



CLUB NEWS

Tackle

Over 420' of alloy ladder is now available to members. In its construction the Gear Curator has found the cutting, spacing and pinning jig loaned by Steve Wynne Roberts of considerable value. It will not be long before the target of 500' is reached, particularly since the eye splicing technique has been speeded up by the use of copper collars, crimped on a 5 ton press.

The Bristol Exploration Club scheme for colour coding tackle amongst Mendip Clubs has matured and the suggested colours, to which no objections have been raised to date, are:-

Axbridge Caving Group & Archaeological Society	Yellow
Bristol Exploration Club	Blue
Cerberus Speleological Society	Grey
Mendip Caving Group	Pink
Mendip Nature Research Committee	Green
Shepton Mallet Cave Club	Blank
University of Bristol Speleological Society	Orange
Wessex Cave Club	Red
Westminster Speleological Group	Brown
Spare	Purple

Eastwater Hut

Calor gas cooking and lighting have been installed at the Eastwater Hut, Thanks are largely due to Bob Woolley for the installation and to our Chairman for the donation of a cylinder. Further improvements, including a floor covering of lino tiles, have been made to the interior as well as making up the full complement of crockery, cutlery and cooking utensils. Owing to the limited size of the hut it is not practicable to keep a spare cylinder of gas there, but the single cylinder can, when empty, be exchanged for the spare that is nearly always to be found at Hillgrove. In case of emergency a primus stove, fuel, candles, etc., are still kept at the hut but must be replaced by anyone who is forced to use them, before leaving.

Hut fees for members remain as before (comparable with Hillgrove fees) but the fees payable by guests have been raised from 2/6 per night to the same level as at Hillgrove, i.e. 3/6 for each night. Guests staying overnight at either hut may make use of club tackle without extra charge.

Club Meets

Because of some extremely large attendances at some of the recent Club meets (G.B. 32 - Hilliers 25) it would greatly assist the leaders if members wishing to attend could contact them whenever possible, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope if a reply is required. In this way the leader could arrange for extra guides if the numbers warranted them.

Hut Bookings

The coming of Summer usually brings about an increase in the use of the Hillgrove and Eastwater huts, and this seems to be an appropriate time to remind members of the present booking system. We receive quite a few requests from other clubs and parties who wish to use our facilities, and if Hillgrove and Eastwater are not fully booked the party concerned is given permission to use the hut. Obviously our members come first, and under no circumstances will the huts be filled with guests, if we know that our own members require places. So if possible you must book in advance.

Bookings can be made with E. Hanwell, 8 Hooper Avenue, Wells, or by booking in the diary left at Hillgrove for this purpose. If you have booked and have not been sent a key, then the hut will be open when you arrive. If you have not booked and at the last minute decide on coming to Mendip, then just turn up. If there is a space you are welcome to it. If not, then no doubt you can be fixed up in some way. You can always find out if the hut is likely to be full by phoning Howard Kenney - Wells 2168.

Survey Scheme

The Committee are hoping to make surveys more generally available to members and for the time being Howard Kenney will hold stocks of the following:-

Swildons Hole 1/1500	4s. 0d.
Swildons Hole 1/2000	3s. 0d.
Eastwater Cavern (2 shts.)	7s. 0d.
Stoke Lane	4s. 6d.
Pate Hole, Yorkshire	2s. 9d.

The above prices are inclusive of postage and the surveys will be sent folded in a large envelope. If any member requires an unfolded copy a tube should be sent with the order and the price will be 6d. extra to cover the additional postage.

Orders to: C.H. Kenney, Tudor Cottage, Beryl Lane, Wells, Somerset.

Library

A library report is published elsewhere in this Journal and the beginnings of a library list will be found as a supplement. The bound copy of Vol. IV of the Wessex Journal is still missing. Could you take an extra look at your shelves and make sure you have not got it, please!

Whilst you are there you might have a look for these as well, all of which we have records of as having been in the library at one time or another, but which are now missing:-

- "River Scenery at the Head of the Vale of Neath" - North
- "Caves of Adventure" - Tazieff
- "Pennine Underground" - Thornber
- "Lascaux Cave Paintings" - Windels
- "Underground Adventure" - Gemmell & Myers
- "Britain Underground" - Thornber
- "Cave Men, New and old" - Casteret
- "British Caving" - Cullingford
- "British Regional Geology - Bristol and Gloucestershire District"

Hon. Assistant Secretary

David Causer, the Assistant Secretary, has reluctantly been forced to resign his post in view of his imminent visit to Africa. We wish him well on his expedition and look forward to his return shortly before Christmas. Howard Kenney, a committee member, has taken his place. This leaves a vacancy on the committee which is at present unfilled.

Duplicator

The Club is now the proud possessor of a Roneo duplicator, purchased at a cost of £54-. This will, it is hoped, enable us to have better control of Journal production and any other incidental duplicating which the club may need from time to time.

Address List

The next issue of the Journal will contain the address list and should anyone have moved since last year and not yet informed either the Secretary or the Treasurer, would they please send details as soon as possible.

Badges

Embroidered pocket, sleeve, or wherever you like to put them badges will soon be available again - price probably 5/-. Further details in next Journal.

Car badges are selling well and these should be ordered from:- C.J. Hawkes, 147 Evington Lane, Leicester, Cost 32/6d. including postage.

Club Records

Following an appeal in a recent Journal for back numbers of the Wessex Journal, George Williams very kindly made up many of the rarer issues of the earlier numbers of the new series that were missing from Mr. Sharpe's donation. Mr. Savory and Alan Ash have subsequently donated many of the more recent issues, which are being bound for the Club records. However, several numbers are still required. Would any member who feels able to spare any of the following numbers for records and library please send them to the Secretary. There can be very few of the earliest sheets in existence now, and it would be a pity if the Club records were incomplete.

If any member has the missing numbers of the old series and is unwilling to part with them, perhaps they would consider a loan for a few days while copies are made.

Old Series:- 3, 4, 5, 6, 45, 49.

New Series:- 6, 14 and 25. Vol. II - 27, 28, 29, 30, 31.

Holiday arrangements

The Hon. Secretary will be on holiday in the Republic of Ireland from 31st May to 23rd June inclusive, any urgent correspondence during this period, requests for cave keys, etc., should be addressed to Howard Kenney (Hon. Asst. Sec.), Tudor Cottage, Beryl Lane, Wells, Somerset.

CLUB MEETS

26th/27th May Hillgrove Weekend. The Hut Warden hopes that enough members will lend a hand over the weekend to be able to tidy up the hut site, and do some maintenance inside and outside the hut. A room has been booked at the Globe Inn, Wells, for all members wanting refreshments and a social Saturday evening.

3rd June Balch's Cave. A further visit to this cave, by arrangement with the Cerberus Speleological Society. Meet Fairy Cave Quarry 11 a.m. Leader:- George Pointing, 10 Green Lane, Avonmouth, Bristol.

6th June R.N. Store Depot, Copenacre. A visit to the vast underground Naval Store has been arranged by kind permission of the Depot Superintendent. Any member wishing to see these well lit, air conditioned, man-made caves should be willing to sign a form indemnifying the Admiralty against responsibility for accident or injury, etc., etc., also an assurance that they are of British Nationality by birth. Further details from the Hon. Asst. Secretary. Meet at the main gate, R.N. Stores Depot, Copenacre, Hawthorn, Wilts. 8 p.m.

16th/17th June South Wales. Organiser O.C. Lloyd, Withey House, Withey Close West, Bristol 9. A visit to Ogof Ffynnon Ddu has been arranged for the Sunday, whilst those members caving on Saturday have a wide alternative choice nearby or further afield. Accommodation at the S.W.C.C. headquarters has been booked for 15, others wishing to camp will be very welcome. Please contact the organiser for further details.

