually put on one side should be in proportion to the eventual cost of replacement and not to the annual income from hut fees. Oliver Lloyd agreed and proposed that we should have a depreciation fund and that we should leave it to the committee to work out the financial details. This was seconded by Devenish and after some further discussion was adopted.

Club Affiliations.

The Secretary drew attention to the copy of the rules which

had been circulated to members at the meeting, and in particular to rule 17. (This is published on another page). He pointed out that as it stood, this rule gave the club no real control over admission of individual affiliated members, unless it were through the headmaster of the school. There were two or three cases, however, where the headmaster, though tolerating the Club did not particularly encourage it.

The Rev. C. Cullingford, headmaster of Monmouth School that had recently affiliated to the Club, said that normally the headmaster would be the chairman of the school caving club, but that a responsible assistant master would do as well. If the club were unofficial, then in the case of an accident to one of the members there might be difficulties with the governing body. It was essential for members to have their parents' permission, and the club to be led on its expeditions by a member of the Wessex Cave Club.

Derek Ford, who founded the Beechen Cliff Spelaeological Society at Bath two years ago, said that the headmaster had been dubious about extending official recognition to the club, but he had backed them all the same. He had made it clear that individual members had to get written permission from their parents, in which the school and board of governors were specifically exonerated from responsibility. As assistant master had helped by drawing up some rules, and the affairs of the club were now going smoothly.

Kenney said that it was essential for a responsible person be in charge. In case of a request to borrow tackle the Gear Curator had discretion. The Secretary however, said that gear was not lent to individuals in affiliated clubs but only to the secretary. The rules of such clubs were submitted to the Committee of the Wessex Cave Club with the application for affiliation, but it might be desirable for this to be done.

It was proposed that the committee should consider the matter and make any necessary bye-laws or suggestions for alteration of the rules, bearing in mind the discussion that had just taken place. This was accepted.

Cave-Digs.

A rather diffuse discussion then took place regarding the

rights of members to particular sites of exploration. The first question posed was, how long could a dig be reserved by a party; was it to be for ever, or was there to be a time limit? Next, for how long were sole rights to be reserved in a new cave by its discoverers? One strongly expressed opinion was that these enterprises should be Club digs and not private digs. It was pointed out, however, that permission to dig was given by the landowner or farmer nearly always to an individual rather than to a club. It was then his personal responsibility to fence the dig and if unsuccessful to fill it in at the finish. Unfortunately there was no register of digs on Mendip, and it was very difficult to find out what work had previously been done on a site and by whom. One sometimes came across ancient tools quite unexpectedly. Much might be said and had been written on the ethics of digs, but in general it was felt by the meeting that the exercise of courtesy and restraint were all that was required, and that generally secrecy was undesirable. No resolution was put.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Hon. Secretary, the Treasurer, the Auditor and to the Chairman.

Annual Dinner.

The Annual Dinner of the Club took place at the Cave Man Restaurant at 7.30 for 8 p.m. on Saturday the 23rd October. Seventy five members and guests were present, and events followed on much the same lines as last year.

The toast of the queen was honoured in silence.

John Wedgewood, President of the Stoke-on-Trent Pot Hole Club rose to propose the health of the Wessex Cave Club, which he did in a gay and forceful speech. Oliver Lloyd replied to this by emphasising the warmth of friendship existing between the two clubs, a friendship which was enhanced every year by their joint Easter meet in Yorkshire.

Lloyd then went on to propose the health of the Guests. We had with us Mr. Sealey of Grove Farm a constant friend and helper of club members using our hut there. There were also official representatives from the Mendip Nature Research Committee, the

Bristol Explorations Club, the University of Bristol Speleological Society and the South Wales Caving Club. As he knew most of these personally he was able to introduce a little mild raillery tempered with respect for all of them, and he praised their clubs for some of their recent achievements.

The guest of honour was Prof. L.S. Palmer, now Curator of the Wells Museum. Lloyd introduced him to the company by means of a brief biographical sketch, in which some of his contributions to speleological study on Mendip were mentioned, ranging from the evaporation experiments of 1913 to the earth resistance measurements of a much later date. By means of the latter Prof. Palmer had predicted the presence of another large chamber in the Lamb Leer system some fifteen years ago. An annual dig had been in progress there ever since. At Prof. Palmer's inaugural lecture in Wells, Mr. Balch had called on all those who had been his willing helpers in the past to show the same degree of kindness and help to his successor. Lloyd was convinced that as Mr. Balch had asked for this that Prof. Palmer would receive it.