23rd/24th June Cow Hole Dig. The dig will be continued, all members including the 30 or so who have previously helped, will be most welcome. Commencing on Saturday morning it is hoped to be able to install more substantial temporary shoring prior to the permanent 27" concrete pipes already at the site. Denis Warburton, 20 Beverley Court Road, Quinton, Birmingham 32, will be pleased to supply further details.

8th July Eastwater. Visits to the cave will be led by David Willis at 11.0 a.m. and Charles Bryant at 2.30 p.m. The cave will be laddered by one party and detackled by the other, so members can make the trip as easy or as comprehensive as they wish.

David Willis - 15 Hooper Avenue, Wells, Somerset.

Charles Bryant - 15 Filton Avenue, Bristol 7.

15th July Banwell Caves & Sandford Hill. A visit to the Bone Cave is planned for the morning when Mr. J. Hunt of the Axbridge Caving Group and Archaeological Society will talk about the archaeological aspects of the cave. This part can be visited in ordinary clothing, but bring a light; those wishing to go further should bring caving gear. During the afternoon, weather permitting, David Willis will point out some of the interesting features during a walk across Sandford Hill. Meet at the Market Place, Axbridge, at 11.0 a.m.

25th/26th August Steep Holm. Organiser Roy Staynings, 8 Fanshawe Road, Henleaze, Bristol 4. Party limited to 24. Further details to be announced nearer the date.

Early September Agen Allwedd. Leader: C.H. Kenney, Tudor Cottage, Beryl Lane, Wells. Tel. 2468, Owing to a demand for further visits to this cave trips will be arranged on the Saturday and Sunday of varying severity according to taste and ability. Names to organiser at least one month in advance so that the necessary permits can be obtained from the Nature Conservancy. Date to be confirmed later.

Hon.Secretary: P.Davies, "Korley11, Silver St., Nailsea, Bristol,
Phone: Nailsea 9.

Hon. Asst. Secretary: C.H,Kenney, Tudor Cottage, Beryl Lane, Wells, Somerset.
Phone: Wells 2468

Hon.Treasurer: Mrs. B.M. Willis, 15 Hooper Avenue, Wells, Somerset.

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

Hut Bookings: E. Hanwell, 8 Hooper Avenue, Wells, Somerset.

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR EMERITUS L.S. PALMER, D.Sc., Ph.D.

Professor Lionel Stanley Palmer died on March 17th 1962 at the age of 70. Throughout his life he was keenly interested in caves and caving as a hobby in apposition to his professional work as a physicist. In this subject he held the chair at Hull for many years. His enthusiasm for cave exploration was infectious as we all well know. He was the founder of the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society and his ideas on the scientific side of cave exploration were embodied in its constitution.

In the course of his career he published many papers dealing not only with Physics but also such other widely different subjects as geology, archaeology and anthropology. Later he began to apply geo-electrical methods to the location of caves and archaeological remains. After his retirement from Hull he became the honorary curator of the Wells Museum where he made great improvements. During his last few years his book dealing with the evolution and development of man appeared under the title of "Man's Progress through Time" and he also published several papers on archaeological subjects. Now we have lost an engaging enthusiast and a cavers' friend. He will be greatly missed by all.

E.K.T.

CAVES AND MINES OF THE BRISTOL DISTRICT

A.D. Oldham

Part 2* - Caves and Mines of the Eastern or Clifton side of the Avon Gorge
All caves are in limestone unless otherwise stated.

NGR ST. 5655/7301

This rock shelter is situated 100 yards south of Clifton Suspension Bridge, adjoining and 15ft. above the Portway. It consists of a small, ivy covered hole with a bed rock floor, which is both archaeologically and speleologically uninteresting. It is barely large enough for two people to sit in.

Cave 9 - Lower Cave. NGR ST. 5652/7317. Length 60ft.

This cave, as well as the next three, are in Observatory Hill.

The cave was discovered during road-making operations (2). The cave is 45 yards north of the Suspension Bridge, and a few feet above the level of the Portway near a lay-by. The cave entrance is partly bricked up, with a small door frame 2ft. wide and 3ft. high set in it. The cave consists of an entrance passage 45ft. long with an average cross-section of 4ft. x 4ft. which terminates in a once beautiful grotto. From this grotto a passage, choked after 15ft. by boulders, leads upwards and connects with the upper cave, the entrance of which is situated 50ft. above the Lower Cave. Cavers have excavated in the Grotto beneath a stalagmite floor; further work will continue this passage.

- Upper Cave. Depth 15ft.

Consists of two entrances leading down to a chamber with a limestone scree floor. A connection between those two caves has been proved by both a vocal and a smoke test.

Cave 10 - Giant's or Ghyston Cave. Alt. 325ft. (The Observatory) NGR ST. 5656/7326.

This cave is entered from the Observatory and may be classified as a 'Show' cave. A noticeboard outside the Observatory proclaims:- "Below this tower a tunnel or passage now leads to the Ghyston or Giants Cave. A picturesque and natural cavern in the St. Vincents Rocks overlooking the gorge of the Avon which was 400 years ago a Roman Catholic chapel, and the only access was from the face of the cliff. Admission 6d. "

Evans (4) mentions that a chapel was erected in a cave near Hotwells to St. Vincent who suffered martyrdom at Valencia in A.D. 305.

* Part 1 of this article was originally published in Vol.5 No.70, Sept. 1958 of the Wessex Cave Club Journal. It is hoped that Part 3 "Caves and Mines of the Bristol District excluding the Avon Gorge" will be available for publication in the near future. Ed.

'Bristol Past and Present' (6) gives a longer description, quoting William Wyrcestre who tells of the 'Hall of the Chapel of Saynt Vincent of Gyhston Cliff', which he describes to have been nine yards long and three yards in breadth, with a kitchen appended. And he proceeds 'from the Chapel of St. Vincent is to the lower water 40 fathoms; and from the over part of the main-ground land of the said high chapel of St. Vincent is 20 fathoms, reckoned and proved: and so, from the high main firm land of the said rock down to the lowest water ground of the channel of Avon and Frome, is 60 fathoms, and much more, proved by a young man of smith's occupation in Redcliffe Street, that said to me that he hath both descended from the highest of the rock down to the water side. '

Wyrcestre moreover tells us that on the Lord's Day, 26th September 1480, he visited the hermitage chapel, when reckoning his footsteps he found the path thereto 124 paces in extent. From his speaking elsewhere of the hermitage and the church as being situated in a dangerous precipice (Ghyston Cliff) it has been conjectured that these chambers of devotion were identical with what is now known as the Giant's cave. The dimensions, however, that he supplies, must apply to apartments more ample than the cave itself. Moreover he speaks of the cavern distinctively under the name of Fox Hole, which he describes as a wonderful vault in the higher rock, and very perilous of excess. Consequently St. Vincent's chapel must have stood on some projecting ledge of the cliff now hewn away.

The Giant's cave opens upon the precipitous escarpment of the rock at the height of about 250ft. above the river, and 50 or 60 ft. below the level of the Observatory. 'The entrance to the cave is abrupt; it is in the form of a rudely arched portal, 10ft. high by 13ft. broad, and perfectly level at the bottom. Upon entering, the breadth remains nearly the same for some distance, but after advancing about nine feet the roof suddenly rises, and, losing its semicircular form, resembles the commencement of a fissure, but stops at a height of 18ft. At 20ft. from the entrance the cave becomes narrower, and divides into 3 cavities; of these the longest and lowest is a continuation of the line of the great cave; it remains nearly the same width but the floor descends about 4ft., and the roof gradually sloping downwards terminates the cavity somewhat abruptly at a distance of 49ft. from the entrance. The other two cavities are somewhat smaller than the last.'

Upon the erection of the Observatory in 1828, the proprietor proceeded to excavate from his building a subterranean passage to the Giant's cave, the previous means of access being by a dangerous ledge of the cliff now defaced. This he effected at the expense of £300. by blasting and boring the solid rock. A flight of stairs leads to a roughly hewn tunnel sloping steeply down, and to a second flight of stairs that terminates in the eastern end of the cavern. The passage was opened in the year 1837. A local newspaper of contemporary date supplies the following interesting details concerning an exploration of this presumed hermitage:

'In Mr. West's examination of the cavern some articles were found which, though intrinsically valueless, may still tend to elucidate its history. They consist of numerous fragments of pottery, the moulding of which, although simple, are in some instances extremely good insomuch as to induce a belief that they are of Roman origin. A large glazed tile such as were used in the paving of choirs in ancient churches, and on antique key, etc., were also amongst the fragments.

Lying over then was a portion of mullion of a small Gothic window, or probably of a tabernacle or shrine. The whole of these relics were carefully embedded under a large flat stone, and were discovered on removing an accumulation of earth and weeds from the surface of the cave. ' These remains appear to have been lost during the course of time.

Observatory Hill Cave - NGR ST.5666/7324. Alt. 290ft. Length 30ft.

This cave is situated at the base of a cliff 100 yards east of the Observatory. It consists of an entrance 5ft. high by 10ft. wide which leads to a fairly high chamber. A crawl leads from this chamber but it is choked after a short distance by limestone scree. In 1949 it was used as a place for burning litter (7). The entrance to this cave was bricked up in 1955.

Cave 11 - Jack's Hole. NGR ST. 5642/7338. Length 15ft. Alt. 150ft.

This cave is situated in the woods below the Observatory, at a point just before the woods meet the nearly vertical rock face. Because of this sheer face the cave can only be safely approached from the north through the woods. The cave is essentially a rock shelter with an entrance 12ft. high and 15ft. wide and 9ft. deep. It has a small crawl leading off in the south-western corner, with the following average dimensions: 1ft. high, 3ft. wide, and after 5ft. a constriction (which the author was unable to negotiate) leads to a small chamber, the end of which was obscured by a stalagmite floor.

The cave has a large grassy apron, and it is considered that it might well repay archaeological excavation as it commands an excellent view of the valley leading down to the old ford across the Avon, and it may well have been used in conjunction with the Clifton Camp on the Observatory Hill above (2).

Portway, Hades or Hadies (pronounced to rhyme with ladies) Cave _ NGR ST.5 632/7393.

Alt. 130ft. Length 120ft. Depth 30ft.

This cave and the next four are situated in the Great Quarry (1) or Avon Range (2). The quarry is now distinguished by the Merchants Venturers Tennis Courts. Portway cave is on the southern edge of the quarry at the top of a smooth and nearly vertical slab of rock. A 10ft. entrance pitch leads to a ledge from which a 20ft. long cul-de-sac chamber branches off to the north-west. South of the ledge, where the bedding plane is nearly vertical, a low crawl, the bottom of which is covered with water to a depth of 3 or 4 inches, leads to a fairly high rift. The rift has an average width and height of 3 and 15ft. respectively, the roof being very dangerous in places, consisting only of loose boulders. Just before the termination of this rift a passage branches off to the east through an awkward squeeze and down a 10ft. pitch which requires a ladder. This pitch can now be by-passed, because in 1956 Messrs. Oldham and Roach removed two large boulders, unblocking an easier alternative route. From the bottom of the ladder pitch a steeply descending rift leads to a 10ft. pitch,

the bottom of which consists of fairly large boulders. It is at present being excavated by cavers unknown. The cave is noteworthy for its red mud and red stalactite formations.

Cave 12 - Pool Cave. NGR ST. 5632/7405. Length 70ft. Alt. 100ft. Depth 25ft.

This is a remnant of a much larger cave; evidence of this is shown by the stalactite formations around the entrance, which extend on to the quarry face. The formations are partly covered with ivy. The entrance is situated half way up the quarry faces it is quite accessible from below except for the last 12ft., which is both difficult and dangerous due to the shattered nature of the rock. A 50ft. rope doubled and secured with a Highwayman's Hitch is advisable for the cliff descent. From the cave mouth it is best entered by ascending a small circular hole in one corner rather than sliding down the stalagmite flow.

The cave consists of a fairly large chamber with a passage leading to a pool. This is really a sump, on the other side of which is a rift passage, difficult to enter because of its narrow width of 9 inches. It continues for at least 20ft., but due to his girth the author was unable to explore further. The mouth of this rift is only uncovered in times of severe drought. The pool could easily be overlooked as 2 to 3 tons of debris from a recent 'cave' excavation in the floor of the entrance chamber is partly obscuring it. The excavation consists of a choked passage which leads to a spot under the floor of the quarry. (2). An aven leads up from the entrance chamber and contains many Jackdaws' nests.

Mouse Hole. Length 10ft. Alt. 70ft.

This cave is situated 30ft. below Pool Cave, and was excavated by A. Merry and others in January 1955 (5). It consists of a low crawl which terminates in a small boulder choke. It would probably connect with Pool Cave.

Cave 13 - NGR ST. 5632/7409. Length 25ft. Alt. 100ft.

This is the same height above the Tennis Courts as Cave 12, but is 130ft. to the north. It is fairly easy of access, and consists of a large entrance, 10ft. wide by 8ft. high, and a roomy passage terminating in a dry brown clay choke. Near the end of the cave a choked passage branches off to the south. The smoke from a fire lit in this passage appeared out of a hole in the cliff face some 40ft. above and 30ft. to the south of the cave mouth. There is still plenty of scope for excavating in this cave.

There is a small cave 6ft. long; and with an oval entrance 3ft., across, situated 10ft. below Cave 13. It has the same brown clay infill, and may repay excavation.

Cave 14

I have been unable to locate this cave due to its inaccessible position. I have therefore quoted Tratman (2) for its descriptions:-

"This one lies at the extreme northern end of the quarry, about 50ft. from the top of the cliff face, which here is over 200ft. high. The cave can only be reached by a descent from above, as the rock is absolutely sheer; the entrance is narrow but expands a short way in. At a distance of 30ft. from the entrance the cave takes a sharp turn to the south for a further 30ft., ending in a small grotto, from which a small passage leads to further depths."

NGR ST. 5622/7403

This is a small stream which flows into the Avon just opposite the Tennis Courts, and may be connected with the formation of the caves in Great Quarry.

Cave 15 - St. Andrew's Wells (2) or St. Vincent's Spring.

NGR ST. 5623/7426. Alt. 45ft. Length 50ft. Depth 30ft.

The entrance to this well is situated 6ft. above the Portway and 225 yards south of the Gully. It consists of a red marble water drinking fountain, inscribed "St. Vincent's Spring". Above this there is a rusty corrugated iron shack containing a pump. Access is then gained as there is a sheet missing off the front. A 10ft. descent leads to a second pump in a mined passage which is about 6ft. square in cross section. After 30ft. the passage terminates in a well shaft with a drop of 20ft. to the water. This may warrant exploration in times of drought.

Black Rock Quarry Caves

Access to these caves is now inconvenienced by a large fenced-off enclosure at the base of the cliffs. This contains equipment used in making the nearby Stormwater tunnel.

Mention should be made of a large hole, 15ft. high and 10ft. wide in the quarry face, covered by iron bars. NGR ST. 5611/7458. This is an artificial passage leading to the British Railways Western Region Clifton Down Tunnel!

NGR ST. 5610/7460. Alt. 180ft. Length 10ft.

This cave is situated some 25 yards north of the above mentioned passage and 140ft. above the Portway. It has an average height of 3ft, with a dry, yellow-brown clay floor. The cave opens out on a fairly wide ledge rich in vegetation.

NGR ST. 5606/7463. Alt. 180ft. Depth 20ft.

This is at the same depth as the last cave, but 50 yards to the north-west. It consists of a small opening too narrow to enter. When visited during a cold spell it emitted an impressive amount of vapour. The entrance is quite diggable, and may well repay speleological excavation. The cave is hidden behind a small evergreen tree.