In reply, Professor Palmer expressed thanks to the Club for having elected him a Vice President. He commented that Lloyd appeared to have gone fairly thoroughly through his police record but thanked him for having suppressed the more lurid events, for example the accusation of having bashed in a lady's skull in Aveline's Hole. It was true that when she was taken out of the cave, she was dead; but then so she had been for several thousand years. He then briefly outlined some of his plans for future work. He did not wish to change the character of the Wells Museum, but would start by doing some re-arranging and labelling. In field work, he very much hoped to be able to excavate an untouched Lake Village. He had special ideas regarding method, but unfortunately they might be a little expensive. He also wanted to continue his geophysical researches. The work on Lamb Leer of 1938/9 was done with more primitive apparatus than was now available and needed repeating. In those days one used to make holes in the ground for the electrodes with a sort of potato planter. A neighbouring farmer seeing them at work once told them (without putting too fine a point on it) that it was more economical to plant one's potatoes closer together. He told us another story of how he had once taken some women students to see some erratic blocks, displaced by glacial action. Unfortunately he referred

as "erotic blacks`, and the remaining details of the story may be conveniently forgotten. He concluded by saying how much he was looking forward to his return to Mendip, not only to renew old friendships, but to strengthen new ones, among which he particularly valued those of members of the Wessex Cave Club.

After dinner it was pleasant to be able to converse with old friends. Denis Warburton had brought with him his survey of Eastwater and this was greatly admired, not only for its neatness and detail, but because of the ingenuity he had shown in drawing clearly three sets of passages that were in fact one on top of the other. The Company began to break up soon after 10 o'clock, and go their various ways in heavy rain.

UNDERGROUND VENTURES IN AUSTRIA

It is a remarkable fact that cavers rarely go on holiday from caving. Even if the caver should be unfortunate enough to be removed by well meaning friends or relations from carboniferous limestone, he will usually be clever enough to find the next best, a sea cave, mine, tunnel or sewer. So it was with my friend Bob Sellers, and myself when we planned a touring holiday of Austria. To our already overloaded Austin 7 was added two kit bags of caving clothes and a whole rucksack filled with glass tubes of all shapes and sizes, in case we should visit a cave where we might see a "bug".

After driving across France and along the superb German autobahns, our holiday really began at Hallein, a busy little salt town about ten miles south of Salzburg. Nestling at the foot of the lower Alps on the river Salzach, Hallein proved to be an excellent centre to visit the city of Salzburg with its considerable medaeival interest and its festivals, the wild mountains of Berchtesgaden with their memories of Hitler, the Salzburg Lake District, and of more interest to the caver, several worthwhile underground expeditions are at hand. A town popular for its winter sports and as a spa, and of wider fame as the home of Franz Xaver Gruber who wrote the world famous song "Silent Night".

The Hallein Saltmines.

Bob Sellers and I had already been told by a friend that the Hallein Saltmines were a "must" for cavers, and so our first expedition was up a little mountain, Duernberg, some 2950 feet high rising straight from the town. An hour's walk brought us to the upper entrance of the "Salzbergwerk", a point which can be reached by the lazy on the cable railway in ten minutes. Having bought our tickets we were given "a suit of the saltmine workers" consisting of a cotton smock and trousers and a beret type hat. Visitors entered the mine in parties of twelve, with two guides who immediately began to describe the place, its history and the method of mining the salt. I cannot pretend to have understood all that was said, but it was very noticeable how well the description was delivered and how much information was given, and not in the tone of voice as though to say "I have recited this hundreds of times before". This enthusiasm of the guides and a