Cave 16 - River Bend House Cave. NGR ST. 5596/7475. Alt. 230ft. Length 25ft.

The cave is situated in Press Quarry, and is in the grounds of River Bend House, Seawalls Road. It consists of two fairly large chambers

exposed by quarrying, with a low crawl between them. The crawl is impassable after 15ft., because of the low roof. Permission to view the cave must be sought from the householder. This cave has been archaeologically excavated without success (2).

There is a most impressive looking opening situated on a ledge some 30 yards south of the last cave and 10 yards below it. As the cliffs are sheer at this point, access can only be gained from the cliff top using a caving ladder. Owing to its inaccessibility I have been unable to examine this opening.

Crabtree Slip Wood Rock Shelter. NGR ST. 5437/7666. Alt. 50ft.

This is a small rock shelter situated on the north-west side and near the mouth of the valley in Crabtree Slip Wood. The shelter is at the base of an outcrop of conglomerate, and may well repay archaeological excavation.

Boat Cave. NGR ST. 5426/7670. Length 10ft.

This cave is situated a few feet above the level of the Avon (at high tide) on the Horseshoe Bend. The cave takes its name from a small sailing boat which had been abandoned or washed into the cave, but which has long since disappeared. The cave is in sandstone, and roof falls have reduced its length to that of just a niche under an overhang.

Horseshoe Bend Rock Shelter. NGR ST. 5323/7668. Alt.50ft.

This is another small rock shelter, this time in sandstone. It is situated in a small cliff about 50ft. above the River Avon, and it may well repay archaeological excavation.

REFERENCES

- (1) Vaughan, Arthur, B.A., D.Sc., F.G.S., 1935. The Carboniferous Series (Avonian) of the Avon Gorge. Proceedings of the Bristol Naturalist Society Fourth Series, Vol. 8. Part 2.
- (2) Tratnan, E.K. 1921-1922. Caves of the Bristol District. Proceedings of the Speleological Society, University of Bristol. Vol. 1, No. 3. pp 147/150. Map.
- (3) B.S. Roach - personal communication.
- (4) Evans, John (Printer) 1824. A Chronological Outline of the History of Bristol. p. 9.
- (5) A. Merry - personal communication.
- (6) Nicholls, J.F., F.S.A., and Taylor, John, 1881. Bristol Past and Present. Vol. 2. p. 248.
- (7) P.F. Bird - personal communication.

All the caves in Part 2 may be located on the following 6" to 1 mile Ordnance Survey Maps:- ST57NW and ST57SE.

APRIL FOOLS DAY RESCUE - COMBE DOWN, BATH

C.H.Kenney

After lunch on April 1st 1962, six fifteen-year-old boys from the Prior Park College at Bath set out for the freestone workings at Combe Down. They were celebrating the fifteenth birthday of one of the boys, and for such an important occasion were dressed in black jackets, ties, pin stripe trousers, white shirts and school caps, and the party tea consisted of chocolate cake, lemonade and chewing gum. Armed with four torches and candles the boys set about exploring the maze of workings. Fortunately, one of them left a haversack and school cap at the entrance and later, when the boys were reported missing, this gave the police a definite clue as to their whereabouts.

Over a considerable area, a bed of freestone has been removed, varying in thickness up to about ten feet, and every few feet a pillar of the natural stone has been left to support the roof. Some of the gaps between the pillars have been filled with the miners' waste and in other places there have been collapses. Old entrances have been filled with refuse, but by and large there are few landmarks to distinguish the many routes. No-one seems to know the full extent of the workings, and one wonders how many of the happy occupiers of mortgaged houses above know what is beneath their feet.

The boys' zeal for exploration satisfied, they tried to return to the entrance, but soon realised that they were lost. They walked through the maze of passages, perhaps having time to admire the occasional nest of cave pearls, and eventually came across on ascending passage blocked with soil and refuse. Knowing that they could not be far beneath the surface they began to dig with bare hands and continued for about six hours. The discovery of a jug the right way up, full of water, was a find that could have been important for their comfort or even survival, but perhaps the most exciting find was a worm. The naturalist in the party assured the rest that no worm went deeper than ten feet, so back to work with renewed hope. Eventually they emerged in a garden near the King William IV public house. Returning to the main entrance to collect the cap and haversack, they were no doubt astounded to see ambulances, the Fire Brigade, police cars, the Press in force, a generator and floodlighting, civil defence vehicles, television cameras, a canteen and the Mendip Rescue Organisation waiting for them.

In the meantime, the Rescue team of six from Wells, with Luke Devenish in charge of the call-out, began to search the workings. As there was a real danger that they, too, might get lost, white tape was laid in all passages explored. This also served to show following rescue parties the routes covered. A police tracker dog and handler was an unusual addition to the rescue team, but was of no help. The handler attributed this failure to the more powerful scent of the carbide lamps.

It is always a relief when a rescue ends happily, but perhaps a little disappointing for the rescue team to be deprived of the satisfaction of escorting the lost party from the cave. But congratulations to the boys on their initiative, and if any member wants a passage dug out they will know where to go!

MENDIP NOTES

Cheramodytes

Easter in Yorkshire

Going north at this time of the year is like going back to winter. We had particularly asked the Clerk of the Weather to provide us with sunny days, if cold, but he was three days late. There was still snow about. We found some in the bottom of a 30ft. pot (Kail Pot) which had primroses in bloom near the top. It was, I think, the largest party we have had on an Easter meet; there must have been about forty of us. We had an enormous quantity of tackle, which enabled us to ladder four caves and provide plenty of variety for everyone.

It is no use pretending that we succeeded in our main object. Our aim was to do an exchange of parties between Simpson's Pot and Swinsto Hole, a difficult undertaking, but one well within our powers. Our first set-back was misinformation from "Britain Underground", which left out one of the ladder pitches in Swinsto. This was nothing new. We had the same trouble with Lost John's in 1956 and overcame it the next day. This we were about to do with Swinsto, but owing to a monumental misunderstanding with members of one of the local clubs, the attempt had to be abandoned. Still, we know that we can do it, and there is always next year!

Yet more of Swildon's Hole

On St.Patrick's Day, while Howard Kenney and others were busy digging at the "Trouble Connection" in Vicarage Passage, Ron Teagle and his boys had brought down the Hensler Maypole and were busy exploring the passage on the far (north) side of Vicarage Pot. There we found 240ft. of new passage, ending in a sandy choke with a draught. The first part contains a low crawl over firm mud, while the second half rises steeply up the dip. The direction is therefore presumably N.E., but a little trouble was had in interpreting the direction shown by Howard's pocket compass. The choke at the end is quite diggable. Willie Stanton is most keen that we should enter the Black Hole Series by this route. "It is now or never for Stanton's Link", he says.

The Sidcot Boys have discovered another 100ft. of Swildon's Hole, Writing on 8.4.62 T. Atkinson describes how three of them excavated the dig below the passage to Shatter Pot at the top of Keith's Chamber. After 1½ hours digging only the smallest of them was able to get along a 20ft. flat-out crawl with a tight squeeze at the far end. Beyond is a rift passage 15ft. high ending in a chamber with a choked sump to the left. There are no side passages. He thinks this must be the S.E. inlet that Derek Ford believes to exist, as it once contained a fairly large stream, which has formed potholes.

In the Dark

On 24.2.62 your Scribe, accompanied by two other lunatics, Noel Cleave and Steve Wynne-Roberts, went to Sump I in Swildon's Hole, solemnly blew out our lights and returned in the dark. We made our own rules: information as to our believed whereabouts freely exchanged;

all disagreements openly arrived at. We took 1 hour 50 minutes to reach the surface and didn't get lost once. Four times we met other parties with lights and stopped until they had passed. The two most tricky bits were coming out at the upper end of Barnes' Loop and climbing the 15ft. waterfall in the Wet Way. It was an exciting trip. We talked all the time. This had two advantages; one, the obvious, that it kept the party together, the other, less obvious, that it was possible to tell the shape of the passage one was approaching. This is a faculty which blind people possess in a high degree. I had always thought that it was acquired after long experience, but this is not so. It comes very quickly.

Longwood-August Hole Connection

In February, Tim Hill, exploring the upper far right hand corner of the Longwood Main Chamber, chanced upon a recent dig which led, he believed, into August Hole. It does. I had a look at it on 28.4.62 and found that an excavated squeeze two feet long leads into the grotto above the Swing Pitch in August Hole. Rumour has it that the connection was made a week before Christmas 1961 by members of the Mendip Caving Group. This Group has been surveying Longwood and August Hole and by this means found the right place to start digging. All credit to them, if only they would publish their results. They have certainly stolen a march on the U.B.S.S., who have been surveying the system at high grade for about five years, but have been dragging their feet. By the summer of 1959 they had all the data necessary for discovering this connection, but never having plotted their results on to paper, they have lost the initiative.

Cow Hole

In a biting cold wind the Wessex diggers started enthusiastically to re-open Cow Hole on 24.3.62. By the second weekend they had made a 20ft. deep hole through mud and stones, supported by a framework of dexion and wooden shuttering. As it was still very cold, Alan Ash elected to have his dinner at the bottom. Presently a strange sound was heard, and a dinner plate, half full, emerged rapidly from the hole, followed no less rapidly by Alan's the dig was collapsing. Next day it was deemed necessary to get the drainpipes into position to save the situation, but the earth was too sloppy. No sooner had part of the framework been removed than the walls collapsed, crumpling up the rest of the dexion as they fell. Perhaps the diggers should get in a little practice at Cuckoo Cleaves before starting again!

LIBRARY REPORT

J.D. Hanwell

Like so many young and rapidly developing fields of knowledge caving enjoys an ever-expanding wealth of reference literature. Such progress is not without its handicaps, however, as most publications take the form of regional periodicals, which by their very nature of production and release remain limited in distribution. In fact, the vast majority end their useful life buried in obscure private collections or specific libraries, and consequently become virtually impossible to obtain.

Inevitably the problem must worsen as more and more clubs and societies spring into being and go into print. Nearly all contain valuable contributions, yet through lack of general accessibility their potential impact on caving is severely minimised. Nowadays, unfortunately, we are all too frequently unaware of past and even present explorations and discoveries. The result often means work duplicated unnecessarily so that overall progress is retarded. Here one might criticise cavers in general for their limited efforts in searching for previous literature and reports relevant to the projects they have undertaken. This may be so in varying degrees, yet on the other hand one cannot help but feel that a significant share of this fault lies in the poor arrangements and opportunities for acquiring reference literature.

It could be argued that Club Libraries only aggravate an already too parochial outlook. Realistically considering "the nature of the beast", however, the contrary would seem more correct, granted a free intercommunication of ideas and discoveries. Ultimately the most workable system must be that all literature concerning caving and allied subjects will be made readily available through some centralised national body (perhaps even international). In this event it is pleasing to note the 1961 Annual Report by the Hon. Librarian of the Cave Research Group (Newsletter No. 83). Nevertheless, with the knowledge that attempts are being made to co-ordinate and provide a comprehensive library of all reference literature, clubs and societies must remember that their own library can fulfil a vital, if different role. Such collections must be aimed at providing members with literature representative of the more significant advances in caving generally; but more important of specific accounts and data of speleology in the area with which the society is most concerned. This approach I consider most essential, and it places the onus squarely on the member to make the most effective use of the facilities offered.

For one of the oldest and largest Mendip Clubs, the Wessex Library to date is not all that it might be. In the past an important nucleus of literature has been housed at the Hillgrove Headquarters, but is now sadly depleted. By improving the stock and lending arrangements it is hoped to build up a small but useful collection of books and journals. To achieve this satisfactorily depends largely upon the co-operation of members. Thanks to the energies of our predecessors we have inherited many -valuable publications from eminent writers, numerous societies and

clubs. and it seems ridiculous to allow these to deteriorate without a page being turned. The series, sets and volumes of periodicals are not in good condition or complete to date, which is a great pity, as most such publications are irreplaceable once destroyed or lost. Naturally, any librarian's aim is firstly to furnish complete journal sets, and secondly to make them generally available, hoping in this way to help keep the standards of contemporary caving continuously improving. Concerning the former, one hopes that members will respond actively by exhuming unwanted publications and allowing them a new, constructive life in a flourishing library. With regard to the availability of the literature housed, the following methods are proposed. All literature available has been classified, and listed on a loose leaf system to allow anyone to keep an up-to-date catalogue of the library. Lists of new acquisitions will be circulated periodically.

All material in stock has been divided into two groups:-

1. Hillgrove Library - This section will consist in the main of books and literature on the general market. Therefore, as most will be available through ordinary libraries, it has been decided that all books housed at Hillgrove will be for reference only and should not be taken away. Increasing numbers of books on caving are being published nowadays, and it is hoped to add those to the library when possible. Members can obtain a key to use these books while at Hillgrove in three ways:-

- a) From the Hut Warden when he is resident.
- b) By notification through the Hut Booking Officer when making advance arrangements to stay at Hillgrove.
- c) By contacting the Librarian well in advance at "Cross Farm", Draycott, Nr. Cheddar.

2. Lending Library - The vast bulk of caving literature is published in periodical form by small societies and clubs, and is therefore irreplaceable. The physical conditions at Hillgrove are not ideally suited to storing this literature, and furthermore an efficient lending system is virtually impossible. Such stock will be retained and filed by the Librarian, who will loan them to members on request. The following procedure is to be used:-

- a) Write to the Librarian quoting precisely the publication required and enclosing 6d. postage. Only one publication may be released to any member at one time.
- b) The publication should be returned to the Librarian within two weeks, thereafter the customary penny a day fine will be levied until its return.

In practice, certain periodicals will prove more popular than others, which may make it impossible for requests to be answered promptly. Should there be an excessive waiting list the members concerned will be duly notified. Postage will be refunded if the request is subsequently cancelled. Publications in great demand will spend a large portion of time in transit, and will inevitably deteriorate. Members are requested to take great care over packing and postage to minimise such risks. However, it may be that the Librarian will have to withdraw from general circulation, either temporarily or permanently, any publication in poor condition.

In this event special arrangements to see withdrawn literature must be fixed between the Librarian and the member concerned.

Note:- Past and present Wessex Cave Club Journals will be housed in the Hillgrove Reference Library, and therefore will not be for general circulation.

A PRESCRIPTION FOR CAVING:

"CAVE CURE FOR ASTHMATICS

A giant stalactite cave in Northern Hungary is to become a cure centre for asthmatics. It is claimed that since it was discovered in 1952, research workers have found that its climate is particularly helpful to people with respiratory diseases. Seventy-two species of fungi grow in the cave and the dust-free air is full of anti-biotics and calcium. Backed by the Mining Workers Trade Union and the State coal mining trust therapeutic tests began three years ago. Since then 220 patients have been given free 'cures' lasting three weeks each, and in 72% of the cases there is said to have been permanent improvement. The Union and the Coal Trust have now decided to build alongside the entrance to the cave a sanatorium housing up to 150 patients,"

The above is reproduced here by permission of "The Practitioner" from their March 1962 issue. They tell us that "the information upon which this short note was based came from the Hungarian Embassy, and I would suggest that if you wish any further details you might write direct to their Public Relations Department. The address is:-

The Hungarian Legation,
4-6 Eaton Place,
London, S.W. 1."

Our Medical Correspondent, who found this paragraph, notes that he has left many a good cold down Swildons and this is obviously the explanation.