real effort to do their job well was noticeable everywhere in Austria. After walking a fair distance along narrow passages under both Germany and Austria, we reached an underground museum with fine examples of salt crystals, many fossils, and celtic evidence of mining operations. There were several of these little museums; one displayed marble pictures of the archbishops of the district of Salzburg, and another, a scale model of the mine, each passage being represented by stiff wires supported on slender pillars inside a glass case, the top of which was shaped to represent the surface features. This showed the mine to cover a vertical distance of 1650 feet, and an area 4400 feet by 9800 feet with nine levels of mining. An interesting idea for illustrating some of our complex English caves. The most thrilling part of the trip was the slides. These were just like kiddies playground chutes but considerably longer, giving access from one level to another. There were four of these, and the first one was really quite frightening and before reaching the bottom, one's legs became distinctly warm with the friction! By the time we reached the last one, we were beginning to enjoy them, and the guide who sits in front was allowing us to go faster by lessening the braking on the guide rope which he holds with gloved hands. This last slide was 260 feet long and we descended at a tremendous pace. At the bottom there was a very noticeable smell of burning trousers! More passages, and then an illuminated artificial lake which we crossed by boat. We were told that the water was 33% salt and apparently much of the mining is carried out by pumping such water down to Hallein where the salt is extracted, and then conveyed on the river to Salzburg and other towns. The expanse of unsupported roof over this lake is quite remarkable. Our next surprise was a little railway line where we found a "chassis" waiting to transport us. Sitting rather precariously astride this we rumbled down a long narrow tunnel with sudden bends, all in complete darkness eventually to rush into daylight near the foot of the mountain. Here we were photographed, and our bags and cameras left for safe keeping at the top of the mountain had been carried down for us. For thrills and variety, as a public "show mine" it is unlikely to be bettered.

We also visited another salt mine just over the border in Germany near Berchtesgaden with much the same features and means of transport. Once again we were equipped with coat and trousers, but a smarter hat of Turkish pattern, and also a large piece of

leather which we had to fasten round our rear portions. This rather intrigued us until we found that it was designed to slow us down on the slides.

Nearby, between Berchtesgaden and Schellenberg there is a spectacular gorge - Der Almbachklamm. At the time of our visit the river had been considerably added to by the recent floods, and climb up the gorge on paths excavated out of the cliff side, across narrow wooden bridges, and even at one point through an excavated tunnel was very thrilling. The gorge continues for miles, and although less spectacular towards the upper end, the greater width of the valley gives enchanting glimpses of the snow capped mountains beyond.

The Schellenberger Ice Cave.

Our first cave trip was to the Schellenberger Eishohlen. On the outskirts of Schellenberg a notice indicates the path and gives a friendly warning that the cave lies above the 1500 metre contour line (actual height 5100 feet) and that it is a three hour walk. The path leads one through thick woods, for ever zigzagging, gradually gaining height until the wood thins out and the path continues above the tree line up to the hut where Toni Linz and his family live. They are used to receiving hot and weary visitors and within a few moments we were served up with sweet hot milkless tea and lemon - a- wonderfully refreshing drink. We had got up in two hours, and at this rate we reckoned we could climb Everest in twelve hours! We gathered that the family move up from Schellenberg at the end of May and leave on the 20th October. All their possessions and food have to be carried up this path! Refreshed, we again started climbing towards the cave through occasional patches of snow, and at the entrance we met the guide. The start of the cave was very impressive. Deep snow lay on the ground, and a few yards of scrambling down snow steps led us through an impressive archway into a large chamber with an ice floor. This was a very thrilling moment, almost equal to one's first cave trip. True, entering just another cave, but here conditions and scenery quite unlike any other cave we had ever visited. Almost immediately we came to huge ice pillars and stalactites, which were lit up to very good effect with magnesium ribbon. The colours are difficult to describe and vary from complete transparency to a deep blue or green. In places the stratification is very clear.

We descended ice passages to a depth of 230 feet. We understand that the cave is not fully explored and that there are considerable possibilities for anyone who is prepared to tunnel through the ice. It was first discovered by Professor Fugger in 1874, and later visited by Alexander Murch in 1912. It was again explored in 1924 by eight men from Schellenberg and opened to the public in 1925. One of these men was Toni Linz who has since spent every summer at the hut, acting as a guide.

The Werfen Ice Cave.