A CAVING TRIP IN WEST VIRGINIA

Oliver Wells

It all began when Derek Ford and Joe Candy invited us to go caving with them in Kentucky. Kentucky being where it is (two full days driving from Pittsburgh) and the time available being so short, we suggested West Virginia, a suggestion that was accepted when it was discovered that it is not easy to get permission to go into the most interesting of the caves in Kentucky anyway, since they are all in a National Park or else "difficult" to get into for some other reason. The matter was clinched when Fred Kissel, a member of the local grotto, agreed to come caving with us in West Virginia for a week. Unfortunately Joe Candy had to drop out at the last moment, leaving Derek and one of his post-graduate students, Fred Kissel and ourselves. (Meanwhile Derek is working on the problem of getting permission to visit the caves in Kentucky.)

West Virginia is five hours driving time from Pittsburgh, which we completed in about seven hours, owing to our numerous delays to admire the scenery or visit waterfalls (two of them) by the way. Our abode was the Field House of the Pittsburgh Grotto of the N.S.S., an elegant two-storey residence (plus basement), H, and C., no bath, shower temporarily out of action due to frost damage to the pipes, C. but no W. in a wee hoose at the end of the garden, two porches, scenic backdrop, in fact everything that a caver could desire.

The first day (23rd April 1962) was begun, as all days were, by having breakfast at the house of Mrs. Smith, whose house adjoins the Field House land, and to whose kindness, the users of the Field House are much in debt. Derek at this point, in answer to my question, stated that he wished to spend the whole week in "sporting" caving trips, and when I suggested that a day spent climbing on some nearby rocks might be pleasant I was rewarded by a facial expression from which I gathered (correctly, as he later admitted) that he did not consider that such shirking should be permitted. Anyway, in the end the three of them went searching for their cave (a process which occupied them for the greater part of the afternoon) while I joined up with a climbing party at Seneca Rocks, going up by the Old Maid's route and down again by the Old Man's route. (Seneca Rocks is a cliff of quartzite about 300 feet high sticking up on one side of the limestone valley. It was used during the war for training marines and is consequently covered with pitons, and contains a number of climbs of some interest.) In the evening we had supper with Mrs. Smith.

On the second day we visited Hell Hole, a cave which consists of two chambers, each about the size of the Lamb Lair main chamber, joined at their lowest point like the two halves of a pair of water wings. Entry is into the first of these through a hole at the highest point, involving a ladder climb (or rappel) of either 100 or else 180 feet,

depending on the point chosen to begin the descent. The second chamber is longer but not so high as the first, with bats on the ceiling and somewhat slippery boulders on the floor. West Virginia being so far south, the sun at midday is almost overhead, and a shaft of sunlight goes straight down the shaft of the first chamber to illuminate a patch brilliantly on the floor, which is an impressive sight. Derek and I came down the ladder while the other two came down by rappel. (This business of rappelling down ladder pitches is quite common in the U.S.A. and involves, for those who are good at it, considerably less fatigue than doing it on the ladder. Prussicing up pitches is also quite common and is claimed, by those who are really good at it, as being no more tiring than climbing the ladder.) On one side of the main chamber a passage leads off for some way, ending after about 100 yards or so in a great pile of bat evidence up which it is possible to climb to the terminal chamber at the top. My principal impression in this cave was in my tummy when I realized that the ladder I was climbing was hanging at a distance of 50 or 60 feet from the nearest wall, but having recovered from THAT one I was able to enjoy the rest of the trip.

On the third day we visited Luray Caverns, a show cave in which the concrete pathways are coiled and intertwined among the chambers like the intestines in an animal's tummy, thus ensuring that the most impressive of the stalactites and stalagmites (of which there are plenty) can be viewed from more than one side. The full trip lasts for about an hour, and is good value for the comparatively modest price that is charged. The formations in this cave are unfortunately mostly dry or in places even re-eroded, otherwise it would be even better than it is. In one place an electric organ has been installed which works by walloping the stalactites with electrically operated hammers and then relaying the resultant noises through loudspeakers into the room, a set-up which in my opinion does not represent the most effective advertisement for the electronic art.

On the fourth day I went on a scenic drive with Pamela and John Craig, while the others went underground, and got their feet slightly wet.

On the fifth day we went to the end of Schoolhouse cave. This cave is memorable for two reasons: first because the Pittsburgh Grotto made a film in it (which is quite good), and second because of the chapter entitled "An Assault on Schoolhouse Gave" published in one of the current American books on caving (which is quite bad except for the illustrations). Schoolhouse Cave, so far as I could see, consists of a main passage some 200 feet or so high by about 20 foot wide and possibly about 500 yards long, filled with enormous boulder chokes cemented with red clay and interspersed with large chambers, so that progress is made as in the manner of the pogo stick, with plenty of up and down travel as you go along. At any rate, on more than one occasion after going down for a considerable distance and then up again we were told by our guide (Fred Kissel) "Here we are at the ceiling again, which is just about level with

the cave entrance." As with Hell Hole, the cave is quite dry, with bats on the ceiling where the stalactites should be. (The habit which bats have of flying at high speed towards the carbide lamp and then reversing about 10 inches in front of the face is quite impressive.) After about six hours of leisurely travel we arrived at the far end of the cave (which is actually still quite close to the surface) and signed our names in the little book provided for the purpose.

On the final day we dug up some evergreens for our garden (with Mrs. Smith's permission) while the others went climbing on Seneca Rocks and then visited Schoolhouse Cave again briefly to take some photographs of the entrance room. And this about brought the week's caving to a close. And, in view of the fact that the above-mentioned evergreens are still waiting to be planted, ditto this description. Should any other Wessex members be in the area we can definitely recommend a visit to this region.

CLUB VISIT TO AGEN ALLWEDD - MARCH 3rd

T.C. Bryant

Have the stories of ten miles of cave passage or the thoughts of camping on the exposed uplands of Llangattwg frightened some of the less hardy members? When a one-day introductory trip was announced, the number of applications to join it was overwhelming, and as only one person claimed to know the cave, the party was restricted to nine.

Smallpox at Rhondda and Arctic conditions on the roads reduced the actual number to four. The rock face near the cave was covered by several inches of ice, and the first twenty yards of Ogof Gam contained new and beautiful formations - in ice. The trip was a leisurely affair allowing time for photographs. Only once was a wrong turning taken and the actual time out of the cave was within four minutes of the estimated time entered in the book! The whole of the Main Chamber, Music Hall and North Wing were visited, entrance being through Ogof Gam.

The most difficult part proved to be the return journey from Brynmawr to Bristol, part of which involved driving through a blizzard with visibility down to a few yards.

Another visit is being arranged in the late summer. See "Club Meets".

From the "New Scientist" 8th February 1962:

FIRST CAVE PAINTING FROM KENYA

Although prehistoric cave paintings are abundant in Tanganyika, the first painted rock shelter in Kenya with any claim to antiquity was discovered only recently. It lies at 8,000 feet in the forests of Mount Elgon, some 15 miles north-west of Kitale. The paintings, which have been copied by R. Wright and reproduced in the "Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society" (Vol. 27, p. 28), have been preserved from vandalism by the inaccessibility of the site. Unfortunately there is no chance of relating them to any occupational levels as the floor of the shelter is bare rock, but at least one painting is of exceptional interest.

It depicts what is presumably a deer, for there is a branch in one horn which can only be meant to represent an antler. No living deer are known in Africa south of Tunisia, nor have fossil deer ever been found in this part of the continent. There is, however, a painted stag in a rock shelter in Ethiopia, perhaps the work of some traveller.

The Mount Elgon deer - if it is one - suggests contacts with the north, and the other paintings, too, are similar to some found in the Horn of Africa (south of the Gulf of Aden). Many are of cattle, almost certainly domesticated owing to the peculiar angle of the horns on some of the bulls, and the emphasis on cows' udders. None show the typical hump of the zebu - the only breed in Africa south of the Sahara since the beginning of historic times, apart from recent imports. Paintings of humpless cattle in the Horn have been dated tentatively to the beginning of the Christian era or shortly before.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS FROM SWILDON'S HOLE AND THE OSSOLOGICAL
REMAINS FROM THE PPIDY GREEN DIG

Der Fledermausfänger

I do not think that there is any need for me to define the whereabouts of Swildon's Hole as, I am sure, most Wessex Members have descended this cave at some time or other.

With regard to the archaeological finds, I consider that it would be best if I only refer to bones and pottery, as any mention of acetylene lamps, etc., found at the bottom of the 40ft. will undoubtedly bring shoals of letters claiming lamps lost there since 1921. I could perhaps mention that on one archaeological trip I did chance to find a tin. It was duly opened for breakfast and, instead of being diced carrots as the rest of the party insisted, it turned out to be Baked Beans of the 57 Variety.

Quite a lot of these finds have been made on normal tourist trips. Instead of just waiting at the top or bottom of the 20 or 40 ft. pots, this time can be well spent in searching the streamway and gravel banks. The Dr. Lloyd Scavenging Trip (which we have not seen much of recently) is also very useful, as here one has 20 to 30 people to search for finds.

Balch (I) mentions a cairn of stones topped with the skull "of some long dead 'bos', black as ink as all bones found in the streamway". It is rather noticeable that the majority of bones which I have found are Bos sp. (Cow), and that they are also coated with a black deposit, possibly due to a mineral in the stream.

LIST OF MAJOR FINDS

BONES

<u>Find</u>		<u>Position in Cave</u>	<u>Year</u>
Boss p. Femur base onlt		Below 20 ft.	1957
Cow	Tooth Broken	Wet Way	"
	Right hand mandible with well worn teeth	"	"
	Atlas with knife marks	"	"
Sheep (doubtful) fragment of Maxilla		Water Rift	"
Rabbit vertebra		"	"
Boss p	Humerus (incomplete)	Between 20/40	1958
	Cannon Bone, well rolled	IV	"
	Scapula, part of	"	"
	Femur base only	"	"
	Skull (without teeth) water worn	Top of Wet Way	1959
	Pelvis	"	"
	Cannon Bone	"	"

POTTERY

<u>Find</u>	<u>Position in Cave</u>	<u>Year</u>
Samian ware fragment Roman	Wet Way	1957
Roof tile?? Roman	"	"
Pottery 19th cent. with brown internal glaze	Water Rift	"
Pottery green lead glaze Roman	"	"
Pottery Terra sigillata 2nd cent. A.D. Roman	"	"
Pottery fragment of samian ware	IV	1958
Other		
Triconi rusty	Water Rift	1957

It will be noted that there is quite a high proportion of Roman pottery. Visitors to the cave will probably agree with me that it is highly unlikely that the cave is a Roman habitation site. It is much more likely that there is a site somewhere on the surface which the stream is continually eroding, thereby producing these finds. I have searched without success for this site.

Examination of the bones suggests only one individual of *Bos* sp.

Sheep This is rather uncertain as the specimen is rather badly damaged.

Rabbit An excellent vertebra specimen, but only one item found. There is no evidence to connect the bones with the pottery. The atlas was the only bone with knife marks on it, which suggests that it was part of somebody's dinner.

In concluding this survey on the finds from Swildon's Hole I would like to stress the importance of collecting specimens from the cave with a note on which part of the system they are from and the date.

PRIDDY GREEN

These bones were collected during September-October 1959, when more energetic members were attempting to enter Swildons IV (I believe they still are!).

The actual site where the bones came from was immediately under the outlet from the cowsheds of Manor Farm, hence the dark brown-black colour of these bones. They were found at a level of 3-8 ft. in a grey-black glutinous mud. From their surface appearance I would classify all the bones as modern, that is from 10-100 years old. I have questioned local farmers, but they do not recall any animals being buried on the "Green".

LIST OF IMPORTANT FINDS

<u>Cow</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Sheep</u>
4 teeth	4 teeth	fragment of scapula
	fragment maxilla with 3 teeth	3 teeth
		3 teeth in mandible
3 limb bones (broken) horse or cow and many other fragments.		

There was a distinct absence of pottery and coins, and other datable material. The remains show that there was only one individual in each case, e.g. one cow, one horse, one sheep.

Summary

Swildon's Hole produced the most interesting finds, Roman Pottery. It is hoped that members will look out for bones and pottery in the streamway and gravel banks, both in the cave and on the surface. Surface investigations may produce a habitation site.

N.B. The word sheep can cover Ovis, Capra, or Cervus, due to the difficulty of identifying certain Ruminants.

References

- (1) Balch, H.E. Mendip, Its Swallet Caves, 1948. p. 17.
- (2) Wessex Cave Club Journal, Vol. 6, No. 74. The Priddy Green Sink, J.D. Hanwell, p.40.

The post-war activities of the Club commenced with the issue of Circular No. 1. (New Series) in June 1946. During the war years the " caretaker government", led by Frank Frost, could do little but preserve the list of members and hope for better days. It seems unlikely that Frank with the issue of this first Circular realised what an important part Circulars (now called Journals) would play in the life of the Club, nor perhaps how many years his personal efforts would be the main contribution to their success.

Circular No. 1. was printed on bright green paper, but with No. 2. it changed to a white duplicated foolscap sheet. It was not known how many of the pre-war members were still interested in the Club, but by February 1947 (Circular No. 5.) the membership was reported as 70, and in the first year of post-war activities 34 new members were welcomed. Of the latter only two are still members - Brigadier Glennie and John Hooper. Immortality seems to be a feature of some cavers - they are legendary when one joins a Club and still going strong when one decides that maturer years call for retirement. Who can imagine a Lost Chamber of Lamb Leer without a Glennie, or Devon caves without a Hooper!

As with our immortal members, the Officers seem to be long-lived, and at this time Frank Frost continued his secretarial duties with George Williams as Treasurer, Mr. H.E. Balch was the President and in Circular No. 5. (February 1947) the Secretary summed up the members' feelings by writing:- " We are pleased to report that the Grand Old Man of Mendip has again honoured us by accepting the Presidency of the Club".

The pre-war headquarters at the "Grange", near the Castle of Comfort, was no longer available, but by Circular No. 2. (July-August 1946) the Secretary reported that Gerard Platten had presented the Club with a hut, and this was soon erected at Eastwater, and is still in use. In June 1947 a modern stable at Beechbarrow (near Hillgrove) was rented and soon made habitable.

The first sign of post-war inflation showed itself in the Committee's decision to increase the subscription from August 1947 from 5/- to 7/6d.

Although all the pre-war tackle was reported as being useless, new was soon made and club trips organised. The first Circular acquainted members with the war-time discovery of G.B., Longwood Swallet and Rod's Pot, and trips were organised to these caves. The report on a trip to Swildon's Hole in Circular No. 2. (July-August 1946) reports that "6 with the aid of the Landor Pump and a service respirator passed the sump to Swildon's 2".

The Committee suggested in its first Circular that the Club should dig at Cow Hole and also look for the lost chamber of Lamb Leer,

(but 15 years later no progress has been reported!) The Committee also promised to run "nursery" trips.

The Club's interest in South Wales was shown by a meeting, held at Easter 1946, to consider "the formation of a Welsh Caving Organisation". The South Wales Caving Club was formed at this time. Regular trips were made to this area and in June 1947, Circular No. 6 reported the discovery of Pwll Dwfn by Paul Dolphin and Norman Paddock (still members), Colin Low and John Lander.

The London Group was reported as active under Major Murrell in Circular No, 3. (November-December 194-6).

The Mendip Rescue Organisation procedure was set out in Circular No. 4. and it is interesting to note that it was essentially the same as that now used.

It is hoped that these comments on the Club's post-war history will be of interest, and future Journals will contain some reference to "15 years ago".

BOOK REVIEWS

OUR EXPLOITS AT WEST FOLEY by Thomas Hardy

(Oxford University Press 1952) 109 pp. illus. Published Price 9s. 6d.