Returning to Austria and Hallein, we moved to a new centre - Werfen, and stayed at the Hotel Eisreisenwelt which is recommended for its draught wine and fresh mountain trout which one chooses from a tank at the back of the hotel. We also found the proprietor and his friends most hospitable and we got involved in a party which finished at 5. a.m.! Werfen itself, is a delightful village sited on the River Salzach, and overlooked by a fine mediaeval castle on a small hill, but dominating all are the almost vertical cliffs of the Tannenbirge, which rise to a height of 7971 feet. Near the top of these cliffs there is the largest ice cave in the world - the Eisreinwelt. A three hour walk up a most impressive path, with frequent almost vertical views to the valley 5000 feet below, brings one to the guide's hut. Here, one may spend the night for only one shilling. From the hut we approached the cave through patches of snow. The way in was barred by a wooden wall, and from inside we could hear a roar as though of rushing water. We soon realised that this was only air moving through cracks in the wooden wall caused by differing air temperatures. The blocking of the entrance is designed to control this flow of air in order to retain the cave's low temperature. For the same reason, only three parties are allowed each day, but we were fortunate to be taken in separately. This allowed the guide to limit his vocabulary to our standard and we were as a result able to understand much of what he said - Bob acting as the interpreter. Entering the cave, we reached the ice almost immediately and walked along duck boards. The guide was at great pains to light up everything worth seeing with magnesium ribbon. This was particularly fine when he illuminated huge ice pillars from behind, the ice having a wonderful blue-green transparency. Perhaps the most impressive part of the cave was the ice-fall. We climbed up a very steep wooden ladder, where the original explorers had made steps with their ice axes. Further on there had been a huge sump

and this was dived by the first explorers in near freezing water. This was now drained and we walked along its bed and on to fantastically beautiful chambers full of ice pillars and cascades. On one pillar we noticed ice "erratics" which appear to be due to splash. The principal explorer of this cave - Alexander von Murck - was killed in the first World War. Friends recovered his body and after cremation interred his ashes in the cave and built a shrine to his memory. Once a year, they still gather together and hold a memorial service at the shrine. At a distance of one kilometre from the entrance we came to the end of the show cave, but from here our guide told us there was another 41 kilometres of passages making a total length of 26 miles. We gathered that it was very complex and that ice axes and crampons were essential. The trip to the end of the cave takes three days! In one kilometre we had risen 400 feet, and if the cave could be followed for its full length it would undoubtedly emerge on the mountain plateau above.

In past ice ages the mountain top had been a huge ice plateau and the cave was filled with ice. The coldness of the enormous quantity of ice in the cave, combined with severe winter conditions keeps the ice almost static, despite a more temperate climate. Only near the entrance is there any annual change, melting a little in the summer, but freezing up again in the winter.

Salzachklamm and Liechtenstienklamm.

The road from Werfen back towards Salzburg passes through an impressive gorge called the Salzachklamm where there is another show cave called Kroatenhohle. There are many caves in this district and if only time had allowed we would have liked to have done more than just visited show caves. The road southwards from Werfen brings one to St. Johann where there is a most impressive gorge called Liechtensteinklamm. It is very narrow with the cliffs almost closing together above one's head. Spray flies everywhere and one's ears are filled with noise by the cascading torrent.

The Glacier.

Our last underground adventure was at the top of the highest pass in Austria, the Grossglockner, a height of 8100 feet.

Returning from a walk on the glacier we noticed in the lateral moraine a hole. Scrambling inside we found ourselves in a veritable palace of ice. We needed no lights for the cave was lit up by daylight coming through the ice and this gave everything a turquoise hue. Snow had been blown inside and had carpeted the ice floor, giving us some grip on the gently sloping passage. A distance of about 30 feet brought us to the edge of a precipitous ice slope and from below there came an impressive roar of water. We imagine that this cave drains the glacier in summer, and being entirely of ice, probably changes in shape from year to year. Further progress without crampons and ice axes was out of the question, and one imagines that the near freezing water in the passage below would be a formidable difficulty to overcome.

Time (and money) was all too short, and so we returned to England with, we are ashamed to say, unpacked caving clothes, and empty specimen tubes. Nevertheless, we had seen some wonderful caves and mines, and we feel sure that some day we shall revisit Austria to see more of this fascinating country.

C.H. KENNEY.

WESSEX CAVE CLUB.
RULES.