This is probably the only existing account of another Mendip lost cave; an important one if the small boy who explored it is to be believed. The action took place about a hundred years ago, since the author, writing in 1883, describes an adventure in which he took part many years earlier at the age of thirteen. The story was first published in serial form in an American magazine, and lay there disregarded for sixty years until it was reprinted as a small book.

The cave descriptions are quite well written, and the author was evidently no stranger to the netherworld of Mendip. Unfortunately he has disguised the village adjoining the cave under the fictitious name of West Poley, making the task of rediscovery a difficult one.

The cave is - or was - a major resurgence with abandoned upper passages. A copious spring provided water to drive the village mill, and a little above it a roomy dry cave called Nick's Pocket led deep into "the bowels of the Mendip Hills". Other high level caves not far away bore the picturesque names of Giant's Ear, Goblin's Cellar and Grim Billy.

The troubles recounted by the author began with the discovery of a concealed tunnel in Nick's Pocket which led down to an underground stream. To cross it dryshod the young explorers dug away a sandbank, diverting the water into a side passage. By some hydrological freed: the West Poley spring now dried up, and within 45 minutes the river burst out three miles away in the village of East Poley, Here there was rejoicing, but the people of West Poley, especially the miller, took rather a dim view.

It now behoved the boys to try to set matters right. Unfortunately in so doing they got their watercourses mixed, and were trapped on the wrong side of a sump beside a rapidly rising lake. After a harrowing vigil, unexpected help arrived in the person of the miller, who dropped in through a hidden connection with Grim Billy, 30 feet above. This episode ended happily.

But all was not well in West Poley. Some rough characters from the other village took to visiting Nick's Pocket after closing time and rediverting the stream for their own use. And herein lies the reason why this cave is so well and truly lost. It was discovered that the roof of the inner chamber was held up by one slim rock pillar. A young West Poleyite, having fixed the river to his satisfaction, applied the rapid chemical process to such effect that the cave system was sealed off by (according to an experienced engineer) no less than three thousand, four hundred and fifty tons of rock and earth,

W.I.S.

HORSESHOE BATS by J.H.D. Hooper

(The Sunday Times 1962) 4to., 24pp., map, illus., bibliog. 3s. 6d.

One of our more senior members has been studying the horseshoe bats of Devon for some fifteen years and from time to time his results have been published in scientific papers and illustrated magazines. Now his findings are summarised in this magnificently illustrated booklet in the "Animals of Britain" series. His fifty-four photographs, taken in caves, mines and houses, include one in colour in which the animal wears an engaging smile. Although the bats described were not found always in caves, they are all cave bats in that they winter in caves or mines to avoid the low temperature of the world outside. Food, reproduction, parasites, echo-location, cross-country flights and hibernation are all dealt with.

This is a book to buy for oneself and also to give away to friends, whether they are cavers or not.

T.R.S.

CAVES OF TENNESSEE by T.C. Barr

(Nashville 1961) 8vo., (ii)+vii+567pp., map, plans, illus., index, bibliog. £2.5s.0d.
(Obtainable from Tennessee Division of Geology, G-5, State Office Building, Nashville 3, Tennessee)

Here is another book in the tradition of Davies's West Virginia and Bretz's Missouri. Some 700 caves in the State of Tennessee are described, many of them with photographs and plans, but the list is not claimed to be complete. The 58-page introduction touches adequately on cave formation, deposits and fauna.

T.R.S.

THE BRITISH CAVER 35. 1962

4to., (vi)+10lpp., illus., 8s. 0d. p.f,
(Obtainable from G. Platten, Rotherfield, Fernhill Lane, New Milton, Hants.)

Much of the material in the British Caver is reprinted from books or caving periodicals, but it contains much useful information that is not readily available elsewhere. The Bradford Pothole Club method of water tracing, by using Rhodamine B dye in conjunction with simple detectors, has been used now in Aggy Aggy, and is described in detail. Extracts from a lecture by Balch in 1904 may not have been published before.

Some copies have been issued with pages missing.

T.R.S.

BRITISH CAVING An Introduction to Speleology (2nd Edition)

Edited by C.H.D.Cullingford

(London, Routledge and Kegan Paul 1962)

Roy, 8vo., xvi+592pp., maps, plans, sections, illus., index, bibliogs. £3.15s.0d.

The revised edition of British Caving has been enlarged by well over a hundred pages. Two chapters have been rewritten completely and most of the others contain supplements describing recent work; these supplements were evidently written in the summer of 1960. The greatest additions have been made in the sections on new exploration and archaeology, while the bibliographies, now occupying some 63 pages, have nearly doubled in size.

Errors are few and far between, though the account of Dog Hole on p. 169 is misleading and there is some careless misspelling of personal names. It is a pity, too, that the weakest chapter, the one on caverns in mines, should have remained unchanged.

British Caving remains a standard work, widely used in this country and abroad.

T.R.S.

A SECOND REPORT ON ST. CUTHBERT'S SWALLET Edited by B.M. Ellis

(Bristol Exploration Club Caving Report No. 7, 1962)

4to., 38pp., illus., index, bibliog.

A PRELIMINARY SURVEY PLAN OF ST. CUTHBERT'S SWALLET Text by B.M. Ellis

(Bristol Exploration Club Caving Report No. 8, 1962)

4to., 10pp., plans.

More than eight years after the discovery of St. Cuthbert's Swallet, a preliminary plan has now been published. The survey of the cave is still not complete, and many parts of the present plan are stated to be only sketches. Other passages have been surveyed with accuracies claimed as between grade 4 and grade 7.

From this assortment of material Ellis has produced a most useful working plan, plotted at 40 feet to 1 inch. Spot depths are marked on the plan, and there is also a sketch showing the position of the cave in relation to the surface. The accompanying text discusses the relative accuracy of the various parts surveyed by different people, and the problems of combining them.

Report No. 7 provides a detailed description of the cave, with notes on its formation and history.

T.R.S.

HILLGROVE REFERENCE LIBRARY

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La Speleologie Alpinism a l'envers	Weite	Delemain et Boutellean
Physical Geology and Geography of Gt. Britain	Ramsay	Stanford
Climbing in Britain	Barford	Penguin 1946
Dictionary of Geography	Moore	Penguin 1949
The King's England – Somerset	Mee	Hodder & Stoughton 1951
Cave Hunting	Boyd Dawkins	Macmillan 1874
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The Mendip Caves	Balch	Wright 1947
My Caves	Casteret	Dent 1947
Mountaineering Holiday	Smythe	Hodder & Stoughton 1941
A Journey into the Interior of the Earth	Jules Verne	Ward, Lock
Ten Years Under the Earth (two copies)	Casteret	Dent 1940
Structural and Field Geology	Geikie	Oliver & Boyd 1908
Chambers Mineralogical Dictionary	-	Chambers 1948
Field Archaeology	Atkinson	Methuen 1946
The Story of Wookey Hole	Thorneycroft	Barnicotts 1948
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The White Lady	Dubkin	Macmillan 1952
Schauhohlen in Osterreich	Pirker	1958
Ice Caves in France & Switzerland	Browne	Longmans 1865
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Cave Explorers in Co. Fermanagh	Baker, Brodrick	Baird 1907
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H.M.S.O.

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| i) Large Scale Plans | 1947 |
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| iii) Small Scale Plans | 1947 |

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British Regional Geology Series:-

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| i) The Hampshire Basin & Adjoining Areas | 1948 |
| ii) Northern England | 1946 |
| iii) North Wales | 1948 |
| iv) The Central England District | 1947 |
| v) South West England | 1948 |
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| xi) The Pennines and adjacent areas | 1948 |
| xii) The Midland Valley of Scotland | 1948 |
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| xv) The Grampian Highlands | 1948 |
| xvi) East Anglia & adjoining areas | 1948 |

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- i) Vol. II No. 26-43
- ii) Vol. III No. 44-53