1. That the Club shall be called the Wessex Cave Club.
2. That the objects of the Club shall be:
To promote the sport and science of caving by:
 - (a) initiating newcomers into the best tradition of the game.
 - (b) gating caves that are likely to be despoiled.
 - (c) publications.
 - (d) organising gatherings to explore or excavate.
 - (e) by arranging for Members to visit caves in districts other than their own.
 - (f) erecting and maintaining huts where members can stay ,while cave hunting.
 - (g) maintaining gear for the use of members.
 - (h) maintaining for the use of Leathers a library of books, literature and maps.
3. That the Club shall consist of Honorary Members and ordinary Members who may be of either sex.
4. That the President, Vice Presidents, and Honorary Members shall be entitled to exercise the privileges of ordinary membership.
5. That the affairs of the Club shall be conducted by a Committee which shall consist of a Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Assistant Secretary, Gear Curator and nine other members who shall retire annually and be eligible for re-election, and that the Hon. Secretary of any group within the Club be eligible to attend a committee meeting in an ex officio capacity, and may nominate a substitute to attend any meeting which he cannot attend personally. The Committee shall fill any casual vacancies.
6. That the election of the Committee shall be by postal ballot, and that the Club year shall end on Sept. 30th and the A.G.M. and Club Dinner shall be held during October.
7. That any person desiring to join the Club must be nominated by two members and elected by the Committee.

8. That the subscription for Ordinary Members shall be 10/- per annum due on Oct. 1st each year, and every new ordinary Member shall be required to pay an entrance fee of 5/-. Any Member whose subscription has become more than three months overdue shall be named in the next circular, and if within one month the subscription has not been paid, the Member's name shall be removed from the list of Members and notice to this effect shall be sent to the Member. The subscription of a Member joining near the end of the financial year may be deemed, at the discretion of the Committee, to cover the subscription for the following year. Married couples may become joint members paying an annual subscription of 12/6. They shall enjoy all the amenities of the club, except that they shall receive one copy of each circular issued and one note only.
9. That a charge of 1/6 (exclusive of any gate fee) shall be payable by any non-member who takes part in any trip on which Club gear is used, or in any trip which is organised by the Club. The size of the party shall be at the discretion of the leader.
10. That every person whether a Member or not, making use of the services of a guide or guides, or taking part in any activity or expedition organised by the Club, or in which any Member of the Club shall take part, shall do so at his or her own risk, and that he or she or his or her legal personal representatives or assigns or dependents shall have no claim or right of action against the Club or any Member thereof in respect of any damage loss or injury sustained notwithstanding any negligence of the guide or any Members, or the body of Members of the Club.
11. That an extraordinary general meeting may be called at any time by the Hon. Secretary when required to do so by the Committee, or in writing by ten members of the Club. Two weeks notice must in all cases be given.
12. That Members using the Club's Headquarters shall leave it in a tidy and clean condition.
13. That no alteration shall be made to these rules except at the A.G.M.

14. That Members who take up temporary residence abroad, or who are conscripted into H.M. Forces, shall have their subscription suspended until their return or are discharged from H.M. Forces, upon notification to the Hon. Secretary.
15. Any person whose membership is deemed to be undesirable by a three-quarters majority of the Members present at a general meeting, at which the Member concerned shall have an opportunity of being heard, shall be expelled from the Club.
16. That the Committee shall have the right to refuse the use of Club possessions to Members when they consider it desirable in the interest either of the Club or the Member concerned, but the Member concerned shall have the right of appeal to the Committee against this decision.
17. That caving clubs or societies attached to schools, youth or scout organisations etc., may become affiliated to the Club on the approval of the Committee. The subscription shall be 1/6d per member per annum. Only one copy of each circular shall be sent to each affiliated body. Note. "The concession given by this rule is normally intended for minors who are not wage earners. Wage earners and adults should only be admitted under the rule in the proportion of one to ten minors".
18. That members of affiliated bodies may become Ordinary Members of the Club when their application has been approved by the Committee and the annual subscription has been paid. The entrance fee shall be waived for Members joining the Club in accordance with this rule.
19. That notices of motions for discussion at an Annual General Meeting shall be received by the Hon. Secretary not less than three weeks before the date of the meeting. Such notices of motions must have the names of the proposers, and be circulated to the Members at least seven days prior to the meeting.